Howard County Conservancy

connecting people to nature

In 2025, we celebrated *35 years of connecting people to nature,* building on our deep connections with people and places in our community.

PHOTO: KIM ZARUBA

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

"While at the Conservancy, I feel like my heart beats stronger and I breathe deeper. It is such a gem for us all!"
Alice Parks, volunteer

PHOTO: ERICA WILCOX

Our *family of more than 400 volunteers* spent 7,265 hours reinforcing connections with nature, from guiding field trip students to working on our trails and gardens. New this year–our Climate Steward volunteers stepped up to become community environmental leaders.

The Conservancy's 232 acres are *thriving for wildlife and people.* Visitors have spotted muskrats, otters and beavers at our Davis Branch stream, and our new 11-acre meadow will buzz with birds, bees and butterflies.

PHOTO: ANNETTE ALLOR

"This was the best field trip ever because there were all these cool things to see!"
Deep Run Elementary student

PHOTO: HEATHER AND ROB PHOTOGRAPHY

This year a *record number of elementary students,* 6,300, met our animal ambassadors and ventured outside to explore. Fourth-graders investigated fossil layers and delighted in meeting our eastern screech owl, Monty.

Our *programs offer deep connections with nature.* Visitors were thrilled to learn about reptiles and spiders, found respite in the calm of forest bathing and delighted in creating houses for fairies in our forests.

New programs for secondary students *empower them to move the needle on the climate crisis.* Sixth-graders investigated the carbon footprint of their food while ninth-graders measured trees' role in carbon sequestration. Our Youth Climate Institute expanded nationally to reach high school students in 54 chapters in 10 states.

"Youth Climate Institute gives me hope that together we can create the change our planet needs."
Sarah KC, Youth Climate Institute Ambassador

PHOTO: KEN ACKMAN

By the Numbers

Pounds of produce donated: **4,372**

Volunteer hours: **7,265**

Species spotted at the Conservancy: **1,134**

Number of public programs: **47**

Number of students connected to nature: **12,885**

Together we are stronger.
Your support enables our vital work. Join us next year to explore our trails, enjoy a program, play in our new nature playspace (coming late 2026) and see your donation at work.

Howard County Conservancy
connecting people to nature

www.howardnature.org