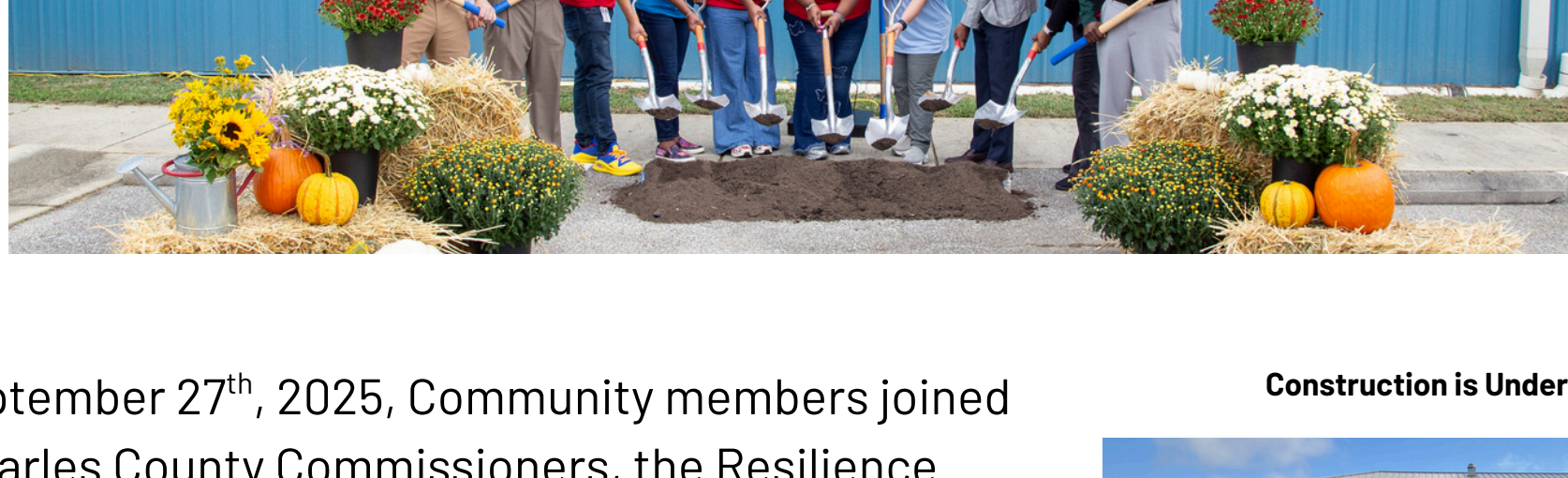


Fall 2025

The Resilience Authority of Charles County, Inc. tackles the impacts of climate change through equitable, nature-based solutions. We partner with Charles County government to fund and implement projects on public lands such as County Recreation Centers, Parks and Public Schools that reduce stormwater flooding, coastal erosion, and urban heat. Prioritizing communities hurt first and worst, the Resilience Authority aims to be a national model of climate resilience grounded in environmental justice.

News from the “Concrete to Green” Front

Elite Gymnastics and Recreation Center Stormwater Pocket Park Groundbreaking



On September 27th, 2025, Community members joined the Charles County Commissioners, the Resilience Authority, and Charles County government leadership to kick off construction of a Stormwater Pocket Park! This project, which received an Official Citation from the Charles County Commissioners, will transform an unused parking lot into a much-needed green space for all ages. Once a source of heat and flooding, this bleak asphalt area will become a shaded green park where children play, families gather, and nature thrives. Beyond its beauty, the park will cool the area and capture and treat stormwater runoff to reduce chronic flooding at the site; improving both air and water quality.

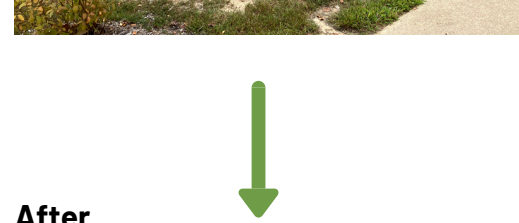
The Resilience Authority funded and is implementing this project through Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Watershed Assistance Program and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, in close collaboration with Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

Construction is Underway!



Waldorf Senior & Recreation Center Accessible Pocket Park Ribbon Cutting

Equitable access to nature is key to enhancing our resilience. This wheelchair accessible pocket park was made possible through the Resilience Authority’s partnership with Charles County government and County Recreation, Parks, & Tourism. The pocket park features underground stormwater management, and above ground, is filled with raised pollinator garden beds, native trees and shrubs, and provides seating areas in an outdoor public space that absorbs heat and stormwater for a more resilient community gathering space. The Resilience Authority was honored by an Official Citation from the Charles County Commissioners!



Updates from the Field

The 2025-2026 Resilience Authority Youth Corps School Year Saturdays is Underway!

We’re proud to share that the Resilience Authority Youth Corps (RAYC) has entered its third year! Our newest “School Year Saturdays” cohort launched on November 8 with tree planting and care at Charles County Public Schools located in urban heat islands.

Created in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the RAYC offers part-time school-year positions and full-time summer opportunities. The program builds equitable access to nature, provides green job pathways, and prepares young people to become environmental stewards.



To learn more or get involved click [here!](#)



“Hello, my name is Kennadi Sanders. I am beyond grateful to have received the opportunity to build my county’s environment for the better. This organization helped improve my social skills greatly by working with people my age who hold the same values as me and gave me a very open community. There have been days where watering was difficult, but while it was hard, I laughed greatly while doing it. This being one of the hottest summers in Maryland, made me strive to maintain and protect the trees. One thing you wouldn’t expect is for us to grow so much stronger as a crew and family offering water or helping crew members when overheated or upset. All of the personal growth I obtained during this program could not have happened without the SCA and partners. I couldn’t be more thankful. Never in my life have I experienced these things before SCA offered them to me. A new world has been opened and as a Charles County resident, I hope my younger siblings will be able to see our inspiration and educate them on the importance of trees. I plan on registering crews in later winter and summer crews because seeing the impact on making it so rewarding. Thank you SCA.”
- Kennadi Sanders

Fall Harvest: Urban Food Forest at New Hope Community Outreach Services, Inc.

Building on the food gardens established by Waldorf’s New Hope Community Outreach Services, the Resilience Authority established an ongoing partnership with New Hope to expand the gardens and grow an [Urban Food Forest at New Hope’s facilities in Waldorf](#). Access to fresh food is RESILIENCE!

Fall Harvest from the Food Forest: Apples, Kale, Broccoli, and Squash



Green Infrastructure Training

The Resilience Authority is building long-term community stewardship through our new Green Infrastructure Training Program. In partnership with the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, Bartlett Trees, the Charles Soil Conservation District, and Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service, we are hosting five sessions to ensure we’re not only installing nature-based practices but also equipping the people who will maintain them for years to come with an understanding of what, how, and why green infrastructure makes us more resilient, and how to care for practices installed.



Tree-mendous Impact: How Every Leaf Counts

Trees are on the front lines of climate resilience. Why? Trees not only provide shade, they also filter and cool the air as they breathe in the carbon dioxide produced by humans and breathe out oxygen and water to give us the very air we need to breathe. Trees also do double duty - when it rains, trees capture raindrops to slow stormwater, and through their root systems, trees absorb and filter rain to mitigate flooding and improve our water quality. Trees add grace and beauty, add to property values, and reduce air conditioning and stormwater management costs.

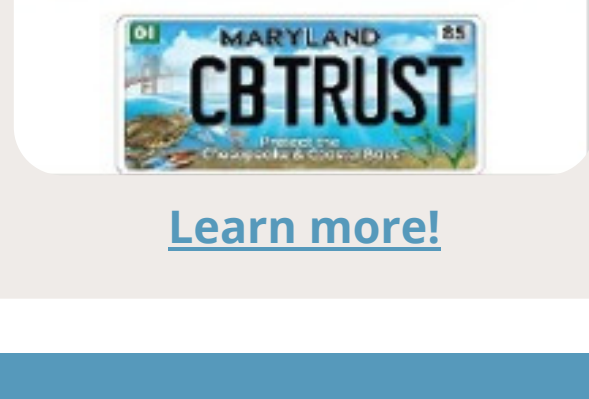
In Autumn, when leaves fall, they’re not making a mess – they’re naturally fertilizing for free! As leaves decompose, they release important soil conditioners like carbon, potassium, and phosphorus. These nutrients are used during the growing season, and in the fall they are “recycled” back into the soil to boost plant growth in the spring. That cozy blanket of leaves also keeps the ground cool and damp, like nature’s own mulch blanket. So before you reach for the rake, maybe let those leaves do their thing, your soil (and your pocketbook!) will thank you later.



Join Us: Make an Impact in Your Community

Climate Conservation Corp Member Opportunity

The Resilience Authority proudly hosts a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps member each year, helping launch green resilience and support local resilience projects.



[Learn more!](#)

Explore: HydroNet Water Sensors

Through the Resilience Authority’s partnership with the University of Maryland’s Climate Resilience Network, Charles County is proud to join regional partners in launching Maryland HydroNet, a real-time sensor network that tracks water levels and tides to strengthen flood resilience and keep our community informed.



Hohonu Tide and water level monitoring for responding to weather emergencies, building resilient communities, planning recreational activities, and...

Listen: Gift of Information X Resilience Authority



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS!

