About The Conservation Fund

At the Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states to protect over 8 million acres of land since 1985.

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Washington, D.C.

We are helping to build bridges between the National Park Service’s Anacostia Park and the historic Anacostia community east of the River. A new community liaison is connecting social service institutions with community members, National Park Service and environmental organizations.

Our Approach

The Conservation Fund believes successful conservation should provide long-term community benefits. That’s why we work side-by-side with community residents in some of our most challenged urban neighborhoods to plan and develop new and improved parks and greenspaces. By empowering residents and focusing on environmental, economic and social equity outcomes, we ensure that new parks create a variety of positive, sustainable benefits for those who live, work and play in these urban neighborhoods.

Washington D.C.

Parks with Purpose

Eighty-two percent of Americans now live in urban areas, making the need for equitable access to open space in cities vital.

Our Parks with Purpose program focuses on vulnerable urban communities that have historically had limited access to well-maintained public park space. We work to transform and restore blighted properties into vibrant new parks in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Not only do these new greenspaces provide safe places for kids to play and neighbors to gather, but they also build civic capacity, train and employ local residents, reduce stormwater flooding impacts, provide access to fresh, healthy foods, and create natural habitat in highly urbanized neighborhoods.

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Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C.
Where We Work

In partnership with local nonprofits, municipal and philanthropic partners and community residents, we’ve provided a range of conservation services depending on need—community and economic development, green infrastructure planning, land loans, real estate expertise, business lending and job creation—to create Parks with Purpose across the country in cities like Atlanta, Kansas City, Richmond, CA, and more.

Our Projects

Atlanta, Georgia

The Conservation Fund has been working in Atlanta for nearly two decades, employing our full suite of services. To date, we’ve completed more than 45 projects and protected nearly 3,000 acres across the metro area. Atlanta has also been the pilot location for the Parks with Purpose initiative and is home to four of these community-driven projects, including:

Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park. Blighted land that was fenced off from the community for nearly 20 years has been transformed into a new park that was developed and built by residents. This new park also holds 3.5 million gallons of stormwater through a series of features that slow down the rainwaters during heavy flash flooding events.

Lindsay Street. We helped build the first park in the English Avenue neighborhood of downtown Atlanta. Neighbors have been engaged in planning, development, and construction of this park, and now support maintenance and activation programs in the park.

Baltimore, Maryland

The Conservation Fund is working with several local partners to return Garrett Park to its former glory as a center for civic life and enhance its vital ecosystem services, including filtering stormwater and cooling the city air.

Durham, North Carolina

Watershed restoration activities have historically overlooked engagement within East Durham communities. We’re working with local community partners to restore Ellerbe Creek’s watershed and engage community residents in planning and stewardship opportunities.

Kansas City, Missouri

We are helping to build a new park in the Kansas City, MO’s Marlborough community to hold stormwater and turn vacant lots into more neighborhood greenspace.

Raleigh, North California

We’re working alongside residents and a variety of local partners to connect a key city park with the historically African-American neighborhoods in southeast Raleigh. The park expansion will include workforce training and environmental education opportunities and will improve connections to public amenities at Walnut Creek Wetland Park.

Richmond, California

Pogo Park is transforming broken and abandoned city parks in one of America’s toughest inner-city neighborhoods into safer greener public spaces for children to play. We purchased a 17,500 square foot property to help the local founder replicate his success with a second location known as Harbour-8 Park.