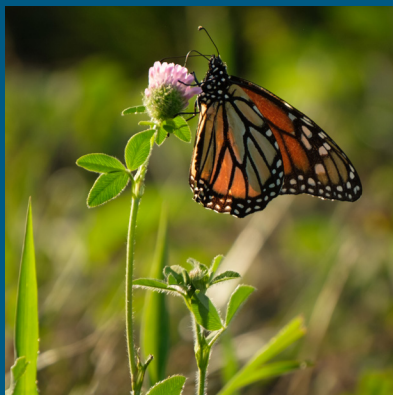


THE
CONSERVATION FUND



Peer
Exchange
Yearbook



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Front Cover: ©Stacy Funderburke, ©Ivan LaBianca, ©J.C. Photos

A Message from The Conservation Fund

Thank you for joining us for the 2023 Parks with Purpose Peer Exchange. This collaborative learning event is designed to provide attendees with opportunities to share successes, lessons learned and best practices while connecting with one another on a direct personal level. Thank you to the Friends of Anacostia Park for hosting this year’s Peer Exchange, and a very special thank you to Akiima Price for her guidance and support in planning and executing this event.

We are pleased to provide this first edition of the Parks with Purpose Yearbook. It contains in-depth profiles for each Parks with Purpose partner, including organizational overviews and contact information for key staff. We hope you will use this resource to connect with partners and engage with each other beyond the Peer Exchange event. Collectively, you form a growing network of peer organizations and community leaders who are advancing projects and programs serving critical local needs and objectives.

Thank you for being a part of the Parks with Purpose network. We at The Conservation Fund look forward to continuing our shared work with partners like you to support residents in making their communities greener, safer, and more resilient to environmental and economic pressures.

In partnership,
Erik, Shannon, Isabelle, Erich, and Tony

Merrick-Moore Community Development Corporation

1821 Hillandale Rd Suite 1B #215 Durham, NC 27705 | Merrick-Moore Community

The Merrick-Moore CDC, in its diverse community, exists for charitable and educational purposes to improve the overall quality of life for the poor, underprivileged and disenfranchised, by strengthening the bonds amongst our residents.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Center the voices of community residents in decision making.
- Partner with other environmental based nonprofits to bring awareness to community residents.
- Advocate with public officials on the needs of community residents.

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Time management
- Increase activity of newer community residents

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/MerrickMooreCDC
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/merrickmoorecdc
- **Website:** merrickmoorecdc.org

Who are your community partners?

Local governments, Municipal Agencies, Community-based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Disabled-Identifying
- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Combating Gentrification
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
- Health Food Access/Urban Ag.

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Community Engagement
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Have fun in DC!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bonita Green, Executive Director
Ayanna Smith, Director

Park Pride

160 Trinity Ave SW, Suite 3100, Atlanta, GA 30303 | City of Atlanta Parks and DeKalb County Parks, GA

Mission: to engage communities to activate the power of parks. Vision: an Atlanta where every neighborhood has access to a great park.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Empower Communities to Make Effective Change
- Negotiate Government Processes
- Connect People and Resources

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Tell our story
- Address Equity In Everything We Do

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/parkpride
- **Instagram:** @parkpride
- **YouTube:** @parkprideatl

Who are your community partners?

Local governments, municipal agencies, Churches, Faith-based organizations, Arts and cultural groups, Community-based organizations, Health and Wellness based organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- LGBTQ+

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open space/ Urban green spaces
- Combating Gentrification
- Climate Resilience

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (internal and/or external)
- Municipal Involvement

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building
- Have fun in DC!
- Community Leadership Development Ideas

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

We highly value opportunities to be in professional networks like PwP and see the associated events.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Eli Dickerson, Director of Education
Michael Halicki, Executive Director
Ellen Bruenderman, Director of Community Services

DC Greens

810 7th Street Northeast, Washington, D.C. 20002 | Ward 8 in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 2009, DC Greens is a Black-led, multiracial organization that uses the power of equitable food policy, education, and access to build a more just and resilient food system in our nation’s capital. We envision a District of Columbia in which healthy food is a human right, health equity is a central value, and all residents have the ability to directly shape the policies and institutions that affect their wellbeing. In 2022, we opened our educational farm and wellness space The Well at Oxon Run, which focuses on engaging and building power among the majority Black/African-American residents of DC’s Ward 8.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?
People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Collaborate with other community organizations
- Center the wants and needs of our community in designing and implementing programs
- Shape policy change priorities around food and health equity in D.C.

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Engage More Members of The Greater D.C. Community as Volunteers and Donors
- Leverage Our Programs and Initiatives to Amplify Each Other
- Effectively Communicate Our Work Across An Array of Channels

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/dcgreens.org
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/dc_greens
- **Twitter:** twitter.com/dc_greens
- **LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/company/dc-greens

Who are your community partners?
Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Arts and Cultural Groups, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Youth Engagement
- Health Food Access/ Urban Ag.

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Community Engagement
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building
- Have fun in DC!

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?
We had an amazing experience at 2022’s Peer Exchange and we can’t wait for this year’s edition in D.C.!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tiffany FitzGerald, Executive Director
Dan Schiff, Development Director
Ellen Bruenderman, Director of Community Services

Anacostia Parks & Community Collaborative

Virtual | Wards 7 and Ward 8 in Washington, D.C.

We are a network for community leaders and organizations working together to make the Anacostia River and its park system the best possible resource for residents of Wards 7 and 8 in the District of Columbia.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?
People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Collaborate
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Build Capacity

Who are your community partners?
Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Trauma-Informed Environmentalism
- Climate Resilience

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Capacity Building



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Brenda Lee Richardson, Founding Member and Coordinator

Historic Hunter Hills Neighborhood Association

1484 Akridge Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30314 | Hunter Hills

Preserving the history of Hunter Hills, embracing the future, and fostering community.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Communicate Information
- Seek Feedback from the Community
- Honor the Legacy of the Neighborhood

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Improve Engagement
- Engage New Residents
- Fundraising

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/historichunterhillsneighborhoodassociation
- **Instagram:** @hunterhills_atl

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Historical Preservation, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Disabled-Identifying
- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- LGBTQ+
- Gentrification, Investor Owned Properties

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Health Food Access/ Urban Ag.
- CSX Train Blockages

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (internal and/or external)
- Community Engagement
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building
- Have fun in DC!

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

My experience has just been the frustration of dealing with municipal departments to get things done in a timely manner without departmental finger pointing. From a community leader standpoint it seems as though there are too many hoops to jump through to make things happen. Sometimes the community doesn't understand there are things we cannot complete yet, because we are dependent on another department or organization to do what they need to do first. Rome wasn't built in a day. Also, prices and processes have changed over time which impacts the budget. Overall, not enough volunteers. Lastly, we are SO GRATEFUL for everything The Conservation Fund has allowed us to do so far! I can't wait to see more things come to fruition!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lisa Reyes, President
Alexandria Wilson, VP/Treasurer
Sam Browning, Secretary
Hannah Carver, Past President

Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association

904 Broad Street, Durham, NC 27705 | Durham, NC

Protecting and restoring Ellerbe Creek and partnering with Durham’s diverse neighborhoods, local government, and others to make the creek an asset for the entire community.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

Parks and Nature

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Community-Based Conservation
- Urban Nature Preserve Management
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Building partnerships, especially in historically marginalized areas of the watershed.
- Influencing local policy and investment.
- Increasing awareness in the community about the root causes and potential solutions to current environmental challenges.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/EllerbeCreekWatershedAssociation
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/ellerbecreeknc
- **Youtube:** youtube.com/@ellerbecreeknc
- **Website:** ellerbecreek.org

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Disabled-Identifying
- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- LGBTQ+

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open space/ Urban green spaces
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
- Trauma-Informed Environmentalism

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Community Engagement
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/ strategic planning, etc.)

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building
- Have fun in DC!

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

We are so grateful for your long-term investment in ECWA, MMCDC, DCLT, Durham, and the greater Triangle area and are looking forward to learning from the other PWP partners.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rachel Cohn, Associate Director
L.A. Davis Durante, Engagement Coordinator
Clayton Rugh, Interim Executive Director
Chris Dreps, Land Protection Director
Laura Stroud, Water Management Program Director

Green Team of English Avenue, Inc.

552 Oliver Street, NW | English Avenue and Other Community Collaboration

Mission: to continue to use Parks with Purpose and green spaces to build community and achieve economic stability within the community, providing job and work force training opportunities in the areas of green infrastructure, ecology, environmental justice, green landscaping and other skills that provide a viable and needed specialty skill set as the community continues to develop with more opportunities for economic growth.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?
Parks and Nature

- What are three (3) things your organization does well?**
- Build relationships with the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation, building a partnership that not only benefits the city but the community and our green spaces.
 - Changing priorities of based on park’s immediate need.
 - Sharing with other communities and organizations opportunities within there own neighborhoods.

- What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?**
- Provide More Training for Crew
 - Branding of the Organization Including Social Media
 - More Park Activities

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/LindsayStreetPark?mibextid=D4KYlr

Who are your community partners?
Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Arts and Cultural Groups, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Historical Preservation, Colleges and Universities

- Describe the communities/audience that you work with?**
- **Youth:** 0-12
 - **Teens:** 13-19
 - **Young Adults:** 20-36
 - **Adults:** 36-62
 - **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level

- What are the top 3 topics for your organization?**
- Workforce Development
 - Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
 - Climate Resilience

- What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?**
- Capacity
 - Employee Retention
 - Marketing and Communication

- What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?**
- Allies
 - Best Practices
 - Continued Learning
 - Networking
 - Capacity Building,
 - Have fun in DC!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Carla (Annie) Moore
Lanecia (Necia) Williams

Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc.

3430 2nd Street, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21225 | Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, Curtis Bay (south Baltimore City)

Mission: to act as a catalyst and conduit for equitable development and reinvestment in the Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, and Curtis Bay neighborhoods and empower our residents to strengthen the Baybrook community. Vision: Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, and Curtis Bay will be stable, thriving, desirable neighborhoods to live, work, and do business. Values: Equity Transparency Sustainability Participation Stability Diversity.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Innovative Park Improvements

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Internal Organizational Structure
- Professional Development
- External Communications

Please provide your social media handles (if applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** @greaterbaybrook
- **Instagram:** @greaterbaybrookalliance
- **Twitter:** @greaterbaybrook

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Arts and Cultural Groups, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Disabled-Identifying
- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- LGBTQ+

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Workforce Development
- Trauma-Informed Environmentalism
- Health Food Access/ Urban Ag.

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)
- Marketing and Communication

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building
- Have fun in DC!

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

We're excited to see you!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Meredith Chaiken, ED
Ralinda Wimbush, Environmental Justice Organizer
Christina Delgado, Director of Community Engagement
Sarah Hope, Construction Projects Manager
Haidee Batista, Latino Community Engagement Coordinator

NC Water Resources Research Institute; NC Sea Grant

NCSU CB 7912, Raleigh, NC 27695 | Walnut Creek Watershed for our Parks with Purpose Effort, North Carolina Organizational Focus

Through integrated research, community engagement, and outreach efforts, NC WRRRI promotes understanding of critical water issues and supports the sustainable use and conservation of water resources to benefit communities, ecosystems, and economies.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Coordinate Collaborative Initiatives
- Connect Communities With Science and Research
- Provide funding opportunities to researchers, graduate students, and community collaborators.

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Engage youth from under resourced communities in learning about natural resource careers - middle school through undergraduate aged.
- Partner with and support more front-line communities in NC, in environmental and public health issues.
- Increase research funding that goes to minority-serving institutes, HBCUs, and People of Color at historically white institutions.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/walnutcreekwetlandcommunitypartnership
- **Twitter:** @NC_WRRRI, @SeaGrantNC
- **YouTube:** @ncwrrri6747

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Colleges and Universities

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youths:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Answering for the Walnut Creek Watershed

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- Seniors

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Affordable Housing
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
- Youth Engagement

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (internal and/or external)
- Local Involvement,
- Community Engagement

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

While I am here primarily representing our Walnut Creek Parks with Purpose initiative, I see the opportunity for this network to support/enhance WRRRI and NC Sea Grants' other programs across the state.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christy Perrin, Sustainable Waters and Communities Coordinator
Frank Lopez, Extension Director for WRRRI and NCSG

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

1442 Richland Rd SW, Atlanta, GA 30310 | The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) primarily operates on Atlanta’s Westside (both Northwest and Southwest Atlanta), however our reach is throughout the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Mission: to improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving and restoring our community’s natural resources. We believe a healthy environment is a key ingredient for a healthy community. Our grassroots approach to organizing, research, community science, and education elevates local community knowledge and lived experiences; enabling residents to solve and address their environmental challenges. We envision: 1) a community that protects our watersheds and recognizes and appreciates our important connections to these vital resources; 2) informed and engaged residents who fully participate in decision-making on issues that impact environmental quality, our health and community well-being; and 3) strong and equitable environmental protections. We also envision WAWA as a trusted thought leader and primary resource for West Atlanta communities seeking to advance environmental, community, and systems change.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Authentic Community Engagement
- Community Science/Participatory Research
- Environmental Education (K-Grey audiences)

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Advocacy for Policy Change
- Communications/Storytelling
- Tracking Impact (quantitatively and qualitatively)

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/WestAtlantaWatershedAlliance
- **Instagram:** @wawa_online
- **Twitter:** @wawaonline

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Arts and Cultural Groups, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Historical Preservation, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Co-Founder/Executive Director
Darryl Haddock, Director, Special Projects
Janelle Wright, Environmental Justice ProgramsManager

Partnership for Southern Equity

55 Ivan Allen Jr Blvd NW, Suite 530 Atlanta, GA 30308 | Metro Atlanta and Surrounding Cities / The American South (south Baltimore City)

PSE is a nonprofit organization that advances policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Educate
- Advocate
- Organize

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Greater Community Collaboration and Outreach
- Greater Nonprofit Collaboration and Partnerships
- Greater Policy Impact and Long-Term Change

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** @greaterbaybrook
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/psequity
- **Twitter:** twitter.com/PSEquitymatters
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/user/PSEquityMatters
- **Website:** psequity.org/

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Combating Gentrification
- Workforce Development
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Employee Retention
- Municipal Involvement

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Have fun in DC!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Suzanne Burnes, Just Growth Portfolio Director
Chantell Welch, Just Growth Portfolio Manager

Durham Community Land Trustees

1208 W Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701 | Durham, NC

Durham Community Land Trustees (DCLT) is a community land trust that builds strong communities by developing, managing, and advocating for permanent affordable housing. DCLT offers residents with low and moderate incomes a stable foundation for achieving economic security in Durham, NC.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?
People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Housing Development
- Property Management

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Community Building

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/DurhamCommunityLandTrustees
- **Instagram:** @dclt1208
- **Twitter:** @DCLTNC
- **LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/company/durham-community-land-trustees-inc

Who are your community partners?
Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American,
- Hispanic/Latin American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Non-English Speaking
- Disabled-Identifying
- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Affordable Housing
- Combating Gentrification
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Community Engagement
- Marketing and Communication

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building,
- Have fun in DC!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sherry Taylor, Executive Director
Ajax Woolley, PreDevelopment Manager

Filbert Street Garden

1321 Filbert Street, Baltimore, MD 21226 | Baltimore

The Filbert Street Community Garden is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was founded in 2010 as part of the City of Baltimore’s Adopt-a-Lot Program. Our one acre plot was overgrown and full of trash. Various projects and volunteers have come and gone, but our objectives remain the same.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** filbertstreetgarden.org/?share=facebook&nb=1
- **Twitter:** filbertstreetgarden.org/about/contact/?share=twitter&nb=1
- **Website:** filbertstreetgarden.org/about/contact/?share=linkedin&nb=1

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Charles DeBarber, Coordinator

Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership

Walnut Creek, SE Raleigh, NC

The Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership is a group of individuals from varying backgrounds who come together to discuss and improve the wetlands. Partners work together to identify and implement projects that support healthy wetlands and healthy communities. The WCWCP is committed to working on local issues in the wetlands by engaging the local community and partners, and by developing action-based solutions. We are always interested to hear from and to work with the community to address concerns, and to implement ideas.

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Environmental Non Profits

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
- Climate Resilience

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Young Adults:** 20-36



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christy Perrin, Coordinator

Friends of Garrett Park

3560 3rd Street, Baltimore, MD 21225 | Brooklyn, Baltimore

In 2016 the American Planning Association funded a master planning process for Garrett Park. Since then GBA has raised nearly \$750,000, in partnership with The Conservation Fund and the Friends of Garrett Park. GBA serves as project manager for the walking loop and upcoming improvements.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- Instagram: [instagram.com/garrettparkbmore/](https://www.instagram.com/garrettparkbmore/)

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- Adults: 36-62

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jen Berg, Coordinator

Grow Home

Baltimore, MD | Baybrooke, Baltimore

Grow Home is a 501c3 organization dedicated to building capacity with local leadership and creating employment and recreational opportunities in under-served Baltimore communities by helping turn empty and ignored green spaces into centers of neighborhood activity, exercise, and everyday use.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- Facebook: [facebook.com/growhomeinc](https://www.facebook.com/growhomeinc)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/growhomebaltimore](https://www.instagram.com/growhomebaltimore)
- Twitter: twitter.com/growhomeinc1
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/grow-home-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/grow-home-inc)
- YouTube: [youtube.com/@growhome6306](https://www.youtube.com/@growhome6306)

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- Youth: 0-12
- Teens: 13-19
- Young Adults: 20-36
- Adults: 36-62

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Youth Engagement
- Health Food Access/ Urban Ag.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mike Dorsey, Executive Director

Partners for Environmental Justice

813 Darby Street Raleigh, NC 27610 | South East Raleigh and SW Cary Communities that are located in the Walnut Creek Watershed: Biltmore Hills, Ivy Meadows, Rochester Heights, Walnut Hills, Walnut Ridge, Westbrook, Mobile Estates, Apollo Heights, Nottingham Woods, near Dacian Road, near Dana Drive, near Rose lane

Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) is a group of citizens working to advocate for the human and natural communities in Southeast Raleigh. PEJ formed in the mid 1990s when a group of people from three Episcopal churches in Raleigh gathered to address local issues of environmental justice including flooding, the dumping of trash, and the threat of invasive species in the local ecosystem. The mission of PEJ is to promote understanding and protection of urban wetlands, enhance community pride, and encourage economic development.

- Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?**
Parks and Nature
- What are three (3) things your organization does well?**
- Education and Empowerment Programs
 - Green Infrastructure Improvements
 - Equitable Development

- What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?**
- Model Volunteer Stewardship and Green Workforce Academy
 - Create intermediary partnership with local CBO's, Churches, and Government Partnerships.
 - Educate and empower community residents to mobilize green infrastructure improvements.

- Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube**
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/raleighPEJ
 - **Instagram:** instagram.com/raleigh_PEJ
 - **LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/company/partners-for-environmental-justice/about
 - **YouTube:** youtube.com/channel/UCHjDnFVFD6equPde7_aJ9tw

- Who are your community partners?**
Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Colleges and Universities

- Describe the communities/audience that you work with?**
- **Teens:** 13-19
 - **Young Adults:** 20-36
 - **Adults:** 36-62
 - **Seniors:** 62 and older

CONTACT INFORMATION:

George Jones, Jr., Executive Director
Amin Davis, Board Member
Anne Franklin, Interim Board Chair
Corey Dodd, Board Member
Kris Bass, Treasurer

- Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?**
- Black/African American
 - Indigenous/Native American
 - Hispanic/Latin American
 - Caucasian
- Population characteristics prevalent in your community:**
- Non-English Speaking
 - Disabled-Identifying
 - Households At or Below Poverty Level
 - LGBTQ+
- What are the top 3 topics for your organization?**
- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
 - Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
 - Climate Resilience

- What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?**
- Capacity
 - Community Engagement
 - Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)
- What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?**
- Allies
 - Best Practices
 - Continued Learning
 - Networking
 - Capacity Building

Is there anything else you would like to share with The Conservation Fund?

We are interested in building a network of best practices to promote environmental justice initiatives across the Wetlands and Watershed Communities affected by flooding, water quality, air quality, and other environmental hazards.



Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN)

505 Crestview Drive | Northern Durham, NC and Ashe Street Community Garden

UCAN's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Our purpose is to provide education and training on healthy lifestyles, seed-to-table food preparation and preservation, hands on STEAM and agriculture. We focus on reducing food insecurity, the reduction and/or reversal of preventable health issues, increasing academic success and to increase exposure to care opportunities in the field of agriculture. We believe that health and wellbeing is more than access to healthy nutritious foods but also access to open green spaces, trails, rivers and a relationship with nature. Our motto is " Growing Communities One Seed at a Time".

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?
People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Teach people to grow their own fresh vegetables.
- Provide open green spaces with walking trails.
- Create a diverse community of individuals interested ingrowing their own food.

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Expand our youth education options.
- Focus more on engagement with seniors.
- Increase outdoor opportunities to include camping and guided hikes.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- Facebook: @ucantoday
- Instagram: @urbancommunityagrinomics
- LinkedIn: Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN)
- YouTube: Urban Community AgriNomics

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Historical Preservation, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses, Public Schools, Youth Groups

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- Youth: 0-12
- Teens: 13-19
- Young Adults: 20-36
- Adults: 36-62
- Seniors: 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American
- Caucasian

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- LGBTQ+

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Open Space/ Urban Green Spaces
- Youth Engagement
- Health Food Access/ Urban Ag.

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)
- Building an Infrastructure

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Best Practices

BLACK EARTH MATTERS

Soil Justice and Black Farms in North Carolina

BASIC GEOLOGY AND SOIL IN NORTH CAROLINA

Durham County's widespread clay soils can be traced back to large-scale tectonic changes dating back to **220 million years ago** during the Triassic period. As the rifting of the African and North American plates occurred, **cracks** in the Earth's crust **formed rift basins**. These basins were then filled with various sediments, a result of erosion and deposition by water, wind, and rain (Olsen 1991). As a result, reddish brown **sandstone**, **siltstone**, and **mudstone** dominate Durham County.

Triassic Basins: Sediments deposited by the erosion of the igneous Carolina Terrane, resulting in feldspar rich deposits of sedimentary type rocks of siltstone and mudstone.

Metamorphosed Granitic Rock

Carolina Terrane: Igneous crystalline complex, composed of high grade metamorphic rocks, metavolcanics, metasediments, and acid igneous intrusives.

Most of Durham County have soils which are referred to as **Ultisols**, which are made when nutrients are leached by heavy rain, and warm weather prevents organic material from accumulating. These soils have a **low pH** are **highly weathered**, and have **high clay contents**. While Durham itself is dominated by **acidic clay soils**, weathering of diabase dikes and sills have resulted in high calcium rare alkaline soils. Native forest vegetation has been essential in **adding nutrients** and minerals in these hardy clay soils.

Clay minerals reduce porosity when wet and compacted, yet its fine grain size allows abundant water retention and has a **high cation exchange capacity**. This allows them to **hold on to K⁺, Ca²⁺ and NH⁴⁺**, which are great for plants! But, these clay soils often require a constant **addition of organic matter** to make them **useful** for farming and food production.

This fine grained clay soil is visible in Southern Durham County. Photo: Wendy Day 2018 (Durhammastergardeners).

Pictured are typical sedimentary rocks found in Durham County which is the **parent material** of our clay soils. Photo: Wendy Day 2018 (Durhammastergardeners).

The **parent material** of these deposited sediments is from the nearby **Carolina Terrane**, a hardrock, mineral rich, igneous body. A common mineral in these **igneous rocks** is the silicate **plagioclase feldspar**.

Clays may form from the **weathering of plagioclase feldspar**. Indeed, because our Triassic deposits are made of eroded feldspar-rich Carolina Terrane, as it weathers it produces clay and silt rich soils. As the **Carolina Terrane** weathers, it too can form **kaolinite type clay**.

As millenia have passed, the deposited rocks in the Triassic Basins and their parent material eroded and weathered, **forming poorly drained acidic clay soils**. (Durhammastergardeners). Igneous **diabase sills** and **dikes** then intruded roughly 15 million years later, where basaltic magma ripped into the deposited sedimentary rocks. The weathering of these intrusives have led to different more alkaline soils.

WHAT GROWS HERE?

Soil Type	Plant Growth
Ultisol Ultisol is the most common soil here in Durham, but it is hard to grow vegetables as it is nutrient poor . However, it is great for trees and can even be used to plant a number of hardy fruit trees .	Loblolly Pine Shortleaf Pine White Oak Some Apple Trees (Univ. of Idaho, 2021)
Clay Clay soils are not typically good for cultivating food as their ability to hold in water can damage the roots of sensitive vegetables. However, certain species of flowers thrive in this native soil.	Perennial Flowers Daylilies Daisies Costas (USU, 2015)
Sandy Loam The better soils in the Durham area are sandy loams that allow for water to percolate through them. These are conducive to the large scale cash crops that have historically dominated agriculture in the region.	Tobacco Sweet Corn (Lisuma, 2020)
Ultisol + Lime + Fertilizer Combining the natural Durham ultisol with organic fertilizers and lime creates a rich and beneficial soil. Most nutritious vegetables can grow abundantly once the right amount of nutrients are added to the soil.	Cabbage Squash Watermelon Tomatoes Sweet Potatoes Cucumber

For centuries the fruits and vegetables grown in North Carolina depended on the natural soils. Typically, farmers faced nutrient-depleted ultisol throughout Durham. While that allows for the great pine forests of our area to flourish, it makes subsistence farming challenging. Today, farmers grow a variety of vegetables in the native ultisol thanks to the addition of lime and fertilizers.

Catawba Trail Farm

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Delphine Sellars, Executive Director
Lucille Patterson, Garden Coordinator
Justin Wooley, Site Development Manager
Aniya Bourne, Content Manager

Friends of Anacostia Park

1500 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, D.C. 20020 | Ward 7 & 8, Washington, D.C.

The Friends of Anacostia Park was established to support the stewardship and restoration of both the park and the people, in partnership with the National Park Service. We channel the human, social, and financial resources of park stakeholders to provide meaningful park improvements and experiences that enrich the lives of Washington, D.C. residents.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

- People
- What are three (3) things your organization does well?
- Community Responsive Programming
 - Human Centered Workforce Development
 - Meaningful Park Engagement

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Connect more community members to park green jobs.
- Raise Funds for Large Infrastructure Improvements
- More Diverse Cultural Programming

Please provide your social media handles (if applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/friendsofanacostiapark
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/friendsofanacostiapark
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/channel/UCRdDwMowVuPDjHfjuckipWw

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Arts and Cultural Groups, Community-Based Organizations, Health and Wellness Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Youth:** 0-12
- **Teens:** 13-19
- **Young Adults:** 20-36
- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level
- Justice involved, grieving, stressed.

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Workforce Development
- Trauma-Informed Environmentalism
- Park Restoration

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Municipal Involvement
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)
- Marketing and Communication

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Allies
- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking
- Capacity Building



Photo: ©Stacy Funderburke

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lydia Vanderbilt, Director of Programs

Akiima Price, Founder

Environmental Community Action (ECO-Action)

250 Georgia Avenue, SE Suite 212 Atlanta, Georgia 30312 | ECO-Action works with communities across the state of Georgia.

Mission: ECO-Action provides organizing and technical assistance so that Georgia’s low-income communities and communities of color can empower themselves to eliminate air, land and water pollution. Our vision is a Georgia where communities enjoy clean and safe air, water, land and energy, and have the power to impact decisions affecting their lives.

Are you more parks and nature-centered or people-centered?

People

What are three (3) things your organization does well?

- Engaging communities to address environmental problems where they live.
- Advocacy For Environmental Justice
- Green Infrastructure Training

What are three (3) things your organization would like to do better?

- Training for New Staff
- Insuring our use of technology and program management capacity keeps pace as we scale.
- Connect more regularly with individual donors and funder to keep them update of our progress.

Please provide your social media handles (If applicable) i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/ECOActionGA
- **Instagram:** instagram.com/ecoactionga
- **Twitter:** twitter.com/ecoactga

Who are your community partners?

Local Governments, Municipal Agencies, Churches, Faith-Based Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, Justice Organizations, Colleges and Universities, Neighborhood Businesses/ Local Small Businesses

Describe the communities/audience that you work with?

- **Teens:** 13-19
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- **Adults:** 36-62
- **Seniors:** 62 and older

Which ethnicities are most prevalent in your community?

- Black/African American

Population characteristics prevalent in your community:

- Households At or Below Poverty Level

What are the top 3 topics for your organization?

- Workforce Development
- Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development
- Climate Resilience

What are the 3 biggest challenges for your organization?

- Capacity
- Non-Profit Management (fundraising, board development, goal setting/strategic planning, etc.)
- Marketing and Communication

What are you hoping to gain from Parks with Purpose network?

- Best Practices
- Continued Learning
- Networking



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Carla Lewis, Executive Director
Dr. Yomi Noibi, Director of Training



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