

WE ARE THE
CLIMATE ^v CHANGE

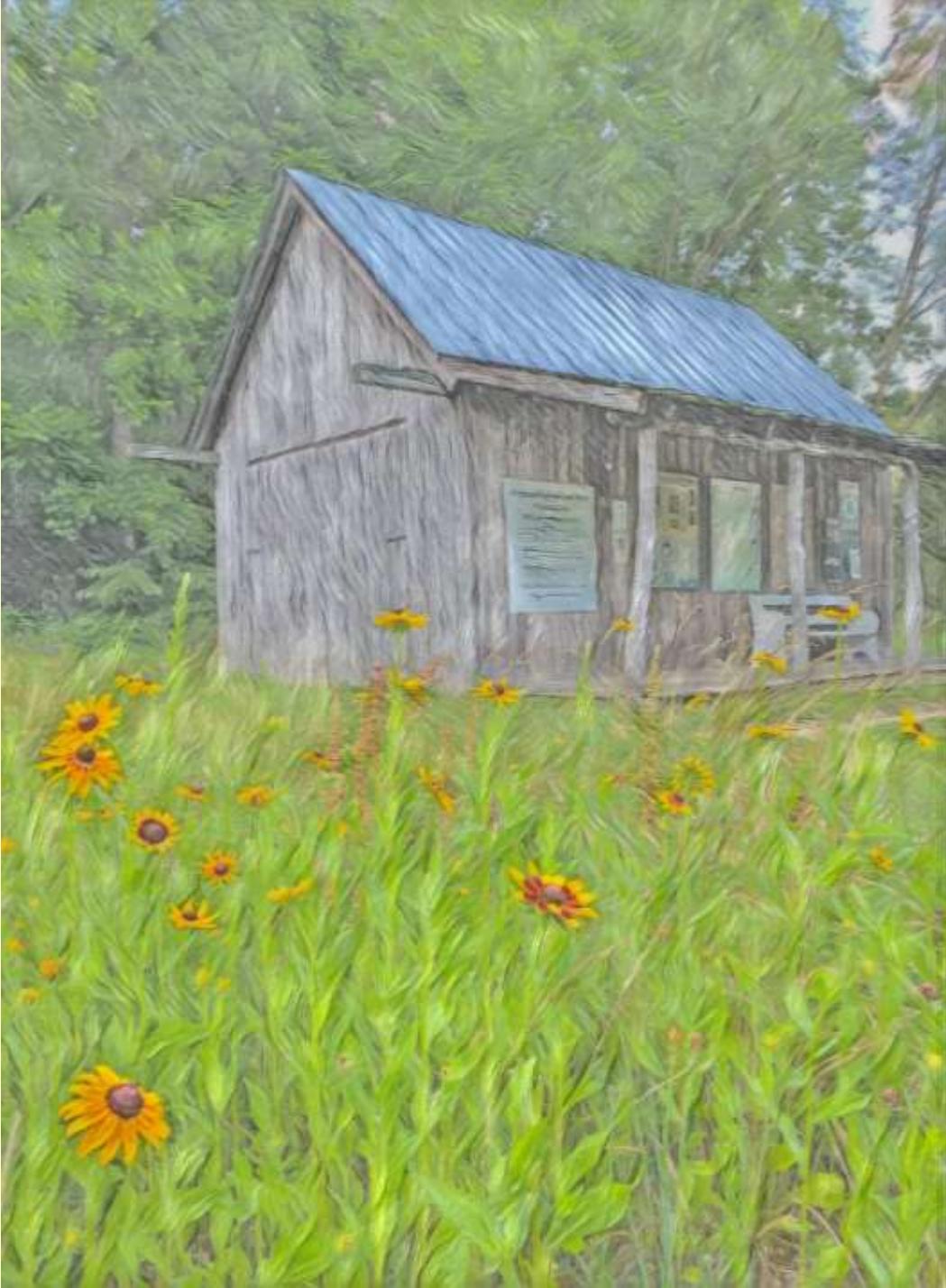
**ACLT's Spring
Appeal 2022**

5-Year Matching Challenge Grant Offered!

Anonymous Challenge Grant



Anonymous donors are offering a series of up to five yearly grants. The challenge grant will match up to \$100,000 in donor contributions to the general fund from the previous year.

A rustic wooden building with a blue metal roof, surrounded by green grass and yellow flowers. The building has a porch with a white bench and several windows. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with trees in the background.

Purpose of Grant

Increase capacity of ACLT to achieve its mission

ACLT MISSION STATEMENT

We promote land conservation and preservation throughout Southern Maryland. We preserve and conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations. We provide environmentally sustainable public access to managed properties for educational, scientific, recreational and cultural purposes. Read more in our [2019-2023 5-Year Plan](#).

Purpose of Grant

Enable ACLT to DO MORE

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE LAND & GETTING MORE DONE!

As evidenced in our Annual Reports, ACLT has achieved great things considering our small staff size. Our success would not be possible without our members, supporters and volunteers.

This challenge grant will enable us to achieve even more! As explained in the following slides, in order to achieve the goals of the grant, we plan to hire two full-time employees to help us fight climate change, support the work of the SMCA, and connect preserved lands ... all of which will have the added benefit of connecting people to the land and raising awareness of ACLT's work.



Grant Focus Areas

Attenuate & Mitigate Climate Change

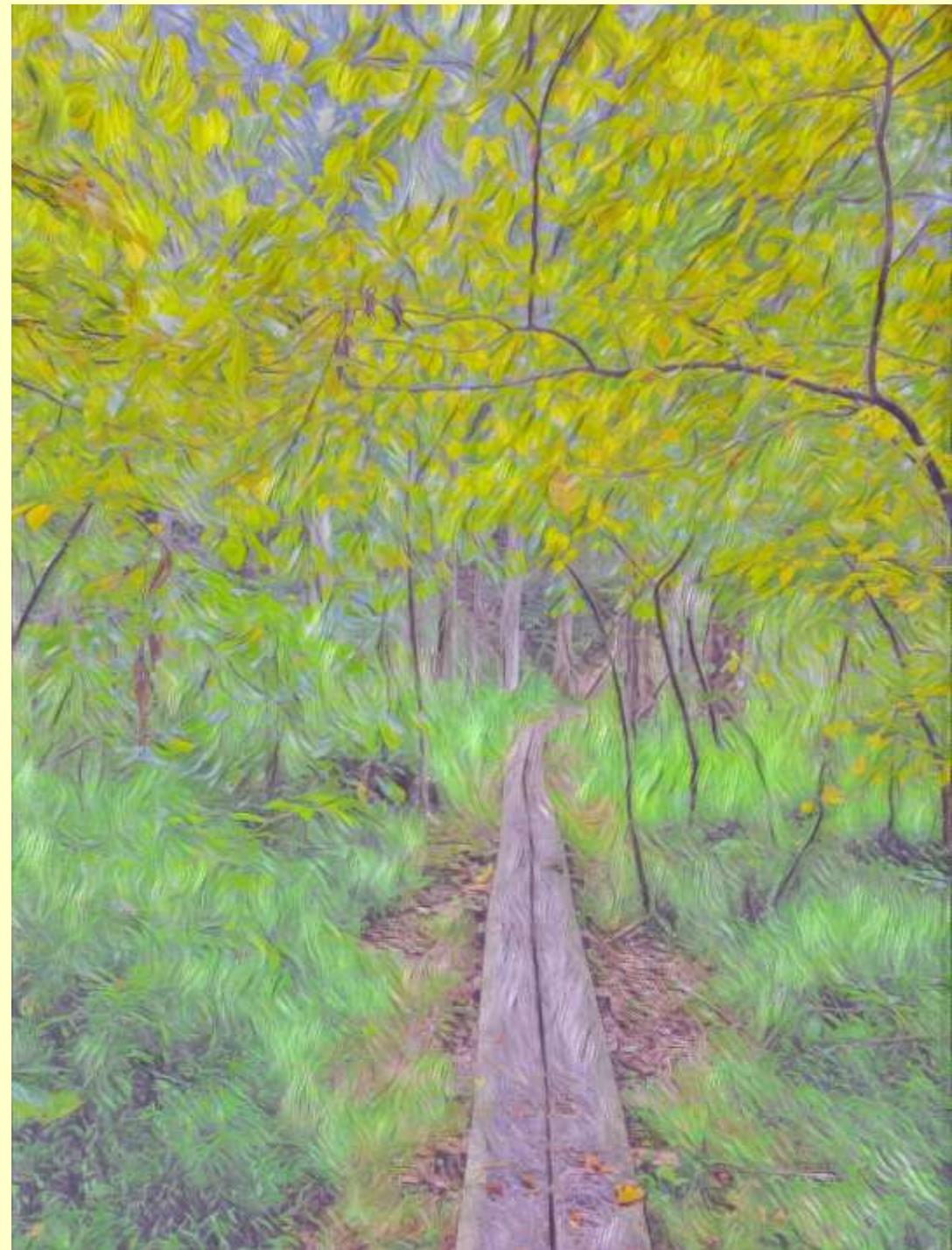
Raise awareness, expand water quality initiatives, maximize carbon sequestration, reduce emissions, and combat invasive species.

Support Southern Md Conservation Alliance

Continue to work with member organizations of SMCA, form and support “friends groups” to advocate for watershed protection.

Connect Protected Lands

Plan wildlife corridors and hiking/biking trails connecting ACLT properties and local communities.



Grant Focus: Attenuate and Mitigate Climate Change in the Parkers Creek Preserve and Across Southern MD

Attenuate Climate Change by:

- Preserving more essential habitats using our new critical lands approach
- Maximizing carbon sequestration with old growth forests and improved soil health
- Reducing ACLT's emissions with green energy and encouraging our membership and to do the same.

Mitigate Climate Change by:

- Providing green infrastructure (e.g. beaver analogs) to mitigate stormwater
- Planting native buffers on fields where needed
- Removing invasive species

Encourage our Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance partners to take these steps too.

The only way we will succeed is if we take climate change on at the global, national, and state/regional levels.



Proposed Strategy

Attenuate & Mitigate Climate Change

Hire a full-time grant employee who will:

- Help oversee contract for stream restoration project and conduct scientific research
- Create beaver dam analogs and conduct research on their effectiveness
- Continue to combat invasive species
- Assist in the planning of new hiking and biking trails and wildlife corridors that connect ACLT properties and the surrounding communities

Grant Focus: Support the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA)

SMCA Mission:

The Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance is a network of partners who work to conserve and restore Southern Maryland's landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, reflected in its culture, and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants, on which we rely.

SMCA Vision:

SMCA envisions Southern Maryland as a place where native fish, wildlife and plants thrive, and the fabric of healthy natural and working lands and waters enrich communities of those who live, work, and play here. Our culture and history are remembered and told, and our rich forestlands, fruitful farmlands, and resilient shorelines sustain present and future generations.

SMCA was launched in 2021. It currently consists of 34 conservation organizations working together to achieve its mission and vision.

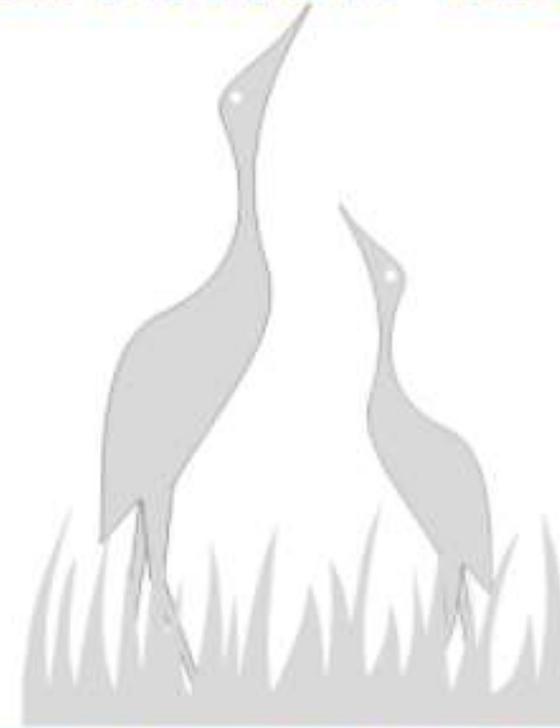
Proposed Strategy

Support Southern Md Conservation Alliance (SMCA)

Hire a full-time grant employee who will:

- Work with SMCA to enhance our advocacy position on large landscape conservation and preservation
- Support 3 existing Friends Groups that focus on watershed protection and mobilize local citizens to adopt sustainable practices
- Facilitate the creation of other Friends Groups throughout Southern Maryland
- Maintain SMCA website and social media pages, facilitate meetings with SMCA member organizations, etc.

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**



**PROTECTING HABITATS, HERITAGE, AND
LIVELIHOODS**

Grant Focus: Connect Protected Lands

Benefits to People:

- Provides alternatives to automobiles, reducing emissions and pollution
- Spending time in nature is beneficial to mental and physical health
- Increases eco-tourism and boosts local economic development

Benefits to Nature:

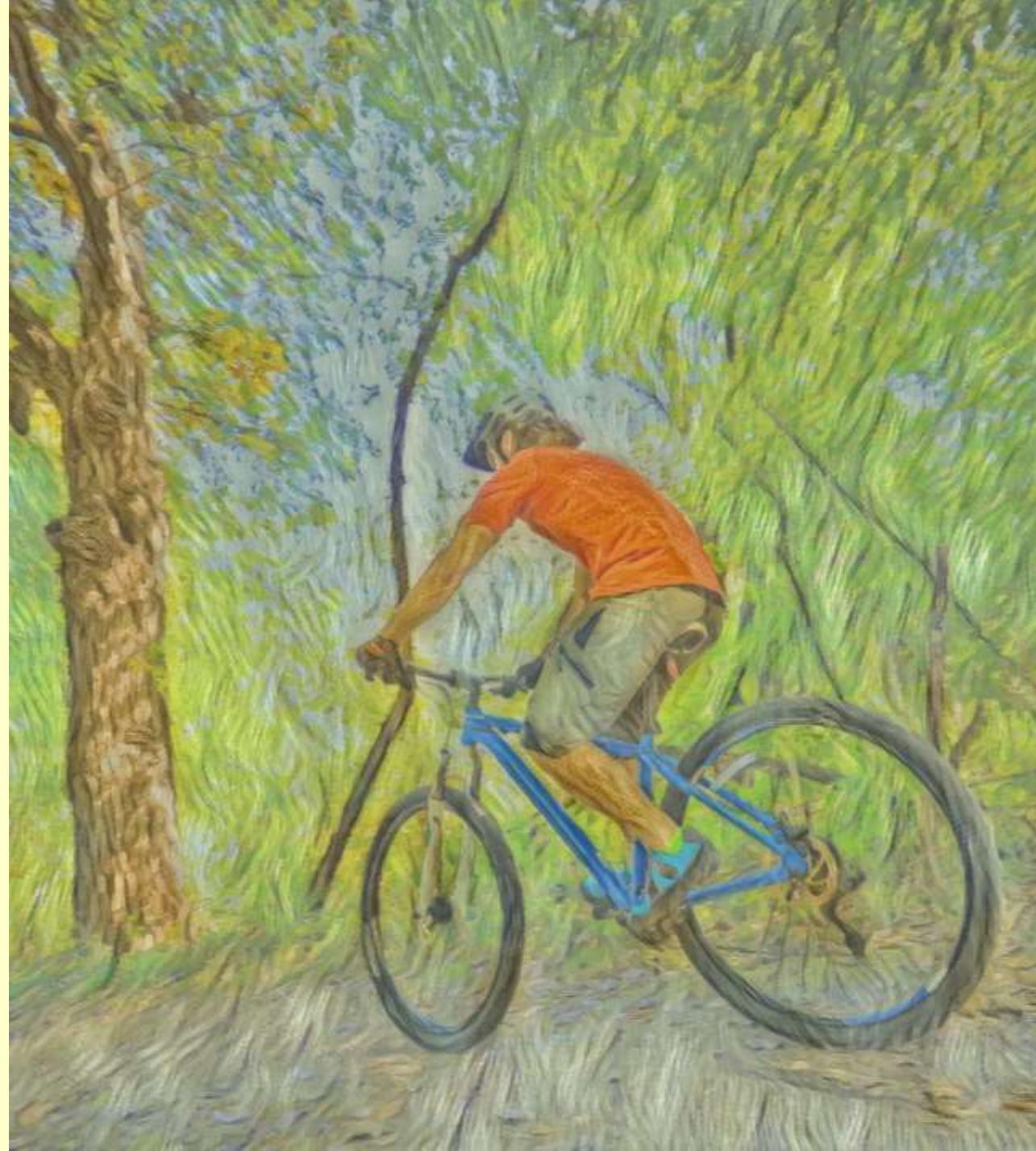
- Provides protection from humans, roads, etc. for numerous species of wildlife
- Improves access to food and water
- Enhances biodiversity and strengthens ecosystem resilience

Connecting protected lands will also enhance our efforts in large landscape conservation and preservation as well as our fight against climate change.

Proposed Strategy

Connect Protected Lands

- Seek planning assistance from the National Park Service, who assists with hiking, biking, and canoe/kayak trails
- Study county and state plans and coordinate with agencies and other trails groups in developing plans
- Where possible, assist in developing trails



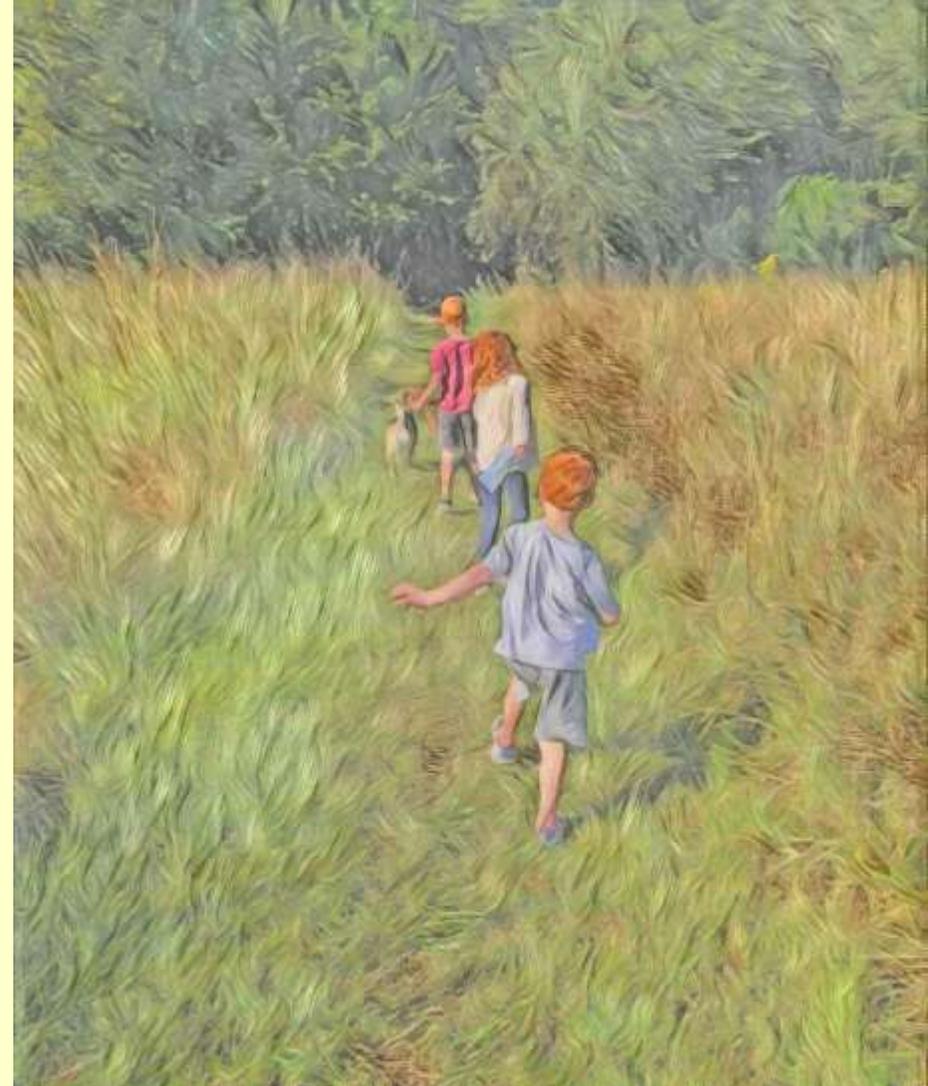
There is one condition to the matching grant:

ACLT members and supporters must contribute at least \$100,000 to the General Fund each year.

Through your generosity, we exceeded \$100K in donations last year, so we will be able to begin our journey of building capacity this July.

Please help us Do More by Giving More so that we can be assured of the funding we need to meet the goals of this challenge grant every year.

Together, we can truly 'be the change'.



What happens after the 5-year grant period ends?

The hope is that we will be able to build our endowments to the point that we can cover some of the grant staffing. In addition, it will give us time to prove to major grant funders that our work in the five-county region is essential to the health of the Bay and needs to be supported.





Summary

The generous 5-Year Challenge Grant presents a unique opportunity for ACLT that may never be seen again in our lifetime.

The gift is also very timely. ACLT has taken a leadership role in large landscape conservation, local work to address climate change, and significant efforts to save our fisheries, wildlife hubs, and corridors *before it's too late*.

This gift is an extremely rewarding vote of confidence in our ability to deliver on our mission. It will increase our capacity to accomplish more and make more of a difference in our community.

Please donate today and be a part of this exciting time at ACLT.