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For Immediate Release

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**New Eastern Shore Initiative for Regional Trails Awarded Technical Grant by National Park Service**

The Eastern Shore Regional Trail Network has been selected by National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) as a 2023 “community assistance project”. The designation means that this recently-formed, Shore-wide consortium of partners, led by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, will receive support for one year in the form of invaluable, one-on-one expertise and technical support from knowledgeable NPS-RTCA staff.

“The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistant Program (NPS-RTCA) is excited to partner with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and community partners to create a connected network for active transportation across Maryland's Eastern Shore that supports safe places for people to walk, ride, roll, and explore nature,” stated Natalia Sanches-Hernandez, the NPS-RTCA expert who will be supporting the initiative. “NPS-RTCA recognizes the need and strong community support to enhance multimodal transportation to encourage healthy living, provide safe access to close-to-home recreation and community amenities, and increase tourism and economic development for communities in Maryland’s Eastern Shore.”

The Eastern Shore Regional Trail Network partnership is a newly-formed, group of community organizations and groups that are working to: Connect with stakeholders, initiate the first new trails across the region, and build a regional trails coalition that will serve as an advocating body for trail resources. Led by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, partners include representation from across Delmarva.

Owen Bailey, Chair of the Steering Committee for this project and Director of Land Use and Policy for Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, was thrilled saying, “We are so grateful and excited for this new project to raise awareness and engage people across the Shore. And we can’t wait to hit the trail!”