

# BACK CREEK CONSERVANCY

## Vision

By 2025, the Conservancy envisions a fishable, swimmable Back Creek supported by a citizen-led non-profit group that speaks for the Creek and conducts projects to improve and maintain its health. The Back Creek watershed will have clean water, abundant life, and conserved lands with public and access to the water. It will benefit from its vibrant heritage as a yachting center, with a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders.



Help our effort get off the ground!



Now Forming!

# BACK CREEK CONSERVANCY

## JOIN US TO SPEAK FOR THE CREEK!

### Donate to the Back Creek Conservancy

Checks must be made payable to the Annapolis Community Foundation, under whose fiscal umbrella we are operating in our formative stage.

Back Creek Conservancy, Inc.  
c/oThe Annapolis Community Foundation  
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Information  
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## About the Creek

Back Creek is a tidal estuary in the Annapolis Neck peninsula – just east of downtown Annapolis and one of the city’s navigable tributaries of the Severn River.

- Length: Just over a mile
- Watershed: Over 855 acres, 95 percent of which lie within the City of Annapolis.
- Focus: Recreational boating, shoreside recreation, heart of the commercial boating industry in Annapolis and heritage education and tourism.
- Home of the city’s largest yacht yards and largest marinas with dockage for transient and live-aboard boaters.
- Other built-up facilities: apartment buildings, condominiums, small marinas and single-family homes.
- Home of the city’s Ellen O. Moyer Back Creek Nature Park , a 12-acre urban ecology park with a Depression-era waterworks building now used for storage, interactive storm water education structures, woodland trails, a dingy dock and small building used by Annapolis Community Boating for public access to the water and sailing lessons, picnic areas, and shoreline and stream restoration demonstration areas in need of maintenance.
- A wastewater treatment plant co-owned by the city and Anne Arundel County and operated by the county is in the watershed as is a large amount of retail space.



While the watershed is largely impervious surface, it also benefits from three conservation easements, at Americana Drive and Chester Avenue, at the SPCA nature preserve, and a six-acre tract owned by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

Back Creek has been declared an impaired waterway by Maryland Department of the Environment in these categories:

Swimming • Fishing • Shellfishing

As much as 12 feet of toxic sediment from untreated stormwater has killed the native aquatic vegetation, destroyed the fish and shellfish nurseries, and silted in the headwaters.

## About the Conservancy

A group of citizen volunteers has taken initial steps to establish a conservancy to protect Back Creek.

The Conservancy will conduct its work in support of the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement and its 2025 targets. The Conservancy’s work is science-driven, with an important role for citizen science.

The group seeks volunteers to organize a program of Best Management Practices, driven by science, to reduce pollution and bring the creek back to a fishable, swimmable state while ensuring that it continues to accommodate the needs of the community.

This is a long-term effort that will require citizen support and funding.

## Why Establish the Conservancy?

Annapolis is the center of Maryland’s recreational boating scene and is known as America’s Sailing Capital. Polluted waterways cannot coexist with this vision of Annapolis.

Citizen advocacy on behalf of the waterways improves water quality, as exemplified by the Spa Creek Conservancy and countless Riverkeeper programs around the Chesapeake and the country.

Conventional wisdom has it that 1,500 recreational vessels are stored or moored in the creek. This is a great challenge and opportunity for Green boating education, maintaining Annapolis as a world-class yachting destination with the economic benefits that brings.