

LOOKING >>> FORWARD

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



Established in 1966, the Eno River Association is an accredited land trust and conservation nonprofit driven by a mission to conserve and protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Eno River Basin.

ASSOCIATION STAFF:
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Executive Director

Greg Bell
Festival and Events Director

Hillary Harrison
Director of Education

Emily Hill
Development Director

Kim Livingston
Director of Conservation and Stewardship

Tom Davis
Stewardship Associate

Tracy Dell'Angela
Environmental Educator

Audrey Vaughn
Americorps Environmental Educator

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Cover photo by Thomas Beck.
Photo of Jessica Sheffield by
Caroline Gilmore



CHARTING OUR COURSE FORWARD

Greetings Friends,

On behalf of the Eno River Association staff and board, I take great pride in sharing our 2022 Annual Report with you. Please join us in celebrating Eno's accomplishments and in feeling the inspiration woven into our new Strategic Plan, launching this year!



As you know, the Eno River Association has been working with and for our community since 1966 to ensure that the natural, historical, and cultural resources of our watershed are protected. And while our successes are too numerous to name, there is much preservation work yet to be done in the current landscape of our political and physical environment.

Over the past two years, our staff and board, with your helpful engagement, have been charting our course forward. The Eno's new strategic plan elevates three streams of work over the next five years, allowing us to respond a fast-growing Triangle community, local threats of climate change, and other pressures facing the watershed. Our strategic vision includes:

- **Have Generational Impact** to ensure the Eno River is more accessible, cleaner, and more resilient for the next generations.
- **Foster Connections & Honor Cultural Diversity** to further embrace and uplift the stories of the people, plants, and animals that call the Eno River home.
- **Bolster Organization Inclusivity and Resiliency** to evolve and support our goals through a strong organization infrastructure.

We look forward to all the engaging partnerships this will create among us, to ensure a thriving, resilient, and inclusive Eno River Association.

Thank you for being an integral piece of this work for the Eno.

Warmly,

Jessica L. Sheffield, Executive Director



2022 was a BIG Year for Us

At a Glance...

1+ Million visitors to Eno River State Park

9,000+ visitors to Confluence Natural Area

5,222 people reached through our education programs

7,685 acres protected

6,450+ volunteer hours committed, across all programs

1,600 members joined

Thank you to the photographers whose images appear throughout this report: Thomas Beck, McClane Brown, Tracy Dell'Angela, Caroline Gilmore, Judson Greene, Alec Himwich, Joe Liles (calligraphy), Fred Myers, Saralynn Parker, Susan Reeves, Arjen Roelse, Natasha Waters

MAKING NEW FRIENDS FOR THE ENO

PROTECTING THE RIVER YOU LOVE

EDUCATION

Field Station Campers Find Rare Toad!

Our teens at Eno River Field Station spend a week at the Confluence exploring environmental education and STEM careers. They conduct fieldwork alongside scientists, researchers, and educators – and this year, that resulted in an important discovery! During the evening Night Frogs session, two students captured a small, beady-eyed toad. The herpetologists conducting the program were amazed to see an eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*). This species of toad had not been documented in Orange County since 1960. The two students who found the toad are officially recorded as the collectors of the specimen now at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. These real-world, STEM experiences are what Eno River Field Station is all about!



77

program events

3,037

youth program participants

26

school programs

4,655

in-person participants

51

public programs and hikes

567

virtual participants

Sharing Eno Stories in Print and Video

In February we published *Ribbons of Color Along the Eno River: The History of People of Color Living on the Eno*, the second of our two-part series of stories from people of color living along and near the Eno River throughout generations. This year we published four educational videos on our YouTube channel, iHearttheEno. These videos are available to the public at any time to learn more about impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff, biodiversity, climate change, and more.



FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO

10,000+ attendees

80 performances

75 craft artists

500+ volunteers

2,800+ volunteer hours

360 orders of Eno River merch shipped to 27 U.S. states

A TRASH FREE FESTIVAL

A whopping 97 percent of Festival waste was diverted from the landfill to recycling and composting through the hard work of the Volunteers of our Trash Free program.



STEWARDSHIP

52

workdays

660

stewardship volunteers

2,632

stewardship volunteer hours

1,018

trail and site steward volunteer hours

2 miles of trail built

8 interpretive signs installed at West Point on the Eno City Park

Stewardship's Mission: Improving Access and Resilience

Restoring native plants, removing invasive species, and maintaining amenities are a large part of the work our Stewardship team does to improve access and resilience of our lands within the Eno River basin. Here are some of the projects that kept us busy in 2022:

🌿 We planted ~25 native trees in the riparian area along the Eno River at **River Forest Park** after removing invasive shrubs.

🌿 We restored more than 1,000 native plants at our **Blue Indigo Preserve** as part of a multi-year project to bring these plants back to this preserve.

🌿 We installed a rain garden in our **backyard** after hosting a North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension workshop.

🌿 We improved amenities with a new kiosk, signs and a bench at **West Point on the Eno** Durham City Park, thanks



“Adding this jewel to Eno River State Park will ensure that the area is protected for future generations through conservation, recreation, and education. Our park staff’s management of the area will increase the health of its ecosystem and add educational programming to introduce the public to the history of the Speedway.”

- Kimberly Radewicz, Superintendent for Eno River State Park

Bringing Eno River State Park to downtown Hillsborough

In March 2022 we unveiled an exciting new project to transfer more than 200 acres near downtown Hillsborough into Eno River State Park. By December, the project had received full funding support by federal and state grants, the Harkrader Family matching challenge, and donations from Eno River Association members and friends. The transaction will close in 2023, ensuring permanent protection and public access for the **Historic Occoneechee Speedway, the James M. Johnston Nature Preserve, and parts of the Riverwalk and the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail**. The project also features four known early settlements dating back to the year 1000 CE – 20 acres that will be placed under the protection of the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit dedicated to acquiring and preserving the best of our nation’s remaining archaeological sites.

to a partnership with the Durham Rotary Club.

🌿 We hosted 20 workdays at **Panther Branch Natural Area**, with scores of volunteers building hiking trails in anticipation of the Spring 2023 park opening. Those volunteers included 10 distinct corporate groups. A local Eagle Scout led a project to build a picnic table and two benches, while a contractor completed a 10-car parking lot on the property.

🌿 We engaged ~70 trail stewards who help monitor and maintain hiking trails in the **seven Eno parks** we support. A core group of these stewards also maintain the hiking trails and other areas at the **Eno Confluence Natural Area**.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LAND PROTECTION

117 new acres protected in the Eno watershed

96 acres transferred into Eno River State Park



STRATEGIC PLAN: YEAR 1 GOALS

Thriving, Resilient, Inclusive

2023-2027

For over 56 years we've been delivering on our promise to conserve and protect the Eno River basin. A comprehensive strategic planning process in 2022 helped identify our priorities for building on the 7,600 acres of natural, historical, and cultural resources we've protected. As our first year of implementation begins in 2023, we're sharing some of the early goals we've established to continue to respond to a fast-growing Triangle and climate change impacts locally. Check out our full plan online at enoriver.org/strategic-plan

STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLAN

In 2022, we received a grant from an anonymous corporation to fund a comprehensive Eno strategic conservation plan (SCP) over the next two years.

The creation of a SCP will help prioritize conservation objectives and identify the areas, parcels, and properties most in need of protection in the Eno watershed. In addition to climate resilience, sustainability, and environmental justice best practices, the SCP will also include historical and cultural preservation targets. In order to set these priorities, an inventory of Durham and Orange counties' most special historical and cultural places will be conducted.

TAKING A STAND ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In our effort to restore the natural function of the Eno and to improve the resilience and adaptability of the river, climate change is at the forefront of our minds. The effects of climate change on the Eno can and will be detrimental to not only the river itself, but to the surrounding land and the communities that live and depend on it. In this first year of our new strategic plan, we will be developing an official position statement on the resiliency and adaptability to climate change for our watershed. We are committed to creating positive change along the river and in our surrounding communities.

CULTURE & HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Eno River Valley is rich with history and culture throughout the centuries. From the first stewards of the land, the Indigenous people of the many tribes and villages along the river, to the mills peppered along its shores, to the festivals and events celebrating the culture of our community, the stories are too numerous to count. We have so much to learn and share with our community and in that spirit, we will be convening a new Culture and History Committee to ensure that these stories continue to be heard and uplifted. This new committee offers opportunities for those who enjoy learning about and archiving history for education, celebration, and preservation. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to volunteer with the Association, please contact hillary@enoriver.org

DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD

In 2023, we will create a tool to measure proposed development projects in Durham and Orange counties. The Development Scorecard will examine potential environmental effects within the watershed, in addition to social, cultural, historical, and economic repercussions of development projects. The rubric can be used for greater accountability for developers, greater transparency for residents, and to better target our activism and conservation efforts. We hope that through the Development Scorecard we are able to encourage development projects that empower residents, contribute positively to our communities, and protect our Eno River.



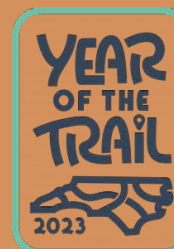
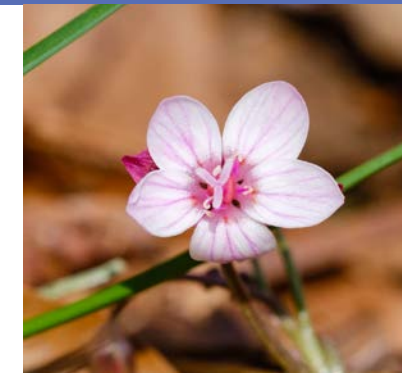
EMBRACING A NEW MODEL FOR LAND TRUST PRIORITIZATION

For the last three years, the Eno River Association has been investing in education and goal-setting related to environmental justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access principles.

Historically, land conservation and land ownership are intertwined with racial injustice. Every piece of land we protect is the traditional and ancestral homelands of Indigenous peoples. The accumulated wealth from these lands was built on the backs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Government-sanctioned racism in housing practices and monetary lending have resulted in the economic disparities tangible today.

The emerging land trust model centers people and environmental justice in the evaluation of goals for each parcel of land protected. Environmental justice is made possible when all people have access to information and are engaged as decision-makers for the future of their communities. Our 2023-27 Strategic Plan includes goals to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and access for our full community. We believe that everyone has the right to environmental protection that creates safe, healthy communities.

We can only achieve our goals of a thriving, resilient, sustainable Eno River basin when we consider even the most vulnerable members of our community. We will continue to learn about systemic racism, to name and combat environmental injustices in our community, and to build trust by continuing to ask for, listen to, and respond to the community's needs, wants, and critiques about our work. We acknowledge that we will continue to make mistakes and are grateful to our community for joining us in this evolution.



CELEBRATING TRAILS & MORE IN 2023

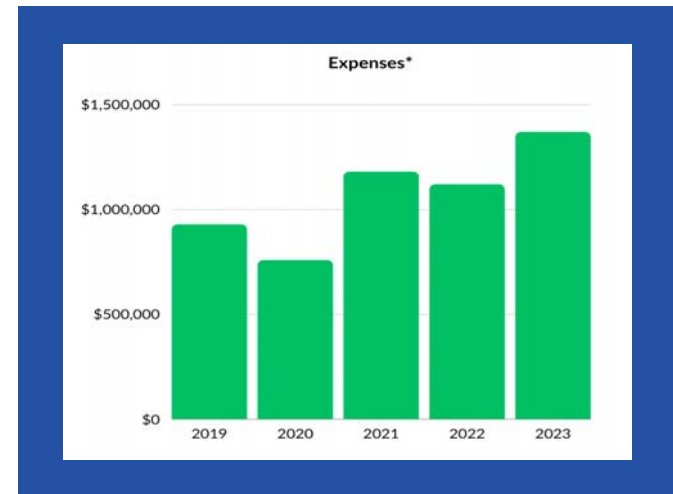
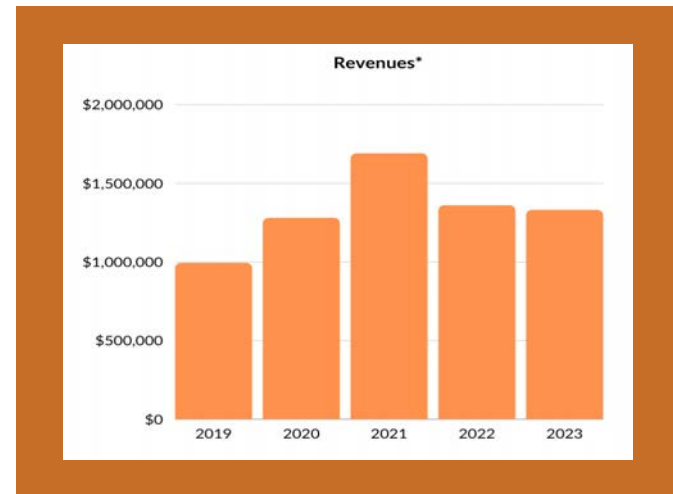
Led by the Great Trails State Coalition, North Carolina's Year of the Trail will be a celebration of the thousands of miles of stunning trails, greenways, and blueways that cross our State. Eno River parks and natural areas include over a dozen access points, 50+ named trails, and 70+ miles of walking, hiking, biking, and paddling routes. We'll be highlighting these trails throughout the year and also celebrating a few important Eno milestones!

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENO RIVER STATE PARK

The Eno River Association was established in 1966 to stop the damming and development of the Eno River. After several years of effective lobbying, local education, and community partnerships, a cooperative effort between the City of Durham, Orange County, the State of North Carolina, the Nature Conservancy, and the Association resulted in Governor James Holshouser welcoming Eno River State Park into the NC State Parks system in 1973. Now the park stretches across 4,700 acres of Durham and Orange counties and welcomes over a million visitors each year to hike, picnic, swim, visit historic sites, and study nature. Celebrate 50 years with us at events, education programs, and more throughout the year.

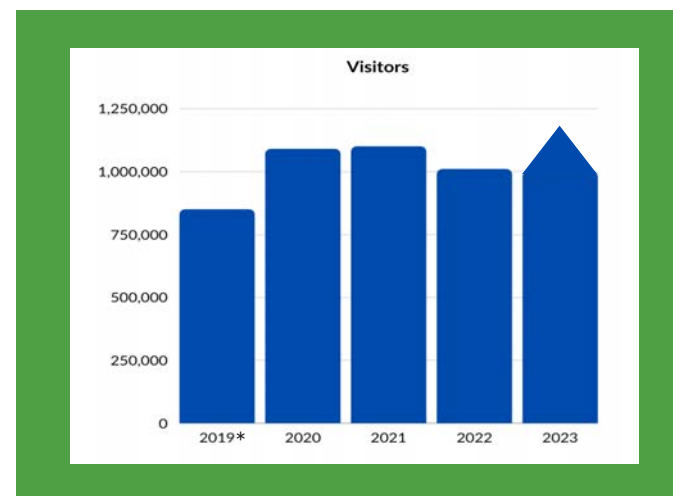


OUR NUMBERS: A STORY OF STEADY GROWTH

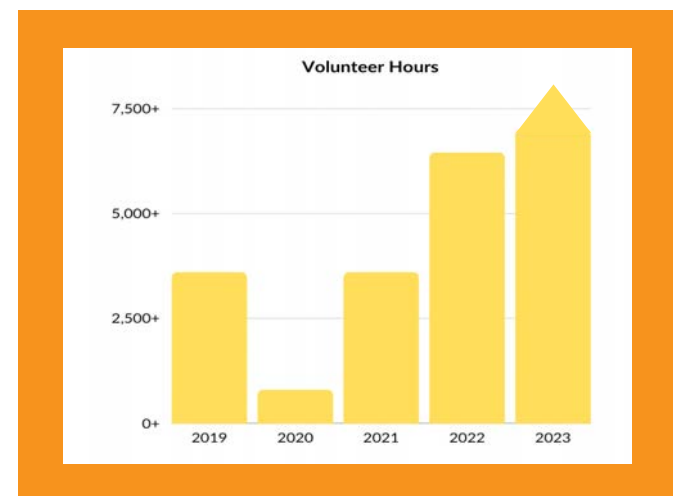


*In 2020, we also received a \$2.3 million bequest to establish the Roberta & Herman Brown Land Preservation Fund. 2022 revenues are unaudited. 2023 is budget, not actual

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*Estimate, does not include ERA-managed land outside the state parks.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

FOUNDATION, CIVIC AND CORPORATE SUPPORT



Adele & Willard Gidwitz Family Foundation

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Unique Batik

United Way of the Greater Triangle

Vaguely Reminiscent

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Zarazua Painting Company



THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE GENEROUSLY

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Anonymous
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Brenda Brodie
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The Honorable Jenn Weaver and Mr. David Neal
The Wilkinson Family
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Beverly Bell
Steve Booth and Mary Lou Rollins
Lynn Bowlby and Neal Ready
Bill and B.J. Boyarsky
James Brosnan

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY:

Members of our Wildflower Society have made special commitments to to the Eno River Association with annual contributions of \$500 or more in 2022

Shannon and Steve Brown
Maria and Curtis Chi
Mary and Mike Czyns
Eric and Patsy Decker
Fred Dietrich and Jenny Tenor
Matthew Freeman
Christy and Jim Gudaitis
Carson Harkrader and Gary Kueber
Martha and Michael Hill
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Martha Shepherd
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Scriba Whitmore and Katharine Somerville Whitmore
John Wood
Ed and Judith Holland
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Joyce Hopkins
Tom Howard
Sally and Rob Jackson
Peter and Sandra Jacobi
Robin and Barry Jacobs
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Alan Johnson
Richard Kay and Blythe Williams
Michael Kearney
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Joe and Judy Liles
Barbara Lipes and Heather Macdonald
Charles Lohr
Chris and Anna Lynch
Mac and Karen Macaulay
Lynn Maguire
Jennifer Maher
John Manuel and Cathy Murphy
John and Margaret March
Meredith Marley
Terence McCarthy
Mack and Susan McFall
Kathleen McGraw and Harry Phillips
Karen McLachlan
Bonny Moellenbrock and Michael Lowry
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Thomas Narten and Susan Rodger
Robert and Vicki Nebes
Susan Nobblitt
Doug Olsen
Karen O'Neal
Chris and Kelly O'Toole

TRILLIUM \$500 AND ABOVE

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Phyllis and Bob Andrews
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Virginia and Aaron Fitt
Martin Fitzpatrick
Eric Forslin
Walter Fowler and Gail Boyarsky
Harriette Frank
Judy Frank and Michael Muller
Mike and Ruth Freeman

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Emily and Christopher Galik
Amy Laura Hall
Lynn and David Harrington
Albert and Elizabeth Harris
Bill and Frances Harris
Robert Hellwig and Gordon Whitaker
Duncan Heron
Ed and Judith Holland
Benjamin and Nancy Hollifield
Joyce Hopkins
Tom Howard
Sally and Rob Jackson
Peter and Sandra Jacobi
Robin and Barry Jacobs
Victoria Jamieson Drake
Alan Johnson
Richard Kay and Blythe Williams
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Connie Winstead and Bo Glenn
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From Sara Corriher
Sheila Cook
From Don Moffitt, Cynthia Walker
Gary Cutick
From Peter Fanello
Daniel Deter
From Gretchen Wolf
Thomas Land Fowler
From Grant Fowler
Karen Gantt
From Linda Daniele, Shari Goldstein, Ivy Hoffman,
Donna Kaye, Jeanine Lynch, Janice Monsein, Claire Ragin, Terri Tyson
Penny Hall
From Maggi Hall
Gail Hall Coates
From Thomas Bishop
Harbor the Dog
From Kera Yonker
Becky Heron
From Jane Korest
Elvira Howard
From Carol Charping, Angela Chasteen, Mary Covington
Dongyun Ke
From Charles Lohr
Deborah Kindschi
From Will Murphy
Allen Lloyd
From Commissioner Evelyn Lloyd
Johnathan Dirck Martin
From Melodie Martin
Sarah Moore and Kate Howard
From Cathy Chandler

1,600 MEMBERS IN TOTAL

Stephen Riddle
From Constance Renz
Ida Holloway Roberts and Richard Kirk Holloway
From David S. Holloway
Florence Shackelford
From Elizabeth McCarthy
Kent Simons
From Tracey Dryden, Kevin Simons, OAL Foundation
Timothy Spitzer
From James Vickery
David Southern
From Jean Anderson
Bess Eloise Williams Stephanz
From Merrimon Kennedy, Vincent Long
Jonathan Steere
From Peter Steere
Greg Taylor
From Carol Taylor
Scott Wesson
From Lynn Wesson

IN HONOR OF

Nancy Bates Allen
From Susan F Booth
Claire Baker
From Barbara Rumer
Greg Bell
From John Keller
Hayley Broadhead
From Susan Pratt
Christopher Butterfield
From Jane Benfey
Theo Hill Carrigan
From Jennifer Thomas
Betsy Wooten Chapman
From Chips Chapman

Joyce and Kelly, Tim Kurpiers
From Stephen Crum
Kerolyn Kzye
From George Harvey
David Lenz
From Emilie Fiest
Lincoln & Margot
From Jonathan Frederick
Cara McClain
From Meytal Barak
Alex McGrew
From Tamara Martin
Don Moffitt
From Bob Schall
Deborah Moore
From Jonathan Moore
Bill Mullen
From Jennifer Johnston
Clayton Nell
From Jennifer Johnston
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Bruce Phillips, Joan Feeney, and Charlotte Feeney-Phillips
From Kathleen McGraw
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Suma and Jason
From Speed Hallman
The Frogs In North Carolina
From Berea Fair
The Sniders Ocie, Millie and Orson
From M R Snider
Shannon & Todd Tommy
From Tony Griffin
Walid
From Doug Olsen
Virginia Wertman
From Eleanor Wertman

We love our donors!
We received an anonymous donation of \$69,000 with this note:
"In recognition of the dedication of Eno River Association staff, including its past Executive Director, Elizabeth (Robin) Lackey Jacobs. Good job."

\$416,000+ DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS

Jeff and Lynne Koweek
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Jonathan Scott and Barbara LeVarge
Richard and Georgiana Searles
Kathleen and Todd Shapley-Quinn

SPECIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara, nature lover & environmental advocate
From Victoria Jamieson Drake
Barbara Birkhead
From Mary Leidel
Lewis Deveaux Blake, III
From Julius Blake, Elizabeth Childs, Joseph Fehribach, Ann Furr, Hobson Giving Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, Margaret Hodel, Ozey Horton, Deborah Jo Kummer, Lilac Mountain Farm, Kara Urbanek-Lee
Margaret Brenckman
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From Becky Carver
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Eno River Association is proud to be an accredited land trust.



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44TH ANNUAL

ENOFEST

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST
& TUESDAY, JULY 4TH
WEST POINT ON THE ENO
DURHAM CITY PARK