

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.

### **2024 Association Staff:**

Jessica Sheffield

**Executive Director** 

**Darlene Fiscus** 

**Director of Development** 

**Hillary Harrison** 

Director of Education

Kim Livingston

Director of Conservation & Stewardship

Hsi Chen

Development Manager

**Nick Ferguson** 

Finance and Operations Manager

**Bryan Iler** 

**Event Manager** 

**Heather McEntire** 

Store Manager

**Indigo Roper-Edwards** 

Land Stewardship Manager

**Audrey Vaughn** 

Education Manager

**Natalie Wallace** 

Community Partners Manager

Reema Garabadu

Stewardship Associate

Eli Haines-Eitzen

AmeriCorps Education Program Coordinator

**Katherine Occhipinti** 

Assistant Festival Coordinator

**Rachel Palmer** 

History and Culture Intern

**2024 Board of Directors:** 

Peter Raabe, President

Ellen Reckhow, Vice-President

Emily Friedman, Treasurer

Christy Gudaitis, Secretary

**Carol Charping** 

**Ana Earl** 

Tara Fikes

**Mel Gilles** 

**Kendall Glaze** 

**Helen Kalevas** 

**Kevin Reiner Delphine Sellars** 

**David Singleton** 

Janet Steele

**Lindsay White** 

**Mars Wood** 

Sarah Woodard



# CHARTING OUR COURSE FORWARD

### Dear Friends,

We have much to share and celebrate with you in this 2023 Annual Report!

It has been a remarkable year for the Eno River Association. Thanks to your inspiring support, our team has reached every key milestone set for the first year of our five-year strategic plan,



launched last January. Several of these notable achievements are highlighted in the following report, including the public opening of the Panther Branch Natural Area and the protection of another 119 acres within the watershed. Our education team is now comprised of three full-time staff members who delivered outdoor, hands-on feet-wet programs to more than 7,000 members of our community, and expanded our climate change education opportunities for youth and teens. Our Festival for the Eno program was enjoyed by 17,500 attendees, and was honored with the Indy's Best of the Best Award for Best Triangle-Wide Event.

On behalf of the Eno River Association staff and board, I thank you for your past and future partnership, as we continue our work together to conserve and protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Eno River basin. As we move into 2024 your participation will be key to our continued successful work to protect land and water quality in Durham and Orange counties.

We have much to look forward to in the year ahead, as we pursue our strategic goals of having generational impact on the health of the watershed, fostering connections to the river, honoring cultural diversity in the watershed, and bolstering our organization's inclusivity and resiliency. Thank you for joining us.

### Warmly,

Jesoch Stelleld

Jessica L. Sheffield, Executive Director

# 2023 WAS A

# B G YEAR FOR US



970,000+

VISITORS TO ENO RIVER STATE PARK

7,000+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS



1,200+

**MEMBERS JOINED** 

10,000+

VISITORS TO CONFLUENCE NATURAL AREA 5,200+

VOLUNTEER HOURS COMMITTED, ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

10,000+

VISITORS TO PANTHER BRANCH NATURAL AREA





7,804

TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED BY THE ENO RIVER ASSOCIATION

# MAKING **NEW FRIENDS** FOR THE **ENO**

# **Monthly Education Programming Expands to Orange Middle School**

In 2023, our education team embarked upon a new partnership with Orange Middle School in Hillsborough. Every month we engaged with all 8th grade classes on a range of environmental education topics. During our fall semester sessions, we delved into discussions on river and watershed health, biodiversity, and plant ecology. These lessons featured hands-on demonstrations and activities, allowing students to engage with the material in a fun and multisensory way. This upcoming spring, we will expand upon previous visits with more exciting topics and will take the students on a field trip to the Eno for further exploration.







41
PUBLIC
PROGRAMS
AND HIKES

4,396
YOUTH
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

7,111 IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS 1,908
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS

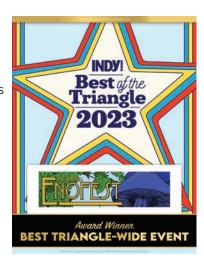


# **Culture and History on the Eno**

In 2023 we launched our new Culture & History Committee! In its first year we made progress on archiving historical Eno River Association documents, integrated culturally and significant places into our Strategic Conservation Plan, and renamed one of our Confluence Natural Area trails to Niste:kmani:hatkóx, meaning Rocky Water Path in Yesnechi. It has been deeply rewarding to learn more about the rich and intertwined history of the peoples along the banks of the Eno River, and to share those stories with the wider community.

# Festival for the Eno

17,500 attendees enjoyed the Eno River Association's 2023 Festival for the Eno, which was honored with the Indy's Best of the Best Award for Best Triangle-Wide Event. Our 45th Festival for the Eno is taking place this July 4th and 6th at West Point on the Eno City Park in Durham - save the date!

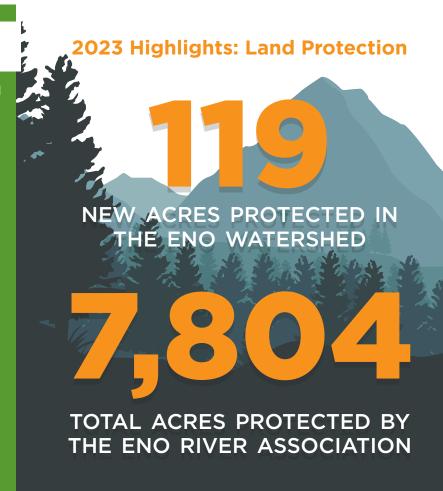


# PROTECTING THE RIVER YOU LOVE

# Natural, Historical, and Cultural Protection in 2023

In 2023, we closed three land projects and advanced several others. We were successful in protecting land around Teer Quarry, a future drinking water source for the City of Durham. This project, which includes 49 acres of wetlands, adds to growing protected land acres around the reservoir helping to ensure a clean water supply for its 320,000+ water customers. We also grew our Rocky Branch Nature Preserve! Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors, we accepted a land donation that buffers both the Eno River and the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Lastly, thanks to another generous donation, we protected a farm that straddles the Durham and Orange County lines along tributaries of Sevenmile Creek in Northern Durham.

We look forward to closing several projects in 2024, including the transfer of the Historic Occoneechee Speedway and James M. Johnston Nature Preserve to Eno River State Park, a conservation easement on the Historic Moorefields property, a conservation easement co-held with Triangle Land Conservancy on Bluestem Conservation Cemetery, a conservation easement along the North Fork Little River, and an extension of our Blue Indigo Preserve.





# Stewardship's Mission: Caring for the Land We Love

This past year we continued our work, stewarding the land that you've helped us to protect. In March we conducted a prescribed burn at Blue Indigo Preserve. This burn was an important step in converting portions of this preserve into diabase savanna. Diabase savannas are a type of ecosystem that supports exceptional biodiversity, including several rare plant species such as the preserve's namesake, wild blue indigo (Baptisia australis var. aberrans).



In April we opened the new Panther Branch Natural Area. Since then, over 10,000 visitors have explored these two miles of trail in Orange County. We've also recruited 9 site stewards to aid in the stewardship of our preserves along the Eno, and expanded our site stewards program with a quarterly newsletter and a steward network to help volunteers connect with one another.

This growth has allowed us to remove invasive plants, create and maintain trails, and keep preserves free of trash. We are excited for another year of meaningful stewardship centered around the health of the Eno River in 2024!

1,249

TRAIL AND SITE STEWARD VOLUNTEER HOURS

18,000

POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED

**397** 

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

1,149

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER HOURS ACRES OF INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED

WORKDAYS

NEW TRAILS CONSTRUCTED

# **STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027: YEAR 2 GOALS**

For over 57 years we've been delivering on our promise to conserve and protect the Eno River basin. Our comprehensive strategic planning process in 2022 helped identify five-year priorities for expanding natural, historical, and cultural resource protection. As our second year of strategic plan implementation begins, we're sharing some of our 2024 goals, as we respond to a fast-growing Triangle and local impacts of climate change. Check out our full plan online at *enoriver.org/strategic-plan*.

# **Eno River Field Station Expansion**

In July 2018, the first Eno River Field Station summer camp program took place at the Confluence Natural Area. Field Station is an experiential field study camp for youth ages 12-15 who have an interest in outdoor exploration and learning about the wide variety of scientific careers available. We invite guest researchers and scientists from across our region to facilitate field studies and learning opportunities for our students throughout the week.

For the past 5 years we have offered one week of this incredibly popular summer camp program. We are thrilled to share that in 2024 we are offering a second week of Eno River Field Station! During this second week, students will have additional learning opportunities with more researchers and scientists. We aim to inspire even more youth in our community to pursue scientific exploration and to become stewards and advocates for our natural world in 2024



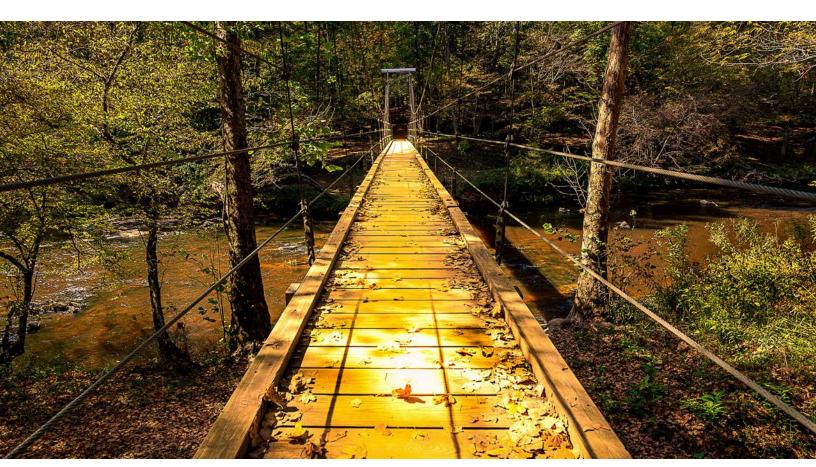


# **Tackling Climate Change Through Youth Engagement**

With support from Duke Energy Foundation, our education team piloted a new youth climate change program series in fall 2022, Eno Climate Champions. This series provides learning opportunities for teens in our community to explore climate change and its impacts, and inspires them to develop practical and local solutions. The first iteration of Climate Champions focused on the basics of climate change, and how youth can advocate for themselves and their communities. The series culminated in spring 2023 with personal projects educating their friends and families on how to have a positive impact on our world. Two teens created poster campaigns that were hung in their school library, advocating for natural resources.

Our new series from fall 2023 to spring 2024 focuses on the impacts of climate change on migratory bird species. Participants will gain an understanding of healthy wildlife habitats and ways to provide these spaces in their home and community landscapes. Our youth will be most impacted by the effects of climate change. We intend to show them that they have the power to advocate for their future.

# THRIVING, RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE



# **Protecting Our Future**

Having generational impact is one of the three top pillars of our work. For land and stewardship, this means protecting the ecology of the Eno, stewarding the lands along the Eno, restoring the natural functions of the Eno, and building advocacy power for the Eno, all while centering the community. As we launch into 2024, we are unveiling a year-long project of gathering community and partner input to help us prioritize conservation objectives and identify areas, parcels, and properties most in need of protection in the Eno watershed. This prioritization model focuses on the needs of our community, climate resilience, environmental justice, environmental health, and cultural and historical preservation. This innovative project will help increase our pace of protection in the places most important to you, ensuring we are serving our community and doing our part to make sure everyone has access to clean water, fresh air, and places to recreate now and into the future.

With this increase in the pace of land protection comes the need for an increase in our land stewardship efforts. This includes ensuring that our lands can adapt to our changing climate and support the native plants and animals that call the Eno home. Through our efforts of growing our volunteer and staff power in 2023, we will manage more lands in 2024 by removing invasive species, restoring riparian buffers, building more trails, and conducting prescribed fires. This will also include assessing and developing a strategy to build the infrastructure and capacity needed to successfully implement a watershed restoration and resilience program to improve water quality and natural function to the watershed.

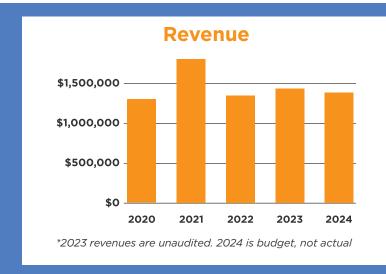
Our work in the community will continue to grow in 2024. The launch of our prioritization model kicks off our renewed commitment to really hearing what you need and want from us as it relates to our mission. With the addition of a Community Partners Manager here on our staff, we are committed to learning from and building trust with our community by continuing to ask for, listen to, and respond to community needs, wants, and critiques of our work. We will only achieve our goals of a thriving, resilient, sustainable Eno River basin when we are not only responding to the needs of our environment but also the people that call it home.

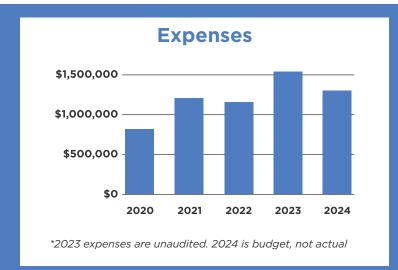


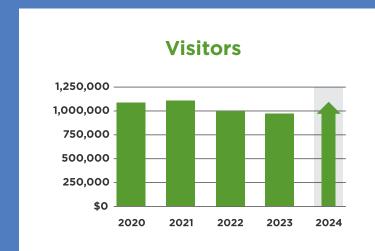




# **OUR NUMBERS: EBBS AND FLOWS**











# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Adele & Willard Gidwitz Family Foundation

**AmeriCorps** 

**AYCO Charitable Foundation** 

**BioMerieux** 

**Burroughs Wellcome Fund** 

**Burt's Bees Foundation** 

**Bydale Foundation** 

C.T. Wilson Construction Inc.

**Central Pines Regional Council** 

City of Raleigh Watershed Protection Program

**County of Orange** 

**Dominion Energy** 

**Duke Energy** 

Durham Merchants Association Charitable Foundation

F.M. Kirby Foundation

**First Horizon Foundation** 

Fox Family Foundation, Inc.

Friends of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Grace Jones Richardson
Testamentary Trust

**Harris Beverage** 

**Hendrick Subaru Southpoint** 

James and Mildred Wilkinson Charitable Foundation Inc.

**Merck Foundation** 

**Murphy's Naturals** 

**NC Solar Now** 

North Carolina Land and Water Fund

North Carolina Native Plant Society

**Red Pond Paradise Fund** 

Runaway, LLC

**Snap Pea Catering** 

**Topsail Technologies** 

**Triangle Community Foundation** 

**Triangle Fly Fishers** 

**Unique Batik** 

**Zarazua Painting Company** 



























# THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS

\$412,000+

DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS

250+

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

1,200+

MEMBERS IN TOTAL

### **BLAZING STAR**

### \$10,000+

Anonymous Anonymous

Lonna and Richard Harkrader

"It's remarkable that a small group of citizens in the early 1970s saw the potential of the Eno River. They made what is now a major urban linear park that provides open space, clean water, convenient access to nature and abundant joy to our

- Richard Harkrader

# **LADY'S SLIPPER**

### \$5,000+

Ann Louise Barrick and Joyce Elaine McNeill Brenda Brodie

Rick Burt

Carol and Bill Charping

Karalyn and Joseph Colopy

Kenny Dalsheimer and Marybeth Dugan

Carol Gunther-Mohr

Rosemary and George Kolasa

Lisa L. Lorenzin

Mary Love May and Paul Gabrielson

Holly Reid and Rich Shaw

Jennifer and Lance Rogers Aaron and Mandy Wilkinson

Charles T. and Kathie Wilkinson

Andrew and Hilary Wilkinson

# **CRESTED IRIS**

### \$2,500+

Anonymous

Andrew Balber and Frances Kerr

James Brosnan

David and Carol Bunnel

Susan Gidwitz and Gail Freeman

Virginia A. Gilbert

Carson Harkrader

Janis McFarland & Richard McLaughlin

Linda and Stuart Paynter

Snider Family Charitable Fund

Lucy Wilson

Bonnie Wright and Martin Eakes

# **TRILLIUM**

### \$1.000+

Tony and Paula Adams

Anonymous

Phyllis and Bob Andrews

J. Armstrong

Greg Beck

Steve Booth and Mary Lou Rollins

Lynn Bowlby and Neal Ready Bill and B.J. Boyarsky

John Campbell

**David Castro** 

Jeffrey Chase and Nonna Skumanich

Tom Cole

Dave Cook

Don and Judith Cox

Eric and Patsy Decker

Ron Evans

Brendan Flanagan

Matthew Freeman

Josh Fulan

Mike Giarla and Ellen Michelson

Christy and Jim Gudaitis

Martha and Michael Hill Sarah and Jonathan Hodges

Jane Hoppin

Alice and George Horton

Deborah Ingram

Mike and Jan Irwin

Jerry and Lynette James

Karjanaprakorn Pierce Family

Ryan and Rebekah Kelly

Dwight Koeberl and Louise C. McCracken

Ronette Kolotkin

Jeff and Lynne Koweek

Donald Kritsch and Barbara Baker

Cathy and Randy Lambe

Gretchen Larson

Joe and Judy Liles

Richard Low and Anne Almond

David and Lissa Lutz

Mac and Karen Macaulay

John Manuel and Cathy Murphy

John and Margaret March

Meredith Marley

Kevin McClain Mack and Susan McFall

Brian McGiverin

Hervey and Jane McIver

Art Mines and Elizabeth Dyer

Pascale and Volker Mittendorf

Fred and Cathy Myers

Diana Neunkirchner

Chris and Kelly O'Toole

Fred Parham

John Pearson and Gail Goodling

Rachel Phillips

Anonymous

Ed and Margie Pikaart

Beth Preslar and Raleigh Roark

Mollie and Bill Purdy

Peter Raabe and Alesha Daughtrey

Ellen and Ken Reckhow

Kevin Reiner

Brian and Julie Reo

Elizabeth Robbins

Dan Schnitzer

Jonathan Scott and Barbara LeVarge Elizabeth Searles-Bohs and Larry Bohs

Kathleen and Todd Shapley-Quinn

David and Olivia Singleton

Heather and Chris Smith

Ed and Catherine Sredzienski

Aaron Stoertz and Meredith Barrett

Jeanette Stokes

Anna Stout

Aimee B. Tattersall Karen and Tom Tierney

Joseph Watt

Jenn Weaver and David Neal

Merywen Wigley and Kevin Magill

John Wood

**David Wright** 

"For many years, members of our family have enjoyed the park, the river, the festival, and the variety of programs. We are honored to donate towards its future so that many more families can share in the beauty of the park and all that it offers.

- Anonymous

# **TROUT LILY**

\$500+ Diane Allen and Chad Hughes

Elizabeth M Amend

Jean Anderson Nicholas Bandarenko

Carina Barnett-Loro

Eric Bauer and Darcie Smith

Rebecca and Greg Berenfield

Jess Bousquette

Mark Brueckner Ann Bushyhead and John Valentine

Gene and Susan Carlone

Lewis Carson and Karen Prus

Thomas and Susan Carson

Julie Chappell Jacqueline Clary

Ed and Ruth Clayton

Ann Colosia Sandra Cook and Chuck Darsie

Mary and Mike Czysz Stephen and Sheryll Daniel

Lara Duffney Philip Elcan

Anne Emler

Matthew Farrelly and Rachel Royce

Paul Feldblum and Tolly Boatwright

Michelle Ferguson

Kent Fiala Karen Fieselman

Tara Fikes

Dale and John Fluke

Eric Forslin

Walter Fowler and Gail Boyarsky

Harriette Frank

Judy Frank and Michael Muller Ruth Freeman

Emily Friedman and Keith Guile **Emily and Christopher Galik** 

Frances Goodrich

Paul Green

Amy Laura Hall

Maggi and Ron Hall

Eric Hallman and Elizabeth Woodman

Lynn and David Harrington Dr. and Mrs. Charles Hecht

Robert Hellwig and Gordon Whitaker **Duncan Heron** Emily K. Hill

Rose Hoban and Stephen Tell

Benjamin and Nancy Hollifield

David S. Holloway Joyce Hopkins

Mark and Anne Jackman

Ed and Judith Holland

Rob and Sally Jackson

# WHO GAVE GENEROUSLY

Peter and Sandra Jacobi Robin and Barry Jacobs Lisa Klatt and Ken Hermey

Jennifer Lail

Jessalee Landfried

Charles Lohr Lynn Maguire Ryan Marlow

Karen McLachlan

Martha McMillan and Candice Cobb Bonny Moellenbrock and Michael Lowry

Margaret Monast Julie and Rich Mooney

Pamela Morse

Amy and Kerry Mullenix

David Myers

Lisa Nadler and Deborah Pilkington Thomas Narten and Susan Rodger

Robert and Vicki Nebes

Susan Nobblitt

**Emily and James Pearce** 

Alvssa Perz

Bercedis Peterson

John Petranka and Sally Gewalt Marilyn and Richardson Preyer Ken Pugh and Leslie Killeen

Milo Pyne and Alexa McKerrow Elizabeth Quint

Elizabeth Ferris Rainoff Jean and Dan Ricca

**Howard Rock** Sam Rodgers

Cherie Rosemond and David Woodmansee

Allison Rosenberg Cynthia Satterfield

Bob Schall and Susan Lupton Pete and Margaret Schubert

Alice Seelye Jessica Sheffield Jeffrey and Eileen Soo

Aviva Starr and Sherry Samuels

Richard Stern

Tom Struhsaker and Theresa Pope

Lee Ann and Larry Tilley Pat Wallace and Laurie McNeil

Brett Walters

Les and Carol Walton

Richard Weller

Adam and Katie Wenzlik-Bailey

Peter and Gail Westlin

Jane White

Connie Winstead and Bo Glenn

Sarah and Mike Woodard

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Joanne Abel and Rama Mills

Kelly Allen Antonia Andaluz Sarah Baesmith

Robin and Jarrett Barnhill

Elyse Barrick Libby Barron Amos Baynes

Scott and Allison Belan

Samuel Berger

Elijah Bernstein-Cooper

Kimberly Best

John and Ginny Bowman

**Christopher Boyce** Kevin Brebner

Jim Britt and Mary Lorscheider

Hillary and Kate Bruce John K. Buhrmann Melanie and Kelly Burke

Hayley Butcher-Broadhead and Jeremy Broadhead Brian Buzby and Kimberly Bishop

David Cantrell and Teresa O'Rourke

Karen Carter

Chuck and Diane Catotti

Anne Cherry

Sara and Rush Childs **Bob and Margaret Clemen** 

Miller Cochran **Emilee and Chad Collins** 

Connie Cowell

Jan Davis

Kathleen Davis and Jeff Brown

Tom and Patricia Davis

Petra Dinghaus Randy Dodd

Stephen Dovenitz and Jane Howard

Elizabeth Dray

David and Angela Duty

Lea Efird-Green

Zac Elmore

Lisa Fischbeck and Lamar Bland

Jo W. Fisher

Matt and Jill Foster

Chip Gentry

Dorothy and Jim Gerard

Caroline Gilmore Josh Gredvig

Larry Greenblatt and Cathleen Melton

Samuel Grossinger Jillian Haeseler

Nancy and David Haines

Dr. Suma and Jason Hallman

Hillary Harrison

Uli Hartmond and Sara Stratton

Dale Healy Julie Hedgepeth Aubrev Herbert Karen Hogan

Elizabeth and Martin Hubbe

Elizabeth Hull Deborah Iden Bridget Irish Mary K. Jeffries Vivette Jeffries-Logan Amy Jenniches Lvnn Jordan

Suzanne Koller and Richard P. Seader

Joyce Kurpiers and Tim Kelly Harriet and Michael Lakin

Anja Landon Suzy Lawrence Holly Leddy Judy Leinbach

Ralph and Marie Liebelt

Barbara Lipes and Heather Macdonald

Kim and Robyn Livingston

John Lohnes Liz Lord

Doug and Helen Lovern

Michael Macklin Shari Maloney **Eve Marion** Cindy Marsh Patricia McAulay Terence McCarthy Leslie and Adam McClellan

Deborah L McGill

Amanda and Paul McGuire Barbara McIntyre Mitchell Moehring

Don Moffitt and Sidney Cruze

Scott Mollenkopf

Daniel Mullaney and Darcey Martin

Todd and Kathleen Nance

Charles Newman

Elizabeth and Wes Newman Janice and Dennis Nicholson Michele and Jonathan Nolen

Julianne Payne

John and Kristen Pormann

John Prince

Sandy and Mike Quinn

Corissa Quinn Alexander Raines

Susan Reeves Andrea Reif Alanna Reynolds JJ Richardson

Karen Ritter William Robinson

Brian Rosa

Katharine Rossier and Jeff Dietterle

Noah Rubin-Blose Bradley Saul Dane Schuckman

Connie and Truman Semans

Susan Sewell

Jen and Michael Shepherd

Anne Shortliffe Beth Shulman

Kendall Singleton and Justin Kirk

Joanna Smith Ted and Amy Smith Snider Family Trust Richard Snodgrass Kelly Somers

Scriba Whitmore and Katharine Somerville

Whitmore **Garrett Sparks** 

Michael Spink and Brigitte Allard

Dr. Jean Spooner Patrick Stanforth Javne Stuart

Will and Elizabeth Tricomi

Geoffrey Trullinger

Geoffrey and Margaret Wainwright

Mindy Ann Walker Emily Wexler Mary Ann Whaley Lynn E. Whitaker Lindsay White **Bob Wiley** Samuel Williams Sarah Wilson

Ralph and Karen Wilson

Robert Wright and Kathleen Geidel Wright

### **NAMED FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS**

Allen Lloyd Fund for the Upper Eno

The Confluence Fund

Conservation Land Stewardship Endowment Fund Festival for the Eno

Margaret C. Nygard Land Acquisition Fund Roberta & Herman Brown Land Preservation Fund

Listings reflect commitments made in 2023. We make every attempt to ensure accuracy when acknowledging donors. Please notify us of any errors at development@enoriver.org.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID RALEIGH, NC PERMIT #902

We are a proud member of







Eno River Association is proud to be an accredited land trust.



This Newsletter is printed on SFI certified and FSC certified paper, sourced in an environmentally friendly, socially responsible manner.

