

City of Annapolis
RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

July 2026

Report to Environmental Matters Committee and Environmental Commission

ENERGY EFFICIENCY/ CLEAN ENERGY

Kairos/ Alternative Financing for Solar Installations - R&S and Central Services discussed the financing options available to the City to install solar panels to meet the City's clean energy generation goals. Certain organizations and financiers may be able to provide installations at no cost and potentially with revenue incentives to the City for merely use of the space on facilities. Staff are exploring options and cost-benefits to ensure the City and its residents are getting the highest return on investment for solar installations on public installations. .

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Resilient Maryland Program - R&S, DPZ, HACA, and Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) partners continue to explore the feasibility of a resilience hub as part of the Eastport/ Harbor House CNI rebuild. MEA awarded the City a \$12,000 Resilience Maryland Program grant, to determine the feasibility of installing solar with battery backup in these two communities. Benefits include peak-load management reducing the risk of blackouts, ensuring continuity of services during emergency events, and lower energy costs. An extension of this grant may be requested due to delays in the release of the CNI funds from the federal government.

Solar Inventory and Strategy Coordination with Anne Arundel County and the Resilience Authority -
UPDATE: The R&S team is working with the Resilience Authority through Council Fire to assess opportunities to create a City solar strategy. The next phase of the project is conducting up to 3 City site visits with the consultant. Various important pieces of information have been recovered from the exploratory exercises, and will improve the City's solar operations.

Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Local Government Modernization Program (L-GEM) Grant Application - R&S received a \$408,500 MEA grant for an audit of the City's streetlights and if they are being billed appropriately. Consultant, Tanko Lighting LLC, finds that utilities are often overcharging. Annapolis' records have already indicated that 99 lights are duplicately recorded by BGE in the historic district, and more corrections are likely to come. After this inventory and initial assessment, Tanko Lighting LLC will provide assistance in converting inefficient streetlights to efficient LEDs. Tanko Lighting, LLC has previously done a study with the City, which proposed such an audit, LED conversion, and then purchasing the streetlights from BGE for further savings. MEA did not award the City its requested funding for the requested solar installations at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center and Gotts Garage. An additional \$5,000 was provided by MEA to conduct a BEPs implementation study for Pip Moyer (which will be required to adopt those regulations). The City of Annapolis Finance Committee will review the Supplemental Appropriation July 15, 2026.

The City identified an LED retrofit for downtown, "tobacco," fixtures which will cost approximately \$600 per light. These retrofits reduce the cost of maintenance and energy. R&S has engaged DPZ Historic Preservation on the lighting requirements for downtown.

(MSEC) LED retrofit technology (cobra head street lights) - BGE has completed conversion of 65 fixtures to LED, and is processing invoices. Upon receipt of a final invoice, the City will submit to MEA (via Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Program) for reimbursement. This grant allowed the City to switch over street lights to LED. These lights are City-owned and BGE-maintained, and are in the “cobra head” style. Most of these will be converted from 400W High Pressure Sodium to 100W LED. The project is funded by MEA. These conversions are separate from the L-GEM grant project.

Maryland Energy Administration Solar Technical Assistance - R&S is receiving solar technical assistance from MEA to perform solar installation and feasibility assessments at nine City buildings, which will be used to support future funding requests for implementation. Site visits are tentatively scheduled for July.

Incorporating Resilience into Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) - In early October, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) canceled the grant to the Resilience Authority to work with the City and grant partners to develop a resilience based building code for buildings under 30,000 square feet (aimed mostly at residential buildings). The Resilience Authority timely filed an appeal of the termination decision pursuant to the informal appeal process. The process does not specify a time period for DOE to reply to appeals. After learning of impending DOE funding cancellations, the project’s technical support partners, Northeast Technical Partners and ClearlyEnergy, worked as quickly as possible towards drafting model code language for a Building Energy & Resilience Performance Standard (BERPS). DOE released grant funds as reimbursement for work performed through October 1, 2025. The City allocated its grant funding of \$200,000 to Council Fire for consulting services, particularly with respect to community engagement and education.

Project Summary: Grant funding was secured through DOE for technical assistance in drafting and implementing a model code. Existing Building Performance Standards (BPS) are designed to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of the existing building stock, but only apply to large buildings, not smaller buildings and residential buildings most prone to damage from natural disasters. This project seeks to address these policy shortcomings by designing and implementing BERPS for smaller buildings with an emphasis on jurisdictions with significant climate risk. This project will not require the City to revise its code but will provide a framework and technical assistance to guide revisions to the City Code. (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI)). \$200,000 of the grant funds are dedicated to Annapolis.

EmPOWER Maryland LED Lighting Upgrades- Update: R&S has been working with Central Services on a project via BGE and EmPOWER Maryland that includes no-cost LED lighting retrofits and upgrades for businesses, including municipal buildings. Matrix Solutions was the contractor selected, and the pilot project was the Forest Drive Fire Station. The work on the Forest Drive Fire Station was completed on May 13.

Since then, we have started the process for multiple buildings, as listed below, with other facilities currently being explored including the ADOT building, the Stanton Center, the Eastport Fire Station, two ball parks, and three parking garages. Information on these sites will be forthcoming; each site requires a site visit and a walk through to determine the number and type of lights to replace as well as a review of the meter(s) for eligibility. Most of the remaining sites will have their reviews completed in July.

Please note, this program is likely ending in September of 2026.

Data on capital savings, projected kWh and energy cost savings for current installations are as follows:

Facility	Status	Value of Upgrades (Avoided Capital Cost)	Annual Energy Savings	Estimated Annual Utility Savings
Forest Drive Fire Station	Completed May 13	\$49,956.92	132,145 kWh	\$25,107
Gorman Ave	Completed July 2	\$84,745.67	65,950 kWh	\$12,529
Taylor Ave Fire Station	Installation TBD	\$75,944.60	91,485 kWh	\$17,382
City Hall	Installation TBD	\$69,573.68	78,018 kWh	\$14,823
161 Duke of Gloucester	Installation TBD	\$12,147.62	12,313 kWh	\$2,339
Total	—	\$292,368.49	379,911 kWh	\$72,180

Ownership of City Street Lights - Strategies for acquiring streetlights have been explored with DPW, including financing and lease-to-own models.. DPW is the department responsible for streetlight maintenance, and DPW has met with Tanko, the company that performed the City's street light study. The study identified significant savings that the City can realize by purchasing non-city owned street lights and maintaining all City street lights. Currently, a portion of the street lights are owned and maintained by BGE, some are owned by the City and maintained by BGE, and the remainder are owned and maintained by the City. A streetlight audit is the next step in acquiring all streetlights.

GreenHouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan – UPDATE: Consultant [KERAMIDA](#) provided a final draft of the Climate Action Plan in June. A version of the draft plan was posted online for public comments through May 31. An in-person town hall was held on May 5 and a webinar was held on May 26. The plan was presented in its final draft during the June 18 work session for comments by City Council. Keramida is currently incorporating those comments and City staff are working on complimentary reports for the CAP.

Project Summary: 2008 inventories (based on 2006 data) were updated in one comprehensive document for (1) City facilities emissions and for (2) community emissions. Accompanying this inventory will be (3)

a greenhouse gas/ pollution reduction action plan to reach the goals set in the 2040 comprehensive plan, *2040 Annapolis Ahead*.

SOLAR EFFORTS

Community Solar - At the end of 2025, the City entered into an agreement with SunCentral LLC to subscribe to community solar for power to City facilities. This power is coming from solar arrays installed on the roof of a warehouse in Upper Marlboro, Md (14901 Queens Ct); therefore, no land was used for this project. The facility began operations June 2026; bill credits are expected to be received starting in July or August.

Project Summary: Based on the City's past BGE bills, it is estimated that solar-based energy credit will yield annual savings to the City between \$66,000 and \$127,000. Over a 20 year period, the City could save between \$1,300,000 and \$1,900,000 in energy expenses and reduce 51,071 metric tons of CO₂ emissions. This pollution reduction is equivalent to the absorption of CO₂ by 16,318 acres of forest or the equivalent of removing 11,012 gasoline powered vehicles from roads. There is no cost to the City to participate in a community solar program. The agreement covers a period of 10 years and may be terminated by either party with 180 days written notice.

Residential Solar - NEW: The City is partnering with Solar United Neighbors to join the annual "Switch Together" effort, formerly known as the Solar Switch and the Capital Area Solar Co-Op. This opportunity provides interested residents with the opportunity to have solar installed on their homes at a co-operative and competitive price. It takes the guess work out of solar because Solar United Neighbors and the third party consultant iChoosr vet all contractors who bid on the project and objectively choose one installer for all projects. The installer, once chosen, meets with all interested residents for analysis, feasibility, and ultimately installation if possible (some homes will need roof repair and decide not to move forward, or will not move forward for other reasons). The homeowners will own the panels; this is not a Power-Purchase Agreement (PPA). The only role the City plays is participation in information sharing, including a no-cost personalized letter sent to all participating homes, free webinars, and more. This long-standing program has proven successful in the DMV area and has grown from a handful of municipalities in Montgomery County to now reaching parts of Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, and Howard County, and even the City of Baltimore.

Please note, although residential solar is highly publicized in this effort, Solar United Neighbors does also run cooperative EV charging programs and a brand new Heat Pump program. More information to come this fall as we move forward in executing the goals of the Climate Action Plan

ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

Green Roofs: Central Services is moving forward with implementation with Riverbend Nursery, the selected vendor for maintenance of existing green roofs on City facilities (police headquarters, Pip Moyer Recreation Center, and DPW maintenance facility) which aid in the BMP designation and scoring. There is discussion regarding demonstration green roofs on bus shelters, that has not yet gained traction. Central Services is exploring both solar and green roofs on shelters while also contending with the need to perhaps upgrade some of the shelters in other ways first. In FY27 R&S staff will work with both Transportation and Central Services to see how best to move forward.

Project Summary: This is a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of green roofs on bus shelters. It includes five bus shelters. This project is intended to provide ecological enhancement through improved air and water quality, stormwater absorption, and decreased temperature benefits.

Pollinator Habitat at the Solar Park - Site preparation and planting will not begin until MDE signs off on the landfill monitoring requirements; MDE's sign off is expected Fall 2026. The design, plant selection list, and implementation timeline are complete.

Project Summary: The proposed design covers 18.5 acres, mostly outside of the fence line. Limits on plantable areas are impacted by steep slopes (outside the fence line), existing stormwater BMPs, and the height of the solar arrays. The work is being reviewed and coordinated with DPW regarding design around stormwater practices, mowing schedules, and emissions sampling schedules per MDE requirements. The City's contractor, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA), estimates implementation costs of about \$6000 per acre, which enables the City roughly 35 plantable acres.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES/CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Street Cars/Trolley - UPDATE: June 12 was the deadline to submit proposals in response to the RFP for a feasibility study. In addition to ridership potential and service areas, the feasibility study will evaluate the associated economic, development, and community enhancement opportunities. Six proposals were received from companies experienced in this area. Proposals are under review and interviews by the review committee, led by the Resilience Authority, will begin later this month.

Project Summary: The Resilience Authority, the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Visitors Center of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, and the Denker Foundation (the Annapolis Sustainable Development Coalition) are partnering on a feasibility study to explore the development of a trolley route(s) to enhance clean, attractive, and equitable transit that provides opportunities for economic development and low/moderate income housing. The Maryland Department of Transportation supports the feasibility study. The City provided \$100,000 in its FY26 budget for a feasibility study. The County provided \$50,000 in its FY26 budget towards this project. The Denker Foundation mm provides additional funding towards this study. Information gathered from the Community Streetcar Coalition Summit, in July 2025, demonstrated that not only are streetcars an excellent, clean, and quiet transit option, but that they can serve as an effective economic development, community development, and low to moderate income housing development tool..

City Ferry Pilot Project - UPDATE: A revised RFP is ready to advertise based on a hybrid electric-diesel system per Trump Administration requirements but will wait for the results of the Request for Information and Qualifications from potential operators. That document is being prepared by Central Services and the Harbormaster Staff. The RFP for the design/build of the 5th Street landing will be submitted to MTA for approval. Other landings are part of the grant funded projects at Hawkins Cove and Carr's Beach. The City is exploring funding sources in hand and to be obtained to satisfy the local match. A \$250,000 fee paid by an Eastport marina owner for certain permit concessions is dedicated to the 5th Street improvement to the street end and may be counted towards the City's required cash match of \$525,000. Landing improvements as part of the Hawkins Cove and Carr's Beach projects may be considered towards the cash match.

Project Summary: Potential routes are across Spa Creek, to Hawkins Cove and to Carr's Beach. (Friday – Sunday) and then will expand to other locations and an expanded schedule depending on ridership and other user feedback. This project is funded for the design/build of up to two hybrid diesel-electric

ferries, landing site improvements and charging infrastructure. Anne Arundel County also requested a grant agreement change from all electric to a hybrid diesel-electric system. The Regional Chesapeake Bay Ferry project has not submitted for ferry design and construction funding and therefore was not subject to any pause in grant funding.

City Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Project - UPDATE: The City is partnering with the Resilience Authority and Anne Arundel County to install **charging infrastructure** at the Annapolis Police Department, as part of a larger effort to electrify the AA County fleet. Two level II dual port chargers and one level III DCFC have been identified as needed at APD to serve the six command staff vehicles. We are starting with one location, to ensure smooth transition of vehicles and to create a strategy for EVSE and vehicle acquisition one facility at a time, or at additional sites as possible. This is the start of the process of electrifying the fleet wherever possible. Site visits with the Resilience Authority, and contractor Ameriesco began in May to inform the permitting process. We hope to break ground on installation in July. This effort was funded by MEA's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).

The City has also completed a **detailed fleet assessment** which provides timelines for replacement, replacement vehicles options, and potential energy and emissions savings data. The program, hosted by MD Energy Savers and funded by BGE, provided the analysis for \$2500 (reimbursable) and R&S and Central Services were the project leads. The assessment is completed and will be sent to Environmental Matters for review. Central Services, the new Fleet Manager, and R&S staff will utilize the document during budget cycles and when phasing out vehicles.

STORMWATER RESTORATION PROJECTS AND FEES

Annapolis Maritime Resilience Initiative (AMRI) - 10 top priority projects were identified and prioritized and are moving towards 10 percent design as per funding requirements; however, funds may be sufficient to design to 30%. Also, back flow preventers are planned for street ends in the core area of Eastport. It is being considered whether back flow preventers will be installed at all Eastport street ends. Vulnerable areas and priorities were determined after gathering information during two public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and field analyses.

Project Summary: The AMRI initiative is funded by a NFWF grant of \$820K for feasibility assessment, including public engagement, and design. The project will identify, prioritize, and begin design for critical resilience building nature-based projects for the Back Creek watershed, focusing on Eastport, to address sea level rise, flooding, and shoreline and streamline erosion. Currently, the project is in the community outreach and engagement stage to gain understanding from the community where they experience flood vulnerabilities. The Resilience Authority is leading the project in partnership with the City and with communications support by Council Fire.

Eastport Flood Mitigation Project - The City identified back flow preventers at street ends as an effective stormwater control measure. See above in the AMRI discussion.

Project Summary: The City has a FEMA grant of \$300k to identify and design short-term flood mitigation measures (e.g. installation of a pump at the end of Bay Shore Avenue and a back flow preventer at the end of street). The City also has \$120K through the Army Corps of Engineers to model the stormwater system in Eastport and provide recommendations for improvements. The Eastport Flood Mitigation project is being developed in tandem with the closely associated AMRI.

RESILIENCE BUILDING/HABITAT & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION - GRAY and GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Severn Whole Watershed Partnership - The Partnership is prioritizing projects and monitoring plans to submit to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment for funding for years two through five of the five year grant and developing a monitoring plan. Based on Year 1 funding, the Partnership is building its proposal on the Year 1 funding level of \$2,250,000 in the areas of outreach and engagement, planning and design, implementation, and maintenance. The Partnership is monitoring state budget discussions that began in January 2026.

Year 1 projects were agreed to in early September by the state management team (Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Critical Area Commission, the Maryland Department of Planning, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.) Most of the \$2M of Year 1 water quality and ecological improvement projects are within City limits. An additional \$250,000 is designated for water quality monitoring.

Project Summary: On March 6, 2025, DNR announced that the Severn River Watershed Project was selected as one of the five projects for funding over a five-year period through the Maryland Whole Watershed Act grant program. The Resilience Authority negotiates the level of funding and the projects selected for funding with the state partnership. (\$43M in projects across the Severn River watershed were identified in the application). \$2M in implementation funding and \$250,000 in water quality monitoring funding was provided in year one by the State; funding for future years is TBD. The Severn watershed proposal was selected for the category of “predominantly suburban area.” The grants cover work for restoring watershed function and ecological uplift, with a focus on impaired, cold-water habitats. Local stakeholder organizations are part of the partnership with the City, County, and Resilience Authority. The project is a comprehensive, watershed-scale approach to ecosystem restoration that includes infrastructure improvements and community-driven planning. The Severn Partnership’s application was submitted by the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County along with the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and over 20 local watershed organizations and community partners.

Hawkins Cove: Applications for MDE and Army Corps of Engineers permits were submitted in May 2025 based on 90 percent design plans. MDE paused their review under COMAR requirements until the proposed project is in compliance with local land use regulations. An amendment to the City harbor lines to achieve this compliance was passed at the 4/13/26 City Council meeting.

Truxton Green Network Connector: In June 2026, the the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$700,000 DNR Green Space Equity (GSE) award for the Truxton Green Network Connector, a project to formalize the trail between Hawkins Cove and Primrose Road (Phase 1), then connecting to the Truxton Park Spa Creek north trailhead (Phase 2).

Truxton Park Environmental Assessment and Outreach Plan - NEW: In May 2026, DPW (with P&Z support) kicked off the Truxton Park Environmental Assessment and Outreach Plan project. The scope of this project is to document existing natural features, shoreline, and trail conditions within the passive recreation areas of the park and develop an Outreach Plan. That plan will include inclusive strategies to increase park users' environmental awareness and stewardship of the trails, shoreline, and natural assets. The study will also likely include recommendations for shoreline erosion mitigation such as implementing a living shoreline and possibly closing/re-routing some trails. Implementation of any recommendations from the study would require additional future funding. Regular ongoing maintenance of the trails by R&P is not included in the project scope. We encourage anyone interested in passive

recreation, trails, and shoreline activities in Truxtun Park to complete the user survey (English user survey: <https://forms.gle/aPd97e2e45ryVpi9A>; Spanish user survey: <https://forms.gle/17zPuRZCqmenukph7>) which will be open through November. The project team will also conduct a public meeting and community outreach at some local events over the coming months.

Environmental Finance Center (EFC) MD Resilience Action Planning- UPDATE: Following site visits at points of consideration for stormwater improvements, community partners (Breaking Boundaries, Annapolis Environmental Commission), engaged in a community meeting to strategize for enhanced resilience engagement with City communities. A final report is being prepared, which will provide an assessment of the City's efforts to address structural and community resilience.

The consultants continue to examine City policies, practices, and plans to develop nature-based solution recommendations and identify community assets and priority areas.

Project Summary: UMD's Environmental Finance Center invited Annapolis to participate in a 4-month coastal resilience seminar series, with 7 other coastal jurisdictions. Following resilience-building education seminars, the Project Advisory Group began technical assistance to each jurisdiction to develop a Resilience Work Plan prioritizing nature-based projects. Jackie Guild and Dyland Laconich are the staff representatives for Annapolis, Cathy Welker represents the Environmental Commission, Rob Savidge is the elected representative, and Breaking Boundaries, LLC (Randy Rowell) is the local disadvantaged communities representative. Public Works engineers Anne Roderer and Jasmine Wilding are guiding the areas for study.

Electric Leaf Blower Enforcement - UPDATE: Planning & Zoning is responsible for enforcement of this ordinance. The Department of Planning and Zoning is offering overtime to inspectors who provide leaf blower enforcement through patrols and citations after hours and on weekends. A job description for a temporary (3 months), part-time, leaf blower inspector was prepared in the Fall of 2025 but was not advertised by HR. This position will be pursued with the new HR Director before the end of FY26. Informational warning notices will be left at residences when it is unclear whether the blower operated was gas or electric and the operator's identity cannot be determined.

Electric Leaf Blower Financial Assistance Program - As of May 2026, the City has spent \$36,000+ on rebates and administrative fees with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to process 170+ rebates for the leaf blower program. CBT and R&S are conducting outreach for Spring 2026 in the form of events and informative outreach. Recent feedback from CBT report more commercial applications processed. On October 1, 2025 the City's electric leaf blower rebate program went live. As of June 2026, a second round of approximately 5,700 rebate information mailers were sent to residents and commercial lawn care/landscaping businesses. CBT and the City will now allow County landscapers/lawn care companies who operate in the City to apply for rebates rather than limiting the program to City businesses, and starting in July, these businesses may apply for a second rebate of all electric leaf-blower related equipment (up to \$1,500).

Project Summary: The City entered into a one-year (renewable) agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to administer and report upon the City's electric leaf blower rebate program. \$105,000 is available with FY26 funds for a residential and commercial rebate program for residents and commercial landscape/lawn care companies to assist community members transition to electric leaf blowers. The annual residential rebate is \$100 and the commercial rebate is \$1500.

Conservation Easements - UPDATE: City of Annapolis R&S and DPZ is reviewing a proposal for improved maintenance for City easements. Prioritizing comprehensive maintenance, specific maintenance and vegetation management plans, and leveraging grants and partnerships to ensure continuous monitoring and restoration. McCrone has provided digital restorations and assessments on easements, and the City GIS team will work with R&S to create a comprehensive map of the City's easements with details on maintenance, ownership, etc.

Project Summary: R&S is working with City contractor McCrone Engineering on data verification and visual representation of confirmed and suspected easement boundaries. McCrone is also completing documentation of City easements, including unlisted easements which are referred to in planning documents. For easements which are described but not mapped, the firm will provide a map of the area. McCrone is specialized in surveying, engineering, and land records, and has previously contracted with the City for this type of work. Further input from DPZ has been provided from their review of Planning Commission meetings regarding intention to create easements.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Outreach/social media - UPDATE: R&S staff is reaching approximately 1.5k community members with newsletter, social media and events. Staff received three email compliments regarding its content of the June e-newsletter. It provided a recap of our Earth Month programming. The next edition will go out on August 3 and will highlight the stormwater team and stormwater control programs available to residents. Please send ideas to adiaz@annapolis.gov

Half way through the calendar year, R&S staff have provided 25 graphics to the communications and PIO team for use on City social media.

City Events and Collaboration- NEW: Ashleigh Diaz will team up with Rec & Parks for NRPA's Parks & Recreation month in July. On Thursday, 7/23 from 10-11:30 am at Pip Moyer, there will be an event to celebrate birds and wildlife as part of the Nature week celebration during the month-long effort. Event title: Birds of a Feather - A Hands On Bird Adventure

Event blurb: Discover the amazing world of birds through crafts, interactive learning, and up-close exploration. Participants of all ages will create their own bird feeder, learn about local birds and their habitats, and enjoy hands-on bird education activities. Free bird posters available while supplies last.

STAFF, FELLOWS, AND INTERNS

U. Baltimore Intern - Katherine Forste joined R&S in early January for a semester-long internship focused on environmental public policy. Katherine will continue with R&S this summer, working on food security and energy programs for residents as well as creating an early tracking system for Climate Action Plan progress and a memo detailing how other jurisdictions track and relay progress on climate goals.

Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), Chesapeake Climate and Conservation Corps - UPDATE: R&S has been placed with a Chesapeake Corps Member, who brings a passion for conservation. This Environmental Science graduate from Arizona State University (2025) and a Dean's Medalist currently working as a Water Resources Specialist with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. They specialize in using GIS to analyze and water resources. Beyond their professional work, Rae is a dedicated community advocate who co-founded West Valley Gardens and launched a student health initiative during their time in student government.