

COMING IN 2023-2024

More trees for Virginia Beach

We are continuing to plant trees in all of our Virginia Beach watersheds and neighborhoods – Green Run, Ocean Lakes, Twin Canals, ODU and NSU Campus, Equi-Kids, Ocean Park, and more.

Reducing Plastic Waste

We are continuing to work with residents and businesses, as well as our elected officials here and in Richmond, to reduce single-use plastics that pollute our waterways and harm our health.

Oyster reefs

Planning is underway for four acres of sanctuary oyster reef constructed with shells from our Save Oyster Shell program.

Thank you for renewing your membership!

Cover photo credit: Terri Gorman

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

KEEPING POLLUTANTS OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS



PEARL FAITH COMMUNITIES

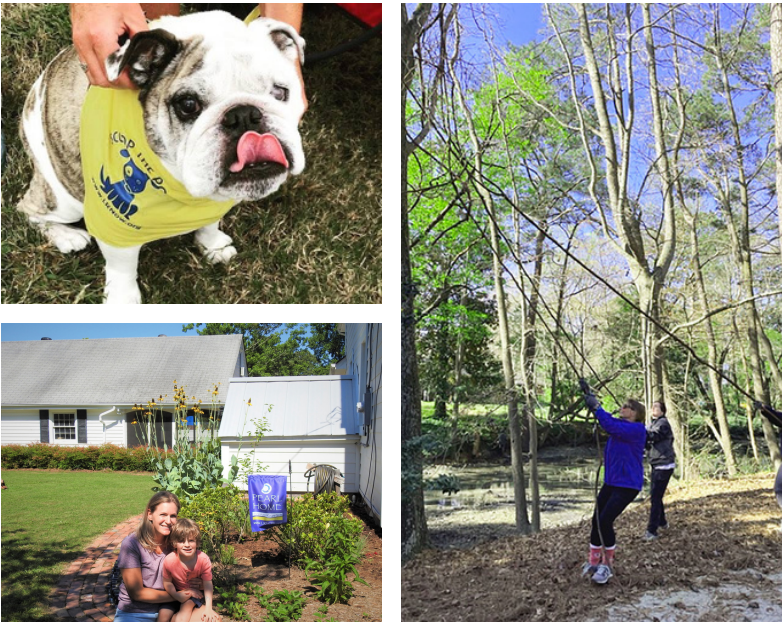
Faith Communities plant gardens, reduce energy and waste, and educate their members about caring for the natural world.

Pearl Faith Communities **18**

PEARL HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Almost 7,000 Pearl Homes in Virginia Beach are the heart of our work. These are families who are contributing, through their actions, to a cleaner and greener Virginia Beach. They are the solution, and we appreciate their commitment and dedication.

6562 Pearl Homes



PEARL BUSINESSES

26 new businesses joined us in 2022 and all are reducing or eliminating Styrofoam and single-use plastics, reducing waste and energy, and reducing their stormwater runoff through conservation landscaping.

59 Pearl Businesses



GIVE A BAG, TAKE A BAG



Single-use plastics, bags, and bottles are the most abundant items removed in all our waterway cleanups. They litter our ditches, wetlands, and waterways. They clog our stormwater pipes, contributing to flooding. Consistently using reusable shopping bags will help. We are collecting extra bags and providing them to those who need them.

WATERWAY CLEAN-UPS

-  10,000 lbs of trash removed in 2022
-  727 volunteers
-  35 tons of trash removed since 2003

HOMEOWNERS REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF

In 2022, we have helped homeowners complete many outdoor projects.

-  23 rain barrels
-  3 infiltration trenches
-  10 rain gardens
-  Over 20 conservation landscaping projects



RESTORING VITAL HABITAT

PLANTING TREES

Trees absorb water, stabilize soils, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and give us oxygen. They provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife and beautify our city. We have planted over 1,000 trees in Ocean Lakes and Green Run during the past three years and will plant more in 2023.

300 Native trees planted in 2022



Virginia Beach Notable Trees **148**

NOTABLE TREES

Identifying and recognizing the ancients among us, our Notable Tree program continues to grow. Some are over 350 years old. Cherrybark oaks, live oaks, cypress, and even a pecan tree that was part of a pecan orchard over a hundred years ago – our elders are varied and stately.



OYSTERS - SOS PROGRAM

For 16 years, LRNow has been collecting oyster shells from restaurants, events, and public drop-off locations throughout Virginia Beach. This past year, we collected 3,845 bushels which will be cured and returned to our rivers to provide habitat and increase our native oyster population.

PEARL SCHOOLS

Working with the youth, teachers, and parents is an investment in our future. 2022 was the beginning of a return to normal for our schools and students. Activities such as building pollinator gardens, planting trees, and learning about our watersheds are as important as ever.

79 Pearl Schools



620 New Linear Feet in 2022

LIVING SHORELINE

The connection between the water and the land – wetlands, living shorelines, and buffers – plays a huge role in protecting water quality. These areas provide habitat for marine animals and protect upland properties from flooding. We are excited to see more living shorelines every year, including 620 new linear feet in 2022 and our largest contiguous living shoreline project.

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

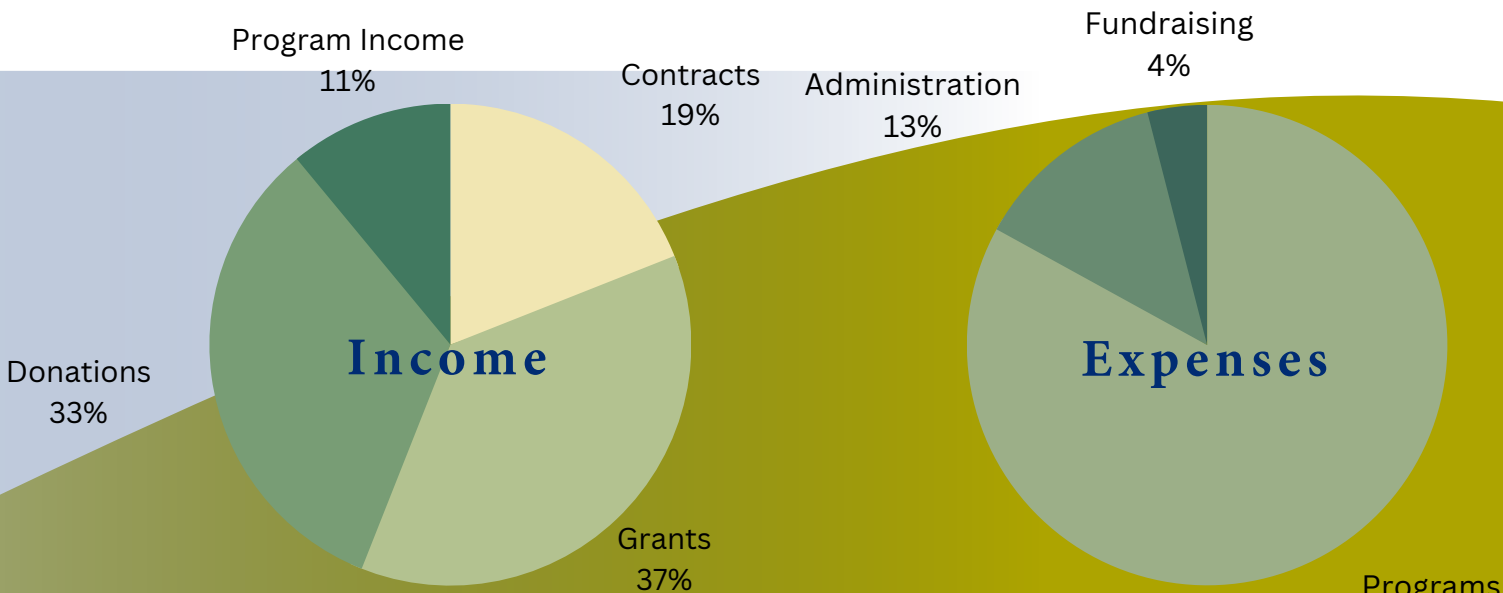


Great partners and incredible volunteers make our work possible. Thank you for cleanups all over Virginia Beach and a new mural in the ViBe district. We are grateful for tree plantings with the Appalachian Trail Club, EQUI-KIDS, and ODU, NSU, and VWU students. And thank you also, Parks and Rec, for a great Treetopia and Winter Wildlife Festival.



2500 Volunteer hours contributed in 2022

FUNDING



100% of our funds stay in Virginia Beach doing work that improves our community

WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!



Scan to view donors



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!



Visit our website, LRNow.org, to learn more about all of these programs, our events, and how to get involved.

Or come visit us at our new headquarters - 3712 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.