

Annual Report

2023–2024



Restoring and Protecting our Virginia Beach Waterways and Natural Areas.







Thank you to all the great photographers who entered our 2023 photo contest.

Cover Photo: *North Landing Marshes* by Erik Moore

These pages clockwise from top left: *Bird and Man Fishing Together in Pleasure House Creek* by Elgin Green, *Cotton Mouth* by Kevin J. Larkin, *Osprey* by Mike Weirich, *Beachcomber* by Steve Daniel, *Planting* by Sue Mangan.



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Vince Bowhars
Restoration Coordinator

Brent James
Oyster Restoration and Notable Trees

Tom White
SOS Technician

Jim Deppe
Advocacy

Clay Bernick
Restoration

Dear Friends,

What do you love most in Virginia Beach? Swimming in the ocean, kayaking on the Lynnhaven, fishing in Back Bay, hiking in First Landing, bird watching at Stumpy Lake? I think you will agree that Virginia Beach is an extraordinary place. We are blessed with many beautiful waterways and natural areas as well as miles of beaches.

This area where the land meets the ocean is fragile and becoming more fragile with sea level rise and the other impacts of climate change. We have not always done a good job of taking care of this fragile and beautiful place where we live, but we are learning and doing better. That is our work at LRNow.

LRNow educates and guides businesses, faith communities and residents in the ways that they can be better stewards of our land and water. We also engage with students, teachers, and parents to build the environmental stewards of the future.

We build oyster reefs, living shorelines, and plant trees and other native plants that are helping to make our water cleaner and our city more resilient. And we advocate for responsible policy decisions that will help us to preserve what we love about Virginia Beach for our children and grandchildren.

With the lifting of the pandemic restrictions, 2023 was a busy and exciting year for LRNow. We loved working with you and your neighbors to help protect your property from flooding, increase native plants and trees, reduce waste, restore water quality in our waterways, and provide you with opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty around us.

Thank you for all you do to make this important work possible. I hope you will enjoy this report and renew your LRNow membership. Teamwork makes everything possible.

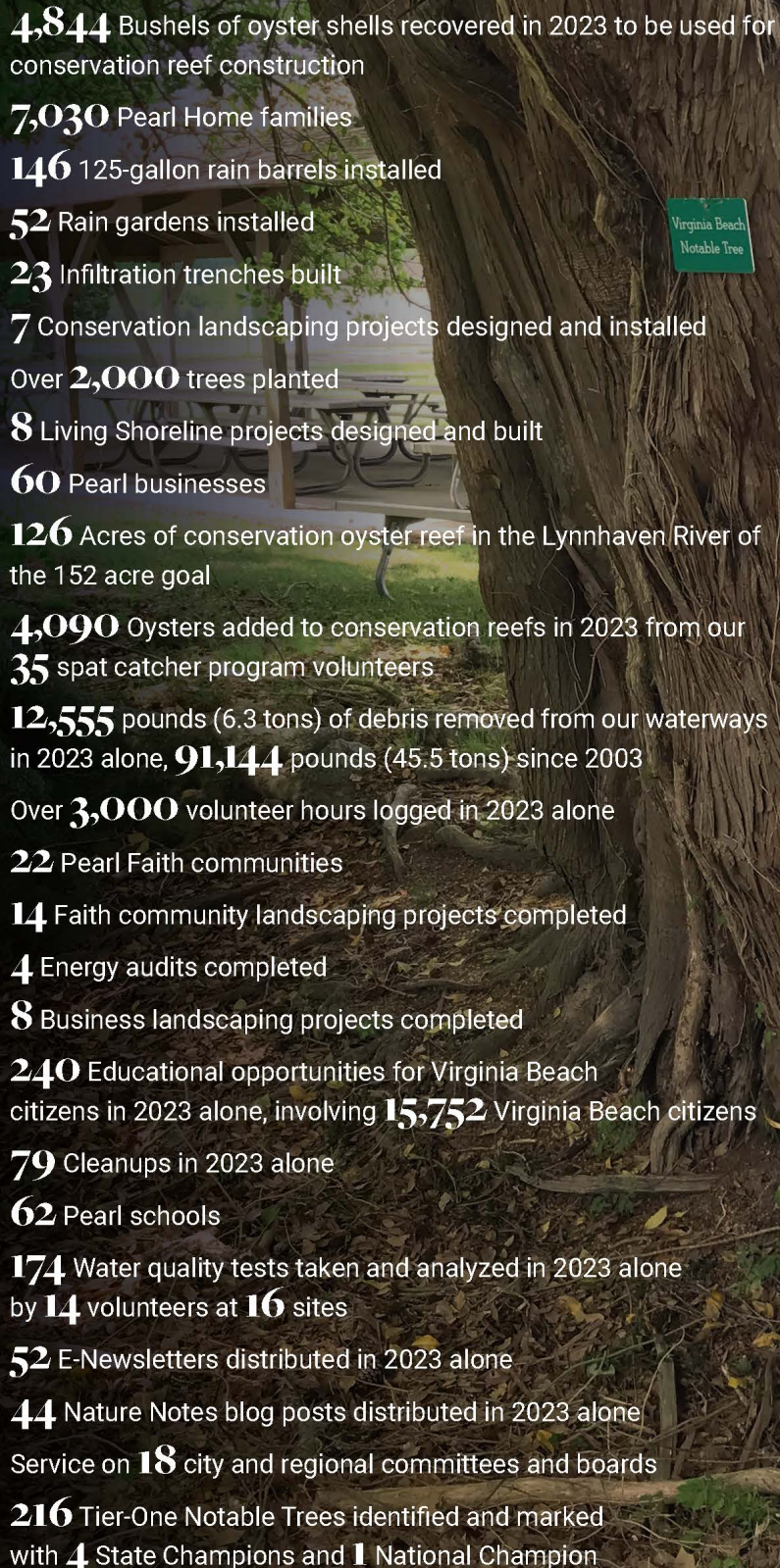
Sincerely,

Karen W. Forget
Executive Director



LRNow

By the Numbers



4,844 Bushels of oyster shells recovered in 2023 to be used for conservation reef construction

7,030 Pearl Home families

146 125-gallon rain barrels installed

52 Rain gardens installed

23 Infiltration trenches built

7 Conservation landscaping projects designed and installed

Over **2,000** trees planted

8 Living Shoreline projects designed and built

60 Pearl businesses

126 Acres of conservation oyster reef in the Lynnhaven River of the 152 acre goal

4,090 Oysters added to conservation reefs in 2023 from our **35** spat catcher program volunteers

12,555 pounds (6.3 tons) of debris removed from our waterways in 2023 alone, **91,144** pounds (45.5 tons) since 2003

Over **3,000** volunteer hours logged in 2023 alone

22 Pearl Faith communities

14 Faith community landscaping projects completed

4 Energy audits completed

8 Business landscaping projects completed

240 Educational opportunities for Virginia Beach citizens in 2023 alone, involving **15,752** Virginia Beach citizens

79 Cleanups in 2023 alone

62 Pearl schools

174 Water quality tests taken and analyzed in 2023 alone by **14** volunteers at **16** sites

52 E-Newsletters distributed in 2023 alone

44 Nature Notes blog posts distributed in 2023 alone

Service on **18** city and regional committees and boards

216 Tier-One Notable Trees identified and marked with **4** State Champions and **1** National Champion





Restoring Vital Habitat

Helping to Reduce Flooding

146 125-gallon Rain Barrels Installed

52 Rain Gardens Designed and Built

23 Infiltration Trenches Designed and Built

7 Conservation Landscaping Projects Designed and Installed

Over **2,000** Trees Planted

8 Living Shorelines Designed and Built

126 Acres of Conservation Oyster Reef in the Lynnhaven

216 Tier One Notable Trees Identified with **4** State Champions and **1** National Champion

4,090 Oysters Added to Conservation Reefs through our Spat Catcher Program

Croc's Native Plant Garden

These gardens are designed to absorb rainwater and prevent excess sediment and nutrients from entering our waterways through stormwater outlets.

Native plants provide food and habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

These gardens beautify the area while improving habitat and water quality in our community.

This project was sponsored by Lynnhaven River NOW in partnership with Croc's 19th Street Bistro, Orbis Landscape Architecture, and the ViBe Creative District.



Lynnhaven River NOW
3663 Martin Bay Dr. Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-662-1298 www.lrhnow.org



A **Huge** Thank You

to All Our 2023 donors.

*Your generosity
makes our work possible.*



*Follow this QR code to see the full list
of our 2023 donors!*

We cannot do this work without you!



Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership.
You can return the attached envelope or make a donation through
<https://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/donate>

Please call our office at 757-962-5398
if you have any questions or wish to make a stock donation.
Our 2023 Membership is 21,000. Together we are making a difference.



ship for 2024.
gh our website:
/
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difference!



Engaging the Community

7,030 Pearl Home Families

60 Pearl Businesses

22 Pearl Faith Communities

62 Pearl Schools

240 Educational Opportunities
for Virginia Beach citizens in 2023
involving **15,752** citizens

14 Faith Community Landscaping
Projects Completed

4 Energy Audits for Businesses

8 Business Landscaping Projects
Completed

52 E-Newsletters Distributed in 2023

44 Nature Notes Blog Posts
Distributed in 2023

Staff Service on **18** City and Regional
Committees and Boards

14 Water Quality Volunteers who took

174 Water Quality Tests in 2023

35 Spat Catcher Volunteers who
contributed **4,090** oysters to our
conservation reefs in 2023

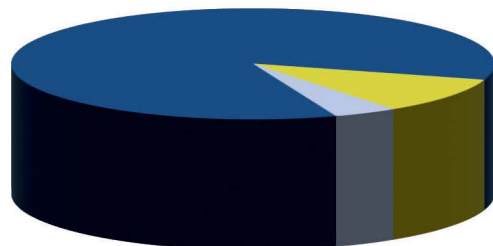
**Thank You for
All that You Do!**





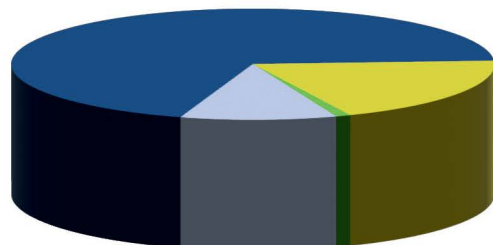
Financial Report

2023 Expenses



- Programs: 86.1%
- Administration: 10.6%
- Fundraising: 4.3%

2023 Income



- Contracts: 10.4%
- Grants: 69.2%
- Memberships and Donations: 19.4%
- Program Income: 1%

100% of our funds stay in Virginia Beach
Restoring and Protecting our Waterways and Natural Areas

A Huge Thank You

to All Our Volunteers.

*Together
we are making a
difference!*

Over
3,000
volunteer hours
logged in 2023
alone!





Thank you to all the great photographers who entered our 2023 photo contest.

These pages clockwise from top left: *Lone Cypress* by Erik Moore, *Brown Pelicans* by Mike Weirich, *Fall Reflection* by Christopher Adams, *Untitled* by Duane Stanfield.



Lynnhaven River Now
3712 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Virginia Beach, VA
Permit #30

Coming in 2024–2025

April – Native Plant of the Month Program Returns

May 4th – 22nd Annual Oyster Roast

Spring 2024 – 20 Conservation Landscaping Projects Installed – Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels, Infiltration Trenches, Tree Plantings, Buffers

Spring 2024 – Four Living Shoreline Projects Installed on the Lynnhaven River

New Program – Discover the Albemarle-Pamlico Watershed in Virginia Beach
Seven great adventures offered in 2024–2025

For more information on our programs and volunteer opportunities, please go to our website:
LRNow.org

