**HB 1031 / SB 791** would make Maryland a leader in the 30 x 30 conservation movement and ensure that nature and people in Maryland can continue to thrive.

**Set a statewide goal to protect nature and open space:** The bill would set a land conservation goal for Maryland to **conserve 30% of its lands by 2030 and 40% by 2040**. This goal ensures that as Maryland continues to grow and develop, Maryland will continue to have open space for nature and for people.

**Ensure the goal is implemented:** The bill would direct the Smart Growth Subcabinet to work with the Department of Natural Resources to **track and implement** the 30 x 30 and 40 x 40 goal.

**Make conservation more equitable:** The bill would create a new program called the "**Greenspace Equity Program**", which would provide a new source of grant funding to complete greenspace projects in underserved communities. Greenspace Equity grants would support community-led projects, including land acquisition, park development and greenspace stewardship in order to best meet community needs.

**Empower conservation efforts to meet the goal:** The bill would direct funding to capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund for private land trusts, creating a source of bridge funding so that land trusts can better compete in the real estate market in order to **acquire and preserve land for the benefit of nature and Maryland communities**.

**Support stewardship of Maryland forests:** The bill would increase funding and set a mandatory appropriation for the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives Fund to support the stewardship of privately owned forestland in Maryland. **Forests are the most important habitat** for terrestrial wildlife and birds, and the majority of forestland in Maryland is privately owned. Forests sequester carbon, reduce air pollution, regulate flooding, and protect water quality.
Organizations across the state support Maryland the Beautiful (HB 1031 / SB 791)