



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watershed-Wide Leaders: Rock Creek Conservancy Announces 2022 New Board Members and Board Chair

Bethesda, MD (January 3, 2022) - Rock Creek Conservancy is thrilled to announce the addition of four new members to its [Board of Directors](#). They bring a wide range of experience and expertise towards our mission to restore Rock Creek and its parklands as a natural oasis for all people to appreciate and protect. The new board members are Steve Hull, Kahlil Kettering, Justin Kollinger, and Marlene Hunt Moss. Representing both Montgomery County and Washington DC, this group embodies our unique, watershed-wide approach to people-powered restoration. They also bring a rich diversity of experience, from environmental conservation, urban restoration, and advocacy to risk mitigation, publishing, and civic engagement.

The Conservancy is also pleased to announce that current board member Pavan Khoobchandani will serve as board chair, beginning in 2022. Pavan is a devoted community leader; he has served as the President of Crestwood Citizens Association and is currently Secretary and an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for ANC4A. Khoobchandani noted his enthusiasm for the role: "My family and I live near and love Rock Creek Park and think of it as part of our 'backyard.' I can think of no greater honor than leading the governance of the organization that works to support our special place. With our new members, the Conservancy board will be able to strongly support Rock Creek Conservancy's meeting the ambitious goals set forth in our strategic plan and quickly scale up to meet the needs of our resources and community."

Executive Director Jeanne Braha welcomed the new board members, saying, "I am delighted to welcome these four Rock Creek stewards to the Conservancy's board. Their leadership in their respective fields and dedication to Rock Creek Park will enrich our work and drive forward our mission to improve forest health and water quality in the Rock Creek watershed."

The Conservancy is incredibly grateful to Karen James Cody, Jane Paul, Sambhav Sankar,, and Sam Shelton for their service as their terms on the Board come to a conclusion. Jane Paul, who served as the Conservancy's Board Chair during 2021 and co-chaired the 2016 Rock Creek Gala, has been named as an emeritus member of the Conservancy.

Steve Hull

Founding Editor and Publisher, Bethesda Magazine and Bethesda Beat

Steve Hull will soon retire from a 40+ year career as a publishing executive and editor. Most recently, Hull owned and published Bethesda Magazine, Arlington Magazine and Bethesda Beat, an online news site. He sold the business in April and is working as a consultant to the new owner through March. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Hull lives adjacent to Rock Creek and hikes in Rock Creek Park several times a week.



Kahlil Kettering

Bezos Earth Fund Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Kahlil Kettering provides strategic management and oversees global climate change mitigation projects through the Bezos Earth Fund with The Nature Conservancy. He also has direct experience with conservation efforts in Maryland and DC, as he served as the Urban Conservation Program Director for the region for 6 years. A native of DC, Kettering holds both BA in International Studies and an MA in Global Environmental Policy from American University, as well as a MA in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of Maryland.

Justin Kollinger

Senior Risk Management Consultant, United Educators

Justin Kollinger has spent his whole career in education and helps schools, colleges, and universities across the country mitigate risk as Risk Management Consultant at United Educators. He has lived and worked next to Rock Creek Park for ten years, making it a fixture of many commutes, workouts, and picnics. Justin earned his MA from Georgetown University and his BA from Gettysburg College.

Marlene Hunt Moss

Realtor, Weichart Realtors

Marlene Hunt Moss is a passionate DC real estate agent with Weichart Realtors and an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in ANC 4A. She also serves on the Ward 4 Arts Committee and even maintains a 250-acre tree farm in Georgia. Dedicated to improving and empowering her community, she has helped advise and lead numerous arts and community centered organizations throughout Washington, DC, including The Humanities Council of Washington, DC, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and the House History Workshop. Marlene recently served as the Chair to Rock Creek Conservancy's 2021 Gala, helping to make the event one of the most successful in the Conservancy's history.

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ROCK CREEK CONSERVANCY - Rock Creek Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that exists to restore Rock Creek and its parklands as a natural oasis for all people to appreciate and protect. As the only organization dedicated solely to Rock Creek and its parks and a philanthropic partner of Rock Creek Park, the Conservancy engages communities and volunteers, enhances visitor experiences, and provides direct restoration to Rock Creek. For more information, visit www.rockcreekconservancy.org.