



# ROBERT G. CASSILLY

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## Harford County Executive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2024

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### **Harford County Holds Social Groups for those of All Abilities to Connect and Explore the Outdoors**

**BEL AIR, Md.**, (June 12, 2024) – In May, Harford County’s Office of Disability Services organized three Nature Social Groups to address the need for more free social opportunities for the disability community.

The first took place at Mariner Point Park in partnership with Harford County Public Schools’ Office of Special Education. Eligible students in grades 2 through 5 enjoyed outdoor experiences alongside new peers while parents socialized and participated in self-care activities. Sessions included sensory hikes, yoga, painting, and planting with master gardeners.

The second and third groups met in partnership with Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding (CTR). Together, adult participants and staff from day programs at The Harford Center and The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region enjoyed socializing on the farm while engaging in outdoor activities. Sessions included nature walks and gardening along with lessons in social skills, painting, and equine safety with CTR staff and volunteers.

“These programs offer opportunities for those of all ages and abilities to explore and enjoy the outdoors while building self-confidence and making new friends,” County Executive Bob Cassilly said. “Thank you to our staff from the Office of Disability Services, volunteers and community partners for making these events a success.”

For more information about opportunities for citizens with differing abilities please visit [Office of Disability Services | Harford County, MD \(harfordcountymd.gov\)](https://harfordcountymd.gov) and follow the [Office of Disability Services on Facebook](#).



Photo caption: Staff and volunteers pose with Nature Social Group students after a hike at Mariner Point Park on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Photo caption: Participants from The Harford Center paint and plant carrot seeds at Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Photo caption: Participants from The Harford Center paint and plant carrot seeds at Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



Photo caption: Participants from The Arc NCR pose with staff while on a nature walk at Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

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