

GLOBAL INSIGHTS

“This was a place of hope for many people.”

— [Edie Brooks, lifetime resident of Turner Station and a leader of the Turner Station Conservation Teams](#)

It's July 2025

Here are this month's insights in 999 words (a 5-minute read).



WATCH: As residents of Turner Station confront environmental threats multiplied by climate change, they're finding ways to fight back and build resilience. © TNC

What happens when an industrial past meets a climate future?

“I want to do something that makes Turner Station a better place to live.”

Taysha is a fourth-generation resident of Turner Station, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Baltimore, Maryland, where deep roots are a fact of life.

Sitting at the confluence of two waterways, Turner Station grew quickly alongside the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which provided material for nearby Baltimore shipyards and was the foundation of a booming middle-class economy in the mid-20th century.

While the steel mill has since shut down, its legacy lives on, both through the generations of residents who have raised families here and through the toxic chemicals the industrial site left behind.

Metals and toxic compounds continue to contaminate the bottom of the creek that separates the neighborhood from the mill site. And now, as Turner Station confronts climate-fueled storms, those tainted waters are rising into streets, up through drains and into homes.

The flooding happens so often these days that 94-year-old resident Margaret Risher has taken to using rugs instead of carpet on her home's first floor, and as a precaution she keeps photos of her children and grandchildren on high shelves.

A threat multiplier

Industrial waste isn't the only legacy environmental threat exacerbated by a changing climate. Prolonged heat waves scorch vegetation and make wildfires larger and likelier. In agricultural communities, increased drought and flooding strip nutrients from soils already made vulnerable by over-farming, leading to crop failures. And in cities, rising temperatures trap pollution from cars and factories, worsening conditions like asthma and heart disease.

Building a new legacy

What's happening in Turner Station illustrates so much of the peril presented by a changing climate—but also the promise that comes with new generations and new solutions.

Today, Taysha's grandmother Olivia devotedly fights to remedy the past and provide for the many generations she's seen come up in her community. As part of Turner Station Conservation Teams, Olivia and her fellow community leaders advocate for clean-up efforts and investments in nature-based flood fixes, while helping connect neighbors with resources for more immediate relief from rising waters.

And Taysha? Well, she's planning to become an environmental engineer.

Meet the people that make Turner Station a community—and are fighting for its future.

[Learn more](#)

THE ROAD TO 2030

By the end of the decade, we will help 100 million people at severe risk of climate-related emergencies by protecting and restoring the health of natural habitats—from mangroves and reefs to floodplains and forests—that help protect communities from storm surge, extreme rainfall, severe wildfires and sea-level rise. Learn more about TNC's [2030 goals](#).

WE'RE ON IT: SCIENCE THAT MATTERS FOR YOUR WORLD

Win-win climate solutions

These [new maps](#) show the best places to regrow forests and soak up carbon.

What does rhino conservation look like?

Tranquilizer darts, armored crates, awe—[see for yourself](#).

A roadmap for reefs

Unless we act now, we'll lose as much as 90% of coral reefs within our lifetimes. TNC just launched a [restoration guide](#) to help.

ALSO ON OUR MINDS

A wave of conservation commitments for our ocean

Learn more about what happened at the third annual [United Nations Ocean Conference \(UNOC\)](#).

How is the transition to renewables going?

Find out in TNC's [2024 report](#).

What about the prognosis for water security?

This [10-year analysis](#) shows trends in investment in nature-based solutions for water security.

While we're asking questions, why are sea levels rising twice as fast today as they were 25 years ago?

TNC Chief Scientist Katharine Hayhoe [explains](#).



Vacation is calling. And nature is answering! © TNC

...and one more thing

Summer in the Northern Hemisphere means travel season for many of us. One thing we might love even more than travel, though? Nature-based solutions. (Yep, that's the kind of seamless transition you read this newsletter for.) Wherever—and however—you choose to travel this season, you most likely have a nature-based solution to thank for it. So, pack your bag, and follow us.

- **A tropical getaway:** Are you manifesting little-umbrella drinks in a cabana on a remote tropical island? You might have a **coral reef** to thank for those dreams. These colorful, bustling undersea paradises are almost as loud as that hibiscus swimwear pattern you're sporting. *And* they protect islands from erosion, flooding and climate-fueled storms; studies show that a coral reef can reduce the force of waves by as much as 97%.
- **Exiting society:** Perhaps you prefer to go totally off-grid in your free time, with nothing but a compass and a thirst for adventure to guide you. Well that long walk in the woods could very well be made possible by **prescribed burning**. While it might sound counterintuitive, setting small, managed fires to landscapes opens the tree canopy for new growth and clears out debris that could otherwise fuel larger damaging wildfires.
- **Epicurean adventures:** Or maybe you'd rather experience a new place through your taste buds. Those bold reds, crisp whites and charcuterie plates of locally sourced cheeses and olives might just be made possible by **regenerative agriculture**. By transforming fields into climate-resilient paradises, farmers around the world can bring you the finer things while protecting the finest thing of them all (Earth).
- **Stay-cationing:** Sometimes the best vacation of all is just enjoying free time at home. Pick up that novel that's been collecting dust on your nightstand and savor the pleasure of reading in your local park. Nature-based solutions like **pollinator gardens, trees, parks and green stormwater infrastructure** all make our communities greener, safer and cooler places to live.

Learn more about nature-based solutions and how they're helping local communities around the world adapt to climate change. Hey, it might even give you some inspiration for your next vacation.

Get inspired

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