

THE CASE FOR **OPEN SPACE**



Partners for Open Space

Program Open Space
creates state and local parks,
preserves agricultural lands,
and provides playgrounds,
ball fields, and other
recreational opportunities
for Marylanders.

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PARTNERS FOR OPEN SPACE

Partners for Open Space is a statewide coalition of over 165 groups seeking to secure, save and protect Maryland's land conservation programs.

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MARYLAND'S PROGRAM OPEN SPACE

MILLIONS IN UNMET NEEDS

Despite the past success of Program Open Space (POS), Maryland is still a long way from meeting the state and county goals set for agricultural and resource land protection and recreation and parks.

Whether it's farmers that can't get their easement offers accepted, Rural Legacy Areas that go unfunded, or county recreational needs that go unmet, every county and town has a long list of urgently needed projects that could be funded by POS.

However, the slow economy has taken a toll on available funds.



Maryland has a deserved reputation as a progressive and innovative state with a commitment to maintain the quality of life for its citizens and fostering sustainability. An example is Maryland's nationally-recognized program that funds state and local parks and conservation areas and helps to preserve working farm and forest lands.

In 1969, the Maryland General Assembly created Program Open Space through the institution of a transfer tax of ½ of a percent on every real estate transaction in the state. Thus began the remarkable history of protecting land, and creating parks and playgrounds that helped to make this state such an attractive place to live, work and play.

Program Open Space funds the acquisition and development of state and local parks, the preservation of unique natural areas that harbor rare and endangered species, the preservation of farmland using agricultural easements through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), and the protection of locally identified resource lands (farm, forest, historic/cultural) with easements through the Rural Legacy Program.

Today every county has a list of state and local parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, agricultural lands, and Rural Legacy Areas that were funded by Program Open Space. The collective result is remarkable:

- 247,000 acres of open space for state parks and natural resource areas
- More than 300 individual county and municipal parks and conservation areas
- 31,000 acres of local park land
- 31 Rural Legacy areas
- 280,000 acres of farmland under MALPF easement
- The Maryland Environmental Trust has protected 127,000 acres primarily through voluntarily donated Conservation Easements

Program Open Space: 43 years protecting open space and providing recreational opportunities for you and your family.

STATESIDE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LAND ACQUISITION

Program Open Space strengthens Maryland's economy by providing jobs and tax dollars from agriculture, forestry, tourism, hunting, and recreational equipment sales.

Program Open Space adds to vitality of Maryland's economy

- The Maryland State Parks Economic Impact and Visitor Study demonstrated that Maryland State Parks have a \$650 million estimated annual economic benefit to local economies and the State, supporting more than 10,000 full-time jobs and generating more than \$39 million in state and local retail, hotel, gas and income taxes. For every dollar the State invests, visitors spend \$25.56 locally during their State Park visits.
- Tourism and ecotourism is the third leading industry in the State of Maryland, bringing millions of dollars to State and Local governments and into local economies. Examples:
 - ✓ Hunters visiting the Eastern Shore's premier wildlife management areas spend an average of \$367 per night supporting restaurants, hotels and sporting retailers.
 - ✓ The estimated impact on Maryland's economy from recreational boating is estimated to be \$2.03 billion and 35,025 jobs. Many POS activities support access to the Bay.
- The Chesapeake Forests (56,000 acres purchased in 1999, spanning 5 counties) support hundreds of local jobs at timber and logging companies, sawmills, large-scale wood chip producers, trucking companies, and their suppliers
- Outdoor recreation returned more than \$600 million annually in jobs and revenue.
- Maryland's forests support over 40,000 jobs and yield over \$38 million annually in State and local taxes. Every 1,000 acres of Maryland forest supports 15.6 jobs.
- Maryland's agricultural economy, bolstered through programs like Rural Legacy and MALPF, supports 350,000 jobs and \$17 billion in revenue.
- Based on the IMPLAN Regional Economic Model for Maryland, for every \$1 million in grant funding, POS supports 7.1 direct Maryland-based construction jobs.
- Parks bolster quality of life for citizens and families, making Maryland more desirable for businesses and increasing property values. The National Park Service notes that property values increase from 5 to 32% for land adjacent to trails and greenways.

ABOUT PROGRAM OPEN SPACE

- **Established under the Department of Natural Resources in 1969.**
- **Supported by a dedicated funding source through the real estate transfer tax.**
- **"Self adjusts" with the real estate market so that a robust real estate market generates more funding for Program Open Space to meet the needs of an increasing population. Historically, however, the program has been "raided" such that POS funds are diverted to the State general fund for other uses.**



Tourism, including ecotourism, is the third leading industry in Maryland, bringing millions of dollars to State and Local governments and economies.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LAND ACQUISITION

- **Stateside POS is primarily used for the acquisition of land for state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas which provide public recreation and wildlife and watershed protection across Maryland.**

- **Localside POS provides financial and technical assistance to local governments (counties and municipalities) for the planning, acquisition, and development of playgrounds for our children, recreational land, and open space.**

- **The Rural Legacy Program provides funding through local sponsors to preserve large tracts of forest and agricultural land and natural resources for environmental protection while sustaining land for natural resource-based industries.**

Despite the Benefits, Program Open Space is under threat

A “perfect storm” of circumstances threatens Program Open Space’s viability and ability to deliver on its goals and objectives.

- The real estate slump has greatly reduced real estate transactions and dramatically lowered transfer tax revenue to the program. Revenue to POS has gone from several hundred million a decade ago to just \$4 million for stateside programs in FY12.
- POS has had to pay back expenditures made in years past because anticipated revenue from the transfer tax came in much lower than expected.
- Although legislation was passed that required the State to replace revenue taken from the program in years past, the fiscal situation has forestalled much of the payback now.

Program Open Space partners with other agencies and non-profits to leverage state funds

By partnering with non-profit organizations and public agencies, POS leverages resources and increases efficiency, accomplishing more for Maryland taxpayers with less.

- In calendar year 2011, POS partnered with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit land conservation organization, to complete four projects protecting 1,991 acres. Although the properties were appraised at \$15 million, TPL negotiated significant price reductions from the sellers and utilized a federal grant which provided the majority of funds for one project. TPL absorbed many of the project costs, so that nearly \$15,000,000 worth of land was protected for only \$10,000 of POS funds—a savings of \$4,914,000 for Marylanders.
- POS also partners with The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Navy to purchase Rural Legacy Program easements along the Nanticoke River. The Navy provides 50% of the costs for easements within the Nanticoke Rural Legacy Area to help protect the Atlantic Test Range, which is used for training by jets flying out of the Patuxent Naval Air Station. So far, the Navy’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) Program has provided \$5 million in partnership funds in Maryland.
- The Nature Conservancy, the Lower Shore Land Trust, and the State are partnering to utilize USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection funds to share Rural Legacy easement costs in the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area, a tributary to the Pocomoke River.
- Since FY2010, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has saved \$10.9 million through voluntary discounts from willing landowners and federal or private funds leveraged by conservation organizations.

Visiting the Eastern Shore’s premier wildlife management areas supports restaurants, hotels and retailers.

Recreational boating yields \$2.03 billion in revenues.

STATE SIDE

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), a unit of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, is the core State agricultural land preservation program. The Foundation was created more than thirty years ago to implement one of the first statewide farmland preservation programs in the country and one of the most successful.

The Mission

The Foundation's mission is to maintain a viable agricultural industry and help curb sprawl development by preserving a critical mass of Maryland's productive farmland through the use of agricultural easements that forever restrict development on prime farmland and woodland. The program focuses its efforts on protecting the best quality farms and building on existing preservation areas to maintain large contiguous blocks of farmland. One of the premier agricultural preservation programs in the country, MALPF has strong support from the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, the agricultural community, and Maryland's citizenry.

With the Foundation's county partners, MALPF has leveraged funding through the Matching Funds program. As a result, over \$22 million of county money has been matched by state funds over the last two cycles alone. In addition, the Foundation has leveraged Federal dollars over the years totaling over 19 million.

The General Assembly set a goal of preserving 1,030,000 acres by the year 2022. That is not likely to happen with the current level of funding, but landowner interest in MALPF remains high in the event funding should improve. In Fiscal Year 2008, there were 444 applicants willing to sell their development rights and in the combined Fiscal Year 2009/2010 cycle, there were 503 applicants. In the most recent cycle (Fiscal Years 2011/2012), the Foundation limited the number of applications as a cost-savings measure, but there were still 200 applications covering 23,252 acres in 21 of the 23 counties.

Critical Support

Continued support for agricultural land preservation is critical to the future of farming in Maryland and as an antidote to sprawl development. Once prime farmland is lost to development, it is unlikely to ever return to productive agricultural use.

SNAPSHOT OF MALPF TODAY

As of June 30, 2011, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation has purchased permanent agricultural easements on about 2,043 farms covering about 279,223 acres.

The Foundation has preserved farmland in all of Maryland's 23 counties. Today, the Foundation manages a public investment of \$588,663,834 valued at about \$1,571,807,696 based on current per acre acquisition costs.



Agricultural land preservation easements that forever restrict development on prime farmland and woodland have been used in all of Maryland's counties.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF EASEMENT ACREAGE

The largest distribution of land protected by agricultural easement acreage is the Upper Eastern Shore (Queen Anne's, Talbot, Cecil, Kent, and Caroline Counties). This area accounts for 98,364 easement acres, or 35% of all easement acreage statewide.

The Central Region (Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Montgomery Counties) has a total of 85,597 acres enrolled in the easement program, accounting for 31% of statewide easement acreage.

The Western Region (Alleghany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties) has a total of 37,868 acres, or 14% of the total easement acreage.

The Southern Region (Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Prince George's, Charles, and Calvert Counties) currently holds 9% of easement acreage with a total of 26,647 acres.

The Lower Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties) has 11% of statewide easement acreage with 30,844 acres.



The program focuses on protecting the best quality farms and builds on existing preservation areas to increase the size of contiguous blocks of preserved farmland.

STATESIDE

RURAL LEGACY

Lands that produce food and provide scenic open space, wildlife habitat and clean water are increasingly at risk from urban sprawl and rural subdivisions. According to an American Farmland Trust (AFT) study, every state in the nation is losing irreplaceable agricultural resources to urban sprawl, converting more than one million acres a year to development. Maryland is no exception and 25,000 acres of agricultural and forest lands is converted to development every year. Unless efforts are made to protect rural lands, this pace will continue as one million additional people will call Maryland their home by 2020.

The Rural Legacy Program, administered by DNR, allows local governments and land trusts to purchase voluntary conservation easements on designated areas that encompass large blocks of working lands.

By working with Rural Legacy sponsors, the program provides funding for the acquisition of easements and fee simple ownership of land to protect the natural, agricultural, forestry, and environmental resources within the locally designated Rural Legacy Areas.

Why is farmland and open space protection important?

Saving farmland and open space represents an investment in rural communities to enhance the rural economy by preserving important agricultural and natural resources. Determining how we use dwindling natural resources will be among the most important issues for the State over the next decade. The competition for land, especially productive agricultural land, will intensify as Maryland's population grows and the communications revolution makes it easier to live and work in widely-dispersed communities. To assure a prosperous future, we must save our farmland and protect our green infrastructure.



RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM'S GOALS

- **Establish greenbelts of forests and farms around rural communities in order to preserve their cultural heritage and sense of place.**
- **Preserve critical habitat for native plant and wildlife species.**
- **Support natural resource economies such as farming, forestry, tourism and outdoor recreation.**
- **Protect riparian forests, wetlands, and greenways to buffer the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from pollution run-off.**



Saving farmland and open space is an investment in rural communities, rural economies, and our important natural resources.

RURAL LEGACY

A RURAL LEGACY PARLAY THAT PAID DIVIDENDS

David and JoAnn Hayden completed a Rural Legacy Easement on Dark Hollow Farm in Upperco and used the proceeds to purchase their second 72 acre thoroughbred farm, Safely Home. "We needed to expand and the funds from the Rural Legacy program gave us the opportunity to purchase the land." said David Hayden, "we are big believers that more land with fewer horses is better. We parlayed the funds from the sale of the development rights on Safely Home to help pay for initial improvements."

The addition of the new farm required hiring 3 employees, plus major renovations, infrastructure, seeding, fertilizer, fencing, stream crossings, buildings, landscaping, insurance, and equipment. Eighty percent of the improvements were provided by local farmers and builders at an estimated \$1,300,000. Also, the farm uses the local feed mill, local farmers supply hay and straw, and the local veterinarian and blacksmith. The two farms boost the economy by \$1,000,000 annually.



25,000 acres of agricultural and forest lands is converted to development every year in Maryland. Efforts must continue to protect rural lands.

STATESIDE

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is one of the oldest and most successful land trusts in the Country. Established by statute in 1967, MET is a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, but governed by a private Board of Trustees. This unique arrangement allows MET the resources and flexibility necessary to be a highly successful and trusted land conservation partner. MET primarily solicits and accepts voluntary conservation easements donated by private property owners in Maryland.

The Mission

Maryland Environmental Trust's mission is to permanently protect natural, historic and scenic resources in the state. Maryland Environmental Trust works with landowners and local land trusts to protect Maryland's most treasured landscapes and natural resources as a legacy for future generations. As one of the oldest and most successful land trusts in the country, MET holds over 1,000 conservation easements preserving over 127,000 acres ranging from the Chesapeake Bay to the mountains of Garrett County. MET also serves to promote and support local land trusts through its Land Trust Assistance Program. MET also provides grants through the Keep Maryland Beautiful Program.

The Major Benefits of Donated Easements are:

- Permanent protection of natural areas, farm and forest lands and historic property;
- Long-term monitoring of the property for all future owners—the land is protected forever;
- Potential Federal and State income tax deductions for the appraised value of the easement as a charitable gift;
- Lower estate and inheritance taxes reflect reduced development potential of the property;
- MET easements can be tailored to meet the needs of a property owner. For example, they can ensure that an agricultural property will remain a farm, that an historic estate will remain untouched by subdivision, or that a stream or stretch of Chesapeake Bay shoreline will remain forever wild.

Critical Support

The Maryland Environmental Trust's focus on donated easements makes this program one of the most cost-effective land preservation program available in the state, since donated easements cost a fraction of the cost of purchased easement programs. Because donated easements make up a large portion of the state's protected land, continued funding of MET is essential to meet the state's land preservation goals.

EASTERN SHORE EASEMENT - A DORCHESTER COUNTY DONATION

Jerry and Bobette Harris donated three conservation easements to MET, helping to preserve the unique landscape of the Eastern Shore. The easements protect over 800 acres in Dorchester County and include water quality buffers and scenic views on the Honga River, Spicer Creek, Wallace Creek, Punch Island Creek, Dunnock Slough, the Chicomacomico River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

This large area is an integral part of preserving the scenic and rural landscape of Dorchester County and protects nearly 300 acres of productive agricultural land. The Forest Management Plan further protects critical forest habitats for delmarva fox squirrels and bald eagles.



Maryland Environmental Trust holds conservation easements preserving acres statewide from the Chesapeake Bay to the mountains of Garrett County.



STATESIDE

GREENPRINT MAP



Maryland's Greenprint Map

Maryland's Greenprint mapping system is the first of its kind in the country. It is an online interactive map, updated periodically with new information, showing the relative ecological importance of every parcel of land in the State. To keep portions of Maryland as ecologically sound as possible, to ensure a healthy population of plants and animals, to keep our State beautiful, and to ensure our lands for our children before they are consumed by sprawling development, this map is a tool that illustrates protection efforts for making land conservation decisions. It applies the best environmental science and geographic information systems to the urgent work of preserving and protecting environmentally critical lands today.

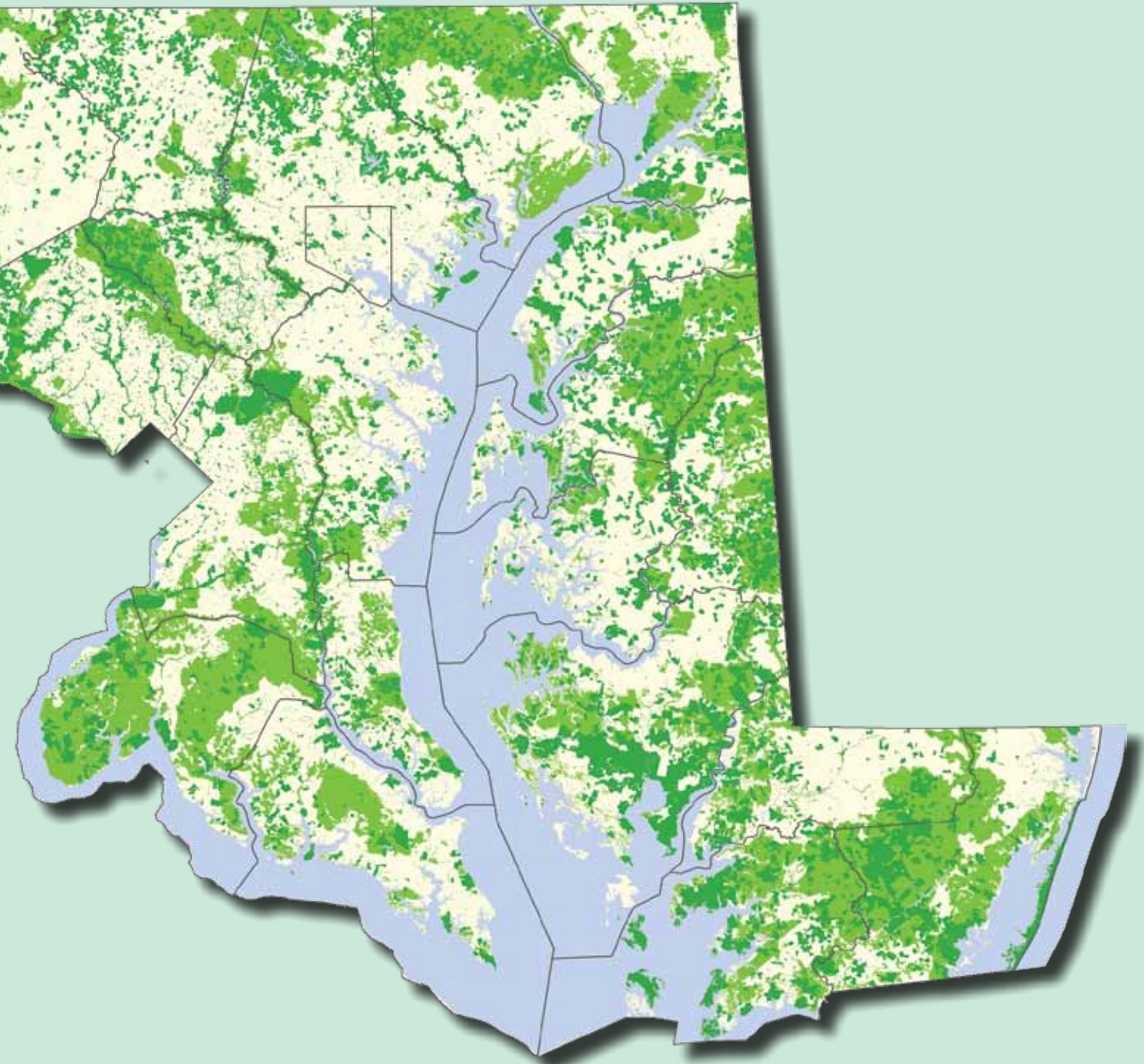
Greenprint is also building a broader and better informed public consensus for sustainable growth and land preservation decisions into the future. To explore the map and see how many acres have been identified as Targeted Ecological Areas in your own county, visit <http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/>

 **Protected Lands**

 **Targeted Ecological Areas**

Lands and watersheds of high ecological value that have been identified as conservation priorities by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Greenprint is informing citizens of how and where the State is protecting their land, and helping target preservation to our most sensitive landscapes.



LOCALSIDE

ALLEGANY COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

Allegany County operates two regional recreational facilities. Program Open Space provided more than a million dollars to acquire and develop the **Allegany County Fairgrounds**. The fairgrounds have been a tremendous success as a venue for racing and musical events and as a beautiful setting for recreational development. The **Great Allegheny Passage**, connecting Pittsburgh and Washington via Cumberland and the C&O Canal, is among America's premier biking trails. POS contributed to the acquisition and development of the Maryland portion of the trail. The program has allowed citizens and visitors to Allegany County to enjoy its mountain attractions by preserving open spaces and providing access to them. Program Open Space has allowed the County to pursue economic development through eco-tourism.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Allegany County does not have a County-wide recreation program. Program Open Space is the only source of funds for acquiring and developing recreational facilities in the County. Seven municipalities and Local Sponsor organizations provide the manpower to operate and maintain all County neighborhood and community parks.

The County Board of Education has utilized POS funds to provide school recreational opportunities. Without Program Open Space there would be no new recreational development in Allegany County.



Photo: Allegany County Community Services



The Great Allegheny Passage
Bicyclists take advantage of the popular Great Allegheny Passage, among America's premier biking trails, which connects Pittsburgh and Washington via Cumberland and the C&O Canal.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

The County has plans for fourteen acquisition projects, for which they will need more than \$25 million in POS funding in the coming years.

Beyond that, the County has plans for eighteen development projects, at an estimated cost of more than \$67.6 million in POS funds. The County's plans indicate that they believe the County will be paying just under \$24.5 million total for these projects, development and acquisition combined.

Given that the overwhelming majority of the funds needed to achieve these projects would come from POS, it is clear that the County will have to drastically alter its plans if Program Open Space funds continue to be diverted to other uses, or if the program is ended. This would result in many lost opportunities and wasted time and effort for the County.

SUCCESSSES

Anne Arundel County has used Program Open Space funds to preserve green space, provide educational opportunities for children about the importance of agriculture, and drastically expand and improve its recreational facilities. The County has spent \$5.5 million in POS funds to acquire almost 360 acres along the South River (in conjunction with the State Department of Natural resources the project has preserved over 1100 acres in the last four years). Similarly, the County has devoted \$10 million to preserve 181 acres in the **Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and Patuxent River Greenway**, which provides recreation and maintains a buffer between the developed lands and these important waterways. The County also used POS funds to reconstruct the ice rink at **Quiet Waters Park** and to install synthetic turf on the stadium fields at 11 County high schools, both of which allowed many more members of the community to make use of these facilities. **Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center**, a \$1.1 million POS project, consists of a series of restored and rebuilt farm buildings with educational displays about agriculture in the State as part of a much larger park developed with \$5.1 million of POS funds.



Quiet Waters Ice Rink with Visitor's Center in Background

In 2007, Program Open Space provided \$1.3 million to reconstruct the signature ice rink at Quiet Waters Park. For many years, this outdoor rink has provided ice skating opportunities for thousands of Park visitors; however, continuous maintenance to the cooling system prompted a total reconstruction of this popular facility.

BALTIMORE CITY

SUCCESSSES

Baltimore City relies on Program Open Space funds to supplement the Recreation and Parks budget in eight capital development areas: Recreation Center Renovation and Replacement; Park Rehabilitation; Swimming Pool Renovation; the Baltimore Play Lot Program; Courts, Ball Fields and Lighting; Park Building Modernization; Park Plazas, Fountains and Medians; and Park Land Acquisition.

Two notable projects developed with POS funds are the Roosevelt Pool and Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum. The **Roosevelt Park Pool and Bathhouse** renovation includes a colorful, lively splash pad, wading pool and shade structure together with new bathhouse facilities. Since the 2009 renovation, pool attendance has reached over capacity levels. The **Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum**, completed in 2010, set a new design and energy efficiency standard as the Department's first "green" building. Designed to protect both the arboretum and minimize the impact to the environment, the visitor's center also serves as an educational tool to demonstrate the viability of green buildings. Special building features include a green roof, a geothermal heating and cooling system, composting toilets, a range of sustainable or recycled building materials, and a parking lot designed with a bio-swale to treat storm water runoff.

POS funds have also supported multiple playground and ball field renovations. Recent playground renovations have been completed in **Burdick, Easterwood, Windsor Hills** and **Roosevelt Parks** with new play equipment, rubber safety surfaces, benches and ADA accessible pathways. Recent improvements to ball fields in **Northwood and Morrell Parks** included re-grading of the fields, new team bench structures, new paths and bleachers.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks heavily depends on POS funds to supplement its budget for planning, design and operations as well as fund specific capital improvement projects.

POS fund diversions this past year resulted in the postponement and shuffling of multiple capital development projects. While the design is complete, many of these projects will not be constructed without State POS financial assistance.



Photo: Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks | Capital Development

The Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum

Completed in 2010, the Vollmer Center on the grounds of Cylburn Arboretum is Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks's first "green" building. Special features include a green roof, a geothermal heating and cooling system, composting toilets, a range of sustainable or recycled building materials, and a parking lot designed with a bio-swale to treat storm water runoff.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Due to the diversion of local POS funds in FY 2010, one acquisition project was abandoned, three were put on indefinite hold, and another was saved by DNR providing the necessary funds. In order to save that project, DNR then had to drop another project and stretch other resources, which impacted its ability to accomplish its own goals. In terms of development, in FY 2010 the loss of park POS funding caused the County to divert funding from other projects to proceed with the development of Sweet Air Park and required that the addition of lighting to the North Point Government Center fields be put on hold.

The diversions of POS funds and the reduction in transfer tax revenue due to the slow real estate market have thrown the County's ability to plan parks acquisitions into disarray. In Fiscal Year 2011, the County acquired no park land for the first time and the Department of Recreation and Parks is reconsidering its existing acquisition plans. Other projects affected include hike/bike trail building, facility repair, construction of athletic fields, and parking lot repair.

SUCCESSSES

Within the last ten years, Baltimore County has made some very successful investments of Program Open Space funds.

Marshy Point Park and Nature Center: Though the 400+ acres were acquired without POS funding, \$2.6 million in POS funding has been instrumental in developing the park, including: construction of roads, parking, paths, canoe launch, pedestrian bridge, and the nature center in the park. Marshy Point is a wonderful resource for the people of Baltimore County and surrounding areas which allows them to be exposed to and understand the importance of the tidal ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay.

Regional Parks: POS funds have contributed to the County goal of creating regional parks in, or near, to densely populated areas of the County. Approximately \$10.45 million in POS funds have been used to acquire 231.6 acres for these parks, and a further \$12 million has been used to develop facilities for these parks including indoor and outdoor sports courts and fields, picnic areas, trails, and community centers. These parks and facilities are key to providing recreational opportunities for residents of the County in their neighborhoods.



Photo: Maryland Department of Natural Resource

Summer Camp at Marshy Point Park and Nature Center

Marshy Point is a wonderful resource for the people of Baltimore County and surrounding areas to be exposed to and understand the importance of the tidal ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay.

LOCALSIDE

CALVERT COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

Program Open Space Funding has been utilized to assist with the acquisition and development of virtually every recreational facility in Calvert County. Since its inception, Program Open Space has provided more than \$9 million for over 100 land preservation and the recreational development projects in Calvert County.

Active parks with ballfields, game courts and playgrounds, like **Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point Parks**; natural areas with beaches and fishing piers like **Flag Ponds Park and Kings Landing Park**; major tourist attractions like the **Calvert Marine Museum and Annmarie Garden**; town parks such as the **North Beach Baywalk and Chesapeake Beach's Kellam Field Complex**; and specialized facilities such as the **Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center and Chesapeake Hills Golf Course** all exist today with the help of Program Open Space.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES
Calvert County's proposed 6 year Recreation/Natural Resources Capital Improvement Budget lists 18 projects totaling over \$11.5 million. Implementation will require significant support from Program Open Space.

Additionally, the county continues to seek additional land to meet the demand for active recreation facilities, particularly in the northern portion of the county. Program Open Space is expected to play a major role in funding future acquisitions.



Photo: Calvert County Division of Parks and Recreation

Breezy Blast-Off

Program Open Space funding was used to enhance Breezy Point Beach in Calvert County. The Breezy Blast-Off (shown above), is an annual event held each May to kick off the summer season. Free admission to the park, food, games, music and a fireworks finale draw in excess of 1500 people each year to enjoy an day on the bay.



DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

The County has plans for 10 projects using Program Open Space funds from Fiscal Year 2012 through FY2016. Current estimates are that almost \$9.4 million is needed to achieve these projects – a third of which for acquisition, and the rest to develop already acquired land and facilities.

Without these funds, the County will have to either divert funding from other County needs or leave these projects incomplete, which would fail to fully utilize the parkland already acquired and limit future public recreation opportunities.

SUCCESSSES

Charles County has used Program Open Space funds to acquire and develop trails from former railroad rights-of-way, build athletic fields and associated facilities, and protect key wilderness areas that provide abundant recreational opportunities. The following are just a few examples. The **Indian Head Rail Trail** extends for 13 miles between Indian Head and White Plains, and provides walking, running and biking opportunities for residents to get moving, and to do so in a beautiful, natural setting. Program Open Space funds were used to install lighting at **Laurel Springs Park** athletic fields, which increased their hours of use and reduced the need to buy and develop new fields and infrastructure. The County used Program Open Space funds to acquire the last 0.87 acres of open space on **Cobb Island**, preserving a passive recreational space for residents, which also serves as a venue for special events.

At the other end of the scale, **Pisgah Park** is a recent 234 acre park and sports complex developed with Program Open Space funds and consists of 10 sports fields (most with lighting), playgrounds, an exercise track, mountain bike trails, a concession stand, and restrooms.



Photo: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Indian Head Rail Trail

POS funding represented over half of the total funding necessary to complete this development project. The Indian Head Rail Trail is a 13-mile multi-purpose recreational trail. A paved trail connects the Town of Indian Head to Route 301 in White Plains. In addition to excellent outdoor recreational opportunities, the trail preserves valuable open space, improves the quality of life of residents, and establishes an important tourism venue.

LOCALSIDE

FREDERICK COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

Frederick County has used Program Open Space funds for several successful projects, including the acquisition of **Catoctin Creek Park**. This property, 138 acres in size, was purchased in 1974 for \$114,000 using 100% POS funds. Recently, Frederick County completed a 3.2 million dollar Phase I Development project for this park, which included a 6,084 square foot nature center (complete with a green vegetated roof and geo-thermal heating/cooling HVAC, along with other green features), walking trails, playground, two pavilions and various other park amenities. This development project also received \$177,747 in POS funding. The County's second most successful acquisition is the **Othello Regional Park Property**. This property was purchased with half Local Side POS Funding and the other half with State Side Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

As for development, **Urbana District Park** has been a very successful project, which was paid for in part by POS funding. This \$5.6 million Phase I Development project received POS funding in the amount of \$1,344,350. The project included two multipurpose fields, one football/lacrosse field, one baseball diamond, one little league diamond, one softball ball field, two playgrounds, four pavilions, maintenance shop, equipment storage building, restroom, roads, trails, electrical/water utilities and various park amenities.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Frederick County funds Parks and Recreation projects primarily through County Recordation Tax Funds and the General Fund. However, historically a substantial portion of funding has come from Program Open Space.

In addition, the municipalities within the County depend on POS to acquire and develop their parks. Continued diversions of POS funds—or an end to the program—would be devastating to those municipalities' parks and recreation programs.



Photo: Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation

Catoctin Creek Park

Catoctin Creek Park, 138 acres in size, was purchased in 1974 for \$114,000 using 100% POS funds. Recently, Frederick County completed a \$3.2 million Phase I Development project for the park, which included a 6,084 square foot nature center (complete with a green vegetated roof and geo-thermal heating/cooling HVAC, along with other green features), walking trails, playground, two pavilions and various other park amenities.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Virtually all of Garrett County's new community and neighborhood park projects, as well as upgrades to existing parks and school athletic facilities, have relied heavily upon POS funding. An interruption to POS funding would considerably impact upon Garrett County's ability to acquire properties for new parks and to improve existing parks.

Any plans to divert revenue from the transfer tax would essentially eliminate POS and could halt several significant, ongoing recreation projects. For instance, Loch Lynn's athletic complex and parking area project is currently on hold due to town budget constraints for matching funds and to recent fiscal restructuring of POS funds by the State; and Friendsville plans to construct a bridge over the Youghiogheny River for a trail extension and to construct an off-street parking area for whitewater enthusiasts is also on hold.

SUCCESSSES

Program Open Space funds, along with the local matching share, have helped Garrett County keep pace with continuing growth and popularity as a vacation destination and to meet increasing recreational demands by its citizens and visitors.

Over the years, POS has been an important funding source for the acquisition and development of numerous parks, trails, and community recreation centers. The funds have been used for park site acquisition, the construction of recreational facilities at parks and public schools and for acquisition of land for recreation and preservation. Six multi-purpose fields were constructed at the **Casselman Valley Soccer Complex**. The complex includes a parking lot, pavilion and concession stand. Greatly needed improvements were made to the **Northern High School and Southern High School stadiums** which are utilized for a variety of sports and other recreational activities. The town of Oakland has recently used funding for trail lighting in town and gymnasium improvements at the local armory. Broadford purchased a Civil War-era fort site with POS funds. The **Grantsville Town Park** continues to evolve as one of the best multi-purpose athletic fields in the area for baseball, volleyball, softball, basketball, tennis, picnics and other activities and events. POS funding has been an important source of funding over the years for the park.



Photo: Garrett County Planning and Land Development

Casselman Valley Soccer Complex

The complex includes a parking lot, pavilion and concession stand. This project consists of a 15-acre athletic field complex built on land owned by the County and is used throughout the season by all ages, mostly for organized soccer games and practices for various leagues.

LOCALSIDE

HOWARD COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

Like other Counties, Howard County has managed to use Program Open Space funds to achieve both goals of the program: providing recreational opportunities to local communities and preserving important natural resources. **Western Regional Park** was developed with POS funds, and includes athletic fields and courts, as well as picnic areas, playgrounds, and equestrian trails. The **Robinson Nature Area**, with its many educational interpretive areas, also has an indoor component with classrooms, a laboratory, a planetarium, and an auditorium, all of which allow the center to educate the community about the natural world regardless of the weather. **Meadowbrook Park** even combines the two, with indoor and outdoor athletic facilities in the same park as ponds and wetlands with interpretive enhancements. All three of these projects were approximately three-fourths funded by Program Open Space.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES
Howard County's budget for acquiring recreational lands has been heavily dependent on Program Open Space, and has suffered over the last few years due to the diversions. Planned projects have been delayed or scrapped as the County faces a lack of funds.

Without a healthy program, the County will have a very difficult time acquiring and developing the planned parks and recreation areas. Continued uncertainty or an end to the program could also result in the loss of valuable parcels to private development, preventing the County from placing recreational facilities in proximity to communities without sufficient existing opportunities.



Photos: Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

Robinson Nature Center

The Robinson Nature Center is a new 25,000 SF, LEED Platinum modern nature center with customary indoor exhibits and displays, along with outdoor interpretive trails. The three-story center is nestled into a hillside and was designed from the very beginning with energy conservation and sustainability in mind. As a result, it is on track to becoming one of only three LEED Certified Platinum buildings in the State of Maryland.



DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Because the County heavily relies on POS for park acquisition funds, the diversions in recent years have meant that very little new park land has been acquired. The plans for FY 2012 include acquiring 40.2 acres, but the anticipated lack of funds means that the land may be developed rather than preserved for public use and recreation. In terms of development, the County had planned development of a number of parks and facilities, anticipating POS funding. Without those POS funds, the County must turn to alternative funding sources. A planned urban park in Germantown Town Center, which includes a community gathering space and interpretive trails, has been put on hold because the alternative financing available is bond funding, which would lead to excessive debt service costs over the project lifetime.

In the longer term, the County's ability to acquire parkland will have to be completely redesigned if POS funding is diverted. Many projects, including parks in Gaithersburg and Takoma Park, rely on anticipated POS funds to leverage investment by their respective city governments, so the loss of POS funding may mean the elimination of those parks.

SUCCESSSES

Montgomery County has used POS funds for conservation, historic preservation, construction of a pedestrian bridge, and to install synthetic turf on athletic fields. Almost 330 acres of land in the **Upper Paint Branch watershed** have been preserved with \$9 million of POS money over a number of years, which created recreation areas while preserving the water quality for this stream's unique long term self-sustaining population of brown trout. The County also used POS funds to acquire a house and log cabin associated with **Josiah Henson**, the model for the main character in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which are now open to the public as a park with an interpretive program. Finally, the County installed synthetic turf fields at **Blair Local Park** and **Fairland Recreational Park**, which would not have been possible without POS funds, as the up-front capital costs are quite high. The savings in maintenance costs and increased play-time should more than make up the greater initial expense over time.



Photo: Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Josiah Henson Special Park

This park is located on the old Isaac Riley Farm in North Bethesda where the Reverend Josiah Henson lived and worked as a slave from 1795 to 1830. It is a historic resource of local, state, national and international significance because of its association with Reverend Henson, whose 1849 autobiography inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. .

LOCALSIDE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

Program Open Space funding has been used by Prince George's County for acquisition to preserve agricultural lands from development, add to existing parks, provide active and passive recreation areas, add to our historic holdings, improve trail connectivity and enhance school sites.

POS has had a dramatic impact on the ability of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and six municipalities to acquire parkland and develop recreation facilities in Prince George's County. Since its inception, POS has funded more than 650 projects within the County. The majority of the M-NCPPC's 27,283 acres of land and 417 developed parks received some POS funding.

Prince George's County has also used the resources of the Maryland Environmental Trust to protect its precious open space. In the rural tier of the County, Joanne Flynn, president of the Black Swamp Creek Land Trust, has worked over a decade to promote land conservation and small-scale sustainable farming. Flynn, together with the Black Swamp Creek Land Trust, has pursued land conservation options with private landowners using government programs and soliciting donations of conservation easements in exchange for tax benefits. In addition, Flynn and her husband Nick Newlin, purchased a 120-acre farm on Milltown Landing Road, preventing its sale for subdivision and development. They have put half of the farm under a permanent conservation easement through the county's forest conservation program, and will conserve the remainder through other programs.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Hundreds of recreation facilities—including athletic fields, playgrounds, courts, trails and community centers—have previously been funded by POS. The dramatic decrease of POS funding over the past few years has forced the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to no longer use POS grants for park development.

Last year, a major decrease in tax revenues resulted in the deferral of fifty M-NCPPC development and acquisition projects totaling more than \$97 million. If POS funding is diverted, the ability to fund any future park development and land acquisition will be further impacted.

Photos: Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation



Vansville Community Center

Vansville Community Center was funded by Program Open Space. The community center is attached to an elementary school and provides recreation facilities for the community and also a gym for the elementary school.



DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Somerset County is the most economically deprived county in the state of Maryland. We are trying to change the landscape of this county and better the lives of youth and adults by building a centralized athletic and community facility on the Long outdoor complex. The facility would offer programs to children and adults at risk, after school programs, special needs programs, elderly programs and programs designed to better the lives of all residents. It would be the first indoor recreation facility in the county. The plans have been developed and the estimated cost is \$4.5 million.

Without help, the County has little hope of achieving this goal. Somerset County counts on POS funds for all development and acquisitions needs. If the funds are diverted or lost, counties like Somerset will be left with no recreational opportunities to offer our residents.

SUCCESSSES

Somerset County has used Program Open Space to achieve its goals of providing adequate recreational opportunities to county residents and also preserve important natural resources. Using POS funds, Somerset County was able to purchase land and develop a new outdoor centralized recreation complex in 2009.

The **Long Centralized Athletic Complex** is a first of its kind in Somerset County allowing residents from both sides of the county to come together with recreation activities and events. POS funds of a total of \$1.3 million have been used to purchase the land parcel and develop this beautiful complex. The complex consists of 7 multipurpose Bermuda sports fields, ½ mile walking trail, work out stations, pavilion, playground, and concession/bathroom facility. Recently, Somerset County was rewarded POS funds to purchase athletic field lights for 2 fields in the complex.



Photo

Long Centralized Recreation Facility

The Long Centralized Recreation Facility is now available for public use. A walking/jogging trail has been completed, as well as 7 multipurpose fields and a concession stand. There is also a playground. The facility is located behind the Recreation and Parks office at 30290 Sam Barnes Road in Westover, Maryland.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

St. Mary's County has used POS funds to assist in renovating athletic and other facilities and improving accessibility at **John V. Baggett Park**, as well as to begin development of athletic fields, a playground, a skatepark, and a water sprayground at **Nicolet Park**. Through a series of investments of POS funds totaling more than \$900,000, the County has gradually developed the **Three Notch** hiking/ biking/ equestrian trail in the 28 mile railroad right-of-way between Hughesville and Lexington Park, at the edge of Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Back in 1997, the County used almost \$1.9 million to acquire the 192 acre **Myrtle Point Park**, which provides both opportunities to experience nature and learn about the environment as well as recreation such as hiking, fishing, and picnicking. St. Mary's has also used POS funds to renovate its **Wicomico Shores Golf Course** infrastructure to be more accessible and to improve the banquet and golfing facilities.

Most recently, the County has used POS funds to acquire and develop the 250 acre **Chaptico Park**, which includes nine soccer fields, a playground, and a BMX bicycle track, with more plans for the future. The development to this point has cost approximately \$3 million, of which POS provided almost \$824,000.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Both the Wicomico Shores and Three Notch Trail projects were in danger of being delayed or revised due to POS diversions, though neither ultimately had to be adjusted.

However, the County has plans for a number of recreational sites over the next 5 years, including continued development at half of the above sites and at the St. Mary's Gymnastics Center, as well as Central County, Chancellor's Run, and Leonardtown Parks, all of which may have to be delayed or cancelled if Program Open Space funds are diverted or if the program is closed down.

Photo: St. Mary's Department of Recreation and Parks



Three Notch Trail

Through a series of investments of POS funds totaling more than \$900,000, the County developed the Three Notch hiking/ biking/ equestrian trail in the 28 mile railroad right-of-way between Hughesville and Lexington Park, at the edge of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.



DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Presently, the West Metro Park project is on hold, because without POS funds, the County cannot independently assemble the funds to pay for the little league complex and community park to serve 12,000 citizens.

Without restoration and maintenance of POS funding in the next six years, the County anticipates issues with funding the acquisition and development of one community park with athletic fields, the development of a planned skateboard park and a 100 acre festival ground and marina, the restoration of 10 tennis and basketball courts, and the replacement of playground equipment at 10 sites which are over 25 years old and presently unusable. The total cost of these projects is \$4.3 million, the vast majority of which is for the festival ground and marina. Without these POS funds, the County may have to close parks and playgrounds, sell off already acquired land (likely at a loss due to changes in the market), and divert funding from other County needs to follow through on these planned developments.

SUCCESSES

Wicomico County has used POS funds to achieve the goals of the county recreation program. Among the largest POS funded projects in the County is **WinterPlace Park**, which contains a festival site, community park, little league complex, and equestrian center within its 337 acres. Targeting athletic needs, the **Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex** provides baseball, softball, and soccer/lacrosse fields for use of groups from the local community up to national competitions.

In order to preserve local history, the County used POS funds to create **Pemberton Historical Park**, honoring one of the founders of Salisbury by preserving his land and restoring his plantation house to accurately reflect its appearance during his life. The park also includes an environmental education program in its 234 acres. Finally, **Cedar Hill Park** includes, along with the group picnic and athletic facilities typical of many parks, a marina on the scenic Nanticoke River, assisting members of the community in enjoying a variety of recreational possibilities in one place.



Photos: Wicomico Recreation, Parks & Tourism



The Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex

Encompassed by shade trees and marked by expertly maintained fields, the complex was recognized as the 1987 Most Beautiful and Functional Park and the 2004 National Softball Association's Outstanding Park.

WORCESTER COUNTY

SUCCESSSES

In the last decade, Worcester County has vastly improved the utility of the **John Walter Smith Park** in Snow Hill by using POS funds to design and build the **Worcester County Recreation Center**. The WCRC has provided year-round athletic courts, a high-tech indoor track, and other fitness activities where previously there were only outdoor ball fields, including many opportunities designed for older members of the community. Likewise, the County has used POS funds to improve **Newtown Park** in Pocomoke, most recently adding lighting to the athletic fields, which increases the hours during which those fields can be used.

The County has also wisely used POS funds to assist in maintaining and updating **Showell Park** in the northern part of the County. Finally, and most significantly, the County used POS funds (mostly State-share) to conserve the approximately 574 acre **Greys Creek Nature Park**, and has continued to use POS funds to develop a network of interpretive trails, which will provide environmental education as well as scenic views for the surrounding communities.

DIVERSION CONSEQUENCES

Worcester County has not had to adjust its plans over the last 12 years due to POS funding diversions. However, the County has anticipated needs for over \$12 million of POS funds over the next five years.

If POS funds are diverted or the POS program is ended, the County will have to make very hard choices about whether, and how, it can maintain the vibrant parks and recreation opportunities it provides for its citizens.



Worcester County Recreation Center

POS funds were used to design and build the Worcester County Recreation Center. The WCRC has provided year-round athletic courts, a high-tech indoor track, and other fitness activities.





QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED

1. WHAT IS PROGRAM OPEN SPACE? Program Open Space is Maryland's leading land preservation program. Often when we talk about Program Open Space we are talking about a whole suite of land conservation efforts, including Rural Legacy, Community Parks and Playground, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Heritage Conservation Fund and Heritage Areas Authority. Each program was created for different purposes; to create parks, to preserve farmland; to protect habitat. They are all part of the solution for meeting land conservation goals, protecting the environment, and creating healthy places for our children to play.

2. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN IN EXISTENCE? Program Open Space was created in 1969, with other Programs like Rural Legacy, added in subsequent years.

3. WHY IS IT NATIONALLY RENOWNED? Maryland was the first state in the nation to establish a dedicated funding source for land conservation. Very few states have had the foresight to follow our example.

4. WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? Program Open Space is funded through a 0.5% fee on all real estate sales. This artfully crafted formula ensures that land conservation has its own dedicated funding source and that land preservation is able to keep pace with development. The premise of the program was that one acre developed equated to one acre preserved

5. DOES THIS MONEY GO TO THE COUNTIES? Counties receive a portion of the transfer tax revenue for their local land acquisition and park development needs. The State also often partners with the counties to jointly fund the acquisition of local parks. In addition, state acquisitions for state parks, state forests, and wildlife management areas add to recreational opportunities within the counties where they are located.

6. DOES THE MONEY FOR OPEN SPACE INCLUDE MAINTENANCE OR IS IT FOR LAND PURCHASE ONLY? The vast majority of this funding must be used to protect land from development and very little can be used for the maintenance of park and recreation facilities. Although limited funding from POS can be used for critical maintenance at state parks, the backlog on state park facility maintenance is over \$25 million. Local and state parks have a tremendous operational need, but POS funding is primarily targeted for land acquisition and park development.

7. WHAT DOES THIS FUNDING MEAN TO THE AVERAGE MARYLANDER? If you picture your favorite state or local park, chances are it was created with Program Open Space money. Even community parks in our cities are usually funded at least in part with this critical funding. These funds also are used to protect our most environmentally fragile lands and habitats, lands we cannot afford to protect any other way.

8. WHAT ARE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF DIVERSIONS OF PROGRAM OPEN SPACE FUNDING? WHAT IS THE FUNDING NEED FOR THESE PROGRAMS? We continue to develop at a rapid pace, paving over farmlands and open spaces. We need to balance development with land preservation that creates community parks and playgrounds and other recreational opportunities. Diverting this dedicated funding system jeopardizes Maryland's ability to protect farmland for food production, restricts our ability to protect our water supplies from pollution, and severely inhibits the ability to provide parks in our communities.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BRFA - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act

Conservation Easement - A voluntary written agreement that limits the use of a property for intensive residential, commercial or industrial purposes. The property owner retains ownership of the land.

Diversion - Decisions made by the state to transfer money from its initially budgeted purpose to another purpose.

Fiscal Year - All funds are budgeted for the Maryland fiscal year: July 1 - June 30.

GO Bonds - General Obligation Bonds - Bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Maryland sold to fund specific government projects and programs. General revenue will pay the principal and interest on the bond.

Land Acquisition and Planning - The Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that administers the Stateside POS program and the Rural Legacy Program.

Local Land Trust or Conservancy - A non-profit organization formed to help property owners protect their property with voluntary conservation easements.

Localside POS - Local governments receive grants directly from POS to buy land and build park facilities to meet citizen recreational needs.

MALPF - Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. MALPF uses POS funds to purchase conservation easements on the farms in Maryland with the best soils that support the agricultural economy.

MET - Maryland Environmental Trust. A Statewide land trust whose primary focus is to encourage donated Conservation Easements on private property.

POS - Program Open Space. Since 1969, POS has been Maryland's innovative and successful program that funds parks, recreation, agricultural and natural lands preservation. It is funded through a dedicated portion of the transfer tax collected when real estate is sold.

Public Access - Regular public access is generally included in stateside and localside POS programs (park and recreational facilities, public access to waterways, etc). Private individuals own the property subject to a MALP, Rural Legacy or MET Easement and may open their land to the public (for example, a pick-your-own farm), but it is not required.

Revenue Bonds - Bonds funded by the projected revenue of the program or facility (for example, a bond sold to pay for a parking garage).

Rural Legacy - Allows local governments and land trusts to purchase voluntary conservation easements on blocks of working lands.

RTT - Real Estate Transfer Tax. A portion of this tax goes to fund all POS programs.

Stateside POS - Often used to purchase state parks and open space in fee simple. It targets the most important ecological areas for purchase and preservation.

OPEN SPACE

THE CASE FOR FUND PROTECTION



Imagine Maryland without its rolling farmlands, forests and parks, or community ball fields and playgrounds. Land preservation is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Open space preservation benefits our communities, our health, our property values, and our economy. Creating parks creates jobs; preserving farmland helps keep farmers farming. Our farms, forests and parks are what defines Maryland and makes it an amazing place to live.

Land conservation funds have suffered from years of significant diversions, with almost a third of this dedicated revenue reallocated over the life of the program—and not yet repaid. And the recent housing market decline has resulted in even less funding in the program.

Both the state and the county governments have huge unmet needs. Children play little league games late into the night because a county cannot fund the new ball fields they need. Our most productive farmland is paved over because farmers cannot secure conservation easements; and lands critical for clean water, habitat, and eco-tourism are lost because the state cannot purchase them.

Protecting this funding is of critical importance, because when this land is gone, it is lost forever.



Protecting Program Open Space funding is of critical importance to Maryland, because when our land is gone, it is lost forever.

PARTNERS FOR OPEN SPACE

COALITION MEMBERS

1000 Friends of Maryland	Coalition for Smarter Growth	Fruitland Recreation Commission	Montgomery Green Democrats	Sierra Club - Maryland Chapter
All Earth Eco Tours, LLC	Coalition of Anne Arundel Land Trusts (CAALT)	Germantown Athletic Club	Mt. Washington Preservation Trust	Solutions Not Sprawl
Allegany Expeditions, Inc.	Conservancy for Charles County	Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc.	National Parks Conservation Association	Southern Calvert Land Trust
Alliance for Sustainable Communities	Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust	Gunpowder Valley Conservancy	National Recreation and Park Association	Suitland Community Development Corporation
American Chestnut Land Trust	Cromwell Valley Park Council	Harford Bird Club	Neighborhood Design Center	Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
American Farmland Trust	Delmar Recreation Council	Herring Run Watershed Association	North County Land Trust	Talbot Lacrosse Association, Inc.
Anacostia Watershed Society	Dorchester County Department of Tourism	Hooked on Nature	North County Preservation, Inc.	The Conservation Fund
Annapolis Conservancy Board	Earth Day Network	Howard County Bird Club	Not Just Skin	The Friends of Patterson Park
Anne Arundel Green Party	Earth Treks, Inc.	Howard County Conservancy	Oliver Beach Improvement Association, Inc.	The Harford Land Trust
Appalachian Mountain Club, DC Chapter	Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	Jones Falls Watershed Association	Outdoor Education Association	The Nature Conservancy
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Eastern Shore Adventure Company	Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council	Park and Resources Conservation Foundation	The New Harford Democratic Club
Assateague Coastal Trust	Eastside Youth Sports Committee	Land Preservation Trust	Parks and People Foundation	The Trust for Public Land
Audubon Maryland - DC	Edible Chesapeake	League of Maryland Horsemen	Patapsco Riverkeeper	The Valleys Planning Council, Inc.
Audubon Naturalist Society	Elk Ridge Nature Works, LLC	Long Green Land Trust	Patuxent Conservation Corps	The Wilderness Society
Baltimore Alliance for Great Urban Parks - BAGUP	Environment Maryland	Magothy River Land Trust	Patuxent Riverkeeper	Towsontowne Recreation Council
Baltimore City Heritage Area	Environmental Defense	Mardela Recreation Council	Port Tobacco River Conservancy, Inc.	UMAC Baseball
Baltimore City League of Environmental Voters	Essex Sky Park Association	Marshy Point Nature Center Council	Potomac Conservancy	United States Tennis Association - Maryland
Baltimore Green Space	Equestrian Partners in Conservation	MD Alliance for Greenway Improvement & Conservation	Preservation Maryland	War for the Shore
Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association	F.A.R.M. - For a Rural Montgomery	Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas	Queen Anne's Conservation Association	Waterkeeper Alliance - Chesapeake Program
Baltimore Regional Partnership	Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland	Maryland Conservation Council	Reservoir Hill Improvement Council	Western Shore Conservancy for the Protection of Natural Areas West/Rhode Riverkeeper
Bay Ridge Trust	Frederick Regional Action Network	Maryland Land Trust Alliance	River and Trail Outfitters	
Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association, Inc.	Friends of Cromwell Valley	Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund	River Road Unitarian Church, Environmental Task Force	Westside Community Center Advisory Council
Cecil Land Trust	Friends of Frederick County	Maryland Ornithological Society	Rockburn Land Trust	Wicomico Co. Slow Pitch Women's Slow Pitch Softball
Chapman Forest Foundation	Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	Maryland Recreation and Parks Association	Salisbury Advisory Council on Youth Activities	Wicomico Co. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Friends of Harford, Inc.	Maryland Saltwater Sport Fisherman's Association - Perry Hall Chapter	Salisbury Lacrosse Club	Wicomico Co. Junior Girls Softball Federation
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Friends of Recreation and Parks, Wicomico County	Maryland Trout Unlimited	Sassafras River Association	Wicomico Co. Soccer Federation
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage	Friends of the Earth	Men on the Move	SaveFairHill	Wicomico Equestrian Board
Citizens Against the Race-course - Allegany County	Friends of Maryland State Forests and Parks, Inc.	Mid-Maryland Land Trust Association	Save Our County, CA	Wicomico Men's Slow Pitch League
Citizens Planning and Housing Association - CPHA	Friends of Myrtle Point Park	Montgomery County Countywide Recreation Advisory Board	Scenic Maryland, Inc.	Woodberry Land Trust, Inc.
Clean Energy Communications	Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway		Scenic River Land Trust	
Clean Water Action	Friends of Quiet Waters Park		Seyvern Riverkeeper	
Cleanup Coalition			Sharptown Recreation Council	



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