# GREENSPACE EQUITY PROGRAM FY27 WORKSHOP

DNR Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) Unit

November 17, 2025

# Workshop Agenda

➢ Program Overview

➢ Eligibility Parameters

➢ Allowable Expenses

➢ Application Review

➢ Accompanying Document Checklist

➢ Contact Information

# Program Overview

➢ The Greenspace Equity Program is designed to provide and administer grants to eligible applicants for enhancing the public health and livability of overburdened communities and underserved communities by implementing projects to preserve, create, and enhance community greenspace.

  ○ Makes conservation more equitable
  ○ Meets community needs for greenspace
  ○ Supports on the ground partners

➢ Legislation outlining the program: HB0503
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0503T.pdf

# Eligibility

➢ Who is eligible to apply?
  ○ A land trust or nongovernmental organization located or working in an overburdened community or an underserved community where a project is proposed to be implemented
  ○ A county or municipality
  ○ Land acquisitions apply to counties, municipalities, and land trusts only

➢ Where can these projects occur?
  ○ In an overburdened community
  ○ In an underserved community
  ○ On a property owned by an eligible applicant, or for which the applicant holds a conservation easement, located in a census tract adjacent to an overburdened community or an underserved community

➢ Use the MDEnviroScreen Tool to determine whether a property is located in an overburdened community or an underserved community.
    https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e4148f01acf743bf8ac1d2aa2dc0947f/page/MarylandEJ3_0

# MDEnviroScreen Tool



https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e4148f01acf743bf8ac1d2aa2dc0947f/page/MarylandEJ3_0
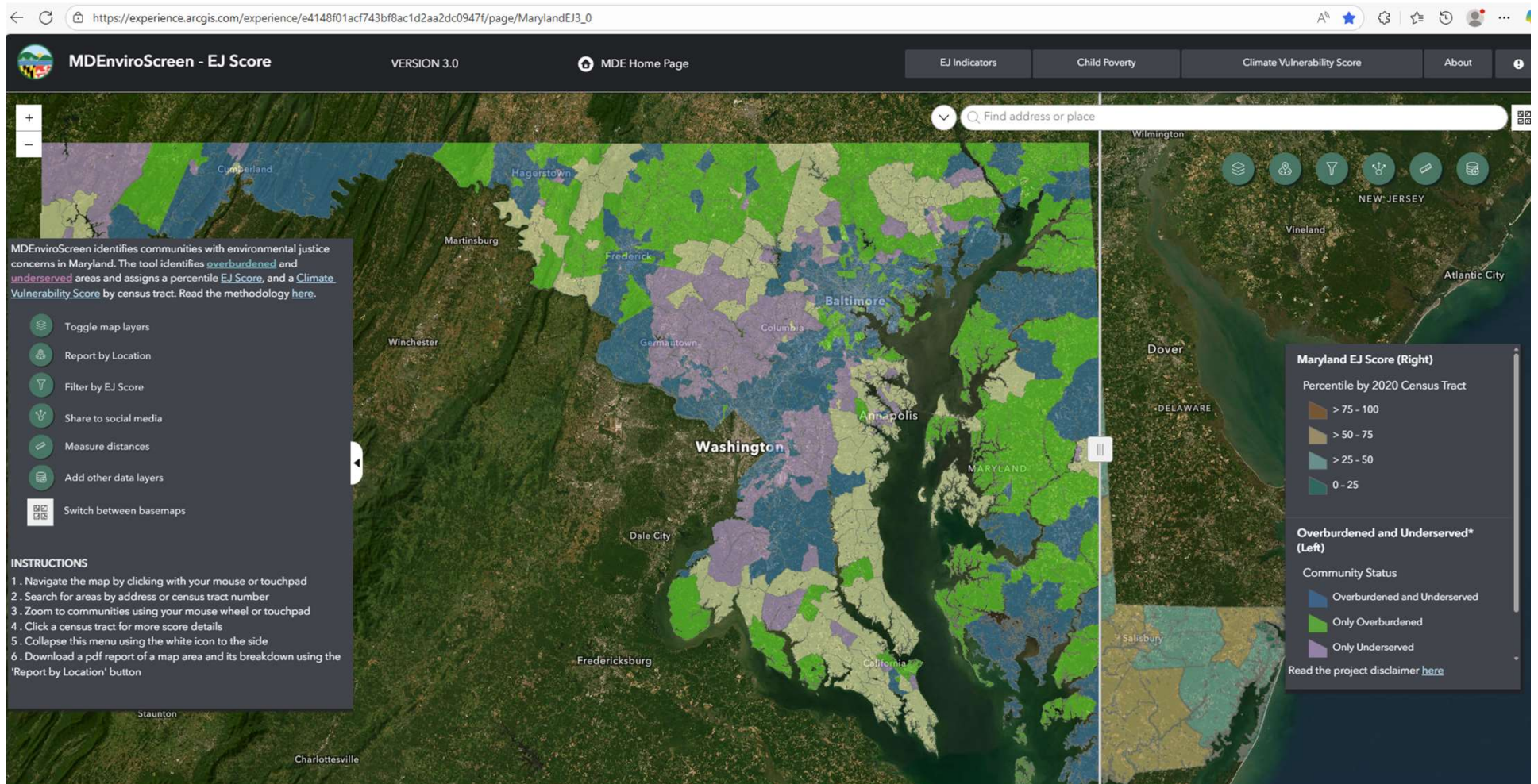
# Eligibility: Types of Projects

➢ **Acquisition Project**
  - An eligible applicant may apply for funding to purchase property that will be used for an eligible purpose (Stewardship). The property must be held in fee-simple or with a perpetual conservation easement. If the lead applicant is a Land Trust the property must be co-owned by a government agency.

➢ **Stewardship (Development) Project**
  - Develop a property for public use AND improve the conservation value of the property.
  - Specific examples: Community garden, community gathering open space area, community woodland, a green network (a system of greenspaces that are interconnected by linear corridors that facilitate the movement of people and wildlife); a park; a trail; an urban farm.

# Allowable Expenses

**MARYLAND** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- ➤ **Acquisition Projects**
  - ○ Cost of acquiring the land in fee simple or through a perpetual conservation easement
  - ○ Related due diligence expenses, such as appraisals, environmental assessments, surveys, title work, etc.
  - ○ Administrative costs related to program compliance for easement monitoring, if applicable (not to exceed 1.5%)
- ➤ **Stewardship (Development) Projects**
  - ○ Cost of clearing the site or developing it for use as community greenspace
  - ○ Administrative costs related to implementing the project
    - • Administrative costs not to exceed 3% of the grant amount (included in the amount not in addition to the grant amount)

*No operating costs are allowed with this funding

# Application Review

➢ Applications for both Acquisition and Stewardship projects are available on the DNR website:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Greenspace-Equity-Program.aspx

➢ Submission deadline is January 14, 2026 at 3 p.m.

➢ Applications will be initially reviewed by DNR staff and then shared with Greenspace Equity Advisory Board

➢ After application submission and review, selected eligible projects will be submitted to the Maryland State Clearinghouse for review and comment, and are subject to Board of Public Works approval prior to receiving funding.

# Application Review

## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Maryland's Greenspace Equity Program**

**FY 2027 GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDE**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Land Acquisition and Planning
Tawes Office Building, E-4
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Greenspace Equity Program Administrator

Visit our website for more information and up-to-date news:
https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Greenspace-Equity-Program.aspx

For general questions or project submissions, please send email to: laplocalgrants.dnr@maryland.gov

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## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**GREENSPACE EQUITY PROGRAM
Fiscal Year (FY) 2027
Application and Project Agreement**

GREENSPACE EQUITY PROJECT # _____
DNR Use Only

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION:** Please fill out all sections of the form completely unless otherwise indicated.

**Type of Project:** (check one) ____ Acquisition ____ Development ____ Combination

**Project Name:** _____

**Street Address:** _____

**City/Town:** _____ **County:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**County Tax Map:** _____ **Grid:** _____ **Parcel:** _____ **Lot:** _____

**SDAT Account Identifier:** _____
District-Subdivision-Account Number or Ward-Section-Block-Lot (as applicable)

**MD Legislative District:** _____
Click here to find the 2022 Legislative District (Number 1-47)

**Confirm the project location is eligible for Greenspace Equity Program Funding:**
**Click here for map to verify** (check one)

____ Overburdened ____ Underserved ____ Both Overburdened and Underserved

____ Adjacent   Projects on a property located in a census tract that is adjacent to an overburdened or an underserved community may be eligible if the eligible applicant holds a conservation easement or owns the property in fee simple.

**Project Period From:** _____ Date of Letter of Acknowledgement (DNR Use Only)
**To:** _____ Estimated Date of Completion

**For Acquisition Project, Estimated Date of Closing:** _____

**For Development Project, Estimated Proposed Project Timeline:**

a. **Design Start Date** (if applicable) _____ b. **Design End Date** _____
c. **Construction Start Date** _____ d. **Construction End Date** _____

# Application Review

➢ Grant Proposal Guide Section A.8.6

https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/FY27-Greenspace-Equity-Program-Grant-Proposal-Guide.pdf

- o Applicant is ready to execute the project immediately after Board of Public Works approval.

- o Acquisition projects require the applicant has accepted an offer or agreement with seller.

- o Stewardship projects must be ready to begin design/construction after project is approved.

➢ Application also serves as project agreement

➢ Stewardship projects where applicant is not the owner of the property will require a Joint-Use Agreement.

# Application Review

NEW application for FY27 – condensed

➢ Section A

- Project Information – address, area, project period/timeline

➢ Section B

- Budget Details
  - Section 1 – Acquisitions only: land costs and incidental costs
  - Section 2 – Development costs: capital costs associated with implementation of a stewardship project
  - Section 3 – a. Administrative Costs – b. Program Compliance
  - Section 4 – total costs and funds requested from the Greenspace Equity Program
  - Green Sections for small narrative and inclusion of match funds

# Application Review



➢ Section C

   o Project Details – 10 questions about the project – 2-3 sentences each. Narratives can be included in a separate document.

➢ Section D

   o Property Acquisition/Easement Section – acquisition details, zoning, potential conflicts, and interim use

➢ Section E

   o Applicant Information and Authorization – only the primary applicant is eligible for reimbursement, secondary applicant will assume responsibility of maintaining project should the primary applicant be unable to do so

# Accompanying Document Checklist

**MARYLAND** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

➤ All Projects

- o Area map, site plan, deed/property SDAT, evidence of partnership and support, pre-project photos

➤ Acquisition Projects

- o Two independent appraisals, current deed, succession plan

➤ Nongovernmental Organizations

- o Articles of incorporation, bylaws, business SDAT (must be in good standing), how applicant is organized, examples of other projects completed

# Contact Information

Program Administrator

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