MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

GREENSPACE EQUITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

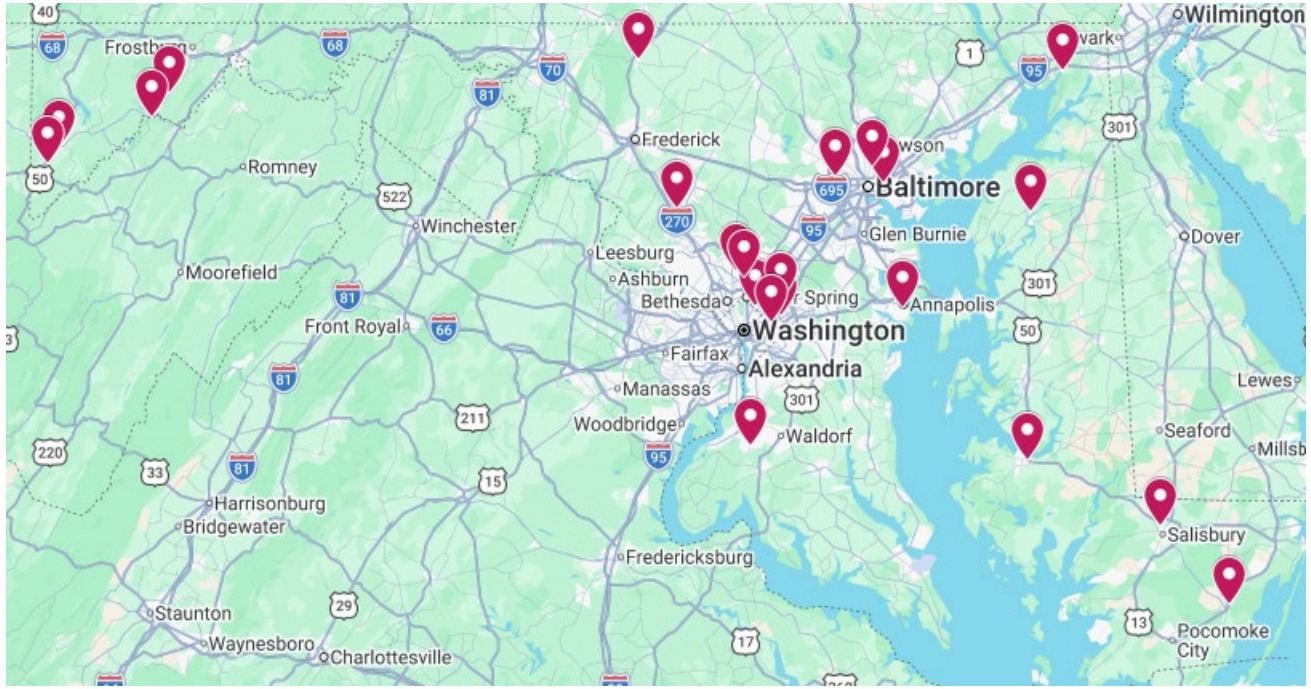
October 15, 2026

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
  - Introductions
  - Roll Call
  - Approval of Minutes
- FY 2025 – FY 2027 Updates
- Overview of FY 2028 Projects and Proposed Selections
- Comments and Questions
- Adjournment

FY 2025 GEP Updates

- 22 projects approved
  - 3 completed
    - Playgrounds/Park in Garrett County
    - Trail in Wicomico County
  - 19 in progress
    - 3 already requested 1st reimbursement
    - 10 Spring/Summer 2026
    - 8 Fall/ Winter 2026
    - 1 extension requested for Spring 2027



Map of FY25 Projects

FY 2026 Earmarks

- 3 earmarked projects
  - $3 million for Adventure Sports Park within the Rubini Sports Complex of Wheaton Regional Park – application received and reviewed – Approved by BPW on 5/20/2026
  - $3.5 million for Hyattsville acquisition – preliminary application received – pending BPW
  - $500,000 for Hillside Park in Baltimore City – no submission yet

Appraisal Grant Rounds

- 3 grants awarded for FY 2026
  - Contingency: must apply for FY 2027 grant round
  - 2 of the grant recipients submitted acquisition applications
  - 1 applicant relinquished appraisal grant

- No applications received for FY 2027

FY 2027 GEP Updates

- 16 selected projects
  - 2 applicants relinquished their grants
  - $1,161,916 available to go toward FY 2028 in addition to funds received in the FY 2028 budget
  - 12 projects approved at the 9/16/2026 BPW
  - 2 projects pending
- Start Dates
  - Fall/Winter 2026/2027 – 7
  - Spring/Summer 2027 – 6
  - Spring 2028 - 1

Overview of FY 2028 Projects

- 25 Applications
  - 2 Acquisitions
  - 23 Development Projects
  - 14 Counties (including Baltimore City)
  - 14 Overburdened and Underserved Areas
  - 7 Overburdened Areas
  - 2 Underserved Areas
  - 2 Adjacent Areas
  - $14,253,366 Total in Requests

Type of Project	Number*
Trails	8
Community Woodlands	5
Gathering Open Space	5
Community Garden	2
Urban Farm	0
Park	11
Green Network	1

*Totals are more than the amount of applications received due to combination projects

Overview of FY 2028 Projects Preliminary Review

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- Projects selected for funding would need to meet program requirements and have clear objectives and costs
- Items to further clarify to confirm funding eligibility
  - Updated appraisals – acquisition
  - Itemized budgets – further breakdown
  - Community support
  - Accessibility
  - Clarification on overlap with other Local grants*

  (*Program Open Space Local, Community Parks and Playgrounds, etc.)

Overview of FY 2028 Projects Preliminary Review

- Group 1 - minimal to no issues for funding - $6,753,816
  - 2 Acquisition projects
  - 10 Development projects
- Group 2 – some issues or other considerations for funding - $3,075,811
  - 6 Development projects
- Group 3 – not eligible or other considerations for not funding - $4,423,739
  - 7 Development projects

Items for Discussion

- New Rubric Elements Added for FY 2028
  - Greenspace Focus
    - 3 - Green elements: addresses eligible items directly (e.g., tree planting, garden creation, or restoration of these areas)
    - 2 – Amenities: supporting green elements (e.g., benches, trash receptacles, restrooms, etc.)
    - 1 – Other: supporting to make facilities viable (e.g., stormwater management, parking lot, entrance, etc.)
  - Readiness to Implement
    - 2 – immediate start and can complete in 2 years
    - 1 – can start soon and complete within 4 years
    - 0 – no timeline provided or exceeds 4 years

Items for Discussion

- New Rubric Elements (for further consideration)
  - Location
    - 2 – there are 2 or fewer green spaces in a 2-mile vicinity
    - 1 – there are 3 or more green spaces in a 2-mile vicinity
- Shoreline Restoration
- Entrance, Parking, and Hardscape (impervious surface)
- Other thoughts?