

GREENSPACE EQUITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DNR Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) Unit

June 10, 2024

Meeting Agenda



- Call to Order, Introductions, Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Program Implementation Overview
- Program Implementation Discussions
- Public Comments
- Next Steps
- Adjournment

Program Implementation Overview



- Review of Greenspace Equity Data Layer
- Review of Draft Grant Proposal Guidelines
- Review of Draft Application
- Review of Draft Application Scoring Rubric
- Review of Estimated Application Timeline

Greenspace Equity Data Layer



Greenspace Equity Viewer

- Overburdened community means any census tract for which three or more of the (21) environmental health indicators listed in § 1-701(a)(7) of the Environmental Article are above the 75th percentile statewide.
- Underserved community means any census tract in which, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau Survey, meets one or more of the indicators listed in § 1-701(a)(8) of the Environmental Article for low-income, being nonwhite, or limited English proficiency.

Grant Proposal Guidelines



Eligible Applicants

- 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.
 - Land Trusts must be one of the following:
 - Is a qualified organization under §170(H)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and any regulations adopted under that section;
 - Has executed a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET); or
 - Is an Affordable Housing Land Trust as defined in §14-501 of the Real Property Article.
 - Nongovernmental Organizations that are not Land Trusts are *not* eligible for acquisition projects as the primary applicant.
- County or Municipal government.

Grant Proposal Guidelines



Types of Projects Funded

- Acquisition of land in fee simple or with a perpetual conservation easement to create a new community greenspace.
- Stewardship defined as activities to develop a property for public use and improve the conservation value of a property.
- Development of a community greenspace, such as:
 - Community Garden
 - Community Gathering Open Space Area
 - Community Woodland
 - Green Network (system of greenspaces that are interconnected by linear corridors that facilitate the movement of people and wildlife)
 - Park
 - Trail
 - Urban Farm

Grant Proposal Guidelines



Project Eligibility Requirements

- Projects must comply with all applicable Local, State, and Federal statutes and regulations, including ADA requirements.
- Projects shall be open for public use by all persons without discrimination.
- Land acquired (fee and easement) under a state grant from the Greenspace Equity Program must be maintained in perpetuity for public use. Conversion of use of land will require replacement with land of equal or greater recreational use, acreage, and equal or greater monetary value approved by the Greenspace Equity Program.
- Development projects must have a ***minimum fifteen (15) year life span***. Projects must be properly maintained to be in a safe and usable state for access by all members of the public.

Application and Project Agreement



GREENSPACE EQUITY PROGRAM FY2025 Application and Project Agreement

GREENSPACE EQUITY PROJECT

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

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 all that apply)

Overburdened:

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:

To:

Date of Letter of Acknowledgement (DNR Use Only)

Estimated Date of Completion

Application and Project Agreement



Project Details

- Type of Project: Acquisition, Development, or Combination
- Project Description
- How will the project develop the property for public use?
- How will the project improve the conservation value of the land?
- Public Access: the general public access that will be available for this project and note any restrictions or limitations.
- Local Support: how the project engages and is supported by the residents, organizations, and businesses located in the overburdened community or underserved community.
- Partnership and Collaboration: how the project demonstrates partnerships and collaboration among local governments, land trusts, nongovernmental organizations, and community organizations.
- Public Health: how the project enhances the public health, livability, and greenspace in the overburdened community or underserved community.

Application and Project Agreement



Eligible Project Costs

- 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.
- Cost of clearing the site or developing it for use as community greenspace.
- Administrative costs not to exceed 3% of the grant amount.
- Program compliance costs for monitoring easements, if applicable, not to exceed 1.5% of the total project cost.

Greenspace Equity funds may *not* be used for maintenance cost associated with a project or the operation expenses of the grant recipient.

Greenspace Equity grants will provide funds primarily on a reimbursable basis.

Application and Project Agreement



Acquisitions by Land Trusts

It is recommended that Land Trusts co-hold the fee simple deed or perpetual conservation easement with a county or municipal government agency where the project is located to help ensure long term project viability and continuity. This recommendation is based on best practice and similar to other state land conservation programs.

Application Scoring Rubric



Evaluation Criteria

- Project eligibility:
 - Overburdened; Underserved; Both Overburdened and Underserved; Adjacent
- Alignment with program:
 - Public Use; Conservation Value; Public Access; Local Support; Partnership/Collaboration; Public Health
- Project specifics:
 - Acquisition – Potential Conflicts; Interim Use; Maintenance in Perpetuity
 - Development – Maintenance for 15 years
- Administrative:
 - Application Completeness; Narrative Explains Project; Detailed Cost Estimate; Ability to Administer

Estimated Application Timeline



- **August 2024** Announce proposal requests.
- **October 23, 2024** Applications due by 3:00 p.m.
- **November 2024** Review proposed projects.
- **December 2024** Present projects to Greenspace
Equity Advisory Board.
- **2025** Schedule recommended projects for
Board of Public Works approval.

- Program Implementation Discussions
- Public Comments
- Next Steps
- Adjournment

LAP Contacts



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