



STEUART PITTMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JESSICA LEYS, DIRECTOR
1 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
410-222-7867



August 14, 2025

Margaret Lashar & Kate Mayberry
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Bldg. E-4
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Anne Arundel County
Annual Program of Proposed Acquisition and Development Projects
FY26 Program Open Space

Dear Ms. Lashar & Ms. Mayberry,

Enclosed is our revised Anne Arundel County's Fiscal Year 2026 Program Open Space Annual Program, which provides a description of potential park acquisition and development grant requests to be submitted during fiscal year 2026. The projects listed in the Annual Program are consistent with the 2022 Anne Arundel County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, Plan 2040, the County's General Development Plan and the Twelve State Planning Visions as detailed within the project descriptions. Projects for the City of Annapolis are included in accordance with their current capital improvement program and their available share of POS funds.

This year's Annual Program includes land acquisition projects totaling \$2,513,951.46 and park development projects totaling \$2,560,941.19. The County will select projects from this list based on funds available.

Anne Arundel County extends its appreciation to the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning for the continued support of our land preservation and park development efforts. Program Open Space is essential to the expansion of our park system as we strive to accommodate the needs of Anne Arundel County residents.

If you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact our department at 410-222-7867. Your review and endorsement of our Program will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

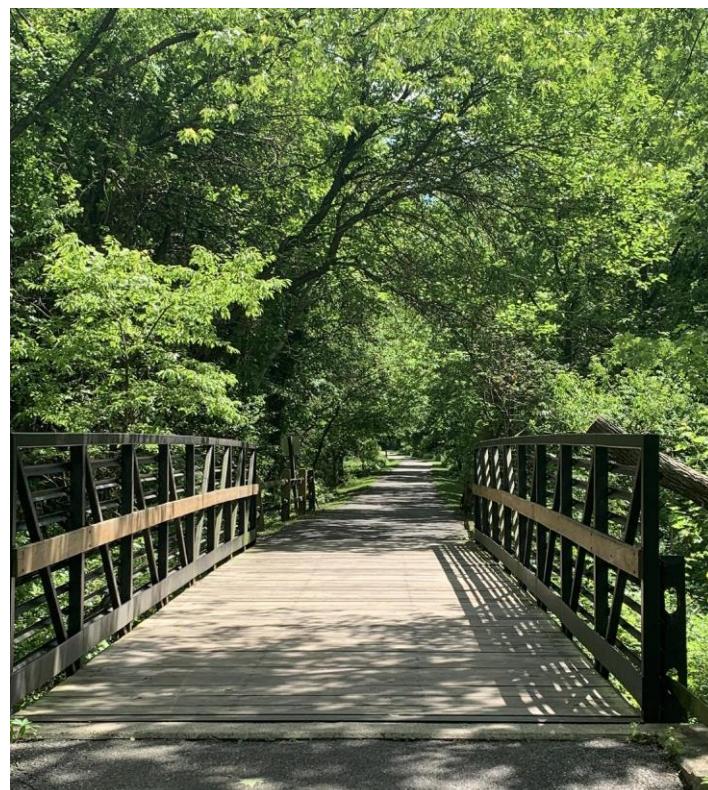
DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica J. Matthews".
C535977E9A4A84B6
Erica J. Matthews
Deputy Director



Annual Program of Proposed Acquisition and Development Projects

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE Fiscal Year 2026



submitted to
Maryland Department of Planning
and
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

July 1, 2025



**Anne Arundel County
PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
Annual Program of Proposed Acquisition and Development Projects**

Introduction

Anne Arundel County is pleased to submit the fiscal year 2026 Annual Program of Proposed Acquisition and Development Projects for the grant funding provided by DNR's Program Open Space. The project selection process in Anne Arundel County is based on the following criteria:

- Need for parkland and recreation facilities in growth areas
- Additions to existing parks, natural areas, and trail corridors
- Protection of sensitive natural resources and wildlife habitat
- Protection of Green Infrastructure and identified Greenways
- Conformance with the Twelve State Planning Visions
- Conformance with the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan
- Conformance with Plan2040, the County's General Development Plan
- Recommendations in the County's Region Plans
- Distribution of available funds to benefit all communities

Below is a summary of the Acquisition and Development projects included in this Annual Program. Detailed descriptions, photographs, and maps follow.

Land Acquisition Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>State Share</u>
● 2027 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan	\$ 25,000.00
● Bell Branch Park Expansion, Davidsonville Road	\$ 1,000,000.00
● Anne Arundel County - to be determined <small>(includes a reversion of \$88,063 for the Race Rd. acquisition)</small>	\$ 787,587.96
● City of Annapolis - to be determined	\$ 701,363.50
Total	\$ 2,513,951.46

Park Development Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>State Share</u>
● Edgewater Recreation Center	\$ 1,437,684.21
● Athletic Field Improvements- Annapolis HS Feeder system	\$ 108,212.79
● City of Annapolis - to be determined	\$ 1,015,044.19
Total	\$2,560,941.19



Land Acquisition Projects

**Bell Branch Park
Davidsonville Road
Gambrills, Maryland**

\$1,000,000.00

This acquisition would be a 21.8-acre addition to Bell Branch Park. The site has the following attributes:

- Acquisition would expand Bell Branch Park
- The property is currently unimproved with favorable topography
- Eliminates the need for a drainage easement for management of stormwater from Bell Branch Park
- Cost savings and operational efficiencies are realized by eliminating the need for renting nearby privately-owned athletic fields

This property is consistent with the 2022 Anne Arundel County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, Region 9 planning, and the 2001 Crofton Small Area Plan, which recommend:

- Acquiring land adjacent to existing parkland
- Expanding recreational/athletic fields concurrently with new residential construction to accommodate the needs of the growing community and the increased demand for programs
- Preserving farm land and retaining open space

Acquisition is consistent with the Maryland's Planning Visions:

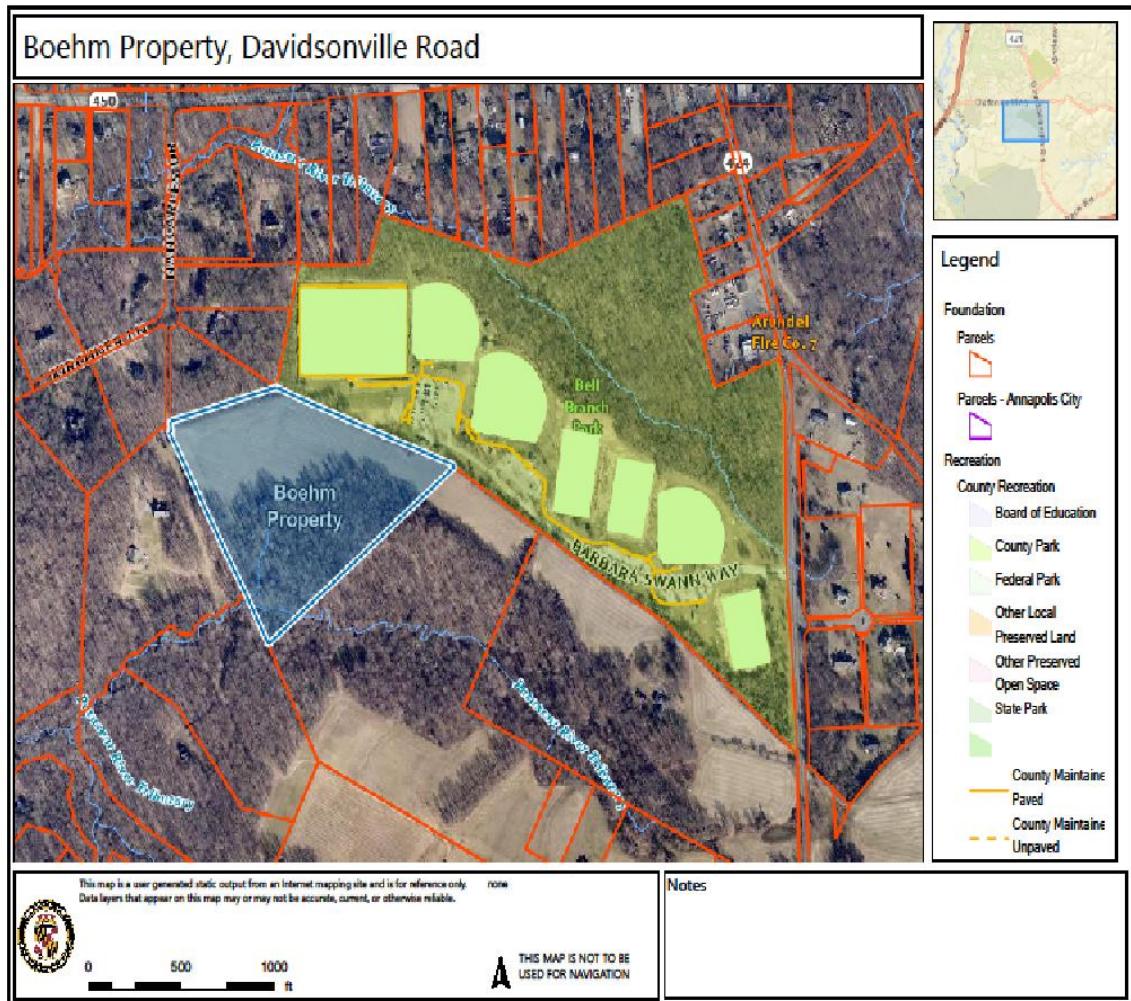
- By improving the quality of Life and Sustainability through the stewardship of the land, water, and air, resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment
- Improve what is already available and improve the quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks

Acquisition is consistent with the County's Plan 2040 as follows:

- Improving and expanding the existing opportunities for all communities to have facilities and programs nearby
- Continued use of DNR's Program Open Space grant program to implement projects

Land Acquisition Projects

Bell Branch Park Expansion Davidsonville Road Gambrills, Maryland



Land Acquisition Projects

Anne Arundel County -Acquisitions to be determined

\$ 787,587.96



Land Acquisition Projects

2027 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan

Installment #4

Countywide

\$ 25,000.00

This request represents Installment #4 to fund the 2027 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). As part of the 2027 LPPRP, the County will conduct a countywide citizen survey. This survey will help determine the current and future needs for recreation facilities, and the level of support for open space and natural resource protection through easement or fee simple purchases. This project is consistent with the State Planning Visions by gathering public input for local and State land use planning.

Land Acquisition Projects

City of Annapolis – Acquisitions to be determined **\$ 701,363.50**



Park Development Projects

Edgewater Recreation Center Edgewater, Maryland

\$1,437,684.21

This request is the second installment to fund the development of a former commercial property at 3130 Solomons Island Road in Edgewater. The Edgewater Community Center, through the transformation of an abandoned commercial space, will result in a vibrant and welcoming hub where people of all ages can come together to connect, learn, relax, and play. The County is reimagining a vacant 48,000-square-foot former grocery store as much-needed indoor recreation and community space. The Edgewater Community Center is envisioned to offer a dynamic space for residents of all ages to gather, play, and connect. The preliminary plans for this space include a gymnasium, multi-purpose courts, community meeting rooms, dance and fitness studios, an indoor playground, and other flexible community spaces. Designed to foster health, wellness, and engagement, the center will further enhance Anne Arundel County's recreational and community amenities while achieving the County's sustainability goals by incorporating energy-efficient systems, resilient building materials, and environmentally responsible design strategies.

Development is consistent with the 2022 Anne Arundel County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan:

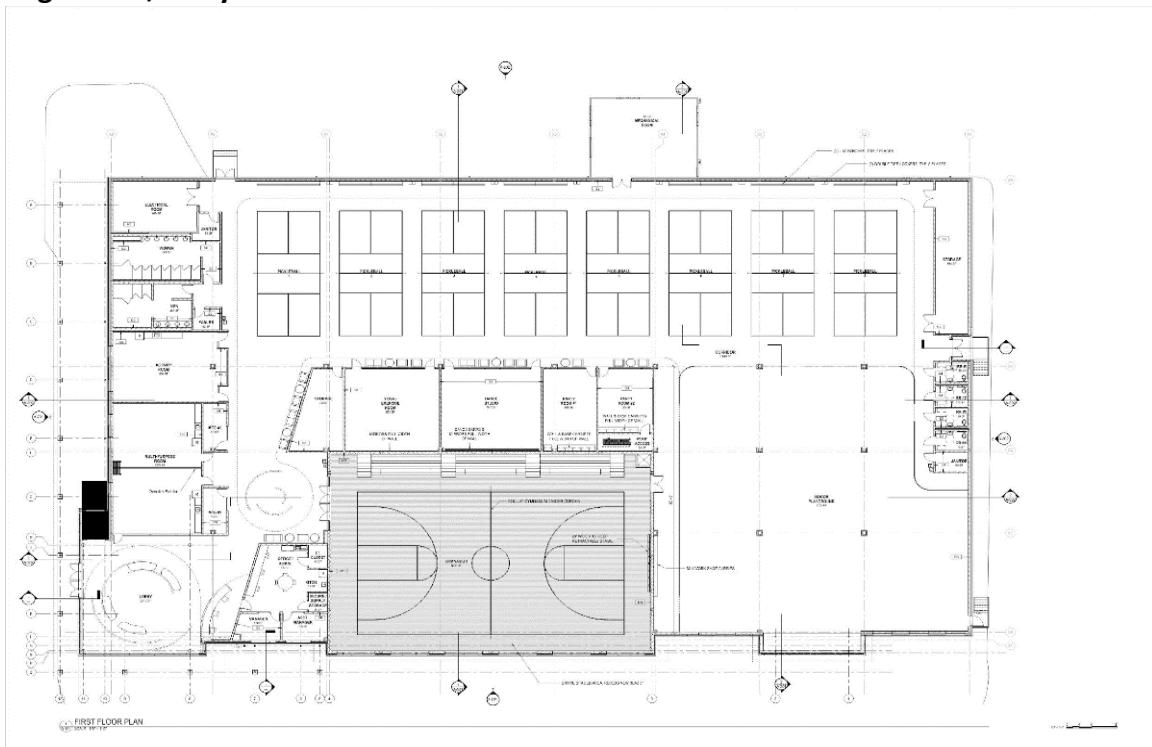
- Prioritize the development of indoor facilities to meet the demand for indoor courts and other recreation spaces, and suggest the construction of a new community center where fiscally justified
- Need for indoor space as detailed in the County's 2022 LPPRP

Development is consistent with the County's Plan 2040:

- Provide community facilities and services to meet the needs of all County residents
- Offer a diverse range of accessible public recreational facilities to serve County residents
- Develop accessible recreation and parks facilities for all residents to provide a variety of recreational opportunities
- Continue to use Program Open Space and other State and Federal grant programs as available to implement these projects

Park Development Projects

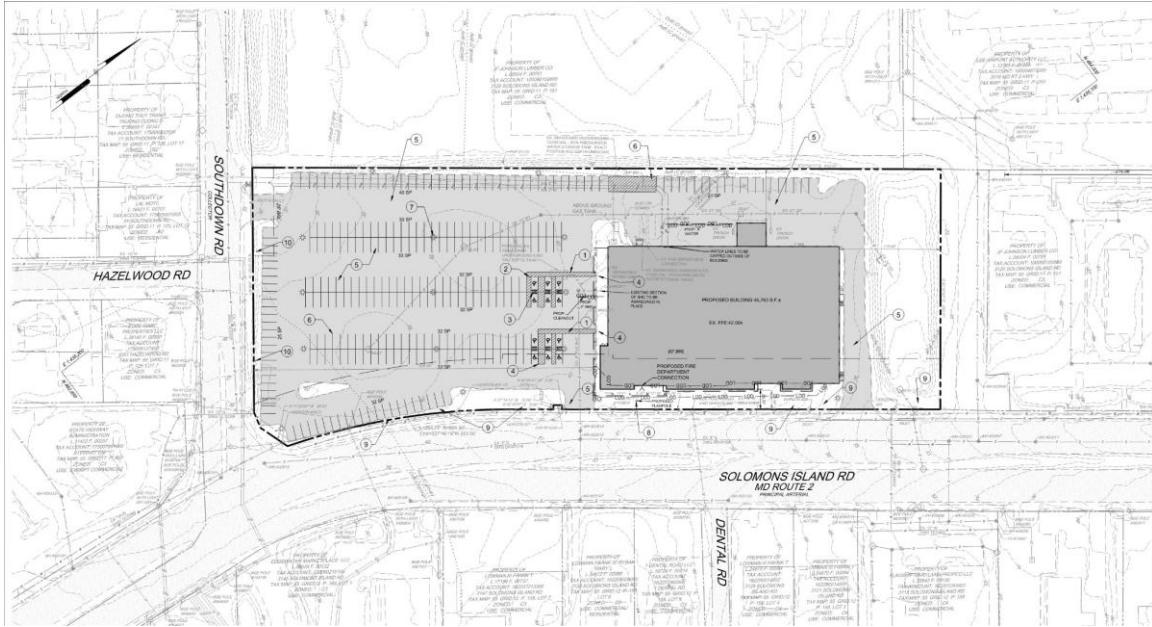
Edgewater Recreation Center Edgewater, Maryland



Preliminary Rec Center Layout

Park Development Projects

Edgewater Recreation Center Edgewater, Maryland



Preliminary Site Layout

Park Development Projects

Edgewater Recreation Center Edgewater, Maryland



Edgewater Recreation Center Location Map

Park Development Projects

Athletic Field Improvements- Annapolis HS Feeder System Annapolis, Maryland

\$ 108,212.79

The Annapolis High School feeder system has experienced additional demands for field registration. This increase has resulted from the reduction in field time at the middle schools as a result of the new middle school sports program. This reduction in field availability has resulted in an increase in permit requests for DRP-managed facilities. This funding would be used to improve fields and expand recreational opportunities in this feeder system. These improvements would benefit both City and County residents.

Development is consistent with the 2022 Anne Arundel County Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP):

- Replacement or repairs of existing facilities and recreation areas as needed

Development is consistent with the County's Plan2040:

- Collaboration of the City of Annapolis Department of Recreation and Parks in order to develop and maximize the use of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- Improve and expand recreational opportunities for all communities to have proximity to facilities and programs
- Continue to use the Program Open Space grant program to implement projects

Park Development Projects



Germantown Elementary



Bates Middle School

Park Development Projects

City of Annapolis-Development to be determined **\$ 1,015,044.19**

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION
FISCAL YEAR 2026

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project Name</u> , Project Description	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>			
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>POS Stateside</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>
Anne Arundel County, MD	Bell Branch Park Expansion, Davidsonville Road	80.51	102.31	21.8	1,000,000		1,000,000	
Anne Arundel County, MD	To be determined				787,588		787,588	
Anne Arundel County, MD	2027 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan				25,000		25,000	
City of Annapolis	To be determined				701,364		701,364	
TOTALS		80.51	102.31	21.8	2,513,951	0	2,513,951	0

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2026

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Anne Arundel County</u>	<u>Exisiting</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total POS</u>	<u>Source of Funds for Annual Program Only</u>		
						<u>Local (County Funds)</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Other State Funds</u>
Anne Arundel County	Edgewater Recreation Center	5.3974	5.3974	5.3974	\$2,249,377	\$13,485,037	\$1,437,684	\$2,250,000
Anne Arundel County	Athletic Field Improvements Annapolis HS Feeder System	25.26	25.26	25.26	\$108,213	\$36,074	\$108,213	
City of Annapolis	To be determined				\$1,015,044		\$1,015,044	
	TOTALS				\$3,372,634	\$13,521,111	\$2,560,941	

