Cover photos, clockwise from top left:

- Milford Mill Trail (approved Fiscal Year 2021 POS application for rehabilitation, under design)
- Belfast Road Park Site (upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 POS development application)
- Northeast Regional Rec. Center field surface replacement (POS reimbursement complete)
- Sparrows Point Park Site (upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 POS acquisition and development applications, with acquisition being via donation)
- County Home Park (approved Fiscal Year 2021 POS application for synthetic turf field construction, under design)
- Greens Lane Park Site (approved Fiscal Year 2021 POS application for site acquisition)
INTRODUCTION

This “Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Program,” lists park acquisition and development projects currently being explored by Baltimore County, for which fiscal year 2022 Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funding may be pursued. Projects listed herein will help to achieve the goals and objectives of Baltimore County’s “Master Plan 2020” (as amended) and the County’s 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan” (LPPRP). Specifically, the projects will support the following LPPRP and amended Master Plan 2020 “policies”:

- Acquire a variety of parklands and recreation sites in order to meet the needs of County citizens and provide a park system that contributes to the County’s quality of life and overall land preservation efforts.
- Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils.

Park and facility rehabilitation projects are essential to replacing facilities that have reached the end of their life cycle. The image on the left is the Milford Mill Trail, for which $390,000 in POS funding was secured in Fiscal Year 2021 for a proposed trail rehabilitation project.

- Enhance public access to the natural environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and seek to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for nature.
- Work with Baltimore County’s Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) to improve environmental conditions at the County’s parks and recreation sites, and to help protect and preserve the natural environment.
- Pursue alternative means for providing recreational opportunities through partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
- Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in and experience arts and cultural programs and events, and work to preserve historically and culturally significant sites for the appreciation and enjoyment of the County’s citizens and visitors.
- Continue to partner with affiliated citizen organizations, and participate in various partnerships in an effort to enhance public recreation access for Baltimore County citizens and visitors.
The projects proposed in this Annual Program also support other planning documents and initiatives, and help to achieve the 5-year priorities and goals identified in the State of Maryland’s “Land Preservation and Recreation Plan: 2019-2023” (below graphic from the plan):

### CAPITAL PROJECT SELECTION PROCESSES

While the goals and objectives identified in the County’s LPPRP provide the general impetus for conducting various capital projects, the means for selecting such projects varies based on the type of capital projects. The methods for choosing acquisition projects differ significantly from those used to establish development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects. Following is a summary of the processes Baltimore County utilizes to identify, prioritize and select capital projects.

#### A. Acquisition Projects

In any given year Baltimore County, through its Department of Recreation and Parks and its real estate office, pursues numerous properties to serve as park sites. While many candidate properties may be evaluated and considered, the acquisition process is typically initiated only in circumstance where the land in question will help to achieve the County’s present park acquisition goals and objectives. An assortment of factors are considered when deciding whether or not to pursue acquisition opportunities,
including the supply of parkland in a given area, the need to acquire land suitable for accommodating facilities required to meet recreational demands, the availability of undeveloped land within a geographic area, local population growth trends, and relative public and environmental benefits. Baltimore County is firmly committed to providing equitable recreational opportunities countywide, with the park acquisition program playing a key role in this mission. In some circumstances the County will identify certain areas of need, and make it a priority to seek out potential site for park acquisition. However, the diminished availability of high quality properties in many areas of the County can make the acquisition of adequate parklands a challenging proposition.

Three POS applications for park acquisition projects were approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) in fiscal year 2021, with another scheduled to go to the Board of Public Works in early July of 2021. The combined acreage of these acquisitions is approximately 55 acres.

B. Park Development, Enhancement and Rehabilitation Projects

The “development side” of POS helps to fund a wide range of park development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects. Up to 75% of eligible capital project costs may be funded through POS, though the amount of POS funding utilized varies by project. POS is also sometimes combined with other outside funding sources, such as State bond bills and capital grants. The means by which development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects are chosen varies by the type of project. The following describes the types of projects that may be funded with POS assistance, as well as the general process by which these projects are typically selected.

- **New Park Development:** New park development projects are often initiated shortly after the acquisition of a site that was procured to meet existing recreational needs. Funding is usually set aside for site engineering between one to five years after site acquisition. In some cases a site may remain unimproved and “land banked” for longer than five years, until there is available funding and sufficient demand for park development. Such recreational demands and needs are usually the key consideration in deciding when a new park development project is to be funded. The development of the Sparrows Point Park Site, within this Annual Program, is an example of a new park development.
project. The underway Hazelwood Skatepark design and construction project, and Church Lane Park Site design and construction project, both of which will be supported by POS funds approved in Fiscal Year 2021, are likewise examples of new park development.

Above: Conceptual plan for the proposed Sparrows Point Park Site.

- **Phased Park Construction**: Another form of park development is phased construction. This most typically occurs at larger parks, most often when it is not financially or physically feasible to fully develop the entire park immediately. In such situations, a concept plan or park “master plan” may be formulated for the entirety of the park site prior to the initial phase of development, with subsequent engineering of the first phase being based upon the concept plan. The second phase may occur soon afterwards – usually in another fiscal year – or multiple years later. The proposed Belfast Road Park Site development job, included in this Annual Program, is likely to be completed in multiple phases.

- **Park Enhancements**: Enhancement projects help to improve recreational opportunities at existing parks and recreation sites, and range from entirely new facilities and amenities, to improvements to existing facilities to make them more functional and/or implement new technology. Some recent or underway examples include a synthetic turf field project at County Home Park, a destination playground at Northwest Regional Park, and multiple enhancements to Gwynn Oak Park. Significant enhancements to Cromwell Valley Park, which will soon be under design, are listed as a project within this Annual Program.

- **Rehabilitation**: Park facilities and amenities have a finite life cycle, and eventually need to be replaced or comprehensively rehabilitated to keep them safe for public use. Most of the County’s facility rehabilitation projects are funded without POS assistance, as POS regulations allow only a small proportion of a county’s POS allocation to be utilized for facility renovations/rehabilitation. An underway example of a rehabilitation project is the reconstruction of the Milford Mill Trail.
POTENTIAL FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROJECTS

Parts two and three of this annual program list prospective fiscal year 2022 acquisition and development projects in a tabular format. These sections provide detailed information regarding recreation and parks projects for which POS funding may be requested. Information about other State funding sources such as bond bills and capital grants is likewise provided. All projects listed are sponsored by Baltimore County, which has no incorporated towns within its boundaries. Additional projects not listed in this program may be added throughout the fiscal year as needed, at which time this program shall be amended through written notification to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning. It is important to note that the inclusion of projects within the annual program or the LPPRP does not guarantee that capital funding will be available for implementation, and project priorities may be revised.

POS regulations allow for 100% funding reimbursement for park acquisition projects, with the maximum eligible reimbursement amount typically being based upon the average of two property appraisals, or the purchase price (whichever is lower). POS will fund up to 75% of park development, enhancement or rehabilitation projects costs. This Annual Program includes a somewhat rare type of project that will affect the County’s acquisition-side and development-side POS balances. An approximately 21.6-acre waterfront parcel within the Tradepoint Atlantic development complex is proposed for donation to Baltimore County. The County anticipates submitting POS acquisition application to encumber the property as a POS-funded acquisition, allowing (as per POS regulations/guidelines) an amount of available POS acquisition-side funding equal to 75% of the land’s value to be utilized toward subsequent park development at the property, which is expected to be named Sparrows Point Park. The State funding amounts listed in the acquisition and development project lists that follow assume that this “transfer” of POS funding types will occur.

The tables that follow identify the presently envisioned projects for which POS funding may be utilized. The columns that comprise the tables are:

- Project Name and Description: The name and brief description of each project or job.
- Project’s Relationship to County LPPRP and State goals: This column describes how the given project helps to fulfill the goals and objectives of the County’s Master Plan and the County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, and indicates how the project supports the State of Maryland’s goals outlined in the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.
- Acreage Data: This column presents various park and recreation site acreage data, including the size in acres of parks with development projects. Acreage is not listed for sites in which the specific project sites have not yet been identified.
- Source of Funds: These columns provide details about the various FY 2021 funding sources that are projected to be utilized for each specific project/job.

Notes pertaining to the lists of potential projects: The funding amounts identified, for the most part, are approximate and do reflect actual “contract costs.” Additionally, in order to prevent potential “land speculation” and avoid creating competition or undue value expectations for prospective property purchases, no specific acquisition sites are identified within this Annual Program. Instead, more general “priority acquisition areas” are identified.

Finally, a series of maps are provided for the purpose of identifying project locations throughout the County. Maps are not provided for projects that are not site specific (“Priority Area Park Acquisitions”).
ACQUISITION
PROJECTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name and Description</th>
<th>Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals</th>
<th>Acre Data</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
<th>Local Funding</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Other Fund.</th>
<th>Funding Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Area Park Acquisition(s):</strong> Acquisitions of various properties within areas with defined or anticipated parkland, open space and recreational facility needs. Acquisitions may be pursued to provide sites for recreational development, to expand upon existing parks and recreation sites, to acquire key parcels along planned trails or green space corridors, to preserve green/open space, or to &quot;land bank&quot; quality properties for future park development. Potential areas of emphasis for FY'22 are sites within communities with a strong need for parks, and properties to serve as pocket parks along established suburban corridors. One application is expected to be submitted for the donation of an ~21.6 acre in the Sparrows Point community of southeast Baltimore County. The County intends to (as allowed by POS rules) allocate an amount of POS acquisition-side funding equal to 75% of the value of that donation to the subsequent development of that site. See &quot;Sparrows Point Park Site&quot; in the list of proposed park development projects.</td>
<td><strong>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN:</strong> Helps to meet the general goal of acquiring a variety of parklands and recreation sites for multiple purposes. Certain acquisitions could help achieve goal of enhancing public access to the Bay and its tributaries. <strong>STATE GOALS:</strong> Supports the Marland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Goal to &quot;Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.&quot;</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>$10,300,000</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
<td>$8,100,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>State funding is local-side POS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,300,000</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
<td>$8,100,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
## PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2022 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name and Description</th>
<th>Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals</th>
<th>Park/Site Acres</th>
<th>Total Funding*</th>
<th>Local Funding*</th>
<th>State Funding*</th>
<th>Other Funding*</th>
<th>Funding Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Belfast Road Park Site Design and Development:</strong> This project consists of the design and construction of a community park at the presently undeveloped Belfast Road Park Site, in the Sparks community of northern Baltimore County. This site was acquired in 2015, as a part of an effort to provide additional space in northern Baltimore County for park development. The local recreation council has long been leasing private space to support their public recreation programs. It is anticipated that site development will include athletic fields and an indoor recreation facility, though the exact scope of the project has not yet been identified.</td>
<td>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective &quot;Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities.&quot; Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities (as this project is also expected to include a financial contribution from the local recreation council). <strong>STATE GOALS:</strong> Supports the goal of &quot;Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.&quot;</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
<td>$4,300,000</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>State funding is local-side POS. Other funding is anticipated contribution from recreation council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cromwell Valley Park Renovations and Enhancements:</strong> This project consists of multiple major renovations and enhancements at Cromwell Valley Park. The park’s present access road and parking size and configuration do not sufficiently support the ever increasing recreational demand at this centrally located nature park. Expanded parking is needed, as are roadway enhancements. Additionally, the &quot;barnatorium&quot; by the park’s Willow Grove Nature Center is in need of structural renovations. This structure serves as a key indoor program space for the park. Finally, an &quot;Accessible Trail for All&quot; and nature pavilion are to be developed to provide expanded accessible recreation opportunities.</td>
<td>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective &quot;Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities.&quot; Helps to support environmental education programs. Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities (as this project also involves a State capital grant). <strong>STATE GOALS:</strong> Supports the goal of &quot;Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.&quot;</td>
<td>455.0</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$1,050,000</td>
<td>$950,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>State funding consists of $750,000 in local-side POS, as well as $200,000 in State bond bill funds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Funding amounts are approximate, and are subject to change*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name and Description</th>
<th>Project’s Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals</th>
<th>Park/ Site Acres</th>
<th>Total Funding*</th>
<th>Local Funding*</th>
<th>State Funding*</th>
<th>Other Funding*</th>
<th>Funding Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sparrows Point Park Site Development: This project consists of the design and construction of a waterfront community park at a property to be donated to the County, within the Tradepoint Atlantic complex in the Sparrows community of southeast Baltimore County. A portion of the POS funding is expected to derive from the County's acquisition-side balance, as per the option to apply a portion of the value of the donated property to site development. Park design is already underway, and will be excluded from the POS funding application. Facilities to be developed include a recreation center, lighted synthetic turf field, paved path network, playground, pier with floating kayak launch, and parking, in addition to other minor park amenities.</td>
<td>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective &quot;Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities.&quot; Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities (as this project is also expected to include a State capital grant and private financial contributions. <strong>STATE GOALS:</strong> Supports the goals of &quot;Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state,&quot; and &quot;increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.&quot;</td>
<td>~21.6</td>
<td>$16,400,000</td>
<td>$9,200,000</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>State funding consists of $3 million in local-side POS and $3 million in State capital grant funding. Other funding is potential donations/contributions from other parties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS:**

| | | | $25,400,000 | $14,550,000 | $9,450,000 | $1,400,000 |
|**POS FUNDING:** | | | | | | $6,250,000 |
1. Belfast Road Park Site
2. Cromwell Valley Park
3. Sparrows Point Park Site

Potential "Priority Area Park Acquisition" sites not displayed

All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2021.
LOCATION MAP: BELFAST ROAD PARK SITE

All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Property boundaries are approximate. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2021.