

Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2025 Program Open Space (POS) Annual Program



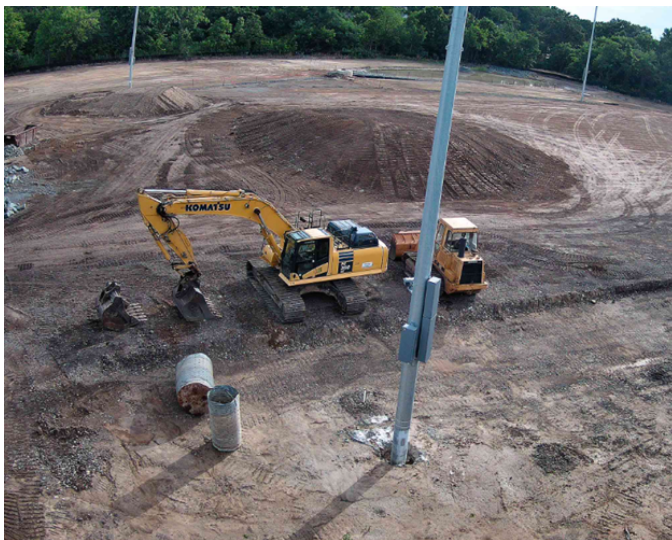
Images on cover page (clockwise from top left):

1. Stairs along trail at Catonsville Community Park
2. Picnic pavilion at Colgate Park
3. Lighted athletic fields at Reisterstown Regional Park
4. Beach and water sports area at Miami Beach Park
5. Amphitheater at Oregon Ridge Park

INTRODUCTION

This Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Program lists park acquisition and development projects currently being explored by Baltimore County, for which fiscal year 2025 Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funding may be pursued. Projects listed here will help to achieve the goals and objectives of Baltimore County's Master Plan 2030 and the County's 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans (LPPRP). Specifically, the projects will support the following LPPRP 2022 and Master Plan 2030 goals:

- Acquire a variety of parklands and recreation sites in order to meet the needs of County residents 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 residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils.
- 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.



New park construction underway at the 21-acre Sparrows Point Park, on land donated by Tradeport Atlantic (TPA), a major global logistics center and local employer. TPA and their tenants are also contributing towards the cost of park development, which also features funding from the State of Maryland (including POS) and Federal government. Photo from June 2024.

- Expand opportunities for residents 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 residents and visitors.
- Continue to partner with affiliated resident organizations, and participate in various partnerships in an effort to enhance public recreation access for Baltimore County residents 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):



Goal 1: Coordination and Collaboration

Strengthen coordination and collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies and other key stakeholders in planning for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and land conservation initiatives.



Goal 2: Promote the Benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation of Natural Lands

Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.



Goal 3: Increase Access to Open Spaces and Waterfronts

Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.



Goal 4: Improve What's Already Available

Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.



Goal 5: Develop an Informed Stewardship Culture

Promote environmental education and use of parks and outdoor areas as teaching tools to foster a positive stewardship ethos among children, youth, and their families.

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.

There were no POS-funded acquisitions completed in fiscal year 2024, though multiple acquisition projects that will likely utilize POS funding were well underway as of the close of the fiscal year.

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 and five years after site acquisition. In some cases, a site may remain unimproved 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.



A new park design and construction project is expected to get underway in FY25 at the Cheverly Road Park Site, acquired with the use of POS funds in 2022. The park design will be based on public input, with an assumption that the large site structure will be razed.

- **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 renovations and enhancements at Oregon Ridge Park - including those to be funded with POS dollars secured in FY24 - will take place over numerous years, implementing recommendations outlined in the Oregon Ridge Park Master Plan.
- **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. Two examples for which FY24 POS applications were submitted are the construction of a loop walking path at Banneker Community Center in Catonsville, and the construction of a shore access path and canoe-kayak launch at Fort Howard Veterans Park in Fort Howard.

The rough concept on the right displays the approximate planned shore access path and canoe - kayak launch at Fort Howard Veterans Park. This project supports the omnipresent objective of increasing public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



- **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.

POTENTIAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 PROJECTS

Parts two and three of this annual program list prospective fiscal year 2025 acquisition and development projects. 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.

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 lists the most relevant 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 funding sources that are projected to be utilized for each specific project/job. Since capital funding (including POS) carries over from fiscal year to fiscal year, these figures will often include funding that carried over from the prior fiscal year.

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, specific acquisition sites are not generally identified within this Annual Program. Instead, more general priority acquisition areas are identified.

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, such as potential acquisitions not yet identified and trail improvements to be located in a variety of parks.

This Annual Program was amended in March of 2025, in order to revise the park development list and identify two specific acquisition projects

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Acre Data	Total Funding	Local Funding	POS Funding	Other Funding	Federal Funding	Funding Notes
Priority Area Park Acquisition(s): Acquisition 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, expand upon existing parks and recreation sites, acquire key parcels along planned trails or green space corridors, preserve green/open space, or to produce a more equitable distribution of parkland across our county. Potential areas of emphasis for FY25 are sites within communities with a strong need for parks and/or high social vulnerability, opportunities to provide more public waterfront parklands (example: the former Crane Power Plant, now known as Carroll Island Park Site), potential park additions (example: West Towson Park Addition), and properties to serve as pocket parks along established	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: 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. STATE GOALS: Supports the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Goal to "Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities."	TBD	\$21,011,300	\$4,491,975	\$13,603,046	\$1,250,000	\$1,666,279	Other funding is state aid; Federal funding is grant which may be used for park development in lieu of acquisition
TOTALS:			\$21,011,300	\$4,491,975	\$13,603,046	\$1,250,000	\$1,666,279	
Note that the above funding figures include unexpended funds that carried over from FY24. Only \$2,198,332 of the POS funds are new FY25 funding								

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	POS Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
Northwest Regional Park Splash Pad: This project consists of the design and construction of a splash pad - sprayground and associated amenities at Northwest Regional Park, in the Owings Mills area of northwest Baltimore County.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils. STATE GOALS: Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.	322.7	\$2,700,000	\$700,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	
Reisterstown Regional Park LED Lighting Conversion: This project consists of the upgrade of the existing field lighting system at Reisterstown Regional Park. The existing aged metal halide lighting system, which serves the park's ball diamonds and athletic fields, will be replaced with a more effective and energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) system. This project will continue the County's efforts to enhance athletic facility lighting systems.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils; Provide a sufficient quantity of traditional outdoor recreation facilities such as ball diamonds, athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds and picnic areas. STATE GOALS: Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.	130.0	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	POS Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
Colgate Park Renovations and Enhancements: This project consists of various renovations and enhancements at Colgate Park, in the Colgate community of eastern Baltimore County. This project will be pursued through Recreation and Park's local parks comprehensive enhancement programs, which seeks to revitalize the County's older neighborhood and community parks.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councilss; STATE GOALS: Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.	6.9	\$600,000	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	
Catonsville Community Park Renovations and Enhancements: This project consists of various renovations and enhancements at Catonsville Community Park, in the Catonsville community of southwestern Baltimore County. This project will be pursued through Recreation and Park's local parks comprehensive enhancement programs, which seeks to revitalize the County's older neighborhood and community parks. Catonsville Community shares a campus with Catonsville Senior Center, and its facilities help to support life-long recreational activity.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councilss; STATE GOALS: Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.	40.2	\$750,000	\$225,000	\$525,000	\$0	\$0	

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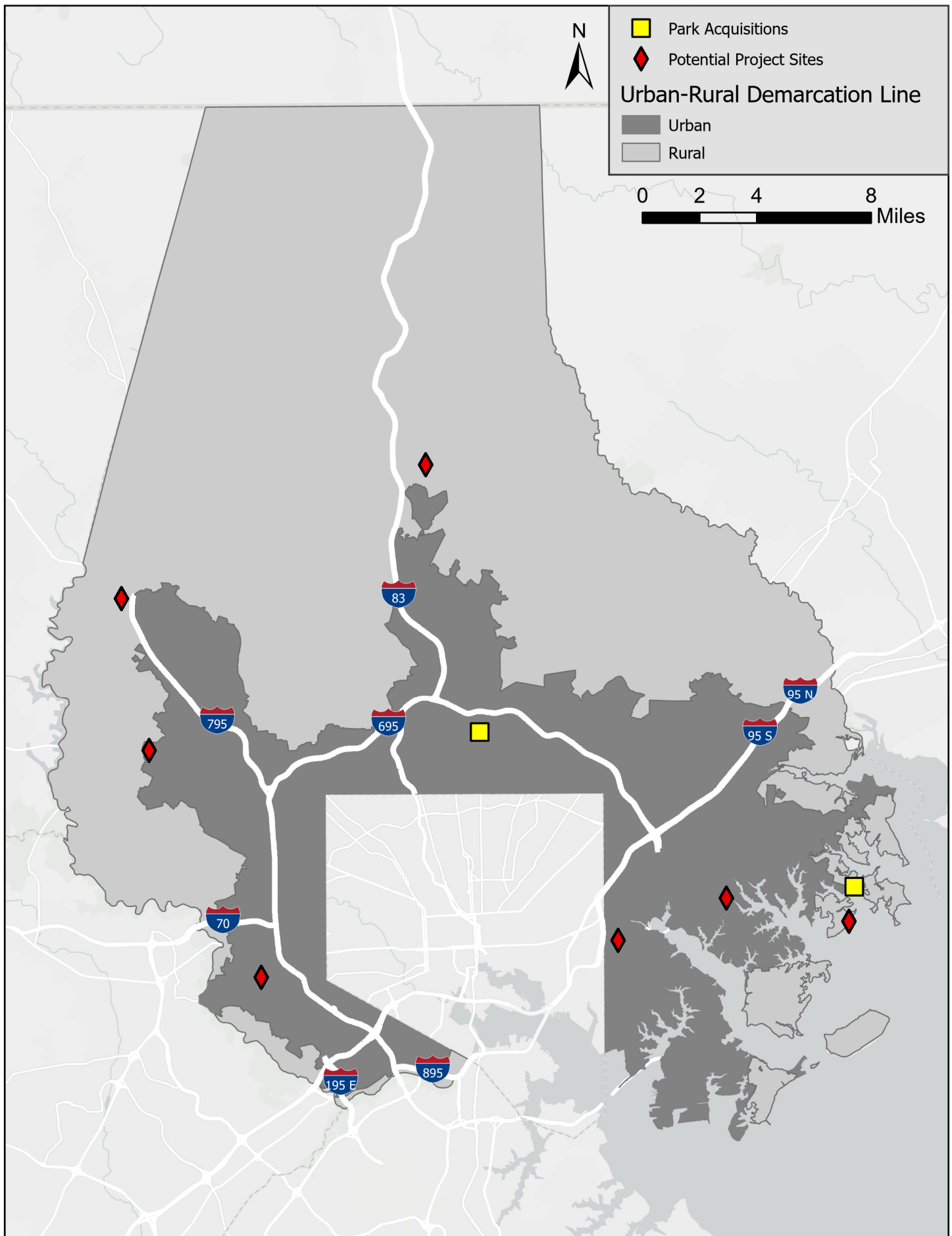
Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	POS Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
Miami Beach Park Renovations and Enhancements: This project consists of various renovations and enhancements at Miami Beach Park, a waterfront facility in the Carroll Island area of eastern Baltimore County. The park has been transformed into a water sports center in recent years, offering citizens access to a wide range of water-based activities.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils; Enhance public access to the natural environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries STATE GOALS: Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.	60.9	\$1,900,000	\$543,000	\$1,357,000	\$0	\$0	
Fields at Renaissance Park Exercise Pavilion: This project involves the construction of a pavilion and installation of fexercise equipment at the Fields at Renaissance Park in the Essex - Stembridge area of eastern Baltimore County. This facility will supplement recreational activities available at the park.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils; STATE GOALS: Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.	40.2	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	POS Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
Sparks Park Improvement and Development: This project consists of improving the current park site with pickleball courts and a playground. The park currently supports outdoor recreation through its two athletic fields, outdoor multipurpose court, and ball diamond. Additional facilities will attract families and diversify users, as well as meet the needs of increasing participation in pickleball. The park is located in Sparks Glencoe community and its proximity to York Road, a major artery, makes it an accessible community park to both the rural and urban population of Baltimore County.	LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils. Provide new types of recreational facilities, where appropriate, and where sufficient demand has been expressed by County citizens. STATE GOALS: Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public's understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.	49	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	
TOTALS:			\$8,350,000	\$2,718,000	\$5,632,000	\$0	\$0	

MAPS

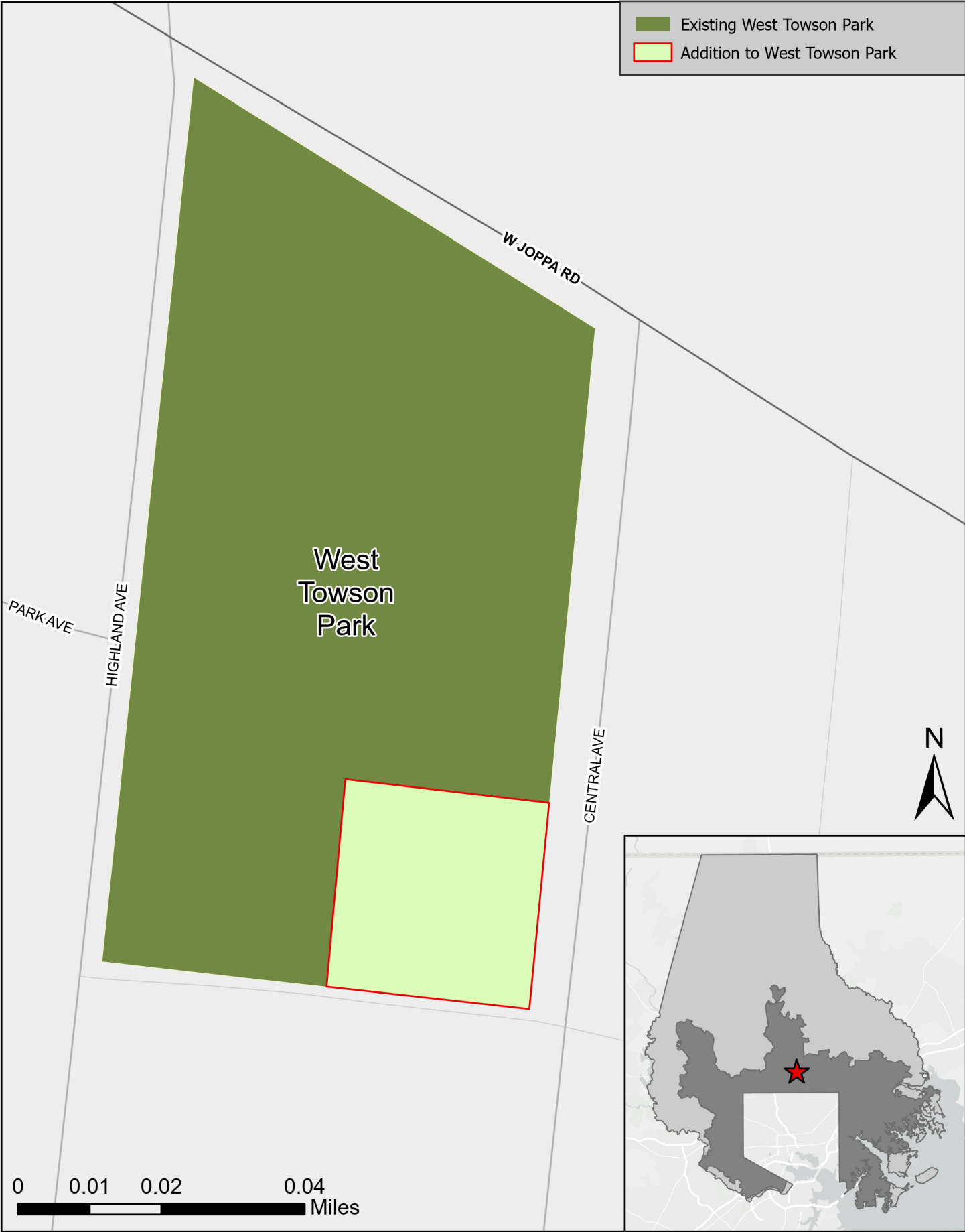
FY25 Potential Program Open Space Project Sites



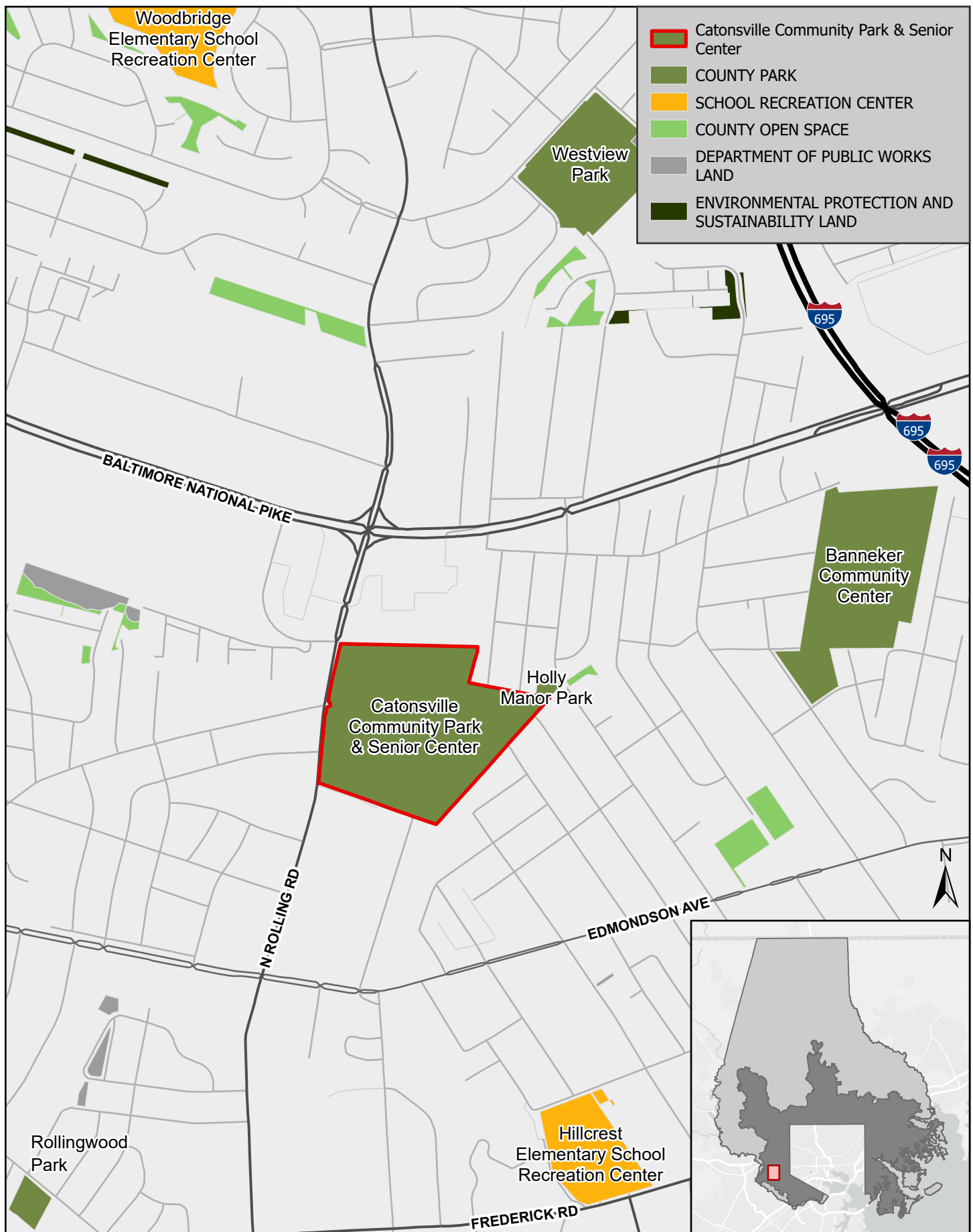
Location Map: Carroll Island Park Site Acquisition



Location Map: West Towson Park Addition



Location Map: Catonsville Community Park and Senior Center



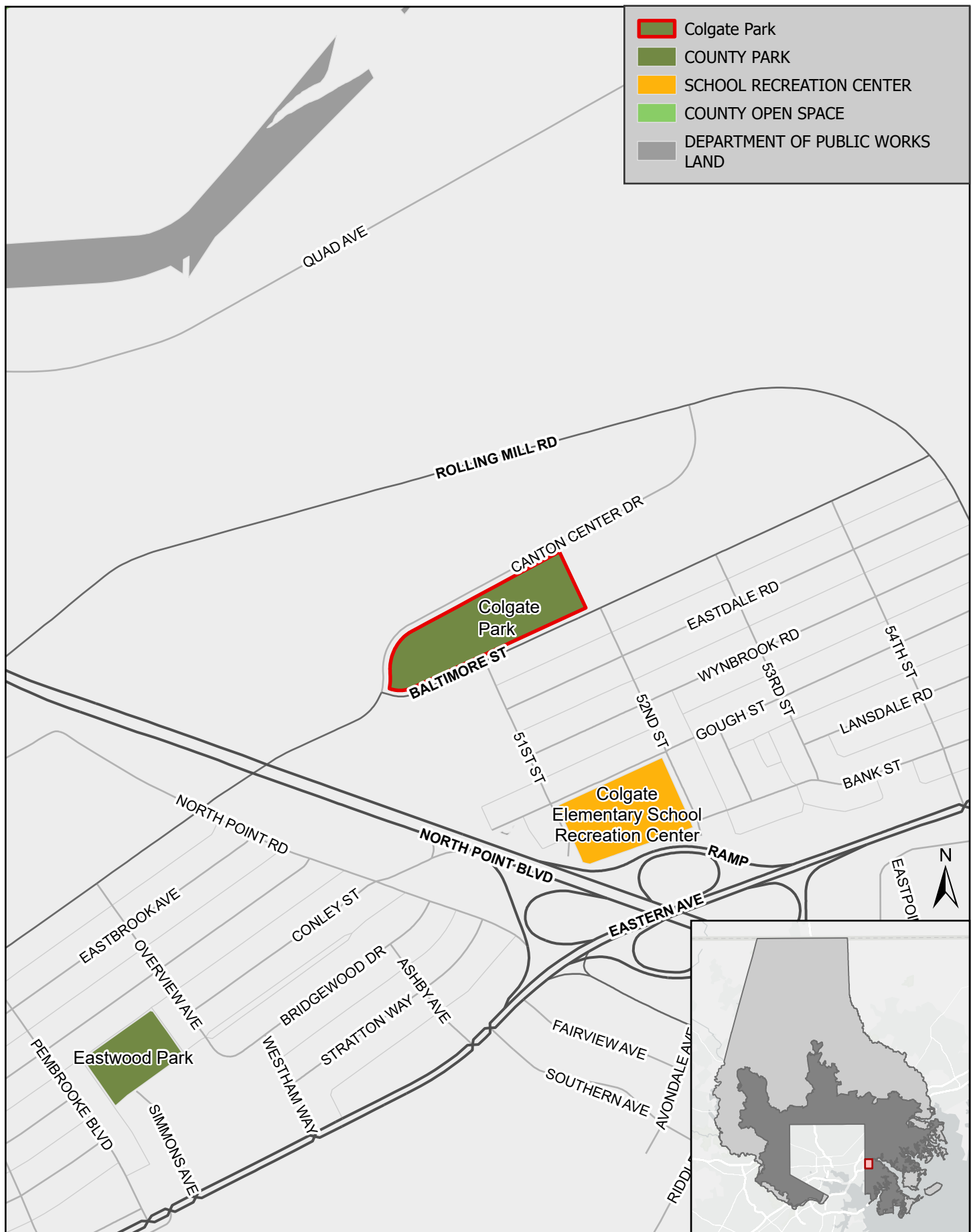
Date Created: June 27, 2024

Credits: Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

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Location Map: Colgate Park



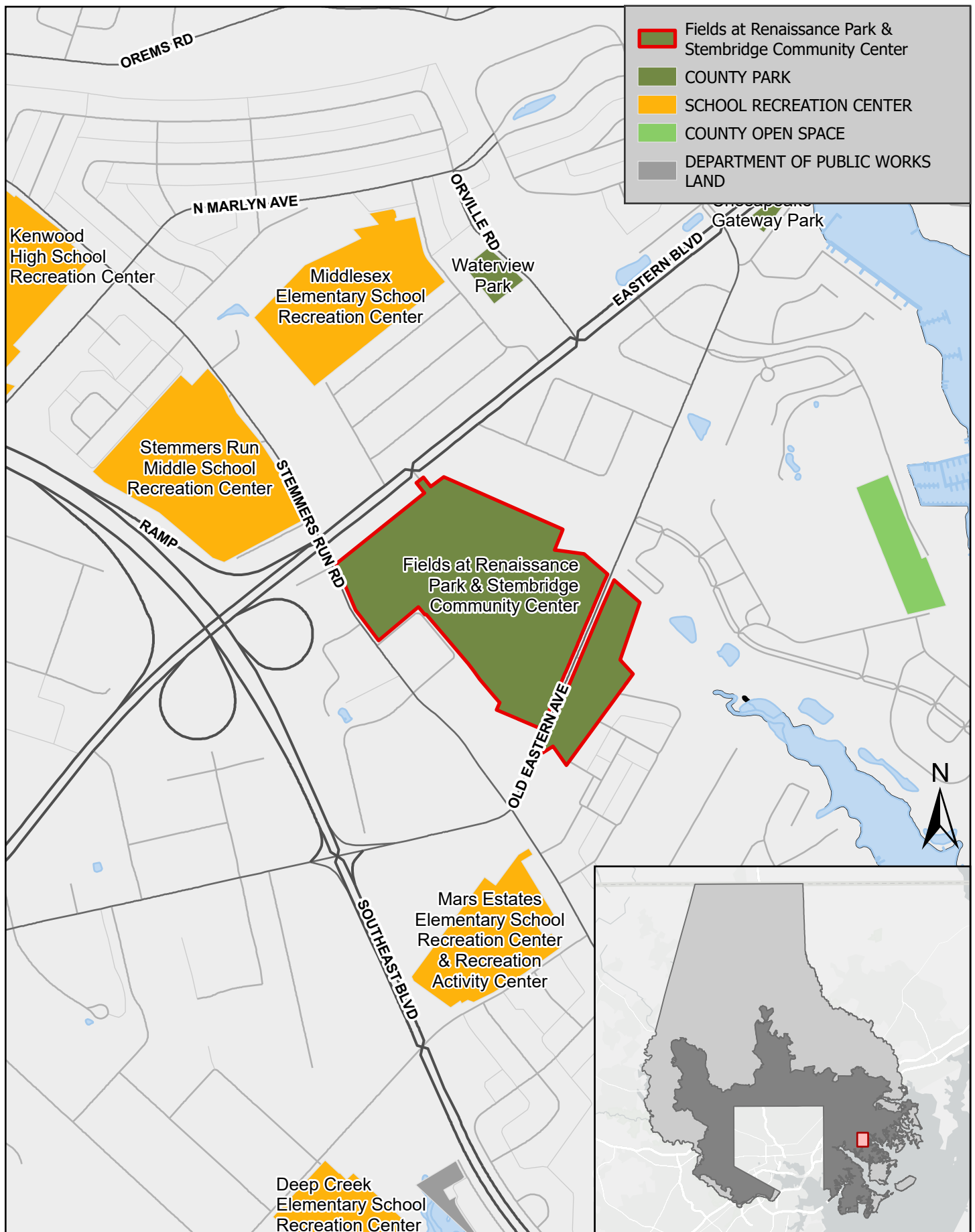
Date Created: June 27, 2024

Credits: Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

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Location Map: Fields at Renaissance Park



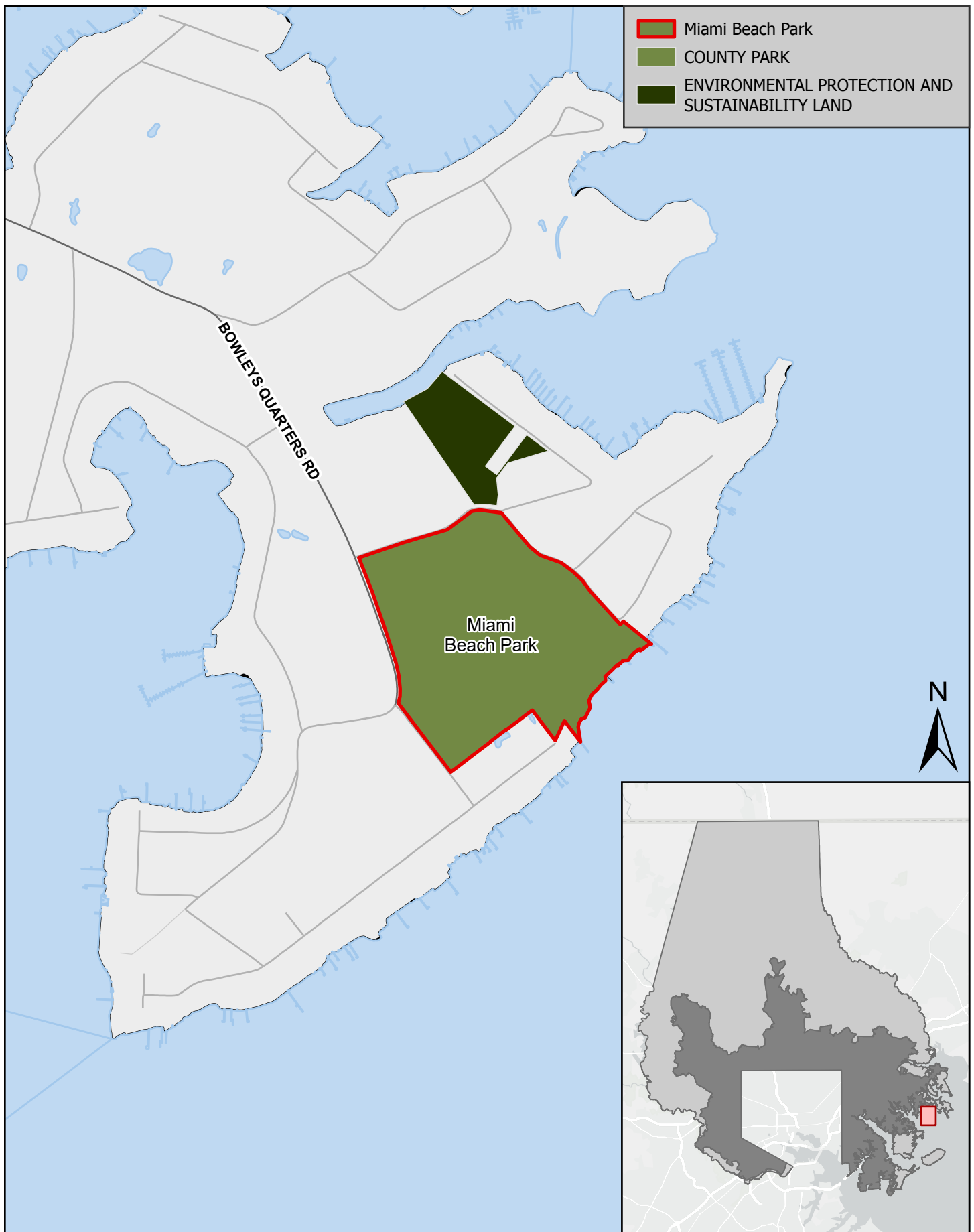
Date Created: June 27, 2024

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Location Map: Miami Beach Park



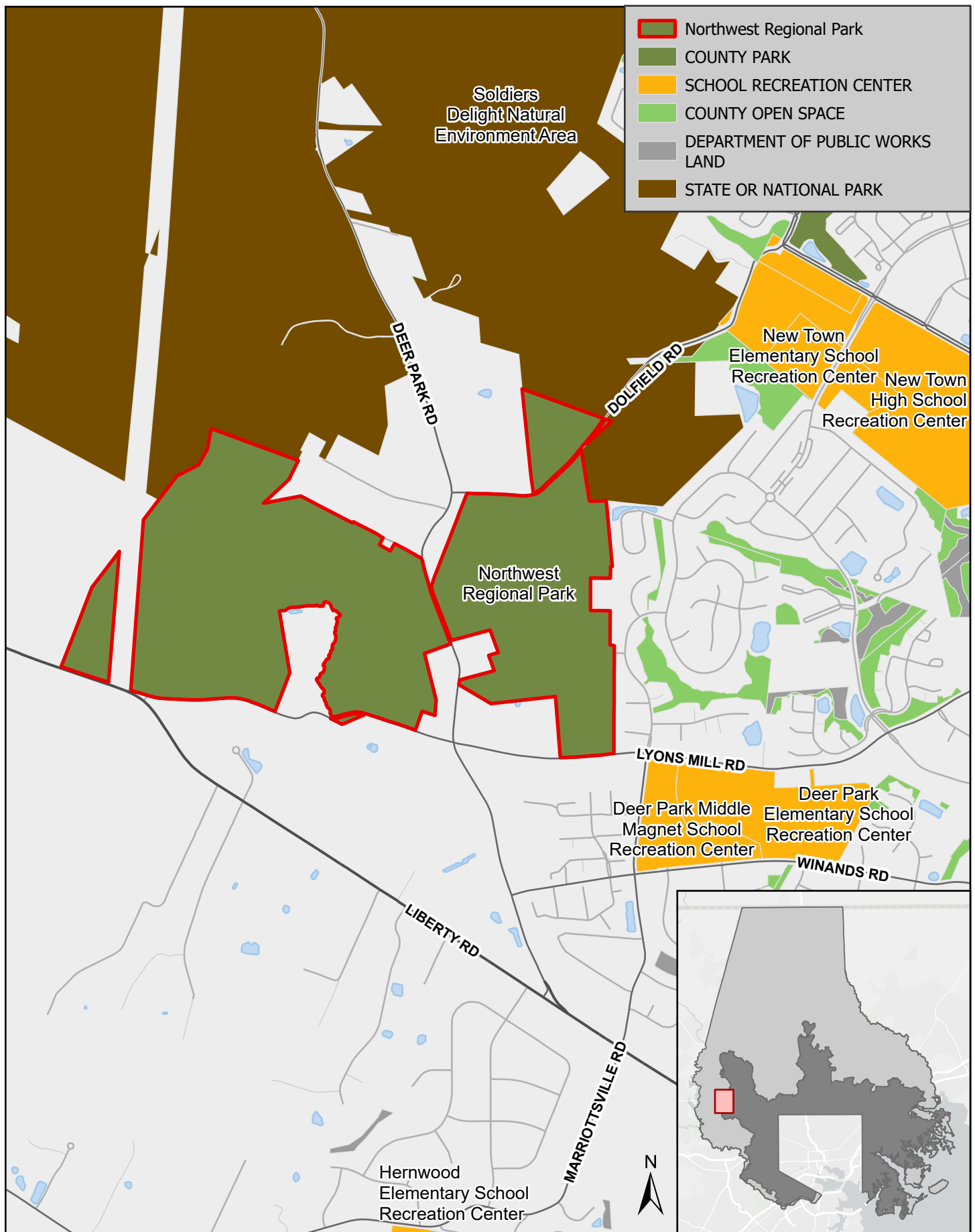
Date Created: June 27, 2024

Credits: Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

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Location Map: Northwest Regional Park



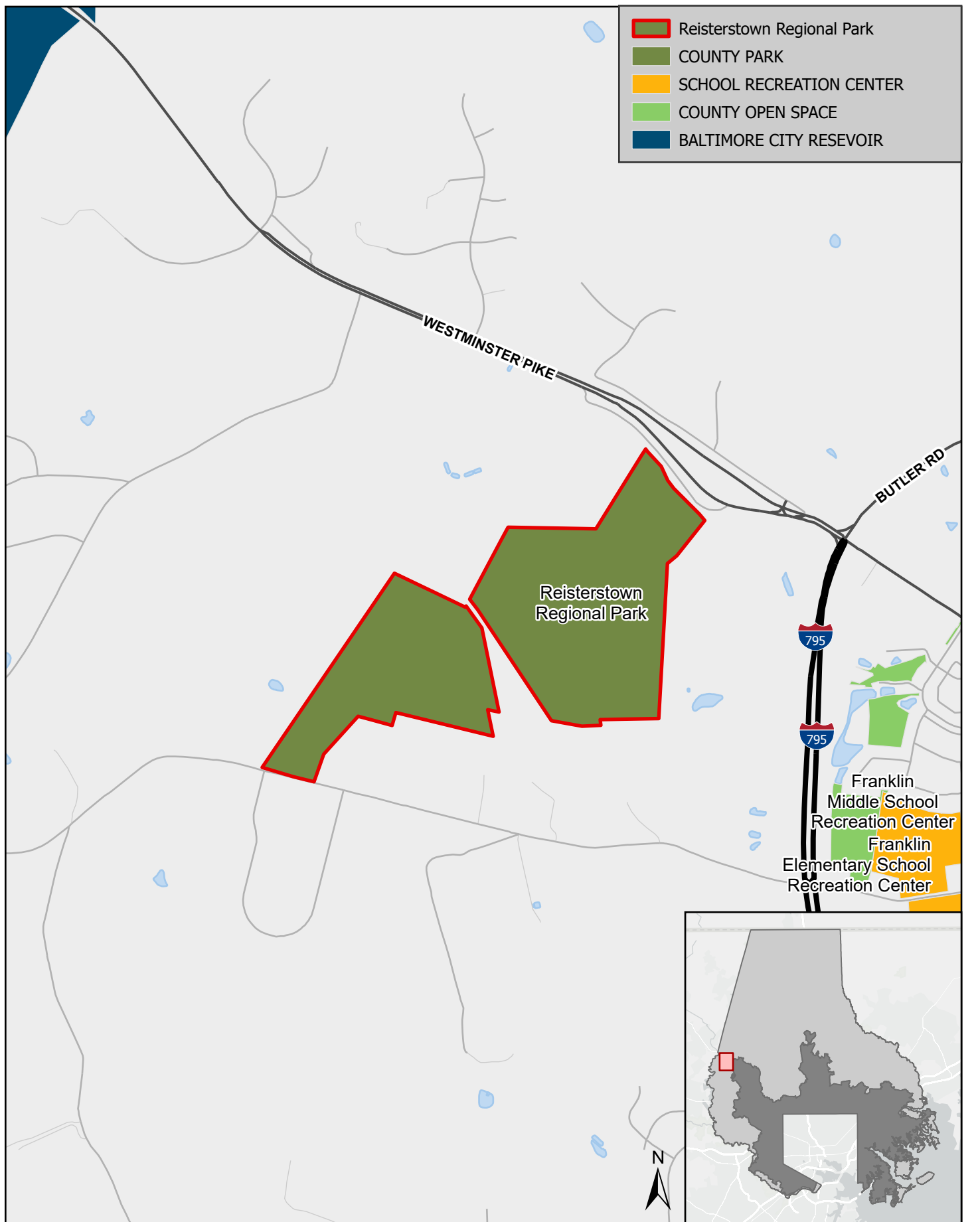
Date Created: June 27, 2024

Credits: Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

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Location Map: Reisterstown Regional Park



Date Created: June 27, 2024

Credits: Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

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Miles

Location Map: Sparks Park

