

## **PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

The Worcester County Department of Recreation & Parks is designated by the Worcester County Commissioners to administer the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space.

The Annual Program is consistent with the goals established in the 2022 Worcester County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. All projects were presented and approved by the Worcester County Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee (May 8, 2025). The Annual Program was then presented and approved by Worcester County Administration and Worcester County Commissioners (June 17, 2025).

Worcester County's priorities over the next five years, as determined by the 2022 Worcester County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, will be the development of acquired recreational lands in the northern part of the county, as well as an emphasis on the modernization and updating of existing facilities.

The project selection process is based on the following criteria:

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## **PART 2 - 2026 ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

There are no current plans to acquire land in FY26. Worcester County has met its land acquisition goals that are determined by the state of Maryland.

## **PART 3 – 2026 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### **Showell Park- Parking Area- Showell, Maryland**

This proposed project will include engineering, design, and construction for additional parking needs at Showell Park. Currently, Showell Park has a limited amount of parking that fills up during peak use times, limiting visitors to park on the side of the road, causing safety issues.

#### **2022 LPPRP Goals**

- County Goal # 5 - Increase attention to cleanliness and park upkeep due to influx and increased population of users since the onset of the covid pandemic.
- County Goal # 11- Continue to require new development to provide for its internal passive and recreation needs.

### **Stockton Park- Pavillion Replacement- Stockton, Maryland**

The proposed project includes the replacement of the pavilion at Stockton Park. The current pavilion is approximately 16' by 30' and in need of replacement to continue serving the public. Replacement pavilion options will be similar in size.

#### **2022 LPPRP Goals**

- County Goal #6 - Continue to evaluate older playgrounds and park amenities to stay in compliance and replace/enhance where necessary

### **John Walter Smith Park- Concession Stand Roof Replacement- Snow Hill, Maryland**

The proposed project includes the replacement of the metal roof at John Walter Smith Park concession stand. The current roof is at the end of its useful life as it is showing significant amounts of rust, and leak repairs are needed more frequently.

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**Northern Worcester Athletic Complex- Parking Lot Light Project- Berlin, Maryland**

The proposed project includes installing LED lighting at NWAC parking lot due to the number of practices, games, tournaments and other recreational activities that commence in the evening hours. When constructed, the parking lot had conduit stubbed into strategic locations for light placement. Lighting will increase the overall safety of the park.

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**John Walter Smith Park- Walking Trail- Snow Hill, Maryland**

The proposed project is the development of a 1.2 mile passing walking trail at John Walter Smith Park. This project will utilize porous surfacing to protect the environment while creating passive recreation opportunities in an overburdened and underserved community.

2022 LPPRP Goals

- County Goal # 10 -Integrate walking trails and bikeways into new developments and facilitate a greenways system .

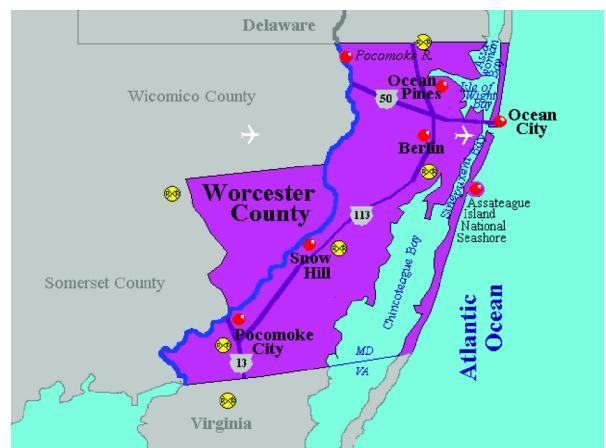
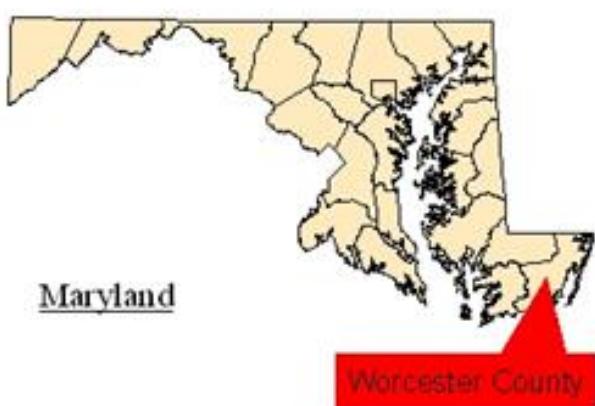
**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE  
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION  
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Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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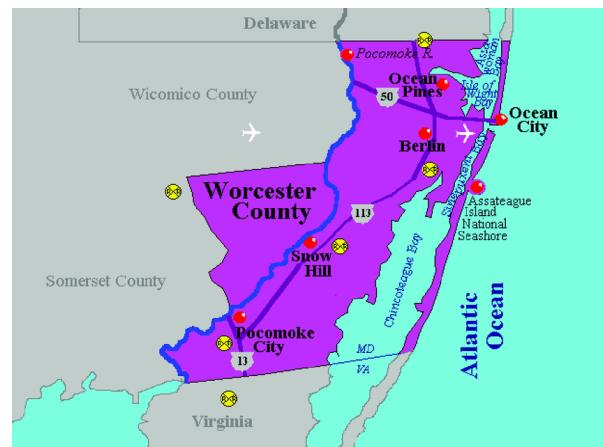
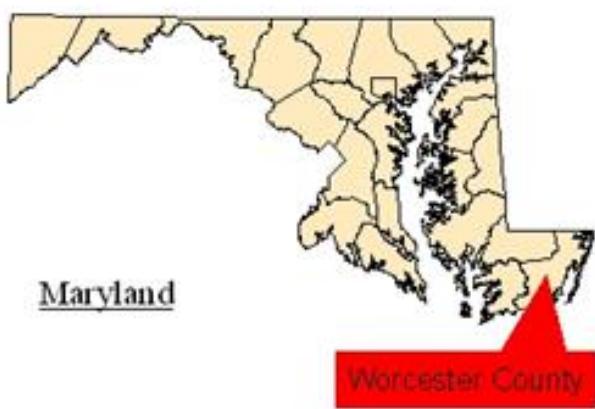
Stockton Park



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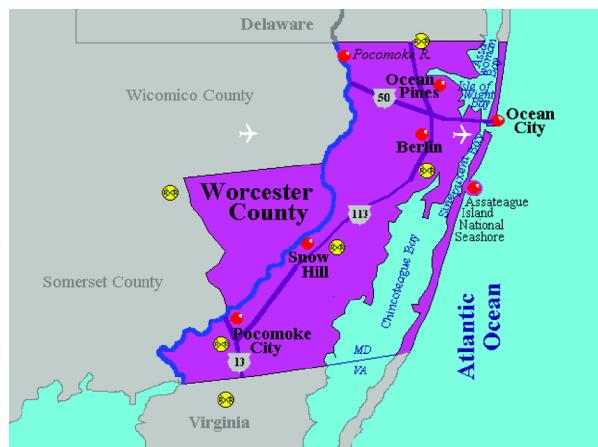
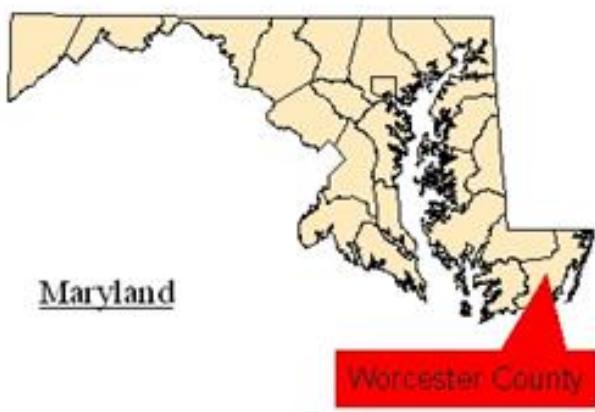
Northern Worcester Athletic Complex



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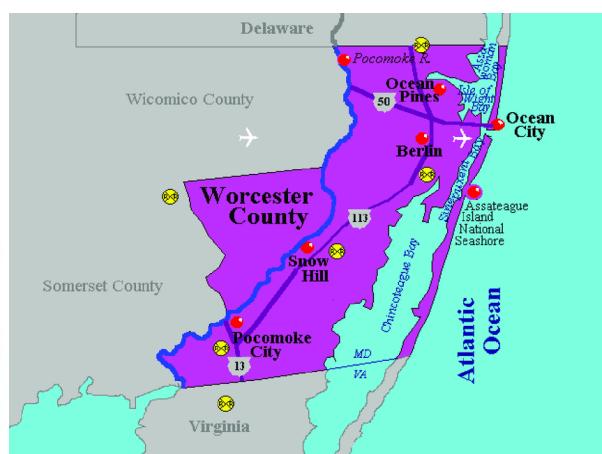
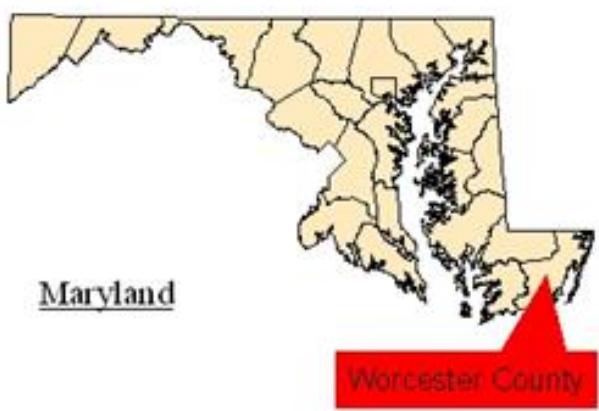
John Walter Smith Park



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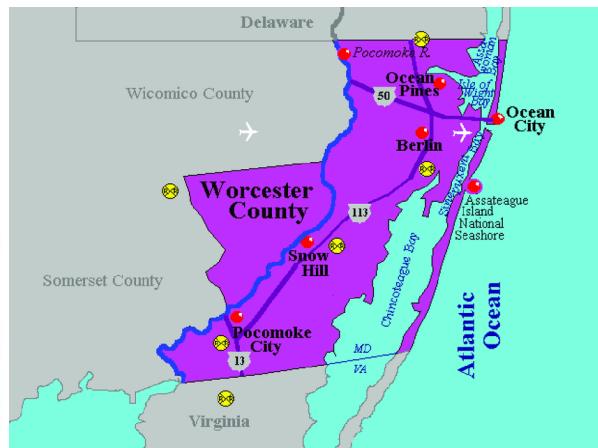
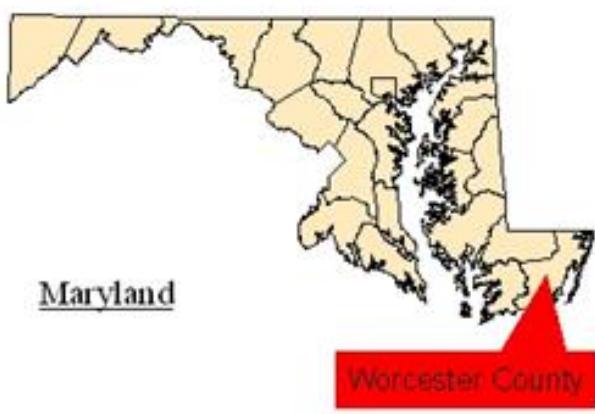
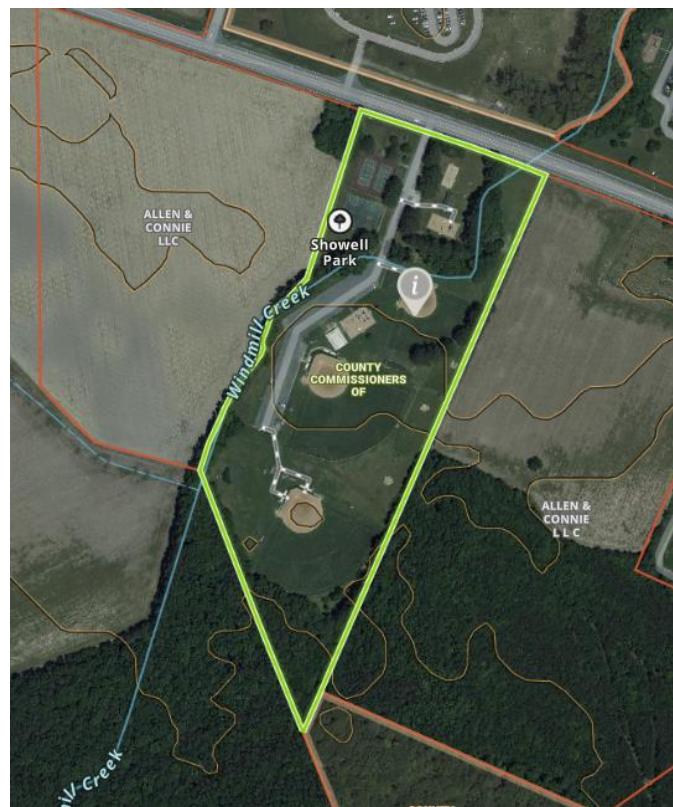
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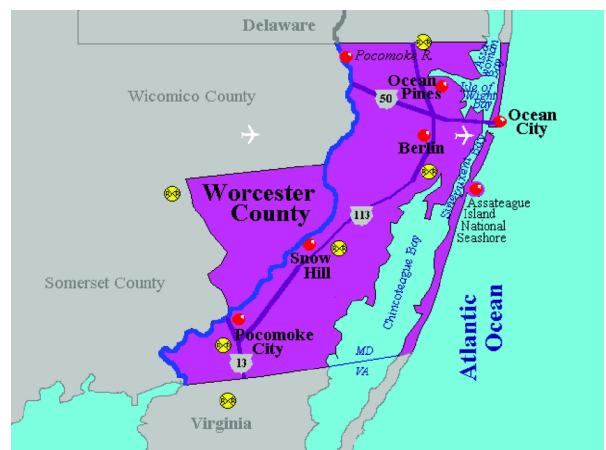
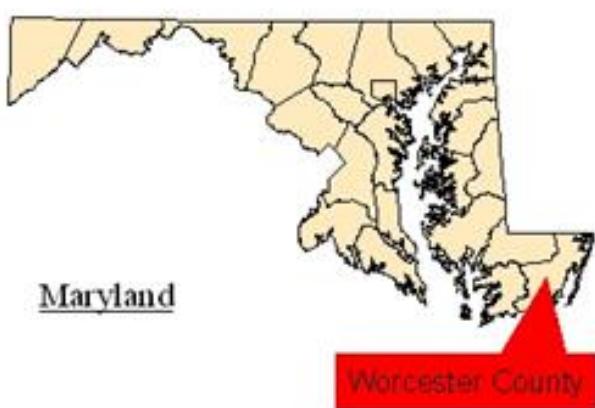
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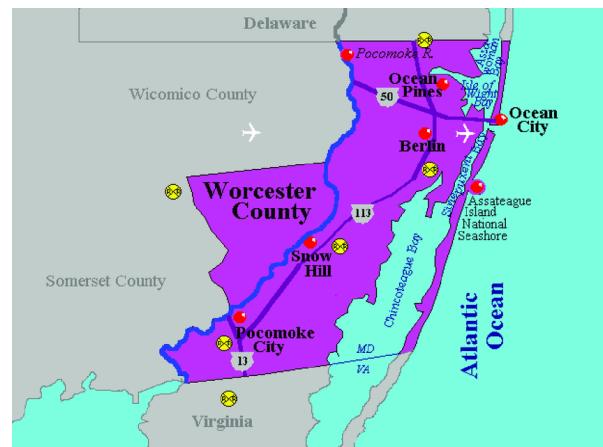
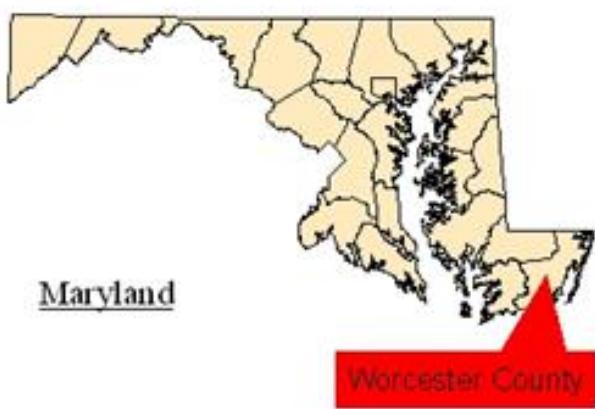
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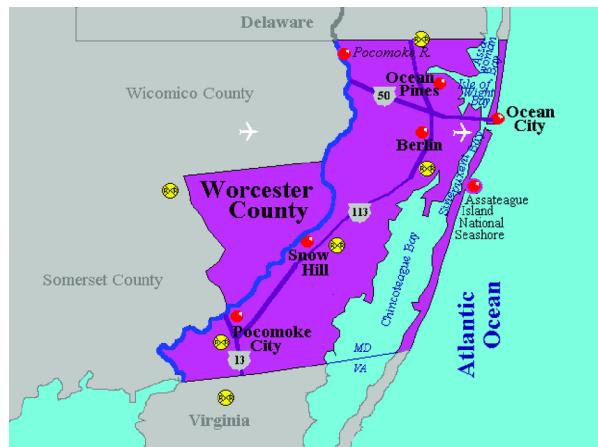
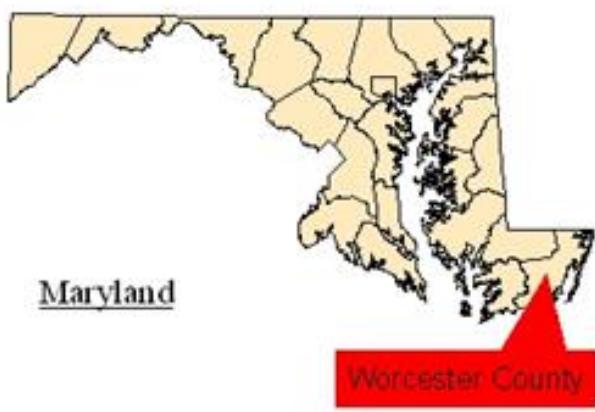
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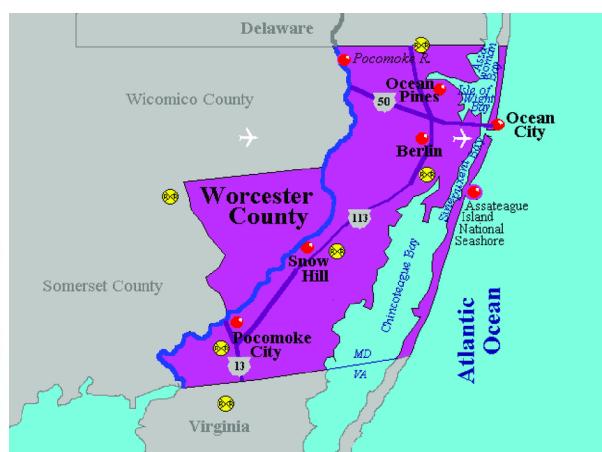
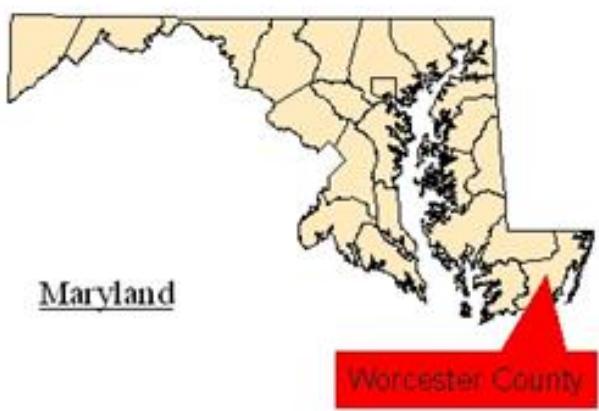
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