

## **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:

- The 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan
- Recreation Facilities and Parks in Growth Areas
- Park User / Citizen needs survey
- Useful life, previous POS project application date
- Recreation & Parks Advisory Board recommendations
- Distribution of available funds to benefit all communities, County-wide
- Recreation & Parks Contributions to Economic Growth

## **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.

#### **2022 LPPRP Goals**

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

### **Newtown Park- Concession Stand Roof Replacement- Pocomoke, Maryland**

The proposed project includes the replacement of the metal roof at Newtown 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.

2022 LPPRP Goals

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

**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.

2022 LPPRP Goals

- County Goal #11 - Continue to require new development to provide for its internal passive and recreation needs.

**John Walter Smith Park- Dugout Replacement- Snow Hill, Maryland**

The proposed project includes the replacement of dugouts on Field 5,6, and 7 at John Walter Smith Park. The dugouts that are currently there are original to the park and in need of replacement. New dugouts will provide better aesthetics, functionality, and safety to recreational users.

2022 LPPRP Goals

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

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE**  
***ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION***  
**FISCAL YEAR 2026**

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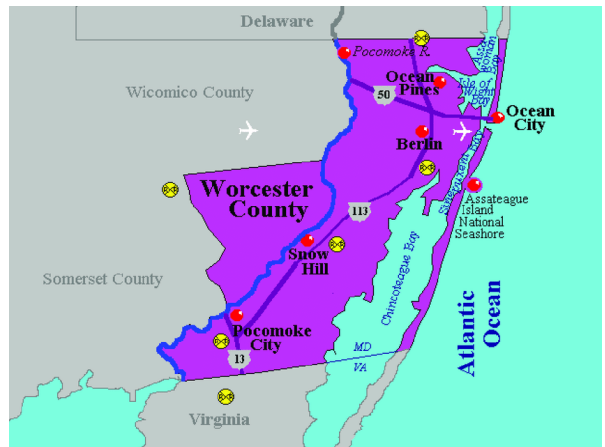
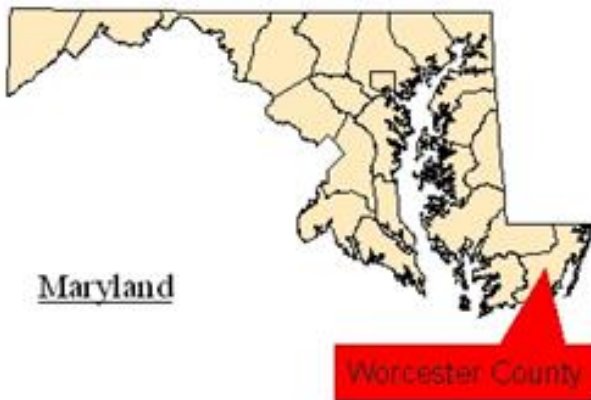
**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE**  
**ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT**  
FISCAL YEAR 2026

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>	<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>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
County	Showell Park- Parking Area	21			\$150,000	\$15,000	\$135,000	
County	Stockton Park- Pavillion Replacement	3.75			\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	
County	John Walter Smith Park- Concession Stand Roof Replacement	88			\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	
County	Newtown Park- Concession Stand Roof Replacement	58			\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	
County	Northern Worcester Athletic Complex- Parking Lot Lights	94			\$75,000	\$7,500	\$67,500	
County	John Walter Smith- Dugout Replacement				\$125,000	\$12,500	\$112,500	
					\$500,000	\$50,000	\$450,000	

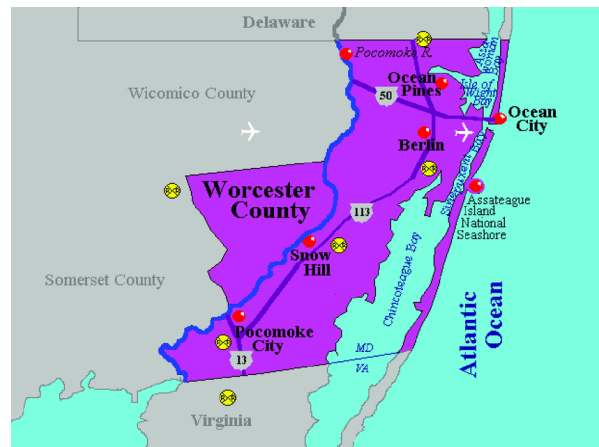
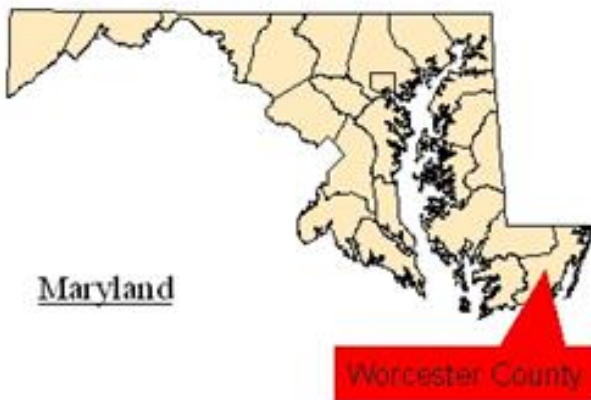
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Program Open Space

Stockton Park



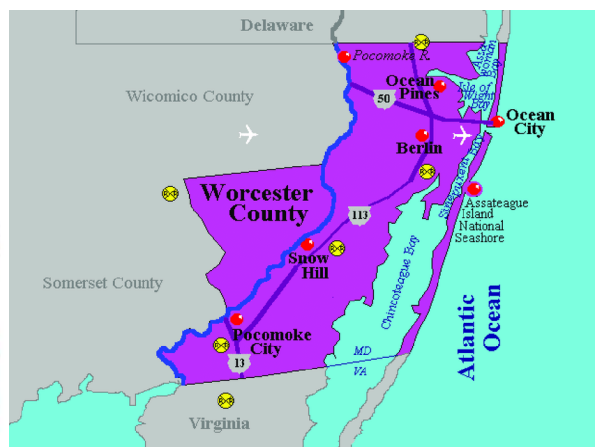
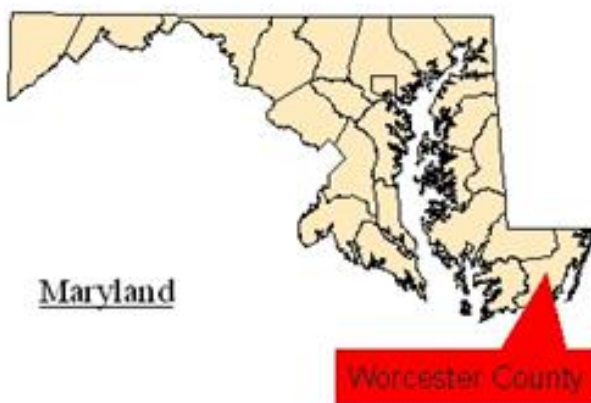
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Program Open Space  
Northern Worcester Athletic Complex



# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## Program Open Space

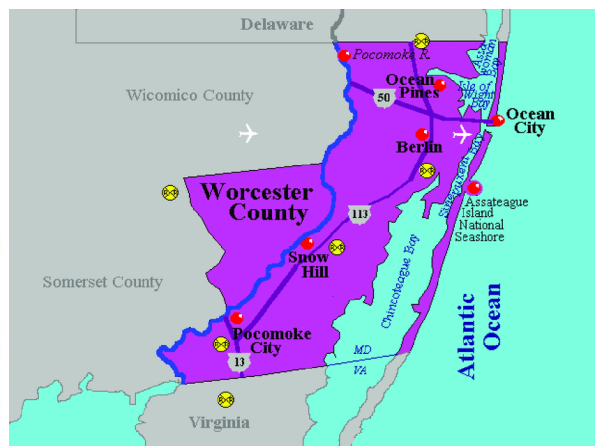
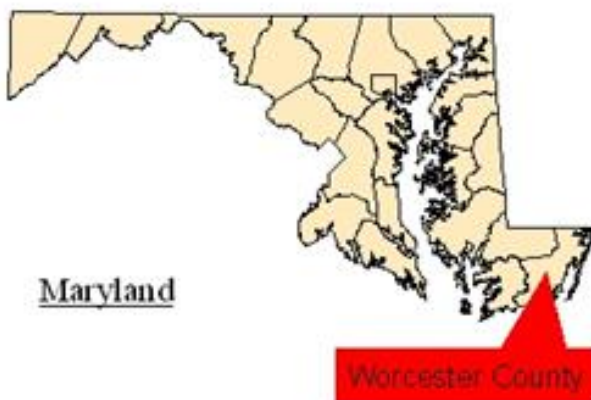
### John Walter Smith Park



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Newtown Park



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Showell Park

