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May 16, 2026

Ms. Margaret Lashar  
Program Open Space Administrator  
Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE:** Howard County FY2026 Annual Program for Program Open Space Assistance

Dear Ms. Lashar:

Enclosed is the FY2026 Howard County Annual Program for Program Open Space funding. This Annual Program is in accordance with our 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan and the Plan Howard 2030 General Plan.

A narrative is attached to address our project selection process, as well as the compatibility of our projects to the Eight Visions, the Plan Howard 2030 General Plan, the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, and the Smart Growth initiatives. We have listed projects to fully encumber all available funds.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Linz".

Robert E. Linz, Chief  
Bureau of Capital Projects

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. Mooneyhan".

Nick Mooneyhan, Director  
Department of Recreation and Parks

Enclosure

cc: Calvin Ball, County Executive  
Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer  
Delegate Courtney Watson  
Delegate Chao Wu  
Delegate Jen Terrasa  
Delegate Jessica Feldmark  
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary  
Delegate Pam Guzzone  
Delegate Terri Hill  
Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Senator Clarence K. Lam  
Senator Guy J. Guzzone  
Debbie Herr Cornwell, Maryland Department of Planning

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

<u>Sponsor, Council District</u>	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage (rounded)</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>
<b>Howard County, 3</b>	<b>SHUMAN PROPERTY</b> – This property is a 4-acre parcel located at 9436 Fairview Avenue in Laurel, Maryland. This acquisition will connect two other parcels of Howard County-owned land along the Patuxent River to expand the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This project will protect the Patuxent River and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.	0.00	4	4	TBD	\$0	\$TBD	\$0
<b>Howard County, 1 and 5</b>	<b>PATAPSCO GREENWAY</b> –This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patapsco River to expand the Patapsco Greenway in Howard County, especially along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. This project will protect the river and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$0	TBD	\$0
<b>Howard County, 3 - 5</b>	<b>PATUXENT GREENWAY</b> – This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patuxent River to expand on the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This project will protect the Patuxent River and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$0	TBD	\$0
<b>Howard County, 1 - 5</b>	<b>HOWARD COUNTY INTERIOR GREENWAYS</b> - This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along existing greenways throughout Howard County. This project will protect riparian/floodplain areas and create opportunities for community park facilities on the upland portions of the greenways.	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$0	TBD	\$0
<b>Howard County, Planning</b>	<b>HOWARD COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN</b> - The 2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is mandated by State Law and a prerequisite for Maryland Program Open Space funding. Comprehensive planning is a continuous process. This is a request for the FY25 installment.	NA	NA	NA	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
<b>PROPOSED ACQUISITION PROJECT TOTALS</b>					<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Source of Funds (for Annual Program Only)</u>			
		<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
<b>Howard County, 3</b>	<b>EAST COLUMBIA LIBRARY PARK</b> - This property is a 16.59-acre parcel adjacent to the East Columbia Library at 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia. The property is generally flat, has a restroom building, and was previously programmed as grass multipurpose fields, and is served by the same parking lot that serves the library. The County wishes to construct 2 irrigated natural turf multipurpose fields, 2 lighted basketball courts, a playground, picnic pavilion, storage shed and pathways connecting to the Owen Brown community. This request is for additional funding.	16.59	\$222,222.22	22,222.22	200,000	\$0
<b>Howard County, 4</b>	<b>ROBINSON NATURE CENTER – AMPHITHEATER CONSTRUCTION</b> – Howard County will be designing and constructing an amphitheater and access routes that will fit in with the natural setting of the Robinson Nature Center. The project will include seating, accessible walks, and a stage area. The amphitheater will support County, Recreation and Parks, and Center Programs and performances. The design and construction will be to the maximum extent practical utilize natural materials and environmentally sensitive design practices. The design will be developed by in-house planning staff. This request is for additional funding.	18	\$222,222.22	\$22,222.22	\$200,000	\$0
<b>Howard County, 5</b>	<b>SCHOOLEY MILL PARK – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS</b> – Schooley Mill Park is over 39 years old and is heavily used by park patrons. We propose to mill, add paving fabric and overlay roadways, pathways and parking lots.	192	\$444,732.93	\$44,473.29	\$400,259.64	\$0
<b>Howard County, 1</b>	<b>CENTENNIAL PARK – WEST AREA – PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT</b> – The existing Centennial Park – West Area Playground is over 25 years old and needs to be replaced with newer, safer and upgraded components.	337	\$388,888.88	\$38,888.88	\$350,000	\$0
<b>Howard County, 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>PARK SHADE STRUCTURES – CENTENNIAL PARK, BLANDAIR PARK, HUNTINGTON PARK, CYPRESSMEDE PARK</b> – Shade structures will be designed and constructed for the playground area at Centennial Park – North Area, the bocce courts at Blandair Park, the swings at Huntington Park and Cypressmede Park playground.	337 298 11	\$277,777.77	\$27,777.77	\$250,000	\$0
<b>Howard County, 1</b>	<b>WOODLAND ROAD – PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES</b> – Replacement of three (3) existing bridges along the Woodland Road pathway and may make elevation changes to them.	N/A	\$222,222.22	\$22,222.22	\$200,000	\$0
<b>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TOTALS</b>			\$1,778,066.24	\$177,806.60	\$1,600,259.64	\$0

# **FY2026 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM** **HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Program for Howard County consists of five (5) land acquisition projects and ~~twelve (5)~~ park development projects.  
six (6)

In the Land Acquisition category, our top priority for this fiscal year is the purchase of the 4-acre parcel located at 9436 Fairview Avenue in Laurel, Maryland. This acquisition will connect two other parcels of Howard County-owned land along the Patuxent River to expand the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This project will protect the Patuxent River and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.

Our second, third, and fourth land acquisition priorities will be the ongoing effort to acquire land within the Patapsco, Patuxent, and Interior Greenways, respectively, to protect environmentally sensitive areas while enhancing parkland connectivity and opportunities for recreation. Our ~~seventh~~ <sup>fifth</sup> goal, which is to be grouped with our land acquisition priorities, is to request our fourth and fifth installments of Program Open Space funding to support preparation of Howard County's 2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (the "Plan").

In the park development category, we have six (6) projects: Additional Funding for the East Columbia Library Park and Robinson Nature Center Amphitheater; Schooley Mill Roadway Improvements; Centennial Park West Area Playground Replacement; Park Shade Structures for Blandair Park, Centennial Park, Huntington Park and Cypressmede Park; and the Woodland Road Bridges. These projects will totally obligate the Howard County FY2026 allocation of POS funds and all unencumbered funds from previous years. Below please find the project selection process, a description of each project, and a discussion of how these projects address local and State planning guidelines and initiatives.

### **Project Selection Process:**

Since there are no incorporated towns in Howard County, the County maintains total responsibility for the Project Selection Process. The projects selected for funding satisfy the following requirements:

1. Previously approved projects that are under-funded, receive priority consideration.
2. The project satisfies an immediate need for recreation land or facilities as outlined in the existing 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, and the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Program.
3. All projects must conform to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992, and the Smart Growth Initiatives.
4. POS funds are distributed throughout the various Planning Areas of the County unless alternative funding satisfies the needs of specific Planning Areas. If large projects require all or a significant portion of an annual allocation, other Planning Areas receive priority status in subsequent years.

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5. If the specific project(s) is/are for park construction, the appropriation of the 10% local match must be in place.
6. The projects must be “actionable”, meaning appraisals can be secured with reasonable confidence that a sale can be consummated, or in the case of construction, the project must be in the final stages of design and progressing to, or in, the contract bidding process.
7. Willing seller of programmed acreage - if there is a willing seller of land, which has been or can be programmed for parks or preservation, these properties receive immediate attention.

The projects in the FY2026 Annual Program satisfy the above criteria and rank high for POS funding.

## II. ACQUISITION

### **Project #1**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Shuman Property
- C. Project Description: Southeast Planning Area, Council District 3

This property is a 4-acre parcel located at 9436 Fairview Avenue in Laurel, Maryland. This acquisition will connect two other parcels of Howard County-owned land along the Patuxent River to expand the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This project will protect the Patuxent River and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.

This project ranks first among our acquisition projects for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project is “actionable” in that the owner has offered the County the exclusive initial opportunity to acquire the property without making a public listing for its sale and the County has now ordered appraisals.
- This acquisition will connect two other parcels of Howard County-owned land along the Patuxent River to expand the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This project will protect the Patuxent River and create opportunities for community park facilities on upland portions of the greenway.
- This project site is located along an existing Green Infrastructure Network corridor as depicted on page 92 and identified as an acquisition focus on page 177 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.

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- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program satisfies numerous State and County goals identified throughout the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan and summarized on page 109.
- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program, is identified on page 189 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan as meeting numerous State goals identified throughout the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project is in the Southeast Planning Area and meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts. Acquisition opportunities are specified in each planning area.

In addition to the Project Selection Process outlined above, this project conforms to the “Eight Visions” of the Planning Act of 1992 as follows:

- Direct growth to suitable areas – This acquisition project protects resources along the Patuxent Greenway.
- Protect sensitive areas – Any redevelopment of this property after acquisition will abide by all applicable regulations and standards for protecting sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – Any redevelopment of this property after acquisition will abide by all applicable stormwater management regulations.
- Conserve resources – This acquisition will conserve and connect properties acquired along the Patuxent greenway.
- Adequate facilities – Acquisition and adaptive reuse of this site should have minimal impact, if any, on existing traffic and area roadways.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding were authorized in the FY2026 budgets for parkland acquisition.

D. Acreage

1. Ultimate Acreage – 4 acres

E. Source of Funds

1. Total \$TBD
2. Local \$TBD
3. State Local Share \$TBD
4. State Side Share \$0

F. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #2**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Patapsco Greenway

C. Project Description: Patapsco Greenway; Elkridge, Ellicott City, and Rural West Planning Areas; Council Districts 1 and 5

This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patapsco Greenway, especially along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. This effort to improve the connectivity of this greenway will further protect environmentally sensitive areas and enable public enjoyment of this resource. We are requesting that future POS Local Share funds be used for this acquisition.

This project ranks second among our acquisition projects for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project may improve water quality through stream restoration and reforestation efforts, which appears as a County Goal for Resource Conservation on pages 28 and 82 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project identifies, protects and restores lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, which appears as a State Goal for Resource Conservation on page 28 and 81 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. The same is true for 2022 Resource Conservation State Goal of assessing the combined ability of state and local programs to...manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands and etc.
- Depending on the location of the acquisition, this project may satisfy County Goal 5.3 on page 191 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan to identify land acquisition opportunities that connect to State lands.
- Patapsco Greenway acquisitions may fall within the Opportunity Zones for public access to parks and natural resources areas as identified on pages 58 and 59 of the Plan.
- Patapsco Greenway acquisitions may fall within an Opportunity Zone for increased public water access as identified on pages 66 and 67 of the Plan.
- Patapsco Greenway acquisitions may improve public access and connectivity to trails and pathways where such access is currently limited as identified on pages 70 and 71 of the Plan.

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- This project is identified on pages 137 and 138 of the Plan as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program and the Patapsco Greenway, respectively.
- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program, is identified on page 145 of the Plan as meeting numerous State and County goals identified throughout the Plan and summarized on pages 140 through 143.
- This project will allow for the protection of natural resources along the Patapsco River.
- Located in the Elkridge, Ellicott City, and Rural West Planning Areas, this project meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct growth to appropriate areas – Most remaining large parcels are located outside the Planned Service Area and their acquisition prevents their development into residential or commercial use.
- Protect sensitive areas – Riparian buffers along the Patapsco River, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, and forested areas will be protected by this acquisition.
- Protect the Chesapeake – The Patapsco River flows directly into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within these acquired parcels, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl – Although this park is not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning; thus, the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Conserve resources – This acquisition will permit passive recreation while protecting sensitive areas and wildlife habitat.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding were authorized in the FY2025 for parkland acquisition.

### D. Acreage

1. Ultimate Acreage – Trying to connect with thousands of acres of State parkland



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E. Source of Funds

1. Total	\$TBD
2. Local	\$0
3. State Local Share	\$TBD
4. State Side Share	\$0

F. Locations still need to be identified and mapped.

**Project #3**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Patuxent Greenway

C. Project Description: Patuxent Greenway; Rural West and Southeast Planning Areas; Council Districts 3, 4, and 5

This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County. This effort to improve the connectivity of this greenway will further protect environmentally sensitive areas and enable public enjoyment of this resource. We are requesting that future POS Local Share funds be used for this acquisition.

This project ranks third among our acquisition projects for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project may improve water quality through stream restoration and reforestation efforts, which appears as a County Goal for Resource Conservation on pages 28 and 82 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project identifies, protects and restores lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, which appears as a State Goal for Resource Conservation on page 28 and 81 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. The same is true for 2022 Resource Conservation State Goal of assessing the combined ability of state and local programs to...manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands and etc.
- Depending on the location of the acquisition, this project may satisfy County Goal 5.3 on page 191 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan to identify land acquisition opportunities that connect to State lands.
- Patuxent Greenway acquisitions may fall within the Opportunity Zones for public access to parks and natural resources areas as identified on pages 58 and 59 of the Plan.
- Patuxent Greenway acquisitions may fall within the Opportunity Zones for increased public water access as identified on pages 66 and 67 of the Plan.

- Patapsco Greenway acquisitions may improve public access and connectivity to trails and pathways where such access is currently limited as identified on pages 70 and 71 of the Plan.
- This project is identified on pages 137 and 138 of the Plan as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program and the Patuxent Greenway, respectively.
- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program, is identified on page 145 of the Plan as meeting numerous State and County goals identified throughout the Plan and summarized on pages 140 through 143.
- This project will allow for the protection of natural resources along the Patuxent River.
- This project, located in the Rural West and Southeast Planning Areas, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct growth to appropriate areas – Most remaining parcels are located outside the Planned Service Area and their acquisition prevents their development into residential or commercial use.
- Protect sensitive areas – Riparian buffers along the Patuxent River, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, and forested areas will be protected by this acquisition.
- Protect the Chesapeake – The Patuxent River flows directly into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within these acquired parcels, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl – Although this park is not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning; thus, the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Conserve resources – This acquisition will permit passive recreation while protecting sensitive areas and wildlife habitat.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding were authorized in the FY2025 for parkland acquisition.

#### D. Acreage

1. Ultimate Acreage – Trying to connect with thousands of acres of State and WSSC lands spanning between the intercounty communities of Laurel and Mount Airy, Maryland.

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E. Source of Funds

1. Total	\$TBD
2. Local	\$0
3. State Local Share	\$TBD
4. State Side Share	\$0

F. Locations need to be identified and mapped.

**Project #4**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Howard County Interior Greenway

C. Project Description: Howard County Interior Greenway; All Planning Areas; All Council Districts

This project is an ongoing effort to acquire land along existing greenways throughout Howard County to protect environmentally sensitive areas and provide for community parks. These greenways exist in every Planning Area and include Cabin Branch Greenway, Cattail Creek Greenway, Deep Run Greenway, Hammond Branch Greenway, Little Patuxent Greenway, Middle Patuxent Greenway, the Long Corner Connector, and other areas. Land acquisitions will protect environmentally sensitive areas and enable passive public enjoyment of the County's natural resources while possibly permitting the development of community park facilities on non-sensitive, upland areas. We are requesting that future POS Local Share funds be used for this acquisition.

This project ranks fourth for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under "Eight Visions" below).
- This project may improve water quality through stream restoration and reforestation efforts, which appears as a County Goal for Resource Conservation on pages 28 and 82 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project identifies, protects and restores lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, which appears as a State Goal for Resource Conservation on page 28 and 81 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. The same is true for 2022 Resource Conservation State Goal of assessing the combined ability of state and local programs to manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands and etc.
- Howard County Interior Greenway acquisitions may fall within the Opportunity Zones for public access to parks and natural resources areas as identified on pages 58 and 59 of the Plan.
- Howard County Interior Greenway acquisitions may fall within the Opportunity Zones for increased public water access as identified on pages 66 and 67 of the Plan.

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- Patapsco Greenway acquisitions may improve public access and connectivity to trails and pathways where such access is currently limited as identified on pages 70 and 71 of the Plan.
- This project is identified on pages 137 and 138 of the Plan as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program and the Howard County Interior Greenway, respectively.
- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program, is identified on page 145 of the Plan as meeting numerous State and County goals identified throughout the Plan and summarized on pages 140 through 143.
- The project, potentially located in each Planning Area, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct growth to appropriate areas – Most remaining parcels are located outside the Planned Service Area and their acquisition prevents their development into residential or commercial use.
- Protect sensitive areas – Riparian buffers, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, and forested areas will be protected by this acquisition.
- Protect the Chesapeake – These greenways are within the Patapsco and Patuxent watersheds and flow into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within these acquired parcels, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl – Although several of these greenways are not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning; thus, the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Conserve resources – This acquisition will permit passive recreation while protecting sensitive areas and wildlife habitat. Passive recreational facilities provided within these greenways may include properly designed trails, picnic tables, seating, and related improvements.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding were authorized in the FY2025 for parkland acquisition.

D. Acreage

1. Ultimate Acreage – Trying to connect with thousands of existing greenways to larger greenways along the Patapsco and Patuxent Rivers.

E. Source of Funds

1. Total \$TBD
2. Local \$0
3. State Local Share \$TBD
4. State Side Share \$0
- 5.

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F. Locations need to be identified and mapped.

**Project #5**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: 2027 Howard County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

C. Project Description:

The 2027 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is mandated by State Law and a prerequisite for Maryland Program Open Space funding. Comprehensive planning is a continuous process. This is a request for the FY26 and FY27 installments.

D. Source of Funds

1. Total	\$50,000
2. Local	\$0
3. State Local Share	\$50,000
4. State Side Share	\$0

**III. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Project #1**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: East Columbia Library Park

C. Project Description: Columbia Planning Area; Council District 3

This property is a 16.59-acre parcel adjacent to the East Columbia Library at 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia. The property is generally flat, has a restroom building, and was previously programmed as grass multipurpose fields, and is served by the same parking lot that serves the library. The County wishes to construct 2 irrigated natural turf multipurpose fields, 2 lighted basketball courts, a playground, picnic pavilion, storage shed and pathways connecting to the Owen Brown community. This request is for additional funding.

This is our first development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This property is within a gap for access to County-owned ball diamonds as identified on page 51 of the 2022 Plan.
- This property is within a gap for access to County-owned athletic courts as identified on page 52 of the 2022 Plan.

- Subsequent redevelopment of this private park following acquisition will provide improved pathway connections and options to an updated multi-use park, which is in line with County Goals 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, and 1.6 on pages 75 and 76 of the 2022 Plan. This project also meets State Goal 1.2 on page 74 of the 2022 Plan by improving public access.
- This project, as part of the Capital Improvement Plan, is identified on page 178 of the 2022 Plan to begin development.
- This project, as part of the Parkland Acquisition Program, is identified on page 189 of the 2022 Plan as meeting numerous State goals identified throughout the 2022 Plan.
- This project, located in the Planned Service Area and the southcentral region of the Columbia Planning Area, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct development to growth areas – This project is already surrounded by residential and commercial development as well as public facilities. This property’s proximity to existing public schools, a public library, and a future public 55+ center make it a sensible park acquisition and renovation site.
- Protect sensitive areas – Any redevelopment of this property after acquisition will abide by all applicable regulations and standards for protecting sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – This project will not disturb environmentally sensitive areas or create additional stormwater management obligations.
- Control sprawl – This project proposes an improvement to an existing facility within an existing park and will not promote further urban sprawl.
- Conserve resources – This project permits the retention of an existing park area as a public park and green space. Existing parking lot improvements will include stormwater management features and the installation of solar panels. No additional clearing of the site is required for its continued use and redevelopment.
- Adequate facilities – This park already abuts a public library and school complex and is already serviced by public infrastructure and improvements. Subsequent redevelopment of this park will expand the accessibility and uses of the property for public leisure without requiring additional roads or public utilities.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

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D. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered

1.	Total	\$222,222.22
2.	Local	\$ 22,222.22
3.	State Local Share	\$200,000.00
4.	State Side Share	\$0

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #2**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Robinson Nature Center Amphitheater Construction

C. Project Description: Columbia Planning Area; District 4

Howard County will be designing and constructing an amphitheater and access pathways that will fit in with the natural setting of the Robinson Nature Center. The project will include seating, accessible walks, and a stage area. The amphitheater will support County, Recreation and Parks, and Center Programs and performances. The design and construction will to the maximum extent practical utilize natural materials and environmentally sensitive design practices. The design will be developed by in-house planning staff. This request is for additional funding. Robinson Nature Center is located at 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044.

This is our second development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project can be characterized as park systemic improvements to an existing park and so appears on page 179 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, as a short-term, mid-term, long-term priority.
- This project satisfied multiple County and State Goals, as identified on page 189 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project, located in the Columbia Planning Area and in consideration of other POS acquisition and development priorities, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.
- This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct development to growth areas – Robinson Nature Center is within the County’s Planned

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Service (Smart Growth) Area and is surrounded by existing residential development.

- Protect sensitive areas – This project will not impact sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – This project will not disturb environmentally sensitive areas or create additional stormwater management obligations.
- Control sprawl – This project makes minor improvements to existing park amenities within an existing park already surrounded by existing residential development and will not promote further urban sprawl.
- Conservation of resources – This project will not disturb sensitive areas and habitats.
- Adequate public facilities – This Park is already served by public roads, water and sewer. This project will not alter public attendance of the park or burden existing public infrastructure.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

A. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered

1. Total	\$222,222.22
2. Local	\$ 22,222.22
3. State Local Share	\$200,000.00
4. State Side Share	\$0

D. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #3**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Schooley Mill Park – Roadway Improvements

C. Project Description: Rural West Planning Area; District 5

Schooley Mill Park is over 39 years old and is heavily used by park patrons. We propose to mill, add paving fabric and overlay roadways, pathways and parking lots. Schooley Mill Park is located at 12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, Maryland 20777.

This is our third development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project can be characterized as park systemic improvements to existing facility and so appears on page 181 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, as a short-term, mid-term, long-term priority.



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- This project satisfied multiple County and State Goals, as identified on page 189 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project, located in the Rural West Planning Area and in consideration of other POS acquisition and development priorities, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.

This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct development to growth areas – Schooley Mill Park is within the County’s Planned Service (Smart Growth) Area and is surrounded by existing residential development.
- Protect sensitive areas – This project will not impact sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – This project will not disturb environmentally sensitive areas or create additional stormwater management obligations.
- Control sprawl – This project makes minor improvements to existing park amenities within an existing park already surrounded by existing residential development and will not promote further urban sprawl.
- Conservation of resources – This project will not disturb sensitive areas and habitats.
- Adequate public facilities – This Park is already served by public roads, water and sewer. This project will not alter public attendance of the park or burden existing public infrastructure.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

**D. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered**

1. Total	\$444,732.93
2. Local	\$ 44,473.29
3. State Local Share	\$400,259.64
4. State Side Share	\$0

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #4**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Centennial Park – West Area – Playground Replacement

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C. Project Description: Ellicott City Planning Area; District 1

Centennial Park West area is over 35 years old and is heavily used by park patrons. The current Centennial Park West Area playground was installed over 25 years ago and has served its useful purpose. This project is to replace the existing playground and safety surfacing with new equipment and surface technology. Centennial Park – West Area is located at 4651 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

This is our fourth development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project can be characterized as park systemic improvements to an existing park and so appears on page 181 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, as a short-term, mid-term, long-term priority.
- This project satisfied multiple County and State Goals, as identified on page 189 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project, located in the Ellicott City Planning Area and in consideration of other POS acquisition and development priorities, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts.
- This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Direct development to growth areas – Centennial Park is within the County’s Planned Service (Smart Growth) Area and is surrounded by existing residential development.
- Protect sensitive areas – This project will not impact sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – This project will not disturb environmentally sensitive areas or create additional stormwater management obligations.
- Control sprawl – This project makes minor improvements to existing park amenities within an existing park already surrounded by existing residential development and will not promote further urban sprawl.
- Conservation of resources – This project will not disturb sensitive areas and habitats.
- Adequate public facilities – This Park is already served by public roads, water and sewer. This project will not alter public attendance of the park or burden existing public infrastructure.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

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B. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered

1. Total	\$388,888.88
2. Local	\$ 38,888.88
3. State Local Share	\$350,000.00 + \$200,000 LPPI
4. State Side Share	\$0

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #5**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Park Shade Structures – Centennial Park, Blandair Park, Huntington Park, Cypressmede Park

C. Project Description: Columbia and Ellicott City Planning Areas; Districts 1, 2, 3,5

This request is for funding for shade structures at Centennial Park, Blandair Park, Huntington Park and Cypressmede Park. Shade structures will be designed and constructed for the playground area at Centennial Park – North Area, the bocce courts at Blandair Park, the swings at Huntington Park and the playground area of Cypressmede Park. Centennial Park is located at 10,000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042; Blandair Park is located at 5750 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046; Huntington Park is located at 9695 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21046 and Cypressmede Park is located at 3100 Fawnwood Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

This is our fifth development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project can be characterized as park systemic improvements to an existing park and so appears on pages 177, 179 and 181 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan, as a short-term, mid-term, long-term priority.
- This project satisfied multiple County and State Goals, as identified on page 189 of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan.
- This project, located in the Columbia and Ellicott City Planning Areas and in consideration of other POS acquisition and development priorities, meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among Planning Areas and Council Districts
- This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

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- Direct development to growth areas – Centennial Park, Blandair Park, Huntington Park and Cypressmede Park are within the County’s Planned Service (Smart Growth) Area and are surrounded by existing residential development.
- Protect sensitive areas – This project will not impact sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake – This project will not disturb environmentally sensitive areas or create additional stormwater management obligations.
- Control sprawl – This project is surrounded by existing residential development and will not promote further urban sprawl.
- Conservation of resources – This project will not disturb sensitive areas and habitats.
- Adequate public facilities – These parks are already served by public roads, water and sewer. This project will not alter public attendance of the parks or burden existing public infrastructures.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

E. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered

1. Total	\$222,222.22
2. Local	\$ 22,222.22
3. State Local Share	\$200,000.00
4. State Side Share	\$0

F. Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

**Project #6**

A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland

B. Project Title: Woodland Road – Pedestrian Bridges

C. Project Description: Ellicott City Planning Area; Council District 1

Howard County will be replacing three (3) existing bridges along the Woodland Road pathway and may make elevation changes to them.

This is our sixth development priority for FY26 for the following reasons:

- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- Woodland Road Pathway is identified on pages 81-82 of the 2022 Plan as meeting numerous State and County goals identified throughout the Plan referencing access and connectivity and is

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summarized on pages 28-28 of the 2022 Plan.

- This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

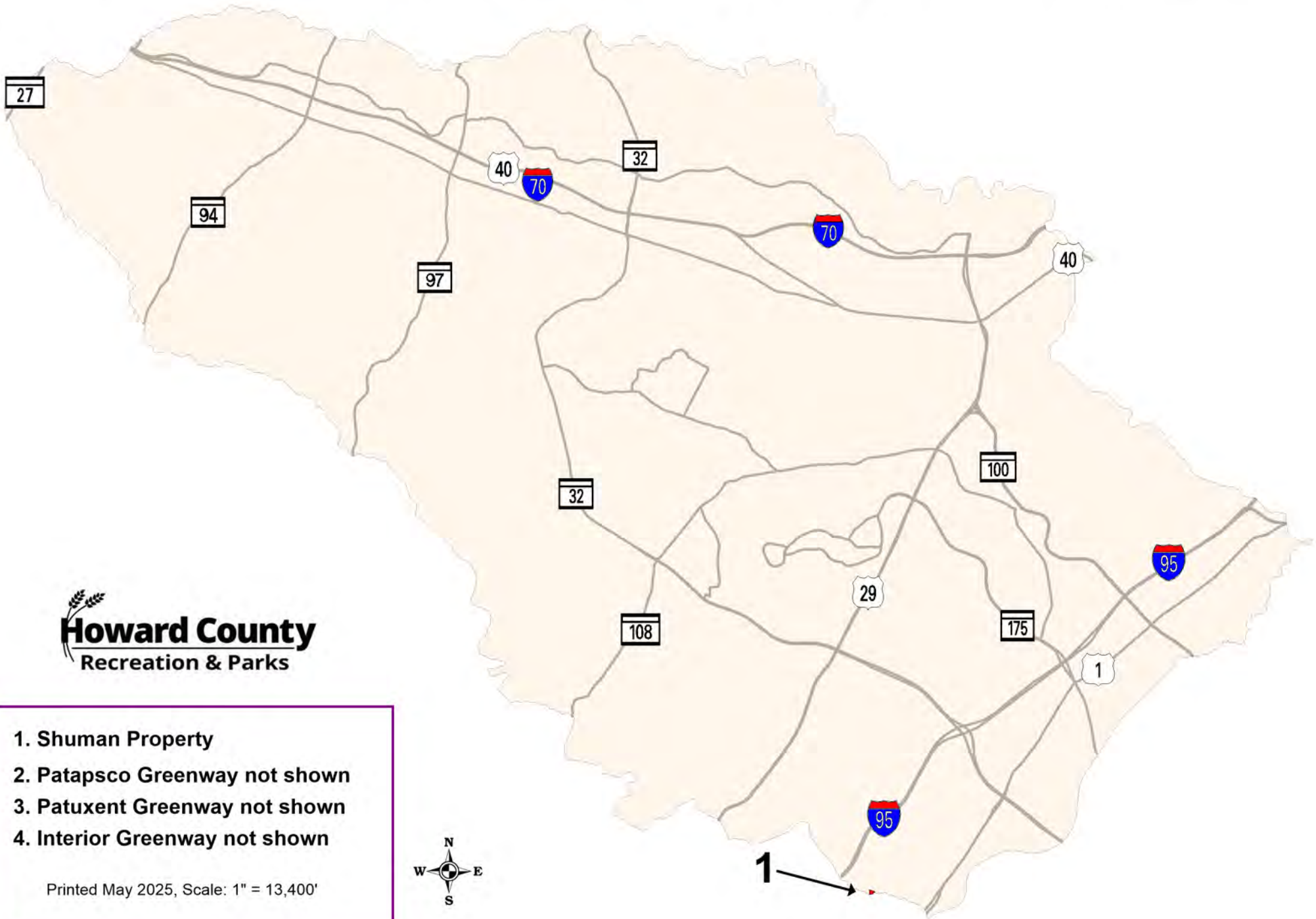
- Direct development to growth areas – This project is on County-owned property and does not promote new development.
- Protect sensitive areas – This project will not disturb any environmentally sensitive areas.
- Protect the Chesapeake - Environmentally sustainable designs and facilities are incorporated where possible.
- Control sprawl – This project is to replace bridges that provide access and connectivity on a pathway that is surrounded by existing neighborhoods and should not promote sprawl in any way.
- Adequate public facilities – This pathway is already served by existing public roads and utilities.
- Economic growth – Parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.

5. Source of Funds – FY26 unencumbered

1. Total	\$222,222.22
2. Local	\$ 22,222.22
3. State Local Share	\$200,000.00
4. State Side Share	\$0

Location and site maps are attached at the end of this Annual Program.

# FY2026 Program Open Space Annual Program Acquisitions Vicinity Map



- 1. Shuman Property
- 2. Patapsco Greenway not shown
- 3. Patuxent Greenway not shown
- 4. Interior Greenway not shown

Printed May 2025, Scale: 1" = 13,400'





# Shuman Property Acquisition

9436 Fairview Ave, Laurel, Md. 20723

Tax Map 50, Grid 2, Parcel 463

To acquire 4 acres in red



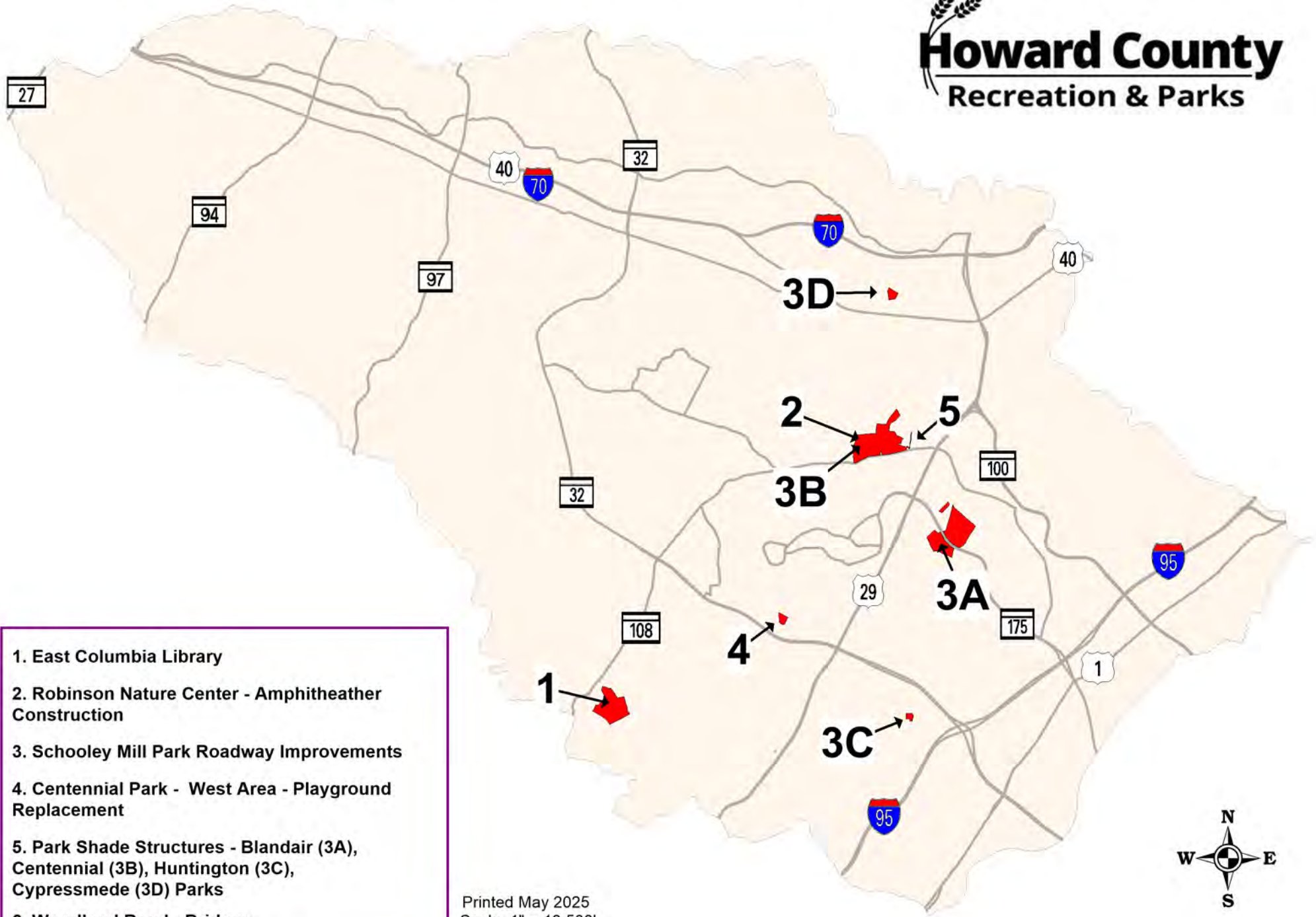
Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 100'





# FY2026 Program Open Space Annual Program Development Vicinity Map



- 1. East Columbia Library
- 2. Robinson Nature Center - Amphitheater Construction
- 3. Schooley Mill Park Roadway Improvements
- 4. Centennial Park - West Area - Playground Replacement
- 5. Park Shade Structures - Blandair (3A), Centennial (3B), Huntington (3C), Cypressmede (3D) Parks
- 6. Woodland Road - Bridges

Printed May 2025  
Scale: 1" = 13,500'





RECREATION & PARKS

Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2022



# East Columbia Library Park

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Tax Map 36, Grid 21, Parcel 275, Lot B 1

16.59 acres (red)



Scale: 1" = 150'





# Robinson Nature Center

6692 Cedarlane, Columbia, 21044  
Tax Map 35, Grid 22, Parcel 87  
Amphitheater Construction



Printed: May 2025 Aerial: 2022

Scale: 1" = 150'





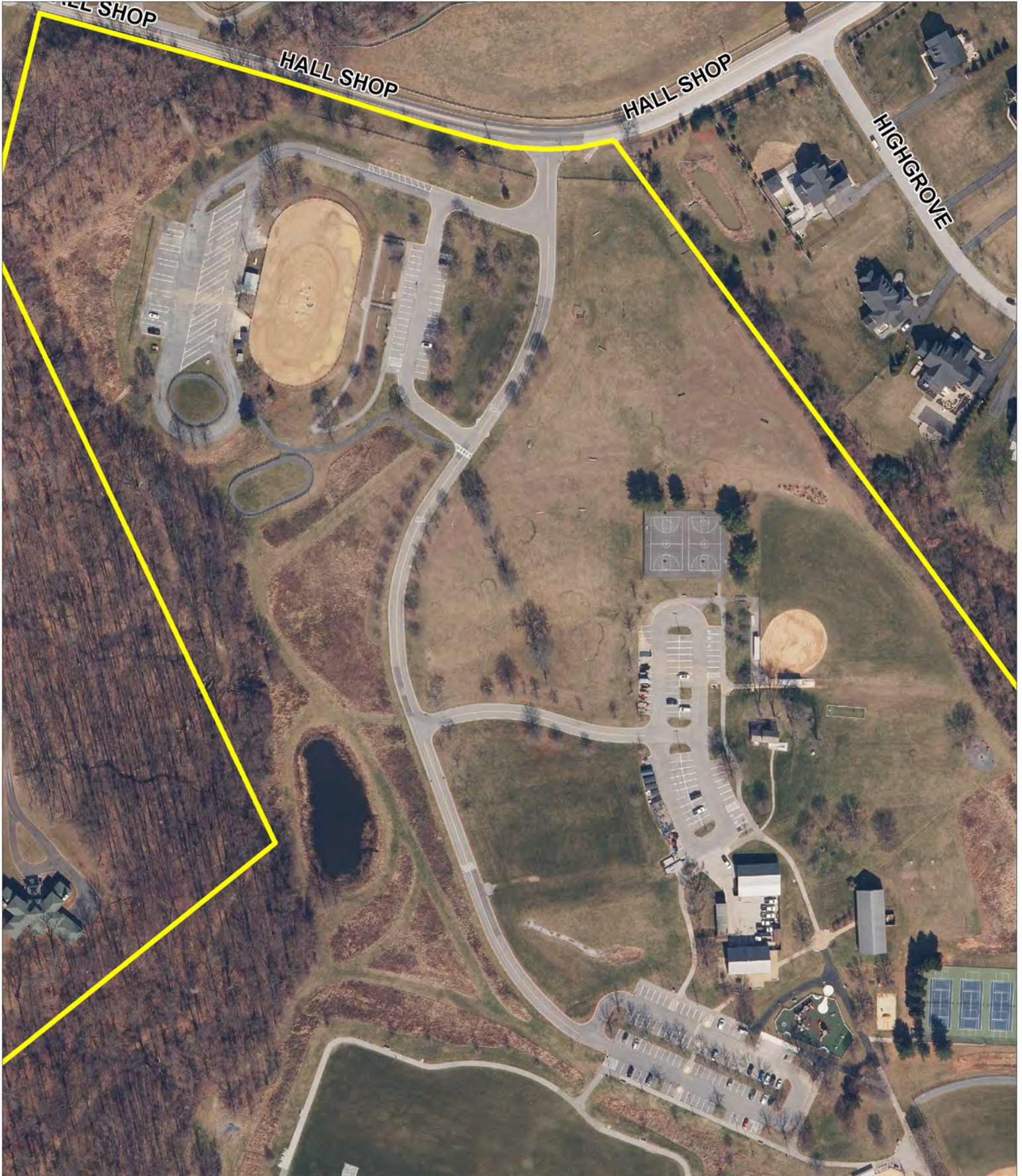
# Schooley Mill Park Roadway Improvements

12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, 20777  
Tax Map 40, Grid 16, Parcel 113



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 200'





# Centennial Park West Area Playground and Surface Replacement

4651 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City, Md. 21042  
Tax Map 30, Grid 7, Parcel 9



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 30'





# Centennial Park North Area Shade Structure

9801 Old Annapolis Rd, Ellicott City, Md. 21042  
Tax Map 30, Grid 2, Parcel 10



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 45'





# Blandair Park Bocce Ball Courts Shade Structure

5700 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Md. 21044  
Tax Map 36, Grid 5, Parcel 3



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 60'





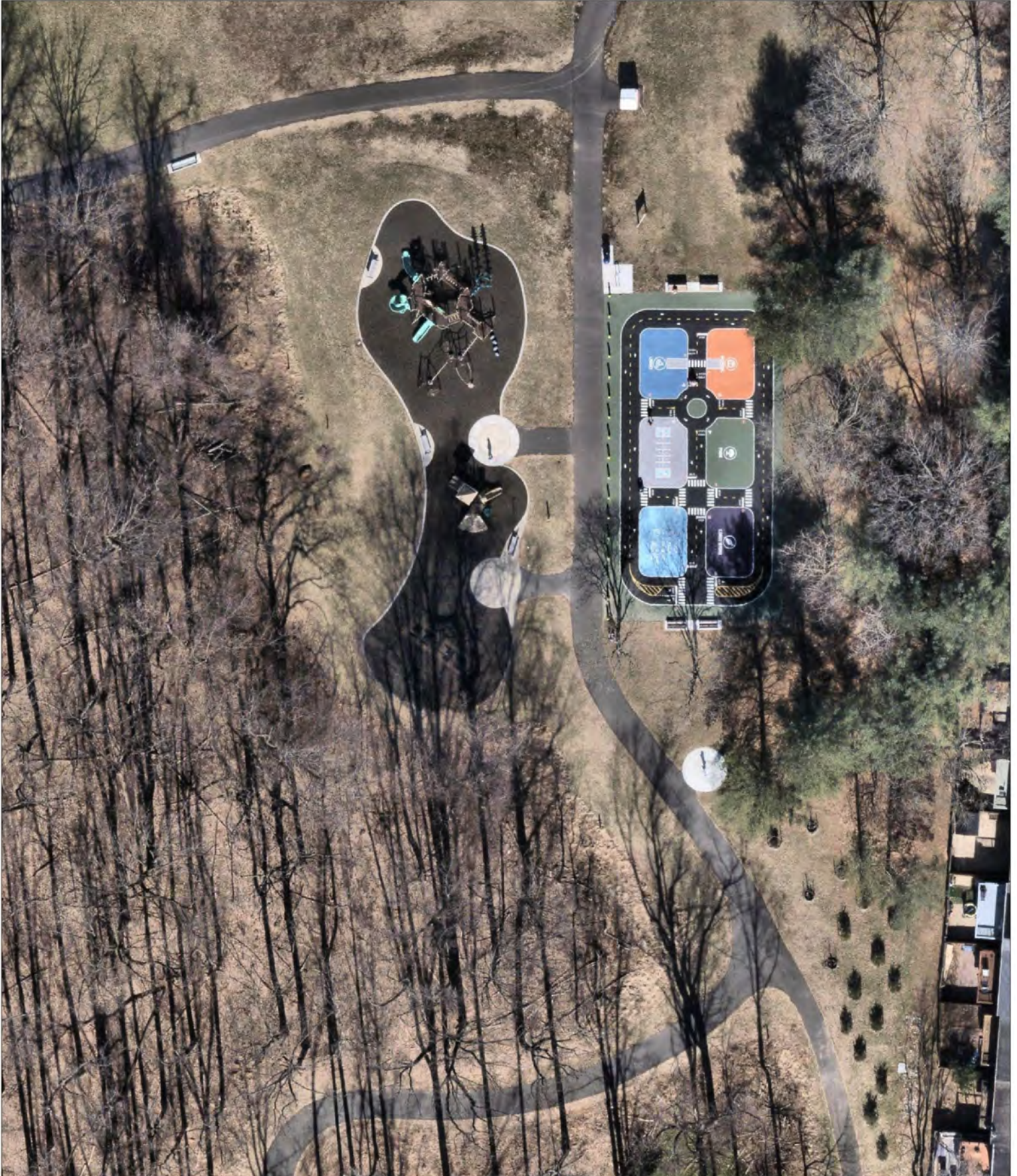
# Huntington Park Swings Shade Structure

9695 Clock Tower Lane, Columbia, Md. 21046  
Tax Map 42, Grid 23, Parcel 443



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 40'





# Cypressmede Park Playground Shade Structure

3100 Fawn Wood Drive, Ellicott City, Md. 21043  
Tax Map 17, Grid 20, Parcel 152



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2025

Scale: 1" = 30'





# Centennial Park Woodland Bridges

10,000 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, 21042  
Tax Map 30, Grid 2, Parcel 10



Printed: May 2025, Aerial: 2023

Scale: 1" = 200'

