MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

2027 Land
Preservation,
Parks and
Recreation Plan

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

LPPRP Overview

Surveys park and recreation facilities and natural resource and agricultural land

Serves as a key source of information for the state's Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPRP)

Provides county and state leaders with a snapshot of relevant issues, goals, and priorities
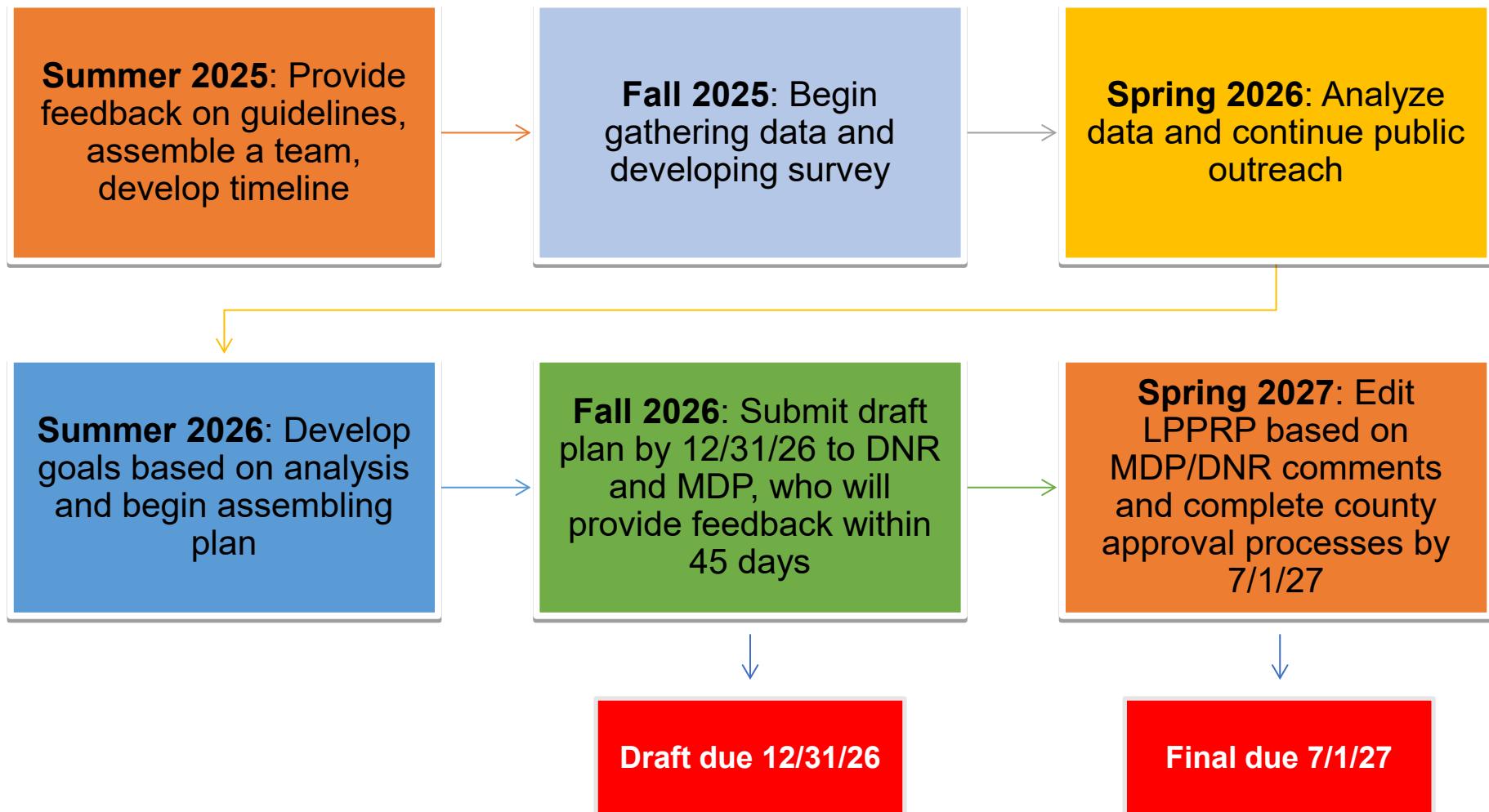
Provides opportunity for civil engagement and public feedback

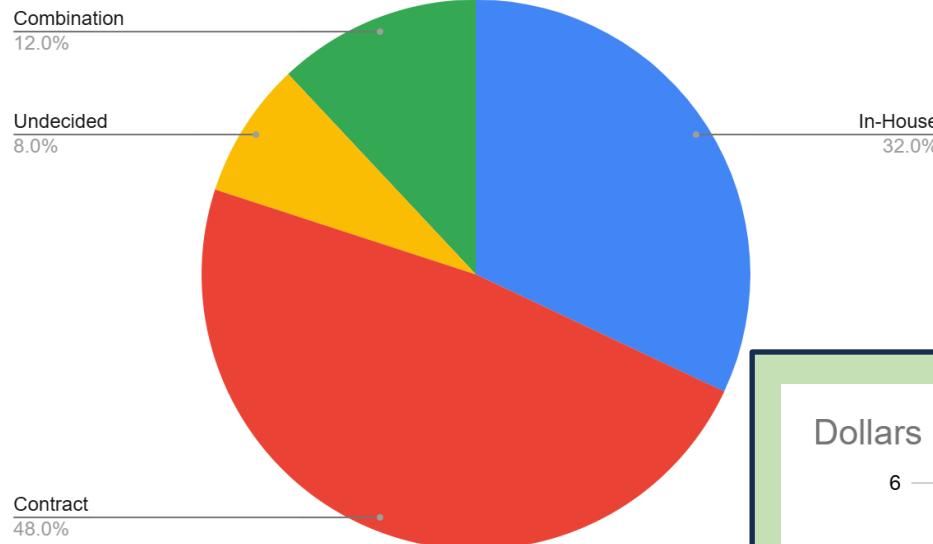Collaborative process between DNR, MDP, counties, and municipalities

Prerequisite for county participation in Maryland's Program Open Space (POS) Local
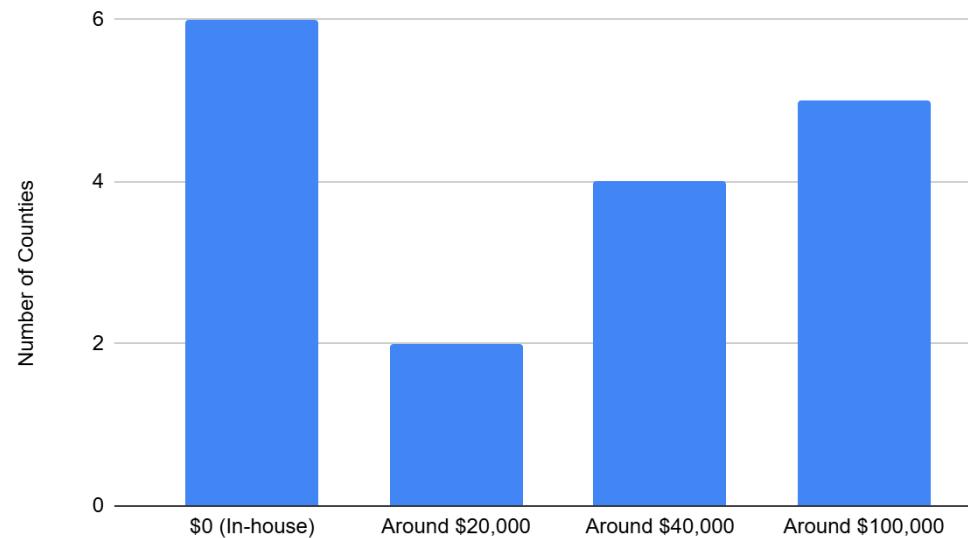
Suggested Timeline

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Summer 2025: Provide feedback on guidelines, assemble a team, develop timeline

→

Fall 2025: Begin gathering data and developing survey

→

Spring 2026: Analyze data and continue public outreach

Summer 2026: Develop goals based on analysis and begin assembling plan

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→

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Draft due 12/31/26

Final due 7/1/27

Survey Statistics

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Combination
12.0%

Undecided
8.0%

In-House
32.0%

Contract
48.0%

Counties Decision to Contract
Out the LPPRP

Everyone can access
Microsoft Teams!

Dollars Spent on Last LPPRP

Number of Counties

$0 (In-house) | Around $20,000 | Around $40,000 | Around $100,000

More Survey Results

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Most Challenging Part:

Collecting Data
Especially when working across groups within the county

Surveying the public
Especially getting responses from all demographics of people

Time-Intensive
Especially the survey

Tools/Resources that would help:

Templates
Tables on pages 10 and 11 of Guidelines

Data and Statistics
See the resource guide on Microsoft Teams

GIS related
See DNR maintained datasets in Appendix C of the Guidelines

Check-In Calls

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Monthly check-in calls to discuss the requirements and answer your questions

Topics you would like to see included (from polling in the survey):

The timeline and staying on track

Clarifying what's required

Best practices from past LPPRPs

First Webinar

There will be a webinar on

August 8 at 11am

where Meagan Fairfield Peak and Ellen Mussman from MDP will go over **data submissions.**

A recording of the meeting will be posted for those who cannot attend.

Molly Pickel will send out a calendar invitation and call-in information for the webinar after this meeting.

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Using Microsoft Teams

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Submitting Data

- LPPRP itself
- GIS Datasets

Providing Resources

- GIS datasets
- Mappers, statistics, reports

Communicating

- Check-in meetings
- Post meeting recordings

Early check-in call will cover using Microsoft Teams

Changes from 2022 Requirements

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Proximity Analysis

Separate proximity analysis required for the entire parks and recreation system, for water access, and for trails. All others are optional.

Equity Analysis

Providing multiple options for how to assess park equity in your county.

GIS Data Submission

Separate submission for datasets outside of the LPPRP itself. No tabular data required within the LPPRP.

Agriculture Requirement Clarity

Greater clarity on which portions of this section must be completed by counties with other agricultural plans.

Rubric Distribution

LPPRP Draft Evaluation Form & Checklist

County

Agency Review:
Reviewer Name:
Review Date:
Date of Draft Submission:

- This review form is based on a summary of the 2027 *Guidelines*. Please also refer to the complete *Guidelines* while reviewing the LPPRP.
- If answering 'Yes' to questions below, please indicate the page number from the Plan.
- * Questions are the most important questions from each section and if they are not met, DNR will discuss with the County
- Provide reviewer comments in red underneath each question.

INTRODUCTION	YES (Pg. #)	NO
1a. The plan includes an introduction.		
1b. The introduction includes geographic and population/demographic information.		
1c. The introduction includes information about the entire system of public parks and recreation facilities, preserved natural resource land, and agricultural land.		

2. RECREATION AND PARKS	YES (Pg. #)	NO
Executive Summary of Parks and Recreation System in the County		
2a. The Executive Summary includes narrative, images, maps and/or other data to provide a general overview of the public parks and recreation system in the county.		
2b. The Plan highlights any accomplishments/challenges associated with the public parks and recreation system or specific amenities, programs or needs.		
2c. The Plan explains the environmental, economic and health benefits of maintaining and enhancing parks and recreation systems.		
Overview of Parks and Recreation Facilities		
*2f. The Plan provides maps and a summary narrative to discuss both publicly owned (federal, state, county, municipal) and quasi-public and/or privately owned recreational facilities or park lands that are open or available for regular public use.		

This year, you'll receive the evaluation form/rubric in the early stages of the LPPRP process.

This is roughly what the rubric will look like.

The rubric only has required sections on it, so it can be used to help clarify what you must include versus what you could add.

Required Sections

Section 1
Plan Introduction

Section 2
Parks and Recreation

Section 5
Optional Reviews

Section 3
Natural Resource Land Conservation

Section 4
Agricultural Land Preservation

Section 1
Plan Introduction

Section 2

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation

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Executive Summary

Include narrative, images, and maps to provide an overview of public parks and recreation

Highlight accomplishments, challenges, and goals

Explain environmental, economic, and health benefits of enhancing parks

Parks and Recreation

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Overview of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Provide maps and summary narrative to describe park system and recreational amenities

Include the following types of land/facilities:

Public Properties
Municipal, county, state, and federal land

Quasi-public and privately owned land
open for regular public use (ex. Land owned by a land trust)

Measuring User Demand

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Public Meetings
Offer opportunities for civic engagement

Survey
Collect input from a wide variety of residents and analyze results

Data Collection
Provide information on usage, demand, and participation rates from registration, sales, permits, and more. Provide an educated estimate of level of use from non-documented activity.

Trends and Interpretation from Other Sources
Use information from government, academic, and other groups to supplement locally sourced data
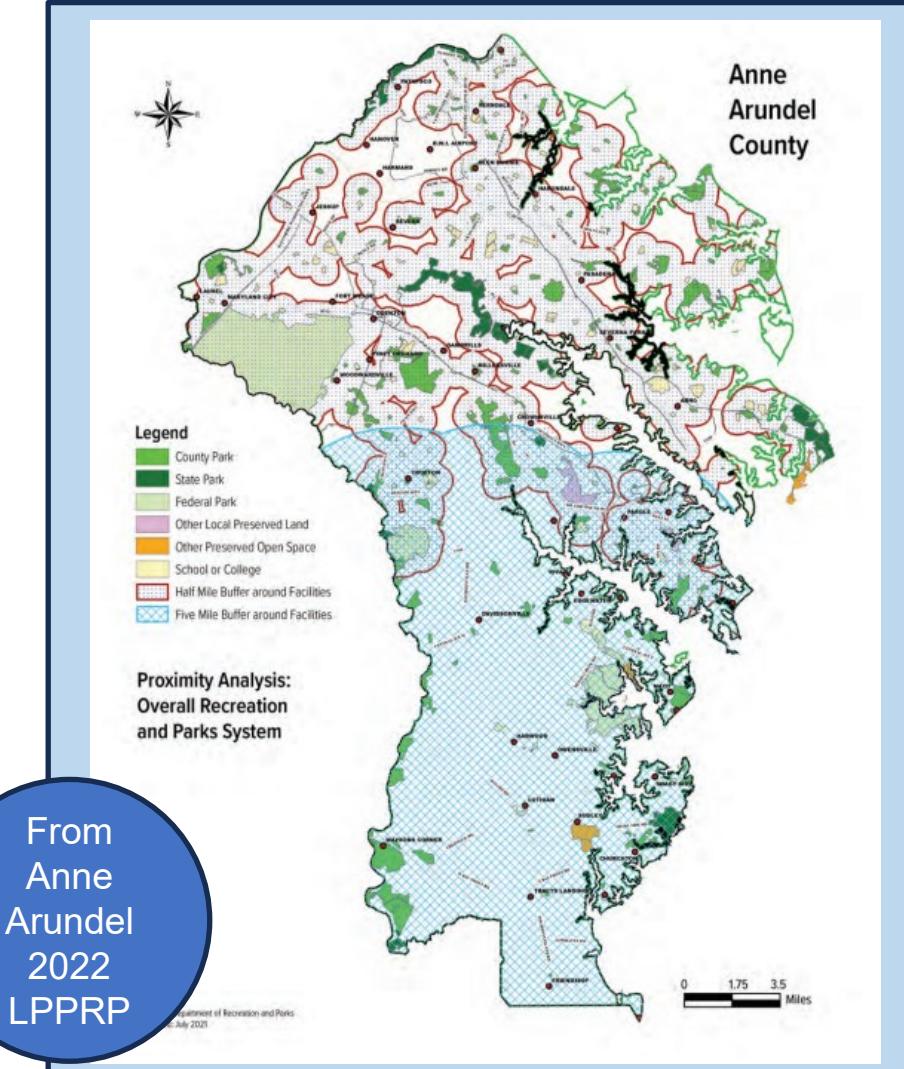
Proximity Analysis

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Determine where the public can and cannot readily access amenities

Include separate analysis for entire parks and recreation facilities, water access, and trails

Define catchment areas based on size and population density

Include maps and narrative

From Anne Arundel 2022 LPPRP

Anne Arundel County

Legend
- County Park
- State Park
- Federal Park
- Other Local Preserved Land
- Other Preserved Open Space
- School or College
- Half Mile Buffer around Facilities
- Five Mile Buffer around Facilities

**Proximity Analysis:
Overall Recreation
and Parks System**

0   1.75   3.5
Miles

Equity Analysis

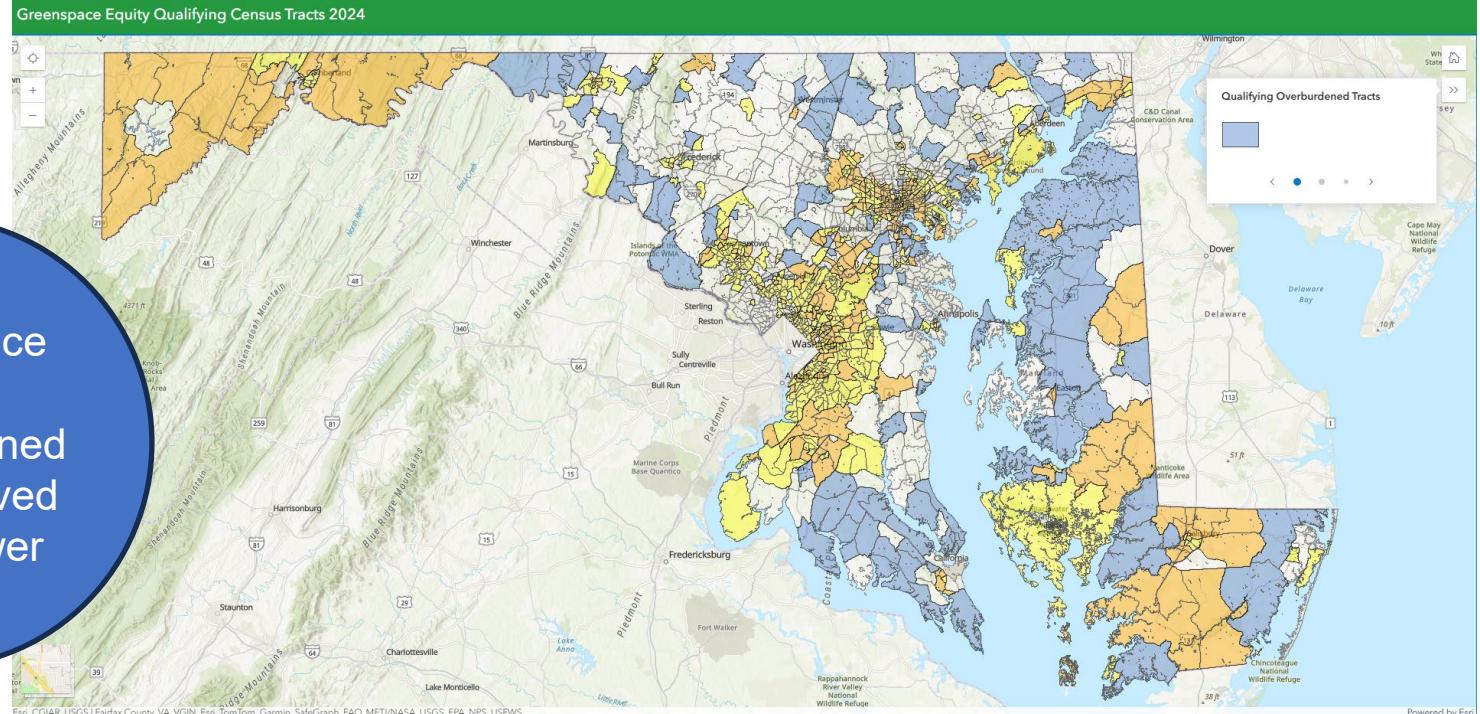**MARYLAND**
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Counties can choose how to assess equity in their plans.

Greenspace Equity (below) or CDC Social Vulnerability Index are recommended options.

Assess overburdened and underserved areas by overlaying demographic data with park data

Provide maps and a brief narrative to discuss deficiencies in access

Greenspace Equity Overburdened /Underserved Map Viewer

Greenspace Equity Qualifying Census Tracts 2024

Qualifying Overburdened Tracts

Goals and Implementation

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What progress has been made?

Reporting on Progress from 2022

Include an update of county's work to reach 2022 goals

Reporting on 2022 LPPRP County Acquisition Goals

For counties who didn't meet their 2022 acquisition goals, provide an update on progress towards these goals

What more do we need to do?

County Goals

Create 2027 county goals for public parks and rec facilities based on Measuring User Demand, Proximity and Equity analysis sections
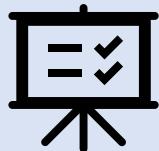
State Goals

Include state goals for parks and rec and relate county goals to state goals

Implementing Programs

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Implementing Programs

- List funding programs and funding sources used to achieve goals

- Describe how these programs are used to benefit the public

Guidelines include boilerplate descriptions of: Program Open Space, Greenspace Equity Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Sustainable Communities designation, etc.

Capital Improvement Plan

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Provide a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan

Present potential land acquisitions, development projects, and rehabilitation priorities

It's recommended to include mid- and long-term planning horizons

Include municipal projects, if applicable

Section 3
Natural Resource Land Conservation

Executive Summary

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Provide a general overview of preserved areas

Highlight successes and challenges

Work collaboratively across departments on this section

Supplement summary with images, maps, and other data

Coastal counties: note the importance of protecting wetland migration corridors (and similar)

Acreage and Mapping

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Create and use maps to show progress in meeting local natural resource land preservation goals.

Convey information about the topics on the right, and how these inform and intersect with the 2027 LPPRP local natural resource conservation goals.

- Local and State Targeted Growth and Conservation Areas

- Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAS) using GreenPrint viewer

- Climate Change Adaptation priority areas (coastal areas must include this data)

- Public parks and recreation properties

- Parcels protected for natural resource conservation through long-term conservation easements, licenses, agreements, etc. or through fee-simple acquisition

- Land preserved by deed covenants (ex. homeowners association designated open space)

Goals and Implementation

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Goals and Objectives

- Explain environmental and social benefits to protecting natural resource land

- List and explain county goals, provide update about progress of 2022 goals

- Relate county goals to state goals

Implementing Programs

- Outline ordinances and programs that help achieve these goals

- Include basic information about these programs

Summary of Deficiencies

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Analyze Acreage Total Section and Implementing Ordinances and Programs Section

Compare the information in those two sections to the goals section

Indicate any deficiencies that will need to be addressed

Add new goals if necessary to address deficiencies

Section 4
Agricultural Land Preservation

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If a county has a plan, adopted on or after July 1, 2022, that provides information about agricultural preservation goals, it only needs to complete the executive summary, goals, and acreage totals sections.

Contact MDP and DNR to determine if this applies to your county.

Summary and Goals

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Executive Summary

- Provide a short summary of county agricultural land preservation efforts

- Highlight accomplishments and challenges

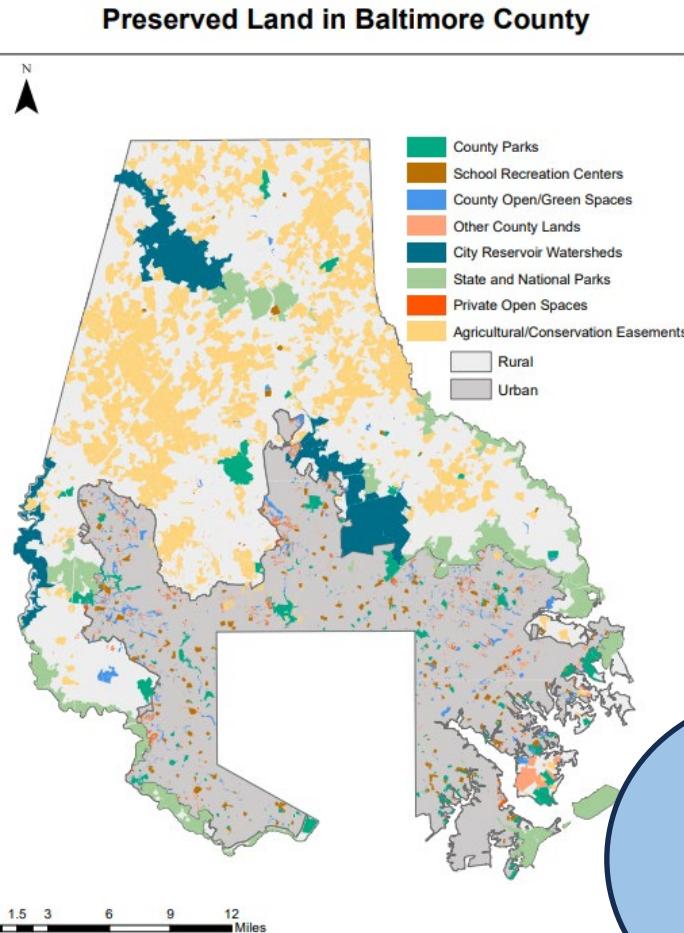- Explain public benefits of maintaining ag land

Goals

- Summarize county goals for agricultural land preservation

- Relate county goals to statewide goals

Acreage Totals

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An examp

Preserved Land in Baltimore County

N

County Parks
School Recreation Centers
County Open/Green Spaces
Other County Lands
City Reservoir Watersheds
State and National Parks
Private Open Spaces
Agricultural/Conservation Easements
Rural
Urban

1.5 3   6   9   12
                          Miles

Figure 124. Preserved Land including Agricultural/Conservation Easements
BALTIMORE COUNTY LPPRP 2022

168

Provide total acreage of:

Land preserved by local programs

Land protected by private conservation organizations

Mapping

Map agricultural land

Map and distinguish existing Priority Preservation Areas

Distinguish between publicly owned and properties under easement

From Baltimore County 2022 LPPRP

Additional Guidelines

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Only required for counties without a substantially equivalent plan:

Indicate if the county established Priority Preservation Areas in its comprehensive plan

Explain how the county's goals are implemented through its zoning and other land use tools

Explain how the county is monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of these programs

Present conclusions of the most recent evaluation of these programs or ordinances

Summary of Deficiencies and Recommendations

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Only required for counties without a substantially equivalent plan.

Analyze Acreage Total Section and Implementing Ordinances and Programs Section

Compare the information in those two section to the goals section

Indicate any deficiencies that will need to be addressed

Add new goals if necessary to address deficiencies

Required Datasets

To be submitted through Microsoft Teams:

County protected public lands - fee-simple purchases (county- and municipal-owned parks)

Other county or municipal preserved lands (county PDR/TDR and other county easement properties)

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Section 5
Optional Reviews

Optional Reviews

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Consider reviewing relevant topics including but not limited to these subjects:

Cultural resource and historic preservation
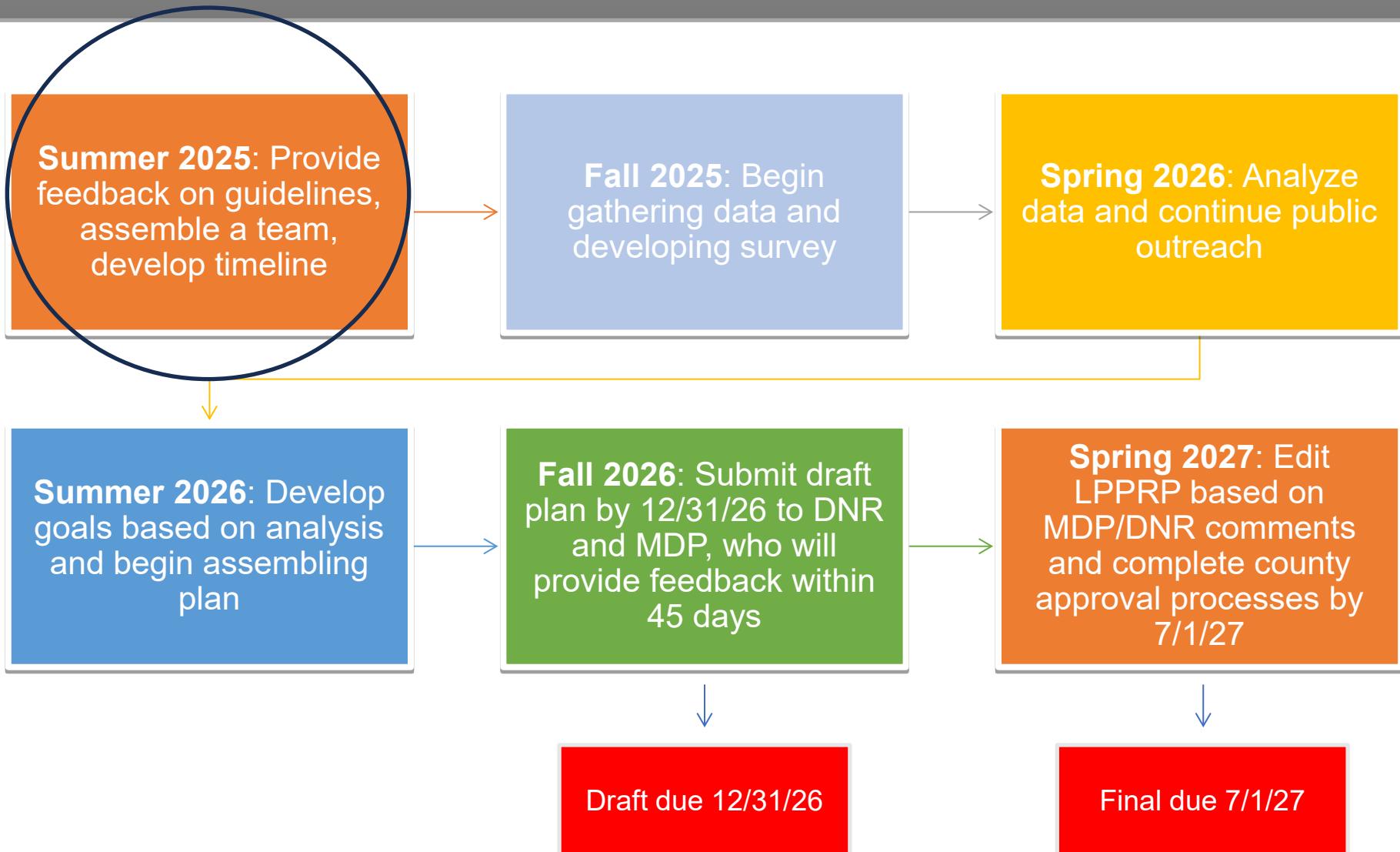
Education and environmental literacy

Tourism

Recreation in state forest

Transform brownfield sites to recreational use

Economic analysis
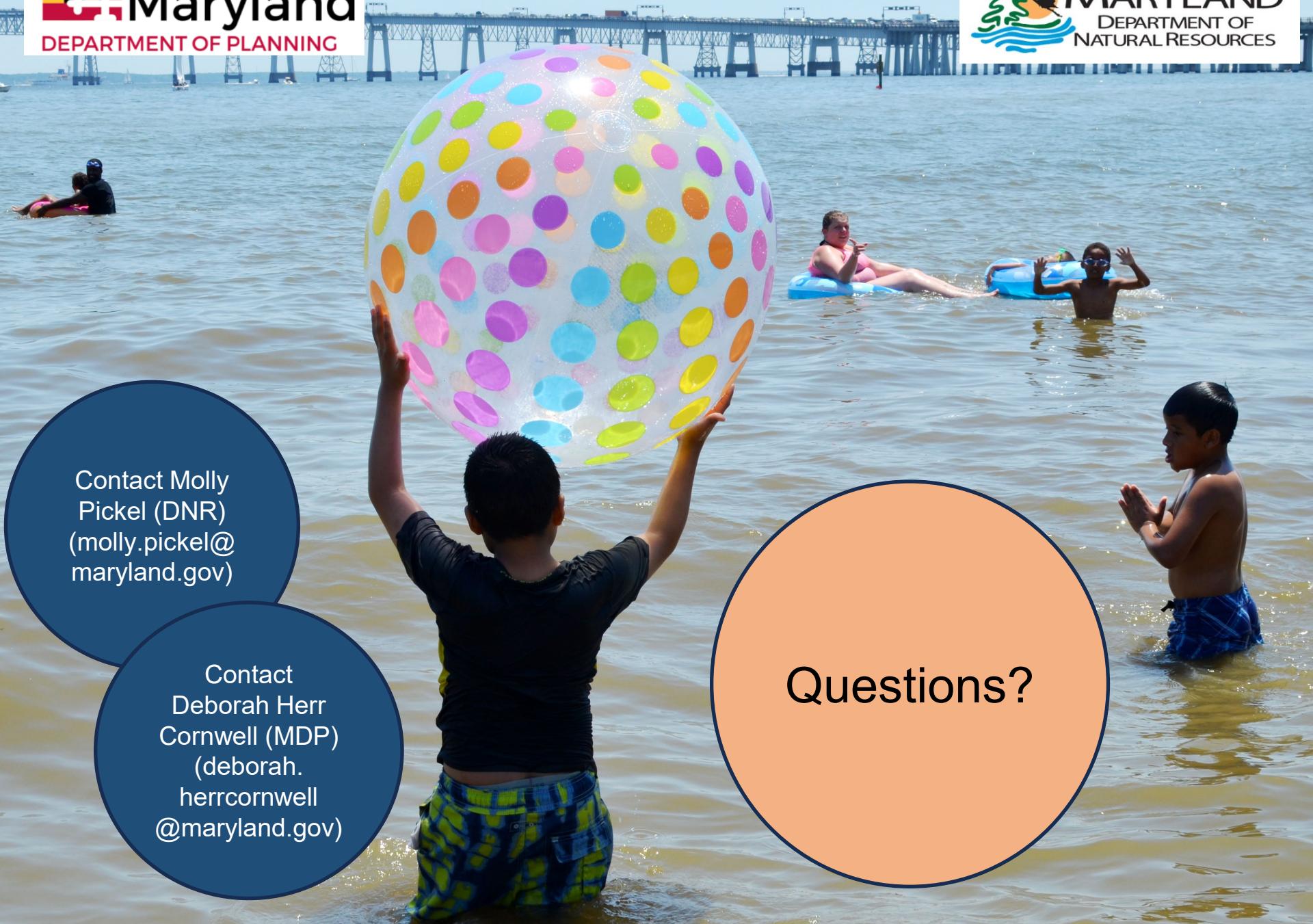
Climate change and sea level rise

Next Steps

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Draft due 12/31/26

Final due 7/1/27

Feedback on Guidelines

Guidelines distributed on July 31st

→

Feedback on guidelines accepted until August 15th

→

After taking in feedback, finalized guidelines and rubric will be distributed

Contact Molly Pickel (DNR) (molly.pickel@maryland.gov)

Contact Deborah Herr Cornwell (MDP) (deborah.herrcornwell@maryland.gov)

Questions?