

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 112-2022

Introduced: July 5, 2022

Auditor: Lori Buchman

Fiscal Impact:

If this legislation were not passed, the fiscal impact is that the County would become ineligible for Maryland Program Open Space (POS) grant funding for the next five years. For reference, the County received \$5.8 million of POS grant funding from the State in Fiscal Year 2023.

Per the Department of Recreation and Parks' Bureau Chief of Parks (the Bureau Chief), the proposals in the 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) are intended as a guide and the future costs to implement any programmatic or policy changes outlined in the LPPRP are not known at this time.

Purpose:

This legislation is for the Council's adoption of the 2022 Howard County LPPRP. Section 5-905(b)(2) of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires the County to update its LPPRP every five years in order to qualify for POS grant funding.

Maryland Program Open Space grant funding is used for parkland acquisition, development, and renovation of existing amenities.

Other Comments:

Per Recreation and Park's reconciliation of awarded POS funding, the County has a cumulative unspent balance of \$13.6 million. According to the Bureau Chief, the following projects were identified to receive funding in FY 2022 with POS grants:

- Acquisition of the East Columbia Library Park, the Geis Property, and land along the Patapsco and Patuxent Greenways
- Development of Troy Regional Park
- Improvements to Centennial Park, Huntington Park, and Atholton Park
- Replacement of pedestrian bridges
- Font Hill stream restoration
- Baseball diamond improvements
- Cedar Lane Park security gate installation

The Planning Board unanimously recommended adoption of the 2022 Howard County LPPRP during the Planning Board meeting of June 16, 2022.