



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

May 1, 2025

Jeremy Kortright, Director  
Division of Parks and Recreation  
355 Montevue Lane, Suite 100  
Frederick, Maryland 21702

RE: FY 2026 Program Open Space Local Share Apportionments

Dear Mr. Kortright:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources would like to share with you the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Program Open Space (POS) Local funding amounts.

A total of **\$25,472,393** was appropriated in POS Local funds for use by Maryland's counties and Baltimore City for FY 2026. Pursuant to Natural Resources Article §5-905(a)(1), we are notifying you that Frederick County received a total of **\$745,503** that will be applied to the county's available funds as of July 1, 2025.

The chart below shows the county's unencumbered balance as of the May 7, 2025, Board of Public Works meeting and the FY 2026 apportionment, which will become available July 1, 2025. Since Frederick County has met its local land acquisition goal in the current, approved Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), 25% of the FY 2026 apportionment may only be used for acquisition projects according to statute. The remaining 75% may be used for acquisition or park development projects.

	Total Balance	Amount of Balance Eligible for Park Development
Unencumbered Balance as of May 7, 2025*	\$3,880,221.13	\$2,030,146.36
FY 2026 Apportionment Available July 1, 2025	\$745,503.00	\$559,127.25
Total	\$4,625,724.13	\$2,589,273.61

\* State law provides up to seven (7) years to encumber appropriations, after which, the appropriations may be cancelled. The unencumbered balance shown here may include funds that may be subject to cancellation at the end of the fiscal year if they are over the seven-year timeframe.

Please note that all requests for reimbursement for POS Local projects should be submitted to the Department no later than five (5) years after the Board of Public Works approval date of that project. This will help us to assist your management of vital program funding. Program staff will continue to contact local jurisdictions regarding project status and request your continued cooperation in completing and closing out projects in a timely manner.

Additionally, please note that [House Bill 717](#) was passed during the 2025 Legislative Session and will become effective on October 1, 2025. HB 717 did include changes to provisions of law regarding the use of POS Local funding which are outlined in the attached memo. Please review and contact your POS Local Administrator if you have any questions regarding its implementation.

Thank you for your continued support of POS. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-260-8450.

Sincerely,

Hilary D. Bell  
Director, Land Acquisition and Planning

cc: Kate Mayberry, POS Local Administrator