

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
MAYOR



DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS

REGINALD MOORE, *Executive Director*
Dr. Ralph W. E. Jones, Jr. Building
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-7900

Monday, October 3, 2023

Attn: Ms. Margaret Lashar, *Administrator*, Program Open Space
Land Acquisition and Planning
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes Office Building, E-4
580 Taylor Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: FY2024 Baltimore City Consolidated Annual Program Grant Application

Dear Ms. Lashar,

Please find the attached Baltimore City consolidated grant application for Fiscal Year 2024 Program Open Space Appropriations with a total project budget of \$19,849,945. Thank you for your continued support of Baltimore City's Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

In the event additional information is required feel free to contact Adam Boarman, *Chief of Capital Development* with any inquires, comments and/or concerns via email at Adam.Boarman@BaltimoreCity.Gov or at 410-396-7948. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Reginald Moore
Executive Director

City of Baltimore, Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP)

Attachments Enclosed

Cc: Jacia T. Smith, Esq., *Chief of Staff*, BCRP
Adam Boarman, *Chief of Capital Development*, BCRP
Valerie McGuire, *Design Planner Supervisor*, BCRP
Chris Ryer, *Director*, Department of Planning

Baltimore City

Consolidated Annual Program Grant Application

Introduction

Baltimore City relies on Program Open Space to supplement the Recreation and Parks budget for planning, design and operations as well as fund specific capital improvement projects. Several programs support the planning and design process necessary to implement the State's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Program. Baltimore has also developed several "long-term" Capital Development programs that allow us to remain focused on the goals of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. These programs were developed to ensure steady progress on all aspects of providing open space and recreation opportunities in Baltimore City. They support care, operation, and improvement of general neighborhood recreation facilities, special recreation facilities, and our citywide network of open space. The 7 programs for capital development are:

Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization
Pool Facility Modernization
Park Rehabilitation and Development
Baltimore Playground Program
Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation and Development (including lighting)
Park Plazas, Fountains and Medians – including street tree planting
Park Land Acquisition

Baltimore City's Annual Submission includes individual projects selected from the 7 Capital Development Programs. Suggestions of sites for improvement projects come from many sources: Recreation and Parks staff, Planning Department staff, the Baltimore Office of Neighborhoods, private citizens and community organizations. Several factors are considered as each site is evaluated:

1. Contribution to departmental (Land Preservation and Recreation Program) goals.
2. Contribution to goals or programs of other City agencies or Non-profit Partners
3. Value of the facility or resource in relation to the entire park system with priority for sites with at least one of the following factors:
 - A. High attendance and use
 - B. Multi-use facilities
 - C. Proximity to neighborhood with special needs (such as communities with a high percentage of low-income and at-risk populations)
 - D. Special needs groups (senior citizens, teens, children, or disabled populations)
 - E. Historical significance
 - F. Local regional landmark
 - G. High scenic or aesthetic value
 - H. Wildlife habitat enhancement value
 - I. Environmental quality improvement value
4. Evidence of strong community support or the potential for community involvement and partnerships
5. Critical needs of repairs/Safety issues
6. Budget constraints such as capital costs of project, operating cost of project and the potential for funding.

Each fall, the capital budget is submitted by the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks to the City's Department of Planning. After revisions are made to meet citywide goals, the Planning Department submits the Recreation and Parks capital budget to the City's Planning Commission for public review and the formal acceptance process. This year, we propose utilizing Program Open Space funding to support individual projects within three of our seven established programs of capital development:

Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization
Park Rehabilitation and Development
Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation and Development

Fiscal Year FY24 Projects supported by Program Open Space Funding:

Recreation Facility and Park Building Modernization

Bocek Park Athletic Center
Madison Square Dome

Park Rehabilitation and Development

Reedbird Park Improvements
N. Harford Park Improvements

Athletic Field and Court Rehabilitation and Development

Patterson Park Athletic Field Renovation

As in the past years, Program Open Space funding also will be used to support park planning as well as the daily care of the city's park system:

Baltimore City Operations and Management Grants

FY24 Baltimore Park System

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY FY24

Sponsor: Baltimore City	Project Name & Sites	Project Total	Local Funds	POS Apportionment	POS Direct	Other
1	Reedbird Park Improvements	\$ 3,000,000.00			3,000,000	
2	N. Harford Park Improvements	\$ 4,365,945.00	1,092,000	3,273,945		
3	Madison Square Dome	\$ 500,000.00			500,000	
4	Patterson Park Athletic Field Renovation	\$ 1,550,000.00	400,000	1,150,000	0	
5	Bocek Park Athletic Center	\$ 4,534,000.00	1,134,000	3,400,000		
6	Baltimore Park System FY24	\$ 6,500,000.00			6,500,000	
reallocate	Winans Meadow Nature Center - Site Improvements	\$ (600,000.00)		-600,000		
	Total	\$ 19,849,945.00	\$ 2,626,000.00	\$ 7,223,945.00	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -

Baltimore City Consolidated Annual Program Grant Applications

Fiscal Year 2024 – Project Descriptions

1. Reedbird Park Improvements \$3,000,000

Construct new athletic fields, paths, playground, basketball courts and dog park in Reedbird Park (33.9 acres) for the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center in Cherry Hill. BCRP has finished the construction of a new Fitness and Wellness Center and Athletic Complex for Middle Branch. The project includes a new multi-sport athletic fields (including one with artificial turf) and baseball fields, basketball courts, a playground, a dog park, pathways and connections to the Middle Branch Trail system. The project will be constructed in several phases. The first phase of the project, the construction of the new fitness and wellness center and the Cal Ripken Foundation artificial turf field, is complete. The current FY24 request will fund the construction of the project’s second phase: multi-sport athletic and baseball fields, a playground, a dog park, pathways and connections to the Middle Branch Trail system.

201 Reedbird Ave., - Legislative Dist. 46

2. North Harford Park Improvements..... \$4,365,945

North Harford Park (8.321 acres) is located near 6 neighborhoods, including: North Harford Rd, Harford/Echodale/Perring Parkway, Westfield and Christopher. The North Harford Recreation Center is located in North Harford Park across the street from the Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology. The existing recreation center is small and has been closed for the past few years. After an extensive recreation service gap analysis, the Department’s recent 2015 Recreation and Aquatic Facilities Plan identified the North Harford Park site as an opportunity to provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreation activities in an area of the city where the population currently has few city recreational venues. In 2021, significant community outreach was conducted to determine park priorities and the development of a Vision Plan. That plan identified phases for design and construction. In 2022 the court renovation was completed. This FY24 funding would see the bulk of the site improvements constructed outside of a skatepark that will be in a later phase. The project will address community priorities to improve the playground, splash pad, pedestrian circulation, entrances, athletic fields, and stormwater management.

6800 Hamlet Ave. – Legislative district 43

3. Madison Square Dome \$500,000

Renovation of the historic and iconic “Dome” covered basketball court at Madison Recreation Center. BCRP is working with partners on plans for a \$1.5M+ renovation of the covered basketball court known as the “Dome.” Improvements would increase seasonal playability, enhance the user experience, and strengthen the iconic nature of the site. This funding request will support design services, Court resurfacing, electronics and sound improvements, and some fencing and bleacher upgrade costs of the Dome.

1401 E Biddle Street – Legislative Dist. 45

4. Patterson Park Athletic Field Renovation..... \$1,550,000

Baseball fields and football fields in parks are in high demand for adult and youth athletic leagues. The fields in this location have not been renovated in over 30 years and will include new seating, fences, team player areas, and walks. In Patterson Park (133 acres), the existing Ortman baseball fields have drainage issues due to overuse. The athletic field lighting just finished construction. The design of the new lighting reorients the play direction to work better with the access and maintenance, and the field will need to be redesigned for the new layout.

Patterson Park, 100 S. Linwood Ave – Legislative Dist. 46

5. Bocek Park Athletic Center \$4,534,000

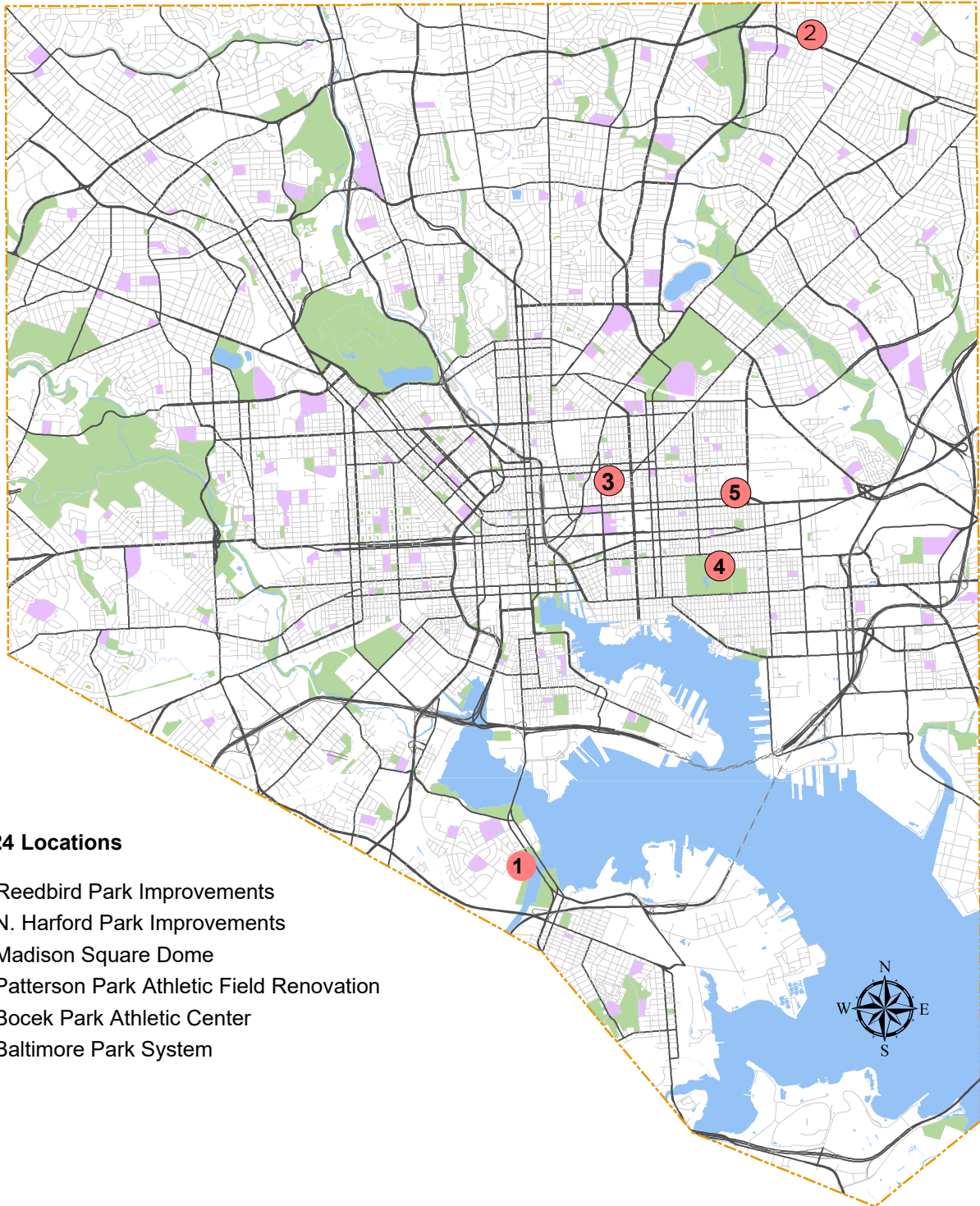
Bocek Park is located north of Patterson Park in the Madison East End. The fields, basketball court and playground are seen as a crucial local recreational resource, yet the park has seen little capital improvements over the years. The local youth football league uses the fields as does a Hispanic soccer league and a citywide co-ed rugby team. After an extensive recreation service gap analysis, the Department’s Recreation and Aquatic Facilities Plan identified Bocek Park as an opportunity to upgrade, expand facilities and provide a wider range of outdoor recreation activities. BCRP has been working with the local community to develop plans for renovating the existing field house. Construction of the field house renovation was completed in 2020. The current project proposes to provide a gym addition on to the newly renovated field house and to relocate and replace two basketball courts that are currently in the new gym addition location. An environmental assessment to determine any toxic aspects in the soil has been completed. Other future projects include upgrading 2 softball fields and two multi-purpose fields with surface improvements (one with artificial turf) and lights to extend evening play. Future projects will reconfigure the layout of the park to add a spray ground, a walking path with fitness equipment and playground.

3000 E. Madison St. – Legislative Dist. 45

6. FY24 Baltimore Park System \$6,500,000

These funds will be used to continue the maintenance, planning, volunteer support and operations of the Baltimore City Park System. The park system includes such large parks as Carroll Park, Clifton Park, Cylburn Arboretum, Druid Hill Park, Herring Run Park, Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, and Patterson Park, as well as hundreds of smaller parks and play areas. The system contains over 5,700 acres of park land. This park land includes woodlands, playgrounds, picnic groves, and many athletic fields which have ongoing maintenance, operational and planning needs. The perpetual maintenance program including mowing, trash pickup and general park care will protect the Baltimore Park System’s natural and recreational resources which have been purchased or improved utilizing Program Open Space funds in the past.

Baltimore City Consolidated Annual Program Fiscal Year 2024



FY24 Locations

- ① Reedbird Park Improvements
- ② N. Harford Park Improvements
- ③ Madison Square Dome
- ④ Patterson Park Athletic Field Renovation
- ⑤ Bocek Park Athletic Center
- ⑥ Baltimore Park System

