



DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

AIRPORT | BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & FACILITIES | HIGHWAYS | PARKS & RECREATION | TRANSIT

June 29, 2023

Ms. Tiffany DePaoli
Land Acquisition and Planning
Department of Natural Resources
Program Open Space
Tawes State Office Building E4
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Washington County FY24 Annual Program - Program Open Space

Dear Ms. DePaoli:

Enclosed please find Washington County's Annual POS Program for FY 2024 which identifies acquisition and development projects for both the County and its municipalities. All project requests were presented by the applicants before the County's Recreation and Parks advisory Board. The program was recommended by the Recreation and Parks Board and approved by the Board of County Commissioners and anticipates spending \$1,484,872 for development projects and \$478,925.25 on acquisition projects in FY 2024. The project descriptions are included and costs shown in the attached program schedule which includes funding from the FY24 allocation as well as existing unencumbered balance reserves.

The site locations for the various projects are shown on the attached maps with a numerical identifier. Copies of the Annual Program will be sent to all municipalities and Maryland Department of Planning.

Thank you for your assistance with the Program Open Space program and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrew Eshleman, P.E.
Director Public Works
100 West Washington Street
Hagerstown MD, 21740
240-313-2252

FY 2024 Program Project Descriptions

The Program Open Space (POS) projects support the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) through Public Investment, Resource Protection, Social Integration, and promoting Health and Wellness. Project priorities support Maryland's growth management policies and the 1992 Planning Act eight visions. Project requests were reviewed relative to the County's 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan priorities and goals including maximizing general public access and use. Some projects requests were cut or reduced due to limited available funding and prioritizing projects that aligned with the County's LPPRP priorities and goals.

Development

Boonsboro

Shafer Park – Pickleball Courts (Project #1)

Shafer Memorial Park is one of a series of parks, constructed in Maryland by the federal government in conjunction with local governments, under the Work Progress Administration (WPA), during the Great Depression. The Park has served as the center of recreational activity for Boonsboro since the late 1930s, when it was first dedicated. It is the site of annual festivals and events, as well as daily and weekly recreation. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the County and has taken off locally in Washington county. Shafer Park has two basketball courts. The older of the two is seldom-used, deteriorating, needs repaving/repainting, and is proposed to be repurposed as a set of three pickleball courts. The newer court, located near the baseball field's outfield is in much better condition and often used by park patrons and will remain for basketball use. The project will include mill and overlay of the asphalt surface, applying a surface acrylic, sealer and paint, nets, benches and perimeter fencing.

Hagerstown

Antietam Creek Water Trail – Mt Aetna Road Creek Access (Project #2)

The Antietam Creek Water Trail identifies access points for kayakers/ canoeists/ floaters to enjoy the creek. When on the Water Trail approaching Mt. Aetna Road, users need to exit the creek to avoid a dam, cross Mt. Aetna Road and reenter the stream below the dam. The existing site also has no dedicated parking. The project will construct a creek access upstream and downstream of the dam to facilitate easier entry and exit from the creek and create a small parking area. The project was originally included in the FY21 Annual Program with \$45,000 in funds. Additional funds are proposed for the project to complete the scope of work.

Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Historical Park – Sharpsburg Interpretive Plaza (Project #3)

The Sharpsburg Historical Park will be constructed on lands purchased with Program Open Space funds at the corner of Church and Main Streets. The park will afford the Town of Sharpsburg the means to invite cultural tourists and other visitors into the downtown area, to engage them with interpretation and storytelling designed to tell a fuller story about the Town and its history, and to draw them to visit and investigate local businesses in the historic downtown. The Town and its partners envision an open space that will anchor and serve as a focal point for exploring the Town, with interpretive signage that will coordinate with, complement, and extend existing resources such as the Sharpsburg Historical Society's

walking tour, and the stories and experiences presented at nearby sites such as Tolson's Chapel, the Sharpsburg Museum of History, Antietam Battlefield, the C&O Canal, and the Antietam Train Station.

The planned development, as a downtown anchor telling the broader story of Sharpsburg, its residents, and their role in the events that shaped the region and American history, is consistent with Washington County's plan, and ties in with HCWHA Management Plan goals of economic benefit, stewardship, storytelling and interpretation, and coordination across region, between governments, area nonprofits, visitors and the community. The project enjoys support from local historical and community groups as well as local governments and businesses, who recognize the value of reaching a larger and more diverse audience and of connecting residents and visitors alike to the history of the community, and who are taking an active share in the planning, design, and eventual stewardship of the proposed park.

Washington County

Agriculture Education Center – Indoor Multipurpose Building (Project #4)

The project will involve construction of an approximate 45,000 square foot multipurpose building capable of hosting various special events and recreational activities. The facility will be located to the north of the existing kennel building. It will contain a large open area with space for 3 basketball courts that accommodate 5 volleyball courts with divider partitions and retractable batting cages. The floor is anticipated to be a durable multiuse floor supporting both recreational and special event use. Additional features include built in permanent seating with accommodations for portable bleachers, sound system, projection equipment, digital score board systems, and storage for chairs and equipment. Other building features include a kitchen/concession area with dual inside and outside service access to the outdoor event area, several staff offices and a meeting/party room.

Agriculture Education Center – Show Barn Arena Floor (Project #5)

The project will replace the existing mulch ground surface at the AC&T Show Area Pole Barn Building with a new concrete floor. The existing mulch ground surface is not durable and requires more maintenance to keep clean and sanitary following animal use. A concrete floor will provide increased durability and allow additional use of the pole barn building and improve access for viewers with disabilities. The concrete surface can be topped with mulch or sawdust to provide a more sanitary facility that can be more easily cleaned reducing the breeding environment for bacteria and diseases.

Agriculture Education Center – Recreation Field Bleachers (Project #6)

The project will replace the existing deteriorating wooden bleachers at the AC&T Show Area Pole Barn Building and provide new portable bleachers than can be used there and other locations at the facility. The existing wood bleachers are rotting, not ADA accessible, and contain large gaps and openings that do not meet current design and safety standards.

Washington County Public Schools

Williamsport Elementary School – Playground Improvements (Project #7)

The Williamsport Elementary School playground equipment is outdated and in need of replacement. The project will replace equipment at two locations and focus on providing separate, age appropriate

equipment. Williamsport Elementary School is located within a walkable community which will allow the equipment to be available for use by the general public when school is not in session. The school is also the location of a Washington County Parks and Recreation Summer camp and used in the program.

Williamsport

Byron Memorial Park – Restroom Facilities Improvement (Project #8)

Byron Memorial Park is the Town's largest and primary park and the restrooms serve residents recreating in the park. The current condition of the restrooms does not meet ADA requirements and is limiting for users requiring assistance to maneuver. The doors are heavy, toilet stalls narrow, sinks too high and hand drying locations improperly placed. All the finishes and surfaces are dated and in need of replacement. The project would remediate these limitations by satisfying ADA requirements and providing a larger entry/exit doorway, larger toilet stalls with wall hung grab bars, appropriately placed sinks, hand dryers, urinals and mirrors and providing landing and turning spaces for users.

Acquisition

Byron Memorial Park Acquisition – Springfield Mansion (Project #9)

The project is the acquisition of 7.92 acres of land that includes the Springfield Mansion House, still house, spring house, tavern, carriage house and other minor ancillary structure that date back to the 1700s. The house was the home place of the Town's founder, Otho Holland Williams. The property includes architectural history that spans four centuries, the oldest American distillery complex, and was visited by George Washington. The entire Springfield complex is wonderfully preserved with most of the original structures intact and unchanged. The property has potential for several uses including a historic and cultural museum and providing opportunities to promote tourism and recreation to support the operation and maintenance of the facility. The barn is already owned by the Town and operated as an events center. The property is adjacent to the barn and Byron Park. The FY24 program authorizes \$300,000 towards acquisition of the property with potentially more authorized in future years to represent the land value portion of the acquisition. This amount is a rollover from the FY23 program.

Unallocated Acquisition

Washington County was able to satisfy all acquisition funding requests in FY24. The remaining balance from the FY24 Allocation of \$178,825.25 will remain in an unallocated account to be used for future acquisitions and their incidental costs. Parkland acquisitions are becoming increasingly expensive and the funds will be kept in reserve for future encumbrance and used as opportunities present themselves in FY24 or rolled over to future years. Acquisition projects must meet the County's goal of a park system consisting of neighborhood, community and regional parks that equitably locates recreational facilities. Site selection includes population distribution, transportation accessibility, anticipated growth as projected in the Comprehensive Plan for the County and responding to the physical requirements of the development program.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
FY 2024 POS PROGRAM SCHEDULE
FINAL DNR

SPONSOR	PROJECT	PROJECT ACRES			TOTAL PROJECT COST	LOCAL SHARE POS FUNDS	LOCAL POS SHARE %	POS ACQUISITION FUNDS	POS DEV FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	PROJECT NUMBER
		Existing	Ultimate	Project							
BOONSBORO	Shafer Park - Pickleball Courts	50.76	50.76	0.15	\$ 70,000.00 \$ 70,000.00	\$ 7,000.00 \$ 7,000.00	10.0%	\$ - \$ -	\$ 63,000.00 \$ 63,000.00	\$ -	1
HAGERSTOWN	Antietam Creek Waterway Trail - Creek Access Mt. Aetna Road (Add to FY21 POS \$45,000; \$315,000 total)	0.9	0.9	0.9	\$ 350,000.00 \$ 350,000.00	\$ 35,000.00 \$ 35,000.00	10.0%	\$ - \$ -	\$ 270,000.00 \$ 270,000.00	\$ -	2
SHARPSBURG	Sharpsburg Historical Park - Interpretive Plaza	0.73	0.73	0.73	\$ 411,247.00 \$ 411,247.00	\$ 41,125.00 \$ 41,125.00	10.0%	\$ - \$ -	\$ 370,122.00 \$ 370,122.00	\$ -	3
WASHINGTON COUNTY	Agriculture Education Center Indoor Multipurpose Building	82	82	4	\$ 9,600,000.00	\$ 4,500,000.00	46.9%		\$ 550,000.00	\$ -	4
	Agriculture Education Center Show Arena Floor	82	82	0.15	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	10.0%		\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	5
	Agriculture Education Center Recreation Field Bleachers	82	82	0.15	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	10.0%		\$ 63,000.00	\$ -	6
					\$ 9,720,000.00	\$ 4,512,000.00		\$ -	\$ 658,000.00		
WCPS	Williamsport Elementary School - Playground	20	20	0.5	\$ 100,000.00 \$ 100,000.00	\$ 10,000.00 \$ 10,000.00	10.0%	\$ - \$ -	\$ 90,000.00 \$ 90,000.00	\$ -	7
WILLIAMSPORT	Byron Memorial Park - Restroom Facilities Improvement	27.6	27.6	0.02	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 11,250.00	25.0%		\$ 33,750.00	\$ -	8
	Byron Memorial Park Acquisition - Springfield Mansion (Rollover FY23 POS funds)	27.6	35.5	7.9	\$ 1,105,000.00 \$ 1,150,000.00	\$ - \$ 11,250.00	0.0%	\$ 300,000.00 \$ 300,000.00	\$ - \$ 33,750.00	\$ -	9
UNALLOCATED	Acquisition Funding				\$ -	\$ -		\$ 178,925.25 \$ 178,925.25	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL					\$ 11,801,247.00	\$ 4,616,375.00		\$ 478,925.25	\$ 1,484,872.00		

Total POS Program FY24 Allocation

\$ 1,915,701
Development Available 75% \$ 1,436,775.75
Acquisition Available 25% \$ 478,925.25

POS Acquisition Total

\$ 478,925.25
Difference \$ -

Note \$178,925.25 is available for future acquisitions and their incidental costs

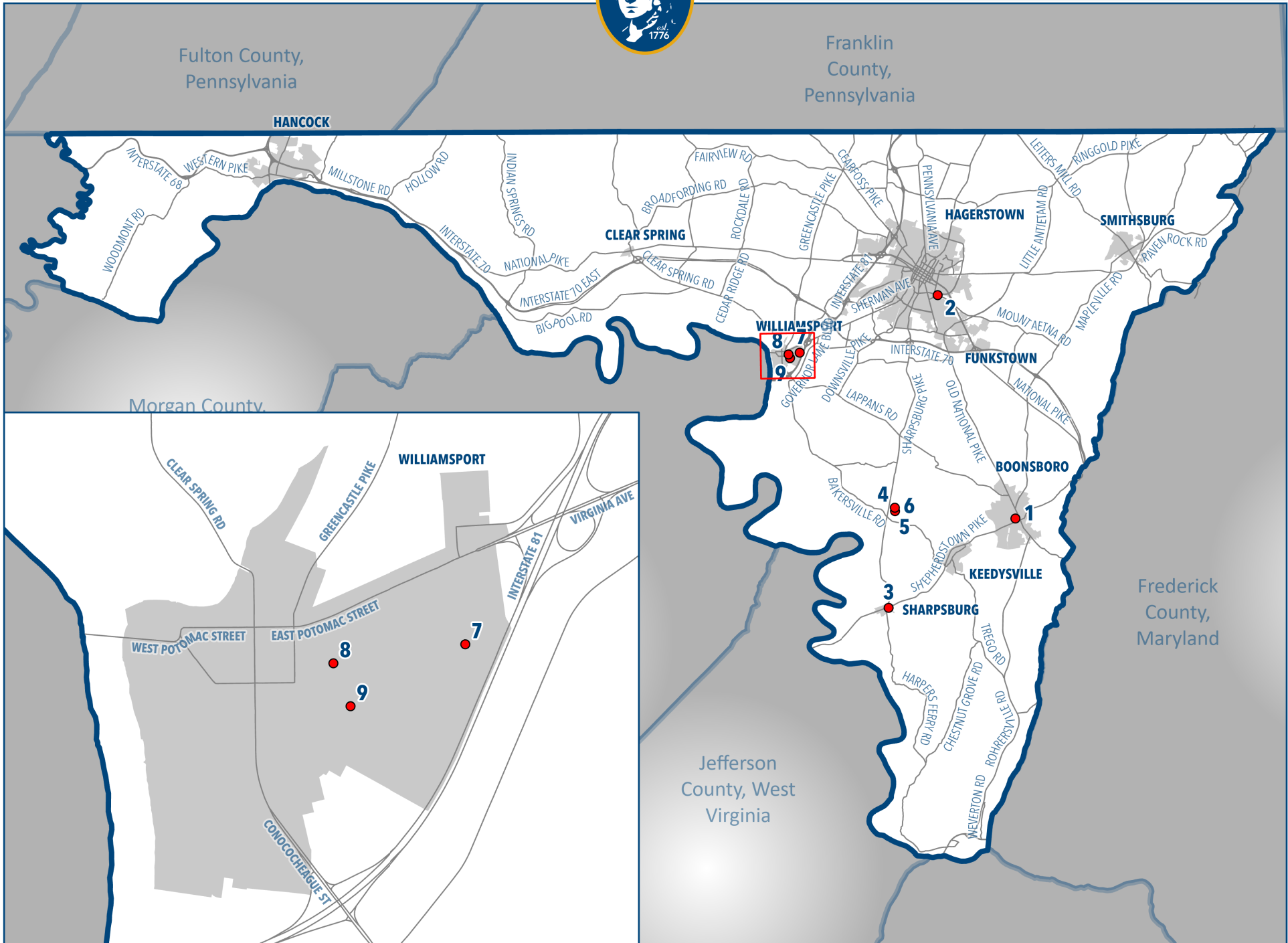
POS Development Total

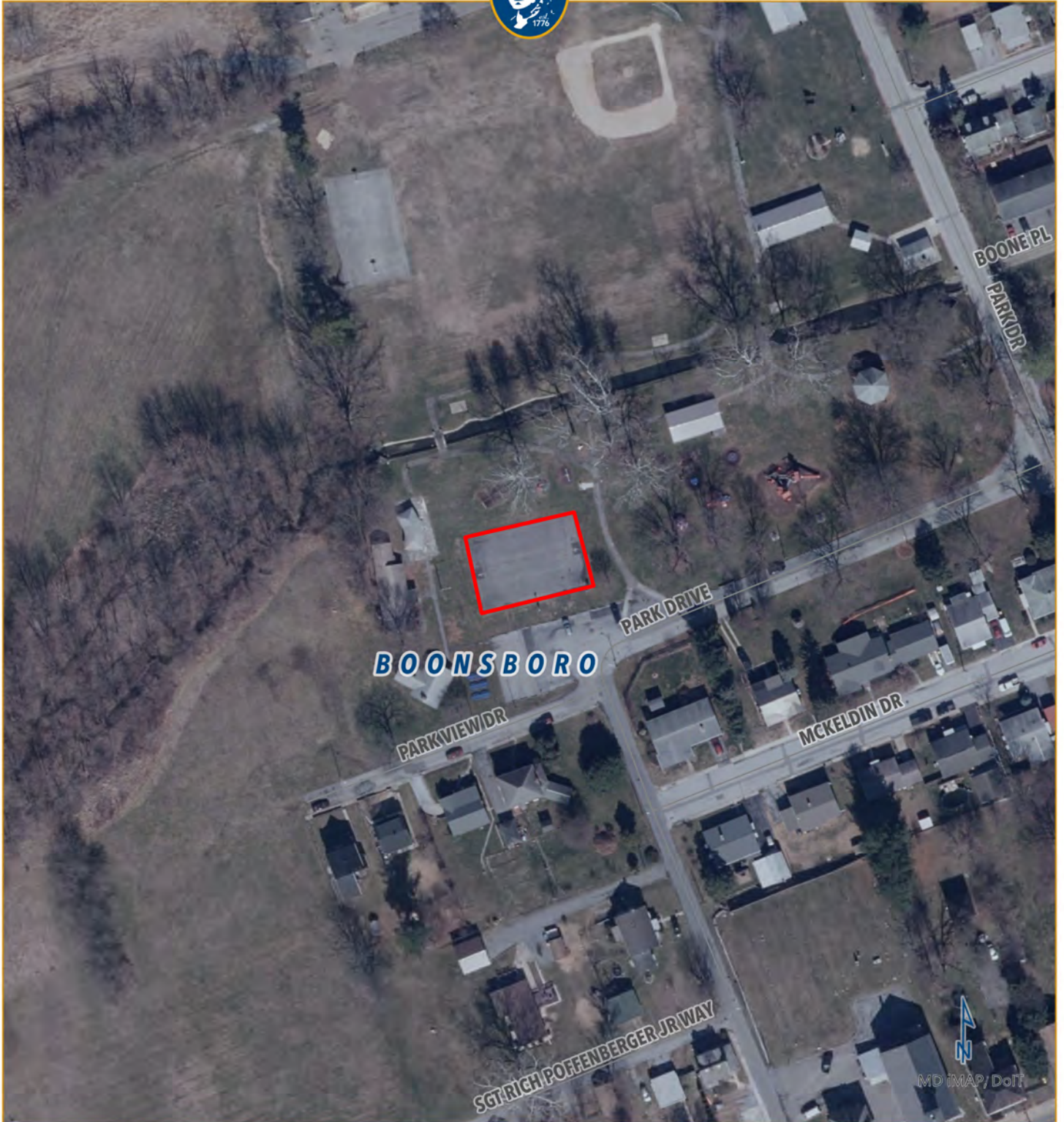
\$ 1,484,872.00
Difference \$ (48,096.25)

additional funds taken from unencumbered balance

Total POS Acquisition and Development

\$ 1,963,797.25



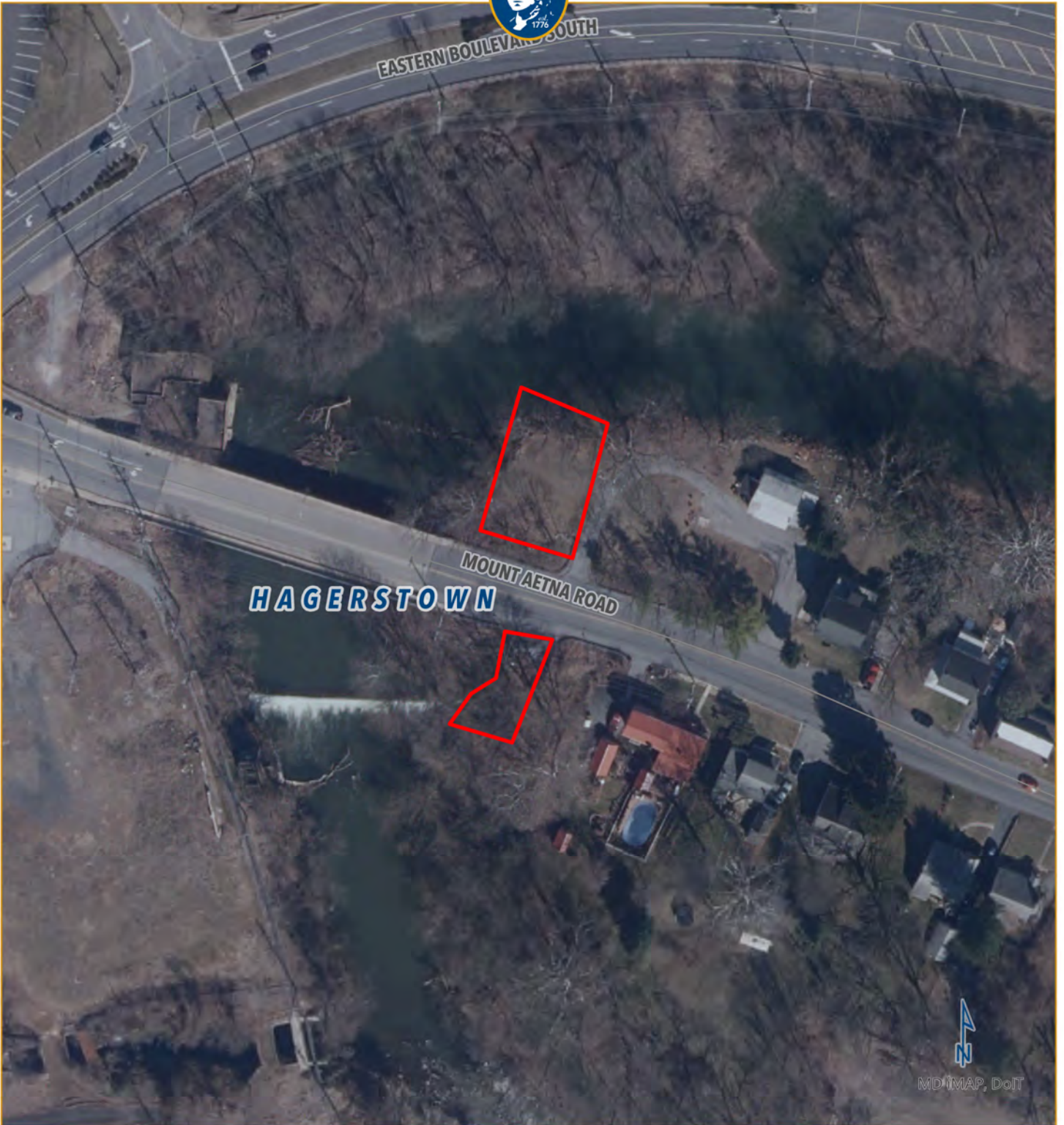


#1 - PICKLEBALL COURTS

Project Location: SHAFER PARK
Project Sponsor: BOONSBORO
Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Program Open Space Project Location





#2 - CREEK ACCESS AT MOUNT AETNA ROAD

Project Location: ANTIETAM CREEK WATERWAY TRAIL CREEK ACCESS
Project Sponsor: HAGERSTOWN
Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Program Open Space Project Location





#3 - SHARPSBURG HISTORICAL PARK

Project Location: 139 E MAIN STREET
Project Sponsor: SHARPSBURG
Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Program Open Space Project Location





#4 - INDOOR MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

Project Location: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
Project Sponsor: WASHINGTON COUNTY
Fiscal Year: 2024

 Program Open Space Project Location





#5 - AG CENTER - SHOW ARENA FLOOR

Project Location: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
Project Sponsor: WASHINGTON COUNTY
Fiscal Year: 2024

 Program Open Space Project Location





#6 - AG CENTER - RECREATIONAL FIELD BLEACHERS

Project Location: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
Project Sponsor: WASHINGTON COUNTY
Fiscal Year: 2024

 Program Open Space Project Location



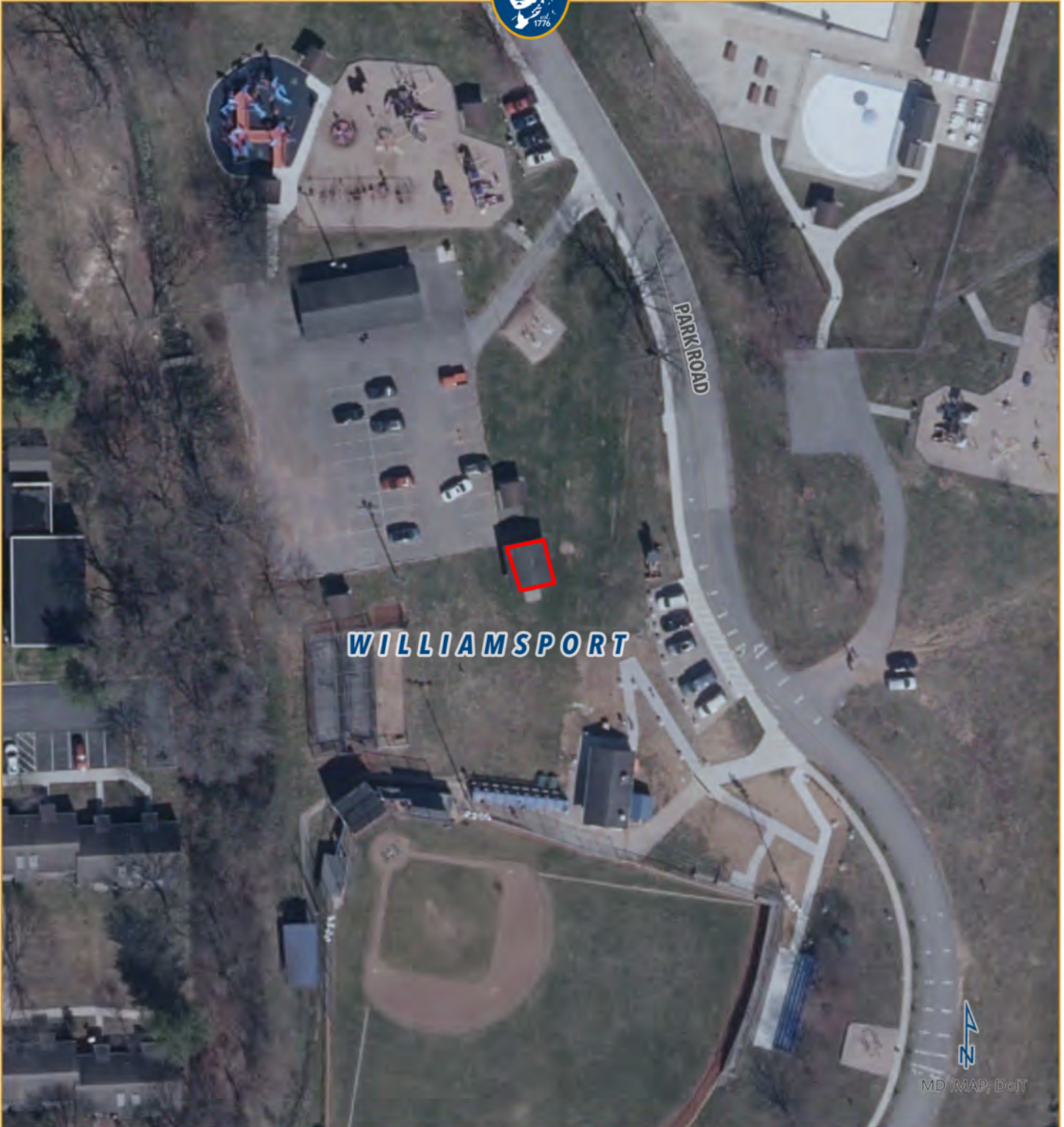


#7 - PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Project Location: WILLIAMSPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 Project Sponsor: WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Board of Education Properties
-  Program Open Space Project Location





#8 - BYRON MEMORIAL PARK - RESTROOM FACILITES IMPROVEMENTS

Project Location: BYRON MEMORIAL PARK
Project Sponsor: WILLIAMSPORT
Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Program Open Space Project Location





#9 - BYRON MEMORIAL PARK ACQUISITION - SPRINGFIELD MANSION

Project Location: 2 SPRINGFIELD LANE
 Project Sponsor: WILLIAMSPORT
 Fiscal Year: 2024

-  Municipalities
-  Board of Education Properties
-  Program Open Space Project Location

