

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Program Open Space (POS) Local Grant**

Development & Capital Renewal Application and Project Agreement

POS PROJECT #

POS 8027-21-458

(DNR Use Only)

1. PROJECT INFORMATION: Please fill out all sections of the form completely unless otherwise indicated.

PARK NAME Mt. Briar Wetlands

PROJECT NAME Trails and Conservation Area

2. PROJECT LOCATION: Please identify all applicable parcels.

Street Address: 19822 Millbrook Road

MD Legislative District 2A

City/Town Keedysville

County Washington

Zip Code 21756

County Tax Map 81

Grid 3

Parcel 409

Lot _____

SDAT Account Identifier 08-010331

District-Subdivision-Account Number or Ward-Section-Block-Lot (as applicable)

3. PROJECT DETAILS:

- a. Type of project: Development _____ Capital Renewal X
- b. Is this project located in a Priority Funding Area (PFA)? Yes X No _____
If this project is not in a PFA, does it serve population from more than one PFA? Yes _____ No _____
- c. Is this project constructing an indoor facility? (If 'Yes', please answer the following) Yes _____ No X
- i. Is the indoor facility 7,500 square feet or greater? Yes _____ No _____
- ii. If this is an indoor facility and the facility is 7,500 square feet or greater, please acknowledge the following:
- iii. The facility will meet the equivalent of LEED Green Building Rating System Silver rating. _____ Initial Here
- iv. The facility will incorporate the nonstructural site design practices in the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual in COMAR 26.17.02. _____ Initial Here
- d. Is this project located within a Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary? Yes _____ No X
<https://mdfloodmaps.net/CRAB/> (If 'Yes', please answer the following)
- i. Is the total cost of this project \$500,000 or greater? Yes _____ No _____
- ii. Does this project include a structure? For the Coast Smart Construction Program, a "structure" is defined as a walled or roofed building; a manufactured home; or a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground. Yes _____ No _____
- iii. If this project is located within a Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary, is \$500,000 or greater, and includes a structure, it may be subject to the Coast Smart Siting and Design Criteria. Please review the Coast Smart Construction Program document, and fill out and submit with your application the Coast Smart Project Screening Form in Appendix A: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/climateresilience/Documents/2020-Coast-Smart-Program-Documents/FINAL.pdf>. Note that this form is still required even if the project qualifies for a categorical exemption.
- iv. A waiver may be requested from one or more of the specific Siting or Design Criteria. To request a Waiver Consideration, please fill out and submit with your application the Coast Smart Criteria Waiver Form in Appendix B of the Coast Smart Construction Program document: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/climateresilience/Documents/2020-Coast-Smart-Program-Documents/FINAL.pdf>
- v. Please acknowledge that the project will meet any Coast Smart Siting and Design Criteria, as applicable. _____ Initial Here

- e. Please describe the public access that will be available on the property and note any restrictions or limitations, both prior and subsequent to park development:

The nature preserve is open to walk-in traffic year-round and drive in by appointment only. Once the project is completed the nature preserve can be open seasonally, sunrise to sunset.

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Descriptions are written into the agenda item, which is presented to the Maryland Board of Public Works for approval. Please explain the proposed project and be specific. Why is it being done and how does it relate to local recreation needs? Is it a new development, does it build upon an existing facility, or is it a capital renewal project? Provide all of the information that you feel is necessary to explain and justify the project. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

This park consists of 30.27 acres.

The project includes improvements to public access and conservation features within the park. Planned enhancements include the construction of a small trailhead parking area, installation of gates and fencing, development of natural-surface trails, wayfinding and park signage, and the planting of native meadow grasses and trees. These improvements will enhance visitor access, support environmental stewardship, and improve the overall park experience while preserving the site's natural resources.

This project specifically supports Washington County's goals of providing facilities that support the holistic health and wellbeing of the community and designing parks and recreation facilities to preserve, protect and enhance natural and cultural resources.

5. PROJECT PERIOD: From: 6/22/2026 Date of Letter of Acknowledgement or Letter of Concurrence (DNR Use Only)
To: 5/30/28 Estimated Date of Completion (Must be filled in by Applicant)

Please provide a provide a proposed development schedule:

Design Start Date (if applicable)	<u>7/1/26</u>	Design End Date	<u>7/1/27</u>
Construction Start Date	<u>9/1/27</u>	Construction End Date	<u>5/30/28</u>

6. ITEMIZED DETAILED COST ESTIMATE: Round to the nearest dollar.

ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
1	Site plan and natural trail design	\$40,000
2	Site Work – parking lot	\$70,000
3	Gates and fences	\$30,000
4	Natural Trail Surfaces	\$25,000
5	Meadow Planting and Landscaping	\$10,000
6	Signage	\$10,000
7	Lighting and Misc	\$5,000
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COSTS:		\$150,000

7. PROJECT FUNDING:

POS FUNDS REQUESTED:	\$	<u>135,000</u>	<u>90</u> %
PRIOR POS FUNDS APPROVED:	\$	_____	_____ %
LOCAL FUNDS:	\$	<u>15,000</u>	<u>10</u> %
OTHER FUNDS:	\$	_____	_____ % (Specify Source/Type) _____
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$	<u>150,000</u>	<u>100</u> %

8. FEDERAL FUNDS: (check one of the options below)

- a. The Applicant certifies that it has received Federal funds for this project. _____

Please indicate type of Federal fund received and amount: _____

b. The Applicant certifies that it has not received Federal funds for this project. X**9. APPLICANT INFORMATION:** Note that the Applicant is also the County or Municipality that will be receiving the funding at reimbursement.APPLICANT Washington CountyAPPLICANT'S
FEDERAL ID # 52-60001037**10. LOCAL PROJECT COORDINATOR:**

Andrew Eshleman	Director	Public Works	Washington County	
(Print Name)	(Title)	(Department)	(Organization)	
100 West Washington Street		Hagerstown	MD	21740
(Mailing Address)		(City)	(State)	(Zip)
240-313-2252	717-404-5475	aeshleman@washco-md.net		
(Phone Number)	(Mobile Number)	(Email Address)		

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION:

As the authorized representative of this Political Subdivision, I have read the terms of the "Project Agreement and General Conditions" of the Local Program Open Space (POS) Grants Manual and I agree to perform all work in accordance with the Manual, POS Law and Regulations, all applicable Local, State and Federal statutes and regulations, and with the attachments included herewith and made a part thereof.

	John F. Barr	President of Board of County Commissioners	6-4-26
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Title/Organization)	(Date)

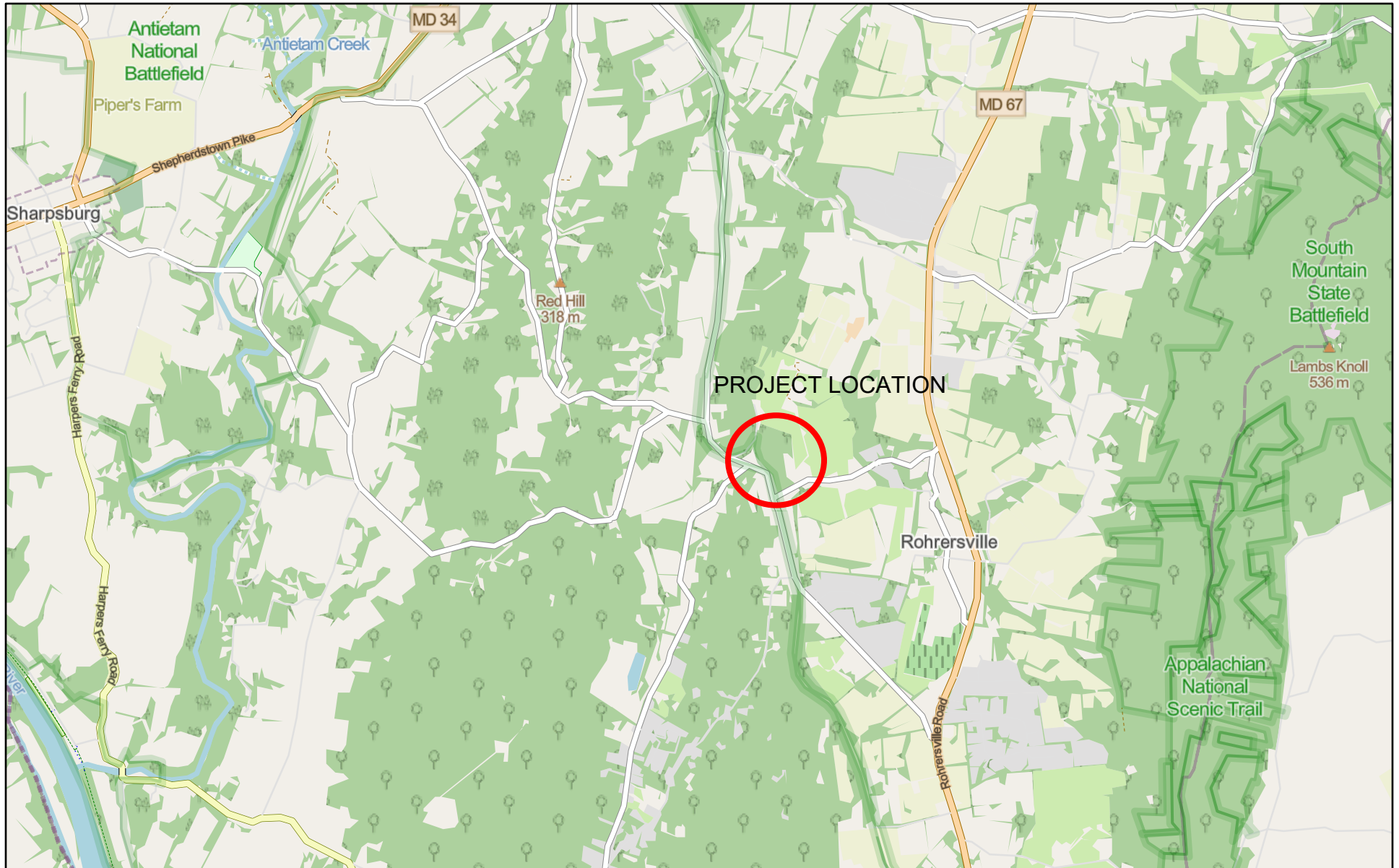
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW: (DNR Use Only)

ON-SITE INSPECTION: DATE _____ BY _____

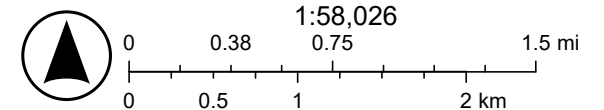
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – PROGRAM OPEN SPACE APPROVAL:

_____	_____	_____
(Signature)	(BPW Approval Date)	(BPW Agenda Item Number)

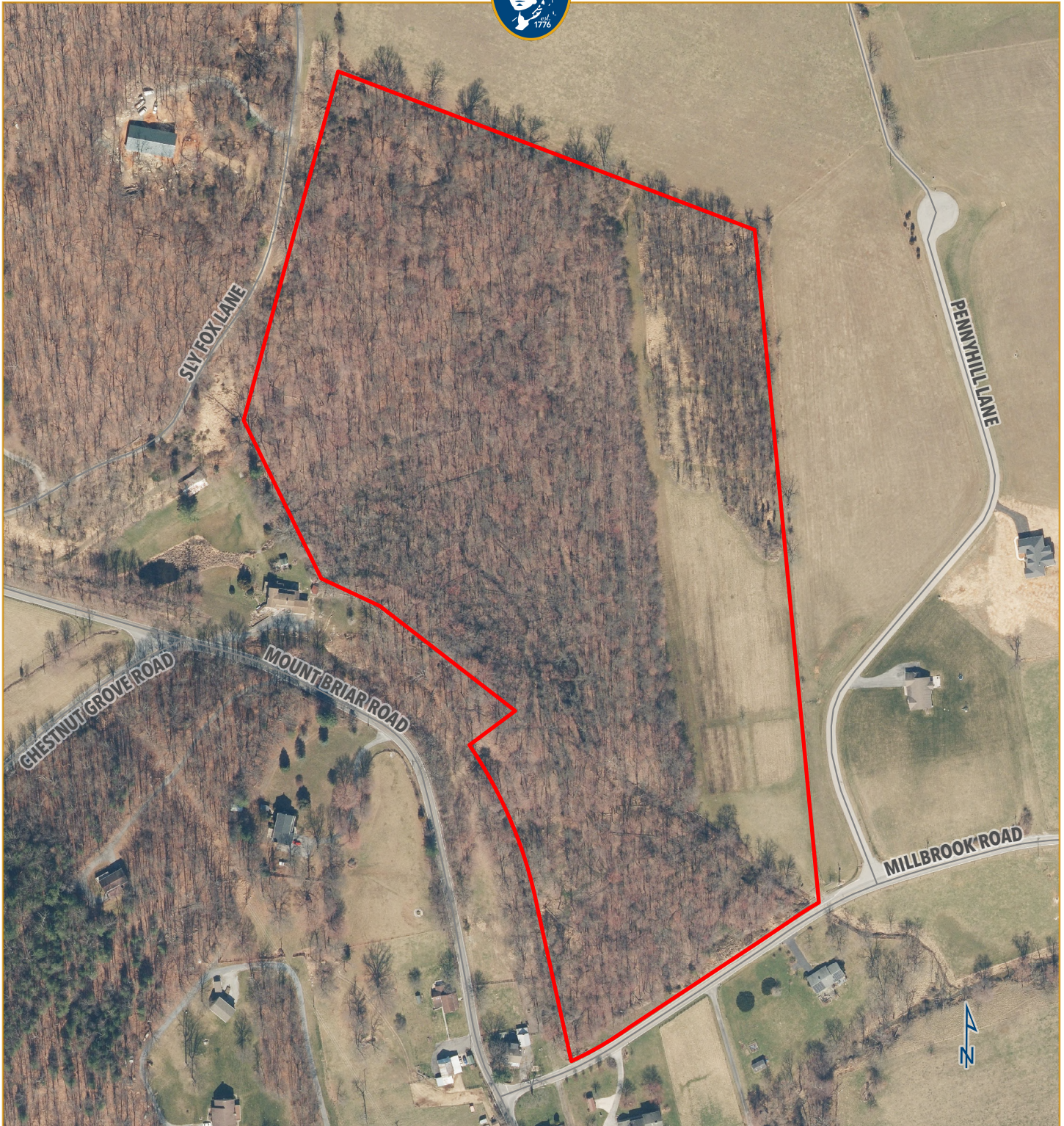
Mt. Briar Wetlands Trail and Conservation Area



6/22/2026, 1:43:49 PM



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Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri



#10 - TRAILS AND CONSERVATION AREA

Project Location: MT BRIAR WETLAND
Project Sponsor: WASHINGTON COUNTY
Fiscal Year: 2026

 Program Open Space Project Location



Mt. Briar Wetlands – Existing Photos







DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING | LAND PRESERVATION | FOREST CONSERVATION | GIS
PROJECT APPROVAL

Project Title: Mt. Briar Wetlands Preserve Trails and Conservation Area

Name and Address of Applicant: Board of County Commissioners, 100 W. Washington St., Hagerstown MD, 21740

Project Description: Mt. Briar Wetland Preserve is a 30.3-acre park in the Mt. Briar Rural Village and one of the few non-tidal wetlands of its size in Washington County. The park has an elevated boardwalk trail built over the wetland. There is, however, no vehicle parking or connecting walking/biking trails to the rural preserve and public access to the property is limited. There are approximately 3.5 acres of swampy former pasture field grass. The project would establish a small parking area, connect the existing boardwalk trail with an upland trail network on the remaining areas of the property. The existing monoculture grass pasture field would be converted with tree plantings and portions as a native species lowland meadow. Wayfinding and natural resource information signage would be provided throughout the park. The park is intended to remain as a natural resource conservation area and not a developed community park.

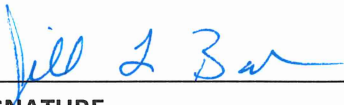
This project specifically supports Washington County's goal of designing parks and recreation facilities to preserve, protect and enhance natural and cultural resources and providing facilities that support the holistic health and wellbeing of the community.

Planned Starting Date of Project: Date of Acknowledgement Letter

Planned Completion Date of Project: July 2026

CERTIFICATION

1. ☒ I certify that this project conforms to the officially approved State, regional or local (as appropriate) plans and/or program cited below: (Identify official document(s) by title, approving authority and date.)
 - 2040 Comprehensive Plan for Washington County, Maryland; adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on August 26, 2025
 - Washington County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan; adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on June 14, 2022
2. ☐ Project does not conform to any approved plan or program. Explanation or justification is attached to this notification.


SIGNATURE

Name: Jill Baker

Title: Director, Washington County Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: December 1, 2025