GIS Submittal Guidelines

FY 2023

Starting with the FY 2023 Rural Legacy Annual Grant Applications, we are requesting GIS data to be submitted for lands within the Rural Legacy Area (RLA) protected by any land preservation programs you administer. This procedural change will speed up the review process and ensure that we have all the protected lands data needed for our analyses. It will also ensure that the application is credited for all the protected lands within the RLA. (See details under #3, below.)

In another change, DNR & MDP will be using iMAP to calculate the protected lands NOT administered by local jurisdictions. (See details under #3, below.) Additionally, DNR & MDP will also be calculating the developed land acreage previously required in the application. The application has been revised to reflect these changes.

DNR is requesting that GIS data for land protected by the local programs administered by the sponsor as well as the local county/counties within the Rural Legacy Area be provided BEFORE you submit the annual grant application.

Local protected land and Rural Legacy Area Boundary GIS data will be due January 15th (in the event that is a weekend or holiday or state offices are closed, then the next business day).

Below are some guidelines for submitting GIS data:

1. Each sponsor should coordinate with the county (or counties) in which the Rural Legacy Area Boundary exists to identify local land preservation programs located within the RLA.

2. If you are proposing a new Rural Legacy Area Boundary, an expansion, or a reduction to an existing boundary, please submit a GIS layer of the Rural Legacy Area Boundary.

   (Note: if you are only applying for a renewal, we will use the existing Rural Legacy Area Boundary available on iMAP at
   https://geodata.md.gov/imap/rest/services/Environment/MD_FocalAreas/FeatureServer

3. Please provide GIS data only for programs which are administered through the sponsoring land trust (if applicable) and county in which the Rural Legacy Area is located.

   If a sponsor is a land trust, they should provide the GIS data for their protected lands*.

   The county/counties located within the RLA boundary should provide GIS data for the following programs they administer*:

   - Transfer Development Rights (TDR),
   - Purchase Development Rights (PDR), and
   - County and municipal parkland and open spaces that are permanently protected (excluding schools).

   Please clearly identify under which program each protected land is categorized (TDR, PDR, etc.).

   *Do not include mitigation/restoration sites, protected lands that have not settled, or temporarily protected lands (such as Agricultural Districts).

   Note: DNR &MDP will use iMAP to calculate acreages for the following: Protected Federal lands, DNR Owned Lands and Conservation Easements, Rural Legacy Properties, MD Environmental Trust Easements, MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Easements, and Private Conservation Lands (not including acres from the land trust sponsor, if applicable).

   You DO NOT need to include these iMAP layers in your GIS submittal.

4. Please submit the full extent of protected lands intersecting the Rural Legacy Area Boundary for mapping purposes.

5. DNR & MDP will identify any overlapping protected lands and remove overlap from the calculations.

6. If possible, please use the Chesapeake Bay Program's GIS data standard as modified and provided by Maryland Department of Planning when submitting data. This data standard is the same one counties are required to use for the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans (LPPRP) submittals and will help us review and better understand your data. Link to download data standard by clicking **here.**

7. GIS data should be submitted via a zipped shapefile or geodatabase.

   This should be transmitted electronically by email or other type of online file transfer service (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) to the Rural Legacy Program as a shapefile or geodatabase in NAD_1983_StatePlane_Maryland_FIPS_1900 meters projection.

   Send to:
   > Tom McCarthy
   > Conservation Easement Supervisor
   > Land Acquisition and Planning, Department of Natural Resources
   > 410-260-8429 (O)
   > 410-279-3815 (M)
   >
   > tom.mccarthy@maryland.gov

If you have any questions regarding the GIS data request, please contact Ellen Mussman at Maryland Department of Planning at ellen.mussman@maryland.gov