

Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2023 Program Open Space Annual Program



DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS

Images (top to bottom):

1. Cheverly Road Property, acquired with POS funding in FY22, to include indoor and outdoor public park amenities and house the new headquarters of the Department of Recreation and Parks.
2. Design renderings for the community center at the new Sparrows Point Park, for which both POS acquisition and development funds are being utilized.
3. Groundbreaking of the Northwest Regional Park Destination Playground, which received POS development funding and is expected to open in Fall 2022.

INTRODUCTION

This Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Program lists park acquisition and development projects currently being explored by Baltimore County, for which fiscal year 2023 Maryland Program Open Space (POS) funding may be pursued. Projects listed here will help to achieve the goals and objectives of Baltimore County's Master Plan 2020 (as amended) and the County's 2017 and 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans (LPPRP). Specifically, the projects will support the following LPPRP and amended Master Plan 2020 policies:


- Acquire a variety of parklands and recreation sites in order to meet the needs of County residents and provide a park system that contributes to the County's quality of life and overall land preservation efforts.
- Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils.




The acquisition of 323 Worthington Road (following the adjacent acquisition of 322 Worthington Road in FY21) will help respond to current recreational demands of residents to have additional miles of trails and paths and to create greater connections between greenspaces. The "Six Bridges Trail" will connect floodplain properties, Radebaugh Park, Towson High School Recreation Center, and Stoneleigh Elementary School Recreation Center.

- Enhance public access to the natural environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and seek to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for nature.
- Work with Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) to improve environmental conditions at the County's parks and recreation sites, and to help protect and preserve the natural environment.
- Pursue alternative means for providing recreational opportunities through partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
- Expand opportunities for residents to participate in and experience arts and cultural programs and events, and work to preserve historically and culturally significant sites for the appreciation and enjoyment of the County's residents and visitors.
- Continue to partner with affiliated residents organizations, and participate in various partnerships in an effort to enhance public recreation access for Baltimore County residents and visitors.


The projects proposed in this Annual Program also support other planning documents and initiatives, and help to achieve the 5-year priorities and goals identified in the State of Maryland’s “Land Preservation and Recreation Plan: 2019-2023” (below graphic from the plan):




Goal 1: Coordination and Collaboration
Strengthen coordination and collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies and other key stakeholders in planning for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and land conservation initiatives.




Goal 2: Promote the Benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation of Natural Lands
Promote the economic, cultural, health, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation of natural lands. Seek to increase the public’s understanding of these benefits to enhance interest and participation in recreating outdoors in Maryland.



Goal 3: Increase Access to Open Spaces and Waterfronts
Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities.



Goal 4: Improve What’s Already Available
Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.



Goal 5: Develop an Informed Stewardship Culture
Promote environmental education and use of parks and outdoor areas as teaching tools to foster a positive stewardship ethos among children, youth, and their families.

CAPITAL PROJECT SELECTION PROCESSES

While the goals and objectives identified in the County’s LPPRP provide the general impetus for conducting various capital projects, the means for selecting such projects varies based on the type of capital projects. The methods for choosing acquisition projects differ significantly from those used to establish development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects. Following is a summary of the processes Baltimore County utilizes to identify, prioritize and select capital projects.

A. Acquisition Projects

In any given year Baltimore County, through its Department of Recreation and Parks and its real estate office, pursues numerous properties to serve as park sites. While many candidate properties may be evaluated and considered, the acquisition process is typically initiated only in circumstance where the land in question will help to achieve the County’s present park acquisition goals and objectives. An assortment of factors are considered when deciding whether or not to pursue acquisition opportunities,

including the supply of parkland in a given area, the need to acquire land suitable for accommodating facilities required to meet recreational demands, the availability of undeveloped land within a geographic area, local population growth trends, and relative public and environmental benefits. Baltimore County is firmly committed to providing equitable recreational opportunities countywide, with the park acquisition program playing a key role in this mission. In some circumstances the County will identify certain areas of need, and make it a priority to seek out potential site for park acquisition. However, the diminished availability of high quality properties in many areas of the County can make the acquisition of adequate parklands a challenging proposition.

FY22 was a busy year for POS-funded acquisitions. Baltimore County acquired six properties totaling 47 acres in FY22, as well as two properties totaling an additional 25.8 acres under contract. Several of these properties will later be developed, providing additional amenities to the surrounding communities. Pictured below is the 12.7-acre Cheverly Road acquisition to have indoor and outdoor park amenities and house the Department of Recreation and Parks headquarters.

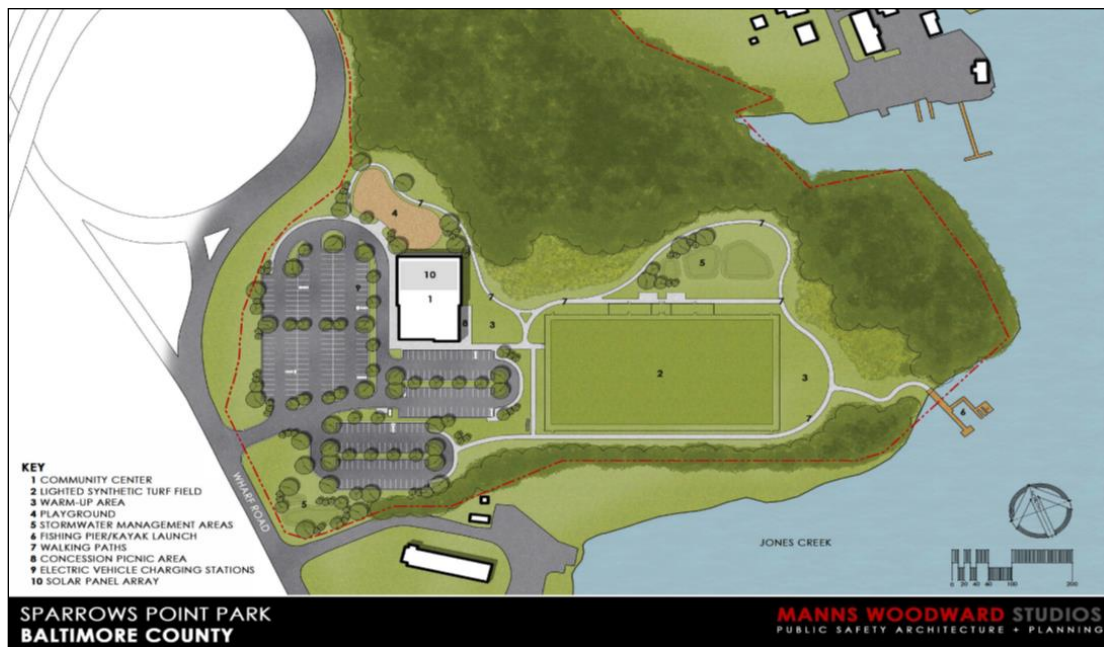


B. Park Development, Enhancement and Rehabilitation Projects

The “development side” of POS helps to fund a wide range of park development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects. Up to 75% of eligible capital project costs may be funded through POS, though the amount of POS funding utilized varies by project. POS is also sometimes combined with other outside funding sources, such as State bond bills and capital grants. The means by which development, enhancement, and rehabilitation projects are chosen varies by the type of project. The following describes

the types of projects that may be funded with POS assistance, as well as the general process by which these projects are typically selected.

- **New Park Development:** New park development projects are often initiated shortly after the acquisition of a site that was procured to meet existing recreational needs. Funding is usually set aside for site engineering between one to five years after site acquisition. In some cases a site may remain unimproved and “land banked” for longer than five years, until there is available funding and sufficient demand for park development. Such recreational demands and needs are usually the key consideration in deciding when a new park development project is to be funded. The development of the Sparrows Point Park Site and of the Greens Lane Park Site, within this Annual Program, are two examples of new park development projects.



Above: Conceptual plan for the proposed Sparrows Point Park Site.

- **Phased Park Construction:** Another form of park development is phased construction. This most typically occurs at larger parks, most often when it is not financially or physically feasible to fully develop the entire park immediately. In such situations, a concept plan or park “master plan” may be formulated for the entirety of the park site prior to the initial phase of development, with subsequent engineering of the first phase being based upon the concept plan. The second phase may occur soon afterwards – usually in another fiscal year – or multiple years later. The proposed Belfast Road Park Site development job, included in this Annual Program, is likely to be completed in multiple phases.
- **Park Enhancements:** Enhancement projects help to improve recreational opportunities at existing parks and recreation sites, and range from entirely new facilities and amenities, to improvements to existing facilities to make them more functional and/or implement new technology. Enhancements at Cromwell Valley Park, included in this Annual Program, are likely to include expanded parking and roadway improvements to better serve the population visiting this nature park.
- **Rehabilitation:** Park facilities and amenities have a finite life cycle, and eventually need to be replaced or comprehensively rehabilitated to keep them safe for public use. Most of the County’s

facility rehabilitation projects are funded without POS assistance, as POS regulations allow only a small proportion of a county's POS allocation to be utilized for facility renovations/rehabilitation. Significant rehabilitation efforts at Cromwell Valley Park, including improvements to aging structures and the restoration of trail networks, are listed as a project within this Annual Program.

In FY22, no development projects were funded through POS in Baltimore County. Future years' POS annual programs will likely include development on some of the five properties acquired in FY22. In FY22, progress was made on development projects submitted in FY20 and FY21, primarily in the design phase. Some examples are provided below.



Baltimore County broke ground on the **Northwest Regional Park Destination Playground** on April 1, 2022 and a ribbon cutting is expected in September 2022. This project received \$300,000 from an FY21 POS development grant, as well as local funding and a grant from the Baltimore Ravens. Kids will be able to “Play Like a Raven,” participating in fitness-focused and fun activities including a challenge course with 14 obstacles and a timed 40-yard dash. The playground will feature climbing structures, musical play elements, and a 17-foot tall tower with slides. It will add to the athletic facilities at Northwest Regional Park, creating more ways for Baltimore County residents to have fun and stay healthy.



The design phase for **Hazelwood Skatepark** is expected to conclude in Fall 2022, with an anticipated opening date in November 2023. This project received \$535,000 in POS development funding in FY21 and is also expected to utilize local funds, a Local Parks and Playgrounds Initiative grant, a state capital grant, and private donations. It will include two concrete skate bowls, several skateboarding skills elements, a spectators' area, a walking path, and parking.



The design phase for the **Middle River Community PAL Center** is nearly complete, with an anticipated opening in March 2024. This project received \$1,725,000 in POS development grants, as well as a state capital grant and local funds. This new center will also be used for organized PAL programming for youth aged 8-17 and will be available for others' use outside of PAL Center hours. Reflecting the history of aviation in Middle River, there will be an aeronautical theme to the building, which is expected to have a full size gym and several smaller activity rooms.



The design phase for a new park on Church Lane in the Pikesville community is nearly complete, with an anticipated opening date in November 2023. This land was acquired with an FY20 POS acquisition grant and then received an FY21 POS development grant. It is expected to feature paved walking paths, including an environmental education loop, picnic tables and seating, an environmental sculpture, a pollinator garden and rain garden, and a natural playground area, as well as a small parking lot.

POTENTIAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROJECTS

Parts two and three of this annual program list prospective fiscal year 2023 acquisition and development projects in a tabular format. These sections provide detailed information regarding recreation and parks projects for which POS funding may be requested. Information about other State funding sources such as bond bills and capital grants is likewise provided. All projects listed are sponsored by Baltimore County, which has no incorporated towns within its boundaries. Additional projects not listed in this program may be added throughout the fiscal year as needed, at which time this program shall be amended through written notification to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning. It is important to note that the inclusion of projects within the annual program or the LPPRP does not guarantee that capital funding will be available for implementation, and project priorities may be revised.

POS regulations allow for 100% funding reimbursement for park acquisition projects, with the maximum eligible reimbursement amount typically being based upon the average of two property appraisals, or the purchase price (whichever is lower). POS will fund up to 75% of park development, enhancement or rehabilitation projects costs. This Annual Program includes a somewhat rare type of project that will affect the County’s acquisition-side and development-side POS balances. An approximately 21.6-acre waterfront parcel within the Tradepoint Atlantic development complex is proposed for donation to Baltimore County.

The County anticipates submitting POS acquisition application to encumber the property as a POS-funded acquisition, allowing (as per POS regulations/guidelines) an amount of available POS acquisition-side funding equal to 75% of the land's value to be utilized toward subsequent park development at the property, which is expected to be named Sparrows Point Park. The State funding amounts listed in the acquisition and development project lists that follow assume that this "transfer" of POS funding types will occur.

The tables that follow identify the presently envisioned projects for which POS funding may be utilized. The columns that comprise the tables are:

- **Project Name and Description:** The name and brief description of each project or job.
- **Project's Relationship to County LPPRP and State goals:** This column describes how the given project helps to fulfill the goals and objectives of the County's Master Plan and the County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, and indicates how the project supports the State of Maryland's goals outlined in the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.
- **Acreage Data:** This column presents various park and recreation site acreage data, including the size in acres of parks with development projects. Acreage is not listed for sites in which the specific project sites have not yet been identified.
- **Source of Funds:** These columns provide details about the various FY 2023 funding sources that are projected to be utilized for each specific project/job.

Notes pertaining to the lists of potential projects: The funding amounts identified, for the most part, are approximate and do not reflect actual "contract costs." Additionally, in order to prevent potential "land speculation" and avoid creating competition or undue value expectations for prospective property purchases, specific acquisition sites are not generally identified within this Annual Program. Instead, more general "priority acquisition areas" are identified.

Finally, a series of maps are provided for the purpose of identifying project locations throughout the County. Maps are not provided for projects that are not site specific, such as potential acquisitions not yet identified and trail improvements to be located in a variety of parks. A final map showing areas of Baltimore County identified as having high social vulnerability is included. An area of social vulnerability is defined as one that has a Social Vulnerability Index ≥ 0.7 ; an Area Deprivation Index ≥ 8 ; or defined as a Qualified Census Tract. This map, in conjunction with information presented in the LPPRP on the level of service for parks and recreational amenities helps to guide new acquisitions and development.

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Acre Data	Total Funding	Local Funding	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Fund.	Funding Notes
<p>Priority Area Park Acquisition(s): Acquisition of various properties within areas with defined or anticipated parkland, open space and recreational facility needs. Acquisitions may be pursued to provide sites for recreational development, expand upon existing parks and recreation sites, acquire key parcels along planned trails or green space corridors, preserve green/open space, or to produce a more equitable distribution of parkland across our county. Potential areas of emphasis for FY23 are sites within communities with a strong need for parks and/or high social vulnerability, and properties to serve as pocket parks along established suburban corridors. One application is expected to be submitted for the donation of an ~21.6 acre in the Sparrows Point community of southeast Baltimore County. The County intends to (as allowed by POS rules) allocate an amount of POS acquisition-side funding equal to 75% of the value of that donation to the subsequent development of that site. See "Sparrows Point Park Site" in the list of proposed park development projects. Also anticipated is the acquisition of a 1.77 acre site in the Landsdowne community of southwest Baltimore County that includes an existing recreation center currently known as Leadership Through Athletics.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Helps to meet the general goal of acquiring a variety of parklands and recreation sites for multiple purposes. Certain acquisitions could help achieve goal of enhancing public access to the Bay and its tributaries. STATE GOALS: Supports the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Goal to "Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities."</p>	TBD	\$14,000,000	\$4,800,000	\$9,200,000	\$0	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
TOTALS:			\$14,000,000	\$4,800,000	\$9,200,000	\$0	\$0	

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	State Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
<p>Belfast Road Park Site Design and Development: This project consists of the design and construction of a community park at the presently undeveloped Belfast Road Park Site, in the Sparks community of northern Baltimore County. This site was acquired in 2015, as a part of an effort to provide additional space in northern Baltimore County for park development. The local recreation council has long been leasing private space to support their public recreation programs. It is anticipated that site development will include athletic fields and an indoor recreation facility, though the exact scope of the project has not yet been identified.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective "Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities." Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities, as this project is also expected to include a financial contribution from the local recreation council. STATE GOALS: Supports the goal of "Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state."</p>	36.8	\$6,600,000	\$1,900,000	\$4,500,000	\$200,000	-	State funding is local-side POS. Other funding is anticipated contribution from recreation council.
<p>Cromwell Valley Park Renovations and Enhancements: This project consists of multiple major renovations and enhancements at Cromwell Valley Park. The park's present access road and parking size and configuration do not sufficiently support the ever increasing recreational demand at this centrally located nature park. Expanded parking is needed, as are roadway enhancements. Additionally, the "barnatorium" by the park's Willow Grove Nature Center is in need of structural renovations. This structure serves as a key indoor program space for the park. Finally, an "Accessible Trail for All" and nature pavilion are to be developed to provide expanded accessible recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective "Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities." Helps to support environmental education programs. Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities, as this project also involves a State capital grant. STATE GOALS: Supports the goal of "Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state."</p>	455.0	\$3,000,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,200,000	-	-	State funding consists of \$1,000,000 in local-side POS, as well as \$200,000 in State bond bill funds.

*- Funding amounts are approximate, and are subject to change

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	State Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
<p>Greens Lane Park Design and Development: This project involves the design and construction of a park and Department of Recreation and Parks operated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Center at the Greens Lane Park Site in the Randallstown community. Indoor and outdoor recreation and learning experiences will be offered, including nature-based opportunities offered by the site's stream and woodlands and the adjacent County greenway.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objectives "Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities," "Enhance public access to the natural environment...and seek to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for nature," and "Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in and experience arts and cultural programs." Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities, as this includes funding from POS, LPPI, and private sources. STATE GOALS: Supports the goals of "Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state" and "Promote environmental education and use of parks and outdoor areas as teaching tools to foster a positive stewardship ethos among children, youth, and their families."</p>	7.7	\$10,000,000	\$1,700,000	\$7,300,000	\$1,000,000	-	State funding consists of \$2,000,000 in local-side POS, as well as \$5,300,000 in LPPI funds.

*- Funding amounts are approximate, and are subject to change

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	State Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
<p>Sparrows Point Park Site Development: This project consists of the design and construction of a waterfront community park at a property to be donated to the County, within the Tradepoint Atlantic complex in the Sparrows community of southeast Baltimore County. A portion of the POS funding is expected to derive from the County's acquisition-side balance, as per the option to apply a portion of the value of the donated property to site development. Park design is already underway, and will be excluded from the POS funding application. Facilities to be developed include a recreation center, lighted synthetic turf field, paved path network, playground, pier with floating kayak launch, and parking, in addition to other minor park amenities.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective "Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities." Also supports objective of leveraging multiple capital funding sources to provide needed recreational facilities, as this project is also expected to include a State capital grant and private financial contributions. STATE GOALS: Supports the goals of "Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state," and "Increase and improve opportunities for all segments of the population to access land and water-based outdoor recreation opportunities."</p>	~21.6	\$19,200,000	\$9,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$3,000,000	State funding consists of \$3 million in local-side POS and \$3 million in State capital grant funding. Other funding is potential donations/ contributions from other parties.

*- Funding amounts are approximate, and are subject to change

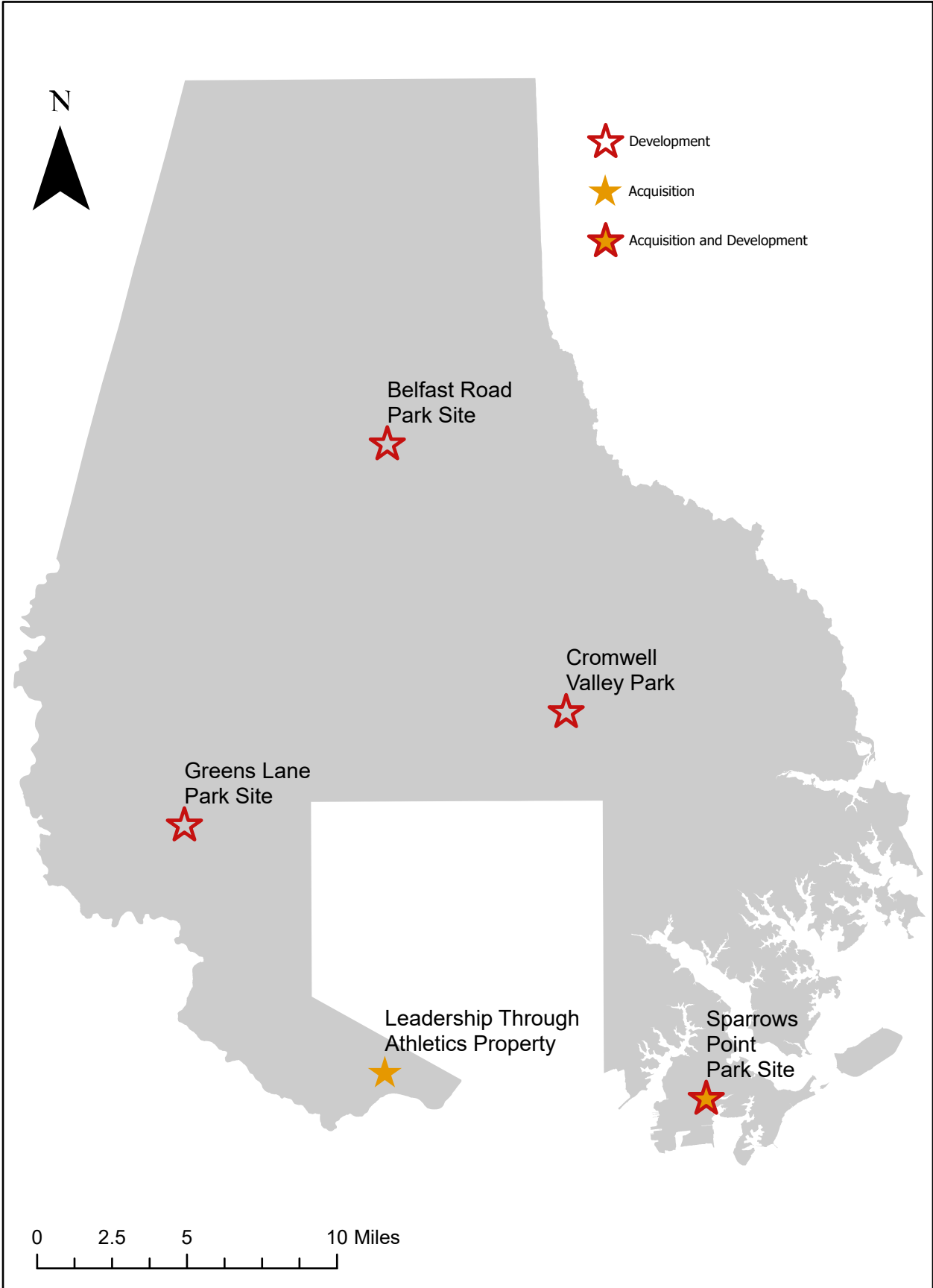
PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023 PARK DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and State Goals	Park/ Site Acres	Total Funding*	Local Funding*	State Funding*	Other Funding*	Federal Funding*	Funding Notes
<p>Trail Renovation/Construction (locations TBD): Based on a recent survey conducted by the Department of Recreation and Parks, there is a high demand for hiking, walking, and bicycling trails. There are existing natural surface trails in need of resurfacing and erosion control as well as paved paths in need of repaving. There is also a desire among residents for additional paths and trails, particularly to create greater connectivity between neighborhoods and communities. This project will enhance and expand Baltimore County's trail network.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objectives "Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities" and "Enhance public access to the natural environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and seek to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for nature." STATE GOALS: Supports the goal of "Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state."</p>	-	\$1,800,000	\$500,000	\$1,300,000	-	-	State funding consists of \$1,300,000 in local-side POS
TOTALS:			\$38,800,000	\$14,900,000	\$20,300,000	\$2,400,000	\$3,000,000	
POS FUNDING:					\$11,800,000			

*- Funding amounts are approximate, and are subject to change

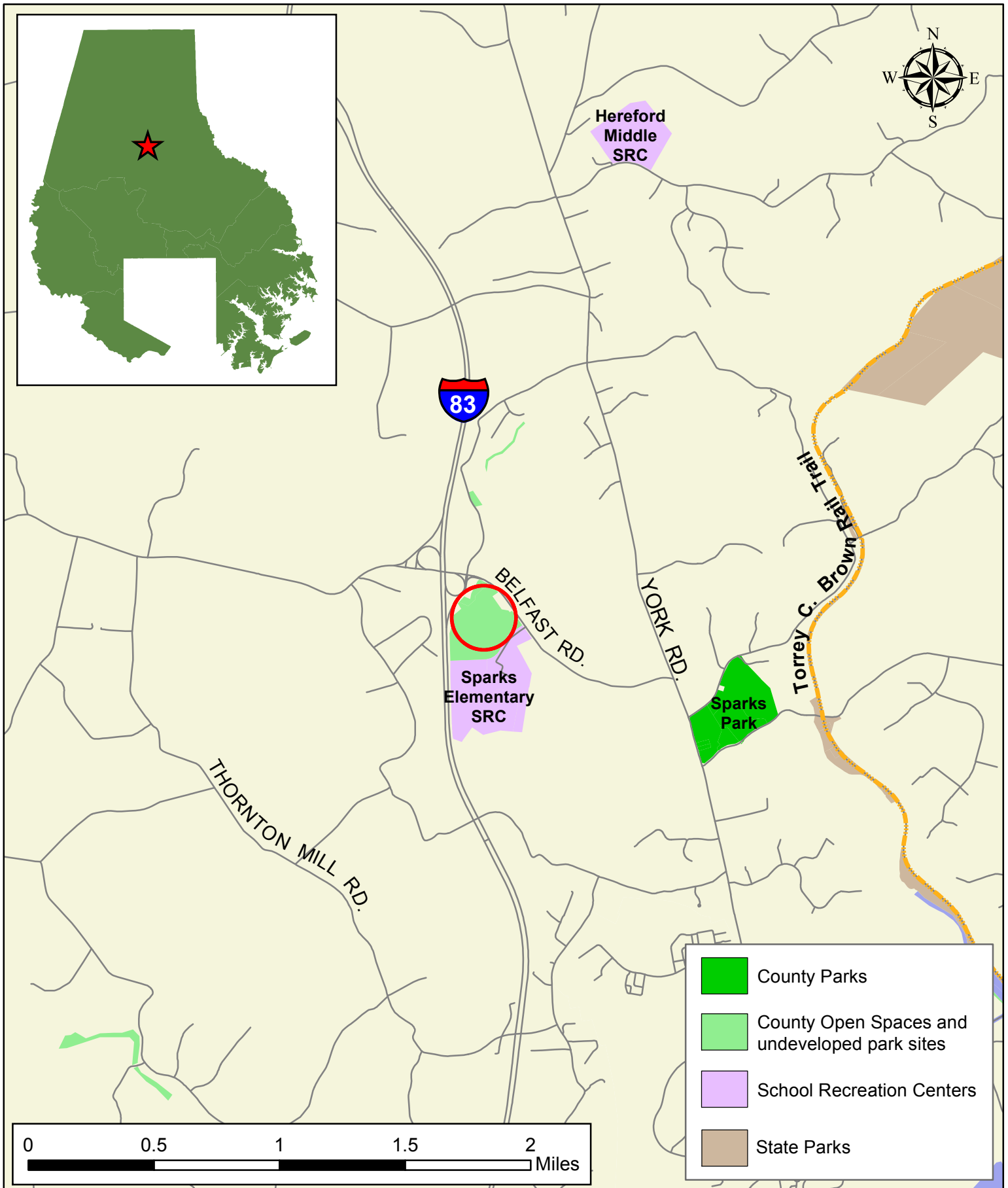
MAPS

FY 23 Potential POS Project Sites



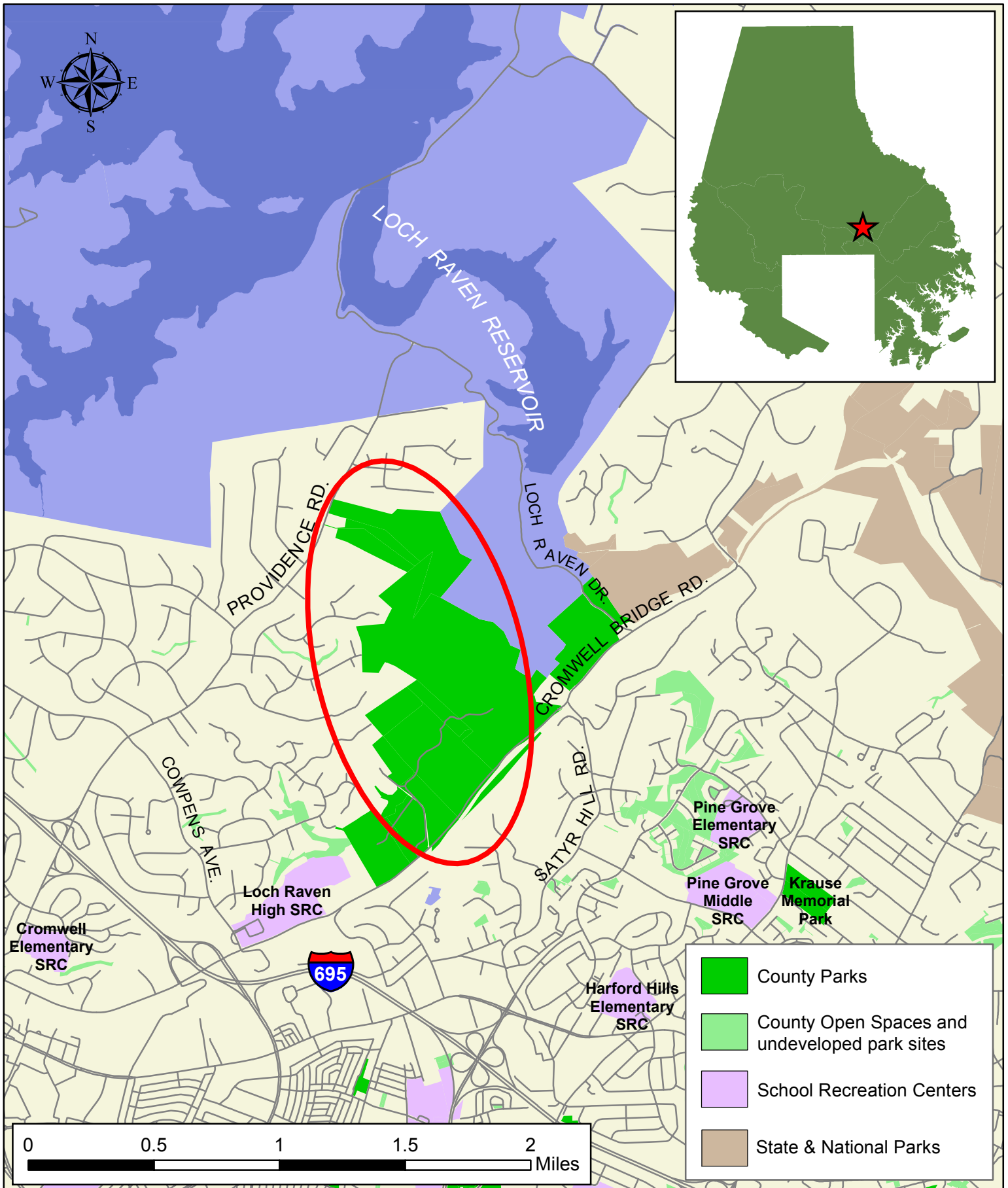
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2022.

LOCATION MAP: BELFAST ROAD PARK SITE



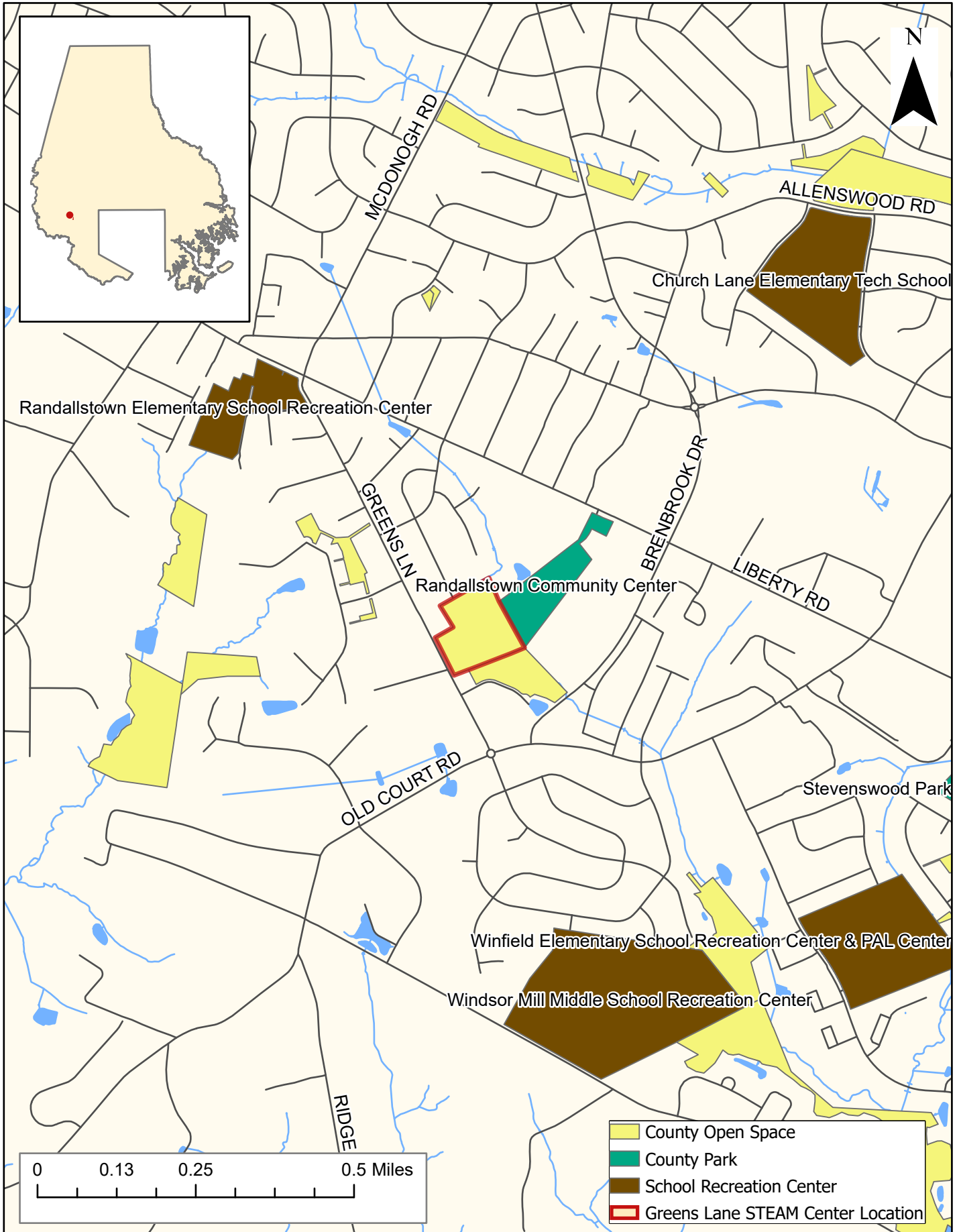
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Property boundaries are approximate. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2021.

LOCATION MAP: CROMWELL VALLEY PARK



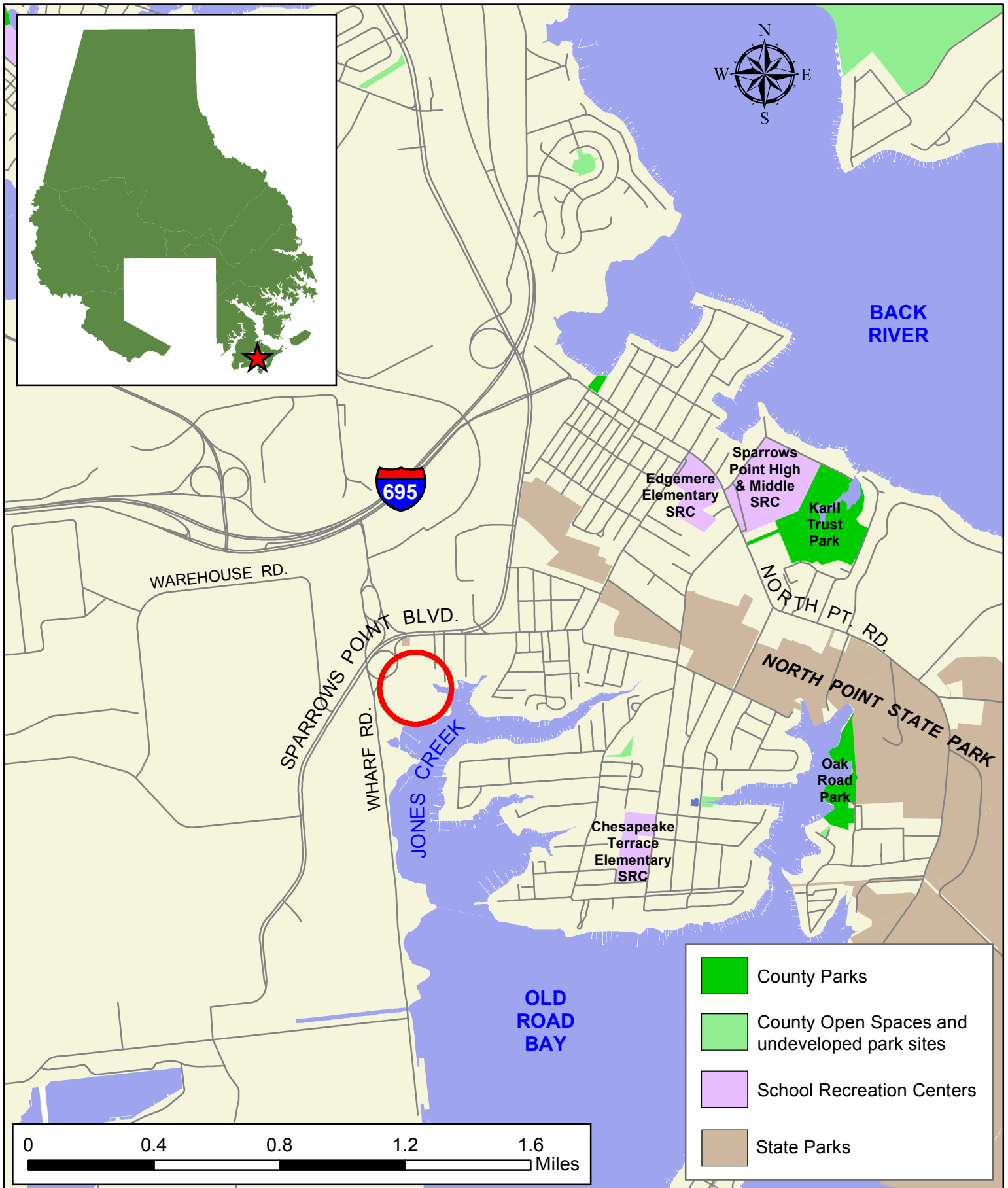
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Property boundaries are approximate. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2021.

GREENS LANE STEAM CENTER LOCATION



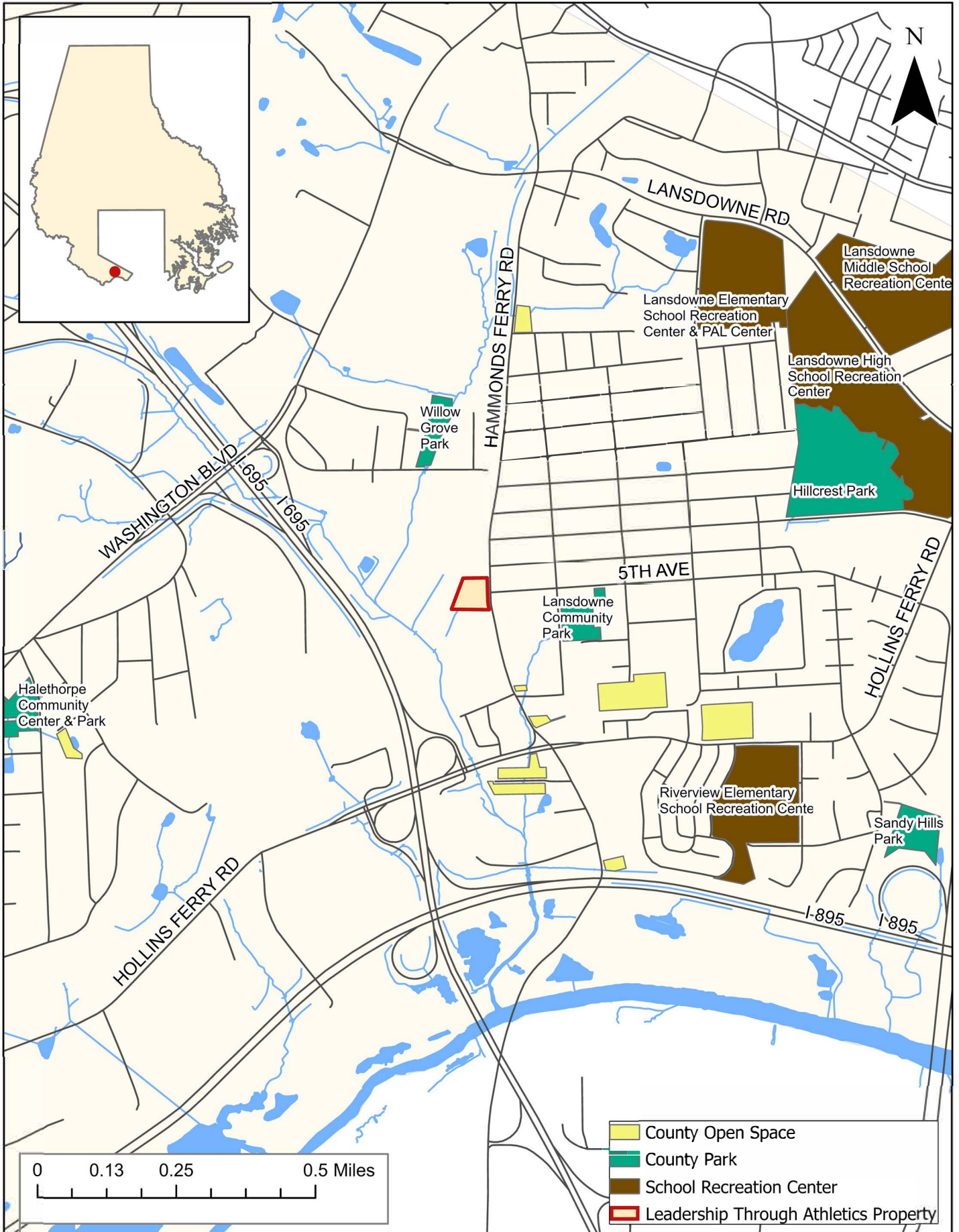
Displayed property lines are approximate, and should not be considered authoritative.
Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, 6/29/2022.

LOCATION MAP: SPARROWS POINT PARK SITE



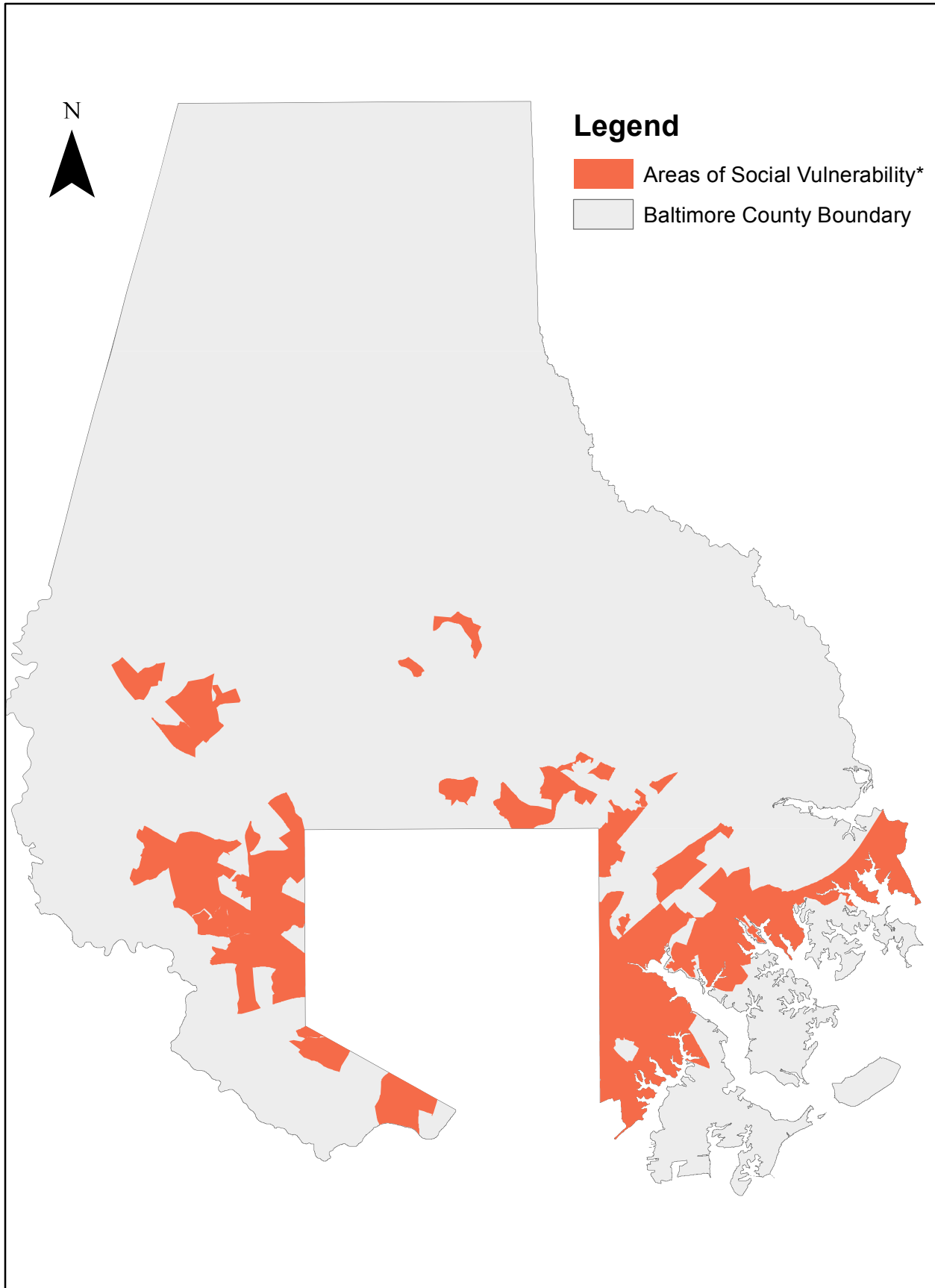
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Property boundaries are approximate. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2021.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH ATHLETICS ACQUISITION



Displayed property lines are approximate, and should not be considered authoritative. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, 5/18/2022.

Areas of Social Vulnerability Baltimore County



*An area of social vulnerability is defined as one that has a Social Vulnerability Index ≥ 0.7 ; an Area Deprivation Index ≥ 8 ; or defined as a Qualified Census Tract.