



Maryland's Community Parks & Playgrounds Program

FY 2024

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDE

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Land Acquisition and Planning
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<http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/ProgramOpenSpace/cpp.aspx>

Community Parks & Playgrounds (CP&P) Program Grants Proposal Guide

A. Program Description and Requirements

1. Purpose

The Community Parks and Playgrounds Program provides grant funding assistance to restore existing park and green space systems and create new park and green space systems in the municipal corporations of the state and Baltimore City.

2. Source of Funds

The source of funds for this program is primarily State General Obligation Bonds, which may be authorized on an annual basis.

3. Administration of the Funds

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program per Natural Resources Article § 5-9C-02. DNR staff prepares and distributes application materials to municipalities and Baltimore City, conducts grant writing workshops if necessary, and provides background information and analysis on applications.

4. General requirements

The Community Parks and Playgrounds Program provides funding to incorporated municipalities and Baltimore City. Grants may be for up to 100% of the project cost and are selected on a competitive basis. Each applicant will be limited to one (1) **Grant Proposal List** submission package, which may contain one or more prioritized projects, per award cycle. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to partner with applicants in project sponsorship and implementation.

5. Types of Projects Funded

Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- 1) development of new parks
- 2) rehabilitation of existing parks
- 3) expansion or improvement of existing parks
- 4) purchase and installation of playground equipment
- 5) development of environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects
- 6) development of new trails or extension of existing trails
- 7) creation of access points to water recreation resources
- 8) acquisition of land to create new parks

Notes:

- The Department of Natural Resources works to provide opportunities for Marylanders, especially our children, to experience nature. The Department has developed a web site <http://dnr.maryland.gov/pgc/Pages/NPS/index.aspx> that provides information about Nature Play Spaces. Nature Play Spaces are one of the many types of public recreation projects eligible for consideration for Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funding.
- While land acquisition costs may be considered for project funding, the highest priority will be placed on capital costs associated with park development and improvement.

6. Specific Project Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Projects are within the applicant's jurisdiction and the applicant holds the rights to develop on the property.
- 2) Applicant demonstrates the capacity to plan, implement and maintain the project (sufficient and qualified staff or contractor, effective administrative procedures and systems, evidence of past success, etc.)

- 3) Applicant is ready to begin design/construction immediately after Board of Public Works approval and complete the project in a timely manner.
- 4) Project is consistent with National Playground Safety Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act (<https://www.ada.gov/>.)
- 5) Applicant ensures that project site addresses any stormwater drainage issues and discharge requirements.
- 6) Sustainability and energy efficiency are always key elements as projects are considered for Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funding. Please ensure that any proposed lighting is energy efficient and reduces light spill-over to the maximum extent possible.
- 7) Development projects must have a **minimum twenty (20) year life span**. Projects must be properly maintained to be in a safe and usable state for access by all members of the public. If the grantee fails to do so, the grantee, at no expense to the State, will replace the project with a project of equal or greater public recreational/ open space and monetary value approved by the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.
- 8) Land acquired under a state grant from the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program must be maintained in perpetuity. Conversion of use of land will require replacement with land of equal or greater recreational use, acreage, and equal or greater monetary value approved by the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

B. Proposal Review and Selection

Awards will be competitive in nature. DNR staff will review complete applications. Projects will be evaluated based on: consistency with Community Parks and Playgrounds Program's purpose, eligibility requirements and criteria, the applicant's **Project Details** responses, as well as the status of any previously awarded grants. DNR staff will make recommendations for grant selections. Once reviewed by DNR, recommended projects will be forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management for possible inclusion in the Governor's Budget proposal. Once the budget is approved by the Legislature and the fiscal year begins, the selected projects will be submitted for State Clearinghouse review and to the Board of Public Works for final approval.

Although the Community Parks and Playgrounds selection criteria and funding will be used for these projects, the applicant's management and maintenance responsibilities will be the same as those associated with projects receiving Program Open Space Local funding.

C. Notification of Award

DNR will send a letter of award to the applicant for each approved project. Approved grant recipients may be required to submit a revised itemized budget if one is requested. Award funds may only be used for the project as submitted and approved by DNR and the Board of Public Works.

D. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Award Disbursement

DNR staff will monitor local progress in accordance with stated timelines, performance criteria and goals set forth in each approved project and the standards and policies of the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program. Community Parks and Playground projects are to be administered in accordance with the Program Open Space (POS) Local Grants Manual.

Community Parks and Playgrounds is a reimbursable grant program. DNR will reimburse the applicant for the approved project costs when proper documentation is provided with the reimbursement request for individual component projects. Reimbursement for actual project costs of any component will at no time exceed the Board of Public Works approved funding amount.

E. Project Proposal Format and Submission Process:

1. *List* all proposed projects and funding requests on the **Grant Proposal List** and *sign* the **Declaration of Adherence to Award Conditions/Requirements**.
2. *Complete* a **Community Parks and Playgrounds Application and Project Agreement** for each project listed on the **Grant Proposal List**. Sign and date the original application.
3. *Complete* **Project Details** for each project listed on the **Grant Proposal List**. Number and label each item. Responses may not exceed a total of five (5) pages in length.
4. *Assemble* all **Supporting Documents**.
5. *Contact* your Program Administrator, if needed, to review the required attachments.
6. *Complete* application packages must include:

A **Grant Proposal List** with the signed **Declaration and Adherence to Award Conditions/Requirements** (must be signed by person with signatory authority to act on behalf of the local jurisdiction);

and for each proposed project on the **Grant Proposal List**:

- a completed **Community Parks and Playgrounds Application and Project Agreement** form;
- a completed **Project Details** form with a proposed/estimated project schedule; and
- the requisite attachments listed in **Supporting Documents**, including photographs of the park or proposed area for improvement, as applicable.

Please be advised that incomplete or late applications may not be considered for funding.

7. **Applications are due on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 by 3:00 p.m. and must be e-mailed to the Program Administrator for your County:**

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F. Anticipated Program Timeline

May 2022	Proposal requests announced.
August 24, 2022	Applications due by 3:00 p.m.
May/June 2023	Awards Announced and Notifications E-Mailed (subject to budget allocation and approval)

<http://dnr.maryland.gov>

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