

PARTNERS *for* OPEN SPACE

PARTNERS *for* OPEN SPACE is a statewide coalition of over 100 groups seeking to secure, save, and protect Maryland's land conservation programs.

Since the inception of Program Open Space more than one billion dollars of dedicated land conservation funding has been diverted to other uses. We must ensure that Maryland's nationally acclaimed land conservation programs— State and Local Side Program Open Space, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, and Rural Legacy Program—are protected.

The PARTNERS *for* OPEN SPACE coalition is coordinated by the state's leading conservation groups.

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1000 Friends of Maryland
Kelly Dudeck
Howard County Food Policy
Josh Hastings
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Jim Baird
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Program Open Space

It's more than just another pretty place

How did Program Open Space (POS) touch your life this year?



Did you watch a child pitch their first game under the lights this year? Remember the shine in their eyes as they dreamed of playing in the big leagues? Chances are that park was funded by **State or Local Side Program Open Space**.

Did you join a CSA, enjoy local ice cream, visit a pick your own farm, or buy food at a farmers market this year? Chances are that food was produced on farmland preserved by the **Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)**.



Did you take a drive or ride a bike through an area of Maryland, hoping it will be here for future generations? Chances are this area is a Maryland **Rural Legacy Area** and includes easements donated to the **Maryland Environmental Trust**.



Program Open Space
Funds programs in all of
Maryland's 23 Counties
and the City of
Baltimore



Agriculture contributes \$8.25 billion to the Maryland economy each year.



Nearly 11 million residents visit Maryland Parks EVERY year with an economic impact of more than \$650 million annually.

Your support is needed. Continued success of POS requires dependable, long-term funding. The legislature has promised full funding in FY 14 to continue through FY 18. Let's keep that promise! *With your help Maryland will preserve the best of the best of our open spaces and environmentally sensitive lands.*

POS is a fiscally responsible program funded through the Real Estate Transfer Tax. When a person buys a home or land, the state real estate transfer tax of one-half of 1 percent of the consideration paid goes into a fund for POS. Revenue from the transfer tax dropped significantly when the housing market declined. Investment in these programs is doubly important at this time because the cost to preserve land is at its lowest level in a decade.

Funding POS is good for Maryland's Economy. A 2010 DNR study showed that Maryland state park visitors directly spend more than \$567 million during their visit, producing a total economic impact of more than \$650 million annually. The impact of agriculture on Maryland's economy amounts to \$8.25 billion annually, as documented by a 2013 study published by the University of Maryland. The American Farmland Trust conducted a study showing that more than 80% of the proceeds from easement sales are re-invested in their home county. Funding for POS equals more Federal dollars coming to Maryland as a POS match is needed to leverage federal funds.

The Need is Great. Our cities and counties need funds to develop parks so that ALL residents of the state have access to outdoor recreational activities. **State and Local Side Program Open Space** funds these parks and recreational facilities. Local land trusts and counties need funds to continue to protect and preserve **OUR Rural Legacy**. Farmers need the **MALPF** to preserve the farmland we all need to produce **food and fiber** LOCALLY for our growing population.