

MEDIA CONTACT:

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PARTNERS *for*
OPEN SPACE

STATEMENT

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The Partners for Open Space Applaud Governor Hogan's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for State of Maryland

Annapolis, Md. – Today, Governor Larry Hogan released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget for the State of Maryland which provides significant funding for programs supporting parks, agriculture, conservation, and historic preservation.

The Governor's FY 23 budget would provide full funding for Maryland Program Open Space, a conservation program established in 1969 and funded through a real estate transfer tax. The budget also includes a \$30.5 million repayment to Program Open Space that was scheduled by the General Assembly in 2016 in order to pay back funds previously diverted away from Program Open Space to the General Fund. In total, the budget provides \$263 million in funding for Program Open Space and related conservation

Charlotte Davis, co-chair of the Partners for Open Space, issued the following statement in response to Governor Hogan's proposed budget for FY 23:

“In his final budget for the State of Maryland, Governor Hogan continues a very strong record of conservation leadership by fully funding Program Open Space and its related conservation programs funded through the transfer tax. As a statewide coalition of environmental, agricultural, recreation, and historic preservation organizations, the Partners for Open Space applaud Governor Hogan on his FY 23 budget and thank him for his outstanding support for Program Open Space.

“In the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, parks and open space remain vital to the health and well-being of countless communities across Maryland. Demand for open space continues to increase as more and more Marylanders look to enjoy and recreate in our state's great outdoors. Full funding for Program Open Space will ensure that we can meet the growing demand for parks and open space and that Maryland and its counties can continue to provide opportunities to get outside and safely recreate for all Marylanders.”

Program Open Space and related programs (the Rural Legacy Program, the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation) conserve state and local parks, preserve agricultural and natural lands, protect historic sites, promote heritage tourism, and provide playgrounds, ball fields, trails and other recreational opportunities for the benefit of all Maryland residents and visitors. Collectively, these programs have helped to permanently protect more than 800,000 acres of land across the state. In addition, more than 6,000 individual grants for parks and recreation projects have been awarded to local governments.

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Rural Maryland Council
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Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance
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The Conservation Fund
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The Nature Conservancy
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