



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**



MARYLAND THE BEAUTIFUL

Sponsors: Senator Sarah Elfreth &
Delegate Dana Stein

**Also known as the 30x30
Act, this bill would
mandate a conservation
goal of 30% of Maryland
lands by 2030.**



**Maryland has conserved only
23% of its total land mass**

Land conservation is a simple defense to challenges like climate change, sea-level rise, and unprecedented species loss. It offers carbon sequestration, reduced flooding, and the preservation of essential habitat.

The Maryland the Beautiful Act aligns with both President Biden's goal and a UN-led international Kuming-Montreal Agreement to conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. Also known as the 30x30 Act, this bill would mandate a conservation goal of 30% of Maryland lands by 2030.

To ensure successful implementation, this bill pairs land conservation with stewardship, and resource equity.

1

Setting a New State Conservation Goal: 30% of Maryland lands protected by 2030 and 40% of Maryland's land by 2040

2

Creating a \$10M Rapid Response Revolving Loan Fund to help small and medium sized land trusts preserve critical lands, quickly

3

Allocating more than \$250K in grant funding towards land trusts and community nonprofits, for improving the stewardship and health of lands



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GREENSPACE EQUITY

Sponsors: Delegate Dana Stein

Greenspace in urban areas can:

- improve human health
- increase social cohesion
- enhance ecosystems
- reduce urban heat islands



As of 2010, 87% Maryland residents live in areas designated as "urban"

Open, accessible spaces for passive recreation, nature connections, and community gathering are essential to the viability of our urban neighborhoods and yet, many Maryland communities were developed without any available areas for greenspace. Add to that, acquisition and conservation of lands in areas with greater population density is often much more expensive, due to competing values for land.

A "Greenspace Equity Program" would provide annual state funding to land trusts, local governments and other community partners working in Maryland's underserved and overburdened communities where the public need for greenspace is often greatest. This program seeks to support the creation of new greenspaces in urban settings while also supporting the care and maintenance of them.



"Community greenspace" includes a variety of uses including: community gardens, community gathering open space areas, community woodlands, green networks, parks, trails, and urban farms.



Eligible grant recipients include land trusts, other nongovernmental organizations, counties and municipalities.



Funds would come from the state share of Program Open Space. \$5 million would be appropriated in year 1, \$7 million in year 2, and \$10 million in year 3 and subsequent years.