



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**House Appropriations Committee
Transportation and The Environment Subcommittee
Delegate Mark S. Chang
February 26, 2024**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation, and the Environment Subcommittee
Senator Craig J. Zucker
February 27, 2024**

PAYGO Recommended Actions (p. 3)

1. *Concur with Governor's allowance for the Department of Natural Resources.*

Agency Response: DNR concurs with this recommendation.

GO Bond Recommended Actions (p. 3)

1. *Approve all authorizations and the proposed preauthorization for the Department of Natural Resources.*

Agency Response: DNR concurs with this recommendation.

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act Recommendation (p. 20)

DLS recommends that the General Assembly adopt a Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act provision transferring \$25.0 million from the DPA to the General Fund in fiscal 2024, attributable to the fiscal 2023 appropriation for the Facilities Renewal – State Agencies allocation to DNR for critical maintenance.

Agency Response: The Department respectfully disagrees with this recommendation. This funding will be vital to offset the lack of Critical Maintenance funding in FY 2025 and FY 2026 due to a transfer tax under attainments and projected decreased transfer tax revenue. The Department intends to use the \$25.0 million in the dedicated purpose account for the following important critical maintenance projects:

Project	Facility	Original Appropriation	Project Location
Central Region-Critical Maintenance			
Resurface NCRT, Replace Gates, Culverts, and Re-Deck Bridges	Gunpowder Falls SP	1,200,000.00	Baltimore
Chiller Replacement - Supplement to Existing Project	Kenneth Weaver Building	800,000.00	Balt. City
Replace Hunter Barn - Supplement to Existing Project	Fair Hill NRMA	1,500,000.00	Cecil
Hammerman Replace Jetty & Boat Ramp	Gunpowder Falls SP	695,000.00	Harford
6 Paving Projects	Susquehanna SP	970,000.00	Harford
	Subtotal	5,165,000.00	
Eastern Region-Critical Maintenance			
Renovate Two Bathhouses	Tuckahoe SP	1,000,000.00	Caroline
Replace Bulkhead, Piers, Utilities, Parking	Somers Cove Marina	14,000,000.00	Somerset
Dune Maintenance	Assateague SP	50,000.00	Worcester
Pave Shad Landing - Supplemental Funding	Pocomoke River SP	1,200,000.00	Worcester
	Subtotal	16,250,000.00	
Western Region-Critical Maintenance			
Replace Culvert Pipe	Deep Creek Lake SP	125,000.00	Garrett
Repair to Gravel Roads, Laurel, Wallmans, Lost Lands, Snaggy Br.	Potomac-Garrett SF	2,000,000.00	Garrett
Renovate Concession Building, Barn, and Blacksmith Shop	Fort Frederick SP	200,000.00	Washington
Renovate Five Shower Buildings	Greenbrier SP	650,000.00	Washington
	Subtotal	2,975,000.00	
Southern Region-Critical Maintenance			
Renovation of Grinder House	Smallwood SP	480,000.00	Charles
Historic Barn Restoration	Beltwoods	130,000.00	Prince Georges
	Subtotal	610,000.00	
	Total	25,000,000.00	

Program Open Space – Greenspace Equity Program (p. 9)

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends that DNR comment on the status of establishing the Greenspace Equity Advisory Board and developing the grant application and policies and procedures governing the program.

Agency Response: The Department has scheduled the first meeting of the Greenspace Equity Advisory Board for March 11, 2024. All seats except for a member of the Senate and a member of the House of Delegates have been filled. The first meeting will be an introductory meeting until the additional members have been appointed. The Department has developed a draft grant application and is working on policies and procedures. The Department will be consulting with the Advisory Board in the implementation and administration of the program consistent with statute.

Waterway Improvement Program (p. 15)

DLS recommends that DNR provide the updated fiscal 2024 project list.

Agency Response: The fiscal 2024 project list has been provided.

Oyster Restoration Program (p. 18)

DLS recommends that DNR comment on the status of Maryland's Oyster Shell and Substrate Taskforce.

Agency Response: The Shell and Substrate Task Force started meeting in October 2023. The group has opted to meet twice a month instead of the required once a month meeting schedule due to the importance of the topic. Meetings will continue until the end of 2024 and, at that time, a report will be submitted to the governor providing recommendations to meet the objectives outlined in the Executive Order.

Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Delayed (p. 20)

DLS recommends that DNR comment on the reasons for the delay in the timely completion of the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, the status of the request for bids for the plan, and the timing of the comprehensive long-range strategic plan that is anticipated to be completed in the same timeframe and to be informed by the plan.

Agency Response: The Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan and the State Park Strategic Plan will both be critical planning tools for the Department moving forward. Because of that, and to ensure the efficient use of state resources (both staff time and funding), the decision was made to combine the efforts on each plan. This includes finding one contractor to work with the Department on both planning efforts. The Department previously requested bids twice for a contractor to assist in the development of the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan and the State Park Strategic Plan. The work is currently out for bid for a third time. Bids are due on March 29, 2024. Timing was also impacted by the changes at the Maryland Park Service. The new Administration appointed 19 new senior staff, including a new Director and Deputy Director for the MPS. As a result, the long-range plan development efforts are slightly behind the original schedule but with new leadership in place, these efforts will more appropriately reflect the philosophy and culture of the new MPS.

The National Park Service has approved a one-year extension until March 31, 2025 for the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan and the Department will work to meet this deadline while ensuring the final products meet the needs of the state and citizens.