

# **The High Cost of Conservation Cuts to Maryland's Counties**

A County by County  
Summary

Partners for Open Space  
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## Partners for Open Space

**Statewide funding for programs such as Program Open Space, Maryland Agriculture Land Preservations Foundation (MALPF) and Rural Legacy has been cut by over 70% for 2005. For FY2006, the Governor has diverted 75% of transfer tax revenue earmarked to Maryland land conservation programs. If successful, the FY2006 cuts will be the fourth consecutive year the Governor has used dedicated conservation money to fund unrelated state programs.**

**The impacts of these cuts on each county is summarized below by using the 2002 real estate transfer tax (RETT) revenue as a baseline going forward.**

### **ALLEGANY COUNTY**

- Allegany County has lost no less than \$869,961 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY 2005 Allegany should have received an estimated \$473,939 in conservation funding, instead they received only \$166,741.
- Two threaten species make Allegany their home: The Indiana Bat and the Harperella.

### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

- Anne Arundel County has lost no less than \$9,225,918 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Anne Arundel County should have received an estimated \$5,123,791 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$1,806,906
- Two threatened species make Anne Arundel County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Swamp Pink flower.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Anne Arundel County has a parkland deficit of 2000 acres.

## **BALTIMORE CITY**

- Baltimore City has lost no less than \$5,680,378 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Baltimore City should have received an estimated \$3,383,473 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$1,193,601.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Baltimore City has a parkland deficit of 3000 acres.

## **BALTIMORE COUNTY**

- Baltimore County has lost no less than \$10,365,858 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Baltimore County should have received an estimated \$5,768,117 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$2,036,702.
- Two threatened species make Baltimore County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Sandplain Gerardia flower.

## **CALVERT COUNTY**

- Calvert County has lost no less than \$922,472 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Calvert County should have received an estimated \$512,588 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$182,018.
- Two threatened species make Calvert County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Sensitive Joint-vetch flower.

## **CAROLINE COUNTY**

- Caroline County has lost no less than \$401,795 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Caroline County should have received an estimated \$223,444 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$78,911.
- Four threatened species make Caroline County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, Dwarf Wedge Mussel and the Swamp Pink flower.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Caroline County has a parkland deficit of 300 acres.
- In Caroline County over 300 acres of farmland have been identified for conservation but due to cuts these needs are going unmet.

## **CARROLL COUNTY**

- Carroll County has lost no less than \$2,076,566 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Carroll County should have received an estimated \$1,157,287 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$408,646.
- American Bald Eagles, a threatened species makes Carroll County their home.

## **CECIL COUNTY**

- Cecil County has lost no less than \$1,062,897 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Cecil County should have received an estimated \$591,843 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$210,293.
- Two threatened species make Cecil County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Swamp Pink flower.

## **CHARLES COUNTY**

- Charles County has lost no less than \$1,878,016 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Charles County should have received an estimated \$1,004,396 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$370,795.
- Three threatened species make Charles County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Dwarf Wedge Mussel and the Sensitive Joint-Vetch flower.

## **DORCHESTER COUNTY**

- Dorchester County has lost no less than \$345,901 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Dorchester County should have received an estimated \$192,233 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$67,678.
- Three threatened species make Dorchester County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

## **FREDERICK COUNTY**

- Fredrick County has lost no less than \$2,196,234 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Fredrick County should have received an estimated \$1,215,340 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$429,992.
- American Bald Eagles, an endangered species, make Fredrick County their home.

## **GARRETT COUNTY**

- Garrett County has lost no less than \$429,397 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Garrett County should have received an estimated \$238,867 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$85,118.
- The Indiana Bat, a threatened species, makes Garrett County its home.

## **HARFORD COUNTY**

- Harford County has lost no less than \$3,060,794 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Harford County should have received an estimated \$1,703,828 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$603,604.
- Two threatened species make Harford County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Maryland Darter.
- Due to funding cuts, two community park projects that would typically include soccer, lacrosse and baseball fields have been deferred.

## **HOWARD COUNTY**

- Howard County has lost no less than \$6,718,883 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Howard County should have received an estimated \$3,461,932 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$1,068,228.
- The American Bald Eagle, a threatened species, makes Howard County open spaces and conservation areas its home.

## **KENT COUNTY**

- Kent County has lost no less than \$258,354 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Kent County should have received an estimated \$143,593 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$50,855.
- Two threatened species make Kent County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Delmarva Fox Squirrel.
- Kent County had 15 farms, constituting 3,270 acres, apply for farmland protection. Because of cuts only 13 were submitted for consideration and only five farms will actually be protected.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

- Montgomery County has lost no less than \$13,925,675 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Montgomery County should have received an estimated \$7,710,686 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$2,717,623.
- Two threatened species make Montgomery County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Swamp Pink Flower.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Montgomery County has a parkland deficit of 2000 acres.

## **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

- Prince George's County has lost no less than \$11,690,344 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Prince George's County should have received an estimated \$6,508,089 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$2,298,116.
- Two threatened species make Prince George's County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Sensitive Joint-vetch flower.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Prince George's county has a parkland deficit of 8000 acres.

## **QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**

- Queen Anne's County has lost no less than \$566,638 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Queen Anne's County should have received an estimated \$313,183 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$110,872.
- Four threatened species make Queen Anne's County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, the Dwarf Wedge Mussel, and the Canby's Dropwort Flower.
- Projects such as Grasonville School Pond and Church Hill Park were unable to be completed due to Program Open Space cuts.

## **ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

- St. Mary's County has lost no less than \$1,037,738 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 St. Mary's County should have received an estimated \$576,756 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$204,622.
- Three threatened species make St. Mary's County their home: the American Bald Eagle, Eastern Narrow Mouth Toad and the Dwarf Wedge Mussel.

- Projects such as the Three Notch Trail have been delayed because of loss of Program Open Space funds.
- Land acquisition for St. Mary's public boat access on the Patuxent River has been also been deferred because of these cuts.

### **SOMERSET COUNTY**

- Somerset County has lost no less than \$246,677 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Somerset County should have received an estimated \$137,307 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$48,571.
- Three threatened species make Somerset County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel and the Sensitive Joint-Vetch Flower.

### **TALBOT COUNTY**

- Talbot County has lost no less than \$603,308 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Talbot County should have received an estimated \$332,009 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$116,554.
- Two threatened species make Talbot County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Delmarva Fox Squirrel.
- Measured by the National Association of Recreation and Parks' nationally accepted formula, Talbot County has a parkland deficit of 400 acres.
- In Talbot County 17 farms requested preservation funding, only five will receive funds due to cuts.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

- Washington County has lost no less than \$1,634,233 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Washington County should have received an estimated \$906,660 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$319,767.
- Three threatened species make Washington County their home: the Indiana Bat, the Northern Bulrush and the Harperella.

### **WICOMICO COUNTY**

- Wicomico County has lost no less than \$1,082,937 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Wicomico County should have received an estimated \$602,623 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$213,136.
- Two threatened species make Wicomico County their home: the American Bald Eagle and the Delmarva Fox Squirrel.

## **WORCESTER COUNTY**

- Worcester County has lost no less than \$1,065,094 of committed funds from land conservation projects over the past three years.
- In FY2005 Worcester County should have received an estimated \$602,623 in conservation funding. Instead they received only \$213,136.
- Three threatened species make Worcester County their home: the American Bald Eagle, the Piping Plover and the Delmarva Fox Squirrel.

### **About Partners for Open Space**

Maryland's beautiful natural areas, farms and parks are valuable assets treasured and admired. But these assets are now under threat. Since 1969, the state has used money from a dedicated fund called Program Open Space to protect and maintain these areas. This fund, supported by a small fee on the sale of homes, has helped Maryland keep almost 800,000 acres of important lands from development, and has created over 4350 parks and recreational areas.

However, for the past two years Governor Ehrlich has reallocated money from land conservation and parks to the general fund of the state's budget. As a result, the ability to build more areas for our children to play, keep and protect Maryland's valuable farmland from poorly planned development, and maintain vital wildlife habitat has been seriously undermined.

Partners for Open Space is calling on Governor Ehrlich and our legislators to keep the money raised by this dedicated fee in the Program Open Space Fund. Maryland must return to using these funds as intended, to keep the natural areas, farms and habitats that Marylanders so highly value and have intentionally worked to maintain since 1969.

Partners for Open Space is a statewide coalition of groups seeking to secure, save and protect Maryland's land conservation programs. The 100 plus member coalition includes a wide range of groups and is led by the Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Parks and Recreation Association, Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, 1000 Friends of Maryland, Trust for Public Land and American Farmland Trust. Membership to Partners for Open Space is open to all groups who support the coalition's mission. Partners for Open Space is administered as a project of 1000 Friends of Maryland and does not endorse, support or oppose any candidates for office.