

Overview of Conservation and Open Space CIP

With only five projects, the Conservation and Open Space FY 06-11 CIP has the fewest projects but includes one of the Commissioners' highest priorities, land preservation. The County has a goal of acquiring permanent easements on 100,000 acres of agricultural land. In an aggressive effort to preserve Carroll's agricultural open space while it is still available, the Commissioners in FY 05 increased bonding through FY 08 to acquire more acres than had been planned in prior CIPs. The additional debt service to the General Fund will be funded with the portion of the property tax revenue that had previously been budgeted in the Agricultural Preservation project. \$38.1 million is planned for the Agricultural Preservation Program and is a combination of dedicated Property Tax revenue, Bonds, Agricultural Transfer Tax revenue and State participation. As begun in FY 01, bond funding is included to allow for the acquisition of easements through Installment Purchase Agreements.

Included in FY 06 is funding to gather aerial photographs of the County's 456 square miles and convert them to a digital format. The Maryland Department of the Environment will then generate digital topographic maps through grants provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is in response to a nation-wide effort to update all of the nation's floodplain maps which will help determine flood risk and flood insurance rates. These maps were last updated in the 1970's.

This FY 06-11 CIP includes continued funding to maintain the County's permit associated with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The Watershed project will assist in responding to the requirements under the Federal Clean Water Act and the NPDES permit that the County holds for its storm sewer systems.

For additional information on these or other Conservation and Open Space projects, please refer to the individual project pages.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006 TO 2011

Budget

	Fiscal Year						Prior Allocation	Balance to Complete	Total Project Cost
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011			
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE:									
Agricultural Land Preservation	\$10,333,317	\$9,565,483	\$8,965,983	\$3,022,317	\$3,091,983	\$3,161,650	\$0	\$0	\$38,140,733
Floodplain Mapping	320,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320,500
Land Bank	1,050,000	1,081,500	1,113,945	1,147,363	1,181,784	1,217,238	0	0	6,791,830
Roadway Evaluation Studies	26,250	27,038	27,849	28,684	29,545	30,431	0	0	169,797
Watershed Assessment & Improvement (NPDES)	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	75,000	100,000	0	0	400,000
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE TOTAL	\$11,805,067	\$10,749,021	\$10,182,777	\$4,198,364	\$4,378,312	\$4,509,319	\$0	\$0	\$45,822,860
SOURCES OF FUNDING:									
Transfer from General Fund	\$421,750	\$102,038	\$102,849	\$28,684	\$104,545	\$130,431	\$0	\$0	\$890,297
Property Tax	1,733,317	1,115,483	515,983	72,317	141,983	211,650	0	0	3,790,733
Bonds	8,550,000	8,581,500	8,613,945	3,147,363	3,181,784	3,217,238	0	0	35,291,830
Ag Transfer Tax	500,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	0	0	2,250,000
State Ag. Preservation (MALPF)	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	0	0	3,600,000
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE TOTAL	\$11,805,067	\$10,749,021	\$10,182,777	\$4,198,364	\$4,378,312	\$4,509,319	\$0	\$0	\$45,822,860

Agricultural Land Preservation

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The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program became effective on July 1, 1977. To participate in this voluntary program, the landowner of a qualifying farm must have the property approved as an agricultural preservation district. This agreement entitles the owner to submit an application in the MALPF annual easement acquisition program. If the farm owner receives and accepts an easement offer, a Deed of Easement is recorded which restricts the property from development in perpetuity except for the possibility of a release and buy-back from the easement in accord with State law.

Each year the MALPF easement acquisition fund is allocated among participating counties with the counties providing matching funds. In recent years, it has been necessary for the County to provide funds in excess of the required match in order to maintain reasonable progress toward the County's goal of permanently preserving 100,000 acres of productive farmland. The County is also funding some easements independent of the MALPF program, including joint acquisitions when the Carroll County Land Trust has received grants from the Federal Farmland Protection Program.

At the end of FY 04, 38,298 acres have been permanently preserved through the MALPF program, and a total of 43,351 acres through the combination of all programs. There are an additional 567 acres pending acceptance in the MALPF program and 1,871 acres pending in all programs as of March 2005. Installment Purchase Agreement funding with bonds has been added each year since FY 01.

The Board of County Commissioners added \$5.5 million annually in bonds to the FY 05-08 planned appropriations while reducing property tax revenues in FY 05-10 to cover the debt service associated with the additional bonds. This funding approach was taken as a way to potentially increase the County's ability to accelerate the Agricultural Preservation Program.

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	Prior Allocation	Balance to Complete	Total Project Cost
Engineering/Design									0
Land Acquisition	10,333,317	9,565,483	8,965,983	3,022,317	3,091,983	3,161,650			38,140,733
Site Work									0
Construction									0
Equipment/Furnishings									0
Other									0
EXPENDITURES									
TOTAL	10,333,317	9,565,483	8,965,983	3,022,317	3,091,983	3,161,650	0	0	38,140,733

SOURCES OF FUNDS									
Transfer from General Fund									0
Property Tax	1,733,317	1,115,483	515,983	72,317	141,983	211,650			3,790,733
Bonds	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000			28,500,000
Ag Transfer Tax	500,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000			2,250,000
State Ag. Preservation (MALPF)	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000			3,600,000
Rural Legacy Grant									0

PROJECTED OPERATING IMPACTS						
	0	0	0	0	0	0

Floodplain Mapping

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This project provides funding to acquire data to create updated, accurate County floodplain maps. The data will be collected via Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology and converted into digital topographical maps. This project operates in conjunction with a Federal/State initiative to modernize the Flood Insurance Rate Maps which are used by the County to implement the Floodplain Management Program and by the Federal Government to determine flood risk and flood insurance rates. The current paper maps were last updated in the 1970's and the new converted maps will be a digital format.

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	Prior Allocation	Balance to Complete	Total Project Cost
Engineering/Design	320,500								320,500
Land Acquisition									0
Site Work									0
Construction									0
Equipment/Furnishings									0
Other									0
EXPENDITURES									
TOTAL	320,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320,500
SOURCES OF FUNDS									
Transfer from General Fund	320,500								320,500
Property Tax									0
Bonds									0
Ag Transfer Tax									0
State Ag. Preservation (MALPF)									0
Rural Legacy Grant									0
PROJECTED OPERATING IMPACTS	0	0	0	0	0	0			

