



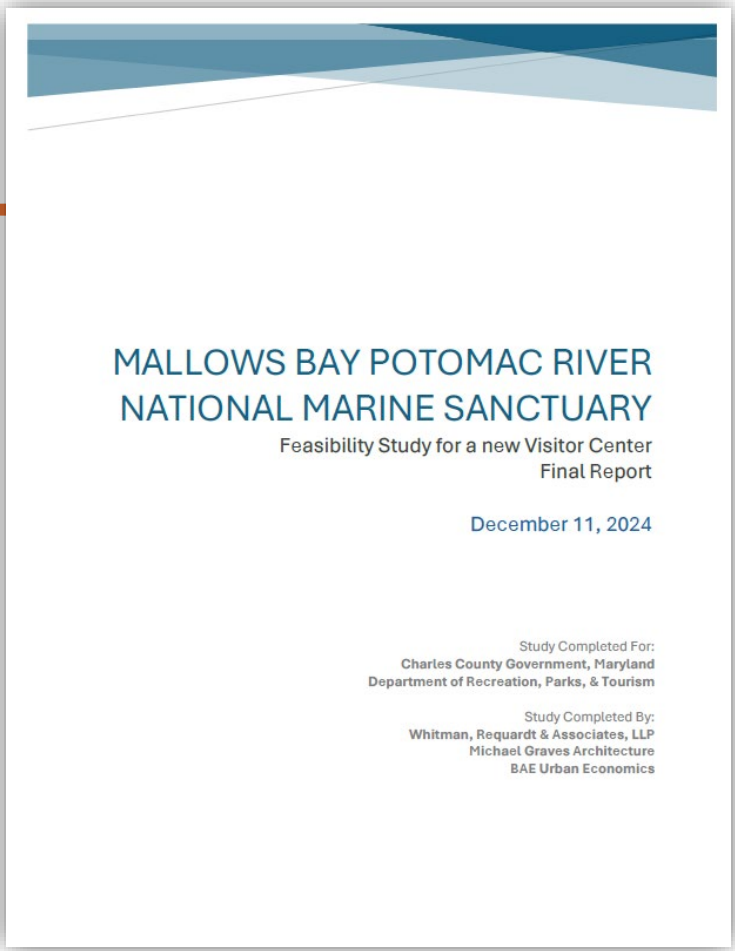
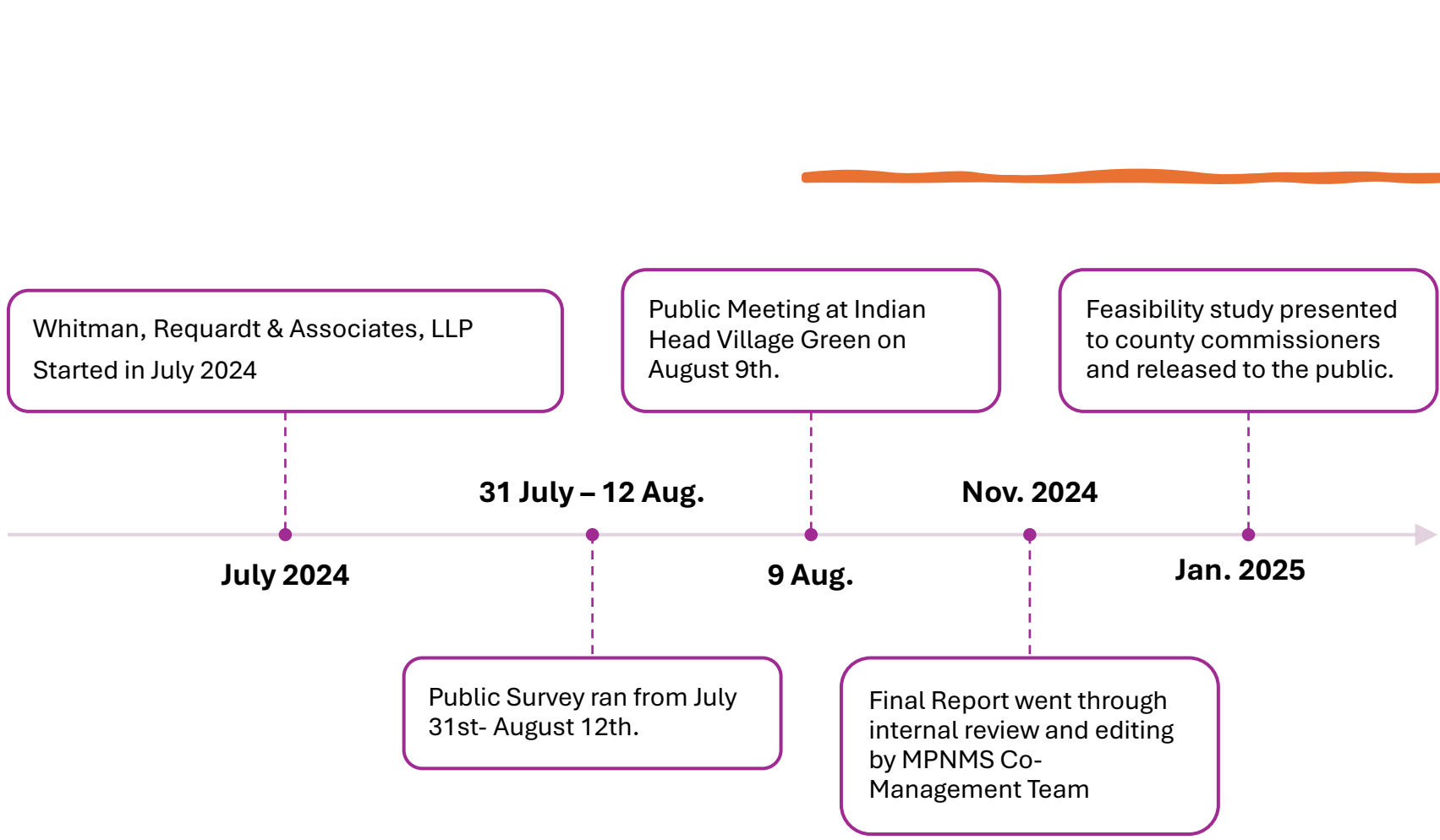
Mallows Bay- Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary Heritage Center Update

National Marine Sanctuary Designation

- Malloys Bay Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (MPNMS) was designated Sept 3rd, 2019.
- Sanctuary is Co-Managed by NOAA, MHT, MD DNR, and Charles County.
- 5 Actions on Management Plan
 - Resource Protection
 - Recreation and Tourism
 - Education
 - Research, Science, and Technology
 - Sanctuary Operations and Admin



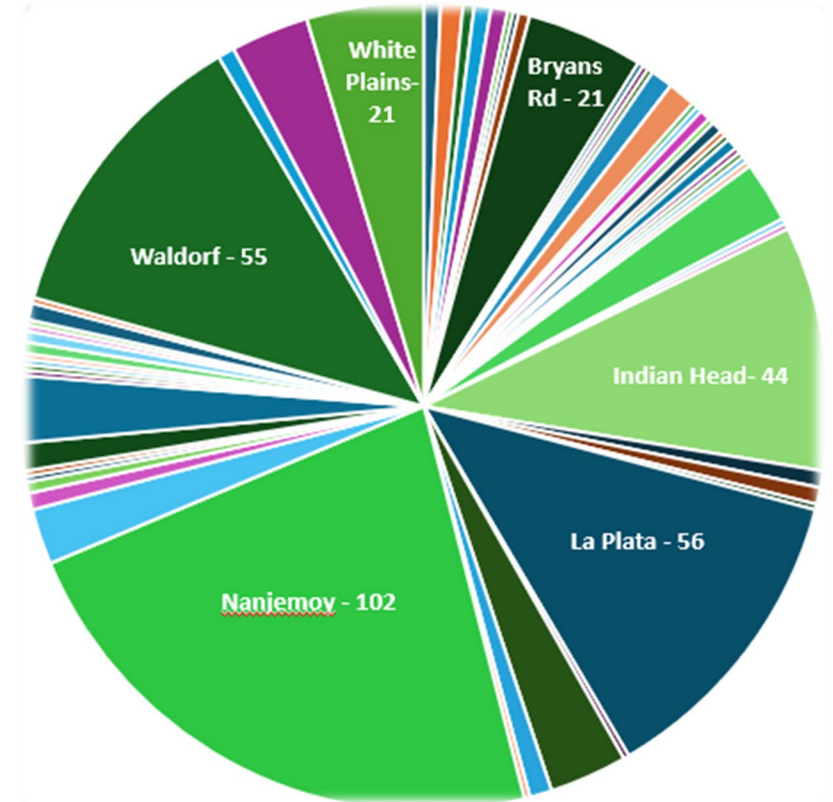
Mallows Bay Feasibility Study



Public Survey and Stakeholder Feedback

- Public Survey had 470 Responses from 60 Different Areas
- Two Stakeholder Meetings were held and included representatives from
 - Navy
 - Marines
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - Tri County Council
 - Southern Maryland Heritage Area
 - Potomac River Fisheries Commission
 - Town of Indian Head
 - MD DNR (Wildlife and Parks)
 - Sanctuary Advisory Council

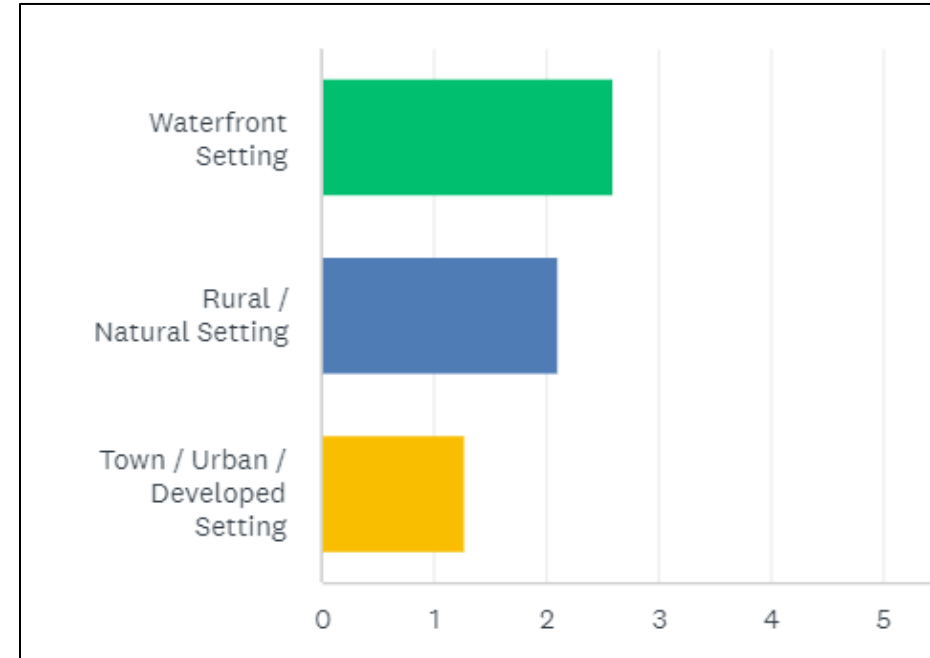
Public Survey Participation



Public Survey Summary

- 87% of those surveyed felt the center should be 30 minutes or less driving distance from Mallows Bay Park.
- 51% of those felt the center should be within walking distance of the park.

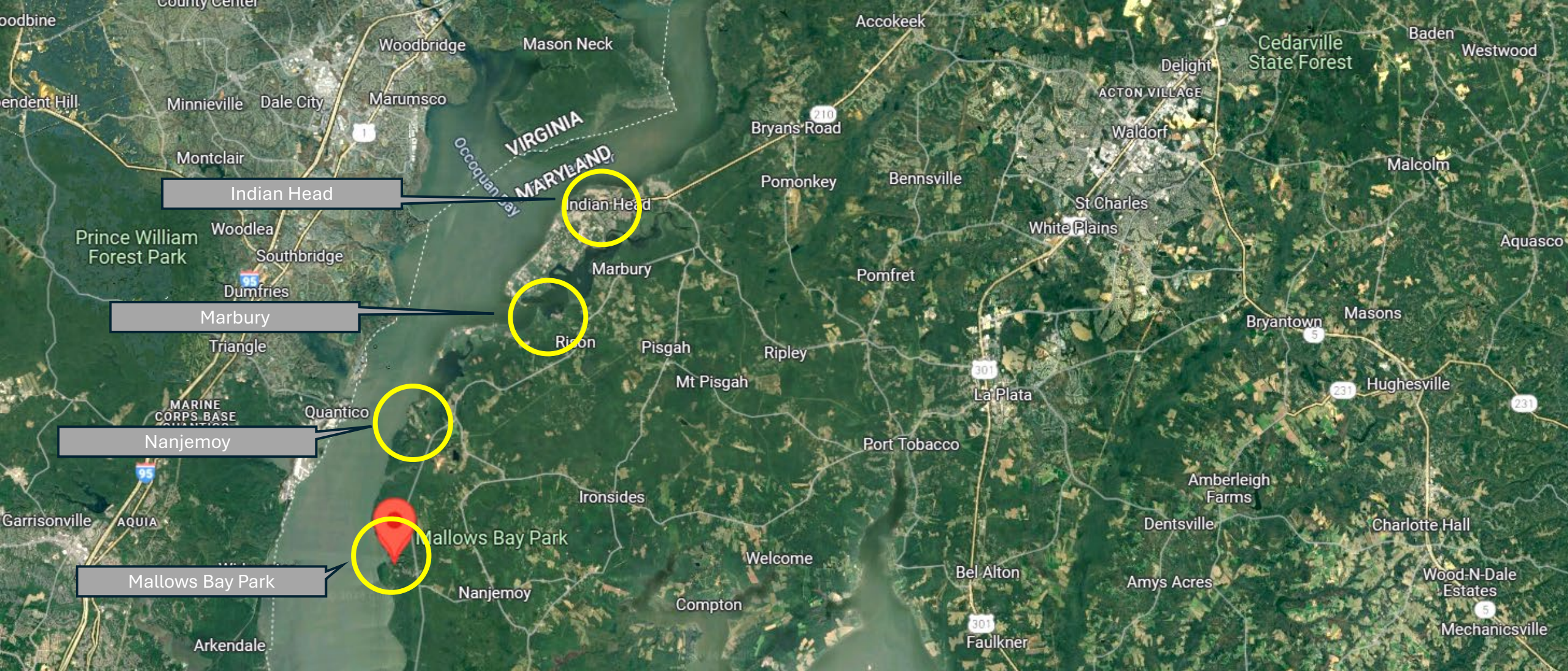
Where should the center be located?



Around 15 – 20 respondents commented with similar phrases

“What’s the point of a center if not at Mallows Bay?”

“If it is NOT on the present grounds I would have no reason to ever visit the center!”



Potential Areas Explored in Feasibility Study

Heritage Center Vision

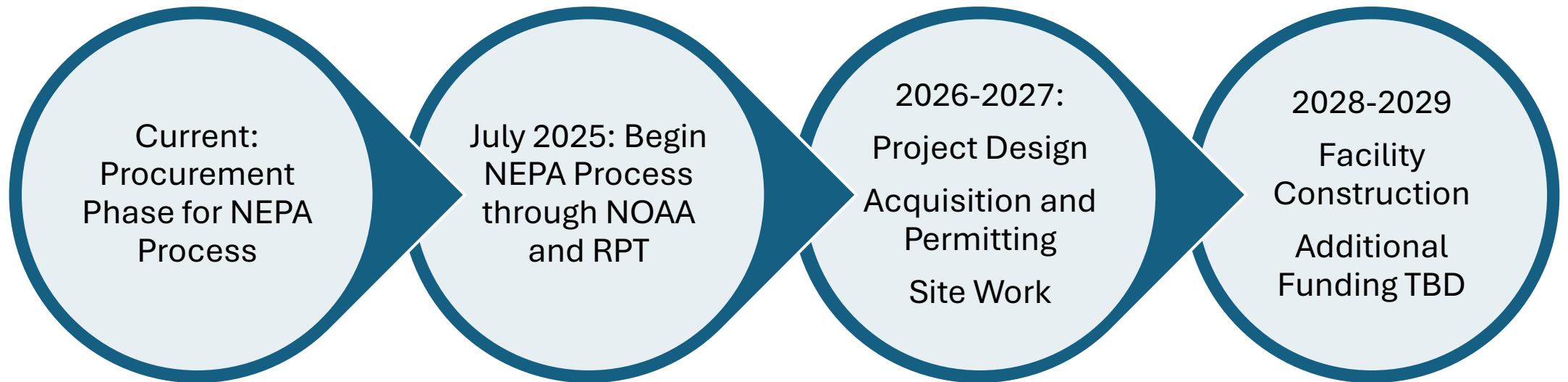
- Interactive Exhibits Inside and Outside
- Sustainable/Climate Smart Features
- Accessible and Inclusive Opportunities
- Office Space for the Sanctuary and Partners
- Classroom for Educational Programs
- Flexible Community Room for Local Groups
- Open Areas for Public Space
- Public Access to Resources
- Water and Land Based Recreation
- Historical, Cultural, and Ecological Interpretation
- Formal and Informal Education
- Resource Stewardship



Cooperative Agreement Awarded \$5 Million IRA Funding

Awarded on December 24th, 2024

Cooperative Agreement (January 2025- Sept 2029)





Questions?



Charles County Government

200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD

MD Relay Service: 7-1-1

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