

A large, high-angle photograph of Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. The image shows numerous shipwrecks, mostly wooden boats, scattered across the water. In the foreground, a person is kayaking on the left, and a large, partially submerged wooden structure is visible on the right. The background features a dense forest along the shore.

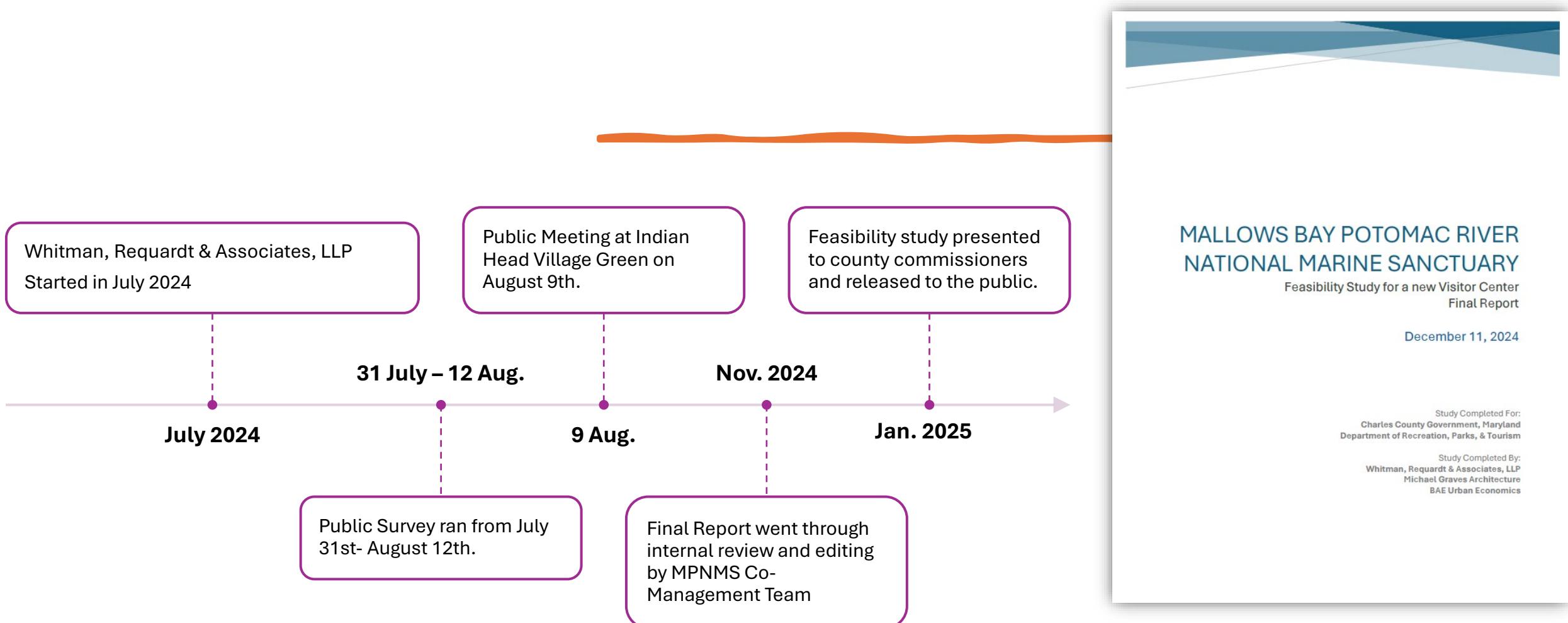
Mallows Bay- Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary Heritage Center Update

National Marine Sanctuary Designation

- Mallows 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



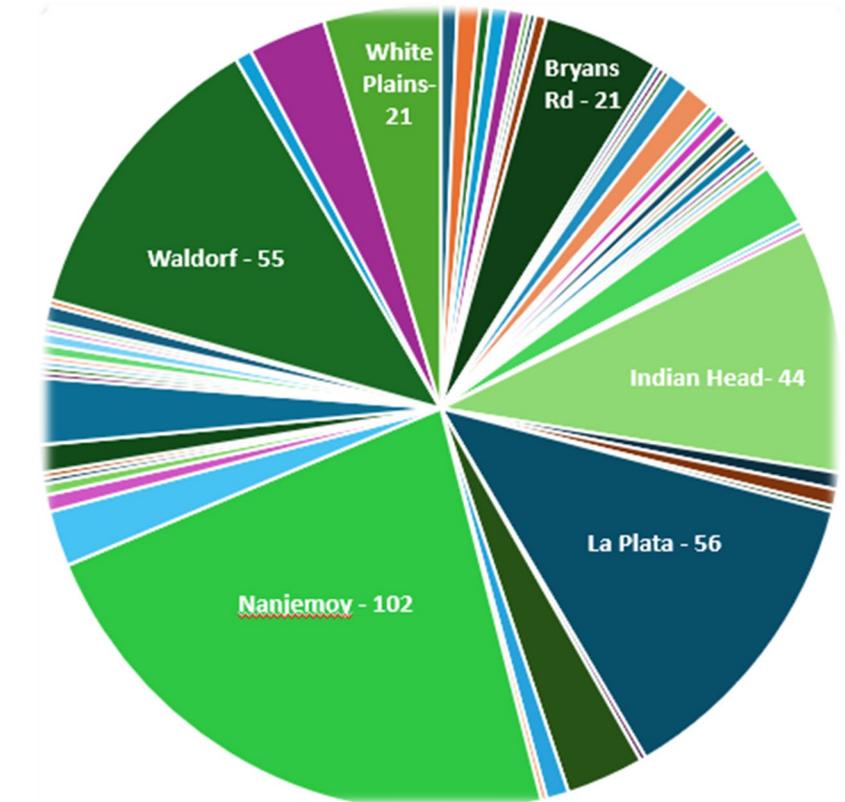
Mallows Bay Feasibility Study



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

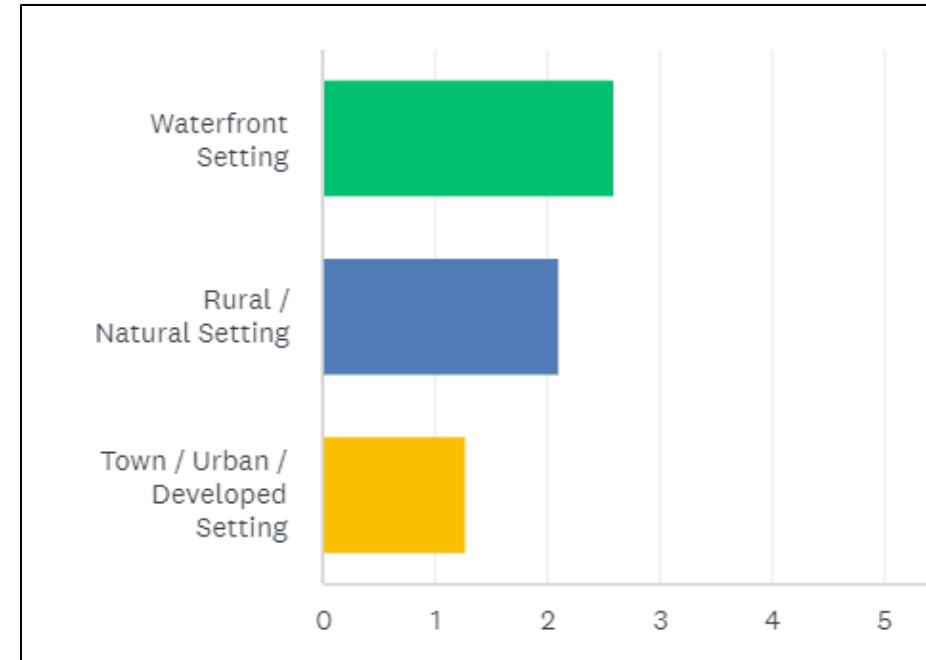
Public Survey Participation



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.

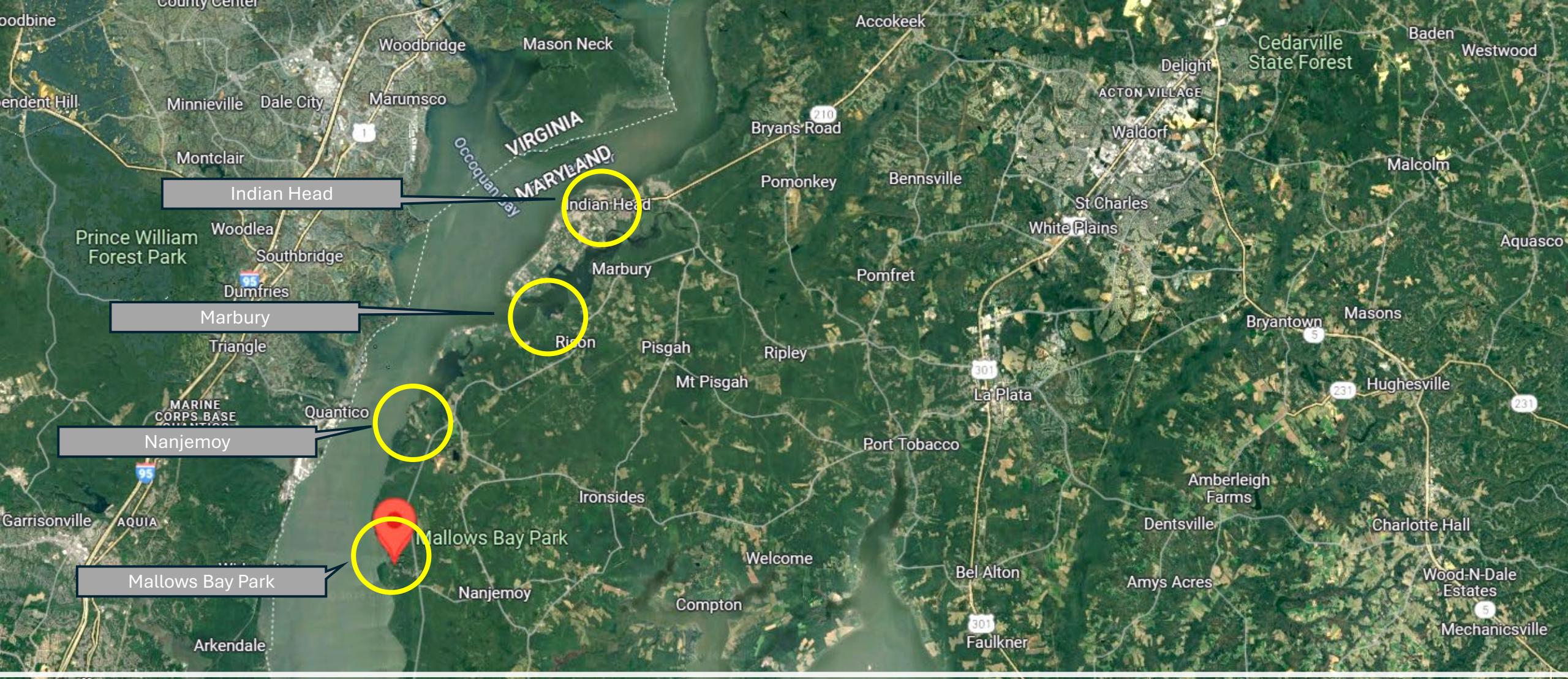
Where should the center be located?



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

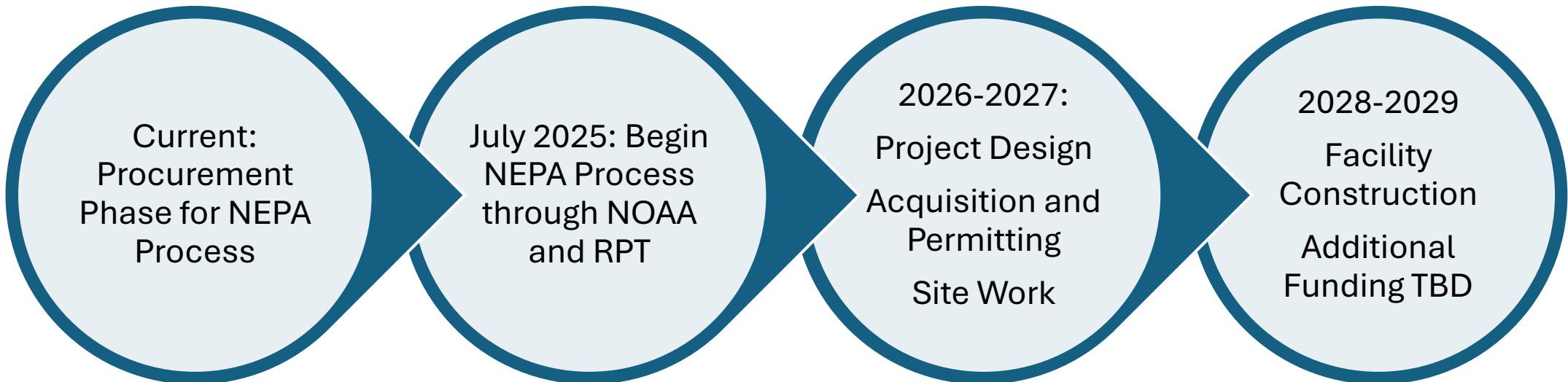
- Interactive Exhibits Inside and Outside
- Sustainable/Climate Smart Features
- Accessible and Inclusive Opportunities
- Office Space for the Sanctuary and Partners
- Classroom for Educational Programs
- Flexible Community Room for Local Groups
- Open Areas for Public Space
- Public Access to Resources
- 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

Equal Opportunity Employer: It is the policy of Charles County to provide equal employment opportunity to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religious or political affiliation or opinion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other status protected by law.

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov
