

Land Preservation

Maryland is rapidly being developed, and once forested and open spaces are quickly being transformed into housing developments and shopping centers. Several agencies in Maryland have a goal of preserving farmland, forests, and open spaces. Some of these agencies are listed and described below.

Cecil County Office of Planning and Zoning Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program; Cecil County Purchase of Development Rights Program; Transfer of Development Rights Program: The goal is to preserve enough agricultural land to use as a base for food and fiber for current and future residents of Maryland. 410-996-5220; 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, MD 2192; <http://www.ccgov.org/government/economic-development>

Cecil Land Trust: This non-profit organization preserves farmlands, woodlands, natural habitats, and historic and rural communities in Cecil County. 135 Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921; <http://www.cecilandtrust.org/>

Cecil Soil Conservation District: The Cecil SCD works with Federal, State, and County programs and organizations to provide technical and financial assistance in Cecil County for the installment and maintenance of conservation practices. A land-owner's participation in most agricultural land preservation programs requires the implementation of a Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plan. Such plans include practices aimed to reduce erosion, improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, an improved agricultural, nutrient, and livestock management. The District works with U. S. Department of Agriculture and Maryland Department of Agriculture to provide cost-share assistance in conservation practices. 410-398-4411 ext. 3; <http://www.cecilscd.com>

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy: Through strategic land conservation and sound land use planning, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy aims to sustain the Eastern Shore's rich landscapes. 410-827-9756; P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, MD 21658; <http://www.eslc.org/index.php>

Maryland Environmental Trust: Created in 1967 by the General Assembly, the Maryland Environmental Trust preserves open land, such as farmland and forests. The MET uses voluntary conservation easements to preserve the land. 410-514-