

# HOUSE BILL 203

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By: **Delegates Hettleman, Arian, Atterbeary, Bhandari, Boteler, Brooks, Cardin, Ebersole, Feldmark, Forbes, Grammer, Guyton, Hill, C. Jackson, Jalisi, Jones, Kittleman, Mangione, Metzgar, Miller, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Stein, Szeliga, Terrasa, C. Watson, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Parks and Playgrounds Program – Baltimore County and Howard**  
3 **County – Expansion**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the purpose of the Community Parks and Playgrounds  
5 Program to include making flexible grants available to the governing bodies of  
6 certain counties for certain purposes; altering a certain public policy; and generally  
7 relating to the expansion of the Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Natural Resources  
10 Section 5–9C–02  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 5–9C–02.

17 (a) The General Assembly declares that:

18 (1) It is State public policy to both restore existing park and green space  
19 systems and create new park and green space systems in [the] municipal corporations [of  
20 the State and], Baltimore City, **BALTIMORE COUNTY, AND HOWARD COUNTY**; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Funding sources in the form of flexible grants shall be made available to the governing bodies of municipal corporations [and], Baltimore City, **BALTIMORE COUNTY, AND HOWARD COUNTY** to:

(i) Rehabilitate, expand, improve, or maintain existing parks;

(ii) Purchase land to create new parks;

(iii) Develop new parks;

(iv) Purchase and install playground equipment in urban neighborhoods and rural areas throughout the State; or

(v) Be used for environmentally oriented parks and recreation projects.

(b) (1) There is a Community Parks and Playgrounds Program to provide flexible grants to the governing bodies of municipal corporations [and], Baltimore City, **BALTIMORE COUNTY, AND HOWARD COUNTY** for the purposes set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) The Department's Program Open Space shall administer the Program.

(c) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.