

RESOLUTION NO. 1262-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND, DECLARING THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 401 S. ATWOOD ROAD, BEL AIR, MARYLAND, TO BE A PUBLIC PARK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN'S BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air (“Town”) is authorized under its Charter and the laws of the State of Maryland to acquire, hold, manage, and designate real property for public purposes, including parks, open space, and recreational use; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted a Comprehensive Plan that establishes goals and policies to preserve and enhance public open space, expand recreational opportunities, promote healthy and active lifestyles, and improve environmental stewardship, connectivity, and quality of life for residents (the “Comprehensive Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Town has also adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that advances an integrated network of safe, accessible, and connected bicycle and pedestrian facilities, encourages multimodal travel, and supports equitable access to parks and community amenities (the “Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the property located at **401 S. Atwood Road, Bel Air, Maryland** (the “Property”), as more particularly described in **Exhibit B** and depicted on the location map attached as **Exhibit A**, owned by the Town of Bel Air, is well-situated to serve as publicly accessible parkland and to function as a key community asset that supports walking, bicycling, and neighborhood connectivity; and

WHEREAS, designating the Property as public parkland could enable a future walking trail that may traverse the Property as part of a larger active-transportation corridor and will provide another

key piece of publicly accessible open space necessary to enable a future walking connection between Plumtree Park and the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center property, thereby improving community connectivity, access, and mobility consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission has approved the installation of a public art amenity proposed for the corner of S. Atwood Road and Marketplace Drive, immediately adjacent to the Property, which will complement the community value, visibility, and identity of the designated parkland; and

WHEREAS, formal designation of the Property as a public park is consistent with and advances the goals and implementation strategies contained in the Comprehensive Plan and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, including - but not limited to - expanding public open space, creating connected active-transportation corridors, and providing safe and welcoming community gathering spaces; and

WHEREAS, public park designation will facilitate coordinated planning, design, funding, and stewardship for park improvements; enable eligibility for certain grants and partnerships; and affirm the Town's long-term commitment to public access, recreation, and environmental quality at the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Town Commissioners finds that designating the Property as a public park is in the best interests of the Town and its residents and will promote public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Town Commissioners of the Town of Bel Air, Maryland, that:

1. **Public Park Designation.** The real property located at **401 S. Atwood Road, Bel Air, Maryland**, as described in **Exhibit B** and shown on **Exhibit A**, is hereby **designated and**

established as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

2. **Naming of the Park.** The public park established by this Resolution shall be officially named “Atwood Park.”

3. **Purpose and Use.** The public park shall be managed to:
 - a) Provide safe, accessible, and inclusive public open space;
 - b) Support walking and bicycling consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan;
 - c) Offer passive and active recreation as appropriate to the site context;
 - d) Promote environmental stewardship, native landscape practices, and stormwater benefits where feasible; and
 - e) Serve as a community amenity consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

4. **Administration and Management.** The Town Administrator, or designee, is authorized and directed to:
 - a) Manage, maintain, and program the public park in coordination with relevant Town departments;
 - b) Prepare and implement a park concept plan consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan;
 - c) Pursue grant funding and partnerships to design, construct, and maintain facilities and amenities that support safe bicycle and pedestrian access and community use; and
 - d) Establish reasonable rules, signage, hours, and operations policies to ensure public safety and accessibility.

5. **Consistency with Planning Documents.** All actions taken pursuant to this Resolution shall be consistent with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, as they may be amended from time to time.

6. **No Private Rights Created.** This Resolution is a policy action of the Town and does not

create a private cause of action or convey any property rights beyond those established by law.

7. **Severability.** If any portion of this Resolution is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ENACTMENT: February 2, 2026

EFFECTIVE: February 2, 2026

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Paula S. Etting, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

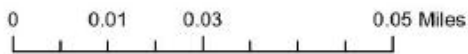
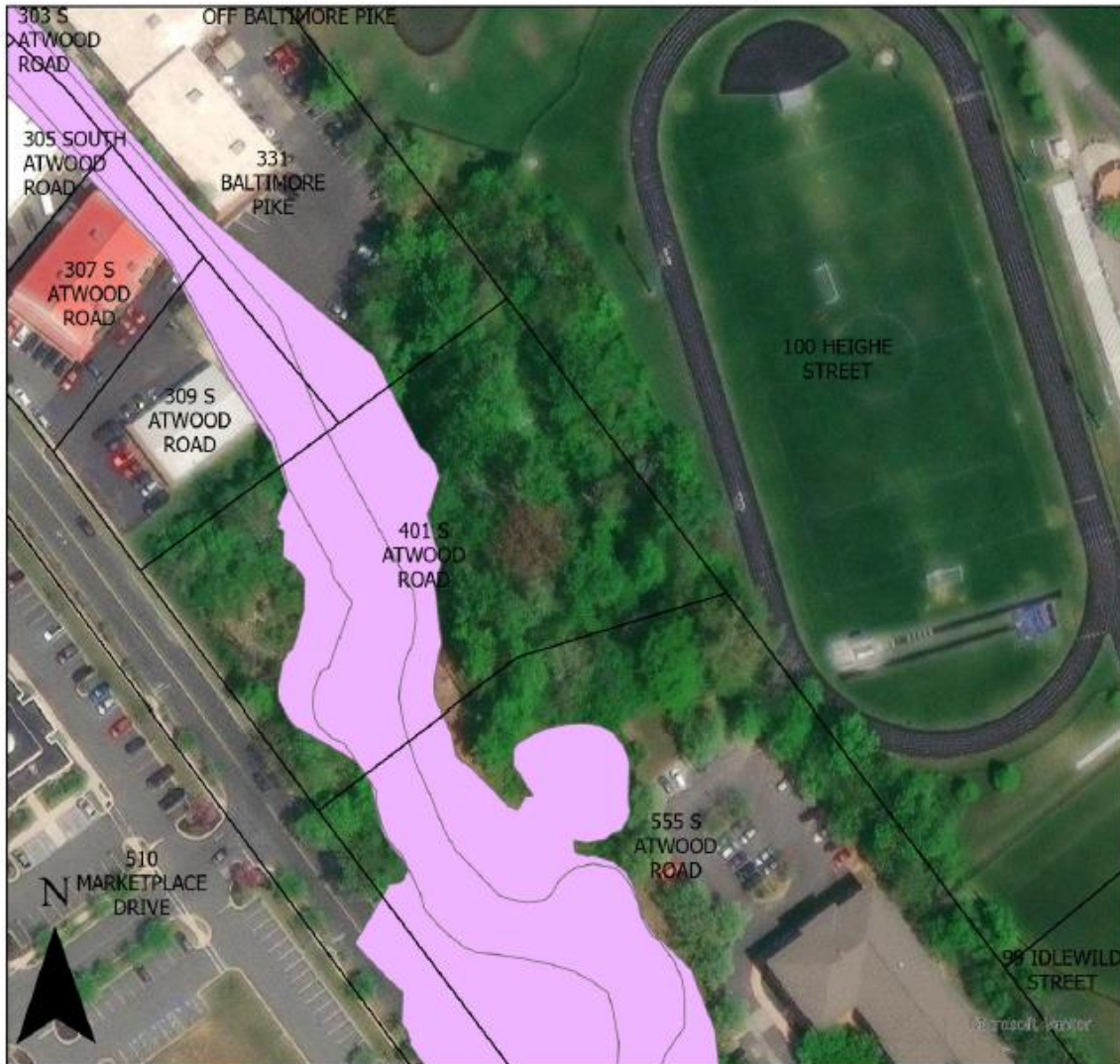
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk

Attachments:

Exhibit A - Location Map

Exhibit B - Legal Description/Map with Metes and Bounds

401 Atwood Road - Floodplain Map



Legend	
cadastral_August2025	
Floodplain	
FLD_ZONE	
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	AE
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	VE

