

WRP in Maryland

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

WRP Offers Landowners Financial and Technical Assistance to Restore and Protect Wetlands

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) restores, re-habilitates, and protects wetlands to improve wetland functions and wildlife habitat on private property. The objectives of this program are to purchase conservation easements from willing sellers, restore and protect wetlands in agricultural settings, and assist landowners with the restoration of wetland hydrology and wildlife habitat. Technical and financial assistance are available for the restoration of forested wetlands, coastal marshes, and former wetlands on agricultural lands.

Enrollment Options for Landowners

For landowners interested in establishing long-term conservation and wildlife practices on their wetland, there are three options for enrollment.



Permanent Easement: This is a conservation easement in perpetuity. Easement payments are typically based on an established easement cap. However, a landowner can not receive more than the fair market value of the land. USDA pays for all costs associated with establishing the easement.

In addition to paying for the easement, USDA pays 100 percent of the costs of restoring the land and required maintenance of the restoration.

30-Year Easement: Easement payments through this option are 50 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement. USDA also pays for up to 75 percent of restoration costs.

Restoration Cost-Share Agreement: This is a 10-year agreement to re-establish wetland habitat and functions. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the cost of restoration activity. Additional funding may be available from partner organizations. This enrollment option does not place an easement on the property, and the landowner is responsible for maintenance.



Benefits of WRP

- Receive financial and technical assistance to restore and protect wetlands.
- Receive compensation for removing marginal lands from production.
- Retain the right to hunt, fish, and lease your land.

Plus

- Increase fish and wildlife habitat;
- Improve water quality;
- Reduce flooding;
- Protect groundwater; and
- Protect biological diversity.



Eligible Land

To be eligible for WRP in Maryland, land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife habitat. This includes:

- Forest, woodland, and other lands where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored (such as areas drained by ditches or other water conveyances);
- Farmed wetlands;
- Prior converted cropland, hayland, and pasture (crop fields that were once considered wetlands but the hydrology has been altered considerably);
- Farmed wetland pasture;
- Land that has been substantially altered by recent flooding or other off-site activities;
- Riparian areas which link protected wetlands;
- Lands previously restored through WRP or other programs;
- Land adjacent to other eligible land that provides value and function for wetlands and wildlife.

Other Considerations

Land enrolled in WRP is protected from development and agricultural and forest production use. However, the landowner is free to enjoy the land for recreational purposes such as fishing and hunting. The landowner also holds the title and control of access to the land, including existing access roads; however, USDA employees and partners reserve the right to access the property for management and monitoring after giving the landowner advanced notice.

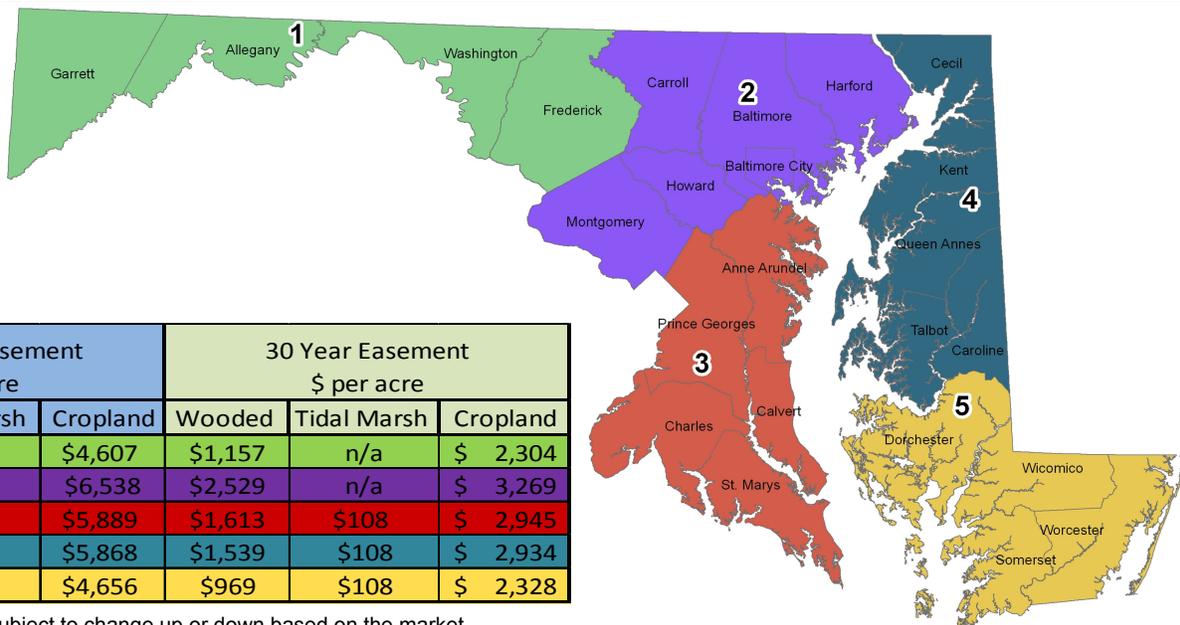
Maryland USDA Service Centers

Allegany.....	301-777-1494
Anne Arundel.....	410-571-6757
Baltimore County.....	410-527-5920
Calvert.....	410-535-1521
Caroline.....	410-479-1202
Carroll.....	410-848-6696
Cecil.....	410-398-4411
Charles.....	301-934-9588
Dorchester.....	410-228-5640
District of Columbia.....	202-535-2242
Frederick.....	301-695-2803
Garrett.....	301-334-6950
Harford.....	410-838-6181
Howard.....	410-489-7987
Kent.....	410-778-5353
Montgomery.....	301-590-2855
Prince George's.....	301-574-5162
Queen Anne's.....	410-758-1671
St. Mary's.....	301-475-8402
Somerset.....	410-651-0370
Talbot.....	410-822-1577
Washington County.....	301-797-0500
Wicomico.....	410-546-4777
Worcester.....	410-632-5439

To learn more about WRP, contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit the NRCS website at www.md.nrcs.usda.gov.

Easement Values — Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs)

Your land's easement value has been determined by a market analysis and divided into one of five geographic areas. Land values in each geographic area depend on the land type.



Area	Permanent Easement \$ per acre			30 Year Easement \$ per acre		
	Wooded	Tidal Marsh	Cropland	Wooded	Tidal Marsh	Cropland
1	\$2,314	n/a	\$4,607	\$1,157	n/a	\$ 2,304
2	\$5,057	n/a	\$6,538	\$2,529	n/a	\$ 3,269
3	\$3,226	\$215	\$5,889	\$1,613	\$108	\$ 2,945
4	\$3,077	\$215	\$5,868	\$1,539	\$108	\$ 2,934
5	\$1,938	\$215	\$4,656	\$969	\$108	\$ 2,328

Rates are reviewed annually and are subject to change up or down based on the market.