

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
Office of the Town Administrator

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Brian Wood, Town Administrator

DATE: September 10, 2026

RE: Site Complication Affecting Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant Award #28766 (EcoCity Farms / Community Resilience Hub) and Proposed Alternative Location

Purpose

This memo informs the Mayor and Council of a site-feasibility issue that has arisen with respect to the Town's \$22,000 grant award from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Award #28766, Prince George's County Community Resilience Hub Award Program), and outlines a proposed alternative use of the funding at the Bostwick House property.

Background on the Award

On August 13, 2026, the Chesapeake Bay Trust approved Award #28766 in the amount of \$22,000 to the Town of Bladensburg to establish a resilience hub and provide educational programming and hands-on workshops on sustainable food production. Key terms include:

- Period of performance: 7/29/2026 – 10/1/2027, contingent on Prince George's County approving a program extension (anticipated by 6/1/2027).
- Phase 1 payment of \$19,800 is contingent on several deliverables due by 10/1/2026, including landowner permission from EcoCity Farms to conduct workshops and trainings at two EcoCity-owned properties.
- Final payment of \$2,200 is due upon submission and approval of a final report by 10/1/2027.

Site Complication

On September 1, 2026, the Town received notice from EcoCity Farms (Margaret Morgan-Hubbard, CEO, and Kayla Agony, Deputy Director) that the previously planned garden site cannot move forward as originally conceived. EcoCity Farms' letter identifies the site as the proposed Bladensburg Community Garden at the Emerson Street location adjacent to Port Towns Elementary School; internal references to this project have also used the name "58th Street community farm." We are confirming internally which name correctly refers to the site tied to this award and will update this record accordingly.

Per the letter, an elaborate stormwater drainage system built in 2002 was recently discovered beneath the site. Our Park and Planning partners (M-NCPPC) have advised that this infrastructure significantly limits what can safely be built or installed on the property — no permanent structures may be built, the planned perimeter fencing cannot be installed as designed, and even raised beds would require careful monitoring. EcoCity Farms has concluded that the site is not viable as planned and is withdrawing it in favor of identifying an alternative location.

Implications for the \$22,000 Award

Because the award's Phase 1 contingencies are tied to a specific project site and to landowner permission for the EcoCity-owned properties involved, a change in project location will likely constitute a "Scope Change" under Section 3(a)(ii) of the award agreement ("a change in the physical location of a project"), which requires an Award Revision Request to be submitted to and approved by the Trust before proceeding. Given that the Phase 1 deliverables are due October 1, 2026.

Town Response — Exploring Alternative Sites

The Town is now exploring alternative uses for this funding rather than allow the award to lapse. One primary candidate under consideration is the Bostwick House property. It offers substantial available land and presents a unique opportunity to activate an underutilized Town asset — the site already includes a number of apple trees and other existing plantings that could support the sustainable food production programming and workshops contemplated by the grant.

Recommended Next Steps

- Evaluate the Bostwick House site for feasibility, including any landowner/use agreement considerations and compatibility with the award's workshop and educational programming requirements.
- Contact CBT Program Officer Sadie Friesen (sfriesen@cbtrust.org) to discuss submitting an Award Revision Request reflecting the change in location ahead of the October 1, 2026 Phase 1 deadline.
- Report back to the Mayor and Council once a revised site and workplan are confirmed.

Prepared by the Office of the Town Administrator.