

CARROLL COUNTY
2022 LAND PRESERVATION
PARK & RECREATION PLAN



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Introduction to the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan



Hashawha Environmental Center, Westminster MD

Plan Introduction

The State of Maryland requires that counties update Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plans (LPPRP) every five (5) years prior to the revision of the statewide Maryland Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan. The LPPRP qualifies local government for State Program Open space (POS) grants and other programs related to three land resource elements:

- Recreation and parks
- Other Protected Lands
(Natural Resource Land Conservation)
- Agricultural Lands

This LPPRP has been developed in accordance with the guidelines developed in 2021 by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The primary purpose for the LPPRP is to identify future needs and priorities for parks, recreation and open space acquisition and development. These needs and priorities serve as a guide for land acquisition and capital investment in the County's Community Investment Program.

The 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) will:

- Review the goals and objectives of state and local programs for Parks and Recreation, Other Protected Lands and Agricultural Lands;
- Identify the implementation programs and funding strategies for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify possible improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of the current and future state and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation is consistent with local comprehensive plans, State Planning Policy, and state and local programs that influence land use and development.

Local Agency Preparation of the LPPRP

Carroll County Government is responsible for the preparation of this LPPRP. The plan is the result of a collaborative effort between departments led by the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks with assistance from the Carroll County Department of Planning and Carroll County Department of Land and Resource Management.

LPPRP Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process

The 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is based upon the goals and priorities established in the 2014 county master plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in February of 2015 with an adopted amendment in January of 2020.

Additionally, it incorporates goals and actions recommended in the comprehensive plan for the county's nine (9) Designated Growth Areas and eight (8) municipalities. These include:

- Finksburg Corridor Plan (adopted 2013)
- Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2018)
- Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2010, updated 2017)
- Manchester Comprehensive Plan & Environs (adopted 2018)
- Mount Airy Environs (adopted 2006)
- Mount Airy Town Master Plan (adopted 2014)
- New Windsor Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2007, amended 2010)
- Taneytown Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2010)
- Town of Union Bridge Master Plan (adopted 2009, amended 2009 & 2010)
- Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2007)
- City of Westminster Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2009)

The 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan draws from the county plans that already have been adopted. Chief among these documents is the Carroll County 2014 Master Plan which was adopted on February 26, 2015 with an amendment adopted in January of 2020. This LPPRP has been prepared to be consistent with related comprehensive plan policies, goals and objectives and future plan updates will include reviews of the LPPRP and recommendations for incorporating appropriate components.

General Overview

Geography

Located within the Piedmont Plateau region of central Maryland, Carroll County has a total area of 453 square miles (287,900 acres) including 1.1% (5.1 square miles) of water; and is characteristic upland terrain with rolling hills and deciduous forest. The most prominent relief is Parr’s Ridge, which bisects the county from southwest to northeast. Carroll County is bordered on the north by the Mason–Dixon line with Pennsylvania, and on the south by Howard County across the South Branch of the Patapsco River. About half of the eastern border, with Baltimore County, is formed by the North Branch of the Patapsco River and by Liberty Reservoir, though the northern half near Manchester and Hampstead is a land border. Carroll County is bordered on the west by Frederick County, across the Monocacy River and Sam’s Creek. Other major streams in the county include Big Pipe Creek, Little Pipe Creek, and Double Pipe Creek, Bear Branch, and the headwaters of the Gunpowder Falls. The Piney Run Reservoir is in the southern part of the county.



Population

Carroll County’s population is currently 174,845* ranking ninth among Maryland’s twenty-four counties. Carroll County also has the eighth highest median household income of \$96,769. Carroll County places a high value on education as 93% of adults 25 and older are high school graduates and 36% have a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education. As a result of Carroll County’s convenient access to both Baltimore and Washington D.C., approximately 62% of the civilian work force commutes outside the county to work. The three largest ethnic groups by percentage of total population are White (89%), Hispanic (4%) and African American (3%)**.

*Carroll County Department of Planning 2022 population estimate

**United States Census Bureau

The Maryland Department of Planning projects a population of 183,250 in 2030 and 189,550 in 2040. Population growth will continue to be concentrated in the County’s nine designated growth areas. While the County’s overall population continues to steadily increase, there has been a recent leveling in school age population, coupled with a growing senior population. Over time this change in the distribution of the County’s population will impact parks and recreation needs. Of note, the population of age 60 and over will increase by over 11,000 by 2030 and comprise 32% of the population compared with 25% in 2020.

Public Parks & Recreation Facilities, Preserved Natural Resources and Agricultural Land

Carroll County has a diverse local park system that is actively managed to provide numerous benefits to residents and visitors. In addition, undeveloped open space and wildlife habitat is protected at natural resource protected areas. Finally, Carroll County has long been a leader in the preservation of agricultural land with 76,849 acres permanently preserved for farming as of January 2022 (1st in Maryland) and 50% of its land mass is currently in agricultural use. This provides numerous vistas and beautiful scenery that is significantly different from concentrated residential development.



Cape Horn Park, Hampstead MD

Overview of the Parks and Recreation System in the County

Carroll County has approximately 8,070 acres of publicly accessible lands available to residents for various types of recreational activities. These open spaces range from scenic, natural places to high activity parks. Included in this acreage are public school sites whose playing fields and recreational amenities are used by the entire community; recreational areas that feature hiking, fishing, mountain biking, equestrian and other recreational opportunities; and municipal parks. In addition, there are 4,867 acres of State Parks and lands in Carroll County.

Many of the acres considered park land or open space are either existing or proposed school sites or existing or planned public water supply areas, the acreage around which is protected to ensure high quality drinking water and provides numerous recreational opportunities. This has resulted in the development of low-impact recreational facilities, such as boating areas, hiking trails, picnic areas and multi-use trails enjoyed by equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers on the land surrounding the future reservoirs (now identified as

“recreation areas”). A similar benefit has been derived from school properties which by their nature include athletic fields, playgrounds, and other recreational areas. The County’s citizens can benefit from and use these sites as part of a joint use agreement between the Department of Recreation and Parks and Carroll County Public Schools that has been in place since 1974.

Large park facilities in the county may offer multiple amenities including trails and or athletic fields which are co-located with other types of recreational activity areas at a single site. Numerous smaller parks provide single fields and individual playgrounds with facilities sized to neighborhood scale.

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners delegates oversight responsibility for planning, developing, and implementing the recreation and parks program to an appointed Recreation and Parks Advisory Board that works cooperatively with the County’s Department of Recreation and Parks. The County Commissioners retain approval authority for plans and funding recommended by the Advisory Board.

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to study and determine the park, recreation and open space needs of the County and serve in an advisory capacity providing recommendations to the County Commissioners on matters pertaining to the planning, programming, evaluating, and funding of park and recreation facilities and programs.

Planning, land acquisition and facility development responsibilities are administered within the Department of Recreation and Parks with recommendations provided by the Advisory Board. The Department of Recreation and Parks consists of the following divisions: Administration, Bureau of Parks, and the Bureau of Recreation. The Department employs 26 full time staff and numerous part-time and seasonal employees and program instructors. The Department also utilizes the services of volunteers to fill over 8,000 unpaid positions in support of programs and park operations. The Bureau of Recreation coordinates athletic field use and scheduling at all County parks and schools as well as use of municipal facilities.

Map (page 10) : Park Facilities & Recreation Planning Areas

Sports and other program opportunities are offered through the County's volunteer recreation councils with administrative support from the Department. The recreation councils meet on a regular basis and are tasked with providing activities where there is local need and support. The twelve (12) recreation councils include eight (8) that serve geographic communities, two (2) that serve a county wide interest or need (Arts and Equestrian) and two that support major park facilities (Piney Run and Hashawha). In addition to recreation council activities, the Bureau of Recreation publishes quarterly program guides, offering several hundred additional community recreation programs each year including many non-sports programs, activities for adults and seniors and adaptive recreation opportunities.

The Bureau of Parks manages the operation of the County's major park facilities including Piney Run Park, Hashawha Environmental Center and the Hap Baker Firearms Facility which collectively have a goal of recovering the majority of their approved operating budgets through the generation of onsite revenue. Each of these facilities provides a higher service level (ex. Dedicated on site staffing, flush toilets/ running water, etc.) than the remaining community or neighborhood parks.



Joint-Use Agreements

The Board of Education has a joint-use agreement with the County to permit town and County-sponsored recreational activities on all forty (40) public school properties when school groups are not using them. In exchange for this, Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks and its recreation councils have funded improvements including backstops, player benches, backboards, scoreboards, tot lots, etc. The Department of Recreation and Parks also works with the Board of Education to plan their recreational facilities in the early stages of designing school sites. The goal of this effort is to create fields and facilities that can be used equally as well by adults as by children, therefore maximizing the usefulness of the investment. For instance, several elementary schools have been designed to have full-sized basketball courts that can be used by others during non-school hours.

In addition to Carroll County Public Schools, the Department of Recreation & Parks has established similar joint use agreements with Carroll Community College and the Springdale Preparatory School that also allow for community use outside of school hours. Joint-use agreements help to achieve both a state goal and a local goal. The State



Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster MD

recognizes that using facilities which are already established for recreational activities, such as schools during non-school hours, ensures that these activities are going to continue to take place within population centers where growth is concentrated. In addition, the County can continue to maximize its return on investment by incorporating full-sized gymnasiums and activity rooms into new schools and senior centers and constructing trails in conjunction with the development of new parks and playing fields.

Leveraging of County Assets

Carroll County has a very successful 50 year history of leveraging a variety of assets including volunteer service hours and locally raised funds to support recreation and parks. Recreation councils support activities thanks to the efforts of over 8,000 volunteers annually who contributed countless service hours. These same organization raise and spend millions of dollars each year in support of programs operations

and capital improvements. Recent new examples of this practice of leveraging volunteer efforts include the following new initiatives:

- Photo Ambassador Program – Recreation and Parks has designated six (6) individuals who were selected from applicants to serve as photo ambassadors for 2022. These individuals will be utilizing their skills as photographers and submitting photos that will be used to help public department events and programs, supplementing those photos collected by the Marketing Specialist. This additional source of photos will help support efforts to publicize and promote recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Helping Hands Keep Parks Green – Recreation and Parks developed this program to encourage volunteer groups to “adopt” parks and assist with maintenance efforts by scheduling regular park clean up days. Over 1/3 of the County’s parks are now supported by this programs.

Types of Public Park and Recreation Facilities

- **Special County Facilities:** Regional facilities with higher service levels that are supported by on-site staff and a dedicated operating budget. These facilities are dependent on user fees to help offset operating expenses
- **Community Parks:** These parks include both active and passive amenities such as athletic fields, trails, playgrounds, picnic facilities, etc. These facilities are typically not staffed and rely on significant support from recreation councils
- **Neighborhood Parks:** These parks are typically smaller and limited to passive amenities and may not have recreation council involvement or support
- **School Recreation Centers:** Use of gymnasiums, cafeterias, classrooms, athletic fields, and tennis courts by the public outside of school hours

Major Accomplishments

Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks has experienced major accomplishments over its 50-year history including the following:

- Carroll County continues to have met its Park Acreage Goal with 8,070 acres of parks and recreation lands (see page 40 for additional information)
- Despite having met its park acreage goal, Carroll County continues to pursue additional parkland acquisition when warranted to expand existing facilities, protect significant environmental and historical resources, and meet citizen demands.
- The Department continues to foster and maintain significant public participation through its volunteer recreation councils who raise and spend millions annually in support of their programs and feature the efforts of over 8,000 volunteers annually
- The Department continues to creatively find ways to develop new facilities such as Winfield Park and two (2) dog parks with locally raised funds and significant contractor donations when public funding is limited
- Each year, budgeted county funds are successfully leveraged with fees, sponsorships, donations, and recreation council dollars that more than double the Recreation and Parks operating budget

Major Challenges

Despite its many successes, Carroll County continues to experience challenges including the following:

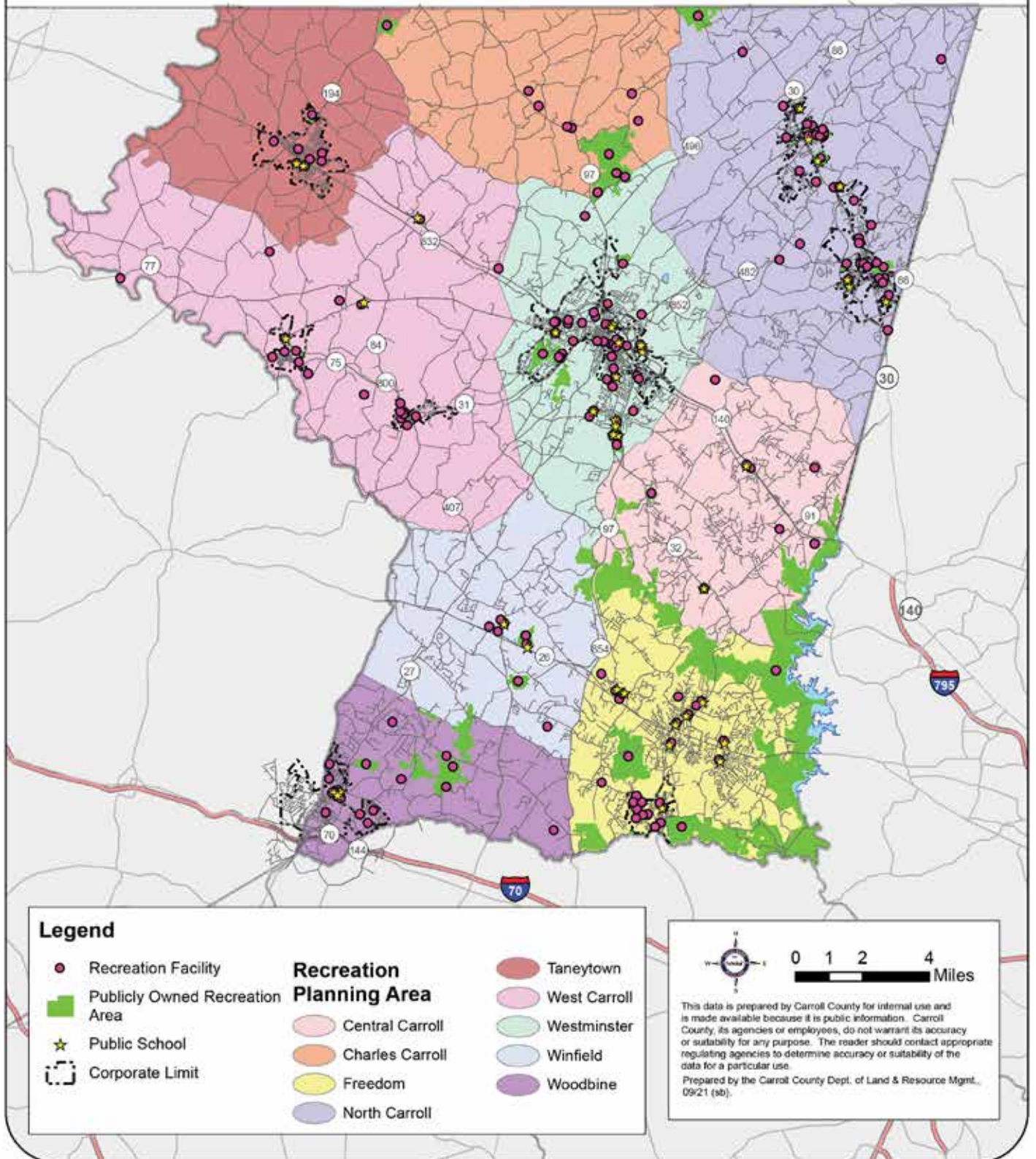
- Maintenance and capital replacement of existing park infrastructure
- Past diversions or delays of Program Open Space funding have resulted in unfinished projects, further stressing the capital budget
- Supporting the ongoing level of volunteerism in a bedroom community where many people commute to work and have less time to volunteer
- As county's demographics continue to change, department will need to balance efforts to meet new needs of citizens while still attempting to catch up with previous growth and ensure continued safe use of existing park infrastructure



Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster MD

Park Facilities & Recreation Planning Areas

Carroll County, Maryland



Section 2

Inventory of Existing Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

Carroll County contains a great diversity of parks, recreation, and open spaces. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks are found in the densely developed towns and larger subdivisions in the county, and are designed to serve a small, localized population. Community parks that are somewhat larger in size can be found throughout the county and towns and provide a more diverse set of recreational opportunities to reflect the broader population base they serve. The county's regional parks and its sports complex appropriately are located in the two most populous areas, Freedom and Westminster. Two largely undeveloped future reservoir sites (now designated as recreation areas), along with the existing buffer lands of Liberty Reservoir and the state lands of Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area and Patapsco Valley State Park, provide countywide access to more natural settings and miles of multi-use trails open to hikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers. School facilities located throughout the county provide recreational facilities as well, and many county residents enjoy open space adjacent to their homes that is provided as a requirement of the subdivision process.

From this map (see page 10) two (2) things are evident. The first is that many of the sites are focused in and around the designated growth areas, where most of the county's population resides. Additionally, the map reveals that county's designated growth areas are evenly distributed geographically across the county. When combined with several school sites and major natural resource areas located outside of the growth areas, this has the result of making parks and recreational facilities easily accessible to most county residents regardless of whether they live in the rural parts of the county or in its community planning areas.

As an additional benefit, this geographic distribution of facilities provides regional opportunities to make inter-jurisdictional connections between Carroll County and its gateway communities including Sykesville, Eldersburg, Mt. Airy, Taneytown, and Detour with Howard, Baltimore, and Frederick Counties, respectively. Most of these efforts relate to trail corridors to enable physical connectivity; current efforts are focused on developing both multi-use land trails and, where feasible, expanding and enhancing water trail opportunities.

Carroll County is working with the Town of Sykesville and Patapsco Valley State Park on plans for the Patapsco Valley

Regional Greenway that would include a trail from town of Sykesville through Freedom Park to connect with the Patapsco Valley State Park trail network along the Patapsco River Valley. Connected resources will include the county's regional Freedom Park, South Branch Park (located in Howard County), the Town of Sykesville, and Patapsco Valley State Park. This trail project would connect adjoining resources to ultimately link with trails/greenways into Howard County to the west/south and with Baltimore County to the east, via the proposed Patapsco Valley Regional Greenway. Trail users will ultimately be able to travel east as far as the Jones Falls Trail and the Baltimore harbor.

In the northern and western portions of Carroll, on-going efforts will extend the county's existing Pipe Creek Water Trail and expand new public access points to the Monocacy River, while helping promote its unique status as a designated Scenic River. The Pipe Creek Water Trail's eastern terminus is a public access point to Big Pipe Creek located on Hapes Mill Road in Middleburg and a joint town-county effort resulted in a new soft launch completed at Little Pipe Creek in Union Bridge. The trail's western endpoint was Double Pipe Creek Park in Detour on the Carroll/Frederick county line where an improved kayak launch was recently completed. From there, kayaks can travel west for one scenic mile to connect with the main stem of the Monocacy and the existing Monocacy River Water Trail, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways water trail network. A partnership initiative with Frederick County, resulted in property that was jointly acquired to extend the Monocacy water trail further north an additional 11 miles, capturing the starting point of its official State Scenic River Designation. This planned site will allow residents from both Frederick and Carroll counties, as well as visiting regional recreational users and tourists, open public water access to the Monocacy, with numerous connections to Frederick County along the entire 58-mile course of the main stem south to its confluence with the Potomac River.

In the northern most reaches of the county, staff continues to communicate regularly with Genesee Wyoming Railroad regarding acquisition of an inactive rail line to establish a rail-to-trail conversion running northerly across the Mason-Dixon Line into Littlestown, Pennsylvania. The former line running north from Angell Road in Taneytown would make an excellent hiker/biker trail. In addition, this trail would bisect a 145.06



Carroll County Sports Complex, Westminster MD

parcel of future parkland that was recently acquired by Carroll County for a regional park that would include trails, water access and additional recreation opportunities.

Staff continues regular, open conversations regarding this possible redevelopment effort. It is important to note that this acquisition has been desired by Carroll County for nearly twenty (20) years but has been previously rebuffed by the railroad, an uncooperative property owner. While the current discussions are encouraging and significant, the lack of completion for this or any other single possible land acquisition due to an unwilling landowner should not negatively impact how Carroll County is viewed in terms of land acquisition goals. Even after initially becoming certified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as having reached its land acquisition goal in 2006 (and confirmed in each subsequent LPPRP), Carroll County has continued to acquire additional parkland when warranted such as a 145.06-acre acquisition north of Taneytown and a 2.085-acre acquisition in Middleburg. Each of these acquisitions will result in additional water access for public enjoyment in areas that were previous lacking county owned parks.

Land and Park Amenities Added Since the 2017 LPPRP:

Since the completion of the 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, Carroll County has made significant progress attaining its stated goals with the initiation and completion of the following projects:

- Completion of paving remaining park road and parking spaces at Krimgold Park to provide better public use and access, efforts that were previously delayed due to diversions of past program Open Space funding that have yet to be repaid
- Completion of development at Winfield Park, a 9-acre park that was supported by nearly \$1 million in donations of material and labor to level the site as well as volunteer support
- Continued long standing practice of acquiring additional parkland when warranted with an acquisition of a 2.085-acre site on Hapes Mill Road in Middleburg to facilitate improved water access for fishing and a soft launch for kayaks into the Pipe Creek Water Trail on Big Pipe Creek, consistent with the State goal of increasing access to open spaces and waterfronts.

- Completion of a joint project with the Town of Union Bridge that resulted in a town-owned 1-acre site along Little Pipe Creek facilitating water access and parking for fishing and a kayak launch to the Pipe Creek Water Trail, consistent with the State goal of increasing access to open spaces and waterfronts.
- Completion of the County's 2nd dog park, the new 2-acre South Carroll Dog Park, located in Eldersburg and supported by donations and fundraisers
- Continued long standing practice of acquiring additional parkland when warranted with an acquisition of a 145.06-acre parcel north of Taneytown for a new regional park that will also feature direct access to a planned rail trail and to Piney Creek for water-based recreation
- The City of Westminster completed a master plan and completed parking lot improvements at the 187-acre former golf course that is being developed into Wakefield Valley Park.
- Completed construction on 18.85-acre expansion of Deer Park, resulting in 2 additional athletic fields, additional parking, and an expansion of the popular walking trail which complimented existing infrastructure and previous public investment
- Completed construction on the 33-acre Westminster Veterans Memorial Park, resulting in passive park including a walking trail, picnic pavilion and playground as well as free play areas and open space, resulting in a new park located in a designated growth area
- Implementation of Joint Use Agreement with the private Springdale Preparatory School, located at the former New Windsor Middle School
- The trail system at Piney Run Park was extended by approximately 4 miles on existing county land
- The former Charles Carroll Elementary School is being redeveloped into the Charles Carroll Park, retaining the former school's recreational amenities, and featuring a new Community Center with construction scheduled for spring of 2022. The site's tennis and basketball courts were recently resurfaced, and a new playground will be installed in 2022.
- Extended the operating season at Piney Run Park by two (2) months in 2018 to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities to the public
- A new playground and single table pavilions were installed in Bark Hill Park and construction of a new trail is scheduled to be constructed in 2022

- A new trail is under construction in the Gillis Falls Recreation Area that will connect the Carroll County Equestrian Center and Salt Box Park
- New athletic field lighting was added to a soccer field at the Carroll County Sports Complex to extend hours of play to meet public demand
- Multiple capital projects resulting in replacement of aging park infrastructure were completed in the past 5 years using both local funds as well as Program Open Space. These projects include tot lot replacements, roof replacements for pavilions and park buildings, parking lot overlays, etc. to facilitate continued access and enjoyment of parks and open space by the public.

While Carroll County has been successful meeting the recreational needs of residents to date, efforts are ongoing to help address future needs as well. In anticipation of future program and population growth, the following properties are publicly owned and have been designated for park development:

Mount Airy – 100-acre former Harrison Leishear Property on Ridge Road

New Windsor – 7-acre former wastewater lagoon site

Taneytown – additional 20 acres at Taneytown Memorial Park

Taneytown – 51.26-acre Bollinger Park

Taneytown – 145.06 acres north of town on FSK Highway

Union Bridge – 10.415-acre Quaker Hill Park site

Westminster – development of the former Wakefield Valley Golf Course into a park

In addition, additional development is planned for Leister and Krimgold Parks pending available funding in future years. Full development of these parks was not completed due to past diversions of Program Open Space funding.

*A detailed inventory of recreation lands in Carroll County can be found in Appendix 1; this inventory includes amenity data for each site.

a. Public Parks and Recreation Properties

b. Quasi-public and/or privately owned recreational facilities or park lands that are open or available for regular public use (define and index number)



Freedom Park, Sykesville MD

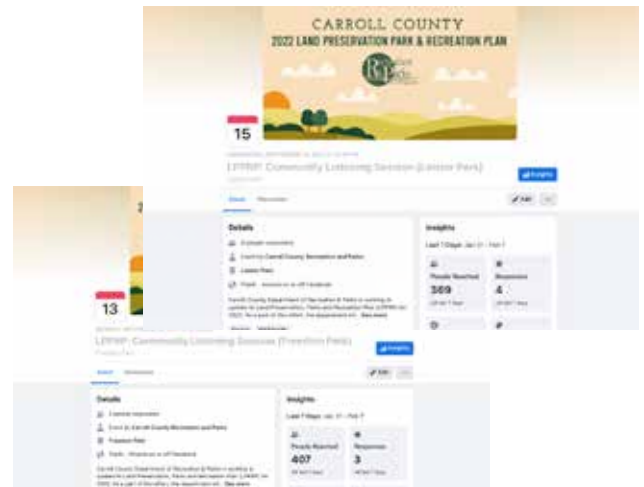
Measuring User Demand

Public Engagement and Outreach

Public participation continues to be an important component of the LPPRP development process. An initial public meeting regarding the plan to update the LPPRP was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, prior to the creation of the 2022 plan. A strategy was shared regarding the collection of public input to be used in this effort.

Carroll County provided opportunities for public input and comments to the 2022 LPPRP at multiple meetings, both in person and virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose and outline for the LPPRP was discussed with the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at their June, July, and September meetings in 2021. In addition, in-person listening sessions were held with the public in both the northern and southern parts of the County in September as well as a virtual option that remained open throughout September 2021.

In addition, the contents of the draft LPPRP and a review of the public input process are shared with the Carroll County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, the Board of County Commissioners, the Carroll County Planning Commission, and the county's eight (8) municipalities as a part of this effort.



Surveys

The Department of Recreation & Parks traditionally undertakes a community needs assessment survey every three (3) years to collect public input regarding the parks, programs, and operations. Since the completion of the 2017 LPPRP, these surveys were conducted in both 2019 and once again in 2021 to provide the most current local input for the 2022 LPPRP.

A collective total of over 1,100 responses were received from the following separate surveys conducted in 2021 and over 1,000 responses were collected from the 2019 survey. (See appendix for survey results summary, Appendix 5).

- 2021 LPPRP Municipal Survey (see appendix 3)

All survey results have consistently shown trails, both paved and natural surface, to score highest among park amenities desired by citizens. The top five desired park amenities from these surveys are listed below:

1. Hard surface trails
2. Natural surface trails
3. Restrooms
4. Natural areas
5. Athletic fields

In addition, all eight (8) municipalities participated in a survey during 2021 to collect input on a variety of park related issues including need for additional parkland, existing undeveloped parkland, opportunities for collaborative programming with the County, most requested park amenities and more. Consistent with the County needs assessment surveys, the need for additional trails was the most popular response. (See Appendix 3 for survey summary).

Data on Usage, Demand and Participation Rates

Volunteer recreation councils and their organized youth sports programs continue to express a need for additional gymnasiums and athletic fields, including artificial turf fields. Program participation figures have grown to over 45,000 registrants in 2019 (pre-COVID) with many of those registrants participating in youth sports programs. Even though the county's school age population has leveled in recent years, the total population of the county is 174,845 and any reductions in field use for youth will be offset by increases needed for adult programs and passive recreation facilities such as trails.

In addition to these surveys, Recreation and Parks staff members attend recreation council meetings on a regular basis and hear regular input both from council members and the public regarding facility use and needs. The Department has

a dedicated Facebook following with over 6,500 followers and the use of social media facilitates ongoing communication with the public regarding existing opportunities and requests for new programs and facilities.

While local and national studies help to document current use and suggest future trends, the most accurate indicator of local preferences and needs continues to be direct communication with county residents. Multiple surveys, ongoing communication through social media, public meetings, and the department's 50-year relationship with its volunteer recreation councils provide vital information regarding the community's current and future needs.

Most Carroll County's parks are not staffed which creates challenges regarding in person collection of data related to usage. The volunteer recreation councils provide program information for their activities, many of which occur at community parks and are reflected in the registration figures cited above. We have attempted to utilize trail counters to gauge the usage of our most popular park amenity but have found them to be unreliable thus far.

Large regional parks such as Piney Run have a higher level of staffing and thanks to gatehouse staff, we can verify the park attracted 129,893 visitors last year. Feedback that is regularly received from staff and the public verify that each of our parks are used heavily and valued by the public.

In addition to information obtained directly from local sources, there are several public studies and reports that provide additional insight with regards to recreational needs and trends. Several of those findings are summarized below:

Interpretation of Studies from Federal, State, Local, Academic or Industrial Sources

The Natural Learning Initiative cited numerous studies and summarized The Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature in January of 2012 including the following:

- o Supports creativity and problem solving
- o Enhances cognitive abilities & improves academic performance
- o Reduces Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) symptoms
- o Increases physical activity
- o Improves nutrition & eyesight
- o Improves social relations
- o Improves self-discipline
- o Reduces stress



America Walks conducted a national walking survey in 2011 and reported the following highlights:

- 12.8% of respondents indicated they walked 1-2 days/week
- 22.8% of respondents indicated they walked 3-4 days/week
- 21.7% of respondents indicated they walked 5-6 days/week
- 32.5% of respondents indicated they walked everyday

In 2017, The Outdoor Foundation reported the following:

- Adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to participate in outdoor activities during adulthood
- 21% of outdoor enthusiasts participate in outdoor activities at least twice per week

The 2021 National Engagement with Parks Report by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) reported the following:

- Top outdoor recreation options for parents included trails, scenic views of nature and water access
- 72% of U.S. adults either maintained or increased the frequency of their visits to outdoor parks, trails and public spaces compared to time before the pandemic
- Most frequently cited reasons people gather at park and recreation facilities include being closer to nature, taking a break from day-to-day stress, to exercise and connect with members of the community

The State of Maryland conducted the Children in Nature Survey in 2008 which included the following highlights:

- 80% of respondents reported they participate in non-schoolyard based “outdoor classroom experiences” and the vast majority of those experiences are for grades 3-6
- Walking/hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and bicycling are valued most by respondents when visiting a state park
- 80% report use of trails near schools and communities to access open spaces, parks, and other public natural areas

At the national level, the Physical Activity Council’s annual study tracks sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the United States. The 2016 Participation Report includes the following highlights:

- Team sports continue to gradual increase of approximately 1% per year since 2013 and are commonly found in the top 10 activities for ages 6-12
- The top activities for ages 45-64 include biking, fishing, camping, swimming, and walking
- The top activities for ages 65+ include fishing, swimming, biking, birdwatching/wildlife viewing and walking





Piney Run Park, Sykesville MD

Level of Service Analysis

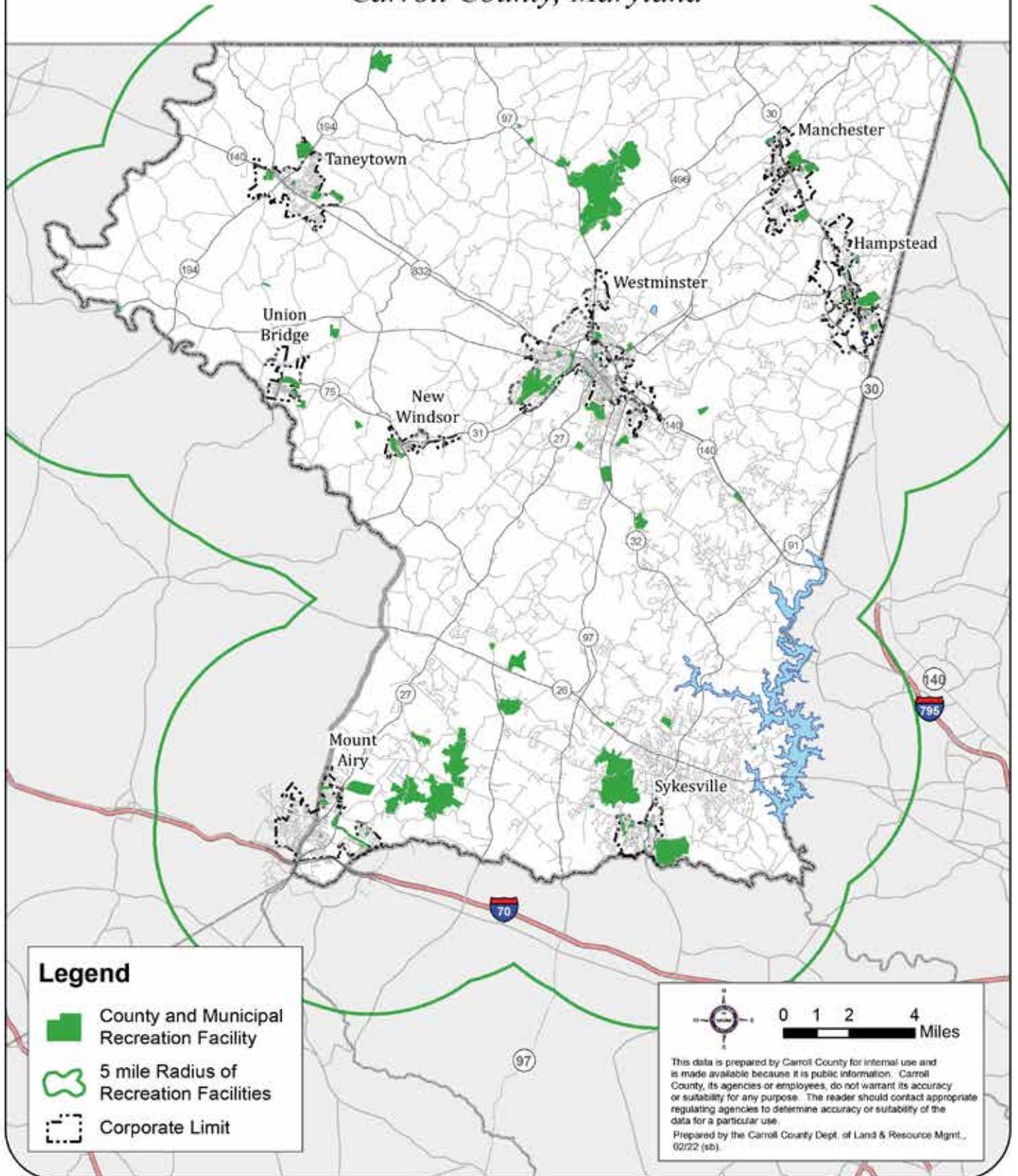
In the 2017 LPPRP, Carroll County introduced additional metrics such as proximity and equity analysis in an attempt to better illustrate just how well the public is served. The State's 2022 LPPRP development guidelines referenced a ½ mile (or some other fraction less than 1) radius in densely populated areas and a 5 mile radius in rural areas as recommended measurements to use in this process.

Carroll County has 76,849 acres permanently preserved for farming in its nationally recognized Ag Preservation program. This represents over 26% of the total land in Carroll County that is unavailable for parkland acquisition and development. This significant amount of farmland results in both beautiful, scenic vistas and longer travel distances without sidewalks to parks between heavily populated areas. These areas are less populated and do not include designated growth areas. That said, those residents should not have to travel long distances to get to parks and recreational facilities. As a result, Carroll County must navigate between these goals which at times, appear to be contradictory, when attempting to meet the needs of all residents. Despite that challenge, residents in 99.9% of county residences are located within a 5 mile radius

of all county and municipal facilities. In addition, the County's eight (8) municipalities include a total of 14,540 acres with over 95% of their residential properties located within ¼ mile radius of park and recreation lands. The incorporation and ongoing consideration of all of these metrics continues to confirm that Carroll County continues to have very successfully met its parkland acquisition goals and serves its residents well by owning parkland that has been strategically acquired to best serve its residents, both now and in the future. The following pages include a county-wide map showing a five (5) mile radius around park and recreation land in the county, followed by maps of each of the eight (8) municipalities showing a ¼ mile radius around park and recreation land in their towns as well as non-residential areas.

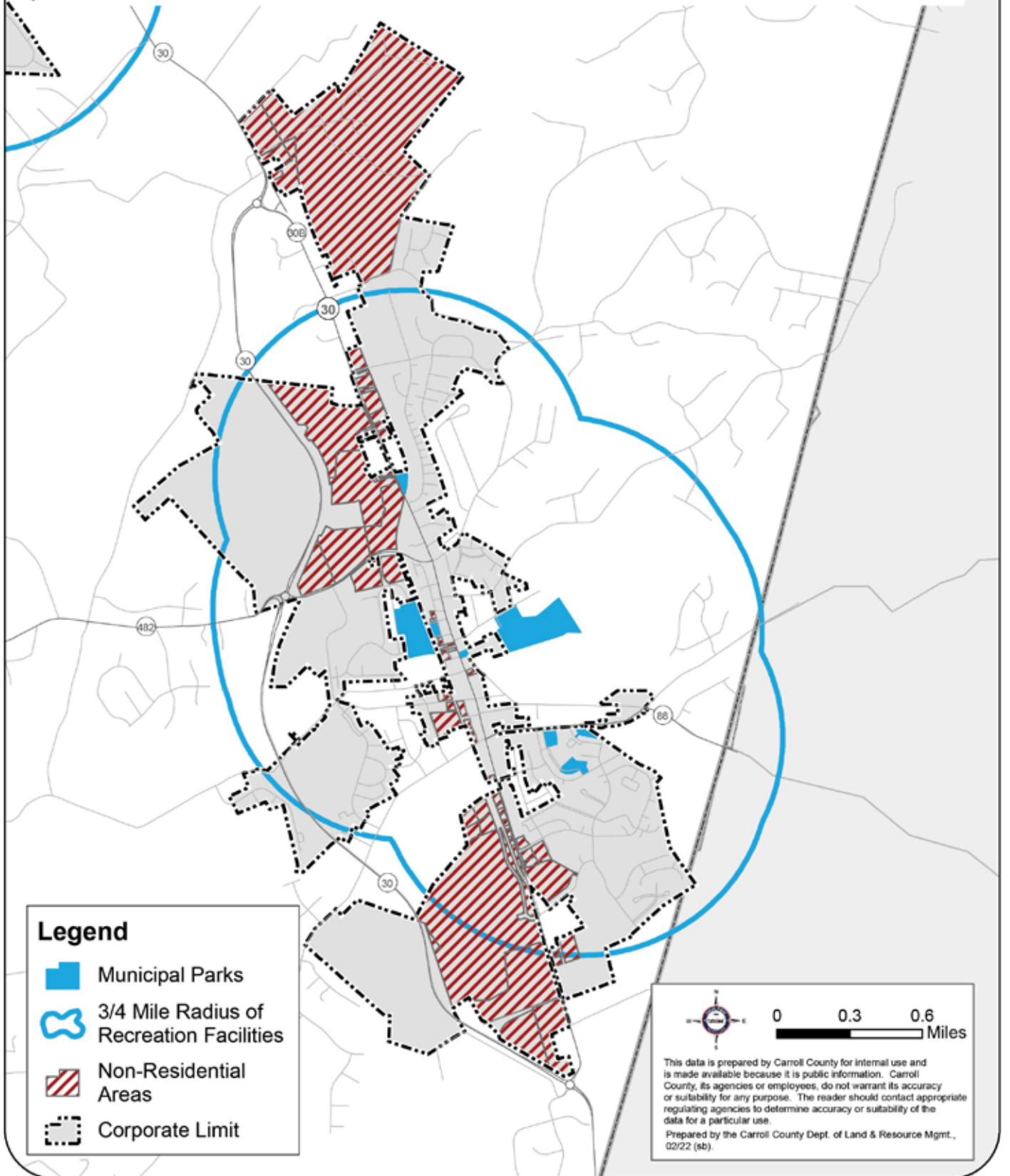
5 Mile Radius of County and Municipal Park and Recreation Facilities

Carroll County, Maryland



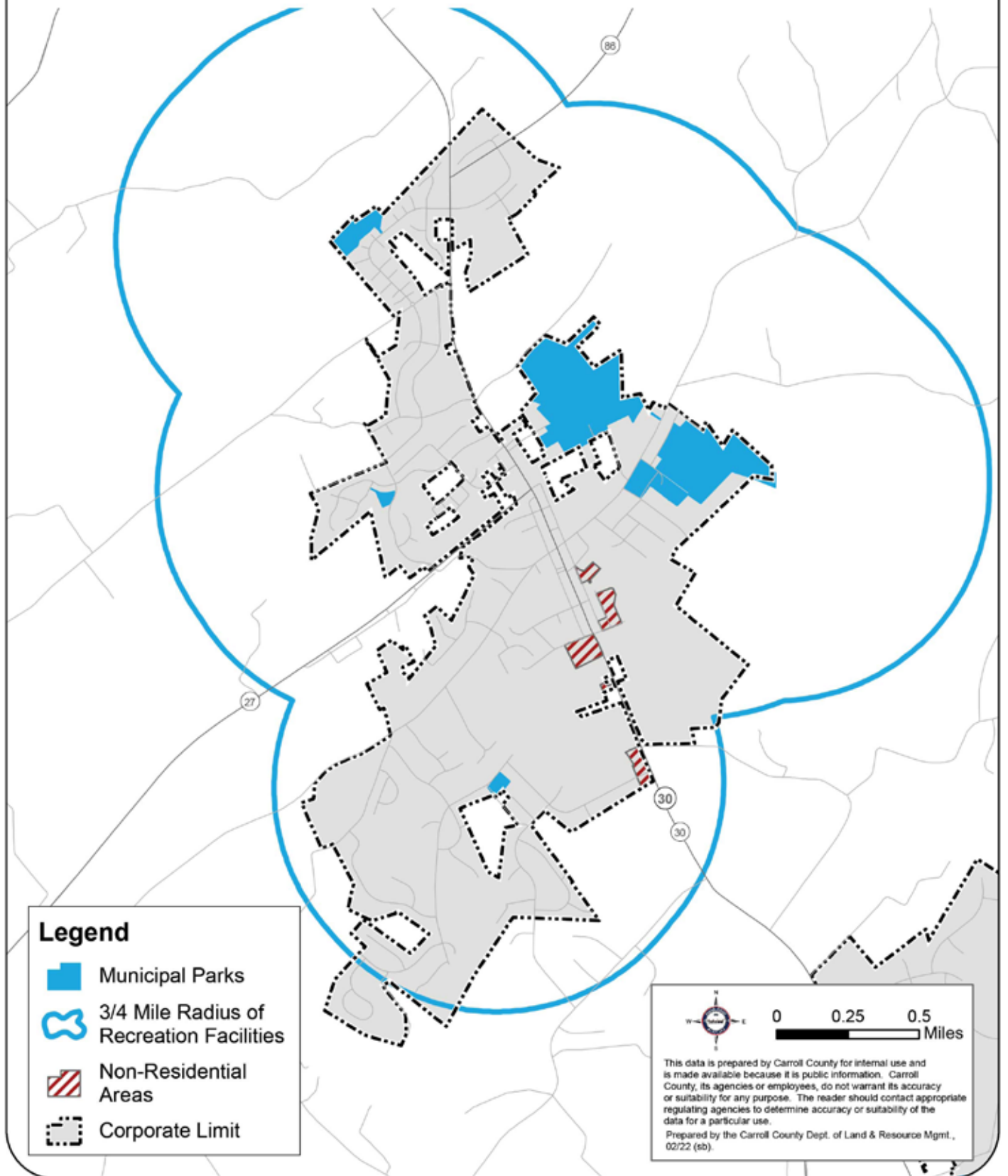
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Hampstead, Maryland



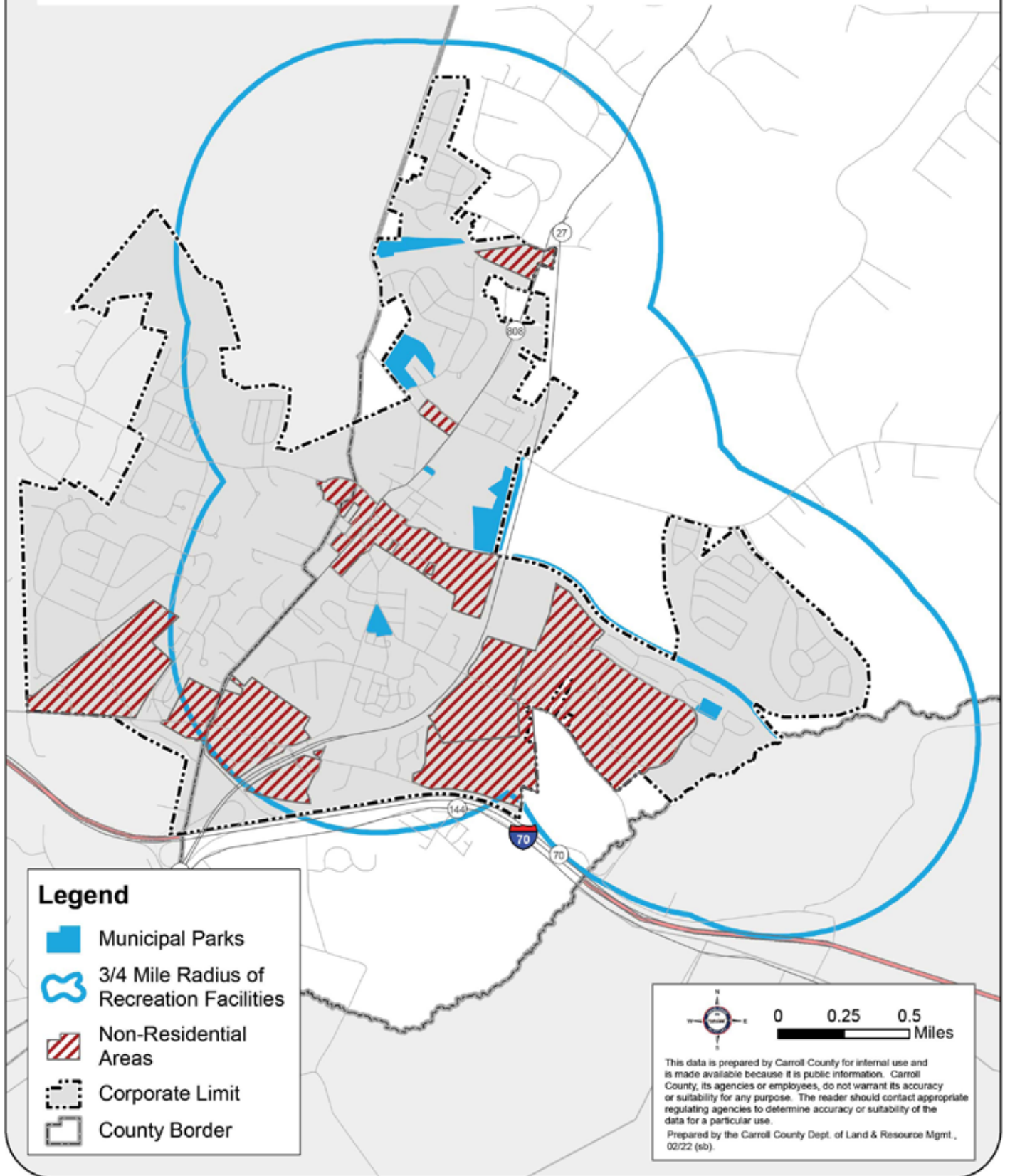
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Manchester, Maryland



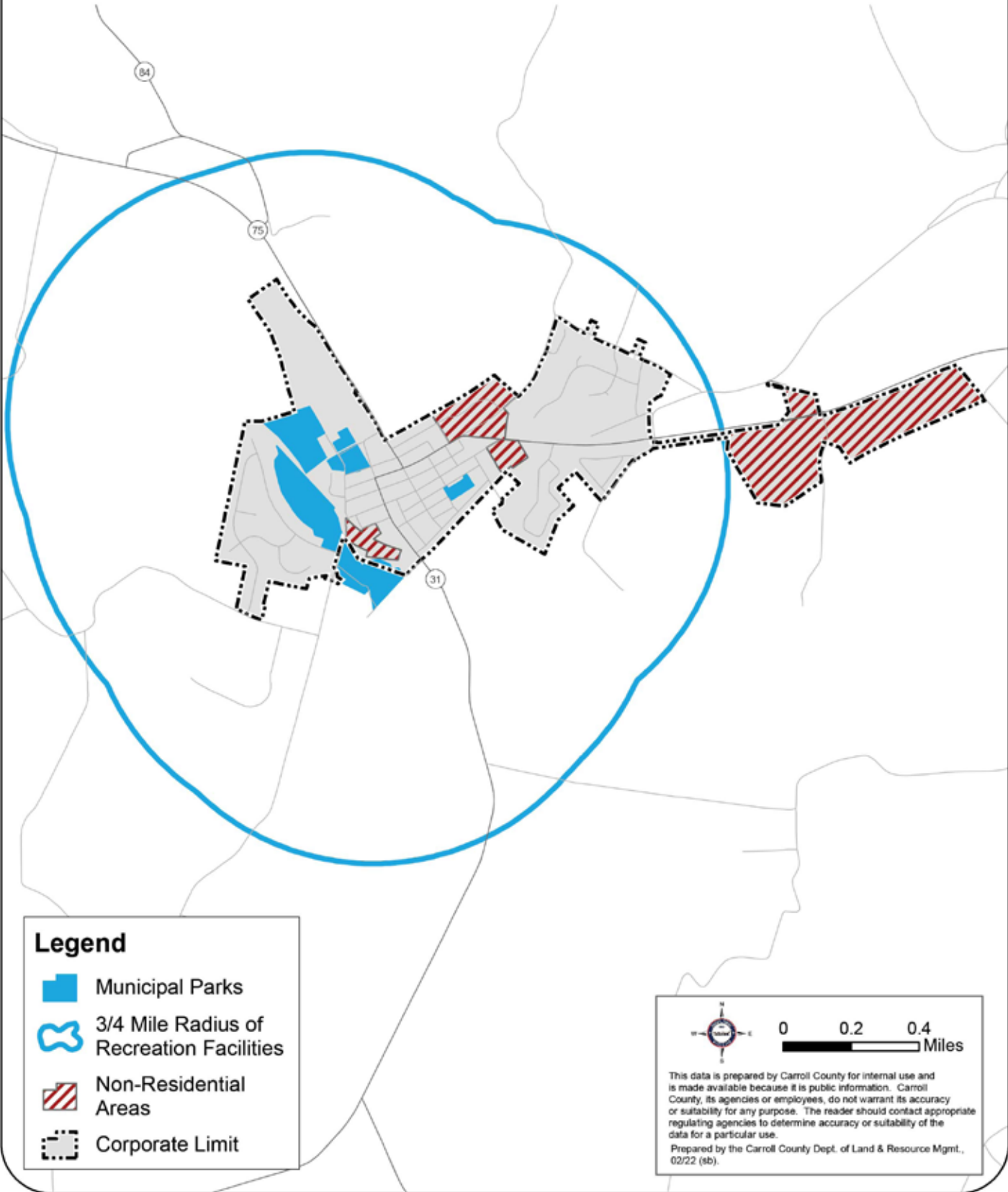
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Mount Airy, Maryland



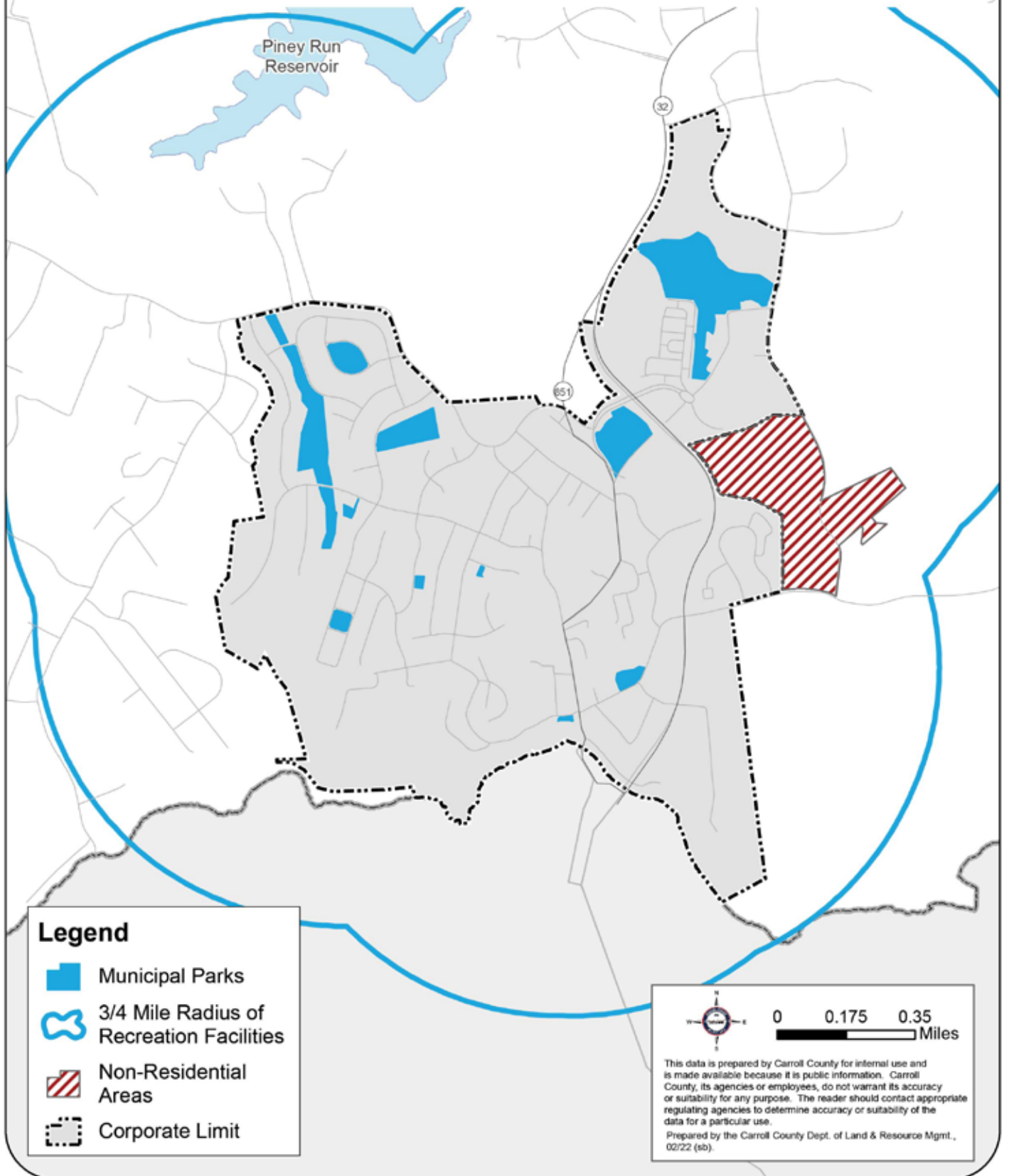
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

New Windsor, Maryland



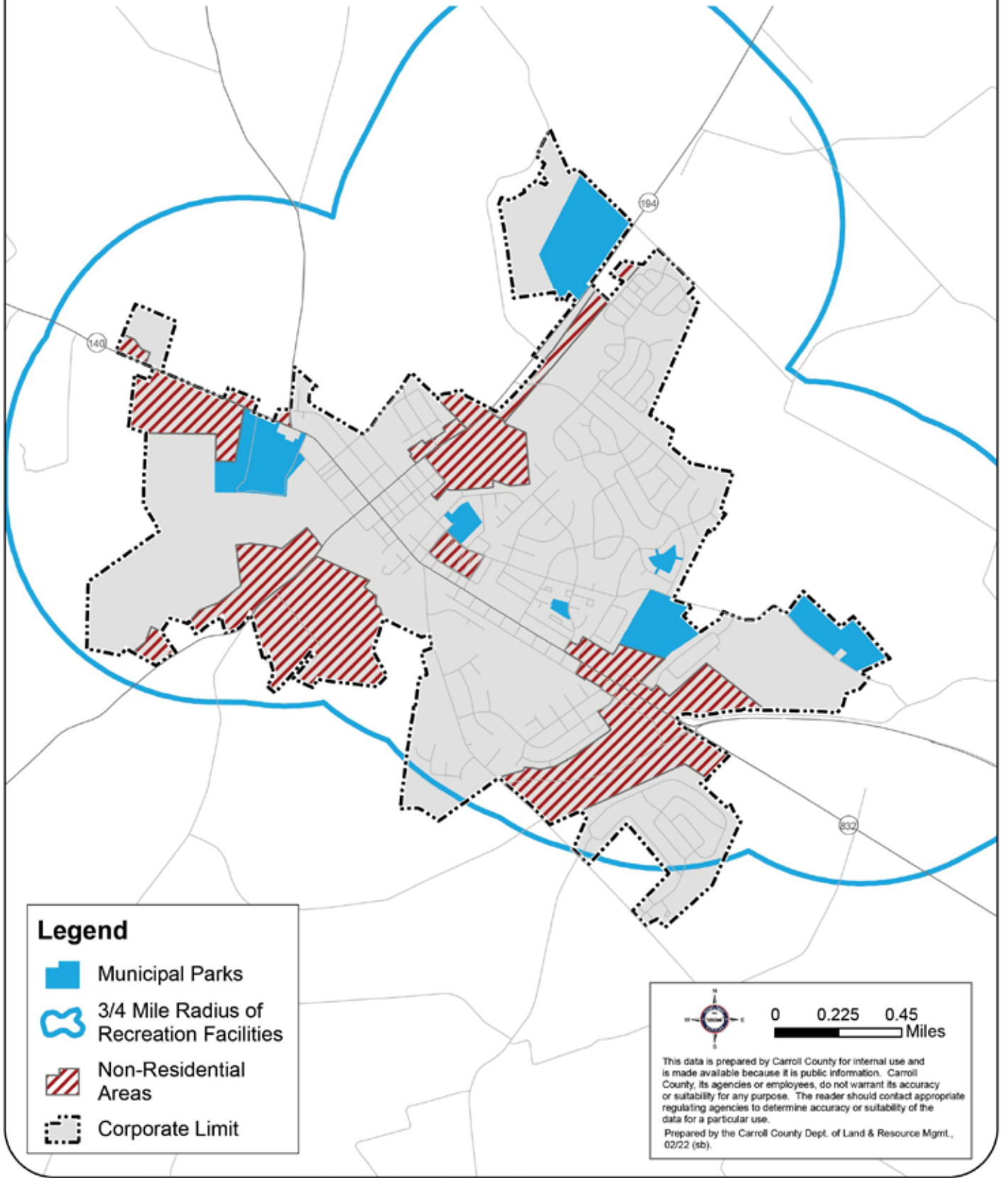
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Sykesville, Maryland



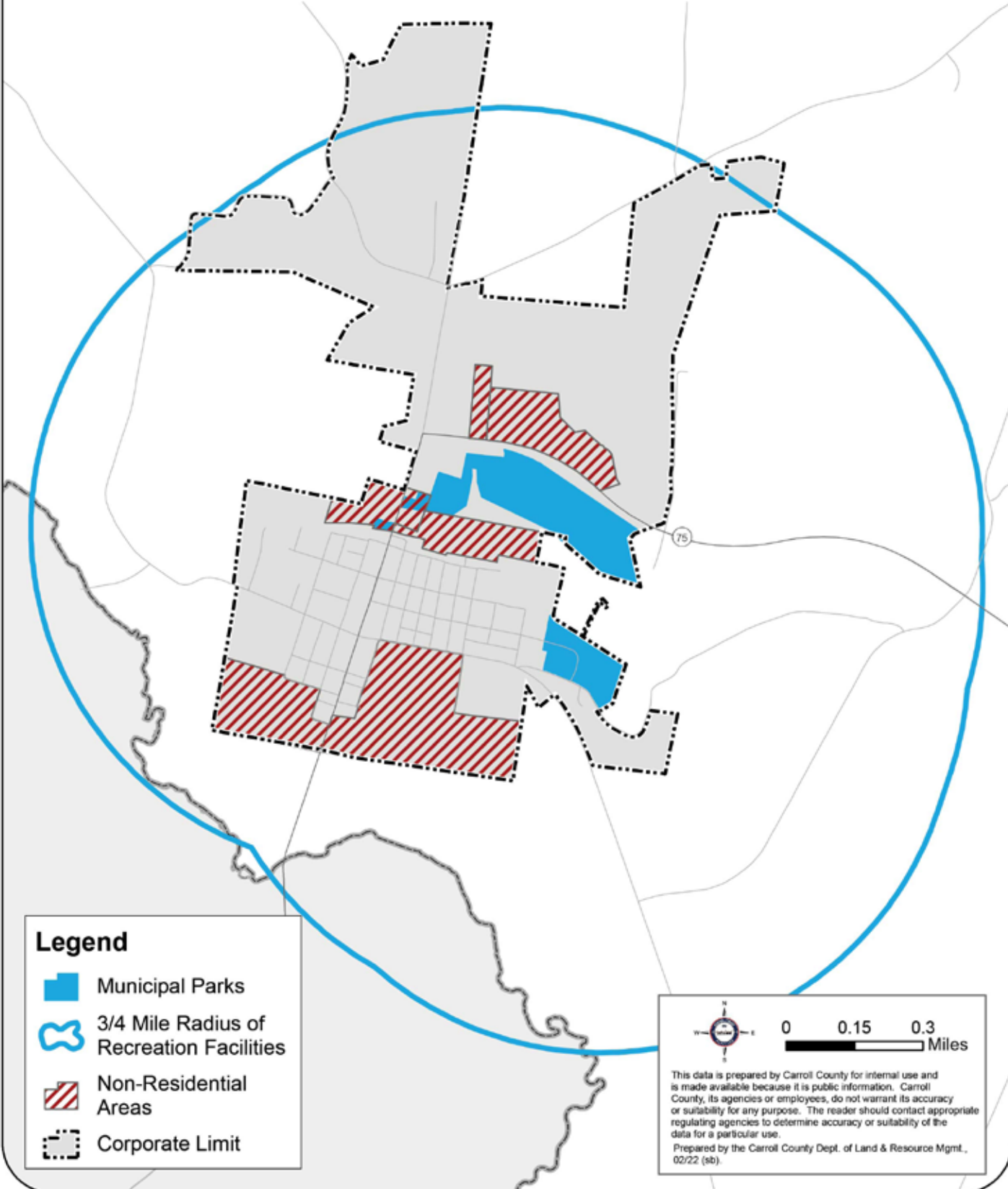
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Taneytown, Maryland



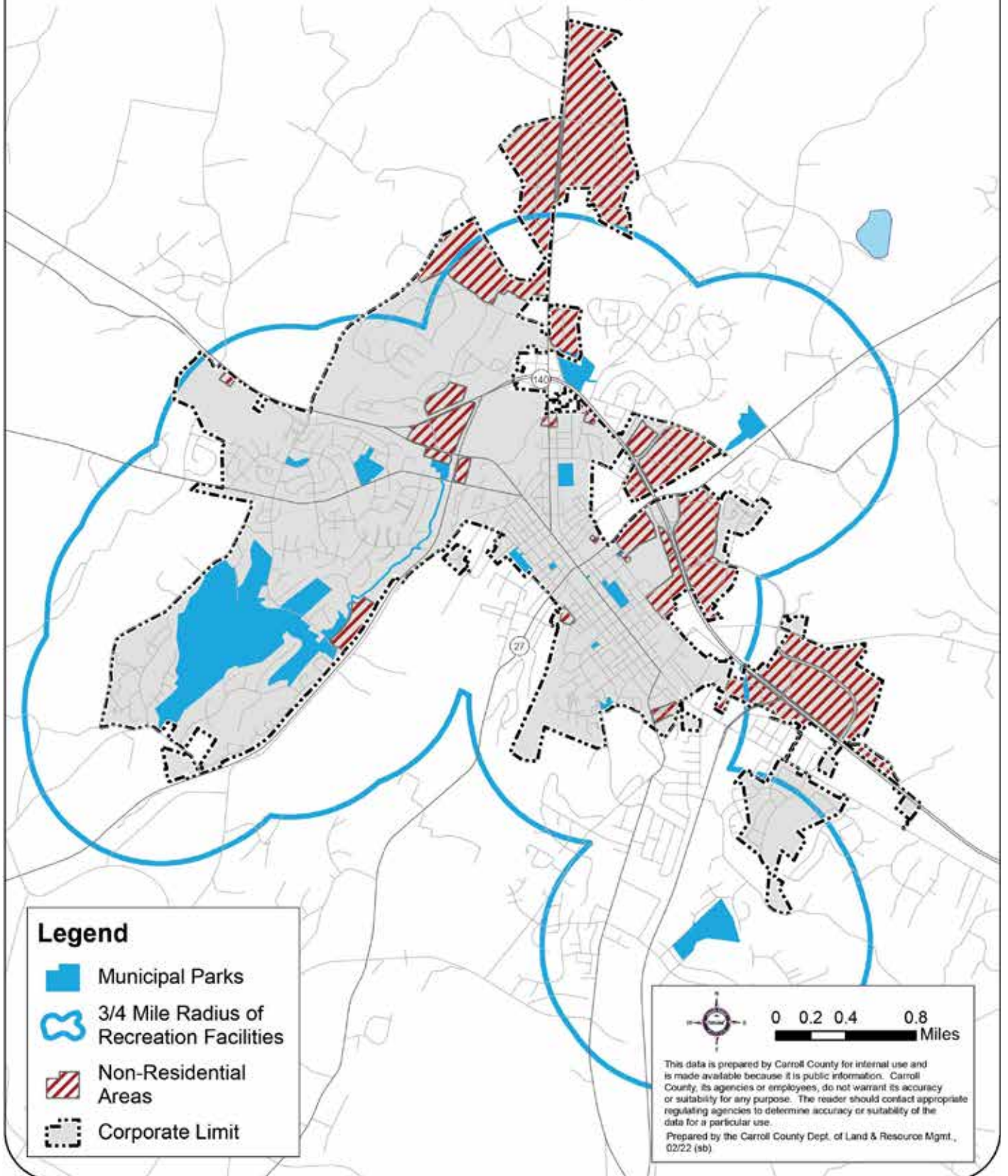
3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Union Bridge, Maryland



3/4 Mile Radius of Park & Recreation Facilities

Westminster, Maryland





Westminster Community Pond, Westminister MD

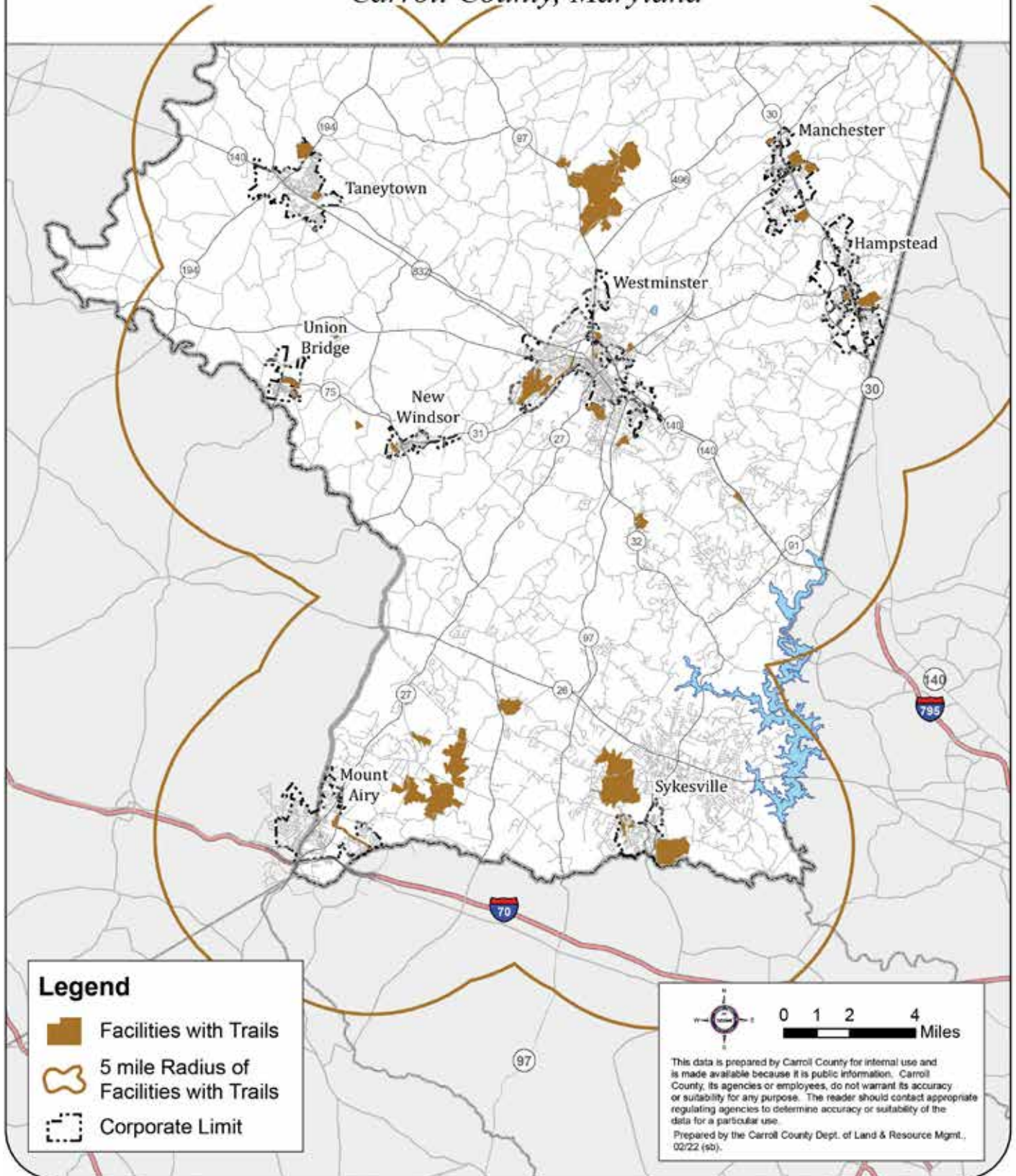
The State’s 2022 LPPRP guidelines also recommended that a proximity analysis be included for various park amenities such as trails, picnic areas, athletic fields, etc. The following pages includes maps showing a 5-mile radius around a variety of park amenities, further showing that the residents of Carroll County are well served by existing and planned recreational amenities.

While these park amenity proximity maps show effective coverage with virtually all county residents living within a 5 mile radius of sites, opportunities remain to further improve the service levels to the public. With trails being the most requested park amenity, Carroll County continues to look for

opportunities to construct additional trails on existing public land and further increase this inventory. As opportunities arise, park sites have been physically connected to adjoining communities to facilitate non-vehicular access to parks. This reduces traffic and pollution and creates fitness opportunities for park visitors. This outcome was successfully achieved in recent years with trail connections to residential communities at the Westminster Community Pond, Cape Horn Park and Deer Park. The continued pursuit of increasing the inventory of amenities in existing parks is dependent on the availability of sufficient funding eligible for parkland development.

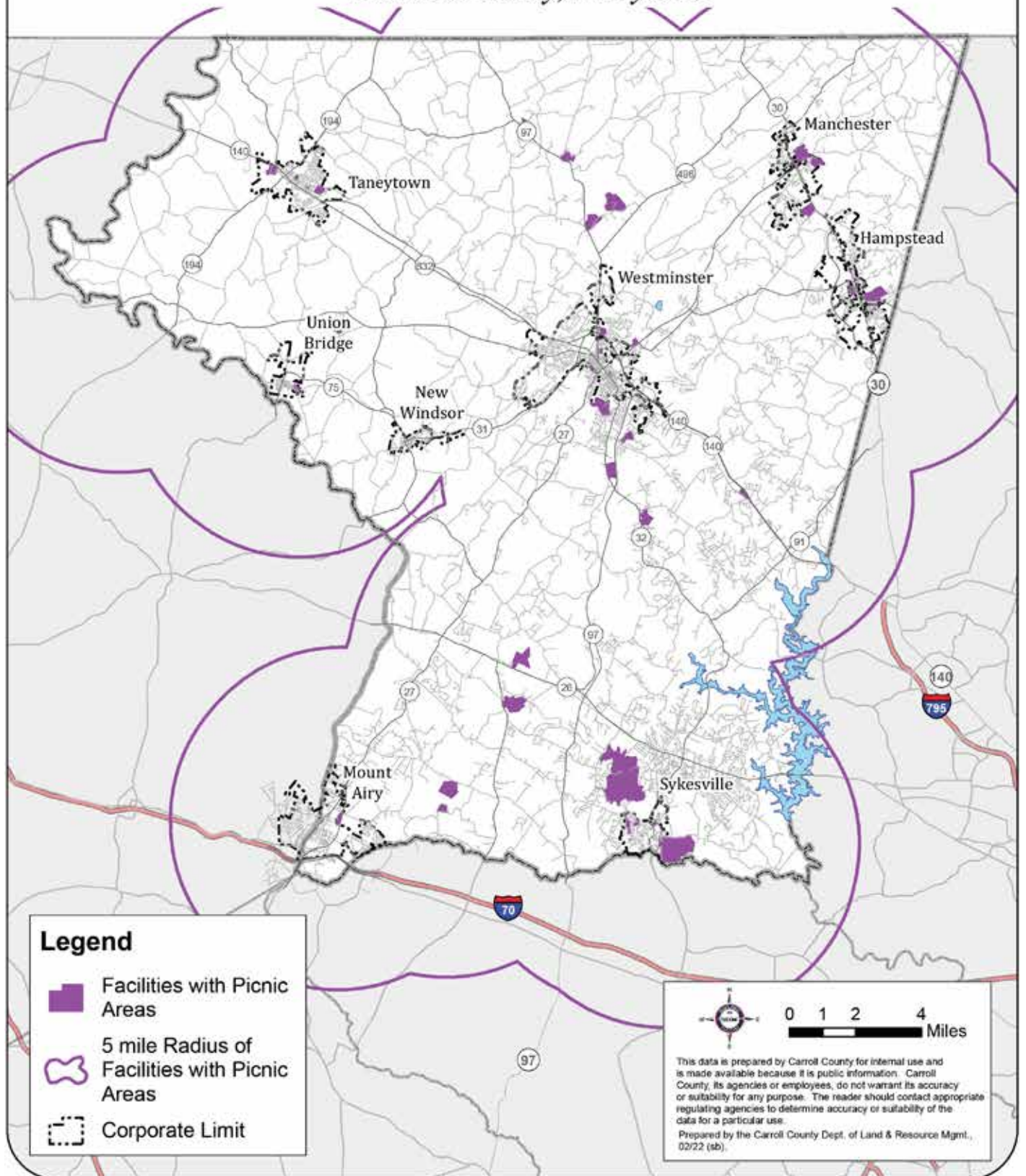
5 Mile Radius of County and Municipal Park and Recreation Facilities with Trails

Carroll County, Maryland



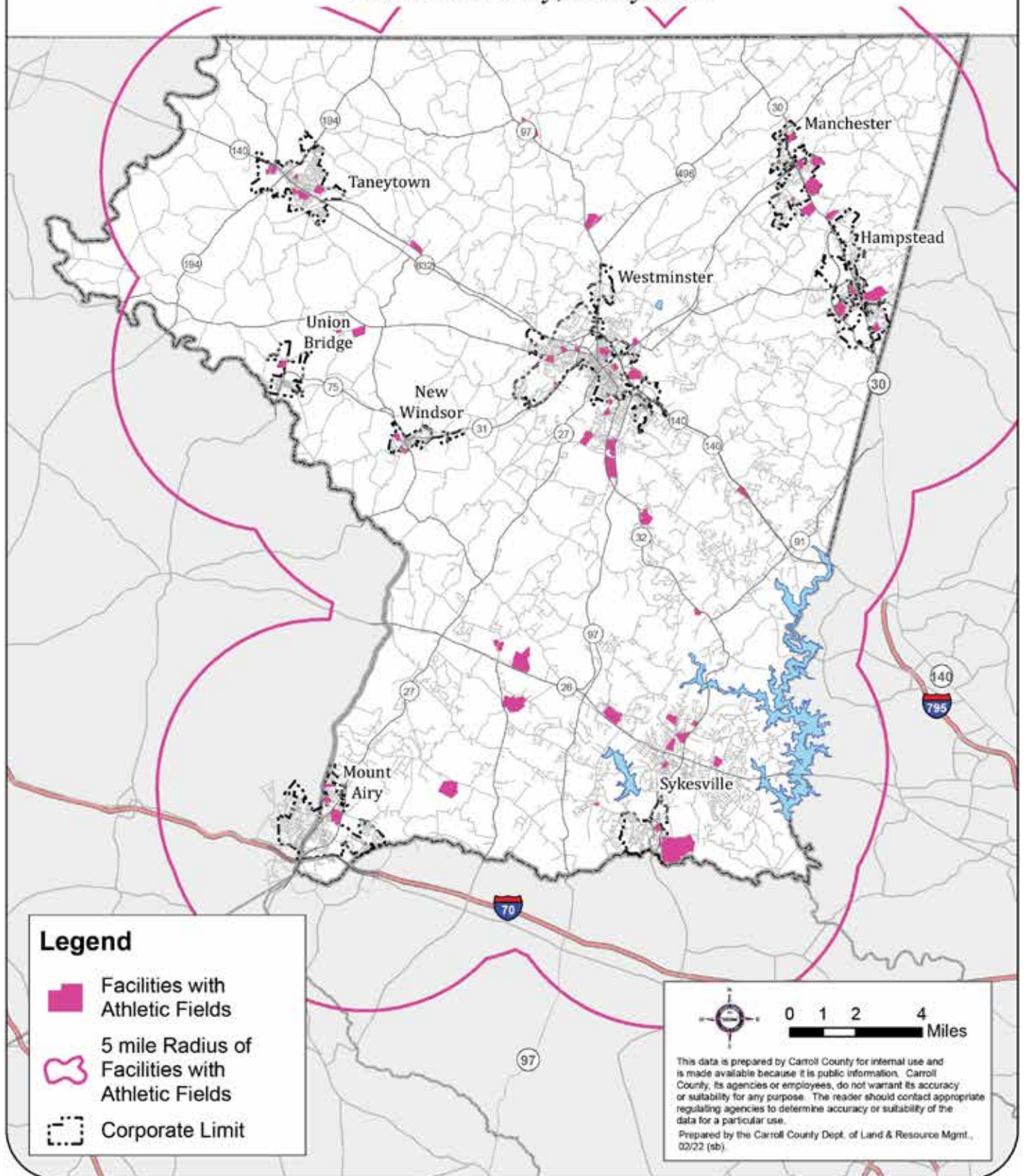
5 Mile Radius of County and Municipal Picnic Areas

Carroll County, Maryland



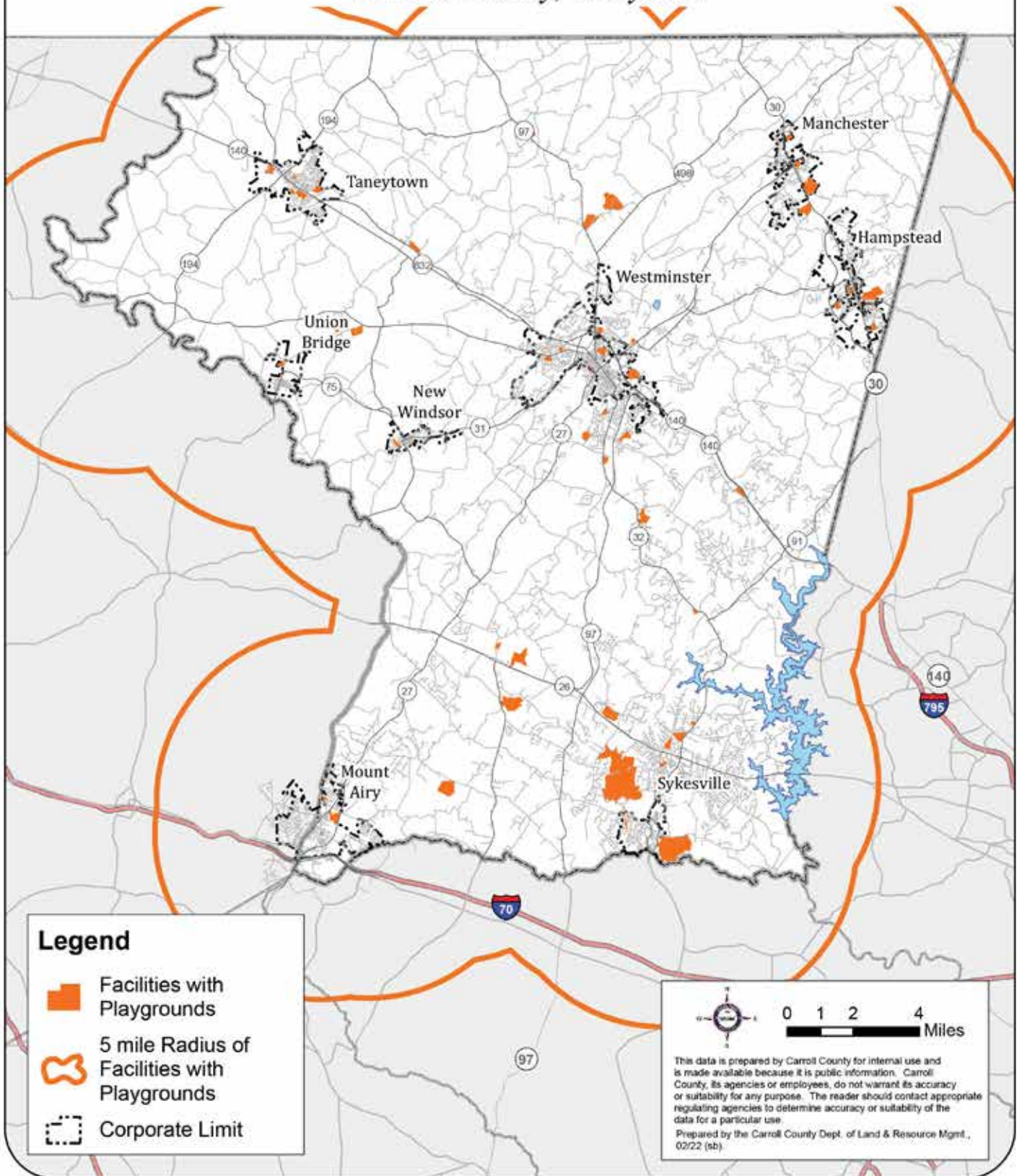
5 Mile Radius of County, Municipal, & Public School Athletic Fields

Carroll County, Maryland



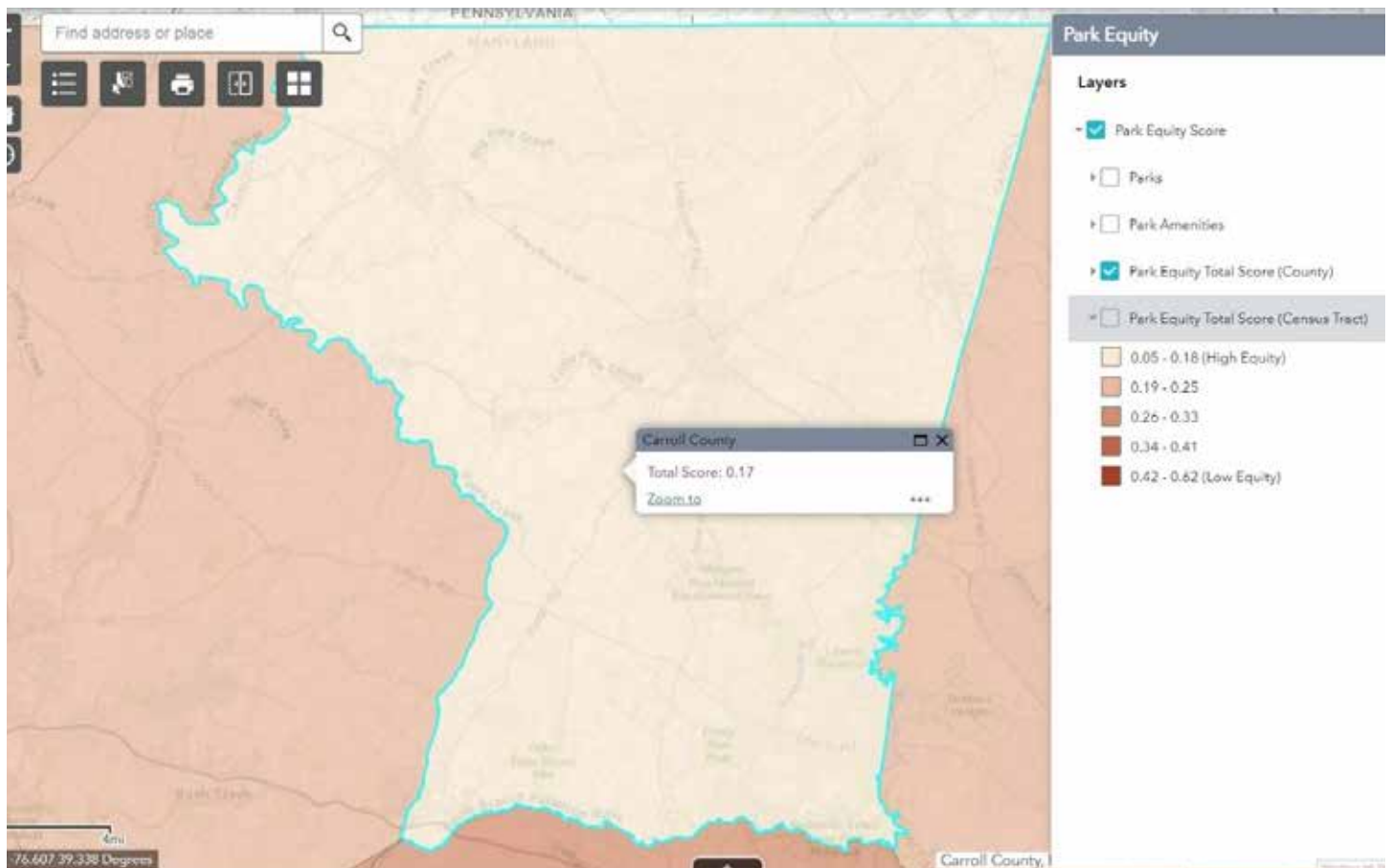
5 Mile Radius of County, Municipal, & Public School Playgrounds

Carroll County, Maryland



In addition to incorporating the proximity analysis, Carroll County has also included park equity input sourced from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Maryland Park Equity Mapper tool combines demographic and environmental health data from a variety of sources and maps to identify disparities in park access and equity. This tool is designed to help identify areas where under served populations do not have easy access to park and recreation facilities.

The Maryland Park Equity Mapper tool indicates that Carroll County has a Park Equity Total Score of 0.17 which is designated as High Equity, the highest range listed. In comparison to Total Scores for all Maryland counties, this score incidentally is the best county-wide park equity score in the entire state which indicates high equity for park access among county residents. Furthermore, smaller sections of the county all have overall scores in the 0.05-0.18 (High Equity) or 0.19-0.25 (2nd highest equity score) ranges.



National Recreation & Parks Association 2021 Agency Review

The 2021 Agency Performance Review conducted by the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) reviews recreation providers across the nation to establish their Performance Review. This review is used to measure Carroll county's position against agencies of a similar size across the nation. The number of facilities needed in Carroll County to meet NRPA performance standards are calculated by taking the

population estimates and dividing it by the number of facilities in the County to arrive at the population served per facility. This number is then divided by the population's standards provided by NRPA data to provide a decimal number. Two measurements that were analyzed initially include evaluating Carroll County's acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and miles of trails with the median data for agencies nationwide.

	Acres of Park Land Per 1,000 residents	Miles of Trails
National Average (Agencies serving 100,000-250,000)	8.9	25.5
Carroll County, MD	38.43 county & town parks; 46.38 includes all publicly accessible recreational land	48.37 county parks only; over 120 miles if including all publicly accessible stare. municipal and reservoir trails

Performance Comparison: Carroll County, MD and other US agencies in jurisdictions with a population between 100,000 – 250,000



In the table below, common park amenities are listed along with the NRPA standard for population served as well as the current and 2030 projected levels of service for Carroll County. Any number that is listed below one (1) is within the level of service calculation for Carroll County. Any number that is recorded above one (1) is outside the level of service calculation for the County and should be explained and possibly explored to expand the level of service. All numbers below reflect amenities in county and town parks only and do not include public school sites that are also used extensively for recreation and parks activities.

NRPA Population Standard	Population Served per Facility in Carroll County, MD	Facility	Level of Service 2022	Level of Service 2030
4,804	3,497	Playgrounds	.728	.763
8,477	10,285	Basketball Courts	1.213*	1.272*
5,818	8,520	Tennis Courts	1.768**	1.853**
12,914	9,202	Baseball Diamonds	.934	1.183
10,792	3,720	Multi-purpose Fields	.344	.361
28,081	3,067	Softball Fields	.109	.114
76,610	58,282	Dog Parks	.761	.797
125,000	58,282	Nature Centers	.466	.489

* The department of Recreation and Parks has identified a need for additional outdoor basketball courts in park locations and has submitted a capital project request for FY23 to add additional basketball courts in county parks.

** While the level of service for tennis courts is not met by county and town parks only, when school tennis courts are added, the level of service drops significantly to .509 (2022) and .534 (2030). As a result of that further review, Carroll County considers this need to be met and there are currently no plans to pursue additional tennis courts at this time. Recreational and Parks has also been adding pickleball striping to existing park tennis courts to increase their usage as they have been underutilized for tennis.



*Piney Run Nature Center, Sykesville MD
Photo by Dylan Slager, Carroll County Times*

Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation

The National Recreation & Parks Association identified parks and recreation having values that make them essential services to communities that include economic value, health and environmental benefits and social importance. Just as water, sewer, and public safety are essential public services, parks are also vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community. This philosophy is also reflected in Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks’ mission statement: Connecting people, parks and programs in a strong, healthy community and natural environment.

Parks are a reflection of the quality of life in a community. Communities promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or act as environmental stewards of their natural resources, by establishing and maintaining a strong system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.

Benefits (Active & Passive Recreation)

Public parks and recreation programs provide a wide variety of benefits with Carroll County including the following:

Environmental

- Promote environmental stewardship as a means of supporting a strong, healthy natural environment; this is achieved by providing quality environmental education at two (2) nature centers, environmental center, planetarium, and observatory as well as hosting the Board of Education’s Outdoor School that provides a one-week residential camp experience for all 6th graders
- Provide habitat to support native plants and animals
- Parks can motivate young people to learn through the natural environment with informal learning and formal instruction reinforcing each other
- Forest and water recharge areas in parks provide benefits related to air and water quality

Economic

- Promote increased property values for homes near park locations
- Provide employment opportunities for over 70 instructors annually through Department's Community Recreation Programs
- Serve as a business incubator where recreation council instructors for programs such as dance, karate and fitness can convert part time program leadership into locally owned small businesses after building a clientele
- Provide sites for tournaments, festivals and events held annually that attract out of town visitors, positively impacting local tourism
- A recent study commissioned by the Trust for Public Land for Southeast Michigan Parks confirmed the following economic benefits:
 - Generating substantial recreational value
 - Enhanced property values
 - Boosting economic development
 - Providing healthcare cost savings
 - Attracting and retaining visitors/tourists and talent
 - Reducing stormwater-management costs
 - Improving air quality
- Develop and promote outdoor recreation facilities such as trails (hiking and water), fishing, biking, etc. that support eco-tourism in the County

Health

- Playgrounds offer children opportunities to learn social interaction, decision making, coordination and problem-solving skills
- Parks provide people with contact with nature, known to result in certain health benefits and enhance well being
- Readily available recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities leads to higher rates of physical activity and lower health care expenditures
- Recreation and parks stimulate citizens' minds with programs that teach or improve registrants' knowledge and skills
- Designation of county parks as tobacco free supports healthier lifestyle choices
- Recreation and Parks is an active participant in the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County and co-sponsors programs and events on a regular basis

State Goals for Parks and Recreation

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.
- Use state investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.



County Goals for Parks and Recreation

Carroll County's goal for park and recreation is to provide affordable, coordinated, and comprehensive system of public and private parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space that will enhance its communities. The department's stated mission is to connect people, parks, and programs in support of a strong, healthy community and natural environment. While most of the emphasis is placed on public facilities, the presence of privately owned facilities such as swimming pools and indoor sports arenas help to supplement public facilities, providing additional options to residents. Furthermore, recreation councils offer affordable programs such as indoor lacrosse and soccer that take place in private facilities using rented space.

Consistent with State goals, the County goals, policies, strategies, and funding emphasize providing recreational opportunities for all citizens while at the same time, directing most of the effort to provide these opportunities towards those which have the greatest population concentration. These are the county's designated growth areas, planning for which is done through individual comprehensive plans. Parks, recreational facilities, and open space are recognized in the goals of these plans, as well as those of the county Master Plan, as essential components of quality living environments, just as they are in the State goals. Accordingly, funding for recreational projects primarily is directed towards projects in these designated growth areas to fulfill the goals of the plans and serve the greatest number of people while also addressing needs identified by proximity and equity analysis.

In addition to the county goals stated above, several additional goals included in the department's most recent strategic plan related to this LPPRP and are included below:

- Promote awareness and good stewardship of the environment through educational programs and "green" initiatives
- Maintain a vibrant park system by protecting and reinvesting in capital asset replacement that addresses life-cycle replacements of existing park infrastructure (pavilions, trails, playgrounds, parking areas, roofs, etc.)
- Promote healthy, safe communities that are supported by well-rounded recreational opportunities
- Secure funding to complete development of currently owned parkland that is under or undeveloped to create additional amenities for public use and enjoyment
- Expand recreation and parks programs and facilities to meet current and future needs



Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster MD



Implementing Programs

Carroll County utilizes a variety of tools for providing parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space. Chief among them are planning; land acquisition and facility development; impact fees; designated open space, set asides and facilities as required by zoning and the subdivision process; joint use agreements; area recreation councils; and special facilities.

Planning

Open space, park and recreational facility planning is reaffirmed in the County Master Plan and the various community comprehensive plans, all of which are undertaken by the county Department of Planning. As these plans are developed, accepted, approved, and adopted, so is the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan by reference in these documents.

The County Master Plan and community comprehensive plans contain goals and strategies related to the provision of open space, parks, and recreational facilities that are pulled from the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. Because these local planning initiatives have significant public input opportunities,

ranging from community outreach meetings to formal public hearings, they help to reaffirm these goals and strategies.

In the County Master Plan, the emphasis is on making sure regional facilities are adequate to meet the County's needs and to maintain the County and State goal for preserving open space on a large scale, while in the community comprehensive plans the focus is on making sure the specific needs of a local population are met. These plans make recommendations for the LPPRP to incorporate as well as supporting the LPPRP's goals, objectives, and recommendations. The 2020 Carroll County Master Plan's *Chapter 15: Parks* lays out the parks and recreation Goal for the County and uses supporting information from the 2017 LPPRP. Page 109 of the 2020 Carroll County Master Plan references the LPPRP goals and projects plans for meeting them.

Planning for parks and recreational facilities in Carroll County meets the twelve visions of State Planning Policy by focusing on providing most of the parks and recreational facilities in and around the community planning areas, where the largest

population concentrations exist. Parks and recreational facilities outside of these areas are designed to meet county-wide needs or to serve rural populations that do not fall within the service area of a designated growth area.

Occasionally, the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan is supported by studies or reports that are not adopted but contribute to the implementation of the plan. Once the plan is adopted, identified projects are pursued through the capital programming process of the budget by being requested by one of the recreation councils, by Recreation and Parks staff, or through joint discussions between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Planning.

As municipal plans are developed, town and/or County staff coordinate with municipal parks and recreation staff or other stakeholders to identify the community's needs. Identified capital projects are funded through local CIPs for the most part, typically timed to coincide with the cyclical distribution of the POS money to the jurisdiction. This Plan, along with the County Master Plan, community comprehensive plans, and capital budgets will continue to be used as the primary tools for achieving parks and recreation goals and priorities.

Land Acquisition and Facility Development

Land acquisition and facility development for parks and recreational facilities are funded through several sources. Program Open Space (POS) funds are combined with revenue collected from developer-paid impact fees and money from the County or municipal General Funds that is budgeted for capital projects through the Community Investment Plan (CIP).

Carroll County met its land acquisition goal in 2006 and it has been consistently reaffirmed by DNR in each subsequent LPPRP. It is critical that it maintains its current flexibility with the use of Program Open Space funding to address public needs more quickly by funding development of trails, picnic areas, etc. on land it already owns as well as supporting capital replacement of aging park infrastructure. In addition, Carroll County remains committed to its long-standing practice of acquiring additional parkland when warranted to further expand recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Examples of that philosophy include recent acquisitions along Big Pipe Creek to provide increased access for water recreation as well as a 145.06-acre parcel in a more rural area that did not feature nearby parks.

In the County's FY FY2022 - 2027 CIP, \$11,672,850 was budgeted for Culture and Recreation projects. The following table shows how the money is allocated for future years in both the current adopted and the proposed CIPs, and which sources of funding are anticipated.



Winfield Park, Westminster MD

Capital Improvement Plan

Based on the goals stated in this plan, the analyses described in these guidelines, public input from citizens and the anticipated available funding from Program Open Space, Impact Fees and General Fund dollars expected to be available for recreation & parks related projects, Carroll County approves a 6-year capital budget known as the Community Investment Plan.

Carroll County has attempted to address three main areas with the capital budget: taking care of what we have, finishing what we started and addressing new community needs. The first area relates to capital replacement of items that due to age and use are no longer safe for public access and use. A significant and growing amount of funds are spent each year as the county's park infrastructure grows. The second area refers to completion of projects that have been delayed due to cuts or deferrals of anticipated funding that resulted in projects being value engineered and reduced in scope. Finally, the third area relates to continuing efforts to meet newly expressed or growing needs communicated by the public in recent years. Examples include dog parks, additional trails, etc. Carroll County relies heavily on Program Open Space as its primary funding source for the capital budget which is also supplemented by impact fees (for growth related projects only) and general property tax revenue.

In addition, each of the county's eight (8) municipalities adopt capital budgets that include various park projects

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 TO 2027

	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	Prior Allocation	Balance To Complete	Total Project Cost
RECREATION AND CULTURE									
Bark Hill Park Trail	\$260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$260,000
Bear Branch Nature Center Pavilion Replacement	197,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197,000
Cape Horn Park Field Lighting	0	0	0	0	507,000	0	0	0	507,000
Cape Horn Park Waterless Restroom Replacement	0	0	0	0	294,000	0	0	0	294,000
Community Self-Help Projects	84,000	86,000	88,000	90,000	92,000	94,000	0	0	534,000
Deer Park Lighting Replacement	291,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	291,000
Gillis Falls Trail Phase II	0	0	0	655,000	0	0	0	0	655,000
Hashawha and Bear Branch Paving	552,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	552,000
Land Acquisition	329,000	310,000	315,000	325,000	325,000	330,000	0	0	1,934,000
Leister Park Phase II	191,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191,000
Northwest Area Regional Park Master Plan	0	0	0	305,000	0	0	0	0	305,000
Northwest Trail	1,100,000	1,100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,100,000
Park Restoration	180,000	185,000	190,000	195,000	200,000	205,000	0	0	1,155,000
Piney Run Pavilion Replacement	180,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180,000
Piney Run Pavilion Road Paving	213,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	213,000
Piney Run Paving	0	0	264,000	0	0	0	0	0	264,000
Piney Run Sawmill and Launch Replacement	0	0	277,000	0	0	0	0	0	277,000
Sandy Mount Park Waterless Restroom	0	0	0	0	0	282,000	0	0	282,000
Sports Complex Building Roof	301,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	301,000
Sports Complex Drainout Improvements	0	0	0	0	0	255,000	0	0	255,000
Tot Lot Replacement	416,000	89,000	92,000	97,000	265,000	110,000	0	0	1,069,000
Town Fund	16,450	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	0	0	93,950
Union Mills Fibure, Shaft, and Waterwheel Replacement	0	161,000	435,000	0	0	0	291,000	0	890,000
Westminster Veterans Memorial Park Phase I	163,900	0	0	0	0	0	2,603,596	0	2,767,496
RECREATION AND CULTURE TOTAL	\$3,374,350	\$1,949,500	\$1,676,500	\$1,682,500	\$1,698,500	\$1,291,500	\$2,894,596	\$0	\$14,567,446
SOURCES OF FUNDING:									
Transfer from General Fund	\$366,450	\$325,400	\$356,800	\$310,200	\$363,400	\$351,000	\$100	\$0	\$2,073,350
Impact Fee - Parks	175,000	300,000	0	260,000	150,000	304,500	555,000	0	1,744,500
Reallocated Impact Fee - Parks	163,900	0	0	0	0	0	300,000	0	463,900
Program Open Space	1,119,000	1,160,100	884,700	1,112,300	1,185,100	636,000	1,668,328	0	7,765,528
State	1,590,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,590,000
State Miscellaneous Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	96,000	0	96,000
RECREATION AND CULTURE TOTAL	\$3,374,350	\$1,949,500	\$1,676,500	\$1,682,500	\$1,698,500	\$1,291,500	\$2,894,596	\$0	\$14,567,446

The most recent approved Community Investment Plan for Carroll County Recreation and Parks includes planned funding for the following initiatives over the period of Fiscal Years 2022-2027:

Land Acquisition

- A total of \$1,934,000 has been planned for land acquisition over this six (6) year period. The top priority for these funds is the acquisition of an inactive rail corridor north of Taneytown as well as other opportunities as warranted to further improve recreational offerings to the public

New Development Projects to Meet Expressed Needs with Anticipated Available Funds

- A number of new projects designed to meet needs expressed by residents are in the plan and listed below:
 - o Walking trail at Bark Hill Park
 - o Athletic field lighting at Cape Horn Park to extend hours of play
 - o Extension of a walking trail at Gillis Falls Recreation Area
 - o Master Plan for 145.06-acre park north of Taneytown
 - o Development of Northwest Trail in rail corridor north of Taneytown
 - o Waterless rest rooms for Sandymount Park
 - o Completion of development at Westminster Veterans Memorial Park
 - o Extension of existing walking trail at Leister Park
 - o Sports Complex dugouts



Rehabilitation or Replacement of Existing Park Infrastructure

- These projects are necessary for the public to continue to safely access and enjoy our existing parks
 - o Bear Branch Nature Center pavilion replacement
 - o Cape Horn Park waterless restroom replacement
 - o Hashawha and Bear Branch Nature Center parking lot paving
 - o Athletic field lighting replacement at Deer Park
 - o Piney Run Park pavilion replacement
 - o Piney Run Park parking lot paving
 - o Piney Run Park seawall and boat launch replacement
 - o Sports Complex roof replacement
 - o Ongoing replacement of tot lots that have outlived their useful life
 - o Annual funding for park restoration to address multiple sites with aging infrastructure

Parks and Recreation Acreage Goals

Open Space and Parks and Recreational Land Goals Established in 2017	Type and Specific Location	Acreage Needed	Acreage Acquired
Acquire acreage within designated growth areas as opportunities present themselves	Variable	0	0
Acquire acreage when warranted	To further increase inventory with water access	Optional, as warranted	2.085 acres in Middleburg
Acquire acreage when warranted	Northwest quadrant of county	Optional, as warranted	145.06 acres north of Taneytown
Open Space and Parks and Recreational Land Goals Established in 2022	Type and Specific Location	Acreage Needed	Acreage Acquired
Acquire acreage within designated growth areas as opportunities present themselves	Variable	0	N/A
Acquire use of rail corridor via railbanking for future multi-use trail	6-mile-long rail corridor north of Taneytown, MD	Approximately 49 acres in railroad ROW	Currently negotiating with owner (Genesee & Wyoming); plan to utilize existing Program Open Space acquisition only funding; development currently included in CIP

Parks and Recreation Acreage Goals

Description	Measurement	Status
Acres per 1,000 residents	30/1,000 (previously used as only metric prior to 2017)	Met (currently 46.38 acres per 1,000 residents)
Percentage of county area within 5 miles of park & recreation lands	90%	Met (over 99%)
Percentage of municipal residents within ¼ mile of park & recreation lands	90%	Met (over 95%)

In a jurisdiction where 50% of the land mass is currently in agricultural use (and over 26% permanently preserved), Carroll County continues to affirm that they have met their park and recreation acreage goals based on the following:

- Carroll County has been certified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as having met their land acquisition goal consistently in each Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan since 2006.
- Currently, 99.9% of the residents in the county live within 5 miles of park and recreation areas, the new recommended proximity metric suggested by MD Department of Natural Resources
- Currently over 95% of municipal residents live in areas within ¼ mile from park and recreation areas. In many cases, areas outside of that radius do not include residential properties and feature commercial properties, industrial parks and an airport.
- In a 2021 survey of Carroll’s eight (8) municipalities, all indicated that they currently have sufficient acreage of parkland plus room for future development.
- Carroll County currently has publicly owned parkland available to add various amenities once sufficient development funding becomes available. These sites include the following:
 - o Northwest Area Park 145.06 acres
 - o Quaker Hill Park – 10.415 acres
 - o Krimgold Park (future phase development)
 - o Leister Park (future phase development)
 - o Boxwood Drive Ballfields -16.06 acres
 - o Crowltowne Open Space – 3.84 acres
 - o Bollinger Park (Taneytown) – 51.26 acres
 - o Taneytown Memorial Park expansion (Taneytown) – 20 acres
 - o Wakefield Valley Park (Westminster) – 241.02 acres
- In 2017, the Carroll County population was 173,015 and total park and recreation acreage was 8,004.68 acres or 46.3 acres/1,000 residents; the MD Department of Natural Resources certified Carroll County as having met their land acquisition goal. In 2022, the population has increased by 1% to 174,845 and the acreage has increased 1% to 8,070 or 46.4 acres/1,000 residents.

Despite having met their park acreage goals, Carroll County continues to monitor increases to the local population and perform regular needs assessment surveys of residents every three years to ensure that the recreational needs of citizens are being met effectively. In addition, Carroll County continues to acquire additional park acreage as warranted when there are opportunities to:

- add value to existing park locations with expanded acreage
- protect properties with environmental or historical significance
- acquire additional acreage to allow for development of additional requested amenities



Because Carroll County has met their park acreage goals as documented on page 42 and in light of the additional information included above, Carroll County is acknowledging that they have once again met their land acquisition goal. The result of this action is the continued required use of 25% of Program Open Space funding for acquisition with the remaining 75% available for either acquisition or development.

Carroll County continues to work closely with each of its eight (8) municipalities with regards to local park and recreation projects. Each of the municipalities adopt a capital budget which may include various park projects. Summaries of the town’s adopted capital budgets are include in the following pages.

Town of Hampstead

Capital Improvement Plan - Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022



Melvin G. Miller Memorial Park, Town of Hampstead

Park & Recreation	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Unallocated Parks Impact Fees Transfer into Cap Imp from Operating	618	2,736	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	327,942	-	-	-	-
POS Reimbursement	-	323,797	-	-	-	-
Balance	618	(1,409)	-	-	-	-

Town of Manchester
Capital Improvement Plan



Christmas Tree Park, Town of Manchester

Capital Items	FY 2021	FY 2022
Replace Lights on "D" Field	\$300,000	\$0
Replace 10 picnic tables	\$1	\$0
Hailey's Wish inclusive playground equipment	\$10,000	\$0
parking lot refurbish	\$0	
park access road	\$7,200	
rubbish removal from dump site	\$2,100	
tennis court fence	\$13,000	
blacktop saw	\$3,800	
toy replacement	\$22,000	
bathroom partitions	\$647	
Field D backstop	\$0	
metal slide replacement	\$8,000	

Town of Mt. Airy

The General Fund Capital Budget - Capital Expenses



Park & Recreation	Adopted Budget
Grant Funded Projects - Parks & Rec	\$1,610,000
Park & Playground Improvements	\$517,675
Equipment Capital Purchases	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$2,132,675

Town of New Windsor
Capital Improvement Plan



Project	Amount	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Funding Source	Status
Atlee Tot Lot Rubberized Safety Surface	71,000	70,800							POS	Complete 2018
Lagoon Remediation & Fill	200,000	483,443							POS, G.F. Lehigh \$	Complete 2021
Lagoon Area Conversion to Park	??								POS, Grant, Cal Ripkin Foundation ??	Long Range
201 Main Street - Phase 1	89,330		89,330						POS	Complete 2021
201 Main Street - Phase 2	47,250		47,250						POS	Awarded
Lions Club Park - Maple Ave.	42,000		41,940						POS	Awarded
Gazebo Park - Corner of Main & MD-75	55,000			53,500					Comm. Parks & Playgrounds (CPP)	Awarded
Total Parks	504,580	554,243	178,520	53,000	0	0	0	0		

Town of Sykesville

Project Expenditures - Culture, Recreation, & Parks



	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026+
South Linear Trail Work	\$50,000					
Concessions Stand Roof		\$7,500				
SBP - Apple Butter Factory						
Total Culture, Recreation, & Parks	\$50,000	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	-

City of Taneytown

Capital Improvement Plan - Parks & Rec Projects



Project	Description	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	Project Total Cost	Grant Funding	City Fund Balance	Fundings Totals	Notes
Roberts Mill Park Walking Path	Resurface/relocate walking path	\$157,360							\$157,360		\$157,360	\$157,360	
Roberts Mill Park Basketball Court	Resurface basketball court	\$35,000							\$35,000		\$35,000	\$35,000	
Roberts Mill Park Fountain	Install fountain	\$17,288							\$17,288		\$17,288	\$17,288	
Taneytown High School Park Storage Building	Construct storage building	\$22,500							\$22,500		\$22,500	\$22,500	
Memorial Park Football Field Lighting	Renovate stadium lighting at football field	\$68,400							\$68,400	\$25,200	\$0	\$68,400	Utility rebate = \$43,200
Memorial Park Football Field House HVAC Replacement	Replace aging HVAC system	\$10,366							\$10,366	\$5,183	\$0	\$10,366	Utility rebate = \$5,183
Memorial Park Courts	Repair & New Surface Tennis Courts/Basketball Courts	\$100,650							\$100,650	\$90,124	\$10,526	\$100,650	
Bollinger Park Phase 1	Construct entrance drive, parking lot, stormwater, electric, lighting, walking trail, pollinator garden		\$530,825						\$530,825	\$381,740	\$149,085	\$530,825	Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant / LWCF Grant
Memorial Park Lighting	Renovate stadium lighting on Field #1		\$114,140						\$114,400	\$42,380	\$0	\$114,400	Utility rebate = \$71,760
Taneytown High School park Skatepark	Renovate skatepark with new surface, concrete, etc.		\$194,780						\$194,780	\$136,346	\$58,434	\$194,780	Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant
Memorial Park Expansion Engineering	Engineer Expansion project		\$120,000						\$120,000		\$120,000	\$120,000	
Memorial Park Expansion	Construct parking lot, multipurpose fields, multipurpose building, electric, lighting, stormwater			\$1,435,000					\$1,435,000		\$1,435,000	\$1,435,000	
Bollinger Park Phase 2 Engineering	Engineer Phase 2 (connector drive, parking lot, electric, observatory site prep)			\$80,000					\$80,000		\$80,000	\$80,000	
Memorial Park Tot Lot	Replace tot lot playground			\$50,000					\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Use Program Open Space Funding if available
Bollinger Park Phase 2	Construct connector drive, site prep for Observatory				\$331,242				\$331,242		\$331,242	\$331,242	
Roberts Mill Park Lighting	Renovate field lighting				\$68,400				\$68,400	\$25,200		\$68,400	Anticipated utility rebate = \$43,200
Roberts Mill Park Playground	Replace playground at Roberts Mill Park					\$143,500			\$143,500	\$70,000	\$73,500	\$143,500	Use Program Open Space Funding if available
Flickinger Park Playground	Replace playground at Flickinger Park						\$143,500		\$143,500			\$143,500	Apply for Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant
Festival Park - Engineering	Engineer park development							\$120,000	\$120,000		\$120,000	\$120,000	
		\$411,564	\$959,745	\$1,565,000	\$399,642	\$143,500	\$143,500	\$120,000	\$3,743,211	\$826,173	\$2,753,435	\$3,743,211	

Town of Union Bridge
Capital Improvement Plan



Little Pipe Creek Park, Town of Union Bridge

POS Town (Match for Grants)

The Town typically sets aside \$5,000 every other fiscal year to be able to match eligible County and State .POS funds. Last year, FY 21 would have been the off-year, however an opportunity to leverage match funds was presented involving the Community Center Upgrade Project and \$5,000 was budgeted for FY 21. Funding of \$5,000 was previously scheduled for FY 22 (an in-year) and is recommended to be budgeted as it would leverage and match unexpended POS funds expected to be available, and which can be applied to the Community Center Roofing Project.

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total Project Cost
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Capital Projects (General Fund)

POS Town Match	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	15,000
Capital Contingency	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	15,000
Cap. Proj. (G.F) Total	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	30,000

Source of Funds

General Fund	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	30,000
Other: Grant/Bond/Loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cap. Proj. (G.F) Total	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	7,500	2,500	30,000

City of Westminster
Capital Improvement Plan



	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total
Parks - Jaycee Park	0	0	80,000	0	0	0	80,000
Community Pool Improvements	1,186,800	345,000	1,000,000	0	0	0	2,531,800
46 West Main Street Roof Replacement	0	0	65,000	0	0	0	65,000
City Hall Roof Replacement	140,000	0	0	0	0	0	140,000
Building Renovation	175,000	0	0	0	0	0	175,000
Parks - Wakefield Valley Improvements	200,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	0	1,600,000
Electronic Gate	14,000	0	0	0	0	0	14,000
Parks - City Park Restroom Renovation	0	0	75,000	0	0	0	75,000
Longwell Building Improvements - Gymnasium Window Screens	35,000	0	0	0	0	0	35,000
Cardio Equipment	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	60,000
Durbin House Rehabilitation	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	200,000



Bollinger Park, City of Taneytown



Bollinger Park, City of Taneytown

How municipal projects are represented in CIP

Each year, Carroll County allocates 25% of its Program Open Space funding for municipal projects. In addition, a town-county agreement specifies that the 10% funding match for municipal development projects will be evenly split with both the county and town funding half. The county’s portion of the required match appears as an annual line item in the County CIP and is referred to as “Town Fund”.

Typically, the additional funds for municipal capital projects would be included in each town’s own capital improvement budget and not in the Carroll County CIP. On occasion, there have also been times that funds typically used for county projects have been used to support municipal projects when conditions warrant. Examples include the Carroll County Arts Center, Hampstead Municipal Park and Dutterer Park in Westminster.

Major Challenges

Despite its many successes, Carroll County continues to experience challenges including the following:

- Maintaining existing aging park infrastructure
- Past diversions or delays of Program Open Space funding have resulted in projects, such as Krimgold and Leister Parks, that were initiated to address growth from the late 1990’s and 2000’s and have yet to be fully completed
- Economic downturn and slow residential growth due to limited availability of water have greatly reduced the stream of impact fee funding for park development
- As county’s demographics continue to change, department will need to balance efforts to meet new needs expressed by citizens while still attempting to catch up with previous growth and meet the needs of an aging population
- With 25% of Program Open Space funding annually mandated to be used for land acquisition and an additional 25% dedicated to municipal projects, Carroll County has limited funding to sufficiently maintain/replace its own aging park infrastructure and constructing new park amenities on currently owned and undeveloped parkland

Strategy for funding project in municipalities

The Department of Recreation and Parks solicits each of its municipalities annually for input regarding possible capital project requests. This input is shared with the County’s appointed Recreation and Parks Advisory Board which then makes recommendations for priorities and funding that are forwarded to the County Commissioners. If recommended for funding, projects may then appear in the County’s CIP.

Carroll County annually encourages each of its towns to apply for Community Parks and Playground (CPP) grants that consist of funds that are only available to municipalities or other grants such as the Land, Water, Conservation Fund (LWCF) to help fund local park improvements. Carroll County municipalities received over \$500,000 in CPP grants in FY22 and are scheduled to received over \$1.3 million in FY23 from CPP and LWCF grants, with 7 out of the 8 municipalities receiving funds during this 2-year period.

In addition, many recreation councils utilize municipal parks for their programs and contribute labor and funding to support small projects and improvements (\$25,000 or less).

Other Protected Lands

Executive Summary/Overview of Natural Resource Land Conservation in the County

Land conserved for natural resource purposes typically serves multiple functions that benefit people and the communities where they live, work and play. Forests, wetlands, river corridors, open meadows and other landscapes preserved in their natural state provide valuable ecosystem services such as water filtration, carbon sequestration, soil formation, stormwater management, and extreme weather mitigation. Taking advantage of these services through targeted land conservation allows counties to avoid costs to taxpayers in providing these services through other means.

Forests, wetlands, river corridors, open meadows and other open landscapes preserved in their natural state provide benefits to the ecosystem including the following:

- Water filtering and recharge
- Wildlife habitat
- Air purification
- Outdoor recreation

Existing opportunities for people to connect with nature include:

- Miles of trails, many of which are natural surface and provide opportunities to view wildlife and learn more about our natural environment
- Two nature centers that include a variety of exhibits and classes focused on environmental education
- Carroll County Outdoor School provides each 6th grade public school student with one week of intensive environmental education in a residential camp setting
- Ponds and lakes for fishing
- Excellent locations for bird watching, nature photography, etc.

Opportunities at county parks to offer additional amenities opportunities to connect people with nature

Future reservoir properties (now called Recreation Areas) at Gillis Falls and Union Mills include large tracts of undeveloped land as well as heavily used trail networks. Many of the trails in these areas are in stream valleys and adjacent to wetlands and wooded areas, the opportunities to experience nature and observe wildlife are abundant. Because the reservoirs are years away from construction (if built at all), there are large tracts of land that have been opened for additional recreational purposes. This includes additional trails, hunting and fishing opportunities, etc. Other opportunities to help expand opportunities to connect citizens with nature include the following:

- Addition of nature themed playground at Bear Branch Nature Center attracts families to facility and complement existing trails and natural features at site
- Continue to promote parks as outdoor classrooms and offer environmental education programs through Park Naturalists at both Piney Run and Bear Branch Nature Centers
- Continue successful relationship with Carroll County Public Schools to attract elementary school bus trips to nature centers
- Continue to work closely with and host Carroll County Public Schools Outdoor School. This unique program allows for all sixth (6th) grade students to experience one (1) week of intensive environmental education at Hashawha Environmental Center in a residential camp setting
- Implement recommendations from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Children in Nature initiative (CIN). The Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature is a public and private partnership that works collaboratively to provide opportunities for children to play and learn outdoors and to promote environmental literacy. The CIN partnership was instrumental in helping the State of Maryland update the pre-K-12 environmental literacy education program (COMAR 13A.04.017) and to pass the first environmental literacy graduation requirement (COMAR 13A.03.02.03) in the nation. Carroll County Recreation and Parks hosts a pre-K program (Mommy and Me), Elementary school field trips (Bear Branch Nature Center at Hashawha and



*Hashawha Environmental Center
Westminster MD*

the Piney Run Park Nature Center) as well as the Carroll County Public School’s Outdoor school program where all sixth-grade students spend a week in residence at the Hashawha environmental center. All of Carroll County parks provide family opportunities to spend time outdoors learning about the environment through direct environmental experience.

- Implement recommendations from National Recreation and Parks Association Wildlife Explorers and develop into local programming initiatives

County Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

Protect, maintain, and restore, where feasible, the environmental resources and natural ecosystems in the county by promoting land use practices that are in balance with, and minimize the effects on the natural environment, subject to appropriate cost/benefit analysis. This is achieved utilizing the following strategies:

- Continue to conserve agricultural lands and implement and enforce minimum fifty-foot stream buffers
- Continue to secure funds for watershed assessments and restoration
- Continue to implement the forest banking program
- Continue to minimize developments’ impact on recharge rates of community supply wells to allow for the maximum recharge
- Continue to evaluate impacts to sensitive watersheds and recharge areas for community water supplies when determining new development patterns
- Continue to maintain, restore and/or regenerate forested stream buffers through development regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance and s stream assessment efforts
- Encourage all municipalities to adopt the County’s Water Resource Management Ordinance or similar protections for municipal water resources
- Continue to acquire water resource, floodplain, and forest conservation protection easements through the development process

Some of the many benefits resulting from these efforts include the following:

- o Filtration of air and water
- o Economic benefits
- o Health benefits
- o Wildlife habitat
- o Biodiversity

Progress in Implementing Strategy for Natural Resource Conservation

- The 2017 Carroll County Land Preservation, Park, and Recreation Plan strategies for natural resource conservation and all of these strategies have been and are continuing to be implemented through various efforts and initiatives. It is important to note that these strategies are, for the most part, ongoing in nature, as opposed to involving a finite completion date. As such, they become incorporated into the normal operating practices and missions of the responsible bureaus, departments, or agencies. Accordingly, this leads staff to maintain efforts to implement goals and strategies as well as continually seek new implementing opportunities.
- Carroll County is taking steps to achieve State and county resource conservation goals. Its primary methods of achieving these goals are and will remain the County Master Plan, community comprehensive plans, capital funding of land preservation and other natural resource-related projects, and development regulations. Each of these are reviewed on a regular basis (some more frequently than others), and adjustments made accordingly based upon county priorities.
- Over the past four (4) years, Carroll County has continued to acquire stream buffers and perpetual easements on over 660 acres through the development process. This total consists of 130 water resource easements, 170 floodplain easements, and 360 forest conservation easements. These easements are inspected every three (3) years to ensure they are following the easement language. Chapter 154, Water Resources management specifically requires that a 200' buffer be established and placed into easement around wells, wellheads, and well sites during the development process. This Chapter was adopted in 2004, and four (4) of our eight (8) municipalities have adopted these regulations as well.
- Carroll County also has an extremely successful forest bank program with over 860 total acres in the program and 149 acres planted since 2012. These bank sites are placed into easements which are inspected as well to ensure compliance. In 2013, Carroll County started a program called "The Stream Buffer Initiative". With funding support from the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Stream Restoration Challenge, and the Carroll County Commissioners, 91 acres of trees were planted from 2016-2021 along stream corridors



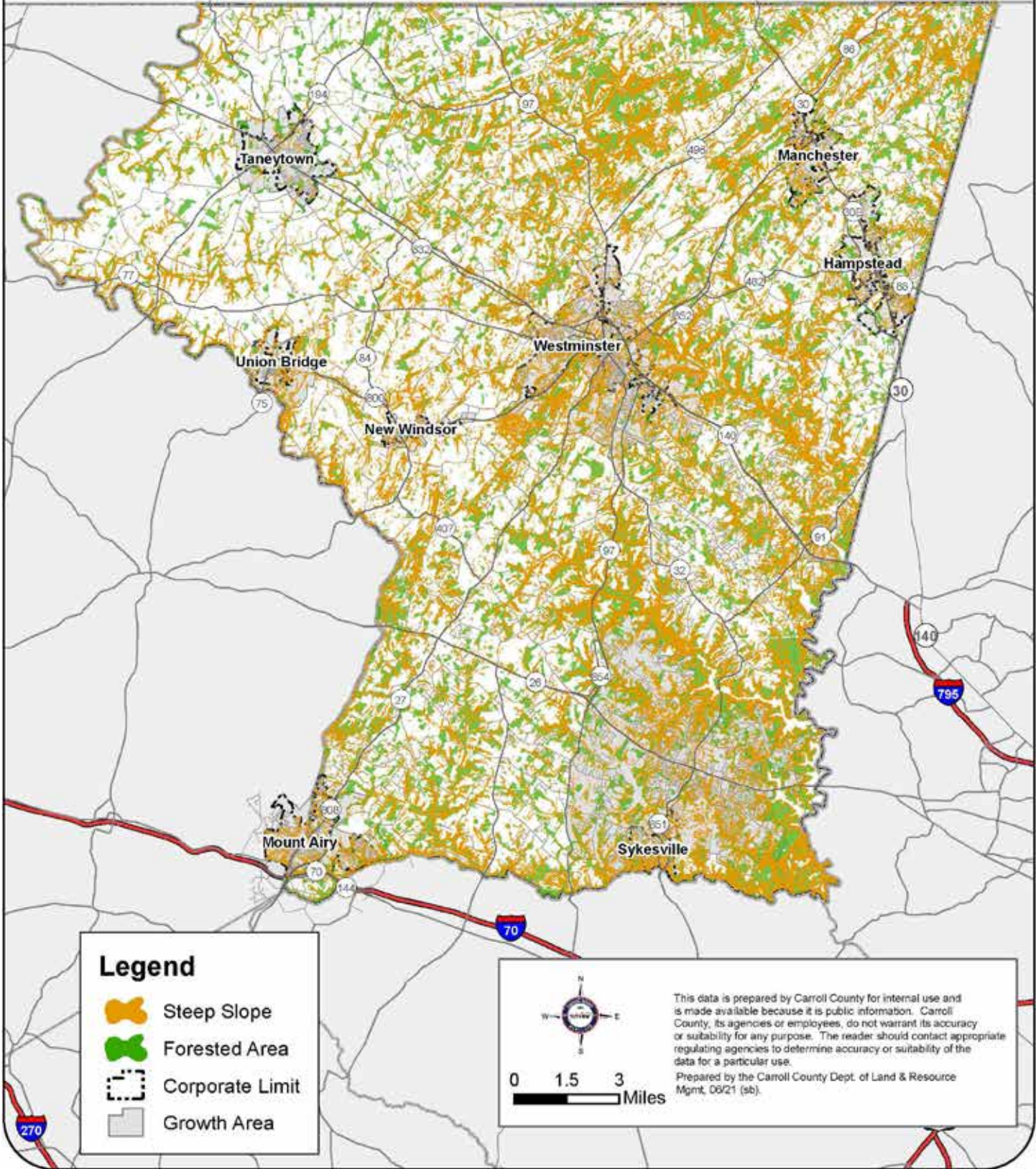
*Hashawha Environmental Center
Westminster MD*

throughout Carroll County. Our stream corridor assessments areas have been identified for future plantings as well and we will continue to work with property owners who are interested in this program.

- From FY 2017 – FY 2021, Carroll County has expended approximately \$29,083,757.10 in funding through the Community Investment Program for our watershed assessment and restoration efforts. This funding has been used for construction of new storm water management facilities, retrofitting of existing facilities, storm drain outfall repairs, tree plantings, monitoring, and education.
- With the adoption of the 2014 The Carroll County Master Plan, the environmental resources addressed were reaffirmed, along with the addition of "forest land" and "agricultural land" intended for conservation as required by 2006 legislation (HB 1141) and the Environmental Resources Element was incorporated to the Master Plan document at that time, and the supporting information and recommendations were updated.

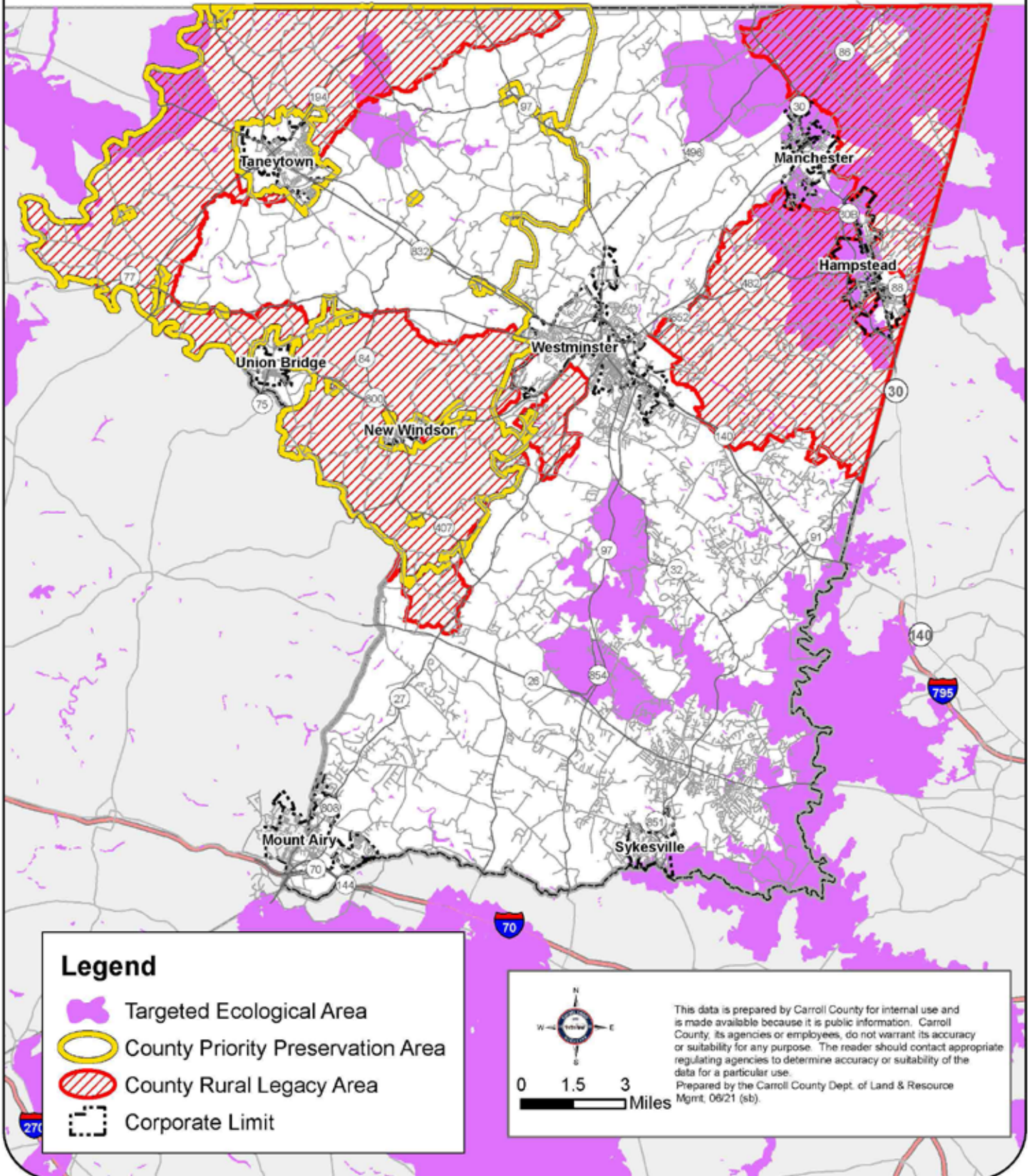
Forested Areas & Steep Slopes

Carroll County, Maryland



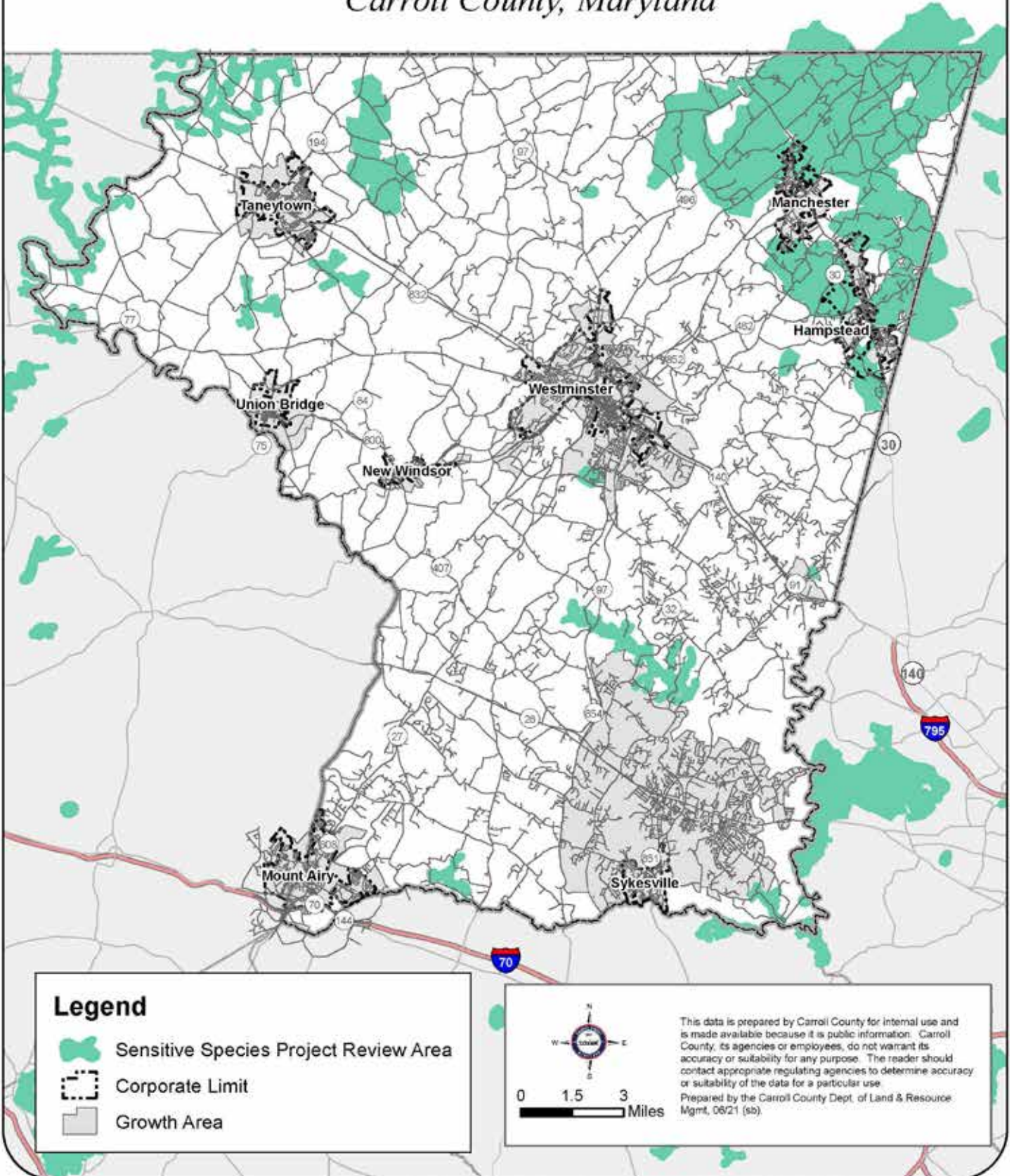
Maryland GreenPrint & Carroll County Preservation Areas

Carroll County, Maryland






Sensitive Species Project Review Areas

Carroll County, Maryland



Legend

-  Sensitive Species Project Review Area
-  Corporate Limit
-  Growth Area

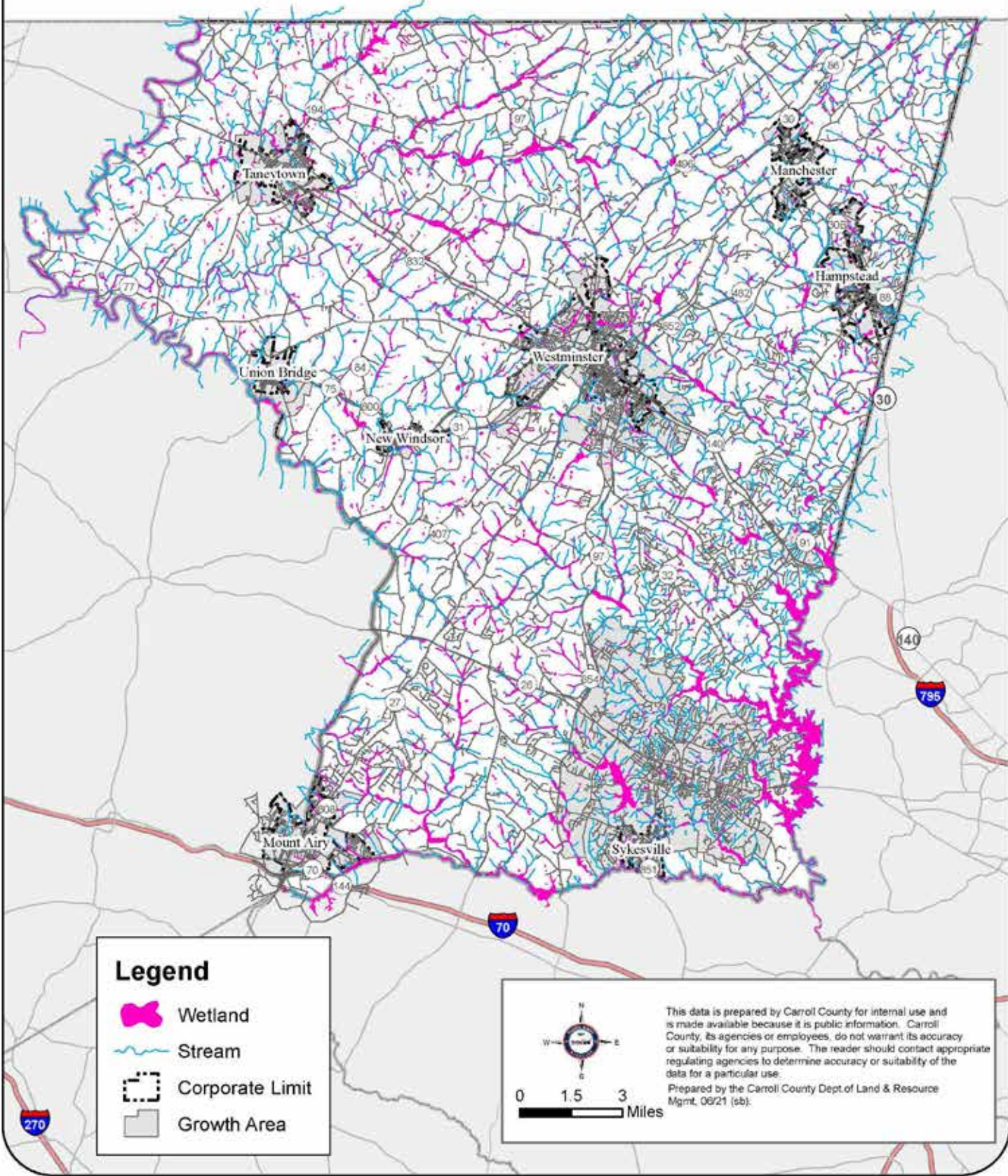


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Miles

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Prepared by the Carroll County Dept. of Land & Resource Mgmt, 08/21 (sb).

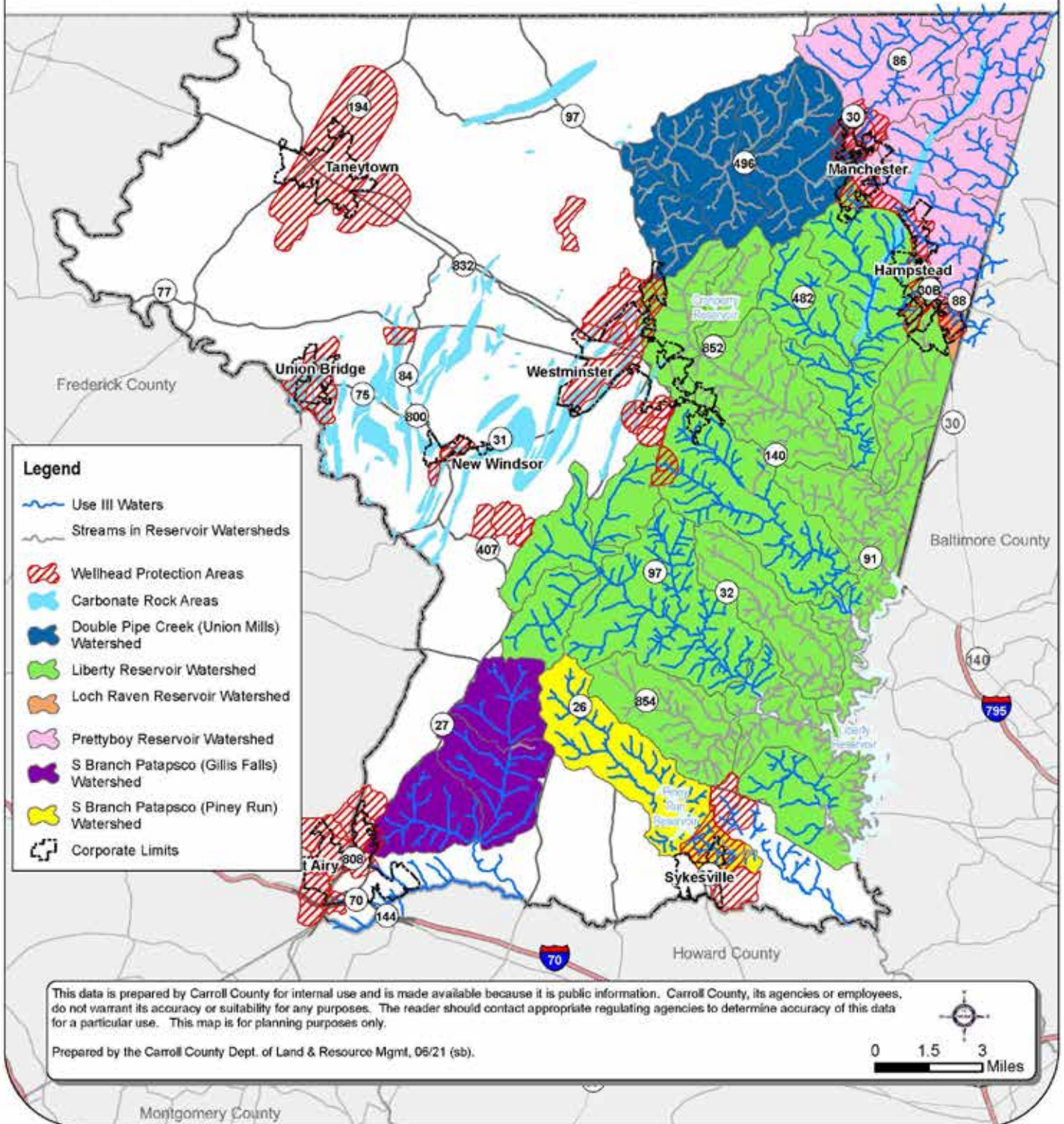
Wetlands & Streams

Carroll County, Maryland



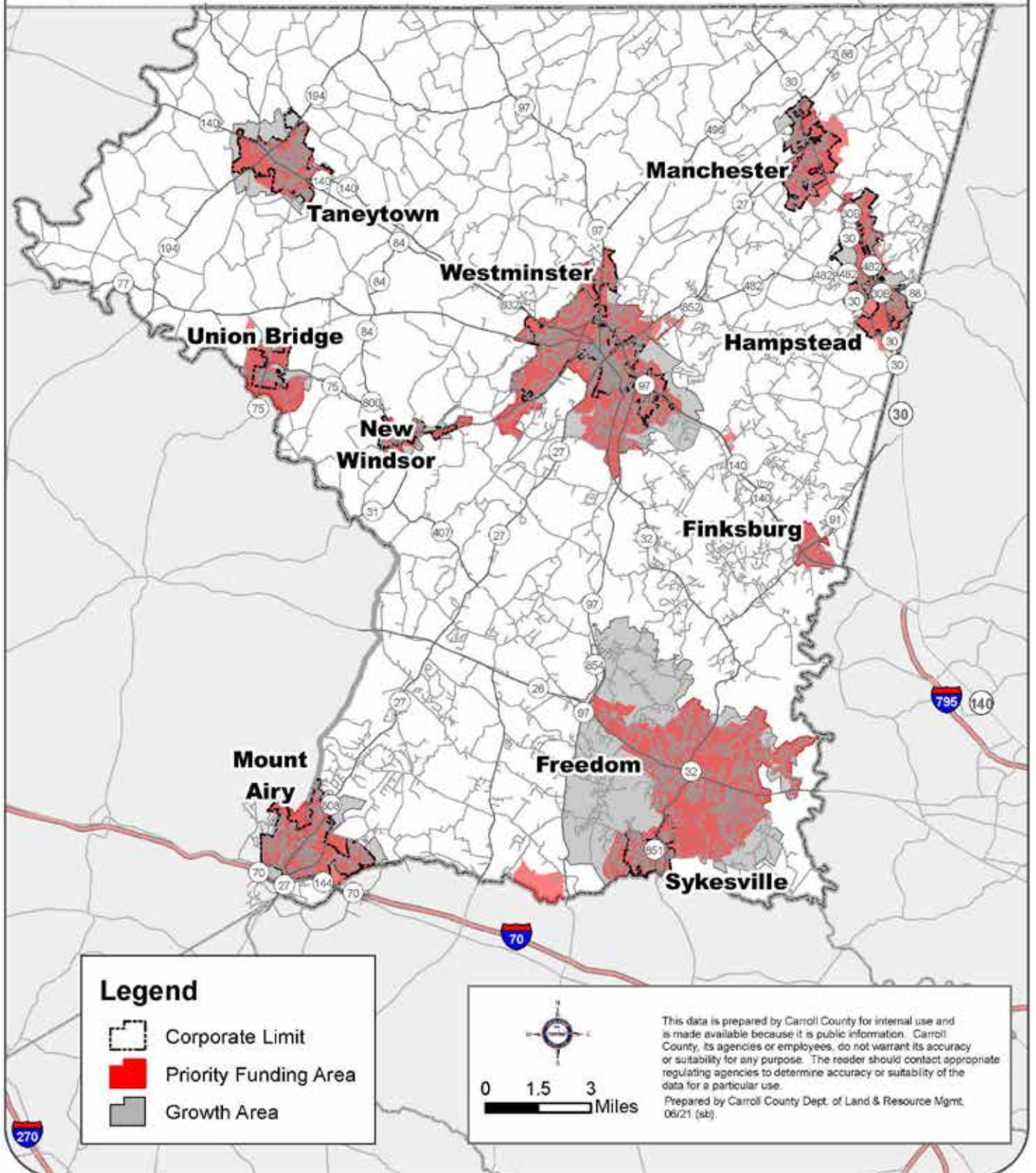
Additional Environmental Resources

Carroll County, Maryland



Planning Context

Carroll County, Maryland





Several of the county’s municipalities have included districts in their zoning ordinances that serve to protect natural resources within the county, as well. These towns and their respective zoning districts are:

Hampstead

- Resource Protection Overlay Zone: The purpose of this overlay zone is to provide for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened animal species and wildlife and fisheries habitat by preventing development that would disrupt significant species and/or habitat and ensuring that the design of nearby development is done in such a manner as not to degrade significant species and/or habitat.
- Groundwater Conservation (G-C) District: The purpose of this district is to provide the opportunity for environmentally sensitive commercial and/or industrial development while preserving significant environmental features, encouraging environmentally sensitive and sustainable “green” design and construction methods, minimizing impervious surface, maximizing groundwater recharge, and protecting the aquifer.

New Windsor

- Conservation/Public Use (CPU) District: The purpose of this district is to provide protection from preemptive uses of land meant for public and civic use or preservation of environmental resources and designated open space.

Taneytown

- Open Space Zone: The purpose of this zone is to provide for areas where open space is preserved. All development or improvements within the district is directed toward the goal of providing parks, recreation areas, forests, and other natural areas.
- The Carroll County Code includes numerous chapters that address environmental resource protection during land development. These regulations help the County implement some of its goals and objectives related to natural resource protection. The combination of regulatory and policy initiatives put forth strong measures that contribute to the formation of a green infrastructure.

Implementation Program for Conservation of Natural Resource Lands

There are several tools used by Carroll County to protect natural resources within the county. One of the most powerful tools a county has at its disposal is its land use management authority. Carroll County’s zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations are used to conserve natural resource lands and protect environmentally sensitive land from the impacts of subdivision, development, and other human activities or land uses.

The County Zoning Ordinance contains several zoning districts, including conservation zoning districts that are specifically designed to protect natural resources. The Conservation zone’s stated purpose is “to prescribe a zoning category for those areas where, because of natural geographic factors and existing land uses, it is considered feasible and desirable to conserve open spaces, water supply sources, woodland areas, wildlife, and other natural resources.” The Conservation district may include areas containing steep slopes, stream valleys, and water supply sources. The Conservation district helps to protect natural resources by limiting the types of uses permitted on the property to low impact land uses.

State Implementation Program for Conservation of Natural Resource Lands

- In addition to the County efforts, there are many land conservation programs operating throughout the State that work to protect natural resources, farmland, and recreational open space. Each program has a unique conservation objective. Four of Maryland's most active State operated land conservation programs are described below.

Program Open Space – Stateside:

- Established in 1969 under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Program Open Space (POS) symbolizes Maryland's long-term commitment to conserving natural resources while providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. POS Stateside funds are used for the acquisition of parklands; forests; wildlife habitats; and natural, scenic, and cultural resources for public use.

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation:

- Since its inception in 1977, the primary purpose of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) is to preserve sufficient agricultural land to maintain a viable local base of food and fiber production for present and future citizens of Maryland.

Maryland Environmental Trust:

- The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a statewide land trust operated by the Maryland DNR and governed by a Board of Trustees. Created in 1967, the program's goal is to preserve open land such as farmland, forest land, and significant natural resources. The program's primary tool is conservation easements donated by private landowners who want to preserve their land.



Other Programs

Rural Legacy Program:

- Lands that produce food and provide scenic open space, wildlife habitat, and clean water increasingly are at risk from development. The intent of the Rural Legacy Program (RLP) is to protect large, contiguous tracts of Maryland's most precious cultural and natural resources lands, with a special emphasis on productive forestry and agricultural landscapes.

Varieties of other programs that protect land from development operate at smaller or more localized scales and are funded by many different sources. A quick overview of these additional conservation tools follows.

- Local Parks and County Lands – Program Open Space (POS) also has funds that it distributes to local governments (Program Open Space Local-side) for conserving recreational open space. These funds, in addition to other county and municipal conservation efforts, provide financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas.
- Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) - MHT preserves historically significant properties and is operated through the Maryland Department of Planning's Division of Historical and Cultural Programs. Several properties in Carroll County have MHT preservation easements on them.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - CREP, which receives funding from the US Department of Agriculture, protects water quality by removing marginal agricultural land from production and replacing it with best management practices including riparian buffers, stabilization of highly erodible soils and restoration of wetlands. Numerous farms in Carroll County have made use of this program.

Land Conservancy Programs - Numerous national and local land trusts operate within Maryland and conserve ecologically and agriculturally significant lands. The Carroll County Land Trust is the most active local land trust in the County.

State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
- Public land acquisition and stewardship.
- Provide land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs.
- Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs.
- Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands, or agricultural lands.
- Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
- Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs
- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
 - Expand and connect forests, farmland, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure
 - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations



Piney Run Park, Sykesville MD

- Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve, and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions
- Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production
- Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland

Double Pipe Creek

Wakefield Valley Golf Course

The Double Pipe Creek watershed is located in north-western Carroll County, bordered by Frederick County, Maryland. Double Pipe Creek watershed drains into the Monocacy River which is part of the Potomac River watershed.

The Wakefield Valley Golf Course plantings, completed in 2013 resulted in the reforestation of approximately **10.85 acres**. Students from West Middle School assisted in the plantings. A grant from the Department of Natural Resources funded the majority of the cost of these plantings.



Liberty Reservoir Residential Planting

Bloom Road, Westminster

This residential tree planting was completed in the Liberty Reservoir watershed in spring 2014. The plantings were established to address inadequate stream buffer as determined by the 2012 Stream Corridor Assessment, which is an assessment that determines the health of a stream corridor. The benefits of creating these buffers are numerous; trees along the stream provide habitat, filter runoff, and regulate stream temperature by providing shade.

Initially, Resource Management staff met with interested landowners and determined the potential planting areas, native plant species, and the landowner's ultimate vision for his/her property. This particular planting resulted in the reforestation of **1.19 acres** of private residential property and **400 linear feet** of vegetated streamside. The total cost of the planting was covered by the Governor's Challenge grant.



Lower Monocacy River Residential Planting

Leslie Lane, Mount Airy

The Neighborhood Green Program, sponsored by Frederick County, Carroll County, and the Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance, used grant monies awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to provide cost-share and technical assistance to landowners for the reforestation of private properties to create stream buffers. The benefits of creating these buffers are numerous; trees along the stream provide habitat, filter runoff, and regulate stream temperature by providing shade.

Resource Management staff met with interested landowners and determined the potential planting areas, native plant species, and the landowner's ultimate vision for his/her property. This particular planting, completed in spring 2013, resulted in the reforestation of **0.43 acres**.



Prettyboy Reservoir Municipal Planting

North Carroll Lane & Eagle Ridge Ct, Town of Hampstead

The Prettyboy Reservoir watershed plantings were established to address inadequate stream buffer as determined by the 2011 Stream Corridor Assessment, which is an assessment that determines the health of a stream corridor. The benefits of creating these buffers are numerous; trees along the stream provide habitat, filter runoff, and regulate stream temperature by providing shade.

A stream known as Murphy Run transects this Town of Hampstead property which is located between North Carroll Lane and Eagle Ridge Court. The planting area was a fallow field with an abundance of invasive vegetation. This particular planting resulted in the reforestation of **1.9 acres** with overstory trees. A total of 574 trees were planted. Funding for this planting was covered by the Governor's Challenge grant.



South Branch Patapsco Residential Planting

West Old Liberty Road

Following the 2013 South Branch Patapsco watershed stream corridor assessment (SCA), which is an assessment that determines the health of a stream corridor, trees were planted throughout the South Branch Patapsco watershed to establish stream buffer. The benefits of creating these buffers are numerous; trees along the stream provide habitat, filter runoff, and regulate stream temperature by providing shade.

Initially, Resource Management staff met with interested landowners and determined the potential planting areas, native plant species, and the landowner's ultimate vision for his/her property. The plantings, completed in 2014, resulted in the reforestation of **5.6 acres** of private residential property and **29,568 linear feet** of vegetated streamside. Due to the Governor's Challenge grant, 100% of the total cost of all four plantings—\$56,484—was funded at no expense to the landowners.



Upper Monocacy River Municipal Planting

Bollinger Park, City of Taneytown

The Upper Monocacy watershed is located in the north-western corner of Carroll County. The watershed drains to the Potomac River basin, which is a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The benefits of creating these stream buffers are numerous; trees along the stream provide habitat, filter runoff, and regulate stream temperature by providing shade.

An unnamed tributary to Piney Creek transects a portion of the Bollinger Park Property in the City of Taneytown. The planting area was a cultivated field. This particular planting resulted in the reforestation of **13.2 acres**. A total of 3,986 trees were planted. Funding for this planting was covered by the Governor's Challenge grant.



Agricultural Lands

Executive Summary/Overview of Agricultural Land Preservation in the County

The preservation of agricultural land and the continuation of agribusiness uses continues to be a major priority in Carroll County and working farms help define the rural character of Carroll County. Approximately 146,778 acres are currently being used for agricultural (50% of the County's land mass) and 76,849 acres are permanently preserved for agricultural (ranked first in Maryland). Furthermore, agriculture is the county's number one industry and Carroll is ranked second in the United States for number of acres protected through easement purchases. Most of the active farms in the County are on lands currently zoned Agricultural or Conservation. Most of the active farms in the County are on lands currently zoned Agricultural or Conservation.

Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

County Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

The 2014 county master plan, Carroll County: Challenges and Choices – A Master Plan for the Future, contains the following goal related to agricultural preservation:

- Preserve at least 100,000 acres of agricultural land to support the production of agricultural products and promotion of related agribusiness

In fact, Carroll County has had a goal of preserving at least 100,000 acres of productive farmland since 1998. This number represents over 70 percent of the total land in the county that is in agricultural production and has long been considered the "critical mass" of land needed to keep farming and agribusinesses viable ventures. Prior to 2000, this goal was an unofficial target which spurred significant interest and investment in land preservation. With the adoption of the current County Master Plan, the goal of preserving "100,000 acres of tillable agricultural land for the production of agricultural products and promotion of related agribusiness" was formalized as part of the county's policy agenda.

The County's agricultural preservation goal was based on a reasoned evaluation that this was the minimum amount of land needed to support both a viable agricultural base and the associated agribusiness economy. It also represents



*Recently Preserved Farm
Groves Mill, Manchester MD*

approximately one third of Carroll's total land area. Affirming this goal also indicates a significant level of commitment to agriculture both as a preferred land use and as an economic engine.

The State's goal of protecting 1,030,000 acres of agricultural lands represents approximately 16.5 percent of the state's total land area of 6,251,090 acres as reported in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. By comparison, Carroll County's goal of 100,000 preserved acres represents approximately 35 percent of its 287,900 total acres.

Carroll County's aggressive agricultural preservation goal of 100,000 acres is directed at protecting the land used for agriculture and maintaining an agricultural land base to ensure that farming will continue. As of December 2021, 76,849 acres of farmland throughout the County were permanently preserved.

County has been actively preserving agricultural land since the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) was developed in 1977. Carroll County's goals follow State goals closely through the County's Environmental Resource Element (ERE) guideline that was established January 16, 1997 and incorporated into County Master Plan's since. Adoption of the ERE by Carroll County and its eight municipalities ensures alignment with State's conservation land preservation (Land Use Article, §3-102). As of December 2021, 76,849 acres of farmland throughout the County were permanently preserved.

State Goals

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production.
- Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries.
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.
- Work with local governments to achieve the following:
 - o Establish preservation areas, goals, and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement state goals.
 - o In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large and state and local government officials.
 - o Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs.
 - o Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas.
 - o Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and public-at-large.

Easement Acquisition Mechanisms

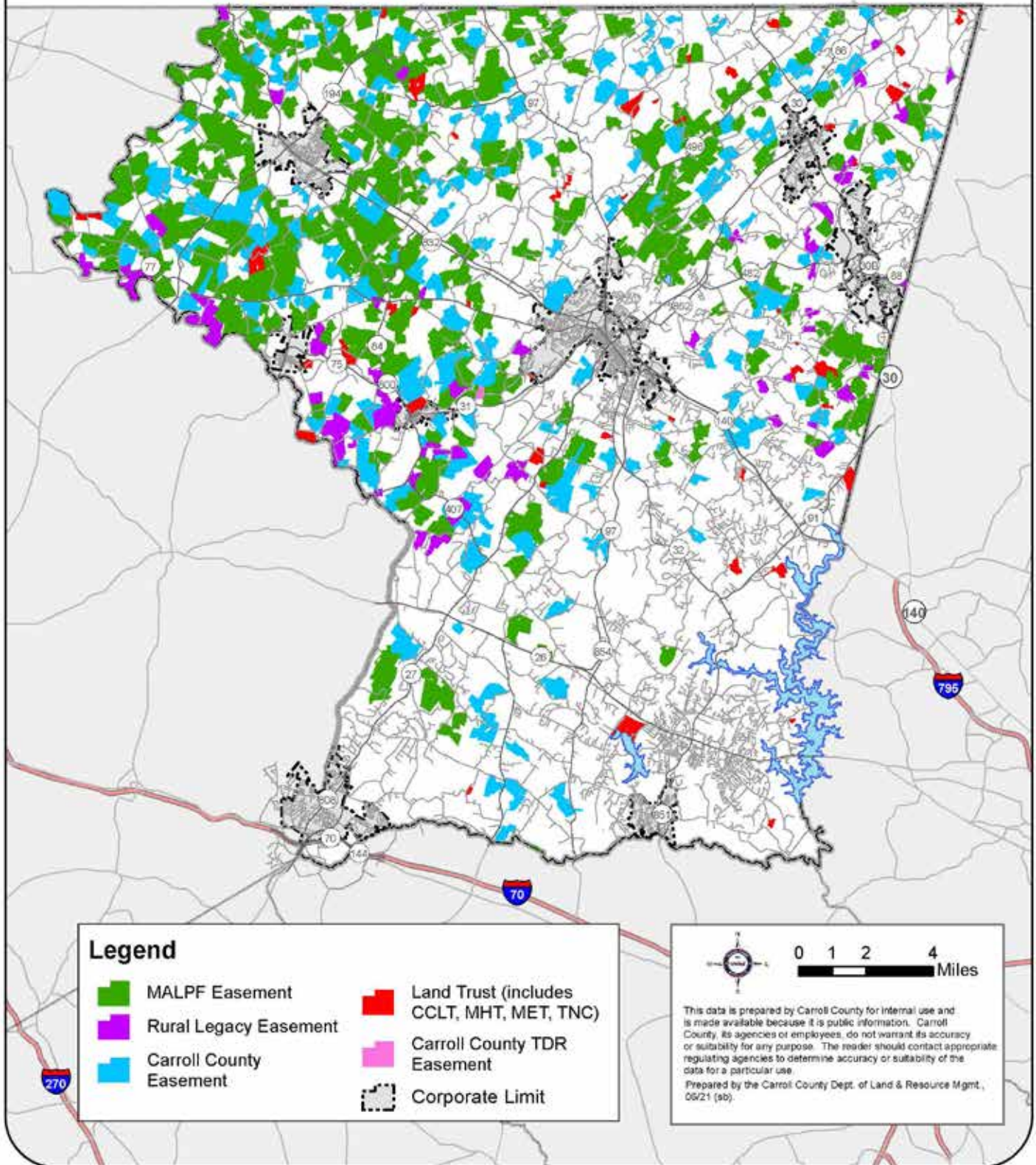
From FY 2017 through FY 2021, the Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has preserved through the purchase of conservation easements an additional 7,580 acres of qualifying agricultural land. Of these acres, 4,897 were placed under easement with the Carroll County Easement Purchase Program, 1,731 acres with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), and 952 acres with the Rural Legacy Program. The remaining 90 acres were preserved through conservation organizations, such as Carroll County Land Trust.

Since the recommendations of the task force mentioned in the 2012 report, the County Commissioners have not pursued either the expansion of the transfer of development rights enabling law or any program to address portions of land that remain after a tract is developed, referred to as agricultural remainders. Remainders lack residential development potential but have several other development opportunities. Instead of pursuing these two mechanisms, efforts have been focused on yearly application cycles for new landowner applications for the county operated program, with significant success in securing easements on large and productive tracts throughout the county but primarily in the northwest, northeast, and central regions of the county. It should be mentioned, however, that the Carroll County Land Trust, a 501c (3) nonprofit organization, has been addressing the remainders issue, trying to contact owners of remainders to inform them of a 15-year county property tax credit for land preserved through a donated conservation easement. A small number of donated easements have since been secured by the CCLT.

Since 2012 the county has continued its use of leveraged installment purchase agreements as well as lump sum payment options for purchase of conservation easements. It has further developed cost containment in easement purchase while assuring fair easement values based on actual fair market values on a regional basis. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program, through the County Commissioners, accomplished this by adopting a points-based appraisal system, or formula, for determining the cost of easement purchases. This was done by developing a regional value system that provides the formula for any property in the county. All but one of 16 property owners accepted offers made using this system in the first year of its use.

Agricultural Land Preservation & Land Trust Easements

Carroll County, Maryland



50% of Carroll County's land mass is in agricultural use



Agriculture is Carroll County's **#1** industry



Carroll County's ranks **1st** in Maryland for number of acres preserved



Carroll County ranks **2nd** in the United States for number of acres preserved through easement purchase

More than 740 farms are preserved in the County



Detailed Inventory of Recreation Lands in Carroll County

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting/Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
County Parks and Recreation																	
Aeromodeler's Park	1318339.89	73005.45	4.83	x		x			x								family (single table) pavilions
Bark Hill Park	1271021.78	701564.41	32.46	x		x	x .78 mi.		x			2	1				Nature Center, Planetarium, Observatory, interpretive trail and outdoor classroom
Bear Branch Nature Center	1316103.13	721118.92	56.73	x	x	x	x 5 mi.	Fishing	x				1				1 Baseball lighted
Bennett Cerr Park	1318746.33	699427.20	7.40	x	Pond, Stream	x	x 3 mi.	Fishing	x	Dog park	1		2				Water trail launch
Big Pipe Creek Launch Site (Hapes Mill Road)			2.09	x	Stream		water	Fishing	x								Restroom
Cape Horn Park	1346296.47	720369.58	57.51	x	Pond	x	x 1.24 mi.		x		2	3	1				Restroom
Carroll County Equestrian Center	1287884.02	624746.05	26.49	x	Streams	x	x 4.1 mi.		x	Horseback riding							Two show rings
Charles Carroll Park						x			x		2	1	1	1	2		future community center
Cherrytown Road Ball Field	1300874.95	734703.20	3.60	x		x			x		1						Concession
Deer Park	1320123.00	671991.36	59.13	x	Pond	x	x 1.2 mi.	Fishing	x		2	5	1	1	2		Restrooms, lighted main field, two pavilions
Double Pipe Creek	1236420.89	705102.33	3.66	x	x	x	water	Fishing	x	water access			1	1			Water trail launch
Freedom Park	1325143.77	618429.86	373.12	x		x	x 2.0 mi.		x		7	3	2				Concession
Gillis Falls Recreation Area	1287885.75	629887.60	925.50	x	Wetlands Streams		x 4.2 mi.	Hunting Fishing	x								horse back riding, hiking trails, mountain biking
Harp Baker Firearms Facility	1330199.91	689069.35	22.15	x					x								Rifle and Handgun ranges
Hashawha Environmental Center	1313700.65	723156.60	384.69	x 4.0 mi	Ponds, Streams	x	x 4.5 mi.	Hunting/Fishing	x				1	1			Cabin, Pool, Reptor Center, 13.5 miles of trails, outdoor classrooms
Hodges Park	1324478.06	639025.72	29.81	x					x		2	1					Pavilion
Kate Wagner Road	1310897.96	683850.54	18.00	x					x		2	1					Pavilion
Kringold Park	1299229.10	641467.99	137.50	x	4 Ponds	x	x 2.3 mi.	Fishing	x		4	5	2				Restroom, Pavilions
Landon C Burns Park	1314170.32	688085.26	11.98	x	Pond, stream	x	x 6 mi.	Fishing	x		2		1				Pavilion
Leister Park	1356663.51	706889.89	100.70	x		x	x 1.6 mi.		x			2	1				disc golf
Little Pipe Creek Soft Launch			1.00		stream		water										water trail launch
Mayeski Park	1300423.14	648518.73	118.84	x		x			x		4	2	1				Pavilion
North Carroll Community Pond	1349092.23	719494.56	4.85	x	Pond	x		Fishing	x								3 Baseball lighted
Obrecht Road Park	1312483.73	625400.56	3.20	x?					x		1						Restroom
Old Liberty Road Park	1315238.76	638579.34	8.84	x					x		1	1					
Piney Run Park	1316588.96	629579.90	831.23	x	300 a.c. reservoir	x	x 10 mi.	Fishing	x				2				Nature Center, Aviary, Fishing/Boating Piers, Boat Rentals
Sail Box Park	1288920.20	627911.21	114.71	x	Stream	x		Fishing	x		2		1				Pavilion
Sandmount Park	1335967.09	675095.42	22.13	x?		x	x 1.35 mi.		x		3	2	1	1	2		1 Lighted Baseball and 1 lighted multi-purpose field
Carroll County Sports Complex	1311804.10	718679.91	84.84	x		x	x 6 mi.		x		5	2	1				3 Lighted Baseball Fields, 1 lighted multi-purpose field
South Carroll Dog Park			2.00														dog park
Northwest Area Regional Park			145.06	x	Streams												undeveloped
Union Mills Recreation Area	1314662.67	726088.30	1,131.21	x 12.5 mi.	Wetlands Streams		x 12 mi.	Hunting Fishing	x								horse back riding, hiking trails, mountain biking
Westminster Community Pond	1313719.78	701262.51	31.41	x	Pond	x	x 2 mi.	Fishing	x		0	0	2	1			Pavilion
Westminster Veterans Memorial Park	1317335.44	684142.64	32.70			x	x 9 mi.		x		0	0	1				Pavilion
Winfield Park	1236450.54	651146.24	9.16						x		1	0					
County Park Totals			4,798.52				48.37 mi.										

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
Public Schools																	
Carroll Springs School	1314639.61	686689.13	5.83	x					x		1	1				Gym	special needs school, indoor pool
Carrolltowne Elementary School	1331002.32	62902.18	18.72								1		1	1			
Charles Carroll Elementary School	1302482.83	732312.21	11.67	x					x		1	2	1			Gym	
Cranberry Station Elementary School	1318430.68	694441.70	15.69	x					x		1	1	1			Gym	
Ebb Valley Elementary School	1343598.83	731915.14	18.90	x					x		1	1	1			Gym	
Eldersburg Elementary School	1324291.14	634891.27	29.79	x					x		3	3	1	2		Gym	
Elmer Wolfe Elementary School	1262358.58	695661.03	17.07	x		x			x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
Freedom District Elementary School	1328207.17	638309.42	9.49	x					x		1	1	1			Gym	
Friendship Valley Elementary School	1310897.96	688850.54	33.44	x		x			x		3		2	2	2	Gym	
Hampstead Elementary School	1351367.73	704920.88	18.73	x			x		x		1	3	2			Gym	
Linton Springs Elementary School	1315755.57	639423.21	26.63	x					x		1	3	1	2		Gym	
Manchester Elementary School	1345047.40	727587.01	19.52	x			x		x		2	2	1	1		Gym	
Mechanicsville Elementary School	1328570.25	656124.16	11.59	x					x		2	2	1	2		Gym	
Mt. Airy Elementary School	1270320.65	624288.78	7.22	x			x		x		1	1	1	1		Gym	
Parr's Ridge Elementary School	1270699.56	623367.40	23.38	x			x		x		1	2	1	1		Gym	
Pinney Ridge Elementary School	1323404.10	631679.98	13.12	x					x		1	2	1	2		Gym	
Robert Moton Elementary School	1314223.63	680343.56	19.26						x		1	1	1	1		Gym	
Rumymede Elementary School	1283695.46	714421.24	31.99	x					x		1	2	2	1		Gym	
Sandyount Elementary School	1332599.14	675678.58	8.03	x		x			x		1	1	1	1		Gym	
Spring Garden Elementary School	1357170.75	701621.84	19.97	x					x		2	3	2			Gym	
Taneytown Elementary School	1264221.58	732328.35	10.37	x					x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
Westminster Elementary School	1305086.45	696510.50	19.42	x					x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
William Winchester Elementary School	1313911.27	697141.23	4.70						x		1	1	1			Gym	
Winfield Elementary School	1297046.71	650606.07	15.55	x		x			x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
Mt. Airy Middle School	1270808.98	624109.42	14.65	x			x		x		1	2		1		Gym	
New Windsor Middle School	1280620.16	685396.21	33.41	x					x		2	1		2		Gym	
North Carroll Middle School	1349985.45	719563.63	27.74	x					x		1	1	1	1		Gym	1 lighted Baseball field
Oklahoma Road Middle School	1331771.21	62100.28	31.61	x					x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
Shigh Middle School	1351500.18	704107.30	10.77	x					x		2	1		2		Gym	
Sykesville Middle School	1322148.46	621622.02	19.40	x			x		x		1	2		4		Gym	Skateboard Court
Westminster East Middle School	1315502.19	695313.01	21.06						x		1	3		3		Gym	Running Track
Westminster West Middle School	1313806.89	697793.19	22.97				x		x		2	2	1			Gym	
Century High School	1314675.88	69989.17	59.84	x			x		x		3	3	1	4	6	Gym	Stadium
Francis Scott Key High School	1274519.85	700965.53	49.39	x			x		x		1	4	1	5	5	Gym	Stadium
Gateway School	1314944.50	680280.58	10.30	x		x			x		1					Gym	
Liberty High School	1326136.95	636194.24	47.18	x			x		x		2	4	1	2	6	Gym	Stadium
Manchester Valley High School	1346994.74	724086.04	95.58	x			x		x		2	3	1	2	6	Gym	Stadium
North Carroll High School	1351139.25	707334.25	56.23	x			x		x		2	3		2	6	Gym	Stadium
South Carroll High School	1300894.12	647151.63	30.14	x			x		x		1	4		4	6	Gym	Stadium
Westminster High School	1314738.40	682451.27	70.19	x			x		x		2	2		4	5	Gym	Stadium
Winters Mill High School	1318812.22	693881.45	39.73	x			x		x		3	3	1	6	6	Gym	Stadium
School Totals			1,050.27														

Total County Owned Parks and Recreation Lands	NA	NA	5,848.79
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Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting/Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity buildings(s)	Notes
Other Public Access Lands																	
Boxwood Drive Ballfield	1357731.46	702425.82	16.06	x					x								
Carroll County Bird Sanctuary	1274915.36	686708.18	13.81	x			x										
Carroll County Farm Museum	1313458.84	688765.65	77.84	x	Pond	x	Fishing	x								Historic Farm	Cultural Education
Carroll Community College	1314802.66	678844.44	69.32	x		x			x	Vball	1	5				Art Center	
Crowtowne Open Space	1316414.56	694464.56	3.84														
Former New Windsor Middle School	1281505.99	684175.09	1.12	x					x								Future Park
Hanover Municipal Watershed	1327635.76	746567.01	356.27	x			x		x								
Liberty Reservoir	1339763.74	642687.46	587.81	x	Reservoir		Fishing	x									Land Acquired
Leishear Property (DA)	1275020.70	628269.04	100.00														Land Acquired
Quaker Hill Property	1266036.17	689983.30	10.42														
Union Mills Homestead	1307793.99	728661.30	38.27	x		x			x								Historic Homestead
Watersville Road Park	1280791.56	626190.65	123.31	x					x								Land Acquired
Total Other Access Public Lands	NA	NA	1,382.01														

Publicly Accessible Quasi Public Lands	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting/Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity buildings(s)	Notes
Westminster National Golf Course	1309801.44	714962.43	119.84	x					x	Golf						Clubhouse	Driving Range
Beaver Run Fish and Game Club	1340582.73	665485.36	25.13	x				Hunting/Fishing	x								
Carroll County Gun Club	1312452.54	642681.21	25.03	x	Stream	x	x	Hunting/Fishing	x								Indoor soccer fields
Carroll Indoor Sports Center	1318277.38	689534.66	5.99			x			x								
Cascade Lake	1343658.97	710693.19	28.83	x	Lake	x	x	Fishing	x								
Crowtowne Open Space	1316414.56	694464.56	3.84														
Deep Run Boy Scout Camp	1317228.61	734312.87	57.96	x	Stream	x	x	Fishing	x		1						Indoor soccer fields, Outdoor Pool
Four Seasons Sports Complex	1340555.04	707996.81	18.35	x		x	x		x	Mini Golf				1	1	Gym	
Freedom Swim Club	1327405.74	637616.02	6.38	x		x	x		x							Concession	Pool
Links at Challeidon	1279391.21	635001.08	98.06	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes/Driving Range
Mcdaniel College	1311640.13	699316.45	67.80	x			x		x		2	4		6	4	Clubhouse	
Mcdaniel College Golf Course	1310778.88	699476.17	35.86	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	9 holes
Mountain View Bible Camp	1334686.18	740853.42	32.18	x		x	x		x		1						
Oklahoma Green Golf Course	1352422.06	717432.57	148.71	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes and Driving Range
Piney Branch Golf & Country Club	1357631.07	696855.40	3.87	x			x		x	Golf							Mostly in Balto County
Players Family Amusement Center	1318303.46	688941.67	6.54						x								
Ranbling Pines Campground	1304895.16	617887.90	140.97	x		x	x		x	VB			1			Activity	Camp sites
River Downs Golf Club	1346044.17	675141.38	178.00	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes and Driving Range
River Valley Ranch	1365595.55	739550.13	169.26	x		x	x		x				1			Art Center	Camping
Roaring Run Park	1346032.99	663191.68	11.30	x		x	x		x		3		1			Clubhouse	Pool
South Carroll Swim Club	1294664.29	650121.00	30.46	x		x	x		x								
Taylorville Winfield Lions Club Park	1296080.36	649376.54	3.40						x		2						
Union Mills Lions Club Park	1306924.83	729063.57	5.46		Pond	x		Fishing	x								
Westminster Island Green Driving Range	1296110.24	706550.29	30.93	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	
Total Publicly Accessible Quasi Public Lands	NA	NA	1,254.15														

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
Town Parks and Recreation Lands																	
Hampstead																	
Chief Sites Memorial Park	1357058.12	705223.81	1.57	x		x	x		x	Skate Park			1				
Kimberly Village	1356266.03	705128.88	2.15	x					x				0				
Lions Club Park	1355899.77	707519.09	36.54	x		x			x		6		1			Concession	
Main Street Memorial Park	1313776.84	694789.98	0.05						x	Band Stand							War Memorial
Melvin Miller Memorial Park	1313776.84	694789.99	1.58			x			x					1	2		Pickleball
Panther Park (formerlyHampsteadMunicipal Park)	1353269.72	707446.28	14.85	x		x	x		x	Volleyball	2	1	2	1			Pavilion
Oden Kemp Park	1354983.66	713541.18	1.18			x			x				1	1			
Sugar Maple Park	1317450.22	622233.46	2.46	x		x			x				1	1			
Manchester																	
Charlotte's Quest	1345324.34	728882.41	13.32	x	Stream	x	x		x								Visitors Center
Christmas Tree Park	1347502.60	728034.89	45.53	x	Pond	x	x	Fishing	x		1	1		1			Pavilions
Crossroads Overlook Playground	1341595.18	727418.76	1.00	x			x		x				3				
Manchester Carnival Grounds	1346343.98	727741.23	5.05						x								Activity Con-cession
Hallie Hills Walking Trail	1341136.32	732412.20	2.00	x			x										
Lions Club Pool	1346699.99	727621.66	4.07			x			x								Two Pools
Pine Valley Park	1345139.65	729404.36	66.68	x	Pond	x	x	Fishing	x								
Skateboard Park	1343018.41	726753.85	3.87	x					x								Skateboard Park
Southwestern Avenue Athletic Field	1343695.58	722080.53	2.00									1					
Westside Memorial Park	1342686.50	726568.54	10.21	x					x								
Mount Airy																	
Mt. Airy Rails to Trails Trail	1273530.68	621133.39	2.02	x			x		x								
Summit Ridge Park	1269345.78	626146.41	27.00	x					x		1	1	1				Pavilion
Twin Arch Crossing Park			6.26									1		1			
West Pocket Park	1269851.86	623833.69	0.5						x								Gazebo, gardens
Watkins Park	1271234.93	622988.14	20.97	x		x	x		x	Vball	2	1	2	1	2		Dog Park, rest rooms, fitness equipment
Wildwood Park	1268841.66	620812.86	2.3	x			x		x				1				Gazebo, gardens, game tables
New Windsor																	
Aflee Ridge Open Space	1280917.50	682445.92	15.46	x			x		x				1				disc golf
New Windsor Lagoon Property	1280647.44	683970.07	6.42								2	1					Construction 2018
New Windsor Fire Company Grounds	12813224.81	684073.84	0.68						x								
New Windsor Town Park	1283089.76	683263.97	1.77						x				1				pavilion
Siebel's Field Ball Park (Lehigh)	1281680.80	681899.49	10.77	x					x		1						
Sulphur Springs Park	1281173.19	683643.34	0.86				x		x		1			1	2		

Site Name	Eas 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground PlayStructures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Buildings	Notes
Sikesville																	
Beach Park	1319722.23	620446.05	0.15			X			X				1				
Bloomfield Park	1317947.06	623338.85	3.4	X			X		X				1				
Carrie Doney Park			27.5		Pond Stream	X	X										
Harold Burkett Park	1318768.44	622320.92	6.08			X	X		X				1			pavilion	
Jones Park	1317948.02	621295.10	0.43						X				1				
Lexington Run Park	1318895.76	620299.18	0.4						X				1				
Little Sikes Railway Park	1320997.26	618320.53	0.51	X					X								1949 J.2 Gauge Railway concessions, rest room
Millard Cooper Park	1321621.52	622247.02	8.32				X		X				1			pavilion	
Old Man Line Park	1320879.31	618464.57	0.08						X								
Shannon Run park	1317836.34	619782.93	1.32			X	X		X							pavilion	
Sikesville Linear Park Trail	1317450.22	622323.46	13.88	X		X	X		X				X				
Taneytown																	
Bollinger Property	1266710.88	730901.89	102.29	X	X		X		X								
Festival Park			26.54														Acquired in 2019, presently in design
Flickinger Park	1268256.00	724831.00	3.02	X					X				1				
Roberts Mill Park	1266295.52	723960.28	27.78	X	X	3	X	X	X			4	1	1			
Roth Avenue Park	1266295.52	723960.28	2.71			1			X				1				
Taneytown High School Park and Skate Park	1264458.98	725571.65	6.86			1			X		3	3	1				Skate park
Taneytown Memorial Park	1260564.33	726756.94	57.33		X	8			X		5	2	3	1	3		9/11 Memorial war memorial
Union Bridge																	
Little Pipe Creek Park	1264442.68	693585.55	34.79	X	X		X	Fishing	X								
Union Bridge Community Center Park	1264703.73	691870.96	8.73			2	X		X								
Union Bridge Train Station	1262306.89	693472.74	0.47						X								

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting/Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/Softball Fields	Multi-purpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
Westminster																	
Avondale Run Ballfield Park	1303870.63	692627.47	2.85						x		1						
Belle Grove Square Park	1312707.02	695118.87	0.68						x								Fountain, Benches
Bishop's Garth Park	1314355.80	690897.75	2.13						x				1				
Charles Street Playground	1314535.77	691106.88	0.87						x				1				
Dutterer Family Park	1313093.14	697679.56	10.21			1	x		x		1		1				
Green's lot	1305289.51	698306.06	0.24						x				1				
Jaycee Park	1307056.80	698075.81	10.23						x		3	2	1				
King Park	1311710.41	695210.50	5.74			1			x				1				
Lime Kiln Interpretive Park	1306168.73	693247.92	4.76						x								
Locust Lane Park	1313770.06	694792.90	0.05						x								
Longwell Municipal Center	1314276.16	694585.52	0.48						x					1			Rec/fitness
Tahoma Farm Boulder Park	1305696.44	692724.50	1.63				x		x				1				
Uniontown Road Athletic Field Park	1309351.68	698061.57	3.94						x			1					
Wakefield Valley Community Trail	1302847.91	689896.92	0.8				x		x								
Wakefield Valley Park	1302998.68	693101.09	241.02	x			x		x								18 hole, clubhouse, concession
Westminster City Playground	1314663.78	694256.64	5.54			3			x		2	1	3				
Westminster Municipal Park	1314654.62	694286.62	4.51						x								
Westminster Municipal Pool and Community Center	1304935.87	698232.28	1.92										3				
Westminster Skate Park	1314760.87	695447.84	0.87						x								
Whispering Meadows Community Park	1307169.40	698526.91	0.82						x				1				
Total Town Parks and Recreation Lands	NA	NA	838.71														
Total Carroll County Parks & Recreation Lands	NA	NA	9,323.66														

Carroll County Acreage Summary	NA	NA	NA	Acres/1,000
Carroll County Parks and Recreation Lands	NA	NA	8,069.51	47.47
Carroll County Publicly Accessable Quasi Public Lands	NA	NA	1,254.15	7.38
Total Carroll County Parks and Recreation Lands			9,323.66	54.85
Preserved Agricultural Lands	NA	NA	70,091.00	412.30
Natural Resource Lands	NA	NA	6,195.00	36.44
Historic/Cultural Lands	NA	NA	116	0.68
Total Carroll County Public Access Lands	NA	NA	95,049.42	559.11

State Parks and Lands in Carroll County	East 83	North 83	NA	Acres/1,000
Avondale WMA	1306456.28	689004.30	177.00	1.04
Hugg-Thomas WMA in Carroll County	1317067.63	617633.32	6.00	0.04
Morgan Run NEA	1316075.09	657658.98	1,930.00	11.35
Patapsco Valley State Park in Carroll County	1336176.38	616253.75	2,754.00	16.20
Total State Lands in Carroll County	NA	NA	4,867.00	28.63

* State and Federal lands may be counted towards the LPPRP acreage goal, but only the portion that exceeds 60 acres per 1,000 residents.

Resources

2014 Carroll County Master Plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, February 26, 2015, 2019 Amendment

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/planning/comprehensive-county-plans/county-master-plans/2014-carroll-county-master-plan-2019-amendment/>

2019 Carroll County Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment Survey

2021 Carroll County Recreation and Parks LPPRP Needs Assessment Survey

2016 Carroll County Bicycle and Pedestrian survey

2022 Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Guidelines:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Stewardship/Local_LPPRPs.aspx

Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan 2019-2023:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/LPRP_2019-2023/2019-2023_Maryland-LPRP.pdf

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources 2020 Annual Report

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Documents/2020-Annual-Report.pdf>

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Yearly Acreage Report:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/CurrentAcreageReport.pdf>

Maryland GreenPrint:

<http://greenprint.maryland.gov/>

Outdoor Industry Association –2017 Research Reports on Outdoor Recreation Participation and Economic Impacts:

https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf

Maryland Trail Atlas:

<https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/95281fc3ebde48648e249021459a4a00>

Maryland DNR GeoSpatial Data Center:

Downloadable GIS data maintained by the Department of Natural Resources.

<http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/>

Maryland Association of Counties (MACO):

Non-profit organization serving Maryland counties by articulating and advocating local needs to the State’s General Assembly.

<http://www.mdcounties.org/>

National Recreation and Parks Association – Recreation focused Reports, Studies and Tools:

Non-profit organization focused on advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation with research papers and reports on park and recreation ties to economics, public health, transportation, etc.

<http://www.nrpa.org/research-papers/>

The Natural Learning Initiative – Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature (2012)

https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits_of_connecting_children_with_nature_infosheet.pdf

The Physical Activity Council - 2016 Participation Report

This Overview Report summarizes “topline” data about levels of activity in the US, establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the US.

<http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf>

State of Maryland Children in Nature Survey in 2008

http://dnr2.maryland.gov/cin/PartnerMeetingDocs/CN_Dec19_2008_Survey_Summary.pdf

The Outdoor Foundation 2017 Report

https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Topline-Report_FINAL.pdf

NRPA – 2021 Engagement with Parks Report

<https://res.cloudinary.com/nrpadev/image/upload/v1631635911/docs/2021EngagementReport.pdf>

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals – Technical Resources:

Non-profit group focused on outdoor recreation, natural and cultural resource preservation, and sustainable access to recreational opportunities. Links to resources, guides, and reports on various natural resource-based recreation topics.

<http://www.recpro.org/technical-resources>

2021 LPPRP Municipal Survey



Carroll County 2022 Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan Municipality Survey

Carroll County is currently updating its Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan, to be completed in 2022. Once completed, this plan is submitted for approval to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, a requirement to receive Program Open Space funding. As a part of our update, Carroll County has collected information through needs assessment surveys and will be hosting informal listening sessions in our parks this summer. While this public feedback includes both county and town residents, we would also like to directly solicit the municipalities for input through the following brief survey.

We are requesting that each town complete and submit this information no later than July 31, 2021.

In addition, I would be happy to meet with any of your staff or elected officials if they would like to discuss this subject in greater detail.

Municipality name

Your answer

The amount of park acreage in our municipality is:

- a. Insufficient
- b. Currently sufficient and fully developed
- c. Sufficient plus room for future development

What are the top 3 requested park amenities from your residents?

Please list 3.

Your answer _____

What top 3 types of programs do your residents want provided by the municipality?

Please list 3.

Your answer _____

Please list any currently unmet recreational needs in your municipality.

Your answer _____

Briefly describe your municipality's goals with regards to their parks and recreation facilities and activities.

Your answer

Most of our residents can access town or county parks by

- a. 5-minute walk
- b. 10-minute walk
- c. 10-minute drive

Do your park and recreation programs/events significantly support your local businesses

- Yes
- No

How would you best describe your municipality's special events, festivals, and recreational programs?

- a. Municipal staff have adequate resources to offer very successful events without additional assistance
- b. Municipal staff have some resources to offer moderately successful events but could benefit from additional assistance or partnerships
- c. Municipal staff have insufficient resources to offer these types of events

If you answered B or C to question 9, would you be interested in partnering with Carroll County Recreation & Parks to offer events in your municipality?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide a point of contact.

Your answer _____

Submit

Clear form

Results Summary: 2021 LPPRP Municipal Survey

Municipality name	The amount of park acreage in our municipality is:	What are the top 3 requested park amenities from your residents?	What top 3 types of programs do your residents want provided by the municipality?	Please list any currently unmet recreational needs in your municipality.	Briefly describe your municipality's goals with regards to their parks and recreation facilities and activities.	Most of our residents can access town or county parks by	Do your park and recreation programs/ events significantly support your local businesses	How would you best describe your municipality's special events, festivals, and recreational programs?
Town of New Windsor	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Fields, open space & courts	Baseball, basketball & hiking/walking	Running, walking & Biking trails. Parking	To provide open space with amenities that are minimal maintenance & cost.	b. 10-minute walk	No	b. Municipal staff have some resources to offer moderately successful events but could benefit from additional assistance or partnerships
Taneytown	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Additional walking trails, a dog park, a pool or splashpad.	Non-sporting recreational (e.g. yoga, martial arts, skateboarding, dancing, painting); parks "educational" activities (nature learning walks, wildlife observation/ education); parades and interactive events.	Walking trails, pet facilities (dog park, trails), adequate athletic field space.	It is our goal to provide satisfactory facilities and activities that are available to, and equitable for, all.	c. 10-minute drive	Yes	b. Municipal staff have some resources to offer moderately successful events but could benefit from additional assistance or partnerships
Town of Union Bridge	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Basketball courts, pickle ball courts, ball fields	Baseball events, summer events for children & evening activities.	We would like to refurbish our run-down tennis courts and add pickle ball capabilities to the courts.	Maintain a safe and appealing place for families to gather.	b. 10-minute walk	No	c. Municipal staff have insufficient resources to offer these types of events
City of Westminster	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	trails bicycle & pedestrian, natural areas, ADA accessible playgrounds	special events, nature-based programming, family fitness activities	ADA playgrounds	1. Optimize the use of green spaces and community parks. 2. Increase community awareness, engagement, and participation. 3. Enrich the diversity and enjoyment of recreational events and experiences. 4. Enhance health and wellness programs.	a. 5-minute walk	Yes	a. Municipal staff have adequate resources to offer very successful events without additional assistance
Sykesville	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Trails, bike lanes, general park equipment improvements	Programs related to physical and mental well being (ex. Yoga)	Dog parks, bike lanes, and trail improvements	Expanding accessibility and connectivity to our parks and Downtown area.	a. 5-minute walk	No	b. Municipal staff have some resources to offer moderately successful events but could benefit from additional assistance or partnerships
Town of Manchester	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Additional Playground equipment, Additional Parking, Additional Ball Fields	More Community Activities, Additional Nature Center Activities, League Activities such as Tennis, Pickle ball, etc.	Bathroom Facilities and Larger Classroom space at Nature Center, Playgrounds within the Towns larger developments.	To supply a healthy and educational environment not only for the Town residents but for everyone of any age.	c. 10-minute drive	Yes	c. Municipal staff have insufficient resources to offer these types of events
Town of Hampstead	c. Sufficient plus room for future development	Walking trails, play units for kids and courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball).	Programs supporting Police, non-profits and businesses.	More walking trails - connections to Main Street.	Our goal is to utilize all our open space to allow optimal use for residents and visitors. We want to build in areas that are available and continue to replace areas that are in need of repair. We would love to add more events to our new Main Street and surrounding areas.	b. 10-minute walk	No	b. Municipal staff have some resources to offer moderately successful events but could benefit from additional assistance or partnerships

2021 Needs Assessment Survey

1. What Carroll County parks have you visited during the past 24 months?

- Bark Hill Park
- Bennett Cerf Park
- Bennett Cerf Dog Park
- Cape Horn Park
- Carroll County Equestrian Center
- Carroll County Sports Complex
- Charles Carroll Park (formerly Charles Carroll Elementary School)
- Cherrytown Park
- Deer Park
- Double Pipe Creek Park
- Freedom Park
- Gillis Falls Recreation Area
- Hap Baker Firearms Facility
- Hashawha/Bear Branch Nature Center
- Hodges Park
- Kate Wagner Park
- Krimgold Park
- Landon C. Burns Park
- Leister Park
- Mayeski Park
- North Carroll Community Pond
- Obrecht Road Park
- Old Liberty Road Park
- Piney Run Park
- Salt Box Park
- Sandymount Park
- South Carroll Dog Park
- Union Mills Recreation Area
- Westminster Community Pond
- Westminster Veterans Memorial Park
- Winfield Park
- None of the above

2. How would you rate the condition of those parks?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

3. Please check any areas of parks used or activities during your visits.

- Athletic field
- Basketball
- Boat rental
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Nature Center
- Pickleball
- Picnic pavilion use
- Playground
- Registered program/activity
- Special event
- Tennis
- Unstructured play
- Walking trail
- Wildlife viewing/Photography

4. Which park did you visit most frequently?

5. How well are your needs met by current parks?

- Totally met
- Mostly met
- Somewhat met
- Not met at all

6. What are the most important criteria for you when using parks? (1 being most important)

- ☰ Convenient location
- ☰ Feel safe
- ☰ Quality
- ☰ Specific function or amenities at park

7. What barriers or challenges discourage you from visiting Carroll County parks?

- None
- Do not know locations of parks
- Not well maintained
- Lack of transportation
- Too far from our residence
- Language barriers
- I feel unwelcome or uncomfortable
- I (or a member of my household) have personal health reasons
- Not enough time
- Use facilities/programs from other agencies instead

8. For every \$100 in capital budget for parks, how much should be spent on the following (must add up to \$100):

Acquire additional parkland and open space

Build new community parks with active and passive elements

Develop new indoor recreational facilities

Develop new walking, hiking and biking trails

Fix/repair/upgrade older parks

Add lights to extend hours of usage

9. Which additional or new facilities do you believe there is a need for in Carroll County? (check all that apply)

- Archery range
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Community gardens
- Family campground with cabins & yurts
- Gaga pits
- Indoor aquatic facility
- Indoor gym space
- Indoor walking/track facility
- Inflatable jumping pit
- Intergenerational play structure
- Motocross facility
- Multi use trails (natural surface)
- Multi-purpose athletic fields (natural surface)
- Multi-purpose athletic fields (synthetic surface)
- Natural areas/wildlife habitat
- New community parks with variety of active and passive features
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Outdoor fitness station/equipment
- Performing arts spaces
- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds
- Restroom facilities in parks
- Rock climbing walls
- Sensory trails
- Shade structures
- Skeet & trap shooting facility
- Swimming pool
- Walking trails (hard surface)
- Water spray ground/splash pad
- Water trails (canoe/kayak)

10. Choose the top five items you would support most funding through Carroll County's community investment plan (select no more than 5)

- Archery range
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Community gardens
- Family campground with cabins & yurts
- Gaga pits
- Skeet & trap shooting facility
- Swimming pool
- Walking trails (hard surface)
- Water spray ground/splash pad
- Water trails (canoe/kayak)

11. Select one goal for acquisition of open space and park land that you would most support

- Acquire properties adjacent to existing parks
- Acquire properties in areas that are underserved
- Acquire properties that preserve local open spaces
- Acquire property to develop a community park with active and passive elements
- Acquire property for additional water access for fishing, canoe/kayak launches

12. Currently Carroll County has 2 dog parks: one in South Carroll with over 250 members and one in Westminster with over 150 members. Do you feel there is a need for a third county owned dog park located in the northern part of the county?

- Yes
- No

13. What types of trails should be the highest priority for Carroll County to build?

- Paved trails
- Trails linking neighborhoods with community destinations
- Trails linking with other trails
- Trails that extend long distances
- Multiuse trails for bikes, hiking and equestrian use

14. If you do not currently use trails in Carroll County, what are your primary reasons?

- Lack of trails and connections
- Don't know where they are located
- Too far away/not convenient
- Poorly maintained
- Feel unsafe
- Conflicts with other types of trail users

15. Do you feel there is a need for a regional family-oriented campground in the county that features cabins, yurts, RV/trailer area and other onsite amenities?

- Yes
- No

16. What Carroll County Recreation & Parks programs & services have you used during the past 24 months?

- Adult programs
- Youth programs
- Pre-school programs
- Teen programs
- EPIC (50 & older) programs
- Family programs
- Adaptive recreation programs
- Bus trips
- Dog parks
- Drop in/free events
- "In a Bag" programs
- Health & wellness
- Rental boats
- Summer camps
- Virtual programs

17. How would you rate the quality of those programs/services?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

18. How would you rate the customer service for program registration or pavilion rental?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

19. Which groups are most underserved by current recreation and parks services?

- Adults
- Families
- Middle School youth
- Preschool children
- Elementary school youth
- Seniors
- People from diverse cultures
- People with disabilities
- Veterans

20. What barriers or challenges make it difficult for you to participate in Department of Recreation and Parks programs?

- None
- Timing of programs does not allow me to attend
- Cost of participation
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of childcare
- Language barriers
- I am not familiar with program locations
- I wasn't aware of programs
- I feel unwelcome or uncomfortable
- I don't have anyone to go with
- I don't have the skills or abilities to participate
- I (or a member of my household) have personal health reasons
- I am not interested in programs offered

21. What is the most important area, if addressed, that would increase your participation?

- Better diversity of programs
- Easier access to program locations
- Lower prices for programs
- Programs offered at a different time
- Transportation
- Other (please specify)

22. Do you have a need for any of the following recreation programs?

- Activities for single adults
- Adult cooking/nutrition
- Adult day/weekend travel programs
- Adult fitness/wellness
- Adult organized sports programs
- Adult technology
- Bird watching programs
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Community festivals
- Concerts
- Family activities
- Farmers Markets
- Fishing programs & tournaments
- Gardening
- Golf lessons
- Healthy living classes
- Homeschool programs
- Intergenerational activities (combined youth & adult)
- Internship opportunities for HS and college students
- Learn to swim
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Pre-school programs
- Shooting sports
- Tennis
- Walking groups
- Water fitness programs
- Yoga
- Youth cooking
- Youth creative/performing arts
- Youth fitness & wellness
- Youth martial arts
- Youth nature/environmental education
- Youth technology

23. From this list of programs, which 5 are most important to you?

- Activities for single adults
- Adult cooking
- Adult day/weekend travel programs
- Adult fitness/wellness
- Adult organized sports programs
- Adult technology
- Bird watching programs
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Community festivals
- Concerts
- Family activities
- Farmers Markets
- Fishing programs & tournaments
- Gardening
- Golf lessons
- Healthy living classes
- Homeschool programs
- Intergenerational activities (combined youth & adult)
- Internship opportunities for HS and college students
- Learn to swim
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Pre-school programs
- Shooting sports
- Tennis
- Walking groups
- Water fitness programs
- Yoga/Pilates
- Youth cooking
- Youth creative/performing arts
- Youth fitness & wellness
- Youth martial arts
- Youth nature/environmental education
- Youth technology

24. Recreation and Parks has developed a new line of programming called EPIC for Experienced People in Carroll, age 50 and older. What types of programs are needed for this population?

- Activities for single adults
- Cooking
- Day/weekend travel programs
- Fitness/wellness
- Organized sports programs
- Technology
- Bird watching programs
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Farmers Markets
- Fishing programs & tournaments
- Golf lessons
- Healthy living classes
- Intergenerational activities (combined youth & adult)
- Photography
- Pickleball
- Shooting sports
- Tennis
- Walking groups
- Water fitness programs
- Yoga/Pilates

25. How do you learn about recreation and parks activities?

- School newsletters/email distribution
- Newspaper articles
- Program guide (hard copy)
- Direct email with link to Program guide
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Web site
- Word of mouth

26. Do you have access to the internet at your home?

- Yes
- No

27. How do you travel to parks?

- Bicycle
- Car
- Walk

28. Are there enough parks within a 10-minute walk of your home?

- Yes
- No

29. Are there enough parks within a 15-minute drive of your home?

- Yes
- No

30. How long does it take you to travel to the Carroll County park that you use most often?

- Less than 10 minutes
- Less than 20 minutes
- Less than 30 minutes
- More than 30 minutes

31. How important is overall quality of life in Carroll County to you?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

32. Recreation & Parks services address a variety of purposes in the community. Please indicate how important each of the following purposes are to you and your household (1 being most important):

- Promote healthy active lifestyle
- Provide recreation and leisure opportunities for the community
- Connecting neighbors to neighbors
- Create a sense of community
- Connecting people with nature

33. How important of a role does Recreation & Parks play in quality of life?

- Significant role
- Some impact
- Very little impact
- No impact at all

34. What is the overall value of Recreation & Parks in Carroll County?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

35. Over the next 5 years, what should be Carroll County Recreation & Parks' highest priority?

- Acquire additional parkland and open space
- Develop additional trails to support a more walkable community
- Enhance and expand recreational amenities at existing parks
- Expand number and variety of programs
- Offering greater variety of special events

36. Please share any other comments you have below:

Community Listening Sessions: Needs Assessment Summary

CARROLL COUNTY 2022 LAND PRESERVATION, PARK & RECREATION PLAN

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30pm

Freedom Park, Sykesville, MD

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30pm

Leister Park, Hampstead, MD

The primary purpose of the LPPRP is to identify future needs and priorities for parks, recreation and open space acquisition and development. These needs and priorities serve as a guide for land acquisition and capital investment in the County's Community Investment Program.



WHAT IS THE LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

The Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) guides planning, development and operation of parks and recreational programs. This helps Carroll County build a recreation and park system that serves and enhances our community's health and quality of life, now and into the future. The LPPRP is updated every 5 years and can influence decisions well beyond that period.

The update involves the collection and evaluation of data and information to better serve the public by identifying:

- Locations and recreational opportunities available at park and recreation facilities
- Rates of parks use and public participation in recreation
- Need for more parks and recreation facilities
- Proximity of parks and recreation facilities to where people live and to under-served areas
- Accomplishments of local jurisdictions to preserve agricultural and resource land

Previous plans and efforts that the LPPRP update will build on:

- Carroll County 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan
View the 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan at ccrecpark.org
- Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan 2019-2023
- Carroll County Master Plan and comprehensive plans for 9 designated growth areas and eight municipalities

INFORMATION REGARDING EXISTING CARROLL COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MAY BE FOUND AT CCRECPARK.ORG

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR

In the spring of 2021, the department conducted a needs assessment survey to learn more about the community’s recreation and parks preferences, interests, and priorities. The survey was shared with each the county’s recreation councils and the department’s program registration database as well as publicized to residents through social media and on the department web site. In addition, surveys were mailed to 650 households that were randomly selected from the county’s property tax database. Over 1,110 people responded to this survey including both the random and public components.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

RATE THE CONDITIONS OF COUNTY PARKS



PARK AMENITIES USED MOST OFTEN



Walking Trails

Athletic Fields

Playgrounds

Nature Centers

Picnic Pavilions

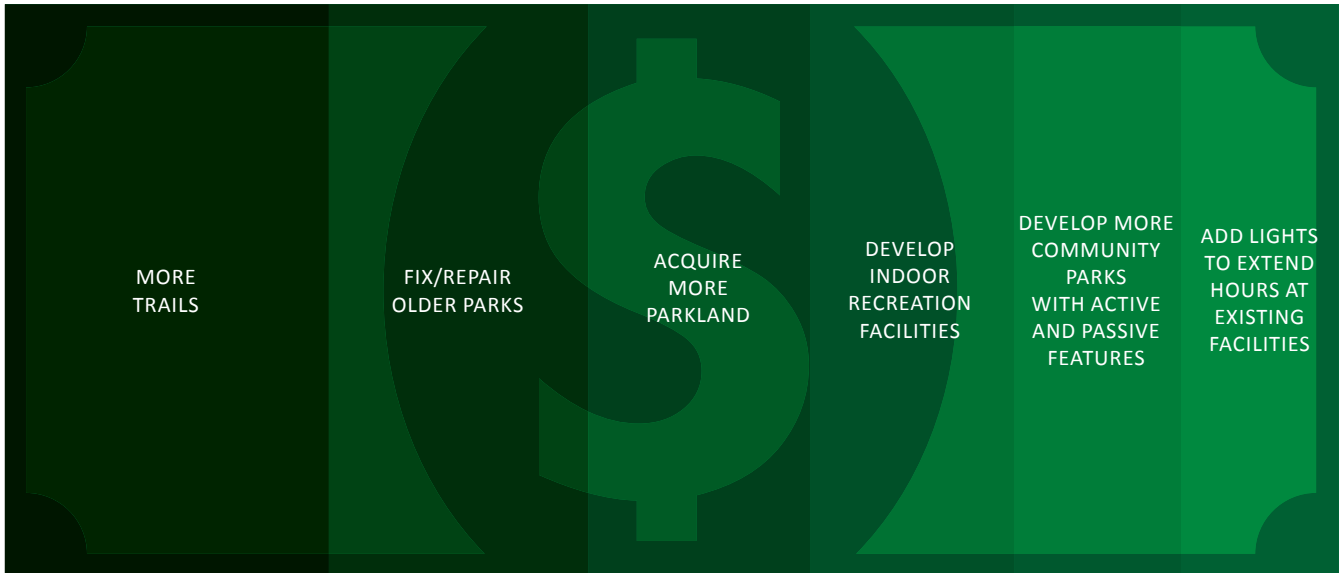
HOW WELL ARE NEEDS CURRENTLY MET BY EXISTING FACILITIES?



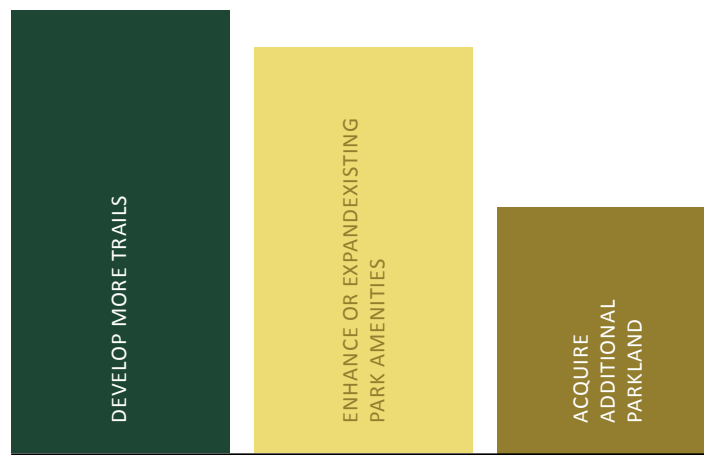
BARRIERS THAT DISCOURAGE USAGE OF PARKS

- None
- Don't know locations
- Not enough time
- Too far from home

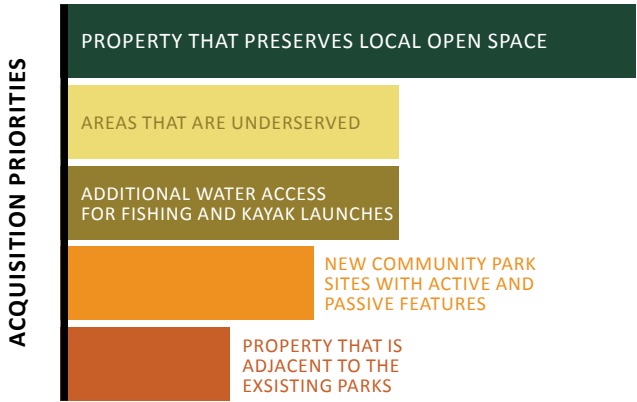
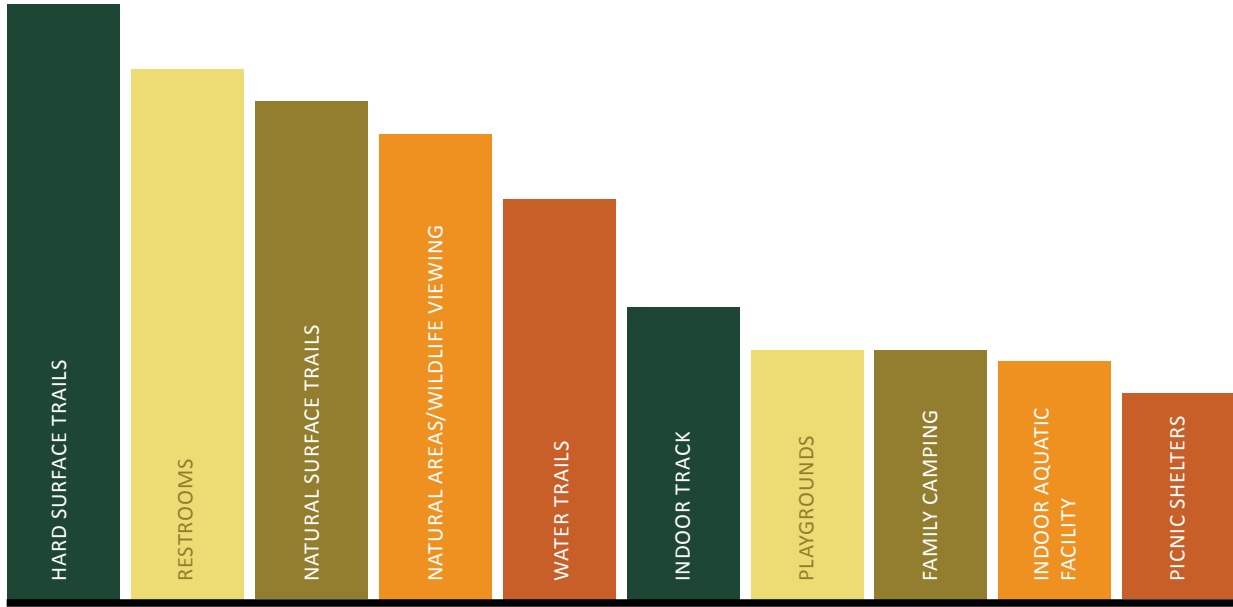
FOR EVERY \$100 IN THE RECREATION & PARKS CAPITAL BUDGET



WHAT SHOULD THE HIGHEST PRIORITY BE FOR RECREATION AND PARKS CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?



ADDITIONAL OR NEW FACILITIES NEEDED



MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS USED



Youth Programs

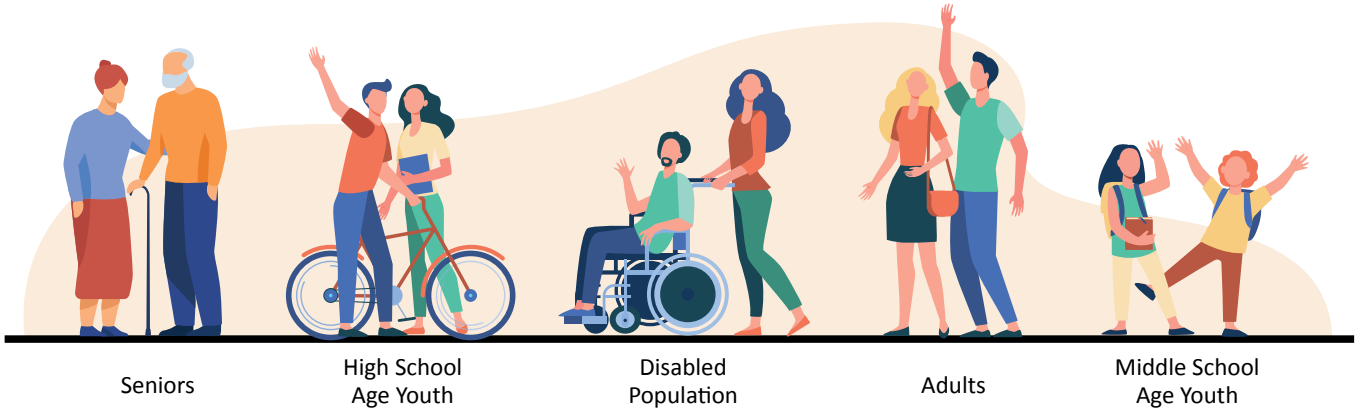
Adult Programs

Health & Fitness Programs

Summer Camps

Family Programs

GROUPS UNDER-SERVED BY PROGRAMS



NEW OR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS NEEDED



Adult Fitness/Wellness



Farmers Markets



Canoe/Kayaking



Festivals

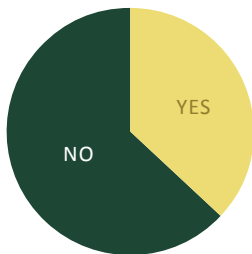


Family Activities

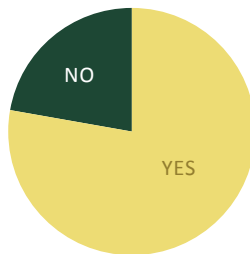
HOW DO YOU TRAVEL TO THE PARKS?



ARE THERE ENOUGH PARKS WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK?

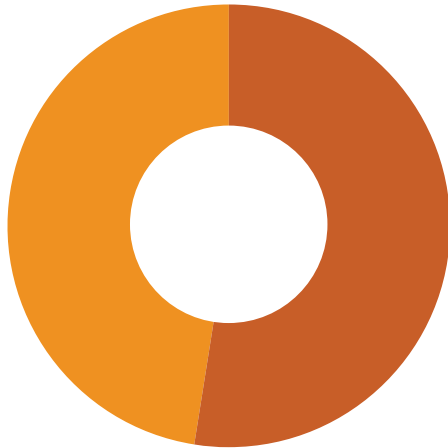


ARE THERE ENOUGH PARKS WITHIN A 15-MINUTE DRIVE?



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO THE PARK YOU USE MOST OFTEN?





WHAT ROLE DOES RECREATION AND PARKS PLAY IN YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?

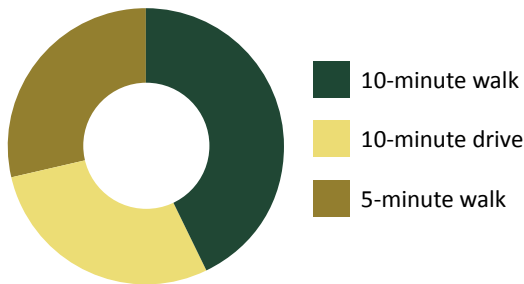
- Significant Role
- Some Role

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR (CONTINUED)

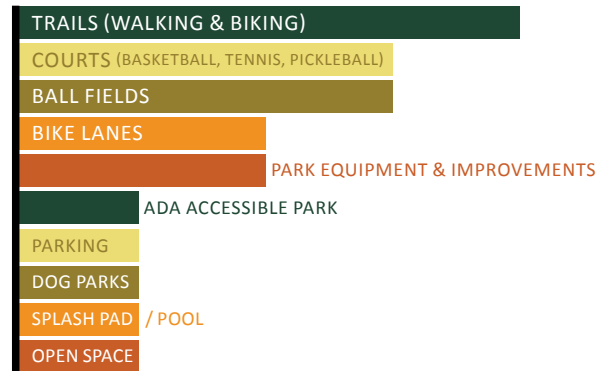
In the summer of 2021, the department conducted a survey of Carroll County’s eight (8) municipalities to gather additional input regarding a variety of recreation and parks related issues. Highlighted results from the municipalities survey below.

**THE AMOUNT OF PARK ACREAGE IN OUR MUNICIPALITY IS...
SUFFICIENT PLUS ROOM FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.**

MOST OF OUR RESIDENTS CAN ACCESS TOWN OR COUNTY PARKS BY



TOP AMENITIES REQUESTED BY RESIDENTS



WHAT'S NEXT

We encourage you to take advantage of this additional opportunity to provide input on recreation and parks related issues in Carroll County. To share any additional feedback on what park and recreation programs, facilities and opportunities are important to you, please email ccrec@carrollcountymd.gov.

Thank you for participating in our Community Listening Session for the LPPRP update. Public feedback will be used to help to shape the draft of the LPPRP and this site will be updated as the process moves forward.

QUICK LINKS




SCAN TO
VIEW/DOWNLOAD
2017 LPPRP



SCAN TO VISIT LPPRP
INFORMATION PAGE
ON CCRECPARK.ORG



 300 S Center Street, Westminster, MD

 410-386-2103  ccrecpark.org



[@ccrecpark](https://www.facebook.com/ccrecpark)

Carroll County Land Preserved by A Recorded Deed of Easement as of June 30, 2021

CARROLL COUNTY LAND PRESERVED BY A RECORDED DEED OF EASEMENT AS OF JUNE 30, 2021														
Fiscal Year	Maryland Ag. Land Preservation Foundation						Rural Legacy Program		Carroll County Easement Program		Land Trust Easements		Total All Programs	
	MALPF Conventional Funding		MALPF 100% County Funding		Total MALPF Program		Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres
Through 1996	180	23,670	4	472	184	24,142			1	52	8	604	193	24,798
1997	13	1,043	4	480	17	1,523			1	100	3	153	21	1,776
1998	12	1,718	6	738	18	2,456			0	0	1	24	19	2,480
1999	9	1,066	7	862	16	1,928			0	0	1	10	17	1,938
2000	11	1,172	5	459	16	1,631	7	524	4	355	1	18	28	2,528
2001	8	881	15	1,949	23	2,830	8	872	0	0	1	149	32	3,851
2002	8	743	11	994	19	1,737	5	593	2	138	3	147	29	2,615
2003	6	492	5	492	11	984	1	150	8	772	2	251	22	2,157
2004	0	0	9	923	9	923	0	0	13	1,462	2	342	24	2,727
2005	4	301	3	273	7	574	0	0	15	1,639	3	120	25	2,333
2006	7	553	4	348	11	901	2	156	17	1,641	1	121	31	2,819
2007	5	690	2	204	7	894	1	44	6	701	1	16	15	1,655
2008	10	710	3	366	13	1,076	6	491	6	922	3	110	28	2,599
2009	5	472	0	0	5	472	1	107	5	727	1	10	12	1,316
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	196	13	1,498	3	77	19	1,771
2011	4	533	0	0	4	533	4	487	33	3,554	2	24	43	4,598
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	0	0	3	177	4	271
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	1	97	1	6	3	134
2014	4	656	0	0	4	656	4	204	24	2,487	2	48	34	3,395
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	108	6	719	3	54	11	881
2016	2	155	0	0	2	155	4	172	18	1,945	1	11	25	2,283
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1,382	1	44,856	11	1,427
2018	4	519	0	0	4	519	3	229	5	523	1	45	13	1,316
2019	1	123	0	0	1	123	3	262	12	1,176	0	0	16	1,561
2020	6	406	0	0	6	406	2	205	3	371	0	0	11	982
2021	7	683	0	0	7	683	4	256	11	1,445	0	0	22	2,384
Totals	306	36,586	78	8,560	384	45,146	62	5181	214	23,706	48	2562*	708	76,595

*Total includes acres preserved by MET, MHT, TNC, and TDR

Prior to 2008, easements in the Rural Legacy Areas that were acquired with 100% County Matching funds were listed as Rural Legacy easements. Those easements have been re-designated to the Carroll County Easement Program. The Rural Legacy designation now includes only those easements acquired with State Grant Funds, and the three that were acquired with a combination of State and County funding.

Easement acquisition in 2009 was below average because funds that could have been used for 2009 MALPF applicants were held for 2010 offers in the Carroll County Installment Purchase Program to be made to those same applicants. The statistics for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program (MALPF) are based on signed contracts for the fiscal year programs regardless of whether or not settlements occurred during that fiscal year. Beginning with 2009, statistics for the other programs are based on settlements during the fiscal year.