

Welcome!



The Recreation and Parks Department is developing a Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) for the future of recreation, parks and open space and we want to find out how to make our park system the best in the country. Here is how you can help shape the future of the County:

- 1 If you are early, mingle. The presentation starts at 7:30pm so grab a snack and check out the boards.
- 2 Learn about the planning process and our recommendations for the future of Recreation and Parks. Feel free to ask questions!
- 3 Head over to the boards to learn more about the plan, the process, and provide your ideas for the 2017 LPPRP.
- 4 Tell us what you think about the County goals and recommendations for the future of programs and open spaces!

What we heard

You provided us with important feedback online and during the 3 public engagement events. Here are some of the highlights:

1

GreenFest

Over 220 participants completed the survey prepared for GreenFest. Here is a summary of what we heard from you.

40% use the facilities and/or parks **weekly**

The activity and/or resource that most people use are the **parks and open spaces**

The park that most people use is **Centennial Park**

Most people visit the parks and recreation centers **with their families**

The Newsletter, Activity Guide, and Website are the major ways people find out about recreation programs offered at the parks

Most people think that the facilities are clean and **well maintained all the time**



2

Online

The County received 195 online comments describing what you want to see for the future of the County.

126 respondents want to see a **50 meter indoor pool** to serve the need of many generations



Other respondents wrote:

"Biking is such great exercise, a wonderful activity to do individually or shared and it is amazingly helpful for our environment and energy consumption, but it is currently often very dangerous."

"Bocce provides a great opportunity for participation by many people."

"Elkridge has only a little left so please keep **preservation** of wildlife and green trees as possible."



 www.HowardCountyMD.gov/LPPRP

 HoCoRec  HoCoRec  HoCoRec

What we heard

3 North Laurel & Roger Carter Community Centers

We received nearly 250 comments from attendees. We gathered your feedback from group discussions, one-on-one conversations, and through the activities. Here is a summary of what we heard:

PLAY

The purpose of the Play activity was to understand what park typology, facilities, programs, and features would make up the ideal park for the community. The Play activity was organized into two stations: Play and Recreation Typology, and My Dream Park Ideas.

PRESERVE

The purpose of the Preserve activity was to identify the type of land uses and programs for preserving open space. It also identified areas of opportunity for agricultural land expansion and specific program uses.

GROW

The purpose of the Grow activity was to determine what sustainable growth means for the Howard County community.

MAJOR THEMES

- Additional recreation programs and facilities for adults and seniors
- Walking and hiking trails
- Preservation of historic sites
- Protection of water and land from new development
- Additional specialized recreation facilities, such as pickleball courts, swimming pools, ice rinks, bocce courts, and basketball courts



www.HowardCountyMD.gov/LPPRP



HoCoRec



HoCoRec



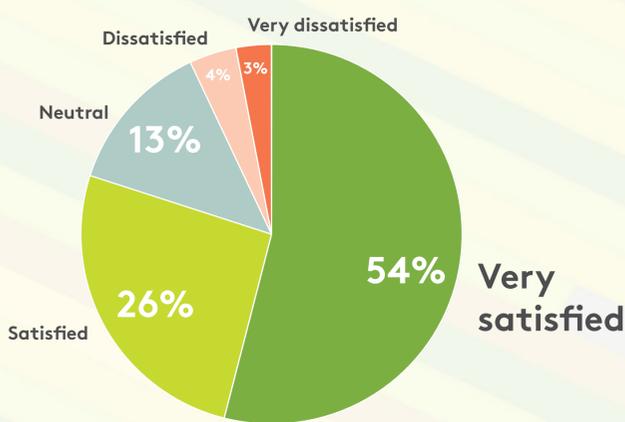
HoCoRec

What we heard

In May, the County administered a phone survey to 800 households across the County. The statistically valid survey captured responses from 3% of the county population with a 95% confidence level. Some of the survey questions and results are below:

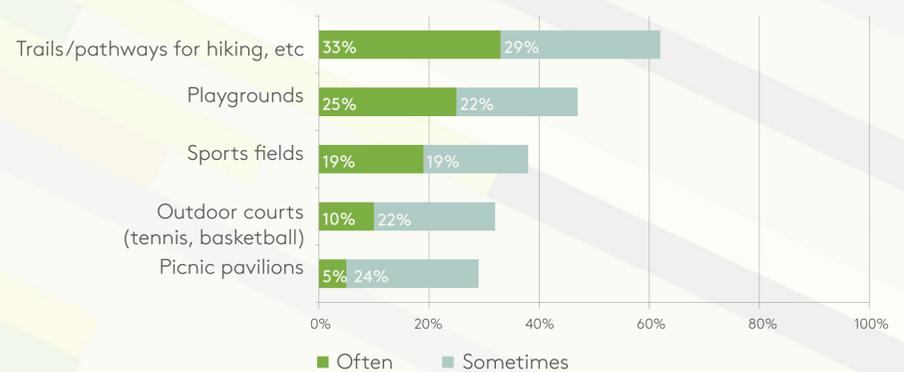
OVERALL SATISFACTION

Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreation facilities, parks, and programs provided by Howard County Recreation and Parks?



MOST POPULAR OFFERINGS

In the past year, have you used these County Recreation and Parks offerings often, sometimes, seldom, or never?



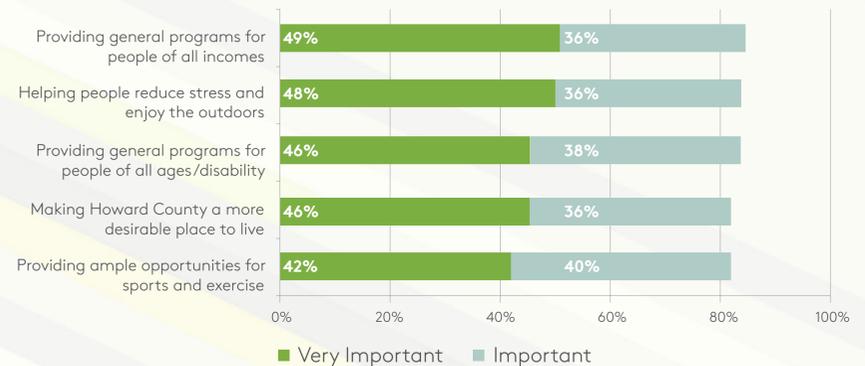
FREQUENCY OF USAGE

How often do you or others in your household use a Howard County recreation facility or park?



PUBLIC PRIORITIES

People appreciate different things about having a good system of recreation facilities and parks. How important are each of these things to you personally?

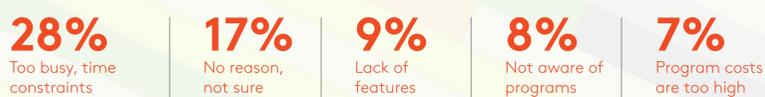


TOP 5 REASONS FOR NON-USE

Parks and Trails - What are one or two main reasons you did not make more use of Howard County parks and trails during the past 12 months?



Recreation Programming - What are one or two main reasons you did not make more use of Howard County recreation programming during the past 12 months?



DEDICATING COUNTY RESOURCES

Overall, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose dedicating more County resources to improving the park, recreation, and open space system in Howard County?

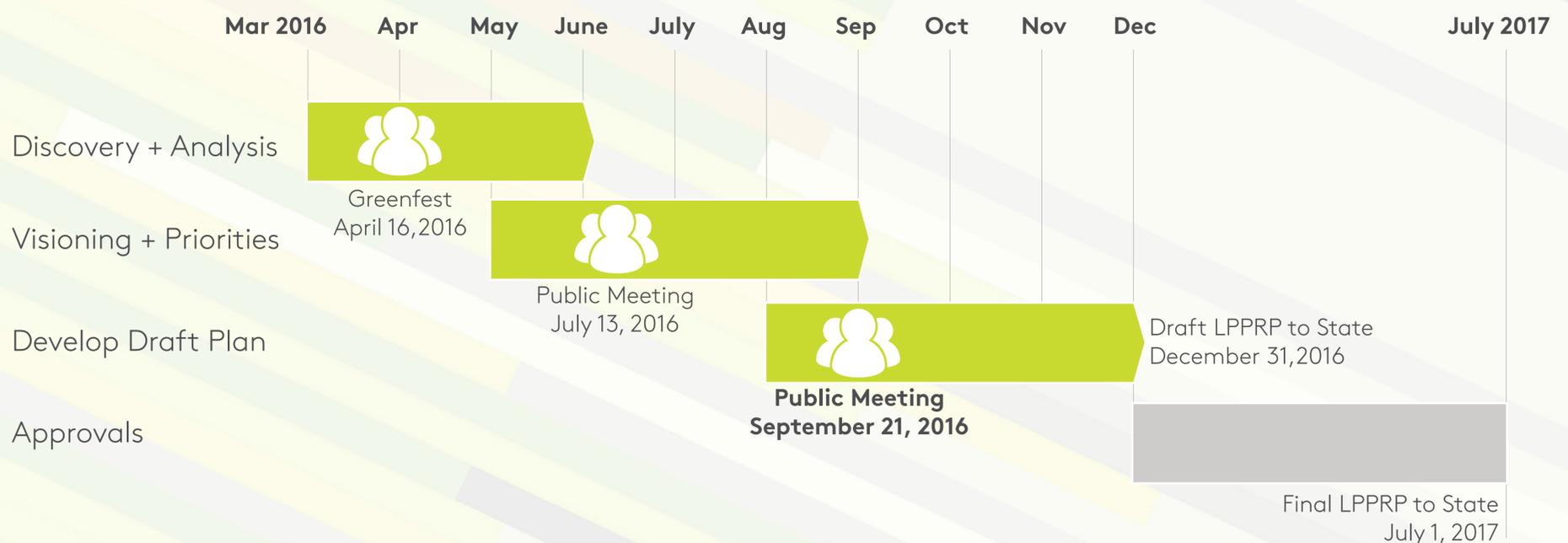
85% of residents strongly or somewhat support dedicating more County resources

www.HowardCountyMD.gov/LPPRP

HoCoRec HoCoRec HoCoRec

Other Ways TO GET INVOLVED

The meeting tonight is just one way to get involved in the planning process. You can also tell us what you think about the future of Howard County's Recreation and Park system online, just visit www.HowardCountyMD.gov/lpprp and fill out the online feedback form.

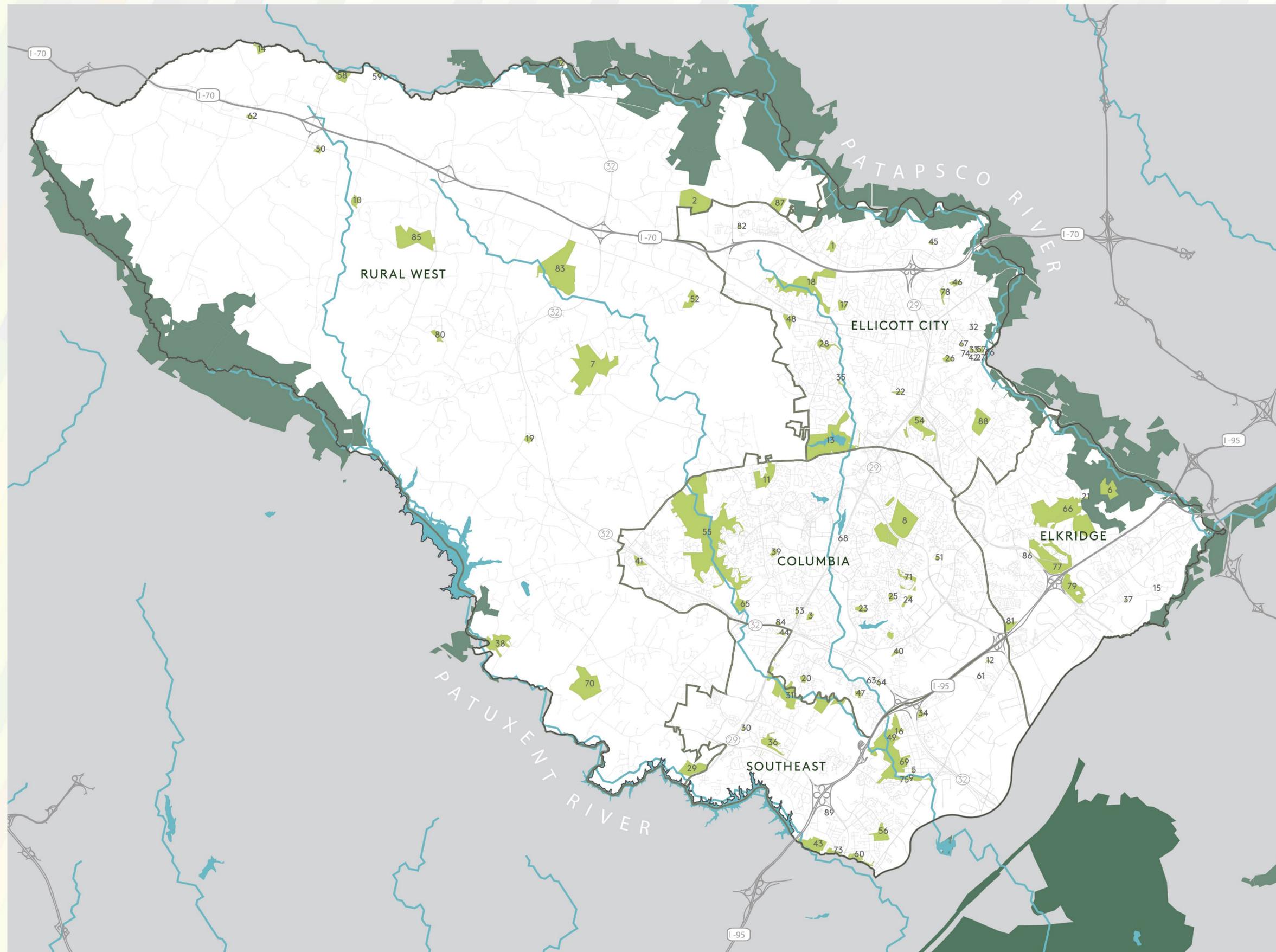


**We want to hear from you.
Stay Connected!**

 www.HowardCountyMD.gov/LPPRP

 HoCoRec  HoCoRec  HoCoRec

Howard County RECREATION + PARKS SYSTEM



- 1 Allenford/North Farm Park
- 2 Alpha Ridge Park
- 3 Atholton Park
- 4 B & O Railroad Museum
- 5 Baldwin Commons Park
- 6 Belmont Manor and Historic Park
- 7 Benson Branch Park
- 8 Blandair Regional Park
- 9 Bollman Truss Bridge
- 10 Carrs Mill NRA
- 11 Cedar Lane Park
- 12 Cedar Villa Heights Park
- 13 Centennial Park
- 14 Chaconas Property
- 15 Col. Anderson Memorial
- 16 Collins Property
- 17 Cypressmeade Park
- 18 David Force Community Park
- 19 Dayton Park
- 20 Dickinson Park
- 21 Drell Property
- 22 Dunloggin Park
- 23 East Columbia Library Park
- 24 Elkhorn Garden Plots
- 25 Elkhorn Park
- 26 Ellicott City Colored School House, Restored
- 27 Firehouse Museum
- 28 Font Hill Park
- 29 Fulton South Area Park
- 30 Ganon-Bahl Property
- 31 Gorman Stream Valley Park NRA
- 32 Governors Run Playground
- 33 Granite Mansion (Heine Property)
- 34 Guilford Park
- 35 Gwynn Acres NRA
- 36 Hammond Park
- 37 Harwood Park
- 38 Haviland Mill Park
- 39 Hawthorn Park
- 40 Headquarters
- 41 Heritage Heights Park/Clarks Glen Playground
- 42 Heritage Orientation Center (Little Court House)
- 43 High Ridge Park
- 44 Holiday Hills Park
- 45 Hollifield Station Park
- 46 Howard County Center for the Arts/Rockland Arts Center
- 47 Huntington Park
- 48 Kiwanis Wallas Hall and Park
- 49 Lash Property
- 50 Lisbon Park
- 51 Long Reach Garden Plots
- 52 Manor Woods Park
- 53 Martin Road Park
- 54 Meadowbrook Park
- 55 Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
- 56 North Laurel Park and Community Center
- 57 Patapsco Female Institute Historic Institute
- 58 Patapsco Greenway (Houchens)
- 59 Patapsco Greenway (Lewis)
- 60 Patuxent Basin NRA
- 61 Pleasant Chase Playground
- 62 Poplar Springs Park
- 63 Pratt Truss Bridge Historic Site
- 64 Pratt Truss Bridge/Murray Hill Stream Valley
- 65 Robinson Nature Center
- 66 Rockburn Branch Park
- 67 Roger Carter Community Center
- 68 Rt. 29 Pedestrian Bridge
- 69 Savage Park
- 70 Schooley Mill Park
- 71 Sewells Orchard Park
- 72 South Branch Park
- 73 Teeter Property
- 74 Thomas Isaac Log Cabin
- 75 Thompson Property
- 76 Tiber Park
- 77 Timbers At Troy Golf Course
- 78 Town and Country PARK
- 79 Troy Park (Troy Park at Elkrigde)
- 80 Warfields Pond Park
- 81 Waterloo Park
- 82 Waverly Mansion
- 83 West Friendship Park
- 84 West Side Garden Plots
- 85 Western Regional Park
- 86 Willowood Playground
- 87 Woodstock Park
- 88 Worthington Dog Park
- 89 Wyndermere Playground

Grow

How can our Recreation and Parks system respond to growth and change?

We learned...

1 How Howard County's identity has evolved over time



2 Demographic and development trends that influence the plan

THE POPULATION IS GROWING...

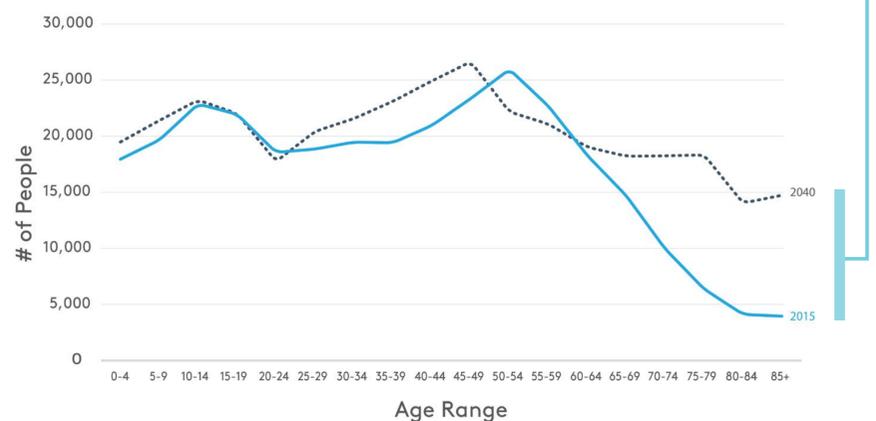
According to the Maryland Department of Planning and Zoning, the County will continue to grow, but at a slower rate than the past two decades.

...AND BECOMING MORE DIVERSE...

Growth overall in the next few decades, with a steady increase in the non-white population.

...but as the number of households slows in growth, the population will become older, and THE COUNTY WILL NEED TO SUPPORT AN AGING POPULATION.

LARGEST GROWTH WILL OCCUR AMONG 65+ AGE GROUP



Source: Howard 2030 Plan; ACS 2012-2014

3 The role of the parks plan in responding to the changes

BALANCING GROWTH, RECREATION NEEDS, + PRESERVATION



Source: MD DPZ

HEALTH IMPACTS

Parks can make a big impact in improving health

\$3 direct savings in medical costs for every dollar spent on trails

5x more likely for children to be a healthy weight who live within 2/3 of a mile from a park

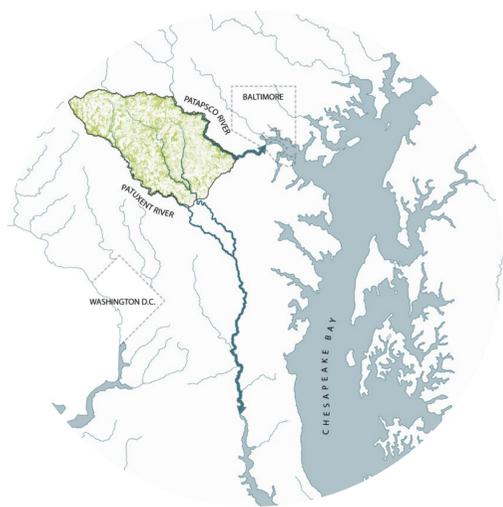
Source: MD Food System Map - John Hopkins University

Preserve

How can we plan to preserve valuable resources for future generations?

We learned...

1 How Howard County relates to the greater Chesapeake Bay Region



HOWARD COUNTY OVERVIEW

- 100% drains into the Chesapeake Bay
- 11% is covered in impervious surfaces
- 30% tree canopy coverage

Water quality is a top priority for Howard County due to its proximity to Chesapeake Bay. Stormwater management and reforestation strategies are crucial to protect the bay and provide ecosystem services.

2 What the County and other systems are doing today to address key issues



INVASIVE SPECIES

A Chesapeake Bay Trust grant project brought 55 EcoGoats to eat invasive autumn olive in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area



DEER MANAGEMENT

Actively manages deer and tick populations through managed hunting, sharpshooting and Four-Poster tick control devices.



EMERALD ASH BORER

Mapping and management of affected Ash trees, and proactive reforestation

3 The significance of historic places as educational and cultural resources



GENERAL EDUCATION

Ellicott City Colored School House, Restored



TOURISM

B & O Railroad Museum



PUBLIC/PRIVATE EVENT SPACE

Belmont Manor & Historic Park

Play

How can we meet today's needs and plan for future innovation?

We learned...

1 About the County's existing recreation amenities and park system

9,350
acres
= Park System

5,625
acres
= Programmable Park Space



CENTENNIAL PARK

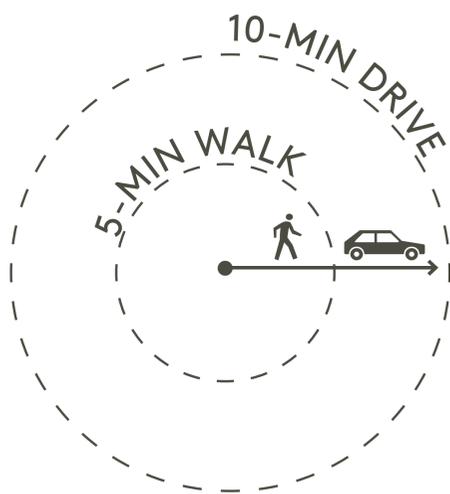


GORMAN STREAM VALLEY PARK



ROGER CARTER COMMUNITY CENTER

2 The key issues and challenges related to accessibility



10-MIN DRIVE

96% of the population lives within a 10-min drive of a park

Driving access to parks does not differ greatly across different population groups

5-MIN WALK

6% of the population lives within a 5-min walk of a park

Walking access to parks also does not differ greatly across different population groups

3 How the County's recreational and park offerings compare to other similar communities*

+ THE COUNTY HAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE MEDIAN PARK ACREAGE

+ THE COUNTY HAS MORE THAN THE MEDIAN OF...

Athletic Courts
Rectangular Fields
Skate Parks
Community Gardens

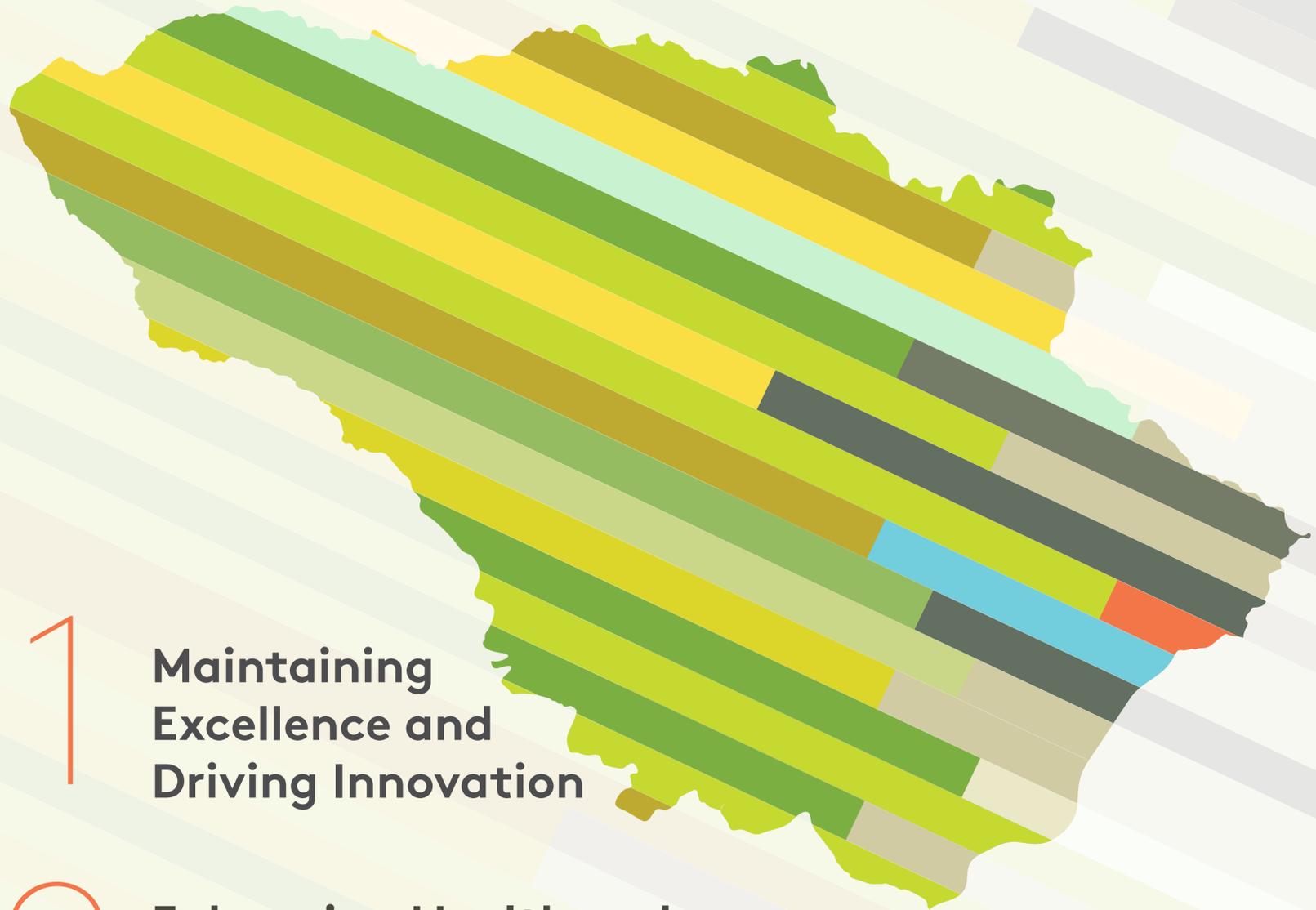
- THE COUNTY HAS A DEFICIT IN...

Recreation Centers
Playgrounds
Swimming Pools
Splash Pads
Dog Parks

*NOTE: This comparison only includes Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks' amenities. Similar provider amenities within the county are addressed separately.

One HOWARD

The vision for this plan of a connected and sustainable recreation and parks system is defined by the following three themes:



1 **Maintaining
Excellence and
Driving Innovation**

2 **Enhancing Health and
Resilience of Human
and Natural Systems**

3 **Serving as Land
Stewards**

Look out for the following recommendations across the three themes!



Recreation

Equal opportunities for play and active uses that support the changing needs of the community



Connectivity

Multimodal connections within and between recreation and park spaces



Ecology

Promoting sustainability and the conservation of natural systems



Placemaking

Programming that supports the diversity of the community and cultural and historic significance of the place



Education

Health, wellness, heritage, and environmental awareness for all ages and abilities



Visibility and Communication

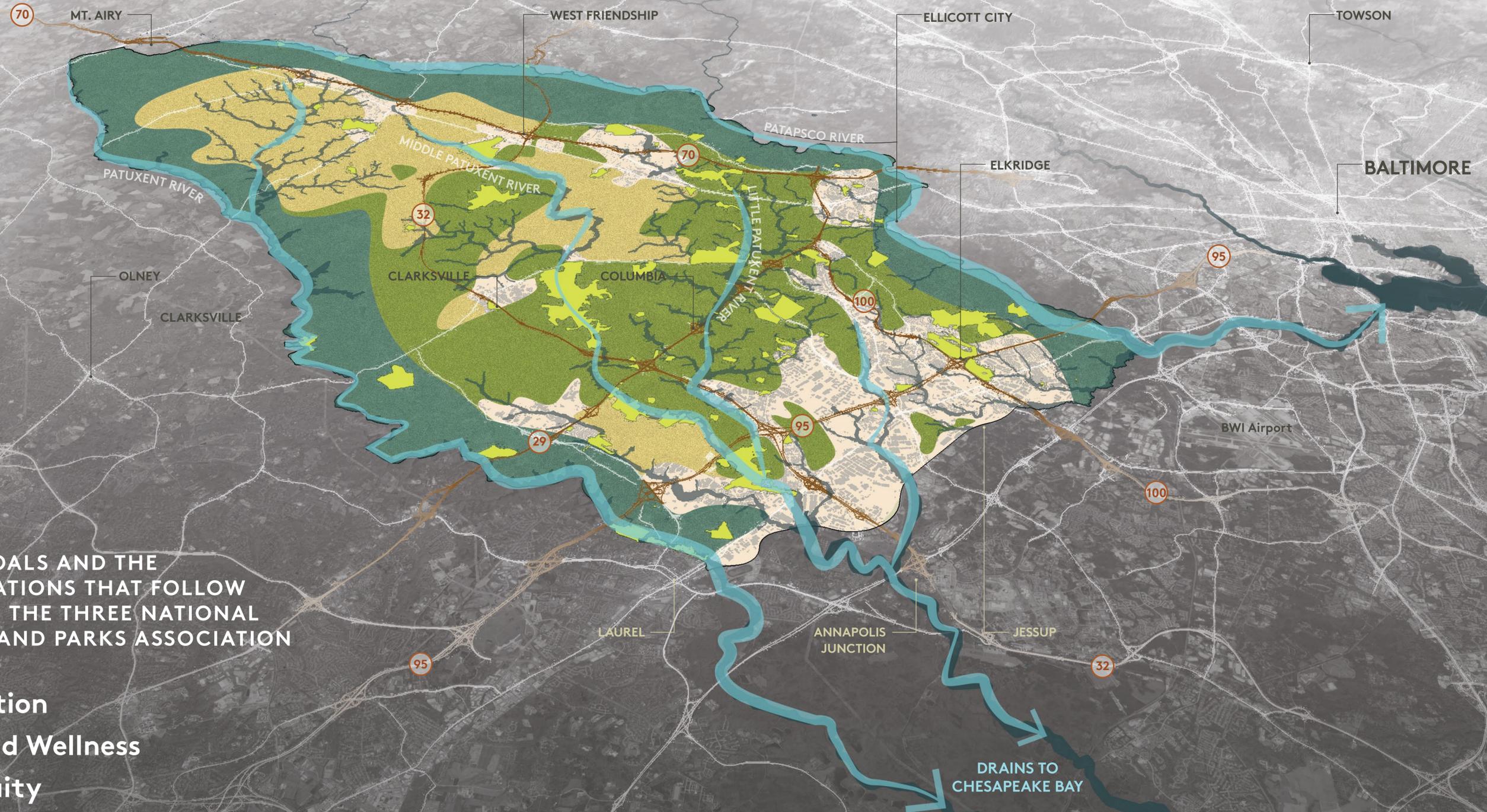
Recreation and Parks presence within the community and coordination with partners

One HOWARD

Enhance Connections
Between Agricultural and
Historic Heritage, Natural
Systems and the Howard
County Community

Enhance Placemaking and
Strive for Equity in Existing
and Future Recreation and
Parks Amenities

Promote Resilience and
Environmental Health Along
Ecological and Riparian
Corridors



THE LPPRP GOALS AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS THAT FOLLOW
ARE BUILT ON THE THREE NATIONAL
RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION
PILLARS:

- Conservation
- Health and Wellness
- Social Equity

One HOWARD

THEMES

Maintaining Excellence
and Setting Trends

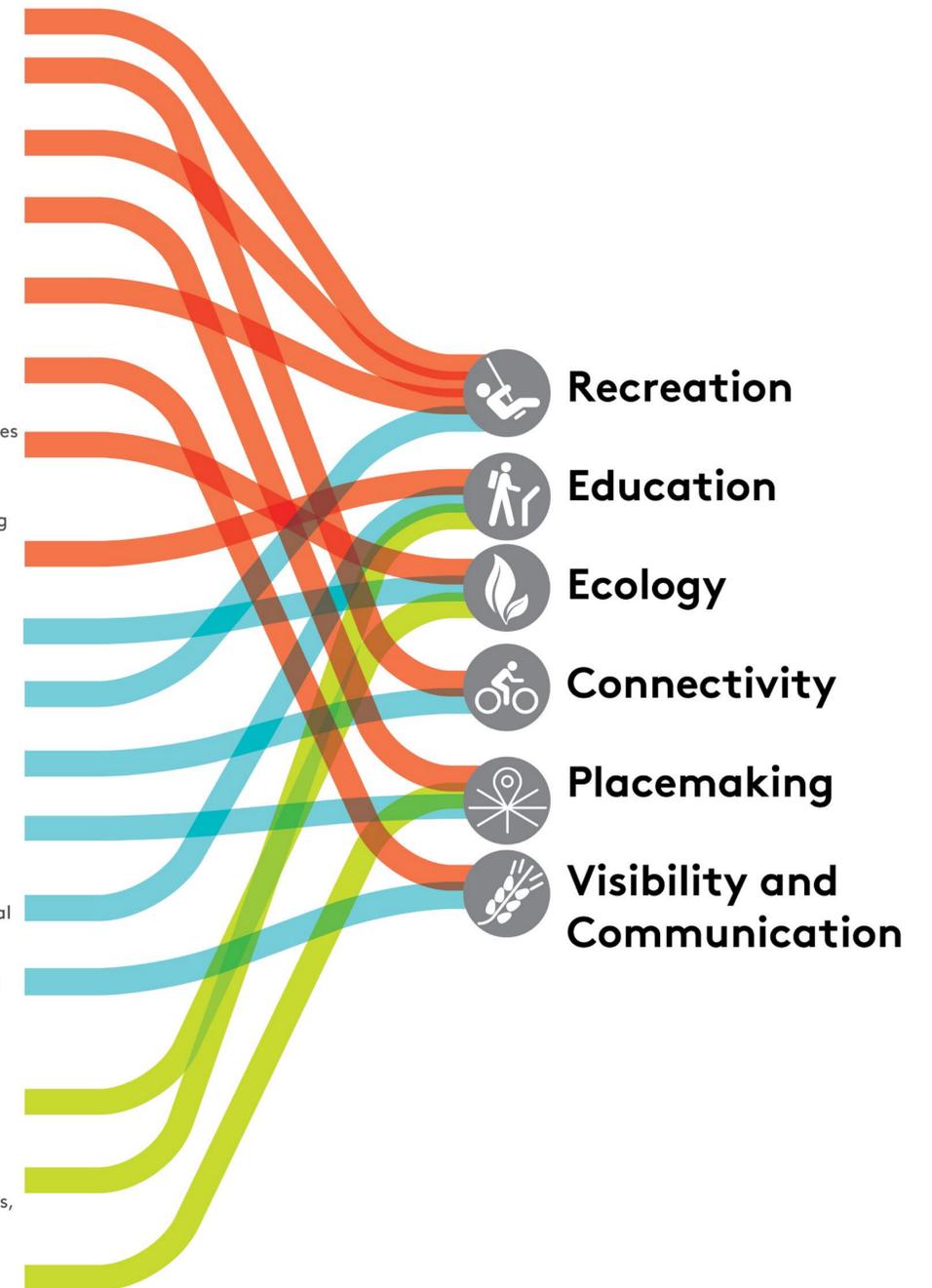
Enhancing Health and
Resilience of Human
and Natural Systems

Serving as Land Stewards

COUNTY GOALS

- Promote programs and spaces that are accessible to all people.
 - Improve connectivity of people to recreation and park resources through all modes of travel, including walking, biking and transit.
 - Stay at the forefront of trends in recreation and park facilities, recreation programs and park design.
 - Instill flexibility to adapt to shifts in community needs and meet future growth.
 - Factor in diversity by providing a range of recreation programs, inclusive park and facility design and cultural awareness.
 - Build partnerships within County government and across the County to efficiently share resources and provide the best customer service.
 - Use best practices to continue to provide sustainable parks, open spaces and recreation facilities that are safe and secure for users of all ages and backgrounds.
 - Integrate a multi-faceted approach to health and wellness, supporting the mental, physical, social and emotional well-being of the diverse Howard County community.
- Protect and restore biodiversity through habitat improvements and restoration efforts
 - Make open space a priority equal to its impact on the future quality of life of Howard County residents.
 - Connect protected natural areas in a comprehensive green infrastructure network.
 - Reflect Howard County's natural heritage while making open space a priority equal to its impact on the quality of life for decades to come.
 - Encourage individual efforts to enhance biodiversity and environmental stewardship beyond park boundaries.
 - Share and promote the departments numerous accomplishments and build sustainability goals into operational and departmental culture and functions.
- Integrate the preservation of the County's agricultural land and activities with natural resource protection.
 - Connect the County's agricultural heritage to its recreational goals, through the incorporation of community gardens, healthy eating resources, and educational programs.
 - Incorporate farming across all scales – from large land preservation to support for efficient use of small farms to community gardens.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Maintaining Excellence and Driving Innovation

VISION FOR TOMORROW

- Western Regional Park**
Potential Opportunity Site
See next board to find out more!
-  Nearby Civic and Community Institutions
 -  Multigenerational Play
 -  Walkable/Bikeable Connections
 -  Enhanced Wayfinding
 -  Nature Play
 -  Child Care and Adult Education

PLACEMAKING
Stay at the forefront of trends in recreation and park facilities, recreation programs and park design.
Blandair Park

EDUCATION
Integrate a multi-faceted approach to health and wellness, supporting the mental, physical, social and emotional well-being of the diverse community.
Rockburn Branch Park

ECOLOGY
Provide sustainable parks, open spaces and recreation facilities that are safe and secure for users of all ages and backgrounds.
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION
Build partnerships within County government and across the County to efficiently share resources.

CONNECTIVITY
Improve connectivity to recreation and park resources through all modes of travel.

RECREATION
Factor in diversity by providing a range of recreation programs, inclusive park and facility design and cultural awareness.
Troy Park

OPPORTUNITY: NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

OPPORTUNITY: NEW COMMUNITY CENTER



Existing Signature Parks and Facilities

- 1 - Blandair Park
- 2 - Centennial Park
- 3 - Troy Park at Elkridge
- 4 - Belmont Manor + Historic Park
- 5 - Rockburn Branch Park

Notable Accomplishments

Recreation + Park Amenities

9,159 acres of land stewardship
7,000 recreation programs

Community Centers

3 state-of-the-art community centers

Historic Stewardship

25 unique historic sites with diverse programming uses

Organizational Structure

1 of only 141 CAPRA-accredited parks and recreation systems in the nation

Strong alignment of programs and organization structure



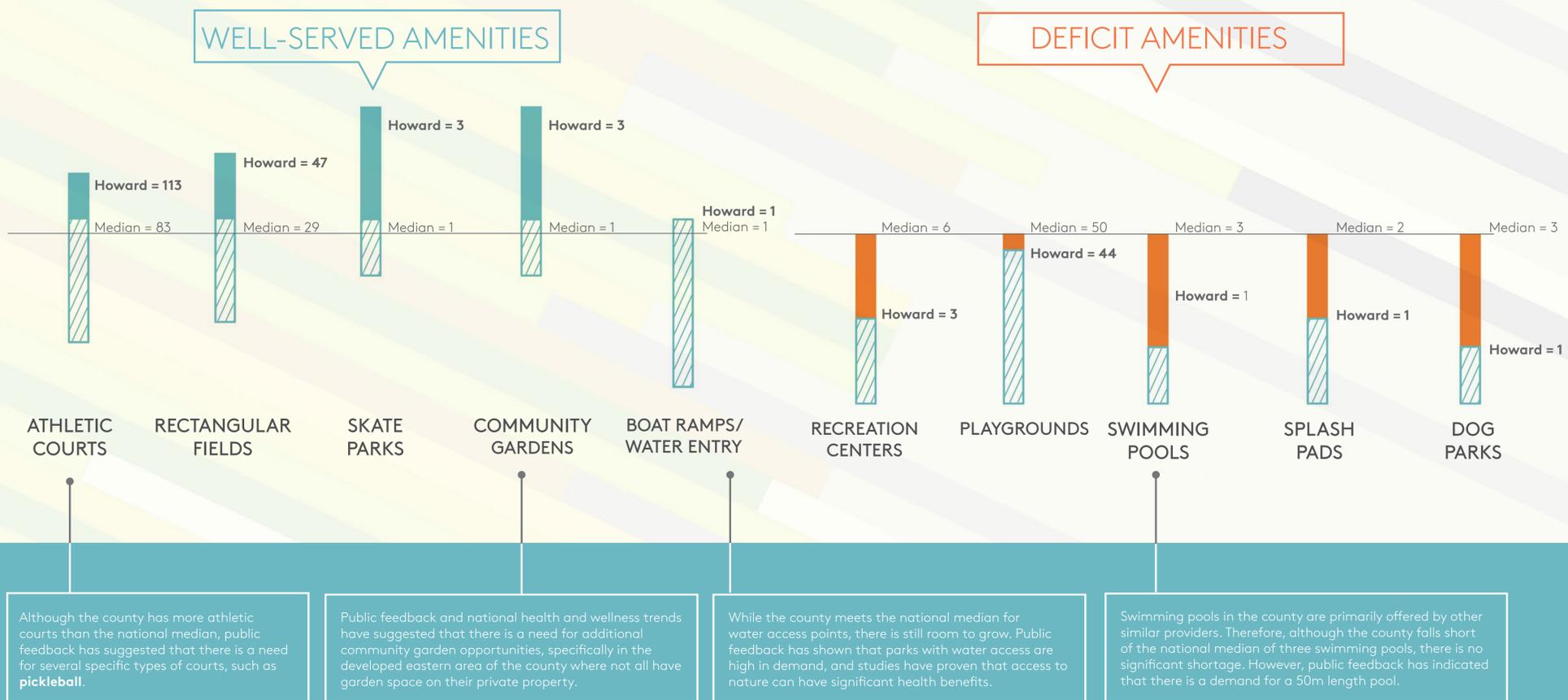
Maintaining Excellence and Driving Innovation

Recreation Amenities and Trends

Today, people are looking for non-conventional health and fitness experiences. More Americans are seeking activities that provide a fun physical, emotional, and mental experience. Compared nationally, Howard County residents exhibit high participation in recreation and sports.

PEER COMPARISON

Howard County's recreation amenities were compared against peer systems of 250,000 residents or more. These national standards were synthesized from the NRPA Proragis database.



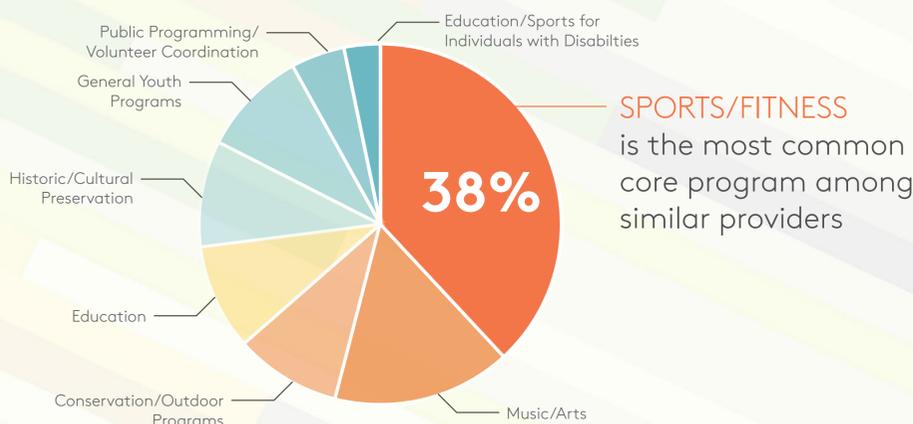
A CLOSER LOOK

LOOKING AHEAD

Howard County residents have access to several other local providers. These individual agencies/organizations serve as key partners for Howard County Recreation and Parks (HCRP) and their development should help guide future priorities and investments.

SIMILAR PROVIDER CORE PROGRAMS

Results described below are from an online survey that was distributed to similar providers in the county. The survey captured 48 responses and represented 42 individual agencies/organizations.



71% of all responding agencies have an existing partnership with HCRP

100+ similar providers within Howard County. Some of the larger organizations include Columbia Association and the YMCA.

63% of all responding agencies are unable to satisfy their customer demand. Program growth should be developed in close coordination with these similar providers

Maintaining Excellence and Driving Innovation

What are the latest trends in recreation programming?

The chart below identifies current national recreation trends within each of Howard County's top ten program areas and what they could mean for the future of recreation programming in the County.

NATIONAL TRENDS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Volunteerism/Service Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 25% of the U.S. population volunteered (2014) Women 35-44 year age group are most likely to volunteer Volunteer rates are lowest among 20-24 year olds Episodic volunteering, corporate volunteering and family volunteer events are growing in popularity | <p>6 Outdoor Recreation/Adventure/Nature/Environmental Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddling continues to grow in popularity Number of campers has remained relatively flat over the past several years Glamping, urban camping, and tree houses are new camping trends Climbing has passed its peak and is flattening out |
| <p>2 Special Events/Social Recreation</p> <p>Events geared toward ethnically diverse audiences such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ethnic holiday/food events dances/movies from various cultures art fairs representing global art | <p>7 Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology in theater, like 3D projections, computer animation, etc. is growing in popularity |
| <p>3 Music and Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do-it-yourself apps that teach users how to play musical instruments and allow for flexible schedules Blurring of traditional lines between single dance styles to create fusion styles | <p>8 Self-Improvement/Hobbies/Leisure Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress management and healthy lifestyle classes are growing in popularity with the Gen X and Gen Y generations |
| <p>4 Sports, Fitness and Games, Health and Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in demand for inclusion services Increase in healthy food and obesity awareness | <p>9 Cognitive, Literary and Computer gaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM-related curricula being added to summer and afterschool programming Community centers reimaged as makerspaces and tech labs to encourage the sharing of ideas and digital resources |
| <p>5 Visual Arts/Arts and Crafts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of adults who personally perform or create artwork has remained stable Social dancing and textile arts have declined Attendance at performance events was stable in 2013-2015 Modest increase in the number of adult visits to buildings, neighborhoods, parks, or monuments for historic or design value | <p>10 Trips and Tours, Local Tourism, and Sport and Eco Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities and counties are strategically positioning themselves for sports tourism opportunities around outdoor recreation, golf, and sports fields/courts |

APPLYING TRENDS TO HOWARD COUNTY



SPECIAL EVENTS/
SOCIAL RECREATION

Increase events based on cultures and ethnicities through:

- meetup.com
- collaborations with community-based groups with existing successful events



MUSIC + DANCE

- Marketing in-person, personalized instruction and integrating a more flexible learning schedule to traditional music learning program



SPORTS, FITNESS +
GAMES, HEALTH +
WELLNESS

- Continue to grow lacrosse program
- Grow active adult athletic teams
- Prioritize fitness and wellness activities for older adults
- Improve connections for walking and biking



SPACE + ORGANIZATION

- Growing demands on indoor facilities
- Develop a trends team to evaluate trends and fads and align programs and organizational structure

Maintaining Excellence and Driving Innovation

What does maintaining excellence and setting trends mean for individual recreation programs, facilities, parks and operations? Below is an example opportunity site that applies the county goals and recommendations.



Recreation
Multigenerational Play
Trends
Balancing Supply and Demand



Connectivity
Wayfinding
Trails
Access



Ecology
Linkages
Sustainability
Forest Protection



Placemaking
Programming
Equity



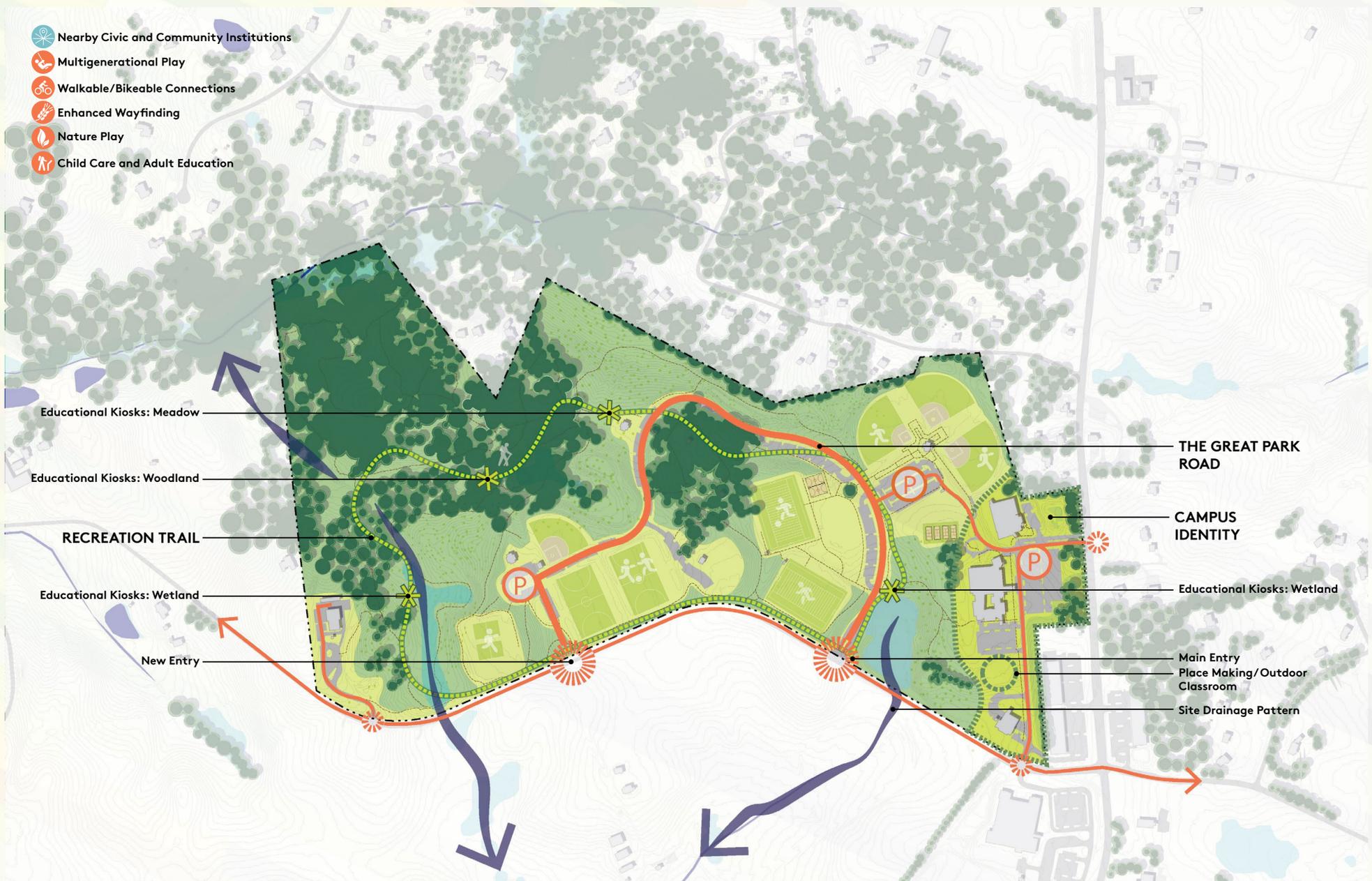
Education
Health and Wellness Awareness
Adult Education
Programming + Partnerships



Visibility and Communication
Branding and Identity
Community Outreach
Partnerships

Potential Western Regional Park Condition

Graphic for illustrative use only.



Enhancing Health and Resilience of Human and Natural Systems

VISION FOR TOMORROW

PLACEMAKING

Reflect Howard County's natural heritage while making open space a priority equal to its impact on the quality of life for decades to come



CONNECTIVITY

Connect protected natural areas in a comprehensive green infrastructure network.



EDUCATION

Encourage individual efforts to enhance biodiversity and environmental stewardship beyond park boundaries.

ECOLOGY

Protect and restore biodiversity through habitat improvements and restoration efforts

VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Share and promote the department's numerous accomplishments.

Build sustainability goals into operational and departmental culture and functions.

High Ridge Park

Potential Opportunity Site
See next board to find out more!

- Connections to Other Systems
- Enhanced Wayfinding
- Shoreline Restoration
- Watershed and Species Education
- Trail Maintenance
- Gateway Park along I-95

ECOLOGY

Continue to improve water quality through countywide stream restoration and reforestation efforts, benefiting local waters and the greater Chesapeake Bay Estuary.

TODAY



Existing Signature Parks and Facilities

- 1 - Robinson Nature Center
environmental education and outreach
- 2 - Middle Patuxent Natural Resource Area
preservation and habitat restoration
- 3 - David Force Stream Valley Park
Emerald Ash Borer management and stream restoration

Notable Accomplishments

Conservation + Reforestation

371 acres planted since 1996	2,596 trees planted since 2011-2015 Tree Canopy Program	17,657 trees + 4.5 miles planted Private Forest Conservation Establishment streams buffered
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Emerald Ash Borer Management

192 acres identified | **+12** acres replanted
(David Force Park)

Community Engagement

7500 volunteer hours surveying



Enhancing Health and Resilience of Human and Natural Systems

What does maintaining the health and resilience of human and natural systems look like in Howard County? Here are a few examples of what is currently being done and how these interventions are contributing.



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

A significant number of programs and initiatives work to benefit the water quality of Howard County rivers, lakes, and streams draining to Chesapeake Bay, mitigating impacts of development and offering opportunities for local residents to make a difference.



FOREST CONSERVATION/REFORESTATION

Land acquisition and reforestation initiatives countywide help to mitigate stormwater runoff and improve water quality



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Parks like Font Hill, integrate stormwater management features into the landscape as valued amenities, improving water quality and providing educational opportunities



STREAM AND POND CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

Since 2000, 40.41 miles of streams and rivers and 102.7 acres of pond and lake areas have been cleaned



ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Through sound science, responsible management and the efforts of numerous volunteers, Howard County focuses on enhancing biodiversity to maintain the health and resilience of their natural systems.



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Removal of invasive plants with the assistance of volunteers (Weed Warriors) and EcoGoats; reducing competition with native species



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Programs to reduce overpopulated wildlife species including deer and Canadian geese; reducing impacts on local natural communities



HABITAT RESTORATION

Meadow and early successional woodland habitat creation to benefit pollinator species and the American woodcock



RESTORING, CONSERVING, CONNECTING

The ability for natural systems to respond to change and maintain integrity is dependent upon not only diversity, but also the relationship each other and their surroundings.



REFORESTATION

Since 1996, 371 acres planted, totalling 16 miles of stream buffer plantings and 86,726 plants; expanding the county's canopy coverage



FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements created on private properties of 10 acres or larger with environmentally sensitive features



STREAM BUFFER PLANTING

Providing assistance to property owners to enhance riparian/stream buffers; protecting water quality and improving connectivity



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

Whether it is helping an ecological system recover from disturbance or a community rallying around a common goal, problems become solutions and opportunities to strengthen the resilience of all communities.



PROACTIVE REFORESTATION

Identifying and mapping of 192 acres of Ash forests for monitoring and management of affected trees; 12.1 acres replanted in 2015



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Numerous projects and initiatives bring Howard County residents together, building and strengthening communities



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

All projects and land-holdings protect the many ecosystem services that elevate the quality of life in Howard County

Enhancing Health and Resilience of Human and Natural Systems

What does **maintaining health and resilience of human and natural systems** mean for individual open spaces, parks and operations? Below is an example opportunity site that applies the county goals and recommendations.



Recreation
 Multigenerational Play
 Trends
 Balancing Supply and Demand



Connectivity
 Wayfinding
 Trails
 Access



Ecology
 Linkages
 Ecosystem Services
 Resilience



Placemaking
 Programming
 Heritage
 Equity/Environmental Impacts



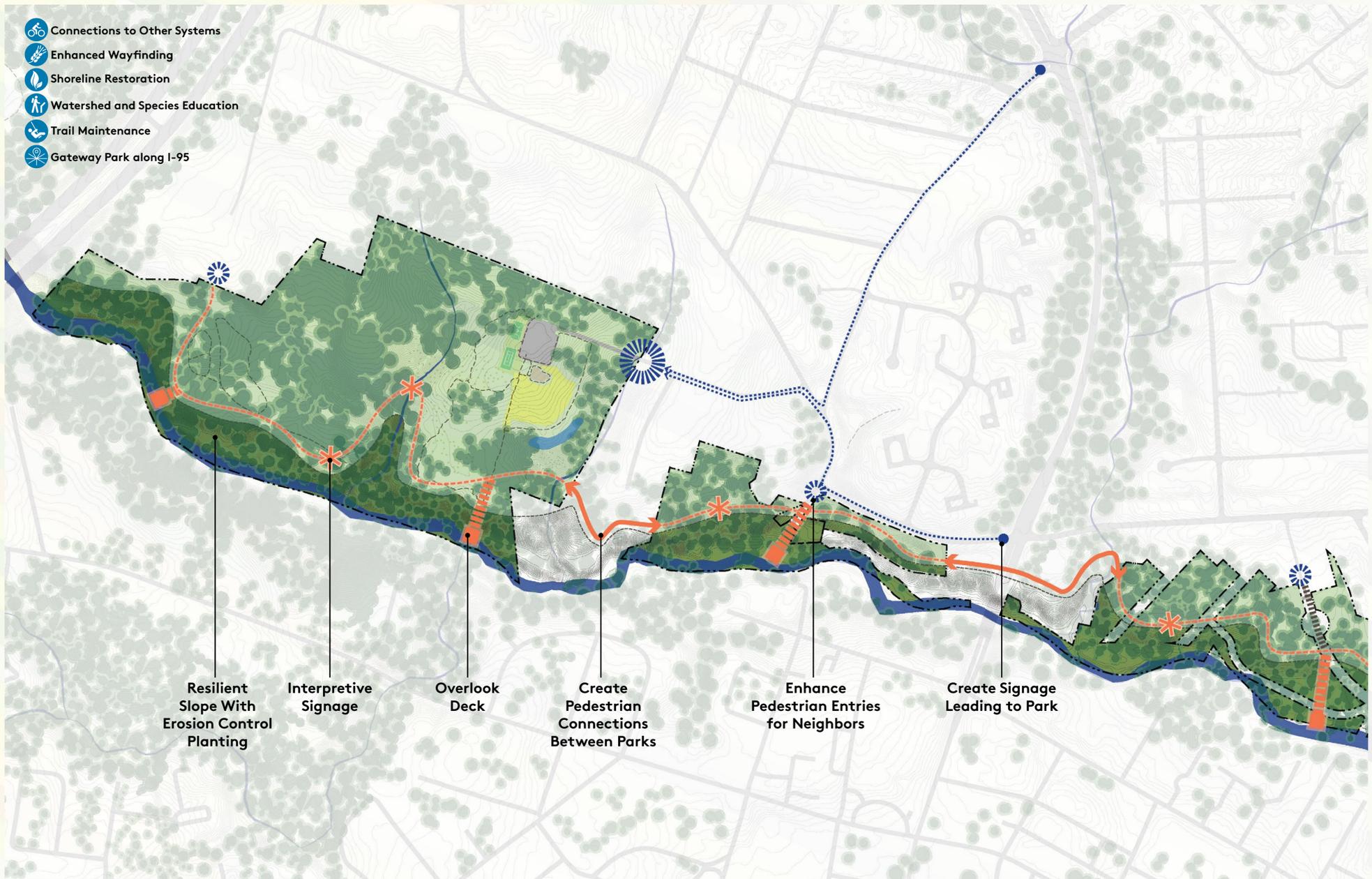
Education
 Health and Wellness Awareness
 Adult Education
 Programming + Partnerships



Visibility and Communication
 Branding and Identity
 Community Outreach
 Partnerships

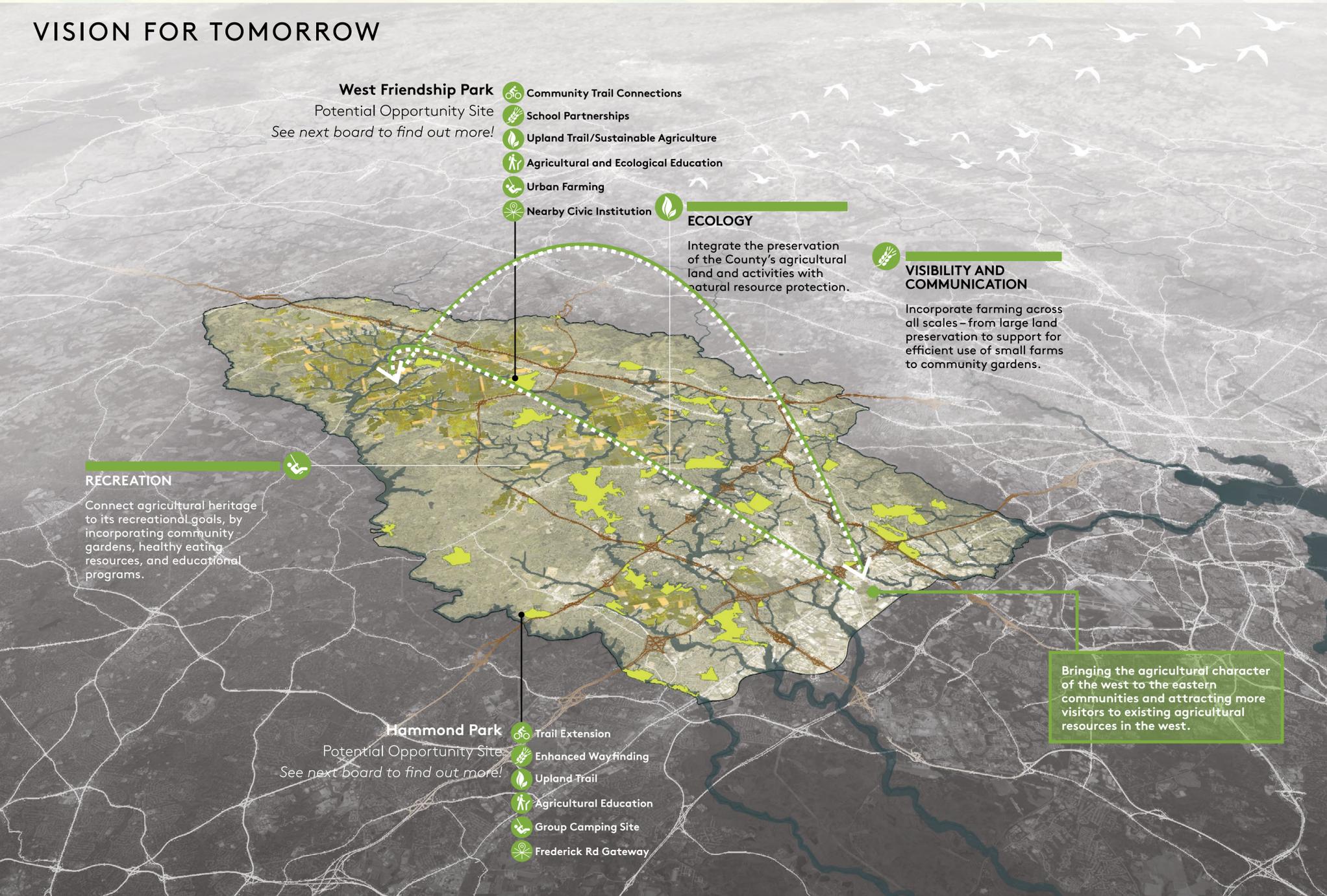
Potential High Ridge Park Condition

Graphic for illustrative use only.



Serving as Land Stewards

VISION FOR TOMORROW



TODAY



Existing Signature Parks and Facilities

- 1 - Living Farm Heritage Museum
county's agricultural history
- 2 - Centennial Park
pollinator meadow restoration
- 3 - Schooley Mill Park
equestrian trails

Notable Accomplishments

Farmland Preservation

20,000 + acres of farmland preserved since 1978

24% of all land within the county is in farms

Equestrian Trails

5 County parks with trails

Sustainable Farming

86% of all farms are small farms - ideal for sustainable practices

12,813 acres/year of soil conservation



Serving as Land Stewards

What does **serving as land stewards** mean for individual recreation facilities, parks and operations? Below is an example opportunity site that applies the county goals and recommendations.



Recreation
Trends
Balancing Supply and Demand



Connectivity
Wayfinding
Trails
Access



Ecology
Linkages
Sustainability
Agricultural Easements



Placemaking
Programming



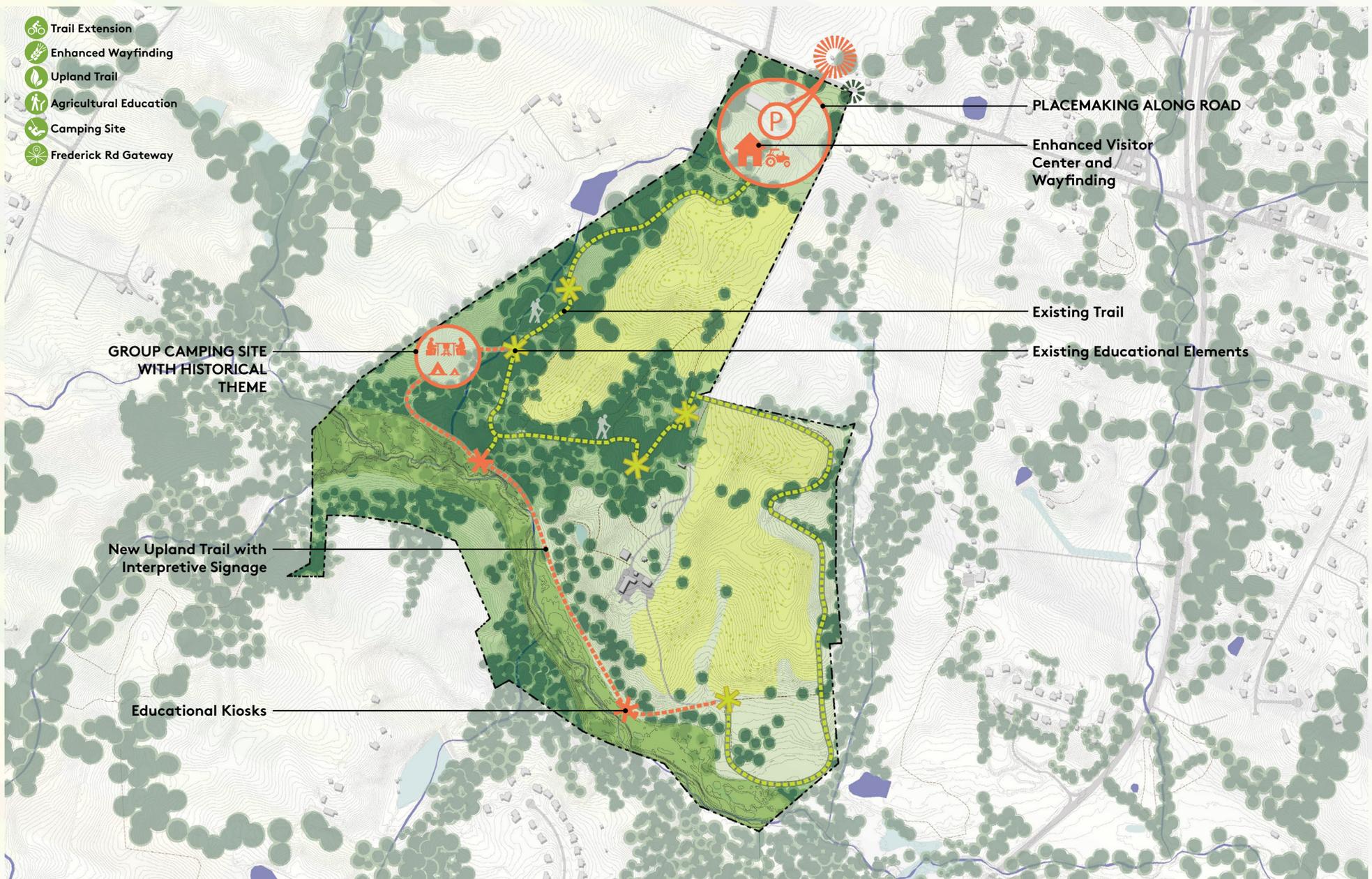
Education
Health and Wellness Awareness
Programming + Partnerships



Visibility and Communication
Community Outreach
Partnerships

Potential West Friendship Park Condition

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Serving as Land Stewards

What does **servicing as land stewards** mean for individual recreation facilities, parks and operations? Below is an example opportunity site that applies the county goals and recommendations.



Recreation
Multigenerational Play
Trends
Balancing Supply and Demand



Connectivity
Wayfinding
Trails
Access



Ecology
Linkages
Sustainability
Forest Protection



Placemaking
Programming



Education
Health and Wellness Awareness
Adult Education
Programming + Partnerships



Visibility and Communication
Community Outreach
Partnerships

Potential Hammond Park Condition

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