

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 work completed so far. Feel free to ask questions!

3

Head to each of the three stations to learn more about the plan and provide your ideas for the 2017 LPPRP -

GROW

This section explores the development of the county over time, and the balance between growth and sustainability

PRESERVE

This section explores issues and opportunities related to natural resources, biodiversity and accessibility to the county parks system

PLAY

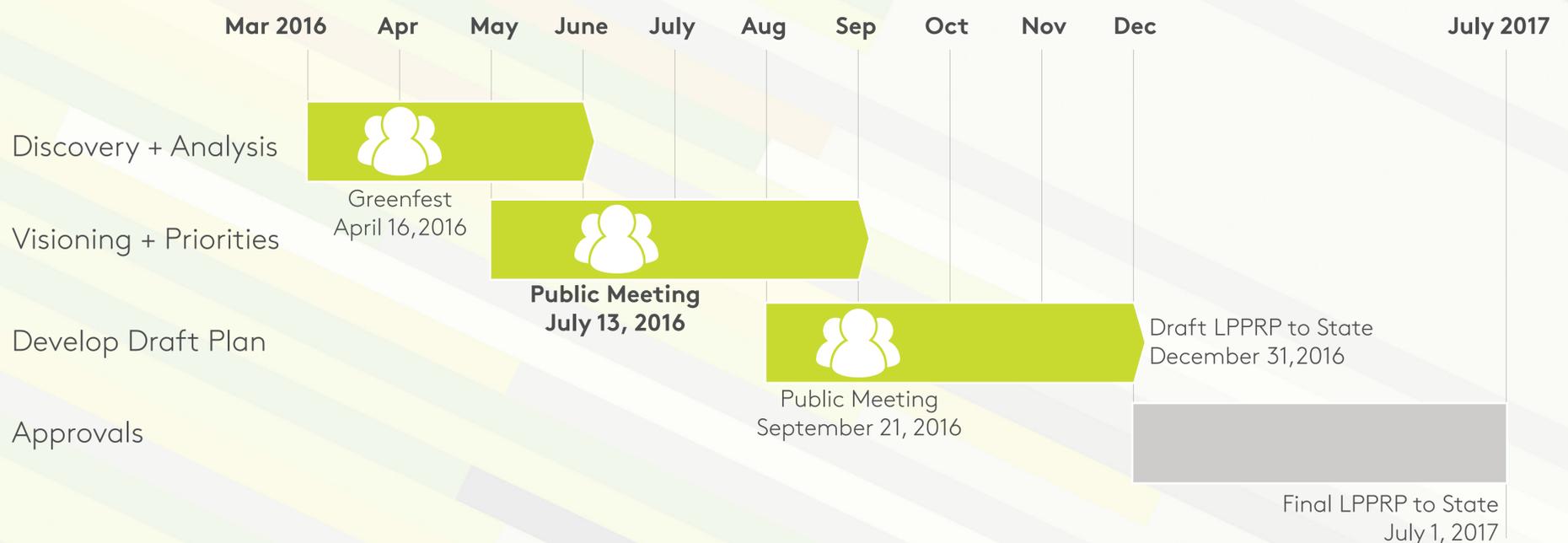
This section explores issues and opportunities related to parks, recreation programming and system accessibility

4

Create your own vision for the future of recreation and parks in Howard County.

Other Ways TO GET INVOLVED

The meetings tonight are just one way to get involved in the planning process. On September 21st, the draft plan will be presented for additional feedback. 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

Grow

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

Did you know that Howard County is growing and diversifying? This section explores the development of the County over time, it's shifting demographics and the opportunities of balancing growth with preservation through the Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan.

Grow Section Goals:

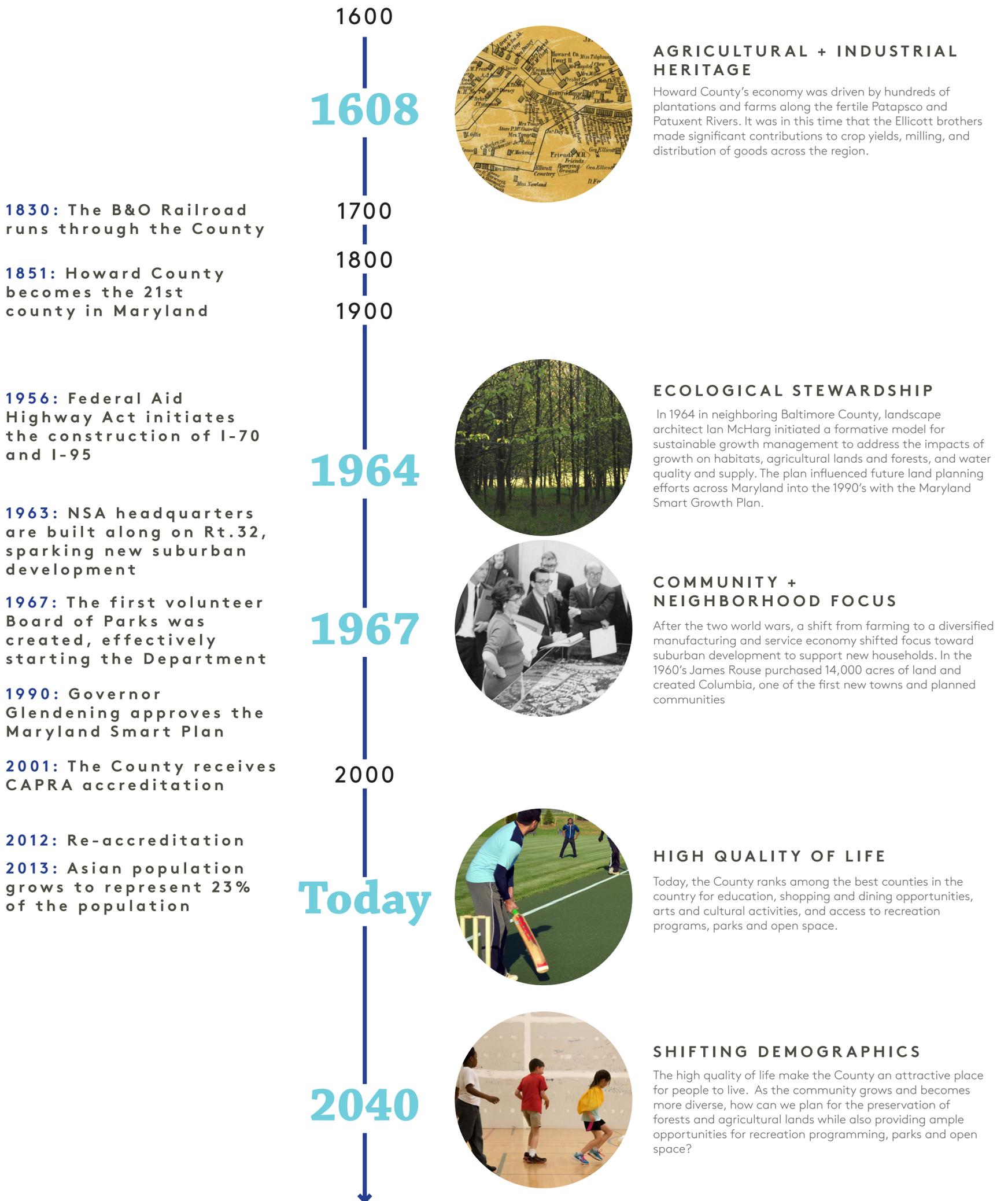
- 1 Understand how Howard County's identity has evolved over time
- 2 Study demographic and development trends that influence the plan
- 3 Situate the role of the Parks plan in responding to the changes

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

How has the County evolved over time?

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

DRIVERS OF CHANGE



With key shifts in the size and diverse makeup of the community, there is a unique opportunity to improve, preserve and align the future community with the parks and recreation resources that support it. Those resources will balance growth and preservation to ensure the protection of valuable land resources and the enhancement of quality of life of the changing population.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

How is our population changing?

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.

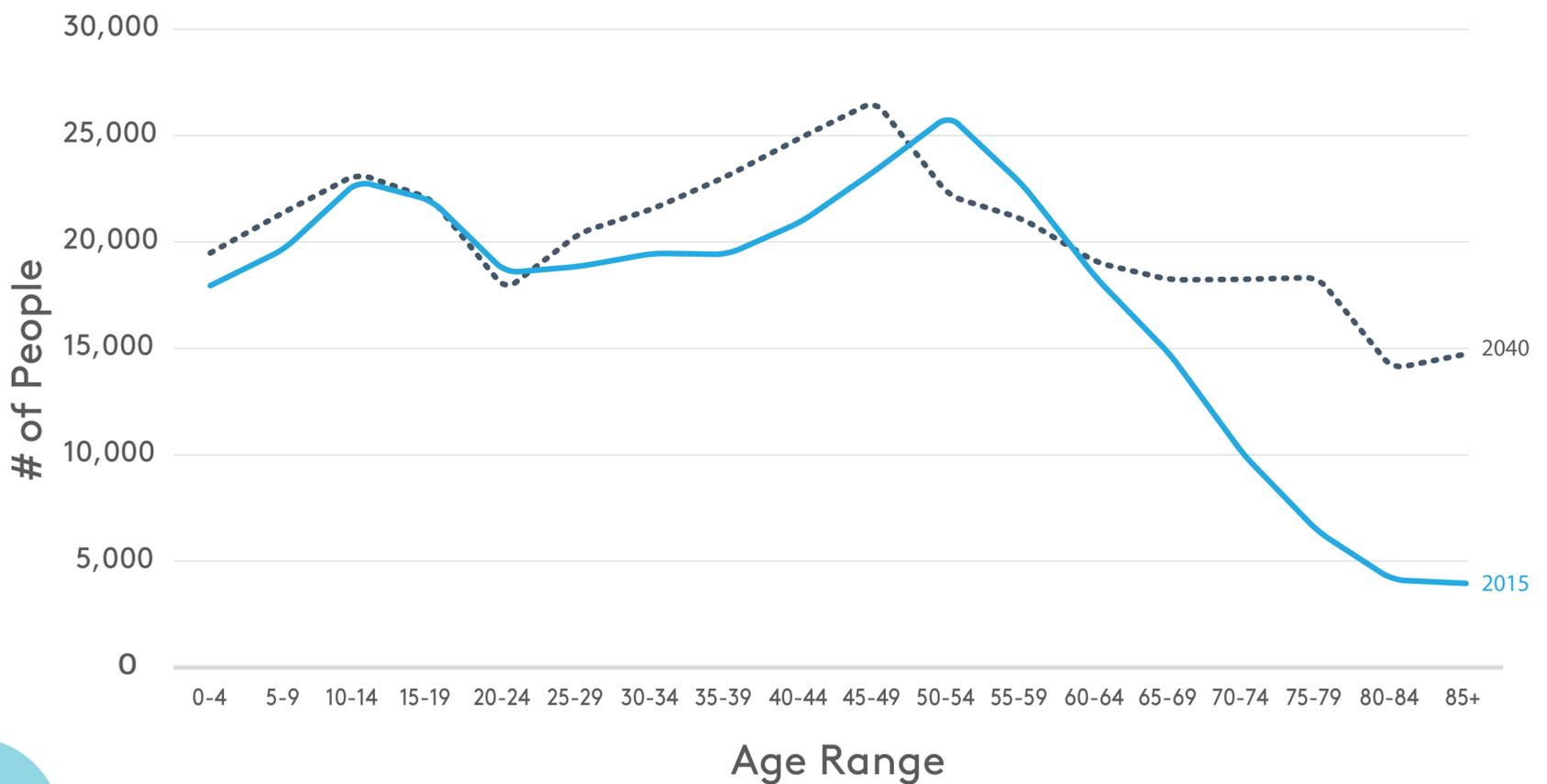


...and becoming more **DIVERSE...**

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.**



What are the health impacts?

NATIONWIDE

Visits to parks are down. So are visits to the backyard.

10% of American teens spend time outside daily

33% higher rate of depression in areas that lack green space

35% rate of obesity

COUNTYWIDE

Like everywhere, the County faces health concerns.

6.5% of residents live near a highway

18.5% rate of obesity

THE POWER OF PARKS

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 2/3 of a mile from a park

OPPORTUNITY

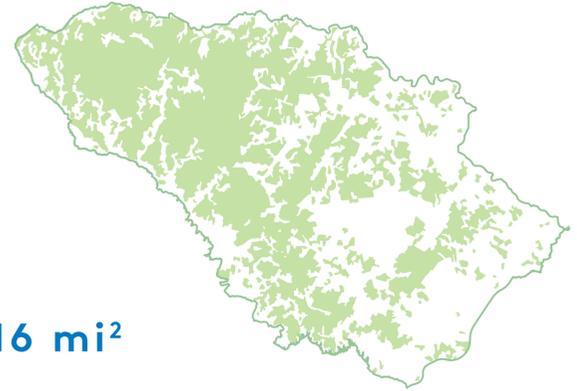
How can we balance growth, active recreation needs and preservation?

1973

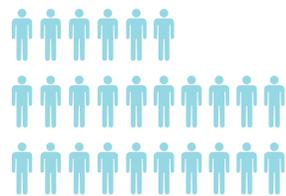


84,711 residents

116 mi²

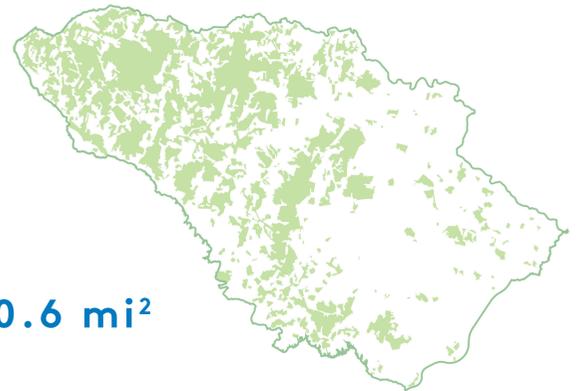


2002

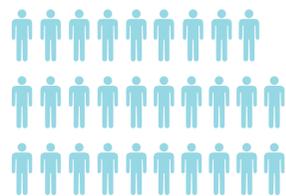


259,379 residents

70.6 mi²

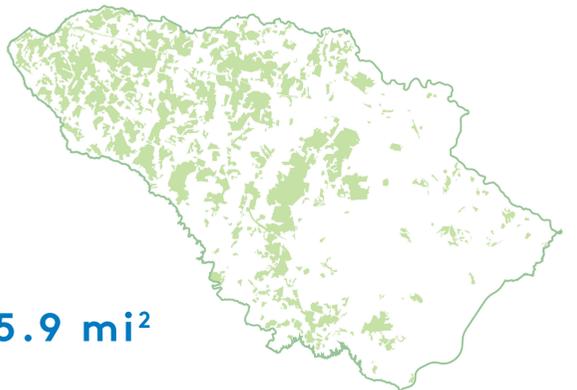


2010

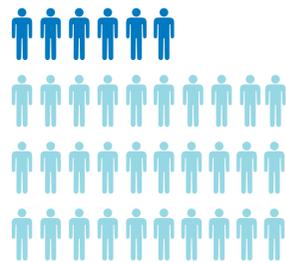


288,479 residents

55.9 mi²



2040



366,000 residents

? mi²



Population

Loss of farmland to development

How will growth be managed in the LPPRP?

Howard County has grown significantly over the past several decades. New development has been centered both on infill growth in urbanized areas like Columbia and Elkridge and on suburban or rural development along Route 32 and other major arteries. By 2040, the County's population is anticipated to grow to 366,000 people, an increase of 18%.

Source: MD DPZ

Preserve

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

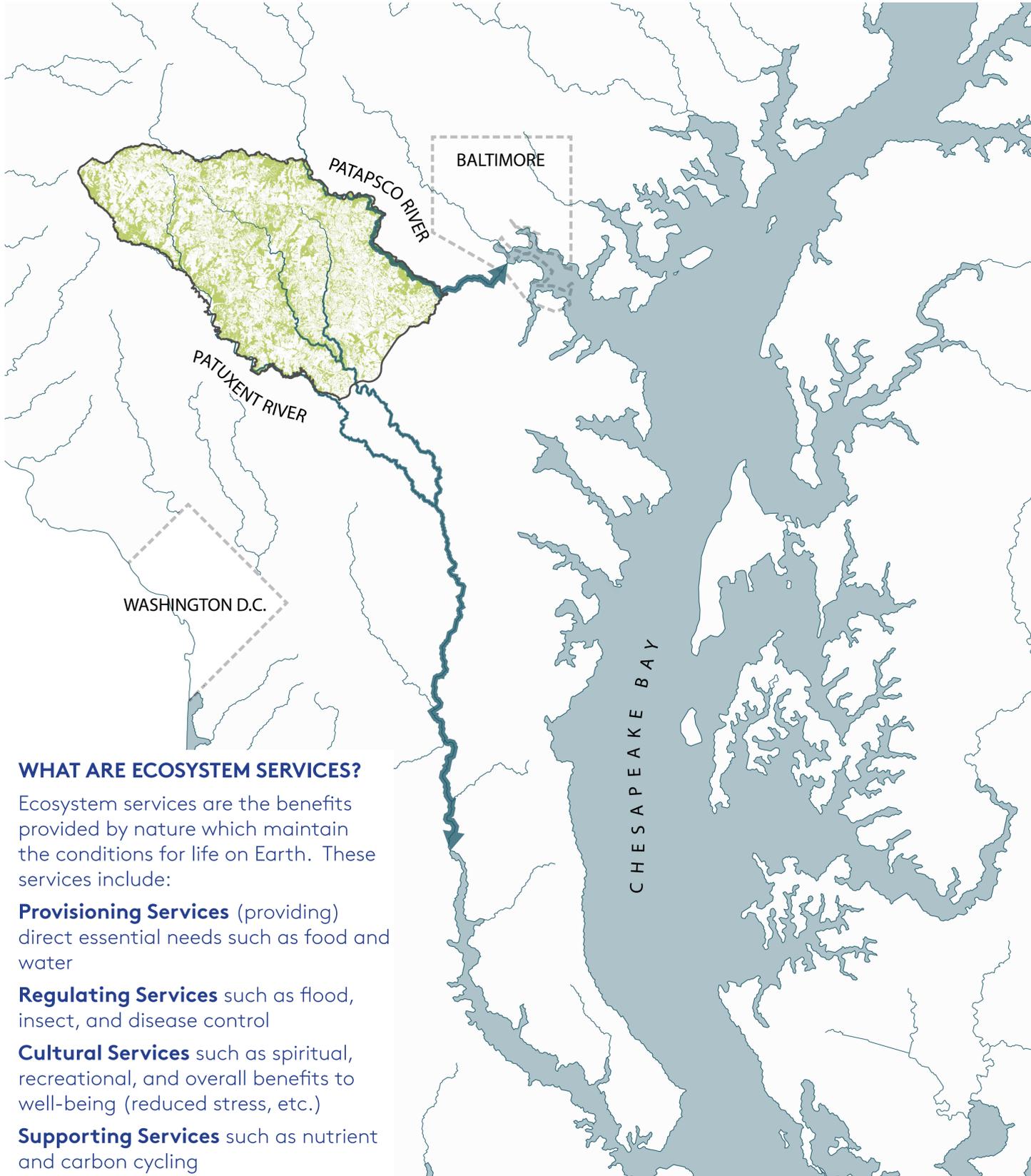
Did you know that the Howard County Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for managing the County's natural resources, protecting the County's biodiversity, and preserving open space? In this section, we will explore those facets of the County and discuss ways to make those systems more robust and accessible in the future.

Preserve Section Goals:

- 1 Learn how Howard County relates to the greater Chesapeake Bay Region
- 2 Highlight key issues and challenges and learn what the County and other systems are doing today
- 3 Get YOUR feedback on what working, what's not, and what we're missing

THE VALUE OF NATURE

What ecosystem services do our natural resources provide?



WHAT ARE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES?

Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by nature which maintain the conditions for life on Earth. These services include:

Provisioning Services (providing) direct essential needs such as food and water

Regulating Services such as flood, insect, and disease control

Cultural Services such as spiritual, recreational, and overall benefits to well-being (reduced stress, etc.)

Supporting Services such as nutrient and carbon cycling

HOWARD COUNTY OVERVIEW

100% Drains Into Chesapeake Bay

11% is covered in impervious surfaces

30% Tree canopy coverage

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY'S TREE CANOPY



Avoided Runoff:

310 million gallons/yr

470 Olympic Pools

an estimated value of \$2.8 million/yr



CO2 Equivalent Sequestration:

195,200 tons/yr

97,600 cars

an estimated value of... \$7.4 million/yr



Ozone absorption (O₃)

2.1 million pounds/yr

How are we preserving water quality?



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



FOREST CONSERVATION/REFORESTATION

Since 1996, 371 acres planted, translates to 16 miles of stream buffer plantings and 86,726 plants



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Font Hill Wetland Park, a former nine-hole golf course converted into stormwater wetland and ponds

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.

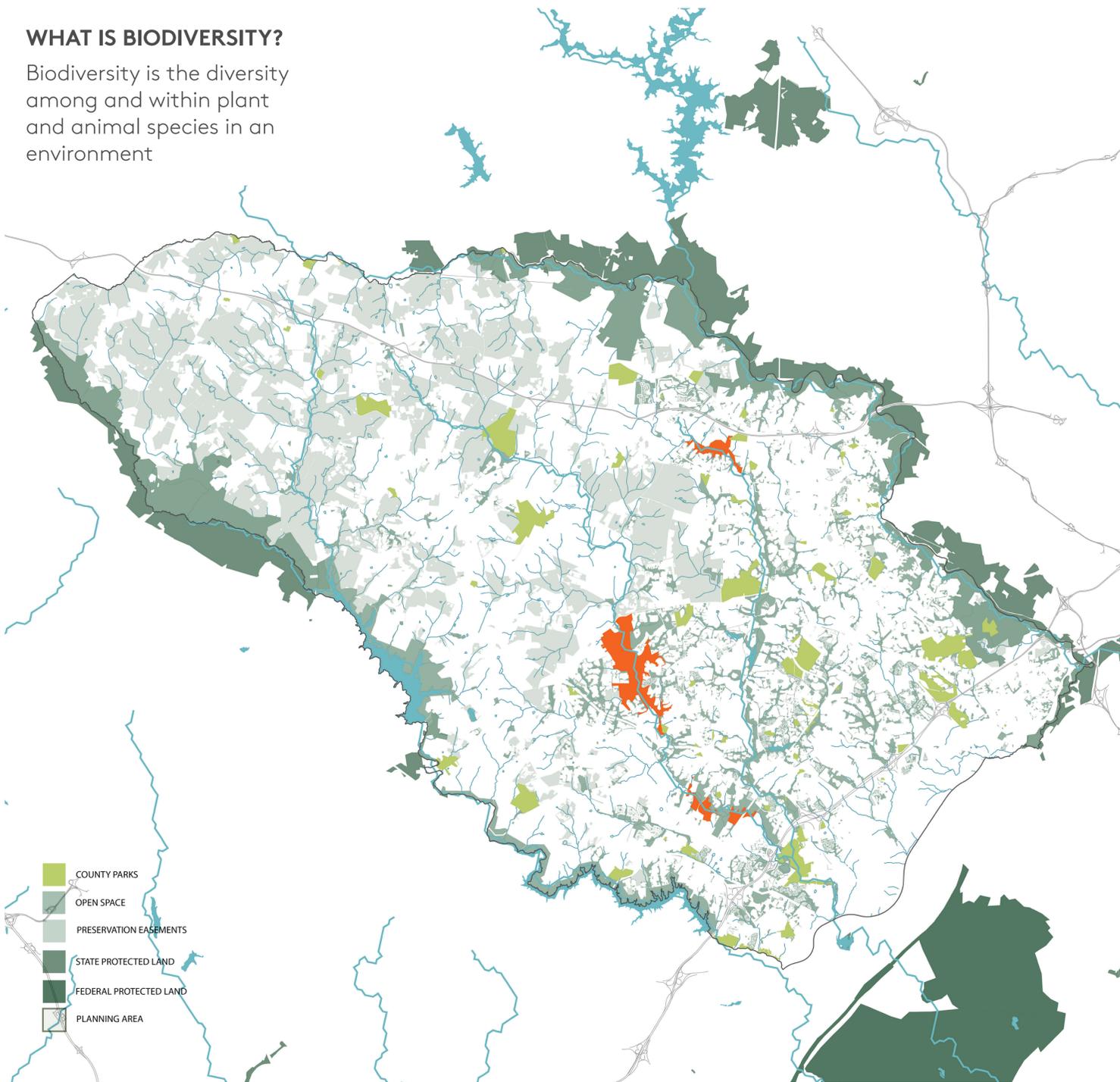
BIODIVERSITY

What are the hubs of biodiversity and key threats?

MAJOR NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the diversity among and within plant and animal species in an environment



MIDDLE PATUXENT ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

150 species of birds
40 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians etc.
Habitat: upland, steep slopes and floodplain, forest, fields, wetlands, ponds, riparian, pine grove



DAVID FORCE STREAM VALLEY

Habitat: deciduous woods, scrub meadow, pond, stream, and wetland



GORMAN STREAM VALLEY PARK

Habitat: Mixed deciduous upland and floodplain forest, swamp, pond, shrub.

How are we protecting biodiversity?



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

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



EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM

Mapping and management of affected Ash trees, and proactive reforestation



DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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



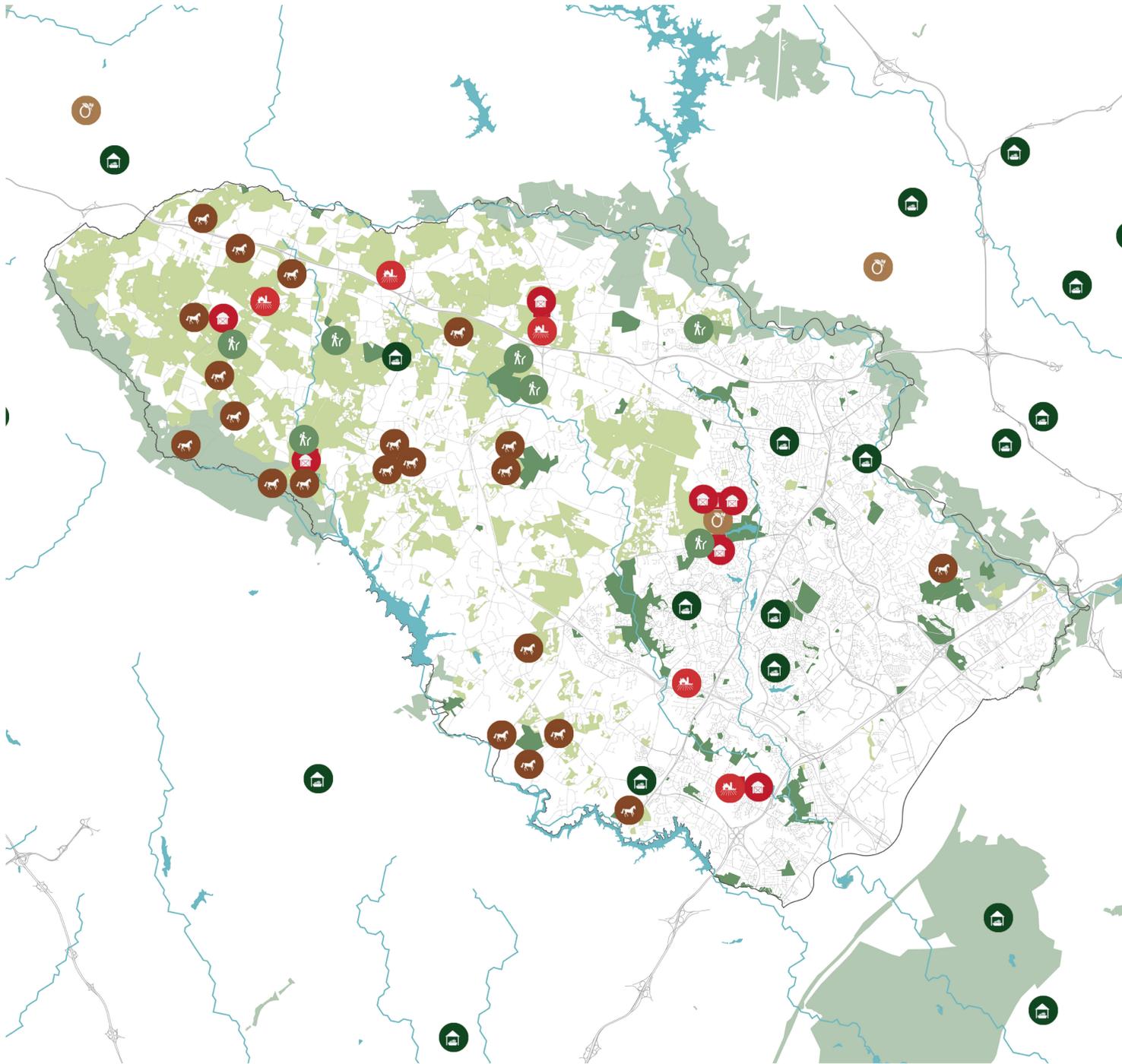
WOODCOCK HABITAT

Meadows habitat created in the Woodcock Habitat Management Area for pollinators and other early successional plant and wildlife species

The County has numerous programs to manage invasive species and restore habitat for unique, listed, and endangered species. Biodiversity can also be enhanced by increasing improving landscape connectivity and promoting native/ecological landscapes on private lands.

OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

How could agriculture contribute to the Recreation and Parks System?



Agriculture is a significant land use in the County

24% Percent of land in farms

37,475 Acres of land in farms

The majority of farms are small scale operations with opportunities for educational programming and sustainable practices

251/293 Small Farms/Total number of farms

Sustainable farming practices protect soil and water quality

12,813 Acres/year Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans

Preservation of agricultural land improves landscape connectivity between natural resource areas

20,000 acres Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) Easement

3,552 acres Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement

11,230 acres Maryland Rural Legacy Areas

HOWARD COUNTY AGROTOURISM & MARKETS

-  Agrotourism farms
-  Farms selling locally
-  Community Supported Agriculture
-  Equine farms & trails
-  USDA Organic farms
-  Farmers markets

How are we promoting Agriculture?



PRESERVATION EASEMENTS

Since 1978, Howard County has preserved over 20,000 acres of farmland through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP)



POLLINATOR MEADOWS

The County has been restoring pollinator meadows in Centennial Park to increase the population of bees a local pollinator of fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers



EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

The County offers opportunities for horseback riding through several equine farms and trails through parks such as Schooley Mill, Living Farm Heritage Museum, Patuxent River SP, Rockburn Branch Park, and Western Regional Park.

Agricultural preservation has been a key priority for the County and has the potential to be further integrated into the parks system through educational and recreational programming, institutional and state partnerships, local food markets, and sustainable management.

Source: MD Food System Map - Johns Hopkins University



OUR HISTORIC HERITAGE

What historical sites does the County maintain?

B & O Railroad Museum
 Baldwin Commons Park Area
 Belmont Manor and Historic Park
 Blandair Historic Farm
 Bollman Truss Bridge
 Clover Hill Farm House
 Doyle Spring House
 Ellicott City Colored School House, Restored
 Firehouse Museum
 Granite Mansion (Heine Property)
 Hebb House
 Heritage Orientation Center (Little Court House)
 James Marlow House

James Sykes House
 Lt. Col. Ephraim Anderson Gravesite
 McKenzie Barn and Phelps Log Cabin
 Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park
 Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse
 Poplar Springs Park
 Pratt Truss Bridge Historic Site
 Ryan Property Historic Well
 Savage Mill Dam Ruins and Savage Mill Trail
 Simpsonville Mill Ruins
 Thomas Isaac Log Cabin
 Troy House
 Waverly Mansion

How are these sites used today?

GENERAL EDUCATION



Thomas Isaac Log Cabin



Colonel Anderson Memorial



Ellicott City Colored School House, Restored

TOURISM



B&O Railroad Museum



Old Firehouse Museum



Bollman Truss Bridge

PUBLIC/PRIVATE EVENT SPACE



Patapsco Female Institute



Waverly Mansion



Belmont Manor and Historic Park

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

How accessible is Howard County's Natural Heritage?

LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY



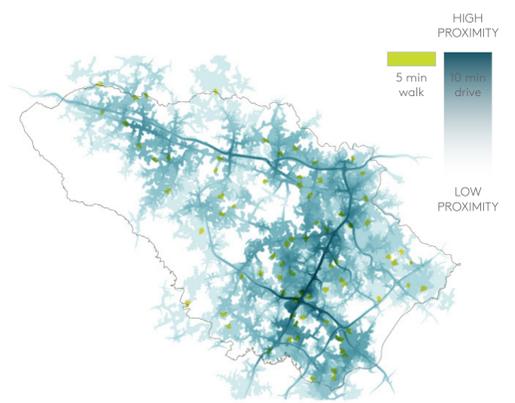
The basic building blocks of a **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** network are:

HUBS

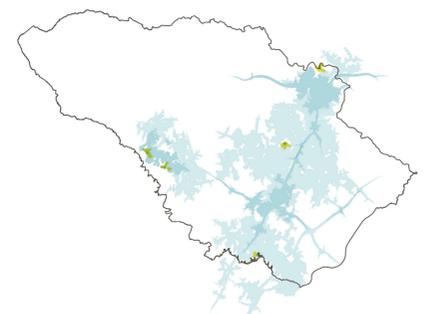
ecologically significant natural areas that provide habitat for plant and animal life.

CORRIDORS

linear features that tie hubs together and may include river and stream valley corridors and forested upland corridors.



ACCESS TO PARKS



ACCESS TO WATER

How are we improving access to nature?



ROBINSON NATURE CENTER

Open year-round, Robinson Nature Center connects people of all ages to nature through experience-based education.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In 2015 over 68,800 patrons were engaged either onsite at the Robinson Nature Center or offsite in the community



STUDENTS BRANCHING OUT

Students Branching Out was created in 2013 to combine environmental education with efforts to increase water quality. 15,943 trees have been planted to date.



TRAIL PROJECTS

Numerous trail restoration projects conducted with both staff and volunteers in 2015

The County offers excellent educational programs to engage and connect the public with nature. Access could be improved by strengthening connectivity between natural resource hubs through green corridors and cycling infrastructure.



TRENDS + OPPORTUNITIES

What are some recent trends and areas of opportunity?



1. HISTORIC AND AGROTOURISM

Incentivize historic site preservation and small scale sustainable farming through tourism opportunities to engage and educate the public



Shelburn Farms, Vermont



Miracle Farms Permaculture Orchard & Education Center, Quebec



Niagara Region Agrotourism, Ontario

SUGGESTIONS:



2. NATIVE PLANTING

Enhance partnerships that promote urban farming and community gardening within urban areas to preserve the agricultural heritage and advance local food culture and knowledge



Pollinator fields around Blueberry Farm, Oregon



Ecological front & back yards, California



School Garden Network, California

SUGGESTIONS:



3. URBAN FARMING

Promote urban farming and community gardening within urban areas to preserve agricultural heritage of the county, preserving knowledge, and advancing local food culture



Hantz Urban Farm, Detroit



Urban Farm Collective, Portland



Community Garden, Montreal

SUGGESTIONS:



4. CONNECTIVITY

Link natural areas with greenways and bike routes to improve access and connectivity between large parks and natural resource areas, and provide alternative commuting options



Cycle Super Highway, Denmark



Bike Highway, Germany



Minuteman bikeway, Massachusetts

SUGGESTIONS:

Play

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

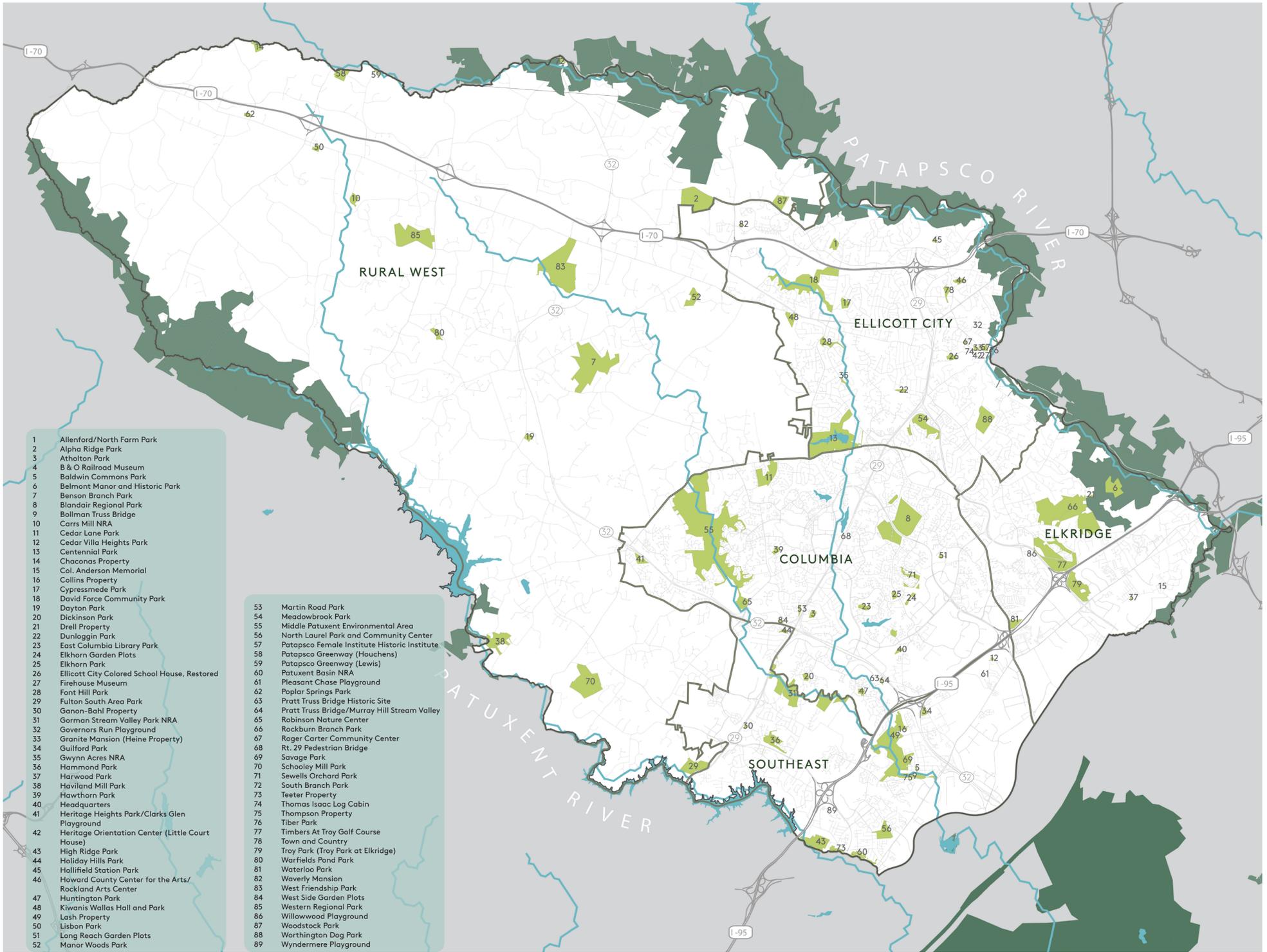
Did you know that Howard County Recreation and Parks maintains over 100 recreation facilities, parks and historical sites, while also offering a diversity of recreation program options? In this section, we will explore issues of need and accessibility surrounding parks and amenities, compare Howard County Recreation and Parks to other similar park systems, and propose new areas of play that respond to recent

Play Section Goals:

- 1 Learn about the County's park system, recreation amenities and historical programming efforts
- 2 Highlight key issues and challenges related to accessibility
- 3 See how the recreational and park offerings compare to other similar communities
- 4 Get YOUR feedback on what's working, what's not, and what we're missing

OUR PARKS

Where are our parks and recreation facilities?



What are the kinds of parks?



REGIONAL

Large, multipurpose park for use by County-wide population, but typically serving residents within a five mile radius.



COMMUNITY

Lands providing active and passive recreational opportunities for all neighborhoods within a two-mile radius.



NEIGHBORHOOD

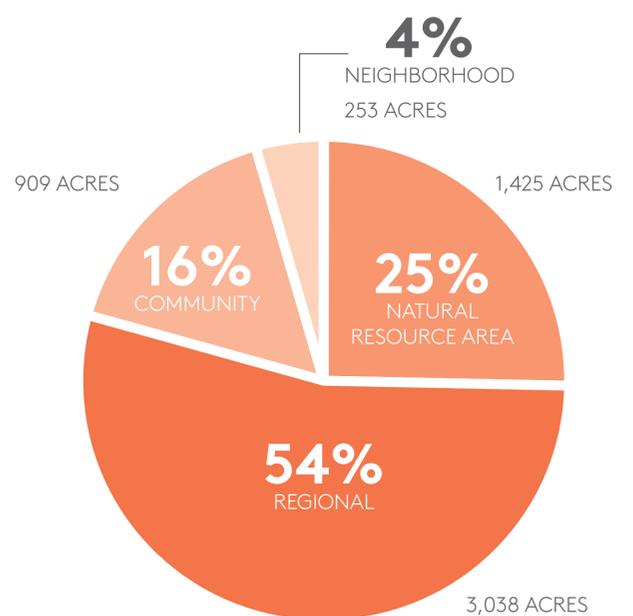
Lands that provide opportunities for passive recreation and may include limited opportunities for active recreation



NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

A publicly accessible, protected parcel(s) with limited development, managed to maintain or enhance the resource and related habitats.

The Recreation and Parks Department owns over 9,350 acres. Of that land, 5,625 acres are programmed open spaces and parks, shown by type in the pie chart below.





RECREATION

What will the future of recreation in Howard County be like?

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, County residents exhibit **HIGH PARTICIPATION** in recreation and sports.

Active adults are interested in **SOCIAL PROGRAM** areas, like walking and biking clubs.

What types of activities show potential for Howard County?

TOP NATIONAL TRENDS

1. High Impact Aerobics
2. Swimming for Fitness
3. Yoga
4. Adventure Racing
5. Mountain Biking
6. Traditional Triathlons
7. Lacrosse
8. Archery
9. Off-Road Triathlons
10. BMX Bicycling

HC MARKET

1. Skiing
2. Pilates
3. Yoga
4. Hiking
5. Aerobics
6. Skating
7. Road bicycling
8. Mountain biking
9. Jogging/running
10. Weight lifting

WHAT ELSE?

THREE MAJOR EXISTING CENTERS AND FACILITIES



Roger Carter Community Center



North Laurel Community Center



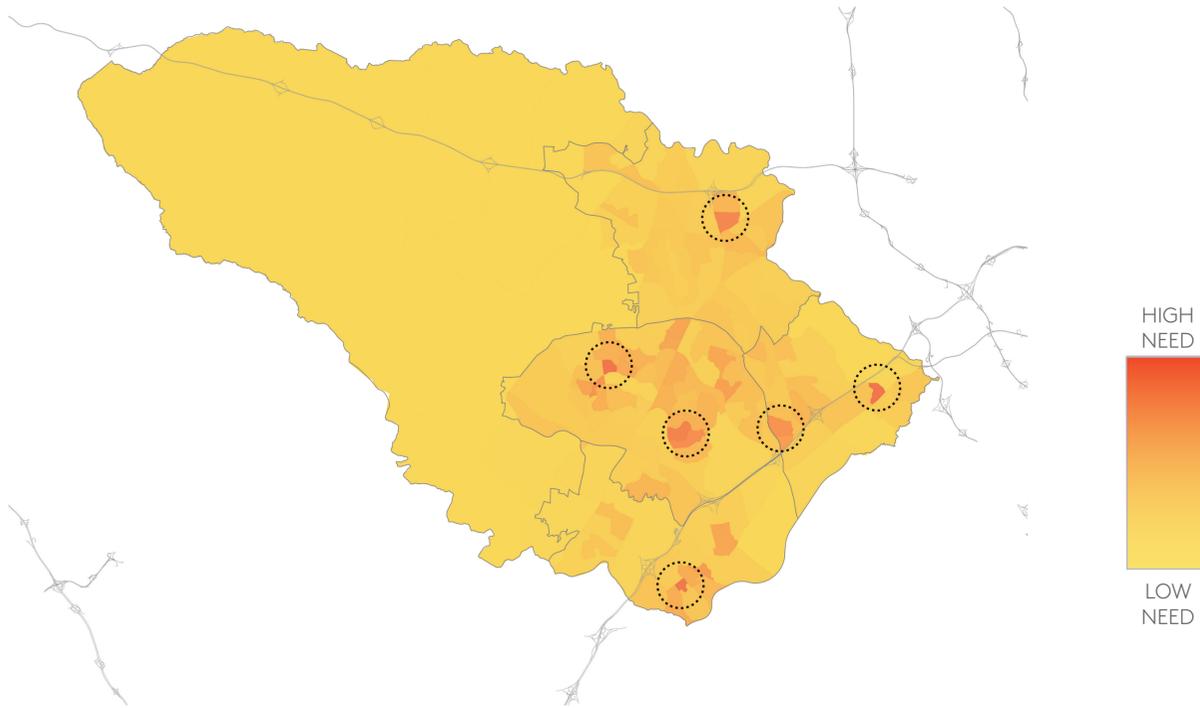
Gary J. Arthur Community Center

- And...
- Robinson Nature Center
 - Meadowbrook Athletic Complex
 - Kiwanis-Wallas Hall
 - Timbers at Troy Golf Course

ACCESSIBILITY

Where are the recreation and parks offerings?

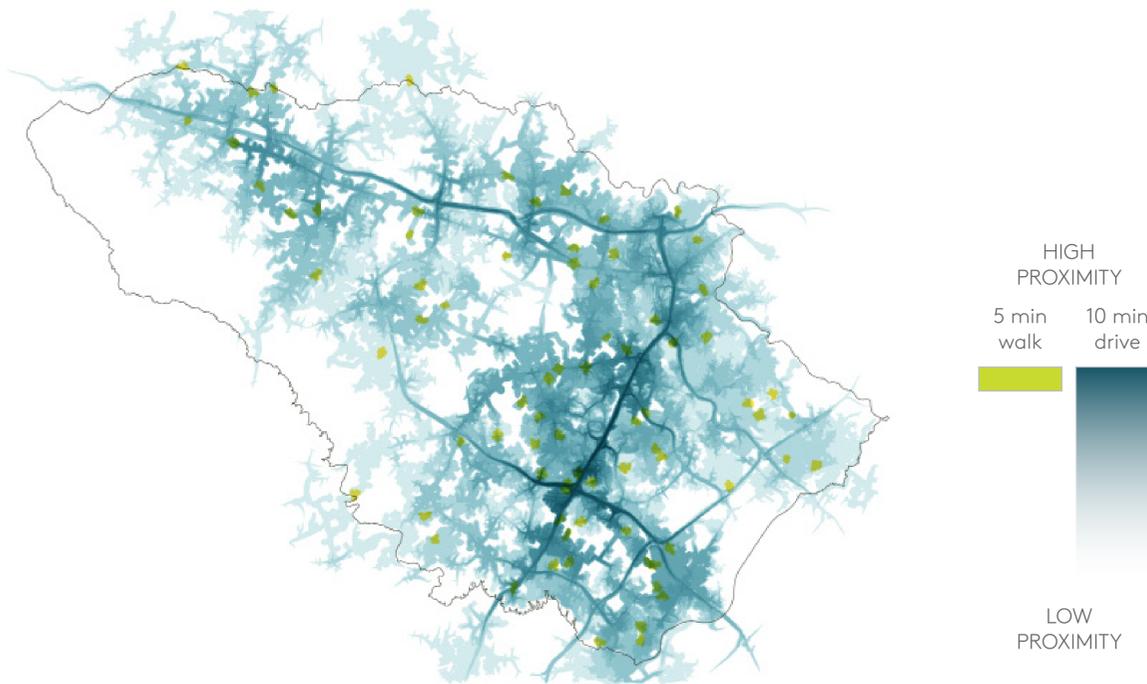
WHERE IS THE GREATEST NEED FOR PARKS?



We mapped census data for several population groups that are considered to be in greater need of park and recreation resources

High need populations include those with high poverty level, high minority makeup, and households with children under 18

IS THIS NEED BEING MET?



YES
this need is being met in terms of driving access

86% of all residents live within a 10-min drive of at least two parks

NO
this need is not being met in terms of walking access

Only 6% of all residents live within a 5-min walk of a park

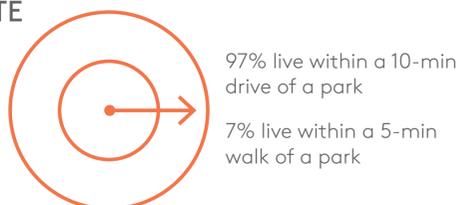
The need in denser areas may be met by other providers like the Columbia Association or private groups

WHO HAS ACCESS TO PARKS?

ALL RESIDENTS

96% live within a 10-min drive of a park
6% live within a 5-min walk of a park

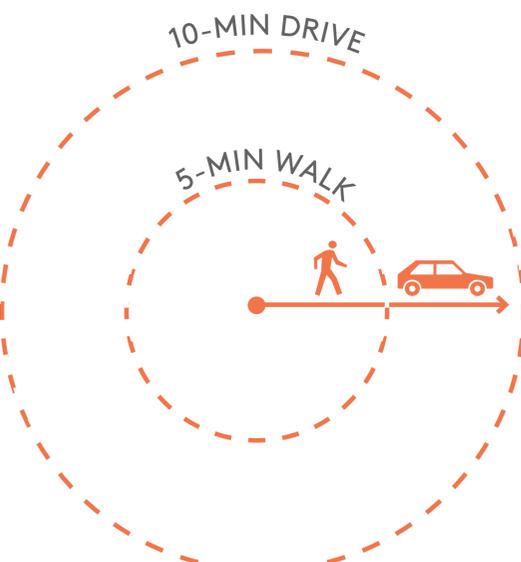
NON-WHITE



OVER 55



UNDER 18



10-MIN DRIVE

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

Approximately 4% of the population does not live within a 10-minute drive of a park

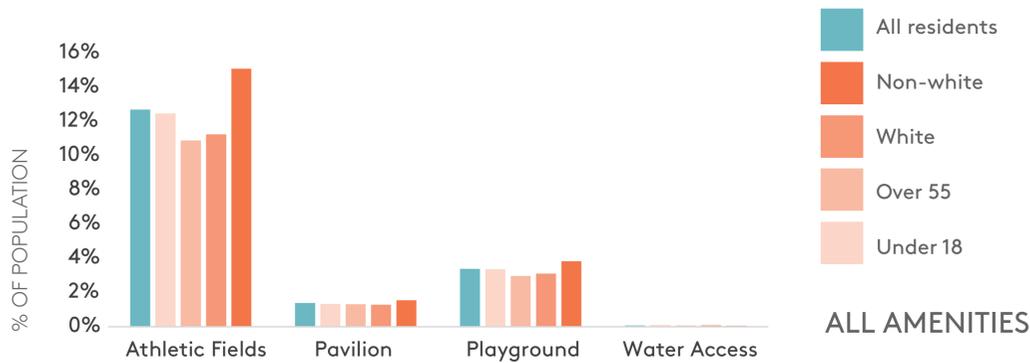
5-MIN WALK

Walking access to parks also does not differ greatly by the four population groups. Approximately 6% of all groups live within a 5 minute walk of a park

ACCESSING AMENITIES

Who has access to recreation services and park amenities?

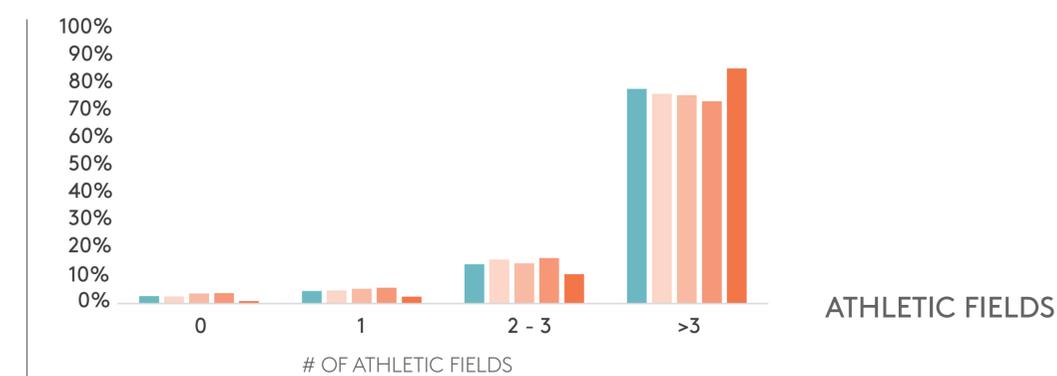
BY FOOT



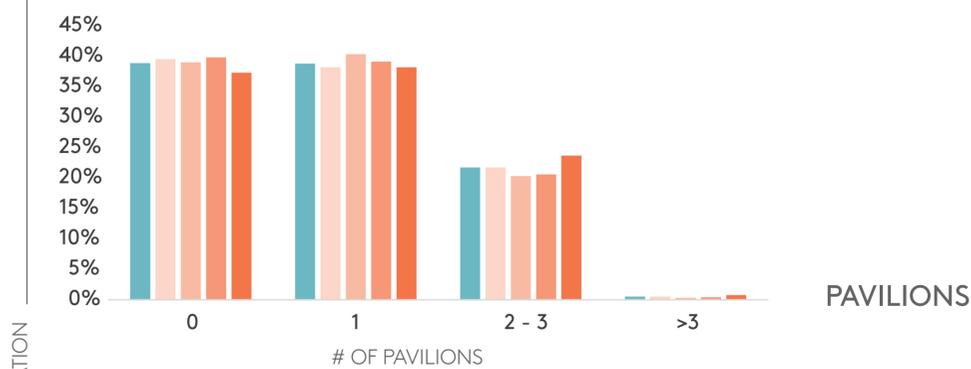
Most residents do not live within a 5-min walk of these amenities

Athletic fields are the most accessible with approximately 13% of residents living within a 5-min walk of at least one field

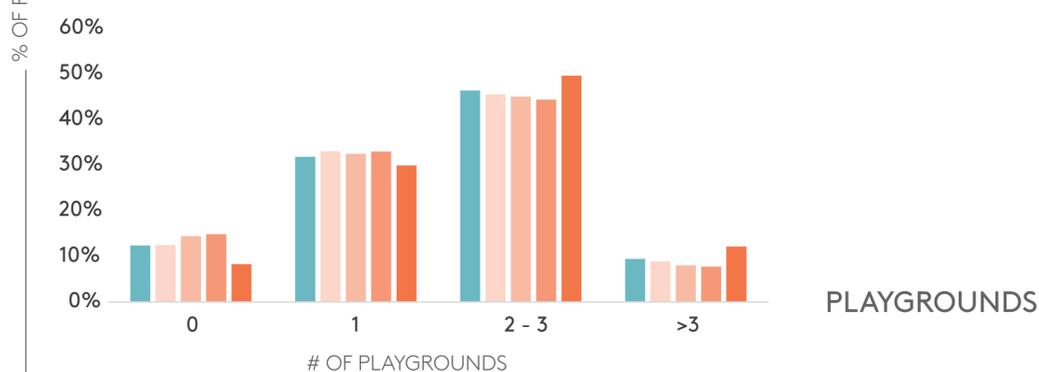
BY CAR



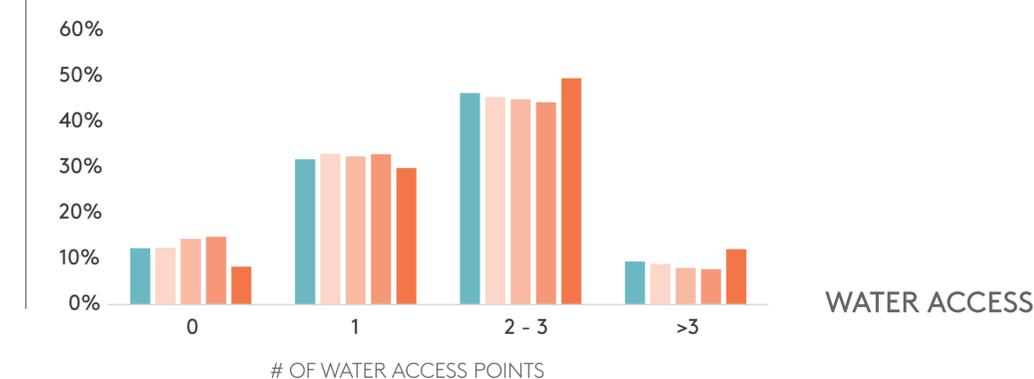
Athletic fields are very accessible by car with over 75% of all residents within driving distance of 3 or more fields



Pavilions and playgrounds are less accessible by car - 40% of all residents do not live within a 10-min drive of a pavilion and 14% do not live within a 10-min drive of a playground



Water access is the least accessible amenity with 90% of all residents not living within a 10-minute drive of water access

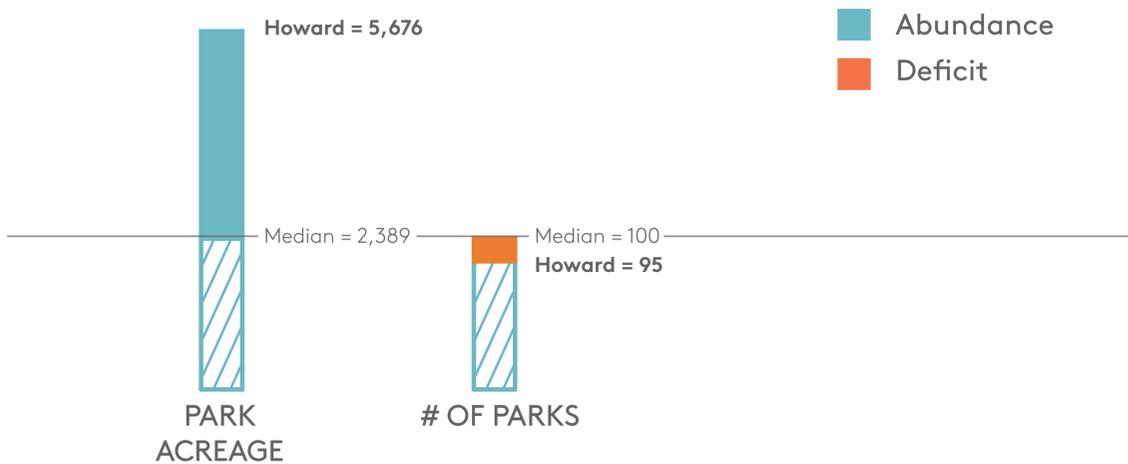


However, there are only 4 water access points in the entire County

MEASURING UP

How does the County compare to other similar-sized communities?

PARKS



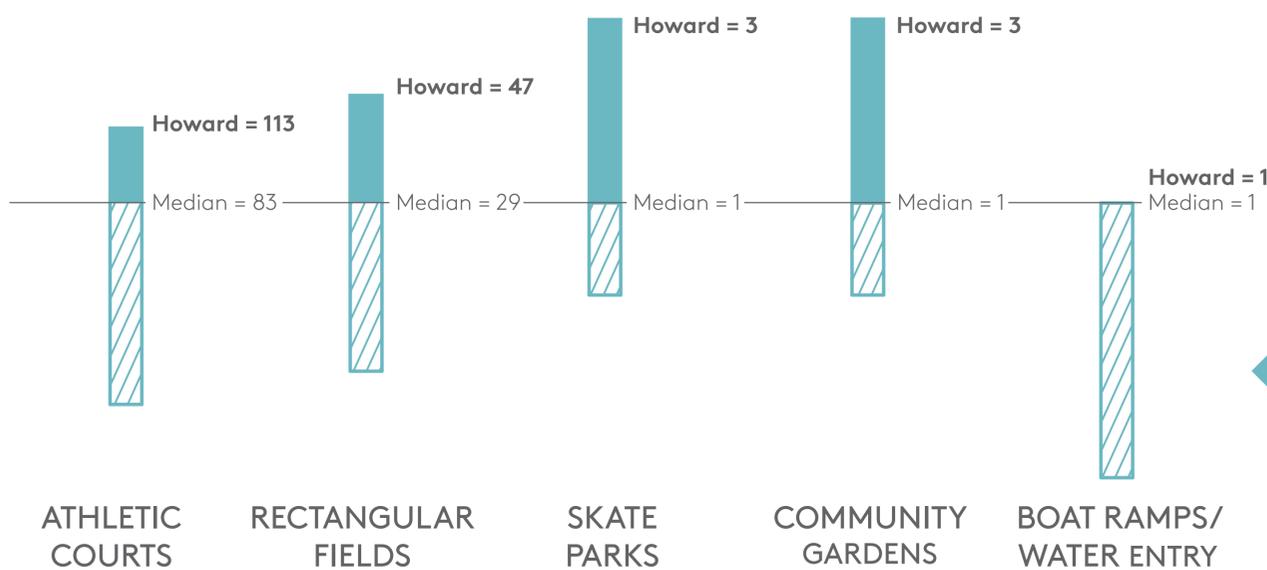
ACCORDING TO NATIONAL STANDARDS...

Howard County is one of only 141 CAPRA accredited recreation and park systems.

The County has **MORE THAN DOUBLE** the median park acreage

The County has only **FIVE FEWER** parks than the median

AMENITIES

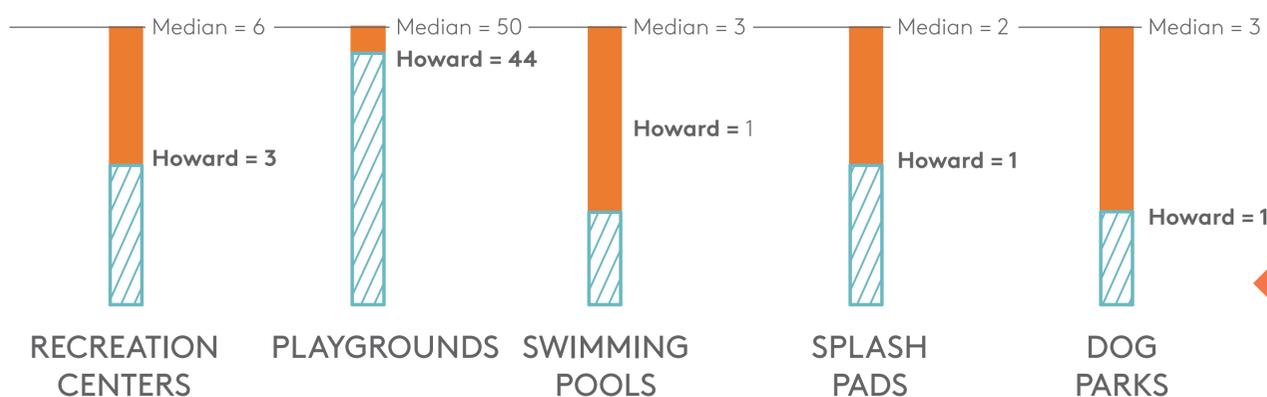


THE COUNTY HAS MORE THAN THE MEDIAN OF...

- Athletic Courts
- Rectangular Fields
- Skate Parks
- Community Gardens

THE COUNTY IS WELL-SERVED IN...

- Boat Ramps/Water Entry



THE COUNTY HAS A DEFICIT IN...

- Recreation Centers
- Playgrounds
- Swimming Pools
- Splash Pads
- Dog Parks

Synthesized from the NRPA Proragis database. Howard County was compared against peer systems of 250,000 residents or more.



TRENDS + OPPORTUNITIES

What are the County and other similar systems doing?



1. CREATIVE PLAY

Develop innovative and stimulating play spaces that encourage users to interpret their surroundings



Odense Zoo, Odense, DK



Jackson Square Playground, Boston, MA



Playa Vista Central Park, Los Angeles, CA

SUGGESTIONS:



2. INTER-GENERATIONAL PLAY

Promote public play spaces that encourage inter-generational interaction, accommodate diverse abilities, and that exercise mind, body and soul.



Superkilen Park Copenhagen, DK



Cumberland Seniors Park, Ottawa, CA



Carbide Park, La Marque, TX

SUGGESTIONS:



3. INCLUSIVE PLAY

Develop spaces that are accessible and responsive to all needs with the goal of providing play without limits



Brooklyn Playground, Pocatello, ID



Clemyjontri Park, Mclean, VA



Livvi's Place, Sydney, AU

SUGGESTIONS:



4. NATURE PLAY

Create spaces that incorporate the surrounding landscape and vegetation to bring nature to children's daily outdoor play and learning environments



Wattle Grove Nature Discovery Playscape, Perth, AU



Royal Park Nature Play Playground, Melbourne, AU



Blue Lake Regional Park, Portland, OR

SUGGESTIONS:

One HOWARD



1

Conservation:

How do we bring nature into urban areas?

2

Health and Wellness:

How do parks and recreation services connect to community health?

3

Social Equity:

How do we respond to growing diversity through improved access and social spaces county-wide?

One HOWARD

How do we align state and county goals for Parks and Recreation, Natural Resource Conservation and Agricultural Land Preservation?

Check out the state goals below:

