



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

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August 12, 2016

Ms. Margaret Lashar  
Program Open Space Grants  
Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes Building E-4  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE:** Howard County FY2017 Annual Program for  
Program Open Space Assistance

Dear Ms. Lashar:

Enclosed is the FY2017 Howard County Annual Program for Program Open Space funding. This Annual Program is in accordance with our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan and the Plan Howard 2030 General Plan.

A narrative is attached to address our project selection process, as well as the compatibility of our projects to the Eight Visions, the Plan Howard 2030 General Plan, the 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, and the Smart Growth initiatives. We have listed projects to fully encumber the past remaining and all FY2017 funds.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A. Raul Delorme, Bureau Chief  
Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction

John R. Byrd  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Daniel Rosen  
Allan H. Kittleman  
Delegate Warren E. Miller  
Delegate Trent M. Kittleman  
Delegate Eric D. Ebersole  
Delegate Terri L. Hill  
Delegate Clarence K. Lam  
Delegate Frank S. Turner  
Delegate Guy Guzzone  
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Delegate Robert L. Flanagan  
Senator Gail H. Bates  
Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer

# **FY2017 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM** **HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Program for Howard County consists of six land acquisition projects and installments on the development of Blandair Regional Park and Troy Park.

In the land acquisition category our first priority is the purchase of a 4 acre parcel that is adjacent to the existing County owned four acre Drell Property and the Patapsco State Park known as the Johnson property. This property will provide additional park property that will be adjacent to the Patapsco State Park along Landing Road in Elkridge. This property will provide the County property to allow for a parking facility for bicycle traffic that frequently the State park along Landing Road. This property will provide us to work with the State for better access to the Belmont Manor and Historic Park. The second priority is will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patapsco Greenway, especially along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. The third acquisition priority will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patuxent Greenway in Howard County to protect the river. The fourth acquisition priority will be a continuing effort to acquire land along existing Greenways throughout Howard County to protect the rivers, environmental areas and provide for community parks.

In the park development category we are requesting funds for the continuing construction of the 300-acre Blandair Regional Park (Priority #1), located in the middle of Columbia, Maryland. The property is located along Maryland Route 175 between Thunder Hill Road and Tamar Drive. (Priority #2), continuing construction of 101 acres Troy Regional Park at Elkridge, located at the southeast intersection of I-95 and Route 100 and north of Route 1 in Elkridge, Maryland.

These projects will totally obligate and exceed the Howard County FY2017 allocation of Program Open Space funds and any prior unencumbered funds. Below please find the project selection process, a description of each project, and a discussion of how these projects address local and State planning guidelines and initiatives.

### **Project Selection Process:**

Since there are no incorporated towns in Howard County, the County maintains total responsibility for the Project Selection Process. The projects selected for funding satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) Previously approved projects, that are under-funded, receive priority consideration.
- 2) The project satisfies an immediate need for recreation land or facilities as outlined in the 2012 Howard County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan and the Ten Year Capital Improvement Program.
- 3) All projects must conform to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992, and the Smart Growth Initiatives.
- 4) Program Open Space funds are distributed throughout the various Planning Areas of the County unless alternative funding satisfies the needs of specific Planning Areas. If large projects require all or a significant portion of an annual allocation, other Planning Areas receive priority status in

## **FY 2016 POS ANNUAL PROGRAM**

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subsequent years.

- 5) If the specific project(s) is/are for park construction, the appropriation of the 25% local match must be in place.
- 6) The projects must be “actionable”, meaning appraisals can be secured with reasonable confidence that a sale can be consummated, or in the case of construction, the project must be in the final stages of design and progressing to, or in, the contract bidding process.
- 7) Willing seller of programmed acreage - if there is a willing seller of land, which has been programmed for parks or preservation, these properties receive immediate attention.

The projects in the FY2017 Annual Program satisfy the above criteria, and rank high for POS funding as follows:

## **II. ACQUISITION**

### **Project #1**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Johnson Property
- C. Project Description: Elkridge Planning Area

This project consists of the acquisition of 4.00 acres along adjacent to the Patapsco State Park and existing County Park property along Landing Road. This property will provide additional park property that will be adjacent to the Patapsco State Park along Landing Road. This property will also provide future vehicular access and parking for a tail head to the existing Patapsco State Park trail system. This project is identified on Page 63 of our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as a short, mid and long-range action. We are requesting that future Program Open Space Local Share funds be used for this acquisition.

This project ranks number two among Howard County acquisition projects for the following reasons:

- This project is identified in our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan on Page 63 as short, mid, and long range acquisition effort.
- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project is “actionable” in that the property is currently on the market.
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds equitably throughout the County.

In addition to the Project Selection Process outlined above, this project conforms to the “Eight Visions” of the Planning Act of 1992 as follows:

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- Protect Sensitive Areas – This acquisition will increase the riparian buffer along the Patuxent River.
- Protect the Chesapeake – The Patuxent River flows directly into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within this park, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl - although this park is not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning, thus the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Conservation of Resources – will be demonstrated through sensible park planning on the upland portion of the adjacent property. Acquisition of this property will protect forest and stream valley habitat with the exception of possible pathways and picnic facilities.
- Economic Growth – parks and leisure activity benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding will be authorized in the FY2017 budget.

D. Acreage

- a. Ultimate Acreage – 3.011 acres
- b. Existing Acreage – 0.0 acres
- c. Project Acreage – 3.011 acres

E. Source of Funds

- 1. Total \$500,000
- 2. Local 0
- 3. State Local Share \$500,000
- 4. State Side Share \$0

**Project #2**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Patapsco Greenway
- C. Project Description: Patapsco Greenway

This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patapsco Greenway, especially along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. This project is identified on Page 63 of our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as part of the Patapsco Regional Greenway, as well as Page 104 as it relates to the expansion of the Patapsco Greenway. We are requesting that future funds be divided between Program Open Space Local Share and from Program Open Space State side funds due to its location on the Patapsco Greenway.

This project ranks fourth among our acquisition projects for the following reasons:

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- This project is identified in our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan on Page 63 as a short, mid, and long range acquisition effort, and page 104 for the expansion of the Patapsco Greenway.
- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below). It is located along the South Branch of the Patapsco River.
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds fairly throughout the County
- This project will allow for forest protection along the South Branch of the Patapsco River.
- The project meets the Selection Criteria associated with an equitable distribution of POS funds among all Council Districts.

It also addresses certain elements of the “Eight Visions” as follows:

- Protect Sensitive Areas – riparian buffers along the Patapsco River, wetlands, sensitive areas and forested areas will be protected. The Patapsco is a major tributary to the Bay.
- Control sprawl - although this park is not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning, thus the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Bay Protection - Public protection will contribute to the health of the Patapsco River, Cabin Branch and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Conserve Resources – This acquisition will provide passive recreation while protecting sensitive areas and wildlife habitat.
- Economic Growth - parks and leisure activity are a benefit to tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding have been authorized in the FY2017 budget.

### D. Acreage

Ultimate Acreage – (Try to connect parcels to thousands of acres owned by the State of Maryland for the Patapsco Greenway)

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of the Program.

## **Project #3**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Patuxent Greenway
- C. Project Description: Patuxent Greenway

This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patuxent Greenway in Howard

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County to protect the river and provide for community parks. This project will provide Patuxent River protection and establish a community park with facilities on the upland portion of the property. This project is identified on Page 63 of our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan part of the Patuxent Regional Greenway, as well as Page 105 as it relates to the expansion of the Patuxent Greenway. We are requesting that future funds be divided between Program Open Space Local Share and from Program Open Space State side funds due to the location along the Patuxent Greenway.

This project ranks fifth for the following reasons:

- This project is identified in our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan on Table 14-A as a mid-range acquisition effort, and page 63 for the expansion of the Patuxent Greenway.
- This project conforms to the County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992, and the Smart Growth Initiative. It is along Patuxent River.
- This project is “actionable” in that the owner has expressed an interest in selling the property, and appraisals have been ordered.
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds fairly throughout the County.

In addition to the Project Selection Process outlined above, the project conforms to the “Eight Visions” of the Planning Act of 1992 as follows: .

- Direct growth to appropriate areas – this parcel is located outside the Planned Service Area; however, there is a significant population base and insufficient recreation and open space areas.
- Protect Sensitive Areas – This acquisition will increase the riparian buffer along the Patuxent River; construction of recreation facilities will be on the upland portions of the adjacent property.
- Protect the Chesapeake – the Patuxent River flows directly into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within this park, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl - although this park is not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning, thus the park will not encourage sprawl.
- Conservation of Resources – will be demonstrated through sensible park planning on the upland portion of the adjacent property. Acquisition of this property will protect forest and stream valley habitat with the exception of possible pathways and picnic facilities.
- Economic Growth – parks and leisure activity benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding have been authorized in the FY2017.

D. Acreage

Ultimate Acreage – (Try to connect parcels to thousands of acres owned by

the State of Maryland for the Patuxent Greenway)

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of the Program.

**Project #4**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Howard County Interior Greenway
- C. Project Description: Howard Interior County Greenway

This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along exiting Greenways throughout Howard County to protect the rivers, environmental areas and provide for a community parks. This project will provide Stream/River protection and establish a community park with facilities on the upland portion of the property. This project is identified on Page 63 of our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan part of the Parkland Acquisition program this includes Cabin Branch Greenway, Cattail Creek, Deep Run, Hammond Branch Greenway, Little Patuxent Greenway Long Corner Connector, and Middle Patuxent Greenway, as well as Page 105 as it relates to the expansion of the Patuxent Greenway. We are requesting that future Program Open Space Local Share funds be used for this acquisition.

This project ranks sixth for the following reasons:

- This project is identified in our 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan on Table 14-A as a mid-range acquisition effort, and page 105 for the Parkland Acquisition.
- This project conforms to the County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992, and the Smart Growth Initiative. It is along the Patuxent River.
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds fairly throughout the County.

In addition to the Project Selection Process outlined above, the project conforms to the “Eight Visions” of the Planning Act of 1992 as follows: .

- Direct growth to appropriate areas – this parcel is located outside the Planned Service Area; however, there is a significant population base and insufficient recreation and open space areas.
- Protect Sensitive Areas – This acquisition will increase the riparian buffer along the above mentioned greenways; construction of recreation facilities will be on the upland portions of the adjacent property.
- Protect the Chesapeake – These greenways flow into the Patapsco and Patuxent Rivers that flow directly into the Bay. Sensitive areas will be perpetually protected within this park, thus helping the Bay recovery.
- Control sprawl - although several of these greenways are not within the Planned Service Area for water and sewer, the park is necessary to serve existing populations. Additional growth is controlled by current low-density zoning, thus the park will not encourage sprawl.

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- Conservation of Resources – will be demonstrated through sensible park planning on the upland portion of the adjacent property. Acquisition of this property will protect forest and stream valley habitat with the exception of possible pathways and picnic facilities.
- Economic Growth – parks and leisure activities benefit tourism and retail sales.
- Both local and State funding have been authorized in the FY2017.

D. Acreage

Ultimate Acreage - (Try to connect parcels to existing greenways throughout the Howard County.)

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of the Program.

**III. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Project #1**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Blandair Regional Park
- C. Project Description:

Howard County owns 300 acres in the middle of Columbia, Maryland. The property is located along Maryland Route 175 between Thunder Hill Road and Tamar Drive. This 300-acre park was purchased with County funds and State Program Open Space funds, thereby assuring its permanent use for recreation and preservation purposes. This project will include passive and active recreation facilities, while preserving over 200 acres of forest, wetlands and historic areas within the 300-acre park. The Master Plan includes a nature center, pathways and walking trails, court games, athletic fields, picnic facilities, an indoor sports center, children’s garden, playgrounds, roads and parking. The Blandair Mansion and outbuildings are protected under a 28-acre easement granted to the Maryland Historical Trust. The National Park Service is currently restoring the Mansion with local and State funding. A Regional Park of this magnitude will draw visitors from throughout the County as well as adjacent jurisdictions. The County population to be served is currently in excess of 300,000 people. This facility can host large festivals and athletic tournaments and will greatly benefit the local economy, particularly restaurants, hotels, sporting goods stores and small markets. This park is in the Planned Service Area (Smart Growth Area) of Howard County and will help reduce the current over-usage of Centennial Park. We have ranked this project one among development projects for the following reasons:

- Construction of a Park on Pages 61 of the Capital Improvement Program matrix of the 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as a “short-range” effort.
- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds equitably throughout the County.

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This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program. This project addresses the “Eight Visions: as follows:

- Direct development to growth areas – this park is located in the County’s Planned Service (Smart Growth) Area.
- Protect Sensitive Areas – Protects the wetland, steep slopes, and forested areas have been and will be avoided during construction.
- Control sprawl – by investing in an urban area regional park, we are enhancing the quality of life to retain residents and attract new residents.
- Conservation of Resources – sensitive areas and habitat will be protected and enhanced.
- Bay Protection – Storm water can be easily managed on site during and after construction.
- Economic Growth – parks and leisure activity benefit tourism and retail sales.

D. Source of Funds

1.	Total	\$6,800,000
2.	Local	\$6,125,000
3.	State	\$0
	FY07, 08 & 14	
	State Bond Bills	\$675,000

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of the Program.

**Project #2**

- A. Sponsor: Howard County, Maryland
- B. Project Title: Troy Regional Park at Elkridge
- C. Project Description:

Howard County owns 101 acres of land in Elkridge, Maryland. The property is located at the southeast intersection of I-95 and Route 100 and north of Route 1. This regional park will provide both passive and active recreational opportunities to children of all ages, as well as adults, throughout the entire county and the Elkridge area. This regional park will consist of pathways and walking trails, court games, lighted athletic fields, picnic facilities, community center, playgrounds, comfort stations, tennis courts, basketball courts, roads and parking. Construction of Phase I is in progress and will consist of the construction of the entrance road and mass grading for the multipurpose fields and related parking and installation of 2 synthetic turf fields. We have ranked this project second among development projects for the following reasons:

- Construction of this park is identified on Page 61 of the 2012 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as a “short- range” effort

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- This project conforms to the Howard County General Plan, the Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Initiative (see detail under “Eight Visions” below).
- This project complies with our efforts to distribute POS funds equitably throughout the County.
- This project complies with local and state initiatives as described in the Project Selection section of this Program. This project addresses the “Eight Visions: as follows:
- Direct development to growth areas – this park is located in the County’s Planned Service (Smart Growth) Area.
- Protect Sensitive Areas – Protects the wetland, steep slopes, and forested areas have been and will be avoided during construction.
- Control sprawl – by investing in an urban area regional park, we are enhancing the quality of life to retain residents and attract new residents.
- Conservation of Resources – sensitive areas and habitat will be protected and enhanced.
- Bay Protection – storm water can be easily managed on site during and after construction.
- Economic Growth – parks and leisure activity benefit tourism and retail sales.

D. Source of Funds

1. Total	\$ 3,605,000
2. Local	\$3,000,000
3. State	\$0
FY09 & FY10	
State Bond Bills	\$605,000

E. Location and site maps are attached at the end of the Program.

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR ACQUISITION  
FISCAL YEAR 2017**

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>			<u>Source of Funds (for Annual Program Only)</u>			
		<u>Existing</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
Howard County	JOHNSON PROPERTY- This property will provide additional park property that will be adjacent to the Patapsco State Park along Landing Road. This property will also provide future vehicular access and parking for a tail head to the existing Patapsco State Park trail system.	5	4	9	500,000	-0-	Local 500,000	0
Howard County	PATAPSCO GREENWAY –This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patapsco River to expand on the Patapsco Greenway in Howard County, especially along the South Branch of the Patapsco River. This project will provide Patapsco River protection and establish a community park with facilities on the upland portion of the property.	0	TBD	0	0	- 0 -	Shared	0
Howard County	PATUXENT GREENWAY – This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along the Patuxent River to expand on the Patuxent Greenway in Howard Count. This project will provide Patuxent River protection and establish a community park with facilities on the upland portion of the property.	0	TBD	0	0	-0-	Shared	0
Howard County	HOWARD COUNTY INTERIOR GREENWAYS - This project will be a continuing effort to acquire land along exiting Greenways throughout Howard County to protect the rivers and provide for a community parks. This project will provide Stream/River protection and establish a community park with facilities on the upland portion of the property.	0	TBD	0	0	-0-	Shared	0
	<b>ACQUISITION PROJECT TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>- 0 -</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>- 0 -</b>

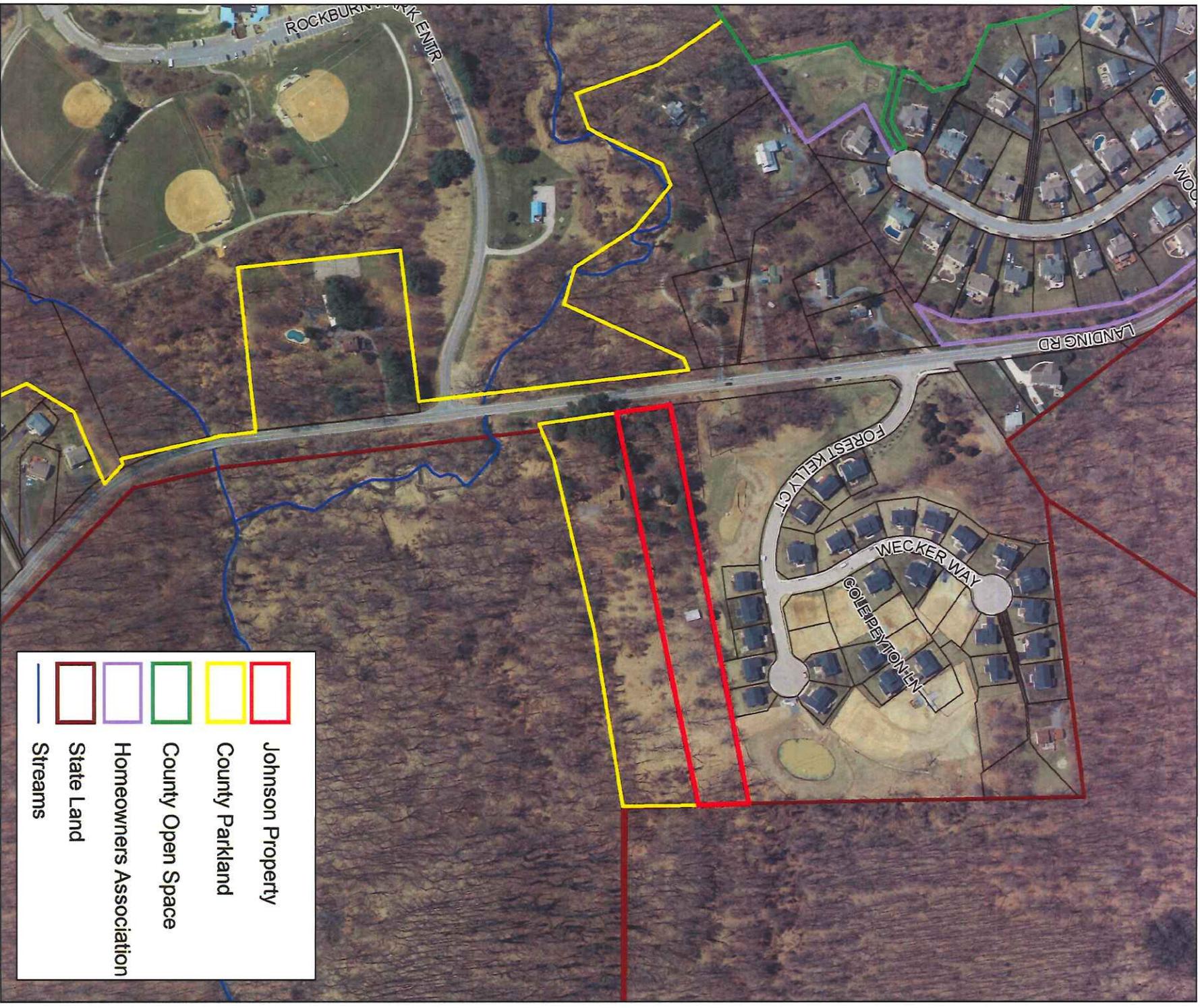
**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2017**

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Source of Funds (for Annual Program Only)</u>			
		<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State (POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
Howard County	<b>BLANDAIR REGIONAL PARK</b> Design and construct a 300-acre Regional park that includes a nature center, pathways and walking trails, court games, athletic fields, picnic facilities, an indoor sports center, children's garden, playgrounds, roads and parking.	300	6,800,000	5,357,000	5,357,000	0
Howard County	<b>TROY REGIONAL PARK</b> Design and construct a 101-acre Regional Park that includes pathways and walking trails, court games, lighted athletic fields, picnic facilities, community center, playgrounds, comfort stations, tennis courts, basketball courts, roads and parking.	101	3,605,000	3,105,000	3,105,000	0
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TOTALS</b>		<b>401</b>	<b>10,405,000</b>	<b>8,462,000</b>	<b>8,462,000</b>	<b>0</b>

# Johnson Property

Scale: 1" = 275'

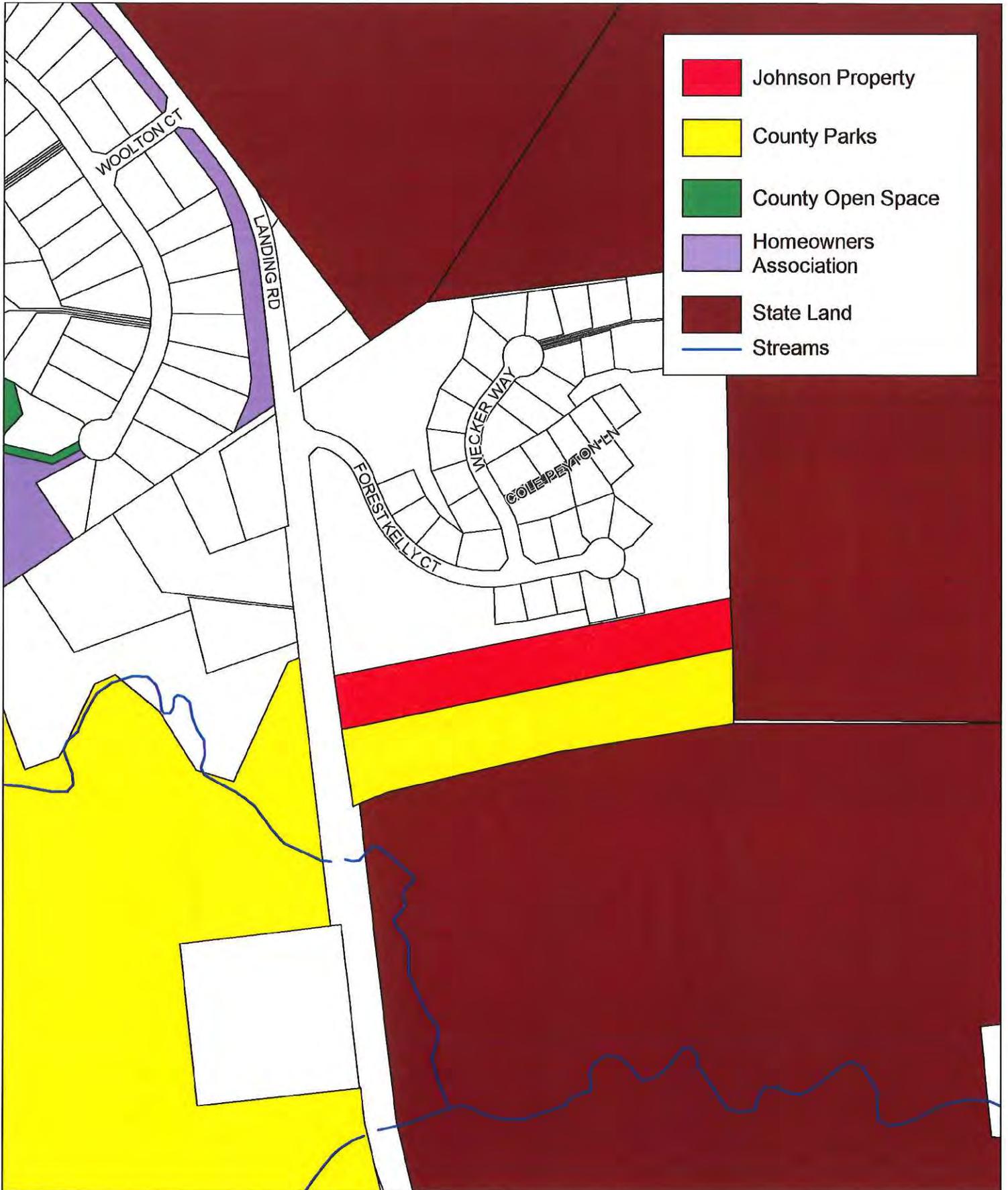
Printed: 2016

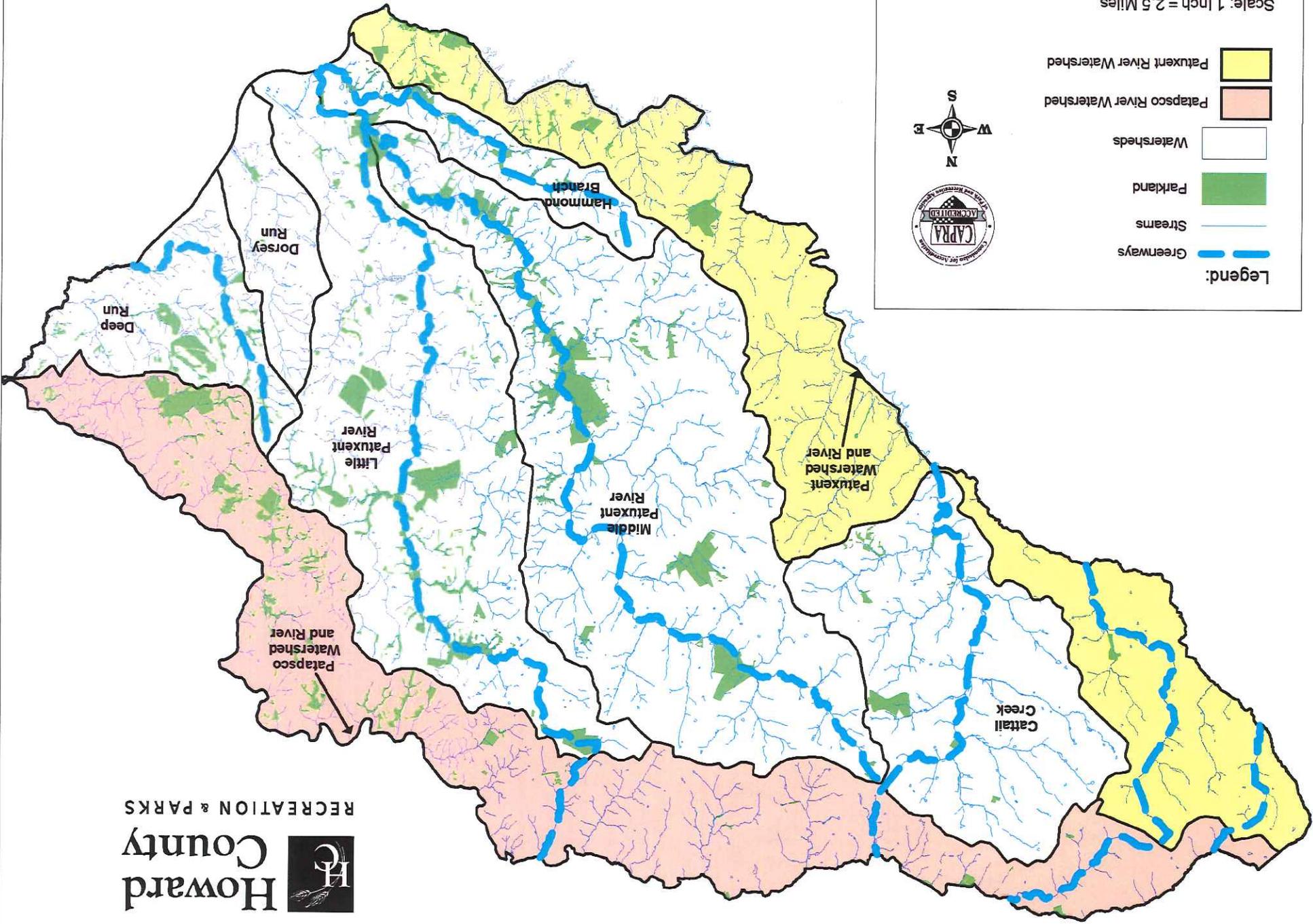


	Johnson Property
	County Parkland
	County Open Space
	Homeowners Association
	State Land
	Streams

# Johnson Property

Scale: 1" = 300' Printed: August 2016





**Legend:**

- Greenways (Thick blue line)
- Streams (Thin blue line)
- Parkland (Green square)
- Watersheds (White square)
- Patapsco River Watershed (Pink square)
- Patuxent River Watershed (Yellow square)

Scale: 1 Inch = 2.5 Miles



The CAPRA logo (Central Appalachian Park and Recreation Association) is located in the bottom right of the legend box.

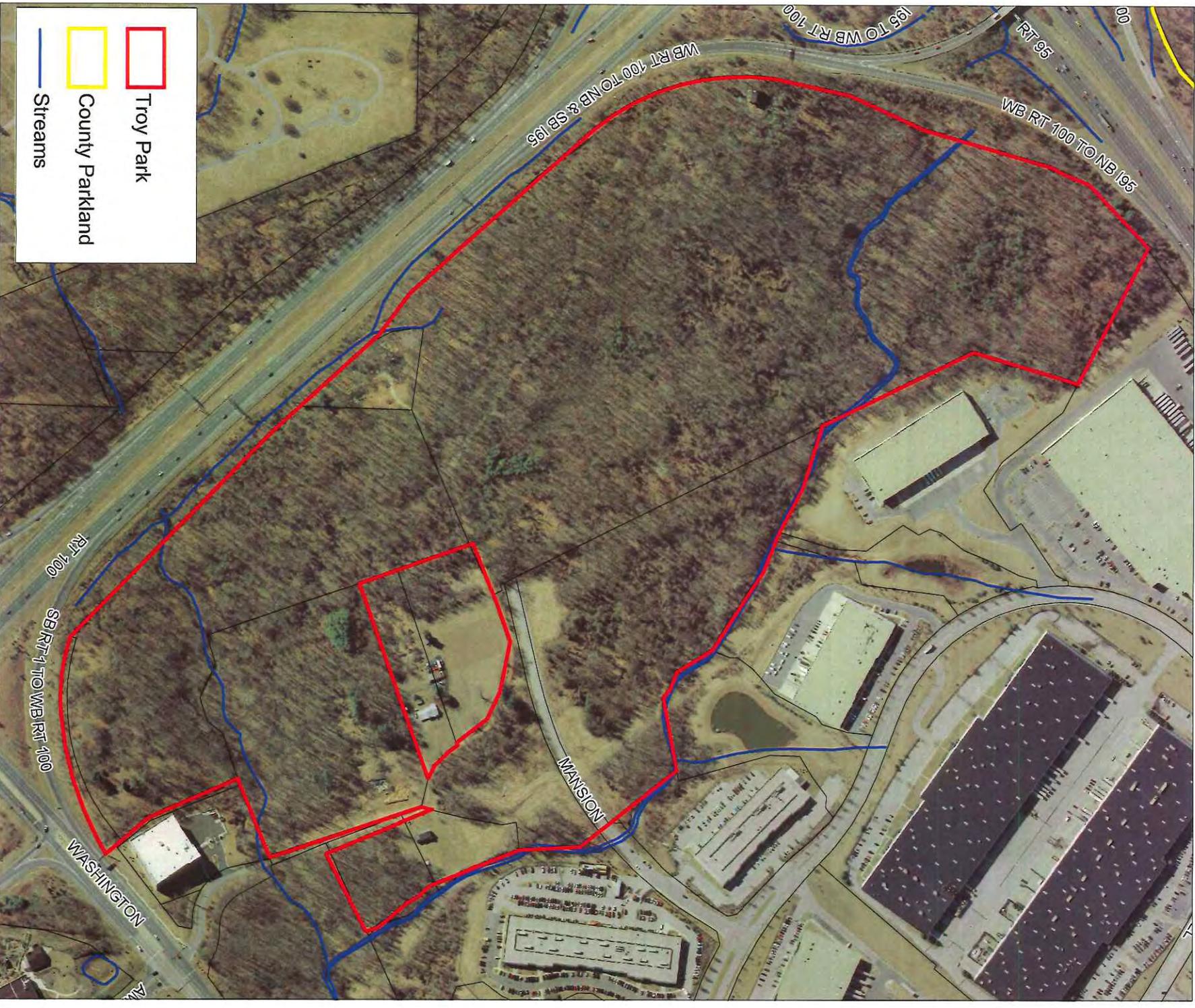


# Troy Park

6500 Mansion Lane, Elkridge 21075

Acreeage: 100.948

Scale: 1" = 400' Printed: Sept. 2013



Troy Park

County Parkland

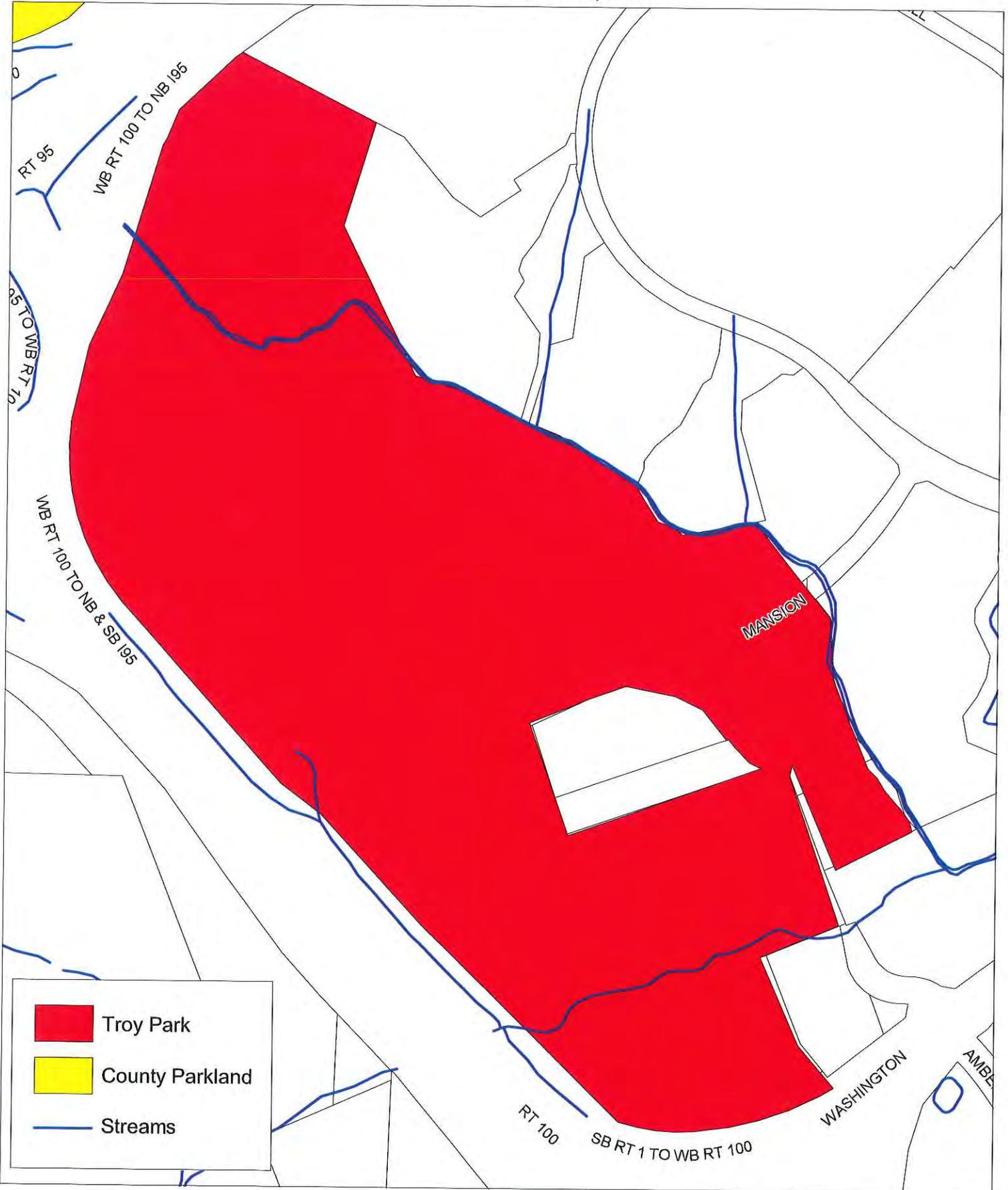
Streams

# Troy Park

6500 Mansion Lane, Elkrige 21075  
Acreage: 100.948



Scale: 1" = 400' Printed: Sept. 2013



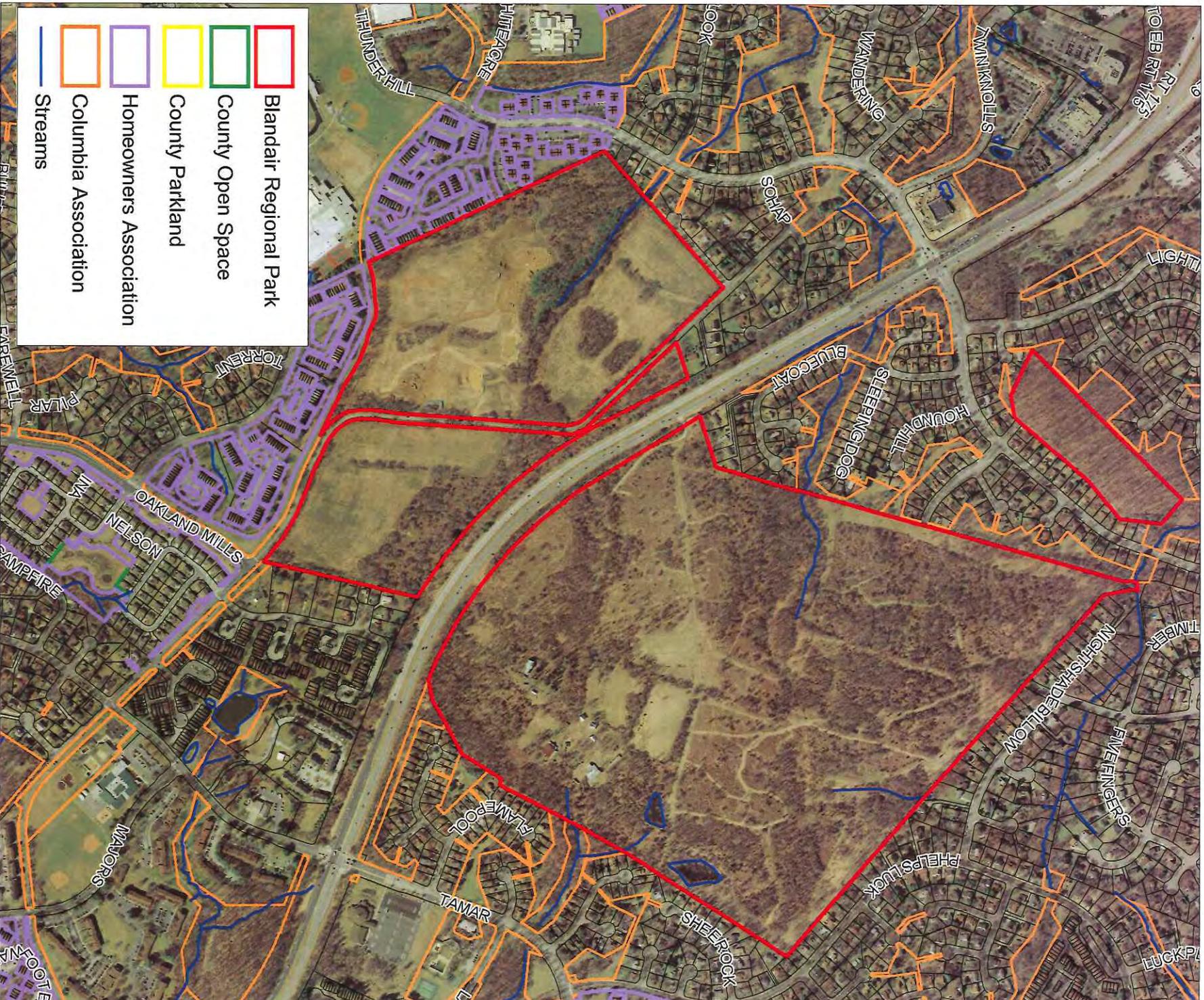
# Blandair Regional Park

5750 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, 21044

Acreeage: 298.083

Scale: 1" = 800'

Printed: Sept. 2013



Blandair Regional Park

County Open Space

County Parkland

Homeowners Association

Columbia Association

Streams

# Blandair Regional Park

5750 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, 21044

Acreage: 298.083

Scale: 1" = 800'

Printed: Sept. 2013

