



# The Howard Heritage Project at Patuxent River SP

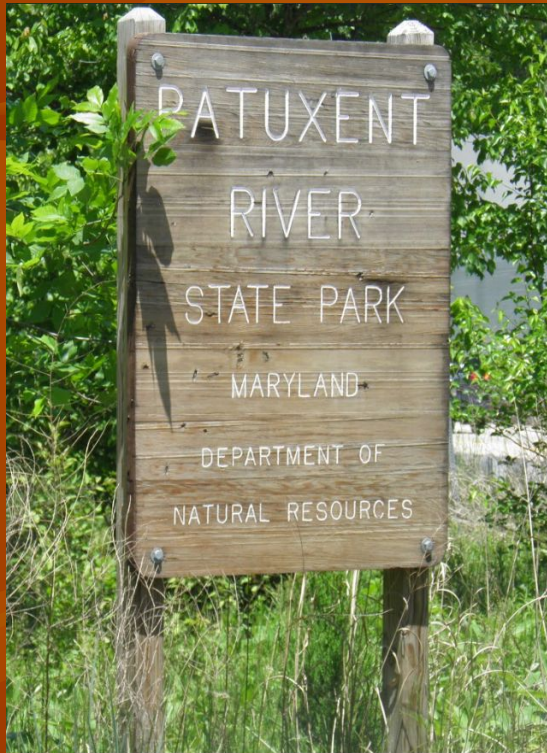
Erik Ledbetter

Park Ranger/Assistant Manager

Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks



# 1970s: New Park and High Hopes





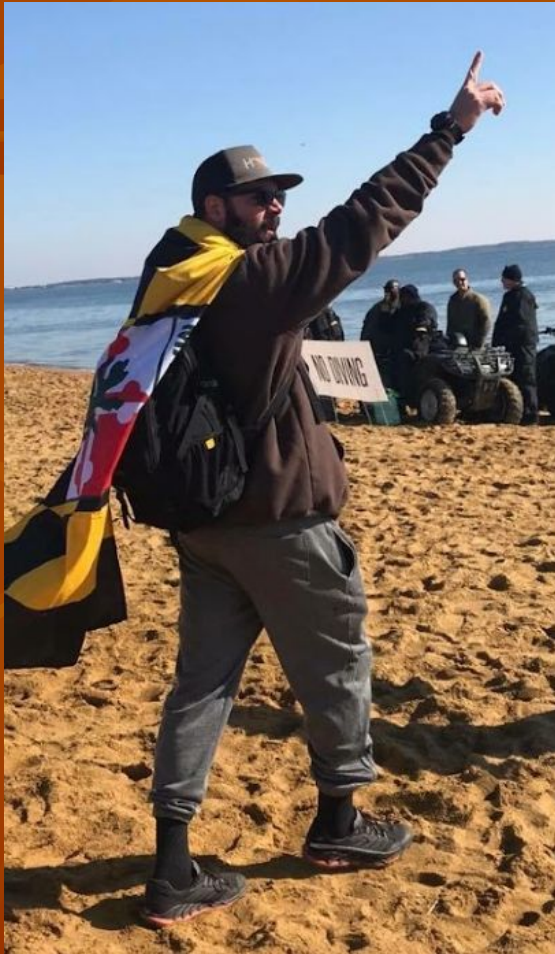
# Then came tough times...







# 2017 - Starting Up Again







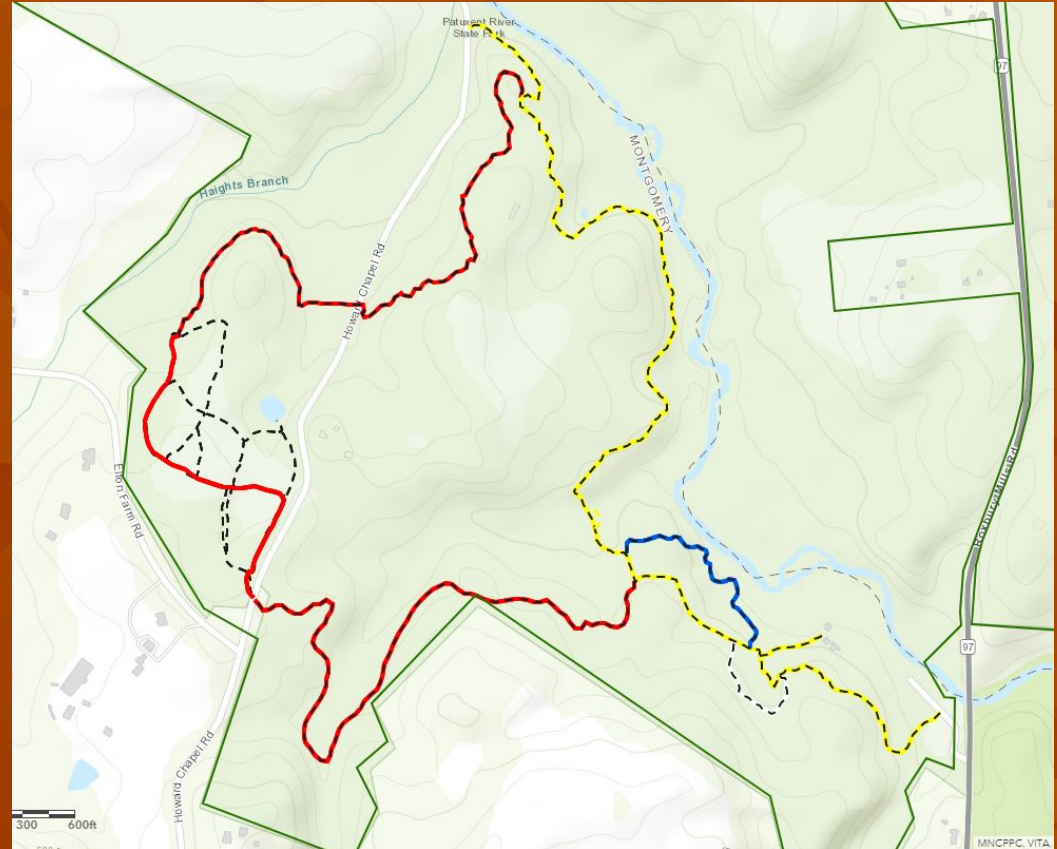
# 2018 Interim Nature Center







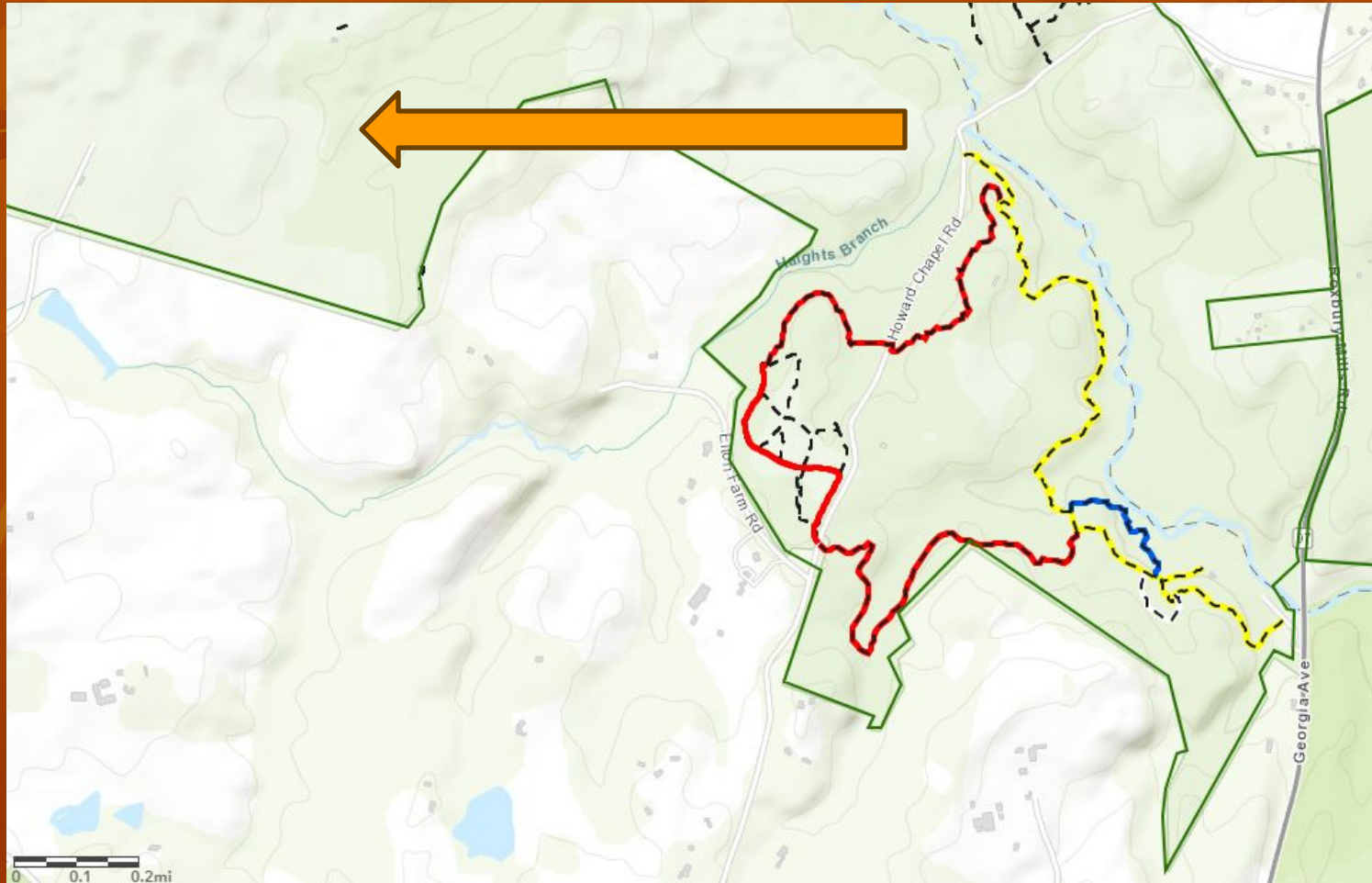
# 2017-2020 Reopening and Extending Trails







# Where to Next?





# Well, there was an old house in the woods...







# That was built by a very special man ...



Enoch George Howard

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND RECORDS  
50 COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MARYLAND HALL OF RECORDS  
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

LIBER STS 5 FOLIO 282

MANUMISSION OF GEORGE ENOCH HOWARD

At the request of George Howard the following manumission was recorded the first day of April, 1851. To wit: To all whom it may concern, be it known that I, Sarah Griffith of Montgomery County in the State of Maryland, for diverse good causes and considerations me thereunto moving, have released from slavery, manumitted and set free and by these presents do hereby release from slavery, liberate, manumit, and set free my negro named George Howard being of the age of thirty six years and able to work and maintain gain a sufficient livelihood and maintenance and him, the said negro man named George Howrd, I do declare to be henceforth free, manumitted and discharged from all manner of service or servitude to me, my executors and administrators forever. In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and offer my seal this thirty first day of March, eighteen hundred and fifty one.

Sarah Griffith



**His and his family's graves were  
also still there... obscured by  
weeds**





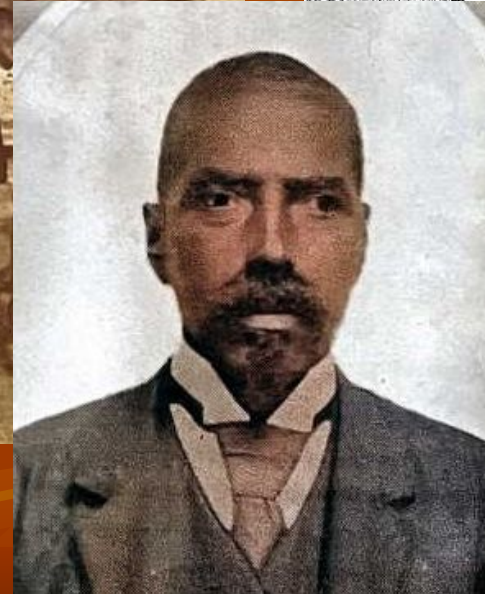


# As well as the ruins of the former Great House, Locust Villa





This heritage needed to be cherished... the story told.







**Our Park Family is small... we had no hope of doing this by ourselves**







But our friends are many!!!







We invited all MPS Central Region to lend a hand...







# Many Hands made for Quick Work







# DNR Historic Preservation Specialist Pete Morrill chipped in...





**...and then now-MPS Director  
Angie Crenshaw took a hand**







# And brought new friends to connect with the Howard Story





# Outdoor Afro Leaders' Trek







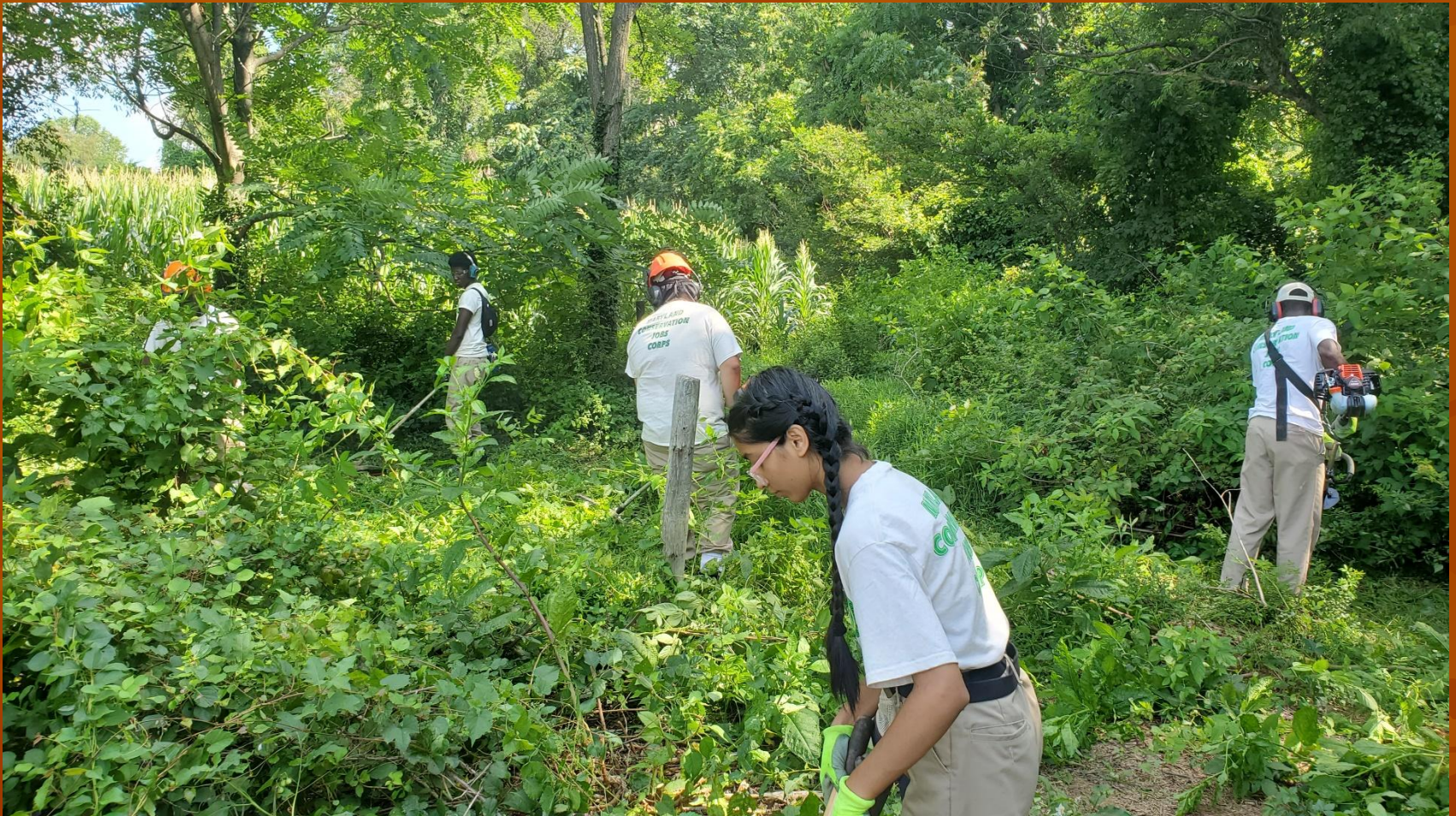
# To visit Enoch, Harriet and Greenbury's Legacy







# Next we needed help clearing Enoch and Harriet's Gravesites







...And that's where CJC pitched in!







# In two hard hot days CJC turned this thicket







...yard by yard...







...back into a beautiful,  
respectful Place of Rest.







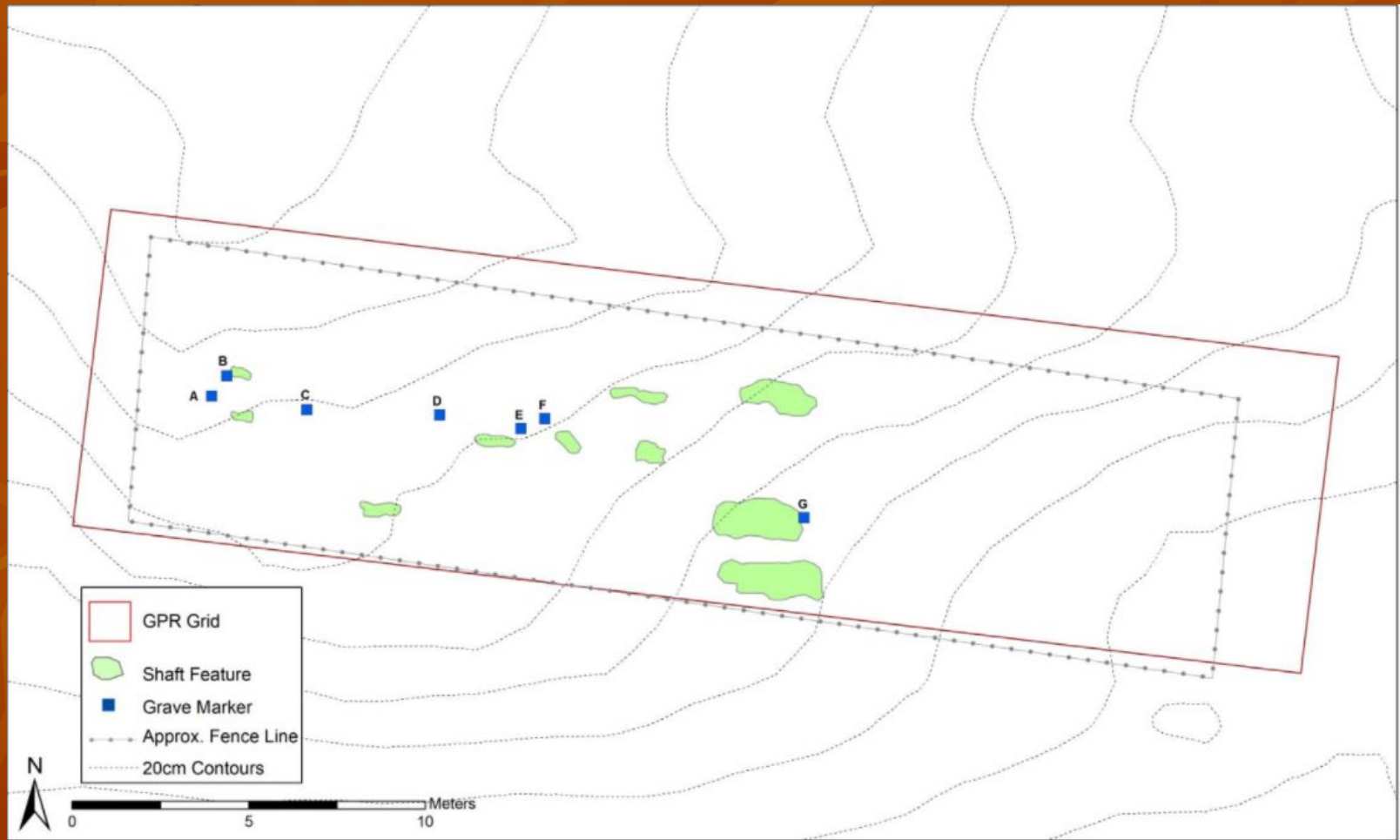
# After CJC was done, Maryland Historic Trust came along... with Ground Penetrating Radar







# Revealing the exact resting places of the Howard Ancestors







# Preservation Maryland and NPS helped us clean and reset the headstones







# SHA's Archeology Team Came to Help







# And found amazing artifacts







# At the end of the dig, we welcomed The Howards







So they could transmit their legacy to future generations







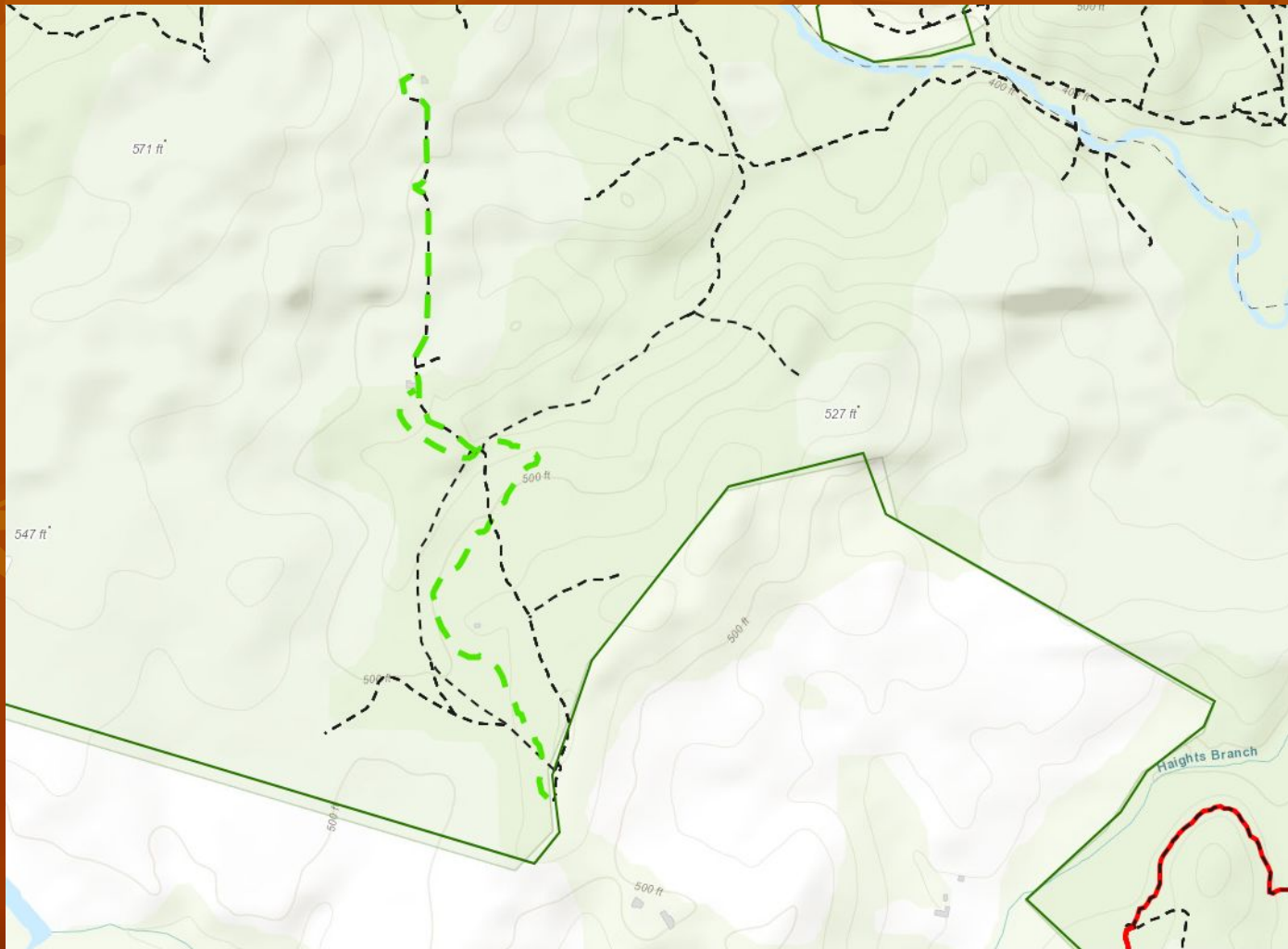
# Now we needed a trail...







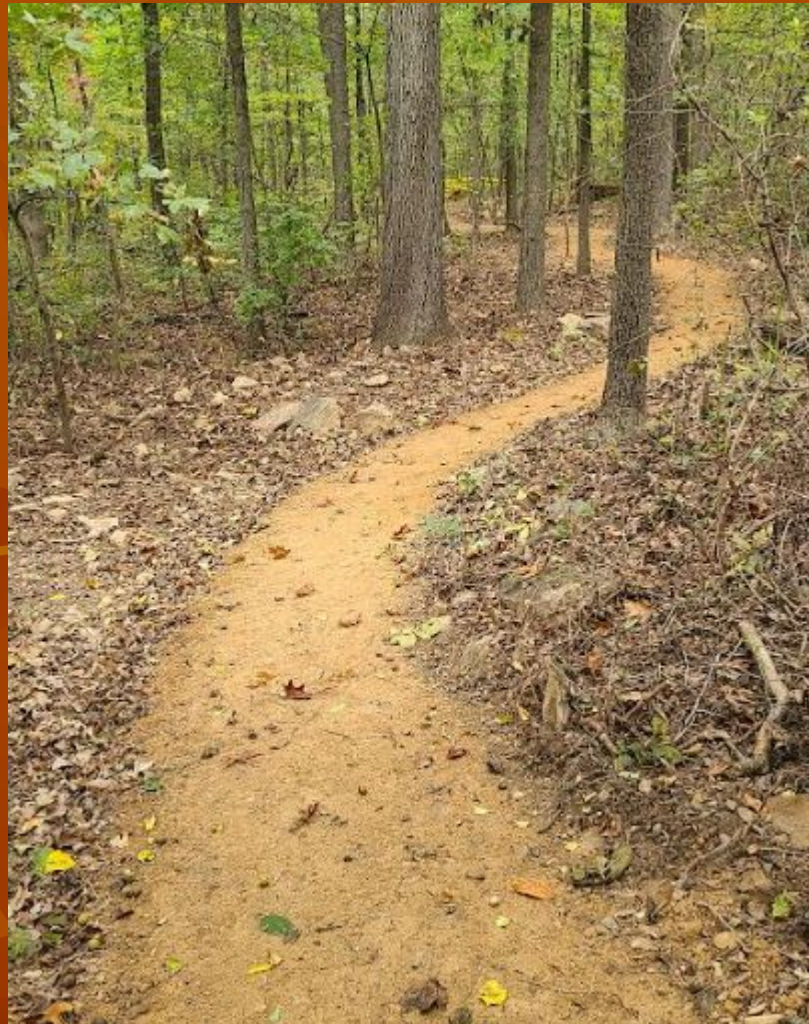
# To connect Elton Farm Road to the houses and family cemetery







# Which is being completed as we speak







# What's next... Great Maryland Outdoors Act

(Senate Bill 541)

AN ACT concerning

**Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service and State Parks – Alterations  
(Great Maryland Outdoors Act)**







# Freedman's State Historical Park

~~(B)~~ (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK AS A PARTNERSHIP PARK THAT SEEKS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT AND PRESERVE AND INTERPRET THE LIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF BLACK AMERICANS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

(2) FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK SHALL BE HELD BY THE STATE AS A STATE PARK UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

~~(C)~~ (D) ~~THE PARK~~ FREEDMAN'S STATE HISTORICAL PARK SHALL CONSIST OF PROPERTIES IN NORTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN OR NEAR THE COMMUNITIES OF BROOKEVILLE, OLNEY, SANDY SPRING, ZION, AND LAYTONSVILLE THAT ARE:

(1) OWNED BY THE STATE AND DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE PARK; AND

(2) (I) OWNED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A BICOUNTY AGENCY, OR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; AND

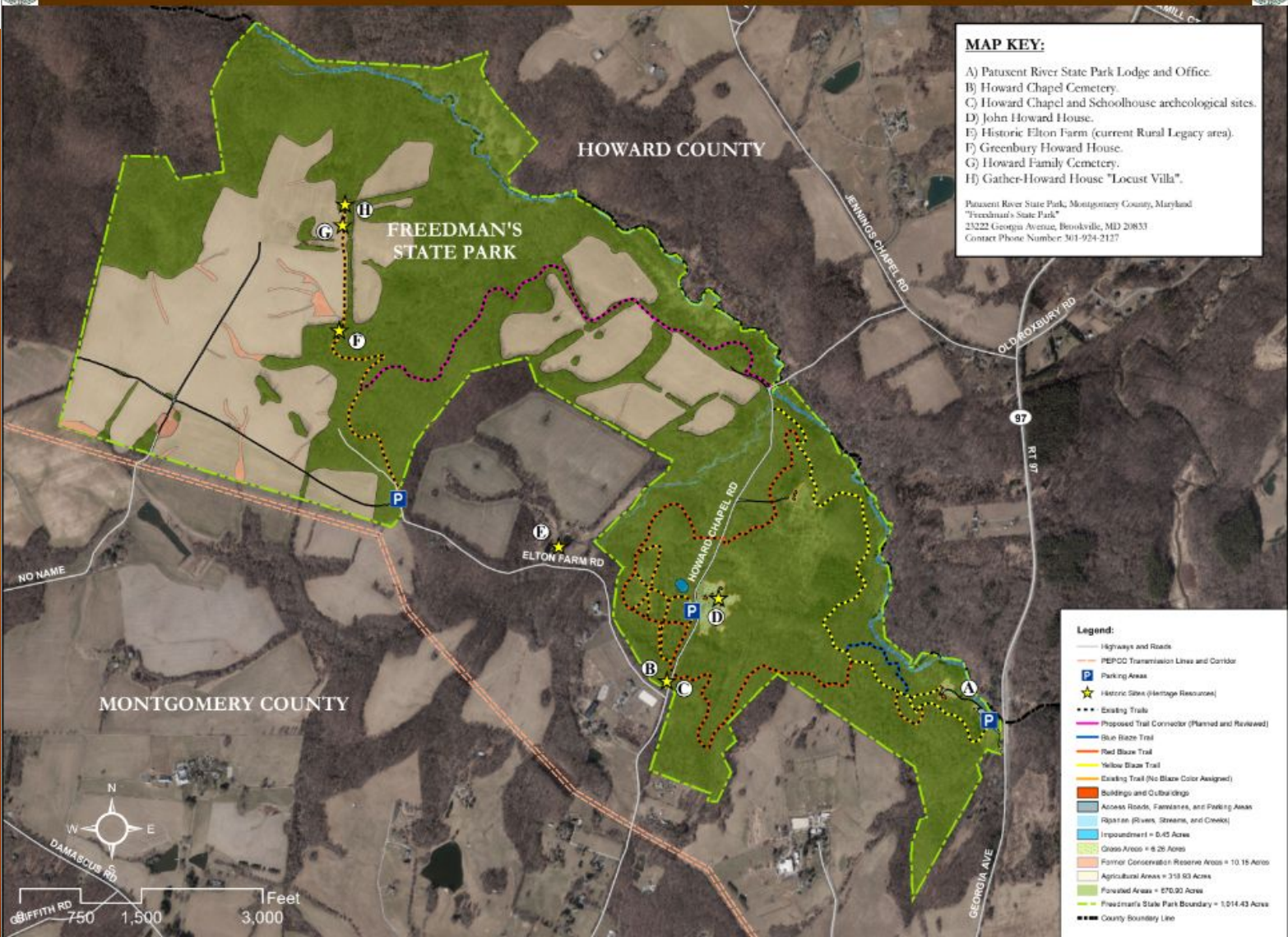
(II) DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE PARK BY A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE STATE.





# Freedman's State Historical Park

MAP 2: FREEDMAN'S STATE PARK SITE MAP (EXISTING USE)



**MAP KEY:**

- A) Patuxent River State Park Lodge and Office.
- B) Howard Chapel Cemetery.
- C) Howard Chapel and Schoolhouse archeological sites.
- D) John Howard House.
- E) Historic Elton Farm (current Rural Legacy area).
- F) Greenbury Howard House.
- G) Howard Family Cemetery.
- H) Gather-Howard House "Locust Villa".

Patuxent River State Park, Montgomery County, Maryland  
 "Freedman's State Park"  
 23222 Georgia Avenue, Brookville, MD 20833  
 Contact Phone Number: 301-924-2127

**Legend:**

- Highways and Roads
- PEPCO Transmission Lines and Corridor
- Parking Areas
- Historic Sites (Heritage Resources)
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trail Connector (Planned and Reviewed)
- Blue Blaze Trail
- Red Blaze Trail
- Yellow Blaze Trail
- Existing Trail (No Blaze Color Assigned)
- Buildings and Outbuildings
- Access Roads, Fences, and Parking Areas
- Riparian (Rivers, Streams, and Creeks)
- Impoundment = 0.45 Acres
- Grass Areas = 6.26 Acres
- Former Conservation Reserve Areas = 10.15 Acres
- Agricultural Areas = 313.93 Acres
- Forested Areas = 870.92 Acres
- Freedman's State Park Boundary = 1,014.43 Acres
- County Boundary Line





# Stay Tuned!

