

December 13, 2024

Michael McQuarrie, Local Grants Administrator Land Acquisition & Planning Maryland Department of Natural Resources 580 Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Debbie Herr Cornwell, PLA, ASLA, CC-P® Resource Conservation Planner Maryland Department of Planning 301 West Preston Street Suite 1101 Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. McQuarrie:

It is my pleasure to submit the Montgomery County FY25 Annual Program for Program Open Space. This submission includes future development projects sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Department of Parks. The FY25 Annual Program for Acquisition is also included in this submission.

The Montgomery County Department of Parks FY25 development submission includes six projects in our approved Capital Improvements Program. These funds support the design and construction of renovations and upgrades to some of our well-used local, urban, and regional parks that are consistent with the goals of promoting active lifestyles, upgrading, and maintaining park facilities and amenities to a certain standard, and ensuring parks and recreation opportunities are accessible and equitably distributed as stated in our 2022 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) PROS Plan. The FY25 annual plan for development includes the following projects:

• The Wheaton Regional Park Nairn Trail

The Wheaton Regional Park Nairn Trail project provides for renovation of a 1.1-mile segment of the Wheaton Regional Park Loop Trail, from the driveway to the Dog Park to Nairn Road. The existing trail is not ADA accessible, and the asphalt is in poor condition. The renovation of the trail includes accessibility enhancements, repairing the asphalt pavement, enhancing the shoulders, installation of new trail barrier, replacement of drainage culverts, and other renovation work all stemming from the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan. This project is within the recommendations of the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan, VISION 2030: Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation in Montgomery County, Maryland, PROS Plan, as well as ADA Transition Plan that was submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

• The Wheaton Regional Park Rubini Courts and Parking Lots

The Wheaton Regional Park Rubini courts and parking lots project provides planning, design and construction for the renovation, conversion, modernization, and/or replacement of aging, unsafe, or obsolete park amenities and infrastructure throughout the Rubini Athletic Complex at Wheaton Regional Park. Improvements include, but are not limited to, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, driveway network enhancements, parking lot renovations, court renovations and conversions, site and recreational amenities, landscapes, structures, lighting, stormwater management, etc. Moreover, this project will provide infrastructure that facilitates the development of future projects in the Rubini Athletic Complex. Elements proposed are consistent with recommendations of the Wheaton Regional

Park Master Plan, VISION 2030: Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation in Montgomery County, Maryland, and PROS Plan.

• The North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail

The North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail will be a new trail located within Rock Creek Regional Park and the North Branch Stream Valley Park Unit 4 and is approximately 2.2 miles in length including connector trails. There are two segments of this trail. The first will connect the Lake Frank Lakeside Trail to the Emory Lane Bikeway at the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road. A 15-space parking lot will be built on Meadowside Lane, off Muncaster Mill Road, for trailhead parking. Improvements to the intersection of Muncaster Mill Road and Emory Lane are part of the Emory Lane Bikeway being constructed by MCDOT and coordinated with SHA and M-NCPPC. The second segment connects the Route 200 Bikeway to the Rock Creek Trail extending from the Preserve at Rock Creek. The trail has been recommended in multiple master plans including the 2005 Olney Master Plan, 2004 Upper Rock Creek Area Master Plan, the 2008 Countywide Park Trails Plan, the 2000 Rock Creek Regional Park Master Plan, and the 2008 Upper Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan.

• <u>Stonehedge Local Park Refresher</u>

The Stonehedge Local Park Refresher includes renovation of the existing playground and converting the existing half-size basketball court to a full-size basketball court. A new community garden is proposed for the park as well as a picnic pavilion. The existing fitness area along the northern path will be removed and new fitness equipment will be provided in the park. The size of the existing rectangular field will be reduced to provide a loop path, as desired by the community. In addition, the renovation will provide improvements to the parking lot, stormwater management upgrades, accessibility improvements, new site furnishings, tree planting, and security cameras. This project promotes physical activity, and stewardship of environmental resources by addressing multiple needs of the community as spelled out in the PROS Plan.

• Fox Chapel Local Park Refresher

The Fox Chapel Local Park Refresher includes a playground, fitness equipment, tennis court, and a soccer (futsal) court. Community space improvements include two picnic shelters, an oval-shaped walking loop, a multipurpose lawn, and an entry and seating area. These features are ideal for picnicking, informal play, and community events. New site furnishings include benches, picnic tables, grills, bike racks, and a drinking fountain. Further improvements will be made to the parking lot, park signage and walkways. Environmental enhancements include upgraded BMP/LID stormwater management (micro bioretention facilities with native planting and permeable engineered wood fiber in the playground and fitness areas), improved drainage, and native tree planting. Additionally, electric service, telecommunication infrastructure, and security cameras are proposed. The proposed project aligns with the central ethos of PROS Plan – to promote physical activity, social connectivity, and environmental stewardship, especially in diverse areas, with an emphasis on teens, working age adults and seniors. The park is in an Equity Focus area and its proposed upgrades offer new features that better serve the community's diverse ages, interests, and abilities.

Greenwood Local Park

The Greenwood Local Park project will address accessibility issues within the park in conjunction with the renovation of many of the aged park amenities. Existing Park amenities within the redevelopment area include a playground, two tennis courts, a handball court, two full basketball courts, and a gazebo. The proposed program at Greenwood Local Park will provide new and updated amenities and a layout that improves accessibility, function, and enjoyment of the park, while preserving the natural character of the park to the greatest extent possible. Proposed amenities include a new playground, picnic pavilion, and renovation of the existing courts to provide a basketball court, a tennis court, and three

dedicated pickleball courts. The former playground location will be converted to a nature play area and the existing parking lot will be reconfigured to improve functionality. In addition, the renovation will provide tree planting, new site furniture (including a drinking fountain and vaulted restroom), and stormwater management facilities.

Also, for FY25 we are pleased to include the following projects for several incorporated municipalities within Montgomery County. These projects include:

• <u>Redgate Project for the City of Rockville</u>

RedGate Park is an approximately 130-acre site located in the City of Rockville at the intersection of Norbeck and Avery Roads. Formerly a golf course, the site is currently enjoyed by the community for events and predominantly passive uses. On October 17, 2022, the Mayor and Council of Rockville adopted a park master plan. The master plan process has been informed by extensive public input, analysis of existing park conditions, and guidance by Mayor and Council. RedGate Park is a predominantly passive park that emphasizes natural habitat and pathway enhancements throughout. Passive areas of the park represent approximately 90% of the total park acreage. In addition to the existing parking lot and entry drive, the central park area will include features and amenities interwoven with the natural habitat areas-including community gardens, picnic pavilions, playground, dog park, amphitheater with an associated deck overlook, and potentially a visitor center. Over time, the entire park will be developed as an arboretum to feature arboretum plant and tree specimens and collections. Interpretive signage will be integrated into natural environments and park features with access along the pathway network. Environmental Site Design (ESD)—including an emphasis on native and adaptive vegetation, bioswales, rain gardens, pervious paving, and/or green roofs—will be utilized and integrated into the landscape design of park features. While some natural areas of the park may not be accessible to visitors with mobility concerns due to the existing steep terrain in certain locations, most park features, and all experiences will be accessible to all. This project takes the adopted RedGate Park Master Plan from concept to design and construction of the amenities.

Walder Park Renovation for the City of Gaithersburg

Walder Park is an older park, first purchased in 1972-73 and opened in 1978, and it is time to provide appropriate and equitable upgrades and improvements to the park. The project will include the development of a renovation plan, the repair, update and possible relocation of the current park pavilion, replacement of the playground equipment, renovation or removal of the half basketball court, updated walking paths, removal of the chain link fencing and asphalt area, installation of a concrete pad and fitness court (via the National Fitness Campaign organization), and installation of SWM structures and landscaping plants and materials to upgrade the area and assist with current storm water management issues.

• <u>Circle Wood Acquisitions for the City of Takoma Park</u> is included under the acquisitions portion of the FY25 Annual Program.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in Program Open Space.

Sincerely,

Ronald Peele

Ronald Peele Montgomery County Liaison Officer Program Open Space

LPPRP Goals											
1	Focus on creating high quality urban parks.										
2	Use park and recreation facilities/programs to promote active lifestyles.										
3	Ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are equitably distributed along racial, socioeconomic, and geographic lines.										
4	Make social connection a central objective for parks and recreation.										
5	Update park facility standards and acquisition strategies to align with infill development and adaptive reuse strategies.										
6	Coordinate with county agencies to accomodate multiple needs, including recreation, education, community-building, and resource stewardship - through colocation, adaptive reuse, co-programming and other combined or shared land and facilities.										
7	Maintain high standards of environmental stewradship in park management and operations.										
8	Integrate parks/rec/public spaces into economic development strategies and land use planning to attract employers and workers, build social con- nections, encourage healthy lifestyles, and create vibrant places, especially as part of Complete Communities.										
Program Open Space Annual Program											
Montgomery County, Maryland											
FY25 Development Program: M-NCPPC, Department of Parks Source of Funds for Annual Program Only											
Sponsor	Project Name and Description	Project Acres/Miles	Total Cost				State POS	LPPRP Goals Assosciated w/Project			
MNCPPC	The Wheaton Regional Park Nairn Trail	1.1 Miles	\$	1,340,000	\$	340,000	\$ 1,000,000	2,3,7			
MNCPPC	The Wheaton Regional Park Rubini Courts and Parking Lots	5.5 Acres	\$	3,350,000	\$	850,000	\$ 2,500,000	2,3,4,7			
MNCPPC	North Branch Trail	2.2 Miles	\$	800,000	\$	200,000	\$ 600,000	2			
MNCPPC	Stonehedge Local Park Refresher	4.4 Acres	\$	2,400,000	\$	900,000	\$ 1,500,000	1,2,3,4			
MNCPPC	Fox Chapel Local Park Refresher	2.1 Acres	\$	2,500,000	\$	750,000	\$ 1,750,000	1,2,3,4			
MNCPPC	Greenwood Local Park	2.4 Acres	\$	2,850,000	\$	1,100,000	\$ 1,750,000	2,4			
	TOTAL FY25 Annual Program		\$	13,240,000	\$	4,140,000	\$ 9,100,000				
FY25	Annual Program Submissions from Incorporated	d Municipali	ties	s in Montgo	me	ry County					
City of Rockville	RedGate Park Project	130 Acres	\$	3,699,930	\$	1,699,930	\$ 2,000,000	2,3,7,8			
City of Gaithersburg	Walder Park Renovations	.51 Acres	\$	1,972,000	\$	1,498,000	\$ 474,000	1,2,3,4,7			
	Total FY25 Program for Municipalities		\$	5,671,930	\$	3,197,930	\$ 2,474,000				
	Total FY25 Program		\$	18,911,930	\$	7,337,930	\$11,574,000				

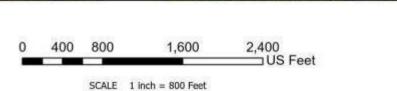
M-NCPPC: Parks Department Development MAPS

WHEATON REGIONAL PARK - NAIRN TRAIL

2000 Shorefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20902

WHEATON REGIONAL PARK





WHEATON REGIONAL PARK - RUBIN! COURTS & PARKING LOT

2000 Shorefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20902

- WHEATONREGIONAL PARK
- P«OJECT srn. RUIUNICOURTSANOPAIUCING LOT



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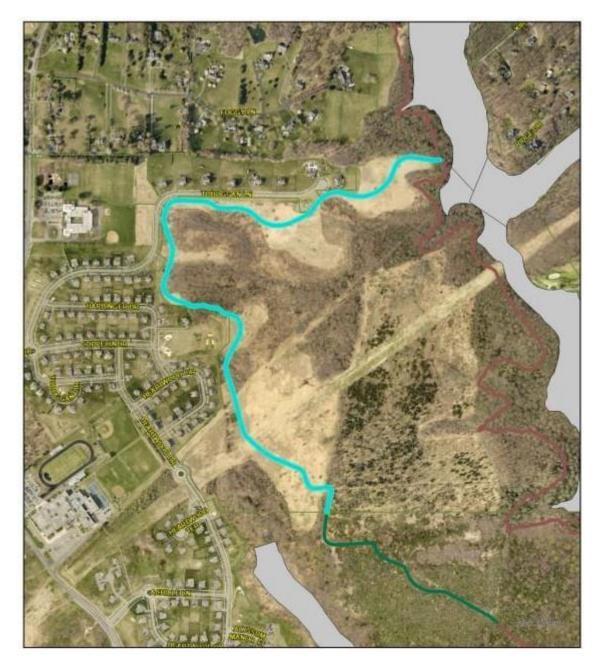
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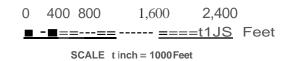
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NORTH BRANCH HIKER-BIKER TRAIL

Rock Creek Regional Park and North Branch Stream Valley Park Unit 4

- PROJECT SITE • NORTH BRANCHHIKfR BIKER TRAIL





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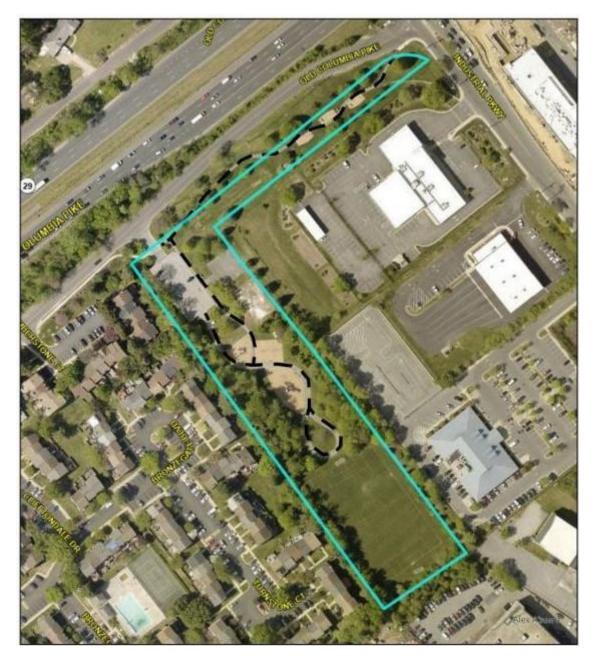
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STONEHEDGELOCALPARK

121210ld Columbia Pike White Oak, MD 20904

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STONEHEDGf LOCAIPARK





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FOX CHAPEL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

19129 Staleybridge Road Germantown, MD 20876 FOX CHAPELNEIGHBORHOOD PARJC



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GREENWOOD LOCAL PARK

18700 Georgia Avenue Olney, MD 20833

GREENWOODLOCALPARJt

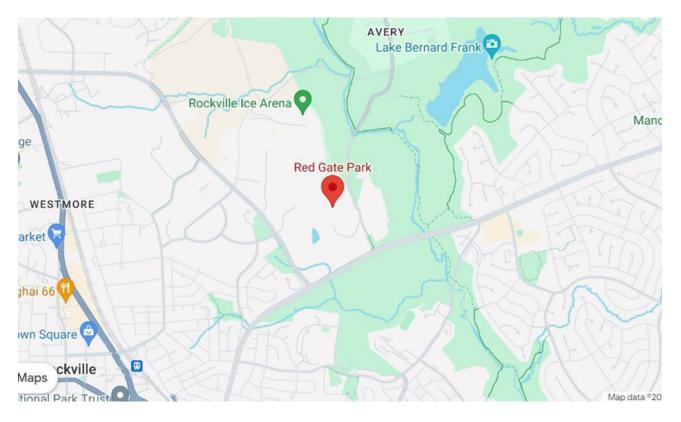


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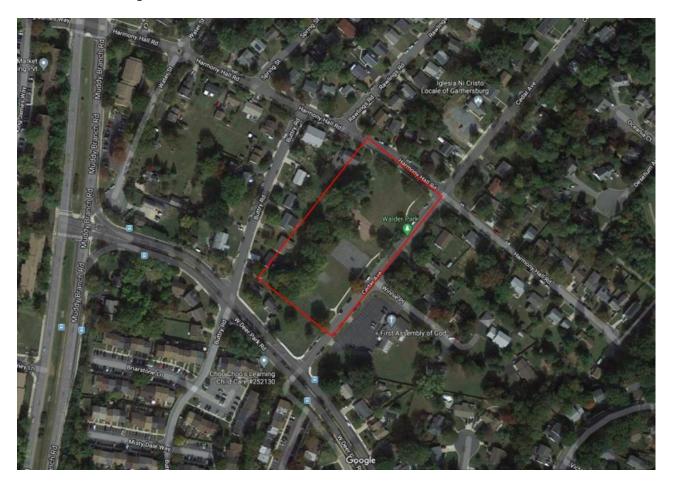
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Montgomery County Municipalities: FY25 Development MAPS

Red Gate Park 14500 Avery Road and 7 Taft Court Rockville, MD. 20850



Walder Park Renovation 302 Cedar Avenue Gaithersburg, MD. 20877



Montgomery County Department of Parks, M-NCPPC FY25 Acquisition Program Project Descriptions

Park Planning Grant:

As a prerequisite to participation in the POS funding program, State law requires that long range plans be developed and updated by local governing bodies. This project requests the use of \$25,000 to support analysis and planning work used to keep the Montgomery County Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan which serves as the county's Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPRP) and other local plans up to date.

A1 – Black Hill Regional Park – Ralph G. and C.K. Ecker Property:

This approximately nine-acre property has been part of the planned extent of Black Hill Regional Park since its original conception nearly 50 years ago. This acquisition will provide additional resource protection for the park and the Little Seneca Reservoir. It will provide room to reroute a natural surface trail to a more sustainable and accessible route and increase access to the Black Hill Regional Park trail network, especially in the western part of the park, by providing space for an expanded trailhead area including parking and interpretive signage.

A2 – Long Branch Stream Valley Park – 7813 Carroll Property:

Acquisition of the Agro Property will allow for the long-desired trail connection of the final section of the Long Branch Stream Valley Park – enhancing the recreational and trail opportunities in the park. This site will help to connect communities along the extent of the linear stream valley park as well as to the wider Anacostia Watershed Trail System in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and in The District of Columbia. Additional resource protection value will be provided through enhanced stream buffers.

A3 – Fenton Street Urban Park – Philadelphia Ave. Associates Property:

Acquiring this two-lot property would provide room for new and expanded amenities in this urban park. This acquisition would further allow for the acquisition of current road ROW creating the potential for a redesign of the park to better suit the needs of the community. This property is in the dense and growing Silver Spring CBD that is a Montgomery Parks targeted Equity Focus Area.

A4 – Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park – George and Pamela Johnson Property:

This property is one of the last remaining inholdings in the planned design for this large recreational park that serves the rapidly growing Clarksburg area of the County. It will provide space for the continued development of the park to provide needed recreational amenities.

A5 – River Road Shale Barrens Conservation Park – Goldberg Property:

This 68-acre property is a top priority natural resource conservation acquisition to protect a rare and threatened ecosystem in the county and state.

A6 – Little Bennett Regional Park – Henry and K.G. Hamm Property:

This property is one of the last remaining inholdings in the planned design for this large regional park. Acquisition of this site will provide additional resource protection and the potential for a new public access point to the park and its extensive trail system.

A7 & A8 – East Capital Crescent Trail Greenway –4324 Montgomery Ave and 4330 Montgomery Ave:

These two properties will constitute a planned park along the enhanced Capital Crescent Trail

after the conclusion of the Purple Line Construction. This park will provide access and amenities for trail users on the edge of the dense and still developing Bethesda CBD.

A9 – Willett Branch Greenway Park – portions of PS Atlantic Coast 2021B LLC and Country Realty Co. properties:

Acquisition of these properties will substantially complete the lower half of the planned Willett Branch Greenway, a linear park centered around a rehabilitated Willett Branch stream that currently runs through a neglected concrete channel. The Greenway will provide trails and green space in an otherwise highly urbanized and impervious immediate vicinity.

A10 – Wheaton Regional Park – 2016 Henderson Ave:

This acquisition was identified in the new 2022 Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan and will allow for the abandonment of a dead-end section of Henderson Ave that enters the park; providing space for additional amenities and enhancing safety for park users.

A11 – Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park – 2225 Briggs Chaney Road:

This property is an inholding within the Upper Paint Branch watershed that is surrounded on three sides by current parkland and is largely within the floodplain of the Paint Branch. Acquisition of two parcels at this location will allow for environmental restoration of an impacted area within this sensitive stream valley, prevent potentially significant park and stream impacts from future permitted and unpermitted activities, and provide opportunities for additional trail access into this part of the stream valley park system.

A12 – Upper Long Branch Neighborhood Park – 9400 Seminole Street:

This acquisition was identified in the Long Branch Parks Initiative to create an expanded park with incorporation of a right-of way that could provide additional amenities including sport court, picnic, shelter, dog run, or relocated playground. Parks will update the playground as part of stream restoration effort and provide on-road trail connections to the stream valley.

A13 - A15 – Seek Lane Neighborhood Park – 704 Bayfield Street, 706 Bayfield Street, and 8516 Hood Street:

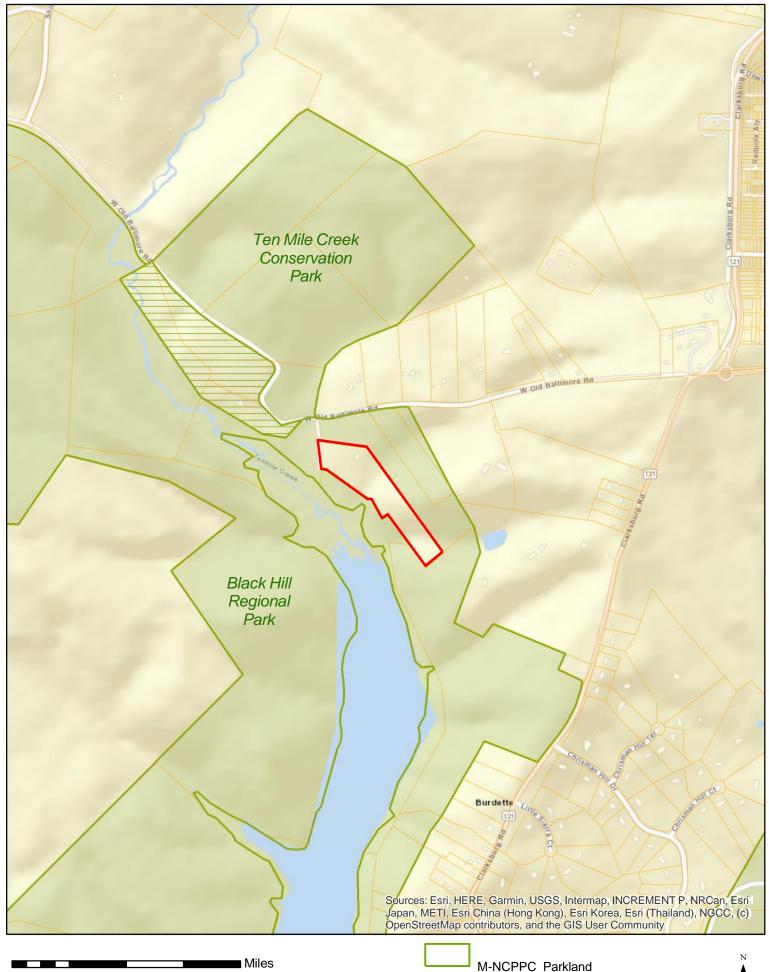
These acquisitions were identified in the 2013 Long Branch Sector Plan, and they would allow for a park expansion that would provide a better connection to Rolling Terrace Elementary School and a more welcoming and accessible entry to the park.

A16 – City of Takoma Park – Circle Wood Acquisitions:

Purchase of three properties resulting in access to the infrastructure and operations and maintenance, as well as the opportunity to activate the three lots as greenspace for use by neighborhood residents.

Program Open Space Annual Program FY25 Acquisition Program Montgomery County Department of Parks, M-NCPPC											
			Acreage			Source of Funds for Annual Program Only					
Map Locator #	Project Name and Description	Existing	Ultimate	Project	Total	Local	State	Other			
n/a	Park Planning Grant				\$25,000		\$25,000				
A1	Black Hill Regional Park - Ralph G. and C.K. Ecker Property	1,579.29	1,600.00	9.22	\$650,000		\$650,000				
A2	Long Branch SVP - 7813 Carroll Ave	41.00	46.00	3.00	\$800,000		\$800,000				
A3	Fenton Street Urban Park - Philadelphia Ave. Associates Property	0.69	1.30	0.26	\$1,750,000		\$1,750,000				
A4	Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park - George and Pamela Johnson Property	303.54	305.00	1.20	\$600,000		\$600,000				
A5	River Road Shale Barrens Conservation Park - Goldberg Property	30.00	200.00	68.25	\$950,000		\$950,000				
A6	East Capital Crescent Greenway - 4324 Montgomery Ave	0.00	1.50	0.14	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000				
A7	East Capital Crescent Greenway - 4330 Montgomery Ave	0.00	1.50	0.15	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000				
A8	Little Bennett Regional Park - Henry and K.G. Hamm Property	3,732.98	3,750.00	7.59	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000				
A9	Willett Branch Greenway Park - portions of Westbard Land LLLP and Country Realty Co. properties	0.00	10.00	1.00	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000				
A10	Wheaton Regional Park - 2016 Henderson Ave	536.00	550.00	0.31	\$540,000		\$540,000				
A11	Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park - 2225 Briggs Chaney Road	1,191.00	1,200.00	4.31	\$550,000		\$550,000				
A12	Upper Long Branch NP - 9400 Seminole Street	1.43	1.67	0.25	\$550,000		\$550,000				
A13	Seek Lane NP- 704 Bayfield Street	1.67	1.81	0.12	\$500,000		\$500,000				
A14	Seek Lane NP - 706 Bayfield Street	1.67	1.81	0.12	\$475,000		\$475,000				
A15	Seek Lane NP - 8516 Hood Street	1.67	1.81	0.16	\$500,000		\$500,000				
OTAL FY25 Annu	al Program - Acquisition	7,420.94		96.08	15,890,000	C	15,890,000				
	FY25 Annual Program Submission	ns from Inc	orporated I	<i>Iunicipaliti</i>	es in Montgome	ry County					
A16	City of Takoma Park: Circle Woods Acquisition	0.56	0.00	0.00	\$302,000		\$302,000				
	Total FY25 Program for Municipalities	0.56	0.00	0.00	\$302,000	C	\$302,000				
	Total FY25 Program	7,421.5	7,672.4	96.1	16,192,000.0	0.0	16,192,000.0	0			

Montgomery County Municipality: FY25 Acquisition MAPS A1 - Black Hill Regional Park- Ecker Property



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A2 - Long Branch Stream Valley Park - 7813 Carroll St.

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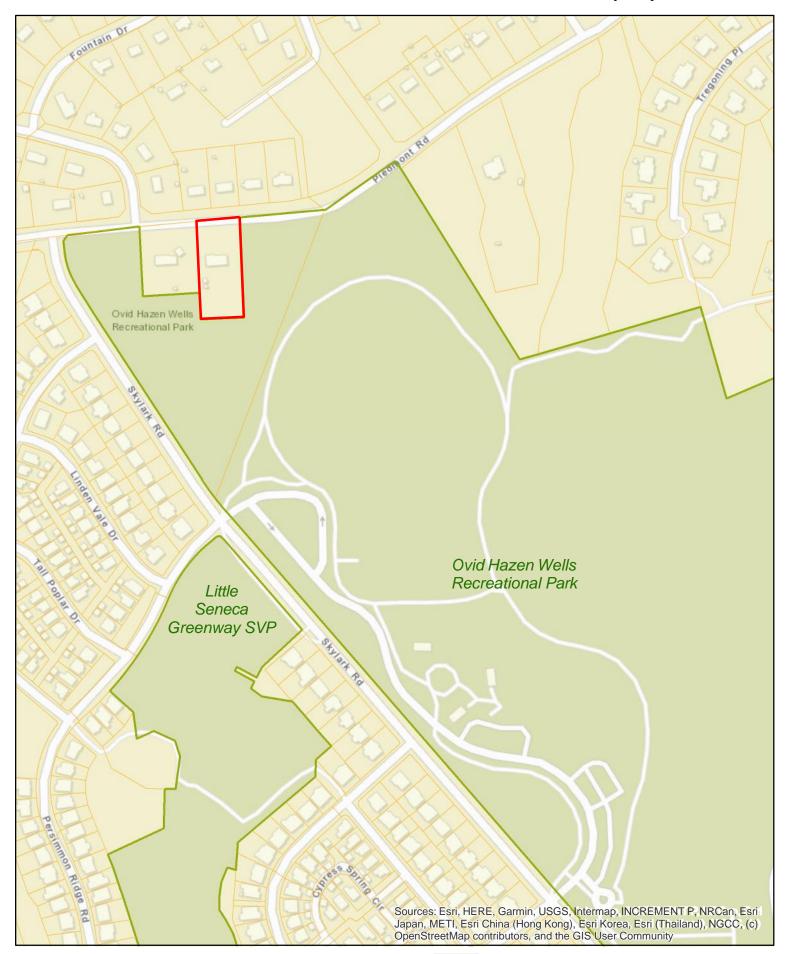
Fenton St 998 **Richmond** Ave Philadelphia Ave 304 Fenton Fenton UrbStreet Urban Park enton Selim Rd 898 S Burlington Ave 7898 410 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

A3 - Fenton Street Urban Park - Philadelphia Ave Associates Property





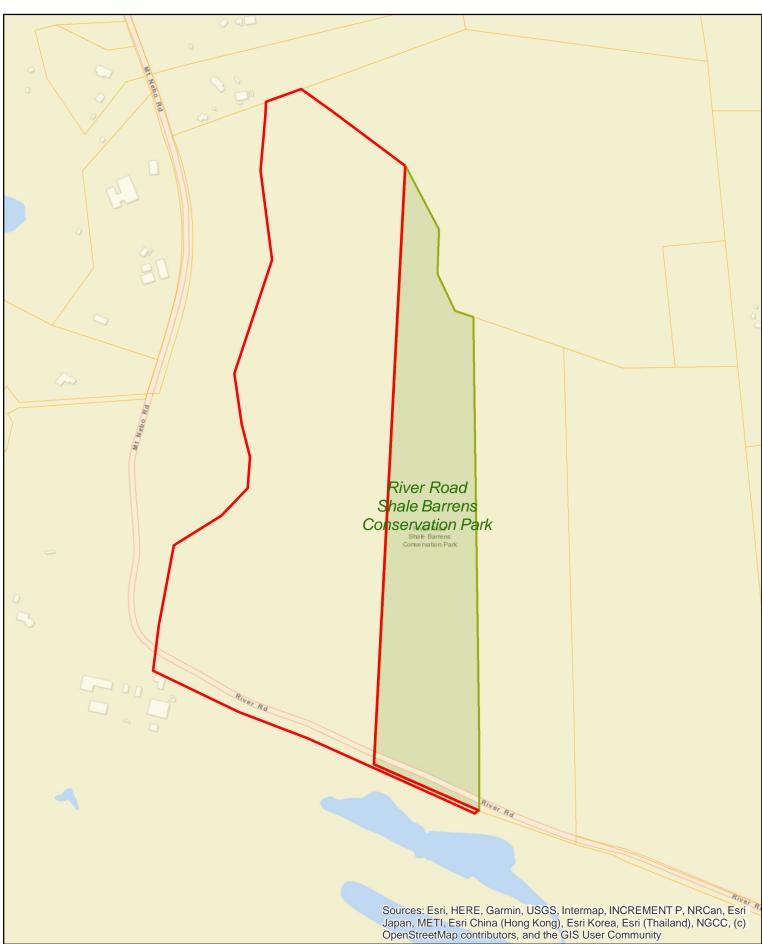
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A4 - Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park- Johnson Property



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A5 - River Road Shale Barrens Conservation Park- Goldberg Property

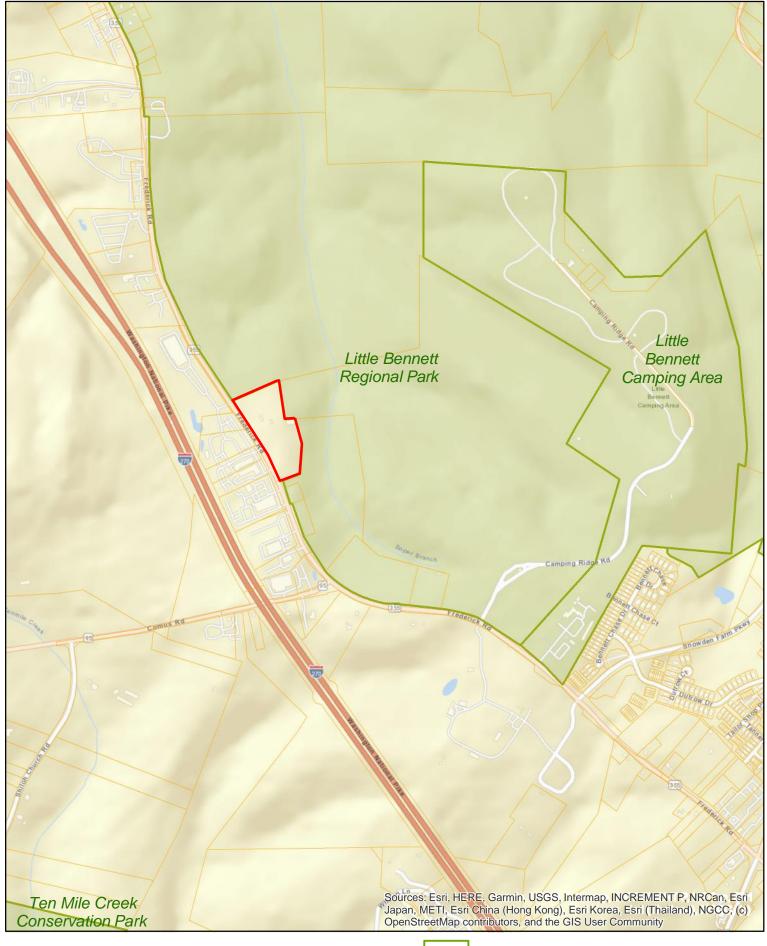
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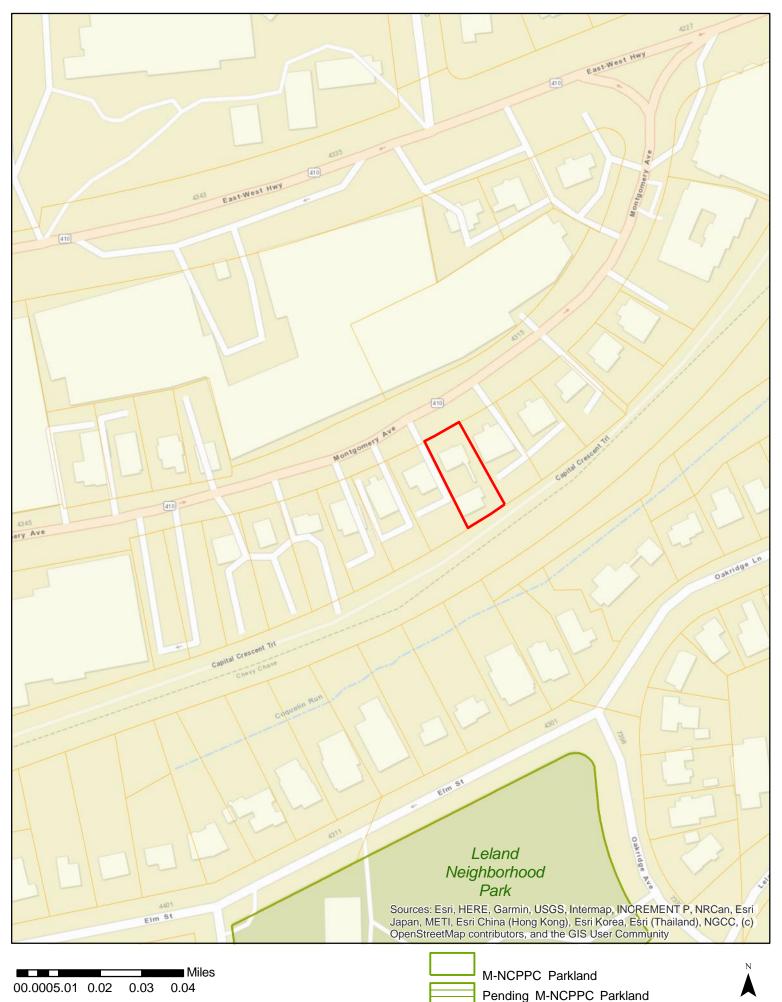


M-NCPPC Parkland Pending M-NCPPC Parkland

A6 - Little Bennett Regional Park- Hamm Property







A7 - East Capital Crescent Trail Greenway - 4324 Montgomery Ave.

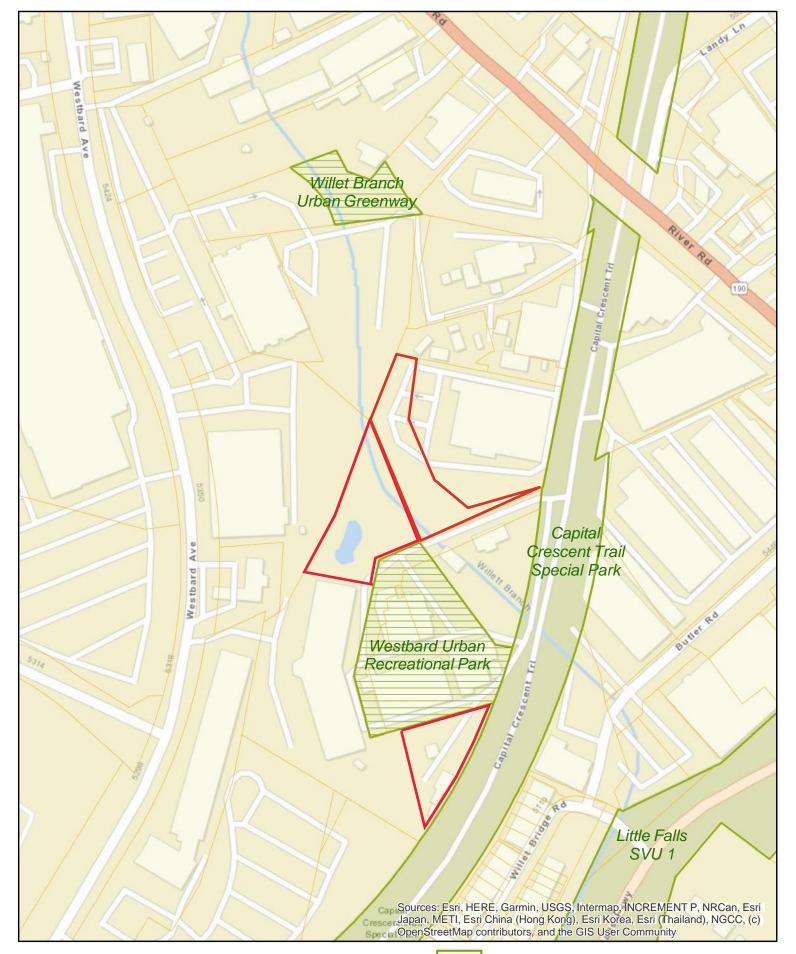


A8 - East Capital Crescent Trail Greenway - 4330 Montgomery Ave.

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Pending M-NCPPC Parkland

A9 - Willett Branch Greenway Park - Westbard Land Property



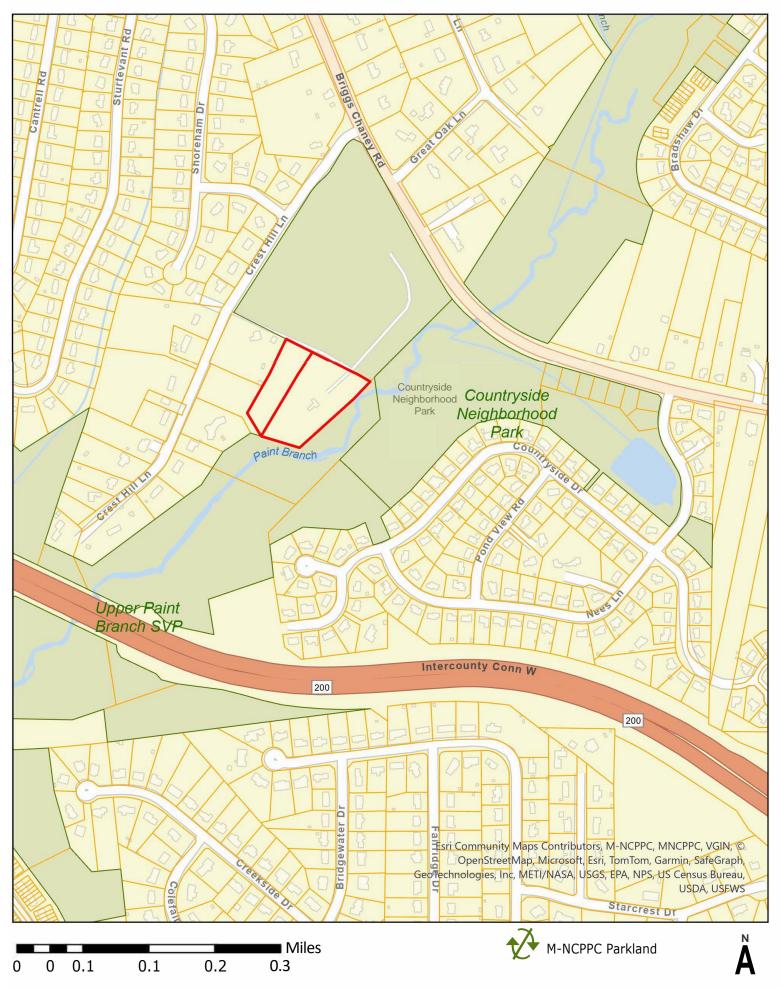


M-NCPPC Parkland Pending M-NCPPC Parkland

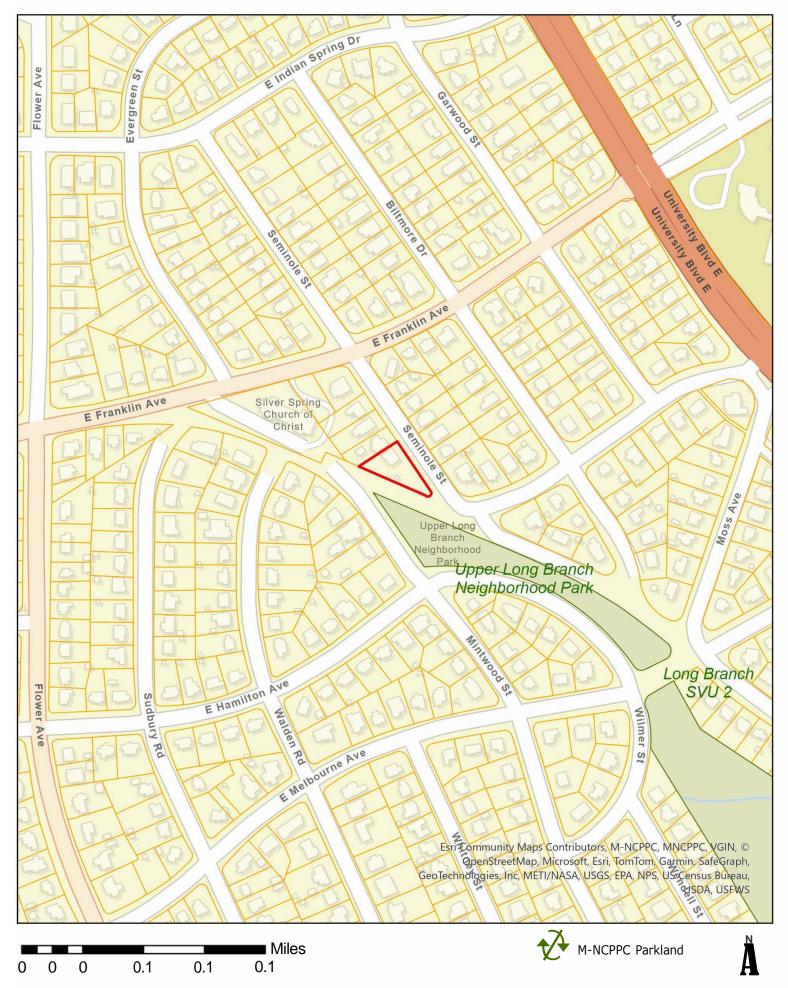


A10 - Wheaton Regional Park - 2016 Henderson Ave.

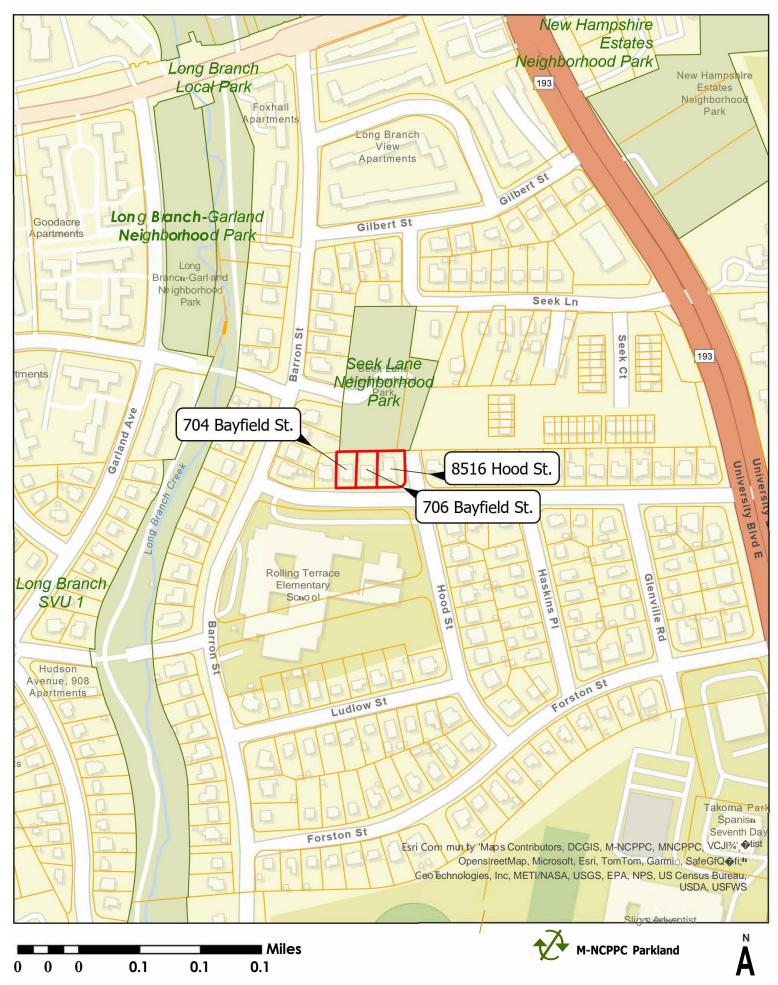
A11 - Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Park - 2225 Briggs Chaney Rd. (2 Parcels)



A12 - Upper Long Branch Neighborhood Park - 9400 Seminole St.

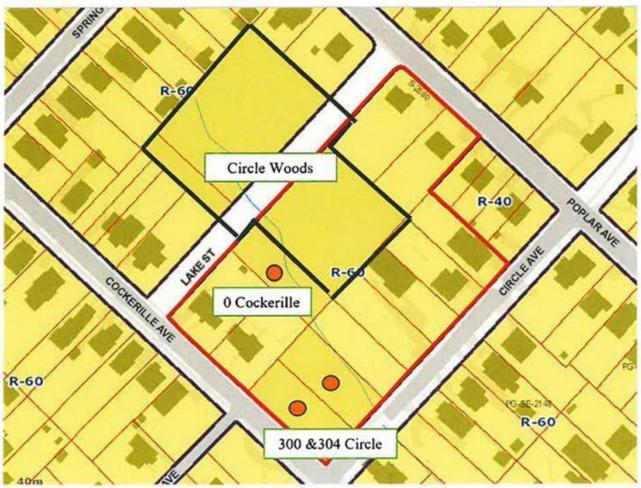


A13 - A15 Seek Lane NP - 704 & 706 Bayfield St and 8516 Hood St. (3 Parcels)



Montgomery County Municipality: FY25 Acquisition MAP

A16 - 300 and 304 Circle Avenue, 0 Cockerille Avenue (Circle Woods Acquisition & Activation)



Map 1: MCAtlas Zoning map. Circle Woods is City open space. Lake Street is a paper street.