



**Allegany County
Local Land Preservation,
Parks and Recreation Plan
Update, 2012**

Prepared by Allegany County

Planning Services Division

Acknowledgements

Allegany County Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Update 2012

Allegany County Board of County Commissioners

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The Board of Allegany County Commissioners and the Planning and Zoning Commission of Allegany County would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their aid in developing the Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Update:

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Cover photograph taken by Jessica Beal.

Resolution No. 12-20

FOR THE PURPOSE of Adopting the Allegany County Local Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan,

WHEREAS the County Commissioners recognized the need to develop and implement a Local Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan; and allocated necessary resources for the development and implementation of a Recreation Plan for the County; and

WHEREAS the Planning and Zoning Commission and staff worked together to develop this Plan; and

WHEREAS public involvement and outreach included several public outreach and information gathering meetings, including an on-line survey, public input was used to guide, direct and, when necessary, modify the development of the Plan; and

WHEREAS the Local Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan identifies existing recreational facilities, recognizes local and State of Maryland recreation goals, assesses projected short-term and long-term recreation needs of County residents, and recommends recreation planning and policy for the County; and

WHEREAS state and local resource and regulatory agencies, including: the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources, were provided adequate review; and hard and digital copies of the draft Plan were made available to the general public and were placed upon the County's Website; and

WHEREAS the draft Plan was formally referred to the State Clearinghouse Review Committee following Planning Commission "Acceptance"; and

WHEREAS the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the Plan at numerous Planning Commission Meetings, Work Sessions and Public Hearings, during which public comment on the Plan was invited; and the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on May 2, 2012 to formally solicit public comment; and the Planning Commission, at a May 16, 2012 Public Hearing, unanimously Approved the Plan and forwarded it to the County Commissioners with a recommendation for "Adoption", and

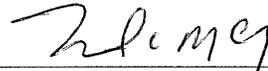
WHEREAS more than three (3) months have been provided for citizens and stakeholders to review and comment upon the "Approved" Plan; and

WHEREAS the County Commissioners held a formal Public Hearing on the "Approved" Plan on July 12, 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County, Maryland that the 2012 Local Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan for Allegany County, MD is hereby Adopted; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the 23rd day of August, 2012.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND**



Michael W. McKay, President



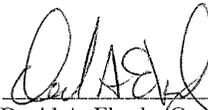
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner



William R. Valentine, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I, David A. Eberly, County Administrator of Allegany County, Maryland, a body corporate and politic, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland, hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at the public meeting of the Allegany County Commissioners held on the 23rd day of August, 2012.



David A. Eberly, County Administrator

SEAL



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Subsection 5-905(C) 2 Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes and requires counties to prepare and adopt a Plan for the general purpose of establishing a comprehensive strategy for the protection and appropriate use of land-based and water oriented resources of the County; and

WHEREAS, Allegany County has by duly adopted resolution of the Board of County Commissioners appointed a Planning and Zoning Commission to exercise the powers and duties conferred by Article 66B; and

WHEREAS, said Planning and Zoning Commission of Allegany County, acting with the advice and assistance of the citizens of the County has caused to be prepared the draft of the Allegany County Local Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan Update 2012 ; and

WHEREAS, Said Plan is designed and intended to determine needs for agricultural and forest preservation, provision of recreation areas and protection of unique natural areas for the present and future residents of Allegany County; and

WHEREAS, Said Plan has been subject to public review and public hearings; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Zoning Commission of Allegany County has carefully considered said Plan together with comments and suggestions from both the public and state and local agencies and find that said Plan constitutes a suitable, rational and timely plan to preserve agricultural and forest land, provide for recreation areas and protect unique natural areas;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning and Zoning Commission of Allegany County is hereby submitting its recommended document entitled "ALLEGANY COUNTY LOCAL LAND PRESERVATION PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN, UPDATE 2012" to the Allegany County Board of County Commissioners.

SIGNED on behalf of the Planning and Zoning Commission of Allegany County:

E. William DuVall II, Chairman 

Date: 6-20-2012

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Introduction

Successful communities recognize that access to public recreational open space and to a variety of active recreational opportunities promotes physical and mental health. Recreation also provides positive social interaction, which is one of the major avenues by which residents can begin to establish ties to the community. In this regard, the provision of adequate recreational space and facilities is not simply a matter of providing for leisure time activities but is an essential part of maintaining public health, safety and welfare and promoting social and community cohesion.

The focus of any recreational plan is for land preservation for recreational activities. The needs of the citizens of Allegany County must be addressed in order to plan for the future. This ensures that public funds are spent in a responsible manner providing for various programs throughout the county. These funds are derived primarily through the Real Estate Transfer Taxes. This plan is an update to the 2006 Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LLPPRP).

In 2006 Allegany County completed a comprehensive Recreation Study. This study categorized all of the recreation types available to the citizens of Allegany County and the surrounding tri-state area. Since the 2006 LLPPRP was completed, the County has undertaken a new planning geography. Comprehensive Plans are now based on watershed geography instead of election districts. This watershed planning initiative will ultimately see 12 regional plans developed and implemented over the next 3-4 years. Collectively, these 12 regional plans will comprise the Allegany Comprehensive Plan. Figure 1 showcases the differences in the planning geography.

As part of the comprehensive planning process each regional plan will contain a Recreation Element. These elements will tie in with the overall plan update. The elements will complete an in depth survey per region and determine the need of additional park land per area or region of the county. This summary table of the regional surveys is located in Table 7.

At this time Allegany County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) no longer has land acquisition for recreation included within it. However if the Allegany County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2012 identifies land that needs to be purchased to complete the projects listed within that plan, these items will be placed on the CIP. The County and its municipalities are focused on providing high quality activities for the residents of Allegany County. If the regional plans identify a need for additional land and activities, these needs will be included within the CIP as funding allows. The Program Open Space (POS) monies are targeted at providing improvements to the existing facilities and replacing aging equipment and amenities. Because Allegany County does not have a Parks and Recreation Department, existing County Staff coordinates with the Municipalities and local sponsors of the county owned parks for the needs of each facility. The Coordinator then conveys the interests to the Board of County Commissioners on an annual basis to complete the plan for POS funding. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources operates the Community Parks and Playgrounds funding and programming. They interact directly with the municipalities. The County is not part of the program and as such is not included in the planning for it.

Agricultural Land Preservation

Allegany County has several areas where farming has been the dominant landscape historically. The areas where these farms are typically located are north of Mount Savage, south of Frostburg, Evitts Creek Valley, the Potomac River Valley, the Murleys Branch Valley, Town Creek Valley, the Little Orleans area, the Oldtown Area, and finally around Flintstone. Farmers within Allegany County enjoy the “Right to Farm”; this is part of the zoning code within Allegany County Code in Chapter 360, Part 4, Article XII section 59 Definitions and Word Usage.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATION- Shall mean and include but is not limited to, all matters set forth in the definition of “Operation” in the Maryland Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Article 5-403 to be known as the Allegany County Right to Farm, including; cultivation and tillage of soil; dairying, the spreading of manure, lime fertilizer and the like; composting; spraying; producing; irrigating, protecting from frost, cultivating, growing, harvesting and processing of any agricultural crops of commodities; including viticulture, horticulture, timber or apiculture, raising fish or poultry and other fowl; production of eggs; production of milk and dairy products; production of livestock, including pasturage; fur bearing animals, production of bees and their products; production of fruit, vegetables and other horticultural crops; production aquatic plants; agriculture; productions of timber; and any commercial agricultural practices or procedure performed as incident to or in conjunction with such operations, including preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market; usage of lands in furtherance of educational and social goals (including but not limited to 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America), agro-tourism and alternative agricultural enterprises; and the like. Operation at any time of machinery used in farm production or the primary processing of agricultural products is also included. Normal agricultural operations performed in accordance with generally accepted agricultural management practices which are authorized by various governmental agencies such as the Cooperative Extension Service, the Allegany County Soil Conservation District are permitted along with activities which may produce normal agricultural related noise and odors. Raising, storage and processing of crops, plants, produce, animal products, poultry and poultry products, and forest products. On lots less than two (2) acres in size in the “R” District, animal and poultry husbandry are considered non-conforming uses. Agriculture does not include the location of the dwelling units on a parcel unless the requirements of the Subdivision Regulations are met. Feeding swine, cattle or poultry in a building, feed lot or other facility holding more than 500 animals or 10,000 birds is not considered a normal agricultural use but is considered to be a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).

State goals for Agriculture Lands as taken from the 2003 Guidelines for the LLPPRP are as follows:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a diversity of agricultural production.
- Protect natural, forestry and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource based industries.
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating State agricultural land preservation funds in areas where investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.
- Work with local governments to:
 - Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and compliment state goals.
 - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public at large and State and local government officials;
 - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
 - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural areas and
 - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and the public.

Allegany County's Goals:

These goals were developed through a series of public meetings for various comprehensive plans with staff and Planning Commission input. These goals support and are consistent with the State's goals for agriculture.

- Establish a Priority Preservation Area

- Continue to Submit applications to both Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and Rural Legacy on an annual basis
- Work to become a “Certified” County
 - This allows the County to keep more of the Agricultural Transfer taxes that are generated within Allegany County.
 - The County is currently working on the necessary items to apply for the certification.
- Continue to encourage voluntary submission into the MALPF and Rural Legacy Programs within Allegany County
- Maximize Areas with increased agricultural value as shown by the Prime Agricultural Soils maps that are included within each Comprehensive Plan.

The MALPF is experiencing a renewed local demand in acquiring easements. This could be due in part to the downturn the economy has taken recently. Land values in the area have remained relatively stable despite the drop in the housing market. Allegany County’s housing market has remained relatively stable through the past several years compared to the surrounding counties.

Allegany County is currently pursuing a designated area for preservation. This will help to increase the ability of properties to acquire easements through the MALPF program. The County now has a Rural Legacy Area as well. The Agricultural Land Board prioritizes the candidates for MALPF easements and then shares the candidates with the Planning Commission for approval and then sending to them to the state for consideration. To date, only four properties have been included within the MALPF program. Nine properties were sent for consideration for inclusion into the program within the last two years. The Agricultural Board prioritizes the properties for the submission for each fiscal year and they also recommend farms for inclusion pending owner interest. Farms are chosen based on several criteria that the State puts forth. Soils are an important factor as well as development pressure on the farms. Mineral rights ownership is a limiting factor for easement implementation that has come to the forefront in the recent years. This is due in part to the interest of the Marcellus Shale formation that spans through Western Allegany County and most of Garrett County.

In 2010 Allegany County was awarded its first Rural Legacy Area (RLA). Allegany County was the last county to be granted a Rural Legacy Area. See Figure 3 for a depiction of the RLA and the “Green Print” areas of Allegany County. The Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area was able to complete its first easement acquisition in March of 2012. The Rural Legacy Program is similar to MALPF in that easements for development rights are purchased. There are several elements that are evaluated for each parcel and the value of that land is then calculated for the amount of money awarded per acre. This program like MALPF is strictly a voluntary program. Properties within the designated boundary of the Rural Legacy Area are evaluated and ranked. Then the top five properties are sent to the Rural Legacy Board to compete for funding with the rest of the state. Funding for this program, as well as MALPF, comes from the real estate transfer tax. This, like other programs, is dependent upon the health of our economy. In good economic years there is more money available to purchase lands for MALPF, POS and RLA. Once

the property is chosen for funding, the program coordinator will have the property appraised for the value and negotiate with the land owner to complete the transaction. Owning the mineral rights for the properties is particularly important for the RLA and MALPF; properties cannot be settled without them.

The State has approved the program for Rural Legacy submission as part of the evaluation for the granting of the RLA. The County in this case is the sponsor of the Mountain Ridge Rural Legacy Area. The County plans to submit applications for acquisition on an annual basis and settle with the landowners as funding allows. See Figure 3 for a map of the Rural Legacy Area within Allegany County. The map shows the RLA in relation to the Green Infrastructure and the Targeted Ecological Areas within Allegany County. A map showing all of the preserved lands within Allegany County is in Figure 2.

The Comprehensive plans of Allegany County refer to preserving agricultural land that falls within the Rural Legacy Area boundaries. The Mountain Ridge RLA is the first designated preservation area within the county. Other farms outside of the RLA that have been identified on the USGS Soil Survey as containing “prime” agricultural soils are encouraged to apply for MALPF. These locations are shown within the Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources section of the individual Comprehensive Plans. Once the Priority Preservation Area has been designated, the County will encourage those owners whose farms are located within the boundaries to apply for the program. The County does not have an overall acreage goal for agricultural land outside of the RLA. Inside the RLA the goal for preservation is 50 % (7,112 acres) over the next 10 years. If outside funding sources are made available it may be possible to preserve up to 80% of the RLA. (2010 Allegany County RLA Application.)

Table 1: Preservation Easements within Allegany County is the area of land preserved by different easement programs. The most common is the type of easement and the acreages for the programs, not all dates of purchase were available.

Allegany County Preservation Easements by Program							
MET		MALPF		CREP		RLA	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1979	246.8	1990	145.0	NA	106.8	2012	277.6
1984	246.8	2000	161.7				
1987	28.8	2009	177.0				
1993	155.7						
2003	190.6						
2007	132.8						
2008	24.0						
2010	94.5						

Natural Resource Conservation

State Goals to work with local government and the private sector to accomplish the following as taken from *The Guidelines for State and Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning, October 2010*:

- Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques.
 - Public Land Acquisition and stewardship
 - Private land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs
 - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resource and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs.
 - Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands
 - Avoid and minimize impacts of publicly funded infrastructure development projects on natural resources and
 - Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the resource impacted
- Focus Conservation and restoration activities on priority areas.
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that fall outside the green infrastructure: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
 - Expand and connect forests, farmlands and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure
 - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations;
 - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian buffers, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions;
 - Support a productive forestland base and forest-resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland.

- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and Local implementation programs.

County Goals

Each of the Regions within the County have goals that may not match one another, as a result, there may not be any overall goals that are the same. However, the second goal from the 2002 Comprehensive Plan still applies the County strives to “Provide for the wise use and management of the County’s natural resources and for the protection of Sensitive Areas”. Other goals for the County are listed below:

- Continue to Protect Steep Slopes, floodplains and Sensitive Areas. Steep Slopes are defined as any slope greater than 25%.
- Maximize areas that have high forestry value as well as areas that have a high natural resource value. If these properties are within the Mountain Ridge RLA encourage participation within that program.
- Continue to discourage development within the 100 year flood plain. Identify properties that are within the revised flood plain maps from USGS and target potential sites for flood buyouts through grant funding, and other Federal Emergency Management Programs (FEMA).
- Continue to identify areas where Greenways could be used to link urban areas to parks within the county.
- Implement a Viewshed Protection Overlay Zone. This would protect the Mountain Tops from development that would impact the view of the mountains and may disrupt the eco-tourism that is being established within the county.
- Continue to encourage citizens to participate in the RLA, Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) Program as well as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Allegany County does not currently have a Priority Preservation Area (PPA) established. One of the goals from the previous section is to work toward establishing a PPA. This area will be substantially smaller than the “green print” and “Ag print” maps that are utilized by the state. Because this area has not formally been designated, a map of it will not be included within this plan. Figure 4 shows the areas of Conservation zoning located within Allegany County and Figure 5 shows a comparison of the Conservation Zoning District with the State’s “Green Print” map. While it is important to protect sensitive areas this must be balanced with a community’s ability for future growth. These two needs are inherently in conflict as both may require similar attributes for the land in question. Majority of the new growth should occur within the PFA, however there are circumstances in which growth will occur outside the PFA and it should be planned for accordingly.

Allegany County has specific standards and procedures for meeting the goals set forth above. Many of these standards appear in Regulatory format in the County’s Land Development Regulations. Some of the goals may become new ordinances as the Comprehensive planning process moves forward through the implementation phase of those plans.

A. Floodplain Management Standards

1. No new residential development should be permitted within the mapped 100 year floodplain areas.
2. New commercial or industrial development within the mapped 100 year floodplain areas must meet FEMA guidelines.
3. Any new buildings or additions or reconstruction of existing houses in the mapped 100 year floodplain must have a first floor elevation of at least 1 foot above the 100 year flood elevation.
4. No new building structures should be permitted within mapped floodway boundaries.

B. Sediment Control/Stormwater Management Procedures

The County passed revised Stormwater Ordinances on March 11, 2010 and it was revised on May 27, 2010. This revised ordinance's goal is to manage stormwater by using environmental site design (ESD) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). This is to mimic the pre-development runoff characteristics of the site as closely as possible. This helps to reduce stream channel erosion, pollution, siltation and sedimentation, and localized flooding.

All new development and re-development within Allegany County will follow the regulations as laid out in the Code of Allegany County Chapter 360 Part 3 Stormwater Management. Adopted by reference in the Stormwater Ordinance is the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I & II and all subsequent revisions and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard Pond Code 378 (January of 2000).

A. Steep Slope Standards

1. All new buildings are to be constructed on site having a slope of less than 25 % in grade prior to grading.
2. New road cuts for urban, forestry or mineral development should not disturb slopes steeper than 25 % grade.
3. New road grades should be less than 10% maximum finished slopes, side slopes should be no greater than 2:1 horizontal to vertical.
4. Slopes steeper than 25% should remain in vegetative cover and to provide "Greenways along steep slope areas to connect urban areas with open space lands.

B. Stream Buffer Area Standards

1. No new buildings should be built within 100 feet of the bank of any stream having mapped floodplain except where the setback extends beyond the floodplain. The setback from the stream bank is 50 feet in that event.

2. No new buildings should be built within 50 feet of any other stream having a basin larger than 400 acres or within 25 feet of the centerline of any other stream channel, drainage way or wet weather stream.
3. The setback/buffer area is to be maintained in grass or other natural vegetation. In new subdivisions or planned developments, areas within the stream buffer setback should be set aside to maintain vegetative cover and to provide “Greenways” along streams to connect urban areas with open space lands

C. Other Procedures for Protection of Natural Resources

1. Procedure for Protecting Wetlands and Habitat of Endangered Species. The County will maintain the State Inventory of Threatened or Endangered Species, and a listing of wetland areas and other habitat areas for threatened and endangered species and will refer any development proposal to the appropriate State agency for review when it appears that the proposal could impact a wetland or other habitat of threatened or endangered species. A separate document showing the State listing of threatened and endangered species in Allegany County is available in the County Planning Department. The County is also maintaining an Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) file in co-operation with the Maryland DNR Natural Heritage Division. These areas target smaller areas within the Sensitive Species Review Areas of the State. This information is kept in the planning office and is reviewable upon request. Some of the areas contain extremely sensitive species and as such the data about the sites is available in the office. The areas that are provided by the Heritage Division are enlarged slightly to protect the smaller ESA. Maps of these areas are included within each Comprehensive Plan.
2. Procedure for Protecting Historic and Archeological Sites

The County will maintain an inventory of the Historic Sites and will refer any development proposal to the Maryland Historical Trust for review when it appears that the proposal will impact a National Register Eligible Site.
3. The County will cooperate with the State through the use of Program Open Space and other programs to purchase land and/or easements to the development rights of Sensitive Areas for Greenway purposes.

D. Strategies Implemented from the 2006 LLPPRP

Since the 2006 LLPPRP was adopted Allegany County has implemented several of the strategies listed for the Natural Resource Conservation. The County continues to steer development to areas most suited for it, thereby avoiding areas of floodplains, steep slopes and other environmental concerns.

GIS tools have been purchased or developed by the County that allow a more thorough review of new developments' impact on critical areas that include; sensitive areas, steep slopes, wetlands and other criteria. In 2007 a Land Suitability Analysis was conducted by the GIS Department which enables better informed planning for land use.

The Future Land Use layer for each Planning Region or Area utilized a specialized matrix to determine suitable choices for the Future Land Use which is based on the County's Land Suitability Analysis and other factors. This product allows Allegany County to direct development into areas with soils that will support it.

The County also continues to submit properties for MALPF easements on a yearly basis. However since 2009 no properties have reached settlement stage. The Mountain Ridge RLA has settled its first easement and has the funding to settle two more properties before the end of FY2012.

Through a series of Block Grant funding, older buildings have been re-developed throughout the County for commercial uses. These structures are primarily located within the municipalities in the county.

E. Strategies that were not implemented from the 2006 LLPPRP

The County has not yet implemented the greenways strategy from the previous plan. However it has taken steps toward that goal. The Allegany County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2012 will make strides toward identifying other areas for interconnection and greenways acquisition.

The County has been unsuccessful at acquiring more than one MALPF easement even though it has consistently submitted the maximum allowable candidates for easements for the program since 2009. This is when the last MALPF easement was purchased.

F. Summary of the changes for conservation of natural resources

Allegany County intends to pursue the designation of a "Priority Preservation Area" enabling an increase in the amount Agriculture Transfer Tax dollars that can be used as a local match purchase by MALPF. This additional funding may help the county to complete more easements through MALPF and the Rural Legacy program. With the addition of the RLA the county has another program to preserve properties with natural resource values for the future.

Recreation and Park Lands

State Goals

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreational facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the state more desirable places to live, work and visit.
- Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive/ master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community park facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

County Goals for Recreation:

These goals support and are consistent with the State's goals for Recreation. Allegany County has the following goals for recreation within the county.

- Provide 10 acres of locally owned recreation land for communities with a population of 500 or more residents.
- Continue to develop the Fairgrounds to its fullest potential, thus supporting its ability to host countywide recreation events such as the County Fair, meetings for clubs and other groups and other large scale events.
- Completing the Allegany County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2012. This may also provide for more opportunities to view other areas not accessible by bike at this time. Inherent within this plan should be more opportunities for interconnection with other "green spaces" within the county such as a greenway to access the central portion of the RLA along the Braddock Run.
- Update and/or replace the amenities at the existing facilities and provide for additional amenities as the needs of the population of Allegany County changes.
- Encourage the County to direct POS Funding for active passive recreation within the Upper Potomac Planning Region. This region is recognized as a growth area and the county will look to

work with developers to provide sufficient recreational assets for the future enjoyment of county residents.

- Determine the need for an oversight committee for parks and recreation. Work with the local municipalities and other local agencies to consolidate resources and services to provide the best recreational experience for residents of Allegany County.

Supply:

Allegany County has more than 71,000 acres within State Forests, Parks, Wildlife Management Areas and Federal Parks. Of the total acres dedicated to open space there are more than 3,000 acres within the C&O Canal National Park. The total amount of State and Federally owned land equals .95 acres per resident of Allegany County.

At the local level there are approximately 2011.79 acres available for recreation to the residents of Allegany County. The Fairgrounds continues to be the largest Regional Park available. Since the 2006 plan, a boat launch has been added to the site and there are more ball fields being added to the location. A new access road to the Fairgrounds is being pursued and should be completed within the next five years. There are several other large regional parks within the county; these include Constitution Park, Frostburg State University and Allegany College of Maryland. Both college facilities have amenities that the public can use. All three facilities provide programs for the public at various times during the year.

Planning Staff utilized the existing GIS database to complete the update on the recreation inventory. Table 10 at the end of the document shows the parks listed by type and Planning Region. The Parks owned by the State and Federal Government are not listed. Figures have been provided to showcase the new Comprehensive Planning geography as well as a comparison to the geography used by the previous plan to better compare these documents.

The State goal of 30 acres per 1000 population is more than met. See Table 7 for recreational acreages per planning region. An analysis by planning region shows that there are no longer any deficiencies of recreational land per planning region. This is due in part to the change in planning geography from the 2006 plan. Please see Figure 1 that showcases the changes in the planning geography. There are some areas of the County where additional recreation land may be needed as the community nearby has a population of 500 residents or more. These areas will be listed within each Planning Area/Region's Recreation Element.

A list of projects for POS is generated on a yearly basis by the municipalities and other entities. That list is prioritized by the generating agency whether that is the municipality, school system or park sponsor. Those prioritized lists are then combined to create the overall acquisition and development list submitted by the county for POS funding by the POS coordinator. The individual municipalities are responsible for acquiring and utilizing the Community Parks and Playgrounds funding. At this time the County does not utilize these funds within the LLPPRP programs for the local parks.

Appendix A- Calculation of the Default State Recreational Acreage Goal

Calculation of the State Goal for Recreation:

Step 1: Determining the goal.

The State recommends the county recreation acreage goal is 30 acres of recreation area per 1000 people. Based on the 2010 Census, the population of Allegany County is 75,087 people. Then using the state's 30 acres per thousand standard we calculate, $(75,087 \text{ residents} / 1000) * 30 \text{ acres} = 2,253 \text{ acres}$ of recreation area located in the county as the goal which needs to be met.

Step 2: Local Recreation portion of the goal.

2,012 acres account for locally owned recreation land in Allegany County, subtracting these acres from the goal ($2,250 \text{ acres} - 2,011.8 \text{ acres} = 238.2 \text{ acres}$) leaves 238.2 acres left toward completion of the default recreation goal. This gives Allegany County 26.8 acres per 1,000 residents towards the goal of 30 acres per thousand residents, leaving 3.2 acres per 1,000 residents left to account for. For a more detailed evaluation is provided in Table 2.

Step 3: Local Natural Resource Acreage Portion of the goal. (Not including Department of Natural Resource Lands)

Allegany County encompasses 1,160 acres of Natural Resource Lands, but only one-third of the local natural resources land may be counted. Of the 1,160.2 acres $/3 = 368.7 \text{ acres}$ may be used to achieve the calculated goal, or 5.2 acres per 1,000 residents. Natural Resource Lands 368.7 acres exceed the 236.2 acres remaining to meet the goal for recreation. The county is over the acreage goal by 130.5 acres or 1.46 acres per 1,000 residents.

Step 4: State and Federal Lands Portion of the Goal

The County contains over 71,000 acres of State and Federal Lands within its boundaries. That is roughly .95 acres per person. State Wildlife Management Areas are not to be included in the number of acres that count toward the recreation goal, leaving 56,310 acres that may be counted toward the goal. From the 56,310 acres of State and Federal Lands here are 749.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Only the portion of State and Federal Lands above 60 per 1,000 residents may be used to calculate recreation goals. Subtracting 60 acres per 1,000 residents from 749.9 acres per 1,000 residents leaves 697 acres per 1,000 residents to be applied toward the goal, which is 691.1 acres of recreation per 1,000 residents. Using this formula Allegany County exceeds its goal by 691 acres per 1,000 residents for recreation for its citizens as set by the State

Table 2: State Recreation Goal Calculations

	Residents	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 Residents	Calculation for Recreation Goal
Step 1	Population ¹	75,087		
	Recreation Goal ²	2,253	30.0	
Step 2	Locally Owned Recreation Land	2,012	26.8	$30.0 - 26.8 = 3.2$
Step 3	Natural Resources Lands	1,160	15.5	
	1/3 Natural Resource Lands ³	387	5.2	$3.2 - 5.2 = -1.9$
Step 4	State and Federal Lands	56,310	749.9	
	State and Federal Lands - 60 acres per 1,000 residents ⁴		689.9	$(-1.9) - 689.9 = -691.9$

¹ Population from 2010 United State Census

² State of Maryland Recreation Goal Formula (county population/1,000 people) x 30 acres = total recreation acres

³ One-third of Natural Resource Lands 1,160 acres/ 3 = 387 acres

⁴ State and Federal Lands are to be calculated over the first 60 acres per 1,000 residents

Appendix B: Recreation and Parks Supply and Demand Analysis

The County opted to utilize the survey *Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland* as one of the sources of information to provide this analysis for adequate recreational amenities. The population and demographic projections for the planning regions/areas are also utilized in this section. Planning Staff utilized the existing GIS database to complete the update on the recreation inventory. The data fields and terms from the MIERS database were also utilized as before. The activities analyzed are identical to the 2006 LLPPRP.

A detailed review of the County's population trends is located in the 2011 Allegany County Water and Sewerage Plan. Population trends containing the latest data from the 2010 Census are located in each Region's Comprehensive Plan. The only exception is the 2008 LaVale Comprehensive Plan as this document was written before the 2010 Census data was available. However since the LaVale Region is overlapped by other Comprehensive Plans, this area will be analyzed in those plans. Braddock Headwaters Comprehensive Plan contains the analysis for not only Braddock Headwaters but the lower LaVale area which is not covered by any other plan. Combined these two areas make the Braddock-Run Region. The Recreation Element is for the Braddock-Run Region and not just for the Braddock Headwaters Planning Area.

In 2010 the population for Allegany County was 75,087 which is a reversal of past trends and a slight increase from 2000 at 74,930. There is a slight shifting between Regions with the following regions losing population Jennings, Upper Potomac, Middle North Branch, Evitts, Eastern and Wills. The following Regions/Areas gained in population Winchester-Warrior Run, Georges Creek, Bowling Green-Potomac Park, Flintstone-Oldtown, Braddock Headwaters, and Braddock-LaVale. The Braddock Headwaters Planning Area and the Braddock-LaVale Planning Area combine together to form the Braddock- Run Planning Region. The gain in the Georges Creek population may be due in part to the effort made to better enumerate the students at Frostburg State University. Table 3 illustrates the Census enumeration for the Planning Regions or Areas.

Table 3: Census Population for Allegany County by Planning Region

Planning Area	Total Population	Household Population
Bowling Green - Potomac Park	6,530	4,778
Braddock Headwaters	2,131	1,983
Braddock-LaVale	4,749	4,742
Eastern	1,322	1,283
Evitts	16,831	16,398
Flintstone-Oldtown	5,818	4,301
Georges Creek	16,381	14,258
Jennings	3,721	3,610
Middle North Branch	570	570
Upper Potomac	5,662	5,656
Wills	7,682	7,457
Winchester-Warrior Run	3,690	2,127

*Data from the 2011 Master Water and Sewerage Plan.

Facilities Analysis

Most of the facilities listed in the MEIRS Recreation Inventory do not occur in Western Maryland. This facilities analysis focuses on the 12 types of outdoor facilities supporting the most popular recreation activities as described by the UMBC’s Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research document entitled “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland”. These are the same activities listed in the 2006 LLPPRP.

These activities include the following:

- Trails of all types, measured in miles, that accommodate activities such as walking, hiking, jogging, running, horseback riding and biking
- Picnic tables for picnicking
- Tot lots/ playgrounds
- Fishing from shore or bank measured in feet
- Acres of hunting land
- The number of holes for golfing
- The number of basketball courts
- The number of horseshoe pits

- The number of campsites for tents
- The number of ball diamonds, lighted and unlighted for baseball or softball
- The number of tennis courts and
- The number of multi-purpose and overlay fields lighted and unlighted to accommodate football or soccer.

The County has elected to use the same annual capacity for these facilities as the 2006 LLPPRP and they are as follows:

- Trails Using 250 days/year availability, all trails are estimated to accommodate 50 users per day, utilizing 5 miles per user/day.
- Picnic Tables Using 180 days/year availability, picnic tables are estimated to be used by 2 parties of 4 persons/day.
- Tot lots and Playgrounds Using 250 days/year availability, play facilities can accommodate 50 persons 3 times per day.
- Fishing from shore or bank The County estimates 225 days per year use and that each fisherman requires a minimum of 50 linear feet per visit with 2 visits per day.
- Hunting Using 205 days per year, the County estimates 5 acres for each hunter, with 2 hunters per day for that area.
- Golf Using a 250 day season, the County estimates that maximum capacity could be 432 golfers per 18 hole course per day or 24 golfers per hole per day.
- Basketball Using a 250 day season, an average use of 8 players per game with 4 games per day.
- Horseshoes Using a season of 150 days, 4 players per pit with 4 uses per day is possible.
- Campsites for tents A season of approximately 200 days 2 users per site per day.
- Ball Diamonds of all types 150 day season with 30 users twice a day.
- Tennis Courts The County estimates a season of 180 days with a maximum of 4 players and 4 games per day.
- Football and Soccer A season of 180 days with an average of 38 players and 2.5 games per day.

The figures with the calculations for the facilities and activities analysis are located in Table 4. In the last plan Allegany County was found to be deficient in horseshoe pits. Over the last 5 years several more locations have been added to the inventory and the county is no longer deficient for horseshoes. There is an abundance of outdoor activities of hunting and fishing the county. There are 21 private hunting clubs

with locations within the county as well as the state lands that allow hunting on them. This gives a hunter within the county ample locations in which to pursue his/ her ability to hunt. The county also now has a Dog Park in which citizens are able to take their pets to enjoy time running free within the park boundaries. This park is located within the municipality of Frostburg.

Skateboarding is a popular activity among the local youth. While the county does have one location for this activity, the park has been closed to the public for over a year. The county encourages the City of Cumberland's Parks and Recreation Department to work with another agency to relocate this equipment to another location so that it can continue to benefit the local youth population. Having a dedicated location for this activity keeps the local youth from skateboarding in undesirable locations such as the pedestrian mall in downtown Cumberland.

Another popular activity with the local youth population is BMX racing. While the county has one BMX track located at Mason Recreation Facility in the municipality of Cumberland, not everyone is able to access this site. The BMX facility is operated independently from the City of Cumberland's Parks and Recreation Department. The city of Cumberland is exploring other options for more BMX type biking for its residents. Concerns of this type will be addressed more fully in the Allegany County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan 2012.

The McCoolle Community Park has been given funds through POS for facility site improvement (POS memo 2011 see Appendix C section 4). This site is currently undeveloped. Within the current project cycle the funds are targeted for Phase 1 of a walking track and ball-field construction. This will allow the youth of the McCoolle an area somewhere closer to participate in baseball activities. This area of the county was deemed to be lacking in recreational opportunities for its citizens after a privately owned facility was recently closed.

Several parks within the county are still currently undeveloped. These locations would be perfect sites for amenities as designated by the local residents. Since most county parks are sponsored by a community based group, these undeveloped parks would also need to have a sponsor come forward to offer programming for these locations.

In the fall of 2011, a recreational survey was posted to the County's webpage. This survey is helping to address the need for additional activities per planning region as defined by the citizens who reside within each planning region. The survey closed on February 28, 2012. These results will be utilized within the recreation elements for each region within their comprehensive plan. Additional monies for POS will be able to address the deficiencies as described within the recreation survey for each planning region. These activities can then be prioritized and the funding spent accordingly.

Table 4: Supply of Recreational Activities within Allegany County

Activity	# Facilities	Season Length	Daily Capacity	Annual Capacity	Total Supply
Trails (miles)	225	250	250	62,500	14,062,500
Picnic Tables	945	180	8	1,440	1,360,800
Tot Lots/ Playgrounds	53	250	150	37,500	1,987,500
Fishing from Boat (acres)	249	225	13	2,925	728,325
Fishing from Shore/ Bank (feet)	300,780	225	100	22,500	6,767,550,000
Hunting (acres)	37,188	205	5	1,025	38,117,700
Golf (holes)	72	250	24	6,000	432,000
Basketball	91	250	32	8,000	728,000
Horseshoes	21	150	16	2,400	50,400
Campsites for tents	578	200	2	400	231,200
Ball Diamonds	92	150	60	9,000	828,000
Tennis	64	180	16	2,880	184,320
Football/Soccer	62	180	95	17,100	1,060,200

Figure 6 displays all of the recreation locations within Allegany County. All of the recreation locations associated with schools are shown in Figure 7. Figure 8 showcases the Municipal owned recreation locations. A map depicting private hunting locations is in Figure 9. Figure 10 is Trail inventory map of Allegany County. In Figure 11 the park locations of Allegany County are shown by type.

Table 5: Demand of Activities for Allegany County

Demand Measured By Demand Occasions

Activity	Population*	Participation Rate**	Frequency Rate***	Current Demand	2020 Population	2020 Demand	2030 Population	2030 Demand
Walking, Running, Hiking, Jogging, Trail Ride	67,163	48.40%	26	844,854	67,354	847,257	68156	857,345
Picnicking	67,163	47.40%	4	126,068	67,354	126,426	68156	127,932
Visiting Playgrounds	67,163	31.10%	8	162,924	67,354	163,387	68156	165,333
Fishing From Boat	67,163	13.10%	9	78,217	67,354	78,440	68156	79,374
Fishing from Shore/ Bank	67,163	22.40%	8	112,984	67,354	113,306	68156	114,655
Hunting	67,163	14.90%	16	156,214	67,354	156,658	68156	158,523
Golf	67,163	13.30%	15	130,596	67,354	130,967	68156	132,527
Basketball	67,163	12.40%	22	181,888	67,354	182,405	68156	184,577
Horseshoes	67,163	9.50%	8	49,576	67,354	49,717	68156	50,309
Camping in Tents	67,163	15.90%	4	41,434	67,354	41,552	68156	42,047
Baseball/ Softball	67,163	8.40%	22	125,697	67,354	126,054	68156	127,555
Tennis	67,163	9.60%	17	109,932	67,354	110,245	68156	111,558
Football/ Soccer (Field Sports)	67,163	8.90%	17	99,286	67,354	99,569	68156	100,754

* Population is in households rather than total population

**The participation Rate for activities was utilized from “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland”.

*** Frequency Rate for activities was utilized from “Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland”.

Table 6: Needs Determination for Allegany County Recreational Amenities

Activity	Total Supply	Current Demand	Needs
Walking, Running, Hiking, Jogging, Trail Ride	14,062,500	844,854	13,217,646
Picnicking	1,360,800	126,068	1,234,732
Visiting Playgrounds	1,987,500	162,924	1,824,576
Fishing From Boat	728,325	78,217	650,108
Fishing from Shore/ Bank	6,767,550,000	112,984	6,767,437,016
Hunting	38,117,700	156,214	37,961,486
Golf	432,000	130,596	301,404
Basketball	728,000	181,888	546,112
Horseshoes	50,400	49,576	824
Camping in Tents	231,200	41,434	189,766
Baseball/ Softball	828,000	125,697	702,303
Tennis	184,320	109,932	74,388
Football/ Soccer (Field Sports)	1,060,200	99,286	960,914

A red negative number indicates a deficiency in a particular activity, at this time there are no deficiencies noted.

Table 7: Recreational Land by Planning Region

Planning Regions	Acres	DNR Lands (State Owned)	MALPF	MET	RLA	Private Conservation	Total	2010 Population
Georges Creek	302	2,716					3,018	16,381
Upper Potomac	365	7,221				339	7,925	5,662
Braddock Run	144				278		421	6,880
Jennings	69		307			328	704	3,721
Mid-Potomac	227						227	10,790
Wills	130	60					191	7,682
Evitts	594	3,084		406			4,084	16,831
Flintstone- Oldtown	175	16,644		476		29	17,325	5,818
Eastern	6	42,252	177	476		162	43,053	1,322
TOTALS	2,012	71,978	484	1,357	278	859	77,943	75,087

Appendix C: Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation Priorities

Short Term Goals:

Braddock Run Planning Region

Holly Avenue Recreation Area: Phase I of Park Re-development

Bowling Green-Potomac Park Planning Area

Allegheny County Fairgrounds: Cantilever Gate

Upper Potomac Planning Region

McCoole Community Park- Phase I of ball field and walking track construction, and concession building

Town of Luke: Nevision Street ball field continued development of existing ball field

Rawlings Community Park: Fencing

Flintstone Oldtown Planning Region

Flintstone Community Park Dev. 2: Installation of pre-fabricated dugouts

Oldtown Community Park: Utilities and Concession Building

Eastern Planning Region:

Piney Plains Community Park: Park Improvements

Jennings Planning Region:

Mt. Savage Community Park: Community park development

City of Frostburg: Glendenning Recreation Area Field 8- Continued development of existing facility

Georges Creek Planning Region:

Dan's Mountain State Park: upgrade of water pump for the slide

Town of Westernport: Westernport Municipal Park - continued development of existing ball fields

Creekside Park Dev- Lighting and signs

Green Street Park Development- fencing

Town of Midland: Church Street Park: Safety matting for the playground

Evitts Planning Region:

City of Cumberland: Al Abrams field development- Fencing of athletic field

Riverside Park: Park monument and placement

Winchester Warrior Run Planning Area:

Cresaptown Community Park: Pavilion Renovation

Wills Planning Region:

Ellerslie Community Park: Fencing, paving, restrooms, and bleacher renovation

Table 8: Short Term Projects for POS

Project	Planning Region	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation Recommendation	Estimation of Cost
McCoole Community Park	Upper Potomac	Phase I Ball field and walking track project	\$15,000.00
Flintstone Community Park	Flintstone- Oldtown	Installation of Prefabricated Dugouts	\$4,444.00
Nevision Street Park	Upper Potomac	Continued Development of existing ball field	\$4,444.00
Mt. Savage Community Park	Jennings	Community Park development	\$6,666.00
Westernport Municipal Park	Georges Creek	Continued Development of existing ball field	\$8,311.00
Creekside Park	Georges Creek	Lighting and signage	\$300.00
Green St. Park	Georges Creek	Fencing	\$2,500.00
Glendenning Park	Jennings	Continued development of existing facility	\$20,000.00
Al Abrams Field	Evitts	Fencing of Athletic fields	\$23,333.00
Dan's Mountain State Park	Georges Creek	Upgrade of pump on water slide	\$13,000.00
Allegany County Fairgrounds	Bowling Green-Potomac Park	Cantilever Gate	\$3,200.00
Cresaptown Community Park	Winchester Warrior Run	Pavilion Renovation	\$12,000.00
Church Street Playground	Georges Creek	Safety Matting for playground	\$20,000.00
Piney Plains Community Park	Flintstone- Oldtown	Park Improvements	\$1,500.00
Frostburg Community Park	Georges Creek	Continued development of existing facility	\$32,000.00
Riverside Park Development	Evitts	Park Monument and placement	\$3,500.00
Ellerslie Community Park	Wills	Fencing, paving, restrooms and bleacher improvements	\$44,444.00
Rawlings Community Park	Upper Potomac	Fencing	\$6,666.00
Holly Avenue Recreation Area	Braddock Run	Phase I of Park Redevelopment	\$15,000.00

Mid-Term Goals:

Braddock Run:

LaVale District Park: Tennis Court resurfacing

Holly Avenue Recreation Area: Concession Building

One National Highway: Trailhead development

Flintstone-Oldtown Planning Region:

Flintstone Community Park: parking lot

Upper Potomac Planning Region:

Acquire POS land in or near the Cumberland Chase development and add 2 softball fields, a tot lot (Playground) and at least one multi-use field for that area of the County.

Continue to develop McCoolle Park

Georges Creek / Jennings Planning Regions

City of Frostburg

Frostburg Bicycle Beltway Feasibility study

Incline Plane trail to downtown connectivity project feasibility study

Long Range Goals:

Evitts Planning Region:

City of Cumberland

Possible land acquisition in the Narrows to preserve scenic Viewshed in conjunction with the County

Expansion of the regional trail system into West Virginia (via abandoned railroad bridge over the Potomac River between the C&O Canal towpath and the Carpendale Trail

Linear Park and trail system (In cooperation with Allegany County) along Evitts Creek in the Willowbrook/Williams/Messick Road corridor.

Georges Creek/ Jennings Planning Regions

City of Frostburg

Frostburg Trail to Sand Spring Run/ FSU Connectivity Trail feasibility study

C&P ROW linear park/ trail Frostburg trail phase III design

Pritchard Farm Connectivity Trail feasibility Study

C&P ROW linear park/trail phase III construction

Wills Planning Region:

Ellerslie Community Park: Continued development of the park

Upper Potomac Planning Region:

Bel Air Community Park: Community Park Building

Bowling Green-Potomac Park Planning Area:

Allegany County Fairgrounds: Access road right of way acquisition

Allegany County Fairgrounds: Access road development

Countywide

Purchase of lands as identified by the Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan 2012 for new greenway development to connect and add to the enjoyment of residents and visitors to Allegany County.

Memo to the County Commissioners for Program Open Space.



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND
Department of Community Services
701 Kelly Road, Suite 109, Cumberland, MD 21502-3401
(301)777-5951 FAX (301)777-5950 <http://gov.allconet.org/permits/>

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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David A. Eberly *County Administrator*

James A. Squires Jr. *Division Chief*

To: Mr. Dave Eberly, County Administrator
From: David A. Dorsey, Planner III
Date: July 13, 2011
Re: Program Open Space FY2012 Annual Plan

Official notice has been received from DNR that Allegany County's annual Program Open Space allocation for recreation projects for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$496,620.83.

Staff has prepared a recreation Plan that returns \$95,000.00 to projects that had been defunded by the State of Maryland last year. These projects were proposed by municipalities and organizations throughout the county and were included in past Fiscal Year plans for Program Open Space that were approved by former Boards of Commissioners and the State.

The Plan also includes the Second and final reimbursement of \$231,469.21 to the County for the acquisition of property at the County Fairgrounds.

Due to the timing of the State's announcement of funding and their request for Counties to have a plan for the Board of Public Works by July 27, we didn't have ample time to discuss new projects with all of the municipalities and local sponsors, so we are requesting to keep a third of the allocation as contingency funding for projects to be determined later.

Division of Land Development Services

**PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2012**

Sponsor	Project Name, Project Description	Acreage	Source of Funds for Annual Program Only			
			Total	Local	State (POS, Local Funds)	Federal
McCooles Special Taxing District	McCooles Community Park Dev 1, Phase One of Ballfield and Walking Track Construction		\$35,555.00	\$3,555.00	\$32,000.00	
Flintstone Improvement Association	Flintstone Community Park Dev 2, Installation of Pre-Fabricated Dugouts		\$4,444.00	\$444.00	\$4,000.00	
Town of Luke	Nevison Street Ballfield Dev 1, Continued Development of Existing Ballfield		\$4,444.00	\$444.00	\$4,000.00	
Mount Savage Special Taxing District	Mount Savage Community Park Dev,		\$6,666.00	\$666.00	\$6,000.00	
Town of Westport	Maryland Avenue Ballfield Dev, Continued Development of Existing Ballfields		\$8,311.00	\$831.00	\$7,480.00	
	Creekside Park Dev, Lighting and Signs		\$300.00	\$30.00	\$270.00	
	Green Street Park Dev, Fencing		\$2,500.00	\$250.00	\$2,250.00	
City of Frostburg	Glennenden Rec Area Field 8 Dev, Continued Development of Existing Facility		\$20,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00	
City of Cumberland	Al Abrams Field Dev, Fencing of Athletic Field		\$23,333.00	\$2,333.00	\$21,000.00	
	Contingency funds				\$170,151.62	

Appendix D: Public Interaction with the Plan

Recreation Plan Public Opportunities:

June 2011: Dave Dorsey gave County Commissioners a briefing on the POS funding for the year

Memo for POS funds was placed online 7/13/2011

Oct. 5, 2011: Planning Commission Work Session over view and update on the beginning of the plan update process.

Oct. 19, 2011: Planning Commission Business Meeting, Progress update and distribution of Recreation Survey and permission to post online.

Oct. 26, 2011: Recreation Survey posted to the County's Webpage

Nov. 1, 2011: Flyers for the Recreation Plan were posted around the County and emails distributing the flyer were sent

Dec. 14, 2011: Presentation of the Recreation Plan and Survey to the Planning Commission

Jan. 4, 2012: Update and Receipt of the 2011 LLPPRP by the Planning Commission

Jan. 6, 2012: Plan sent to the State for review and comments

Feb. 1, 2012: Update on Plan's status and notification that it had been sent to the state and local municipalities as well internal staff review.

February 28, 2012: Recreation Survey closed and results tabulated.

Appendix E: Recreation Survey Results

Table 9: The totals for Important Activities for the Individual & for the Family for the County as a whole

Individual	Totals	FAMILY	Totals
Horseshoes	12	Horseshoes	8
Paved Trail	44	Paved Trail	38
Tennis	8	Tennis	12
Basketball	11	Basketball	13
Baseball	10	Baseball	13
Football/Soccer	15	Football/Soccer	16
Swimming	21	Swimming	23
Hunting	10	Hunting	11
Fishing from Shore	25	Fishing from Shore	23
Fishing from Boat	18	Fishing from Boat	13
Picnicking	33	Picnicking	34
Playgrounds	16	Playgrounds	26
Volleyball	6	Volleyball	6
Skateboarding	3	Skateboarding	2
BMX Riding	4	BMX Riding	4
Camping	19	Camping	22
Golfing	8	Golfing	11
Mountain biking	19	Mountain biking	19
Road Cycling	18	Road Cycling	16
Other		Other	
Kayaking	3	Kayaking	1
Boat Launches	1	Boat Launches	1
Wildlife Viewing	1	Wildlife Viewing	1
Trail Riding	1	Trail Riding	1
Dog Friendly Areas	1		
ORV	1	ORV	1
Ice Hockey	1	Ice Hockey	1

These are the results of the top 19 activities within Allegany County. The results show that citizens of Allegany County enjoy outdoor recreational activities.

A number of comments were received from the surveys. Most of these comments as they relate to improvements to the recreational experience within the county will be listed within the recreation elements of the planning regions that they correspond to. There were a number of surveys where the respondent either chose not to identify or simply did not know which planning region they lived in. These responses were collected and identified as the “county” responses. These responses are discussed below.

One respondent replied that they did not use the recreation facilities in their area because they were not well maintained and there was nothing for children to do in their area. As this response had no area associated with this remark it is hard to make any suggestions for improvements. Five responses indicated that the parks got enough attention paid to the parks and two responded that there was not enough attention paid to the parks. Convenience, length of trails, kid friendly and open spaces were among the comments of things liked about the parks within Allegany County. Among the things respondents would like to see changed were better maintenance and better organization.

Additional comments that were provided were desires to see more neighborhood playgrounds. One response expressed their appreciation of the walking track that was at Darrows Park. Another person commented that the recreational facilities in the county were poor. A final comment expressed the desire for the County to re-visit the idea of a consolidation plan between the county and the municipalities, as well as the private recreation facilities. Once some of the area sponsors are unable to maintain their sponsored parks, they will revert back to the county. This will become a problem as the County does not have a parks and recreation department. This comment was addressed through one of the goals for parks and recreation.

- *Determine the need for an oversight committee for parks and recreation. Work with the local municipalities and other local agencies to consolidate resources and services to provide the best recreational experience for residents of Allegany County.*

The formation of an oversight committee will help to work on this type of issue. There are a number of interested citizens to be able to help support this type of endeavor. Through the times of constrained budgets, the formation of a committee to deal with these types of issues is in the best interest of the county to pursue.

Comparison of 2005 Planning Geography and Current Planning Geography

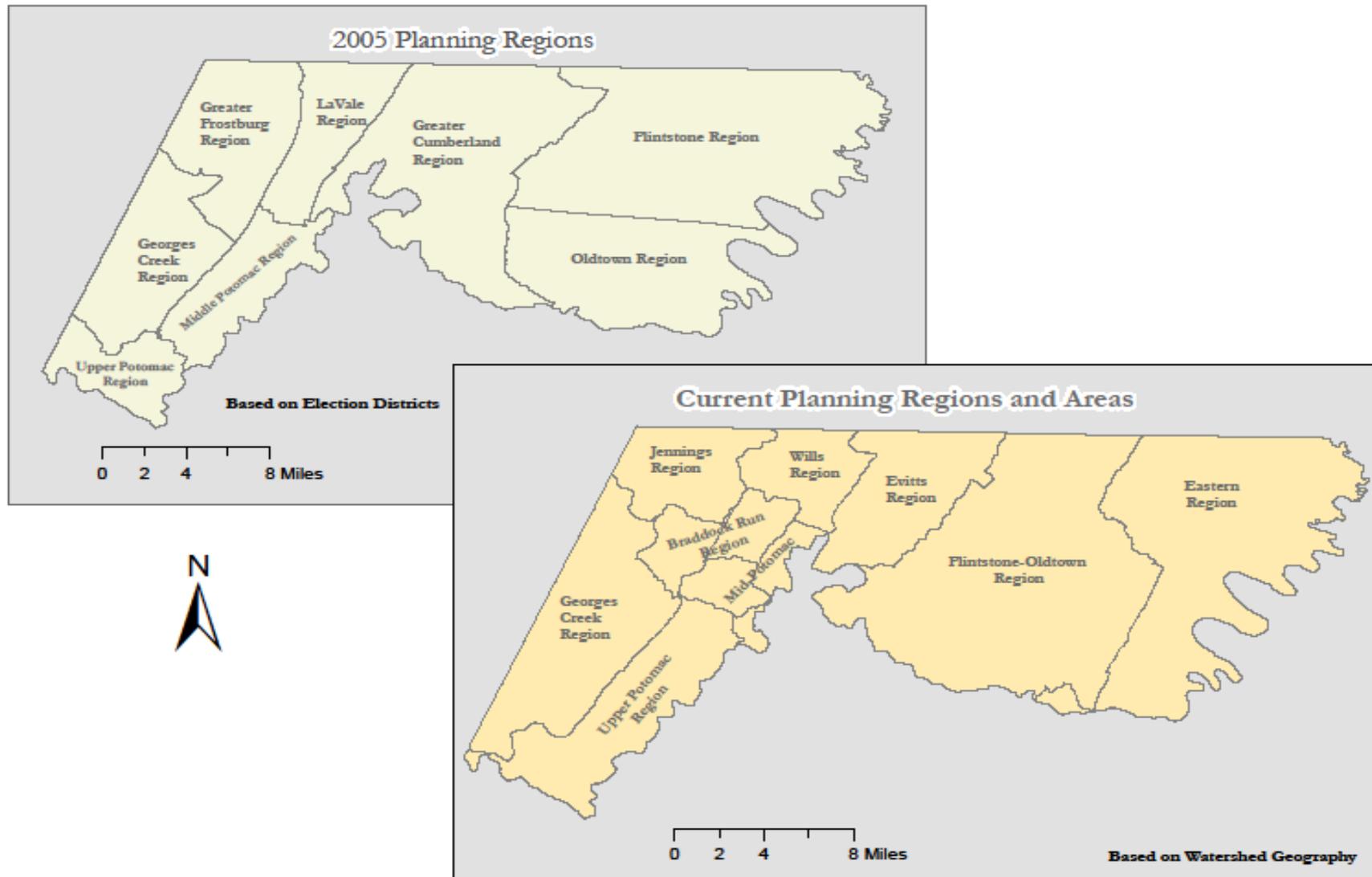


Figure 1: Differences in Planning Geography from 2005 LLPPRP to 2011 Planning Geography.

Preserved Lands within Allegany County

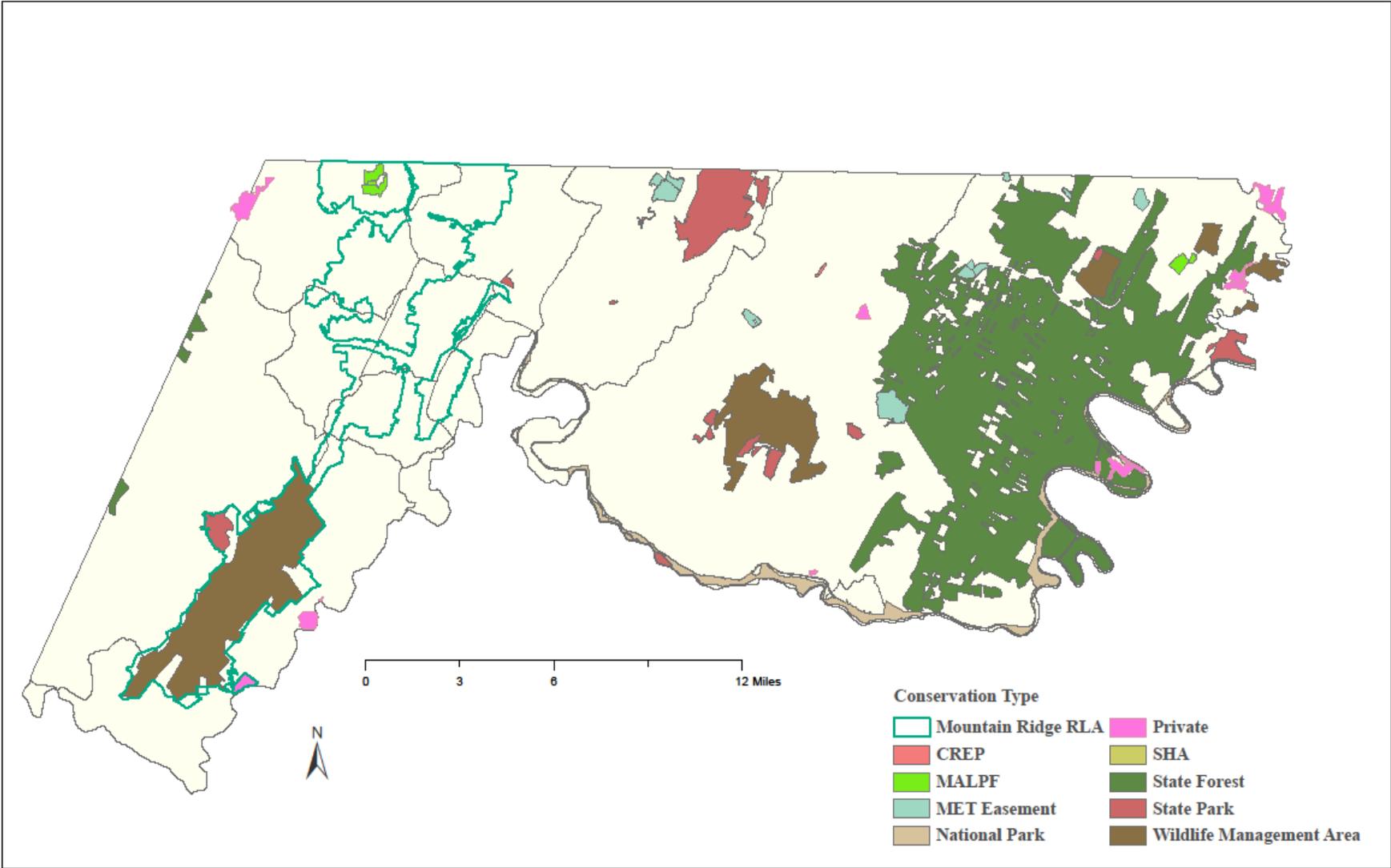


Figure 2: Preservation Types within Allegany County

Mountain Ridge RLA

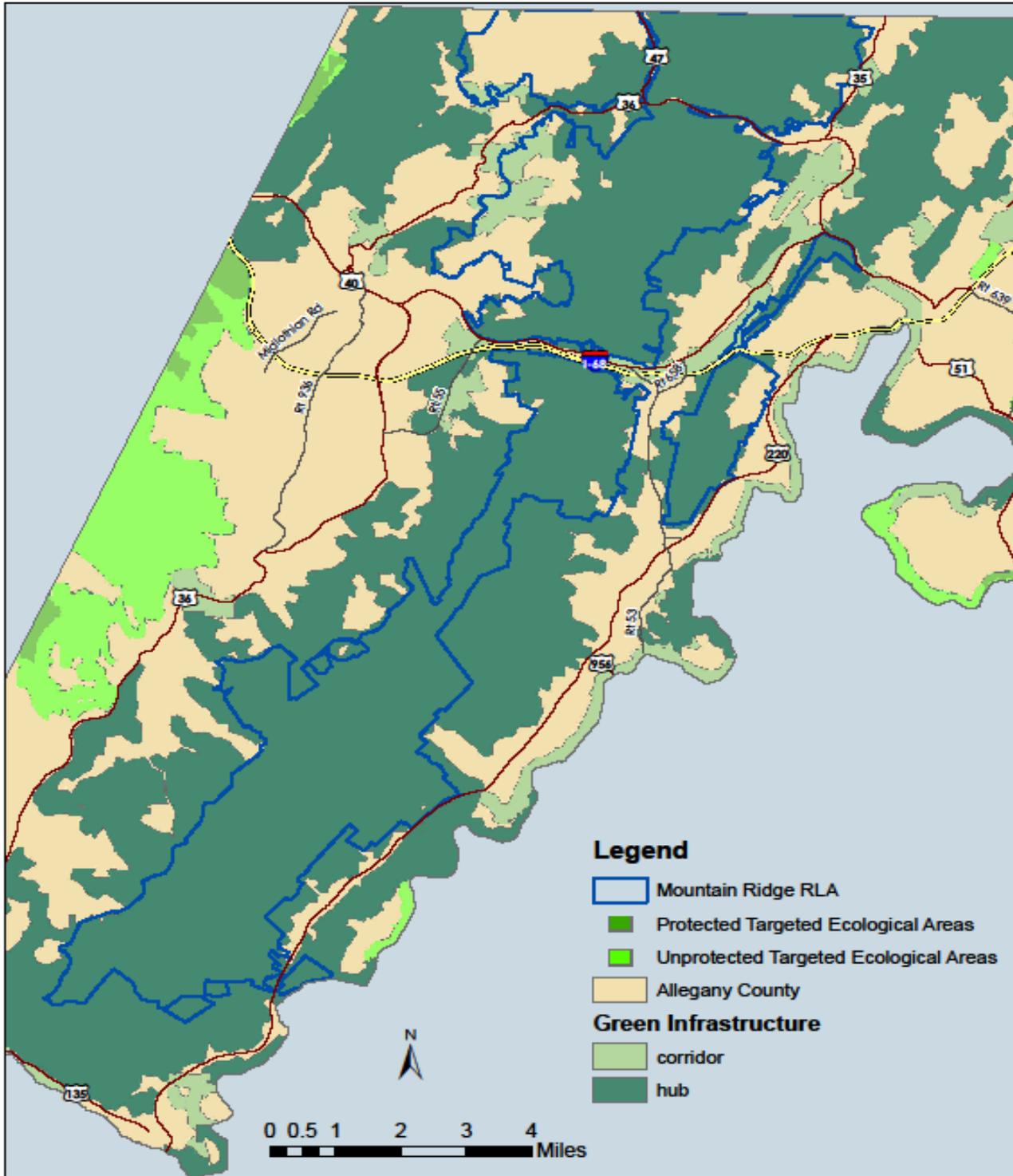


Figure 3: Mountain Ridge RLA and Targeted Ecological Areas with Green Infrastructure

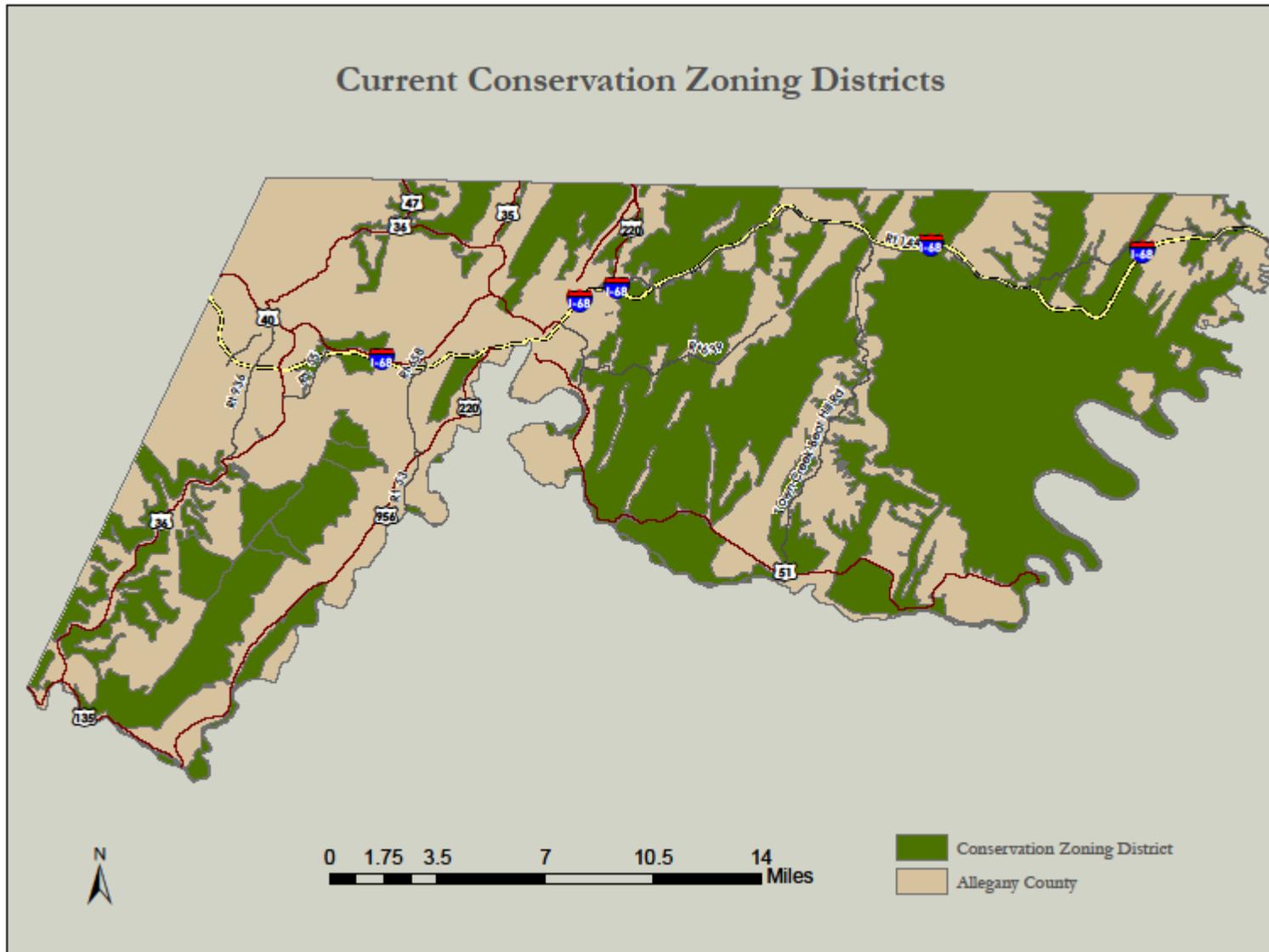


Figure 4: Conservation Zoning Districts

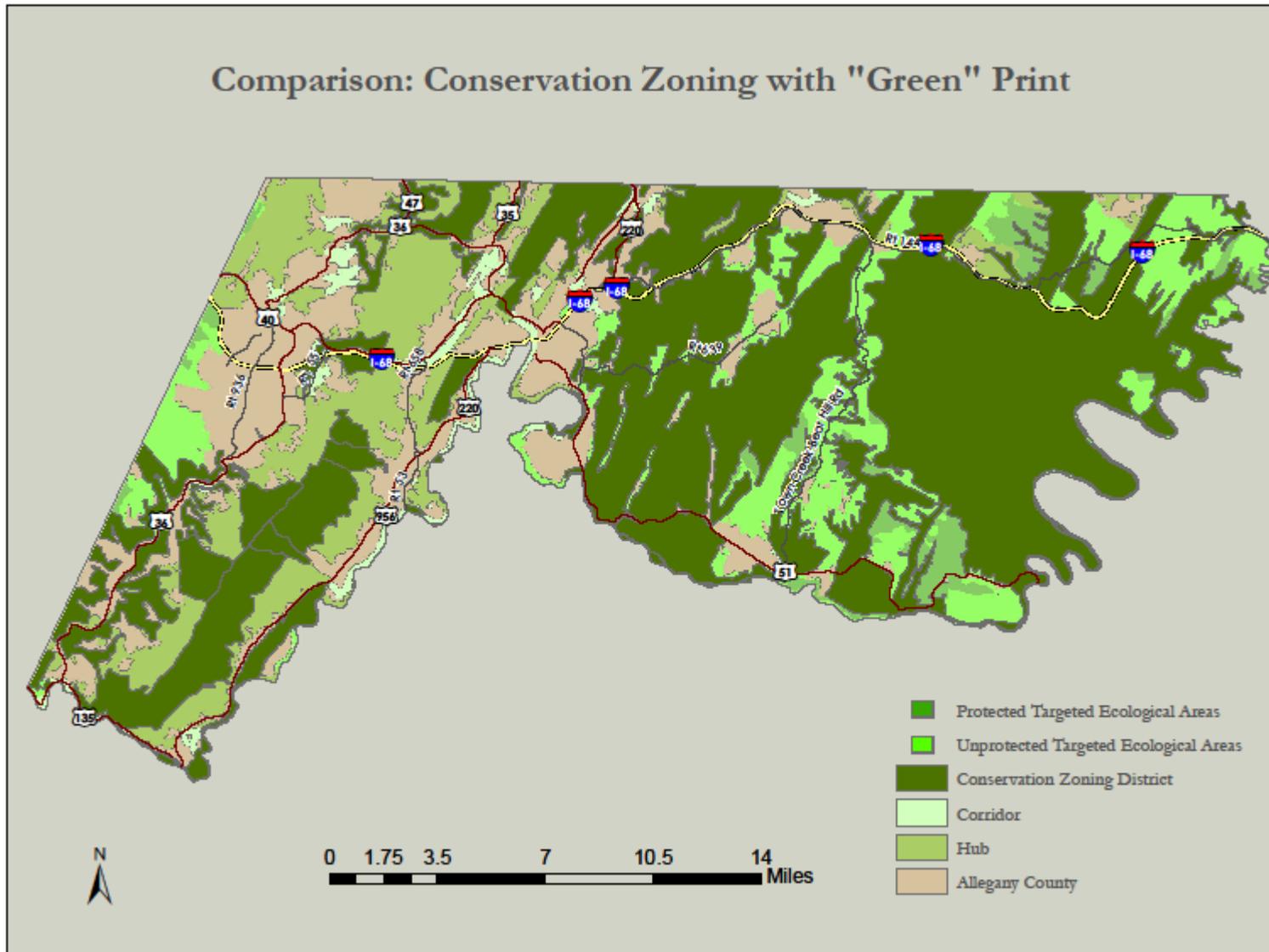


Figure 5: Comparison of Conservation Zoning with "Green" Print

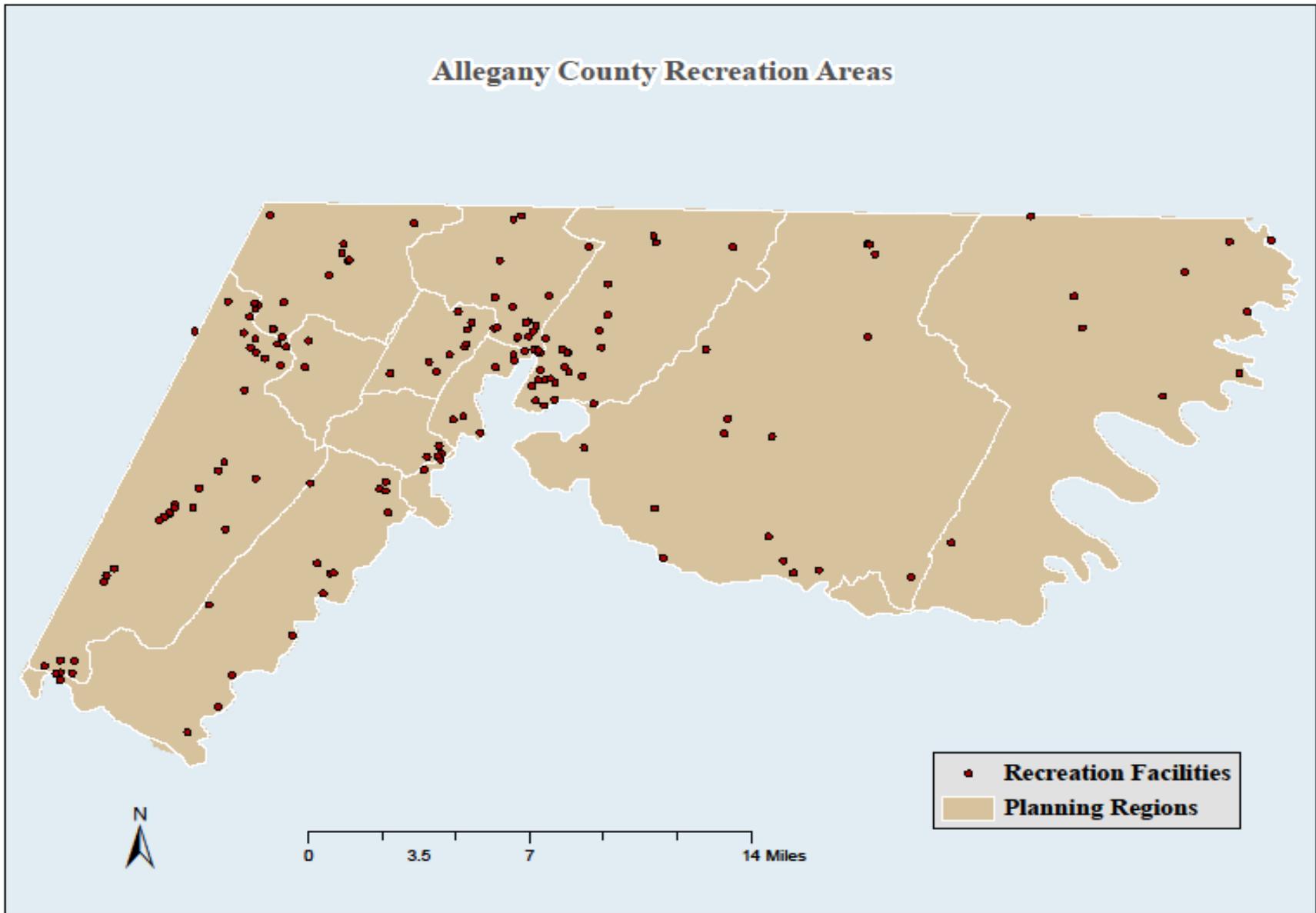


Figure 6: Recreation Locations within the County

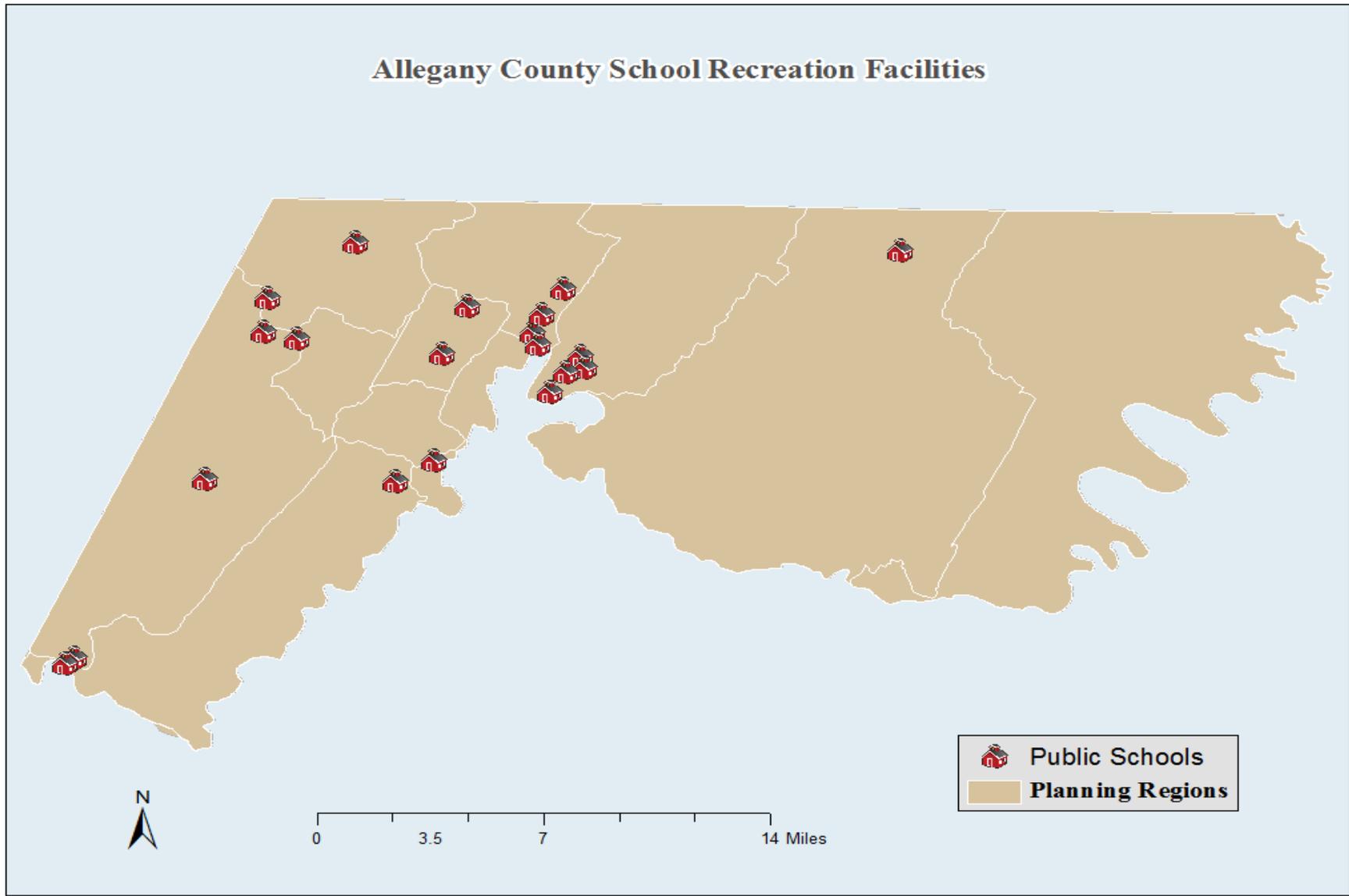


Figure 7: School Recreation Areas

Municipal Recreation Locations

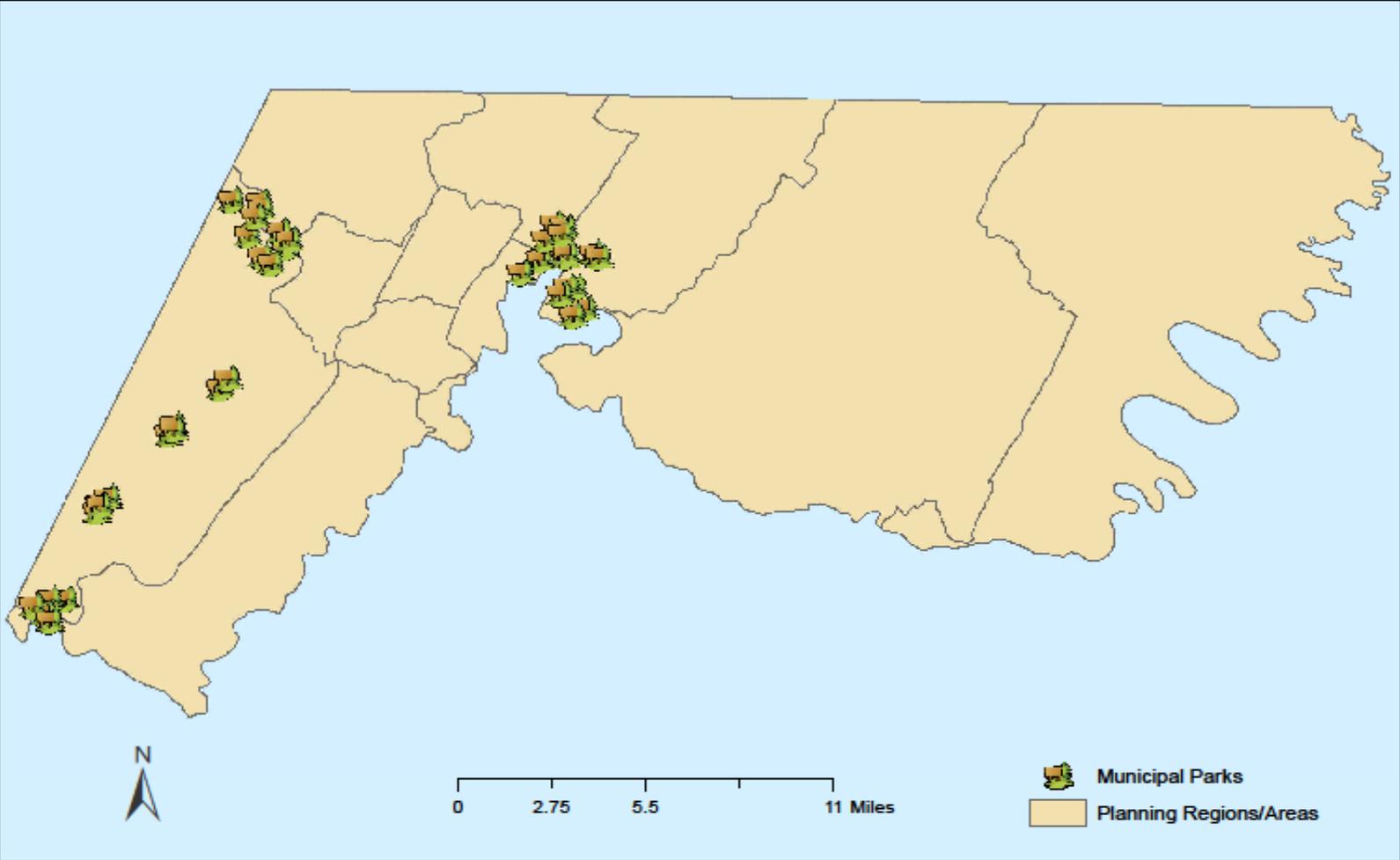


Figure 8: Municipality Owned Recreation Locations

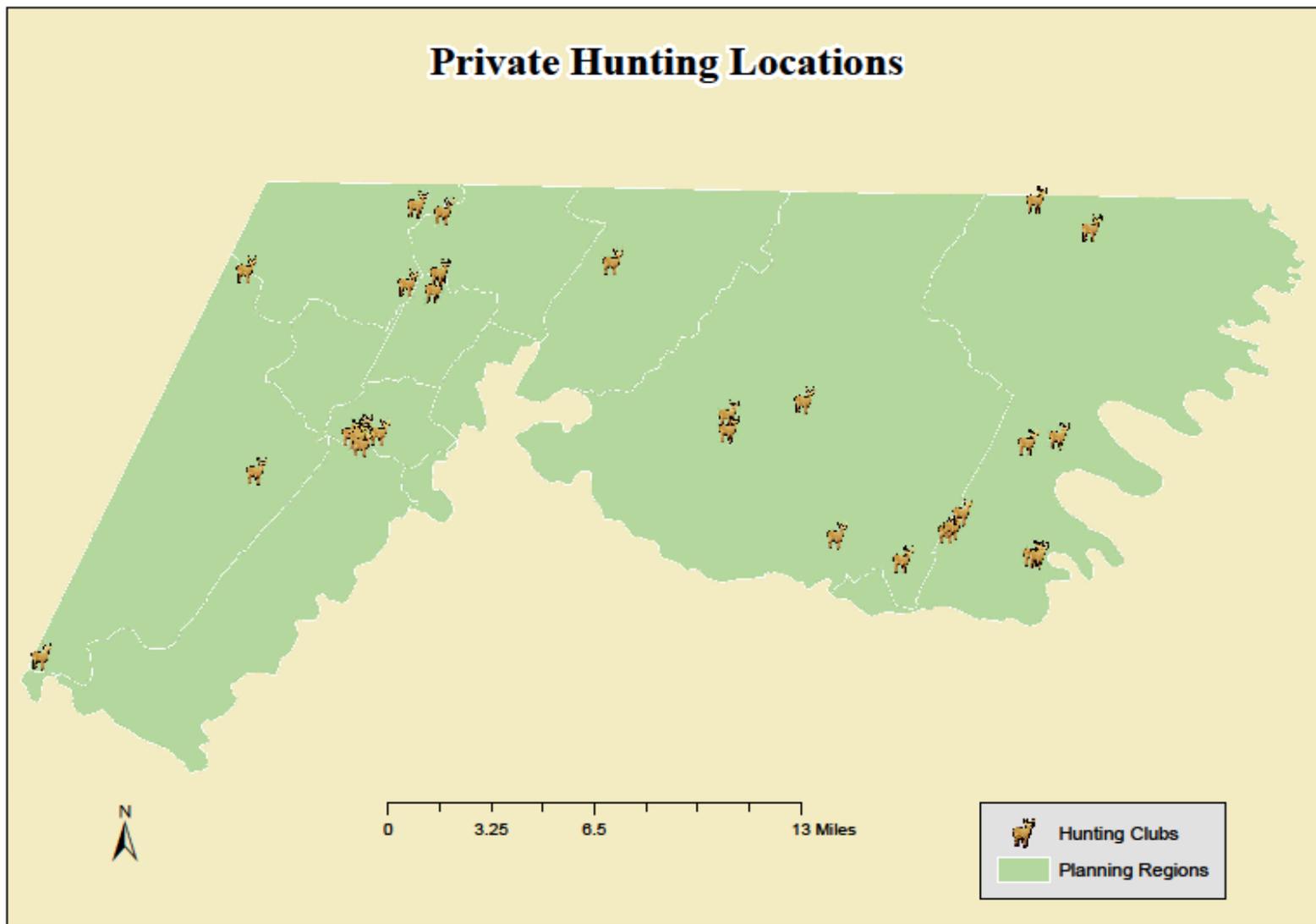


Figure 9: Hunting and Outdoor Club Locations

Allegheny County Trail Inventory

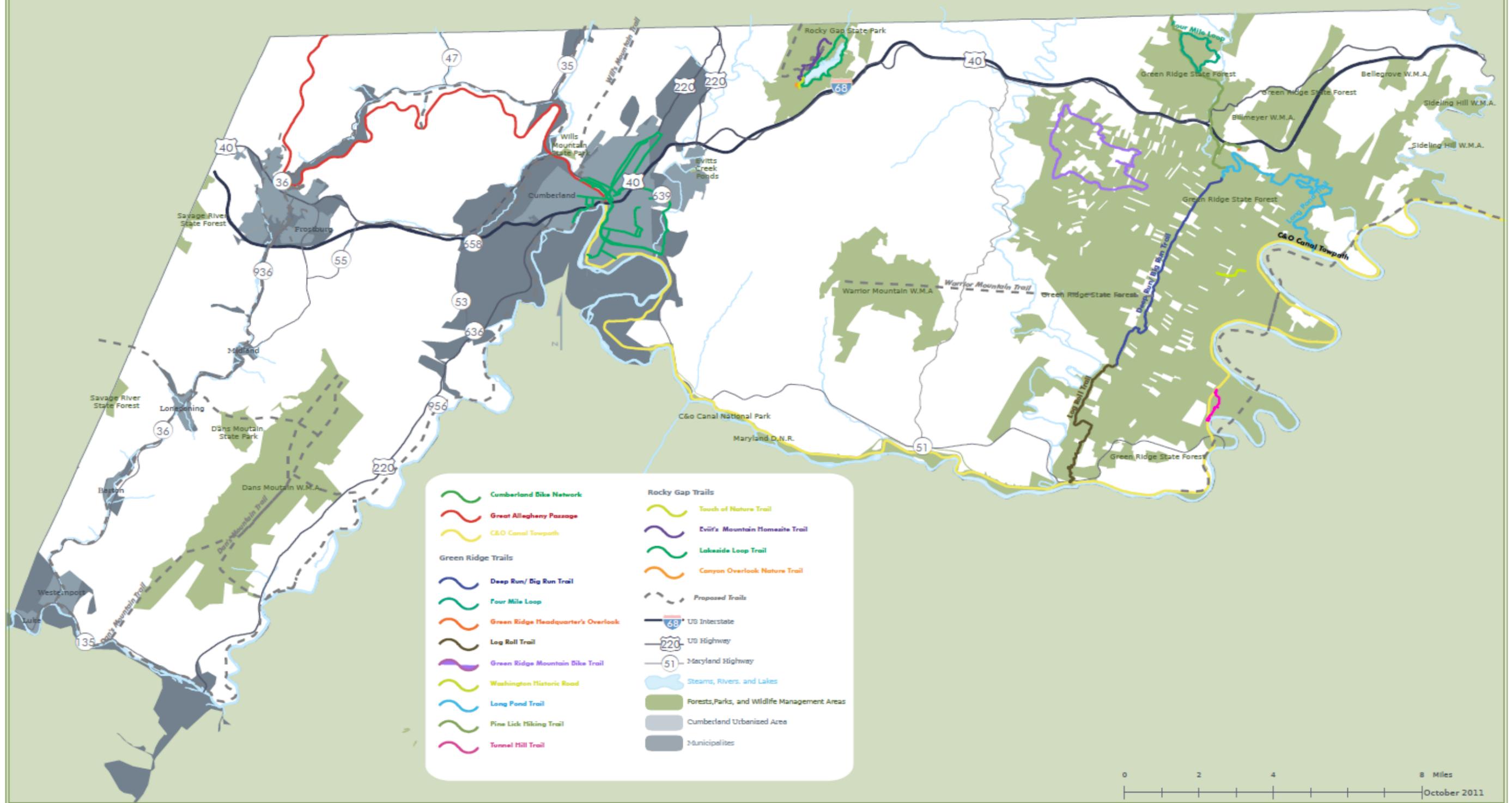


Figure 10: Existing and Proposed Trails within Allegheny County

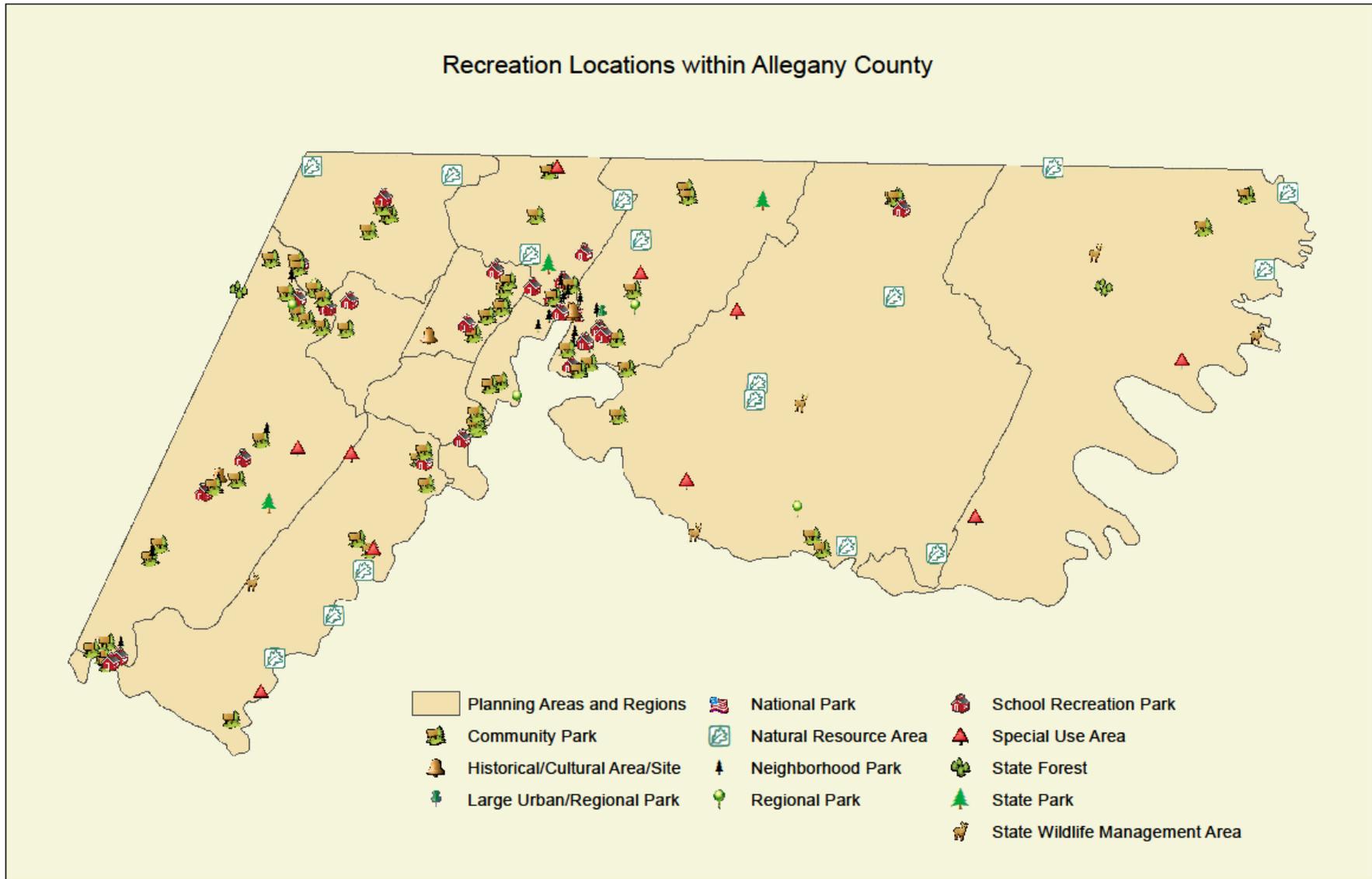


Figure II: Recreation Locations within Allegany County by Type

RE Table 10: Parks within Allegany County

Parks Within Allegany County Locally Owned				
Name	Acres	Type	Acreege Used for Calcs.	Region
Allegany County Fairgrounds	153	Regional		Bowling Green-Potomac Park
Bowling Green Community Park	21.65	Community	7.14	Bowling Green-Potomac Park
Potomac Park Ball field	6.61	Community		Bowling Green-Potomac Park
West Side Elementary School	2.27	Educational	1.36	Bowling Green-Potomac Park
Ridgedale Playground	0.45	Neighborhood		Bowling Green-Potomac Park
Fairmont Avenue Recreation Area	1.55	Neighborhood		Bowling Green-Potomac Park
YMCA Riverside (Outdoors only)	5.4	Regional NP		Bowling Green-Potomac Park
Belt Field	8.19	Community		Winchester Warrior Run
Calvary Christian Academy	3.5	Educational	2.10	Winchester Warrior Run
Liberty Field	10.84	Community		Winchester Warrior Run
Darrows Lane Recreation Complex	19.24	Community		Winchester Warrior Run
Cresaptown Community Park	4.47	Community		Middle North Branch
Cresaptown Elementary	6.97	Educational	4.18	Middle North Branch
Cash Valley Elementary	38.77	Educational	23.26	Braddock Run
Clarysville -Eckhart Community Park	12	Community		Braddock Run
Eckhart Center	2.35	Educational		Braddock Run
Holly Avenue Recreation Area	5.65	Community		Braddock Run
LaVale District Park	74.79	Community		Braddock Run
LaVale Lions Field	7.79	Community		Braddock Run
LaVale VFD Ball field	2.52	Community		Braddock Run
Ort Field	6.78	Community		Braddock Run
Parkside Elementary	12.3	Educational	7.38	Braddock Run
Toll Gate House	2.04	Historical	0.61	Braddock Run
LaVale Swim Club	1.14	Private other		Braddock Run
Barton Ball field	6.62	Community		Georges Creek
Barton Center Parklet	0.31	Community		Georges Creek
Barton Recreation Park	1.84	Community		Georges Creek
Barton School Memorial Park	0.3	Community		Georges Creek
Beall Elementary	3.04	Educational	1.824	Georges Creek
Braddock Park	0.34	Community		Georges Creek
Church Street Park	1.76	Community		Georges Creek
East End Playground	0.52	Community		Georges Creek
Frost Elementary	12.25	Educational	7.35	Georges Creek

Table 10: Continued.

Name	Acres	Type	Acreage Used for Calcs.	Region
Frostburg Community Park	15.22	Community		Georges Creek
Frostburg Lions Park	13.74	Community		Georges Creek
Frostburg Mountainside Recreation	20.71	Community		Georges Creek
Frostburg West End Park	2	Community		Georges Creek
Frostburg State University	272.5	Regional Park	163.5	Georges Creek
Georges Creek Elementary	5.17	Educational	3.102	Georges Creek
Georges Creek Greenway	13	Community		Georges Creek
Greene's Addition Playground	0.88	Community		Georges Creek
Lonaconing Downtown Parklet	0.37	Community		Georges Creek
Lonaconing Recreation Area	1.58	Community		Georges Creek
Lonaconing Horseshoe Pits	0.25	Community		Georges Creek
Lonaconing Trap Club	2.64	Community		Georges Creek
Maplehurst Country Club	143.55	Private		Georges Creek
Midland Municipal Ball field	7.81	Community		Georges Creek
Midland Parklet	0.58	Community		Georges Creek
Mt. Pleasant Recreation Park	2.94	Community		Georges Creek
Mountain Ridge High School	40.15	Educational	24.09	Georges Creek
Paris Glendenning Recreation Complex	64.25	Community		Georges Creek
Spring Street	6.09	Community		Georges Creek
Westernport Creekside Park	3.83	Community		Georges Creek
Westernport Downtown Park	0.28	Community		Georges Creek
Westernport Elementary School	3.44	Educational	2.06	Georges Creek
Westernport Memorial Park	2.06	Community		Georges Creek
Westernport Municipal park	6	Community		Georges Creek
Westmar High School	30.4	Educational	18.24	Georges Creek
Westmar Middle School	12.26	Educational	7.356	Georges Creek
Mt. Savage School (Fields)	9.94	Educational		Jennings
Allegheny Highlands Trail (Trail head area)	9.50	Regional		Jennings
Allegheny Highland Trail length	29.90	Regional		Jennings
Moss Cottage Ball field	8.95	Community		Jennings
Mt. Savage Community Park	3.00	Community		Jennings
Mt. Savage Little League Field	3.65	Community		Jennings
Mt. Savage Passive Recreation	3.68	Community		Jennings
Zihlman Ball field	0.00	Community		Jennings

Table 10: Continued

Name	Acres	Type	Acreage Used for Calcs.	Region
Ellerslie Community Park	10.6	Community		Wills
Wills Creek Greenway	3.03	Community		Wills
Corriganville Ball Field	2.19	Community		Wills
Allegheny Highlands Trail	19.78	Regional		Wills
Narrows Scenic Park	3.76	Community		Wills
East Side Elementary School	46.33	Educational	27.80	Wills
Allegheny High School	6.63	Educational	3.98	Wills
Braddock Middle School	26.87	Educational	16.12	Wills
Jaycees Recreation Area	9.72	Community		Wills
Sedgewick Street Recreation Area	3.43	Neighborhood		Wills
Bishop Walsh High School	39.84	Educational	23.90	Wills
Holland Street Park	4.71	Community		Wills
Valley Street Park	0.21	Neighborhood		Wills
Centre Street Recreation Area	0.46	Neighborhood		Wills
George Washington Headquarters	0.86	Historical	0.26	Wills
Sundial Park	0.04	Historical	0.01	Wills
Bel Air Community Park	9.72	Community		Upper Potomac
Bel Air Elementary	10.56	Educational	6.34	Upper Potomac
Bel Air Swim Club	0.94	Private other		Upper Potomac
Rawlings Community Park	4.65	Community		Upper Potomac
McCoole Community Park	4.78	Community		Upper Potomac
Dan's Rock Overlook Park	0.29	Community		Upper Potomac
Fore Sisters Golf Course	326.92	Private other		Upper Potomac
Driving Range	11.18	Private other		Upper Potomac
Smouse Memorial Park	17.91	Community		Evitts
Union Grove Campgrounds	9.39	Special Use		Evitts
Cumberland Country Club	184.82	Special Use		Evitts
Constitution Park	127.67	Regional		Evitts
Allegheny College of Maryland	238.98	Regional	143.388	Evitts
Ft. Hill High School	19.12	Educational	11.472	Evitts
Washington Middle School	17.82	Educational	10.692	Evitts
Pine Avenue Playground	1.21	Neighborhood		Evitts
South Penn Elementary	4.22	Educational	2.532	Evitts

Table 10: Continued

Name	Acres	Type	Acreage Used for Calcs.	Region
Evitts Creek Greenway	6.44	Community		Evitts
Springdale Street Playground	0.5	Neighborhood		Evitts
Smith Park	0.51	Neighborhood		Evitts
Taylor Community Athletic Field	4.01	Community		Evitts
John Humbird Elementary School	5.25	Educational	3.15	Evitts
South End Recreation Area	56.25	Community		Evitts
Donahue Field	6	Community		Evitts
VFW Ball field	7.85	Community		Evitts
Flintstone Community Park	14.69	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
Flintstone School (Not including building)	6.77	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
Flintstone Annex	2.24	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
Oldtown Community Park	30.41	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
Oldtown School	3.69	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
St. Mary's Field	4	Community		Flintstone- Oldtown
Potomac Council BSA	113.5	Regional		Flintstone- Oldtown
Piney Plains Ball field	4.28	Community		Eastern
Piney Plains School Rec. Area	3.06	Educational	1.836	Eastern