

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

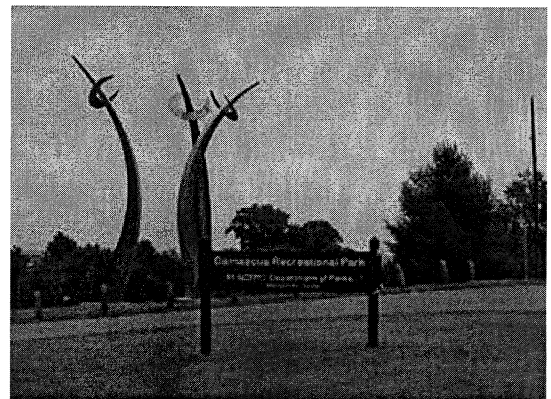
**GOAL:** Provide a network of local and countywide parks that offer recreational activities, support an interconnected trail system, protect important natural features and create attractive settings for cultural and historical resources. Provide sufficient public facilities to support the neighborhoods of Damascus, and linkages to access local facilities and institutions safely and efficiently.

## INTRODUCTION

Community facilities meet the physical, recreational, social, cultural, and security needs of the community. They help determine the desirability of a community as a place to live and work, and create and reinforce a sense of community.

## PARKLAND

The Damascus Master Plan area includes over 500 acres of parkland including local and neighborhood parks, the four-mile long hiker-biker path in the Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park, and the Damascus Recreational Park. The Little Bennett Regional Park, containing over 3700 acres, is located immediately west of the Master Plan area, it is to be connected to Damascus via the County's trail system. Little Bennett has a golf course with driving range, trails and a campground. Additionally, the area has many acres of linear parkland along stream valleys, and the Patuxent River State Park. This Plan identifies:



- Potential future local park sites and additional recreation opportunities at existing parks.
- A potential east-west trail connection to provide access to the Seneca Greenway Trail to the east and the Little Bennett Regional Park trail systems to the west.
- Important natural resource areas that should be included in the park system or the Legacy Open Space Program.

Parkland provides active and passive recreation needs including athletic fields, playgrounds, paved courts and trails. The Damascus area currently includes only one developed local park and two neighborhood parks to provide for community recreation needs. The Damascus Recreational Park at the southwestern boundary of the planning area provides athletic facilities that serve both Damascus residents and the entire northern portion of the County.

### Future Parkland Needs - Recreation and Conservation

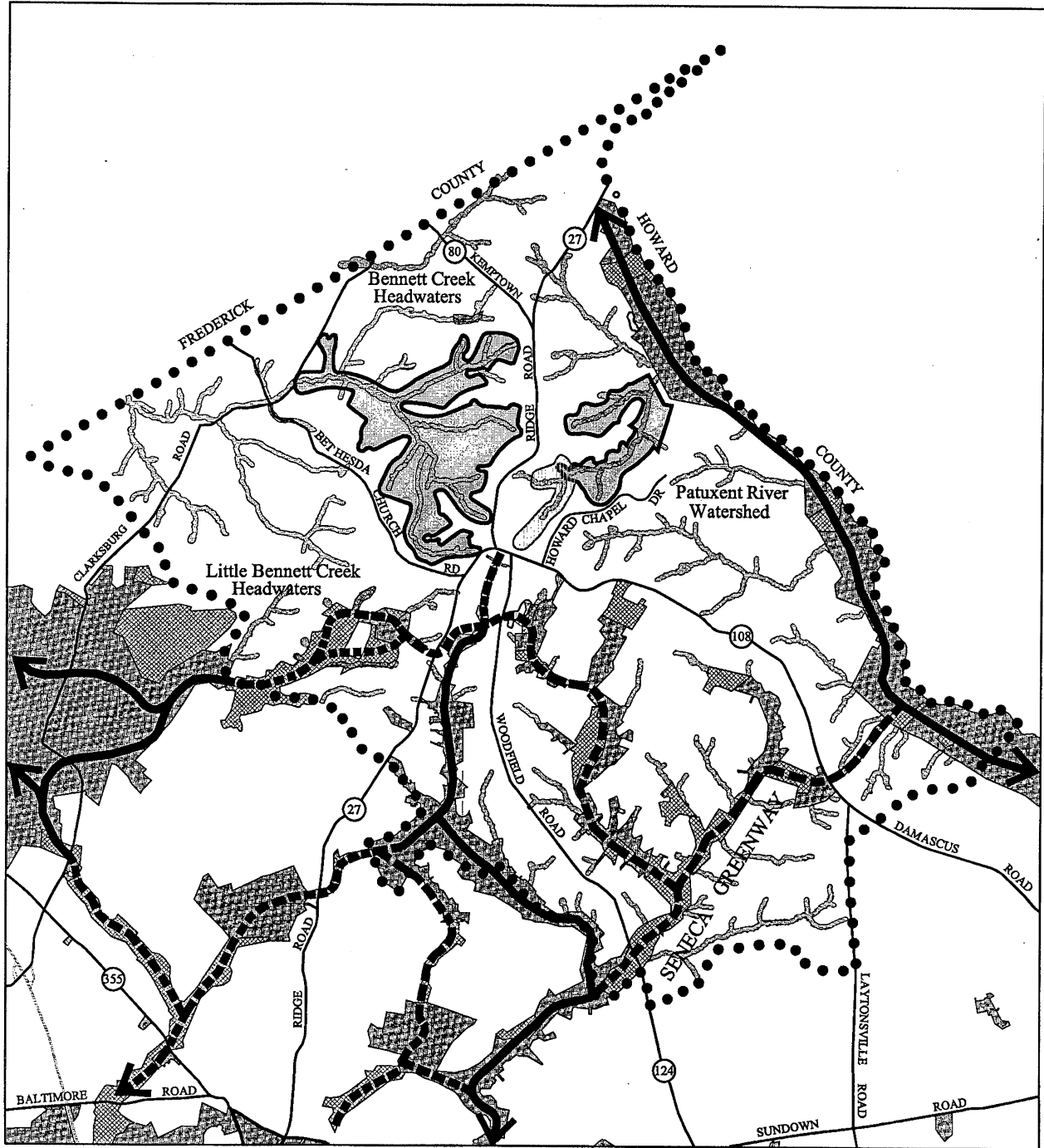
The 1998 Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan estimated that by 2010, the Damascus area would need an additional three ballfields, two tennis courts, and six playgrounds; with more facilities



needed after that date. The Montgomery County Recreation Department has identified a future need for an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool in this area of the County.



A future recreation needs survey completed by 50 Damascus residents in 2003 indicated that by far the most popular recreation activities are trail related; second was swimming; and when added together field related activities (such as soccer, softball and baseball) were third. Picnicking and playground use were also noted as frequent activities. These residents felt the greatest additional needs were for undeveloped natural parkland for conservation and nature enjoyment, trails (hard and natural surface) and trail connectivity, a swimming pool, athletic fields, nature center, playgrounds, and skateboard park. Future active recreation needs can be met on parkland, the recreation center, and school properties as recommended below:

- Augment planned recreation opportunities at the new Damascus Recreation Center. These should include additional fields, a skateboard park and a roller hockey court.
- Develop existing undeveloped local parks:
  - Seneca Springs Local Park (located south of MD 108 east of the Town Center) is proposed to be developed with recreation facilities such a soccer field, playfield, playground, and trails.
  - Woodfield Local Park (located southeast of the Town Center on Woodfield School Road) should be developed with recreation facilities such as athletic fields, a large playground, and multiuse court.
- Increase ballfield capacities at Damascus Recreational Park through lighting and reconfiguration.
- Acquire additional conservation or recreation parkland in designated locations through dedication from properties in cluster zones. Full analysis of these proposed properties will occur at time of subdivision, but future parks are contemplated on properties near the Oak Ridge Conservation Park (along Little Bennett Creek), and adjoining the Patuxent River and Great Seneca Creek tributaries.
- Large, new subdivisions must provide either private or public neighborhood parks to serve their residents and the surrounding community.
- Small Urban Parks, whether public or privately owned, can enhance the Damascus Town Center area. Public parks in or near the Town Center include the existing Damascus Neighborhood Park on Locust Drive and the planned Magruder Branch Trailhead Park. When the Magruder Branch Trailhead Park is planned, the planning team should include a representative from WSSC. Coordination with WSSC is important as trail and trailhead alternatives may require use of part of the adjoining WSSC property. If WSSC decides to surplus any portion of the site, the property should be added to the park system.
- Three undeveloped school sites exist in or near the Damascus Master Plan area. As schools provide significant recreation facilities, if the sites are ever declared surplus, they should be retained in public ownership as parkland to provide the anticipated recreation and open space opportunities they would have provided as schools. They are:
  - Elementary School Site across from Baker Middle School
  - Elementary School Site on Hawkins Creamery Road
  - Middle School Site next to Damascus Recreational Park (immediately adjacent to the Master Plan area)

# Existing and Proposed Parkland, Trails, and Open Space



- Master Plan Area Boundary
-  Existing Parkland  
(Includes M-NCPPC, State and W.S.S.C.)
-  Proposed Parkland  
(Includes M-NCPPC, State and W.S.S.C.)

-  Areas with Environmental Features Proposed for Open Space Protection
-  Private Conservation Area

- Existing
- Proposed
-  Trail Corridors and Community Connections



**Existing Parks in Damascus**  
**Inventory of Existing Facilities and Parkland Owned, Leased and/or Maintained by the M-NCPPC**

Local Parks				Existing Facilities				
Plan Area	Park Type	Park Name	Acres	Playground	Multi-Use	Tennis Courts	Ball Fields	Picnic Area
11	D	Moyer Road Local	25.9	1	1	2	1	1
11	U	Seneca Spring Local	57.4	0	0	0	0	0
11	U	Woodfield Local	11.0	0	0	0	0	0
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>94.3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>								
11	D	Damascus Neighborhood	2.0	1	1	0	0	1
11	D	John Haines Neighborhood	13.6	1	1	0	0	0
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>Conservation Parks</b>								
11	U	Oak Ridge Conservation	64	0	0	0	0	0
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Stream Valley Parks</b>								
11	U	Great Seneca SV Unit #8	107.6	0	0	0	0	0
11	U	Great Seneca SV Unit #9	46.6	0	0	0	0	0
11	U	Little Bennett Creek SV	14.0	0	0	0	0	0
11	U	Magruder Branch SV Unit #1	173.2	0	0	0	0	0
11	U	Wildcat Branch SV	44.4	0	0	0	0	0
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>385.8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Recreational Parks</b>								
14	D	Damascus Recreational	283.9	2	2	2	8*	1
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>283.9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>
		<b><i>Damascus Area Total</i></b>	<b><i>843.6</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>	<b><i>9</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>

U = Undeveloped    D = Developed

\* Fields at Damascus Recreational Park include 4 Football/Soccer, 3 Softball, and 1 Baseball

**Natural Resource Conservation and Protection**

Resource protection within existing and new parkland is a critical issue for the preservation of the important natural resources within the Damascus planning area. This Plan recommends the following guidelines for resource protection in parkland:

- Balance recreation needs with the stewardship of sensitive areas. Important sensitive areas include streams and their buffers; steep slopes; 100-year floodplains; highly erodible soils; wetlands and wetland buffers; habitats of rare, threatened, endangered or watch-list species of plants and animals; archaeological sites; and historic sites.

- Facilitate enjoyment and appreciation of nature in all parks through naturalized landscapes and sound stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas.
- When planning and locating park facilities, avoid sensitive areas whenever possible, minimize the impact when it cannot be avoided, and mitigate any impacts that occur.

A major concern in the Damascus area is the continued protection of the drinking water supply of the County since it contains the headwaters for several major streams and the Patuxent River. While these concerns are usually addressed without adding these areas to the public ownership, in some instances, the environmental concern is so significant that key resource areas are proposed to be included in the park network. The Existing and Proposed Parkland, Trails and Open Space map identifies areas with environmental features proposed for protection. The Environmental Resources Plan provides further detail regarding resource protection strategies outside of the park system. This Plan recommends the following resource areas to be included in the recommended park network for Damascus:

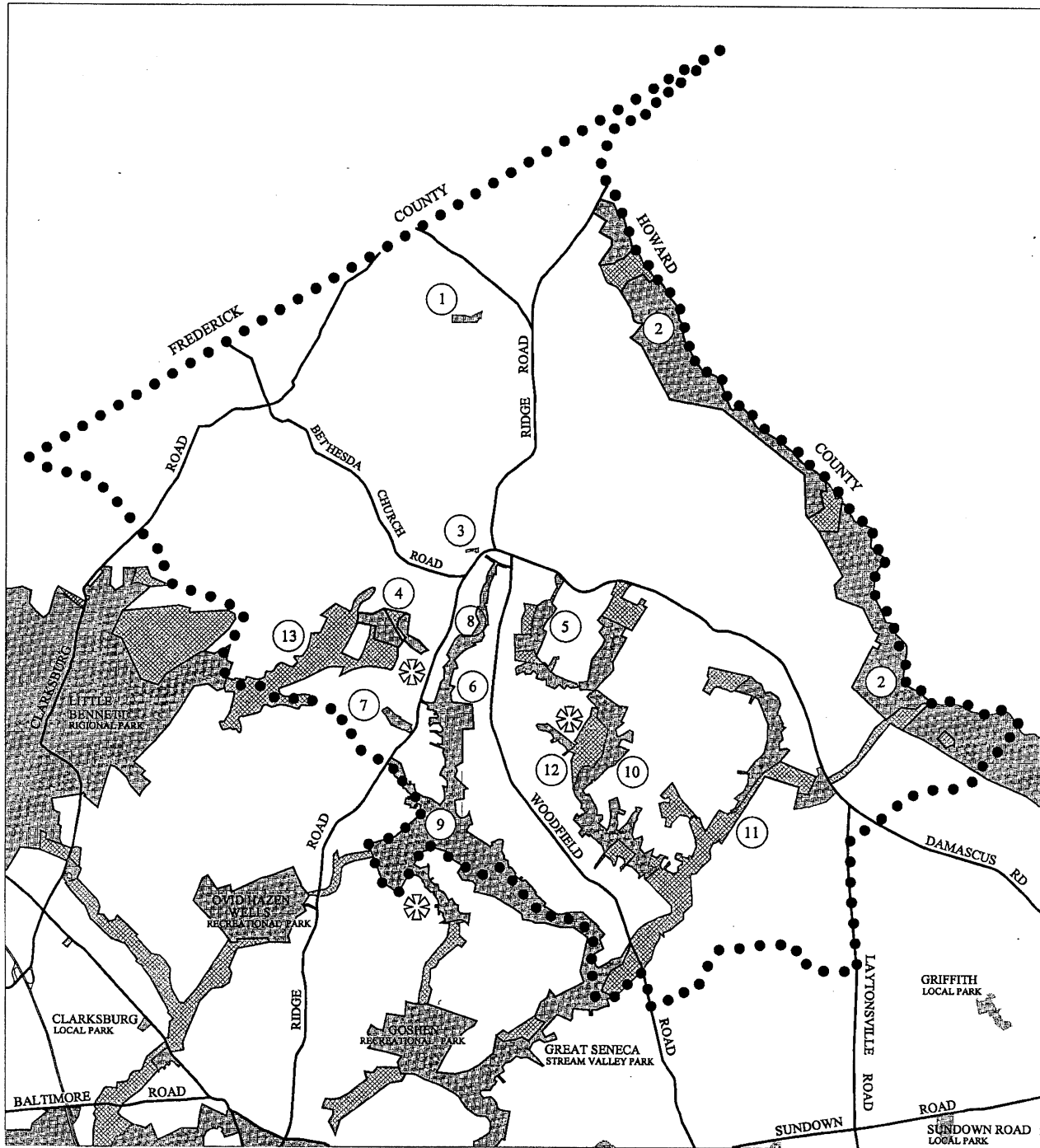
- **Little Bennett Creek Watershed Headwaters** - Adding the designated portion of the Little Bennett Creek Headwaters Area to the park system will provide critical additional protection for a sensitive watershed with very high water quality. Large sections of the lower part of the watershed area already in park ownership as Little Bennett Regional Park and the proposed acquisition area will provide environmental protection to and connectivity with the existing parkland. This area is being recommended for park acquisition within the Legacy Open Space program because it is an area of high quality forest and contributes to protection of water quality of Little Bennett Creek (see Legacy Open Space discussion below).
- **Western Tributary of Seneca Creek Stream Valley** - Adding this area to the park system will expand the existing stream valley park to include sensitive features that have been identified.

### **Parkland Historic and Cultural Settings**




This Plan does not propose adding properties to the park system to protect historic structures, but there are three potential historic resources (also discussed in the Historic Resources Chapter) that are immediately adjacent to parkland or potential parkland. Strategies will be needed to protect their historic settings which may include incorporating part of the setting into the park system. These resources include:

- The **Elisha Warfield** house (25723 Woodfield Road) dates from 1900 to 1902. The bank barn was built about the same time, c1901-1903. The farm remains in the Warfield family. The farmstead, now 78 acres, includes a corn crib and possibly a smokehouse.
- The **Kingstead Farm** (11415 Kingstead Road) was the early 19<sup>th</sup> century homestead of John Duckett King. The farmstead includes the house (early 1800s), a bank barn (1898), a gambrel roof dairy barn (1932), a domestic outbuilding (c1930s), a gable roof dairy barn (1952), cow barn, and hog houses (mid 20<sup>th</sup> century).
- The **Ira Jones Farm** (15601 Kings Valley Road) barn was built around 1921. This barn is known as the first wood truss gambrel roof barn in the area. This type of self-supporting truss roof did not become common in the County until about 1930. The stabling area of stone and concrete is typical of c1910s bank barns. The house is a frame, center cross-gable structure with a front porch that faces Kings Valley Road.

# Existing and Proposed Parkland



## PARK OWNERSHIP

- Master Plan Area Boundary
-  Existing Parkland
-  Proposed Parkland
-  Potential Park Sites  
(If not Required by School Board)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| ① North Point<br>Neighborhood<br>Conservation Area | ⑤ Seneca Springs<br>Local Park<br>To be Developed | ⑩ Woodfield<br>Local Park<br>To be Developed   |
| ② Patuxent River<br>State Park                     | ⑥ Moyer Road<br>Local Park                        | ⑪ Great Seneca<br>Stream Valley Park           |
| ③ Damascus<br>Neighborhood Park                    | ⑦ John Haines<br>Neighborhood Park                | ⑫ Great Seneca Tributary<br>Stream Valley Park |
| ④ Oak Ridge<br>Conservation Park                   | ⑧ Magruder<br>Stream Valley Park                  | ⑬ Little Bennett Creek<br>Stream Valley Park   |
| ⑨ Damascus<br>Recreation Park                      |   |  |



## Summary of Parkland Recommendations

Map #	Name	Plan Recommendation
1	North Point NP	Retain as neighborhood conservation park
2	Patuxent River SP	Affirm Countywide Park Trails Plan recommendation for a continuous natural surface trail along the Patuxent River
3	Damascus NP	Acquisition of adjacent property would enhance park
4	Oak Ridge CP	Explore opportunities to expand park when neighboring properties develop. Provide natural surface trails and the connecting sidewalk from Baker Middle School to the Damascus Community Recreation Center
5	Seneca Springs LP	Develop active recreational facilities such as ballfields, playfields, playground and trails. As subdivision occurs on adjoining properties, explore opportunities to provide an east-west trail connection and to include sensitive features in the park
6	Moyer Road LP	Support current activities
7	John Haines NP	Support current activities
8	Magruder Branch SVP	Extend hard surface trail north of Valley Park Drive to Damascus Town Center. Provide an attractive, urban park as trailhead for the trail in Damascus Town Center
9	Damascus Recreational	Consider increasing ballfield capacities through lighting and/or reconfiguration of ballfields
10	Woodfield LP	Provide large local park with several athletic fields, a large playground and multi-use court
11	Great Seneca SVP	Continue acquisition of properties to allow completion of the Seneca Greenway Trail
12	Great Seneca Tributary SVP	As subdivision occurs, explore opportunities to provide an east-west trail connection and to include sensitive features in the park system
13	Little Bennett Creek SVP	Acquire as parkland in dedication to serve conservation and recreation purposes
*	Potential park sites	Sites owned by School Board. Add to park system for recreation if not needed as school sites

Map numbers refer to Existing and Proposed Parkland Map

NP - Neighborhood Park

SP - State Park

LP - Local Park

CP - Conservation Park

RP - Recreational Park

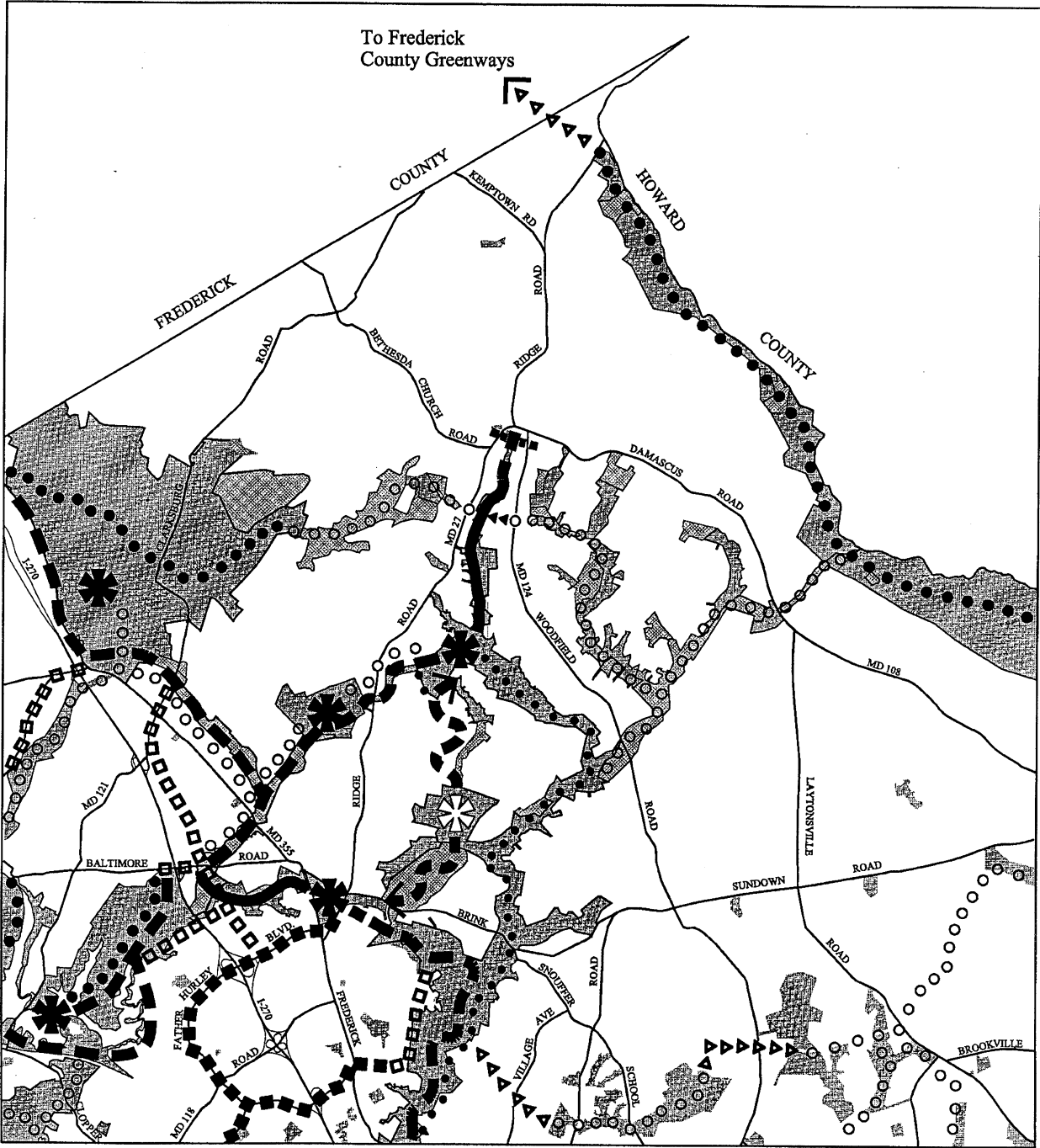
SVP - Stream Valley Park

## TRAILS PLAN

The 1998 Countywide Park Trails Plan guides trail planning in Montgomery County. Damascus is included in the Upcounty Trail Corridor where the plan objective is to “provide a hard surface recreational trail to serve the existing and future residents of Germantown, Clarksburg, and Damascus.” The Countywide Park Trails Plan distinguishes between hard surface trails (such as the Magruder Branch asphalt and boardwalk trail) and natural surface trails (typically narrow tread and dirt surfaces). Damascus provides both types of trail experiences.

The Magruder Branch Hiker-Biker Trail is a critical element in this network and the only paved trail in the Damascus planning area. This Plan strongly supports the continuation of the trail northward to the Town Center. Attention must continue to be given to providing safe road crossings for those using the trail at all crossing locations. This Plan particularly notes the need for providing a safer trail crossing at Sweepstakes Road, and ensuring a safe crossing of Bethesda Church Road when that segment is developed.

# Damascus Area Proposed Amendments to the Countywide Parks and Trails Plan



- |  |  |                          |               |
|--|--|--------------------------|---------------|
|  | Master Plan Area Boundary                              | <b>Recreation Trails</b> |               |
|  | Existing Parkland                                      | ●●●● Existing            | ○○○○ Proposed |
|  | Generalized Areas Proposed for Future Park Acquisition |                          |               |
|  | Regional / Recreational Destinations                   | Natural Surface          |               |
|  |  | Hard Surface             |               |
|  | Existing   |                          | Bikeway       |
|  | Proposed   |                          | Other         |



0 2000'



Potential solutions for the very busy Bethesda Church Road crossing could include consideration of improvements including median refuges, pedestrian activated signal control, or grade separated crossings, in addition to more conventional operation approaches involving signing and marking.

In terms of the natural surface trail pattern in Damascus, this Plan recommends that the *Countywide Park Trail Plan* be amended to reflect a new concept for east-west connectivity and other modifications as noted below:

- Reflects the east-west natural surface trail corridor being added to link the Seneca Trail to the west to the Little Bennett Trail system to the east.
- Identifies the importance of a sidewalk or bike path along Valley Park Drive to access this trail connection, and including special treatment for the Ridge Road crossing to ensure safety for those using the connection.
- Supports providing indicated trail connections in the Countywide Park Trail Plan and this Master Plan during the subdivision review process at time of development.

## **OPEN SPACE**

### **Legacy Open Space Program**

Montgomery County's Legacy Open Space Program is a key component to achieving the environmental and open space conservation goals expressed in the Damascus Master Plan including preservation of open space for agriculture and natural resources protection, protection of drinking water quality in the Patuxent reservoirs, and protection of rural vistas. The Legacy Open Space Program is charged with identifying the "best of the best" natural and cultural resources within the County for protection.

The Legacy Open Space Program is designed to protect a broad range of valuable open space resources with a variety of tools ranging from easements to parkland acquisition. These tools include purchase of conservation easements by the County, either through the M-NCPPC or the County's Agricultural Services Division, by the State of Maryland, or through federal programs; as well as the acquisition of conservation parkland by the M-NCPPC. Conservation through privately held easements such as private national or local land trusts is also encouraged. Forest conservation easements required for all subdivisions through the development review process and forest banking programs can play important roles in conserving identified Legacy Open Space resources as well.

Two Legacy Open Space sites evaluated in the Damascus Master Plan process were originally listed in the Legacy Open Space Master Plan as Class III (Technical Appendix D) sites. These Appendix sites were nominated for inclusion in the Legacy Master Plan as important natural resource areas and were judged to have met the criteria for full inclusion in the Legacy Open Space Program (Class I or II sites). Further study was needed to determine specific sites to protect and during the Master Plan process the two sites were studied in depth. Those sites are now recommended for protection. A third site already within both the Water Supply and Farmland Protection categories of the Legacy Open Space Master Plan was further evaluated and found to include enough significant forest that it should be added to the Natural Resources category of the Legacy Plan.

Of the three sites evaluated only the Little Bennett Creek watershed headwaters is recommended for addition to the park system. The Bennett Creek and the Upper Patuxent River Forest area are not proposed to be part of the park system.

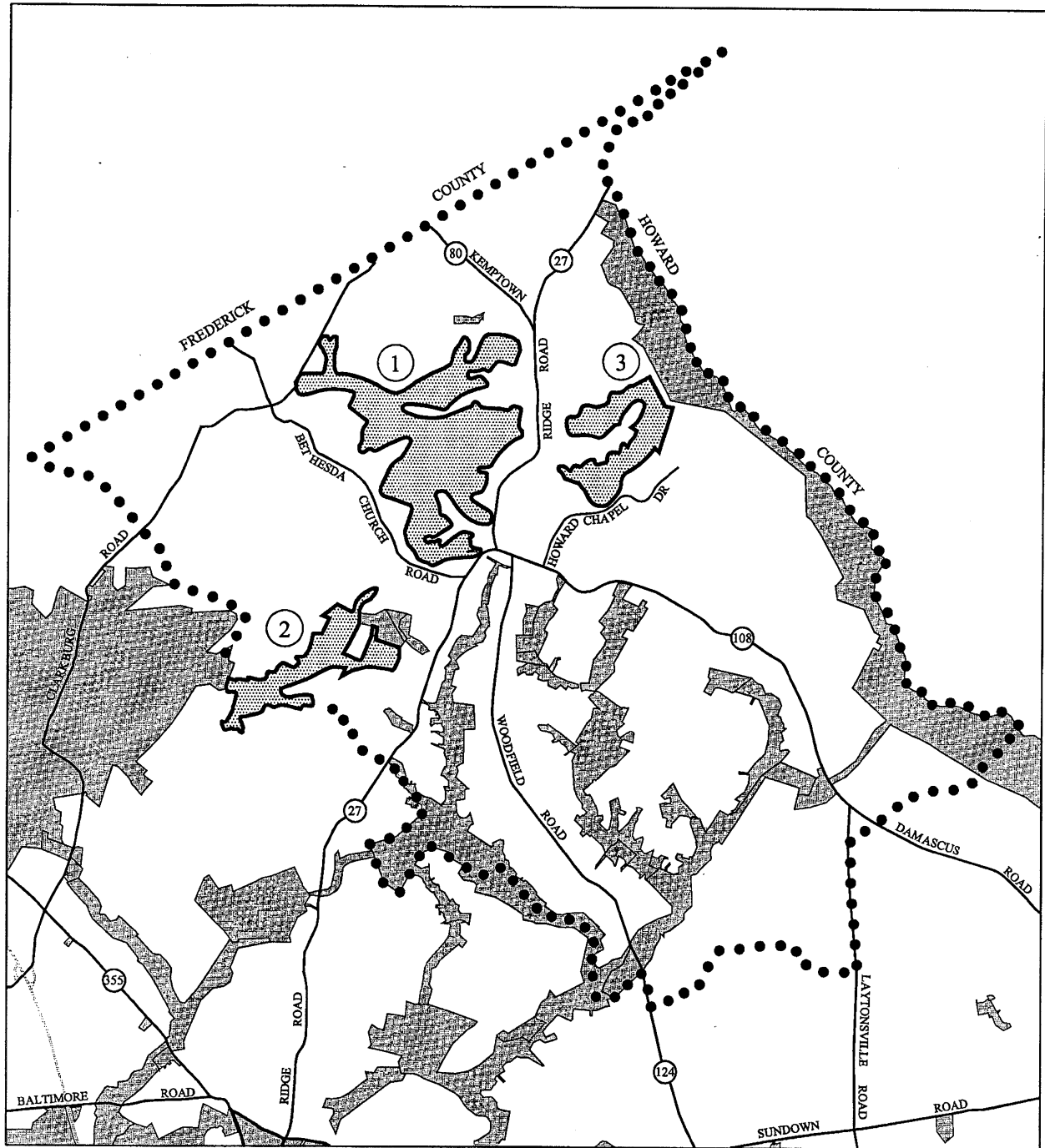
**Recommendations** – Three areas are recommended to be included as Natural Resource sites within the Legacy Open Space program.

- The Little Bennett Creek Headwaters Area is recommended for protection - primarily through parkland acquisition.
- The Bennett Creek Headwaters Area and the Upper Patuxent River Forest Area are recommended for protection - primarily through easements.

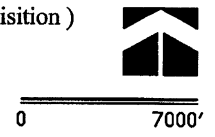
## Legacy Open Space Recommendations

Site Name and Description	Comments	Legacy Category Recommendation	Primary Protection Techniques
<b>Class III (Appendix D) Sites Recommendations</b>			
<p><b>Little Bennett Creek Headwaters Area</b> Forested sites located adjacent to Oak Ridge Conservation Park. Includes additional areas of forest along main stem of Little Bennett Creek not previously proposed for parkland acquisition.</p>	<p>Areas of high quality upland and riparian forest.</p> <p>Contributes to protection of water quality of Little Bennett Creek, which supports a population of naturally reproducing brown trout.</p>	<p>Add to Natural Resources Category (Class I)</p>	<p>Protect through acquisition of conservation parkland.</p>
<p><b>Bennett Creek Headwaters Area</b> Site consists of multiple parcels located roughly between Moxley Road to the north, Ridge Road to the east, Bethesda Church Road to the south, and Clarksburg Road to the west.</p>	<p>Large area of contiguous forest with several mature stands of high quality upland and riparian forest.</p> <p>Principal headwaters tributaries of Bennett Creek with numerous wetlands and springs.</p> <p>Contributes to protection of water quality of Bennett Creek.</p>	<p>Add to Natural Resources Category (Class I)</p>	<p>Protect through development review process or conservation easement.</p>
<b>Other Sites – not Class III</b>			
<p><b>Upper Patuxent River Forest Area</b> Site consists of multiple parcels north and south of Gue Road adjacent to Patuxent River State Park. Already protected in Water Supply and Rural Open Space Protection categories.</p>	<p>Large area of contiguous forest with high quality upland and riparian forest stands that buffer tributaries of Patuxent River.</p> <p>Many stream valley wetlands</p> <p>Contributes to protecting water quality of Patuxent River.</p>	<p>Add to Natural Resources Category (Class I)</p> <p>Retain within Water Supply and Rural Open Space Protection categories.</p>	<p>Protect through development review process and conservation easement as appropriate</p>

# Legacy Open Space Recommendations



- Master Plan Area Boundary
- Existing / Proposed Parkland
- Potential Legacy Open Space Sites
- ① Bennett Creek Headwaters Area ( Natural Resource Site )
- ② Little Bennett Creek Headwaters Area ( Natural Resource Site, Proposed Parkland Acquisition )
- ③ Patuxent River Watershed Area ( Water Supply Target Area )



## **COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES**

### **Damascus Community Recreation Center**

The Department of Recreation has constructed a new 23,500 net square foot community recreation center at 25520 Oak Drive on approximately 40 acres. The new facility was necessary to serve the Up County region, which includes Damascus and Clarksburg. This area is geographically isolated with a rapidly expanding population. The population is expected to reach more than 47,000 people by 2010.

The new Recreation Center offers an additional opportunity for development of recreation facilities. The Center will initially provide a range of activities. Indoor facilities will include a gymnasium, exercise room, social hall, kitchen, senior community lounge, music/classroom, hobby craft and kiln room, game room, vending space, conference room, offices, lobby, rest rooms, and storage space. The outdoor activity elements will include an athletic field, a multipurpose court for volleyball and basketball, and a playground.

Because there are few recreational opportunities within the Damascus Master Plan area, there are plans to add an outdoor amphitheatre, skateboard park and in-line skate rink at the Center in the future. Additional facilities that should be provided include additional athletic fields and a roller hockey court. The skateboard park should be a priority in future programming. The Department of Recreation should also study the aquatic recreational needs of this area and possible locations for a facility in the near future.

For the safety of those entering this facility on foot or by bicycle, this Center must also have a sidewalk constructed from the Oak Drive entrance to the facility, in addition to the existing sidewalk at Baker Middle School and the proposed sidewalk connecting to Oak Ridge Conservation Park. This crucial safety requirement element was not authorized as a part of the facility construction. Recommendations for this facility include:

- Provide sidewalks along the front of the property and from the entrance along the interior roadway leading to the community center to provide a safe passage for pedestrians, including the students from adjoining Baker Middle School.
- Study the need for aquatic recreational opportunities in the Upcounty region.
- Provide additional athletic fields, a roller hockey court, and a skateboard park.

### **Damascus Senior Center**

The Department of Recreation also operates a senior center that is located at 9701 Main Street, which is attached to the Damascus Library. The center is approximately 10,000 gross square feet and has a mission to provide seniors with meaningful social and educational activities in the areas of health, nutrition, arts and entertainment.

## **SCHOOLS**

The Damascus Master Plan area contains eight school sites that total approximately 120 acres (see Community Facilities map). The Damascus Cluster includes the high school, a middle school, four elementary schools and two future elementary school sites within the planning area. There are no private schools in the Master Plan area. Based on the land use recommendations for this Plan area no additional schools sites appear to be warranted.

There are two vacant school sites in the planning area – an elementary school site on Oak Drive across from the Baker Middle School, and an elementary school site along Hawkins Creamery Road. There is also one vacant property in the cluster area that is just outside the Master Plan area, for a future Kingsbridge Middle School, located on a 33-acre site on Founders Way. The Board of Education will retain these vacant sites. They will be developed when a need for additional schools is determined based on their ongoing evaluations of the capacity of existing schools and the projected increase in student enrollment from new development.

This Plan supports the retention of these school sites and the modernization and utilization of the existing schools. If, in the future, MCPS decides to surplus any vacant school sites, the sites should be considered for additional parkland that will provide the anticipated recreation and open space opportunities they would have provided as schools. As discussed in the Housing Chapter, due to their size and location, they would not be appropriate for consideration for housing.

## **PUBLIC FACILITIES**

### **Library**

The Damascus Library is located at 9701 Main Street. The building is approximately 16,400 square feet and is categorized as a community Library. It has a collection in the range of 120,000 volumes. It serves the northern tip of Montgomery County and also serves customers that come from the close by communities in Frederick, Carroll and Howard Counties.

### **Post Office**

A new main post office was opened in 2003 on Woodfield Road Extended. It replaces an older facility that was located in rented space in a multi-use building located on Main Street. The old site did not provide sufficient and secure parking or storage space for mail trucks to handle the increased population of this postal service area. The new site allows the postal system to improve customer service for the greater Damascus area.

### **Upcounty Regional Services Center**

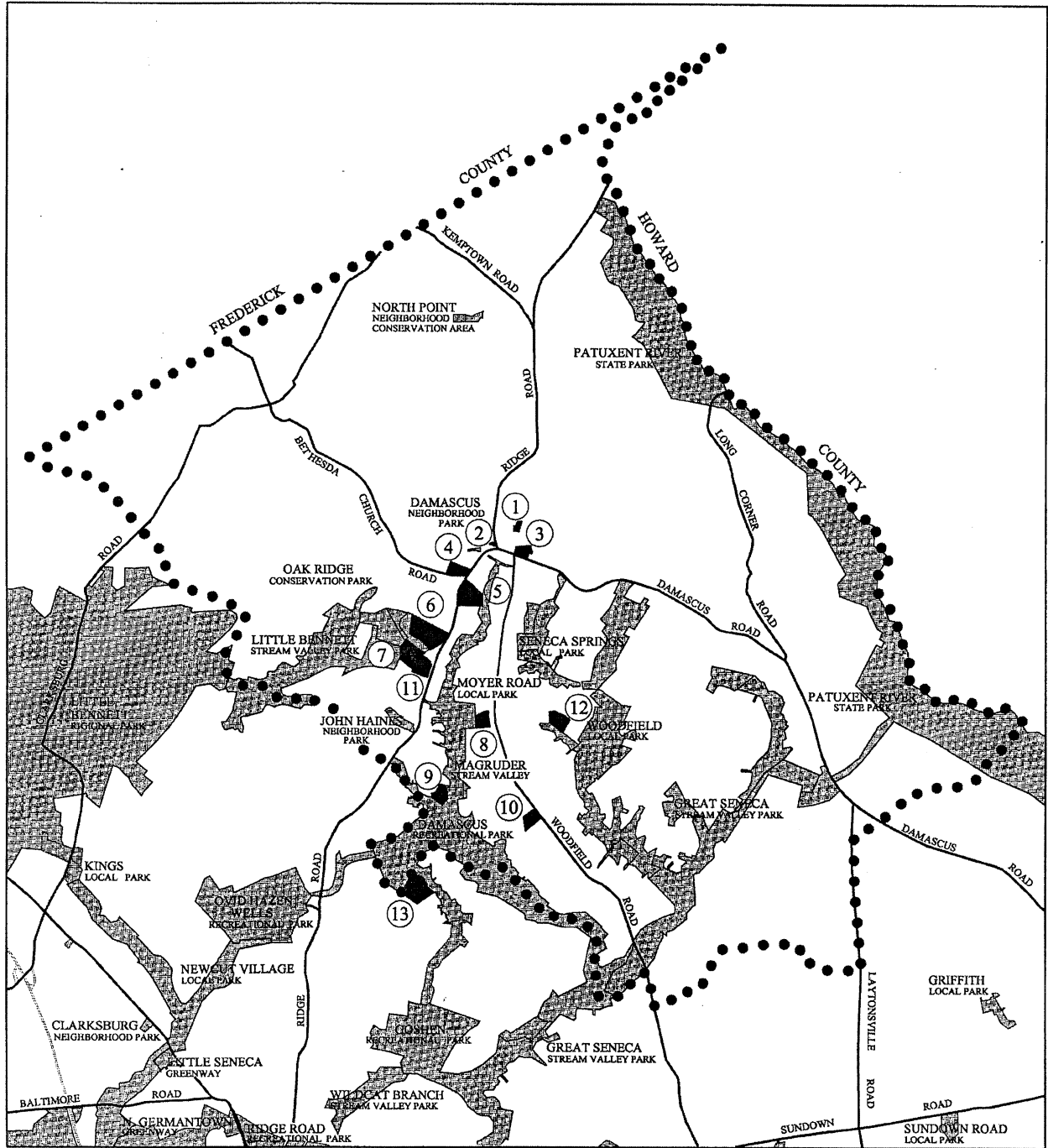
The Damascus Master Plan area is presently part of the Upcounty Regional Services Center service area. The center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, approximately eight miles from central Damascus. The governmental centers provide a decentralized location for area residents to receive government services, information and assistance. The services and assistance offered at the centers vary depending upon the needs of the community. Staff of the Upcounty Regional Services Center (regional services representative) comes to the lobby of the combined Library/Senior Center once a week to provide assistance to Damascus residents.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Fire and Rescue**

Within the Damascus Master Plan area, fire, rescue and emergency medical services are provided by the Montgomery County Division of Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS), in conjunction with the Damascus, Hyattstown, Germantown and Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Departments. The Damascus area is served by four fire stations: Station 13 located at 26334 Ridge Road in Damascus, Station 9 on Frederick Road in Hyattstown, Station 17 on Route 108 in Laytonsville, and Station 29 on Crystal Rock Drive in Germantown. Fire and rescue units from other nearby stations, including those in Frederick, Carroll and Howard Counties, respond into this area when requested. The Damascus area will also be served in the future by units from two new stations to be built in nearby Clarksburg and the east side of Germantown.

# Community Facilities



Community Facilities

- Master Plan Area Boundary
  - ▨ Existing / Proposed Parkland (M-NCPPC, State and WSSC)
  - Community Facilities
  - \* Future school sites to be converted to park if not needed for school purposes
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Damascus U.S. Post Office</li> <li>② Fire Station - Damascus Co.13</li> <li>③ Damascus Library / Senior Center</li> <li>④ Damascus Elementary School</li> <li>⑤ Damascus High School</li> <li>⑥ Damascus Community Center</li> <li>⑦ Baker Middle School</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑧ Clearspring Elementary School</li> <li>⑨ Rockwell Elementary School</li> <li>⑩ Woodfield Elementary School</li> <li>⑪ Future Oak Drive Elementary School*</li> <li>⑫ Future Hawkins Creamery Road* Elementary School</li> <li>⑬ Future Kingsbridge Middle School*</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



Damascus Station 13 received an extensive renovation in 1993-94, and no further major renovations are anticipated over the next 20 years. Due to its small size and condition, Laytonsville Station 17 may be renovated on its present site or relocated to a nearby site within the next 10 years. Hyattstown Station 9 and Germantown Station 29 are expected to remain at their present sites. Anticipated dates for the opening of the new Germantown-East and Clarksburg fire-rescue stations are 2008 and 2009, respectively.

An MCFRS study addressing county-wide aerial unit deployment recommended the addition of an aerial unit at Damascus Station 13. An aerial unit (i.e., ladder truck, aerial tower, or quint, which is a single unit with combined capabilities of both an aerial unit and an engine.) might eventually be placed at Station 13 as funding becomes available. In addition, redeployment of certain fire-rescue units within the Damascus area may also occur over the next 20 years based upon changing needs of the area.

The MCFRS recognizes that a significant portion of the Damascus study area lacks municipal water supply and fire hydrants. To enhance the fire suppression capabilities within areas lacking fire hydrants, the MCFRS urges builders and property owners to voluntarily install underground water tanks directly on their property or at the entrance to housing developments for use by the MCFRS. These underground water tanks should hold 20,000 gallons or greater based upon fire fighting water flow requirements of the property to be protected. Tanks should meet the requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard 1142 ("Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting"), including appropriate connections for hook-up to pumpers and a roadside sign or pavement marking identifying the tank's location to fire fighters. The property owner would be responsible for maintenance of the tank and fire department connections.

Persons with ponds on their property could also make water readily accessible to fire fighters by installing "dry hydrants" and providing improved access to them (e.g., paved or gravel roadway and turnaround area) for fire suppression vehicles. A dry hydrant consists of a pipe extending into a body of water or waterway, and an above ground connection that allows fire fighters to quickly hook-up pumpers to the source of water. The property owner would be responsible for maintenance of the dry hydrant.

This recommendation should not preclude builders and property owners in rural areas from voluntarily installing fire sprinkler systems within single-family homes and small businesses as the front line measure in fire protection. Sprinkler systems within structures located in areas lacking municipal water require a dedicated indoor tank, supplied by an on-site well, to store water to directly supply the sprinkler system. Underground tanks, and ponds with dry hydrants, are supplemental to fire sprinklers and may be used by fire fighters to suppress fires in buildings without sprinklers, vehicles (e.g., trucks, farm machinery), and outdoor areas (e.g., woods, brush, cropland).

### **Police**

Police service in the Damascus Master Plan area is provided by the 5<sup>th</sup> District Police Station, located in Germantown. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Police Station is located at 20000 Aircraft Drive in Germantown. The Police Department currently does not have any plans to establish a station in this area. The Department may decide to use a satellite station within the area to provide decentralized service in the future.