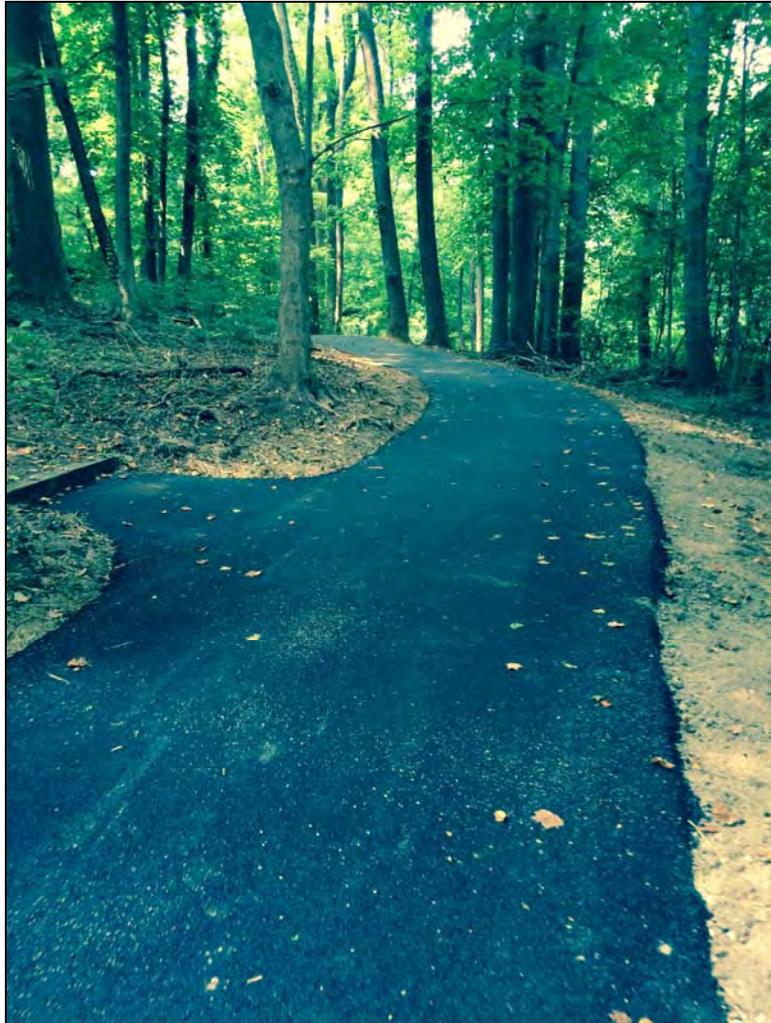


***BALTIMORE COUNTY
FY'17 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
ANNUAL PROGRAM***



**Baltimore County
Department of Recreation and Parks**

INTRODUCTION

The “Baltimore County Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Program,” required in association with the State of Maryland’s “Program Open Space” (POS), lists park acquisition and development projects currently being explored by Baltimore County, for which fiscal year 2017 POS funding may be pursued or has been secured. Projects listed herein will help to achieve the goals and objectives of Baltimore County’s “Master Plan 2020” and the County’s Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan” (LPPRP). Specifically, the projects will support the following LPPRP and Master Plan 2020 “policies”:

- Acquire a variety of parklands and recreation sites to achieve parkland acquisition goals and meet public recreation needs.
- Provide a diversity of recreational facilities and areas to meet the needs of citizens, and to serve the organized programs of the local recreation and parks councils.
- Renovate and rehabilitate parks to address the issues of facility aging and outdated recreational infrastructure.
- Participate and play a vital role within community revitalization programs such as the County’s renaissance initiative.
- Expand waterfront access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- Pursue alternative funding sources for park acquisition, development, capital improvements, recreational programs and special events.
- Promote a greater appreciation for the natural environment through interpretation and hands-on experiences, and expand efforts to protect sensitive environmental areas within the County’s parklands.
- Enhance park and facility accessibility and provide quality recreational opportunities for individuals of all abilities.
- Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in and experience arts programs and events, and historically and culturally significant sites.
- Evaluate facility design standards as necessary to better meet recreational demands, enhance facility safety and functionality, and ensure that parks and facilities are sustainable, attractive community enhancements.
- Participate in various partnerships to maximize resources and efforts for the benefit of Baltimore County citizens.
- Expand the use of technology to enhance agency operations, and to better meet the needs of the public.

The proposed projects may also support other planning documents and initiatives as the Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan; the State Planning Act of 1992; State of Maryland and Baltimore County growth management, “smart growth,” and community conservation/enhancement.

CAPITAL PROJECT SELECTION PROCESSES

While the policies, issues, and actions identified in the County's LPPRP's provide the general impetus for conducting various capital projects, the means for selecting such projects varies based on the type of capital projects. The methods for choosing acquisition projects differ significantly from those used to establish development projects. Following is a summary of the processes Baltimore County and the Department of Recreation and Parks utilize to identify, prioritize and select capital projects.

A. Acquisition Projects

Acquisition projects are typically the most difficult and complex type of capital projects to facilitate and successfully complete. While numerous prospective park acquisitions are identified and pursued in a typical year, many do not come to fruition. Cost implications, competition from other prospective buyers, development/redevelopment challenges, and environmental considerations all affect the County's desire and/or ability to actually purchase a given property. The Department and County consider an assortment of factors when considering whether or not to pursue acquisition opportunities, including the supply of parkland in a given area, the need to acquire land suitable for accommodating facilities required to meet recreational demands, local population growth trends, and relative public and environmental benefits. The County's continuing population growth, diminished availability of suitable properties in many areas of the County, and occasionally instability of the POS funding program can make the acquisition of adequate parklands in a timely manner a challenging proposition.

Prospective park acquisitions are typically identified in one of two ways: first, by the Department/County actively seeking out lands capable of meeting a specific need or serving future population growth; or second, by pursuing properties identified by others and brought to the Department's/County's attention. In the first instance, suitable properties within a specific geographic area are identified as potential acquisitions needed to help meet local acreage needs or to allow for the construction of needed recreational facilities. Parcels adjacent to existing park, recreation and open space sites might be pursued to serve as additions to those sites, allowing for expanded recreational facilities or the development of what had previously been a substandard site. Other parcels might be identified to meet a specific initiative such as the regional park acquisition and development program.

The second most prevalent manner in which prospective acquisitions are identified occurs when landowners, real estate brokers, local recreation and parks councils, community groups, land trusts and other conservation organizations, or individual citizens contact the County to report the availability of a given property that might be worthy of serving as parkland. Local Recreation and Parks staff and elected officials likewise contact the Department to occasionally report "for sale" signs that appear in their community or jurisdiction. This method is less likely to lead to an acquisition than the previously described process, as these sites are often not as conducive to serving as parks as are sites that have been identified, analyzed, and selected in-house. Another platform through which prospective acquisitions are often identified is the County's community planning process, whereby plan committees comprised of local citizens and County staff list sites that could serve as desired parklands.

In some cases, prospective acquisitions may be of joint State-County or multi-agency interest.

B. Development Projects

The County and Department regularly maintain a diverse list of proposed park development projects that are implemented as quickly as funding becomes available. These projects range from the large-scale development of previously unimproved sites, to the expansion of recreational facilities at existing parks, to the replacement or rehabilitation of facilities that have reached the end of their life cycle and/or do not meet modern safety standards. The means by which a development project is chosen for funding in any given year varies by the type of project. The following describes the various types of development projects, as well as the general process by which these projects are typically selected.

- **New Park Development:** New park development projects are often initiated shortly after the acquisition of a new site that was procured to meet existing recreational needs. Funding is usually set aside for site engineering between one to five years after site acquisition. This allows the County time to conduct public meetings, during which local citizens indicate what types of recreational facilities they would like to see developed. Park design is based upon a final concept plan that reflects the public input received. Funding for site development would typically follow in the next fiscal year. In some cases – particularly when there is insufficient available capital funding – a site may remain unimproved for longer than five years, until funding is available and site development becomes a priority. The proposed Spring Grove Park Site development project is an example of this project type.



Spring Grove Park Site, before hospital structure demolition

- **Phased Park Construction:** Another form of park development is phased construction. This typically occurs at larger parks, most often when it is not financially or physically feasible to fully develop the entire park immediately. In such situations, a concept plan or

park “master plan” may be formulated for the entirety of the park site prior to the initial phase of development, with subsequent engineering of the first phase being based upon the concept plan. Depending on the amount of time that passes before additional phases of development are initiated, the concept plan may be used for future engineering, or it may be revisited and revised. Projects of this type are somewhat infrequent. Some current/recent examples of phased development include Lake Roland Park in central Baltimore County and the Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center in the Turner Station neighborhood of southeast Baltimore County.



Lake Roland Environmental Ed. Center, which is nearing completion and was a FY'16 POS-assisted project

- **Rehabilitation and Replacement:** The Department of Recreation and Parks has served the citizens of Baltimore County for more than two-thirds of a century. Many facilities, some of which date to the agency’s earliest years, have reached the end of their life cycle and are in need of large-scale rehabilitation or replacement. The County has initiated a number of comprehensive capital renovation and replacement programs throughout the years. Recreational building, sports court, facility lighting, parking lot, and playground equipment renovation and replacement programs have been established and utilized to rehabilitate and/or upgrade older facilities whose functionality has been diminished. Another less frequent type of rehabilitation project is large-scale redesign and redevelopment of a park to better meet modern public demands. The proposed Kingsville Park project within this Annual Program qualifies as a major capital project involving large-scale rehabilitation.
- **General Park Improvements:** Most requests for general improvements at parks and recreation sites derive from the local recreation offices or recreation and parks councils. Requests for improvements vary widely and may include such projects as installation of fencing, construction of storage or concessions buildings, extension of utilities to enhance facilities or allow for new amenities, construction of picnic pavilions, expansion of walkways or parking areas, and development of field irrigation systems. While these types

of projects may not be essential to the operation of the existing park, they enhance the quantity and/or quality of recreational opportunities at the site. A variety of factors are considered when deciding which of these projects to fund-- public safety, the recreational value of the requested facilities, the need for same, and the willingness of the community or council to fiscally participate in the project. Some such improvements are initiated to comply with regulations such as the "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)." The Department may also initiate park improvements in an effort to enhance an existing park or to expand recreational opportunity. For example, a boat ramp or pier might be added to a park to increase waterfront access, or a sidewalk or path might be constructed to enhance access to park facilities or provide for other recreational activities. Some park improvements represent new types of recreational facilities that may not have previously been provided by the County for public use. The recently completed trail improvements at Catonsville Community Park (cover page photo) are examples of this class of capital development project.

POTENTIAL FY'17 PROJECTS

Parts two and three of this annual program list prospective FY'17 acquisition and development projects in a spreadsheet format. These sections provide detailed information regarding recreation and parks projects for which Program Open Space or other State or Federal funding has been secured, explored, or may be sought. All projects listed are sponsored by Baltimore County, which has no incorporated towns within its boundaries. Additional projects/jobs not listed in this program may be added throughout the fiscal year as needed, at which time this program shall be amended through written notification to DNR. It is important to note that the inclusion of projects within the annual program or the LPPRP does not guarantee that capital funding will be available for implementation. Further, this Annual Program may be amended as the fiscal year progresses, in order to include additional projects that may not be budgeted at present. The following describes each of the columns that comprise the spreadsheets:

- **Project Name and Description:** The name and brief description of each project or job.
- **Project's Relationship to LPPRP and "Twelve Visions."** This column describes how the given project helps to fulfill the goals and objectives of the County's Master Plan and the County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, and indicates how the project supports the principles of the recently amended "Twelve Visions" of the State Planning Act.
- **Acreage Data:** This column presents various park acreage data, including the size in acres of parks with development projects, and the size in acres of proposed acquisitions. Acreage is not listed for sites in which the specific acquisition site has not yet been identified.
- **Source of Funds:** These columns provide details about the various FY'17 funding sources that are projected to be utilized for each specific project/job.

Notes pertaining to the lists of potential projects: The funding amounts identified, for the most part, are approximate and do reflect actual "contract costs." Additionally, in order to prevent potential

“land speculation” and avoid creating competition or undue value expectations for prospective acquisition sites, no specific acquisition sites are identified within this Annual Program. Instead, more general “priority acquisition areas” are identified.

Finally, a series of maps are provided for the purpose of identifying project locations throughout the County. Maps are not provided for “countywide” projects.

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPPRP and Twelve Visions	Acre Data	Total Funding	Local Funding	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Fund.	Funding Notes
<p>Priority Area Park Acquisition(s): Acquisition of one or more properties within areas with defined parkland acreage and recreational facility needs. Areas of emphasis could include the waterfront (along the Bay and its tributaries), Pikesville, Owings Mills, Towson/Towsontowne, Parkville-Carney, Middle River, Bengies-Chase, southwest Baltimore County, and northern Baltimore County. However, acquisitions could be in virtually any area with unmet parkland acreage or recreation facility needs.</p>	<p>LPPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Helps to meet the general goal of acquiring sufficient parkland to meet the County's prescribed parkland acreage goal. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Can help to support numerous of the visions, ranging from providing recreational infrastructure in proximity to demand, to protecting sensitive environmental areas, to supporting community conservation and planned growth.</p>	TBD	\$10,800,000	\$1,000,000	\$9,800,000	\$0	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
TOTALS:			\$10,800,000	\$1,000,000	\$9,800,000	\$0	\$0	

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

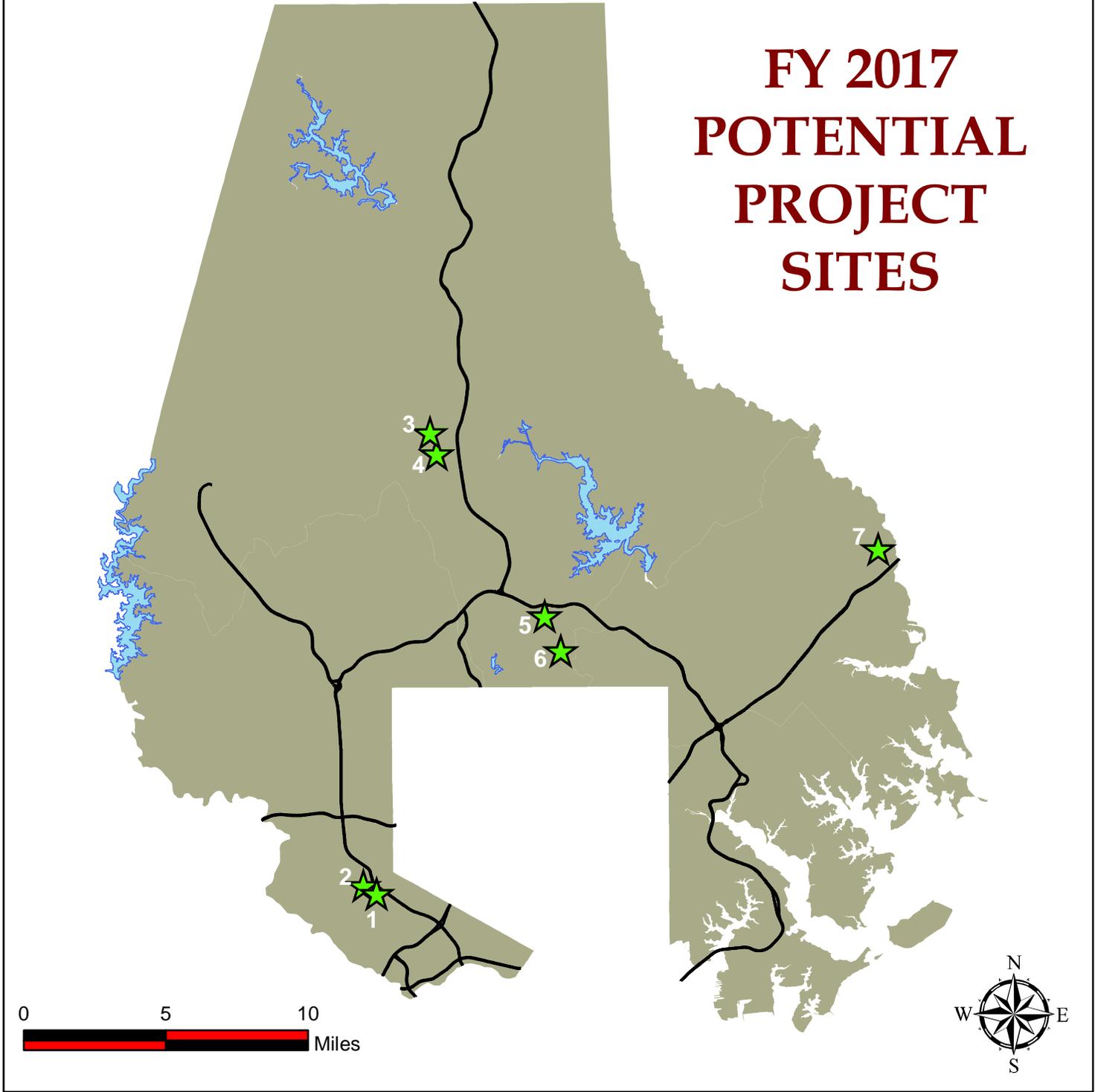
PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2017 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPRP and Twelve Visions	Acre Data	Total Funding	Local Funding	State Funding	Other Funding	Funding Notes
<p>Artificial Turf Field Construction - Towson and Carver Center High School Recreation Centers: This project consists of the construction of artificial turf fields at Towson High School Rec Center and the Carver Center High School Rec Center in central Baltimore County. Field lighting may be included as part of the projects. NOTE: Project applications already submitted, but are on hold pending the County's submittal of POS 3-party joint-use agreements.</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective/priority of "Renovate and rehabilitate parks to address the issues of facility aging and outdated recreational infrastructure." PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Enhances/ rehabilitates existing facilities to better meet public needs, ensures that existing recreational facilities remains accessible and available to the population to be served.</p>	N/A	\$1,500,000	\$50,000	\$650,000	\$800,000	State funding is local-side POS, other funding is from a number of donations and dedicated developer fees/ payments.
<p>Catonsville Community Center Design and Development: Design and construction of a new community center to serve the Catonsville community of southwest Baltimore County. The exact location of the center is to be determined.</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Specifically identified as priority project within the LPPRP. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Provides recreational facilities which are easily accessible to residents who will be served. Provides a public facility that contributes to the functioning and quality of life of the surrounding community.</p>	TBD	\$3,300,000	\$840,000	\$2,460,000	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
<p>Therapeutic Equestrian Facility Construction: Construction of indoor and outdoor therapeutic equestrian facilities at the Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park, or other public recreation site in northern Baltimore County.</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective of renovating and enhancing parks and recreational facilities to meet the recreational demands of citizens of all abilities. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Provides facilities that offer accessible recreational activities for all age groups and abilities.</p>	TBD	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$1,800,000	\$0	State funding is local-side POS

PROSPECTIVE BALTIMORE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2017 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Project Name and Description	Project's Relationship to LPRP and Twelve Visions	Acre Data	Total Funding	Local Funding	State Funding	Other Funding	Funding Notes
<p>Kingsville Park Erosion and Drainage Renovations: This project consists of major capital renovations to repair and correct problems associated with poor rain water drainage at Kingsville Park. Significant erosion and facility use problems have arisen as a result of a lack of proper drainage management.</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports action to "Conduct comprehensive capital renovation programs" at existing parks to ensure that they remain available and safe for public use. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Enhances existing recreation site to meet the current needs of the population; protects the natural environment by better managing water flow and correcting issues that result in increased sedimentation.</p>	~23	\$640,000	\$525,000	\$115,000	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
<p>Spring Grove Park Site Development: This project consists of the redevelopment of an ~9-acre portion of the Spring Grove Hospital property, which is proposed for sale to Baltimore County to serve as a park site (see related acquisition entry within this Annual Program). The exact nature of the proposed recreational facilities to be developed has yet to be determined.</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports the objective of renovating existing facilities to better meet public recreation demands. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Provides recreational facilities which are easily accessible to residents who will be served. Rehabilitates and improves an existing public site to meet the current needs of the population.</p>	~9	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$1,800,000	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
<p>Oregon Ridge Park Former Beach Area Redevelopment: This project consists of recreational improvements and renovations to the former beach area of the nearly 1,100-acre Oregon Ridge Park. The new facilities will provide recreational opportunities in an area that has largely been closed off since the County's decision to cease swimming beach operations. ANNUAL PROGRAM AMENDMENT ADDED SEPTEMBER, 2016</p>	<p>LPRP/COUNTY MASTER PLAN: Supports action to "Conduct comprehensive capital renovation programs" at existing parks to ensure that they remain available and safe for public use. PLANNING ACT VISIONS: Enhances existing recreation site to meet the current needs of the population; designs a recreation area in a way that preserves natural features and protects native wildlife and vegetation.</p>		\$800,000	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$0	State funding is local-side POS
TOTALS:			\$11,040,000	\$2,815,000	\$7,425,000	\$800,000	

FY 2017 POTENTIAL PROJECT SITES



★ DEVELOPMENT SITES

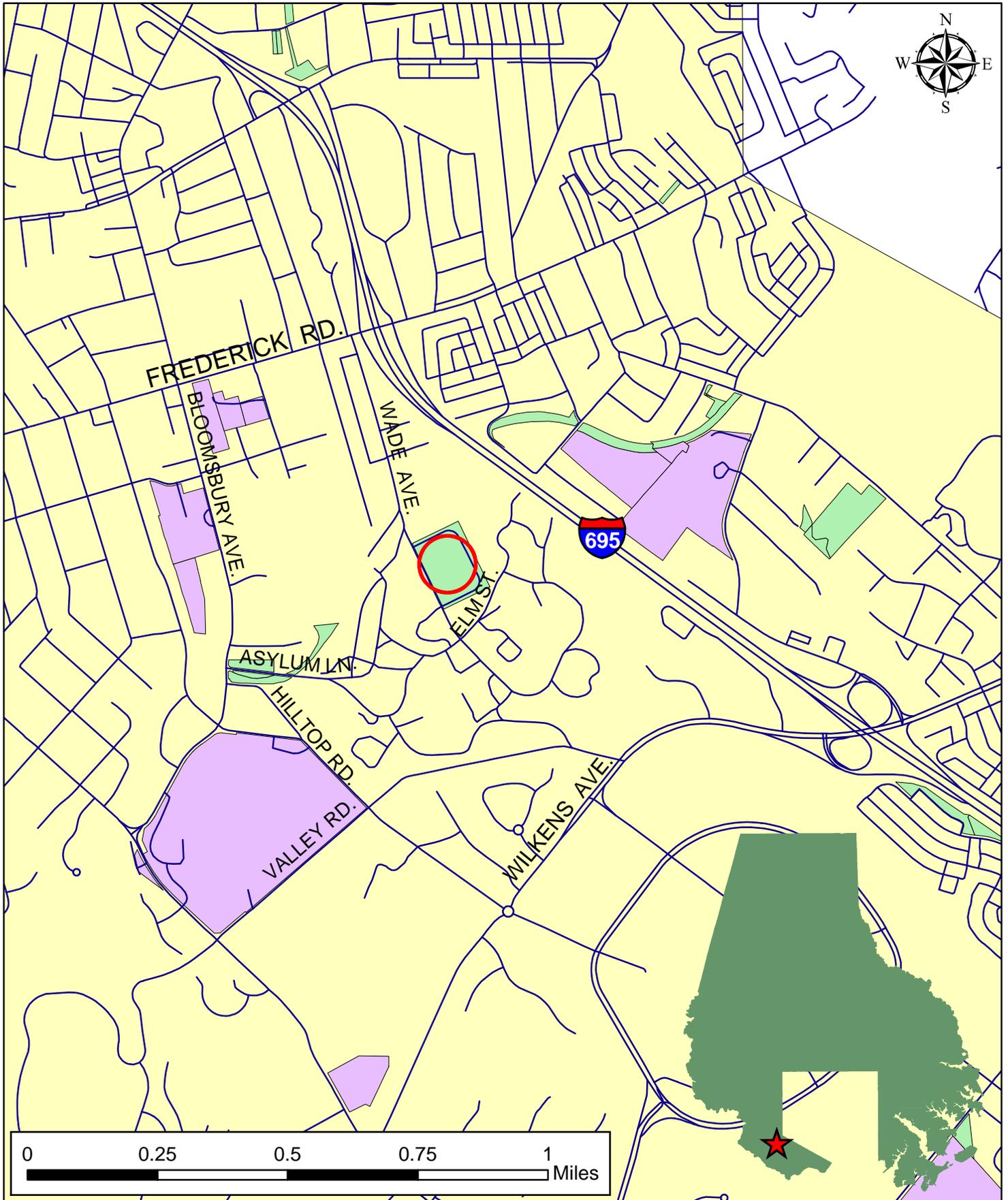
- 1. Spring Grove Park Site
- 2. Catonsville Community Center Site
- 3. Therapeutic Equestrian Center Site
- 4. Oregon Ridge Park
- 5. Carver Center HSRC Artif. Turf Field
- 6. Towson HSRC Artif. Turf Field
- 7. Kingsville Park

ACQUISITION SITES

Potential "Priority Area Park Acquisition" areas not displayed

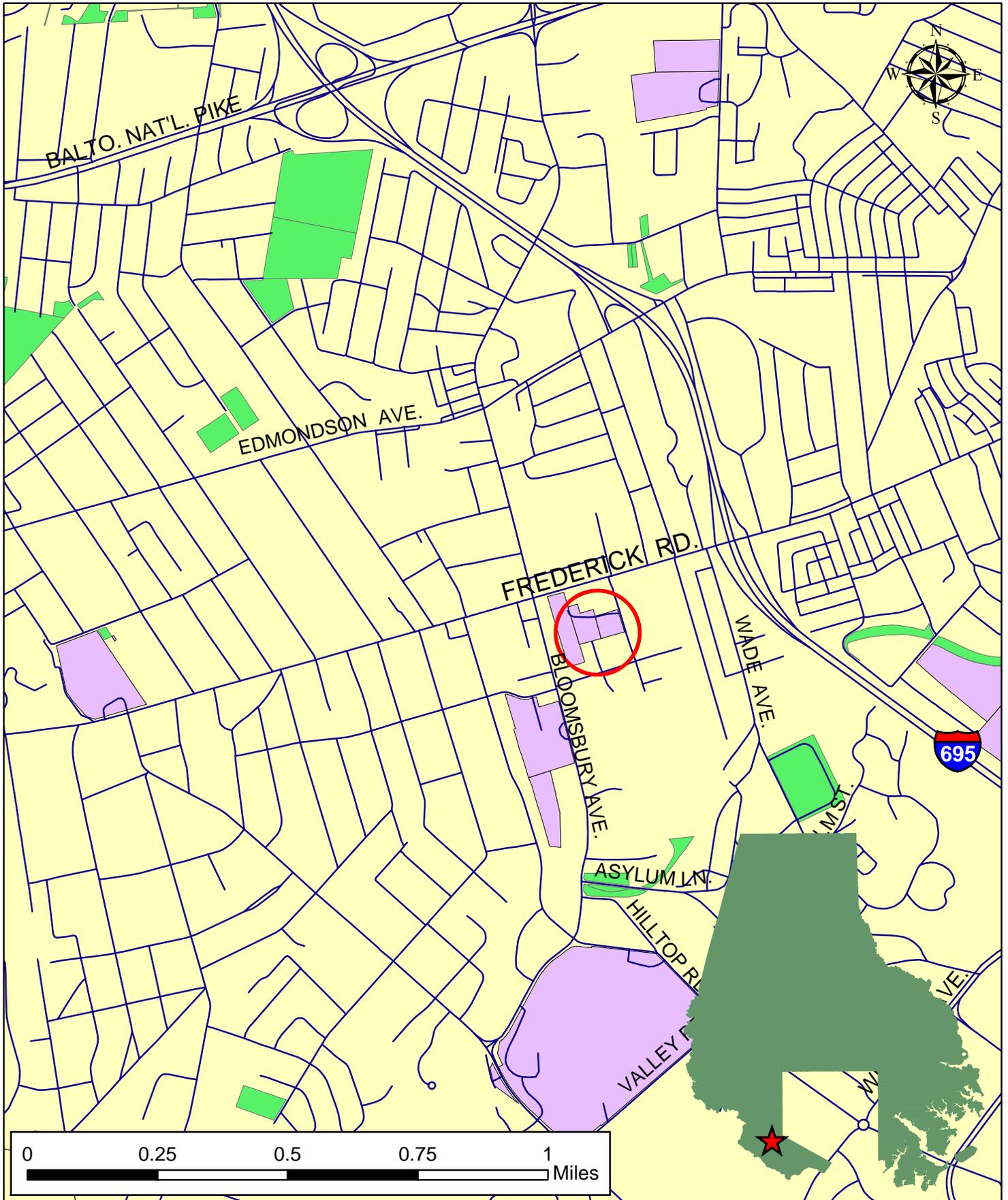
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System.

SPRING GROVE PARK SITE



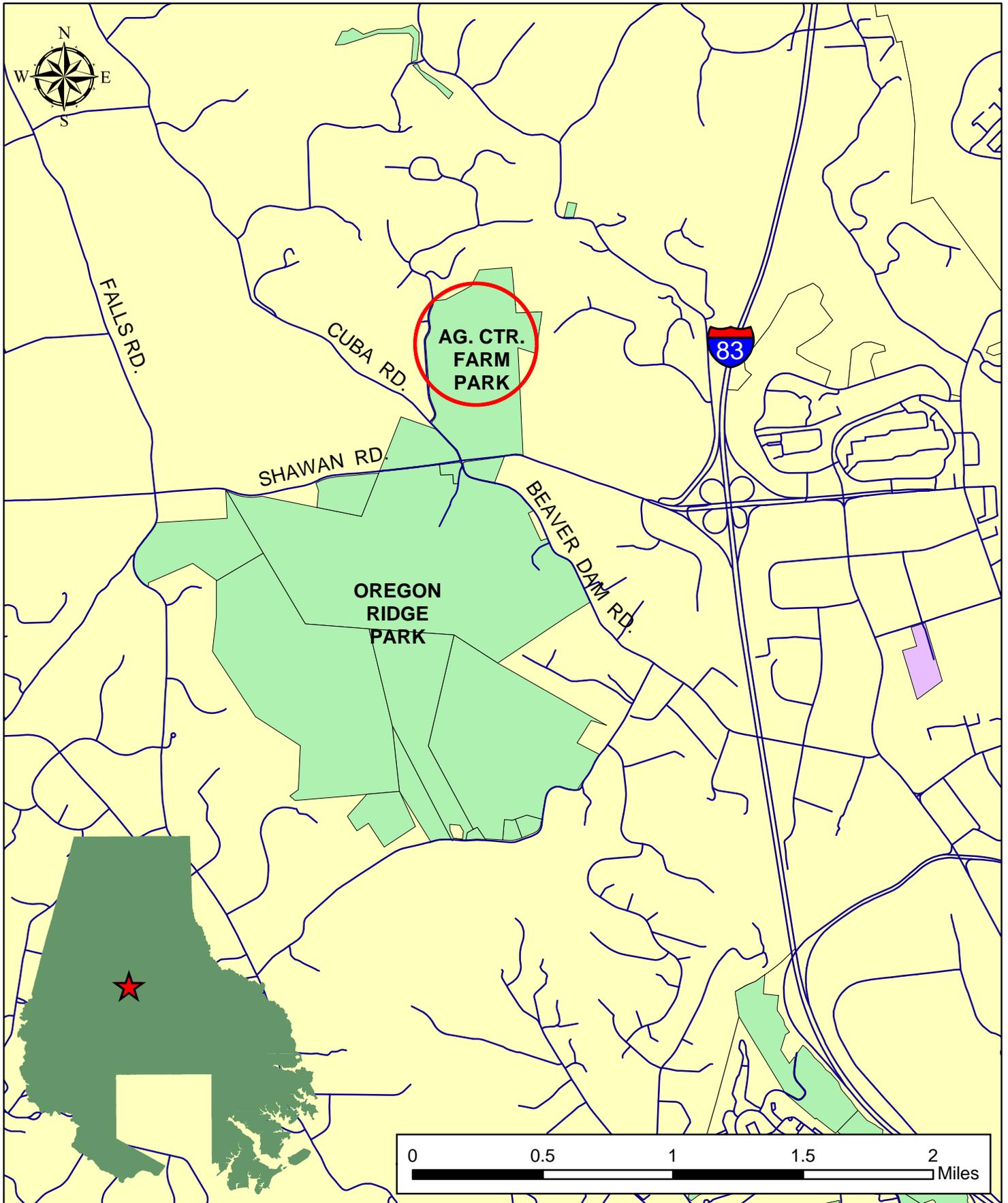
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, March 2016.

CATONSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER SITE



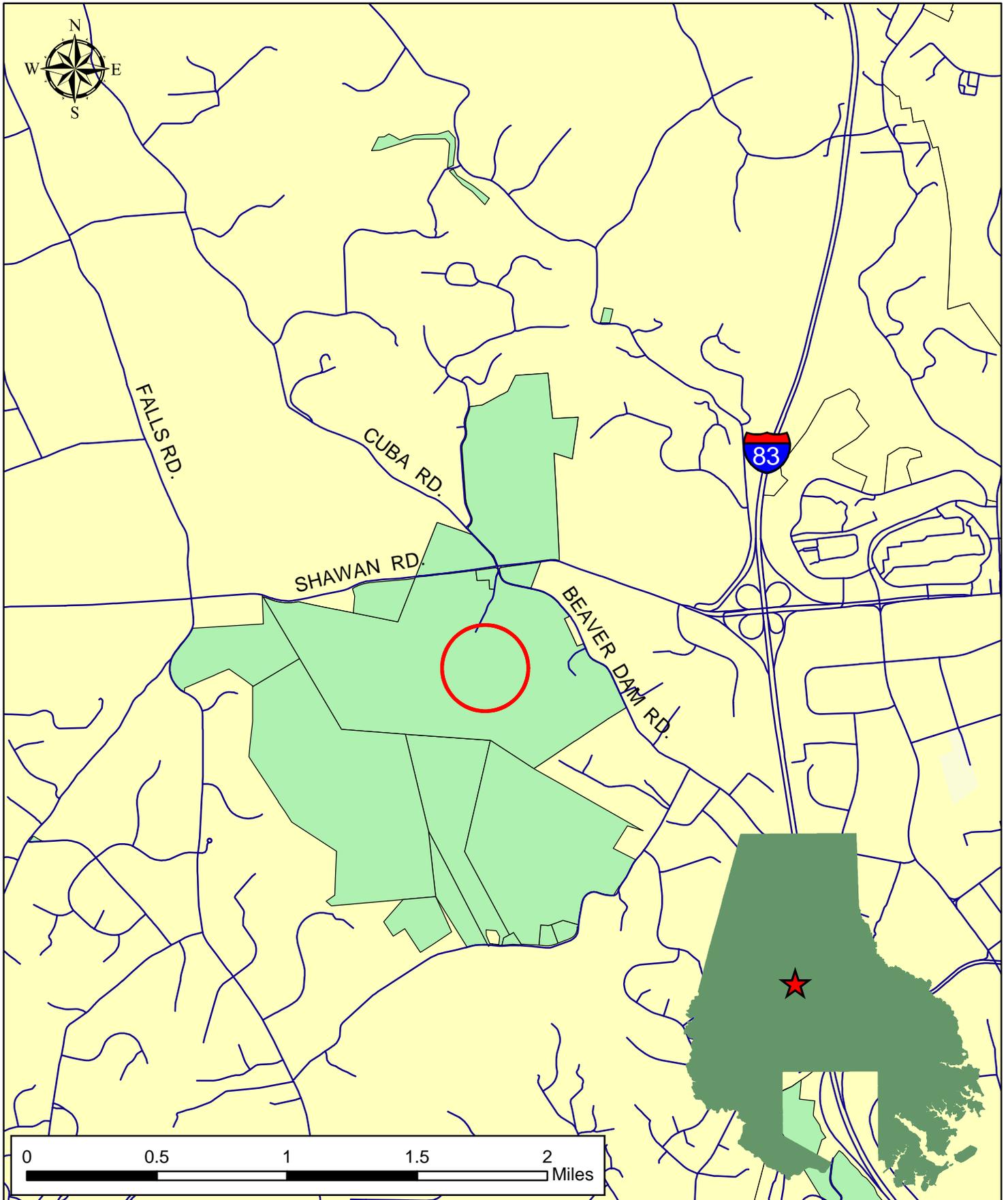
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2016.

BALTO. CO. CENTER FOR MARYLAND AGRICULTURE AND FARM PARK (LIKELY THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN FACILITY SITE)



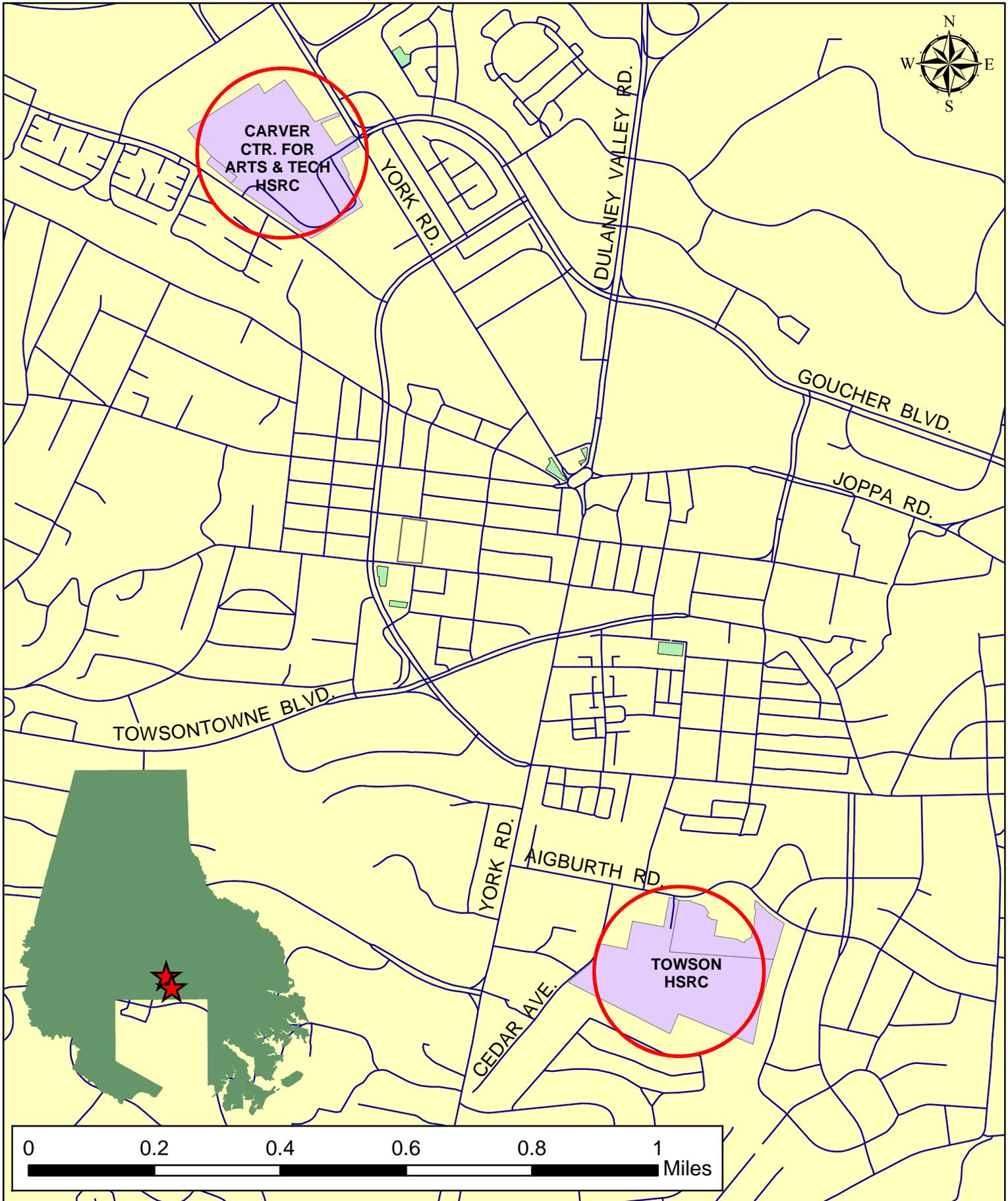
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June, 2016.

OREGON RIDGE PARK - FORMER BEACH AREA



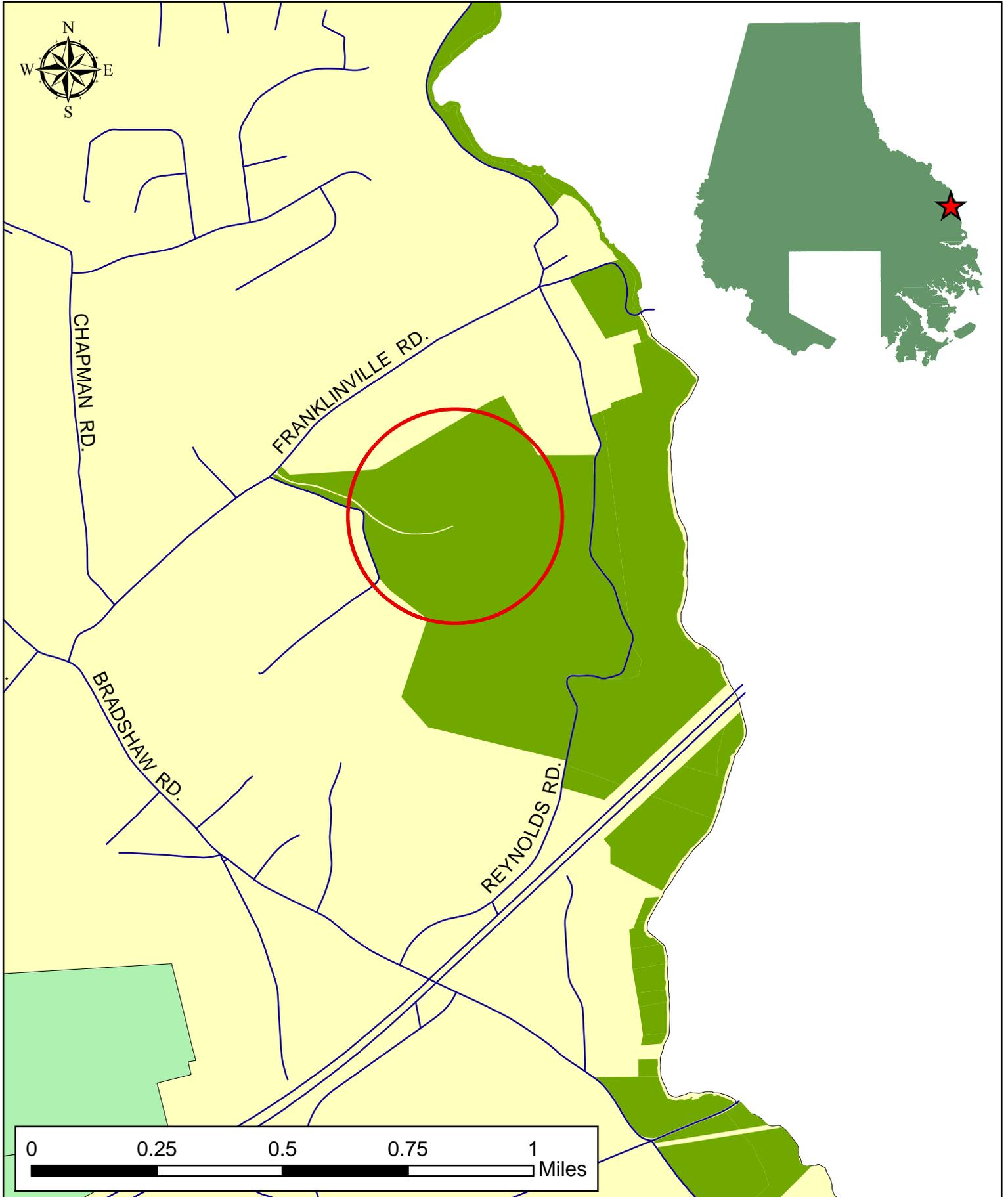
All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, September, 2016.

ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS: TOWSON HSRC & CARVER CENTER HSRC



All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, June 2015.

KINGSVILLE PARK (LEASED FROM MARYLAND DNR)



All data displayed from Baltimore County, Maryland Geographic Information System. Map created by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, February 2016.