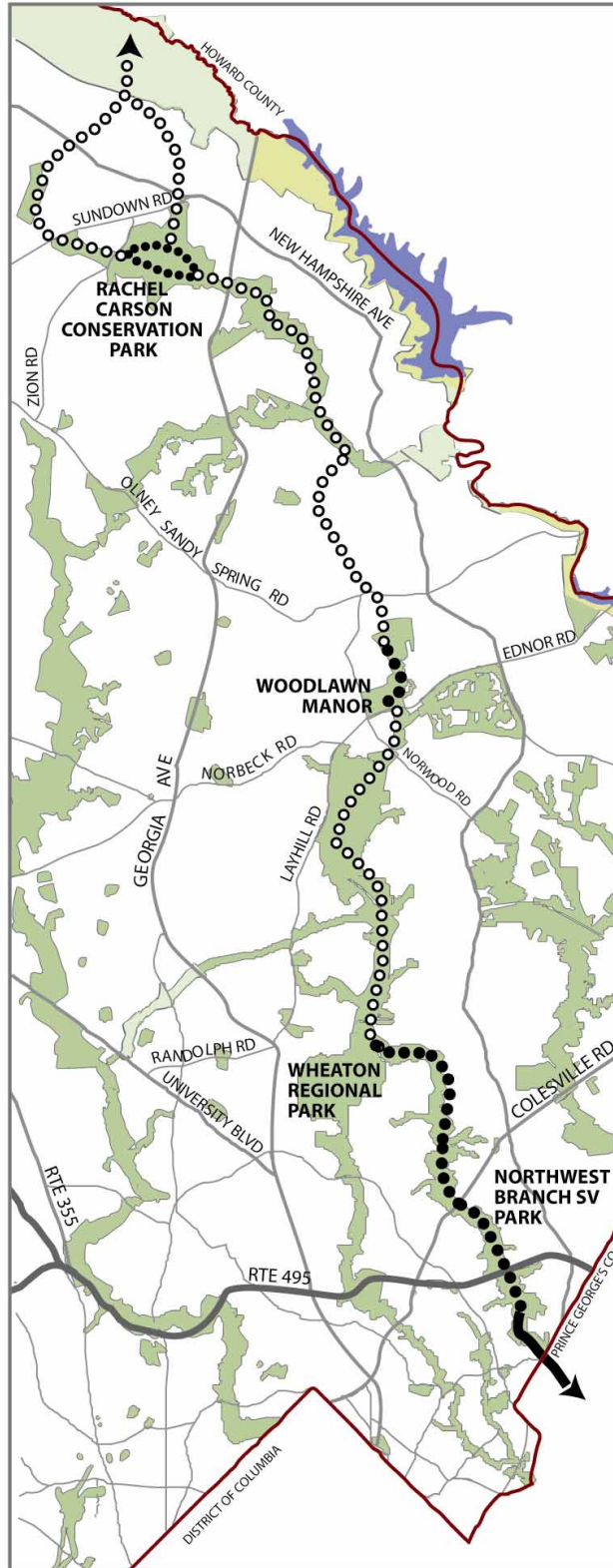


Natural Surface Trails

existing | proposed
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The Rachel Carson Greenway corridor extends from the southern part of Montgomery County, where it connects to the Anacostia Trail System in neighboring Prince George's County, northward to the Patuxent River State Park



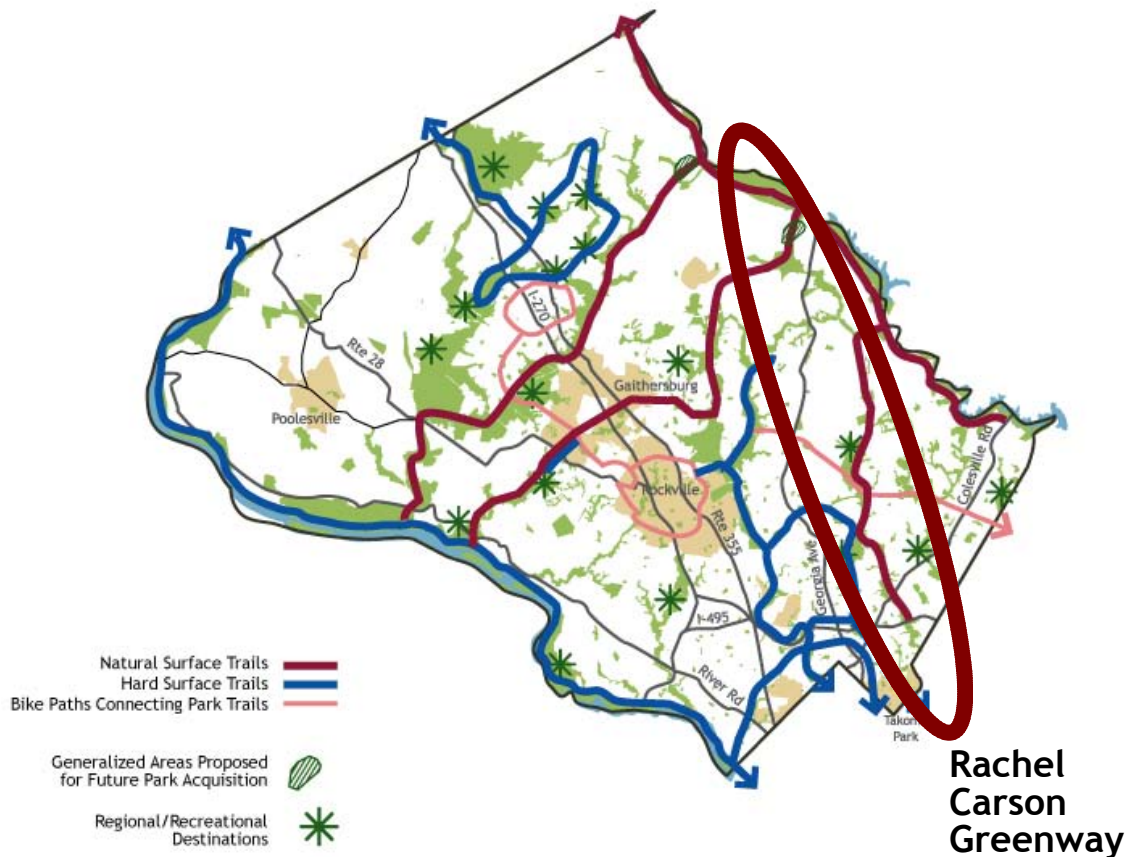
Introduction

The Countywide Park Trails Plan identifies three natural surface “cross county” greenway corridors (see figure below). The focus of this Plan is the 25 mile Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor, the easternmost greenway. Rachel Carson, a scientist and naturalist, lived in Montgomery County in 1962 when she wrote *Silent Spring*, a book that educated the world about the dangers to the environment from the injudicious use of pesticides. The Planning Board named the greenway in Ms. Carson’s honor in 2004.

The Rachel Carson Greenway corridor extends from the southern part of Montgomery County, where it connects to the Anacostia Trail System in neighboring Prince George’s County, northward to the Patuxent River State Park. Trails in the Rachel Carson Greenway will one-day link to trails along the Patuxent River and to trails in the Seneca Creek Greenway. When those linkages are completed, a 50-mile continuous greenway trail system will be in place.

Countywide Park Trails Plan Concepts

Adopted July 1998 & Amended February 2002



The Rachel Greenway is largely in park ownership because of the long established policy of M-NCPPC to incorporate stream valleys into the park system as development occurs. The southern part of the greenway follows the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River and the entire length of the trail corridor is part of existing parkland or planned future parkland.

In the northern part of the greenway, however, there are significant “gaps” in the parkland pattern that make it difficult to achieve the major objective of this Trail Corridor Plan: to provide a continuous greenway trail corridor. This Plan identifies trail alignments and options to make the greenway contiguous.

The Rachel Carson Greenway is proposed to be an interpretive trail corridor. Appreciating the natural world using Rachel Carson’s writings and observations will be one interpretive theme. The other major theme will involve interpreting key historic and cultural events from Montgomery County’s past, particularly the county’s involvement in the Underground Railroad.

