

CREATING THE LEGACY

- Legacy Framework
- Legacy Criteria

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VII. LEGACY FRAMEWORK

- Legacy Open Space focuses and coordinates efforts to proactively protect and interpret open space lands of exceptional significance and value. This endeavor builds on the existing park system; it further heightens the Planning Board's conservation commitment to assure current and future generations of quality and availability of these exceptional resources.
- It is in the public interest to aggressively pursue an effort to bring these exceptional lands into the public domain, protect by easement, or, when appropriate, to create innovative partnerships with other government entities and private organizations to protect lands of mutual interest.
- Legacy Open Space supports and complements on-going open space protection initiatives, it is not intended to duplicate efforts. It promotes near-term priority protection for exceptional resources that are not included in other acquisition programs.
- The success of the Legacy Open Space program depends on well-funded acquisition and interpretative programs. Although Legacy Open Space will protect natural areas unique to Montgomery County or preserve properties commemorating our heritage, unless these areas are interpreted, their ability to educate future generations will be lost.
- Legacy Open Space depends on a dedicated revenue stream to support acquisition and foster innovative partnerships with private foundations, corporations, and organizations. Using revenue from park bonds along with funding from Federal, state, local, and private sources, the Legacy Open Space vision can become a reality.
- The primary emphasis, particularly in the early years, for the expenditure of Legacy funds derived from County general obligation bonds, is to protect open space through the acquisition of land and easements. As the program matures, it will be broadened to include activities to implement the education and stewardship goals of the program.
- Exceptional sites that are currently county-owned resources may be transferred to the M-NCPPC in order to assure protection, stewardship, or use as a park facility.
- County funds are intended to have a multiplier effect, leveraging other public funds and private contributions.

VIII. LEGACY CRITERIA

Resources of exceptional countywide significance are best defined by the conditions that elevate them to "rise above the rest". The following criteria provide the foundation for the Legacy Open Space priority recommendations:

- The Resource has particular countywide, regional, or national significance in terms of (a) known or potential habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species; (b) a "best example" of terrestrial or aquatic community; (c) unique or unusual ecological communities; (d) large, diverse areas with a variety of habitats; or (e) exceptional viewsapes, architectural character, or historic association.
- The Resource is critical to the successful implementation of public policy such as the protection of the Agricultural Reserve and public water supply.
- The Resource is part of a "critical mass" of like resources that perform an important environmental or heritage function.
- The Resource makes a significant contribution to one or more heritage themes.
- The Resource provides human or ecological connectivity between significant park, natural or historic areas and/or corridors.
- The Resource helps to buffer and thereby protect other significant resources.
- The Resource represents an opportunity for broadening interpretation and public understanding of natural and heritage resources.
- The Resource provides a significant opportunity (a) to increase access to public open space in communities with high population densities, (b) to protect scarce open space in an urbanized community, (c) to improve the character of a green boulevard of countywide or regional significance, or (d) to provide for a new regional park facility.