It was a clear night without a moon... we lay and looked up at the sky and the millions of stars that blazed in darkness.... You can still drink in the beauty, and think and wonder at the meaning of what you see...
Abstract

Title
Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Plan

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Abstract
This Master Plan provides background materials, describes the planning process and outlines a plan for the development of the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor. It contains materials on natural and cultural resources, needs assessments and implementation strategies.
RACHEL CARSON GREENWAY TRAIL CORRIDOR PLAN

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COVER: The cover includes a map of the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor; a photograph of Rachel Carson and a quote from her book Sense of Wonder; and the trail logo used on the Rural Legacy Trail in Sandy Spring, a trail that commemorates the role of Montgomery County in the Underground Railroad.
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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 surfaces “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.
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.
Plan Concepts

- Continuity
- Additional Park Acquisition/Public Use Easements
- Interpretation
- Stewardship
- Trail Accessibility
- Relationship to Other Plans & Policies

Continuity

This Plan proposes a continuous 25-mile greenway corridor that will one day feature a natural surface trail its entire length.

The proposed Rachel Carson Greenway Corridor varies in width and exact trail locations in certain areas will await more detailed fieldwork. The intent of this Plan is to assure the greenway corridor is wide enough to accommodate a natural surface trail and to assure trail connectivity along the entire length of the greenway corridor will be possible.

This Plan designates one trail as the main Rachel Carson Greenway trail. Other trails in the greenway may provide connections to nearby communities or provide “loop” trails off the main Rachel Carson Greenway trail. Only one trail, however, will be designated as the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail and this is the trail that will extend the entire length of the greenway.

In keeping with the interpretive and historic character of the greenway, trails in the greenway will be predominantly natural surface and permitted trail uses will include hiking, walking and horseback riding. Some trail sections are proposed as hiking only to avoid damage from horse hooves in wet, low lying areas or because the trail serves as pedestrian access between community facilities. In these areas, alternative equestrian routes have been proposed.

Trail users will be encouraged to read interpretive material as they walk, spend time observing natural and historic features and participate in guided interpretive tours. Bicycle traffic would detract from these activities. For this reason, cycling will generally not be permitted in key interpretive areas.

The trail design guidelines for a natural surface trail are shown at right.

Only one section of the greenway features a hard surface hiker-biker trail. Located in the extreme southern portion of the corridor, the Northwest Branch hiker biker trail extends into Prince George’s County and is part of the Anacostia Trail system.

Above: Shared natural surface trail typical cross-section.
**Interpretation**

This plan recommends development of signage and thematic programs focusing on appreciation of the natural world and interpretation of county history, culture and archeology.

In addition to being a “through” trail that will be part of a larger 50-mile greenway system, the Rachel Carson Greenway trail will also be an interpretive trail. Different segments of the trail will feature opportunities to learn about the natural world and different aspects of the county’s history. The interplay of natural features and historic sites weave a story about the past of Montgomery County that people can see, touch and remember as they hike along the Greenway, taking with them an unexpected new knowledge about the place where they live and the people in whose steps they walk.

**Interpreting the natural world.** The Rachel Carson Greenway features many beautiful and interesting natural features. This rich array of natural resources is located in a very populated portion of the county; over 40,000 people live within a quarter-mile of the trail corridor. This blend of population and natural setting offer a perfect opportunity for teaching many people to appreciate nature. As shown on the following page, the Plan proposes interpreting different segments of the trail based upon the writings of Rachel Carson.

**Interpreting the County’s history.** The Rural Legacy Trail, opened in November 2001, commemorates the role of Montgomery County in the Underground Railroad and honors the Quaker heritage of Sandy Spring. The 1.7-mile trail has been included in the National Network of Trails To Freedom and is part of the Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan (November 2002). A key planning issue is whether the current trail should be extended to include more interpretive opportunities related to the Underground Railroad experience and the Quaker Heritage of Sandy Spring.

Other historic and cultural interpretive opportunities available within the Rachel Carson Greenway include sites and resources related to the County’s Industrial Heritage and early Indian cultures. The Rachel Carson Greenway contains a number of opportunities to interpret the importance of 18th and 19th century milling industries along the Northwest Branch and other parts of the trail alignment, i.e., Burnt Mills and Kemp Mill. There are also numerous opportunities to understand how prehistoric Indian cultures as far back as 12,000 B.C. used our Park stream valleys for seasonal resource camps and quarrying activities.
Creating a thematic Interpretation of our County’s Resources based on “Sense of Wonder” by Rachel Carson (see implementation chapter).
### Interpretive Themes Chart.

Each theme is based on a quote from *The Sense of Wonder* by Rachel Carson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segments</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Key Interpretive elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Sounds of Water</td>
<td>Hearing can be a source of ... exquisite pleasure... Take time to listen and talk about the voices of the earth and what they mean—the majestic voice of thunder, the winds, the sound of surf or flowing streams.</td>
<td>Hearing the different sounds of the Northwest Branch stream at different locations; enjoying the abundant native Rhododendrons; the positive effects of stream restoration projects; learning about Teddy Roosevelt’s visit to this section of the greenway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Teaching Children</td>
<td>...If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder... he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in....</td>
<td>Explain the structure of the forest and the types of trees, highlight efforts of Commission and citizens to clean-up Anacostia River, explain about plants that grow on the rocks, talk about use of rock shelters by prehistoric people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: World of Little Things</td>
<td>Some of nature’s most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale... [with] a magnifying [lens]... we can escape the limitations of the human size scale.</td>
<td>Talk about wetlands and vernal pools; teach about insects, soils and plants associated with these features; the importance of wetlands to overall water quality. Create vernal pool near school along greenway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Changing Seasons</td>
<td>Even if you are a city dweller... you can still look up at the sky... you can listen to the wind... you can still feel the rain on your face... you can find some place, perhaps a park or a golf course, where you can observe the mysterious migrations of the birds and the changing seasons...</td>
<td>Use meadow plants to highlight changing seasons; explain importance of meadows for birds and other wildlife, how meadows are maintained in nature and by humans, why they are disappearing. Talk about meadow restoration. Attract bluebirds with bluebird nest boxes; initiate a Bat Conservation program to help manage insects at golf courses to reduce reliance on chemicals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Night Sky, the Underground Railroad, Quaker Traditions</td>
<td>It was a clear night without a moon... we lay and looked up at the sky and the millions of stars that blazed in darkness.... You can still drink in the beauty, and think and wonder at the meaning of what you see...</td>
<td>Explain how the night sky and stars helped guide escaping slaves to freedom; identify the North Star; discuss how Native Americans interpreted the sky. Describe the type of birds and wildlife that come out at night. Identify the watershed divide between the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River and the Hawlings River. Identify any differences in terrain, flora and fauna between watersheds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6: Contemplating Nature</td>
<td>Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will</td>
<td>Show how beaver can change the way a stream valley looks and functions. Talk about</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Segments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segments</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Key Interpretive elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7: A Sense of Wonder</td>
<td>If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchaments of later years</td>
<td>Explain how greenways help plants and animals. Describe what different oak trees look like, the part they play in the life cycle of animals. Explain what happens when deer populations get too high. Discuss natural vs. man-made pond; value and attractiveness to wildlife: mink, river otter, muskrat, beaver, great blue heron. Interpret remains of the head race and dam at Greenwood Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8: Watershed Protection and Agricultural Heritage</td>
<td>Awareness of ecological relationships is—or should be—the basis of modern conservation programs</td>
<td>Feature the importance of farming to Montgomery County, explain how the county’s agricultural preservation program has helped protect agricultural land, highlight how modern farming practices and environmental policies have helped address Rachel Carson’s concerns about over-use of pesticides.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stewardship

This Plan supports trail locations that ensure the right balance between stewardship of natural and cultural resources and public access and interpretation.

Completing an environmental inventory was the first step in the Trail Corridor Plan process. A preliminary inventory has been completed for the Rachel Carson Greenway Corridor based on existing data, including steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, stream valley buffers, historic and cultural features and documented rare, threatened and endangered plant species. The key environmental features are illustrated on the Environmental Resources Map in the Appendix.

As trails are implemented over time, the location and construction process will be guided by the Department’s commitment to sustainable trails. Sustainable trails protect the environment, meet the needs of users, require little maintenance and minimize conflicts between user groups.
**Trail Accessibility**

This Plan identifies needed improvement to provide better access to the trail and to provide safer road crossings.

The Rachel Carson Greenway is 25 miles in length. The Plan identifies trail access points that include parking at different locations along the greenway so people can hike shorter sections of the trail. The trail traverses many roads, including Colesville Road, Bonifant Road, Ednor Road, Georgia Avenue and Norwood Road. Developing ways to allow trail users to safely cross these streets is important.

This Plan supports making portions of the trail accessible to people with limited mobility. Finding areas in the greenway where people with limited mobility can enjoy key interpretative elements is an important plan objective. The proposed Rachel Carson Greenway trail will be natural surface and will traverse some challenging topography. This Plan recommends making some portions of the trail and some interpretative areas available to people with disabilities to help assure universal enjoyment of the trail experience.

**Relationship to Other Plans & Policies**

Plans and policies that relate to the Rachel Carson Greenway are summarized in Table 1 on page 46 of the appendix.

Many of the plans affecting the Rachel Carson Greenway refer to the corridor as the Northwest Branch Trail Corridor. This was the name of the trail corridor before the Planning Board officially re-named the greenway to honor Rachel Carson at a trail celebration on March 20, 2004.
The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Plan

The Corridor Today

- Existing Trails
- Current Park Use
- Trends
- Environmental Resources
- Historic and Cultural Resources

Existing Trails

Natural Surface. Although the majority of the Rachel Carson Greenway is in public ownership, there are only three areas featuring “sanctioned” natural surface trails. Sanctioned trails are those park trails that are named, signed, mapped and regularly maintained. There are many, many more informal or “people’s choice” trails in parks. These trails have been made by hikers and walkers and sometimes equestrians but they have not been evaluated by park trail planning staff as to whether they meet the Department’s sustainable trail guidelines.

The sanctioned natural surface trails in the Rachel Carson Greenway are shown on the next page and listed below. Detailed maps of these trails may be downloaded from the Department’s trail map site: www.montgomerytrails.org.

1. The Northwest Branch natural surface trail loop.
2. The Rural Legacy Trail
3. Trails at Rachel Carson Conservation Park

The challenge facing this planning process is how to connect these trails into a larger greenway trail network.

Hard Surface. Hard surface trails are traditionally referred to as “hiker-biker” trails and usually have asphalt or macadam surfaces. The only hard surface trail in the Rachel Carson Greenway is located at the extreme southern end of the greenway and connects to Anacostia Tributary Trail System in Prince George’s County (more information is available at the following website: http://www.pgparks.com/places/parks/anacostia.html).

Current Park Use

The southern portion of the greenway features some of the most popular trails in the park system.

The most northern portion of the greenway includes the Rachel Carson Conservation Park and the Hawlings River stream valley park.

In the Hawlings River stream valley park, hikers and occasional equestrians have created informal trails. Hawlings River is a “use 4” stream meaning trout will likely survive when introduced into the habitat. The stream is not currently stocked, mainly due to limited parking, which in turn limits public access. Stocking the stream may be considered when parking areas are provided.
The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Plan

Rachel Carson Conservation Park
22201 Zion Road, Olney, one of the county's premier conservation areas.

Rural Legacy Trail
The trail begins at Woodlawn Manor Park, 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, and continues nearly two miles to the Sandy Spring. This spring was a stop along the Underground Railroad

Northwest Branch Loop Trail
This loop trail starts at the Burnt Mills Dam at 10700 Colesville Road (US 29), Silver Spring, and travels along the stream valley park
The Rachel Carson Conservation Park offers several miles of sanctioned natural surface trails for hiking and equestrian use. The park is densely populated by numerous species of wildlife, high quality forest and features spectacular rock out-cropping throughout the park. A newly installed parking lot enables easy parking for vehicles, as well as horse trailers. Attendance at the park is expected to increase as a result. The Hawlings River passes through the park, providing fish opportunities to park visitors.

**Trends**

The 1994-95 National Recreation Survey showed that participation in outdoor recreation activities is increasing. The fastest growing activities were bird watching (155% increase in past decade), hiking (94% increase), and walking (43% increase). The Park, Recreation, and Open Space Survey for Montgomery County (May 1997) demonstrated clearly the importance of trails to citizens using the county park system. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated that they had used unpaved park trails. Of these users, the majority used trails for walking and/or observing nature.

Other trends that will likely affect use of the Rachel Carson Greenway include:

1. County residents, since 1990, have been working longer hours and making less money. With less time and money for vacations, residents will likely be looking to parks to provide more of their weekday and weekend entertainment. Demand for local recreation will likely increase.
2. County population continues to grow and with it demands on park resources and park use.
3. The county’s population is becoming older but also remaining more active.
4. The growing concern over obesity as a health risk and the importance of walking as a preventative measure.

**Environmental Resources**

The Rachel Carson Greenway traverses several unique and interesting ecosystems that form a dynamic ecological experience for the hiker. These ecosystems are illustrated on page 7. The greenway path begins at the southern end of the county in the Northwest Branch stream valley park.

Various changes in the stream valley provide over half of the greenway experience, beginning with a small section near the Rachel Carson house. Known as the “fall line”, this first section is a dramatic area of high topographic relief and rock outcropping where the Piedmont Province is in the process of becoming the Coastal Plain. The stream passes within a narrow valley of high steep slopes taking many sharp turns along its way. North of the fall line is an area of significant wetlands in a riverine ecosystem. Wetlands saturate a broad flat floodplain of the widely meandering stream. Further north the Northwest Branch main stem is surrounded by young forest stands. As the greenway enters the headwaters of Northwest Branch, it departs from the main stem to connect points of historical significance such as Woodlawn and the original source of Sandy Spring.

The greenway crosses the watershed divide separating the Northwest Branch watershed and the Hawlings River watershed, at Olney/Sandy Spring Road (Route 108). On the north side of the watershed divide the trail enters Hawlings River stream valley. Hawlings River is broadly meandering with a substantially wide forested floodplain.

Finally, the greenway traverses the Rachel Carson Conservation Park where one finds a variety of flora and fauna that inspire a sense of wonder and awe.
Historic & Cultural Resources

The Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park forms the southern portion of the greenway. Beginning in the mid-1700s, farms, mills, mines and stores located along and near the stream. Many buildings from the time of the earliest settlements through the early 20th century still remain. Rock shelters and flint mines are evidence of inhabitation along the waterway by Woodland Indians. The Village of Sandy Spring, founded by Quakers in the 1720s, retains its Quaker heritage. Remains of a mica mine and several mills tell of the early industry along this waterway that was essential to the agrarian society of the time. The buildings and dam for a large water filtration plant, built in the 1920s that supplied clean water for two counties for 30 years, are obvious features on the trail.

In the northern section of the greenway, farms and mills were established early in the history of the area. Quakers founded the Town of Brookeville in the late 1700s. This town was the Capital for two days when President James Madison fled Washington D.C. during the War of 1812 and was hosted by Caleb Bentley. The nearby town of Triadelphia, also founded in the late 1700s, was the site of the first industrial complex in the county. There was also a gold mine near the River in the 19th century. Greenwood (1807) was the home of Allen Bowie Davis, a state delegate and powerful political figure who is one of the founders of the Maryland Agricultural College (University of Maryland), and one of the largest slave holders in the County.

Although few records have been uncovered, it is known that the entire Greenway of the Anacostia River, the Northwest Branch and the Hawlings River served as a “road” for people escaping enslavement and trying to reach Pennsylvania and freedom. It is known that people who helped these fugitives from the early 1700s, later acting as Underground Railway conductors, lived in Sandy Spring. Settlements of Black people freed by the Quakers in the area of the Greenway also aided fugitives from slavery. Blue Mash, a swamp off the Hawlings River, served as a hiding place for fugitives.

All of these sites weave a story about the past of Montgomery County that people can see, touch and remember as they hike along the Greenway, taking with them an unexpected new knowledge about the place where they live and the people in whose steps they walk.
Recommendations for Implementation

- Making the Greenway Continuous
- Interpretive Elements
- Implementation Issues
- Managing the Greenway
- Funding the Greenway

Making the Greenway Continuous

As noted previously, most of the proposed greenway corridor is located in parkland or in areas shown as future parkland in approved and adopted master plans. There are two places where the trail corridor lies outside existing or proposed parkland. These “gaps” must be closed if the Plan objective to create a continuous greenway corridor is to be achieved.

Both of the greenway gaps are located in the northern portion of the corridor: one is near Sandy Spring and the other is north of the Rachel Carson Conservation Park (see below). This chapter discusses where the greenway trail corridor should be located in these areas.

Two major gaps occur in the northern portion of the Greenway Corridor and will need to be addressed through additional park acquisitions or public use easements.
Closing the Greenway Gap Near Sandy Spring

The Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan, adopted in 1998, endorsed the concept of continuing the greenway but recommended the location be determined as part of a subsequent trail corridor study. The Rachel Carson Greenway Plan is that study.

The study area where a greenway connection is needed near Sandy Spring is shown below.
Several options for providing continuity in this area were studied and discussed by the Planning Board. As shown on the previous page, this Plan recommends the greenway trail follow sidewalks through the village of Sandy Spring and along Brooke Road. Public use trail easements across the Brooke Grove Foundation property west of Brooke Road would allow the greenway to continue north to future proposed parkland.

The proposed greenway location meets plan objectives for greenway connectivity, historic interpretation, linking community resources and supporting the Sandy Spring Target Investment Zone for Heritage Tourism.

The Plan proposal relies on sidewalks for most of the greenway corridor. The detailed cross section and design of the sidewalks will determine how attractive the greenway will be. As stated in the Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan, paths and sidewalks should be located and landscaped to fit with the rural character in a manner typical of a rural path. The Sandy Spring/Ashton Master plan also provides an attractive streetscape concept for the Village of Sandy Spring that includes sidewalks and plantings. Implementation of these Master Plan recommendations is essential to providing an attractive setting for the Rachel Carson Greenway.

The cross-section shown below is recommended for Brooke Road. It features landscaping on either side of an 8’ asphalt trail to create a sense of enclosure and to provide a natural setting.
Patuxent River Connection Gaps

The area being studied for greenway connections is shown below. The Countywide Park Trails Plan shows a similar area and recommends more detailed study define a trail connection from Rachel Carson Conservation Park to the Patuxent River State Park. The Countywide Park Trails Plan does propose an interim trail connection along Howard Chapel Road until a more permanent, park-like trail connection can be provided.
Existing Conditions in the Study Area

The area is characterized by large working farms and smaller, rural residential lots. The land surrounding the Rachel Carson Park is largely subdivided into individual lots making it difficult to find trail connections, either by public use easement or by parkland acquisition. The best trail options occur at the western edge of the park where there are still large farms.

The characteristics of the study area are discussed in more detail below.

Historic Resources, Interpretive Elements

There are a number of historic sites in the study area; most are farm buildings and/or farmhouses. This is significant as the county’s agricultural heritage is one of the interpretive themes proposed in this portion of the corridor. The greenway could extend trails at the Agricultural History Farm Park, located to the south, to the Patuxent and provide insights into the county’s rich agricultural history and traditions. The entire study area is located in the County’s agricultural preserve.

Farm related historic sites near the trail options include Tusculum and Edgehill, examples of agricultural buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Howard Family Cemetery in the Patuxent River State Park includes the burial plot of Enoch George Howard who was born a slave but later became a prosperous landowner. He bought the freedom of himself, his wife and their five children.

The final interpretive elements relates to efforts by the county and the state to protect the Patuxent River watershed. The study area is part of Patuxent River “primary management area”. Land use activities occurring in this area have a direct impact on the long-range health of the Patuxent River watershed. Rachel Carson wrote about the interrelationship of man and nature; this is a perfect area to educate people about how we are working to ensure land use patterns that promote the health of the watershed.

Parks, open space, trails and easements

The only area proposed for future parkland in the study area is part of the Legacy Open Space Plan. An area of high quality forest is designated for the Legacy Open Space program to help protect the drinking water supply of the County in the Patuxent River watershed.

A public use easement has been recorded in the land records of Montgomery County on a property north of the PEPCO power line. This easement extends to property proposed for future addition to the Patuxent River State Park.

The Patuxent River State Park has no formal trails but public use of the park is allowed.

Community Resources

This area has no defined towns or settlements so there are no community resources of significance for trail planning purposes.

Analysis of Greenway Options in the Study Area

Two generalized greenway options are suggested in this area. Both of these options will be studied in more detail as part of the upcoming Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan.

Option A extends the greenway west from Mt. Zion Road, through the westernmost portion of Rachel Carson Conservation Park and continues the greenway through property recommended for acquisition by the Legacy Open Space Master Plan. The greenway then continues across two properties currently farmed, connecting to the Patuxent River State Park north of the PEPCO right of way.
The key advantage of this option is that a significant portion of the greenway could be accommodated on land that is currently owned or proposed as future parkland. North of New Hampshire Avenue, future trail easements within the greenway could feature glimpses of historic farms and outbuildings.

The disadvantages of this option are two-fold. First, it traverses a portion of the Rachel Carson Greenway that has extensive wetlands. Further fieldwork is needed to determine if a suitable trail location could be designated and whether it could accommodate equestrians. Secondly, north of New Hampshire Avenue, the greenway would cross an existing, working farm. A trail easement that respects the existing agricultural operations would be needed to cross this area; alternatively, if in the future the farm was subdivided, a trail easement or parkland could be dedicated as part of the subdivision process.

Option B offers a more direct connection to the Patuxent River State Park. The greenway would follow an existing, sanctioned trail in Rachel Carson Park to Sundown Road. The greenway would utilize a wide shoulder along Howard Chapel Road to New Hampshire Avenue where again the greenway would be along the edge of the road. The greenway would then cross farmland to the PEPCO right of way. The PEPCO right of way would provide access to Patuxent River State Park.

The key disadvantages of Option B are that the shoulders of roads must be used because the pattern of development precludes opportunities for parkland acquisition or easements. As in Option A, the greenway also crosses an existing horse farm with stables. A trail easement that respects the existing agricultural operations would be needed to cross this area; alternatively, if in the future the farm was subdivided, a trail easement or parkland could be dedicated as part of the subdivision process.

The key advantage of this option is that it avoids the western portion of Rachel Carson Park where wetlands predominate.
**Interpretive Elements**

The Rachel Carson Greenway will be an interpretive trail its entire length. The major interpretive themes relate to the natural world and the cultural and industrial history of the county.

In terms of the natural world interpretive concept, the greenway will interpret eight different themes from the writings of Rachel Carson relying primarily on her book, *The Sense of Wonder*. Each theme has been associated with a different segment of the greenway. The themes are:

- Segment 1: Sounds of Water
- Segment 2: Teaching Children
- Segment 3: World of Little Things
- Segment 4: Changing Seasons
- Segment 5: Night Sky/Underground Railroad/Quaker Heritage
- Segment 6: Contemplating Nature
- Segment 7: A Sense of Wonder
- Segment 8: Watershed Protection/Agricultural Heritage

Cultural and industrial themes will also be part of the greenway. In Segment 5, a major interpretive focus will be the County’s involvement in the Underground Railroad and Quaker traditions in Sandy Spring. The Rural Legacy Trail has recently been included in the National Network to Freedom Trail system and this Plan recommends extending it further north. Rachel Carson’s writings about the Night Sky as a natural element are a perfect complement to the historic use of the night sky by escaping slaves seeking the North Star as a guide to freedom.

The quotes in italics are from Rachel Carson’s book, *The Sense of Wonder*. Each Greenway segment is discussed in more detail in the following pages.
Hearing can be a source of ...exquisite pleasure...Take time to listen and talk about the voices of the earth and what they mean—the majestic voice of thunder, the winds, the sound of surf or flowing streams.

Segment 1: Sounds of Water

This relatively straight stretch of Northwest Branch is characterized by very steep slopes. The torrent and gorge section is especially dramatic with large boulders and turbulent water rills. Slopes are heavily wooded with mixed deciduous forest stands.
There is a feeling of deep enclosure. In 1904, President Teddy Roosevelt wrote to his son about this section:

Mother and I had a most lovely ride the other day...to what is called Northwest Branch, at Burnt Mills, where there is a beautiful gorge, deep and narrow, with great boulders and even cliffs.... We were gone four hours, half an hour being occupied with the scrambling in the gorge.

The sound of water as it crashes through the gorge is a sharp contrast to the gentler sounds heard elsewhere as the water flows over rocky sections of the stream bed.

**Description**

This segment of the greenway features a hard surface and a natural surface trail. In the southern end of this segment, the Northwest Branch hard surface hiker biker trail connects to the Anacostia Tributary trail network in Prince George’s County. There is no official “trail head” in Montgomery County for the hard surface trail; access is limited to a gravel road that extends into the park from Oakview Drive. The road, used for maintenance access to the park trail and sewer line, is very steep.

The natural surface trail extends north from the hard surface trail and continues under the Capital Beltway to Columbia Pike. The existing trail is located on the east side of the stream and there are no bridges to provide trail access from communities to the west. This was raised as an issue at the community meetings.

A major obstacle to trail connectivity from this segment to the next is Columbia Pike which trail users must cross. This 4-lane road is heavily traveled and separates the Northwest Branch Trail loop from the southern portion of the trail corridor. A traffic light will soon be installed nearby, and this will allow trail users to cross the road safely.

**Trail Planning Recommendations**

1. The one-mile, hard surface, hiker-biker trail portion of the Rachel Carson Greenway at the southern terminus of the Northwest Branch Stream Valley, originates in Prince George’s County at the Adelphi Mill and extends north into Montgomery County. The trail then terminates at a maintenance access road from Oakview Avenue. The hard surface portion of the trail is recommended for renovation through the capital program. This will include a comprehensive study of improvements to the trail to address the need to make a portion of the trail accessible, as well as signage, resurfacing sections, drainage, and in particular, possible provision for a bridge where the trail passes through a stream tributary.

2. Improve trail crossing under the Beltway and explore way to prevent erosion and runoff damage to trail from run-off from the beltway.

3. Allow trailhead parking at Broadacres Park, which will have a nature trail that connects to the existing trail in this segment of Rachel Carson Greenway; parking and trail access from Brookview park/school is another option.

4. Evaluate safety of vehicular access from Colesville Road to Burnt Mills parking lot and provide safe pedestrian connectivity across Colesville Road.

5. Extend the Greenway to Adelphi Mill in Prince George’s County. The Mill is a significant historical feature and Public parking is available there.

**Interpretive Opportunities**

Hearing the different sounds of the stream at different locations; enjoying the abundant native Rhododendrons; the positive effects of stream restoration projects; learning about Teddy Roosevelt’s visit to this section of the greenway.
... If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in....

Segment 2: Teaching Children

Description

Rachel Carson lived near this segment of the greenway when she wrote *Silent Spring* in 1962, a book that altered the way Americans thought about the natural environment. Carson’s home in Quaint Acres, now the office of the Rachel Carson Council, was designated as a National Historic
Landmark in 1994. The existing trailhead at Columbia Pike features an historic building (now vacant) that could one day potentially house displays related to the life of Rachel Carson.

A hiking only trail follows the east side of the Northwest Branch stream. This Plan recommends continuing this trail to the nature center at Brookside Gardens where displays and exhibits about Rachel Carson could be provided.

There is also a shared use trail (for hikers and equestrians) on the west side of the stream. The east and west side trails form a 6-mile loop that provides a wonderful interpretive opportunity in terms of highlighting natural elements and identifying the contributions of Rachel Carson to the modern environmental movement.

Currently both trails are called the Northwest Branch Trail (a trail map may be downloaded from www.montgomerytrails.org). This Plan recommends renaming this segment east of the stream as the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail.

**Trail Planning Recommendations:**

1. Add public right of way being reserved for road to the park system; this right of way will provide trail access to Rachel Carson house.
2. Designate one trail in Wheaton Regional Park as Rachel Carson interpretive trail and make the Brookside Nature Center the trail destination.
3. Provide interpretive programs and exhibits related to the trail and the life of Rachel Carson at Brookside Nature Center. The Nature center is accessible to people with disabilities.
4. Use portion of historic building at trail head north of Columbia Pike as interpretive center related to Rachel Carson.
5. Provide trail connection if greenway concept in Kemp Mill Master Plan is implemented.

**Interpretive Opportunities:**

This section of trail features an Exemplary Natural Area and County Biodiversity Area. General interpretive opportunities include:

1. *Explaining the structure of the forest* (i.e., canopy, understory, ground layer), how to identify common trees, how succession contributes to the health of the forest, identifying wildlife species. The trail goes along high ground and allows good views down into the stream valley for interpretation.
2. *Fall Line between Piedmont Province and Coastal Plain:* Explain what a fall line is and what it means; explain why the valley is so deep and how it was formed. Discuss the water cycles and impacts of development (such as incised stream banks and flashy stream hydrology).
3. *Watersheds:* provide information about watershed at various scales (tributaries to Northwest Branch, the Northwest Branch itself, the Anacostia River and the Potomac, the Chesapeake Bay), explain how our actions upstream affect conditions downstream; highlight efforts of Commission and citizens to clean-up Anacostia River.
4. *Rock Outcrops:* Explain about plants that grow on the rocks; talk about use of rock shelters by prehistoric people.
Some of nature’s most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale... [with] a magnifying [lens]... we can escape the limitations of the human size scale.

Segment 3: World of Little Things

Description

This segment offers interpretive opportunities related to wetland and riverine ecosystems. There is no formal, sanctioned trail in this segment. The trail corridor is home to a number of county champion trees and includes forest areas in varying stages of maturity. The Indian
Springs Golf Country Club adjoins the trail corridor to the west and a development application has been filed to redevelop the site as a combination golf/residential community.

**Trail Planning Recommendations**

1. Avoid significant plants in biodiversity area.
2. Locate trail on east side of stream.
3. Assure ICC design allows safe, attractive trail passage.
4. Provide access from Matthew Henson Greenway
5. Provide trailhead parking for public access. Potential parking areas are shown with the letter “P”.

**Interpretive Opportunities**

1. *Wetlands and vernal pools:* teach about insects, soils and plants associated with these features; the importance of wetlands to overall water quality. Create vernal pool near school near greenway.
2. *Beaver activity:* Describe beaver life history, family structure, impacts, importance of understanding beaver behavior.
3. *Impact of non-native invasive plants:* Why non-native invasive are a problem and how everyone can help to control them.
4. *Kemp Mill Race:* Describe role of Kemp Mill in industrial history of County.
Even if you are a city dweller... you can still look up at the sky... you can listen to the wind... you can still feel the rain on your face... you can find some place, perhaps a park or a golf course, where you can observe the mysterious migrations of the birds and the changing seasons...

Segment 4: Changing Seasons

Description

There are no sanctioned trails in this segment. Many activities in the corridor will make finding a trail alignment challenging, including the Northwest Branch Golf Course.
**Trail Planning Recommendations**

1. Assure the location and design of the Inter County Connector allows safe, attractive trail passage.
2. Coordinate trail location in relation to golf course and Blake High school (this area is extremely tight due to the close proximity of golf course holes and school ball fields)
3. Integrate trail location with trolley museum and use museum parking lot for trailhead parking.
4. Await locating final trail until this property is in park ownership.
5. Provide safe crossing of Ednor Road as part of any future road improvement projects.

**Interpretive Opportunities**

1. *Use meadow plants to highlight changing seasons:* Meadows in this segment can be created and managed to help define the seasons and the life cycle of plants. Explain importance of early successional meadows for birds and other wildlife, how meadows are maintained in nature and by humans, why they are disappearing. Talk about meadow restoration.
2. *Birds and insects:* Talk about butterflies and other insects and their importance to pollination; attract bluebirds with bluebird nest boxes and interpret their life requirements, explain problems that have reduced their numbers, how to help them, how nest boxes help the bluebird population and the success of our Department’s 10-year-old program of attracting bluebirds.
3. *Initiate a Bat Conservation program:* The American Bat Society sponsors programs that attract bats to help manage insects at golf courses to reduce reliance on chemicals; bats only flying mammal; discuss misunderstandings about bats and their important role in the ecosystem.
4. *Reclaim former landfill and interpret the process.* Talk about recycling, waste treatment and conservation issues.
5. *Highlight presence of many champion trees.*
It was a clear night without a moon... we lay and looked up at the sky and the millions of stars that blazed in darkness.... You can still drink in the beauty, and think and wonder at the meaning of what you see...

Segment 5: Night Sky; the Underground Railroad: Quaker Traditions

Description
This segment features the 1.3-mile Rural Legacy Trail. The Rural Legacy Trail commemorates the role of Montgomery County in the Underground Railroad and honors the Quaker traditions.
that helped shape Sandy Spring. The Rural Legacy Trail has been included in the National Network of Freedom Trails by the US Park Service.

**Trail Planning Recommendations**

1. **Assure trail use on Meeting House Road does not impinge on Sandy Spring Friends.** The Rural Legacy Trail that is on parkland terminates at the edge of the Friends Meeting House property. The road in front of the Friends Meeting House is a private road. Friends Meeting has been very generous in supporting the trail and allowing trail users on the road. The key concern of the Friends is that trail usage not interfere with religious services or events. To address this concern, the Rachel Carson Greenway will be located farther east. Any use of Meeting House Road for park sponsored trail events will be coordinated with the Friends.

2. **Provide Sidewalks needed along Route 108 for safe pedestrian passage to and from Meeting House Road.**

3. **Assure future plans for Woodlawn Manor and barn complement the Rural Legacy Trail.**

4. **Provide trail access to the champion ash tree located along the Rachel Carson Greenway.**

5. **Provide access to The Sandy Spring for those with disabilities.**

6. **Assure the sidewalk/bike path proposal along Brooke Road is attractive and features a park-like setting.**

7. **Work with Brooke Grove Foundation to provide a public use easement for the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail.**

**Interpretive Opportunities**

In addition to the interpretive programs already underway in conjunction with the Rural Legacy Trail, this Plan identifies the following additional interpretive opportunities:

1. **Night Sky.** Explain how the night sky and stars helped guide escaping slaves to freedom; identify the North Star; discuss how Native Americans interpreted the sky. Describe the type of birds and wildlife that come out at night. Consider providing a domed shelter, painted underneath to look like the night sky, with holes through the roof at major locations so that the sky shines through to light the “stars”.

2. **Watershed Divide.** Identify the watershed divide between the Potomac River and the Patuxent River; identify any differences in terrain, flora and fauna between watersheds.
Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature, the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.

Segment 6: Contemplating Nature

Description

The segment, extending from Goldmine Road to Georgia Ave., is characterized by open floodplain along the meandering Hawlings River. Many large trees are visible, such as
beautiful sycamores and stands of white pines. No sanctioned trails are located in this segment.

**Trail Planning Recommendations**

Identify one, sustainable trail location to replace the myriad of informal, people’s choice trails that now crisscross the park.

1. Recommend that any projects to improve Georgia Avenue in this area include options to provide a safe trail crossing and trail head.
2. Provide trail linkage to Oakley Cabin Interpretive Trail
3. Include Stream Restoration as feature of trail

**Interpretive Opportunities**

1. *Beaver Activity:* Show how beaver can change the way a stream valley looks and functions. Talk about what happens when beaver cut down all the trees, allowing non-native species to move in.
2. *Wetlands:* Focus on vernal pools and show amphibians and other species that depend on these unique types of wetlands.
3. *Stream restoration:* What it is, why it is needed how it will improve water quality for the stream and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.
4. *Quarry and bridge pillar foundation:* Explain history of area, point out quarry and other features that hint to past activities. Talk about how parks have good and bad from past: mill sites, building foundations, old farm equipment, and old dump sites.
If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years.

**Segment 7: A Sense of Wonder**

**Description**

This segment of the trail is located in the 650 acres Rachel Carson Conservation Park.
The Planning Board named the park in honor of Rachel Carson in 1977, stating:

“The Planning Board hopes... that present and future generations will be reminded of the great debt we owe Rachel Carson for her efforts to preserve the values which will be demonstrated in the park, and of our continuing responsibilities towards conservation of our natural environment.”

The park includes the best known examples of a mature chestnut oak forest in the middle Atlantic states and contains rare orchids and other unusual plants. The Rachel Carson Conservation Park Master Plan (June 2000) includes a trail component. Almost 10 miles of trail are proposed.

**Trail Planning Recommendations**

1. Designate one trail as the Rachel Carson Greenway trail. Options for Greenway alignments that connect to segment 8 are discussed in that segment.
2. Provide a “welcome area” for those starting and ending hikes along the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail.

**Interpretive Opportunities:**

1. *Role of the Rachel Carson Greenway in natural environment.* How do greenways help plants and animals?
2. *Chesnut oak forest:* large tracts of the park are covered with Chestnut oak and/or mixed oak forest. Interpret what this means, what these trees look like, the part they play in the life cycle of the many animals that live in or pass through the park.
3. *Deer:* what happens when deer populations get too high
4. *Plants:* Park features larges areas of lush fern growth; explain difference from trees and flowers. There are extensive Mountain Laurel thickets; talk about the plant, where it lives, its beauty throughout the year, its bloom, how “old” a relatively small plant actual is.
5. *Pond Area:* Discuss natural vs. man-made pond; value and attractiveness to wildlife: mink, river otter, muskrat, beaver and great blue heron.
6. *Greenwood Mill: Remains* of the head race and dam at
7. *Large White Oak:* Estimate age; how to identify white oaks, importance of acorns to wildlife and Native Americans.
Awareness of ecological relationships is—or should be—the basis of modern conservation programs...

**Segment 8: Watershed Protection & Agriculture Heritage**

**Description**

The greenway traverses an area that is part of the County’s Agricultural Reserve. Farming is the preferred land use and the development density has been substantially reduced to preserve farmland. At the same time, this area lies within the Patuxent River watershed where protection
of water quality is a significant concern. This is because the Patuxent River is an important tributary of the Chesapeake Bay and because the watershed in Montgomery County drains into two drinking water reservoirs that serve Montgomery, Howard and Prince George’s Counties.

The Functional Master Plan for the Patuxent River Watershed establishes policy recommendations to restore and maintain water quality and proposes management practices for farmers to reduce sources of pollution from agricultural operations. This understanding of the critical relation between human activities and environmental quality is what Rachel Carson meant when she wrote: *Awareness of ecological relationships is—or should be—the basis of modern conservation programs...*

**Trail Planning Recommendations:**

See the *Making the Greenway Continuous* section for discussion of options and related recommendations.

**Interpretive Opportunities**

1. *Farming Heritage.* This segment of the trail offers an opportunity to feature the importance of farming to Montgomery County, to explain how the county’s agricultural preservation program has helped protect agricultural land and to highlight how modern farming practices and environmental policies have helped address Rachel Carson’s concerns about over-use of pesticides.

2. *Trails in Segment 8* could one day link to the trail system of the Agricultural History Farm. The Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan, now in the Trails Work Program for completion in FY07, will address this connection.
Implementation Issues

These issues will be addressed in more detail as the greenway trail system is implemented. Every other year the Planning Board establishes trail work program priorities. As part of this effort, the following implementation issues related to the Rachel Carson Greenway will be addressed:

Recommended Trail Implementation Priorities

Issue: What trail recommendations and trail segments should receive the highest priority?

The Rachel Greenway is a 25-mile corridor that will take many years to implement. Trail priorities need to be established. The Trails Work Program, which is reviewed by the Planning Board every two years, will be the vehicle for establishing these priorities.

Managing the Greenway

Issue: What is the best strategy for assuring the most effective management of the Rachel Carson Greenway?

Funding the Greenway

Issue: How can public/private partnerships help implement the vision for the greenway?

Providing Safe Road Crossings

Issue: How can safe crossings of roadways be provided?

The Rachel Carson Greenway crosses numerous roads. Providing safe crossings of these roads is a major issue. As stated in the Countywide Park Trails Plan, “assessing trail-road intersections during the trail planning and development process is needed to assure safe road crossings.” As more detailed planning occurs for each of the trail segments, the issue of how to provide safe road crossing will be discussed.
Appendix

Environmental Resources Map
## Relationship to Other Plans Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plans</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countywide Park Trails Plan</td>
<td>Identifies three greenway corridors to link the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1998, amended 2004):</td>
<td>Identifies the Northwest Branch Trail Corridor (now the Rachel Carson Greenway) as one of the corridors and recommends a comprehensive trail planning study of the corridor be initiated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan (1998)</td>
<td>Recommends the portion of the Greenway Corridor that traverses Sandy Spring include a Rural Legacy trail to commemorate the County’s role in the Underground Railroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposes a trail alignment and an associated rural setting for the trail south of MD 108.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommends village green in Sandy Spring that could serve as a focal point for the Rural Legacy Trail as it reaches the village center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommends a trail connection between MD rte 108 and the Hawlings River with the exact location to be determined by the Parks Department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemp Mill Master Plan</td>
<td>Identifies potential future trail connection to Rachel Carson Greenway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olney Master Plan</td>
<td>Recommends properties within the Rachel Carson Greenway be added to the park system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identifies need to study more options for trail connectivity north of Rachel Carson Conservation Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan</td>
<td>Recommends an interpretive theme entitled, “Quakers and the Underground Railroad” in the vicinity of Sandy Spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommends the Rural Legacy trail be the focus of a walking tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan</td>
<td>Identifies the Northwest Branch Corridor as a priority planning area for selecting the best trail corridor and selecting properties that should be considered for public acquisition to achieve important heritage interpretation, natural resource, and trail connectivity goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This Trail Corridor Plan meets the planning goals established in the Legacy plan. The adoption of this Trail Corridor Plan will amend the Legacy Open Space program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Historic/Cultural Sites Table

From south to north

Type key: MP=Master Plan of Historic Preservation Site, A=Archaeology site, C=cultural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>RCG Segment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Historic Marker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnt Mills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>This was one of the county’s earliest gristmills from the mid-18th century originally called Bealle’s Mill. Later owners included Manakee and Bond. It consisted of two large frame buildings. The dam for the millpond was where the WSSC dam is now.</td>
<td>A, C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morse Filtration Complex</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Burnt Mills Water filtration facility supplied clean water for Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties from 1929 to the 1950s. At the height of its operation it processed 10 million gallons of water a day. The two pump houses remaining from the complex have architectural significance as examples of Georgian Revival style and as typical of public works design of the period.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 33/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mica Mine Ruins</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>The mine is located in a wooded area on the western bank of the Northwest Branch adjacent to the Springbrook Forest subdivision. Although nothing remains of the shafts, tunnels or structures, there are a number of shallow trenches and waste piles that mark the area where open digging occurred. Mica is a silver colored, heat resistant rock that can be split into thin transparent sheets. In the late 1800’s it became popular for use in illuminating heating stoves, and new sources of the material were sought. Workable quantities were discovered in Maryland, particularly in Montgomery and Howard Counties. The Gilmore Mica Mine (named for one of its founders) began operations here in 1882. It featured a fifty-foot vertical shaft with several horizontal tunnels leading out from it. Imported mica later curbed the demand for local materials but the mine reopened on several occasions as new needs for the product arose. It finally ceased operation in the 1920’s and had largely disappeared by the time construction of Springbrook Forest subdivision began in the 1940’s.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 32/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>RCG Segment</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Historic Marker</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric Rock Shelters</td>
<td>Below Kemp Mill Site</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Practicing floodplain agriculture, tribal peoples from villages along the Potomac River and, later, Southern Maryland, supplemented their crops by hunting and gathering within the Piedmont stream valleys of our County. Beginning circa 1000 B.C., early Woodland Indians used rock shelters as “prehistoric motels”, leaving behind their Selden Island type, soapstone-tempered pottery and stone tools. There is a gap between them and the Late Woodland occupants circa A.D. 1300, who left behind Shepardware (crushed rock temper) and Pageware (crushed limestone temper) bowls. The interaction between these two peoples was probably friendly because of their temporal overlap and borrowing of ceramic traditions. Discarded tools reflect food-related activities: hunting, gathering and butchering. Typical discarded and burned bones include: white-tailed deer, fox, woodchuck, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, turtle, snake, fish and bird. The use of short-term, base-camp rock shelters by local tribes reflects a strategy of supplementing their farming needs with wild flora and fauna. By A.D. 1600, all these peoples were long gone from Montgomery County. Scientists are still researching where they came from and where they went.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemp Mill Site</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>An early map of Maryland indicates a mill on this site in 1794 owned by Quaker preacher Evan Thomas of Sandy Spring. Thomas’ mill, leased to Thomas Brown in 1803, was sold to Aaron Dyer in 1816. Francis Valdenar purchased the frame saw and gristmill in 1833. During the 1830 decade a small settlement called Claysville existed near the mill containing a store and tanyard. The name Kemp Mill materialized in 1857 when Valdenar sold to George Kemp. Kemp’s family operated the mill until 1905. When the center of milling shifted to the mid-west in the late 1800s, many small family mills in Montgomery County like Kemp Mill closed. In 1919 the mill burned. M-NCPPC purchased the mill site in 1957.</td>
<td>C (33/5)</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric Hunting &amp;</td>
<td>Near Llewellan Fields (MP 28/17),</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>For thousands and thousands of years, Archaic Period peoples roamed this stream valley, better able to make use of increasingly diverse, local environments brought about by warmer Holocene temperatures after the last Ice Age. Relying</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Sites</td>
<td>Norwood Rd. &amp; Northwest Branch</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Plan

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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>RCG Segment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Historic Marker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holland Store</td>
<td>Norwood And Layhill/Ednor Rd.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Built in 1860 by James Holland, this is one of three general stores still in operation in Montgomery County.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 23/119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlawn Manor and the Rural Legacy Trail</td>
<td>16501 Norwood Rd.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Woodlawn’s connection with prominent Quakers and with the Underground Railroad makes this a place of very special significance to the history of our state and our nation. The stately house is a prime example of a well-to-do farm mansion of the early 19th century, and the wonderful stone barn adds an air of individuality. Rural Legacy Trail. This 1.7 mile trail has been interpreted with a map/brochure and signage as an “Underground Railroad Experience Trail” for visitors to experience, each in his own way, the feelings of being an enslaved person escaping to freedom—noting along the way various natural features that a</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 28/14 Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>RCG Segment</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Spring, The</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The name of the community came from this spring of clear water bubbling up through sand that forms the headwaters of a tributary to the Northwest Branch. Local residents used this water communally from the 1720s. The date on the concrete archway, 1745, refers to the founding of the local Friends Meeting. Asa Stabler built the archway in 1914.</td>
<td>MP 28/36</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harewood</td>
<td>17600 Meetinghouse Rd., Sandy Spring</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Private home. This farm was built by Edward Stabler, local postmaster, writer, inventor and farmer in 1823 on land given him by his mother, Deborah Pleasants Stabler, granddaughter of Richard Brooke. The original house has been altered and a number of outbuildings added. In 1925 Dean Atchison, Secretary of State under President Truman, purchased the property and lived here until his death in 1971.</td>
<td>MP 28/35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House</td>
<td>17801 Meetinghouse Rd., Sandy Spring</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>This brick structure was built in 1817 near the site of earlier buildings used for Meeting. James Brooke gave the land in 1753. The benches and interior beams were sawn at the local Chandlee Mill. The porch was added in 1868. The original interior was partitioned into two sections—for men and women; but the partition was taken down in 1968 and used to construct the gallery for the expanding congregation. The cemetery was opened in 1754. The simple headstones mark the graves of many of the original settlers of Sandy Spring. James Brooke came to the area in the 1720s and married Deborah Snowden, daughter of local Quaker Richard Snowden. John Thomas married her sister, Elizabeth. These families formed the core of the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting.</td>
<td>MP 28/11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>RCG Segment</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Historic Marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Spring Museum</td>
<td>17901 Bentley Rd.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The museum was established in 1980 and moved to this new building in 1997. The building was designed by local architect Miche Booz and his partner Thomas Bucci. Open Mon / Wed / Thurs 9-4. Sat &amp; Su 12-4.  <a href="http://www.sandyspringmuseum.org">www.sandyspringmuseum.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomfield</td>
<td>18000 Bentley Road</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Private home – provides insights into residents of the house: farmers and Quakers who were active and contributing members to the greater Sandy Spring community. According to tradition, the owners of the house, the Bentley family, offered their house as a stop on the Underground Railroad.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 28/63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakleigh</td>
<td>18010 Bentley Road</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Private home – Oakleigh survives as a good example of a vernacular Italianate house with strong ties to the Bentley family, who made significant contributions to the local community</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 28/64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp Street Church</td>
<td>1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The oldest African-American congregation in the county. Formed in 1822, the church became the educational, and social center for the extensive black community and housed the first school for black children (c1864).</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 28/11-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odd Fellows Lodge</td>
<td>1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Built in the 1920's, the lodge served as a health and life insurance agency for the African-American community of Sandy Spring as well as a social center. The lodge closed in 1975.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 28/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Spring Slave Museum</td>
<td>Brooke Rd., Sandy Spring</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>This private museum focuses on the heritage of African Americans from their origin in Africa to their struggle for civil rights in America. There is a room for local African American history. Tours of this museum can be arranged by calling 301-384-0727 or contacting <a href="mailto:slavemuseum@yahoo.com">slavemuseum@yahoo.com</a>. Open by appointment. <a href="http://www.sandyspringslavemuseum.org">www.sandyspringslavemuseum.org</a></td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellicott Gold Mine</td>
<td>19401 Prospect Point Rd., Off Gold Mine Rd., Brookeville</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>This mine was the first in a series of gold mines that opened in Montgomery County in the mid-1800’s.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP23/84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverton</td>
<td>1201 Gold Mine Rd., Brookeville</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Private home</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 23/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookeville Woolen Mill &amp; House</td>
<td>1901 Brighton Dam Rd., Brookeville</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>MP 23/69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakley Cabin</td>
<td>3610 Brookeville Rd., Brookeville</td>
<td>Off 6</td>
<td>Public – open Saturdays noon-4pm, April-November This 19th century log house originally belonged to the farm known as Oakley. Colonel Richard Brooke constructed the main house at Oakley, no longer standing, during the late 18th century. After the death for Richard Brooke in 1788, the Oakley farm passed to his daughter, Ann. Through her marriage to William Dorsey, the farm came into the Dorsey family. Upon the death of William Dorsey in 1818, the property passed to his son, Richard Dorsey. Richard Dorsey was the first to employ a large number of slaves on the farm. In 1836 Dorsey sold Oakley to Dr. William B. Magruder. Possibly constructed just before or after emancipation, the house continued to be use das tenant housing throughout the 20th century, until its purchase in 1969 by the Commission. Operated today by M-NCPPC with volunteers.</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 23/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Mill Site</td>
<td>Georgia Ave. &amp; Hawlings River</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Situated on the Hawlings River, the land was purchased by Thomas Davis in 1810, and the mill was constructed ca. 1840 by his son, Allen Bowie Davis. It was a typical saw and gristmill servicing Davis's own Greenwood farm and the immediate countryside. The original sections of the miller’s cottages were constructed ca. 1865 for Davis's resident miller. In the 1870's, the mill was leased to John Q. Bazzell, a machinist, who added and iron foundry and machine shop to the mill building. During that period Bazzell resided in the miller's cottage. After an intervening ownership, Samuel M. Speck bought the mill in 1903 and operated it as a gristmill until the 1920's. When Route 97 was relocated in the early 20th century, the mill was</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 23/45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The miller's cottage then passed through a series of owners and underwent a number of alterations and additions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>RCG Segment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Historic Marker</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>21315 Georgia Ave.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Private home</td>
<td></td>
<td>MP 23/46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaither’s Mill Site</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Gaither family were prominent large landowners and among the first settlers of the county in the early 1700's. Col. Henry Gaither who lived at nearby &quot;Pleasant Fields&quot; was a noted patriot on the Revolutionary War and members of his family were distinguished figures in Maryland politics, business, and agriculture. It is interesting to note that Henry Gaither Sr. was listed as owning a number of mills on his properties and one of these was possibly the forerunner of the mill here.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blick’s Rock</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Prehistoric quartzite quarry</td>
<td>A</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor Plan

RACHEL CARSON GREENWAY TRAIL CORRIDOR PLAN

The Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning