

A photograph of a stone wall in a wooded area, with text overlaid on it. The wall is constructed from large, irregular stones and is partially covered in moss. The background shows trees and foliage.

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park

Management Plan
June 2005

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning
Countywide Planning Division, Park Planning & Resource Analysis
Natural Resources Division, Natural Resources Management
Northern Region, Black Hill Area Park Police

Abstract

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Abstract	This Management Plan provides background materials, describes the planning process and outlines a plan for the operation and use of Hoyles Mill Conservation Park Management Plan. It contains materials on natural and cultural resources, needs assessments and implementation strategies.

HOYLES MILL CONSERVATION PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Prepared by: The Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning**

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I. Introduction

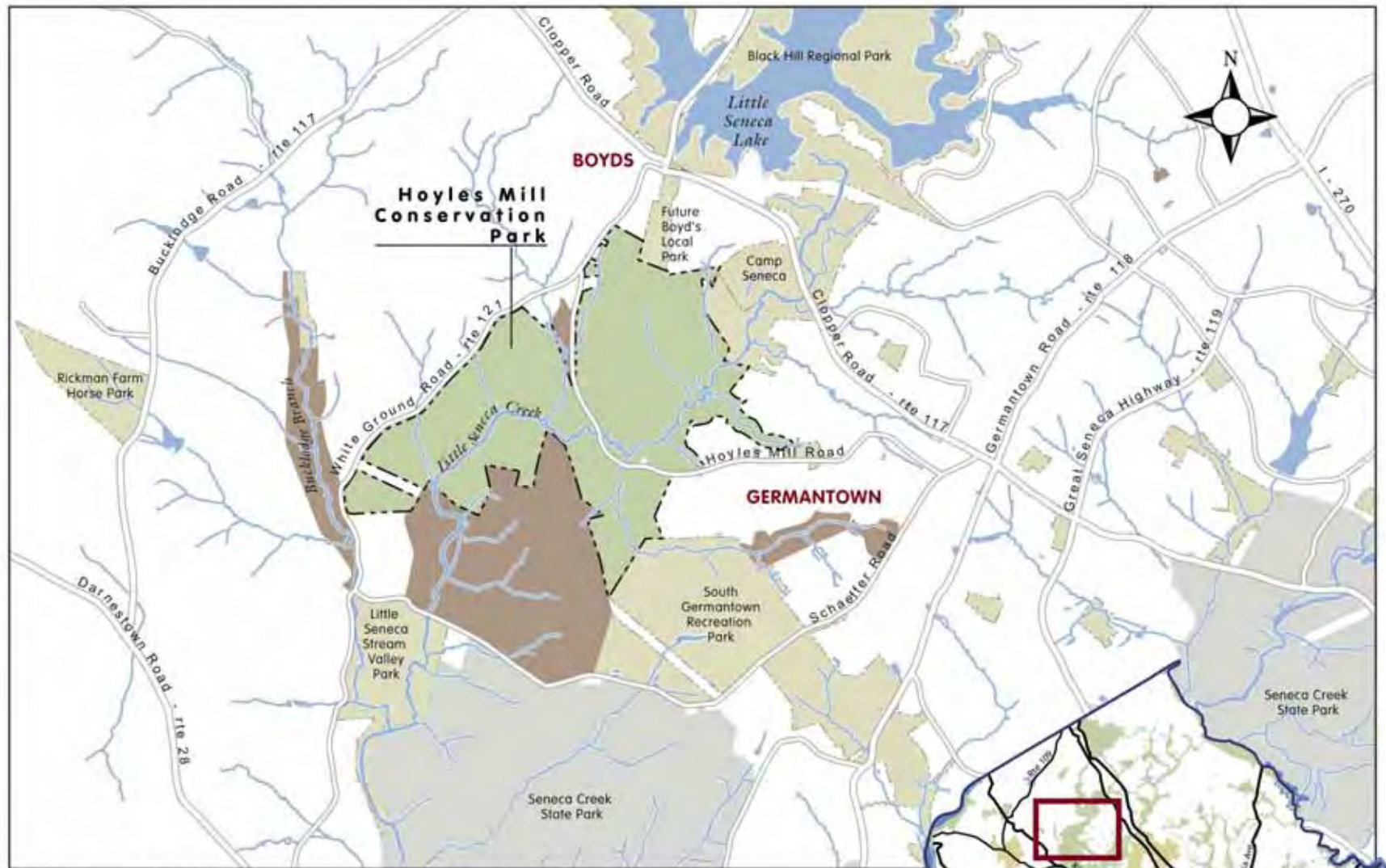
Hoyles Mill Conservation Park (HMCP) is located in northwestern Montgomery County, Maryland. It is situated along the southerly side of White Ground Road between the communities of Boyds and Germantown (see Vicinity Map on page 5). The park is approximately 997 acres in size and contains a variety of exceptional natural and cultural resources. A large majority of the park's land area is covered by one of the most diverse forests in the County. The park is located within the heart of a much larger area of contiguous woodlands known as the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area. Underlying this area is a large sill of diabase bedrock, one of the few of its kind in Maryland. There are many diabase rock outcrops visible throughout the park. Because of the unique nutrient rich soils that are derived from the diabase bedrock, the park contains over twenty species of rare, threatened, endangered, and watchlist (RTEW) plants. Little Seneca Creek, a partially self-sustaining trout stream, and several of its tributaries also flow through the park. In addition, located within the park are the ruins of the historic mill for which the park is named. There may also be other archaeological sites within the park that have relevance to the historic African American community of Boyds.

To protect these resources the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) acquired the core parcels of HMCP (766 acres) in February of 2002. The acquisition was made as part of Montgomery County's Legacy Open Space program, which was created to protect the County's most significant open space resources. The Legacy Open Space Master Plan, which was approved by the County Planning Board and County Council in 2001, recommended conservation of this property. The site was previously recommended for conservation park acquisition in the County's Park, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Master Plan of 1998. The acquisition of Hoyles Mill Conservation Park was entirely funded, in the amount of 7.2 million dollars, by the State of Maryland's GreenPrint Program. The GreenPrint Program was established to identify and protect the State's "green infrastructure." The purchase also included a 34-acre parcel for the future Boyds Local Park. In return for funding the acquisition, the State required that a conservation easement be recorded that covers most of HMCP in perpetuity. The purchase represented the largest single acquisition ever of conservation parkland in Montgomery County.





In acquiring Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, M-NCPPC seeks to achieve the following conservation objectives.

- Maintain the park in its present state as a natural and rural area that has not been subject to development.
- Preserve the park's underlying diabase geology, which combined with resulting soils supports many unique plant species.
- Preserve over 20 identified rare, threatened, endangered, and watchlist plant species within the park, which contains the highest biodiversity in Montgomery County outside the environs of the Potomac River.

- ❑ Conserve the large block of high quality contiguous forest that covers most of the site, and is one of the most diverse in the County.
- ❑ Protect the Little Seneca Creek and its tributaries within the park.
- ❑ Protect nearly 20 acres of wetlands in the park identified by the National Wetlands Inventory.
- ❑ Preserve a major portion of a large State “green infrastructure” hub.
- ❑ Accommodate passive public uses in the park to include natural surface trails, non-motorized recreational uses, and equestrian uses including traditional fox chasing.



Hoyles Mill Conservation Park - Vicinity Map

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  | <i>Hoyles Mill Conservation Park</i> |  | <i>Proposed Parklands</i> |
|  | <i>Existing M-NCPPC Parklands</i> |  | <i>State Parklands</i> |

0 1 mile



II. Management Plan Purpose

The Hoyles Mill Conservation Park Management Plan has been developed to implement the stewardship goals for conserved land that are set forth in both the Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan, and the PROS Master Plan. Park management plans are internal M-NCPPC staff-level documents that provide guidance to Montgomery Parks' operating divisions on the management and maintenance of natural and cultural resources, trails, public access, and constructed facilities.

The goals of the management plan are listed below.

- Identify and map the park's existing natural, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as operational issues.
- Provide a plan for how best to manage the park's natural and cultural resources that specifies both initial and on-going management tasks.
- Facilitate compliance with Montgomery County's Environmental Guidelines during the planning, development and operation of the park.
- Provide a plan for public access to the park that allows for passive recreational uses in a manner that leaves the park's most significant resources undisturbed.
- Provide a plan for the park's operation that specifies both start-up improvements as well as on-going maintenance projects.
- Provide operating budget cost estimates, in 2004 dollars, for implementing the plan's recommendations.
- Present plan recommendations in a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapped format for field use.

III. Factors Governing Park Use

Conservation Park Classification

The park classification system outlined in the PROS Master Plan establishes the guidelines for development and uses in conservation parks such as HMCP. The PROS Master Plan defines conservation parks as:

“...generally large areas that preserve specific natural, archaeological, or historical features; are typically located in upland areas; and are acquired specifically for environmental preservation purposes. Conservation area parks may include outstanding examples of natural communities, self-sustaining populations of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, or unique archaeological and historical resources. Given the sensitive nature of the resources in conservation parks, development is very limited and generally restricted to passive recreation areas and opportunities such as trails, fishing and picnic areas, and nature study.”

State Conservation Easement

M-NCPPC granted to the State of Maryland a perpetual conservation easement over most of HMCP in return for funding the park's acquisition. The easement covers approximately 719 acres. The conservation easement is recorded in the land records of Montgomery County. The purpose of the easement is to protect and preserve the natural environment of the park, while also accommodating passive public uses such as natural surface trails and non-motorized recreational uses as well as associated pervious surface access areas such as gravel parking lots. The easement also expressly allows for general equestrian uses in the park including traditional fox chasing. The 35-acre parcel south of the PEPCO power line property is not covered by the conservation easement. This is a mostly cleared parcel that has been in agricultural use for many years prior to purchase of the park. It was not considered a high priority for additional easement protection. A 12-acre parcel adjacent to the future Boyds Local Park is also not covered by the easement. This is to allow for potential future construction of an access road from White Ground Road to serve Boyds Local Park. This area is covered by a young successional forest made up mostly of coniferous trees and is located at the edge of the park away from its interior forest. It was not considered a high priority for additional easement protection. If the access road were to be built through this area, adequate protection of the forest could be achieved as part of the road's construction. A copy of the recorded conservation easement and a map of the park showing the easement area are included in the appendix of this plan.

Declaration of Covenants

HMCP is further subject to a declaration of covenants also recorded in the County land records that forever allows general equestrian activities in the park. This includes traditional fox chasing by any organization “Recognized” by the “Masters of Foxhounds Association of America.” The right to conduct traditional fox chasing in the park is subject

to M-NCPPC having the right to manage, preserve, and protect the natural environment of the park, including the right to relocate trails and otherwise control the location and nature of other activities in the park. Traditional fox chasing in the park is administered through a special permit issued by the Superintendent of Montgomery Parks. However, the Commission's right to manage, preserve and protect the park and the right to issue a special permit shall not be exercised in a manner that inhibits, diminishes or interferes with reasonable use of the park for traditional fox chasing. Permits are not required for general equestrian activities in the park by individuals or organizations but are subject to reasonable rules and regulations by M-NCPPC. A copy of the declaration of covenants relating to equestrian uses of the park is included in the appendix of this plan.

IV. Existing Conditions

The following is an inventory of the park's existing conditions as surveyed by M-NCPPC staff during the two years following the acquisition of Hoyles Mill Conservation Park. The inventory was developed through both extensive field inspections of HMCP as well as GIS mapping analysis.

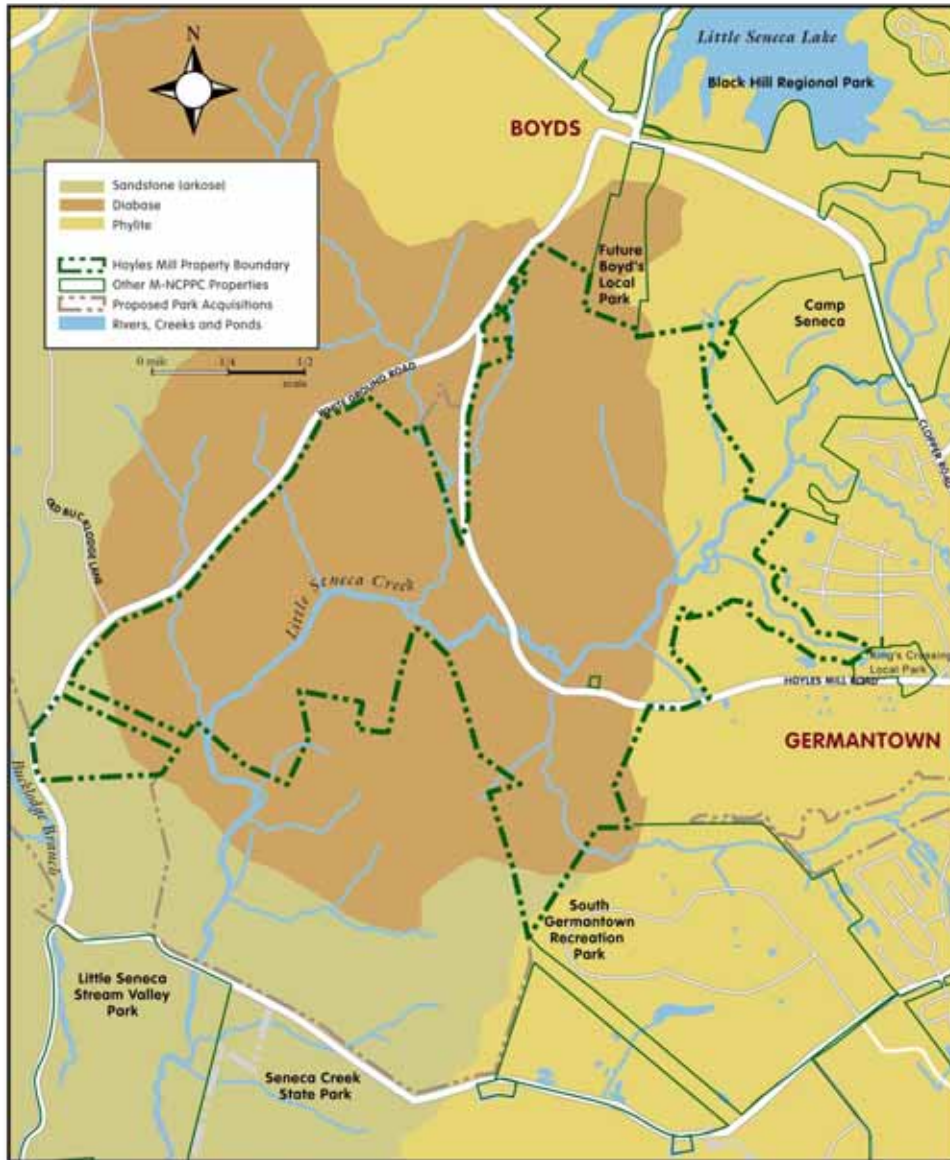
General Description

HMCP is approximately 997 acres in size and is located along White Ground Road (Maryland Route 121) south of the historic community of Boyds. The park lies to the northwest of the recently constructed King's Crossing subdivision in Germantown. The park is adjacent to Camp Seneca and Little Seneca Stream Valley Park on the northeast side and South Germantown Recreation Park to the south. The park has considerable frontage along White Ground Road to the north. Hoyles Mill Road bisects the park between its intersection with White Ground Road and the King's Crossing Subdivision. There are no existing dwellings or other usable structures within the park.

Acquisition of the core of HMCP consisted of purchasing several parcels in 2002 formerly owned by Rockville Crushed Stone, Inc., totally 766 acres. Also incorporated into the park by this management plan are two areas of previously acquired parkland (see Section V for details). One area consists of six parcels of the County's Little Seneca Stream Valley Park Unit 2 that contain roughly 119 acres of land. The second area consists of two parcels that are part of South Germantown Recreational Park, previously owned by the Blalock and Leet families, totaling 112 acres. These areas control key road and trail access to HMCP and to the Little Seneca Creek. This existing park acreage is not subject to the State's conservation easement, nor is it subject to the declaration of covenants allowing equestrian uses in HMCP. Boyds Local Park is incorporated into this management plan for trail planning purposes only.

Geology

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park is located within the Piedmont physiographic province of Maryland. Underlying most of the park is a large sill of diabase bedrock, the largest such formation in Maryland. Diabase is a rare crystalline, igneous rock, generally greenish-gray to black in color, consisting of feldspar and pyroxene with magnetic iron. It commonly occurs as dikes or sills intruded into surrounding rocks. Numerous outcrops of diabase rock can be observed throughout the park, including stream sections where the bedrock is exposed. Diabase rock weathers into nutrient rich soils that support unusual plant communities. The underlying geology of the park is represented on Map 2 on the following page.

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park - Geology Map*Soils*

According to the Soil Survey of Montgomery County, the park is dominated by Watchung silty clay loam (28A) and Jackland silt loam (29B) soils with slopes from 0 to 8 percent. These soils are formed from diabase bedrock and are generally deep poorly drained soils characterized by slow permeability and a high water table, which serve as limiting factors for trail development. There is good potential productivity for trees on these soils. The park's slopes are mostly Montalto silt loam (24D) with slopes of 15 to 25 percent, and Legore silt loams (25B- 25C) with slopes of 3 to 15 percent. Both are deep and well drained soil types also formed from diabase. Soil properties of Montalto silt loam include moderately slow permeability, a high water table, and a moderate hazard of erosion. The potential productivity for trees on this soil is moderately high. Legore silt loams are suitable for cultivated crops and pasture and occur largely in the meadow area

at the east end of the park that was formerly agricultural land. Penn silt loam (21B) with slopes of 3 to 8 percent, a siltstone derived soil, occurs in the meadow areas adjacent to the PEPCO power line property. This soil is also well suited to cultivated crops. The floodplain of the Little Seneca Creek consists of Hatboro silt loam (54A) with slopes of 0 to 3 percent. Hatboro silt loam is a deep poorly drained soil with a high water table, usually within 6 inches of the surface in late winter and early spring. Hatboro silt loam is subject to frequent flooding.

Permeability is moderate and available water capacity is high. The potential productivity for water tolerant trees on this soil is moderate. The attached management plan map identifies areas of poorly drained or hydric soils within HMCP. These soils make up a significant portion of the park's land area.

Topography

The majority of the park's terrain is generally level to gently sloping toward the Little Seneca Creek and its tributary streams. Areas of steep slopes greater than 15% are found in the park's eastern section adjacent to and within a large meadow. A broad floodplain is found along the Little Seneca Creek with narrower floodplains along the tributary streams. The topography of the park is represented in the attached management plan map.

Vegetation

A Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) of the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park was completed to determine the priority areas for forest and tree retention before any development takes place, and to aid in defining areas necessary for reforestation and/or restoration. Vegetation studies of the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area have been conducted over a 10-year period by Natural Resources Management staff (1995-present), and the Maryland DNR Heritage & Biodiversity Conservation Programs staff (1993, 1995-6, 1998). Following the park's acquisition, Natural Resources Management staff completed a thorough "walkthrough" inspection of the park, and species lists for woody and herbaceous plants were compiled. Information on dominant and co-dominant species, size class, uncommon species and special habitats, and general health of the stands was recorded. Individual forest stand descriptions are provided in the plan appendix and include approximate stand acreage, species noted, retention priority, and comments on the stand's overall structure and condition. A complete listing of the park's observed vegetation species is also provided in the appendix.

A large majority of the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park acreage is covered by a very diverse, maturing, second growth forest with good structure, well developed shrub levels, and relatively few non-native invasive species. The total forested acreage is approximately 803 acres. The park's forested acreage represents one of the largest remaining contiguous forest tracts in Montgomery County. The park's forest also protects approximately 19 acres of wetlands within the park as identified by National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps. Additionally, the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area is second only to the Potomac River Gorge area as having the highest concentration of rare, threatened, endangered, and watchlist (RTEW) plant species in Montgomery County. Vegetation studies conducted by Natural Resources Management staff and Maryland DNR staff have identified over 20 such RTEW plants within the area now comprised by the park.

In order to present a comprehensive but understandable picture of the vegetation resource present at Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, the forest has been described under six broad Forest Stand designations:

Stand 1: Dominated by mixed oaks, but with a high number of other deciduous trees including hickories, white ash, American beech, and elm, as well as scattered conifers such as Virginia pine, and eastern red cedar (357+/- acres).

Stand 2: Dominated by Virginia pine and eastern red cedar, but including large numbers of tulip poplar and red maple (238+/- acres).

Stand 3: Dominated by tulip poplar and sycamore with large numbers of box elder and red maple within the floodplains and wetlands (136+/- acres).

Stand 4: Dominated by oak and hickory species (45+/- acres).

Stand 5: Edge forest (27+/- acres).

Stand 6: Agricultural fields (58+/- acres).

While these broad categories help to give an overall picture of the site in general terms, it must be emphasized that there are a large number of special habitats and species uncommon to Montgomery County scattered throughout the park. These uncommon plants and special communities do not necessarily fit within the forest stand boundaries. In order to adequately include them in the overall picture of the park's vegetation resource, a description of uncommon communities is included with the forest stand descriptions in the appendix. Additionally, even though general forest stand boundaries can be discerned, there is much species overlap within the defined stands. Mixed oak species, Virginia pine, eastern red cedar, white ash, and redbud are common across the entire property.

Although the park is largely forested, there are roughly 58 acres of open meadow habitat. These are areas that were in agricultural use up to the time that the park was purchased. The largest such area is in the northeast section of the park roughly 34 acres in size that was in agricultural use until 2002. It has since been left fallow and is now composed mainly of grasses. At the south end of the park both north and south of the PEPCO power line property there are three smaller meadows that total approximately 24 acres that were farmed until 2001. These now consist mainly of goldenrod. A map of the FSD for HMCP is attached with this plan.

Wildlife

The large contiguous forest that comprises the great majority of the acreage at Hoyles Mill Conservation Park provides critical habitat for forest interior dwelling species, particularly birds. These species require large unbroken tracts of forest to successfully breed. Large contiguous forest habitat is becoming increasingly scarce in Montgomery County as development continually fragments woodlands into smaller isolated tracts. Other habitats include approximately 58 acres of meadows, 19 acres of wetlands as identified by NWI maps, vernal pools, as well as the Little Seneca Creek and several of its tributary streams.

Limited wildlife inventories of the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area have been conducted since the park was acquired. Natural Resources Management staff completed a thorough "walkthrough" inspection of the park, and a species list was compiled. Most of the species

have been detected through sightings, tracks, and calls. A complete listing of the park's observed wildlife is provided in the appendix. Additional species will likely be recorded for this park as future surveys are conducted.

Birds are an excellent indicator species for evaluating habitat quality and making inferences about habitat suitability for other animal species. Over 60 species of birds were detected in the park. The list includes a significant number of forest interior dwelling species such as Louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, ovenbird, pileated woodpecker, and barred owl, indicating a high quality forest.

In addition to birds, the park is home to a wide diversity of terrestrial wildlife species including at least 14 species of mammals, 6 reptiles, and 11 amphibians. Mammals include common species such as white-tailed deer and gray squirrel, as well as less common species such as river otter and eastern coyote. Beaver colonies were observed in the Little Seneca Creek. Many signs of a high deer population were observed in the park including reduced forest understory density and regeneration and negative impacts to the health of several RTEW species. Reptiles include most of the common species of the County as well as the less common eastern hognose snake and five lined skink. Wetlands and vernal pools provide breeding habitat for spotted salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers and other amphibians. Additionally, 32 species of butterflies were observed including the giant swallowtail butterfly, a watchlist species, which is common in the park. Giant swallowtail butterflies feed on the northern prickly ash, an endangered shrub that grows abundantly throughout the park due to the diabase soils.

Water and Fisheries

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park is located within the Little Seneca Creek watershed. The Little Seneca Creek and several small tributary streams flow through the park. A small part of the park near its far west boundary drains to the Bucklodge Branch, which is a tributary of the Little Seneca. The portion of the watershed that encompasses the park has been designated a Water Use Category III-P by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Use III-P waters are suitable for the growth and propagation of trout, and are capable of supporting self-sustaining trout populations and their associated food organisms. They are also suitable for use as a public water supply.

With the purchase of Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, nearly all of the creek's mainstem from the outfall at Little Seneca Lake to its confluence with Great Seneca Creek is now located within parkland. According to the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy (CSPS), 2003 Update, the section of Little Seneca Creek within the park is in good biological condition. The CSPS designates most of the park as an Agricultural Watershed Management Area, but portions of the eastern edge of the park adjacent to the King's Crossing subdivision, are designated as Watershed Restoration or Watershed Protection Areas.

The fish communities in the park are diverse and healthy. Both rainbow and brown trout are present in the Little Seneca within the park, especially closer to the Little Seneca Lake outfall where the water is coldest. The Maryland DNR stocks the creek with rainbow and brown trout fingerlings, and brown trout occasionally spawn in the creek. The tributaries in the park may also provide opportunities for trout to spawn. Fish surveys in 1998 and 2001 found 20 species of fish, including rainbow and brown trout, and largemouth and smallmouth bass. Most of the species found are moderately tolerant of

pollution, and three species - brown trout, northern hogsucker, and Blue Ridge sculpin - are considered intolerant of pollution. A list of surveyed fish species is included in the appendix to this plan.

Recent impacts to the aquatic community have included a significant sediment spill from a construction site in 2001, and extreme weather conditions. In 2002, during a severe drought, while most streams in the County experienced flows well below normal, flows in the mainstem of Little Seneca Creek were above average due to water supply releases from Little Seneca Lake. During 2003, flows in the mainstem and tributaries were high due to unusually high rainfall. More monitoring will be required to determine the long-term effects of construction and weather. In addition, significant damage to the streambank by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use was observed along the Little Seneca Creek east of the ford at Hoyles Mill Road.

According to NWI maps roughly 19 acres of wetlands exist within the park, primarily located along the Little Seneca Creek stream valley east of the ford. Wetlands in the park have not been field verified or surveyed. The attached management plan map shows the park's streams and wetlands as well as regulatory buffers.

Cultural Resources

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park receives its name from the mill of the same name, whose historic ruins and associated structures are now located within the park boundaries. In 1816, the Maryland 2nd District Tax Assessment notes the land of John Hoyle "with mill thereon". By 1850, the Census of Manufactures inventoried an overshot wheel-powered grist and saw mill with one run of stones and one employee. During the Civil War, his sons, George Washington and Nathan, reflected local sentiment and served with the 1st Maryland Cavalry Confederate States Army.

The mill's sale in 1873 noted that the structure and machine were in good order and had a frame dwelling. Sometime during the 1880s, a water-powered turbine replaced the mill's wheel. In 1903, the Frederick Post newspaper mentioned that the June floods swept away, "the new six-ton engine in use at Hoyle's mills at Boyds". Sometime after this, the mill was relocated to Boyds proper. Currently, the old mill's archaeological context consists of the mill ruins, a double-chimney foundation and the fieldstone remains of the frame dwelling house.

Off the southerly side of Hoyles Mill Road within the park, there is an abandoned frame structure within that has been identified as a dance hall, which formerly formed part of a park used by the local African-American community in Boyds. While no prehistoric sites have been identified in the park, its archaeological potential should be rated high because of the size and importance of Little Seneca Creek. The attached management plan map identifies the locations of the mill and dance hall ruins.

Trails and Public Access

There are roughly 2 miles of existing natural surface trails within HMCP that were constructed prior to acquisition of the park. The trails have received frequent use primarily by equestrians from neighboring properties. Equestrian activities on the property include both trail riding, and traditional fox chasing events sponsored by the Potomac Hunt Club. These activities continue in the park subject to the provisions of a declaration of

covenants and restrictions recorded in the County land records. The existing trail network can be accessed at a point along White Ground Road approximately one mile west of its intersection with Hoyles Mill Road, and at a point along Hoyles Mill Road roughly 500 feet south of the ford in Little Seneca Creek. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use of the trails has been observed. There are no existing parking areas that provide public access to the trail network. The existing trails have been surveyed by a Global Positioning System (GPS) and are depicted in the attached management plan map.

Park Operational Issues

Hoyles Mill Road, which bisects HMCP, is generally a packed dirt and gravel surface road leading from White Ground Road to the ford in Little Seneca Creek. The ford is shallow enough for vehicles to cross and the road continues to the King's Crossing subdivision in Germantown. Hoyles Mill Road also crosses two small tributary streams of the Little Seneca Creek. Flooding from the streams has washed out significant portions of the road. Overall condition of the road for vehicle use is considered poor.

Formerly maintained by the County, Hoyles Mill Road was closed east of Little Seneca Creek by a resolution of the Montgomery County Council in September of 1998. Following purchase of the park, the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) constructed temporary road closure barriers consisting of concrete "Jersey" barriers across Hoyles Mill Road in two locations where it enters park property; just west of the WSSC pump station, and roughly 1,200 feet north of the Little Seneca Creek ford.

The park has been a site for extensive all-terrain vehicle (ATV) activity in the past, and continues to be so even under M-NCPPC ownership. ATVs access the park via Hoyles Mill Road and enter the Little Seneca Creek stream valley at the ford. There is also an existing ATV trail that winds into the forest from the east side of Hoyles Mill Road for approximately 800 feet. Following purchase of the park, Black Hill Area staff constructed two large earthen mounds along the road to block access to this trail. ATVs have also been observed accessing the park via the existing trail leading from White Ground Road.

Significant dumping of trash has also occurred on the property over many years prior to the park's acquisition. Several old trash dumps were observed scattered throughout the park particularly in wooded areas near roads, adjacent to lands used for agriculture, within areas of young forest that were open ground in past decades, and in the vicinity of the Boyds community. More recent dumping was observed along Hoyles Mill Road. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted on the property by Environmental Technical Services, Inc., of Woodstock, Maryland in November of 2001, just prior to its purchase by M-NCPPC. The report identified some automotive lead batteries and some containers of paint, pesticide, and herbicide residue that were removed from the site prior to acquisition. It also identified several empty automotive gasoline tanks and old tires on the property near the intersection of White Ground and Hoyles Mill Roads. A foldout map is attached at the back of this plan that identifies the locations of significant trash dumps observed within the park.

The Park Police Division's Patrol Section has been responsible for patrolling HMCP since its purchase. There have been numerous police related incidents in the park during that time period. Most of these involve illegal ATV use, hunting, and dumping of trash, as well as alcohol violations. Public use of HMCP is expected to increase significantly once proposed trail alignments are constructed.

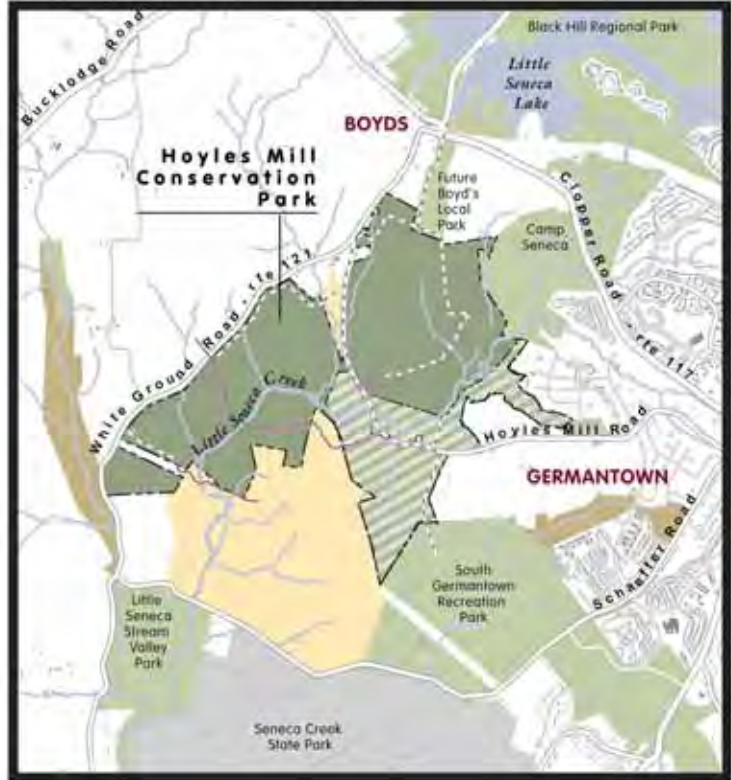
V. Proposed Additions to the Park

Acquisition of Parkland

Two privately owned parcels located along the west side of Hoyles Mill Road north of the ford that form a wedge shaped property consisting of 13.42 acres are almost entirely surrounded by HMCP and should be purchased by M-NCPPC for addition to the park. The parcels were identified in the Legacy Open Space master plan for conservation as part of the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area site. The parcels are almost entirely forested and contain two tributary streams of the Little Seneca Creek. Purchasing the site would allow for trail and parking area construction proposed in this management plan.

A large parcel of land currently owned by the Betty B. Casey Trust that borders HMCP to the south should also be purchased by M-NCPPC for addition to the park. This property is approximately 406 acres in size. It is located above the same sill of diabase bedrock as HMCP and contains similar high quality forest ecology. This parcel was also identified for conservation by the Legacy Open Space program, and parts of the property were previously recommended for stream valley park acquisition by M-NCPPC.

Proposed Additions to the Park



Incorporation of Existing County Parkland into HMCP Acreage

Six parcels that make up the Little Seneca Stream Valley Park (Unit #2) located along the southern boundary of HMCP are being added to the park through this management plan. Together these parcels contain roughly 119 acres of land. They are made up primarily of riparian forest and contain a section of the Little Seneca Creek as well as two of its tributary streams. Much of the area also sits atop diabase bedrock. The parcels control key road and trail access to HMCP and play an important role in the trails and public access component of this plan.

In addition, two forested parcels located south of Hoyles Mill Road that are part of the South Germantown Recreation Park, formerly owned by the Blalock and Leet families, and totaling about 112 acres, are being added to HMCP through this management plan. These parcels contain forest habitats of a similar high quality to those found in HMCP and they are also located on the same sill of diabase bedrock. They control key trail access to HMCP as well.

The proposed additions to HMCP are shown on the map on the previous page. The additions would ensure protection by conservation parkland of a majority of the ecologically unique Hoyles Mill Diabase Area. Most of the remaining portion of this area is located north of White Ground Road within privately owned parcels of land. These parcels are protected by a conservation easement held by the State of Maryland.

VI. Resource Management Plan

The following is a listing of recommended actions to ensure proper stewardship of the natural and cultural resources found in HMCP. Operating budget cost estimates, in 2004 dollars, for implementing recommended actions are included for all affected Montgomery Parks operating divisions.

Vegetation

- Make sure there is no further fragmentation of the existing forest within HMCP. This will be accomplished by restricting all improvements to the edges of the park.
- Conduct further inventories of the park's vegetation.
- Routinely monitor forest stands to assess impacts from non-native invasive plants, gypsy moths, white tailed deer, and trail users.
- Identify concentrations of non-native invasive plants and implement management procedure as follows:

Delineate area to be managed.

Identify target species for management.

Develop a species-specific management protocol.

Recruit and train volunteer "weed warrior" group.

Develop work program for "weed warriors" and park staff.

Annually monitor and evaluate work program efforts.

- Work with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to monitor local gypsy moth populations and implement management efforts as needed. If spraying is required, utilize Gypchek to protect non-target lepidoptera species, especially Giant Swallowtail.
- Identify priority RTEW plant habitats and protect them with deer proof fencing.
- In the 35 acre meadow that was recently farmed, establish and maintain a variety of open habitats to increase the diversity of both plant and wildlife species. These would include warm season grasses and wildflower meadows, shrub-scrub habitats, and hedgerows. At minimum, mow this meadow once per year, in a manner that does not interfere with breeding birds, and manage for non-native invasive plants, particularly thistle and multi-flora rose.
- Authorize the Enterprise Division to lease the 24 acres of meadow at the south end of the park both north and south of the PEPCO power line property for agricultural use. Explore the possibility for future management of some or all of this area as open meadow habitat.

- ❑ Inspect proposed trail routes and parking areas prior to construction with Park Planning and Resource Analysis (PPRA) and Black Hill Area staff to avoid critical vegetation resources.
- ❑ Inspect trails twice annually, once in late spring and once in late summer, in coordination with Black Hill Area staff, to assess impacts of trail use on vegetation.
- ❑ Study interpretive opportunities for RTEW plants.

Wildlife

- ❑ Maintain a closed forest canopy to protect the habitat of forest interior birds by minimizing trail widths and restricting all improvements to the edges of the park.
- ❑ Conduct additional wildlife inventories of the park including breeding birds, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.
- ❑ Install, maintain and monitor a variety of wildlife nest boxes for bluebirds, kestrels, owls, flying squirrels and other cavity nesting species.
- ❑ Map and monitor existing vernal pools and investigate methods to improve these important habitats.
- ❑ Explore and implement management efforts aimed at protecting the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly. This would include establishing and managing for butterfly nectar plants in open habitats and protection of the butterfly's larval host plant, the northern prickly ash. Protection of the host plant from deer browsing is a particular concern and might include the use of deer-proof fencing to protect certain populations of the plant.
- ❑ A program to manage white-tailed deer populations in the park was initiated in the Fall of 2003 in accordance with the County's deer management plan and will be continued into the foreseeable future. The goal of the program is to maintain deer numbers at a level compatible with the habitat in order to protect this unique ecosystem. The plan includes the use of hunters to manage deer populations within the park. Managed hunts are held on certain advertised dates and are open only to hunters specially permitted by Montgomery Parks to participate. The park is closed to all other uses on days when the managed hunts occur. Deer populations are monitored, and annual program evaluations and harvest goals are set accordingly.
- ❑ Inspect proposed trail routes and parking areas prior to construction with PPRA and Black Hill Area staff to avoid critical wildlife resources.

- ❑ Inspect trails twice annually, once in late spring and once in late summer, in coordination with Black Hill Area staff, to assess impacts of trail use on wildlife.
- ❑ Study interpretive opportunities for wildlife, especially the giant swallowtail. Include Black Hill Nature Center interpretive staff and Natural Resources staff in study, among others.

Water and Fisheries

- ❑ Conduct additional fish surveys of Little Seneca Creek, especially downstream from the Hoyles Mill Road ford.
- ❑ Conduct fish surveys of the tributary streams within the park.
- ❑ Conduct stream restoration projects in selected areas of Little Seneca Creek, most notably in association with proposed stream crossing projects.
- ❑ Inspect proposed trail routes and parking areas prior to construction with PPRA and Black Hill Area staff to avoid critical water resources.
- ❑ Inspect trails twice annually, once in late spring and once in late summer, in coordination with Black Hill Area staff, to assess impacts of trail use on water resources. As part of annual trail maintenance re-route any trails outside of wetland buffers unless they are placed on a boardwalk. Also, re-route trails to protect vernal pools and other wet ground areas.

Cultural Resources

- ❑ Stabilize the foundations of the historic Hoyles Mill and its associated structural ruins.
- ❑ Examine potential trail connections to Hoyles Mill.
- ❑ Inspect proposed trail routes and parking areas prior to construction with PPRA and Black Hill Area staff to avoid critical cultural resources.
- ❑ Continue archaeological reconnaissance of the prehistoric and historical potential of HMCP, especially its African –American focus.
- ❑ Insure that any future park development be sensitive to archaeological sites and consistent with the historic setting of Boyds.

Implementation Cost Estimate (in 2004 Dollars)

Table 1. County-wide Planning Division, Historic Preservation Operating Budget Impact (OBI)		
	Initial Costs:	Annual Costs:
	1. Stabilize Hoyles Mill and associated structures 2. Examine potential trail connection to ruins 3. Inspect proposed trail routes a parking areas for critical resources	1. Stabilize Hoyles Mill and associated structures 2. Archaeological reconnaissance of park 3. Monitor park developments impacts to historic setting of Boyds
Personnel Services	\$22,000	\$1,400
Supplies and Materials	\$13,000	\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$35,000	\$1,400
Workyears	0.30	0.02

Table 2. County-wide Planning Division, Park Planning and Resource Analysis OBI		
	Initial Costs:	Annual Costs:
	Fish surveys	Fish surveys Annual trail inspection
Personnel Services	\$2,400	\$640
Supplies and Materials	\$0	\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$2,400	\$640
Workyears	0.04	0.01

Table 3. Enterprise Division, Property Management Fund OBI

	Initial Costs: Lease meadows for agricultural use	Annual Costs: None
Personnel Services	\$0	\$0
Supplies and Materials	\$0	\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$2,400	\$0
Total expenditure	\$2,400	\$0
Workyears	0.00	0.00

Table 4. Natural Resources Division, Natural Resources Management OBI

	Initial Costs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetation inventory 2. Wildlife inventory 3. Non-native invasive species inventory 4. Management of non-native invasive plants 5. Management of RTEW species 6. Deer management 7. Meadow management 8. Inspect proposed trail routes and parking areas for critical resources 9. Study interpretive opportunities 10. Develop natural resources management plan 	Annual Costs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vegetation inventory 2. Wildlife inventory 3. Non-native invasive species inventory 4. Management of non-native invasive plants 5. Management of RTEW species 6. Deer management 7. Annual trail inspection 8. Study interpretive opportunities 9. Develop natural resources management plan
Personnel Services	\$30,240	\$11,100
Supplies and Materials	\$1,030	\$750
Other Services & Charges	\$3,640	\$2,640
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$34,910	\$14,490
Workyears	0.50	0.19

Table 5. Northern Region, Black Hill Area OBI

	Initial Costs: Mowing of meadow	Annual Costs: Once per year mowing of meadow
Personnel Services	\$250	\$250
Supplies and Materials	\$0	\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$250	\$250
Workyears	0.01	0.01

Table 6. Capital Budget for Resource Management Plan: Approved FY05-FY10 CIP

Project Description	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
Streambank Protection, PDF # 818571						
Stream Restoration in Little Seneca Creek			\$90,000	\$210,000		

VII. Trails and Public Access Plan

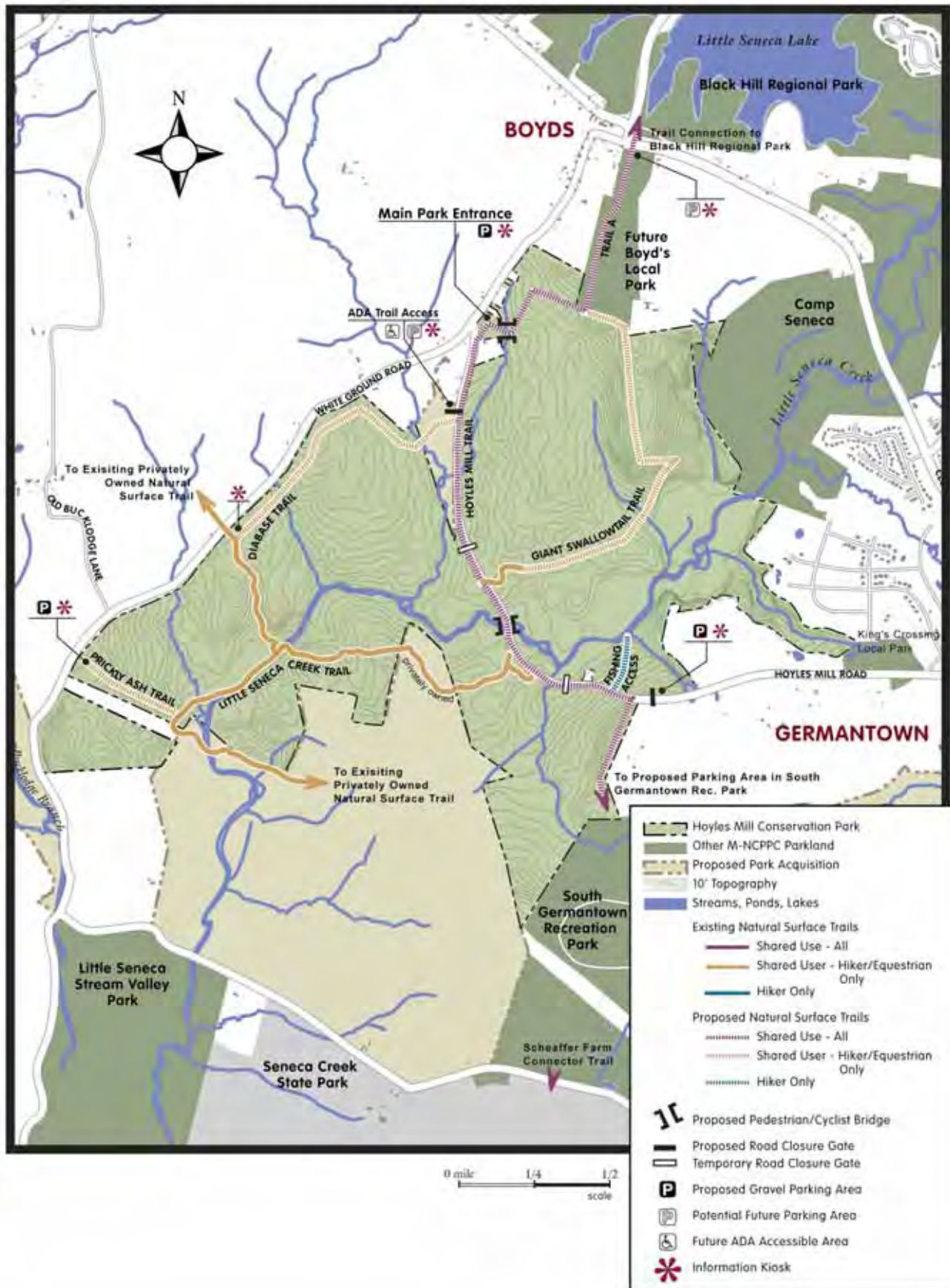
The trails and public access component of this management plan establishes the general location of the park's trails and parking facilities, and determines the types and uses of the trails. The trail system proposed for HMCP consists entirely of natural surface trails that provide access for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. Roughly 6 miles of trails are proposed, including sections within neighboring South Germantown Recreation Park and Boyds Local Park. Additionally, four gravel surface parking areas are proposed to serve as trailhead parking. The trails and public access plan was developed in accordance with the natural surface trail planning process set forth in the recently amended Countywide Park Trails Plan, and was approved by the Planning Board in November of 2003. The proposed trails, use designations, and associated trailhead parking areas that were approved by the Planning Board are represented in the Natural Surface Trail Map on page 29, and in the attached management plan map.

The trails and public access plan meets the following objectives:

- The plan balances environmental and passive recreational uses, and establishes a network of natural surface trails to provide safe and enjoyable access for a wide variety of trail users while maintaining the significant resources of the park.
- The plan addresses a County policy to provide passive recreational opportunities in conservation parks for people with disabilities.
- The proposed trail system leaves undisturbed large areas of the park's interior forest.
- The trail plan accommodates equestrian activities including traditional fox chasing, which are allowed in the park by deed covenant.
- The plan establishes a shared use natural surface trail connection through HMCP that links South Germantown Recreation Park and Black Hill Regional Park, which is an important "through" trail corridor identified in the Countywide Park Trails Plan (See page 31).
- The plan provides for connectivity to a countywide network of private and public equestrian trails (See Equestrian Trail Corridors map on page 33).
- The plan provides an opportunity for future extension of the proposed shared use trail through South Germantown Recreation Park to the off-road cycling facility in Seneca Creek State Park.
- The plan incorporates the existing natural surface trails in HMCP and the closed section of Hoyles Mill Road to reduce disturbance by new trail construction to the park's resources.

- ❑ The plan recommends establishment of an ADA accessible natural surface trail on the closed section of Hoyles Mill Road between White Ground Road and the Little Seneca Creek.
- ❑ The plan provides trails for fishing access to the Little Seneca Creek, including the potential for an ADA accessible site at the Hoyles Mill Road ford.
- ❑ As part of the proposed shared use trail, the plan calls for construction of a pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Little Seneca Creek at the Hoyles Mill Road ford.
- ❑ The plan provides for convenient and safe gravel parking areas for trailhead parking.
- ❑ The plan provides two trail loops within the park.

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park - Natural Surface Trail Map





Countywide Park Trails Plan

Adopted July 1998 & Amended February 2002

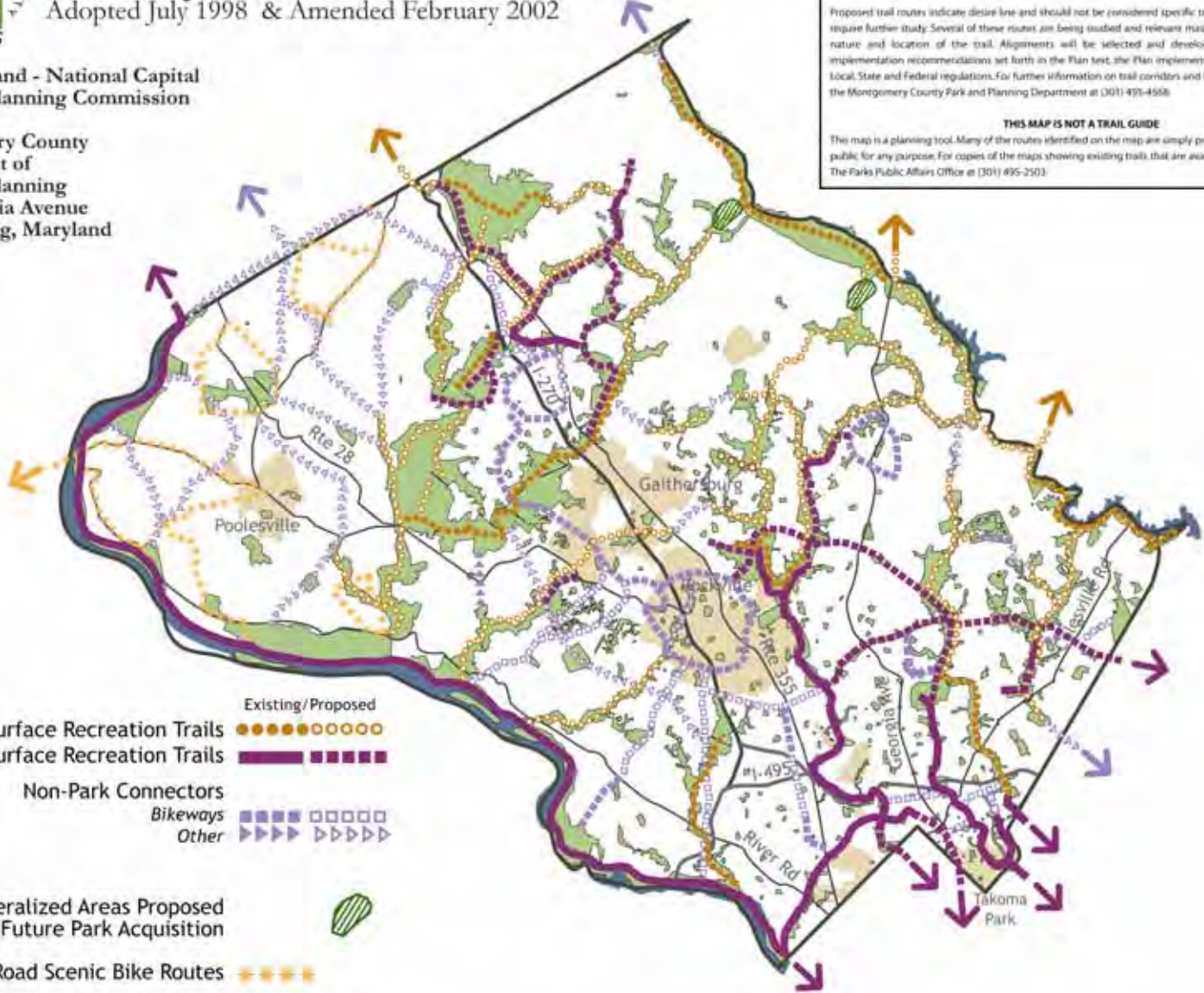
The Maryland - National Capital
Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County
Department of
Park and Planning
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland
20910-3760

NOTE
This map was recently amended to reflect changes made by the Muddy Branch SWP Trail Plan and the Woodstock Equestrian Park Master Plans.

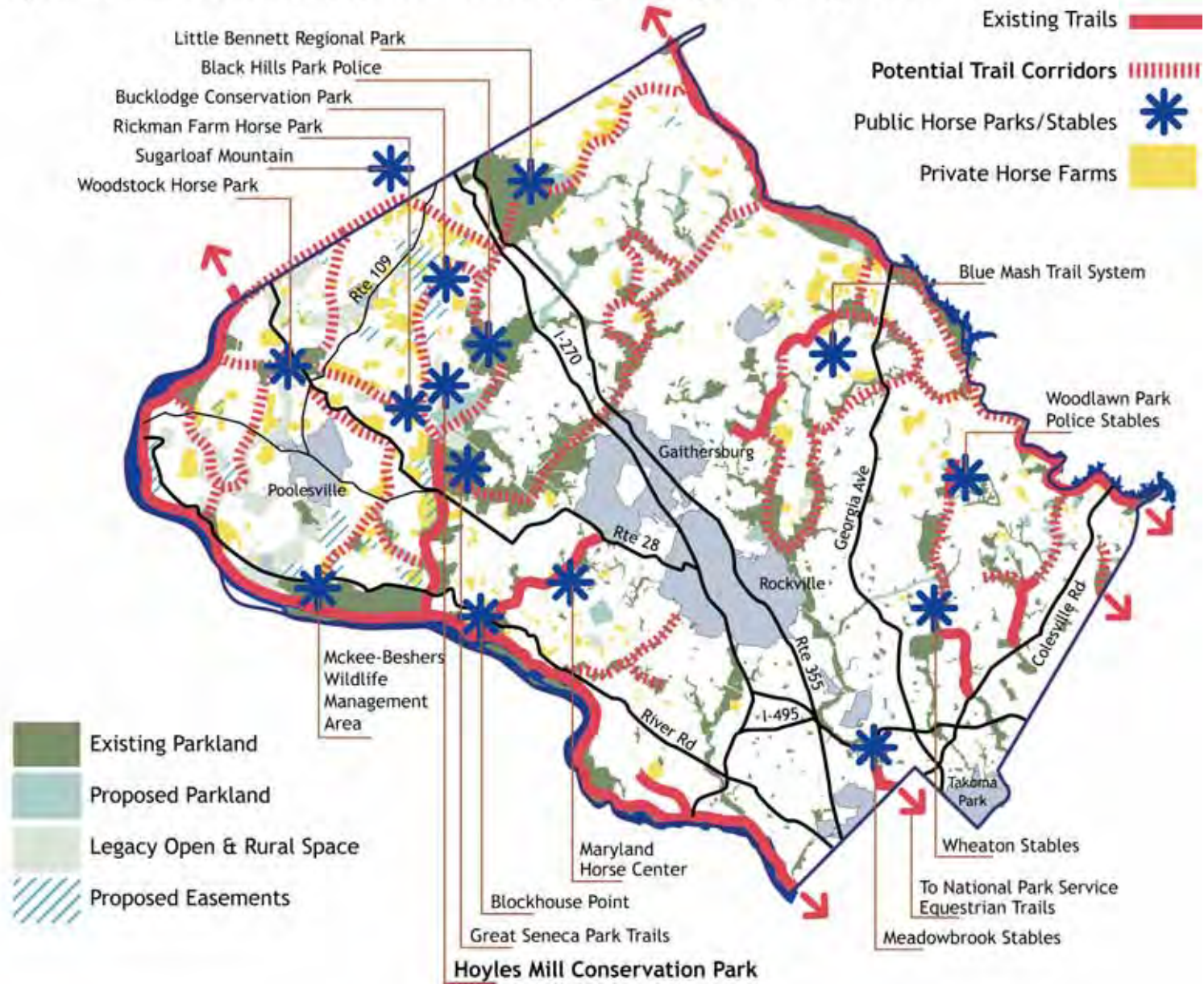
Proposed trail routes indicate desire line and should not be considered specific trail alignment. These routes require further study. Several of these routes are being studied and relevant master plans will determine the nature and location of the trail. Alignments will be selected and developed pursuant to the trail implementation recommendations set forth in the Plan text, the Plan Implementation Guide and applicable Local, State and Federal regulations. For further information on trail corridors and Plan Policies, please contact the Montgomery County Park and Planning Department at (301) 495-4568.

THIS MAP IS NOT A TRAIL GUIDE
This map is a planning tool. Many of the routes identified on the map are simply proposed and not open to the public for any purpose. For copies of the maps showing existing trails that are available for public use, contact The Parks Public Affairs Office at (301) 495-2503.



- Existing/Proposed
- Natural Surface Recreation Trails 
- Hard Surface Recreation Trails 
- Non-Park Connectors
- Bikeways 
- Other 
- Generalized Areas Proposed for Future Park Acquisition 
- On Road Scenic Bike Routes 
- Regional/Recreational Destinations 

Equestrian Trail Corridors in Montgomery County, MD



Trails

- ❑ Construct a shared use natural surface trail, open to all non-motorized uses, in the general location of the Hoyles Mill Trail as shown on the Natural Surface Trail Map. Part of this trail will utilize the closed section of Hoyles Mill Road, from south of its intersection with White Ground Road to the WSSC pump station south of Little Seneca Creek. This trail will connect South Germantown Recreation Park with the future Boyds Local Park and Black Hill Regional Park.
- ❑ Construct and maintain an ADA accessible trail surface along the closed road section of Trail A north of the ford across Little Seneca Creek.
- ❑ Construct a pedestrian/cyclist bridge across the Little Seneca Creek at the Hoyles Mill Road ford. The bridge shall be constructed in a manner that it will allow access to park maintenance vehicles.
- ❑ Explore construction of an ADA accessible fishing area where Trail A reaches the Hoyles Mill Road ford in Little Seneca Creek.
- ❑ Maintain the existing network of natural surface trails that are located west of Hoyles Mill Road for use by hikers and equestrians only, shown as Little Seneca Creek Trail on the Natural Surface Trail Map. Note: M-NCPPC will not maintain sections of this trail that are located on private property.
- ❑ Close and/or re-route sections of the Little Seneca Creek Trail to protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- ❑ Construct a natural surface trail for hikers and equestrians only in the general location of the Prickly Ash Trail as shown on the Natural Surface Trail Map. This trail will connect White Ground Road with the Little Seneca Creek Trail.
- ❑ Construct a new natural surface trail for hikers and equestrians only in the general location of the Diabase Trail as shown on the Natural Surface Trail Map. This trail will connect the Little Seneca Creek Trail with the Hoyles Mill Trail and will be located as close as possible to White Ground Road to avoid fragmentation of the park's interior forest. Part of the Diabase Trail follows an existing trail between the Little Seneca Creek Trail and White Ground Road. The new portion of the Diabase Trail should be constructed at such time as the 13.42-acre property along the west side of Hoyles Mill Road is ever acquired for addition to HMCP.
- ❑ Construct a new natural surface loop trail for hikers and equestrians only in the general location of the Giant Swallowtail Trail as shown on the Natural Surface Trail Map.

- ❑ Construct a new natural surface trail for hikers only in the general location of Fishing Access Trail as shown on the Natural Surface Trail Map. This trail will provide fishing access to the Little Seneca Creek.
- ❑ Inspect proposed trail routes prior to construction with Black Hill area park managers and Natural Resources Management, Park Planning and Resource Analysis, and Historic Preservation staff, to avoid critical resources.
- ❑ Install 5-inch concrete filled steel bollards at the following 3 trail entrances to prevent motorized vehicles from entering trails:
 - a. Hoyles Mill Trail where it leaves the trailhead parking area;
 - b. Diabase Trail where it enters HMCP from White Ground Road;
 - c. Prickly Ash Trail where it leaves the Trailhead parking area.
- ❑ Close any observed trails created by ATV's, and other undesirable trails that are not part of this plan.
- ❑ Construct and maintain all trails in a manner consistent with M-NCPPC trail construction guidelines.

Note: Trail use designations are subject to change due to seasonal conditions or future consideration according to the judgment of the park manager in consultation with other M-NCPPC staff.

Parking

- ❑ Construct a gravel parking area within the cleared area along the east side of White Ground Road at the intersection with Hoyles Mill Road to provide trailhead parking for the proposed Hoyles Mill Trail. This parking area will serve as the main entrance to HMCP. It will accommodate 10 to 12 vehicles and allow room to park and turn around 2 horse trailers. A sediment and erosion control permit will be required if construction disturbance is greater than 5,000 square feet.
- ❑ Construct a gravel parking area along the east side of White Ground Road within the meadow just north of the PEPCO power line property to provide trailhead parking for the proposed Prickly Ash Trail. This parking area will accommodate 4 to 6 vehicles and allow room to park and turn around 2 horse trailers, but will not exceed 5,000 square feet in size.
- ❑ Construct a gravel parking area along the north side of Hoyles Mill Road near its intersection with Bubbling Springs Road in the King's Crossing subdivision. The parking area can be constructed as a gravel pull-off. The parking area will accommodate 3 to 4 vehicles and will not exceed 5,000 square feet in size. It will provide trailhead parking for the proposed Fishing Access Trail.

- ❑ Construct a small gravel parking area along the west side of the closed section of Hoyles Mill Road at a location north of the proposed road closure gate. The parking area will accommodate 3 to 4 vehicles and not exceed 5,000 square feet in size. It will serve as trailhead parking for the proposed ADA accessible section of the Hoyles Mill Trail. It will be constructed at such time as the 13.42-acre property along the west side of Hoyles Mill Road is ever acquired for addition to HMCP.
- ❑ Designate a portion of the existing paved parking area near the dairy barn in South Germantown Recreation Park as trailhead parking for the proposed Hoyles Mill Trail.
- ❑ Install standard metal gates (sizes to be determined) for closing the entrances to all proposed gravel parking areas.
- ❑ Inspect proposed parking areas prior to construction with Black Hill area park managers and Natural Resources Management, Park Planning and Resource Analysis, and Historic Preservation staff, to avoid critical resources.

Signage

- ❑ Install standard wood M-NCPPC “brown and white” park entrance signs at the proposed four new gravel parking areas to identify public access to HMCP. The signs should also credit the State of Maryland’s GreenPrint Program and the County’s Legacy Open Space Program for their role in acquiring the park.
- ❑ Construct wood information kiosks at the trailhead parking areas for proposed Hoyles Mill, Prickly Ash, and Fishing Access Trails, and the parking area for the proposed ADA accessible section of Hoyles Mill Trail. Also, construct a wood information kiosk where the Diabase Trail enters the park from White Ground Road. The kiosks will provide space to post the park’s rules and regulations, and other metal regulatory signs best suited for this type of park.
- ❑ Use the existing information kiosk at the trailhead parking area in South Germantown Recreation Park to inform patrons of the proposed shared use Hoyles Mill Trail that leads to HMCP.
- ❑ Develop a comprehensive trail signage plan for HMCP. The plan will identify the type and location of all directional, mile marker, and user designation signs, as well as trail blazes.

Annual Maintenance

Table 7.						
Maintenance Task To Be Completed	Frequency of Task	Materials Needed	# of People To Do Task	# Hours Per Person To Do Task	Total # of Man Hours	Notes
Trail maintenance	4 X year (Black Hill Area) Includes 2 X year inspection by Park Planning and Resource Analysis and Natural Resources Management staff, once in late spring and once in late Summer for assessing negative impacts of trail use on vegetation, wildlife, and water quality.	None	2 (Black Hill Area)	16 (Black Hill Area)	128 (Black Hill Area)	1) Trail surfaces and adjacent areas will be visually inspected for hazards, excessive wear and tear, vandalism, washouts, etc., and be repaired as appropriate. 2) Trails that are not part of approved trail plan will be closed as will ATV created trails. 3) Trees adjacent to trails will be inspected for dead trees and hazardous limbs, and tree crew will be contacted for removal of dead trees or hazardous limbs. Where appropriate dead trees will be pruned in a manner that allows one-third of the trunk to remain standing to create bird habitat.
Repair metal gates at parking area entrances	Estimated 12 X year	Metal Pipe	1 (Central Maintenance)	3 (Central Maintenance)	36 (Central Maintenance)	
Repair gravel parking areas	2 X year -Winter only	Gravel	3 (Black Hill Area)	12 (Black Hill Area)	72 (Black Hill Area)	Potholes, ruts and other disturbed areas in gravel parking areas will be replenished with gravel and re-graded.
Spray for weeds in parking areas	2 X year- Summer only	Herbicide	1 (Black Hill Area)	2 (Black Hill Area)	4 (Black Hill Area)	A pre/post emergent herbicide will be used to treat weeds within the gravel parking area as well as around entrance gates. This is a preventative measure to keep vegetation from taking over.
Repair and repaint wooden park signs	1 X year - Winter only	Paint	2 (Black Hill Area)	24 (Black Hill Area)	48 (Black Hill Area)	1) All signs will be legible, secure and maintained as originally designed. 2) Damaged or missing signs will be repaired or replaced. 3) Wood signs will be repainted. 4) Vegetation will be removed from signs or posts. 5) Sign posts will be secured and straightened. 6) Dirt will be removed from signs.
Weed-eat parking areas	4 X year		3 (Black Hill Area)	1 (Black Hill Area)	12 (Black Hill Area)	

Implementation Cost Estimate (in 2004 Dollars)

Table 8. Central Maintenance Division, Trades/Construction Group Operating Budget Impact (OBI).		
	Start-up Costs: Install bollards at trail entrances	Annual Costs: None
Personnel Services	\$600	\$0
Supplies and Materials	\$0	\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$600	\$0
Workyears	0.01	0.00

Table 9. County-wide Planning Division, Park Planning and Resource Analysis OBI		
	Start-up Costs: 1. Construct new Trails: Little Seneca Creek, Prickly Ash, Diabase, Giant Swallowtail, and Fishing Access 2. Close and/or re-route sections of Little Seneca Creek Trail 3. Install 4 hiker / equestrian trail stream crossings – 2 on Little Seneca Creek Trail and 1 each on Diabase and Giant Swallowtail Trails 4. Install wood kiosks 5. Install trail signage	Annual Costs: None
Personnel Services	\$27,000	\$0
Supplies and Materials		\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$27,000	\$0
Workyears	0.52	0.00

Table 10. Northern Region, Black Hill Area OBI

	Start-up Costs: 1. Install park entrance signs 2. Install bollards at trail entrances 3. Close undesirable trails	Annual Costs: 1. Trail maintenance 2. Repair gravel parking areas 3. Spray and cut weeds in parking areas 4. Repair and re-paint park signage
Personnel Services	\$2,700	\$6,600
Supplies and Materials	\$900	\$2,580
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Chargeback	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$3,600	\$9,180
Workyears	0.05	0.13

Table 11. Capital Budget for Trails and Public Access Plan: Approved FY05-FY10 CIP

Project Description	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Unscheduled Expenditures
Trails – Natural Surface, PDF # 768673							
Construct two Hoyles Mill Trail stream crossings - at ford and across tributary - and coordinate contracts with stream restoration work					\$150,000		
Construct four hiker/equestrian stream crossings - two on Little Seneca Trail and one each on Diabase and Giant Swallowtail Trails (supplies and materials only)							\$105,000
Construct four gravel parking areas			\$60,460				
Construct and install gates at entrances to parking areas			\$4,620				
Construct wood kiosks and trail signage (supplies and materials only)			\$11,500				

VIII. Park Operations Plan

The following is a list of recommended actions to address operational issues identified following the purchase of HMCP for securing the property as part of the M-NCPPC park system. These include both initial or “start-up” projects and annual maintenance tasks. Project implementation will be handled by Black Hill Area staff in coordination with staff from Central Maintenance Division, surveyors from the Park Development Division, and the Park Police Division’s Patrol Section.

Start-up Projects

- ❑ Install M-NCPPC standard metal “No Hunting” signs along the park’s boundary, but only where it borders private property and public roads.
- ❑ Construct metal road closure gates across Hoyles Mill Road at the following two locations that are indicated on the attached management plan map:
 - a. South of the intersection with White Ground Road beyond the last house on the west side of Hoyles Mill Road, and south of the proposed ADA accessible trailhead parking area, to be constructed with permission of owner of 13.42 acre property along the west side of Hoyles Mill Road or at such time as that property is purchased for addition to HMCP;
 - b. Just west of the intersection with Bubbling Springs Road in the King’s Crossing subdivision.
- ❑ Authorize DPW&T to remove the temporary barriers across Hoyles Mill Road at such time as the permanent metal closure gates are installed.
- ❑ Repair washed out sections of Hoyles Mill Road and install culverts.
- ❑ Remove and dispose of deer hunting tree stands.
- ❑ Conduct a “points on line” survey of the park’s boundary. Install MNCPPC standard metal “green and white” poles along the park’s boundary only where it borders privately owned property. Do not place poles along the park’s public road frontage.

Annual Maintenance

Table 12.

Maintenance Task To Be Completed	Frequency of Task	Materials Needed	# of People To Do Task	# Hours Per Person To Do Task	Total # of Man Hours	Notes
Trash dump removal	2 X year	30 cubic yard roll-off container	4 (Black Hill Area)	16 (Black Hill Area)	128 (Black Hill Area)	Park will be inspected for dumpsites consisting of construction trash, household trash, abandoned vehicles. Sites will be removed no less than twice a year, or sooner if necessary for safety reasons.
Repairs to Hoyles Mill Road	6 X year	80 tons gravel	3 (Black Hill Area)	16 (Black Hill Area)	288 (Black Hill Area)	
Monitor for ground litter	12 X year (Once per month)	None	1 (Black Hill Area)	1 (Black Hill Area)	12 (Black Hill Area)	Monitor for ground litter left by visitors to the park, especially at parking areas
Repair metal gates at parking area entrances	Estimated 12 X year	Metal Pipe	1 (Central Maintenance)	3 (Central Maintenance)	36 (Central Maintenance)	

Park Police

- Increase Park Police presence in HMCP. Patrol access points and trails to prevent illegal uses, with particular emphasis on ending ATV use and dumping in the park.
- Conduct “special” checks of the park during hunting seasons to prevent illegal hunting.

Implementation Cost Estimates (in 2004 Dollars)

Table 13. Central Maintenance Division, Trades/Construction Group Operating Budget Impact (OBI)		
	Start-Up Costs: 1 Construct Gates Across Hoyles Mill Road In 2 Locations	ANNUAL COSTS: 1 Repairs To Metal Gates
Personnel Services	\$2,300	\$1,440
Supplies and Materials		\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Charge back	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$2,300	\$1,440
Work years	0.04	0.02

Table 14. Park Development Division, Engineering Section Surveyors OBI		
	Start-up Costs: 1 Survey park boundary and install “green-and-whites”	Annual Costs: None
Personnel Services	\$45,000	\$0
Supplies and Materials		\$0
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Charge back	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$45,000	\$0
Work years	0.69	0

**Table 15. Park Police Division,
Patrol Section OBI**

	Start-up Costs: Park patrols	Annual Costs: Park patrols
Personnel Services	\$960	\$960
Supplies and Materials	\$290	\$290
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Charge back	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$1,250	\$1,250
Work years	0.02	0.02

**Table 16. Northern Region,
Black Hill Area OBI**

	Start-up Costs: Install "No Hunting" signs Repairs to Hoyles Mill Road Remove and dispose deer hunting tree stands	Annual Costs: Trash dump removal Repairs to metal gates Repairs to Hoyles Mill Road Monitor for ground litter
Personnel Services	\$3,800	\$10,700
Supplies and Materials		\$1,900
Other Services & Charges	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Charge back	\$0	\$0
Total expenditure	\$3,800	\$12,600
Work years	0.07	0.21

Table 17. Capital Budget for Park Operations Plan: Approved FY05-FY10 CIP

Project Description	Previous Expenditures (FY03-04)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
Legacy Open Space, PDF# 018710*							
Construct metal gates across Hoyles Mill Road in two locations (supplies and materials only)	\$1,500						
Install "No Hunting" and other signs (supplies and materials only)	\$1,600						
Initial repairs to Hoyles Mill Road (supplies and materials only)	\$2,000	\$500					
Survey park boundary and install "green-and-whites" (supplies and materials only)			\$2,000				

** The Legacy Open Space PDF has up to \$50,000 per year available for park operations start-up costs at parks purchased through the Legacy Open Space program.*

IX. Summary of Operating and Capital Budget Estimates (in 2004 Dollars)

Table 18. Summary of Operating Budget Impacts (OBI) Across Montgomery Parks Operating Divisions (in 2004 Dollars)*

	Initial/Start-up Costs:	Annual Costs:
Personnel Services	\$137,250	\$33,090
Supplies and Materials	\$15,220	\$5,520
Other Services & Charges	\$3,640	\$2,640
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0
Charge back	\$2,400	\$0
Total expenditure	\$158,510	\$41,250
Work years	2.25	0.61

*Central Maintenance Division, Countywide Planning Division – Park Fund, Enterprise Division, Natural Resources Division, Northern Region, Park Police Division, and Park Development Division

Table 19. Summary of Capital Budget: Approved FY05-FY10 CIP

Project Description	Previous expenditures (FY03-04)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Unscheduled Expenditures	Totals
Streambank Protection, PDF # 818571				\$90,000	\$210,000				\$300,000
Trails – Natural Surface, PDF # 768673				\$76,580		\$150,000		\$105,000	\$331,580
Legacy Open Space, PDF# 018710	\$5,100	\$500	\$2,000						\$7,600
Totals	\$5,100	\$500	\$2,000	\$166,580	\$210,000	\$150,000		\$105,000	\$639,180

X. Appendices

Appendix A: List of Maps

Appendix B: List of Charts

Appendix C: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Conservation Easement

Appendix D: Declaration of Covenants

Appendix E: Forest Stand Delineation

Appendix F: Plant Species List

Appendix G: Fauna List

Appendix H: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates List



HOYLES MILL CONSERVATION PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

