

A Proposal for Rustic Road Networks Based on Park Locations

Submitted by the Nominations Subcommittee of the Rustic Roads Commission:

Pam Burke, Sam Castleman, and Barbara Wyatt

December 16, 2024

The Nominations Subcommittee of the Rustic Roads Commission proposes focusing survey and nomination efforts of Candidate Roads in the vicinity of specific local, state, or federal parks. Several parks are surrounded by or in the vicinity of a network of Designated and Candidate Rustic Roads. In some cases, the roads travel through the parks. These networks could be the basis for organizing survey fieldwork, establishing priorities for surveys, and preparing nominations for the designation of Candidate Roads.

This brief explanation is intended to begin a conversation between the Nominations Subcommittee, the Rustic Roads Commission, and Frederick County staff. If Commissioners and Planning staff find favor with this strategy, the Nominations Subcommittee will seek support and advice from Mason Carter, who is the County Council representative to both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Rustic Roads Commission. With his support, the Nominations Committee would present the idea to Stacy Herbaugh, the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Rationale for the Proposal. The subcommittee believes that many county parks can be a natural hub for Rustic Road use because they offer parking, facilities, and attractions that bicyclists, hikers, birders, and others find necessary or useful. Various county divisions could also benefit from this strategy. The specialized maintenance work carried out by the Division of Public Works on Rustic and Candidate roads could be facilitated by the proximity of roads grouped to create networks. The Division of Parks and Recreation could use the Rustic Roads system to attract park users. Stewards of state and federal parks located in Frederick County may be interested partners.

The Division of Planning and Permitting could use park-based networks as an organizing principle for surveying, nominating, and promoting Rustic Road networks. Commissioners have discovered that the task of field inspecting proposed Candidate Roads is extremely time-consuming. To manage this huge task, a defined radius around selected parks could be used to contain and order field surveys of roads, establish priorities, and prepare nominations. The roads within a given network could be presented to the Commission and the County Council as a “nominated batch” (i.e. together). The survey and nomination of Candidate Roads that are not within a defined network remains important but could be considered separately.

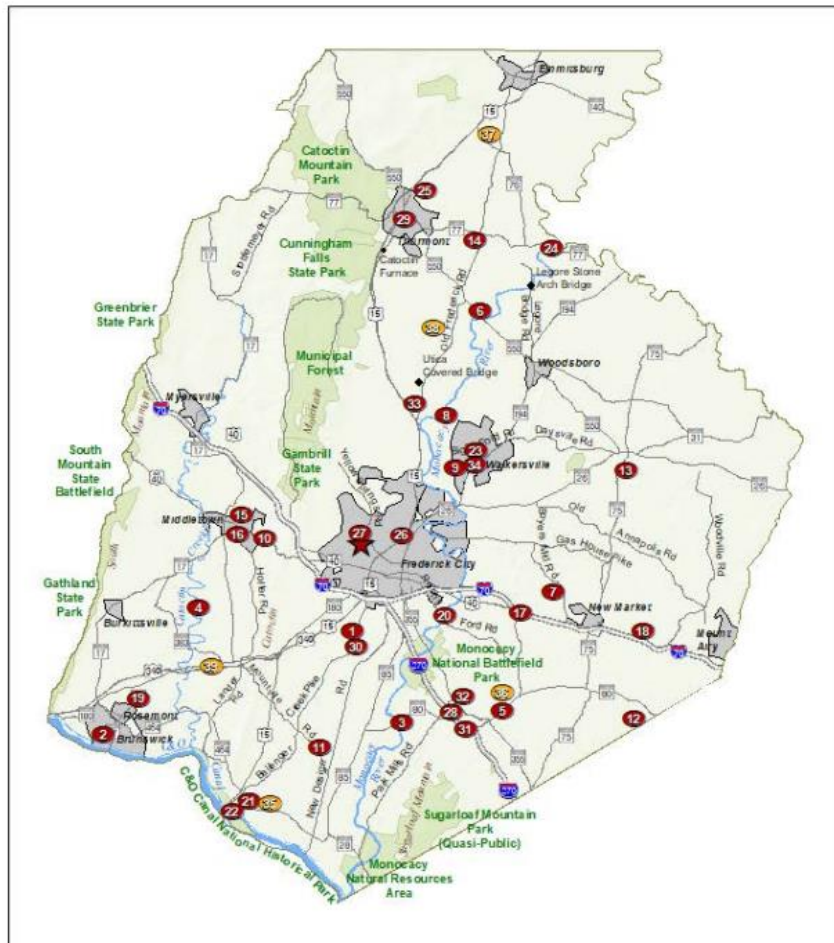
A Case Study. The Nominations Subcommittee studied an area anchored by Utica Park on Old Frederick Road and Kanode Farm Park on Stevens Road (under development). Both are

in DPW District 1, with a slight dip south into District 6. The area between these parks and to the north and west (with fewer roads south and east) features an impressive collection of largely connected Designated and Candidate Rustic Roads. They include Hessong Bridge Road, Black's Mill Road, Kelly's Store Road, Stevens Road, Wilhide Road, and others. Please see the attached map that shows the location of the two parks and the nearby Designated and Candidate Rustic Roads. Utica Park has been field tested as a rendezvous point for visiting the roads. The number of cars coming and going from the park on a Sunday in October was testimony to its popularity, and the benefits of uniting county parks and Rustic Roads as complimentary attractions were evident. The Subcommittee hopes that the Division of County Parks and Recreation would be a partner in promoting Rustic Roads as an additional recreational attraction.

Please consider this proposal and identify questions or concerns that should be discussed. We look forward to your comments.

Barbara, Pam, and Sam

STATE AND COUNTY PARKS IN FREDERICK COUNTY



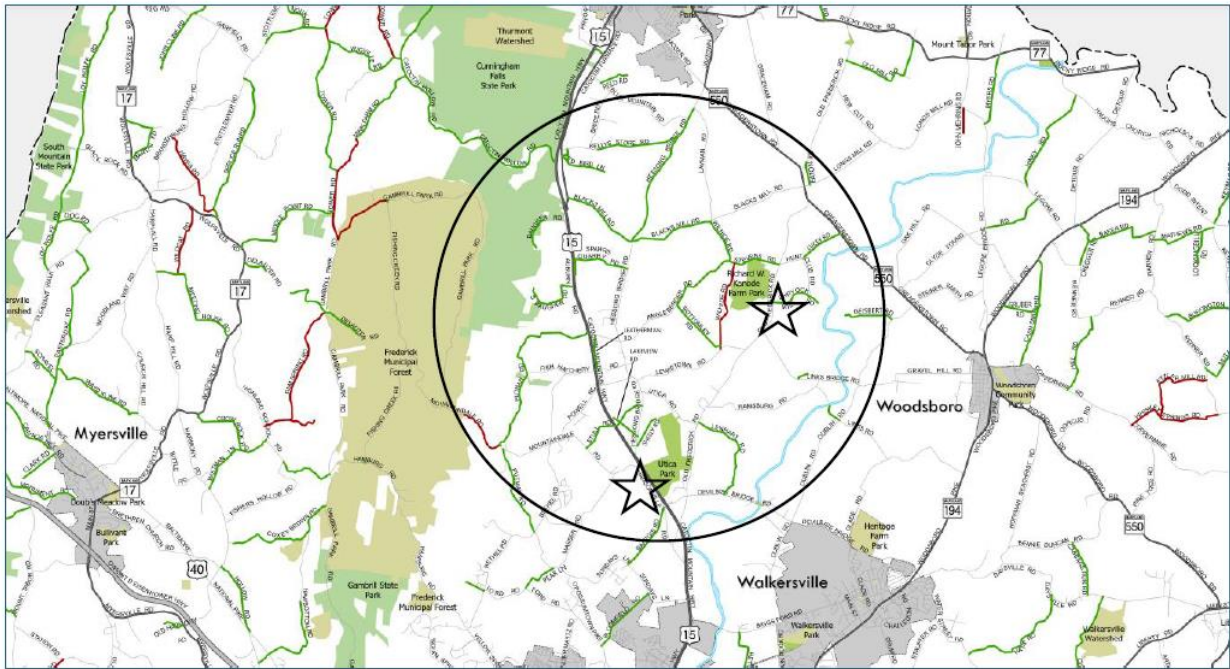
★ Parks Administration

1. Ballenger Creek Park
2. Brunswick Recreation Center
3. Buckeystown Park
4. Catoctin Creek Park
5. Centerville Recreation Center
6. Creagerstown Park
7. Deer Crossing Recreation Center
8. Devilbiss Bridge
9. Fountain Rock Park
10. Fountaindale Park
11. Green Hill Park
12. Kemptown Park
13. Libertytown Park
14. Loy's Station Park
15. Middletown Park
16. Middletown Recreation Center
17. Oakdale Recreation Center
18. Old National Pike District Park
19. Othello Regional Park
20. Pinecliff Park
21. Point of Rocks Park & Community Center
22. Point of Rocks Community Commons
23. Rock Creek Recreation Center
24. Rocky Ridge
25. Roddy Road Park
26. Rose Hill Manor Park
27. Scott Key Community Center
28. Sugarloaf Recreation Center
29. Thumont Recreation Center
30. Tuscarora Recreation Center
31. Urbana Park
32. Urbana District Park
33. Utica District Park
34. Walkersville Recreation Center

Future Facilities:

35. Calico Rocks Regional Park
36. Centerville Community Park
37. North County Regional Park
38. Richard W. Kanode Farm Park
39. Valley Recreation Center

Frederick County Designated and Candidate Rustic Roads and Local, State, and Federal Parks



County map segment showing a concentration of Designated and Candidate roads



Utica Park and Kanode Farm Park