

Preservation News

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Save the Date to Celebrate... the 75,000-Acre Milestone

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners is proud and excited to announce a future event celebrating the attainment of 75,000 acres of preserved agricultural land.

A Commissioner-directed community committee is planning the celebration to be held on **Saturday, October 16,**

2021, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Carroll County Farm Museum. The event is **free** to the public as part of the Farm Museum's Fall Harvest Celebration event. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the event.

Operating since 1980, Carroll County's Agricultural Land Preservation effort is the most successful in the State of Maryland, preserving more farms and more acres through the purchase of land preservation easements than any other county in Maryland. Carroll County's program also ranks among the nation's top five similar programs administered by local governments in the United States.

Within the next year, Carroll County will reach the milestone of 75,000 acres



preserved, 75% of its 100,000-acre goal. To celebrate this milestone, the Celebrating 75,000 Acres Preserved & Growing event will feature a special ceremony at 12:30 PM. Other related special events, exhibits, and attractions recognizing this agricultural preservation accomplishment will also be featured.

An educational campaign will accompany the event promoting the benefits of preservation to the community and the importance of "growing" preserved land

acreage to attain the remaining 25,000 acres.

Information about the event can be found on the county's webpage for this milestone celebration at celebratingagpres.carrollcountymd.gov. Updates will be announced closer to the event.

For more information about the Celebrating 75,000 Acres Preserved & Growing event, please contact Brenda Dinne by emailing bdinne@carrollcountymd.gov or calling 410-386-2140. 📞

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Four Programs Preserve Land in Carroll County

Carroll County citizens have always supported the preservation of agricultural land and the effort to preserve Carroll's rural heritage. Since 1980, both state and local funds have been used to permanently preserve farmland in Carroll.

This has been accomplished by working with landowners who want to retire the development potential of their land. Land is preserved by recording a deed of conservation easement in the county land records. A property restricted by a deed of

easement cannot be developed or converted to any use other than agriculture.

In Carroll, four programs are currently available to landowners countywide. The oldest program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Carroll County shares in funding this program.

In 2002, the County began offering a locally developed and funded program referred to as the

County "Ag Pres" Program. This program is a leader in innovation and flexibility in the state and nation. It offers two payment options – full payment at settlement or installment purchase. The installment purchase features tax-free interest payments over 20 years, at the rate of 5% of principal.

Another important program, also a leader in innovation, is the Critical Farms Program. This program offers purchase assistance of 52.5% of the purchase price or appraised value to qualifying farms. In

exchange, the owner places the farm under easement with the MALPF program.

Last, but not least, is the Rural Legacy Program, which is described on page 3 (See "New Rural Legacy Grant Awarded to Carroll").

To find out if your land is eligible for any of these programs and if funding is available, contact the Agricultural Land Preservation Program office at the email address or phone number on the back page. 📞



Dedicated Staff Ready to Serve You

Carroll County "Ag" Land Preservation has dedicated staff who have more than 30 years of combined experience and skills in the policies and practices of agricultural land preservation. They are each pleased to be serving one of the nation's most successful and renowned ag preservation programs.

Program manager Deborah "Deb" Bowers has been with Agricultural Land

Preservation since September 2011, first serving as Preservation Specialist under former program manager and New Windsor farmer, Ralph Robertson. She became program manager in 2014. She lives in Harford County on the farm owned by her family since 1946, which is preserved under the Harford County ag preservation program. She has more than 25 years of experience in land preservation in

Maryland and is co-author of "Holding Our Ground – Protecting America's Farms and Farmland." She is moderator and co-founder of the national Farmland Preservation Roundtable.

John Parker "J.P." Smith Jr. has served as Preservation Specialist since May 2015. J.P. majored in production management at the University of Maryland. Most importantly, however, he hails from a long line of

New Windsor dairy farmers and has many years of experience in dairy farming and crops. He lives with his wife, Krissy, and three children in historic Wakefield Mill, a stone's throw from Smith Road and the Smith family farms, which is preserved through several programs.

Deb and J.P. work diligently to help landowners who want to preserve their land find the program that works best for them.

Assisting them is Jackie Brathuhn, who manages daily office operations. She answers most of the questions that come in by phone daily. Jackie lives near Manchester on a farm preserved by her family. 📞



New Rural Legacy Grant Awarded to Carroll

The Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has been awarded a new grant of \$740,382 to preserve farm or natural lands in the county. The award was announced by the Maryland Board of Public Works in January.

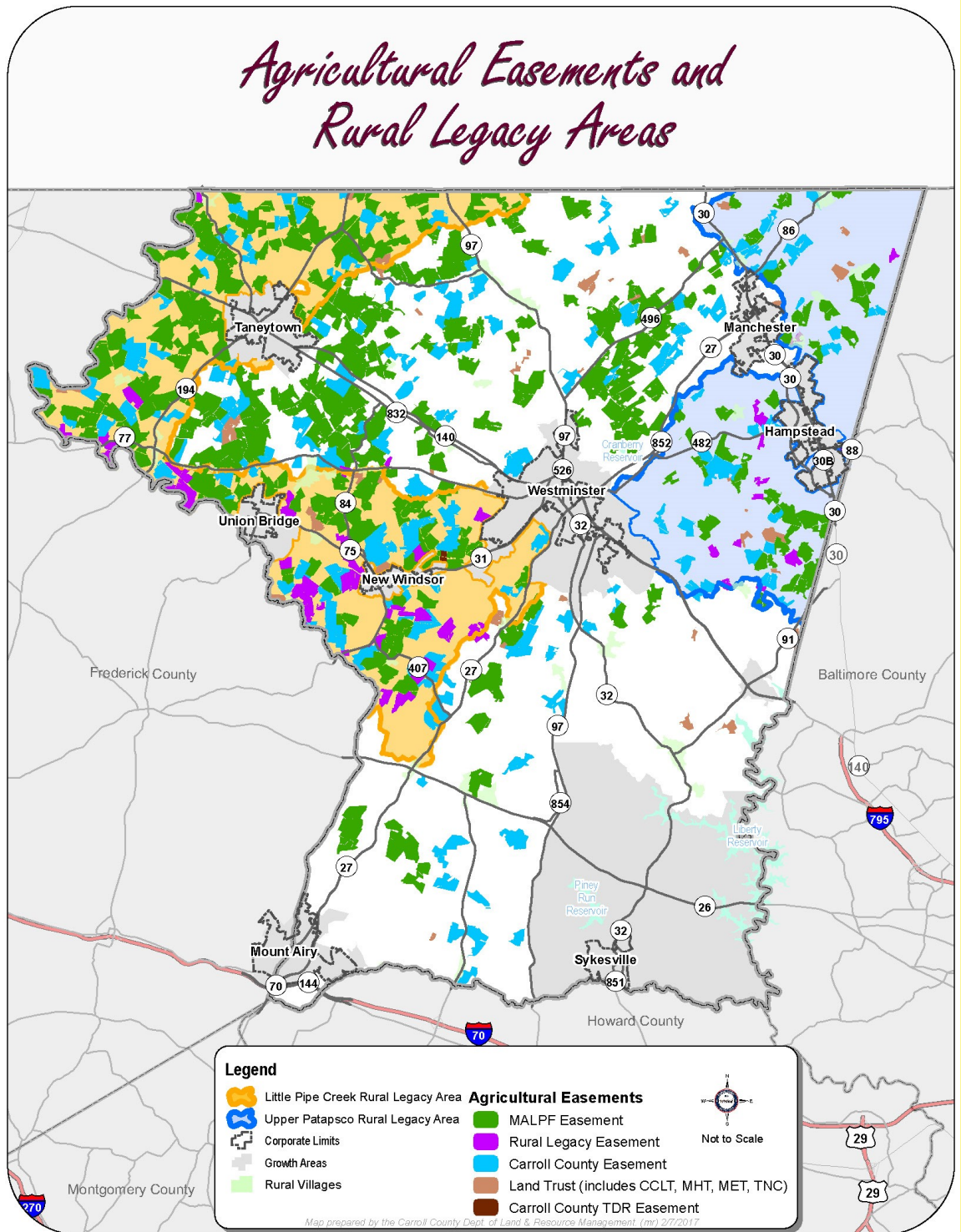
“We are about to preserve a 120-acre environmentally sensitive property near Finksburg, and we have received a half dozen applications for these funds,” said Deborah Bowers, Program Manager.

The Maryland Rural Legacy Program was created in 1998 to help local agricultural land preservation efforts.

To date, Carroll has been awarded more than \$20 million in grants from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which operates the program.

Those funds have preserved nearly 5,000 acres within the county’s two designated Rural Legacy Areas (RLA). The Upper Patapsco RLA lies within the county’s northeast region, and the Little Pipe Creek RLA encompasses the northwest region of Carroll.

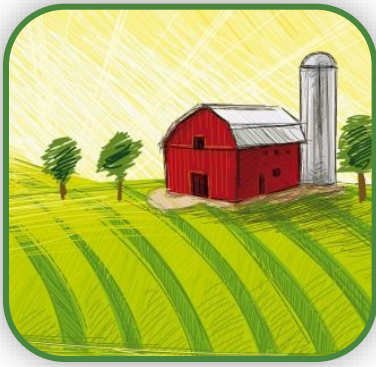
Most Rural Legacy properties are working farms, but many are lands with sensitive environmental features that may or may not qualify for other ag land preservation programs.



To learn more about the Rural Legacy Program, contact Deborah Bowers at the Agricultural Land Preservation Program office at the email address or phone number on the back page. 🚗

Did you Know...?

- More than 1,500 acres were preserved in Carroll in 2019
- 680 farms have been preserved in Carroll County
- Carroll has preserved more farms and more acres than any county in Maryland
- Only one county in the U.S. – nearby Lancaster in Pa. – has preserved more acres than Carroll through easement purchases



Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Program

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To receive future newsletters by email, please email your name and email address to:

carrollagpres@carrollcountymd.gov



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/land-resource-management/agricultural-land-preservation/



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