

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

MCPB 01/08/2004

ITEM# B

December 30, 2003

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board
VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Planning Division J.Z.
FROM: Lyn Coleman, Trail Planning Supervisor (301-650-4391) *lyc*
SUBJECT: **APPROVAL to Change the Name of the Northwest Branch Trail Corridor to the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor**

Background

The Countywide Park Trails Plan identifies a 21 mile trail corridor in the eastern part of the county as the Northwest Branch Trail Corridor (see Figure 1). The Plan recommends studying and planning "the Northwest Branch Corridor comprehensively as a natural surface trail system."

Staff initiated the Trail Corridor Study process with a community meeting on October 29, 2003.

As we discussed at that meeting, a name that is more descriptive than Northwest Branch is needed for the corridor because the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River only flows through the lower half of the trail corridor. North of Maryland Route 108, the watershed drains to the Hawlings River. A name that unifies both the northern and southern portions of the trail corridor is needed.

Staff Recommendation

Staff is recommending the corridor be renamed the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor for the following reasons:

1. As shown in Figure 2, naming the corridor the Rachel Carson Greenway would link two important resources related to Rachel Carson:
 - a. The 650 acre Rachel Carson Conservation Park is located in the northern part of the trail corridor. The Planning Board named the park in honor of 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 toward conservation of our natural environment."

- b. Rachel Carson lived in the southern portion of the corridor when she wrote **Silent Spring** in 1962, a book which 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.
2. Re-naming the trail corridor in honor of Rachel Carson would be an appropriate tribute at an appropriate location to one of the most famous and influential pioneers of the modern environmental movement. This natural surface trail corridor offers an ideal opportunity to celebrate Carson's environmental principles and her love of nature.
3. Establishing public-private partnerships to help develop trail amenities and trail interpretive programs would be facilitated because of the popularity and name recognition associated with Rachel Carson.
4. The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor (if approved) in association with Rachel Carson Conservation Park are the acknowledgements to Rachel Carson in the park system

Relation to Planning Board Guidelines for Naming or Renaming Parks

The Park Naming Policy and associated guidelines were approved in 1998 (see Figure 3). The policy states parks are generally named for a "geographic area or a natural historic feature" but "as appropriate, parks and areas and facilities within parks may be named to reflect...persons of historic or outstanding civic service."

Since the greenway corridor crosses multiple geographies and watersheds, finding an appropriate natural or geographic related name is problematic. Staff is recommending the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor in accord with item 2 of the Guidelines that states park names can be based on "significant historic contributions."

When the Planning Board named the Rachel Carson Conservation Park, they hoped to remind present and future generations "of the great debt we owe Rachel Carson ...and of our continuing responsibilities toward conservation of our natural environment." Associating the greenway corridor with Rachel Carson is consistent with this objective.

The Park Naming Guidelines state "requests for naming or renaming parks....shall be presented to the Planning Board" for approval.

Relation to Trails and Parks within the Corridor

Changing in the name of the Trail Corridor will not affect the names of any individual parks or trails currently located in the Corridor. Any changes to the names of individual parks or trails or facilities will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

LC:ccq

COUNTYWIDE PARK TRAIL CONCEPT: NORTHWEST BRANCH CORRIDOR

Figure 69

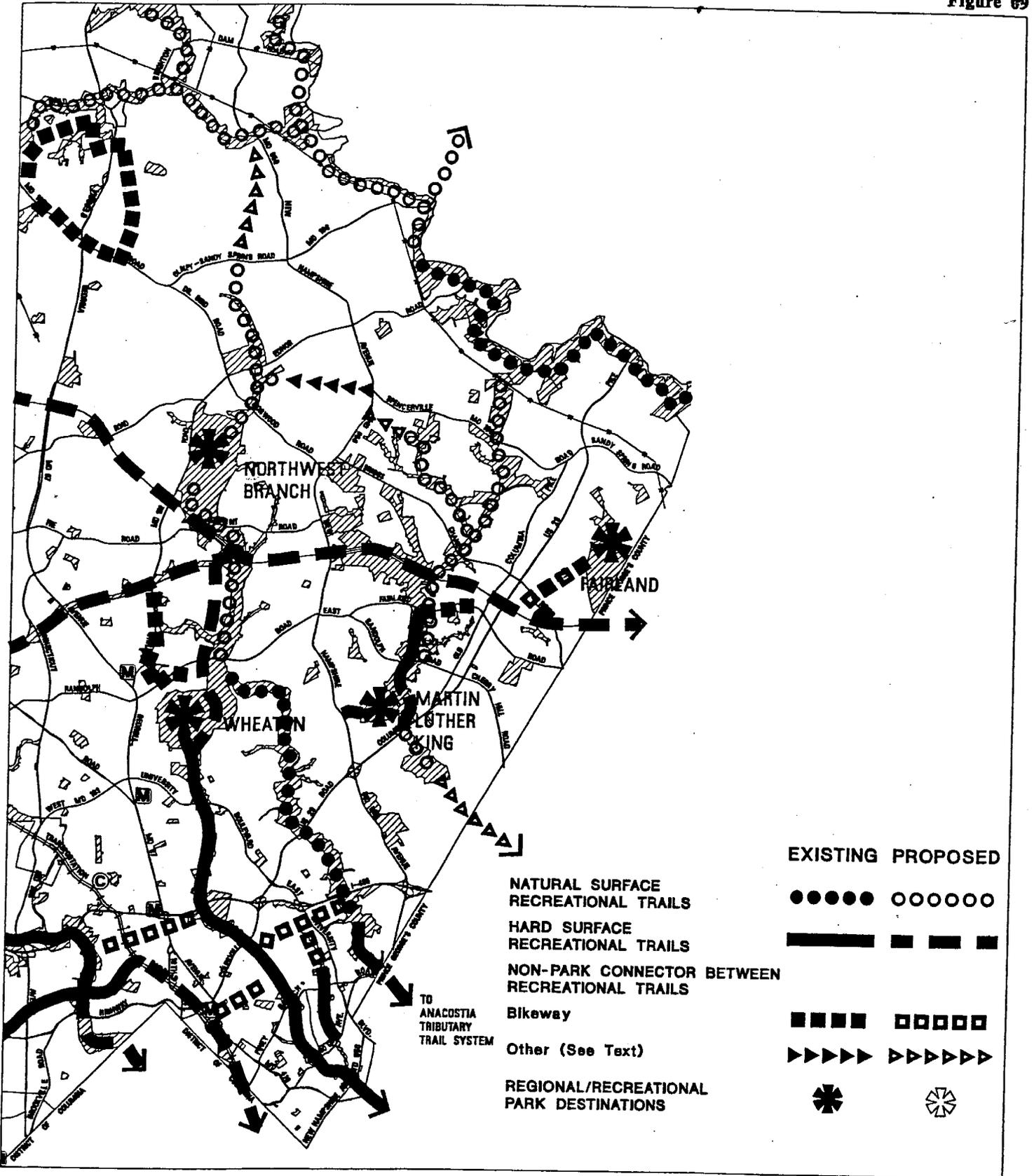


Fig. 2

Area Recommended To Be Re-named Rachel Carson Greenway Trail Corridor

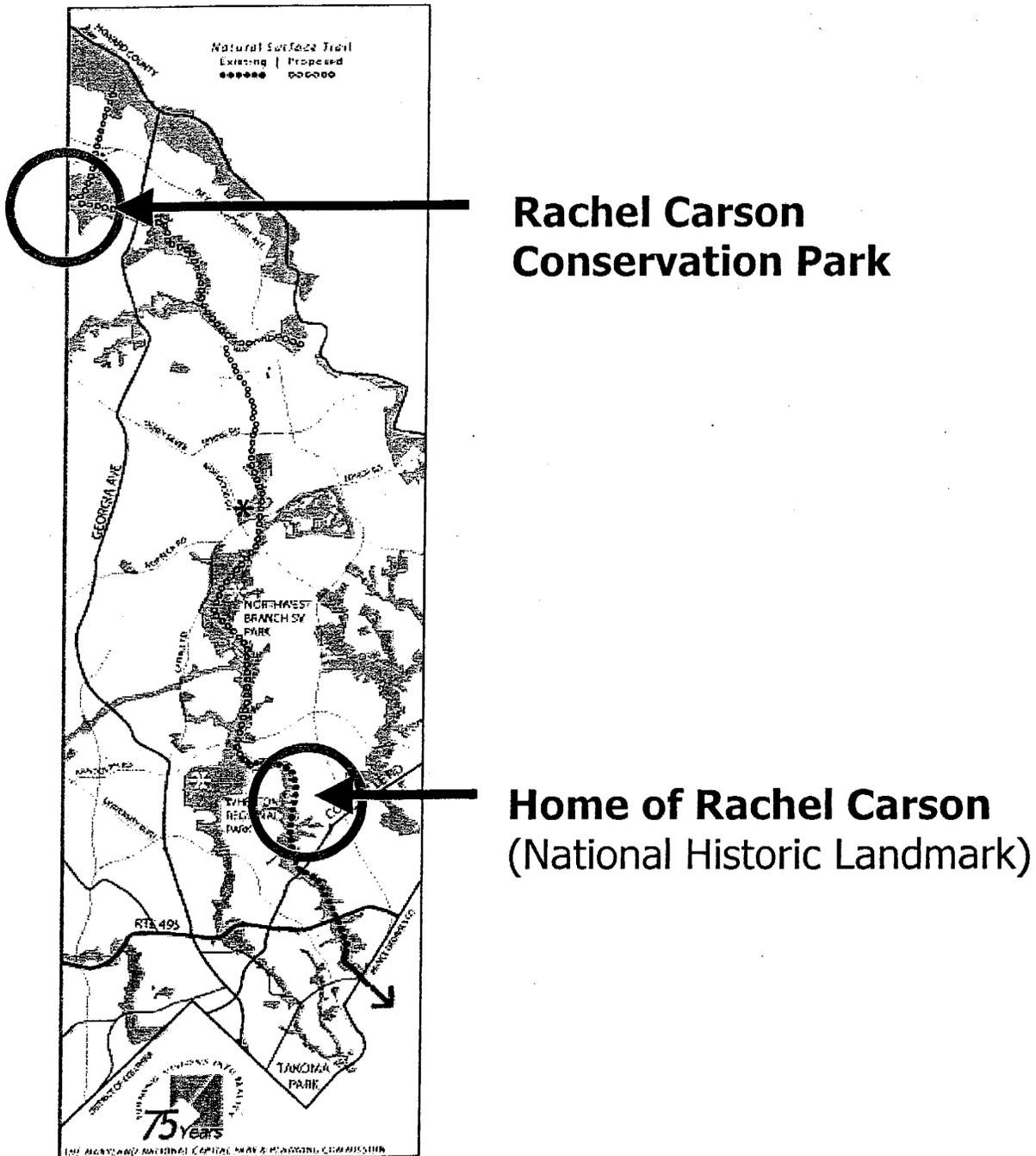


Fig. 3



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

MCPB Lunch-time Item
October 22, 1998

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery County Planning Board
From: Donald K. Cochran
Subject: Park Naming Policy: Guidelines Recommendation
Date: October 22, 1998

The Policy

Montgomery County parks and areas and facilities within parks are generally named for a geographic area or a natural historic feature, but, as appropriate, parks and areas and facilities within parks may be named to reflect local folk usage, or significant historic, material, or financial contributions to the Commission, or persons of historic or outstanding civic service. Markers may be placed in parks and on park facilities honoring or memorializing individuals and organizations.

Approved: September 10, 1998

GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATION

Guidelines for Naming or Renaming Parks

Guidelines for Naming or Renaming Areas in Parks and Facilities in Parks

Guidelines for Memorials and Dedications in Parks and on Park Structures and Facilities

1. Requests for naming or renaming parks, and naming or renaming areas and facilities in parks, and establishing memorials in parks and on park structures and facilities, shall be reviewed by staff of the Department of Park and Planning. A report with recommendations shall be presented to the Planning Board within sixty (60) days of the initial request.

Guidelines Recommendation, page 2

2. Staff recommendations regarding the naming or renaming of parks, and areas and facilities in parks, shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - A. Recognized geographic names
 - B. Natural historic features
 - C. Folk usage
 - D. Significant historic contributions
 - E. Significant material contributions
 - F. Significant financial contributions (at least 25 percent of the total project cost)
 - G. Persons of historic service to the County or Commission
 - H. Persons of outstanding civic service to the County or Commission
3. Memorials or dedications may consist of (a) structures, such as buildings, or facilities, such as athletic fields, that may be named in memory of individuals and organizations as complete entities, or (b) memorial or dedication plaques or signs on or inside structures and facilities.
4. The name of a memorial or dedication must be approved by the Planning Board.
5. Upon approval by the Planning Board, letters of agreement shall be exchanged between the Commission (or the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc.) and the person(s) or organization(s) requesting a memorial or dedication, authorizing and designating responsibility for the planning, design, construction and funding of the memorial or dedication.
6. Staff recommendations to the Planning Board regarding the establishment of memorials and dedications in parks and on park structures and facilities shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - A. The location, design, and configuration of a proposed memorial or dedication shall be in keeping with the park purpose and usage and shall not interfere with public use of the park or park facility.
 - B. Department of Park and Planning staff shall participate in the planning, design, and construction of a memorial or dedication, if relevant.
 - C. All costs associated with a proposed memorial or dedication, including planning, design, construction, utilities, and maintenance (if significant) shall be the sole responsibility of the person(s) or organization(s) requesting the memorial or dedication. Full funding for the memorial or dedication shall be paid to the Commission or to the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, Inc., prior to the start of planning, design, and construction.
 - E. In all cases involving memorials or dedications, only the memorial or dedication itself may be named. The park name shall remain unchanged.

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