



BULLETIN



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November 1975

Lake Roland Restoration Action Phase Report

By George C. Wills — Committee Chairman

The major financial commitment by the State of Maryland to restore Lake Roland has been made. The State's Board of Public Works has approved \$500,000 in Program Open Space Funds for the Lake's restoration. The actual starting date for dredging has not yet been established until final recommendations and decisions are made on how to dispose of the approximately 200,000 cubic yards of silt and mud that has filled up portions of the Lake, particularly at its northern end.

Douglas Tawney, Director of the Baltimore City Parks and Recreation Department, has reported several options under consideration for the removal of the silt and spoil that has accumulated in Lake Roland. In discussions with representatives from the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association, Mr. Tawney has identified the following as possibilities for silt disposal, once it has been removed from the bottom of the Lake:

1. Pipe the spoil along the Jones Falls Valley and dump into a 160 foot deep quarry on the site of a proposed new city development near Cold Spring Lane and the Jones Falls Expressway. This option would appeal to Ruxton area residents, because less silt would have to be placed in disposal areas around the Lake. Mr. Tawney has indicated that this option is being explored thoroughly.

Silt Removal Plan

2. Dump the silt into two disposal areas recommended in the Whitman-Requardt study. After drying, the silt could then be removed by hauling for possible subsequent use as a landfill cover, topsoil, or fill dirt.

3. Reclaim sand and gravel from the Lake's bottom for commercial sale to construction projects.

Hittman and Associates is currently advising the Baltimore Recreation and Parks Department on the feasibility of these various options for silt removal. Representatives from the Lake Roland Watershed Foundation and your Association's Lake Roland Committee will be working closely with the government

agencies to insure that dredging and silt removal operations have as little impact as possible on the homes and residential areas around Lake Roland. Increased interest has been expressed in the possibility of piping silt to the Cold Spring area and therefore reducing the problems of silt storage around the Lake.

Early Dredging Likely

If the various technical problems are resolved, it is possible that dredging operations could begin this winter. Future issues of The Bulletin and special reports to the community will be made as specific developments occur.

It is hoped that the cooperation pledged by the Ellicott Machine Corporation and other assisting organizations will result in reduced costs of dredging and silt removal operations.

The Ruxton-Riderwood community pledges its full cooperation to the program being undertaken by the City Recreation and Parks Department. Your Association and the Lake Roland Roundation will continue its best efforts to insure that the scenic and wildlife characteristics will be preserved as part of Lake Roland's unique beauty. As the beginnings of the silt removal progress, the dredging phase indicates that major progress is being made towards the ultimate restoration of Lake Roland.

Oles Property Home Development In Progress

Progress is noted in the construction of the homes on the former Oles property on Ruxton Road near Bellona Avenue. The homes, attractive in design, are of two story construction and will add to the improvement of the neighborhood. Work is now proceeding on the private road on which the dwellings face. David and Hope are the owners of the development.

Many of the old trees that are on this property have been preserved, thus enhancing the attractiveness of the development and the rural background of Ruxton.

President Cites Current Association Problems

The residents of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area recognized the need for community improvement many years ago. For this purpose, they associated themselves in a society known as the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc., in order to promote the health, education, safety and general welfare of the community. Since the Association was formed, it has had many residents serve on the Board of Governors and many elected to hold office, but its purpose has stayed the same.

To promote its aim, the Association has several standing committees to deal with reoccurring matters. Although alphabetically low on the list, the work of the Zoning Committee now demands the most important responsibilities. This committee, chaired by Dryden Hall, will have two major jobs this year. One is supervision of our continuous battle with developers who attempt to rezone the large and not-so-large tracts in the area for high density or even business use. Due in large measure to the excellent support of the membership, the Association has been successful in stopping such rezoning efforts in the last few years.

County Zoning Maps

New comprehensive zoning maps for Baltimore County are being prepared for adoption by the County Council in the spring of 1976. The second job of the Zoning Committee will be to monitor the process of drawing these maps to assure that we maintain or improve current zoning in our area. All residents of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area are strongly encouraged to attend the hearings before the County Council early in 1976; these will be announced in the newspapers.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Gordon Croft, is the Association's liaison with the neighborhoods that bound our area. This liaison is important since zoning changes outside our neighborhood can affect us by bringing more zoning change pressure to bear in our community and increasing traffic and commercial support services.

Lake Roland is the center of our com-

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New County Comprehensive Rezoning Program Reviewed, Meetings Scheduled

"Comprehensive" rezoning differs from the more familiar "Petition" rezoning in that "Comprehensive" involves County Council action on all the laws in the county in one process while the "Petition" deals with individual parcels handled by the Zoning Commissioner. The preparatory work which will culminate in the "1976 Comprehensive Zoning Map" has been under way for months. The County Council will adopt the new map on October 15, 1976.

Meanwhile, property owners seeking rezoning through the "petition" process will press their petitions trying to beat the new map, while simultaneously applying to the Planning Board and County Council for ruling on the new map. Communities must therefore watch carefully both processes to protect themselves against both the petition and the request to the Board and Council. Additionally, many requests to the Board and the Council are now presently involved in the petition proceedings, which demonstrates the importance of being alert to potential rezonings by either or both processes.

Issues Now Assigned

Notification that rezoning for a certain property is being sought by petition is brought to the community by signs and newspaper advertisements. But this is not the case in comprehensive rezoning. Citizens must seek out and keep abreast of requests for rezoning submitted to the County Council. These requests are called "issues" and can be submitted by the property owners, community groups, or the planning staff. Issues, no matter by whom submitted, are "logged" and assigned individual numbers by the planning staff which throughout the process acts as the clerical group for both the Planning Board and the County Council.

Frank H. Fisher, whose telephone number is 484-3480, is the planner in charge of the process and from whom information may be obtained.

The logs of issues are published and are available at the planning office in the county office building at Towson. It is important to remember that a new issue can be added to the log for consideration by the council at any time until the map is adopted. So constant vigilance is necessary to protect the community.

Map Service Available

The Planning Staff has computed its recommendations to the Planning Board and copies of the various maps will be available at \$2.00 per map in early November. The Planning Board will hold public hearings on those recommended and on the issued logged at various places in the county. Ruxton, Riderwood and Lake Roland being trisected by councilmanic

district boundaries, three hearings will involve parcels in the community.

Second District, Milford Mill Senior High School Auditorium, Tuesday, November 24, 1975, 7:30 P.M. Third District, Dulaney Senior High School, Wednesday, December 3, 1975, 7:30 P.M. and Fourth District, Towson Senior High School Auditorium, Tuesday, November 18, 1975, 7:30 P.M.

One important suggestion. Usually the number of speakers at each of these hearings is so large that although the Board convenes at 7:30, one should register by 6:45 P.M. to avoid being near the end of several hours of speakers.

The Planning Board will complete its work in April and will forward its final report and recommendations to the County Council. The Council will then schedule, advertise and conduct public hearings of the issues and Planning Board recommendations between April and October.

James G. Howell, a member of the office of Planning and Zoning, who has worked consistently with the preparation of the details of Comprehensive Rezoning plan, offered to be of service to any one requesting assistance in connection with the program.

Unique Red Brick Building

The little red brick building with its unique colonial architecture creates much admiration at its location on the Towson Y.M.C.A. property. This old building was used for many years in the early days of Towson as the law office of Colonel David G. McIntosh following his return from the Civil War, and was removed from its old site at Washington and Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson, over ten years ago through community efforts.

Bridge Construction Plans Proposed For Ruxton Area

Three separate studies are now underway for bridges in the Ruxton-Riderwood area, according to an announcement from the Baltimore County Department of Engineering.

First under consideration and the most important project is the Joppa Road bridge which involves considerable planning due to its importance as a span of a much traveled thoroughfare between Towson and Falls Road. Plans are being formulated by the Engineering Department to have a community meeting in late 1975 for the purpose of discussing the engineering studies. Interested parties will then have the opportunity to make suggestions.

This proposed new bridge has been on the county agenda for several years and con-

struction plans were announced by the county in early 1974. It appeared then that construction was imminent since detour routes were suggested to the community. But the entire venture lapsed until this recent announcement.

Circle Road bridge and Roland Avenue bridge are also in the planning stage. No Federal aid is involved in these two projects. It is hoped that engineering studies will be available for community discussion in early 1976. Proper bridge construction is vital to the entire Ruxton-Riderwood area and all plans should be given careful consideration. Flood conditions have been prevalent the last few years and bridges therefore must be structurally sound.

Garbage Disposal Problem

Many residents complain of the problem of garbage cans that are upset by marauding dogs and nefarious raccoons upsetting the receptacles and spreading the contents over the roadway and the adjoining lawn. Such depredations create an unsightly appearance plus the annoyance and inconvenience of cleaning up the debris.

No matter how tightly the lids are adjusted the rapacious animals manage to loosen them and devour the food that is usually mixed with an assortment of tin cans and bottles.

Stones and bricks placed on top of the garbage cans seem to offer no obstacle to the hungry animals. It is suggested that the garbage cans be placed in a frame with heavy boards as a base. Such a contrivance is not easily overturned.

Raccoons have multiplied in the past few years until they have become a nuisance. Lake Roland with its dense wooded areas provides safe habitation for this particular species of nocturnal prowler. As for the dog population, increasing numbers of a variety of breeds roam the countryside.

C. S. Hardwick Dies

The death of C. S. Hardwick, who was 68 and lived at 7906 Springway Road, in Ruxton, comes as a distinct loss to the community. Mr. Hardwick died Monday, September 24, at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center after an illness of several months.

Before his retirement three years ago, he had been executive assistant in charge of claims at the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company.

A native of Skameateles, N.Y., he was a graduate of Syracuse University and its law school.

Mr. Hardwick had been chairman of the committee on Roland Run Flooding and had directed this important work with effective leadership.

He is survived by his wife, the former Harriet M. Wiltsie, a son, Gerald C. Hartwich, of Ballston Lake, N.Y., a brother, Lester C. Hardwick, of Lake Worth, Florida, and two grandchildren.



View of Stumpp Property, Bellona Avenue and Joppa Road. This tract of 6.2 acres is located in a highly attractive residential area of Ruxton. Petition to reclassify this property from DR 2 and DR 3.5 to a DR 16 zone was filed with the County Zoning Commissioner. This petition was denied on January 9, 1975, after a hearing attended by many protesting residents of the Ruxton-Riderwood community. The case has been appealed to the County Board of Appeals. No date as yet has been set for the hearing. It is contended that any multiple housing project for this property would constitute an unwarranted variance with the established residential plan of this neighborhood. The old house of colonial type construction, a landmark since the early days of Ruxton, would unfortunately be demolished if the plans materialized for the development of this tract.

County Flood Control Involves Lake Area

A comprehensive flood-control plan for Baltimore County has been submitted to Theodore G. Venetoulis, county executive.

Flood-prevention efforts are centered in the densely developed 45-square mile Gwynns Falls watershed in the northwestern section of the county.

A wide variety of solutions to chronic flooding are recommended, including the county's purchasing of private homes in the flood plains, buying stream valley lands for parks, building a system of run-off retention ponds, enlarging culverts and widening stream channels.

Among the areas mentioned is Roland Run (Ruxton-Riderwood)-Purchase 45 homes to create a park along the stream valley between Lake Roland and Essex Farm Road, and build retention ponds north and south of the beltway. Estimated cost \$3 million.

Mr. Venetoulis declined to discuss the likelihood of a tax increase to finance the new proposals, saying that such speculation would be premature.

In addition to the Ruxton-Riderwood area, the proposed flood plain plan deals with seven other county watersheds deemed "most critical" because of their degree of residential development and susceptibility to recurrent flooding.

Bicentennial History

Since the Bicentennial is in the process of being celebrated, reference must be made of the early days of the area known as Ruxton linking this attractive residential section of the county to the Revolutionary War period. As early as 1694 this part of the county was mentioned in the Maryland Archives, when Thomas Hooker received a patent for some land between Charles Street and Falls Road. Five years later, in 1699, he built the first house to be erected in this section.

Nicholas Ruxton Moore, an officer in the Revolutionary War and a Maryland congressman, came into possession of a farm west of the Ruxton railroad bridge, in the latter part of the eighteenth century. It is from this family that Ruxton received the name. Today Moore lies buried in an unmarked grave somewhere near Circle Road.

Association Problems

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munity. Over the years, we have watched the Lake degrade due to siltation. George Wills and the Lake Roland Committee which he chairs have worked tirelessly for the past few years to save the Lake. Their success will become apparent this winter when the dredging of Lake Roland is expected to begin.

New Bridges Planned

New bridges are being planned to replace the Joppa Road bridge over the railroad tracks and the Circle Road bridge. The Traffic, Roads and Neighborhood Committee, chaired by Joe Gately, has the responsibility to assure that these new bridges will benefit and not harm the community. This Committee also has the duty to monitor proposed plans of road work, such as widening or relocating, in our area. The Committee not only deals with traffic and roads but also handles other matters that affect our neighborhood such as the impact of the proposed rapid transit line on the Northern Central railroad tracks.

Residents who live along the banks of Roland Run are aware that a heavy rain can flood their properties. To bring this problem to the awareness of Baltimore County officials and to seek some solutions, a group of these residents formed the Roland Run Flood Committee. Bill Pacy is the Association's liaison with this Committee. We are sad to report that an early organizer and source of leadership to the residents in this area and to the committee, Carlton Hardwich, passed away in September. His loss to us will be keenly felt; hopefully, his purpose will be continued.

Association Work Cited

The success of any organization is derived through the support of the membership it serves. We hope that every resident of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland area is aware of our Association and its function. The Membership Committee under the leadership of Dick Frisch is working toward this goal. You can be of help to the Committee if you notify the Association when you discover a new neighbor who has moved into the area.

The Bulletin which is published periodically is the product of the Publications Committee. Edwin Gontrum conceived the publication and has been its Editor ever since. The Bulletin has a vital role in keeping the membership informed.

The residents of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland neighborhoods are fortunate to have concerned individuals living in the area who are willing to contribute their time and expertise to serve on the Committees and Board of the Association. Your support is vital; please join us!

Errol B. Hay
President

Rain Blocks Bridge

After a cloudy and rainy Thursday, September 26, the downpour continued with increased intensity during the night. By early Friday morning the rain developed into a torrential storm with run offs turning into miniature rivers. Roland Run began overflowing its banks by 9 A.M. Soon nearby lawns and low places turned into miniature lakes. As the sweeping current continued to rise, it soon inundated the floor of the small bridge spanning Roland Run; then gradually the muddy water filled with floating branches reached the first guard rail, about three feet in depth. Barriers were placed by city park workmen.

Residents west of the bridge, which is the only means of access to their homes, were unable to cross. Several police cars stood guard to help in any emergency. By 3 P.M. the rain abated, the water level dropped and the bridge floor became visible. Safe traffic was then assured.

This is the second time the bridge became impassable because of flooding conditions. Three years ago during storm Agnes, Roland Run scored a record high water level. The bridge then was completely covered for a short time.

Garrison Fort

This fort, now completely restored through the efforts of the Baltimore County Historical Society, was built about 1695 as headquarters for a troop of mounted rangers to patrol paths from the Patapsco to the Susquehanna as a protection against hostile Indians. It was nine miles from nearest white inhabitant when built. It is located on the north side of Garrison Farms Court, off Garrison Farm Road, one block east of Stevenson Road.

Riderwood Postoffice Service

Business is constantly increasing at the Riderwood post office which is temporarily in a large trailer provided by the Baltimore post office headquarters. Recently the area under the trailer which was subject to weather conditions was closed in with asbestos paneling and painted white, giving the structure a greater degree of permanence.

The post office serves not only the local community but many patrons from nearby communities because of the convenience of location and the provision for adequate parking space. All post office boxes have been rented. The trailer-post office has been in operation since October, 1973, when the Ruxton Post Office was closed and the lease terminated for the office adjoining the business complex owned by Charles Harrington immediately to the south near Joppa Road.

Roland Run Flood Control Planned By Councilman

Several days prior to the sudden death of Carlton Hardwich, the Committee on Roland Run Flooding met with Councilman Gary Huddles. Mr. Hardwich had been Chairman of this committee, and his passing will leave a void which will be most difficult to fill.

Mr. Huddles was most attentive and helpful to the problems caused by the reoccurring overflow of Roland Run during most heavy storms. He recognizes the need for close cooperation between the citizens of the area and the county as well as Baltimore City. Mr. Huddles has requested Malcolm Aldrich, Director of the Department of

Recreation and Parks, to recognize the urgency of the situation and the need for an expeditious handling of the matter. Mr. Aldrich hopes that the dredging of Lake Roland will materialize prior to September, 1976.

Meanwhile, the bridges at Circle Road and Joppa Road are on the drafting boards, with the former scheduled for earlier construction. Buzz Williams, a member of the Board of Governors of our Association, will stay close to the Circle Road Bridge Project and keep the residents informed of its progress.

C. William Pacy

It is said that plans are now being discussed for the construction of a more permanent post office building near the one-story brick stores owned by the Harrington interests. Such a plan would give needed space for the additional growing postal service of the neighborhood.

Charles R. Taylor is the postmaster. Other members of the staff are Mrs. Edna T. Pruitt and Mrs. Ruth S. Wolf.

Association Memberships

Reports from the membership committee of the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association indicate a steady growth in membership. This attitude on the part of residents of the community shows their confidence and support of the important work delegated to the Association in the matter of county governmental affairs including the vital department of zoning. Membership in the Association is essential to the general welfare the community.

Membership Dues

Individual	\$ 7.50
Family	10.00
Business	15.00
Sustaining	15.00

Send all communications to Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, 1304 Maywood Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21204.

Athletic Events Popular

The wide field area west of Bellona Avenue comprising part of the Lake Roland area is used regularly for athletic events. Since early autumn the field has been the gathering place for a variety of games. Almost every day in good weather cars are parked along the railroad track by visitors to this spacious playground.

Autumn Days In Ruxton

Autumn arrived early this season. There were no chilling winds or frosty nights, but the foliage turned to the usual brilliant colors that prevail during the final weeks of October.

The maples presented a picture of golden-red while the hickories seemed to be more resplendent in their dress of russet yellow. Towering tulip poplars dominated the wooded hillsides in their bright yellow while the oaks presented a more somber background in reddish-brown attire.

Dogwoods adorned in red and yellow finally lost their foliage amidst the rain storms of late October. The brilliant red berries that add so much to the decorative beauty of these trees proved to be a tempting source of food to greedy mockingbirds. However, the dogwood branches have already put forth little buds proclaiming next May's beautiful flowers.

The spruce, the fir, and the white pine that sheds its needles, maintain their independence clothed in green branches that resist the wintry blasts.

Bicentennial Suggestions

In this Bicentennial year of the American Revolution, it would be appropriate to identify areas in Ruxton which possibly had connecting background during this era of the colonial period. Another interesting project would be to organize a series of maps showing major estates and roads at different times during the last 200 years, especially as related to the Jones Falls and the construction of the dam which formed Lake Roland around 1850. If anyone would like to help or offer suggestions on how Ruxton might celebrate the Bicentennial, it is suggested that they get in touch with Mrs. James Sowa, 825-2970.

Manor Glen

Manor Glen is a small settlement in the Tenth District along the Jarrettsville Road. It undoubtedly received its name because it is on a tract of land which was once a part of My Lady's Manor.



Dragon Fly curled on dock weed in the upper marsh recesses of Lake Roland. This unique picture of nature studies was contributed by Robert Wirth, photographer, ornithologist, nature writer and lecturer. Mr. Wirth is a member of the faculty of Maryland Institute. He has made an intensive study of the wild life of Lake Roland.

Traffic Increase Noted Throughout Local Areas

Automobile traffic has increased. All the roads in and around the Ruxton-Riderwood area seem to have a greater volume of traffic. This seems to be the general condition since the schools opened in the fall.

County patrol cars are making a special effort to prevent excessive speed, and there have been several occasions when radar was used to clock speed on Bellona Avenue which is a much used thoroughfare.

Joppa Road also has its share of excessive traffic, particularly in the morning and late afternoon. At that time there are generally lines of cars waiting for the traffic light at Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue.

Cars for the most part seem to make a special effort to observe the blinking traffic light at the Ruxton and Bellona Avenue bridge. Sometimes there is a congestion at this intersection, especially around 5 P.M. when motorists are homeward bound.

Legislative Cooperation

Mrs. Bert Booth, 11231 Greenspring Avenue, Lutherville, who is now serving her first year as a member of the House of Delegates at Annapolis, has notified the Association that she is available at any time to help with any problems pertaining to the eleventh legislative district comprising Ruxton-Riderwood area. Mrs. Booth was elected last November for her first term as a representative. Her office phone number is 296-4744.

Walking At Lake Roland

Walking along the trails surrounding Lake Roland has become a popular pastime for many residents of the Ruxton community. These trails are well marked and traverse densely wooded spaces, offering much in rugged scenery. The entire area is nationally known as a bird sanctuary. Also foxes and racoons seem to have multiplied, giving the pedestrian the opportunity to see those animals in their own habitat.

Greenspring Valley

It is believed that the early settlers in Green Spring Valley drifted north from Southern Maryland as well as from Pennsylvania about 1693. Many of them settled around some springs in the Valley which they called Green Springs. In 1729 Captain North, who was a member of the committee that laid out Baltimore Town, built a homestead in the valley which they called Green Springs.

Antique Automobiles

A 1915 Ford Roadster, which has been on display at Gill's Ruxton Exxon Station for the past several weeks, has been attracting considerable attention among patrons. Ernest Gill, who is a charter member of the Antique Car Association, is Also the Owner of a 1912 Ford Dayton Wagon, a 1912 Packard Roadster and a 1912 Havers. Mr. Gill has won several awards at antique car conventions. During the coming year a number of conventions for antique car buffs are being planned. Unusual old automobiles will be on exhibit.

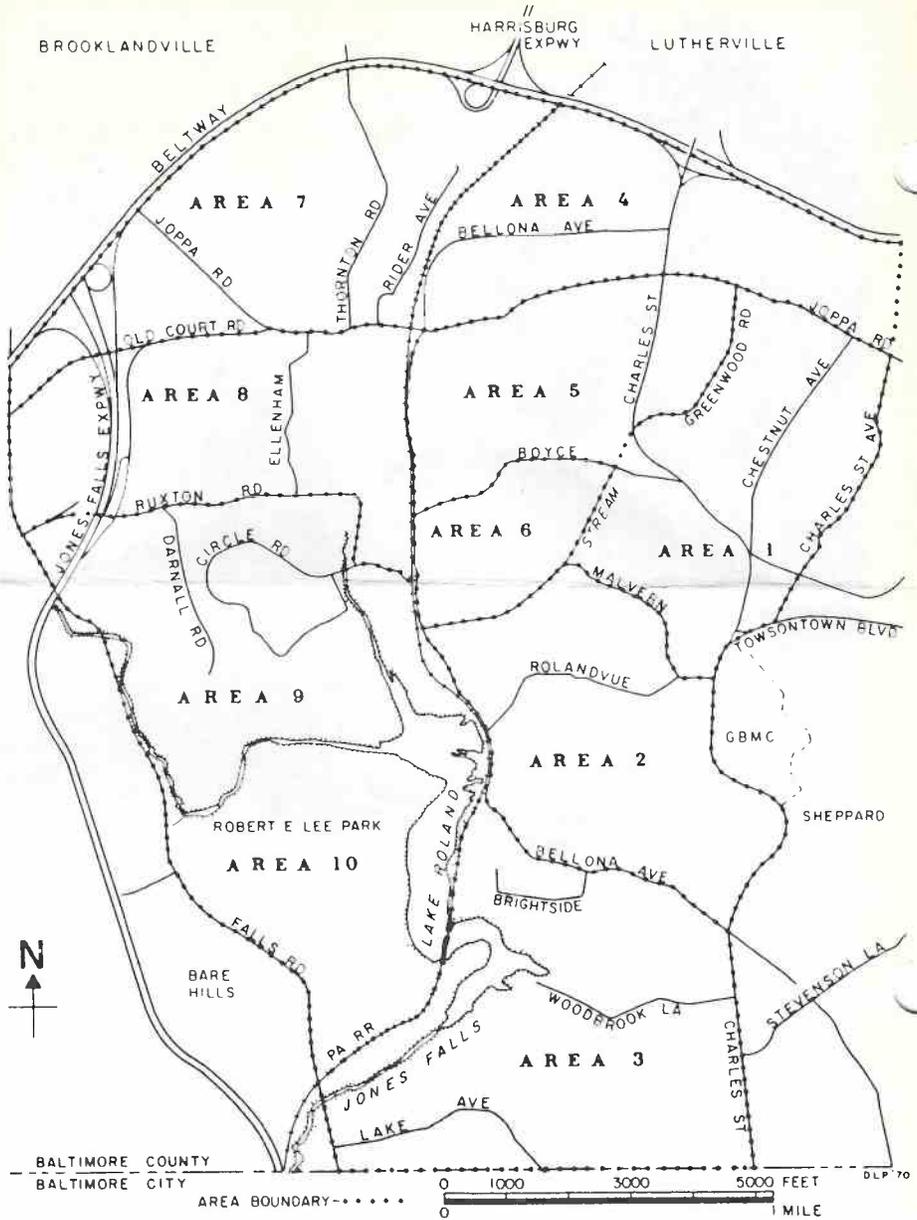
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