

Board of County Commissioners

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News Release

*For more information, contact: Ralph Robertson,
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For Immediate Release

Carroll County awarded \$1.5 million in Rural Legacy grants

December 17, 2009 – Carroll County Government will receive \$1.5 million to help preserve land resources through two grants from the State of Maryland’s Rural Legacy Program. The Maryland Board of Public Works approved the funding Wednesday as part of an \$11.8 million overall investment. In Carroll County, \$1 million was designated for the Upper Patapsco area and \$500,000 for the Little Pipe Creek region. The money will be used to buy conservation easements from landowners who want to preserve their properties permanently. By protecting areas with significant natural, agricultural, historic or cultural resources, the Rural Legacy Program encourages development in areas that already have water, roads and other necessities.

The Upper Patapsco Watershed Rural Legacy Area is bounded on the east by Baltimore County and to the north, west and south by the Hampstead, Westminster and Finksburg community planning areas. The 14,148-acre area includes most of the drainage basin of the East Branch Patapsco River, part of the West Branch and makes up 16 percent of the entire Liberty Reservoir watershed in Carroll County.

Little Pipe Creek’s watershed is on the western edge of Carroll County, bounded roughly by Sam’s Creek to the south and west, Uniontown/Middleburg Road to the north, and Ridge Road (MD Route 27) to the east. It contains 24,942 acres.

To date, 54,990 acres of agricultural land have been preserved in Carroll County through this and other programs. The county has a long-held goal of preserving 100,000 acres.

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