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# Calvert Nature Society: *Connecting Land & People*

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Anne Sundermann  
Executive Director

Presentation to the Calvert County  
Environmental Commission  
December 10, 2018

# Calvert Nature Society

- Founded in 1985
- Formerly Battle Creek Nature Education Society
- A 501(c)3 organization established to support the Natural Resources Division
- Promoting environmental education and appreciation of nature
- Preserving the county's natural and cultural resources





# What We Do

- **Nature Park Project Support**
  - **Membership Management**
  - **Communications**
  - **Grant Writing and Fundraising**
  - **Event Coordination**
- **Raising Awareness of Issues**
- **Land Preservation**
- **Volunteer /Stewardship**



# Support Nature Park Projects

- ▣ Money Crop Trail at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- ▣ Cabin Rehab and Signage at Kings Landing
- ▣ Restoration of Shanty and Entry Station at Flag Ponds





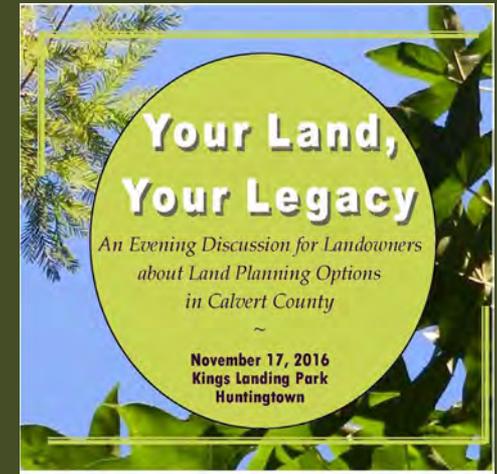
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# Raising Awareness

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# Raising Awareness

- Lecture Series: Presenters on topics including climate change, importance of pollinators, etc
- Forums: Organize or host/co-host events like the Land Preservation Forum & Comprehensive Plan Workshop on Rural Character
- Public Comments on important issues
- Engagement: Tabling events, presentations



# Raising Awareness of Issues

- Forums: Organize or host/co-host events like the Land Preservation Forum & Comprehensive Plan Workshop on Rural Character in Calvert
- Public Comments on important issues
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# Land Preservation



# What we do

- ▣ Meeting with landowners
- ▣ Forging partnerships to preserve land
- ▣ Provide funding for surveys, appraisals
- ▣ Promoting the value of preserved land in Calvert

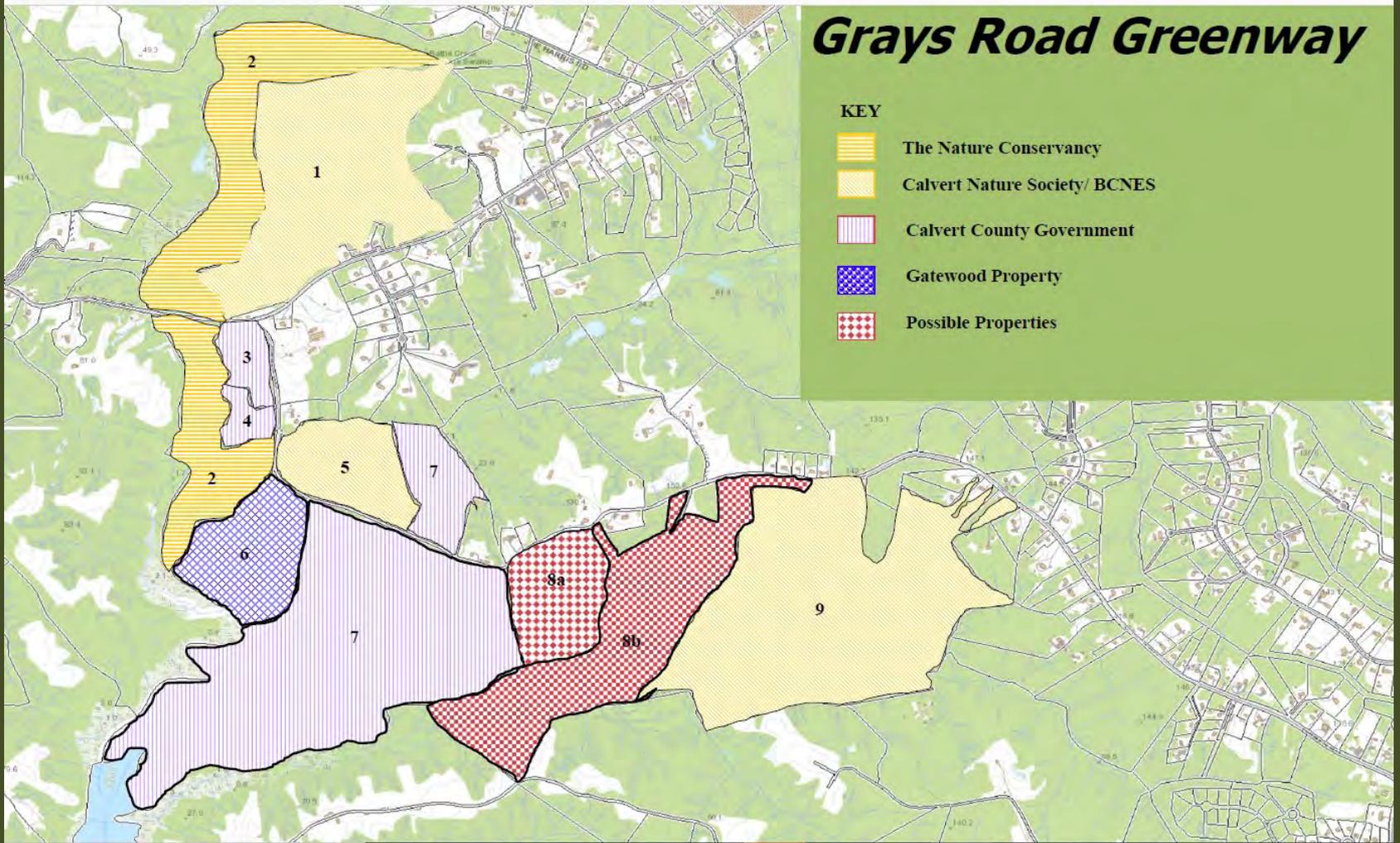


# GOAL:

To build a green corridor of protected and preserved land around the county, and particularly the Grays Road properties



# Grays Road Greenway

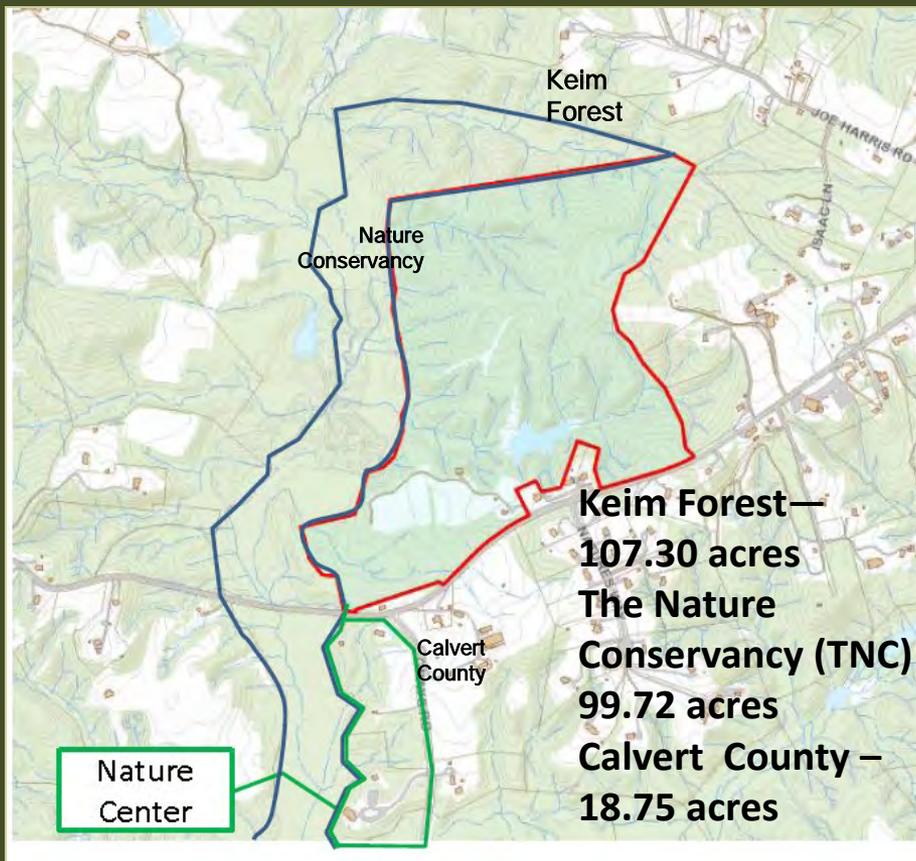


# Grays Road Greenway

- Preserves farmland, woodlands, wetlands and riverfront along Grays Road and Battle Creek
- Potentially connects more than 767 acres
- Protects Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- Provides natural wildlife corridor in central Calvert



# Society Acquisition: Keim Forest, 2795 Sixes Road



Acquired by Calvert Nature Society in December 2016 with a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

107.3 acres, 100 wooded

Protects Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

# Keim Forest features:



- Historic cypress wood barn and farm house
- Traditional farm house
- Large pond
- Hiking trails, access to champion Cypress, and more!



# Keim Forest Activities:

- Trail building
- Pollinator Meadow in development
- Rehabilitation of Cypress Log Barn
- Biodiversity Study



# County Acquisition: Gatewood Preserve 2800 Grays Road



Recently acquired by  
Calvert County,  
leveraging Federal  
and State funds.

Connects Biscoe Gray  
Heritage Farm and  
Battle Creek  
Cypress Sanctuary

# Preservation Policies: Our Wish List

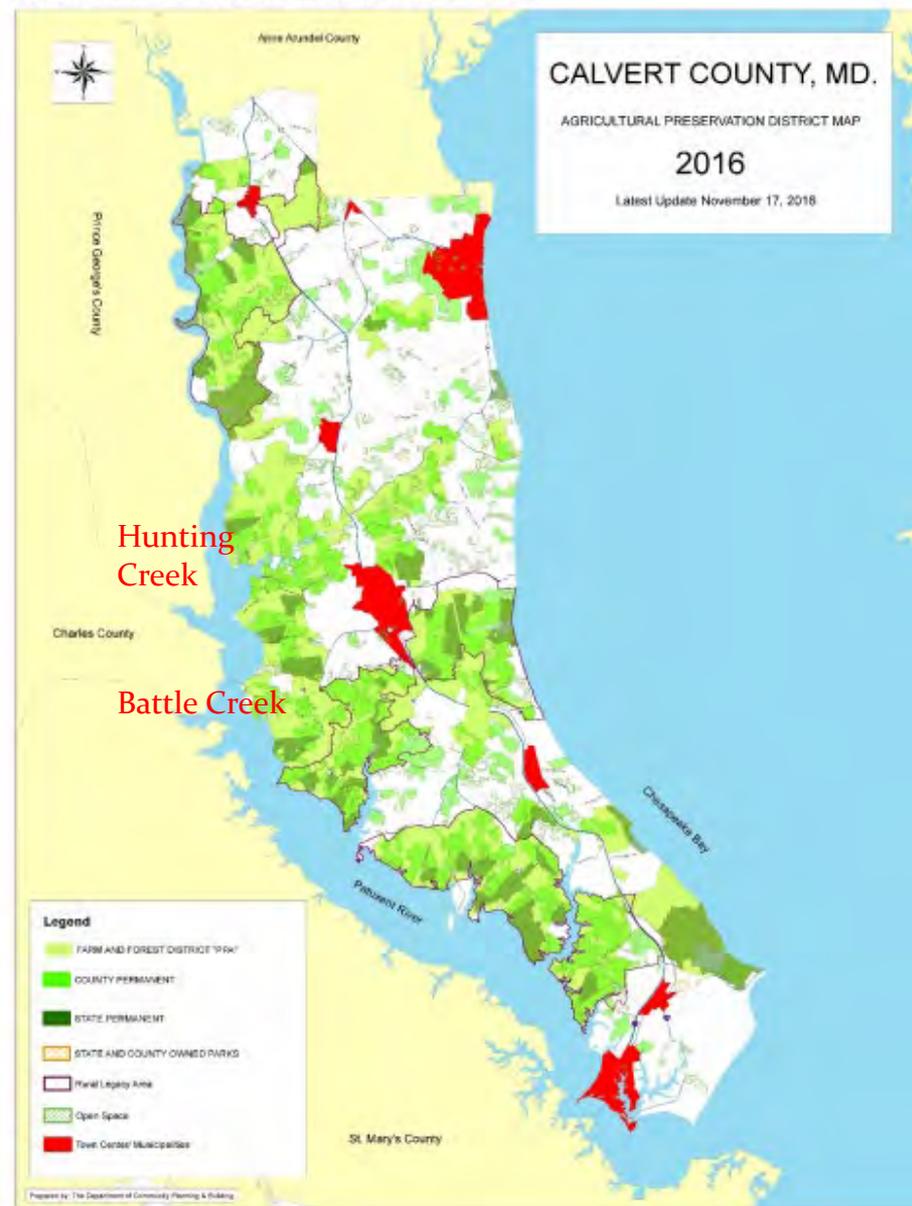
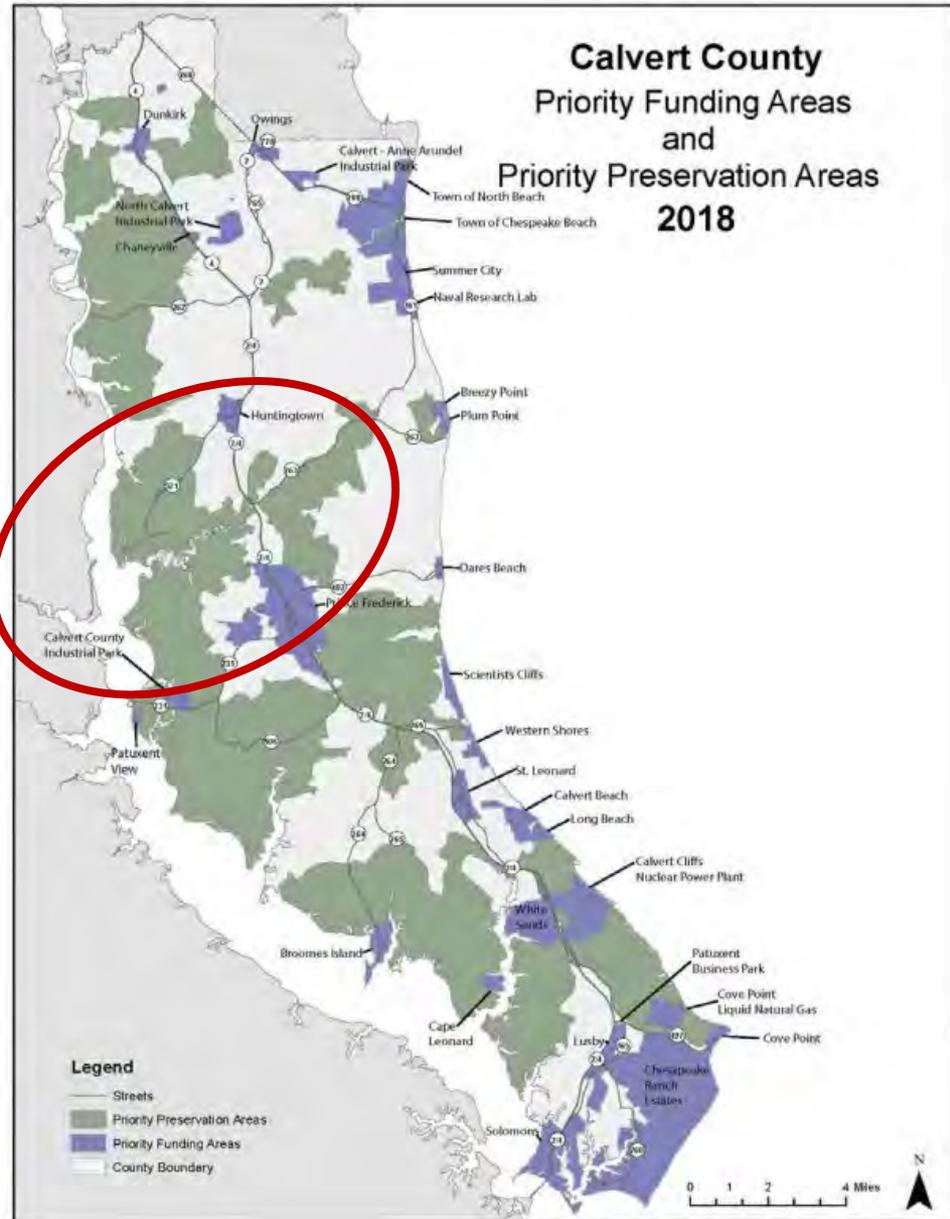
Calvert County should work with state and federal partners

- Promote the use of our nature parks
- Expand protected areas,
- Increase funding,
- Provide accessibility via public transportation.

## Concerns:

- Continued degradation of the TDR and PAR programs,
- Delay in restoring the funds from the real estate recordation fees
  
- One initiative for local land trusts in the coming year is to match the Priority Preservation Area overlays with those of the Rural Legacy program.

Map 10: Calvert County Preserved Agricultural Lands 2016



Source: Calvert County



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# Stewardship

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# Building a Strong Volunteer Corps

## CALVERT STEWARDS

The Calvert Stewards volunteer program provides an opportunity for public service in education, research, and stewardship

Support the overall missions of the Calvert County Division of Natural Resources and Calvert Nature Society.



# Outreach

- At the nature parks: Calvert Stewards lead CHESPAX field trips and Nature Discovery programs
- At events around So Md: County Fair, PRAD, Green Expo, and more



# Education in the community

Lectures, public displays,  
tabling events, Scout projects  
and more



# Stewards of our natural resources

**Get down to earth!**

Calvert Stewards help clear trails, remove invasive plants, plant trees, and assist with construction and maintenance projects.



# Trail building & maintenance



# Kayak/canoe guides



# Research

- ▣ Nest Box Monitors
  - ▣ Barn Owl
  - ▣ Prothonotary Warbler
  - ▣ Bluebird Trails
  - ▣ Motus Project



## ▣ Projects for all ages



We encourage youth and families to volunteer for projects to create a pipeline of engaged citizens that will continue their involvement in the parks into adulthood.

# How Can You Help?

- Support Preservation of natural spaces in Calvert County
- Volunteer - as an individual or community group
- Attend/support park events
- Spread the word --Tell your friends to visit our nature parks
- Join Calvert Nature Society and enjoy the benefits of membership

[www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org)

# For more information

[www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org)



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