

# Governor Glendening Unveils Rural Legacy Areas

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three counties. Stretching from Poolesville, in Montgomery County, and cutting a swath right through Frederick County and on up into Sharpsburg in Washington County, the protected area will encompass more than 2,700 acres of rural open space.

"We're here to draw a line, a line that will preserve a greenway that will stretch all the way from Western Montgomery County, right on through where we are now, through Frederick County, and up into Southern Washington County," announced the Governor. "By drawing this line what we are saying is that on this land there will be no more sprawl; we're saying that this farmland is too valuable, this environment is too fragile, and this history is too important, and the small towns

and the gentle way of life that they represent are too precious to be lost to suburban sprawl."

The Mid-Maryland Rural Legacy area originates in the Western part of Montgomery County. There the initial plan request is to purchase an easement on a single farm consisting of 834 acres near Poolesville, in the Sugarloaf Mountain area.

Frederick County contains the largest acreage to be preserved by the Mid-Maryland grant award. A total of 1,270 acres in Frederick County, including farms, natural resources, and historic villages will be protected from encroaching development. The Frederick County portion of the plan includes Civil War battle sites at South Mountain and farmland and natural and recreational resources along the Appalachian Trail. It also creates a "greenbelt" of protection around the historic town of Burkittsville.

In Washington County the plan focuses on the areas in and around Sharpsburg and Keedysville. The area includes battlefield sites around Antietam National Battlefield, areas of historic farmland, historic villages, stone bridges, barns, and houses. It encompasses areas along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. It also specifically enhances the State's existing preservation efforts that protect the views surrounding Antietam National Battlefield.

## Lancaster Ag Board Director Resigns

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Thomas Daniels, director of the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board, is resigning his post effective July 2.

Daniels, who came to Lancaster County in 1989 as director of one of the country's leading ag land preservation systems, has decided to return to college as an instructor.

Daniels, before taking the farmland preservation job in Lancaster, served as an associate professor of regional and community planning at Kansas State University. He has decided to return to teaching, this time accepting a job as professor of planning at the State University of New York in Albany.

At the university, Daniels will teach, write, and direct the master's degree program.

In a recent newspaper article, Daniels said, "Working in Lancaster County has been a very good experience. I value the time I've spent in Lancaster County and the people I've known here."

Daniels' performance as administrator of a key office in the county's nationally recognized growth management/farmland preservation program was praised by Paul Whipple, member of the ag board, and others. He helped preserve 185 farms.

Daniels said he took the university job "because I've been here nine years and it was time to do something different."

Since it began in the early 1980s, the board has saved 250 farms. About three quarters of them were saved during Daniels time as director. The board has 200 applications on hand.

A search is under way for Daniels' replacement. Salary range for the job is \$42,000-\$60,000 per year.

Daniels said, "Compared to most other places in the United States, Lancaster County has done a pretty good job in balancing growth and farmland protection.

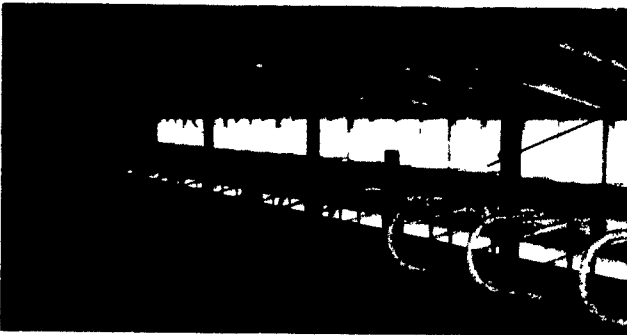
"We have a very good model for land preservation and growth management in Lancaster County. My purpose was for others to benefit from the success we've had here, to spread the word."



Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening, left, announces \$8.25 million in funds to purchase development rights to more than 2,700 acres of historic rural open space in Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington counties. Sharing the news are from left, Douglas M. Duncan, Montgomery County executive; Bruce Reeder, Frederick County commissioner; Ron Bowers, Washington County commissioner; and Ralph Grossi, president, American Farmland Trust. This is part of the Rural Legacy Trust awards totaling \$29 million statewide.

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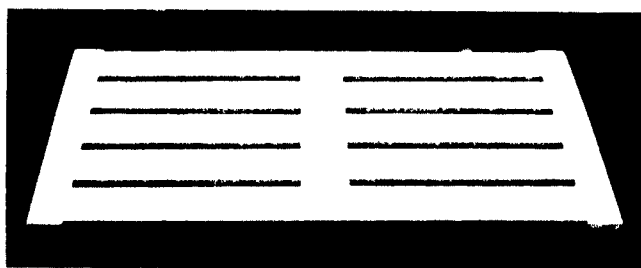
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