

"KETTOCTIN CREEK"

Loudoun County, Virginia

The Catoctin Creek watershed was part of an open hunting ground of many Indian tribes, who were not settlers, but mainly hunters, and fishermen.

Records indicate that Captain Henry Bath, a German explorer and Indian trader, had traveled the Potomac (Potowmack) River and some of its tributaries from the Tidewater over the Allegheny Mountains to the Ohio River in 1667.

With constant troubles between the Algonquin and Iroquois Tribes, the latter of which eventually conquered the Susquehannocks, the arrival of the Piscataways on Conoy Island in the Potomac River, above the Point of Rocks, where they settled in a fortified village, caused Governor Nicholson of Virginia to send Burr Harrison and Giles Vandercastel to summon the Emperor of the Piscataways to Williamsburg in 1731.

Even with some Indian troubles still existing in the late 1600's it is obvious that settlement was taking place, mostly by Traders in the early 1700's. Robert Brooke's map of 1737 "A Plan of the Potomac River from the Sherrendo down to Chipawamisick" shows, among other quarters and owners, one James Moberly's quarter below the mouth of the "Catoctan". A few early Germans who followed trapping for a living, settled on the banks of the Catoctin Creek, the home of the Beaver, and reaped a rich and rewarding harvest.

Settlement of the Catoctin Valley from Taylorstown to Morrisonville was done mainly by Germans from Pennsylvania and the area today is still known as "the German Settlement". Their nearby neighbors were Scotsmen and English Quakers who settled the village of Waterford, with brothers and cousins of the English Quakers settling the area around the Lincolnton, Virginia community originally known as Goose Creek.

In the Catoctin Creek valley the forest was rapidly cleared, log houses erected and a system of small family farming was inaugurated. The first Sheep in the County were introduced by these industrious settlers. With machinery virtually non-existent they were limited to hand tools for working and the Spinning Wheel and Loom for the weaving of fabrics for clothing. Thus their life was one of a simple, frugal and hardworking people.

By their hard work and simple needs and a rigid economy, characteristic of these people, they soon became among the most prosperous inhabitants of the County. In addition to the staple crop of Tobacco and Orchards the forests were filled with game, berries and nuts and the streams fairly swarmed with fish.

In the early 1730's Richard Brown had erected a Mill, Millers House and a home for himself, some forty years before the founding of the National Capitol. The Mill (53-102) is now a most attractive residence and his home "Hunting Hill" (53-83) has been well preserved and lovingly cared for. His son sold these and the farm with them to Thomas Taylor in 1784, for whom Taylors Town which he called "Millford" was named. These are among seven similar structures now located in the Taylorstown Historic Preservation Area District, recently approved by the County Planning Commission and Supervisors and now being considered for State and National Register status.

By 1740 Amos Janney had built a Log Mill on the west side of the Catocin Creek at the north end of the village of Waterford, which he founded. This Mill was relocated to the east side of the creek in the late 1700's, and the present Three story Brick one (53-6 -being renumbered) which now belongs to the Waterford Foundation, Inc., was built on the same site in the early 1800's. This structure is now located in the Waterford Historic Preservation Area District which is listed on the State and National Register and has also been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

In 1760 Richard Roach petitioned the Court for permission to build a Mill on "the Kittoctan" (53-326). This was located near the Catocin Creek Bridge (53-131) which is a State and National Register landmark.

In the early 1830's John Hamilton built his "Fornan Mill" (now called Catocin Mill Farm 53-482), just above the Mill of Richard Brown. An 1806 Mutual Assurance Policy describes this as a three story Stone Merchant Mill 44'X40' with a Saw Mill operation as well. A small community evolved here with a Distillery, School and Store.

Just shortly up the Beaverdam fork of the Catocin Creek, Enoch Francis built a three story Stone Mill in 1803, which later became a Fulling Mill or Manufactory (53-219). It was here that homespuns were cleaned of animal grease and soil, shrunken to a firm weave, smothered of knots, stretched and napped to a firm weave. "Bouncing Bet" and Teasel plants can still be found here. The former "Fuller Herbs" being used in cleaning the cloth and the Burrs of the latter used to raise the knap on the cloth.

Also in the early 1800's John Alexander Binns, then the owner of "Clover Hill" (53-425), built a Mill (53-429) on another branch of the Catoctin Creek. This is mentioned not because of its direct association with the Catoctin Creek, but of its importance to the Agricultural industry throughout the entire Nation. Although the English Quakers in and around the settlement of Goose Creek, now Linclon, Virginia, had used ground Nova Scotia Lime rock on their lands, it was Binns who ground Limestone at his Mill, used it on his land and kept detailed records of the effects this had on increased productivity of his crops. He published his "Treatse on Practical Farming" later known as the Loudoun system of Agriculture, thus starting the Fertilizer business in this country. Except for the earlier Mills needed for immediate use of the people of the vicinity, this fertlizing brought the much depleted Tobacco lands of the area into excellent grain production, with an increase in Mill building throughout the County for Commercial sale of the Flour. Not only were there new Mills being built, but many of the existing earlier ones were either taken down, re-located and enlarged, or merely enlarged at their existing site. This Flour was shipped by wagon to the Port Cities of Alexandria, Georgetown and Baltimore, and later to the Potomac River Warehouse operators on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Naturally this activity greatly expanded the grain farming business and contributed to the economic improvement of the entire Catoctin Valley, and accounts for many good Grain farms still in operation today.

Although Binns Mill was finally taken down in the 1930's, and the material used in the restoration of some of the houses in Waterford, the property as well as the "Clover Hill" farm is still in the ownership of decendants of the original owners.

The Catoctin Creek contributed also to the operation of the "Kittoctan Iron Furnace", originally started by Josias Clapham, a Trustee of Leesburg, a Ferry owner on the Potomac River-just above the mouth of the Monocacy River in Maryland- and a highly successful business man of the community. Joseph Martin, in his Gazetteer of Virginia 1836, describes the Iron Furnace as a highly successful operation on the Potomac River obtaining its water power from the Catoctin Creek through a 500' long hand dug Tunnel 60' below the top of the Catoctin Mountain range. This Tunnel still remains in tact today, although the Iron Furnace ceased operations in the mid 1800's.

As previously mentioned the Catoctin Creek Bridge (53-131) is a State and National Register landmark structure built by the Variety Iron Works Company, Cleveland, Ohio, in the late 1800's. It was originally used for the Route 7 Bridge across Goose Creek east of Leesburg. When the new Bridge was built there in the 1930's, this Truss Bridge was taken down and "re-cycled" at its present site. It is the last of the large 140' long single span Iron Truss bridges left in all of Northern Virginia. The Engineer for this was Mr. Alfred Stanton, the County Engineer, who was a son of Frederick P. Stanton, an owner of "Belmont" (53-106), who was at one time the Governor of Kansas.

Another tributary of the Catoctin Creek, Broad Run, now the Milltown Creek, had several mills on it dateing from the early 1700's, as well as a Saw Mill, Blacksmith Shop, and a general small community around these. The Mill owners house is in existance and is used as a residence(53-329).

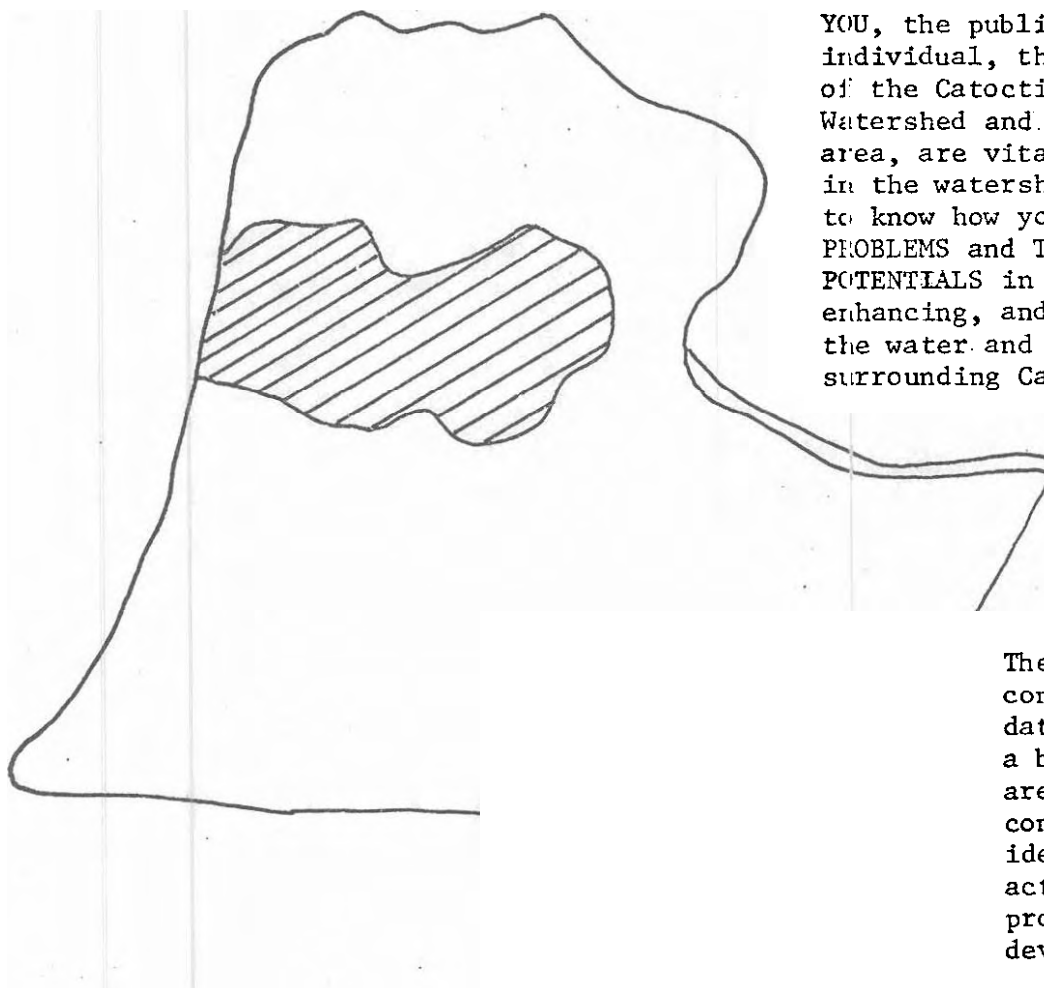
This brief historical background has been limited to the Creek and operations associated with it, and does not attempt to go into the history of the entire area, with its numerous remaining Log, Stone and Brick dwellings and outbuildings still in use, nor the developement of Religion here and the number of good Church structures in use today.

© JOHN G. LEWIS

MAY 14 1976

CATOCTIN CREEK

This report has been prepared by the Sponsors of the Catoctin Creek Watershed project and the Soil Conservation Service to inform the public about the planning activities in the watershed and to solicit public input into the planning process.



YOU, the public, the individual, the citizen of the Catoctin Creek Watershed and surrounding area, are vital to our work in the watershed. We want to know how you see TODAY'S PROBLEMS and TOMORROW'S POTENTIALS in protecting, enhancing, and/or developing the water and land resources surrounding Catoctin Creek.

The following pages contain background data on the project, a brief summary of areas of community concern, and some ideas on possible actions to solve problems or to develop potentials.

Please read this report. When you have finished complete the questionnaire and send it to us by September 9 so that we can utilize it in our planning efforts.

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

The sponsors of the Catoctin Creek Watershed Project hereby give notice that a public meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. September 16, 1976 in the School Board Annex, 30 West North Street, Leesburg, Va. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the current status of watershed planning activities and to solicit public opinion regarding the proposed project. The project is being planned by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District with assistance from the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Virginia Division of Forestry.

Interested citizens and organizations are urged to attend this meeting. Written comments and expressions of opinion are welcome and may be brought to the meeting or sent to the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, 137C South Catoctin Circle, Leesburg, VA 22075.

CATOCTIN CREEK WATERSHED

Background Data

An application for project assistance under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service P.L. 566 Watershed Program was filed in 1970. The main problems listed at that time were flooding, inadequate water supply, lack of recreation facilities, environmental protection, and lack of conservation measures on the land.

Sponsors of the project are the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District. Planning activities are guided by a Steering Committee composed of a representative of each sponsoring organization plus a representative from Purcellville, Round Hill, Hamilton, Hillsboro and Lovettsville.

The watershed area of the North and South Forks of Catoctin Creek comprises 36,567 acres, or 11 percent of the County's land area, is located in the West Central portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, lying between the Blue Ridge Mountains to the West, the Catoctin Mountains to the East, and is bounded by Route 7 to the South. Within the watershed are located the towns of Hamilton, Purcellville, Waterford, Hillsboro, and Paeonian Springs.

The proximity of this region to the Washington Metropolitan Area, combined with dual laning of Route 7, the major East-West transportation corridor leading from the Washington, D.C. area, has made the watershed a natural recipient for suburban growth. The population within the area, currently 4,254, is expected to increase by 40 percent by 1985.

The Loudoun County Comprehensive Development Plan strongly recommends that population growth within the watershed be largely confined to existing population centers with most of the area remaining in agricultural or open-space use. The steep mountain ranges and stream valleys will be largely devoted to open-space, conservation, and recreational use, with the rolling areas to remain in agricultural usage.

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION:

The topography of the watershed is quite variable, ranging from steep mountain slopes (13%) to broad rolling fields (80%) interspersed with long, flat flood plains (7%).

Forest lands occupy 21 percent of the watershed. The majority are located on the steep slopes of the Blue Ridge, Catoctin and Short Hill Mountains. A small portion is scattered on farm lands. The types of trees and shrubs are common to the area with healthy red and white oaks in abundance.

The existing water supplies of towns within the watershed are dependent upon wells, springs, and small reservoirs.

The Catoctin Creek experiences a wide variation in discharge. During severe dry seasons, flow ceases with resulting destruction of fish and other aquatic life.

The estimated population in the watershed in 1968 was based upon a land use housing survey conducted by the Department of Planning and Zoning. At that time the estimated number of housing units in the watershed was 1,293. The average number of persons per housing unit for the Jefferson Magisterial District, as reported in the preliminary 1970 Census, was 3.13. The population using

these figures is 4,047. Investigation of the final building inspection files reveals that 66 new dwelling units were constructed in the watershed between 1968 and 1970. This brings the 1970 population to 4,254. Over half of this population (2,485 in 794 housing units) is concentrated in the towns of Hamilton, Purcellville, Waterford, Hillsboro, and Paeonian Springs.

The major existing land uses within the Catoctin watershed include the following:

TABLE 1

Existing Land Use in the Catoctin Watershed


<u>LAND USE</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
Agricultural, Vacant, and Rural Residential	33,428
Residential - Incorporated towns and villages	2,032
Commercial	117
Industrial	14
Public and Quasi-public	939
Historical	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	36,567

Source - Loudoun County Tax Assessment Records - 1970

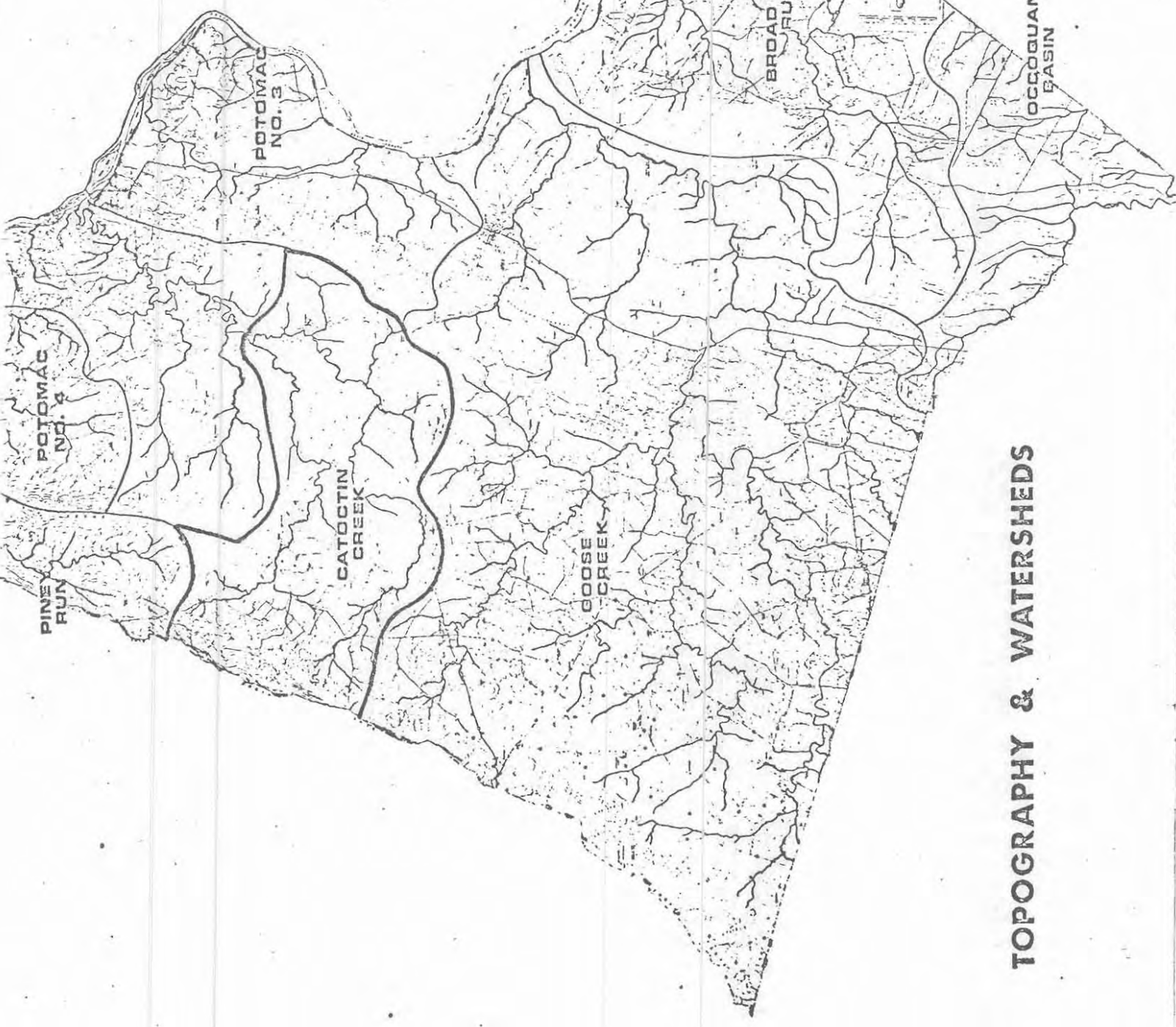
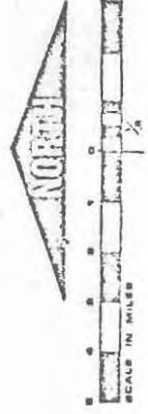
The majority of non-farm residences are clustered in and around the towns of Purcellville, Hamilton, Waterford, Hillsboro, and Paeonian Springs where densities of greater than one dwelling unit per acre are characteristic of existing development. The remaining developed land uses are also concentrated around the centers listed above.

Recreational land consists of areas provided at public school locations, the Appalachian Trail, and private areas. Although open spaces within the area are abundant, public open spaces are non-existent.

LEGEND

CRITICAL SLOPE 15% - 20% 

MAJOR WATERSHEDS 



TOPOGRAPHY & WATERSHEDS

RATIONALE FOR ACTION AND WATERSHED PROGRAM

The County Board of Supervisors has recently adopted plans which contain clear and specific policy statements about the development objectives in the Catoclin Watershed. These plans include the Comprehensive Development Plan and the Comprehensive Plan for Water and Sewerage Facilities. **The Water and Sewerage Facilities Plan** proposes to implement growth concepts through the provision of public water and sewerage facilities to serve the development centers. The Board of Supervisors recently directed county agencies to proceed with the implementation of adopted plans and more specifically, plans for serving development in western Loudoun County. The Board of Supervisors desires to avoid haphazard growth and scattered subdivisions in this area for the following reasons:

1. The complexity of the drainage area makes it extremely difficult to gauge the effects of development and plan for facilities.
2. Open-space character.
3. Agricultural economy and land use.
4. Conservation - stream valley, woods, wildlife.
5. Recreation.
6. Non-existent transportation network.
7. High cost of public service.
8. Ground water recharge for ground and surface water supplies.
9. Maintenance and enhancement of water quality for this and other areas of the county.
10. Placement and protection of large blocks of open space not needed for development in the foreseeable future.

The Board believes that it can avoid scattered subdivision development best by:

1. Encouraging growth in and around existing towns through land use regulations and the provision of public facilities.
2. Encouraging agricultural land use through land use regulations, supporting conservation and open-space programs, and a taxation policy.
3. Land use regulations and enforcement of health codes.

WATERSHED PROBLEMS - PRESENT AND POTENTIAL

Current problems within the watershed include:

1. Flooding
2. Water supply
3. Recreation
4. Open spaces
5. Pollution (agricultural, commercial and industrial)
6. Environmental protection
 - a. Wildlife
 - b. Aquatic life
 - c. Natural vegetation
7. Visual image
8. Erosion and sedimentation
9. Population growth

The magnitude of these problems will increase as development occurs at an accelerated rate within the watershed. It is the desire of all Loudoun citizens that this development occur in and around existing towns, and that the productive and aesthetically pleasing

agricultural lands and open spaces be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Annual and periodic flooding occurs on the North and South Forks of Catoctin Creek inundating roads, bridges, buildings, agricultural, and quasi-public lands causing considerable damage.

The existing water supplies are inadequate to meet the future needs as projected by the Comprehensive Development Plan. Ground water has been found inadequate for use as a public water supply. In fact, four of the towns within the watershed, and one town, Round Hill, located adjacent to the watershed, are already experiencing water shortages in dry years.

Estimated water demands for the years 1980 and 1990 are:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Day</u>	<u>Maximum Day</u>
1980	1.33 million gallons	2.33 million gallons
1990	2.42 million gallons	4.24 million gallons

The Route 7 corridor area will experience the majority of the growth and will require a regional system of water supply to adequately meet projected demands.

At present, there is no public recreational use of the Catoctin Creek. Excellent possibilities exist for such use in the watershed, located within the Washington Metropolitan Area which is experiencing the most rapid growth of any area in the east.

Presently, there are no public open spaces or recreational areas within the watershed. Loudoun's anticipated growth and accelerating land values make the need of preserving open space and providing public open space and recreational areas a problem of paramount importance.

Catoctin Creek is a tributary of the Potomac River and empties into the river less than 35 miles above the water intake for Washington, D.C. Untreated and unabated runoff which contains, among other things, sediment, animal wastes, fertilizers, and insecticides, is one of the greatest causes of stream pollution. While the problem is not critical at the present time, the Catoctin Creek, nevertheless, contributes to the pollution of the Potomac River, and this will become more of a problem as development increases within the watershed.

Relatively minor flows of sewage from both existing and proposed sewerage systems are to be discharged into streams of the watershed to be considered in the study relative to this application.

It is, however, acknowledged that in some instances it may become necessary to convey treated wastes beyond selected impoundment locations or to other watersheds where water supplies are not involved.

Wildlife, aquatic life, and natural vegetation exist to a limited degree in the watershed. Future development could seriously disturb the general balance of ecology unless positive measures are taken to protect the environment.

One of the greatest challenges faced by Loudoun County is the assimilation of anticipated development into the environment of this beautiful watershed, while still maintaining the cherished assets of the existing visual image. This can be accomplished only through sound watershed planning and development.

WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT NEEDED TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEMS

1. Dams to retard flood waters
2. Land treatment
3. Channel rehabilitation
 - a. Bank stabilization
 - b. Removal of debris from streams
4. Erection of one or more multi-purpose water supply structures
5. Erection of at least one or more multi-purpose recreational structures
6. Improve land use management and utilization
7. Erosion and sediment control ordinances
8. Stream flow augmentation to enhance aquatic life
9. Planning to maintain a balance between agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development, versus open space uses
10. Natural resources management to permit development patterns to occur in an orderly and efficient manner
11. Establishment of conservation areas.

THESE MEASURES WILL:

1. Check flooding and provide more efficient land usage through control of runoff and reduction of areas subject to flooding
2. Create a more favorable environment within the streams, in order to maintain fish and other aquatic life
3. Provide needed water supplies to assure orderly development in and around existing towns, as proposed in County Comprehensive Development Plan
4. Create urgently needed water-based recreational facilities

5. Allow for more efficient land utilization for agricultural and conservation uses, essential to the ecology of the region.
6. Minimize pollution through control of erosion and storm runoff waters
7. Create and maintain a desired balance between agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial development, and open space uses
8. Provide resource management for the orderly assimilation of development into the environment of this beautiful watershed, while still maintaining the cherished assets of the existing visual image
9. Protect and provide guidelines for the acquisition and development of public open space
10. Provide the potential for a system of trails through the watershed to link with the Appalachian Trail and the proposed Potomac Heritage Trail.

A program implemented under the terms of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act for the Catoctin Watershed would undoubtedly correct many adverse conditions now existing in the streams and valley areas of this watershed. A superficial analysis of the benefits that may be derived from this project are extensive in number including the development of a multi-purpose project which would provide a much needed water supply to meet the present and future needs for a greater portion of Western Loudoun County.

Summary

The above has been a brief condensation of some of the areas of concern and potentials for improvement in the quality of life for the inhabitants and visitors to the Catoctin Creek Watershed. Many alternatives can be combined into a P.L. 566 Watershed Project, which can be partially funded by the Federal Government. Many, however, because of constraints on the program cannot, but may be fundable under other State and Federal programs. We need your assistance. Let us know how you feel about these aspects so we can develop a plan that will be acceptable, workable, and provide lasting community benefits. Please help us by filling out and returning the attached questionnaire. Additional copies of this report and questionnaire are available at the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 137C South Catoctin Circle, Room 206, Leesburg, Va.

17 April, 1974

Mr. P. Coldiron
Location and Design Engineer
Virginia Dept. of Highways
1221 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Coldiron:

RE: Route 812 (Rest Howe Road)
Project 0812-053-173, C-501, B-632
Loudoun County
N. Fork Catoctin Creek

Thank you for our copy of the notice of the public hearing on this project. I spoke with Mr. D.N. Simmers of your office about this and he indicated that plans call for the removal of the old truss bridge here. It is my understanding that at the time a new replacement bridge was built several years ago near this truss bridge, that there was considerable local feeling that the old bridge be saved as the one remaining example of its type near Hillsboro.

Possibly could the Highway Department feel out the possibilities that a local group may want to assume responsibility for the old bridge in order that it can be saved?

Yours,

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Executive Director

JRF:sk

cc: Mr. Howard Newlon

bc: John G. Lewis

Loudoun

338-7229



4 December 1974

Mr. Rob R. Blackmore, Director
Commission of Outdoor Recreation
Eighth Street Office Building
803 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Blackmore;

Pursuant to my letter to you of 29 November 1974, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved our request of a study as to the possibility of putting the Catactin and Goose Creek in the Scenic Rivers Program.

Thus you will shortly be receiving a Resolution from the Supervisors requesting that you proceed with this as soon as possible.

I am getting together with a Committee on Thursday 12 December 1974 to make the recommendation to you, for specific areas along each watershed, which we feel has sufficient quality for this consideration; as naturally the entire watersheds do not meet these standards. Thus specific outstanding sections of each should be the areas which receive this status.

This is to be presented to the Supervisors on 17 December 1974 and will be sent to you shortly thereafter, for your consideration.

We are now lining up the necessary political support for this in the General Assembly, and will therefore try to provide you with all the support possible in that quarter.

As you know there are now no industrial or commercial users on either watershed, and the support is there from property owners who are fed up with continual threats of impoundments for the benefit of others outside of the County.

I would greatly appreciate your advice, before the 12 December 1974 meeting - if possible - on how you want this presented to you and the answers to the following inquiries regarding this;

1. Will this necessitate any specific change in the Zoning category along these two watersheds?

Mr. Rob R. Blackmore

4 December 1974

2. What are your requirements as to delimitation as to the area to be covered by this recognition; i.e. the stream bed it's self; at least 250' or the flood plain or which ever is the greater distance from the stream bed; or will you do this in your study?
3. Effect on land values adjacent to the designated areas?
4. If property adjacent to these designated areas is sold at a later date to another owner, and should they desire to make some change in the use of the designated area what would be the procedure for this?

I realize these are rather broad and may well depend upon your study and it's recommendations. However, if you could provide me with some basic information on these questions it would be a great help with our meeting of 12 December 1974 and in my Recommendations to the Supervisors on 17 December 1974.

Thankyou for your time, interest and support in this matter and please feel free to call upon us for any assistance which you feel we can provide.

Looking forward to hearing from you shortly,

Sincerely,

JOHN G. LEWIS
Chairman
Scenic Rivers Committee

DIST:

1 cc- Mr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Mr. William T. Bolger

336-7229

10 December 1974

Hon. Charles L. Waddell
Route 2, Box 299B
Broad Run Farms
Sterling, Virginia 22170



Dear Senator Waddell;

First off let me thank you for your great personal assistance today. Let us hope that the case is decided on it's merits of honest facts, well informed personnel and gentlemanly conduct on behalf of Loudoun County and the Commonwealth.

Pursuant to our conversation of today, I enclose herewith, a copy of the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County concerning the proposed Scenic Rivers designation for both the Goose and Catoctin Creeks.

Hopefully Mr. Rob R. Blackmore, Director, Commission of Outdoor Recreation, and his staff can have the necessary information ready by the 1975 General Assembly Meeting.

In connection with this you might point out to them that they are on record as recognizing the value of Goose Creek for such a designation; and to avail themselves of the study done by the Division of State Planning and Community Affairs, suggesting that the Goose Creek Watershed be placed in a Critical Environmental area; and the recent study done by the Piedmont Environmental Council, 28-c Main Street, Warrenton, Virginia 22186, of their Environmental study of the Catoctin Creek.

Also, I understand from reports in the Fauquier Democrat, that there is a movement to place that part of the Goose Creek under this same designation. Thus contact with their Representation to the General Assembly might help us all in this proposal.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. LEWIS

DIST:

1 cc- Va. Hist. Landmarks Comm.
Division of State Planning - Community Affairs
Piedmont Environmental Council
Mrs. Peggy Adams, Open Space Committee, Lo. Co.

CL 7.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

James F.

ROB R. BLACKMORE
Director

Telephone (804) 770-2036



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MARVIN M. SUTHERLAND



COMMISSION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Eighth Street Office Building
803 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

December 10, 1974

Mr. John G. Lewis
The Minor Bartlow House
Hamilton, Virginia 22068

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the possibility of scenic river designation for Catoctin and Goose Creeks.

I am a bit uncertain as to what you mean when you speak of specific areas along each watershed which should be included in the scenic river designation. I presume this means that you feel certain areas in the watershed do not qualify for scenic river designation. We have never approached the scenic river program by recommending an entire watershed or even significant portions of the watershed be included in a scenic river, even though we are interested in what is happening in the watershed.

In regard to the several questions you posed in your December 4 letter, you are correct in stating that the questions are rather broad and the answers would depend upon a study and the recommendations. We would assess the scenic, natural and historic qualities of the stream and recommend a sufficient amount of land on each side of the stream be set aside to protect these qualities. It could be as much as 400 feet on each side of the stream, and the method of protection could be fee acquisition, open-space easements, local land use controls or a combination of any of these. I am sure you understand that I cannot fully answer these questions without knowing more about the two streams and other matters that would relate to scenic rivers.

Mr. John G. Lewis
Page two
December 10, 1974

I would appreciate your keeping me posted of meetings that are being held concerning Catoctin and Goose Creeks as scenic rivers.

Sincerely,



Rob R. Blackmore
Director

cc: ✓ Mr. Junius Fishburne



ROB R. BLACKMORE
Director

Telephone (804) 786-2036

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

COMMISSION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Eighth Street Office Building
803 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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May 13, 1976

Mr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Director
Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Junius:

The Commission of Outdoor Recreation in conjunction with a task force of local citizens is about to begin a scenic river study of Catoctin Creek in Loudoun County. The segment of Catoctin to be studied is that portion between Waterford and its confluence with the Potomac River. This study will be similar to our recent Goose Creek study in that the majority of the work will be done by the local task force with support and guidance from us.

In order to insure that we can be of most assistance to the citizen group and to make sure that the results are realistic and viable, we would like to solicit your cooperation and assistance. It would be particularly helpful to us if you would appoint a staff member to serve as our liaison with your agency during the study. John Davy, a member of our planning staff, has been designated COR staff coordinator for this study. As the study progresses, we will send you draft copies of the report for review and comment.

We look forward to working with you as we study Catoctin Creek and its potential for inclusion in the State's Scenic River System.

Sincerely,

Rob R. Blackmore
Director





Richmond Virginia 16 March 1977

Scenic rivers

At a special ceremony in Richmond on Thursday, March 3, Virginia's Governor Mills Godwin signed into law two bills approved by the 1977 General Assembly establishing two more scenic rivers in the state, bringing the total to four. Looking on are Loudoun State Senator Charles Waddell (left forefront) who was chief patron of the bill designating 16 miles of the Catoclin Creek in Loudoun County, from the town of Waterford to the Potomac River, and Delegate Norman Sisisky (right forefront) of Petersburg, who sponsored the legislation designating as a scenic river a five-mile stretch of the Appomattox River. Also attending the ceremony were the three Loudoun-Prince William State Delegates and interested Loudoun citizens, including several students from the Leesburg Christian School Loudoun's Broad Run High School.

cc VHLC

COR

Co Hist File

Album

In Richmond

Catoctin River Bill Signed

The Catoctin Creek Scenic Rivers bill, along with the Appomattox Scenic River bill, was signed into law in a joint ceremony by Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin last week.

The Catoctin Creek Scenic Rivers bill, sponsored by State Sen. Charles Waddell, was signed March 3. This legislation designated the 16-mile stretch of Catoctin Creek in Loudoun County as a scenic river, protecting it from industrial encroachment and preserving it for future generations in its present state.

As the General Assembly came to a close March 5, Sen. Waddell summarized his efforts for the session. Primary among the legislation he sponsored, he said, was Senate Bill 778, which passed both House and Senate, and provides that the State Board of Housing outline building design standards to meet the needs of the han-

dicapped.

Another piece of legislation dealing with the handicapped was Senate Bill 681, which passed both houses and will require all state agencies possessing records of visually handicapped persons to report the names of these persons annually to the Commission on the Visually Handicapped so that they may be informed of the services the Commission offers.

Waddell's resolution to provide tax incentives for businesses awarding contracts to facilities serving the handicapped has passed both Senate and House and only remains to be signed by the Governor.

The agricultural districts bill, Waddell said, was the final bill to pass the Senate, passing 17-14. It will allow assimilation into districts of from 500 to 3,500 acres of land, and "go a long way to preserve agriculture, Virginia's

main industry."

Senate Bill 919, which Waddell sponsored, passed both houses of the Assembly, providing for prosecution of employers who fail to pay their employees when a business closes out.

One bill of interest to Northern Virginia was H. B. 855, or the Annexation bill. Defeated by the Senate by a close vote, the bill would have been a way to focus more attention on a problem affecting many areas of Virginia. Waddell said, "I voted in favor of the bill because I feel it would have been a step forward in solving a very complicated problem."

Catoctin Creek Voted a Virginia Scenic River

Sixteen miles of Catoctin Creek in Loudoun County, Virginia, between the town of Waterford and the Potomac, have been approved as a scenic river by the Virginia General Assembly. With Goose Creek, Catoctin becomes the second river in Loudoun to achieve scenic status.

Scenic river status in Virginia means that the rivers are protected under state law that prevents the construction of dams or other impediments without specific approval of the legislature.

The creek flows through a region of Loudoun County rich in historic sites, but without any industrial development. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, along with the state's Commission of Outdoor Recreation, will now be preparing a management plan for the river, and an advisory committee of citizens in the area will aid in preparing the plans.

Under the proposal, Loudoun County's flood plain zoning ordinance would be considered as a way of limiting usage along the river for agriculture, conservation, and recreation.

According to John Lewis of the county's scenic rivers committee, the state and regional park authority have agreed to administer both Goose and Catoctin Creeks as "scenic, historic, environmental, and open space resources with a minimal emphasis on recreational use."

The flow of Catoctin Creek is too low during summer months for any water-using industry, according to a report prepared by the state. However, the creek has been mentioned as a possible site for a high-flow skimming operation from the Potomac, but the state says this is not considered "a practical solution to the problems of water supply for Northern Virginia." The Army Corps of Engineers, which named Catoctin in a Washington water supply report, did not, however, list the creek as a preferred site.

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