Corridor Resources

Corridor resources are linear elements in landscape which have recreational potential. These resources are of particular importance because they link population centers and other recreational facilities and offer potential for a continuous unbroken system of parks. As linear recreational features, they have many added advantages including service as limited transportation corridors, buffer zones between adjacent uses and edge habitat for wildlife to name only a few. Once again Fauquier is blessed with an abundance of these resources and potential for a greenway system, but to date little has been done to develop or even preserve this potential. Linear resources in the county which offer potential for recreational development of a greenway system include the following (see Greenways Map):

- Streams and Flood Plains: Streams and Flood Plains provide perhaps the greatest potential for greenways in the county. They connect virtually every community in Fauquier and because of their limiting nature, are left open in the development process. Any recreational and athletic facilities are ideally suited for inclusion in these areas. Streams and flood plains additionally offer many environmental and aesthetic amenities for recreation.

- Trails: Trails fall into two categories, existing and proposed, and are included on the accompanying map.

- Abandoned Railroad Lines: Abandoned railroad lines offer great promise as greenways. By their very nature they connect population centers. In most cases they already have bridges, are relatively flat and are relatively free of obstructions. For these reasons over the last several decades they have been the focus of a nationwide "rails to trails" system. The only modern day abandoned railroad line in Fauquier is a stretch of the old Norfolk Southern Railroad between Warrenton and the Sanders Quarry on Meetze Road. There have been efforts on the part of the Parks and Recreation to acquire this right-of-way for use, but this effort has been met with some local opposition.

- Rural Roads: The county has an extensive network of rural roads which are becoming threatened as population grows, use increases and improvements are made. Many of these roads are highly scenic and have historic value, and therefore have a high degree of recreational value. Their preservation is one of the key factors in maintaining the rural character of the landscape.

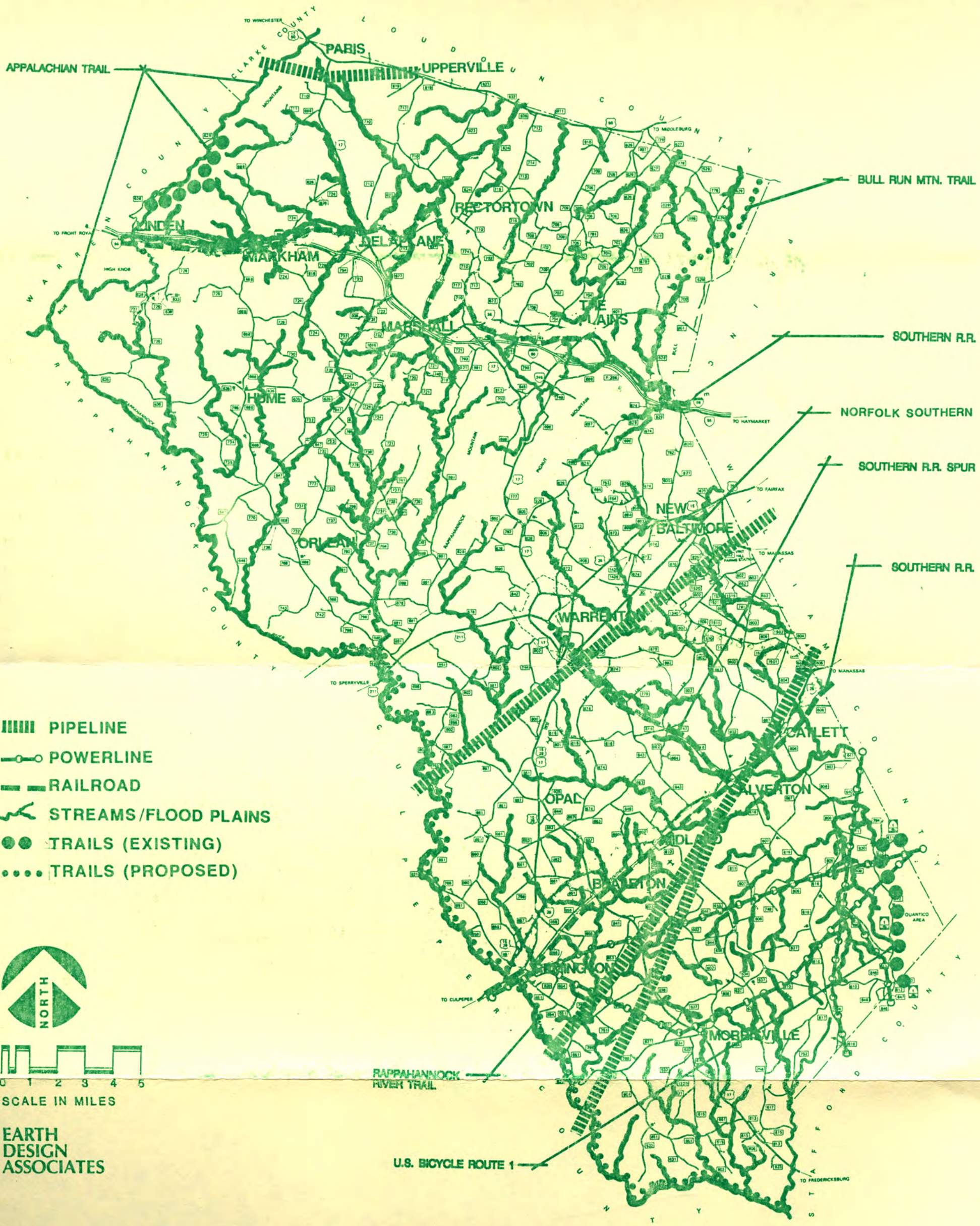
- Pipelines: Several pipelines traverse Fauquier. Three pipelines are located in the south central part of the county and one in the extreme northern tip. Pipelines offer potential for recreation including trails and even athletic facilities. Although the hazardous and security issues of pipelines must be addressed, their potential for recreation versus that of power line corridors are thought to be considerably better because they are not marred by the controversial nature of power lines.

- Railroads: Active railroad lines may or may not have potential for recreation in terms of trails, bikeways, etc. depending on intensity of use, safety, and the characteristics of the site surrounding it. It is typically very difficult to reach agreements with railroads concerning recreational uses of their right-of-ways, however, this potential should not be ignored.

- Power Lines: Power line right of ways present enormous recreational potential. They can accommodate trails, and some sports and active recreational facilities with which power poles and wires will not interfere. All major power lines as indicated on the corridors map exist in the southern part of Fauquier. If safe, these may offer potential for linking population centers or recreational facilities and should be considered on a site specific basis. The effects of electro magnetic fields on humans are yet to be determined.

Compatibility Analysis

Analysis reveals a special suitability of Corridor Resources for passage-based recreation.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

CORRIDOR RESOURCES

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Wildlife Resources

Fauquier County has an abundance of wildlife resources which need to be protected and managed for recreational and environmental purposes. County residents enjoy a wide variety of recreational activities centered on wildlife including hunting, fishing, nature study, environmental awareness programs, and perhaps most popular, the observation of wildlife in our everyday living environment. Of course, the tradition of fox hunting is steeped in the county and is a great source of recreation not only for the fox hunter, but for those who observe this colorful spectacle in the countryside. Fauquier is fortunate to have over 14,000 acres of game preserves and wildlife management areas. The forethought of the former owners of these properties resulted in the preservation of a significant amount of land for wildlife habitat; however, more areas will be needed for the future as the county becomes more densely populated. Of course, wildlife management areas can also serve many other recreational functions.

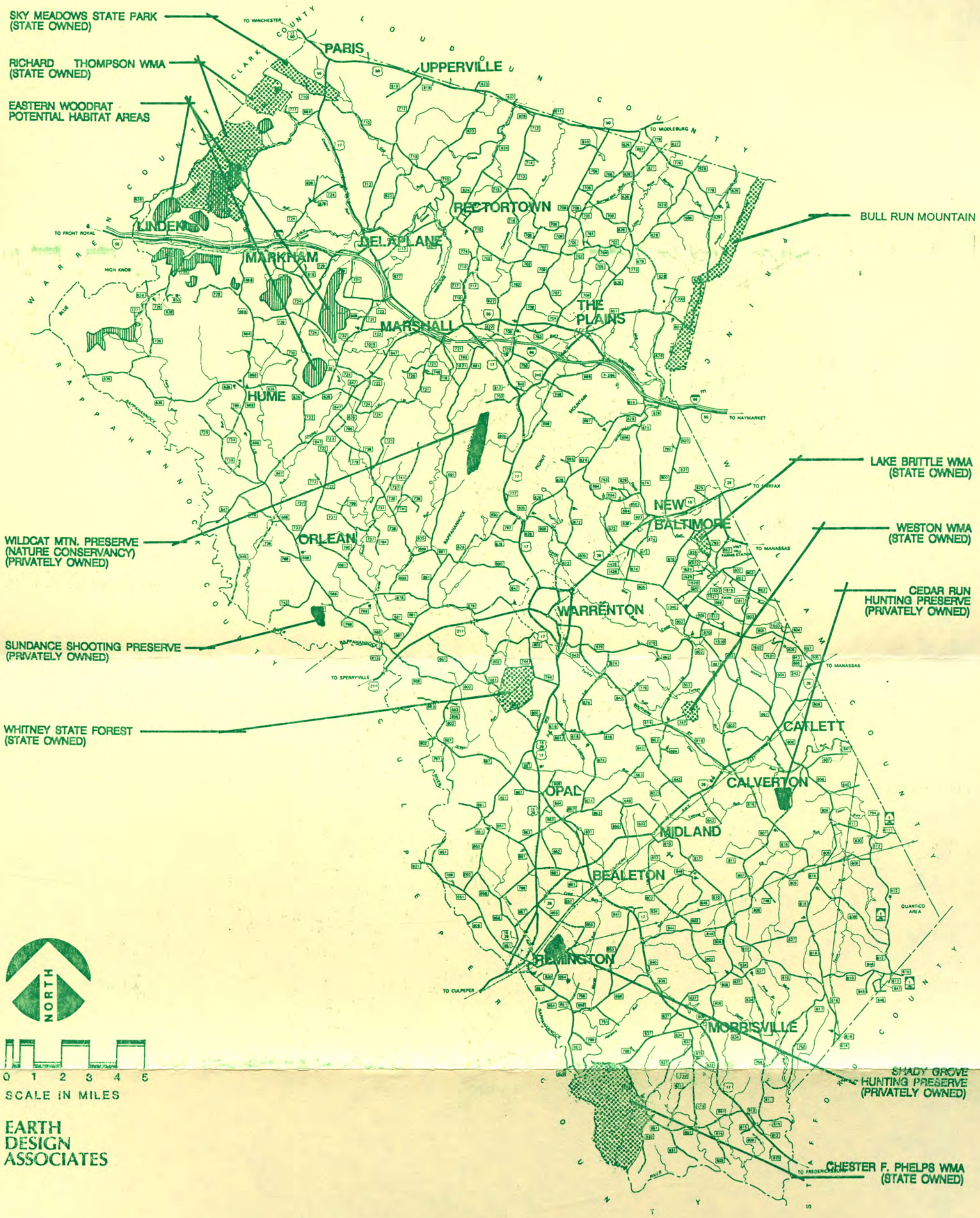
Although there are no known endangered species in Fauquier, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has identified areas which contain potential habitat for the Eastern Wood Rat which is endangered.

Compatibility Analysis

Resources that are primarily for the protection and management of wildlife need to focus on that goal and treat man as a visitor.

Some wildlife management areas permit recreational hunting as opposed to a wildlife preserve which prohibits hunting.

In any case, man is, appropriately, a visitor in these special environments and should be careful to avoid degrading the sensitive wildlife resource.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

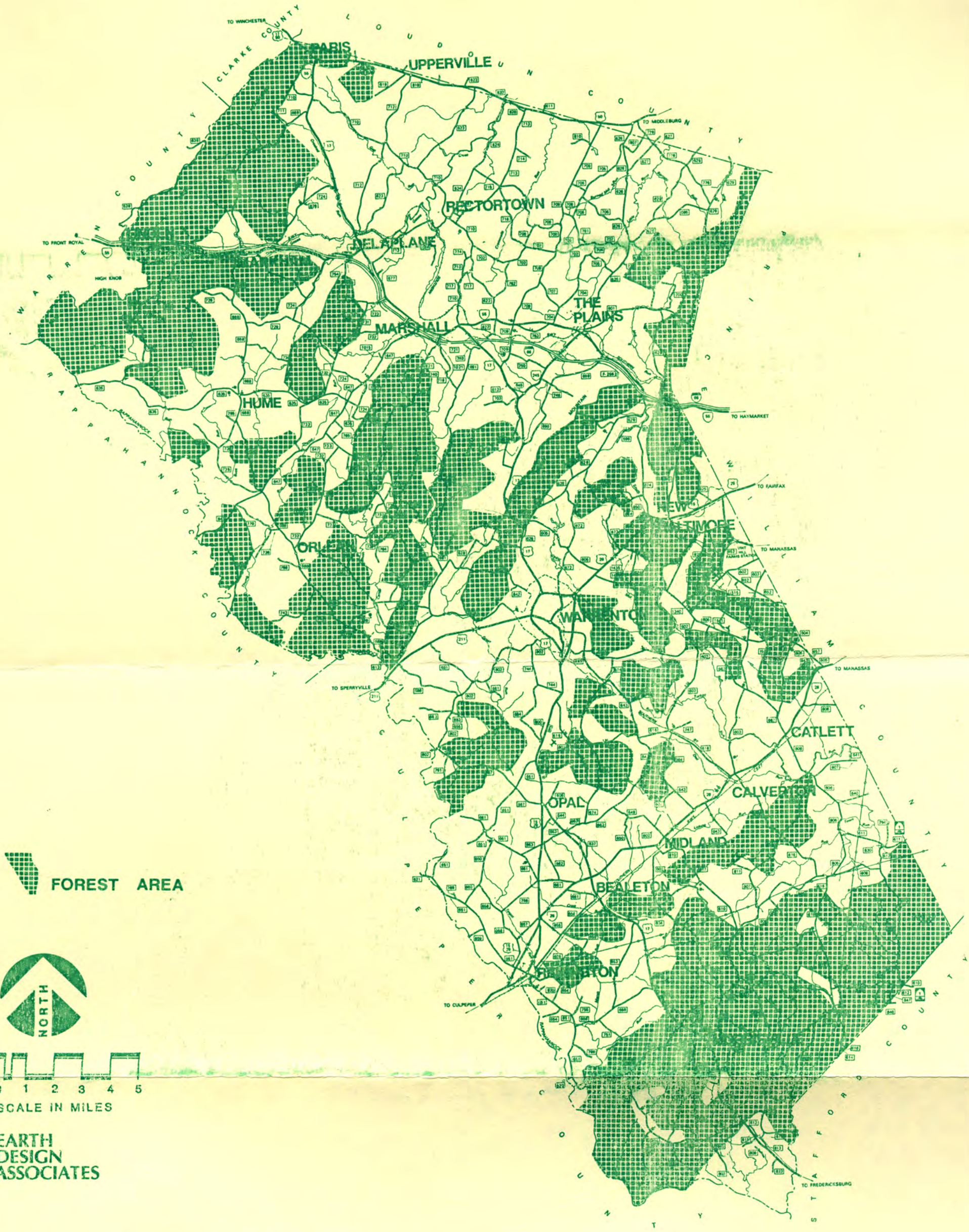
Forest Cover

Forested areas provide an ideal setting for many recreational activities. The following map delineates broad areas of forest cover occurring within Fauquier County. A thorough understanding of the landscape of Fauquier, including vegetative cover will help plan and locate parks which provide a setting conducive to satisfying the human need for recreational activity.

The shade of trees is a recreation magnet as a body of water is a drawing card for outdoor enjoyment.

Compatibility Analysis

The fact that an area happens to be forested serves as an amenity to work around when planning a recreational facility. Most recreation that does not require a cleared area can be successfully accommodated in forested conditions.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

FOREST COVER

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Topographic Resources

As mentioned earlier, Fauquier County is located in the Piedmont province of Virginia and because of its size and configuration, spans almost the entire width of the province. Beginning just above the fall line and tidewater at Fredericksburg and extending to the mountain and ridge province at the county's northern extremity the elevation ranges from 200 to 2,385 feet above sea level. As with many other resources, Fauquier has a wide variety of topographic features which accommodate various forms of recreation. Of course, topography is one of the main components in the county's scenic resources and views afforded by topography and open space have already been emphasized. For this study, topography as a recreational resource has been divided into three categories:

- **Mountain Lands**

  Mountain lands in Fauquier are located in the northern part of the county and can be seen on the accompanying map (Topographic Resources). These lands would generally be considered incompatible with development and their preservation for scenic purposes is important. They also lend themselves to specialized recreational programs and facilities including hiking, trails, camping, climbing, etc. Mountain tops and the ridges connecting them generally offer very good opportunities for wilderness trails and greenways which may also connect other recreation facilities. Certain mountains present a unique opportunity for viewing a vast expanse of the countryside and are quite prominent features which in themselves are worthy of conservation and protection.

- **Steep Slopes**

  Steep slopes are usually associated with the mountainous areas and like the mountains are generally considered not suitable for development. Steep slopes are areas where the results of development can be disastrous to the scenic and environmental quality of the areas. In terms of recreational potential, steep sloops are compatible with a number of recreational activities. Of particular interest are hiking trails, rock climbing and wilderness type activities.

- **Flood Plains**

  Flood Plains offer one of the greatest recreational opportunities of any county resource. Because of their very nature, they cannot be built upon and are therefore candidates for recreational uses of many kinds. A more detailed explanation of flood plain resources has been covered in the Corridor Resources section.

The nature of the county's topography must be considered when planning for recreational facilities. Of special interest are flood plains. Many restrictions make development of flood plains problematic. Since development is generally avoided in flood plains, they are left free to serve as linear parks and greenways.

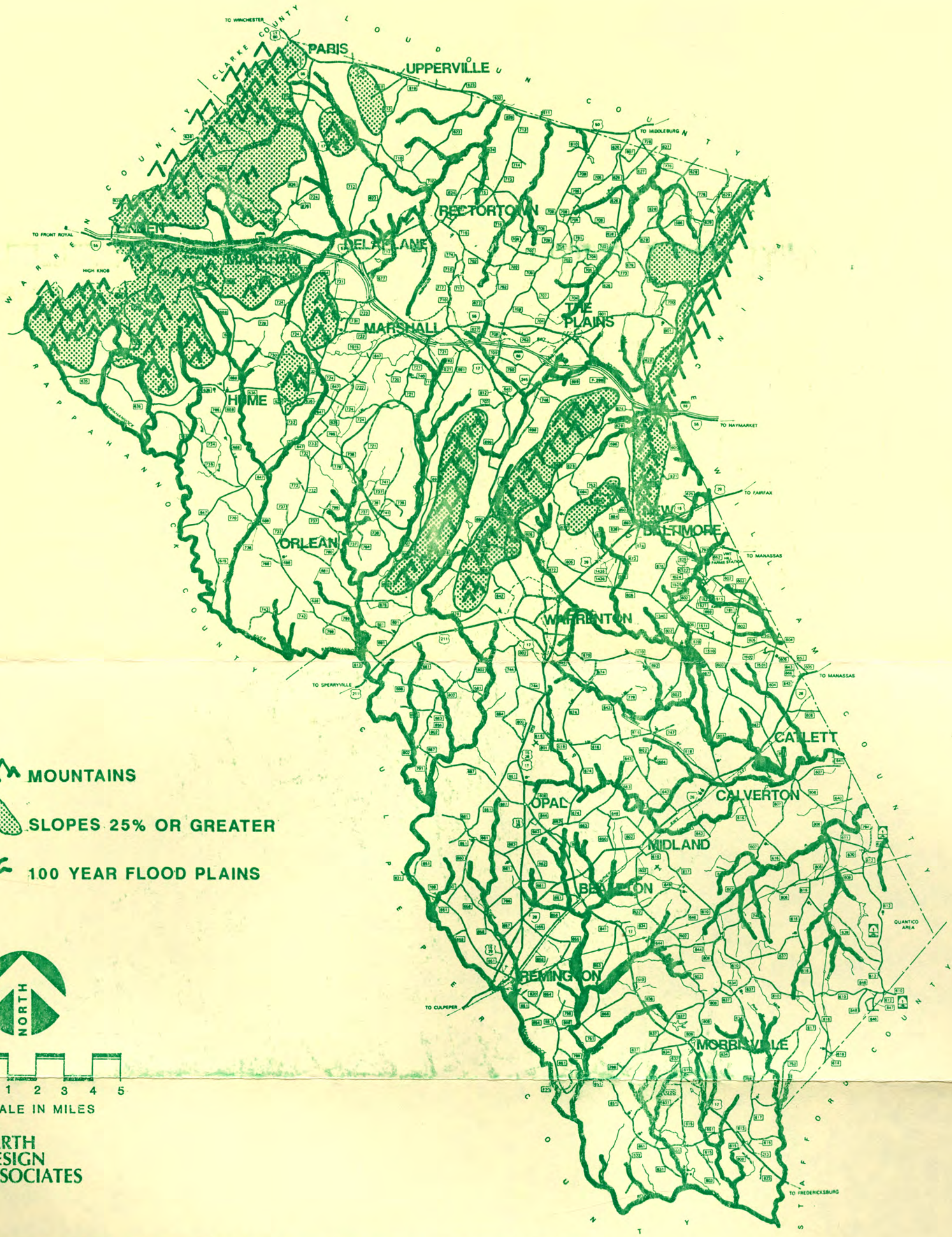
Rolling topography of zero to 25% makes up the majority of Fauquier's land area.

Mountainous land and land with slopes in excess of 25% are significant and also are covered with hardwood forests. These steep lands are also linear in nature, forming the eastern ridges and foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Compatibility Analysis

Flood plains can be seen as accommodating a wider variety of activities and facilities when compared to mountain lands. Ballfields are ideal candidates for some flood plain property. Obvious exclusions from flood plains would be activities like rock climbing which requires topographic relief.

Mountainous and steep lands provide opportunities for scenic panoramas. Hiking trails in mountainous areas which offer a view at the summit are an extremely popular recreational attraction.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

State and Federally Owned Lands

Many federal and state lands in Fauquier County which provide recreational opportunities to County residents and others have significant potential. Obviously the county has no control over these lands but in the attempt to maximize available resources, the county should seek to make use of these properties through use agreements and "piggy backing" by purchasing adjacent smaller sites. Although the County does not manage these lands, where they are designated for public use, access and maintenance are fairly well assured. A list of federal and state lands in Fauquier and their recreational use or potential follows.

Compatibility Analysis

There is some overlap in Wildlife Resources and State/Federally owned sites. Richard Thompson and Chester Phelps Wildlife Management Areas are both owned by the State.

STATE OWNED EXISTING RECREATIONAL AREAS

CENTER DISTRICT

Lake Brittle - 104 acres total, 77 water acres, boating and fishing, 5 picnic tables, boat ramp.

LEE DISTRICT

Chester Phelps WMA - 4,000 acres total, 11 acres fishing, 11 water acres, 1 boating acre, 3,700 hunting acres, 1 picnic table, Rappahannock River access.

MARSHALL DISTRICT

Richard Thompson WMA - 4,106 acres total, 12 water acres, 4,016 hunting acres, 3 miles foot trails, 1 picnic table.

Sky Meadows State Park - 1,587 acres total, hiking, camping, historic site, picnicking.

Whitney State Forest - 250 acres total, 4 miles foot trails, natural area.

STATE OWNED UNDEVELOPED SITES

CEDAR RUN DISTRICT

Weston Refuge - 271 acres total, natural area used for biology studies.

MARSHALL DISTRICT

5 Acres + 5.38 Acres - (2) lots within Appalachian Estates Subdivision near Thompson WMA.
Armory Field - Waterloo Road across from Fauquier High School. T-ball field

contracted to Fauquier Parks and Recreation.

Appalachian Trail - 312 acres, 8.5 +/- miles of foot trails.

<u>SCOTT DISTRICT</u>

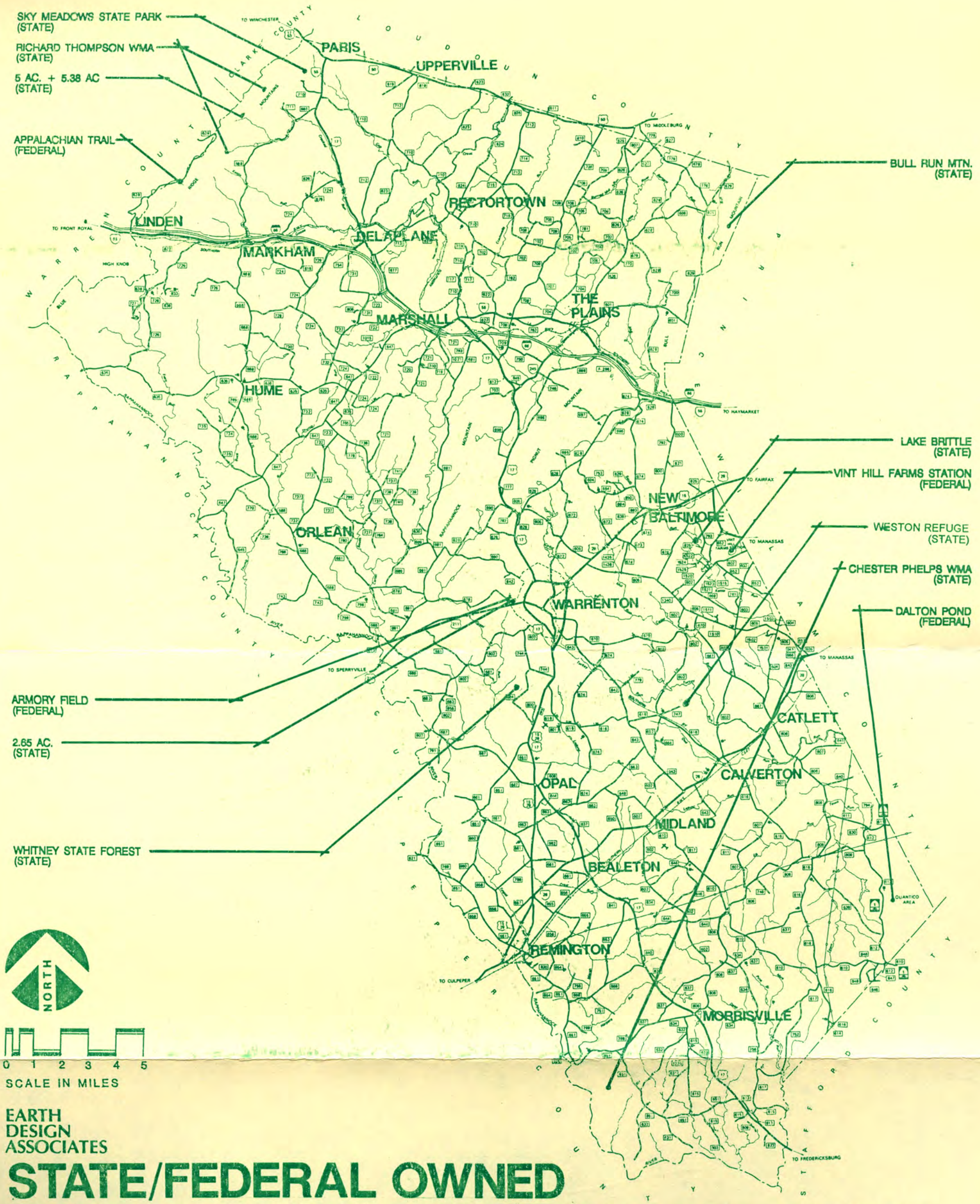
Bull Run Mountain - 1,720 acres total, undeveloped.

FEDERAL OWNED SITES

<u>CEDAR RUN DISTRICT</u>

Dalton Pond - Located in Quantico Military Facility, limited civilian use (extensive recreational facilities for military personnel use only), 28 water & fishing acres, sail boating, hunting, hiking, jogging, bird watching, walks.

Vint Hill Farms Station - 2 swimming pools and other extensive recreational facilities for military personnel with occasional use permitted to Fauquier Parks and Recreation.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

STATE/FEDERAL OWNED RECREATIONAL & UNDEVELOPED SITES*

*NOT ALL PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN SHOWN

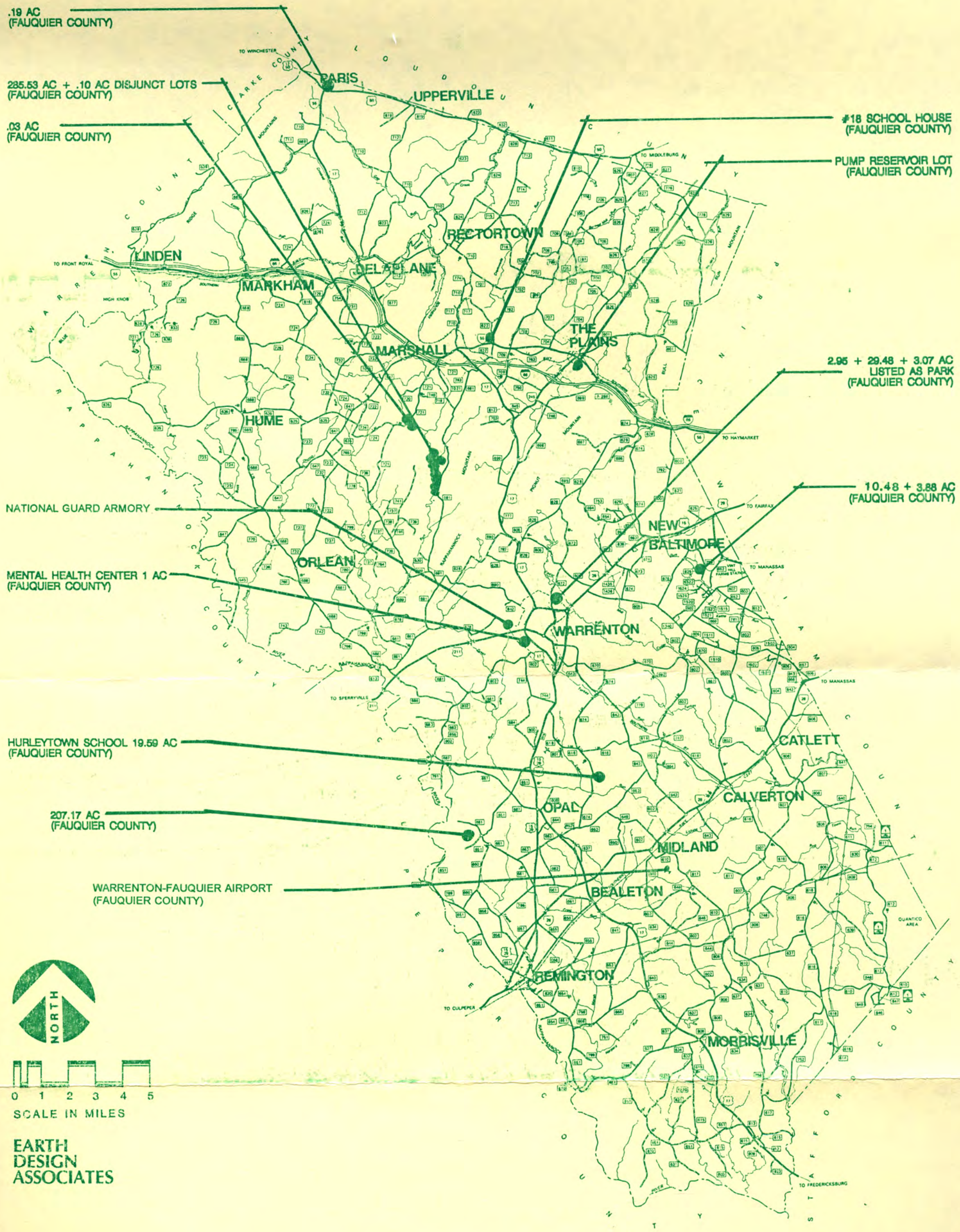
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Owned Sites

Fauquier County taxpayers already own land dedicated for purposes other than parks and recreation which could be used cooperatively to meet recreation goals. Over thirty acres are reserved for a public park adjacent to Warrenton Lakes Subdivision, yet no community park has been dedicated.

Compatibility Analysis

The size, proximity to population centers and nature of the parcel has been considered when considering each parcel's compatibility with Parks and Recreation goals.



EARTH
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

COUNTY OWNED SITES

SMALLER PARCELS OWNED BY THE COUNTY HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA