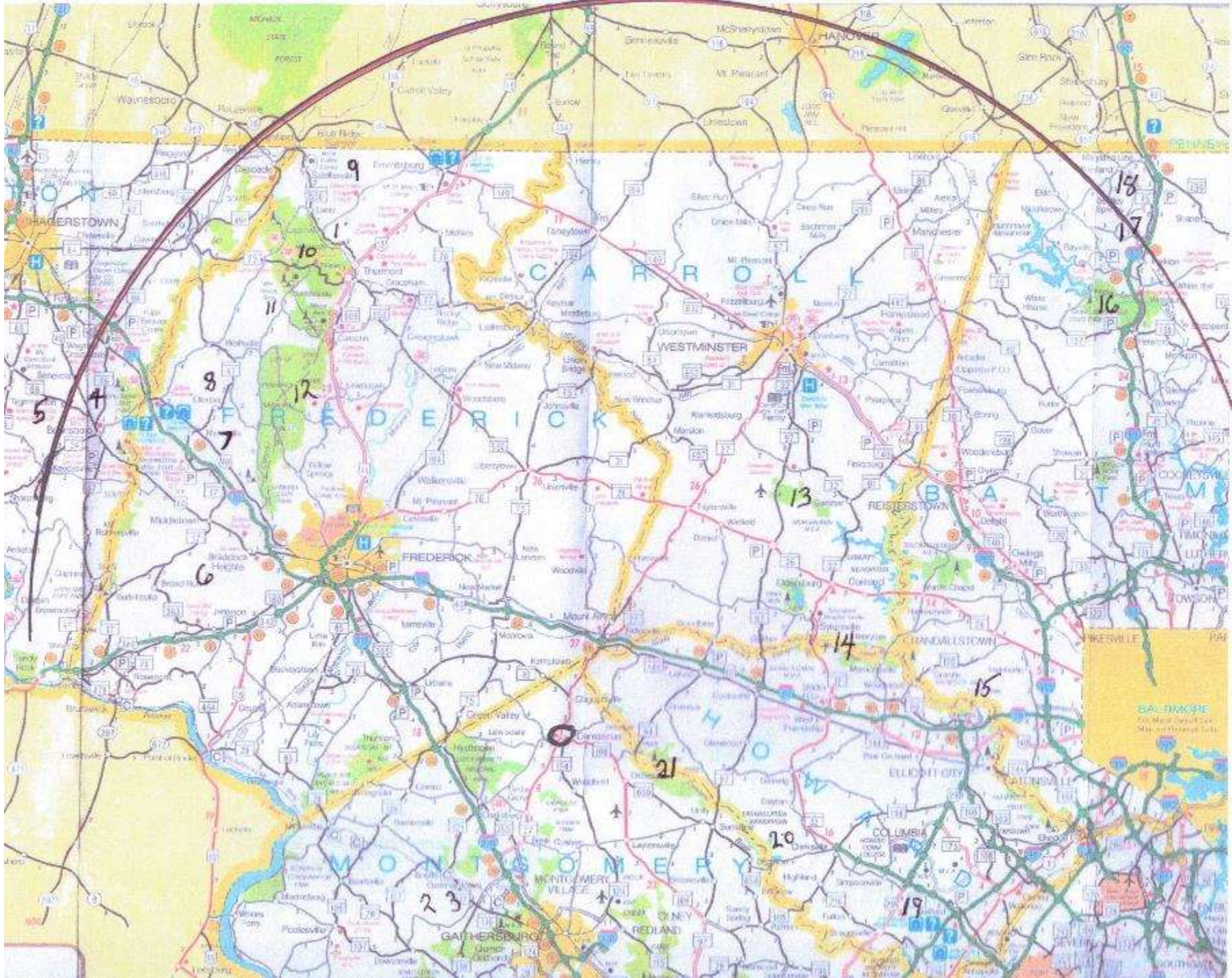


Fishing Opportunities Within a 50 Mile Radius of Damascus MD

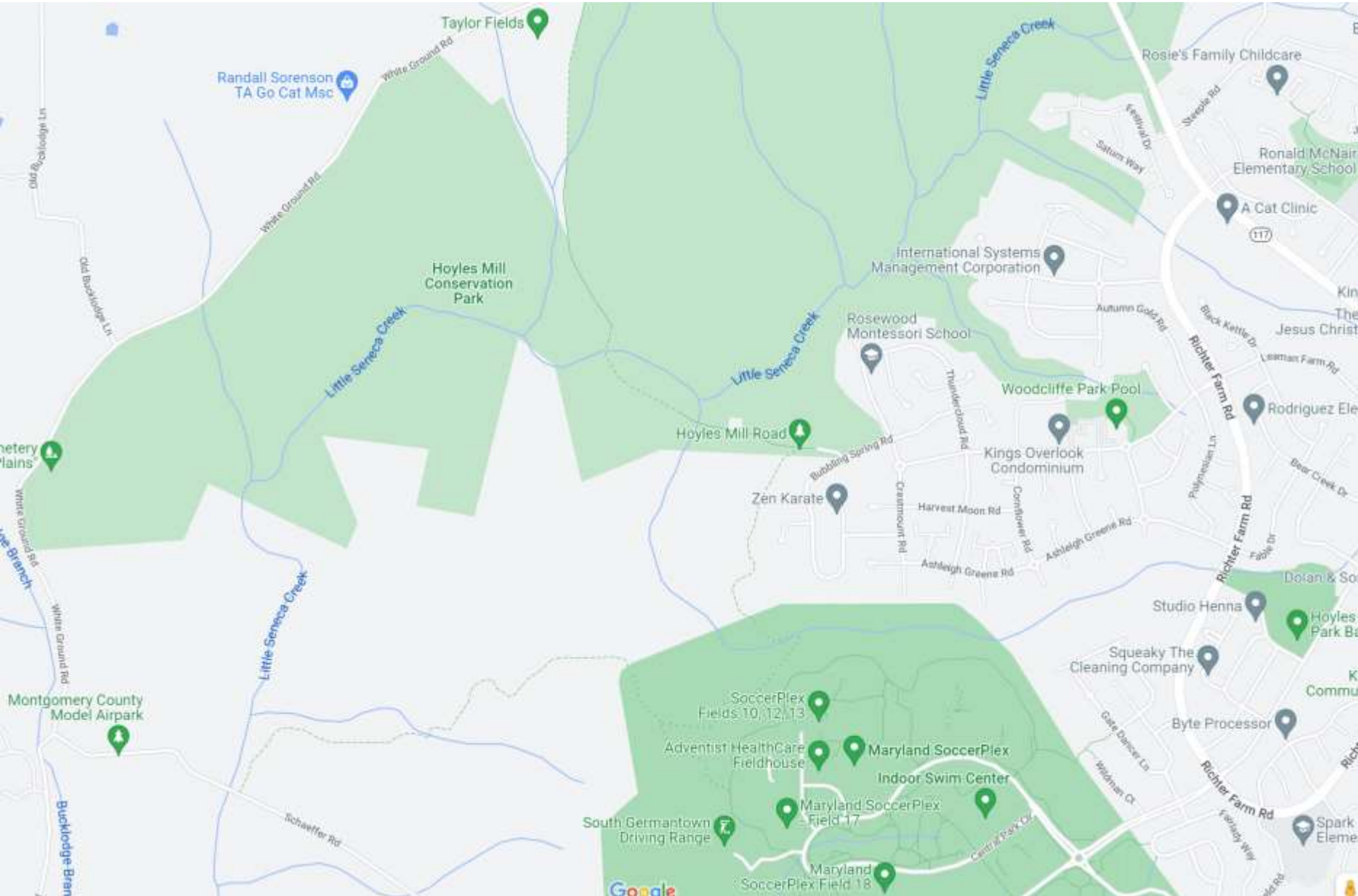
Dale Thatcher

February 13, 2023





Little Seneca Creek



Where: Montgomery County from Seneca Creek Lake outlet to confluence with Great Seneca Creek just above Rt. 28.

Stream features: Small, minimum flow. Release is very small. Water temperature at Clopper Road usually good. Easy wading.

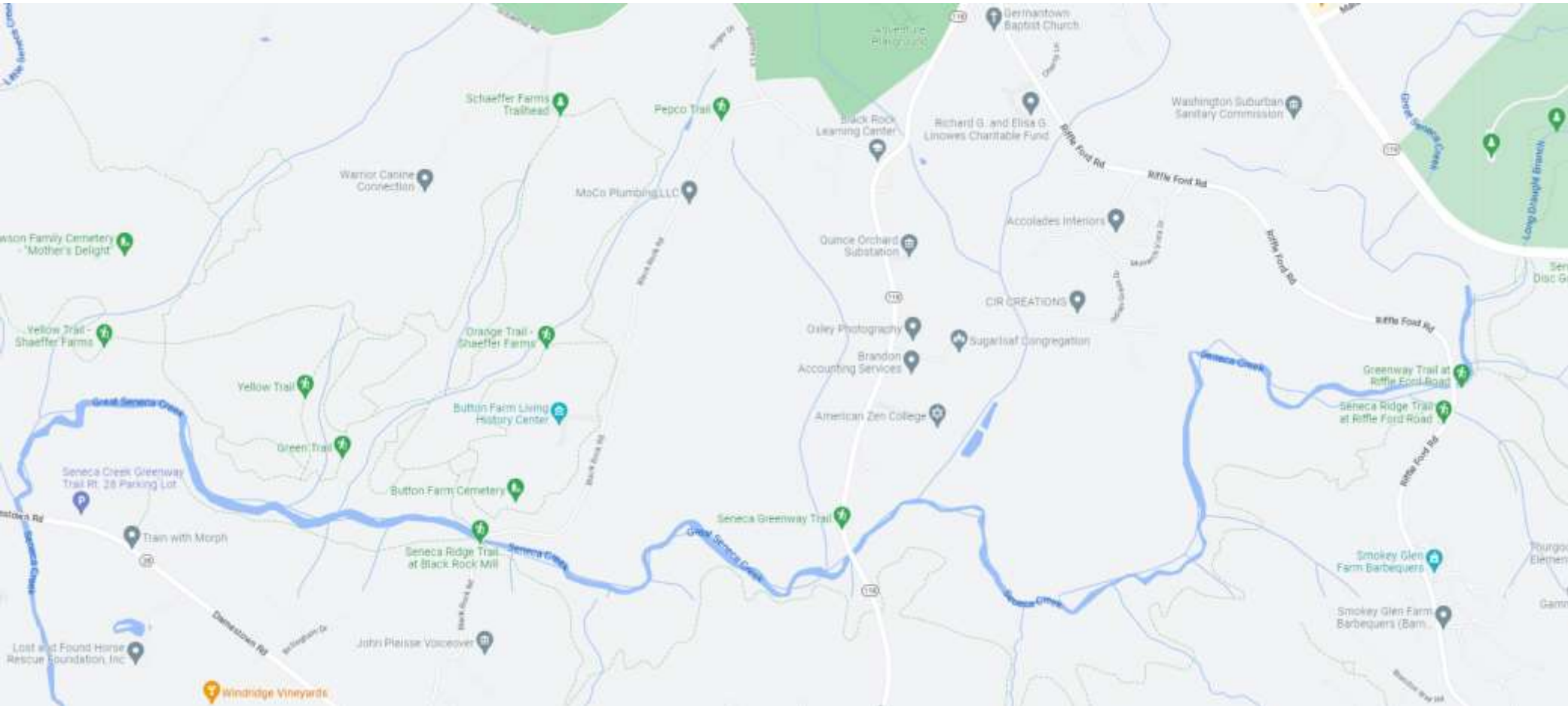
Regulations: Maryland statewide trout regulations = 2 trout/day, no tackle restrictions.

Access: Clopper road at Seneca Day camp. Old Hoyle's Mill road. Schaeffer Road.

Trout: Fingerlings periodically, Trout in the Classroom releases at Clopper road.

Stream Gauges: None

Great Seneca Creek



Where: Montgomery County. Flows from up-county down to Potomac.

Stream features: Freestone. High Banks. Wading OK where banks allow entry.

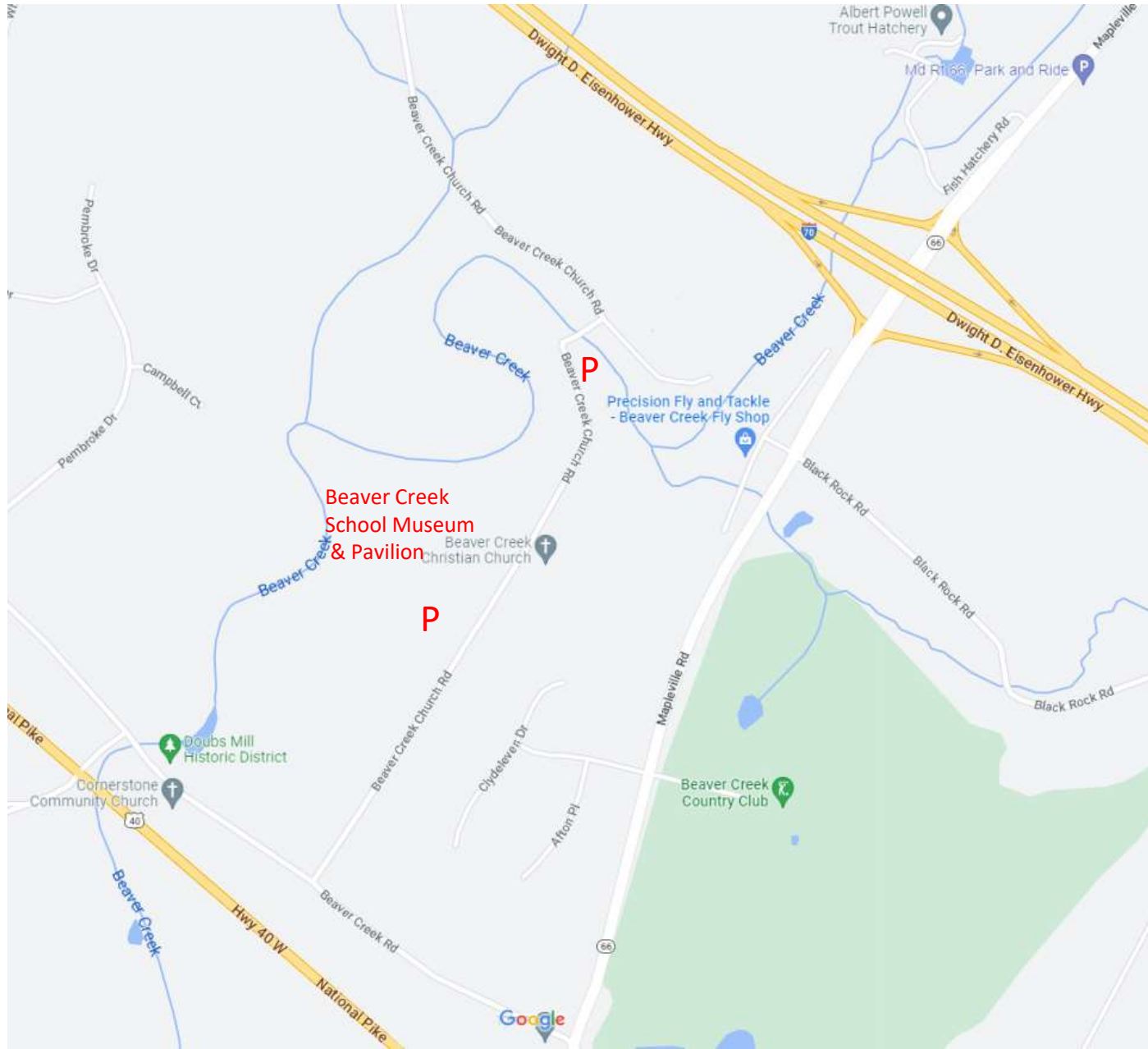
Regulations: Put & Take, 5/day.

Access: At Riffleford Road. At Route 118 there is a small pull off. At Blackrock road, there is a small pull off, **but now there are a lot of no parking signs along road.** At mill, only half dozen parking spots. Route 28 parking lot.

Trout: Stocked from Route 28 upstream to Riffleford Road. Pre-season and in season. 1 closure.

Stream Gauges: Gauge at Rt. 28.

Beaver Creek



Where: Washington County, East and South of Hagerstown, flows into Antietam Creek

Stream features: Limestone influence from Powell Hatchery—spring, small stream, easy wading but try to avoid-spooky fish.

Regulations: Some put and take 5/day, some statewide 2/day.
About 1 mile of Catch and Return—Fly fishing only (this section starts at the entrance of Blackrock Creek and goes downstream to a red marker above the private water upstream of Beaver Creek road.
Put and Take area behind fly shop to top of FFO section up to route 70.
Another small P&T area below route 40.

Access: Hatchery road parking is CLOSED.
Beaver Creek Fly Shop
Fisherman's parking lot on Beaver Creek Church Road before the bridge crossing stream.
There is a small parking lot on Beaver Creek Church road on left past the log house—to access lower part of FFO area.
Pull offs along Route 40 to access P&T area.

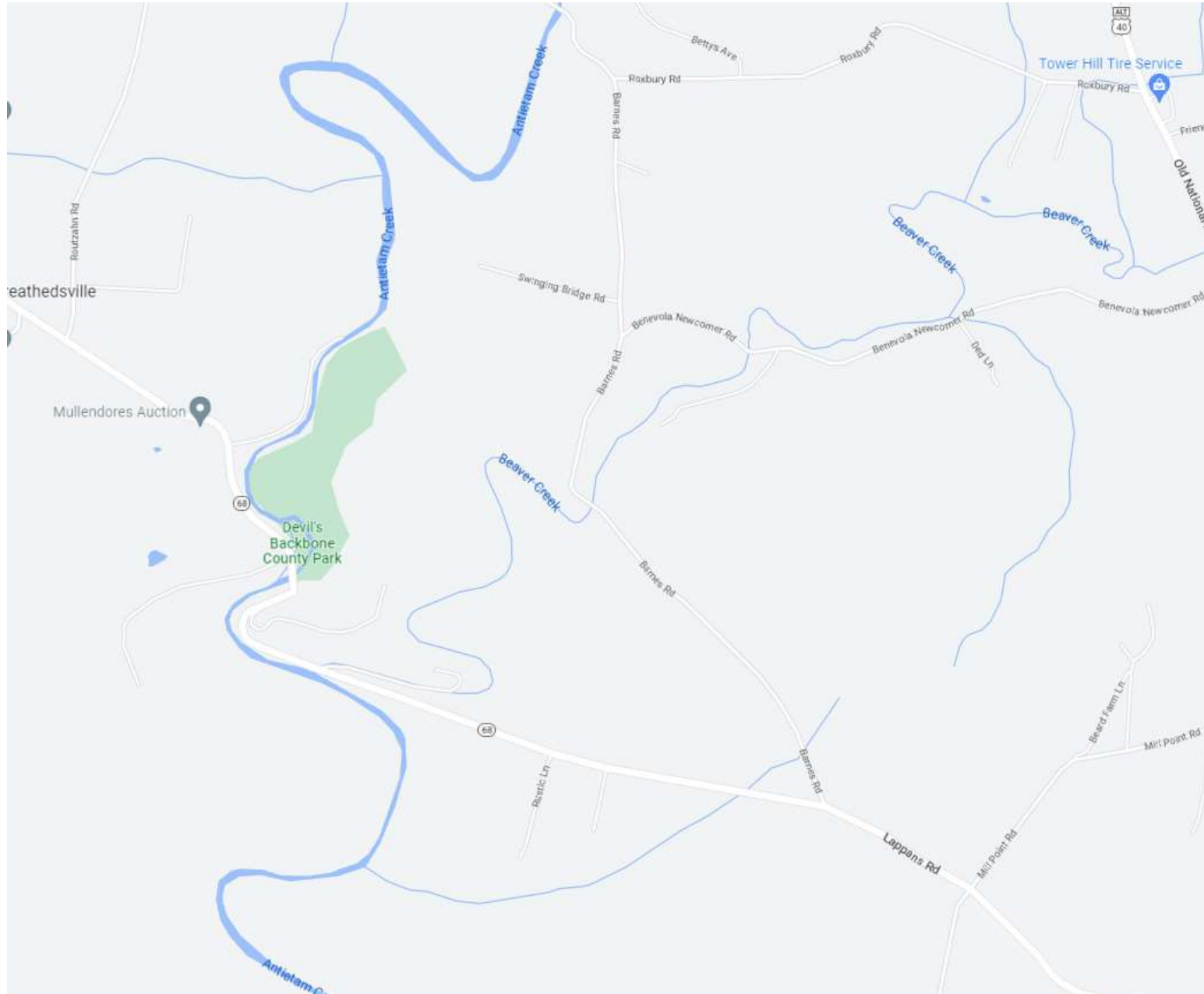
Trout: Both stocked rainbows and wild browns.
Put and take sections-1 closure.

Stream Gauges: None.

Beaver Creek Trout



Antietam Creek (Devil's Backbone Park)



Where: Washington County, East and South of Hagerstown.

Stream features: Limestone influence, larger stream. Upstream of dam is too deep to wade, below dam is fairly easy wading down to Beaver Creek confluence.

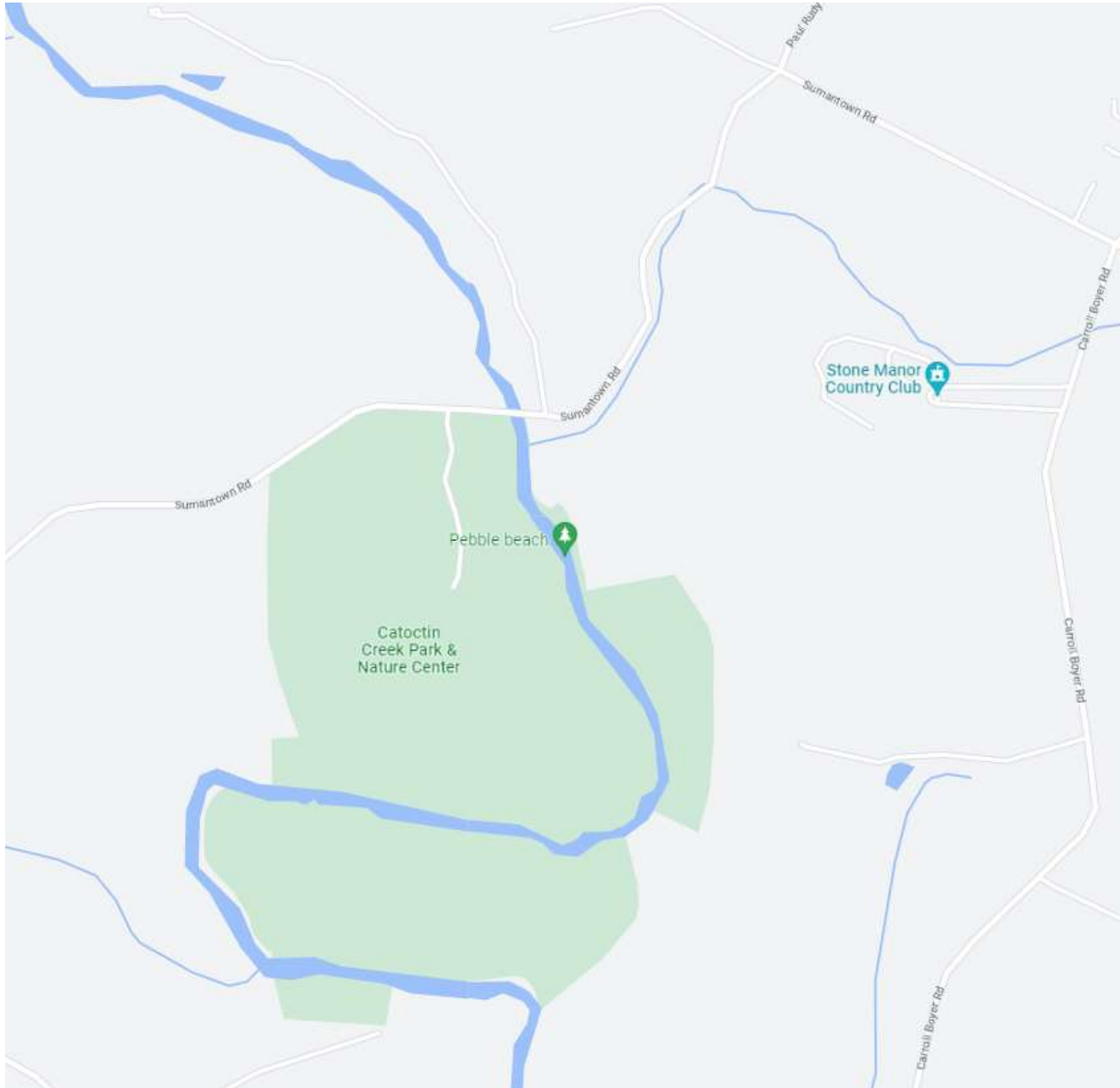
Regulations: Put and take. 5/day from Upper Boundary of park down to Beaver Creek. Rest of stream is state-wide regulation = 2/day.

Access: Devil's Backbone Park. Includes some handicap access and pull offs along Rt. 68 to Beaver Creek confluence.

Trout: Stocked preseason and in season into May. No closure.

Stream Gauges: Upstream near MD/PA border and downstream near Sharpsburg.

Catoctin Creek in Catoctin Creek Park



Where: Frederick County. South of Middletown.

Stream features: Freestone stream. High banks can make access difficult, but fairly-easy wading. Potentially large flows.

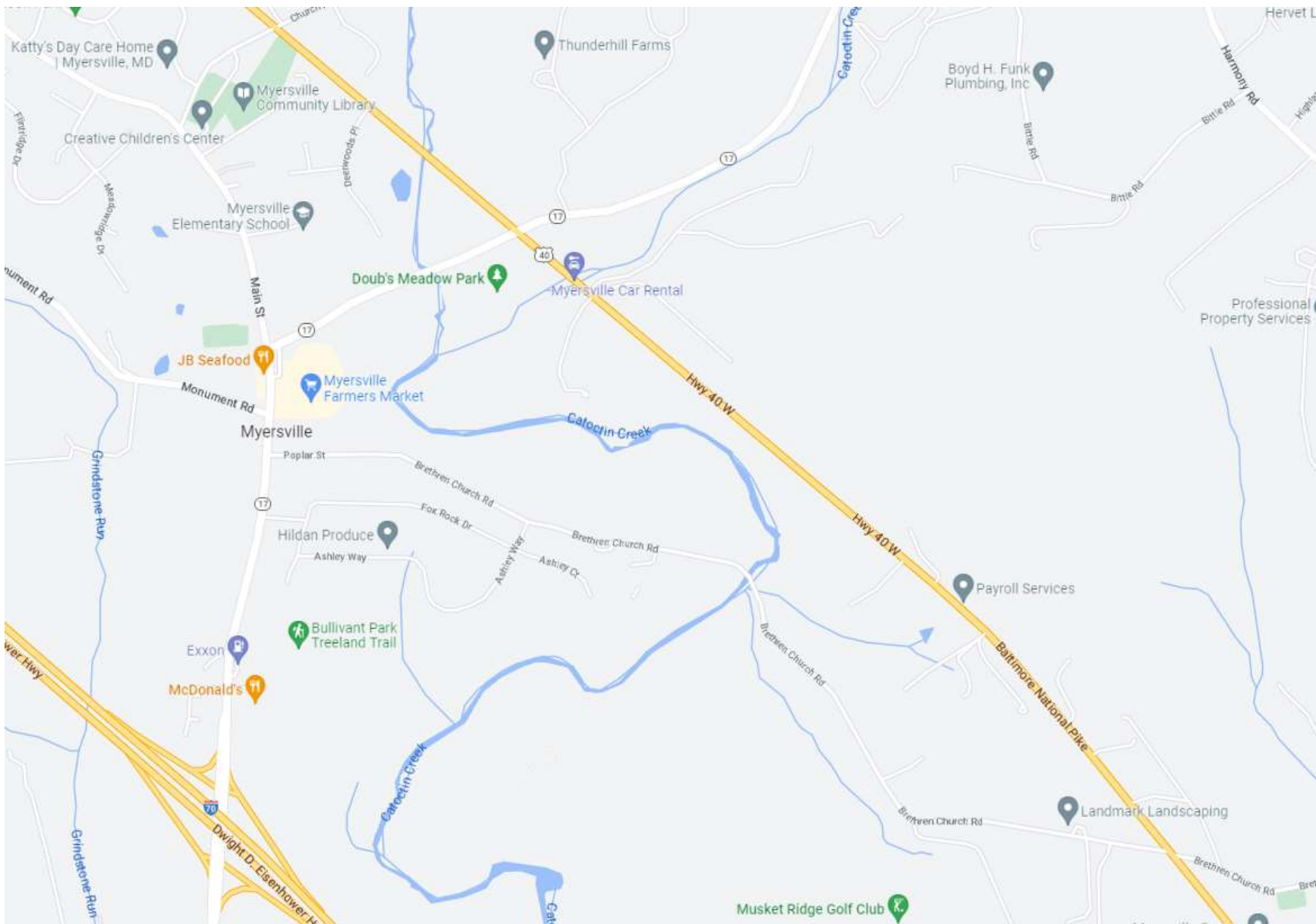
Regulations: Delayed harvest.

Access: Catoctin Creek Park parking lot. 100-200+ yard walk down-hill to stream.

Trout: Stocked rainbows, once preseason and once in-season.

Stream Gauges: Gauge near Middletown.

Catoctin Creek—Doubs Meadow



Where: Frederick County, just south of Rt. 40 in county/city ballpark of Doubs Meadow Park.

Stream features: Only park-side of stream for access. Very short section includes Little Catoctin feeder. Easy wading.

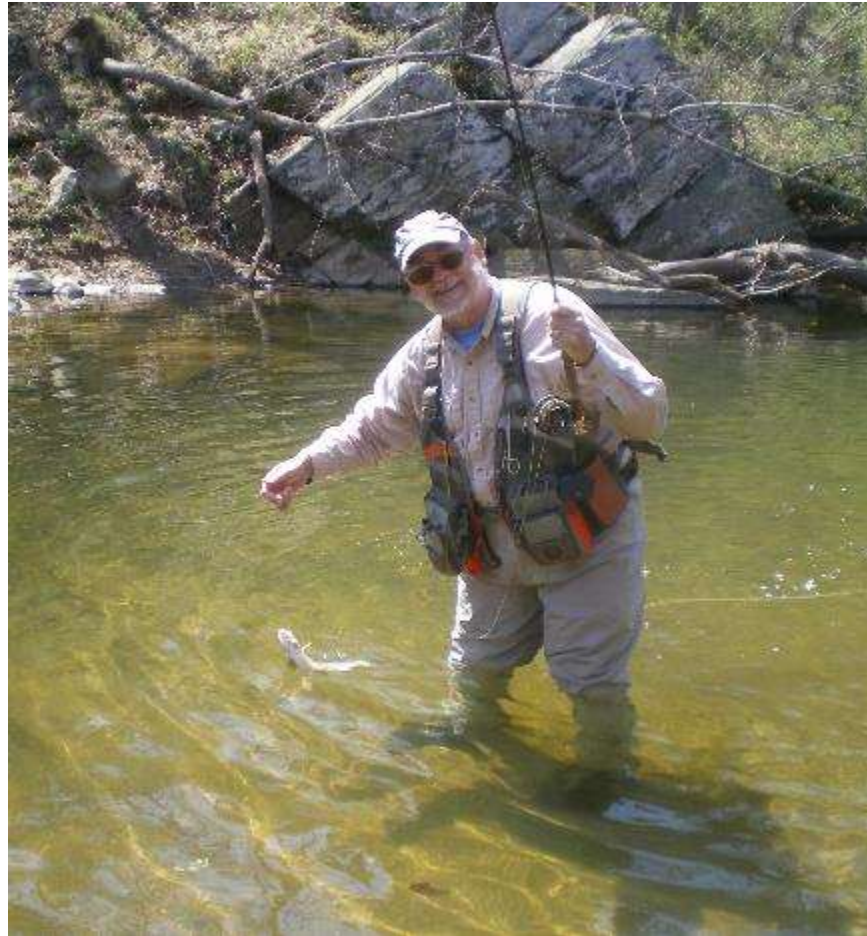
Regulations: Delayed harvest.

Access: Parking lots in ball parks. Easy, flat 100-yard walk to the main part of the stream.

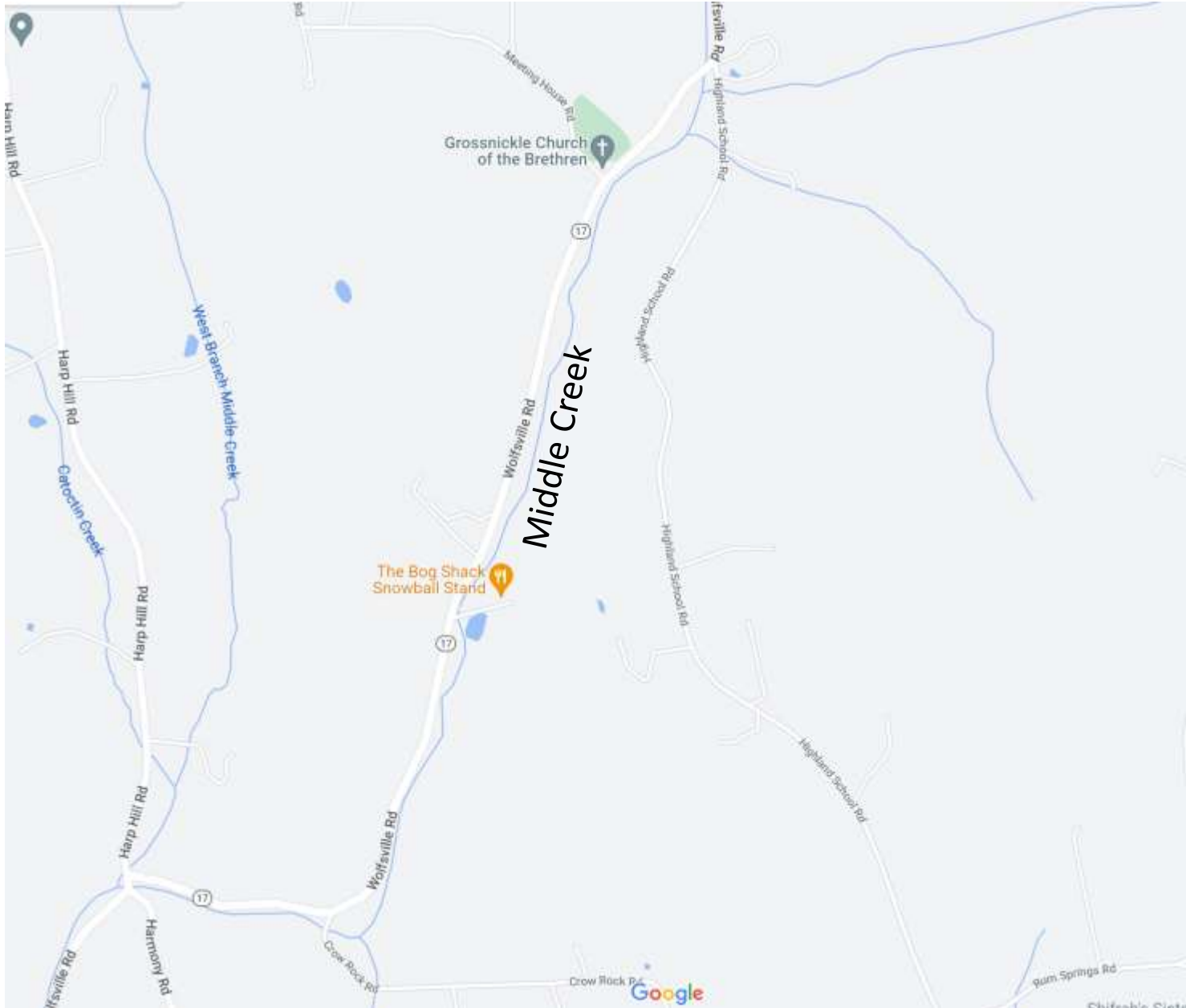
Trout: Stocked preseason and in season.

Stream Gauges: Downstream gauge near Middletown.

Catoctin Creek Trout



Middle Creek



Where: Frederick County. Flows into Catoclin Creek at Doubs Meadow/above 40 and stocked up to Spruce creek confluence.

Stream features: Freestone, shallow.

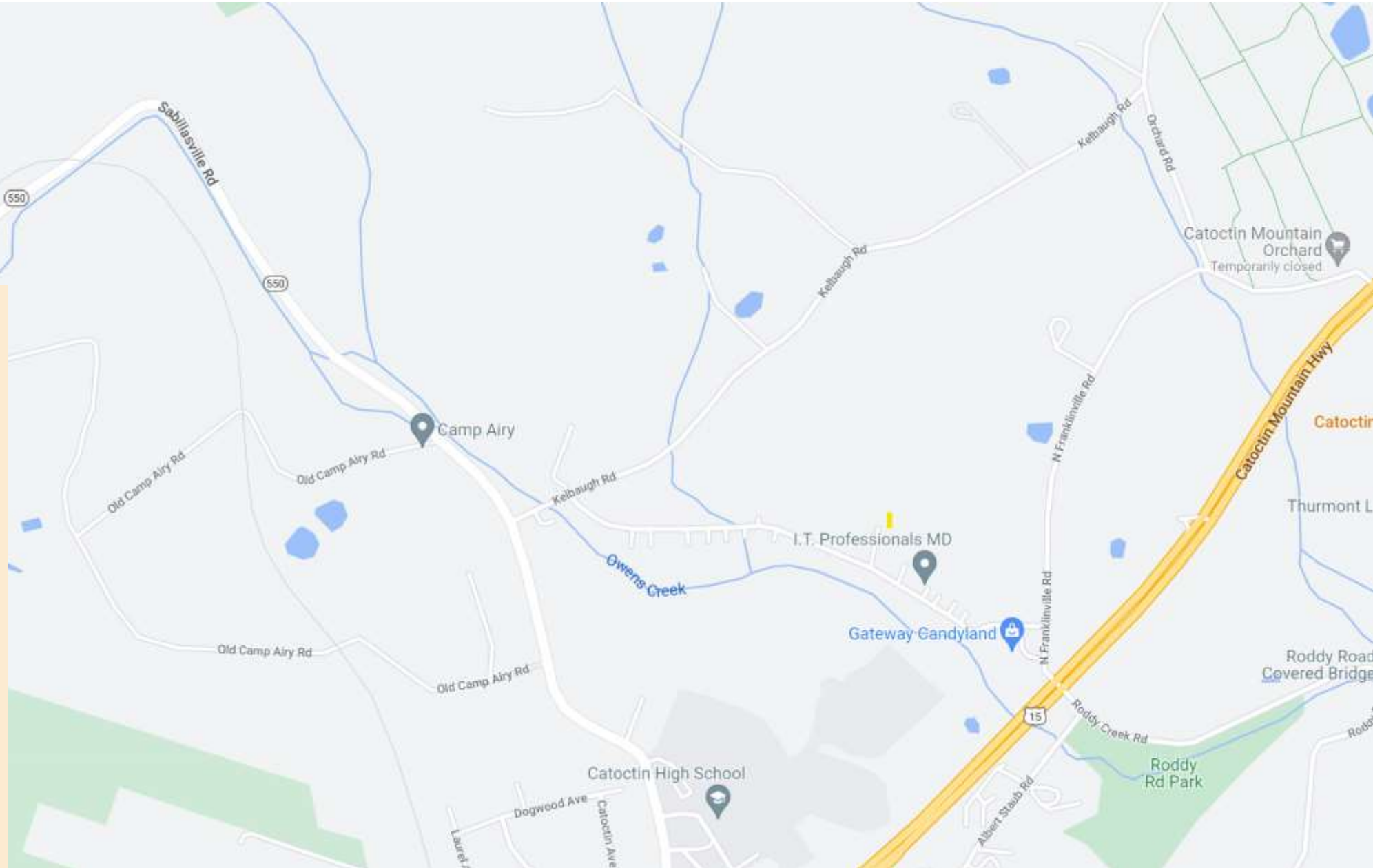
Regulations: Put and take 5/day.

Access: Not good. Guard rail runs along road which runs along stream. A couple of bridge crossings, church parking lot along route 153 (Wolfsville Road).

Trout: Stocked preseason and in season. One closure.

Stream Gauges: Downstream gauge on Catoclin near Middletown.

Owens Creek



Where: Frederick County near Thurmont, flows under Rt. 15.

Stream features: Freestone, rocky, generally shallow with some good holes, mixture of flat sections and some steep sections.

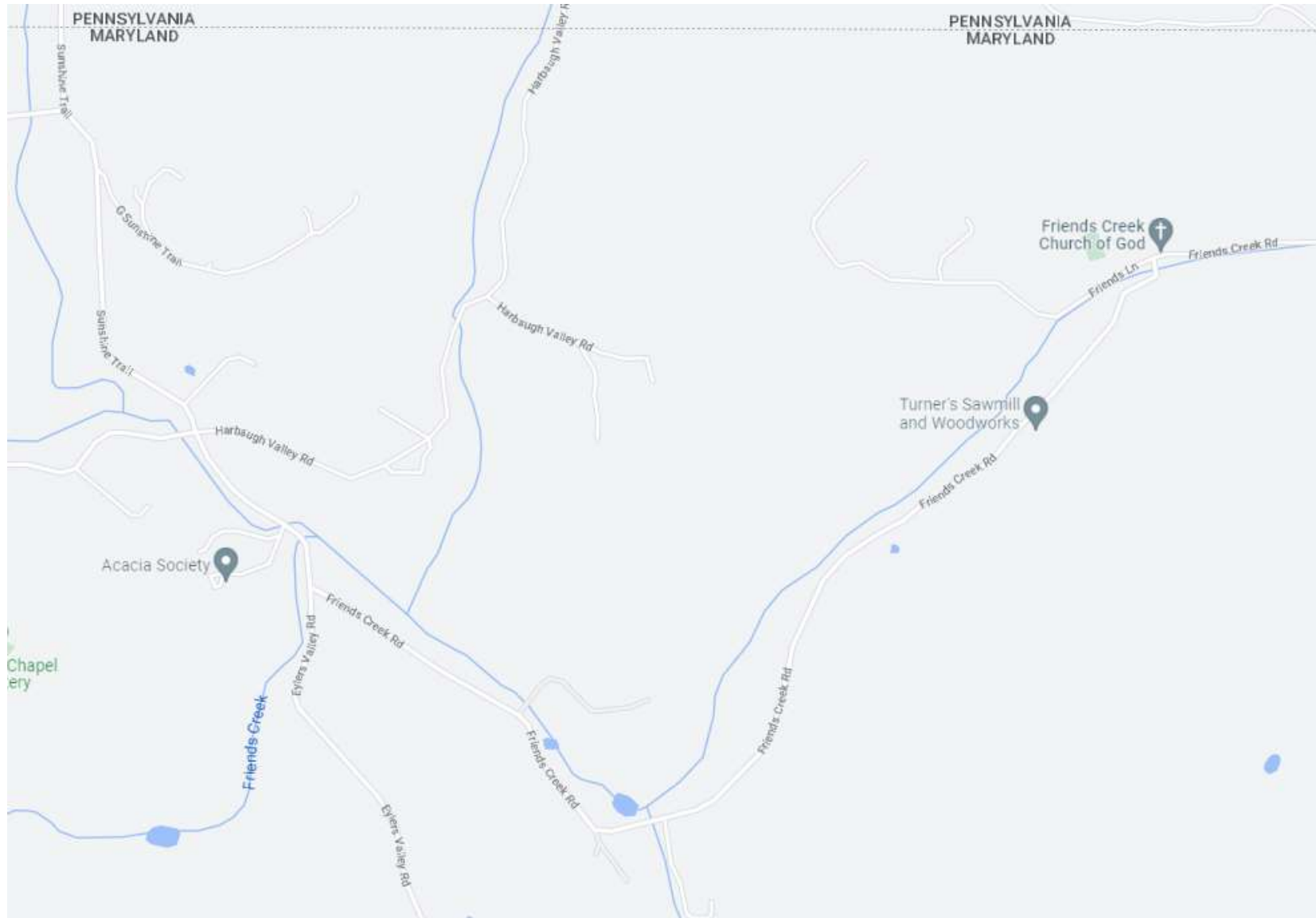
Regulations: Put and Take (5/day) and Catch & Return.

Access: Pull offs along route 550 (which parallels stream above route 15).
Pull offs along Franklinsville Road and below Route 15.
Pull offs along Roddy Creek road.

Trout: Stocked. 1 closure. June 1 to March 1 for Catch & Return.

Stream Gauges: None.

Friends Creek



Where: Frederick County. MD border with PA East of Sabillasville off route 550, Friends Creek road parallels stream.

Stream features: Freestone, low gradient stream, some nice holes.

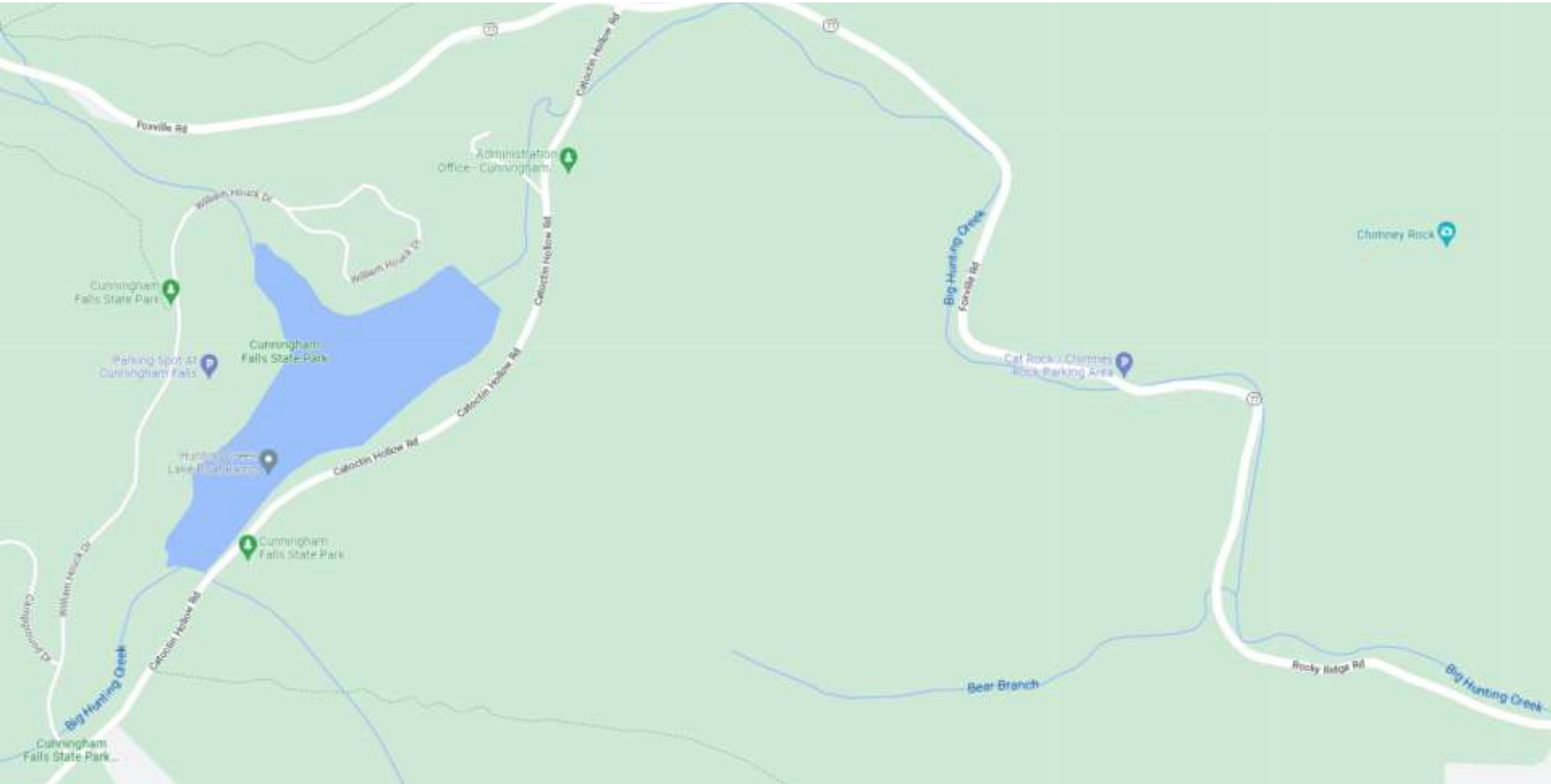
Regulations: Put and Take (5/day).

Access: Pull offs along Friends Creek Road.

Trout: Stocked. 1 closure.

Stream Gauges: None.

Big Hunting Creek



Where: Frederick county in Catoctin Mtns just off route 15.

Stream features: A small tail water below Cunningham Falls lake. Upper part of below dam section starts at conduit under Catoctin Hollow road is relatively flat, rocky but easy wading. Lower section starts to become higher gradient down under route 77/Peniel bridge to bottom canyon-like section, also rocky and rock climbing can be hard.

Regulations: All waters including tributaries within the National and state Parks' boundaries are Catch and Return Fly fishing only.

Access: Easy access stream parallels route 77, multiple pull offs and parking areas.

Trout: State stocks rainbows in spring and there are reproducing wild browns.

Stream Gauges: No stream gauge, but there is a Temperature Gauge.

Big Hunting Creek Below the Peniel Bridge



Big Hunting — Cicada Eats



Little Hunting Creek

Where: Frederick County. Flows along Catoctin Hollow Road into Cunningham Falls State Park, under route 15. Downstream a short way is still in the park.

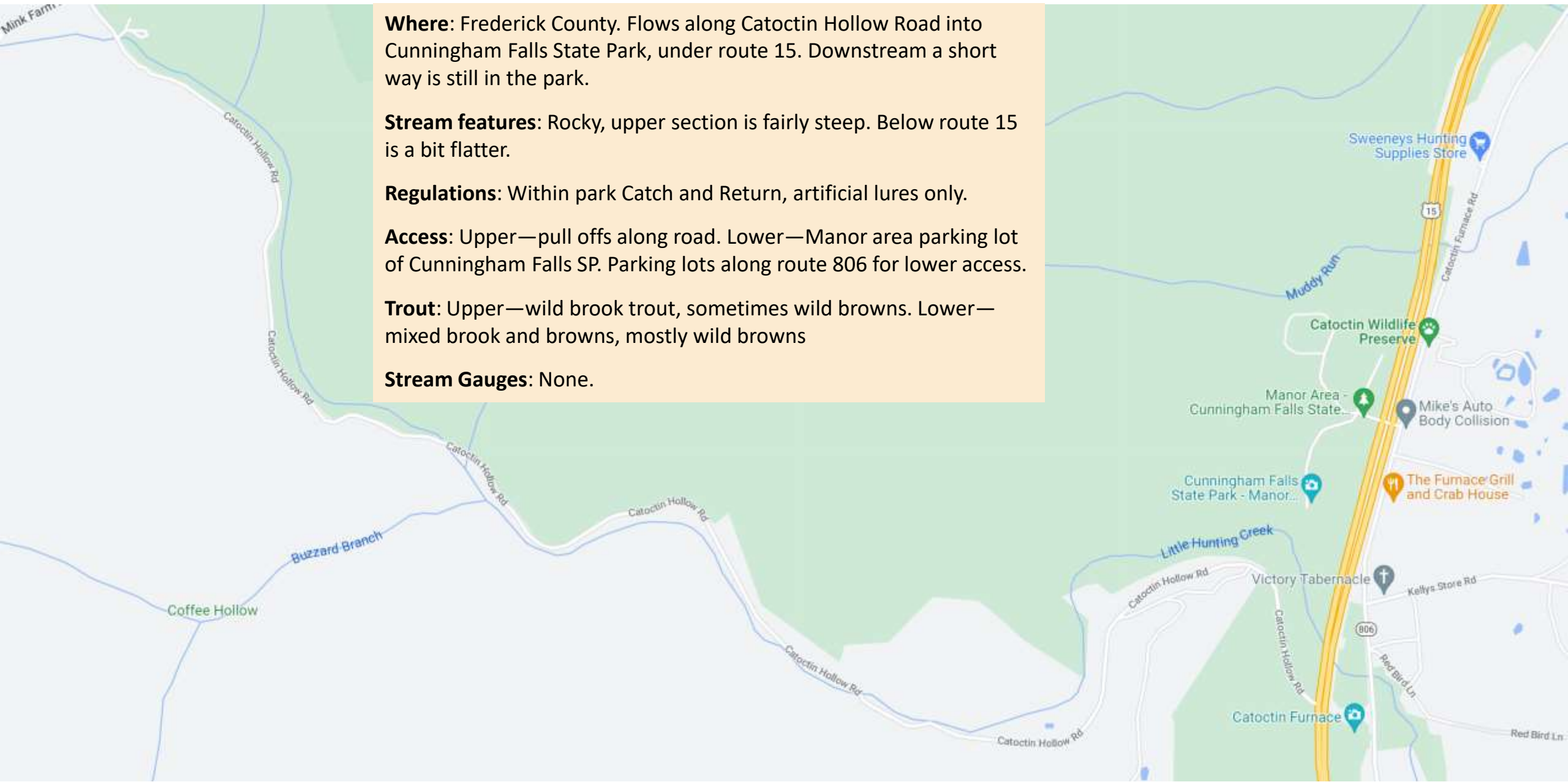
Stream features: Rocky, upper section is fairly steep. Below route 15 is a bit flatter.

Regulations: Within park Catch and Return, artificial lures only.

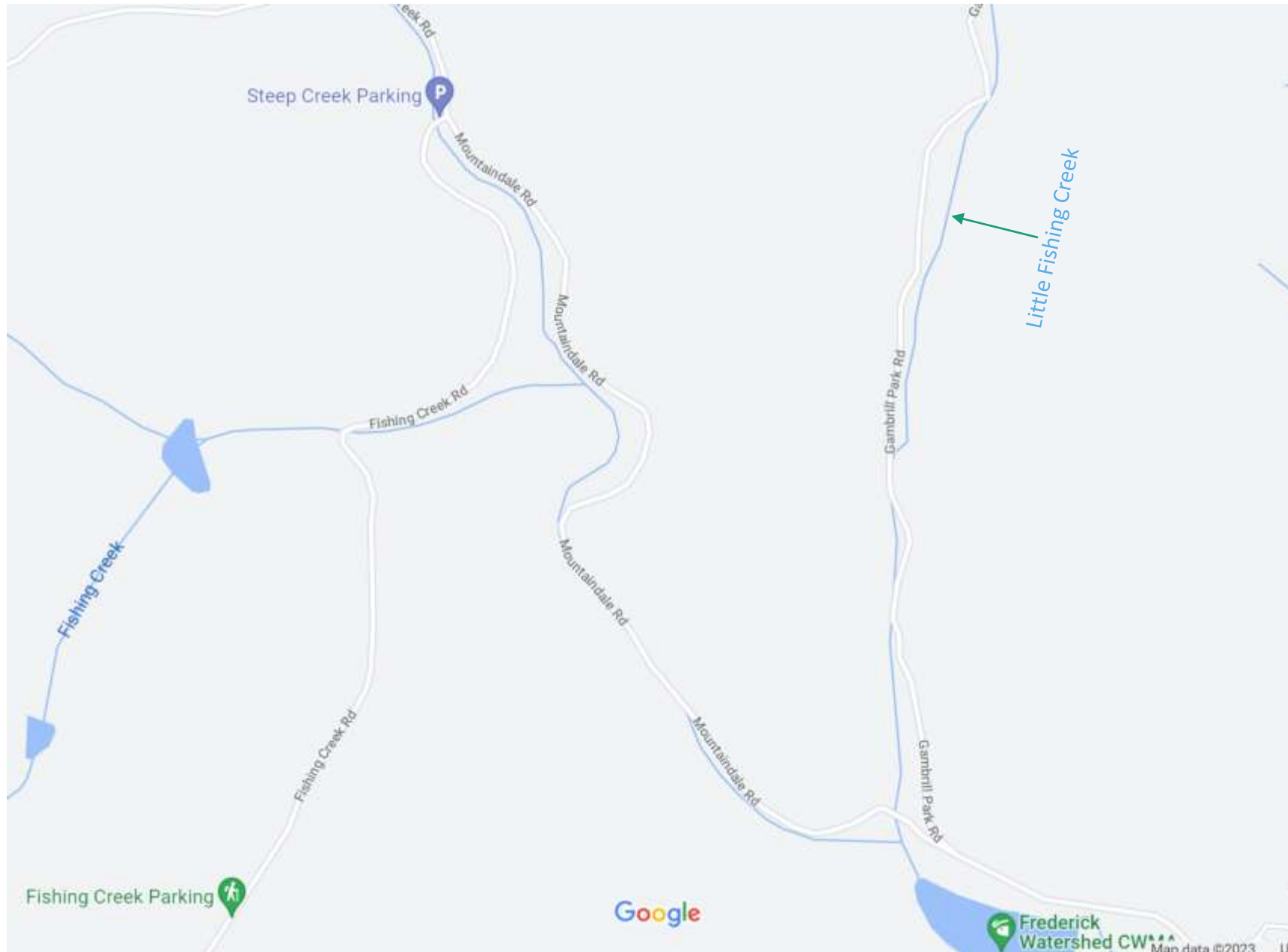
Access: Upper—pull offs along road. Lower—Manor area parking lot of Cunningham Falls SP. Parking lots along route 806 for lower access.

Trout: Upper—wild brook trout, sometimes wild browns. Lower—mixed brook and browns, mostly wild browns

Stream Gauges: None.



Fishing & Little Fishing Creeks



Fishing Creek

Where: Frederick County in Frederick Municipal Forest. Flows along Mountaindale/Fishing Creek Road into Fishing Creek Reservoir.

Stream features: Mountain freestone, steep gradient.

Regulations: Put and take/5 day.

Access: Pull offs along gravel Fishing Creek Road close to stream, some steep drop offs down to stream.

Trout: Rainbows stocked 1 closure period, wild brook trout

Stream Gauges: None

Little Fishing Creek

Where: Same as Fishing, flows into Fishing Creek right above the reservoir.

Stream features: Very small, High gradient, Overgrown, classic Mountain brook trout stream.

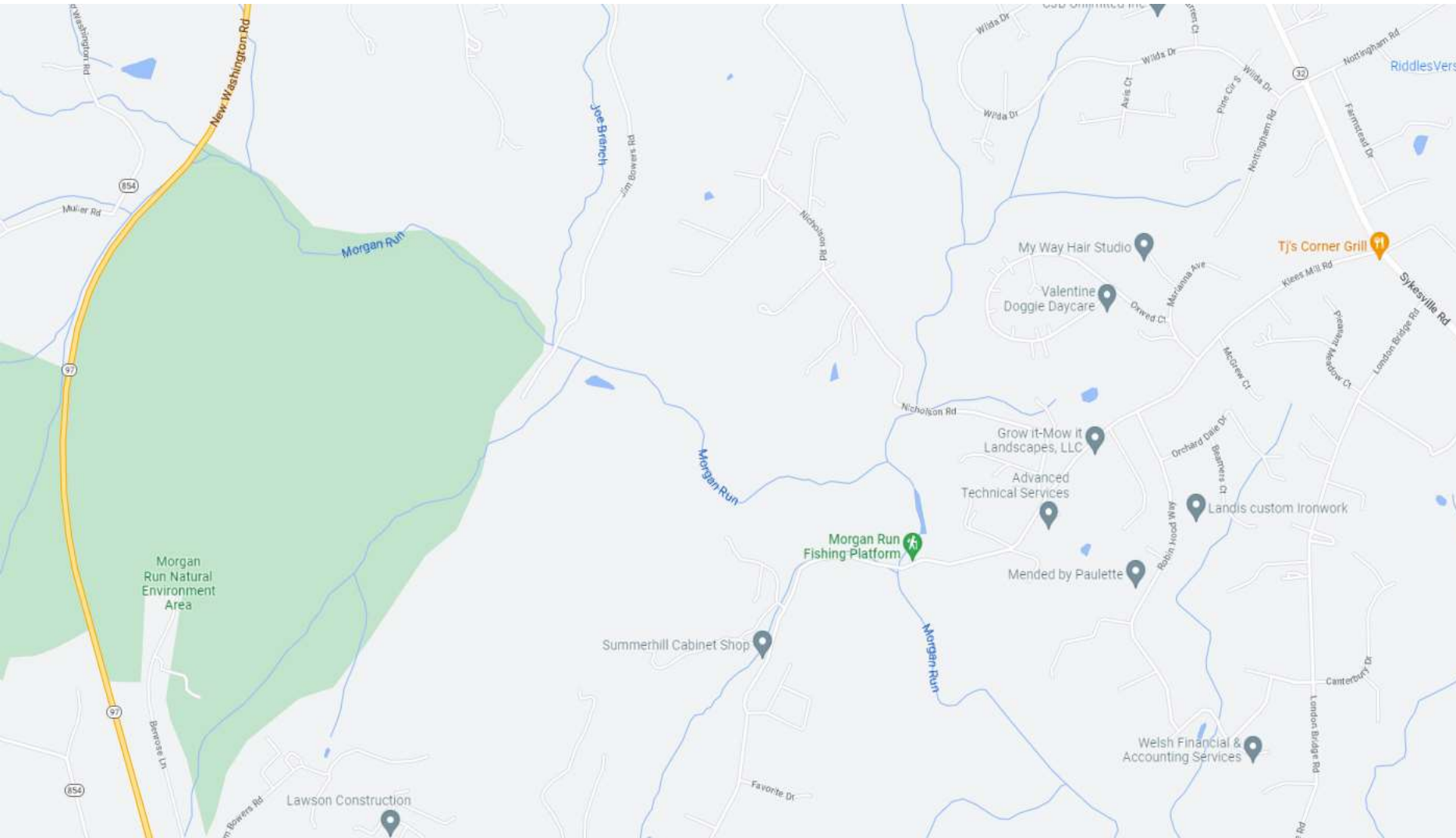
Regulations: Because mostly brook trout-C&R, no tackle restrictions.

Access: Gambrell State Park gravel road parallels stream.

Trout: Wild brook trout

Stream Gauges: None

Morgan Run



Where: Carroll county, flows under Rt. 97 which is upstream boundary of the special regulated section down to London Bridges road.

Stream features: Small freestone stream, low gradient with some large rocky areas above and below Klee Mill road.

Regulations: Catch and Return/artificial only.

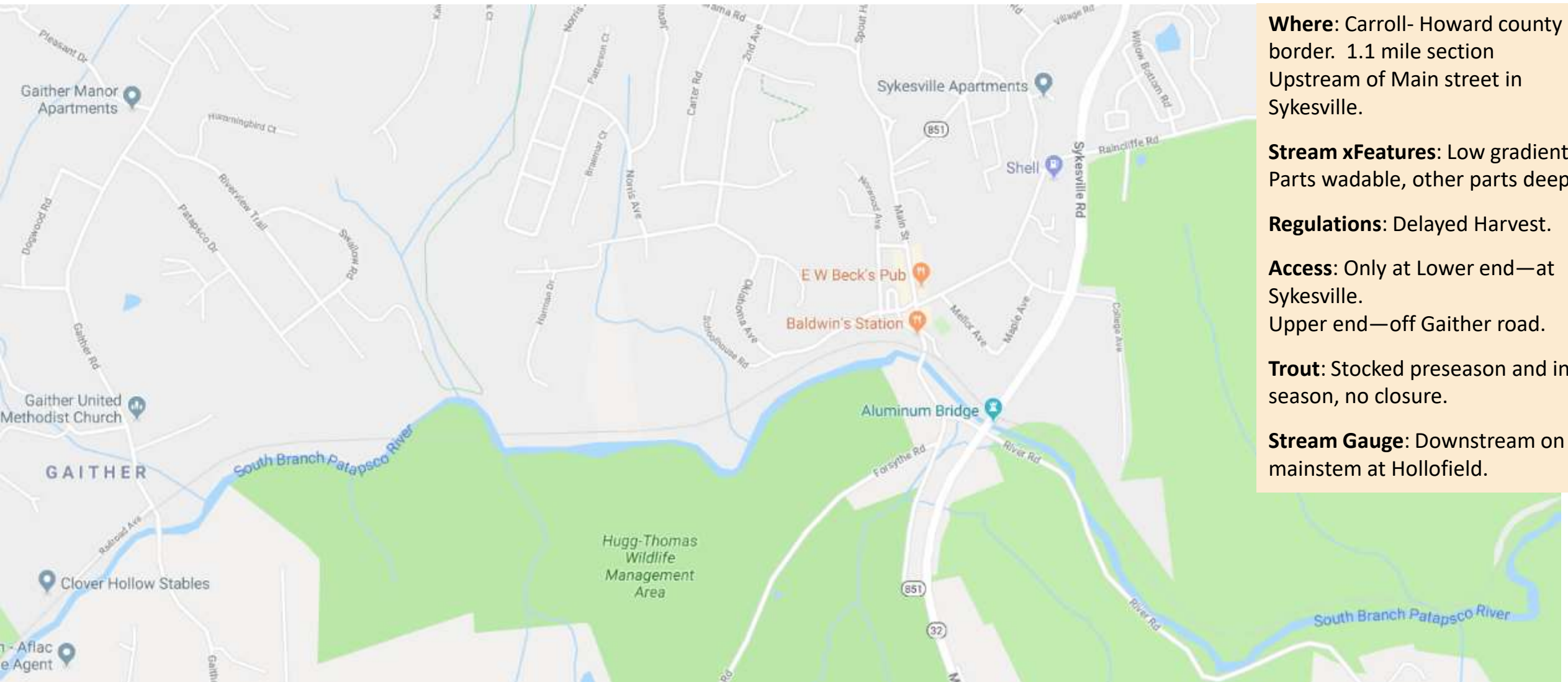
Access: Upper—Jim Bowers gravel road (a dead end). Middle- Klee Mill road with small parking lot and Handicap access.

Bottom—small pull off on London Bridges Road at lower boundary of regulated area.

Trout: Stocked preseason and usually one other time. Local chapters help with float stocking.

Stream Gauges: Gauge near London Bridges Road.

South Branch Patapsco—Delayed Harvest Section



Where: Carroll- Howard county border. 1.1 mile section Upstream of Main street in Sykesville.

Stream xFeatures: Low gradient. Parts wadable, other parts deep.

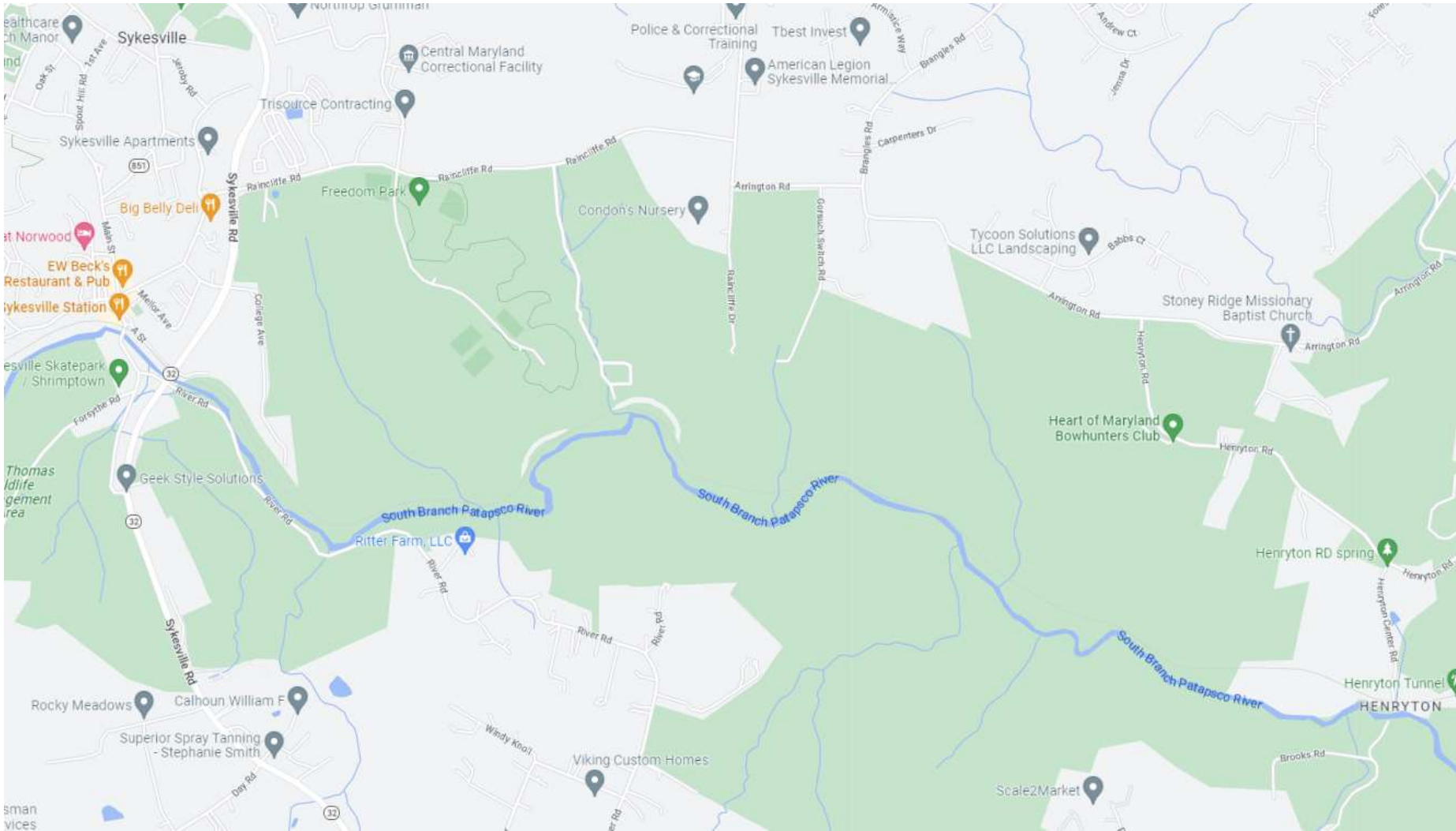
Regulations: Delayed Harvest.

Access: Only at Lower end—at Sykesville. Upper end—off Gaither road.

Trout: Stocked preseason and in season, no closure.

Stream Gauge: Downstream on mainstem at Hollofield.

South Branch Patapsco River



Where: Carroll-Howard county border. Flows under route 32 at Sykesville. River Rd. parallels stocked area of stream on Howard county side.

Stream features: Medium to small stream, low gradient.

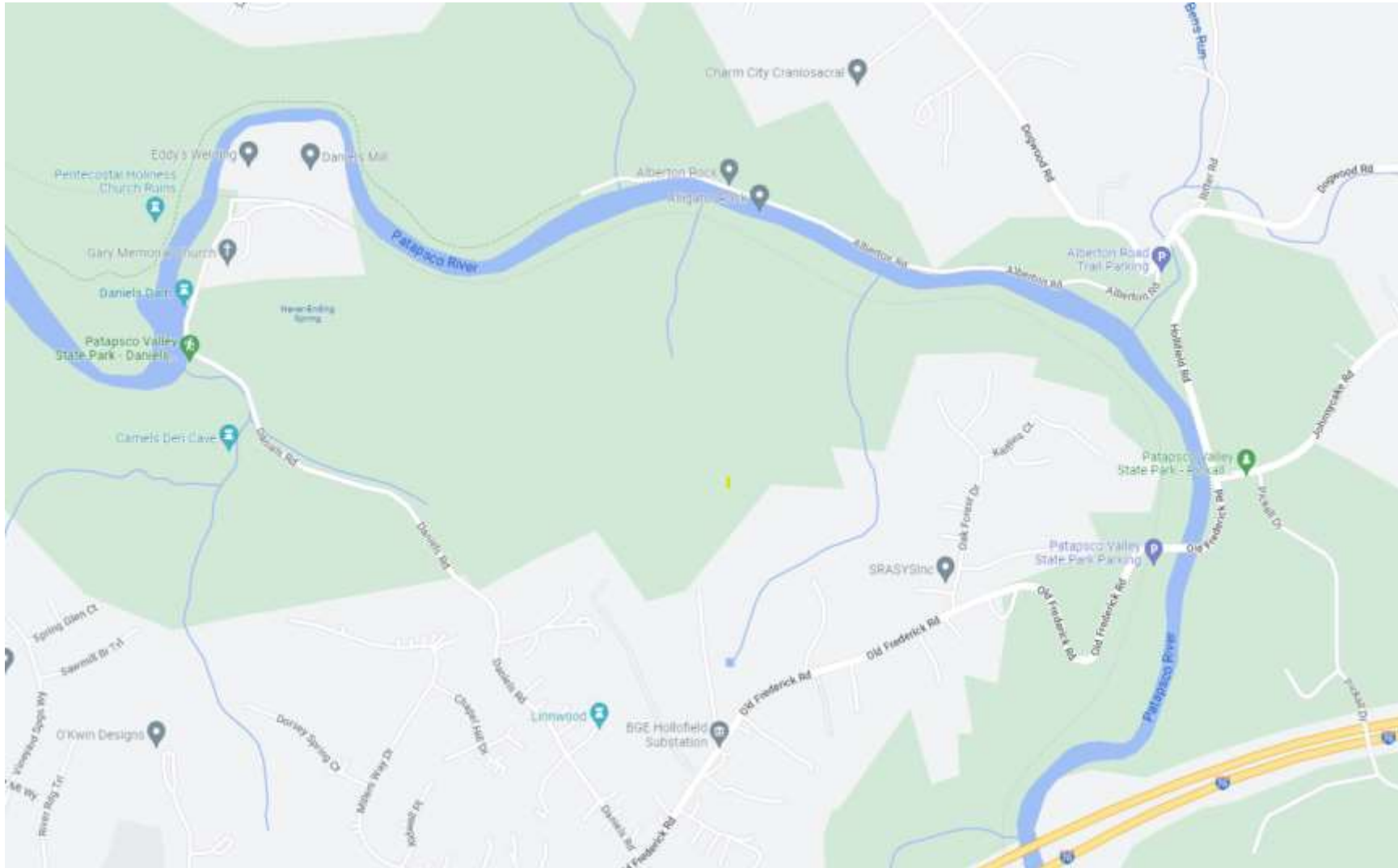
Regulations: Put and Take from Sykesville downstream to confluence with North Branch of Patapsco. Added a stocking area at Marriotsville Rd. and at Henryton Rd.

Access: Pull offs along River Rd.

Trout: Stocked pre-season, in-season-1 closure.

Stream Gauges: Downstream on main stem at Hollofield.

Patapsco River at Daniels



Where: Howard-Baltimore county border just north of route 70. Upstream boundary is the dam at Daniels and downstream to route 70.

Stream features: Bigger and wider stream, low gradient, silt/sand and rock, some wadeable areas.

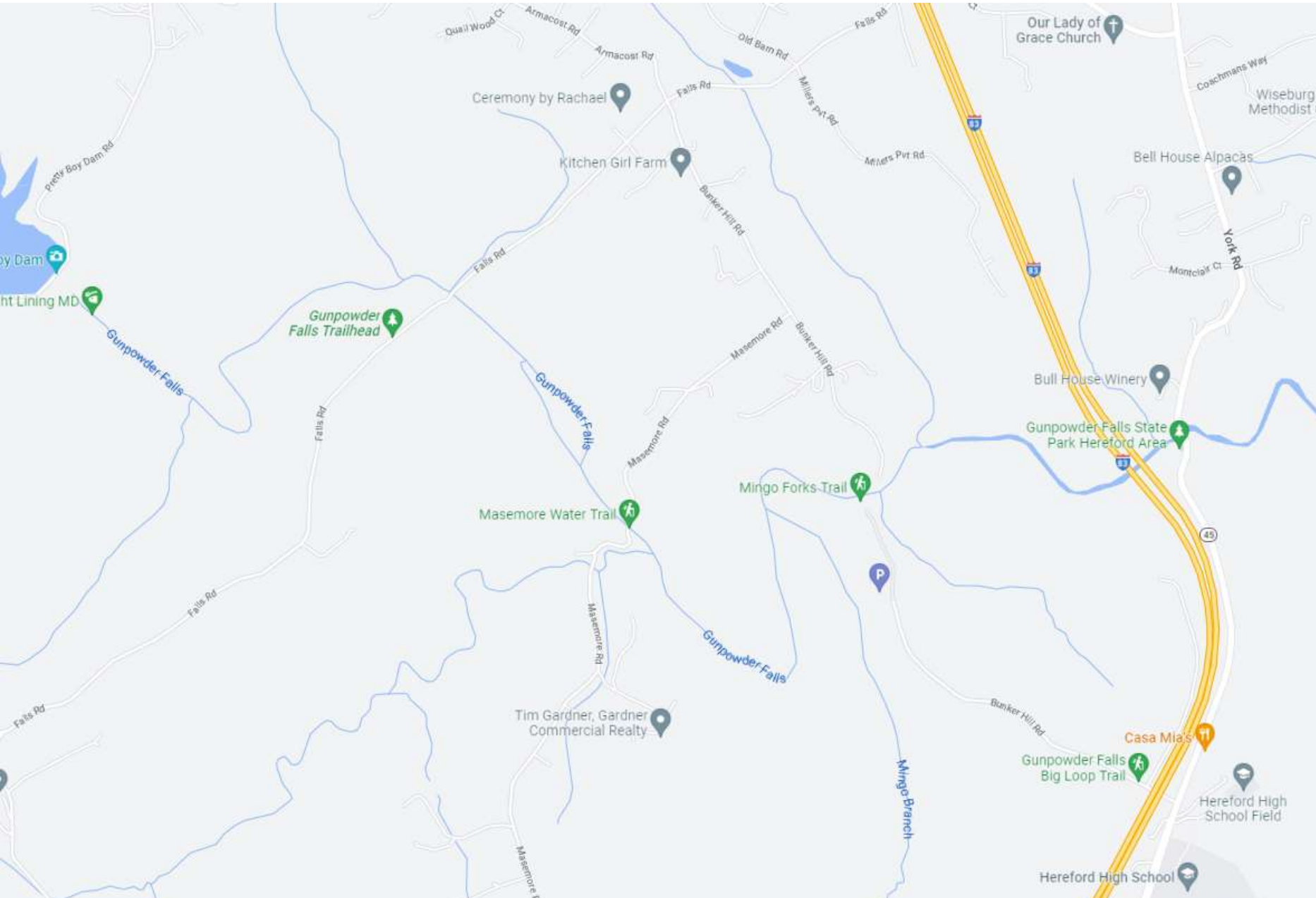
Regulations: Statewide 2 trout/day, no tackle restrictions.

Access: Parking on dead-end of Daniels road (no parking posting has been expanded). Downstream parking at bridge on Hollofield/Old Frederick road. Also, small parking lot off Dogwood at end of abandoned road which parallels the stream up to Daniels on Baltimore county side.

Trout: Stocked rainbows and browns, pre-season and in-season, no closure.

Stream Gauges: Gauge at Hollofield.

Gunpowder River



Where: Baltimore County, about 20 miles North of Baltimore.

Stream features: Tailwater with cold water all summer. Some high gradient big plunge pools above Falls Rd. Lower gradient all the way down to Bluemount Road.

Regulations: Catch & Return artificial only from Prettyboy Dam down to Bluemount Rd. Below Bluemount 2/day. Upper & Lower GP =5/day.

Access: C&R area—Falls Rd. Parking lot about 100 yards from stream. Upper parking lot with 100+ yard steep path down to middle part of section between Falls Rd & the dam. Masemore Rd. parking lot. Bunker Hill Rd. parking lot on hill on south side of creek or parking at dead end of Bunker Hill Rd. on north side @ the stream, much easier. York Rd. Parking lots: Big Falls Rd. Pull off.

Trout: C&R wild brown trout. Recently, some fingerling rainbow stocking.

Stream Gauges: Gauge at Falls Road & includes a water temperature gauge.

Gunpowder Brown and a Gunpowder "Poacher"



Gotcha on a Trico!

Gunpowder Browns from a MD-DNR Survey



Adam Eshleman, MD-DNR

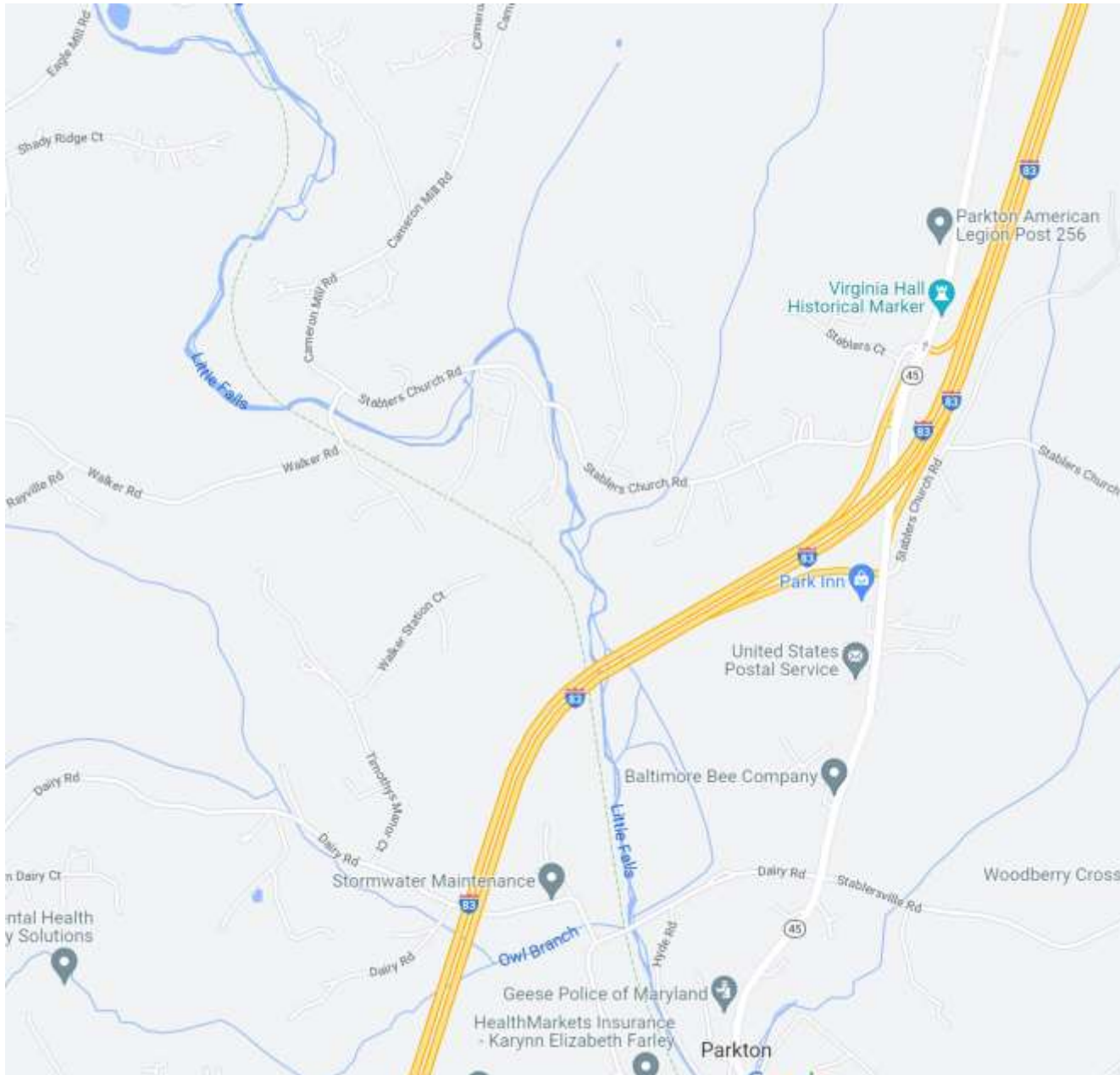


Branson Williams, MD-DNR



The BIG GUY 31 inches 15lb

Little Falls



Where: Baltimore county north of Gunpowder and flows from PA into GP at Bluemount.

Stream features: Fairly low gradient, freestone, small, easy wading.

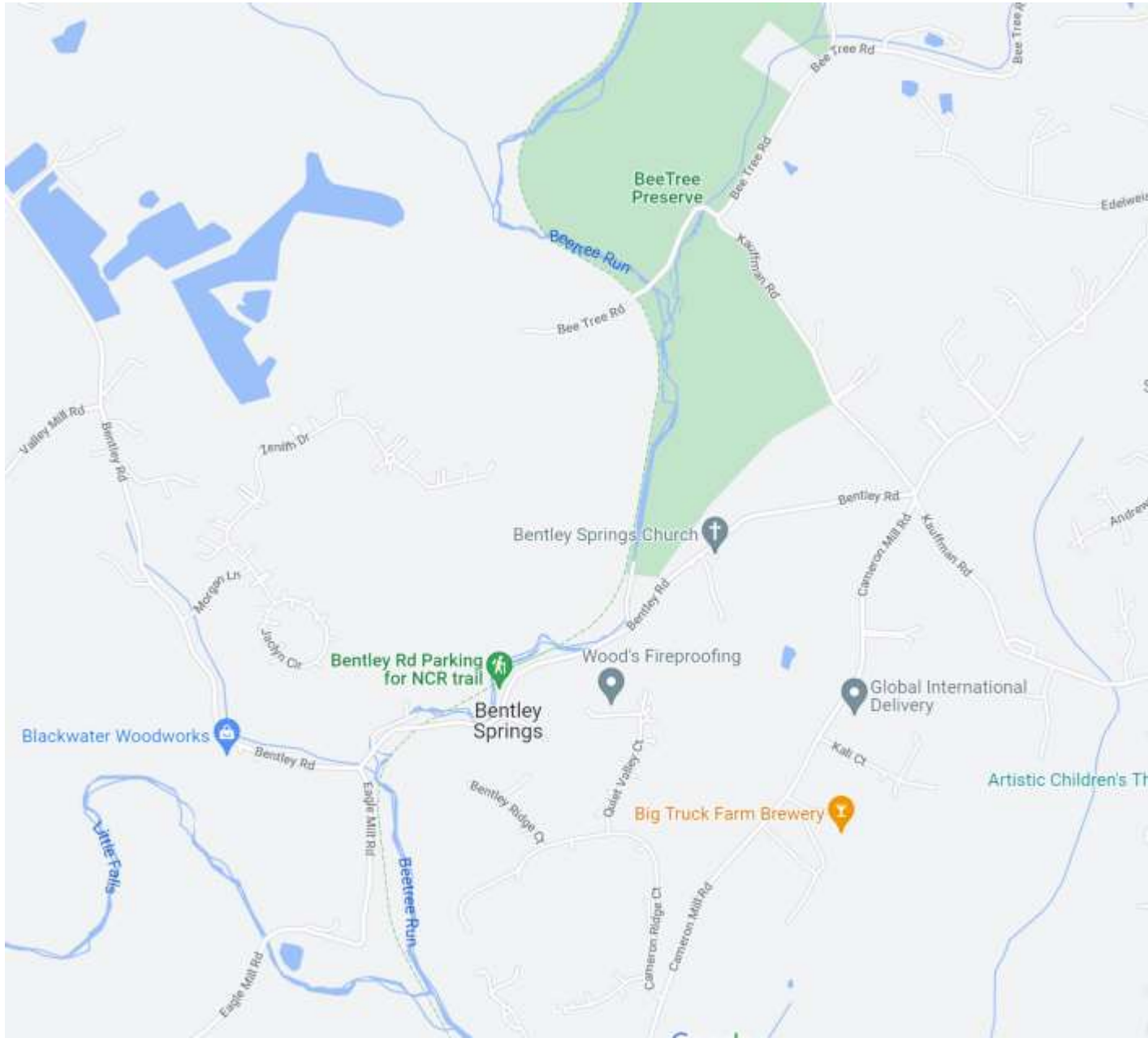
Regulations: Put and Take 5/day.

Access: Some parking areas associated with North Central Rail trail (Now Torrey Brown trail) which parallels the stream from its mouth at the Gunpowder up to the confluence of Beetree Run.

Trout: Stocked with 1 closure, some wild brown trout.

Stream Gauges: At RR trail bridge near Bluemount Road.

Beetree Run



Where: Baltimore County, a tributary to Little Falls which flows from PA.

Stream features: Very small, freestone, supports reproduction of brown trout.

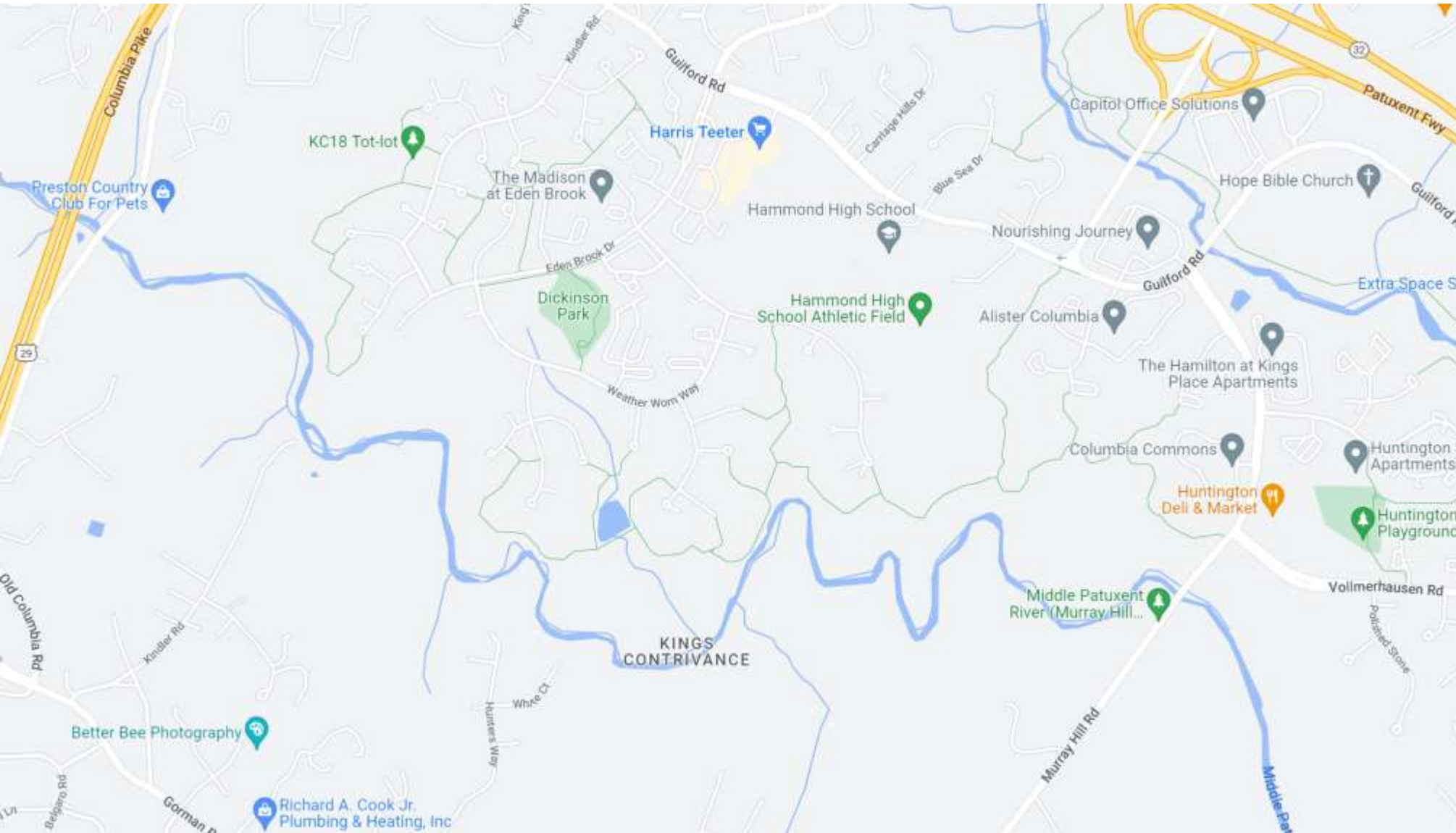
Regulations: Statewide 2/day no special regulation.

Access: NCR rail trail parallels stream all the way to PA with some parking areas.

Trout: Wild brown trout.

Stream Gauges: At Bentley Springs bridge on Bentley Road.

Middle Patuxent



Where: Howard county near Columbia, Route 29 down to Murray Hill Road.

Stream features: Very low gradient, sandy/silty, easy wading.

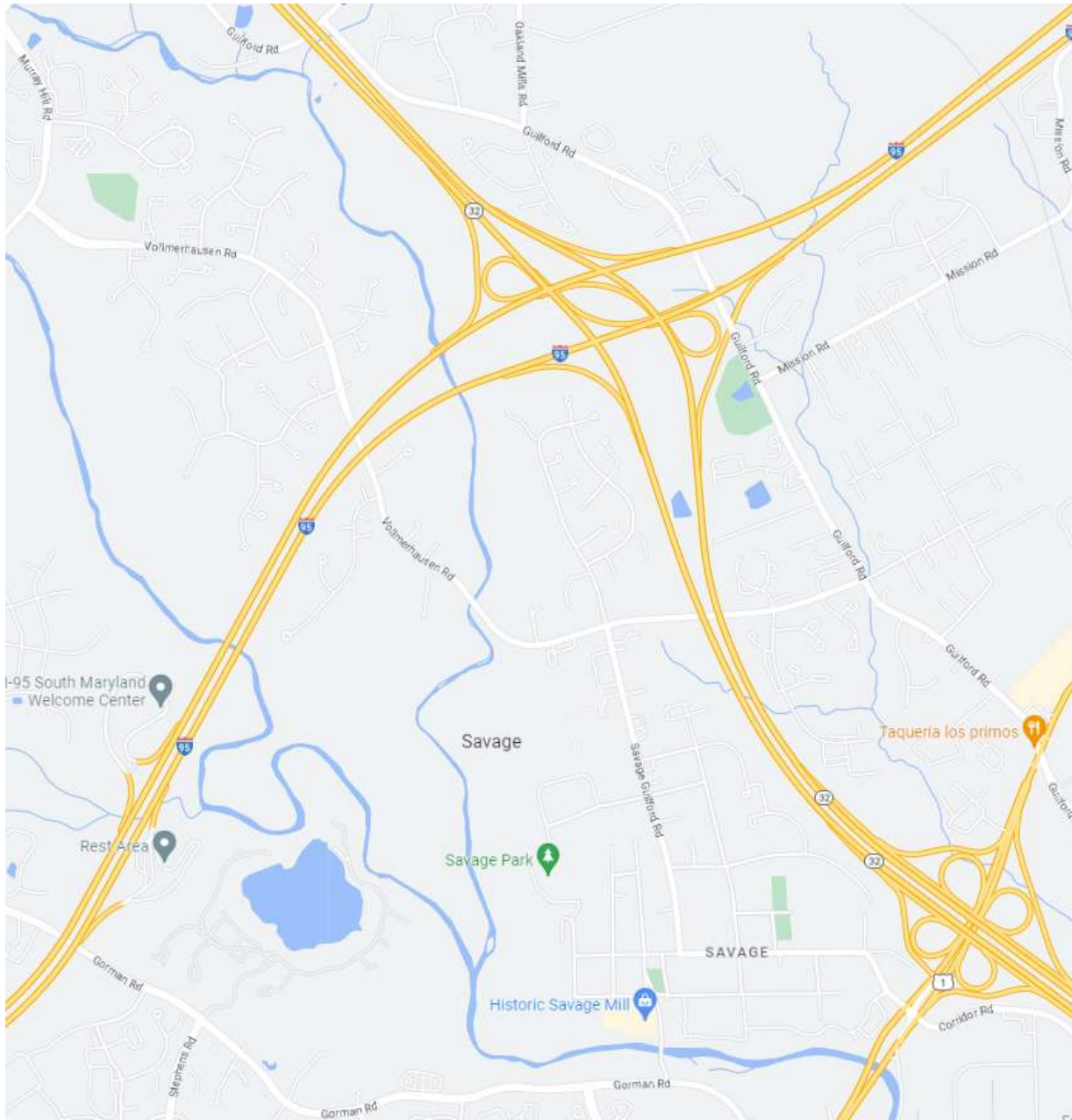
Regulations: Delayed Harvest from Route 29 down to Murray Hill Road.

Access: Limited access. Eden Brook Road dead-ends at gate, about 100 yards down to stream. Also paths from neighborhoods in Colombia. At the Bottom end there is a pull off along Murray Hill Road.

Trout: Stocked with Rainbows & Browns (usually float stocked led by PPTU) Preseason and one more time.

Stream Gauge: Below Savage Mill on Little Patuxent.

Little Patuxent



Where: Howard county near Columbia/Savage Mill. Middle Patuxent flows into Little Patuxent less than a mile above Savage Mill.

Stream features: Low gradient, shallow, rocky, more difficult wading.

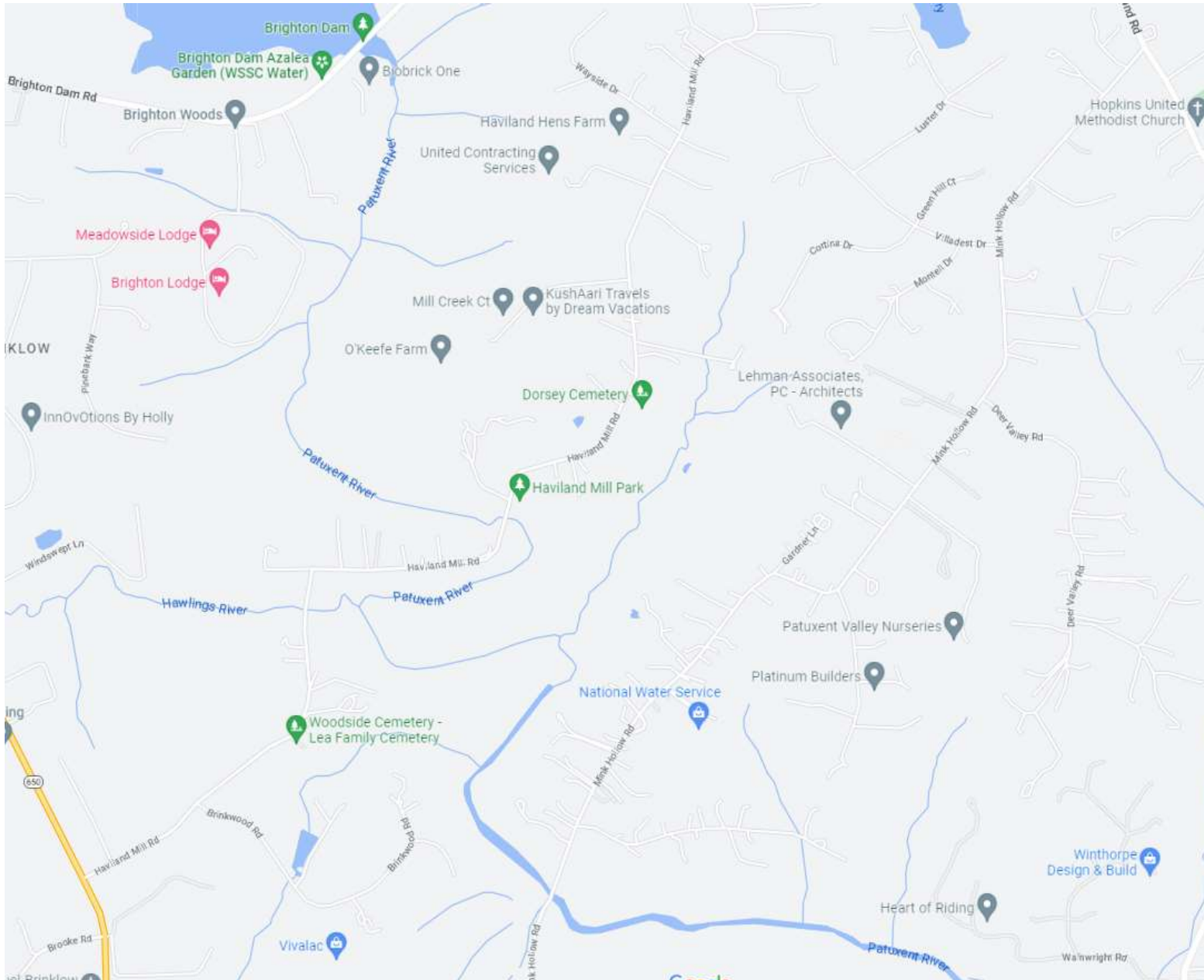
Regulations: 2/day, no tackle restrictions.

Access: Vollmerhausen Parking lot. Savage Mill along main road.

Trout: Stocked preseason and in-season, no closure. Vollmerhausen Road down to Savage Mill.

Stream Gauge: Below Savage Mill

Patuxent—Brighton Dam



Where: Howard/Montgomery county border below Tridelphia.

Stream features: Tail water but not a cold-water release. High banks make access difficult, wading difficult too.

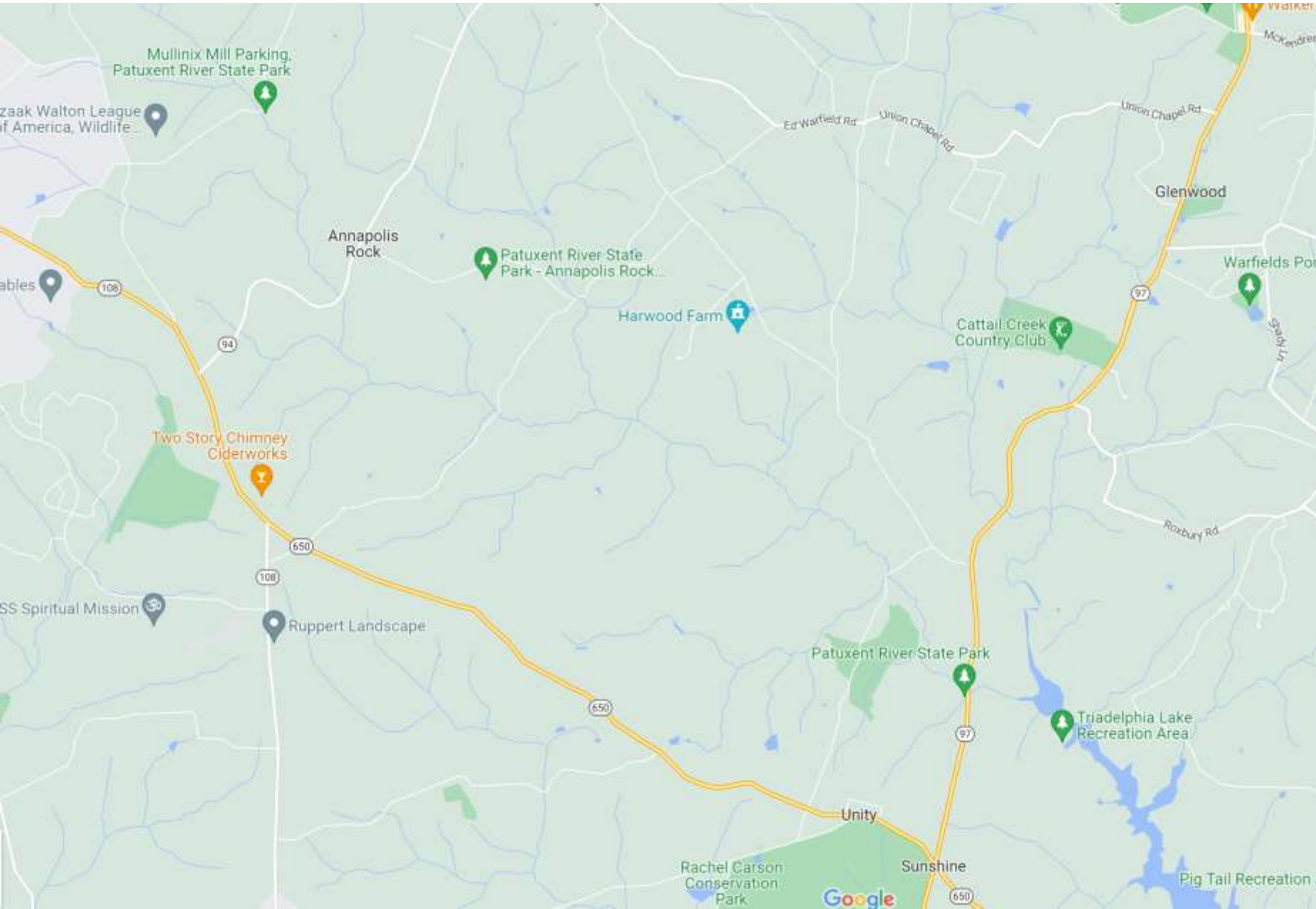
Regulations: Fly Fishing only/Catch and Return.

Access: Parking lot at Brighton Dam Azalea Gardens is a good distance walk down to stream, small parking lots along Haviland Mill Road.

Trout: Potomac Patuxent chapter of TU helps coordinate float stocking of rainbows and browns from below dam to below Haviland Mill Road.

Stream Gauges: Gage below dam no longer includes water temperature.

Patuxent River—Upper



Where: Howard/Montgomery county border from route 27 down to route 97 above Tridelphia reservoir.

Stream features: Small, low gradient, freestone.

Regulations: Catch and Return/artificial only.

Access: Road crossings all have parking areas, many horse and fishing trails. Can get lost. Loaded with Multiflora rose=wader eaters.

Trout: Potomac Patuxent chapter of TU helps coordinate stocking of rainbows and browns from Annapolis road down to Howard Chapel.

Stream Gauges: At Unity near route 97.

In 1994 This Brown was Caught on Little Bennet



**JAMES HAS 7 FLY RODS. HE JUST BOUGHT
2 MORE. WHAT DOES JAMES HAVE NOW?**



**HAPPINESS. JAMES HAS
HAPPINESS.**

The New Fly Fisher

mematic.net

**WE DON'T
STOP FISHING
BECAUSE WE GET OLD.
WE GET OLD BECAUSE
WE STOP FISHING.**



Facebook

Watering Holes

- Gaithersburg (Seneca Creek)
 - **Dogfish Head Alehouse**—Clopper Road across from NIST. Excellent food and beers
- Western Areas (Beaver, Antietam, Middle and Catoctin Creeks)
 - **Dan's Tap House**—Boonsboro on Main street (Old National pike-40). Always good selection of beers that are rotated. Food is very good.
- Thurmont Area (Big Hunting, Owen's, Friends & Fishing Creek)
 - **Furnace Bar and Grill**—Catoctin Furnace road (Route 806) just north of bridge over Little Hunting creek. Limited beer selection on tap, but usually good ones, less expensive and good food. Hours vary.
 - **Cactus Flats**—along route 15 between Frederick and Thurmont. Biker bar with a limited beer selection. Food is pretty good. A fun experience. Check times for opening, last checked opens on three certain days.
- Frederick
 - **AKA Cisco's**—4632 Wedgewood Blvd, Frederick, MD. Good food (sandwiches are huge, but you can order a half-sandwich). Good beer selection.
 - **Anchor Inn**—along road next to Francis Scott Key mall. Big bar. Lots of draft beer, known for wings.
 - **BJs**—in Francis Scott Key Mall parking lot. Upscale, lots of beer on tap.
 - **Avery's** – Along route 144 east of Frederick near Liganore. Separate downstairs bar opens at 3:00 p.m. Seafood restaurant.



Watering Holes

- **Columbia area (Little and Middle Patuxent Rivers)**
 - **Columbia Ale House**—Rt 175 and Dobbin Way, good food, lots of beers.
 - **Fresco Tap House**—Dobbin Road in Columbia, close to Middle Pax. Pretty good food and usually about 50 beers on tap.
 - **Corner Stable**—Guilford Rd in Columbia, very close to middle Pax. Excellent ribs, chicken and crab cakes. Fried chicken is pretty famous also. Good selection of draft beers.
- **Route 40 area (Patapsco River)**
 - **Shannon's Pub**—Baltimore National Pike (Rt. 40) west, just past Home Depot. Convenient to Patapsco River, Daniels area. Good old Irish pub.
 - **Kelsey's**—Another Irish pub convenient to Patapsco fishing spots. Off Route 40, a little east of Route 29 (address is Rt. 40 but the restaurant is in the Normandy Shopping Center on Normandy Drive).



Watering Holes

- Savage Area (Lower Little Patuxent)

- **Dive Bar & Grill (formerly Rams Head Tavern)**—in Savage Mill center, right next to Little Patuxent River in Savage, very convenient when fishing there. Opened in 2021.

- Gunpowder (York Road area)

- **Casa Mia's (Pioneer Inn) Restaurant**—on York road a mile south of the bridge over the Gunpowder. Good food and a decent beer selection. Large bar.

- Mt Airy

- **Twin Arch Tavern**—Twin Arch Shopping center just off route. Very good food and nice beer selection.
- **Memories Charcoal House**—Shopping center at intersection of Old National Pike (Ridgeville Blvd.) and route 27 just north of route 70. Good lunch specials and beer selection.
- **Upper Deck**—Main street in downtown Mt Airy. Very good variety of beer on tap.



Map Sources & Credits

- ADC Maps
- Gazetteer Maps
- Google Maps
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - Mark Staley—Manager, Central Region MD DNR
 - Michael Kashiwagi, Manager, Western Region II MD DNR
- Leslie Gollehon, SVTU
- Greg Cwalina—Fishing Buddy