

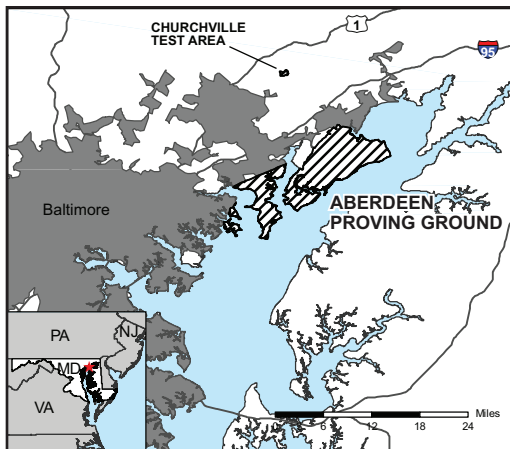


U.S. ARMY :

# ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND : MARYLAND



**A**berdeen Proving Ground is the Department of Defense’s oldest active proving ground, where military weapons, vehicles, and other technology or military strategies are tested. Aberdeen is the Department’s lead for automotive testing for all manned and unmanned, wheeled, and tracked vehicles. Due to the region’s temperate climate, the Army can test vehicles in 80 percent of real-world environments using world-renowned test tracks. These tracks, a national asset, are irreplaceable and critical to present and future testing of vehicles.



However, significant regional suburban growth stretching out from the city of Baltimore and other nearby towns is causing conflict due to noise, dust, and other issues. The combined efforts of the Aberdeen Test Center staff and concerned local stakeholder Harford Land Trust helped alleviate this threat to the nearby Churchville Test Area.

This location is a hilly set of cross-country road test tracks providing a variety of steep inclines and tight turns designed to stress engines, drivetrains, and suspension systems for vehicles such as tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and the Humvee.

Of particular concern was the only owner of land not enrolled in a conservation program adjacent to the test area. The owner planned to subdivide his property into a housing development, and new residents could lead to noise complaints that would interfere with the test mission. Saving this farmland protects Deer Creek, part of a watershed that provides drinking water for nearby communities and is the only known habitat for the endangered Maryland darter.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands and local character
- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Provides recreational opportunities for area residents
- Protects water supplies

### MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Increases operational safety
- Provides for future mission growth



Varied and hilly terrain allows for testing of maneuver vehicles at the Churchville Test Area (top and bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Inc.
- Harford County
- Harford Land Trust
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **1,154**
- » Transactions conducted: **14**
- » Total funds expended: **\$11.2 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

## CONTACT

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