



Land Conservation Conference

## ***2020 Vision & Beyond:***

# *Climate, Conservation & Collaboration*

*A Conversation on Land & People from Maryland to Montana  
(with a stopover in New York)*

**Introduction by: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Webinar presented by: Martha Williams, Director, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks**  
**Rose Harvey, Senior Fellow, Parks & Open Spaces, The Regional Plan Association**

Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**Merritt Pridgeon**



## Rose Harvey

Senior Fellow, New City Parks Initiative



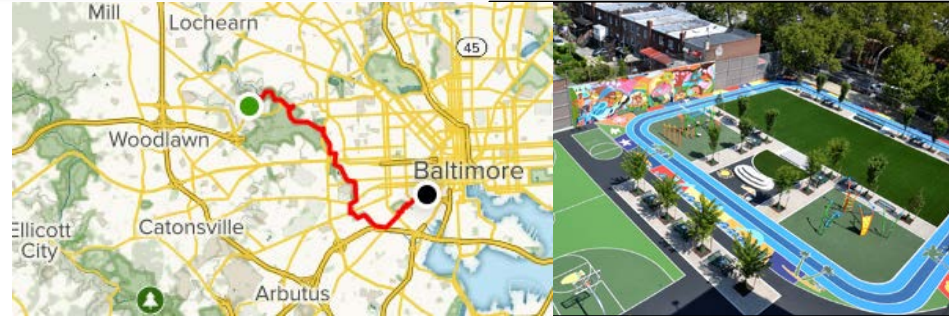
## Martha Williams



Director of the Montana Department of Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks

# Background

- Regional Plan Association, Senior Fellow, New City Parks
- Commissioner of the Office of New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- McCluskey Fellow, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- Trust for Public Land, Senior Vice President of the Urban Program
  - Parking Lots to Playgrounds, NYC
  - Community Gardens
  - Newark 2000
  - Baltimore Gwynns Falls Trail
- Program Manager, Maryland Environmental Trust





**Urban parks are the gateways to a deeper understanding, appreciation, and immersion in nature.**



# We Are Not Just Preserving Land, We Are Creating Connections

*We must not speak or think of the land alone or of the people alone, but always and only of both together. If we want to save the land, we must save the people who belong to the land. If we want to save the people, we must save the land the people belong to.*

-Wendell Berry





# Typical Vacant Site & Potential Transformation



# Creative Land Conversions



# Urban Wilderness



Shirley Chisholm State Park, NY



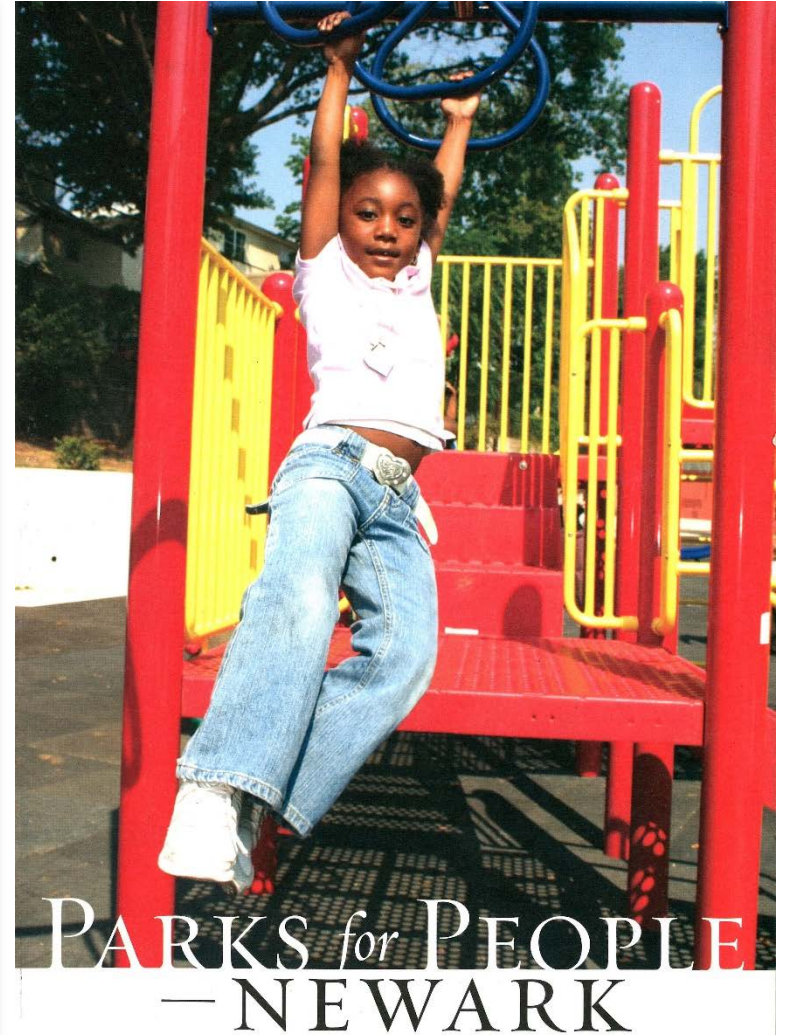
Gwynns Falls Trail, Baltimore, MD



# Needs & Opportunities

Low-income households do not have as much access to safe, well-maintained, programmed parks.

- Teens in low-income communities are half as likely to have access to parks.
- "Low-income neighborhoods populated by minorities and recent immigrants are especially short of park space." (Sherer 2006).
- Children in low-income households are 3X less likely to be physically active.
- Am Journal of Preventive Medicine; creation & enhanced access to parks (with outreach) produced a 48.4% increase in physical activity.
- CDC recommends 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids, 150 min per week for adults



PARKS *for* PEOPLE  
— NEWARK

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR NEWARK'S KIDS

# Why do we need to connect?

## Biophilia Theory (E.O. Wilson)

### Physical & Mental Health

- The U.S. spends \$500 billion a year on diabetes, heart-stress, obesity, and asthma alone

### Social Cohesion & Well-Being

### Environment

- First line of defense for flooding and storms
- Improve air quality and heat islands

### Economic

- \$5 billion in sales
- 54,000 jobs a year

*“The more we dwell in an explained world, a world of uniformity and regularity, a world without possibility of miracles, the less we are able to understand anything but ourselves.”*





# We conserve it - will they come?

“One must have access to the Internet, time to search and plan, knowledge of the place they want to go and probably an existing relationship with the space, or nature at a base level. It is unlikely that an individual who does not have a relationship with nature would go to all the trouble.”

## What are the Barriers?

- Virtual Access
- No familiarity - no interest, no knowledge of what's there
- Fear of the unknown
- No skills - "where do I start?"
- "Too Far." No transportation
- Staff limitations





***“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”  
-Helen Keller***

**For Better Parks and Better Connection, We Need:**

- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Sensitive Design
- Know the Culture
- Programming and Security
- Partners, Partners, Partners



*“In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught”*

-Baba Dioum







THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.





**FWP UNITES PEOPLE TO HELP PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE MONTANA EXPERIENCE, OUTDOORS.**





# Give a Big Hand for the Big Hole

Applauding the consensus-based, collaborative approach to conserving this premier southwestern Montana trout and grayling river. **BY TOM REED**

**STUNNING** The Big Hole Valley is so vast and scenic that it's impossible to ignore, even in a state where picturesque rivers are commonplace. The upper section, shown here, is characterized by a sea of pasture and hay fields bisected by one of the world's most famous trout rivers. PHOTO BY KEV TALLES

## A Tale of 3 Rivers



## ARCTIC GRAYLING

[SPECIES HOME](#) | [AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES](#) | [BIRDS](#) | [FISH](#) | [INVERTEBRATES](#) | [MAMMALS](#) | [PLANTS](#) | [RECOVERY](#) | [SPECIES PROTOCOLS](#) | [STAFF](#)

*Resources:* [Candidate Conservation Agreements](#) | [Consultation](#) | [Habitat Conservation Plans](#) | [Permits](#) | [Safe Harbor Agreements](#) | [Species List](#)

*Jump to a section:* [Legal status and recent conservation activities](#) | [Recent actions & links](#) | [« Back to fish](#) | [Open / close all](#)

### *Arctic grayling (Thymallus arcticus)*

**Species Description:** Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) is a freshwater fish in the same family (*Salmonidae*) as salmon, trout, and whitefish. A distinctive morphological characteristic of this fish is its large, sail-like dorsal fin. Arctic grayling is an obligate cool- or cold-water species. Individual fish can range widely, moving tens of miles on a seasonal or annual basis between spawning, rearing, and sheltering habitats.

**Location:** Arctic grayling are native to drainages of the Arctic Ocean, Hudson Bay and northern Pacific Ocean in North America and Asia. Two distinct populations historically inhabited waters in Michigan and Montana. The Michigan population is now extinct. Arctic grayling are still present in southwestern Montana. The *fluvial* (river-dwelling) Arctic grayling population which was widespread in the Missouri River basin above Great Falls, Montana has declined significantly in range and abundance. The remaining confirmed, viable population resides in the Big Hole River, upstream from Divide, Montana.



### [Legal status and recent conservation activities »](#)

#### **Legal Status:**

On July 23, 2020, following a review of the best available science, in response to a 2018 court decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finds that [Endangered Species Act protections for the Upper Missouri River distinct](#)





When **challenge** became  
**opportunity** in the  
Blackfoot watershed.

READ OUR STORY







# Montana FWP considers acquiring 15-sq mile easement near Hysham

BRETT FRENCH Sep 7, 2019

SALE! Subscribe for \$1/mo.



The Antelope Coulee conservation easement includes seven miles of Yellowstone River frontage north of Hysham.

Photo courtesy FWP





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