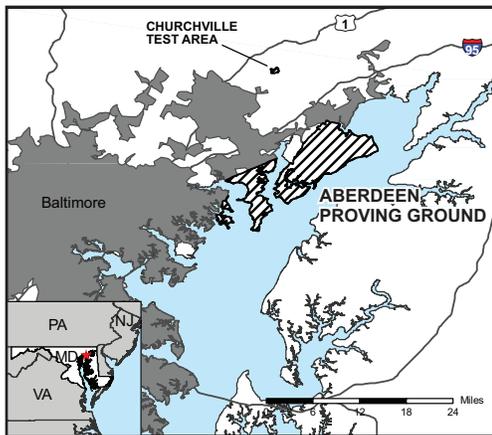




ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

Aberdeen 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 added concern is the potential for residential development along the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, an area threatened by sea level rise and changing coastal patterns. Residential development would create new impervious surfaces, which could exacerbate flooding at properties that intersect with Maryland Route 7, a major thoroughfare into and out of Aberdeen. Conserving this land in its current state will reduce the risk of flash floods along Route 7 and protect those traveling to and from Aberdeen on a daily basis.

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 2021

- ACRES PRESERVED: 2,700
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED: 17
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED: \$25.8 million
- PROJECT STATUS: In Progress

CONTACT

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