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**From:** Amanda Hof <amanda@howardcountytourism.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2024 8:28 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Jung, Debra; Yungmann, David; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Fwd: MTC Legislative Committee -Youth Sports Facility Act (Federal)  
**Attachments:** HUIZEN\_109\_xml.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Council Members,

Please see the forwarded email about potential federal funding for youth sports facilities. I have also shared with Felix Fachine.

Thank you,

Amanda

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Matt Libber <[mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org](mailto:mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org)>  
**Date:** Thu, Oct 3, 2024 at 5:19 PM  
**Subject:** MTC Legislative Committee -Youth Sports Facility Act (Federal)  
**To:**

All,

I have discussed this bill previously with the group but wanted to share some good news with you today. We officially have our 4 bipartisan sponsors covering both the Senate and House. Attached is the Youth Sports Facility Act (YSFA). In short it would modify the law to allow Federal Economic Development Administration grants to be used for youth sports facilities. It does not add appropriations to the EDA but just opens the pool of existing money for another use. We have bipartisan sponsor in both the House and Senate (Sen. Braun (R-IN), Sen. Ossoff (D-GA), Rep Huizenga (R-MI 4<sup>th</sup>) and Rep. Veasey (D-TX 33<sup>rd</sup>). The bill will be introduced during the lame duck session after the election knowing it will not pass before the end of the year, but it makes it easier to reintroduce it with the next Congress. We currently have one immediate ask and a second ask once the bill is introduced. Right now, we are looking for quotes on YSFA from youth sports orgs, cities, counties, the state, etc. and any economic data on benefits of youth sports facilities, we will share it with our sponsors to include in press releases around intro of the bill, hearings etc.. Once the bill is introduced, we would like everyone to reach out to their Congressman and Senators to urge them to become co-sponsors of the bill. We were very strategic

in this bill to not include new appropriations so it would not be controversial. If anyone has questions around this bill, please let me know.

Matt

*My work hours may look different than your work hours. Please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.*

## **Matt Libber**

Executive Director

Maryland Soccer Foundation

Maryland SoccerPlex

301-528-1480 (office)

[mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org](mailto:mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org)



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[www.samsoccer.org](http://www.samsoccer.org)



.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 with respect to the eligibility of youth sports facilities for certain grants, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUIZENGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 with respect to the eligibility of youth sports facilities for certain grants, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Youth Sports Facilities  
5       Act of 2024”.

6       **SEC. 2. YOUTH SPORTS FACILITY ELIGIBILITY.**

7       Section 201 of the Public Works and Economic De-  
8       velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “youth  
2 sports,” after “public service,”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or  
5 youth sports facilities” after “facilities”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or  
7 underemployed” after “unemployed”;

8 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
9 section (d); and

10 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(c) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding  
13 grants under this section, the Secretary may consider the  
14 extent to which a project would—

15 “(1) lead to economic diversification in the  
16 area, or a part of the area, in which the project is  
17 or will be located;

18 “(2) address and mitigate the mental and phys-  
19 ical health impacts of sedentary lifestyles and obe-  
20 sity on the health of a community by improving ac-  
21 cess to recreational space, including by developing  
22 youth sports facilities serving the community;

23 “(3) benefit highly rural communities without  
24 adequate tax revenues to invest in active lifestyle in-  
25 frastructure;

1           “(4) support youth sports and recreation to  
2           spur economic development, with a focus on urban  
3           and rural communities lacking facilities;  
4           “(5) promote job creation through youth sports  
5           facilities and adjacent businesses that support such  
6           facilities; and  
7           “(6) promote travel and tourism.”.



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**From:** Laituri, Mary  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 11:53 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Isaiah  
**Subject:** FW: County Budget testimony

Hey Isaiah, is there a way we can confirm whether this person's budget testimony submitted online was received?

**Mary Laituri**

Constituent Services and Communications Specialist  
Councilwoman Liz Walsh, District 1  
[mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov) | 410-313-2001

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**From:** Justine <justschaeffer@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 10:14 AM  
**To:** CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** County Budget testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I was not able to attend the County budget meeting last night, but I thought I had submitted written testimony online. I'm not sure my written testimony has been recorded.

In case it has not been recorded, I would like to let you know that I would like to see the County allocate money to support a full time, benefitted position in Rec and Parks to support the Natural Resources manager in controlling the deer population.

I live in Dorsey Hall. In the past 5 years or so, we have been experiencing a massive increase in the deer population that has negatively affected our health (Lyme disease risk and vehicle collisions) and property (vehicle collision, landscaping, property value). The County (and CA) open space has suffered unhealthy changes as the deer have eaten all of the young native shrubs and trees, so that there are no replacements for the mature trees that are dying.

Thank you for your attention.

Justine Schaeffer  
4209 Bright Bay Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

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**From:** Sharon Boies <sbmuzicmts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** BudgetTesimony@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** Walsh, Elizabeth; Jung, Debra; Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; Williams, China; Royalty, Wendy; Goldscher, Paige  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony - thank you for your consideration!  
**Attachments:** Howard County FY2026 Budget testimony .docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify and submit testimony on the proposed Howard County budget.

Sharon Boies

Not for print-  
5226 Paul Revere Ride  
Columbia, MD 21044



March 20, 2025

Oral Testimony

Re:County Budget

Good Evening Chief Executive Officer Ganz, and Dr. Ball.

My name is Sharon Boies, I'm a resident of Columbia and I'm representing Protect Our Streams this evening.

Thank you for this opportunity.

**Howard County's natural, native stream corridors and stream ecosystems are invaluable, irreplaceable...and finite. These ecosystems are complex, bio-diverse, and uniquely individual, they are threatened habitats and quickly beginning to vanish with our permission and perhaps, unintentional blessing.** Our forests and forested stream corridors provide tremendous benefits to our county and the environment in multitudinous ways. Mature forests;

**-Sequester carbon, produce oxygen, filter greenhouse gases, provide shade and counter heat island effects, they capture up to 50 percent of the precipitation that falls in a watershed, and they absorb nutrients and stormwater runoff. They capture and retain silt and sediment, and they replenish and purify the groundwater. Mature forests and trees provide critical food and habitat for insects, bats, birds and mammals. They provide opportunities for forest bathing, bird watching and other healthy recreational activities and a necessary human to nature connection. Mature trees reduce noise and light pollution, they provide a buffer from wind and the elements. These ecosystems improve our quality of life.**

Under the new budget and Financial Assurance Plan, our county is requesting millions of dollars for stream restorations and streambank stabilizations that allow heavy diesel-powered construction machinery into fragile and sensitive habitats to bulldoze our mature forests down, excavate fertile soil and streambanks away, and grade the land putting nearby and downstream properties at risk of flooding. The areas are quickly overrun with invasive species. These projects are known to degrade the environment, water quality, and our quality of life. They harm our wildlife, our health and our wallets.

These projects have a life expectancy and can require expensive repairs after a large rain event.

Stream restorations do not mitigate tropical storms, new silt, sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen, grease, road oil, fecal matter and pet waste, sediment from watermain breaks, chloride (road salt) and other de-icing chemicals, rubber bits from tires, PFAS, pesticides, herbicides, PCBs, or antifreeze, trash, fine particulate matter, hot rain water coming off a street, or anything else that goes down the storm drains.

They turn lush forests into fire prone landscapes in the middle of neighborhoods.

Diesel fumes and fine particulate matter fill the air, our lungs, and the stream they claim to be restoring for months on end.

They're just throwing money down the drain.

I've learned that a stream restoration contractor hired a lobbyist for Howard County. **Paid lobbyists should never have more access to elected officials or influence over tax paying citizens.**

I'm here tonight to ask you to please stop wasting our money on this unnecessary practice. The trade-offs have not been worth the losses.

I recognize that municipalities are required to obtain TMDL credits but there are 31 other practices that also produce credits and are effective at reducing pollution without destroying the environment.

Please reallocate the funding earmarked for stream restorations and spend it on projects that capture and filter polluted stormwater runoff where it's occurring through practices such as bio-retentions, street vacuuming, planting riparian buffers – instead of logging them, and converting impervious pavement to pervious surfaces with pavers, and please continue to fund the Clean Scapes and raingarden program.

Also, Complete streets, are not complete, if they aren't Green Streets too.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/clean-water/watershed/GreenStreetsHandout.pdf>

Tree planting is awesome and produces credits and I appreciate all of the county's efforts, but we can't plant a specimen tree, or a mature bio-diverse forest and canopy, and we can't plant our way out of the loss. We must put a larger focus on preservation and protection of our remaining fragments of forest.

We should pay county employees to pick up trash and cut vines down out of our trees on county land and along the roadways.

And Finally, Dr. Ball, I'm asking you to please use your influence with MACO and ask MDE for the TMDL accounting guidance document to be updated to include credits for maintaining BMP's each year.

Stream restorations allow profit and credits for continued pollution, and destruction of fragile, unique, one of a kind, irreplaceable, habitats for millions of dollars. And they have absolutely no business or benefit to Howard County or our wallets. **We're smarter than that** and I'm asking you to please stop wasting our money on this destructive practice.

Thank you for your time this evening and for your consideration. And Dr. Ball, I hope this will be the year you come on a stream walk with me.

Thanks for all you do.

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In addition to my oral testimony above, I would like to add a few more thoughts for your consideration.

I appreciate the county has been working to address stormwater runoff in the uplands, but we aren't doing enough to retrofit neighborhoods with the most effective practices and at the most cost effective and convenient times. There isn't a more ideal time to install "Green Street" BMP's then when the county is working on watermain infrastructure and road and highway projects.

The county is getting ready to undertake a year long project upgrading the watermain infrastructure in Longfellow, Columbia. How much money will be spent on Green Street BMP's that will capture and filter stormwater runoff before it reaches our creeks? This should be immediately taken into consideration to ensure the county, and its residents get the most for their money when paying for upgrades to infrastructure for the long term.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/clean-water/watershed/GreenStreetsHandout.pdf>

Also, I appreciate all of the great work that Howard Eco-Works performs for our county, but I was quite surprised to hear that this is the organization that apparently is responsible for the long-term maintenance and management of stream “restorations” in Howard County after the contractor has been released from their obligations.

This means that Howard Eco-Works’ required budget is tied in part to stream restorations. The county should understand **ALL** the costs associated with stream “restoration” and stream bank “stabilization” which is basically the same thing, before approving this senseless and expensive practice in the future.

This is the “restored” stream in Columbia, in year 4. (See photo below). This creek was like an aquarium and the forest was self-sustaining before the “restoration” took place. This project cost Maryland taxpayers 2.2 million dollars. It’s scheduled for numerous repairs. Unfortunately, the water quality will remain biologically impaired for an undetermined amount of time. The area is overrun with invasive species.



Photo credit S. Boies “Restored” creek in Columbia, year 4

Howard Eco-Works should be able to spend their time and our money on several more beneficial projects instead of cleaning up after others who profit from our natural resources and pollution without curing it.

Also, I was pretty surprised to find out that Parks and Recreation has applied to MDE for a permit to pave a section of the Patuxent Branch Trail right next to the river. The project could remove up to 300 mature trees!



They are asking for a million dollars to pave over mud puddles. This is totally unnecessary spending during this time of fiscal uncertainty, and I'm asking for the county to please withdraw the application and use the money to shore up the budget or for some more holistic approaches to the mud puddles such as steppingstones or boardwalks.

Finally, after listening to speaker after speaker, asking for even more money for education, I'm wondering where does it end? How can our county budget keep up? How can we keep affording this?

How much more money are we going to be expected to pay in taxes for more schools as the county continues to increase our population to try to expand the tax base? There are already concerns being raised about a new school for the Gateway development.

One side of Columbia is currently being redeveloped. Five projects will raise the number of housing units from 300 to 600. My over 50 years understanding of Columbia is that it is a planned community. Overpopulation was not the plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sharon Boies  
Columbia, MD

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**From:** Phalande Toto Castillo <chileanbeau23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 12:18 PM  
**To:** Singleton, Kristofer; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Anderson Avenue & Hanover Road Sidewalks and Road Safety Issues  
**Attachments:** Howard County\_\_Sidewalk Request and Road Safety Issues.pdf; Anderson Avenue & Hanover Road #1.PNG; Anderson Avenue & Hanover Road #2.PNG; Anderson Avenue & Hanover Road #3.PNG; Anderson Avenue & Hanover Road.PNG

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon,

I am submitting a formal request for sidewalk additions in our neighborhood, including road safety concerns that have become a major problem in our neighborhood, where speed bumps are necessary for Hanover Road to be safe for our residents. My contact information is included in the letter. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I hope that we can come to a resolution that will meet the needs of our neighborhood.

Thank you,

--

Landy Castillo



To: Whom It May Concern

CC: Howard County Council

Elkridge, MD, needs your attention, and we need it now!

As a resident who purchased their forever home in Elkridge, MD a few years ago, particularly because of the reputation of Howard County, I have observed that this part of the county lacks the attention it deserves and needs immediate help. We can no longer wait for a tragedy to happen in our neighborhoods for the Howard County officials to start paying attention. Given the incredible amount of property taxes that we pay, it is troublesome that the issues we have are not being addressed. Who is fighting for resources to create a better life for our residents here in Elkridge, MD. I do not see any changes for the improvement of the lives of our residents, more importantly, our children in this area.

My residential address is 6425 Anderson Avenue, Hanover, MD 21076, yes, it is part of Howard County. I have two middle schoolers and a dog. There are a few things that need attention in our neighborhood, and one primary issue is sidewalks. We have no sidewalks on Anderson, or have safe access to other neighborhoods, and many of our residents, including myself, would walk on the main road to get to sidewalks to get a good walk in. A tragedy almost happened where one of our neighbors was struck by a vehicle while walking on Anderson Avenue. Obviously, like many of us feel here, we want to be able to walk around in our own neighborhoods without having to drive anywhere. If records are kept for this area, there have been several requests made for this area, Hanover Road, and Anderson Avenue, with no resolutions. This begs the question: What is Howard County doing for Elkridge residents?

Anderson Avenue needs sidewalks and there are several options for where we can install sidewalks to better assist our community here. There are options of connecting to other neighborhoods that would allow safe pathways for our community to safely walk. This certainly supports the Howard County agenda to create a healthier environment for its residents.

In addition, Hanover Road has become a highly trafficked area in the past year due to many new communities from homes built after 2019, and non-resident drivers driving through our neighborhoods speeding down Hanover Road, around the blind curve before the railroad stop. Before you ask, there are signs, but the current signage is not enough; it is not being paid any attention to. Nearly every day and several times throughout the day, a driver comes close to hitting someone turning onto Anderson Avenue. It has happened to me countless times, journeying from anywhere to get home, and our neighbors have had similar experiences. Our safety has been compromised, and no one is doing anything about it. We need speed bumps all along Hanover Road by most importantly, before the

See alternative options for sidewalks in our neighborhood

railroad stop. We cannot wait for an awful tragedy to strike before these safety issues are resolved for our residents.

For any questions, please see my contact information below:

Landy Castillo

Email: [chileanbeau23@gmail.com](mailto:chileanbeau23@gmail.com)

Phone: 301-305-0457

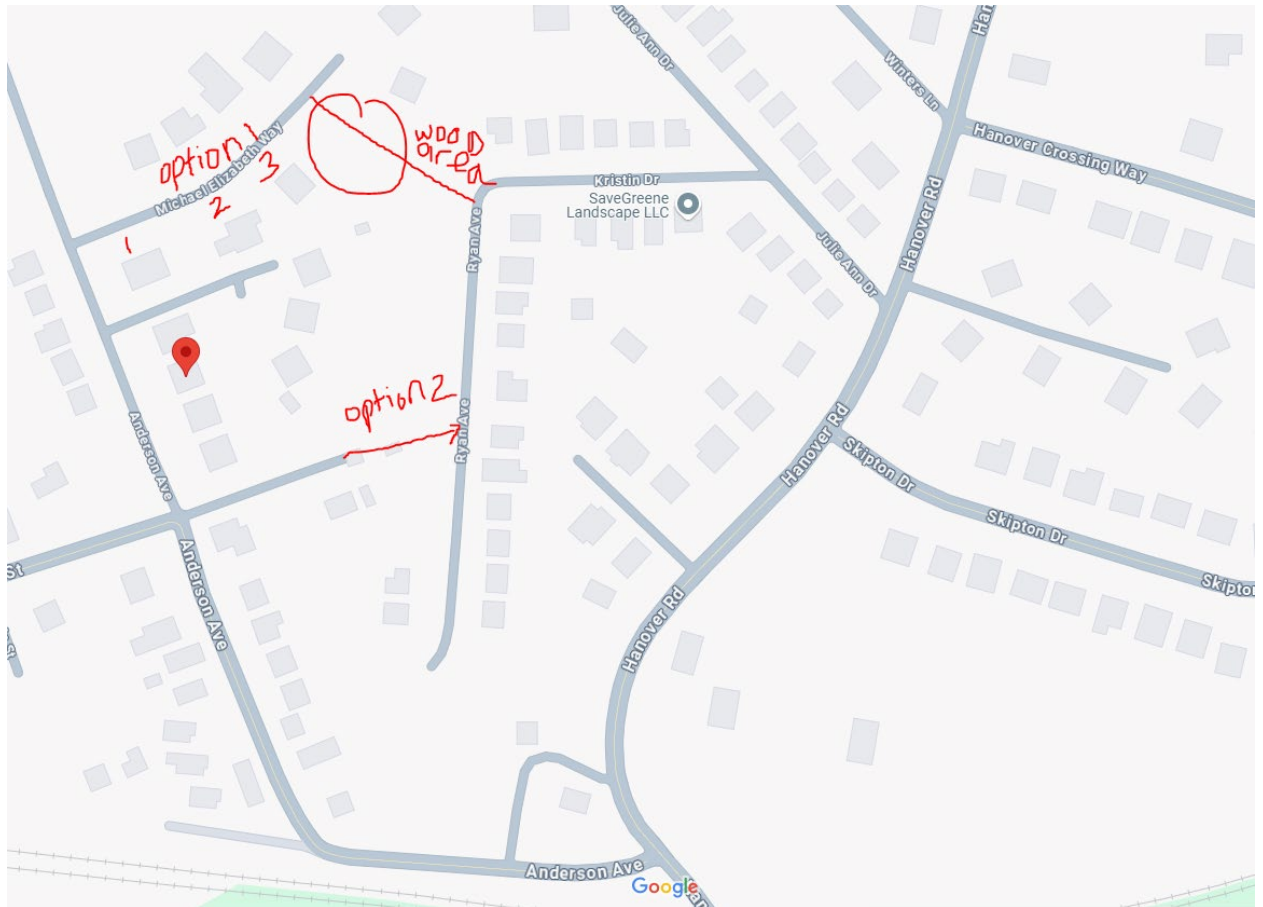
Target problem areas:



See alternative options for sidewalks in our neighborhood

## Proposals:

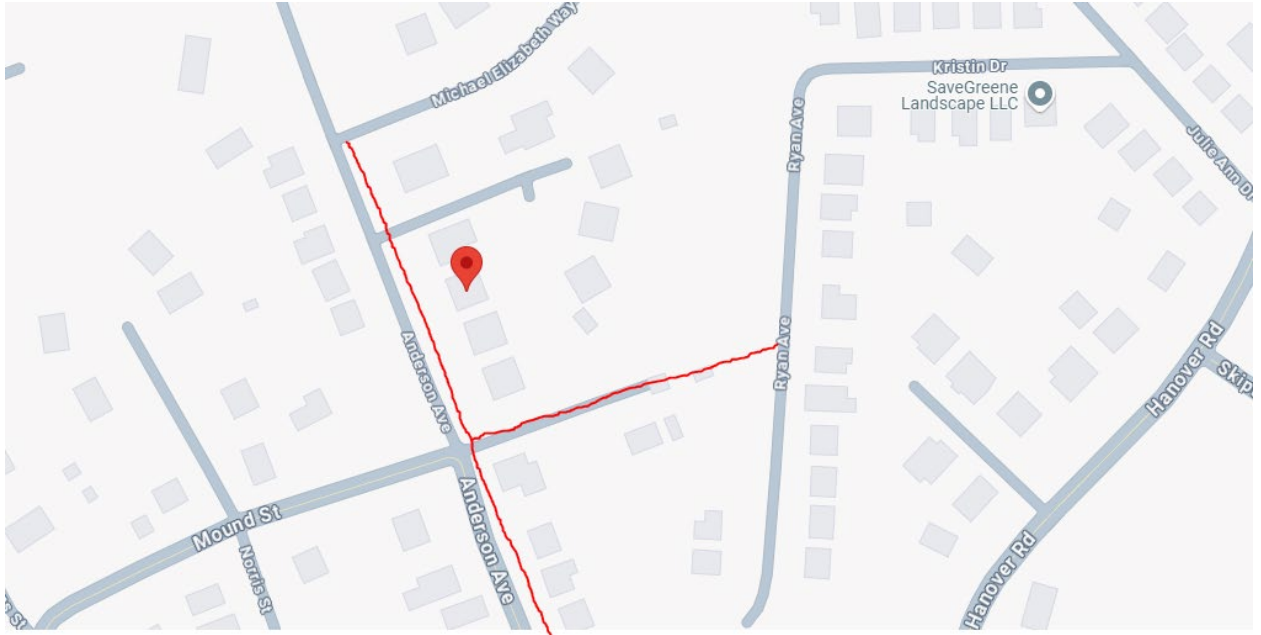
1. Sidewalk begins (one-sided sidewalk acceptable): main road from the stop sign for Anderson Avenue down to Michael Elizabeth Way. Part 2: There is an empty drainage area after the third house on the left of Michael Elizabeth Way, where a sidewalk can easily be build and connect to Ryan Avenue, giving our neighborhood access to a wider area for walkability.



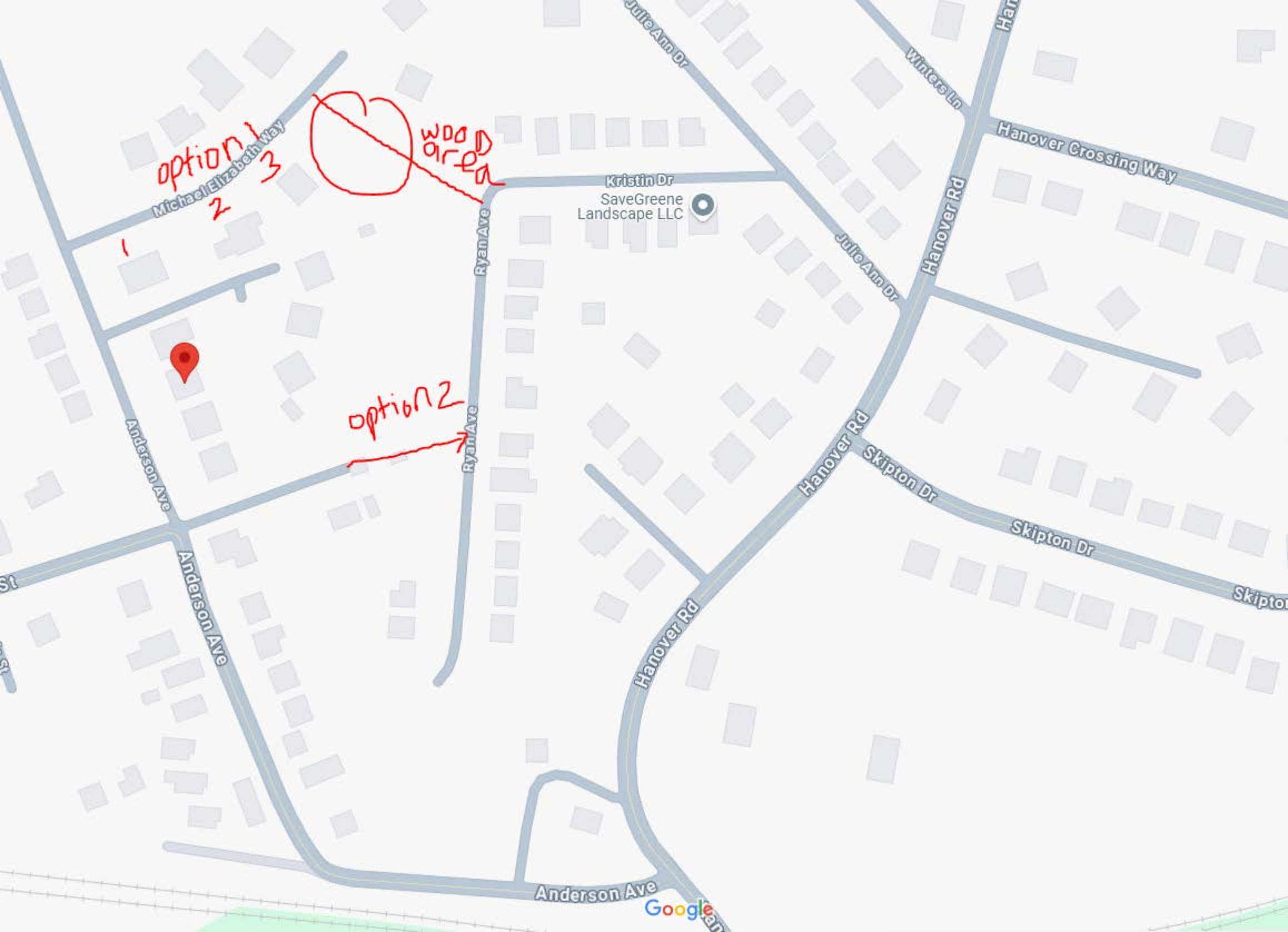
See alternative options for sidewalks in our neighborhood



2. Sidewalk begins (one-sided sidewalk acceptable): main road from the stop sign for Anderson Avenue down to Michael Elizabeth Way. Part 2: Down Mound Street, there is a dead-end road, add a sidewalk to also connect to Ryan Avenue, giving our neighborhood access to a wider area for walkability.



See alternative options for sidewalks in our neighborhood

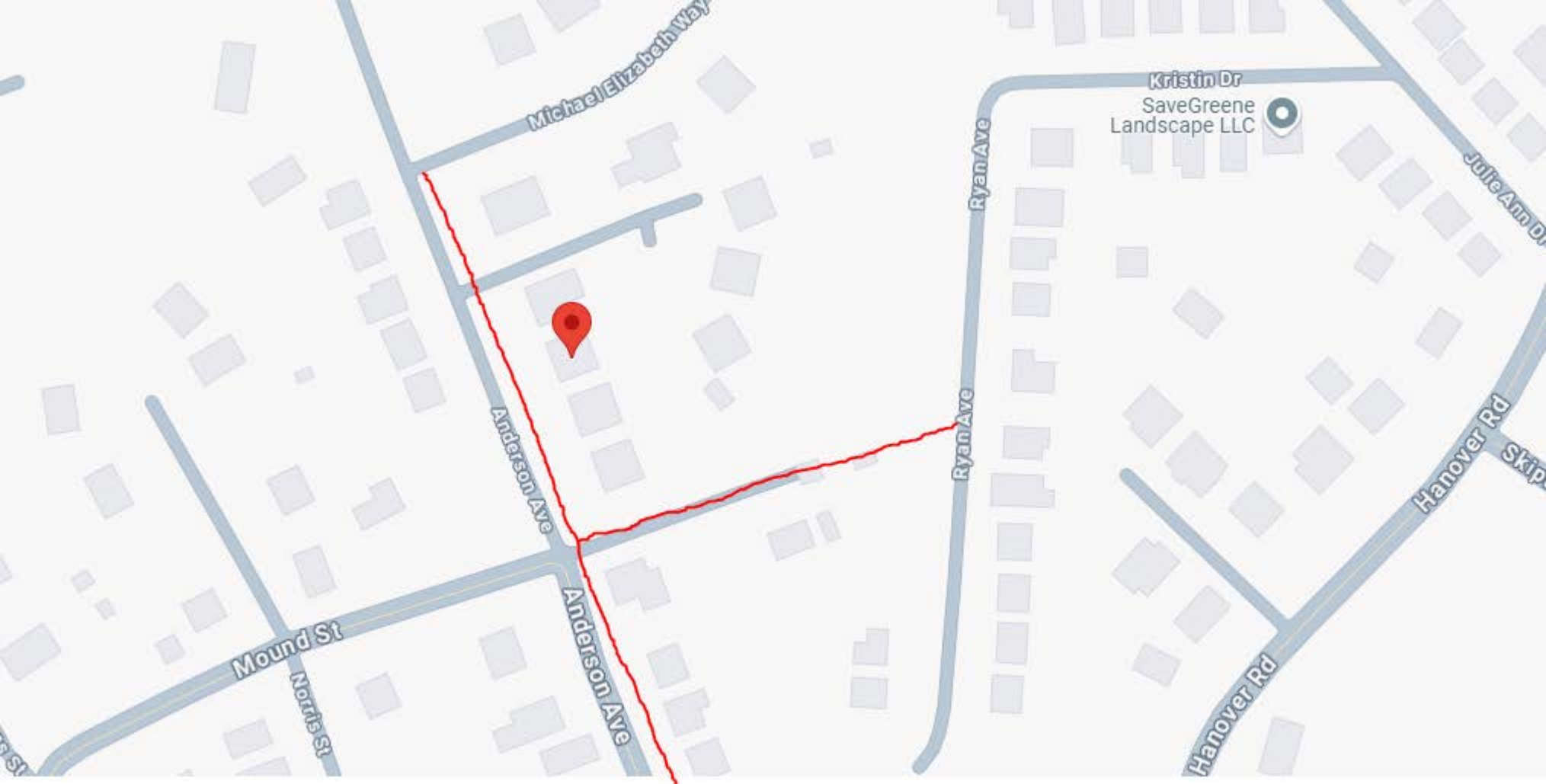


option 1  
2 3

wood area

option 2

Kristin Dr  
SaveGreene  
Landscape LLC







Hanover

Train



6500 Hanover Rd  
Elkridge, Maryland

 Google Street View

Jul 2019 [See more dates](#)

