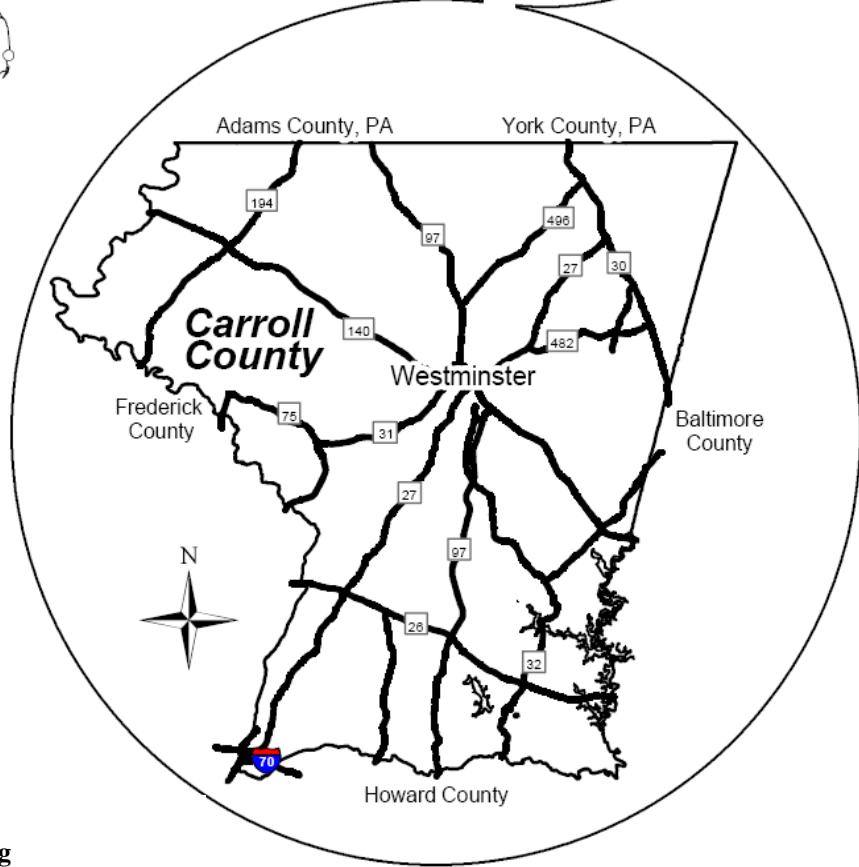
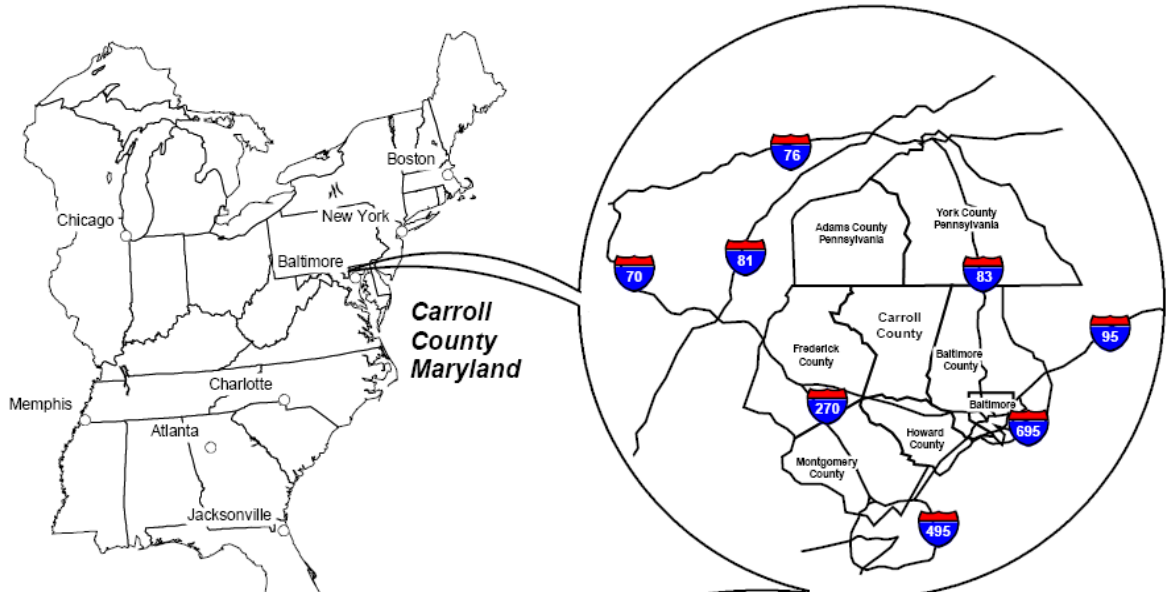


# Geography/Demographics of Carroll County, Maryland



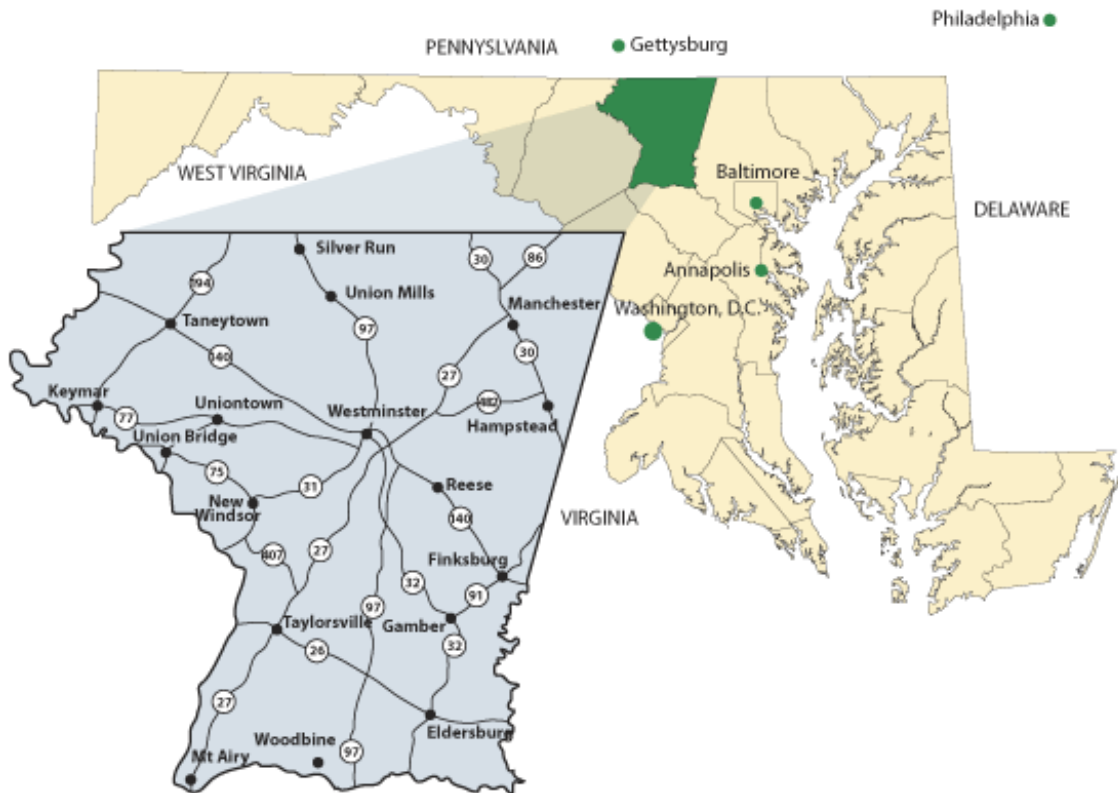
As of December 31, 2008

<b>Population:</b>	<b>174,650</b>
<b>Households:</b>	<b>60,961</b>
<b>Square Miles:</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>Persons Per Sq. Mile</b>	<b>383</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,  
Carroll County Department of Planning

## History

Carroll County was created in 1837 from parts of Baltimore and Frederick Counties. The County was named for Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Carroll was a Marylander and the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1832 at the age of 95. During the American Civil War, the population of Carroll County was sharply divided between supporters of the Union and the Confederacy. In 1863, there were historic troop movements through the county as part of the Gettysburg campaign. On June 29, 1863, the cavalry battle of Corbit's Charge was fought in the streets of Westminster. This would later be recognized as a contributing factor in the eventual defeat of Robert E. Lee's army at Gettysburg.



### ***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## Today

Carroll County is bordered on the north by the Mason-Dixon Line. The Patapsco River forms the southern border, and Liberty Reservoir forms part of the eastern border. Carroll County is bordered on the west by the Monocacy River and Sam's Creek. Carroll has 8 incorporated municipalities: Taneytown, Hampstead, Manchester, Mount Airy, New Windsor, Sykesville, Union Bridge, and Westminster, which is the County Seat.

Carroll County is located within the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, which is the nation's 19th largest market, with over 2.5 million people. The market also ranks among the top 20 in the country in the number of households, total effective buying income and retail sales. Located in the heart of the Mid-Atlantic on the east coast, the Baltimore Metropolitan Area also includes: Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Harford County and Howard County.



### ***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## The Carroll County Seal

The Carroll County Seal was provided for in the minutes of the Commissioners of Tax for Carroll County on June 5, 1837, and became the county's official seal on July 1, 1977. The seal consists of "three concentric circles, with the inscription 'Carroll County Maryland' inserted between the inner and middle circles also having two stylized six-leaved blossoms located, one each, on opposite sides of the same space between the inner and middle circle, also within the inner circle is a replica of the four-horse freight wagon with the year 1837 imposed above the wagon." When legislation was enacted effective July 1, 1977, there was no mention of colors for the seal, although the colors used are red, white, blue and brown.



***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## Attractions

### **Carroll County Farm Museum**

The Carroll County Farm Museum presents rural life as it was in the 19th Century. In addition to the main house, which was built in 1852, the 140-acre museum includes barns, a smokehouse, springhouse, blacksmith shop, craftsmen's workshops and exhibit areas

that contain an abundance of early farm memorabilia. Farm animals add to the authenticity of the setting. Recreational facilities include picnic tables, pavilions, and horseshoe pits. For more information on the Farm Museum, refer to: <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/farmmus/default.asp>.



### **Historical Society of Carroll County**

The Historical Society of Carroll County was founded in 1939 and owns three historic properties on East Main Street in Westminster, MD. The 1807 Sherman-Fisher-Shellman house is furnished to interpret the lives of the first owner, Jacob Sherman, and his family who lived in the house from 1807-1842. The adjacent Kimmey House is home to the Shriver-Weybright Gallery where exhibitions

examine the history of Carroll County and its residents. Cockey's Tavern is under renovation to provide an expanded museum shop, public programming space and tourist information center. For more information on the Historical Society of Carroll County, refer to: <http://hscc.carr.org/>.



## ***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## Strawbridge Shrine

In the Wakefield Valley/New Windsor area of Carroll County, Robert Strawbridge formed the first Methodist class in America about 1763. Nearby, he built the first log meeting house. Although without official sanction, American Methodists first received Baptism and Holy Communion by his hand. The Strawbridge House was designated a National Methodist Shrine by the General Conference of 1940, and was purchased by the Strawbridge Shrine Association in 1973.

Today the Strawbridge House and farm, along with John Evans Meeting House Replica, are available for tours. For more information on the Strawbridge Shrine, refer to: <http://www.strawbridgeshrine.org>



## Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse

The Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse was built between July and December 1903, at a cost of \$530.50. Between January 1904 and May 1938 it was a one-room schoolhouse, managed by local community trustees, for children of the surrounding black community from both sides of the Patapsco River during the days of segregation. This historic schoolhouse has been restored and furnished to its 1904 appearance. For more information on the Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse, refer to: [www.sykesville.net/school.html](http://www.sykesville.net/school.html).



## *Carroll County*

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## **Sykesville Gate House Museum**

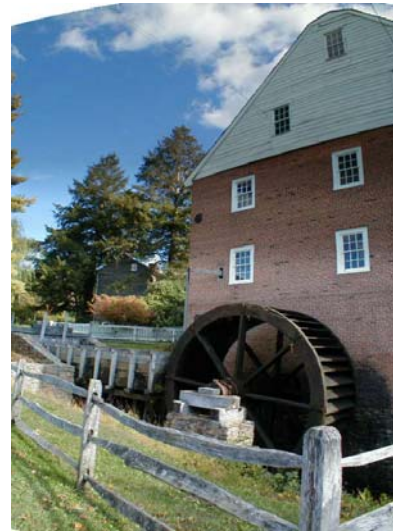
The Sykesville Gate House Museum strives to interpret the abundant history of the Town of Sykesville and its surrounding communities through its collections, exhibits and special events. Historic home and architectural enthusiasts may opt to take the guided tour of the building's other purpose - home to



Springfield Hospital Center employees from 1904 until the late 1980s. For more information on the Sykesville Gate House Museum, refer to [www.sykesville.net/gatehouse.html](http://www.sykesville.net/gatehouse.html)

## **Union Mills Homestead and Grist Mill**

The Union Mills Homestead began in 1797 when David and Andrew Shriver purchased a large tract of land along the Big Pipe Creek. The site was perfect for the enterprises that the Shriver brothers hoped to start. The Big Pipe Creek provided an excellent source of water for a mill, the fertile valley was good farmland and the surrounding rolling hills contained heavy stands of black oak which could furnish tanbark for a tannery. Soon the brothers entered into a contract with Frederick County millwright, John Mong, to construct a set of mills, a grist mill and a saw mill. While the Grist Mill and Saw Mill were under construction, David and Andrew Shriver also started the main part of the house. To these early endeavors, the brothers added a tannery, cooper shop and a blacksmith's shop. Now David and Andrew truly had



the beginning of an early industrial park. The growing enterprises soon took the name “Union Mills” because of the partnership of the two brothers and their various businesses. This is the same name that the small settlement that grew around the Homestead took. For more information on the Union Mills Homestead, refer to: [www.unionmills.org](http://www.unionmills.org).

## ***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

## **Carroll Arts Center**

The Carroll County Arts Council in partnership with the City of Westminster transformed this 1937 art deco Carroll Theatre into a multi-purpose community arts center. Opened in April of 2003, the renovated facility includes a 263-seat theatre, two well-equipped art classrooms and two large art galleries. The Tevis Gallery and the Community Gallery feature group shows by regional visual artists in a variety of mediums and styles. The Carroll Arts Center offers a wealth of cultural opportunities including musical concerts, lectures, film, dramatic productions, art exhibits, classes and camps. For more information on the Carroll Arts Center, refer to: [www.carr.org/arts](http://www.carr.org/arts).

## **Piney Run Park**

Whether you like to boat, fish, hike, picnic, bird watch, play tennis, or just appreciate nature's beauty, Piney Run Park is yours to enjoy. Completed in 1974, this 300-acre lake is rich in environmental and recreational resources. Its clear waters are surrounded by 500 acres of beautiful woods, meadows and open space. The natural rural surroundings, combined with creative, informative programming for the public, make Piney Run Park an ideal place to discover and enjoy the out-of-doors. Piney Run Park also hosts a Nature Center that provides approximately 300 programs each year to the general public. Activities serve a wide range of ages from preschoolers to senior citizens. For more information on Piney Run Park, refer to:



<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/recpark/pineyrun/>.

## **Hashawha Environmental Center**

Hashawha is located in northern Carroll County off Route 97 North. Facilities at Hashawha include an administration building with meeting rooms, a dining hall, and a boardwalk wetlands area. Bear Branch Nature Center is located next to Hashawha Environmental Center. This facility provides nature study and environmental education to all visitors. The Nature Center features a Library Resource Room, Bird Observation Room, Discovery Room, Exhibit Hall with insects, deer, Native Americans, and conservation exhibits, a 40-seat planetarium, and a Nature Gift Shop. For more information on the Hashawha Environmental Center, refer to:



<http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/recpark/hashawha/default.asp>.

## ***Carroll County***

*a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play*

# How Carroll County Government Operates

---

In Maryland, county governments may be organized as charter counties, code counties or non-home-rule counties. All act under limitations legislated by the State government. Carroll is a non-home-rule county governed by an elected three-member Board of County Commissioners where each member is allowed one vote and they elect their own officers. The Board exercises the powers conferred upon it by the General Assembly of Maryland, including authorization to issue debt to finance capital projects.

The County Commissioners are elected for four-year terms (non-presidential election years). All are elected by the entire County voting population. All County Commissioners must live within Carroll County.

Among the Commissioners' duties are: establishing policy direction, adopting the operating and capital budgets, setting the tax rate, levying and collecting taxes, appointing commissions and boards, approving ordinances and resolutions, and recommending legislation to the State Delegation. Positions at the cabinet level are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. These positions represent the top level of management for Carroll County who report directly to the Board. The Commissioners also appoint residents to various county advisory boards that make policy recommendations. In addition, the County Commissioners purchase and maintain County property, approve road construction and maintenance, and serve as the County's chief elected officials in dealing with other counties, the State and Federal governments.

The Board of County Commissioners approves the County operating and capital budgets after each agency submits its requests and after a series of public hearings have been conducted. The budget ordinance must be adopted before June 1.

Federal and State funds contribute a percentage of the cost of education, social services, health-related activities, aging programs, emergency services, agricultural extension services and various other programs.

Carroll County's eight incorporated municipalities function as autonomous units of local government. They are Hampstead, Manchester, Mt. Airy, New Windsor, Sykesville, Taneytown, Union Bridge and Westminster. The towns provide police protection and other vital services, and (with the exception of Hampstead and Sykesville) operate their own water and sewer systems. The municipalities derive operating revenues from water/sewer user fees, town taxes (rates are set by the councils under state guidelines), fees for miscellaneous permits and assessments, and Federal revenue sharing programs.

**Prepare and publish Adopted Capital budget and Operating budget books.**

**Public Hearing conducted. Operating and Capital budgets adopted.**

**Proposed Capital and Operating budgets prepared.**

**DMB Recommendation, Commissioner/ Agency Hearings for Capital and Operating budgets.**

**Preliminary Capital DMB Recommendation. Planning Commission Review.**

**Capital Budget direction sent to departments and agencies.**

**Capital budget requests received by DMB.**

**Operating Budget direction sent to departments and agencies.**

**Operating budget requests received by DMB, reviews begin.**

