1. Howard County. (2015). *2015 County Land and Buildings records*: A record of the

lands and buildings in Howard County (data file). Retrieved from [https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Utilities-and-Public Works/County-Land-And-Buildings/2pc3-v8ha](https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Utilities-and-Public-Works/County-Land-And-Buildings/2pc3-v8ha)

2. This dataset contains information on county-owned land, buildings and amenities.

There is also information on county open space, parks, pump stations, libraries, parking lots, and water towers.

The dataset give information on the size of space the county has allocated for different purposes.

The dataset also gives information on what the land will be used for and where the land is located.

3a. Howard County. (2015). *2015 Commercial Site Development Plan*: A record of

Howard county commercial site development plan. (data file). Retrieved from <https://opendata.howardcountymd.gov/Planning-and-Zoning/Commercial-Site-Development-Plans/2rmt-d3f4>

This dataset contains information on the commercial sites development plan of Howard County. The dataset contains what Howard county land is used for what purpose. The dataset gives detailed information on the location of different business and facilities in Howard County.

Also, by looking at the dataset you can tell where Howard county government has mapped out for business use or residential.

3b. Howard County. (2015). *2015 Record of parks in Howard county:* A record of the

parks in Howard county with exact address. (data file). Retrieved from

<https://data.howardcountymd.gov/geoserver/ows?service=WFS&version=1.0.0&>request=GetFeature&typeName=general:Parks&outputFormat=csv, <https://data.howardcountymd.gov/>

The dataset contains detailed information of the number of parks in Howard County. It contains information on the kind of park for example, neighborhood or Community Park. The dataset contains the exact location of the park with addresses and the name of the park. Also the dataset has information on the size of the park and the park ID as contained in the county records.

Further research questions:

4a.Following the sustainability initiatives of Howard County, how is the county land use planned in relation to allocation for parks in Howard County?

How many of the lands allocated are used for a park?

I would want this work reported in a map because it gives the viewer a better picture of the county and the lands. Putting these dataset in a map will bring out the different lands and show the location of the park.

Straightforward access and reduction in size to reduce speed of download

Data filtering and merging

I opened the County land and Buildings" dataset in excel.

I sorted the column for use type to begin from A to Z that way I will line up all the land used for parks in Howard county.

I deleted all the data in the columns of the “use type” before the column for “park” to give me space to merge my data from the dataset of what lands are parks in Howard County from the “commercial site development plan” dataset.

I opened the dataset for the “commercial site development plan” and sorted it to put all parks together like I did in the dataset for “county land and buildings”.

I highlighted the column containing the “parks” and pasted it under the column for land used, as parks in Howard County but the columns did not align.

Merging and cleaning

To align the two column containing parks I have to delete a column from the dataset of “County land and Buildings” containing the “block numbers”, “parcel numbers” and “lots”. I chose the option in deleting to shift the cell to the left so the park columns in the dataset for “Commercial Site Development Plans” can align with the column for lands allocated for parks in the dataset for “County land and Buildings”

At the end I deleted every other data not containing information about the land used for parks and actual parks in Howard County. I renamed the column for park “use type”.

Rational behind the choice of datasets

I chose the dataset of "County land and Buildings" with focus on the county planning on the position and location of the land that will be park  
I combined it with another dataset "Commercial Site Development Plans" to show the lands used for park from the number allocated  
my third dataset is based on the data set "Park region" which I will use to show the parks owned by the county and known as a county historic site, natural resources area or just a county parkland.

My goal is that my data set will help office of the aging know the best spot to build senior centers for older adults that will be close to the parks. The goal for building senior centers close to park is to support and encourage recreation, exercise and sun tanning.

Chike Egbufoama. (2015). 2015 *Howard County Parks and Planning.* A record of land

allocated for parks in Howard County and the location of the parks. (data file). Retrieved from https://github.com/arusiuka/Howard-initiatives/blob/master/Howard%20county%20land%20allocation%20for%20park.csv