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COUNTYWIDE **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** PLAN



Approved June 14, 2005



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

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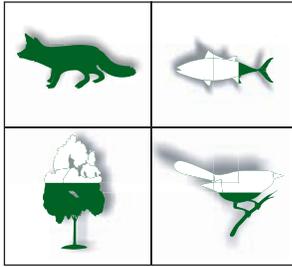
COUNTYWIDE **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** PLAN



*...a comprehensive vision for conserving significant
environmental ecosystems in
Prince George's County, Maryland*

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Prince George's County Planning Department
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

www.mncppc.org/pgco



Approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Prince George's County Planning Department

Green Infrastructure Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland

June 2005

PLANNING AGENCY:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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ABSTRACT:

This document contains text and maps of the Approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland. Green infrastructure is defined as an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas of countywide significance .

The plan identifies a contiguous network of environmentally sensitive areas throughout the county and sets forth a goal, objectives, policies, and strategies to preserve, protect, and enhance these elements by the year 2025. The plan supports the desired development pattern in the General Plan. This is the first comprehensive functional master plan ever developed for environmental ecosystems in Prince George's County.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bicounty agency, created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties: the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties.

The Commission has three major functions:

- The preparation, adoption, and, from time to time, amendment or extension of the General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District;
- The acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system; and
- In Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire county public recreation program.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

The Prince George's County Department of Planning (M-NCPPC):

- Our mission is to help preserve, protect and manage the county's resources by providing the highest quality planning services and growth management guidance and by facilitating effective intergovernmental and citizen involvement through education and technical assistance.
- Our vision is to be a model planning department composed of responsive and respected staff who provide superior planning and technical services and work cooperatively with decision makers, citizens and other agencies to continuously improve development quality and the environment and act as a catalyst for positive change.

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The County Council has three main responsibilities in the planning process: (1) setting policy, (2) plan approval, and (3) plan implementation. Applicable policies are incorporated into area plans, functional plans, and the general plan. The Council, after holding a hearing on the plan adopted by the Planning Board, may approve the plan as adopted, approve the plan with amendments based on the public record, or disapprove the plan and return it to the Planning Board for revision. Implementation is primarily through adoption of the annual Capital Improvement Program, the annual budget, the water and sewer plan, and adoption of zoning map amendments.

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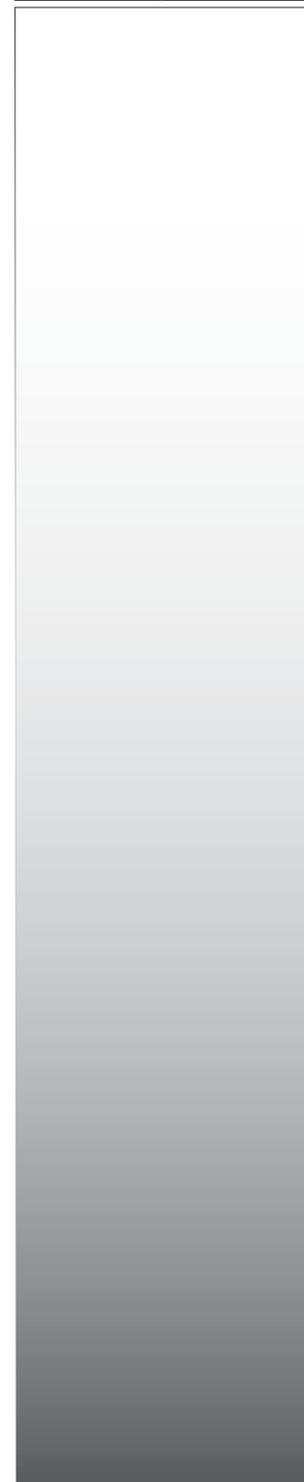
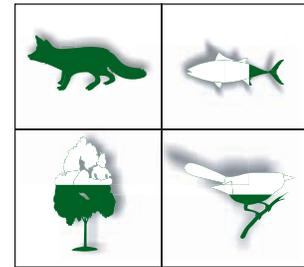
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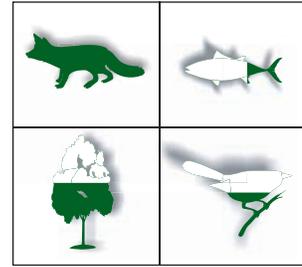
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FOREWORD



We are pleased to present the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan for Prince George’s County, adopted by the Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on March 31, 2005, and approved by the Prince George’s County Council on June 14, 2005. This plan is the first comprehensive functional master plan ever to be developed for environmental ecosystems in Prince George’s County. We are excited to be on the cutting edge of setting forth a long-range vision for conserving significant environmental resources in the county.

This plan contains a map identifying the countywide green infrastructure network and recommendations to ensure the preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of the network by the year 2025. This plan was prepared by the Commission at the request of the County Council in order to address the goals and objectives of the General Plan.

The plan was developed with substantial input from numerous stakeholders. In accordance with the Commission’s mission of citizen outreach, a public forum in May 2003 provided citizens the opportunity to express their concerns on issues that should be addressed in the plan. Additionally, staff held four focus group meetings, hosted a plan review group work session, met with representatives from adjoining jurisdictions and municipalities, developed and conducted an urban resident survey, sponsored an active website to obtain input throughout the plan development process, and participated in a joint public hearing of the Prince George’s County Planning Board and County Council on January 26, 2005. These forums and processes successfully enabled us to acquire and maximize input from concerned citizens, residents, and entities.

The Green Infrastructure Plan is intended to provide a larger context in which land management and policy decisions are made in Prince George’s County. We are pleased to make this plan available and urge your continued input as we move from planning to implementation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Hewlett
Chairman, Prince George’s County Planning Board

