APPENDICES

1: Public Participation and Outreach Process

The countywide Green Infrastructure Plan process expanded the public participation that was used to develop the 2002 General Plan. During the preparation of the General Plan, input was received on elements of the Green Infrastructure Plan through comments from citizens, focus group meetings, and countywide forums. An environmental forum was also held during the development of the General Plan to gather input strictly on environmental issues.

A guiding principle in the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan was to ensure meaningful public participation. The following is a brief description of the major public participation process used in developing this plan.

I. **Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan Public Forum**. A public forum was held on May 8, 2003, to inform the general public about the Green Infrastructure Plan. It was also a venue for the Planning Board and staff to receive input from the public regarding concerns and issues that should be addressed in the plan. The forum was open to all citizens, business owners, property owners, and interested parties.

II. **Focus Groups.** Between October 21, 2003, and December 18, 2003, four focus group meetings were held to obtain input from citizens and stakeholder groups in Prince George's County. The focus groups assembled were municipalities and large civic associations; agriculture and forestry; citizens and environmental advocacy; and building and industry. The goals of the meetings were to inform attendees about the Green Infrastructure Plan project, to receive input, and to listen to concerns early in the process.

III. **Meetings with Adjoining Jurisdictions and Municipalities.** Staff met individually with planners from adjoining jurisdictions (Charles County, Calvert County, Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, Howard County[21] and the District of Columbia) and several Prince George's County municipalities (College Park, Laurel, Bowie, Greenbelt, Cheverly), and Port Towns to discuss the Green Infrastructure Plan. Staff also met with development coordinators from the University of Maryland, College Park campus. In particular, areas of potential conflict and/or connectivity were explored, as well as opportunities for program coordination. Other specific efforts were made to reach out to municipalities by giving a targeted presentation to the Prince George's County Municipal Association.

[21] Howard County planners were consulted by telephone.

IV. **Plan Review Group Worksession.** On May 11, 2004, a Green Infrastructure Plan review group meeting was held to receive input from focus group members and other interested parties regarding plan alternatives. Thirty-seven people representing interested citizens, municipalities, consultants, citizen associations, the agricultural community, the building community, the environmental community, the equestrian community, the aggregate community, adjacent jurisdictions, state agencies, county agencies, and federal properties attended the meeting.

Six mapping scenarios were presented illustrating various ways a countywide green infrastructure network could be established. Input was received on the draft mapping scenarios and on implementation options.

V. **Information Distribution Methods (web site/e-mail/mailings)**. A page on the Planning Department's web site was created to keep the public informed throughout the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan. The web site provided information on meetings, agendas, meeting summaries, time lines, and links to associated web sites. An e-mail address was also available specifically for receiving comments, questions, and other communications regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan. The web site and the e-mail address were advertised extensively in presentations and on handouts related to the plan.

Mailing lists (both electronic and conventional) were compiled from the public forum, focus groups, and plan review group meetings. Information regarding future meetings and meeting summaries were sent to participants either by e-mail or conventional mail depending on whether or not a participant had access to e-mail.

Throughout the plan development process, staff was also available for personal contacts with stakeholders as needed.

VI. **Urban Residents Survey**. Between August 4 and August 16, 2004, a survey was conducted targeting urban residents to obtain insight on their views regarding natural areas in their community. A questionnaire was developed and placed in seven locations for a week. Questionnaires were also taken to three locations for "National Night Out Week" on the evening of August 3, 2004. The 137 people responding provided valuable insight from a segment of the population that typically is not reached during the development of environmental programs.

2: Mapping Methodology

Extensive research was conducted and considerable input was received on draft scenarios from focus groups, the plan review group, and interested parties prior to finalizing the mapping criteria. In addition, all jurisdictions bordering Prince George's County were consulted during the plan preparation stage to identify potential areas of connectivity and/or conflict. After assimilating all of this information, the green infrastructure network was finalized using the criteria below. The majority of the mapping steps were done as digital analyses using Geographic Information System data. A few of the steps involved comparisons with aerial photographs to verify existing conditions and to make decisions regarding appropriate areas of inclusion and exclusion.

Step 1: Resources Mapped

The following elements were mapped on a base map for analysis. This base map was then evaluated for elements of countywide significance and existing development.

A. Environmental overlay of countywide significance (see criteria below). This includes:

- Streams (perennial and intermittent streams plus a 50-foot-wide buffer from the edge of each bank).
- Nontidal wetlands (plus a 25-foot-wide buffer around all edges).
- 100-year floodplain.
- Severe slopes (25 percent and greater) adjacent to streams, wetlands and/or floodplain (note: 15–25 percent slopes with highly erodible soils are also regulated, but are not included in this mapping because a soils map is not currently available as a digital layer).
- Chesapeake Bay Critical Area (1,000 feet from mean high tide and tidal wetlands).
- Public Lands with Conservation Value (public parkland and other areas preserved for their conservation value).
- Habitats of special state concern (this includes rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat, habitat protection areas, wetlands of special state concern, natural heritage areas, colonial waterbird nesting sites, and waterfowl staging and conservation areas [see descriptions below]). These elements are included in this overlay, even though they may also be part of the state green infrastructure assessment.

B. State green infrastructure areas falling within Prince George's County. The state green infrastructure assessment area is 1,100 feet wide or wider and includes:

- Large blocks of contiguous forests (containing at least 250 acres, plus a transition zone of 300 feet).
- Large contiguous wetland complexes (at least 250 acres).

- Wetlands of special state concern (wetlands that provide habitats for specific communities of plants and animals that thrive in specialized environments such as bogs and coniferous swamp forests).
- Steep slopes (greater than 25 percent).
- Colonial waterbird nesting sites (areas where certain groups of birds, e.g., great blue herons, concentrate to nest).
- Habitat protection areas (including buffers; nontidal wetlands; habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species; species in need of conservation; plant and wildlife habitat; and anadromous fish propagation waters that are protected under the critical area legislation).
- Rare, threatened and endangered species sites (designated by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources where any species of fish, wildlife, or plants which appear likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered, including any species of wildlife or plant determined to be "rare," "threatened," or "endangered" pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act).
- Existing protected lands (e.g., state parks and forests, National Wildlife Refuges, locally owned reservoir properties, major stream valley parks, and Nature Conservancy preserves).
- Natural Heritage Areas (1) contain one or more threatened or endangered species or wildlife species in need of conservation; (2) include a unique blend of geological, hydrological, climatological or biological features; and (3) are considered to be among the best statewide examples of its kind.
- Waterfowl Concentration and Staging Areas (areas that migrating waterfowl such as ducks and geese use for feeding and resting during their migratory flights).
- Riparian Areas (land area adjacent to waterways).

C. Areas specifically requested by adjoining jurisdictions, municipalities, and focus groups.

D. Stream valley parks approved in master plans.

E. Interior forests (woodland greater than 600 feet wide—these areas are important for the successful breeding and reproduction of certain forest interior dwelling bird species such as red shouldered hawks and pileated woodpeckers).

F. Colonial waterbird nesting sites.

G. Unique and unusual habitats (natural features that have been identified in master plans, or on development plans that are unique or unusual in Prince George's County such as granite outcrops).

H. Railroad corridors.[22]

[22] Railroad corridors and high voltage transmission lines were mapped, but included in the green infrastructure network only if they met the countywide significance criteria or if they provided a critical environmental connection.

I. High voltage transmission lines.

J. Historic properties with conservation value.[23]

K. Existing protected lands (e.g., conservation easements and forest mitigation banks).

Step 2: Modifications for Existing and Planned Development

Once the above resources were mapped, they were combined to the outermost limits. Then the maps were modified to subtract out:

- Final platted subdivisions as of March 31, 2004, with lots less than four acres in size.
- Existing development.

Step 3: Countywide Significance

The mapped areas were then refined to include only those areas of countywide significance:

Size:
- Mapped areas 200 feet wide or wider in the Rural and Developing Tiers
- No minimum width in the Developed Tier

Connectivity:
- Gaps between mapped areas 600 feet or less

Contiguous with:
- Downstream corridors
- Open bodies of water (e.g., Potomac, Patuxent and Anacostia Rivers), or
- Designated open space of adjacent jurisdictions

Step 4: Conceptual Boundaries

After the countywide significance criteria were applied to the revised map, an outline was drawn to make a continuous outline for the final plan map. The most recent aerial photographs (2000) were used to evaluate the appropriate placement of the continuous line. The line was further adjusted based on comments received from the Plan Development Team.

Step 5: Future Step

When the following updated information becomes available, a final green infrastructure network map will be produced:

- 2005 countywide aerial photography (used to update GIS resource databases)

[23] Each historic property and/or historic district within 300 feet of the green infrastructure network boundary was reviewed and if the property was determined to have conservation value the boundary was expanded to include the site.

- Subdivisions platted at the time of plan adoption.
- Regulated areas that include 15–25 percent slopes on highly erodible soils.

The interim green infrastructure network map included in this plan is based on 2000 aerial photography, subdivisions platted as of March 31, 2004, and regulated areas which do not include 15–25 percent slopes on highly erodible soils. This was the most up-to-date information available at the time of plan preparation. New information will be available in the future that will more accurately reflect the conditions in the county at the time of plan adoption. Once this new information is available, Steps 1–4 above will be followed to produce a final green infrastructure network map that is to be used for plan implementation. In the meantime, the interim map will be used for implementation.

3: Research Conducted

The following information was used for research and reference purposes in developing the Green Infrastructure Plan.

I. Water Quality

A. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Profiles
- Chesapeake Bay Program River Basin Summaries for the Middle Potomac and Patuxent

B. Maryland Department of the Environment

- List of Impaired Surface Waters [303(d) List] and Integrated Assessment of Water Quality in Maryland
- Maryland Clean Water Action Plan
- Source Water Assessment for Community Water System in Prince George's County, MD

C. Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

- Biological Assessment of the Streams and Watersheds of Prince George's County (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003)
- Comparison of Hydrological Responses from Low Impact Development with Conventional Development

D. Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- Maryland Biological Stream Surveys
- Western Branch Stream Corridor Assessment Study

E. Prince George's County Health Department

- Historic water quality sampling data for Western Branch
- Historic water quality sampling data for Anacostia

F. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

- Historic water quality sampling data

G. City of Bowie

- Wellhead Protection Program (1993)

H. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Tumor prevalence in Anacostia fish

II. Forest Buffers

A. USDA Forest Service/Chesapeake Bay Program

- Riparian forest buffer widths

B. Adjacent Jurisdictions

- Current buffer requirement widths

III. Health Issues

A. American Cancer Society

- Surveillance Research

B. American Lung Association

- State of the Air 2002 Report

IV. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

A. Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment: A Comprehensive Strategy for Land Conservation and Restoration
- Forest and Green Infrastructure Loss in Maryland 1997-2000, and Implications for the Future

B. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

- Geographic Information System
- Management Strategies For Critical Areas Suitland Bog

V. Agricultural Issues

- Prince George's County Soil Conservation District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service: 2002 Census of Agriculture County Data

VI. Coordination Meetings

- Adjacent jurisdictions including:
  Anne Arundel County
  Calvert County
  Charles County
  Howard County
  Montgomery County
  District of Columbia
- Patuxent River Commission
- Middle Potomac Tributary Team

- Municipalities
  - Bowie
  - Cheverly
  - College Park
  - Greenbelt
  - Laurel
- Port Towns
- Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) representing all municipalities in the county

VII. Existing Plans and Documents

- 2002 Approved General Plan
- Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment: A Comprehensive Strategy for Land Conservation and Restoration Adopted Master and Sector Plans
- Commission 2000 Final Report
- Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan Public Forum Information Brochure
- Preliminary General Plan Technical Summary: Environmental Infrastructure, Transportation and Public Facilities
- Draft Master Plan of Transportation
- Mattawoman Creek Watershed Management Plan
- Patuxent River Policy Plan
- Approved master, area and sector plans

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

2005 Legislative Session

Resolution No.	CR-44-2005
Proposed by	The Chairman (by request - Planning Board)
Introduced by	Council Members Peters, Exum, Dernoga, Knotts, Campos and Bland
Co-Sponsors	
Date of Introduction	June 14, 2005

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

The Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan

For the purpose of approving with amendments the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan.

WHEREAS, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with the concurrence of the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council, in Council Resolution CR-52-2002, initiated preparation of a Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan in accordance with Part 13 of the Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures for preparation of a master plan, the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission published an informational brochure and held a public forum on May 8, 2003, to inform the public of the intent to prepare a functional master plan, provide background information on issues identified and solicit ideas and comments on plan development; established goals, concepts, guidelines and a public participation program; formed focus groups to concentrate on specific issues; and held a public information forum to discuss several implementation options; and

WHEREAS, the District Council and the Planning Board held a duly advertised joint public hearing on the Preliminary Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan on January 26, 2005, and subsequently, the Planning Board adopted the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan with amendments as described in Prince George's County Planning Board Resolution PGCPB No. 05-79 on March 31, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the adopted Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan was transmitted to the District Council on April 7, 2005 and the District Council conducted work sessions on the Plan on April 12, 2005, and June 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, upon approval by the District Council the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan will amend the 2002 Prince George's County Approved General Plan, and amend the current area and subregional plans.

SECTION 1. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District Council that the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan is hereby approved as transmitted by the Planning Board, which incorporates the changes listed in the Planning Board's resolution to the Preliminary Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff is authorized to make appropriate text and map revisions to correct identified errors, reflect updated information, and incorporate the changes resulting from Council actions described in this Resolution.

Adopted this 14th day of June, 2005.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____

Samuel H. Dean
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____

Redis C. Floyd,
Clerk of the Council

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION AND APPROVAL

This approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan amends the 2002 General Plan. The Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan was adopted by the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission by Resolution No. 05-79 on March 31, 2005, and was approved by the Prince George's County Council by Resolution No. CR-44-2005 on June 14, 2005, after a duly advertised joint public hearing held on January 26, 2005.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Derick P. Berlage
Chairman

Elizabeth M. Hewlett
Vice Chairman

Patricia Colihan Barney
Secretary-Treasurer

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
MARYLAND