Approved

Prince George’s County Resource Conservation Plan

2017

A countywide functional master plan connecting green spaces and agricultural and rural conservation to support a platform for sustainable growth

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Prince George's County Planning Department
pgplanning.org
A countywide functional master plan connecting green spaces and agricultural and rural conservation to support a platform for sustainable growth
This countywide functional master plan combines the related elements of green infrastructure planning and rural and agricultural conservation into one functional master plan in order to streamline the process, meet state requirements for planning elements, and more efficiently update existing plans and maps. The Resource Conservation Plan was prepared in response to recommendations in the County’s general land use plan, Plan Prince George’s 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035). Developed with the active participation of the community, including property owners, developers, residents, and elected officials, this document contains goals, measurable objectives, policies, and strategies pertaining to green infrastructure planning, agricultural and forestry conservation, and rural character conservation.
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 promote economic vitality, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and quality development in Prince George’s County.
- Our vision: Thriving communities—now and into the future.

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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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FOREWORD

The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is pleased to make available the Approved Prince George's County Resource Conservation Plan: A Countywide Functional Master Plan (Resource Conservation Plan or RCP). This plan combines the related elements of green infrastructure planning and rural and agricultural conservation into one functional master plan to streamline the plan preparation process, meet state requirements for planning elements, and more efficiently update existing plans and maps. The Resource Conservation Plan was prepared in response to recommendations in the County's general land use plan, Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035), and supports the plan's desired development pattern. It contains three functional master plans:

- The Green Infrastructure Plan that updates the 2005 Approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan.
- The Agriculture Conservation Plan that updates and replaces the 2012 Adopted and Approved Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan (PPA) and expands to include policies and strategies that apply countywide.
- The Rural Character Conservation Plan that brings forward the recommendations of multiple studies and planning efforts to provide guidance for rural character conservation and viewshed protections.

The Resource Conservation Plan is the culmination of several years of work by community members, the business community, staff from County agencies and commissions, and elected and appointed officials to green our County, to provide better access to healthy food, and to preserve our cultural heritage. Numerous studies and previous planning projects support the contents of the RCP and contribute to the platform of sustainability needed to implement the vision of Plan 2035. Community input for the RCP was gathered through a variety of methods including five community input sessions, a robust website, and direct outreach to community groups and organizations. Input received during the development of Plan 2035 also contributed to the plan recommendations.

The RCP supports the core principles of sustainability established in Plan 2035. The plan addresses the social, economic, and environmental benefits of plan implementation through the various strategies proposed in each of the three plans. The Green Infrastructure Plan expands the definition of “green infrastructure” to include green roofs, green buildings, and other methods for greening the built environment. The Agriculture Conservation Plan builds on the previous implementation success of the PPA and adds urban agriculture to the types of agriculture and forestry enterprises that the County supports. The Rural Character Conservation Plan brings together multiple studies and previous planning efforts into one plan the purpose of which is to provide guidance for the conservation of irreplaceable viewsheds and rural character elements.

The Planning Board greatly appreciates the contributions and active involvement of the community and stakeholders in this countywide planning effort. We encourage your continued involvement in this and other countywide planning and development initiatives. We invite you to visit www.pgplanning.org to learn how you can continue to impact your communities in positive ways.

Elizabeth Hewlett
Chairman
Prince George's County Planning Board