



# Growth Action Network

of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

P.O. Box 748 • Arnold, MD 21012

## Give comments on Green Infrastructure Master Plan to PAB by Nov 28



**Public comments received before September 26 have been incorporated into the first draft of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan and a revised version has been delivered to the Planning Advisory Board.** The PAB draft is available for download at Green Infrastructure webpage link below.

**The PAB draft reflects revisions of the original draft to address public comments made during the first comment period.** Themes of these comments were:

- Support of land conservation
- Balancing conservation with development
- Concerns about property rights, public access, and trespassing
- Maintenance
- Funding

**Consequent revisions made included:**

- Clarification that the Plan does not affect existing regulations or zoning
- Clarification that the Plan does not allow public trespassing on private property
- Clarification that recreation can be compatible with conservation
- Map refinements including removal at owners' requests of 6,000 of the initial 113,000 acres of Green Infrastructure land

**At the November 10 PAB meeting, the Plan was overviewed by OPZ** and six oral comment statements were received from the public. Written comments from the public will be accepted by the PAB until November 28.

**This is a plan for conserving the most significant natural lands in the County.** They protect water and air quality, provide habitat for plants and wildlife, create opportunities for recreation, and support mitigation of climate change. These Ecosystem Services make valuable contributions to the quality of life of everyone in our County. Appendix F of the Plan shows that Ecosystem Services provided by Green Infrastructure in the County have an annual value of more than \$340 million per year.

All County citizens are encouraged to review the revised plan available at the Green Infrastructure web page and submit written comments to [greenplan@aacounty.org](mailto:greenplan@aacounty.org) by

November 28.

[Click to go to Green Infrastructure Web Page](#)

## GAN November meeting with Office of Planning and Zoning

**A GAN virtual meeting with Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Cindy Carrier, Christina Pompa, and Lynn Miller was held on November 8 with approximately 25 GAN members in attendance.** In response to several questions submitted by GAN the OPZ staff members provided the following information:

- The cost of growth study is at an early stage. The consultant is collecting data for the fiscal impact model. Impact fee study is also still gathering data. These studies are expected to be finished by summer 2022.
- A new Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance for schools is expected to be proposed in about 18 months. A draft of the new APFO for transportation may be available by January.
- Stormwater responsibilities listed under the Stormwater Action Plan will be handled by Inspections and Permits.
- The AACo government is not subject to AACo zoning laws. This is done differently in different counties.
- Outreach activities for the Regional Area Plans will make thorough use of internet surveys, virtual meetings, and other online techniques for gathering community input. These will augment in-person listening sessions and briefings.
- Region plans are expected to be underway by January. Topics beyond recommendations for land use and comprehensive rezoning will be addressed by the RAP's and will be different for each region. The RAP topics will align with Plan2040 and some possible topics are discussed on page 7 of the RAP handbook.
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee(SAC) members were selected for recommendation to the CE by a joint committee formed by representatives from OPZ and the Administration.
- Connection of a SAC applicant with a LUCA or ownership of property affected by the RAP is not considered a conflict of interest except in RAP deliberations on that specific property.

*Note: Several GAN members have expressed concern to OPZ and the County Council that three of the SAC members in Region 2 either have LUCA's or work for developers in the Jessup Rt. 175 corridor. Although this does not disqualify these members from serving on the Region 2 SAC, it does seem to raise questions about bias in their perspective.*

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