

Natural and Historic Resources

Existing Conditions

Streams and Watersheds

The Odenton Small Planning Area lies within portions of three of the twelve major watersheds in the County. (See Map 6. Watersheds) Those watersheds are (1) the Upper Patuxent River (also known as the “Big” Patuxent River) watershed, (2) the Little Patuxent River watershed, and (3) the Severn River watershed. The majority of the small planning area drains to the Little Patuxent and Severn River watersheds. The Upper Patuxent River watershed is comprised primarily of Patuxent Research Refuge lands.

There are no named tributaries to the “Big” Patuxent River in the Odenton Small Planning Area. Named tributaries to the Little Patuxent River include Towsers Branch, Franklin Branch, and Midway Branch. Named tributaries to the Severn River include Jabez Branch, Picture Spring Branch, and Severn Run. Large tracts of wetlands, as identified by the National Wetlands Inventory, are found primarily adjacent to the “Big” Patuxent and Little Patuxent Rivers. Additional non-tidal wetlands are located within the Midway Branch, Franklin Branch, and Towsers Branch sub-watersheds of the Little Patuxent River watershed, as well as the Jabez Branch, Picture Spring Branch and Severn Run sub-watersheds of the Severn River watershed.

In the Little Patuxent River watershed, Anne Arundel County has been working to restore habitat and water quality within the Towsers Branch sub-watershed. This effort began in the mid 1980s with rebuilding and/or stabilizing five storm drains in a residential neighborhood and installation of two stormwater infiltration structures. Additional work was undertaken in the mid-1990s, partially funded by a Federal grant, to implement best management practices and stream restoration projects in the “Big” and Little Patuxent River watersheds. This work effort included stormwater pond retrofits in residential areas surrounding Waugh Chapel Road, conversion of a large dry pond to an extended detention/wet pond/shallow marsh facility, and implementation of agricultural best management practices (e.g., stream fencing, reforestation) at the Naval Academy Dairy Farm. Anne Arundel County has also worked to remove blockages to fish passage in the Towsers Branch sub-basin. Three culverts have been removed and the road crossings redesigned and reconstructed to allow fish passage along a greater length of stream. A fourth road crossing is currently being designed.

Franklin Branch and Midway Branch, both tributaries to the Little Patuxent River, drain the Fort Meade portion of the Odenton Small Planning Area. Franklin Branch is included in the County’s Town Center water quality monitoring program. County Code requires routine water quality monitoring in the Town Center areas to ensure stormwater runoff is not degrading receiving streams. Lake Burba, located on Fort Meade property, is a man-made pond on Franklin Branch. Currently, the army installation is planning to dredge the facility and restore portions of the stream. Downstream of Lake Burba, Franklin Branch joins Midway Branch before confluencing with the “Big” Patuxent River approximately 2.5 miles downstream.

Page left blank for Map 6. Watersheds

The Patuxent River Commission was established in the early 1980s to facilitate, and be a catalyst for, improving and protecting the overall health of the entire Patuxent River watershed. Members of the Patuxent River Commission are appointed by the Governor and include representatives of the seven counties abutting the Patuxent River including Anne Arundel County, representatives of the Soil Conservation Districts in the watershed, representatives of State government agencies, representatives of local business concerns (e.g., watermen, farmers), and local citizens. To accomplish their mission, the Commission developed an action agenda, or Policy Plan, to serve as a guide for State agencies, local governments, private interests, and citizens having responsibility for managing, protecting, and restoring the resources of the watershed. The Policy Plan included ten recommendations for a land management strategy to control nonpoint source pollution. The recommendations are:

- establish a primary management area to protect environmentally sensitive areas;
- implement best management practices and vegetative buffers to control stormwater impacts;
- identify and address major nonpoint source pollution sites;
- retrofit existing development;
- accommodate future development;
- increase recreation and open space;
- protect forest cover;
- preserve agricultural land;
- manage sand and gravel extraction; and
- adopt an annual action program.

The Anne Arundel County Council, in March 1984, passed a resolution approving the Patuxent River Policy Plan as drafted by the Maryland Office of State Planning and adopted by the Patuxent River Commission. In the ensuing years, significant strides toward implementing these recommendations have come about. As an example, the previously mentioned work effort associated with Towsers Branch (stormwater management retrofits, nonpoint source pollution abatement, stream restoration, agricultural best management practices) was one result of implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan in Anne Arundel County. Additionally, as part of the 1988 comprehensive zoning, a minimum 100-foot width (where possible) along the Patuxent River and its major tributaries was zoned as OS (open space), to limit development and protect the natural resources adjacent to these waters. This OS designation was expanded beyond the 100-foot width where necessary to include adjacent floodplains and wetlands. Also, this would include the Primary Management Area boundaries of one-quarter mile along each side of the main stem as delineated in the Patuxent River Policy (Page 30) and one-eighth mile on each side of the designated tributary streams.

Jabez Branch, a tributary of the Severn River, drains to the northeastern portion of the Odenton Small Area. The State of Maryland has designated this waterway as a State Designated Use III stream. This means that the Jabez Branch has the water quality and habitat to support a naturally reproducing trout population. More importantly, the Jabez Branch is the only Use III stream in the Coastal Plain physiographic province of Maryland and, therefore, is considered a unique natural resource. Jabez Branch was severely impacted by construction of Routes 32, 3, and 97, resulting in the decimation of the native brook trout population. Re-stocking efforts resulted in establishing a reproducing trout fishery in the stream and Maryland DNR now

monitors the health of the fishery on a routine basis. Because the Jabez Branch is a unique natural resource in the Coastal Plain, the Anne Arundel County General Development Plan recommended that a separate watershed management plan be developed to protect this resource.

Picture Spring Branch, also a tributary to the Severn River, flows through the Odenton Town Center area. This stream is included in the County's Town Center water quality monitoring program. As noted earlier, County Code requires routine water quality monitoring in the Town Center areas to ensure stormwater runoff is not degrading receiving streams. In addition to the collection of chemical water quality data, the County has assessed the biological condition, physical habitat, and stream stability and channel morphology of portions of Picture Spring Branch. Results of this study suggest that riparian vegetated buffers should be encouraged along stream channels and degraded stream channels should be rehabilitated.

Severn Run, the headwaters of the Severn River, flows through the northeastern portion of the Small Planning Area and is the receiving stream for both Picture Spring Branch and the Jabez Branch. The State of Maryland has recognized the portion of Severn Run upstream of Route 3 as a State Designated Use IV stream. Use IV waters are defined as Recreational Trout Waters and include cold or warm waters particularly managed for fishing by periodic stocking and seasonal catching of adult trout. The Severn Run watershed was also the subject of the County's first watershed management master plan in 1980. That plan recommended initiation of a broad-based, multi-agency watershed management program to oversee land use activities in the Severn Run watershed, including Picture Spring Branch and Jabez Branch. Furthermore, issues associated with stormwater management and flooding at specific sites were identified and subsequently ameliorated through the recommendations of this study.

Presently, watershed management master plans are being prepared for the County's 12 major watersheds. The first of these plans was specific to the South River watershed. This master plan identified areas currently subject to adverse impacts of stormwater runoff, and areas that would be subject to stormwater runoff impacts under future conditions if full build-out of current zoning was realized. Specific problems addressed included soil erosion and sedimentation, flooding, and nutrient and heavy metal transport. Management alternatives to address current and potential impacts were then identified and proposed for implementation. A similar plan will be prepared for the Severn River watershed, including the Jabez Branch, Picture Spring Branch, and Severn Run sub-watersheds. The Severn River watershed management master plan study was initiated in 2000.

Floodplains

The Environmental Features Map denotes the 100-year floodplain in the Odenton Small Planning Area. These floodplains have been identified through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and through specific floodplain studies. Such studies include the 1980 watershed management plan for the Severn Run that delineated 100-year floodplains as part of the work effort. Additionally, Article 26 of the County Code requires the developer to delineate the 100-year floodplain. These delineations are also included in the Environmental Features Map. County Code prohibits lots from being platted in the 100-year floodplain and requires that the floodplain be retained in or restored to its natural state and dedicated and deeded to the County. Although the floodplain may be deeded to the County, the

developer also reserves an easement to the community or homeowners association for the right to use the area in a manner not inconsistent with the maintenance and preservation of the 100-year floodplain.

Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are defined in County Code as a slopes characterized by increased runoff, erosion, and sediment hazards and that (1) have an incline greater than 15% and (2) in the Critical Area have an incline of 15% or greater. The Odenton Small Planning Area lies outside of the Critical Area; therefore, the definition of steep slopes for this area would be those having an incline greater than 15% with the above characteristics. Those steep slopes are located adjacent to the Little Patuxent River from Woodwardville downstream to the confluence with Towsers Branch, and then to the confluence with the “Big” Patuxent River. Within the Severn River watershed, steep slopes are found adjacent to the Jabez Branch from Gambrills Village Center to the confluence with Severn Run, and within the Severn Run sub-watershed between Gambrills Road and I-97. Outside of the critical area, development may occur within steep slope areas as per the provisions of Article 21, §2-302 of the County Code. These provisions include allowing development if at least 30% of the parcel to be developed has less than 15% grade and is contiguous to a County road that allows direct car access to the principal structure.

Protected Lands

Those lands considered as protected within this Small Planning Area include the Severn Run Environmental Area and the Patuxent Research Refuge. The Severn Run Environmental Area is owned and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a passive recreational area. This area has been zoned by the County as “open space”. The intention of Open Space zoning districts is to preserve open areas for recreational use and to protect persons and property from the hazards of flooding. Lands included in Open Space zoning districts are the natural water drainage systems including wetlands and floodplains, public and private lands used for passive or active recreation, and lands designated as structural open space in the General Development Plan. Additional open space zoning districts in this small area include

- the waterways and floodplains of the Little Patuxent River and its tributaries, including Towsers Branch;
- the “Big” Patuxent River 100-year floodplain and an area extending, at a minimum, an additional 100 feet landward; and
- the waterways and floodplains of portions of Picture Spring Branch, the Jabez Branch, and the mainstem of Severn Run.

The Patuxent Research Refuge, the largest contiguous parcel of protected land in the Odenton Small Planning Area, is owned and managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Research Refuge, established in 1936, encompasses land surrounding the “Big” Patuxent and Little Patuxent Rivers between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore and extends beyond the boundaries of the Odenton Small Planning Area. This facility is the Nation’s only National Wildlife Refuge established to support wildlife research and is dedicated to conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat through research and wildlife management techniques. In recent years, the Refuge has grown from the original 2,670 acres to 12,750 acres through acquisition of

land formerly managed by the Departments of Agriculture and Defense. The majority of the Refuge land within the Small Planning Area has a base zoning of Residential Low Density (RLD). This zoning category is designed to act as a buffer or transitional area between designated development areas. Additionally, RLD zoning includes provisions for steep slope protection, preservation of woodland areas, protection of the 100-year floodplain, and has designated set-backs from water courses and wetlands.

Nesting Sites

Anne Arundel County relies on information gathered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Heritage Program to identify threatened and/or endangered species and habitats of concern. The Natural Heritage Program has identified one eagle nesting site within the Patuxent Research Refuge and one site in the Severn Run Environmental Area just east of the Small Planning Area boundary. In addition to the eagle nests, the Natural Heritage Program has also identified colonial waterfowl nesting sites (e.g., heron rookeries) within the Patuxent Research Refuge and along the “Big” Patuxent River downstream of the Refuge. County development protocols provide for protection of these nesting sites. Moreover, any building activities proposed within a one-quarter mile radius of the nesting site are conducted under the strict regulations, including set-backs, set forth by Maryland DNR for protection of these sites.

Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Program

The Agricultural Land Preservation Program is the County’s primary tool for preserving farmland and woodland. The objective of the program is to support the agricultural community by helping to keep the land base available for farming, and by minimizing the impact of development in agricultural areas. The County administers both the State and County programs. Prior to 1990, the primary means of preserving agricultural lands was through the State Agricultural Preservation Program. This program was active in the County when purchase of development rights began in 1978. In response to concerns for preserving smaller acreages of agricultural lands, the County established its own Agricultural Land Preservation and Acquisition Program in 1990. This is a voluntary program in which a landowner may enlist into the program forming an Agricultural District, receives a property tax credit, and may later offer to sell a development rights easement across the established District to the County. The property owner continues to hold fee simple title and may sell the land if he/she chooses, but the easement which restricts development, runs with the land in perpetuity. Since 1992, the County program has been the major funding source for easement purchases.

Requirements for participation in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program include:

- A minimum acreage requirement of 50 contiguous acres used primarily for agricultural production;
- USDA Soil capability Class I, II, III or Class IV (with C3 and D2 slopes) on at least 50% of the land and an approved Soil and Water Conservation Plan;
- Current zoning of the proposed property must be either Residential Agricultural (RA), Residential Low Density (RLD), Open Space (OS), or R1-Residential; and

Page left blank for Map 7. Environmental Features

- The proposed property must be located outside of Water and Sewer Categories 1, 2, and 3 as indicated by the Master Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Systems.

The Odenton Small Planning Area does not have any property currently participating in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Preservation of woodland properties is included in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Eligibility requirements for woodland districts include the following:

- Land to be included should contain at least 10 contiguous acres of woodlands per landowner;
- A minimum of 25 acres, contiguous in nature and classified as a Woodland District, is required for consideration of an easement offering;
- A Forest Management Plan, prepared for the woodland district applicants, must be reviewed and approved by the County Forest Conservation District Board and the County Forester;
- The current zoning of the property must be Open Space (OS), Residential Agricultural (RA), or Residential Limited Development (RLD);
- The proposed property must be located outside Water and Sewer Categories 1, 2, and 3 as indicated by the Master Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Systems.

There are currently no Woodland districts or easements in the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Assets and Issues

In general, the comments recorded at the initial Small Area Planning Public Forum for Odenton indicate that streams, open space, wooded lands, rural character, parkland, and close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay are some of the major assets of the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Streams and Watersheds

Each of the streams and their watersheds identified in the Existing Conditions section are unique natural resource assets for the Odenton Small Planning Area. Of particular importance, given the unique character and public attention given to them, are the Jabez Branch, Picture Spring Branch, Severn Run, and Towsers Branch sub-watersheds. These sub-watersheds have been the subject of study and rehabilitation that was initiated, funded, and implemented by the County as well as the State and Federal governments. Given their importance as natural resources in this community, their conservation and protection is an issue to be addressed by the Small Area Plan.

The County does not have a requirement for maintaining riparian buffers adjacent to perennial streams outside the Critical Area, except for the implementation of County Stormwater regulations. Effective riparian buffers are usually forested and between 35 and 100 feet wide, although widths up to 300 feet have been recommended for wildlife habitat. Riparian buffers provide a wealth of ecological benefits. In particular, these buffers help to filter runoff from storm events, removing pollutants and sediments from the overland flow before it reaches the

streams. Forested riparian buffers also serve to reduce downstream impacts of floods and shade the streams, which helps moderate water temperature and oxygen content of these streams. Water temperature and oxygen content are especially critical in the Designated Use III and Use IV streams (Jabez Branch and Severn Run) found in the Odenton Small Area. A more thorough review of the existing extent and condition of forested riparian buffers is needed in the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Another asset to the community is the Severn River Watershed Management Master Plan. The results of this management plan will be used to assist the County in making development-related decisions that will preserve and protect the entire Severn River watershed.

Floodplains

As noted earlier, County law requires dedication and deeding of 100-year floodplains to the County when development occurs. This process is an asset to the County in protecting these waterways and their floodplains from encroaching development, while providing areas that are potentially useful for community recreation.

Protected Lands

The Small Area Plan Public Forum participants identified both the Severn Run Environmental Area and the Patuxent Research Refuge as two land holdings that are assets to the community and should continue to be recognized and protected. This protection and preservation should be extended to include the eagle and waterfowl nesting sites located within these two areas.

Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Program

The Naval Academy Dairy Farm is a primary example of existing agriculture in the Odenton Small Planning Area. This farm was identified by the Small Area Plan Public Forum participants as both an asset and an issue, with respect to its disposition at the time of the Public Forum. Additionally, although the County has an agricultural and woodland preservation program, landowners in the Odenton Small Planning Area have not applied for inclusion in this program.

Sand and Gravel Extraction

Sand and gravel extraction operations are active in the Odenton Small Planning Area, particularly adjacent to the “Big” Patuxent and Little Patuxent Rivers. These operations have been identified, by Small Area Plan Public Forum participants, as both an economic asset and an environmental issue. Sand and gravel extraction is conducted with the approval of the County after a public hearing is conducted to garner input from the affected parties. The Maryland Department of the Environment is responsible for permitting these operations after the County has granted a Special Exception to the proposed operator. The State permit process includes the environmental requirements for extraction and reclamation of the site.

Table 12. Historic Buildings and Sites in the Odenton Small Area

SITE #	SITE NAME	STREET #	STREET NAME
AA0008	Post Sgt. Major's House		Ft. Meade
AA0009	Golf Course Clubhouse		Ft. Meade
AA0076	Meyer Log House		Meyer's Station Rd.
AA0104	Bell House		Francis Station Rd.
AA0170	Billheimer Residence		Burns Crossing Rd.
AA0171*	Hammond Family Graveyard		MD 175
AA0172*	Hammond Manor House (site)		MD 175
AA0727**	N.P. Watts House	1401	Odenton Rd.
AA0743	Jones House		Lokus Rd. & MD 175
AA0744	Frame Cabin	654	MD 3
AA0745	Sander-Egolf House	1323	Meyer's Station Rd.
AA0751	Owens House (site)	334	Lokus Rd.
AA0752	Cabin		Morgan Rd. at Ducken
AA0869	Odenton Survey District		
AA0876	Church of God of Anderson	952	Annapolis Rd.
AA0878	Schaub House		Annapolis Rd.
AA0879	Edgar E. Adams Farm		Burns Crossing Rd.
AA0880	John Malinowski Farm	8147	New Cut Rd
AA0886	Earl Patterson House & Shed		Gambrills Rd.
AA0887	Emory L. Wilburn Farm		Wilburn Rd.
AA0888	Jackson Grove House (site)		Jackson Grove Rd.
AA0889	John Mills Farm		Dicus Mill Rd.
AA0890	Woodwardville		Patuxent Rd.
AA0957	Dicus Mill (site)		Dicus Mill Rd.
AA0958	Klingelhoef Farm		MD 3
AA0984	Asphalt Plant (BCI)		Patuxent Rd.
AA1016	Bragers Station Store		Patuxent Rd.
AA1017	Bealmear Sawmill (site)		Branch of Patuxent River
AA1018	House		MD 178
AA1019	House		MD 178
AA1023	Waugh Chapel Cemetery		Waugh Chapel Rd.
AA1024	Catherine Bell Warfield House		Francis Station Rd.
AA1025	House		Waugh Chapel Rd.
AA1026	Reigle Farm		Waugh Chapel Rd.

Table 12. Historic Buildings and Sites in the Odenton Small Area (cont.)

SITE #	SITE NAME	STREET #	STREET NAME
AA1029**	Epiphany Episcopal Church	1419	Odenton Road
AA1091	Severn Run Tenant House		MD 3
AA1093	Gambrills Road House		Sleepy Holly & Gambrills
AA2177**	US Naval Academy Dairy Farm		MD 175

* Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

** Determined eligible for the National Register

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Goals and Recommendations

Goal 1: Preserve and protect the streams, rivers, watersheds, and their biological communities in the Odenton Small Planning Area as part of the broader effort to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Objective: Develop integrated environmental management structures in the County legal and planning process to promote, protect and defend the environmental quality of the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Recommendations

1: Protect the Severn River, Little Patuxent River, and Big Patuxent River Watersheds and the Jabez Branch, Towsers Branch, Picture Spring Branch and Severn Run sub-basins by creating Environmental Management Areas to identify problem areas and plan for future restoration.

2: Develop and implement environmental management plans for the Jabez Branch sub-basin and the Severn Run sub-basin of the Severn River watershed. The plan should implement the following policy goals:

- Maintain the State's Designated Use III stream classification for the Jabez Branch.
- Maintain stream flow and temperature regimes consistent with Use III classification for the Jabez Branch and Use IV for the Severn Run.
- Minimize the impacts from stormwater runoff and sediment loading.
- Establish and maintain adequate riparian buffers to protect habitat quality.

3: Establish through legislative action an environmental overlay zone for the Jabez Branch sub-basin. Conduct research regarding the specific requirements and the implications of implementing this zone. The zone should address, at a minimum, the following:

- Adverse impacts of changes in hydrological and temperature regimes upon stream habitat quality and maintenance of Use III status for the Jabez Branch.
- The nature and size of riparian buffer zones required to maintain the Use III classification.
- Impacts of future land use on hydrological regime and sediment loading.
- Additional measures necessary to alleviate the adverse impacts of sediment loading over and above current stormwater management criteria.

4: The Office of Planning and Zoning should seek input on the establishment of an environmental overlay zone from representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Severn River Commission, the Severn River Association, the Odenton Town Plan Oversight Committee, the Odenton Small Area Planning Committee, and the West County Chamber of Commerce. In addition, a representative from at least one national or regional non-profit environmental organization with expertise in small stream restoration and/or in balancing the needs of the environment and affected property owners should be included.

- 5: Investigate actions necessary to restore the Severn Run to a naturally reproducing trout stream.
- 6: Initiate action to upgrade the State's classification of the Severn Run from Use IV to Use III Waters, pending results of Recommendation 5.
- 7: Ensure that all development that occurs in the Little and Big Patuxent River Watersheds portion of the Odenton Small Planning Area conforms to the Patuxent River Policy Plan.
- 8: Support non-point pollution-control efforts and stream restoration efforts in the Towsers Branch sub-basin of the Little Patuxent River watershed.
- 9: Support migratory fish populations, such as the American Eel and Yellow Perch, by identifying and removing barriers to their migration.
- 10: Work with the Severn River Commission in overseeing and implementing all goals and recommendations in this Chapter pertaining to or affecting the Severn River Watershed.

Goal 2: Protect the quality of life in the Odenton Small Planning Area by reducing the noise and pollution impacts on its residents.

Recommendations

- 1: Monitor development, growth and operation of Tipton Airfield, including size and type of authorized aircraft, along with industrial uses ancillary and auxiliary to the airfield, to insure that noise impacts to nearby communities and the Patuxent Research Refuge are controlled and minimized. In addition, work with BWI Airport authorities to minimize noise impacts of the expanded air traffic related to the BWI expansion.
- 2: Encourage the County Executive and County Council to adopt noise abatement standards and procedures for enforcement of those standards.
- 3: Identify on County planning maps all existing and proposed cell and microwave towers.
- 4: Identify and implement processes to reduce ozone and other air pollutant levels in area.
- 5: Enforce State air and water pollution-control standards as an integral part of the development process.
- 6: Identify and implement processes to reduce other pollutants in the Odenton Small Area, such as radon in homes and radium in drinking water wells.

Goal 3: Improve stormwater management to reduce and, where possible, eliminate the negative environmental impacts of stormwater runoff.

Recommendations

- 1: Implement a watershed approach to stormwater management, land use planning, development, permitting, and capital improvement program planning and execution to ensure that potential cumulative impacts of land use changes are fully addressed prior to implementation of those land use changes.
- 2: Ensure all engineering design for stormwater management facilities is site appropriate and strictly adheres to the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual or County Stormwater Design Manual, whichever is more stringent.
- 3: Encourage the use of innovative approaches to stormwater management and low impact development site design in the land development process (e.g., *ABetter Site Design: A Handbook for Changing Development Rules in Your Community*, 1998, prepared by the Center for Watershed Protection, Ellicott City, MD).
- 4: Continue and, if possible, accelerate the County's ongoing effort to comprehensively identify, analyze and, where needed, retrofit stormwater management problem areas.
- 5: Account for, and minimize impacts to, the 100-year floodplain with respect to stormwater runoff increases and the need for stormwater management design to accommodate increases in runoff resulting from comprehensive and site-specific rezoning.
- 6: Establish a comprehensive stormwater infrastructure preventative maintenance and management program that reduces environmental degradation and extends infrastructure useful life.
- 7: Aggressively pursue incentive-based approaches (e.g., state grant funds) to achieve retrofitting of areas in need of improved stormwater management.
- 8: Ensure that all governmental sponsored land use projects adhere to the highest environmental regulations and standards with regard to site design and stormwater management facilities, thus setting the environmental standard to be followed.
- 9: Implement, where possible, a minimum 100-foot riparian buffer to all tributary streams in the County to minimize impacts of stormwater runoff on these sensitive tidal and non-tidal aquatic systems.
- 10: Foster community education about stormwater issues through cooperation with local citizen groups, public and private schools, park and recreation programs, and use of the Internet.

11: Develop and implement, on a continuing basis, a program to stencil storm drains to enhance community awareness that these storm drains direct runoff to tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

12: A more thorough review of the existing extent and condition of the forested riparian buffers is needed in the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Goal 4: Promote the prudent extraction and use of mineral resources while mitigating the associated environmental impacts.

Recommendations

1: Work with the State’s permitting agency to incorporate into permits for new mining operations, provisions requiring that the operation of mines and reclamation of the land occur in manners that are protective of the environment in general and nearby wetlands and waterways in particular.

2: Develop plans and incentives for the reuse of previously mined properties after the reclamation process is complete to avoid environmental damage.

Goal 5: Avoid oversaturation of landfills in the Odenton and Gambrills areas.

Recommendations

1: Work with State regulatory agencies to ensure that stringent requirements for environmental protection and significant and mandatory penalties for the failure to satisfy those requirements are incorporated into landfill permits.

2: Provide new standards and/or strengthen current standards, for special exceptions for new or expansion of existing municipal/sanitary and rubble landfills that requires documentation that the landfill will not damage nearby wetlands, waterways, or other environmental features.

Goal 6: Ensure the existing landfill cells at the Millersville Landfill have the longest possible life spans.

Recommendation

1: Conduct a quantitative telephone survey every five years to update participation rate, frequency of participation, and identify barriers to participate.

Goal 7: Identify, preserve, and protect the Odenton Small Planning Area’s environmentally sensitive areas.

Recommendations

1: Identify and bring to the attention of the State new areas to be designated as areas of significant state concern.

2: Map all areas of significant state concern on the land use maps.

Goal 8: Identify, preserve, and protect the agricultural and forested areas within the designated boundaries of the Odenton Small Planning Area.

Recommendations

- 1: Investigate opportunities for obtaining approximately 100 acres of forested property, currently owned by the State of Maryland, in Gambrills for use as a passive park. Cooperate with adjoining landowners that are willing to sell or donate their property to expand said passive park.
- 2: Adopt policies for the pledging of open space lands for purposes of development mitigation, in exchange for permits for commercial development. Furthermore, require the open space land to be within the Small Area where the commercial development is proposed.
- 3: Provide incentives for preservation of agricultural and forested areas.
- 4: Protect the Cedar Tree in the middle of the intersection of Burns Crossing and New Cut Roads.

Goal 9: Promote, preserve, and protect the Odenton Small Planning Area's open space and greenways.

Recommendations

- 1: Protect the Severn Run Natural Area, but allow passive recreational use as long as that use does not impact the restoration of the stream to a natural trout stream and restoration of the migratory fish population
- 2: Maintain the Odenton Nature Area as a forested area with increased trail maintenance for use as a passive recreation area.
- 3: Maintain the Patuxent River Park for passive recreation use.

Goal 10: Create standards for developments abutting scenic and historic roads that minimize, if not eliminate, alterations to the roads, as well as preserve the scenic view and character of the roadway.

Recommendations

- 1: Incorporate into the proposed revisions to the zoning laws, the subdivision laws, the *Transportation Master Plan*, the road design manual, the landscape manual, the *Forest Conservation Ordinance*, and other land use laws, the regulatory tools necessary to fully implement the scenic and historic roads programs as set forth in Resolution No. 45-97 adopted by the County Council on November 3, 1997.
- 2: Establish a specific design review and approval process for development adjacent to or impacting scenic and historic roads.

- 3: Establish specific design guidelines and protective buffers for scenic and historic road corridors.
- 4: Establish new County road standards in the design manual for scenic and historic roads for both construction and maintenance.
- 5: Establish state road standards for scenic and historic roads by working with the State Highway Administration (SHA).
- 6: Designate the following roads in the Odenton Small Area as scenic and historic as set forth in Resolution No. 45-97.

Category #1 Preservation Classification: Roads in this category have outstanding scenic and historic characteristics and meet the criteria for designation. Preservation roads should receive the highest level of preservation.

Patuxent Road (Village of Woodwardville)

Category #2 Protection Classification: Roads in this category meet the criteria for scenic and historic road designation. While they may not be as pristine as those in Category #1, they are worthy of protection.

Bucknell Road	Francis Station Road	Odenton Road
Conway Road	Grays Ford Road	Skyline Avenue
Duckens Street	Meyers Station Road	Waco Road

Category #3 Recognition Classification: Roads in this category meet the criteria for scenic and historic road designation. However, due to adjacent intensive development or other alterations, the integrity of the road has been compromised.

Morgan Road

- 7: Allow additional roads, such as the following, to be added to the Scenic and Historic Roads Program.

Old Mill Road between Route 170 and Burns Crossing Road
(Category #2 – Protection Classification)

Goal 11: Identify, preserve, and protect the remaining historical and archaeological sites in the Odenton Small Area.

Recommendations

- 1: Investigate the need to establish an Area Historic Commission.
- 2: Using the Odenton Heritage Society as a base, incorporate Ft. Meade, Odenton, Gambrills, Wilsontown, and Woodwardville under the oversight of either the Odenton Heritage Society or a new Commission.

3: Establish an historic district in Odenton, Woodwardville, Wilsontown, and the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Dairy Farm to preserve the existing buildings, maintain the scale and character of the community, and establish guidelines for future development. The guidelines shall include:

- Design criteria for compatible new construction
- Architectural standards for reconstructing or modifying existing structures

4: Identify, designate, and protect historic sites in the Odenton Small Area, and develop and place markers on already designated historic sites.

5: Support the listing of the Hammond Manor and cemetery sites and the eligibility of the USNA Dairy Farm on the National Register of Historic Places.

6: Develop a relationship with the University of Maryland/AACC history programs to continue research on local area. The County should continue its relationships with amateur and professional historians to continue research on the local area.

Goal 12: Protect the Patuxent River and its shoreline for use by present and future generations through the completion of the Patuxent River Greenway.

Recommendations

1: The County should endorse the general concept of a Patuxent River Greenway and should establish, through legislative action, an overlay zone or zoning district, which would be designed in such a manner as to accomplish the objectives of the Greenway and implement the recommendations of the Patuxent River Policy Plan. This includes the original Primary Management Area boundaries of one-quarter mile along each side of the main stem as delineated in the Patuxent River Policy Plan (Page 30) and one-eighth mile on each side of the designated tributary streams.

2: The County should work toward developing a comprehensive program for a Patuxent River Greenway, building on the base recommendations of the Patuxent River Policy Plan and tailoring a program to the specific needs of Anne Arundel County. Involve appropriate county and state staff, local landowners, community leaders, industry representatives, environmental organizations and elected officials.

3: The County, working with nonprofit partners, should seek to permanently protect properties along the Greenway corridor to preserve them from future development or inappropriate use. This should include pursuing the donation and purchase of conservation easements, and where appropriate land in fee, and providing landowner incentives for using best management practices, providing public access, providing land for forest and wetland mitigation, and other related practices. These incentives should take the form of property tax abatements, grants, liability insurance (for lands open to public use such as is done by the State for certain forestry educational activities), cleanup and maintenance assistance in areas open to the public, etc.

- 4: Wetlands and other sensitive habitats such as critical area boundaries, should be delineated and buffers identified and established.
- 5: Educate the community on the importance of greenways as areas of open space, wildlife corridors, and transportation connectors.
- 6: Develop "water trails" for canoeing and kayaking where appropriate.