

Natural and Historic Resources

Existing Conditions

The Crownsville Small Area is an area of great natural beauty, peace and significant natural resources. Wildlife is abundant. The land on the northeast slopes steeply to the Severn River. Marshes characterize the headwaters of the South River on the southwest. The area has considerable contiguous forest, possible habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling Birds. There are areas of special concern: Arden Bog and its recharge area, a rare bog that is part of the Severn Run Natural Environmental Area (Severn Run NEA), containing rare and threatened species; the Green Cathedral, a large old growth forest; Norwoods Fancy Farm; and Cranberry Bog. The Severn Run NEA is largely outside the Crownsville Small Area, but of impact on the Crownsville area since the area is down stream. The Annapolis Water Works, Eisenhower Golf Course and the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, all permanently protected areas, are all contained in this area.

The Resource Conservation Area of the Critical Area, Agricultural Residential Zoning, Residential Low Density Zoning and Open Space Zoning in the area afford some protection to the natural resources and protect the rural and scenic character of Crownsville. There is a problem with failing septic systems in some of the older communities with smaller lots. This problem leads to water quality problems in the Severn River.

Assets and Issues

There is a considerable amount of waterfront in Crownsville. Most of it is privately owned, providing individuals and some subdivisions with access. Unfortunately, there is no public access to the water.

The natural areas, especially large forested areas and riparian buffers, and wildlife are essential to the character of Crownsville. Opportunities for expanding these areas should be pursued. Of particular concern are the maintenance of ecosystems, waterfowl, song birds and fish spawning areas. There is a planned bike and hike trail. This trail will offer access to natural areas and the use of alternative transportation.

Agriculture could still be a viable industry in the area. It helps maintain the area's rural character and is unlikely to be developed if successful as an industry.

Stormwater management provides opportunities for the areas enhancement and challenges for developers to manage it creatively and correctly. The proper management of stormwater can greatly improve water quality.

Goals and Recommendations

Goal. The Crownsville Small Area drains into the Severn and the South Rivers. In order to protect these rivers, tributary streams and watersheds must be protected and preserved.

Recommendations:

- Protect and preserve, through strict environmental enforcement, regulatory incentives and acquisition, the following four category areas of special environmental concern:
 - (1) Sensitive areas such as: Severn Run, Arden Bog and its recharge area (globally rare), other locations listed on the State Resource Inventory Map, and sites with endangered species as they are identified.
 - (2) Large contiguous forested areas such as the Green Cathedral and the headwaters of the South River.
 - (3) Critical Area: Buffer and expanded buffer, beach strand habitat, steep slopes, and ravine bottoms.
 - (4) Outside the Critical Area: Ravine bottoms, sensitive areas, wetlands and floodplains.
- Consider the adoption of low impact development standards (i.e., development designs that minimize land disturbance, impervious area and encourage infiltration as detailed in the proposed State Stormwater Management Regulations and the Prince George's "Low Impact Development Standards.")
- Integrate advanced stormwater management techniques into upland areas as well as the Critical Area and retrofit/upgrade existing facilities as detailed in the Center for Watershed Protection publications.
- Implement a system of "greenways" that will encourage the preservation of contiguous forested areas through inventory study and mapping. Also implement via subdivision review activities, fee simple acquisition or easement acquisition.
- Investigate instituting a Resource Protection Zone (RPZ) around streams, flood plains, and nontidal wetlands, and requiring Resource Protection Plans as part of development proposals. Research other jurisdictions to determine what regulations exist and what could be used here.
- Increase enforcement of Critical Area Laws to include accountability of enforcement officials to resolve violations and impose both fines and restoration.
- Conduct an inventory study to identify opportunities to retrofit stormwater management to existing development through owner/developer incentives, cost sharing grants, etc...

- Conduct a study of/inventory of existing riparian forests and indigenous habitats. Implement program of protecting and restoring all such identified areas through regulatory activity, cost share grant programs with land owners and other groups and public acquisition and projects.
- Discourage the use of herbicides where practically feasible to maintain utility rights-of-way. The use of these poisons particularly when viewed in the context of their cumulative impact over time is a clear threat to the health of sensitive areas and species that the GDP seeks to protect.
- Prepare a remediation plan to halt the sediment run-off from the County owned ball fields at Arden Park in consultation with the Arden community.
- Promote and fund the restoration of Brewer Creek through methods such as beach strand, tidal fringe marsh and other innovative shoreline practices through State and local expenditures.
- Promote and fund the restoration of Howard's Branch through means such as the White Cedar Reforestation Project and provision of bog species habitat, etc.
- Preserve the Green Cathedral through acquisition and appropriate zoning to promote open space.
- Investigate and resolve the consistently high coliform pollution problem in Valentine's Creek and Plum Creek through the Health Department's compliance study. Adopt regulation (at the State level if necessary) to require the removal of concrete knockouts during septic system pumpouts to allow complete solids removal not possible by accessing through clean out alone.
- Promote the preservation of beach strand habitat in all rivers and creeks throughout Anne Arundel County. This can best be achieved by:
 - Inventoried shoreline areas for beach strand habitat,
 - Establishing a program to restore beach strand habitat to areas hardened by erosion control structures,
 - Implement the shoreline mitigation impact fee for those destroying beach strand habitat in order to gain shoreline erosion control,
 - Promote soft tidal edge erosion control techniques such as marsh planting, breakwaters, low stone sills, and jetties,
 - Prohibit the construction of bulkheads and revetments as a shoreline erosion control technique, except in situations where it is the only viable erosion control technique.

Table 5. Historic Buildings/ Sites and Scenic and Historic Roads in the Crownsville Small Planning Area

Number	Name of Historic Building/Site
AA0105	St. Stephen's Church
AA0107	Baldwin Memorial U.M. Church
AA0108	Cross Roads Schoolhouse (site)
AA0110	Childs Residence
AA0173	Brandy (site)
AA0174	Abbington Farm
AA0176	Charles W. Baldwin Hall
AA0178	Part of Providence
AA0179	Rising Sun Inn
AA0181	Wanbaugh House
AA0182	St. Paul's Chapel
AA0183	Belvoir
AA0184	Belvoir Graveyard
AA0185	Vineyard
AA0186	Iglehart
AA0189	Chesterfield Schoolhouse (site)
AA0735	Mt. Tabor M. Episcopal Church
AA0738	John Wesley U.M. Church
AA0749	Colonial Revival House
AA0873	John W. Pindell Farm
AA0874	Lane House
AA0883	Dr. Harry Baldwin Gantt House
AA0884	"Rosary Manor"
AA0885	Millersville Consolidated Sch.
AA0896	Chapel of Ease (site)
AA0901	Warfield Cemetery
AA0926	Cecil-Valk House
AA0932	Annapolis Water Company
AA0935	The Watts Farmhouse
AA0940	St. Helena Island
AA0941	Sherwood Forest
AA0954	John H. Brown House (site)
AA0955	Indian Landing

AA0985	Arlington Echo (site)
Number	Name of Historic Building/Site
AA1020	House
AA1021	House
AA1022	House
AA1051	House
AA1052	Iglehart Store
AA1053	Iglehart Cemetery
AA1090	Chesterfield Rd. Cross-Gable
AA1092	Annap. & Elkridge RR Trestle
AA2049	Charles S. Waters Mill Site
AA0882	Robert Forney Farm
AA0180	Steffanelli Tenant House
AA0177	Bunker Hill
AA0175	Brooksby Point

Scenic and Historic Roads

- Bacon Ridge Road
- Chesterfield Road
- Crownsville Road
- Generals Highway
- Hawkins Road
- Herald Harbor Road
- Honeysuckle Lane
- Indian Landing Road
- Johns Hopkins Road
- Old Epping Forest Road
- Old Generals Highway
- Old Herald Harbor Road
- River Road
- St. Stephens Church Road
- Severn Chapel Road
- Sherwood Forest Road
- Waterbury Road

