

2021 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN PRELIMINARY DRAFT

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

I. Overview

This report presents a summary of the public comments received for Anne Arundel County's draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan (Plan). The Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) released the draft Plan for public review from August 12 through September 26, 2021. Community members submitted comments to the Plan via survey, email, and letter, as well as through an interactive, electronic version of the draft Green Infrastructure Network (Network) Map.

The draft Plan identifies the areas of the County that have the most significant, connected natural resources, as well as the areas of the County that have few significant or connected natural resources. The Plan seeks to ensure that public investments in conservation or the addition of green space will have the greatest positive impact. The Plan also supports willing landowners who wish to voluntarily pursue conservation through easement programs, and guides developers in voluntarily orienting development to have the least negative impact on Network connectivity. The Plan is not regulatory, and it does not impose additional requirements or burdens upon property owners. This report addresses the following topics:

- Public Notification of Draft Plan Review
- Demographics of Survey Respondents
- Comments by Type
- Summary of Comments and Responses

II. Public Notification of Draft Green Infrastructure Plan Review

OPZ published the draft Plan on its County website on August 12, 2021. OPZ provided PDF copies of the Plan and the Appendix, as well as an interactive web map that allowed users to geo-locate comments to any map feature, such as an address, building, or boundary line. Respondents could "like" or reply to each other's map comments. OPZ solicited map comments via survey and email, and partnered with the Anne Arundel County Office of Community Engagement and Constituency Services to develop a video demonstrating how to use the map commenting tool.

On August 12, 2021, the County Executive's Office broadcast a press conference announcing the public review period for the draft Plan. The County Executive's Office issued weekly reminders to the public via an e-newsletter. The e-newsletter has a distribution list of 5,918 subscribers, including 309 members of civic associations and homeowner associations. County

departments, including the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration shared posts about the plan and the public comment period on social media. Social media posts and newsletter articles were also distributed by partner organizations including the Arundel Ag program of the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District, and the Watershed Stewards Academy.

OPZ also took the following actions to engage the the public in the Plan review process:

- Direct email messages to a list of 573 community members who registered their contact information during the Green Infrastructure planning process.
- Virtual town hall meeting on September 8, 2021, hosted with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, County Executive's Office, and a representative of the Anne Arundel County Citizen's Environmental Commission.
- Small group meetings with stakeholders including the Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors, Maryland Building Industry Association, and NAIOP.
- Presentations to virtual meetings of Communities of Hope groups in Brooklyn Park, Annapolis, South County, and West County.
- Presentation to the County Agriculture, Farming, and Agritourism Commission.
- Tabling at community events including the Glen Burnie Farmers Market and the End of Summer Family Day in Freetown.

III. Demographics of Survey Respondents

OPZ received just under 300 comments on the draft Plan and Network Map. Of these responses, 60 were submitted through an online survey tool, which requested basic demographic information. Comments submitted through email, letter, phone, during an event, or through the digital map did not include demographic information.

The majority of survey respondents identified as white (73%) and as homeowners (95%) (see Figures 1 and 2). It is important to note that five of the 12 respondents who selected "Other," filled in their race as "white," bringing the total proportion closer to 81%. People between the ages of 45 and 64 accounted for 40% of comments, while 25% were between the ages of 25 and 44, and 35% were ages 65 and older (see Figure 3). While demographic data was not requested at the Community of Hope meetings, festival in Freetown, and Glen Burnie farmers market, the majority of these participants were African American and Latino.

Figure 1. Survey Respondents by Race/Ethnicity

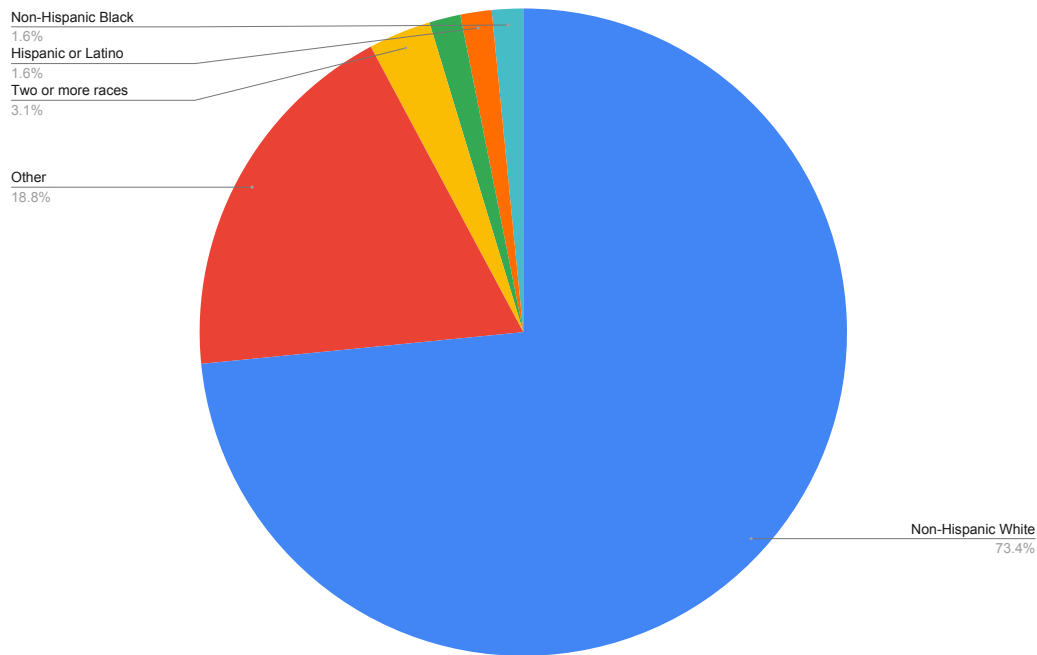


Figure 2. Survey Respondents by Housing Tenure

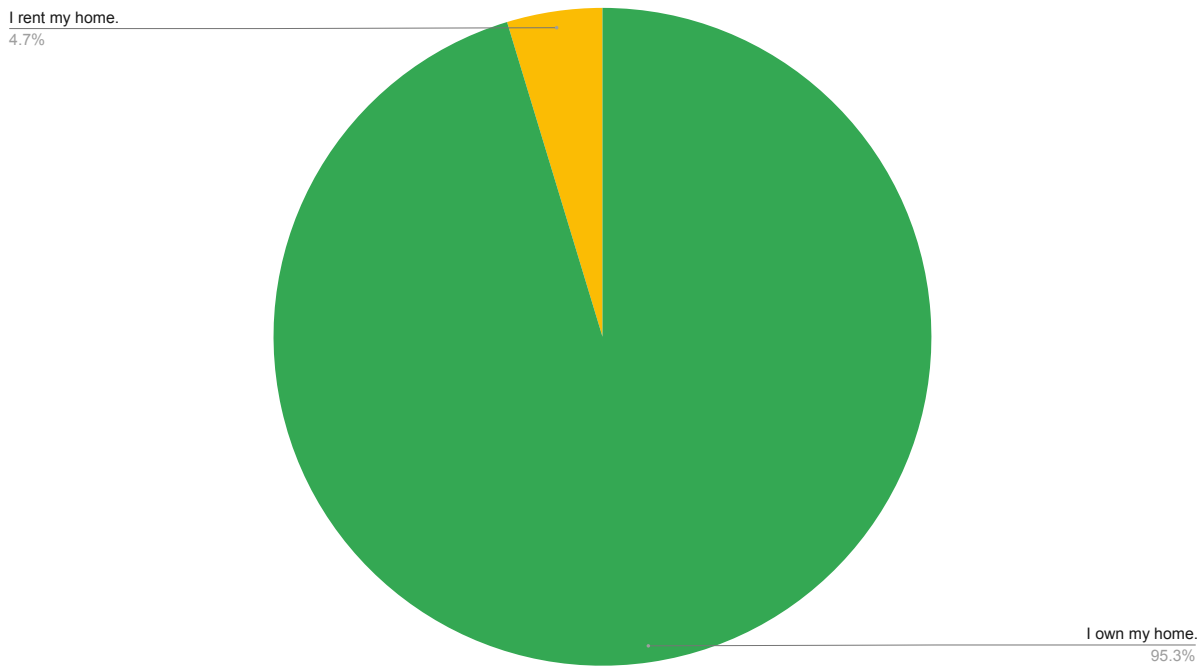
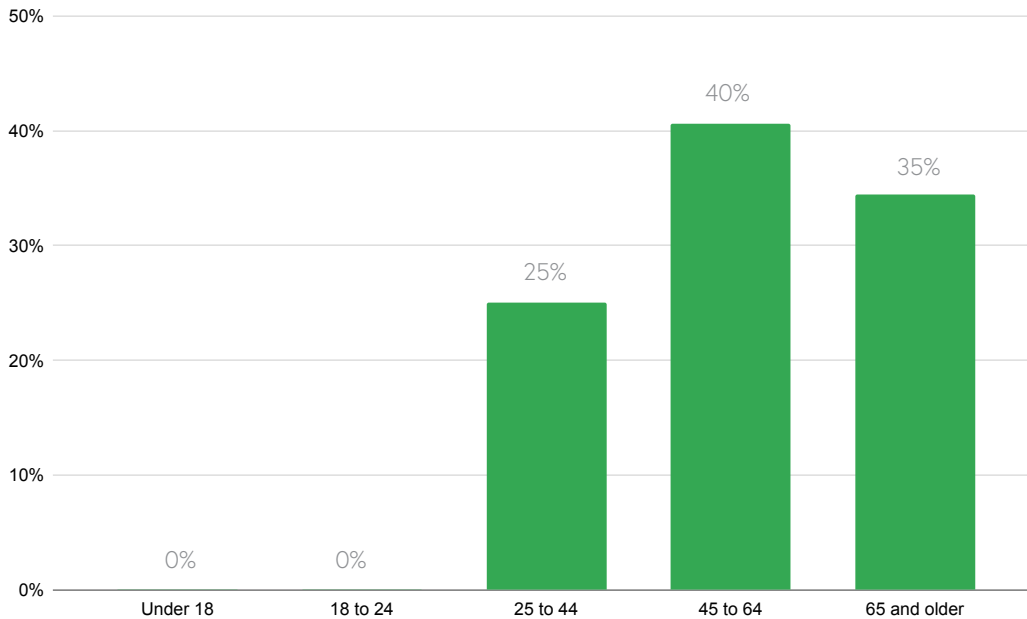


Figure 3. Survey Respondents by Age



IV. Comment Response by Type

The Green Infrastructure Plan webpage received 5,289 page views by 2,579 unique users from August 12 to September 26. Sixty people submitted comments through the survey tool on the website. The draft Green Infrastructure Network map received 3,574 views from X unique users; visitors made 193 comments. Respondents had the ability to categorize their comment as 1) an addition to the map, 2) a request to remove something from the map, or 3) support for something that was already included. Thirty-nine comments (20%) requested an addition, and 24 comments (12%) expressed support for specific features already included in the Network.

Fifty-two individuals submitted 122 comments requesting the removal of properties from the Network; these comments accounted for 63% of the total. Respondents did not categorize the remaining 5% of their comments. The comments that received the most engagement in the form of "likes" expressed support for green space in Marley Neck and support for the expansion of the Sandy Point Park forest cover. [Click here to access a web-based map](#) that includes the geo-located comments.

The County received 14 comments via email and letter. The majority of these comments came from property owners seeking clarification on the implications of the

Plan. OPZ also received several letters from County interest groups such as the Scenic Rivers Land Trust, Arnold Preservation Council, Advocates for Herring Bay, and the Maryland Building Industry Association. This report summarizes and discusses these comments fully in the following section. Attachment A includes a copy of every comment and letter received.

IV. Summary of Comments and Responses

Public comments addressed a wide range of topics pertaining to the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan (see Table 1 and Attachment A). The most common themes were:

- Support for land conservation
- Support for increasing the 5,000-acre conservation goal
- Balancing conservation with need for development (especially of affordable housing)
- Private property rights
- Trespassing
- Concern that Network "conservation" designation will restrict public access and recreation in County Parks
- Confusion about regulatory implications
- Maintenance of natural areas
- Funding and tracking for implementation

Table 1. Summary of Public Comment Topics and Responses

Comment	Response
<p>Support for Land Conservation: General support for protecting natural features, including forests, streams, wetlands, and meadows. 29 survey comments stated support for Master Plan Actions and advocated for rigorous implementation; the County also received and considered 39 requests to add specific properties or areas to the Network.</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Plan is one of several tools that the County has for pursuing environmental protections. The Plan includes a discussion of the complementary programs and policies that support local land conservation, as well as explicit actions to support Plan implementation. Public support and participation will be critical to ensuring that the County can implement the recommended measures. County staff revised the map to include floodplain easements and land acquisitions that were inadvertently omitted in the draft Plan. County staff also added Mayo Beach Park to the Network, per citizen request.</p>
<p>Support for Increasing 5,000-acre Conservation Goal: Explicit support (9 comments) for expanding the 5,000-acre conservation goal. Comments underscored the importance of green space and environmental health, and questioned why the Master Plan does not push for the conservation of 10,000 acres of land.</p>	<p>While 5,000 acres is the stated goal to reach by 2030, the County has a long-term interest in conserving as much of the Green Infrastructure Network as feasible. The Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations, such as Actions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, to actively pursue federal and state funding to support conservation efforts.</p>
<p>Balancing Conservation and Development: These comments generally supported conservation of natural resources as long as the County can continue to provide housing and jobs that support all communities. Five comments stated explicit support for ensuring enough development capacity to construct affordable housing. Additional comments provided via letter and in small group meetings expressed concern that conservation will come at the cost of future development.</p>	<p>The Plan includes an analysis of the Green Infrastructure Network relative to zoning. The vast majority of the Network is located on land that is zoned for open space and Rural Agriculture; that land is not planned for significant housing development. Additionally, the Green Infrastructure Plan is not regulatory and will therefore not constrain development. County staff refined the Plan document to further clarify the Plan's purpose.</p>
<p>Private Property Rights: 23 comments expressed concern that the Master Plan will infringe on property rights. These comments arrived primarily after incorrect information spread through traditional and social media that the Master Plan imposes new regulatory burdens upon property owners. Additionally, residents registered 129 requests via the interactive web map, and five requests via email, to remove specific privately owned properties from the Network. In some cases, respondents made multiple requests across the different commenting media to remove the same property.</p>	<p>The Office of Planning and Zoning respects the concerns of these residents. OPZ revised the Network analysis to remove private property smaller than one acre that is on the Network periphery. In addition, although the Plan is not regulatory like the adopted 2002 Greenways Master Plan, staff removed property from the Network when requested by property owners, and removed adjacent properties in a subdivision to treat all like properties the same. OPZ also refined the Plan to underscore that 1) The Plan is not regulatory, 2) Private land is shown in the Network because it contributes to the quality of the environment and can be supported by the County through voluntary stewardship actions, and 3) The mapping offers property owners a visual tool for engaging with the County, land trusts, or others about options for conservation.</p>

<p>Trespassing: Nine comments asserted concern that the Master Plan implies public access to privately owned land. These commenters generally expressed fears of trespassing and illegal activity on their property, or expressed exasperation with ongoing trespassing issues.</p> <p>Public Access: Conversely, comments registered through the Public Water Access Committee and through the map expressed concern that the "conservation" status of publicly owned land will limit public access to trails and recreation.</p>	<p>Land conservation in the Green Infrastructure Network does not signify or imply public access. OPZ revised the Plan to emphasize the difference between publicly accessible land, such as a County park, and privately owned conserved land, such as a forest conservation easement. Where feasible, County staff documented and reported to the appropriate County agency any areas where residents reported frequent trespassing or other nuisance behavior.</p> <p>Additionally, the definition of "conservation" in the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan will be clarified to include recreation if it is a public park, or where the private conservation agreement permits it. The Office of Planning and Zoning did not intend to imply that recreational uses are excluded from publicly owned land that is also conserved, such as a County park.</p>
<p>Regulatory Implications: Eight commenters stated their confusion about whether the Master Plan will impose new regulations; the 23 comments about private property rights also represent confusion about the extent and impact of the Plan. In contrast, six comments written in support of large-scale conservation expressed frustration that the Plan will not legislate protection of the Green Infrastructure Network.</p>	<p>OPZ has revised the plan to clarify the limits of its regulatory reach. OPZ has also added or revised recommendations in response to both sides of this concern, such as Action 2.1 to clarify opportunities to support private property owners who undertake land stewardship and Action 3.4 to facilitate the creation of forest mitigation banks to aid with conservation efforts.</p>
<p>Maintenance of Natural Areas: Six commenters questioned whether and how the County and its partners will maintain the Green Infrastructure Network.</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to invest in long-term stewardship and establish management plans for conserved lands. See Action 2.2.</p>

Attachment A. Comments Received via Survey, Email, Letter, Phone, and In Person

Public Comments on Draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Theme: General support for land conservation and the Green Infrastructure Plan, including expansion of the conservation goal and financing</p>		
<p>Comments 8/28/21: 5000 acres is too small a goal. Why not 10,000 acres? Why not push for bonding abilities for this new type of infrastructure? You say in the report that it will become more and more difficult to acquire land protection as time goes on. That makes it critical to get as much land protected as soon as possible to minimize the loss. Why not push for investment options with our money through bonding? This would allow you to protect the land we all want protected as an INVESTMENT in the future. I assume if we are lucky enough to get new funding from the infrastructure bills (both federal bills), you will be looking on how to funnel a portion of that money to this Green Infrastructure need. If the is not a possibility, you should be contacting our representatives and make sure that option is slipped into one or the other of these bills. Be more aggressive in identifying areas that could be enlarged through replanting, and include more areas that are on the smaller side that can be attached to larger parcels There is much farm land that could be acquired and reforested to ultimately make new forested areas. If these are not included in your potential areas, there is the possibility the enhancements will not be even considered. Any set of open fields and farmlands that can be stitched together to form 75 acres or more, or added to existing protected areas to be 75 acres or more, should receive the potential status consideration you have in light green, or maybe you should add a new color as "axially acquisition" to enhance existing corridors and hubs. I think you need to reduce the minimum width of corridors that are less than 200ft wide if they are along water corridors like streams and gullies. If there are any corridors that could be reinstated that do not currently exist, look to reestablishing right of way or agreements to replant them. These could be designated in the third category i suggested above.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. While 5,000 acres is the stated goal to reach by 2030, the long-term goal is to conserve as much of the Green Infrastructure Network as feasible. The Green Infrastructure Plan includes strategies and actions to actively pursue federal and state funding to support conservation efforts.</p> <p>As noted in the comment, there are several farms on the Broadneck Peninsula that are conserved through agricultural easements. These are not included in the draft Green Infrastructure Network. Agricultural lands are only included in the Network if they include large forested areas that are adjacent to other large, connected natural areas. There may be potential for reforestation of those lands at some time in the future, but the County supports their continued agricultural use.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Comments 9/8/21: I may have mentioned it in a previous comment, but I want to emphasis this. I see remanent farm land in the northern half of the county (for example, on the southern half of the Boardneck) that is not marked for consideration of future conservation in this plan. I think this is a mistake. This should be set to trigger review like other areas in the light green. If these were acquired or had an easement, they could quickly be replanted and attached to the adjacent areas that are in the plan to make forest areas in less than 20 years. This could help make up for the deforestation we are experiencing in other areas. DO NOT leave these out of the plan. Maybe a third color is needed that denotes areas that could be regrown to create significant forest areas. FARM LAND is the easiest land to return to nature!</p>		
<p>Comments 9/8/21: Do not set your goal to 5000 acres of protection in ten years. You need to double it. To accept 5000 acres, as your goal (the same progress 1. The Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan would be enhanced by providing an organizational diagram in the Appendix of all steering groups, departments, offices, boards/commissions, organizations, etc involved in the implementation of the GI Plan and identifying the office/Department overall responsible for successfully prioritizing coordinated work on the strategies/action items and measuring the performance. It would also be helpful to show the number of people in each organization that are dedicated to the implementation of the GI Plan. 2. No one is identified for being responsible for implementing any of the five (5) strategies and twenty-three (23) actions listed in the draft Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan or the timeline for completing them. The GI Plan should identify responsible lead and support Departments/Offices, timeframe for completion (short-, medium-, or long-term) and the performance measures just like Plan2040 does for Policies and Strategies. 3. Actions 2.4 and 2.5 need to be renumbered to 2.3 and 2.4. 4. Define the term "preserved" which is used a number of times in the Plan to differentiate it from the term "conserved." 5. Add another column to TABLE 4. 2021 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK BY WATERSHED that shows which Region Planning Areas (RPAs) align with each of the 12 watersheds. 6. How much of the current Network must be "managed, maintained or restored" and why isn't that listed as one of the objectives and funding requirements in the Plan? Should not estimates of maintenance, management and/or restoration costs be one of the criteria used for assessing land acquisitions within the Network? 7. Why not include an expanded description of ecosystem services in the Appendix to the GI Plan and more information on how the County intends to implement this initiative? Otherwise, what other County Plan or document can one refer to have a better understanding of the relevance of ecosystem services to both the GDP and GI Plan objectives/Action Items? Ecosystem services is only briefly mentioned in both the Plan2040 and in the draft GI Plan. There are three strategies relating to ecosystem services in Volume I of the GDP, but no expanded information about what ecosystem services are or how they relate to the objectives of the GDP was included in the Planning for the Natural Environment chapter in Volume II.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These suggestions will be taken into consideration in the updated version of the draft plan. Implementation details of department responsibilities and timelines will be refined after the plan is adopted by County Council. An appendix with more information on Ecosystem services will be provided.</p> <p>Data on wildlife populations is not collected or compiled on a County-wide basis. Statistics on rare, threatened and endangered species are collected and managed by the state Department of Natural Resources and referenced in the Introduction section of the Plan.</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>The draft GI Plan only has two paragraphs that discuss ecosystem services, yet it is one of the criteria to be used in prioritizing land acquisition, and it is also included in Action Items 3.5 and 4.4. There has to be more information, to include the organization primarily responsible for leading the effort, fleshed out for this vaguely described initiative. 8. Although one of the key objectives of the Plan is to conserve habitat for wildlife, there is nothing in it (nor in any County Plan/document) that says what wildlife presently exists in the Network and in what numbers. Is there any state/county information available on what type and amount of wildlife the conserved Green Infrastructure Network is presently protecting, and could the GI Plan identify the relevant information sources? 9. Reference TABLE 4. 2021 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK BY WATERSHED and FIGURE 20. ACRES OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK BY ZONING DISTRICT. Will the Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SACs) of each Region Planning Area (RPA) be provided information by Zoning District of what land in their watershed(s) has the potential to be conserved? 10. The draft GI Plan should more clearly describe how it will be used in the Region Plans, particularly in regard to the regional and local scale frameworks. Will Region Plans only make green infrastructure recommendations for land that is within the Network (not Beyond the Network?) and only at a local scale? The following extracts taken from the draft GI Plan seem to limit the Region Plans to a very narrow role in green infrastructure planning: 1) The Region Plans will provide additional guidance at the community level for future updates of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan. 2) The Green Infrastructure Network identifies natural features on the landscape. The appropriate zoning of these lands will be reviewed through Comprehensive Rezoning that will occur with the development of each Region Plan as outlined in Plan2040. 3) Action 2.5. Incorporate Green Infrastructure in Region Plans. The Region Plan process should include review of the Green Infrastructure Network within the respective regions for further conservation and enhancement. The Region Plans should contain a section describing how they will further the goals of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan. This may include identification of potential areas for community parks, increased tree canopy, and other green infrastructure features at the neighborhood scale. 4) At the local scale, "green infrastructure" can refer to small parks, street trees, stormwater features, and community gardens 5) At the local and site-specific scales, it often refers to a stormwater management approach that mimics natural hydrologic processes, such as those provided by rain gardens and green roofs. In urban contexts, green infrastructure has been defined to include small natural features such as street trees, pocket parks, and community gardens. 6) At a smaller scale, green infrastructure may refer to stormwater management tools such as bioswales and rain gardens. In more urban contexts, green infrastructure includes small natural features such as street trees, pocket parks, and community gardens. Is this what the Stakeholder Advisory Committees will be told to focus on in developing their Region Plans? In another part of the Plan it says: "The Plan supports efforts to conserve and restore nature at the local scale, which is accomplished by complementary plans and programs including: Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), Chesapeake Bay Restoration, Replant Anne Arundel, Environmental Regulations, Agricultural and Woodland Preservation Program, and Greenways, Parkland and Open Space projects in the County's Capital Budget and Program, Forest Conservation Fund, and Acquisition of Flood Prone Properties. Are the Region Plans expected to make "local scale" green infrastructure recommendations relative to the corresponding plan or program in the above list? Will SACs use the Strategies and Action Items in the draft GI Plan ("regional" level?) as the framework for the green infrastructure portion of their "local" scale Region Plans or something else?</p>	<p>The draft Green Infrastructure Plan provides guidance for Region Plans, the details requested in the comment will be refined through each Region Plan process.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Arnold Preservation Council has some suggestions and concerns for the Green Infrastructure Master Plan. It is an impressive document in content and breadth and quality of goals. One concern is whether the County will provide the administrative support and funding necessary to implement the Plan's recommendations. Also, there are several instances where there are statements that say, So and So "should" do this. For example, in Action 5.4, this statement appears: "The County should prepare a guidebook for local communities to help empower them to conserve properties of local significance." If the intended action is worthy, why isn't the word "will" used? Will these "should" statements be followed up on in the annual implementation reports? APC suggests a separate continuing web page on the County's website that is devoted to the Green Infrastructure Master Plan containing the finished document, news items, and perhaps a list of speakers who might visit communities to promote the Master plan. APC also notes that the np code areas of Arnold and Severna Park are "park poor", except for small community parks. The County would do well to identify parcels for larger parks within the acreage of those zip codes that are designated for potential acquisition in the Green Infrastructure Network. APC does fully support community parks, "pocket parks,, and bicycle playground parks. In addition APC encourages the County to look for opportunities to utilize public-private partnerships to assist in financing plan initiatives.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan recommendations regarding public outreach (Strategy 1, Actions 1.1, and Action 1.4) support the comments regarding providing a website, regular updates, and communicating with the public about land conservation.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Adequate funds should be earmarked in the County budget to support the targeted acquisition of 5000 acres by 2030. Detailed reports of funding and outreach efforts should be made publicly available each year. Data from these reports should be appropriate for developing an understanding of all issues inhibiting expansion of the GI Network. Techniques for monetization of ecosystem services need to be developed. Public education about ecosystem services and their value needs to be improved.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Strategies and actions in the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan support these comments including funding (Strategy 4), annual reporting (Action 1.4), monetization of ecosystem services (Action 4.4), and public education (Action 1.1).</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Comments Part 1: The Public Water Access Committee submits the following comments on the Green Infrastructure Master Plan Draft (“Draft”). The Public Water Access Committee is a broad-based group of volunteer “wet feet” activists that works to improve public water access in Anne Arundel County and the Chesapeake Bay. The Committee lauds the Draft’s stated goal of preserving our natural environment. However, the Draft’s definition of “Conservation” threatens to restrict public use of our public parks, undermine the public access duty imposed by Program Open Space (POS) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding and conflicts with Plan 2040 goals. The Committee recommends that the Draft be revised to align with Plan 2040, support compliance with POS and LWCF and create maximum recreational flexibility for public use of our public parks and other public lands. The Draft defines Conservation as “(p)rotection of natural resources of the land while allowing compatible uses such as timber harvest, trails, and agriculture. Those allowed uses are typically defined in a conservation easement or management plan for the land.” The Draft further notes that “(t)he project team also identified parcels within the Open Space zoning district and County, State, and Federal lands and categorized them as conserved.” The flaw in this definition of Conservation is that “trails” will be interpreted as the sole compatible recreational use of our “conserved” public parks by those who seek to block public access to our public parks. Every public water access project and many other recreational uses of our “conserved” public parks will be met with the opposition’s insistence that only trails are compatible with Conservation. The pandemic demonstrated that the general public needs much greater and varied recreational use of our public parks beyond narrow “trail” access. The final Green Infrastructure Plan must mandate that greater use, including public water access. Additionally, the Draft undermines Plan 2040. The Draft references the Plan2040’s Goal HC8 to “(p)rovide a diverse range of accessible public recreational facilities to serve the needs of all County residents.” Our conserved public parks must provide that diverse range of recreational use, not only the narrowest possible “trail” access. The final Green Infrastructure Plan must support Plan 2040’s Goal HC8. Finally, POS and LWCF funding carry a duty to provide public recreational access to funded public lands. Limiting use of POS and LWCF funded land to trails undermines the county’s compliance with its public access obligation under POS and LWCF. The initial drafts of Plan 2040 contained a similar flaw. Our public parks were initially misclassified as “Conservation”. The administration, the county council and park advocates worked together to correct the draft Plan 2040 by creating a new Parks and Open Space planned land use classification for our public parks. The final Plan 2040 Park and Open Space classification expressly encourages a wide range of recreational uses: “Public parks and privately owned areas that provide active and passive recreational amenities, including, but not limited to, golf courses, hiking trails, bike paths, greenways and other open spaces, water access facilities, camps, campgrounds, tennis courts, swimming areas, and ballfields. This also includes closed landfills.*”</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The definition of "conservation" in the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan will be clarified to state that it includes uses such as recreation that are compatible and permitted in accordance with the particular easement or ownership that makes these areas "conserved." Recreational uses were not intended to be excluded by the definition.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Comments Part 2:</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Master Plan Draft: Page 15: KEY TERM: CONSERVATION Protection of natural resources of the land while allowing compatible uses such as timber harvest, trails, and agriculture. Those allowed uses are typically defined in a conservation easement or management plan for the land. KEY TERM: CONSERVATION EASEMENT Land protection agreement wherein a landowner waives their rights to develop and subdivide the land now and in the future, but still maintains ownership of the land, including the ability to use it, sell it, and pass it on to their heirs. Page 23, citing Plan2040: Goal HC8: Provide a diverse range of accessible public recreational facilities to serve the needs of all County residents. Page 24, describing conservation easements with subsections: CONSERVATION EASEMENT Voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. Anne Arundel County uses several types of conservation easements including those described below. Page 33, The Network: The project team also identified parcels within the Open Space zoning district and County, State, and Federal lands and categorized them as conserved.</p> <p>Page 51: Strategy 2: Stewardship and Planning Action 2.1 Develop and implement management plans. Stewardship of protected areas in the Green Infrastructure Network should be coordinated through management plans. These management plans may be crafted as “Parks Master Plans” or “Management Plans” for natural resource areas, or similar documents. The plans should generally include provisions for public access and activities on the property that meet recreation needs while also protecting natural resources. The plans should also align with countywide DRP policies for integrated pest management, invasive species control and deer management. Examples of recent</p>	<p>Response above.</p>	

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Comment Part 1: Congratulations to County leadership and staff for the compilation of this bold and innovative plan to benefit the current and future residents of Anne Arundel County. These comments are submitted on behalf of my son and daughter in law, who have recently contracted for the purchase/construction of a single-family home in the Two Rivers subdivision. After committing to their purchase, they discovered the antiquated special exception approval of a rubble landfill/sand and gravel operation on adjacent properties. They requested my assistance due to my 30+ year career in the Planning, Zoning and Building Department of Palm Beach County. I have provided my name and email for contact purposes, should any questions arise on these comments. Their zip code and other required information are provided, as these comments are submitted in their interests. After beginning research on this scenario, I found that this "landfill property" has been the subject of 30+ years of legal proceedings to keep the antiquated approval viable. However, in gaining further knowledge of the County's character and vision, and local/state regulatory documents and plans; the potential of this property to be so much more than a landfill was striking. It was also obvious that the approved special exception has outlived any resemblance of compatibility to the surrounding area. This inspired review of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan draft. Happily, the potential of the property is also recognized by the Plan, through assignment of the designation of "Potential to be Conserved" to the property on the 2021 Draft Green Infrastructure Network map. Although it may be obvious, I am obliged to briefly refer to the physical characteristics and potential uses of the property, which make it desirable for inclusion in the Green Infrastructure Network. Physically, the size of the combined properties meets the "hub" and "corridor" ideal dimensions, it is contiguous to the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Trail and in close proximity to existing/planned parks and a planned new school, floodplains are present on and adjacent to the combined properties, the majority of the property is forested in nature, and there is a relationship of the properties to rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. All are characteristics which make the property valuable for green infrastructure. Potential uses include storm water retention (so needed in this age of climate change), mixed recreational for the expansion of existing parks, biking routes and hiking trails, and the possible creation of water related activities by appropriate reclamation of the existing excavated area. Of course, you are aware of the tremendous community interest in these properties being conserved. Unfortunately, these properties and others that would be valuable elements of the Green Infrastructure Network, are privately owned and have development approvals or similar owner perspectives that will not likely lend them to voluntarily granting meaningful conservation easements. My suggestions are relative</p> <p>Comment Part 2: One suggestion is that periodically, when information from the County's property inventory (Action 3.5 of Strategy 3) is compiled, a comparative analysis should be performed with the targeted future conservation areas, gleaned from the Annual Implementation Reports (Action 1.4 of Strategy 1). Consideration could then be given to actively pursue potential land-swaps of low quality "green properties" for justifiably higher quality green parcels. Solicitation of estate properties outside of the green network might also be considered, as they could provide value for land swaps, or capital from their sales could be utilized to purchase quality green infrastructure properties. This utilization of estate properties is a practice of such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, potentially a good partner for such endeavors. When one bequeaths land to The Nature Conservancy, it is with the understanding that it may be sold or traded to secure more ecologically valuable properties. In land swap negotiations, utilizing tax incentives for the owner on their new property could be useful for added value. If business owners are the parties involved in sale or swap transactions, offering the support of the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation for their business in the new location may give added value to the transaction. Action 3.6 of Strategy 3 refers to the transfer of density rights. I suggest that it should be revised to a "shall implement" action instead of "shall explore opportunities" action. Also, the density allowed to be transferred from the desired property should be based on the creation of "effective" units or square footage per acre placed in conservation, and not based on the underlying zoning district of the property selling the rights. Alternatively, the number of units or square footage could be based on a factor of the density of the receiving development area(s). The reason being that those properties desirable for conservation, would most likely have very low density development rights based on their underlying zoning district(s). These low density numbers would not effectively incentivize the sale/purchase of the properties. Maryland State Code §7-201 appears to give broad authority in developing such a density transfer program to the local authority, specifically "to encourage the preservation of natural resources; and facilitate orderly growth and development in the State in conjunction with programs for preservation of open space and agricultural land and other development management programs and techniques." Consideration might also be given to the County purchasing these rights, in a fee ownership transfer, and banking them to sell or incentivize a future beneficial development in the revitalization areas. Lastly, as recognized in the "Challenges to Conservation of Green Infrastructure" section of the Plan, with continued development, the rest of properties in Anne Arundel County will I own a home in Churchton, and am a co-owner of a home and property at Bristol (now Lothian); 20733 and 20711 near Jug Bay. WE allow all wildlife to shelter and raise their families on our land. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE OUR LAND/HOMES GO TO RECREATION, STRANGERS WALKING THROUGH OUR PROPERTY. We have enough trouble with rowdy neighbors; gun shooting so called hunters illegally on our properties; as well as having police activity, we do not want to have any of our properties open to strangers. WE have constantly had to go and pick up trash from trespassers; bicyclists that will stop for a break and leave trash, poop, phish and garbage that is disgusting and attracts wild animals. Cans, bottles cause harm to wildlife if we do not pick them up to take to the dump. We have tried to allow people of need to come in to cut downed trees; had to end that due to the fact that too many hide their oil cans (for power saws); trash, and other nasty stuff hidden under logs and brush. IT IS DISGUSTING TO BE NICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED AT TIMES AS TOO MANY TAKE ADVANTAGE. Gun shots have taken out all the lightening globes on the Bristol home and a high power bullet has gone through the house barely missing my sister and mother! WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE TRESPASSERS! WE do support wild life and their habitat. We want our lands (Bristol) and Churchton yard to be safe for all wildlife. I own a home in Churchton, and am a co-owner of a home and property at Bristol (now Lothian); 20733 and 20711 near Jug Bay. WE allow all wildlife to shelter and raise their families on our land. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE OUR LAND/HOMES GO TO RECREATION, OR ANY TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT/ BALL PARK, ETC., STRANGERS WALKING THROUGH OUR PROPERTY. The whole area between route 4 and the Patuxent River must be preserved for wildlife, not for public, development, or other high impact use. We have enough trouble with rowdy neighbors; gun shooting so called hunters illegally on our properties; as well as having police activity, we do not want to have any of our properties open to strangers. WE have constantly had to go and pick up trash from trespassers; bicyclists that will stop for a break and leave trash, poop, phish and garbage that is disgusting and attracts wild animals. Cans, bottles cause harm to wildlife if we do not pick them up to take to the dump. We have tried to allow people of need to come in to cut downed trees; had to end that due to the fact that too</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These suggestions will be considered in the update to the Master Plan and in its implementation.</p> <p>Response above.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. We appreciate your concerns about trespassing.</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>The Advocates for Herring Bay (AHB) share Anne Arundel County’s commitment to preserving ecologically important habitats. The Green Infrastructure Master Plan is key to the success of our future efforts. It takes a holistic approach to documenting features that provide valuable ecological services, giving policymakers a scientifically sound basis for targeting financial and other investments. Such targeting is critical in the Herring Bay area, because 4,700 acres of the green infrastructure in our watershed—roughly half of the total—remain unprotected.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	
<p>As noted in our recently published booklet Herring Bay: Landscapes and Legacies, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources estimates that large portions of the Herring Bay area have an ecosystem services value of over \$2,000 per acre per year.2 Of particular value are steeply sloped forests and marshes needed to accommodate wetland migration caused by rising sea levels. The parcel-level data developed in DPW’s 2018 watershed assessment can be used to identify priority parcels in Herring Bay that warrant special conservation measures. AHB looks forward to partnering with the county to secure protections for the green infrastructure in the Herring Bay watershed. Since 2005, we have actively supported measures that protect the natural resources in our watershed, including collaboration with the private sector on an environmental easement for a 300-acre parcel,3 and with the county on its management of a dredge site in a Resource Conservation Area in the Critical Area4 . We also have advocated for ecological protections in county policy proceedings, including those for Plan 2040 , solar zoning regulations6, and watershed assessments7 . Our work involves tangible actions as well, such as our recent restoration of part of an oyster reef in the Herring Bay Oyster Sanctuary.8</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Congratulations on a very impressive draft. I don't have the expertise to critique it--I only know the big headlines of what county residents are supposed to do. This includes all types of conservation, recycling, planting trees and other material that will reduce runoff, and trying to be a good environmental steward. This report is a good example of what responsible government and citizen/resident involvement can produce--especially when coordinated with state and federal government and with community partners. I wonder if, in the final report, you could link the figures to allow reviewing more detail? It may not be possible, but I would have loved to "zoom in" on my local area. Thanks again to all who participated. Hiring Matt Johnson was a great way to focus attention on the care of the environment in our beautiful and diverse county.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>I have no real comment on the locations of the green infrastructure network. I trust the county staff did an adequate job and the figures in the plan give the appearance that there was an adequately rigorous analysis. BUT NOW WHAT? My issue is government officials love to TALK about doing the right thing, but rarely put their money where their mouth is. I care less about the specific locations in the network and much more about the IMPLICATIONS for lands in the network. If our efforts are limited to preservation and acquisition, we will never have enough money to acquire enough land. Disruptive acquisitions (figuring out ways to maximize the protection of larger areas at the least cost) could help some. But more importantly, we need to flat out prohibit development in areas where it's just plain stupid to develop. There are RESTRICTIONS on flood plain developments, but no prohibition. How insane is it to allow development in a flood plain now, when those developments will be completely submerged in a few decades? How ridiculous is it to allow developers to remove dozens of acres of forest at a time when the neighborhood and watershed are completely reliant on that forest to provide protection from increasingly large and intense rainfalls. Why in the world is the county supportive of doing LESS stormwater management work just because our short sighted governor thinks stormwater is bad? We need to double down, not back down, on our investments in stormwater and flood control projects. PLEASE go way beyond this plan and start working There is a lot of data in the draft. One way that all residents of Maryland can help is through environmental cleanups with local organizations which could be listed in the draft so residents can take more action. Some of those organizations include: Blue Water Baltimore, Clean Bread and Cheese Creek, Patapsco Heritage Greenway and the National Aquarium.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. As noted in the plan, the Green Infrastructure Plan complements County environmental regulations. The County Council passed an update of the Forest Conservation ordinance in 2019 that significantly strengthened forest protections.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Don't be so greedy for the tax money. Be responsible and extend more greenery. I am very much in favor of expanding green space in Anne Arundel County.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey Survey</p>
<p>We need to keep more area green along rt 50, 97 and 32.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Thank you for continuing to conserve our green spaces. With the rush to develop, we sometimes “pave paradise to put up a parking lot.” Green spaces add not just great beauty, but also great value to our communities. Green spaces mean cleaner air, soil, more wildlife and are a legacy to those who come after. The calm beauty of green spaces are also a great complement to the places where we live, work and recreate. With conscious stewards, development and nature can thrive.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Comments 8/23: My knowledge is limited on these complex issues. My interest in being part of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan is from an ordinary citizen’s point of view. Also as a Master Gardener I treasure the environment & want to be part of preserving land for fauna, flora & humans. With climate change issues in the red zone, I need to help Maryland be part of the restoration & healing of our planet.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Comments 9/21: The Green Infrastructure Plan is written well with details explaining the areas in which there will be open spaces, green ways for recreation & exercise, habitat for critters & insects. The importance of keeping developers out can not be overstated. We need green spaces, without any buildings or plans to build structures. The trees and shrubs with natural growth & places for birds and pollinations to nest or rest gives us hope for the future. We have to protect Thank you for assembling this well written and beautifully organized document. You mention green spaces benefiting the states outdoor oriented community, notably hunters. However, very few of the public lands in the green corridor are accessible for the purpose. Bacon Ridge is an interesting exception, but nearly every acre is carved up by mountain bikes. Has the county considered further accessibility measures for hunters to existing lands? Severn run, and the countless properties owned along the Patuxent River spring to mind. This would certainly increase support for this initiative!</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>I fully support this draft. It is a wonderful progression towards fully recognizing our responsibility of preserving and protecting our quickly diminishing greenspace. I don't know if it would necessarily be appropriate for this document, but attention needs to be paid to oak decline and the overall healths of our forests and trees. One thing that would put less stress on our already struggling canopy would be greater controls on the time of year that power line pruning is done and consequences to the company for improper pruning techniques that compromise the health of the tree. When they remove trees entirely, they should be made to replant appropriate native species. Additionally, construction sites needs to have greater measures put in place to protect the trees that they do leave standing. Destruction of roots, compaction and grading usually causes the easement trees to die within a few years. Don't be so greedy for the tax money. Be responsible and extend more greenery.</p> <p>Good Afternoon Mr. Matt Johnston,</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p>
<p>My name is [Name Redacted] Owner [Business Name Redacted]. We are a small business located at [Address Redacted].</p>		
<p>We wanted to connect with you after learning about the Green Infrastructure Master Plan for AACo. Istormwater is interested in discussing how we can assist AACo in any capacity (marketing, outreach, construction/maintenance of SWM facilities, etc...).</p>		<p>Email</p>
<p>Please advise a few dates and times you are available to meet and discuss.</p>		
<p>Thank you,</p>		
<p>I approve of the plan. The progress made, and easements acquired, in the past 15 years are encouraging. Keep up the good work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Thank you for all the work that the county put into this plan and associated documents. 1. I have a few issues with Appendix E, at least some of which I reported earlier, where projects appeared in multiple watershed, which clearly are really one, such as Bacon Ridge, Epping Forest, and Kinder Farm Park. There are others. 2. Somewhere it was mentioned that a state assessment had been done, but I never saw anything that said whether/how that assessment related to this plan. Does it primarily agree? Where does it differ and why might that be? 3. As past president of the Severn River Association, I have worked with Magothy River Association and Chesapeake Legal Alliance on protecting habitat of "special" species of plants or wildlife. I didn't see anything that indicated that we now have these habitats mapped and that this tool will be used in determining permission for particular developments. Apparently, the same needs to be done for historical sites and the public needs to be able to access the "mapping" to determine if there are spots that have been missed that deserve consideration for adding to the map. The example is Ft. Grey/Mt Misery in Arnold.</p>	<p>Many of the data layers used to create the Green Infrastructure Network map have been available for the public to review and compare on the Explore tab of the Feedback Map website.</p> <p>Available data layers include the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Targeted Ecological Areas, which integrates data on locations of state listed species and habitat. The Green Infrastructure Network incorporates the Targeted Ecological Areas except in locations that have been developed. Due to the spatial scale of the Targeted Ecological Areas map and its date (published in 2016), it includes some areas that were or have since been developed.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Everywhere I go I see big parking lots - and they're all mostly empty, none more than a third full. So much wasted space. The county should have parking maximums instead of parking minimums and allow developers to build on all those empty parking lots. It's a win-win for everyone. Maybe keep 1/3 as parking (or less), make 1/3 park/green space and 1/3 multi-use, multi-story buildings. And we need more trails for people to walk and bike safely. Those 'Share the Road' signs are useless - they don't protect cyclists and they only get car drivers angrier. That little white line on the edge of the road doesn't protect people walking and biking either. We need safe trails separated from car traffic for people to walk and bike. People should be able to ***safely*** walk or bike to any place that cars can go. Bike trails along the BGE power lines would be wonderful, like what I've seen for part of the South Shore Trail that's about to be built. More of that, please!!!</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan supports increasing the amount of trails in the County.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>I believe protecting more land in this county from development is a plus on all sides, Our Farmers, waterways, wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay need all the help it can get. Thanks</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Excellent plan. Would like to see specific recommendations for investing to activate existing green spaces in overdeveloped and under-resourced areas like Brooklyn Park.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. More specific recommendations for underserved communities will be developed in future plans through engaging with local community members and property owners.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>I hope the green infrastructure master plan includes a moratorium on new home building in the critical area. We are squeezing homes(septic tanks)into spaces that should never have been built on forcing water and runoff into small creeks and waterways.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan does not prohibit development. The draft Plan does not create any new regulations.</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Hi PhZ team! I am still reviewing the document in detail...(too, too busy...!!) but wanted to provide this feedback to date. I think the supporting stats on WHY the GI is important is GREAT. I anticipate it will provide readers and elected officials with important justification. I do believe that adding a study / stat to the Flooding section and forest aspect would be valuable as well. For the \$300k savings statistic, does this imply that if we had MORE acres of green infrastructure, AACo would save MORE \$\$? Can this stat be quantified by acre? Should Ches Bay Foundation land / surrounding easement on the Annapolis Neck be identified on the GI map? I saw a couple of typos - p. 32 in the 'REMOVE' box, 'developed' is missing the 'l' and p. 33 'country' trails should be county? It is great to see the adaptation in the plan for the 200' connection width in the more urban areas. I will certainly have more comments - but time is up for this opportunity. Thankfully, I will have another chance! THANKS for all you have done. It really does look to be shaping up as great document and you should be so proud of your work!!! Now, how DO we keep CC from diluting your great work!?!?.....</p> <p>Support community gardens, especially if they grow produce for local food banks.</p>	<p>The Chesapeake Bay Foundation headquarters property does have conservation easements, but it does not meet the size or connectivity thresholds to be included in the Network.</p> <p>The typos identified will be corrected.</p> <p>More analysis of ecosystem services will be included in the revised Plan Appendix.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>Protecting large open spaces is great. Support the use of financial tools, like reduced taxes and conservation easements to benefit property owners who keep there land undeveloped.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to support community gardens.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to support financial incentives for private property owners to conserve their land.</p>	<p>Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021</p> <p>Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021</p>
<p>The general goal of targeting fiscally easy properties for acquisition makes some sense, but it is difficult to argue the overall impact of this on non-flora/fauna based conservation. This seems like a methodology that would result in the procurement of more land, but not result in well targeted interconnections of these parcels. Haunting is the apparent strategy that the only climate change goal for climate vulnerable/flood prone areas is to acquire and bank these parcels. No clear vision on development of these lands as both public amenities and or green infrastructure that addresses needs beyond the parcel itself. I draw this opinion from APA, "At the regional scale, green infrastructure takes the form of working farms and forests, regional parks, nature preserves, river corridors and greenways. At the city scale, green infrastructure takes the form of tree canopies, urban parks and green parkways and boulevards.". Common examples tend to be flood/storm surge resistant parks in urban areas, developed in public private partnership. Would have been interesting to see a more focused goal of drafting a concept to address multimodal needs of county residents as a prioritization mechanism for land acquisition and investment. I generally appreciate the apparent very measurable goal of maximizing conservation through acreage, but I find that this doesn't really align with a green infrastructure vision vs a environmental conversation vision. (See buying 80 acres of farms in Davidsonville vs aggressively persuading coastal properties for climate/flooding projects with a usage focused on coastal habitat restoration through partnerships with local watermen and aquaculture groups that could serve as green infrastructure and economic programs)</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These suggestions will be considered in the update to the plan and in its implementation.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>I have two points to raise in general with the plan.</p> <p>1. The focus on trees. Trees, by themselves are great, Trees, as part of a forest are awesome. Trees, as part of an ecosystem are simply outstanding. An ecosystem, from certain views, includes marshes, prairies and other environments teeming with native plants and species, yet devoid of trees. An ecosystem, from a certain point of view, considers understory flora and fauna the trees themselves protect and enable. I speak to this, having over a dozen mature trees on my property, while fostering half a dozen more.</p> <p>2. This is an aspirational goal, I would love to see: "Every county facility, every county school, every county library, and every county park will be accessible via a network of pedestrian paths" (bike/walk/etc)..</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Scenic Rivers Land Trust is pleased to learn that the 2021 Draft of the AAC Green Infrastructure Master Plan expanded the definition of green infrastructure to be more inclusive of small natural features such as pocket parks, street trees, and community gardens that are so vital to urban living. Scenic Rivers is also pleased that protected agricultural lands and large tracts of adjacent forests have also been incorporated into the definition, dramatically increasing the acres included in the network.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Scenic Rivers finds the recommendations of this plan imperative to fruitful implementation. There are a multitude of ways to promote land conservation in the county, and each one will be integral to its overall success.</p> <p>Scenic Rivers is ready to collaborate with the county and other conservation partners to help the county achieve its ambitious goal of protecting 5,000 more acres in the next ten years.</p>		
<p>This plan is all well and good. However, the biggest threat on my area is development. Thousands of acres have been cut down I'm in the Marley Neck Rd corridor. Developers can destroy thousands of acres. The Solley Rd warehouses have added hundreds of Amazon vans in the area. The congestion from vehicles and related emissions is destroying this area. The smell of the air in 21226 is foul on most days and unbearable in hot weather.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The County recognizes that land in the 2002 Greenway Network has been developed. The draft Green Infrastructure Network includes land on Marley Neck with potential for conservation.</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
Theme: Concerns with the Green Infrastructure Master Plan, including regulatory implications, financing, and maintenance		
<p>Concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of notification. County should have mailed letters to all the affected property owners 2. Concern about infringement on private property rights. After explaining that the plan is not regulatory, still concerned that it will have implications in the future. 3. Maintenance, invasive species and poor forest management are major concerns and need to be emphasized in the plan 4. Equity. The inclusion of the tree equity score information is divisive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County has used many methods to reach out to the public, but did not send direct mailing because the plan does not have regulatory implications. 2. The plan does not make or recommend any changes to regulations, it does not infringe on private property rights. 3. Maintenance is an important issue. Strategy 2 in the Green Infrastructure Plan focuses on land stewardship. 4. Comment acknowledged. 	<p>Phone Call</p>
<p>1. All information included on the FAQ tab on your Green Master Plan site needs to be incorporated into the beginning of the actual Master Plan document. Over time websites change content & memories fade as to the actual intent of the people who drafted the document. Particularly, a. Does the Green Infrastructure Master Plan affect or limit my rights to develop or otherwise modify my property? b. If the Plan is not regulatory, then what purpose does it serve? 2. Throughout the document trails are mentioned. The proposed hub & corridor map makes it look like the corridors are public trails between the hubs. In every instance where trails are mentioned it needs to be clear that trails do not imply public access to private lands. Most land along your map's corridors is private. Maps showing corridors need to clearly label these corridors as private land with no public access. 3. Since there was not an effort made to engage private property owners in great numbers to get their feedback on how they feel about a potential green corridor on their property & what they would like to look like in terms of benefits & obligations, will you besides extending the comment period, organize some focus groups for property owner stake holders in different parts of the county? 4. Please include in the Master Plan the county resources to manage the woodlands that ARE available to private property owners along the corridors. The plan talks about more trees but the truth is that many in our county do a terrible job of taking care of trees on their properties. A drive down Rt. 2 in South County will give you vistas of trees covered by vines, choking their tree hosts in certain areas. I have seen more dead trees in the woods these last two years than in any year before since I moved to the county. The county does NOT IN ANY WAY stress good woodland maintenance, cutting vines growing on trees, or managing invasive species. I have not seen any information from the county on what is killing so many trees. Planting trees alone is not the answer. 5. The plan talks about community open spaces and green spaces. While much of this land is good land, often unbuildable or compromised property in a proposed development was put into these spaces. What resources will be available from the county to clear, for example, bamboo forests or former dumps on these community properties? 6. What help is available for community associations that own compromised woodlands & wetlands - properties choked by vines or invasive species? How will the county encourage these associations to better maintain their woodlands? Please include that information in your plan. 7. How will the county help private property owners with their storm water catch basins. These basins can be a haven for invasive species of plants and animals. What is the county's plan for maintaining these features/ 9/18: I don't want to participate and wish to opt out.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan has been revised to clarify that it does not allow trespassing on private property, and to highlight resources to support private property owners managing forests and natural areas.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>9/18: OPT US OUT !!!</p> <p>We wish to opt out of this for our property. [Address Redacted] Our address, [Address Redacted] is to opt out of this plan. I want to "opt out" of the plan. [Address Redacted] I want to opt out of my property I would like my property [Address Redacted] to be opt out of this voluntary program. We choose to opt out of this plan My property is covered is this. I don't want any more government intrusion. As an attorney, I will seek legal action if necessary.</p>	<p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>No identifying information provided that would enable us to act on this request.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>No identifying information provided that would enable us to act on this request.</p> <p>No address provided, but based on search of commenter's name, property appears to have a Forest Conservation Easement that covers the majority of the parcel.</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p>
<p>We live at [Address Redacted]. We hereby opt out of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan.</p> <p>please omit [Address Redacted] and [Address Redacted] These are my properties my phone number is [Phone Number Redacted]. I do not agree with this as my property is [Address Redacted] and I was not notified of this. I do not agree or approve of this Green Infrastructure Master Plan as my property is [Address Redacted] and I was not notified of this. I do not approve of this Green Infrastructure Master Plan. My property is [Address Redacted] and I was not notified of this. Being a land owner who falls under this green infrastructure. I object any ideas of this running they my property. It been in my family for decades and it should remain that way for as long as we choose I do not want to be a part of this plan!</p>	<p>Property is not included in the draft Green Infrastructure Network. The adjacent County-owned Magothy River Greenway Natural Area is included.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p> <p>No identifying information provided that would enable us to act on this request.</p> <p>This property will be removed from the Network.</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Dear Office of Planning & Zoning: This law firm represents [Name Redacted]. I am writing to request that the below properties owned by [Name Redacted] be removed from the Green Infrastructure Master Plan as well as the earlier 2002 Greenways network designation.</p>	<p>The Network map will be revised to reflect this request.</p>	
<p>[Property Location Redacted]</p>		Email
<p>My client is not interested in designating its parcels for conservation and does not wish to participate in the program. Thank you for your cooperation and courtesy in this regard. Hello, I am the property owner of [Address Redacted] I was just made aware of your Green Infrastructure Master Plan. My property appears to be directly impacted by the Potential In-Network coverage area.</p>	<p>Thank you for your message. The Green Infrastructure Master Plan is not regulatory, and Network designation does not change or otherwise affect the conditions of your property. The Plan will not expand your floodplain easement. Land that is coded as "Conserved" means that it has been permanently protected through public ownership, zoning, or dedications and easements, such as floodplain easements. Land that is coded as "Potential to be Conserved" means that the land supports significant natural features and is adjacent to protected land. The Plan recognizes that much of the land coded as "Potential to be Conserved" is privately owned. The Plan does not anticipate that property owners will necessarily pursue additional conservation measurements for these features. The information can, however, support property owners in managing their backyards and natural resources to benefit the environment, or support future owners who may wish to pursue additional conservation. The FAQ linked here [https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/green-infrastructure-master-plan/faq/index.html] includes questions and answers specifically for We have received your comments and respect your concerns.</p>	Email
<p>Please provide additional information:</p>		
<p>-Why are you expanding the current floodplain easement on my property?</p>		Email
<p>-What criteria are you using to expand?</p>		
<p>Thank you</p>		
<p>To whom it may concern,</p>		
<p>Our property is [Address Redacted]. We were recently informed of the proposed Green Infrastructure Master Plan 2021 and unknowing to us it includes our property. We do not want to be included in this plan. We were not informed of this plan in writing and we are not able to make an informed decision at this time. It is our belief that this could greatly affect our property and our bundle of rights of ownership. From our understanding this plan is using our property as a corridor to connect to the Magothy waterways. On the website it is stated: "If your property is shown in the network, it means that your property includes undeveloped forests or fields that are connected to other large natural areas." By connecting us what could this mean for the property? We are not unwilling to work with the county to include some of our property into the plan but we need to speak with legal representation and gather more information on how this will impact our property.</p>	<p>The draft Green Infrastructure Plan and the Network map do not propose to create any requirements on private property. The map simply identifies areas in the County with the largest remaining natural habitat and connected natural areas between them. The plan proposes the County work with willing property owners on a voluntary basis to conserve natural resources. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions tab on the Feedback Map site for more information. If after reading this you would still like to remove the property from the map, please let me know.</p>	Email
<p>We have an active listing agreement to sell our property and we have not disclosed this information to potential buyers, this could have legal ramifications.</p>	<p>If you would like to discuss this further, please let me know if you have time on your schedule on Monday or Tuesday for a call.</p>	
<p>We are requesting that our property be removed from the proposed Green Infrastructure Master Plan.</p>		
<p>To whom it may concern, My address is [Address Redacted] and [Address Redacted] which is my family property.</p>	<p>Copied on reply to [Name Redacted] -- response shown in row above.</p>	
<p>Recently I was informed of the States proposed Green Infrastructure Master plan for 2021. The forementioned properties was added to this proposal. Reading through the plan the property would become connected to the Magothy watershed, what would this mean for the future of my property? I would like someone to contact me personally to find out why I was not notified that my properties would be added to this plan and what this means for me a property owner. Please, Please DO NOT include the forementioned properties in to the Green Infrastructure Master Plan 2021. [Name Redacted]</p>		Email
<p>We here at [Address Redacted] would be very opposed to any Green space designation on or near our property we see green shading on the map that is on our PAVED private Road called Coachmans Road. It has been a private road maintained by us for many years there is no way for there to be green space here without much disruption and expense please adjust the map to clearly remove any green space proposals from near our property. We are very empathic to what the county is attempting to do however we are very sensitive about participating in any green space projects. WE ARE NOT able nor willing to participate. Thank you for allowing us to comment.</p>	<p>This appears to be a mapping accuracy issue. The property at [Address Redacted] in Severna Park is not intended to be included in the Green Infrastructure Network.</p>	Survey
<p>The comment period needs to be extended. The private property owners along your potential green corridors were NOT notified of this plan. The Long Term Planning Department simply put out information on social media and maybe an article in the Capital Newspaper. Many county residents do not read the local newspaper now & older property owners often are not on social media. To be kind, this was a very naive approach to stakeholder / constituent notification. If the cost of mailing a letter to every private property owner (estimated number 3,000-4,000) along the newly designated potential green corridors is deemed too expensive, the authors of this plan could have easily visited communities and put notices on doors or in mailboxes. Even with the pandemic they could have masked up & gone out into the fresh air to hand out copied information. They could also have engaged community associations where present. The County</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The County used a variety of methods to provide public notice of this planning process, including sending emails to community associations via the weekly e-newsletter distributed by the Office of Community Engagement and Constituency Services.</p>	Survey

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>More corrupt acts by Pitman and his administration First I heard about this and last day to respond is this Sunday 9-26-21. Not sure what it actually is. Suppose I want to put up a barn on my second acre of land. How do I be sure that I can in the future?</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. Thank you for your comment. The County is working to expand its communications networks to The draft Green Infrastructure Plan does not change development regulations. It will not change whether a barn can be built on the property or not. Thank you for your comment. The County is working to expand its communications networks to reach more people.</p>	<p>Survey Survey Survey Fresh Start Church End of Summer Family Day, Aug 29 2021</p>
<p>Theme: Equitable access to green space</p>		
<p>Outstanding work. This work is essential, and it is exciting to see the scope of the project and the priority that is being given to conservation, to green spaces AND, very important, to the inclusion of communities of color and others who are often ignored and who deserve to benefit from the preservation of land and water.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>There seems to be no attempt to preserve the natural shoreline around the Londontowne community. This is an area of public access unparalleled in other areas. We are not a gated community. Everyone locally walks through the neighborhood to enjoy the beautiful vistas. I understand that the LTPOA has ownership rights along the shoreline. Nevertheless this area needs far more attention.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The Green Infrastructure Plan focuses on the largest natural areas in the County. London Town House and Gardens and Edgewater Park are examples of public parks that are important public open spaces, but are not included in the Green Infrastructure Network, because of their relatively small size.</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>1) In Crofton a number of forested lots have recently been cleared for storefronts that appear to be struggling with frequent turnover in tenants. I think Crofton needs to do a better job of incentivizing developers to rehabilitate existing storefronts rather than cut down the few trees that are left in this area. I'm concerned about air quality and the effect on wildlife. My girlfriend sees dead wildlife on the side of the road frequently. The animals have nowhere left to go. 2) Improve bike lane access in the Odenton and Crofton area. I see many people trying to commute via bike in this area. However, conditions are unsafe due to inadequate development of bike lanes. This would be an easy way to reduce gridlock and improve air quality. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The comments on transportation and mobility are outside of the focus of the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan, but are addressed in Move Anne Arundel, the Transportation Functional Master Plan, and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (which is in the process of being updated).</p>	<p>Survey</p>
<p>I encourage the County to add acreage to the Network in the Patapsco watershed where the potential acreage for inclusion is nearly equal to that already included. There are few significant areas in the existing network in that portion of northern Anne Arundel County and this lack should be remediated. There is an equity issue. More green space is protected in areas that are mostly white.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to invest in land conservation in underserved areas (Action 3.4) The plan recognizes equity concerns related to access to green space and environmental health in the County.</p>	<p>Survey Fresh Start Church End of Summer Family Day, Aug 29 2021</p>
<p>Thank you for your important work on the Green Infrastructure Master Plan . While I appreciate what the Plan does for certain parts of the County I believe it will not benefit other parts of the County as equitably. I live in Odenton and drive through Crofton routinely. With the exception of a few items in the Appendix, this Plan largely does not offer future solutions for these two fast growing parts of the County. The part of Odenton I live in still has green spaces with older trees and wildlife that are rapidly being removed for development. At the same time, I still see a number of dilapidated, unoccupied houses and closed storefronts in the area. I'm providing examples below with a few additional comments on green planning in Odenton and Crofton. I hope you will consider my comments and determine ways to improve the number of green spaces in Odenton and Crofton. Many thanks for your time and consideration! 1) In Odenton and Crofton, the County should consider preserving the few green spaces left and find incentives to encourage developers to redevelop already existing cleared lands / unused building structures. (To give just a couple of examples: 1) Even before the pandemic started, the Village at Odenton Station had a number of unused retail spaces and this continues to be the case. 2) There are boarded up houses by 322 Baldwin Rd., Odenton, MD 21113.) 2) The County should consider adding no littering signs with fines and taking other related measures in newly developed areas. With the increase in apartment buildings and traffic, the roads and nearby forested areas in Odenton have a large amount of litter that wildlife eat. 3) Pedestrian sidewalk access and bike lane quality is very poor in Odenton and Crofton. For example, there are currently three large apartment complexes by the Odenton Marc train station. However, the sidewalk on Annapolis Road does not fully connect people in these buildings to the Odenton Shopping Center nearby. Thus, people have to drive to access the essential stores at the Center even though it's only slightly over a mile away. 4) Public transportation is almost non-existent leading to crowded roads and increasing air quality issues. The County should consider subsidizing such transportation. 5) The County needs to consider the effect rapid development has on the wildlife in this area and potentially consider relocation efforts. I routinely see dead wildlife on the side of the road in the Odenton and Crofton area including fawns and ducklings. Thank you for reading my comments, [Name Redacted]</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. While there is limited area in Crofton and Odenton identified in the Odenton and Crofton areas on the Green Infrastructure Network Map, the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan includes recommendations that support conservation of green spaces in those areas. The comments on transportation and mobility are outside of the focus of the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan, but are addressed in Move Anne Arundel, the Transportation Functional Master Plan, and the Odenton Town Center Plan (which is in the process of being updated).</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Thank you for your important work on the Green Infrastructure Master Plan . While I appreciate what the Plan does for certain parts of the County I believe it will not benefit other parts of the County as equitably. I live in Odenton and drive through Crofton routinely. With the exception of a few items in the Appendix, this Plan largely does not offer future solutions for these two fast growing parts of the County. The part of Odenton I live in still has green spaces with older trees and wildlife that are rapidly being removed for development. At the same time, I still see a number of dilapidated, unoccupied houses and closed storefronts in the area. I'm providing examples below with a few additional comments on green planning in Odenton and Crofton. I hope you will consider my comments and determine ways to improve the number of green spaces in Odenton and Crofton. Many thanks for your time and consideration!</p> <p>1) In Odenton and Crofton, the County should consider preserving the few green spaces left and find incentives to encourage developers to redevelop already existing cleared lands / unused building structures. (To give just a couple of examples: 1) Even before the pandemic started, the Village at Odenton Station had a number of unused retail spaces and this continues to be the case. 2) There are boarded up houses by 322 Baldwin Rd., Odenton, MD 21113.)</p> <p>2) The County should consider adding no littering signs with fines and taking other related measures in newly developed areas. With the increase in apartment buildings and traffic, the roads and nearby forested areas in Odenton have a large amount of litter that wildlife eat.</p> <p>3) Pedestrian sidewalk access and bike lane quality is very poor in Odenton and Crofton. For example, there are currently three large apartment complexes by the Odenton Marc train station. However, the sidewalk on Annapolis Road does not fully connect people in these buildings to the Odenton Shopping Center nearby. Thus, people have to drive to access the essential stores at the Center even though it's only slightly over a mile away.</p> <p>4) Public transportation is almost non-existent leading to crowded roads and increasing air quality issues. The County should consider subsidizing such transportation.</p> <p>5) The County needs to consider the effect rapid development has on the wildlife in this area and potentially consider relocation efforts. I routinely see dead wildlife on the side of the road in the Odenton and Crofton area including fawns and ducklings.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my comments, [Name Redacted]</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. While there is limited area in Crofton and Odenton identified in the Odenton and Crofton areas on the Green Infrastructure Network Map, the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan includes recommendations that support conservation of green spaces in those areas.</p> <p>The comments on transportation and mobility are outside of the focus of the draft Green Infrastructure Master Plan, but are addressed in Move Anne Arundel, the Transportation Functional Master Plan, and the Odenton Town Center Plan (which is in the process of being updated).</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>This is just another way to invite crime into otherwise safe areas for non taxpaying residents, another avenue for drug distribution. The focus should be on fixing current parks in areas that need rehabilitation. Trees in urban areas like Glen Burnie can be nice, but they need to be maintained and replaced when they die. This takes funding and commitment that we haven't seen.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to invest in long-term stewardship.</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021</p>
<p>(1) What is the total cost (\$) of implementing the Green Infrastructure Master Plan? (2) Of that cost, how much (\$) will be funded by increased taxes on the Anne Arundel County residents? Please respond with those dollar amounts only.</p>	<p>Based on past experience, land conservation in the County is accomplished through the combined efforts of private landowners, private land trusts, state and federal agencies, and the County. Based on recent experience, County acquisition of land and easements, accounts for approximately half of land conservation. Assuming that continues and that land values maintain their current price and increase, the estimated County cost to achieve the 2030 conservation goal is \$26 to \$36 million. This number will vary based on negotiated acquisition prices and level of state and federal grant funding.</p> <p>There is currently no plan to increase County taxes to increase funding for land conservation. The County is prioritizing use of existing revenue streams to support plan implementation.</p>	<p>Survey</p>

Theme: Relationship between conservation, development, and public green space countywide.

I think it's time to admit that the suburbs are completely built out. Please do what you can to protect all the remaining undeveloped land. This county has a very large inventory of single family homes in the suburbs, we don't need any more of them. We need to fix that imbalance. The only new building that should be allowed is in established urban areas, with existing public water and sewer and located near (within walking, biking, or bus distance) to places people work,

Survey

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>Based on a quick read-through, I have a few questions for you:</p> <p>It is difficult to have an opinion on such a plan without a cost estimate which I could not find in the document. Buying land and maintaining it will be expensive. Please provide cost estimates in a way that is meaningful to taxpayers, such as increase in property tax rates over the period of the bond or whatever funding you might use. You have cited the benefit as a whopping \$300 million per year which probably includes a CO2 valuation which unfortunately is not real money; please share your calculations on that. But for the cost estimate, you know what land costs per acre and you know how many acres this is (I cannot find that either).</p> <p>The other need here is a cost-benefit analysis - the potential benefit to the county and the residents of putting the land to another use: people can live in houses; companies can manufacture goods and provide services. These are benefits to society and will provide a contribution to GDP and result in tax revenues to the county. While a green view of this land offers some benefits (you really need to explain your number), the same land can provide significant returns to its owners. If government wants to acquire lands for non-productive green purposes, the opportunity costs and benefits must be considered also. While government can buy land from a private owner for a price, it is different from a private to private sale. Private to private still pays property taxes while private to public loses that revenue making the latter even more costly over time. I look forward to reviewing your complete cost- benefit analysis.</p> <p>I understand the large hubs/parks but the corridors make no sense to me. I do not even see them on your maps – only in your conceptual presentation. Connections between such parcels must cross roads and other right of ways which will difficult if not impossible. Are you hoping to get wildlife to follow the corridors? I think the corridor rationale is very weak; can the proposal stand without them? My suspicious side thinks the corridors are put in place as Green Controls. By owning such a grid in AAC, it would be quite easy for the Greenies to block pipelines, roads, cables, and other legitimate infrastructure which they were opposed to; convince me that is not part of the plan.</p> <p>Get rid of the description of this as “infrastructure.” This is a popular term for Democrats right now for everything from roads to daycare centers. If anything, this is anti-infrastructure as it would prevent real infrastructure from being built but it depends on your point of view.</p> <p>My final question is how did the architects arrive at the proposed size of this land acquisition? Why 5 hubs versus 1 or 10? Again, this calls for some analysis of costs and benefits.</p>	<p>Thank you for your message.</p> <p>1. The draft green infrastructure network is an update of the greenways master plan, which was adopted by the County Council in 2002. It encompasses 113,196 acres of land. 73,864 acres of the network are currently conserved through public ownership, conservation easements, or Open Space zoning; the remaining 39,333 acres in the network are privately owned. You can find this information on page 37 of the draft plan. The plan recommends pursuing the conservation of an additional 5,000 acres of land over the next ten years, through partnership with State government, private nonprofits and land trusts, and private landowners. Pages 42-45 and page 50 go into greater depth. To clarify, the plan does not propose that the total 5,000 acres be acquired through the Anne Arundel County Capital Budget and Program alone, but also through the above stated voluntary initiatives. The County’s current Capital Budget and Program Fiscal Years includes a capital project for Countywide Greenway, Park and Open Space Acquisitions. The amount approved in Fiscal Year 2022 is \$4,349,300 and \$2,675,00 for Fiscal Years 2023-2027. The majority of this funding is from State Program Open Space funds. You can find more information in the approved budget for recreation and parks.</p> <p>2. If you would like more information about the estimated value of "ecosystem services," please refer to the research and reporting conducted by the Maryland State Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p>3. The hubs and corridors model is based on statewide standards set by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of this model is to facilitate network connectivity. Page 38 provides more information and a map of "critical connections."</p> <p>4. Please note that the plan is not regulatory, and will not confer additional burdens upon property owners, or prevent infrastructure or development. The purpose of the plan is to identify opportunities for private landowners to voluntarily pursue conservation; to support interested landowners in establishing management plans for their backyard woodlands or other privately owned resources; to identify parts of the County where there is no green infrastructure; to use as a conservation decision-making tool for the County to use in investing Capital dollars for additional green space; and to support developers and County staff in orienting set-asides, dedications, and easements toward retaining network connectivity.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>[Part 1] The Anne Arundel County chapter of the MBIA appreciates the opportunity to provide general comments to the Green Infrastructure Master Plan Draft dated August 12, 2021. The following comments are provided by page or subject.</p> <p>Pg. 9: The implementation section of the plan references that the County shall integrate the Green Infrastructure Masterplan into the development review process, but the only area that is discussed is Action 3.2 which references a very broad overview of how the plan has been and should continue to be utilized within the development review process. More specifics should be included, or the suggestion should be removed from the plan. Specifically, if the development review discussion is retained, it should be reiterated that the Green Infrastructure Master plan is a guidance document to be used in development of County policy and legislation changes, not a policy in and of itself.</p> <p>Pg. 19: Under Economic Benefits, there is a reference that Green Infrastructure contributes to a % property value increase, yet there is no reference to what type of property this pertains to. The type of property and setting should be defined. Some properties may decrease in value, depending on their usage, if they are located within or adjacent to the Green Infrastructure Network.</p> <p>Pg. 52-53 (Action 3.2): It is not clear if this action item is written to reflect current policy or is a recommendation for a new policy. Under the current development review process subdivision and site development plans undergo an interagency review. Furthermore, within this review it is noted if the subject site under review, in part or in whole, lie within a Greenway (soon to be the Green Infrastructure Network) and recommendations may be made to conserve the network. Currently, the Greenway review is conducted by Parks and Recreation in coordination with the Office of Planning and Zoning. This Action should be revised to clarify if it is a recommendation of future action, a statement of current policy, or a recommendation to continue current policy. It should also be clarified that this Action is a recommendation that does not carry the force to require site plan changes based a project’s proximity to the Green Infrastructure Network, unless Code changes are made to require such. Finally, the inclusion of Commercial Site Plans is redundant, as such plans are included within the Site Development Plan process.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Pg 9 . Development Review - An overview of development regulations is provided on page 25 (Table 3). Action 3.2 describes current development review practice, with no proposed changes. The language will be refined to emphasize that the Green Infrastructure Plan is a guidance document, not regulatory.</p> <p>Pg. 19. Property value - the statement refers to "nearby properties" reflecting the value of proximity to conservation lands. A footnote is provided in the document for further details.</p> <p>Pg. 52. Text of Action 3.2 will be revised in consideration of these comments.</p>	<p>Email</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
<p>[Part 2] Mapping: Inclusion of trail systems - The mapping of the Green Infrastructure Network now includes trail systems which act as connections to other mapped areas (stream valleys, floodplains, potentials FIDS Habitat, etc...). Many of these lands would otherwise not be within the network as the trail systems work as a critical connection point. While it is understood how large contiguous undeveloped lands contribute to the network, it is not understood, or well explained within the plan, how lands connected by developed trail systems add to the network. If these lands are to be included in the Green Infrastructure Network, they should be designated differently so as to promote the conservation of higher value network areas over less valuable network areas. Minimum Width – Several areas of the network are very thin in terms of measurable width. A minimum width should be established for the network to increase the overall quality of the lands included in the network. It should be noted that the plan references a 200’ minimum width for corridor areas, which was utilized for the prior Greenways Masterplan, but allows for a reduction of this width to an unstated width and for unstated reasons. It is recommended that in order to retain the integrity and quality of the network a substantial minimum width be established to the alternative of the prior 200’.</p>	<p>Trails - Regional trails are included to recognize the recreational, public health, and open space benefits they provide.</p>	<p>Email</p>
<p>Mapping Errors – There are several mapping errors on the draft map, and those areas will be noted as such within the commenting application for the draft map. We appreciate the hard work that OPZ has put into this process. Thank you for your attention to our comments. We look forward to working with the county to finalize this document. If you have any questions about these comments or would like to discuss our position further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Lori Graf, Chief Executive Office of Maryland Building Industry Association.</p>		
<p>The habitat restoration project at Glan Gardens has caused problems with mosquitoes, trash, and fallen trees for neighbors. It needs to be maintained better. It should also include public use amenities like benches. Stop building on Marley Neck. Protect more land on Marley Neck. I bought my house in Phase 2 of the Tanyard development. I didn't know that would be this much more development. There needs to be more open space in residential areas like this. We moved to Anne Arundel County for a nice, new house and access to good schools. The County needs to provide more resources to schools with diverse student populations. I get that need to protect green space, but we also need to develop land to provide affordable housing.</p>	<p>Minimum width - This will be clarified in the document. Mapping errors - The Network Map will be updated in consideration of the comments provided. Thank you for your comment. Thank you for your comment. The plan includes and analysis of the Green Infrastructure Network relative to zoning. The vast majority of the Network is located on land that is zoned for open space and Rural Agriculture; that is land not planned for significant housing development.</p>	<p>Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021 Fresh Start Church End of Summer Fresh Start Church End of Summer Fresh Start Church End of Summer Family Day, Aug 29 2021</p>
<p>Fig. 12: Beverly Triton Beach Park should be named Beverly Triton Nature Park per AACo Executive. Table 6: South River Farm Park is in the South River This is super important -- you have forgotten to change any place that Beverly Triton Beach Park is mentioned -- on Maps, in Text -- IT IS NOW BEVERLY TRITON NATURE PARK -- County Executive Pittman initiated this change 2 years ago. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IT BE CHANGED IN THIS DOCUMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE ERROR THAT IS MADE IN THE DRAFT BY RESPONDING TO THIS EMAIL.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Those corrections will be incorporated into the revised draft of the Thank you for your comment. The name of Beverly Triton Nature Park will be corrected in the revised draft of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan.</p>	<p>Survey Survey</p>
<p>Plan is very comprehensive and will promote greater protection of the County's natural resources and quality of life. Map is amazing in its interactive capability and the amount of interactive analysis it provides and the amount of information it contains.. The major comment I would make is the need for coordination with the city of Annapolis's greenway and bike trail efforts , particularly regarding protection of the Annapolis Neck Greenway identified in the Annapolis Neck Small Area Plan I'm all for cleaning up the air to improve the quality of life but please don't make the issue a part of the current national "infrastructure". How about standing on you own two feet and become a independent leader in Anne Arundel Arundel County, for Anne Anne County! The residents here will stand behind a leader. We do not need to be tied to the apron strings of weak leadership.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The County is actively coordinating with the City of Annapolis on planning for green infrastructure and bike trails. Thank you for your comment.</p>	<p>Survey Survey</p>
<p>...still do not see a plan to acquire 42 acres in NW part of county for nature park...Gardetto Ridge area is woodland and would serve as nature walking park...why have we not taken necessary steps to preserve this woodland area... Over the labor day weekend we visited Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel county. Couple of feedback that we face during our visit: 1. In our entrance and exit there is hump to enter and exit the park which damage the low suspension vehicle. 2. There were no restrooms open for the kids except the available potter potti. 3. No available drinking water fountain 4. Beaches were closed during the summer time I understand that you are improving the park area but if you cannot provide some basic necessity to your patrons than you shouldn't have charge the entrance fee or you should have posted missing or closed amenities right at the entrance. Thank you. 21122</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The Green Infrastructure Plan identifies undeveloped areas in the Northwest portion of the County, including around Gardetto Ridge as potential areas for Thank you for your comment. This comment has been shared with the Department of Recreation and Parks that is responsible for management of Fort Smallwood.</p>	<p>Survey Survey Survey</p>
<p>I found some errors in the TABLE 6. PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS (2010-2020) The following are listed as Severn River and are not – they are definitely South River. Quiet Waters Park South River Farm Park Another park that I haven't heard of in the Severn River watershed, at least not by that name, is West County Park. I tried a google search and everything I came up with is in the Little Patuxent watershed. Where is West County Park? Working my way through this plan [Name Redacted]</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We will correct the errors in Table 6. West County Park is a recent acquisition that is located at 1057 Loving Road near a tributary of Severn Run.</p>	<p>Email</p>

Comment	County Response	Source
Honestly, I go from home to work. I don't go to these County green spaces. I go to Baltimore County and Western Maryland to spend time outdoors.	Thank you for your comment.	Fresh Start Church End of Summer
We need to ensure we protect areas set aside for open space. For example, in Bouyer's Landing subdivision, they are planning to clear trees on land set aside as a recreation area. We need to protect the forested buffer for wildlife. Freetown is being overdeveloped	Thank you for your comment. Office of Planning and Zoning staff will follow up with commenter individually about the property in question. Thank you for your comment. The plan identifies large remaining open space in Freetown as opportunities for conservation.	Fresh Start Church End of Summer Fresh Start Church End of Summer
There aren't enough sidewalks in Glen Burnie. You can't walk anywhere. Howard County has done a much better job of creating places where you can live and walk to shops and other things.	Thank you for your comment. The Green Infrastructure Master Plan includes regional trails. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is currently being updated. The Region Plan for the Glen Burnie area will be initiated in 2022. This need will be shared in those planning processes.	Fresh Start Church End of Summer Family Day, Aug 29 2021
Marley Neck is being over-developed. Tanyard development continues to grow. The roads can't handle the capacity and we have lost forest.	Thank you for your comment. The plan identifies large remaining open space on Marley Neck as opportunities for conservation.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
Limit development and conserve open space on Marley Neck.	Thank you for your comment. The plan identifies large remaining open space on Marley Neck as opportunities for conservation.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
Promote development in areas like Glen Burnie and Marley Station instead of Marley Neck,	Thank you for your comment. The plan identifies large remaining open space on Marley Neck as opportunities for conservation.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
Fort Smallwood is a favorite local park, especially for water access	Thank you for your comment.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
The timing of the Fort Smallwood improvement project has caused us to lose access to much of the park at the height of summer when it is used the most. The schedule should have been changed.	Thank you for your comment. It will be passed on to the Department of Recreation and Parks that manage that project.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
There are open spaces in Brooklyn Park that are underutilized, like Garret Park. These spaces should be improved and activated.	Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations that support improving open spaces in urbanized communities including Brooklyn Park.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
Greater Baybrooke Association is working on plans to connect trails through the area.	Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to expand and connect trails.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
Community gardens would be a great addition to North County.	Thank you for your comment. The draft Green Infrastructure Plan includes recommendations to support community gardens.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
I'd like help to make my yard better habitat for birds and butterflies	Thank you for your comment. Contact information was shared for the Watershed Stewards Academy that trains volunteers and hosts programs to help landowners manage their property for	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021
In the Pasadena area, there is a need for a public outdoor pool and a splash park. A ropes course would be great too.	Thank you for your comment.	Glen Burnie Farmer Market Sept 2 2021