

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Appendix A - Commission Recommendation Status Matrix

	ORIGINAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS	Agency	Status	Budget Request	Advocacy & Education Needed	Priority
Land Preservation						
1	Find the funds to acquire or preserve the desired approximately 5,000 more acres of open space lands while they are still available	DRP DPZ OES HCC/RLT	State Program Open Space funds limited. Funds available for ag easement purchase. County is supporting Howard County Conservancy / Rockburn Land Trust program to acquire easements on small properties. Uncommitted land and interested owners limited; 5,000 acres may not be achievable.	CB: \$ 40 million available to purchase Ag easements OB: \$100k to continue HCC/RLT easement program	Work with land trusts on donation of conservation easements. Work with watershed groups to help them develop and leverage their programs.	
2	Establish legislation and policy to preserve and protect the county's remaining forested lands. In addition, promote the reuse of brownfields and greyfields to provide additional protection of the county's remaining forested lands.	DPZ (see also Land Pres # 10)	Revisions to the Forest Conservation Act and Forest Conservation Manual to be proposed. DPZ policies promote smart growth with redevelopment, clustering and infill to help conserve resource lands.	Work program and legislative items	Testify in support of legislation.	

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<p>3 Partner with Governor and DNR on a major initiative to preserve additional parcels along Patapsco and Patuxent Greenways. Use State and local POS funds as well as challenging foundations and the community to contribute for the purpose of preservation.</p>	<p>DRP DPZ- RCP? OES?</p>	<p>Local side POS funding reduced by \$5,678,000 from last year. Local transfer taxes down also.</p>	<p>No, funding options are not available.</p>	<p>Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Fund have the ability to forward fund acquisition. Collaborate with them or with The Trust for Public Land.</p>	
<p>4 Rank the remaining "Uncommitted" parcels based on ecological value using existing information. Have ecologists conduct on-site assessments wherever permission can be obtained.</p>	<p>DPZ DRP</p>	<p>Ranking of uncommitted parcels occurs as part of acquisition or easement process. Mapping and ranking would be part of a Green Infrastructure Plan (see #15, below).</p>	<p>Mapping would be work program item; would require OB increase for additional staff to do on-site assessment</p>	<p>Need to identify the priority parcels. Develop a green print for Howard County. Identify other collaboration groups to find out what they know and/or to collect additional information.</p>	
<p>5 Conduct a public outreach campaign to encourage land owners to consider a sale to the County. Work with local land trusts to place easements on the ecologically important lands that landowners do not wish to sell.</p>	<p>DRP</p>	<p>Public outreach without funds is fruitless. Private land Forest con easement program in place to solicit easements using Forest Con Funds.</p>		<p>Refer to Education & Outreach Committee - ensure that sellers understand the anticipated results from the sale.</p>	

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6 Partner with CA to promote connectivity and value of combined open space and green infrastructure. Ensure greenway planning includes provisions where appropriate for recreation and commuting trails.	DRP DPZ-RCD OES DPW	CB 2010 Partnership with CA on Watershed planning and restoration. CA Watershed group has been formed.	NA Work program item CB 2010 grant requires some cost share	Support partnerships. Continue to explore partnership with CA on forest conservation.	
7 Increase the resources and staff expertise within County government to put this land acquisition and preservation on the "fast track"	DRP DPZ-RCD OES	FY 2009 budget funded Director, OES.	OB: Estimate of \$82,000-\$108,000 per additional staff member	Support budget request.	
8 Create staff responsibilities and resources to identify specific habitat features present on all parcels in development review.	DPZ	DPZ-DLD review includes sensitive environmental features and forest stand delineation which addresses habitat. Confirmation of no RTE from DNR is required. Green Neighborhood program provides incentive for applicant to prepare habitat management plan.	None proposed, would require OB increase for additional staff positions		
9 Review County Design Manual to identify provisions that conflict with sensitive resource protections and recommend changes.	DPW DPZ-DED & DLD	No action taken. There are some conflicts. Need to determine whether review should be a priority. (Coordinate with DPW comments)	Work program item		

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10	Strengthen Forest Conservation Act to retain 67% of all forest and provide fee-in-lieu/mitigation banking structure that limits use of this option and provides 2:1 or greater replacement on ecologically valuable lands.	DPZ-RCD	Proposed Forest Conservation Act and Manual changes forthcoming this fall. May address minimum retention criteria. 2:1 replacement may be inconsistent with State law.	Legislative item	Advocate for revisions to Forest Conservation program.	
11	Establish an annual inspection program for all County easements, including additional staff or resources as needed.	DRP DPZ	For most easements, enforcement by request or if complaint. DPZ funds Forest Conservation easement inspection by DRP. State ag easements are inspected every 10 years, no regular program for County ag easements. Staff resources are very limited, inspection of all easements may not be necessary. Annual inspection of all easements is not necessary. Would need significant staff increase to accomplish this.	None proposed, would require OB increase for additional staff positions	Donated conservation programs are exploring volunteer monitoring programs.	
12	Work with other orgs. to ensure continuity of land use.					
13	Convene a Builders for the Bay type forum	DPZ	No action taken	Estimated cost is \$40,000		

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14	Work regionally to incorporate smart growth principles in all new developments associated with BRAC and transportation initiatives	EDA DPZ	BRAC task force incorporating sustainability into deliberations.			
15	Develop a green infrastructure plan.	DPZ-RCD DRP	No action taken	Work program item.		
16	Conduct a review of the Robinson Nature Center and Blandair Park Planning processes to ensure that the appropriate facilities are constructed in each.		Planning committees fulfill this role along with public review process.			
17	Review existing Integrated Natural Resource Mgmt Plans and other DRP plans and compile them into a model document for disseminating best management practices.	DRP	All plans are available for public review but not advertised as such	Need more staff to oversee and consolidate to create document	Need outreach to other agencies	

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18	Develop a process for ensuring implementation of these best management practices through increased agency funding and incentives for the public.	DRP	FY 2009 budget had no increase in resources or staff expertise in this area.			
19	Identify funding priorities, non-County sources, and the feasibility of including a line item for open space management in County budget.	DRP	DRP Natural Resource Division Budget from all funding sources is \$1,732,000. includes Forest Mit, Open space Fee in lieu, MPEA grant, utility easement fees and general fund.			
20	Create an invasive species task force to develop priorities (including triage) for County open space.	DRP	Extent of problem is known, more important to have staff to implement removal/management strategies.			

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21	Consider using management guidelines from the Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to target special management or restoration to preserve/create ecological gems within the County.	DRP	No action taken			
22	Pursue a partnership with HCPSS to institute best management practices and selected demonstration projects on school lands.	<i>Need to clarify to define agency</i>	Mou in Place with Dunloggin Middle School for study pond on Open space adjacent to school. School system partnering on waste management contracts and full participants in Climate Action Plan			
23	Pursue concerted partnership with CA and other HOAs to institute best management practices and selected demonstration projects.	OES	Director, OES has worked with three small HOA's for demonstration work. Additional work done with village covenant advisors. Five HOA's to be selected for ap ilot project to develop model archirtectual guidelines and best management practice manuals			

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24	Reduce deer population	DRP	Deer survey shows high support for management efforts and understanding of the problem. 2 sites added to program this year		Need to educate regarding ecological and health impact of high deer population.	