

SECTION III:

Analyses of Existing Policies and Strategies

Status Report on the 2002 General Plan Environmental Infrastructure Chapter
Implementation Strategies..... 12

Analysis of the 2005 Green Infrastructure Implementation Strategies..... 21

Status Report on the 2012 Priority Preservation Area Plan Implementation Strategies 41

Status Report on the 2002 General Plan Environmental Infrastructure Chapter Implementation Strategies

The following table contains the strategies from the Environmental Infrastructure Chapter of the 2002 *Prince George’s County Approved General Plan* and a description of how they were implemented in the period from 2002 to the present. The comments column provides insight into how the strategy was implemented and/or possible barriers to implementation. While these strategies have been superseded by the strategies contained in Plan 2035, this analysis provides valuable insight to the Green Infrastructure Plan update process.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
Policy 1 <i>Preserve, protect, and enhance the designated green infrastructure elements.</i>		
Strategies		
<i>I. Prepare a countywide Green Infrastructure Plan as a functional master plan in concert with the desired development pattern in this General Plan.</i>	Completed in 2005.	An update to the 2005 <i>Approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan</i> (“GI Plan”) was initiated by the County Council on September 16, 2015. The new GI Plan will be one of three elements of the Resource Conservation Functional Master Plan. The other two are agricultural conservation and rural character preservation.
<i>II. Revise appropriate regulations to ensure implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan.</i>	Completed in 2010.	In 2010, a comprehensive package of legislation was prepared to implement a variety of strategies within the GI Plan.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
<p>III. As new master and sector plans are prepared, opportunities will be identified for implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan.</p>	<p>Since 2005, almost all of the County has been part of either a revised master or sector plan. As each plan was created, opportunities for implementation were explored and resources of local significance were identified.</p>	<p>This strategy is reflected in the GI Plan and will be carried forward in the updated plan.</p>
<p>Policy 2 <i>Preserve, protect, and enhance surface and ground water features and restore lost ecological functions.</i></p>		
<p>Strategies</p>		
<p>I. Prepare and implement major watershed management plans to address the preservation and restoration of ecological functions within watersheds, with an emphasis on the restoration and maintenance of water quality, protection of aquatic living resources, and the control of water quantity with consideration of the development pattern of this General Plan.</p>	<p>The County is in the process of implementing its Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that has identified the need to treat the stormwater runoff from 8,000 currently untreated acres of impervious surfaces.</p>	<p>Water quality was addressed in Plan 2035 through a variety of recommended strategies. Implementation of the WIP is ongoing and will be supported by policies and strategies of the new Resource Conservation Plan.</p>
<p>II. Include in each area/sector plan an ecosystem evaluation and comprehensive watershed management section for the area that provides guidance for preservation, enhancement, and/or protection of water-related resources.</p>	<p>Environmental existing conditions reports are prepared for each master or sector plan update and the recommendations address specific areas in need.</p>	<p>This should be carried over to the updated GI Plan.</p>
<p>III. Periodically employ a water-quality model that evaluates existing water quality and use the results to determine where additional efforts are needed.</p>	<p>The County and M-NCPPC have provided funding for periodic water quality sampling.</p>	<p>More emphasis on water quality sampling and modeling is occurring at the state level. The cost of the sampling completed in the past may need to result in a re-evaluation of this method at the county level.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
<p>IV. Evaluate the effectiveness of current ordinances and regulations regarding stream and wetland buffer widths. Consider revising the current regulations to provide varying buffer widths.</p>	<p>The minimum mandatory buffers for streams were widened in 2010. The minimum mandatory buffers for wetlands were clarified in 2010.</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the current minimum stream and wetland buffers will be evaluated as part of the research in preparation of the GI Plan update.</p>
<p>V. Augment current forest conservation, sediment, and erosion control enforcement efforts.</p>	<p>County agencies were reorganized to emphasize enforcement.</p>	<p>This recommendation may need to be revisited as part of the GI Plan update; additional staff have not been added to address the need for enforcement of environmental regulations.</p>
<p>VI. Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys and seek additional funding sources for acquisition and conservation easements.</p>	<p>Many new and key park properties have been acquired for conservation purposes.</p>	<p>This strategy should be carried forward in the GI Plan update.</p>
<p>VII. Continue implementation of available federal and state programs to control flooding and losses due to flooding without impairing water quality. Seek additional funding sources to augment current efforts.</p>	<p>Flooding continues to be a concern for flood-prone properties and places where sea level rise is anticipated.</p>	<p>New FEMA floodplain maps will be adopted soon. These maps will help direct limited funding to address flooding in those areas most in need.</p>
<p>VIII. Implement through existing ordinances the use of systems and processes for treating stormwater runoff that preserve and/or reestablish natural resources and systems, such as reducing natural vegetation removal, reducing impervious surfaces, and increasing infiltration.</p>	<p>The methods being described are “environmental site design” methods that are now state law. They are reflected in Subtitle 32 of the County Code.</p>	<p>This strategy has been implemented.</p>
<p>IX. Evaluate current regulations that result in the construction of required impervious surfaces. Encourage the use of innovative designs that reduce the amount of impervious surfaces.</p>	<p>Subtitle 32 requires reductions in impervious surfaces for certain applications.</p>	<p>This strategy is being implemented and can be emphasized in strategies in the updated GI Plan.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
X. <i>Treat stormwater on site to the fullest extent possible in the Mattawoman watershed to maximize infiltration, restore the natural hydrologic system, improve water quality, and minimize run-off.</i>	This strategy reflects current regulatory requirements.	The Mattawoman watershed remains a priority for the County because of its special habitat for fish populations.
XI. <i>Evaluate opportunities for coordination of watershed protection policies and programs with adjoining jurisdictions.</i>	To date, opportunities for collaboration have been limited.	One opportunity is the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, of which M-NCPPC is a member. This project will result in the sharing of resources and data across jurisdictional boundaries.
Policy 3: <i>Preserve existing woodland resources and replant woodland, where possible, while implementing the desired development pattern.</i>		
Strategies		
I. <i>Revise the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to achieve the forest and tree cover objectives countywide and in each Tier.</i>	An assessment was completed in 2010 to determine if the current regulations and approvals for development would result in meeting the goals in 2025. The conclusion of the assessment was that the goals can be met once the 2010 environmental regulations are fully implemented.	This strategy will be repeated in the GI Plan update.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
<p>II. Evaluate the Woodland Conservation Ordinance's provisions for exemptions to determine their appropriateness and whether they support the forest and tree cover objectives of this plan.</p>	<p>No recommendations for changes to the exemptions were included in the 2010 WCO update. Exemptions were evaluated and it was determined that deleting the exemptions could result in hardship for applicants in areas where development is targeted.</p>	<p>Because this strategy is in potential conflict with the desired development pattern of Plan 2035, it will not be carried over into the GI Plan update.</p>
<p>III. Revise the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to place a greater emphasis on the use of native plants in woodland reforestation and afforestation plans.</p>	<p>This strategy was completed with the 2010 WCO update.</p>	<p>More is needed in the area of preserving and restoring native plant habitats. This should be addressed in the Forest and Tree Canopy Strategy that will be part of the GI Plan update.</p>
<p>IV. Revise the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to place a greater emphasis on the reduction of forest fragmentation and the protection of mature forests.</p>	<p>This strategy was completed with the 2010 WCO update.</p>	<p>While the 2010 WCO update emphasized the preservation of larger blocks of forest, fragmentation continues to occur. This strategy should be addressed in the Forest and Tree Canopy Strategy that will be part of the GI Plan update.</p>
<p>V. Meet the requirements of the Woodland Conservation Ordinance on site to the fullest extent possible within the Mattawoman watershed. If off-site mitigation is required, it shall be provided within the Mattawoman watershed.</p>	<p>This strategy has assisted in the preservation of more woodlands within this watershed than may have otherwise been preserved.</p>	<p>The Mattawoman watershed remains a priority for the County because of its special habitat for fish populations.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
Policy 4: <i>Reduce energy consumption countywide.</i>		
Strategies		
<i>I. Develop a countywide energy conservation and efficiency policy with measurable objectives.</i>	County agencies have had varying levels of success in implementing this strategy.	Plan 2035 references two recent efforts related to this goal; the 2012 (draft) Climate Action Plan, and the Prince George's County Office of Central Services' Sustainable Energy Program. It devotes three "Energy Infrastructure" policies to specific energy goals.
<i>II. Evaluate and update land development regulations and building codes to provide opportunities for green building and energy reducing techniques.</i>	More work is needed in this area.	Plan 2035's "Greening the Built Environment" policy encourages green building techniques to reduce energy use; several strategies suggest revising the tax code, removing barriers in building codes and the County Code, and revising the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to remove barriers/incentivize green buildings.
Policy 5 <i>Reduce overall sky glow, minimize the spill-over of light from one property to the next, and reduce glare from light fixtures.</i>		
Strategies		
<i>I. Develop lighting standards for development review and provide standards that are appropriate for each Tier.</i>	The ongoing ZOSR Rewrite project is addressing this issue.	Plan 2035 recommends amending the County Code "to include lighting standards for appropriate development activities."
<i>II. Evaluate lighting design standards and practices for public buildings and spaces, and prepare lighting guidelines for these spaces with consideration of safety, energy conservation, and the minimization of light spill-over.</i>	The ongoing ZOSR Rewrite project is addressing this issue.	Plan 2035 repeats this strategy word-for-word.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
<p>III. Ensure that new roadway lighting meets the guidelines for minimization of light spill-over and sky glow.</p>	<p>Use of full cut-off optics is recommended in most master and sector plans. This method is used for street lights, mainly in rural areas.</p>	<p>Plan 2035 recommends amending the County Code, relying on LED and solar-powered lights.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Use existing natural resources wisely.</p>		
<p>Strategies</p>		
<p>I. Clarify regulations with regard to timber harvesting and the protection of sensitive resources to ensure that harvesting operations are conducted in a manner that protects the resources remaining after the harvest.</p>	<p>Completed with the 2010 WCO update.</p>	<p>Strategy has been implemented.</p>
<p>II. Prepare a special study to analyze sand and gravel mining operations with regard to sensitive extraction and compatibility with existing communities.</p>	<p>Study is currently on-going.</p>	<p>Strategy is on-going.</p>
<p>III. Provide an environmental impact analysis for sand and gravel mining, rubble fill and Class III fill applications.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This is standard practice.</p>
<p>Policy 7: Minimize impacts of noise on residential uses during the land development process.</p>		
<p>Strategies</p>		
<p>I. Revise appropriate ordinances to require the mitigation of existing and future transportation-generated noise levels to 65 dBA in outdoor activity areas and 45 dBA in interior areas on sites with existing or proposed residential uses.</p>	<p>The ongoing ZOSR Rewrite project could address this issue.</p>	<p>Plan 2035 devotes one policy and strategy to noise; recommends evaluating and revising the County Code using the 2012 State of Maryland noise standards as guidelines.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
II. Recommend appropriate land uses in areas impacted by unacceptable noise levels.	The ongoing ZOSR Rewrite project could address this issue.	Plan 2035 addresses noise and locational issues under “Natural Environment;” not in the Land Use section. Recommendations focus on protection/screening/mitigation of noise effects with berms, plantings, and fencing.
Policy 8: <i>Promote environmental stewardship as an important element to the overall success of the environmental initiatives contained in this plan.</i>		
Strategies		
<i>I. Create and promote environmental education programs that have target audiences including:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for public and private school-age children (grades 1 through 8). 	Maryland has an environmental literacy requirement for high school students.	More work is needed in the lower grades to develop an environmental ethic early in children’s lives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public outreach to the development community with emphasis on sustainable development. 	The ongoing Speakers Series provides insight into sustainable development techniques.	This effort should be continued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops and continuing education events with printed materials for county residents. 	DoE provides numerous citizen-focused educational programs.	This effort should be continued.
<i>II. Develop an awards program for projects that are developed using environmentally sensitive and/or energy efficient designs.</i>	Not started.	This strategy should be included in the GI Plan update.
<i>III. Evaluate the costs and benefits of sustainable development practices and guidelines, and prepare an analysis for broad distribution.</i>	While not on target with this strategy, a study of “ecosystem services” provided by forest and tree canopy coverage has been completed.	Use <i>The Economic Values of Nature: An Assessment of the Ecosystem Services of Forest and Tree Canopy</i> , Prince George’s County, Maryland, April 2015, to promote the dollar values associated with natural resources.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments
<p>IV. Periodically publish and update a Prince George's County resource directory of services that promote resource conservation, environmental responsibility, and sustainable development techniques.</p>	<p>Not started. DoE held a green forum in 2015 to bring sustainability partners together.</p>	<p>Continue to emphasize the value of sustainable development practices.</p>
<p>V. The county should partner with municipalities, civic, citizen, and neighborhood associations and other groups to promote environmental stewardship.</p>	<p>DoE has several community-based programs.</p>	<p>Continue to partner with communities to promote environmental stewardship.</p>

Analysis of the 2005 Green Infrastructure Plan Implementation Strategies

The following table contains the strategies from the 2005 *Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan* and a description of how they were implemented in the period from July of 2005 to the present. The comments column provides insight into how the strategy was implemented and/or possible barriers to implementation. The recommendations column contains the suggestions for implementation and suggestions for the initial draft of the Green Infrastructure Plan Update.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>Policy 1 <i>Preserve, protect, enhance, or restore the green infrastructure network and its ecological functions while supporting the desired development pattern of the 2002 General Plan.</i></p>			
<p>Strategies</p>			
<p>1.1 <i>Identify opportunities for implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan as new master and sector plans are prepared.</i></p>			
<p>a. <i>Refine the boundaries of the green infrastructure network to reflect areas of local significance and consider elements such as:</i> (1) <i>Additional opportunities for connectivity</i> (2) <i>Corridors less than 200 feet wide</i> (3) <i>Historic properties with environmental significance</i> (4) <i>Specific areas in need of mitigation or restoration</i></p>	<p>On-going (complete for each master or sector plan that followed).</p>	<p>Adding areas of local significance provided opportunities for direct citizen input.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>
<p>b. <i>Adopt recommendations contained in a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy if one has been developed for all or a part of the subject area.</i></p>	<p>Complete and ongoing.</p>	<p>The Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) replaced the WRAS documents that were completed in the past.</p>	<p>Amend strategy to support current WIP strategies and policies.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>c. Evaluate the most current water quality data in conjunction with the most up-to-date land use modeling data for the area to set forth specific recommendations to help improve water quality.</p>	<p>Partially complete and ongoing.</p>	<p>Modeling is now part of the WIP implementation. Specific recommendations to improve water quality were part of master and sector plans.</p>	<p>Amend to address integration of the WIP into the GI Plan.</p>
<p>d. Identify specific areas in the green infrastructure network in need of restoration, preservation and/or enhancement.</p>	<p>Complete and on-going.</p>	<p>Since the fall of 2011, environmental planners have been focused on field work in the sector plan areas in order to make specific recommendations for infrastructure improvements that benefit the community economically, socially and environmentally. The Stream Corridor Assessment (SCA) data are used as the base data for this effort.</p>	<p>Amend this strategy to address the identification of water quality and quantity project locations within the watersheds of the plan areas and identify possible funding sources.</p>
<p>d. (1) Conduct a stream corridor assessment for major stream corridors within the green infrastructure network if an assessment has not been done within the past five years.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>SCA was prepared and delivered.</p>	<p>Coordinate with DoE on how to proceed.</p>
<p>d. (2) Update the countywide catalog of targeted mitigation sites to include identified areas. Note: When mitigation sites are identified on private property, participation shall be voluntary, except when corrections are required as the result of on-site violations.</p>	<p>Not started.</p>	<p>The SCA layer and associated data is not configured to track changes.</p>	<p>Discuss with DoE the methods available to track mitigation projects identified, planned and completed for WIP reporting.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>1.2 Revise applicable ordinances to allow the use of flexible design standards in the green infrastructure network to: minimize impervious surfaces; reduce fragmentation of existing forests and habitats; establish new linkages through planting and/or restoration; minimize ecological impacts.</p>			
<p>a. Prepare and adopt flexible design standards per Table 3 to:</p> <p>(1) Allow the use of conservation subdivision designs where appropriate.</p>	Complete.	<p>Conservation subdivisions are required in the Rural and Agricultural Area (RAA) and optional elsewhere. Major subdivisions are no longer allowed in most of the RAA, where conservation subdivisions were previously mandatory.</p> <p>No additional work needed.</p>	Explore options related to changes to the conservation subdivision regulations.
<p>a. (2) Eliminate the use of lot-size averaging and varying lot sizes.</p>	Complete.		Delete.
<p>a. (3) Minimize road impacts.</p>	Complete and on-going.	<p>A discussion of minimizing road impacts is provided in the 2009 <i>Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation</i> (MPOT).</p> <p>Applications have been evaluated and approved using this flexibility.</p>	<p>Keep and explore other options such as the use of bottomless culvert and bridges over sensitive areas.</p> <p>Keep and adjust to mesh with recommendations of Plan 2035.</p>
<p>a. (4) Allow alternative designs in areas where development is targeted such as centers, corridors and the Developed Tier to maximize utilization of the property while maintaining and/or restoring the integrity of ecological systems.</p>	On-going.		

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>b. When flexible design standards are allowed:</i></p> <p><i>(1) Ensure that septic systems are adequate to support any proposed flexible designs where sewer and water is not available.</i></p>	On-going.	The Health Department requires percolation tests prior to building permit issuance.	Keep and support the Health Department's position on alternative septic disposal methods.
<p><i>b.(2) Require shared septic systems and septic systems built in areas of special concern to utilize biological nutrient reduction technology to minimize impacts to water quality.</i></p>	Partially complete and on-going.	In the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area (1,000 feet from mean high tide), septic systems are required to use best available technology (BAT) to control nutrient run-off.	Evaluate use of BAT in other areas of special concern.
<p><i>b.(3) Require permanent protections to be placed on areas intended for preservation.</i></p>	Complete.	The current regulations require conservation easements to be established through the land development process.	Evaluate where easements are needed for other protections.
<p><i>b.(4) Ensure that the public has physical and/or visual access to the preserved areas, where appropriate, through the provision of views from an existing or proposed roadway or trail.</i></p>	On-going.	The strategy has been used during the review and approval of site specific applications.	Keep.
<p><i>b.(5) Ensure that roadways are adequate to meet projected travel volumes and emergency vehicle access requirements and provide options such as pervious surfaces for areas of occasional vehicle access.</i></p>	On-going.	The 2009 MPOT addresses transportation adequacy. The Complete Streets legislation partially addresses this option.	Keep to address the use of pervious surfaces in more detail.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>1.3 Strengthen regulations where environmental conditions warrant and provide greater flexibility where development is targeted.</p>			
<p><i>a. Strictly limit development impacts within the regulated areas in the Rural Tier and outside of approved growth centers and corridors in the Developing Tier to activities such as those that are absolutely necessary and unavoidable for road and utility crossings in new subdivisions.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Guidance provided in the Environmental Technical Manual (Tech Manual) regarding appropriate impacts to regulated environmental features.</p>	<p>Keep as an on-going strategy.</p>
<p><i>b. Allow impacts to regulated areas as appropriate within the Developed Tier, centers and corridors, and where needed to accommodate planned development on constrained sites. Mitigation for these impacts should be provided as close to the area of impact as possible.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>The strategy has been used during the review and approval of site specific applications. Mitigation is addressed in the County Code and the Tech Manual.</p>	<p>Keep as an on-going strategy.</p>
<p><i>c. Increase minimum regulated stream buffer widths to 75 feet except in the Developed Tier and growth centers and corridors, where minimum buffer widths remain at 50 feet.</i></p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>Current minimum buffer widths in the County Code are: 60 feet in Developed Tier; 75 in the Developing Tier; and 100 in the Rural Tier.</p>	<p>Evaluate what regulations may require wider minimum buffers such as Tier II waters.</p>
<p><i>d. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to protect environmentally sensitive areas for projects entering the development process during all types of land development proposals, not just projects entering during the preliminary plan process.</i></p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>County Code requires the preservation of primary management areas to the fullest extent possible.</p>	<p>Delete.</p>
<p><i>e. Revise the definition of expanded stream buffers to include sensitive habitat areas countywide, not just in the Patuxent River basin.</i></p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>Added to stream buffer definition in the County Code.</p>	<p>Delete.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
f. Apply the same review process for all stream impacts countywide.	Complete.	One process is now established: preserve to the fullest extent possible.	Delete.
1.4 Provide incentives to encourage non-regulatory compliance with plan objectives in the evaluation areas.			
a. Establish a voluntary transfer of development rights (TDR) program to protect elements of the green infrastructure network.	Not started.	TDRs of various sorts have been discussed from time to time without being implemented. A TDR Work Group has been established by the County Council to explore this idea.	Revise as needed to mesh with the TDR Work Group's recommendations.
b. Establish a county program for the purchase of development rights for land within the evaluation areas of the green infrastructure network.	On-going.	The HARPP Program was established to purchase development rights. The GI network is one of the evaluation criteria for selection of parcels for participation in the program.	Revise as needed to reflect current program parameters.
c. Amend appropriate regulations to allow density bonuses when projects are designed to maximize preservation of evaluation areas.	Not started.	No progress has been made on this strategy.	Include this strategy in the discussions of the GI Plan Update.
1.5 Ensure that areas of connectivity and ecological functions are maintained, restored and/or established within the green infrastructure network.			
a. Reduce fragmentation of undeveloped woodlands by revising the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to place a greater emphasis on the value of retaining connected woodlands.	Complete.	Division 2 of Subtitle 25 has been revised to address this strategy.	Keep and amend to emphasize reductions in fragmentation.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>b. Protect plant, fish, and wildlife habitats and maximize the retention and/or restoration of the ecological potential of the landscape by prioritizing habitat cover types in the Woodland Conservation Ordinance.</i></p>	<p>Not started.</p>	<p>Prioritizing habitat cover types was not a recommendation of the team who worked on the 2010 legislation.</p>	<p>Keep and amend to mesh with other recommendations.</p>
<p><i>c. Evaluate connectivity within the green infrastructure network when reviewing and approving specific land use projects.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This strategy is used during the review and approval of development applications.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p><i>d. Strategically target off-site mitigation to restore, enhance and/or protect the green infrastructure network using the countywide catalog of mitigation sites.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This strategy is used during the review and approval of development applications.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p><i>e. Coordinate implementation with adjoining jurisdictions and municipalities and other regional green infrastructure efforts. If a municipality has an approved local green infrastructure plan, ensure that mitigation resulting from activities within the municipality supports the local plan.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Most jurisdictions do not have a GI Plan in the same format as the 2005 <i>Approved Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan</i>. Need to seek ways to support smaller-scale planning efforts of the municipalities, some of which have been completed (Bowie and Cheverly).</p>	<p>Keep and amend to address support for smaller-scale GI planning efforts.</p>
<p><i>f. Protect existing resources while providing mitigation.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This strategy is used during the review and approval of development applications.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>g. Protect and restore native species within Prince George's County.</i></p>	<p>On-going and complete.</p>	<p>This strategy is used during the review and approval of development applications. The Woodland and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance and the Landscape Manual have been amended to place a greater emphasis on the use of native plant species.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p><i>1.6. Ensure that special conservation areas (SCAs) (Map 2) and the critical ecological systems supporting them are protected.</i></p>			
<p><i>a. Identify critical ecological systems supporting the SCA and ensure these areas are maintained and/or protected during the development review process to provide ongoing support to the SCAs.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This strategy is used during the review and approval of development applications.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p><i>b. Prioritize use of public funds to protect and restore SCAs and the ecosystems supporting them.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Public funding for conservation in the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been focused on designed SCAs and supporting land features.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p><i>1.7 Continue public acquisition of land and easements in stream valleys designated in the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.</i></p>			
<p><i>a. Seek additional funding sources for acquisition and conservation easements.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Funding for land protection has become increasing difficult to obtain. Need new strategies to address.</p>	<p>Keep and amend as appropriate to mesh with the on-going planning efforts of DPR and County agencies that are land stewards.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>b. Coordinate with land trusts to achieve plan goals.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>In the past land trusts have not been active in the County. A few are becoming active and efforts have been made to reach out to them and provide support for their efforts.</p>	<p>Keep and amend to expand direction provided by this strategy.</p>
<p>1.8 When public facilities and infrastructure are constructed to support the desired development pattern of the 2002 General Plan, ensure that immediate and future impacts to the green infrastructure network are minimized, if not avoided.</p>			
<p>a. Strategically plan and fund public infrastructure, such as stormwater management facilities as well as sewer and water lines, to help concentrate growth outside of the green infrastructure network in so far as possible.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Funding of public infrastructure is mainly driven by the CIPs of DOE and DPW&T. A strategy has not been developed for the use of limited funding resources.</p>	<p>Keep and amend to address functional difficulties.</p>
<p>b. Minimize fragmentation when public facilities are built in the green infrastructure network and maintain ecological functions of the network.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This strategy is used when reviewing public projects.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p>1.9 Design transportation systems to minimize fragmentation and maintain the ecological functioning of the green infrastructure network.</p>			
<p>a. Develop guidelines for preferred road designs, such as bridges and wildlife passages, which should be used to minimize impacts to the green infrastructure network where transportation systems must intersect or encroach into it. Revise appropriate ordinances to support the use of recommended designs.</p>	<p>Not started.</p>	<p>Further discussions are needed to implement this strategy.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>b. Identify specific areas in the Master Plan of Transportation where trail systems would not be appropriate in the green infrastructure network due to ecological conflicts.</i></p>	<p>Not started.</p>	<p>The MPOT was updated in 2009. While this strategy was not specifically addressed, it has been clarified in the Tech Manual under the guidance provided for appropriate impacts to regulated features.</p>	<p>Keep.</p>
<p>1.10 Create a catalog of targeted mitigation sites.</p>			
<p><i>a. Create a countywide, cross-referenced database for the identification and tracking of off-site mitigation projects for woodland conservation; stream, wetland, and ecological function restoration; and stormwater management mitigation.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>The Stream Corridor Assessment provides the platform for this database that has not been created.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIPII team.</p>
<p><i>b. Coordinate contributions of data for possible mitigation sites from all sources (e.g., county, state and federal agencies, citizens, nonprofits, etc.).</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>The Stream Corridor Assessment provides the platform for this database that has not been created.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIPII team.</p>
<p><i>c. Conduct stream corridor assessment surveys of major waterways and enter data into the countywide database through the master plan process.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Work has just started on possible methods for implementation.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIPII team.</p>
<p><i>d. For tracking purposes, establish a central processing agency for all mitigation.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>The Stream Corridor Assessment provides the platform for this database that has not been created.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIPII team.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<i>1.11 Prepare an action plan for recommendations contained in this plan to identify:</i>			
<p><i>a. Who is responsible for implementing recommendations?</i></p> <p><i>b. What tasks need to be accomplished?</i></p> <p><i>c. Time frames for implementation?</i></p> <p><i>d. Resources needed for implementation?</i></p> <p><i>e. How progress will be monitored and evaluated?</i></p>	On-going.	Implementation has focused on legislative changes needed. Action plan is needed for additional strategies that have not been implemented.	Keep and coordinate with County agencies.
<i>1.12 Periodically assess the progress of meeting the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Plan and update the action plan as necessary to ensure successful implementation.</i>			
<i>a. With the Biennial Growth Policy Update, provide available data on progress.</i>	On-going.	Completed with each update prepared.	Keep and amend to mesh with current terminology and reporting cycles.
<i>b. Evaluate the progress of the Green Infrastructure Plan every five years when water quality data is available; synchronize with updates of data used for decision-making, including the forest and woodland cover data and aerial photographs.</i>	On-going.	The upcoming update of the GI Plan will be the first since its approval in 2005. Some data necessary for updates are not being gathered on a regular basis.	Keep and address data availability.
<i>c. Update the action plan as needed.</i>	Not started.	A comprehensive action plan was not created for implementation.	Prepare an action plan after adoption of the updated GI Plan.
<i>1.13 Ensure full compliance with and enforcement of all existing regulations including the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and the Woodland Conservation Ordinance.</i>			
[There are no sub-strategies.]	On-going.	More staffing resources are needed to address the enforcement of the existing regulations.	Keep and address new strategies for the updated plan.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>Policy 2 Preserve, protect, and enhance surface and ground water features and restore lost ecological functions.</p>			
<p>Strategies</p>			
<p>2.1. Help address compliance with total maximum daily load (TMDL) caps established by the state under the federal Clean Water Act for waterbodies in the county where water quality standards have not been met.</p>			
<p>a. Target mitigation to identified point and nonpoint pollution sources in a watershed with a TMDL.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>DoE has secured a public-private partnership to implement the WIP.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIP II team.</p>
<p>b. Ensure that all mitigation and/or retrofit projects in the county are appropriately credited toward meeting existing and/or future TMDL requirements.</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>DoE has secured a public-private partnership to implement the WIP.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate implementation with the WIP II team.</p>
<p>2.2 Establish and/or maintain adequate buffers to protect and/or restore water quality.</p>			
<p>a. Revise the regulations to increase the minimum regulated stream buffer width to 75 feet, except in the Developed Tier and in growth centers and corridors.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>Current minimum buffer widths in the County Code are: 60 feet in Developed Tier; 75 in the Developing Tier; and 100 in the Rural Tier.</p>	<p>Revise as needed to address Plan 2035.</p>
<p>b. In the Developed Tier and growth centers and corridors, maintain the current minimum regulated stream buffer width of 50 feet.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>	<p>Some flexibility on allowed impacts provided in the regulations for areas within the Developed Tier and centers and corridors.</p>	<p>Revise as needed to address Plan 2035.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
2.3 Manage and treat stormwater to minimize impacts to water quality and ecological systems.			
<p>a. <i>Revise applicable ordinances to allow, and where appropriate require, the use of systems and processes for managing and treating stormwater runoff that preserve and/or reestablish natural resources and systems such as reducing natural vegetation removal, reducing impervious surfaces and increasing infiltration.</i></p>	Complete.	<p>Subtitle 32 of the County Code now requires the use of environmental site design to the fullest extent practicable. This includes the preservation of natural areas as the first step in design.</p>	Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.
<p>b. <i>Evaluate current regulations that result in the construction of required impervious surfaces. Encourage the use of innovative designs that reduce the amount of impervious surfaces.</i></p>	Not started.	<p>Could be addressed during the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations update.</p>	Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.
<p>c. <i>Manage and treat stormwater on-site to the fullest extent possible to maximize infiltration, restore the natural hydrologic system, improve water quality, and minimize run-off.</i></p>	Complete.	<p>Subtitle 32 of the County Code now requires the use of environmental site design to the fullest extent practicable, which includes the items listed in this strategy.</p>	Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.
<p>d. <i>Coordinate watershed protection policies and programs with adjoining jurisdictions.</i></p>	Not started.	<p>Some coordination will be needed with the WIPII implementation.</p>	Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.
2.4 Prepare and implement major watershed management plans to address the preservation and restoration of ecological functions within watersheds.			
<p>a. <i>Implement the recommendations contained in completed Watershed Restoration Action Strategy plans.</i></p>	Complete to the extent possible.	<p>WRAS documents are being replaced with the watershed studies being done as part of the WIPII.</p>	Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>b. Include in each area/sector plan a comprehensive watershed management section for the area that provides guidance for preservation, enhancement, and/or protection of water-related resources.</i></p>	<p>On-going on a limited basis.</p>	<p>This strategy is implemented on a limited basis with each master/sector plan. Staff time is a limiting factor.</p>	<p>Keep and amend to mesh with current regulations.</p>
<p><i>c. Implement the recommendations of the State's Tributary Strategy Teams and the Patuxent River Policy Plan that are applicable to the county.</i></p>	<p>Complete and on-going.</p>	<p>The only remaining tributary team is the Patuxent River Commission that has prepared a new policy plan.</p>	<p>Keep and amended as appropriate.</p>
<p>2.5 Regularly assess water quality ratings.</p>			
<p><i>a. Evaluate the most recent data from the Assessment of Streams and Watersheds of Prince George's County water quality monitoring project conducted by the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources and make appropriate recommendations to improve water quality.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>Rounds 1 and 2 have been completed. Round 2 shows no measurable change in water quality since Round 1 and concludes that the time period was not long enough to measure changes.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate with DoE on the water quality monitoring they are doing for the WIP.</p>
<p><i>b. Periodically employ a water-quality model that evaluates how existing land uses impact water quality and use the results to determine where additional efforts and/or program changes are needed to improve water quality.</i></p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>This task is being done as part of WIP II implementation, with modeling primarily being done by the state.</p>	<p>Keep and coordinate with DoE.</p>

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
Policy 3 <i>Preserve existing woodland resources and replant woodland, where possible, while implementing the desired development pattern of the 2002 General Plan.</i>			
Strategies			
3.1 Revise the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to help preserve, protect, enhance, and restore the green infrastructure network. [Note: strategies regarding Forest and Tree Canopy will be part of a Forest and Tree Canopy Strategy in the updated Green Infrastructure Plan.]			
<i>a. Recognize the green infrastructure network as the highest priority for preservation and planting.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>b. Place increased emphasis on minimizing forest fragmentation.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>c. Ensure connectivity in both preservation and mitigation areas.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>d. Maximize on-site conservation, especially in the Rural Tier.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>e. Place increased emphasis on quality vegetation for on-site preservation.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>f. Increase the minimum size for woodland conservation areas to be in conformance with the definition of woodland in the ordinance.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>g. Evaluate the fee-in-lieu option and limit its use to appropriate parameters.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<i>h. Allow the use of street trees within the Developed Tier as a method of meeting ordinance requirements and increasing tree canopy coverage.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>i. Require approval of a natural resources inventory prior to submission of land development applications instead of the forest stand delineation currently required.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>j. Simplify the process to establish and revise mitigation banks.</i>	Complete and on-going.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>k. Evaluate requirements for timber harvesting and regulations related to future land development.</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>l. Integrate wildlife habitat conservation principles into the ordinance and change the name of the ordinance to the "Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance."</i>	Complete.	County Code amended as noted.	Delete.
<i>m. Include provisions for the removal of invasive species on sites where development is proposed.</i>	Complete and on-going.	County Code amended as noted. The Tech Manual needs more information on control methods for invasive plants.	Delete.
Policy 4 <i>Promote environmental stewardship as an important element to the overall success of the Green Infrastructure Plan.</i>			
Strategies			
<i>4.1. Recognize that privately owned land, particularly working farms and forests, are an important component of the green infrastructure network.</i>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p><i>a. Recognize the value of diverse land uses, such as woodlands, wetlands, meadows, urban forests, farms, and grassland within the green infrastructure network. Respect and encourage the diversity of land uses that comprise ecosystem networks.</i></p>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.
<p><i>b. Ensure information regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan is clear in that the stated goal to “protect, preserve and/or enhance” the green infrastructure network involves primarily voluntary measures implemented through the land development process.</i></p>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.
<p><i>c. Ensure program implementation does not prohibit intra-family transfers.</i></p>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the the GI Plan.	Keep.
<p><i>4.2. Publicly recognize private efforts to support the preservation, restoration, and/or enhancement of the green infrastructure network.</i></p>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.
<p><i>a. Develop a local awards program to recognize development projects that use environmentally sensitive and/or energy efficient designs.</i></p>	Not started.	An awards program is needed to recognize conservation efforts.	Keep.
<p><i>b. Develop a local awards program to recognize exceptional efforts by private citizens to help preserve, restore and/or enhance the green infrastructure network.</i></p>	Not started.	An awards program is needed to recognize conservation efforts.	Keep.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<i>4.3. Partner with federal, state and local agencies to increase participation of Prince George's County residents in land stewardship programs.</i>			
<i>a. Coordinate with the Soil Conservation District regarding agricultural preservation programs.</i>	On-going.	Priority Preservation Plan has been approved. Coordination with SCD was an integral part of this project.	Keep.
<i>b. Make recommendations to agencies, such as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, to increase eligibility of county residents and enrollment in existing land stewardship programs, such as the Forest Conservation and Management Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.</i>	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.
Policy 5 <i>Recognize the green infrastructure network as a valuable component of the county's Livable Communities Initiative.</i>			
Strategies			
<i>5.1. View protection and restoration of the county's green infrastructure network as a necessity and an amenity.</i>			
<i>a. When making policy and land use decisions, elevate the importance of preserving, protecting, enhancing, and restoring the green infrastructure network at the same level of concern as providing an interconnected network for transportation and/or public utilities.</i>	Complete and on-going.	The County Code has been revised to establish the GI network as being the highest priority for preservation. Applications that require master plan conformance are evaluated using this plan.	Keep.
<i>b. Include in reports on land development proposals a statement regarding compliance with the Green Infrastructure Plan.</i>	Complete.	This is standard for appropriate application types.	Keep.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
5.2. Market the green infrastructure network as an asset to attract and retain residents and businesses to the county.			
a. Encourage projects to be designed to utilize the green infrastructure network as an amenity.	On-going.	This strategy is fundamental to the GI Plan.	Keep.
b. Prioritize developed areas for restoration potential.	Not started.	The updated GI Plan provides an opportunity to address restoration through green stormwater infrastructure.	Keep and amend to mesh with the recommendations of Plan 2035.
5.3. Utilize the goal of the Green Infrastructure Plan to help revitalize and restore deteriorated areas within existing communities.			
a. Identify vacant lots in need of restoration within the green infrastructure network and provide incentives for either restoration and/or development.	On-going.	Because of limited staff resources, the ability to address this strategy within master and sector plans has been limited.	Keep and refine to provide more direction on when and how to do this.
a. (1) Include the areas in the catalog of potential restoration sites and allow the area to be used as a sending area for the transfer of development rights once the area is restored.	Not started.	The catalog of sites has not been established and TDRs are not currently an option.	Keep and refine to provide more direction on when and how to do this.
a. (2) If these sites are to be developed, encourage the integration of the green infrastructure network into the design to maximize economic, environmental, and livable community benefits.	Complete and on-going.	These are the goals for all properties within the designated network.	Keep.
b. Make public investments that enhance the public infrastructure in areas outside of the green infrastructure network to improve livability and encourage development in those areas.	On-going.	This strategy was in concert with strategies in the 2002 General Plan that directed infrastructure investments.	Keep and amend to mesh with the recommendations of Plan 2035.

Policies and Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
c. <i>Provide incentives to encourage infill development and the reuse of abandoned buildings.</i>	Not started.	This strategy was in concert with strategies in the 2002 General Plan that directed infrastructure investments.	Keep and amend to mesh with the recommendations of Plan 2035.

Scorecard

The 2005 Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan contains 92 strategies grouped under five policies. Like most comprehensive plans, this plan has a 20-year implementation cycle.

During the first ten years of plan implementation, 80 of the 92 strategies (87%) are either completed or on-going.

Total Strategies	92
<i>Completed</i>	26
<i>Completed and ongoing</i>	11
<i>On-going</i>	43
<i>Not started</i>	12
TOTAL IMPLEMENTED	80
PERCENT IMPLEMENTED	87%

Status Report on the 2012 Priority Preservation Area Plan Implementation Strategies

The following table contains the strategies from the 2012 *Priority Preservation Plan* and a description of how they were implemented in the period from July of 2012 to the present. The comments column provides insight into how the strategy was implemented and/or possible barriers to implementation. The recommendations column contains the suggestions for implementation and suggestions for the initial draft of the new countywide Agriculture Plan that will be part of the new Resource Conservation Plan.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
Policy 1 <i>Seek opportunities to increase the value of farm and forest land used for agricultural production, agritourism, and agricultural support services.</i>			
Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
a. <i>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission should strive to clarify the application processes for land preservation programs, and how or whether multiple programs can be utilized on a single property.</i>	Ongoing.	Information on the land preservation programs is provided online on pp. 3-9 of the Technical Bulletin.	Keep strategy and continue implementation. Clarify in the updated plan which programs are compatible.
b. <i>Forest certification programs, landowner cooperatives, tree planting, and other innovative practices should be promoted to increase worth and minimize forest loss.</i>	Ongoing.	As opportunities arise, information is distributed about programs and practices.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
c. <i>Remove restrictions and broaden guidelines that define acceptable farm and forest enterprises.</i>	Ongoing.	Updates to the County Code have addressed this to some extent.	Keep strategy and continue implementation. Work with key stakeholders as the uses in the new Zoning Ordinance are defined.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
d. Promote woodland conservation banking as a way to preserve valuable forest infrastructure, supporting the private market including fee-in-lieu requirements which comparatively make banking a less expensive alternative.	Ongoing.	Since June 2012, thirteen new woodland conservation banks have been established and six more banks are under review.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
e. Consider a tax credit as an incentive for the landowner who volunteers land for a conservation easement, but is allowed to remain on the land.	Not started.	Properties that are agriculturally assessed are taxed at a lower rate.	Keep strategy and investigate implementation options.
Policy 2			
<i>Seek available federal, state, local, and other sources of funding to achieve preservation of 80 percent of eligible lands.</i>			
Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
a. The Soil Conservation District should continue to pursue state certification of the agricultural land preservation program, signifying the importance to the county of preserving high-value farm and forest land and the agriculture industry.	Completed.	Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation certification achieved in 2014.	Amend this strategy to address how MALPF funding should be used.
b. Work with the local land trusts and nonprofit organizations to increase their role in preserving land in the PPA and disseminating information about conservation tax credits and other tax incentives.	Ongoing.	Work on this strategy is ongoing through workshops and direct contacts.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
c. An installment purchase agreement option should be established for farm and forest landowners to obtain easement funds as a sustained income stream over time while deferring tax payment.	Not started.	This strategy may no longer be viable given the County is at its bond cap.	Amend this strategy as needed after discussions with appropriate staff.
d. Increase the use of funding in a variety of programs to preserve agricultural land and retain healthy forests, in private ownership in the PPA, adjacent to parcels that have already been preserved or that are eligible for preservation funds based on soil characteristics and other qualities.	Ongoing.	SCD works on this as part of its work program.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
e. Strengthen the county HARPP easement process by evaluating the feasibility of a dedicated source of general funds for agricultural preservation and expediting the application process.	Not started.	Continuing to fund HARPP has been challenging. Relying solely on funding from M-NCPPC is not sustainable.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
f. Research and prepare an analysis of methods to pursue dedicated funding sources, or other sources of funds, for the purpose of preserving farmland countywide.	Ongoing.	Some research has been conducted, no recommendations have been made.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
g. Pursue options for establishing a transfer of development rights (TDR) program that can maintain property owners' development rights.	Ongoing.	CR-24-2014 established the TDR Work Group. Their work is on-going.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
Policy 3			
<i>Minimize development in areas of prime farm and forest acreage to preserve critical masses of the agricultural land base.</i>			
Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
a. Continue to implement, strengthen, and enforce the Right-to-Farm provisions to encourage agricultural preservation.	Ongoing.	Discussions have been on-going about how to implement the new Right-to-Farm legislation.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
b. The conservation subdivision regulations for the O-S and R-A Zones should be evaluated to determine if it is feasible to increase the amount of area required for preservation or conservation without changing density.	Not started.	Major subdivisions (more than seven lots) are no longer allowed in the majority of the area where conservation subdivisions were previously mandatory.	Conservation subdivision provisions will be evaluated as part of the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations rewrite project.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
c. Adopt the Right-to-Farm legislation's definition of a "farm/agricultural operation" for the PPA.	Completed.	The definition has been provided.	Delete this strategy and determine if there are other provisions of the Right-to-Farm Act that need to be implemented.
d. Identify all agricultural (farm and forest) land in the Developed and Developing Tiers that is worthy of preservation, with the intention of conceptualizing a separate plan and preservation program that speaks to the need to protect, preserve, and enhance agricultural land in the Developed and Developing Tiers.	Ongoing.	Properties have not been identified, but this idea has been evaluated conceptually.	Keep strategy and continue implementation. Amend to match the nomenclature of Plan 2035.
e. Conduct a detailed analysis of the non-PPA portion of the Rural Tier to determine where there are large parcels that should be included in the PPA.	Not started.	In 2012 when the PPA boundaries were created, the boundaries met the state criteria. Amendments to the boundaries cannot be made if the criteria are not met and parcels that meet the criteria are required to be included.	Delete this strategy.
f. Review the zoning categories to identify ways to stabilize and maximize preservation of agricultural land through zoning, such as making improvements to the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.	Ongoing.	The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations rewrite project will evaluate the conservation subdivision provisions.	Keep strategy and evaluate need when writing plan.
g. Encourage and promote exploration of agricultural preservation options in a timely manner.	Ongoing.	Options are being considered to shorten the process.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>h. The county should, in accordance with the provisions of HB 2 (2006), continue to update the Plan every three years to allow regular opportunities for examination or reevaluation of potentially affected properties and to ensure appropriate inclusion or exclusion as a result of tier boundary changes or other land use decisions.</p>	Ongoing.	This will be accomplished through the Agriculture Plan that will be part of the Resource Conservation Plan.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
<p>Policy 4 Preserve farm and forest land as important natural resources for their environmental and economic value.</p>			
<p>a. Continue to utilize various county and other programs and policies such as the woodland conservation ordinance, to encourage protection of the PPA, obtain carbon credits, and maximize carbon sequestration.</p>	Ongoing.	As opportunities arise this strategy is implemented. Carbon credits are not on the market yet.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
<p>b. Maintain, strengthen, and expand markets for renewable energy production, such as bio-energy and bio-based forest products such as fuelwood, timber, or pulpwood, and explore the viability of innovative markets for other sustainable, woody biomass forest products.</p>	Not started.	Biomass energy production is being discussed at the state level.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
<p>Policy 5 Identify valuable mineral resources, seek methods to protect and manage access, and reclaim these areas where possible for future farm or forest enterprises, or agricultural support services.</p>			
<p>a. For sand and gravel mines in the PPA, reclamation plan requirements should be enforced to allow for the best use of reclaimed mines including the preservation of land for appropriate farm and forest enterprises, other community uses, recreational and environmental needs.</p>	Ongoing.	A study is being completed to evaluate the existing compliance of sand and gravel mines. Appropriate uses of properly reclaimed mines need to be determined.	Keep strategy and continue implementation.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>b. Assess the effectiveness and adequacy of reclamation plan regulations and report on the feasibility of utilizing regulatory tools (that correspond with the location of the remaining unexploited sand and gravel deposits) to ensure that sand and gravel mine applications address all impacts on surrounding communities, including standards that retain topsoil for future agricultural use.</p>	Ongoing.	<p>Environmental impact reports that include analyses of impacts on surrounding communities are required to be prepared for all sand and gravel mine applications. A study is being completed to evaluate the existing compliance of approved mines and to determine appropriate reuses.</p>	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
<p>c. For unextracted mineral resources, perform surveys to determine where mineral resources exist in the PPA.</p>	Not started.	<p>Determining where resources exist requires access to properties and extensive soil sampling. Funding is not available to complete this task.</p>	Delete this strategy.
<p>Policy 6 Support profitable agricultural operations by encouraging new farm and forest enterprises that complement the existing agricultural industry.</p>			
<p>a. The county should consider including the economic viability of farm and forest enterprises as a vital part of its overall economic development strategy.</p>	Ongoing.	<p>The Food Equity Council (FEC) is addressing the economic viability of agriculture.</p>	Keep strategy and continue implementation.
<p>b. The Soil Conservation District should continue to coordinate the federal and state activities with respect to best management practices, support services, and preservation activities with the various governmental entities and non-profits.</p>	Ongoing.	<p>Staff from SCD actively seek best practices and make recommendations were appropriate.</p>	Keep strategy and continue implementation.

Strategies	Status	Comments	Recommendations
<p>c. Designated PPA should be prioritized for renewable energy production, i.e., wind, biomass, and solar energy production using available farmland.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>Several renewable energy projects are currently under consideration in the Rural and Agricultural Area of the County.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>
<p>d. Institutionalize the agricultural marketing specialist position by securing permanent funding, and providing on-going support for University of Maryland Extension to obtain grant funding and providing assistance to farmers and producers for bringing their products to urban and regional direct and wholesale markets.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>Currently, the agricultural marketing specialist is a contract position requiring renewal every year. Assistance continues to be provided to farmers and producers through this position.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>
<p>e. Complete efforts to create and launch a “one-stop shop” where farmers and producers can access services from the Soil Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, University of Maryland Extension, and other local and federal agencies that provide technical assistance to them or regulate their activities.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>This is being addressed by the Soil Conservation District. A number of state and federal agencies are housed there.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>
<p>f. Explore tools to support urban agriculture as a way to increase locally grown produce and provide new market opportunities for farmers in the PPA.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>In 2012, a study of urban agriculture was conducted. It contains a variety of strategies for implementation.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>
<p>g. Develop a work plan to provide complete information about preservation benefits, and to increase the participation of farm and forest landowners, among small (50 acres or less) and minority-owned farms constituting 33 percent of the total acreage goal of 24,823 acres preserved by the year 2027.</p>	<p>Not started.</p>	<p>The benefits of preserving agricultural land need to be better expressed. UME is working on programs that are designed to show these benefits.</p>	<p>Keep strategy and continue implementation.</p>

Scorecard

The 2012 Countywide Priority Preservation Area Plan contains 32 strategies grouped under six policies. During the first three years of plan implementation, 24 of the 32 strategies (75%) are either completed or on-going.

Total	32
Completed	2
On-going	22
Not started	8