

Carol DeSoto

From: Bonnie Bick <bonniebick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Carol DeSoto
Cc: Reuben B. Collins, II; Bobby A. Rucci; Gilbert "B.J." Bowling; Thomasina Coates; Amanda Stewart
Subject: Fwd: comments: draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)
Attachments: Mattawoman-Nanjemoy 2 (16) (2) (6).jpg; BR-MarshallHallRiverfrontMap061622 (1).pdf

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All,
To ensure proper receipt of these comments for the draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) I am sending my comments again to Carol Desoto, but this time cc-ing the Charles County Commissioners, for the record, but also for their review.
Wishing you all a milestone holiday weekend.
Thank you, bonnie bick 301 752 9612

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From: **Bonnie Bick** <bonniebick@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jun 16, 2022 at 11:17 PM
Subject: comments: draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)
To: Carol DeSoto <DeSotoC@charlescountymd.gov>

Charles County Board of Commissioners June 16, 2022

Charles County Government Building via email
DeSotoC@charlescountymd.gov

200 Baltimore St.
La Plata, MD 20646

**Re: draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)
June 16, 2022**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for hearing additional concerns about the LPPRP at the public hearing.
The Tier map in the LPPRP draft plan is incorrect. There are areas that are designated Tier 4 that in this map are misrepresented. (specifically in Bryans Road-this draft plan must not go forward with this MISTAKE. Address the visual Tier Map discrepancy.)

Also, a critical point that was in public testimony, was the objection to leaving Mattawoman Creek out of a list of watersheds fisheries in Charles County. This is a MISTAKE. (see below: end the most productive source for migratory fish in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay **Do not lose the sustainable commerce of bass fishing tournaments exceeding \$40 million annually!**)

In the draft report: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Charles County's current goals. Protecting the valuable fish nursery at Mattawoman has been left out.

The state/federal Mattawoman Task Force in 2012 stated clearly, that Mattawoman Creek is now seriously ill from three decades of land-use policies that have permitted development to exceed the watershed's capacity to absorb the impacts of impervious surface. https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/tredmanAlliance_Presentation.pdf

If Mattawoman is permitted to continue its decline, the county will, among other things:

- lose a major tourist attraction
- lose a source of prestige and pride
- lose outstanding recreational opportunities for its citizens
- end the most productive source for migratory fish in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay - **lose the sustainable commerce of bass fishing exceeding \$40 million annually**
- undermine stewardship efforts by the naval facility in Indian Head.
- find themselves with a toxic, but extremely expensive watershed that will never come back, but will still require high restoration costs. Charles County already has a 155 million dollar unpaid Restoration debt, due to small stream damage and main stem water quality damage. Damage due to loss of forest and ineffective stormwater, already permitted in the Mattawoman watershed.

Mattawoman Creek, the Port Tobacco River, and Nanjemoy Creek are three estuaries with EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Loads ("TMDLs"). The watersheds of these waterways lie primarily or solely within Charles County, which therefore bears primary responsibility for the health of these resources. In the case of Mattawoman and Port Tobacco, the TMDLs are mainly due to development pressures within the watersheds. As part of the Comp Plan, the LPPRP rightly shoulders some responsibility for meeting the TMDL, **as recognized by the goal of protecting the Mattawoman stream valley and the forests within. The US ACOE has been recommending Mattawoman stream valley protection for decades.** This would make a significant positive change, BUT that is the exact opposite of the present county commissioner's present consistent actions removing the environmental protection of the Watershed Conservation District. Stream Valley protection has also been in the Greenprint, and the Watershed Implementation Plan ("WIP"). It is of note that the lack of watershed protection attention the county has for Mattawoman, in its decision-making, and in the draft, LPPRP appears to be inconsistent with meeting or making progress toward the TMDLs.

Respectfully request that the Board bring the LPPRP into synchrony with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan revision. *The LPPRP states: Place special emphasis on watershed management to balance the protection of the Mattawoman Creek's natural resources and water quality are within the County's development plans. In addition to the Priority Preservation Area (PPA), the Mattawoman Creek watershed should be targeted for acquisition for conservation purposes.*

Yet, Charles County is in the process of removing the Watershed Conservation District in many critical areas of the Mattawoman Creek watershed the environmental protection the Mattawoman needs to survive.

Mattawoman Creek is the only primarily minority-populated watershed in Charles County. As it should, the LPPRP maintains that Mattawoman is a focus of the county. However, the weak progress toward stated goals and toward compliance with regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act (like TMDLs) suggests a lack of

commitment. This lack of attention has reached an acute stage, as stressed by the interagency Mattawoman Task Force with the admonition that Mattawoman is at a “tipping point,” and that following the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, of which the LPPRP will become a *de facto* part, maybe the last opportunity to arrest Mattawoman’s decline and ensure a healthy future. We therefore respectfully request that the draft LPPRP be returned to the Planning Commission for revisions to protect Mattawoman Creek.

Marshall Hall is located on the Potomac River North West Charles County.

It is a historic site owned by the National Park Service. It is part of Piscataway National Park and came into being in 1967 to protect the view shed of Mount Vernon in Virginia. Marshall Hall is actually the largest land parcel in Piscataway National Park. (as seen in #3 of attachment -Marshall HallRiverfrontmap)

Unfortunately in Charles County when the National Park Service took over Marshall Hall, to protect the Mount Vernon view shed other than the purchase of the land, there was very little investment made to protect the property and to provide assets to the community where Marshall Hall is located. In 1982 the historic and archetypally significant Marshall Hall mansion, other than its brick shell, was lost to arson.

There is a public boat ramp and small Pier at Marshall Hall which is an asset for the community, bass fishermen, and the general public. There was once to Pavilion at Marshall Hall and the remains of that are still there and need to be rebuilt. Bathroom facilities and other services should be added. Please see the attached Marshall Hall maps and text.

RECOMMENDATION: Create a Marshall Hall entry in the LPPRP to recommend federal public access investment in Marshall Hall.

Mallows Bay, Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary's (NMS).

Healthy water quality in Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, and Port Tobacco River all contribute to the future economic success of the Mallows Bay, Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

The NMS has a small federally designed footprint, but the ecological footprint includes these three Charles County watersheds.

Land preservation needs to be planned to keep these three Potomac River tributaries vital and ecologically productive.

As the **Mattawoman-Nanjemoy attachment** shows, this revision of the LPPRP document is not complete without a recommendation for a Mallows Bay - Potomac River Tri-watershed Study to site and protect more public access points, and identify and better understand the ecological tie between the Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, Port Tobacco River. The NMS is an extremely promising Charles county destination and it must become protected from degradation. Identifying the ecological and biodiverse connections, the study should then propose the best ways to protect the biodiversity of the NMS ecological support system. The ecological wellbeing at Mallows, on the Potomac, is dependent on the ecological foresight of the county decision-makers.

In summary, the draft LPPRP reveals a dangerous drift away from efforts to sustain the county’s rural character and to expand—or even maintain—its recreational opportunities in the face of a growing population.

Please instruct the staff to edit the draft to be consistent with the 2016 Charles County Comprehensive Plan and other changes regarding the protection of Mattawoman and the protection of the fish nursery’s health. Change the Sceptics-Tier

mapping. Add a request for a County - Federal study of visitors' services at Marshall Hall. Identify the ecological support system for the NMS and keep those 3 critical watersheds producing clean water for, among other reasons, the economic success of the National Marine Sanctuary in Charles County, Maryland.

Thank you and sincerely,
bonnie bick
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