

# CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** PGM Roundtable Participants

**FROM:** Jessica S.B. Andritz, Esq., Acting Deputy Director  
*Department of Planning & Growth Management* *J.S.B.*

**SUBJECT:** Forest Conservation Ordinance Update

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

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As we discussed at the PGM Roundtable held in February, members of our staff have been working on an update to the County's Forest Conservation Ordinance. In reviewing our working draft of the Forest Conservation Ordinance, we are working to ensure that we've reflected certain initiatives of our Comprehensive Plan. I'd like to use our Roundtable discussion as an opportunity to hear your suggestions as to how we might specifically address the initiatives below. It would be great if participants could come to the meeting with ideas on language to be considered for inclusion into the Ordinance. We are trying to strike an appropriate balance and we'd like your help!

## **Natural Resources Policies:**

- 5.2 Implement and enhance the County's environmental preservation and conservation objectives through administrative mechanisms including subdivision regulations, sediment and erosion control, environmental review processes, development regulations, and zoning.
- 5.11 Retain as much of the forest and tree cover as practical within urban areas.

## **Natural Resources Action Items:**

4. Urban forests. Evaluate the existing urban forest and consider adopting an urban forest canopy coverage goal.
5. Limit forest fragmentation. Adopt regulations that protect forest hubs (greater than 100 acres) and forest corridors for the survival of the remaining biodiversity and Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) of Charles County. Under the Forest Conservation Ordinance, add a requirement that priority forests be maintained on development sites, unless a variance is granted by the Board of Appeals.

## **Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Action Items:**

11. Explore methods to retain large contiguous tracts of forest and discourage their fragmentation.