

Amendment 111 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023

BY: Liz Walsh

Legislative Day 11
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Amendment No. 111

(This Amendment makes the following changes to HoCo by Design Chapter 3 to:

Chapter 3: Ecological Health - Adds two statements about eliminating surface runoff.)

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3 In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following
4 pages as indicated in this Amendment:

5 • Chapter 3: Ecological Health: page 25.

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7 Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this
8 amendment.

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Managing Natural Resources by Watersheds

The health of wetlands, streams, lakes, and reservoirs is directly linked to the use of land within their watersheds. For this reason, the County takes a watershed-based approach to comprehensively address the design, construction, and maintenance of the stormwater management system; water quality and habitat improvements in local streams; and flooding concerns.

The Chesapeake Bay is a valued source of beauty, recreation, and commercial activity in Maryland, and it has played an important role in Maryland's history and development. The multistate effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay continues to be a strong influence in promoting watershed-based planning and management efforts to protect not only the Bay, but also the Bay's numerous tributary rivers and streams. For additional information about restoration efforts for the Chesapeake Bay, please see Technical Appendix A.

Howard County lies within the Patuxent River and Patapsco River watersheds, two major tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 75% of the County is within the Patuxent River watershed and the remaining 25% of the County is within the Patapsco River watershed. The main stems of these rivers have many tributary streams which drain large areas of the County. The Patuxent River and Patapsco River watersheds in Howard County are divided by the State into seven major watersheds, as shown in Map 3-2.

Watershed management plans generally include:

- A description of current land use within the watershed;
- Water quality and habitat conditions in the watershed streams;
- An identification and severity ranking of problem areas;
- An identification and priority ranking of potential restoration projects;
- Preliminary designs and cost estimates for priority restoration projects; and
- An implementation schedule.

Restoration projects can include:

- Building new stormwater management facilities in areas that lack them and retrofitting existing facilities to add water quality treatment;
- Planting forest, especially to create forested buffers along streams;
- Restoring and creating wetlands; ~~and~~
- Stabilizing stream channels and restoring instream habitats; ~~and~~
- Identifying and eliminating superfluous impervious surfaces, particularly on upstream or county land; and
- Identifying and mitigating most significant point sources of surface runoff.

Many of these restoration projects require cooperation and participation from private landowners, so public outreach and education is a critical component of implementation.

