

**SUBJECT: Testimony for Support of CR96-2014
Patapsco Heritage Greenway – Certified Maryland Heritage Area**

**TO: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer**

**FROM: John R. Byrd, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks**

DATE: July 16, 2014

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
410-313-4700**

The Department of Recreation and Parks supports Council Resolution 96 which approves and authorizes the submittal of a Management Plan for the Patapsco Heritage area. Acceptance of this Plan will allow the Area to become a State Certified Heritage Area.

For many years the Patapsco Heritage Greenway organization has been tirelessly promoting an awareness of and stewardship for the Patapsco Valley. Thousands of volunteer hours have been devoted to education and interpretation of the Valley, invasive plant control, reforestation, trail maintenance, water quality improvement and trash removal. Their efforts, along with collaboration from Howard County, Baltimore County, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have helped to bring a broad level of awareness and appreciation and concern from multiple jurisdictions and user groups with a single goal; to protect and preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Patapsco Valley.

The proposed management plan will provide direction and insure that these efforts will be sustained and Certification will provide opportunities for grant funding assistance.

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cc: Steve Lafferty, Director of Special Projects
Jen Sager, Legislative Coordinator