POLICY 3.3 – Use watershed management plans to guide the protection and restoration of water resources.

Implementing Actions

a. **Watershed Management Plans.** Prepare comprehensive watershed management plans for all watersheds, to set priorities and guide efforts to protect, restore, and improve the County's water resources. Complete and update all watershed management plans on a regular cycle.

b. **Forest Cover and Riparian Forest Buffers**. Establish and achieve measurable goals for forest cover and riparian forest buffers in all County watersheds.

c. **Resident Participation.** Encourage active participation of individuals, businesses, and local community and environmental organizations in restoration activities.

d. **Wetlands.** Develop a wetlands program to inventory, map, protect, and enhance wetland resources.

e. **Dedicated Funding**. Institute a dedicated fund (often referred to as a stormwater utility) to ensure increased and sustained funding for the watershed management program.

Annual tree plantings are organized by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

f. **Grant and Cost-Share Opportunities.** Pursue Federal and State grant and cost-share opportunities to secure additional resources for restoration efforts. Apply jointly with community and environmental organizations and with neighboring jurisdictions as appropriate.

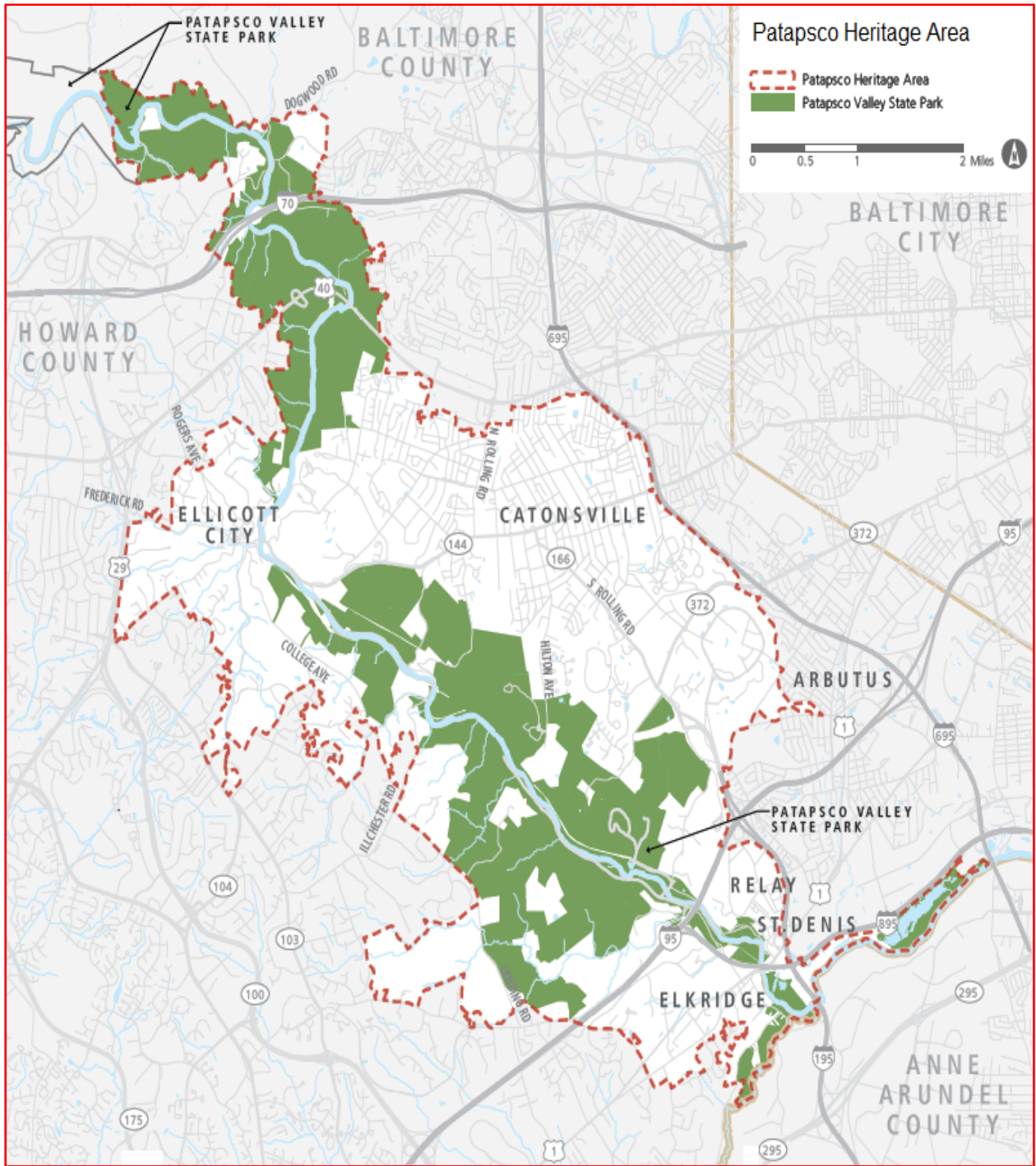**POLICY 3.4 – Coordinate regional protection of water resources.**

Implementing Actions

a. **Patuxent and Patapsco Rivers.** Coordinate and cooperate with other local, regional, and State agencies and organizations on joint watershed planning and management for the Patuxent and the Patapsco Rivers.

b. **Patapsco Heritage Greenway.** Coordinate with Baltimore County to accomplish certification of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway.

c. **Patapsco Heritage Area Management Plan.** Work with the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc. and Baltimore County to assist in implementing the management plan, certified by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, for those portions that apply to Howard County.

Patapsco Heritage Area

Legend:
- Patapsco Heritage Area (red dashed line)
- Patapsco Valley State Park (green)

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Patapsco Heritage Area Amendment

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority requires a county within a certified heritage area to include in the county's general plan those portions of the heritage area management plan applicable to the county. Meeting this requirement establishes the eligibility of qualified organizations and government entities, within the Howard County portion of the certified heritage area, for receipt of Maryland Heritage Areas Authority financial and other benefits including grants, loans, and tax credits.

Therefore, the version of the Patapsco Heritage Area Management Plan, as was approved by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority on January 15, 2015, insofar as it is consistent with the rest of PlanHoward 2030, is included within PlanHoward 2030 in order to further opportunities for recreation, environmental and historic conservation, and heritage tourism and to support economic development.

The map at left is illustrative and indicates the area of Howard County located within the certified heritage area as approved by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

The Patapsco Heritage Area Management Plan defines its own purpose on page xi: "The heritage area's management plan provides the blueprint for coordinating … many collaborative efforts. It is an advisory document demonstrating awareness of the heritage area's partners and stakeholders, their "buy-in", and general support for management concepts. … Participation in plan implementation will be voluntary and will not be required as a result of potential actions identified in the approved management plan. … Participation in the program does, however, qualify PHG [Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Inc.] and its partners and stakeholders – such as Baltimore County, Howard County, and others – for potential state matching grants for actions identified in the plan or that otherwise support accomplishing the goals for the Patapsco Heritage Area."