

January 11, 2005

Carlita Lindsey
Maryland Department of Planning
301 W Preston Street, Suite 1101
Baltimore, MD 21201-2305

Dear Ms. Lindsey:

The Board of County Commissioners is pleased to forward to you the 2005 Carroll County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. Because the plan demonstrates that the County exceeds the recommended acreage goal, we would like the State to certify that Carroll County has met its recreation acreage goal so that we may use additional POS funds for the development of parks and recreational facilities.

The 2005 Carroll County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan, as approved by the Board of County Commissioners, addresses all of the substantive comments received from the State reviewers. The table below summarizes what the original comments were and where they have been addressed in the plan.

Chapter	State Comment	Response Provide on Page...
Chapter 2 II.B	Page 16 says that "Land preservation also would not be significantly affected by higher household incomes, except in the sense that more money in the General Fund could be directed to land preservation." The final draft should address the idea that a more affluent population may put more pressure on rural land through the demand for bigger houses in a rural setting.	15
Chapter 3 III.A.1	Please explain how impact fees are used to support parks and recreation in County.	An explanation of how impact fees are used is not relevant to this particular section, since it merely lists the goals of the

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		County. A more detailed description of the County's use of impact fees is provided on page 29.
Chapter 3 III.A.2	Please describe the relationship between the local goals and the State goals. The municipality descriptions, in Appendix I, linked these, but not the one for the County.	26
	Please describe in more detail how impact fees are used for funding. What % of the fee is dedicated to recreation and open space? The number is given for the yearly contribution. It would be helpful to have the formula for the fee.	This question already is answered on page 29, both in terms of the types of facilities funded by the fees how much the fee is. 100% of the parks impact fee is used for parks projects.
Chapter 3 III.B.1	Please include an updated strategy for MEIRS: how it will be maintained and used by the County, frequency of updates, etc.	34
Chapter 3 III.B.2	More information on how the local sources were used to supplement State surveys would be helpful	34
Chapter 3 III.B.3	Page 40 mentions that 30% of impact fees go to parks. Is this figure correct?	Page 39 actually says that 30% of the total cost for budgeted recreation projects comes from impact fees. 100% of the recreation impact fees are used for parks and recreation projects.
Chapter 4 IV.C.2	The text – for example, page 53 – refers to maps “in the back of the plan.” Please give the specific titles of maps when referring the reader to them, and mention that they are located after page 90.	52

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Chapter 4 IV.C.3	“Compliment” in the second full paragraph on page 56 should be “complement.” “Efforts” in the last sentence might mean more as “effects.”	55
	The graph on page 57 is black and white, but the text on page 58 says that part of the graph is printed in red. We know that this is a draft version, but please make sure that the final draft prints the graph in color.	Final document has revised graph that does not require color printing.
	“... We think it makes sense to base the chart on the lower conversion rate found in the agricultural transfer tax data, because those data track land that is definitely converting.”	55 - 56
Chapter 5 V.A.2	Please discuss the degree to which the County’s goals for natural resource conservation encompass, extend beyond, or differ from the State’s goals.	66
Chapter 5 V.B.2	All direct references to green infrastructure relate to the State’s efforts. Even though the County contains little green infrastructure, please provide some description of the County’s approach to green infrastructure in the final draft.	68
	The County’s goals include protection of forestry resources (page 46). Safeguards for forestry operations are mentioned (pages 71, 76-77). Beyond this, no strategy is presented. In the final draft, please provide some description of the County strategy for protecting forest resources.	75
	The County’s watershed management strategy is limited to watersheds that drain to reservoirs; it does not address other watershed in the County. Reference to the 2003 watershed restoration action strategy (WRAS) indicates goals and objectives but does not say if the implementation process is documented for the 2003-2005 period. Please address these matters in the final draft.	73
Chapter 5 V.C.1	Please address these two items in the <i>Guidelines</i> , pages 36-37, for which information was lacking: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Do available State and local maps and supporting information comprise an inventory of natural resource lands and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. see page 71 2. see page 79

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	<p>environmentally sensitive areas adequate to identify these resources for planning and protection purposes?"</p> <p>2. "Are State and local goals for natural resource conservation specific and measurable enough to serve as a basis for effective implementation?"</p>	

Please accept the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan with our thanks for your assistance in brining this effort to conclusion. We look forward to working with the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on future updates of this plan and on other planning issues.

Sincerely,

Julia W. Gouge, President

Dean L. Minnich, Vice President

Perry L. Jones Jr., Secretary

January 11, 2005

Lisa Gutierrez
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, Suite E-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Gutierrez:

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