

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 40-2020

Introduced: March 2, 2020

Auditor: Monica Kearns

Fiscal Impact:

We have determined that there is no direct fiscal impact from this legislation to the County.

The County could receive matching grant funds from the State if a County department partners with Patapsco Heritage Greenway on a heritage tourism project that is awarded funds.¹

The County's designation of heritage area boundaries represents voluntary participation in a heritage area management plan. It does not involve an obligation of expenditures or actions by the County, nor does it impose requirements on County-owned land or structures within the boundaries, according to the Department of Planning and Zoning.² The Department of Recreation and Parks confirmed there is no direct effect.

Purpose:

This legislation proposes to expand the boundaries of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area from 24.6 square miles to 36.2 square miles, according to information from Patapsco Heritage Greenway. Part of the heritage area is in Baltimore County.

Howard County's designation of a heritage area means that certain entities within the boundaries are eligible for State funds from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority under the Maryland Department of Planning.³

¹ Local governments are eligible grant recipients, per grant guidelines of the Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of Planning, https://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas_partners.shtml

² A description of the County's involvement is included in the Howard County General Plan – PlanHoward 2030, page 21: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=znMuWyvBhKQ%3d&portalid=0>

³ The Maryland Heritage Area Authority is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust under the State's Department of Planning; see <https://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml>

Other Comments:

An amendment has been submitted by the Administration to add a map that should have been included at prefile and to add place names in the maps attached to the legislation.

The Patapsco Valley Heritage Area was designated locally by Council Bill 18-2015 and is one of 13 heritage areas recognized by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.⁴

Patapsco Heritage Greenway is a non-profit located in Ellicott City and is recognized by the State as the management entity for the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

⁴ Heritage area management, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of Planning, https://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas_management.shtml