

ENVIRONMENT SENSITIVE AREAS ELEMENT

The Maryland Economic Growth Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 requires all Comprehensive Plans in the state to include a Sensitive Areas Element that describes the methodology to protect the streams, their buffers, the 100 year plan, habitats, and steep slopes.

This has been previously addressed in an earlier Section to some extent.

Williamsport is located in the Conococheague and Potomac River Watershed Boundaries. Both flow into the Potomac River. After emptying into the Potomac River, the flow naturally continues into the Chesapeake Bay which is significant to the Town and the State. Although water does have the ability to cleanse itself over a distance of the cumulative effect of all pollutants that may have fallen into the river is of concern in these waterways and the quality of life in the bay. Protection of the streams is important to the citizens of Williamsport because the Conococheague Creek and the Potomac River are recreational sites for the residents of Williamsport and the many visiting tourists and visitors to the C & O Canal Park. The river of course is adjacent to the canal and utilized. As indicated, there does not appear to be any endangered species or any habitats of endangered species within the community. The Town in an effort to comply

with all environmental regulatory matters has passed several environmentally sensitive Ordinances. The Town of Williamsport has adopted Ordinances of the County.

CONTROL OF EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Pursuant to the authority granted by Section 105 to Section 110 inclusive of Article 96A of the Annotated Code of Public Laws, General Laws of Maryland, entitled "Water Resources" sub-title "Sediment Control" the provisions of which sub-Title are incorporated into the Ordinance, the Town promulgated regulations for the control of soil erosion and sedimentation.

As a practical matter, this is administered by the County on behalf of the Town because of its more sophisticated expertise and staff. However, the Planning Commission, Town Engineer, and other agencies participate in the ultimate decisions.

EXCAVATIONS

All excavations within the corporate limits of any streets or alleys for any reason must be approved by the Town and restoration costs must be borne by the contractor and/or utility that excavates. That is a simplistic summary of what sometimes often becomes a little more complicated in view of construction in the streets.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

The Town of Williamsport has adopted the Washington County Floodplain Management Ordinance together with all of its applicable amendments. The County of course enforces the Floodplain Ordinance as a practical matter within the community.

FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources, sub-title 16, §5-1603(a)(3) Local Forest Conservation Program, the Town of Williamsport requested, adopted and assigned all obligations under the Forestry Act to the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland. The Board of County Commissioners accepted the responsibility for this and does enforce it within the corporate limits.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to the Maryland Code, Environment Article, Title 4, sub-title 2, the Town of Williamsport adopted the County Ordinance and regulations promulgated in reference to stormwater management and passed an Ordinance indicating that the Stormwater Management Ordinance for Washington County enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County was adopted as it then existed and as it may from time

to time be amended. The effective date was September 3, 2001. It was also provided that the Board of County Commissioners and its applicable agencies administer and enforce the provisions of the Ordinance.

The current Stormwater Management Ordinance is being reviewed and considered by the County.

It has been mandated by the State and a Water Management Administration for the State of Maryland that the Maryland Model Stormwater Management Ordinance of June 2009 and April 2010 be passed by the various agencies and municipalities.

Under the verbiage of the Town of Williamsport Ordinance as soon as the County updates its Ordinance the Town Ordinance is automatically reflected and updated. However, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council to readopt after the County adopts the new Model Stormwater Management Ordinance. The County, of course, will continue to enforce in the Town. The representatives of the Town have discussed with County representatives.

ORDINANCE REGULATING SEWER USE

The Town of Williamsport has an Ordinance regulating the sewer use. It was enacted in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency requisites and is quite extensive.