

## **2022 Annual Action Plan (approved by the Patuxent River Commission, May 11, 2022)**

The Annual Action Plan will guide the PRC agenda in 2022 as it works to implement the strategies of the Patuxent River Policy Plan<sup>1</sup>

### **Short-term actions**

1. Establish a subgroup as a standing workgroup that would consider the many short-term requests that the PRC is faced with throughout the year in order to prioritize them for the PRC's consideration.
2. Help the Town of Eagle Harbor to obtain a stormwater and floodwater management solution that meets their needs by identifying resources, connecting with technical assistance experts and providing recommendations.

*Implements Patuxent River Policy Plan:*

- a. *Strategy A2: Pursue resolution of pollution concerns for communities within the Patuxent River watershed*
  - b. *Strategy A1: Keep abreast of issues facing the river in communities within the Patuxent River watershed and share experiences and challenges with the PRC.*
  - c. *Strategy X5: Protect valuable cultural resources and historical properties within the watershed.*
3. Assist at least one PRC member with identifying and applying for at least one financial and/or technical assistance opportunity made available through The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act. Establish a subgroup to make this happen.

*Implements Patuxent River Policy Plan:*

- a. *Strategy P1: Maintain and improve the health of the Patuxent River so it can support sustainable commercial and recreational fishing and seafood harvesting.*
4. Establish a workgroup to review the potential for creating a Patuxent River Watershed geodatabase that would be used for educational and research efforts. The workgroup will be responsible for reporting back to the Patuxent River Commission for consideration of the actions needed to develop and implement the geodatabase.

*Implements Patuxent Policy Plan:*

- a. *Strategy P2: Identify preservation and conservation priorities for the critical natural resources within the Patuxent River watershed in county and municipal land use documents.*
- b. *Strategy P4: Restore the health of the river by actions such as encouraging acquisition of properties or easements in sensitive resource areas, planting stream buffers, controlling invasive plants, focusing on stream buffers.*
- c. *A4. Recommend changes to policies, programs, legislation and/or regulations to improve and restore water quality in the river and its watershed.*

- d. X3. Support economic and scientific research projects on the river and seek or support funding where possible.

Long-term actions (those that require one or more years to accomplish; establish a second Workgroup that can explore each of these issues and report back to the PRC)

1. Determine what needs to change (laws, regulations, policies, science, etc.) to achieve restoration of the Patuxent River by 2040.

Implements *Patuxent River Policy Plan*:

- a. *Strategy P1: Maintain and improve the health of the Patuxent River so it can support sustainable commercial and recreational fishing and seafood harvesting.*
- b. *Strategy A4: Recommend changes to policies, programs, legislation and/or regulations to improve and restore water quality in the river and its watershed.*
- c. *Strategy P2: Identify preservation and conservation priorities for the critical natural resources within the Patuxent River Watershed in county and municipal land use documents.*

2. Develop a Patuxent River report card that can be used to assess water and living resources conditions in each major part of the river and its tributaries, both tidal and nontidal. The Workgroup will determine the process for developing the report card, identify potential formats and potential funding opportunities.

Implements *Patuxent River Policy Plan*

- a. *Strategy A3: Keep elected and appointed officials aware of the issues and opportunities facing the river and seek their support when appropriate.*
- b. *Strategy A1: Keep abreast of issues facing the river in communities within the Patuxent River watershed and share experiences and challenges with the PRC.*

3. Establish one new wetland park in each county within 5 years. Compile background materials that highlight the benefits and opportunities wetland parks offer. Work with county staff to identify potential locations. Provide recommendations for potential funding opportunities.

Implements *Patuxent River Policy Plan*:

- a. *Strategy P4: Restore the health of the river by actions such as encouraging acquisition of properties or easements in sensitive resource areas, planting stream buffers, and controlling invasive plants, focusing on stream buffers.*
- b. *Strategy P6: Support the work of local jurisdictions and the state in meeting their respective water quality goals as stated in approved plans and permits.*
- c. *Strategy X2: Ensure and encourage public access to the river, its tributaries, and recreational opportunities within the watershed.*

Goal for Workgroup meetings during 2022: 3 meetings of the short-term Workgroup, 3 meetings of the long-term Workgroup, 1 joint meeting of the two Workgroups.

<sup>1</sup>The 2015 policy plan was adopted on May 14, 2014 by the commission and later in 2014 by the elected bodies of the eight local governments represented on the commission. The Maryland General Assembly adopted the 2015 policy plan during the 2016 legislative session through Joint Resolution 1. The plan provides a policy framework for local jurisdictions and the state in preserving and restoring the river, raising awareness of the river through advocacy, and creating excitement about the multiple opportunities for interaction with the river.