



# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-313-2350

Voice/Relay

Valdis Lazdins, Director

FAX 410-313-3467

September 21, 2017

Christine Lowe  
Howard County Stormwater Management Division  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514  
Columbia, MD 21046

RE: WP-18-022 Longview Drive Stream Stabilization Project

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning considered your request for an alternative compliance from the Howard County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations.

As of the date of this letter, the Planning Director **approved** your request for an alternative compliance of **Section 16.155(a)(1)(ii)**, **Section 16.1201(n)** and **Section 16.1205(a)(7)**.

Approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The alternative compliance plan exhibit shall serve as the substitute for a site development plan for development. No disturbance is permitted beyond the 0.97 acre limit of disturbance as shown on the alternative compliance exhibit unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated by the applicant to be justified.
2. The proposed disturbance to the existing Forest Conservation Easement on Parcel 810 shall be replanted on-site within the existing easement per Howard County Recreation & Parks standards.
3. The removal of the 44" walnut tree is permitted as shown on the plan exhibit. The removal of any additional specimen tree is not permitted under this alternative compliance request. All efforts shall be made to reduce impacts to specimen trees during construction. Tree protection measures as detailed on the plan exhibit shall be utilized as necessary.
4. Once Capital Project D-1158 is complete, the Limit of Disturbance shall be restored to its previous condition through stabilization and replanting of forest resources.
5. All construction and drainage easements and right-of-entry agreements must be obtained prior to the start of construction.
6. Compliance with the attached comments from DPZ- Division of Land Development. Submit a revised exhibit plan for file retention records.
7. The applicant shall obtain all required authorizations and permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for disturbances within the floodplain, wetlands, streams and their buffers. Reference the applicable MDE or USACOE permits or tracking numbers on the alternative compliance plan exhibit and any County permits.

Our decision was made based on the following:

Extraordinary Hardships or Practical Difficulties:

The project that is the subject of this alternative compliance request is needed to address an eroding stream system that is negatively impacting a stream valley that will become County open space. Strict compliance to the Regulations would require additional time, effort and cost to address a large amount of land that is not affected by the proposed project. The additional work would include a forest stand delineation and survey work in the field, as well as additional computations, mapping, reports, plan and exhibit preparation. Full compliance with the Regulations and the expenditure of the design team's resources would not improve the final design or construction of the project and would take away valuable funds from the implementation of the project design and construction. Performing this extra work would also lengthen the schedule for this time-sensitive project.

Not Detrimental to the Public Interest

The existing stream is currently eroding its stream banks and causing a loss of trees and stream buffer vegetation. The loss of trees further destabilizes the stream banks, thus accelerating the rate and amount of erosion. The erosion problem must be addressed and threatens to migrate laterally farther into County open space and private residential properties. Public interests and safety will be improved by the proposed project. Continued erosion will result in the loss of open space and stream buffer, and falling trees can pose a safety hazard for residents and adjacent homes.

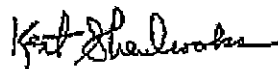
Will Not Nullify the Intent or Purpose of the Regulations

The alternative compliance request is not intended to exempt the project from County regulations, but rather to more appropriately match the goals and resources of the project to the overall intent of the Regulations. A key to this project is the swift and efficient processing of the design plans and construction of the project. The Regulations are meant to assure that development occurs per County requirements and that environmental criteria are met. The project will be designed with the forest conservation regulations in mind. The limit of disturbance will be minimized to only that area necessary for constructing the project. Furthermore, the very nature of this project is to protect the environment by reducing erosion and sediment transport downstream and by providing a stable stream system and improving water quality. The SWMD is also working closely with Recreation & Parks to selectively remove only those trees necessary to accomplish the project, instead of simply clearing out a large area for the contractors to work. Every effort will be made to beneficially re-use removed trees on-site, particularly live cuttings of willows for use in bioengineering.

Indicate this alternative compliance petition file number, request, section of the regulations, action, conditions of approval and date on all related building and grading permits. This alternative compliance approval will remain valid for one year from the date of this letter or as long as a subdivision or site development plan is being actively processed in accordance with the processing provisions of the Regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Buschman at (410) 313-2350 or email at [ebuschman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ebuschman@howardcountymd.gov).

Sincerely,



Kent Sheubrooks, Chief  
Division of Land Development

KS/eb

cc: Research  
DED  
Real Estate Services  
Marian Honeczy- MD DNR