

CRITICAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

OFFSET FEE PROGRAM: STRUCTURE, PROCEDURES AND OUTCOMES

CITY OF BALTIMORE

11/13/2019



History

Approved by the Critical Area Commission in October, 1987.

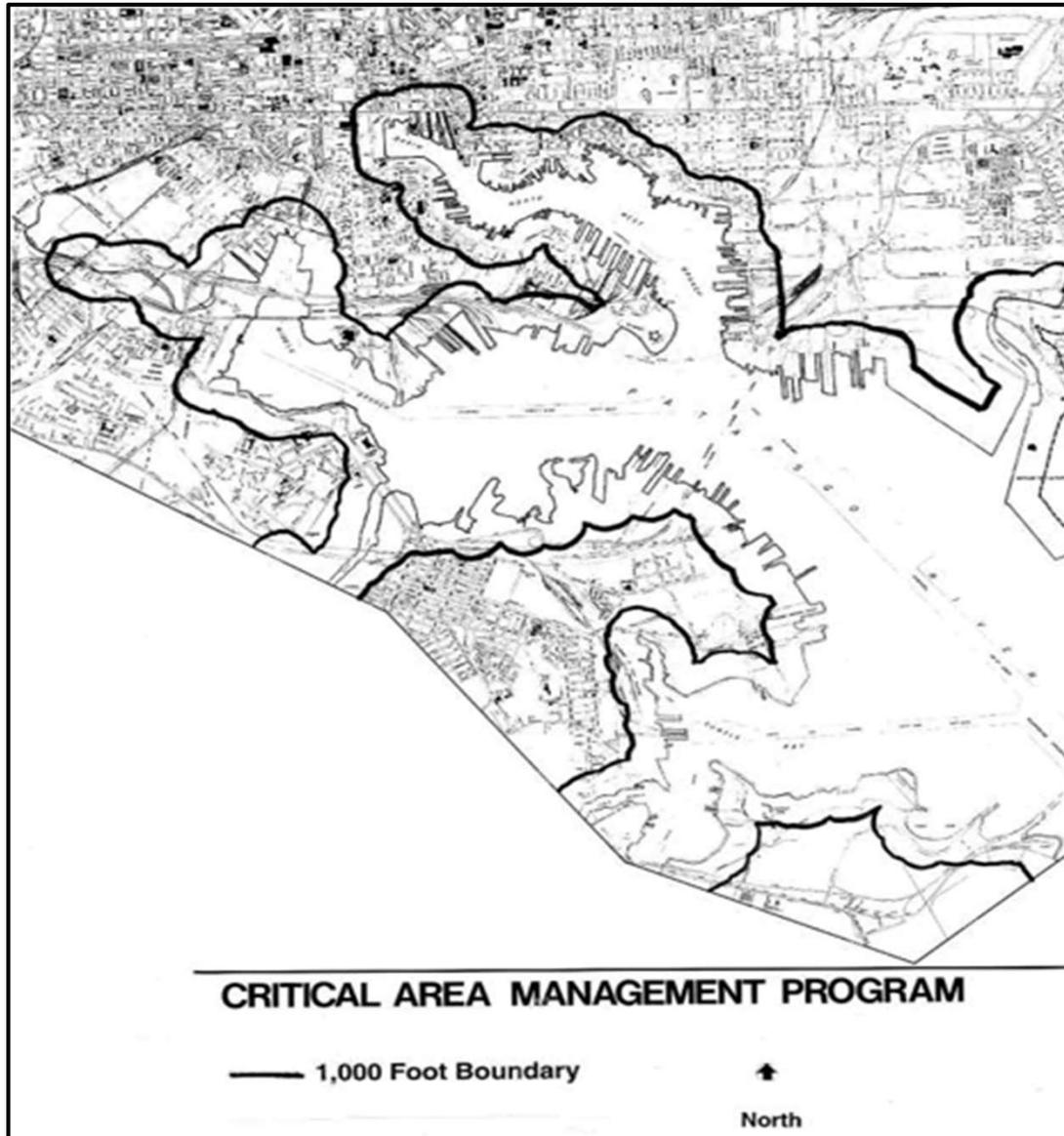
The City Ordinances adopting the program went into effect in January, 1988.

It was last amended in 2002.

A bill amending the program, including the revised CAMP manual and maps, will be introduced soon into Baltimore City Council.



Baltimore's Critical Area



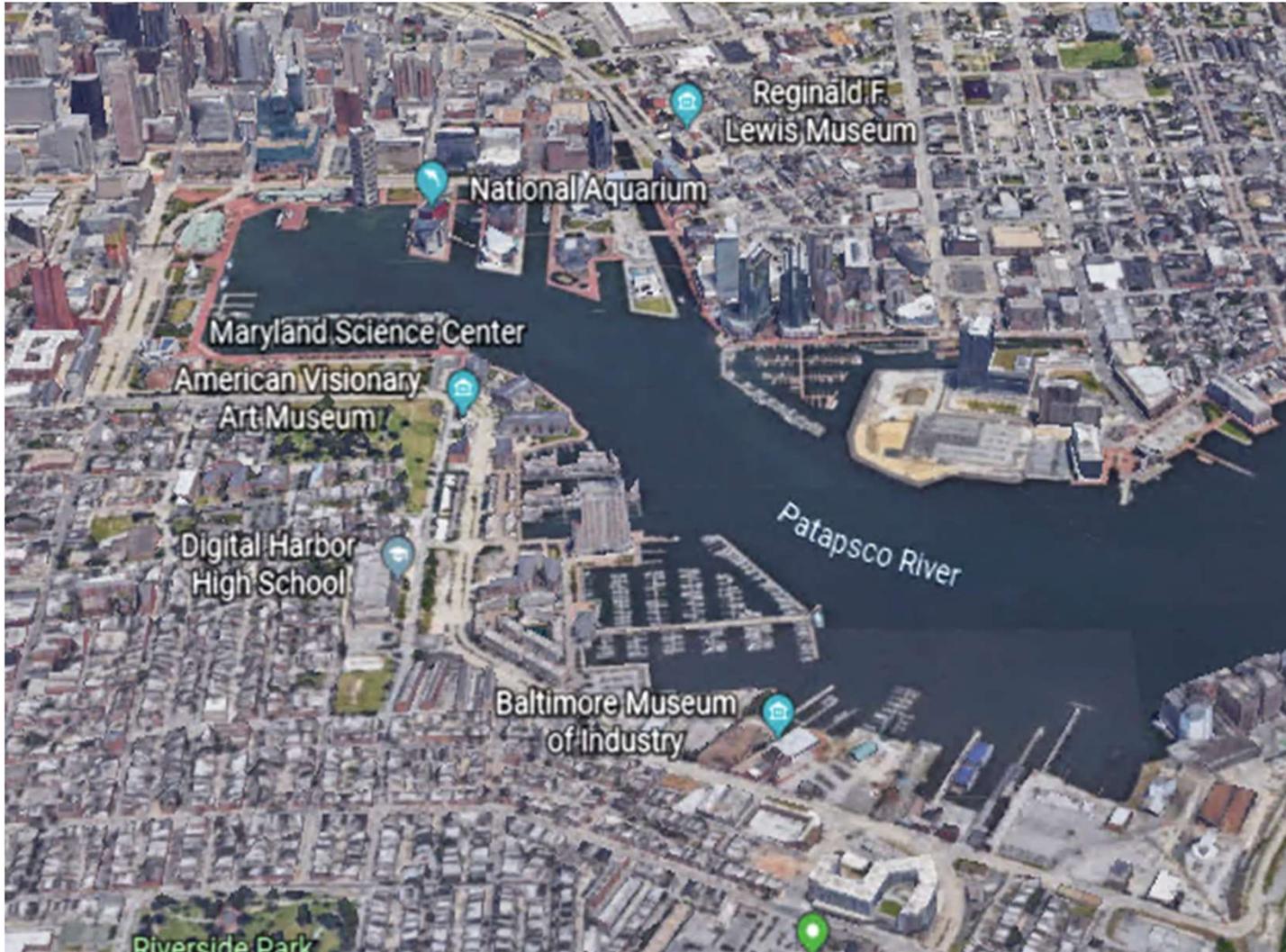
Baltimore's Critical Area includes:

- ~ 61 miles of shoreline
- ~ 5,000 acres
- Almost entirely IDA (~ 4,400 acres)
- No LDA
- ~ 500 acres of RCA
- Over 40% bulkheaded

It is a challenge to locate mitigation on-site, and to find suitable locations for Offset Fee Projects within the CA boundaries.



Inner Harbor



Fells Point/ Canton Industrial Park



Curtis Bay



Middle Branch



Offset Fee Program

When the Critical Area requirements can not be met on site, the Baltimore City Department of Planning may allow an offset fee to be paid.

The City has 2 offset fees:

- 1. Afforestation**
- 2. Stormwater Management (SWM)**



Afforestation and SWM Offset Fees

→ Afforestation

Applies when the 15% afforestation requirement cannot be met on site.

- Rate: \$400 per (1) 2.5" caliper tree

→ SWM

Applies when the SWM 10% Rule cannot be met on site.

- Rate: \$35,000 per pound of Phosphorus

The offset fees are scheduled to be readjusted with the 2019/2020 CAMP manual update.



Offset Fee Program Goals

- **Improve water quality**
- **Conserve, create and enhance wildlife habitat**
- **Create a more environmentally sustainable, green and attractive urban landscapes for the residents of Baltimore**
- **Environmental education**



General Process and Information

- **CAMP Offset Fee Grant Program started in 2012**
- **Public projects only funded pre-2012**
- **CAMP Offset Fee Grants are provided annually**
- **Grant is advertised on social media, website, community fairs... Equity!**
- **Eligible applicants are non-profit and governmental organizations**
- **Proposed projects must comply with the program's goals**
- **Location**



General Process and Organization

- **A selection panel is assemble to perform proposal selection**
- **~ \$160,000 given annually**
- **The CAC reviews the projects and approves the disbursement of offset fee funds**
- **Constant contact during project implementation**
- **Reports are due upon grant cycle completion**
- **Payment of last invoice is contingent upon satisfactory project outcomes**



War Memorial Plaza



School Greening Project



Great Baltimore Oyster Partnership

The Great Baltimore Oyster Partnership has grown approximately 1,000,000 spat in the Baltimore Harbor from 2014-2019 with the help of volunteers.



Questions?

