

Critical Area Commission

STAFF REPORT October 6, 2021

APPLICANT: Anne Arundel County

PROPOSAL: Critical Area Boundary Mapping Update

COMMISSION ACTION: Concurrence

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Kate Durant

**APPLICABLE LAW/
REGULATIONS:** Ch. 119, Acts of 2008, §1—4
COMAR 27.01.11

DISCUSSION:

Background

As part of the comprehensive overhaul of the Critical Area Law by the General Assembly in 2008, a requirement was included to remap the 1,000-foot Critical Area boundary based on recent technologies. In July 2012, the Commission adopted regulations that address the types of source documents used, the process for updating the maps, and the procedures for classifying newly added lands. Subsequently, each local jurisdiction is undergoing a Critical Area mapping update.

Updated Critical Area Maps

Commission staff worked with Anne Arundel County, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to develop updated Critical Area maps for the county. These draft maps were vetted by the aforementioned agencies, were presented at several public meetings throughout the county, and lastly, were delivered to the county for public comment and local approval. The update resulted in a gain of 1,757 acres and a loss of 2,532 acres, with a net loss of 775 acres.

Anne Arundel County Council Bill 63-21

As part of the mapping update, the County Council approved Bill 63-21 at their meeting on July 19, 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The mapping update was completed in accordance with State Law and COMAR 27.01.09.01-8; therefore, Commission staff recommends the Commission concur with the Chairman's determination that the Anne Arundel County mapping update can be reviewed as a refinement to the County's Critical Area Program. Further, staff recommends the Chairman approve the map update as proposed.

All Gains & Losses in the Critical Area – Anne Arundel County



Gains & Losses in the Critical Area – Northern Anne Arundel County



Gains & Losses in the Critical Area – Southern Anne Arundel County

