

Critical Area Commission

STAFF REPORT

July 6, 2022

APPLICANT:	Town of Rock Hall (Kent County)
PROPOSAL:	Critical Area Boundary Mapping Update
COMMISSION ACTION:	Concurrence with Chairman's Determination of Refinement
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Approval
STAFF:	Tay Harris
APPLICABLE LAW/ REGULATIONS:	Ch. 119, Acts of 2008, §1—4 COMAR 27.01.11

DISCUSSION

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 the Town of Rock Hall, 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 town. These draft maps were vetted by the aforementioned agencies, were provided to affected property owners, and lastly, were delivered to the town for public comment and local approval. The update resulted in a gain of 42 acres and a loss of 6 acres, with a net gain of 36 acres and 460 acres remaining the same. The attached map shows the new 1,000-foot boundary line, as well as the areas of loss (in red) and the areas of gain (in green).

Town of Rock Hall – Ordinance No. 2022-01

As part of the mapping update, the Town of Rock Hall Council adopted Ordinance 2202-012 at their meeting on May 12, 2022. This action constituted local adoption and incorporation of the updated Critical Area 1,000-foot boundary line update as well as the Critical Area Overlay District Map. This refinement is limited to the boundary line update only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The mapping update was completed in accordance with State Law and COMAR 27.01.09.01-8; therefore, the Commission staff recommends that the Commission concur with the Chairmans's determination that the Town of Rock Hall mapping boundary update can be reviewed as a refinement to the Town's Critical Area Program. Staff also recommends that the Chair approve this map

amendment as proposed.



Critical Area Change

Gain
Loss
Same