

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**  
**WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PROTECTION PROGRAM**  
**NOTICE OF DECISION**

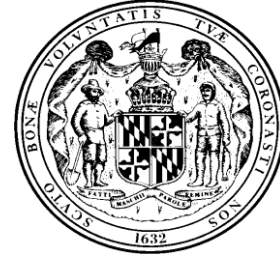
**In the Matter of:** Howard County Department of Public Works  
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit  
Application Number 24-NT-3197/202461369

**Hearing Date:** March 31, 2025

**Hearing Location:** Virtual Hearing

**Decision:** Approval

**Date:** May 15, 2025



The review of the Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application in the above-referenced matter has been governed by criteria set forth under Title 5, Subtitle 5, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Appropriation or Use of Waters, Reservoirs, and Dams; Subtitle 9, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, entitled Nontidal Wetlands; and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 26, Subtitle 17, Chapter 04, Construction on Nontidal Waters and Floodplains and Subtitle 23 Nontidal Wetlands. The Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application has been reviewed for compliance with Maryland water quality standards under COMAR Title 26, Subtitle 08, Chapter 02 Water Quality.

After examination of all documents and evidence in the above-referenced matter, I have determined that:

1. The applicant has demonstrated a need for impacts to nontidal wetlands, 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 100-year nontidal floodplain, and unnamed tributaries;
2. The applicant has minimized impacts to nontidal wetlands, 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 100-year nontidal floodplain, and unnamed tributaries;
3. No rare, threatened or endangered species have been identified in the area of impact from the proposed project;
4. No historical or archeological sites have been identified in the area of impact for the proposed project;
5. The project is consistent with State water quality requirements;
6. Public notice and public informational hearing requirements have been satisfied; and,
7. The applicant has demonstrated that the project has independent utility from any potential future projects.

Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Application 24-NT-3197/202461369 meets the criteria set forth in statute and regulation governing impacts to wetlands and waterways. Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit Number 24-NT-3197/202461369 may be issued by the Water and Science Administration to authorize

Howard County Department of Public Works to improve the existing Patuxent Branch Trail which includes trail widening, drainage improvements, stormwater management, and a temporary access road. The project will permanently impact 81 square feet of emergent nontidal wetland, 93 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 30 linear feet (244 square feet) of stream and 132,060 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain. The project will temporarily impact 2,113 square feet of emergent nontidal wetland, 6,469 square feet of 25-foot nontidal wetland buffer, 54 linear feet (181 square feet) of stream, and 6,192 square feet of 100-year nontidal floodplain.

The project is proposed to unnamed tributaries to the Little Patuxent River (Use IV). The project is located between 9190 Old Guilford Road, Columbia and 9222 Vollmerhausen Road, Jessup in Howard County.

A brief explanation of the rationale for this decision is contained in the attached Summary of Basis for Decision.



Heather L. Nelson  
Program Manager  
Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program