COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 4

Resolution No. 11-25

All Councilmembers

By the County Council, February 18, 2025

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council to adopt the Baltimore County Open Space Manual.

WHEREAS, the County's Open Space requirements are primarily governed by § 32-6-108 of the County Code and § 260.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, as well as relevant County regulations; and

WHEREAS, in general, § 32-4-404 of the County Code requires the County to prepare and periodically update a manual on the County's Open Space requirements, among others, that must be adopted by the Baltimore County Planning Board and the County Council; and

WHEREAS, specifically, § 32-4-404(c) states that the Department of Planning and the Department of Recreation and Parks shall jointly prepare a Manual of Design and Administration of the open space requirements (the "Open Space Manual" or the "Manual"); and

WHEREAS, § 32-4-404(d) requires that each County agency that is required to prepare a manual shall submit the manual to the Planning Board for review, upon which the Planning Board must, within 75 days, hold a public hearing, approve the manual, and submit the manual to the County Council for adoption; and

WHEREAS, § 32-4-404(d) further requires that, within 90 days after submission of the manual to the County Council, the Council shall adopt the manual with any amendments the

Council considers appropriate, upon which the manual shall become effective; and

WHEREAS, the County's current Open Space Manual was last updated and adopted by the Council in 2000; and

WHEREAS, beginning in early 2024, the Departments of Planning; Recreation and Parks; Environmental Protection and Sustainability; and Permits, Approvals, and Inspections (collectively, the "Agencies") began updating the Open Space Manual; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this update was to make the Manual clearer, more precise, and to bring the Manual into conformity with changes in State and County law in the two and a half decades since the Manual's previous update; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Agencies formed a work group consisting of six landscape architects, which met fortnightly beginning in July, 2024 to review and give feedback on the draft updates; and

WHEREAS, beyond substantive text updates, the Agencies also updated the graphics and appendices to make the Manual easier for County landscape architects to use county-wide; and

WHEREAS, the Agencies introduced and presented the updated Manual to the Planning Board at its October 17, 2024 meeting; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the updated Manual, after which the Board decided to delay their vote on the updated Manual until January, 2025 in order to receive more input from stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on January 16, 2025, the Planning Board voted to approve the Manual, as well as six amendments offered by Neighborspace, and submit to the Council a recommendation to adopt the Manual, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has reviewed the Open Space Manual, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and approved with amendments by the Planning Board at its January 16, 2025 meeting; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that, pursuant to § 32-4-404 of the County Code, the Open Space Manual, attached hereto as Exhibit A and approved with amendments by the Planning Board at its January 16, 2025 meeting, is hereby adopted~~; and~~ with the following modifications:

On page 2, in Section II: Goals and Objectives, within goal and objective 1.d, strike "When possible,".

On page 6, in Section III: Residential Open Space Definitions and Standards, within paragraph D.1, in the second line, after "proposed development site," strike "preferably".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Departments of Planning; Recreation and Parks; Environmental Protection and Sustainability; and Permits, Approvals, and Inspections as well as the Baltimore County Planning Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.

LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION	RESOLUTION 11-25
DISPOSITION	PASSED AS AMENDED
ENACTED	N/A
EFFECTIVE	N/A
AMENDMENTS	YES

ROLL CALL - BILL

MOTION MARKS SECOND ERTEL

AYE	NAY	
☑	☐	Councilman Young
☑	☐	Councilman Patoka
☑	☐	Councilman Kach
☑	☐	Councilman Jones
☑	☐	Councilman Marks
☑	☐	Councilman Ertel
☑	☐	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION MARKS SECOND KACH

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☑	☐	Councilman Marks
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ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

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ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION SECOND

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