



**Addendum to the Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in
Montgomery County (Environmental Guidelines)**

MCPB
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Summary

In 1997 the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the *Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County*. The document, published in January 2000, is commonly referred to as the “Environmental Guidelines”. No changes have occurred to the Environmental Guidelines since their adoption and publication. However, actions by other governmental agencies changed selected sections of the Environmental Guidelines. Since 2000 the County Council approved the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan which created a new Special Protection Area and the State of Maryland re-designated some watersheds giving them new water use categories. The proposal today is to update the Environmental Guidelines to reflect the changes that have already occurred, but are not currently in the published version of the document. This discussion is limited to Figure 7 on page 30 and Figure 11 on page 63 of the Environmental Guidelines.

Proposed Changes

Figure 7 on page 30 of the Environmental Guidelines identifies and locates the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within Montgomery County. When the Planning Board approved the Environmental Guidelines there were only three SPAs. In April 2004 the Montgomery County Council approved the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan and SPA. The following page shows existing Figure 7 on page 30 of the Environmental Guidelines.

Figure 7. Special Protection Areas in Montgomery County (as of January, 1997)

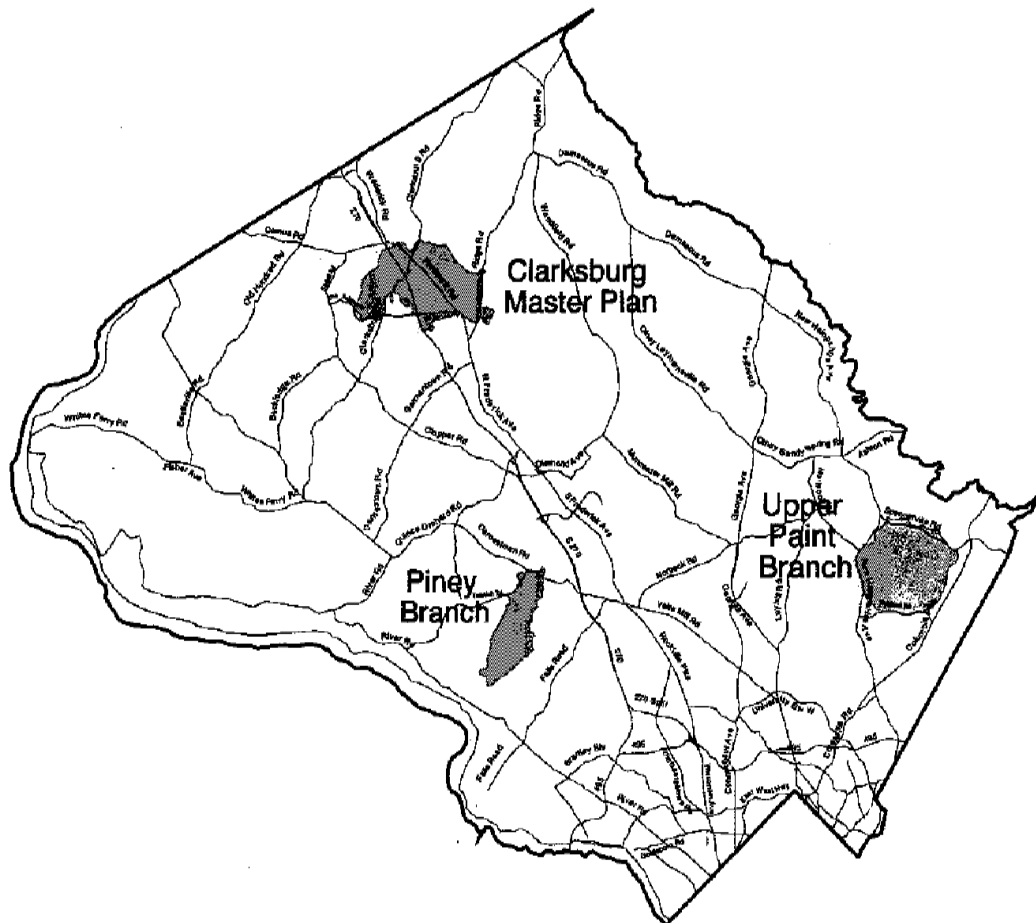


Figure 7. Special Protection Areas in Montgomery County



The proposed new Figure 7 above clearly identifies the four SPAs and their location within the County. In addition, the exhibit shows the major (8 digit) watersheds. Staff proposes that the Figure above replace Figure 7 that is currently published on page 30 of the Environmental Guidelines.

The second item for change is Figure 11 on page 63 of the Environmental Guidelines. This figure depicts the State water use designations for watersheds in Montgomery County. The State designates distinct water use categories for each watershed in the County. In general, the designations are:

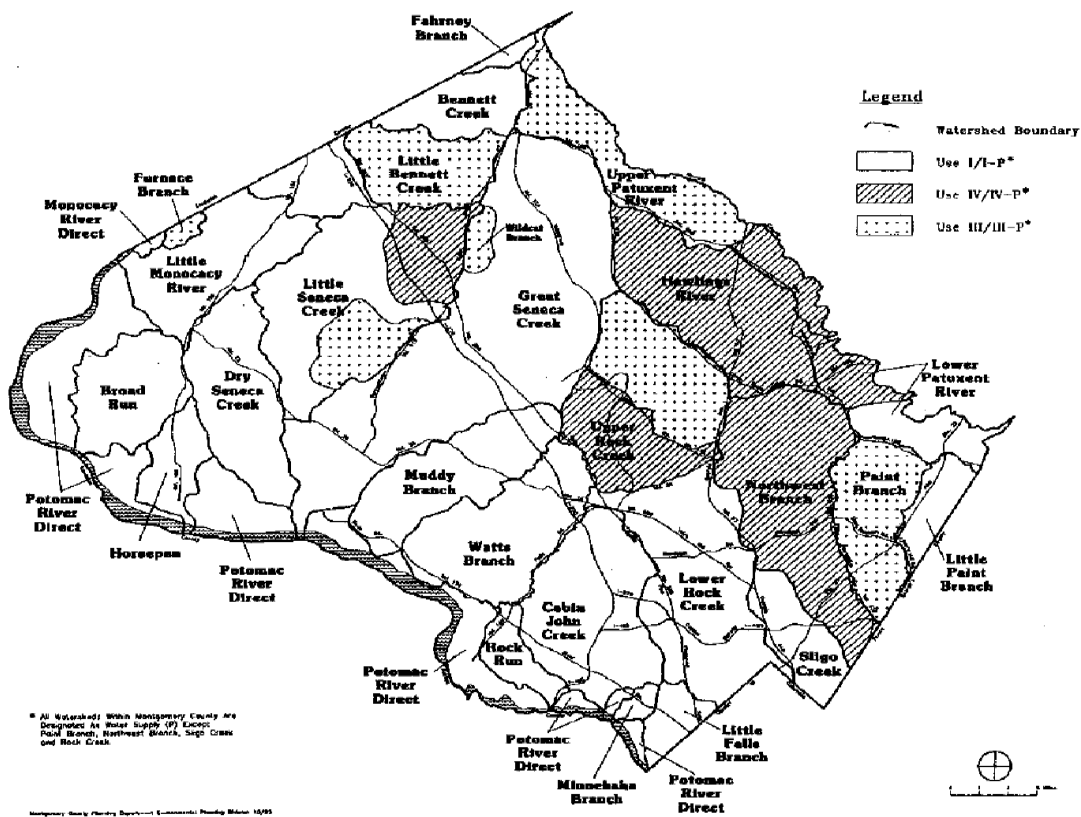
1. Use I: Water contact recreation and protection of aquatic life
2. Use I-P: Water contact recreation, protection of aquatic life, and public water supply
3. Use II: Shellfish harvesting waters (not applicable in Montgomery County)
4. Use III: Natural Trout Waters

5. Use III-P: Natural Trout Waters and Public Water Supply
6. Use IV: Recreational Trout Waters
7. Use IV-P: Recreational Trout Waters and Public Water Supply

Figure 11 on page 63 of the Environmental Guidelines is reproduced below.

Environmental Guidelines

Figure 11. State Water Use Designations for Montgomery County

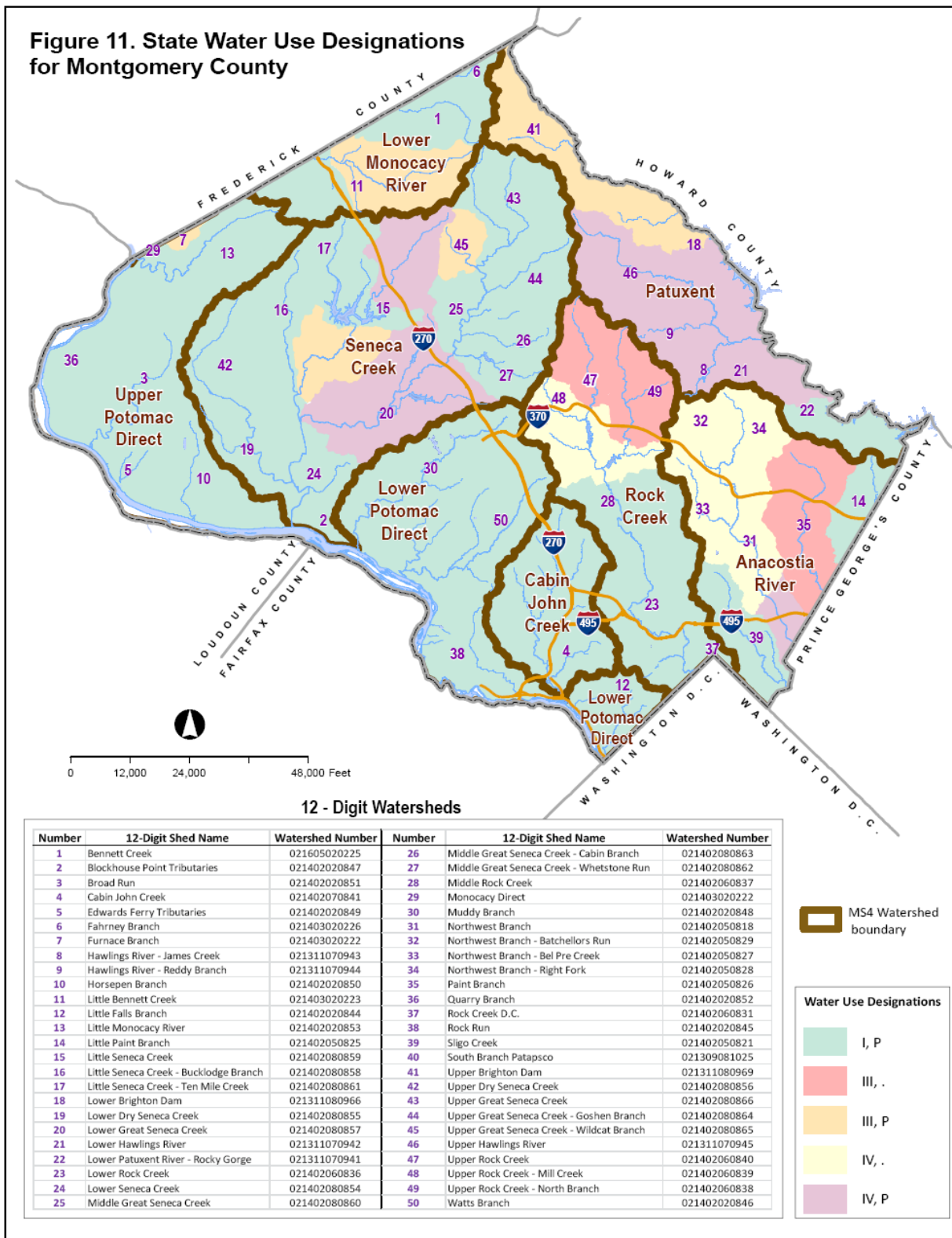


In the past few years, the State of Maryland has re-designated some watershed in Montgomery County, in particular a portion of the Seneca Creek watershed. Previously, this watershed was listed as Use I-P, but is now listed as Use IV-P. In addition, the figure in the Environmental Guidelines does not clearly identify which watersheds and waterways are suitable for public water supply. Staff proposes a new Figure 11 which clarifies the use designation for each 12 digit watersheds and identifies which watersheds are potable and those that are not. The figure on the next page would replace existing Figure 11 on page 63 of the Environmental Guidelines.

In the preparation of this staff report staff identified that pages 59 and 60 of the Environmental Guidelines also needs to be updated. These two pages provide a table that identifies the various State designated water uses and the extent of each waterway or watershed within that use designation. The table needs to be updated to reflect the 12 digit watersheds and the re-designation of some watersheds.

Staff still needs to prepare the new table and delineate the 12 digit watersheds that have multiple water uses. Staff will make the narrative on pages 59 and 60 consistent with Figure 11.

Figure 11. State Water Use Designations for Montgomery County



Recommendation

Staff recommends the Planning Board approve the changes to Figures 7 and 11 in the Environmental Guidelines as shown in the exhibits above and for staff to update pages 59 and 60 of the Environmental Guidelines to reflect the new Figure 11.