



## **Greater Baltimore Wilderness Accord**

This Accord is made and entered into by and among the members of the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (hereafter referred to as the **Baltimore Wilderness or BW.**) The Accord creates a voluntary network of local, state and federal agencies and independent organizations that share and support common goals.

### **Vision**

Baltimore Wilderness envisions a future where:

- Accessible interconnected and healthy ecosystems contribute to economic vitality, resilience and quality of life for all of the region's residents and visitors;
- The region's working lands, watersheds, open spaces and natural communities are intentionally protected, restored, enhanced, and managed for ecological health; and
- Healthy and prosperous communities appreciate and support natural ecosystems, creating an enduring culture of conservation and stewardship.

### **Mission**

To improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of central Maryland by identifying, restoring, enhancing and protecting an interconnected network of lands and waters supporting healthy ecosystems and communities that benefit people and wildlife .

To achieve this mission, Baltimore Wilderness will focus on four programmatic pillars:

- Resilience – To improve the region’s capacity to achieve lasting economic vitality, BW will seek to mitigate impacts of climate change including sea level rise, flooding, stronger coastal storms, warmer temperatures, and drought through a protected regional green infrastructure network that includes forests, wetlands, parks, rain gardens and urban tree canopy. This network will absorb rainfall, store water, reduce flooding and provide additional community benefits, such as cleaner air, space for recreation, and relief from urban heat.
- Biodiversity - In this rapidly developing region wildlife habitat is continually fragmented or lost due to traditional infrastructure and development. Preserving valuable natural areas, such as forests, wetlands, vernal pools, and coastal environments provides access to food and shelter for wildlife, offers corridors for migration, and protects vulnerable, often at risk species.
- Equity – As access to nature is unequally available across the region, BW seeks to connect the region’s increasingly urbanized population with nature. Local and regional greenways, city parks, restored stream corridors, urban waterways and trees can reach even into heavily developed areas and provide connections with green and blue natural resources.
- Discovery and Engagement - In a world that is increasingly urbanized and dominated by technology, environmental and outdoor education for children and adults is even more important. BW must direct the attention of present and up-and-coming generations to the richness and value of the natural world so that we will collectively do better as its stewards.

### **Recitals**

***WHEREAS***, the Greater Baltimore region’s natural resource lands are permeated by intense urban development making protection and restoration of contiguous blocks of green infrastructure critical for the region’s resilience to climate change, water and air quality and living resource services; and

***WHEREAS***, Federal, state and local agencies have a critical role in the protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of unique and sensitive habitats and plant and animal communities; the maintenance and improvement of local soil,

*water and air quality; the reduction of greenhouse gases; and the provision of recreational and aesthetic amenities to the community; and*

***WHEREAS***, *we support the Chesapeake Bay Program and its signatory partners to meet the commitments of the New Chesapeake 2014 Watershed Agreement; and*

***WHEREAS***, *collaborative research and innovative technology improves natural resource management among participating organizations and the community;*

***WHEREAS***, *we recognize the value and mutual benefit of aligning governmental and private partner resources to achieve a common vision that engages participation of affected individuals.*

***NOW THEREFORE,***

Each Member commits to the following:

- Fostering coordination of support for management and research to achieve stewardship objectives consistent with constraints of affected agencies or organizations;
- Improving communication among Coalition members and the public about shared goals and ideals for environmental stewardship;
- Meeting regularly to identify restoration, management or monitoring initiatives of mutual interest in targeted geographic areas;
- Maintaining and enhancing ecological, environmental and societal services provided by green infrastructure through management, restoration and conservation actions;
- Developing and implementing joint management strategies for green infrastructure when feasible, given available financial and staff resources and legal authority;
- Conducting outreach activities to improve awareness, and integrate public and private sensitivity to environmental issues; and
- Defining and adopting sustainability criteria to guide our strategies, evaluate the progress of the Coalition, and communicate benefits to members and the public.

***IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE SHARED VALUES AND COMMITMENTS, it is mutually agreed and understood by and among the parties hereto that,***

This Accord reflects a commitment among the parties to work together to achieve the vision and mission articulated herein. This Accord in no way obligates or restricts the activity of any party hereto in any way. No Member shall obligate, or purport to obligate, any other Member with respect to any matter. Other voluntary policies and practices are described in the Policies and Procedures document adopted by the Steering Committee.

***NOW, IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, the following party has executed this Accord as of the date indicated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name/title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Agency/Organization