

Vista Estates West HOA

GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN 2023-2026

In 2022 Vista Estates West HOA worked with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and its Sustainable Maryland (SM) program to adopt the SM Residential Action Framework. Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust with support from the Prince George's County Department of Environment, this framework guides homeowners' and civic associations through a process that increases their awareness of natural resources and watershed protection issues, educates their residents on the importance of community-based sustainability efforts, and encourages action.

Over the course of a year, the EFC project team led community members through a process of identifying and prioritizing shared areas of need, strategies for enhancing collective action, and opportunities for developing projects culminating in a Green Team Action Plan.

The Vista Estates West Green Team Action plan is a living document that establishes priority actions for the next three years and serves as a tool for Green Team members to stay organized and track progress over time.



HIGHLIGHTS

LOCATION

Intersection of Lottsford Vista Road and Bald Hill Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721

POPULATION

135 households
~450 residents

GREEN TEAM ESTABLISHED 2023

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS

John Clendenin, Board President
Anthony Leon, Board Vice President
Gloria Bell, Board Treasurer
Letetia Bing, Board Member at Large
Brittany Borg, Homeowner
Zoleta Castor, Caster Management, Property Manager

GREEN TEAM CONTACT

Rachel Stroud, Board Secretary,
rmstroud@verizon.net

PARTNERS

Sustainable Maryland
Environmental Finance Center
Prince George's County
Department of Environment
Chesapeake Bay Trust



ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



COMMUNITY ACTION

Establish/Grow a Green Team



Action Leads:

Target Year: 2023

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs: Free

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- SM Framework presentation | Sustainable Maryland | <https://go.umd.edu/cyZ>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

SM provided a GT resolution from Diamond Farm HOA as a template. A formal resolution creating the Green Team was adopted 11-29-22.

Develop a Green Team Action Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year: 2023

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs: Free

Potential Partners: University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

Potential Resources:

- SM Green Team Action Plan Template Sustainable Maryland | [Contact SM](#)
- Advocacy & Stewardship Handbook | Audubon Naturalist Society | <https://bit.ly/3sfWzZ0>
- Homeowner's Guide to Sustainability | Angi | <https://bit.ly/3HZadqq>
- Environment | Community Associations | <https://bit.ly/35lzug8>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

In process as of Winter 2022-2023.

Partner with Nonprofits or Higher Education Institutions to Help Build Capacity and Provide Technical Assistance

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Community Engagement and Restoration Mentorship Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/346360J>
- Community Partnership Grant (CPG) | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3FoC96D>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Aims to help build capacity and provide technical assistance (e.g., grant writing, research, etc.). Identify future opportunities to partner with the University of Maryland, Sustainable Maryland, Chesapeake Bay Trust, etc.

Coordinate with Neighboring HOA Green Teams on Green Initiatives

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Greening Your HOA | Piedmont Environmental Council | <https://bit.ly/33t11Vw>
- Green Condo and Homeowners Associations: Ideas on Green Initiatives from Across the Country | HOA Leader | <https://bit.ly/3sMCFoN>
- "Go Green" Program | Forest Heights, MD - Official Website | <https://bit.ly/3MXmrlc>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

There are 10 new HOA/Civic Association Green Teams in the County plus a municipal Green Team in Upper Marlboro. See map in Attachment A of this report. Contact information for each HOA with a Green Team in Prince George's County can be found on the [SM website](#).

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Promote Stormwater Best Management Projects and Rebate Program

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program - Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3LT8SmV>
- Stormwater – People for Change Coalition | <https://bit.ly/3yjHnPf>
- Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate - Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3MHSQws>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and emails alerts, plus quarterly meetings.

Schedule Regular Community Cleanup Days

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- How to Organize & Lead Your Clean Up | Alice Ferguson Foundation | <https://bit.ly/3HkJiEY>
- Volunteer Neighborhood Cleanup Program | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/38eI4QB>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Comprehensive Community Cleanup Program | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3yWbH2Y>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and emails alerts, plus quarterly meetings.

Host Rain Barrel Workshops

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-Grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://ter.ps/12ed>
- Sample Rain Barrel Workshop Flyer | <https://bit.ly/3NDR7NL>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Grants are available for this project.

Develop a Stormwater Management Action Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Stormwater Management Design Manual | <https://bit.ly/3yAs84X>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) (for project execution)| Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3qi85gX>
- Watershed Assistance Grant Program (for conceptual plans/designs) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3AWvU7S>
- Sample Stormwater Action Plan: McKenney Hills/Carroll Knolls Civic Association | Environmental Finance Center | <https://bit.ly/3rle4IR>
- Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3GtOrex>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

SM can potentially provide grant-funded assistance.

Conduct Pet Waste Management Outreach



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Pet Waste Program Matrix | Sustainable Maryland | <https://bit.ly/3hyGUiS>
- Pet Waste | Improving Water Quality in Your Community | <https://bit.ly/3yWFngd>
- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program (behavior change track) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Scoop That Poop | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3LJUf4p>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

SM can provide pet waste yard signs and electronic outreach materials. This would help address complaints at Board meetings. Residents can be informed via website and emails alerts, plus quarterly meetings.

Install and Maintain Green Infrastructure



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Approved Green Infrastructure Master Plan | MNCPPC, MD | <https://bit.ly/3PFr1H1>
- Implementing the Green Infrastructure Plan | MNCPPC, MD | <https://bit.ly/3MZI5Hn>
- Require Community-Wide Climate Resilient Green Infrastructure | Prince George's County Climate Action Plan | <https://bit.ly/3PEBQZZ>

- Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://ter.ps/129v>
- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) (for project execution) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3qi85gX>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Examples include bioswales, rain gardens, pervious pavers, rain barrels, green streets, etc. Several opportunities exist for small-scale stormwater infrastructure, including swales behind homes that lead runoff into common areas, causing flooding and erosion. Funding and technical assistance for projects can come from the County and non-profits.

ECO-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Adopt and Promote Native Plant Landscaping Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Tree Planting and Gardening — Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3PFe3Jq>
- Plant Trees | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/38Ia91U>

- Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://ter.ps/129v>
- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Landscaping with Native Plants | MD Native Plant Society | <https://bit.ly/3LvJXG3>
- Native Plant Guide | Chesapeake Native Plant Center | <https://bit.ly/3Luq3Lw>
- Plant Trees | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/38Ia91U>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and emails alerts, plus quarterly meetings.

Adopt and Promote Conservation Landscaping Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Home Gardens | Prince George's Soil Conservation District | <https://bit.ly/38HhYoz>
- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-Grant Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and emails alerts, plus quarterly meetings.

Conduct a Tree Canopy Inventory



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Urban Tree Canopy Assessment | U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service | <https://ter.ps/12a9>
- Guide to Assessing Urban Forests | i-Tree | <https://bit.ly/3ssca88>
- Tree Canopy Assessment | City of College Park | <https://bit.ly/3sCwung>
- Tree Inventory: Prince George's County, MD, USA | PlanIT Geo™ | <https://bit.ly/3IHb5Go>
- Forest and Tree Canopy Data for Maryland | <https://bit.ly/3IXfi9n>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Tree canopy is a priority for the Green Team. The community is losing trees, especially after storms, in forested areas and in backyards. A tree canopy inventory can be accomplished with volunteers with cell phone apps. Green Team prefers to hire an arborist with grant funding, if possible.

Develop a Tree Canopy Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program (with tree plantings) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Urban Tree Canopy Planning | MD Department of Planning | <https://bit.ly/3gFCNRv>

- Community Assessment & Goal-Setting Tool | Vibrant Cities Lab | <https://bit.ly/3rJny0k>
- Backyard Buffers Program | MD Department of Natural Resources | <https://bit.ly/3JkXvT8>
- Tree-Mendous Maryland | MD Department of Natural Resources | <https://bit.ly/35mPVIO>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Plant Pollinator Gardens



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Guide to Passing Wildlife-Friendly Property Maintenance Ordinances | National Wildlife Federation | <https://bit.ly/3hu5oK7>
- Pollinator Gardens | University of Maryland Extension | <https://bit.ly/3wKTp1O>

- Pollinator Packets | Prince George's Soil Conservation District | <https://bit.ly/3sRm2te>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Common areas get full sun. Potential areas for native plant meadow/pollinator gardens and benches.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Promote Local Farmers Markets

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Farmers Markets | MNCPPC, MD | <https://bit.ly/38NviaP>
- Farmers Markets Serving Prince George's County | <https://bit.ly/38lufJo>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed about markets in DC, Bowie and Cheverly (closest ones) via website and emails alerts.

Host Community Walks or Runs

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Fun Run Planning Checklist | Safe Routes to School | <https://bit.ly/3sx95VB>
- How to Organize a 5K: A Guide to Planning Your First Race | Active | <https://bit.ly/3vvvJzu>
- HOA Social Committee Ideas For Your Community Interaction | HOA Management | <https://bit.ly/3AYEtyW>
- Healthy Trails 5K Walk/Run | MNCPPC, MD | <https://bit.ly/3z1VUjf>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

WASTE REDUCTION

Host a Document Shredding Event

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Shredding Events In Your Community | Shred-it | <https://bit.ly/3stinAu>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Prince George's County often hosts shredding events throughout the year in various locations. Check their [events calendar](#) or sign up for their [newsletter](#) to stay informed of upcoming shredding events.

Offer and/or Promote Community-Wide Composting

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Prince George's County Curbside Composting | <https://ter.ps/12em>

- Prince George's County Leads Maryland in Composting with Expansion of Food Waste Program | Sierra Club | <https://bit.ly/3PGygP4>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

County now offer curbside pickup of food scraps.

CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Promote Energy Efficiency Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Home Performance Rebates | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/2p98r7vu>
- Residential Rebates & Discounts | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/29db5v5z>
- HVAC Efficiency Rebates | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/2p9y5x8x>
- Smart Thermostat Savings | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/bdzn6h2a>
- Energy Peak Rewards | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/4uvt8kp5>
- Sustainable Energy | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3NA1ux1>
- Energy Efficiency Grant | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3wL4Yas>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and newsletters.

Promote Community and Solar Co-Ops



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- MD Capital Area Solar Co-op | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3rkmlXn>
- CleanChoice Energy Community Solar Opens New Prince George's County Solar Farm | <https://bit.ly/3ab82Ur>
- Community Solar Resources | BGE | <https://tinyurl.com/22rmkt7x>
- Community Solar Pilot Program | MD Public Service Commission | <https://bit.ly/3AWpDJ8>
- A Guide to Community Shared Solar: Utility, Private, and Nonprofit Project Development | Sun Shot | <https://bit.ly/34sFXFT>
- HOA Solar Action Guide | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3sfW7tW>
- Completed Co-ops in Maryland | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3uFM9oA>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and newsletters.

Promote Water Efficiency Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Saving Water in Maryland | WaterSense | <https://bit.ly/3Gtu5jS>
- Tips for Inside the Home | <https://bit.ly/3sUaSny>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and newsletters.

Upgrade to LED Streetlights



Action Leads:

Target Year: Completed

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- LED Streetlight Conversions in Maryland & Virginia: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategies in 2020 | MD Energy Administration | <https://bit.ly/3siexKA>
- Street Lights | Prince George's County, MD | <https://bit.ly/3yUKQEp>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

The County has already upgraded streetlights to LEDs.

TRANSPORTATION

Promote the Benefits of Reduced Automobile Dependence

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- TOD Plans Take Shape in Prince George's County | Planetizen News | <https://bit.ly/3NAF7aN>
- About TOD | MNCPPC, MD | <https://bit.ly/3NzA0HP>
- Prince George's zoning code rewrite could make the county greener and less car-dependent | Greater Greater Washington | <https://bit.ly/3GruV23>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via website and newsletters.

Conduct a Walking Audit



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Walk Audit Toolkit and Leader Guide | AARP | <https://bit.ly/3szwvZb>
- Get to Know Your Neighborhood with a Walk Audit | Safe Routes to School National Partnership | <https://bit.ly/3sxTN1y>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Walkability is a priority for the Green Team. Wants to encourage County to increase safety measures between the local shopping center (Vista Gardens) and schools (Flowers High School) where many sidewalk gaps exist.

Install Traffic Calming Measures

Action Leads:

Target Year: 2023

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

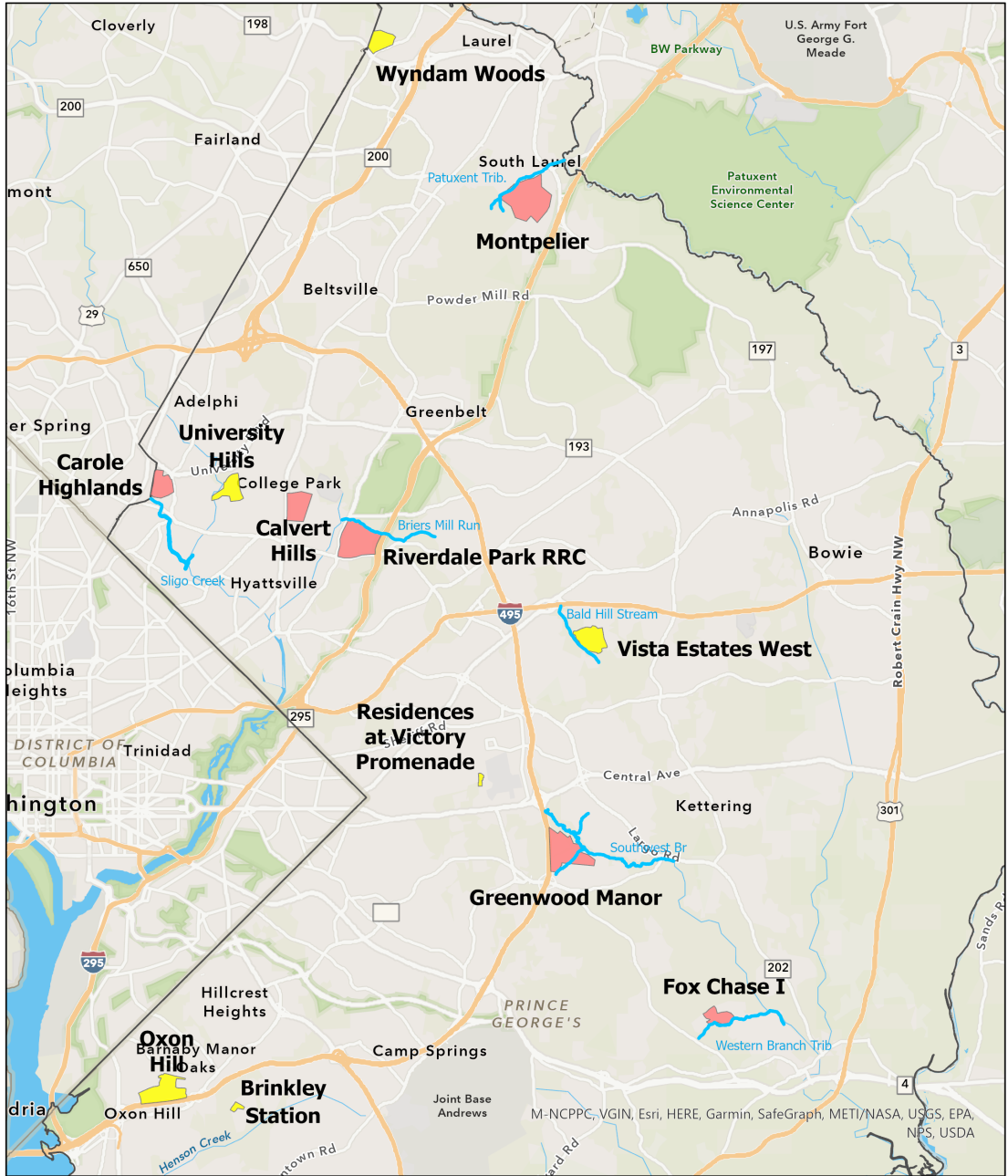
Potential Resources:

- Traffic Calming Measures for HOAs | Radarsign | <https://bit.ly/3L4FFW3>
- Safety Improvements | <https://bit.ly/3aorNIq>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Community streets are County-owned. Green Team can lobby the County for speed humps/tables in key locations, including Bald Hill and Lottsford Vista.

APPENDIX A: HOA GREEN TEAMS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MAP



Prince George's County Green Teams

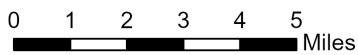
Green Team Community Boundary

Phase 1.0

Phase 2.0

Local Streams

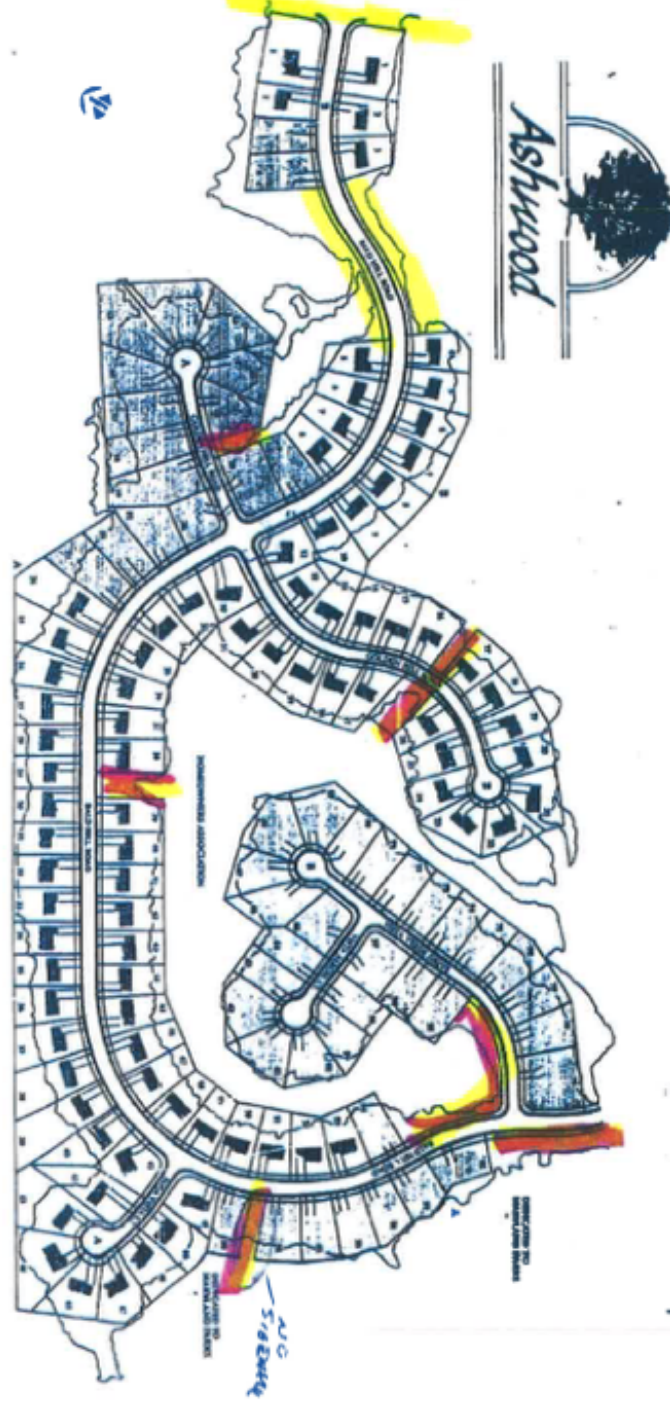
PG County Boundary



APPENDIX B: VISTA ESATES WEST (ASHWOOD) MAP

A S H W O O D

LOTTSFORD - VISTA ROAD



us·home
LISTED ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

VISTA
ESTATES
WEST

REVISION 1
9.11.14