

The Gunpowder Riverkeeper® (GRK) opposes the proposed Foster's Run Development, Issue Number A-006 MZ in the Harford County 2017 Comprehensive Zoning Plan. GRK's opposition is supported by Harford County residents who spoke at the community input meeting on April 11, 2017 and voiced their opposition to the creation of the Foster's Run development and to the increase in residential and commercial development in that area.

GRK expresses the following concerns with the proposed Foster's Run development:

- The increase in development will have detrimental effects on the water quality of Foster Branch and the tidal Gunpowder River. The Foster's Run development is in the watershed of Foster Branch that is already impaired by sediment pollution from upstream sources and any increase in development in the watershed will only exacerbate this sediment pollution problem.
- Increasing the impervious surfaces in the Foster Branch watershed will increase the amount of polluted runoff that ends up in Foster Branch and the Tidal Gunpowder River. This runoff will contain sediment, bacteria, nutrient and temperature pollution. These increases in pollution may cause Foster Branch to no longer meet its water body use class requirements of Use I and Use II in the tidal portion of the stream.
- Increases in impervious surfaces in the Foster Branch watershed will also increase pollution loads on the tidal Gunpowder River and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Harford County residents who have property adjacent to Foster Branch periodically pay to have it dredged because it fills in with sediment, the County has done nothing to mitigate the constant sediment pollution from upstream sources that these downstream residents are forced to pay for. Developing the Foster's Run subdivision will only cause more sediment pollution, more frequent dredging of Foster Branch and more costs to residents to remediate the sediment pollution they had no part in causing.

If Harford County approves the development of the Foster's Run subdivision then it must take the following proactive steps to monitor and prevent increases in pollution in Foster Branch, the tidal Gunpowder River and the Chesapeake Bay:

- Before construction starts, Harford County must conduct background/baseline pollution monitoring and sampling on the stream and tidal portions of Foster Branch.
- During construction Harford County must conduct monthly pollution monitoring and sampling to determine the increase in pollutants loads during that time.
- For two years after construction Harford County must continue monthly monitoring and sampling and compare the results to the baseline figures gathered prior to construction. This data and analysis must also be shared with the public.
- The Foster's Run subdivision plans must require the use of Best Available Technology that will limit the amount of stormwater runoff that ends up in Foster Branch. The plans should also include a strategy for reducing sediment loads in the lower portion of Foster Branch.