

## C. Conservation

The conservation goal stated in the General Plan calls for the protection of natural resources and the encouragement of their development. The Plan includes a number of objectives aimed at the accomplishment of this goal, expanding upon it by naming some of the resources to be protected, such as gravel, stone, soil and water. It also emphasizes that rural areas provide a favorable environment for the protection of natural resources. A number of specific measures are also proposed for the prevention of erosion and siltation in the floodplains and steep slopes of the stream valleys.

**Recommendations for Updating the General Plan:** The following policies are proposed for approval:

### GOAL

- **CONSERVE VALUABLE NATURAL AND HISTORIC AREAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

**Objective A.** Protect stream valley corridors to reduce flooding, pollution, and sedimentation and to preserve ecological features.

#### Guidelines

1. *Retain stream valleys in their natural state by constructing only on the more buildable portions.*
2. *Require open space dedications of stream valley property included within developing subdivisions.*
3. *Provide the opportunity for open space easements in stream valleys.*
4. *Continue parkland acquisition in key stream valleys to achieve the multiple purposes of conservation, recreation, preservation of natural beauty and open space.*
5. *Connect stream valley corridors to form a unified open space-conservation system.*
6. *Prohibit construction and filling in the natural floodplain areas adjacent to water courses.*
7. *Where feasible, establish a system of impoundments in major drainage basins.*

**Objective B.** Preserve unique and representative ecological areas and other natural features.

**Guideline**

1. *Promote a program for the identification and preservation of important natural areas.*

**Objective C.** Preserve points of historic and scenic significance.

**Guidelines**

1. *Identify and preserve, wherever possible, significant historic sites that are:*
  - *Representative of a period of style*
  - *Architecturally important*
  - *Sites of important events or activities*
  - *Sites associated with important personages*
  - *Sites of historic cultural value*
  - *Archeological sites*
2. *Encourage private protection of historic sites on a permanent basis.*
3. *Continue and expand public protection of historic properties.*
4. *Preserve exceptional scenic areas in Montgomery County.*

**Objective D.** Provide for the wise use of mineral resources in Montgomery County.

**Guidelines**

1. *Provide staged removal and efficient utilization of the mineral resources.*

2. *Require the restoration of extraction sites.*

**Objective E.** Reduce flooding and excessive runoff.

**Guidelines**

1. *Alleviate storm water runoff and resultant flooding by decreasing the amount of impervious ground cover.*
2. *Replenish ground water supplies through innovative water retention techniques.*

**Objective F.** Protect conservation resources from destructive sedimentation and erosion.

**Guidelines**

1. *Utilize sediment and erosion control practices during construction.*
2. *Limit construction on soils not suited for urban development.*

**Objective G.** Provide for development in urban and suburban areas that retains ecological features and is compatible with good conservation practices.

**Guidelines**

1. *In developing areas, encourage retention of trees, streams, and other ecological features, educating developers to capitalize upon these natural areas at small- as well as large-scales.*
2. *Incorporate natural features into existing urban areas to provide the urban dweller with a sense of nature and diversity.*
3. *Utilize conservation to maintain a high quality living environment through increased health, space diversity, and beauty.*