



# Town Center Community Association

March 10, 2020

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County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Government  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

To the Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball,

We are writing to urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new effort the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) in the County's FY 2021 operating budget. HoCoWSA provides valuable services to the Howard County community. The academy trains and educates local citizens in relevant stormwater and watershed issues using trained Master Watershed Stewards. These stewards assess neighborhoods and residential sites for stormwater management problems and potential solutions, while also guiding citizens as they seek to initiate residential-scale best management practices that will reduce the volume and pollution that leaves these sites as stormwater runoff.

HoCoWSA is able to access private property within Howard County – property that is outside of the County's authority/ownership and is thus inaccessible – and has collaborated with a number of County departments, nonprofits, schools, Boy/Girl Scout Troops, homeowner associations, and places of worship, conducting education and outreach efforts and acting as an effective bridge between the County and its citizens. With the increase in rain events and their resulting impacts on individual properties, the demand for help from homeowners across the County continues to increase.

Town Center is proactively addressing sustainability and resiliency issues as related to climate change. A key component is assessing the vulnerability to flooding, stream erosion, and damage to adjacent infrastructure. HoCoWSA through its programs is a vital link in support of assessing these issues and helping to mitigate their effects.

Again, we urge you to support the University of Maryland Extension's request to include as a new effort the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy in the County's FY 2021 operating budget.

Thank you for your attention and support.  
Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Town Center Community Association