

**Maryland Heritage Areas Program Strategic Plan**

**Heritage Area Directors Survey  
Natural Resources Conservation Action Steps  
April 2009**

Survey completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed survey to: [carolyn\\_brackett@nthp.org](mailto:carolyn_brackett@nthp.org) by  
April 24, 2009. Thank you!**

- 1) What are the key natural resources that are critical for conservation in your heritage area? [e.g. farmland, open spaces, national or state parks, landscapes along byways]
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What do you feel is your heritage area's role in the protection of natural resources?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Are natural resource conservation interests represented on your heritage area's board of directors?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Who are your heritage area's key partners in natural resource protection?
  - National organizations/governments:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - State organizations/governments:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Local organizations/governments:

- 5) A core component of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program states that the program is “to encourage preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, **conservation of natural areas important to the state’s character and environment** and the continuity and authenticity of cultural arts, heritage attractions and traditions indigenous to the region.”
- a) Does your management plan include recommendations for conservation of natural areas? Please describe.
- b) How does your heritage area interpret the core component directive and incorporate it into your annual planning?
- 6) What action steps has the heritage area taken a leadership role in to implement protection and conservation of natural resources as outlined in your management plan? **Check all that apply.**
- Initiated local legislation
  - Supported proposed local legislation (introduced by another organization)
  - Supported state legislation
  - Addressed local zoning commissions in support of natural resource protection
  - Informed elected officials about the importance of conservation to the heritage area’s success in tourism
  - Offered educational programs on natural resource protection (workshops, presentations, etc.)
  - Written articles for local papers about the importance of natural resource protection and conservation
  - Facilitated purchase of land for its protection
  - Partnered with local or state organizations for clean up events
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) How has your heritage area used the grant program (capital and non-capital) to help preserve and protect natural resources? (Describe key grants that have made a difference in natural resource protection and conservation.)

- 8) What challenges does your heritage area face in advocating for the conservation of natural resources? **Check all that apply.**

\_\_\_\_\_ It could threaten our local funding to advocate a position that our counties or cities do not support.

\_\_\_\_\_ We could lose the support of local residents if a conservation position is not popular.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our local residents need to be educated about conservation issues, but it is difficult to generate attendance if we offer programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Finding time to attend meetings, learn about issues and develop position statements is difficult.

Other challenges: (please describe)

- 9) In the next 5-10 years, what role do you envision for your heritage area in the conservation and protection of natural resources?

- 10) How might the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority better encourage natural resource protection and enhancement activities within heritage areas?