

## **Maryland Historical Trust and PreserveMaryland web use guidelines**

As of Nov. 2010

The PreserveMaryland website (PM), found on the Internet at <http://mht.maryland.gov/planissues.html> produced by staff members of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) to encourage an online dialogue and disseminate information about planning topics, including Smart Growth, the development of state land-use policy and legislation, and preservation of historic and natural resources. MDP reserves the right to deny access to the site to any person who violates the following Terms of Service. MDP reserves the right to alter its blog guidelines.

### **User Content Representations and Warranties**

By placing material on PM website, including but not limited to posting content or communications to any planning.maryland.gov bulletin board, forum, blog space, message or chat area, or posting text, images, audio files or other audio-visual content to the site ("User Content"), you represent and warrant: (1) you own or otherwise have all necessary rights to the User Content you provide and the rights to provide it under these Terms of Service; and, (2) the User Content will not cause injury to any person or entity.

### **User Content Screening and Removal**

You acknowledge that PM website may or may not pre-screen User Content, and shall have the right (but not the obligation), in its sole discretion, to move, remove, block, edit, or refuse any User Content for any reason, including without limitation that such User Content violates these guidelines or is otherwise objectionable. We intend to promptly review all electronic submissions for posting for matters of taste and to post as soon as possible. We will only post comments from bloggers 13 years or older. Our threshold is to publish as wide a range of views on planning topics as is possible, within the bounds of taste and decorum. We do not discriminate against any views, but reserve the right not to post comments.

The reviewer of PM Website may remove off-topic comments and any comment that:

- Contains obscene, vulgar or threatening language or offensive terms (including hate speech) that discriminate based on race, gender, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion or disability;
- Promotes services or products (not including non-commercial links that are relevant to the blog post or comment);
- Includes private phone numbers, email addresses or postal addresses; or
- Embeds other media (not including hyperlinks to other media).

## **User Content Assumption of Risk**

PM website cannot and does not monitor or manage all User Content, and does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity or quality of User Content. All User Content provided to PM website is the sole responsibility of the person who provided it. We discourage divulging personal phone numbers and addresses or other information that can be used to identify or locate you. If you make such disclosures either through posting on any bulletin board, forum, blog space, message or chat area, or uploading text, images, audio files or other audio-visual content, in interactive areas or to third parties in any communication, you do so fully understanding that such information could be used to identify you .

## **User Content Posting Rules**

When you provide User Content, you agree to the following Posting Rules:

DO NOT provide material that contains obscene, vulgar or threatening language or offensive terms (including hate speech) that discriminate based on race, gender, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion or disability;

DO NOT provide material that contains copyrighted or other proprietary material of any kind without the express permission of the owner of that material.

DO NOT provide material that interferes with any third party's uninterrupted use of SGM Blog that advertises, promotes or offers to trade any goods or services, except in areas specifically designated for such purpose; that uploads or transmits viruses or other harmful, disruptive or destructive files, material or code. disrupts, interferes with, or otherwise harms or violates the security of PM website, or any services, system resources, accounts, passwords, servers or networks connected to or accessible through PM website or affiliated or linked sites, "flames" any individual or entity (e.g., sends repeated messages related to another user and/or makes derogatory or offensive comments about another individual), or that repeats prior posting of the same message under multiple threads or subjects.

**WARNING: A VIOLATION OF THESE POSTING RULES MAY BE REFERRED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES**

## **Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement**

In accordance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and other applicable law, it is the policy of [planning.maryland.gov](http://planning.maryland.gov), in appropriate circumstances, to remove User Content that is deemed to be infringing. If you believe that your work has been copied in a way that constitutes copyright infringement and is displayed on [planning.maryland.gov](http://planning.maryland.gov), please provide 1. A description of your copyrighted work or other intellectual property that you claim has been infringed and 2. A description of where the material you claim is infringing is located on the site (providing us with

website URL is the quickest way to help us locate content quickly). You can reach us at [webmaster@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:webmaster@mdp.state.md.us) or at 410-767-4500.

## **Privacy**

MDP will not share or sell any personal information obtained from users with any other organization or government agency except as required by law. MDP is unable to post comments from children under the age of 13 due to the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. If you are 12 years old or younger, you may email us at rather than posting a comment on PM website. See general privacy statement at [planning.maryland.gov](http://planning.maryland.gov)

## **Linking Policy and Disclaimer of Endorsement**

The views expressed on PM website are those of individual contributors. These views and posted comments do not necessarily reflect those of MDP or state government.

PM website may contain useful hypertext links or pointer to information created and maintained by other public and private organizations and individual blogs. MDP provides these links and pointers solely for our user's information and convenience.

When you select a link to an outside website, you are leaving PM website and are subject to the privacy and security policies of the owners/sponsors of the outside website.

MDP and PM website does not control or guarantee the accuracy relevance, timeliness or completeness of information contained on a linked website.

MDP and PM website does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and we do not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.

MDP and PM website cannot authorize the use of copyrighted materials contained in the linked websites. User must request such authorization from the sponsor of the linked website. Those who provide comments are responsible for the copyright of the text they provide.

MDP and PM website are not responsible for transmissions users receive from linked websites.