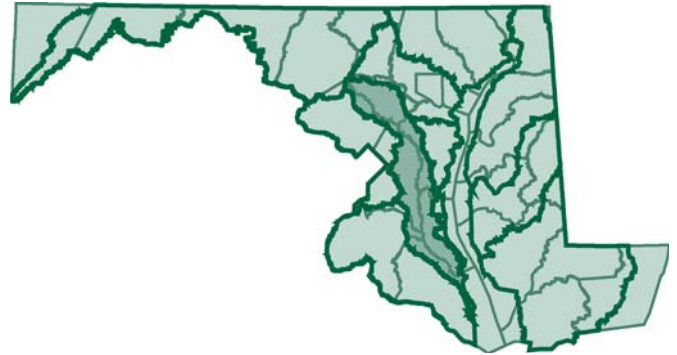


# Patuxent River Commission

---

## Introduction

The Patuxent River, with a watershed of 930 square miles, is the longest river that is completely within Maryland. It is often considered the proving ground for many of the Chesapeake Bay Program initiatives. It is also one of the most monitored and modeled rivers of its size in the world. The upper watershed includes trout streams and a dual-reservoir system, then becomes a large tidal fresh water ecosystem and continues as a productive estuary until it empties into the Chesapeake Bay in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent is home to many natural and cultural resources.



## About the Commission

The Patuxent River Commission (PRC) is an inter-jurisdictional group that was created by State legislation in 1980 to address Patuxent watershed issues. The PRC is charged with the implementation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan and in 1995 expanded to 34 members and assumed the additional role of the Patuxent Tributary Team. The focus of the Patuxent River Policy Plan is to address programmatic and land management issues while the Patuxent Tributary Team Strategy seeks to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution.

The PRC's membership represents a cross-section of the watershed's interest groups and serves as an inter-jurisdictional forum for the protection and restoration of the river's economic, recreational, and environmental resources. Membership includes businesses, developers, state and local governments, federal facilities, and environmental, academic, agricultural, and watermen interests.

## History

The Patuxent has a rich resource management history. The watershed is home to many landmark restoration issues and activities. Key points per decade:

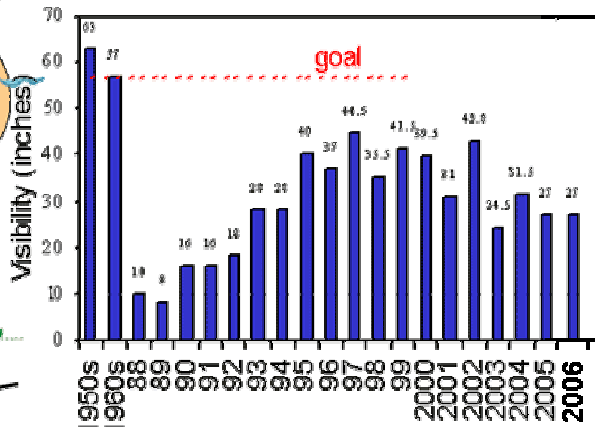
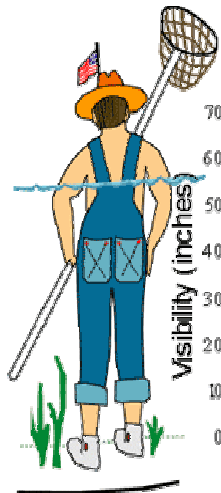
- \* **1970s** - Documented decline in water quality and the Southern Maryland Counties sued the State and EPA over the draft § 208 Water Quality Plan- primarily because of the wastewater treatment plants.
- \* **1980s** – Patuxent River Watershed Act, creation of the Patuxent River Commission, Patuxent Charette (established first numerical pollutant reduction goals), advanced wastewater treatment plants, Patuxent River Policy Plan (an adopted land management plan for the Patuxent), and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- \* **1990s** – Patuxent declared a national demonstration site by Congress (resulted in a Non-Point Source Pollution Control Demonstration Project), Commission's membership and mission expanded to include the role of the Patuxent Tributary Team.
- \* **2000 and Beyond** - Commission is working with State agencies and stakeholders to develop and implement the Tributary Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Strategy, participated in the clean-up of the April 2000 Patuxent oil spill; worked with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to ensure pipeline safety and integrity within the Patuxent reservoir watershed, partnered with local groups for the preservation and restoration of riparian buffers, and complete local and state adoption of the Update to the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

## For More Information

For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Planning at 410-767-4500 or go to the Patuxent River Commission's web site at <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/info/patux.htm>



Former Senator Bernie Fowler discusses the need for continued improvement of the water quality in the Patuxent River in 2005. He has spent a lifetime advocating for the preservation of the River and its diverse natural resources.



**Bernie Fowler Sneaker Index**

### Commission Members

- C J Lammers, MD-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Prince George's County
- Councilman Michael Leszcz, **Vice Chairman**, City of Laurel
- Dale Shaner, Waterman
- Dan Baldwin, MD Dept. of Planning
- David Bourdon, Prince George's Soil Conservation District
- Dr. Barbara Sollner-Webb, Citizen
- Dr. Kelton Clark, Academic
- Dr. Mohammad T. Habibian, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- Dr. Walter Boynton, Academic
- F. Hamer Campbell, Jr., MD-National Capital Building Industry Association
- Fred Tutman, Farmer & Patuxent River Riverkeeper
- Ginger Klingelhofer-Ellis, Anne Arundel Planning & code Enforcement
- Herb Sachs, MD Dept. of the Environment
- Henry Turner Jr., Developer
- Hon. C. Bernie Fowler, **Chairman**, Calvert County
- Hon. Mary Kay Sigaty, Howard County
- Hon. Rueben Collins - Charles County
- Jacky Russel -- St Mary's County Council
- John Rhoderick, MD Dept. of Agriculture
- Ken Yetman, MD Dept. of Natural Resources
- Kevin Bruening, Business Interest
- Luis Dieguez, Soil Conservation District
- Mark Symborski, MD-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Montgomery County
- Mark Mendelsohn, US Army Corp of Engineers
- Mary Conway, Prince George's Dept. of Environmental Resources\*\*
- Mary Kilbourne, Citizen
- Meg Andrews, MD Dept. of Transportation
- Meosotis Curtis, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
- Pamela King, MD Cooperative Extension
- Tom Ivey - Fort George Meade
- Wayne Clark - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Vacant - Farmer
- Vacant - Montgomery County

### Commission Staff

- Daniel Baldwin, MD Dept. of Planning
- Jason Dubow, MD Dept. of Planning
- Claudia Donegan, MD Dept. of Natural Resources