

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-038-2025

Proposed by Council Member Ivey

Introduced by Council Members Ivey, Watson, Olson, Fisher, Oriadha,
Blegay and Dernoga

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction March 25, 2025

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Expanding the Boundaries of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

3 For the purpose of approving the proposed county-wide expansion of the boundaries of the
4 Anacostia Trails Heritage Area to include southern Prince George's County.

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 13, Subtitle 11 of the Financial Institutions Article of the
6 Annotated Code of Maryland, the State of Maryland established the Maryland System of
7 Heritage Areas, which reflects the cultural themes of the State's development and provides
8 educational, inspirational, economic, and recreational benefits for present and future generations;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Maryland also established the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
11 (MHAA) to administer the heritage areas program and empowered the authority to recognize and
12 certify heritage areas throughout the State; and

13 WHEREAS, on September 25, 2001, the County Council approved the *Anacostia Trails*
14 *Heritage Area Management Plan: A Functional Master Plan for Heritage Tourism* (Heritage
15 Plan), which set forth policies, strategies and recommendations to build upon the extensive
16 cultural, historic, and natural resources contained within the designated heritage area; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2001 the MHAA designated the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area as a
18 certified, recognized heritage area within Prince George's County; and

19 WHEREAS, the original 83.7 square miles of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area were
20 bounded on three sides by the county border and on the east, in part, by the Baltimore-
21 Washington Parkway and in part by a line further east following federal land ownership to the

1 Patuxent River, the county’s northern and eastern boundary; and

2 WHEREAS, on March 7, 2017, the County Council sitting as the District Council approved
3 Council Resolution CR-011-2017, which included updates to the Heritage Plan that expanded the
4 boundaries of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area by 22 square miles to include portions of
5 Cheverly, Bowie and Glenn Dale; and

6 WHEREAS, the current boundaries of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area do not include
7 any places in Council Districts 7, 8 or 9; and

8 WHEREAS, ATHA, Inc. is a duly incorporated Maryland nonprofit organization which
9 manages the certified heritage tourism area, conducts programming and supports museums and
10 historic sites, small businesses and main streets, and parks and trails through grant-making,
11 tourism marketing, and partnerships with local municipalities; and

12 WHEREAS, on July 13, 2010, the County Council approved Council Resolution CR-73-
13 2010, which approved ATHA, Inc. as the management agency for implementation of the
14 Heritage Plan; and

15 WHEREAS, in May 2022, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. (ATHA, Inc.) completed a
16 feasibility study which considered a programmatic boundary amendment to include sites and
17 communities in southern Prince George’s County to the heritage area and found that county-wide
18 expansion is merited; and

19 WHEREAS, ATHA, Inc. concluded that expanding the heritage area boundaries could
20 bring further benefits to the newly included communities with increased tourism and tax
21 revenues, more jobs, and greater recognition and publicity for the region; and

22 WHEREAS, expanding the boundaries of the heritage area to county-wide will also allow
23 ATHA, Inc. to seek MHAA grant funding for heritage sites in southern Prince George’s County;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority has adopted standards and criteria for
26 its review and approval of recognized and certified heritage area designations and proposed
27 amendments to heritage area boundaries; and

28 WHEREAS, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority requires a request for programmatic
29 boundary amendments to a heritage area include a resolution or other authorization from the
30 local jurisdiction.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's

1 County, Maryland, hereby approves the proposed county-wide amendment to the boundaries of
2 the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area to include southern Prince George’s County.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County Council authorizes the proposed boundary
4 amendment to be submitted to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority jointly by the County and
5 ATHA, Inc., as the heritage area management entity.

Adopted this 25th day of March, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council