



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Office of the Planning Director
Prince George's County Planning Department

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
TTY: (301) 952-4366
www.mncppc.org/pgco
301-952-3595

December 3, 2015

Ms. Lucy A. Kempf, Director
Urban Design and Plan Review
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

**RE: The American Chestnut Foundation
Proposed Chestnut Breeding Orchard at
BARC (MR-1527A)**

Dear Ms. Kempf:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed chestnut breeding orchard at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), located in Beltsville, Maryland.

The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is working with The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) to breed orchards on government owned land starting in the spring of 2016. This is a 10 to 12 year commitment to plant 350 trees on well drained and relatively flat land. Tree seeds will be planted in rows and as the seeds grow into trees the area will be mowed. Weeds will be removed as needed and the soil around the trees will be managed in order to maintain ideal soil growing conditions. The success of this project will promote healthy forests and improve wildlife habitats at BARC. This project will be under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (enclosed agreement, including aerial map) between BARC and The American Chestnut Foundation.

The project is not subject to the Prince George's County Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance but will be subject to state-level review by the Maryland Forest Services under the requirements of the Clean Water Act, if applicable.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Christine A. Osei, Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-3313 via email at Christine.Osei@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,

Fern Piret
Planning Director

Enclosures

- c: Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council
Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Christine Osei, Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Michael Weil, Urban Planner, National Capital Planning Commission