

Annapolis Harbor Lines at Hawkins Cove

For the purpose of changing the City of Annapolis harbor line at Hawkins Cove to allow for the implementation of the Hawkins Cove Restoration project; and matters generally related to harbor lines.

City Council of the
City of Annapolis

Ordinance 3-26

Introduced by: Alderman Thorp

**Co-sponsored by: Mayor Littmann, Alderman Savidge, Alderwoman Contee, and
Alderman Smith Brown**

Referred to: Board of Port Wardens

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Annapolis Harbor Lines at Hawkins Cove

FOR the purpose of changing the City of Annapolis harbor line at Hawkins Cove to allow for the implementation of the Hawkins Cove Restoration project; and matters generally related to harbor lines.

BY revising the maps entitled “Annapolis Harbor Lines” as referenced in § 15.18.020 of the City Code, 2026 Edition.

WHEREAS, Title 15 of the City Code regulates the location of piers, moorings, wharves, bulkheads, and the configuration of shoreline development within the developable waterway area; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, the City of Annapolis initiated a capital project on Hawkins Cove known as the “Hawkins Cove Restoration” project to improve ecological functioning and provide public water access and other community open space amenities; and

WHEREAS, The Hawkins Cove Restoration project is one of the short-term recommendations in the City’s Equitable Public Water Access Plan adopted by the City Council in 2025; and

WHEREAS, Hawkins Cove is located immediately adjacent to the City’s largest public housing community, which has historically lacked access to the City’s waterfront; and

1 **WHEREAS,** The Hawkins Cove Restoration project is being coordinated with the complete
2 revitalization of the adjacent public housing community, known as the “Eastport
3 Choice Neighborhood Initiative,” for which a master plan was adopted by the
4 Annapolis City Council in 2024; and
5

6 **WHEREAS,** Development and natural erosion along Hawkins Cove have, over time, added
7 sediment to the cove, which currently prohibits access and navigability; and
8

9 **WHEREAS,** The City of Annapolis is working with federal and state permitting agencies to
10 determine the most effective ways to provide reasonable access to navigable waters;
11 and
12

13 **WHEREAS,** Providing water access might involve dredging and constructing piers while, at the
14 same time, ensuring that we prioritize public benefits by avoiding or minimizing
15 impacts on tidal wetlands and habitats; and
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17 **WHEREAS,** To ensure equitable access to public water, a pier may need to extend beyond the
18 current harbor line to reach navigable waters; and
19

20 **WHEREAS,** In accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) § 26.24.02.02,
21 the Maryland Department of the Environment may suspend the processing of an
22 application for a community pier or dredging activity if the application does not
23 comply with local land use requirements, such as the harbor lines set by the City of
24 Annapolis; and
25

26 **WHEREAS,** The City of Annapolis continues to work with the Maryland Department of
27 the Environment to determine the optimal length for the pier and the necessary
28 amount of dredging; and
29

30 **WHEREAS,** Harbor lines define the maximum channel-ward limits of marine construction for a
31 given developable waterway area, and are graphically shown on the City of
32 Annapolis' “Annapolis Harbor Lines” maps; and
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34 **WHEREAS,** The City Council has amended the “Annapolis Harbor Lines” maps on several
35 occasions over the years, reflecting updates and changes as deemed necessary by
36 the City Council; and
37

38 **WHEREAS,** This ordinance includes a proposed amendment to the "Annapolis Harbor Lines"
39 maps relating to the harbor line on Hawkins Cove, illustrated in Exhibit A, which
40 is attached to this ordinance, incorporated herein, and made a part of it. Exhibit B
41 displays the current harbor lines.
42

43 **SECTION I: BE IT ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY**
44 **COUNCIL** that the “Annapolis Harbor Lines” maps shall be amended as depicted on Exhibit A.
45

1 **SECTION II: AND BE IT FURTHER ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE**
2 **ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this ordinance shall take effect upon passage.