

HB 458 – Delegate Guyton

“Ethical behavior” was taken from language of Leave No Trace, but we have no issue with taking it out and leaving it as Best Practices.

This bill came from a workgroup in North Baltimore County to address the concerns of damage and overall poor park behavior at parks as attendance skyrocketed over the summer.

State parks and DNR have officially adopted and implemented Leave No Trace as policy. This bill leaves it open for counties to develop their own policies based around the core points of Leave No Trace (No Littering, Limiting Destruction of Property, Not interacting with Wildlife, and expressing proper trail courtesy).

Multiple jurisdictions currently do not have official park rules or regulations:

11 of 24 Counties *DO NOT* have no littering policies

13 of 24 counties *DO NOT* have policies against destruction of property

15 of 24 counties *DO NOT* have policies against interacting with wildlife

21 of 24 counties *DO NOT* have policies expressing trail courtesy

Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Queen Anne’s County, and Carolina County currently have all of these areas addresses and this bill would not require them to draft any new policies. This intent led to the language change worked out with MACo.