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**CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**APPLICANT:** City of Annapolis

**NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY:** Annapolis

**Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the notebook should be tabbed and organized as follows:**

- TAB #1    Applicant Information**
  
- TAB #2    Sustainable Community Baseline Information - In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. Maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org.**
  
- TAB #3    Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
  
- TAB #4    Sustainable Community Plan**
  
- TAB #5    Progress Measures**
  
- TAB #6    Local Support Resolution**
  
- TAB #7    Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.  
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**



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## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV).

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

### **A. Proposed Sustainable Community Area (s):**

**County:** Anne Arundel

**Name of Sustainable Community:** Annapolis

**Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, [Wolters@MdHousing.org](mailto:Wolters@MdHousing.org)**

The proposed Sustainable Communities Area is the combination of Community Legacy Areas, Main Street Designated Neighborhoods, the Local and National Register Historic District, the Arts and Entertainment District, Designated Neighborhoods, and Opportunity Areas from the City's Comprehensive Plan. The proposed area includes downtown Annapolis with its wealth of historic buildings; Eastport and the West Annapolis neighborhood, both of which are a blend of commercial and residential areas where there are opportunities for neighborhood conservation and research; West Street and Clay Street, the City's core revitalization areas; and areas where outreach to the underserved and capital improvements are necessary.

**II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: 2,204.00

Existing federal, state or local designations (check all that apply):

- Community Legacy Area
- Designated Neighborhood
- Main Street
- Maple Street
- Local Historic District
- National Register Historic District
- A & E District
- State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District
- BRAC
- State Designated TOD
- Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

### **Prior Revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:**

**(a) List and describe any significant State and local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

Since 1997, the City of Annapolis has received significant state and local Smart Growth-related investments:

#### Community Development Administration Financing

By 1997, the City of Annapolis had made major investments in its public and subsidized housing inventory. The following properties have been either rehabilitated, totally redeveloped or newly constructed with \$58,760,739 in financing from DHCD's Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other CDA Programs: Bloomsbury Square, Annapolis Gardens, Bowman Court, College Creek Terrace, Obery Court, Bay Ridge Gardens, Woodside Gardens, Admiral Oaks Apartments, Homes at the Glen, Bay Forest Senior Apartments, and Wiley H. Bates Senior Apartments.

#### Community Legacy Program

Annapolis has two Community Legacy areas: Clay Street, and the Bates neighborhoods. Both areas have received significant investments totaling \$1,886,225. The Community Legacy Program and Plan provided the needed infusion of capital funds to revitalize and continue meeting the goals established by the city and the community in the Community Legacy Plans, particularly in the Clay Street neighborhood.

The City was able to improve housing conditions and increase homeownership in the Clay Street neighborhood. Approximately 50 percent of the privately owned single-family residences were improved and approximately 45 homeownership opportunities were generated because of this investment. The City completed the renovation of Town Pines Court, 22-unit townhouse development built during urban renewal. Moreover, the housing authority is redeveloping 164 units of substandard public housing and converting the still low and moderate-income units to private ownership and management. This endeavor has had the most impact on the housing conditions in the neighborhood.

Other revitalization efforts for Clay Street included constructing a gateway into this historic neighborhood by building a kiosk depicting the history of the neighborhood, installing brick crosswalk, streetlights and hanging flower baskets at the entrance of the neighborhood. In addition, community capacity improved with the addition of two homeowners association and a newly formed community development corporation.

#### Main Street Program

In 2008, the City of Annapolis became part of the statewide network of Maryland Main Street Communities and in 2009 the Downtown Annapolis Partnership, the governing board for the Annapolis Main Street Program, successfully incorporated as a 501 c 3. This board is now known as the MainStreet Annapolis Partnership. In fiscal year 2010 the city council earmarked \$30,000 funding to this group. In 2008, the City also administered a façade improvement grant program for the Main Street Area. More than \$20,000 was made available to more than 15 properties that applied for the funding during the year. The funding was available from matching state and city sources.

#### Maryland Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program

Since 1997, the City has facilitated this State tax credit program for a total of 123 rehabilitation projects. For residential properties, there were 112 projects with \$11 million of final rehabilitation costs and more than \$2.3 million in tax credits. For commercial projects, there were 11 projects with \$23 million of final rehabilitation costs and more than \$4.6 million in tax credits.

#### Neighborhood Business Works

Annapolis designated the West Street Corridor as a "Designated Revitalization Area" in 1997. As a result, city business have received \$1,001,900 in Neighborhood Business Works loans for six successful business including Herrmann Advertising, Tsunami West Street and West Village.

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## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

**(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer “cornfields”?**

*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The entirety of the City of Annapolis is located in a Priority Funding Area—therefore, it can be argued that any development within the City is Smart Growth. The barriers that do exist consist mainly of the costs of doing business in a location where the majority of development is infill development. This includes providing stormwater management and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area mitigation. It also includes the cost of working in a historic district where the quality of construction can require specialized trade and materials.

Another barrier is that 20% of the City’s property is non-taxable because it belongs either to the Federal, State, or County Government; the Board of Education; or to a Church or other non-profit. Each year, the City loses approximately \$56.5 million in property dollars to these land parcels. In addition, the costs for services to accommodate the several million visitors to our State Capital and historic landmark city are borne by 38,000 residents. The City simply cannot depend on residential property tax dollars alone to meet its goals for its citizens and to lessen barriers to Smart Growth.

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

### **B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses**

**(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural places? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportation assets? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

Annapolis neighborhoods vary widely in age, character, and level of affluence. From the historic homes and quaint streets downtown, to the post-WWII neighborhoods of Admiral Heights, Germantown, and Homewood, and the newer neighborhoods along Forest Drive, almost every era of home-building in America is represented in Annapolis. Most neighborhoods have their own story and history. Some neighborhoods overlook the creeks and bridges of Annapolis. For other neighborhoods, parks, schools, or commercial corridors are the primary focus.

Annapolis housing stock includes a large number of historic homes. The median age of construction for homes in Annapolis is 1968, but the age of houses varies considerably. Many of the older homes outside of the historic core are at risk of replacement because they do not offer the size or amenities desired in today's housing market.

Some of the strengths in the built environment include:

- Availability of subsidized housing available for low and moderate income households
- Attractive neighborhoods
- Waterfront setting
- Accessible community parks and recreational assets

There are currently underutilized historic buildings and cultural places in Annapolis. The National Historic Landmark Colonial Annapolis Historic District has not been adequately surveyed since its designation in 1965. Many of the properties have no intensive level survey forms completed. As well, many of the properties surveyed in 1983 for the National Register of Historic Places designation have not been resurveyed. Outside of the designated National Register District, there has been no other survey work completed for the City.

Additionally, while there are believed to be a large number of properties associated with African-American and Filipino history in Annapolis, no thematic studies have been complete related to those communities. The same can be said of the Maritime history. Nor has a comprehensive cultural landscape survey been completed for the City's Historic District.

Regarding underutilized public assets in the Historic District, the vacated Recreation Center, previously constructed as a USO facility, has no planned use and no Historic Structures Report has been completed for the property. It is estimated that approximately \$1.2 million is needed for a basic rehabilitation program. The Maynard Burgess House, an 18th Century African-American property is also sitting vacant with a minimal amount of funding awarded for structural and interior improvements.

The community has a wide and extensive transportation network dating back to the Colonial era. There are some advantages and some disadvantages to having a system that has been in place for many years. The transportation assets within the community do provide for safe, reliable and economical choices for residents, employees, and visitors. Other strengths include a robust transit system featuring five fixed route services, a paratransit service and a free downtown trolley service. The transit system provides services within the City and the region. Three-quarters of all City residents live within a five-minute walk of a bus stop. In addition, the City is served by Maryland Transit Administration routes, commuter bus routes to Washington, D.C. and national Greyhound connections.

Much in the same way that the City's roadways are both a strength and a weakness for automobiles, they are too for pedestrian facilities. The historic downtown and new development areas provide an excellent and accessible way to experience the City by walking. However, conditions elsewhere in the City are less connected. Sidewalks throughout the City are often blocked by trees and utility poles, interrupted by vehicular curb-cuts and can pose significant ADA concerns. Other critical pieces of infrastructure, such as roads, are also in need of maintenance and repair.

## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

**(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up (residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City's geographic location on the Annapolis Neck Peninsula between the South and Severn River leaves little room for physical expansion. Existing development outside of Annapolis, combined with the expansion of commercial areas outside of the city limits, leave Annapolis with few options for growth.

For decades, Annapolis has promoted and supported development policies that are in balance with its geographic constraints and area-wide development trends. The City has optimized land use within its borders, promoted a mix of commercial and residential redevelopment of underutilized land, and conserved and revitalized downtown and its residential districts.

The historic Annapolis downtown is a center of business, government, and housing. It is located between Spa Creek and College Creek. With its advantaged waterfront location, downtown Annapolis remains a unique and special American place. The U.S. Naval Academy, St. John's College, and the Maryland State Government are the major institutions located in downtown. Main Street is designated by the State's Main Street Maryland Program and was named one of the Ten Great Streets in America by the American Planning Association in 2008.

Throughout the City, land use on the waterfront has evolved over time. City residents have remained supportive of the maritime and sailing industries and large sections of Spa Creek and Back Creek are devoted to water related and/or water dependent enterprises. The maritime industry consists of about 300 maritime businesses, dozens of grassroots-driven organizations and yacht clubs, hundreds of year-round local, national, and international regattas and championships, and more than 3,000 private and commercial boat slips and public moorings.

Professional office space is located along West Street, in West Annapolis where access to both U.S. Route 50 and downtown is convenient, in downtown Annapolis, and to a lesser extent along Forest Drive. Annapolis is known as one of the "tightest" office markets in the Baltimore region with low vacancy rates thanks in part to the stabilizing influence of County and State government. The limited availability of prime sites has continued to constrain new office development. Office rents in Annapolis are higher than in many other jurisdictions in Maryland.

The primary concentrations of industrial land in the City are in the Outer West Street corridor, the Annapolis Business Park along Gibraltar Avenue, and in areas along Chinquapin Round Road and Legion Avenue. These areas feature heavy commercial services, light industrial businesses, warehousing, and other employment uses. These land areas are at or near build-out capacity for their intended uses.

The City's core is surrounded by residential neighborhoods that vary in age, character, and cost of housing. The neighborhood of Eastport, opposite Spa Creek from downtown, while mostly residential, features a mix of maritime uses, restaurants and local commercial uses. The revitalized Inner West Street Commercial District, a narrow corridor surrounded by established residential neighborhoods, extends outward from downtown to Westgate Circle. This corridor is newly designated as the Capital City Cultural Arts District, a State designation to promote arts and entertainment.

Roughly three percent of the land within the City is vacant, 15 percent is devoted to roadways, and the majority of the City's land area (approximately 56%) is in residential use.

Current zoning and land use policies throughout the City are conducive to revitalization investment, especially for parcels in industrially or commercially zoned areas that are close to capacity.



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## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

**3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities within or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

In a survey conducted in 2012, 80% of City of Annapolis residents said they felt the Annapolis Police Department (APD) was doing an excellent or good job. While crime rates fluctuate year-to-year, overall, the Annapolis Police Department reports that violent crime and property crimes are down in Annapolis over the last five year period. Property crimes were higher in 2012 compared to 2011, however.

Both the Annapolis Fire Department and the Annapolis Police Department have been awarded national accreditation for achieving the highest professional standards. This puts the APD in elite company along with only 29 out of 183 Maryland and 593 of approximately 17,000 police agencies in the U.S. APD are now among the highest paid, and have some of the best health and retirement benefits in Maryland. The APD maintains a ratio of 3.6 officers per 1,000 residents, whereas the national ration of officers per 1,000 citizens is only 1 per 1,000.

The citizens of Annapolis are receiving the most modern and efficient services possible from the best-trained men and women available. However, although the City has become a model city for Public Safety, the combination of illegal drugs and illegal guns continue to affect residents and visitors.

The condition and quality of the education choices that are available in Annapolis for high school and middle school education are some of the best in the state. Annapolis schools have been named as National Blue Ribbon Schools and Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence. Annapolis is the location of a magnet school for International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma Programmes, and has a designated signature program for Change Engineering. However, the elementary schools in the proposed sustainable community area are not as strong; for example, Mills-Parole Elementary has lower test scores on average compared to the rest of the district, and is in the 47 percentile for the state.

There are many artistic, cultural, and community resources in the proposed sustainable communities area. For example, the Stanton Community Center is a City facility located in a newly renovated historic city building. The center displays historical portraits of Annapolis' diverse community and features many offices, a multi-purpose gymnasium, a commercial kitchen, a fitness area, an historic classroom, a media center with computers, and two conference/meeting rooms.

There are also facilities in Annapolis such as Maryland Hall, which is located in the Arts and Entertainment District. Its mission is to provide opportunities for community participation in arts education, the visual arts, and performing arts. Today, Annapolis has a symphony, an opera company, the largest Ballet Company in Maryland, two theater companies, a Chorale and dozens of artists. There are yacht clubs, service clubs, museums, churches and synagogues to fit every taste. The City offers many community service activities, education programs for all ages, and even parenting classes.

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

### C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

**(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "natural environment." in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The Chesapeake Bay and the creeks of Annapolis are fundamental to the City's identity, sense of place, and beauty. However, the Bay is threatened by polluted runoff that degrades its ecological health. While the Chesapeake Bay's watershed spans parts of six states and 64,000 square miles, attention to all possible local improvements is warranted. Remedies to improve runoff water quality in fully developed areas such as Annapolis can be costly and require a degree of technical sophistication, as remedies often involve retro-fitting existing buildings and infrastructure. Globally, we face the prospect of climate change and must commit to reducing our carbon emissions through systemic and individual actions.

In the last few years since the last Comprehensive Plan was completed, the City has made significant strides on a variety of environmental preservation efforts and has earned a reputation as a model for a city of its size.

#### Current Conditions

-Poor water quality is a persistent environmental problem for the Chesapeake Bay, stemming from the agricultural runoff and urban stormwater that flows into the Bay. As much as 80 percent of Annapolis' stormwater infrastructure was built prior to 1983, based on the engineering principle of removing water as quickly and directly from a site as possible.

-Approximately 42 percent of Annapolis land area is covered with impervious surface, an estimate generated by a Strategic Urban Forestry Assessment (SUFA) in 2006.

-Steep slopes (slopes greater than 15 percent) occur mostly in the upper reaches of Spa and Weems creeks and, as such, lie in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and are subject to its protections.

-Sea level has risen approximately one foot along Maryland's coastline in the last century. A general prediction estimates a rise of 1 meter by the end of this century. Areas extremely critical to the overall character of Annapolis and most susceptible to flooding include the downtown City Dock area, portions of Eastport, and the Naval Academy. As proven in the aftermath of the flooding caused by Hurricane Isabel in 2003, these areas are already susceptible to significant damage related to flooding as a result of storm surges. With the help of volunteers, the City has constructed approximately 3,000 feet of natural shoreline around many City-owned parks. Such living shorelines control shoreline erosion, while restoring and preserving the characteristics of the estuarine marshes, tidal wetlands, and upland buffers.

-Annapolis is a part of a Nitrogen Oxide Air Quality Non-Attainment area that spans a number of states. A portion of the air quality problem is attributable to major out-of-state sources, but local emissions and travel patterns also contribute.

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

**(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon footprint" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

"Sustainability" means meeting today's environmental, economic, and social needs without compromising the next generation's ability to meet the same needs. Annapolis is a member of an international group called Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI, formerly known as International Cities for Local Environmental Initiatives), which has over 1000 member cities and counties worldwide that are following their 5-step milestone program:

1. Conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory
2. Get a GHG emissions reduction target
3. Create a Climate Action Plan (CAP)
4. Implement the CAP
5. Monitor progress on implementing the CAP

The City's Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan lays out ideas for programs, policies, and other actions we can take to improve our environment, economy, neighborhoods, and climate. Some of the action items in the report include improving our energy efficiency by installing motion sensors, achieving energy independence through installing renewable energy in the City, and growing the green collar sector in the city by holding green job fairs and green training opportunities.

As energy efficiencies are introduced for municipal properties (e.g., LED lighting, efficient generators for water and wastewater operations) they are offset by energy use by an expanding city population. In an effort to address energy efficiency for private properties, the City enacted new regulations entitled "Green Buildings: Energy Efficiency and Environmental Design", which established minimum energy efficiency standards for most new development (City Code Chapter 17.14, 2008). The impact by the green building standards on city-wide energy efficiency will take years to realize as properties are developed and redeveloped. However, this program, along with the City's residential and recently-expanded commercial recycling, will greatly help the City reduce its environmental impact.

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## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

**(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

Annapolis recognizes that the protection of its water resources, particularly the condition of Chesapeake Bay, is of paramount importance to its future vitality. Generally, the City is served by a combination of storm sewers in the downtown urban areas and surface drainage into streams and creeks in the outlying areas. The storm sewers were separated from the sanitary sewer system during the 1960s and 1970s.

Chapter 17.10 is the stormwater management section of the City Code. It provides that all development and redevelopment activity in the City address water quality. In particular, it establishes that all site development plans with disturbances of more than 5,000 square feet (and 2,000 square feet for waterfront sites) shall reduce existing impervious area by at least 50 percent. If site conditions prevent this from being accomplished then the development plan must provide for enhanced control of the quality of runoff from the site. This can make redevelopment of existing sites very expensive and is one of the main stormwater management issues in this proposed Sustainable Community Area.

Introduction of organic chemicals and fertilizers into storm sewers and waterways can be destructive to the biological balance of receiving streams, waterways, and rivers. Best management practices are normally associated with public education on appropriate ways to dispose of household substances and the proper application of lawn chemicals. The use of fertilizers in City parks is extremely limited. Fertilizers containing phosphates may only be used in the City under limited conditions or upon the completion of a soil test.

The State requirements for erosion and sediment control are administered locally by the City of Annapolis. Techniques deal with appropriate means of soil stockpiling, surface grading, and the application sedimentation skirting and fencing. Grading, soil erosion, and sedimentation control permitting requirements are administered by the City as part of the building and grading permitting process. Sediments entering storm sewers and surface waterways are also managed through a regular street sweeping program.

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

### **D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses**

**(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.**

*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The City of Annapolis has many economic strengths; however it also has areas of weaknesses. It is many ways a "Tale of Two Cities." Some of the strengths include the following:

- Strategic location between the Severn and South Rivers, robust history and historic character, the State capital of Maryland, and home of the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Long standing businesses
- Low vacancy rate of 7.6% for retail space and 9.8% for office space
- Strong incomes and local homeownership
- Highly educated and wealthy population

Economic weaknesses of the City of Annapolis include the following:

- The City is generally built out with little opportunity for annexation of undeveloped land.
- The majority of lease space in the City is less than 2,500 square feet and there are few large, consolidated parcels of land.
- Business size in the City of Annapolis is heavily weighted to small businesses.
- There is very limited manufacturing in the City of Annapolis
- The Federal and State properties do not pay taxes to the local government

Some of the main barriers to economic competitiveness include:

- The availability of small lease spaces
- Paid and structured parking

Generally, the subsidized housing in the City is in good condition. Of the 10 public housing developments located in the City, five are in very good condition as they were recently renovated or redeveloped. The remaining five developments are in poor condition (Robinwood, Glenwood High-rise, Newtowne Twenty, Harbour House, Eastport Terrace). The Housing Authority spends \$1.5 million annually on physical improvements to the structures and plans to either rehabilitate or redevelop the five properties as funds become available. Broadband access is generally available in Annapolis, however, it is not provided by the Housing Authority.

The Light House, a homeless prevention support center and the Housing Authority are two leaders in providing opportunities for job training. However, the current lack of regional transportation often prohibits qualified workers from taking positions that require travel. The City is working with a regional transportation agency to improve its regional connectivity and provide public transit to more employment centers.

## II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

**(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs - both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI and 50% AMI. What efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The housing market in Annapolis is dominated by the fact that little land is available for new development and the resulting rise in the price of housing. New housing construction is increasingly limited to annexation areas, demolition, and redevelopment; as well as conversion of previously non-residential sites and structures.

Lack of available housing or land makes it increasingly difficult to provide new housing affordable to workforce, moderate, or low income households. Between the period between 2000 and 2008, affordable rental housing shrunk county-wide from 68% of overall rental stock to 50% of overall rental stock. This is forcing many households to live an extended distance from work.

In the years since the adoption of the last Comprehensive Plan, the City has focused its resources on the housing issues facing low and moderate-income households, defined as households earning no more than 50 or 80 percent of the regional median income respectively. The City has accessed federal and state funds targeted to these income groups to provide homeownership opportunities and to improve housing conditions.

The number of housing units in Annapolis is growing, but at the slow pace expected in a community that is largely developed. There were 15,303 occupied housing units in Annapolis in 2000 (or 16,192 units total), roughly 6 percent more than in 1990. In comparison, in the same time period the number of housing units in the county grew by almost 19 percent. In the years between 2000 and 2007, the number of occupied housing units in Annapolis grew to approximately 16,200.

Approximately 52 percent of Annapolis housing units are owner-occupied, and 48 percent are rental units. As recently as 1990, the majority of Annapolis housing units were rentals (52% of housing units were rentals in 1990). The home-ownership rate in the City is lower than the State (67%) or County (77%). Approximately 33 percent of Annapolis rental units are public housing or receive a public subsidy to provide housing to low and moderate-income households, as defined by HUD.

Home values grew by 148% in the ten years between 1997 and 2007. The median value for a home in Annapolis grew from \$172,000 in 1997 to \$428,000 in 2007. In 2007, only 21 homes under \$200,000 were offered for sale. Household income has not kept pace with the sharp increase in home sales prices. In contrast with the increase in home prices, median household income increased by only 40% in the same ten year period; from \$54,100 in 1997 to \$75,800 in 2007. The group most affected by this trend is the "workforce" or middle-income family who cannot afford to purchase a new home.

Even with the current housing problems, the housing prices in Annapolis continue to be relatively high. The City did not experience a high foreclosure rate and housing prices did not decline at the same rate as they did in the northern and southern part of Anne Arundel County. In fact, the City was not eligible to apply for funding through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Approximately 48 percent of the City's total housing stock is rental in nature. Forty-three percent of the multi-family rental units (more than 20 units) in the City are subsidized. Of the 4,694 multifamily rental units, approximately 16 percent (790) are public housing units owned by the Housing Authority. An additional 1,272 apartment units are occupied by tenants who receive Section 8 housing assistance or other assistance. The City requires that all market-rate apartment complexes accept Housing Choice Vouchers and other vouchers as a source of income. Currently, more than half of the developments either have residents with Housing Choice Vouchers or are willing to accept the vouchers. Several apartment complexes have rents that are too high for vouchers to be used.

## **II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION**

**(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors). (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

Overall the City of Annapolis' population grew 7.4% from 35,838 in 2000 to 38,499 in 2011. During that same time period, the City's population by age has fluctuated. There are more children aged five and younger, and there are more adults aged 55 and older. Population of other age segments between six and 54 years is dropping slightly. This trend coincides with the baby boomer generation living longer and healthier lives.

During the period from 2000 to 2011, the White, Asian and Hispanic populations in the City increased while the African American, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian populations decreased. White populations increased by 12% while African American populations decreased by the same amount. Although a smaller part of the overall population, Asian and Hispanic populations increased by 62% and 169%, respectively.

The percentage of households by family or households by nonfamily stayed relatively consistent from 2000 to 2011. Family households accounted for 57% of households in 2000 while nonfamily households accounted for 43% of households. In 2011, family households decreased to 55% while nonfamily households increased to 45%.

The average household size stayed consistent from 2000 to 2011 at 2.3 persons per household. The average family size increased slightly in the same timeframe from 2.93 to 3.04 persons per family.

In the City of Annapolis, educational attainment improved over the period from 2000 to 2011. In 2011, more people were graduating from high school, completing some college, or obtaining a Bachelor's degree or a graduate or professional degree.

The number of households in the City of Annapolis making less than \$75,000 dropped, while the number of household in the City making more than \$75,000 increased. However, Annapolis is home to many people whose travel and housing options are limited because of lower income levels, driving ineligibility, or disability.

The City of Annapolis is fortunate that over the course of the last eight years, the City's unemployment rate has been below the rates of the State of Maryland, the Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area and Anne Arundel County.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. American FactFinder: Profile of Demographic Characteristics, City of Annapolis. Retrieved June 12, 2013, from [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC\\_00\\_SF1\\_DP1&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_00_SF1_DP1&prodType=table) and U.S. Census Bureau. 2009-2011. American FactFinder: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, City of Annapolis. Retrieved June 12, 2013 from [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_3YR\\_DP05&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_3YR_DP05&prodType=table).

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### **III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS**

#### **A. Organizational Structure:**

**Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City of Annapolis has a City Manager and a Mayor. The Mayor is a member of the nine-person City Council. There are nine City Departments, which include the Public Works Department, the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs, the Transportation Department, and the Department of Planning and Zoning. These four departments form the core of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup along with the assistance of the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). The leaders in each department include engineers in the Public Works Department, the Chief of Environmental Programs and his staff in the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs, the Transportation Specialist in the Transportation Department, and the Main Street Program Coordinator, Chief of Community Development, and Chief of Comprehensive Planning in the Planning and Zoning Department. The leaders also include the Mayor and City Manager, who are on the forefront in advocating sustainable methods of governance. The City Staff has and will continue to implement the goals of the Sustainable Communities Area Plan under their guidance.



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### **III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS**

#### **B. Organizational Experience:**

**Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City has successfully administered many revitalization plans and projects. The Sustainable Communities Workgroup consists of members who have worked directly with these programs. For example, the Chief of Community Development, a workgroup member, administered Community Legacy funds in the fiscal years from 2002-2009 and in fiscal years 2011 and 2012. These funds totaled over 1.5 million dollars. The City completed all the Community Legacy capital projects and expended all its Community Legacy funds.

The City also manages approximately \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds annually to address housing needs, provide support for various community service organizations, and complete public improvement projects. The City further participates in DHCD's Emergency Shelter Grant Program, HOME Program and Rental Allowance Program (RAP).

Additionally, every 10 years, Annapolis creates a new Comprehensive Plan to chart the City's direction for the following 10 to 20 years. Like every Maryland city, Annapolis is required by state law to create a statement of development strategies, goals and policies describing a future vision for the City within the confines of relevant state-legislative provisions already in place. There is much overlap between the Comprehensive Plan and the City's revitalization plans and projects.

The strengths of the capacity of the Sustainable Community Workgroup is the experience from working on community plans with broad public input and having representation from many different City Departments and City sectors. The challenges include competing priorities and the difficulty in procuring capital monies.

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### **III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS**

#### **C. Public Input:**

**How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action Plan described below in Section IV? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The Action Plan was reviewed by a stakeholder group consisting of community leaders and representatives from several boards and commissions such as the Annapolis Environmental Commission, MainStreet Annapolis Partnership, and the Heritage Commission. They gave input and added suggestions to strengthen the plan. Furthermore, sections of the Action Plan draw on adopted studies such as the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Master Bike Plan. Plans such as this one were developed with a citizens committee over a multi-year period before being adopted by the City Council.

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## **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy - a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increased prosperity for local households and improved health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

### **A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts.**

**(1) A community's approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction's Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City of Annapolis advocates Smart Growth principles by encouraging infill development and growth its Opportunity Areas (designated by the Comprehensive Plan). The guiding principle of the Comprehensive Plan is that the City's economic vitality does not depend on the outward expansion of its borders; rather, the perspective that growth should be directed primarily to these Opportunity Areas. Over the next five years, the City will undertake a sector study for each area. These studies will focus on any zoning changes that would encourage and facilitate infill development. There are several places within the City with the infrastructure to accommodate more density.

The City does have natural resources to protect—especially considering its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay. The City follows the State's Chesapeake Bay Critical Area laws, and is even more restrictive than the state-mandate in terms of allowable lot coverage. The City has recently revamped its procedure for adopting Forest Stand Delineations, making this process more rigorous and consistent. Many of the waterfront properties in Annapolis are developed with single-family homes and increases in zoning density allowances would not be appropriate in these areas.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

In order to improve the readiness of the proposed Sustainable Community area for private investment, the City is currently developing a Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan for a concentrated area within the 100 year flood plain area. This will help investors in this area have more awareness of the hazards that could affect them. However, at this time the City does not have funds for implementation of any Hazard Mitigation improvements to protect the vulnerable resources within the Historic District and Eastport.

The City has made progress in preparing for compliance with TMDL regulations. In 2008 the City began collecting a stormwater utility fee, separate from the water and sewer fee. This fund, which is collected quarterly, is allocated to infrastructure repair and TMDL compliance. In fiscal year 2013 and in fiscal year 2014, \$400,000 was allocated for stream restoration. Stream restoration is a key priority in improving water quality.

#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

As a city that is surrounded by 7 bodies of water—Weems Creek, Spa Creek, Back Creek, College Creek, the Severn River, the South River, and the Chesapeake Bay—Annapolis residents have good reason to be worried about contributing to climate change and sea level rise. In September of 2003, when Hurricane Isabel visited Annapolis, we saw the effects that flooding can have. Later that year, the City joined an international organization called Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), and started participating in their Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program that laid out steps for cities to follow in order to inventory, reduce, and monitor their greenhouse gas emissions. In 2005, the mayor joined more than 850 US mayors and signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which was followed by the creation of an energy efficiency task force, whose purpose was to deliver recommendations for improving energy efficiency of the government and the entire City. The task force's recommendations were released in 2006, and shortly thereafter a resolution was passed that committed the City to following the CCP milestone program.

Chief among these recommendations was that the City commit to a 10% reduction in energy use of all publicly owned or leased facilities within 5 years and a 15% reduction by 2020. In order to forecast and measure progress towards future reductions, the City was required to establish an inventory of energy use and emissions for a baseline year. From March to May 2006, Frank Biba (Chief, Environmental Programs) and Eric Schmitt (Climate Intern) of the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs conducted a municipal energy inventory. That inventory showed that the three main CO2 contributors for city government are the vehicle fleet (28.6%), water/sewage systems (26.6%), and city buildings (24.6%).

The City will undertake several projects that will allow it to improve stormwater through retrofitting. A model for these projects will be Bloomsbury Square, the second-oldest public housing community in Annapolis, which was first built in the 1940s for Navy personnel. When the State acted to relocate the deteriorating Bloomsbury Square to make way for a new House of Delegates office building, a firm they commissioned designed aluminum-sided apartments and 40-foot wide roads with no storm water management. Despite its location on the banks of College Creek at the gateway to the State Office complex, none of the required historic-district design elements were considered, nor was compatibility with the new building or its neighbor, St. Johns College, the 3rd oldest college in America.

City officials worked with the State officials and were able to craft a much more sensitive project. The resulting neighborhood was a model of urban planning with 52 all-brick townhomes, 18 of which are fully handicapped accessible, and a two-story community center. It is a walkable community with tree-lined sidewalks and convenient access to the downtown area and transit. It also meets the highest environmental standards with a restored 100-foot shoreline buffer, and full, innovative stormwater treatment. The City retained twenty feet of open space along the creek, where it has developed rain gardens. Similar efforts will be part of all future projects that the City undertakes.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The main stakeholders for ensuring implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section are the volunteers who make up the Annapolis Environmental Commission and the City staff that support them. There are nine members of the Environmental Commission, each of whom were appointed based on their demonstrated interest in protection and improvement of the environment. The Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs has spearheaded many initiatives to make the City more sustainable. Additionally, the Department of Planning and Zoning and the City's Planning Commission encourage infill development and Smart Growth through policy and practice.

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## **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

### **B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities:**

**(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City of Annapolis' Department of Recreation and Parks operates and maintains three multi-purpose indoor facilities: the Pip Moyer Recreation Center at Truxtun Park, the Stanton Center on West Washington Street, and the Annapolis Walk Community Building on Belle Drive. It also maintains approximately 200 acres of open space, park land, and athletic fields at Truxtun Park, Bates Athletic Complex, Back Creek Nature Park, Wiley H. Bates High School, Spa Creek Conservancy, Annapolis Sports Complex (behind Germantown School), Spa Creek Trail, Poplar Trail, Kingsport Community Park, and twenty neighborhood mini-parks. Furthermore, the Department assists with the maintenance at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Marine-Corps Stadium walking trail. However, when only considering City-owned facilities, Annapolitans have fewer park acres per person (5.7 acres per 1,000 persons) than the recommended minimum national standard (6.0 acres per 1,000 persons).

A major addition to the City's physical assets is the Roger "Pip" Moyer Recreation Center. This Center, opened in 2009 and serves to consolidate and expand recreational opportunities for all citizens of Annapolis into one convenient location. The 60,000-SF facility houses full-sized gyms, an indoor 200-meter track, a rock climbing wall, community meeting rooms, a fitness center, preschool-age program space, babysitting services and recreation offices. Outside there are lighted tennis courts, a public boat ramp and pier, parking area improvements, and woodland trail improvements.

The City is constantly working to enhance existing parks and facilities, complete the network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and provide parks and recreation services to underserved areas.

The Plan will build on the City's existing assets and help focus efforts to improve its park system and to protect its historic structures and civic assets. The Stanton Community Center is an example of a civic asset that is located in a newly renovated historic city building. The Center offers a safe community space for recreational and cultural opportunities for children and adults to enrich their learning and physical well-being. In addition to a multipurpose gymnasium and fitness area, the historic City building serves as a community resource center. It houses many community organizations' that provide families with support human services, including health, medical, therapeutic, and counseling. In partnership with the Anne Arundel Medical Center, a free medical and dental clinic, one of only five in the nation, is set up at the Stanton Center. It has also become a hub of community activity with special functions, community events, dances, community meetings and dinners honoring special individuals. Recently, the City has replaced the aging roof on this structure, however more upgrades are necessary to continue to maintain this asset.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community's authentic "sense of place" and historic character? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

A city's "sense of place" and economic vitality does not depend on the outward expansion of its borders. Because the productive use of land is cyclical, at any given time there are land areas that are underutilized and buildings that are obsolete when compared to current community needs. A City can target and promote specific areas for redevelopment as part of a sound land use policy that can help guide private sector development decision making.

The following three initiatives will help the City of Annapolis reinforce its authentic character:

Initiative 1 - "Continue to maintain stringent historic preservation requirements in the downtown area and protect and conserve neighborhoods utilizing the neighborhood conservation zoning designation."

The City's neighborhood conservation districts should remain in place and be continually monitored to ensure their effectiveness. The City will work with neighborhoods wishing to implement a neighborhood conservation designation to protect neighborhood character.

Initiative 2 - "Enhance the Public Realm of City Dock and its Environs."

City Dock and its environs are fundamental to the city's character and identity as a small seaport town with a rich history. Main Street has been designated one of Ten Great Streets in America by the American Planning Association for its role as a living museum, a place that makes significant contributions to Annapolis' downtown economy at the same time that the entire downtown remains physically and visually connected to its history, maritime culture, and architectural character. Given the importance of the City Dock area to Annapolis, a plan for its future must be developed with broad participation by the entire community, as well as downtown residents and businesses. A plan for the public realm of City Dock and its environs should begin with forming a vision, from which specific implementation steps be developed.

Initiative 3 - "Acknowledging the importance of the Maritime Industry to Annapolis' character, identity, and economy, strive to ensure the Maritime Industry's sustained health and viability."

This includes promoting Annapolis for maritime business, maritime tourism, and charter and fishing activities as part of economic development efforts. It also includes celebrating the entire maritime heritage of the city and link the sites associated with this heritage by water transportation.

The City has worked with many non-profits as partners in these initiatives and will continue to do so. This includes such groups as Historic Annapolis Foundation, the Light House Shelter, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.** *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The City will invest in system-wide improvements to convert main streets and avenues into “complete streets”— that is, streets which serve the full needs of the community. This will help improve community access to green spaces, parks, and other amenities.

Depending on the location, this could mean retrofitting existing streets to add sidewalks or tree planting strips, striping roadways to reinforce the shared use of streets for bicyclists, installing traffic calming measures, and approving a unified set of standards. Part of this policy is a goal of making Annapolis a premier community for safe and reliable bicycle transportation and walking, and promoting safe pedestrian and bicycle access to all schools in the community.

The design of Complete Streets elements will be done in coordination with the Maryland State Highway Administration’s Community Design Division. The State of Maryland has awarded Annapolis a Safe Routes to School grant and this and similar programs, such as the Sidewalk Retrofit Program, will be key tools for implementing this policy.

The primary function of major streets should be indicated through the use of landscape architectural treatments that are designed in harmony with the community character. West Street (MD 450), for example, is a major gateway from outside the city limits into the center of Annapolis. It should project a unified appearance as a gateway with street trees, plantings, street lights, bike lanes, sidewalks and improved crosswalks.

The City of Annapolis is committed to upholding the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This commitment extends to all programs, services and activities, such that no individual with a disability shall be discriminated against on the basis of his or her disability. Where applicable, the City ensures compliance with ADA standards and where possible, complies with ADA Best Practices.

The 2011 Bicycle Master Plan was developed to help plan and phase key projects. With the assistance of committed advocates, the City plans to create a world-class network of bicycling facilities and routes, and undertake the following key bicycle transportation improvements:

- Connect the Poplar and Spa Creek Trails.
- Extend the Poplar Trail to the downtown area in part by improving the service roads running parallel to West Street (MD 450).
- Extend the Poplar Trail to Parole, the Annapolis Mall, and to the Anne Arundel County South Shore Trail.
- Work with the State Highway Administration to install bicycle lanes on all State roads within the city.
- Develop a bicycle parking strategy that includes improved bicycle parking facilities at automobile parking facilities and other locations in commercial districts.
- Improve bicycle route signage and develop an action funding plan to implement the feasible bicycle facility improvements and policy changes recommended in the Bicycle Master Plan and previously in the Annapolis Bicycle Transportation Committee’s November 2008 Report.

In order to advance the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan, the City has been working within the Maryland DOT Bikeways program and to date has received two (2) grant funding opportunities. These opportunities increase community access to green spaces and improve the character and health of the community.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

There are several important stakeholders for ensuring implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section. In terms of preserving historic structures and material, the Historic Preservation Commission's seven volunteers, as well as its staff in the Department of Planning and Zoning regulate development in the historic district. The Heritage Commission is another important stakeholder that consists of seven residents and up to five at large members who have a demonstrated knowledge and interest in the history and culture of Annapolis.

MainStreets Annapolis Partnership is a key stakeholder with historic preservation, economic vitality, and environmental concerns as its main focus. Additionally, the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs and the Annapolis Department of Transportation are key stakeholders for initiating many programs such as bike trails and improving green spaces.

For example, the Transportation Department was the lead agency on the adoption of the Master Bike Plan in 2011. The bicycle network in the City has a combination of strengths and weaknesses that relate to the suitability of the roadway infrastructure. Many of the communities' roadways are too narrow for State-approved bicycle lanes. The Master Plan recommends the creation of a network focusing on the many low-traffic, low speed limit residential streets. The primary arterial roadways providing access to the City are under State jurisdiction and are not conducive for bicycling based upon the speed limits and traffic volumes. The process behind implementation of the master plan is based on creating alternatives to these primary roadways so that bicycling can be used for all purposes, whether it be commuting, transportation, or recreation. With the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan the City will move from a network with less than 10 miles of facilities to over 35 miles of facilities.

This is one example of how the goals of this plan will be implemented by a key stakeholder.

## IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

### C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

**(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City has in place several economic development policies that will help improve the economy through investments in key employment sectors. The MainStreet Annapolis Partnership focuses on implementing the standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center—including:

- Building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts
- Developing a mission
- Fostering strong public-private partnerships
- Securing an operating budget
- Tracking economic progress
- Preserving historic buildings

The partnership is made up of local business owners, property owners, the City of Annapolis, lenders, real estate development professionals, residents and local business associations. These partners work together on five committees to enhance the traditional business communities Downtown, in Eastport, on Inner West Street, and in West Annapolis.

Additionally, the City of Annapolis Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) focuses efforts on attracting and retaining four key industries:

- Retail
- Maritime
- Technology
- Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

AEDC does this by:

- Building cooperative relationships with governmental agencies to smooth the way for business development
- Providing technical, site selection, and market analysis assistance to businesses
- Working to expand workforce development opportunities
- Marketing Annapolis to investors and consumers
- Keeping businesses up-to-date regarding economic and political developments
- Recognizing the significant contributions of resident businesses
- Assisting businesses in accessing capital
- Helping businesses achieve their objectives

The economic development policies that have been recently adopted by the City include:

- Holding optional pre-application meetings for commercial projects.
- Helping to streamline the development review process by requiring either an approval by the Board of Appeals or the Planning Commission, instead of both boards.
- Reviewing the expansion of the City's financing plan for commercial businesses faced with capital facilities related to water and sewer infrastructure and allocation fees.

Some of the AEDC's programs focused on small and start-up businesses include the following:

"Entrepreneurs & Inventors"

The AEDC recognizes and proudly supports Annapolis entrepreneurs and inventors. It offers a bi-monthly program that focuses on startups and early-stage companies seeking information on how to take their idea from a business plan to an investment. The 2.5 hour program hosts a guest speaker allowing for questions and comments. Experienced business start-up experts will be available for further advice. Two of the attendees will also be given an opportunity to pitch their plans to the experts and receive comments from three industry experts.

"Project Opportunity"

The AEDC has joined forces with the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and TEDCO to offer Project Opportunity. This free education and outreach service provides technical assistance and financing opportunities to veterans who are considering starting their own business. The core of the program is an 11-week training program that leads to a business boot camp.

#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City of Annapolis through the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) has set a goal of adding 150 jobs within the City this year. As a small jurisdiction with limited resources, the City of Annapolis relies on partnerships for workforce development.

State of Maryland:

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations has a One-Stop Career Center in the City of Annapolis on West Street. It is part of a nationwide system that provides job information and services to job seekers and businesses. The office has resource areas equipped with internet access, a variety job search resource materials and resume writing software. They also provide on-line computer access, audio-visual libraries, free faxing, copying and telephone services for job search, and a variety of workshops to assist job seekers in finding employment.

Anne Arundel County:

Anne Arundel County has the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, which is a non-profit organization whose vision is to ensure that Anne Arundel County has a highly skilled workforce that meets the current and future needs of its businesses, and that its citizens have the tools, resources and up-to-date certifications they need to maximize their career potential.

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC):

Anne Arundel Community College is a fully accredited, public two-year institution serving more than 53,000 students each year. The college has become a nationally recognized leader for its innovative programs and services, commitment to learning-centered education and dedication to serving students and the community. AACC forms partnerships with businesses, government agencies, other colleges and community organizations to expand existing academic programs and begin new ones.

In the area of green jobs, the City of Annapolis is home to a number of green businesses, government offices and non-profit organizations, including the following:

- Headquarters for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, which brings together individuals, organizations, businesses and governments to find collaborative solutions that benefit the land, waters, and residents of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Home of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the National Wildlife Federation.
- Chesapeake Bay Program Office for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Headquarters for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- National Social-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), a national research center, funded through a grant to the University of Maryland and founded at the intersection of natural and social sciences.
- New home of the Entomological Society of America, which is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists.
- Home of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, which encourages the transformation of the energy economy with programs that catalyze the growth of business, increase related "green collar" jobs, and make clean energy technologies, products and services affordable, accessible, and easy to implement for Maryland residents.
- Home of the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), a non-profit that plans, promotes and implements science-based and sustainable shellfish restoration, aquaculture and wild fishery activities to protect our environment, support our economy and preserve our cultural heritage.
- Home of Annapolis Hybrid Marine who is the Eastern North American Distributor and Dealer for inboard electric propulsion systems.
- Home of Earth River Geothermal a locally-owned, full-service geothermal heating and cooling systems provider.
- Home to Energy Concepts Co., LLC, who designs and develops energy-efficient, heat-activated absorption systems and associated fluid contact equipment.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The Sustainable Community of Annapolis will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure activities. Fort Meade, located in Anne Arundel County, will gain over 10,000 jobs. The main challenge will be providing transportation for workers of all levels to be able to reach the centers of job creation.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The stakeholders that are key to the implementation of these economic initiatives include the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) and the MainStreet Annapolis Partnership. Both of these groups help educate small businesses about funding opportunities, as well as to offer organized forums where they can obtain advice and tips for their business.

Over the past two years, the AEDC has worked with MainStreet and the Department of Planning and Zoning to streamline applications and make it easier and quicker for businesses to approvals. It can be very difficult for smaller businesses in this proposed Sustainable Community to access expert advice such as attorneys and engineers. The Department of Planning and Zoning provides assistance with applications for such things as Special Exceptions and Variances, while the AEDC assists with location and background research and MainStreet helps with promotion and marketing.

## IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

### **D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.**

**(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City has several policies in its Comprehensive Plan that can be implemented in order to support access to a wide variety of housing choices. These include:

Policy 1 "Support Development of Housing Affordable to Workforce or Middle Income Households"

--Access funds to address housing needs of Workforce and Middle Income households, loosely defined as households earning between 80 percent and 120 percent of the Regional Median Family Income. Income range for a "Workforce" family of four in 2009 is \$64,000 - \$96,000. A family in this income range can typically afford a \$300,000 home. With an average price of \$354,000 for a house in Anne Arundel County in July 2009, "Workforce" families are priced out of the Annapolis housing market even after the effects of the housing downturn of 2009.

--Work with neighborhoods to consider allowing "mother-in-law apartments" or "granny flats" in owner-occupied houses in residential districts where the community finds them acceptable. This would benefit people in a range of ages, especially elderly parents who could live with their children, but with their own independent space.

Policy 2 "Support the Revitalization of Public Housing"

--Support the Housing Authority's (HACA) efforts to revitalize public housing, with the goal of ensuring quality housing for low-income residents. Revitalizing includes rebuilding and rehabilitating public housing complexes with a mix of ownership and rental units, new arrangements for property ownership (shared public-private ownership), and transitioning to private professional property management.

--As part of the Housing Authority's current and future redevelopment planning, the City should work with HACA to evaluate income diversity of public housing residents.

--While "bricks and mortar" are an important aspect of public housing, just as important is the social context of poverty and disparities in income and educational attainment experienced by public housing residents compared to the larger Annapolis community. The Housing Authority offers a range of supportive programs to public housing residents and the City recognizes that programs that address social disparities must be included in public housing's revitalization.

--Strive for efficient communication between the Housing Authority and City government and identify common goals for the improvement of quality of life in public housing communities. Regular meetings between City staff and the Housing Authority are recommended to help facilitate coordination and work toward achieving common goals.

Policy 3 "Support housing programs that assist low and moderate-income households with homeownership and housing rehabilitation"

--Utilize City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and other State and federal programs to offer housing rehabilitation programs that allow people to rehabilitate and stay in their homes, to help rehabilitate subsidized rental housing, and to provide homeownership opportunities.

--Foster partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit entities, particularly in efforts to acquire sites at a reasonable cost for purposes of affordable housing, including rehabilitation, redevelopment, and new development. In coordination with partner organizations, continue to pursue state and federal funds.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation?** *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The housing initiatives and projects that the proposed Sustainable Community are developing will help increase access to transit and walkability. Many City residents already live near bus stops, although the overall "Walk Score" for the City is 59, or "Somewhat Walkable" (<http://www.walkscore.com/MD/Annapolis>). Density can be increased in the City with less impact if such policies as allowing accessory apartments/"granny flats" are promoted. This will help make affordable dwelling that are within close proximity to transit. Rehabilitating and remodeling public housing units that are located near transit can also help achieve affordable density, with access to employment.

The sidewalks in Annapolis could also be improved and extended to improve walkability. The City has many State roads, which can sometimes make approval of new sidewalks more difficult. However, the State did resurface sidewalks along West Street, a main arterial, in 2012, which greatly improved walkability in the area.



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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housing, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

To ensure that housing choices continue to be available to its residents and employees with moderate incomes, the City Council passed the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Law in 2004. This law requires that 12% of the houses for sale in new subdivisions of 10 or more units be moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs). This means that the sale price or rent is below the market rate for other units in the same development.

To be eligible to purchase, or rent, through the MPDU program an individual or household must:

- o Have an income that is 100% or less than the median family income for the Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with adjustments for household size, as reported by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- o Not currently own a home and be:

- A City resident or employed within the City limits for at least the past twelve months

- A City of Annapolis employee beyond their probationary period

- A teacher or staff member in a school that is included in the Annapolis Senior High School district as defined by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Currently the City has one rental property, which has 18 MPDU Units and four for-sale MPDU properties that are two bedrooms, one bathroom and are on the market for \$216,000. The first three MPDU units were recently sold. These three-bedroom units were priced at \$252,000 and are located in the City's Designated Revitalization Area on West Street. Several projects are in various stages in the development process and have the potential of producing another 45 for sale units. The Planning Department does not have any rental developments under review at this time.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The main stakeholders that are key to the implementation of these affordable housing initiatives are the City Staff in the Community Development Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning. This division manages the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Hope Repair Program, and the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Program. These are three essential programs for implementation of these initiatives and programs. This division works with the Comprehensive Planning Division to coordinate and establish policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The division also provides support to the City Council, Housing and Community Development Committee and implements special redevelopment projects and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Furthermore, this division works with many local nonprofit agencies that further the reach of city initiatives.

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## **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

### **E. Support transportation efficiency and access.**

**(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City of Annapolis advocates for regional decision-making and modal choice for transportation, as well as for eliminating bias against pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, and rail projects. It also is pursuing the establishment of an organizational structure and funding mechanism in support of cooperative transportation planning and funding that serves the Annapolis area, and even beyond the Annapolis region. These goals were proposed in the Annapolis Regional Transportation Vision and Master Plan that serves as a guiding document for improvements in the transportation system.

One transportation initiative that the City debuted in 2012 is the Circulator Trolley. This Circulator runs free-of-charge from downtown to the satellite parking garages located on West Street at a ten minute headway. Visitors and employees are encouraged to "store" their cars at these locations to leave short-term parking options available downtown. The City is also installing an upgraded wayfinding system. Funding for this program was approved for Fiscal Year 2014. The improved wayfinding will help direct motorists to parking garages and will also help bicyclists and pedestrians navigate the close distances between different attractions.

The City is pursuing the creation of a regional transit system serving the needs of Annapolis commuters, residents, and visitors. As a first step, a multi-modal transportation center is in the planning states. This center should be constructed to serve as the primary terminal for regional and local transit, taxis, and airport shuttles. The feasibility study that is now underway will focus on the specific needs of the center, its scope, overall program, and potential locations where the center could be constructed to best utilize the existing routes accessing the City. In addition to serving as the hub for public transit, it should provide intercept parking for vehicles, a bicycle rental facility, and be connected to the developing bicycle network.

The City recognizes that specific and targeted improvements to the local street system should be made with priority given to those that improve cross-town circulation, route continuity for public transit, and intersection capacities. The City will focus on travel demand management as a tool for improving circulation, accessibility, and mobility throughout Annapolis.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area's connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The City does not have any "typical" transportation centers such as Metro, MARC or light rail stations but with its transit system enables developments to feature elements of Transit Oriented Development. Recent residential and commercial developments in proximity to downtown Annapolis focus on the enhanced mobility provided by the transit system, the ease of pedestrian and bicycle access, and the overall benefits that brings to the community. These opportunities will continue with the pursuit of the multi-modal transportation center, which will create enhanced regional access as well as potential development opportunities for public-private partnerships. This multi-modal transportation center is currently in the initial planning and feasibility stage.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

There are three main stakeholders that are key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section. First is the Annapolis Department of Transportation (ADOT). The staff in this department works daily to improve the efficiency of the bus system and the Circulator Trolley. They also led the bicycle master planning process in 2011. Staff is currently leading the feasibility study for the multi-modal transportation center as well as pursuing the establishment of a regional transportation entity. The Department of Planning and Zoning works closely with ADOT on these and other studies. It also is responsible for implementing the transportation policies of the Comprehensive Plan

The Transportation Board is also an important stakeholder that reviews and proposes transportation projects in the City. This board is made of eleven residents from the City with a demonstrated interest in transportation, parking, or traffic.

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## **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

### **F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment**

**(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The Sustainable Community Workgroup for Annapolis consists of members from the MainStreet Annapolis Partnership, the Mayor's Office, and members from the Community Development Division and the Comprehensive Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning. These members will work to coordinate the goals of the Sustainable Community program with the Capital Improvement Program and to make changes to the City Code when applicable. For example, the Mayor has recently introduced a new ordinance that will enable businesses to pay their capital facility fees in installments. This option is currently only available to businesses in designated revitalization areas. The new ordinance will help businesses in other sections of the Sustainable Community area.

#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The proposed Sustainable Community Plan is consistent with the Annapolis Comprehensive Plan. The policies of the two plans overlap in key areas, including smart growth development, accessible and efficient transportation, expanding recreational areas, promotion of affordable housing, and environmental protection

The specific policies that overlap are:

- Growth will be directed primarily to four Opportunity Areas
- Protect and promote the neighborhood commercial retail centers in the city.
- Enhance the public realm of City Dock and its environs.
- Acknowledging the importance of the Maritime industry to Annapolis' character, identity, and economy, strive to ensure the Maritime industry's sustained health and viability.
- Continue to maintain stringent historic preservation requirements in the downtown area and protect and conserve neighborhoods utilizing the neighborhood conservation zoning designation.
- Annapolis' rich cultural history and wealth of current historic and cultural offerings will be protected and enhanced.
- Evaluate risks from sea level rise in decisions involving land use along the waterfront.
- Pursue the creation of a regional transit system serving the needs of Annapolis commuters, residents, and visitors.
- Specific and targeted improvements to the local street system should be made with priority to those that improve cross-town circulation, route continuity for public transit, and intersection capacities.
- The City will invest in system-wide improvement to convert main streets and avenues into "complete streets" – that is, streets which serve the full needs of the community.
- Enhance existing parks and facilities with the objective of supporting structured and informal recreation, protecting the natural environment, and encouraging human health and fitness.
- Complete the network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways.
- Reduce the polluting effects of stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- Protect and restore environmentally sensitive areas and other natural resources within the city.
- Shrink the City's Carbon Footprint and become a community of Green buildings to combat climate change.
- Support development of housing affordable to workforce or middle income households.
- Support housing programs that assist low and moderate-income households with homeownership and housing rehabilitation.

The Sustainable Communities Plan is consistent with other community plans as well, such as the City of Annapolis Community Development Block Grant Five Year Action Plan, the Annapolis Regional Transportation Vision and Master Plan, the Master Bike Plan, and the Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan.

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#### **IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments?** *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The City of Annapolis will use the Sustainable Community designation and plan to help leverage private sector investments in several ways. Initial public investment often persuades businesses to open stores in new locations, for example. Public money can also be used to match private money, especially for projects such as rehabilitating housing stock. The Maritime Museum in Eastport is able to provide education programs by using public and private funds. The City has successfully leveraged private dollars in the past through public works programs such as street improvements and undergrounding utilities.

Under the City's capital improvement program, it continues to be aggressive in attracting new development and commercial revitalization while providing improvements for current citizens and businesses. Wherever possible, the City has dug out old utilities, and installed new water, sewer, storm drains, and gas, phone and electric lines. In Annapolis, overhead wires are not only unsightly, they also impede emergency vehicles on the historic district's narrow angled streets. State law and funding is being addressed with the goal of having the entire City unfettered by telephone poles and overhead wires by 2020. More than a beautification project; it is a matter of public safety. The City also manages many grant and loan programs that effectively partner with investors in the private sector.



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## **V. PROGRESS MEASURES**

### **For the Plan parts of section IV (A through F):**

#### **(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

There are many specific outcomes that this Plan will seek to produce. They include:

#### **A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts**

- Encouraging infill development and growth in opportunity areas
- Maintaining limits on growth in environmentally sensitive properties
- Restoring stream beds
- Decreasing the City Government's environmental footprint through better design and adoption of best practices

#### **B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities**

- Improving and connecting existing recreational areas
- Revitalize City Dock and the waterfront area
- Encourage a "Complete Streets" approach

#### **C. Enhancing economic competitiveness**

- Provide education opportunities for small businesses
- Promote green jobs
- Join regional transportation initiatives

#### **D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing**

- Support the Housing Authority in revitalizing public housing
- Use Community Development Block Grants to encourage housing upkeep and renovations

#### **E. Support transportation efficiency and access**

- Join regional transportation initiatives
- Improve walkability
- Promote the Circulator Trolley and improved wayfinding

#### **F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment**

- Help craft new Code language to make it easier for businesses to operate in the City of Annapolis

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## **V. PROGRESS MEASURES**

**(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)**

The specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress include the following:

A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts

- Building permits in opportunity areas
- Water quality of the City's surrounding rivers
- Number of streambed restorations
- % reduction in energy use by the city government

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities

- Miles of bike paths
- Adoption of the City Dock Master Plan
- New sidewalks

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

- Reduction in unemployment rate
- Increase in number of green companies
- Member of regional transportation association

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing

- Revitalized public housing
- Completion rate of Community Development Block Grants

E. Support transportation efficiency and access

- Better access to job through public transportation
- Walkability score
- Increase in use of Circulator Trolley

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

- New ordinances

**REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION  
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the “Department”) to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland’s Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the “Act”). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

**I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant’s Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

Anyone who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date