

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to capture indicators of accomplishments in each Sustainable Community. Indicators should reflect the five year time period since the adoption of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Thus, the following questions focus on the common outcomes that were identified in the various Sustainable Community Action Plans approved by the State. The assessment will be grouped in the sections of Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

Check “**YES**” if applicable to your community. If you answer “**YES**” please quantify the accomplishment (i.e. Q: Has there been an increase in the number of businesses in your Main Street/commercial district? A: YES 4 new businesses have opened in the past five years). If necessary, please also provide a short description of the accomplishment.

Please check “**NO**” if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer “**NO**” please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes.

Check “**N/A**”, if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

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ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality?	X			<p>Progress has been made and Chesapeake Bay water quality has improved. While the region did meet goals for two targeted pollutants, phosphorus and sediment, it achieved only 30 percent of the goal for nitrogen, which has long been the most difficult to control and is the most harmful pollutant in much of the Bay (<i>Bay Journal, October 15, 2018</i>).</p> <p>The City of Annapolis does not conduct water quality monitoring, but with the City of Annapolis' Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), local goals to meet the treatment of stormwater will be met.</p>
2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)		X		<p>The City of Annapolis has established a baseline (the City's WIP) that develops the City's restoration plans and provides a schedule for best management practices (BMP) implementation and tracks impervious area treatment and pollutant reduction targets. Currently, the City is negotiating a contract for an outside company to assist with meeting the City's WIP goals to treat 20% of impervious areas throughout the city.</p>
3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	X			<p>The Bay Village conservation easement was created in 2016 as part of the Bay Village assisted living facility development. It contains 3.01 acres.</p> <p>Shiley Park was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during spring GreenScape 2016. More than 50 people joined City representatives as the community welcomed the first street-end park to become established in 10 years. Held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, the event included local individuals recognizing Shiley Park (near Giddings Avenue) in West Annapolis: Alderman Fred Paone of Ward Two presented the proclamation, former Mayor Ellen Moyer thanked the community for 25 years of GreenScape dedication and a volunteer talked about Shiley Park and the local volunteers.</p>
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?	X			<p>The City of Annapolis already offers free recycling containers provided to City refuse customers in 18, 32 or 64-gallon size. Containers can be picked up from the City with current I.D. and a copy of water bills for verification. The City has since added E-cycling (electronics recycling). Normally, when these items are placed at the curb they are sent to a landfill for disposal. The City of Annapolis encourages residents to bring these items to our Public Works Services Facility so they may be recycled. Items that are collected are either refurbished or dismantled for parts and further processed to reclaim base materials. City of Annapolis residents and businesses may deliver these items at drop-off locations for e-cycling free of charge.</p>

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<p>5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Groundworks Farm is a diversified year round community supported agriculture (CSA) Farm. They grow the majority of their offerings on their small family farm and source from other small local producers to bring the best diversity of local sustainable produce the area has to offer. Groundworks offers produce, egg, meat, chicken, cheese and whole farm shares at a year-round pick-up location in Annapolis MD at Vin 909 Wine Cafe on Thursdays from 3-6pm. The Summer Farm Shares start the first week in June and run through mid-November (22 weeks). Veggie Shares, and Pastured Egg Shares are picked up weekly for 22 weeks. Pastured Chicken, pastured meat, and local farmstead cheese shares are picked up monthly.</p> <p>Also, the Anne Arundel County Famers' Market schedule begins with year-round, weekly Sunday markets, adds weekly Saturday markets approximately beginning in April and Tuesday markets approximately beginning in May of each year.</p> <p>The Farmer's Market Nutrition Program accepts checks from the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and Senior Farmers' Market Nutritional Program (FMNP). Checks are accepted at both the Tuesday and Saturday markets by vendors who participate in the program. The WIC Program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education at no cost to low-income pregnant and breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, and to infants and children up to 5 years of age, who are found to be at nutritional risk.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p>				

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ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?			X	While there is some healthy churn of new businesses, the total number remains relatively stable, as the available space is limited (little room for new development, only redevelopment)
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			1. Continued the Main Street Program 2. Renewed the Arts & Entertainment District for 10 more years
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?			X	
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	X			Citywide commercial vacancy rate dropped from 7.4% to 4.6% from EOY 2012 - 2017
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	X			The City's job growth rate remains steady at about 2% growth per annum from 2013-2017
OTHER:				

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TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			The City has added 3,348 linear feet of bike lanes in the last five years.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		There have been budget cuts in the Transportation Department.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)	X			There has been an increase of 1,618 linear feet of new sidewalk.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		X		The City has made policy recommendations for a Complete Streets strategy with green street design standards incorporated into the strategy, but as of yet has been unable to fully implement those recommendations. The Department of Public Works has, over the last five years installed several green roadways.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)				The traffic has decreased or held steady along many major roadways located within the City. Specifically, Forest Drive, with a new adaptive control traffic signal system installed and maintained by the County beginning in 2016, has experienced a 10 – 15% improvement in its traffic efficiency, by the County's estimations.
OTHER:				

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HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have any residential facades been improved?			X	
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?	X			While the rate of rental occupancy has increased at a faster rate than the owner occupancy rate, there is estimated to be 40 more owner-occupied units compared with 5 years ago. Also, seven new affordable owner-occupied units were added to the affordable housing inventory in Eastport.
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?	X			There have been 117 new housing units constructed over the past five years inside the approved Sustainable Community area. There have been an additional 20 constructed in areas we propose to add to our Sustainable Community area. Seven new affordable owner-occupied units were added to the affordable housing inventory in Eastport.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			X	
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			The percentage of vacant housing units has estimated to have gradually decreased in the last 5 years from 11.0% in 2012 to 9.7% in 2016.
OTHER:				

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QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X			The annual amount of total violent and property crimes has decreased from an average of 1,377 incidents from 2008- 2012 to 1,175 incidents per year from 2013 – 2017. Last year saw the 2 nd fewest incidents of crime since 1975 with 1,152 total.
2. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	X			There have been upgrades made to several parks in the City including Chambers Park and Kingsport Park, and a new street-end park was dedicated at Shiley Street. Whitmore Park was also upgraded with assistance from Anne Arundel County. The City partnered with the Annapolis Maritime Museum to allow expanded educational facilities at Ellen O. Moyer Nature Park at Back Creek.
3. Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?	X			The City's Art in Public Places Commission has been working to raise the visibility of public art, but has also received funding to plan for and provide public art. In 2016, they received a grant to create an art wall that initiated the first "Art in the Park." Of the now 30 murals located across the City, a dozen of them have been painted in the last two years. This year, the City was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the state for an arts and entertainment hub that would contain artist incubation space.
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?	X			1,124 historic properties were renovated or improved in the past five years.
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	X			Membership at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center is free for all City employees and discounted for all City residents. The Stanton Community Center hosts free drop-in recreational activities. The Department of Recreation and Parks recently received a grant from the National Fitness Campaign to install an outdoor fitness court along the Poplar multi-use trail.
OTHER:				

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LAND USE/ LOCAL PLANNING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?	X			There have been seven infill commercial, office and mixed use developments constructed over the past years in the Sustainable Community area of the twelve total in the City.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?	X			
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints?		X		We have not exceeded our current thresholds for growth constraints, however recent legislation implemented a no net loss of forest and mature trees that increases forest conservation requirements. There is also pending legislation that would lower the utilization ratio for when schools are closed to additional capacity.
4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community?		X		Growth, even in our sustainable communities areas, has been a topic of contention.
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			The City re-hauled and renovated its water treatment plant.
OTHER:				

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COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowman Community Development Corporation • Light House Shelter - Bistro 	DHCD	\$100,000 \$200,000		
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT		Application preparation assistance	
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			

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<p>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</p>	<p>MDE</p>			
<p>Other Funding Programs: <i>examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.</i></p> <p>*Please add more rows if necessary</p>				
<p>Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant</p>	<p>Maryland DNR</p>	<p>\$175,000</p>		
<p>MDE - Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration (MWQFA) - Water Quality Improvement Projects Involving Point Sources (Wastewater) and Nonpoint Sources</p>	<p>MDE</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Per MDE, they suggest the City of Annapolis submits an inventory of stormwater Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) projects for funding. This inventory of projects must include a realistic plan of action of what the City intends to accomplish within 12 to 18 months.</p> <p>Currently, the City is negotiating a contract for an outside company to assist with meeting the City's WIP goals to treat 20% of impervious areas. The City will be able to put together a realistic plan of action with the assistance of the chosen outside contractor.</p>	

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<p>Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Program</p>	<p>Maryland Energy Administration</p>	<p>\$55,000</p>		<p>Currently waiting for contract from granting source.</p>
<p>Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland State Agency Watershed Assistance Grant Program</p>	<p>Maryland DNR</p>	<p>\$0</p>		<p>Funding lost because of a technicality.</p>
<p>Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant</p>	<p>Maryland DNR</p>	<p>\$0</p>		<p>Funding lost because of land ownership issues.</p>

COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?