



**Baltimore County Master Plan 2030**

**Reflecting edits from Baltimore County Planning Board, June 29, 2023**

# **DRAFT**

**PART 2 OF 4**

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## Introduction (VF.1)

The Vision Framework establishes the goals for the future long-range development of a sustainable Baltimore County. As with all other sections of *Master Plan 2030*, the Vision Framework draws heavily from the American Planning Association's report: *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans*. Throughout the process to develop the plan, the Department of Planning used this report as a guideline and a source of inspiration.

*Sustaining Places* is a policy document and tool that focuses on helping communities achieve "livable, healthy communities in harmony with nature—communities that have resilient economies, social equity and strong regional ties." This idea has been adapted as principles in the Vision Framework: Livable Built Environment, Harmony with Nature, Resilient

Economy, Responsible Regionalism, Inclusive Planning and Healthy Community.

Each principle includes goals and supporting actions for achieving sustainable outcomes.



## **Livable Built Environment (VF.2)**



Ensure that all elements of the built environment, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide sustainable, green places for living, working, and recreation, with a high quality of life.



*The built environment encompasses physical features (such as buildings, streets and utilities) and the systems and processes associated with them (such as movement of people, flow of water). As such, it defines the multifaceted community that people experience through their daily lives—the places where they live, work and recreate. Because the built environment shapes quality of life for the entire population, sustaining its livability and ensuring that it functions at the highest possible level are primary tasks for comprehensive planning.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

## **Priorities (6)**

- Land Use and Development
- Housing
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Community Facilities
- Historic Preservation

## **Goals and Actions**

### **Land Use and Development**

**Goal 1:** *Elevate the quality of the built environment to ensure an equitable, sustainable and prosperous place for all people with communities that thrive and cultivate their unique identities.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Create a redevelopment framework that reinforces the existing Urban-Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) and focuses on redevelopment strategies through community

planning policies. Baltimore County's Urban-Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) was established over fifty years ago and has not been systematically reviewed for at least four decades. Prior to beginning work on the next Master Plan, the Planning Board and staff should conduct a comprehensive review of the Urban-Rural Demarcation Line (URDL) to determine whether it contributed to past racial and economic segregation and is meeting the current and future needs of Baltimore County and the Baltimore region.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Evaluate the current Planned Unit Development (PUD) process to assess its success and ensure it is transparent, clearly articulates eligibility requirements, conveys tangible community benefits and ensures a higher quality development.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Create new and adjust existing overlay districts with implementation tools and incentives to encourage walkable, mixed-use development in and near transit stations by utilizing a Smart Growth framework.

**Goal 1, Action 4:** Utilize nature-based solutions (NBS) as a vehicle for delivering green, resilient and inclusive development (GRID) to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

**Goal 1, Action 5:** Identify older sub-standard buildings and provide incentives for adaptive re-use utilizing community input.

**Goal 1, Action 6:** Expand strategies to encourage greyfield development (i.e., older shopping centers) to incentivize and eliminate barriers to (re)development.

**Goal 1, Action 7:** The Department of Planning and the Planning Board shall create a task force to study the current Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) and recommend

improvements to make it more effective and easier for retrofitting communities as proposed in the [Growth Framework](#).

**Goal 1, Action 8:** Explore requiring LEED certification or Green Building Code standards in excess of LEED silver for commercial and residential construction.

**Goal 1, Action 9:** Streamline the Development Review process. Departments with review responsibility during the Phase 1 Review process should coordinate decisions before responding to developers with requested or recommended changes to a development plan.

**Goal 1, Action 10:** Study existing zoning overlay districts and create new overlay districts or create a new zone(s) in order to allow the intended place type uses in the [Growth Framework Plan](#).

**Goal 1, Action 11:** Maintain the currency of the [Place Types Map](#) through periodic reevaluation and revision of the map based on analysis or growth and development needs and trends, small area plan studies and special area studies.

## Housing

**Goal 2:** *Provide quality mixed-income housing options to meet the needs of a diverse population and strengthen neighborhoods.*

**Goal 2, Action 1:** Establish zoning practices that removes barriers and supports mixed-use and mixed-income development for a wide-range of housing options. Allow housing development in certain commercial zones in Affordable Housing Opportunity Areas.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Partner with non-profit organizations and/or land trusts to reduce barriers for homeownership.

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Establish age- and disability-friendly policies to support and enhance initiatives for aging in place and people with disabilities.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Establish place-based strategies to improve and enhance the housing stock in older communities.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Use the recently established definitions of “uninhabited” and “vacant structure” to establish a strategy for revitalization.

**Goal 2, Action 6:** Leverage recent code changes to expand the opportunities to establish Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Continue to explore if additional code changes are necessary.

**Goal 2, Action 7:** Finalize the ongoing study of County-owned land to identify underutilized areas that can be used for affordable housing units.

**Goal 2, Action 8:** Increase a healthy housing market in older communities while ensuring affordability within these areas to prevent displacement.

**Goal 2, Action 9:** In support of encouraging the new development of attainable housing consistent with retrofitting communities as proposed in the [Growth Framework](#), the Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) shall identify and pool currently available Baltimore County, State and Federal incentives and resources available to residents and developers. In addition, DHCD, in concert with other County departments, shall identify and propose potential new incentives which may include additional financial assistance, new infrastructure and public improvements as well as administrative support



which may include streamlining and expediting County approvals processes.

## **Transportation**

**Goal 3:** *Develop a multi-modal transportation system that reduces automobile dependency, strengthens connectivity and improves accessibility between places and functions to support economic growth and community safety.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Implement the Baltimore County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to expanded bicycle access and use and provide links to green networks.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Modify parking minimums for the following scenarios: areas in need of redevelopment; development proposed to be located around a half-mile of transit stops; and urban areas where shared parking is encouraged.

**Goal 3, Action 3:** Implement the federal-funded “Safe Routes to School” (SRTS) program to promote walking and bicycling to school through land use plans and policies.

**Goal 3, Action 4:** Coordinate with Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and institutions to expand the Baltimore County locally operated transit services to support employment, meet the needs of seniors and connect residents to services.

**Goal 3, Action 5:** Work with The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to develop a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) strategic plan to increase the use of transit services and connect jobs, housing, entertainment and retail.

**Goal 3, Action 6:** Include the Complete Streets approach in small area plans to guide development projects, revitalization efforts or redevelopment and examine the role of transit.

**Goal 3, Action 7:** Increase the presence and number of electric vehicles (EVs) and electric vehicle charging stations on public and private property.

**Goal 3, Action 8:** Support opportunities for expanding transit services and micro-mobility services to better connect communities and regional jurisdictions.

**Goal 3, Action 9:** Conduct research for the development of Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) policies related to street design and parking to prepare for autonomous vehicles.

**Goal 3, Action 10:** Baltimore County shall work with the MTA, Baltimore City and County communities to establish an east to west transit service, a “Red Line”, that runs from west of Security Square Mall in Woodlawn into Trade Point Atlantic and possibly Essex.

## **Infrastructure**

**Goal 4:** *Align capital investments with adopted growth strategies to limit negative impact of growth and ensure benefits are distributed equitably.*

**Goal 4, Action 1:** Leverage the County's recently-created green infrastructure program to equitably integrate climate resilient features into County projects to help combat the impacts of climate change.

**Goal 4, Action 2:** Evaluate existing and new regulatory incentives to integrate Low Impact Development (LID) practices into all new (re)development.

**Goal 4, Action 3:** Consider adopting policies and programs to promote renewable energy production and energy efficiency.

**Goal 4, Action 4:** Expand and update sewer systems to reduce the number of septic systems within URDL.

**Goal 4, Action 5:** Establish a multi-agency effort to update regulations and policies to address road standards, aging water and sewer infrastructure, and storm water management to support sustainable (re)development inside URDL.

**Goal 4, Action 6:** Improve digital equity by sustaining the County's near-universal broadband access (internet service) to ensure it remains affordable and available to all residents while increasing digital literacy

## **Community Facilities**

**Goal 5:** *(Re)develop community facilities for education, recreation and safety, while advancing equity, environmental priorities, and adaptation to future growth patterns.*

**Goal 5, Action 1:** Sustain an open and transparent community input process for (re)development of community facilities.

**Goal 5, Action 2:** Complete ongoing evaluation of existing community facilities to increase investments equitably for expansion and additional services.

**Goal 5, Action 3:** Ensure future County construction or major renovation are designed to meet at least LEED Silver standards, as required by the US Green Building Council.

**Goal 5, Action 4:** Incorporate smart technologies into County facilities to improve and enhance remote work/education capabilities and to address current and future needs.

**Goal 5, Action 5:** Conduct a County-wide study to determine where new community facilities should be constructed to achieve equity and accessibility.

**Goal 5, Action 6:** Create a transparent and equitable approach to determine where capital improvement projects should be located to ensure equitable County-wide investment.

**Goal 5, Action 7:** Build multi-use facilities that are adaptable and meet the needs of all community members.

**Goal 5, Action 8:** Evaluate and improve the ability of existing and proposed County facilities to withstand the impacts of climate change.

## **Historic Preservation**

**Goal 6:** *Retain the identity of existing neighborhoods by intentionally directing redevelopment and elevating the quality of places through historic preservation.*

**Goal 6, Action 1:** Develop and update policies to mitigate any negative development impacts on locally designated or National Register-listed historic resources and districts.



**Goal 6, Action 2:** Develop an archaeological review process to ensure the identification, protection and management of significant historic and non-renewable archaeological resources, including cemeteries.

**Goal 6, Action 3:** Create conservation areas to maintain the identity and character of older residential neighborhoods and allow compatible and context-sensitive infill development.

**Goal 6, Action 4:** Promote the use of deconstruction as an alternative to demolition, to encourage the reuse of salvageable building materials.

**Goal 6, Action 5:** Encourage adaptive use and rehabilitation of historic properties to preserve neighborhood and community identities.

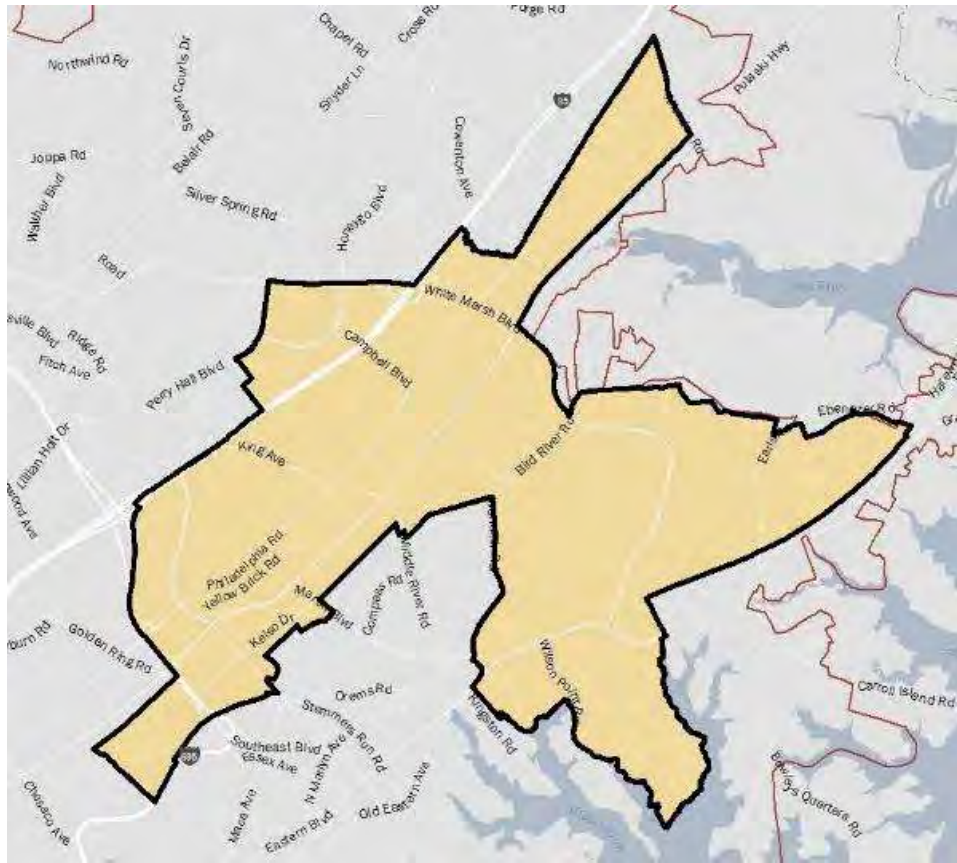
**Goal 6, Action 6:** Use preservation tools to advance housing diversity and market affordability, economic development and environmental sustainability to retain cultural and architectural heritage.

Livable Built Environment			
Goal ID	Action	Time Frame	Responsible Agency
Goal 1: Elevate the quality of the built environment to ensure an equitable, sustainable and prosperous place for all people with communities that thrive and celebrate their unique identities, land use and development.			
Implementation Metric: Increase diversity of mixed use, walkable development projects that are approved for development under local planning.			
Goal 1, Action 1	Create a redevelopment framework that reinforces the existing Urban Rural Development Law (URDL) and promotes redevelopment strategies through community planning policies.	Ongoing (6-10 years)	Planning Economic and Workforce Development (DEWD) Housing and Community Development (HACD) Planning Pier and Parks Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) Zoning/Permits, Approvals and Inspections (ZAI) County Council
Goal 1, Action 2	Evaluate and amend the current PUD process to ensure that it is transparent, clearly articulates eligibility requirements, and conveys tangible community benefits identified by relevant county agencies.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI DEWD DEWD Maryland Transit Authority (MTA)
Goal 1, Action 3	Create overlay districts with implementation tools and incentives to encourage walkable, mixed use development in and near transit stations through a smart growth framework.	Ongoing (6-10 years)	DEWD Planning Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) Recreation and Parks DPW&T Neighborhood Zoning/PAI DEWD County Council County Executive Office Law Office
Goal 1, Action 4	Utilize nature-based solutions (NBS) as a vehicle for delivering green, resilient and inclusive development (GRID) to reduce the negative effects of climate change.	Ongoing (6-10 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI DEWD County Council County Executive Office Law Office
Goal 1, Action 5	Produce sequencing of decisions making to follow a hierarchical order. Each decision should be made in the following order: Master Plan, Local Area Plans, GMP, CIP and Water and Sewer Plan Amendments. All decisions should be subject to State or Federal law and mandates.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning County Council
Goal 1, Action 6	Amend the LEMP legislation to change the frequency and improve transparency.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning County Council
Goal 1, Action 7	Identify older sub-standard buildings and provide incentives for adaptive reuse.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Livable Built Environment](#)

## Middle River Redevelopment Area

Master Plan 2020 proposed the creation of a new growth area on the eastern side of the county, the Middle River Redevelopment Area. At the time, it was employment oriented with minimal residential development. It was diverse in land use and, therefore, was to be examined in nine sub-areas. Different proposed land uses and actions were identified for each area.



Master Plan 2020 Middle River Redevelopment Area

Over the past decade, the area has seen substantial change. The extension of White Marsh Boulevard opened up land for the development of the mixed-use, primarily residential community of Greenleigh. Parts of White Marsh Mall are additionally being converted to residential development. The County decided that it would not renew the Sustainable Community designation for Pulaski Highway. The former General Services Administration building at Martin Airport

was designated a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) but is now owned by a company seeking to develop a warehousing and logistics facility. Lockheed Martin has indicated its plan to sell its property and move.

Furthermore, during the last Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP), the 414 acre former Lafarge quarry property was downzoned to RC 8. The land remains undeveloped save for the ongoing business.

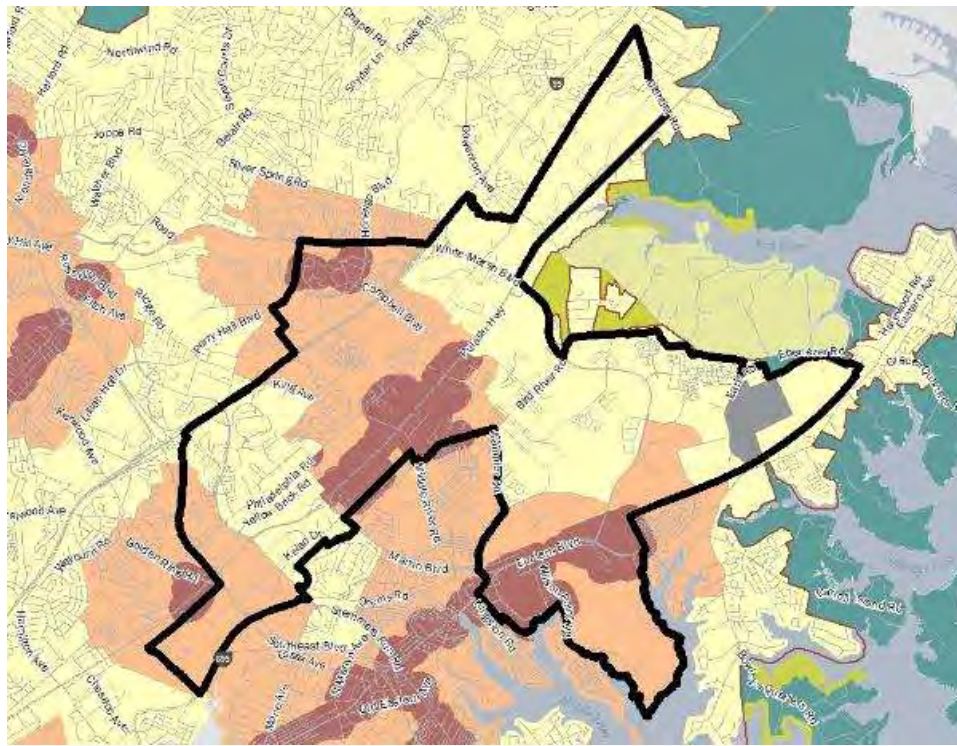
While retaining the boundaries of the Middle River Redevelopment Area from the 2020 document, Master Plan 2030 proposes to apply four Place

Types to this area: Connected Neighborhood, Established

Neighborhood, Special Use and Nodes. The Redevelopment Area is also bordered by Resource Preservation, Agriculture Priority Preservation and Rural Residential Place Types in addition to the Essex Sustainable Community area, the URDL and shoreline.



Place Type Legend



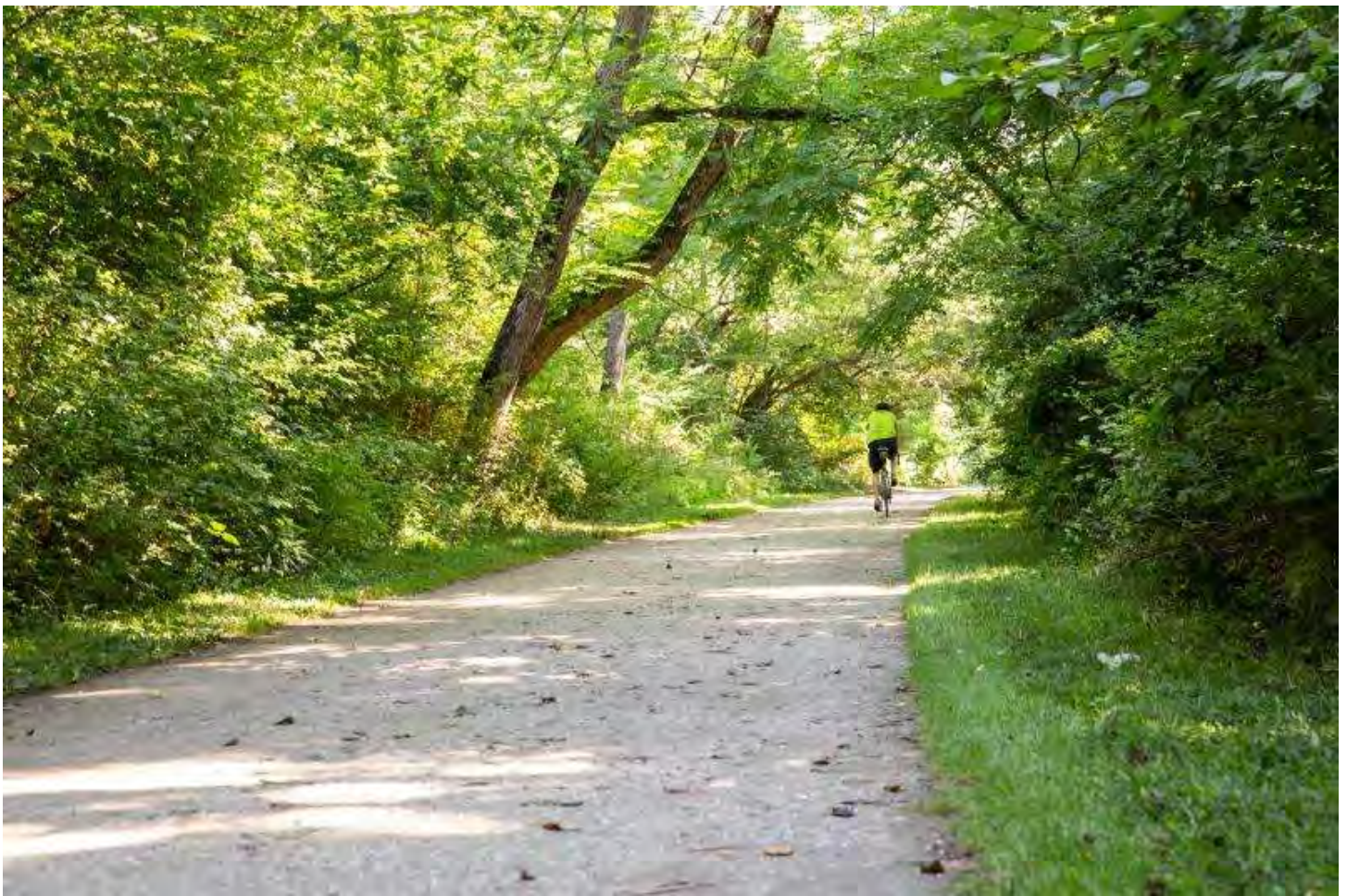
Middle River Redevelopment Area Place Types

Due to the changes during the past decade, a Small Area Plan should be initiated for this area.

## Related Plans

- Affordable Housing Workgroup Final Report
- Baltimore County Transit Development Plan
- Baltimore County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2022 Draft)
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021)
- Baltimore County Efficiency Review
- Age-Friendly Baltimore County





## Harmony with Nature (VF.3)



Ensure that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued and that maintaining their health is a primary objective.

*Because urban and suburban development and human activities can disturb nature's balance and damage the resources it provides, comprehensive plans and implementation programs must strive to protect the health of and mitigate negative impacts to the natural environment. A healthy environment is a common resource that belongs to everyone but is owned by no one. Therefore, communities must understand the value of, and advocate for, preserving natural systems and services that*

*contribute to the triple bottom line (environment, economy and equity). While some natural resources are protected through separate functional plans, such as those for air and water quality, the comprehensive plan sets the framework and direction for protecting, maintaining and restoring the natural systems.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

## **Priorities (4)**

- Forests, Sensitive Areas and Land Preservation
- Green Network
- Water Quality
- Climate Resiliency and Energy Efficiency

## **Goals and Actions**

### **Forests, Sensitive Areas and Land Preservation**

**Goal 1:** *Protect the functionality of Baltimore County's agricultural lands, forests, wetlands, waterways and floodplains, as well as parks and permanently protected easement lands that will contribute to the health and quality of life for residents.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Increase the number of preserved acres through sustained financial support for conservation easements and agricultural land preservation programs, prioritizing protection of continuous tracts of farmland in Agricultural Priority Preservation Areas and Rural Legacy Areas.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Continue to coordinate amongst County agencies, Baltimore City, the State of Maryland, non-governmental organizations and public-private partnerships to support programs which protect land and water resources.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Support an evolving agricultural industry and farming that contributes to a local food supply and conservation of agricultural land, rural open space and environmental resources in Baltimore County.

**Goal 1, Action 4:** Continue to integrate the County's interpretive centers into education and promotional efforts to increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of environmental resources and their relationship to human-made systems.

**Goal 1, Action 5:** Maintain the land use designations and zoning applied to land containing sensitive environmental resources (i.e. prime and productive soils, steep slopes, Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species habitat, water resources) within the County.

**Goal 1, Action 6:** Increase education about programs and incentives, to preserve forests and increase tree plantings, primarily through the voluntary efforts of County landowners in order to achieve or exceed the goal of maintaining a 50% tree canopy county-wide.

**Goal 1, Action 7:** Increase and enhance the health and resilience of forests and vegetation along County waterways (Coastal and inland) through voluntary and incentive-based planting and maintenance programs.

**Goal 1, Action 8:** Support and fund watershed restoration initiatives through best management practices such as stormwater management system upgrades and retrofits,

infrastructure repair, reforestation, stream restoration and shoreline protection, including living shorelines.

**Goal 1, Action 9:** Control and mitigate invasive and exotic species (e.g. flora and fauna) on County owned lands to maintain the diversity and health of native plants and animal populations.

**Goal 1, Action 10:** Encourage public/private partnerships for stewardship of the environment.

**Goal 1, Action 11:** Protect at least 80% of the prime agricultural and forestlands within the County's Agricultural Priority Preservation Area.

## **Green Network**

**Goal 2:** *Adequately protect and increase public access to greenspaces by linking parks, schools, institutions, neighborhoods, business/retail areas, natural areas, open spaces, water access and cultural landscapes so that they are equitably accessible in all areas of the county and to residents of all abilities.*

**Goal 2, Action 1:** Improve coordination among County agencies to connect access points and trails that encourage passive and active uses and while also protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Increase bike and pedestrian connectivity between the County's public parklands, recreational facilities and lands protected under other land preservation and



regulatory programs through improvements to trails and paths and, where possible, land acquisition.

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Acquire land for parks, greenway corridors, open space and paths in communities that have less access to neighborhood or community parks and in areas expected to have high population.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Increase the number of pocket parks with amenities, focusing on areas of high population and redevelopment.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Continue to support and expand the “Operation ReTree Baltimore County” equity-based tree planting initiative which expands tree canopy in older, higher-density and lower income neighborhoods.

**Goal 2, Action 6:** Develop incentives for development or redevelopment projects to exceed minimum regulatory requirements for resource protection.

**Goal 2, Action 7:** Require new development or redevelopment to provide publicly accessible shared-use pathways and to increase the acreage and quality of open space and forested, or tree-shaded open space.

**Goal 2, Action 8:** Increase coordination with land conservation organizations and neighboring jurisdictions to maximize parks and open space preservation and to strengthen a regional green network.

**Goal 2, Action 9:** Expand access to and knowledge about environmental and sustainability issues, increase participation in environmental and sustainability projects and centralize information about county sustainability and environmental programs on dedicated website for this purpose.

## Water Quality

**Goal 3:** *Improve local water quality to protect the County's natural resources and to ensure groundwater and reservoirs remain safe, reliable and sustainable sources for public consumption and surface waters safe for public recreation.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Protect the water quality in reservoirs, local waterways, rivers, floodplains, wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay by mitigating the impacts of increased stormwater run-off and other adverse effects of land development and climate change by prioritizing stream restoration projects which provide Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) treatment credit while reducing silt and sediment migration and nutrient pollution.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Work with the State and federal agencies to update the analysis of stormwater quality and quantity to address increased precipitation patterns, climate change and updates to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

**Goal 3, Action 3:** Establish a County fund and incentives, such as tax credits, to support updating of failing septic systems.

**Goal 3, Action 4:** Provide incentives to update and improve stormwater management systems existing on private property where public benefits, such as water quality improvement and flood hazard reduction can be achieved.

**Goal 3, Action 5:** Identify, prioritize and retrofit stormwater management sites on County property where water quality best practice projects can be installed.



**Goal 3, Action 6:** Simplify and streamline the permitting process for environmental projects to incentivize and accelerate implementation.

**Goal 3, Action 7:** Create new and expand existing partnerships with the non-profit and private sector to advance environmental restoration projects that are aligned with County goals in order to accelerate implementation and provide opportunities for leveraging funding.

**Goal 3, Action 8:** Evaluate and implement education, enforcement and infrastructure strategies to curb littering and expand the County's anti-litter campaign countywide.

**Goal 3, Action 9:** Reduce the use of road salts.

**Goal 3, Action 10:** Review existing and devise new programs to reduce riverine, pluvial and tidal flooding and coastal subsidence.

## **Climate Resiliency and Energy Efficiency**

**Goal 4:** *Plan and prepare for the negative impacts of climate change to human health and well-being, public infrastructure, private property and the environment.*

**Goal 4, Action 1:** Implement the County's *Greenhouse Gas Climate Action Plan* by 2030.

**Goal 4, Action 2:** Expand information and assistance to the public regarding the climate risks and opportunities to implement climate resiliency and mitigation actions.

**Goal 4, Action 3:** Led by the County Division of Sustainability, coordinate agency actions to address climate resiliency issues, including the need for a Resilience Authority.

**Goal 4, Action 4:** Implement recommended actions by the Solid Waste Workgroup, including strategies to decrease the use of single-use packaging and increase diversion and recycling to reduce solid waste entering landfills.

**Goal 4, Action 5:** Implement the County's Trash Reduction Strategy.

**Goal 4, Action 6:** Incorporate cost effective coastal resiliency strategies into development regulations and updates of the Baltimore County Hazard Mitigation Plan to address floodplain management areas and populations at risk.

**Goal 4, Action 7:** Integrate resiliency policies into decisions to acquire properties for parkland, flood plain, Coastal Rural Legacy and other land preservation programs.

**Goal 4, Action 8:** Adopt codes, standards and practices to support climate-ready green buildings, development and redevelopment by incorporating sustainable infrastructure and energy efficient systems to address emissions that exacerbate climate change impacts.

**Goal 4, Action 9:** Provide incentives for newly constructed or rehabilitated buildings that exceed code requirements, e.g. include electric vehicle charging stations in public areas, amenities to encourage biking including electric bike charging, energy efficient lighting and HVAC to build climate adaptation into revitalization.

**Goal 4, Action 10:** Increase the availability and access to affordable, clean, renewable energy, particularly in low income communities by creating and promote incentives and

processes for energy efficiency improvements for existing and new buildings.

**Goal 4, Action 11:** Evaluate ways to increase and reduce impediments to constructing solar installations on commercial sites and developed properties.

**Goal 4, Action 12:** Explore and implement programs and incentives to expand access to solar energy to serve more low and moderate income communities.

**Goal 4, Action 13:** Examine incentives to support electrification of commercial and residential buildings.

Harmony with Nature			
Goal ID	Action	Time Frame	Responsible Agency
Goal 1: Protect the functionality of Baltimore County's agricultural lands, forests, wetlands, waterways and floodplains, as well as parks and permanently protected easement lands that will contribute to the health and quality of life for residents. (Land Preservation)			
Implementation Metric: Increase the amount of acres preserved in park, agricultural and land preservation programs. Increase the acreage to reach the goal of 50% tree canopy countywide.			
Goal 1, Action 1	Continue the County's financial support for conservation easements and pursue additional financial support and incentives for agricultural land preservation programs to increase the number of acres in permanent preservation, prioritizing preservation of contiguous tracts of land and to increase viability of productive land, especially within Agricultural Priority Preservation Areas and designated Rural Legacy Areas. Continue to coordinate through County agencies, as well as with Baltimore City, the State of Maryland, local governmental organizations and public-private partnerships to support programs which protect land and water resources.	Ongoing (4-10 years)	Land Preservation/Planning Office of Office of Budget and Finance - Planning Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS)
Goal 1, Action 2		Ongoing (5-10 years)	Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance (BCLTA)
Goal 1, Action 3	Support an evolving agricultural industry and farming at many scales that contributes to a local food supply and conservation of agricultural land, rural open space and environmental resources in Baltimore County. Continue to support the County's strategic efforts, via executive and promotional efforts to increase understanding, awareness and appreciation of environmental resources and their relationship to human-made systems.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Economic and Workforce Development (EWD)
Goal 1, Action 4		Mid-term (3-5 years)	Recreation and Parks Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Planning Sustainability, Approvals and Inspection (SAI) EPS
Goal 1, Action 5	Continually ensure the land use designations and zoning applied to land containing sensitive environmental resources (critical and production soils, steep slopes, R7C special-use, water resources) within the County. Increase education about available programs and incentives to preserve forests and increase tree plantings, primarily through the voluntary efforts of County landowners in order to achieve an overall goal of maintaining a 50% tree canopy countywide.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	County Council/COMPS
Goal 1, Action 6		Ongoing (5-10 years)	Planning EPS County Review Panel/Planning Public Works and Transportation (PW&T) EPS
Goal 1, Action 7	Increase tree canopy, the health and resilience of forests and vegetation along County waterways (riparian lands) through voluntary and incentive-based planting and maintenance programs.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	BCPS
Goal 1, Action 8	Support and adequately fund watershed restoration activities through BCPS such as watercourse revegetation, system upgrades and control, infrastructure repair, reforestation, and stream restoration, and shoreline protection, including living shorelines.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	EPS Office of Office of Budget and Finance - Planning EPS
Goal 1, Action 9	Protect and enhance riparian and estuarine species (fish and fauna) on County owned lands to maintain the diversity and health of native plants and animal populations.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Property Management COMPS BCPS Office of Sustainability Office of Sustainability EPS
Goal 1, Action 10	Encourage public-private partnerships for stewardship of the environment.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Rec and Parks

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Harmony with Nature](#)

See Appendix  
AP.15

## Related Plans

- Baltimore County Climate Action Plan
- Baltimore County Climate Action Greenhouse Gases Plan
- Baltimore County 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)



## Resilient Economy (VF.4)



Ensure that the community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health and to initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets.

*The community's economy is made up of the businesses, trades, productive facilities and related activities that provide the livelihoods of the population. Economic health is critical in providing jobs and incomes to support the community; as it rises or falls, so do the livelihoods of people. Because local economies depend upon outside (regional, national and even global) inputs and trends, their employment base is affected not only by local business formation and activity but also by the*



*decisions of distant firms or governments. Therefore, more reliance on local assets increases the economic resilience of the community, as well as contributing to place-based revitalization. Because some productive activities generate negative impacts, green businesses (such as solar-powered energy systems) may be preferable to those with greater impacts and can reduce reliance on outside resources (imported fossil fuels, for example). Although some communities develop and implement separate economic development strategies, the comprehensive plan provides the instrument for placing those strategies within the context of the broader community development agenda.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

## **Priorities (4)**

- Commercial/Industrial Development and Reinvestment
- Workforce Development
- Tourism
- Dismantling Barriers to Entry

## **Goals and Actions**

### **Commercial/Industrial Development and Reinvestment**

**Goal 1:** *Utilize land use policies and innovative strategies to support redevelopment and reinvestment in commercial and industrial corridors and sites.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Incentivize and provide marketing strategies to support small businesses in commercial districts to

maintain the character, enhance the vibrancy and foster opportunity.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Utilize land use policies and the Capital Improvement Program to encourage mixed-use development along commercial corridors to improve underused spaces.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Ensure adequate land and appropriate zoning exists to support employment needs.

**Goal 1, Action 4:** Establish initiatives and zoning regulations to attract and support new, green and sustainable industries and businesses (e.g. offshore wind industry, solar, recycling, etc).

**Goal 1, Action 5:** Create a strategic plan focused on the redevelopment of declining or vacant commercial properties and shopping center/malls with priority areas for redevelopment, design guidelines, best practices and financial assistance.

**Goal 1, Action 6:** Establish initiatives to support innovative and adaptive re-use by the private sector to meet the changing economic conditions and needs.

**Goal 1, Action 7:** Partner with communities to identify and implement local economic revitalization efforts.

**Goal 1, Action 8:** Review the current Commercial Revitalization District designation process and program to better ensure CRDs meet modern needs. This should include a review of the CRD requirements for designation and boundaries, the effectiveness of the programs and impacts on land use policies and potential new incentives to better align with *Master Plan 2030* Growth Framework Place Type Nodes.

**Goal 1, Action 9:** Reexamine the County's Historic commercial



tax credit program and identify ways to increase use and interest.

**Goal 1, Action 10:** Create a program to help build and sustain small businesses in navigating county permitting processes.

**Goal 1, Action 11:** Create programs to assist property owners to invest in and maintain commercial properties.

## **Workforce Development**

**Goal 2:** *Create new and leverage existing workforce development strategies that anticipate and prepare workers for economic needs and changes.*

**Goal 2, Action 1:** Create partnerships between local academic institutions, County departments and local employers to develop workforce training and research programs to address the skill gaps between students in high school and college and employers.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Explore opportunities to create alternative work and office space (i.e.-shared workspace, small footprint spaces and artist studios.)

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Foster and diversify workforce development to meet the needs of current and emerging industries.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Create a comprehensive talent management program that strengthens the relationship between institutions and communities to provide employment opportunities, connect people to employment opportunities and focus on talent development, acquisition and management to meet the local needs.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Reduce barriers to employment for minority and low-income individuals using strategies that utilize principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

**Goal 2, Action 6:** Analyze existing regulations and modify as needed to encourage the development of local food businesses (e.g. farm to table and shared/commissary kitchens), small scale manufacturing, small-scale non-pollutant manufacturing (e.g. craft beverage production business and, handmade soaps).

**Goal 2, Action 7:** Increase outreach and engagement with job seekers (e.g. mobile career center).

**Goal 2, Action 8:** Create opportunities for Trade School Programs to promote on-demand education needs to increase the number of skilled workers.

**Goal 2, Action 9:** Expand public and private transportation to connect jobs with job seekers (eg: vouchers, bus stops, light rails).

**Goal 2, Action 10:** Encourage Preservation Trades workforce training/development at local community colleges.

## **Tourism**

**Goal 3:** *Grow, enhance and promote the County's tourist attractions.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Implement the recommendations in the Baltimore County Strategic Tourism Report (2019) to improve and increase tourism attractors and hospitality support products.

1a. Finalize developing a Destination Marketing and Business

Plan to ensure that Baltimore County Tourism’s website, overarching messaging and goals are developed soundly.

1b. Baltimore County Tourism and Visit Baltimore should continue to work together to promote large scale sporting events that takes place in both jurisdictions.

1c. Baltimore County Tourism should increase the prioritization of sports tourism.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Implement the recommendations from the Report in Response to county Council Resolution 12-20 “Agricultural Buildings for Value Added Agriculture”, September 2020 including new zoning definitions, adaptive reuse, changes in the County’s review process and agricultural building exemptions.

**Goal 3, Action 3:** Study the feasibility of the proposed Equine Legacy Area and its benefits to the County’s tourism industry.

**Goal 3, Action 4:** Support tourism initiatives that promote the County’s heritage and cultural areas and sites so that they are equitably accessible in all areas of the county and to residents of all abilities.

**Goal 3, Action 5:** Promote and expand the County’s waterfront resources, including its businesses and recreational opportunities.

**Goal 3, Action 6:** Increase the number of Arts and Cultural Districts to create sub-area identities in the County to attract visitors.

**Goal 3, Action 7:** Develop a multi-agency historic and cultural tourism program to promote historic sites, museums and areas of historic significance.

## **Dismantling Barriers to Entry**

**Goal 4:** *Dismantle barriers to entry for low and moderate-income people and communities of color by expanding jobs and training opportunities.*

**Goal 4, Action 1:** Support investment and business development in underinvested and disinvested communities to provide equitable access to economic opportunities.

**Goal 4, Action 2:** Establish a business incubation program that helps develop minority owned small businesses (e.g. MBE/WBE, veterans and people with disabilities).

**Goal 4, Action 3:** Evaluate existing resources and programs and develop a successful marketing strategy.

**Goal 4, Action 4:** Using an equity lens, identify regulations and planning tools that create barriers to growth in specific areas or communities and rectify those problems.

**Goal 4, Action 5:** Integrate zoning regulations, land use policies, Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) and the development review process to ensure commercial developments are sustainable and equitable.

**Goal 4, Action 6:** Work with business associations, stakeholders and partners to strengthen and improve the ability of commercial revitalization districts (CRD) to attract businesses and be accessible to nearby communities.

**Goal 4, Action 7:** Build stronger partnerships and eliminate inequities and disparities in economic growth.

**Goal 4, Action 8:** Create a strategic plan and conduct a Comprehensive Economic Development Study that defines a

vision for the County's future economy and the economic and workforce development efforts to advance it. (Public Works LLC)

Resilient Economy			
Goal ID	Action	Time Frame	Responsible Agency
Goal 1: Utilize land use policies and innovative strategies to support redevelopment and reinvestment in commercial and industrial corridors and sites. (Land Use and Revitalization)			
Implementation Strategy: Increase the number of Baltimore County Commercial Revitalization and Enterprise Zone programs services used by owners in three incentive zones.			
Goal 1, Action 1	Incentivize and promote marketing strategies to support small businesses in commercial districts to maintain the character, enhance the vibrancy, and foster opportunity.	Short-term (1-2 years)	Planning Economic and Transportation Development (EDWD) Office of Communications
Goal 1, Action 2	Utilize land use policies and the Capital Improvement Program to encourage mixed use development along commercial corridors to improve underused space and create a sense of place.	Unfunded (5-10 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI Office of Budget and Finance
Goal 1, Action 3	Maintain land and properties with existing characteristics that attract employment where infrastructure and good access already exist.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI County Council (CCAMP) EDWD Public Works and Transportation (CPW&T) PAI/PAI DEMCO Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) Zoning/PAI County Council (Regulations and Legislation)
Goal 1, Action 4	Establish incentives and zoning regulations to attract and support new, green and sustainable industries and businesses including office based industry and retail.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI County Council (Regulations and Legislation)
Goal 1, Action 5	Utilize future land use plans (CLUP) as a vehicle for achieving green, resilient and inclusive development (GRIDE) to reduce the negative effects of climate change.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI County Council (Regulations and Legislation)
Goal 1, Action 6	Explore and evaluate technology needs and opportunities to create partnerships with business owners, startup companies, and local business associations to create new services and support and sustain small businesses and creative industries.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI County Council (Regulations and Legislation)
Goal 1, Action 7	Create a strategic plan focused on the redevelopment of declining or vacant commercial property and shopping centers that includes target areas for redevelopment, design guidelines, best practices for redevelopment, and financial assistance.	Mid-term (3-5 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI Office of Budget and Finance PAI/PAI DEMCO Zoning/PAI Office of Budget and Finance County Council
Goal 1, Action 8	Establish initiatives to support innovative and adaptive reuse by the private sector to meet the changing economic conditions and needs.	Ongoing (5-10 years)	Planning Zoning/PAI County Council Developer Business

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Resilient Economy](#)

See Appendix  
AP.16

## Commercial Revitalization Programs

Baltimore County's Commercial Revitalization Districts offer a shopping and entertainment experience where family-owned businesses and national retail chains exist side by side as neighbors. Commercial Revitalization District designation offers business and property owners with a range of services aimed at maintaining the health and vitality of neighborhood commercial areas. Since the program's creation in 1997, a thorough analysis of the program and its fiscal impacts has not been conducted.

See Appendix  
AP.17

## Commercial Revitalization Programs

During the early development and settlement of Baltimore County, commercial centers dotting the...

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/70269c2d37654afe86fe180dd6d98e3b>





## Related Plans

- Baltimore County 2019 Strategic Tourism Report
- Commercial Real Estate Projections (Matrix, Inc.)
- Baltimore County Efficiency Review



## Responsible Regionalism (VF.5)



Ensure that all local proposals account for, connect with, and support the plans of adjacent jurisdictions and the surrounding region.

*Regional planning agencies, although typically without regulatory authority, provide perspectives broad enough to*

*encompass the scope of various regional systems, such as transportation and water supply, which extend beyond local jurisdictional boundaries. As authorized by federal surface transportation legislation, transportation planning is the core responsibility of designated metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). Increasingly, progressive MPOs and other regional planning agencies are addressing other issues with regional implications, such as open space and environmental protection, housing, economic development, utility infrastructure and hazard mitigation. Because regional agencies coordinate the activities of groups of local governments, they provide an institutional setting for joint decision making that transcends local politics. From the local governmental perspective, the plans and policies of adjacent jurisdictions have reciprocal impacts, in terms of factors such as the location of new development, commuting patterns and stormwater flows. Therefore, connecting these plans and policies through the comprehensive plan is a way to understand and manage these and other overlapping functions, such as regional greenway systems and to responsibly integrate a community's plan with those of its neighbors.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

## **Priorities (5)**

- [Expanding the Regional Economy](#)
- [Transit Network](#)
- [Service Delivery](#)
- [Sustainability](#)
- [Community Stabilization](#)

## **Goals and Actions**

### **Expanding the Regional Economy**

**Goal 1:** *Foster regional economic growth and development to better prepare for the future economy and connect local talent to opportunity.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Continue the development of a joint tourism development and marketing plan with surrounding jurisdictions to promote commercial and cultural amenities and to promote interconnected greenways, pathways, trails and waterways.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Work with local educational institutions to provide materials and services for businesses at Trade Point Atlantic and throughout the region.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Work with surrounding jurisdictions to encourage and support the sustainable development of housing and employment centers that are along the public transportation system and transportation corridors.

## **Transit Network**

**Goal 2:** *Collaborate with the region to create a well-connected transit network and to protect human health and the environment.*

**Goal 2, Action 1:** Baltimore County shall collaborate with Baltimore City, state and Baltimore County communities to establish a transit service that runs from west of Security Square Mall east into Trade Point Atlantic and potentially into Essex.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Implement the regional recommendations in the Baltimore County Transit Development Plan.

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Support the Patapsco Regional Greenway efforts.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Work closely with the Maryland Transit Administration, surrounding jurisdictions and the impacted community to make improvements along major transit corridors.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Expand current coordination efforts between Baltimore City and County to develop and extend Transit Oriented Development, pedestrian and bicycle networks, connecting park systems, destinations and open space with other jurisdictions.

## **Service Delivery**

**Goal 3:** *Strengthen inter-jurisdictional efforts to improve the delivery of services to Baltimore County residents.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Partner with Baltimore City to evaluate and modernize the governance structure for the region's Water and Sewer utilities to increase accountability, strengthen operations and promote sustainability.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Explore the development of a regional solid waste and recycling system, including composting with surrounding jurisdictions and the state to end the reliance on incineration.

## **Sustainability**

**Goal 4:** *Strengthen collaboration to protect and preserve the environment, combat climate change and implement initiatives to foster sustainability.*

**Goal 4, Action 1:** Participate in setting regional strategic policies on land conservation and preservation.

**Goal 4, Action 2:** Continue to coordinate with the regional alliance on the protection of water resources through education, advocacy, land preservation and restoration of aquifers, watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Goal 4, Action 3:** Collaborate with the City of Baltimore to examine updating a ten-year Watershed Agreement.

**Goal 4, Action 4:** Coordinate efforts with surrounding jurisdictions to expand upon the County's current climate action plan and expand efforts to combat the causes and impacts of climate change.

**Goal 4, Action 5:** Align the County's Capital Improvement Programs with *The 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act Plan* (Maryland Department of the Environment, MDE).

**Goal 4, Action 6:** Help incubate, grow and support regional businesses that focus on sustainability, energy and waste reduction/mitigation.

**Goal 4, Action 7:** Encourage governments of the region to leverage and share state and federal funds received for regional environmental efforts.

## **Community Stabilization**



**Goal 5:** Strengthen partnerships among regional governments to develop a safe, healthy and equitable living environment that could eliminate segregation and the impediments to opportunity for underserved and vulnerable communities.

**Goal 5, Action 1:** Support regional coordination to create a network to combat the existence of food deserts in all jurisdictions.

**Goal 5, Action 2:** Implement the County's Fair Housing Action Plan in alignment with the BMC's regional policies on housing.

**Goal 5, Action 3:** Explore ways to increase regional crime-fighting efforts including crime prevention, investigation, prosecution and the sharing of crime data.

**Goal 5, Action 4:** Explore additional development and implementation of cross-jurisdictional community revitalization strategies.

Responsible Regionalism			
Goal	Action	Time Frame	Responsible Agency
Goal 1: Foster regional economic growth and development to better prepare for the future economy and connect local talent to opportunity. (Expanding the Regional Economy)			
Implementation Metric: Increase historic vision rate by 4% over the next 10 years. Develop a joint metrics and monitoring plan with a coordinating the agencies to promote a coordinated and coherent approach.			
Goal 1, Action 1		Short-term (1-5 years)	Commerce and Workforce Development (DEWD)
Goal 1, Action 2	Consider a joint regional development and marketing plan with surrounding jurisdictions to promote a coordinated approach to promoting interconnected greenways, pathways, trails and waterways.	Short-term (1-5 years)	Adjacent Jurisdictions, Recreation and Parks (RAP)
Goal 1, Action 3	Prepare a joint regional development and marketing plan with surrounding jurisdictions to provide materials and services for transportation, transit and other transportation services.	Short-term (1-5 years)	Adjacent Jurisdictions, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDDE), DEWD
Goal 1, Action 4	Encourage and support the sustainable development of housing and employment centers that are along the public transportation system and transportation corridors working with surrounding jurisdictions.	Short-term (1-5 years)	Connectivity Challenges of Baltimore County (CCBC), State of MD (Deliverables), Other Jurisdictions, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Public Works and Transportation (PWT), Police, Department of Inspection (PAI), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Goal 2: Collaborate with the region to create a well-connected transit network and to protect human health and the environment. (Transit Network)			
Implementation Metric: Drive ridership on bus and transit.			
Goal 2, Action 1	Improve the Baltimore County Transit Service.	Short-term (1-5 years)	Baltimore County Department of Transportation (DOT), MDOT, PWT, DEWD, Baltimore County, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Goal 2, Action 2	Implement the regional recommendations in the Baltimore County Transit Development Plan.	Short-term (1-5 years)	BMC, PWT, DEWD, Baltimore County, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Goal 2, Action 3	Coordinate patterns of land use, development and transportation.	Short-term (1-5 years)	BMC, PWT, DEWD, Baltimore County, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Responsible Regionalism](#)

## Related Plans

- Baltimore County Climate Action Plan
- Baltimore County Climate Action Greenhouse Gases Plan
- Maryland Department of the Environment, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act Plan
- MDOT Connecting Our Future Regional Transit Plan
- MDOT East-West Priority Corridor
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council Short Range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council Long Range Transportation Plan
- Baltimore County and City Water/Sewer Service Comprehensive Business Process Review



## Inclusive Planning (VF.6)



Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.

*Equity in the provision of community decisions and services involves the fair distribution of benefits and costs. It results from applying basic fairness tests that ask whether the needs of the full range of the population served—rich and poor, young and old, native and immigrant—are served. Because disadvantaged, young, or immigrant populations often do not participate in debates over community policies and programs, their needs may fail to be recognized. Poor, underserved and minority populations are often disproportionately affected by polluting land uses and natural disasters. Because such populations may not have the skills or community connections necessary for access to jobs, economic resources and health care, the community may have to provide special programs to assist them. Decent, affordable housing is another critical need that falls under this principle. By weaving equity questions into the comprehensive plan, the community and its government can ensure the consideration of “who benefits” as it develops its policies, priorities and expenditures.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

### **Priorities (3)**

- [Data Access](#)
- [Community Engagement](#)
- [Capacity Building](#)

### **Goals and Actions**

## Data Access

**Goal 1:** *Create actionable data resources to promote equitable decision-making, transparency and access to opportunities for all residents.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Create a tool that county staff, community members, partners and other decision makers can use to help ensure that they are making data-informed decisions that address disparities across a variety of indicators and improve access to opportunity for all Baltimore County residents. In addition, the tool is used to help government and community partners make Baltimore County a more inclusive and equitable County through data sharing.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Build long-term partnerships with regional organizations and institutions to support the information gathering, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of the data that improves local decision making.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Use emerging software to conduct scenario planning and to examine the implications of different strategies and futures for communities by testing these strategies in a digital future world.

## Community Engagement

**Goal 2:** *Create new standards for equitable community engagement in order to build strong, sustainable relationships and partnerships with all residents of Baltimore County.*



**Goal 2, Action 1:** Review requirements for participation in public meetings in order to eliminate any barriers by describing the clear purpose and role of each meeting; improve participation methods; auditing times and locations to determine if they encourage participation; and addressing any issues with communication about meetings, inclusive outreach and mobility barriers.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Compile and publish minutes and, when applicable, written products for all public meetings on the County website.

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Conduct an equity review of the community engagement meetings in order to identify factors that may contribute to inaccessibility for community members, such as meeting's date, time, or location and the provision of translation services, childcare, transportation, or food.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Broaden outreach and support participation of underrepresented populations, including communities of color, immigrant and refugee communities, communities of low-income and underrepresented religious groups, national origins, races, ethnicities, disability status, gender identities or expressions and/or age.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Conduct equity reviews of outreach and participation in County community engagement efforts to regularly produce data on the involvement of underrepresented groups.

**Goal 2, Action 6:** Provide notification of development activity in determined geographic area to any community group that requests it.

**Goal 2, Action 7:** Consult community partners on appropriate facilitation methods prior to engagement exercises

**Goal 2, Action 8:** Provide community groups with statements of purpose prior to engagement efforts that explain the expected role of participants in the facilitation exercise and in County decision-making.

**Goal 2, Action 9:** Develop and implement a systematic approach to creating Small Area Community Plans countywide as a follow up to the *Master Plan 2030* process.

## **Capacity Building**

**Goal 3:** *Increase the capacity of community organizations and groups throughout the County to encourage collaborative decision-making using an approach that is grounded in principles of inclusion and respects different types of experience and knowledge.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Expand outreach to encourage registration of community organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO) in Baltimore County to provide up-to-date contact information that is easily available to all community organization leaders, county staff, county officials and other parties interested in partnering with community organizations.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Expand County usage of social networking sites in order to support the efforts of Community Associations and other civic groups to connect with county residents.

**Goal 3, Action 3:** Partner with grant-giving organizations to increase use of available funding by Baltimore County community organizations and other non-governmental organizations that serve Baltimore County.



**Goal 3, Action 4:** As part of the small area plan and planning process, determine goals and strategies to improve the effectiveness of existing community organizations and assist with the formation of new ones in underrepresented communities.

**Goal 3, Action 5:** Grow the Community Planning Institute to engage community members in the planning process and develop a strong cohort of well-informed supporters with an increased understanding of planning, policy, zoning and development decision-making and processes.

**Goal 3, Action 6:** Consider hiring an Equity and Inclusion Planner to administer community organization and leadership development programs, oversee new equity planning efforts, conduct regular equity reviews of development review procedures and implement the equity goals interwoven throughout Master Plan 2030.

**Goal 3, Action 7:** Establish the process for building the capacity and competence of neighborhood organization to increase self-sufficiency.

Inclusive Planning			
Item ID	Action	Item Owner	Responsible Agency
<b>Goal 1: Create actionable data resources to promote equitable decision-making, transparency and access to opportunities for all residents.</b>			
<i>Implementation Strategy:</i> Create a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.			
IP-G1-A1	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G1-A2	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G1-A3	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
<b>Goal 2: Create new standards for equitable community engagement in order to build strong, sustainable relationships and partnerships with all residents of Baltimore County.</b>			
<i>Implementation Strategy:</i> Create a Community Engagement Framework to address community issues.			
IP-G2-A1	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A2	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A3	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A4	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A5	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A6	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A7	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A8	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A9	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A10	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
IP-G2-A11	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision
<b>Goal 3: Increase the capacity of community organizations and groups throughout the County to encourage collaborative decision-making using an approach that is grounded in principles of inclusion and respects different types of experience and knowledge.</b>			
<i>Implementation Strategy:</i> Create a Community Engagement Framework to address community issues.			
IP-G3-A1	Develop a public-facing platform that makes our existing data decision-making, data easily accessible to all.	2020-2021 (1-2 years)	Planning Office of Community Development Office of Planning and Strategic Vision Office of Planning and Strategic Vision

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Inclusive Planning](#)

See Appendix  
AP.19

### Small Area Community Plans

To address inequities in the planning process, plans for communities should be developed more...

<https://baltimore-county-community-planning-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/small-area-community-plans>



See Appendix  
AP.20

### Community Planning Institute

The Community Planning Institute was created to engage community members in the planning...

<https://baltimore-county-community-planning-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/community-planning-institute>



See Appendix  
AP.21

### Reimagine Security Square

With the rise of online shopping and changing consumer preferences, malls have increasingly...

<https://baltimore-county-community-planning-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/reimage-security-square>



See Appendix  
AP.12

### Related Plans

Baltimore County Efficiency Review



## Healthy Community (VF.7)



Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods.

*The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The Healthy Community principle and the previous four principles work together to support the mission of public health: to fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy (Institute of Medicine 1988). In a healthy community, residents are assured that the air and water are safe, open space and*

*recreation are convenient to use, local food outlets are located near neighborhoods, public schools and access to health care are provided equitably and active public safety programs are in place. Because the normal operations of the private economic market may not ensure that these common public benefits are uniformly available, it may be necessary for the government to fill the gaps. For example, disadvantaged neighborhoods are often located in unsafe or unhealthy areas of the community, such as brownfields or floodplains and public programs may be needed to address these locational hazards. The comprehensive plan is the appropriate tool for identifying and mitigating public health hazards and for promoting effective healthy community goals.*

American Planning Association. Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans

## **Priorities (4)**

- Eliminating Health Disparities
- Inclusive Public Safety
- Quality Public Services For All
- Recreational Opportunities and Access

## **Goals and Actions**

### **Eliminating Health Disparities**

**Goal 1:** *Attain full health and well-being for all ages and communities by eliminating health disparities and promoting healthy development and behaviors.*

**Goal 1, Action 1:** Ensure built and natural environments are connected, clean, green, sustainable and accessible, so

residents will enjoy the physical beauty of Baltimore County and experience positive health impacts that natural resources can provide.

**Goal 1, Action 2:** Develop best practices to increase efforts, including public health education, to prevent, reduce and treat substance abuse, including narcotic drug use, opioid addiction and harmful use of alcohol.

**Goal 1, Action 3:** Promote mental health awareness and well-being for all ages and increase resources and facilities so that all residents can obtain mental health services.

**Goal 1, Action 4:** Develop a suicide prevention plan, with initial focus on youth and at-risk populations, to reduce suicide rates.

**Goal 1, Action 5:** Continue implementing the action plan to reduce the number of individuals becoming homeless for the first time and individuals returning to emergency shelter.

**Goal 1, Action 6:** Increase resources for senior citizens to age in place comfortably by improving existing ADA accommodations, universal design and incorporating age-friendly design principles into County buildings and spaces.

**Goal 1, Action 7:** Reduce the number of food deserts and promote access to healthy food for all ages, particularly in low/moderate income communities.

**Goal 1, Action 8:** Adopt “Health in All Policies” to incorporate health factors into decision-making across sectors and policy areas.

**Goal 1, Action 9:** Strengthen access to equitable health care by promoting workforce diversity, multi-lingual healthcare workers and cultural awareness.

**Goal 1, Action 10:** Enhance the quantity and quality of healthcare options in medically underserved areas throughout the County regardless of immigration status.

## **Inclusive Public Safety**

**Goal 2:** *Foster safe and stable communities and address public safety issues that affect all residents.*

**Goal 2, Action 1:** Reduce criminal activity, including violent and organized crime, through effective communication, education, partnership and cooperation on a local and regional basis to create safe communities for all.

**Goal 2, Action 2:** Provide early intervention initiatives to reduce the number of crimes committed by juveniles and reduce the influence and recruitment efforts of gangs.

**Goal 2, Action 3:** Adopt Vision Zero strategy to provide safer streets for all users, including cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users, to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to zero fatalities.

**Goal 2, Action 4:** Enhance and expand training opportunities for Baltimore County Police Department to ensure best practices and legislative changes and updates are incorporated.

**Goal 2, Action 5:** Improve emergency services personnel recruitment and retention to increase the number of active providers.

**Goal 2, Action 6:** Modernize and update the police and fire departments aging facilities, vehicles and technology.



**Goal 2, Action 7:** Improve police and fire response time and follow-up to citizen calls in order to “close the loop” for completing casework.

## **Quality Public Services For All**

**Goal 3:** *Provide quality public services for citizens of all ages in all communities.*

**Goal 3, Action 1:** Implement free, full day, pre-kindergarten in as recommended by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future for children from all households with initial focus on children from disadvantaged households.

**Goal 3, Action 2:** Improve special education and alternative education standalone facilities and resources as outlined in the Multi-Year Improvement Plan for All Schools (MYIPAS) Report.

**Goal 3, Action 3:** Ensure County public facilities are accessible and equipped to serve the needs of the community as demographics and needs change.

**Goal 3, Action 4:** Develop an equitable service area analysis tool for evaluating locations and program needs for community facilities in order to enhance accessibility for residents and increase levels of service as populations change.

**Goal 3, Action 5:** Ensure that senior centers have the capacity, tools and resources necessary to meet the current and future needs of diverse older adults.

**Goal 3, Action 6:** Provide flexible programs and opportunities in recreation centers by incorporating tools and resources that

support a virtual experience.

## **Recreational Opportunities and Access**

**Goal 4:** *Provide and promote safe, equitable and inclusive access to quality parks, green space, recreation facilities and programs.*

**Goal 4, Action 1:** Target the acquisition of land and the development of amenities to better address the needs of underserved communities by using data on the current level of recreational services and open space.

**Goal 4, Action 2:** Renovate and enhance older parks to ensure that they are equitable, meet modern recreational needs and are an asset to the communities and neighborhoods they serve.

**Goal 4, Action 3:** Ensure county residents who live inside the URDL live within a safe 15-minute walk of a park or public open space.

**Goal 4, Action 4:** Engage residents to expand awareness of recreation, parks, trails, services and programs.

**Goal 4, Action 5:** Improve the site design of parks and recreation areas to ensure they are accessible, ADA compliant and safe for residents of all ages and abilities.

Healthy Community			
Goal ID	Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Agency
Goal 1: Attain full health and well-being for all ages and communities by eliminating health disparities and promoting healthy development and behaviors. (Eliminating Health Disparities)			
Implementation Metric:	Increase in the percentage of the population within a mile of grocery stores. Increase in the percentage of the population with a high school degree or higher. Decrease in the percentage of the population living in poverty.		
Goal 1, Action 1	Ensure our built and natural environments are connected, clean, green, equitable, and accessible so residents will enjoy the physical beauty of Baltimore County and experience positive health impacts; further, resources can provide.	Long-term (10 years)	Planning Recreation and Parks Office of Sustainability Health and Human Services Social Services Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) Office of Communications Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) Office of Community Engagement Training
Goal 1, Action 2	Increase efforts, including public health education, to prevent, reduce, and treat substance abuse, including narcotic drug use and harmful use of alcohol.	Mid-term (5-10)	Health and Human Services Social Services Police and Fire Circuit Court Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Recreation and Parks Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) Training
Goal 1, Action 3	Promote mental health awareness and well-being for all ages and increase awareness and utilization so that all residents can obtain mental health services.	Short-term (3-5)	Health and Human Services Social Services BCPS
Goal 1, Action 4	Develop a suicide prevention plan, with initial focus on youth and at-risk populations, to reduce suicide rates.	Short-term (3-5)	Police, Fire and IT Dispatchers Planning Health and Human Services Social Services Recreation and Parks Office of Emergency, Urgent, and Disaster Coord.

See Appendix  
AP.22

[Download the goals, actions and metrics for Healthy Community](#)

## Related Plans

- Age Friendly Baltimore County Action Plan
- CCBC Strategic Plan
- BCPS Multi-Year Improvement Plan for All Schools (MYIPAS)
- Baltimore County 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)
- Health in All Policies (HiAP)

Master Plan 2030 Vision  
Framework

Baltimore County  
Department of Planning

