



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

*Local Governments with a
Sustainable Communities Designation
Local Government Consortiums
with a Sustainable Communities Designation*

Application must be submitted
on or before the expiration date of
Sustainable Communities designation.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5800
<http://dhcd.maryland.gov/>

SGSC Approved - 7.23

WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
OWEN McEVOY
Deputy Secretary

Overview of Sustainable Communities

The Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 established a framework for reinvestment and revitalization of Maryland’s existing communities creating a single, locally designated geographic focus area. Since that time the “Sustainable Communities” designation has provided an efficient means of targeting scarce public and private resources for multiple State agency investments and prioritizations.

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

The Sustainable Communities (SC) designation must be renewed every five years. This renewal application provides an opportunity for local governments to update their existing SC action plan and report on the accomplishments made over the past five years. Through the renewal process, local governments can request additional technical assistance and highlight any areas from the original action plan for which progress must still be made.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

Local governments (municipal or county) are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants are to reconvene their **Sustainable Communities Workgroup** to discuss the accomplishments and challenges of their Sustainable Community Action Plans in addition to any update they may like to make to the Action Plan. The applicant may choose to select new members to participate in the Workgroup. The purpose of this workgroup is to continue and reinforce working relationships and collaborations among local governmental departments and better align community development priorities and strategies. In addition, this is an opportunity to assess if the Workgroup would like technical assistance from State government agencies to implement certain action items or develop strategies to address local challenges.

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy.

Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at:

<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml>

2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;

3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;

4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

Applications that do not meet these threshold requirements will not be considered.

Application Submission and Evaluation

The Sustainable Community application will be evaluated based on thorough assessment of strengths and weaknesses and how well desired outcomes, strategies and action steps are connected to the local conditions.

The first page of the electronic application is the Table of Contents. This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs.

Please submit all materials (application, maps, pictures, and/or shapefiles) via email to the Sustainable Communities project management team.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application

To: Carter Reitman

carter.reitman@maryland.gov

Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Carter Reitman at 410-298-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

If requested, the Department can provide technical assistance to local governments to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications. When needed, the Department may offer technical assistance, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Planning, to local governments with limited capacity to prepare their Sustainable Communities applications.

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits and/or hold meetings with applicants. In addition, applicants may be contacted by the Department for follow-up discussions prior to awards.

Approval

Approval of applications will be made by the Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee on the recommendation of an inter-agency review team. The review team is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Governor's Smart Growth Coordinating Committee can defer the approval of a Sustainable Communities renewal to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet.

All questions related to the application, please contact Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov or your regional project manager, found at this link: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf>

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Sustainable Communities application for renewal has **three** sections:

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

In this section, applicants are asked to update their contact information, provide information about demographic shifts over the past five years, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their Sustainable Communities workgroup and share any technical assistance needs the workgroup may have.

B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:

The report is an opportunity to reflect on any accomplishments achieved in the Sustainable Community area. It is a tool used to evaluate if the SC applicant achieved its intended outcomes, implemented the strategies initially envisioned, and identify what resources were used. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the six elements listed on the previous page (v), including how any of the elements may have interrelated during the five initial years of SC designation.

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan has been revised so that it is less time consuming and focused on developing a strategic implementation plan. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

The table below provides a description of each subject area/element of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Included are examples of common strengths and weaknesses within each subject area and the types of projects that might be implemented to address said strengths and weaknesses.

ENVIRONMENT: Describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): the quality of land, water, and air; watershed maintenance and preservation; tree canopies and green spaces; climate change mitigation and adaptation; energy conservation; green infrastructure; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation.

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

TRANSPORTATION: Describes projects involving the way people in your community get from place to place.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

HOUSING: Describes projects involving the homes in which people in your community live and which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE: Describes projects concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public safety and the reduction of crime; libraries; educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities.

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY: Describes projects concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan

III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy – a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increase prosperity for local households and improve the health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects identified in the action plan are your priorities for improving the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties – and the sustainability of new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. At the same time, the plan should only discuss the strategies that will impact the geographic area targeted for revitalization, so that resources have the best opportunity to have the intended effect. These projects can also be designed to reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more livable and sustainable community.

All communities submitted an SC Plan when the community earned its original designation. Some applicants may want to take advantage of the designation renewal process to outline new strategies, set new priorities or reaffirm existing strategies for their Sustainable Community. Changes to SC Plans may reflect changes in external factors affecting the community or changes in the priorities of the applicant.

Action Plan Guidance

The Action Plan section has been broken down into the same six categories as the Comprehensive Assessment section of this document. These parts address key components of your Sustainable Community Action Plan. Follow the guidelines below to fill out the matrix.

- 1) For each section, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.** Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.
- 2) Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.
- 3) After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of

Town sponsored events ☐ Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.

- 4) List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.** Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: _____

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

- ☐ **Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**
 - [Applicant Information](#)
- ☐ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**
 - [Action Plan](#)
- ☐ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
 - [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
 - [Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment](#)
 - [Competitive Funding](#)
- ☐ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**
- ☐ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**
 - [Disclosure Authorization](#)
- ☐ **Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:
 - If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary
 - Photos (jpeg format) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years

SECTION A - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Town of Berwyn Heights	
Name of Applicant:		Town of Berwyn Heights	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6014309	
Applicant's Street Address:		5700 Berwyn Road	
City: Berwyn Heights	County: Prince George's	State: MD	Zip Code: 20740
Phone Number: 301-474-5000	Fax Number: (301) 474-5002	Web Address: https://www.berwynheightsmd.gov	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Jodie Kulpa-Eddy		Title: Mayor, Resident	
Address: “	City: “	State: “	Zip Code: “
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: “	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Hollyce Goodwin		Title: Code Compliance Director	
Address:”	City:”	State:”	Zip Code:”
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:”	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Melanie Friesen		Title: Berwyn Heights Town Clerk	
Address: “	City:”	State:”	Zip Code:”
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:”	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

(1) Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?

No, the current boundary is the entirety of Berwyn Heights, and the municipality is surrounded on all sides by other Sustainable Communities

- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:

- PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
- GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: 500

- (4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

- ☐ Main Street ☐ Maple Street
☐ National Register Historic District ☐ Local Historic District ☐ Arts & Entertainment District
☐ State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐ BRAC ☐ State Designated TOD
☐ Other(s):

- (5) Describe the SC Area's current demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, number of housing units, or other relevant factors). How have demographics changed in the last five years?

The following data are sourced from the American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

	2017	2021
Population	3250	3317
Age and Sex		
Male	1792	1781
Female	1458	1536
Persons under 5 years, percent	4.8%	11.3%
persons under 18 years, percent	17.7%	25.1%
persons 65 years and over, percent	13.0%	11.3%
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone, percent	52.0%	57.9%
Black or African American Alone	13.7%	9.1%

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0%	0%
Asian alone, percent	9.4%	7.9%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0%	0%
Two or More Races, percent	4.2%	9.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	32.1%	42.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	41.6%	39.6%
Population Characteristics		
Veterans	139	156
Foreign born persons	1028	1096
Housing		
Housing units	1010	1060
Homeownership rate	84.8%	89.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$285,800	\$342,400
Median monthly homeowner costs without a mortgage	\$662	\$749
Median monthly homeowner costs with a mortgage	\$1868	\$2245
Median gross rent	\$2044	\$2225
Families and Living Arrangements		
Households	930	989
Persons per household	3.50	3.36
Computer and Internet Use		
Households with a computer, percent	98.1%	98.1%

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

Households with broadband, percent	94.1%	93.9%
Education		
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+	79.6%	78.3%
BA degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+	37.8%	46.4%
Health		
Persons with a disability	269	315
Persons with health insurance, age 19 to 65, percent	83.7%	86.2%
Economy		
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16+	70.6%	69.2%
Transportation		
mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+	36.4	35.3
Income and Poverty		
Median household income (2021 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$100,938	\$120,662
Per capita income in the past 12 months (2021 inflation adjusted dollars)	\$35,168	\$44,236
Persons in poverty, percent	7.9%	4.2%

(2) Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

- (3) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

None of the Sustainable Communities workgroup members who participated in the 2017 designation participated in this renewal. Current workgroup members are:

- Amanda Dewey, Former Mayor and Resident
- Hollyce Goodwyn, Code Compliance Director
- Zelda Bell, Code Officer
- Melanie Friesen, Town Clerk
- David Wolfinger, Resident
- Debby Steele-Snyder, Resident

(4) What have been the strengths and challenges of the capacity of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup with respect to implementation of the SC Plan?

Berwyn Heights is a small town with limited staff capacity. The town tentatively plans to pursue grant funding from the DHCD Circuit Rider program to expand capacity and become more successful in pursuing grant funding.

(5) How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to the Sustainable Communities Action Plan update? On which existing local plans (comprehensive plans, economic development plans, sector plans, etc.) is the Sustainable Communities Action Plan based?

With technical assistance from the Maryland DHCD, Berwyn Heights conducted two workgroup sessions to brainstorm concepts for the Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Because town staff participated in these sessions, the Action Plan is somewhat based on ongoing planning/development efforts, although the town has limited planning capacity due to its small size. Broader planning responsibilities, such as zoning, are handled by and through the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

(6) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

Due to its limited capacity, Berwyn Heights requires significant technical assistance to realize its revitalization strategies. In particular, Berwyn Heights currently lacks capacity to apply for competitive grants.

SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

Town of Berwyn Heights

Example Section

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u> Outcomes should be considered end results of actions and strategies. Based on the strengths and weaknesses, identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address. Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u> Identify strategies that will help your community to achieve each identified outcome to the left. If applicable, break down each strategy into specific action items that outline different steps of the strategy. Specify how you are planning to achieve the desired outcomes.	<u>Implementation Partners</u> Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.
Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas. Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas	Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations. Example Action 1: Complete analysis of code violations over the past five years to determine areas, both geographically and topically, for which code violations are most frequent. Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance. Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement. Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.	Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning Department, local homeowners association

Environment

This section describes projects involving the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships or access to the natural environment.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): the quality of land, water, and air; tree canopies and green spaces; green infrastructure; habitat improvement, climate change mitigation and adaptation; nuisance flooding; stormwater infrastructure and management; water and sewer capacity; energy conservation; recycling, pet waste, and organic waste programs; the mitigation of environmental hazards; and parks and recreation improvements.

Strengths

- Designation as a Tree City USA for over 25 years, as evidenced by the devotion of significant resources towards protecting and preserving the Town's urban tree canopy, including conducting a tree inventory, a tree canopy assessment, and development of an urban forest management plan.
- An active Green Team, with key activities including development of a community garden and attaining "Sustainable Maryland" Certification.
- Recipient of repeat State of Maryland "Smart Energy Community," grants used for energy efficiency projects with funds used to replace aged HVAC systems at two Town facilities.
- Access to Indian Creek Trail, lake Artemesia, and refurbished Indian Creek Playground.
- Adoption of policies to improve energy efficiency at Town facilities.
- Received Bee City, USA designation in 2021.
- Pet waste stations throughout the Town
- Trash cans installed on poles at all Town bus stops

Weaknesses

- Prince George's County has authority over the stormwater management system, and the Town must work through County channels for system improvements.
- Most of the parks and recreational programs are under the purview of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
- Aging water and sewer infrastructure, and system improvements and management are under the sole jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.
- Certain parts of the town have flooding issues on their private properties—there's a lack of resources for homeowners to make stormwater management improvements or remedy damage from stormwater after the fact
- Lack of public awareness regarding the impact of building impermeable surfaces

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of understanding regarding the impact of trees on stormwater management Private landowners sometimes refuse to make changes on their properties that would benefit stormwater management
<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: A robust local tree canopy made up primarily of native shade trees.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Overall increase in tree canopy coverage.</u> Increase in the number of trees. 	<p>Strategy A: Increase the town's tree canopy and maintain tree species diversity</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Educational effort for residents on preserving and protecting trees. Consider hiring an arborist, training and existing Town employee, splitting personnel with another community, or a contractor. Continue tree planting efforts, including street shade trees. Pursue funding and consider best practices identified by Sustainable Maryland. Pursue funding from Project Open Space to support preservation and enhancement of green spaces. <p>Strategy B: Lead efforts for a healthy ecosystem</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Judicious pesticide use. Preserve wildlife habitat. Adhere to the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy. 	<p>Staff</p> <p>Green Team</p> <p>Shade Tree Board</p> <p>Council</p> <p>M-NCPPC</p> <p>DNR</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Improved physical appearance in the built environment for those areas under the Town's direct control.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs are installed. One landscaping bed is complete. 	<p>Strategy A: Explore additional beautification efforts</p> <p>Actionable items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Replenish existing landscape beds and create new landscape beds using as many native perennial plants as possible. Devise a Litter Prevention educational campaign. 	<p>Staff</p> <p>DNR</p> <p>Green Team</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 3: Reduced stormwater and flooding issues</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <p>Development of Stormwater Management Program, reduction of instances of stormwater and flooding issues, feet of replaced pipes and improved stormwater infrastructure, number of residents engaged in stormwater programs, number of green infrastructure/LID projects completed</p>	<p>Strategy B: Assess and solve potential drainage problem areas</p> <p>Actionable items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify priority areas in need of stormwater improvements and restoration2. Educate community on proper stormwater management techniques3. Promote and connect residents to existing flood reporting and stormwater management programs (Clean Water Partnership, Rain Check Rebate Program)4. Develop rain gardens, sand filters, and infiltration trenches to reduce flooding5. Work with State and Community partners to implement strategies and complete major stormwater improvement projects.	<p>PG County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)</p> <p>MD Department of Environment</p>
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Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding, and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses; commercial building acquisition, rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use; and creating a sense of place and vibrancy through streetscaping and beautification.

Strengths

- Close economic development partnerships with the surrounding

Weaknesses

- Fading interest from the commercial and industrial

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>municipalities of College Park and Greenbelt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to major employers including Federal and State agencies. • Town government is debt-free with dedicated, budgeted reserves for capital projects. • Development of a Special Public Safety Taxing District for commercial and industrial properties to fund the salary and expenses of the Police Department's Detective. There are a high number of banks, pharmacies, and gas stations/convenience stores that are viewed as criminal targets, and the Detective investigates these crimes. • Adoption of an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, with an emphasis on purchasing from local vendors when possible. • Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel (ULI-TAP) report outlining opportunities and strategies for the 193 Corridor specific to Berwyn Heights. 	<p>property owners in participating in the Town's Commercial District Management Authority (CDMA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no traditional Main Street. • The commercial area is along a State Highway, and the State Highway Administration has not prioritized investments in making the street more visually appealing or safer for bicyclists or pedestrians. • Town government reliance on real property tax revenue as the largest revenue source and lowering assessments strain the ability to provide level-funded services. • Need for a new administrative building
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced Economic Development Opportunities</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold follow-up joint Council Work Session with College Park and Greenbelt. • Submit "Sustainable Communities" designation application. • Conversation with UMD business incubator on future regional office space needs. 	<p>Strategy A: Implement the County's Sector Plan for Commercial and Industrial Areas</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Greenbelt on advocacy efforts to implement the County's Route 193 Sector Plan and the ULI-TAP plan with the State and Prince George's County. 2. Explore State funding and grant opportunities such as the Community Legacy Program and the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program. 3. Consider aligning with Hyattsville, University Park, the University of Maryland, and others in a regional economic development coalition. The Route 1 corridor group may be an option if it is still active and meeting. 4. Explore options for new business attractions. UMD is positioning itself to become a business incubator for students and alumni. There could be a need to develop office space for businesses expanding beyond the incubator, and work towards mixed-use properties along 	<p>Staff, Council, and CDMA Staff UMD Maryland DHCD Maryland Department of Commerce</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	Greenbelt Rd.	
<p>Outcome 2: A thriving commercial and industrial area.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay attuned to Prince George's County Zoning rewrite efforts. Continue Code Compliance's efforts to work with the business community to keep properties in compliance and attractive. 	<p>Strategy A: Seek Expertise of an Economic Development Consultant shared with neighboring communities to Provide Actionable Recommendations and Expertise</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Budget to hire an economic development consultant. Speak with surrounding communities on what has worked, and not worked with their use of an economic development consultant. Develop RFP to hire an economic development consultant to study and make actionable recommendations. Solicit and review proposals. Select economic development consultant. Manage the project, including inviting feedback from stakeholders such as residents, and the business community. Complete study recommendations, likely involving Prince George's County on zoning and land-use matters, and private property owners. <p>Strategy B: Improve the facades of commercial properties along Maryland Route 193 and Balley Avenue</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for facade improvement grants from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Work with local businesses to identify commercial properties in need of improvement. Coordinate with Greenbelt to ensure consistency with plans and future projects addressing the Beltway Mall. Design and implement a facade improvement program using grant monies. 	<p>Staff and Council Maryland DHCD Greenbelt M-NCPPC</p>

Transportation

This section describes the way people in your community get from place to place.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes can focus on: access to transit corridors; pedestrian safety and accessibility; sidewalks; alternative modes of transportation, such as bikeways and trails; public transit, such as bus and rail; carpooling; proximity to transportation centers; parking; and road conditions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent access to major transportation routes (I-495/Capital Beltway, I-295/Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and Route 1).• Proximity to WMATA Green Line stations of Greenbelt and College Park, and close to the planned Purple line connecting Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.• Accessible to bus routes connecting with WMATA's Orange Line, BWI-Marshall Airport, and the University of Maryland-College Park.• Dedicated funding source for infrastructure improvements of a portion of the real property tax and the State's Highway User Revenue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commuting options are primarily by car; limited viable commuter options to walk or bike.• Last comprehensive municipal road resurfacing project was in 1996.• The transit system in Berwyn Heights lacks connectivity.• The Town sponsored "Van Program", which provided transportation on demand within a 5-mile radius of Town for 1-2 passengers, was discontinued in FY2020 due to underutilization. The "Call-a-Bus" program, which enhances mobility and access for seniors, people with disabilities and community groups by providing rides, is still available in Berwyn Heights, but must be requested and arranged in advance in coordination with the City of Greenbelt.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increased safety for all modes of transportation.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of recommendations in the "Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights" (WBBH) report	<p>Strategy A: Implement infrastructural improvements that increase transportation safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Add "Local Traffic Only" signs at Town entrances.2. Create signage for all school bus stops.3. Identify areas with insufficient lighting for improvement.4. Use high visibility, reflective paint for crosswalks.5. Install traffic calming infrastructure, including portable speed bumps.6. Implement other infrastructural improvements recommended in the WBBH report	<p>Council Staff PG DPW&T Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights Task Force</p>

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	<p>Strategy B: Implement policy changes that increase transportation safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower the Town speed limit to 20mph. 2. Install traffic cameras for speeding. 3. Restrict parking at intersections that could block pedestrian visibility. 	
<p>Outcome 2: Increased alternative modes of transportation.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of recommendations in the WBBH report. 	<p>Strategy A: Make Berwyn Heights more bike friendly</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install bike racks near businesses and other destinations. 2. Consider feasibility of pedestrian/bicycle bridges for problem intersections 3. Advertise and expand trail options for bicyclists. 4. Install bike lanes on particular roads as appropriate. 5. Advocate for bike routes to popular destinations. <p>Strategy B: Make Berwyn Heights more pedestrian friendly</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make sure pedestrians have high visibility at crosswalks. 2. Install missing crosswalks. 3. Advertise and expand trail options for pedestrians. 4. Reinitiate "Call-a-Bus" program or identify an alternative. 5. Ensure pedestrian infrastructure is up-to-date and ADA compliant. 	<p>WMATA Council Staff PG DPW&T Greenbelt MDOT Green Team Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights Task Force</p>

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live and efforts which make it easier for them to find and stay in a place to call home.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: affordability; increasing homeownership; increasing rental housing; diversifying the kinds of housing available; improving housing conditions (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing is affordable when compared to the overall Washington, D.C. region. Significant stock of well-preserved historic and older homes. Low vacancy rate. Majority of residential properties comply with Town Code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicting views in the community about redevelopment of existing homes. Prince George's County has sole zoning authority, and the Town has limited control over proposed "by-right" development. Some resident opposition to multi-family housing, multi-story development, and affordable housing. Housing affordability remains an issue despite lower costs than the region overall. Blighted housing. Difficulty for seniors to age in place due to necessary but unaffordable repairs.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced capacity for seniors to age in place.</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repairs implemented 	<p>Strategy A: Create a program to fund home repairs that enable senior residents to age in place.</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze best practices and similar programs such as the "Critical Home Repair, Accessibility and Weatherization Program" in Silver Spring and "Hyattsville Aging in Place." Design a similar program for Berwyn Heights in collaboration 	<p>Staff MD DHCD Seniors Club</p>

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	<p>with the Berwyn Heights Seniors Club.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Fund program through applications to MD DHCD Community Legacy or National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund. 4. Solicit applications for and fund necessary home repairs. 	
<p>Outcome 2: Greater housing affordability</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased number and quantity of affordable rental and homeownership units, lower housing cost burdens 	<p>Strategy A: Preserve and expand the range of housing types and homeownership opportunities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and support public-private partnerships and nonprofit housing providers, expand existing housing programs /projects and develop more affordable and mixed-income housing. 2. Conduct outreach to residents to build awareness of local, state, and federal programs that support first-time homeowners. <p>leverage local and statewide programs to support development of various housing types</p>	<p>Staff and Council</p> <p>MD DHCD</p> <p>PG DHCD</p> <p>M-NCPPC</p> <p>HUD</p>

Community Health and Quality of Life

This section is concerned with public health, community culture, and the day-to-day life of community residents.

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public health including improving community design to promote healthy behaviors such as walking and strengthening community support and connectedness through health and wellness programs and facilities that create inclusive communities. These projects may include built environment, indoor spaces, outdoor environments such as increasing community gardens and access to services including educational facilities and programs; health and wellness facilities and programs that serve multi-generations; senior facilities and programs; youth facilities and programs; facilities and programs for the disabled; civic amenities, access to quality food options; collaborations with faith-based organizations; arts and entertainment education; and homelessness prevention, services, and facilities. Projects should include community engagement that includes participation in the selection of strategies and outcomes, progress reports, and evaluation.

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Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town government is full-service providing 24/7 Police Department coverage; Public Works provides weekly collection of refuse, recycling, yard waste, and bulk material, and snow removal; Code Compliance ensures adherence to the Town's property maintenance laws and regulations; Administration provides day-to-day Town management, finance, human resources, and risk management. Town Council is a non-partisan political body. A vibrant, diverse community welcoming to all ages, races, and genders. Organizations such as the Recreation Council, Historical Committee, Green Team, and Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness provide quality of life programming such as Berwyn Heights Day, outdoor concerts, walking tours of historic properties, environmental workshops, and assist the Police Department in executing a successful annual National Night Out. Very low crime rate, especially in comparison to Prince George's County's crime rate. Strong Town relationships with the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department (BHVFD) as evidenced by the Town's annual financial contribution, and BHVFD's efforts to participate in community events. An active Senior Center, open Monday-Friday, located within a Town facility. Renovated parks and playgrounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The same residents seem to provide feedback on government operations and programs. Prince George's County has a perceived high crime rate. Prince George's County Public Schools do not have the high performing reputation of those in neighboring counties. Town is not reaching all residents, especially those non-English speakers. Significant work has been done on this in the last five years, but there remains more to do. Lack of resident interest in serving on the Council or in Town organizations. Outdated community reputation and branding as a "Mayberry" or a "small town near the big city." Need for increased diversity in activities available for youth under the local Boys and Girls Club of America program and other afterschool activities Lack of ESL services for youth.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improve Town engagement with residents and businesses</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u> Continue communicating through website, social media, and monthly printed bulletin delivered to all homes and businesses and duplicating the message across all available mediums.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Improve communication with Town residents and businesses</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Research best practices on survey methods and approaches, and developing performance benchmarks. Conduct survey to determine resident communication preferences. Present survey to Council. Allocate funds if using a survey firm. Analyze results. 	<p>Staff and Council</p>

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	6. Present findings to Council. 7. Implement new communication strategy 8. Consider hire of a part-time staff member dedicated to communications	
<p>Outcome 2: Encourage greater community participation and involvement</p> <p><u>Progress Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess volunteer base on a quarterly basis to determine what is working, and what needs improvement in attracting and retaining volunteers. Consider which locations in the commercial area offer greatest visibility for community events. 	<p>Strategy A: Increase resident participation in Town activities</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gather best practices from existing Town committees. Gather feedback from past volunteers. Conduct a survey on current activities to determine satisfaction with programming and gaps. Recruit multi-generational and multi-cultural ambassadors. Develop promotional materials in English and Spanish (possible additional languages). Expand presence at Berwyn Heights Elementary School with a presentation or table to meet residents. Use frequent or annual community events as a way to engage with residents i.e., National Night Out and Berwyn Heights Day, and consider holding events in the commercial district. Consider greater utilization of the snack stand at Sports Park as a refreshment stop for bicyclists on Indian Creek Trail and Lake Artemesia. <p>Strategy B: Create physical spaces (temporary or permanent) as a way to bolster civic involvement and interest in the commercial district. i.e. parklets, "truckeroo," and pop-up shops.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine which businesses might be interested in hosting Partner with local non-profits to identify other priority areas. Collaborate with local faith-based organizations to leverage existing places of worship for community events. Explore options for visual art in public spaces to encourage sitting and congregating. <p>Strategy C: Better community utilization of existing public spaces</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing of existing public spaces like playgrounds and parks for activities such as fishing, bird watching, biking, walking, and children's recreation. Explore installation of little free libraries in public spaces 	<p>Staff and Council M-NCPPC Commercial District Management Authority</p>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

This section is concerned with a local government's ability to plan for the community's future and to meet the current needs of residents.

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, taxes, fees, etc.; increasing local government staff capacity; and updating planning documents like sector plans or comprehensive plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Majority of housing is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood character.Residential housing is located on a mix of smaller and larger lots.Nearby communities have been successful in attracting high quality mixed-use commercial and residential developments leading to tax base enhancement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prince George's County has sole zoning authority, and the Town has limited control over proposed "by-right" development.Prince George's County taxes in general are some of the highest within the State of MarylandCommercial and industrial property is generally underutilized, with a fair amount of vacancies.Current lot sizes of industrial property especially lack depth needed for significant redevelopment opportunities.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Make Town facility improvements</p> <p>Progress Measures: Speak with other communities in progress and recently completed capital projects for facility construction to discuss lessons learned.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Conduct comprehensive study of Town facility security and adequacy</p> <p>Actionable Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Research best practices for space planning and analysis.Explore funding options for gaining expertise in space planning and analysis, particularly hiring an architecture/engineering firm.Estimate budget costs of hiring architecture/engineering firm.Budget project of hiring architecture/engineering firm.	<p>Staff and Council Maryland DHCD M-NCPPC</p>

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	<div>5. Develop RFP of hiring architecture/engineering firm.</div> <div>6. Review proposals for hiring architecture/engineering firm.</div> <div>7. Select architecture/engineering firm.</div> <div>8. Manage the project.</div> <div>9. Complete project.</div> <div>10. Implement the project recommendations and consider State infrastructure assistance options through DHCD programs.</div> <div>Strategy B: Consider location of Town facilities, especially the Police Department currently in leased space. The Maryland 193/Greenbelt Rd. Section Plan recommends locating municipal facilities in the commercial corridor.</div> <div>1. Assess perspectives from the Police Department on station location.</div> <div>2. Assess community perspectives from the Police Department on station location.</div>	
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SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

The purpose of this assessment is to capture significant projects/ improvements that have been completed since the approval of your local government's Sustainable Communities designation.

In relation to the goals stated in your local government's Sustainable Community Action Plan, **please highlight at least three major accomplishments from the last five years**, including how you achieved them. When writing your narrative, consider the questions below and refer to the six elements discussed in the General Information section of this document (page iv) – Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning.

- 1) **Outcome:** Which outcomes identified in your Sustainable Community plan were you able to achieve?
- 2) **Projects:** Which projects did you implement in order to achieve the outcome? Also indicate when you started and completed these projects.
- 3) **Partners:** With whom (i.e. state agencies, local stakeholders) did you partner to complete projects?
- 4) **Impact:** What kind of measurable impact did the achieved outcome have on your community? Are there other intangible benefits?
- 5) **Photos:** Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

[EXAMPLE] Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply

Example – Accomplishment 1

Outcome: Improved stormwater management

Projects:

Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2014, the Town Council approved the Town's stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures over the next five years. Strategies include reducing the amount of impervious surface in the community and improving stormwater management. One of the plan recommendations is to pass an ordinance that assesses an environmental protection fee on municipal permits.

Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 600 linear feet of roadway that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales were constructed and trees were planted.

Partners:

Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance

MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling \$50,000).

Impact: The implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff. The streets with the newly constructed bioswales no longer experience flooding.

Descriptive Narrative: Please list the most significant accomplishments that apply.

Accomplishment 1: Transportation

Outcome: Conduct a needs assessment of the municipal road/infrastructure system

Projects: Work with Greenbelt on an extensive transportation study of Greenbelt Road, with the goal to facilitate the comfortable, equitable, and safe movement of all people along and across Greenbelt Road, whether they are walking, biking riding transit, or driving. Starting in 2021, council members from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, and College Park formed an ad-hoc working group to try and formalize a plan of action to improve Greenbelt Rd (MD 193). During that process, the City of Greenbelt was awarded an MWCOG Transportation Land-Use Connections Project grant which allowed them to hire short-term consulting services to develop a visioning plan for Greenbelt Rd. The Town of Berwyn Heights submitted a 2017 study conducted by the Urban Land Institute which laid out a plan for mixed-use redevelopment of Greenbelt Rd, and the recommendations from the Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights Task Force to help the consultants get a better understanding of work already done.

Partners: Greenbelt Community Development, in particular, Holly Simmons

Impact: The Town of Berwyn Heights participated in a study of a nearly two-mile segment of Greenbelt Road that borders Berwyn Heights. This study was concluded in April 2022 with the final Corridor Plan being released during the summer. That study can be found at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/20275/638089557433100000>

Accomplishment 2: Environment

Outcome: Improve the Town's physical appearance in the natural environment for those areas under the Town's direct control. Goal to exceed current 59% tree canopy coverage.

Projects:

(1) Educational effort for residents on preserving and protecting trees. The Shade Tree Board actively includes educational material in the monthly Town newsletter "The Bulletin." In conjunction with Town Staff, they have hosted events to teach invasive vine removal. The Shade Tree Board has actively provided informational materials at Town events, such as Berwyn Heights Day. They have also assisted residents on a one-on-one basis to address issues on their property and to remove vines. Additionally, the Town has a tree rebate program which allows residents to plant trees on their property, which includes an educational component on native trees.

(2) Lead efforts for a healthy ecosystem: including judicious use of pesticides and adherence to the Green Purchasing Policy. These items are protocol for the Town's Public Works crew. While reserving the right to use a pesticide if necessary at some point in the future, the Director of Public Works stated that no pesticides have been used during his tenure and that all purchases have been consistent with the Green Purchasing Policy. The Sustainable Purchasing Policy was updated in October of 2021.

Partners: The Berwyn Heights Shade Tree Board

Impact: The Town suffered a severe storm in July of 2022 in which a significant portion of the tree canopy was lost. While much of the physical manifestation of the efforts made by the Shade Tree Board and Public Works, the educational experiences have proven invaluable as residents continue to recover from the storm damage. As tree planting season is approaching, the Town will again be advertising the tree rebate program.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Enhance Economic Development Opportunities

Projects: Business relief grants, funded via ARPA and CARES. These grants provided funding for broadband infrastructure, equipment for small business, rental assistance, payroll assistance, digital advertising, as well as e-commerce creation and maintenance and business reopening.

Partners: This project was done inhouse but would not have been possible without income from the Federal Government and the pass-through funding for CARES by Prince George's County.

Impact: The ARPA grant project gave 3 businesses in Town \$10,000 to aid in the recovery and reopening, including one minority/woman owned business. In 2020, the Town Small Business Relief Grant, funded by CARES, awarded 5 Town Businesses a total of \$25,000. Recipients included Town medical and dental practices as well as a home-based business. Funds helped sustain businesses facing loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Business owners reported using the funds toward rent payments, payroll, supplies, search for new staff members, needed continuing education, and marketing

Descriptive Narrative: Please use this section to describe any major outcomes or projects from your last Sustainable Communities Action Plan that have NOT been accomplished and why.

Outcome: Enhance Economic Development Opportunities and Emergence of a Thriving Commercial and Industrial Area.

Narrative: Many of the strategies and action items of this outcome require long term planning and outreach. The Town has had two Town Managers and two Interim Town Managers since 2017 making the staff leadership on this item difficult. Additionally, Covid played a significant role in challenging the economic development of communities. The commercial and industrial area approaches were based on the possibility of the FBI headquarters being relocated to the area. When that did not happen, compounded by the effects of Covid, action items such as developing office space along Greenbelt Road became impractical.

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Outcome: Improve the Town's physical appearance in the built environment for those areas under the Town's direct control.

Narrative: There has been ongoing discussion about the purchase of a Welcome to Berwyn Heights sign. However, the plan was for this to be handled by an ad hoc committee that was never formed. The formation of the committee was hampered by a lack of a cohesive vision for the sign as well as considerable staff turnover and by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Outcome: Explore stakeholder feedback on attitudes towards multi-family, multi-story, and affordable housing.

Narrative: Berwyn Heights is fully developed, leaving little room for additional housing, including multi-family units. However, due to zoning changes, there is some possibility of mixed use residential in the industrial area, should the businesses that have been grandfathered in close. Additionally, the Town Council has recently begun discussions on rent stabilization legislation. While these items are not yet successes, they do present some opportunity in the area of housing.

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? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	X			<p>As of October 2022, the Town has three stormwater management projects in Planning or Design phases - Osage Street, Berwyn Heights Stormwater Projects, and Indian Creek (ref).</p> <p>In 2020, the Town completed a 482.78 linear feet outfall stabilization at 58th Ave & Nevada St that contributed 5.5 acres of restoration credit (ref).</p> <p>Prince George's County continues extensive rehabilitation of the Town's storm water drainage system, including the restoration of approximately 50 inlets in Berwyn Heights (ref).</p>
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	X			<p>In March 2022, the Town was officially designated as a Bee City, a national program that encourages pollinator-friendly practices (ref).</p> <p>In the past 5 years, the Town has also worked to improve its tree canopy. Based on 2016 tree inventory, the town earmarked budget funding for tree pruning, removal and other maintenance activities, and the creation of a tree maintenance tracking app (ref). The Town worked with Pepco on a tree replanting plan and has continued public education efforts around the importance of protecting trees (ref).</p>
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?		X		<p>The Town has maintained its numerous parks and open spaces, including the community garden on 59th St. (established in 2014), the Indian Creek playground and T-ball field, and Pop's Park.</p>

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4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)	X			<p>The Town started several sustainability practices during the past 5 years. Starting in 2021, the Town created a program through which residents can apply for up to \$150 reimbursement for residential lot tree planting (ref).</p> <p>In July 2020, the Town started a food scraps composting program for Town residents, with a composting collection facility located behind City Hall.</p> <p>In October 2022, the Town began food scrap compost residential pick up as part of yard waste.</p>
OTHER:				

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			There is a renovated McDonalds on Greenbelt Road. Additionally, some spaces have new tenants including a Little Caesar's Pizza, a 7-11, and a Korean BBQ restaurant called the Iron Pig. A commercial space is currently being renovated into an Aldi grocery store.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			Maryland DHCD's National Capital Strategic Economic Development Areas program (NED) was established in 2019 and Berwyn Heights falls within its current boundaries.

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3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?			X	This is not tracked within Berwyn Heights.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?			X	Berwyn Heights does not have access to this data.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?			X	According to Census data, as of 2014, there were 17 people both living in and employed in Berwyn Heights. In 2019, that number increased to 19. The number of employed civilian population 16 and over has decreased from 1,837 in 2017 to 1,638 in 2021 (ACS 5 year).
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?		X		
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		While the amount of bike trails and paths haven't increased during the past 5 years, the Town has done significant planning work in this area. The final report and recommendations of <i>Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights</i> was published in 2020 (ref). In 2022, the Town received a grant to implement some of the findings from this report (ref).
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		The Town does not have control over public transit infrastructure developments within the Sustainable Community Area.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?			X	Berwyn Heights does not have access to this data.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?	X			Over the past 5 years, the Town has engaged in a joint planning project for the <i>Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan</i> , along with the municipalities of Greenbelt and College Park (ref). The <i>Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan</i> will "create a cohesive vision for the future of the corridor," which includes the incorporation of "complete" and "green" street design.

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5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			X	Berwyn Heights does not have access to this data.
OTHER:				
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 or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?			X	Berwyn Heights does not have access to this data. Prince George's County and Maryland DHCD both offer energy efficiency grant improvements to Berwyn Heights residents.
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?	X			According to Social Explorer (ACS 5-year) data, the homeownership rate has improved over the past 5 years. 2017 - 84.8% 2021 - 89.8%

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3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?	X			<p>According to Social Explorer (ACS 5-year) data, the number of housing units has increased over the past 5 years and the relative affordability of these units appears to be about the same.</p> <p>2017 - 1010 housing units, 25% of homeowners are paying at least 30% of income on housing, 12% of homeowners are paying at least 50% of income on housing</p> <p>2021 - 1060 housing units, 25% of homeowners are paying at least 30% of income on housing, 10% of homeowners are paying at least 50% of income on housing</p>
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			X	<p>Berwyn Heights does not have access to this data.</p> <p>1 residential home that was previously uninhabitable has been rehabbed and restored and is now occupied.</p>
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X			<p>According to Social Explorer (ACS 5-year) data, the residential vacancy rate has decreased over the past 5 years.</p> <p>2017 - 7.9%</p> <p>2021 - 6.7%</p>
6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any			X	

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of its own programs to do the same?				
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		X		These services are offered by nonprofits outside of Berwyn Heights.
OTHER:				
COMMUNITY HEALTH & 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. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?		X		
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums,	X			Berwyn Heights recently installed a new elevator in its senior center.

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community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.				
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	X			<p>In 2020, the Town started a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program to increase community engagement and connections between neighbors (ref).</p> <p>In 2018, the Town started a new summer concert series to attract more people to Town events (ref).</p> <p>During the past 5 years, the Town continued to host their annual Berwyn Heights Day celebration (with a hiatus during the pandemic).</p> <p>In 2018, the Town created the <i>Citizens Commission on Quality of Life</i> to help guide future city decision-making for the Town based on resident needs (ref).</p>
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	X			<p>In December 2022, the Town introduced an Emergency Assistance Fund, comprising \$1000 grants for short-term housing needs in case of an emergency (ref).</p>
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X			<p>The Town has numerous parks and open spaces, including a community garden on 59th St., the Indian Creek playground and T-ball field, and Pop's Park.</p> <p>M-NCPPC owns and operates several parks and recreational centers within or adjacent to Berwyn Heights, including the Berwyn Heights Community Center (featuring an indoor basketball court and gym), Lake Artemesia (featuring hiking trails, birding areas, and fishing piers), and Sports Park (featuring a soccer/baseball field and field hockey rink) (ref).</p>

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				These recreational facilities sponsor recreational programs throughout the year, including summer camps and gardening education.
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?	X			While there are no farmers markets located within Berwyn Heights, there are several located in the adjacent communities of Riverdale and College Park. There is an Aldi grocery store under construction in Berwyn Heights, anticipated open in Fall 2023. “Blue Berwyn Farm” makes locally grown vegetable and herbs available to the community. There is a community garden on 59th St. and a Target and Giant within Beltway Plaza.
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?		X		<p>According to the Maryland Municipality Crime Dashboard, there has been an increase in the overall crime rate (including property crimes and violent crimes).</p> <p>2017 – 17.3 per 1,000 people 2020 – 21.4 per 1,000 people</p>
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	X			According to ACS 5-year estimates, about 95% of households have broadband Internet, and over 98% have a computer.

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OTHER:				
LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	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 no infill developments - Berwyn Heights is built-out, with little vacant space available.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		X		There have been no increases in preserved or protected land - Berwyn Heights is built-out, with little vacant space available.
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.			X	

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4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?		X		M-NCPPC updated their zoning code and other ordinances in April 2022, but no major changes were made to the Berwyn Heights area.
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			<p>There have been several WSSC water main improvement projects over the past 5 years, including the replacement of 1.72 miles of water mains on Edmonston Rd. (ref) and 1.13 miles of water mains on Greenbelt Rd. (ref).</p> <p>The Town commissioned a 2021 Drainage Study focused around reducing roadway flooding in the town (ref).</p> <p>Over the past 5 years, the Town has completed a series of road repair based on a previous Needs Assessments (ref). Roadway improvements included road, curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements on Pontiac Street, Ruatan Street, Seminole Street (ref).</p>
6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?	X			<p>The Town edited Ordinance 121, which established the Town Administrator/Town Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with responsibility to supervise all Town departments, to refer to position as Town Manager (ref). The town charter was also subsequently updated to change the title of "Town Administrator" to "Town Manager." (ref).</p> <p>The town created a new Grants Administrator position, but as of November 2022 was having difficulty filling said position (ref).</p>

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7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?			X	
OTHER:				

Part III: 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">	DHCD			
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none">	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			

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Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE			
<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>				
M-NCPPC	County	\$68,000		This money is to implement walkable/bikeable goals in Town. The County has given the grant and has provided an engineer to lead the project, but no work has begun.
ARPA	Federal	\$2.5 Million		Much of the money remains unallocated, but a portion has been spent on residential/business relief.
Bond Bill	State	\$165,000		For the purchase and installation of a new elevator at Town Center.

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