

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/>

SGCC Approved 4.23

LARRY HOGAN
Governor
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lt. Governor
KENNETH C. HOLT
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 Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-298-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@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: Ashleigh Diaz, Sustainability Manager

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Bowie

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 Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**

- [Part 1: Qualitative Assessment](#)
- [Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment](#)
- [Competitive Funding](#)

☐ **Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**

- [Action Plan](#)

☐ **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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Bowie, MD	
Name of Applicant:		Ashleigh Diaz	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6019385	
Applicant's Street Address:		15901 Fred Robinson Way	
City: Bowie	County: Prince George's	State: MD	Zip Code: 20716
Phone Number: 301-262-6200	Fax Number:	Web Address: www.cityofbowie.org	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

[Redacted]

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

[Redacted]

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

[Redacted]

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?
 - a. We are not requesting any changes currently. We previously decided upon six designated target areas, which are the hubs of economic growth in the City, and which were formulated in 2012 with the original application. These target areas fall within the PFA boundary and are as follows:
 - i. Old Town Bowie
 - ii. Bowie Main Street (not a historical designation)
 - iii. West Bowie Village
 - iv. Melford
 - v. Bowie Regional Center
 - vi. Pointer Ridge
- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
 - a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
 - b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary).
- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area:
 - a. 11,520 acres
- (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?

Over the last five years Bowie has filled out considerably; annexing properties, growing in population, and welcoming new developments for housing and retail in a responsible and sustainable way. Bowie is a desirable place to live for many people in the DMV because of our proximity to Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Annapolis (what can be referred to as the tri-city juxtaposition), our strong sense of community, and our impeccable resident services. Historically, this has made us a "bedroom community" where many people choose to live and raise families, while going elsewhere for work. MWCOG has provided community greenhouse gas data showing that since 2018 we have decreased

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

our community emissions by about 17%, even though population growth and expansion. Transportation remains our highest emitting sector.

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) most recent data, around 75% of our population is over the age of 18 with slightly more females than males. We are a majority black/African American area, with about 58% of the City population identifying as such and 30% white. In 2010 these numbers were at 51% and 38% respectively, which shows the demographic trend over the last decade (according to US Census). We have also seen the number of other ethnic groups rise in our community, a wonderful sign of our melting pot nature being nestled between the Nation's Capital and other cities. For example, according to Census data Latinos (of any Latin background) now make up 7.2 % of our population whereas in 2010 that percentage was at 5.6%. We are a highly educated community with 96% of Bowie constituents holding at least a high school diploma and 48% holding a bachelor's degree (this stat has not changed much over the last decade) as well. Our median household income is at currently around \$127,000 compared to \$108,000 in 2017. The median value of a Bowie home, according to ACS data, is \$362,800. This is more significant when contrasted with the 2012-2016 estimates of median home value being just over 300k, at \$303,900. According to the US Census, our owner-occupied housing rate is about 85%, providing further insight into our bedroom community make-up.

In terms of development, we have had some major projects be approved and break ground over the last five years. A recent example was in 2019 with approval of the South Lake development. The 381-acre mixed-use property was annexed by the City in 2019 and will include 555,000 sq. ft. to 620,000 sq. ft. of retail/office uses, three hotels with a total of 375 to 400 rooms/keys and 1360 dwelling units including 325 multifamily apartment units, 128 two-family attached condominium units, 563 townhouse units and 344 single family detached units. This will be complementary to the work being done in the Melford Area expansion which includes both the Melford Employment Center and the Melford Village Mixed-use Community. The Employment Center has completed about 440,000 square feet of office space, 425,000 square feet of flex space, a 9-1-1 Call Center, Census Bureau building, hotels, and more, with the most recent (during this iteration of the Sustainable Communities application) being the building of the 60-bed inpatient Physical Rehab Center. Many of these buildings are older and were built prior to 2018, other than the Physical Rehabilitation Center known as Encompass Health and the Courtyard Marriot hotel. Melford Village, however, is all much newer, and will include about 25,000 square feet of retail space known as Retail Village West, a 388-unit multi-family housing building known as The Aspen, about 58,000 square feet of retail area known as Retail Village East, another 435 multifamily units along with a clubhouse building known as the Melford Mansions, 249 townhouse units (Melford Townhomes), Tribute Assisted Living, and the Berkleigh with an additional 472 multi-family units. The Detailed Site Plan for Retail Village West and the Townhomes was approved in 2022. Grading work and construction is underway for both Retail Village East and The Aspen. Essentially, the City has many new amenities and newcomers to this burgeoning area, known as Melford in our Target Areas. It should be noted that Melford specifically employs many green and sustainable tactics, boasting LEED certified buildings, EV chargers, a pervious paved area of the parking lot adjacent to the stormwater pond (stormwater management) and a large pond with a path all the way around for public use.

B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

- (1) 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?
 - a. The most substantive change to our workgroup is that the Sustainability Manager is now the lead author for the renewal application as opposed to the Grants Director who led the previous 2 iterations and set us up for success. Our workgroup is mostly the same, largely composed of input from directors but with a core group from the Department of Planning & Sustainability leading the effort. For this application police/crime data was obtained through the Communications staff in the Bowie Police Department and their very robust crime

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

dashboard, and the new Transportation Planner position was able to provide ample input in the transportation and planning sections as well.

- b. Our Sustainable Communities Action Plan has come to life organically in many ways. Because the City has great communication cross-departmentally, most departments tend to have similar goals and work together very well to achieve them. These goals are typically based off approved Plans, such as the Strategic Plan, the Bowie and Vicinity Area Master Plan, the Trails Master Plan, and the Sustainability and Climate Action Plans. We have a Staff Sustainability Team that meets anywhere from 2-6x per year which focuses on sustainability goals from our Sustainability and Climate Action Plans, keeping much of this material in the forefront of our priorities. Therefore, implementation remains somewhat decentralized yet successful.

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

- a. Strengths include good communication, strong work ethic, council-approved plans to follow, and an involved and vibrant community.
- b. Weaknesses include lack of budget and lack of staff/manpower, specifically regarding mass transit expansion, CIP projects, and the revitalization of Old Town Bowie. Some issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges to which our team adapted to the best of our ability as a municipal government.

(3) 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?

- a. Our Green Team and Environmental Advisory Committees are very tuned into plans and frameworks the City approves. They were able to provide input during the planning process for the Sustainability Plan, Sustainable MD Certified recertification, our Climate Action Plan, the Bowie and Vicinity Area Master Plan, and the Trails Master Plan, all of which ultimately inform the work of our Sustainable Communities Action Plan. Likewise, the Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) discusses Planning issues like variances, development proposals, etc. and ensures that the development meets the guidelines of both the City and the County.

(4) 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.

- a. No, thank you. The core team met with Carter Reitman on 1/6/2023 virtually.

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).

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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:

Outcome: Usage of new (to us) Stormwater BMPs and Green Infrastructure

Projects:

Since 2018, the City has done multiple stormwater improvement projects as part of our MS4 Permit. Firstly, there were 3 stormwater pond retrofit projects. These were Midwood, Spangler, and most recently, Woodhaven. They treated 37, 38, and 9 acres of area respectively. Bowie has also implemented stormwater bioretention ponds at Kenhill Center, which treated 4 acres of new area- these are brand new retention areas and not retrofits like the aforementioned pond projects. These ponds utilize native plants and function similarly to rain gardens.

There were 2 drainage basin repairs done since 2018, one at Pin Oak Parkway and one in the Glen Allen neighborhood, treating 45 and 34 acres respectively. Most recently, in 2021, Public Works in conjunction with our Stormwater Manager, began working on the Saddlebrook Branch Stream Restoration, the first of its kind in the City of Bowie. This project will treat an estimated 99 acres and utilizes regenerative stormwater conveyance (RSC), which is the newest and most sustainable design option.

Partners: Bowie Public Works- provides engineering, technical and manual aspects of assistance, Chesapeake Bay Trust- grant money used for signage at Kenhill Center bioretention ponds.

Impact: Saddlebrook and Collington Branch water quality improvement, improved habitat areas, as well as overall improved stormwater management.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Increased use of renewable energy for City Government operations

Projects:

City Government buildings are green and sustainable in many ways. For instance, City Hall is LEED Gold, and our Parks and Grounds Building is LEED Platinum. We have solar panels on top of at least 4 buildings (Kenhill Center, Radio Museum, Parks & Grounds building and our Senior Center) and are part of a power-purchase agreement (PPA) for a 2.5-megawatt solar farm (the farm). The farmland is owned by the City and the solar array is owned by Tesla, formerly Solar City. The energy generated there is put back into the grid, earning the City renewable energy credits (REC's) and offsetting our emissions as a government.

Partners: Tesla- owns solar array. City of Bowie- property owners.

Impact: Cleaner, greener, and more sustainable practices for everyday government to lead the way and set examples for residents. This increased use of renewables also helps us to meet our overall Climate Action Plan goal of a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Completion of trails inventory and creation of Updated Trails Master Plan

Projects:

The completion of the Trails Master Plan in 2019 was a long process complete with lots of planning sessions and public input meetings. Since the Plan was formally adopted, we have had many projects take place:

- Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy in 2019
- Crosswalks installed on Northview Drive in front of Bowie Ice Arena, 2020
- Trail retrofit improvements on Northview Drive
- Construction on Phase 1 of the Bowie Heritage Trail in Old Town Bowie was completed in early 2019. The work project includes a 900 foot long, 10-foot wide, hiker-biker trail between 12th Street and 10th Street, including a pedestrian underpass for the MD Route 564 bridge over Amtrak and several parking spaces at the 10th Street cul-de-sac.
- The portion of the Phase 2 of the Bowie Heritage Trail project, which includes and creation of a new park/playground on 10th Street, as well as an extension of the Phase 1 trail to 9th Street was completed in 2021. Funding for creation of an educational plaza at the Railroad Museum (also part of Phase 2) appears in Year 2 (FY 2024) of the City's Approved CIP.
- Construction began in 2021 on the Jericho Park segment (1,415 linear feet) connecting Jericho Park to the Adnell subdivision.
- The Planning Department and Public Works will continue to work together through the CIP funding to implement projects from the plan and to serve our residents.

Partners: Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects- consultant for the master plan. Bowie Public Works and Planning Department as staff contacts leading the project. Bowie Green Team MAPS subgroup (Multimodal Access and Public Spaces)- promoting trails connectivity and the need for an updated plan (previous plan was from 2002).

Impact: Reduced Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT), more cohesive long-term trails planning, more connectivity for hiking and biking and general pedestrian safety.

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: Increase City-wide transit options

Narrative: Bowie generally has few mass-transit options for residents. We have not been able to improve that in any substantive way. For example, there are a few WMATA bus routes in the City, though they are arguably limited, having even been reduced in the last few years. These buses connect to both the Metro Station and the MARC train at Bowie State University. This is essentially our only form of mass transit, with the MARC station being the only one of its kind servicing the City (please note, it is not in the incorporated City limits). As you will see throughout this application, there are various efforts to increase connectivity within the City, focusing on trails and our own Complete Streets designs, however, there has not been much movement on any other forms of mass transit or any options that connect Bowie to the County or State mass transit options. This was stated as a goal in previous iterations of the Action Plan. One of the main reasons why we are focusing on trails and internal connections as opposed to mass transit and external connections is because of our historic “bedroom” community persona. We are a suburban, highly educated area meaning many, though not all, people raise families and have a family vehicle and go to work outside of the City, driving themselves there. We understand no solution is one size fits all and to accommodate those needing mass transit we do have options, as stated, but there is not a huge push for more and even less data to back up its necessity. One day, we hope to have a thriving micro transit system running on electric buses, but this will have to be discussed further in future budget cycles and future iterations of this application.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

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

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

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	<p>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years</p> <p>If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</p>
<p>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.</p>	X			<p>Since 2018, the City has done multiple stormwater improvement projects as part of our MS4 permit requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 stormwater pond retrofit projects. These were Midwood, Spangler, and most recently, Woodhaven. They treated 37, 38, and 9 acres respectively. • Implemented stormwater bioretention ponds at Kenhill Center, which treated 4 acres of new area- these are brand new retention areas and not retrofits like the aforementioned pond retrofit projects. These ponds utilize native plants and function similarly to rain gardens. • 2 drainage basin repairs done since 2018, one at Pin Oak Parkway and one in the Glen Allen neighborhood, treating 45 and 34 acres respectively. • 2021- Public Works in conjunction with our Stormwater Manager, began working on the Saddlebrook Branch Stream Restoration, the first of its kind in the City of Bowie. This project will treat an estimated 99 acres and utilizes regenerative stormwater conveyance (RSC), which is the newest and most sustainable design option.
<p>2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens</p>	X			<p>The residents of Bowie added 38 National Wildlife Federation backyard habitats since 2018.</p> <p>The City already had three established Monarch Waystations and added a fourth location at our Kenhill Center in 2021. These gardens prioritize native plantings and food and habitat sources for pollinators. They are run primarily by the Bowie Green Team, with occasional assistance from the Department of Community Services Parks & Grounds division.</p> <p>In the spring of 2019, five small stormwater treatment areas were installed along the back of the parking lot and along the side of the southern entrance at our Kenhill Center. These treatment areas are bioretention cells and rain gardens.</p>

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				<p>The 10th Street Park in Old Town Bowie also utilizes native plantings in its rain garden area. According to the landscape plan, they employed the use of Asters, Black-eyes Susan's, Shasta Daisies, and native trees like Red Maple.</p>
<p>3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?</p>	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019 Whitemarsh Park began upgrades to its design as part of the Whitemarsh Park Master Plan. This included a new restroom facility and water fountains, a brand-new play area for kids that was sports themed, and a rain garden installation. • In the summer of 2022, a mural honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was unveiled at the Bowie City Gymnasium. Community Services and the Arts Committee worked on this project. • The Department of Community Services began a Community Garden at Kenhill Center. In 2020 the space was doubled and as of May 2022 all plots are spoken for. This service is beneficial for residents who may not be able to or do not have space to garden at home. Our Kenhill Center also provides many "green" opportunities, such as the bioretention ponds, the Food Pantry Garden, the monarch waystations, and ball fields. • The Department of Planning & Sustainability began a wellness initiative in 2022 for the community and hosted 3 outdoor (free) yoga events in partnership with the Belair Mansion. Each event had over 30 residents in attendance. The first event was spring of 2022, the second was late summer, and the final of the year was a Halloween-themed wine and yoga event called Vino and Vinyasa which was well-received and hosted upwards of 50 people. • Our annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k is another wonderful free outdoor recreational/exercise focused events for residents. It began in 2018 and has occurred every year other than 2020 (due to COVID-19). In 2022 the event was held on Saturday November 12 and boasted the most participants with upwards of 300 residents, veterans, friends, and family attending.

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<p>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.)</p>	<p>X</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sell backyard compost bins by Enviro World to residents at an extremely discounted price of \$20 per bin. We have sold just shy of 1,000 as of 2022 and as of February 2023 have purchased more. • In 2016 our curbside food waste program was started as a pilot and had only 60 homes. As of 2018 it was implemented (no longer a pilot) but stayed within the confines of the pilot program area. As of 2022 there are 260 homes participating. This program is slated for expansion by FY25. • July 1 of 2022 we expanded our lawn mower rebate program, which was aimed at rebating residents for purchasing mulching and electric mowers, to include other electric lawn care tools like weed whackers/string trimmers, hedge trimmers, and leaf blowers. This expanded program was very well received, and an influx of residents utilized it over the later summer and early fall. • The City entered into a power purchase agreement with Tesla (formerly Solar City) for a 5-megawatt solar array to be placed on City property, owned by Tesla, and to help offset energy usage and emissions from City government operations. The City receives RECs from the renewable energy generation. The solar array or “the farm” as we call it came online in 2021.
<p>OTHER: Green Fleet/EV initiatives</p>			<p>The City added 3 new Chevy Bolts to our fleet for Code Officers use, joining our Nissan Leaf, many hybrid vehicles and 2 electric motorcycles used by the Police Department. We will continue to work towards adopting a formal Green Fleets Policy.</p> <p>We enrolled in the BGE EV infrastructure partnership program that allowed BGE to place EV charging stations at 2 City properties, City Hall and Kenhill Center. The chargers are for public use and are run by BGE, with the City agreeing to allow them to use our property for the service.</p>

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ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?		X		The number of businesses has remained stable, specifically in the main commercial district of the City.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?		X		No special designation was given.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?			X	We have no way to verify that foot traffic within the main commercial district has either increased or decreased.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?		X		Unfortunately, since 2018 and since COVID-19 occurred, the number of vacancies has increased, albeit only a small amount. For example, in FY2019 the commercial occupancy rate was about 97% with the vacancy of office space at about 15%. As of FY22, the occupancy rate is at 93% and the office space vacancy is around 20%.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?			X	As noted, business has remained relatively stable with a slight increase in commercial vacancies. The area is still thriving, and our top employers for Bowie residents are P.G. County Public Schools, the City of Bowie Government, and Inovalon.

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<p>6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The City of Bowie receives funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) via their Community Block Grant Program to, among other goals, provide free workforce development programming for City residents aged 15 – 25. This program, which was launched in the spring of 2019, built on a successful pilot program the City operated in the Old Town Bowie neighborhood in 2016. The program consists of four sessions covering life skills and a variety of STEM career fields, followed by two sessions focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship. Participants are also provided with information on training programs and educational opportunities in the county if they wish to pursue one of the industries covered by the course.</p> <p>In 2022, as a response to the effects the pandemic had on the local job market, the City launched a free pilot online job training program to assist residents who wanted to re-skill, up-skill, or switch industries. The online training company Coursera was selected as a vendor to provide training classes via their library of over 5,000 courses in a variety of skills including business administration, project management, software development, and data analytics. The City collaborated with the county employment agency, Employ Prince George's, to refine course offerings to relate to occupations and skills that are in high-demand in a variety of growing industries in the State of Maryland and the nation, including IT, human resources, life skills, social services, and healthcare. The City's partnership with Employ Prince George's continues to grow to ensure Bowie residents are aware of all resources for jobseekers available in the county.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy</p>			<p>In May of 2022, the City Council approved an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan, prepared by the Jacob France Institute of the University of Baltimore and Margrave Strategies on behalf of the City. This plan has specific Areas of Focus which are the foundation of the strategy. They expand on the vision and start to create some structure to help the City to achieve its goals. Strategic Areas of Focus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize creative placemaking to support economic development, with an initial focus on Bowie Town Center. • Leverage Bowie State University as the City of Bowie's most natural anchor institution. • Distinguish the City as an athletic recreation tourism hub.

- Expand the City's business base through targeted business startup, attraction, expansion, and retention efforts.

Each area then has an assortment of Action Items for the Economic Development Director and others to implement.

One of the key findings of the study done for this report was that the City's economy is growing but may be lagging in comparison to the County and has a smaller economic base than some of our peers/neighbors. Another very promising bit of insight is that "Expanding the City's employment base is a core goal of this proposed strategy, and the City may have the potential to attract more professional, scientific, and technical services sector jobs in the County's strong Federal contractor sector, as well as serve as a regional center for health care and social assistance employment, by supporting more traditional office space development." You will see this reflected in the below Action Plan section of the application as well, where one of the proposed outcomes is more high-tech firms.

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TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	<p>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years</p> <p>If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</p>
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowie Heritage Trail Phase 1 – 950 linear feet (2018) • Bowie Heritage Trail Phase 2 – 470 linear feet, plus 80 linear feet of sidewalk to connect to the 11th Street trail (2021) • Bowie Heritage Trail, Jericho Park segment - 1,415 linear feet (partially completed)
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		<p>Unfortunately, public transportation is not very robust in Bowie. According to ACS data about 10% of residents utilize mass transit but most residents own vehicles and drive outside of the City for work or simply drive to work if working within the City.</p> <p>However, to counter act some of this we have focused on alternative transportation services like hiking, biking, walking and carpooling.</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hall Road sidewalk project (0.20 miles) was completed in 2018, including a crosswalk at Pin Oak Parkway. The project provides access to the South Bowie Library from City neighborhoods. • The Northview Drive projects improved curb cuts at many locations throughout 2020 and 2021. The mid-block crosswalk installed at the trail crossing in front of the Ice Arena (Northview Drive) also narrowed the roadway from a total of four lanes to two lanes, to improve safety. • ADA crosswalk installed at Lerner Place/Foxhill Park/MD 197. • Repairs were made to East Coast Greenway boardwalk section along MD 197, west of Mitchellville Road. • SHA installed continental style crosswalk replacements along MD 450.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support “Complete” or “Green” streets?	X			<p>In 2019 Bowie City Council approved Resolution R-62-19 establishing a Complete Streets Policy for the City. The Resolution required that the Department of Planning (now Planning & Sustainability) create an implementation plan within six months of its effective date. R-62-19 stated specific purposes intended to be included in a</p>

Complete Streets Implementation Plan and set forth the following principles (summarized below):

- A comprehensive surface transportation network includes roadways, trails, shared-use paths, sidewalks, and rail lines. The more interconnected and accessible each of these forms is, the greater the benefits to the entire network. A focus on only one transportation network form, or on a single user group, should be discouraged. The best networks offer all residents multiple modes of transport options to get to their destinations.
- All transportation network forms should be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so that all users can travel safely and independently. Access to existing facilities, especially for persons with disabilities, should be maintained during construction if possible.
- Transportation projects should address the need for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross facilities as well as travel along them.
- The most cost-effective way to adopt Complete Street design elements is to integrate them into the design of transportation facilities from the beginning, rather than retrofit facilities to accommodate them later.
- Transportation projects should comply with up-to-date design standards, including standards relating to providing access for individuals with disabilities.
- Transportation projects should always include thoughtful consideration of design elements that improve the safety, convenience, environmental sustainability, and beauty of the street (or path, walkway, etc.). i.e., landscaping with native habitats, signage, lighting, street furniture, signals, markings, and art installations.
- Street design should encourage active living. The health of residents can be tied directly to their local environment and their opportunities to engage in physical activity.

No projects have been completed yet, but many are planned for 2023 and beyond.

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<p>5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>No study has been done that would provide this information reliably and accurately. However, anecdotally, we have seen a slight uptick in population but at the same time an uptick in telework practices in the post-pandemic era. It would be most apt to say this item is a wash, remaining relatively stable in that there is still congestion along the main arterial routes.</p> <p>Belair Drive has implemented traffic calming measures with the advent of the new Melford developments, but we cannot say reliably whether congestion has decreased, especially along the major highways, or just been moved to other portions of the highway/road. There was a road widening and traffic light project done by SHA along MD 3 southbound, just past the 450-junction. This was completed during 2020/2021.</p> <p>MD Route 197 is set for a traffic calming project in the very near future. This project includes the use of roundabouts and some road widening and is expected.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p>			<p>In 2022 The Department of Planning and Sustainability hired a Transportation Specialist to assist with the Trails Master Plan, Complete Streets projects, biking and hiking efforts, public transit, and more.</p>

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HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	<p>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years</p> <p>If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</p>
<p>1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?</p>	X			<p>There was a total of 85 energy efficiency rehab projects completed on single family homes for the years 2018-2022. This is through an LMI-focused program for single-family homes, run through our Grants office with federal funding.</p> <p>2018 - 14</p> <p>2019 - 32</p> <p>2020 - 18</p> <p>2012 - 11</p> <p>2022 - 10</p> <p>It should be noted the City also offers a no-cost energy audit program through Empower Maryland and BGE. After the audit is done, however, it is difficult to track whether any of the suggestions for updates or upgrades were completed. We budget for 50 homes to be audited each year. An audit costs \$400 with BGE paying \$300 and the City paying \$100 for those 50 homes. This program is managed by the Department of Planning & Sustainability.</p>
<p>2. Has the homeownership rate increased?</p>	X			<p>According to ACS data, the home ownership rate in 2017 was 82.6% and in 2021 was 85.45% so it increased by 2.85%.</p> <p>The median value of a Bowie home, according to ACS data, is \$362,800. This is more significant when contrasted with the 2012-2016 estimates of median home value being just over 300k, at \$303,900.</p>

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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>The number of total housing units is at 21,347, up from 21,330 in 2017. None of the new units added were affordable housing.</p> <p>It should be noted, however, that Melford is slated to have 5% of its housing be affordable though it is not finalized. Historically we have had the Bowie Commons and the Pin Oak Village for Seniors which are affordable housing areas. Both of those housing areas are within 0.5 miles of a transit stop.</p>
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?		X	Not from the public sector.
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	X		According to ACS data, in 2017: there were 831 vacant units out of 21330 total units = 3.9% vacancy rate. As of 2021: 501 vacant units out of 21347 total units = 2.3% vacancy rate.
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 of its own programs to do the same?	X		<p>There is Huntington Community Development Corp which operates in Old Bowie but is more about economic revitalization than anything related to residential housing stock. However, the City itself participates in several partnerships aimed at improving housing stock. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) 2. United Communities Against Poverty, Inc (UCAP) 3. Prince George's County Continuum of Care 4. St. Matthews Church (Bowie) <p>The City also administered an Emergency Rental Assistance Program during COVID-19 with the use of CARES funds. This program is now closed.</p>

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5. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?	X	The City does not currently provide such services and does not yet work with a group that does.
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			Every historic structure has had some renovation done to it within the last 5 five years. None were to mitigate a hazard, such as lead or asbestos. Mostly there were paint upgrades, LED light retrofits, and an updated HVAC system. Our historic properties manager makes improvements as needed, in accordance with guidelines for historic properties to remain their integrity as such.
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	X			<p>As noted directly above, the historic properties have all been updated/maintained for appearance and public usage. Many events are held during the year at the Belair Mansion and The Belair Stables provide wonderful opportunities to educate and promote the sense of community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022 a large mural of Dr, Martin Luther King Jr. was commissioned and painted on the side of the City Gymnasium. There was an unveiling event that many residents and staff attended. • In the fall of 2021, a brand-new park was built in Old Town Bowie, the 10th Street Park. This park is a homage to the history of Old Bowie in the form of replica Bowie homes, but it is also a wonderful community area and form of 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	X			A perfect example of opportunities for residents to gather would be Allen Pond Park. There is an amphitheater where many City events are held, the pond for residents to walk, areas for children to play, as well as picnic tables and pavilions that residents/groups can rent for events. At Allen Pond the City hosts large, long-standing events such as Bowiefest (June every year) and National Night Out Against Crime

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history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.		<p>(August). Allen Pond is open and accessible to all generations and community members, and it is conveniently located in or near the actual center of the City.</p> <p>There are many HOA's, which seek to serve all their own members in a democratic way.</p> <p>In 2020 we launched a Neighborhood Mini Grant program which allows residents of a certain street/HOA/very small neighborhood to gather and work on their sense of community. Residents are eligible for reimbursements for hosting these events. As of 2022, only 1 applicant has taken advantage of the program, however, it was a block party that ended up serving tens if not hundreds of neighbors. The Neighborhood Mini Grant program was born from our Sustainability Plan Goal CT5: Involve 6,000 residents in events and programs that strengthen neighborhood connections.</p>
4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.	X	<p>No, however, the City did its very best to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, staff passed out test kits at many City facilities and provided vaccinations at the Senior Center. Our Communications Division also provided daily COVID updates during the height of the pandemic, which many residents found very helpful.</p> <p>Otherwise, the Bowie Health Center and the Prince George's County Fire Departments in Bowie remain unchanged.</p>
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X	<p>We have a large community gym, which offers 27,000 square feet of courts for residents, sports teams, and youth to utilize. We also have the historic Bowie Ice Arena, many parks and ball fields, and host a yearly 5k.</p> <p>As of 2022, Green Bowie started teaming up with the Department of Community Services and the Historic Property Manager to host wellness and yoga focused events at the Belair Mansion. Together we hosted 3 events and plan to do 4 per year moving forward.</p>

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			As mentioned in other sections we have many parks, including Allen Pond which is a wonderful area for community members to walk around the pond, utilize the children's area, the ball fields, or the Ice Arena.
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		<p>The City hosts a weekly Farmers' Market every Sunday from May until October. The Farmers' Market is always a successful event, bringing in dozens to hundreds of customers/consumers each weekend. There are healthy and locally sourced foods available as well as an array of health-food related items, like local honey.</p> <p>There are Community Gardens at Kenhill Center, which are explained in-depth in the Environment section above.</p> <p>The volunteer-run Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry manages a garden area on-site at the Kenhill Center (where the food pantry operation is housed) which was just named a People's Garden by the Department of Agriculture in 2022. The Food Pantry and its garden is led by the Interfaith Food Pantry group, with assistance and partnership from City staff in our Community Services Department and many volunteers. The People's Garden/Food Pantry Garden grows and harvests and upwards of \$7,000 worth of produce for families needing food every year including lettuce, kale, tomatoes, peppers, squash, herbs, and more.</p> <p>The City has at least 7 grocery stores (Lidl is not technically within the City limits but should be counted as a resource due to proximity) and one of those is health-focused; MOMs.</p>
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	X		The trend for crime in Bowie within the last 5 years is essentially a mixed-bag, due in part to the pandemic. For example, homicides (down to 1 in each calendar year from 4 in 2017) and assaults are down, but robbery is up. Larceny is down, but auto theft is up. Anecdotaly, auto theft is thought to be up, due in part to a ridiculous TikTok trend.

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			<p>The total number of crimes hit its peak in 2018 and 2019 at 1,063 and 1,071 respectively, but in the last three years has gone down, with the 2022 combined total being just shy of 900.</p> <p>This information was provided directly by the Bowie Police Department Communications staff and the Police Stats Dashboard.</p>
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	X		<p>Yes- to the extent that it is wanted, internet access is available to all within the City. Currently our coverage is at 98.9% broadband per our Business Operations Manager, and this covers all residential homes. The community centers, libraries, Bowie Gym and other City properties also offer public Wi-Fi and hot spot services.</p> <p>Refuse, recycling, and yard waste services are provided by our Department of Public Works (other than the small portions outside of the municipal limits which are serviced by the County and some multi-family units which have a contractor do the hauling).</p>
OTHER:			<p>The Bowie Police Department implemented a Security Camera Rebate program in 2020, which aims to keep down some forms of crime while also assisting the PD in solving cases.</p>

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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			Buckingham at Belair (1), Page Court (4), Danner Lots (6 lots approved on 8 th Street), Huntington (miscellaneous single lots completed/under development), Adnell Woods (several single lots), Taco Bell at Bowie Gateway Center (completed) and Sears redevelopment at Bowie Town Center (zoning approval).
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?	X			Bowie Racetrack Property (approximately 164 acres)
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		
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?	X			Mill Branch Crossing residential text amendment, Sears redevelopment amended Basic Plan, Dunkin Donuts text amendment for occupancy of vacant bank building, South Lake Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District approval.

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<p>5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>The City of Bowie is not currently able to update streetlights, as it is a highly expensive and time-consuming venture, however, BGE has begun retrofitting many of their streetlights into LEDs. At the same time, the City of Bowie is taking steps to turn parking lot lights at City properties into LEDs, starting first with the Bowie Senior Center and Gymnasium. The Senior Center now has LEDs both indoors and outdoors completely, while the gym has the exterior done and is working on the inside via Energy Efficiency CIP. The following project (2023) will be at City Hall.</p> <p>In terms of water and sewer upgrades, this has also been a massive undertaking. The City owns and operates a water and sewer utility that serves 7909 customers, or an estimated population of 25,000. Much of the infrastructure was built (by Levitt) between 1962 and 1970. At that time, unlined cast iron piping was commonly used for water distribution mains. Unlined cast iron pipe suffers from a corrosive action called tuberculation. Tuberculation in the pipes results in small iron deposits which can be carried into the water when turbulence occurs, resulting in discolored water. To combat this issue, the upgrades have begun.</p> <p>The project timeline is as follows:</p> <p>Liana Place: Completed in 2018, 0.2 miles of pipe. This project was recognized with an Award of Excellence by the American Council of Engineering Companies, Maryland.</p> <p>Heather Hills (Pipe bursting): Completed in 2019, 0.4 miles of pipe</p> <p>Phase 1- Heather Hills (CIPP): Completed in January 2022</p> <p>Phase 2- Kenilworth – Construction of Part A expected to begin in February 2023</p> <p>Phase 3- To be determined</p> <p>In 2022 WSSC replaced just shy of 2 miles (1.7) of underground pipeline from the Pointer Ridge section of Bowie in the “Pinecroft Lane Water Main Replacement” project. The originally pipes were installed in the 1960s and were deemed to be at the end of their life cycle. The new/replacements pipes will have a life span of about 100 years.</p>
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<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?</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Several new positions have been created or added since 2018:</p> <p>Business Operations Manager, which was a new role created out of portions of other positions within the City Manager's Office and its accompanying assistant position</p> <p>Sustainability Manager, overseeing the Sustainability Planner and Sustainability Division of the Department of Planning & Sustainability</p> <p>Business Retention Specialist, supporting the Economic Development Director</p> <p>Chief Contracting Officer, housed in Finance</p> <p>Transportation Planner, within the Department of Planning and Sustainability working on trails and transit projects</p> <p>Emergency Management Specialist, reporting to the Director of Emergency Management within the City Manager's Office</p> <p>And several communications-related positions</p> <p>In terms of professional development, the City of Bowie offers CPR and First Aid training, occasional Emergency Operations Center (EOC) trainings, and has a database of trainings on different topics employees can take if needed. The Communications Division (within the City Manager's office) also occasionally hosts trainings for staff to improve their skills with social media and the website.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>The City of Bowie participated in the M-NCPPC Bowie and Vicinity Area Master plan process. The Master Plan provides a vision for the City of Bowie and portions of the Mitchellville and Collington areas and describes how the area will grow and evolve over the next 25 years. It identifies strategies to achieve economic success for this part of the County by recommending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increased mix of land uses at the Bowie Local Town Center, • expanded economic development opportunities at the Free State Shopping Center/Bowie Marketplace area along MD 450 (Annapolis Road) and the Collington Local Employment Area, • revitalized Old Town Bowie, and • strategic investment along US 301/MD 3 (Robert Crain Highway), MD 450 (Annapolis Road), and MD 197 (Collington/Laurel Bowie Road).

			<p>Along with the Bowie and Vicinity Area Master Plan, a Trails Master Plan for the City of Bowie was completed and ultimately approved by Council in 2020. This plan puts forward long-term goals for trails and connectivity in Bowie and will require a significant amount of Capital Improvement Projects to be done.</p> <p>We have also had a Sustainability Plan since 2016, which runs through 2025.</p> <p>The City's Development Review Guidelines were updated and approved by Council in 2021. The Guidelines are prepared by the Planning Department, with the help of the Bowie Advisory Planning Board and the Environmental Advisory Committee and other staff members and provide a framework to enact "standards for creating a quality living environment." The main goal is to encourage and promote a carefully planned community and sensitively designed development sites.</p> <p>Staff, along with help from the Environmental Advisory Committee and Green Team, created a New Climate Action Plan for the City to run from 2020-2025. This in-house plan categorized actions into 5 initial sections; city government, residential, commercial, intergovernmental, and communications. A follow-up Implementation Plan was completed and approved in 2022 but omits the communications section.</p> <p>In 2022 the Transportation Planner completed a comprehensive bike rack study of all bike racks in the City as part of his overall Bike Friendly Cities application process. The Sustainability Planner also completed an EV charging station inventory and created a supplemental map for residents in 2022.</p> <p>All of the aforementioned plans help the Department of Planning and Sustainability (as well as others) focus our long-term efforts for the City.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p>			

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COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): • • •	DHCD	200,000		
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): • •	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE		
<p>Other Funding Programs: 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.</p> <p>*Please add more rows if necessary</p>			
State	DNR	\$275,000	
HUD	CDBG	\$1,351,026	
State	MSEC-MEA	\$16,000	
MHAA	Heritage Trail	\$74,660	
MHT	Census	\$6,000	
MDOT	DUI	\$3,000/year	

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

MDOT	Impaired Driving	\$3,500/year		
Senior Center	State Bond Bill	\$100,000		
Whitemarsh Park	State Bond Bill	\$100,000		

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

N/A

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Bowie

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>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>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.</p> <p>Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.</p>
	<p>Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas.</p> <p>Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance.</p> <p>Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement.</p> <p>Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.</p>	<p>Department, local homeowners association</p>
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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.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Management and MS4 projects • High tree canopy (over 44%) and a “free tree” program for residents • Lots of green spaces, parks, pet waste areas and general green initiatives • Monarch Waystations (4) planted by Bowie Green Team • LEED buildings and a solar farm for City Government operations • Prioritize sustainability and the environment through a Sustainability Manager and Planner • Increased EV infrastructure within the City and partial “green fleet” • A food waste curbside program, sale of backyard compost bins • Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan • Green Team (an Executive Committee with multiple subgroups) and an Environmental Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice a week trash pickup, which uses extra gasoline as well as has associated emissions, along with usage of gas-powered lawn care equipment and diesel generators for City operations. • Low-ish residential recycling rate which is stagnant at around 25% and has not increased • The food waste curbside program has more participants than at its inception but has not been able to expand into new neighborhoods • Older homes (original Levitt areas from 1960ish) which may be in need of major energy upgrades

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City is a Certified Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation (NWF) • Sustainable MD Certified community since 2013 • MD Green Registry participant and 2x award winner • Improved water/sewer capacity 	
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<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Decreased tonnage at the landfill (fewer methane emissions, less \$ spent on tipping fees and hauling)</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased # of applications and participants in food waste program, # of backyard compost bins purchased, higher recycling rates (ideally at 40%).</p>	<p>Strategy A: Educate about food waste and composting opportunities</p> <p>ACTION: Advertise the curbside food waste program in the program area (a specialized area consisting of 7 neighborhoods) via direct mailer and video</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue sales of backyard compost bins for residents</p> <p>ACTION: Acquire new composting info brochure via Project Energy Savers in FY24.</p> <p>Strategy C: Continue education and outreach on how to properly recycle</p> <p>ACTION: Host informational webinars regarding "How-To" properly recycle, compost, etc.</p> <p>ACTION: Host environmental forum in FY24 for residents</p>	<p>Bowie Public Works, Compost Bin company-Enviro World, Bowie Communication Division, Green Team.</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 2: Increased energy efficiency and renewable usage in residential homes</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of participants in energy audit program, # of solar permits applied for in City, COG data showing a decrease in residential sector usage/emissions.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Direct mail efforts to key Levitt neighborhoods (older homes) as well as general City-wide implementation of the energy audit program.</p> <p>ACTION: Send survey to prior energy audit participants to gain baseline data and insight about energy efficiency upgrades completed.</p> <p>Strategy B: Through data gathering of solar permits, we can catalogue the amount of residential solar as well as watch the data based on baseline years when needed. We also have a map of solar permits on the webpage for residents to explore.</p> <p>Strategy C: Bowie receives data from COG in 2-year cycles which show our top emitters by sector i.e., transportation, residential, commercial, waste. This data is key in helping us see our progress towards our overall goal of 50% decrease in emission by 2030. We are currently at about 18% since the 2015 baseline (although COG uses a 2005 baseline in which our decrease is closer to 30%).</p> <p>ACTION: Purchase and utilize ICLEI Clear Path for internal calculations of emissions data in FY24.</p>	<p>Metropolitan-Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG/COG), Sustainability Division, Public Works, BGE</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.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong tax base• Tri-City proximity (Baltimore, Washington, Annapolis)• High percentage of population with degrees, high median income• Local Chamber of Commerce• Economic Development Committee (EDC)• Bowie Business Innovation Center (BBIC) and partnership with Bowie State University (BSU)• Green Business Initiatives/grants• New job training initiatives via City Council and Coursera• Economic Development Director and (new position) Business Retention Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No historic main street area• Not many large tech options• Surrounded by other shopping and dining options in Crofton/AA County• Tri-City proximity often leads to outside work, thus outside spending

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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Desired Outcomes and Progress		
Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Recruit high-tech firms</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of firms located in Bowie</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with Chamber and EDC</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with retention specialist and other staff to create a plan for attracting and retaining new firms</p>	<p>EDC, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development staff</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Revitalize Old Town Bowie and create new areas for residents to spend time, commune, shop, dine.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of new businesses, # of new green spaces, events, or activities, creation of Arts District</p>	<p>Strategy A: Increase interest in the area through events</p> <p>ACTION: Host Old Town Celebrates Festival</p> <p>Strategy B: Economic Development and Planning will continue to work on a revitalization plan for the area.</p> <p>ACTION: Install public EV chargers (Business Operation-Sustainability project)</p>	<p>City Staff, consultant as needed, EDC</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"> • Easy and direct connections to County, State, Federal highways • Extensive trail system • Engaged biking community • Accessible bike racks (new study just completed December 2022) • EV infrastructure on City and private properties • Complete Streets policy/mindset • Dedicated Transportation Planner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a very robust mass transit system • Traffic congestion along arterial roadways i.e., Rt. 50, 197 • Many bike racks and trails, however the trail system is currently incomplete

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increased Public transit and micro transit options	Strategy A: Work with County and State colleagues to encourage new and improved public transit within the City and better connections to outside areas like D.C. and Baltimore	Prince Georges DPWT, State Highway Administration, WMATA, MARC, etc.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Progress Measures: # new bus routes, # of meetings attended with County or State to voice the City's want	Strategy B: Consider micro transit options i.e. circulator	
Outcome 2: Expansion of City trail network Progress Measures: # of trails added, # of projects from Trails Master Plan completed, Bike Friendly Community designation	Strategy A: Budget appropriately and seek external funding sources for projects as necessary. ACTION: Achieve for Bicycle Friendly Communities designation Strategy B: Obtain public input and support for implementation and usage of trails by partnering with community groups	County, State, Federal grant monies, County Park and Planning, Bowie City staff (Planning Department, Public Works), committees

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">• Low residential vacancies & foreclosures• High percentage of owner-occupied homes• Affordable Housing in Melford Village• New developments at South Lake and Melford• New Senior Housing options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both rent and home values have increased, making it difficult for some to keep pace of payments• Many homes are older/original Levitt homes from the 1960s and are not energy efficient, causing energy costs to soar for some

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
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Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 1: Increase affordable housing options</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of commitments from developers for affordable housing sections</p>	<p>Strategy A: Negotiate with developers</p> <p>Strategy B: Seek funding assistance, provide residents and interested parties with information and opportunities</p>	<p>PG and MD DHCD, Developers, Housing Authority</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Conduct Fair Housing activities to support the availability of affordable/decent housing per the City Consolidated Plan.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of outreach/events with FHA information given</p>	<p>Strategy A: Assemble outreach materials</p> <p>ACTION: Grants Office creates materials and hosts events</p> <p>Strategy B: Disseminate material where possible including at City events, to landlords, City staff, etc.</p>	<p>HUD, staff</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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many recreational activities including a gym, a golf course, an ice arena, Allen Pond, many ball fields and parks, and an extensive trail system • Many historical or cultural centerpieces such as Belair Mansion and Stables, Genealogical Library, Radio History Museum, and Kenhill Center • Many “green” or wellness related activities and opportunities such as Community Gardens, the Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k, improved stormwater management for improved water quality, monarch waystations, the Interfaith Food Pantry, and StoryWalks®. • Staff/Plans dedicated to continuing work in the field of wellness and sustainability • Youth and Family Services, Animal Control, and the Bowie Senior Center • Many engaged residents and City committees to participate on • A municipal level police department that practices community policing • An “Alert Bowie” system and YouTube Channel as well as growing social media presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some communication mediums and public amenities could be considered lacking, like public art and signage, though these are growing each year • Landscaping ideals and principles may be slightly outdated, with turf being the first choice and many annuals used, as opposed to other ground cover plants, natives, and perennials. Some areas could be no or low mow. However, it should be noted that the City receives many compliments for its “tidy” look and image

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

- Some new pieces of Public Art, such as the Past Present and Future display at City Hall and the Martin Luther King Jr. Mural at the Gym and a Public Art Master Plan

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: More use of natives in community landscaping practices</p> <p>Progress Measures: acres or # of areas where native plantings were implemented in City Parks & Grounds landscaping and maintenance</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create map of desired areas (Planning Department, Sustainability staff) for use in discussions with Parks & Grounds</p> <p>ACTION: Have Parks & Grounds (housed within Department of Community Services) amend, edit, or update their internal policies to focus on native and perennial species and commit to projects in specified areas based of aforementioned map created by Planning</p>	<p>Bowie Green Team, Planning Staff, Community Services</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Enhance existing Quality of Life related programs</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of new projects, low level of resident complaints, high level of resident compliments, satisfaction among community members and staff</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to support local programs that engage the community i.e., Bowie Police efforts, Youth and Family services, community events, etc.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to support Committee requests and initiatives</p> <p>Strategy C: Utilize Sustainability Plan for new events, ideas, and programs</p> <p>ACTION: New Plan needed 2025.</p> <p>Strategy D: Continue installing public amenities and working on public art while enhancing communication with residents</p> <p>Strategy E: Execute and finalize rebranding project (run via Comms)</p>	<p>City Committees, Bowie Police Department, staff</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	ACTION: Acquire and use new logo/brand templates asap	
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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"> • An historic and established community • An active Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) • Environmental stewardship and development work together nicely to allow for responsible growth • City and County Development Review Guidelines in place, were recently updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City does not have planning and zoning authority- authority lies with Prince George's County.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Continue to pursue City-level planning and zoning authority	<p>Strategy A: Strategize with County and State legislators about options for acquiring zoning authority</p> <p>Strategy B: Have City Council advocate for this change</p>	City Council, Planning staff, County and State legislators

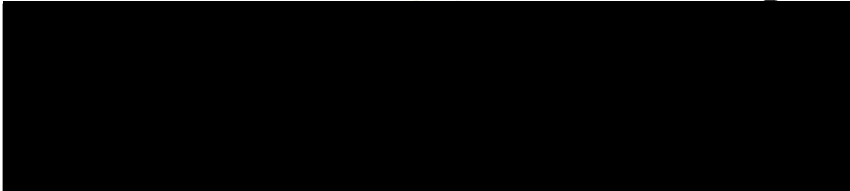
Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Progress Measures: meetings with County and State authority, successful outcome.</p>		
<p>Outcome 2: Complete supplemental planning studies to assist in guiding City's future growth, such as State of Place Analyses for both The Bowie Town Center and Old Town areas.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) study completion</p>	<p>Strategy A: Apply for PAMC program, which would cover the funding, estimated at \$40-60k.</p> <p>Strategy B: Devote internal staff time dedicated to state of place projects</p>	<p>M-NCPPC, MD Department of Planning, Bowie Department of Planning</p>

SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of **The City of Bowie**, I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for **Bowie**. I understand that the Disclosure Authorization and Certification from the original Sustainable Communities application continues to apply to the applicant local government, and as such the applicant agrees that not attaching an objection constitutes consent to the information being made available to the public, and a waiver of any rights the applicant may have regarding this information under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

I also confirm that I am named or a former holder of my current title is named as an authorized official for the Sustainable Communities designation for my local government in the Local Government Authorization submitted with the original application.



Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
Type Name and Title

2-23-23

Date

ROSTER- WORKGROUP

- Ashleigh Diaz, Sustainability Manager
- Joseph Meinert, AICP, Director of Planning and Sustainability (DPS)
- Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones, Transportation Planner
- Erin Oxenford, Sustainability Planner
- Tiffany Wright, Watershed Manager
- Mati Bazurto, Business Operations Manager
- Jesse Buggs, Director of Office of Grant Development and Administration (OGDA)
- George Jones, Grants Manager
- Kay Starr, Grants Writer
- Bethany Crowley, Bowie Police Department Communications
- John Henry King, Director of Economic Development
- Una Cooper, Communications Manager
- Susan Proctor, Historic Properties Manager
- Missy Marlette, Public Works- Streets Superintendent
- Tim Harley, Public Works- Solid Waste Division