



Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community

Application for Designation Renewal

Application Submitted to the
Maryland Department of Housing
and Community Development

October 2023



SGSC Approved - 11.23

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Anne Arundel County

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Brooklyn Park

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: 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

SECTION A - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Brooklyn Park	
Name of Applicant:		Anne Arundel County	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000878	
Applicant's Street Address:		44 Calvert Street	
City: Annapolis	County: Anne Arundel	State: MD	Zip Code: 21401
Phone Number: 410-222-7450	Fax Number:	Web Address: www.aacounty.org	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Lynn Miller		Title: Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer	
Address: [REDACTED]	City: Annapolis	State: MD	Zip Code: 21401
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Same as above.		Title:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name:		Title:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

(1) Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

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

No boundary changes are being requested and no need for changes has been identified.

- (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: 2,700

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(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

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

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

The Brooklyn Park area has not experienced significant shifts in key demographic indicators over recent years, based on American Community Survey data from 2017 through 2021. The age distribution is similar to that seen Countywide, with a median age of 38 years. Approximately 23% of the population is under 18 years of age, and 15% is 65 years or older. The percentage of seniors in the population has increased over the past five years. The largest age cohorts are for persons 35 to 44 years old (14%), followed by those 45 to 54 years old (13%).

With regard to race, approximately 59% of the population is white, 20% Black or African American, 2% American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% Asian, and 17% other races or two or more races. Approximately 17% of Brooklyn Park residents are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. The racial distribution is similar to that seen Countywide, although the County has a slightly higher percentage of White residents.

Median household incomes in Brooklyn Park tend to be lower than in the County as a whole, but have increased over the five-year reporting period. The median household income in Brooklyn Park was \$56,000 in 2016, and increased to \$69,500 in 2021. Countywide, the median household income increased from \$92,000 in 2016 to \$108,000 in 2021.

There are more owner-occupied housing units in Brooklyn Park than in the County, as a percentage of total units. Housing units in Brooklyn Park are roughly 82% owner-occupied and 18% renter-occupied, while housing units in the County are 75% owner-occupied and 25% renter-occupied. The median value of owner-occupied homes in Brooklyn Park was \$208,000 in 2021 as compared to \$380,000 in the County. This is a reflection of the older housing stock in Brooklyn Park, one of the oldest suburban communities in the County.

Educational attainment levels are also somewhat lower in Brooklyn Park than those seen Countywide but appear to be rising. Roughly 16% of Brooklyn Park residents have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 43% in the County. In Brooklyn Park, 83% of residents have obtained a high school diploma or higher, such as an Associate's degree or some college. This compares to roughly 93% of residents Countywide.

In 2021 the poverty rate in Brooklyn Park was approximately 6% for all families and 10% for all people, compared to rates of 4% and 6% respectively Countywide.

(2) 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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

In 2015 a group of stakeholders in Brooklyn Park, as well as in the neighboring communities of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay in Baltimore, joined with Strong City Baltimore to form an alliance under the new Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative. This committee involved numerous stakeholders representing local businesses, communities, non-profit organizations, and governmental entities with a focus on revitalization and reinvestment in the greater community. In 2018, this effort re-organized under the Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA) which serves as the local community development organization for the area. The GBA includes a Steering Committee and various task forces which have conducted an extensive amount of community outreach over recent years and has focused on a range of initiatives including many that contribute to the goals and outcomes in the Sustainable Community Action Plan. An additional workgroup was formed to assist in development of the 2023 Sustainable Community Renewal Application. This workgroup includes representatives from the GBA, Arundel Community Development Services, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, the Chesapeake Arts Center, the North County Chamber of Commerce, other County agencies, and several local communities including Brooklyn Heights, Arundel Village, Arundel Gardens, Pumphrey, and Belle Grove. Implementation of the Sustainable Community Action Plan has been a collaborative partnership involving all of these entities.

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

The range of stakeholders involved, representing communities, businesses, and government entities, has been a strength of the workgroup. There is an inclination for some of the local neighborhoods to operate in a siloed nature rather than joining forces to advocate for the larger Brooklyn Park community, and for that reason community-building strategies would be beneficial. Additional funding sources would serve to reduce some of the challenges toward implementation.

- (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?

Input was provided through workgroup meetings. The Action Plan is based on: 1) the Greater Baybrook Vision and Action Plan; 2) Plan2040, the 2021 General Development Plan; and 3) the Consolidated Plan (FY2021-2025). For the most recent General Development Plan and Consolidated Plan, which were both developed after the last Sustainable Community Plan was finalized, extensive community input was solicited and obtained through surveys, focus groups and public comments periods.

- (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.

Technical assistance in developing an arts-focused economic development strategy leading toward potential designation as an Arts and Entertainment District would be beneficial.

SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

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

Accomplishment 1: Capital project planning, design, and construction is underway for a number of community and recreational facility improvements.

Outcome: Quality facilities to provide a wide range of recreational activities that help improve quality of life for the Brooklyn Heights community and greater Brooklyn Park residents.

Projects:

Brooklyn Heights Park Improvements – This \$6 million capital project, funded through the County CIP, will fully rebuild Brooklyn Heights Park. The project includes a new multipurpose athletic field, field lighting, a new adaptive sports field, basketball court, dog park, community gardens, a meditation garden, and walking trails. The project is currently in the construction bidding phase with on-site construction to begin in 2nd Quarter 2024.

Brooklyn Park Community Center – In addition to other improvements in Brooklyn Heights Park, the County has funded this \$15 million project to plan, design, and construct a new multigenerational community center in Brooklyn Heights Park. The feasibility study was initiated in 2019, and project design is scheduled to begin in 4th Quarter 2023. A community survey was conducted in September 2023 to seek public input on programming and uses for the community.

Brooklyn Park Middle School Athletic Complex – This \$11 million project was developed in partnership with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and includes a new synthetic turf multipurpose athletic field, new 400-meter all-weather track, field sports (pole vault, shot, discus, and high, long and triple jumps), new concession stand and restroom building, and new tennis courts. Project completion is scheduled for October 2023.

Partners:

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Recreation and Parks – provided financial, technical, and project management assistance.

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Aging and Disabilities - provided financial, technical, and project management assistance.

Partnership for Children, Youth and Families – provided community outreach assistance.

Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation –provided design input and financial assistance of \$250,000 in grant funds.

Impact: The projects will provide high quality, state of the art facilities and programming offering a range of recreational opportunities for the greater community.

Accomplishment 2: Several feasibility and design studies have been funded and completed or are in progress which will identify specific implementation projects needed to complete a comprehensive multimodal network throughout the community.

Outcome: Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections to local schools, parks, community facilities, and the local and regional transit network.

Projects:

Brooklyn Park Mobility Study - Funded through the County CIP, this \$130,000 study evaluated pedestrian and bicycle accessibility throughout Brooklyn Park, including access to transit services, using numeric performance measures. The Final Draft Study has been distributed for public comment and will be finalized in the Fall 2023. Based on the study recommendations, future funding will be pursued for design and construction of specific improvements.

Brooklyn Park Elementary School Accessibility Study – In 2018, the County received \$145,120 in MDOT Transportation Alternatives / Safe Routes to Schools grant funding to perform accessibility studies for 17 elementary schools throughout the County, including Brooklyn Park Elementary School. The preliminary study results are available for public comment in the Fall 2023.

BWI-Nursery Road Spur Trail – The County was awarded \$600,000 in 2020 through the Maryland Bikeways Program for design of the BWI – Nursery Road Spur Trail which will extend from Maple Road near the Linthicum Light Rail Station to the Nursery Road Light Rail Station. The design of this shared use path is near 60% completion, with construction anticipated to begin in late 2024. In 2023 the County was awarded \$6.4M in Transportation Alternatives funds for construction of this trail.

Belle Grove Road Safety Improvements – Using SEED grant funds, Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA) engaged Toole Design to develop 30% design of a four-mile shared use path through Brooklyn and Brooklyn Park. Over a two-year period, GBA and Toole solicited community input and hosted feedback sessions to refine the design. In 2022 the County Office of Transportation applied for and was awarded \$750,000 in Transportation Alternatives grant funding to complete the design to 100% construction documents. The shared use path will connect to the BWI-Nursery Road Spur Trail and will extend along Belle Grove Road east to MD 2 Ritchie Highway. A public meeting will be held in the Fall 2023 to kick off the design phase.

Brooklyn Park Connector and North County Call and Ride Transit Services – Within recent years, additional stops have been added to the Brooklyn Park Connector transit service to expand ridership opportunities. This bus route connects to the Cromwell Light Rail Station and to the County's Arundel Mills Mall bus route. A new North County Call and Ride transit service has also been established serving Brooklyn Park and other northern Anne Arundel communities. Both are free transit services which are funded by the County's General Fund.

Partners:

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works- provided financial, technical, and project management assistance.

Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation- provided financial, technical, and project management assistance.

Greater Baybrook Alliance – obtained grant awards and providing community outreach assistance.

MDOT- provided financial assistance through grant funds.

Impact: These programs and projects will provide improved multimodal transportation alternatives and increased access to public transit service as well as pedestrian safety.

Accomplishment 3: Services for seniors, children, and minority residents have been expanded.

Outcome: A comprehensive range of services and programs are available throughout Brooklyn Park for residents in need including seniors, children, and minority populations.

Projects:

Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center Renovation – In 2019 the County completed construction of a 2,000 square foot renovation and expansion of the Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center in a \$1.7 million CIP project. The facility now hosts three additional classrooms to add recreation space, a fitness room, and classroom space for older adult education and training. An array of activities including resource fairs, health promotion classes, benefits navigation, and Medicare counseling are offered at this center.

Minority Support Services – The County Dept. of Aging and Disabilities hired a bilingual/bicultural Information and Assistance Specialist in 2022 to better serve the Korean-American population which is concentrated in the Brooklyn Park area. This specialist meets with clients at the Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center to help them connect with resources and benefits.

Nutritional Services and Programs – The Brooklyn Park Senior Activity Center is a federally-funded Nutrition Site where congregate meals are served five days per week. Through the Dept. of Aging and Disabilities Nutrition Program, meals are also delivered to older adult homebound residents in Brooklyn Park. The Department also offers community trips to the grocery store and to other community resources.

Child Care Services - The Dept. of Recreation and Parks Child Care Division provides an MSDE-OCC licensed Child Enrichment Center program after school each day during the school session at the Belle Grove, Brooklyn Park, and Park Elementary Schools. While these programs were forced to close during the pandemic, as of the 2023-24 school year all three are fully reopened for families. The programs are now funded in partnership between Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, enabling the County to provide the program for only \$5/month for each child during the school year. The two agencies also partner to offer Food and Nutrition Services in each of these locations to provide free dinner for each child in the program. The Dept. of Recreation and Parks Recreation Division, in partnership with the Dept. of Health, now operates a Food and Baby Pantry on Thursday evenings at the North County Recreation Center. Formerly a drive-through pantry, it was recently moved indoors to provide customers the opportunity to shop for food, receive information on nutrition and meal planning, and currently serves 40 families. The Baby Pantry provides diapers, formula, food, clothes, blankets and other necessities.

Partners:

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Aging and Disabilities – provides funding, programming, and operational assistance.

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Recreation and Parks – provides funding, programming, and operational assistance.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools – provides funding, programming, and operational assistance.

Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health – provides funding, programming, and operational assistance.

Impact: Partnering by multiple County agencies has enabled expansion of and increased accessibility to these community services and programs, allowing more residents to take advantage of them.

Accomplishment 4: A number of deteriorated residential housing units have been rehabilitated in targeted neighborhoods.

Outcome: Aging and deteriorating housing units have been transformed to provide quality affordable housing for low to moderate income households.

Projects:

Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation Program – In a partnership between Arundel Community Development Services Inc. (ACDS) and Greater Baybrook Alliance (GBA), over the past five years 26 residential units in the targeted Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Gardens neighborhoods have been acquired and renovated into affordable rental housing for workforce households at 100% or lower AMI. Three homeownership units were also rehabilitated using this program. The program has a two-fold impact of mitigating problem properties and increasing home values in these disinvested neighborhoods.

Partners:

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. - provides program administration and project management services.

Greater Baybrook Alliance – provides program administration services.

DHCD – provided financial assistance through Community Legacy and Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative grant funds (\$150,200 through Community Legacy and \$1,049,600 through BRNI in FY18-22).

Additional funding for this program was provided through MD Lead Paint Funds and Federal CDBG Funds.

Impact: This program serves to reduce the appearance of blighted residential blocks, encourages stable households to locate in the community, provides a needed stock of affordable housing, and helps to promote additional private investment in residential units.

Accomplishment 5: A combination of property revitalization, business incentive, workforce training, and beautification programs are collectively serving to improve both the appearance and economic vitality of Brooklyn Park.

Outcome: A more positive community identity that will attract new businesses, residents, and patrons.

Projects:

Greater Baybrook Block Improvement / Spruce Up Program – Using Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative grant funding, the GBA completed several community beautification projects including improvements to Ballman Court in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood; new signage and landscaping at Belle Grove Road; a mural at Hammonds Lane Park; and a mural at the Chesapeake Arts Center.

Baybrook Retail Improvement / Façade Improvement Program – GBA provided financial and technical assistance such as marketing plans to four retail businesses along the Ritchie Highway commercial corridor for façade and other physical improvements through the BRNI-funded Façade Improvement Program.

Arundel Community Reinvestment (ACR) Loan Program – Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp. provided ACR loans to three Brooklyn Park businesses for site renovations and improvements. AAEDC also hired a Town Center Revitalization Manager in 2023, who will work closely with business and property owners to facilitate revitalization in the County's older commercial corridors such as the Ritchie Highway corridor and will directly market loan and grant programs to local businesses.

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Workforce Training Programs – Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. has worked to increase their presence in Brooklyn Park through use of the Brooklyn Park Library and at community events. The agency provides a range of services including a Humanitarian Relief Fund and Impact Worker Support Fund to assist residents impacted financially by COVID, occupational training, summer employment opportunities for youth, hiring events and job fairs, and stipends for support services (transportation, computers, clothing, equipment) for new hires entering the workforce. Over the past five years, 111 Brooklyn Park residents have used AAWDC's services.

Partners:

Greater Baybrook Alliance – provides program administration and project management assistance.

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp. - provides program administration and project management assistance.

Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. - provides program administration and project management assistance.

DHCD – provided financial assistance through BRNI and SEED grant funding.

Impact: Revitalization of retail businesses along the main commercial corridor as well as community beautification projects are improving the overall appearance of the area.

Accomplishment 6: A program to rehabilitate local alleyways was developed and funded.

Outcome: To date roughly 50% of the alleyways in the County have been improved.

Projects:

Alley Reconstruction Program – The County Dept. of Public Works initiated this program in 2017 with County CIP funds to clear and resurface roughly 100 alleys in the northern County of which 75 are located in Brooklyn Park. In FY 18-22 the Department completed work on over 8 lane miles of alleyways, with improvements to the remaining 7+ lane miles planned over the next five years. Improvements include repaving, new lighting, trash removal, and weed control.

Partners: Anne Arundel County Dept. of Public Works – provides funding, programming, and project management.

Impact: Local alleyways are safer and free of nuisances.

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: Properties are maintained and in compliance with building, health, and zoning codes.

Narrative: While building code violations have seen a decrease in recent years, from roughly 4,200 complaints in 2021 to 2,400 complaints to date in 2023, zoning code violations (trash and debris, illegal uses, unregistered vehicles) have seen some increase. This may be in part due to the County's 3-1-1 "See, click, fix" application which has enabled more citizens to easily report alleged code violations. The previous Action Plan included a strategy to create a staff position within the Greater Baybrook Alliance to serve as a liaison between the community and the County's code enforcement offices to help educate residents about code compliance, but funding has not been available for this position to date. However, GBA has secured funding through the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, to fund a 311 Ambassador program, a resident-led code enforcement program wherein participants receive stipends for their time. It is being piloted in Baltimore City, but GBA hopes to expand to Brooklyn Park in 2024 if the program is successful.

Outcome: Brooklyn Park serves as a regional center for the cultural arts.

Narrative: The Chesapeake Arts Center has expanded their program offerings over the past five years, including a partnering with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to provide free after school programs for school-age students. The CAC has also partnered with eight new theater and education groups to expand programming at the arts center, including the MD Theatre Collective Group, MD Concert Series, Next One Up, and The Judy Center. With the additional programming, the CAC is now constrained in terms of space, and is looking to expand outside of their existing facility in order to offer new opportunities within the greater community and in North Anne Arundel County and to establish a more regional presence. To this end, the CAC and County are considering submittal of an application to the Dept. of Commerce seeking designation of Brooklyn Park as a State-designated Arts and Entertainment District, which would increase opportunities for State assistance in creating an arts-focused economic development strategy.

Outcome: A more vibrant and attractive commercial corridor along Ritchie Highway.

Narrative: As noted, there have been several retail businesses that have taken advantage of loan and grant programs to improve their commercial properties. However, opportunities for larger-scale redevelopment and improved streetscape appearance along the main commercial corridor have been challenging due to both physical and market constraints. On a positive note, the new Woodfall Greens apartment development and the near-completion of the Cedar Hill Planned Unit Development have brought an influx of new residents to Brooklyn Park. On a down note, the new Lidl grocery store at a central location on Ritchie Highway has closed after operating for only a few years, leaving the community without a substantial local grocery. The County has recently undertaken legislative measures to create incentives for redevelopment, but additional tools may be needed to create a catalyst for change along the commercial heart of Brooklyn Park.

Part II: Competitive Funding

Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation Program 	DHCD	\$150,200 (FY18-22)		Program administered by Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	DHCD			
Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BWI – Nursery Road Spur Trail Design 	MDOT	\$600,000 (FY20)		Project administered by Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE			

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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.*

*Please add more rows if necessary

Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (BRNI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation Program Baybrook Retail Improvement Program Baybrook Facade Improvement Program Baybrook Spruce Up Grants Baybrook Creative Placemaking Belle Grove Road Safety Improvements Design 	DHCD	\$700,000 (FY19) \$1,263,600 (FY20)* \$600,000 (FY21) \$600,000 (FY22) \$2,600,000 (FY23)*		Programs administered by Greater Baybrook Alliance, ACDS Inc., Chesapeake Arts Center *Includes SEED award.
U.S. HUD CBDG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation Program 	U.S. HUD	\$3,536,400 over past five years		Program administered by ACDS, Inc.
Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Loan Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation Program 	DHCD	\$311,800 over past five years		Program administered by ACDS, Inc.
Transportation Alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belle Grove Road Safety Improvements Design BWI- Nursery Road Spur Trail Construction 	MDOT	\$750,000 (FY22) \$6,400,000 (FY23)		Project administered by Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section C

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

SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community

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"> Several community parks provide both active and passive recreational opportunities. A former sand and gravel mining site being reclaimed offers an opportunity for brownfield redevelopment and incorporation of green space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community is one of the more urbanized areas in the County; therefore there is a lack of green infrastructure and natural areas. Most of the area was developed prior to current and more stringent stormwater management regulations and requirements for Environmental Site Design.

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Increased green infrastructure in the community.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Identify opportunity sites for additional green infrastructure and secure funding for feasibility study, acquisition, design and construction.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to use GBA's Spruce Up Program to improve and beautify public realm and green spaces throughout the community.</p> <p>Strategy B: Collaborate with the developers of the former Belle Grove sand and gravel mining site to incorporate green infrastructure into any redevelopment plans.</p>	<p>Greater Baybrook Alliance; County Department of Recreation and Parks; County Office of Planning and Zoning</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Improved stormwater management and reduced pollutant loads from stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Complete additional SWM retrofit projects currently under design as identified by the County Watershed Protection and Restoration Services.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Incorporate environmental site design features in all redevelopment and infill projects to the maximum extent practicable to reduce stormwater pollutant loads.</p> <p>Strategy B: In addition to the County Capital Improvement Program, identify and pursue all other grant funding sources to help finance watershed restoration initiatives.</p>	<p>County Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering; County Office of Planning and Zoning; MD Department of Environment; Private Developers</p>

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"> The community is located in close proximity to downtown Baltimore, BWI Airport, and surrounding employment opportunities. Three shopping centers and other retail uses along the primary commercial corridor offer a range of goods and services that cater to the local neighborhood market. A regional arts center that offers classes, performances, and special events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a few vacant or under-utilized properties along the main commercial corridor. Some older commercial properties have poor visual appeal and are in need of renovation. Disinvestment in older commercial core areas such as Brooklyn Park, with new development and businesses locating in other parts of the County.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: The Brooklyn Park commercial corridor is an increasingly desirable place to open or expand a business.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Vacant and underutilized commercial retail and office space has been occupied.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create partnerships with private stakeholders including realtors, lenders, business owners, and developers to focus attention on priority commercial sites for new business attraction and expansion.</p> <p>Strategy B: Market business loan products and other financial assistance to local businesses to encourage reinvestment.</p>	<p>AAEDC; Greater Baybrook Alliance; MD Department of Commerce; North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce</p>
<p>Outcome 2: A highly trained and skilled workforce.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased workforce development activities are held in the Brooklyn Park community.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Increase the presence of Anne Arundel Workforce Development in the community to provide additional on-site workforce development activities, including recruitment services, job fairs, and worker training.</p>	<p>Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp.; AAEDC</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Brooklyn Park serves as a regional center for the cultural arts.</p> <p>Progress Measures: An economic development strategy for promoting the arts and culture has been established.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Initiate actions toward obtaining designation of Brooklyn Park as a State Arts and Entertainment District.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to build partnerships with local businesses to provide sponsorships and create business promotions.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Arts Center; MD Dept. of Commerce; AAEDC; Local businesses</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"> Access to a good regional highway network (I-695, I-97, I-895). Access to public transit via the MTA Light Rail and bus transit service. Most commercial areas and many residential communities have existing sidewalks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of complete connectivity between all neighborhoods and key public facilities, services, and regional bicycle trails. Poorly maintained alleyways that have resulted in safety and nuisance issues.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improved multimodal connectivity to local schools, parks, community facilities, and public transit.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Complete implementation of ongoing transportation mobility initiatives.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Pursue future funding sources to implement recommendations from the Brooklyn Park Mobility Study.</p> <p>Strategy B: Complete construction of the BWI-Nursery Road Spur Trail.</p> <p>Strategy C: Complete design and fund construction of the Belle Grove Road Safety Improvements Project.</p> <p>Strategy D: Obtain funding and implement recommended projects from the Brooklyn Park Elementary School Accessibility Study.</p>	<p>County Department of Public Works;</p> <p>County Office of Transportation;</p> <p>County Department of Recreation and Parks;</p> <p>Greater Baybrook Alliance;</p> <p>State Highway Administration</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Local alleyways are safer and free of nuisances.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Complete the Alley Reconstruction Program to improve all County alleyways in the Brooklyn Park community.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop and prioritize a schedule to complete the remaining alleyway improvements in Brooklyn Park to include paving, lighting, and trash and weed control.</p> <p>Strategy B: Expand Capital funding to complete the program as needed.</p>	<p>County Department of Public Works</p>

Housing

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good stock of affordable housing relative to other parts of the County. • A diverse range of housing types including single family homes, rowhomes, apartments, and housing for elderly of moderate means. • Recent completion of the new Cedar Hill townhome community has attracted new first-time and middle income homebuyers to Brooklyn Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some residential neighborhoods, primarily older rowhome blocks, experience scattered nuisance and aesthetic issues and poor upkeep of properties. • Issues with zoning code violations including trash and debris, unregistered vehicles, and junk as well as building code violations.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Aging and deteriorating rowhomes, particularly in the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village neighborhoods, have been transformed to quality affordable housing options.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Eighteen additional rowhomes will be acquired and renovated for rent or homeownership to qualified households.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue and expand marketing of the owner-occupied Property Rehabilitation Program in the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village neighborhoods, and surrounding communities, including Belle Grove.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to acquire and rehabilitate units for rent to income eligible households. Consider expanding these efforts to offer properties for sale to income eligible homebuyers.</p> <p>Strategy C: Market the Spruce Up Grant programs to identify and implement community improvement projects.</p>	<p>ACDS, Inc.; Greater Baybrook Alliance; County Office of Planning and Zoning; MD DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Properties are maintained and in compliance with building, health, and zoning codes.</p> <p>Progress Measures: A decline in the number of code violations over the next five years.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Conduct annual community outreach events to help educate community residents about building, health, and zoning code compliance.</p> <p>Strategy B: Assess the feasibility of creating a community-led code enforcement program modelled after Baltimore's 311 Ambassador Program.</p>	<p>County Department of Inspections and Permits; County Office of Planning and Zoning; County Department of Health; Greater Baybrook Alliance</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"> A variety of community facilities that are well utilized by local residents including a library, six County parks, four schools, a senior center, and a recreation center. Collaborative partnerships between the County Public Schools, Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Dept. of Aging and Disabilities, and Dept. of Health continually assess opportunities to provide new and expanded services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy food availability is a challenge with the loss of a major grocery chain in the community. 911 Emergency Call response service experiences issues due to the 21225 zip code that overlaps both Brooklyn Park and Baltimore City. The greater community lacks a central public space in a visible area that could bring diverse neighborhoods together for events and activities.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: A range of accessible community activities and programs are available for all Brooklyn Park residents including youth, teens, and seniors. Progress Measures: A full program of activities is operating at local parks and community centers.	Strategy A: Complete construction of the new Brooklyn Park Community Center. Strategy B: Complete construction of the Brooklyn Heights Park improvements. Strategy C: Complete construction of the Brooklyn Park Middle School Athletic Complex.	County Department of Recreation and Parks; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Dept. of Aging and Disabilities
Outcome 2: Reliable emergency services are available at all times across Brooklyn Park. Progress Measures: Emergency response times have improved.	Strategy A: Continue funding to plan and construct the new County 911 Joint Emergency Operations Center to combine police and fire response into one unified operation at a modernized center. Strategy B: Create improved lines of communication between Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County to address issues with emergency response services.	County Office of Emergency Management; County Police Department; County Fire Department; City of Baltimore.
Outcome 3: Fresh produce and healthy food is available for all Brooklyn Park communities. Progress Measures: A local farmers market and grocery store are fully operating to serve the area.	Strategy A: Engage with a partner organization to help advance the Brooklyn Park farmers market. Strategy B: Utilize available business incentives to attract a grocery retailer to the community.	AAEDC

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"> The area was developed before the era of rapid suburbanization and offers a denser and more urban type of setting than most parts of the County. Residential development patterns allow for walkable neighborhoods in proximity to services and amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical pattern of commercial development along the MD 2 corridor makes the creation of an attractive, vibrant, and pedestrian friendly commercial district challenging.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: A more vibrant and attractive commercial corridor along Ritchie Highway.</p> <p>Progress Measures: A number of older commercial properties have made improvements to increase their visual appeal.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Expand marketing and outreach efforts to increase application of all County and State financial incentives for commercial revitalization, such as the Baybrook Retail Improvement Grant and the Arundel Community Reinvestment Loan.</p> <p>Strategy B: Revise and update County development and zoning ordinances to create incentives and flexibility needed to facilitate redevelopment of older commercial properties.</p>	<p>AAEDC; County Office of Planning and Zoning; Greater Baybrook Alliance; MD Department of Commerce; MD DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Brooklyn Park residents and employees utilize local transit options.</p> <p>Progress Measures: New developments planned in the Brooklyn Park area will take advantage of the nearby Baltimore Light Rail stations.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore opportunities for new transit-oriented development around the North Linthicum Light Rail Station during the County's Region 1 planning process.</p>	<p>County Office of Planning and Zoning</p>

**Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community
Workgroup Roster**

Core Workgroup

Name	Representing
Lynn Miller	Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning
Elisha Harig-Blaine	Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
Meredith Chaiken	Greater Baybrook Alliance
Donna Anderson (Nicole Caracia)	Chesapeake Arts Center
Beth Nowell	North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Kayleigh De La Puente	Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
Hannah Thompson	Anne Arundel County Office of Constituent Services
Erica Mantooth	Anne Arundel County Health Dept., Housing Protection Services
Mark Garrity	Anne Arundel County Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Karrisa Kelly	Anne Arundel County Dept. of Aging and Disabilities
Tanya Asman	Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
Rebecca Benner	Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation
Dan McGinty	Belle Grove Community
Larry Gill	Greater Brooklyn Park Council
Caren Karabani	Arundel Gardens Community
Geraldine Bates	Pumphrey Community
Sylvia Poore	Brooklyn Heights Community

Supporting County Agencies

Anne Arundel County Department of Health
 Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks
 Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
 Anne Arundel County Public Schools
 Anne Arundel County Office of Transportation
 Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works Watershed Services
 Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works Highways
 Anne Arundel County Police Department
 Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation

Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community Area

1 in = 0.5 mile
1:31,680

