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/

LARRY HOGAN, *Governor*   **KENNETH C. HOLT,** *Secretary*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, *Lt. Governor*

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 OF 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 ASSISTANCE

If a local government has limited capacity, staff from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Department of Planning (MDP) will be available to assist local government officials through the application process.

Please contact your Regional Project Manager at DHCD if you would like to request or learn more about this assistance (see page iv for contact information).

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BENEFITS

The benefits of a Sustainable Community designation are substantial. The SC designation is a threshold requirement for application to several Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development revitalization programs (such as the Community Legacy Program and Strategic Demolition Fund listed below). Other programs from both the Department and other State agencies offer additional points or preference in the application process. The Sustainable Communities designation provides access to a suite of resources that can support housing and community development, local transportation enhancements, tax credit programs and programs to support a healthier environment. Taken together, these resources can promote safer, healthier and more attractive communities for families to live and put down roots.

While there are numerous benefits across multiple state agencies, below are two competitive capital revitalization grant programs are available to eligible applicants inside of Sustainable Communities.

Community Legacy Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides local governments and community development organizations with financial assistance to strengthen communities through such activities as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization. Community Legacy funds are restricted to Sustainable Community Areas.

Strategic Demolition Fund is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides grants and loans to local governments and community development organizations

for predevelopment activities including demolition and land assembly for housing and revitalization projects. The Strategic Demolition Fund catalyzes public and private investment in the reuse of vacant and underutilized sites. These funds are restricted to Sustainable Communities.

*Ask your regional project manager for additional information about Sustainable Communities benefits.

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

Eligible applicants are to convene 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;

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 Evaluation

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

Priority Funding Areas

All Sustainable Communities must be located entirely within a Priority Funding Area. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

Application Training

All applicants must attend an application training prior to submitting a renewal application. Trainings may be conducted over the phone or in person. Contact your Regional Project Manager (contact information page iv) to schedule an application training.

Application Submission

Applications will be submitted <u>both electronically/digitally and via postal mail</u>. Each applicant must submit **one** hard copy of their application with all required attachments. DHCD reserves the right to not consider incomplete applications.

The first printed page of the electronic application is a Table of Contents (see page vii). This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs. In addition to the digital copy of the application, all pictures and maps are to be submitted on a CD-ROM or flash drive. Pictures should be burned to the CD in a JPEG format and maps should be burned to the CD in a pdf format. Please ALSO include GIS shapefiles of Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data if a boundary change is requested. Be sure to label your files on the CD-ROM appropriately, i.e., "Proposed Sustainable Community Boundary," "Current Sustainable Community Boundary," etc.

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No incomplete applications will be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications to:
Sustainable Community Application
ATTN: Mary Kendall
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Housing and Community Development
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201

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Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion

During the application review process, the review team may make site visits, hold meetings or have for follow-up discussions with applicants prior to designation approval.

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.

Contact Information

All questions related to application content, please contact your regional project manager. Regional contacts listed in the table on the next page.

DIVISION OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS **REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS**		
REGION 1: • Northwest Baltimore City • Northwest Baltimore County Larry Brown Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5819 Email: larry.brownjr@maryland.gov	**REGION 2:** rtheast Baltimore City rtheast Baltimore County Garland Thomas Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5803 Email: garland.thomas@maryland.gov	**REGION 3:** • Southeast Baltimore City • Southeast Baltimore County Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal Program Officer Phone: 410-209-5826 Email: olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov
REGION 4: • Southwest Baltimore City • Southwest Baltimore County • Anne Arundel Nick Mayr Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5842 Email: nicholas.mayr@maryland.gov	**REGION 5:** Western Maryland • Allegany • Frederick • Garrett • Washington • Carroll Sara Jackson Project Coordinator Phone: 410-209-5812 Email: Sara.jackson@maryland.gov	**REGION 6:** Washington DC Metropolitan • Prince George's • Montgomery • Howard Duane Felix Assistant Director Phone: 410-209-5825 Email: Duane.Felix@maryland.gov
REGION 7: Upper Eastern Shore • Harford County • Caroline • Cecil • Kent • Queen Anne's • Talbot Ashlee Green Project Manager Phone: 410-209-5815 Email: Ashlee.Green@maryland.gov	**REGION 8:** Lower Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland Lower Eastern Shore • Dorchester • Somerset • Wicomico • Worcester Southern Maryland • Calvert • Charles • St. Mary's Jeremy Weiss Phone: 410-209-5848 Email: Jeremy.Weiss@maryland.gov	

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. **Qualitative and Comprehensive Report on accomplishments over past <u>five</u> 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 people in your community live or making 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 condition (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 a 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 be due to 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 of the different sections, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community**. Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.

2) **Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.

3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events → Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.

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

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: _____

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

❑ **Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**

❑ **Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**

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

❑ **Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**

❑ **Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**

❑ **Section F – CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM should include the following contents:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Community

- **GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data**

- Pictures (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years **(as indicated in Section B)**

- Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community: City of District Heights

Name of Renewal Applicant: City of District Heights

Applicant's Federal Identification Number: 52-6003729

Applicant's Street Address: 2000 Marbury Drive

   City: District Heights   **County: Prince George's**   **State:** MD   **Zip Code: 20747**

Phone Number: 301-336-140   **Fax Number: 301-350-3660** **Web Address: www.districtheights.org**

Sustainable Community Renewal Application Local Contact:

Name: Daniel Baden   **Title: Treasurer**

   Address: 2000 Marbury Drive   **City: District Heights**   **State: MD**   **Zip Code: 20747**

Phone Number: 410-980-1538   **Fax Number: 301-350-3660**   **E-mail Address: danbaden@comcast.net**

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Cecile Cunningham   **Title: Grants Contractor**

   Address: 2000 Marbury Drive   **City: District Heights**   **State: MD**   **Zip Code: 20747**

Phone Number: 240-784-0528   **Fax Number: 301-350-3660**   **E-mail Address: cunninghamc@districtheights.org**

I. 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?

The City of District Heights is not requesting a change to its Sustainable Community boundary, because there has been no additional annexation, since the last application was submitted on the City's behalf.

(2) Include the following in as an attachment (if requesting a modification to your current boundary):

    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:___576_____

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>

    ☐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): Prince George's Historic Community

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

The following data was pulled from census.gov and is reflective of the demographic of the City of District Heights.

Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	**NA**
Population estimates, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	5,984
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	NA
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2018)	5,728
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	NA
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2018, (V2018)	4.5%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	5,837

Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.6%
Persons under 18 years, percent	28.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	12.0%
Female persons, percent	57.6%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	1.1%
Black or African American alone, percent(a)	90.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent(a)	0.0%
Asian alone, percent(a)	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent(a)	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino, percent(b)	7.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	

3

1.1%

Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2014-2018	222
Foreign born persons, percent, 2014-2018	5.5%

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	

Education

Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2014-2018	60.3%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2014-2018	$238,000
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2014-2018	$1,766
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2014-2018	$653
Median gross rent, 2014-2018	**$1,180**

Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2014-2018	7.6%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	9.0%

Economy	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2014-2018	67.5%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2014-2018	66.6%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 ($1,000)(c)	5,125
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 ($1,000)(c)	1,609
Total manufacturers shipments, 2012 ($1,000)(c)	0
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 ($1,000)(c)	0
Total retail sales, 2012 ($1,000)(c)	52,180
Total retail sales per capita, 2012(c)	$8,771

High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	84.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	15.5%

Income & Poverty	
Median household income (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018	$70,382
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018	$27,974
Persons in poverty, percent	14.9%

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?

The City is governed by a Mayor and Commission form of government. The day-to-day activities of the are overseen by the City Manager/Clerk, who reports directly to the governing body. Each Commissioner is charged with oversight of the respective departments, including General Government, Recreation, Public Works, Police/Code and Youth Services Bureau.

Membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup has continued over the past five years and has mainly consisted of staff members who work to execute the Plan around the priorities outlined. The Plan is overseen by the Mayor and Commission, the City Manager/Town Clerk and Department Heads. As necessary, local resident stakeholders also continue to participate on specific projects.

(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 City of District Heights has a strong to commitment to improving its community and leveraging opportunities around the priorities outlined in its 2012 application; focusing its efforts around the following priorities:

1. Revitalization
2. Environment
3. Transportation and Mobility
4. Healthy Community and People
5. Places, Spaces and Art
6. Sociability and Leadership
7. City Services and Promotion
8. Education

These priorities have provided a clear vision for continued development of the City, where staff and other professionals provide their expertise to implement the goals of the Sustainable Communities Plan. There are still many challenges to carry out the vision for the Sustainable Communities Plan.

(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?

The Workgroup also consisted of residents who provided input regarding the update of the Sustainable Action Plan. They participated in facilitated meetings, engaged in small group discussions, where their ideas and recommendations were captured and incorporated.

(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.

The City of District Heights would welcome any technical assistance from State agencies to further expand its plan. We worked closely with members of the Department of Housing and Community Development Team, who were instrumental in helping to facilitate the Workgroup discussions.

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) **Pictures**: Please also include pictures that depict your accomplishments.

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

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Example – **Accomplishment 1**
Outcome: Improved stormwater management

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

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

Partners:
Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance
MD DHCD – provided financial assistance in form of a Community Legacy grant (totaling $50,000).

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

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

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: Expanded City Services

Projects: In 2018, the City constructed and opened 10,000 square foot facility for the District Heights Youth Services Bureau, providing an array of additional services to the community.

Partners: City of District Height, DHCD

Impact: The construction of this facility provided the YSB with conducive space to provide critical services to children and families; thereby expanding its reach in the community.

Accomplishment 2

Outcome: Improved Stormwater Management

Projects: The City received funds to construct a bioretention garden to mitigate stormwater runoff in a targeted flood zone of the City.

Partners: The City received more than $100,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Foundation toward this project.

Impact: The implementation of the new bioretention garden significantly impacted the community, by decreasing stormwater runoff, where that specific area of the City no longer experiences flooding.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: Improved Infrastructure

Projects: The City completed milling and overlay improvements on a number of streets throughout the community, as well as upgraded 28 streetlights.

Partners: Pepco, CDBG,

Impact: These enhancements continue to improve the City's infrastructure, proving walkable and drie=viable streets; as well as well-lit areas that will help to decrease crime.

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

Outcome: Landlocked

Narrative: One of the largest barriers to Smart Growth in the City is the lack of land for major development. The City is landlocked and most of its existing land inventory is developed. the Commercial Business District. The City's Smart Growth Strategy to support future opportunities for major development consists of the redevelopment of the commercial business district (CBD), and the preservation of the City's existing housing stock and natural resources.

Outcome:

Narrative:

Outcome:

Narrative:

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. <u>Indicators should reflect the five year time period</u> 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	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality?			X	
2. Has the amount of impervious surface in your Community been reduced? (Amount in SF)	X			The City constructed a bioretention garden to help mitigate stormwater runoff in flood prone areas.
3. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your park and/ or recreational green space?	X			The City has incorporated some walking trails throughout the community to further promote walkability, health and wellness.
4. Did the Sustainable Community implement any recycling or waste reduction programs?	X			We installed pet waste stations throughout the City.
5. Do all residents have access to healthy food options (i.e. fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets etc.) within the Sustainable Community?	X			The City has an Aldi grocery store, chain that recently went 100% organic with its offerings; including fresh fruits and vegetables daily.
OTHER:				

ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?		X		The City's commercial corridor is oversaturated with service-oriented businesses such as beauty salons, barber shops and small convenience stores. There is no active business association, and therefore no real platform to engage business owners in discussion around the City's revitalization goals.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			The City is within the TOD zone.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?		X		The commercial district is located off Marlboro Pike, which is a main thoroughfare between Maryland and Washington D.C., where most of the traffic is by vehicle.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?			X	
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?			X	
OTHER:				

TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years. If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			The City has incorporated several walking /biking trails throughout the community.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?	X			The City has access to nearby metro stations, 2 shuttle buses, and local metro buses.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet)			X	
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?			X	
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)		X		Traffic congestion along major roads have not decreased; as these roads serve as the main entrances into the City.
OTHER:				

HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have any residential facades been improved?			X	
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?			X	
3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable?	X			The City is working with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate properties in the community to attract low income families.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			X	
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?			X	
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. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?		X		
2. Have there been improvements and/ or additions to your public spaces (i.e. museums, community centers, public plazas)?	X			Th City is working to expand its current municipal facility to include a senior center. Additionally, in 2018, the City completed construction of a 10,000 square foot facility, which is now the new Youth Services Bureau.
3. Has there been an increase in public art/ arts & entertainment programs/venues (i.e. murals, movie theatre, music events)?			X	
4. How many historic properties were renovated/improved?			X	
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/ outdoor courses or groups)?	X			The City has its own recreational department; one of few municipalities with that privilege in Prince George's County. The facility is frequently utilized by seniors and youth in the community. The department oversees and coordinates several activities throughout the week to appeal to both populations.
OTHER:				

LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?			X	
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?			X	
3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints?			X	
4. Have there been any zoning or any policy changes that have fostered growth in your Sustainable Community?			X	
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			The City has improved several streets throughout the community; upgraded 28 streetlights and has plans to add solar panels to the roof of its municipal building.
OTHER:				

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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):
   • **DHWEP- Weatherization/Beautification**
   •
   •
	DHCD	$75,000		

Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):
   •
   •
	DHCD			

Community Safety & Enhancement Program:	MDOT			
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT			
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT			
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE			

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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
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				
Chespeake Bay Trust Foundation	Foundation	$115,000		
CDBG	Federal/State	$300,000		
MSEC- Solar Panels	Federal/State	$125,000		

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

The City is seeking additional funding to expand its current municipal facility to incorporate a senior center. Seniors play an integral role in the development of our community. In partnership with its AARP partner, the City has a vibrant and active senior population, most of whom are aging in place in the community. It is the City's goal to build a senior center to provide additional services that will further benefit our senior population.

The current municipal facility lacks the adequate space necessary to include some of these offerings, that will continue to attract the senior population; thereby keeping them engaged and active in their own community.

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Name of Sustainable Community

Kendall, Mary

Environment

This section focuses on the natural environment, our use of natural resources, and our relationships to the natural environment.
Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: 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.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• The SC area has a wealth of environmental amenities: athletic fields, a dog park, a forested walking trail with exercise equipment, 2 rain gardens, and a community garden with room to grow. • District Heights is very close to Walker Mill Regional Park (500 acres of park and recreational land) • Pleasant atmosphere: The city has trees, trails, landscaped creek beds, residential lots with large yards, and wildlife like deer, birds, and foxes. • The city's green, tranquil nature make it pleasant for walking.	• Stormwater management: Many homes require sump pumps due to flooding. Stormwater runoff creates hazardous conditions by freezing on roads and sidewalks. Standing water from flooding provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes. • Low awareness of and participation in City recycling programs. • Stray cats and pet waste contaminate sidewalks, streets, and yards. • Poor waste and trash management in the city's commercial area.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures Based on the strengths and weaknesses identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address. What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen? Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.	Strategies and Action Items 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.	Implementation Partners Which community stakeholders need to be involved to realize each action step and strategy? Name specific public and/or private sector partners.
Outcome 1: Enhance and expand the community garden in the City Progress Measures: Increased programming at the community garden, increased attendance and involvement in community garden activities	Strategy A: Consider the addition of a small seating area to create community space at the garden. Strategy B: Establish community educational programs for children and adults that engage the public on the benefits and value of community gardening.	MD Dept. of Natural Resources DHCD/Community Legacy City Dept. of Public Works County Dept. of Energy

	Strategy C: Expand play equipment that connect residents and children to the natural environment[1] Strategy D: Seek partners to assist in development of a composting program centered on the community garden.[2]	Resource Recovery Division[3] UMD Extension Home & Garden Information Center[4]

Outcome 2: Address litter and waste in the community and commercial area.
 	
 Progress Measures: Increased use of composting and recycling, decreased littering, expanded fleet of trash receptacles.
	Strategy A: Explore the possibility of raising fines for littering.
	
	 Strategy B: Start an information campaign similar to "Keep Maryland Beautiful" to encourage residents to clean up after themselves and dispose of trash and recycling responsibly.
	    Activity 1: Seek funding support from MET Keep Maryland
	    Beautiful grants as needed for clean-up projects.[5]
	
	 Strategy C: Acquire and install additional trash cans and develop plan for trash collection.
		DNR/Maryland Environmental Trust (funder)
		
		 DHCD/Community Legacy
		
		 County Dept. of Environment
		
		 City Dept. of Public Works

Outcome 3: Maintain healthy tree canopy to reduce rainwater runoff. Progress Measures: Completed tree inventory, number of trees planted or removed.	Strategy A: Explore the value of completing an inventory of trees in the SC area to identify areas to target with increased maintenance, planting, or removal. Strategy B: Continue to evaluate trees, remove dead and dying tree; plant new street trees along Kipling Parkway, around multifamily housing, and District Heights Elementary	County Dept. of Environment[6] Chesapeake Bay Trust M-NCPPC

Outcome 4: Address flooding in the community.
 Progress Measures: Fewer flooded basements and buildings reported, less standing water after rain, an implementable stormwater management plan, new rain gardens built, greater public awareness of rain gardens, new informational signage in rain gardens
	Strategy A: Partner with the County and Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop a stormwater management plan with a strong flood management element.
	 Strategy B: Expand the City's rain garden program.
	    Activity 1: Educate the public on the
	    benefits of rain gardens by providing
		Outcome 4: Address flooding in the community.
		 Progress Measures: Fewer flooded basements and buildings reported, less standing water after rain, an implementable stormwater management plan, new rain gardens built, greater public awareness of rain gardens, new informational signage in rain gardens

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[1] DNR Programs that support Environmental Education: https://dnr.maryland.gov/pgc/Pages/History-and-Achievements.aspx
[2] Dept. of Environment – Composting Program: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2856/Curbside-Organics-Collection-Composting
[3] Prince George's County DOE Resource Recovery Division: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/524/Waste-Recycling
[4] University of Maryland Extension resources on community gardens: https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/community-gardens
[5] Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants: https://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/grant_programs.aspx
[6] Dept. of Environment – Tree Planting Resources: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/512/Plant-Trees

	information in community newspapers and signage at the existing rain gardens. Activity 2: Collaborate with Chesapeake Bay Trust to identify and evaluate locations for new rain gardens.	

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
• City is considering annexing Great Eastern Plaza commercial property, which would expand available space for growth and redevelopment. • Convenient access to nearby job centers, Metro and other transit systems, and shopping on Marlboro Pike. • District Heights Elementary School events brings people and resources into the area. • Businesses on Marlboro Pike are within walking distance of residential area.	• No sit-down restaurants, banks, or lending institutions in the City. • Vacant or underutilized commercial space on Marlboro Pike is unattractive and deters shoppers. • The city has no business association or other organization to organize, promote, and coordinate economic development. • Median household income is $69,358, compared to Countywide average of $78,607.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	→ Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Expand the City's commercial tax base. Progress Measures: Progress made toward redevelopment project, increased municipal tax revenue.	Strategy A: Work with the St. Paul CDC to study feasibility of mixed-use senior housing development adjacent to Great Eastern Plaza site. Activity 1: Reach out to Prince George's Redevelopment Authority[7] or Prince George's Housing Authority[8] if technical assistance is needed for redevelopment project. Strategy B: Explore annexation of Great Eastern Plaza into District Heights city limits.	St Paul's Church M-NCPPC County Redevelopment Authority County Housing Authority MD Dept. of Planning
Outcome 2: Attract new and retain current businesses Progress Measures: Increased number of businesses in District Heights area, a new merchants association to support and advocate for the local business community, increased government capacity to support for economic development, decreased commercial vacancies.	Strategy A: Complete a market analysis to understand the city's capacity to attract new businesses. Strategy B: Support the creation of a merchant's association of current business owners along Marlboro Pike. Strategy C: Explore hiring an Economic Development Coordinator Strategy D: Develop a strategy to attract tenants to vacant offices in Lowry Medical Center.	MD Department of Commerce M-NCPPC County Economic Development Corporation

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[7] Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority - https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/865/Redevelopment-Authority
[8] Prince George's County Housing Authority - https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/906/Housing-Authority

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
• The City operates its own public works department, and has some well-maintained roads. • Proximity and easy access to bus transit: 2 City shuttle buses and other bus lines. • The City is very close to Marlboro Pike, a major thoroughfare leading into DC and to commercial areas north and south of District Heights. • The existing walking path through the neighborhood provides connectivity among the municipal building, neighborhood, and commercial area.	• District Heights residents experience some barriers to non-car travel: many cannot afford the expense of using transit, or are limited by a lack of adequate sidewalk connections and ADA compliant infrastructure like curb cuts. • The city has few bike trails and very limited bike infrastructure. • District Heights has not been connected to the County's larger bike network as recommended in the 2018 Trails Master Plan.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➤	Strategies and Action Items ➡	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Improve pedestrian infrastructure and safety throughout town. Progress Measures: Increased pedestrian and wheeled activity in residential area, slower traffic speeds around District Heights Elementary School	Strategy A: Conduct a sidewalk inventory to identify gaps in sidewalk connectivity and where curb cuts need maintenance. Strategy B: Improve walkability on District Heights Parkway, particularly for children who walk to school including traffic calming, lighting, and signage Strategy C: Work to get buses or crossing guards for school kids at the elementary school in District Heights as well as North Forestville Elementary	City DPW local AARP chapter Safe Routes to School M-NCPPC
Outcome 2: Develop and expand public transportation options for City residents and visitors. Progress Measures: Greater attendance of those with mobility challenges at	Strategy A: Work with the County to add a The Bus stop at the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) Strategy B: Acquire new, wheelchair and scooter accessible buses for senior and disabled shuttle service	Youth Services Bureau Safe Routes to School AARP

community events, increased city shuttle service and user base, increased transit use by local school children	Strategy C: Explore the possibility of providing bus vouchers for Youth Services Bureau clients.	City DPW
Outcome 3: Increase weekend access to non-automotive transit Progress Measures: increased mobility for residents on weekends	Strategy A: Collaborate with the County to provide The Bus service (Route 24), or other non-automotive transportation to the District Heights community on weekends	
Outcome 4: Address maintenance issues on outdated roads	Strategy A: Work with the County and MDOT/SHA to upgrade roads that have been worn down due to County buses	

Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live or making 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 condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• The City has a number of programs and resources to assist homebuyers and owners, including the City's home energy program, and the municipal collaboration consortium among nearby cities and towns to learn from. • District Heights is an attractive community for homebuyers, especially first-time homebuyers, with a variety of housing stock size and layout, large lots and yards and affordable prices for both rental and owner-occupied properties The City owns the 11acre property behind the Aldi on Marlboro Pike, slated to become a mixed-use development with a large recreational facility and a senior housing element is proposed on site.	• Housing options for aging residents are limited as the costs of home renovation and ADA adaptation are often prohibitive. • Awareness of housing resources and programs available in the community is low. • The proportion of poorly maintained rental properties and foreclosures are an issue for the City. • Despite an aging population, there is a lack of senior housing options in the vicinity.

	→		→	

Outcome 1: Support the construction of new market rate senior multifamily housing stock, which will expand the City's capacity for growth and increase tax base. Progress Measures: construction of senior multifamily housing mixed use developments where appropriate.	Strategy A: Support and incentivize the forthcoming mixed-use development including senior housing for the St Paul's Town Center site adjacent to Great Eastern Plaza. Strategy B: Continue exploring the possibility of annexing the Great Eastern Plaza site for redevelopment.	County DHCD County Housing Authority County Redevelopment Authority
Outcome 2: Maintain percentage of homeownership Progress Measures: Decrease in average number of days on the market for residential properties, decrease in foreclosures and vacant properties	Strategy A: Develop partnerships with nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity to acquire vacant homes for rehabilitation and sale. Strategy B: Explore state and local financing options, as well as potential nonprofit partners that specialize in senior housing, for senior housing and home improvements so that seniors can continue living in their homes as they age.	DHCD Habitat for Humanity Housing Initiative Partnership
Outcome 3: Encourage and improve property maintenance. Progress Measures: Greater municipal awareness of areas and properties in need of maintenance and exterior upkeep, more engaged landlords	Strategy A: Create and track a registry of vacant housing including home visits and an annual fee for vacancies. Strategy B: Increase the fee for rental property licenses to discourage absentee landlordism and change the local ordinance to justify the increased fee. Strategy C: Change local ordinances to facilitate raising the fee for rental property licenses issued by the city.	
Outcome 4: Attract first-time homebuyers Progress Measures: Decrease in average number of days on the market for for-sale homes.	Strategy A: Collaborate with local real estate agents to market for-sale homes; could include special events for real estate agents, and creation of new marketing materials for prospective homebuyers on the District Heights community.	Local realtor associations

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: 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.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Strong municipal departments (police, parks & recreation) provide high quality administration and services, and are responsive to community needs and aspirations. • The city has a wealth of local amenities & programs: 3 playgrounds, two walkable elementary schools in and near city limits (District Heights Elementary and Francis Scott Key Elementary), and a variety of live public entertainment and community events year-round. • A strong sense of community, reinforced by civic and community organizations that include churches and faith-based communities, AARP, Family & Youth Services Bureau.	• Playgrounds and other amenities are underused due to a lack of awareness among residents and are in need of upgraded equipment and safety measures to encourage use. • The City also lacks some amenities that it aspires to: a public pool, increased health care facilities in the immediate area, and more gathering spaces and venues for community events. • Some areas of the city are not walkable due to traffic safety concerns, absence of sidewalks, or gaps in ADA compliance

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➡	Strategies and Action Items ➡	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Complete construction of senior center adjacent to municipal building. Progress Measures: Advance toward construction and opening day.	Strategy A: Conduct outreach to the community to build awareness of the project and the benefit it will bring to residents. Strategy B: Explore whether it is most feasible to complete the senior center as currently designed or phase the construction. Strategy C: Create an updated workplan for completion of the project including necessary contacts, outstanding tasks, and a plan for administration of the center.	AARP City DPW
Outcome 2: Continue community events Progress Measures: Increased attendance at community events, increased presence on web and other media, creation of volunteer advisory committee to support promotion of community events	Strategy A: Increase publicity of events through City newsletter, website, TV, and social media. Strategy B: Increase staffing or volunteer capacity for website and social media, possibly through a contracted or on-call publicity firm. Strategy C: Form volunteer advisory committee to support City marketing and promotion.	
Outcome 3: Identify a location for farmers market Progress Measures: A farmers market with adequate space for vendors and shoppers.	Strategy A: Explore partnering with St Paul's Church to locate a farmer's market in the church parking lot. Strategy B: Consider sources of technical assistance from farmers' market nonprofits for	St Paul's Church Maryland Farmers Market Association

	market management and other needs.	
Outcome 4: Improve equipment, safety, and access to playgrounds. Progress Measures: Increased attendance at playground programs, more frequent use by families, safer conditions for playground users.	Strategy A: Reinstate volunteer recreation council to support and collaborate with Recreation & Parks staff on events, programming, and promotion Strategy B: Upgrade equipment on the playground adjacent to the City's ballfield. Strategy C: Expand age-appropriate programming for children. Strategy D: Assess the needs of each playground – equipment, ages of target users, current frequency of use and activity, safety, and ADA accessibility.	DNR: Children in Nature program M-NCPPC
Outcome 5: Identify location for urgent care/medical facility in the city. Progress Measures: location for facility located, partners for building renovation/retrofit identified.	Strategy A: Explore the vacant former SunTrust Bank building as a possible location for urgent care or other medical facility. Strategy B: Assemble resources to support renovation of space for a medical facility.	
Outcome 6: Increase security around municipal grounds. Progress Measures: Decreased criminal activity in public spaces.	Strategy A: Analyze the feasibility of hiring security force for public spaces and the municipal building grounds, or organizing volunteer presence to deter criminal activity.	
Outcome 7: Enhance services to seniors to make aging in place possible. Help seniors age in their homes Progress Measures: Seniors experience high quality of life, are able to continue living in their homes or in nearby senior housing.	Strategy A: Support and promote resources like Communities of Life program to provide seniors with in-home assistance – rides, first aid, legal help, selecting contractors. Strategy B: Reinstate welfare check program in which City police officers periodically check on seniors at their homes to ensure their well-being.	
Outcome 8: Increase public awareness of home energy program and other resources for residents. Progress Measures: Increased number of homes using programs and resources.	Strategy A: Expand use of City Facebook page to disseminate information and resources to residents. Strategy B: Explore the feasibility of creating a city	

	hotline, to accommodate residents who do not have internet in their homes.	

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
• The 2009 M-NCPPC Marlboro Pike Sector Plan is an active document in place to guide growth and development. • Prince Georges County is in the process of completing a Countywide Zoning Rewrite, since the 2018 approval of a new zoning ordinance. The next phase will involve mapping the new zoning codes, with an opportunity for input from municipalities.	• The City has experienced difficulty navigating County permitting processes and keeping up with County code changes. • The City has little control or influence over the type of businesses that populate its commercial area. • The SC area has little space for growth and development.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures ➝	Strategies and Action Items ➝	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Investigate ordinances and zoning tools that can influence types of businesses within the City Progress Measures: A more appropriate mix of businesses that serve the District Heights community	Strategy A: Compile information on best practices, design guidelines, zoning and permitting tools to incentivize retail and businesses desired by the community. Strategy B: Select tools identified in Strategy A and develop a work plan for implementation.	DHCD
Outcome 2: Expand staff capacity to assist with implementing the Sustainable Community Action Plan, promoting City services and activities via City Facebook page, and supporting economic development in the City. Progress Measures: Increased capacity at	Strategy A: Draft a job description for a City employee charged with supporting economic development, liaising with the County on code enforcement and permitting procedures, social media outreach, and implementing the action plan. Strategy B: Explore options for funding new staff positions or contractors.	M-NCPPC

the City level to liaise with the County and support economic development and the local business community, increased social media outreach, increased code enforcement capacity.	Strategy C: Investigate alternatives to expanded staffing, in case the resources to fill this position are unavailable. Strategy B: Develop outreach protocol to promote events, including coordination with YSB, local churches, and community groups.	
Outcome 3: Explore and implement policies to improve rental property maintenance.	Strategy A: Increase fines for housing code violations and rental permit fees in order to encourage proper upkeep and maintenance, and to discourage absentee landlordism. Strategy B: Complete the hiring process for currently vacant code enforcement officer position.	

SIGNATURE LETTER

On behalf of [INSERT *Applicant local government full name*], I hereby approve the application for renewal of the Sustainable Communities designation for [INSERT *Sustainable Community Name*]. 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.

_____
Authorized Signature

Dan Baden, City Treasurer____
Type Name and Title

_____
 Date