SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

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

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

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

SGSC Approved - 5.24

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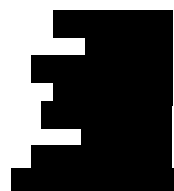
Overview of Sustainable Communities

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

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

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

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml

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

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

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

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

<u>Application Submission and Evaluation</u>

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

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

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

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

To: Carter Reitman
carter.reitman@maryland.gov
Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal
olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

<u>Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance</u>

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session or training is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

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

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

<u>Approval</u>

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

All questions related to the application, please contact Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at carter.reitman@maryland.gov **or your regional project manager, found at this link: https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf**

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

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

B. **Report on accomplishments over past <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 and identify what state resources were used, if any, to achieve those outcomes. Renewal applicants are encouraged to discuss how priorities, actions, and objectives were or were not achieved across the Sustainable Communities plan elements, 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 details revitalization outcomes and strategies to achieve those outcomes over the next five years. Renewal applicants are encouraged to use their previous Sustainable Communities applications as a basis for their updated Action Plan. You may identify which weaknesses have not yet been addressed or which strategies have not yet been implemented. Include your revitalization priorities for the next five years, basing them on your community's current strengths and weaknesses.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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

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

Action Plan Guidance

The Action Plan is comprised of six sections: . Follow the guidelines below to fill out the matrix.

1) **For each section, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community**. Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.

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

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

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

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: **Town of Forest Heights**

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: **Town of Forest Heights**

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:	**Town of Forest Heights**
Name of Applicant:	**Town of Forest Heights**
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:	**53-6013782**
Applicant's Street Address:	**5508 Arapahoe Dr**
City: Forest Heights	**County:** PR GEO'S CO	**State:** MD **Zip Code:** 20745
Phone Number:301-839-1030	**Fax Number:** 301-839-9236	**Web Address:**forestheightsmd.gov

(1) **Sustainable Community Boundary and Description**

   (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? No

   (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:__309_

(4) <u>Existing federal, state or local designations:</u>
☐Main Street ☐National Register Historic District ☐Local Historic District
☐ Arts & Entertainment District ☐State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐BRAC
☐ State Designated TOD
X Other(s): Opportunity Zone, Playful City USA, Let's Move/Healthy Community, Solor Panesl, Zero Run-Off & Retention Program, Green Roof Program

(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?

Forest Heights is a town in Prince George's County, Maryland, United States, and is part of the larger postal designa>on of Oxon Hill the town straddles both sides of dual-lane Maryland Route 210 and includes two elementary schools. Per the 2020 census, the popula>on was 2,658 with an employment rate of 56.9%. There are 723 Families and Living Arrangements, a Total of 957 Housing units, 19.2% of the popula>on has a bachelor's degree or Higher. The median age of the Town of Forest Heights is 37.4 Years old with a median household income of $86,922.00. The Chart listed below displays how the demographics have changed over the last ten years as a comparison of factual data was not available for a 5-year trend.

2020 census

Forest Heights town, Maryland – Racial and Ethnic Composi>on
(NH = Non-Hispanic)
Note: the US Census treats Hispanic/La6no as an ethnic category. This table excludes La6nos from the racial categories and assigns them to a separate category. Hispanics/La6nos may be of any race.

Race / Ethnicity	Pop 2010[11]	Pop 2020[12]	% 2010	% 2020
White alone (NH)	174	113	7.11%	4.25%
Black or African American alone (NH)	1,836	1,527	75.03%	57.45%
Na>ve American or Alaska Na>ve alone (NH)	7	3	0.29%	0.11%
Asian alone (NH)	95	73	3.88%	2.75%
Pacific Islander alone (NH)	3	7	0.12%	0.26%
Some Other Race alone (NH)	11	18	0.45%	0.68%
Mixed Race/Mul>-Racial (NH)	45	69	1.84%	2.60%
Hispanic or La>no (any race)	276	848	11.28%	31.90%
Total	**2,447**	**2,658**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

(2) Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

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

> There are no changes to the organizational structure

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

Challenges:

During this period COVID-19 played a major factor in the challenges of the work group meeting and an evolving population that is changing swiftly. Community involvement has also been a weakness.

Strengths:
> Having a dedicated council who is willing to work through challenges
> Having dedicated funding available to work towards the sustainable community initiatives
> Having an experienced project manager on staff that knows how to work through problems to find solutions keeping many projects on schedule.

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

Residents and other stakeholders in the community provided input to the Sustainable Communities Action Plan update through public town meetings, notifications using town newsletters, and surveys (written and email).

(6) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance. No

SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT
PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Projects:
Project 1: Stormwater Retrofit Plan – In October 2021, the Town Council approved the Cree Drive stormwater retrofit plan which outlines various strategies and capital budget expenditures to fix, and manage long term stormwater management problems within the area of Cree Dr. Phase I of this project is complete and Phase II is scheduled to begin Late January 2024.

Project 2: Green Streets – The Town added green elements to approximately 900 linear feet of sidewalks that had been experiencing severe flooding. Specifically, bioswales, pervious pavement, and sidewalks were constructed, and trees were planted.

Partners:
Prince George's County Department of the Environment– provided technical assistance.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Prince George's County DPIE
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. While phase one of Cree Dr is complete the overall stormwater management plan has been implemented as funding becomes available. This has had a significant impact to infrastructure, erosion, and stormwater run off.

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

Accomplishment 1:
Outcome: Completed Cree Drive Phase 1
Projects: Cree Drive Phase I

Completed a comprehensive Stormwater management intervention for the lower half of Cree Dr. This project set the foundation for Cree Dr Phase II. This allowed for the channeling of water into the WSSC provided stormwater management system rather than causing flooding and erosion to existing soil.

Partners: DHCD, Federal Government

Impact: he implementation of the projects had a significant impact on the community by improving stormwater runoff and flooding. This project has lingered for many years and though the sustainable community designation was able to be completed with DHCD funding.

Accomplishment 2:
Outcome: Underway and Nearing Completion Arapahoe Dr Stormwater Management and Revetment Project
Projects: Arapahoe Dr Stormwater Management and Revetment Project
This project addressed failing infrastructure on Alden Way, Arapahoe Dr, Sachem Dr, Seneca Dr, Arapahoe Terr. Modoc Ln. It made it possible to properly channel stormwater off the roadway and individuals' properties into the stormwater management system. Town staff identified multiple leaks in the system, and they have been fixed. Curb and gutter have been replaced two parks were created as well as sidewalks in the jurisdiction. This project is monumental in the jurisdiction as it is fixing several areas all at once. No project has ever been undertaken to this scale with so many moving parts in the jurisdiction.

Partners: DHCD, DPIE, WSSC, TOFH CE, TOFH PD, PGPD, MDOT, State of MD

Impact: Brand New Infrastructure that touches every part of the Town. Stormwater management has never had this level of undertaking and water should flow flawlessly away from homes.

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: Greenstreet have not been completed

Narrative: These projects are cost prohibitive with each street costing nearly 1M in funds. It was a lofty endeavor and if funding as a whole was available to complete this project I would not recommend using pervious pavement. The replacement cost is significant, and the wear and tear cannot hold up to current standards. A better goal would be fixing infrastructure to offset stormwater run-off, pollutants, and fixing failing infrastructure that allows for erosion.

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
Infrastructure Bond	DHCD	$1,050,000.00		
Roadway Improvement Grant Cree I	DHCD	$500,000.00		
Block Grant Cree II	DHCD	$500,000.00		
Maryland Bikeways Program:	MDOT		More information sent to Town with updated point of contacts, and a How To apply section	
Sidewalk Retrofit Program:	MDOT		More information sent to Town with updated point of contacts, and a How to apply section	
Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:	MDE		More information sent to Town with updated point of contacts, and a How to apply section	

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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				
Impact Grant	PG County Gov	250,000.00		
Beautification and Youth Grant	PG County Gov	900,000.00		
ARPA Funding	Federal Gov	2.1M		

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

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
Sinkhole Repair

SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

Town of Forest Heights

Example Section

Strengths	Weaknesses
● Insert bulleted list of strengths (provide some detail as to why and how this is a strength in your community)	● Insert bulleted list of weaknesses (provide some detail as to why and how this is a weakness in your community)

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures Outcomes should be considered end results of actions and strategies. Based on the strengths and weaknesses, identify the strengths on which you would like to build and the challenges you would like to address. Progress Measure: What will you use to measure success toward outcome? Is it quantifiable or qualifiable?	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.
Example Outcome 1: Code violations and complaints are reduced in the Sustainable Community residential areas. 　Example Progress Measures: Code violations reduced by 25% in Sustainable Community residential areas	Example Strategy A: Review and revise, as needed, code compliance program to reduce frequency and number of residential code violations. 　Example Action 1: Complete analysis of code violations over the past five years to determine areas, both geographically and topically, for which code violations are most frequent. 　Example Action 2: Conduct outreach program to determine barriers to code compliance. 　Example Action 3: Analyze code compliance program for potential inefficiencies and opportunities for proactive engagement. 　Example Action 4: Pursue façade improvement funding to assist low-income homeowners overcome barriers to code compliance.	Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Housing, County Planning Department, local homeowners association

Environment

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
- The town has improved Stormwater management through a project on Cree Dr, Arapahoe Drive, and Shawnee Dr newly installed Stormwater management systems have improved the flow of water draining and management runoff. The municipal grounds remain recognized as a demonstration site for Stormwater management with the installation of pervious pavement and rain barrels. The town hall also utilizes solar panels to provide energy to offset energy costs and has a vegetative green roof. This area has recently received recertification. - More than 150 acres of the town is covered by tree canopy. - There are five parks within the town limits along with two outside community gathering spaces. - Community Garden and Farmer's Market has been upgraded and expanded	- The town's new police department/public works building will also have solar power placed on its roof to offset energy use. (These buildings have not been built due to funding shortfalls) - Big Belly Trash Cans cause more maintenance and upkeep. Although they work, we should not use them moving forward. There needs to be an alternate solution. - More area needs to be covered with Canopy. We are currently working with Prince George's County Department of the Environment for their free tree canopy program.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Continue to Repair Stormwater Management Systems and improving stormwater runoff. Progress Measures: Volume, Rate, Direction of Stormwater Runoff, Discharge, and decrease erosion	Strategy A: Continue Street Improvements for Blackhawk Ln, Arapahoe Dr, Cree Dr. Strategy B: Continue with Tree Canopy Program in partnership with PG DOE Strategy C:	DHCD, MDOT, PG County DOE

| Outcome 2: Cree Dr Erosion

Progress Measures: Fill, round off, and manage soil erosion which is causing harm to the Watershed. Replace Piping and change flow of water.

Outcome 3: Install Trees in Town Right of Way in partnership with Prince George's County | Strategy A: Continue Cree Dr Phase II Soil and Sediment Control
Strategy B: Improve areas surrounding Cree Dr to control water flow.
Strategy C: Work with WSSC for proper SWM and drain control.

Strategy A: Adopt resolution authorizing Prince George's County to enter right of way and conduct GIS survey
Strategy B: Advertsise to residents about the Tree program
Strategy C: Coordinate for the Installation of 1,600 Trees in Forest Heights | DHCD, DPIE, PG County DOE, WSSC

Prince George's County Department of the Environment |

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
● Business's wish to join the corporation. ● The Community Development Corporation works with the Town. ● "National Harbor 2.0" National View Project will be built in the next year ● Annexation of Land is moving forward	● Limited Staffing ● Staff Turnover and Corporate Knowledge ● No Economic Development Director

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners

Outcome 1: Improve retail and Commercial properties. Progress Measures: Staff members; assessment performed; number of joint ventures completed in a positive manner for the community	Strategy A: Assign an alternate staff person to communicate with CDC. Strategy B: Hire an Economic Development Director Strategy C: Recognize Enterprise Zones from the state and promote special tax credits for local businesses through aggressive advertising and business town hall fourms.	Forest Heights CDC, Denny House
Outcome 2: Building Youth in the workplace. Progress Measures: Surveys related to work availability and access to viable jobs within the community.	Strategy A: Utilize Youth and Community Programming initiatives. Strategy B: Open more career opportunities within the Town of Forest Heights government to fill identified weakness's in overall government operations	PG County Gov Denny House

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
● Access to both ground and subway transportation. ● Easy access to major highways (1295, Route 210, 1495) within 1 mile from town. ● Easy access to M-NCPPC bicycle trails.	● The town is divided by a major highway (Route 210) with only one egress from one side of the town to the other resulting in unsafe connectivity for pedestrians.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners

Outcome 1: Connect Both sides of the Town with a pedestrian bridge Progress Measures: Complete study for pedestrian Traffic. Increase linear footage and connectivity of sidewalks and trails; build a pedestrian bridge over highway to safely access both sides of the town	Strategy A: Construct a pedestrian bridge across MD 1210. Add high-visibility energy-efficient street lighting. Improve pedestrian/bicycle connectivity to transit stops and stations. Work with neighboring PG County to develop strategies to shore up gaps in bike path along Oxon Run between Forest Heights and Southern Avenue Metro station.	MDOT, PG Count Gov, DPIE

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
The majority of the homes in the town are well-kept, affordable, single-family or duplex homes. upgraded and enhanced Code Enforcement protocol and technology. Code Enforcement is fully staffed and working towards gaining compliance with existing laws and regulations.	Some of the town's homes are poorly maintained. Vacant Homes in the Town

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners

Outcome 1: Decrease vacant housing in the Town Progress Measures: Enhanced property values	**Strategy A:** Ensure that code enforcement is monitoring all code violations. Enforcement of stronger building permits. Continue these practices as it has had proven results. Strategy B: Partner with local non-profits to provide affordable renovation services to low-to-moderate income homes. An example is the collaborative program headed by the town of Bladensburg which involves 15 municipalities. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Community Legacy, and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) are funding this Weatherization Upgrade (Continue this progress as it has proven successful)	DHCD, DPIE, TOFH CE, FH CDC
Outcome 2: Increased Façade Improvement, Maintenance	Strategy A: Apply for DHCD funding for Façade improvement. Strategy B: Place funds from Vacant and Rental Properties into a facelift renovation program to help offset costs. Strategy C: Work with local groups like the Denny House to find ways to teach young people trades while improving residential homes in Forest Heights	DHCD, Denny House, Prince George's County Work Force Development

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

• Two elementary schools located within the town. • Close proximity to Washington, DC, Virginia and the National Harbor. • Community Gathering Space Expansion and Improvements • Lowest Crime rate per-capita in Prince George's County • Police department response/patrol hours increased to 24-hours per day. • New Fleet of Police Vehicles including Electric Vehicles • Authorized strength obtained with police force now at 27 • Community policing efforts stressed and implemented electric police bikes purchased	• The Town is divided by a major highway. • Lack of full-service restaurants and entertainment in the incorporated limits • No general practitioners medical providers in incorporated limits.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

- Several faith-based organizations located within town.
- Town sponsored events, such as senior exercise classes (twice per week). Black History Month Events, Harvest Fest, Trunk or Treat,
- Town sponsored holiday dinners, community yard sales, senior Bingo, Neighborhood watch activities, and numerous park activities.
- Close proximity to retail amenities.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase public Space Progress Measures: Increase public space. The Town has aquired 606 Mod Doc Ln and is converting to a public park. As well as the end of Arapahoe Dr at Pitt Ln is being converted to a public park area	Strategy A: Apply for Project Open Space Funding Strategy B: Finish Improvements to Town Hall – Finish 1st Floor rehabilitation. Strategy C: Convert Mod Doc to a passive use recreational facility, Convert Arapahoe Dr and Pitt Lane to Passive Use Area	DHCD, NDC, Prince George's County

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
• Implementation of Technology which has increased efficiency for staff • Outdated Laws are being changed to reflect contemporary standards • Rental Taxes and fees are being assessed • Annexation is being sought which will help develop a solid foundational tax base	• Town has very little commercial land which places a larger tax burden on its residents. • Town lacks comprehensive plan connecting the CIP budget and goals laid out in this Sustainable Community Action Plan. • Town does not have dedicated staff to focus on economic development.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase Tax Base and Service Population Progress Measures: Jurisdictional Growth and Tax revenue increase	Strategy A: Garner residence and property-owner support. Follow Maryland code subtitle 4-400. Continue to explore site productivity. Strategy B: Work directly with Prince George's County to look at applicable zoning and find way to strengthen the commercial tax base in the incorporated limits. Strategy C: Work with local developers for the National View Project to support tax incentives to draw businesses to National View upon its completion which will increase the Town's tax base exponentially.	PG County Economic Development Corporation.

Sustainable Community Workgroup Roster
Project Manager – John O'Connor
Town Administrator – Vacant
Department of Public Works – Dual Belnavis
Police Department – Chief Anthony Rease
Mayor Troy Lilly
Council President Jamilah McDonald
Youth Engagement – Keith Holland