



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL

Eligible Applicants:

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

Sustainable Communities Application Rounds

January 27, 2017

April 7, 2017

July 2, 2017

October 6, 2017

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Division of Neighborhood Revitalization

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Baltimore, MD 21201

410-209-5800

<http://dhcd.maryland.gov/>

LARRY HOGAN, *Governor*

KENNETH C. HOLT, *Secretary*

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, *Lt. Governor*

TONY REED, *Deputy Secretary*

Approved SGCC 10/12/2022

Overview of Sustainable Communities

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

Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application

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

Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements

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

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

Threshold Requirements

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

- 1) Sustainable Community Area boundaries must be entirely within a Priority Funding Area (PFA) and should be an area in need of renewal and reinvestment that would benefit from a targeted long-term strategy. Applicants can verify Priority Funding Area boundaries by visiting the MDP website at:
<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml>
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

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

Application Submission and Evaluation

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

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

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

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application

To: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov

Copy: John Papagni

john.papagni@maryland.gov

Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance

Attendance at a minimum of one application consultation session is mandatory for all applicants. Consult with Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-298-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov if you would like to schedule a meeting.

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

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

Approval

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

All questions related to the application, please contact Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal at 410-209-5826 or by email at olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov or your regional project manager, found at this link:

<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Documents/SRP/PM-Map-ContactInfo.pdf>

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

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

B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:

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

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accomplishment 1:

Outcome: **Improved appearance and structural integrity of downtown storefronts by using DHCD's Façade Program.**

Projects: Improvements to 111 Willow St., 107 & 109 Vine St., 201 4th St., 203 2nd St., 147 Market St., 129 Market St., 407 2nd St., 428 Bank St., 21 Clarke Ave., 513 Market St., 302 Market St., 142 Market St., 1206 Market St., & 151 Market St.

Partners: Downtown Commercial Property Owners, DHCD-SRP, MHT

Impact: Exterior and interior improvements were made to these buildings and properties in Downtown Pocomoke City to present a much better appearance. This has encouraged other property owners to improve their properties, encourage new businesses to locate to Pocomoke City, create more jobs, and has increased the number of shoppers in the downtown. We plan to expand this program and increase both business and residential improvements to the Sustainable Communities region to improve quality of life and improve commerce.

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: **Water Quality Improvements.**

Projects: Clarke Avenue Pump Station, the Waste Treatment Plant, as well as the Heights Water main. This consisted of changes in water quality and sediment infiltration, functionality and the improved water quality from not only the engineering changes made to the water system but also due to better policies.

Partners: USDA, MDE, Hebron Bank,

Impact: These projects have improved the water quality for the entire city of Pocomoke, especially those within the Sustainable Communities boundaries. This did not completely resolve all issues but is a milestone in the right direction. There will need to be more work done in the area of Water Quality Improvements, which we are working on.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: **Dock and Water Access Restoration Study**

Projects: The docks and water access area has greatly deteriorated and is out of code for water access. This project was paid for by DNR to give the city better insight in how to fix the issues and the estimated costs.

Partners: **DNR**

Impact: DNR met with the City after the study and reviewed the estimates, the work needed and offered suggestions on how to tackle the issues and suggested grant vehicles. They suggested a master study of bikeways, pathways and walkways to help the city with better planning on recreation and greenspace use. They also suggested how to fix water access areas and what grants to use. **This information should be a part of our next 5 year plan and implemented.**

Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan

III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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

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

Action Plan Guidance

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

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

Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information

- Applicant Information

CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Pocomoke City, MD

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Pocomoke City, MD

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

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

- [Applicant Information](#)

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

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

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

- [Action Plan](#)

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

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

- [Disclosure Authorization](#)

☐ **Section F – Additional Files:** The following contents should be included:

- If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format and a GIS shapefile of the proposed Sustainable Community boundary
- Photos (jpeg format) of your aforementioned accomplished projects of the last five years

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		Pocomoke City, Maryland	
Name of Applicant:		Pocomoke City, Maryland	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000803	
Applicant's Street Address:		101 Clarke Avenue	
City: Pocomoke City	County: Worcester	State: MD	Zip Code: 21851
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Web Address:	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Jeremy Mason		Title: City Manager	
Address: 101 Clarke Av	City: Pocomoke City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21851
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Linda McNeil		Title: Grants Administrator	
Address: 101 Clarke Av	City: Pocomoke City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21851
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name: Karah Lacey		Title: Events & Downtown Coordinator	
Address: 101 Clarke Av	City: Pocomoke City	State: MD	Zip Code: 21851
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information

A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not? **No. At this time, we are putting a large focus on our sustainable efforts on the designated region of Pocomoke. As we make more progress in this area, we will discuss enlarging the area. (see map entitled: Pocomoke Sustainable Area)**
- (2) If yes, Include the following in as an attachment:
- PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,
 - GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: 509.97

(4) Existing federal, state or local designations:

☐ Main Street ☐ Maple Street

☒ National Register Historic District ☐ Local Historic District ☐ Arts & Entertainment District

☐ State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District ☐ BRAC ☐ State Designated TOD

☒ Other(s): **Main Street Affiliate**

(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?

Between the years of 2017-2022, the demographics of Pocomoke City trends are the following:

	2015-2016	2020	Change
Total City Population	4133	4075	Down
Age (median)	35.6	39.2	Up
Race (black:white)	52.5% to 44.6%	47% to 46%	Slight Change
Household Income (Median)	\$33,866	\$38,140	Up less than COLA
Household Income per capita	\$19,236	\$22,008	Up less than COLA
Poverty	25.4%	22.6%	Slight decrease
Education 25+ no degree	30.5%	15.2%	Down
Housing Units	1781	1959	Up
Housing Vacancy	17.3%	13.6%	Down
Housing Owner Occupied	46.5%	44.4%	Down
Housing Value	\$150,800	\$132,100	Down
Unemployment	10%	9.7%	About the same

Note: 2015-2016 data was derived from the 2017 Sustainable Communities Plan and the resources they used. 2020 data was derived from the 2020 US Census Bureau.

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?

Pocomoke City has not made any changes to its organizational structure since the original Sustainable Communities designation. The City is governed by a Mayor and five City Councilmembers. The day-to-day affairs are managed by the new City Manager, Jeremy Mason. The Mayor, City Council, and City Manager now have outside legal counsel instead of internal counsel, which allows for objective opinions and eliminates conflict-of-interest issues. There have also been some changes in the City Council and the Mayor as elections occur annually.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

City Staff Changes:

Mayor	Bruce Morrison	2011-2020
	Susan Marshall-Harrison	2020-2023
City Manager	Russell Blake	1975-2015
	Ernest Crofoot	2015-2017
	Robert Cowger	2017-2019
	Jeremy Mason	2019-present
City Council	Esther L. Troast	2025
	Diane Downing	2022
	R. Scott Holland	2022
	Daniel J. Tarr	2023
	Todd J. Nock	2025

While changes in the staff can impact the membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, over the last 3 years, drastic improvement in implementing much of the Sustainable Communities plan is becoming fruitful. Along with Pocomoke City Manager, Jeremy Mason as a leading member of the Sustainable Communities Plan, Pocomoke City Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil and Pocomoke City Events and Downtown Coordinator, Karah Lacey are also heavily involved with the leadership. Other community members who bring input are as follows: Pocomoke Area Chamber of Commerce Director, Lisa Taylor and Downtown Pocomoke Association President, Amber Thompson, who are both business and property owners in Downtown Pocomoke.

This workgroup will use the present plans as we as future envisioned plans to use as a pathway in seeking grants and funding to implement projects that support this plan, as well as the Comprehensive Master Plan. Much progress has been made in the past five years as a result of aggressive grant seeking and searching for any opportunities which can advance the goals of the plan. This is expected to continue as the City has kept abreast of state and federal opportunities and has proactively sought to use as many as possible.

(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 major strength of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup has been the diversity of its membership. Business people are represented, in addition to the City Clerk, the City Housing Inspector/Rehabilitation Coordinator, and the Downtown Coordinator. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and asset management has been introduced into the City over the last few years and it currently encompassing the City's water, sewer, zoning, blighted building and greenspace. There are plans go grow this more. This will make it easier to plan for future progress toward the Sustainable Communities Action Plan.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

The City has also created a fulltime Grant Administrator position which includes the tasking of grant writing, reporting and future planning to allow Pocomoke to more proactively seek grant funding to improve the workgroup's capacity.

One of the challenges has been the competitive nature of a number of the grant programs Pocomoke City has relied upon to implement the action plan. However, the City has been quite successful in the past five years in obtaining grant funds. Another challenge has been the poor economic indicators of the area. A low assessable base, non-diversified economy, high poverty rate, poor housing conditions, and a low median income has meant that Pocomoke City has had to put even more effort into revitalization opportunities. The poor economic indicators lead to a smaller tax revenue base to fund infrastructure projects and to cover needed costs. This is offset by grants and loans to improve the City and implement current plans.

- (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 Sustainable Communities Action Plan is based on the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. However, changes to conditions since the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan are also considered. As grant funding is received and projects are implemented, the overall picture is changed. The Sustainable Communities Work Group initially met on February 18, 2022. We have also met on March 2, March 9, and April 4. On April 4, we met within the regularly scheduled and public Mayor's and City Council meeting where we discussed public input, the process for resolution to adopt the plan. On April 12, we will seek public input as well as input from those that are present at the next public Mayor's and City Councilmember's meeting. This will allow a month for public input before the adoption of the resolution.

This plan is based on the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, the previous Sustainable Communities Plan, reflecting the current budget and the needs of the City.

- (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.

We are requesting technical assistance with the draft and mapping of the updated Sustainable Communities boundary designation. We have a need to expand the boundaries and do not have the technical capacity to draft the maps.

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

- Part 1: Qualitative Assessment
- Part 2: Comprehensive Assessment
- Competitive Funding

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

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

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

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

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

Example – Accomplishment 1

Outcome: Improved stormwater management

Projects:

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

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

Partners:

Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance

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

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

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

Project 1:

Outcome: Engineering in process for **improved water quality for Pocomoke City**. Getting design and funding for these items is a huge milestone and is the main reason it has not met goals at this time. Grants and loan have a long lifecycle. While we have put together much of the funding, the grant obligation cycle is long. We do have funding arranged for the Tanks/Mixers project, which is in the Design Phase. We now have funding for four other Pumps Repair and Replace project and it is almost ready to begin the Engineering Phase. Lastly, we are in process of capturing all the funding for Phase 1 of the CIPP Lining for the Water Mains. With this project should be able to increase the lifespan of the water mains with these projects and improve water quality.

Narrative: Gathering the funding for these projects has been a multi-year adventure. The funding is as follows: Tanks/Mixer refurbishment (\$990,000 – grants/loans) status: Active; Water Pump Station Replacement (\$1,911,000 – grants/loans) status: Active; CIPP Lining Market Street Water Mains (\$2,256,650 grants/ARPA) status: finalizing funding; Water Meter Replacements (\$935,227 ARPA) status: Active...

Partners: MDE, USDA, MDE, DHCD, Taylor Bank (local), ARPA, funding and contractors. SERCAP consulting.

Impact: TBD, This project has not been completed, but is in process. When complete, this should be a large step toward improving water quality with rust and particulate counts improved.

Project 2:

Outcome: **Improvements in Historical Districts not complete** but are in process or not accomplished include: Restoration of public and privately owned historical buildings, if feasible. Removal of unsafe, unusable buildings and replacement of these buildings with buildings using strict selection processes. Improved commerce in a walkable community, decreased crime, increased safety, improved quality of life, and improved housing values are the goal.

Narrative: The downtown historic district is the heart of our Sustainable Communities area that is both residential and commercial. There is a high volume of buildings that are in various stages of deterioration. The housing values are low and it is difficult to get new commerce in the area. The city proposes a four-pronged strategy: 1) to offer DHCD SRP Façade program participation for commercial building rehabilitation; 2) to partner with the Worcester county residential building repair and restoration programs for owner-occupied homeowners; 3) to partner with Salisbury Neighborhood low to moderate income home buying and improvement program; 4) to selectively, as a last resort, remove and replace buildings that are extremely unsafe and it is not economically feasible to restore.

The purpose of this project is the following: to create a safe and thriving walkable community which includes mixed use zoning of commercial, residential, and public owned spaces. To make the sustainable community's area safer, the city will focus on crime deterrents, repair or removal of unsafe buildings, which ever is more cost effective and beneficial to the town as a whole, including the economic impact, and the cleanup of brownfield areas. Studies show that the radius around brownfields tend to have higher criminal activity. Currently, the Pocomoke City Police Department (PCPD) has stated one of the highest crime areas in our community is surrounding the current brownfield areas and unoccupied, unlivable housing. If these areas are improved by repairing or removing blight, increasing homeownership, and building new buildings with resourceful public purposes in the areas, it stands to reason, crime will decrease and property values will increase, thus improving the quality of life immediately and hopefully for the future of the youth. These programs are in the beginning stages for Pocomoke and should compliment existing Section 8 housing.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Partners: DHCD-SRP, DHCD-CDBG, MHT, Department of Natural Resources: Community Parks and Recreation, Worcester County Library, Worcester County Housing Rehabilitation Program, State of Maryland, Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Assistance and others TBD.

Impact: The impact of the programs is begin to develop strategies to realize decreased crime activity, increased home ownership, increased safe walkable access to food, entertainment, access to educational and meeting spaces, and the improvement, as well as, use of local greenspace; increased commercial attraction for new business; and increased housing values.

Project 3:

Outcome: “Green” Neighborhood connections (paths and bikeways) development.

Narrative: In the past, it was thought the task of improving the bikeways, pathways, and greenspaces would be unattainable due to a “lack of funding.” However, over the last few months, the City Manager and Grants Administrator have identified several grant opportunities to complete. DNR and the Worcester County Bike Coalition has great insight here. We are in the process of formulating a plan to implement over the next 5 years.

The initial beginning of this project is to complete a feasibility study to strategize the best place to put walkways, bikeways, and pathways from a hardscape enhancement to native greenspaces as well as an economic impact evaluation, with a focus on bringing these walkways through the heart of the downtown region and parks. After the study is complete, funding to engineer, design, and build walkways, bikeways, and pathways will begin. This would include the following strategies: connect existing and future Virginia, Somerset, and Worcester County Bikeways and Nature Trails; create trails to and through our greenspaces, create bikeways to and through our downtown area to enhance commerce.

Partners: Tri County Council, Worcester County, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition, and others TBD

Impact: Increased well designed and engineered trails and pathways, increased commerce.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

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

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

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

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

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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.	X			<p>Wastewater Water Septic has improved by modifying ordinances and building in constraints of what type of waste can be accepted and dumped for water treatment. Prior to this ordinance change, we had some dumping that was not environmentally friendly. This problem seems to have been resolved.</p> <p>Drinking Water For Drinking Water, funding for our projects has been a large hurdle. We have now gained momentum in funding and are in the process of moving Water Quality forward.</p> <p>Currently, the City does test for particulates and chemicals in the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. TTHM is above threshold. Our drinking water remains within the thresholds for lead and copper, but could use improvement by improving, repairing and replacing the infrastructure. see: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/ConsumerConfidenceReports/Documents/CCR2019/Worcester/0230006-City-of-Pocomoke-City.pdf</p>
2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens	X			Native plants have been replanted in green spaces and natural habitats. This includes the Olive Wetland Garden within Cypress Park. We also have a community garden which has been established.
3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?	X			Pickleball Courts have been added to Cypress Park, as well as new playground space and equipment at Cypress Park and Winter Quarters Drive.
4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices?	X			<p>New roof on City Hall.</p> <p>Ongoing Façade program for downtown improvements</p> <p>Beautification program planning for downtown for greenspaces and hardscapes</p>

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(ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)				
OTHER: 5. Improving Brownfield Issues in Historical Downtown District		X		We have been unable to resolve brownfield issues due to lack of funding and MHT
6. Healthy food availability by downtown region	X			This market is available Friday mornings in season.

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			Seven new businesses have been established over the last five years in the Sustainable Communities designation. This has been accomplished largely through the efforts of the City's fulltime Downtown Coordinator and the façade improvement program.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			The downtown received designation as a Main Street Affiliate community in 2016.

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3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	X			Many new businesses have opened in Downtown Pocomoke increasing foot traffic, as well as many annual, monthly, and weekly events
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	X			The percentage of downtown vacancies has decreased to 10% The fulltime Downtown Coordinator position and active work by the Worcester County Economic Development Department has created this success over the past 5 years.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?	X			The new businesses in the downtown have created additional 18 new jobs.
6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?			X	This has not been a focus of the City, but county and state assistance is available. More partnership is in process.
OTHER:				

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TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?		X		We were unable to find funding to accomplish this. However, this last year, the City Manager and Grants Administrator have been working with the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition. Here we have found funding sources and are working in feasibility studies and planning.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?		X		Public Transit has been reviewed and is currently in process. We looked at improving bus stops, however, it was recommended by Shore .Transit to not put more covered bus stops in due to past criminal activity.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?		X		Discuss with Bill https://www.mrlevel.com/blog/ada-compliance-guidelines-for-sidewalks#:~:text=For%20ADA%20compliance%2C%20the%20minimum,be%20constructed%20every%20200%20feet.
4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support "Complete" or "Green" streets?		X		This has not been discussed yet.
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			X	This is not an issue at this time.

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OTHER: 6. Street Lighting Improvements	X			Replacement of Street Lighting to improve visibility of pedestrian and traffic has been in a Repair and Replacement program of 70 street lights since 2020. So far, we have replaced approximately 350 street lights. This is a joint program with the utility company, Delmarva Power.
OTHER: 7. Traffic Safety along State owned highways where city streets cross-over (intersections across Highway 13)		X		<p>This needs to be addressed. Goals are to decrease accidents and increase public and pedestrian safety</p> <p>1) traffic safety at intersections across Highway 13?</p> <p>a. Pedestrian walkways -- such as an over pass (Old Snow Hill Road)</p> <p>b. Vehicular metering such as delayed light changes and traffic camera monitoring (Old Snow Hill Road)</p> <p>c. Modifications of traffic flow to increase visibility and decrease accidents where yield and stop signs are present without stoplight usage. (Winter's Quarters, Stockton Road)</p> <p>2) Pedestrian Safety markings and flashing lights for school crossings, etc across Market Street.</p>
HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?		X		<p>This program has not been implemented. Home ownership is low in Pocomoke City.</p> <p>We are in process of forming partnerships with Worcester County who has initiated a residential façade program for occupied home owners.</p>
2. Has the homeownership rate increased?		X		Home ownership has decreased approximately 2% in the last 5 years.

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3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?		X		The Sustainable Community in our area consists of older historic homes.
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?	X			<p>There has been some demolition of blighted buildings in our city.</p> <p>For the purposes of Pocomoke City blight analysis strategy, blight is defined as: safety issues (structurally unsound, brownfield contaminants), crime economically cost prohibitive to restore (looking at values where the cost benefit to revitalize and use is the value of the building with low value to no value occupancy availability.</p> <p>Additionally, the City has a fund for the demolition of blighted buildings to spend annually. Over this last 5 years, the City had a study done on identifying the quantity of and quality of housing, including blighted buildings and these buildings are mapped out in a GIS. There are many blighted buildings within Pocomoke City. One primary blighted block is the block that houses the Armory, Collins and Dunn buildings. This is a strategic lynchpin to improving blight within our city. Other blighted buildings will follow.</p>
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?		X		The City's population has gone down but the housing units have increased within the city limits. It is not know what the demographic is for the SC region only.

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6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?		X		This has not been a part of our programs. Our City is very small and does not have the manpower to initiate this.
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		X		This has not been a part of our programs. Our City is very small and does not have the manpower to initiate this.
OTHER:				

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COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?	X			<p>Costen House Delmarva Theater Sturgis One Room School House Discovery Musuem</p> <p>No environmental hazards were established to mitigate.</p>
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	X			<p>Public museumsstill has been available for many years and is still run by the local non-profit. The Delmarva Theater, local historic museums, places of worship, a farmer's market, and local shops are integrated with greenspace.</p> <p>We are in the active planning stages for a New Library in the historic downtown region of town to create a walkable community which will improve property values, increase commerce, give the youth a congregating space, and create meeting spaces. Along side the Library, the City is looking at improving adjacent property around the building to develop a recreation center, playground and overflow parking.</p>
3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.	X			<p>The Downtown Coordinator and City's Events Coordinator has facilitated many social events and places to celebrate for Fall, Winter and Spring festivals, downtown outdoor markets and other events. The Fairgrounds also has events.</p>

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4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.		X		There are future opportunities in the works, but not many changes over the last 5 years.
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?	X			There are outdoor recreational areas in our parks and fairground. We are in process of planning an indoor recreational area.
6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?	X			We have a farmer's market in our downtown area, community garden downtown within the sustainable community area.
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?		X		UCR data is only compiled to 2019 – Crime rates did go down from a high in 2017 and 2018. Crimegrade.org still gave Pocomoke City a grade of D- for 2018 in comparison to other city. Property Crime ranked highest (grade F), Violent Crime (grade D), and other crimes are graded at a C+. This is similar to other cities nearby in Maryland.

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8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	X			Yes. There is internet, water, sewer and electric services within the City limits of Pocomoke City. All residents have access to this.
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			The City has witnessed steady residential growth in existing subdivisions served by water and sewer services. These subdivisions include Woodland Manor, Southern Fields, Cedar Point, Jenkins Orchard, Butler Village Townhouses, and White Oaks. All subdivisions are nearing build-out. The City has issued approximately 88 building permits for single family homes over the past five years in existing platted subdivisions. The City has also issued permits for expansion of existing industries including the Benelli Firearms manufacturing plant where they built a 25,000 square feet warehouse expansion. The McDonalds restaurant was also completely rebuilt on its existing property in 2020 as an example of in-fill development.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		X		Pocomoke has a large inventory of preserved and protected lands with our parks. Our parks have native species and are designed to also help protect our river.

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3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.		X		<p>No. Growth has been stymied by the hinderance of planned improvements in the central Downtown region with the industrial blight that has been unresolved over the last 5 years.</p> <p>The lack of water service extending south along Ocean Highway and Old Virginia Road to residential, commercial and industrial properties is a constraint to development.</p>
4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?	X			<p>Yes. Adoption of Resolution 437 for stronger enforcement to address Vacant and Blighted Building (2018).</p> <p>Additionally, The City modified its zoning code to allow more flexibility with residential uses in the upper floors of commercial properties in the downtown business district. This has resulted in more people living and shopping in the downtown area and has stimulated the rehabilitation of downtown commercial properties. The City also has amended its home occupation zoning ordinance making it easier for residents to start businesses and work out of their homes.</p>
5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?	X			<p>Lighting... city lighting is being replaced and upgraded.</p> <p>Water/Sewer: The Water Treatment plant was upgraded over this last five years.</p> <p>Water testing and analysis has also brought design for improvements on the pumps, water towers, and water mains. Additionally new water meters will be installed.</p>

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<p>6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Grants Administrator has been brought on board, Zoning and Enforcement position is now full-time, and a Human Resourced position is now open.</p> <p>Professional Development is encouraged as long as it is in a topic that correlates with the current employment role.</p>
<p>7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>We are in process of a Capital Improvement Plan. Additionally we will be renewing our Comprehensive Master Plan in 2023.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p>				

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COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.	Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)	Amount Received	If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?	Other Notes
Community Legacy (CL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Façade program • Business/Residential Demolition Program 	DHCD	Amounts vary from 100k-30k		We missed the 2022-2023 application year. No funding will be received from that. We would like to expand the SC region to include more businesses on our Market Street area and our Winter's Quarter's region.
Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armory/Blighted Public Building with safety hazards 	DHCD	None	We are working on a work around.	
Water Infrastructure Improvement Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Treatment Plant (loan) • Water Tanks/Mixers (loan/grant) • Water Pumps (loan/grant) • Water Mains (grant/ARPA) • Water Main Repair – heights (loan) 	MDE/WIIN; USDA; Taylor Bank; RMC; DHCD; ARPA; Hebron bank loan	Treatment Plant: 1.3M Tanks: \$990k Pumps: \$1.9M Mains: \$1.4M Mains/Heights: \$1.1M		Water Improvement is a priority. We anticipate all of these current/past programs to be on-going in phases to fully improve the water quality.
Historical Restoration in SC region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delmarva Discovery Museum • Pocomoke Train Musuem • Coston House • Sturgis • Marva Theater 	MHAA/MHT	Museum: Costen: \$5,725 Sturgis: \$20k MARVA: \$50k		These loans are currently turned over to the non-profit groups. The city has helped write some grants and is now facilitating the grant writing directly with the non-profit to help with proficiency in grant/financial development. Grant writing courses and training is being provided by the City as well as support.
CDBG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circuit Rider Program • Special Projects Funding 	DHCD	\$50k		Circuit Rider program is very beneficial in helping with professional level help. Special Project funding is used for infrastructure projects, as needed and funding is available.

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Other Funding Programs: *examples are U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or grants from USDA, EPA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Association, Preservation Maryland, Safe Routes to School, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, etc.*

*Please add more rows if necessary

Waterways and Trails; Stormwater BIG/BAG	MDNR	\$5k	FUTURE	Future funding will be sought to resolve items found in the Dock/Water Access Study funded by DNR
State Highway Administration Safe Routes to school	SH		FUTURE	Funding will be sought to improve pedestrian walkway on Market Street for safer walking for school children.
Parks and Trails			FUTURE	Future funding will be sought to improve walkways, trailways, bikeways, and water access.
ARPA/CARES Act		CARES: \$170k ARPA: \$4 M		These funds are non-competitive Federal Funds distributed via the State. They are focused on C-19 Pandemic Recovery and infrastructure improvements.
Bikeways and Trails			FUTURE	Future funding will be sought to improve walkways, trailways, bikeways, and water access.

<p>COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Are there any types of projects/needs for which your Sustainable Community needs funding; however, there isn't a funding source?</p> <p>At this time, we have identified funding sources for many of our future projects. We are in process of making implementation plans. As we improve the city, complete the new Capital Improvement Plan and Master Planning, we will be better able to address this question.</p>
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☐ Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)

- Action Plan

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Name of Sustainable Community

Example Section

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

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

Environment

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

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pocomoke City has an abundance of natural resources from the Pocomoke River. Natural Habitat areas are also in abundance. Greenspace is improving in quality and planning. Water and Sewer capacity is adequate at this time and is improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water infrastructure needs improvement for water quality and system functionality Brownfield Issues

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Improved Water Quality measures</p> <p>Progress Measures: to increase flow, improve system functionality; decrease sediment/contaminate levels</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue with Tanks/Mixer Repair and Replace Cycles</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue with Pumps Repair and Replace Cycles</p> <p>Strategy C: Continue with Water Main Repair and Replace Cycles</p> <p>Strategy D: Continue with New Water Meter Implementation</p>	<p>MDE/WIIN/USDA/Talor Bank/RMC and ARPA</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Brownfield Issues</p> <p>Progress Measures: To decrease or eliminate current known brownfield issues in the SC region to improve safety, housing values, public use of property, and to create a more desirable walkable community and staying within the budgetary constraints for economic feasibility.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Brownfield area 1 – the Armory, Collins and Dunn property. It is deemed cost prohibitive to make structurally sound and keep available for public use. However, public use of the property is still feasible if the new Library is built in place of the Armory. Demo options are estimated around \$390,000.</p> <p>Strategy B: Brownfield area 2; to horizontally and vertically stabilize with geotextile materials. To cap the area and pave with an overflow parking lot or specialized park. This will allow toxic materials to dissipate over time and not be an overt environmental issue. Need more planning here.</p>	<p>DHCD; MHT Worcester County EPA</p>

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downtown business appears to be improving with a decrease in vacancy. The Façade program assists in downtown beautification. Greenspaces have been landscaped. Technical and grant assistance to historical non-profits in improving cultural/historical assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism. Workforce attraction/retention Streetscaping

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase tourism dollars and build a diverse commerce</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase commerce revenue and improved business health and appearance</p> <p>To increase the number of business owners in the downtown area</p>	<p>Strategy A: Build connecting bikeways and walkways. See transportation section</p> <p>Strategy B: Seek more diverse advertising</p> <p>Strategy C: Increase spending on Façade programs to improve appeal of downtown businesses.</p>	<p>DNR, parks and recreation,</p> <p>Downtown Association</p> <p>DHCD</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Strengthen economic capabilities downtown with the walkable communities region. Creating a commerce friendly place for recreation, education, discovery, business, dining, and residential. (The downtown library project)</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase foot/vehicle/bike traffic in the central downtown region.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Creating a commerce friendly place for recreation, education, discovery, business, dining, and residential. (The downtown library project)</p> <p>Strategy B: improve fresh food capabilities in addition to the farmer's market.</p>	<p>DHCD, Chamber of Commerce, the Library Committee, Wo Co Commissioner's.</p>

Transportation

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pocomoke City has a light traffic pattern as a normal basis. During summer, there is an influx in the number of vehicles, but not normally congestive. Downtown Market Street has consistent traffic but is well monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could use improved safe trails for biking, walkways, and to water access. Could use safer pedestrian crosswalks across Market Street for the school children before and after school.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improved Pedestrian Crosswalk on Market Street for School Time Frames</p> <p>Progress Measures: Assist with policing manpower during school transit timeframes to promote safety.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Add Crosswalk Markings, Caution Signage and Stop Signaling when occupied.</p>	<p>SHA Safe Routes to school program;</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Bikeways, Trails, Waterways Improvement; Connect with other county and state trails.</p> <p>Progress Measures: output-based metrics would include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an increase of mileage of bikeways, trails, and walkways improved access to both city dock/water access increased use of boat ramps for waterways an increase in recreational activities within the city that may draw tourism/economic facilitation to the downtown SC region. 	<p>Strategy A: To complete a feasibility and design study on where best to implement bikeways, trails, and walkways. To establish estimated costs. To establish estimated mileage of bikeways, trails, and walkways. To establish an estimate on the environmental impact. To establish an estimated economic impact. To rank the projects in an order of priority and seek funding.</p> <p>Strategy B: To begin engineering design, engineering and construction on boat ramps and docks at Winter Quarters and Laurel Street</p>	<p>DNR Parks and Recs SHA RMC Engineering firm Other TBD</p>

Housing

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many older homes are historical and well kept (noting the majority of these home are owner- occupied homes). This adds a unique charm and beauty to the city within the SC region. Added Resolution 437 in 2018 to address blight and vacant buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blight Lack of homeownership Lack of desirable housing available

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: To decrease blight and improve desirable housing</p> <p>Progress Measures: To increase home ownership within Pocomoke City</p> <p>To improve safety and appeal of homes within Pocomoke</p> <p>To decrease the number of blighted buildings</p> <p>To decrease criminal activity in blighted housing areas.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Hire a full-time Zoning and Planning officer to “nudge” and address non-compliant housing. To continue to enforce Resolution 437 a “code enforcement action plan” with citizens who are out of compliance</p> <p>Strategy B: Introduce the home-owner façade program and promote it to improve and increase value of owner-occupied homes (a stipulation to be owner-occupied).</p> <p>Strategy C: Introduce low-income home ownership program and promote it.</p> <p>Strategy D: Define blight using criteria of the value and intrinsic value of the property, the cost of refurbishment, safety repair costs, structural costs, future use case weighting and evaluation, and historical value. All housing must meet these strict guidelines before razing buildings.</p>	<p>Community Legacy – homeowner façade program could be implemented.</p> <p>Worcester County Housing</p> <p>Salisbury Neighborhood Housing</p> <p>Pocomoke Fire Department</p> <p>Pocomoke Police Department</p> <p>Pocomoke City Planning and Zoning – Mike Wyatt (full time zoning and planning officer)</p>
<p>Outcome 2: To increase new residential development</p> <p>Progress Measures: To increase 200 new homes over the next 5 years.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Seek housing developers.</p>	<p>Pocomoke City Planning and Zoning</p>

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer's Market and the food bank established quality food options for the lower income and downtown population. Quality museums, historical theater, dining, water way access, pathways, places of worship, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need for a modern library which would provide a positive gathering place for educational, job search, business resources that would benefit meeting room, internet access, GED classes all meeting ADA compliance. A youth/recreational facility is needed for the SC region.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Library for SC region</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased capacity to serve the public at the core where most disadvantaged families live</p>	<p>Strategy A: Provide a new library at the core of the downtown historic district to improve access, housing values, and create a functional walkable community. Needs to be outside of the 100 yr floodplain, by downtown commerce, by museum, dining, and will improve community engagement.</p>	<p>County Commissioners, State and Federal Library planning</p>
<p>Outcome 2: A youth/recreational facility</p> <p>Progress Measures: a new community building that will complement the library as a meeting place and a recreational place.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create an indoor and outdoor recreational area of an indoor gymnasium/large room with meeting space as well as an outdoor playground close to the new Library, museum, dining, entertainment, and residential area. This will create a mixed-use walkable community allowing citizens to have meeting places, recreational places, educational and entertainment all within a walking area.</p>	<p>CDBG – special projects, parks and recreations, and others TBD</p>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly qualified professional department heads Currently updating local policies Currently update local taxes and fees Staff at capacity for budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing workload can exceed manpower Implementation of annual COLA Implementation of standardized wage step schedule Planning does not include city-wide input

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improve Staffing to even workload</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase capacity in Grants Administration, police department, public works and EMS.</p>	<p>Strategy A: hire a circuit rider to back fill manpower for Grants Administration through DHCD-CDBG; possibly increase to two Circuit Riders within 2 years.</p> <p>Strategy B: Increase manpower by a factor of 1 for the Police Department and resolve work effort request for Public Works and EMS.</p>	<p>DHCD-CDBG City Manager, City Council, Human Resources, Financial Department, Public Works, EMS</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Personnel</p> <p>Progress Measures: Create a step wage cycle</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create a step wage cycle for time, job position or "rank" to be competitive in wage to improve hiring capability, recruitment, and retention for city employees. This will mitigate city employee's retention problem.</p> <p>Strategy B: Implementation of COLA can be integrated or not integrated within a step-wage plan.</p>	<p>City</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Improve planning</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase city-wide input with city visions and plans</p>	<p>Strategy A: Sector planning has a financial impact. Expanding sector planning that is grant funded is desirable.</p> <p>Strategy B: Comprehensive Master Planning needs to be updated and broadened to include emergency disaster planning and the financial impact of all planning efforts. Infrastructure, Real Property future use, and green space planning should also be modified.</p>	<p>Possible partner in CMP update would be CDBG.</p>

Screenshot of Public Notice Announcement

Bids & Public Notices | Pocomoke x Scanned from a Xerox Multifunct x +

cityofpocomoke.com/news/public

Apps Home | GRANTS.GOV GOCCP Patrick Leahy Bullet... US Department of J... DHCD Portal Intelli... JustGrants 2021-22 Police and... Census - Advanced... U.S. Census Bureau...

NEWS BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES EVENTS GOVERNMENT TOURISM CITY INFORMATION

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Request For Proposals

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS, CIPP LINING PROJECT, POSTED 5/9/2022

Legal Notice: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Pocomoke City Water Line Improvements,
Pocomoke City CIPP Lining Project - Market Street (Phase 1)

[Read more...](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 549, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ADOPTED, POSTED 5/13/2022

Resolution No. 549

A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE DESIGNATION OF POCOMOKE CITY AS A
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
AND
TO AMEND THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES' AREA MAP

[Read more...](#)

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11:13 5/24/2022



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"The friendliest town on the Eastern Shore"

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BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR

DISTRICT BY ADDRESS

District by Address

**RESOLUTION NO. 552, GUN VIOLENCE
REDUCTION GRANT ON JUNE 6, 2022
AT 6:30 P.M., POSTED 5/20/2022**

Notice of Public Hearing

Pocomoke City Mayor & Council

on Monday, June 6, 2022 At 6:30 P.M.

**The purpose of the Public Hearing is to
receive public comment on:**

**1. Resolution No. 552, Gun Violence
Reduction Grant**

**This Public Hearing will be held on
Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the
Council Chambers, at City Hall, 101 Clarke
Ave. Pocomoke City, MD.**

[Read more...](#)

[NEWS](#)[BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES](#)[EVENTS](#)[GOVERNMENT](#)[TOURISM](#)[CITY INFORMATION](#)

IMPROVEMENTS, CIPP LINING PROJECT, POSTED 5/20/2022

Notice of Public Hearing

Pocomoke City Mayor & Council

on

Monday, June 6, 2022 At 6:30 P.M.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to
receive public comment on

1. Resolution No. 550, Establish RFP
Process for CIPP Lining Water Project

This Public Hearing will be held on
Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the
Council Chambers, at City Hall, 101 Clarke
Ave. Pocomoke City, MD.

[Read more...](#)



**NOTICE
OF
PUBLIC
HEARING
FOR**

**RESOLUTION NO. 551 ON JUNE 6, 2022
AT 6:30 P.M., POSTED 5/20/2022**

Notice of Public Hearing

[NEWS](#)[BIDS & PUBLIC NOTICES](#)[EVENTS](#)[GOVERNMENT](#)[TOURISM](#)[CITY INFORMATION](#)

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on:

1. Resolution No. 551, Maryland Circuit Rider/City Manager Program Grant

This Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at City Hall, 101 Clarke Ave. Pocomoke City, MD.

[Read more...](#)



PROPOSALSWATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS, CIPP LINING PROJECT, POSTED 5/9/2022

Legal Notice: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Pocomoke City Water Line Improvements,
Pocomoke City CIPP Lining Project - Market
Street (Phase 1)

[Read more...](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 549, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ADOPTED, POSTED 5/13/2022

Resolution No. 549

A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE DESIGNATION
OF POCOMOKE CITY AS A

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

[Read more...](#)



**NOTICE OF
DECISION
- CYPRESS
ROOTS
BREWERY,
POSTED
4/18/2022**

**POCOMOKE
CITY BOARD
OF ZONING
APPEALS**

POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND

**APPLICATION NO: VAR 79-2022 Re: Cypress
Roots Brewing Company, Willey Strategies
LLC.**

Follow the link below to read the decision in its
entirety.

[Read more...](#)



**ELECTION CERTIFICATION FOR APRIL
2022, POSTED 4/11/2022**

The Pocomoke Municipal elections were not held due to District 1 candidate, R. Scott Holland ran unopposed. District 2 candidate, Diane Downing, also ran unopposed. The Board of Elections Supervisors held a meeting on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 in Council Chambers to officially declare the results. The



REVISED AGENDA

POCOMOKE CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 16, 2022

City Hall

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer and Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 12, 2022
3. Review and Approval Current Bill List
4. Public hearing and Adopt Resolution No. 549, Sustainable Communities
5. Adopt List of Tax Abatement Properties for FY 2022-23
6. Discuss Terms of County Loan for Demolition
7. Introduce Resolution No. 550, Establish RFP Process for CIPP Lining Project, 1st Reading
8. Introduce Resolution No. 551, Maryland Circuit Rider/City Manager Program Grant, 1st Reading
9. Introduce Resolution No. 552, Gun Violence Reduction Grant, 1st Reading

Comments from Council

Comments from the Mayor

Comments from City Manager

Comments from Chief of Police

Comments from Audience

Adjournment

THE AGENDA ITEMS MIGHT NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OR THE DELETION OF ITEMS, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Neighborhood Revitalization Mapper




3/1/2022, 2:25:52 PM

 Sustainable Communities (DHCD)

Priority Funding Areas

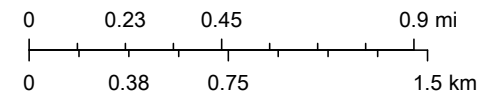
 Heritage Area in Locally Designated Growth Areas

 PFA

 PFA Comment Area

 Municipal Boundaries

1:36,112



VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, METI/NASA,

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA | MD iMAP, MDP | MD iMAP, DoIT, MDP, MDOT, MDOT SHA | MD iMAP, MDP, SDAT | MD iMap, MHT, MDP | MD iMAP, MHT, MDP, MHAA | MD iMAP, COMMERCE, Emiko

Proposed New Sustainable Communities Map for Pocomoke City, MD

