



# 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 - 6.24

WES MOORE  
Governor  
ARUNA MILLER  
Lt. Governor  
JACOB R. DAY  
Secretary  
JULIA GLANZ  
Deputy Secretary

## **Overview of Sustainable Communities**

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

## **Purpose or Renewal and Streamlined Application**

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

## **Application Eligibility and Threshold Requirements**

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

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

## **Threshold Requirements**

All Sustainable Community applications must meet the following threshold requirements:

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

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

### **Application Submission and Evaluation**

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

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

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

**Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

To: Carter Reitman

[carter.reitman@maryland.gov](mailto:carter.reitman@maryland.gov)

Copy: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

[olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov](mailto:olivia.ceccarelli@maryland.gov)

### **Site Visits, Follow-up, and Technical Assistance**

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](mailto: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.

### **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 Carter Reitman at 410-209-5849 or by email at [carter.reitman@maryland.gov](mailto: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 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 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**

**1) For each element, identify the essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.**

*Example:*

Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity

Weakness - Insufficient bicycle infrastructure

**2) Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest opportunities. Identify a way to measure the success of that outcome.**

*Example:*

Outcome - Expand fiber optic broadband Internet connections in Town

Progress Measure - Linear measurement of broadband fiber laid

**3) After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies and discrete actions that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.**

*Example:*

Strategy A - Increase number of Town sponsored events

Action A - Organize a workgroup tasked with planning weekend events

Action B - 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:*

Partner 1 - DHCD (Community Legacy program)

Partner 2 - Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance)

## **CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**

APPLICANT: Town of Bladensburg

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Port Towns Sustainable Communities

**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**

<b>Name of Sustainable Community:</b>		<b>Port Towns Sustainable Communities</b>	
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>		<b>Town of Bladensburg</b>	
<b>Applicant's Federal Identification Number:</b>		<b>526000777</b>	
<b>Applicant's Street Address: 4229 Edmonston Road</b>			
<b>City: Bladensburg</b>	<b>County: Prince George's</b>	<b>State: MD</b>	<b>Zip Code: 20710</b>
<b>Phone Number: 301 927-7048</b>	<b>Fax Number:</b>	<b>Web Address: www.bladensburgmd.gov</b>	

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

- (1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Why or why not? If you are requesting an expansion of your boundary, identify at least one outcome in your Action Plan that would serve the expanded area and at least one State benefit that would support achievement of that outcome (e.g., Community Legacy grants, Safe Routes to School, etc.) **No Changes Requested.**
- (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),
- (3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: **1,452.8 acres**
- (4) Existing federal, state or local designations:
- ☐ Main Street ☐ National Register Historic District ☐ Local Historic District  
☐ Arts & Entertainment District ☒ **State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District** ☐ BRAC  
☐ State Designated TOD ☒ **Other(s): Historically Underutilized Business Zone HUBZ, Priority Funding area, Revitalization Tax Credits.**
- (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?

**Town of Bladensburg** – In the Town of Bladensburg there were 9,444 people and 3,540 households. The per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2017-2022 \$58,619 with persons in poverty, percent 7.6%. The racial makeup of the Town is as follows, White alone, percent 4 %, Black or African American alone, percent(a) 65.5%, Two or More Races, percent 4.8%, Hispanic or Latino, percent(b) 31.8%, White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent 1.2%. In Bladensburg, 41.3% of residents speak another language besides English at home and 34.3% of residents are foreign born. The community has a homeownership rate of 19%, with median owner occupant priced at \$329,200. In the Town 84.8% of residents have a high school diploma or equivalent with 14.6% of the community obtaining a bachelor's degree or Graduate Degree.



**Town of Colmar Manor** – there were 1588 people, with 418 households. The racial makeup of the town consists of 60% Hispanic, 26.5% African American, and 6.8% Filipino, with the remainder being other races. There is a 67.4% employment rate and a 4.5% poverty rate. Residents have a 24.6% high school diploma or equivalent with 26.57% of the community obtaining a bachelor's degree or Graduate Degree. The Town's diversity is also demonstrated in that 65.7% of residents speak a language other than English in the household, of this 52.4% of the population speaks Spanish. This is due, in part, to 34.3% of the town being foreign born. The community has a 78.9% home ownership rate and a median income of \$91,250.

**Town of Cottage City** – there were 1,009 people with a median age of 47.4 and a median household income of \$59,922. The 5 largest ethnic groups in Cottage City, MD are Other (Hispanic) (37.2%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (28.5%), White (Non-Hispanic) (10.3%), Asian (Non-Hispanic) (6.15%), and White (Hispanic) (4.5%). None of the households in Cottage City, MD reported speaking a non-English language at home as their primary shared language. This does not consider the potential multi-lingual nature of households, but only the primary self-reported language spoken by all members of the household. 71.1% of the residents in Cottage City, MD are U.S. citizens.

**Town of Edmonston** – there were 1,577 people, with 449 households. The racial makeup of the town consists of 58.6% Hispanic or Latino, 26.5% African American, 9.51% White, 1.4% Asian, .6% Native American, and 3.3% from two or more races. There is an 11.1% poverty rate. Residents have a 63.5% high school diploma or equivalent with 12.9% of the community obtaining a bachelor's degree or Graduate Degree. The town is represented by 39.9% foreign born. The community has a 58% home ownership rate and a median household income of \$78,750.

## **(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?

**The working group for the Port Towns is the elected officials and Town administrators from of the four communities. The change during these five years has been the addition of Colmar Manor's Town Administrator. The Port Towns group meets quarterly to review and share accomplishments and challenges for the area. Progress is reported and updated as it occurs by the staff.**

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

**The challenge of the SC plan is always the broad scope of work with expectations sometimes not measurable.**

- (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?

**The four Port Towns and various community partners during 2023 identified the strengths and weaknesses of the six element areas and narrowing down the top three to four priorities of each of the areas. In addition, each Town elected body incorporated the process in strategic planning. In addition, consultants were used to complete Economic Development Strategic Plans for Bladensburg and Edmonston. Through the processes, the group identified the responsible agency/organization for leading the efforts to complete the outcomes.**

**In FY 2024, the Port Town Sector Plan began, the Towns have been working collaboratively to update this Sector Plan process. The last plan was completed in 2008 and the public input process will be completed in November 2024, with a final plan being presented and adopted in Spring 2025.**

- (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. **Yes, see below.**

## **Environment**

Outcome 1 – Strategy B: Advocate with PGC Department of Environment, Corps of Engineers, State representatives and other applicable agencies to identify funding to dredge the Anacostia River.

Outcome 3 – Strategy B – Assist with facilitation of appropriate agencies/legislatures to advocate for installation of pedestrian safety improvements on the Trail system.

## **Transportation**

Outcome 2 – Strategy A and B – Assist with facilitating the discussions with SHA and other state and federal officials on improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure at the Peace Cross Intersection.

Outcome 3 – Strategy B – Facilitate, assist, and identify funding to implement a Wayfinding signage program with the M-NCPPC.

## **Housing**

Outcome 1, Strategy A, B and C – assist with identifying affordable housing programs offered through the state and county, help to increase outreach efforts (MEA Grants), identify state programs that provide possible incentives for low to moderate income home buyers.

Outcome 2 – Strategy A – Assist with identifying rehab assistance programs for homeowners.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

Outcome 3 – Assist with identifying incentives to attract capital investment to encourage redevelopment of the Port Towns.

### **Quality of Life**

Outcome 1 – Strategy B – Facilitate the discussions with the appropriate County and state legislatures to help advocate for the expansion of the Bladensburg Community Center and identify funding to conduct feasibility study into the current and future space needs.

Outcome 2 – Strategy A – Assist with identifying funding to facilitate a branding/marketing campaign to help define the Port Towns identity and to promote the benefits of living, working and visiting the area.

### **Land Use**

Outcome 2 – Strategy D – Help coordinate discussions with County and State legislatures to discuss drafting legislation to provide the Port Towns with more say in planning and zoning decisions.

## **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: Bladensburg 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: Bladensburg 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.*

*Project 3: The Town of Edmonston installed 40 rain gardens in the 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Industrial Park, on Gallatin Street, Hamilton Street and in addition added 400 linear feet of permeable concrete on 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue.*

##### **Partners:**

*Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance.*

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

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

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

**Accomplishment 1: Environment**

*Outcome 2: Grow the identity & brand of the Port Towns as an environmentally friendly place to live and work.*

**Projects:**

- The Towns lead volunteers to complete cleanup of streams, public areas, and the Anacostia River branches. In addition, trees, scrubs, and flowers are planted in each community.
- The four Towns collected pet waste from receptacles in the communities. The communities promoted the “Scoop the Poop” county campaign throughout each community.
- The new LEED Certified Prince George’s County Public Library Bladensburg Branch opened in the fall of 2023. The Towns promote the library use.
- The Towns participate annually in the Bike to Work regional promotion by providing rest stops on the Anacostia River Trail. Vendors provide information about the region and about the historical assets and opportunities in the Port Towns.

**Partners:** Prince George’s County, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

**Impact:** Improved quality of life in the Port Towns through an enhanced environment, safer pedestrian/bike connections and the availability of a first-rate library system designed for the diverse residents living in the Port Town communities.



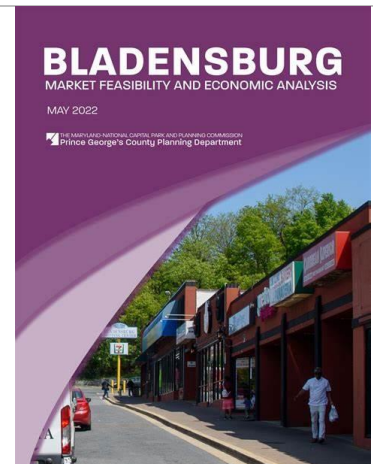
**Accomplishment 2: Economy**

*Outcome 1: Strengthen the small business sector of the Port Towns economy & increase the number and diversity of businesses and overall development.*

**Projects:**

- The Town of Edmonston in cooperation with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission received a PAM grant to develop an economic development strategic plan for the Town. The Town identified strengths and weaknesses; inventory existing conditions; and developed strategies for the future.
- The Town of Colmar Manor worked to fill a vacant retail building when Shopper’s Grocery left town. The town worked with the owner to fill the vacancy quickly with a new grocer.
- The Town of Bladensburg in cooperation with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission received a PAM grant to develop an economic development strategic plan for the Town. This plan was completed in the Fall of 2022. The plan identified strengths and weaknesses; inventory existing conditions; and developed strategies for the future.
- The Town of Bladensburg has also worked with the University of Maryland in 2020-2022 regarding a study of sustainable development within the Town. This project has been a catalyst in thinking about future development in the Town.

**Partners:** M-NCPPC, Private Develop



*Partners: Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning; Rufus Lusk, Developer; University of Maryland School of Architecture*

**Impact:** *The Town of Edmonston and Bladensburg has a vision for how to grow the small business sector and Colmar Manor was successful in recruiting a grocery store that was vitally needed in the Port Towns.*

### **Accomplishment 3: Transportation**

*Outcome 1: Expand and Improve the Call-A-Bus service to improve the mobility of senior and disabled residents.*

*Projects:*

*Colmar Manor runs the Call-a-Bus program for the Port Towns. Bladensburg participates. Ridership has grown after COVID.*

*The two Towns have worked collaboratively to improving transposition for seniors and vulnerable residents,*

*Partners: Port Towns (Bladensburg/Colmar Manor)*

**Impact:** *Affordable public transportation system for port town seniors and disabled residents.*



#### **Accomplishment 4: Transportation**

*Outcome 3: Improve connections to nearby public transit stations such as MARC, Metro, and the future purple line stations.*

*Projects:*

*Colmar Manor has obtained a bikeshare location at 40<sup>th</sup> St. and Bladensburg Road*

*Partners: Prince George's County Department of Public Works*

*Impact:*

*Access to bicycles for residents to use to get to work, go shopping or participate in recreational activities along the trail system.*

#### **Accomplishment 5: Transportation**

*Outcome 3: Improve connections to nearby public transit stations such as MARC, Metro, and the future purple line stations.*

*Projects:*

*Edmonston has partnered with Riverdale Park to create a trail and sidewalk access at the end of Lafayette Street that will connect with sidewalks to allow residents to bike or walk to the MARC station at Town Center in Riverdale Park. Construction will happen in 2024.*

*Partners: Riverdale Park, Edmonston, Chesapeake Bay Trust*

*Impact:*

*The project provides residents with an alternative to travel to work and to the public transportation hub at Town Center, Riverdale Park.*

#### **Accomplishment 6: Transportation**

*Outcome 2 Improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists through improved and increased infrastructure.*



*Edmonston installed Flashing Red Stop Signs at 4 major intersections on Decatur Street and 3 intersections on Lafayette Place through grant funds from DHCD's Neighborhood Safety program.*

*Partners: Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, Town of Edmonston*

*Impact: Reduce the speed of vehicles traveling in residential neighborhoods and improve safety for pedestrians crossing busy intersections.*



## **Accomplishment 7: Housing**

*Outcome 2 Improving the housing conditions of Port Town residents.*

*Edmonston implemented their “Edmonston Beautiful” home improvement program through grants from DHCD. The program provides funds to improve the facades of senior citizens and low-to-moderate income homeowners. Since 2018, the Town has assisted 30 homeowners.*

*Partners: Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, Town of Edmonston*

*Impact: Maintain homes to provide an appearance of a well-maintained community. Work allows elderly to stay in their homes for longer period of times. Increases the value of the property.*





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

*Outcome: 1 Environment*

*Capitalize on the community asset of the Bladensburg Waterfront Park & Trail System to attract residents & visitors.*

*Narrative:*

*Advocating with PGC Department of Environment, Corps of Engineers, State and Federal agencies to identify funding to dredge the Anacostia River. This priority has existed for the Port Towns for several years. The project has not been able to move forward due to the cost and not obtaining the necessary support from the political environment. Several local, state, and federal agencies need to be involved.*

*Outcome: 2 Transportation*

*Improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists through improved and increased infrastructure.*

*Narrative:*

*Work with the Maryland State Highway Administration to cooperatively identify solutions to address the lack of pedestrian and bicyclists' infrastructure at the Peace Cross intersection to improve access between the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Industrial Park, and Institutional uses on Annapolis Road.*

*The project has been a priority for the Port Towns for several years. SHA has not allocated resources to study and improve the intersection.*

## **Part II: Competitive Funding**

Use the rows below to list awards for sustainability or revitalization projects your community has received through the Sustainable Communities designation. Add rows as necessary.	<b>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b>	<b>Other Notes</b>
<b>Community Legacy (CL):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Streetscaping – Green Street - Signage</b></li> <li>● <b>Rehabilitate Senior/LMI Housing Edmonston Beautiful FY2019</b></li> <li>● <b>Rehabilitate Senior/LMI Housing Edmonston Beautiful FY2020</b></li> <li>● <b>Rehabilitate Senior/LMI Housing Edmonston Beautiful FY2021</b></li> <li>● <b>Rehabilitate Senior/LMI Housing Edmonston Beautiful FY2022</b></li> <li>● <b>Edmonston Business Façade Improvement FY2022</b></li> <li>● <b>Lighting Project FY 2020</b></li> </ul>	DHCD	\$50,000  \$50,000  \$50,000  \$50,000  \$50,000  \$150,000		Colmar Manor Edmonston  Edmonston  Edmonston  Edmonston  Edmonston  Bladensburg
<b>Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>				
<b>Maryland Facade Improvement Program (MFIP)</b>	DHCD			
<b>Operating Assistance Grant (OAG)</b>	DHCD			

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Renovation &amp; Reconstruction Firehouse</b></li> </ul>	DHCD	\$185,000		Cottage City
<b>Safe Routes to School: Sidewalks (52<sup>nd</sup> – Crittenden)</b>	MDOT	\$296,260		Edmonston
<b>Bikeways Network Program:</b>	MDOT			
<b>Sidewalk Retrofit Program:</b>	MDOT			
<b>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</b>	MDE			
<b>Other Funding Programs:</b> <i>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.</i> *Please add more rows if necessary				
<b>Road work PY43</b> <b>FY23 Community Safety Works – Business District</b> <b>Security Camera, GEM Vehicle &amp; Safety Signage</b> <b>FY23 Business Community Safety Works</b> <b>Employ PG Rapid Employment Grant</b>	PGC-CDBG DHCD DHCD PGC	\$84,929 \$87,500 \$94,672 \$11,250		Colmar Manor Colmar Manor Cottage City Colmar Manor

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<b>FY 23 Recreation Programming</b>	GOCCP	\$56,380		Colmar Manor
<b>FY23 Green Streets, Green Jobs, 43<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Newark</b>	Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$80,450		Colmar Manor
<b>43<sup>rd</sup> &amp;* Newark Permeable Pavement</b>	PGC- Stormwater Stewardship Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$36,318		Colmar Manor
<b>Light Fixture Replacement FY19</b>	MSEC	\$25,000		Colmar Manor
<b>FY20 CP &amp; P Open Space – Lariscy Park</b>	DNR	\$33,000		Colmar Manor
<b>DNR-Community Parks &amp; Playgrounds</b>	DNR	\$50,000		Cottage City
<b>FY23 Sidewalk Repairs</b>	ARPA	\$455,000		Colmar Manor
<b>Community Program – Dueling Ground Invasive Plant Removal</b>	ARPA	\$5,000		Colmar Manor
<b>Cleaning &amp; Painting Town Hall</b>	ARPA	\$15,225		Colmar Manor
<b>Streetlight Installation</b>	ARPA	\$6,730		Colmar Manor
<b>Community Non-profit Grants FY23</b>	ARPA	\$20,000		Colmar Manor
<b>Town-wide Tree Trimming FY23</b>	ARPA	\$20,475		Colmar Manor
<b>FY22 License Plate Reader Grant</b>	MDSP	\$29,100		Colmar Manor
<b>Sidewalks PY46</b>	PGC-CDBG	\$117,887		Edmonston
<b>Repaving Crittenden Street PY47</b>	PGC – CDBG	\$91,120		Edmonston
<b>Conservation Corp Volunteer FY21-22</b>	Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$21,000		Edmonston
<b>Conservation Corp Volunteer FY23-24</b>	Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$21,000		Edmonston
<b>Lafayette Avenue Rain Gardens</b>	PGC-Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$66,698		Edmonston
<b>Gallatin Street Rain Gardens</b>	PGC – Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$142,803		Edmonston
<b>Hamilton Street Rain Gardens</b>	PGC – Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$131,785		Edmonston
<b>Buchanan Street Rain Gardens</b>	PGC – Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$179,360		Edmonston
<b>Chesapeake Bay Trust – Urban Trees Program</b>	Chesapeake Bay	\$22,500		Cottage City
<b>Electric GEM Passenger Vehicle</b>	MEA	\$3,750		Edmonston
<b>Economic Development Strategic Plan</b>	M-NCPPC PAMC	\$65,000		Edmonston
<b>Keep America Beautiful</b>	DCHD	\$5,000		Edmonston
<b>Forever Maryland Beautification</b>	DCHD	\$4,000		Edmonston
<b>Rocket Grant for Historic Signage</b>	ATHA	\$3,160		Edmonston
<b>Streetlights (Bond Bill)</b>	STATE Dist 22	\$300,000		Edmonston
<b>Solar Powered Stop Signs – FY23 Community Safety Works</b>	DHCD	\$16,900		Edmonston

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<b>Police &amp; Recruitment/Branding</b>	GOCCP	\$48,000		Edmonston
<b>APEX Virtual Training Equipment</b>	GOCCP	\$48,000		Edmonston
<b>FY23 License Plate Reader Grant</b>	MDSP	\$3,000		Edmonston
<b>Highway Safety Grant</b>	MDSP	\$1,500		Edmonston
<b>Hybrid Police Vehicle</b>	USDA	\$61,000		Cottage City
<b>Bond Bill – Renovation &amp; Reconstruction of Firehouse</b>	Bond Bill	\$500,000		Cottage City
<b>Maryland Historical Trust – Renovation &amp; Reconstruction of Firehouse</b>	MHT	\$100,000		Cottage City
<b>Maryland Heritage Area Authority – Renovation &amp; Reconstruction of Firehouse</b>	MHAA	\$90,000		Cottage City
<b>International Chief of Police - Law Enforcement Training Conference</b>	IACP	\$2,864		Cottage City
<b>First Responders Community Grant – Camp</b>	First Responders	\$6,964		Cottage City
<b>Community Accountability Grant – Ford 25</b>	Community			
<b>Passenger Shuttle Bus</b>	Accountability	\$160,500		Cottage City
<b>Governor’s Office of Crime Control &amp; Prevention – Police Recruitment &amp; Retention</b>	GOCCP	\$16,200		Cottage City
<b>Connected Communities – Connected Devices</b>	OSP	\$24,900		Bladensburg – Port Towns
<b>CDBG PY48R – Street Repairs and Bridges</b>	Prince George’s – CDBG	\$255,000		Bladensburg
<b>CDBG PY49 – Stormwater Street Repairs</b>	Prince George’s – CDBG	\$753,225		Cottage City

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



## **SECTION C - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN**

Port Towns Sustainable Communities

## Example Section

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

<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"> <li>• 430 Acres of Waterfront Parks, trails, open space including Bladensburg Waterfront Park and the assets of the Anacostia River.</li> <li>• Bike trails which provide connectivity to DC and the University of Maryland</li> <li>• Sustainable Maryland certification demonstrates commitment and achievement of the Port Towns to environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• River cleanups, green teams, partnerships with nonprofits work to reduce litter and improve environmental quality in the Port Towns.</li> <li>• Community gardens and urban farms exist in the Ports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streetscapes could be improved.</li> <li>• Accessibility to fresh food and affordable food is difficult.</li> <li>• Lack of diverse community engagement around environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• Flooding and stormwater management issues are pervasive.</li> <li>• Tree canopies need to be increased.</li> <li>• The presence of high-traffic, arterial roadways lead to noise and air quality issues.</li> <li>• Lack of electric vehicle infrastructure.</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Reduce emissions of Vehicles</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of gas vehicles replaced with electric or hybrid vehicles</p>	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strategy A: Electrification of municipal and business fleets or the purchase of hybrid vehicles</p> <p>Action 1: Apply for grants from MEA and the State of Maryland to replace fuel vehicles in the Town fleets with electric vehicles.</p> <p>Action 2: Replace fuel burning vehicles with electric when purchasing outright.</p>	<p>Port Towns/MD Energy Dept.</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	<p>Strategy B: Increase electric charging stations within the Port Towns  Action 1: Identify sites for potential charging stations to be installed.  Action 2: Apply for charging stations from the Electric Vehicle Institute or grants from MEA.</p> <p>Strategy C: Promote the use of alternative vehicles to reduce gas emissions.  Action 1: Use Social Media and Town newsletters to promote the use of alternative vehicles.  Action 2: Identify Resources for Residents to utilize to acquire alternative fuel vehicles.</p>	<p>Electric Vehicle Institute</p> <p>Port Towns</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve water quality entering the Anacostia River</p> <p>Progress Measures:  Number of Rain Gardens Constructed  Tons of Garbage Collected</p> <p>Outcome 3: Improve the stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure in the Port Towns</p> <p>Progress Measures:  Number of linear feet of storm drain upgraded.  Planning projects developed and funding received through grant applications.</p>	<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Strategy A: Increase rain gardens on public/private properties.  Action 1: Utilize the Prince George's County Stormwater Management Grant Program  Action 2: Promote the County Rain Tax Rebate program to residents as an incentive for building rain gardens on private property.</p> <p>Strategy B: Reduce garbage in streams and other waterways leading to Anacostia.  Action 1: Participate in the PGC Growing Green with Pride events.  Action 2: Participate with Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) annual Earth Day Cleanup Event.  Action 3: Work with each Town's Green Teams to conduct periodical clean up events.</p> <p>Strategy C: Evaluate the replacement of pavement (impervious to pervious) in parking lots and sidewalks to reduce runoff. Low Impact Development is evaluating and developing a scope for this project as a possible project for cross-jurisdiction collaboration.  Action 1: Develop a plan of action for each community that will identify potential parking lots and sidewalks that could be converted to pervious pavement.</p> <p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Strategy A: Work with PGC Dept. of Public Works, Environment, FEMA and the State to upgrade current stormwater systems to 10-year flood standards.  Action 1: Conduct a feasibility study of the cost of upgrading the storm drain systems in the Towns</p> <p>Strategy B: Evaluate additional pumping stations along the Anacostia River.</p>	<p>All four Port Towns, CBT, Prince George's County DOE</p> <p>All four Port Towns  AWS  PGC DOE</p> <p>Low Impact Development, Port Towns</p> <p>PGC Dept. of Public Works  PGC Dept. of Environment, FEMA, State</p> <p>MD Dept. of Natural Resources</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

	<p>Action 1: Work with the County to secure funding for a study of the pumping stations on the Anacostia River branches to determine the need for additional pumping stations.</p> <p>Strategy C: Flood Mitigation Project in Bladensburg Industrial Park Action 1: Secure funding and approval to complete a flood mitigation project in the Bladensburg Industrial Park.</p> <p>Strategy D: Provide funding to improve drainage and the prevention of flooding on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and on Bunker Hill in Cottage City.</p> <p>Strategy E: Work with PGC Emergency Management, MEMA and FEMA to complete a survey of Dueling Creek with the creation of a flood mitigation plan.</p> <p>Strategy F: Partner with PGC Emergency Management, MEMA and FEMA to complete Flood Mitigation Planning – Bladensburg (Quincy / Edmonston Channel) Action 1: Develop a Flood Mitigation Plan for the Port Town Communities.</p>	<p>PGC Dept of Environment &amp; Public Works</p> <p>PGC Dept of Public Works and Dept. of Environment</p> <p>PGC Emergency Management, MEMA and FEMA</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Providing a state program that would provide resources like FEMA flood relief but with lower thresholds for support to businesses and residents when flood events occur. Progress Measures: # of Reimbursements to Residents</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Strategy A: Work with the Port Towns State Legislators to develop state legislation to set up a fund for use to reimburse businesses and residents for flood damage when no FEMA natural disaster requirements are met. Action 1: Draft legislation to create a natural disaster fund to be used to reimburse residents in communities hit by flooding.</p>	<p>Corp of Engineer, PGC Department of Environment, State Legislative Delegation, Maryland Dept. of Environment Port Towns</p>
<p>Outcome 5: Establishing a state-run (or state-financed) program that would assist homeowners in upgrading their homes to prevent stormwater damage during events.</p>	<p>Outcome 5: Strategy A: Work with the State to develop a program that provides funding for homeowners to upgrade their homes to prevent stormwater/flooding:  Action 1: Use examples of items to be upgraded that would include but not limited to Guttering, grading, sump pumps, elevate utilities, waterproofing basements, replace basement windows and doors.</p>	<p>MEMA, MD Dept. of Environment</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Progress Measures: #homeowners upgrading homes for stormwater/flooding mitigation</p> <p>Outcome 6: Anacostia Dredging &amp; Port Town Drainage Projects</p>	<p>Action 2: Provide grant funding to assist residents with upgrades to protect their property from stormwater/flooding.</p> <p>Outcome 6 Strategy A: Work with FEMA, Corp of Engineers, PGC Department of Public Works and Department of the Environment to identify funding to dredge the Anacostia River. The waterfront is a great asset and is vital to the goal of providing a high quality of life in the Port Towns. Action 1. Draft federal and state legislation that provides funding for dredging the Anacostia River at the Bladensburg waterfront park.</p>	<p>FEMA, Corp of Engineers, PGC Department of Public Works, PGC Department of Environment, State and Federal Legislative Delegations</p>
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## Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime location with easy access to the Capital Beltway and State Routes Alt. 1 and MD201 along with MD450 and MD202.</li> <li>• Several small businesses, both culturally specific and of general appeal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-residents see the Port Towns as a “pass-through” location, hard to get people to stop.</li> <li>• Most retail spending is being exported outside of the Port Towns.</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong industrial park sector is a part of the Port Towns Identity</li> <li>• Proximity to DC and University of Maryland – College Park</li> <li>• Strong job market for skilled trades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of retail space and diversified shopping options</li> <li>• Lack of awareness and educational outreach to residents regarding local vocational &amp; industrial related job opportunities in the Port Towns area.</li> <li>• Little vacant land to repurpose.</li> <li>• There is minimal vacant office space available within the Port towns.</li> <li>• Appearances of some/industrial and commercial tenants is negative</li> </ul>
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improve conditions of retail and industrial areas in the communities</p> <p>Progress Measures:            Number of Business Facades Improved            Number of Strip malls Improved.            Number of Business Incubators Started</p>	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strategy A: Assist businesses with State resource programs from PGC and the Maryland Façade program to help facilitate the increased funding available for façade improvements to aging strip malls and business incubators in Colmar Manor and Bladensburg.</p> <p>Action 1: Identify businesses that could benefit from façade improvement.</p> <p>Action 2 Promote façade programs available from the County and the State.</p> <p>Strategy B: Concentrate on eliminating repetitive businesses such as car repair shops and body shops by working with M-NCPPC, PGC Planning and Zoning to change the zone in communities.</p> <p>Action 1: Identify businesses that are repetitive and as they change ownership, change the use of the property.</p> <p>Strategy C: Assist Cottage City and Edmonston with programs to improve the façade and streetscape of main arterial streets and industrial parks by working with DHCD grant programs, SHA and through zoning at the County level.</p> <p>Action 1: Identify properties that are on main arterial streets and in the industrial parks of each town that could benefit from a program to improve facades.</p> <p>Action 2: Apply for grant funds from DHCD to assist with a façade upgrade program.</p>	<p>Port Towns, PGC, PGC Economic Development State of Maryland</p> <p>M-NCPPC, PGC Planning and Zoning</p> <p>DHCD, SHA, M-NCPPC, PGC Planning and Zoning</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 2: Assistance to Small and Mid-Businesses:</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of Businesses assisted</p>	<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Strategy A: Working with the Maryland Department of Commerce, the University of Maryland and the Prince George’s County EDC to identify state resources and educational programs to help facilitate growth and resilience of businesses in the Port Towns.</p> <p>Strategy B: Better meet the employment and retail needs of the resident population focusing on niche markets. Action 1: Work with the Prince George’s County EDC and Office of Latina Businesses to identify local businesses filling niche marketing.</p>	<p>Maryland Dept of Commerce, PGC Economic Development Corporation, University of Maryland</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Focus development activities on maintaining, supporting, and growing the industry clusters of construction, manufacturing, light industrial uses.</p> <p>Progress Measures: #New Industries #Environmentally Friendly Businesses Attracted #of Participants # of Attendees for Industry Day</p>	<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Strategy A: Work with the Maryland Department of Commerce, PGC Economic Development, USDA, and US Dept of Commerce to expand programs to attract environmentally friendly industries that complement existing industry. Action 1: Identify existing environmentally friendly industries. Action 2: Identify grant and low interest loan programs that can assist with attracting environmentally friendly industry. Action 3: Identify locations where additional industry can be located.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with the Port Town communities to hold an Industry Day to celebrate and promote industries in the Port Towns. Action 1: Establish an annual Port towns Industry Day and provide tours of the industrial parks in each community. Action 2: Create a list of industries in the Port Towns to use for promoting business in the area.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Commerce, PGC Economic Development Corporation, USDA, US Dept. of Commerce</p> <p>Port Towns elected official and Town Administrators</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Identify Economic Development resources to assist the startup of entrepreneurial retail development in the Port Towns.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of Retail Startups in the Port Towns # of Classes identified for Entrepreneurial Businesses # of Resources identified for retail businesses</p>	<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>Strategy A: Work with Prince George’s Economic Development organization to identify and offer classes and opportunities for the retail development of entrepreneurial retail businesses in the Port Towns. Action 1: Establish classes at Colmar Manor Center, Edmonston Recreation Center, Cottage City Hall and Bladensburg Rec Center for businesses. Action 2: Partner with the PG Community College or the University of Maryland to create an array of classes and workshops to assist with retail development.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Commerce, PGC Economic Development Corporation, USDA, US Dept. of Commerce Port Towns elected officials PGC Community College, UMD</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 5: Develop a trade school to educate residents and specifically develop programs that meet the needs of the Port Towns diverse population.</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p> <p>#Identify potential sites for Location of school</p> <p># of Businesses to Support Trade School</p>	<p>Strategy B: Evaluate and create a Port Town Redevelopment Arm or work with Port Towns CDC in a new format.</p> <p>Action 1: Recreate the Port Towns CDC to use for creating a central location in the Port Towns to promote retail and entrepreneurial businesses.</p> <p>Outcome 5:</p> <p>Strategy A: Bladensburg has initial funding (\$1M) from the Federal delegation for the development of a trade school. Identify programs that will meet the need of the Port Towns diverse population.</p> <p>Action 1: Identify a site for the trade school.</p> <p>Action 2: Identify additional funding sources for the school.</p> <p>Strategy B: Identify Port Town businesses and community organizations that can support the development of the trade school.</p> <p>Action 1: Survey to explore support for trade school and what trades will meet the needs of the Port Towns community.</p>	<p>Port Towns elected official and Town Administrators</p>      <p>Bladensburg Mayor &amp; Council, Port Towns Officials, State Legislators, Federal politicians.</p>
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## 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"> <li>Port Towns has a Call-a-Bus program for on-demand bus transportation in two of the four towns.</li> <li>Bike lanes/trails provide opportunities for commuting to work and for recreation.</li> <li>Bus transit connectivity through WMATA is relatively good.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrian and bicyclist safety is poor, especially on state highways.</li> <li>Land of sidewalk connectivity and poor-quality of sidewalks exist</li> <li>No connection to commuter rail.</li> </ul>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of local and regional bus service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older streets that lack stormwater management and experience nuisance flooding</li> <li>• Transit stops could use improvement as they lack trash cans or infrastructure like bus shelters.</li> <li>• Connectivity to other communities such as Hyattsville, Route 1 and MARC train at Riverdale Park is difficult.</li> <li>• Underutilized local and regional bus service.</li> </ul>
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Reduce the speed of trains in residential areas.	Outcome 1: Strategy A: Reducing train speeds in residential areas would reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage, and spillage of hazardous materials.	Port Towns elected official and Town Administrators
Outcome 2: Seek a traffic management plan for the area near the Peace Cross and Alternate Route and an overall plan for Bladensburg Road.  Progress Measures: #Identify Speed Calming Devices # of Speed Calming Devices Installed # of Speed Camera locations in “business district”	Outcome 2: Strategy A: Explore speed calming devices.  Strategy B. Secure a design study from the State Highway Administration to provide options for improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety.  Strategy C: Clarification for speed cameras in “business district” in state law that specifically defines the coexistence of residential properties in the district.	MDOT, Federal Highway Administration  State Legislature, Local Delegation
Outcome 3: Enhance pedestrian crossing systems on the Port Towns State Highways.  Progress Measures #Enhanced Crosswalks Installed #LED Pedestrian Crossing Systems installed	Outcome 3: Strategy A: Work with MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to add Enhanced crosswalks or reduce speed limits on major U.S. and State Highways dissecting the Port Town Communities. George Washington House Bladensburg Road Edmonston Road	MDOT, Federal Highway Administration



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<p>Outcome 4: Prioritize Construction of the Dueling Creek Bridge. Progress Measures: Identify Funding Sources for Project Identify Options for Pedestrian Safety</p> <p>Outcome 5: Support a pedestrian crossing at Decatur Street to connect the Port Towns safely to the Hyattsville Art District. Progress Measures: #of Grant Funding Sources Identified</p> <p>Outcome 6: Support Bike/Pedestrian Links from Cheverly to Port Town (Bladensburg) Progress Measures: #of Options for Pedestrian Safety</p>	<p>Kenilworth Avenue 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cottage City Action 1: Meet with MDOT and FHA to develop a plan for addressing additional crosswalks and avenues to reduce the speed on the state highways through the Port Towns.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with the State Highway Administration to install push button LED pedestrian crossing system with flashing lights on Bladensburg Road in Cottage City and increase the amount of time pedestrians must cross the street. Action 1: Identify locations for improved LED pedestrian crossing systems to be installed on Bladensburg Road in Cottage City.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Strategy A: Work with the Federal Highway Administration , Maryland SHA and the CSX railroads to secure funding to rebuild the southbound side of the Dueling Creek Bridge located at 37<sup>th</sup> and Bladensburg Rd in Cottage City. Explore options for pedestrian safety because of the closed sidewalk. Action 1: Work with SHA or FHA to create a scope of work and to identify options that enhance pedestrian safety. Action 2: Identify funding sources for the project.</p> <p>Outcome 5: Strategy A: Partner with area communities to seek grant funding from state, federal and the CSX railroad for a better pedestrian crossing at Decatur Street in Edmonston. Action 1: Work with SHA to identify funding sources for a design study to create a safe passage over the CSX railroad tracks on Decatur Street.</p> <p>Outcome 6: Strategy A: Secure funding to create bike/pedestrian connections from Cheverly to Port Towns – Annapolis Road 420 and 202. Action 1: Explore options for pedestrian safety because of the closed sidewalk. Action 2: Identify funding sources for projects. Action 3: Apply for grants/funding for a complete project.</p>	<p>MDOT, Federal Highway Administration</p> <p>SHA</p> <p>Federal Highway Administration, SHA, CSX</p> <p>Federal Highway Administration, SHA, CSX</p> <p>SHA Cheverly and Port Towns (Bladensburg)</p>
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## 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"> <li>Housing is affordable relative to the area.</li> <li>A good mix of housing types provides a diversity of housing opportunity for different for multi-generational housing and family types.</li> <li>Very few residential vacancies and a strong residential market.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcrowding (multiple families in one unit) is a problem.</li> <li>Limited redevelopment &amp; Ability to expand due to being landlocked.</li> <li>Lack of mixed-use commercial/residential buildings which could grow the client base for Port Town Businesses.</li> <li>Elderly and low-income homeowners struggle with property maintenance.</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Creating Affordable Housing Opportunities	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strategy A: Assistance with identifying affordable housing programs offered through the state, helping increase outreach efforts, and identifying state programs that provide possible incentives for redevelopment.</p> <p>Strategy B: Attraction of major developers. State assistance in attracting national developers to address issues in workforce housing in the Port Town communities.</p>	Private Developers, PGC Economic Development, MD DHCD

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<p>Outcome 2: Incentives for Solar Power for Homeowners:</p> <p>Progress Measures # of Homes served</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Strategy A: Work with MEA and local solar companies to pilot a program to incentivize further investment in solar panels for homeowners in the Port Towns. Action 1: Identify solar companies that serve the Port Towns. Action 2: Develop an application for prospective homeowners.</p>	<p>MEA Port Towns</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Selective redevelopment of industrial properties to encourage multi-family residential development.</p> <p>Progress Measures #Potential Sites for identified for Multi-Family Development #of Developers Identified</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Strategy A: Work with PGC Economic Development Corporation, Maryland Departemtn of Commere, PGC Housing and Community Development, Housing Initiative Partnership Inc. to identify developers and capital investment to build multi-family residential developments in the Port Towns. Action 1: Identity Potential PGC Developers Action 2: Identify Capital Investment needed for Multi-Family developments.</p> <p>Strategy B: Identify potential sites that lend themselves to multi-family redevelopment. Action 1: Meet with the Port Town officials to identify potential sites.</p>	<p>PGC Economic Development Corporation, Maryland Department of Commerce, PGC Housing and Community Development, Housing Initiative Partnership Inc.</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Develop a slate of pilots for renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of Homes Served # of Grants Identified</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Strategy A: Explore with the Maryland Energy Administration grants for low to moderate income and senior citizen homeowners to incorporate renewable energy projects in their homes. Action 1: Conduct applications for homeowners to complete energy audits to determine need for energy projects.</p> <p>Strategy B: Create a weatherization program for the Port Towns to give direct access to funding for residents. Action 1: Apply for funding from MEA to set up a Port Towns Weatherization program.</p>	<p>MEA  MEA, Port Towns</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"><li>• Strong history component in the Port Towns.</li><li>• Connection to indigenous people is strong.</li><li>• Port Towns are home to ethnically diverse populations and the towns celebrate and embrace this diversity.</li><li>• Excellent upgrade new Public Library.</li><li>• The Bladensburg Community Center, Colmar Manor Community Center, and the Edmonston Community Center provide a wide variety of programs for all age levels.</li><li>• Great working relationship between the communities and the individual police departments.</li><li>• Excellent green space, parks in each community.</li><li>• Partnerships with the schools are strong.</li><li>• Bladensburg Waterfront Park and the Anacostia River</li><li>• Medstar Community Health Clinic in Colmar Manor</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overcrowding of schools driven by multigenerational residential overcrowding.</li><li>• Not enough cultural organizations to help residents access services and resources for their needs.</li><li>• Public health issues</li><li>• Nightlife creates noise complaints.</li><li>• Insufficient availability of affordable and recognizable grocery stores.</li></ul>

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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Develop the Port Towns as a tourist designation showcasing the rich history of the area.</p> <p>Progress Measures: #of Historical Sites Identified to Promote #of Funding Sources Identified for Bostwick House</p>	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strategy A: Work with the Anacostia Heritage Trails Association, the Maryland Historical Trust, DHCD and the Aman Trust to highlight the Port Towns area as a key site in the War of 1812 and Maryland's History. Action 1: Identify the historical sites in the Port Towns.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to develop the Bostwick House Project seeking funding to transform the home into a place for tours, meetings, and events. Action 1: Identify funding sources for transforming the Bostwick House.</p> <p>Strategy C: Work with MHT, DHCD, AHTA to promote, market, and develop other historical sites in the Port Towns to include Dueling Grounds, Gatekeeper's House, and other prominent historic assets.</p>	<p>Maryland Historical Trust, DHCD, Anacostia Heritage Trails Association, Aman Trust</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Build on the Prince George's County designation as part of the Historic Gateway and Art District.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of new signs</p>	<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Strategy A: Seek funding for Signage and Marketing of the Port Towns to include updated signage and markers throughout the area. Action 1: Conduct a study to create a comprehensive program for uniform signage in the Port Towns.</p> <p>Strategy B: Develop a consistent Port Towns logo, banners, and signage for installation throughout the Port Towns. Action 1:</p>	<p>DHCD, Anacostia Heritage Trails, Port Towns</p> <p>DHCD, Anacostia Heritage Trails, Port Towns</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Capitalize on the Port Towns natural assets and build community through creative and proactive placemaking.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # Community Placemaking Session</p>	<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Strategy A: Work with MNCPPC – PG Planning – Community Development on Placemaking activities in the Port Towns. Action 1: Create community placemaking sessions.</p>	<p>MNCPPC and Port Towns</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Develop/Renovate public spaces in the Port Towns.</p> <p>Progress Measures:</p>	<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>Strategy A: Continue to seek funding for the Cottage City Community Outreach Center. The center will provide services, programs, and activities</p>	<p>DHCD, Maryland State Historical, USDA, MNCPPC</p>

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>#of Resources Received to Assist with Construction Projects in each community.</p> <p>#Funding Sources for Community Outreach Center in Cottage City</p>	<p>for individuals and families that address wellness. Mental health, senior services, and other community programs.</p> <p>Action 1: Seek Additional funding for the Center with grant applications.</p> <p>Strategy B: Continue to work with MNCPPC to support expansion of the Bladensburg Community Center.</p> <p>Action 1: Present the need for expansion to MNCPPC.</p> <p>Strategy C: Seek funding and support for the development of a new Town Hall and Municipal Facilities for the Town of Bladensburg. The Town Hall facility is needed to encompass more space for resident use, featuring a visitor's center, emergency response and preparedness, job training center, the Town's police department, administrative staff, council, and possibly the Fire Department It would provide community space for resident functions, meetings, job training, computer lab, etc.</p> <p>Action 1: Working with MNCPPC, Legislators, USDA, DHCD and DNR to identify funding sources.</p> <p>Strategy D: Develop a maintenance structure and the development of Lariscy Park, a new public open space on Bladensburg Rd.in Colmar Manor.</p> <p>Action 1: Working with MNCPPC, Legislators, USDA, DHCD and DNR to identify funding sources.</p> <p>Strategy E: Explore funding for the expansion of Edmonston Town Hall to allow for community meeting space and additional space for training and programs.</p> <p>Action 1: Submit for a bond bill from legislators to help fund improvements and expansion of the Edmonston Town Hall.</p>	<p>MNCPPC, Legislative Earmark Funding, USDA, and Bond Bill</p> <p>MNCPPC, Legislative Earmark Funding, USDA, and Bond Bill</p> <p>MNCPPC, Legislative Earmark Funding, USDA, and Bond Bill, DHCD, MDNR</p> <p>MNCPPC, Legislative Earmark Funding, USDA, and Bond Bill</p>
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## Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good relationships with the local and state legislative delegations.</li><li>• Good relationships within the Port Towns and ability to communicate on common issues and trends.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of concrete influence for planning and zoning issues.</li><li>• Not any buildable vacant space.</li><li>• Lack of communication with private commercial owners and County officials about redevelopment opportunities</li><li>• Need a plan for the negative aspects raising property values can have on neighborhoods.</li><li>• Presence of vocal minorities with a loud voice that silences other community members.</li><li>• Need to zone out businesses that are not environmentally friendly such as car repair shops.</li></ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase the Port Towns capacity in Long Range/Community Planning and Land Use Activities Progress Measures: #Community Meetings Conducted #of Port Town Meetings for Goal Sharing	Outcome 1: Strategy A: Work with MNCPPC Planning to update the Port Towns Sector Plan development and community outreach. Action 1: Promote and support the # of community meetings conducted.  Strategy B: Use of Port Towns Quarterly meetings for goal, information and planning related shared for the partner communities Action 1: Continue the Port Towns Quarterly meetings. Action 2: Develop goals and objectives for the Port Town Communities.	MNCPPC and Port Towns  Port Town Elected Officials and Town Administrators

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B



**2024 Port Towns Sustainable Program Renewal**

**Work Group Roster**

Working Group:

- Town of Bladensburg – Mayor Takisha James/Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town Administrator  
Council Members: Trina Brown and Kalisha Dixon, Ward 1  
Marylin Blount and Carrol McBryde, Ward 2
- Town of Colmar Manor – Mayor Monica Casanas, Greg Holman, Town Administrator  
Council Members: Maliek Harding, Ward 1 and Irina Hobbs, Ward 2  
Keith Brooks, Ward 3 and Melinda Mendoza, Ward 4
- Town of Cottage City – Commission Chair Wanda Wheatley, Carol Richardson, Town Administrator  
Commission Members: Ann Young, Ward 1, Artis Amarche, Ward 2  
Demetrius Givens, Ward 4, John Brooks, Commissioner At-Large
- Town of Edmonston – Mayor Tracy Gant/Rod Barnes, Town Administrator  
Council Members: Betsy McCauley and Kony Serrano Portillo, Ward 1  
John Johnson and Sarah Turberville, Ward 2

