

Sustainable Community Action Plan

Smith Island, MD

Submitted by Somerset County, MD
2/5/2016

Renewal approved
by SGCC
7/14/2021

Environment

(Environmental strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to quality of land, water, air, watersheds, tree canopy, risk of sea level rise, carbon footprint, energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure/management, parks, trails and recreation, recycling, water and sewer capacity, etc)

<u>Strengths</u>		<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location of the Island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay offers easy access to crab and oyster habitats. ● Existing trails for kayaking, canoeing, bird-watching, and walking. ● Series of water wells provide drinking water in each village. ● State funding allocated to decommission Tyleron sewage treatment plant and establish an upgraded plant on Ewell that combines service to Tyleron, Ewell, and Rhodes Point. ● Unique habitats for aquatic, air, and land wildlife and plant species, including all of Smith Island and specifically Glen Martin Wildlife Refuge. ● Living Shoreline project on northern region of Smith Island. ● Ample space for solar and/or wind power for “off the grid” living. ● Environmental, place-based, and service-learning educational opportunities with new distance learning technologies at Ewell School, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Smith Island’s Watermen’s Apprenticeship Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Habitat of crabs and oysters are damaged by erosion and polluted from adjacent land use. ● Rising sea water levels, coastal flooding, lack of storm surge protection. ● Shoreline erosion. ● Poor drainage ditch maintenance, which contributes to localized flooding. ● Large debris (including recyclable materials) needs to be removed from docks, crab shanties, burn piles and throughout the Island. ● Existing conditions of water wells needs to be assessed, funding allocated, and repairs/upgrades made as needed. 	
<p><u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u></p> <p>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>What outcomes are you trying to achieve? Where/ in what area do you want those changes to happen?</p> <p>Progress Measure: Identify how you will know that you have achieved your outcome.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay to increase crab, oyster, and fish stocks.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Amount of pollution prevented</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strategies</u></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 style="text-align: center;"><u>Implementation Partners</u></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>Strategy A: Proceed with decommissioning of Tyleron sewage treatment plant and construction of new, combined sewage treatment plant.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work on educational efforts to prevent pollution of the Bay.</p> <p>Strategy C: Secure funding and government agreements to remove and recycle large and small debris from docks, shanties, water, and throughout Smith Island</p>	<p>Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Somerset County Planning</p>

<p>and increase of seafood stock. Work with the Somerset County Sanitary District Commission and local, State, and federal governments to determine how to accurately measure progress for pollution reduction.</p> <p>Progress Measure: New and better functioning sewage treatment plant.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Large and small debris removed on a regular basis and recycled.</p>		<p>Department, Somerset County Public Works Department, Somerset County Sanitary District Commission, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Improve stormwater management.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Reduce the volume and increase the quality of stormwater runoff.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop a stormwater management plan to address runoff volume and quality.</p> <p>Strategy B: Improve the conditions of roadways and drainage ditches, particularly via native plantings and other environmentally friendly flood mitigation techniques, where feasible.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Somerset County Planning Department, Somerset County Public Works Department, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Protect the Island from flooding.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of feet of shoreline stabilization improvements installed.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of flood reduction/prevention projects implemented on the Island and outcome of such projects.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Complete the Living Shoreline project at Glen Martin Wildlife Refuge, and finalize a shoreline protection project/plan for Rhodes Point that preserves its bayside coves and beaches.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work to secure funding for Rhodes Point shoreline protection plan and implementation of project.</p> <p>Strategy C: Assess the current conditions of the road between Ewell and Rhodes Point to determine the cause(s) of the chronic flooding in this area and seek funding and/or support from the County to install corrective measures to resolve this ongoing issue.</p>	<p>US Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Somerset County Planning Department, Somerset County Public Works Department, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Access to nature via enhanced trail system and new trails for kayaks, canoes, walking, birdwatching, etc.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number, location, signage, length, and usage of new trails.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Enhance current kayak, canoe, walking and birdwatching trails and establish new ones.</p> <p>Strategy B: Develop and maintain open space network to enhance community resiliency for tidal and stormwater flooding and storm surge protection. (DNR addition)</p> <p>Strategy C: Recruit nature enthusiasts and boaters to enhance, establish, and utilize the trail system.</p>	<p>Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.</p>

<p>Outcome 5: Progress toward energy self-sufficiency for residential, commercial, and public properties.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Percent or number of homes, businesses, and public properties powered by solar and/or wind energy at standard, subsidized, or pro bono rates.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore funding opportunities for green energy.</p> <p>Strategy B: Assess viable land, homes, and businesses to incorporate solar, wind, or other “off-the-grid” techniques to address the power needs of the Island.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Planning, Somerset County Department of Planning, and the US Department of Energy.</p>
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Economy

(Economic strengths and weaknesses can include but are not limited to regional accessibility, business attraction/retention, health of the business district and commercial vacancies, workforce/employment and economic drivers, local policies/regulations, marketing, tourism, cultural and historic assets)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Established set of kayak and canoe trails, and an annual birding event in April. ● Environment and ecology attract tourists interested in ecotourism; activities include birding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, hunting, and fishing. ● One-of-a kind experience, window into what it is like to live on a Chesapeake Bay island with a rich history and watermen’s culture. ● Smith Island Cakes, the official Maryland State Dessert. ● Well established crabbing, oystering, eeling, and fishing industry with need for labor. ● Entrepreneurial opportunities for restaurants, small businesses (aquaculture, service, tourism, educational, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Declining number of watermen to sustain and grow industry which has been Island’s mainstay. ● Passenger boat service from Crisfield limited and sometimes unpredictable; no regularly scheduled public ferry service between Ewell and Tylerton. ● Limited attractions and activities for tourists to enjoy on Island. ● Lack of outdoor public space, such as a beach, park, or square; difficult for tourists to find a place to relax. ● Limited hours of local restaurants can make it difficult for tourists to find a place to eat in the mornings or evenings. ● Limited dockage for tourists who want to visit in their own boats and the dock and shanty system is in dire need of repair. ● Lack of advertising in Crisfield and on the mainland and need for tourism and wayfinding signage. ● Debris, unkempt grounds, and open ditches in some places can give an unfavorable impression to visitors; mosquitoes, flies, and bugs in warmer months.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Help tourists access Smith Island's tourism opportunities.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Increased tourist traffic on Smith Island (greater demand for boat rides to and from Island, number of bookings of tours and packages, stays at B and B's and vacation house rentals, new signage, website views).</p>	<p>Strategy A: Conduct survey of existing services, businesses, and historical or cultural sites on the Island.</p> <p>Strategy B: Somerset County Office of Tourism or Maryland DNR (i.e. kayak/canoe trails) could compile and publish a "Guide to Tourist Opportunities on Smith Island," both available online and printed, and could include postings on social media.</p> <p>Strategy C: Create tour packages that bundle multiple, diverse activities and services (e.g. ferry service, lodging, walking tour, waterman tour, crab steaming and picking tutorial, etc.) to create "all inclusive" packages.</p> <p>Strategy D: Establish a robust online presence for tourism opportunities and advance on-line ticketing/booking; hire a professional to enhance the Island's online presence.</p> <p>Strategy E: Collaborate with other communities (i.e. Crisfield, Tangier, etc.) for marketing, event planning, fundraising, etc.</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Office of Tourism Development, Somerset County Tourism Office, Somerset County Planning Department, Smith Island Cultural Center, Lower Eastern Shore, Heritage Council, Sultana Education Foundation, and other island and coastal communities.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase services or amenities that support or "wrap around" the tourist experience on Smith Island.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Greater number of bed and breakfasts, extended opening hours of restaurants, installation of tourism signage (i.e. for public bathrooms, public docks, trails, historical sites, etc.).</p>	<p>Strategy A: Increase access to dining opportunities later in the day to encourage longer stays and greater local spending from visitors.</p> <p>Strategy B: Provide more visible access to basic amenities like restrooms, shaded areas with benches, and camping or cookout areas.</p> <p>Strategy C: Improve access to the Island by boat and the ability to move between villages.</p> <p>Strategy D: Improve coordination and communication among different service providers on the Island (e.g. the boat captains, lodging, tour operators, restaurants and stores, etc.).</p>	<p>Somerset County Tourism Office, Somerset County Planning Department, Smith Island Cultural Center, and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Create the best first impression of Smith Island for visitors.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Conduct surveys among tourists about visiting experience in order to determine customer satisfaction/recommendations.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number and location of new tourism signs.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Volume of debris removed and recycled.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Develop a more formal maintenance plan for infrastructure to ensure the Island makes the best possible visible impression on visitors.</p> <p>Strategy B: Design improvements to the boardwalk, marsh area, and streetscape surrounding the Cultural Center in Ewell.</p> <p>Strategy C: Identify people, such as Cultural Center staff and other residents, who can serve as greeters for visitors.</p> <p>Strategy D: Develop a community-driven plan for addressing trash and debris clean-up and maintenance of untended properties.</p> <p>Strategy E: Increase amount of site-specific signs to inform tourists about the history of the Island and specific locations.</p>	<p>Somerset County Tourism Office, Somerset County Planning Department, Somerset County Public Works Department, Smith Island Cultural Center, and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.</p>

<p>Outcome 4: Provide additional and easily accessible tourist opportunities that play to the Island's physical and cultural strengths.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Implementation of tourist experience directly connected to Smith Island culture and history (heritage tours, etc.).</p>	<p>Strategy A: Consider watermen heritage tours or similar opportunities. Expand tourism opportunities around unique cultural strengths, such as crab shedding operations, the crab picking co-op, and boat building and repairs.</p> <p>Strategy B: Expand access in public spaces to eco-tourism activities such as kayaking and bird watching, along with opportunities to access remote points (i.e., beaches, points).</p> <p>Strategy C: Collaborate with the Cultural Center to create a walking tour, including a map and/or audio guide that explains history of sights on Smith Island.</p> <p>Strategy D: Investigate boat repair internships to provide a paid-for experience to learn more about boat building and repair.</p>	<p>Somerset County Tourism Office, Smith Island Cultural Center and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.</p>
<p>Outcome 5: Preserve, diversify and expand local watermen culture to sustain their livelihood on Smith Island.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Greater amount of Tidal Fishing Licenses (TFL) granted by the State of Maryland to Smith Island watermen, improvements to watermen facilities, and implementation of training program for Watermen's Heritage Tour Program.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Smith Island Watermen's Apprenticeship Program (SIWAP) business plan drafted, funding secured, and number of watermen and apprentices participating in inaugural and subsequent classes.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Expand opportunities for new watermen to enter the trade by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing recommendations for increasing licenses (TFL's), training, and support for new and current watermen. - Increasing flexibility in obtaining TFL's exclusively for Smith Island. - Tying a TFL to the purchase of an affordable home on the Island, with the provision that the TFL would stay with resident if they lived 5-10 years on Island. - Drafting Smith Island Watermen's Apprenticeship Program Business Plan and recruit participants. - Providing on-site Captains Licensing classes and offer scholarships. <p>Strategy B: Increase opportunities for current watermen to supplement and diversify their income, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigating training and other support needed to start a viable Watermen's Heritage Tour Program leaving from Smith Island. - Investigating opportunities to expand aquaculture; learn more about costs and benefits from existing operations in the region. - Developing a plan for increased facilities for waterman, including dock space in Ewell and crab shanty cooperatives. - Develop one new event around the watermen culture to attract visitors (e.g. a Chesapeake Bay Watermen's Festival). - Expand machine services at the boat yard in Rhodes Point to allow more boat repairs locally. 	<p>Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Fisheries Advisory Committee, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, Coastal Heritage Alliance, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Maryland Watermen's Association, Maine Lobster Apprenticeship Program, Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Island Institute, 3B's Captains School, MARBIDCO, Rural Maryland Council, and the University of Maryland Extension Service.</p>

Transportation

(Transportation strengths and weaknesses can include 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, road conditions)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low number of automobiles, invites cyclist and pedestrian experience. ● Mostly golf carts as local transport. ● Only 3 miles of roads to maintain. ● Two ferries and captains run daily (sometimes twice daily) round trips for Islanders and tourists from Crisfield to Ewell/Tylerton. There's also a daily mail boat, school boat, and various tour boats for day trippers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passenger boat service from Crisfield can be limited and sometimes unpredictable. ● Lack of public boat and ferry service between Ewell and Tylerton. ● Limited dockage for tourists who want to visit in their own boats and no public information about where to dock, fees, depth of water at docks, etc. ● Flooding of the road between Ewell and Rhodes Point.
Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies
<p>Outcome 1: Increase access to the Island by boat and the ability to move between villages.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Consistent and reliable number of roundtrip rides daily from Crisfield to Ewell and Tylerton; and between Ewell and Tylerton.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Affordable, consistent and publicly posted fares for passengers (lower for residents), as well as for luggage and freight.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Advanced booking available via on-line and phone.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create a rotational system among the ferry captains for supplemental service (i.e., evening runs).</p> <p>Strategy B: Explore creating a ferry cooperative to share the proceeds of all ticket sales.</p> <p>Strategy C: Explore/study the feasibility of the creation of a walking/biking bridge between Tylerton and Ewell.</p> <p>Strategy D: Develop a Community Benefits Agreement with Captains that addresses schedules, fares, signage, bookings, etc., that are consistent practices and fair to all.</p> <p>Strategy E: Submit a grant proposal to Maryland Transit Administration to conduct a Transportation Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Strategy F: Engage local, State, and federal Elected Officials and others on the Transportation Committee about investment in a Smith Island ferry system.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase facilities for watermen.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of boat repairs locally.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of boats or ferry dockings.</p> <p>Progress measure: Increase and/or improve shanties, docks and piers for watermen.</p>	<p>Maryland Transit Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation, Somerset County Tourism Office, Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and federal and State House and Senate leaders.</p> <p>Maryland Transit Administration, Somerset County Tourism Office, Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Natural Resources</p>

Housing

(Housing strengths and weaknesses can include affordability, homeownership vs rental, housing stock diversity, housing condition and value, housing programs, foreclosures, residential vacancies, property values, home sale values)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniqueness and charm is a strong selling point. • Strong full time homeownership occupancy (About 60%). • Historical architecture. • Waterfront locations, many with docks. • Affordability of housing (rental and homeownership) and land. • Substantial numbers of houses are available for purchase, rental, and/or renovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer young adults are choosing to become waterman and living on the Island, creating potential housing vacancies. • Overall cost of living is higher due to remoteness. • Vacant housing and absentee landlords (10% on Tylerton and about 30% on Ewell and Rhodes Point). • No affordable housing options provided by Somerset County.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Protect neighborhood housing stock and quality.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of code violations given and number of houses brought up to code and/or condemned.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of houses renovated for current owners/renters, or made available for sale/rent, if vacant.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Ensure adequate exterior housing property maintenance. Work with the Somerset County Planning Department to issue code violations.</p> <p>Strategy B: Condemn, demolish, and repurpose land where blighted, dilapidated, and/or uninhabitable housing exists.</p> <p>Strategy C: Explore financing (grants, low-interest loans) for housing repairs/renovations.</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing Assistance Council, USDA (i.e. Rural Development Fund), and Habitat for Humanity.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Attract new full time residents to inhabit vacant housing.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of new full time residents relocated to Smith Island.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Provide tax incentives for relocating residents.</p> <p>Strategy B: Promote financing programs that enable residents to relocate.</p> <p>Strategy C: Work with Somerset County to provide affordable housing options</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Assistance Council, and USDA (i.e. Rural Development Fund).</p>

<p>Outcome 3: Identify existing conditions of housing stock, such as ownership, tax arrears, repairs, plans for the home (keep, sell, renovate, etc.).</p> <p>Progress Measure: An Existing Conditions Report of the housing inventory has been conducted.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore and secure funding to conduct an Existing Conditions Report</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Assistance Council, and USDA (i.e. Rural Development Fund).</p>
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Quality of Life

(Strengths and weaknesses can include crime, socio-economic demographics, educational opportunities, museums, libraries, historic and cultural assets, civic amenities, faith-based organizations, economic health of households, sense of place, etc)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-profit exists (Smith Island United) to represent the Island's interests and provide capacity to move forward on the Smith Island Vision Plan. ● Special niche living environment, traditional village atmosphere. ● Tranquil, off the grid environment. ● Elementary school facility. ● Pocket parks, waterfront recreation, and boat docks. ● Fire departments in Ewell and Tylerton. ● Smith Island Cultural Center & Artifact Museum ● Beaches, coves, and marshland allow beachcombing for artifacts. ● Three historical churches & yearly "Camp Meeting". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of outdoor public recreation space. ● Limited passenger boat service. ● Limited attractions, stores, and restaurants; existing establishments have limited hours. ● Unfavorable first impression to visitors. ● Limited cellular phone and internet access.

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Provide universal broadband access.</p> <p>Progress Measure: 100% reliable internet access connection for all residents and businesses.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Public recreation open space.</p> <p>Progress Measure: Number of grants awarded and</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with current carrier (Verizon) to increase internet capacity.</p> <p>Strategy B: Work with State of Maryland and Federal Government Broadband programs to increase internet access, including Bloosurf rural broadband high speed internet.</p> <p>Strategy A: Renovate or demolish old grocery store on Tylerton to create public open space.</p> <p>Strategy B: Apply for Community Legacy, Program Open Space and/or</p>	<p>State of Maryland, Verizon (or other internet providers), and the U.S. and State Departments of Commerce.</p> <p>Somerset County Department of Planning; Somerset County Department of Recreation and</p>

<p>number of amenities added.</p>	<p>Community Parks and Playground Funds to provide grants for public space areas, such as, a community gathering building, open air pavilion, benches, tourist entrance, picnic /cookout areas with trash cans, lighting, , etc.... Strategy C: Provide more signage and historical markers (wayfinding techniques) and develop and maintain open space network to enhance community resiliency for tidal and stormwater flooding and storm surge protection. Strategy D: Provide public amenities at Ewell to increase harbor utilization. Strategy E: Create marked pedestrian and bicycle trails in Ewell, Tylerlton and Rhodes Point. Strategy A: Apply for funding for distance learning technology for use by students and residents.</p>	<p>Parks, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Distance Learning Technology at Ewell School for students and community members. Progress Measures: Amount of funding procured and number of technology equipment purchased.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore funding, and secure and implement Telemedicine program in all three villages.</p>	<p>Somerset County Board of Education, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Island Institute, and the Ewell School.</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Telemedicine program is in place for seniors, at-risk, and vulnerable populations. Progress Measures: Necessary equipment procured, amount of space in each of 3 villages secured, and total amount of funding for staff received.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Work with pro bono attorney for 501c3 status. Strategy B: Create a Development Prospects list for general operating and project-based funding opportunities from foundations, government agencies, elected officials, corporations, individual donors, elected officials, etc.</p>	<p>Crisfield Clinic (Dr. Kerry Palanakis), Dr. Neal Reynolds (U of M), Somerset County, and various Maryland State agencies.</p>
<p>Outcome 5: Smith Island United is established as a 501c3, develops an annual operating budget and hires staff to implement mission. Progress Measures: 501c3 is established, number of general operating and project-based grants secured, and number of projects funded and implemented.</p>		<p>Smith Island United, Community Law Center, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, and the Rural Maryland Council.</p>

Local Planning and Land Use

(Strengths and weaknesses in the local planning and land use subject area include but are not limited to zoning, land use, policies, taxes and fees, historical patterns of development, lot sizes and shapes, etc)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable, professional Somerset County Planning Department staff to utilize as a resource for Sustainable Communities Plan implementation. • The Island's 501(c)(3), Smith Island United, is organized, motivated, and committed to implementation of the Smith Island Vision Plan. • Existing land uses are primarily residential and water-dependent/waterman uses, with a slight non-residential mix; comprising a complimentary blend of Island Village land uses. • Future development opportunities are for primarily infill and redevelopment, rather than "new" development, which helps to accurately predict and plan for future development patterns. • A myriad of opportunities exist for public recreation and recreational facility land development, as well as potential opportunities for main street, business, and waterfront district designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smith Island is not incorporated, so the Island has no authority to collect taxes and/or fees which could help the Island become more self-sufficient. • Logistically, it is difficult and expensive to develop and/or repair homes and infrastructure on the Island because all supplies and labor have to be carried by boat. • Years of disinvestment have left built environment in severe disrepair in many instances. • The existing zoning on the Island may not be the most appropriate to accommodate the historically smaller lots sizes and reduced setbacks. • No comprehensive and detailed inventory of existing conditions of housing and infrastructure (docks, shanties, roads, water wells, ditches, etc.)

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Existing conditions (housing and infrastructure) to be professionally inventoried.</p> <p>Progress Measures: A grant is secured to conduct an Existing Conditions Report, to include recommendations for future needs.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Explore and secure funding to initiate an Existing Conditions Assessment to produce a final report with recommendations for future needs.</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Planning, and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Somerset County Zoning Ordinance Update.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Secure funding to update the Somerset County Zoning Ordinance, which will include an analysis of the existing zoning on Smith Island to determine if a more appropriate zoning</p>	<p>Strategy A: Secure funding to update the Somerset County Zoning Ordinance, which will also include a specific analysis of the existing zoning on Smith Island.</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Planning, and the Department of Natural Resources.</p>

<p>category should be established to allow more development flexibility to accommodate the Island's unique development pattern and small lot sizes.</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Plan for future flood mitigation. Progress Measures: Adoption of a Flood Mitigation Plan.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create workgroup to determine feasibility of creating a Small Area Flood Mitigation Plan. Seek funding to support the development of a Small Area Flood Mitigation Plan.</p>	<p>Somerset County Planning Department, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of Planning.</p>
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**COVID-19 Abbreviated Application Assessment and Accomplishments
Worksheet / Smith Island, Somerset County**

- 1) Have there been any significant changes to the size of the community, such as population or through annexation?
 - a) If yes, please describe: **There have been no significant changes to the resident population or size of the Smith Island community. It is worth noting, however, there was an increase in long term visitors to the Island during COVID-19 as people looked to flee urban, populated areas and get back to nature. It also proved beneficial that more people had the option to tele-work and children were tele-schooling so people could be more mobile and work and school from remote, rural locations, such as Smith Island.**

- 2) Are there any strategy shifts within an Action Plan component?
 - a) If yes, please describe: **There are no significant strategy shifts with the Smith Island Action Plan. The Action Plan was based upon the goals and strategies of the 2015 Smith Island Vision Plan, and the Vision Plan is just six years old. Many of the implementation items from the Vision Plan that were folded into the Action Plan have yet to be achieved as the projects are costly and the county relies heavily on grants to fund infrastructure and community projects. Although great strides have been made in the past five years, there are still many desirable projects outlined in the Action Plan that have yet to be accomplished.**

- 3) Do you request any technical assistance from the State in implementing Sustainable Community Action Plan strategies?
 - a) If yes, please describe: **Yes, both Somerset County and Smith Island United rely heavily on Maryland state agencies for technical and financial assistance. More specifically, Somerset County has relied on Cindy Stone, Director of DHCD's CDBG Program, to assist with the administration of millions of dollars in CDBG Disaster Recovery (DR) funds from Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy occurred in 2012, yet the county is still administering disaster recovery grant projects and managing those grant funds, and will continue to do so into 2022. Smith Island has directly benefitted from this CDBG/DR funding, as well as from technical assistance and grant funding from MDE and**

DNR. The most direct form of state agency technical assistance has been from the Maryland Department of Planning Lower Eastern Shore regional staff, who have helped with grant writing, reporting, and management; and who assisted with the completion of Smith Island's Sustainable Communities Plan as well as this five-year renewal application.

- 4) Have you been awarded any revitalization-related State funds in the past five years? For example, DHCD Community Legacy, DHCD Strategic Demolition Fund, MDOT Community Safety and Enhancement, MDOT Bikeways, MDOT Sidewalk Retrofit, MDE Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund.
- a) If yes, please list the State department, name of the program, description of the project and amount of awarded funds: **Yes, Smith Island has received revitalization grant funds for various projects, to include:**
- **DHCD 2018 Community Legacy Funds (\$25,000) for the Smith Island Façade Improvement Program. Smith Island United (SIU) applied for and received funds to assist property owners on the island with much needed structural improvements. This grant has been successfully closed out.**
 - **DHCD 2020 Community Legacy Funds (\$100,000) for the Smith Island Park Overlook. SIU applied for and received funds to construct an ADA-accessible deck/overlook at the community park to add amenities to the park for the enjoyment of both residents and tourists. The overlook will abut a beautiful marsh with views of magnificent sunsets.**
- 5) Have you been awarded any federal CARES Act funding and/or State emergency COVID funds?
- a) If yes, please list name of the program, description of the project and amount of awarded funds: **The Ewell Volunteer Fire Department was awarded approximately \$380,000 in CARES Act funding to purchase a new ambulance for Smith Island.**
- 6) Please list and describe any significant accomplishments over the past five years as a Sustainable Community. Examples may include the launch

of a new façade improvement program, number of senior housing repairs, linear feet of sidewalk replaced, etc.

- **Smith Island Façade Improvement Program:** In 2018, Smith Island United created its own façade improvement program and administered a \$25,000 DHCD Community Legacy grant to assist three residential property owners and one commercial property owner in the rehabilitation and improvement of the structures on their properties.
- **Smith Island Community Park:** In 2017, Smith Island United worked with the MDP Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office to create Smith Island's first community park. MDP secured a \$5,000 Placemaking grant through the Maryland Board of Coastal Realtors to purchase picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping. In 2020, Smith Island United also worked with MDP LES staff to secure a \$100,000 DHCD Community Legacy grant to add an ADA accessible marsh overlook to the community park. That grant was awarded in 2020 and construction has been delayed due to the pandemic (lack/high cost of building supplies) and due to the need for an MDE wetlands permit. It is projected that the overlook will be completed by the fall of 2021.
- **Smith Island Dental Clinic:** The Georgetown University School of Dentistry pro bono team has provided needed dental services to Smith Islanders from March to November every year since June of 2019. In 2020, the Patterson Dental Company provided a grant for \$10,000 to Smith Island United to allow some compensation to the dental volunteers that help to provide dental care to the residents of Smith Island. In addition, Dr. Bruce Ramsey, a recently retired dentist from Crisfield, donated an \$11,000 dental chair to the Smith Island Dental Clinic.
- **Smith Island WWTP:** Somerset County is working with MDE and the Somerset County Sanitary District Commission to decommission the existing WWTP on Tylerton, design and build a new WWTP for Ewell, and upgrade related infrastructure. Smith Island received almost a million dollars in state grants for these improvements that are expected to result in an 83% reduction in nitrogen and a 90% reduction in phosphorus discharged into the Chesapeake