



# 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/>

Approved SGCC 10/12/2022

LARRY HOGAN  
Governor  
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
Lt. Governor  
KENNETH C. HOLT  
Secretary  
OWEN McEVOY  
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://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurProducts/pfamap.aspx>
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

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

## **Application Submission and Evaluation**

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

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

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

**Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications via email:

Subject Line: Sustainable Community Application

To: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal

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

Copy: John Papagni

[john.papagni@maryland.gov](mailto:john.papagni@maryland.gov)

**Site Visits. Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance**

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

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

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

**Approval**

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

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

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

## **RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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

**A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:**

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

**B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:**

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

**C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:**

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

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS**

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

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

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

**ECONOMY:** Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Additional Guidance for Developing the Sustainable Communities Action Plan**

## **III. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

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

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

### Action Plan Guidance

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

- 1) **For each section, pinpoint essential strengths and weaknesses of your community.** Example Transportation: Strength - Good sidewalk connectivity. Weakness - Insufficient amount of downtown parking.
- 2) **Based on those strengths and weaknesses, formulate specific outcomes that address the most pressing issues or greatest potentials. Include a means of measuring the success of said outcome.** Example Economy: Outcome – Expand broadband fiber optics in Town. Progress Measure - Linear measurement of fiber laid and number of residential and business connections.
- 3) **After defining the outcomes, list detailed strategies (break down to several action steps if needed) that will serve as the means to achieve those goals.** Example Economy: Strategy - Increase number of Town sponsored events ☺Develop with community input, a series of weekend events that the Town could host.
- 4) **List potential partners that can support the successful implementation of these strategies through different types of resources.** Example Economy: DHCD (Community Legacy program), Small Business Administration (Services and financial assistance) etc.

**CHECKLIST AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**APPLICANT:** Mayor William Martin for the City of Havre de Grace

**NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY:** The City of Havre de Grace

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:

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

- [Applicant Information](#)

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

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

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

- [Action Plan](#)

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

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

- [Disclosure Authorization](#)

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

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

**I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>Name of Sustainable Community:</b>		<b>Havre de Grace</b>	
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>		<b>The City of Havre de Grace</b>	
<b>Applicant's Federal Identification Number:</b>		<b>52-60000796</b>	
<b>Applicant's Street Address:</b>		<b>711 Pennington Ave.</b>	
<b>City: Havre de Grace</b>	<b>County: Harford</b>	<b>State: MD</b>	<b>Zip Code: 21078</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b>	<b>Web Address:</b> <b>www.havredegracemd.com</b>	

**Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:**

<b>Name: Bridgette Johnson</b>		<b>Title: Director, Economic Development Department</b>	
<b>Address: 711 Pennington Ave.</b>	<b>City: Havre de Grace</b>	<b>State: MD</b>	<b>Zip Code: 21078</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b>	<b>E-mail Address:</b> [REDACTED]	

**Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:**

<b>Name: Wanda Boker</b>		<b>Title: Sustainable Economic Development Consultant</b>	
<b>Address: 711 Pennington Ave.</b>	<b>City: Havre de Grace</b>	<b>State: MD</b>	<b>Zip Code: 21078</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b>	<b>E-mail Address:</b> [REDACTED]	

**Other Sustainable Community Contacts:**

<b>Name: Steve Gamatoria</b>		<b>Title: Director of Administration</b>	
<b>Address: 711 Pennington Ave.</b>	<b>City: Havre de Grace</b>	<b>State: MD</b>	<b>Zip Code: 20178</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Fax Number:</b>	<b>E-mail Address:</b> [REDACTED]	

**II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY – General Information**

**A. Sustainable Community Boundary and Description**

(1) Are you requesting any changes to your Sustainable Community boundary? Describe why or why not?

There are no requested changes to our Sustainable Community boundary. The historic, industrial, and commercial districts of Havre de Grace are all located within the PGA and SC areas.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- (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: 1040 acres
- (4) Existing federal, state or local designations:
- Main Street  Maple Street  
 National Register Historic District  Local Historic District  Arts & Entertainment District  
 State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District  BRAC  State Designated TOD  
 Other(s): Sustainable Maryland certification 2019; Tree City USA since 2002
- (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

Per 2020 Census data there is moderate growth and change in demographics. Estimated population for Havre de Grace is 14,807 as of April 1, 2020, up from an estimated 13,527 on July 1, 2016 (8.65% increase in five years) and up from the 2010 Census estimate of 12,982 (12.3% population growth over ten years). There has been no change in geographical data in this ten-year period; it remains 2,356 inhabitants per square mile with the land area estimated at 5.5 square miles.

The racial makeup of Havre de Grace is also virtually unchanged – per current US Census Data the population is 74.5% White, 16% African American, .3% Native American, 2.2% Asian, .1% Pacific Islander, 3.9% from two or more races and 6.1% identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Households grew to 5724 in 2020 from 5258 in 2016 (12.3%). Of these 5724 households, 18.6% have children under the age of 18 living with them (this is down 3% from 31.9% in 2016).

Age of population has risen slightly since 2016, with median age at 45.1 years (up from 41.9), 18.6% under the age of 18 (down from 21.9%) and 19.7% over the age of 65 (up from 13.9%). The gender makeup of the City is 46.2% male (down from 48.4% in 2016) and 53.8% female per July 1 2021 estimates (up from 51.6% in 2016).

The median household income (2019) is \$77,690. Average per capita income is \$43,572. An estimated 10.1% of the population lives below the poverty line. An estimated 91.1% of the population of Havre de Grace are high school graduates and 40.2% have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

Household income, median age and educational attainment have risen modestly over the past five years due to an increase in older professionals and retirees, including numerous defense contractors and Aberdeen Proving Ground employees.

### **B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:**

- (1) Describe any changes to the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, how has membership of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup changed in the last five years? Who are/were the

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

leaders, and how will/did the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan?

The Current Sustainable Communities Workgroup was formed in September 2021 and is designed to represent each of the identified revitalization areas within the City's Comprehensive plan, which corresponds with the Sustainable Community Designated Areas. The SC Workgroup members represent both City staff and community leader representatives:

- a. Bridgette Johnson, Director for Economic Development and Tourism, Economic Development Advisory Board Liaison, City of Havre de Grace
- b. Wanda Boker, Sustainable Economic Development Consultant, City of Havre de Grace
- c. Dianne Klair, City Planner, City of Havre de Grace
- d. Jolene Forrester, Board Member for Havre de Grace Alliance (and Main Street business owner)
- e. Carol Zimmerman, President, Havre de Grace Green Team
- f. Bill Price, President, Board for Havre de Grace Arts Collective
- g. Jean Johnson, Board Member and President for Havre de Grace Historical Society

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

Despite some turnover in City staff and within the SC Workgroup, progress to implement our SC Plan has been strong. Notably, a new Director for Economic Development and Tourism was hired in July 2021 and the Sustainable Economic Development Consultant was hired in August 2021. The community leader representatives have been constant in their community positions over the last five years. The 501c3 Havre de Grace Alliance incorporated the Main Street organization into their statute in 2018 and has worked in close collaboration with the City to realize economic viability goals pursuant to the Sustainable Communities Plan. The Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce struggled, for reasons ranging from staffing deficits, low revenue caused by plummeting membership and lack of vision, to meet the needs of local merchants in the main street/historic district. The local merchants responded by forming the Havre de Grace Downtown Merchants, an informal group which meets monthly to create solutions to common challenges. The Merchant's Group also administers an active Face Book page with 195 subscribers. The City is currently engaged in a formal process, with the Chamber of Commerce, the Alliance/Main Street organization and the Downtown Merchants for the reorganization and revitalization of our Chamber of Commerce.

The Coronavirus pandemic created challenges for the City to move forward with many SC Plan initiatives, but the challenges of the pandemic also created an opportunity for local businesses and community members to collaborate – this community collaboration helped the local business and arts & culture community survive, and even thrive, throughout 2020 and 2021. For example, the Havre de Grace Alliance/Main Street proactively guided local businesses through the maze of applications required to receive federal and state pandemic assistance grants and loans, making sure that each business understood what opportunities were available, had the necessary applications and liaised businesses with local banks to process applications if needed. The City worked with SC workgroup members and other organizations to disseminate information and guidelines during the pandemic, and the community came forward in many ways to support these businesses and organizations during a time of collective need. Thanks to this community spirit and hard work, only three businesses and, unfortunately, two B&Bs, closed between 2020-2022 and all of our museums, galleries, and cultural venues survived.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

The City and the Havre de Grace Green Team worked together to realize several important initiatives towards sustainability goals. In partnership with the City and the non-profit group Veteran Compost, the Green Team launched the Zero Waste Initiative, a food waste disposal drop-off site located next to Hutchins Park on Congress Ave. in downtown Havre de Grace. Citizens bring their food-scrap to the compost site for free disposal. Bins are serviced weekly by Veteran Compost, which uses the food-waste as fertilizer for their veteran-run community gardens in Aberdeen. Havre de Grace households have contributed more than 32 tons of food scraps since the project started in June 2020. The value of this program is that it is a positive step in reducing food waste that is a major component of landfills where it produces harmful climate-warming methane gas.

The Green Team, in conjunction with the City, Historic Preservation Commission and volunteers established the Heirloom Victory Garden in 2018. This iconic garden supplements local area food pantries with its harvest. The garden is maintained solely by volunteers and exceeded its harvesting goal of 1,000 pounds during its first year. After several years of planning with the City, the Green Team established a functioning apiary for beekeeping and honey production. The apiary is located behind the Seneca Community Garden. Second-graders at Havre de Grace Elementary School painted the hive boxes, the City of Havre de Grace Department of Public Works helped install the protective fencing and volunteers set up the hives in May 2019. In addition, the HdG Green Team continues to maintain all four of its Community Gardens and in 2019 launched the *Think Green Eat Green* newsletter, publishing 12 on-line issues to date.

Arts & Culture in Havre de Grace was on a fast growth track between 2017 and 2019, and then faced the extreme challenge of surviving during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Havre de Grace Arts Collective formed as a 501 (c)(3) in July 2017 and its mission is to build community through the arts by providing quality entertainment, offer educational opportunities and encourage synergism among performing, cultural and visual arts groups to stimulate economic vitality. The Collective, which works in collaboration with the City, is an umbrella organization for most local arts & culture activities including public art, galleries, youth arts and the Havre de Grace Mosaic project.

The Collective manages the Cultural Center at the Opera House (the building is owned by the City). The Cultural Center at the Opera House opened in August 2017 and is a theater and venue for local and professional plays, live music and arts performances, film, dance, arts education and youth programming, local events and private receptions and gatherings. The Collective held its first Jazz Fest in June 2019, featuring national and internationally acclaimed musicians and attracting thousands of visitors throughout Maryland as well as from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington DC. The 2020 Jazz Fest was canceled due to Coronavirus, and a smaller Jazz Fest was organized in June 2021. The Jazz Fest returned as a multi-day city-wide event in June 2022.

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

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan corresponds with the City's Comprehensive Plan, with a more detailed focus on projects related to Community Legacy, Economic Vitality, Environmental Sustainability and other grant-funded programming.

- (4) Would you like any technical assistance from State agencies to help expand the capacity of your SC Workgroup or implement your SC plan? Please describe with which revitalization strategies you would like assistance.

## Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

The Office of Economic Development remains open to opportunities for technical assistance, including guidance on researching state funding to support the realization of our SC plan goals.

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT**

## **PART I: QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

### **Purpose:**

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

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

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

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

#### Example – Accomplishment 1

*Outcome: Improved stormwater management*

#### **Projects:**

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

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

#### **Partners:**

*Chesapeake Bay Trust – provided technical assistance*

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

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

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

**Accomplishment 1: Storm Water Management and Wetland Enhancement Project**

*Outcome: Environment: Improved Storm Water Management and progress reducing illicit discharge*

*Project:* A three-phase ecological restoration project to naturally treat storm water before it goes into the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River. The project is located at the City of Havre de Grace's public Promenade at Concord Point, a waterfront walkway connecting three museums – the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, and the Concord Point Lighthouse & Keeper's House. The project consists of a Regenerative Storm-water Conveyance (RSC), a dry stream channel, and a living shoreline within a wetland cove on the Lower Susquehanna River where it meets the Chesapeake Bay. This creative blend of restoration practices reduces nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay, provides infiltration and groundwater recharge, enhances habitat, reduces flooding, and mitigates the impacts of climate change. The project was conceptualized by the City with collaboration with the Green Team and Maritime and Decoy Museums and was implemented from 2018-2021.

*Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Underwood Associates; Havre de Grace Maritime and Decoy Museums.*

*Impact:* The project drains approximately 5 acres of 50% impervious area. Prior to the restoration work, a thick layer of sediment covered a 175-foot 18" concrete storm drainpipe that discharged runoff directly into the Susquehanna River. This area is home to the incredibly important and delicate Susquehanna Flats, the largest bed of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay. The discharged runoff contained sediments, excess nutrients, and toxics that were harmful to the fragile submerged aquatic vegetation. In addition, rainwater has more chance to infiltrate and be filtered by native plants; the root systems of added native plants are larger and take up many pollutants. Plus, when the storm water comes through this natural filter system it's a cooler temperature, which is better for aquatic life. This project's positive impact spurred plans to expand the City's storm water management with an extended living shoreline, started in 2022, which starts at Water Street and continues towards Lighthouse Park, to eventually meet with the original project behind the Promenade.

**Accomplishment 2: New Middle and High School Construction, Demolition of Old High School, Renovation/Rehabilitation Plan for Old High School Gymnasium and Theater.**

*Outcome: Quality of Life and Local Planning and Land Use:*

*Projects:* Demolition of the old high school building, construction of a new middle and high school (broke ground in 2017, completed in 2020), planned renovation/revitalization of old gymnasium and theater (in development stages as of 2022) and new public parking lot (completed 2022).

*Partners: Harford County Department of Education and local community groups/advocacy*

*Impact:* The new \$80 million dollar state-of-the-art middle and high school was set to open its' doors in Fall of 2020 but due to the pandemic the full opening was delayed until fall of 2021. The building was designed with Havre de Grace's landscape in mind: The bottom level is blue for the color of the water, the second floor is green for the land and the top floor is blue for the sky. The school's colors of maroon and white are integrated in all communal areas. Each classroom has a box light, the newest interactive white board technology for teachers. The building is equipped with middle school and high school gymnasiums as well as two fitness-training facilities, a community room with ping-pong tables, a TV

production area, two band rooms, a 1,000-seat auditorium, science labs, media center, greenhouse, outdoor theater and reading center. The building also supports vocational training with a professional commercial kitchen and café for students interested in culinary and hospitality professions and a preschool for students interested in early childhood education.

Havre de Grace High School currently has 691 students, with 40 new students expected in 2022 for the magnet program. The magnet program, Information Technology Oracle Academy, also known as ITOA, is a computer science program which attracts students from across Harford County. There will also be a biomedical signature program and a new robotics club.

Also of note, 1494 panels were installed on the Middle/High school, providing solar powered electricity for the school since December 2020. In its first year the solar panels generated approximately 783,000 kWh and the school used a total of 2,515,000 kWh, so the solar produces about 31% of total energy used. Teachers use a web-based dashboard to monitor the system, to incorporate how solar energy is used into their lessons.

### **Accomplishment 3: Transition to Solar Power for all Municipal Buildings, Electric Car Chargers and Electric City Vehicles.**

*Outcome: Environment, Quality of Life and Economy*

*Projects:* The City is proactively reducing its reliance on carbon emissions and increasing its use of sustainable energy for environmental, cost savings and tourism benefits. In 2016 the City began a contract with Constellation Energy to supply the City with just over six megawatts per year of solar powered electricity for municipal operations. By July 2016 the City's municipal buildings electricity was 100% solar power. In 2017 the City installed two electric vehicle chargers in David Craig Park. In 2021 the City installed four additional electric vehicle chargers, on Pennington Ave and by the Park & Ride on Otsego Street. The City purchased its first two electric vehicles in late 2016, used by City Staff, and purchased four electric trolleys in 2021, introduced in 2022 for public transport in the downtown and historic districts of the City.

*Partners: Constellation Energy and Baltimore Gas & Electric*

*Impact:* For 2021 our tracking shows approximately 83.23% of municipal energy demand is supplied by solar power, saving the City more than \$50,000 annually. Based on our baseline consumption data for 2021 (January through October) our Constellation Energy units generate an estimated yearly output of 5,337,500 kWh (kilowatt-hours) out of our total electrical consumption of 6,413,300kWh per year.

The two electric cars are used by City Staff within the downtown area of Havre de Grace at a cost of 3 cents per mile rather than 12 to 14 cents per mile of a standard six-cylinder automobile . While this brings some savings, our reduction in carbon footprint is the main benefit. The trolleys offer clean energy public transport, and provide a practical and charming attraction for tourists as they explore Havre de Grace from the Tydings Park marine dock, the Promenade, museums, historic downtown, Water Street, Lockhouse Museum to the Joe K Trail. The trolleys discourage use of personal cars to explore the City and reduce the demand for parking in front of attractions.

**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: Revised Historic Preservation ordinances for control of demolition of historic structures*

*Narrative:* The City's Planning Department is developing new ordinances for control of demolition of historic structures in cooperation with the HdG Historical Preservation Commission. Presentation of proposed ordinances to City Council are planned before the end of 2022.

*Outcome: Zoning Regulations Update*

Chapter 205 – Zoning – Multiple ordinances have been written by the Department of Planning and adopted by City Council to address issues such as historic streetscape preservation, ease parking requirements for existing lots in the downtown, and add permitted and conditional uses such as daycare and assisted living facilities.

Zoning regulation updates remain a priority for the City but have met challenges, for example the closing of Harford Memorial Hospital and the renovation project underway for the old high school gymnasium and auditorium, which pose new questions and present new opportunities for City zoning. There is also a need for a more defined zoning regulation specifically for historical preservation. Zoning regulations proposals are in progress within the City administration and public discourse on new zoning is expected in 2023.

*Outcome: Recruit boutique hotel investment within the City*

*Narrative:* The City has recognized for years its need for more lodging and has actively encouraged investment for a boutique hotel in Havre de Grace over the past five years. As a recognized Arts & Culture destination and as a growing outdoor recreation destination, Havre de Grace needs a small hotel. Two B&Bs closed in Havre de Grace between 2020- 2022, underlining our need for tourism lodging that much more. The City will continue to develop and improve its tourism infrastructure as well as create incentives in order to encourage investors. One positive sign, JoRetro, an influential Main Street merchant, has renovated three apartments above its retail store into mid-century decorated Airbnb rental properties with great success. The renovated Airbnb rentals are booked for months in advance, and there are seven more apartments slated for Air B&B renovations in that downtown, centrally located, building.

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT**

## **PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

**Purpose:**

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

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

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

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

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

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<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
<p>1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, storm water improvements etc.</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The Storm Water Management and Wetland Enhancement: described in detail above, produced quantifiable improvements in the storm water entering the Susquehanna River. The project drains approximately 5 acres of 50% impervious area. In addition, rainwater has more chance to infiltrate and be filtered by native plants; the root systems of added native plants are larger and take up many pollutants. Moreover, when the storm water comes through this natural filter system it is a cooler temperature, which is better for aquatic life.</p> <p>Water Treatment Plan Improvements: The water Plant has undergone a complete upgrade – control room replacement, complete reconstruction of the flocculation System, settling tanks, water filters and associated piping. Work started in 2020 and completed in 2021. The City continues to meet the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement and equipment maintenance is ongoing.</p> <p>Rain barrels have been installed throughout the City.</p>
<p>2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Indigenous planting was in integral part of the Storm Water Management Wetland Enhancement project and our continued shoreline improvement initiatives. The City has been participant of the Tree City USA program since 2003 and in 2018 received the PLANT award from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest committee of the MD Association of District Forestry Boards. The Havre de Grace Green Team currently runs four community gardens. In Cooperation with the HdG Maritime Museum the Gardens of Grace garden club hosts a garden Mart specializing in native plants for sale and offering education to citizens on native plants and gardening.</p> <p>Established in 2016 with a grant from the Maryland Urban Community Forestry Committee, the Todd Park Food Forest lies on parkland owned by the City of Havre de Grace and is situated across the street from the Green Team's Seneca Avenue Community Garden. Since the initial plantings in the fall of 2016 more trees and bushes have been added each year and include species such as serviceberry, blueberry, apple, peach, persimmon, pawpaw, fig, elderberry, and plum. Recent developments in 2020 include two grants, one from the Maryland Urban Community Forestry Committee for a sign at the Food Forest and the other from Chesapeake Bay Trust to pilot permaculture beds to provide additional diversity in the Food Forest.</p> <p>The Food Forest is maintained by volunteers participating in our adopt-a-tree program, in which trees and bushes are assigned to individuals who care for them. Under the guidance of a forest leader, the adopters weed, water, and mulch the plants. Adopters and the community at large are</p>

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			<p>invited to occasional workdays for installing new plants or performing other activities. <a href="https://hdgreen.org/our-projects/todd-park-food-forest/">https://hdgreen.org/our-projects/todd-park-food-forest/</a></p> <p>To help support the domesticated honey bee population, a critical pollinator, the HdG Green Team worked with the City of Havre de Grace to establish our apiary in 2019. The apiary is located behind the Seneca Community Garden on Seneca Avenue in the Todd Park area. This is truly a community project. The City of Havre de Grace Department of Public Works helped install the protective fencing, and in Spring 2019, second graders at Havre de Grace Elementary School painted the hive boxes and volunteers set up the hives in May. Volunteers, under the guidance of our project lead, help support and maintain the bees and hives, and in the fall we harvest any available honey.</p> <p>Since honey bees travel to and from the hive, nearby community gardens and the Food Forest will benefit greatly from this frequent pollination process.</p> <p>Community members are invited to stop by and watch the bees, or join any of our volunteer activities. These activities can be found on our Facebook page or by subscribing to our email distribution. <a href="https://hdgreen.org/our-projects/green-team-apiary/">https://hdgreen.org/our-projects/green-team-apiary/</a></p> <p>In June 2020, the City of Havre de Grace passed Resolution No. 2020- 15, authorizing the HdG Green Team to apply for Bee City USA designation on behalf of the City of Havre de Grace. In 2021, we completed our first full year as a Bee City Affiliate. We planted a new pollinator bed within the Todd Park Food Forest in 2021. Learn more about the Bee City program at <a href="https://beecityusa.org/">https://beecityusa.org/</a></p>
<p>3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The Wetland Enhancement project increased park space, with a gravel lined walking path through a native plant landscape west of the Promenade, and a publicly accessible fabricated beach within the Promenade area. The Water-street shoreline project includes a public park and docking area as well. The Joe K trail has gone through several improvements and expansions, including a public walking bridge, which connects the trail to the Lock house museum grounds. Plans are currently underway to clear a new public trail which will connect the City of Havre de Grace to the Swan Harbor County Park through two-mile wooded area.</p>
<p>4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc.)</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>In partnership with the City and Veteran Compost, the Green Team launched the Zero Waste Initiative, a food waste disposal drop-off site located at Hutchins Park in downtown Havre de Grace. Citizens bring their food-scrap to the site for free disposal. Bins are serviced weekly by Veteran Compost, which sells the compost made from food scraps. The drop-off site collected over 34,000 pounds of food-waste during its first year in operation. Rain barrels have been installed throughout the City.</p>

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<b>OTHER:</b>				
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<b>ECONOMY</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	X			There has been an increase in businesses in Main Street/ district, where 15 new businesses opened. Also noteworthy, between 2020 – 2021, despite challenges brought by Covid19 only 6 Main Street businesses closed.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	X			The City earned Sustainable Maryland certification in 2019; recertification as an Arts & Entertainment District in 2018; as well as recertification as a Tree City USA program in 2019. In 2018 the City received the PLANT award from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest committee of the MD Association of District Forestry Boards and in 2020 the City earned Bee City USA designation. These designations enhance the City's appeal as a tourist destination, which provide increased visitors to the City's downtown business district.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	X			Foot traffic has moderately increased over the last five years, thanks to our restaurants, popular First Friday events held between May and December, and numerous city-wide festivals organized by the City and the Alliance/Main Street organization (Ice Fest, Water Fest, Pirate's Fest, etc.) which appeal to both local residents and out of town visitors. Creating a foot-traffic friendly downtown which attracts both locals and tourists, is a constant, longstanding priority.
4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?	X			Due to new businesses and renovations, vacancies have decreased and two long-term vacancies have been filled: The old paint store on Washington Street was renovated with a Main Street administered DHCD façade loan and filled with an art gallery; and the Old State Theater reopened as a live entertainment venue and concert hall.
5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?		X		While the increase in Main Street businesses created a small number of jobs, these businesses are often owner-operated or employ less than five people, hence there has not been a marked increase in local jobs in the downtown business district over the last five years. One of the City's tourism goals for the next five years is to market itself as an outdoor recreation destination, leveraging our proximity to the Chesapeake Bay, nature trails, Swan Harbor County Park and Susquehanna State Park. Raising the City's profile for outdoor recreation will

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			<p>hopefully invite more water and nature focused recreational businesses to town – such as boat and water sport equipment rentals, bicycle retail, rental and repair shops, and outdoor equipment and clothing sales and rental, which would also create new local employment.</p>
<p>6. Has there been an increase in workforce development training or other opportunities for connecting potential employees to well-paying jobs?</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>There is no formal workforce development training in Havre de Grace, but the new high school offers both college preparatory education and vocational training programs for students interested in careers in preschool education or restaurants/food service industry with access to a functioning greenhouse. The recently established magnet program known as the Information Technology Oracle Academy, has a structured curriculum based on CTSA and ISTE standards and is aligned with the computer science AP exams. The Academy attracts students interested in computer science as well as those pursuing careers in biomedical science and robotics.</p>
<p><b>OTHER:</b> America Rescue Plan Funding</p>			<p>The City of Havre de Grace received approximately \$13 million in American Rescue Plan funding which will be used to upgrade aging infrastructure and improve the functionality and aesthetics of the downtown business district. This presents a unique opportunity to reimagine how a downtown should look, feel and function. The city will use this opportunity to improve the streets and public spaces to create a better downtown experience for residents and visitors.</p> <p>A consultancy firm was chosen through an extensive bidding process to work with the city government staff, residents and other stakeholders to create a new downtown revitalization plan. The plan will be designed to attract residents, visitors and new businesses while preserving the city's historic charm. The Downtown Restoration Plan will incorporate the same quantifiable storm water improvements with water entering the Susquehanna River as described in our SWMP, which will address impervious areas and filter the run off using native plants and root systems and other natural filtering systems, as well as cooling the water surface temperature for better integration with aquatic life.</p> <p>A series of public charrettes were held to discuss community priorities and concerns as part of the visioning process.</p>

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<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?	X			The City of Havre de Grace continues to prioritize the development of trails within its jurisdiction for enjoyment of its residents and visitors. In the past five years, the City has made substantial improvements to the north end of town along the Susquehanna River with installation of reinforced pervious trail around Lock House grounds and two new pedestrian bridges for loop connections to the North Park Loop Trail and natural area. Approximate length of pathway improvements was 2,185 LF and were required to be pervious due to the location in the Resource Conservation Area of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. Primarily, this is a hiking trail but bikes are present, too. This trail is part of the regional Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway trail network. Within the past five years, the East Coast Greenway (ECG) has installed signs along their bikeway through the City from the Thomas J. Hatem Bridge to MD 155, linking US 40 through newer neighborhoods on local roads then MD 155 towards the county seat of Bel Air. At this point, the ECG is an on-road bike network through this region as opposed to a grade-separated path. The ECG is an organization connecting 15 states and 450 cities along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida, passing through Havre de Grace, however the Hatem Bridge remains a trouble spot for predictable safe crossing of the Susquehanna River. It is anticipated that The September 11 <sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail will follow the same path as the ECG through this region.
2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?	X			Harford Transit Link which is operated by Harford County Government has made substantial improvements to their service since 2017. They have increased the number of bus routes that serve the southern region along the US 40 and I-95 corridors and have made them more efficient to serve transit users and transit-dependent residents in Harford County's Development Envelope and into Cecil County. These routes coordinate better with regional employment centers, MARC and Amtrak service in Aberdeen, and with connections to Cecil Transit. Additionally, Harford Transit Link has included racks for bicycles on all local buses which provides for short-trip bike access as well as a limited but safe-crossing option over the Susquehanna River. The City of Havre de Grace will begin operating their own local electric bus/trolley route, primarily for outside visitors, in the coming tourist season. These innovative 12-person buses will be used to connect riders with the various attractions here in Havre de Grace without having to drive within the City once they are here. These buses were purchased in 2021 and began operating on a loop in the downtown and waterfront areas in May 2022 during weekends and special events.
3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more	X			There has been an increase in sidewalks in Havre de Grace due to new development, such as in Scenic Manor and other projects under development since 2017. Newer neighborhoods require pedestrian connections, some were designed with interior sidewalks and some with 6' wide multi-use asphalt pathways such as The Residences at Bulle Rock. Scenic Manor, for instance,

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<p>ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?</p>				<p>had approximately 5, 111 LF (linear feet) of new sidewalk within the new neighborhood in addition to a connecting 6’ wide asphalt pathway of 1,624 LF along Chapel Road. Greenway Farm continues to build out in phases and between 2017 and 2021 had estimated 4,105 LF of sidewalk installed due to continued development of lots. Within the Ivy Hills neighborhood, approximately 977 LF of sidewalk were constructed connecting that community with existing sidewalks to the commercial downtown. Finally as related to reconfigured pathways to the new Havre de Grace Middle School – High School complex, there was an additional 465 LF of improved pathway connections from Juniata Street to new school complex. Total sidewalk or asphalt pathway improvements are approximately 12,282 LF or 2.33 miles.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support “Complete” or “Green” streets?</p>		X		<p>Havre de Grace is working to implement this standard for new areas of development, however it is not currently addressed in the City Code. For example, grade separated asphalt pathway are being requested in areas of new development. Pedestrian access and on-street bike solutions within and between communities, linking downtown with outlying areas, is key for full walkability within the City of Havre de Grace and are being actively considered for established road systems, including rural road networks (i.e. Chapel Road) which are particularly challenging. “Green” streets which favor pedestrians and trees as inviting spaces for people to sit for rest or socializing are an integral part of the downtown revitalization project, which is at the conceptualization phase at the time of this report.</p>
<p>5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)</p>		X		<p>Havre de Grace is a moderately growing community along a major highway network and traffic has not decreased. Because of its location between two major highways and the Susquehanna River/Chesapeake Bay, with access to two major bridges integral to the northeast corridor commerce stream, the City has limited ability to influence traffic congestion along the major highways. However, efforts to reduce traffic downtown will focus on enhancing pedestrian accessibility, bike paths, and electric public transport as integral to the City’s conception plans for downtown revitalization over the coming five years.</p>
<p><b>OTHER:</b></p>				
<p><b>HOUSING</b></p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes?</b></p>
<p>1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?</p>	X			<p>Between January 2017 through December 2021 (five years) there were 175 residential façade and interior renovation permits issued by the City of Havre de Grace, 71 of which were for residential properties within the historic district. During this time there were also 119 residential solar panel permits issued.</p>

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<p>2. Has the homeownership rate increased?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>According to the latest US Census owner occupied housing between 2015-2019 was at 66.5% up from 52.5 % in 2000.</p>
<p>3. Has there been an increase in the number of housing units in the Sustainable Community area? What number and/or percent are affordable? How many are within .5 miles of a transit stop?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Ivy Hills is a project of approximately 38 units. This project is .5 miles from a transit stop on Otsego Street. Blenheim Run is a project in construction, which will have 111 units, and the first phase of constructions, with 51 apartment units, is nearing completion. This project is less than a half mile from two transit stops, at 2145 Pulaski Highway and 1830 Pulaski Highway. Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna’s project included six duplex units and a single-family residence. In addition, there were 21 separate infill lots that were improved with single-family or duplex homes within the Sustainable Communities portion of Havre de Grace, showing continuing investment in the older and historic neighborhoods in Havre de Grace.</p>
<p>4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The Department of Planning has been proactive in enforcement of demolishing blighted properties, all of which have been single-family dwellings that were abandoned and posed a nuisance and safety hazard to the community. In 2021 money was allotted in the City budget toward demolitions, one demolition was completed and two demolitions are planned in for 2022.</p>
<p>5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>With the tightening housing market we assume that residential vacancy rates have decreased, but the City doesn’t keep records of residential vacancies – 2020 census data does show an increase in home ownership (66.5% from 52.5% in 2000).</p>
<p>6. Has the jurisdiction partnered with any community development corporations to improve its housing stock, increase the availability of affordable housing, or support those experiencing homelessness or being threatened with eviction? Has the jurisdiction initiated any</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>The City has not formally collaborated with community development corporations or initiated programs in this regard. However, the Harford County Social Services Administration is located just outside of the City limits on Pulaski Highway. The building is accessible by a Harford Transit Link bus or by car, and provides citizens with SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps), temporary cash assistance, long term care, emergency assistance to families with children, and temporary disability assistance. The City also welcomes participation of non-profit organizations such as Harford Family House, in local fundraising events, or the hosting of resource fairs, such as Summer Jam, to provide information to citizens regarding available resources.</p>

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of its own programs to do the same?				
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?		X		While there are several real estate businesses in Havre de Grace there are no public counseling services available for increasing home ownership in the municipality.
<b>OTHER:</b>				
<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH &amp; QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</b>
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?			X	The City does not have records of historic property renovation but when looking at all 175 residential renovation permits issued from January 2017 through December 2021 71 of these permits were in the historical district of the City. The City does not separately regulate environmental mitigation for renovations but requires that all County, State and Federal standards are met. The Historic Preservation Commission has recently compiled a list historic properties of significance.
2. Have there been improvements and/or additions to your public or community available spaces? Examples include museums, community centers, public plazas, murals and public art.	x			Numerous public art projects have been implemented with the support of the City and the Havre de Grace Arts Collective: * Hammers Town Art Center Commerce Street (2020, 2021, ongoing at \$15,00 per year) started with an extensive mural-alley depicting diverse historical heritage of the City and is in the process of growing into a museum on the history of Havre de Grace as well as center for local artists to create and display their works. * Ernest Burke Statue Tydings Park (2021) * Chesapeake Bay Birds Sculptures at Concord Point Bay Park Pier (2021) * Benchmark Program (artists painting public benches) (2021) * Flaps Down Metal Sculpture, in front of Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St. (2020) * Shawn Forton Mural, 100 Market Street (2021) * Jimmy Burril Murals, 300 Lodge Lane (2020)

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			<p>* School of Fish sculpture at Light House Park (2019)</p> <p>Also included in the City's Public Art projects is the Havre de Grace Mosaic Project, an arts-based expression of the personal stories of people, places, circumstances, milestones and objects that have contributed to the unique personality of the City of Havre de Grace. Due to the delays caused by Covid 19, the research part of the project, which began in the Fall of 2019, will continue through 2022. Research is conducted in partnership with several existing City supported organizations including area museums: Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House, Maritime Museum, Decoy Museum, Concord Point Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keeper's House, the Colored School Foundation and Cultural Center, Steppingstone Farm Museum and Havre de Grace Historical Preservation. <a href="https://hdgartscollective.org/havre-de-grace-mosaic-project/">https://hdgartscollective.org/havre-de-grace-mosaic-project/</a></p> <p>There are nine mini free library boxes installed around the city, mostly in park areas and historical district - Lock House, Opera House- ; Parks - K9 Cody - David Craig – Tydings Veterans - Bomboy’s- Rochambeau Plaza</p>
<p>3. Are there opportunities for residents to gather, communicate and celebrate? Do they serve multi-generations and all populations in the community? Examples are wide-ranging and may include fairs, community history days, neighborhood meetings, etc.</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>Havre de Grace has a myriad of parks and walking trails to encourage health and wellness:</p> <p>*The Promenade (a scenic 3/4 mile boardwalk to view the Susquehanna River, adjacent to Tydings Park), Decoy Museum, Maritime Museum and Concord Point Lighthouse.</p> <p>*Joe K's North Park Trail (a one-mile long trail identified by white blazes serves 3 trail system: 1) a portion of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway; 2) a segment of the Mason Dixon Trail system; and 3) the Loop Trail system in the City’s North Park). Guided tours are offered for the Joe K loop - contact the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House.</p> <p>*Lafayette Trail – (a self-guided tour begins at the City's North Park.) Founded in 1782 and incorporated as a city in 1785, you will find that HdG has a rich, architectural history. AS you walk, drive or ride a bike along out tree-lined streets, you will see but a sample of about 800 historic structures. Click link below to launch the self-guided tour. <a href="http://www.explorehavredegrace.com/walkingtour/">http://www.explorehavredegrace.com/walkingtour/</a></p> <p>*Veteran's Park behind the Citizens Nursing Home on Concord Street, is home to seven exercise stations with multiple exercises posted at each. Open to the public year-round.</p>

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			<p>The City continues to host the Susky Run/Walk across the Susquehanna River, via Rt. 40. And the Susquehanna River Running Festival.</p> <p>Pickle ball Courts (two courts) were installed in Tydings Park and are open to the public free of charge. The Courts are lit in the evenings and there are covered picnic tables and a small rose garden in front of the courts which invite families and friends to socialize and exercise on the property.</p> <p>The City has ordered additional bicycle racks to be installed at the entrances to the Promenade and the Joe K Trail through a grant received from the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway mini-grants program in 2022</p> <p>The Tydings Park playground was renovated (2019-2020) with new handicapped accessible recreation installations and children and pet accessible public water fountains, which were also installed in downtown Havre de Grace; and a public 'beach' area where people can walk and throw pebbles into the bay was constructed in the bay directly in front of the Maritime museum as part of a comprehensive storm water management project. In 2022 a new extension to the Mason-Dixon LSHG walking trail was completed.</p> <p>Havre de Grace is known for its numerous public festivals and city-wide events including: First Friday celebrations, Jazz Fest, Ice Festival, Water Fest, Defender's Day celebration, Beer &amp; Wine festival, Celtic Festival and 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>As a result of a decision by University of Maryland/Upper Chesapeake Health and the Maryland Health Care Commission, the City will be losing its hospital, UM Upper Chesapeake Harford Memorial. In preparation for its closing slated for 2023 services at the hospital have been reduced over the last year. However, since 2017, several urgent care centers have opened and to date, the City is not aware of anticipated closure of private doctor offices in the next few years.</p>
<p>5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>As noted above, there is a public outdoor circuit training park and public pickle ball courts. The Community Center holds a variety of exercise and dance classes and has a small workout room. There are two commercial gyms and a yoga/dance studio in Havre de Grace.</p> <p>The former high school gymnasium and auditorium is being renovated in 2022 into a new STAR Centre (Sports, Theater, Arts and Recreation) which opened to the public in June 2022. This Centre will be a resource for the community for a variety of entertainment and recreational events and activities.</p>

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			<p>There are also a number of private clubs (Get Fit, Cross Fit, Havre de Grace Fitness) other facilities available in private communities (Bulle Rock). These private efforts are viewed favorably and are in addition to public recreational facility requirements applicable to new developments.</p>
<p>6. Do all residents have access to healthy food options such as fresh food grocery stores, farmers markets, community gardens, etc., within the Sustainable Community?</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>Havre de Grace has hosted a local farmers market for over ten years. It originally began as a partnership between several local farmers and the Chamber of Commerce. It has continued to grow and is now managed under a non-profit organization by a group of over 35 farmers and local vendors. The Farmer's Market is open from May through November on Saturday mornings from 9am until noon. The farmer's market remained open during the pandemic with city officials, including the mayor, handing out free masks to the public at the market's entrance. Spacing between vendors was increased to facilitate social distancing requirements mandated under the Governor's COVID restrictions. The expansion of the market over the last two years has included new vendors selling fresh bread, wine, condiments, local honey, hand-made tamales, cold pressed coffee, farm to market cheeses, baked goods, and vendors selling homemade personal care products and household items.</p> <p>The Green Team has four community gardens in which over 50 households grow food. Volunteers at the Heirloom Victory Garden grow produce that is donated to three local food pantries. Fruit from trees and berry bushes are available to the community to harvest at the Todd Park Food Forest.</p> <p>Third way Farm (TWF) located at 601 Robinhood Road is a sustainable farm that functions to build a more local, just, and healthy food system. They offer vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat, and more, which they sell at the farmers market and at their farm, through a farm market and a CSA program. The program operates from May 1st until Thanksgiving and provides enough produce for a family of four. Costs range from \$350 - \$650 depending on the size and type of share, and the Farm holds a 'market' for shopping without a plan each Tuesday and Saturday between 3-6pm year round.</p> <p>St. Johns Episcopalian Church kitchen/pantry provides weekly hot meals to people in need, each Friday year round, averaging between 100-150 meals per week. Within St Johns Church there are three food assistance programs; "Grace Place" , "St John's Cupboard" and "Kitchen Door"</p>

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				Havre de Grace has one health food store, Karen’s Natural Market, and one supermarket, Weis, and is five miles from the town of Aberdeen, which has several supermarkets, including ShopRite, Lidl and Aldi, and from Perryville, which has a Food Lion.
7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?				<a href="https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/safest-cities-2021-md/?fbclid=IwAR34VmzY-5MGkRoLUmKhunfBMTGVe_K0FTsoRzjTxZVtGB4wGSeB4oTJOmM">https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/maryland/safest-cities-2021-md/?fbclid=IwAR34VmzY-5MGkRoLUmKhunfBMTGVe_K0FTsoRzjTxZVtGB4wGSeB4oTJOmM</a>  In 2021 Havre de Grace is listed as the 10 <sup>th</sup> safest city in Maryland by Safewise.com with a violent crime at 2.6 per 1,000 people and property crime rate at 11.9. “There’s no better place in Maryland to enjoy beautiful strolls morning to night”.
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	x			According to the 2020 census 92.2% of residents in Havre de Grace have a computer in the house and 87.9% have a broadband internet subscription. The Havre de Grace branch of the Harford County Public Library offers free internet access through wi-fi and six desktop computers that are available to the public.
<b>OTHER:</b>				
<b>LOCAL PLANNING &amp; STAFFING CAPACITY</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes?</b>
1. Have there been any infill developments?	X			Infill development has been ongoing in the older sections of Havre de Grace, east of US 40. From calendar years 2017 – 2021, there have been 72 new construction permits issued for infill lots. These included three completed subdivisions: 1). six luxury townhomes with water views, 2). Ivy Hills, a neighborhood of affordable homes with a mix of townhouses and duplexes, 38 of which were constructed during this timeframe, and 3). Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna’s project that included six duplex units and a single-family residence. In addition, there were 21 separate infill lots that were improved with single-family or duplex homes within the Sustainable Communities portion of Havre de Grace, showing continuing investment in the older and historic neighborhoods in Havre de Grace.

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<p>2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Four parcels totaling approximately three acres along Water Street for waterfront access on the Susquehanna River were protected and are being improved as part of a living shoreline project. This land was purchased in conjunction with Harford County Government and transferred to the City of Havre de Grace in January 2017 as public open space. In addition to environmental restoration objectives on a former industrial site, the project includes recreational and boat access improvements for public enjoyment. These preserved lands and waterfront improvements, within walking distance to the north of the City’s historic downtown business district and are invaluable for Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay access in the Upper Bay region.</p>
<p>3. Have there been any developments hindered by growth constraints? If so, please describe. Example constraints could be inadequate infrastructure, insufficient zoning density/intensity, or lack of buildable land.</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>Development has not been hindered by growth constraints during the past five years. The City of Havre de Grace has continued to steadily build out and has had a healthy amount of infill. In addition, the City has annexed adjacent privately-held land with property owners’ concurrence where it makes sense to extend water and sewer services in identified growth areas. In the future however there may be challenges, specifically related to water infrastructure due to pressure zone issues and extension of major transmission lines. There are also may be capacity issues with the wastewater treatment plant in the future as the remaining developable lands within the City are built out.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>In the past four years, the Department of Planning has taken a coordinated approach to updating Chapter 205, Zoning, and other chapters of the City Code related to planning and development. These updates are intended to create a clear path for growth and development within the City and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 2 – Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) – The City adopted its first APFO in 2020 which evaluates the impacts of development on schools, roads and water and sewer infrastructure. It is the first growth management tool adopted in the City.</li> <li>2. Chapter 20 – Annexation Policy and Procedure – This chapter was created to outline public processes and procedures for the annexation of properties into the City. A clear policy and procedure did not existing until this ordinance was created in 2020.</li> <li>3. Chapter 25 Article IV – Board of Appeals – The chapter was repealed and replaced in 2022. The new ordinance was necessary to bring the Board of</li> </ol>

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				<p>Appeals in line with the State Land Use Article, zoning case law, and also created administrative review procedures in addition to refining the process for appealing to the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Chapter 49 – Critical Area – The chapter was repealed and replaced in 2021 and included the adoption of digital updated mapping of the 1000’ Critical Area boundary by the State of Maryland.</li> <li>5. Chapter 102 – Sustainable Landscaping – The City of Havre de Grace did not previously require landscaping as part of development projects. This ordinance requires landscaping to be planted in a sustainable and context sensitive manner.</li> <li>6. Chapter 151 – Signs – The City of Havre de Grace previously had a sign ordinance with little if any regulatory requirements for signs. The current ordinance repealed and replaced the Sign Code and there are specific regulatory requirements by zoning district. A model ordinance by the United States Sign Council was used to create this ordinance.</li> <li>7. Chapter 155 – Site Plan Approval – This chapter was repealed and replaced with the purpose of refining procedural requirements for site plan review and adding other requirements such as architectural standards, site circulation requirements and tying the ordinance to other related ordinances and requirements in the City Code.</li> <li>8. Chapter 173 – Subdivision Regulations – This chapter was repealed and replaced with the purpose of refining procedural requirements for subdivision on the City. Where possible, the regulations were made consistent with County regulations so that property owners, developers and consultants already doing business in the County would be familiar with the standards established by the City.</li> <li>9. Chapter 205 – Zoning – Multiple ordinances have been written by the Department of Planning and adopted by City Council to address issues such as historic streetscape preservation, ease parking requirements for existing lots in the downtown, and add permitted and conditional uses such as daycare and assisted living facilities.</li> </ol>
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<p>5. Have there been any significant improvements to the municipal infrastructure within the Sustainable Community (i.e. street lighting, water/sewer lines)?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The City has committed to replacing street lighting with LED bulbs as replacements are required, and recently applied for a SMART grant to replace all municipal lighting (to include indoor lighting in municipal buildings, street lighting and parking lots) over five years.</p> <p>Since 2018 the City of Havre de Grace DPW has been working to change its Septic System Management Plan from reactive to proactive. For example the City now actively searches out small pipes, as well as aging terracotta pipes, to replace them with larger modern pipes. In 2021 the City completed the rehabilitation of our Tydings Pump Station. In 2022 the Sewer Main was replaced from the Main Pump Station to the City's wastewater treatment center. In 2019 terra-cotta pipes were replaced along the Warren Street sewer line and the City funded a National Guard property pump station replacement. In 2020 pipes were replaced on Commerce Street and Francis Street sewer lines. The City has also worked to replace aging water lines to increase the quality and flow of water as well as implementing a planned replacement program to prevent stress on the system and reduce the surprise and economic pressure of unanticipated water main breaks.</p>
<p>6. Have you hired any new staff members, reassigned duties, or procured the services of a contractor to increase or better align local capacity? Have you implemented any professional development programs?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>The City has generally maintained recent staffing levels overall, and in some cases have reduced staffing levels. Specifically in the Planning Department, five employees cover all aspects of planning, including the director who reviews site plans and subdivision plans, construction permitting, building code violations, land use policy and regulations, annexation, and property maintenance as well as running the department. Staff within the planning department handle areas of: permit facilitation with the public and with Harford County's Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits; fee collection for development and/or permit process; enforcement of the property maintenance code; enforcement of all applicable environmental regulations such as floodplain management, forest conservation, non-tidal wetland and stream buffer requirements, and Chesapeake Bay Critical Area; and long-range, comprehensive planning. The Director and Department staff interface with Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and Historic Preservation Commission for the work that they perform. Staff members pursue professional development as they are able, specifically to stay current in their fields of expertise like floodplain management or climate change adaptation, which are necessary for working in a coastal community. Where needed, temporary contract employees are hired to fill roles needed to complete certain projects or implement certain policies.</p>

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<p>7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?</p>				<p>The City of Havre de Grace has recently completed the first phase of a downtown restoration plan related to the need for infrastructure replacement and the subsequent reconstruction of the streetscape. This is a small area plan for the downtown business district and was performed by Toole Design Group with main offices in Silver Spring, Maryland. Engineering will be completed for the second phase of this project and is expected to continue this spring. The Department of Public Works completed a <i>Water System Hydraulic Model Update</i> in 2021 by GHD Group, an engineering consulting firm, to evaluate the City's entire water system infrastructure for identifying capital projects for continuing build-out for transmission lines, treatment capacity, and pressure zone needs as well as meeting our commitment of to the sale of water to the City of Aberdeen. In addition, a sewer system study was initiated with EA Engineering, Science, and Technology but has not been completed. These studies will be utilized heavily in the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan which is currently being performed</p>
<p><b>OTHER:</b></p>				

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<p><b>COMPETITIVE FUNDING:</b> Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.</p>	<p><b>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</b></p>	<p><b>Amount Received</b></p>	<p><b>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</b></p>	<p><b>Other Notes</b></p>
<p><b>DHCD Community Legacy (CL): for small business façade improvement and renovations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 02/14/2022</li> <li>● 02/03/2022</li> <li>● 12/22/2021</li>   <li>● 07/30/2021</li> <li>● 02/26/2021</li> <li>● 11/06/2019</li> <li>● 11/05/2019</li> <li>● 07/22/2019</li> </ul>	<p>DHCD</p>	<p>\$141,215</p>		
<p><b>Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):</b></p>	<p>DHCD</p>		<p>The City is proactively addressing the need for strategic and targeted demolition. A consultation or webinar to understand when demolitions fall under the Strategic Demolition Fund would be helpful.</p>	
<p><b>Community Safety &amp; Enhancement Program:</b></p> <p><b>Awarded April 2022,</b> The Alliance/Main Street organization partnered with the HDG Police Department for the Community Safety Grant. We received \$100,000 to procure Modular Vehicular Barriers. These barriers are critical to ensure visitors to our many festivals are protected from intentional or accidental vehicular incidents. The barriers can also be used for disasters such a floods or fires to protect the public.</p>	<p>MDOT</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>		
<p><b>Maryland Bikeways Program:</b></p>	<p>MDOT</p>		<p>Given the City’s interest in improving bicycle facilities and encouraging outdoor tourism, consultation or webinar guidance to understand how the City could benefit from this program would be helpful.</p>	

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<p><b>Sidewalk Retrofit Program:</b></p>	<p>MDOT</p>		<p>Given the City’s current plans for downtown revitalization, a consultation or webinar to understand how the City could benefit from this program would be helpful.</p>	
<p><b>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</b></p>	<p>MDE</p>			
<p><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></p> <p>*Please add more rows if necessary</p>				
<p><b>Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway</b> Received in February 2022, on a 1:1 match, for pedestrian counters for nature trails and outdoor events; bicycle racks and wayfinding signage.</p>	<p>LSHG</p>	<p>\$4,989</p>		
<p><b>MSEC FY22 grant program</b> Awarded April 27, 2022 for a project to replace all municipal lighting (indoor and outdoor) with LED lights over a five year period, and furnish one city owned parking lot with solar powered LED lighting. \$40,000 was awarded for the first year of the program and the City qualifies to submit proposals each year through 2027 to complete the project.</p>	<p>SMART</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>		
<p><b>EDA ARP Grant</b> Awarded July 5, 2022 this grant provides a 80% match for the construction of a new nature trail which will connect HdG with Swan Harbor County Park; a new public boat pier off of Green Street in historical downtown for day-boaters and an all-electric shuttle bus to provide public transport from the center of HdG to the Susquehanna State Park, Steppingstone Farm Museum and other regional outdoor recreational attractions.</p>	<p>EDA</p>	<p>\$319,200</p>		

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<p><b>Keep American Beautiful (KAB) grant</b>                  The MS received \$5000 from KAB in 2020 which procured trees to line Revolution St, a key gateway to the city that was unsightly due to the industrial buildings along the route. Visitors now see a line of flowering trees as they enter the city.</p>	<p>KAB</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>		

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

There are several priority areas for the City as it strives to be build resiliency and grow as a sustainable community over the next five years. Guidance and technical assistance in our quest for these projects would be extremely helpful:

1. Downtown Revitalization Project – We will use American Rescue Plan investments prudently, there will be a need to supplement our budget for this comprehensive project which includes replacement and installation of underground electrical and plumbing, new sustainably designed sidewalks and pavement, outdoor installations for public gathering, rest and recreation, out-door lighting, landscaping and tree planting.
2. Renovations and retrofitting in gymnasium and auditorium building – This again is an exciting but ambitious project to transform the Board of Education’s old high school auditorium and gymnasium donated to the City into the STAR Centre (Sports, Theater, Arts and Recreation) which requires considerable capital investment for much needed improvements. We hope to find grant money to ensure that capital improvements are on the cutting edge of environmental sustainability and prevent the building from being demolished – white roofs, solar lighting, environmentally sustainable insulation products and preventing the carbon dump of a demolition are goals for this project.
3. Expansion of the Havre de Grace Visitor's Center – Havre de Grace has the only municipal Tourism Visitor’s Center in Harford County. As an Arts and Entertainment District and as part Maryland’s 18 Scenic Byways map, the City’s Visitor’s Center is essential. Our Visitor’s Center currently only has one bathroom, used by both the public and staff, and no space for visitors to sit to speak with staff or plan their stay in the area. Plans are in motion to renovate and modernize the building and provide interactive tourism tools, but more funding will be required.
4. Municipality funded recycling service for downtown businesses – This is a common sense solution to a pervasive problem which makes both ecological and economic sense – the City will work to find public investment to create an affordable and convenient system for local downtown businesses to recycle their paper, plastic and glass.

# Sustainable Community Action Plan

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City of Havre de Grace

## 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>• Completion of dynamic and naturally sustainable storm water management project, implemented in three parts, behind Promenade and between the properties of Decoy Museum, Maritime Museum and Light House Museum. The City has begun to expand on this living shoreline, starting at Water Street.</li> <li>• Proactive accessibility to healthy food through an expanded farmer’s market and the Third Way Farm CSA program.</li> <li>• Continual replacement of narrow and old terracotta sewage and water pipes</li> <li>• Public City-Green Team initiatives: compost drop off; four public garden plots; food forest; apiary; Tree City USA; Bee City USA</li> <li>• Four electric trolleys for public transport in historic district</li> <li>• Diverse environmental outreach through public planting days; River Sweep; Green Team film series; Bike to Work Day; CAT Club and ingenious plant sales.</li> <li>• Three locations in town for EV charging stations and plans to install in three more stations in 2022/2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No City recycling options (besides costly private service) for Main Street/downtown businesses</li> <li>• Lack of a clear database on LED lighting needs or strategy for changing out City indoor and outdoor lighting to LED</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Install recycling bins for local downtown businesses.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Research feasibility of possible solutions (multiple bins in common spaces; one central drop off location; curb pickup). Compare costs.</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: Research business cost threshold and outside grant opportunities. If a communal project is feasible with minimal cost to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HdG Merchants Group and</li> <li>• Main Street will be the City’s primary partners to spread information</li> </ul>

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<p>Progress Measures:</p> <p>Monitor Awareness/Interest: visit businesses when project is implemented and note those that commit to participate.</p> <p>Measure Participation by visiting businesses after six months</p>	<p>businesses, make a list of interested businesses to determine feasibility. If outside funding is required, find opportunities and write grants.</p> <p>Strategy/Action plan C: Outreach and monitoring – introduce project and monitor participation.</p>	<p>about the project and monitor feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Economic Development and Tourism Department will also be in direct contact with downtown business owners.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Complete transition to LED for municipality outdoor and indoor lighting</p> <p>Progress Measures: Measure energy usage decline and money saved.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Implement through BGE clean energy a comprehensive light audit for the municipality.</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: With SMART funding start to systematically replace interior and outdoor municipal lighting with LED over the next five years with the goal of 100% conversion.</p> <p>Strategy C: Monitor energy usage reduction and savings, and invest savings into more sustainable infrastructure for the municipality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Energy Agency (SMART); BGE and</li> <li>• Contracting Agency ICF;</li> <li>• LED vendor once chosen through bidding process.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Expand living shoreline storm water filtration project from Water Street.</p> <p>Progress Measures: # of new acres treated, rate of natural filtration achieved.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Funding has been obtained for initial Water Street expansion</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: Groundbreaking has occurred for initial expansion</p> <p>Strategy/Action C: Full implementation of Water Street expansion and start of monitoring process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR);</li> <li>• Underwood Associates;</li> <li>• US Army Corps of Engineers</li> </ul>

## 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>● Arts and Entertainment Destination, Main Street Designation, Historical District</li> <li>● Location – Nature trails, Chesapeake Bay, Susquehanna State Park; proximity off I95 between Philadelphia and Baltimore; Lafayette’s Trail and Promenade</li> <li>● Tourism Office, Visitor’s Center, Active downtown merchant community and Main Street designation.</li> <li>● Water and Sewer capacity for residential and commercial growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chamber of Commerce is in the process of structural transformation</li> <li>● High turnover rate for small businesses in downtown district</li> <li>● Need for a small (preferably boutique) hotel within City limits</li> <li>● Need for more water recreation/tourism driven businesses such as kayak and paddle board sales and rentals; bicycle sales and rentals; boat tours.</li> </ul>

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u> →	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u> →	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
<p>Outcome 1: Renovated and fully functioning new STAR Centre</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Secure funding for needed renovation                      Strategy/Action B: Create varied and robust calendar of events; rigorous marketing</p>	<p>City of Havre de Grace Chief for Events, Recreation and Parks hired; This is a City project and the City is solely responsible for running the STAR Centre, but local museums and NGOs use the</p>

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<p>Progress Measures: Funding raised; Renovations implemented, Varied and Robust event calendar.</p>		<p>Centre for a fee for exhibits, events and conferences.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Downtown Revitalization Project</p> <p>Progress Measures: Pedestrian friendly; bicycle friendly; environmentally sustainable design and materials; esthetically pleasing and functional.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Publicly held charrettes to inform design and function for downtown revitalization project.</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: Research and write grants for additional funding needed to complete comprehensive revitalization plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toole Design Group</li> <li>• City Planning Department</li> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome3 : Raised profile for outdoor tourism and live entertainment</p> <p>Progress Measures: Number of outdoor tourism and live entertainment businesses in town; growth in revenue for existing businesses dependent on tourism.</p>	<p>Strategy A: New installations: footbridge and signage to complete Swan Harbor nature trail; public boat pier; EV shuttle transport to Susquehanna State Park; installation of additional bike racks throughout the City to strengthen the City as an outdoor tourism destination.</p> <p>Strategy B: Targeted social media marketing for outdoor recreation tourism, to increase outdoor tourism and demand for outdoor recreation businesses and services (bike rentals, boat rentals, etc.)</p> <p>Strategy C: Installation of Pedestrian Counters on Promenade, Nature Trails and downtown – to strengthen amenities for outdoor tourism for all ages and increase our ability to track increase in tourists for future investors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development Agency ( EDA) ARPA Grant;</li> <li>• Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) mini-grant;</li> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism Department</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 4: Expanded Chamber of Commerce through merger with Alliance Organization.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased membership; signature programs and heightened profile with local businesses.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Facilitate and support transition through technical assistance and moderated dialogue</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: support traditional and new Chamber programming to support local businesses navigate challenges and decrease closures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber of Commerce;</li> <li>• Alliance Organization;</li> <li>• Main Street Organization;</li> <li>• Downtown Merchants Group</li> </ul>

# 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>● Strong road network system</li> <li>● Walkable City with strong network of sidewalks.</li> <li>● Public EV chargers installed since 2016, more planned for 2022 -2023</li> <li>● Four Electric Trolley cars purchased in 2021 and introduced in 2022 for public transport in the historic/arts and culture districts of town.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most roads are at a rating of D or F (maintained by State)</li> <li>● A deficit of bicycle lanes</li> <li>● Need for a strategic public parking plan</li> </ul>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Increase bicycle lanes and pedestrian access through downtown revitalization project</p> <p>Progress Measures: Plan approval; funding; implementation</p>	<p>Strategy A: Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian access in downtown revitalization plans; increase bicycle lanes and bicycle racks at entrances to nature trails and Promenade; continue to include bicycle lanes in road improvements throughout the City. Priority Streets for bicycle lane expansion include Juniata Street and Water Street which are relatively wide streets open improvements that would slow traffic and encourage multi-purpose use. Clark Road and Old Bay Lane will also need bike lanes to facilitate access for bicyclists and pedestrians to the trail to Swan Harbor Farm. In addition bikeway connections to the new middle school/high school complex are prioritized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LSHG;</li> <li>● Toole Design;</li> <li>● City Department of Planning</li> </ul>

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	<p>Strategy B: Ensure funding for sustainable (permeable) materials in new downtown design and installations                  Strategy C: include expanded bicycle lanes and more pedestrian friendly planning in Comprehensive Plan.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2:                  Re-strategize ‘smart’ parking in the downtown with a new 300-spot solar lit parking lot; green streets which invite pedestrian ‘experiences’; electric trolley transport for downtown; electric shuttle service for residents west of Route 40 for City wide events..</p> <p>Progress Measures: Plan approval; funding; implementation</p>	<p>Strategy A: Secure SMART funding which includes solar lighting for new parking lot; obtain additional funding for sustainable permeable surface downtown revitalization projects; secure EDA funding for electric shuttle                  Strategy B: Interdepartmental coordination for comprehensive implementation – Planning, Economic Development and Tourism and DPW.                  Strategy C: Improve public transport experience with installation of public bus stop shelters – a cooperative City/County Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD Energy Administration SMART project;</li> <li>• EDA</li> <li>• City DPW</li> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism</li> <li>• Harford County DPW</li> </ul>

## 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>• Diverse housing mixture of historic, new and commercial uses</li> <li>• Space and capacity for future residential and local commercial growth</li> <li>• Largest historical district in Harford County</li> <li>• Diverse balance of price ranges and housing options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some residential rental properties are in need of rehabilitation/reinvestment</li> <li>• Much of the new development is not accessible to downtown by public transport, bicycle or walking.</li> <li>• Affordable Housing availability is a constant challenge despite the City working proactively to address it.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New High School and Middle School in town encourages family’s to move to Havre de Grace, encouraging an increase in home ownership.</li> <li>• Robust realty market and choice of local realtors</li> </ul>	
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Continue increase in home ownership and diverse residential communities (a mix of family homes and smaller units, as well as assisted living communities, with variable prices ranges).</p> <p>Progress Measures: Quantifiable through permits and tangible product</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Continued promotion of the City with the investment of ownership-friendly infrastructure (for example the new High School and Middle School; the planned STAR Centre and downtown revitalization project as well as EV public transport.);</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: Prioritize diversity in housing options in the next City Comprehensive Plan which is currently being written.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism</li> <li>• Visit Harford County Tourism</li> <li>• City Department of Planning</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Work to integrate outlying newer housing developments with downtown culture through increased public transport options for City wide events, like Farmers Market, First Friday events, Festivals and the Fourth of July Parade.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: As noted above, strengthen EV public transport options and bicycle lanes and racks throughout the City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDA (grant for EV shuttlebus)</li> <li>• LSHG (grant for bicycle racks)</li> <li>• City Department of Planning</li> <li>• City Economic development and Tourism</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3: Completion of the Comprehensive Plan will provide Department of Planning with updated guidelines for encouraging diverse</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Continue to encourage affordable Housing through developers and partners like Habitat for Humanity. Currently the City has approved plans for expansion of affordable townhouses at Ivy Hills and the new Blenheim Run housing development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat for Humanity</li> <li>• City Planning Department</li> </ul>

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<p>housing options and minimum maintenance requirements on rental properties.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action B: Study and incorporate 2019 requirements outlined at <a href="https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/housing-element-mg/housing-element-home.aspx">https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/housing-element-mg/housing-element-home.aspx</a> and include new requirements in our Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Strategy/Action C: clarify requirements of landlords for maintenance of rental properties in new Comprehensive Plan.</p>	
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## 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>● Geographic location</li> <li>● Waterfront Community</li> <li>● Historical area/old town</li> <li>● Growing tourism and outdoor recreation profile</li> <li>● Pedestrian friendly neighborhoods and downtown</li> <li>● Abundance of open spaces and parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited housing options for homeless and marginalized residents</li> <li>● Need for more activities for youth</li> <li>● Need for more integration in City’s cultural life</li> <li>● Anxiousness within the community about losing hospital</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts &amp; Entertainment district (Renovated Opera House, Arts Collective, new STAR Centre, live entertainment venues and galleries).</li> <li>• Public safety</li> <li>• Strong community involvement – volunteer committees and groups working in collaboration with the City</li> <li>• Five assisted living communities within the City</li> <li>• Public Recreational Center hosts both Young at Heart and Boys and Girls Club, and coordinates joint activities between the elderly and youth groups.</li> </ul>	
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Improvements and Maintenance of outdoor recreation amenities: Parks, pickle ball court and basketball courts; trails; bicycle lanes; water recreation accessibility as well as new recreational installations.</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Streamlined Coordination between DPW and Economic Development Departments; EDAB and Youth Commission.                      Strategy/Action B: Seek out funding opportunities for sustainable recreational infrastructure (indoor climbing walls, skating park, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City DPW</li> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism</li> <li>• EDAB and</li> <li>• Youth Commissions</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 2: Increase in both community and tourism focused entertainment in town</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: Complete renovation and opening of STAR Centre                      Strategy/Action B: Highlight live entertainment venues ( STAR Centre; Opera House; State Theater) in Office of Tourism/Explore Havre de Grace marketing                      Strategy C: Continue to support city-wide festivals and cultural events, such as the annual Jazz Fest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HdG Arts Collective</li> <li>• City Economic Development and Tourism</li> <li>• Main Street Organization</li> <li>• Local Museums and Organizations that host</li> </ul>

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		City wide events (Octoberfest; Independence Day Parade; Ice Festival; Jazz and Blues Fest Etc.)
Outcome 3: Increase affordable Housing	Strategy/Action A: Habitat for Humanity Builds in Town Strategy/Action B: Expansion of affordable townhouse development and planned BlenHiem Housing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat for Humanity</li> <li>• City Planning</li> <li>• City Administration</li> <li>• Private Developers</li> </ul>
Outcome 4: Increase public knowledge on post Hospital Closure services and plans	Strategy/Action A: Regular public forums through Council Meetings on details of hospital closure and new health service facility plans in Aberdeen as well as expanded services at UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center Strategy/Action B: Public information and outreach through direct mail and social media, as well as organized public forums, on City's plans for hospital building and land use once hospital has closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Administration</li> </ul>

## 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>• Town Center close proximity to US40 and I-95, Aberdeen Proving Ground; Redevelopment opportunities on US40</li> <li>• Livable, walkable, suburban community</li> <li>• Waterfront is an important quality of life attribute and major draw for homeownership, residents and tourists.</li> <li>• Land use focus on Smart Growth principles</li> </ul>	<p>Comprehensive Plan needs to be and is being updated. The Comprehensive Plan is currently being rewritten ( The City has hired a full time planner specifically for this as well as a GIS professional, estimated completion is 12- 14 months) and the first kick-off public forum on the new Comprehensive Plan was held in August 2022.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible zoning code tailored to mixed use community</li> <li>• Zoning supports reuse of existing commercial and residential buildings</li> </ul>	
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Completion of updated Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Progress Measures: Submission and Approval of plan, expected by end of 2022</p>	<p>Strategy/Action A: GIS mapping system Include Updated Zoning Regulations</p> <p>Strategy/Action B: Include Revised Sustainable Priorities and Protections</p> <p>Strategy/Action C: Public input through community charrettes and Council forums</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Department of Planning</li> <li>• City Commissions (EDAB, Historical Preservation; Water &amp; Sewer, etc.).</li> </ul>