



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 by SGCC

5/11/2022

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://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/pfamap.shtml> ;
- 2) The proposed Sustainable Community is within or near a town center or transportation center, or there is a need for financing assistance for small businesses, nonprofit organizations or microenterprises;
- 3) The updated Plan must be consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans;
- 4) A Sustainable Communities Workgroup is re-convened and a roster of members should be provided with the application.

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

Application Submission and Evaluation

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

The first printed page of the electronic application is a Table of Contents. This should also serve as a checklist and be used to provide corresponding tabs. In addition to the hard copies of an application, all pictures and maps are to be submitted on a CD-ROM, or send via email to the Sustainable Communities project management team. Pictures should be in a JPEG format and maps should be in a pdf format. Please also include GIS shapefiles of Sustainable Community boundaries and other GIS related data.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deliver Sustainable Community Applications to:

Sustainable Community Application
ATTN: Olivia Ceccarelli-McGonigal
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
Department of Housing and Community Development
2 N Charles Street, Suite 450
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-209-5826

Site Visits, Follow-up Discussion, Technical Assistance

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

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.

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.

Approval

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

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

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

RENEWAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

A. Contact information, General Information, Organizational Capacity:

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

B. Report on accomplishments over past five years:

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

C. Sustainable Communities Action Plan Update:

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN ELEMENTS

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

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

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

ECONOMY: Describes projects centered on economic growth and management.

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

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

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

HOUSING: Describes projects involving the homes people in your community live or making 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 condition (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 a 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 be due to 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 of the different sections, 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: _____

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: _____

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

- Section A - Sustainable Community Renewal Applicant Information**
- Section B – Sustainable Community Renewal Report (Projects, Strategies and Partners)**
- Section C – Sustainable Community Renewal Action Plan Update (Matrix)**
- Section D – Sustainable Communities Workgroup Roster**
- Section E – Signature Letter (acknowledging Disclosure Authorization and Certification)**
- Section F – CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM should include the following contents:
 - If requesting a boundary modification, map in pdf format of the proposed Sustainable Community
 - **GIS shapefiles of the modified Sustainable Community boundary (if requesting a modification) and other GIS related data**
 - Photos (jpeg format) of your accomplished projects of the last five years (as indicated in Section B)
 - Digital copy of completed Sustainable Communities Renewal Application

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Sustainable Community:		City of Laurel	
Name of Applicant:		Mayor and City Council	
Applicant's Federal Identification Number:		52-6000798	
Applicant's Street Address:		8103 Sandy Spring Rd.	
City: Laurel	County: Prince George's	State: MD Zip Code: 20707-2502	
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Web Address: cityoflaurel.org	

Sustainable Community Application Local Contact:

Name: Michele Blair		Title: Environmental Programs Manager	
Address: 8103 Sandy Spring Road	City: Laurel	State: MD	Zip Code: 20707
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address: [REDACTED]	

Sustainable Community Contact for Application Status:

Name: Robert Love		Title: Director, Economic and Community Development	
Address: 8103 Sandy Spring Road	City: Laurel	State: MD	Zip Code: 20707
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

Other Sustainable Community Contacts:

Name:		Title:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

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?

Yes, over the last five years Laurel has expanded the City boundaries and these areas are part of the City's Sustainable Community Plan. New map is attached.

(2) Include the following in as an attachment (if requesting a modification to your current boundary):

- a. PDF or JPEG of modified Sustainable Communities boundary map,

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section A

- b. GIS shapefiles of modified Sustainable Community boundary (mapped to the parcel boundary),

(3) Approximate number of acres of entire SC Area: ~1,800 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):

(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?

Population: The City of Laurel’s population has grown from 25, 115 to 30,060 between 2010 and 2020.

Housing Units: There are 11,406 total housing units in the city as of 2021.


Household Income: 36.79% >\$100K; 16.27% \$75-\$100K; 11.04% \$60-\$75K

Household Size: 36.63% 1 person; 26.77% 2 person; 14.87% 3 person; 11.45% 4 person

Educational Attainment: 23.99% Bachelor’s Degree; 20.23% High School; 19.86% Some College; 19.64% Graduate Degree

Race: 51.45% Black; 26.86% White; 8.18% Asian

Average Median Age: 34.23

2020 and 2010 Population by Municipality				
Census Incorporated Places	2020	2010	Change	Percent Change
La Plata town	10,159	8,753	1,406	16.1%
Laurel city 	30,060	25,115	4,945	19.7%
Laytonsville town	572	353	219	62.0%
Leonardtown town	4,563	2,930	1,633	55.7%
Loch Lynn Heights town	493	552	-59	-10.7%
Lonaconing town	1,001	1,214	-213	-17.5%
Luke town	85	65	20	30.8%
Manchester town	5,408	4,808	600	12.5%
Mardela Springs town	357	347	10	2.9%
Martin's Additions village	946	933	13	1.4%
Marydel town	176	141	35	24.8%
Middletown town	4,943	4,136	807	19.5%

<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/system/files/files/adoptedbudgetfy2020-website.pdf> Chart, bar chart

B. Organizational Structure, Experience and Public Input:

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

The Sustainable Communities Workgroup has expanded to include the Environmental Programs Manager, City of Laurel Office of the City Administrator, the Community Redevelopment Authority, Historic District Commission, Planning Commission, Laurel Arts Council, City of Laurel Tree Board (CAC), Parks & Recreation CAC, Public Safety and Transportation (CAC), Environment Affairs Committee (CAC), Persons with Disabilities (CAC), Laurel Civic Improvement (CAC), the Laurel Board of Trade and the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA). The RTA is the interconnection which provides transit to many community facilities and services in the area between the beltways.

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

Many workgroup members have strong review experience and relationships with agencies and organizations outside of the City which can provide support and guidance in the implementation of the City SC Plan. These organizations include but are not limited to the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, Sustainable Maryland, Maryland Recyclers Network, National Capital Electrification Collation as well as the Green Registry through the State of Maryland. The Laurel Board of Trade is an organization that represents City businesses, predominantly in the Main Street area, but opened to all businesses within the City. The Board sponsors many initiatives and education outreach programs to assist small businesses.

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

The Sustainable Communities Action Plan is based on the City of Laurel Master Plan adopted by the Mayor and City Council by Ordinance Number 1873 on July 25, 2016. The Master Plan was prepared by a Mayor appointed Master Plan Review Committee. The Plan was prepared over a year’s period meeting monthly in an advertised public meetings and two public hearing. The Plan was reviewed by the Planning Board and recommended for approval by the Mayor and City Council which held two advertised public hearings before approval. As part of the City’s commitment to an comprehensive Sustainability Plan – focus groups, public meetings and virtual educational programs will be geared towards public engagement.

- (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.**

Technical assistance in identifying an applying for financial assistance would be helpful in implementing the SC plan. City staff is not familiar with the various State grant or tax credit programs that are available to designated Sustainable Communities.

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:

Outcome: Reinvested and grew Laurel's small business community.

Projects 1: Laurel Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program

The intent of the Main Street Façade Improvement Program is to provide funding to improve the appearance of the Main Street area. The Program is designed to assist property owners with rehabilitating the facades of storefronts and residential homes to create a positive visual impact, stimulate private investment, and complement other community revitalization efforts. The Program provides participants the opportunity to receive a reimbursement of at least \$5,000 but not to exceed \$25,000 for approved exterior renovations. The total grant fund is \$105,000. Funds are limited and will be awarded to qualifying projects on a first-come first-serve basis. Funds for this grant are provided by the City of Laurel and the State of Maryland.

Eligible improvements include:

- Exterior painting
- Lighting that is attached to the exterior of the building
- Window and doors
- Exterior stucco, tile, or masonry work
- Signage, canopies, and awning that are attached to the exterior of the building
- Restoration of historic components of the structure
- Replacement or repair of walkways or paths leading to the front of the property (not including public sidewalks)
- Garage door replacement (door that can be seen from the right-of-way only, replacement of mechanical components are not included)
- Repairs to front porch or deck, including handrails, banisters, and/or support columns
- Replacement or repair of exterior siding
- Replacement or repair of exterior shutters
- Replacement or repair of fencing
- Replacement or repair of retaining walls
- City of Laurel permit fees

Impact:

Since 2017 – 7 commercial properties have been awarded façade grants

- There are 7 more applicants that have been awarded, but have not received funds yet, because this is a reimbursement grant
 - We have 3 residential properties that have awards currently processing
 - We have 4 commercial properties that have awards currently processing

Project 2: Laurel Main Street Business Relocation Grant Program

The purpose of the Main Street Business Relocation Grant Program is to help defer the costs of physically moving an existing business to a vacant storefront or to assist in the start-up of a new business in a vacant storefront. The City of Laurel provides these grants to help business succeed and grow in the Main Street business area and in the process continue to provide and create local jobs for residents of the greater Laurel area. The redevelopment of the Main Street area and the retention of commercial uses is crucial to maintaining an economically strong Main Street; a commercial area where the image, appearance, and environment encourage walkability and attract shoppers. The Program provides participants the opportunity to receive a reimbursement not to exceed \$10,000 for approved relocation expenses. Funds for this grant are provided by the City of Laurel.

Impact:

Since 2012, 18 business have been awarded a relocation grant.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Accomplishment 2:

Outcome: Reduced the amount of food waste ending up in the landfill.

Project: Implemented a new Organics Recycling and Composting Program.

The City of Laurel and Mayor Craig A. Moe initiated a NEW organics recycling program to help reduce wasted food and turn it into a valuable and environmentally safe resource. The organics collected from homes during this program will be converted into organic compost. Organic compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, many of which can be harmful to the environment (and to the fish, animals and humans that live in it); enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests and reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers our carbon footprint.

Impact: The City has successfully completed one full year of the curbside organics recycling program and the results are in! Due to the commitment of the 200 hundred residents that volunteered for the program – we were able to divert 51,540 pounds of food scraps from the landfill.

That is the equivalent of 47,618 pounds of CO2 saved per year and this is just the beginning. As more residents, businesses and schools show interest in the program, the City has committed to expanding the program. Public Works has purchased more small kitchen composting containers, with a charcoal filter to reduce odors, compostable bags for the kitchen container and an outside composting toter with a locking lid.

Accomplishment 3:

Outcome: The City of Laurel implemented several steps to become more energy efficient.

Project 1: Earned SolSmart: Gold Level Status

The City encourages residents and business owners to be more energy efficient. Several residents as well as business owners have installed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems at their properties. The Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) was instrumental in helping the City of Laurel achieve the SolSmart Gold Level.

Project 2: The City of Laurel in conjunction with Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) has implemented a LED lighting replacement program for the City-owned street lights.

Impact: The conversion has saved the City over \$40,000 in one year. As of August 2021, BGE has converted 700 of the 1,626 fixtures to LED in Laurel. Attached is a sample of the type of lights installed. The City is working with BGE to convert the remaining lights over the next several years.

Project 3: The Solar Bench - A Solar Bench was installed on April 1, 2019 in Emancipation Park in time for Earth Day 2019. Using solar energy, the bench is capable of charging two devices simultaneously and providing WiFi connectivity. This solar bench is created from sustainably harvested materials and is the first of several benches that the Department of Parks and Recreation plans to install in the city parks. A company called SOOFA, created by two female MIT engineers manufactures the bench. It was purchased for just under \$3000 with funds from Parks and Rec.

Impact: We have not really utilized it to its potential by collecting data, but given the proximity to the playground and basketball court, it is estimated that 1,000 people annually will use the bench.

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.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

Project: Laurel Main Street Farmer's Market

Status: The Laurel Board of Trade (LBOT) Laurel Farmers Market & Bazaar began in 1996 when the Laurel Board of Trade Recognized the need for a fresh vegetables and fruit concession. Laurel's Farmers Market & Bazaar showcases an eclectic mix of the new with the old market style each Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the 300 block of Main Street from early June through October every year. The market showcases local produce, local Main Street vendors, and local entertainment. The City of Laurel's Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) purchase the 12,000 square foot lot in May of 2013 for \$300,000. The city leases the property from the authority and makes it available for events such as the Farmers Market and Main Street Festival. The City provides support by providing and maintaining the grassy area on Main Street where the Market is held; providing a trailer with tables and chairs for Market attendees each week; and picking up trash and recycling. Due to COVID restrictions and a decline in local vendor participation the Laurel's Farmers Market was suspended in 2020. In March of 2021, the City's Economic and Community Development Department applied for and was awarded \$50,000 under the State of Maryland's, FY21 Community Legacy (CL) Program to assist with the "Farmer's Market Lot Improvement" Program/Project. This project will include environmentally friendly solar lighting, tables, pavement, BigBelly solar powered refuse and recycling containers and a permanent structure to provide shelter for City and community events. The redesign and grand reopening is scheduled for Spring of 2022. The City will take an active role in promoting the Farmer's Market location as a community hub for events ranging from plant sales to local artists showcases. The new and improved location will be promoted in a variety of ways: the City's website, the new Green Living landing page, the City's Facebook page, as well as the LBOT website.

The plans for this project are still in development as Covid-19 has caused many projects to be backlogged.

Project: One and Done Collection

Status: The City of Laurel Department of Public Works aims to move from a twice weekly trash and recycling collection system to a once weekly collection. We have experienced some setbacks due to resident feedback and realize a need for educational outreach. The Department of Environmental Programs is pursuing a grant with The Recycling Partnership to provide residents with new 60 gallon recycling bins to help address concerns that they will have too much waste for a once weekly collection. This will also include informational pamphlets on how to properly recycle. Funding is still pending for this project as the grantees have not yet been announced.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RENEWAL REPORT

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Purpose:

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

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

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

Please check “**NO**” if the question item did not have any impact on your community. If you answer “**NO**” please briefly summarize what kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes.
Check “**N/A**”, if the question item does not apply to your Sustainable Community.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
<p>1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.</p>	<p>YES</p>			<p>Project with Clean Water Partnership for Laurel Lakes The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) has completed several stormwater management projects in the City of Laurel, MD. In collaboration with City officials and the community, the CWP has recently worked on a pond retrofit at lower Laurel Lake, beautification efforts at upper Laurel Lake, stormwater improvements at Millbrook Pond and a bioretention project near Laurel Elementary School. Throughout the CWP's ongoing work to reduce stormwater runoff in Prince George's County, including the City of Laurel, it has built a strong relationship with the community – organizing several community meetings and mailed construction notices to nearly 1,000 Laurel residents. This outreach also includes a strong partnership with City of Laurel Parks and Recreation Department, where Laurel Parks and Recreation officials have acted as a liaison between CWP and elected officials, addressed community stakeholder questions and helped to distribute CWP educational materials and construction notices.</p> <p>Hazard Mitigation Program and Watershed Project This project involves multiple areas within the City and concentrates on reducing the hazards associated with both man-made incidents and natural disasters. A major part of the mitigation program is the reduction of risks associated with flooding. The City is leading a regional partnership with the surrounding jurisdictions and agencies to identify, develop, and implement a major flood reduction program within the Patuxent River Watershed.</p> <p>Community Rating System (CRS). The City completed the Progress Report on the City's Flood Addendum to the Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan. The CRS program is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages communities to work on floodplain management practices. Due to the City of Laurel's proximity to the Patuxent River, being below the T. Howard Duckett Dam and having communities within the FEMA's 100 Year Flood Plain, this requires residents and businesses to have flood insurance if purchasing a home or operating a business within that flood plain. By joining the CRS, the higher our rating, the higher discount our residents and businesses can receive through the National Flood Insurance Program.</p> <p>Some of the projects we have worked on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood gauges along the Patuxent River, along with the addition of a High Water Mark that provides valuable information for engineers to assess the risk of flooding in our City ● National Flood Insurance Program Open Houses

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan that helps local governments determine risks and vulnerabilities during a natural or man-made disaster and during this process, helps to determine the best course of action on possible mitigation efforts. <p>The City of Laurel installed a “Rain Gauge” sensor at Riverfront Park</p>
<p>2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens</p>	Yes		<p>The Department of Parks and Recreation was granted five Tree Swallow Houses that were designed by staff and installed in Riverfront Park to attract birds that act as an environmentally friendly way to reduce the mosquito population. In addition, a Laurel couple, Bob and Carol Relitz, began a community partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation to install 17 tree swallow houses along Granville Gude park and Riverfront Park. Each house was sponsored and decorated by local businesses and community groups.</p> <p>The City of Laurel 150th anniversary in recognition to that they gave away 150 trees, this program is sponsored by Cheryl Dyer. These trees are native to Maryland. Native plantings were used throughout the Laurel Branch Library property, as well as in the swales in Laurel Town Center for stormwater management.</p>
<p>3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?</p>	Yes		<p>The City has an extensive network of trails, sidewalks, and parks throughout the City to serve the varying needs of residents. Development and redevelopment requires the construction of sidewalks and residential development requires the dedication of park land. The City has been granted an easement running from U.S. 1 North (Second St.) along the west side of the Patuxent River to MD 198. Completion of a walking trail is still underway; the anticipated completion date is Spring 2022.</p> <p>A nature trail was developed in conjunction with PG County running the length of Bear Branch and connecting Van Dusen Road to the Gude Mansion property.</p> <p>The incorporated area that is the City of Laurel covers about 5 square miles. Within that area, Laurel Parks and Recreation maintains 19 park sites, six facilities, with 288 acres of parkland!</p>
<p>4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain</p>	Yes		<p>Curbside Food Waste Collection: In 2019 the City of Laurel piloted an Organics recycling/composting program, which is now fully implemented.</p> <p>Single-use straws and stirrers. Mayor Moe issued an executive order eliminating single-use straws and stirrers in 2021.</p> <p>Retail Plastic Bag Ban: In January 2022, Ordinance No. 1977 takes effect, prohibiting disposable plastic bags in retail establishments.</p> <p>Community Recycling Events Continued to host bi-annual electronics recycling events, open to residents and local businesses. Added secure paper shredding, GreenDrop as part of the “Repurpose with a Purpose”</p>

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gardens at residences, recycling, composting etc)				campaign and recently added a means of recycling EPS. The most recent events had more than 460 residents attend, totaling more than 33,636 lbs. of electronics recycled. Pilot One & Done Program: Introduced one day a week refuse collection to select communities.
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ECONOMY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Has there been an increase in the number of new businesses in your Main Street/ Commercial District?	Yes			As of Quarter 1 2021, Main Street's occupancy rate was 97.073%, versus 92.231% in the same quarter for 2016, even with the pandemic.
2. Did the Municipality/ Sustainable Community area receive any designations that support local economic development?	Yes			The City of Laurel established an Arts and Entertainment District, all located on Main Street. In addition, the city received the Sustainable Maryland recertification in 2021. and joined the Maryland Green Registry. 2021 marked the City of Laurel's 28 th anniversary as a Tree City USA. In addition, the City of Laurel has the distinction of being Prince George's County's first designated Main Street.
3. Has there been an increase in foot traffic in the Main Street/commercial district?	Yes			Several new businesses have opened on Main Street, including High Five, Basket Treats, Sankofa, and the Salt Barn. Second Saturdays The Economic Development Coordinator from the Department works with the Laurel Board of Trade to coordinate the Second Saturday events on Main Street. The monthly events started small, however have gained more attention and participation throughout the year. The event provides small home-based businesses a platform to retail their goods within the City's Main Street community. Second Saturday's events have also generated more foot traffic on Main Street, as well as visitors to the already established businesses.

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<p>4. Have the number of commercial vacancies decreased?</p>	<p>Yes</p>			<p>Overall there has been a decrease in commercial vacancies, with some differences between Ward 1 and Ward 2.</p> <p>Ward 1 As of Quarter 1 of 2021, the commercial vacancy rate was 8.854%, up from 2.274% the same quarter in 2020 and up from 7.353% in 2016.</p> <p>Ward 2 As of Quarter 1 of 2021, the commercial vacancy rate was 8.154%, up from 5.952% the same quarter in 2020, but down from 12.903% in 2016.</p> <p>Discover Laurel Day The Department of Economic and Community Development hosted “Discover Laurel Day.” An event that brought together members of the business community, including business owners, business organizations, commercial real estate agents, and shopping center management representatives. Participants of the event toured vacant commercial properties located within shopping centers. The half-day event created connections for members of the Laurel business community and demonstrated the City’s commitment to economic development.</p>
<p>5. Has there been an increase in local jobs within the Sustainable Community for its residents?</p>			<p>N/A</p>	<p>We do not have data for this item.</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>Yes</p>			<p>The Department of Economic Development started a newsletter, called ‘ECD News’, where job fairs and other events are advertised. In 2018, the Department of Economic Development held its first annual small business resource fair with the Laurel Library and held a Summer Workshop Series for business owners. The department regularly features job ads for its small business community on its Facebook page.</p> <p>Events held by ECD include: Free Webinar on The Art of the Side Hustle Women Business Owners Breakfast Job Fair Free Webinar on Making your Business Work for you</p>

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TRANSPORTATION	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes?
<p>1. Has the amount of bike trails/paths increased? How many linear feet do the trails cover?</p>	<p>YES</p>			<p>Laurel Place Bikeway Laurel Place bikeway is a mixed shared-use roadway with on-street bike lanes along both directions. Laurel Place is a critical link that runs parallel to Route 1, connecting many amenities directly, such as Towne Centre at Laurel, Laurel Lakes Center, and Granville Gude Park/Laurel Lake. This project was completed in May 2017 with City funding and MDOT Bikeways Program grants.</p> <p>Van Dusen Road Bike Path In April 2016, the City completed a three year project that extended the Van Dusen Road Bike Path by 0.5 mile to the south, connecting it to Contee Road. Thanks to MDOT’s strong support, the City received a total of \$240,000 in grants from the Bikeways Program for this extension project, including \$40,000 for the design and \$200,000 for the construction.</p>
<p>2. Have there been improvements to the public transit infrastructure?</p>	<p>Yes</p>			<p>A portion of the FY2019 assessed property taxes were distributed to the local public transit provider and the remainder, were to be used in accordance with State law for infrastructure improvements within the city districts.</p>
<p>3. Has there been an increase in sidewalks? (Amount in linear feet). Were accessibility elements added, such as more ADA-accessible ramps and signage/signals? Has there been a noticeable increased use of these walking places?</p>	<p>YES</p>			<p>Patuxent Greens development This new housing development will span 191.71 acres and include a comprehensive sidewalk system.</p> <p>Centre at Laurel shopping center The Centre at Laurel retrofitted the area with sidewalks and ADA accessible entries to stores.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any roadway improvements that support “Complete” or “Green” streets?</p>	<p>YES</p>			<p>Solar Signs / Decorative Crosswalks The City installed four solar speed radar signs throughout the City and installed the first “Stop” sign with solar blinking ring on 5th Street at Montgomery Street. Additionally, a decorative crosswalk was installed at 4th and Main Street. The addition of this crosswalk increases the number of enhanced crosswalks city-wide to more than 65, which increases pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Street Trees</p>

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				<p>Removed 64 dying street trees for vehicular/pedestrian safety and planted 62 new trees throughout the city.</p> <p>LED Street Lights The Department continues to convert mercury vapor streetlights to high-pressure sodium throughout the City. This Department also does periodical street light level testing and uses the CIP to install new or updated lighting as required through BGE or private contractors. Many high-pressure sodium street lights were replaced by LED bulbs. New developments will be required to install LED lighting. From 2018 – 2019, the city spent \$177,060.00 on LED street lighting.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="961 526 1684 708"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6"><i>Street Light Fixtures (Net Removals/Installations)</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th><i>2014</i></th> <th><i>2015</i></th> <th><i>2016</i></th> <th><i>2017</i></th> <th><i>2018</i></th> <th><i>2019</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1,650</td> <td>1,638</td> <td>1,651</td> <td>1,660</td> <td>1,669</td> <td>1,705</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>2 2020 Capital Improvement Program</i></p>	<i>Street Light Fixtures (Net Removals/Installations)</i>						<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	1,650	1,638	1,651	1,660	1,669	1,705
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1,650	1,638	1,651	1,660	1,669	1,705																	
5. Has traffic congestion along major roads decreased? (Amount in percent)			N/A	We do not have data to provide for this item.																		
HOUSING	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan’s desired outcomes?																		
1. Have any residential facades or interiors been improved? Has the energy efficiency of any housing units been increased?	Yes			<p>In January 2021, the City of Laurel received gold designation from the national SolSmart program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar. To accomplish this, the city created an online permitting checklist, increasing transparency for community members and solar installers.</p> <p>The city reviewed local zoning codes and identified restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development and allowed solar by-right accessory use in all zones (so solar installations don’t require special permits or hearings)</p>																		

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			Additionally, both inspection and permitting staff were cross-trained on solar PV												
2. Has the home ownership rate increased?	Yes		In 2021, 5,295 of the 11,406 total units were owner-occupied, a rate of 48.82%.												
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?	Yes		<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> TABLE ONE - DWELLING UNITS </div> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">DWELLING TYPE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ESTIMATED JUNE 2019</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ESTIMATED JUNE 2020</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,622</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">MULTI-FAMILY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,493</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,493</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12,115</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12,793</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Affordable Housing Units: Avalon: 21, Modera Westside: 28, Evolution: 20 Total: 69 Affordable Units</p> <p>CITY RESIDENTIAL/NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>LAUREL MARC - TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT. Located at Main Street and U.S. Route One Northbound, the development will consist of a multifamily building, with limited retail space. The building is planned in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation. Construction. Project schedule is not known at this time.</p> <p>ANDERSON’S CORNER. A mixed-use community consisting of a 344-unit apartment complex known as Avalon Bay (constructed), an approved 55-unit townhouse community entitled Avery Place and a Royal Farms gas station and convenience store.</p>	DWELLING TYPE	ESTIMATED JUNE 2019	ESTIMATED JUNE 2020	SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY	5,622	6,300	MULTI-FAMILY	6,493	6,493	TOTAL	12,115	12,793
DWELLING TYPE	ESTIMATED JUNE 2019	ESTIMATED JUNE 2020													
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			<p>WEST SIDE. A mixed-use community consisting of a 469-unit apartment complex known as Modera at Westside (constructed) and 56-unit townhouse community, which is complete. The site also has other undeveloped parcels for commercial, a hotel and a second phase townhouse development. Project schedule for the undeveloped land is unknown at this time.</p> <p>MILBROOK WOODS. A small subdivision of four (4) single-family approved for construction located off Brooklyn Bridge Road. Construction slated to start in 2018.</p> <p>FLESTER/KAUFMAN. Property known as 7041 and 7051 Contee Road was annexed into the City the summer of 2017. The subject properties contains over 32 acres of land. Proposed project is to construct a 180-unit townhouse community as well as an athletic field to be deeded to the City. The proposal still has to obtain final zoning approvals from the Planning Commission.</p> <p>PATUXENT GREENS GOLF COURSE. The golf course closed in December 2018. The property was approved to be re-developed into a residential community consisting of 389 single-family and townhouse dwelling units. The development will also include a clubhouse, swimming pool, hiker/biker trails and other community amenities. The project will be constructed in four (4) phases. Construction proposed to begin in 2019.</p>
4. Has there been demolition of blighted properties?			<p>N/A</p> <p>We do not have data to provide for this item.</p>
5. Has the residential vacancy rate decreased?	Yes		<p>In 2021, there were 561 residential vacancies.</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	Yes		<p>City of Laurel’s Economic and Community Development Department has an Affordable Housing Program.</p> <p>Per the City of Laurel Unified Development Code, any multifamily development of 100 dwelling units or less approved after November 23, 2020, shall include a minimum of three (3) per cent of the total number of apartments as work force housing units and a minimum of three (3) per cent of the total number of apartments as moderately priced housing units.</p> <p>Per the City of Laurel Unified Development Code, any multifamily development of 100 dwelling units or more approved after November 23, 2020, shall include a minimum of four (4) per cent of the total number of apartments as work force housing units, a minimum of four (4)</p>

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the jurisdiction initiated any of its own programs to do the same?				per cent of the total number of apartments as moderately priced housing units and a minimum of four (4) per cent of the total number of apartments as age-restricted housing units. Currently, there are three apartment developments apart of the Affordable Housing Program: Duvall Westside, Avalon Laurel, and Evolution at Towne Centre.
7. Has there been an increase in homeownership counseling services or individuals accessing such services?			N/A	Not at the city level.
OTHER:				
COMMUNITY HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. How many historic properties were renovated/improved? To your knowledge, did the renovations mitigate certain environmental hazards such as lead and asbestos?	Yes			In the last five years, approximately 500 Historic District applications were processed for renovations or home improvement projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 - The Economic and Community Development department processed 89 HDC certificates and 10 tax credits for exterior renovations for properties located within the Historic District. 2018, the department also processed 92 HDC certificates for exterior renovations for properties located within the Historic District.
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.	Yes			The Pool Mosaic project This project was completed in 2019 in collaboration with Laurel High School, the City's Arts Council, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Department of Parks and Recreation was instrumental in obtaining the \$2000 funding grant from the Prince George's County Special Appropriations Grant. A Pallotti High student won a national award for her design and the mosaic was created by 5 Pallotti Advanced Art class students, overseen by LAC member Cheryl Dyer. More information and photos of the pool mosaic are attached. Memorial Garden The City of Laurel's Memorial Garden has been growing over the last couple of years with

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			<p>additions of the 9-11 Memorial, Berlin Wall, Pearl Harbor and the most recent, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which was dedicated on January 18, 2019.</p> <p>Buy a Brick Program The City of Laurel's 150th Anniversary Committee started a Buy-a-Brick Program where an employee or citizen can purchase a brick that will be placed along the walkway in the City's Memorial Garden. This program has been a great success and will continue until all the bricks in the Memorial Garden walkways have been replaced with a personalized brick.</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>	Yes		<p>History Bench - McCullough Field This initiative serves to bring all Laurel residents together to tell the story of what Laurel Means to Them. This project was a collaboration with the city, the City's Arts Council, and the Laurel Historical Society. A diverse demographic of volunteers were involved in the project, from students to seniors. The cement slab for the bench and fixtures were donated by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the bench was installed by the Parks and Recreation Facilities and Grounds staff. Labor for the bench at McCullough was through volunteers. LAC coordinated with Laurel Historical Society and citizen participation workshops were held at one of the department's facilities. Citizens were invited to create their own ceramic tiles. LAC covered the cost for supplies and firing and the completed tiles were mounted by volunteers through both groups. Children from Laurel Elementary were also given an opportunity to create tiles to be used in the bench as well. The stone bench was donated by the City and the landscaping is maintained by P&R staff.</p> <p>Community Beautification The City hosted tree plantings and park clean up events that hosted over 50 volunteers throughout the year.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any changes in access to health and wellness services? Examples include mobile clinics, hospitals, telehealth opportunities.</p>	Yes		<p>Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) The City has purchased 30 new state-of-the-art Automatic External Defibrillators. These units are located in every Police Vehicle and dispatched to the scene of cardiac-related emergencies throughout the City.</p> <p>Annual Health Fair: The 2nd Annual Health Fair was held on January 27, 2019 at the Laurel Anderson Murphy Community Center. Over 50 vendors attended to provide free services and resources to participants.</p> <p>Walk Laurel Day: Each year in the month of October, the City participates in Walk Maryland Day, the official</p>

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			<p>exercise of the State of Maryland. Led by our Mayor, City employees and residents met to walk for one hour.</p> <p>Heal Cities Award – Gold Level: At the Annual Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference in June, the City was awarded the Heal City Gold Award. Our achieved goals included the promotion of walking meetings, monthly lunch and learn workshops, healthier options and fresh foods in the vending machines in City facilities.</p> <p>Community Stop the Bleed Training City employees were taught how to be trainers for the National “Stop the Bleed” Campaign. The program trains citizens to be first responders at incidents that will stop an injured person from bleeding until EMS arrives. A Community “Stop the Bleed” training session was offered November 10, 2018, with over 50 citizens signing up for the training.</p>
5. Are there any residential health and wellness opportunities in place (i.e. athletic facilities, recreational indoor/outdoor courses or groups)?			<p>Riverfront Park is a 32.2 acre park with walking trail that front Patuxent River from 9th Street to U.S. Route 1 South.</p> <p>The Department of Parks and Recreation completed resurfacing of the Gymnasium and Dance Room floors at the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, pool resurfacing and new tiles at the Laurel Municipal Pool, completion of the Memorial Garden Park at the Laurel Municipal Center, replacement of playground mulch at Riverfront and Wilson playgrounds with softer surfacing,</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?	Yes		<p>There are four major grocery stores within the City of Laurel: Harris Teeter, Aldi, Shoppers, and Giant Food.</p> <p>Hot Meals and Food Pantry Elizabeth House provides hot meals (dinner) on a daily basis 365 day a year. They also have a food pantry which is offered only to Laurel residents. This assistance is provided once a month.</p> <p>In FY19, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS) served a total of 727 household in Prince George’s households in the two Laurel zip codes. Food Pantry is always the top service provided every year with 7,000 bags of food being given out every year.</p> <p>Community Garden The City of Laurel’s Community Garden is a huge success, with all 50 of its plots rented out to community members. The Community Garden does charge a fee, but it is a nonprofit organization where all the money that is raised goes right back into the garden. One of the plots that are there is called the LARS Plot. These fresh fruits go to LARS and Elizabeth House for residents in need.</p>

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7. Has there been a decrease in crime rate?	Yes			The City of Laurel witnessed an 11% decrease in violent crime and an overall 18% decrease in property crimes in 2020. This speaks volumes about the dedication of the women and men of the LPD in their commitment to serve the community, especially during a pandemic that has placed additional risks upon them. The Bureau had an impressive unit case closure rate of 50% in their assigned criminal investigations to include serious assaults, robberies, sex offenses and burglaries that all adversely impact the quality of life for all who live in or visit our community.
8. Do all residents have access to the Internet and other basic utilities and services?	Yes			Public Wifi coverage was installed at Emancipation Park, Cypress Field, and Alice B. McCullough field. Our MyLaurel app continues to provide up-to-date information to our residents. In 2018 over 2,100 people used the app for information and sending us citizen service request.
LOCAL PLANNING & STAFFING CAPACITY	YES	NO	N/A	If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?
1. Have there been any infill developments?		No		The city has not had any infill developments in the past 5 years. There is an infill project in the planning stages currently, but it has not yet been fully approved.
2. Has there been an increase in the amount of preserved/protected land?		No		No change

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<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>N/A</p>	<p>There have been adequate public facilities to support proposed development.</p>
<p>4. Have there been any zoning or policy changes that have fostered growth or redevelopment in your Sustainable Community?</p>	<p>Yes</p>			<p>The Revitalization Overlay development option continues to create additional economic development opportunities for property owners to upgrade, enhance, demolish or revitalize their property using additional flexibility offered by the overlay.</p>
<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>Yes</p>			<p>The Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission continues to replace potable water lines throughout the City.</p> <p>Implemented LED lighting replacement program for City-owned streetlights. The Department continues to convert mercury vapor streetlights to high-pressure sodium throughout the City. This Department also does periodical street light level testing and uses the CIP to install new or updated lighting as required through BGE or private contractors. Many high-pressure sodium street lights were replaced by LED bulbs. New developments will be required to install LED lighting. From 2018 – 2019, the city spent \$177,060.00 on LED street lighting.</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</p>	<p>Yes</p>			<p>The City created the Environmental Programs Manager position under the umbrella of the City Administrator’s Office. The Environmental Programs Manager is responsible for the effective management of the Citywide Environmental Program and will work with all City Departments in the development, coordination and administration of environmental policies and practices for the City of Laurel.</p> <p>Implemented Virtual Interview Processes One of the biggest obstacles during the pandemic was how do you fill vacant positions and hire new employees if you can’t interview in person? Again, BAPS personnel came up with ways to</p>

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<p>professional development programs?</p>			<p>remotely conduct applicant interviews, hold new hire orientations, host open enrollment and employee benefit seminars, and hold COVID-19 Lunch and Learns.</p>
<p>7. Has your community initiated or completed any planning efforts that will support the Sustainable Community area, including comprehensive planning, small area planning, or planning studies?</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>As part of supporting the City’s commitment to a sustainable community and through the exposure the City has received from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), Sustainable Maryland, Maryland Recycling Network – the City was able to enlist the assistant of MWCOG and through a MOU accepted the proposal of Cadmus to evaluate the City’s current programs, objectives and goals. The first objective of this study was to provide the City with a Sustainable Organization Plan and Community Framework. The basis of this plan will be the “Leading by Example” approach. As part of this study and plan Environmental Programs will focus on: • Adopting a definition for our sustainability program. This would include identification of Laurel’s goals for sustainability and the topics we plan to address with City departments and the community. • Promoting environmental awareness with City employees and as a part of the City’s culture. • Coordinating the implementation of approved recommendations resulting from environmental surveys and studies. • Working with MWCOG to develop Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Inventory and a City-wide GHG inventory.</p> <p>In August 2021, The City of Laurel published their first Sustainability Report, with the help of the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and the Cadmus Corporation.</p> <p>The presentation can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMQir_D1ChM</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.</p>	<p>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</p>	<p>Amount Received</p>	<p>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</p>	<p>Other Notes</p>
<p>Community Legacy (CL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Main Street ● MD-SERI ● 	<p>DHCD</p>	<p>\$55,000</p>		<p>To revitalize the Main Street Farmers Market</p> <p>My Content Co.</p>
<p>Strategic Demolition Fund (SDF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● 	<p>DHCD</p>			
<p>Community Safety & Enhancement Program:</p>	<p>MDOT</p>			
<p>Maryland Bikeways Program:</p>	<p>MDOT</p>			
<p>Sidewalk Retrofit Program:</p>	<p>MDOT</p>			
<p>Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund:</p>	<p>MDE</p>			

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>COMPETITIVE FUNDING: Use the rows below to list competed funds sought for sustainability or revitalization projects since receiving Sustainable Communities designation.</p>	<p>Source (federal, state, foundation, etc.)</p>	<p>Amount Received</p>	<p>If no funding was received, what technical or other assistance from the state would help with future applications?</p>	<p>Other Notes</p>
<p>Other Funding Programs: <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>CARES Act</p>	<p>Federal</p>	<p>\$335,000</p>		<p>Small Business Grants</p>

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

Sustainable Community Action Plan

City of Laurel

Example Section

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

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

Environment

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

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

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extensive network of trails, sidewalks, and parks throughout the City to serve the varying needs of residents. ● The City’s stormwater management falls under the authority of Prince George’s County, which allows the County to hold responsibility for the associated costs. ● The City is a designated Tree City. ● The City is applying to be a certified “Bee City” ● The City under an MOU with the Metropolitan Council of Governments is working with Cadmus as a consultant to structure a formal Sustainability Plan. ● The City uses many green practices in its operations among them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LED lighting in City facilities. ○ Created residential curbside organic food waste collection ○ Solar powered BigBelly refuse/recycling compactors for public use. ○ Recycled materials in playground surfaces. ○ Solar charging benches in Emancipation Park ○ Beautification incentives to homeowners, i.e. Golden Shovel Award. ○ EV Charging Stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Older parts of the City were built without stormwater facilities. ● High cost of upgrading water main and pipes ● Periodic flooding from the release of water from the T. Howard Duckett Dam and reservoir.

<u>Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures</u>	<u>Strategies and Action Items</u>	<u>Implementation Partners</u>
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Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 1: Continued working with MWCOG and Cadmus to complete Phase II of the Sustainability Program Plan.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Adopt a formal Sustainability Plan with metrics in place to measure success.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to work with consultant to finalize the City’s Sustainability Plan.</p> <p>Strategy B: Implement goals set out in Phase I of the Sustainability Framework Plan.</p> <p>Strategy C: Create Focus Groups to engage all City of Laurel residents in the creation and implementation of the Sustainability definition and plan.</p>	<p>City of Laurel Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Environmental Programs Project, MWCOG and Cadmus.</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Continued acquisition of usable parkland to meet current and future needs of Laurel Residents.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increase inventory of park/open space and recreational facilities.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to maintain and upgrade established parks.</p> <p>Strategy B: Maintain the balance of active and passive parkland as recommended by professional guidelines and standards.</p> <p>Strategy C: Ensure the preservation of open-space and the conservation of natural assets</p> <p>Strategy D: Provide open space for non-traditional recreation activities such as a community gardens and sensory gardens.</p> <p>Strategy E: Direct the future acquisition and development of land designed for recreational use towards active indoor and outdoor facilities.</p> <p>Strategy F: Provide for multi-use facilities to accommodate a variety of traditional and specialized program areas including activities for the handicapped and disabled at parks and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Strategy G: Require facility development to be part of future annexation and development.</p>	<p>City of Laurel Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Commercial and residential developers. Owners of annexed property.</p>

Economy

This section is centered on economic growth and management.

Strengths and weaknesses might focus on the following: business attraction & retention; improving and maintaining the health of business districts, downtowns, and main streets; commercial vacancy reduction; workforce attraction and retention; employment/job training; marketing, branding and tourism; improving or creating economic impact of cultural and historic assets; providing technical and financial assistance to businesses;

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

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>
<p>Historic District tax credit incentive program allows City tax credits to be granted for qualified renovation exterior works within the designated historic districts.</p> <p>Laurel Economic Development Program provides grants for businesses that relocate to the historic Main Street business community and façade grants to improve the façade of buildings fronting Main Street.</p> <p>The City has administered the Main Street Strong Grants to assist local businesses through the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>Laurel is perceived as being more affordable than many of its neighbors in Howard and Montgomery Counties due to its diverse housing stock in varying price ranges.</p> <p>The City has its own Building Inspection Department.</p> <p>The City has an Affordable Housing and Work Force Housing Program.</p> <p>Designated Main Street Maryland Community.</p>	<p>The geographic location of Laurel, being centrally located, dominant employment centers and retail complexes in Prince George’s County and Howard County present a competitive force present a competitive force.</p> <p>Large “anchor” stores are focused on Konterra area rather than Laurel.</p>

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Job creation.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Permanent jobs.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Job creation throughout the City and especially in the SC area is a function of the City’s revitalization efforts, both in construction jobs, and also in permanent jobs, retail, service, and administrative positions. Jobs will be created largely due to employment increases in the large employment areas surrounding Laurel.</p> <p>Strategy B: Support efforts to attract more retail stores to the Towne Center.</p> <p>The City’s Department of Economic and Community Development will continue to provide grant opportunities to Main Street businesses to fund relocations, property and façade improvements.</p>	<p>Development Community</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Outcome 2: Affordable housing units to ensure workforce housing to sustain local economy. Progress Measures: Increase in the number of MPDU's and WFHU's</p>	<p>Strategy A: Continue to work to create and ensure that new developments include Moderately Price Dwelling Units (MPDU) and Work Force Dwelling Units (WFHU) to provide housing choices for the jobs in the service area. Strategy B: Encourage affordable and accessible housing opportunities for all residents, including families, the elderly and the physically handicapped. Strategy C: Encourage an adequate supply of affordable housing, especially for households at the median income level and below.</p>	<p>Development Community</p>
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Transportation

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good sidewalk connectivity. ● Bus and rail (MART station) public transit. ● Bikeways and trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient amount of downtown parking ● Bikeways and trails do not extend beyond municipal boundary.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC area is located in direct proximity to the Laurel Main Street MARC Station and to the ICC. • The City works closely with the Regional Transit Authority to provide increased access to major metro rail lines. • The City is increasing their bikeways and trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient bikeways/walking paths ways connecting north and south side of the City
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome: Enhance programs and strategies that support a transition towards hybrid and electric vehicles across city operations and the broader community.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Take stock of current vehicle fleet</p> <p>Strategy B: Implement a survey to better understand City employee’s transportation behavior and trends</p> <p>Strategy C: Implement electric vehicle-ready infrastructure upgrades or install electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE, charging stations) in City buildings and facilities</p>	<p>Blink Charging Co. is a leader in electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment and networked EV charging stations, enabling t drivers to easily charge at any of its thousands of public charging locations worldwide. Blink provides service to residential, commercial, multi-family home and government fleet. Laurel is the first in Maryland to promote all three tiers (public residential multi-family and city fleet).</p> <p>Other agencies with respect to EV charging MEAP, MEA and BGE.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Support residential use of EVs</p>	<p>Strategy A: Provide additional EV charging stations throughout the City in public parking spaces and City Facilities</p> <p>Strategy B: Offer the Condo and Apartment Communities the opportunity to provide EV charging stations to the residents.</p>	<p>Blink Charging Co.</p> <p>Maryland Energy Administration</p> <p>Balt Gas and Electric</p> <p>MEAP</p>

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B



Outcome 3: Expand City’s bike and pedestrian infrastructure.	Strategy A: Create trail connections within South Laurel area to connect neighborhoods to Gude Mansion.	Department of Parks and Recreation Community Redevelopment Authority
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Housing

This section focuses on the homes in which people in your community live or making 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; diversify the kinds of housing available; improving housing condition (interior or exterior); housing programs; aging in place; preventing foreclosures; and reducing residential vacancies.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing choices, methods and objectives are largely meant for compact development, within walking distance of community amenities. • New developments on the south side of the City offer a larger choice for affordable housing and access to the ICC and recreational areas. • The City has an Affordable Housing and Work Force Housing Program. • Stable and diverse housing stock that is within AMI parameters relative to neighboring Howard and Montgomery Counties 	<p>-Code Violations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of homes revitalized in the Historic District

Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures 	Strategies and Action Items 	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increased the number of single-family dwellings available for purchase.	Strategy A: Encourage a substantial portion of future housing stock to be single-family detached homes, including high-quality custom-built homes. Strategy B: Preserve and restore single-family residences within the Historic Districts. Strategy C: Encourage new residential	Local developers

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<p>Progress Measures: Increased number single-family dwellings</p>	<p>development to be placed in a manner sensitive to the environment and existing land uses. Strategy D: Require noise attenuation measures where residential development is permitted to occur near major noise generators such as highways</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: Increase biodiversity and nature access in city communities.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased numbers of pollinator gardens in communities.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Analyze walking distances from different communities to green spaces to develop potential areas for improvement.</p> <p>Strategy B: Become Bee City certified through Xerces Society and engage communities as stakeholders.</p>	<p>Xerces Society Master Gardeners Local religious organizations</p>

Community Health and Quality of Life

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

This category includes projects focusing on (but not limited to): improvement of public health including improving community design to promote healthy behaviors such as walking and strengthening community support and connectedness through health and wellness programs and facilities to 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

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has a national accredited police force, which has full service functions because of the City’s location, and lower crime rates than Prince George’s County. • The City has three public schools – two elementary schools (designated as “Green Schools” and one High School, as well as two private elementary schools and one private High School (St. Vincent Pallotti). The City also is home to the Laurel College Center which is a joint venture with PG and Howard Community Colleges. • Artistic, cultural and community resources are growing. In the Main Street area, the Laurel Mill Playhouse is well established, and the Venus Play Shack Theatre is located on “C” Street • The Laurel Arts Council is active and responsible for many of the beautification programs around Laurel – to include the “fish” project and flower baskets along Main Street. • The City’s Arts and Entertainments District which is part of the Main Street area. • The City has two municipal pools and two community centers. The centers provide a wide range of activities for younger and older residents. • Other cultural events in the City are sponsored or conducted by the City Department of Parks and Recreation Movies in the Parks, Main Street Festival, the Concert Series held in Gude Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developers need to provide more recreational spaces for all resident, particularly in South Laurel. • Community awareness is low for programs and events
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures	Strategies and Action Items	Implementation Partners
Outcome 1: Increase in the number of public gathering places for all residents, but especially on the South side of the City.	Strategy A: Apply for grants to improve Gude Mansion and add pollinator gardens, heritage gardens, solar benches and provide educational material regarding the history of Gude Mansion. Strategy B: Provide entertainment opportunities at no cost to residents at Gude Mansion.	Environmental Programs and Parks & Recreation

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<p>Progress Measures: Develop Gude Mansion as a “Green” destination.</p>		
<p>Outcome 2: Increase community awareness of City sponsored programs and committees.</p> <p>Progress Measures: Increased community involvement and participation in City sponsored events.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Use Green Living webpage to promote “Green” activities and City-sponsored events (recycling events, community garden, Bee City, etc.)</p> <p>Strategy B: Use the annual calendar to promote City events and programs.</p>	<p>Environmental Programs</p>

Local Planning and Staffing Capacity

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

Strengths, weaknesses and outcomes might focus on the following: updating zoning ordinances or land use; updating municipal/local policies, tax 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"> ● Laurel is the only municipality within Prince George’s County that has its own Zoning authority. ● Laurel has its own building permitting and enforcement department. ● The City’s Revitalization Overlay Program, approved in 2004, focuses on community revitalization and reduces the need for annexations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developers lack the expertise to provide adequate environmental friendly open space. ● Environmental Affairs Committee and Planning Commission need more staff support and education on environmental design.

Sustainable Communities Renewal Application - Section B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact, mixed-use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near available or planned transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural system, open spaces, recreational area, and historical, cultural, and archeological resources. 	
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Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures →	Strategies and Action Items →	Implementation Partners
<p>Outcome 1: Developers plan more sustainable space with every development.</p> <p>Progress Measures: More rain gardens, pervious pavement in development, green open space.</p>	<p>Strategy A: Create a point system to rank developers “Green/Sustainable” projects.</p> <p>Strategy B: Include Environmental Affairs and Planning Commission in the initial discussions with developers.</p> <p>Strategy C: Create a guideline for potential developers – emphasizing “Green/sustainable” building.</p>	<p>Economic and Community Development Environmental Programs.</p>