

What is a Vision Statement?

A Vision Statement is a standard feature in a community's Comprehensive Plan and serves as a common direction for long-term planning. It is intended as a statement of the community's values and aspirations, a shared image of what the citizens want their community to become over the next ten to twenty years. In short, it answers the question "where are we headed?"

Vision Statements are structured as short, concise, outcome-based statements that are creative and bold, but practical enough to be detailed within the Plan's chapters as achievable goals and implementation strategies.

The Plan2040 Vision should be developed based on comments received from citizens during public outreach at the start of the Plan2040 process and any additional input opportunities, as well as feedback received once a draft Vision is presented. The Plan2040 Vision should also consider previous vision statements from the County's 2009 and 1997 General Development Plans, the 16 Small Area Plans, and additional supplemental Visions drafted by citizen groups in the Mayo and South County areas. Key ideas from these previous statements include the following:

- Proximity to other things: Baltimore, the Bay/waterfront, shopping areas
- Variety of housing (type, socio-economic, age and lifestyle) balanced with employment
- Preserving/enhancing community character (close-knit/hometown, vibrant, diverse, healthy, quality of life) through harmonious design in development/revitalization, with balanced uses and often framed by gateways
 - Residential neighborhoods: clean, attractive, quiet, well-designed, sidewalks, landscaping
 - Office districts
 - Local commercial/activity nodes: vibrant, mixed-use, often with focal plaza/gathering space and/or transit hub
 - Regional commercial/service districts
 - Protected rural areas and cultural and agricultural heritage
- Quality community facilities and public services (community/youth/senior centers, libraries, health centers, recreational facilities, emergency services), often as anchors in the community; quality education for all residents
- Accessible natural features and parks, trails/greenways, waterways, and open space
- Natural and historic resource conservation (forests, rivers, wetlands, open space, agricultural land, green space, steep slopes, watersheds, the Bay) and environmental stewardship
- Adequate mobility linkages, balanced with growth
 - Pedestrian/bike trails
 - Upgraded and reliable road network
 - Public transportation
- Economic vitality with diverse business and employment opportunities paying a living wage
- Citizen/government collaboration

- Planned/managed development with concurrent infrastructure improvements; facilities in areas with infrastructure to discourage sprawl in rural/agricultural areas; redevelopment of underutilized areas

Full Vision Statements from the Small Area Plans, the 2009 and 1997 General Development Plans, and statements by citizen groups follow. Additional examples from other localities across the nation follow.

Small Area Plan Visions

Brooklyn Park

The future Brooklyn Park is one of the most desirable communities in which to live in Anne Arundel County. Originally developed as one of Baltimore's first suburbs and one of the oldest communities in Anne Arundel County, the area has maintained its close-knit community spirit and family ties. With several clean, quiet and attractive neighborhoods to choose from, Brooklyn Park still offers an attractive option for those who want to live near the big city opportunities of Baltimore and Washington but in a less urban setting. In addition, Brooklyn Park provides plenty of activity in its own small town center.

Using a range of innovative incentives, private investors, local planners and citizen groups have teamed together to initiate redevelopment projects in the area's most deteriorated neighborhoods, resulting not only in high quality housing in the area but also in a much lower crime rate. Lovely streetscapes are found throughout the neighborhoods, with well-maintained sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting. Reinvestment and creative homebuyer programs have helped to increase the rate of home ownership, but there are also attractive rental options available for non-homeowners. The range of housing opportunities now offers something for everyone, from quaint rowhouses and townhomes to charming bungalows and single family homes. Senior citizens have abundant housing choices as well, from assisted living facilities to a new senior community.

Brooklyn Park's residential neighborhoods are not the only areas that have undergone revitalization. The community's main commercial corridor, Ritchie Highway, contains a variety of shopping and entertainment activities and is lined with attractive building facades, landscaping, street trees, and sidewalks. Residents can take a stroll along this vibrant corridor into the bustling town center. This new mixed-use center and arts district has become the core of activity in Brooklyn Park and contains a well-designed mix of retail shops, art galleries and studios, restaurants, professional office space, and residential units. The nicely landscaped public plaza provides a central location for community events such as concerts and street fairs as well as a place for residents and visitors to sit and chat.

The area's top-notch community facilities also contribute to the strong sense of community identity in Brooklyn Park. Public schools in the area are highly rated, and the local youth center offers a wide variety of after-school activities for children and teenagers. Recreational opportunities are abundant for all ages and include well-maintained ballfields, playgrounds, and a bike trail along the Patapsco River that connects to the BWI Trail and beyond. The Patapsco Valley State Park offers more passive recreational activities such as canoeing, nature trails, and scenic picnic areas. Seniors are offered a wealth of educational and recreation classes at the local senior center.

Finally, and most importantly, Brooklyn Park is home to a strong network of proactive community associations that work closely with one another and with local planners and officials to find new ways to improve and enhance their communities. As a result of these ongoing collaborative efforts, Brooklyn Park residents can once again feel a great sense of pride in the place they call home.

BWI Linthicum

The future of the BWI Linthicum area will be shaped by these three forces: residents, businesses, and government. In the 1970's population growth drove development. In the 1980's and 1990's, it was government, represented mainly by the BWI Airport, that changed the landscape of the area. As we move into the next millennium, it appears that business and the opportunities that it provides will be making the largest mark.

The strength of this area lies in its diversity. There are quiet neighborhoods, perfect for raising families or enjoying one's golden years. There are businesses nearby and almost anything can be had without traveling into the city. And yet there is always the city if one wants to see a Broadway show, stroll through a world-class museum, or take in the atmosphere of a Hard Rock Cafe.

While the vision of the future may not be that of a Colonial Williamsburg, or an Epcot Center, there are clearly opportunities for enhancing these communities and maintaining their character. The wants and needs of the communities must be balanced against the pressures and locations of the businesses that satisfy them. There must be allowances for the transitions that will accompany the changes that cannot be foreseen. And the best plans should be made for welcoming the changes that can be predicted.

The vision of this Plan is to develop a land use approach that maintains the character of these communities, that embraces opportunities which will improve their quality of life, that identifies and removes the obstacles to positive change, and that seeks to mitigate the impacts of the forces that cannot be fully controlled.

Glen Burnie

The Glen Burnie of the future has become a major contributor to the County's tax base. The vacant retail stores and under-utilized commercial spaces are gone; in their place are vibrant mixed use centers, office and commercial districts, all surrounded by quiet and pleasant residential neighborhoods.

The focal point of civic activity and the central community gathering place is the Glen Burnie Town Center, which bustles with activity seven days a week. B&A Boulevard and Crain Highway serve as the gateways to the town center and are lined with attractive building facades, landscaping, street trees, and sidewalks offering pedestrians a pleasant stroll into the core of the town center. Home to the northern campus of Anne Arundel Community College, the HCAT Institute, several fine restaurants and many vibrant small businesses, the town center offers education, culture, shopping and entertainment activities including frequent concerts and events at the beautifully landscaped public plaza, the weekly farmers market, and of course the annual Carnival.

Visitors leaving the town center can walk or take a shuttle bus to the Cromwell Station, where they can ride the Light Rail into downtown Baltimore and beyond or to BWI Airport. The

Cromwell station has developed into one of the County's showcase mixed use areas, with a hotel and conference center, upscale office space, street level retail stores and restaurants, well-designed residential units, and an open plaza. The station serves as a transit hub for northern Anne Arundel County, with bus and shuttle service connecting major destinations including the airport, Glen Burnie Town Center, Arundel Mills Mall, the Chesapeake Center for the Arts, Odenton Town Center, Parole Town Center, and Annapolis.

North of Sawmill Creek to the Baltimore Beltway, the Ritchie Highway corridor has redeveloped into a successful commercial office district, spurred in part by the continued growth of the BWI Airport. New businesses that desire to be in close proximity to a major airport have chosen to locate here because of the many nearby amenities. To the south of this district, Crain Highway and Ritchie Highway are the primary commercial corridors, although they serve different functions. Crain Highway is primarily a local commercial corridor lined with small businesses, sidewalks, and street trees, while Ritchie Highway serves as a larger-scale commercial corridor which draws customers from a wider regional area.

Glen Burnie residents appreciate the many top-notch community facilities and activities that are available to them. The public schools continue to demonstrate a high performance rating, and the local youth center offers a variety of programs that keep children and teens busy during the after-school hours. There are recreational opportunities for all ages, from swimming pools to bike trails, ballfields to nature trails. Senior citizens have a wealth of housing opportunities to choose from, ranging from beautiful senior communities to assisted-living communities in the area. The wonderful senior center offers many classes including physical fitness, arts and crafts, and computer training. State-of-the-art medical facilities provide high quality medical care to many North County citizens.

Glen Burnie has also gained a reputation for its outstanding waterfront opportunities. Residents and visitors alike can take a nature break at Furnace Branch Park, located where Sawmill Creek flows into Furnace Branch. Here they will find a scenic natural area and the trailhead to a three-mile nature trail that runs along the northern shore of Furnace Branch and out to the junction with Marley Creek. Along the trail they can see lovely water views and probably a few graceful blue heron. They will pass another public park with picnic areas, a fishing pier, and a parking area with ramps for boat launching. A spur trail runs along the banks of Back Creek and up to Sullivan Park.

While the greater Glen Burnie area has developed its own reputation as one of the County's urban town centers, it is still a collage of many distinct neighborhoods with their own sense of place. Communities such as Glenview, Margate, Old Mill, Point Pleasant, Freetown, and Glen Gardens, to name just a few, are attractive suburban communities with their own appeal. Collaborative efforts by residents and local planners have resulted in small community enhancements that have served to help beautify and give a sense of identity to each neighborhood, so that residents can feel pride in their own community as well as the entire Glen Burnie area.

Severn

Severn will be a healthy, peaceful, vibrant community, preserving rural ambiance, woodlands and open spaces, and satisfying a full-range of life styles and socio-economic needs. There will be safe and efficient access to all areas, with upgraded roads, public transportation, pedestrian and bike trails. All residents will have access to multi-use facilities for health care, education/training, county services, recreation and entertainment. The design of the community and its structures will be attractive and complement the residential and rural character of the area. The community will offer a wide range of work and business opportunities. Severn residents will find it easy to think of themselves as citizens of a complete community.

Jessup/Maryland City

The Jessup/Maryland City area is:

A place that people call home; where abiding friendships have been forged through years of community service and involvement.

A vibrant area where creativity and the entrepreneurial spirit thrive.

A community that is fiercely protective of its quality of life and its natural setting of forests, rivers and wetlands, and that continuously strives for improvements.

An area that successfully supports rural characteristics and the more urban aspects of its prime location in the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

A place where both new development and revitalization are planned in harmony with the graciousness, character, and charm of centuries-old historic structures.

A community that protects and nurtures its children and where the value of the family is reflected in the activities and services offered in the schools and throughout the community.

An area of intellectual curiosity that supports the significant work being done at the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Goddard Space Flight Center, and other local high-technology centers.

An energetic community where appreciation of the gifts of nature is achieved in quiet reflection.

An area where rapid growth is balanced with excellent planning.

A community of diverse people and neighborhoods.

An area where government agencies and the local community work together to achieve harmony.

Odenton

Greater Odenton will be a cohesive community with a healthy balance of residential, commercial, industrial, natural, and recreational areas. It's abundant pedestrian, greenway, road, and rail connections link neighborhoods. Watersheds, wetlands, forested areas, historic sites, cultural heritage, and scenic roads are preserved, enhanced and valued. The community enjoys excellent schools, public safety, and emergency services. The town center offers the community and the region a variety of community services, educational and employment opportunities and cultural activities. The revitalized Odenton provides a superb quality of life for its diverse population.

Crofton

The Crofton Small Area will experience planned, controlled growth consistent with the 1997 General Development Plan, focusing growth in areas planned for public water and sewer, and retaining the rural character of the remaining areas.

- Provide adequate schools at all levels centered around a new West County High School.
- Establish a network of new or upgraded roads, sidewalks and bike lanes to facilitate efficient and safe movement throughout the area.
- Preserve open space, particularly in wetlands, heavily wooded areas, steeply sloped areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Preserve agricultural land by use of easements or other methods.
- Preserve historic and archeological sites and scenic roads and rivers.
- Limit commercial retail growth to that which is necessary to support residential development within the Crofton area.
- Utilize employment centers to minimize commuting distances, located within existing commercially or industrially zoned areas.
- Upgrade infrastructure, including recreation facilities, libraries, community centers, police and fire protection, etc ... to maintain or improve current levels of service. These upgrades, as well as the schools and roads noted above, should be in place concurrent with development.
- Establish consistency of development and land use with adjacent small areas at the boundaries.
- Continue community involvement and oversight throughout implementation of the Plan.

Pasadena/Marley Neck

Pasadena/Marley Neck will be an identifiable and vibrant mixed-use community; tied to the past through its historical development of waterfront communities and bay-related recreation, but moving into the future with a plan to reduce industrial polluters, to define commercial areas and to develop policies for improvements in their design and function, and to allow an appropriate expansion of residential and commercial development.

The Pasadena/Marley Neck Small Area will remain hometown. It will be a place where residents are proud to live, work and play. It will be a place that is recognized for its unique qualities and desirability.

- The area will be framed by a series of gateways that denote you have arrived home.
- The heavy industrial polluters will be phased out over time, and the future development and redevelopment will be clean industry that does not pollute our waterways and air.
- A series of parks and greenways will be identified that seeks to set aside the most important networks for open space, recreation, and Wildlife.
- Commercial uses will be focused into defined areas; and plans and ordinances will be developed that ensure design standards for new and redeveloping commercial facilities are utilized.
- The area will retain its mix of uses and will provide a sustainable community by balancing housing and employment.

Lake Shore

The phrase 'We like it the way it is' sums up the sentiment of most residents and the Small Area Planning Committee of the Lake Shore Peninsula. It is our vision that our existing quality of life is maintained while our rural area and our environmental and aquatic resources are protected. The area will be a green hub, and a model for smart growth and environmental sensitivity.

Our Plan includes policies and recommendations that will: preserve the fragile environment and our rural and water-oriented communities; control growth; improve pedestrian and bike access; provide greater access to the natural environment, both open space and waterways; reduce traffic problems and provide a safe road network; address safe drinking water; provide more opportunities for seniors and family activities; improve the quality and design of existing commercial; and which will ensure that size and placement of new commercial development best serves the local population with least impact.

- The Lake Shore area will be readily identifiable and known as a green hub; a gateway to the Chesapeake Bay. It will be an area where the citizens respect and protect the environment, and where education about the Bay and its environs are used as tools to educate newcomers and future generations.
- A series of parks and greenways will be identified that seeks to set aside the most important networks for open space, recreation, and wildlife.
- Commercial uses will be focused into defined areas. Plans and ordinances will be developed that ensure design standards for new and redeveloping commercial facilities are utilized.
- Future residential buildout will be controlled and will maintain a sustainable level that will not adversely affect the natural and environmental resources of the area, and which will retain the rural character and lifestyle that exists.
- Recreational and housing opportunities for seniors will be enhanced.
- A community center will be developed that provides a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities for families.
- Future development will be planned and controlled in such a way as not to add to the existing traffic concerns or create new traffic problems. Transportation improvements including roads, sidewalks and public transportation will be considered and implemented in a timely fashion in order that the road network can serve the residential population in a safe manner.
- Public facilities including schools, police stations, fire stations and libraries will be upgraded in a timely manner as necessary to meet the growing needs of the area.
- Enforcement of existing laws and regulations will be a priority of the County. Stricter zoning enforcement will occur in a more timely matter.

Severna Park

The Greater Severna Park Area is a well established community bounded by the Severn and Magothy Rivers, with many tree lined neighborhoods containing a variety of home styles. There is a village center with thriving local businesses, homes, dedicated spaces for social and community activities, attractive well maintained landscaping, pedestrian walkways and tasteful signs. Paths, trails and roads provide easy access within and between our neighborhoods and our center.

Broadneck

The citizens' Vision for the Broadneck Peninsula is first and foremost to preserve the unique residential and close-to-nature character of our communities, while making specific improvements that encourage the revitalization of existing commercial areas. Our challenge is to channel anticipated growth in ways that are beneficial to the whole community; encourage the preservation of our greenspaces, beautiful waterways and historic and scenic roads; maintain excellent schools; protect our local roads from 'excessive traffic growth; link neighborhoods and community resources with walking and bicycle trails; and improve recreation facilities.

Crownsville

A long-term vision for the Crownsville Community has been developed. The essential elements include:

1. The Crownsville area is defined as a "Greenbelt" and functions as a buffer between the Parole Town Center, the Odenton Town Center, and the Crofton area.
2. The Crownsville area is to retain its rural or semi-rural character. Its rich heritage is to be preserved through protecting its extensive woodlands and natural beauty, historic sites, buildings, and roads-- particularly along Generals Highway, St. Stephen's Church Road, and Severn Chapel Road.
3. Sensitive and fragile areas are to be preserved and restored, particularly sensitive wetlands and steep slopes along the Severn River and South River watershed. Both surface and ground water quality are to be protected, and a healthier Severn and South Rivers are envisioned.
4. Safe and convenient access within the community is to be assured with adequate transportation serving the needs of the people without destroying the natural character and environmental qualities. Convenient access would be provided for all segments of the population regardless of age or dependency.
5. A community center is envisioned to bring together future public facilities in a convenient location and to serve as a focal point for the Crownsville area. A complement of services, both public and quasi-public, would be provided.
6. Surplus property at Crownsville State Hospital Site would be preserved and enhanced as a major public asset to the area serving community needs through adaptive reuse.
7. Recreational opportunities would be expanded for community residents with convenient access to the water, parklands, and a greenway system including a hiker/biker trail and wildlife corridors.

In summary, Crownsville residents and business interests would assume an active role in stewardship of the land, associated waters, and the community.

Annapolis Neck

The Annapolis Neck peninsula lies between the Severn and South Rivers, and includes the historic City of Annapolis, State and County government centers and the campuses of St. John's College and the United States Naval Academy. Tree lined boulevards and roundabouts have improved traffic flow and bikepaths and walking trails are widely used. Several multi-use centers provide residents the opportunity to live, work, and shop without using a car. The area has a diversified local economy and is internationally known as a sailing and tourist center.

Neighborhoods vary from the urban city to more rural waterfront and suburban areas. The Neck includes connected open spaces which are shared with wildlife. Waterways are filled with the bounty of the Chesapeake. The Annapolis Neck community is the positive result of city and county communication and cooperation in regional planning with frequent input from the residents.

Annapolis Neck has neighborhoods that are pleasant and safe and whose scale and character is appropriate to the different parts of the Neck. These neighborhoods are linked to a network of economic centers of diverse types and scales serving local, state, regional, maritime, and visitor needs. There is a balance between housing and employment which provides choices for people who want to work near their homes. Housing is available for all incomes and age levels. Modern and adequate infrastructure and services in the form of roads, schools, recreation areas and public utilities are available to serve the needs of the population.

The Annapolis Neck is a community living in harmony with the natural environment where the land, shoreline and water are healthy, viable systems, in which development and redevelopment result in an overall gain of environmental assets.

The Annapolis Neck has a system of convenient, cost effective, integrated transportation options that provide mobility, promote a high quality of life, safety, environmental quality, and support economic prosperity. In addition, interconnected greenways link neighborhoods, parks, and open space.

Edgewater/Mayo

The Edgewater and Mayo area is comprised mainly of waterfront communities. Many of these communities are embraced by extensive greenspace in South Anne Arundel County. The area provides an overall impression of mixed use rural with controlled growth within the environmentally sensitive peninsulas. The Mayo Road Corridor between MD 2 and MD 214 is a local commercial and tourist center. Businesses entering the area introduce new commercial services and restaurants and support the growth of the local economy. Some visitors arrive in Edgewater to view the grounds of the National Historic landmark at the restored Colonial port town of London. Other tourists admire activities at the historic Lee Airport.

Residents of Edgewater/Mayo live in this area because of its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay. Access by the communities and the general public is provided by private and public piers and marinas. Local residents enjoy many natural features associated with proximity to the water and woodland areas. The local community and County manage collaborative programs designed to protect and preserve the delicate balance of life and health of the rivers and creeks. As a result, waterfowl, fish and wildlife are abundant. Active and passive parks provide recreation opportunities for local residents as well as places to view wildlife in a natural setting.

Residents appreciate the small town atmosphere of Edgewater/Mayo where residences have access to nearby walkways, bike trails and services along or near the revitalized Mayo Road commercial village area, where the post office, fire station, police station, senior center and library are located. Nearby is the Mayo public square where music can be heard during warmer weather and where families enjoy the comfort and beauty of the outdoor plantings and fountains.

In other parts of the Edgewater/Mayo area, small village centers at Riva and Mayo provide easily accessible, limited convenience services to nearby residents.

The entryway into the area is by the picturesque MD 2 and 214 boulevards, both tree lined, pedestrian and bicycle friendly roads. Solomons Island Road (MD 2) and Mayo Road (MD 214) provide safe, uncongested travel along the Mayo peninsula for cars, bikes and pedestrians. Access into and out of neighborhoods and businesses is provided in a safe and convenient manner. Bike and walking paths are provided along MD 2 and MD 214 with linkages to award winning neighborhood parks, community open spaces and waterfront areas, providing safe, easy access for nearby residents.

Homes in the Edgewater/Mayo communities consist mostly of single family homes and come in a variety of types and price ranges, and a diverse population lives in the area. Public services and facilities are of a high standard. Edgewater and Mayo residents are proud of their quality schools including the Blue Ribbon Mayo Elementary School and South River High School. Communities are well served by emergency and public safety services.

South County

Keep South County Rural

Deale/Shady Side

Our recommendations are intended to protect and enhance the livability and diversity of our residential communities, the integrity and character of our villages and farms, and the small scale "Hometown" nature of our local businesses. We recognize that our planning area's history and maritime economy are inextricably linked to a healthy Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The preservation and restoration of wetlands, wildlife habitat, water quality and all natural resources are of primary importance. We agree that residents of our planning area have a valid expectation of roads and public facilities fully adequate to the needs of their communities, and schools equal to those of any part of the County. We believe that the ultimate measure of the success of this planning effort will be the conservation, for future generations, of the unique geographical, cultural and historical heritage of the peninsular area which includes the villages of Galesville, Deale and Shady Side, West River and Churchton.

2009 General Development Plan Vision

Balanced Growth and Sustainability: Citizens recognize the importance of economic vitality and a strong job market as well as that of preserving open spaces. They value the benefits of thriving town centers but also those of small and peaceful rural communities. Some want to live in townhome developments with lots of services nearby; others prefer more suburban-style neighborhoods of single family bungalows and quiet backyards. They want the County to achieve the best balance of land uses possible, so that all citizens can experience and sustain a high quality of life.

Community Preservation and Enhancement: Community character and neighborhood conservation are terms that are heard frequently by county planners when working with local citizens. People choose to move to a neighborhood, or buy a home there, because they like the character of the community. They want to preserve the County's unique and distinct

communities, to retain and improve housing in older communities, to enhance older and underutilized commercial centers, to preserve the viability of long-standing agricultural areas, and to protect the County’s cultural heritage.

Environmental Stewardship: Regardless of where one is in the County, local citizens will name environmental protection as one of their top priorities. They understand the importance of natural resource conservation and watershed protection on a local level, as it contributes to our quality of life; on a regional level, as the State and counties work collectively to protect the Chesapeake Bay; and also on a global level, as resource conservation increasingly becomes a priority for the entire planet. They look to the County government to lead by example and to act as a true steward of the environment.

Quality Public Services: The public services that local citizens rely on every day – schools and libraries, senior centers and health centers, parks and recreational programs, water and sewer service, police and fire protection and emergency services, and a reliable transportation network – have a direct influence on their quality of life. Citizens in all parts of the County talk about the importance of these services, not only in terms of their individual well-being but also in making their communities attractive and desirable places to live. They want high quality public services that make them proud of their communities and of the County and that support the local and regional economy.

1997 General Development Plan Vision

Anne Arundel County will plan for growth and encourage development that provides positive benefits to the community. It will be a place that values, and strives to protect, the natural and cultural environment. Just as importantly, it will be a place where opportunities exist to live in a variety of safe, well-designed neighborhoods, work and jobs paying a living wage, and receive a quality education.

The County’s natural environment and cultural heritage are among its most important assets. A healthy Chesapeake Bay system provides Anne Arundel’s citizens with opportunities for recreation, employment and tourism. Combined with the County’s historic and other cultural resources, the Bay helps drive the local economy and identify the County.

Anne Arundel County will:

- protect and preserve the Bay and its tributaries
- improve water and air quality
- achieve environmentally sensitive land use

Some areas of the County are currently served, or planned to be served by sewer, water, roads, schools, and commercial and employment centers. These areas, which have a full-range of public services and amenities, may be better suited for development than others. Locating services and facilities in these areas, and in close proximity to one another, promotes shorter work and shopping trips. It also discourages sprawl into rural and agricultural areas.

Anne Arundel County will:

- concentrate growth in areas that best use existing and planned infrastructure, protect the natural environment, promote economic growth and provide for a diversity of living environments
- strengthen and enhance our existing neighborhoods and communities
- keep and attract businesses in appropriate locations, particularly around the BWI Airport

Quality education at all levels is a major factor in promoting a quality of life in which people can determine their own future. Safety and security in our neighborhoods and communities also are essential needs.

Anne Arundel County will:

- provide for the best education for all County residents and strive for equity among all schools
- provide for the safety and general welfare of the citizens

Additional Citizen Group Visions

2018 South County Small Area Vision*

August 2018

1. **Keep South County Rural**
Preserve the area's farming communities; fields, forests, and natural resources; rural and scenic roads; quiet, slow pace; remaining historic resources, and low-density, small-scale development pattern.
2. **Maintain and promote sustainable agriculture**
Manage land use in a way that will maximize opportunities for sustainable agricultural uses, especially given the renewed interest in locally grown food supplies. Expand the acreage preserved as open space for agricultural and conservation purposes.
3. **Preserve, restore, and expand natural resources**
Protect the area's natural resources, including aquifers, shorelines, streams, wetlands, forests, open space, and wildlife habitats. Expand the acreage preserved within designated Greenways and in areas identified as priority for preservation in the county's recently completed assessments of the Patuxent River and Herring Bay watersheds.
4. **Align infrastructure with rural character of the area**
Ensure that growth does not worsen congestion on the main travel corridors that link the area to Annapolis and Washington, DC.; maintain the safety and viewsheds of rural, scenic, and historic roads for all users; ensure residents have access to community and recreational facilities; do not extend public water or sewer in areas designated as Tier 4 by the state; and maximize resiliency in adapting to changing environmental conditions, especially flooding and sea level rise.
5. **Foster a sustainable rural economy**
Promote businesses that protect South County's rural character and agricultural and ecological resources; provide affordable recreational access to waterways while protecting needs of watermen; reclaim mining sites and landfills for beneficial uses; revitalize existing and industrially zoned land rather than creating new commercial or

industrial parcels; and ensure that the location, size, intensity, and purpose of business activities are compatible with the character of the community and the environment.

**Vision document facilitated by Anne Arundel Alliance for Livable Communities and endorsed by the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association, Patuxent Riverkeepers, Davidsonville Area Civic Association, and Fair Haven Cliffs, Inc.*

Envision Mayo*
June 2018

Mayo is a safe, vibrant, quiet, and connected community. Growth has been managed to respect and emphasize the community's connection to the water and wildlife, nature, our history and culture, and each other. A system of walking trails and bicycle paths was created to connect residents and communities to appropriately scaled stores, restaurants, and parks and to provide opportunities for exercise and places to interact. Wildlife habitat and travel corridors connecting wildlife on the peninsula and in surrounding areas have been restored to bring back fish and wildlife in areas where their demise was imminent.

A Mayo Community Center provides a place for residents and visitors to meet, attend special events, shop at a weekly farmers' and watermens' market, and explore displays that highlight the area's historical, cultural, and natural resources, including the history of people who have lived and worked on the peninsula and drawn sustenance from its land and waters.

The loss of Mayo's remaining forest was checked and investments were made in restoring degraded shorelines and disturbed habitats. Headwater areas for the streams flowing into the South, West, and Rhode Rivers were preserved. And, through land conservation and restoration efforts and a "no net loss" requirement to mitigate land disturbance activities on the peninsula, water quality in the surrounding waterways is improving.

The public enjoys Mayo parks, managed through a cooperative plan that defines the appropriate scale and usage of each park to minimize negative impacts to natural resources and traffic congestion. Through an innovative partnership with local marinas, private boat ramps were made available for launching boats on the peninsula at a discounted rate, providing more business for local marinas and limiting additional disturbance to shorelines where aquatic grasses are being planted to improve water quality.

Schools serving Mayo consistently accommodate students with no threat of overcrowding. Additional traffic that comes with morning and afternoon rush hours is alleviated by improvements in the area of its intersection with Loch Haven Drive. Emergency response times have improved thanks to a two-bay emergency substation now located on the peninsula, with an ambulance and fire truck. A bike lane extends the length of the peninsula (with gas and electric lines buried beneath it) and provides emergency vehicles with passage when needed.

**Sponsored by the Neighbors of the Mayo Peninsula*

Vision Statement examples from other localities

Prince George's County, MD

In 2035, Prince George's County is the community of choice for families, businesses, and workers in the region. It is distinguished by strong, green, and healthy communities; a competitive, innovative, and adaptive economy; vibrant and walkable mixed-use centers; quality open space; restored ecosystems; and iconic destinations. It meets the diverse needs of all Prince Georgians and embraces and builds on the momentum generated by new residents, technology, and business opportunities.

San Antonio, Texas

SA Tomorrow is the story of a great American city.

San Antonio is a dynamic city with neighborhoods that are complete with unique places that define their character and celebrate our history. Our corridors unite our residents and our businesses, using cutting-edge multimodal options that connect our neighborhoods to vibrant regional destinations. Our infrastructure supports a healthy and safe lifestyle while making San Antonio an efficient, resilient city. Our economy is the envy of the country, with a thriving and ever expanding business sector. San Antonio maintains an elite status in the country, supporting the military missions that keep our country safe while supporting the vast number of military personnel that call San Antonio home. We nurture our future, with a thriving natural environment as well as quality education and opportunities for all children...they will inherit a truly great and sustainable city.

San Antonio is a diverse and thriving community, with a local government that's accountable, innovative and responsive.

This is the story of a great American city...SA Tomorrow.

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Saint Paul is a community that is welcoming to and a place of opportunity for people of all incomes, ages, races, ethnicities and abilities. It accomplishes this by addressing the place-based dimensions of our neighborhoods: embracing growth; offering a wide range of housing choices for its diverse residents; providing a transportation system that meets the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, riders and drivers; preserving, celebrating and building on our histories; and supporting infill development that sensitively accommodates a growing, aging and increasingly diverse population. Saint Paul is defined and enhanced by its location on the Mississippi River - an economic, environmental, cultural, historic and recreational amenity that enriches our quality of life and economic prosperity.

Newport, Rhode Island

The City of Newport is a vibrant, forward-looking and welcoming community built upon a strong sense of place and cultural heritage. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the city for its rich history, natural beauty, boating traditions, walkability, enticing downtown, community diversity, and overall quality of life. We are committed to charting a course for our future that embraces and encourages innovative growth and development, taking an active role in the stewardship of our architectural and natural resources, and an enhanced quality of life, all while we maintain our unique historic and cultural assets that are the foundation of our character.