

Baltimore County, Maryland

# MASTER PLAN 2020





Baltimore County, Maryland

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ADOPTED BY BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL  
November 15, 2010

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**Baltimore County Executive**  
James T. Smith, Jr.

**Baltimore County Council**  
S.G. Samuel Moxley, District 1  
Kevin Kamenetz, District 2  
T. Bryan McIntire, District 3  
Kenneth N. Oliver, District 4  
Vincent J. Gardina, District 5  
Joseph Bartenfelder, District 6  
John Olszewski, Sr., District 7

Thomas J. Peddicord, Jr., Legislative  
Counsel/Secretary



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## From the Baltimore County Executive and the Baltimore County Council

Master Plan 2020 is the guiding document that directs future development in Baltimore County over the next ten years and beyond. This plan embodies this County's broad goals of protecting the environment, preserving agriculture, and ensuring safe and attractive places to live and work. It combines the expertise and skill of Baltimore County's public servants with input from the people of our communities to help determine both where and how land development will occur throughout the next decade.

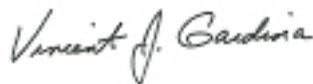
Master Plan 2020 is based on the concept of *sustainability*. We cannot meet our present needs and simultaneously preserve resources for future generations without implementing sustainable practices throughout Baltimore County. By reducing greenhouse gases in our air and pollutants in our streams and wetlands, we will improve not only the health of our entire County, but also the quality of life in all of our communities. We must maintain Baltimore County's tradition of smart growth by promoting policies that encourage compact, walkable, well-designed redevelopment of underused properties along commercial corridors and close to public transit. And by continuing to promote economic development in our historic neighborhoods and maintaining our highly skilled and well trained workforce, we can keep attracting and strengthening businesses that provide a wide variety of jobs for all our residents.

Many residents provided valuable assistance in the development of *Master Plan 2020*. The numerous comments and suggestions received at the public input meetings, from advisory committees, through the mail and emails, and through telephone calls and personal conversations, were greatly appreciated and critical to this plan's completion.

Master Plan 2020 is an effort to create and maintain safe and sustainable communities to achieve a sensible balance of economy, equity, and a healthy environment for people to reside, pursue careers, raise families, and enjoy the amenities of Baltimore County. This is an exciting opportunity for Baltimore County to continue working as partners with all its residents, businesses, and adjacent jurisdictions to develop a new direction for a brighter and healthier future.



S.G. Samuel Moxley, District 1



Vincent J. Gardina, District 5



Kevin Kamenetz, District 2



Joseph Bartenfelder, District 6



T. Bryan McIntire, District 3



John Olszewski, Sr., District 7  
Chairman, County Council



James T. Smith, Jr.  
County Executive



Kenneth N. Oliver, District 4

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## VISION

Create and maintain safe and sustainable communities, to achieve a sensible balance of economy, equity, and environment for people to reside, work, pursue careers, raise families, and enjoy the amenities in Baltimore County, Maryland.





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## Goals of Master Plan 2020

*To promote policies and actions resulting in a safe, sustainable environment for future generations, the County Council in partnership with the citizens of Baltimore County, Maryland hereby adopt this Master Plan 2020.*

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### *Goal One: Continue the Success of Growth Management*

- Direct the future growth within the Urban-Rural Demarcation Line (URDL)
- Protect and enhance Community Conservation Areas
- Promote redevelopment with an emphasis on ailing commercial or industrial properties
- Develop compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented, and walkable neighborhoods
- Advance economic well-being by promoting a high quality labor force
- Provide a mixture of housing types for an emerging diversity of residents
- Support quality public schools to enhance communities
- Prioritize infrastructure improvements via the Capital Improvement Program to endorse sustainable development
- Protect the character and economic vitality of the rural communities

### *Goal Two: Improve the Built Environment*

- Provide adequate open space and recreational opportunities and increase connections to nature by linking open spaces and parks
- Invest in public grounds by tree planting, buffer conservation and habitat restoration
- Expand and deliver multi-modal transportation services
- Reduce pollutant loadings of runoff with enhanced stormwater management
- Meet desire for green communities by providing regulatory incentives
- Ensure integration between regulations and sustainability programs such as LEED

### *Goal Three: Strengthen Resource Conservation and Protection*

- Protect health of the natural environment and maintain a valuable biodiversity
  - Restore ecosystems and encourage fair, efficient use of natural resources
  - Preserve cultural assets to establish a tangible sense of community
  - Nurture farming activities and importance of the agricultural industry
  - Conserve rural characteristics and scenic vistas
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## Visions of Master Plan 2020

*Futhermore, in conformance with Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the following “Visions” to be implemented by Master Plan 2020 are hereby adopted.*

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- (1) Quality of life and sustainability: a high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment;
- (2) Public participation: citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals;
- (3) Growth areas: growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers;
- (4) Community design: 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 systems, open spaces, recreational areas, and historical, cultural, and archeological resources;
- (5) Infrastructure: growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient, and environmentally sustainable manner;
- (6) Transportation: a well-maintained, multimodal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable, and efficient movement of people, goods, and services within and between population and business centers;
- (7) Housing: a range of housing densities, types, and sizes provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes;
- (8) Economic development: economic development and natural resource-based businesses that promote employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the State’s natural resources, public services, and public facilities are encouraged;
- (9) Environmental protection: land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and coastal bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems, and living resources;
- (10) Resource conservation: waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems, and scenic areas are conserved;
- (11) Stewardship: government, business entities, and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection; and
- (12) Implementation: strategies, policies, programs, and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure, and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, State, and interstate levels to achieve these visions.



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*For further map information, contact the Office of Planning*

