

Calvert County
FY 2026
Program Open Space Annual Program

ADOPTED 6-10-2025

INTRODUCTION

The *Program Open Space Annual Program* must be submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Planning in order for local governments to be eligible for state funding for acquisition and development of recreation land. Upon review, the *Annual Program* becomes the basis for total allocations to each of the local governments. The State determines the amount of funding based upon a formula developed for the apportionment of the annual appropriations for Program Open Space. A municipality may submit its annual program through the county in which it is located. The *Annual Program* must be consistent with the county's *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*.

CALVERT COUNTY RECREATION PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Calvert 2040, adopted in 2019 and amended in 2022, sets forth an overall goal and four broad objectives in the Parks and Recreation section. A few key actions in the 2019 plan are noted below as sub-bullets. These actions were in the prior Calvert County Comprehensive Plan as objectives. The objectives were updated and included in the 2019 plan as actions; there were no changes to them when the plan was amended in 2022.

- Increase the amount of land area dedicated to recreation and natural resources. Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Enhance the network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural, and historical features of the county.
- Continue to improve and expand opportunities for public access to the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Increase the variety of uses of community facilities.
- Expand community involvement in recreational programming.

Calvert County's most recent *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* was adopted in November 2022. The purpose of the plan is to maintain the county's eligibility to participate in Maryland's Program Open Space and to guide the county's management and enhancement of its public parks, open spaces, and preserved land for the next five years.

The Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces chapter of the plan sets forth four goals and 19 recommendations.

2022 GOALS FOR RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL 1: Improve and enhance existing Calvert County Parks & Recreation facilities and amenities.

GOAL 2: Continue to improve programming and natural resource opportunities within all parks and recreation areas.

GOAL 3: Continue to look for opportunities to develop new facilities and amenities.

GOAL 4: Continue to improve and strategize organizational efficiencies.

The *Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan* is available online <http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/LPPRP>.

ANNUAL PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* or identified as potential acquisition or development projects by the Board of County Commissioners. They have not necessarily obtained final approval from the Board. Projects specifically requested by municipalities are also listed.

For projects other than those already listed in the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* or requested by a municipality, the selection process begins when any individual or organization proposes a project for consideration. The proposal is forwarded to an in-house Open Space Committee composed of the Capital Projects Analyst and representatives from the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Department of Public Works the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Planning & Zoning. The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether the project is consistent with criteria listed in the *Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*. The committee presents its findings to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Listing a project in the Annual Program is a first step toward implementing a project and is a requirement for using Program Open Space funding. Title 3, §3-205 of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code specifies that certain types of projects may not be constructed or authorized in the local jurisdiction until approved by the planning commission as consistent with the plan (comprehensive plan) or geographic sections of the local jurisdiction. Types of public projects that must be reviewed include squares, parks, and open spaces. Each year, the Calvert County Planning Commission reviews such projects in the six-year Calvert County Capital Improvement Plan for consistency with the *Calvert County Comprehensive Plan*.

PROPOSED BUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR ACQUISITION

SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE			SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY (\$)				
		EXISTING	ULTIMATE	PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	FEDERAL/ OTHER
CALVERT	*A-24 CALVERT COUNTY LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN	N/A	N/A	N/A	125,000	NA	125,000*		
CALVERT	A-16 CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM ADDITION	10	11.1	1.1	1,400,000	0	950,000		450,000

*Calvert County requests \$25,000 annually over a 5-year span for LPPRP planning expenses. Our next LPPRP update will be 2027.

APPROVED BUDGETED COUNTY PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

SPONSOR	NAME OF RECREATION AREA TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	ACREAGE	SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY) \$					
			PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	FEDERAL /OTHER
CALVERT	D-2 HALLOWING POINT DISTRICT PARK – PAVED PATHWAYS AND LIGHTS	102		190,000		40,000		150,000
CALVERT	D-4 COVE POINT DISTRICT PARK- PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PLAYGROUND)	267		1,100,000	640,000	460,000		

FY 2026 Annual Program

PROJECTS REQUESTED BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR ACQUISITION

SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME/ PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE			SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY)				
		EXISTING	ULTIMATE	PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	A-34 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION NEAR RANDLE CLIFF	0	not identified	not identified					

PROJECTS REQUESTED BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME/PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	SOURCE OF FUNDS (FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM ONLY)				
		PROJECT	TOTAL	LOCAL	LOCAL SHARE POS	STATE SHARE POS	OTHER GRANTS
CALVERT	D-36 FISHING CREEK KAYAK LAUNCH INSTALLATION	N/A	50,000	10,000	40,000		
CALVERT	D-10 B CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAIL TRAIL EXPANSION	Not identified	750,000	250,000	500,000		
CALVERT	D-37 KELLAMS PARK RECREATIONAL EXPANSION –	Not identified	100,000	10,000	90,000		
CALVERT	D-38 BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONNECTION TO RAILWAY TRAIL	Not identified	100,000	50,000	50,000		

FY 2025 ACQUISITION PROJECTS

A-24 Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest and Parks. The State is requiring the LPPRP to be more detailed and statistically based. The LPPRP is to include a survey on the use of county parks and recreation facilities and programs and a level of service analysis that must include a *Proximity Analysis* and a *Park Equity Analysis*. The most recent LPPRP was completed in 2022. The next allocations will be encumbered for the LPPRP draft due in 2026 annually for the maximum amount of \$25,000 each year.

A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition

The Calvert Marine Museum established the goal of owning all of the property between the museum and the Beacon Marina. At this point, only this property remains in private hands and is completely surrounded by museum property. Because of its contiguous waterfront, it is a critical component of the museum's long-range plans. This project would add 1.10 acres of waterfront land and a pier to the museum campus. The additional land will allow museum to add vital waterfront development such as installing a marine railway for use by the historic barge, *Wm. B. Tennison* and the skipjack, *Dee of St. Mary's*, extending the boardwalk along the waterfront, and increasing traditional water-based activities. Because the water is deeper in front of this property and the museum-owned property to the east, the museum would be able to invite larger vessels to the museum and expand its role as a host to visiting vessels. It would also enable the museum to create an open greenspace from Lore Road to the water to be used for museum events. This is reflected in the 2018 site master plan.

A-34 Natural Open Space Parcel: Land Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Near Randle Cliff

This project focuses on the acquisition of land near Randle Cliff, Calvert County, for the purpose of preserving natural open space and protecting the area's ecological integrity. The land, which features valuable habitat and natural resources, will be preserved to support local biodiversity, protect wildlife corridors, and enhance recreational opportunities for the community. Public access to the property may be considered for low-impact recreational use, such as nature trails, birdwatching, or educational programs, to foster a connection to nature without compromising the integrity of the land. As part of the long-term strategy for the property, there is potential for eventual transfer to a nonprofit organization, such as the American Chestnut Land Trust, which has expertise in conservation, land management, and ecological restoration. This transfer would be contingent on adherence to the necessary legal and conservation processes, ensuring that the property is properly managed and preserved for future generations.

FY 2025 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

D-2 Hallowing Point District Park

Hallowing Point Park is one of three district parks in the county. The county is in the process of updating the Hallowing Point Park master plan to continue developing and improving the park. In FY23, the restroom/snack stand complex was renovated to become a larger and more modern restroom complex. There are plans to add food truck locations in place of the snack stands. In FY24, new energy efficient LED lighting was installed around the tennis courts and Athletic Field 4, and the back parking lot and roadways were paved to accommodate a second entrance. In addition, a new dedicated pickleball facility was completed in the fall of 2024. For FY26, the Hallowing Point Park pathways project will improve and expand asphalt paths through park to connect amenities, along with pathway lighting, signage, and needed crosswalks.

D-4 Cove Point District Park

Cove Point District Park is one of three district parks in the county. Funding is needed to implement the master plan build-out of the park. Cove Point Pool had the decking replaced in phases and this project was completed in FY23. The Cove Point playground upgrades in consideration for FY26 may include a new tot lot for kids under 5, a large play structure for kids 5-12, swing sets, and one or more spinners, along with all new surfacing, benches, upgrades to the surrounding walking paths, and water fountains

D-10 Chesapeake Beach Rail Trail Expansion

The Chesapeake Beach Rail Trail Expansion aims to extend the existing rail trail, enhancing recreational opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists, and other outdoor enthusiasts. This expansion will connect more areas within Chesapeake Beach and surrounding communities, providing a safe, accessible route for both local residents and visitors. The project will preserve the historical significance of the former railway while improving connectivity, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and supporting local tourism. The expanded trail will feature improved infrastructure, including clearly marked pathways, signage, and possibly rest areas, all designed to complement the natural environment and promote sustainable outdoor activities. The expansion will help increase accessibility to scenic areas and local attractions, offering a valuable transportation option for non-motorized travelers while preserving the beauty of the region.

This project aligns with broader goals for community connectivity, environmental preservation, and promoting outdoor recreation, contributing to the overall quality of life for the Chesapeake Beach community and its visitors.

D-38 Fishing Creek Kayak Launch Installation – Paddle Pathway Pickup

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is working to establish an additional public launch site for canoes, kayaks, and other hand-carried boats along the town's creeks. This project is aligned with the goals set forth in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan to improve public access to waterways for recreational purposes. The new launch site at Fishing Creek will include parking space for a limited number of vehicles and a designated launch area for small watercraft. This will complement existing public boat ramps at Solomons, Hallowing Point, and Chesapeake Beach, enhancing the accessibility of local waterways for residents and visitors alike.

D-39 Kellams Park Recreational Expansion – Community Accessibility and Engagement

The Kellams Park Recreational Expansion aims to enhance community access to outdoor recreational facilities while fostering greater engagement for residents of all ages. This project will improve the park's existing amenities and potentially add new features, including a dog park and pickleball courts, to cater to diverse community needs. The proposed dog park will provide a safe and designated space for pets to exercise and socialize, offering local pet owners a valuable amenity within the park. The pickleball courts will create a dedicated space for one of the fastest-growing sports in the area, providing opportunities for both casual play and competitive events.

D-40 Beach Elementary School Connection to Railway Trail

The Beach Elementary School Connection to Railway Trail project aims to create a safe and accessible pathway connecting Beach Elementary School to the existing Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail. This connection will provide students, parents, and the local community with a convenient, non-motorized transportation route to the trail, encouraging walking, biking, and outdoor recreation. The pathway will be designed with safety as a top priority, featuring well-marked crossings, proper signage, and potentially lighting to ensure its use during all hours of the day. This connection will promote healthier lifestyles, reduce reliance on vehicles, and support the town's efforts to enhance sustainable transportation options. In addition to providing easier access to the railway trail, the project will encourage greater community engagement by connecting educational and recreational spaces, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and an active, healthy community.



A-16 Calvert Marine Museum Addition

The property proposed for acquisition is located at 215 Lore Road in Solomons, Maryland. The property is 1.10 acres with a single-family dwelling located on it and has approximately 60 feet of waterfront with a pier. The property offers significant waterfront that connects to the museum's property. The museum already owns the property directly behind it, purchased many years ago with local open space funds. With the addition of this parcel, the museum would be able to significantly expand usable public land with waterfront access.



Program Open Space funds would be used for land acquisition costs. The museum proposes purchasing the house at the appraised value out of private funding. The house would be used for staff office space, collections storage, and guest housing for visiting lecturers. The basement level offers the opportunity for visiting boaters to use the restroom and shower facilities separate from the other uses of the building. This property will be part of the museum campus with full public access. This additional land would allow the Museum to install a marine railway for use by the historic bugeye, *Wm. B. Tennison*, and the skipjack, *Dee of St. Mary's* for seasonal inspections and repairs. The additional land would allow the Museum to extend the boardwalk along the waterfront and increase the offering of water-based activities. Because the water is deeper in front of this property, it would also allow the Museum to invite larger vessels, such as the *Sultana* and *Maryland Dove*, to the Museum. By removing the existing fence and changing the access road, it will be possible to greatly increase public areas for outdoor festivals and events and reduce the Museum's reliance on the privately-owned property across Solomons Island Road. This is reflected in the 2018 site master plan. This project is consistent with Planning Vision #8, which states "Economic development and natural resources-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".



A-24 Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

The State of Maryland requires local governing bodies to prepare a local land preservation and recreation plan (LPPRP) under the Maryland Natural Resources Code, Title 5 Forest and Parks. The plan addresses parks and recreation, natural resource land conservation, and agricultural land preservation. The plan may include additional topics such as an economic analysis and discussion of cultural resource preservation, historic preservation, tourism, education, and environmental literacy, etc. The State is requiring the next plan to be more detailed and statistically based than previous plans. The plan is to include a survey on the use of county parks and recreation facilities and programs and a level of service analysis that must include a proximity analysis and a park equity analysis.

The preparation of the Plan will help promote the State's Planning Visions (Refer to the last page for a list of the State of Maryland's Planning Visions):

#1 Quality of life and sustainability

#2 Public participation

#4 Community design

#5 Infrastructure

#8 Economic development

#9 Environmental protection

#10 Resource Conservation

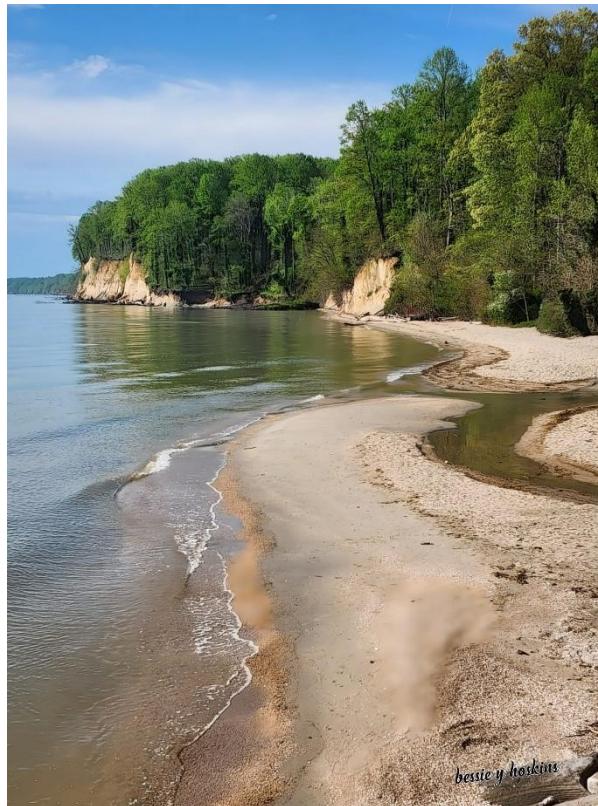
#11 Stewardship

#12 Implementation



A-34 Natural Open Space Parcel: Land Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Near Randle Cliff

This project focuses on the acquisition of land near Randle Cliff, Calvert County, for the purpose of preserving natural open space and protecting the area's ecological integrity. The land, which features valuable habitat and natural resources, will be preserved to support local biodiversity, protect wildlife corridors, and enhance recreational opportunities for the community. Public access to the property may be considered for low-impact recreational use, such as nature trails, birdwatching, or educational programs, to foster a connection to nature without compromising the integrity of the land. As part of the long-term strategy for the property, there is potential for eventual transfer to a conservation focused nonprofit organization, which has expertise in conservation, land management, and ecological restoration. This transfer would be contingent on adherence to the necessary legal and conservation processes, ensuring that the property is properly managed and preserved for future generations.



D-2 Hallowing Point District Park

Hallowing Point Park is located on MD 231 approximately six miles west of Prince Frederick. It is one of three district parks in the county and currently provides 18 playing fields, tennis/pickleball courts, a basketball court, playground, picnic pavilion, and comfort stations. The purchase of the property and initial development nearly 30 years ago were Program Open Space projects. Calvert County is in the process of updating the Hallowing Point Park master plan to continue developing and improving the park. Recent projects include upgrades to sports fields, tennis courts and the restrooms, and a new dedicated pickleball facility was completed in the fall of 2024. For FY26, the Hallowing Point Park pathways project aims to repair and replace the paved path that connects current amenities with safer, wider, ADA-compliant pathways and install concrete bleacher pads for accessibility.

These improvements are consistent with Calvert County's goal of expanding and improving existing sites. By developing this site efficiently, Calvert County is meeting Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



D-4 Cove Point District Park

- Cove Point Park is in the 1st election district and contains approximately 80 acres. Facilities include a swimming pool complex, playing fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a picnic shelter, and a playground. Funding will be needed to implement the new master plan for the build-out of the park. Cove Point Pool had the decking replaced in phases and this project was completed in FY23. Future planned development projects include tennis court improvements and basketball court paving and upgrades along with a full playground replacement. The Cove Point playground upgrades in consideration for FY26 may include a new tot lot for kids under 5, a large play structure for kids 5-12, swing sets, or one or more spinners, along with all new surfacing, benches, upgrades to the surrounding walking paths, and water fountains.

These improvements are consistent with Calvert County's goal of expanding and improving existing sites. By developing this site efficiently, Calvert County is meeting Planning Vision #3, which calls for growth to be concentrated in existing population and business centers.



Master Plan : Cove Point Park



D-10 Chesapeake Beach Rail Trail Expansion

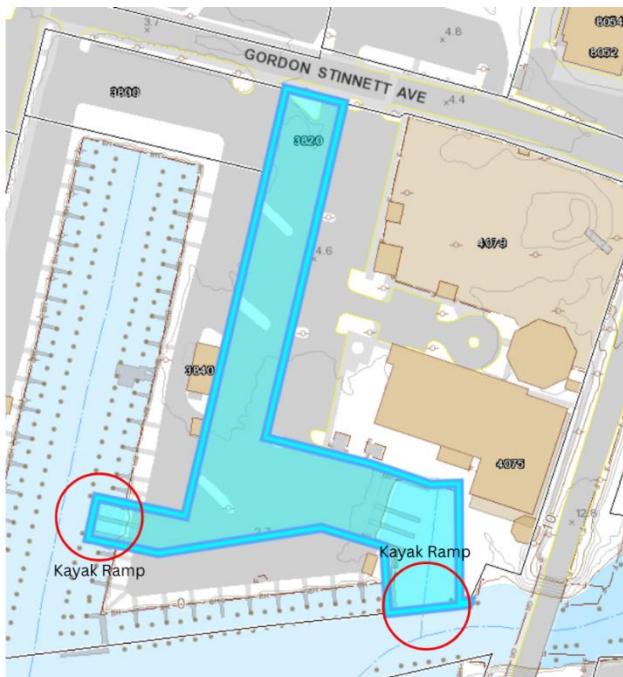
The Chesapeake Beach Rail Trail Expansion aims to extend the existing rail trail, enhancing recreational opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists, and other outdoor enthusiasts. This expansion will connect more areas within Chesapeake Beach and surrounding communities, providing a safe, accessible route for both local residents and visitors. The project will preserve the historical significance of the former railway while improving connectivity, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and supporting local tourism. The expanded trail will feature improved infrastructure, including clearly marked pathways, signage, and possibly rest areas, all designed to complement the natural environment and promote sustainable outdoor activities. The expansion will help increase accessibility to scenic areas and local attractions, offering a valuable transportation option for non-motorized travelers while preserving the beauty of the region.

This project aligns with broader goals for community connectivity, environmental preservation, and promoting outdoor recreation, contributing to the overall quality of life for the Chesapeake Beach community and its visitors.



D-38 Fishing Creek Kayak Launch Installation – Paddle Pathway Pickup

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is working to establish an additional public launch site for canoes, kayaks, and other hand-carried boats along the town's creeks. This project is aligned with the goals set forth in the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan to improve public access to waterways for recreational purposes. The new launch site at Fishing Creek will include parking space for a limited number of vehicles and a designated launch area for small watercraft. This will complement existing public boat ramps at Solomons, Hallowing Point, and Chesapeake Beach, enhancing the accessibility of local waterways for residents and visitors alike.



D-39 Kellams Park Recreational Expansion – Community Accessibility and Engagement

The Kellams Park Recreational Expansion aims to enhance community access to outdoor recreational facilities while fostering greater engagement for residents of all ages. This project will improve the park's existing amenities and potentially add new features, including a dog park and pickleball courts, to cater to diverse community needs. The proposed dog park will provide a safe and designated space for pets to exercise and socialize, offering local pet owners a valuable amenity within the park. The pickleball courts will create a dedicated space for one of the fastest-growing sports in the area, providing opportunities for both casual play and competitive events.

In addition to these additions, the expansion will focus on improving overall accessibility for visitors with diverse abilities, ensuring that all members of the community can enjoy the park's resources. Features may include ADA-compliant pathways, seating areas, and updated signage to guide visitors. A public engagement process will be key to this project, allowing community members to provide input on the design and prioritization of features to best serve the needs and interests of the local population. This expansion will enhance the recreational options at Kellams Park, promote active lifestyles, and strengthen the community.



D-40 Beach Elementary School Connection to Railway Trail

The Beach Elementary School Connection to Railway Trail project aims to create a safe and accessible pathway connecting Beach Elementary School to the existing Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail. This connection will provide students, parents, and the local community with a convenient, non-motorized transportation route to the trail, encouraging walking, biking, and outdoor recreation.

The pathway will be designed with safety as a top priority, featuring well-marked crossings, proper signage, and potentially lighting to ensure its use during all hours of the day. This connection will promote healthier lifestyles, reduce reliance on vehicles, and support the town's efforts to enhance sustainable transportation options. In addition to providing easier access to the railway trail, the project will encourage greater community engagement by connecting educational and recreational spaces, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and an active, healthy community.



The Planning Visions

Adopted by the State of Maryland in the 2009 Smart, Green, and Growing Act (SB 273/HB 294)

- 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 resources-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.