

Sustainable Maryland Meeting Notes

December 6, 2022

Attendance

Chiara Atoyebi

Daryl Braithwaite

Janet Owens

Megan Pierce

Orissa Samaroo

Sophia Yarrow

The committee members reviewed priority actions for Takoma Park's Sustainable Maryland status and made suggestions for which actions to prioritize for the upcoming renewal process. Please see the suggested actions spread sheet for the agreed actions.

The committee received an overview of the Sustainable Maryland actions and process by staff member Mike Hunningshake. After the presentation Mike held a brief question and answer session for members.

The committee agreed to reconvene on Monday, January 9, 2023.

2014 Project ID#	Percent Complete	Comments from SMC	UPDATED NARRATIVE	2011 Author	2014 Narrative
13	100	<p>has the sidewalk project been completed?</p> <p>what types of plants have been planted?</p> <p>what else has been done in this lot project?</p>	<p>The City has two large land use and planning projects in design right now that address environmental issues and are innovative:</p> <p>- Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project</p> <p>The Ethan Allen Gateway is a high use area for pedestrians and a residential business area that has adequate sidewalks, ADA-compliant curb cuts, ADA-compliant lighting, and ADA-compliant street trees. The project goal is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians that also responds to alternative transportation options, and supports local shopping and a vibrant commercial center. The project will also address improving stormwater infiltration through the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Features. The City opened bids for this project in 2017, and it is funded to be completed in the 2018 budget.</p> <p>- Flower Avenue Green Street Project</p> <p>'Green' streets provide the normal elements of a public right-of-way—sidewalk, crosswalk, street trees, bike lanes, bicycle lanes, street lighting—but rather than have stormwater run into gutters and city streets under the road, stormwater is directed into vegetated landscape areas. The stormwater is filtered and filtered as it goes through the rain gardens or vegetated areas. Plants are selected carefully and the water is cleaned. The elements of a green street include sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops and bicycle lanes because part of the community's need for sidewalks comes from identifying the community's need for sidewalks for transportation. The City has completed 100% design drawings and is waiting on State Highway Department approval before moving forward with the bidding process. The project is budgeted for construction in 2018 and completion in 2019.</p> <p>Documentation: Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project: www.theflowave.com/development/updates Flower Avenue: http://floweravenue.lakingsparkland.gov/</p>		<p>The City has two large land use and planning projects in design right now that address environmental issues and are innovative:</p> <p>- Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project</p> <p>The Ethan Allen Gateway is a high use area for pedestrians and a residential business area that has adequate sidewalks, ADA-compliant curb cuts, ADA-compliant lighting, and ADA-compliant street trees. The project goal is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for pedestrians that also responds to alternative transportation options, and supports local shopping and a vibrant commercial center. The project will also address improving stormwater infiltration through the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Features.</p> <p>- Flower Avenue Green Street Project</p> <p>'Green' streets provide the normal elements of a public right-of-way—sidewalk, crosswalk, street trees, bike lanes, bicycle lanes, street lighting—but rather than have stormwater run into gutters and city streets under the road, stormwater is directed into vegetated landscape areas. The stormwater is filtered and filtered as it goes through the rain gardens or vegetated areas. Plants are selected carefully and the water is cleaned. The elements of a green street include sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops and bicycle lanes because part of the community's need for sidewalks comes from identifying the community's need for sidewalks for transportation.</p> <p>Documentation: Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project: www.theflowave.com/development/updates Flower Avenue: http://floweravenue.lakingsparkland.gov/</p>
Total:		465			

Actions	Description	2020 Points Earned	2022 Possible points	Expired? Planned? Completed? Recommended?	Expected points 2023 (see 2020 possible points)	Notes	Decision (Yay/Nay)	PRIORITY (star your top 2 in each category)	Darryl to check internally within the city of Takoma Park to ensure our recommendations align with city expectations
Category 1: Community Action [Sophia, Chiara]									
Participation in MD Green Schools	An integrated approach to learning that incorporates environmental best management practices and community stewardship	30	30	Expired		Sophia was working with her school to connect with Native Plant resources, Blair high school has initiated a food recovery program.		Sophia Yarrow, Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Conduct Community Barriers and Benefits Assessment	This action can be completed once the community has developed a Green Team Action Plan and has identified any actions in the plan with significant behavior change components	0	15	Planned/Incomplete; Recommended		Sustainable Maryland Green Team Training		Sophia Yarrow, Chiara, Janet	
Total		65	85						
Category 2: Community Based Food Systems [Janet, Chiara, Sophia]									
Establish CSA Drop-off location	A Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop-off specifically for municipal workers would encourage support for local agriculture	10	10					Orissa, Megan, chiara, sophia	
Local Food Fair	Consumers will not/cannot purchase that of which they are now aware of; this fair would educate local consumers on the variety of locally produced foods and their availability	0	10	Recommended		Recommendation to continue only if deemed an efficient way to get points- Crossroads Community Food Network does this in May		Sophia Yarrow, Brittany, Orissa	
Local Food Cooking & Preservation Classes	This is an educational opportunity to provide local consumers with knowledge and skills to encourage confidence regarding purchasing and preparing local foods	0	15	Planned/Incomplete		Is there an audience for local food prep classes? If so we could propose to add food prep also with the goal to reduce food waste.		Janet	
Spring Transplant Sale	The primary goal is to increase locally grown food by getting fruit, herb, and vegetable plants into the hands of consumers, so they may grow their own fresh foods	10	10	recommend		Should these be provided free of charge? They are sold at the Farmers market and TP Ace holds a sale of plants in the spring.		Chiara	
Fall Transplant Sale	Similar to the Spring Transplant Sale, this works to keep fresh foods in the hands and gardens of consumers year-round	10	10	Expired					
Total		65	140						
Category 3: Energy [Brittany, Diana]									
Residential Energy Efficiency	This action works to reduce the cost and environmental impact of heating and cooling homes	20	20	Expired		REcommended		Sophia Yarrow, Chiara, Megan, Brittany	
Municipal Energy Audits	Energy audits establish where and how buildings use energy and identifies opportunities for energy and cost savings. The energy audit process can begin as a simple organization of energy bills and can lead to technical evaluations that require the hiring of outside firms. There are two ways to accomplish an audit. The first is to complete an audit internally. The second is to secure a qualified auditing professional or firm. It may make sense to hire an energy services company (ESCO) to conduct some or all of the steps above; an ESCO often pair the audit with a contract to perform the resulting recommendations for upgrade and repair.	15	55	Expired. Recommended		Need to look into further detail on how to increase energy efficiency of the municipal buildings and conduct a new energy audit		Sophia Yarrow, Janet	
Residential Electric Vehicles and Public Charging Stations	The municipal government has promoted the benefits of electric vehicles to residents and/or purchased or maintained use of publicly available charging stations in the past year.		15			I believe this is happening, we had the first EV station (full) in the country no? - Yes (Brittany)		Orissa, Chiara, Megan, Brittany	
Total		70	180						
Category 4: Greenhouse Gas [Orissa]									
Community Carbon Footprint	Establishing a GHG inventory measures the amount of GHG emissions produced by a municipality residents, schools, businesses, and organizations	15	50	Expired. Recommended		Yes. Resubmit GHG Inventory		Sophia Yarrow, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Municipal Carbon Footprint	This is the first step in reducing municipal GHG emissions, and measures the amount of GHG emissions produced by a municipality in a given year	15	15	Expired. Recommended		Yes, check with Gina: https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/sustainability-and-climate-action-plan-2019/		Orissa, Janet	
Climate Change Adaptation Element	This is a planning tool to assess a community's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and can help to determine strategies that will help to adapt to those impacts	5	5	Expired. Recommended		https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas/2019/Documents/Resilience-and-Adaptation-Memo.pdf			
Climate Action Plan	A Climate Action Plan of CAP, outlines strategies and actions designed to reduce the impact a municipality has on the climate	20	20	Expired. Recommended		Same as above		Sophia Yarrow + Orissa, Megan, Brittany	
Total		70	140						
Category 5: Health & Wellness [Megan, Diana]									
Living Well Program	This program aims to inform seniors, caregivers, and other persons with chronic diseases about living well including topics such as techniques to deal with chronic fatigue, pain, and isolation	0	20	Recommended		Recommendation: adjust 2017 actions. Six-week program with TKPK Rec Dept, Holy Cross Hospital and Maryland Dept of Aging to help seniors with chronic health problems. Improvements could include: more promotion; a virtual component; broad range of topics.		Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	

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Workplace Wellness Program	Workplace Wellness was created to improve the health of employees and provide support of their families in making healthier choices	10	15	Expired. Recommended		Recommendation: adjust to mirror 2017: employee assistance program for mental health; delivery of monthly newsletter from the employee health and wellness committee. In 2020 monthly newsletter was not established and fewere events from the committee. Need additional events		Orissa, Megan, Janet	
Total		60	120						
Category 6: Local Economies [Parag, Diana]									
Organic Waste Composting	To permit and encourage residents to compost their food scraps and organic waste in order to divert food waste and other organics from disposal at a landfill.		20			New one and the city has a composting program. Recommend. Presentation from Mike confirmed that this is a new action.		Janet, Orissa	
Join Maryland Green Registry	This is an opportunity for municipalities to promote their sustainable practices and results through online member profiles. Municipalities can become eligible for Maryland Green Registry annual awards and participate in annual member contests	0	5	Planned/incomplete		city should as a first step.		Sophia Yarrow, Megan, Janet	
Total		115	270						
Category 7: Natural Resources [Sophia]									
Tree City USA	Goals include to expand urban tree canopies in municipalities that yield positive environmental, economic, and social benefits to the community	15	15	Expired				Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Stormwater Management Program	This action establishes a stormwater program to address requirements, operations, and maintenance of stormwater and related water quality and quantity for the municipality	15	15	Expired				Sophia yarrow, Megan, Janet	
Stormwater Manager/Coordinator	The description for this role involves increasing the municipalities capacity to address stormwater management needs	15	15	Expired				Chiara, Brittany, Janet	
Stormwater Fee Structure	The fee structure would dedicate financing for the municipality's operations and maintenance, as well as for retrofits and redevelopment projects	20	20	Expired					
Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship on Private lands	The incentives work to encourage property owner behaviors to engage in land management practices that promote natural habitats and health watersheds	15	15	Expired				Orissa	
Provide voluntary opportunities in citizen engagement in watershed stewardship	These voluntary opportunities are for citizens who are sufficiently aware of the importance of natural habitats and healthy watersheds. This also stretched municipal capacity by engaging volunteers in watershed stewardship activities	10	10	Expired					
Facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities	The focal point of this action is to increase community members' awareness of, and access to watershed stewardship information and resources available through existing programs	10	5	Expired					
Implement watershed stewardship/pollution prevention outreach program(s)	Education is the focus of this action including increased appreciation from community members of the value of a healthy watershed increase in the fundamental understanding by community members of how land management impacts water quality, and increased understanding of how to protect water quality.	0	10						
Create a Watershed Plan	This would prepare the town's priority areas by including stewardship activities, water quality project opportunities, and implementation of cost estimates	20	20	Expired					
Total		160	270						
Category 8: Planning and Land Use [Megan, Chiara]									
Housing and the Comprehensive Plan	This plan when implemented would help prepare municipalities to maintain an adequate supply of quality housing. This includes moderate- and low-income affordable options	10	10	Expired				Sophia Yarrow + Orissa, Megan	
Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities	This action encourages municipalities to participate in the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) Sustainable Communities designation	20	20	Expired				Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Total		60	105						
Category 9: Historic Preservation [NEW]. [Janet]									
Historic Area Zoning Ordinance	The goals of this action include historic preservation including safeguarding the heritage of local jurisdictions, structures and sites that reflect the culture, social, political, and architectural history of the region		10					Sophia Yarrow, Megan	
Establish National Register Historic District	This action supports the State's efforts to recognize and preserve buildings, districts, etc		10						
Establish Local Historic Property Tax Incentives	These tax incentives are tools used to encourage investment and rehabilitation in historic communities		15					Orissa, Brittany, Janet	

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Become a certified Local Government	This action encourages municipalities to promote historic preservation		15					Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Total		0	50						
Category 10: Transportation [NEW] [Parag, Megan]									
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	This action creates conditions that encourage bicycling and walking		15					Orissa, Megan, Brittany, Janet	
Safe Routes to School Program	This action is intended to develop safe routes for children to use when walking or biking to school		10			Recommend		Sophia Yarrow, Chiara, Brittany	
Total		0	40						
		665	1310						
		Sum of selected actions	525						

