

# SECTION B - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

## Town of St. Michaels, Maryland

### Environment

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

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

#### Strengths

- **Access to water & the Chesapeake Bay** – town harbor, boat slips, parks, individual home sites.
- **Climate Change & Sea Level Rise Commission** – two active DNR sea level rise and flood mitigation project grants. A third grant was just awarded.
- **Walkable Community** – sidewalks, compact design, public parking, attractive commercial businesses and housing architecture.
- **Nature & Green Space** – trail amenities, annual flower and tree plantings, conservation lands in and around the town.

#### Weaknesses

- **Design Issues** – compact design means limited space for stormwater mitigation work. Low elevation causes flood and sea level rise problems.
- **Water System Capacity** – system is nearing demand capacity. An additional back up well is needed. A demand and use projection study is needed.

#### Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures

**Outcome 1:** Mitigate the impacts of sea level rise.  
**Progress Measures:** Construction of sea level rise protection infrastructure. Monitor and record flood levels and number of events.

#### Strategies and Action Items

**Strategy A:** Complete and implement West Harbor/E. Chew Study for sea level rise and flood mitigation plan.  
**Strategy B:** Complete and implement San Domingo Creek/Westside Study for sea level rise and flood mitigation plan.  
**Strategy C:** Finish design plans for rising the Mill Street elevation and construct improvement. Complete an overall flood mitigation concept plan for the corridor.

#### Implementation Partners

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

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<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Improve the town's water system service  <b>Progress Measures:</b> Complete system wide improvements as needed. Determine adequate needs to best service the population into the future.</p>	<p><b>Strategy A:</b> Develop a supply and demand study for future water needs.  <b>Strategy B:</b> Designate a site and develop a 3<sup>rd</sup> well for system backup protection.  <b>Strategy C:</b> Complete installation of Smart Water Meters throughout the entire town.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and Federal agencies for assistance in funding.</li> <li>- Consulting assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Continue efforts to provide public access to the natural environment.  <b>Progress Measures:</b> Provide specific inventory data to measure future progress.</p>	<p><b>Strategy A:</b> Update parks, trails, conservation land inventories in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.  <b>Strategy B:</b> Document efforts of Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board and St. Michaels in Bloom – citizen organization.  <b>Strategy C:</b> Complete an additional 1.25 miles of the St. Michaels Nature Trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Program Open Space and community parks programs.</li> <li>- Citizen based efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Increase public access to water resources.  <b>Progress Measures:</b> Provide public facility improvements to key locations as opportunities become available.</p>	<p><b>Strategy A:</b> Consider public access in sea level/flood mitigation plans.  <b>Strategy B:</b> Develop public/private partnerships to improve waterfront access.  <b>Strategy C:</b> Seek out funding sources to finance improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and federal agencies.</li> <li>- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.</li> <li>- Private donations.</li> </ul>

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	N/A	<p>If YES, specify in quantifiable units and compare values from the last five years</p> <p>If NO, why not? What kept you from achieving your plan's desired outcomes?</p>
<p>1. Has there been an improvement in water quality? Have you completed any projects intended to improve water quality? Ex. impervious surface reduction, stormwater improvements etc.</p>	X			<p>Completed projects included storm sewer upgrades in Muskrat Park in order to repair infiltration to help reduce stormwater flow into the harbor area.</p> <p>Updated water well filter systems to protect water sources from natural occurring arsenic in the water.</p> <p>The Town's Climate Change &amp; Sea Level Rise Commission have begun plans to improve and mitigate stormwater in relation to flooding. Two planning projects have begun and a third project recently received federal funds from FEMA.</p>
<p>2. Have you improved wildlife habitat in your community? Ex. native plantings, pollinator gardens, rain gardens</p>	X			<p>The Parks &amp; Recreation Board and the civic organization called St. Michaels in Bloom actively plant flowers in key public spaces throughout the town.</p> <p>The Public Works department plants many trees each year (40 in 2022).</p> <p>A new tree mitigation ordinance was drafted and is in process for adoption.</p>
<p>3. Have you increased access to green space, parks or outdoor recreational opportunities?</p>	X			<p>Construction of Waterman's Docks at Back Creek Park was completed. This also included a new handicapped accessible kayak launch.</p> <p>A feasibility study has begun to extend the Nature Trail by 1.25 miles.</p>
<p>4. Have you implemented operational sustainability practices (example: town hall enhancements) and/or community-based practices? (ex. Rain barrels or rain gardens at</p>	X			<p>The Town started a new residential recycling pick up program during this reporting time frame.</p> <p>A new Town Hall and Police Station are being developed and plans include incorporating solar power and water conservation in the design.</p>

