

Plan Highlights

The recommendations contained in this Plan consist of policies, strategies and actions that are proposed in order to address issues related to land use and zoning, economic development, natural and historic resources, transportation, community facilities and services and public utilities in the Severn Small Area. While all are important, some specific goals and recommendations have been highlighted as being of the highest priority for the communities in Severn. These are summarized below by topic.

Economic Development, Land Use and Zoning

Implement Smart Growth Initiatives.

- Direct growth to areas where substantial infrastructure exists
- Concentrate on adaptive reuse of existing abandoned buildings

Integrate new developments into the character of the existing communities as much as possible.

- Developers should meet with the local community groups prior to the submittal of development plans to the County.

Implement the Severn Village Plan to create a livable, walkable, vibrant area around the intersection of MD 170 and MD 174, in the heart of Severn.

- Establish design guidelines to ensure that appropriate scale, pedestrian amenities, residential character and quality development is maintained and brought to the Severn Village.
- Implement land use and zoning changes to assure the viability of the Severn Village.

Natural and Historic Resources

Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands and forested areas through strict environmental enforcement, regulatory incentives and acquisition.

- Investigate the creation of a new Woodland Preservation Program geared to smaller parcels and with less restrictive qualifying requirements than the existing program.
- Increase public awareness of existing land preservation programs, such as the Severn River Land Trust and the Maryland Environmental Trust.

Preserve and protect contiguous open space and greenways.

- Support the County's development of a Greenways Master Plan for the County, identifying areas already being protected and targeting areas for future preservation.
- Additional areas should be considered in the Severn Small Area, such as areas adjacent to existing open space, parklands and floodplains.

Protect the quality of life in the Severn Small Area by reducing noise and pollution impacts on its residents.

- Encourage the State to continue to investigate sources of air pollution and enforce air quality regulations.
- Encourage the continued and improved dialogue between BWI planners and the residents of the surrounding areas to build upon the existing BWI Neighbors Committee by working closely on future plans for the airport's maintenance and growth.

Transportation

Provide a public transportation network to meet the needs of all Severn residents. Provide access to education, training, employment, health care, social services, shopping, parklands, cultural events, entertainment and dining.

- Establish a special interagency team to focus all possible financial and logistical resources toward meeting the urgent immediate need for better public transportation in the high-density residential neighborhoods near Pioneer Drive and Van Bokkelen Elementary School, where a substantial part of the residents lack vehicles.
- Conduct a needs assessment study with the participation of the County's Planning Staff, Department of Public Works and the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) to consider the public transportation needs of Severn and the rest of West County.

Establish and maintain a network of pathways and roadways that are accessible to pedestrians and bicycles, linking neighborhoods, parks, schools, workplaces, stream valleys, greenspaces, and activity centers; integrated with similar facilities in nearby areas, and with regional and national trail systems, to serve both transportation and recreational needs.

- Build and maintain a multipurpose trail along the old W B & A right-of-way and establish several other major pedestrian and bicycle corridors across the area.
- Create pathways connecting neighborhoods and activity centers wherever possible.

Improve the safety and efficiency of traffic flow on area roads.

- Place traffic lights as follows:
Queenstown Road at MD 174
MD 174 at Exit 13 from Interstate 97 (I-97)
Stone Castle Drive at Ridge Road
- Add a school zone speed limit sign with flashing yellow light at the intersection of MD 170 and Evergreen Road, in front of Ridgeway Elementary School and in front of Severn Elementary School on MD 174.
- Widen MD 170 from MD 32 to MD 100.

Public Needs/Community Facilities

Promote local access for all residents to health care, training, social services and recreation.

- Create interagency, multi-service centers in and/or adjacent to public school facilities. Specifically recommend Van Bokkelen or Severn Elementary Schools as the location to pilot the Community Service Center concept in Anne Arundel County.
- Plan and acquire an appropriate location for a Senior Center in the Severn area.

Increase the amount and quality of parklands and other publicly accessible open space, providing not only playgrounds and facilities for competitive athletics, but also areas for picnicking, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, and quiet reflection.

- Inventory and evaluate existing parks and expand to provide a more diverse park atmosphere.
- Expand Queenstown Park to connect with Friendship Park.
- Acquire land for a large park in the Severn Area, possibly including a public swimming pool.

Provide and promote the best possible educational opportunities for all residents.

- Develop interagency strategies to address the shortage and affordability of licensed childcare centers, pre-schools, Head Start programs, all day kindergarten, and before and after school latchkey programs in the Severn Area.
- Maintain all public school facilities in Severn to current Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) specifications for health, safety and delivery of the instructional program. Initially revitalize/modernize Harman, Quarterfield and Van Bokkelen Elementary Schools, MacArthur Middle School and Meade High School.