Vision Statement

By embracing its rich Chesapeake culture and heritage, invaluable ecosystems and emerging opportunities, Anne Arundel County embodies the best of both the past and future, providing its residents a place where all are proud to live, work, learn, and play.

Vision Themes

The following overarching themes support this Vision and focus on the critical issues identified in the community visioning meetings that when implemented through Plan2040, will enhance quality of life and ensure residents are proud to live, work, learn, and play in communities throughout the County.

New and Improved Infrastructure – Upgrading our infrastructure is compatible with meeting the County’s Vision for environmental stewardship. Residents will see enhanced multi-modal mobility through mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improved roadways; upgraded public water and sewer and stormwater runoff control; improved quality of parks and open space, greenways and tree cover, and tidal and non-tidal waters; and expanded shoreline upgrades to living shorelines and beach strand habitats.

Strategic Economic Growth and Redevelopment – Mixed-use, mixed-income, and transit-oriented developments incorporating a resilient, sustainable design that demonstrates efficient use of available resources and services throughout the County. There will be a balance of smart growth encouraged in and around areas with existing infrastructure and redevelopment directed to older commercial corridors.

Community Character – Both new and longtime residents will appreciate the well-preserved character of older communities, waterfront neighborhoods, and scenic and historic roadways – assets that set the County apart from neighboring suburban counties. Communities will feature sensible people-oriented development to complement the existing historic scale of corridors and neighborhoods, and will be enhanced with historic and artistic amenities in public and private spaces. The conservation of agricultural lands, parks, forests, open space, and abundant fish and wildlife resources, along with thoughtfully designed neighborhoods, will contribute to the health and well-being of our communities.

Inclusive, Equitable, and Responsive Government – A more inclusive and responsive County government will employ new methods of citizen engagement. With continuous advancements in technology, there will be more opportunities than ever for County government to reach all populations with accurate and up-to-date information. Engaging and empowering all segments of the County’s diverse population will ensure best management practices are used when delivering resources and
services, creating and enforcing zoning and development regulations, and implementing the values of sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community building throughout the County.

**Resilient, Environmentally-Sound, and Sustainable Communities** – Land use decisions affecting future growth and development will recognize the value of, and strive to balance good neighborhood planning, while retaining open space, preserving and restoring forest cover, investing in the health of our rivers and waterways, and increasing the ability of communities to withstand climate change impacts. Agricultural areas will remain important to the character of the County, and efforts to curb stormwater runoff, create living shorelines, and restore oyster populations will contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment. The County will achieve net zero energy use through conservation and renewable energy production.