



# 2021

## Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

Presented by the Maryland Department of Planning

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert McCord, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning

301 West Preston Street Baltimore, MD 21201  
[Planning.Maryland.gov](http://Planning.Maryland.gov)



# The 2021 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

The annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented by the Maryland Department of Planning and are the highest level of recognition for well-planned economic and community development and sustainability in the state.

The awards honor and celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments in their efforts to realize the **12 Visions** adopted by the Maryland General Assembly:



- 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 resource-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.
- 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.

The Maryland Department of Planning is seeking nominations from all parts of the state for the people, projects, organizations, and communities that have advanced innovative policies in furtherance of the 12 Visions.



# Award Types

## Leadership and Service

Awards presented for leadership and service recognize individuals, organizations, agencies, and institutions, as well as students for laudable activities or accomplishments in Maryland that advance the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in promoting well planned economic and community development and sustainable communities at the local, regional, or state level. The activity or service can be related to a specific project or advocacy effort, or recognize leadership or involvement with one or more activities or organizations. Examples of nominees include **elected officials, local government staff, student groups, nonprofit organizations, and members of the local business community.** The activity or service must be ongoing or have been completed within the last two years. Nominations will be evaluated on the extent to which an individual and/or organization's contributions have significantly advanced the public's appreciation, understanding, and/or involvement in well planned economic and community development and sustainable growth, or preservation and resource protection in Maryland.



## Sustainable Communities

Awards presented for sustainable communities recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for projects and activities of all sizes, scopes, and on all types of properties. The project/activity submitted embodies, results in, or encourages development that addresses at least one of the 12 Visions.

Successful nominations will likely address at least several of the 12 Visions. All nominated projects must have been completed within the last two years. The Maryland Department of Planning

will evaluate nominations in two broad groups – public projects and programs, and private developments.

Nominations will be evaluated to the extent which a project is:

- Effective – What are the goals of the project and is there tangible evidence of success?
- Collaborative – What public outreach and community involvement has occurred and how did it influence the project?
- Innovative – Does the project or activity take a new approach or present new ideas for others to apply elsewhere?
- Responsive to environmental and community Impact – Does the project or activity improve the environment or the quality of life in the community?



## Preservation / Conservation Projects

Preservation/Conservation Project awards are presented to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and other entities for their accomplishments in protecting or improving farms, forests, natural resources, and the waters of Maryland. This award recognizes outstanding efforts to:

- Save Maryland's farm and forest land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and supporting a sustainable future for farms;
  - Promote habitat management and wildlife conservation; and
  - Protect the environment and advancing conservation practices.
- All nominated projects must have been completed within the last two years.

Nominations will be evaluated on the extent to which the project:

- Directly or indirectly benefits agricultural preservation, wildlife, natural resource conservation, or environmental protection;
- Collaboratively involves public and private organizations; and
- Serves as an example/inspiration to others.



# How to Submit a Nomination

## Eligibility

- Individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations or institutions, and federal, state and local agencies are all eligible to receive Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards.
- Current Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) staff and projects solely sponsored by Planning are not eligible.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- April 30, 2021 – Nomination materials available
- July 23, 2021 – Nominations due to Planning
- September 2021 – Nominees notified
- Fall 2021 – Award Ceremony

## Review and Selection Process

The Annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented by the Maryland Department of Planning. All nomination materials are reviewed for completeness by Planning staff prior to presentation to a review committee. The committee then recommends the award recipients to the Secretary of Planning for consideration and final approval.

