

## BALTIMORE CITY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AREA

### **Program Overview**

The State's Sustainable Community (SC) program is a geographic designation to more efficiently allocate and concentrate resources to support coordinated revitalization efforts. The program is managed by the State Housing Department's Division of Neighborhood Revitalization. Designation as a Sustainable Community is required to be eligible for such grant programs as Community Legacy, Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Funds and for Sustainable Communities Tax Credit.

Sustainable Community designations are submitted by and awarded to jurisdictions. Organizations whose projects are located in a Sustainable Community area are then eligible to apply for grants, tax credits or other resources. In order to be designated as a Sustainable Community, jurisdictions submit a Sustainable Community plan that consists of a specific geography and a broad set of revitalization goals that support housing, transportation, economic development and neighborhood revitalization and strategies to achieve these goals.

### **City Sustainable Community Plan**

Baltimore City's Sustainable Communities Area and Plan was approved in 2012 and consisted of seven strategies and approximately 20,000 acres. The Plan was developed through a broad-based collaborative effort that included city and state agencies, foundations, community development corporations and neighborhood organizations. Six strategies were identified as the most effective means of achieving revitalization goals:

Strategy #1: Support Main Streets and commercial areas by targeting investments in Middle Market Neighborhoods.

Revitalization Goal: Enhance economic competitiveness by improving the City's ability to attract new and expanded businesses, by providing quality services and products that are regionally competitive.

Strategy #2: Healthy Neighborhoods.

Revitalization Goal: Value communities and neighborhoods by building upon existing strengths, assets and amenities.

Strategy #3: Target investment along major transit routes

Revitalization Goal: Support transportation efficiency to improve air quality; promote access to employment opportunities; and, increase connections to transit.

Strategy #4: Target Investment in Arts and Entertainment Districts.

Revitalization Goal: Support and build upon existing cultural assets and strengths; enhance economic competitiveness

Strategy #5: Invest in anchor institutions and major redevelopment areas

Revitalization Goal: Support existing economic and business development around anchor institutions; promote access to quality affordable housing developments, increase housing

choices through redevelopment of quality mixed-income housing; and, utilize targeted code enforcement to encourage existing owners to maintain and occupy properties.

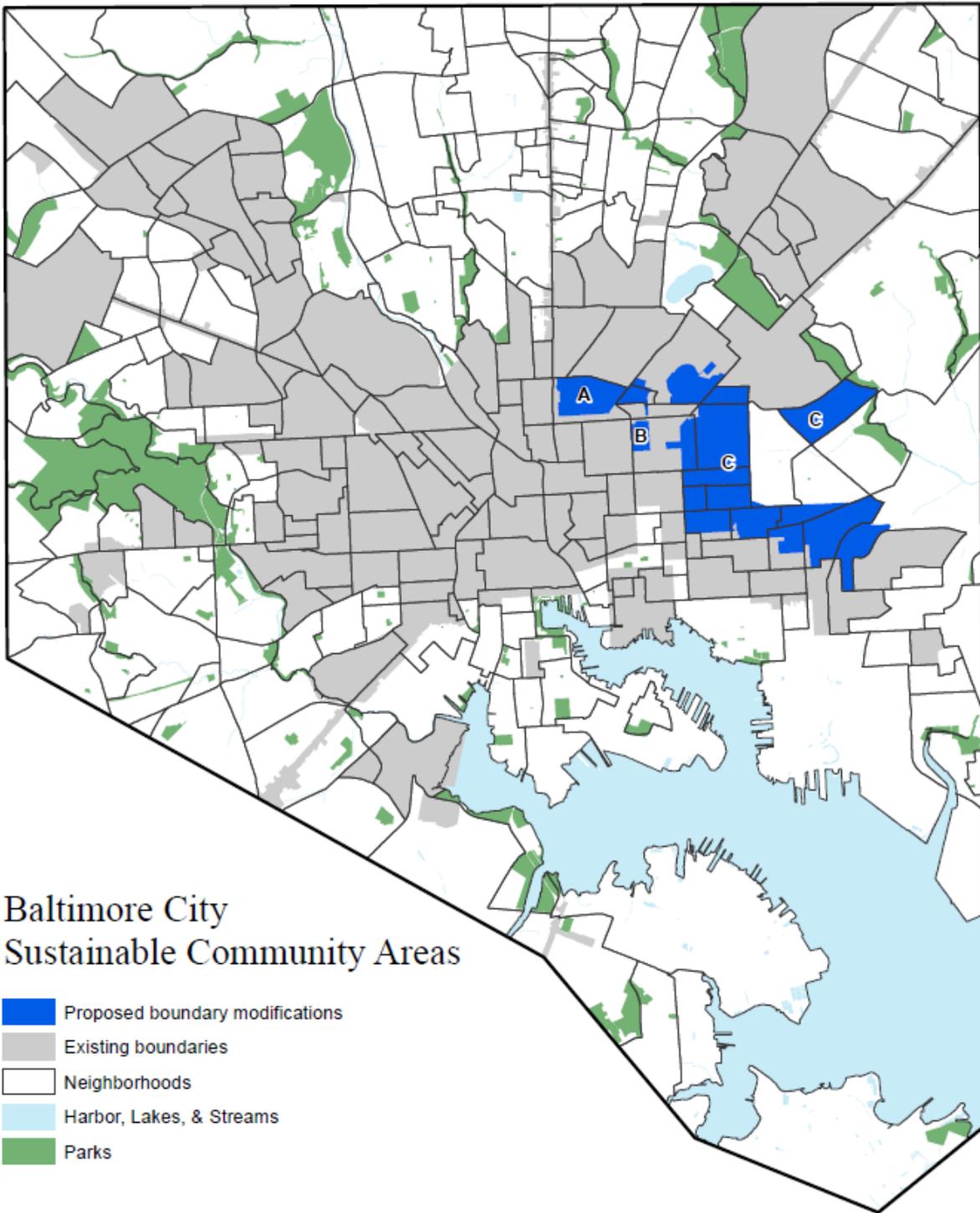
Strategy #6: Targeting greening strategies in distressed areas near strong housing markets  
Revitalization Goal: Enhance communities and remove blighted and unsafe structures to promote market-based efforts; target demolition in areas as future hold strategies or to provide spaces for urban agriculture.

Sustainable Communities and Plans have a five-year term, after which the City will be required to submit an application to be re-designated. The approved Sustainable Community Plan can be found at [this link](#).

### **Modifications**

SC Areas and Plans may be modified annually and can propose adding or removing geographies and strategies. Modifications can be requested by community development corporations who are interested in seeking grant funds, by the State or by other City agencies. Modification Requests are submitted to the State and reviewed and approved by the Smartgrowth Subcabinet.

Since its Sustainable Communities Plan was approved, the State has approved four Modification Requests and the addition of 5 strategies. The City's first two Modification Requests were approved in 2013. These requests added 9 areas and 7th strategy: Support the City's Health Enterprise Zone. The areas approved in the first two Modification Requests can be found at: INSERT LINK. The City's 3<sup>rd</sup> Modification Request added 3 new areas and was approved in 2014. The approved 3<sup>rd</sup> Modification and can be found at [this link](#).



## Baltimore City Sustainable Community Areas

-  Proposed boundary modifications
-  Existing boundaries
-  Neighborhoods
-  Harbor, Lakes, & Streams
-  Parks



The 4<sup>th</sup> and most recent Modification Request was approved in Fall 2015 and included 19 new areas and 4 new strategies.

1. Abell, Okenshawe, Wyman Park (Homewood Community Partnership Initiative). Supports Strategy #2 Support Healthy Neighborhoods and Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Areas.
2. Bayview. Supports Strategy #2: Support Healthy Neighborhoods.
3. Brooklyn/Curtis Bay. Supports proposed Strategy #10 Create Regional Connections and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
4. Greater O'Donnell Heights. Supports proposed Strategy #10 Create Regional Connections.
5. Greater Rosemont and Mondawmin Area Master Plan. Supports Strategy #3 Target Investment Along Major Transit Routes, Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Areas, proposed Strategy #8 Reduce Food Deserts and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
6. Irvington. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities
7. Little Italy/Jonestown. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
8. Medfield/Hoes Heights/Woodberry/36<sup>th</sup> Street Commercial District/Falls Road Corridor. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas and proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competiveness.
9. Morgan Mile. Supports Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Areas, proposed Strategy #8, Reduce Food Deserts, proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competiveness and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
10. Penn North: North Fulton Avenue, Clifton Avenue, Retreat Street, Old Lane, Bruce Street. Supports Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Activities, Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Areas, proposed Strategy #8 Reduce Food Deserts and proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competiveness.
11. Perkins Choice Neighborhoods Planning Area. Supports Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Areas and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
12. Pimlico One-Mile Radius Area. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas, Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Areas, proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competiveness and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
13. Promise Zone Initiative. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Corridors, Strategy #4 Target Investment in Arts & Entertainment Districts, Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Areas, Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Areas, proposed Strategy #8 Reduce Food Deserts, proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competiveness and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.

14. Proposed Ferry Stops. Supports Strategy #3 Target Investment Along Major Transit Routes.
15. Rental Assistance Demonstration Program Sites. Supports Strategy #5 Invest in Anchor Institutions and Major Redevelopment Areas and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
16. Saint Helena supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas and proposed Strategy #10 Create Regional Connections.
17. South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan Area. Supports Strategy #1 Support Main Streets and Commercial Areas, Strategy #3 Target Investment Along Transit Routes, Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Areas, proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competitiveness and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing.
18. Southwest Partnership Planning Area. Supports Strategy #6 Target Greening Strategies in Distressed Neighborhoods, proposed Strategy #8 Reduce Food Deserts, proposed Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competitiveness and proposed Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Opportunities.
19. Transit Oriented Development (Subway/light rail). Supports Strategy #3 Target Investment Along Major Transit Routes.

Strategy #8 Reduce Food Deserts. Revitalization Goals: Promote community health and economic opportunities by reducing food deserts.

Strategy #9 Leverage City-Owned Assets to Promote Revitalization and Economic Competitiveness. Revitalization Goals: Use the City's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools initiative to support neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Strategy #10 Create Regional Connections. Revitalization Goals: Create or build on existing planning and revitalization efforts in city neighborhoods with adjacent communities in surrounding counties.

Strategy #11 Support Diverse Housing Choices. Revitalization Goals: Support efforts underway that help residents maintain their homes, increase housing values, leverage other resources and address vacant properties to create sustainable communities in neighborhoods classified as Middle Market (MM) and Middle Market Stressed (MMS) by the 2014 Housing Market Typology and properties selected for participation in HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program.

The most recent Modification Request can be found at [this link](#).

If you are interested in having your project or neighborhood included in a future Modification Request, please submit your request in writing to Stacy Freed at [Stacy.Freed@habc.org](mailto:Stacy.Freed@habc.org). Please include the location(s) you are interested in including, current or proposed projects and the existing neighborhood revitalization or master plan that will be supported.