

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: September 26, 2019

Status Report

1. Stakeholders Meeting Summary – South Lake

Attached is a memo summarizing the South Lake Stakeholders Meeting held on Thursday, September 19th.

2. City Elections

Resident Emerson DeWitt Ruth filed his candidacy paperwork on September 16 for the Mayor seat.

3. 2019 State of the Environment Report

Attached is a copy of the annual State of the Environment Report prepared by the Department of Planning and Community Development. The report tracks the major highlights of the Bowie Green Team, Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan. It also lists many other environmental and sustainability accomplishments achieved by the City in the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Please let us know if you have any questions.

4. Governor's Bridge Replacement Decision

On Wednesday, September 25th, staff from the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW & T) conducted a public meeting at City Hall to discuss their recommendation for the Governor's Bridge replacement project. Last fall, DPW & T presented six alternatives that were studied, including a No Build alternative. At the meeting this week, County staff presented their decision, which is to support the No Build alternative. The expectation is that Governor Bridge Road will be closed permanently in the future, and the existing bridge will be retained and improved over time for bicycle and pedestrian access only. DPW & T later explained to City staff that all of the road improvement options are simply too costly and not justified because of the very low traffic volumes, compared to other structurally deficient bridges in Prince George's County. DPW & T has therefore concluded their study and is only waiting for final input from Anne Arundel County before closing out the project. This County

decision is contrary to City Council's position, which has always been in favor of replacing the bridge in order to guarantee a second vehicular access route to the Longleaf community.

5. Amber Ridge Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for the Preliminary Subdivision Plan and Detailed Site Plan (residential portion only) has been set and will be as follows:

Stakeholders Meeting: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Bowie Advisory Planning Board: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council: Monday, December 2, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

The proposed Amber Ridge development includes 200 townhouses and up to 20,000 sq. ft. of commercial/retail development on a 19.03 acre site located on the western side of U.S. Route 301 southbound, approximately 0.25 mile south of the Mitchellville Road intersection

ADL:lfr

Attachments



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM
City Manager

Subject: Stakeholders Meeting
South Lake Mixed-Use Development
U.S. Route 301 South

Date: September 23, 2019

On September 19, 2019, a Stakeholders Meeting regarding the above referenced project was held. Eighteen stakeholders attended the meeting, as well as several members of the developer's team, and City Councilman Michael Esteve.

The applicant, South Lake Partners, LLC, is proposing to construct a mixed-used community comprised of: 1,475 total dwelling units (including 115 senior dwelling units); a 5,272+/- sq. ft. clubhouse; 555,000 sq. ft. to 620,000 sq. ft. of office/retail space; and, three hotels with a total of 375 to 400 rooms/keys on 382 acres. While the entire development was discussed at the meeting, focus was also directed at Detailed Site Plan #DSP-19023, which proposes to construct a portion of the project that will include: 1,035 residential dwelling units (344 single-family detached units, 563 townhouse units and 128 condominium units), and a 5,272+/- sq. ft. clubhouse, in-ground swimming pool, several recreational amenities and a trail network on 282.97 acres. The site is located in the southwestern quadrant of the U.S. Route 301/MD Route 214 (Central Avenue) interchange, and is zoned E-I-A (Employment and Institutional Area), where the proposed uses are permitted by right under the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance.

After brief opening comments by City staff, Mr. Kevin Kennedy, with the Development Division of NAI Michael, introduced the development team and provided a brief history and overview of South Lake (formerly known as Karington). Mr. Kennedy noted that, from the beginning, the development of a mixed-use project has been the underlying premise. In the latest plan proposed, most of the open space and lower density residential development are in the western portion of the property, while the commercial/retail/hotel uses are in the eastern and southeastern areas of the site. In previous iterations of the plan, more office and apartment uses were proposed, but their allocations in the project have been reduced. Mr. Kennedy stated that the project is now in the detailed site plan stage of the development process, when details such as building architecture, landscaping, signage, recreational features, etc., are provided. The project already has existing approvals in place, including zoning, conceptual site plan, and preliminary subdivision (including adequate public facilities approval with respect to traffic and schools). Site grading is currently underway. In concluding, Mr. Kennedy noted that a private/public partnership has been established with Prince George's County regarding the new Liberty Sports Park, located to the immediate south of the South Lake development, to provide a roadway connection between the two projects. Mr. Kennedy stated that the South Lake internal road network was modified to accommodate the new connection.

**Stakeholders Meeting
South Lake Mixed-Use Development
U.S. Route 301 South**

The next speaker from the developer's team was Mr. Nat Ballard, Senior Associate with Rogers Consulting, who referred to a PowerPoint presentation to review the several current and upcoming detailed site plans for the various phases of the development. He noted that the construction of the residential single-family and townhouse dwellings will occur in several phases, beginning in the northern portion of the site, and working south. Eleven recreational facilities are planned now, with an investment of more than \$2 million, including a clubhouse, with several rooms for a variety of activities, an in-ground swimming pool, private trails, and a 10-foot wide trail along several interior roadways. The current plan has approximately two more acres of open space than previous plans. Mr. Ballard concluded his presentation by displaying color renderings of the clubhouse elevations and elevations of the single-family and townhouse units.

Questions raised by stakeholders included:

- Are there any plans to include single level and senior units? (**Response:** Some ranch homes may be offered. However, final selection of project builders has not been made at this point. An apartment building for seniors, to be located in the commercial area, is part of the project.)
- What will be the starting prices of the residential units? (**Response:** That is not known at this time, but that information will soon follow. The selling prices are expected to be comparable to, or even exceed, market prices for the Bowie area.)
- Will Prince George's County businesses have the opportunity to be hired to work on the project? (**Response:** The developer has minority hiring goals, and has been working with the County's Office of Business Development in this regard.)
- Will US Route 301 be widened? (**Response:** A traffic impact study has been submitted, reviewed and approved in the past. Traffic improvements approved for the project include signalization, road widening, bike lane construction, construction of acceleration and deceleration lanes, construction of three access points along US Route 301, and a vehicular connection to the Liberty Sports Park.)
- What elements of the project are funded by the TIF? (**Response:** Only public infrastructure, such as roads and stormwater facilities, are permitted to be funded by the TIF. All private development is developer funded.)
- How much retail space will be provided? (**Response:** Between 300,000 sq. ft. and 500,000 sq. ft. of retail space will be provided. The developer is targeting a good, quality grocery store as an anchor retail use. The remaining retail will revolve around that, and will include mid-box retailers, smaller shops, convenience retail uses, and high quality retailers and restaurants. The developer is open to suggestions for names and types of retailers for the project.)
- What is the southern-most boundary of the City? (**Response:** Since the project was annexed into the City earlier this year, the southern boundary of the South Lake development is now the southern-most boundary of the City.)

**Stakeholders Meeting
South Lake Mixed-Use Development
U.S. Route 301 South**

- What is the estimated completion date of the project? (**Response:** It will take approximately ten years to build out the project.)
- What is the start date? (**Response:** Actually, the project began in January 2019 with several months of clearing and grading the site. That work is still continuing. Construction of the first houses could begin in early 2021, depending on weather and market conditions.)
- What utilities will serve the project? (**Response:** The project will be served by BGE and Washington Gas.)
- Will any new schools be constructed as part of this development? (**Response:** There are no plans for new schools to be built. When the project was reviewed for adequate public facilities, there was, and continues to be, excessive public school capacity.)
- Are the lakes natural or man-made? (**Response:** The lakes are man-made, and will not become a mosquito attraction. Aeration of the lakes will be reviewed to determine if it becomes needed.)
- How will future South Lake residents deal with animals displaced by development of the site? (**Response:** The developer is confident that there will be no major threats or impacts from wildlife in the area.)
- Are there any wetlands on the site? (**Response:** On-site wetlands were mitigated approximately 12 years ago on another property in the area.)
- Approximately how many school-aged children will be generated by the apartment units? (**Response:** Earlier in the development process, during the review of adequate public facilities, public school capacity was assessed, and it was determined that there was room in the system for students generated from this development. The forecast of students from the South Lake project was taken into account in school programming.)
- Will there be any impacts from Liberty Sports Park on the South Lake development? (**Response:** The County will review the design of the proposed field lighting to minimize off-site impacts. A wooded buffer between South Lake properties and the park will provide sound attenuation. Traffic from the sports park has been factored in that generated by the Collington Trade Zone, and the park will generate much less traffic than the industrial/warehouse uses in the Trade Zone. The sports park, a non-profit facility, is being built on property owned by Prince George's County. County agencies will operate and manage the park. At this time, the main athletic focus of the park is soccer, but that could change over time. The park is anticipated to be in use between nine and ten months of the year.)
- Will Bowie residents be allotted special priority in using the park? (**Response:** The priority is for use by Prince George's County residents.)

**Stakeholders Meeting
South Lake Mixed-Use Development
U.S. Route 301 South**

- Will alternative transportation modes be included in South Lake? (**Response:** County bus service to the Largo Metro station is being planned. There are no ride-share opportunities planned at this time.)

At the conclusion of the applicant's presentation, and the question-and-answer session, staff reminded attendees to sign the attendance sheet provided at the meeting, and of the times, dates and location of the two City public hearings (Bowie Advisory Planning Board, Tuesday, November, 12th at 7:00 PM; Bowie City Council, Monday, December 2nd at 8:00 PM).

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CITY OF BOWIE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019

September 2019

Department of Planning
and Community Development

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Introduction

The *2019 City of Bowie State of the Environment Report* is a summary of the City's environmental actions and sustainability initiatives undertaken during Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). The report provides performance measurements for environmental programs and activities. It specifically highlights the Green Team 3-Year Action Plan, as well as many other noteworthy City actions undertaken in the past year.

This report has four appendices: Appendix A updates the 3-year Green Team Action plan. Appendix B provides an update on miscellaneous programs of various City departments. Appendix C summarizes the current state of the City's Climate Action Plan, and Appendix D is the annual update on the City's Sustainability Plan.

Accomplishments

This section is organized by categories of the Green Team's 3-Year Action Plan. It includes accomplishments made by the Green Team as well as City staff, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and other residents and volunteers.

A. Natural Resources

- The Kenhill Center bioretention was completed in Spring 2019, and a demonstration sign was provided along the sidewalk adjacent to Kenhill Drive to educate pedestrians on it and stormwater pollution. Partial design funding was provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and its partners, the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- A container gardening workshop was held at the Bowie Senior Center on June 6, 2019. Each of the approximately 30 attendees created an herb garden.
- Compost bin sales continue with a total of nearly 650 sold since the beginning of the program in 2014.
- The Bowie-Crofton Garden Club held its annual plant sale on April 27, 2019. In addition to the regular plant offerings, a Green Team member presented a workshop on pollinators at the Bowie Library.
- The City's Weed Warrior Program continued at Whitmarsh Park with 89 volunteers over four workdays (two were cancelled due to inclement weather). Since its inception, participants have removed English Ivy from more than 400 trees at the park.
- The City was designated a "Tree City USA" community for the 27th consecutive year.
- Staff held a tree-planting workshop in conjunction with the Patuxent Nursery on September 8, 2018. Eight attendees learned about native trees, planting techniques and financial incentives available from the State, City and County.
- The City held its annual Arbor Day celebration at Acorn Hill Park on April 27, 2019.

- The City planted 315 trees, including 300 along streets and 15 in parks.
- The Urban Greening Cost Share Program provided rebates to 11 residents who planted a total of 17 native trees in their yards.
- The Plant One Tree On Us pilot program in the Collington Station and Meadowbrook neighborhoods resulted in the planting of 32 native trees on private property.
- On Saturday, April 6, 2019, 110 volunteers cleaned seven different sites across Bowie including streams and open spaces collecting 1,775 pounds of trash and recycling, including four tires.
- The two sets of Big Belly solar-powered trash and recycling compactors, located at either end of Sussex Lane, collected a total of 930 gallons of trash and 1,290 gallons of recycling (roughly equal to 990 and 1,380 pounds). This resulted in 58% of waste collected by the four compactors being diverted from the landfill.
- A compost bin and rain barrel sale was held in conjunction with the Bowie Lions Club in August 2018. The City sold all 12 compost bins, and the Lions sold all 15 rain barrels brought to the event.

B. Bowie Gardens for Wildlife

- The Bowie Gardens for Wildlife group held its annual tour of NWF-Certified Habitats in June 2019 with six sites and about 20 visitors.
- Six additional habitats were added to the City's roster of certified habitats. The total number is now 256.
- In July 2018, the City was recertified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat.

C. Local Economies and D. Food, Health & Wellness

- The Green Bowie business program now has a total of 10 certified businesses.
- The City hosted two pit stops for the regional Bike to Work Day on May 17, 2019, with 40 participants visiting one of the stops.
- The inaugural Bowie Veterans Day 5k was held on November 10, 2018, with more than 300 attendees. A video of the event was developed by the City Communications team and posted online (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYhP7GAy5vo>).

E. Energy and Climate

- The City issued 239 lawn mower rebates, including 72 electric, 5 push, 8 battery, and 154 standard mulching mowers.

- Solar panels were installed at an additional 146 homes, bringing the total to 1,514 homes since FY 2011
- The City hosted a community solar information session for residents in October 2018.
- The City began a lightbulb exchange program after receiving a donation of 500 LED bulbs from Philips. In October 2018, the first exchange was held at Giant in the Free State Shopping Center. Residents exchanged 180 mercury-containing CFL bulbs for LED bulbs.
- The Energy Audit Program continued with 72 participants receiving a \$100 no-cost comprehensive energy audit through BGE's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program. After completing the audit, homeowners are eligible for up to \$7,500 in rebates from BGE for making energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. Three homeowners got rebates for home improvements.

F. Green Schools

- The Green Team held a Green Schools forum in January at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and one in May 2019 at Samuel Ogle Middle School.
- City staff worked with students at Yorktown Elementary School to produce a video about recycling (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnPGGMWUSyo>).

G. Outreach

- Subscriptions to the Green Bowie e-newsletter have increased to 982.
- Staff continued posting about Green Bowie activities, events, and achievements to the City's Facebook page and the Green Bowie account on Twitter.
- The Green Team presented the third annual Bowie Green Citizen Award to Cecelia Reddy for her work with certified habitats, Monarch Waystations, and container gardening.
- The annual Earth Day Concert and Art Exhibit was held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts in April 2019 with more than 150 attendees.
- A flyer on energy efficiency and Green Bowie programs was created and will be included in the City's welcome packet for new residents.
- The Environmental Advisory Committee hosted a screening of the movie Paris to Pittsburgh, a documentary on climate change, in April 2019.
- Staff provided stormwater and watershed education to Whitehall Elementary, St. Pius X Regional, and Yorktown Elementary Schools. A separate event was presented to Girl Scout Troop 22010 at Grace Lutheran Church.
- Staff from the City, Prince George's County and the University of Maryland Master Gardeners program held a Bay-Wise landscape workshop in May 2019, to promote native landscaping on private yards.

- Planning Department staff attended the Highbridge HOA meeting in April 2019 to recruit volunteers for the stream cleanup. Several residents participated in the cleanup for the first time.
- City staff and staff from the Materials Recycling Facility to produce a well-received, informative video about the new recycling emphasis from the County - “Clean, Empty, Dry.” The video has had more than 8,000 views on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/bowiemd/videos/2439336203011992/>).

H. Multimodal Connections and Public Spaces

- The newest Green Team subgroup began drafting a Complete Streets policy for the City that will try to balance the needs of all users on city roads rather than prioritizing cars.
- Several members met with the consultant and staff to provide input on the Trails Master Plan.
- Members provided input on the update to the City’s Development Review Guidelines as well as the County’s redesign of Race Track Road.

I. Other Items

- Public Works held several special recycling collection events in FY19 resulting in:
 - 20 tons of paper for shredding
 - 40 pounds of expanded polystyrene
 - 14.8 tons of electronics
- Public Works held an electronics-recycling event in April 2019 and collected over than 14 tons of computers, stereos, 8-track and Blu-ray players, rotary phones, etc.
- Storm drain marking continued with volunteers and Scout troops. As of FY19, more than 1,500 storm drain inlets across the city have “No Dumping, Drains to Waterway” medallions.
- The Police Department participated held two drug take-back events (October 2018 and March 2019), collecting 758 pounds of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications.
- The Staff Sustainability Team (formerly the Municipal Green Team) continued meeting to discuss internal sustainability goals such as green purchasing and the potential for new solar projects.
- The City continues to participate in PJM’s Demand Response Program, which requires switching to generator power at three City facilities on days identified by the electric utility as high demand power days. The City received \$24,518 in rebates for FY19.
- Council passed resolutions recognizing several 2019 environmental initiatives, including Earth Month (April), Earth Day (April 22), National Bike Month (May), Bike to Work Day (May 17), Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 1-9), Pollinator Week (June 17-23), and Energy Efficiency Month (October).

Appendix A: Green Team Actions

Every three years, the City submits a 3-year Green Team Action Plan to the Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) program at the University of Maryland. The items from Year 3 of the current action plan are summarized below and are organized by subgroups. Some items do not have an update because the Green Team is currently working on restructuring some of its subgroups.

In July 2019, the City submitted a brand new 3-year plan, which is currently under review at SMC.

Action	Date Completed	Results
<i>A. Natural Resources</i>		
Continue Weed Warrior Program	Fall 2018 & Spring 2019	4 workdays; 89 participants. The program was expanded to include Belair Meadows Park.
Host Container Gardening Workshop	Spring 2019	The (now) annual container garden workshop was held at the Senior Center with more than 30 attendees.
Maintain Monarch Waystations & Install One	Fall 2018 & Spring 2019	The Natural Resources subgroup mulched and pruned all three City monarch waystations with mulch donated by the Bowie Home Depot store.
<i>B. Bowie Gardens for Wildlife</i>		
Promote NWF Wildlife Habitat Certification	Spring 2019	Held annual backyard habitat tour at 6 different sites across the City.
<i>C. Local Economies</i>		
No update to report.		
<i>D. Food, Health & Wellness</i>		
Host Biking Activity	April 2019	Two City-sponsored pit stops for regional Bike to Work Day had 40 participants.
Continue Walk Wednesdays Events	Fall 2018	There were 4 Walk Wednesday events but due to low participation, they have been restructured into Wellness Walks, which launched May 2019.
Promote Spring Plant Sale	Spring 2019	Assisted Bowie-Crofton Garden Club with publicizing and hosting the annual Spring plant sale.
<i>E. Energy and Climate</i>		
Provide HOAs with Home Energy Efficiency Info	Fall 2018	The energy subgroup held an informational session with Neighborhood Sun about Community Solar opportunities. There were about 10 attendees.
<i>F. Green Schools</i>		
Maintain & Update School Resource List	Fall 2018	Resource list was updated and distributed to schools.
Continue to Host Green Schools Forum	Fall 2018 & Spring 2019	The Green Schools Forum was held in November and in January, to provide a venue for “green” staff at both certified schools and those aspiring for certification to discuss the process and brainstorm ideas.
<i>G. Outreach</i>		
Promote Green Bowie E-Newsletter	Ongoing	The newsletter was sent out to over 980 subscribers every other month and was promoted with a sign-up sheet at all Green Team events.
Host annual Earth Day Concert	Spring 2019	The outreach group hosted its 5 th annual Earth Day Concert at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. The event was well attended and was hosted in conjunction with Bowie High School staff, local artists, and a local magician.

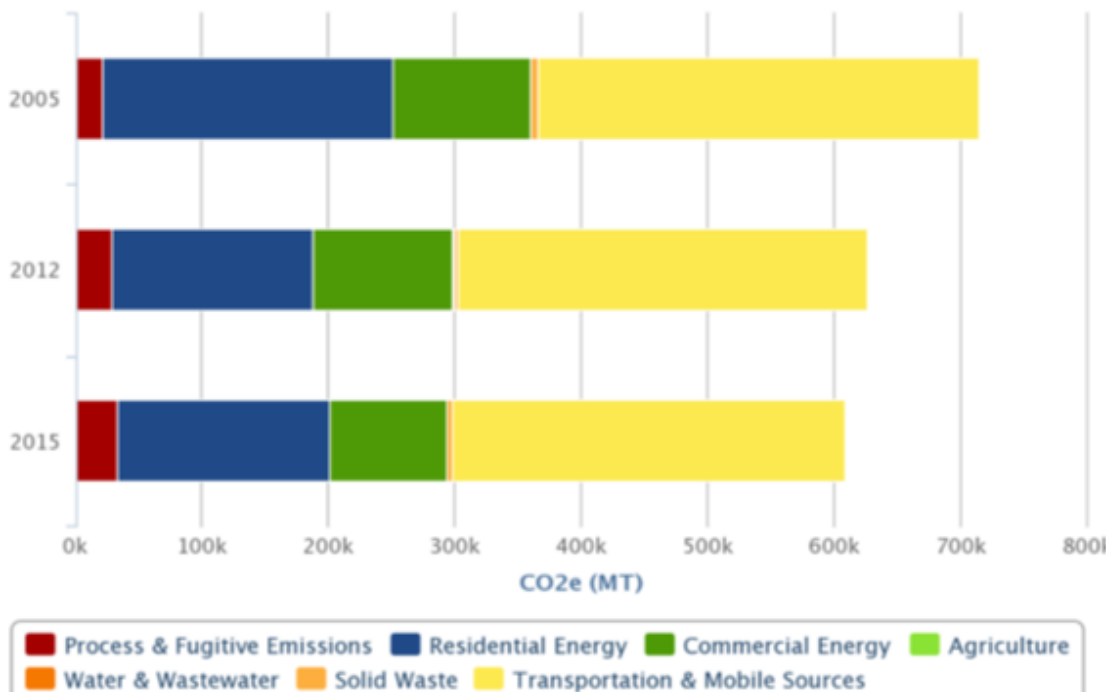
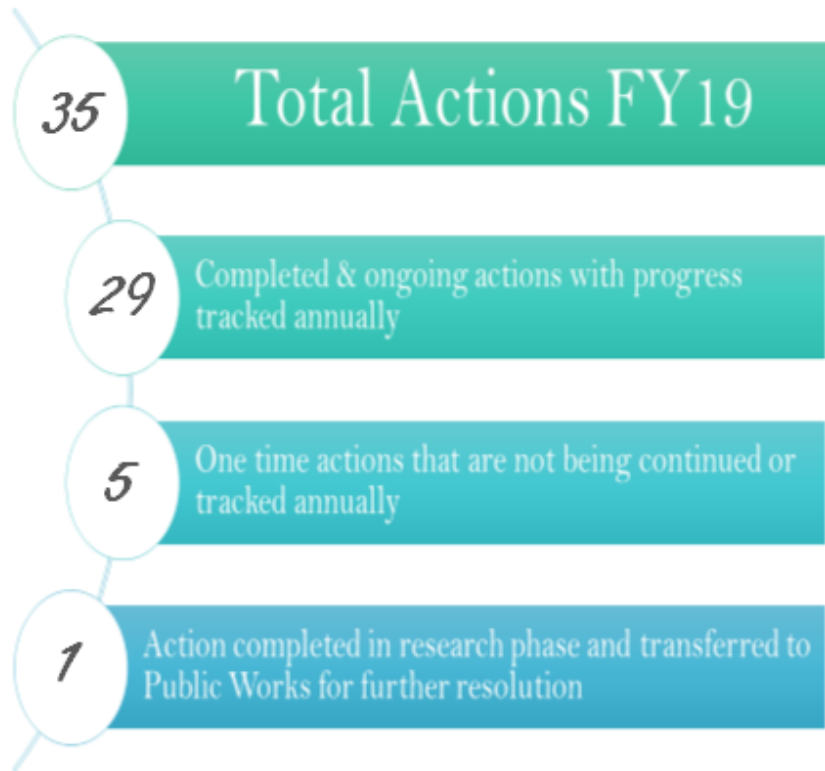
Appendix B: Additional Performance Indicators

Indicator	FY15*	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Number of...					
Buildings certified LEED®	7	0	4	2	0
Certified NWF habitats	214	14	12	8	8
Energy audit rebates issued by City	149	98	100	64	71
Food waste program participants (started FY17)	-	-	82	62	67
Lawn mower rebates issued	58	48	73	116	239
Public schools that received MAEOE Green Schools certification (includes TOHS and HBES)	5	5	2	3	0
Park trees planted	71	20	15	5	15
Rain barrels registered**	267	17	31	9	27
Residential homes that installed solar panels	517	494	357	146	81
Storm drains with “No Dumping” markers	711	247	354	140	26
Stream cleanup participants	72	63	44	69	100
Street trees planted	275	510	225	295	300
Trees planted under City rebate program	77	9	23	7	17
Weed Warrior Volunteers	83	113	114	116	89
Trash/Recycling collected during cleanups (in lbs)	1,345	750	1,130	960	1,775
Solid Waste Division Data					
Total number of tons collected	29,300	32,076	36,000	29,525	30,898
Number of tons land filled	19,167	19,802	20,300	20,589	21,503
Number of tons recycled	10,000	7,497	11,000	8,936	9,395
Percent of solid waste stream recycled	33	23	31	30	30
*FY15 numbers are cumulative numbers from program inception to June 30, 2015 (except data from Solid Waste Division).					
**Starting in 2015, the number of rain barrels will be recorded through self-reporting by residents.					

Appendix C: Climate Action Plan Progress

The City of Bowie has been working on the Climate Action Plan since 2015. This year, we finished our actionable items and will continue to track certain performance indicators to maintain our standard of climate related actions (see breakdown to the right). The Climate Action Plan, now otherwise completed and closed out, will be updated in FY21.

The Metropolitan-Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) informed us that as of 2015 the City of Bowie has reduced Greenhouse Gas emissions by 18% from the 2005 baseline, despite having a population increase. Transportation remains the toughest category, with about 50% of our measurable emissions coming from that sector.



COG is working in 3-year cycles and will not have the final 2018 update to the graphic (left) until 2020. However, they were able to provide the City with our annual electricity usage. There was a 3% decrease in residential electricity usage from 2015 to 2018.

The following table provides an update on each specific action from the Climate Action Plan, sorted by Sector.

Goal	Action	Status	Ongoing?
Sector: Energy			
A. Promote & expand new & existing residential energy efficiency programs	Enhance outreach efforts & increase existing participation in low-income energy audits/weatherization programs	Completed	Y
	Provide financial incentives for City residents that complete energy audits	Completed	Y
	Promote residential energy audits at Green Team events & on the City's website	Completed	Y
	Develop and distribute common recommendations for energy efficiency improvements for Levitt homes.	Implemented	Y
	Work with HOAs and condo associations to educate residents about energy efficiency	Implemented	Y
	Promote energy efficiency programs available for rental & multi-family buildings	Implemented	Y
	Provide information to homebuyers about energy efficiency (county program)	Implemented	Y
B. Promote & expand new & existing commercial energy efficiency programs	Establish Green Bowie Biz program for local businesses	Completed	Y
	Promote the MD Green Registry program	Completed	Y
C. Increase green building projects for new & existing infrastructure	Track & showcase green building projects throughout the City	Completed	Y
D. Increase installation of renewable energy projects	Track & showcase innovative renewable energy projects through the City	Completed	Y
	Increase the # of residential and commercial solar systems installed	Completed	Y
	Complete Solar Roadmap goals	Completed	N
Sector: Transportation			
F. Reduce single occupant vehicle trips	Work with employers in the city to promote ride-sharing and preferred parking for carpools	Implemented	Y
	Investigate opportunities for additional commuter lots and maximize usage of existing Park & Ride	Completed	Y
	Consider expanding shuttle service for senior and disabled residents	Completed	Y

Goal	Action	Status	Ongoing?
G. Reduce vehicle miles of travel	Apply the City's Development Review Guidelines & Policies to create bike and pedestrian friendly communities	Completed	Y
	Increase bicycle and pedestrian mode-sharing through bike racks, bike sharing, trails, improved access to bus stops, etc.	Implemented	Y
	Continue to inventory pedestrian & bike facilities and identify safety projects and improvements	Implemented	Y
	Encourage transit-oriented development at Melford and Bowie Regional Center	Implemented	Y
H. Encourage electric vehicle use and existing transportation efficiency	Develop & increase EV and alternative fuel infrastructure	Completed	Y
	Promote alternative fueling stations	Completed	Y
	Explore possibility of Zipcar at the Northview Park & Ride	Completed	Y
	Educate the public about eco-driving techniques	Completed	N
	Explore the potential for reserving spots for EV & hybrid vehicles in Bowie Shopping Center	Implemented	Y
Sector: Waste			
I. Increase recycling rate, reduce waste, and promote reuse of materials	Provide additional opportunities for residents to recycle especially Styrofoam and shredding events	Implemented	Y
	Encourage the use of reusable shopping bags	Completed	Y
	Give educational notices to residents who are not recycling their large items (may not be aware of bulk pick up)	Implemented	Y
	Work with County to conduct 1 or more household hazardous waste collection days per year	Completed	Y
	Educate the public about waste services (household hazardous waste, electronics, etc.) offered by the County	Completed	Y
	Work with Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce to advise their members on County recycling requirements	Completed	N
J. Improve the carbon footprint of the waste collection system	Gain support from residents for once-a-week trash pick up	Completed	N
	Install solar trash compactors	Completed	N
Sector: Land Use			
K. Increase tree canopy	Encourage the replacement of trees on residential properties	Implemented	Y
	Publicize local tree planting grants	Completed	Y

Appendix D: Sustainability Plan Annual Report

The annual update for the Sustainability Plan is a stand-alone document and is included here. It begins on the following page.



CITY OF BOWIE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 2019

The Sustainability Plan

Sustainability may not have been a common word a few years ago, but its full meaning is increasingly acknowledged by more people and with greater urgency. There is a clearer understanding of the need to plan and provide for a truly sustainable future. The City's Sustainability Plan was created because the City's planners recognize that specific strategies are needed to address an array of issues beyond those in the existing Climate Action Plan. The Sustainability Plan builds upon the Climate Action Plan and all of the other work that has come before it.

The City of Bowie's Mayor, G. Frederick Robinson, refers to Bowie as "the greatest city in Maryland." The City has a strong economy and an enviable quality of life for its citizens. As the City grows, its urbanization, diversity, and way of life will require adaptation, communication, and collaboration among all stakeholders. This plan is the result of a collaborative process with those stakeholders and reflects a commitment to implement a new vision for sustainability in the City of Bowie. The path to a sustainable future enhances what is already great about Bowie, and prepares the City and its residents to thrive in the face of change.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Experts define sustainability as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Consisting of three pillars, sustainable development seeks to achieve, in a balanced manner, economic development, social development, and environmental protection. As part of the public input process, the Bowie community defines sustainability in a number of ways as shown in the word cloud below.

Vision for a Sustainable Bowie

Plan Vision

The City of Bowie will be a diverse and vibrant community that is committed to its citizens, economy, and natural environment. It will be a community that successfully unites and integrates its neighborhoods and one that communicates openly with all stakeholders. It will support efforts that protect resources, improve health, increase connectivity, advance education, and expand business in order to continue providing a place to live and thrive for future generations.

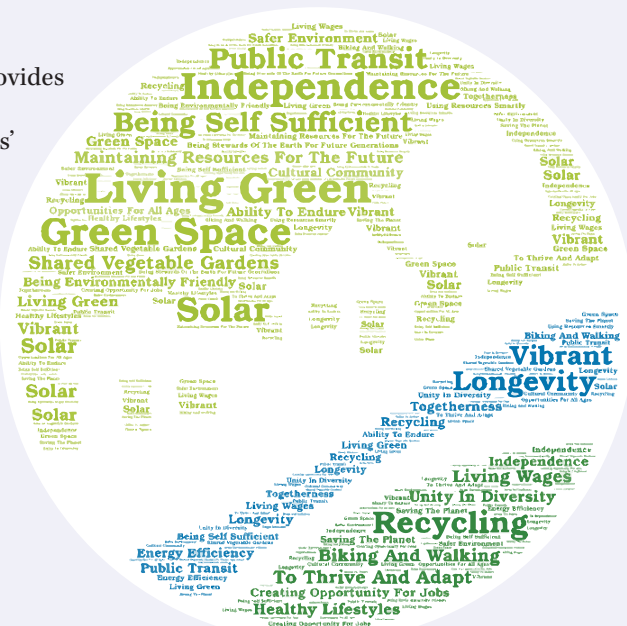
Mission for the City of Bowie

The City of Bowie, in partnership with the community, provides a cost-effective system of city services and facilitates compatible economic development that enhances citizens' quality of life within a positive and sustaining physical environment.

Vision for The City of Bowie

Bowie is a model city in partnership with state, county, and regional entities that:

- Nurtures a safe, united, and culturally diverse community in which to live, work, and play.
- Preserves the community's natural environment.
- Has economically vibrant commercial centers.
- Supports quality neighborhood schools.
- Has high-quality city services and infrastructure.





Progress Over the Past Year

Progress has been made on:



17 Goals



42 Strategies



55 Actions

In total, there are 25 goals, 57 strategies, and 103 actions that are designated to be completed in the short-term (1–2 years), mid-term (3–5 years), or long-term (6 or more years) time frame.



Jobs and Business

A robust business community is one that creates local jobs and expands the city tax base, has businesses that provide goods and services needed by the community, employs people from the community, and, in many cases, has businesses managed or owned by individuals who live in the community. A community that supports an independent, diverse, and green-minded business network will help create a local economy that recycles a much larger share of revenue back into itself—enriching the whole community. The goals in this section focus on increasing commercial occupancy, supporting small businesses, and getting businesses to go green.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 4

Goals



Goal JB1: Achieve 100 percent occupancy of retail space and under 10 percent vacancy of office space in the City

➔ Retail occupancy is 96.8 percent and office vacancy is 14.8 percent.



Goal JB2: Increase the number of businesses participating in Bowie Small and Independent Business Programs annually from 46 to 100

➔ Over 200 businesses participating in Small and Independent Business Programs.



Goal JB3: Increase the number of participants in the Green Bowie Business Certification Program from 2 to 150.

➔ There are now 10 Green Bowie Businesses.

Highlights

- Held five meetings about Green Bowie Business Program as well as contributed to the Chamber of Commerce newsletter.
- The Maryland Women's Business Center helped start new businesses and sustain over 300.



Health and Wellness

An analysis of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's 1997 arrival data from the Jessup, Maryland terminal market found that the average pound of produce distributed at the facility traveled more than 1,685 miles, which suggests that your meal travels approximately that distance from farms to your plate. Though this varies based upon where you live, it is not uncommon to see strawberries from California in a store in Maryland. These "fresh foods" may be a few days old before they reach your grocery shelves. Local foods need not travel so many miles—they can often be harvested within a few hours or a day of being delivered to the farm stand, farmers market, or the grocery store's local produce section. Fresh food has a high nutritional value and a

high concentration of vitamins. You are likely to have more choices locally because more fragile varieties do not have to endure the trauma of shipping.

According to the County and state health departments and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the incidence of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity is higher in Prince George's County than in the State of Maryland and in the United States. These are conditions that can be controlled through policies, access to healthy food, and education. The goals in this section focus on participation in activities related to well-being, producing and consuming locally grown food, and health-related policies and programs.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 2

Goals



Goal FW1: Achieve 20 percent resident participation in programs that promote the production, distribution, purchase, and consumption of food that is sourced within 200 miles.



We continue to promote the farmers market, national farmers market week, and the new community garden.



Goal FW2: Increase participation in physical fitness and wellness programs and events by 20 percent.



About 50 residents participated in Walk Wednesdays in FY 2019. The City held its first 5k with over 200 participants.

Highlights

- Opening of community garden with plots for sale to residents.
- The First Annual Green Bowie Veterans Day 5k was held on November 10, 2018. This City-sponsored event promotes health and wellness while celebrating our many veteran residents and staff. Registration is free and comes with an event t-shirt and race bib. The next is scheduled for November 9, 2019.



Nature and Wildlife

Protecting and maintaining the natural environment for the benefit of people, plants, and animals is an important element of a healthy, beautiful community. Creating or enhancing green spaces, parks, and trails, as well as cleaning up litter in the City, ranked in the top priorities of the community engagement voting activity conducted as a part of this plan preparation. This indicates that Bowie's natural environment contributes to an aspect of the City that many residents and visitors are attracted to and highly value.

Bowie's previous Green Infrastructure and Environmental Infrastructure Plans gave the City a head start protecting its natural resources in 2003 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013, studies were conducted to determine how to best manage and improve forest conditions by increasing tree canopy, increasing forest diversity, and removing invasive species. The goals in this section address ways to implement tree planting, create and maintain habitat, and reduce litter.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 9

Goals



Goal NW1: Protect, preserve, and enhance existing forest and tree canopy coverage to reach the 45 percent tree canopy goal.

➔ Tree rebates provided to 12 residents for a total of 17 native trees planted. One tree planting workshop was held in the fall.



Goal NW2: Create native landscaping on 300 additional public and private properties to help improve water quality and create new habitats for wildlife.

➔ No goal update.



Goal NW3: Remove invasive plant species from at least 300 acres of land.

➔ No goal update available yet.



Goal NW4: Increase participation in City cleanup and litter educational programs by 30 percent.

➔ Litter campaign started FY 2020.

Highlights

- Bay wise certification workshop held on March 26, 2019.
- The City's Weed Warrior Program continued at Whitemarsh Park with 89 participants and 4 work days. Work days are open to 30 participants and take place at Belair Meadows and Whitemarsh Park.



Communication

The purpose of communication varies from information and promotion to education and public safety. From a City perspective, it has the large task of meeting all of those purposes and reaching all members of a community. During the ImagineBowie campaign, extra efforts were made to reach all stakeholders, including those which have been hard to reach (African-American, Hispanic, and millennial demographics). Such efforts need to continue throughout the plan's implementation by expanding the City's use of electronic communication methods, while also increasing public participation in order to enter a new phase of communication. The goals in this section focus on engaging the community through various media outlets such as social media and e-newsletters.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 4

Goals



Goal CC1: Increase City Alert System subscriptions from 4,907 to 10,000.



Currently 6,400 subscribers



Goal CC2: Increase the reach of the City's social media from 6,800 to 16,000 people.



City Facebook: 5,655

City Twitter: 2,717

Animal Control

Green Bowie Twitter: 215

Facebook: 2,408

Police Twitter: 889

Police Facebook: 2,429

Bowie Gym: 169

Total: 14,482



Goal CC3: Increase Green Bowie e-newsletter subscribers from 588 to 1,500.



Currently: 982

Highlights

- The City started an Instagram account and has 719 followers.
- The City also posted over 100 videos on its YouTube channel, which has 225 subscribers.



Community

A strong community provides a sense of belonging, which enables individuals to look outside themselves and contribute to the welfare of others. Community and “sense of community” were consistent themes throughout the engagement process. Bowie residents embrace neighbor-to-neighbor interactions and opportunities to share ideas and problem solve together. People want to connect; it makes them feel like they are a part of something, and it improves their quality of life. People also feel good when they do something positive for someone else, or for something bigger than themselves.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 6

Goals



Goal CT1: Create or enhance 10 public gathering spaces.



New public seating area, and other enhancements, at Centennial Park



Goal CT2: Increase resident participation in Emergency Services programs from 100 to 300.



No goal update available yet.



Goal CT3: Increase the number of public art pieces from 7 to 20.



Currently 7 – There are three in the pipeline.



Goal CT4: Involve 500 residents in a City-led resident sustainability certification and award program.



No goal update available yet.



Goal CT5: Involve 6,000 residents in events and programs that strengthen neighborhood connections.



No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The 5k was an event held that strengthened our sense of community.
- The third annual Sustainability Award was presented to Cecilia Reddy at the Bowie Green Expo in April 2019.
- Bike rack inventory was completed in 2019 with four new installations.



Education

Education drives action. Someone might not think twice about the rush of water and pollutants that go down the storm drains without someone pointing out the range of impacts from erosion, to habitat disruption, to impacts on the Chesapeake Bay. When a community shows that it cares and knowledge is shared in a common cause, much progress can occur. Driving action through education can happen at all ages, starting with our children in schools, through higher education, and on to formal and informal adult education. In the school environment, incorporating sustainability into the curriculum can make learning more fun, as problem-solving connects students to the real world in their backyards and in their neighborhoods. When they are engaged and excited about what they are learning in school, students take those lessons home. For example, if they are growing their own food and composting at school, they might encourage their families to do the same at home because it is fun and they understand the value.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS:2

Goals



Goal ED1: Achieve Green Schools Certification at all schools within the City limits.

➡ Fourteen of 15 public schools certified.



Goal ED2: Increase Green Bowie program awareness to 90% for residents over 18.

➡ No goal update available yet.



Goal ED3: Provide a way for all community members in the City to report sustainability actions and have at least 2,000 participate in reporting.

➡ No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The Green Team's Green Schools Resource List was updated in 2019
- Two Green Schools forums were held, one in November and one in January.
- Green Bowie started a new program, The Lightbulb Exchanges, which targeted millennials and retirees.



Mobility and Connectivity

Bowie enjoys the benefit of convenient access to Baltimore, Washington, D.C., western Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Eastern Shore. Bowie Town Center serves as a transit hub with the nearby Park and Ride serving as a transfer station for nearly all of the buses serving the City. The MARC station provides another transit center at the north end of the City. Many actions in the Climate Action Plan address the need to develop transit-oriented communities, increase usage of public transport, and expand the City's biking and hiking networks to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.

However, more needs to be accomplished in terms of decreasing traffic by creating interconnected trails and sidewalks throughout the City. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which includes suburbs in Maryland and Virginia, is ranked first nationally in the cost of traffic congestion per commuter, with congestion costing \$1,834 per commuter and causing 82 hours of delay annually. The goals in this section address increasing the City's Walk Score and encouraging more walking and biking trips.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 2



City residents take advantage of the trail located at Whitemarsh Park.

Goals



Goal MC1: Increase City's Walk Score from 25 to 50 and encourage more walking and biking trips.



Currently: 25

Highlights

- The City began working on the trails master plan update.
- The City promoted and participated in Bike to Work Day, where 16 people registered at the Old Bowie stop and 24 at the new Bowie Gym stop. There was about a 75 percent participation rate.



Water

Water is one of Earth's most valuable resources and it needs to be protected by keeping it clean and using it efficiently. When it rains, water runs off roofs, parking lots, streets, and lawns instead of soaking into the soil the way it did before development. This water (e.g. stormwater), along with everything it picks up along the way (fertilizers, oil and grease, litter, etc.), ends up in storm sewers and ditches that discharge to streams, rivers, and lakes. This process contributes to the presence of toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay. Only 2.5 percent of the Earth's water is freshwater, and only 1 percent of that is accessible. To ensure future supplies of fresh, clean water, this precious resource must be conserved. The goals in this section focus on ways to save and clean water at a local level.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 3



A new pet waste station installed at Whitemarsh Park.

Goals



Goal WA1: Implement practices and programs to save and clean water on 2,000 properties in the City.



No goal update available yet.

Highlights

- The Lions Club hosted a very successful rain barrel sale on August 4, 2018, where over 15 were sold in 2 hours.
- A “bayscaping” workshop was held in March 2019 with approximately 20 attendees. This workshop was titled “Save the Bay from Your Backyard” and taught bay-friendly landscaping.



Recycling and Composting

Recycling and composting are two of the easiest and most familiar actions individuals can take to be sustainable and help their community. The City's current recycling rate is about 33 percent, but other nearby areas have reached a recycling rate of over 50 percent, and there is plenty of room for improvement.

Food waste presents a huge opportunity to reduce landfill waste, though it is often ignored. Home food waste results from meal preparation, clean up, unpacking foods, and discarding purchased foods or food that has been left uneaten during a meal.

In 2010, an estimated 133 billion pounds or 31% of food from U.S. retail food stores, restaurants, and homes—valued at approximately \$161 billion—went uneaten. Recycling and composting are also important actions in the Climate Action Plan, since these efforts reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but the goals in this section expand on the goals in the Climate Action Plan.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 3



Curbside food waste collection bins getting ready for delivery.

Goals



Goal RC1: Decrease the tonnage of residential waste sent to the landfill by 30 percent.



No update available yet.

Highlights

- There have been over 650 total residents that have started composting since the program began in 2015.
- The Food Waste program has 230 participants.



Energy and Climate

Energy and Climate are major topics for action in the Climate Action Plan adopted in 2015. However, it is a five-year plan, and this plan looks to 2026. Climate change will be an issue for many decades to come, and will need to be continually addressed. In 2020, the City will need to consider updating its Climate Action Plan. In addition, solar projects in Bowie are of high importance to continue and increase past 2020. Switching to renewable energy sources can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and solar has been positively received in the City, with solar capacity increasing by over 50 percent each year since 2010.

STRATEGIES IN PROGRESS: 5



Residents attend a Bowie Solar Co-op information session at City Hall.

Goals



Goal EC1: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 percent.



Currently 15 percent according to MWCOG.



Goal EC2: Increase renewable energy generation from 9 to 40 MW hour production.



Currently: Approximately 98 MW hours

Highlights

- The City systems now equal 82 KW total, with annual generation of about 98 MW hours.

Strategy Status

● Completed

● In Progress

○ Not Started

✘ Not Moving Forward

Strategy	Time frame	Status
GROWTH		
JB1.1: Continue to nurture a diverse and stable business environment that supports all community needs.	Short-Term	●
JB2.1: Support and foster small and independent businesses.	Short-Term	●
JB2.2: Start a Buy Local Campaign to support Bowie businesses.	Mid-Term	○
JB3.1: Organize two green business workshop or networking events per year.	Short-Term	●
JB3.2: Schedule in-person assessments with 10-15 businesses per year to identify ways to go green.	Short-Term	●
FW1.1: Create and maintain a community garden with plots on City property that residents can use to grow food.	Short-Term	●
FW1.2: Expand Bowie Farmers Market.	Mid-Term	●
FW1.3: Adopt a Community Food System Plan.	Mid-Term	✘
FW1.4: Create a vertical farm or food forest for residents to use.	Long-Term	●
FW2.1: Create a City-sponsored wellness initiative by partnering with local organizations.	Short-Term	●
NW1.1: Use social marketing to develop a tree planting campaign.	Short-Term	●
NW1.2: Enhance and maintain the City's current tree rebate program.	Short-Term	●
NW2.1: Achieve and maintain National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat Designation (at least 200 homes, 6 community sites, and 5 schools certified as wildlife habitats plus additional requirements).	Short-Term	●
NW2.2: Increase the number of certified Monarch Waystations.	Short-Term	●
NW2.3: Encourage resident participation in the Bay-Wise certification program.	Short-Term	●
NW3.1: Encourage the removal of invasive species from private land.	Short-Term	●
NW3.2: Remove invasive species from public land.	Short-Term	●
NW4.1: Host volunteer cleanups around the community.	Short-Term	●
NW4.2: Create an educational and public awareness campaign to sensitize residents to the negative impacts of litter on the environment.	Mid-Term	●

NOTE: "Complete" does not denote finished. Several complete programs continue to be implemented or marketed.

Strategy	Time frame	Status
UNITY		
CC1.1: Provide 10 workshops per year about emergency responses for storms, flooding, etc. for residents and promote City Alert System at all workshops.	Short-Term	●
CC1.2: Encourage residents to sign up for City Alert at all City events.	Short-Term	●
CC2.1: Encourage residents to like or follow the City on social media at all City events.	Short-Term	●
CC3.1: Encourage residents to sign up for the Green Bowie e-newsletter on the spot at all Green Bowie events.	Short-Term	●
CC3.2: Change Green Bowie e-newsletter to a monthly distribution from quarterly.	Mid-Term	●
CT1.1: Investigate areas to create more green space.	Short-Term	●
CT1.2: Install more amenities in the public gathering spaces (interpretive signs, park benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.).	Mid-Term	●
CT2.1: Recruit and train more Community Emergency Response Team leaders.	Short-Term	✕
CT2.2: Offer home emergency kits for residents to purchase.	Short-Term	✕
CT3.1: Expand the City's Public Art Master Plan.	Mid-Term	●
CT4.1: Develop a citizen sustainability certification program that encompasses a range of sustainability efforts.	Short-Term	○
CT4.2: Provide an annual award to residents who make significant achievements in sustainability.	Short-Term	●
CT5.1: Hold quarterly community roundtables hosted by City and/or community organizations to discuss community issues.	Short-Term	○
CT5.2: Work with churches, non-profits, businesses, and other organizations to host diversity and cultural awareness gatherings and/or events.	Short-Term	●
CT5.3: Increase promotion, benefits and participation in the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program".	Short-Term	●
ED1.1: Provide biannual workshops to assist with meeting Green School requirements.	Short-Term	●
ED1.2: Partner with Bowie-Crofton Garden Club and the City's Education Committee to provide grants to schools that pursue green projects.	Short-Term	●
ED2.1: Develop an outreach campaign to reach audiences that are underrepresented or not represented in current program activities.	Short-Term	●
ED3.1: Develop a sustainability projects monitoring and tracking system.	Short-Term	○
MC1.1: Develop and implement a promotional campaign to bring awareness of existing trails for biking, hiking and family walks.	Short-Term	●
MC1.2: Expand existing trails for biking, hiking, and family walks into a safe interconnected network.	Long-Term	●

Strategy	Time frame	Status
PROGRESS		
WA1.1: Encourage the installation of rain gardens.	Short-Term	●
WA1.2: Encourage the installation of rain barrels.	Short-Term	●
WA1.3: Increase participation in the mulching mower rebate program for residents.	Short-Term	●
WA1.4: Increase resident awareness of practices and programs to save and clean water.	Short-Term	●
WA1.5: Create and adopt a Watershed Plan.	Short-Term	✕
WA1.6: Install five additional pet waste stations.	Short-Term	●
WA1.7: Encourage planting of native vegetation within the stream buffer.	Mid-Term	●
RC1.1: Enhance educational programs on household recycling and composting.	Short-Term	●
RC1.2: Increase the number of households that are composting to 2000.	Short-Term	●
RC1.3: Investigate a Food Recovery Program to collect food that would otherwise go to waste from restaurants, stores, and other places to give to local emergency food programs, such as the Bowie Food Pantry.	Short-Term	○
RC1.4: Install public recycling bins at all City parks and other public areas.	Mid-Term	●
RC1.5: Investigate implementing a Pay-as-You-Throw pricing structure.	Long-Term	✕
EC1.1: Continue to implement the Climate Action Plan.	Short-Term	●
EC1.2: Evaluate and update the Climate Action Plan in 2020.	Mid-Term	●
EC2.1: Assist with developing a Community Solar Program for renters and low-income residents by organizing partnerships.	Mid-Term	●
EC2.2: Investigate ways to support solar battery storage projects for City facilities, residential properties, and businesses.	Long-Term	●
EC2.3: Investigate the feasibility of a renewable microgrid project.	Long-Term	●