



Our Vision

1000 Friends of Maryland
AMP Creeks Council
Audubon Maryland-DC
Chapman Forest Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clean Water Action
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Conservancy for Charles County
Maryland Bass Nation
Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Native Plant Society
Maryland Ornithological Society
Mattawoman Watershed Society
Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition
Nanjemoy Vision, Inc.
Potomac River Association
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter
Sierra Club, Southern Maryland Group
South Hampton HOA
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

We support a future for Charles County that:

- ✓ Promotes a vibrant and healthy outdoors
- ✓ Supports growth in appropriate areas in order to protect farms and forests
- ✓ Teaches children in classrooms, not trailers
- ✓ Relieves traffic congestion so that it is not an everyday burden
- ✓ Creates transportation alternatives as the heart of Waldorf is revitalized
- ✓ Keeps all our communities clean and safe
- ✓ Sustains an enjoyable place to live, work and play

Smarter Steps to a Vibrant & Sustainable Future

A new plan to guide how and where the county grows was adopted in 2016. The plan reflects considerable public involvement and support, a significant change from the developer-driven plans previously in place. Implementation of the plan should continue so the many benefits of smart growth to county residents are realized.

Smarter Ways to a Responsible Use of Public Dollars

The 2016 comprehensive plan promotes development in areas with existing infrastructure. This is critical to stabilizing property taxes and reigning in costs associated with providing public services. The county should not waste public dollars on projects that enrich developers at the expense of everyone else.

Growing Smarter and improving the Quality of Life for all county residents.

Seeking solutions that *enhance the economy...*



Strong Schools for Every Community

✓ Every child deserves a quality education—our future depends on it! By reining in sprawl development, more funds are available to educate our children and maintain our schools. Well-maintained schools that serve the number of children they were designed for should be a top priority.



A Thriving Downtown for Waldorf

✓ Waldorf's core along Old Washington Road has been neglected for years. All county residents will benefit from a vibrant, walkable Waldorf with a variety of employment and housing options, as well as cultural and recreational attractions. Fostering public and private investment to create a downtown Waldorf should continue to be a priority.

...and support growth...



Protection of Federal Jobs and Revitalization of Indian Head

✓ The Naval Support Facility at Indian Head is the county's best-paying and largest employer. The Town of Indian Head should support redevelopment along the rundown main street that now detracts from the base. The Town should also support policies to protect Mattawoman Creek, which draws visitors to the Town from throughout the region.



Appropriate and Sustainable Development

✓ Charles County's population centers in Waldorf and La Plata lie along the U.S. 301 backbone, which is paralleled by a rail line. With the rebuilding of the Harry Nice Bridge, the U.S. 301 corridor will see increased activity. The county should maximize the benefits of these infrastructure investments by promoting redevelopment and infill development along the corridor.

while preserving Charles County's special places.

Seeking solutions that enhance the economy...



Transportation Choices

✓ Transit is essential to addressing the severe traffic congestion and long commute times endured by county residents. Extension of light rail from the Branch Avenue Metro station to White Plains will alleviate congestion and provide residents with an alternative to driving. Transit should continue to be the County's top state-level transportation priority.



Planning for the Village of Bryans Road

✓ The 2016 comprehensive plan returns Bryans Road to a village concept rather than a growth center. This maintains the area's rural character, protects its historic assets and conserves the vital Mattawoman Creek. A new Bryan's Road Sub-Area plan with a focus on enhancing existing development should be developed.

...and support growth...



Preservation of Our Rural and Natural Heritage

✓ A new Nanjemoy-Mattawoman Rural Legacy Area, as called for in the 2016 comprehensive plan, will foster land preservation and compensate participating property owners. State funding for the Rural Legacy Program is increasing. Charles County should seek to obtain more of this funding by working with the state to establish the Nanjemoy-Mattawoman Rural Legacy Area.



A Healthy Outdoors

✓ We must ensure that the county's rivers and streams are safe for swimming and fishing by avoiding development in sensitive areas. The Watershed Conservation District (WCD) provides critical protections for Mattawoman Creek and the headwaters of the Port Tobacco River, helping the county avoid costly restoration projects that never fully repair the damage from polluted runoff. The WCD should be maintained and supported by county leadership.

while preserving Charles County's special places.

Charles County at Risk



Charles County has experienced rapid growth in recent years, with the population increasing from 101,154 in 1990 to over 155,000 today.

This pace, amplified by how and where the county encouraged growth, resulted in the county's being on the bottom rung for key quality-of-life measures.

Among Maryland counties, Charles County has the:

- ✓ Highest property tax rate
- ✓ Longest average commute time
- ✓ Highest percentage of children attending class in trailers

*Implementation of the **New Plan** for Charles County's future is **critical** to **Growing Smarter** and improving the **Quality of Life** for all county residents.*