Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

2021 Annual Report

Supporting Communities, Preserving Resources,
Enriching Lives...Changing Maryland for the Better

A Message from Governor Larry Hogan

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report for the Maryland Department of Planning.

Under our administration, Planning was the lead agency in charge of outreach for the 2020 Census. The Census is a critical process for determining federal funding to states, as well as important decisions for local communities. Maryland receives more than $16 billion in Census-derived federal funding. In addition to representation in Congress, Census data is used to support decision making for economic development, transportation, emergency management, and public health and human service activities.

When the final statistics were complete in late 2020, more than 2.2 million Maryland households were counted, representing a total enumeration of 99.9%, and 21 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions exceeded their 2010 self-response rate. Maryland ranked 9th in the nation for self-response as 71.2% of Maryland households completed their forms online, by mail, or by phone. Maryland was also 4th in the U.S. for internet response. Carroll County led the state with a self-response rate of 81.5%, ranking 24th in the U.S. out of more than 3,200 counties and was one of four Maryland counties in the top 100 in the nation.

As the 2020 Census concluded, we continued to focus on the process of redistricting. Maryland has some of the most gerrymandered districts in the nation. Fair and competitive elections are the right of every citizen and make for a more vibrant and participatory citizen republic. In January 2021, I issued an Executive Order forming the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission (Citizens Commission). This independent commission—the first of its kind in state history—delivered to me final certified legislative and congressional maps, which were transmitted to the Maryland General Assembly. The Citizens Commission held 36 public meetings with more than 4,100 attendees, provided an online mapping portal for the public to prepare and submit maps, and received 86 map submissions for consideration. I will continue to lead the charge to take politicians and partisan politics out of the redistricting process.

I encourage you to read Planning's FY21 Annual Report and learn more about their commitment to customer service and assistance to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor

A Message from the Secretary

Planning's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021 highlights our activities and accomplishments in service to the state and its people as we continued working through unprecedented challenges to advance the priorities of the Hogan administration. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we remained focused on supporting local communities, preserving resources, and enriching lives as part of an overall effort to change Maryland for the better.

It is our mission at Planning to collaborate with state agencies, local governments, and the public by providing technical assistance and data that enables each community to shape its future growth in a way that reflects local values, honors its heritage, and presents opportunities for all of Maryland to flourish.

In FY21, Planning wrapped up our involvement in the 2020 Census using a holistic approach to develop 21st-Century tools for a 21st-Century Census. In the end, more than 2.2 million Maryland households completed the 2020 Census with Maryland finishing 9th in the nation for self-response for the 2020 Census, a significant achievement with an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic all across the nation.

These rankings and statistics show the dedication of Census team members across the state. The Census is a family portrait taken only every 10 years, and it took great collaboration among many partners to ensure that everyone was in the picture. This was essential to secure the funding Marylanders deserve for everyday aspects of their lives. Planning thanks all who played a role in every part of the Census process. It was that commitment and dedication that led the way to our outstanding finish among the top states in Census completion. What is most important to remember is that this achievement will result in more funding for Maryland critical programs and services to our residents- especially those who need help the most.

During the second half of FY21, Planning began our critical role in leading Maryland during the process of redistricting. On January 12, 2021, Governor Hogan issued an Executive Order forming the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission. The Commission was charged with revising the congressional and legislative district lines in a fair and impartial manner.

Planning also continues to serve the state by providing virtual learning opportunities by presenting webinars with topics and thought leaders in their fields that attracted more than 1,000 viewers at some sessions. Together, we are not only changing Maryland for the better, we have positioned Maryland for a better future. Planning will continue to bring our full portfolio of professional staff, data resources, and programmatic assistance from the state to our counties and municipalities. Together we are helping each area of our state plan and prepare for tomorrow, while preserving the natural, historical, and cultural resources that make Maryland our home.

Sincerely,

Robert S. McCord
Secretary

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Introduction

The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) serves the state by providing technical assistance, program guidance, data analysis, and outreach to local governments. We assist state agency partners and provide timely data to the private and public sectors. Our work reflects the priorities and direction of the Hogan administration, including a focus on efficiency while emphasizing flexibility, and collaboration with local jurisdictions to promote economic development and environmental stewardship.

Planning serves the state and local jurisdictions with 130 employees, and is organized into three divisions: Operations, Planning Services, and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). Planning also formed a multidisciplinary unit to focus on Census and redistricting.

Census. Planning's role in the Census was to promote and encourage Census participation among Marylanders. Working in partnership with a wide variety of government agencies and nonprofit groups, more than 2.2 million Maryland households were counted, representing a total enumeration of 99.9%. Most importantly, Maryland finished 9th in the nation for self-response for the 2020 Census. Data from the Census is used to determine federal funding for critical programs and services for everything from meals to Medicare and healthcare to highways.

Operations is responsible for the administrative support for the department, including financial, information technology, procurement, logistics and legislative relations. The communications section coordinates outreach to promote the department's initiatives and services in order to develop and strengthen relationships, as well as support the administration's legislative and policy initiatives.

Through **Planning Services**, Planning typically completes more than 200 technical assistance projects for counties and municipalities every year. The department provides support in reviewing or drafting dozens of comprehensive plans or ordinances for local governments. We also collect, analyze, and publish social, economic, and geographic information, and maintain the digital maps of the state's 2.3 million parcels. These maps form the foundation for the development of policies, and are used throughout the state by various agencies, decision makers and stakeholders. Planning also ensures that proposed financial and nonfinancial assistance projects within Maryland are consistent with state and local laws, regulations, and guidelines.

Planning Organizational Chart

Office of the Secretary of Planning

Planning Services Division
- Planning Data and Research
  - Geospatial and Data Analysis
  - Property Mapping
  - Projections and State Data Center
- Planning Coordination
  - Local Assistance and Training
  - Infrastructure and Development
  - Resource Conservation
  - State Clearinghouse

Operations Division
- Communications
- MIS
- Financial Services
- Legislative Relations

Maryland Historical Trust
- Planning, Education and Outreach
- Research, Survey and Registration
- Preservation Services
- Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). It provides direct assistance to a broad base of local, state, and federal stakeholders in the identification, protection, and enhancement of historic and cultural resources. MHT administers a variety of historic preservation grant, loan, and tax credit programs, including the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit, which leverages private investment in the rehabilitation of both commercial and residential historic properties. MHT also administers and oversees the operation of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) in Calvert County, which includes the Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory.

Planning works with Maryland's jurisdictions to enhance the built environment to improve communities. We work with communities to help shape a vision for their future that continues to protect and preserve the natural environment. We view the cultural, historic, and natural resources of our communities as catalysts that strengthen and renew economic and community development and growth.

At Planning, we appreciate the diversity of Maryland's people and geography. We recognize that successful solutions require balancing the concerns of various interests and stakeholders. It is our responsibility to provide guidance for the direction of state resources most efficiently across jurisdictional lines. We strive to provide customers with the best service, and to help each jurisdiction implement their vision and achieve their goals consistent with respect for people and place.

Operations

In addition to the continued focus on the governor's customer service initiative and promise, Planning's Operations Division provides agency-wide assistance and support to other agencies and programs.

Operations is responsible for the administrative support for the department, including financial services, information technology, procurement, logistics, and legislative relations. The communications section coordinates outreach to promote the department's initiatives and services in order to develop and strengthen relationships, as well as support the administration's legislative and policy initiatives.

Operations staff are also responsible for compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies. Staff establish and maintain an effective internal control structure to prevent, detect, and deter fraud, errors, and abuse. They also ensure economical and efficient operations while maintaining accurate and complete financial records.

As statutorily required, the Office of Legislative Audits conducted their multiyear audit for the five-year period ending April 30, 2021, and had no findings.

Planning Services

The Planning Services Division is the core of the agency's planning-related functions. The division's personnel are organized into two sections: 1) Planning Coordination, which includes the Local Assistance and Training, Infrastructure and Development, and Resource Conservation and Management units; and 2) Planning Data and Research, which includes the Geospatial and Data Analysis, Projections and State Data Center, and Property Mapping units.

Planning Coordination
Local Assistance and Training

Comprehensive Plan Review and Policy Guidance

Planning Services provided significant technical and policy assistance to local governments implementing state laws. Regional planning staff completed reviews of 16 local comprehensive plans and amendments in FY21. In addition, they reviewed 30 municipal annexations, and 59 county water and sewer plan amendments.
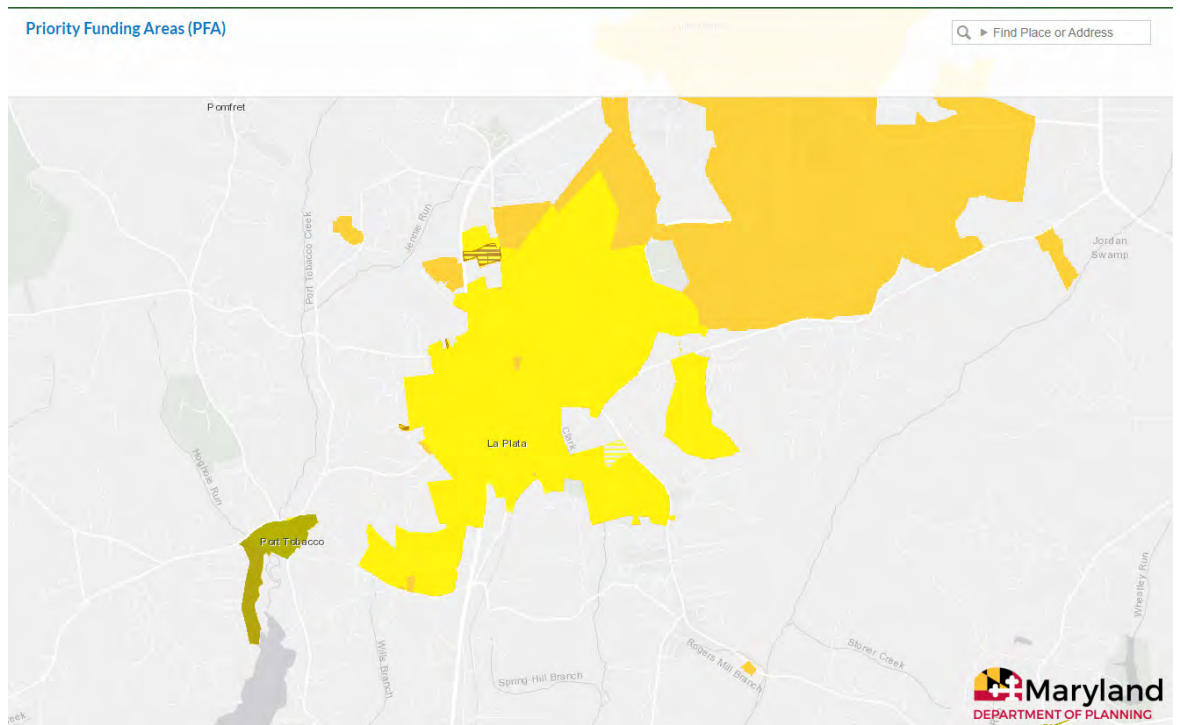
Local Technical Assistance

The core function of Local Assistance and Training is to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions either by helping them navigate federal and state regulations or connecting them to the resources that smaller municipalities cannot deploy. Some examples of technical assistance provided in FY21 include:

Town of La Plata, Charles County: Staff assisted La Plata with a comprehensive Priority Funding Area (PFA) certification for 79 previously annexed parcels that were not included in the town's PFA. Many of the properties were ineligible for PFA certification upon the initial request because they were not planned for service in the Charles County water and sewer plan. Local Assistance and Training staff, with assistance from Geospatial Data and Analysis staff, coordinated the efforts of town and county to update the water and sewer plan to make the properties PFA-eligible, rapidly processed the town's PFA certification request, and when needed, assisted the town in pursuing PFA exceptions for those properties that could not become PFA eligible because of other factors. This assistance required extensive and thorough internal and external communication and helped La Plata access vital growth-related state funding.

City of Frostburg, Allegany County: Staff assisted with three site plan reviews, which included analyzing regulations (i.e., sign ordinance) for existing and new construction on corner lots for both primary and accessory structures. As part of this assistance, staff also helped the city's Community Development Director prepare for the planning commission meeting that addressed the site plans. Finally, Planning supported the city with meeting notification requirements and a presentation.

Howard County: Staff coordinated informal department and state agency comments on Howard County's Ellicott City Draft Watershed Master Plan. The county informed Planning that this area/sector plan will be incorporated into PlanHoward 2030, and by reference into the forthcoming comprehensive plan: HoCo By Design. As a charter county, a formal 60-day Clearinghouse review was not required, but due to the recent disastrous flood events in Ellicott City, both Planning and Howard County believed that a state review and local support were needed.

Prince George's County: Staff coordinated with Prince George's County on PFA certifications for multiple small and large parcels, as well as rights-of-way, associated with the Bowie State Train Station along the Maryland Area Regional CommuterMaryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Penn-Line, specifically the properties designated by Plan 2035 as the Bowie State Campus Center, the Bowie State MARC Station, and portions of the main Bowie State University campus. This effort required extensive collaboration with the county's Community Planning Division. The PFA designation of the properties will enable the county and property owners to secure state growth-related funding supporting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in the area.

Town of Rising Sun and Cecil County: Staff met with Rising Sun and Cecil County staff members multiple times to promote collaboration between the two jurisdictions on water and sewer planning, annexations, and the town's growth plans, including a comprehensive plan amendment. As representatives of a state planning agency, the department's regional planners are ideally situated to help jurisdictions consider the bigger picture and successfully navigate barriers to mutually beneficial development objectives.

Town of Princess Anne, Somerset County: Princess Anne experienced a severe staff shortage in FY21. In response, the department's Lower Eastern Shore office provided direct and comprehensive assistance to the town in the areas of development review, zoning ordinance analysis, adherence to Critical Area requirements, management of Community Development Block Grant projects, and collaboration with project consultants.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency and is partially funded by the Maryland Department of Planning. The program is directed through the Office of the Governor and coordinated and managed by the Special Secretary of Smart Growth, who serves as the Governor's Alternate to the ARC. The Governor's Alternate works with the Program Manager who is the Director of Planning's Western Maryland Regional Office. The Program Manager works closely with the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc. (Tri-County Council), Maryland's Local Development District (LDD). The Program Manager and LDD meet regularly with potential applicants to provide information to ensure complete applications, confirm eligibility under ARC code, and ensure projects are consistent with both the state of Maryland priorities and ARC goals and strategies.

Results from Targeted Investment Priorities for FY21

Economic Development

Staff are addressing the unique challenges of the region, collaborating, and leveraging investment for economic development.

- **Western Maryland Advanced Technology Center (ATC) at the Frostburg State University (FSU) Innovation Park (Phase I)**
  Phase I financial assistance supports the purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment to up-fit and configure space for the Phase I development of the ATC. The project brings together a mix of academia, the private sector, and the public sector to create new opportunities for jobs, workforce training, and economic development for Western Maryland.

- **Western Maryland ATC at the FSU Innovation Park (Phase II)**
  An award from ARC's competitive grant program, Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) will help establish a Waste-to-Value (W2V) Center of Excellence, a Remote Work Center, the Renewable Energy Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program, and the Center for Advanced Product Design and Manufacturing serving Western Maryland and the surrounding region. Funding from the POWER Initiative is intended to bring economic development and diversification in the coal-impacted communities. This first-time award for Maryland will create new, clean-energy and manufacturing jobs, including 18 new businesses and 125 new jobs, including green construction, biotech lab analysis, and environmental hazard removal in Western Maryland.

Planning by the Numbers

Federal FY21*

ARC in Maryland

15 supported projects

$3.7 million investment by ARC

$12 million in matching funds

$15.7 million leveraged investment

This adds up to:

Jobs created and retained, workers/students trained or educated, Increased economic development and quality of life for 252,000 residents.

*Federal fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

- **Strategic Economic Development Plan Update**
  Funds are being used to assist the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation with the hiring of a consultant to update the Cumberland Strategic Economic Plan. The updated plan will provide refreshed socioeconomic data, a new Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analysis and identify business climate and site selection factors. The plan will also identify emerging regional plans, update the current plan's implementation recommendations, review the success of projects implemented, and determine what additional actions can be taken to maximize those investments.
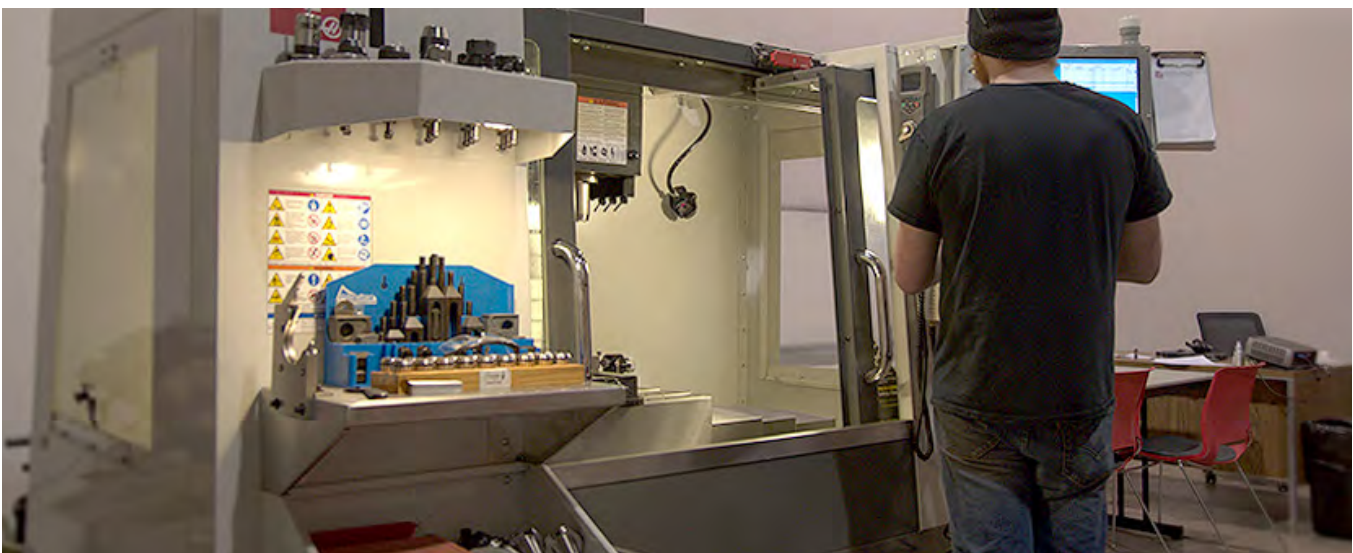
Infrastructure

Staff are focused on leveraging resources and collaborating with partners to improve infrastructure throughout the rural region.

- **Decatur Street 24" Crosstown Water Main Replacement**
  Funds are supporting the City of Cumberland for the replacement of a failing 1930's era water main. The 24" section of pipe is part of the Crosstown Water main that transfers water throughout the city. The project is expected to provide improved water service to 29 businesses, 111 households, and additional capacity for economic development.

- **Antietam Creek Water Trail**
  Funds are assisting in the construction of a public access point along Antietam Creek in Washington County. The county will construct an access ramp to the creek, a 12-space parking lot, a small picnic area, and recreational and historical kiosks and signs. The project will essentially convert what has been a nuisance property into a starting point of the Antietam Creek Water Trail for both residents and tourists and will help develop the outdoor recreation economy in the area. The project is expected to result in improved access for four businesses and an additional $133,000 in annual tourism-related revenue generation.

- **Sludge Dewatering Facility – Volute Press**
  Funds are supporting the installation of sludge dewatering facilities at the Town of Boonsboro's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project will allow the sludge generated by the plant to be processed and disposed of largely onsite. Currently, the sludge is transported to a different plant- a costly process, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the plant's annual budget. The town predicts a 68% reduction in annual operating costs as a result of moving biosolid removal onsite, which will lower rates for both businesses and households.

Recovery Ecosystem

Clinical care, access to employment, housing, and transportation are essential to empower those struggling with a substance misuse disorder. Staff prioritize projects that help fill the gaps in the recovery ecosystem.

- **Allegany Oxford House Residential Recovery**
  ARC supports Archway Station, Inc. for the conversion of their current office space into a residence for women in recovery from substance use disorder. The women, in addition to participating in other recovery programs, are also working or seeking employment, and will cover their own rent and living expenses, making the operation self-sustaining. The renovation of the 4,000 square foot Oxford House building includes plumbing and fire suppression installations, among other things necessary for apartment-style accommodations.

Education and Workforce development

Staff prioritize projects that prepare students for jobs in the 21st century, expand partnerships among schools, colleges, and businesses to support workforce development and improve workforce readiness for all job seekers.

- **Expanding Computational Thinking**
  Funds will assist in purchasing equipment for the Washington County Public School's Expanding Computational Thinking program. The program will expand computational thinking by increasing access to equipment and supplies that foster students thinking in a computational manner, which includes the design process; the design, build and programing of robotics; and the ability to model solutions to problems through fabrication. One hundred high school students will participate in the program with 25 or more continuing on to post-secondary robotics and computer science-related fields. This will be the first students from Washington County Public Schools to continue through this pathway onto a postsecondary education for any type of robotics education.

- **Garrett County Workforce Development Program Expansion Project**
  Funds will assist in purchasing technology, equipment, and supplies to provide students with well-equipped laboratory and classroom learning environments. The program will utilize existing space at Garrett College's Career Technology Training Center. These programs are marketed to target recent high school graduates, unemployed and underemployed adults, incumbent workers, and career changers. Students will complete short-term training programs enabling them to quickly enter the workforce. The project will serve 150 students/workers annually.

While focusing on our Targeted Investment Priorities, priority is given to all projects located in the 12 federally-designated Opportunity Zones in Appalachian Maryland. In addition, the state and counties are working to provide funding opportunities for businesses and nonprofits to assist in the safe and reopening of workplaces, businesses, and recreational establishments. Staff continue supporting recovery from COVID-19 while remaining focused on our long-term economic development goals for the region.

Shaping and empowering leaders

ARC supports future community leaders and builds upon our existing leadership and community capacity working with ARC's Academies and Institutes. Each year we are proud to sponsor middle school, high school, and college students to participate in ARC's STEM education, entrepreneurship development, and applied research programs.
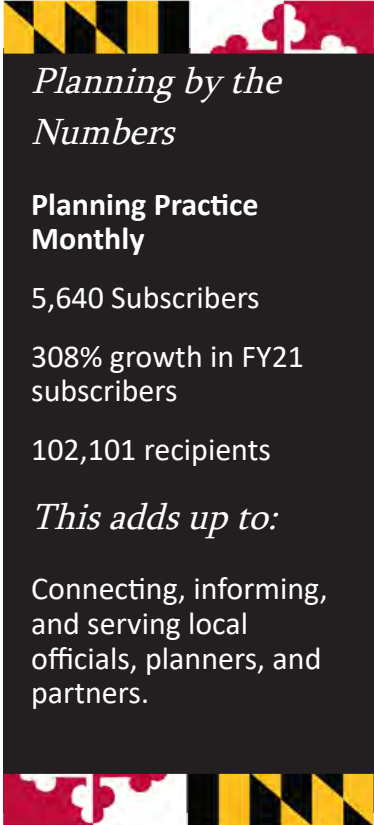
We are also proud to select and sponsor participants in the Appalachian Leadership Institute. The institute provides a comprehensive leadership and economic development training opportunity for our local leaders who are passionate about helping their communities thrive. Following an extensive training curriculum, future fellows are empowered and encouraged to take action to positively impact the future of Appalachia.

Education and Training

The Local Assistance and Training unit coordinates Planning's educational efforts, both locally and statewide. Staff is responsible for Planning's newsletter, Planning Practice Monthly, along with posting available training, conferences, webinars, and funding on the website. In FY21, Planning published seven newsletters and multiple single blog posts. Planning published fewer newsletter editions in FY21 due to the fact that staff were reassigned to assist with the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) COVID-19 response (see below). With Planning Practice Monthly, the department continued communicating the statewide planning efforts of other state agencies and local planning departments. Topics included the compatible use website and handbook development, renewable energy siting study, comprehensive planning, Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) connected and automated vehicle programs, Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA) events and resource development, continuation of the 2020 Women in Planning series, updates to the Housing Element Models & Guidelines, the Walktober 2020 webinar series, and Planning's brownfield technical assistance program.

Maryland Planning Commissioners Association: Staff maintained its assistance to MPCA in implementing the strategic plan developed in FY18. The MPCA conducted a virtual workshop in September 2020, which included a presentation from Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn and another from Planning staff on the Housing Element Models & Guidelines. Planning also helped the MPCA publish a web-based resource on Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Rules and Procedures and assisted in developing the structure for a future citizen planner mentorship program. Staff also assisted MPCA in conducting its first virtual annual fall conference, Contingency Planning and Resilient Boards, with 124 attendees. The MPCA conducted its first ever digital conference in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and received universal praise for the event. Staff coordinated a conference program focused on resiliency planning during a pandemic, hosted the MPCA annual meeting, and recognized impactful citizen planners. Staff also oversaw the online Planning Commissioner Training Course and hosted virtual courses in July and February totaling 350 new certificates of completion.

Planning by the Numbers

Planning Practice Monthly

5,640 Subscribers

308% growth in FY21 subscribers

102,101 recipients

This adds up to:

Connecting, informing, and serving local officials, planners, and partners.

Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the West Virginia Land Use Law Clinic reached out to neighboring state American Planning Association (APA) chapters in spring 2020 to seek assistance in developing a webinar series to substitute for the Clinic's cancelled annual conference. APA Maryland contacted Planning and MPCA to see if Planning could assist. Planning staff and the MPCA President joined monthly meetings of the Clinic, APA Maryland, APA Virginia, the National Capital APA Chapter, and APA Maryland throughout FY21, and joined a virtual reception as part of APA National's conference in May 2021. In support of this effort, staff coordinated and led webinars on sign ordinances and equity planning. Staff also contributed Maryland panelists to other webinars.

Housing Element Models and Guidelines: Staff updated the Housing Element Models and Guidelines in FY21, adding eight local best practices narratives on inclusionary zoning, preserving affordable housing, affordable housing trust funds, residential density, and housing partnerships. Staff also enhanced the housing dashboard with foreclosure and days on market data by county and added new affordable housing resources to the Microsoft Power BI table.

Engaging the Next Generation of Planners: Planning, alongside the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), also assisted the University of Maryland with its Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability project selection and engagement process. Staff similarly supported Morgan State's City and Regional Planning Department as part of its Professional Advisory Committee, reviewed and provided feedback on two capstone projects, and joined the end of semester student presentations in December 2020 and May 2021. Lower Eastern Shore staff supervised a Salisbury University intern, who assisted the department on a PFA project for certifications in Easton and St. Michaels, Grants Gateway grant application reviews, and our Critical Area Circuit Rider partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Pandemic Response: Staff supported the pandemic relief efforts of other agencies in FY21. This included expedited reviews of the Commerce's Nonprofit Recovery Initiative grant applications, assistance to DHCD on streamlined and expedited Sustainable Communities renewal applications, and direct assistance to the MDH on a variety of pandemic response programmatic needs.

Compatible Use Website and Handbook: In partnership with the Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce), Planning initiated the development of a website and handbook that will be designed to support mutually beneficial and compatible land use and development between Maryland's jurisdictions and military installations. A FY16 Maryland Economic Impact Study of Military Facilities calculated that the economic impact of military activities in the state was more than $57 billion. In response, Commerce completed a Maryland Statewide Joint Land Use Study in FY19, in which Planning participated. One of that study's suggested implementation measures was the development of the website and handbook described above. Planning and Commerce collaborated on a grant application to the U.S. Department of Defense, which was awarded. As part of this award, Planning hired a Compatible Use Community Planning Liaison (Liaison) in FY21 to lead the effort and procured the services of a vendor to develop the website and handbook. The Liaison and vendor created and led two stakeholder groups of local, state, and military representatives to guide the compilation of resources supporting compatible use and design the website and handbook. Resources will include model local ordinances, a compatibility review mapping tool, and best practices from within and outside of Maryland. Planning provided updates to the Maryland Military Installations Council on the progress of the project. This project has the potential to improve the relationships with our military installations, which are centers of innovation and economic activity. The benefits will extend beyond the term of an installation commander and the terms of local officials. It will enhance the ability to prevent encroachment issues and plan for a mutually beneficial future for the installations and their adjacent communities.

Maryland Statewide Joint Land Use Study

Response Implementation Strategy

Infrastructure and Development

Interagency Commission for School Construction

Planning continues to be one of three state agencies supporting the Interagency Commission for School Construction (IAC), the nine-member commission that oversees Maryland's $285 million investment in K-12 school facilities. Staff works closely with the executive director, the Maryland Department of General Services, the Department of Education and the 25 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state throughout the annual planning cycle that results in the allocation of these state dollars to local projects.

Each year the process begins as Planning coordinates with local facility planners to reconcile enrollment projections. These projections support the analysis and help to define local needs in each LEA's Educational Facilities Master Plan, which Planning reviews with its IAC partners, and which precedes the production of the annual Capital Improvement Program.

In FY21, Planning continued to work closely with IAC staff on several initiatives designed to create objective measurements of facility conditions and other considerations that inform the need for future investment. As the capacity of the IAC has grown, Planning has continued to collaborate on a variety of data-driven applications and tools intended to improve the planning of school facilities so that the IAC can continue to allocate resources efficiently to the benefit of all students across the state.

Smart Growth Information Clearinghouse

Planning managed the Smart Growth Information Clearinghouse under a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that expired in 2019. The Clearinghouse remains the online home of the Smart Growth Network (smartgrowth.org), a national partnership of more than 40 organizations dedicated to promoting and implementing the principles of smart growth.

Planning continues to update the website and provide webinar programming that has become popular among planners in Maryland and nationwide, as participants earn American Institute of Certified Planners continuing education credits for participation in the live programming.

Planning hosted 28 webinars in FY21, attracting a total attendance of more than 23,000 planners and local government officials throughout the country. The Clearinghouse's mailing list includes more than 25,000 planners and local officials nationwide and internationally.

Gray to Green Communities:
Addressing Affordable Housing and Sustainability

GRAY TO GREEN COMMUNITIES
A CALL TO ACTION ON THE HOUSING AND CLIMATE CRISES

DANA L. BOURLAND

March 26, 2021, 1:00 p.m. EST

Transportation Planning

To support TOD and transit investment,

Planning developed a variety of tools to assist MDOT, local communities, stakeholders, developers, property owners, and others in their planning and implementation efforts.

In FY21, Planning continued to refine the Transit Station Area Profile Tool, which provides easier access to demographic and transportation information about rail transit stations and allows for a streamlined data development and maintenance process. In addition, Planning provided the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) with demographic and transportation data presented in the County Transportation Profile Maps Dashboard.

Planning continues to support bicycle and pedestrian initiatives at the state and local level, through participation in the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group and MDOT's Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Planning also participates in Maryland's iMAP Technical Committee to advocate and share new geospatial tools and platforms.

In FY21, Planning continued to provide technical advice on various state, local, and regional transportation plans, programs, and project development or planning processes to promote multimodal transportation for all users and the integration of transportation, and land use planning to support state and local smart growth planning policies.

The unit reviewed and provided written comments on local, regional, and state transportation plans and programs such as local comprehensive plans and Maryland's Six-Year Consolidated Transportation Program. They also continued to support MDOT's efforts to develop the Statewide Transit Plan and update the State Freight Plan and the State Rail Plan. The unit also participated in half a dozen major state transportation project studies such as the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study Tier I National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the I-495 and I-270 Public Private Partnership (P3) Managed Lanes study.

Planning was also involved in various state, metropolitan planning organizations, and local transportation or related committees or workgroups such as the Maryland Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Working Group, the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council, and the Baltimore Region Transportation Planning Board.

Maryland's Power Plant Research Program

Power Plant Research Program Support: Planning serves on the DNR Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) interagency committee, which reviews proposed energy-generating facilities in Maryland, while ensuring that demand for electricity is met at a reasonable cost, and the state's valuable natural resources are protected.

Planning contacts local planning officials during the review process to ensure that communication among parties is ongoing and that major planning-related issues are being addressed. We remain attentive to local challenges, interests and opportunities.

Planning will continue to review each case for due regard for local land use regulations. Planning utilizes expertise from MHT to avoid potential adverse impacts to historic and cultural resources.

In FY21, eight solar projects and four transmission line projects were processed by PPRP. For solar projects, Planning completed three reviews; four are ongoing; and one solar project is pending. For transmission line projects, Planning completed two reviews; one is ongoing; and one is pending.

Planning is also coordinating with DNR to create a joint list of local solar planning and mapping contacts to help DNR's Smart DG+ team update local map layers to assist in planning for these facilities.

Reinvest Maryland

Planning continues to promote the Reinvest Maryland Toolkit (Reinvest Maryland 2.0). Reinvest Maryland is a guide to accelerating infill, redevelopment and community revitalization at all levels of government to work together, strengthen collaborative efforts to support revitalization and reinvestment, and engage stakeholders in supporting Maryland's communities to improve the quality of life.

Staff continues to update the website, adding contact information for individual projects, as well as material and enhancing its functionality as state agencies and local jurisdictions continue to provide examples of the best ways to create vibrant places with a range of housing, employment, and transportation options. The site displays maps, links visitors to information about best practices, and includes a searchable toolbox of state programs supporting reinvestment.
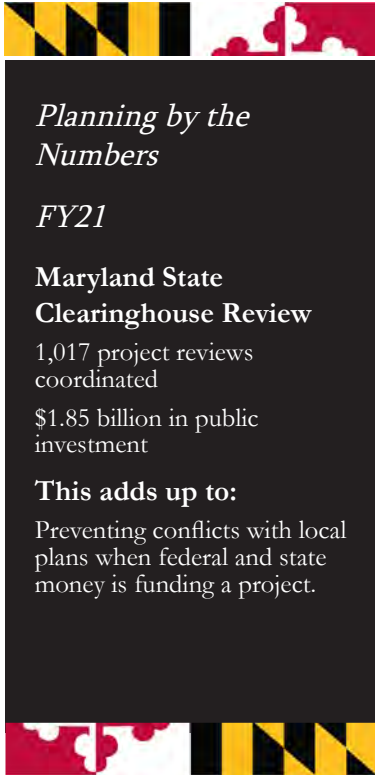
Resource Conservation and Management

State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance

The State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance (Clearinghouse) is Maryland's designated single point-of-contact to coordinate local government and state agency review of federal or state projects involving financial assistance or development. The review, which is mandated by federal and state executive orders and state law and regulations, facilitates alignment of plans and policies between federal, state, and local governments. All projects and reviews can be accessed on Planning's website via the Intergovernmental Monitor.

Chesapeake Bay Restoration Planning

Planning provides long-term vision and local government perspective to the Maryland Bay Workgroup, which provides recommendations to Governor Hogan's Bay Cabinet. In FY21, Planning supported the Bay Cabinet's work to implement Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and develop the annual Bay Restoration Spending Report. Also related to Bay restoration, Planning serves on the state's Soil Health Advisory Committee and the Board of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council.

In collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Planning initiated an update of its Water Resource Element (WRE) guidance to incorporate consideration of climate change impacts. Throughout FY21, Planning led an interagency workgroup and several subgroups to develop proposed changes and new additions to the current WRE guidance.

Planning by the Numbers

FY21

Maryland State Clearinghouse Review

1,017 project reviews coordinated

$1.85 billion in public investment

This adds up to:

Preventing conflicts with local plans when federal and state money is funding a project.

Brownfield Redevelopment Outreach

In cooperation with MDE, Planning continued its brownfield redevelopment assistance initiative by serving as a liaison to counties and municipalities interested in accessing technical and financial resources from federal and state agencies. In response to Planning's grant application, EPA awarded Planning a three-year, $300,000 grant to provide free environmental site assessments for brownfields in Baltimore County's East Side. In addition, Planning continued to meet with local jurisdictions to identify priority brownfield redevelopment sites and methods for facilitating project implementation; obtained federal and state responses to local technical and regulatory questions; reached out to metropolitan planning organizations and tri-county councils; facilitated information sessions (a brownfield basics webinar focused on Western Maryland, and a regional workshop for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments); and initiated planning for Maryland's inaugural brownfield conference). More information on this initiative can be found on Planning's brownfield webpage, which provides case studies of successful brownfield redevelopment projects in Maryland and connects local governments to technical and financial brownfield resources.

Land Preservation

To support state and local land conservation and preservation efforts, Planning, in coordination with DNR, completed quarterly updates to the Maryland Protected Lands Dashboard, which can be found at this link.

Planning worked with DNR to develop draft and final 2022 guidelines for county five-year Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans (LPPRPs), conducted several LPPRP guidance webinars, and provided twice monthly technical assistance sessions to answer questions and to facilitate networking and information exchange among county LPPRP leads.

To support consistency of LPPRPs with local annual Program Open Space (POS) requests, DNR and Planning reached agreement for Planning to share its reviews of the POS requests with local governments. Also, Planning worked with the DNR Sustainable Forestry Council to transfer to the Council the oversight of the implementation of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission's forestry-related strategies. In response to a request from the DNR Forest Service, Planning developed draft guidance for local governments on how to support Maryland's forestry industry through local ordinance changes.

Maryland InfoPortal

Planning continued its biannual updates of the Maryland InfoPortal tool (planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/Maryland-InfoPortal.aspx), which is a one-stop-shop for finding financial and nonfinancial assistance offered by state agencies. Planning hosts this digital catalog and coordinates the timeliness and accuracy of the information with a network of contacts.

Planning by the Numbers FY21

Land Preservation

59 Reviews of Water and Sewer Plan Amendments and 3 Reviews of Water Resources Elements

1 Recertification and 1 New Cerification of Local Agricultural Preservation Programs

23 Application Reviews for Rural Legacy

34 Review Letters for Program Open Space

This adds up to:

Preserving and protecting the environment with a focus on restoration and protection of our treasured Chesapeake Bay.

Interagency Coordination and Subcabinet Support

Planning leads and supports several multidisciplinary efforts, including support for several subcabinets, commissions, and executive orders.

Smart Growth Subcabinet: In FY21, Planning reviewed and provided feedback on 37 Sustainable Community renewal applications and two new applications and conducted site visits to and submitted comments on 297 neighborhood revitalization grant applications.

Commerce Subcabinet: The Local Assistance and Training Division submitted bi-monthly reports for the Commerce Subcabinet's Regional Resources Workgroup. These reports, completed in collaboration with regional staff from other state agencies, included information on pending and progressing developments, local leadership updates, and opportunities for enhanced interagency collaboration benefitting five Maryland regions and the jurisdictions therein. The division manager compiled and presented the reports for each meeting of the Commerce Subcabinet. Regional leaders for each group also developed priority action plans and joined debriefing and planning meetings following each Subcabinet meeting

Statewide Joint Land Use Study: In late FY20, Commerce was successfully awarded a U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment grant to develop an Energy Siting Study and Compatible Use Website and Handbook that will support mutually beneficial development between Maryland's jurisdictions and military installations. Planning staff assisted Commerce with formulating the grant application. In FY21, Planning led the compatible use effort through the procurement of vendor services and the hiring of a Compatible Use Community Planning Liaison.

Transportation Coordination: In FY21, Planning continued to coordinate with MDOT on enhancements to the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element Checklist, used by local governments to update their plans and is working on a new transportation planning data dashboard.

Governor's Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting Support: Planning participates in Steering Committee and Leadership Committee meetings to facilitate implementation of the Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms initiative, a multi-agency effort to promote outdoor activities and environmental education through schools, in communities, and on public lands to benefit Maryland's youth.
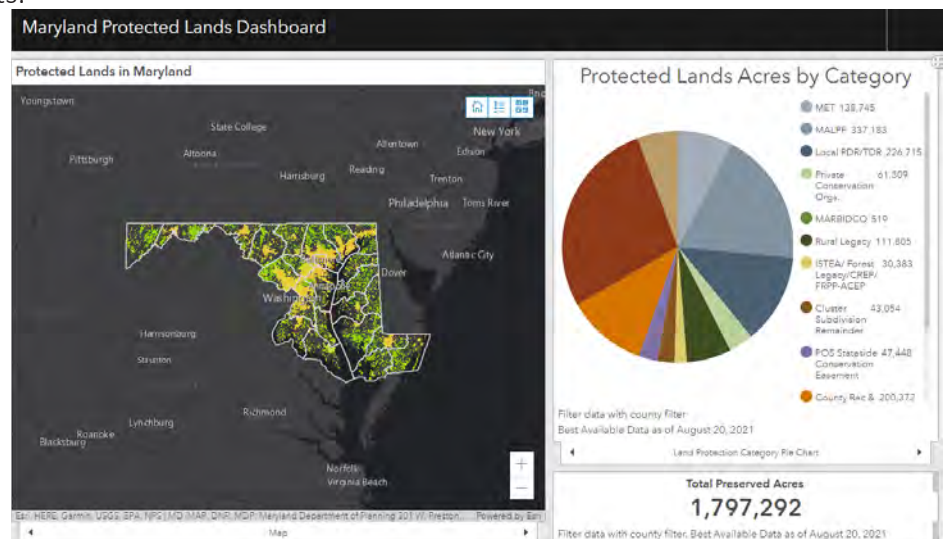
Climate Change Commission Support: As a member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, Planning participates on the Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group, providing constructive feedback on this commission's procedures, work plans, and policy recommendations. Throughout FY21, Planning participated in several workgroups, and led one workgroup, to support DNR in the development of a draft of a new statewide climate change adaptation framework. Planning also provided its annual report on greenhouse gases, prevented through compact development in Maryland, partnered with DNR to assist jurisdictions with nuisance flood planning, participated in the Maryland Resiliency Partnership to support Maryland Flood Awareness Month, and continued to lead an interagency workgroup to facilitate implementation of Maryland's Plan to Adapt to Saltwater Intrusion and Salinization.

Patuxent River Commission Support: Planning participates in Steering Committee and Leadership Committee meetings to facilitate implementation of the Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms initiative, a multi-agency effort to promote outdoor activities and environmental education through schools, in communities, and on public lands to benefit Maryland's youth.

Governor's Project Green Classrooms Support: Planning participates in Steering Committee and Leadership Committee meetings to facilitate implementation of the Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms initiative, a multi-agency effort to promote outdoor activities and environmental education through schools, in communities, and on public lands to benefit Maryland's youth.

Critical Area Commission Support: Planning participates on the Critical Area Commission as one of 29 members (and one of seven state agencies) to support implementation of the Maryland Critical Area law, and to encourage approaches that respect local government autonomy and provide adequate flexibility. In FY21, Planning supported the Commission in its efforts to develop solar facility siting regulations.

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Support: To facilitate state and local efforts to support Maryland's agricultural industry and land conservation and preservation efforts, Planning participates as one of four state agencies on the board as one of 13 members. In FY21, in response to changes to state law, Planning established and implemented a protocol to assist MALPF in its response to county requests to reuse appraisals for MALPF easements.

Planning Data and Research

The Planning Data and Research section uses analytical tools and processes to provide the public, local and state officials, and decision makers timely and accurate data and analysis. This section includes several areas, including Geospatial Data and Analysis, Projections and State Data Center, and Property Mapping.

Geospatial Data and Analysis

Foundational Data Updates

New Annexation Determinations: Thirty new annexations were submitted for review by local governments in FY21. These reviews determine the potential PFA status after the annexation has been approved and completed. This process is completed before an annexation is approved by the submitting community to streamline the PFA approval process.

Municipal Annexations: Twenty-nine new annexations in 17 municipalities were mapped following community approval and submission of the appropriate documentation. Once mapped, data and applications were updated with these new annexations.

Protected Lands Database: Data about the location of lands conserved and preserved under public ownership or easement are gathered from state and local agencies and private conservation organizations, aligned to MdProperty View digital parcels, and then integrated into a single geographic information systems (GIS) dataset. The data enables Planning to complete analyses that support local planning efforts and create custom maps showing the distribution of protected lands. Staff continues to maintain an interactive land conservation and preservation dashboard, initially developed in FY19.

Statewide Sewer Service Area Update and Amendments: Planning works with all counties and municipalities to collect sewer service area data. In FY21, Planning updated state sewer service data to reflect 79 amendments from 30 county water and sewer plan amendments approved by MDE. Planning is the sole state agency that updates and maintains a statewide sewer service area database.

MALPF Updates: Under an agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Planning updated GIS polygons for new MALPF easements and produced maps in PDF format for use at Board of Public Works meetings. The unit then integrated settled easements into Planning's Protected Lands Database in support of GIS analyses.

Generalized Zoning Update: Planning initiated a new update to one of the functional data layers that provides the only statewide comparative map of all 24 jurisdictions' zoning maps. Planning expects this update to be completed in early 2022.

Statewide Land Use Map Update: Planning continued its update to the statewide generalized land use map, which is envisioned to show generalized locations of developed land, including varying densities of residential land as well as commercial, industrial, institutional, other developed, and undeveloped resource land. Planning is currently finalizing a draft of the map for local jurisdictions to review.

Analysis

Bay Restoration Fund Analysis: As statutory members of the Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee, Planning and MDE advise the committee with the best available information and data analysis and contribute to the annual status report. Planning reports on the impact that an Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgraded wastewater treatment facility may have on growth in the municipalities and counties in which the facility is located. Growth is measured before and after ENR upgrades within existing and planned sewer service area boundaries and PFAs, using GIS mapping software. These findings help assess changes in growth patterns, the capacity of the upgraded facility to meet the demands of current and future users, and possible changes in development patterns that could be influenced by upgrades.

Annual Rural Legacy Submission Analysis: In FY21, Planning completed an annual review and evaluation of Rural Legacy funding applications under a Memorandum of Understanding with DNR to further the goals of conserving and preserving large, contiguous tracts of land that enhance natural resources, agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection.

Planning initiated changes to the Rural Legacy application process with cooperation with DNR, including revisions to the instructions and requirements for applicants to submit geospatial data. These revisions will help streamline the review process.

Support for the Chesapeake Bay Program's Land Change Model: Planning supported the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program in developing land use data and related inputs for its land change model, which contributes to estimates of nutrient and sediment loading into the Bay based on land use and other conditions. The data are critical to the reevaluation of WIPs to reduce nutrient and sediment loads under the EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load regulations.

The Chesapeake Bay is a vital resource for Maryland's commercial fishing and crabbing industry, recreation, and environmental health. Planning Data & Research contributes tothe analysis capability of the state.

Projections and State Data Center

Data Publication and Availability

The Maryland State Data Center (MSDC) maintains more than 90 datasets, including population and household projections, school enrollment, median income estimates, and statistics on retail establishments and farms. They are posted on the Maryland Open Data Portal and are foundational to the analyses conducted by public and private sector data users throughout the state and beyond. In FY21, the MSDC updated and revised 30 databases.

One of the updates is the Census Planning Database, which is used to fulfill public and local government data requests. Planning customized a similar program made available by the U.S. Census Bureau and modified the focus to Maryland in order to develop an interactive web tool that identifies potential low response areas for the 2020 Census.

MSDC maintains a library of demographic, economic, and agricultural statistics through the website (planning.maryland.gov/MSDC). It is through this venue that MSDC makes its research and analyses accessible to the public.

Statewide Public School Enrollment Projections

MSDC prepared the 2021-2030 public school enrollment projections report, which projects public school enrollments by grade for all 23 counties and Baltimore City. The 2020 projections were within 3.2% of the actual enrollment.

Population Estimates

The MSDC prepared national and state-by-state analyses of the annual U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. As part of the Maryland population estimates analysis, Planning staff also prepared detailed summary tables for age, race, and sex for the state and its 24 political subdivisions.

Population and Household Projections

Planning prepared and posted a new set of population and household projections by age, race, and sex for Maryland and its 24 jurisdictions. These projections will be updated using the 2020 Census data as the base and the horizon will be moved to 2050.

2020 Census and Redistricting Support

The decennial Census data is normally released on April first of the year following the national count. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the counting phase was extended until October 16, 2020, and the U.S. Census Bureau release of Census data was delayed until August 12, 2021. Maryland is just one of a handful of states that is required by state law to reallocate incarcerated individuals back to their last known address prior to incarceration. MSDC processed and disseminated the first data release of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing, the P.L. 94-171 summary files for Maryland. These data contain counts of the total population, specified race, ethnicity and age groups, group quarters population by type, housing units and occupancy status.

The data products were prepared for the following geographies: state; county; municipalities; Census designated places; congressional districts; senate and delegate legislative districts; precincts (voting districts); Census tracts; block groups; and blocks.

In accordance with Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 2-2A-01, Planning collaborated with the Maryland Departments of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Legislative Services to adjust the P.L. 94-171 data for specified institutional group populations to their last known place of residence in Maryland.

Planning developed the technical guidelines and policies for submitting redistricting proposals to the independent Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission. Planning also provided staff and support to the Commission's work group and public meetings. There were three rounds of public hearings totaling 36 public meetings, more than 4,000 attendees, and more than 1,200 unique contacts. All of this collectively provided the public extensive opportunity to comment on the draft redistricting maps. Planning also provided an online mapping application portal, through which the public was able to prepare and submit 86 maps of their own for consideration. All meetings were streamed live on Zoom or YouTube, were closed captioned for the hearing-impaired, and included Spanish interpretation. The Commission fully engaged Maryland citizens in this public process to be as open and transparent in the creation of these maps as possible. This unprecedented level of public engagement produced congressional and legislative maps that respect natural boundaries, protect political subdivision boundaries, and maintain communities of interest, all while ensuring compliance with the Voting Rights Act and other legal precedent.

Housing Sales and Development Data

Planning prepared a residential sales summary report for CY19 and CY20, which show the number of residential sales by type of residence, and the median residential sales value by type of residence. Data are provided inside and outside PFAs for all jurisdictions.

Annual, monthly, and quarterly building permit reports on single-family and multi-family residential units were updated and published for Maryland, and its 24 jurisdictions. Authorized building permit data for all residential developments (single-family, multi-family, and other) were tabulated monthly and published on the MSDC website. Annual reports are available online from FY99 to FY19 (FY20 to be online by the end of 2021).

Localized Economic Analyses

In support of the TOD project, a comprehensive database was developed to help identify the socioeconomic characteristics of the population within a half-mile radius of each train station in Maryland.

Staff updated annual jobs and income data- available from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis- for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and for Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. Planning analyzed growth trends, and prepared rankings for jobs and income data.

The analysis included personal income by major source and earnings by major industry, as well as wages and salaries by major industry.
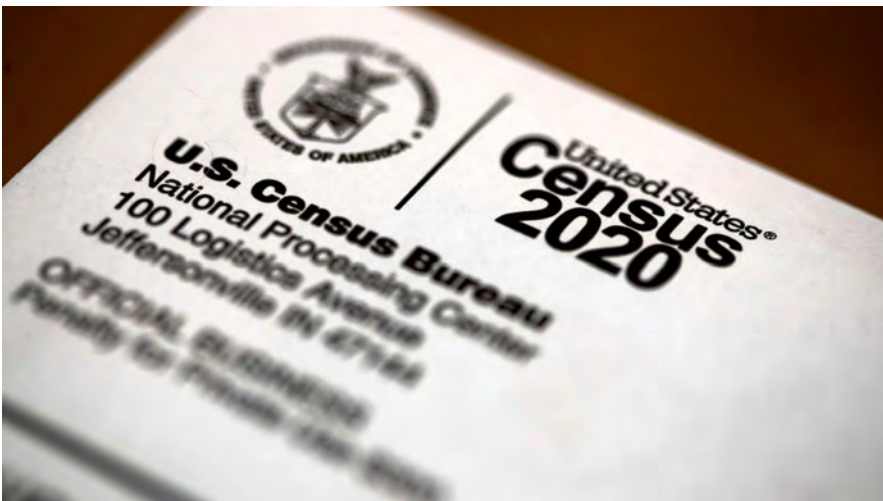
Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA Delineation Program)

Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) are non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas that partition each state or equivalent entity into geographic areas containing no fewer than 100,000 people. The Census Bureau invites all the SDCs to delineate PUMAs.

Maryland will work with local governments, as well as regional planning agencies and other organizations, to ensure that the PUMAs meet the needs of data users. After every decennial Census, MSDC hosts a PUMA delineation conference to discuss issues surrounding new boundaries and provide technical assistance to local officials that define PUMA boundaries within their jurisdictions.

Annual State Data Center Conference

MSDC hosted its annual conference to inform affiliates about the 2020 Census data products, the new disclosure avoidance system, and race and ethnicity diversity index and how it is calculated. There were also updates on upcoming Census programs. MSDC collaborated with the U.S. Census Bureau to organize the conference.

Statewide Consequence Management Support

Planning serves as the lead for the Cultural Resources State Coordinating Function and reinforces state agencies and local governments responding to emergencies with custom data products, GIS support and technical assistance. Planning supports the management of the consequences of these events through preparedness planning, protection and response operations for historic resources and archeological sites, and community planning and resiliency building following a disaster.

FY21 continued to be challenging, not only to Planning, but all state agencies responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In spring 2020, the pandemic was declared a Public Health Emergency by Governor Hogan, and Planning was required to implement contingency planning to maintain essential functions. In addition, over 12% of Planning staff were temporarily assigned to MDH to provide technical assistance in support of the emergency.

Since early July, operations have been reconstituted with staff performing day-to-day operations in hybrid settings that include working in the office, and from remote locations.

Items of note from FY21 include:

- Collaborating with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and other state agencies to develop the 2021 State Hazard Mitigation Plan,

- Working with state agencies to determine statewide damages from Tropical Depression Ida, including addressing unmet recovery needs, and answering questions from local officials about public and individual assistance, small business administration assistance, hazard mitigation planning and tools, non-governmental assistance, and state recovery assistance. Six jurisdictions (Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, and Montgomery counties) suffered significant damage from the heavy rainfall, flooding, high winds and tornadoes.

- Preparing data products and supporting the bi-annual Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Full Scale Exercise. This federally-mandated and-graded exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for local and state officials to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures related to the consequences of atomic power plant incidents.

Property Mapping

Statewide Parcel Data Management

In FY21, Planning assembled parcel boundary files from local government sources, then linked the files to property assessment data for use in GIS and online applications hosted by Planning and other state agencies. This data is also available as a free download from Planning's website, and in the case of the *FINDER* Quantum product, is bundled with free, open-source GIS desktop software and a customized project file.

In August 2020, a new parcel data product was made available for download: bi-monthly updates of Assessment data fields linked to the most recent update of parcel points and polygons. These parcel point and polygon downloads, intended as an interim update to Planning's *MdProperty View* and *FINDER* Quantum products, are available by individual counties and Baltimore City, or by a statewide file.

Tax Map Product Updates and Enhancements

Property Mapping performed updates and maintenance of the state's tax assessment maps, which are made available in paper or digital image format. They are also used in GIS such as Planning's downloadable data products, including MdProperty View and FINDER Quantum, and as an image service on MD iMAP, the state's GIS data portal.

In FY21, Planning completed the long-term project of incorporating county-developed parcel data into tax map maintenance. The last two jurisdictions completed were Frederick County and Baltimore County. This concluded a major overhaul of the tax maps that has improved their accuracy and cartographic quality.

Planning by the Numbers

FY21

Data Download Products

5,182 *MdProperty View* files

1,150 *FINDER* Quantum files

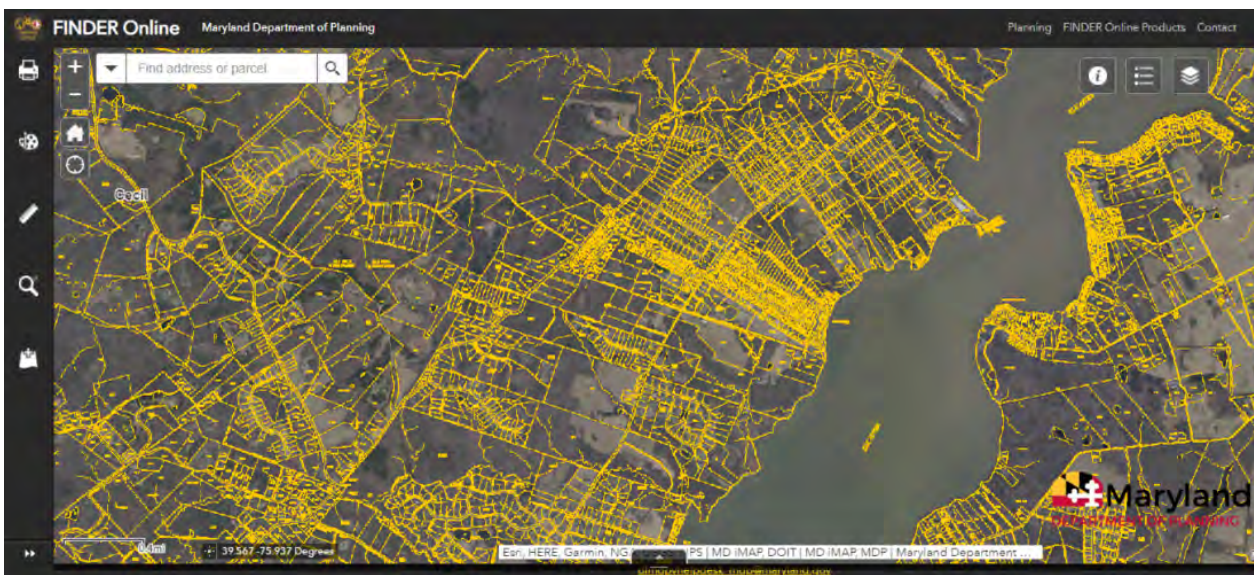6,901 Parcel Point and Polygon downloads

Online Parcel Map Visits

15,989 *FINDER* Online Mobile pageviews

5,989 *FINDER* Online Mobile pageviews

This adds up to:

Citizens and businesses having important data available when they need it.

Maryland Historical Trust

In FY21, MHT administered a wide variety of research, protection, and financial assistance programs that aid state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to undertake preservation-related activities.

Office of Planning, Education, and Outreach

Heritage Areas Program

Governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) administered by MHT, and Chaired by the Secretary of Planning,the Maryland Heritage Areas Program provides targeted financial and technical assistance within 13 locally designated heritage areas. In FY21, Maryland's heritage areas continued to grow through boundary amendments, adding dozens of natural, cultural and historical partner organizations that offer new resources, engaging stories, and impactful perspectives. The boundaries of the Baltimore National Heritage Area, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Four Rivers Heritage Area, and Beach to Bay Heritage Area were all expanded in FY21.

In FY21, a record 167 grant applications were submitted, requesting more than $7.5 million for heritage tourism projects and activities. With assistance from the newly configured grants review panel, designed to include more diverse perspectives in the funding process, MHAA awarded $5.1 million to 115 projects that foster economic development through heritage tourism, leveraging more than $24.7 million in non-state matching support. In addition to 88 project grants, MHAA also awarded grants to help support the operations of the 13 heritage area management entities (totaling $1,204,953) as well as nine block grants (totaling $206,000) and five grants for marketing (totaling $118,325).

This year, MHAA concluded its economic impact study, highlighting the tremendous value that the program brings to the state. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program has $2.4 billion in annual economic impact, and MHAA grants generate $319.8 million in state and local taxes, and support 33,815 full- and part-time jobs annually. The full economic impact study can be found here: mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas_impact.shtml.

Planning by the Numbers FY21

Heritage Areas Program

167 grant applications

$7.5 million requested

115 projects awarded

$5.1 million funded

$24.7 million leveraged

This adds up to:

Increased private investment in our future.

Statewide Preservation Plan

In 2019, the National Park Service (NPS) approved PreserveMaryland II, Maryland's statewide preservation plan, which serves as a guidance document for agencies, organizations, and individuals engaged in historic preservation and cultural heritage activities in Maryland. The plan has five goals: 1) connect with broader audiences; 2) improve the framework for preservation; 3) expand and update documentation; 4) build capacity and strengthen networks; and 5) collaborate toward shared objectives. Highlights of progress toward these goals include:

- MHT, MHAA, JPPM and the MAC Lab all transitioned programs to virtual formats, created new offerings, and continued to move projects, including site visits and architectural and archaeological research, forward during this challenging time. As a result, staff now have more experience with online formats and will continue to utilize these platforms, including MHT's new YouTube channel, to engage new audiences and improve public access to programs. (Goal 1)

- MHT has continued to make enhancements to its grants programs to improve accessibility and ease of use. In FY21, MHAA made a substantial change to matching fund requirements, eliminating the longstanding 75% cash match requirement for all grants. Instead, MHAA will accept any combination of cash and in-kind match to fulfill the one-to-one matching requirement going forward. This change will foster a more diverse pool of grant applicants and generally more equitable grantmaking to organizations that are rich in community support but have limited access to cash. (Goal 2)

- Many of PreserveMaryland II's strategies to expand and update documentation address gaps in our data related to marginalized communities. In FY21, MHT continued work on documentation of sites related to women's suffrage and the LGBTQ community, funded by NPS' Underrepresented Community grants. MHT also received funding to begin documentation on Asian American communities in Maryland, focusing on Baltimore City and the suburbs surrounding Washington, DC. (Goal 3)

- The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges to building capacity and networking in FY21. For the first time, MHT held its Architectural Fieldwork Symposium virtually, bringing together approximately 160 field surveyors, architectural historians, preservation planners, and related practitioners from across the state to discuss recent projects, themes, and methodology. MHAA provided over $1 million in direct aid and allowed grantees to use up to $20,000 of their awards for COVID-19 related operating costs. MHT and MHAA also hosted a virtual listening session in June 2021, where partner organizations discussed their challenges and successes during the pandemic. (Goal 4)

- Following PreserveMaryland II objectives and strategies, MHT has continued to partner with DNR to conduct architectural and archeological assessments of state-managed properties. Over the course of FY21, MHT participated in the intensive Maryland Adaptation Framework project, led by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group and facilitated by a team from the University of Virginia. With the program manager of the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center, MHT staff co-chaired the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion sector group. (Goal 5)

Local Government Assistance

The Certified Local Government Program, administered by NPS and MHT, recognizes the 22 counties and municipalities in Maryland that have made a special commitment to preservation. The program awarded five competitive grants for planning and survey projects, as well as 12 education and training applications, for a total of $94,309 in FY21.

Weather It Together Program

The statewide Weather It Together program is aimed at protecting historic places, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes from the effects of natural hazards, such as flooding, wind, and coastal erosion. In FY21, staff worked with DNR to update the 2020 Coast Smart construction siting and design guidelines and presented on climate change and cultural heritage at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial Forum, as part of a panel including presenters from Calvert County, Baltimore City, and San Antonio, Texas. Staff also took part in planning and creating content for the state's first Flood Awareness Month held in April 2021.

PreserveMaryland II

The Statewide Preservation Plan (2019-2023)

Office of Research, Survey, and Registration

Research and Survey

MHT continued work on an Underrepresented Community Grant from the NPS to document the women's suffrage movement in Maryland. Staff conducted site visits to assist property owners, state agencies, and preservation partners on architectural projects, including the Lee-Pullen House in the Jerusalem Mill Village, a National Register Historic District (Harford County); Boyds School (Montgomery County); Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness, a National Historic Landmark; Pomonkey, an historic African American community (Charles County); Society Hill and the Vickers House on Cobb Island (Charles County); Rose Hill and Betty's Delight (Charles County); Ripley, an early 19th century house slated for demolition in Church Hill (Queen Anne's County); Araby (Charles County); Edmondson House and Wheatley United Methodist Church (Dorchester County); and the Jane Gates House and the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, two African American historic sites in Cumberland (Allegany County). MHT also continued its efforts to survey lands owned or controlled by DNR and other state agencies to identify the full range of archaeological sites located on such properties. In addition, staff carried out survey work on two federally-owned properties.

In FY21, the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program provided $300,000 to assist local governments and nonprofits for research, planning, and outreach activities, including archaeological projects. Staff added 116 standing structures and survey districts, as well as 68 updates, to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, totaling more than 11,638 acres. Staff also added 117 terrestrial archaeological sites and nine maritime archaeological sites, as well as 65 terrestrial site updates, to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. A total of 207 archaeological survey reports were added into the MHT Library covering 3040.29 acres.

National Register of Historic Places

As Maryland's SHPO, MHT nominates Maryland properties to the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by NPS. In FY21, the following properties were included in the National Register: the Moyaone Reserve Historic District, Prince George's and Charles Counties (listed 10/7/20); Henry Brandenburg House, Frederick County (12/11/20); Piney Grove, Kent County (12/8/20); Ceres Bethel AME Church, Frederick County (12/22/20) ; and the Guilford Quarry Pratt Through Truss Bridge, Howard County (6/2/21). MHT also coordinated revisions to the National Register documentation for the Washington Grove Historic District, Montgomery County (9/28/20); Riverside Historic District, Baltimore City (3/5/21); and St. Joseph's College and Mother Seton Shrine, Frederick County (6/22/21). As contributing resources within these listings, 173 Maryland properties are afforded the benefits and protections of National Register designation.

Cultural Resources Information System

FY21 enhancements to Medusa, the state's cultural resource information system, will make it easier to use and more comprehensive in scope. Meanwhile, staff have continued to work with developers at Planning to create an online project submission and review portal for Section 106 compliance projects, and this will eventually be expanded to include online submission and review of all forms and applications through Medusa. With COVID-19 pandemic-related closures of in-person research archives throughout the state, the MHT Librarian expanded their role to help researchers find needed information, both in the MHT Library and in other institutions. Part of this included a push to digitize more of MHT's collection of archeological site reports and architectural research reports, and ongoing efforts to incorporate online access to these reports into Medusa.

Military Monuments and Roadside Markers

IIn FY21, MHT coordinated maintenance for 17 monuments in northeast Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. In FY21, the COVID-19 emergency reallocated funds customarily assigned to the Maryland Roadside Historical Markers Program. One marker was erected commemorating the 1970 Garrett County Road Workers' Strike, which ran from April 7 to November 19, 1970, becoming the longest public workers' strike in U.S. history.

Office of Preservation Services

Project Review and Compliance

In FY21, MHT reviewed more than 4,949 public undertakings through Section 106 consultation to assess the effects of those projects on cultural resources, and formally evaluated more than 104 associated historic and cultural properties for their eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation resulted in 30 formal agreement documents to resolve the adverse effects of projects on significant cultural resources.

Capital Grants and Loans

MHT provided $1 million in capital grants to 13 projects under the 2021 African American Heritage Preservation Program. The program received 45 eligible applications for a total funding request of more than $3.7 million. In FY21, Governor Hogan fully funded the Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program at $600,000, and six projects across the state were approved for funding by the MHT Board and the Secretary of Planning. The Historic Preservation Capital Loan Program provided $300,000 to assist with the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum's King's Reach House, built in 1910 as part of a 200-acre property.

Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program

Planning by the Numbers FY21

Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program

11 applications

$16.2 million requested

$9 million funded

$31 illion leveraged

This adds up to:

Increased private investment in our future.

Maryland's Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program has helped restore thousands of homes and commercial buildings that contribute to the distinct character and economic vibrancy of Maryland's towns, cities, and rural areas. For FY21, 11 applicants sought more $16.2 million in tax credits for construction projects with a total estimated cost exceeding $70 million. MHT awarded more than $9 million in tax credits for FY21, expected to leverage more than $31 million of private investment. In FY20, the program approved 30 proposed Small Commercial Tax Credit projects worth approximately $943,609, and 133 proposed Homeowner Tax Credit projects worth an estimated $1.13 million across the state.

Historic Preservation Easement Program

In FY21, MHT acquired two new historic preservation easements, modified two existing easements, and terminated two easements. MHT currently holds a statewide easement portfolio of more than 700 easements on more than 900 properties, encompassing more than 7,700 acres; most of these easements provide perpetual protection. During FY21, staff reviewed 193 requests from property owners/operators for changes to these easement properties, including full scale projects and minor alterations.

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

A 560-acre park located on the Patuxent River in rural Calvert County, JPPM is home to more than 70 archaeological sites and contains historic houses and outbuildings, museum spaces, the MAC Laboratory, and recreational facilities. The park's mission is to connect people to the past and support the preservation of Maryland's cultural and natural resources. JPPM engages with local and regional audiences through exhibit spaces, interpretive trails, and cultural events, including festivals, summer camps for K-12 students, workshops, and other activities hosted onsite throughout the year that take advantage of the park's rich archaeological, historical, scientific, and ecological resources. In FY21, as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed, JPPM dramatically boosted its virtual educational offerings and, at the same time, experienced increased demand for outdoor visitation. For FY21, visitation to the park increased by 15,407 (14%) over FY19, the last pre-pandemic fiscal year.

Educational Programs and Events

In FY21, new virtual activities included fall and spring plant sales and, in December, a virtual holiday market featuring local vendors and small businesses. The popular annual 5K event, hosted in partnership with Calvert Hospice, was held virtually. Successful in-person events included the Bay Community Support Services fundraiser "Holiday Drive-In," featuring two screenings of holiday movies, and the Calvert County NAACP annual Community Day celebration. June 2021 witnessed the return of popular annual in-person events, including Children's Day on the Farm and Bernie Fowler's Patuxent River Wade-In.

In addition to events and activities, JPPM offers a range of educational programming, primarily geared toward K-12 students. In FY21, JPPM stayed engaged with local students by converting all 6th grade in-person Calvert County Public School field trips to virtual field trips with accompanying lessons. JPPM also revamped Time-Traveling Kids, which features stories and activities that transport Pre-K participants to the past, as a virtual program, and held its Speaker Series virtually. Village Days, a monthly program focused on native life of the Eastern Woodland Tribes, returned in May 2021, and the Horticulture Helpers program returned in June. In FY21, JPPM also introduced Archaeology and History hikes, walking tours of the park's historic and archaeological resources. Each hike lasted approximately 2-3 hours and covered a distance of about three miles.

JPPM also offers summer camps, workshops, and fee-based educational programming, running from single-day activities through week-long excursions that appeal to children and adults. In FY21, JPPM produced a weekly "Wild About JPPM'' program on outdoor survival skills for the Southern Maryland Homeschool Cooperative, as well as a weekly Mighty Marshes Homeschool Program. JPPM's digital summer camps, rebranded as "Boredom Busters," allowed families to register online and pick up an activity kit at the park through a contactless system. In total, JPPM hosted 20 paid workshops and educational programs in FY21.

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab

In FY21, staff conserved a wide variety of artifacts from clients throughout the country, including an early 19th century cast iron stove and a cast iron toy horse from the Catoctin Furnace, a Lyle gun used in shipwreck rescue missions from the Assateague National Seashore, two mill turbines from the Motor City Foundation in Iowa, a number of items from Fort Frederick State Park that will be used in a new exhibit, and a bronze breech-loading cannon from the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation. The MAC Lab also received a large avocational collection from the Navy's Webster Field, which included artifacts from the 17th and 18th century occupation of the property by Jesuit missionaries. MAC Lab staff assisted in research and reporting at JPPM resources, including the Steve Embrey site (18CV524), a late 19th century Black tenant farm site, as well as the Smith St. Leonard site, a circa 1711-1754 tobacco farm. The MAC Lab has begun to receive, for permanent curation, archaeological collections from the University of Maryland's Archaeology in Annapolis project, which investigated several highly significant sites, as well as 93 boxes of associated archaeological records.

MAC Lab staff created a video on the Sukeek's Cabin site, a late 19th century Black tenant farm located at JPPM, as part of the Site Tour Saturday Series, which can be accessed online at jefpat.maryland.gov/Pages/events/site-saturday.aspx. Throughout the summer and into the fall 2020, the MAC Lab continued to produce "STEAM Sunday" videos that provided hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities with archaeological themes. Topics included freeze drying as a conservation technique, archaeobotany, faunal analysis, dendrochronology, and researching artifacts

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The State of Maryland pledges to provide constituents, businesses, customers, and stakeholders with services in the following manner:

- **Friendly and Courteous:** We will be helpful and supportive and have a positive attitude and passion for what we do.

- **Timely and Responsive:** We will be proactive, take initiative, and anticipate your needs.

- **Accurate and Consistent:** We will always aim for 100% accuracy, and be consistent in how we interpret and implement state policies and procedures.

- **Accessible and Convenient:** We will continue to simplify and improve access to information and resources.

- **Truthful and Transparent:** We will advance a culture of honesty, clarity and trust.

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