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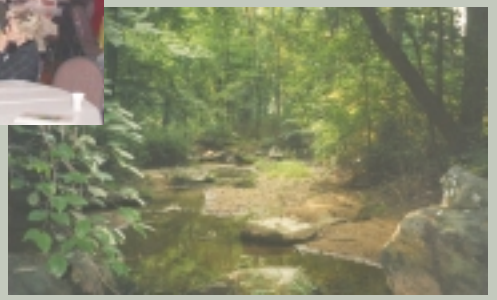
General Plan Monitoring Report 2002



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General Plan Monitoring Committee

Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

Howard County
MARYLAND

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	Economic Development Authority	Libraries	Public School System
	Fire and Rescue Services	Police	Recreation and Parks

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Introduction

Howard County's General Plan 2000 is the County's blueprint for the future. It establishes policies and actions to address future needs and opportunities. These guide County decision-making in many arenas including development, land preservation, environmental protection, community conservation and the delivery of public services.

To focus implementation efforts, the General Plan's final chapter establishes priorities, associated *Implementation Indicators* and *Trends Indicators*, and a process for monitoring implementation. A Citizens' Implementation Monitoring Committee is to evaluate progress and prepare a report at least every two years. This report is to be presented to the Planning Board at a public meeting to obtain public comments on: implementation progress, adjustments to implementation strategies, and/ or refinements to the monitoring indicators.

In May 2002, County Executive James N. Robey and the Howard County Council jointly appointed members to the General Plan Monitoring Committee. The Committee is chaired by James McGowan, who also served as Chairman of the General Plan Task Force.

This is the first General Plan Monitoring Report. Its organization reflects the structure of the Implementation Indicators and Trends Indicators charts in the General Plan (Figures 7-4 and 7-5). For the *Implementation Indicators*, specific progress measures and the schedule for accomplishments are established in the General Plan. Some tasks were scheduled to be completed in the first reporting period; some were not scheduled to be completed or even started until the second reporting period; and others were identified as ongoing actions with progress expected in all reporting periods. Information on the status of each indicator was initially prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). This information was expanded upon in response to the Monitoring Committee's questions and requests. Where the Monitoring Committee feels the status notes are sufficient, no additional Committee comments are offered. The Committee has added comments when progress or a lack of progress deserves special recognition; there is a need to determine measures or develop data for the next reporting period; or consideration should be given to modifying an indicator measure.

Your views and suggestions are welcome. While your thoughts on the report's contents are most critical, since this is the first time that monitoring has been undertaken, it would also be helpful to have comments on the report format and the monitoring process itself. All comments received by August 27th will be reviewed by the General Plan Monitoring Committee in preparing its final recommendations to the Planning Board. Comments received after this date will be forwarded to the Planning Board. Comments may be e-mailed to the Department of Planning and Zoning (planning@co.ho.md.us - please note the subject is GP Monitoring) or mailed to the Department at 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043 . Your views will also be welcome at the Planning Board's public meeting this Fall. The schedule for this public meeting will be announced in the newspapers and on DPZ's website in late August.

Responsible Regionalism

Responsible Regionalism

Priority Funding Area (Policy 2.1)

- **Indicator:** CONFIRMATION THAT PLANNED SERVICE AREA MEETS PRIORITY FUNDING AREA REQUIREMENTS
- **Measure:** APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - The Planned Service Area boundary was not changed by General Plan 2000, and had previously been approved by the MD Department of Planning (MDP) as the County's Priority Funding Area. MDP has indicated that reapproval is not necessary.

Interjurisdictional Cooperation (Policy 2.2)

- **Indicator:** INTERJURISDICTIONAL INITIATIVES EXPANDED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - Continued participation in: the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's (BMC) programs for cooperative forecasting, transportation planning/budgeting, and cooperative purchasing; regional environmental initiatives including the Patuxent River Commission, Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team, and Baltimore and Patuxent Reservoirs watershed protection; the Economic Development Authority's collaboration on regional economic development with the Greater Baltimore Alliance, the Greater Washington Initiative, and the BWI Partnership; and periodic meetings of the Mayor and County Executives of the State's largest "Big Seven" jurisdictions.
  - New initiatives include: coordination with Anne Arundel County and Laurel on Route 1 revitalization; working with the MD Department of Transportation and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to prioritize improvements to the transportation network that links Baltimore and Washington; BMC cooperation to develop both a regional Vision for 2030 and an emission reduction strategy to bring the region into compliance with Clean Air Act requirements; and increased regional cooperation on homeland security and emergency planning.

Vision 1: Our actions will complement State and regional initiatives in resource and growth management.

Funding for Regional Transportation Improvements (Policy 2.3)

- **Indicator:** FEDERAL AND STATE DOLLARS SPENT FOR REGIONAL HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY
- **Measure:** HIGHWAY BUDGET AMOUNT
  TRANSIT BUDGET AMOUNT
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - Federal and State highway funds equaled $42.9 million in FY00 and $37.0 million in FY01. Howard County has benefitted from an average of $32.4 million/year in federal and state highway funds since 1992. FY 00 and 01 funding is higher due to funding for three major interchanges (MD175/Snowden River Parkway, MD29/216, and MD29/Hopkins), as well as relocation of MD 216. These improvements will increase the capacity on roads that provide alternatives to heavily congested I-95 and MD 32.
  - Information on Federal and State funding for various regional MTA bus and MARC rail services is available, but is not disaggregated on a County by County basis. Federal and State funds to support Howard Transit fixed route, paratransit services and ridesharing equaled $3.4 million in FY02, $2.6 million in FY01 and $2.1 million in FY00. This is an increase of 62% over FY 00.

Preservation of the Rural West

Preservation of the Rural West

Rural Land Preservation (Policy 3.1)

- **Indicator:** NUMBER OF ACRES IN PRESERVATION EASEMENTS INCREASES
- **Measure:** 25,000 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL EASEMENTS AND 30,000 ACRES PROTECTED BY ALL METHODS
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - As of 7/02, State and County agricultural preservation programs have protected 18,771 acres. This was an increase of 1,261 acres above that reported in GP 2000; 512 acres of which was protected by dedication of agricultural preservation easements through cluster and density sending subdivisions and the remainder through purchase of development rights by the County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program.
  - Cluster and density exchange preservation easements on other types of rural land have increased by 2,511 acres to 3,971 acres. A total of 22,741 acres has been protected by purchase and dedication of easements.
  - While funding for purchase of development rights has been available from the State's Rural Legacy Program, property owners have shown limited interest in using this program. The Rural Legacy formula for valuing easements is generally perceived as less beneficial to property owners and may need review.

Monitoring Committee Comments

The County is doing well on preservation easements obtained through subdivision dedications, but is behind on purchase of development rights, which retires rather than relocates density. The County should consider, and if possible, implement measures to increase the purchase of development rights.

Design of Cluster and Density Receiving Subdivisions and Scenic Road View Protection (Policy 3.2)

- **Indicator:** REGULATIONS IMPROVED
- **Measure:** CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Amendments to the Zoning Regulations for the Rural West were adopted November 7, 2001. Included were amendments to: improve design of cluster and density exchange subdivisions; address conflicts between agricultural and residential uses; and expand farm-related business uses.

Monitoring Committee Comments

Sending parcels work well to protect farms, but cluster subdivision design generally does not result in regularly-shaped preservation parcels that are suitable for agriculture, primarily due to the competing need to use prime soils for sewage disposal fields.

Vision 2: Our rural lands will be productive and rural character will be conserved.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Over the past two years the Economic Development Authority has done an excellent job with the agricultural marketing program. It has really strengthened its focus on the agricultural economy.

Agricultural Marketing Program (Policy 3.7)

- **Indicator:** ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS THROUGH COUNTY AND STATE PROGRAMS INCREASES
- **Measure:** NUMBER OF FARMERS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - The Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP) supports farmers' markets in east and west Columbia (3 new Howard County farmers added in 2002). New marketing opportunities include: the "Farmers' Market Day" at the Howard County Fair; two new Community Supported Agriculture subscription operations; two new roadside farm stands; linkage between two County restaurants and farmers in the West; and one farmer producing and marketing salsa made from his own "Howard County Grown" organic produce.
  - Educational programs included: a "Beginning Farmers" series (52 graduates); a web site development training session (14 farmers); a six-week course on "Business Skills Training for Successful Alternative Agricultural Enterprises" (16 farmers); and initiation of a new *Howard Ag* newsletter.

- **Indicator:** VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION INCREASES
- **Measure:** AMOUNT OR PERCENT OF INCREASE
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Although grain production still uses the bulk of County farmland, flat commodity prices and growth in consumer demand for fresh, locally grown produce and specialty crops, continues to fuel Howard County's transition to growing high-value, direct marketed produce and horticulture and nursery products. It is difficult to accurately state the resulting net increase to farm profitability in Howard County. The most current information, the 1997 USDA Census estimated the sales value of crops and livestock for Howard County farms to be $19.6 million/year, but did not count the equine industry, agritourism, several specialty crops, and a portion of the horticulture industry. The next USDA Census, in late 2002, will help quantify both changes to the County farm economy, as well as farm demographics.
  - The 1999 Howard County Equine Industry Survey determined the County's equine industry is at least a $140 million/year business. This includes direct and indirect purchases by the industry and industry suppliers, but not induced impacts from employee purchases.
  - The 2001 Economic Profile of the Horticulture, Nursery and Turfgrass Industry estimated sales of plant materials is $30 million/year and horticultural landscaping & maintenance sales of $45 million/year.

Balanced and Phased Growth

Balanced and Phased Growth

General Plan Housing and Job Growth Forecasts (Policy 4.27)

- **Indicator:** FORECASTS ARE INCORPORATED INTO ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES HOUSING ALLOCATION CHART
- **Measure:** CHART AMENDED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - To quickly implement the new General Plan projections and planning areas, a mid year amendment to the APF housing unit allocation chart was adopted February 5, 2001. Subsequent charts are adopted on an annual basis in July.

- **Indicator:** DEVELOPMENT MONITORING SYSTEM TRACKS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
- **Measure:** REPORT PRODUCED ANNUALLY
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - This report continues to be produced annually. Subsequent to the adoption of the General Plan, two reports have been produced – January 2001 and January 2002. The latest report is posted on the Department of Planning and Zoning's web site.

- **Indicator:** FORECASTS INCORPORATED INTO OFFICIAL BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL (BMC) REGIONAL FORECASTS
- **Measure:** NEW BMC FORECASTS ADOPTED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - New BMC forecasts that incorporate the General Plan household, population and employment projections have been adopted. The latest adopted forecast is known as Round 5D. The projections have been allocated by transportation analysis zone for transportation modeling purposes.

Vision 3: Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.

Monitoring Committee Comments

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIMP) should be undertaken. What percentage of projects has been completed as scheduled? What types of projects are typically deferred or accelerated and why? The purpose of such a review would be to clearly define problems and what can be done to make the CIMP more effective as a planning and budgeting tool. The review should be undertaken by a committee composed of members from County agencies involved in the capital budgeting process. Citizen review and comment could be included.

Land Acquisition and Construction of New Public Facilities (Policy 4.1)

- **Indicator:** TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN BECOMES A MEANINGFUL TOOL FOR COUNTY PLANNING, BUDGET PRIORITY SETTING AND CONSTRUCTION
- **Measure:** PREDICTABLE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - The County's Ten-Year Capital Improvement Master Plan is not effective in establishing a predictable implementation schedule for facility construction and maintenance. Projected expenditures for near term years are excessive and out years are very low. Better planning to improve projections of future needs is required for all types of facilities. Clear priorities need to be established and adhered to in order to establish predictable phasing for maintenance, renovation, and other important projects that may lack a strong constituency and are therefore frequently deferred.

Affordable Housing and Senior Housing (Policies 4.2 and 4.3)

- **Indicator:** 2001 CONSOLIDATED PLAN INCLUDES STRATEGIES TO RETAIN EXISTING ASSISTED HOUSING, MAKE EXISTING UNITS AFFORDABLE TO LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND INCLUDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SMALL MIXED USE CENTERS.
- **Measure:** PLAN AMENDED
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - The Consolidated Plan for 2001-2005, which was adopted May 5, 2001, describes the County's diverse affordable housing strategies, including: rehabilitation loan and home repair programs to preserve the supply of more affordable older homes; home ownership assistance; increasing the supply of affordable rental housing through construction partnerships and rental assistance programs, and programs to assist displaced residents and homeless persons.

Balanced and Phased Growth

- During FY01 and 02, $174,200 in homeownership assistance was provided for 36 units; $39,000 assisted with home repairs for 43 units; and $779,000 purchased land to construct affordable new units. Final subdivision plans for the Cherrytree MXD development are being reviewed and will provide 17 new townhouses for moderate-income families.
- Over the last two years, zoning amendments have been adopted that establish moderate income housing requirements for age-restricted adult housing and for townhouse and apartment developments in the R-MH District.

- **Indicator:** MORE SENIOR HOUSING UNITS CONSTRUCTED OR RENOVATED
- **Measure:** MINIMUM OF 250 NEW UNITS/YEAR
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - In the last two years 228 units of senior housing have been completed, of which 140 units are financially assisted and 88 are market rate units. There are currently nearly 1,400 units of new active senior housing in the development pipeline: 423 units have been approved and are beginning construction; 569 units are in the development review process; and 385 units have recently been approved by the Board of Appeals and the Zoning Board. Development will be phased over a number of years.
  - Data is not currently available on the number of existing units renovated to accommodate seniors.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Data on the number of existing units renovated to accommodate seniors needs to be developed. The County and the Homes for Life Coalition are urged to expand initiatives to help make the existing housing stock more accessible and suitable for seniors. A sub-committee should develop detailed strategies for encouraging renovation of existing housing to meet seniors needs.

Economic Development (Policies 4.4 and 4.5)

- **Indicator:** ANNUAL JOB TARGET MET OR EXCEEDED
- **Measure:** 4,000 JOBS/YEAR (2000-2010)
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - An increase of 5,874 net new jobs in Howard County were reported from first quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001. Second quarter jobs for the same years increased by 4,721 (the latest data available). *Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.*

Vision 3: Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.

Monitoring Committee:

This indicator measure should be established soon in order to collect base data for future comparisons. The indicator should monitor the percentage, rather than number of County jobs filled by residents.

Monitoring Committee:

Base data on the number or value of non-residential building permits for renovation needs to be developed for future reference. Data collection must recognize that many types of renovations will not require building permits or even plumbing or electrical permits.

- **Indicator:** NUMBER OF COUNTY JOBS FILLED BY COUNTY RESIDENTS INCREASES
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: When released, data from the 2000 Census can be compared with 1990 Census data to determine whether the ratio of jobs filled by County residents is increasing or decreasing).

- **Indicator:** VALUE OF ASSESSABLE BASE FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INCREASES
- **Measure:** 2% OVER THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD.
- **Status:**
  - From July 1999 to July 2000 the non-residential assessable base increased by 6.6%. The CPI increase over this period for the Baltimore Washington region was 3.6%. From July 2000 to July 2001 the non-residential assessable base increased by 7% compared to the CPI increase of 2.2% for the period, a larger difference of 4.8%. From July 2001 to July 2002 the non-residential assessable base increased by an even greater 9.9%. The latest CPI data available is for May 2002. The May 2001 to May 2002 CPI increase was only 2.5%. (Sources: Howard County Budget Office, and US Bureau of Labor Statistics).

- **Indicator:** STRATEGIES TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE REINVESTMENT IN UNDERUSED NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ADOPTED
- **Measure:** NUMBER OR VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR RENOVATION
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: Strategies to promote reinvestment in underutilized properties are being investigated for the Route 1 Revitalization Study. Two banks recently initiated programs of lower interest loans for renovation and new construction projects - Citizens National Bank and Allfirst Financial, Inc.)

Balanced and Phased Growth

Sewage Treatment Capacity (Policy 4.7)

- **Indicator:** PLANNED EXPANSION OF LITTLE PATUXENT WATER RECLAMATION PLANT CONSTRUCTED
- **Measure:** DATE COMPLETED
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD.

- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: Plant expansion to 25 mgd began in late 2000 and is expected to be completed by Fall 2003. Construction is currently on schedule and within budget. An interim discharge permit for 22.5 mgd has been approved by the State effective upon completion of the plant expansion. A permit to discharge 25 mgd will be needed by 2007/2008. The County has allocated Capital Budget funds in FY 2003 to look at alternatives for ultimate expansion to 29 mgd, which will be needed around 2009/2010.)

Transportation Priorities (Policies 4.8 and 4.9)

- **Indicator:** TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMPLETED
- **Measure:** PRIORITIES IN 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - The Transit Development Plan (TDP) was completed in November 2001.
  - Most of the implementation priorities are being funded through the operating budget, which included for FY01 and FY02: $750,000 for 7 additional vehicles to expand service, reduce headways and extend hours or service; $190,000 to improve pedestrian access to bus stops; and $800,000 for the AVL (automatic vehicle locator) system to improve service reliability and quality control.
  - The capital budget includes one TDP implementation priority, $4.8 million for a new transit operations and maintenance facility. Preliminary planning has begun in cooperation with MTA and Anne Arundel County.

- **Indicator:** COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN OF HIGHWAYS UPDATED
- **Measure:** PRIORITIES IN 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

Monitoring Committee:

Council Bill No. 32, adopted 6/5/02, allows provision of public sewer and/or water to rural properties if ordered by the Health Department. The Department should be very cautious about ordering connections. CB No. 44, adopted 7/1/02, allows Planned Service Area (PSA) amendments for public and institutional uses. This bill should not provide impetus for further PSA expansion based on the availability of schools and other public facilities. Future access to public water and sewer should be narrowly limited. The PSA boundary should not be eroded by incremental changes.

Monitoring Committee:

Since most transit improvements are implemented through the operating budget, the indicator should be revised.

Vision 3: Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.

Road Improvements (Policy 4.8)

- **Indicator:** FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY DOLLARS SPENT
- **Measure:** AVERAGE OF $35 MILLION PER YEAR
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - Federal, State and County funding for road capacity improvements totaled $53.7 million in FY00 and $54.7 million in FY01. As indicated under regional transportation above, this was higher than the General Plan target of an average of $35 million/year due to joint County and State funding of three major interchanges.

Transit Use (Policy 4.9)

- **Indicator:** PASSENGERS SERVED BY FIXED ROUTE AND PARATRANSIT INCREASE
- **Measure:** AMOUNT OF INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - Howard Transit fixed route ridership increased over 100% from 184,000 trips in FY00 to an estimated 400,000 trips in FY02. In 2001, Howard Transit was named Best Locally Operated Fixed Route Bus Service in Maryland by the Transportation Association of Maryland.
  - Paratransit ridership over this same period only increased 7.5% from 116,192 to 125,000 trips. Paratransit riders are being encouraged to shift to the more cost effective fixed route service whenever possible.

School Capacity (Policies 4.12 and 4.13)

- **Indicator:** SCHOOL OVERCROWDING REDUCED
- **Measure:** NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OPERATING OVER CAPACITY BY LEVEL
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: The Howard County Public School System's Capital Budget includes information on the rated capacity and program capacity for each school at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.The capital budget and redistricting are helping to reduce overcrowding. In the interim, the APF open/closed schools chart is limiting new development in overcrowded elementary and middle schools.)

Balanced and Phased Growth

- **Indicator:** EXPENDITURES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ARE MINIMIZED TO MEET SHORT-TERM NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY
- **Measure:** BUDGET FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - Capital funds provided prior to adoption of General Plan 2000 resulted in 375 more seats of capacity from additions to existing schools in August 2001, and 2,065 seats of capacity in August 2002, of which 665 seats are in additions and 1,400 seats are in new schools.
  - The FY01 and FY02 capital budgets included a total of $24.2 million to increase capacity using portables and additions vs. $49.0 million for new school construction. This funding will result in additional seats of capacity that will be available either in August of 2003 or 2004.
  - To better balance capacity, the high schools were redistricted for the 2001-02 school year. Elementary and middle school redistricting is currently under study.
  - Over the past two years the school system's methodology for projecting school enrollments appears to have improved. However, there still needs to be greater attention given to translating projections into future school capacity needs. There are no proposed capacity expansions after 2005 even though the Thorton Commission will require full day kindergarten, necessitating additional classrooms. It is difficult for the County to plan for other types of capital projects when unanticipated school projects keep emerging.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Strongly encourage the Howard County School System to use its current school capacity to relieve overcrowding through redistricting.

School Equity (Policies 4.13)

- **Indicator:** FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL EQUITY INITIATIVES
- **Measure:** APPROVED BUDGET
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - The FY01 and FY02 capital budgets contained a total of $34.0 million to fund technology equalization, renovations, and replacements to upgrade older schools.
  - To address performance differentials, the Comprehensive Plan for Accelerated School Improvement was presented to the Board of Education on 3/7/02 following the independent school performance review. This report outlines strategies to eliminate achievement gaps; establishes a School Improvement Unit to support, coordinate and monitor progress; defines criteria for designating participating schools; designates 15 schools and identifies performance standards to be achieved. The Plan anticipates that it will take 3-5 years to achieve substantial and sustained improvements, so multi year targets are defined.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

It is a high priority for the County and the Board of Education to collaborate on improving performance parity to encourage full use of existing capacity and to maintain the desirability of surrounding neighborhoods.

Vision 3: Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.

- Implementation of this program will largely be accomplished by reallocating funds in various budget categories. However, $300,000 in new FY02 funds was authorized for equipment and supplies. This funding increase was also approved for FY03.

Lifelong Learning (Policies 4.16 and 4.17)

- **Indicator:** VOLUME OF COUNTY LIBRARY CIRCULATION/SERVICES PROVIDED INCREASES
- **Measure:** AMOUNT OF INCREASE
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - There were over 1.5 million visits to the six libraries in FY02 an increase of 76% over FY00. Some of the increase was attributable to the reopening of the renovated Central Library, but use is up across the system.
  - Customers in FY02 borrowed 4.12 million items and asked library staff over 1 million questions, increases respectively of 31% and 52% over FY00.
  - In FY 02, library meeting rooms were used by 24,000 people attending non-library events and programs, an 11% increase over FY 01.
  - During FY03 a Library Facility Assessment and Master Plan are being developed to address projected demand for library services in the future.

- **Indicator:** HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT IN CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT CLASSES INCREASES
- **Measure:** AMOUNT OF INCREASE
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS.

- **Status:**
  - In FY01, Howard Community College had 20,974 different students enrolled in classes; 8,406 or 40% took classes for credit. With some students attending part-time, for credit enrollment equated on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis to 4,059 students in FY01, a 7% increase from 3,792 FTEs in FY00. Non-credit FTEs increased 5.2% from 994 in FY00 to 1,046 in FY01.

Balanced and Phased Growth

Recreation and Parks (Policy 4.18)

- **Indicator:** COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN IS UPDATED, INCLUDING SPECIFIC LAND ACQUISITION, GREENWAY AND TRAIL PRIORITIES
- **Measure:** PRIORITIES INCORPORATED INTO 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: The 1999 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan must be updated by 12/31/04. The Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) expects to receive State Guidelines and data from the MD Department of Planning by end of 2002 and will begin the update in early 2003.)

- **Indicator:** PRIORITY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES OF ACTIONS
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: DRP has implemented the following priorities from the 1999 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan since *General Plan 2000* was adopted: purchased several parcels totaling 34 acres for Troy Regional Park, Rockburn Regional Park and North Laurel Park; acquired 343 acres of open space through subdivision dedication; restored the Ellicott City Colored School; completed Holiday Hills Neighborhood Park, Pleasant Chase Playground, Willowood Playground and an in-line hockey facility at Alpha Ridge Park; under construction on the Patuxent Spur Pathway from Lake Elkhorn to Savage Park, Sewell's Orchard Park Phase II, and the historic MacKenzie Barn; and planning for Blandair Park has begun.).

Vision 3: Our development will be concentrated within a growth boundary, will be served by adequate public facilities and will encourage economic vitality.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

In the future, it would be helpful if the indicator were modified to monitor crime levels by geographic areas.

Police Services (Policy 4.20)

- **Indicator:** NUMBER OF CRIMES PER 1,000 POPULATION REMAINS STABLE OR REDUCED
- **Measure:** EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 1998 LEVEL
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - The crime rate has remained relatively stable. Part I crimes (more serious offenses such as murder, theft, rape and aggravated assault) increased 3% from 32 to 33 per 1000 population between 1998 and 2001. Part II & III crimes (e.g. simple assault, vandalism, driving while intoxicated, drug offenses) decreased 12.5% from 48 to 42 per 1000 population over this period.

Fire and Rescue Services (Policy 4.21)

- **Indicator:** AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IN MINUTES
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - Average response time for fire and rescue services has also remained relatively stable. The average response was 8.02 minutes in 2001 up slightly from 7.45 minutes in 1998, but an improvement over the rate of 8.07 minutes in 2000. During this period the number of incidents increased by 25.6% and the number of incidents per 1,000 population increased from 88 to 102 (15.9% increase).
  - The Department of Fire and Rescue Services has hired a consultant to evaluate future service needs, including facilities and equipment. Will be completed during FY03.

Balanced and Phased Growth

Health and Human Services (Policy 4.22)

- **Indicator:** COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLAN
- **Measure:** THE PLAN IS COMPLETED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - The County obtained a planning grant from the Horizon Foundation for several components of a Comprehensive Health and Human Services Plan. Phase 1 has been completed. It assesses how well the existing delivery system for health and human services is meeting citizens' needs, both County-wide and in four sub-areas: Columbia, Ellicott City, the Route 1 Corridor - Hammond Area, and the Rural West.
  - Phase 2 will develop recommended strategies for enhancing service delivery in one pilot area, the Route 1-Hammond area. It will be completed this summer. Strategies will need to be developed for addressing service needs in the other three areas to complete the Comprehensive Health and Human Services Plan.

- **Indicator:** PRIORITY ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPE
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

Solid Waste (Policy 4.26)

- **Indicator:** AMOUNT OF RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL WASTE RECYCLED INCREASES
- **Measure:** 40% OF TOTAL VOLUME
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - 44% of the County waste stream was recycled or reduced in 2001 (41% recycled and 3% reduced through actions such as backyard composting). In 2000, 41% of the County waste stream was recycled or reduced.
  - Recycling contracts are tied to market prices and are adjusted quarterly. Currently the market for paper is good; plastics and metals are fair and glass is poor. In FY 01 there was a total net revenue of $36,000 to collect and process recyclables; in FY 02 there will be a $109,000 net cost. Recycling doesn't always make money, but it consistently reduces disposal costs.

Community Conservation and Enhancement

Regulations for Small Mixed Use Redevelopment, Special Exceptions and Quality of New Development

Corridor Revitalization Studies and Community Master Plans

Community Conservation

Property Maintenance and Reinvestment

Aging Public Facilities and Infrastructure

School Equity

Crime

Historic Preservation

Community Conservation and Enhancement

Regulations for Small Mixed Use Redevelopment, Special Exceptions and Quality of New Development (Policies 5.3, 5.6, and 5.7)

- **Indicator:** REGULATIONS IMPROVED
- **Measure:** CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED (POLICIES 5.6 AND 5.7)
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Major revisions to special exception provisions of the Zoning Regulations were adopted 5/11/01 and 5/9/02. Key amendments included: deleting some of the special exception uses authorized in each zoning district and revising the standards for approval to improve compatibility with neighboring land uses; changing the term special exception to conditional use; and requiring a pre-submission community meeting.
  - The Subdivision and Land Development Regulations were amended on 11/7/01. These amendments enhance protection of environmental features; improve the design of residential infill within the Planned Service Area; and improve the design of rural subdivisions to better protect farmland and rural character. A pre-submission community meeting is required for all residential infill development in the Planned Service Area.
  - Zoning concepts for small redevelopment projects have been generated as part of the Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study. Implementing zoning regulations will be proposed as part of the Comprehensive Zoning petition in early 2003.

Corridor Revitalization Studies and Community Master Plans (Policy 5.19)

- **Indicator:** PLANS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - The Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study Phase 1 Report was completed in June 2001, with Phase 2 completion in July 2002.

Vision 4: Our communities will be livable, safe and distinctive.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Recognizing that there are limitations on the number of projects that the Department of Planning can undertake at any time, other community and interest groups should be encouraged to develop community visions and plans or issue papers. As many groups as possible should be encouraged to do this before the next General Plan update.

- Citizens in the Ellicott City area are working on a master plan, with County agencies providing information but not directing the project.

- **Indicator:** IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: For Route 1, some image enhancing implementation measures have already been completed including a GTV cable television special, three “how to” brochures, and a corridor clean up campaign. Final design for community identity/gateway signs is underway and conceptual designs for streetscape improvements have been completed.)

Community Conservation (Policy 5.19)

- **Indicator:** COMMUNITY CONSERVATION COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED AND SUPPORTED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - DPZ and DPW provide support to the West Columbia Revitalization Committee, the Bryant Square and Harper’s Choice community conservation committees, and the Oakland Mills Village Center Committee.

- **Indicator:** PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS

- **Status:**
  - Installation of a retaining wall in Wilde Lake has been completed; in Bryant Square landscape improvements are underway; Merion Station/Harper’s Choice improvements are underway including additional lighting, soccer goals, landscaping and programmed community activities; additional signage for the Village of Oakland Mills has been installed and lighting improvements are being studied.

Community Conservation and Enhancement

Property Maintenance and Reinvestment (Policies 5.8 and 5.11)

- **Indicator:** REGULATIONS AND/OR INCENTIVES ADOPTED AND FUNDED
- **Measure:** NUMBER OR VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR RENOVATIONS
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: Legislation to require minimum maintenance standards for all residential units was filed, but not adopted. The Department of Housing and Community Development has two programs to assist seniors and disabled persons with needed home maintenance projects.)

Aging Public Facilities and Infrastructure (Policy 5.12)

- **Indicator:** MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT SCHEDULES FOR ALL TYPES OF FACILITIES COMPLETED
- **Measure:** INCORPORATED INTO 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

School Equity (Policy 5.12)

- **Indicator:** DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHOOLS ARE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HOME PURCHASE DECISIONS
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Base data on the number or value of building permits for residential renovation needs to be developed for future reference. Data collection must recognize that some types of residential renovations may not require building permits or even plumbing or electrical permits.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Measures that have not been determined need to be established to collect base data. The Multiple Listing Service for real estate has data on housing price appreciation and the length of time on the market that might be useful measures.

Vision 4: Our communities will be livable, safe and distinctive.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Measures that have not been determined, need to be established to collect base data for future comparisons.

Crime (Policy 5.12)

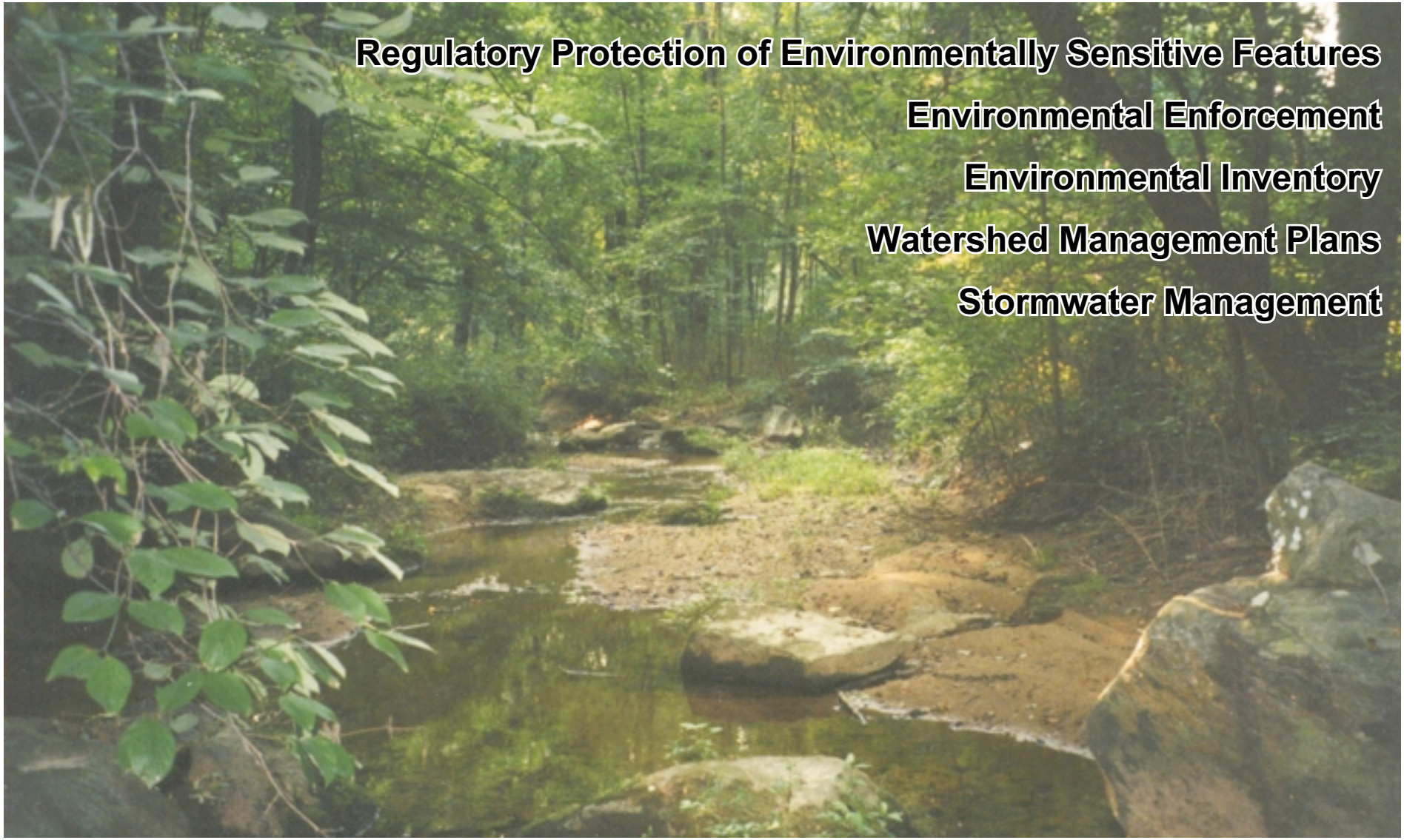
- **Indicator:** PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME ARE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN HOME PURCHASE DECISIONS
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

Historic Preservation (Policy 5.18)

- **Indicator:** SITES ADDED TO THE HISTORIC INVENTORY OR UPDATED
- **Measure:** NUMBER OF SITES
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: The County has obtained a grant from the MD Historical Trust, hired an architectural historian, established the work program, and begun updating the Historic Sites Inventory. When complete, the updated Inventory will provide a basis for developing a County historic preservation plan.)

- **Indicator:** USE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS INCREASES
- **Measure:** VALUE OF PROJECTS APPROVED
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - County property tax credits may be approved for up to 10% of the cost for maintenance and restoration improvements to eligible historic properties. During 2001, tax credits were approved for 13 properties totaling $19,217. This is up slightly from $17,458 in credits during 2000. In the first half of 2002, $13,526 in tax credits were approved for four properties.

Working with Nature



Working with Nature

Regulatory Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Features (Policies 6.2 and 6.3)

- **Indicator:** REGULATIONS IMPROVED
- **Measure:** CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Amendments to enhance protection of sensitive environmental features were included in revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations adopted 11/7/01. Key amendments were: increasing stream buffers to 100 feet for Use III and IV streams (as classified by the State); prohibiting inclusion of steep slopes within residential lots less than 20,000 sq. ft. in size; prohibiting the inclusion of floodplains, wetlands, streams, their buffers, and forest conservation easements on residential lots less than 10 acres in size; and strengthening limitations on necessary encroachment into protected areas for utilities or site access.

Environmental Enforcement (Policy 6.8)

- **Indicator:** PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF DEVELOPMENT INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
- **Measure:** COMPLETED AND ACTIONS TAKEN
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

- **Status:**
  - Review of environmental inspection and enforcement procedures identified two problem areas. To more effectively address drainage & sediment control, this inspection function was transferred in 2001 from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, which is responsible for Building Code enforcement, to the Department of Public Works' which is responsible for both inspecting other site improvements and oversight of the County's storm drainage system.
  - A large backlog of developments that have not completed forest conservation requirements has resulted from using self-certification, rather than County inspectors to determine compliance. Beginning 7/1/02, the County started charging an inspection fee and has assumed this responsibility. All forest conservation legal agreements have been amended to add specific start and completion dates.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

With the performance review completed, measurement in the future should address the number of inspections and enforcement actions.

Vision 5: Our environmental resources will be protected, used wisely and restored to health.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Significant progress has been made in completing the initial inventories. Rapid completion of the inventories for the remaining watersheds is encouraged.

Environmental Inventory (Policy 6.7)

- **Indicator:** ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY PREPARED AND GUIDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS
- **Measure:** INITIAL MAPPING COMPLETED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Mapping has been completed for the Little Patuxent, Lower Middle Patuxent, and Hammond Branch watersheds. Mapping is underway for the South Branch and the Main Stem of the Patapsco River.
  - Inventories that have been completed are being used to assess options for purchase of open space, design of open space and preservation parcels created through the subdivision process, and as the basis for watershed planning.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

The County has begun to collect more and better data on water quality and other resources, but doesn't have enough to analyze trends. Support for continuing to collect reliable baseline data to permit trend analysis is important.

Watershed Management Plans (Policy 6.4)

- **Indicator:** WATERSHED PLANS PREPARED FOR PRIORITY WATERSHEDS
- **Measure:** COMPLETE 2 WITHIN 5 YEARS
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: A watershed management plan for the Little Patuxent River was completed in February 2002. A watershed restoration plan for Cherry Creek, which drains to Rocky Gorge Reservoir, is expected to be completed by the end of 2002. The County's NPDES permit was amended to require the County to establish priorities for future study and restoration. Sixty-two subwatersheds have been analyzed and ranked to identify the top ten subwatersheds for future study.)

- **Indicator:** PRIORITY RESTORATION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED
- **Measure:** NUMBER AND TYPES OF PROJECTS
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period. (Note: Cherry Creek and Deep Run/Tiber Hudson restoration projects are expected to begin before the end of 2002.)

Working with Nature

Stormwater Management (Policy 6.4)

- **Indicator:** FUNDING STRATEGY TO MEET FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED
- **Measure:** FUNDING IN BUDGET
- **When:** PROGRESS IN SECOND OR LATER REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Next reporting period.

General Plan Implementation

General Plan Implementation

Public Information and Involvement (Policy 7.1)

- **Indicator:** HEARING EXAMINER ESTABLISHED
- **Measure:** CODE REVISIONS ADOPTED
- **When:** COMPLETED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN FIRST REPORTING PERIOD
- **Status:**
  - Legislation was adopted 11/7/01 to establish a Board of Appeals Hearing Examiner. Rules and Procedures for the Hearing Examiner were adopted 3/4/02 and the Hearing Examiner began hearing cases 5/20/02.

- **Indicator:** PLANNING BOARD EFFECTIVE AS A FORUM FOR MEANINGFUL CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - The legislation establishing the Hearing Examiner provides that the Planning Board will only make recommendations on cases if the Board of Appeals must take the case because the Hearing Examiner has a conflict or the position is vacant. This change will afford the Planning Board time to hold public meetings to obtain input on other planning tasks, such as the General Plan Monitoring Report, corridor revitalization studies, community master plans, and watershed studies.

- **Indicator:** INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON THE WEB AND/OR IN PRINT EXPANDED
- **Measure:** VOLUME AND TYPES OF MATERIALS
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - The amount of information on the web has greatly increased for all County agencies.
  - The DPZ web page now has 41.7 MB in 202 files. All items are updated on a daily or weekly basis. Popular items include subdivision information, interactive computer maps, Research Reports, the General Plan, Development Monitoring System and Adequate Public Facilities information, development applications and checklists, the Zoning and Subdivision regulations, information on environmental and community planning, and email queries.

Monitoring Committee:

With the Hearing Examiner established, future measurement could focus on whether the purpose of a Hearing Examiner has been achieved, which was to improve the efficiency and predictability of decision-making in conditional use, variance, and appeals cases.

Monitoring Committee:

Now that the Planning Board's involvement in Board of Appeals cases has been reduced, future measurement could include monitoring the Planning Board's agenda to determine how much time is spent on various planning issues.

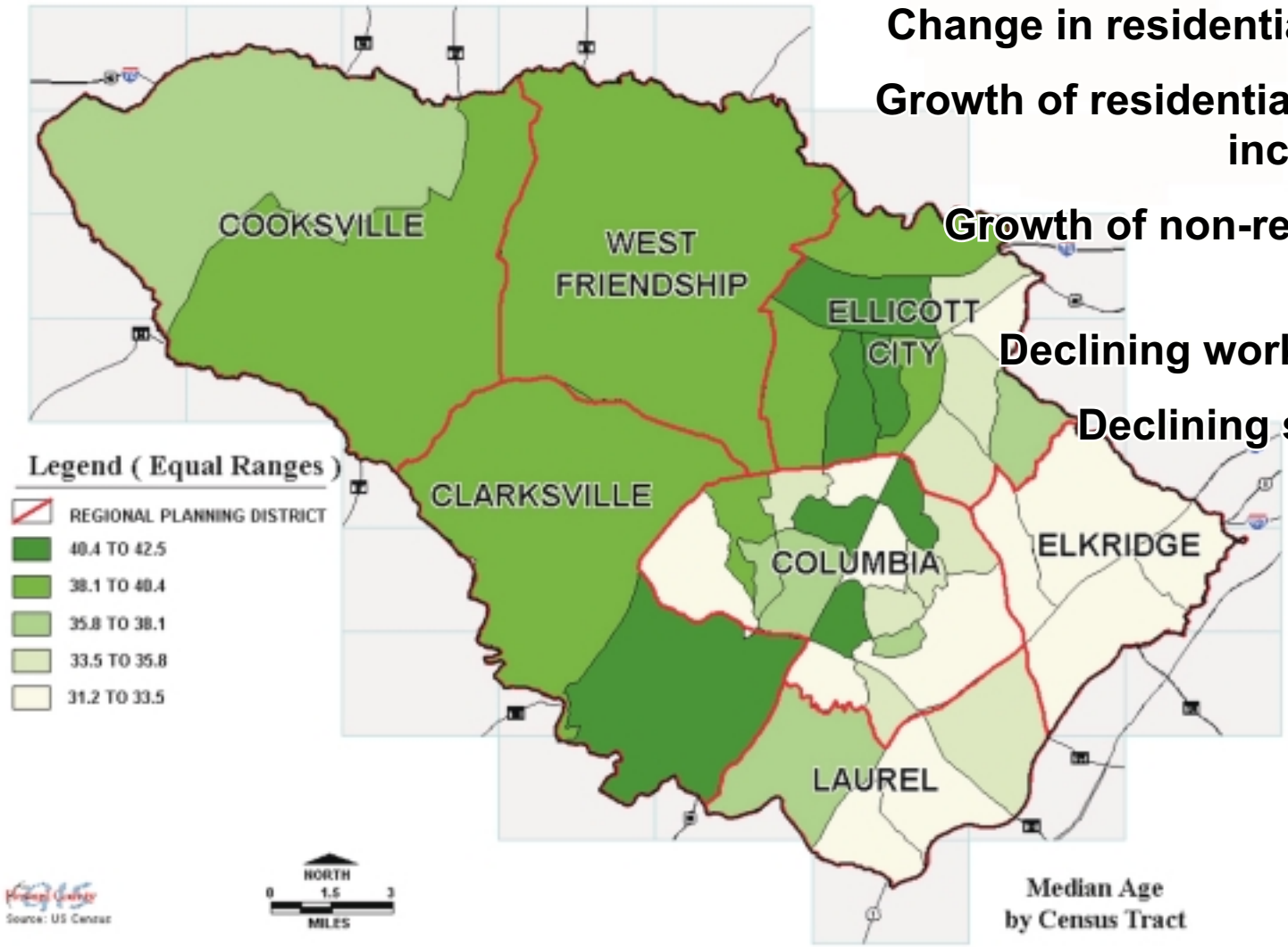
Vision 6: Our citizens will take part in the decisions and actions that affect them.

Monitoring Committee Comments:

Measurement could be based on the numbers and types of meetings, as well as on feedback from evaluation forms provided at the end of each meeting. Evaluation questions could address such topics as the clarity and completeness of information that was provided, as well as whether citizen concerns were effectively responded to.

- **Indicator:** WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS WITH CITIZEN GROUPS EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT
- **Measure:** COUNTY AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE QUANTITATIVE MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT
- **When:** ONGOING PROGRESS IN ALL REPORTING PERIODS
- **Status:**
  - During 2000 and 2001, DPZ typically met monthly with the Route 1 Revitalization Task Force and Community Conservation Committees in Columbia. Two community workshops (100+ persons each) were also held as part of the Route 1 Corridor Revitalization Study.
  - DPZ has met 2-3 times/year with an Environmental Advocacy Committee and a Community Advocacy Committee. These groups were formed at the end of 1999 to provide forums for sharing information and concerns. To reach a broader audience, a presentation on environmental issues was made in April 2002 to the League of Women Voters and the Howard County Environmental Coalition.

Trend Indicators



Change in residential property values

Growth of residential property tax and income tax revenues

Growth of non-residential property tax revenues

Declining work force availability

Declining school enrollment

Trend Indicators

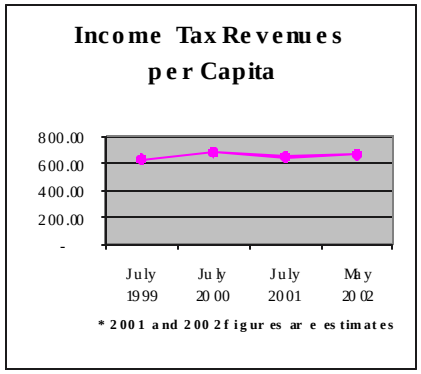
Trend indicators are quantitative measures that are intended to help track a number of evolving trends that will be significant in shaping our transition to a maturing County. The intent is to monitor the assumptions that underlie many of the key Policies and Actions in order to help determine whether adjustments to the implementation strategy are needed.

Trend: Change in residential property values

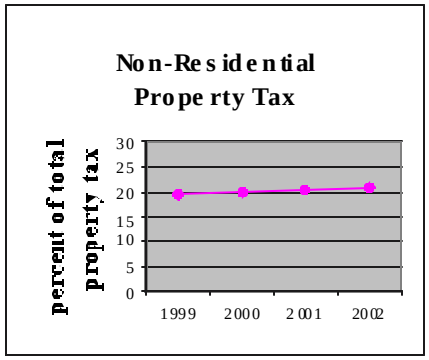
- **Trend Indicator:** **AVERAGE SALE PRICE OF NEW HOMES AND OLDER HOMES (BY UNIT TYPE AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA)**
- **Status:**
  - Data distinguishing sales of new construction versus older homes is not currently available. The cost of housing in Howard County has been increasing steadily, from a mean sales price of $186,680 in 1996/1997 to $236,421 in 2000/2001 for all housing types combined. This is an overall increase of 26.7 percent over the four year time period and an average annual increase of 6.1 percent. From the 1999/2000 year to the 2000/2001 year, the mean sales price grew from $226,390 to $236,421, a 4.4 percent increase. It can be anticipated that housing prices will continue to rise in Howard County due to continued strong demand and limited land capacity to accommodate new growth. Refer to the Development Monitoring System (DMS) for more details of sales by geography and housing type. *Source: DMS Report (January, 2002)*

Trend: Growth of residential property tax and income tax revenues

- **Trend Indicator:** **RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUE PER CAPITA**
- **Status:**
  - The residential assessed value per capita was $56,970 in July 2000. It increased 2.5% to $58,404 in July 2001. This increase was expected due to the relatively large growth in residential property values. Data will be forthcoming for July 2002. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office, and DPZ Construction Report*
- **Trend Indicator:** **INCOME TAX REVENUES PER CAPITA**
- **Status:**
  - The income tax revenues per capita were approximately $685 for the fiscal year beginning July 2000 (FY 2001). Based on an estimate of income tax revenues to be collected through FY02 (as of April 5, 2002), the per capita income tax revenues drop to $658, a 3.9% decline. This is due to the decrease in capital gains income compared to the previous year. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office, and DPZ Construction Report*



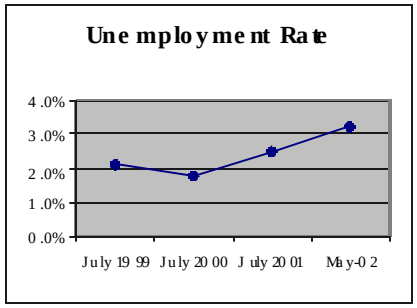
Trend: Growth of non-residential property tax revenues



- **Trend Indicator:** **NON-RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUE PER EMPLOYEE**
- **Status:**
  - The non-residential assessed value per employee for July 2000 was $27,803. By July 2001, this value rose to $28,687, a 3.2 percent increase. This reflects the relatively high demand for non-residential space during this time period as well as an increase in the amount of higher end office development. Data for July 2002 will be forthcoming. *Sources: Howard County Budget Office, and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*

- **Trend Indicator:** **PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES (TARGET 25%)**
- **Status:**
  - This percentage has been steadily increasing, slowly approaching the 25% goal. In July 1999 the nonresidential percentage of total real property assessment in the County was 19.3%. In July 2000, the value was 20.0%. In July 2001 it was 20.1%, and based on the latest certification from the State, the percentage for July 2002 is 20.6%. Since the tax rate is the same for all assessed real property in the County, these same percentages apply to total real property tax revenues collected. (Note that corporate personal property taxes are not included in the above.) *Source: Howard County Budget Office*

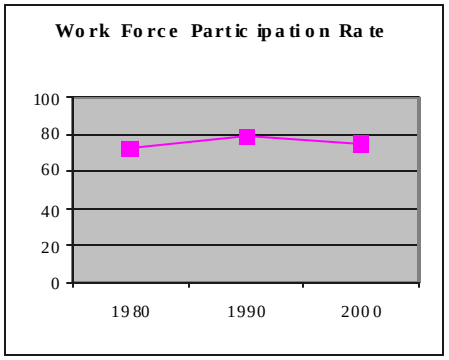
Trend: Declining work force availability



- **Trend Indicator:** **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**
- **Status:**
  - In recent times, the unemployment rate in Howard County has been low compared to both State and U.S. standards. In July 1999, the unemployment rate was 2.1%. It dropped to 1.8% in July 2000 and then increased to 2.5% by 2001. As of May 2002, the rate was 3.2%. Relatively speaking Howard County has faired well during this latest recession. *Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*

Trend Indicators

- **Trend Indicator:** **WORK FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE**
- **Status:**
  - This percentage has increased over the last few decades as more women have joined the workforce. In 1980 the labor force participation rate in Howard County was 72.7%. By 1990 it increased to 79.2%. Data for 2000 from the Census Bureau showed a decrease to 75.5%. It is anticipated that over the long term, particularly after 2010, that the labor force participation rate will decline as baby-boomers retire. (The labor force is defined as those aged 16 and older.) This may be offset to some degree, however, by a higher percentage of seniors continuing to work for more years, particularly as residents are living longer and healthier lives.
    Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Trend: Declining school enrollment

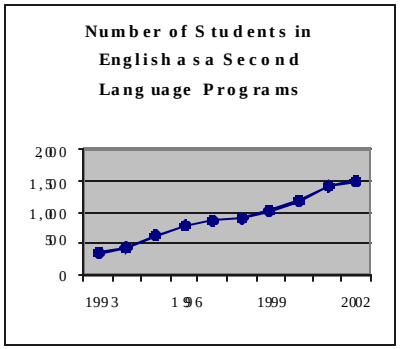
- **Trend Indicator:** **NUMBERS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL**
- **Status:**
  - As indicated in the General Plan based on demographic data at that time, the school system was projecting declining enrollments in elementary and middle school after about 2005, and high school after 2010. Current projections delay these declines. Increasing enrollments will occur in the interim. From 2000 to 2001 full time equivalent enrollment increases were: elementary school by 1.0%, middle school by 4.4%, and high school by 4.3%. Future enrollment declines may not materialize if turnover in the County's maturing neighborhoods leads to a new influx of families with young children. Several years of data will need to be acquired to monitor this trend.

Trend Indicators

Trend: Growing senior population

- **Trend Indicator:** **NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS 65 AND OLDER**
- **Status:**
  - Census data indicate that in 2000 Howard County had 18,468 residents 65 years or older. This is 7.5% of the County's population. Of all the jurisdictions in the State, Howard County has the smallest percentage of those aged 65 and older, and one of the youngest median ages for the entire population. However, trends and current age cohorts indicate that Howard County will have one of the fastest growing senior populations in the State over the next ten to twenty years. The extent to which this happens depends on whether residents decide to age in place or not. (This would also impact school enrollments, essentially the opposite of the potential residential turnover trend in maturing neighborhoods discussed above.) For more information, refer to DPZ's Research Report on 2000 Census Age Characteristics.
- **Trend Indicator:** **AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME**
- **Status:**
  - According to Census data, the median household income in Howard County increased from $70,536 in 1989 to $74,167 in 1999. This is in constant 1999 dollars and represents a real increase of 5.1%. New estimates for 2000 have not be adjusted based on 2000 census data yet. Tracking this into the future may show a correlation with an increasing senior population which may have relatively lower fixed incomes. *Source: Maryland Department of Planning*

Trend: Growing population diversity



- **Trend Indicator:** **NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**
- **Status:**
  - The number of students enrolled in the ESOL program has increased steadily and markedly over the last decade. In the 92/93 school year there were 361 students enrolled. By the 99/00 school year, the number grew to 1,163. This represents an average annual growth rate of 18.2%. For the 00/01 school year, 1,408 students were enrolled, a 21% increase over the previous year. For the current 01/02 school year, there are now 1,471 enrolled students, and this number is likely to increase as the school year progresses. *Source: Howard County Schools*
  - According to the 2000 Census, 4.8% of County residents over five years old speak English less than "very well". This is up from 2.6% of the population in 1990. Population diversity in the County has been on the rise, and the trend is likely to continue.

For information or alternative formats contact:

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