



## Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

April 17, 2019: This periodically updated FAQ provides general information about the Ellicott City and the Tiber-Hudson Watershed master plan (the “master plan”). While it is meant to inform residents, business owners, and other stakeholders, it is **NOT** an exhaustive resource. If you need additional information please visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/ECMP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/ECMP) or contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at 410-313-2350.

### Schedule

Q: When do you anticipate the master plan process will be complete?

A: Once a flood mitigation plan is selected, the master plan consultants will develop new concepts for public review, targeted for release in the fall of 2019. The consultants will then prepare a draft plan for public review in early 2020. Delivery of a final plan is targeted for the spring of 2020.

Q: Why has the master planning process been on hold?

A: The master plan was paused after the 2018 election to allow for the new administration to take office.

### Public Input

Q: What opportunities will there be for public comment?

A: There will be public meetings and associated online input options at key milestones during the planning process.

Q: How can I stay informed about master plan activities and encourage more people to attend meetings?

A: Our primary means of communicating is via email – so please [sign up to receive email updates](#). Also, tell your neighbors, friends, and colleagues to participate – especially if you know someone who does not have access to a computer.

### Scope and Relationship to Other Initiatives

Q: What is the purpose of the master plan?

A: The purpose of the master plan is to develop a comprehensive, community-driven vision for rebuilding Ellicott City. The master plan is charged with developing strategies to address multiple objectives in addition to flood mitigation.

Q: What is the relationship between the master plan and the Safe and Sound plan?

A: The Safe and Sound plan is a multi-phase plan built around the need for public safety, supporting business and property owners, preparing the county for a changing climate, and creating a more inclusive, community driven process for decisions regarding Ellicott City's future. The master plan is an element under Phase II of the Safe and Sound plan.

Q: What is the relationship between the master plan and the General Plan?

A: The geographic scope of the master plan is downtown Ellicott City and the surrounding Tiber-Hudson Watershed. The General Plan is the comprehensive plan for all of Howard County and guides decisions related to development, land preservation, changing demographic and employment trends, neighborhood sustainability, capital projects, County services and other key issues.

Q: What is the relationship between the master plan and the Section 106 process?

A: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act involves assessment of project effects on historic properties. When a project is found to have an adverse effect on historic properties, alternatives are explored to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those effects. For more information on the Section 106 process, please refer to the [Maryland Historical Trust's guide](#).

Flood mitigation projects that require a joint permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment will trigger the Section 106 process.

The Section 106 effort and the master plan effort will be coordinated.

### Implementation

Q: Will flood mitigation projects be moving forward while the master plan is underway?

A: Yes, work on flood mitigation projects will be underway concurrently with the master plan process. Updates on flood mitigation projects are available at [www.ecsafeandsound.org](http://www.ecsafeandsound.org).

Q: What other initiatives will be moving forward while the master plan is underway?

A: Safe and Sound contains multiple initiatives detailed at [www.ecsafeandsound.org](http://www.ecsafeandsound.org) and action to advance these initiatives will occur concurrently with the master plan process.

Q: How will decisions be made about capital projects to implement the master plan?

A: The County will explore the feasibility of projects identified through the master plan and prioritize those that advance objectives of the Safe and Sound plan.

Q: When will master plan recommendations be implemented?

A: As a long-range planning document, the master plan recommendations will include short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations. As previously stated, recommendations that advance the objectives of the Safe and Sound plan will be explored for feasibility of short-term implementation.