



GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN

November 2012

Updated June 2016

City of Gaithersburg

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



We wish to acknowledge the input and express our gratitude to the City of Gaithersburg Green Team, which contributed to the creation of this document. We appreciate the contributions of our City staff, including Andrew Zerby, Dyan Backe, Maria Fullerton, Britta Monaco, Rob Robinson, Meredith Strider, Sarah Fleming, Janet Limmer, and Jim McGuire. We also wish to acknowledge the input and dedication of our community members, including Clair Leighton and Chris Couture of PRIZIM/Hitachi Consulting; Rebecca Wadler of the Izaak Walton League; Jennifer Quinn, Cynthia Pansing and Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin of Kentlands Go Green; Lenny Hines and Henry Moehring of Asbury Methodist Village; Paul Hlavinka and Jennie Howland of the Muddy Branch Alliance, and Karen Anderson of Montgomery County Public Schools. In addition, we extend our appreciation to Karen Rainbolt, Doug Wolf, Jeffrey Ferrell (in memoriam), Ed Mitchell, George Mulholland, John Hudson, and Luis Gonzalez of our Environmental Affairs Committee.

Thank you all for your contributions toward the creation of the City's Green Team Action Plan.

In appreciation,
The City of Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council
Jud Ashman, Mayor
Neil Harris, Council Member
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr., Council Member
Michael A. Sesma, Council Member
Ryan Spiegel, Council Member
Robert T. Wu, Council Member



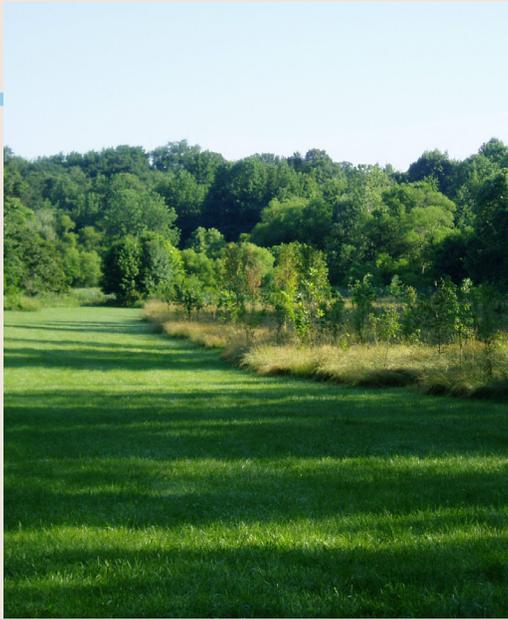
ODE TO A TREE

*Ode to a tree so still and tall,
So perfect, that it should be a crime to saw
Still, you seem to get no credit at all,
Not in the summer, spring, winter, or fall.
You give homes for animals, big and small.
You are small, yet so tall
As in the forest you are just one tree
without a flaw.*

- Adam Rainbolt

Student
Recited at Brown Station Elementary School





BACKGROUND

Sustainable Maryland Certified is intended to assist Maryland's municipalities with their sustainability efforts. The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg adopted a Resolution to register with Sustainable Maryland Certified on July 18, 2011. Shortly thereafter, a Green Team was assembled and three representatives participated in the first Green Team training session in September of 2011. Permanent members of the Green Team include Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC) members and City Council Liaison Cathy Drzyzgula, Environmental Planner Dyan Backe, Environmental Coordinator Meredith Strider and Council Member Mike Sesma. Advisory members include designated City staff from various departments and interested and involved community partners. A total of eight meetings have been held since November 2011.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Purpose:

To assist with determining Action items for years two and three

The City of Gaithersburg offered a two-level survey (basic and in-depth) during the month of April 2012. The survey(s) were offered in both English and Spanish and were posted on the main City web page and on the Environmental Services web page. Our Communications Department promoted the survey(s) via press release and during Green Week activities.

A total of 412 people responded to the short survey (3 questions) via Survey Monkey and the hard copy version (17 sustainability questions). 99 people responded to the more in-depth survey.

These are some major themes that stood out from the survey. Residents of Gaithersburg:

- Are concerned with the quality of the air and local water bodies.
- Are concerned with the overuse of pesticides or fertilizers on lawns, pet waste not being picked up, and with litter along the roads and in our communities.
- Have a lack of awareness for greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprints, and other environmental topics.
- Want to use less energy and be more "green."

The feedback from the survey assisted us with selecting the items for our Green Team Action plan. There are also activities outside of the SMC program that are not suggested, but that would address issues raised in the survey, such as a need for more communication and education on environmental matters.





THREE YEAR GOALS

OUR VISION

Conserving Gaithersburg's shared natural resources, including land, air, water, and open space, is a significant responsibility of municipal government. Working in partnership with our schools, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, businesses, and residents, we can sustain healthy lives today and for generations to come.

We will accomplish our goals by addressing environmental challenges and opportunities and by focusing on economic, environmental and social sustainability.

- Achieve recertification as a Sustainable Maryland Certified community.
- Research innovative practices to incorporate green infrastructure in our municipality.
- Continue on our path to create and maintain a sustainable community by completing planned action items in upcoming years.



ACTION PLAN FOR RECERTIFICATION



Year 1: 2016 Actions

Community Action

- ✓ Action 1: Participate in SMC Green Team Training
- ✓ Action 2: Create a Green Team
- ✓ Action 3: Complete a Green Team Action Plan, update of original
- ✓ Action 4: Participate in MD Green Schools
- ✓ Action 5: Innovative Demonstration Projects; Sustainable Living brochure, Community Shredding Event

Community Based Food System

- ✓ Action 6: Local Food Consumption; Promote Local Farmers Market
- ✓ Action 7: Establish CSA Drop-off Location
- ✓ Action 8: Innovative Demonstration Project; Nutrition brochure

Energy

- ✓ Action 9: Municipal Energy Audits
- ✓ Action 10: Innovative Demonstration Projects; Green building requirements, streetlight conversions to LED, and Winter Lights LED conversion.

Greenhouse Gas

- ✓ Action 11: Municipal Carbon Footprint
- ✓ Action 12: Community Carbon Footprint
- ✓ Action 13: Innovative Demonstration Project; 100% Renewable Energy offset purchase.



ACTION PLAN FOR RECERTIFICATION



Year 1: 2016 Actions (continued)

Health & Wellness

- ✓ Action 14: Let's Move Workplace Wellness
- ✓ Action 15: Join Healthiest Maryland Businesses
- ✓ Action 16: Workplace Wellness Program
- ✓ Action 17: Living Well Program
- ✓ Action 18: Innovative Demonstration Project; Use of speeding controls, pedestrian safety initiative, creation of park nature play space – Constitution Gardens

Local Economies

- ✓ Action 19: Green Business Recognition; Join Maryland Green Registry
- ✓ Action 20: Innovative Demonstration Project; Environmental Awards

Natural Resources

- ✓ Action 21: Stormwater Management; Stormwater Management Program
- ✓ Action 22: Watershed Stewardship; Facilitate Engagement in Existing Watershed Stewardship Opportunities
- ✓ Action 23: Watershed Stewardship; Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship
- ✓ Action 24: Watershed Stewardship; Provide Incentives for Watershed Stewardship on Private Lands
- ✓ Action 25: Watershed Stewardship; Create a Watershed Plan
- ✓ Action 26: Tree City USA
- ✓ Action 27: Pet Waste; Develop a Pet Waste Program
- ✓ Action 28: Pet Waste; Adopt a Pet Waste Ordinance
- ✓ Action 29: Innovative Demonstration Projects; Green Streets Projects

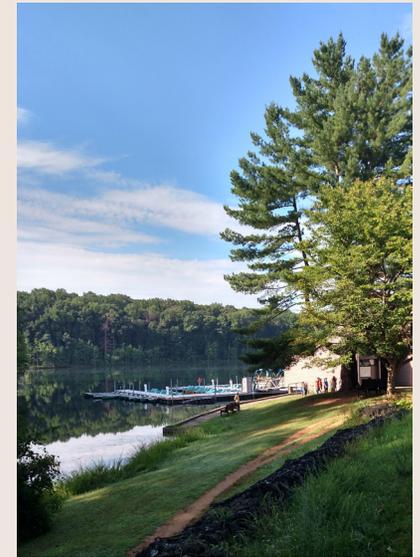
ACTION PLAN FOR RECERTIFICATION



Year 1: 2016 Actions (continued)

Planning and Land Use

- ✓ Action 30: Participation in DHCD Sustainable Communities
- ✓ Action 31: Housing and the Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Action 32: Innovative Demonstration Projects; Environment & Sustainability Element, update to the Master Plan





ACTION PLAN FOR RECERTIFICATION



Year 2: 2017 Proposed Actions

Community Action

- ❑ Action 1: Public Outreach Campaign; Leave it on the Lawn

Natural Resources

- ❑ Action 2: Watershed Stewardship; Provide Voluntary Opportunities for Citizen Engagement in Watershed Stewardship; Watershed Stewards Academy
- ❑ Action 3: Energy; Innovative Demonstration Project; Encourage Renewable Energy use by the community

Year 3: 2018 Proposed Actions

Greenhouse Gas

- ❑ Action 1: Innovative Demonstration Project; Food Composting pilot at City event

Natural Resources

- ❑ Action 2: Innovative Demonstration Project; Create an outreach and education campaign for Green Streets projects

Natural Resources

- ❑ Action 3: Stormwater Management; Stormwater Manager/Coordinator

