

# BALTIMORE CITY SUSTAINABILITY

**ULI Baltimore**

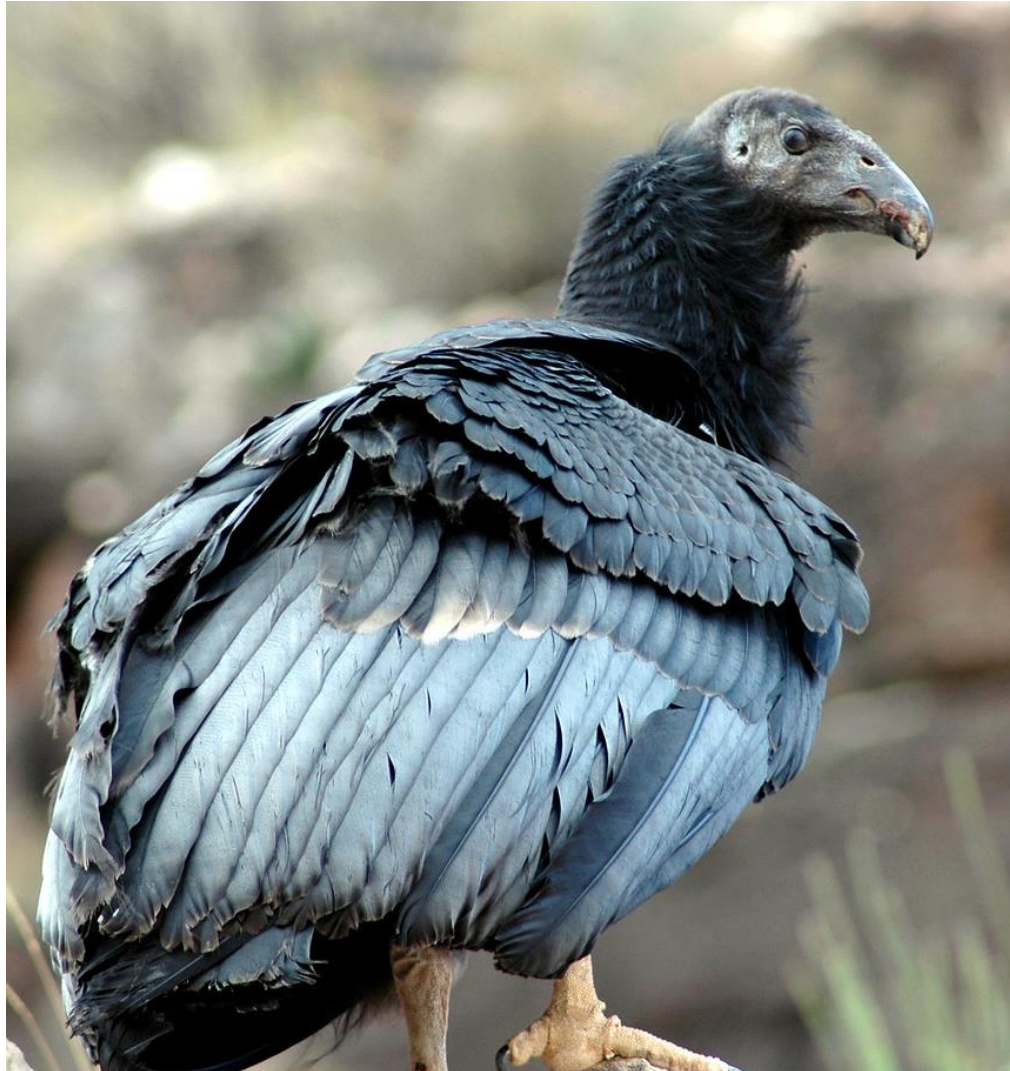
Lisa McNeilly, Director of Sustainability

February 26, 2021



“toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city”







## Baltimore Office of Sustainability

- Acts as a resource, catalyst, and an advocate to create an equitable and resilient Baltimore. We integrate environmental integrity, social equity, and economic prosperity and provide innovative solutions to important challenges that benefit all Baltimoreans.
- Created by City Code (Article 1, Subtitle 34) and charged with maintaining a Sustainability Plan and annual reporting on progress
- Provides staff for the Commission on Sustainability.



## Commission on Sustainability

- Established in 2007 by City Code (Article 5, Subtitle 34), has 21 members, 20 of whom are Mayoral appointees, representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. One member is appointed by the City Council President.
- Directs work of the city-wide Sustainability Plan; current focus areas are transportation, waste, and equity
- Holds monthly public meetings
- With the Office of Sustainability hosts an annual Open House, which draws 400-500 attendees



## How We Use an Equity Lens

### Equity Lens:

- *Structural Equity*: What historic advantages or disadvantages have affected residents in the given community?
- *Procedural Equity*: How are residents who have been historically excluded from planning processes being authentically included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed policy or project?
- *Distributional Equity*: Does the distribution of civic resources and investment explicitly account for potential racially disparate outcomes?
- *Transgenerational Equity*: Does the policy or project result in unfair burdens on future generations?





## How We Use an Equity Lens

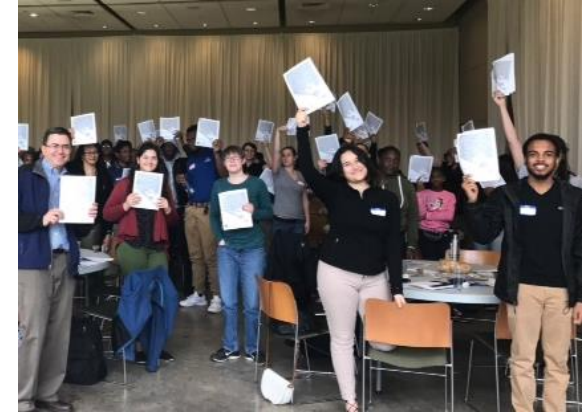
A **targeted universal strategy** is one that is inclusive of the needs of both the dominant and the marginal groups but pays particular attention to the situation of the marginal group.

**Equitable Implementation Guidelines:** “assist those who are implementing the Plan to do the work more equitably. It will carry forward the intention set through this Plan and provide a framework to incorporate equity considerations during design, planning, decision-making, and implementation processes, and to encourage accountability.”



## 2019 Sustainability Plan

- Formally adopted on Earth Day 2019, articulates a new vision for a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Baltimore
- Uses an equity lens to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs
- Incorporated feedback from 1,000's residents and includes new topics, more intentionally addressing all three legs of sustainability: people, planet, and prosperity
- Five main categories: Community, Human-Made Systems, Climate and Resiliency, Nature in the City, and Economy
- 23 topics ranging from Food to Affordable Housing to Neighbors
- 70 strategies, 244 actions, and 78 measures of success



# 2019 Sustainability Plan Framework





### **Community:** Neighbors

Strategy #1: Support the promotion of stronger connections between neighbors and among neighborhoods.

### **Human-Made Systems:** Housing Affordability

Strategy #3: Enable homeowners—especially older adults, people of color, and people with low-incomes—to maintain their homes.

### **Nature in the City:** Trees and Forests

Strategy #2: Assess and manage the city's tree canopy for long-term health.

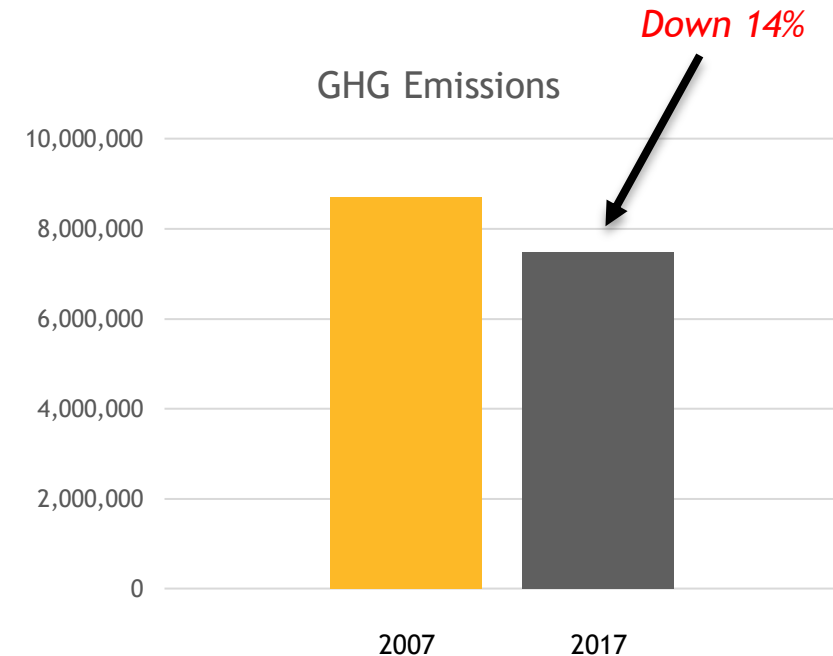
### **Economy:** Local Economy

Strategy #1: Proactively support local businesses



## 2012 Climate Action Plan

- Sets a strategic approach to City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal:
  - 25% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 30% by 2025
- Lays out key strategies for reducing emissions and was developed with the assistance of a 22-member Advisory Committee and multiple working groups
- Baltimore was one of the first jurisdictions in Maryland to commit to reducing climate emissions
- Other air pollutants are addressed in the Clear Air chapter of the Sustainability Plan
- Update expected to begin in 2021



## 2018 Disaster Preparedness Plan (DP3)

The Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3) combines:

- the FEMA-required planning for existing natural hazards (All Hazards Mitigation Plan)
- the need to address future climate change impacts.

Its goals are to:

- Protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors
- Prevent damage to structures, infrastructure, and critical facilities
- Build resilience and disaster prevention and planning into all programs, policies, and infrastructure (public and private)

Will be updated in 2023 to include human-made hazards, address equity, and add information on food resilience, community resiliency planning, and hazard mitigation for historic resources.





### **Infrastructure**

- IN-1: Protect and enhance the resiliency and redundancy of electricity systems
- IN-16: Enhance and expand stormwater infrastructure and systems

### **Buildings**

- B-1: Develop and implement hazard protections for critical facilities

### **Natural Systems**

- NS-4: Expand, protect and restore riparian areas in the city

### **Public Services**

- PS-2: Develop a Hazard Awareness Program



## August 2019 Downtown Flood



## July 2016 Jones Falls Flood



## May 2018 Frederick Ave. Flood



## Nuisance Flooding: 12 times in 2019

July 4, 2016 Mulberry St. Sinkhole

March 4, 2016 Snow Emergency

January 30, 2018 Extreme Cold Event

July 2, 2018 Extreme Heat



## Baltimore Nuisance Flood Plan

- Nuisance flooding, known as “sunny day flooding,” is high tide flooding that causes disruptions to daily activities. It can occur with or without precipitation and is expected to increase in the coming years due to anticipated sea level rise.
- The Plan assesses the waterfront to identify areas that are prone to nuisance flooding, with the intention to map, track, and catalog nuisance flooding that happens from 2020 until 2025.
- Mandated by the State of Maryland (2019)





## Floodplain Management

**Floodplain Management:** The Office also enforces floodplain regulations as part of participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) throughout the City.

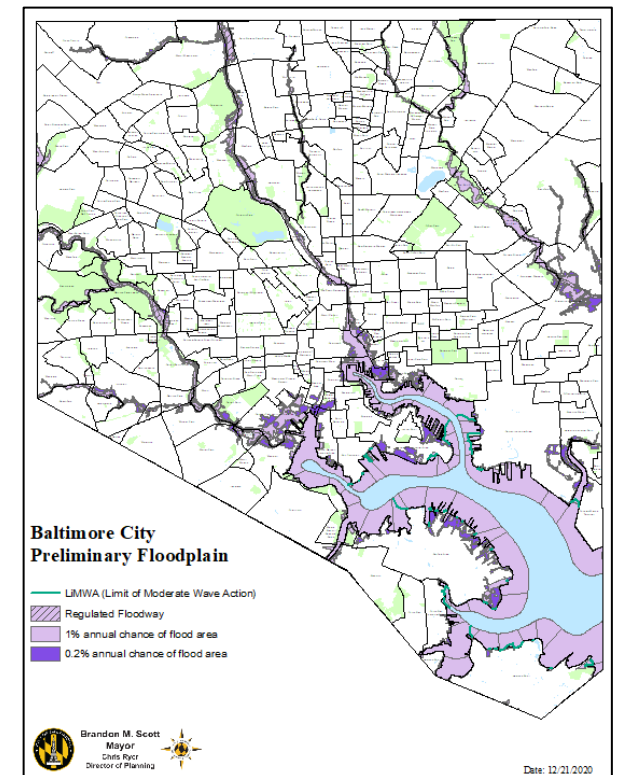
- We review permits and development projects and perform other required activities (like public outreach to increase flood awareness) to all residents to ensure compliance with the NFIP.
- We maintain the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps and are currently seeking approval for the newest version by June 16, 2021. As part of that approval process, we also plan to submit proposed updates to the floodplain policy (Article 7, Division 1 of the City Code) based on FEMA requirements.

**Community Rating System:** We were recently recertified at a Class 5 status in this voluntary program, the highest rating achieved by a Maryland jurisdiction.

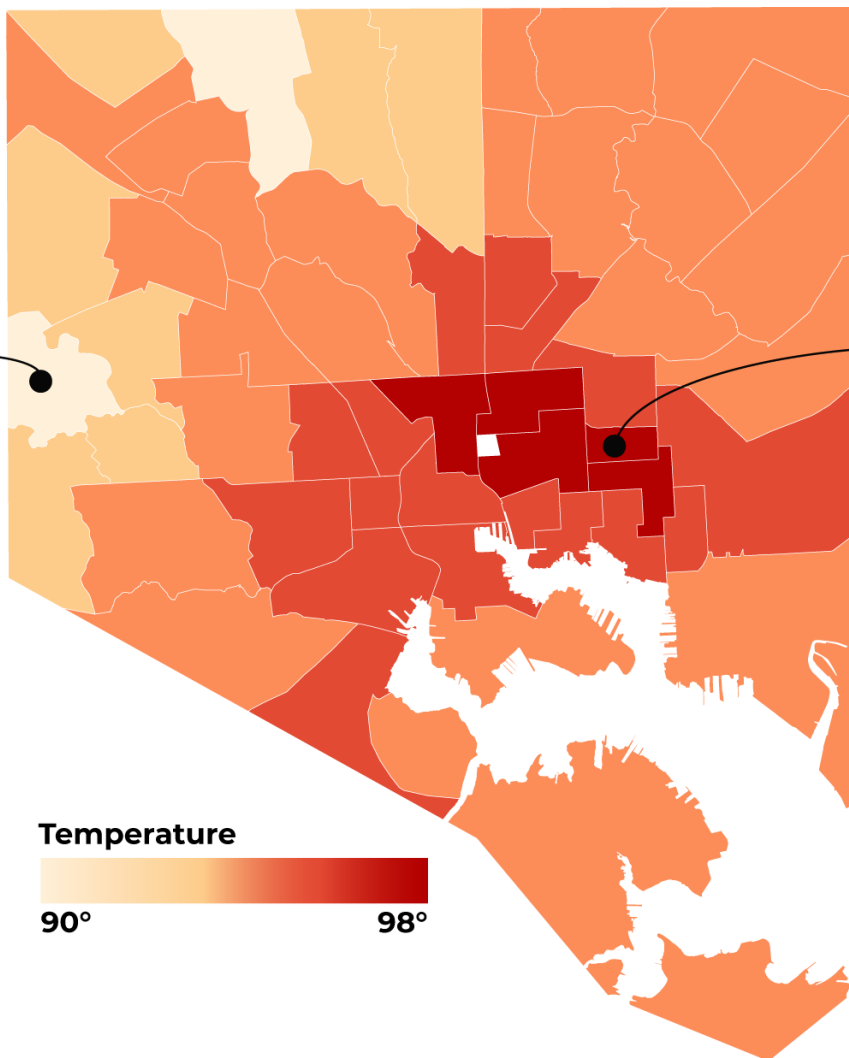
- Because of this rating, residents within the regulated floodplain are eligible for up to a 25% discount on flood insurance policies – a savings of around \$800,000 each year.



“toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city”



**Dickeyville/Franklin-**  
**town is the coolest**  
**area in the city at**  
**90.5 degrees.** It also  
has one of the lowest  
violent crime rates.

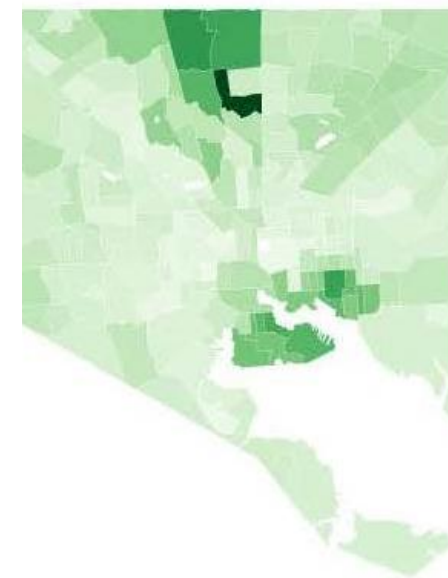


**Temperature**



**Madison/Eastend,**  
**which includes**  
**about half of the**  
**McElderry Park**  
**neighborhood, is**  
**the hottest area at**  
**98.3 degrees.**

**INCOME**

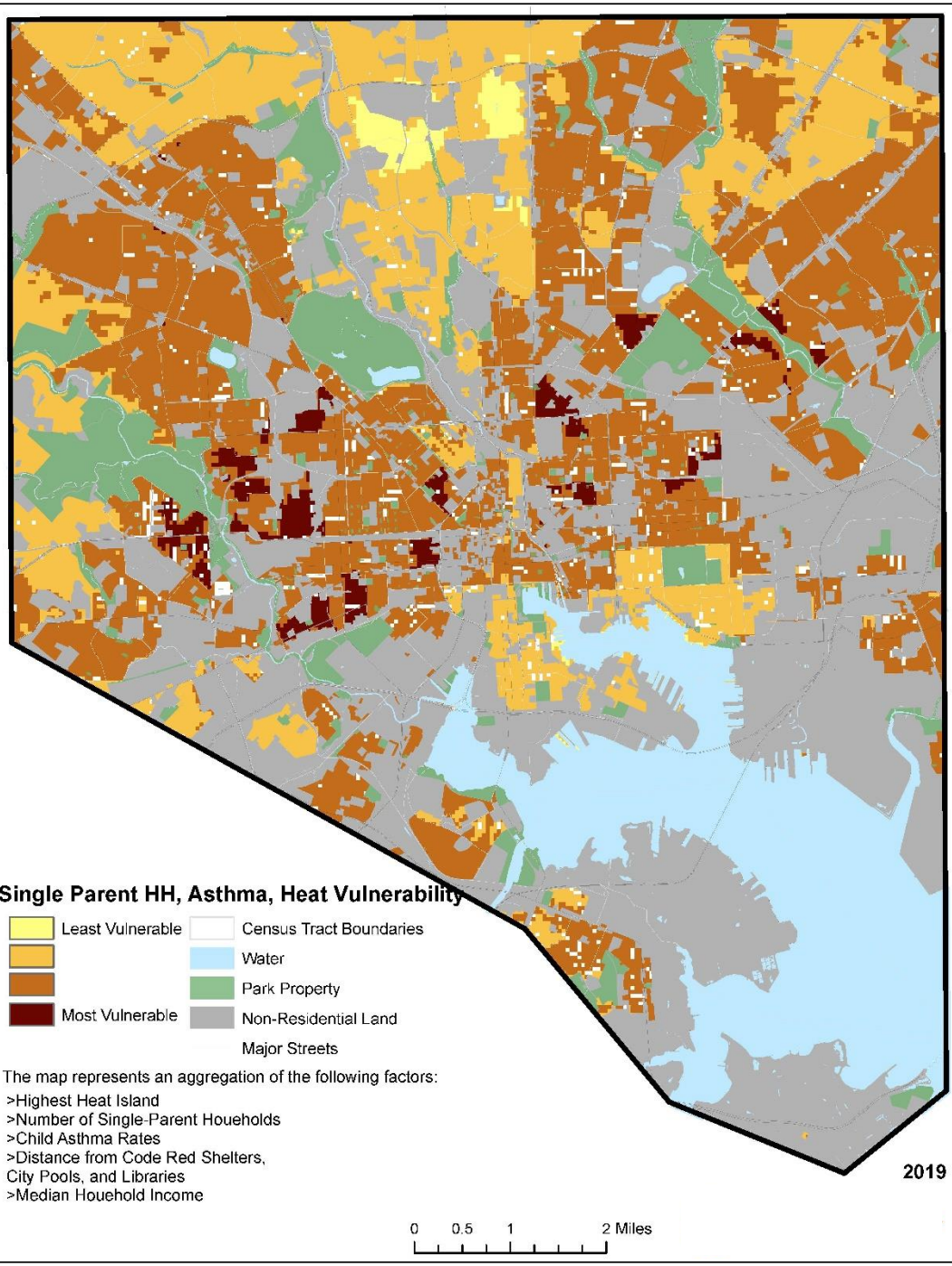


Minimum  
\$14K

Median  
\$41K

Maximum  
\$209K

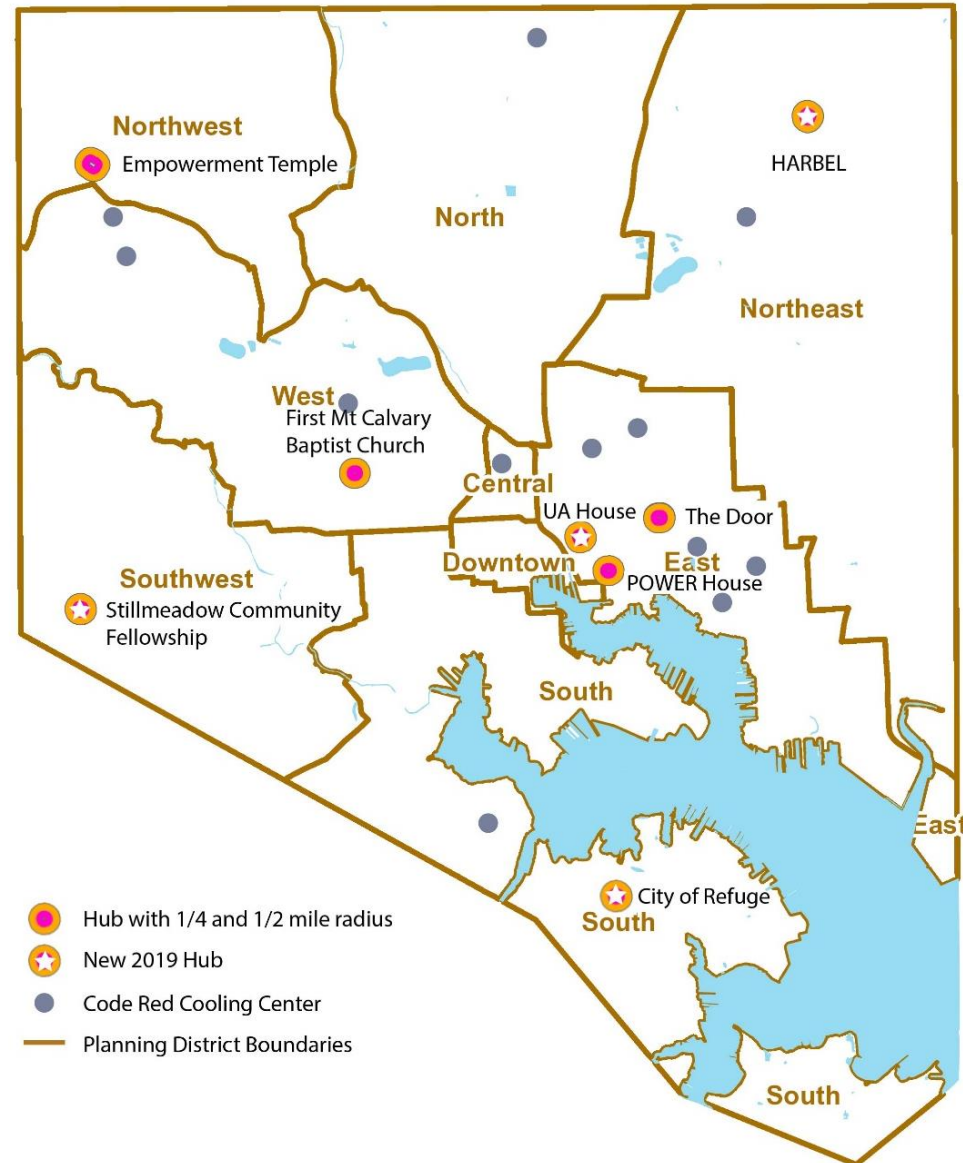






### RESILIENCY HUBS

Community partners work together to ensure that neighbors are provided with the resources and support to plan for, respond to and recover from emergency events.



## 2018 Baltimore Green Network Plan (GNP)

The GNP envisions an interconnected system of greenspaces throughout the city and promotes land use equity.

Early projects include:

- Creation of a 35-mile off-street Greenway Trail network that will connect the Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, Herring Run, and Middle Branch Trails with the Harbor Promenade
- Rachael Wilson Memorial Park in Southwest Baltimore
- Cab Calloway Legends Square in West Baltimore
- “Greenprint” in East Baltimore, which will recreate vacant lots into community amenities, such as gathering spaces, art installations and a nursery to provide workforce opportunities.



## Current Projects

### Tackle Climate Change and Resiliency

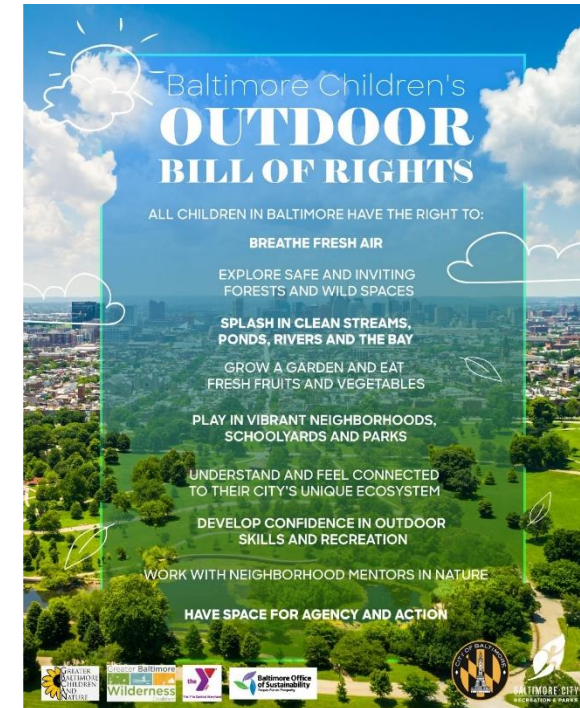
- Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Disaster Preparedness Plan (DP3)
- Community-based Resiliency Hubs

### Connect Children to Nature to Reduce Trauma and Stress

- Cities Connecting Children to Nature
- Green Schools program and Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge
- Baltimore Outdoor Classrooms Pilot

### Community-based Food and Waste Programs

- Baltimore Food Matters Program
- Urban Agriculture
- Implement Outreach for Plastic Bag and Pesticide Bans





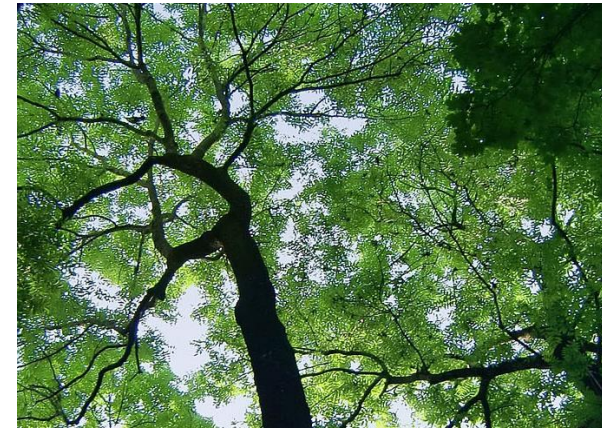
## Current Sustainability Projects, continued

### Enforce Environmental and Floodplain Regulations to Create Greener and Safer City

- Baltimore Nuisance Flood Plan
- Floodplain Management/National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Community Rating System (CRS)
- Critical Area Management Program (CAMP)
- Forest Conservation and Landscape Manual Reviews

### Other

- Sustainability Transparency and Accountability Tracking System (STATS)
- Support the Commission on Sustainability



# Mayor Brandon M. Scott: 100 Days of Action Tracker

Select Language ▼



In November, Mayor Brandon M. Scott convened more than 250 Baltimoreans to serve on his Mayoral transition team. The youth, community leaders, educators, advocates, artists, entrepreneurs and residents involved in this process developed short-term and long-term recommendations to guide the administration over the next four years and beyond.

The Mayor and his executive team reviewed these plans and built a coordinated strategy for his first term, starting with the 100 Days of Action. Follow updates across each of these actions and track their completion with the tracker below.

Mayor Scott took office on 12/8/20. Today is day 80.



There are 58 actions planned in total. 14 are complete, and 23 are in progress.



“toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city”



## Making Baltimore Equitable



Action	Status	Parties Responsible
Join Climate Mayors in supporting the spirit and goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.	Complete	Baltimore City Department of Planning
Commit to moving Baltimore towards zero waste and begin making shifts toward a more sustainable city.	In Progress	Mayor's Office, Baltimore City Department of Planning and Baltimore City Department of Public Works
Prioritize the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network.	In Progress	Baltimore City Department of Planning, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks
Elevate Sustainability Director to a cabinet-level position.	Not Yet Started	Mayor's Office, Baltimore City Department of Planning



## Questions & Comments

**Lisa McNeilly**

**Director of Sustainability**

**[Lisa.McNeilly@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Lisa.McNeilly@baltimorecity.gov)**

**410-396-8360**

