



ROCKVILLE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FY23 ANNUAL REPORT

The *Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan* was adopted by the Rockville Mayor and Council in August 2021. Since its adoption, the Department of Community Planning and Development Services has been tasked with implementation of the actions within the plan, as well as tracking the status of each action. This annual report serves as a guide for the community to learn about progress made on the actions outlined within the Comprehensive Plan.

WHAT IS THE ROCKVILLE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Comprehensive Plan is a document that presents visions, principles and policies that are intended to guide development and land use throughout Rockville over the next 20 years. The plan includes policies for land use, transportation, housing, parks and recreation and other topics, as well as strategies for implementing those policies.

The Comprehensive Plan is divided into two parts: 10 thematic “elements” and 17 “planning areas.” Actions associated with elements pertain to each element’s theme. Planning Area based actions are tied to specific geographies throughout Rockville.

ROCKVILLE 2040 VISION:

Rockville will be a **vibrant, multicultural, and socio-economically inclusive** city with **distinct neighborhoods** that are supported by a **strong local economy, a healthy natural environment, and a desirable quality of life** founded on a *responsive government*.

ROCKVILLE 2040 ELEMENTS

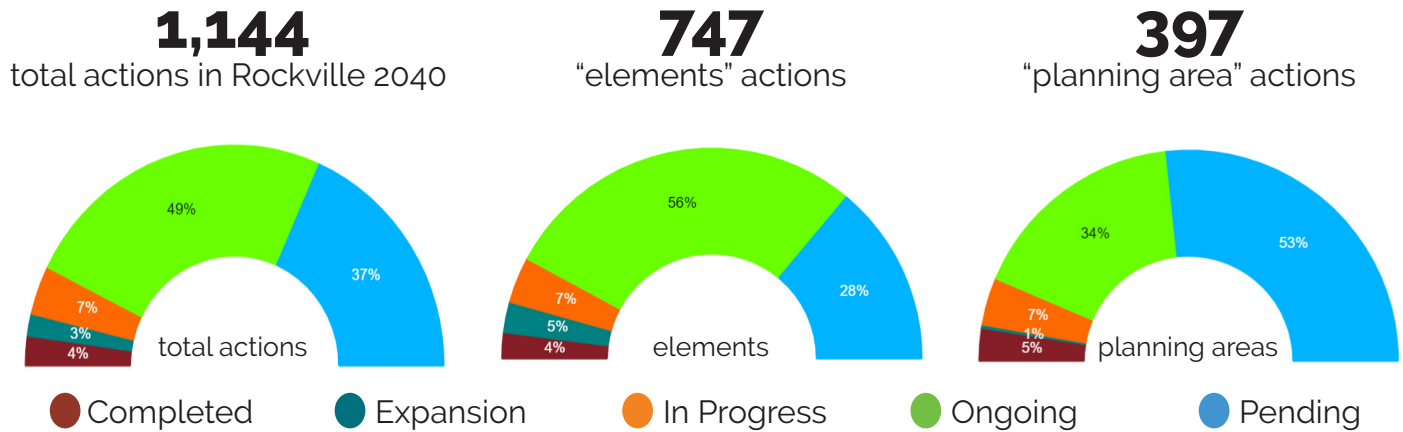
Land Use
Transportation
Recreation and Parks
Community Facilities
Environment
Water Resources
Economic Development
Housing
Historic Preservation
Municipal Growth

ROCKVILLE 2040 PLANNING AREAS

1. Rockville Town Center
2. East Rockville
3. Hungerford, New Mark Commons, Lynfield and Fireside Park
4. West End and Woodley Gardens East-West
5. Woodley Gardens and College Gardens
6. Lincoln Park
7. Montgomery College Area
8. Twinbrook and Twinbrook Forest
9. Rockville Pike
10. Montrose and North Farm
11. Woodmont
12. Tower Oaks
13. Potomac Woods, Potomac Springs, Falls Ridge, and Orchard Ridge
14. Rockshire and Fallsmead
15. Fallsgrove and Research Boulevard
16. King Farm and Shady Grove
17. Southlawn and RedGate



ACTIONS BY CURRENT STATUS



To ease with implementation, as well as to assist with staff workplans and budgets, each action within Rockville 2040 has been assigned a target timeframe for completion. The Rockville community was invited to give feedback on the preferred timeframe for each of the actions. Feedback was collected through:



Ultimately, all actions within Rockville 2040 were assigned to one of the following timeframes for implementation:

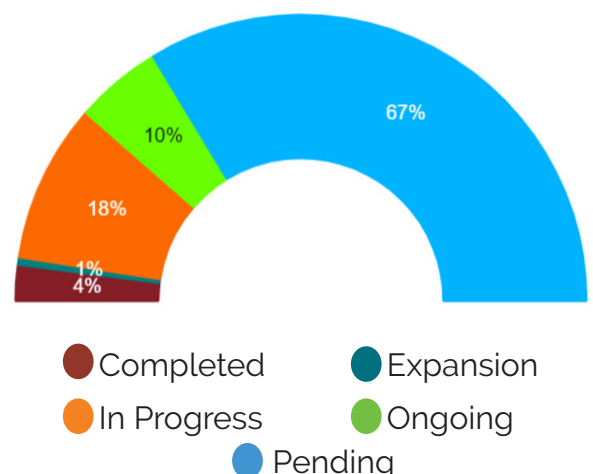
- **Near-term:** to be completed in 1-3 years
- **Mid-term:** to be completed in 3-5 years
- **Long-term:** to be completed in 5-10 years
- **Ongoing:** this action will continue in perpetuity
- **To be determined:** a timeframe has not been established

TIMEFRAME	# OF ACTIONS	% OF ACTIONS
Near-term	245	21.4%
Mid-term	160	13.9%
Long-term	25	2.1%
Ongoing	571	49.9%
To be determined	130	11.3%

WHAT DOES EACH STATUS MEAN?

- Completed:** this action is finished and checked off the list.
- Expansion:** this action builds off an existing program/policy.
- In Progress:** implementation of this action is currently underway.
- Ongoing:** this action doesn't have a defined end point, rather will continue in perpetuity.
- Pending:** implementation of this action has not started yet.

NEAR TERM ACTIONS BY STATUS





COMPLETED ACTION SPOTLIGHT

Between adoption of the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan and June 30, 2023, 30 actions have been completed. The following is a brief description of several of the actions that have been recently completed.

Environment Action 2.2 | Create a Rockville Climate Action Plan that outlines the short-term and long-term actions and strategies the City will undertake to promote and realize cuts in carbon emissions.

Rockville's Climate Action Plan was adopted in January 2022. The Plan lays out 42 actions to guide City policies programs, plans and investments over the next five to ten years to achieve goals of carbon reduction, equity and resiliency. According to the Climate Action Plan 2022 Annual Report, 14% of actions have been completed and 55% are in progress.

Recreation & Parks Action 3.3 | Retain all of RedGate Park as some type of park resource open and available to residents.

The Mayor and Council adopted the RedGate Park Master Plan on October 17, 2022, which outlines a vision for the use of the 130-acre site that was formerly a golf course. This plan envisions RedGate Park as a predominately passive park that emphasizes natural habitat and walking paths. Over time, the goal of the master plan is to develop RedGate Park into an arboretum, with interpretive signage integrated into natural environments and along walking paths.

Planning Area 8 Project 2 | Implement planned improvements on Baltimore Road to improve conditions for people driving, walking, biking and rolling.

Improvements to a 1.5-mile stretch of Baltimore Road were completed in June 2023, facilitating a safer east-west connection across the City. This project was funded by a Federal Highway Administration grant and completed as part of the City's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic and pedestrian related deaths and serious injuries.

Housing Action 10.2 | Adjust the structure of the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program to encourage the production of more MPDUs.

In December 2021, the City amended the city code to require a 15% MPDU set aside throughout the City on all developments larger than 50 units. Additionally, the control period for MPDU rentals was extended from 30 to 99 years. Together these actions help to increase the number of affordable housing units within Rockville and keep units affordable for a longer length of time.

Historic Preservation 1.3 | Prioritize completion of the update to the Historic Resources Management Plan (HRMP), with completed historic context statements to include new periods associated with the later 20th century and the histories of under-represented communities and cultures in Rockville.

In May 2023 the Mayor & Council endorsed the Historic Preservation Work Plan 2023—2033, which outlines a series of 40 actions to take place over a decade to fully update the City's preservation program. These actions place a focus on the development of updated and new historic surveys and contexts throughout the City.

Environment Action 1.6 | Maintain Rockville's status as a Sustainable Maryland Certified Community.

Rockville renewed its Sustainable Maryland certification in October 2021. With 600 points, Rockville was named the 2021 Sustainability Champion. Certifications must be renewed every three years.



IN PROGRESS ACTION SPOTLIGHT

Implementation of the following actions is currently underway. Community members can refer to the City's website for updates on these projects.

Planning Area 17 Project 6 | Renovate the City-owned 6 Taft Court building to reflect the high value that the City places on green building, emergency preparedness, and serving as a new facility for City staff and customers over the next 20 years...Incorporate the best practices of emergency preparedness as part of building renovations and establish an Emergency Operations Center on the site.
Renovations are currently underway. Phase 1A, the first two floors of the north wing, are scheduled for completion in March 2024, which includes the Emergency Operations Center.

Land Use 8.2 & Planning Area 1 Project 1 | Update the Town Center Master Plan by conducting a planning effort leading to the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan amendment of Planning Area 1 that replaces the 2001 Town Center Master Plan.

Community Planning & Development Services (CPDS) staff launched the update effort in April 2024. Current project schedule anticipates adoption of the Master Plan in Summer 2024.

Transportation 4.1 | Adopt and implement a Pedestrian Master Plan to improve pedestrian safety, ensure pedestrian access, and enhance pedestrian experience.

Department of Public Works (DPW) staff started development of the Pedestrian Master Plan in January 2022. A draft is currently available for public review/comment and adoption of the plan is anticipated in Fall 2023.

Historic Preservation 9.2 | Investigate and implement a viable adaptive reuse of the King Farm Farmstead.

The FY24 Operating Budget includes funding for a consultant to facilitate a process to envision the adaptive reuse of the complex.

Planning Area 1 Recommendation 15 | Implement the planned 'road diets' for North Washington Street and East Middle Lane.

The road diets for N. Washington Street and E. Middle Lane are nearing completion – both projects are anticipated to be completed in late summer/early fall 2023.

Economic Development 9.3 | Capitalize on the cluster of diverse restaurants and shops, with foods and goods from around the globe, through a coordinated marketing and positioning strategy and activities.

In June 2023, Rockville Economic Development Incorporation (REDI) piloted the "Global Bites" program, a digital dining passport to explore Rockville's diverse restaurant scene. REDI plans to grow the program in future years.

Planning Area 6 Recommendation 1 | Review the existing 2007 Lincoln Park Neighborhood Conservation District (LPNCD) standards to determine whether updates or amendments are warranted.

Community Planning & Development Services (CPDS) staff have been working on a set of design guidelines for the Lincoln Park Conservation District. The project should be finished before the end of FY24.

Environment 3.2 | Transition all City-owned lighting and street lights to high efficiency lighting, such as light emitting diodes (LED).

The transition of City-owned lighting to LED is underway. The FY23 CIP includes \$1M for this work. In 2022, the City was awarded a grant for nearly \$450,000 by the Maryland Energy Administration to start such transition.