



**Our Shared Community Vision
of a
Livable Frederick County in 2040**

Overarching Vision Statement

It is the year 2040. Frederick County is a vibrant and unique community where people live, work and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging.

**Vision
Vivid Description**

Our community enables young and old to lead fulfilling lives. We ensure that all people can be successful, enjoy a high quality of life.

Residents are energized by our unique sense of place: its Civil War history, small towns and villages, and cultural amenities.

Frederick County provides interesting, fulfilling jobs and options for everyone to support their families.

We embrace businesses of all types and sizes to ensure a vibrant and strong economy. We value traditional industries while seizing the opportunities of the future – healthcare, biotech, advanced technology, and more.

Agriculture is vibrant and viable. People love fresh food and farm to fork.

Good health is fundamental to our high quality of life. We value a healthy environment, clean air, water and green energy and are good stewards of our environmental and natural resources.

Frederick County land planning enhances our traditional growth areas, our towns and villages, while preserving what we love, our farms, history, and outdoor activities.

Our transportation system moves people, goods and services, both locally and regionally, in a timely and safe manner.

Frederick County is a safe place to live, work and play due largely to our many committed emergency service providers and caring communities.

It offers excellence in public education and lifelong learning opportunities, which results in a well educated and trained workforce to ensure our long term economic prosperity.

Frederick County offers great places to live, from our small towns and villages, to our urban downtown, quaint main street, and rural countryside. There is something for everyone!

Vision Components

It is the year 2040. Our LIVABLE FREDERICK is a place and a community that offers the freedom and the equity of opportunity necessary for everyone who lives and works here to prosper and thrive throughout their lives.

In this first half of the 21st century, Frederick County has been attuned to the many changes and developments in science, technology, medicine, agriculture, work itself, etc., that are affecting life as we know it. We are seizing these changes as opportunity and are employing them to help create and sustain our desired vision of life and work here.

Our Community:

We are a diverse community of deliberately healthy, self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

We are a connected community. Cooperation and communication exists among the many interest groups in Frederick County. We work collaboratively to ensure

that fairness and equity are interwoven in providing for the housing, services, health, safety and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.

Frederick County is a safe place to live, work, and play. Our law enforcement agencies protect and serve us honorably, fairly, and ethically, and are appreciated by the public. Crime levels are consistently low and people feel safe as they conduct their daily lives.

This is a place where different people from all backgrounds live, work and play together. It is a place where all citizens have a voice and no one is left out. There is no cultural or racial hatred or prejudice – Frederick County is a community of inclusion.

The people of Frederick are well informed, highly motivated to speak up for themselves and feel comfortable doing so. Interested, engaged citizens collaborate with government and community organizations to make their desires known and to solve problems.

The County's many distinct places - rural villages and towns, cities and their suburbs, historic neighborhoods, farms, mountains and rivers – each contribute to the vitality and identity of this community and provide value to our lives. Neighborhoods, whether rural or urban, have a unique sense of place. We ensure that our children learn our local history and heritage to give them a sense of pride in our community.

We have a livable built environment where all of its elements, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, and infrastructure, work together to provide sustainable green places for living, working, learning and recreation, with a high quality of life. The County has a comprehensive master plan that balances growth and shapes the locations of businesses and homes. Before development occurs, the support structures for transportation, parks, water supply, sewage, schools, and public buildings are in place. Planning is a collaborative endeavor with the community, developers and builders combining expertise and experience to meet the needs of the community in a way that results in predictable and profitable growth and makes Frederick truly livable for all.

Frederick County has meaningful and affordable housing choices for everyone - all income levels, all classes, while offering older adults affordable housing and supportive services. Housing, both rural and urban, is focused toward existing activity centers, towns and villages and is in close proximity to shopping, schools and other town activities. Re-use of existing structures and neighborhoods is emphasized. Communities are aesthetically pleasing, with quality housing options including a balance of mixed use and single family units with a focus on green, solar and sustainable alternative energy features.

The transportation systems of today have made automotive gridlock a thing of the past. We now have a varied, balanced, and complete multimodal approach composed of driving, transit, walking, and biking. It has taken on a new form; one that is not limited to those who can drive or can afford a car, but that is open and easily accessible to every person. All residents have easy access to the private and public sector amenities and services. There are many well-maintained parks connecting the City and County that cater to the different needs of citizens. Regional connectivity now flows in both directions, providing the inflow of workers and consumers that support Frederick's strengthened role as a regional hub of jobs and goods.

Our Economy:

Our county economy is resilient. The community is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health having made strategic choices to both diversify our existing enterprises and be an incubator for new ones. Our Building, Retail and Services sectors complement our hub of Biotechnology, Healthcare, Information Technology and Creative industries.

More than half of our county land remains agricultural with 150,000 acres of farmland preserved. We have profitable, diversified farms that have benefited from changes in soil science, public eating habits and market opportunities. Regenerative agriculture is a norm. Many of the agricultural products consumed by county residents are locally grown.

Businesses that thrive here are profitable by providing worthwhile goods and services while valuing and compensating their workers. Frederick County is an exciting and desirable place to work, and everyone who needs and wants to work can. Full time work provides sufficient compensation and benefits to cover the cost of living here.

Our county seat, the City of Frederick, is a historic jewel with a downtown that is economically, culturally, and socially vibrant. Market Street is home to dozens of thriving restaurants and stores. The Carroll Creek Linear Park is a mixed-use, attractive center for cultural affairs, dining, shopping and recreation for both citizens and tourists. Our towns and village centers retain their uniqueness and are centers of economic and cultural activity. New construction blends in with the old. Frederick's historic architecture, public art, and uniqueness are preserved. Our economy is shaped and sustained by the talent and enterprise of our residents.

Frederick County's schools set benchmarks for learning, discovery and innovation in a diverse environment that respects and enables teachers and enhances children's lives so they can focus on learning. Because the quality of the first years of life has a profound influence on whether a person will thrive as an adult, parents, caregivers, doctors, teachers and neighbors collaborate to assure equity in preparing children early for their future development.

All county schools are of equally good quality and meet state and federal standards. Our schools have adequate space and small class sizes for their students. We attract and retain high-quality teachers with competitive salaries. Schools are a hub for community activities with easy access for sports, the arts and meetings.

Colleges, apprenticeship programs, and other educational institutions in our county are graduating students to be innovative and entrepreneurial to prepare them for the kinds of employment opportunities needed in the county and beyond. Businesses locate in the county because of the quality of our workforce, whether in academic disciplines or advanced trades.

The vibrant and expanding arts community in Frederick County plays a vital role in supporting a creative, diverse population that fosters the development and integration of new ideas while maintaining a strong connection to our heritage and history. The arts serve as economic driver in our economy, drawing creators to live and produce in Frederick County.

Our Environment:

We live in a county, a place, of great physical richness and beauty. We are fulfilling our stewardship by making Frederick County an environmentally sustainable place with clean air, clean water, healthy soil, protected farmland and open space.

Planning has adapted to the climate that we now have in 2040. We initiate sustainable urban development and redevelopment strategies that foster green business growth and build reliance on local assets.

We are shepherds of our county and leave to successive generations healthy soil that sustains our agricultural bounty, clean air and water, lessons from our rich heritage, and the fruits of our planning together for an intentional future.

We have ensured that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are explicitly recognized and valued. We are committed to preserving and improving their health and being in harmony with nature. The Catoclin Mountains and Frederick's watershed continue to be protected. Our county is greenhouse gas negative.

Our Health:

We understand that the better the physical and mental health of all of our people, the happier, more productive, successful and resilient our community will be. There is availability and access to affordable health care, both mental and physical, to dental care and to prescriptions for everyone. Our people have access to state-of-the-art hospitals and clinics that attract top physicians with a variety of specialties, especially geriatricians who serve our large elder population. Medical professionals who emphasize keeping people healthy

choose to live and work here because our people take responsibility for maximizing their health and fitness for their whole lifetime.

Public health needs are recognized and active living fostered through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, health care, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods. Healthy eating and lifestyle habits are taught to people from an early age. Environmental hazards, including toxins, pollutants and ambient environmental stress, have been mostly eliminated.

We recognize the importance of continuing quality opportunities and experiences to the healthy development of young people. Our youth have many options for quality outreach programs, activities and entertainment that are open and available to them all.

Ample, modern recreation facilities and parks designed for youth have been provided and are used. Our libraries serve as platforms to maintain and grow cultural curiosity and tolerance.

In unprecedented numbers, we are living longer with a level of energy and good health that has permitted us to more greatly enjoy our elder phase of life. The value of this emerging elder sector of our community is now recognized as a positive resource by local organizations – public, private and non-profit. New roles and applications are being created for and by elders that match their abilities, interests, and limits with the needs of businesses, communities and entrepreneurs both as volunteers and for pay.

Nevertheless, to deal with the limitations accompanying end of life, better, systemic innovations have emerged to make the last years comfortable and dignified. Accessible, suitable, affordable housing, existing and rehabilitated, accommodates a variety of needs and allows elders to stay in their homes and age in place. There is great value to communities in elders retelling their stories and their roles in history.

Frederick County is a community that takes care of our people who are experiencing crisis. Our comprehensive social services system provides a safety net for anyone in need - vulnerable children, seniors, adults, and the disabled – and helps them regain stability and recovery. Services are coordinated and accessible with a client-centric focus.

Poverty in Frederick County has become rare, unnecessary, and brief. We have minimized poverty by learning new and better ways of providing support to those who experience it. We recognize that it is important for all residents to gain personal and financial self-sufficiency and the increased dignity and confidence that it brings.

The community conditions, economic deficiencies and inadequate services that previously have been barriers to escaping poverty have been corrected or improved. Further, as a community, we have learned to better recognize and minimize the precursors of falling into poverty in order to prevent it in the first place.

There are no longer any homeless people in our communities, and the number of children born into poverty is reducing with each generation. People take pride in being community assets with the wherewithal to be able to contribute positively to their communities and to society.

Frederick County has it all: beautiful, prosperous, convenient, sustainable, and safe, it continues to offer small town feel with 21st century, urban opportunity. Other counties nationwide copy us.