Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

City of College Park

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Local Government
Member since March 2011

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Policy Statement**

The City of College Park is a leader in the protection and restoration of natural resources and the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, technologies, and plans. The City reduces its impact on the environment through collaboration, research, and the adoption of best practices to incentivize reduced energy usage. The City has well-managed and attractive natural resources, such as parks, trails, and outdoor recreation areas. The City supports new development that is sensitive to environmental issues and that strives to limit impacts on the environment.

☑ **Environmental Team**

The City of College Park is a Sustainable Maryland Certified community. The Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) serves as the City's Green Team.

CBE is made up of City residents with an interest in improving the environment and quality of life in College Park. The Committee elects its own Chair and receives assistance from a City appointed Staff Liaison and it has an annual budget. CBE meets monthly and membership is limited to a total of 25 individuals who are appointed by the Mayor and Council for renewable terms of between 1 and 3 years. The Committee promotes beautification, sponsors Earth Day and Arbor Day activities, and provides support for local environmental projects and activities. CBE has taken an active role in addressing planning and development concerns including, public education, pollution reduction, recycling, commuter issues, noise and light abatement, bicycle and pedestrian trails, "Smart Growth," environmental awareness, green-space preservation, green-award programs, stream and roadside cleanup, sustainable landscaping, and regional planning. CBE frequently sponsors cleanups and educational workshops.

☑ **Annual Environmental Goals**

Five-Year Objective and Key Result July 2021-June 2025: Educate residents in behaviors to reduce waste and increase recycling. Expand and improve our parks and green spaces.

- *Reduce by 100 tons household and bulk refuse collected by the City – met*
- *Increase by 30 tons of curbside and miscellaneous recycling collected by City – met*
- *Reduce by 4% the total gallons of gasoline and diesel used by the City fleet – met*
- *10 environmental events (recycling, composting, trash reduction, tree canopy, pollinators, and clean ups) - met*
- *100% Bulk trash plan implemented - met*
- *.5% increase in tree canopy - met*
- *100% design plans for Duvall Field completed and approved - met*
- *2 additional properties for purchase using Program Open Space funding – met*

☑ **Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

In order for residents to reduce their impact on the environment, the City offers several products for sale, some of which are subsidized and sold at a reduced rate to residents.

- *Backyard compost bins. This program promotes backyard composting as an easy, cost-effective way to divert residential organic waste from landfill, and it helps residents monitor and reduce their food waste.*
- *Yard Waste Carts - 95-gallon. The cart replaces the need for disposable paper bags, and the wheeled cart makes it easier for residents to collect more yard waste.*
- *Rain Barrels – 50-gallon. All property owners can play a role in stormwater management. Setting up and using a rain barrel reduces stormwater run-off which helps to keep our waterways healthy. In addition, residents can use less water and save money by capturing and reusing rainwater for gardens and lawncare.*

☑ **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

- *In 2024 the City began offering free residential tree planting by a contractor, in the spring and fall at no cost to the resident. The program has been very popular and fills up quickly. From 2023-2025 - 250 trees were planted.*
- *On May 10, 2022, the City of College Park's Mayor and Council approved Ordinance 21-O-09, which will require a permit to remove tree(s) on residential land beginning July 1, 2022. The ordinance was enacted to limit the removal of healthy, mature trees as a measure to maintain the city's tree canopy. The ordinance was passed three years after the College Park Urban Tree Canopy Assessment was completed, which indicated a steady loss of tree canopy coverage during the past 9 years.*
- *City of College Park property owners can apply for a Tree Canopy Enhancement*

Program (TCEP) reimbursement of up to $150.00 annually for approved tree(s) planted on their residential lot. In FY22 17 TCEP's were approved, and 13 trees planted.

- *To comply with Maryland roadside tree law the city plants trees annually in the right-of-way to replace any that are dead or damaged. Sixty-one trees were planted to replace removed street trees.*
- *The City had its first Earth Day tree giveaway on April 23, 2022, and 123 residents signed up to receive up to two trees each.*
- *Became a Bee City certified community; formed a Bee City committee. Planted first pollinator garden; gave away free milkweed seeds. Created a new initiative "No Mow April" which was a huge success with 349 residents participating.*

The Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) conducts regular activities including cleanups and workshops. The following are some of CBE's event from 2020 to 2024:

- *Worked with city staff to create and promote an updated 2024 Sustainability Survey open to all residents in College Park. The survey was released online in both English and Spanish. Residents highlighted activities they were taking in their own lives as well as steps they would like the city to take to increase sustainability --including protecting pollinators, lowering the environmental impact of developers, improving walkability/bike-ability, reducing waste to landfill, and increasing the tree canopy and green spaces. The results were shared with residents and Councilmembers through a webinar in fall 2024 – link https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6470/2024-Sustainability-Survey-presentation-2024_10*
- *Worked with the College Park Arts Exchange to paint storm drains to encourage people to not put anything other than water down the drains. The paintings feature animals native to the Anacostia that are threatened by chemicals and other materials going down storm drains. A storyboard was created showing a map and pictures of all the murals. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e6fc6e784ffd4d8e926255d20111133d*
- *Worked with city staff to create signage labeling native tree species along the trolley trail from Berwyn south to Calvert Hills. The signs provide the common and scientific names for many trees, as well as information highlighting the value of each species to the environment and community. An online map of all the trees is here https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6dcf259994054ac1ae668136798d6bb7*

Waste

☑ **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

New bulk trash changes took effect July 1, 2021, limiting collections to 4 times per fiscal year, and 20 items per fiscal year for resident owned properties, and 29 items for registered rentals in the city. Bulk trash tonnage is down 49% since Ordinance 20-O-02 went into effect.

☑ **Recycling**

The City introduced single stream recycling in September 2008. The recycling rate at that time was 18% but has continued to increase. Over the years we have added several items to our recycling Program including food scraps, electronics, scrap metal/white goods, soft yard waste, woody yard waste, motor oil, batteries, toners, coffee capsules and Styrofoam. Fiscal Year 2024 recycling rate is 46%.

☑ **Composting**

The City collects soft yard waste (leaves, grass, and soft clippings) curbside throughout the year. From mid-January through the end of October residents can gather soft yard waste in paper bags or reusable containers. From November through early January, the City uses leaf vacuums for curbside collection. For FY24, 2,139 tons of soft yard and leaves were collected from residents. The City also processed an additional 1,372 tons of leaves tipped by other surrounding municipalities. All of the soft yard waste collected is recycled through the City's composting program and processed into screened Smartleaf® compost.

On April 1, 2019 the City introduced a Food Scrap drop-off program at Public Works that is available 24/7. In February 2020, a new location was added in Old Town College Park. In addition, residents can drop-off food scraps at the North College Park Farmers Market that run from May-November. Since the program began, appx. 73 tons of food scrap have been diverted from the landfill. Council approved funding to start curbside collections in the FY23 budget. November 2022 the curbside collection of food scraps rolled out. In FY24 we collected 86.68 tons of food scraps.

Energy

☑ **Energy Efficiency**

The City is a member of ICLEI, an international association of local governments who have made a commitment to sustainable development. As part of our involvement with ICLEI, the City's Committee for a Better Environment completed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory for City government operations.

The City's Capital Improvement Program included a Green Initiative project with $50,000 in funding. The first project was a Level I Energy Audit of four City buildings. Based on the Audit results, improvements have been made to facilities to improve energy efficiency. Some projects include LED lighting in our parking garage and in several of our buildings, as well as motion detection lighting in bathrooms and some offices.

LED Street light projects. Conversion from 150 WATT High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) fixtures to 150 WATT LED fixtures. LED street lights reduce the Citys energy use to keep the streets and trails well-lit to promote safe travel and recreation.

- *Converted 16 streetlights in the Old Town neighborhood along Rhode Island Avenue between Campus Drive and Calvert Road*
- *Converted all existing HPS streetlights (150) to LEDs, and added 42 new LED streetlights along 53rd Avenue, from Lackawanna Street to Edgewood Road in North College Park*
- *Hollywood Shopping Center - added 22 energy-efficient LED lights and 4 Floodlights.*
- *The city continues to maintain the LED lighting in our parking garage which was retrofitted with LED lighting in 2015.*
- *After the completion of the Edmonston Road Sidewalk Project, which installed new sidewalk on Edmonston Road between Old Calvert Road and the Town of Berwyn Heights, the City converted 22 existing 70 watt HPS streetlights with 100 watt LED streetlights, and added 3 additional 100 watt LED streetlights on poles that did not have fixtures. The conversions and installations were completed in 2024 to promote walkability and increase visibility along the roadway/sidewalk and at the crosswalks and intersections.*

☑ **Renewable Energy**

The City met its goal to produce 20% of its municipal energy needs from renewable sources by 2022. Together with our efforts in energy generation, we're simultaneously working on energy reduction to meet the goal. The City has reduced energy consumption across our municipal buildings by 23% over the past 4 years.

In 2020, the City of College Park received a grant through a Maryland Energy Administration for the design, construction and maintenance of a 30 kWh solar photovoltaic system at the Department of Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue on the Landscaping Garage. FY24 energy production was 12.500 kWh.

The City of College Park received a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration for the design, construction, and maintenance of a 31 KW solar photovoltaic system at the Department of Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue on the Facilities Parking Garage. In January 2018 we contracted to AltEnergy and the project was completed in late 2018. FY24 energy production was 25,510 kWh.

The City of College Park received a grant from the Maryland Smart Energy Committee for funding for a 31 KW solar photovoltaic system at 4912 Nantucket Avenue; known as the Youth and Family Services Building. Advanced Solar from White Plains MD performed the installation which was completed in June 2017. FY24 energy production was 29,960 kWh.

Transportation

☑ **Employee Commute**

VEO MICROMOBILITY PROGRAM: The City, in conjunction with the Town of University Park and the University of Maryland (UMD), contracted with the

bikeshare company VeoRide, Inc. in July of 2019 to establish a 1-year shared mobility system. VeoRide provides a rentable fleet of e-scooters and e-bikes that are accessible through the use of a mobile app. In order to facilitate equitable access for low-income residents, the company provides and advertises a discounted pricing program to eligible users and provides prepaid payment methods for users without access to credits cards, bank accounts, or smartphones. The City, Town of University Park, and the University of Maryland successfully completed the pilot program in early 2022. The City Council approved a 3-year mobility share agreement with VeoRide Inc. on April 12, 2022. Ridership has increased significantly across the service area, primarily on the University of Maryland campus. Trip counts in September and October 2024 exceeded 46,000 rides. The current fleet comprises a total of 400 e-scooters and e-bikes.
There are now over 150 bike racks and parking hubs in the City where users can park vehicles, with over 500 locations throughout the entire service area. The City requires new development to add bike parking and micromobility parking. In June 2024, the City completed a $54,087 Maryland Bikeways grant project to retrofit existing parking locations with bike racks, corrals, and striping to increase parking capacity encourage appropriate parking. The City, Town of University Park, and University of Maryland continue to grow parking capacity and infrastructure as needed. The entities are expected to approve a 2-year operating contract with Veo that will go into effect in June 2025 and further increase the shared fleet to 650 e-scooters and e-bikes.

The College Park City-University Partnership established an Affordable Housing Land Trust in the State of Maryland in May 2023. The Trust buys homes and resells them at reduced prices to people of low and moderate incomes (up to 140% of the median family income) in exchange for other benefits. Funded jointly by the City and the University, provides grants to encourage University and City employees to live in the City they work, thereby reducing commutes, strengthening neighborhoods, and supporting our local economy.

Employee Commuter Benefit: The City will contribute $75.00 per month towards a full-time employee's Metro SmarTrip card when the employee agrees that the benefit will only be used for commuting back and forth to work at the City on at least 50% of her or her scheduled workdays. The employee will contribute $5.00 towards the initial cost of a new card and will be responsible for replacement.

☑ **Efficient Fleet Vehicles**

The city has nine fully electric vehicles

- *6- Chevy Bolt EV Sedans-Replaced Gasoline (one 2019, two 2020's, one 2022, and two 2023's)*
- *2-Ford E Transit Cargo Vans (2023)*
- *1-Electric Sweeper (2023)*

Between 2018-2022 four Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations were installed at Public Works (9217 51st Avenue) for internal use only

The city has the following hybrid vehicles

- *Two 2014 Honda Insights*
- *Eight 2017 Ford C-Maxs*
- *One 2020 Ford E-450 Hybrid 20-person bus*

The percentage of cars/vans/SUVs in the fleet that are electric or hybrid is 80%. The plan is to replace small sedans with electric sedans and to continue to monitor the progress on mid-size and heavy-duty trucks for possible electric consideration. The industry is making good progress in the area of heavy trucks, but we want to be sure they can perform the required duty we need which is 24/7 operability in emergencies.

Water

☑ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

The City has a stormwater permit issued under Prince George's County, MD.

Micro-Bioretention Facilities at City Hall:

- *The property features 7 separate micro-bio retention facilities along the three sides of the property. This includes 1 in the plaza, 4 along Knox Road, and 2 along Yale Avenue. Though these Micro-Bioretention facilities play a role in the landscape design of the exterior, they also serve an important role in stormwater management by filtering runoff water. Under the various plantings lies a mix of sand, soil, and organic matter, which filters out unwanted pollutants and prevents them from entering the public storm drain system. Moreover, they also protect the building's foundation from erosion. In total, these micro-bioretention facilities occupy approximately 5,000 SF of area and treat over 6,250 Cubic feet (≈46,750 gallons) of rainwater.*

Hollywood Gateway Park has native plants to stabilize soil, green roof, stone rill to channel rainwater, rain garden to reduce runoff to the nearby street; handles stormwater runoff from Baltimore Avenue; educates public about the climate and how weather works

The County installed rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff at locations throughout the City. Two are at Duvall Field, two are along Narragansett Parkway to slow and detain and clean runoff. There is a stepping pool project along Rhode Island Avenue for flow reduction.

A Prince George's County Stormwater project was constructed in 2018 at Public Works, 9219 51st Avenue. The project treats storm water run-off from 51st Avenue and the parking lot of the Department of Public Works because of the lack storm inlets on 51st Avenue around the facility. Quarterly maintenance is performed by the County and

supplemental maintenance by DPW with mowing and removal of any floatables collected. Device type: Sand filter. BMP Id no: PG16POI101110. Constructed by the Clean Water Partnership. Treats 1.33 acres.

Permeable Pavement:

- *In 2020, 150 ft^2 of permeable concrete sidewalk was installed connecting 47th Place with the Hollywood Gateway park to mitigate runoff concerns*
- *In 2019, 1,808 ft^2 of permeable concrete sidewalk was installed to create access for city residents from the southern end of the city to an adjacent shopping area in Riverdale Park*
- *In the fall of 2018, 3 new flexi-pavement sidewalk was installed on Quebec Street in front of 3 large trees.*
- *1,000 ft^2 of pervious pavers were installed on the east sidewalk between Route 1 and Lehigh Rd.*
- *As part of the City's Complete and Green Streets Program, new sidewalks were installed on 51st Avenue between Eutaw Place and Huron Street and on Huron Street between 51st Avenue and 52nd Avenue in Fall 2024. The sidewalk on 51st Avenue abuts a wooded area with numerous large trees. At locations where tree roots would be impacted by the sidewalk, the City installed a total of 520 square feet of flexible pavement sidewalk to protect the tree roots from impacts and prevent future tripping hazards.*

Green Building

☑ **LEED Gold**

The City and the University are partners in a new City Hall, UMD offices, and public plaza on Baltimore Avenue. Through our use of sustainable building features, we have recorded an 18.7% energy cost reduction, 33% indoor water use reduction, and a 99% outdoor water use reduction. Currently, the project is LEED Gold certified.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

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- *Tree City USA Award for 35 consecutive years (2024)*
- *Sustainable Maryland Certification since 2011, the most recent was silver in 2022*
- *Prince George's County Beautification Awards for 5 consecutive years for the following: College Park Trolley/Hiker Biker Trail, and the Veteran's Memorial*
- *HEAL – Healthy Living, Active Eating Campaign Gold Status Member*
- *Maryland DNR & Prince George's County (DOE) 2018 Green Award and a 2021 Green Award in recognition of our enthusiasm and hard work in planting and caring for trees in our local urban and community forests*

View our video

Profile Updated May 2025