

Gateway Commons HOA

GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN 2023-2026

In 2022 Gateway Commons HOA worked with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and its Sustainable Maryland (SM) program to adopt the SM Residential Action Framework. Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust with support from the City of Gaithersburg, this framework guides homeowners' and civic associations through a process that increases their awareness of natural resources and watershed protection issues, educates their residents on the importance of community-based sustainability efforts, and encourages action.

Over the course of a year, the EFC project team led community members through a process of identifying and prioritizing shared areas of need, strategies for enhancing collective action, and opportunities for developing projects culminating in a Green Team Action Plan.

The Gateway Commons Reserve Green Team Action plan is a living document that establishes priority actions for the next three years and serves as a tool for Green Team members to stay organized and track progress over time.



LOCATION

Skidmore Boulevard and Swarthmore Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD

POPULATION

135 households
~275 residents

GREEN TEAM ESTABLISHED

2022

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS

Jeff Smith, Resident

GREEN TEAM CONTACT

Sheila Ray, Board Member
sheila.ray@gmail.com

PARTNERS

Sustainable Maryland
Environmental Finance Center
City of Gaithersburg
Chesapeake Bay Trust



ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



COMMUNITY ACTION

Establish/Grow a Green Team

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- SM Framework presentation | Sustainable Maryland | <https://go.umd.edu/cyZ>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

In process Fall 2022. SM provided a GT resolution from Diamond Farm HOA as a template should the Gateway Commons HOA want to formalize its Green Team.

Conduct a Community Survey



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- SM Survey Template | Sustainable Maryland | [Contact SM](#)
- Outreach and Restoration grant (behavior change) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

The survey could be conducted online and be used to identify and prioritize community interests and

opportunities. Could be used to inform the future use of underused community amenities like the tennis courts.

Develop a Green Team Action Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- SM Green Team Action Plan Template Sustainable Maryland | [Contact SM](#)
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant (for executing water-related projects) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Advocacy & Stewardship Handbook | Audubon Naturalist Society | <https://bit.ly/3sfWzZ0>
- Homeowner's Guide to Sustainability | Angi | <https://bit.ly/3HZadqq>
- Environment | Community Associations | <https://bit.ly/35lzug8>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

In process as of Fall 2022.

Establish a Sustainability Resources Center**Action Leads:****Target Year:****Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:****Potential Partners:****Potential Resources:****Progress and Implementation Notes:**

Create a web page for residents with resources. This could be done either in either the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Conduct Sustainability Education and Outreach**Action Leads:****Target Year:****Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:****Potential Partners:****Potential Resources:**

- HOA Covenants for Sustainability | Urban Land Magazine | <https://bit.ly/3HVGejZ>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Conduct general ongoing outreach as needed, via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Maryland Green Schools**Action Leads:****Target Year:****Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:****Potential Partners:**

Potential Resources:

- MD Green Schools Program | Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education | <https://bit.ly/35AMhLu>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Washington Grove Elementary is within one mile. Also, the Town of Washington Grove has a municipal Green Team. Consider partnering with the for projects in the community such as cleanups.

Commission a Public Art Installation



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Arts Barn | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/32SLvbM>
- Outreach and Restoration grant (for water-related projects) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant (for water-related projects) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Potential location is a mural on the fence by the playground.

Promote A Little Free Library

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Little Free Library | <https://bit.ly/3wqGeo7>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Promote the little free library in our neighboring community to homeowners.

Track Diversity & Equity on Boards

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Equity Workgroup | Choose Clean Water Coalition | <https://bit.ly/3ungsto>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

There is currently no one representing the lower income housing part of the neighborhood on the Board. HOA has an interest in engaging this sector of the community.

Partner with Nonprofits or Higher Education Institutions

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Community Engagement and Restoration Mentorship Program | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/346360J>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

The aim is to help build capacity and provide technical assistance (such as grant writing, research, etc.). Reach out to SM if future opportunities arise and SM can help partner Park Summit with Muddy Branch Alliance, Chesapeake Bay Trust, etc.

Coordinate with Neighboring HOAs on Green Initiatives

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Creating Sustainable, Resilient, and Healthy HOAs | CAP Management Denver, CO | <https://bit.ly/3uV6mHd>

- Greening Your HOA | Piedmont Environmental Council | <https://bit.ly/33t1IVw>

- Green Condo and Homeowners Associations: Ideas on Green Initiatives from Across the Country | HOA Leader | <https://bit.ly/3sMCFoN>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Summit Hall and Audubon Square Green Teams are all nearby. See map in Attachment A of this report. Contact information for each HOA with a Green Team in the City of Gaithersburg can be found on the [SM website](#).

Promote Stormwater Management Best Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Stormwater 101 | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3gHCo14>
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Bft51z>
- Types of Stormwater Management Facilities | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3JIHNqF>
- Rainscapes Reward Program | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Stormwater Rebate Program Education and Outreach

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Rainscapes Reward Program | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Schedule Regular Community Cleanup Days

Action Leads:

Target Year: Ongoing

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- How to Organize & Lead Your Clean Up | Alice Ferguson Foundation | <https://bit.ly/3HkJiEY>
- Community Clean Up Event Support | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3rIWMus>
- City Cleanup Liability Release Form | <https://bit.ly/3rjhZ8m>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Last completed on 4/23/22. The HOA will continue to schedule them in the Spring and Fall each year. Consider making this a multi-purpose event. Perhaps combine it with a tree inventory (using a phone app).

Storm Drain Stenciling



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Storm Drain Stenciling | Chesapeake Bay Foundation |

<https://bit.ly/3J23WKJ>

- Storm Drain Art Project | Gaithersburg |

<https://bit.ly/3JcTtMD>

- Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Storm Drain Marking Program | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3ohqBKK>

- Storm Drain Stenciling Action Project | MD Department of Natural Resources | <https://bit.ly/3okXMx9>

- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>

- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

HOA is interested in stenciling the drain at the north end of the weir and at storm drain inlets on streets. The City of Gaithersburg can provide materials. An excellent outreach and education project.

Host a Rain Barrel Workshops

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Rainscapes Reward Program | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp>

- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>

- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

- RainScapes Communities | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3BdiG6w>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

SM can send photos of rain barrels at townhouses, if of interest to the Green Team. In the future, architectural guidelines will have to be reviewed and possibly changed to allow rain barrels in the front of homes.

Develop a Stormwater Management Action Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) (for project execution)| Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3gi85gX>
- Watershed Assistance Grant Program (for conceptual plans/designs) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3AWvU7S>
- Stormwater Management Program Document Template | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | <https://bit.ly/3rlo0M7>
- Stormwater Action Plan: Mckenney Hills/Carroll Knolls Civic Association | Environmental Finance Center | <https://bit.ly/3rle4IR>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Reach out to SM for guidance. SM can potentially provide grant-funded assistance.

Conduct Pet Waste Management Outreach



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Pet Waste Program Matrix | Sustainable Maryland | <https://bit.ly/3hyGUiS>
- Montgomery County's Pet Waste Management Program for HOAs | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3AUyMIE>
- Outreach and Restoration grant (behavior change) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

SM can provide pet waste yard signs in English and Spanish; additional signage and electronic outreach materials can be provided.

Install Pet Waste Stations

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Montgomery County's Pet Waste Management Program for HOAs | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3AUyMIE>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Reach out to Montgomery County for pet waste stations. The SM team can connect you with Montgomery County, if needed.

Adopt a Salt Reduction Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Winter Salt Watch | Izaak Walton League of America | <https://bit.ly/3ANKxu1>
- Road Salt Moving Toward the Solution Report | Cary Institute | <https://bit.ly/34vc2MV>
- Road Salt Best Management Practices Fact Sheet | NH Department of Environmental Services | <https://bit.ly/3GmFQbw>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Winter Maintenance Salt Application Guidelines and Calculator | Saltwise Wisconsin | <https://bit.ly/34Q83dQ>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

This is a priority for the City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County. Specific products and application procedures can help reduce overuse of road salt. The City of Gaithersburg uses brine. Work with the HOA's contractor to determine whether they can change materials and/or policies around road salt application.

Install and Maintain Green Infrastructure (e.g., Bioswale, Rain Garden, Pervious Pavers, Green Streets Etc.)

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- City Support | Gaithersburg | [Contact SM](#)
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) (for project execution) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3gi85qX>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Examples include bioswales, rain gardens, pervious pavers, rain barrels, green streets, etc. Several opportunities exist for small-scale stormwater infrastructure, including the border with the industrial/strip mall area. Funding and technical assistance for projects can come from the City, watershed organizations, and other nonprofits. List of RainScapes contractors can be found here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/Contractor_List.pdf

ECO-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Adopt and Promote Native Plant Landscaping Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- City Support | Gaithersburg | [Contact SM](#)
- Rainscapes Reward Program | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp>
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) (for project execution) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3gi85qX>
- Landscaping with Native Plants | MD Native Plant Society | <https://bit.ly/3LvJXG3>
- Native Plant Guide | Chesapeake Native Plant Center | <https://bit.ly/3Luq3Lw>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA’s website or its [facebook page](#). Provide a list of groundcover plants that would do well where there is erosion in the utility right of ways and alleys to homeowners interested in better maintaining these spaces.

Adopt and Promote Water-Efficient Landscaping Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- City Support | Gaithersburg | [Contact SM](#)
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Adopt and Promote Conservation Landscaping Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Conservation Landscaping Program | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/34pwlv2>
- Outreach and Restoration | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Conduct a Tree Canopy Inventory

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Urban Tree Canopy Assessment | U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service | <https://bit.ly/3szEGon>
- Guide to Assessing Urban Forests | i-Tree | <https://bit.ly/3ssca88>
- Tree Canopy Assessment | City of College Park | <https://bit.ly/3sCwung>
- Tree Canopy Study | City of Salisbury | <https://bit.ly/3GIE0SO>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

This can be accomplished with volunteers with cell phone apps.

Develop a Tree Canopy Plan

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- City of Gaithersburg Tree Manual | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3lXBR7i>
- Outreach and Restoration grant (with tree plantings) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Urban Tree Canopy Planning | MD Department of Planning | <https://bit.ly/3gFCNRv>
- Community Assessment & Goal-Setting Tool | Vibrant Cities Lab | <https://bit.ly/3rJny0k>
- Tree Montgomery - How It Works | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3oJPFug>
- Native Trees Discount | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3oJTU94>
- Backyard Buffers Program | MD Department of Natural Resources | <https://bit.ly/3JkXvT8>
- Tree-Mendous Maryland | MD Department of Natural Resources | <https://bit.ly/35mPVIO>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Consider updating HOA policies/covenants to include guidance on tree-trimming for homeowners. Even without a policy HOA is interested in educating homeowners about tree maintenance.

Tree Planting

Action Leads:

Target Year: Ongoing

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- City Support | Gaithersburg | [Contact SM](#)
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3gi85gX>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Consider making this an annual Arbor Day or Earth Day event. Lots of funding support is available for tree planting projects. Reach out to SM after reviewing resources listed above if you need additional guidance. Previous tree plantings have been red maples.

Plant Pollinator Gardens



Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Guide to Passing Wildlife-Friendly Property Maintenance Ordinances | National Wildlife Federation | <https://bit.ly/3hu5oK7>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Opportunities exist in various common areas such as those identified in these photos. The corner of Goucher and Swarthmore has a good opportunity to install a pollinator garden.

Install Dark Sky lights

Action Leads: Terri

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Outdoor Lighting Basics | International Dark-Sky Association | <https://bit.ly/3rJVF8r>
- Find Dark Sky Friendly Lighting | International Dark-Sky Association | <https://bit.ly/3Bj34hV>
- What You Should Know About Bird Migration and Light Pollution | International Dark-Sky Association | <https://bit.ly/3oltwN0>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Pass a Light Pollution Reduction / Dark Sky Policy

Action Leads: Terri

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

Progress and Implementation Notes:

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Encourage Consumption of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Maryland Action Guide on Fruits and Vegetables | CDC | <https://bit.ly/3M8N7QB>
- Better Nutrition for a Healthier Maryland | Maryland Food Bank | <https://bit.ly/3ht59Pg>
- Food Education | Montgomery County Food Council | <https://bit.ly/3hthRxt>
- Community Food Rescue | <https://bit.ly/3M8Or61>
- Grow It Eat It | UMD | <https://bit.ly/3vBnwdj>
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | US Department of Agriculture | <https://bit.ly/3tkPbMK>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Local Farmers Market

Action Leads:

Target Year: Ongoing

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- The Guide to Montgomery County Farmers Markets | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3hwjydK>
- Farmers Markets | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3oKPU8n>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Distribute Educational Material on the Benefits of an Active-Lifestyle

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- How to Create a Lifestyle Program Your Residents Love | First Service Residential | <https://bit.ly/3ptlo2i>
- Four Benefits of a More Active Lifestyle for Your Senior |Just Divine Home Care | <https://bit.ly/3Lgup9k>
- How a Manager Helps HOA Owners Be More Active and Healthy | HOA Leader | <https://bit.ly/3vw4IBn>
- Classes & Programs | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3tp4Daw>
- Wellness Program Information | Maryland Department of Budget and Management | <https://bit.ly/3ptzmC2>
- Senior Center Services | Maryland Department of Aging | <https://bit.ly/3swQM2B>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Host Community Walks or Runs

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Fun Run Planning Checklist | Safe Routes to School | <https://bit.ly/3sx95VB>
- How to Organize a 5K: A Guide to Planning Your First Race | Active | <https://bit.ly/3vuvJzu>
- How to Organize a Race | Race Entry | <https://bit.ly/3KeLBL3>
- HOA Social Committee Ideas For Your Community Interaction | HOA Management | <https://bit.ly/3AYEtyW>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#). Consider partnering with neighboring Green Teams.

WASTE REDUCTION

Develop a Litter Prevention and Outreach Campaign

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Litter Reduction Program | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3Lhu8CQ>
- Keep Maryland Beautiful | MD Department of Housing and Community Development | <https://bit.ly/3uAXITy>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#). Educational signage would be especially helpful around the stormwater pond.

Conduct Recycling Outreach and Education

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Recycle Outreach | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3AZXIIh>
- Recycle Coach App | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3AZXIIh>
- Recycling & Bulk Pick Up | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/33ec1wq>
- Recycling Service Summary | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3rL8AXH>
- Trash and Recycling Guide | Quince Orchard Park HOA | <https://bit.ly/3Bh4zgB>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#). Educate homeowners that proper disposal (in the bin) is much better for the community than versus somewhere else where critters can find their next meal. This will help address the overflowing garbage and containers with no lids. Remind people about the compost station at the nearby Casey Community Center.

Host a Community-wide Garage/Yard Sale

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- 7 Ideas for Starting an Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale | Trulia's Blog | <https://bit.ly/3uA27ke>
- Getting HOA Buy-in for Your Next Community Yard Sale | Rich Swier's Blog | <https://bit.ly/3BNG2jJ>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Planned for Summer 2022.

Promote Local Buy-Nothing Group

Action Leads:

Target Year: Ongoing

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Have you heard of the Buy Nothing Project? | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3LbOOMu>
- Buy Nothing Project | <https://bit.ly/34vaX8e>
- 'Buy Nothing' Groups: A place to share goods and services | The Washington Post | <https://wapo.st/3JI28fY>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

There is a buy-nothing group for the area and several community members are on it. Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Offer and Promote Community-wide Composting

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Compost Drop-Off Site | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3L7TSBz>
- Food Composting Made Easy | in Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3Llrxl2>
- Food Scraps (Food Waste) | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3BfATAp>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Educate homeowners on the composting opportunity at Casey Community Center. Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#). Share information from the City's website for the "do's and don'ts" of composting. Create a post or article with testimonials from those who are composting.

Review Current HOA Purchasing Practices and Evaluate Opportunities for Reducing Consumption

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Green Procurement and Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) | MD Department of Environment | <https://bit.ly/3uwnq64>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Ex. recycled paper content, etc.

Include Sustainability Language in Waste Management Contracts

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Supply Chain | WM ESG Resource Hub | <https://bit.ly/3B4n3B3>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Host (or Promote) Green Product Education Workshops

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Green Purchasing Vendor's Fair | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/34j2Co5>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

CLEAN & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Promote Energy Efficiency Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Home Performance Rebates | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/346LKAP>
- Residential Rebates & Discounts | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3s8wL1e>
- HVAC Efficiency Rebates | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3GqtU8K>
- Smart Thermostat Savings | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/34vbp5H>

- Energy Wise Rewards | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/34Nze99>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Community Solar & Solar Co-ops

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- MD Capital Area Solar Co-op | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3rkmlXn>
- Oaks Landfill, Montgomery County Community Solar Project | Neighborhood Sun | <https://bit.ly/3omcX9w>
- Community Solar Resources | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3sbn95H>
- Community Solar Pilot Program | MD Public Service Commission | <https://bit.ly/3AWpDJ8>
- A Guide to Community Shared Solar: Utility, Private, and Nonprofit Project Development | Sun Shot | <https://bit.ly/34sFXFT>
- HOA Solar Action Guide | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3sfW7tW>
- Completed Co-ops in Maryland | Solar United Neighbors | <https://bit.ly/3uFM9oA>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Water Efficiency Practices

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Water Home Page | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3ovbSvZ>
- Saving Water in Maryland | WaterSense | <https://bit.ly/3Gtu5jS>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Promote Energy Audits for Residential Homeowners

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Quick Home Energy Checkup | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3sagEjt>
- Quick Home Energy Check-up | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3LgG7kj>
- Do It Yourself Energy Assessment | U.S. Department of Energy | <https://bit.ly/3gkWZIm>
- Energy Assessments | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3613AFH>
- Residential Clean Energy Rebate Program | MD Energy Administration | <https://bit.ly/3LD9YDE>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Upgrade to LED Streetlights

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- LED Streetlight Conversions in Maryland & Virginia: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategies in 2020 | MD Energy Administration | <https://bit.ly/3siexKA>
- LED Street Light Conversion | Gaithersburg | <https://bit.ly/3gspjs8>
- County's Streetlight Conversion Yields Financial Savings and Reduces GHG Emissions | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3oqMxTO>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Entrance lights were replaced in April 2022 to LEDs. These lights provide more light and are cheaper. The rest are owned by the City and they have scheduled the rest of the light upgrades in the community for 2023.

TRANSPORTATION

Conduct a Walking Audit

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Walk Audit Toolkit | Montgomery County | <https://bit.ly/3Jpk0pJ>
- Walk Audit Toolkit and Leader Guide | AARP | <https://bit.ly/3szwvZb>
- Get to Know Your Neighborhood with a Walk Audit | Safe Routes to School National Partnership | <https://bit.ly/3sxTN1y>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Promote Bike to Work Day

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Bike To Work Day | Bike To Work Metro DC Network | <https://bit.ly/34d062r>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Residents can be informed via the HOA's website or its [facebook page](#).

Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Rebate Program | MD Energy Administration | <https://bit.ly/3IUoQLB>
- EV Smart Program | Pepco | <https://bit.ly/3rlAVUj>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Include this as a question in the community survey.

Conduct a Parking Assessment

Action Leads:

Target Year:

Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:

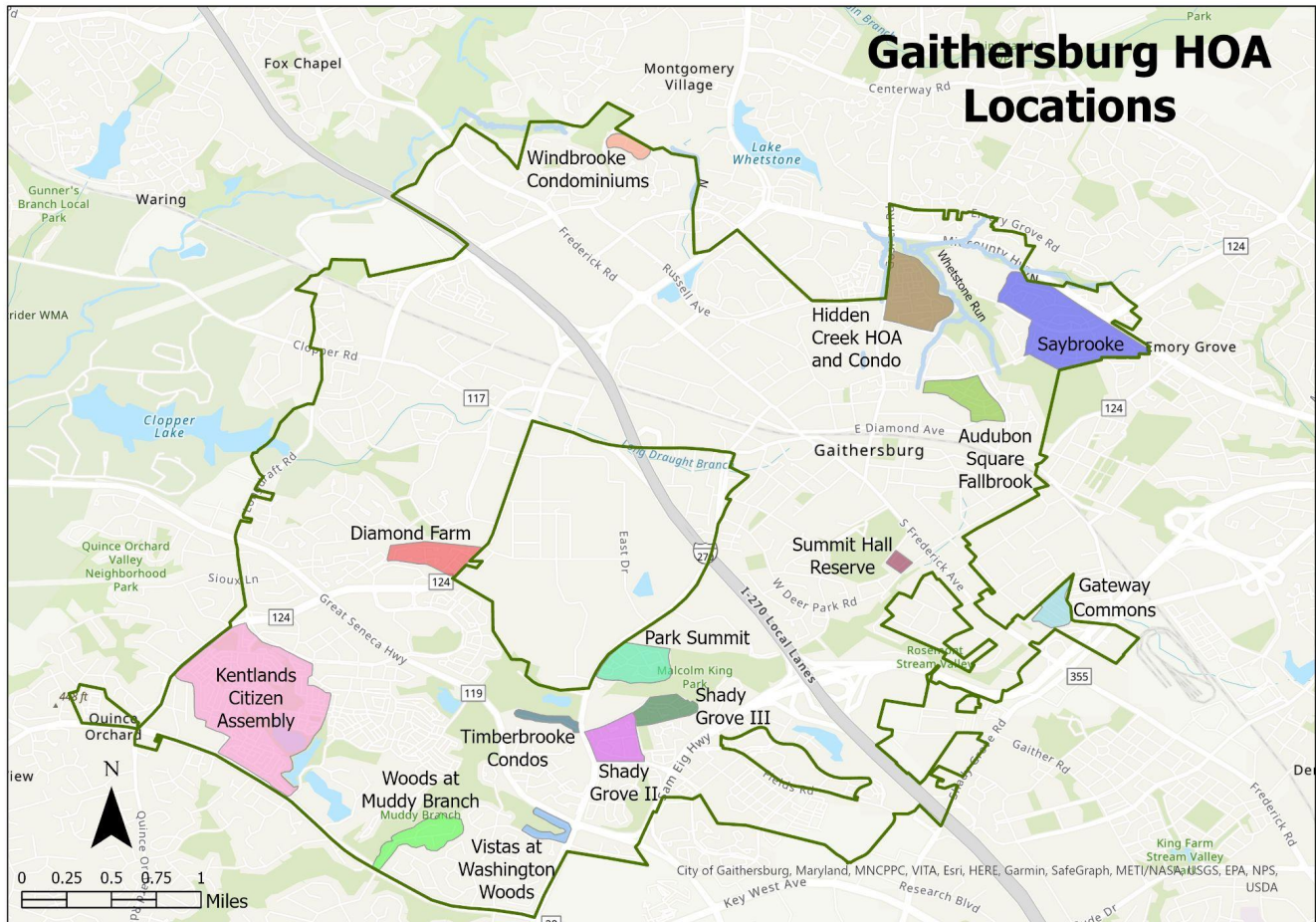
Potential Partners:

Potential Resources:

- How To Do a Parking Study | Metropolitan Area Planning Council | <https://bit.ly/3GmZvbA>

Progress and Implementation Notes:

Appendix A: HOA Green Teams in Gaithersburg Map



Appendix B: Parcel Map - Gateway Commons

