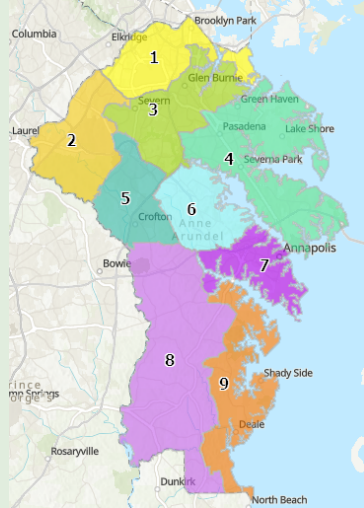




Growth Action Network

of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

P.O. Box 748 • Arnold, MD 21012



Plan2040 passes

May 10, 2021

Plan2040 is approved by 4-3 vote

Plan2040 passed at the May 3 Council meeting with 116 approved amendments. The vote was 4-3 along party lines. Although passage of the bill was generally expected, the narrow margin took many by surprise. One of the chief concerns among Councilmembers who did not support the bill was that the "top-down" nature of the planning approach, with Regional planning coming after the broader, general plan, created undesirable effects and should not have been used as the format Plan2040.

GAN members who wish to advocate for local issues in their area should now shift their attention to the Regional Area Plans (RAP's). Selection of Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members for the first three planning regions (Regions 2, 4, and 7) is expected to begin within the next few weeks and plan development for these regions is targeted to be in full swing by September. The Regional Areas are shown in the map at the top of the page.

Composition of the SAC's will have a strong impact on the outcome and content of the RAP's. Members will be selected by the County Executive with input from the County Council. GAN member participation in the SAC's is highly encouraged.

Forest Conservation bill is defeated

Bill 20-21, intended to close a loophole in last year's Forest Conservation bill was defeated by a vote of 3-4 by the Council. The loophole allowed property owners to clear forest with minimal penalty before filing a subdivision application. The bill would have imposed fines as large as \$10,000 for clearing areas larger than 5000 sq. ft. (about the size of an NBA basketball court without a grading permit).

Although the bill was amended several times, Councilmembers remained concerned that the bill might subject unwitting small property owners to large fines for making alterations to their property. In addition, the upper limit of the fine did not seem adequate to deter large developers from clearing expensive properties.

GAN Meeting with Office of Planning and Zoning at 1 pm, May 20

All GAN members are invited to participate in a virtual meeting with Steve Kaii-Ziegler and the staff of the Office of Planning and Zoning on May 20 at 1pm. Members are invited to submit questions and topics for the agenda to growthactionchair@gmail.com. The agenda will focus on broad issues for the County, rather than specific local issues. Questions will also be taken at the end of the meeting as time permits.

Coming meetings and events

Several AACo budget reviews and hearings will be held before the final vote by the Council on June 14. Complete meeting information is available at the Council [budget webpage](#). All of the meetings can be watched on [Arundel TV Live](#) and forums open to public participation will be held on May 10 and May 20.

Other meetings:

- May 17 6:00 pm -- County Council meeting (virtual)
- May 19, 10:00 am -- GAN Board meeting (virtual)
- June 7 6:00 pm -- County Council meeting (virtual)

Master Plan updates

OPZ is beginning to update the Master Plans for Green Infrastructure, Parole Town Center, Odenton Town Center, and Water and Sewer. Opportunities for public input are available. Register at [this link](#) to subscribe to emails of detailed information.

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