

Historic Preservation Plan for Frederick County

Vision Statement

Frederick County embraces our shared history as a vital part of who we are. We commit to discovering and protecting our diverse heritages. We are dedicated to **education**, fostering community identity, economic vitality, sustainability, **and inspiring** future generations of good stewards.

Draft Plan Goals and Initiatives

Education and Public Awareness

Goal: To enhance community understanding of Frederick County's distinctive history through innovative programs, hands on training initiatives, and community partnerships.

Initiative 1: Educate and increase awareness of the history of the County, its historic resources, **and historic preservation**.

Strategy: Use websites, **interactive mapping**, and other tools to make more historic documents and resources available online.

Strategy: Partner with existing events and programs to engage with the community about the history of Frederick County and the historic preservation program.

Strategy: **Work towards making historic preservation less intimidating through outreach and new materials, such as creating short reference documents for explaining common Certificates of Approval projects for property owners and contractors.**

Strategy: Create an online catalog and map of historic sites and buildings.

Initiative 2: Develop educational programming that engages across generations and cultures in Frederick County.

Strategy: Create programs in collaboration with local heritage partners **and the Frederick County Public Libraries** for Frederick County Public Schools and Frederick Community College students to learn about the history in Frederick County and its built landscape.

Strategy: Partner with Senior Services to create programming and activities that engage both seniors and younger generations to learn about the County's history and heritage.

Strategy: Engage Millennials, Generations Z, and Generation Alpha in historic preservation to create a sense of ownership about Frederick County's history.

Strategy: Explore a historic preservation focused youth summer camp in partnership with the County's Parks and Recreation Department.

Strategy: Support and create new educational opportunities and events for adult learners in genealogy, archaeology, cemetery maintenance, history, and other related fields with Frederick County Public Libraries and other partners throughout the County.

Initiative 3: Develop heritage training programs.

Strategy: Create hands-on training and rehabilitation workshops for how to properly repair or renovate historic structures, architectural features, and cemeteries.

Strategy: Explore partnerships with Frederick Community College and Frederick County Public Schools to create vocational training programs for students.

Strategy: Take full advantage of the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center agreement with the County to train County Staff in preservation techniques.

Strategy: Establish an apprenticeship program within the County for hands-on preservation under professionally trained County staff.

Strategy: Create a training program, either in person or online, that educates realtors, insurance companies, and businesses about Frederick County's history, architecture, and benefits of preservation.

Strategy: Support training for volunteers in historic preservation, archeological documentation, document conservation, and as docents for museums, historic sites, natural areas, and tours.

Equity and Inclusivity

Goal: Develop an inclusive preservation program that honors all histories.

Initiative 1: Represent the full breadth of Frederick County's history.

Strategy: Complete an audit of **Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP)** files for Frederick County of underrepresented histories.

Strategy: Complete thematic context studies of Frederick County's underrepresented communities and building types based on MIHP audit.

Strategy: Complete surveys of underrepresented resources based on MIHP audit and submit new and updated Maryland Inventory of Historic Places forms to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Strategy: Tell Frederick County's full story by designating more historic resources to the County Register and National Register that represent communities that have historically been marginalized by the Historic Preservation field.

Initiative 2: Make preservation more accessible, **desirable, and achievable.**

Strategy: Make it easier to participate in public meetings and access outreach events by reducing barriers and meeting people where they are.

Strategy: Reduce barriers to designation such as improving processes and communication around designations and exploring other designation types, like conservation districts or tiered designations.

Strategy: Explore ways to make historic preservation affordable to lower-income communities.

Strategy: Reframe integrity requirements for historic designations with cultural and community significance by emphasizing the value of association and feeling and de-emphasizing the value of materials.

Strategy: Help people preserve their community stories and resources by considering a community ambassador program with paid participants to facilitate collecting oral histories, providing preservation resources, and organizing events about historic preservation.

Strategy: Create a mobile oral history booth to take to community events and record community stories.

Strategy: Ensure the County's historic preservation program materials, website, and applications are clear and accessible to people without formal preservation training and are offered in multiple languages.

Strategy: Evaluate rehabilitation building code and existing design guidelines to allow historic buildings to be retrofitted with materials and technologies that support residents of all ages and abilities, such as [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) compliance and universal design.

Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Goal: Expand the historic preservation toolkit by incorporating innovative strategies to implement County policies.

Initiative 1: Promote sustainability practices with historic preservation.

Strategy: Support energy efficiency improvements for historic properties by enhancing energy-efficiency principles into preservation guidelines and providing resources to owners of historic properties.

Strategy: Encourage adaptive reuse through policy and regulation channels.

Strategy: Recognize environmental and financial costs associated with demolition by [reviewing and](#) adopting policies and practices that incentivize alternatives [such as adaptive reuse and increased demolition review fees](#).

Strategy: Explore the creation of deconstruction and material salvage programs in the County **through local partnerships and public policies.**

Strategy: Promote the reuse of historic materials in both new construction and restoration of historic buildings.

Strategy: Include building reuse as a sustainability strategy in future County sustainability plans.

Strategy: Develop guidance to mitigate damage and increase the resilience of existing historic buildings in accordance with the Frederick County Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan.

Initiative 2: Explore alternatives to full historic designations.

Strategy: Consider the use of conservation districts for unincorporated areas such as rural villages or other areas not designated as historic.

Strategy: Educate and engage with incorporated towns without historic districts to encourage alternatives to full historic designations such as conservation districts.

Strategy: Establish a multi-tiered system of County Register designations providing various levels of oversight and protection.

Community Identity

Goal: Promote historic preservation as a context-based solution to assist communities in maintaining their unique visual and cultural identity.

Initiative 1: Support local communities to instill and maintain their unique identities.

Strategy: Promote public art in towns and villages that connect them to their cultural heritage and history.

Strategy: Support tourism geared toward experiencing the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present in Frederick County, including cultural, historic, and natural resources, while maintaining the integrity of those irreplaceable resources.

Strategy: Create new walking and biking tours focused on specific types of historic resources that are available through the County's website or available to be led by County Staff, **Historic Preservation Commission members**, or local volunteers.

Strategy: Partner with local groups to develop heritage-related festivals and events in the County's **sparks and heritage resources**.

Strategy: Work with Visit Frederick to create **guided and** self-guided audio driving tours of Frederick County's historic landscapes and villages.

Surveying and Interpretation

Goal: Increase the number and diversity of cultural resources identified, evaluated, designated, and protected in Frederick County.

Initiative 1: Designate and protect County-owned buildings and places.

Strategy: Designate County-owned buildings and places to the County Register of Historic Places.

Strategy: Adopt a County policy that County-owned buildings are reviewed for local designation and if appropriate, designated to the County Register of Historic Places prior to selling.

Strategy: Utilize Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation to demonstrate best treatment methods to protect and preserve County-owned historic buildings and places.

Initiative 2: Enhance survey and interpretation efforts of Frederick County history.

Strategy: Encourage the designation of underrepresented resources such as archaeological sites and historic cemeteries to the County Register of Historic Places.

Strategy: Conduct surveys on Frederick County's modern architectural history **that ranges between the 1940s and the 1970s**.

Strategy: Create story sharing activities that collect and highlight Frederick County's past and current diversity **in collaboration with community partners.**

Strategy: Promote existing oral history collections, support the creation of new oral history collections, and aid in the long-term, public access archiving of these collections.

Strategy: Create community asset mapping to locate culturally and historically important places to the community.

Strategy: Ensure that, if preservation of the historic or archaeological resource is not physically possible, the history and local significance of the resource is preserved through documentation, interpretation, and other approved methods or techniques.

Strategy: In collaborate with local partners, establish a local archaeology lab and archival space for County-owned historic resources, artifacts, and records.

Initiative 3: Enhance the existing historic preservation program.

Strategy: Consider properties with National Register of Historic Places designation for local designation through outreach to property owners.

Strategy: Outline a process to amend or update existing local designation applications to include new information.

Strategy: Explore strategies to reduce barriers for individuals to nominate historic resources.

Strategy: Conduct more community outreach events for citizens seeking assistance in identifying historic resources and education about designation benefits.

Funding and Incentives

Goal: Expand and enhance funding and incentive programs to support historic preservation.

Initiative 1: Promote financial incentives and other benefits that stimulate investment in historic properties.

Strategy: Work with relevant partners to enhance information sharing regarding tax credits, grants, and assistance programs available to historic property owners by developing outreach materials and hosting workshops

Strategy: Create an awards program that recognizes local preservation successes.

Strategy: Proactively engage with the Frederick County Office of Economic Development to ensure business owners are aware of available tax incentives and grant programs available to them to rehabilitate and maintain historic buildings.

Strategy: Work with the Frederick County Office of Economic Development and Visit Frederick to create a report on the economic value of historic preservation for Frederick's economy.

Initiative 2: Explore additional funding and incentive opportunities to assist historic resources and heritage partners.

Strategy: Expand the Rural Historic Preservation Grant program to include non-capital projects such as condition assessment reports, non-compliance archaeological studies, National Register nominations, and feasibility studies.

Strategy: Increase the funding pool for the Rural Historic Preservation Grant program.

Strategy: Explore establishing a cemetery protection grant program that assists descendant groups in establishing ownership and completing maintenance activities.

Strategy: Explore more flexible zoning opportunities to allow more historic buildings to be adaptively used.

Strategy: Enhance the County's Community Partnership grants to include museums and other heritage organizations that expand upon heritage tourism and cultural enrichment.

Strategy: Explore utilizing archaeological and historic review fees, such as demolition permit fees, to fund heritage incentives.

Growth and Redevelopment

Goal: To preserve Frederick County's historic resources while supporting thoughtful growth and redevelopment.

Initiative 1: Promote sustainable growth by harmoniously incorporating reuse, preservation, and new development.

Strategy: Develop or update design guidelines specific to areas around historic resources such as the Old National Pike and rural villages to ensure new development is compatible with the existing historic resource(s).

Strategy: Develop a database of historic properties that are eligible for historic tax incentives and provide it to economic development for their business recruiting, retention, and expansion efforts.

Strategy: Explore ways to make adaptive reuse of historic buildings more feasible to developers and property owners so that the buildings can remain in use.

Strategy: Encourage adaptive reuse as an affordable housing option.

Strategy: Leverage Frederick County's unique historic character and environments as a magnet for business investment by fostering economic development strategies that support history as an economic asset.

Strategy: Ensure historic preservation staff are included in the County property acquisition process early so that above and below ground historic resources can be identified and the project can be designed to mitigate adverse impacts to historic resources.

Initiative 2: Encourage the retention of open spaces while retaining historic features.

Strategy: Explore adjusting the County's agricultural preservation programs to include scoring or applying higher scores for agricultural properties that include historic farm complexes.

Strategy: Collaborate with County Parks and Recreation division to ensure historic features are considered in open space acquisition and management.