

Chapter Five A Strategy for Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

Defining Stewardship

The Maryland System of Heritage Areas was founded in part to provide greater state support and funding for the conservation and preservation of historic, natural and cultural resources in identified areas. Such restoration, conservation and preservation is called stewardship. Stewardship, as defined by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), is the "assurance of the long-term preservation and protection of cultural, historic, scenic and natural resources within the heritage area." The definition does not identify who the appropriate stewards are because that is determined by residents, business owners, public officials, and everyone else who participates in the protection, preservation, conservation, maintenance, construction and design of all the resources in ATHA. The role played by private property owners is balanced by the role played by elected officials. Ordinances and regulations are stewardship tools, as are public advocacy and private action. All of these can be brought to bear upon the important resources of ATHA.

Stewardship and Heritage Tourism

Although the establishment of the Maryland System of Heritage Areas aims to support heritage tourism, the name of the state's legislation shows the importance of a dual approach: "Maryland Heritage Preservation and Tourism Areas." The two concepts of stewardship and heritage tourism are integrally linked. Without existing efforts in preservation, conservation and the arts and the creation of recreational access to historic and natural sites there would be little to share with visitors. Moreover, in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), as in all other heritage areas, continued and even enhanced attention to the needs of the area's special resources is required to increase the area's attraction to visitors. Because ATHA is more densely populated in character than many other heritage areas in the state and elsewhere, and thus more challenging to market to the typical heritage tourist, addressing the

marketability of the area takes on greater importance in the development of strategies for stewardship.

Scope of Stewardship in This Plan

The stewardship strategy consists of four elements: Community Design; Historic Preservation; Natural Resource Conservation; and Arts, Cultural Resources, and Traditions Enhancement. Proposals and actions addressing these four elements are identified only as they can be directly related to heritage tourism whether creating more sites for visitation, protecting, conserving and promoting special resources that contribute to the visitor experience, or enhancing those portions of the area's communities that need restoration or revitalization. While this plan may address certain mechanisms for stewardship such as designation of local historic districts or other aspects of zoning and other regulations, it is limited to recommendations for further study rather than implementation through adoption of this plan.

STEWARDSHIP FINDINGS

MHAA identifies stewardship as a critical component of the management plan. To assess what needs to be done to enhance stewardship of ATHA, analysis revealed the findings listed below. These findings generally fall into one or more of the following categories: community design, historic preservation, natural resources, and the arts and cultural resources, each of which is discussed below. Key findings are:

- **ATHA comprises many attractive neighborhoods, some of which are National Register Historic Districts, where long-term, firmly rooted residents and enthusiastic newcomers live. However, a number of older neighborhoods are in critical need of preservation and enhancement.
- Most of the active commercial areas along US 1 and other major roads need attention in terms of community design in order to increase their potential to provide tourist support services.
- Private agricultural activities no longer exist in ATHA; however, ATHA does contain a very extensive amount of agricultural land under federal government stewardship at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.
- Much historic preservation is already in place as a result of public programs in the county and the City of Laurel utilizing the stewardship and care of property owners. For example, Laurel's local historic district program recognizes seven historic districts within the city and works with residents to accentuate the historic nature of their homes during remodeling.
- Historic preservation incentives such as the local, state and federal tax credits are not widely used.

- * Open space, parks and trails are abundant and the Anacostia Tributary Trails system is a splendid linkage for the cultural, natural and historical resources.
- Environmental programs and initiatives enjoy broad community support, particularly those related to the Anacostia River a key tourism resource.



Mariposa's "Center for Artistic Expression" in Berwyn lights up at night.

- *A vibrant arts community with strong tourism potential is active in ATHA. Interest in using the arts for revitalization has grown, especially in and around Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, Hyattsville, Berwyn and Laurel.
- Cultural diversity is a hallmark of ATHA and also has strong tourism potential such as attendance at events, patronization of restaurants, etc.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Community design is related to heritage tourism because the appearance of ATHA affects the viability of tourism resources and amenities. The design of the signs and landscapes, the condition of buildings, the cleanliness of the streets, and other aesthetic qualities of ATHA's communities will help or hinder tourism.

Issues related to community design consist of general community design and maintenance. In general, the areas most visible to tourists should receive attention, particularly those in the vicinity of attractions. The plan supports the following activities:

- * Improve streetscapes (e.g., medians, lighting systems, the burying of utilities, landscaping, sidewalks, all where appropriate and possible) and carry out other aesthetic improvements to make those parts of ATHA in the vicinity of attractions more attractive, safe and vibrant. Interpretation within ATHA requires the installation of many directional and interpretive signs, which in general will be coordinated with streetscaping improvements.
- Work with property owners to improve the appearance of their properties, especially through sign upgrades. Encourage the improvement of signage to decrease visual clutter in those areas most visible to tourists and in the vicinity of attractions.
- Create a community beautification and maintenance awards program tied into existing municipal initiatives (e.g., Tree City, USA and Prince George's County Beautification Committee annual awards) for streets, businesses, employees and residents.

In addition, US 1 presents a special challenge. Many of the communities in ATHA were built along US 1. Beyond the commercial areas of US 1 lie charming "front porch" neighborhoods of which each community is proud. Small businesses and restaurants along the road that could be valued elements of a tourism strategy are lost in the visual "noise" of signs, poorly designed buildings, and driveways. From the Port Towns to Laurel, there are communities and neighborhoods worth enjoying as individual places, each with its own personality and local businesses. Actions taken to improve US 1 should enhance the distinctiveness of these communities and businesses and improve tourism.

For the stretch of US 1 from College Park to Mount Rainier, a partnership among several communities (Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, Hyattsville, Riverdale Park, University Park and College Park) has existed for some time to address these issues, largely through



Downtown Mount Rainier exhibits interesting early commercial architecture, such as this five-part 1920s commercial/residential building on 34th Street.

improved infrastructure initiatives. Much more work is underway: Mount Rainier and the State Highway Administration have broken ground on a unique traffic roundabout that will restore trees and public art to the center of town and reduce the dramatic expanse of pavement and confusing traffic pattern that currently greet the visitor there. Alternate US 1, Bladensburg Road, is undergoing revitalization in the Port Towns. Hyattsville has just begun its latest round of planned improvements. College Park is working with the State Highway Administration on a study to redesign the roadway from The University of Maryland's south gate to Sunnyside Avenue in Beltsville just beyond the Capital Beltway. University Park, possessor of the lovely tree-lined residential stretch from East West Highway north to College Park, has begun investigating ways to address the visual impact of overhead utility wiring. Laurel has redesigned the short stretch of US 1 through its central business district and has broken ground on improvements to the three-mile length from downtown to its southern boundary. Other, largely invisible features of the area are bioretention facilities designed to help in the restoration of the Anacostia River by reducing polluted runoff from its watershed.

The development of ATHA has stimulated the formation of a US 1 committee. This committee will address signage, streetscaping, facade improvement, economic development, restoration/renovation/reutilization, etc., throughout the entire US 1/Alternate US 1 corridor in ATHA. A special appropriation of \$1.5 million in federal Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funding has been received. These federal funds will be leveraged with other public (nonfederal) and private resources to ensure that US 1 in Maryland becomes an attractive gateway to our nation's capital. This plan supports the US Route 1 Committee and its actions to improve US 1, in particular those actions that improve tourism potential. This plan also:

- * Encourages the use of the arts as one of the focal points for the visitors' experiences. Areas along US 1 could become a celebration of the arts and would allow cross-pollination of art and heritage development for the improvement of the area.
- Supports a US 1 strategic planning effort that includes an arts focus, linking galleries, exhibition spaces, studios and public art sites with arts education facilities and programs.
- Encourages developing a "sense of place" along US 1 on a projectby-project basis.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In addition to providing welcoming, entertaining and informative visitor centers, heritage development and tourism must rely on saving architectural treasures and other historical resources that project the heritage of a region to residents and visitors alike. Historic preservation is an important aspect of every heritage development program.



The Market Master's House, a mid-18th-century dwelling built for the manager of the adjoining market space, was in deteriorating condition at the beginning of the 20th century.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

In 1979, the Prince George's County Council directed M-NCPPC to prepare a *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* for the purpose of identifying, protecting and preserving significant historic structures and their settings, archaeological areas, unique physical features, and sites and districts of architectural and cultural importance in Prince George's County. It was the desire of the Council "to safeguard the historical and cultural heritage of this county; to strengthen the local economy through tourism; to encourage the continued private ownership of as many sites as possible; and to accomplish these objectives recognizing the limited availability of public funds...."

The Historic Sites and Districts Plan, first approved in 1981 and amended in 1992, outlines a program for historic preservation implemented through a Historic Preservation Ordinance and through the planning and zoning processes. The plan outlines the county's preservation goals, objectives, concepts and guidelines; it provides an inventory of the historic resources that are subject to the Ordinance, and describes the powers and duties of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), which implements the Ordinance.

Historic Sites and Resources in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area are listed below. (**Bold=County Designated Historic Sites**; *=Listed in National Register of Historic Places)

Historic Sites and Resources in ATHA			
Planning Area/ Inventory #	Historic Name Area		
60-4	*Ammendale Normal Institute & Cemetery	Beltsville vicinity	
60-7	*St. Joseph's Chapel	Beltsville vicinity	
60-9	Washington, Berwyn & Laurel Railway Culvert	Beltsville vicinity	
61-2	Orme-Shaw House	Beltsville	
61-7	Dr. Charles Fox House (Coffin House)	Beltsville	
61-9	St. John's Episcopal Church & Cemetery	Beltsville	
61-11	McLeod-Forrester House	Beltsville	
61-12	Sellman House-Building #23	Beltsville vicinity, USDA	
61-13	Gallant House	Adelphi	
62-3	Oaklands and Cemetery	Laurel vicinity	
62-4	*Snow Hill	Laurel vicinity	
62-6	*Montpelier and Cemetery	Laurel vicinity	
62-8	Muirkirk Furnace Site	Beltsville vicinity	
62-10	Briarley Academy/Old Hotel	Beltsville vicinity	
62-12	Ulle House	Beltsville	
62-13	Walnut Grange	Beltsville vicinity, USDA	
62-14	Beltsville Agricultural Research Center	Beltsville vicinity	
62-16	Edward Gross House, Site of	Beltsville vicinity	
62-23-7	Abraham Hall	Rossville	
62-23-17	Thomas Matthews House	Rossville	
64-1	Snowden Hall	Patuxent Research Refuge	
64-2	Duvall Bridge	Patuxent Research Refuge	
64-4	Hayden Farm-Farmhouse #3	Beltsville vicinity, USDA	
64-5	Perkins Chapel and Cemetery	Glenn Dale	
64-6	*Spacecraft Magnetic Test Facility (NASA)	Greenbelt vicinity	
64-7	Holst Cabin	Patuxent Research Refuge	

Planning Area/ Inventory #	Historic Name	Area	
65-1	Powder Mill Site	Adelphi	
65-4	William Forney House	Adelphi	
65-5	Cool Spring Farm (Miller's House)	Adelphi	
65-6	Adelphi Mill & Storehouse	Adelphi	
65-7	McCormick-Goodhart Mansion/Langley Park	Langley Park	
65-8	Green Hill	West Hyattsville	
65-10	*DC Boundary Marker NE3	Chillum	
65-11	*DC Boundary Marker NE4	Chillum	
65-13	Green Hill Overseer's House	West Hyattsville	
65-15	Rizzo House	West Hyattsville	
66-1	Brown's Tavern/Del Haven White House Motel	College Park vicinity	
66-4	*College Park Airport	College Park	
66-15	Buck-Singleton House	College Park	
66-18	Lake House/Presbyterian Parsonage	Berwyn	
66-21-8	Cory House	College Park	
66-21-9	College Park Woman's Club	College Park	
66-21-10	McDonnell House	College Park	
66-21-11	Harrison Store/Trolley Stop Sweet Shop	College Park	
66-21-30	Taliaferro House	College Park	
66-21-31	Holbrook House	College Park	
66-27-24	Baker-Holliday House	Daniels Park	
66-27-25	LaValle House	Daniels Park	
66-27-28	Bowers-Sargent House	Daniels Park	
66-29-5	Bloomfield/Deakins House	University Park	
66-35-1	Rossborough Inn	University of Maryland, College Park	
66-35-6	Morrill Hall	University of Maryland, College Park	

Planning Area/ Inventory #	Historic Name	Area	
66-35-7	Calvert Hall	University of Maryland, College Park	
67-1	William Shea House-Farmhouse #1	Beltsville vicinity, USDA	
67-4-1	Greenbelt Center School	Greenbelt	
67-4-3	Walker Family Cemetery	Greenbelt	
67-4-3	Turner Family Cemetery	Greenbelt	
67-4-3	Hamilton Family Cemetery	Greenbelt	
67-5	Sportland	Berwyn Heights	
67-6	Beaverdam Bridge	Beltsville vicinity	
67-8	CCC Lodge	Beltsville vicinity, USDA	
67-22-7	Berwyn Heights School	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-10	Wetherald House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-11	*O'Dea House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-12	Chlopicki House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-13	Cross-Russell House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-15	Wolfe House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-16	Pickett House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-17	Kleiner-Dillon House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-18	Cissel House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-19	Schniedman-Seal House	Berwyn Heights	
67-22-21	Taylor-Lofgren House	Berwyn Heights	
68-1	*Ash Hill/Hitching Post Hill	University Park vicinity	
68-2	Walker-Mowatt Mill Site	Riverdale Park vicinity	
68-4-1	*Harry Smith House	Riverdale Park	
68-4-2	Warren House	Riverdale Park	
68-4-3	Calvert Family Cemetery	Riverdale Park	
68-4-5	*Riversdale/Calvert Mansion	Riverdale Park	
68-4-67	Read-Low House	Riverdale Park	
68-4-76	Wernek House	Riverdale Park	

Planning Area/ Inventory #	Historic Name	Area	
68-8	B&O Switching Tower(Alexandria Junction), Site of	Edmonston	
68-10-1	Welsh House	Hyattsville	
68-10-2	Holden-Sweeting House	Hyattsville	
68-10-16	McEwen House	Hyattsville	
68-10-17	Holden House	Hyattsville	
68-10-18	Tise-Hannon House	Hyattsville	
68-10-25	Harriet Ralston House	Hyattsville	
68-10-29	Pinkney Memorial Church, Site of	Hyattsville	
68-10-34	Benjamin Smith House	Hyattsville	
68-10-35	Lown House	Hyattsville	
68-10-65	Tricon-Halloran House (Edgewood)	Hyattsville	
68-10-73	Shepherd-Sibley House	Hyattsville	
68-10-74	Fox's Barn	Hyattsville	
68-13-2	Prince George's Bank	Mount Rainier	
68-13-8	Lightbown Building	Mount Rainier	
68-13-10	Sanitary Grocery Company	Mount Rainier	
68-13-36	Mount Rainier United Methodist Church	Mount Rainier	
68-13-39	Gonzalez House	Mount Rainier	
68-13-43	St. James Catholic Church	Mount Rainier	
68-13-59	Richards House	Mount Rainier	
68-13-60	Bellman House	Mount Rainier	
68-13-71a	Thomas W. Smith Farm House	Mount Rainier	
68-13-71b	Ziegler Cottage	Mount Rainier	
68-13-76	*DC Boundary Marker NE6	Mount Rainier	
68-14	Dueling Grounds	Colmar Manor	
68-15	Fort Lincoln Cemetery (Battery Jamison)	Colmar Manor vicinity	
68-19	*DC Boundary Marker NE7	Colmar Manor vicinity	
68-20	Cottage City House	Cottage City	
68-41-1	First National Bank Building	Hyattsville	

Planning Area/ Inventory #	Historic Name	Area	
68-41-2	Prince George's Bank & Trust/Sovran Bank	Hyattsville	
68-41-9	*Hyattsville Armory	Hyattsville	
68-41-40	*Hyattsville Post Office	Hyattsville	
68-61-11	North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church	North Brentwood	
68-61-37	Peter Randall House	North Brentwood	
68-75	*DC Boundary Marker NE5	Avondale	
68-76	Freeman House	Hyattsville	
68-77	Dorr House	Hyattsville	
69-1	Spa Spring Site	Bladensburg vicinity	
69-5-2	*George Washington House	Bladensburg	
69-5-6	Free Hope Baptist Church	Bladensburg	
69-5-7	*Hilleary-Magruder House	Bladensburg	
69-5-8	*Market Master's House	Bladensburg	
69-5-9	*Bostwick	Bladensburg	
69-5-16	Peace Cross	Bladensburg	
69-10	Evergreen Cemetery/Presbyterian Church Site	Bladensburg	
69-12	First Baptist Church of Riverdale	Riverdale Park	
69-19	Browning-Baines House	Riverdale Park vicinity	

The responsibilities of HPC include evaluation and designation of historic sites and districts, approving tax credits for appropriate restoration, approving or denying Historic Area Work Permits for alterations to historic buildings, commenting on development applications, and assisting historic property owners with information and contacts. HPC also serves as an advisory body to other agencies in reviewing zoning applications, subdivisions and other types of development projects, as well as on legislation affecting the preservation of historic resources.

HPC can designate historic sites and districts according to historical and architectural criteria, and it mandates review of exterior changes to buildings that are historic sites or are located within historic districts. (There is currently only one local historic district in the county, and it is not within the boundaries of ATHA.) The *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* provides an inventory of the historic sites and resources subject to the Historic Preservation Ordinance and also provides information about 37 historic communities, 14 of which are within ATHA. The historic

Historic Districts Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

- 🛪 Baltimore-Washington Parkway
- ☆ Greenbelt (National Historic Landmark)
- # Hyattsville
- X Mount Rainier
- X University Park

resources that are located in ATHA are described in Chapter Two of this management plan.

Recommendations included in the 1992 *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* are particularly suited to complement provisions of the Maryland Heritage Preservation and Tourism Areas Program. These include:

- Incentive programs that recognize the importance and economic value of historic preservation in creating stable neighborhoods and vibrant commercial areas of both public and commercial buildings
- Incentives for private property owners
- **Adaptive** use recommendations
- Other recommendations that increase preservation awareness and tangibly link it with economic development benefits anticipated in designation and certification as a Certified Maryland Heritage Area.

Besides its duties in regard to the county Historic Preservation Ordinance, HPC carries out certain federally mandated responsibilities as a "Certified Local Government" for historic preservation. HPC is one of only 15 Certified Local Governments (CLG) in Maryland. The primary responsibility of the commission as a CLG is to review National Register nominations and to provide recommendations to the state Historic Preservation Office on whether the nominations meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government's list of properties of local, state and national significance. Certified local governments can receive matching grant funding for historic preservation plans and projects.

Historic Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Ammendale Normal Institute and Cemetery (St. Joseph's Chapel)

* B&O Railroad Station

X Laurel High School

🛪 Snow Hill

* Laurel's Avondale Mill Site

Montpelier Mansion (National Historic Landmark)

Spacecraft Magnetic Test Facility
(National Historic Landmark)

X Hyattsville Armory

* Hyattsville Post Office

& Bostwick

* Hitching Post Hill

X O'Dea House

Riversdale (National Historic Landmark)

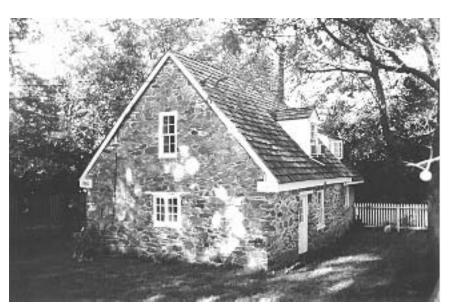
* Harry Smith House

🛪 George Washington House

🛪 Hilleary-Magruder House

* College Park Airport

* Market Master's House



The Market Master's House has been restored as a private residence and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in the history of Bladensburg.

City of Laurel Historic District Commission

Since the creation of the Historic District Commission (HDC) in 1975, the City of Laurel has established seven historic districts within the city's Main Street corridor. It is the purpose of the HDC to "safeguard the heritage of the City of Laurel by preserving sites, structures or districts therein which reflects elements of cultural, social, economic, political, archeological, or architectural history...." (City Ordinance 1255)

Several properties within the city-including Laurel High School, the county's first-have been recognized as National Register Properties, and are identified by an asterisk below. But nationally recognized places are only a small number of the overall group of historic places throughout the city.

Historic Name	Address
Laurel Museum	Main & Ninth Streets
St. Mark's	8th & West Streets
Avondale Mill Site* (burned down)	Avondale Street
Laurel High School/Phelps Center*	700 Montgomery Street
St. Mary's of the Mills	114 St. Mary's Place
St. Phillip's	6th & Main Streets
First United Methodist Church	424 Main Street
The Factory House	Main & Ninth Streets
Laurel Mill Tenement Houses	200 block of Ninth Street
Trolley Turnaround	531 Main Street
Tapscott House	419 Main Street
Odd Fellows Hall	429 Main Street
Dr. Sadler's Pharmacy	422 Main Street
Citizen's National Bank	4th & Main Streets
B&O Railroad Station*	East end of Main Street
Laurel Shopping Center	Washington Boulevard
Phelps Mansion	1102 Montgomery Street
Gude Mansion	Laurel Lakes Avenue
R.S. Hill House	7401 Sandy Spring Road
Old Ladies of Main Street	700 block of Main Street
*National Register property	

Boundary Markers of the District of Columbia listed in the National Register of Historic Places

- X Northeast 3
- X Northeast 4
- X Northeast 5
- X Northeast 6
- X Northeast 7

Historic Districts and Tax Credits

There are four historic districts in ATHA that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and others that may be eligible. (Currently, there are no county-designated local historic districts in ATHA.) National Register districts are generally protected from the negative effects of federal actions. However, federal designation does not impose restrictions on individual property owners.

Federal, state, county and local tax benefits are available to properties located in National Register districts (as well as those properties that are listed individually). More communities in ATHA should pursue such a National Register listing in order to extend these benefits to their property owners. Federal benefits apply only to commercial properties, but both commercial and residential properties can qualify for a state income tax credit of 25 percent. Both programs require rehabilitation that conforms to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Commercial properties can potentially receive a federal income tax credit of up to 20 percent of the rehabilitation cost and a state income tax credit of up to 25 percent. Residential and commercial properties that are designated by the county, either individually or as a contributing part of a historic district, are eligible for a 10 percent county property tax credit for rehabilitation work. Effective October 1, 1999, and retroactive to January 1, 1999, the program will be enhanced to include a mortgage credit certificate option. Under this option, a property owner may elect to transfer the credit to his or her mortgage lending institution in exchange for a reduction in the principal amount or interest rate of the loan. The lending institution may then use the credits to offset its own state income tax liability.1

The City of Laurel Historic District Commission recognizes the improvements made to the historic district by offering a property tax credit for properties that have been renovated, rehabilitated or improved. The credit is applied for and approved through the HDC and affects the assessed property taxes. The value of the credit is equal to 10 percent of the rehabilitation costs.

Other Benefits of Locally Designated Historic Districts

Introduction

Local historic district designation can help to protect the historic fabric of a neighborhood. Districts come under review by a local review board in the case of Prince George's County, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission; in the City of Laurel, the Laurel Historic District Commission which considers the effect of proposed changes to historic buildings, including requests for demolition permits, additions and new construction. Although the design guidelines devel-

¹ Maryland Historical Trust website, http://www.ari.net/mdshpo/xgrants.html.

oped for each district can be specific in this regard, as a rule most district guidelines include review of both new construction within the district and proposed changes to properties that pre-date the formation of the district.

Enhancing Property Values

The reviews required through local ordinances are designed to help manage change in historic districts and retain the historic character of the buildings and the district as a whole. Historic district designation creates attractive, desirable neighborhoods with an assurance that owners' investments will not be undercut by adverse changes in their surroundings the tradeoff for the increase in regulatory review that also comes with designation. Municipalities which have historic districts create a powerful incentive for more private investment in neighborhood revitalization. Indeed, in a recent study of Maryland historic districts, Laurel was shown to experience an increase in property values of approximately eight percent as a result of local historic designation; other examples elsewhere in the state experienced even greater increases.² Thus, in neighborhoods that choose historic district designation, it is likely that their owners will be rewarded with increased property values. This, in turn, benefits the municipalities and Prince George's County through increased property tax revenues, perhaps more than offsetting the county's 10 percent tax credit that is intended to stimulate and reward investment.

Current neighborhood conservation discussions within the county (e.g., Commission 2000 and others) are compatible with the state's "Smart Codes" initiatives. These discussions will form the foundation for the means of enhancing neighborhoods where substantial urban infrastructure and investment already exists. Such efforts in a historic neighborhood may help to ensure that new construction respects the historical pattern of development. Such adjustments may also prevent further conflicts between historic district goals and modern development requirements, once historic district designations are undertaken.

Historic Inventories

It is important to continue to document and inventory local historic properties and districts. The *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* contains the published version of the inventory for the county, except within the City of Laurel. Inventorying is an invaluable first step in identifying historic sites and districts eligible for local, state and federal recognition. A number of neighborhoods in ATHA are in need of more detailed inventorying.

² Rypkema, Donovan, *The Value of Historic Preservation in Maryland*. Preservation Maryland, April 1999.

Historic and Scenic Easements

A number of Historic Sites have historic and/or scenic easements, either donated by the owner or required as a condition of a grant. The properties under easement are listed below:

- & Abraham Hall
- **#** Hitching Post Hill
- **Magruder House**
- Riversdale
- Laurel Factory House

Scenic/Historic Roads

Prince George's County has a program for the protection and preservation of scenic and historic roads. This program requires:

"...that all road designs and construction provide, insofar as practicable, a consistently safe but visually varied environment that is pleasing to both pedestrian and vehicular road users while providing a safe, durable, minimum-maintenance design, free of extraneous clutter, flooding and drainage problems and other nuisances, distractions, and unexpected driving situations. The ultimate goal of the scenic/historic roadway is to provide safe and enjoyable travel while preserving the scenic and historic value of adjacent areas."

Within ATHA, Old Baltimore Pike between Cook Road (railroad tracks) and Muirkirk Road, as well as the entire length of Old Muirkirk Road, have been designated as historic roads. *Design Guidelines and Standards for Scenic and Historic Roads* (June 1994) published by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation lists the roads that have been designated in county master plans and provides the required guidelines and standards for these designated roads. It should be noted that ATHA contains a number of nondesignated scenic roads within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge. However, most of these are not county roads and are under the stewardship of the federal and state governments. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is a major nondesignated scenic road that is under the stewardship of the federal government.

³ Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, "Design Guidelines and Standards for Scenic and Historic Roads," June 1994.

Archaeology

Because this area has been a gathering and settlement area for so long, the prehistoric and historic archaeological record may be rich. Due to the patterns and density of development in the area, however, little of the area has been surveyed. Land that lies under impervious surfaces such as concrete and asphalt makes investigation possible only in extreme cases or when redevelopment opens a site. There are a few locations where archaeological work has been performed, principally along watercourses; a few Native American-related names for places, such as Indian Springs in Greenbelt, suggest that prehistoric sites remain to be studied. Early American and 19th-century sites are also of interest for example, excavation on the grounds of the Bladensburg Roy Rogers (potentially a rich colonial market site) or near the Laurel Museum is thought to be desirable to add to the historical record. Where possible, the preservation and interpretive programs of ATHA should focus on incorporating a greater awareness and appreciation for archaeological resources. In addition, archaeology curricula for students should be developed based upon ATHA resources and history.

Making Visible Progress

Historic preservation programs are only as good as the preservation they achieve. Funds for this work are generally critically short, although the recent improvements to the state's income tax credit program and Prince George's property tax credit should go some distance in encouraging owners to invest more of their own money. In addition to financial support, owners also need information about the tax credits, about specific preservation questions, and about ideas and alternatives for rehabilitating their properties while following The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Prince George's Heritage, the Prince George's Historical and Cultural Trust, and the City of Laurel Historic District Commission, as well as other organizations, are encouraged to work together to create an ongoing education program. Preservation workshops and how-to demonstrations for ATHA residents, as well as walking tours that focus on architectural styles, are examples of components of such a program.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The General Plan and its amendments (except functional plans), as well as the City of Laurel Master Plan, contain an environmental element that provides goals, objectives, concepts, recommendations and guidelines for environmental features. Most or all of the following are addressed, depending upon the planning area: floodplains, surface waters, wetlands, woodlands, rare natural features, soils with limitations for community development, steep or severe slopes, promontories, scenic vistas, limited views from roadways, noise intrusion, aquifer recharge areas, water quality, stormwater management, hazardous wastes sites and air quality.



Snowden Pond is one of the environmental treasures of the Patuxent Research Refuge.

To minimize unnecessary destruction of woodlands and specimen trees, the Prince George's County Woodland Conservation and Tree Preservation Ordinance was enacted in 1990 and is part of the County Code. This regulation requires a negotiated tree conservation plan that sets site-specific conservation requirements and commits the applicant to the use of certain tree protection techniques before, during and after construction. Strict penalties are imposed up to \$1.50 per square foot of disturbed area if the plan is violated.

As a recognized Tree City USA, the City of Laurel adopted a Forest Conservation Ordinance which was added to the City Code in 1992. The provisions of that chapter required Forest Stand Delineations for all projects affecting over 40,000 square feet of land. From that delineation the city negotiates with developers for the preservation of required levels of forest, with penalties for violations and incentives for afforestation and reforestation.

The Prince George's County *Landscape Manual* sets forth all of the requirements for landscaping. Although it is published as a separate document from the Zoning Ordinance, it is legally a part of the Ordinance. The *Landscape Manual* establishes mandatory minimum standards for planting on residential lots and for commercial landscape strips, perimeter strips and internal landscaping in parking lots. Buffering incompatible uses, screening the views from the houses of the road, and screening loading spaces and other undesirable views is also required. The *Landscape Manual* also includes a list of recommended trees, as well as planting specifications and details.

Development of land generally causes an increase in stormwater runoff that can damage public and private property through increased flooding, accelerated channel erosion, and degraded water quality. To prevent these problems from occurring, stormwater runoff resulting from development activities must be managed in accordance with the county's Stormwater Management Ordinance, which the City of Laurel also follows. All development, with some exceptions, requires a stormwater management plan. A concept plan is required prior to subdivision approval and a technical plan is required prior to issuance of a grading permit. Measures typically used to control runoff include special infiltration practices (such as bioretention), stormwater retention structures (wet ponds), and engineered detention structures (dry ponds).

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District administers the Maryland Sediment Control Act, which was established to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in developing areas. Any applicant planning to clear, grade or otherwise disturb the land is required to develop erosion and sediment control plans for review and approval by the Soil Conservation District.

The Department of Environmental Resources subsequently issues permits for above-ground grading and sediment control and is responsible for inspection and enforcement. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission is responsible for issuing and enforcing sediment control permits for below-ground utility construction. The City of Laurel issues grading permits within its jurisdiction.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) formed the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (AWRC) in 1987. The committee is composed of jurisdictions located within the watershed, including Montgomery County, Prince George's County, the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Elected officials from each of the jurisdictions signed an agreement to restore and protect the Anacostia River. In 1991, the AWRC developed a Six-Point Action Plan, which calls for:

- Reduction of pollutant loads in the tidal river by the turn of the century.
- Restoration of ecological integrity, enhancement of aquatic diversity, and a quality urban fishery.
- Restoration of the spawning range of anadromous fish to historical limits.
- An increase of the natural filtering capacity of the watershed by increasing the acreage of tidal and nontidal wetlands.
- Expansion of forest cover throughout the watershed and creation of a contiguous forest cover.
- An increase of public awareness of its key role in the cleanup and an increase in volunteer participation.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been significant players in the COG program and have

made contributions to the restoration of the river. Currently, there are plans to restore a wetland in the northern portion of the flood control basin at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

The Capper-Crampton Act was enacted in 1927 to protect water quality in the Washington Metropolitan Area. To date, M-NCPPC owns 1,800 acres of riparian lands in the Prince George's County portion of the Anacostia watershed. The M-NCPPC parklands now protect much of the streams, floodplains, wetlands and remaining riparian forest of the tributaries of the Anacostia River. Many wildlife habitat improvements have been made, including the construction of manmade wetlands, bluebird nestboxes, wood duck nestboxes, and osprey platforms. A number of parks emphasize preservation of the natural environment, such as the Dueling Creek Natural Area in Colmar Manor, Lake Artemesia in Berwyn Heights/College Park, and the Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center in Mount Rainier.

The Prince George's County government, in partnership with COG, is implementing a stormwater retrofit program to address one of the main sources of pollutants to the Anacostia River stormwater runoff. The county is also reestablishing wetlands along the northeast and northwest branches of the Anacostia River. This initial project, which will consist of restoring 10 acres of emergency wetlands, will kick off the governor's 60,000-acre wetland initiative.

The Department of Parks and Recreation of M-NCPPC has completed the first phase of restoration of the former Bladensburg Marina, now known as the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. The purpose of the park is



The new facilities at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park offer visitors not only recreational opportunities, but information on the history and ecology of the Anacostia River.

to provide a place for citizens to learn about the history and ecology of the Anacostia watershed. The initial commitment of \$4 million in M-NCPPC capital improvement funds and State of Maryland bond funds is being used to remove the dilapidated docks, bulkheads and piers of the old marina, build new public boating facilities, and reshape the park into a user-friendly urban riverwalk. The park renovation will also be a part of the urban revitalization of the Port Towns area.

Initially, the M-NCPPC Neighborhood Revitalization Division, and later the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, have played a vital role in promoting historic preservation and community revitalization in the Port Towns area. In conjunction with the county's Department of Environmental Resources (DER), three nontidal wetlands and bioretention sites for pilot projects that tie environmental restoration to community revitalization efforts have been identified. The sites are: (1) Bladensburg Road in Cottage City and Colmar Manor, (2) a bioretention facility for the Port of Bladensburg Shopping Center, and (3) a wetland enhancement project that will link the restored waterfront park to existing historic sites in Bladensburg.

The Brownfields Task Force, facilitated by DER, has been investigating incentives for restoring certain contaminated sites that may fall within the Anacostia River catchment and redeveloping various contaminated properties. An eco-nursery project is being designed using a solar greenhouse to grow native plant materials that will be an attraction for scientific and academic visitors.

Government Land Stewardship

The following table shows the acres of government-owned land in ATHA.

Government-Owned Land In ATHA

Owner	Acres
United States of America	14,029.4
State of Maryland	1,279.5
Prince George's County	151.6
M-NCPPC	3,553.0
Municipalities	294.4
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission	398.7
Prince George's County Public Schools	646.7
Total	20,353.3

NOTE: Total does not include government-owned street and highway rights-of-way.

In all, 20,353.3 acres, or 31.8 square miles, of land in ATHA are owned by the various governments. This constitutes 38 percent of the total ATHA area. Most of this acreage is a protected open space, ranging from the Patuxent Research Refuge, to The University of Maryland golf courses, the M-NCPPC park system, municipal parks, and protected areas around the Rocky Gorge Reservoir.

Natural Resources in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

There is a large amount of open space in ATHA and recreational opportunities that allow residents and visitors to enjoy much of that space. Every community in the area is a bike ride or a short walk from parks and open space, although some of those connections, as discussed in Chapters Five and Seven, require additional enhancement.

There are numerous possibilities for interpreting the environmental and natural history of this area. Natural resources to be found in ATHA are further described in Chapter Two, and related interpretation is described in Chapter Four.

Critical aspects of natural resource stewardship in ATHA concern maintenance and enhancement of the parks, trail corridors, and other open spaces that make ATHA attractive for both people and wildlife as well as care for the streams and wetlands that lace the area. Environmental education and interpretation of natural resources is addressed in Chapter Four, and recreational linkages are addressed in Chapter Six.

Maintaining and Enhancing Green Space

The term green space is used here to refer to open space that should remain green and open to public access for recreation and wildlife habitat and to maintain and improve the quality of the watershed and the quality of life for nearby communities.

One opportunity to use green space to the advantage of the area's communities relates to the levees alongside the river in the lower portion of ATHA. Currently, the levees serve as barriers between potential floodwaters and the communities adjacent to the river. These levees, however, could become linear parks, landscaped forms that enhance the surrounding areas instead of cordoning off one area from another. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources are investigating ways to reconnect the river with people, as well as ways to enhance wetlands and fish habitat, in the process of studying the improvement of flood protection along the entire river. This plan encourages:

- Planning and implementing green space as a key element in heritage tourism.
- Working with partners focused on environmental restoration to develop strategies for the identification and subsequent control,

- management, and elimination of invasive species that threaten watersheds and greenways in ATHA.
- Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Anacostia Watershed Society, M-NCPPC, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources, and affected municipalities to encourage a higher quality of design and utility as the levee system for the Anacostia River's tributaries is rebuilt.
- Inventorying key ecological assets for preservation and restoration of all watersheds and greenways in ATHA.

Enhancing Streams and Wetlands

The Anacostia River, one of the most urbanized in the nation, has been the subject of intensive study and action for the past ten years by both governmental agencies and nonprofit environmental groups. The governmental effort is organized around an interjurisdictional cooperative agreement involving Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia and the federal government, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service, among others. It mirrors a similar agreement for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay as a whole. The federal government has cited work on restoring the Anacostia as a national model for urban watershed restoration.

Prince George's County, through its Department of Environmental Resources (DER), and M-NCPPC, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment, have spent \$6 million in the watershed since 1992, toward a goal of implementing 100 water quality and wetland restoration programs to help restore the river. A dedicated fund through a special taxing district for all of Prince George's County to provide stormwater management is slated to provide as much as \$12 million



One of many ecologically-sensitive wetlands in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.

for environmental revitalization, to rehabilitate drainage, construct bioretention facilities (landscaping that treats pollution from stormwater runoff, sometimes called rain gardens), and reconstruct wetlands. DER is recognized nationally as being a pioneer in implementing rain gardens and other low-impact urban retrofitting such as rain barrels and rooftop storage of rainwater (which then evaporates, rather than increasing urban runoff to the river).

Visible progress has been made already on the river fish species are returning, and there are birds in abundance, with blue herons, kingfishers and ospreys easy to spot. This good news and the promised additional progress will, among other benefits, aid in marketing this area to visitors from the rest of the region and perhaps to those from around the country interested in seeing what is being done to restore a river that drains an urbanized watershed.

The Patuxent River lies in a completely different watershed from the Anacostia River. It is a direct tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. Because it is the only large tributary to the bay that lies completely within the State of Maryland, it has been the subject of intensive study by the Maryland Department of the Environment and other research organizations intent on learning how to reduce pollution leading to the bay. The City of Laurel lies north of a significant complex of freshwater wetlands that prevent access to much of the river in ATHA except by canoe. These wetlands lie mostly within the Patuxent Research Refuge and are generally off limits to the public. However, guided tram tours are available through the surrounding woods and lakes of the National Wildlife Visitor Center. The entire river corridor is a nationally significant flyway for migratory waterfowl and songbirds. This plan encourages the following activities to increase the tourism potential of the Anacostia River:

- Restoration, preservation and interpretation of the wetlands of the Anacostia River and its tributaries and a cleanup promotion of the wetlands.
- Reforestation of riparian areas within the Anacostia watershed.
- Development and implementation of sediment-reduction strategies for the Anacostia River to permit boating and improve water quality and aquatic habitat.

Parallel efforts are continuing for the Patuxent River, including repair of riparian areas and development of sediment-reduction strategies. The municipalities, counties as well as the General Assembly, approved the Patuxent River Management Plan last year. Augmenting these strategies, the City of Laurel has completed Riverfront Park bordering the Patuxent, and has utilized the city's Forest Conservation Ordinance to maintain dozens of acres of forest buffering the Bear Branch.

ARTS, CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRADITIONS ENHANCEMENT

The arts and the appreciation of cultural traditions are important elements of heritage area programming for both residents and visitors. ATHA comprises a great many diverse cultural and ethnic groups. Paired with this, the area enjoys an abundance of artists whose creativity enlivens and celebrates these cultures.

ATHA has had an artistic heritage since the Calverts first occupied the Riversdale mansion. Rosalie Stier Calvert, the mistress of Riversdale, was the caretaker of a renowned collection of paintings owned by her Belgian family. Before the paintings were returned to Belgium, she hosted an open house to view them. Therefore, one of the first exhibitions of Old Masters paintings held in the new nation took place here.

In the 20th century, Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, graduated from The University of Maryland. He was also a student at Northwestern High School (Hyattsville) and resident of the area during his formative years.

Cultural Resources Programs

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, is the primary arts presenter in Prince George's County. The department coordinates and manages three comprehensive art facilities: Montpelier Cultural Arts Center (Laurel), Prince George's Publick Playhouse (Cheverly), and Harmony Hall Regional Center (Fort Washington). Although many art programs are based at these facilities, numerous outreach arts services and programs are offered at other venues throughout the county. These include day camps; art classes; touring exhibitions; performances in music, dance and



An African-American dance group performing at the Publick Playhouse, one of M-NCPPC's comprehensive art facilities. (See page 98.)



Rosalie Stier Calvert, mistress of Riversdale: her Belgian family's renowned painting collection brought many art lovers to Riversdale to view the first important collection of Old World Master paintings in the new United States.

theater at county schools and area colleges; artist studios; an artist slide registry; Black History month programs; and rental space for art and nonart organizations and artist residences. The department coordinates various special projects such as the Bluebird Blues Festival and the Harlem Renaissance Festival in cooperation with other agencies. Other projects that are supported include the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at The University of Maryland, the Gateway Arts Center Study, World Arts Focus, the Prince George's Philharmonic, the Bowie Arts Center, the City of Greenbelt arts programs, and the Prince George's Arts Council.

The Prince George's Arts Council, which is supported by M-NCPPC, has recently proposed a "Cultural Planning Initiative." This initiative is intended to produce a two- to three-year proactive plan that will ensure the following:

- Recognition that culture and the arts are vital in all aspects of community planning.
- Accessibility and fair distribution of cultural resources.
- Opportunities for cultural organizations and programs to employ people, attract new businesses, revitalize neighborhoods and have the potential of drawing thousands of tourists.
- Celebration of historic and contemporary cultural diversity of county citizens.

This initiative will create a comprehensive plan to address cultural needs in Prince George's County.

Events

There is much for residents and visitors to do in ATHA. As discussed in Chapter Two, there are a large number of events scheduled throughout the year, such as parades and festivals like Port Towns Day, the Laurel Main Street Festival, afternoon teas at Riversdale and Montpelier mansions, model rocket demonstrations at NASA, plus concerts and performances at the Publick Playhouse or The University of Maryland. This plan supports and encourages a wide range of artistic and ethnic offerings.

The Arts and Cultural Resources

The arts flourish in ATHA because local communities and the Prince George's Arts Council provide performance spaces, studios, and galleries. While The University of Maryland attracts musicians of international caliber, many other local venues provide a fertile environment for the development of all kinds of artistic expression. ATHA offers many advantages that will be able to attract more artists to the area and further enhance the arts scene. There is an abundance of affordable housing for artists in close proximity to the market and museums of Washington, D.C. Moreover, the communities of ATHA support the arts, providing a

good local and regional market for performance and visual art. The new Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, completed in 2001 at The University of Maryland, will also give the region's reputation in the arts a boost, promising more vitality and competitiveness to attract major artists and performers.

The Arts District

The Gateway Municipalities have joined with Hyattsville to begin studying the idea of creating an "arts and entertainment district" in their four communities. In summer 1999, these communities hosted a Gateway Arts Summit to hear from others working to make communities friendly to artists and the arts and employing arts promotion as a community revitalization tool. The arts are important throughout ATHA; Laurel, Greenbelt and College Park each offer arts programs and performances; and other communities offer special events supporting artists. Also, arts districts are a proven magnet for tourism.

There are considerable stewardship benefits to establishing and maintaining a thriving arts community and market. Aside from enhanced community pride, heightened appreciation for art, and the proven scholastic benefits of arts education for students, artists are a highly desirable part of the population when it comes to community revitalization. Artists are pioneers in neighborhoods to the benefit of their residents. Across the nation, where art colonies have been established, the local community has been recharged, sparking revitalization, city beautification, and other improvement. This plan supports the following activities:



A logo, designed by Tasko Hughes-Bey, of ArtSpin, one of the active art groups in the Heritage Area. In alliance with the Gateway Communities, ArtSpin each year hosts a three-day venue of art, entertainment and networking.



This mural was recently painted on a commercial facade on US 1 in Berwyn, celebrating the railroad history of this community.

- Produce a directory of artists, exhibit spaces, galleries, studios, art-supply stores, and other art-related spaces.
- Work with sponsors of arts events, the Prince George's Arts Council, and local arts groups to develop coordinated marketing through web site publicity and packaging.
- Encourage outreach to ATHA artists to identify their needs, considering such ideas as juried arts fairs, a published directory, a lecture series by local artists, and support of the establishment of an artists' cooperative gallery.
- Support the development of loft space as artist living/studio space.
- * Explore the development of a timeshare program with local businesses. Artists would use a building during the off hours of a business in order to provide artists with inexpensive work space.
- Install creative interpretive art throughout ATHA and use it as one element of an Anacostia Arts Trail.
- Encourage and support beautification projects using art (e.g., the use of murals).

M-NCPPC is undertaking a formal study of the Gateway Arts District that will identify the issues, goals and land use implications of an arts district as well as implement any appropriate zoning changes.

Cultural Traditions

Many different cultures and ethnic groups make up and contribute to the heritage of the area. ATHA has benefitted from the talents, food, arts and celebrations of these groups. This rich mixture can be enhanced for the benefit of residents and in support of heritage tourism. There is an extensive variety of ethnic attractions, such as a teacher and performer of traditional Japanese dance (Riverdale Park), to a Mexican bakery (Edmonston), to an Italian deli (Bladensburg), to an Indian movie theater (Laurel) and Salvadorian restaurant (Laurel). Many restaurants are found here, many of them international in flavor (for example, a Burmese restaurant in College Park) and others serving traditional Maryland cuisine. As in the case of artistic heritage, there are considerable stewardship benefits to recognizing and maintaining a thriving and diverse cultural heritage. To that end, the plan supports the following activities:

- Identify the ethnic specialties and traditions; identify any for further study and ultimately interpretation.
- ** Conduct an inventory of ATHA cultural assets that will identify cultural associations, individuals involved in cultural activities (e.g., art, music, literature, poetry, dance, cultural interpretation), and districts and sites to be designated as cultural assets.
- Develop an ATHA cultural stewardship strategic plan detailing the programmatic and cultural stewardship policies and needs of ATHA.

The plan should incorporate the findings of the cultural asset inventory and address marketing strategies and general implementation guidance for events to support cultural stewardship initiatives; interaction with other nonprofit agencies supporting cultural stewardship in the region; development of international exchange and cultural residency programs with ATHA partners and schools; and strategies to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage and diversity through economic development initiatives.

Education and the Arts and Cultural Traditions

The arts will remain vibrant and cultural traditions will remain alive if the skills and knowledge they impart are passed onto others. Schools, museums, galleries, studios, organizations and many others can host educational programs. In order to achieve this, the contacts must be made, the efforts must be coordinated, and a public awareness and appreciation for these efforts will need to be encouraged. This plan supports the following activities:

- * Encourage and support the development of art outreach programs for area schools (e.g., traveling exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and lectures).
- * Encourage and support the establishment of an artist apprentice program with community groups, senior centers, schools, or other organizations and institutions.
- * Encourage and support the development of an artist-in-residence program with area schools and encourage schools to sponsor in-house studios for artists.