



TOWN OF BLADENSBURG COUNCIL MEETING | JULY13, 2026

July 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

AGENDA

Public Access Virtual via live stream of the Town's Facebook and YouTube pages:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoflhVTBeID3c9oH8GYSW0g>

<https://www.facebook.com/Bladensburgmd>

1. Call to Order – 1 min
2. Opening Prayer – 2 min
3. Pledge of Allegiance – 1 min
4. Approval of Agenda – 1 min
5. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approval of June 8, 2026 council session minutes
6. Public Comments
7. Unfinished Business
8. Work Session Review
 - A. 52nd Ave Update
 - Port Town Bus Operations
 - PALS Project
 - Gloves up Guns Down
 - Grant and Scholarship Program discussion
 - PILOT discussion
9. New Business

- [A.](#) Resolution amending the Personnel Manual regarding elected officials' access to Town vehicles- **15 min**
- [B.](#) Resolution amending the Personnel Manual to establish a foreign language proficiency pay differential- **5 min**
- [C.](#) Resolution declaring surplus equipment and authorizing its disposal- **5 min**

10. Financial Business

- [A.](#) Resolution accepting the \$300,000 Municipal Town Hall grant award

11. Staff Reports (3 minutes each)

Treasurer; Public Safety and Code Enforcement; Town Clerk; Public Works; Town Administrator

- A.** Treasurer
- [B.](#) Public Safety
- [C.](#) Code Enforcement
- [D.](#) Public Works
- [E.](#) Town Manager's Report and America in Bloom update

12. Mayor and Council Reports (3 minutes each)

Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1

Council Member Kalisha Dixon – Ward 1

Council Member Carrol McBryde – Ward 2

Council Member Marilyn Blount – Ward 2

Mayor Takisha James

13. Adjournment



Town of Bladensburg Council Meeting | June 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes 7:00 PM

4229 Edmonston RD, Bladensburg, MD 20710

1. Call To Order

Mayor Takisha James called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 4229 Edmonston Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710.

2. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Council Member McBryde.

3. Pledge Of Allegiance

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval Of Agenda

The agenda was approved with a minor adjustment to the order of presentations, placing the Sheriff's Office guest speaker first at the request of Town Administrator Wood.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentations

a. Sheriff's Office Presentation On Community Services

Walter Lee James Jr., former Mayor of Bladensburg and Director of Community Engagement for the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff under Sheriff John D.B. Carr, presented an overview of community programs offered by the Office of the Sheriff, including:

- Sheriff's Athletic League – Saturday volleyball at the Bladensburg Salvation Army (10–11 AM), open to all ages, with a focus on youth mentorship.
- Silver Circle – Educational sessions for senior residents on fraud and scam prevention. A future session in Bladensburg is being coordinated; Mr. James committed to sharing the confirmed date with the council for distribution to ward residents.
- Youth Explorers Program – For middle and high school students interested in law enforcement careers.

- Sheriff Citizens Academy – An overview program educating the public on the roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff.
- Public Safety Food Basket Program – A collaborative, multi-agency holiday food distribution initiative held annually at Emerson House.

Mr. James provided his contact information: phone 240-286-6570 and email wjames@cocog.md.us. Mayor James noted a prior offer from an assistant sheriff to support warrant sweeps in partnership with the Bladensburg Police Department, and relayed that information to Interim Chief Frishkorn.

b. Language Interpreter Differential Pay

Interim Chief Daniel Frishkorn presented a proposed language interpreter differential pay program, developed in response to staff concerns raised at a recent all-hands meeting. The town has 12 bilingual employees, primarily Spanish speakers, with some Korean and Nigerian speakers as well.

The proposal would provide a pay stipend of \$1.00/hour for basic proficiency (spoken language) and \$1.50/hour for advanced proficiency (reading, writing, and speaking), with proficiency determined through third-party testing. The maximum annual cost, assuming all 12 employees test at the advanced level and work 2,080 hours, would be \$40,000, though actual costs are expected to be significantly lower. Mayor James noted that speed camera revenue could be used to offset the cost, as the program is public-safety related. Sign language proficiency, tested through Gallaudet University, was also included as an eligible language.

The council discussed the rationale for the pay tiers, the importance of third-party certification for court admissibility, and the use of professional development funds for employees wishing to learn a new language. Council directed Town Administrator Wood to return with a formal amendment to the personnel policy for a vote at the July meeting.

6. Approval Of Minutes

a. Approval Of May 11, 2026 Regular Session Minutes

Motion to approve the May 11, 2026 Regular Session Minutes was made by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comments

Three residents addressed the council (Susan McCutcheon, Anne Greenway and Mr. Marlo), all raising concerns about ICE activity observed on town-owned and fire department-owned property, including the post office parking lot, the international school, and the police department lot. Residents referenced photographs taken between May 20 and June 1 suggesting the locations were used for staging prior to or following immigration enforcement actions. Residents requested that the council review applicable county legislation, including CB006-2026, and explore policy avenues to limit federal immigration enforcement access to town property, consistent with steps being explored by neighboring

municipalities. Mayor James acknowledged the concerns and affirmed that the council would gather the facts, consult with staff, and take measured and lawful action.

8. Work Session Review

Town Administrator Brian Wood recapped the work session held earlier in the evening:

- 52nd Street Update – Partnership with the State Highway Administration discussed; next steps identified.
- 58th Street Community Garden – Challenges reviewed; potential partnerships and a path forward discussed.
- Mayor and Council Salary and Mayor's Vehicle – Actions for FY28 discussed; a resolution regarding the Mayor's vehicle will be brought forward at the July meeting.
- Mid-Year Budget Topics and Grants List – Deferred to the July work session.
- 57th Street Repairs – Addressed later in the agenda.
- Community Grants and Scholarships – Deferred to the July work session for final decisions.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. Financial Business

a. Emergency Resolution For 57th Street Repairs

Town Administrator Wood presented Ordinance No. 18-2026, a fiscal year 2026 emergency budget amendment to appropriate \$14,100 in highway user funds for road repairs at 4219 57th Avenue performed by Resurface Inc. (Job No. 260207, May 13, 2026). The repair involved a 2-inch mill and overlay and full-depth base repairs covering 2,310 square feet, necessitated by a road section that had sunk approximately 4 inches. By coordinating with WSSC, which was already mobilized for work on the same street, the town saved an estimated \$4,000–\$7,000 compared to completing the repair independently later in the year. The repair qualified as a sole-source engagement due to the unique circumstances. The Town Administrator apologized for acting ahead of council authorization and acknowledged the expediency of the situation.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 18-2026 was made by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Budget Reading (Second Reading)

Treasurer Vito Tinelli presented final adjustments to the proposed FY2027 budget ahead of the second reading. Revisions totaling a \$240,000 reduction in revenues were made to reflect: lower-than-expected personal property tax revenues due to state-issued business credits; reduced admission and amusement tax projections; a reduction in the business license revenue line; and the removal of \$20,000 in police overtime grant funding that will

not be renewed. These reductions were offset by compensation savings, primarily within the public safety command structure. Two COPS-funded officer positions were retained in the budget. Council Member Dixon commended Treasurer Tinelli for producing a clear and clean budget. Town Administrator Wood read the ordinance title.

Motion to approve proposed FY2027 Budget Ordinance No. 18-2026 was made by Council Member Blount and seconded by Council Member McBryde. The motion carried unanimously.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Staff Reports (3 Minutes Each)

Public Works – Town Administrator Wood noted, on behalf of Public Works Director Hall who was absent, that the new street signs recently installed are complete and visible throughout Ward 1, with installation continuing in Ward 2.

Public Safety and Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Rinehart reported an average complaint closure time of approximately 3 days via the new GovPilot application. Stop work orders were issued at 5003/5014 Taylor Street and 5106 Upshur Street for unpermitted construction. Three abatements were completed in coordination with Public Works. A new quarterly code enforcement newsletter, developed by Officer Kellye, was introduced and will be distributed through the town newsletter, at town hall, and with violation notices.

The council noted that the prior My Bladensburg app has been replaced by GovPilot, which is available on both Android and iOS and allows residents to report code issues, potholes, and other concerns with photo attachments.

Treasurer – Treasurer Tinelli reported that the town received a \$71,000 workers' compensation dividend, up significantly from \$18,000 the prior year, reflecting a safer work environment. Revenue trends show service charges and automated traffic enforcement above budget. The town is operating at a net loss through May, which is expected, as property tax, highway user revenue, and traffic enforcement receipts tagged to FY26 will not arrive until July–August.

Town Administrator – Town Administrator Wood highlighted that bond bills for town hall conceptual renderings and waterfront development have been approved at the state level and cleared the Public Works Board, with reimbursement draws expected within a few months totaling approximately \$300,000–\$500,000. Additional highlights included: the Financial Empowerment Program (in partnership with Prince George's Community College) scheduled for June 24, 25, and 27, with up to 40 participants eligible for a \$200 Giant voucher upon completion; and a potential summer intern, possibly one of the police explorers, with an internship policy to be brought forward in July. A July work session will also cover internal policies including procurement and fund balance.

Public Safety – Interim Chief Frishkorn reported that violent crime is down 75% and property crime is down 24% between April and May. A crime suppression detail targeting a trend of vehicle thefts resulted in 3 arrests near 57th Avenue. Notable upcoming events include Coffee with a Cop on June 10 at 3801 Kenilworth Avenue, the kickoff of the Bladensburg Police Department Boxing Program on June 13 at 7600 Barlow Road (supported by two grants totaling approximately \$528,000), and the first session of the Citizens Police Academy on June 25. Acting Lieutenant Goans resigned to accept a position as Chief of Police for the Oxford, North Carolina Police Department. Sergeant Ramirez launched a new Walk with a Cop initiative allowing officers to engage residents in neighborhood conversations. Council Member Blount requested increased officer presence in senior building parking lots; Chief Frishkorn confirmed this and encouraged all officers to conduct regular visits to senior facilities as part of community policing.

13. Mayor And Council Reports (3 Minutes Each)

Council Member Trina Brown – Ward 1 thanked staff for their budget work and reminded residents that early voting runs June 11–18 and Election Day is June 23, noting that same-day registration is available.

Council Member Kalisha Dixon – Ward 1 thanked Acting Lieutenant Goans for his service and wished him well. She reported attending the Prince George's 250 Block Party and Maryland 250 Citizens Academy Awards, where she represented Bladensburg in receiving a grant for the Bladensburg Citizens Academy Program, which will educate residents on local government, public safety, and planning. She also attended the Memorial Day ceremony, a PGCMA mental health event, and a CBC/CRF event.

Council Member Carrol McBryde – Ward 2 reported assisting with a fundraiser for Delegate Fennell and Julian Ivy at the Bladensburg Recreation Center.

Council Member Marilyn Blount – Ward 2 reported attending a Port Towns meeting, noting Bladensburg is the largest municipality in the Port Towns collaborative. She also attended a BCCE meeting, noted that photos for the upcoming BCCE newsletter should be sent to Ray, and referenced a senior gathering planned for September.

Mayor Takisha James- Reported on several items including: continued work of the Prince George's Gateway Development Authority, which received state funding to be distributed among member municipalities, providing Bladensburg a share of \$300,000 for projects such as the Bostwick House reuse plan; progress toward a potential aviation mechanics trade school partnership with Advine Aero Services, with site visits completed at DCA and a planned visit to BWI; attendance at the bill signing for HB1142, MML's priority bill to restructure municipal sales tax revenue sharing for the first time in over 60 years; and the alignment between the council's Bostwick House resolution and two recently passed Prince George's County bills supporting agritourism and rural promotion, demonstrating legislative synergy.

14. Adjournment

Town staff reminded residents of the July 2nd Fireworks Celebration, 6:00–9:30 PM at the Waterfront Park, with entertainment and vendors. Attendees were encouraged to arrive early.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Dixon and seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

**RESOLUTION : AMENDMENTS TO PERSONNEL MANUAL
REGARDING AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYORAL AND ELECTED OFFICIAL VEHICLE USE**

Introduced by: Marilyn Blount

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 405 of the Town Charter, the Town has the power to employ such officers and employees as it deems necessary to execute the powers and duties provided by this Charter or other State laws and to operate the Town government; and

WHEREAS, the Bladensburg Town Council adopted Resolution 111-21 on January 11, 2021, which amended the Town's Personnel Manual regarding the use and assignment of Town vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 111-21 restricted the use of take-home vehicles to Town employees only and prohibited Town vehicles from being driven to or kept at the residence or place of employment of elected officials, including the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor must remain accessible and able to support and represent the Town of Bladensburg for both planned and unplanned events and meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to allow for the assignment of dedicated vehicles to the Mayor and other elected officials when deemed operationally necessary and when approved by the Bladensburg Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Town and for the good and efficient government thereof that the Town's Personnel Manual shall be revised and amended to provide for vehicle use by elected officials pursuant to a formal approval process and strict operational guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby amends the Town's Personnel Manual, Section II – Employee Responsibility, Subsection C – Town Vehicles, as follows:

Section II – Employee Responsibility

C. Town Vehicles

(1) TOWN VEHICLES SHALL ONLY BE OPERATED BY TOWN EMPLOYEES, ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS, OR PERSONS DESIGNATED BY CONTRACT TO OPERATE SUCH VEHICLES.

(2) THE TOWN MAY MAKE VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR USE FOR A SPECIFIC PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR A SPECIFIED EVENT OR LENGTH OF TIME, AS APPROVED BY THE BLADENSBURG TOWN COUNCIL. TOWN VEHICLES SHALL ONLY BE USED BY

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS, OR TO MAINTAIN THE ABILITY TO RESPOND TO TOWN BUSINESS OUTSIDE THE INDIVIDUAL'S NORMAL WORK HOURS. TOWN VEHICLES SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS, NOR FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM WORK EXCEPT AS SET OUT IN THIS SECTION.

(3) THE TOWN MAY MAKE DEDICATED TAKE-HOME VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO THE MAYOR AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS ONLY UPON AFFIRMATIVE APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BLADENSBURG TOWN COUNCIL. ANY SUCH APPROVAL SHALL SPECIFY: (A) THE OFFICIAL OR POSITION AUTHORIZED TO USE THE VEHICLE; (B) THE DURATION OF THE AUTHORIZATION; (C) THE OPERATIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT; AND (D) ANY CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLE USE.

(4) THE TOWN MAY MAKE VEHICLES AVAILABLE AS TAKE-HOME VEHICLES TO EMPLOYEES ONLY, AS APPROVED BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND TO THE MAYOR AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS AS APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL VOTE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) ABOVE.

(5) Take-home vehicles will be assigned to the Police Chief, Director of Public Works, Director of the Office of Code Enforcement, Sworn Police Officers, and such other positions as determined by the Town Administrator. Take-home vehicles may be assigned to the Mayor and other elected officials only upon affirmative approval by Town Council vote pursuant to this Section. Driving a Town vehicle is a privilege, is not guaranteed, and subject to the Town's Drug Policy (a separate document) that is part of this manual. The Town Administrator or his or her designee will assign all vehicles for classified and exempt staff. Police Officers refer to the Police Department's Vehicle Deployment Program (vehicles are still used for business purposes only).

(6) WHENEVER A TOWN VEHICLE IS ASSIGNED TO THE MAYOR OR OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL, SUCH ASSIGNMENT SHALL BE DOCUMENTED IN THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICIAL AND MAINTAINED BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

(7) THE COST OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND RIDE-SHARE USE, INCLUDING BUS, TAXI, RIDE-SHARE, PUBLIC TRANSIT AND OTHER SIMILAR TRANSPORTATION, AUTHORIZED BY A DEPARTMENT HEAD OR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, IN THE OFFICIAL CONDUCT OF TOWN BUSINESS, MAY BE REIMBURSED.

(8) THE USE OF TOWN VEHICLES SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED NOTING THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYEE OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIAL, DATE AND TIME OF THE VEHICLE USE, STARTING MILEAGE, LOCATION DRIVEN TO, ENDING MILEAGE, TIME AND DATE THE VEHICLE IS RETURNED, IN THE FORM THAT IS MONITORED BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE.

(9) ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED TO DRIVE ON OFFICIAL TOWN BUSINESS MUST POSSESS A VALID MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR THE CLASS OF VEHICLE THEY WILL BE OPERATING.

(10) THE ASSIGNMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL VEHICLES AND VEHICLES AUTHORIZED FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE REGULAR TOWN BUDGET PROCESS, JUST AS OTHER ASSETS ARE ASSIGNED TO TOWN DEPARTMENTS OR OFFICES, AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO TOWN COUNCIL VOTE AND APPROVAL.

(11) THE TEMPORARY OR SHORT TERM SIGNING OUT OF VEHICLES MAY BE AUTHORIZED DURING AND/OR OUTSIDE NORMAL WORK HOURS BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE IF DETERMINED TO BE AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AND A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS ALTERNATIVE AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS 2-7, IS NOT AVAILABLE. AN EMERGENCY USE WOULD INCLUDE POLICE OPERATIONS, SNOWSTORMS, NATURAL DISASTER, FLOODING, OR PUBLIC SAFETY-RELATED EVENTS AND INSPECTIONS ON A WEEKEND.

(12) REPORTING ACCIDENTS. WHENEVER A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE IS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT, OR DAMAGED, THE EMPLOYEE OR OFFICIAL OPERATING THE VEHICLE IS REQUIRED TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY HIS OR HER IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR AND/OR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR. THE POLICE IN THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE ACCIDENT OCCURS MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY. AN ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT REPORT MUST BE FILED WITH THE TOWN POLICE.

(13) Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary actions, payment of any fees and associated with accidents, the payment of the Town's insurance deductible, revocation of vehicle use privileges, or loss of the Council-approved vehicle assignment. Drivers are required to have a valid driver's license (including a CDL License when required) with them and responsible for payment or disposition of any and all tickets, fees, fines and violations of applicable law.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED that upon passage, this Resolution shall be authenticated by the signature of the Mayor and Town Clerk and shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose. In addition, this Resolution shall be published by posting a certified copy of it in the Town Hall for ten (10) days following its adoption pursuant to Article II, Section 209 of the Charter of Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, and will be effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:

By Order of the Mayor and Town Council

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk

Takisha James, Mayor

Adopted: _____
Effective: _____

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

**MOTION TO DIRECT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO AUTHORIZE
PROVISION OF A DEDICATED MUNICIPAL VEHICLE TO THE MAYOR**

July 13, 2026

WHEREAS, the Mayor serves as the chief executive officer and official representative of the Town of Bladensburg; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor must be available for planned and unplanned meetings and events to fulfill his/her duties and represent the interests of the Town and serve the residents of the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that providing a dedicated municipal vehicle to the Mayor is in the best interest of the Town.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg that the Town Administrator is hereby directed to make available to the Mayor of Bladensburg a dedicated municipal take-home vehicle effective July 13, 2026. The vehicle shall be made available in accordance with the revised Personnel Manual. Access and approval for the Mayor to utilize a vehicle moving forward shall be consistent with the guidelines and procedures applicable to all other vehicles operated by the Town of Bladensburg.

ATTEST:

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk

Date of Motion: July 13, 2026

Date Adopted: _____

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2027

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BILINGUAL PAY DIFFERENTIAL POLICY
FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES AND AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN
IMPLEMENTING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

Introduced by: _____

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 405 of the Town Charter, the Town has the power to employ such officers and employees as it deems necessary to execute the powers and duties provided by the Charter or other State laws and to operate the Town government; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg serves a diverse community that includes residents and visitors with limited English proficiency, and the Town recognizes that fluency in a second language or in sign language among Town employees materially improves the Town's ability to communicate with, and provide services to, the public, including during emergencies and critical incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find it appropriate to establish a standardized, verifiable, and fiscally responsible bilingual pay differential program for all eligible Town employees, regardless of department, in recognition of the operational value of these skills; and

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator has recommended a two-tiered certification and compensation structure, consisting of a Basic Skills level and an Advanced Multilingual Skills level, with eligibility contingent upon successful completion of a Town-approved proficiency examination; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find it appropriate that the detailed administrative and operational procedures necessary to implement this policy — including testing logistics, certification tracking, documentation, payroll administration, and periodic review of continued eligibility — be set forth in a Standard Operating Procedure ("SOP") to be developed by Town

staff and subject to final approval by the Town Administrator, rather than being fixed within this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, that a Bilingual Pay Policy is hereby established for all eligible Town employees as follows:

Section 1. Purpose and Applicability.

This policy establishes a bilingual pay differential available to all eligible Town of Bladensburg employees, across all departments, who demonstrate verified proficiency in a language other than English, or in American Sign Language, and whose position or duties reasonably require or benefit from the use of that skill in the performance of official Town business.

Section 2. Certification Levels and Pay Differential.

Eligibility for bilingual pay shall be based on successful completion of a Town-approved language proficiency examination, administered through the Human Resources Department, at one of the following two certification levels:

Certification Level	Skills Required	Pay Differential
Basic Skills	Oral communication and comprehension sufficient for conversation with clients and community members; passing score on the Town's oral performance examination.	\$1.00 per hour for all hours actually worked
Advanced Multilingual Skills	Written communication and comprehension in a second language, in addition to oral communication and comprehension; passing scores on both the oral and written examinations.	\$1.50 per hour for all hours actually worked

The bilingual pay differential shall be paid for all hours actually worked by the certified employee during the applicable pay period and shall not be increased for hours worked in an overtime status. The differential shall not accrue or be paid for periods of paid or unpaid leave. Bilingual pay shall become payable only from the date the employee is certified by passing the applicable proficiency examination and shall not be paid retroactively.

Section 3. Eligibility Requirements.

To be eligible for bilingual pay, an employee must (a) demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English, or in American Sign Language, through a Town-approved assessment process; (b)

hold a position whose duties reasonably require or benefit from the use of bilingual or signing skills; and (c) receive written authorization from the Town Administrator or designee confirming eligibility, using the Town's Multilingual Certification Form. This policy applies uniformly to eligible employees across all Town departments.

Section 4. Review and Revocation.

Bilingual pay eligibility is subject to periodic review to confirm continued operational need and continued proficiency. Bilingual pay may be discontinued if the operational need no longer exists, the employee transfers to a position that does not require bilingual or signing skills, or the employee no longer demonstrates the required proficiency. An employee who does not pass the required certification examination may reapply to test again after six (6) months.

Section 5. Implementing Standard Operating Procedure.

The administrative and operational elements necessary to carry out this policy — including, without limitation, examination scheduling and vendor coordination, certification documentation and recordkeeping, the Multilingual Certification Form and approval workflow, payroll coding and processing, and the process and timeline for periodic review of continued eligibility — shall be set forth in a Standard Operating Procedure to be developed by Town staff. The Standard Operating Procedure, and any subsequent amendments thereto, shall be subject to final review and approval by the Town Administrator and shall be maintained on file with the Human Resources Department. In the event of any conflict between the Standard Operating Procedure and this Resolution, the terms of this Resolution shall control.

Section 6. Funding.

Bilingual pay authorized under this Resolution shall be funded through revenues generated by the Town's traffic enforcement program, subject to appropriation by the Mayor and Town Council for each Fiscal Year. In the event that traffic enforcement revenues are insufficient in any Fiscal Year to fully fund the bilingual pay differential, the Town Administrator shall notify Council and propose alternative solutions including suspending the program, reducing the number of employees in the program or finding alternative revenue sources.

Section 7. Effective Date.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and that the Town Administrator is hereby directed to develop and issue the implementing Standard Operating Procedure described in Section 5 within a reasonable time following adoption.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk

By: _____
Takisha James, Mayor

Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: July 13, 2026	Submitted by: Brian Wood, Interim Town Administrator
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Item Title: 02-2027 | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS VEHICLES
 0-2027 | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS POLICE DEPARTMENT
 VEHICLES THROUGH A MUNICIPAL AUCTION VENDOR

Work Session Item [] Council Meeting Item [X]	Documentation Attached: Resolution 0-2027 List of Vehicles
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Recommended Action:
The approval of this resolution for the disposal of surplus Police Department vehicles.

Summary: The Town Administrator proposes to dispose of three (3) surplus Bladensburg Police Department vehicles to ensure the most efficient and transparent process, with the best possible value return to the Town. The resolution will authorize the following actions: 1. Authorization of Surplus Vehicle Disposition The Town hereby declares the attached identified vehicles as surplus property to be disposed of in accordance with the resolution. 2. Designation of Disposal Method The Town Administrator is authorized to sell the surplus vehicles through a municipal auction vendor. The selected vendor shall assist with sales, marketing, and the transfer of titles to the respective purchasers. 3. Compliance with Legal Requirements The Town Administrator shall ensure that all surplus vehicles are disposed of in compliance with the applicable local, state, and federal laws governing municipal property disposition. 4. Financial Management All proceeds from the sale of the surplus vehicles shall be deposited into the appropriate Town accounts as determined by the Town's financial policies. The disposal will allow the Police Department to focus its efforts on the current fleet. Each vehicle has reached an advanced age/mileage and the estimated cost of repair meets or exceeds its current value, as detailed on the attached List of Vehicles. Attached is a copy of the list of surplus vehicles for the Town. The vehicles will be disposed of during FY 2026, and the proceeds will go into the MISC REVENUES line item. If there are any questions, staff will be available to answer them.
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Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [X] Budgeted Amount: \$ NA - Revenue Item One-Time Cost: Ongoing Cost:	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes [] No []	Approved Date:

2026 BLADENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE DISPOSITIONS

VEH#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN	REG PLATE	MILEAGE	REASON FOR DISPOSITION
4438	2017	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR2HGA24438	05170LG	119,678	9 yrs old, repair costs \$3,400.00; vehicle value is \$4,000.00
4444	2017	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR8HGA24444	05569LG	128,054	9 yrs old, repair costs \$2,900.00; vehicle value \$4,000.00
8306	2015	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR0FGC08306	00572LG	119,200	11 years old, AC non-operational will not pass emissions, various mechanical issues

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

4229 Edmonston Road

Bladensburg, Maryland

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2027

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF THREE (3) SURPLUS BLADENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES THROUGH A MUNICIPAL AUCTION VENDOR

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg (the “Town”) owns and maintains a fleet of vehicles for use by the Bladensburg Police Department in the conduct of official Town business; and

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator has identified three (3) Police Department vehicles that are no longer suitable for continued service due to age, mileage, and the cost of repairs relative to their current value, as further described below; and

WHEREAS, the vehicles proposed for disposition are as follows:

VEH#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN	REG PLATE	MILEAGE
4438	2017	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR2HGA24438	05170LG	119,678
4444	2017	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR8HGA24444	05569LG	128,054
8306	2015	Ford	Explorer	1FM5K8AR0FGC08306	00572LG	119,200

WHEREAS, VEH# 4438, a 2017 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8AR2HGA24438), currently shows 119,678 miles, is approximately nine (9) years old, and requires an estimated \$3,400.00 in repairs against a current vehicle value of approximately \$4,000.00; and

WHEREAS, VEH# 4444, a 2017 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8AR8HGA24444), currently shows 128,054 miles, is approximately nine (9) years old, and requires an estimated \$2,900.00 in repairs against a current vehicle value of approximately \$4,000.00; and

WHEREAS, VEH# 8306, a 2015 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8AR0FGC08306), currently shows 119,220 miles, is approximately eleven (11) years old, and the AC is not operational, and the vehicle will not pass emissions and has other mechanical issues. The vehicle has a value of approximately \$4,800.00; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find that it is in the best interest of the Town, and for the good and efficient government thereof, to declare the above-listed vehicles as surplus

property and to authorize their disposition in the most efficient and transparent manner, with the best possible value return to the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, as follows:

1. Authorization of Surplus Vehicle Disposition.

The Town hereby declares the three (3) vehicles identified above — VEH# 4438 (2017 Ford Explorer, VIN 1FM5K8AR2HGA24438), VEH# 4444 (2017 Ford Explorer, VIN 1FM5K8AR8HGA24444), and VEH# 8306 (2015 Ford Explorer, VIN 1FM5K8AR0FGC08306) as surplus property to be disposed of in accordance with this Resolution.

2. Designation of Disposal Method.

The Town Administrator is authorized to sell the surplus vehicles through a municipal auction vendor. The selected vendor shall assist with sales, marketing, and the transfer of titles to the respective purchasers.

3. Compliance with Legal Requirements.

The Town Administrator shall ensure that all surplus vehicles are disposed of in compliance with all applicable local, State, and federal laws governing municipal property disposition.

4. Financial Management.

All proceeds from the sale of the surplus vehicles shall be deposited into the appropriate Town accounts as determined by the Town's financial policies, to be recorded under the MISC REVENUES line item.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk

Takisha James, Mayor

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2027

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
BLADENSBURG AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A STATE OF MARYLAND
CAPITAL PROJECTS GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE BLADENSBURG
MUNICIPAL CENTER PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bladensburg has been awarded a Capital Projects Grant from the State of Maryland for the Bladensburg Municipal Center in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000); and

WHEREAS, the grant was authorized by the Maryland General Assembly pursuant to DGS Item 783, Chapter 344 of the Laws of Maryland (2022) for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvements, and capital equipping of the Bladensburg Municipal Center; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has provided a Capital Projects Grant Agreement establishing the terms and conditions governing the administration, expenditure, reporting, and compliance requirements associated with the grant; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the proposed Grant Agreement and find that acceptance of the grant and execution of the Agreement are in the best interests of the Town and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to authorize the Mayor to execute the Capital Projects Grant Agreement and any related certifications, assurances, reimbursement requests, amendments, and other documents necessary to administer the grant, provided such documents are consistent with the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg that:

Section 1.

The Mayor and Council hereby approve the State of Maryland Capital Projects Grant Agreement for the Bladensburg Municipal Center in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000).

Section 2.

The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Capital Projects Grant Agreement on behalf of the Town of Bladensburg and to execute any related certifications, assurances, reimbursement requests, amendments, and other documents necessary to carry out the purposes of the grant.

Section 3.

The Town Administrator, Treasurer, and all appropriate Town officials and employees are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution, administer the grant, and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, grant requirements, and reporting obligations.

Section 4.

The Mayor and Council acknowledge that the Town shall comply with all terms and conditions contained within the Capital Projects Grant Agreement, including all applicable financial management, procurement, record retention, reporting, audit, and project completion requirements.

Section 5.

If any provision of this Resolution is determined to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 6.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland, this day of July 13, 2026.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

Brian Wood, Acting Town Clerk

By:_____
Takisha James, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO ADMINISTRATION:

Brian Wood, Interim Town Administrator



Town of Bladensburg
Police Department
Public Safety Update to the Town Council

Date: Monday July 13, 2026

Presented by: Interim Chief of Police D. Frishkorn

I. Overview

This report provides the Town Council with an update on police department activities, crime trends, community engagement initiatives, and notable incidents for the reporting period June 1, 2026, thru June 30, 2026.

II. Crime Statistics and Trends

A. **Reported Crime Summary:** Monthly comparison between May 2026 and June 2026.

Note: The numbers below may change as updated UCR information is verified and submitted. The YTD% reflects comparison between 2025 and 2026 statistics year to date.

Category	Current Period (June)	Previous Period (May)	% Change	YTD%
Violent Crimes	16	12	+33.3%	-15.2%
Property Crimes	41	36	-13.9%	-26.3%
Traffic Stops	130	58	+124.0%	
Calls for Service	1449	1188	+22.0%	-17.7%
Arrests	15	13	+15.4%	-38.9%

B. **Notable Trends:**

- The department noted a continued trend of theft from autos during the month of June. Based upon crime analysis specific measures are being deployed to address the issues to include the continued use of our Special Assignment Team (SAT) to prevent or apprehend those responsible for theft from autos/auto thefts. Residents are reminded not to leave valuables visible in their vehicles and to lock their vehicles. Residents are also reminded to report any suspicious persons or activity.

III. Community Engagement

Recent Initiatives/Events:

- June 4, 2026, staff will be running in the 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run for public awareness for the Special Olympics
- June 10, Coffee with a Cop will be held at 3801 Kenilworth Avenue at 10 am
- June 13, 2026, kick off of the Bladensburg Police Department’s Boxing Program. The kickoff was done at 7600 Barlowe Road during the Rookie Rumble, which is hosted by the Police Athletic League.

- June 22, 2026, Staff attended the Police Explorers Awards Ceremony.
- Jun 25, 2026, was the first day of the Citizen's Police Academy.
- June 29-July 2, Junior Police Academy was held.
- June 30th, 2026, staff participated in "Walk with a Cop" in the Red Hawk Terrace area where staff walked with the neighborhood watch and discussed neighborhood issues.
- July 2nd Bladensburg's 4th of July event was held

Upcoming July Events:

- Citizen Police Academy still ongoing
- July 6-10 Explorer Leadership Conference will be held
- July 16 Coffee with a Cop at the Bladensburg Library at 10 A.M.
- July 17 Ice Cream with a Cop
- July 21, Tea and Crafts event at Newton Green
- July 21 thru July 31, start of boxing camp being held at the Salvation Army

IV. Traffic and Enforcement Activity

- Traffic/Parking Citations/SERO/Warnings Issued: 231
- Premise Checks: 795
- Accidents Investigated (Reports Taken): 16
- DUI/DWI Arrests: 1
- Officers continue to enforce a variety of traffic related offenses throughout the Town and have initiated 107 traffic stops during the month of June 2026.
- The Department has had continued discussions with our stop sign camera vendor and we have received County Council approval for various intersections where traffic studies have been done. Stop sign cameras will be installed at locations identified with high violation rates in order to address safety issues. Installation is expected to begin by the end of July.

V. Department Operations

Personnel Updates:

- The Department currently has openings for one Dispatcher position and three Police Officer positions and continue to seek qualified individuals.
- Newly hired police officer Tyla Parris started the Prince George's County police academy on June 30th.

Training:

- During the month of June an officer attended training entitled “Street Crime Seminar” which was held by Maryland Park Police in Hyattsville.
- During the month of June an investigator attended a U.S. Secret Service 40-hour course through the National Computer Forensics Institute entitled “Command Line Principles Program”.
- Police Department staff attended online “Workplace Bullying” training on the Police One platform during the month of June.
- Several sworn officers attended mandatory annual firearms training during the month of June.
- A police supervisor attended online “Supervisor Skills” training on the Police One platform during the month of June.
- During the month of June several officers completed the mandatory annual Physical Agility Assessment that is required by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

Equipment/Technology Updates:

- Two new marked patrol vehicles are in the final upfitting phase and are estimated to be completed in the next Two weeks. The new vehicles will be equipped with partitions to assist with unruly prisoners and reduce the need for allied agency assistance in those situations.

VI. Notable Incidents

- On June 2nd, 2026, officers responded to the 6000 block of Emerson Street for a burglary. The suspect was known to the victim and returned and stole the victim’s vehicle. The suspect was later arrested on the same day and the vehicle was recovered.
- On June 13th there was a commercial burglary that occurred in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road. The investigation is ongoing.
- On June 13th, 2026, officers responded to the 4800 block of Annapolis Road for the report of a citizen armed robbery. The victim received minor injuries from the incident, and the incident is currently under investigation.
- On June 20th, 2026, officers responded to the 4200 block of Edmonston Road for the report of a First Degree Assault involving a firearm that was pointed at the victim. The suspect in this case was located and arrested.

VII. Goals and Initiatives**Short-Term Priorities:**

- Continue to show a visible police presence in the community and business areas through vehicle, foot and bike patrols as staffing allows.
- Continue focusing on addressing current trends noted in this report (trend in theft from autos)
- Increase staffing by aggressively recruiting for open officer and dispatch positions. There was a Law Enforcement Career Fair that was held at the DC Armory on June 9th that staff attended and received information from interested applicants.

Long-Term Focus:

- Continue the decrease in violent and property crimes, and address any crime trends through collaboration with

the police department and the community.

- Continue the department’s efforts in building partnerships with all of the stakeholders in the Town through our community policing efforts.

VIII. Conclusion

The Bladensburg Police Department remains committed to transparency, community partnership, and proactive public safety strategies. We appreciate the continued support of the Mayor and Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Frishkorn Interim/Chief of Police
Town of Bladensburg Police Department
Dfrishkorn@bladensburgmd.gov



Highlights for Code Enforcement June 2026



There were **8** bulk trash reminder notices issued to residents for heavy trash at the curb.

1. Code Enforcement removed **-10** signs from poles, **28** from right of ways: total signs Removed year –to- date is **213**
2. There were **23** abandoned vehicles in the residential area, **6** in the business area, **1** in the apartment area, and **1** vehicle was impounded. Year-to-date, we have had **85** abandoned vehicles and **3** vehicles have been impounded.
4. There were **9** grass violation notices issued
5. Code Enforcement received **3** graffiti complaints.

Other Code Enforcement Activities:

- Code Enforcement received 3 citizen concerns from the GOV polit program.
The average case closure has been 3 days.
- Continued with Apartment Inspections.
- Responded to Three Brothers Shopping Center for illegal dumping of oil.
- Starting to deliver Business: License renewals
- Code Supervisor Rinehart and Staff attended the following meetings/training:
 - Budget Meeting
 - Council Meeting /Work session
 - Maryland Municipal League
 - Coffee with a Cop at Kenilworth Towers

If you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact our office at 301-927-0330

Department of Public Works
Report for June, 2026



Submitted by
Purnell Hall

Public Works activities for June, 2026

During the Month of May, Public Works worked on the following activities

1. Public Works assisted Mr. Wade the Architect at the Bostwick. With removing tons of old unwanted lumber underneath the Barn, so he could properly look at the structure.

2. The guys cleaned up in the Industrial area. A lot of Illegal dumping in the area.



3. While cleaning up down there, we notice No Parking signs needed to be installed.



4. Due to the wear and tear from heavy buses. Public Works repainted the crosswalk at the intersection of 58th Avenue and Emerson Street.

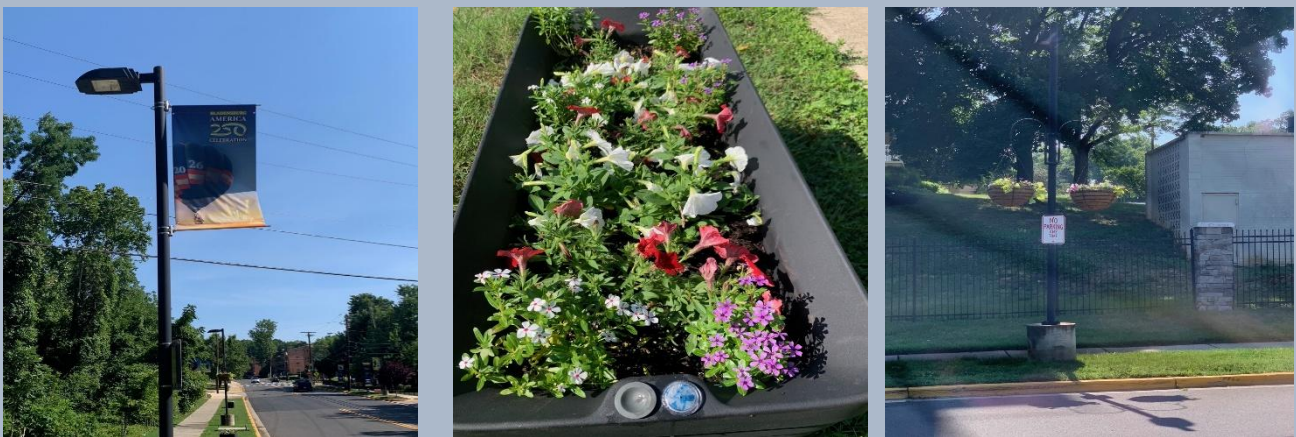


5. Public Works assisted with Juneteenth event at the David C. Harrington Park.

6. When I say Bladensburg Public Works Department is the Best. These guys are creative.



7. Public Works have installed 250 banners along 57th Ave. They also installed new planter boxes, and add new flowers to the hanging baskets.



8. The guys have start installing benches that was fabricated right here in the shop.



9. Public Works repainted stop bars in Town. The white paint fades real fast especially with the high volume of vehicles that come through the Town.

Ground Maintenance:

The Public Works crew is committed to keeping the Town clean and beautiful and as a result we have picked up litter in the following areas of the Town.

- a. Annapolis Road Pedestrian Tunnel
- b. The Industrial Area
- c. The alley-way in between 55th Ave. and 56th Ave.

Meetings:

1. Department Head meeting

Please Help Keep Bladensburg Clean we CARE!

- In order for the Department of Public Works to keep the Town clean and litter free, we need a little help from our residents as well.
 1. Pick up litter in front of your property. (Curb line as well)
 2. Please put trash/recycling in the proper container with the lid closed.
It helps keep the Town neat and clean.

If you have leaves for pick up, please place them in paper yard waste bags or trash cans marked with and X for pick up on MONDAYS.



Resident's Please Don't Litter in your community...

Notice: Styrofoam is not recyclable. Please put Styrofoam out on the trash collection day. (Tuesday and Friday)



Reminder: Recycling is collected on Mondays with Yard Waste

Bulk Trash collection: Every Friday you must call 301-773-2069 Thursday before 2pm to be added to the list for Friday pick up. Remember mattresses/box spring must be covered.



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MONTHLY REPORT

Town of Bladensburg · June 2026 Summary

To:	Mayor and Council	Date:	July 13, 2026
From:	Interim Town Administrator	RE:	Monthly Report — June 2026

The purpose of this monthly report is to provide transparency and updates to the Town Council and to the citizens and businesses of the Town of Bladensburg.

\$300K Bond Bill — Municipal Center	4 New Stop Sign Cameras	40 Residents in Financial Empowerment Program	15 Streetlights Nearing Resolution
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CITY OPERATIONS

Joint Cleanup Along 52nd Avenue

On July 9th, the Town and the State Highway Administration (SHA) held a day-long joint cleanup effort along 52nd Avenue. This was the first joint effort of its kind and precedes discussion at the July 13th Council meeting regarding the future of 52nd Avenue.

Stop Sign Camera Implementation

The Town has been working to complete the approval process for four stop sign cameras throughout Bladensburg to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and has now received final approval from the County. Installation of the cameras will take place during July and August, followed by a warning period ahead of full implementation. The Town will also stand up a safety campaign to educate residents and those traveling through Town roads on the importance of driving safely, including where the cameras will be placed and the data that informed those locations.

Streetlight Ownership Update

The Town is in the final phases of finalizing the list of streetlights owned by Bladensburg. This years-long process will determine which streetlights are owned by the State Highway Administration, which are owned by the County, and which are owned by the Town. The number of disputed lights has been reduced to 15, half of which are considered “orphan lights” (unclaimed by any entity). The Town is working with the County to identify permitting options to establish ownership, which will ultimately ensure the Town is only paying for its own streetlights.

CDBG Designation

The Town will continue to pursue Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the County rather than seeking individual designation independently. This arrangement continues the partnership between the County and the Town through 2029.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Town met with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation on June 29th regarding the next phase of the Bostwick House development. In addition to meeting with County, State, Federal, and private investors

over the coming months, the Town is also collaborating on a comprehensive business plan, including pro formas, to support both public and private sector investment.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Rain Garden: The final walkthrough was held on July 9, 2026.
- Municipal Center: The Town Administrator is meeting with the Neighborhood Design Center the week of July 13th to discuss the current state of the Town Municipal Center and next steps toward producing an RFP for schematic design, including a timeline for Council review.
- Bond Bill Funding: The Town received final confirmation of a bond bill granting \$300,000 toward the Municipal Center project.

CONFERENCES

The Town Administrator, key leadership members, and the Mayor and Council participated in the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Summer Conference in Ocean City in June. This was a valuable opportunity for the Town to address capital funding opportunities, identify statewide challenges, and explore areas of focus such as the impact of state budget changes on municipalities — including potential reductions in Highway User Revenue funds — as well as how the State, County, and municipalities are approaching immigration and customs enforcement matters.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Resident Virtual Meeting

The Town held a virtual meeting with several residents regarding how the Town and community can continue to partner with residents around immigration and customs enforcement. The discussion focused on identifying ways the Town can continue to support all residents, what is currently being done, how the Town can raise awareness of available resources, and reviewing actions taken by other communities that align with the Town's "do no harm" stance toward residents.

Economic Empowerment Forum

The Town completed a partnership with Prince George's Community College to provide financial empowerment and literacy education to over 40 Bladensburg residents over the course of three days in June. The program was a great success, and all participants received a \$200 gift card provided by Prince George's Community College as part of the partnership.

COUNCIL RETREAT

Thank you to everyone who responded via phone and in person. The City Council Retreat has been set for July 23–24. The agenda, to be publicly published the week of July 13, 2026, will include the following topics of focus:

- City Operations
- City Personnel and Permanent Appointments
- Capital Projects
- Legislative Agenda for FY27
- Strategic Plan Process and Goals

- Council Operations

PAST JUNE / JULY EVENTS

Crab-ulus (Cottage City)

Cottage City hosted a great event as part of the America in Bloom judging process, including a crab feast and cookout attended by all Port Town administrators. It was a great opportunity to support a neighboring city. Bladensburg will host America in Bloom judges on July 20th and 21st.

Community Fish Fry

On June 27th, a community fish fry hosted by a local church was held at the park behind Town Hall. Bladensburg residents, both adults and youth, enjoyed the day, and the rain held off. It was a pleasure to meet so many of our residents.

Financial Empowerment One-on-One Sessions

In partnership with Prince George's Community College, the Town hosted three days of community financial empowerment one-on-one sessions, where residents received financial literacy coaching from community volunteers. Of 40 available slots, over 35 residents participated, and each received a \$200 gift card to Giant upon completion. A follow-up session is planned for August 2026. The final open session was held June 27th, alongside the fish fry.

Explorer End-of-Year Celebration

The Town celebrated the Explorer program with a dinner, award ceremony, and proclamations from the Mayor and Council honoring two graduating seniors, who are headed into the Military and the State Highway Patrol, respectively.

July 2nd Bladensburg Fireworks

The Town's annual Fireworks event on July 2nd was a huge success, drawing hundreds of community members of all ages to the riverfront to dance, eat, and celebrate the Town and America, concluding with a 20+ minute fireworks show. This year, the event further served as an anchor for a regional day of celebration, with sister Port Town communities hosting events alongside Bladensburg and a joint flier distributed so all residents were aware of regional events taking place throughout the day.

UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

July 11	Community Meeting at Town Hall, hosted by Councilwoman Brown
July 14	Community Walk with a Cop
July 17	Ice Cream with a Cop
July 20–21	America in Bloom Judges — evaluating progress toward program goals and providing input on next steps.
July 23–24	City Council Retreat



Bladensburg, Maryland

2026 Community Profile

Contact Information

Contact person: Ray Jefferies

Email: rjefferies@bladensburgmd.gov

Phone (primary): 667-392-8425

Phone (secondary): 301-927-7048

AIB committee chair contact and/or volunteer coordinator (if different from name listed above). Please include name, email, and phone number(s):

Community Information

Population: The population of Bladensburg, Maryland, is approximately 9,660 residents.

County/township: Bladensburg is in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Municipal Website: The official website for the Town of Bladensburg is www.bladensburgmd.gov.

Municipal Facebook page: The official Facebook page for the Town of Bladensburg can be found at www.facebook.com/BladensburgMD.

Area in square miles: The total area of Bladensburg is 1.0 square mile.

Acres of active recreation: Bladensburg has approximately 25 acres dedicated to active recreation, which includes sports fields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities.

Acres of passive recreation: The town has about 30 acres designated for passive recreation, including parks, natural areas, and walking trails.

Form of government (mayor, council, manager, etc.): Council– Town Administrator

Jurisdiction(s) operates the public-school system: No

Jurisdiction operates the utilities (water, sewer, electrical, trash, recycling, etc.): No - Contracted

Professional and/or civic organizations and/or designations (Tree City USA, Main Street, etc.): Tree City USA, Sustainable Maryland Certification

Volunteer coordinator name if position exists: NA

Any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise the Advisors should know about: None

Years participated in America in Bloom Program: 2024, 2025

Previous America in Bloom Awards and Recognitions: Community Vitality Award (2024)

Welcome to the Town of Bladensburg! Nestled along the historic Anacostia River in Prince George's County, Maryland, Bladensburg is a proud, resilient, and forward-looking community rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. Our motto, *"Discovery Starts Here,"* reflects both our storied past and the exciting future we continue to build together.

Founded in 1742 and incorporated in 1854 as Prince George's County's first municipality, Bladensburg has played a significant role in the American story. From the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812 to the nation's first unmanned balloon ascension, our town has long been a place of courage, innovation, and perseverance. Today, four preserved 18th-century structures stand as lasting reminders of our heritage while our community continues to create new chapters rooted in that proud history.

Bladensburg is a community shaped and strengthened by the people who call it home. We are a vibrant, multicultural town made up of hardworking residents from diverse backgrounds, including blue-collar workers, office professionals, entrepreneurs, service providers, and creatives alike. This diversity enriches our community, creating a dynamic blend of traditions, languages, cuisines, and experiences that foster unity, connection, and a strong sense of belonging.

Nature also plays a central role in Bladensburg's identity. The Anacostia River flows through our town, offering both beauty and opportunity. Bladensburg Waterfront Park serves as a treasured destination for residents and visitors alike, providing a peaceful setting for recreation, environmental education, and wildlife observation. Whether watching bald eagles soar overhead or enjoying a walk along the river, the natural landscape invites exploration, reflection, and discovery.

We are proud to participate in our second year of America in Bloom, a nationwide program that promotes community enhancement through environmental stewardship, beautification, and civic engagement. Through this initiative, we are enhancing public spaces, advancing sustainability efforts, and deepening community pride through vibrant plantings, cleaner streets, collaborative projects, and active resident participation. Bladensburg is flourishing, and our commitment to creating a beautiful, sustainable, and welcoming community continues to grow.

Our progress is further strengthened through regional collaboration. As one of the Port Towns, alongside Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston, Bladensburg embraces a spirit of partnership and shared purpose. Together, we pursue initiatives that transcend municipal boundaries and enhance the quality of life throughout our region.

"Discovery Starts Here" serves as an invitation to residents and visitors alike to explore our history, experience our culture, connect with nature, and engage with the people who make Bladensburg special. Whether walking our trails, attending community events, visiting historic sites, or simply sharing a conversation with a neighbor, there is always something new to discover.

Bladensburg stands as a thriving community where history, culture, and innovation come together to shape a bright and promising future.

COMMUNITY VITALITY

The Town of Bladensburg demonstrates strong community vitality through active civic engagement, programming, accessible recreational amenities, and a deep commitment to preserving and enhancing quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities. While small in size, Bladensburg offers a remarkable range of programs, partnerships, facilities, and events that foster social connections, encourage volunteerism, support local businesses, and celebrate the town's rich history and cultural diversity.

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism

Bladensburg residents are actively engaged in shaping their community through numerous committees, boards, volunteer groups, and educational programs.

The Town's Green Team serves as a leading force in environmental stewardship and beautification efforts. Since its revitalization, the Green Team has launched initiatives such as No Mow April, encouraging pollinator habitat and biodiversity throughout the community. Volunteers participate in three annual Clean and Green events, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service invasive vine removal project, a spring community planting and litter cleanup, and a fall cleanup event featuring document shredding and bulky trash disposal opportunities for residents.

The Town also supports an active Neighborhood Watch program that partners closely with the Bladensburg Police Department to promote public safety and strengthen relationships among neighbors.

In 2026, Bladensburg launched its first-ever Community Civics Academy, providing residents with a behind-the-scenes look at municipal government. Participants learned about the roles of elected officials and staff, explored municipal operations, and even participated in mock Town Council meetings. The Town also hosts annual Citizens Police Academies, Junior Police Academies, and a thriving Police Explorer Program that introduces middle and high school students to careers in public safety through educational sessions, leadership training, and field experiences. To foster economic vitality, the Town hosts quarterly Business Roundtable meetings that connect local businesses with Town leadership, encourage collaboration, and provide updates on municipal initiatives. Recently, Bladensburg secured funding to support façade improvements for local businesses, helping strengthen commercial corridors and enhance community appearance.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Floral Impact, Overall Impression

Communication and Community Outreach

The Town maintains a comprehensive communication strategy to ensure residents remain informed and engaged. Information regarding municipal policies, programs, events, and services is shared through monthly Town Council meetings, quarterly Saturday community meetings, an official Town website, social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, TikTok, and LinkedIn, a weekly electronic newsletter titled *The Port*, and the quarterly print and digital publication, *The Bladensburg Chronicle*. Residents may also submit concerns through the Town's online Report a Concern portal.

These communication channels provide accessible information on government operations, recreation, public safety, sustainability initiatives, community events, and educational opportunities.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Planning and Economic Development

Bladensburg continues to advance long-term planning and economic development initiatives. While the Town's previous Strategic Plan (2016-2021) has reached the end of its planning cycle, a comprehensive closeout report was completed in 2026 documenting accomplishments and ongoing initiatives. The Town is currently preparing to develop a new strategic plan that will guide future growth, economic development, sustainability, and community investment priorities.

Economic development efforts include business engagement initiatives, commercial façade improvement programs, and partnerships designed to support existing businesses while attracting future investment.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Parks, Recreation, and Public Spaces

Bladensburg residents enjoy access to a wide array of parks, green spaces, and recreational opportunities.

Bladensburg Waterfront Park serves as the Town's signature recreational destination. Located along the Anacostia River, the park offers canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing, bird watching, picnicking, playground facilities, and access to the nationally recognized Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, which connects residents and visitors to Washington, D.C. and communities throughout the region. The park also hosts summer concerts, yoga programs, environmental education activities, and the annual Waterfront Art Festival.

Wildlife viewing opportunities abound throughout the park, where visitors frequently observe bald eagles, great blue herons, osprey, and numerous migratory bird species.

Additional recreational amenities include David C. Harrington Park, featuring fitness stations, shaded seating areas, a gazebo, playground equipment, and gathering spaces; Bladensburg Memorial Grove Park, a contemplative public space honoring military veterans; Rosalie "Rosa" L. Bouldin Park; and the Town-owned 52nd Street Tot Lot, which provides neighborhood play opportunities for young children.

The Town also benefits from strong partnerships with Prince George's County facilities, including the Bladensburg Community Center, which offers a gymnasium, fitness room, art room, dance studio, and year-round programming for residents of all ages.

Public gathering spaces such as Town Hall, the Bladensburg Branch Library, community parks, faith-based institutions, and outdoor event venues provide accessible spaces for civic engagement and social interaction throughout the year.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Environmental Initiatives, Overall Impression

Cultural, Educational, and Historic Assets

The Bladensburg Branch Library, reopened in 2023, has quickly become a cornerstone of community life. Inspired by the Town's maritime heritage, the architecturally distinctive building incorporates nautical themes throughout its design, including an interior children's play boat, meeting spaces, quiet study rooms, technology workstations, and flexible programming areas. The library offers educational, cultural, and recreational programs year-round for residents of all ages.

Bladensburg also benefits from strong partnerships with six public schools, local churches, and cultural institutions. Faith-based organizations, including Decatur Heights Baptist Church and Port Towns Church, regularly host food distributions, community gatherings, and outreach programs that strengthen neighborhood connections.

The Publick Playhouse serves as an important regional cultural asset, presenting theatre, dance, music, film, and family entertainment throughout the year.

Historic resources further contribute to community vitality. The B&O Railroad Red Caboose, located at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, celebrates its centennial in 2026 and remains a beloved local landmark connecting visitors to the Town's transportation history. Additionally, Ernest Maier, a family-owned business founded in 1926 and celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026, continues to serve as both an economic anchor and a symbol of Bladensburg's enduring entrepreneurial spirit.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Historic Preservation, Overall Impression

Community Events and Celebrations

Community events serve as the heartbeat of Bladensburg, bringing together residents and visitors while celebrating the Town's diversity, history, and civic pride.

The Town's signature event, the annual Bladensburg Fireworks Celebration, now in its seventh year, has evolved into one of the region's premier Independence Day celebrations, attracting visitors from across Prince George's County and beyond.

Additional annual events include National Night Out, Bladensburg Day Festival and Parade, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Juneteenth Paint & Unity, Eggstravaganza, Trunk or Treat, Coffee with a Cop, Black History Month celebrations, Senior Gala, Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, Shop with a Cop, Yule Log celebration, Summer Jam, and numerous community cleanups and volunteer activities.

In 2026, the Town expanded its health and wellness programming by hosting its first Community Health Fair, connecting residents with health screenings, wellness resources, fitness activities, and educational opportunities. The Police Department also revived the popular Movie in the Park series, further enhancing family-friendly recreation opportunities.

Juneteenth Paint & Unity exemplifies Bladensburg's commitment to placemaking and public art. During the 2026 celebration, residents painted ten community benches constructed by the Department of Public Works, transforming functional public infrastructure into colorful works of art that will be installed throughout the community.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas, Environmental Initiatives, Overall Impression

Transportation, Accessibility, and Public Safety

Residents benefit from multiple transportation options, including Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) bus service connecting Bladensburg to Metro stations and destinations throughout the region. Senior transportation services provide additional mobility options for older adults, while bicycle rentals available at Bladensburg Waterfront Park encourage active transportation and recreation.

Bladensburg recently installed its first green roof bus shelter, demonstrating the Town's commitment to sustainability, stormwater management, urban cooling, and enhanced rider comfort.

Public safety remains a top priority. The Town is served by the Bladensburg Police Department and the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department, a dedicated all-volunteer organization that has faithfully protected the community for generations.

In 2026, Bladensburg secured \$450,000 in federal funding to launch a Gun Violence and Juvenile Diversion Program. The initiative will provide youth mentorship opportunities through boxing, educational technology, and gaming programs designed to engage and support young people throughout Prince George's County.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Urban Forestry, Overall Impression

Sustainability, Education, and Local Food Systems

Bladensburg is home to Eco City Farms, an innovative urban farming organization dedicated to cultivating healthy food, healthy communities, and healthy environments. Established in 2010 on a previously vacant lot in Bladensburg, Eco City Farms transformed underutilized land into a thriving urban farm and educational hub. The organization serves as a national model for sustainable urban agriculture and community-based food systems. Today, the Bladensburg Farm grows a wide variety of sustainably produced fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers while providing educational opportunities, workforce development, and hands-on training in urban farming practices. Through workshops, youth programming, volunteer opportunities, and partnerships with local schools and organizations, Eco City Farms connects residents to fresh, locally grown food and promotes environmental stewardship, nutrition, and food security. Eco City Farms also operates a farmers market and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, increasing access to healthy food options while supporting the local economy. The farm regularly welcomes visitors, students, researchers, and community groups, reinforcing Bladensburg's reputation as a leader in sustainability and innovation. What began as a vision to address food access and environmental challenges has grown into a vibrant community asset that strengthens social connections, educates future generations, and demonstrates how urban agriculture can positively transform communities.

Potential Categories: Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression



FLORAL IMPACT

Floral The Town of Bladensburg continues to strengthen its floral identity through strategic beautification, sustainable landscaping practices, and partnerships that enhance both aesthetics and environmental health. Participation in America in Bloom has inspired the Town to expand floral displays, increase the use of native plantings, and create new opportunities for residents to engage with horticulture and community beautification.

Beautification of Public Spaces

Since joining America in Bloom, Bladensburg has significantly enhanced the appearance of its primary commercial corridor along 57th Avenue. In 2025, the Town installed decorative hanging flower baskets throughout the downtown corridor, introducing vibrant seasonal color and creating a welcoming streetscape for residents, businesses, and visitors. These floral displays contribute to a stronger sense of place while enhancing the pedestrian experience within the Town's commercial district.

Building upon this success, Bladensburg added six new self-watering slat planters along 57th Avenue in 2026. These attractive planters provide year-round visual interest and support sustainable landscape maintenance practices by reducing water consumption and improving plant health during periods of drought and extreme heat.

Together, these enhancements have transformed key public spaces, creating colorful, inviting streetscapes that encourage community pride and support local businesses.

Potential Categories: Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Native Plantings and Stormwater Management

Bladensburg recognizes that floral displays can provide ecological benefits in addition to aesthetic value. The Town has increasingly incorporated native plants and green infrastructure into public landscapes to improve environmental health, manage stormwater, and support pollinators and wildlife.

A new rain garden was recently installed in front of the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department, accompanied by interpretive signage that educates residents and visitors about the importance of green stormwater infrastructure. The rain garden captures and filters stormwater runoff while showcasing attractive native flowering plants and demonstrating sustainable landscaping practices.

An additional rain garden was established at the newly constructed Bladensburg Branch Library. Complementing this installation are two native plant habitat gardens that were created on the library grounds. These gardens feature native species selected to support pollinators, birds, and other wildlife while serving as outdoor learning spaces for library visitors, students, and community members.

These projects illustrate the Town's commitment to blending beauty, education, and environmental stewardship in highly visible public spaces.

Potential Categories: Floral Impact, Environmental Initiatives, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Community Gardening and Partnerships

Bladensburg continues to expand opportunities for residents to connect with nature and participate in hands-on horticultural activities. Through a partnership with Eco City Farms, the Town is developing a new community garden adjacent to Port Towns Elementary School. Once completed, the garden will provide residents, students, and families with opportunities to grow fresh produce, learn sustainable gardening practices, and strengthen community connections.

The community garden will complement the educational and agricultural work already taking place at Eco City Farms' flagship Bladensburg Farm, further reinforcing the Town's commitment to local food systems, environmental education, and community engagement.

By investing in community gardening initiatives, Bladensburg is cultivating both beautiful landscapes and stronger neighborhood relationships.

Potential Categories: Floral Impact, Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression

Looking Forward

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Bladensburg continues to build upon its beautification successes by incorporating floral displays, native and green infrastructure into future projects and public spaces. Through partnerships, volunteer efforts, and strategic investments, the Town is creating landscapes that are visually appealing, environmentally beneficial, and reflective of community pride.

Participation in America in Bloom has accelerated these efforts and inspired residents, staff, and community partners to view flowers and landscaping as important tools for placemaking, sustainability, and civic engagement.

Potential Categories: Floral Impact, Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Overall Impression



LANDSCAPED AREAS

The Town of Bladensburg recognizes that thoughtfully designed and maintained landscapes contribute to community identity, environmental sustainability, and overall quality of life. Throughout the community, landscaped spaces incorporate a mix of native and ornamental plantings, public art, green infrastructure, and decorative features that enhance the beauty and functionality of public spaces while creating welcoming environments for residents and visitors.

Participation in America in Bloom has inspired Bladensburg to further invest in streetscape enhancements, creative placemaking, and sustainable landscape design. These efforts reflect the Town's commitment to creating attractive, vibrant, and environmentally responsible public spaces.

Town Hall Campus Enhancements

The Bladensburg Town Hall campus has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past two years and serves as a showcase for the Town's beautification efforts.

In 2025, ornamental rose bushes were installed at the entrance and exit points of the Town Hall parking lot, creating a colorful and inviting gateway for residents and visitors conducting business at Town Hall. The roses provide seasonal interest while softening the appearance of paved areas and enhancing curb appeal.

Additional enhancements were completed in 2026 to further improve the campus. A small decorative bridge, located within the Town Hall landscape, was replaced and intentionally maintained in a natural wood finish to complement the surrounding environment. Solar lighting was incorporated to improve visibility, safety, and nighttime aesthetics while supporting energy conservation goals.

A new green roof bus shelter was also constructed adjacent to Town Hall. This innovative feature combines transportation infrastructure with sustainable landscape design by incorporating vegetation atop the shelter structure. The green roof helps absorb stormwater, reduces urban heat island effects, provides habitat opportunities for pollinators, and enhances the visual character of the surrounding streetscape.

Together, these improvements have transformed the Town Hall campus into a welcoming civic space that reflects Bladensburg's commitment to beautification, sustainability, and placemaking.

Potential Categories: Landscaped Areas, Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Floral Impact, Overall Impression

Creative Placemaking and Public Art

Bladensburg embraces creativity and adaptive reuse as important components of landscape design.

In 2026, the Town repurposed a retired canoe from Bladensburg Waterfront Park and transformed it into a decorative planter. Positioned near the green roof bus shelter, the canoe planter celebrates the Town's strong connection to the Anacostia River and its maritime heritage while creating a distinctive focal point within the landscape.

This unique feature exemplifies how public spaces can tell a community's story while adding visual interest and reinforcing local identity.

Potential Categories: Landscaped Areas, Community Vitality, Historic Preservation, Environmental Initiatives, Overall Impression

Library Landscape Enhancements

The newly constructed Bladensburg Branch Library continues to serve as a model for integrating landscape design, public art, and community identity.

In 2026, additional landscaping improvements were introduced to complement the library's nautical architectural theme. A new decorative planter was installed on the library grounds, further enhancing the site's visual appeal.

The Town also introduced its first moss-filled topiaries, featuring two heron sculptures prominently displayed at the library. The herons were intentionally selected as symbols of Bladensburg's natural and cultural heritage. Great blue herons and other wading birds are frequently observed along the Anacostia River and at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, while Blue Heron Way is one of the Town's recognized street names.

These living sculptures create a memorable sense of place, celebrate the community's environmental provide residents and visitors with an engaging and distinctive landscape feature.

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Potential Categories: Landscaped Areas, Floral Impact, Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Overall Impression

Community-Wide Landscape Philosophy

Bladensburg continually seeks opportunities to improve and expand landscaped areas throughout the community. Landscape enhancements are designed not only to beautify public spaces, but also to promote sustainability, celebrate local heritage, support pollinators and wildlife, and strengthen community pride.

Through the thoughtful incorporation of ornamental plantings, green infrastructure, public art, and creative placemaking, Bladensburg is creating landscapes that are both functional and inspiring. These investments contribute to a welcoming community environment and reinforce the Town's vision of being a beautiful, sustainable, and vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

Potential Categories: Landscaped Areas, Community Vitality, Environmental Initiatives, Floral Impact, Overall Impression



URBAN FORESTRY

The Town of Bladensburg recognizes trees as essential community assets that enhance environmental quality, improve public health, beautify neighborhoods, and contribute to a higher quality of life. Through strategic partnerships, proactive tree planting efforts, and community engagement, Bladensburg is steadily expanding and diversifying its urban tree canopy while promoting long-term environmental sustainability and resilience.

Tree City USA Recognition

In 2025, Bladensburg proudly earned designation as a Tree City USA community through the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizing the Town's commitment to sound urban forestry practices, tree stewardship, and community investment in its urban canopy.

Achieving Tree City USA status reflects Bladensburg's dedication to maintaining and expanding its tree resources through responsible management, public engagement, and ongoing investment in community greening initiatives. The designation also demonstrates the Town's commitment to preserving and enhancing one of its most valuable natural assets for future generations.

Potential Categories: Urban Forestry, Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Expanding the Urban Tree Canopy

Bladensburg has made significant investments in expanding its tree canopy throughout the community. Since 2024, approximately 600 trees have been planted within the Town, dramatically increasing canopy coverage and enhancing streetscapes, neighborhoods, and public spaces.

A major milestone occurred in spring 2026 when the Town partnered with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment to plant 440 new trees within public rights-of-way throughout Bladensburg. The initiative focused on strategically increasing tree canopy in residential neighborhoods and along public streets, helping create greener, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Tree planting locations included numerous streets and neighborhoods throughout the Town, ensuring that the environmental, aesthetic, and social benefits of trees are shared broadly among residents.

Potential Categories: Urban Forestry, Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

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Environmental The Town of Bladensburg is committed to fostering a sustainable, resilient, and environmentally conscious community through policies, partnerships, education, and hands-on stewardship activities.

Environmental sustainability is integrated into many aspects of Town operations and community life, reflecting a shared commitment among residents, elected officials, staff, volunteers, and partner organizations to protect and enhance the natural environment for future generations.

Community Stewardship and Public Engagement

Bladensburg recognizes that environmental sustainability begins with community participation. Since 2024, the Town has encouraged residents to participate in **No Mow April**, an initiative designed to support pollinators, improve biodiversity, and promote environmentally friendly landscaping practices. By delaying the first lawn mowing of the season, residents help provide early-season habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial pollinators.

The initiative, championed by the Town's Green Team, has increased awareness about the important role residents play in supporting local ecosystems and has sparked broader conversations about sustainable landscape practices throughout the community.

Bladensburg also continues to promote civic pride and environmental stewardship through public awareness campaigns. Educational signage and outreach materials, including the Town's *"Keep Bladensburg Beautiful"* and *"Don't Be Bitter, Pick Up Your Litter"* campaigns, encourage residents and visitors to take an active role in maintaining clean and welcoming public spaces.

These initiatives reinforce the message that environmental stewardship is a shared community responsibility.

Potential Categories: Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Waste Reduction and Community Cleanliness

Maintaining a clean community remains a top priority for Bladensburg. The Town, in partnership with the Green Team and community volunteers, hosts three major community cleanup events annually.

Each January, residents participate in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service cleanup focused on removing invasive vines and litter from environmentally sensitive areas near Bladensburg Waterfront Park and behind the Publick Playhouse. Additional spring and fall Clean and Green events combine litter removal, beautification activities, and environmental education. The fall event also provides document shredding services and opportunities for residents to properly dispose of bulky items, helping reduce illegal dumping and promote responsible waste management. To further enhance litter prevention efforts, the Town currently utilizes Bigbelly solar-powered trash and recycling receptacles in key public spaces. In 2026, Bladensburg plans to install ten additional Bigbelly units throughout the community, expanding waste collection capacity while improving the appearance and cleanliness of public areas. These smart waste receptacles increase efficiency, reduce collection frequency, and support the Town's ongoing beautification and sustainability goals.

Potential Categories: Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression

Education and Sustainability Resources

The Town provides residents with easy access to sustainability information through its dedicated Environmental Sustainability webpage. The online resource serves as a central hub for information related to environmental programs, volunteer opportunities, recycling initiatives, community cleanups, tree planting efforts, and sustainability best practices.

By making information readily accessible, the Town empowers residents to become active participants in environmental stewardship and sustainable living.

Potential Categories: Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Partnerships and Watershed Stewardship

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Bladensburg's location along the Anacostia River makes watershed protection an essential component of the Town's environmental efforts.

A key partner in these efforts is the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Anacostia River and its watershed. Headquartered in the historic George Washington House, also known as the Indian Queen Tavern, in Bladensburg, AWS works to improve water quality, restore habitat, advocate for environmental policies, and connect residents to the river through education and volunteerism.

Throughout the year, the organization hosts river cleanups, environmental education programs, paddling excursions, and volunteer restoration events that engage residents and visitors in protecting one of the region's most important natural resources.

The partnership between the Town and AWS strengthens local stewardship efforts while fostering greater appreciation for the Anacostia River and its ecological significance.

Potential Categories: Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Historic Preservation, Urban Forestry, Overall Impression

Looking Forward

Bladensburg continues to expand its environmental initiatives through beautification projects, sustainable infrastructure, tree planting programs, green infrastructure installations, and community partnerships. By combining environmental education, volunteer engagement, and strategic investments, the Town is creating a healthier, cleaner, and more resilient community.

These ongoing efforts demonstrate Bladensburg's commitment to environmental leadership and its vision of ensuring that future generations inherit a community that is both sustainable and beautiful.

Potential Categories: Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression



CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Bladensburg's heritage reflects a deep and enduring connection to American history, cultural diversity, community identity. Founded in 1742, the Town continues to honor its past while actively preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the historic, cultural, and natural resources that define who we are today. Guided by the motto *"Discovery Starts Here,"* Bladensburg embraces its role as a steward of nationally significant landmarks, stories, and traditions that continue to shape civic pride and community engagement.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation

Bladensburg is home to some of the most significant historic sites in Prince George's County, many of which date back to the 18th century and earlier.

One of the Town's most important landmarks is **Bostwick House**, built in 1746. This historic mansion stands as a centerpiece of Bladensburg's preservation efforts and a symbol of its colonial-era heritage. In 2026, the Bladensburg Town Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting a comprehensive vision for the restoration and adaptive reuse of Bostwick House. The plan envisions the site as a vibrant cultural destination featuring event spaces, educational programming, walking trails, and the restoration of historic outbuildings, including a proposed wine tasting café and garden gathering space. This initiative represents both historic preservation and economic revitalization, ensuring that the property remains a living part of the community's future.

Additional 18th-century landmarks include the Market Master House, the Hilleary Magruder House, the George Washington House/Indian Queen Tavern, and St. Paul's Baptist Church, each contributing to Bladensburg's rich architectural and cultural legacy.

The Town also continues to support historic recognition efforts, including the Evergreen Cemetery, which received official historic site designation and a commemorative plaque in 2025, further honoring the community's layered history.

Potential Categories: Celebrating Heritage, Historic Preservation, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Memorials and Commemoration

Bladensburg's landscape includes several significant memorial spaces that honor national service, sacrifice, and historic events.

The **Bladensburg Memorial Park** features multiple memorials dedicated to veterans of the Vietnam War, Korean War, and September 11, 2001, along with a Pearl Harbor memorial. These additions, installed in 2025 through the efforts of Eagle Scout Ethan Mendoza, reflect the Town's commitment to honoring those who served while providing a space for reflection and remembrance.

The iconic **Bladensburg Peace Cross**, which marked its 100th anniversary in 2025, remains one of the most recognizable and historically significant monuments in the region, symbolizing remembrance and national service.

The **Bladensburg Balloon Park**, uniquely designed in the shape of a hot air balloon, commemorates the Town's connection to the first manned balloon ascension in the United States, an important milestone in American aviation history. Nearby, the Battle of Bladensburg memorial honors the site of the 1814 conflict during the War of 1812, a defining moment in both local and national history.

Together, these memorials create a landscape of reflection, education, and remembrance that connects residents and visitors to the broader American story.

Potential Categories: Celebrating Heritage, Historic Preservation, Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas, Overall Impression

Cultural Traditions and Community Storytelling

Bladensburg's heritage is also expressed through its vibrant cultural traditions and ongoing storytelling efforts that highlight the diversity and lived experiences of its residents.

The Town celebrates Black History Month annually with programs that explore Bladensburg's Black history and encourage residents to engage with the community's historical narratives in meaningful and interactive ways. These events provide educational opportunities while strengthening cultural awareness and inclusion.

Bladensburg Day, revived after decades of hiatus, now serves as a signature festival and parade that showcases local organizations, schools, and community groups, reinforcing civic pride and community participation. The Town's annual Bladensburg Fireworks Celebration continues to grow in significance and, in 2026, features an America 250 theme along with mobile museum exhibits, including Sankofa and Star-Spangled Banner displays, bringing history to life through immersive storytelling and public engagement. Additional cultural celebrations include the Caribbean Heritage Festival at Bladensburg Waterfront Park and annual Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day celebrations hosted by local business owners, reflecting the Town's rich multicultural identity and inclusive community spirit.

Potential Categories: Celebrating Heritage, Community Vitality, Cultural Programming, Overall Impression

Education, Interpretation, and Media

Bladensburg continues to expand efforts to document and share its history through educational programming and media projects.

Patriotic Committee member Renee Green is currently producing a documentary on Bostwick House, scheduled for release later this year, further contributing to public awareness and historical interpretation.

Programs such as the Citizens Civics Academy and Police Explorer initiatives also incorporate elements of local history, civic education, and storytelling, helping residents of all ages connect with Bladensburg's past and present.

Potential Categories: Celebrating Heritage, Community Vitality, Historic Preservation, Overall Impression



OVERALL IMPRESSION

The Town of Bladensburg is actively working to strengthen its overall impression through intentional investments in infrastructure, streetscapes, public amenities, signage, and community-driven placemaking. These efforts are designed to enhance visual identity, improve safety and accessibility, reduce visual clutter, and create a welcoming environment that reflects community pride and character.

A consistent focus of Town initiatives is improving how residents and visitors experience Bladensburg at first glance, whether arriving by roadway, walking through neighborhoods, or visiting public facilities. Recent improvements demonstrate a clear commitment to elevating both appearance and functionality across the community.

Gateway Signage and Visual Identity

In 2024, Bladensburg completed the replacement of its town gateway signs for the first time in over two decades. The new signage features a refreshed design incorporating the Town seal in a bright yellow color palette that enhances visibility and reinforces community identity. These gateway signs serve as key entry points into the Town and establish a stronger sense of arrival and place for residents and visitors. This update represents a major step forward in strengthening Bladensburg’s brand identity and improving the visual coherence of its public-facing infrastructure.

Potential Categories: Overall Impression, Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry

Streetscape Enhancements and Public Amenities

Bladensburg has made significant improvements to its streetscapes, particularly along 57th Avenue, one of the Town’s primary corridors. In 2025, the Town installed five community-painted benches during its Juneteenth Paint & Unity event. These benches were created through direct resident participation, transforming functional infrastructure into public art that reflects community creativity and engagement. In 2026, the Department of Public Works expanded this initiative by constructing an additional ten benches for community painting. These benches are strategically placed in areas with limited seating, including bus stops and pedestrian corridors, improving comfort, accessibility, and usability of public space. These efforts not only enhance visual appeal but also strengthen community ownership of shared spaces.

Potential Categories: Overall Impression, Community Vitality, Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas

Streetscape Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

The Town is currently upgrading its streetscape infrastructure along 57th Avenue with a coordinated focus on aesthetics, safety, and functionality. Annual banner installations on light poles introduce seasonal color and visual interest throughout the corridor. In addition, new light poles have been installed to improve visibility and enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety. The Town is also in the process of replacing outdated gray street poles and green signage with a cohesive design featuring Bladensburg blue street poles, black hardware, and the Town’s yellow seal. This updated design creates a consistent visual identity that strengthens the sense of place and reinforces community branding throughout the corridor. These improvements significantly reduce visual clutter while enhancing the overall cohesion and appearance of the public realm.

Potential Categories: Overall Impression, Community Vitality, Urban Forestry, Landscaped Areas

Signature Public Facilities

Bladensburg’s public facilities contribute strongly to its overall impression and serve as key anchors of community identity. The Bladensburg Branch Library, opened in 2023, is a LEED Gold certified facility, reflecting high standards in environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and green building design. LEED (Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design) certification indicates that the building meets rigorous benchmarks for reduced environmental impact, improved indoor air quality, and long-term operational efficiency.

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The library's striking nautical-inspired architectural design makes it a visual landmark along Annapolis Road while also providing residents with a modern, accessible, and multifunctional community resource space. Its presence enhances both the aesthetic character and functional vitality of the corridor.

Potential Categories: Overall Impression, Environmental Initiatives, Community Vitality, Landscaped Areas
Community Experience and Perception

Bladensburg's overall impression is shaped not only by infrastructure and design but also by the way residents and visitors experience the Town's public spaces. Investments in seating, lighting, signage, public art, and facility improvements collectively contribute to a more welcoming, safe, and attractive environment.

Through continued upgrades and community engagement, Bladensburg is actively reshaping perceptions of the Town while reinforcing pride among residents and strengthening its identity as a vibrant and evolving community.

Potential Categories: Overall Impression, Community Vitality, Floral Impact, Landscaped Areas, Environmental Initiatives



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

While the Town continues to build and expand opportunities for engagement, several established committees, programs, and partnerships already play a vital role in fostering participation and connecting residents to local government and community initiatives.

Civic Committees and Volunteer Groups

Bladensburg’s **Patriotic Committee** plays an important role in planning and supporting major community observances and events throughout the year. This includes Memorial Day ceremonies, Veterans Day programs, Independence Day celebrations, and other commemorative activities that honor service members and promote civic pride. The committee helps ensure these events remain meaningful, organized, and inclusive for residents of all ages.

The **Green Team** supports the Town’s environmental stewardship goals by organizing cleanup events, promoting sustainability initiatives, and encouraging resident participation in beautification and environmental education efforts. Key activities include No Mow April outreach, three annual community cleanups, invasive species removal near the waterfront, and seasonal planting and litter reduction events. The Green Team continues to grow as the Town seeks to increase volunteer participation and expand its impact.

The **Neighborhood Watch Program** works in partnership with the Bladensburg Police Department to enhance community safety, strengthen communication between residents and law enforcement, and encourage proactive engagement in crime prevention. This collaboration helps build trust while fostering a shared commitment to maintaining safe and connected neighborhoods.

The **Police Explorer Program** and related youth engagement initiatives provide opportunities for middle and high school students to learn about public safety careers through training, mentorship, and hands-on experiences. These programs help develop leadership skills while strengthening ties between youth and public safety professionals.

Potential Categories: Community Involvement, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Partnerships and Community Investment

Bladensburg benefits from strong partnerships with nonprofit organizations and community-based institutions that expand opportunities for engagement and development.

The **Aman Memorial Trust** is a key partner in advancing the vision for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic Bostwick House. Through collaboration with the Town, the Trust supports planning, fundraising strategy, and long-term development efforts aimed at transforming the property into a cultural and community destination. This project will create new opportunities for public programming, educational experiences, and community gatherings that invite residents and visitors to actively engage with Bladensburg’s history and future.

This partnership reflects a broader model of community investment that combines historic preservation, economic development, and public access.

Potential Categories: Community Involvement, Historic Preservation, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Community Events and Public Engagement

Bladensburg offers a wide range of community events that encourage participation, volunteerism, and civic pride. Signature programs such as National Night Out, Bladensburg Day Festival and Parade, Juneteenth Paint & Unity, Shop with a Cop, Coffee with a Cop, and seasonal celebrations provide opportunities for residents to connect with one another and with Town staff, elected officials, and community partners.

These events rely heavily on volunteer participation and collaboration with local organizations, schools, faith-based groups, and businesses. They serve as key touchpoints for community engagement while fostering a strong sense of belonging and shared identity.

Potential Categories: Community Involvement, Community Vitality, Cultural Programming, Overall Impression

Community Feedback and Engagement Growth

The Town has also explored additional ways to increase resident participation through beautification and community-wide engagement initiatives. While previous beautification contests received limited participation, mixed feedback, the Town intentionally paused the program to reassess its structure and outreach approach. Bladensburg remains committed to reintroducing a refreshed and improved version of the initiative in the future, with a focus on stronger marketing, broader accessibility, and more meaningful incentives for participation. This adaptive approach reflects the Town's commitment to listening to residents and continuously improving engagement strategies based on community response.

Potential Categories: Community Involvement, Community Vitality, Overall Impression

Strengthening Future Engagement

The Town of Bladensburg continues to seek new ways to expand and deepen community involvement. Current priorities include increasing volunteer participation in existing programs, creating new opportunities for youth engagement, and developing additional partnerships with civic, educational, and nonprofit organizations. By building on existing programs and encouraging broader participation, the Town aims to strengthen civic pride, enhance communication, and ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the community's growth and success.

Potential Categories: Community Involvement, Community Vitality, Overall Impression



Community-painted bench – Juneteenth Paint & Unity Event

The best idea implemented in Bladensburg this year is the creation of the **upcycled canoe planter**, a long-envisioned placemaking concept that transforms retired canoes into functional public art and community landscaping features.

This idea connects directly to Bladensburg’s identity as a riverfront community along the Anacostia River and builds on the recreational and historic role of canoeing at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. By repurposing a canoe into a planter, the Town has created a unique visual symbol that reflects both the natural environment and the lived experience of residents who use and enjoy the river.

The first installation of an upcycled canoe planter demonstrates how creativity, sustainability, and community pride can come together in a simple but powerful way. Positioned in a public-facing location, the canoe planter introduces seasonal plantings while serving as a distinctive landmark that immediately communicates place and identity. It turns a familiar recreational object into a lasting feature that blends horticulture with storytelling.

Beyond its visual impact, the project represents a practical example of environmental reuse. Instead of discarding retired materials, the Town has given them new life as functional landscape elements. This approach supports sustainability goals while also enhancing public spaces without significant infrastructure cost.

The concept also strengthens community branding. Visitors encountering the canoe planter are reminded of Bladensburg’s connection to the river, its outdoor recreation opportunities, and its ongoing investment in beautification and creative design. It reinforces a sense of discovery and helps position Bladensburg as a town that values innovation rooted in local identity.

The success of this first installation has generated strong interest in expanding the concept throughout the community. Future opportunities include placing additional canoe planters in parks, along streetscapes, at gateways, and near public facilities. Each installation can be designed with seasonal plantings or themed displays, creating a network of recognizable features that tie the community together visually and culturally.

The upcycled canoe planter project reflects several key America in Bloom principles, including community vitality, environmental stewardship, floral impact, and overall impression. It demonstrates how small-scale, creative interventions can have a meaningful impact on how a community looks, feels, and is experienced.

Bladensburg’s canoe planters are more than decorative features. They are storytelling pieces that connect residents and visitors to the river, to the town’s history, and to its ongoing commitment to sustainability and place-based design.



2026 America in Bloom Advisor Visit Itinerary
Bladensburg, Maryland
Advisors: Alex Pearl & Melanie Riggs

July 18–22, 2026

Saturday, July 18

Arrival Day

- Advisors arrive in Bladensburg.
-

Sunday, July 19

Welcome & Explore Day

- Advisors have time to familiarize themselves with the community.
-

Monday, July 20

Community Engagement, Neighborhoods & Environmental Stewardship

- Welcome and introductions at Bladensburg Town Hall
 - Town overview presentation highlighting:
 - America in Bloom progress
 - Community engagement
 - Beautification, sustainability, and economic development initiatives
 - Community and neighborhood tour
 - Lunch with Town staff and community partners
 - Visit to Bladensburg Branch Library
 - Environmental tour of Bladensburg Waterfront Park
 - Anacostia River and watershed restoration overview
 - Green Team and environmental stewardship initiatives
 - Evening dinner with Town leadership and community partners
-

Tuesday, July 21

Heritage, Beautification & Community Partnerships

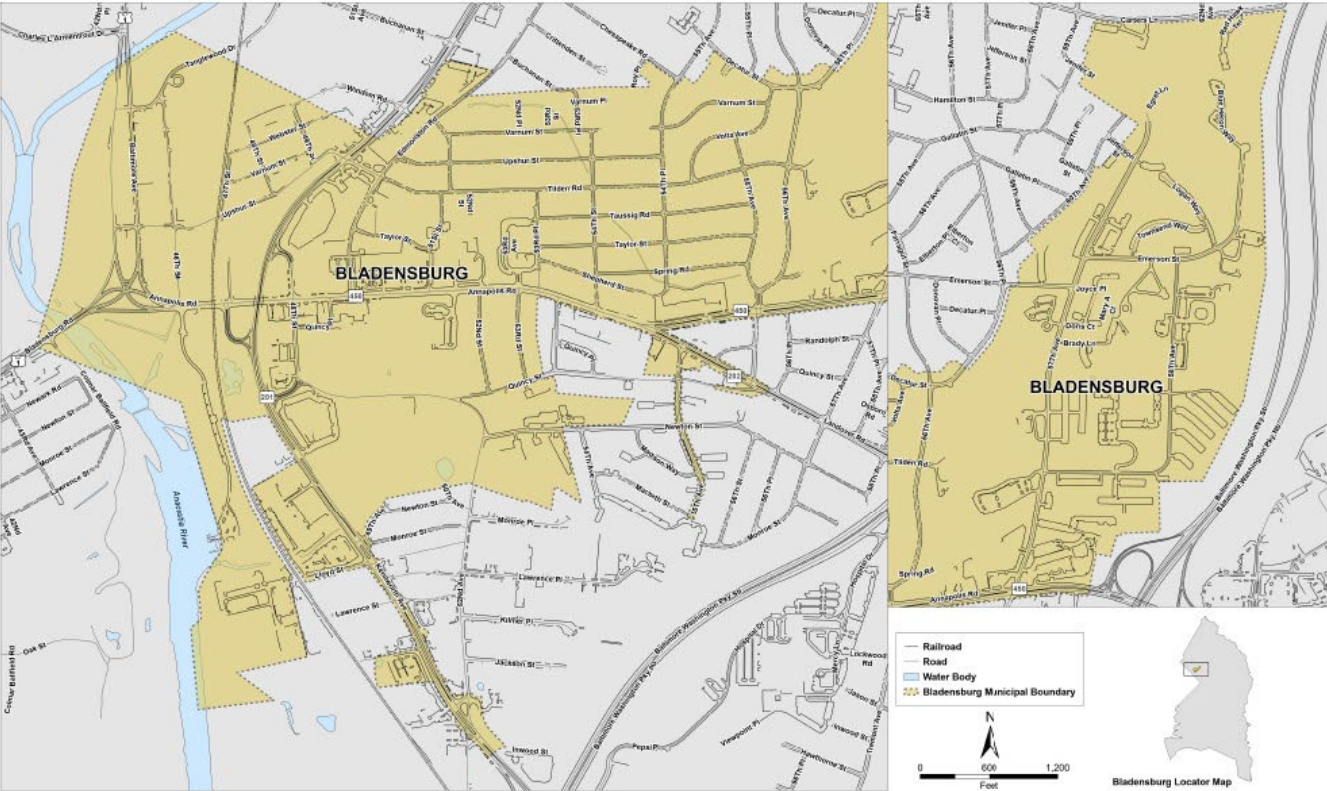
- Public Works, beautification, and economic development presentation
 - Visit to Eco City Farms and regional community assets
 - Lunch with community partners
 - Tour of Bladensburg's historic and cultural sites, including:
 - Bostwick Historic Home
 - Bladensburg Heritage Sites
 - Bladensburg Memorial Grove Park
 - Evening dinner
-

Wednesday, July 22

Departure Day

- Advisors depart following the conclusion of the visit.

COMMUNITY MAP



Town Of Bladensburg



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Prince George's County
Planning Department
Job #4632