



## 2040 Vision Statement

The vision statement is written from a perspective of 20 years in the future, expressing what the Chesapeake Beach community will have achieved since adopting its new plan in 2019.

*In 2040, Chesapeake Beach is a growing and economically vibrant and healthy town with a compact arrangement of housing, businesses, institutions and green open spaces that honor the Town's historic development while broadening citizen connection with and access to the scenic and recreational attributes that Chesapeake Beach is endowed with by virtue of its unique geography and natural setting.*

*In embracing steady growth and renewal we have guided residential and commercial development into ways that enriched the lives and experiences of Town residents and visitors. For example, we've achieved physical changes like a new town center, a safer road system, walking and bike paths, and enhanced water access, open spaces and parks. This has encouraged the formation of new businesses, broadened our tax base, and promoted walking, biking, outdoor sporting events, social offerings, and the continuation of popular community wide celebrations.*

*The Town has become resilient to ongoing sea level rise and the storm surges associated with hurricanes by thoughtfully designing and implementing landscape, land use, engineering and open space strategies. We've continued the Town's long tradition of both improving water quality in Fishing Creek and the Chesapeake Bay and enhancing childhood education through exposure to the nature around us and our waterfront heritage.*

*We became early adopters of technological changes that have made our streets safer, our town center more vibrant, our local environment healthier, and our town government more effective and responsive. We have created and enforced fair regulatory codes and development standards to improve the quality of development. We've improved the quality of life in neighborhoods by upgrading infrastructure, beautifying streetscapes, improving drainage, and making parks and open spaces beautiful and accessible to all.*

**Five Themes** -- Five major themes emerged from the public workshops held on September 12 and 18.



### Develop the Vibrancy of the Community

The participants want to bring about a welcoming, thriving and creative business community and tourism economy, expand dining and shopping opportunities, cultivate cultural activities and offerings, improve waterfront access, and create recreational options throughout the Town for the young. Ideas emerged about creating a town center and community gathering places, promoting new housing opportunities for residents of all income levels and for seniors in particular and enhancing pedestrian safety, improving streetscapes, and “leveraging” technologies to improve the quality of life in “town centers”, including universal internet and Wi-Fi. Participants said the Town should grow in a steady and controlled manner and the Town should be “open to all ages and income levels”.



### Building an Interconnected Town

Perhaps, recognizing the way the Town is fragmented by Fishing Creek and its tidal marshes and the connecting role that past projects like the Boardwalk and the Fishing Creek Railway Tail have played, participants stressed a desire to continue connecting communities and promoting “cohesive” development. Participants cited the need for bikeways and sidewalks, expanding trails, and creating or “expanding on the concept of a town center” and a “main street”.



### Preserving and Enhancing our Small-Town Charm

Participants wanted to preserve the Town’s historic development as a Chesapeake Bay maritime community. Participants said they would like to preserve the “small town atmosphere”, “small town charm”, “sense of place”, and “promote education and activities that provide future generations a sense of pride for the Town’s past”. They also mentioned improvements that would enhance the Town’s historic character like placing utilities ungrounded and reducing sign clutter.



### In Balance with the Environment

Participants wanted to keep and expand the open spaces and park like elements of the Town, increase accessibility to nature, protect “open vistas” and “scenic character”, and expand public access to the Bay including from Bayfront Park (Brownie’s Beach) south to Randle Cliffs. They also want to safeguard the Town from the increasing threat of flooding and erosion, restore streams, improve and maintain the quality of the Bay and its aquatic life, address runoff issues and stabilize the cliffs along the Boardwalk. They mentioned climate change and

having “sustainable” development, being “stewards of natural resources” and preventing sewer overflows into the marsh at the WWTP.



#### Innovative and Dedicated to Public Works and Places

The participants contributed ideas about infrastructure and utilities. They wanted to see wind and solar innovations in energy, elimination of the clutter of overhead wires, the extension of sewer service to areas of the Town now unserved, extension of sidewalks and improved crosswalks, emergency planning, a new water taxi service and the creation of more public parking and bus services. Improved telecommunications and faster internet services were also stressed.