



What Citizens Must Do To Keep Maryland Beautiful:

1. Get to Know Your Scenic Resources.

¥ Conduct an inventory of scenic assets in your community. Involve groups of citizens to identify the most attractive features of your community and locate them on a map for public display.

2. Strengthen the Scenic Protections Where You Live.

¥ Review all laws and ordinances to ensure that the words "scenic" and "aesthetic" are included. These words should be carefully woven throughout existing policy and regulatory documents so that scenic resources and aesthetics are part of all land use decisions and actions.

¥ Strengthen your comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, sign ordinances, telecommunications ordinance, historic district ordinance, tree ordinance, and landscaping ordinance to ensure protection of scenic views, agricultural and open space lands, community gateways, highway corridors, neighborhoods, historic resources, and cultural heritage.

¥ Create community gateways and entrance corridors by incorporating highway corridor, waterway, and rail corridor overlay districts within your zoning ordinance. Develop design guidelines for new construction within those important entrance corridors.

3. Get the Transportation System to Help — Not Hurt—Your Quality of Life.

¥ Ensure that every transportation project uses context-sensitive design. Find out what transportation projects are planned for your community by contacting the Department of Transportation or the local public works department, and get involved in planning from the beginning. Help transportation professionals find the best solutions to support community character, walkability, and quality of life.

¥ Develop a scenic roads program for your county. Partner with the local government to identify local scenic and historic roads, and work with the county public works department to develop design guidelines to protect and maintain their scenic and historic character. Coordinate with local land trusts and tourism boards to protect and market your scenic roads or scenic byways.

4. Use and Beautify Your Existing Community Infrastructure.

¥ Ensure Smart Growth that directs development out of rural areas and into older neighborhoods. Encourage the revitalization and beautification of older residential and commercial areas. Provide incentives to developers to rehabilitate historic structures, brownfield areas, aging shopping centers, and strip malls. Encourage the use of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits to revitalize historic buildings.

¥ Locate utility lines underground by working collaboratively with developers and power companies when projects are proposed.

5. Secure Diverse Funding Sources to Protect and Enhance Local Beauty.

¥ Support funding for programs that assist property owners and jurisdictions to reclaim the quality of the visual environment, e.g., through the Maryland Historical Trust, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and Department of Agriculture.