

University of Maryland **University-Community Partnerships**

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The College Park City University Partnership is a non-profit community development corporation whose board of directors consists of key officials from the city of College Park, the state of Maryland's 21st legislative delegation, the University of Maryland, and other community leaders. It has embarked on a path to create and implement an integrated community development strategy for the University District, which consists of the University of Maryland campus and the city of College Park, and neighboring communities.

The partnership has developed the following vision statement:

College Park is a diverse, engaged community comprised of residents and businesses, and the vibrant education, research, cultural and international resources of the University of Maryland. Residents are drawn to a range of housing options from single-family residences to high-density housing that thrives near livable, walkable commercial centers. Diverse businesses—from high tech startups to community retailers—are drawn to a demographic that provides educated workers and consumers. The University District offers its community a high quality of life including a safe and secure environment, access to world-class K-12 schools, and attractive commercial districts that serve families and students alike. The District enjoys excellent pedestrian and bicycle access, public transportation options, and efficient roads and parking. Finally, the University District exemplifies a leading “green” community, utilizing sustainable building practices, green technologies, and a strong commitment from the community to protect, preserve, and enhance natural resources.

College Park City University Partnership has identified five issues of focus:

1. **Housing and development**, including increasing the number of University of Maryland faculty and staff living in the district, redeveloping downtown College Park into a more vibrant and walkable community,

increasing affordable student housing within walking distance of the campus, and increasing retail amenities.

2. **Education**, including building on the success of existing campus-community partnerships to develop a comprehensive, high-quality education system that could include new day care facilities, language immersion schools, an innovative charter middle/high school, and expansion of professional development schools.
3. **Transportation**, including coordinated mass transit, parking, and improved bicycle and pedestrian circulation with the goals of reducing commute times and increasing the number of students and residents who walk, bike, and use public transportation around the region.
4. **Public safety**, including expanding off-campus jurisdiction for University of Maryland's Department of Public Safety, mesh camera network expansion, collaboration across agencies, alcohol enforcement, and enforcement of landlords' accountability for ensuring that tenant behavior is consistent with leasing guidelines.
5. **Sustainability**, including energy and water conservation, alternative energy production, sustainable transportation and development, reducing waste, and generating local jobs and revenue while protecting and restoring the community's natural resources.

The implementation planning process will occur over the next 18 months to define specific goals, prioritize the goals, assign responsibilities, and establish metrics to measure achievement of the goals.

For more information, contact

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