

Potential Recommendations

Land Use/Municipal Growth

- Continue to monitor land west of Town for potential future annexation.
- Review zoning regulations to ensure consistency with the comprehensive plan.

Community Facilities and Resources

- Advocate for the importance of maintaining the elementary school as a vital asset for Friendsville.
- Enhance existing recreation facilities, such as additional ball fields, playgrounds, and basketball courts.
- Prioritize the acquisition of recreational amenities to improve existing facilities such as motion sensor lights, improved equipment and surfaces, and additional seating areas.
- Expand and diversify recreational amenities to cater to a wider range of interests and age groups.
- Seek funding sources, such as grants, sponsorships, or public-private partnerships, to support the creation of an indoor training facility.
- Identify areas for improvements to the swimming area and beach in Friendsville.
- Use the Town Hall as an educational resource that will give businesses and organizations a space for meetings, presentations, or networking events.
- Support the library's efforts to construct a new building for the Friendsville Library.
- Continue to review plans (Hazard Mitigation, Emergency Operations, etc.) to ensure all community facilities and resources needs are met.
- Explore options/opportunities for alternative sources of energy on institutional buildings (solar panels)
- Partner with the Friend Family Museum to foster an appreciation for the history of Friendsville for all ages.
- Form a connection with Garrett College to enhance educational opportunities for residents.

Sensitive Areas

- Protect and sustainably manage natural resources, including greenways, water bodies, wildlife habitats, and ecosystems.
- Conduct a thorough assessment of existing buffers along water bodies, waterways, and flood zones to identify areas in need of reinforcement.
- Establish and enforce regulations and policies that promote the maintenance and protection of buffers, including setbacks and restrictions on development activities near water bodies and flood zones.

Potential Recommendations

- Review and revise existing codes and zoning regulations to ensure consistency with the goal of safeguarding sensitive areas and maintaining their environmental health and vitality.
- Promote the Water-Wise Program to residents to improve water quality, reduce pesticide use and protect sensitive habitats.

Transportation

- Collaborate with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to communicate the need for designated parking spaces for tractor trailers throughout the Town.
- Identify key areas within the Town where pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting, needs improvement or expansion.
- Consider implementing time-limited parking zones or permit systems to ensure turnover and fair access to parking spaces for customers.
- Develop and implement traffic calming measures, such as reduced speed limits, traffic calming devices, and pedestrian-friendly intersection design, to enhance safety for pedestrians.
- Promote the integration of green spaces and public parks within the Town, providing attractive and accessible areas for walking and recreation.
- Work with Dollar General/Developers who own property to utilize empty/blighted properties.
- Seek funding and grants to support trail maintenance, signage improvements, and the installation of amenities such as trailhead facilities, picnic areas, or viewpoints.
- Develop a marketing strategy to promote the trails in Friendsville, highlighting their unique features, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.
- Encourage the installation of EV charging stations.
- Work with the local law enforcement to enforce laws and regulations within the Town

Water Resources

- Ensure that source water, including ground and surface water resources, is protected as well as ensuring that the water quality of all water resources is maintained and improved for future generations.
- Collaborate with Garrett County to develop and implement sustainable management and conservation of water resources within the Town.
- Introduce an educational program on low costs methods to reduce and slow stormwater.
- Work with Garrett County on their project to replace sewer mains in Town to address infiltration within the sewer collection system.
- Support the County's efforts to identify alternative sources of water such as wells in Limestone Springs.

Potential Recommendations

- Implement a community-wide educational campaign to enhance knowledge and awareness regarding water resources within the Town.
- Partner with Garrett County to initiate a program aimed at modernizing water supply sources in older homes throughout the Town.

Mineral Resources

- Establish and enforce regulations and policies that prohibit mining activities within the Town's jurisdiction to ensure consistency in maintaining a mining-free environment.

Economic Development

- Develop a retention strategy that includes consistent communication and outreach to local businesses, understanding their concerns, and providing necessary support and resources.
- Establish a business support organization/program that offers assistance in areas such as marketing, networking, and business development to help existing businesses thrive and grow.
- Partner/Collaborate with Garrett County Economic Development, Tourism Bureau, and the Chamber of Commerce to enhance business development throughout the Town.
- Create an informative business welcome packet that incorporates branding elements and showcases the unique advantages and opportunities available in Friendsville.
- Collaborate with the Friendsville Garden Clubs and form a partnership to beautify Main Street with flowers and trees.
- Encourage “pop-up” shop events on main street to entice business development.

Housing

- Continue to identify and research potential grant opportunities to address blighted structures within the Town.
- Strengthen the Town's code enforcement by allocating additional resources and personnel to address problems with run-down and dangerous properties.
- Explore partnerships or incentives to encourage developers to prioritize affordable and sustainable housing options, especially for senior citizens.
- Identify any potential barriers and ensure that all housing is affordable and fair in Friendsville, according to HB90.
- Maintain regular communication and collaboration with Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) to stay updated on their ongoing work and projects in Friendsville.
- Adhere to the Maryland Housing Needs Assessment guidelines & their priority action items. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development commissioned the Maryland

Potential Recommendations

Housing Needs Assessment & 10-year Strategic Plan to address issues related to housing affordability in the state. The document focused on the following guiding principles:

- Promote Equity in Housing;
 - Create a Balanced Housing Supply;
 - Increase Access to Opportunity;
 - Support Economic Growth;
 - Create Context-Specific Approaches
- Collaborate with Garrett County Workforce Housing Alliance to foster a cooperative partnership.