

ENVISION GALESVILLE 2.0 COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 8, 2026 TOWN HALL AND WORKSHOP

BACKGROUND

The Envision 2.0 Committee was formed by the West River Improvement Association (WRIA) to champion and expand the Envision Galesville principles through a community-driven effort that supports Galesville residents, rural neighbors, visitors, and business owners.

The original committee's focus was on Galesville's waterfront area, encompassing the entirety of Galesville's Riverside Drive from Elizabeth Dixon Park, south to Stan & Joe's Riverside restaurant.

The committee's work evolved to include an assessment of potential opportunities to address Galesville's antiquated stormwater runoff system and its impact on the surrounding creeks and river.

Additional community issues (e.g., community connectivity, pedestrian and vehicular safety, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, community signage, lighting and landscaping, and parking) have also been discussed/explored by the committee.

MILESTONES

RELATIONSHIPS / PARTNERSHIPS: Over the past two years, the Envision 2.0 Committee has built relationships and partnerships with non-profit organizations federal, state, and county government entities to help strategize, define a scope of work, and secure funding and assistance to enhance Galesville. The key relationships/partnerships forged to date are with the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis, the Arundel Rivers Federation; the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the National Park Service.

COASTAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH FEDERATION (CERF): Galesville was selected as the target site for the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) Competition. The goal was for cross-disciplinary teams (e.g., architecture, engineering, ecology, policy, planning, law) from five universities to conduct research and submit design solutions and innovative strategies to make Galesville's coastal area more resilient to climate change and other pressing challenges. Highlights from the university proposals were shared with the community on March 19th, 2026.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) GRANT: The US Dept of Transportation's Volpe Center received a TA Grant from the National Park Service to help develop a Master Plan for and involve the Galesville community and businesses. An interactive Town Hall was held on April 8th that focused on: Stormwater Management (led by the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis, Transportation (led by the National Park Service), and Historical perspectives (led by the Envision 2.0 Committee).

WATERSHED ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (WAGP): As prioritized in May 2024 Watershed Study commissioned by the Arundel Rivers Federation, the Chesapeake Bay Trust award via the Watershed Assistance Grant Program will improve water quality and address stormwater flooding issues along 4,100 feet of the main thoroughfare into and out of Galesville (Main Street/MD 255). Planning-level services will include field investigations, a drainage assessment, development of a Galesville Peninsula base map, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and alternatives analysis and assessment report, concept design, and community engagement to present the concept design.

TOWN HALL MEETING (APRIL 8, 2026)

On April 8th, 2026, the Envision 2.0 Galesville Committee invited the residents of Galesville to the Galesville Memorial Hall for a two-and-a-half-hour interactive Town Hall workshop. Over seventy people participated in the workshop, including WRIA Board, members and representatives of other local associations, the CEO of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), and various Anne Arundel County friends and neighbors.

The evening began at 7 pm with a welcome and introduction by Buz Winchester (WRIA President), who then outlined the evening's agenda.

Meeting Purpose and Agenda The purpose of the Town Hall meeting was to provide an interactive format for residents that invited participant feedback on the information presented at the workshop. Its goal was to use this feedback to prioritize environmental and infrastructure projects for the short term (2-5 years) and long term (6-10 years). Attendees were divided into three groups, with each group rotating through the three main agenda topics, providing their input and perspectives (see pics below):

- **Stormwater and Environmental Quality**, presented by Krisina Alexander of the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.
- **Transportation and Water Access**, presented by Jake Butler, representing the Department of Transportation, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.
- **Galesville Infrastructure** with a focus on historical context, presented by Dan Cinelli, an Envision 2.0 Committee member.



Photos showing the groups introducing themselves to Town Hall Attendees

What We Learned from Attendees - Key Findings

Stormwater Challenges

Residents identified jurisdictional fragmentation (MD Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA), Anne Arundel County, private) as a fundamental barrier to progress. Galesville's flat topography causes water to pool rather than drain, overwhelming an aging stormwater system with insufficient catchment and filtering capacity. The most flood-impacted areas include Main Street, the area near Ebenezer Church and cemetery, some parts of Benning Road and the community's sidewalks. Blocked and crushed culverts, inadequate ditches, and stormwater that moves "too fast, too direct" without treatment, compound the problem. In addition, flooding from the West River can greatly impact Pirates Cove, Smith Park and Stan & Joe's.

Residents also emphasized the need for citizen education, personal responsibility, and attention to traffic-related pollutants. Community members Dorthea Rodda and George Pavlik maintain photo documentation of recurring flooding.

Environmental Quality Concerns

Residents have observed a decline in wildlife (notably turtles) and deteriorating water quality, particularly in School Creek. The Smith Brothers' site on Woodfield Road raises concerns about sediment and dust, and legacy pollution trapped in silt remains an issue. Issues related to visible fuel leaching, untreated runoff via swales and roads, and impacts on the agricultural and boating industries were raised. A central concern is the community's inability to safely swim and recreate in local waterways, with associated health implications.

Existing Infrastructure Assessment

The existing stormwater system is old, maintenance is severely lacking, jurisdictional responsibility is unclear, and some community members have taken independent action out of frustration. Residents noted that even with maintenance resolved, the system still needs improved filtration and catchment capacity.

Transportation and Water Access

The workshop audience was asked to provide feedback on key multimodal transportation topics in Galesville, including the Riverside Drive corridor, safety issues along Main Street/Galesville Road and its intersection with Muddy Creek Road, and parking issues. Key findings are summarized below:

- Sidewalk along Riverside Drive is unsafe and needs improvements, including grade stabilization. There is wide support for a boardwalk along the shoreline to address the safety and ecological concerns.
- The intersection of Main Street and Riverside Drive requires pedestrian and directional improvements.
- Residents are mainly satisfied with Galesville's current public water access and caution that increasing it could lead to more parking and crowding issues at the waterfront.
- Parking is a complicated issue related to the waterfront; there are mixed opinions and responses regarding whether to add more parking and where to do so. There is consensus that demand will increase going forward. There is consensus on unsafe and illegal parking tendencies. It is important to recognize that there is limited available parking and its impact on residents is a seasonal and weekend problem. These problems are expected to also increase when "hoped for" improvements to current vacant business establishments (West River Market, Topside Restaurant) reopen in the future.

- Main Street/Galesville Road safety concerns are top of mind for residents. Speeding, dangerous swales, and non-continuous sidewalks are commonly perceived issues. The Woodfield Road intersection was highlighted here.
- Muddy Creek Road/Galesville Road (MD 468/255) Intersection is a high safety concern for residents and visitors. Speeding, running red lights, and confusion caused by the nearby firehouse's flashing light are commonly reported issues.

Overarching theme: Ensure that one improvement does not lead to another set of issues.

Galesville Infrastructure in a Historical Context

The workshop audience in Group 3 was asked to provide feedback and discussion, and to rank their opinions on how much enforcement the Envision 2.0 representatives should use in their oversight of possible design solutions as they relate to Historical Galesville design goals. Several examples were shared of how this could be important in future selections needed to support shore restoration, stormwater reduction, and vehicular and pedestrian safety, and how these selections could have a negative, permanent impact on the historical goals.

Based on these collective conversations and the ranking averages we obtained from our three resident groups, we would recommend that the Envision 2.0 Galesville representatives be diligent in oversight, attendance, and review of future engineering, landscape, and hardscape solutions.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT STEPS

Short Term Focus (2-4 years)

1. Work with the Resilience Authority of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis to focus on executing the Storm Water Management Resilience Authority Grant to assess and design a community-wide stormwater management system to improve the quality of stormwater run-off.
2. Explore Riverside Drive Grant/Funding Opportunities and work on community efforts to achieve:
 - Waterfront Revitalization and Connectivity
 - Habitat Observation and Education
 - Restored Habitats
 - Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety
 - ADA Compliance
 - Enhanced Parking Options
3. Continue to seek community input and consensus on short-term projects.

Long Term Master Plan (5-10 years)

1. Build on the assessment and design of short-term efforts to make improvements in Galesville's infrastructure in the following areas;
 - Multi-modal transportation and safety routes
 - Galesville-wide Trees and Landscaping Plan

- Public Lighting and Signage Plan
- Parking (long-term solutions)
- Dixon Park Revitalization

2. Continue to seek community input and consensus on long-term projects.

Thank you for your participation.

If you would like additional detailed information from the notes that were taken by each of the three groups, please send an email to wria2community@gmail.com.