



# News Release

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## **Executive Gardner Kicks Off Livable Frederick With Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Plan**

FREDERICK, MD – Citing the environmental, historical and scenic beauty of Sugarloaf Mountain and its surroundings, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner today kicked off an effort to protect and preserve Sugarloaf’s treasured landscape for the future. The Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Area Plan is the first small area plan to be developed under the award-winning Livable Frederick master plan. Livable Frederick implements a new approach to planning for the county’s future. It is aspirational and based on a vision of a vibrant, unique community where people can live, work and locally thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging.

“Frederick County values the rich history and unique resources of Sugarloaf,” said Executive Gardner. “The land faces development pressure in recent years. That’s why I chose to implement Livable Frederick by focusing on the treasured landscape surrounding Sugarloaf Mountain. The time to protect this area is now.”

Sugarloaf Mountain is a registered national landmark. It was first mapped by a Swiss explorer more than 300 years ago. Soldiers from the French and Indian War and the Civil War marched across its trails. Today the mountain and its trails are privately owned by a non-profit corporation, Stronghold Inc., which is dedicated to preserving the mountain’s resources.

To guide the development of the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Area Plan, a Stakeholders Advisory Group has been formed. The group includes representatives from Stronghold, nearby landowners, the Frederick County Sustainability Commission, Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Sugarloaf Citizens’ Association. Members have been provided with a briefing book as a starting point for discussion. The briefing book provides historical context, a description of current conditions, and a list of challenges and opportunities facing the area. A copy of the book is available online at [www.LivableFrederick.org](http://www.LivableFrederick.org). Residents are invited to review the material and provide feedback. A community meeting is planned for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 27, at Urbana High School’s cafeteria. In addition, residents can submit comments via email to [SugarloafAreaPlan@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:SugarloafAreaPlan@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

Community outreach will be an important element of each small area plan under Livable Frederick. Every plan will be guided by its own advisory group, which will include residents and key stakeholders. The next plan to launch will be the South Frederick Corridors Plan, which focuses on the county’s primary business corridor along Maryland Routes 85 and 355 near Ballenger Creek.

To keep residents informed of plans near their communities, Frederick County Government has launched an account on the Nextdoor social media platform. This neighborhood-specific network allows people to find out what is happening around them. Nextdoor is free for users and there is no cost to the county for making the service available. Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to register.

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