

Richard Hall, AICP



Richard Hall until recently was the State of Maryland's Secretary of Planning. Mr. Hall is a professional planner who rose through the ranks of the Maryland Department of Planning from an entry-level staffer to become Secretary. He spent his state planning career working to protect the best of Maryland in the face of unrelenting population growth and was instrumental in helping pass and implement policies strengthening natural resource protection along with many partners in state agencies and the advocacy community.

Last year, Mr. Hall was named a "smart growth hero" by 1000 Friends of Maryland at its 20th anniversary gala, and this year Governor O'Malley gave Hall the Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay Award, the highest honor the governor can bestow on an individual for environmental contributions.

Prior to becoming secretary of planning, Hall directed the agency's Land Use Planning and Analysis Group. Understanding that well-conceived and executed imagery can convey development and preservation scenarios better than a string of words, Hall helped develop a range of GIS and data-intensive resources to model potential build environments and bolster local redevelopment efforts.

While Secretary of Planning, Hall led projects to perform spatial analysis and to produce maps and GIS applications in support of PlanMaryland, the state's first comprehensive plan for sustainable growth and development. GIS applications were also used for broader Smart Growth and Planning Analysis initiatives such as the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012.

Hall's Department of Planning was also a major participant in the O'Malley-Brown Administration's MD iMAP initiative. The department also used GIS extensively to support congressional and legislative redistricting applications and analysis.

For decades, the Maryland Department of Planning pushed the boundaries of what GIS could do to advance smart growth for Maryland communities, natural areas, the Chesapeake bay and generally to improve quality of life in Maryland.