

Sugarloaf Mountain area account for the majority of this land. The Trust has land in other parts of the County as well. The Izaak Walton League and the Audubon Naturalist Society also have open space in the County.

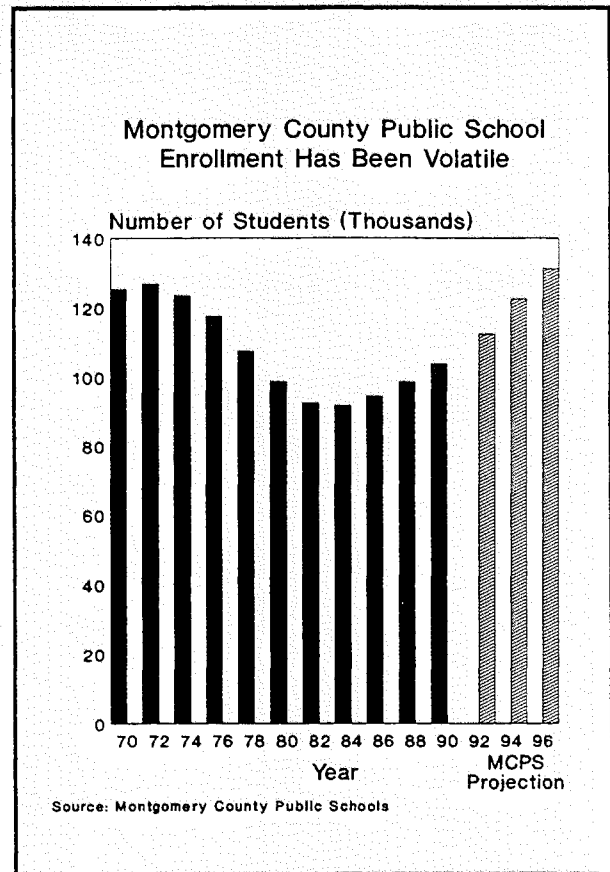
\* The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has over 3,000 acres of undeveloped land in Montgomery County. While the primary purpose of this hilly, wooded land is to protect two adjoining lakes used for public water supply, the WSSC allows hunting, fishing, boating, horseback riding and picnicking.

## VI. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### A. Public Schools

\* School enrollment has been quite volatile over the past 20 years. In 1972, a record 127,000 school children enrolled in Montgomery County public schools. Eleven years later, in 1983, enrollment dropped to a 30-year low of 91,000. Since 1983, school enrollment has been growing steadily, to 107,000 in 1991 and is expected to reach a new record of 129,000 by 1996.

\* Since 1970, Montgomery County has closed 63 schools, reopened 12 of these schools and built an additional 40 new schools. The number of operational schools has declined 10 percent between 1970 and 1990 to 168 schools, including 9 special needs facilities. However, there has been almost no loss of classrooms due to the modernization of older schools and the larger size of new schools. The County has adapted closed schools for a variety of uses, including senior citizen centers, government offices, recreation centers, and day care or eldercare centers. Some space has been leased to non-profit organizations and private and parochial schools. Montgomery County Public Schools' capital expenditures totaled \$635 million between 1970 and 1990. Over 50 percent of total capital expenditures for the past 20 years has been spent since 1987, during which time 17 new schools were built and school closings ceased.



\* The distribution of schools across Montgomery County has shifted reflecting changes in population distribution. New subdivisions within the I-270 corridor have created increased demand for new schools up-County. At the same time, demand has decreased for schools in older neighborhoods in the urban/suburban ring as children grow up and their parents remain in their homes rather than selling to young families. Approximately 60 percent of all new schools have been built in the I-270 corridor areas of Gaithersburg and Germantown. Similarly, closed school facilities are located almost entirely within the urban/suburban ring, with the greatest number of school closings in the Bethesda and the Kensington/Wheaton areas.

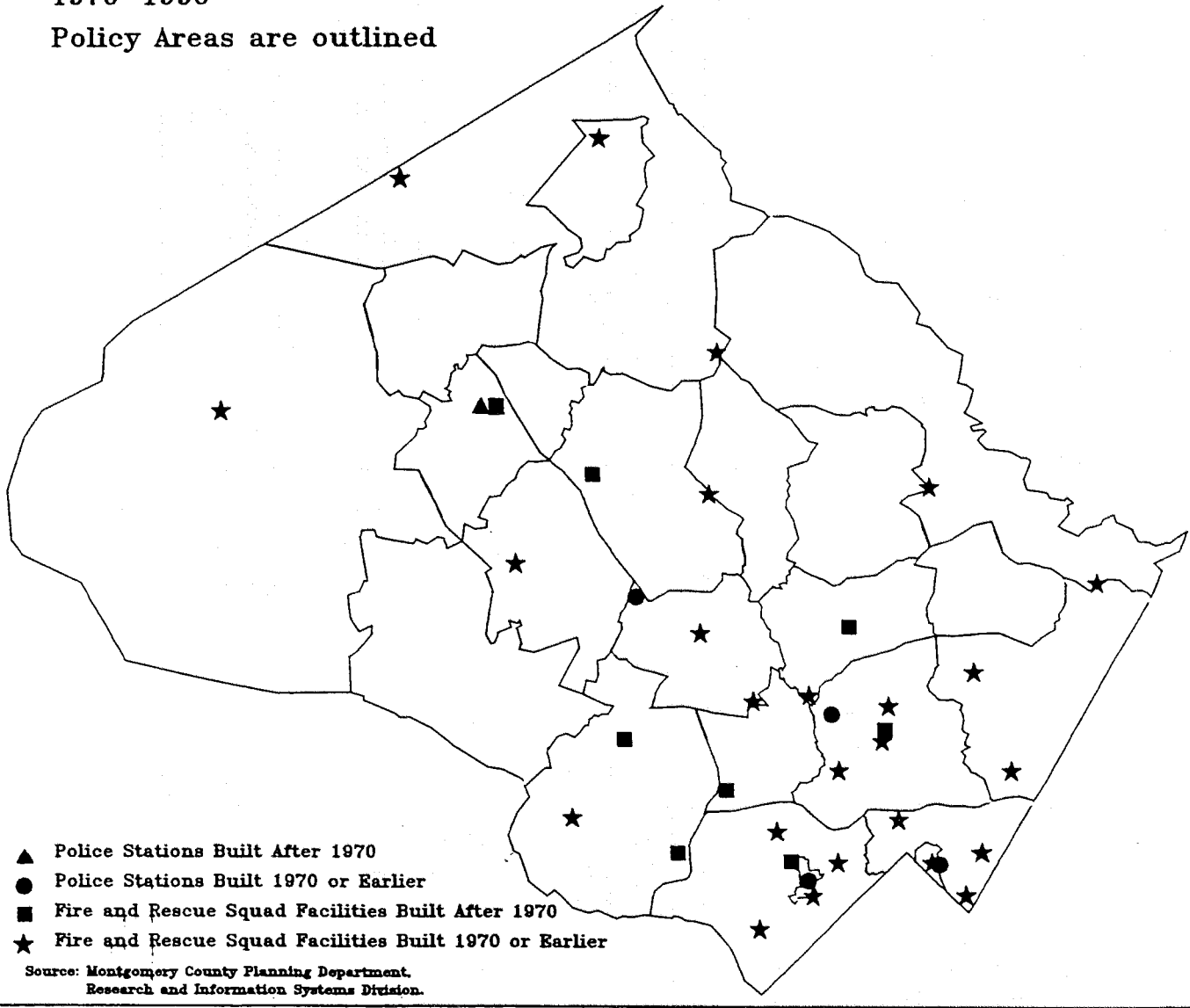
\* Since 1970, Montgomery College enrollment has soared 350 percent to about 22,400 in 1990 and total college land holdings have grown by 200 percent. The college operated two campuses in 1970, a 13-acre site in Takoma Park and an 82-acre site in Rockville. In 1978, Montgomery

# Montgomery County

## Police, Fire and Rescue Squads

1970-1990

Policy Areas are outlined



County opened a new 204-acre campus in Germantown to provide educational services to residents in the I-270 corridor, thereby increasing total acreage to almost 300 acres.

## **B. Fire, Rescue and Police**

\* The number of police, fire and rescue facilities has grown moderately over the the past 20 years. Currently, 19 independent fire departments operate 33 fire and rescue stations in Montgomery County. Police protection is provided through five police districts scattered throughout the County. Since 1970, one new fire department, the Germantown Volunteer Fire Department, and eight new fire and rescue stations have been built, predominantly in the urban/suburban ring and southern portions of the wedge areas. In addition, one new police station in Germantown has added coverage to the I-270 corridor.

## **C. Parks and Recreation**

\* The amount of County parkland has increased slightly more than the number of households. Between 1970 and 1991, M-NCPPC parks increased from 14,708 acres to 27,611 acres, an 88 percent increase, while the number of households increased by 80 percent. New parks were added in all categories: two large regional parks up-County and one in eastern Montgomery County; several stream valley parks; special parks like the Maryland Horse Center, the Martin Luther King Recreational Park, and Rockwood Manor and Woodlawn conference centers; Blockhouse Point and Green Farm Conservation Parks; numerous new and rehabilitated community-use parks; and recreational facilities and community centers.

\* A significant proportion of new parkland is in the area of greatest population growth, especially the I-270 corridor. The early 1970s, in particular, saw a large number of new parks in the Rockville, Gaithersburg and Germantown areas.

\* In addition to County parks, the County has about 15,000 acres of national, State and municipal parks. The principal national park in the

County is the 3,100-acre C&O Canal Historical Park. It includes 36.7 miles of the old towpath, a boat ramp, picnicking and camping areas, and the popular Great Falls Recreation Area. There are four significant State parks: the 6,000-acre Seneca State Park, a stream valley park with a developed section in Germantown; the Patuxent State Park, an undeveloped strip along the Patuxent River; the Matthew Henson State Park between Veirs Mill Road and Georgia Avenue and the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, adjoining the C&O Canal. Eleven municipalities have their own park systems, with a total of about 1,500 acres and considerable recreational facilities.

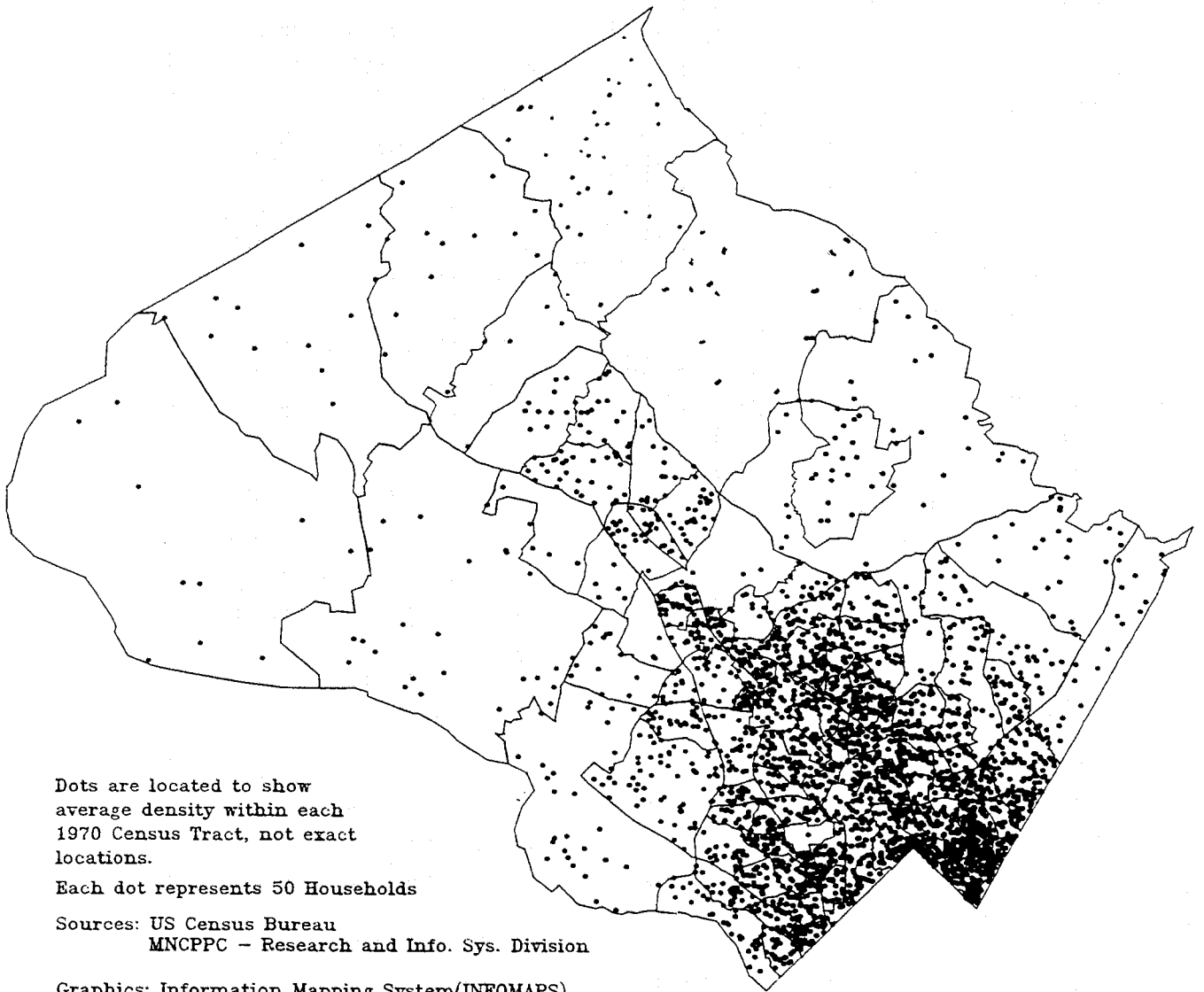
\* Montgomery County has over 5,000 acres of golf courses and country clubs. In 1975, Montgomery County had six public golf courses and 23 private golf and country clubs, some of which are still nationally known for the tournaments they host or other features. Today, there are 7 public golf courses and 19 private golf and country clubs, averaging about 200 acres each. All of those that no longer exist were in the I-270 corridor or in the Silver Spring area.

## **D. Libraries and Hospitals**

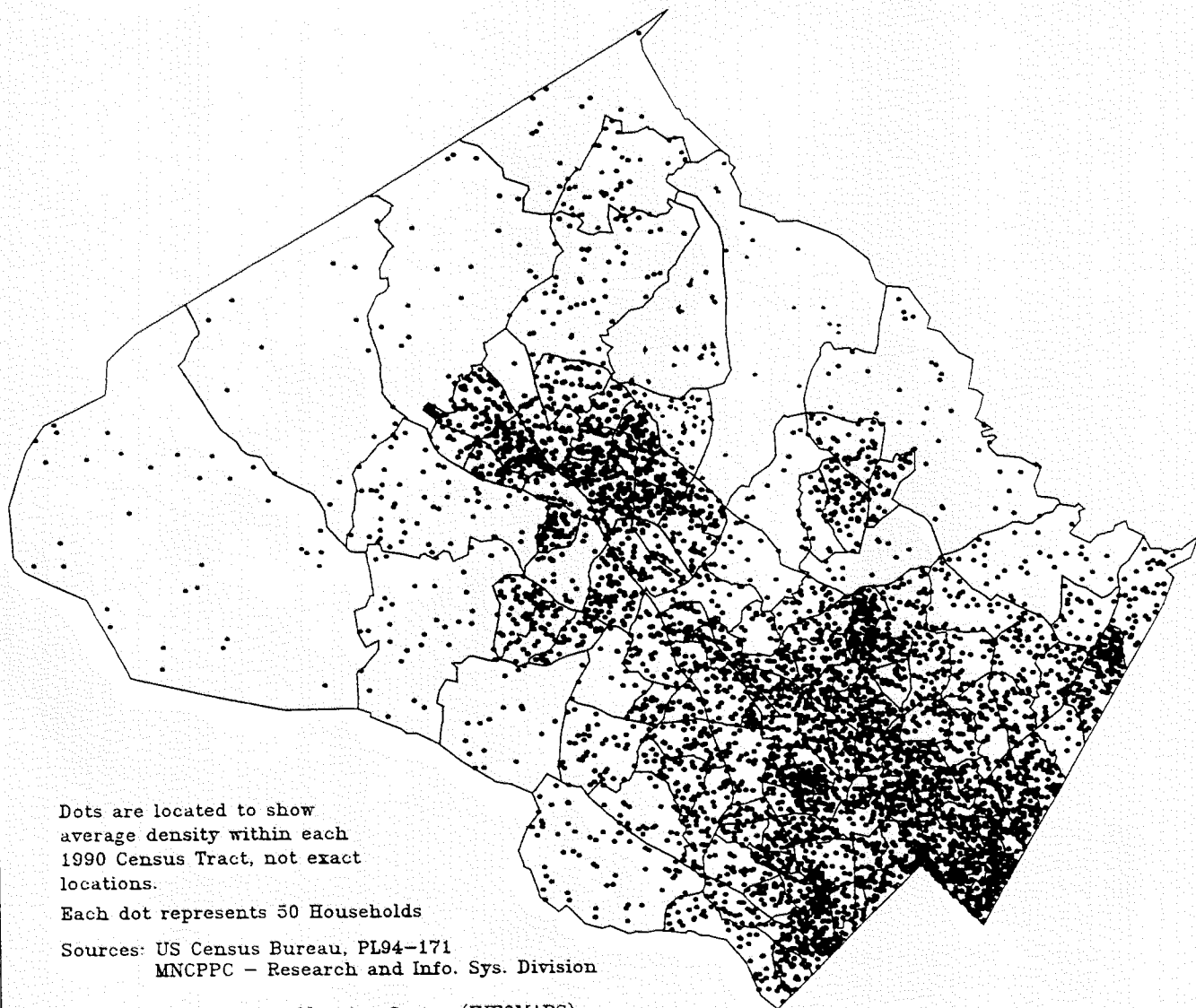
\* Montgomery County maintains one of the largest municipal library systems in the country with a library circulation of over 7.5 million volumes. The number of branch libraries in the County has nearly doubled since 1970. Ten of the 18 branch libraries have been built since 1970 and 2 of the 4 regional libraries have been built since 1970. Two branch libraries have been closed and replaced by newer facilities and one library in the wedge has been closed permanently. Eleven libraries are located in the urban/suburban ring, 5 are in the wedge and another 6 are in the I-270 corridor. There are currently plans for two new facilities in Damascus and Fairland.

\* Five accredited hospitals with space for 1,600 hospital beds and two military hospitals serve the residents of Montgomery County. Four of these hospitals, Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring,

Geographic Distribution of Households  
by 1970 Census Tracts  
Montgomery County, Maryland



Geographic Distribution of Households  
by 1990 Census Tracts  
Montgomery County, Maryland



Dots are located to show  
average density within each  
1990 Census Tract, not exact  
locations.

Each dot represents 50 Households

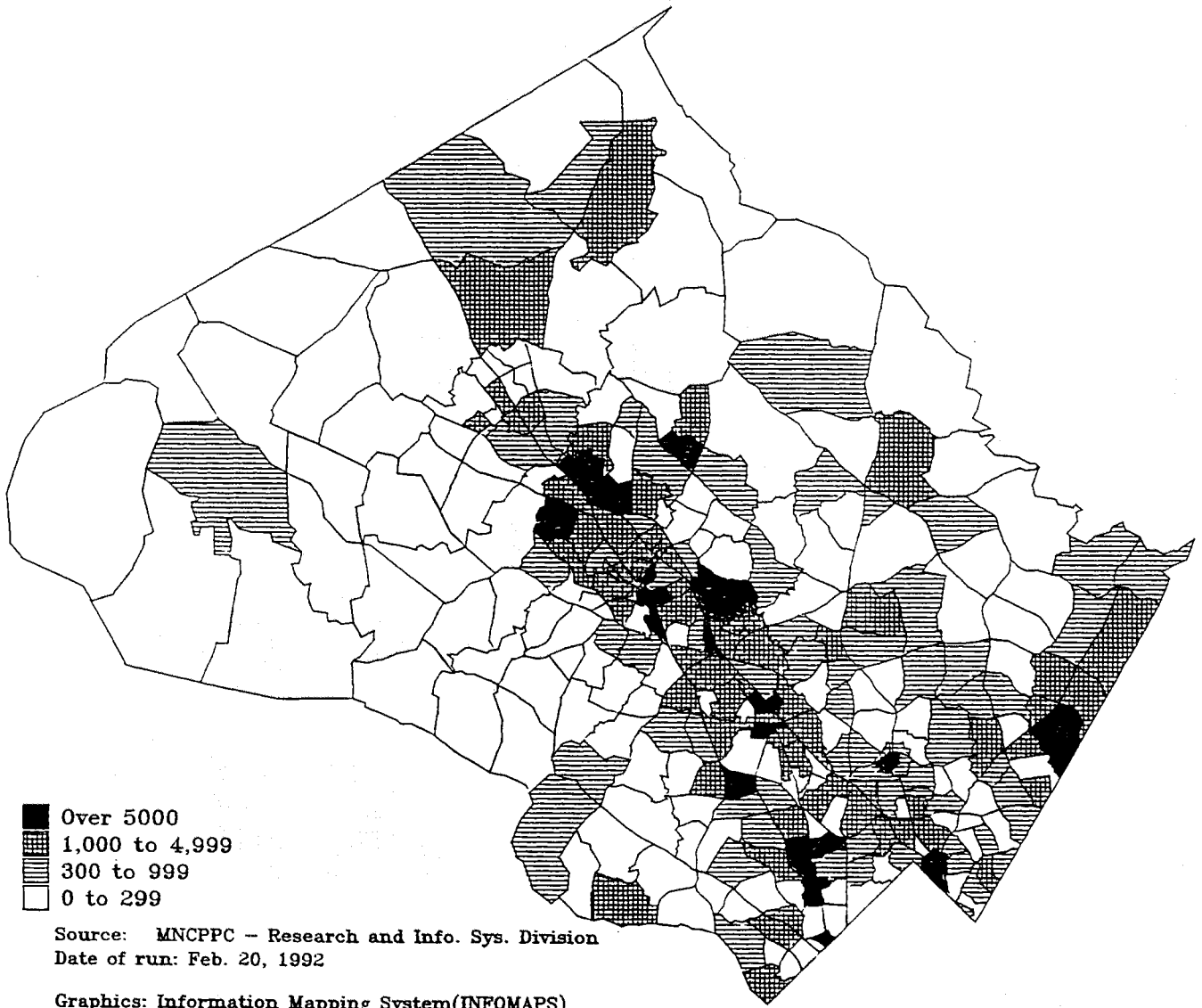
Sources: US Census Bureau, PL94-171  
MNCPPC - Research and Info. Sys. Division

Graphics: Information Mapping System(INFOMAPS)

Montgomery County

Job Distribution as of January 1991

By New MNCPPC Traffic Zones



Montgomery General Hospital in Olney, and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, have been in operation since before 1970. All have been expanded and modernized in the past 20 years. Shady Grove Adventist Hospital opened in 1979 to better serve the medical needs in the growing I-270 corridor. In addition, Montgomery County is home to two military hospitals: Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

## VII. LAND USE PATTERN AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS

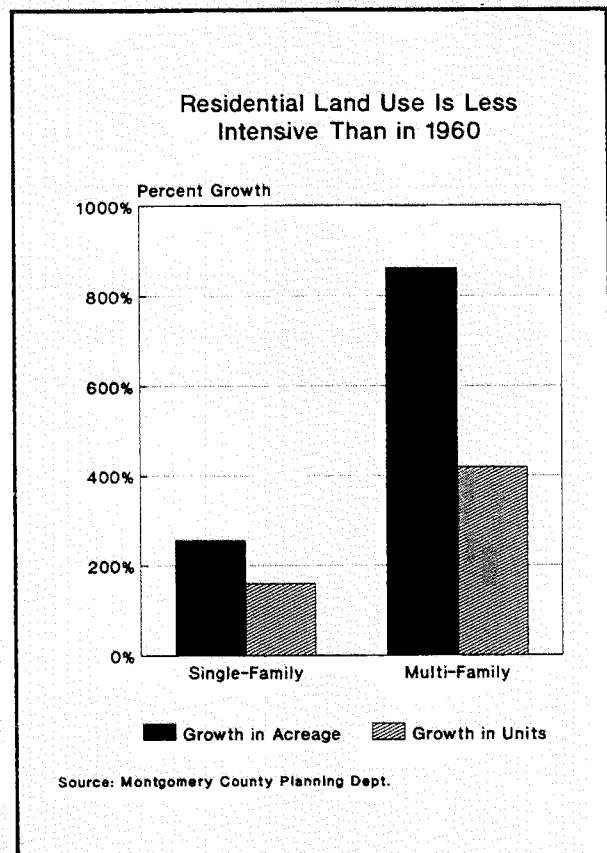
### A. Residential Pattern

\* The pattern of residential growth in Montgomery County has basically followed the wedges and corridors concept since the adoption of the General Plan. The attached maps represent the geographic distribution of households in 1970 and 1990. They illustrate that growth has occurred predominantly in the I-270 corridor, the urban/suburban ring and the satellite communities, especially Olney. Growth in residential wedge areas has been substantial and is generally consistent with the land use recommendations expressed in the General Plan and subsequent area master plans.

\* The amount of land in residential use in the County has increased comparatively more than the number of housing units between 1960 and 1991. In 1960, 8 percent of the County's land area was in residential use. By 1991, the percentage had increased to 29 percent. Overall, the housing stock grew by just over 200 percent while the amount of land used for housing grew by almost 270 percent.

### B. Employment Pattern and Intensity

\* The distribution of employment locations in Montgomery County has basically followed the wedges and corridor pattern of the General Plan, as illustrated by the following map. The map divides the County's traffic zones



into five major categories of employment intensity. The darkest patterns indicate the highest concentration of jobs. Traffic zones with more than 5,000 jobs are generally located in the urban/suburban ring and in the I-270 corridor. In the ring, the highest concentrations are in the four central business districts, the City of Rockville and the Rock Spring and West Farm office/industrial park areas. Employment is generally intense throughout the I-270 corridor and centered along I-270 for the most part, with the airpark to the northeast the most distant intensive location.

In addition, the larger towns and the satellite communities of Olney and Damascus have significant numbers of jobs, generally providing goods and services to local residents. Farming, parks, limited local retail and public services such as schools are the major forms of employment in the wedge although the PEPCO and NIH facilities also offer limited employment there.