

Germantown Forward:

Updating the Germantown Master Plan (1989)

Identity Summer Program, Neelsville Middle School

July 26, 2007

Questions and Comments from Attendees

Identity Summer Program students are middle- and high-schoolers from the Germantown, Montgomery Village, Gaithersburg, and Clarksburg communities. They were asked to introduce themselves, identify their neighborhood, their school and their grade. Then they were presented with two posters, Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is... and Germantown Needs More..., and four stickers per person. Students were asked to attach two stickers to the important things on each poster, or write on a poster, if their thought was not included among the images.

On the first poster, Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is, students were most enthusiastic about the movie theaters and park facilities in the community, and they spoke about stores, shopping malls and restaurants that are their favorites. They prefer places where they can gather with friends as they shop and eat.

On the second poster, Germantown Needs More, students very strongly favored more soccer fields because they had attended a D.C. United soccer game the day before. They also seek more local entertainment venues. When they get a bit older, they might be interested in jobs or other things on the poster, but not now.

Student input on posters:

Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is...

Town Center		
Movie theaters	18	40.0%
Shops and cafes	1	2.2%
Parks, recreations, trails, picnic areas	12	26.7%
School	3	6.7%
Houses of worship	1	2.2%
Employment, jobs, work opportunities	6	13.3%
Homes	2	4.4%
Transportation—pedestrian and bike paths	2	4.4%

Germantown Needs More...

Homes [multi-family]	1	3.8%
Jobs	1	3.8%
Transportation [cabs]	1	3.8%

Germantown Forward, <http://mcparkandplanning.org/germantown/GermantownForward.shtm>

Sue Edwards, Lead Planner and I-270 Team Leader, 301-495-4518

Montgomery County Planning Department

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Community-Based Planning

Entertainment		
Soccer	3	11.5%
Music, feastivals	3	11.5%
Fireworks	7	26.9%
Theater, plays	1	3.8%
Places for kids:		
Skating	2	7.7%
Music	7	26.9%

Who was there:

- The students in the program mostly live in Germantown, Montgomery Village or Gaithersburg.
- They live in:
 - A single-family detached house 5
 - A townhouse 6
 - An apartment 4
- They attend Watkins Mill High School, Neelsville Middle School. Clarksburg High School or Saint Andrews High School.
- Three or four have been to the new Germantown Library, since it's been opened.

Comments and questions:

Germantown needs more soccer fields! The students attended a game the day before, so they especially interested in playing more soccer.

Transportation is usually solved by getting rides. You can get lost on the bus, and sometimes parents don't allow kids on the bus alone.

For music, kids have to have parties at home—there's no place to go for underage students. They need a place near home.

Need skate parks with ramps, especially.

Germantown needs more stores that offer different clothes shopping options.

Favorites include:

- Movie theaters
- Taco Bell
- Chick-Fil-A
- Malls
 - For spending time with friends
 - For stores, shopping
 - Some like to shop indoors
 - Shopping outdoors isn't as boring
 - Have a canopy over shopping areas for when it rains
- Current shopping:

- Lakeforest
- Hagerstown
- Other outlets
- Georgetown
- Places to celebrate, places for festivals are favorites
 - Theme park
 - Rides at the fair

A place for jobs won't be a concern until they get older, maybe in 11th grade.