







Briefing Book

November 2015



Briefing Book



The MARC Rail Communities Plan Briefing Book contains information presented to the community at the November 4, 2015 Community Open House, which served as a public introduction to this Master Plan project. This briefing book also contains additional background information on the Boyds and Germantown MARC station areas not presented at the meeting.

The material compiled in this briefing book, along with the community input received during the Community Open House, helps to inform the Scope of Work for the Plan.



Briefing Book Contents

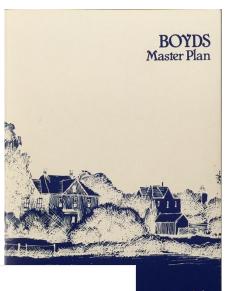
Introduction		4	Proposed Germantown Boundary	39	
Purpose of a Master Plan	4	_	Development Pattern	40	
MARC Rail Communities	4		Historic Preservation	45	
Plan Purpose	6		Environmental	47	
Things to consider during	0		Parks and Open Space	55	
the planning process	9		Zoning	58	
Regional Existing Conditions		13	Mapping Exercise		
Demographics	13		Instructions	60	
Planning Context	27		Precedents	61	
Recent Development			Mapping Exercise Results	63	
Activity	32	2 Next Steps			71
Transportation	35		Project Schedule	71	
Proposed Boundary Existing Conditions		38	Design Workshop	72	
Proposed Boyds Boundary	38		Team Members	73	



Purpose of a Master Plan

- Master Plans set a vision and guide future physical development within a specific area by making recommendations for:
 - Land Use
 - Zoning
 - Transportation
 - Design

 - Environment
 - Parks
- Master Plans are long-term, visionary documents.







Purpose of a Master Plan

What a Master Plan can do...

- Engage and promote understanding and cooperation from stakeholders in order to define a shared future community vision.
- Serve as a guide when development projects are submitted to the Planning Board.
- Guide other County and state policies and programs.

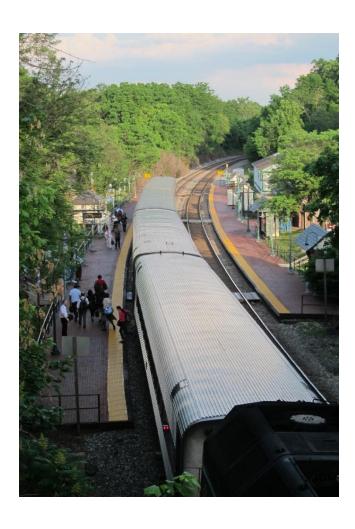
What a Master Plan cannot do...

- Require redevelopment or reinvestment.
- Bring specific retailers/ commercial uses to the community.
- Directly fund capital improvement projects.
- Address operational issues.
- Address code and/or crime enforcement.



MARC Rail Communities Plan Purpose

- Responds to significant upcounty growth.
- Addresses underutilized resources:
 - Parking and connections are issues at both MARC stations.
 - Changes at one station affect the other.
 - Changes have regional implications.
- ▶ Ties together other studies.
- Creates opportunities for greater placemaking.





MARC Rail Communities Plan Purpose

Better Connections Enhance Placemaking Opportunities



Not just for cars

but for people



bicyclists

commuters



Germantown Flea Market



Tour of the Boyds Negro School



MARC Rail Communities Plan Purpose

- Evaluate land uses and zoning near each station area.
- Protect and enhance valued activities and places.
- ▶ Provide recommendations to improve pedestrian, bicyclist, public transportation access to each station.
- ▶ Ensure compatibility with each historic district.
- Address additional concerns raised during the planning process.



- 1. What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?
- 2. What would you like to change?
- 3. How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?
- 4. How do you envision the future of your communities?









- 1. What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?
- 2. What would you like to change?
- 3. How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?
- 4. How do you envision the future of your communities?







- 1. What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?
- 2. What would you like to change?
- 3. How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?
- 4. How do you envision the future of your communities?









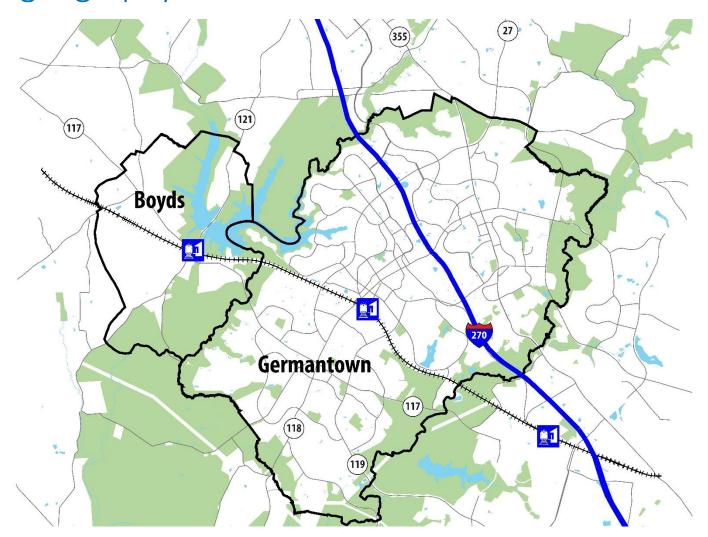
- 1. What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?
- 2. What would you like to change?
- 3. How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?
- 4. How do you envision the future of your communities?







The following demographic information is based on this geography:







Population

- ► The population of the Boyds/Germantown area grew by 29% between 2000 and 2010, versus 11% for the County during the same time.
- ▶ Additionally, Cabin Branch grew by 138% during that same time.

 Boyds/Germantown
 119

 2000
 2010

 117

 2000
 2010

 117
 117

 117
 117

 117
 117

 118
 119

 2000
 2010

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 119

 119
 2000
 2010

 119
 2000
 2010

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 2000
 2010

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119
 119

 119
 119

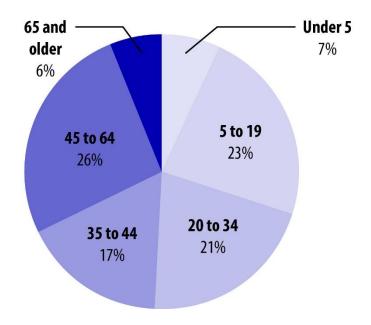
Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census.



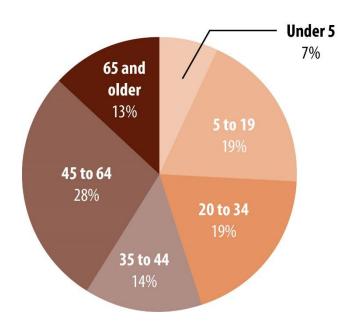
The Boyds/Germantown population is younger than the overall County population.

► The median age in the Germantown area is **34** years versus the County median age, which is **38.4** years.

Boyds/Germantown



Montgomery County

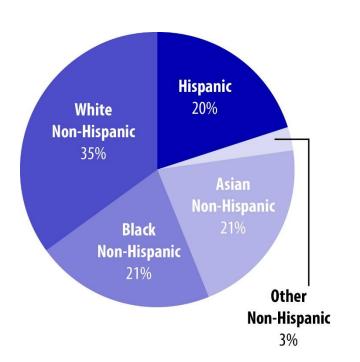




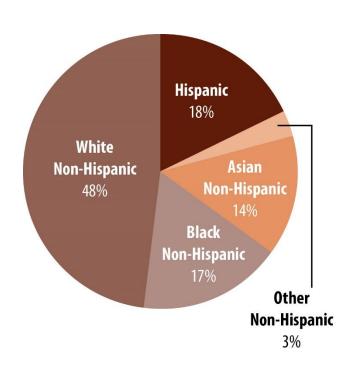
Boyds/Germantown is more diverse than the County.

▶ 65% of the Boyds/Germantown population is a racial or an ethnic minority. This is greater than the County's share of 52%.

Boyds/Germantown



Montgomery County

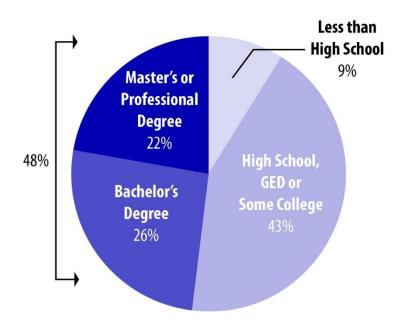




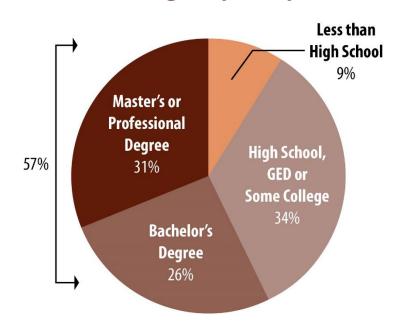
Boyds/Germantown residents have various levels of educational attainment.



Boyds/Germantown



Montgomery County

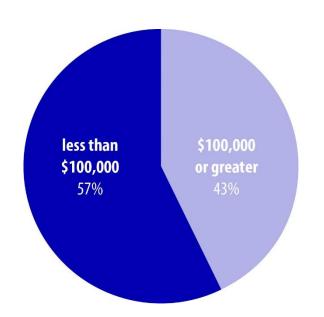




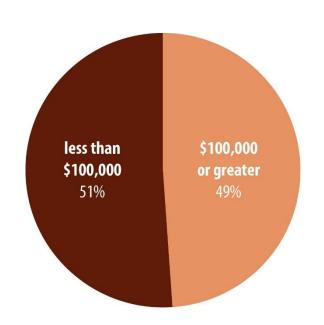
Boyds/Germantown household incomes are trending higher, but not as much as in the County.

► The 2013 median household income for Germantown was \$87,306, versus \$98,211 for the County.

Boyds/Germantown



Montgomery County





Owned Residential Dwellings

Number of Dwelling Units ¹

	Montgomery County		Boyds/ Germantown		Ten Mile Creek/Cabin Branch	
	No. of Units	% of County	No. of Units	% of County	No. of Units	% of County
Attached	54,546	19%	11,064	4%	67	0.02%
Detached	182,035	62%	8,058	3%	319	0.11%
Multi- Family*	56,694	19%	6,248	2%	128	0.04%
Total	293,275	100%	25,370	9%	514	0.18%

^{*} Includes non-rental units

Median Tax Assessment Value (2013-2014)¹

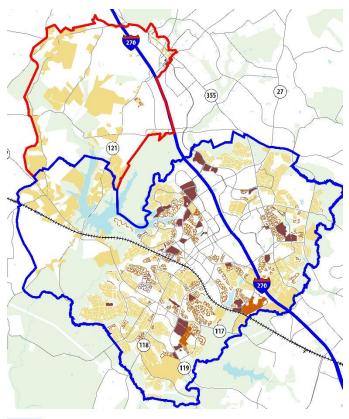
	Montgomery County	Boyds/ Germantown	Ten Mile Creek/Cabin Branch
Improvement	\$177,900	\$152,100	\$170,250
Land	\$219,100	\$120,000	\$159,050
Combined	\$397,000	\$272,100	\$329,300

Average square foot per unit: 1,800 sf

Significant year built range: 1970's – 1990's

¹ SDAT parcel file (2015)





- Boyds/Germantown
- Ten Mile Creek/Cabin Branch
- Single-Family Detached
- Single-Family Attached
- Multi-Family

Number of Dwelling Units ¹

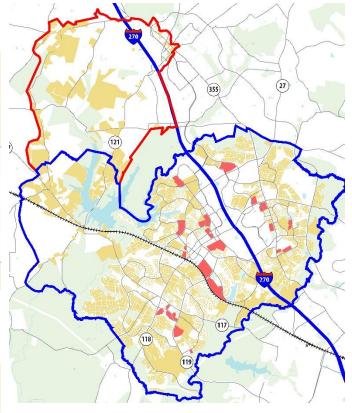
	Montgo Cour	-	Boyds/ Germantown		
	No. of Units	Percent	No. of Units	Percent	
1 BR	33,905	41%	2,160	35%	
2BR	37,412	45%	3,728	61%	
3BR	6,584	8%	248	4%	
Other*	4,525	5%	23	0.4%	
Total	82,426	100%	6,159	100%	

^{*}Other includes efficiency, 4 BR and 5 BR units

Average Rent Range ¹

	Montgomery County			Boyds/ Germantown			
	Low	High	Average	Low	High	Average	
1 BR	\$1,115	\$1,445	\$1,335	\$1,015	\$1,220	\$1,135	
2 BR	\$1,350	\$1,610	\$1,540	\$1,295	\$1,565	\$1,390	
3 BR	\$1,490	\$1,805	\$1,790	\$1,425	\$1,760	\$1,620	

DHCA Rental Housing Survey (2014)







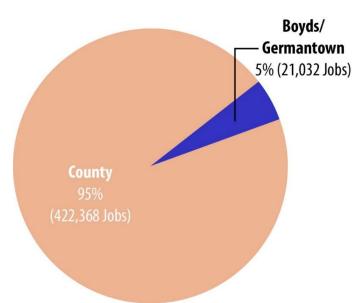




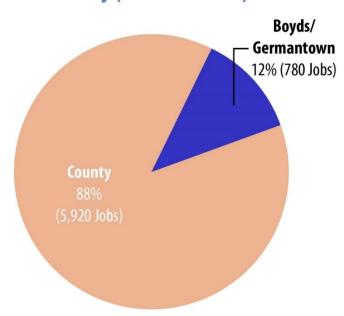


Germantown has 5 percent of jobs, 9 percent of residents in County.

Share of County Jobs (2013)



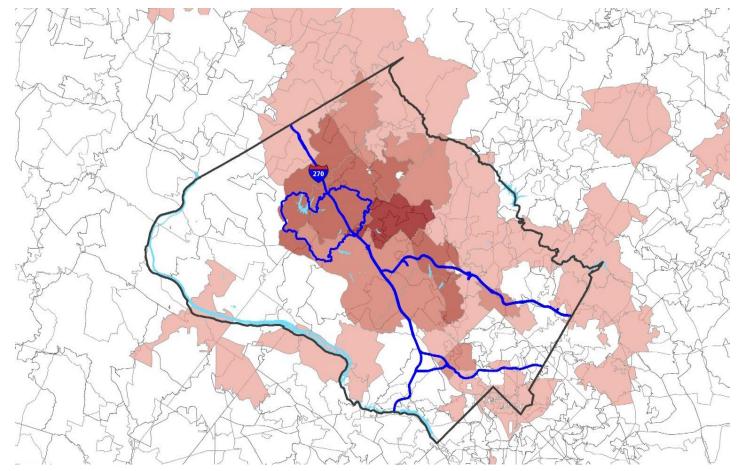
Share of Job Growth in County (2010 to 2013)





More than 90 percent of Boyds/Germantown employed residents commute to jobs outside the area.

▶ Most travel along the I-270 corridor.





Advanced services and manufacturing are key services in the Boyds/Germantown area.

The Boyds/Germantown area has a comparatively larger manufacturing sector than the County.

Boyds/Germantown Montgomery County Advanced Advanced Manufacturing Services **Services** 3% 17% 16% **Other** 34% **Retail Trade** Manufacturing **Other** 9% 15% 57% Retail **Educational Services** Trade 9% Accommodations 13% & Food Services Accommodations 8% & Food Services **Educational Services** 6% 12%

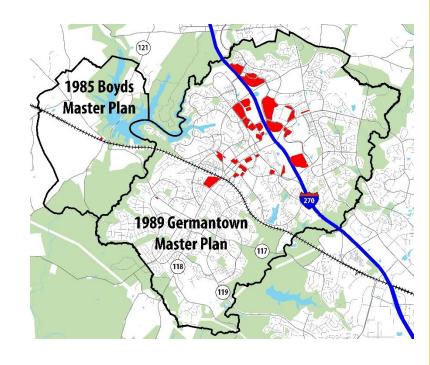




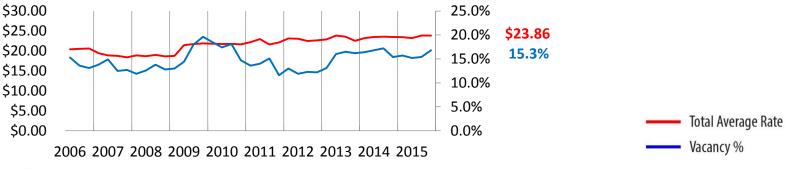


Boyds/Germantown Office Conditions

- Approximately 4.45 million square feet of office/research and development space (6% of County) are in Boyds/Germantown.
- Major office employment centers include Department of Energy, Qiagen, Hughes Network Systems.
- ► The vacancy rate in the County is 15.2% and the cost per square-foot is \$28.09.



Boyds/Germantown Office Vacancy and Rent Rates



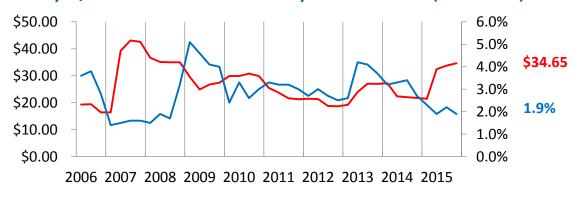


Boyds/Germantown Retail Conditions

- Approximately 3.31 million square feet of retail (8% of County).
- Major retail nodes include Milestone Center, Shops at Seneca Meadows, Germantown Town Center.
- ► The vacancy rate in the County is 4% and the cost-per-square-foot is \$26.88.



Boyds/Germantown Retail Vacancy and Rent Rates (2006-2015)



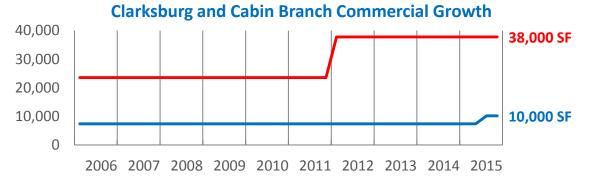
Total Average RateVacancy %



Clarksburg/Cabin Branch Office and Retail

- Approximately 38,000 square feet of retail (0.09% of County).
- Approximately 10,000 square feet of office (0.01% of County).
- Commercial development is supporting residential growth (except future Outlets, which contains 450,000 square feet of retail and restaurant uses, and 1.9 million square feet of office).



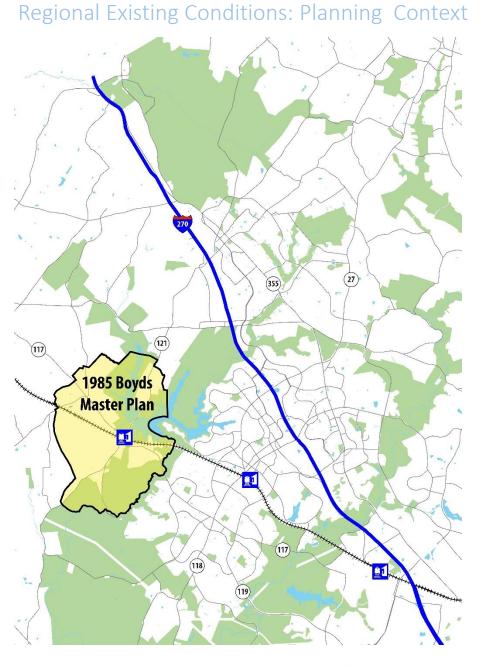






1985 Boyds Master Plan

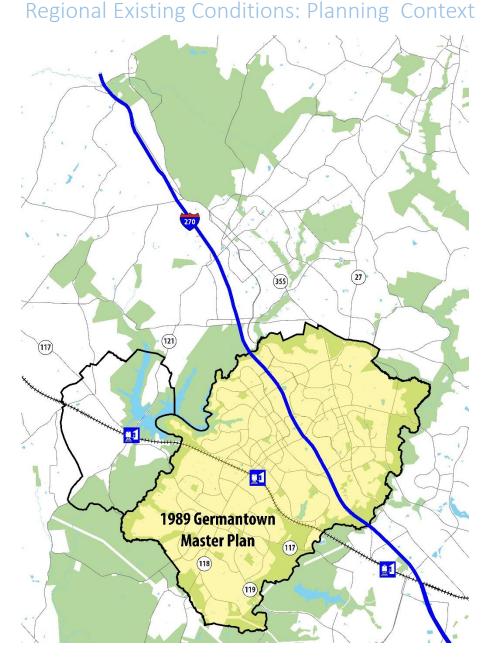
- Continuation of the existing rural community patterns.
- Improved road circulation.
- Development of a local park.
- Defined the historic district.





1989 Germantown Master Plan

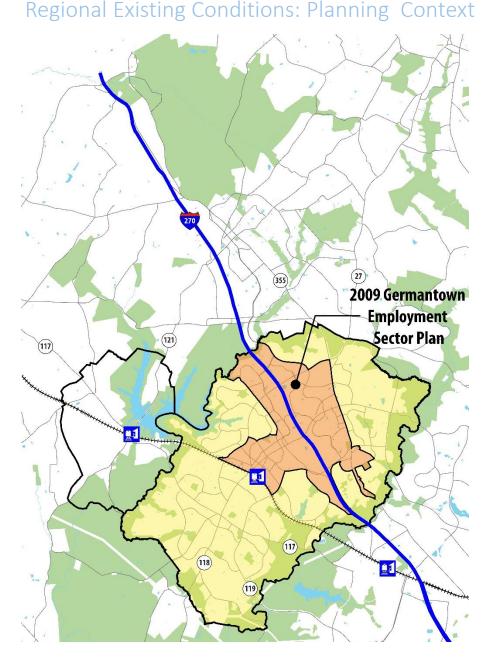
- Provided opportunities for employment land uses.
- Increased the County's total housing stock.
- Provided a safe and adequate transportation system.
- Encouraged the preservation of historic resources.





2009 Germantown Employment Sector Plan

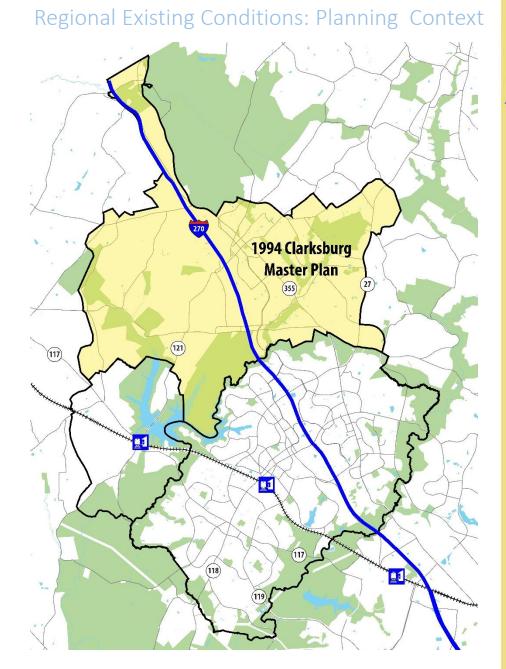
- Focused activity along Century Boulevard and surrounded it with complementary residential and employment uses.
- Created transit-served, mixed-use neighborhoods.
- Established Germantown as the upcounty cultural center.





1994 Clarksburg Master Plan

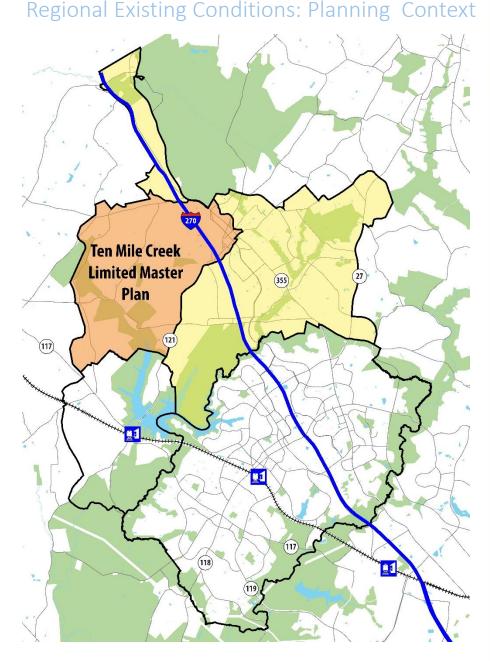
- Protection of natural features, including Ten Mile and Little Seneca Creeks.
- Provided a transit-oriented, multi-use Town Center.
- Reinforced County policy to preserve a critical mass of farmland.
- Clustered development into a series of transit- and pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods.





2014 Ten Mile Creek Limited Master Plan

- Retained the core of the 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan vision.
- Refined the 1994 Plan recommendations in order to:
 - Complete a well-defined corridor town that provides jobs, homes and commercial activities.
 - Preserve natural resources critical to the County's wellbeing.

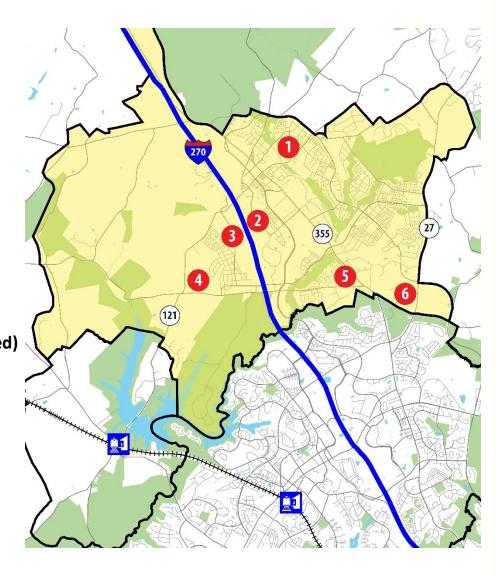




Major Development

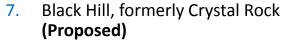
Private

- Clarksburg Town Center (Approved)
 852 Single-Family Residential
 264 Multi-Family Residential
 206,185 square feet of Non-Residential
- Gateway West (Completed)
 254,637 square feet of Non-Residential
- Cabin Branch (Approved)
 1,139 Single- and Multi-Family Residential
 500 Senior Residential
 450,000 square feet of Retail
 1.9 million square feet of Office
- Cabin Branch Toll Brothers (Approved)
 308 Single-Family Residential
 128 Multi-Family Residential
- Tapestry (Approved)
 67 Single-Family Residential
- Courts of Clarksburg (Approved)
 140 Single-Family Residential





Major Development

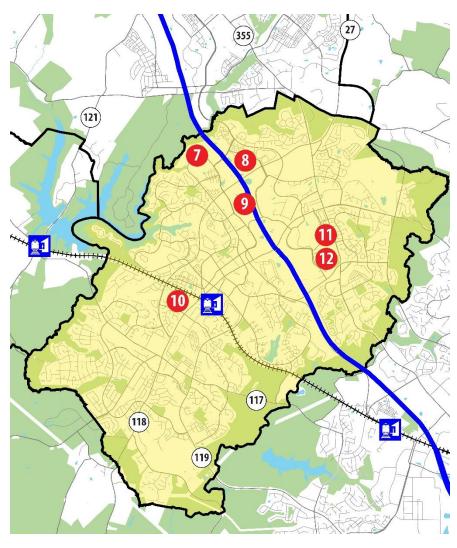


1,189 Multi-Family Residential
1.4 million square feet of Non-Residential

- 8. Milestone North (Approved)
 - 485 Multi-Family Residential 683,250 square feet of Non-Residential
- Century Technology, formerly Cloverleaf (Proposed)

174 Single-Family Residential303 Multi-Family Residential437,420 square feet of Non-Residential

- 10. Village West (Under Construction)
 - 166 Single-Family Residential304 Multi-Family Residential19,771 square feet of Non-Residential
- 11. Medical Office Building (Completed)80,000 square feet of Non-Residential
- Holy Cross Hospital Germantown (Completed)
 317,200 square feet of Non-Residential

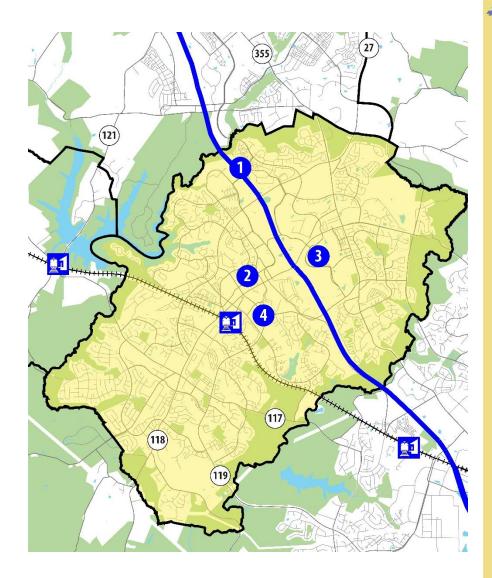




Major Development

Public Projects

- Dorsey Mill Road Overpass (in Design Phase)
- Germantown Town Center Park (Completed)
- Bioscience Building Germantown Campus Montgomery College (Completed)
 145,000 square feet of Non-Residential
- Seneca Valley High School (Anticipated Completion in 2020)

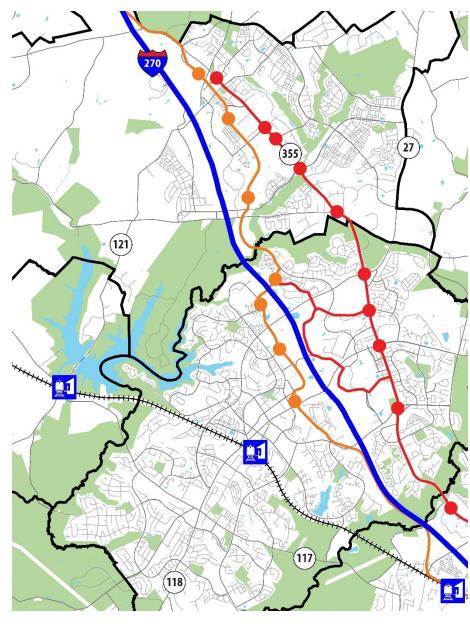




Bus Rapid Transit and Corridor Cities Transitway

- ► The CCT, in orange, will serve communities on the west side of I-270 as the MD355 BRT, in red, will serve the east side.
- Local bus service will connect the Boyds and Germantown MARC stations to both BRT corridors.
- A Master Plan addition of a third track on the MARC line will enable better connections to downcounty and DC locations via more frequent, allday and weekend service.

Regional Existing Conditions: Transportation



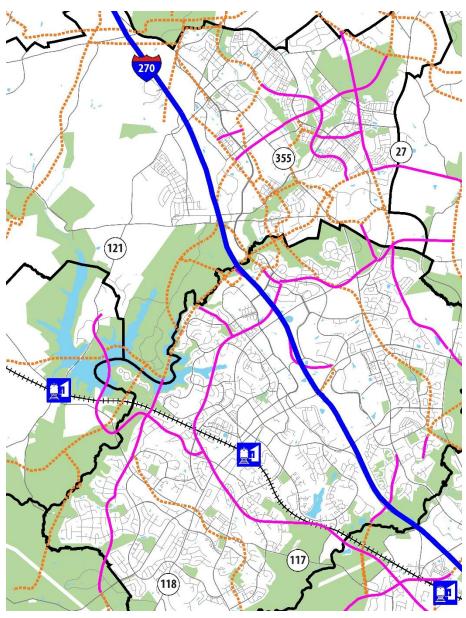


Bicycle Master Plan

The constructed bicycle routes are **in pink**. The proposed bicycle routes are **in orange**. Some of the goals of the current Bicycle Master Plan are:

- Create a low-stress bicycling environment that makes cycling comfortable for most people.
- Provide secure long-term bicycle parking at transit stations.

Regional Existing Conditions: Transportation

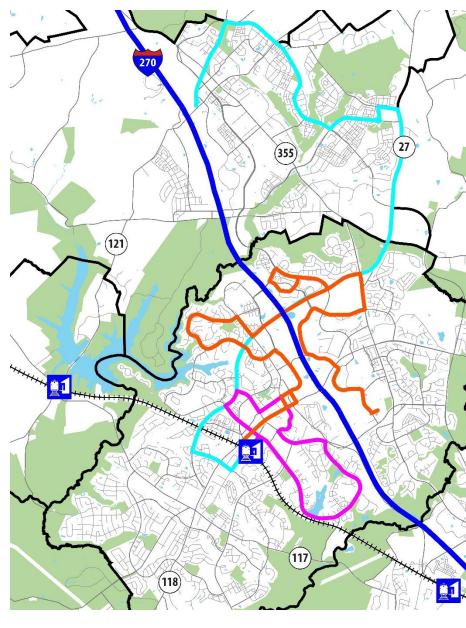




Regional Existing Conditions: Transportation

Ride On Routes to Germantown MARC Station

- Route 94: Clarksburg –
 Germantown MARC Station in blue.
- Route 83: Milestone –
 Germantown MARC Station in orange.
- Route 97: Germantown Transit loop in pink.

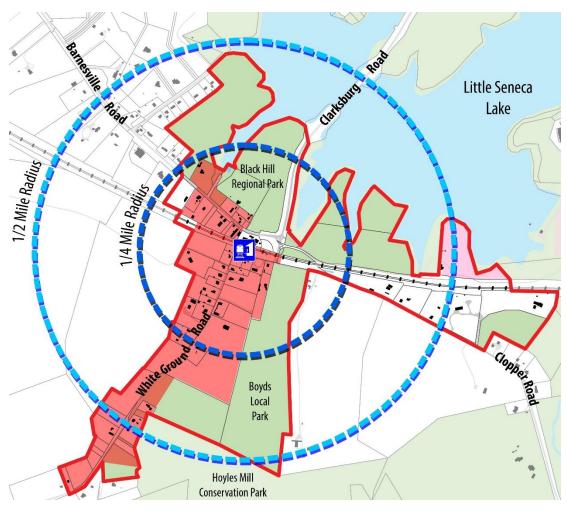




Proposed Boyds MARC Station Boundary

- Historic District in red.
- Individual historic resources in pink.
- Publicly owned land along Little Seneca Lake.
- Industrial land adjacent to the railroad tracks.

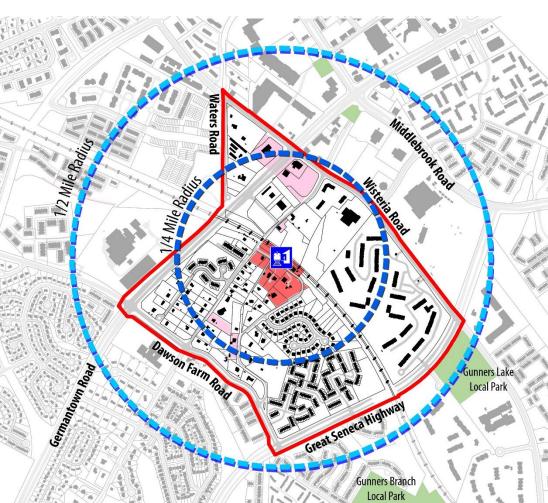






Proposed Germantown MARC Station Boundary

- Blocks immediately north and south of the MARC station.
- Historic District in red.
- Individual Historic Resources in pink.
- Extends up Waters Road.







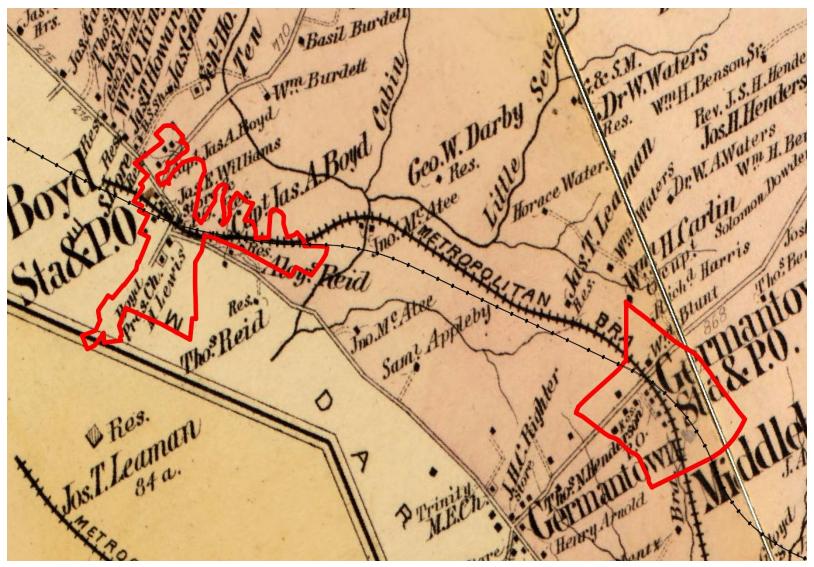




1879 Hopkins Plan

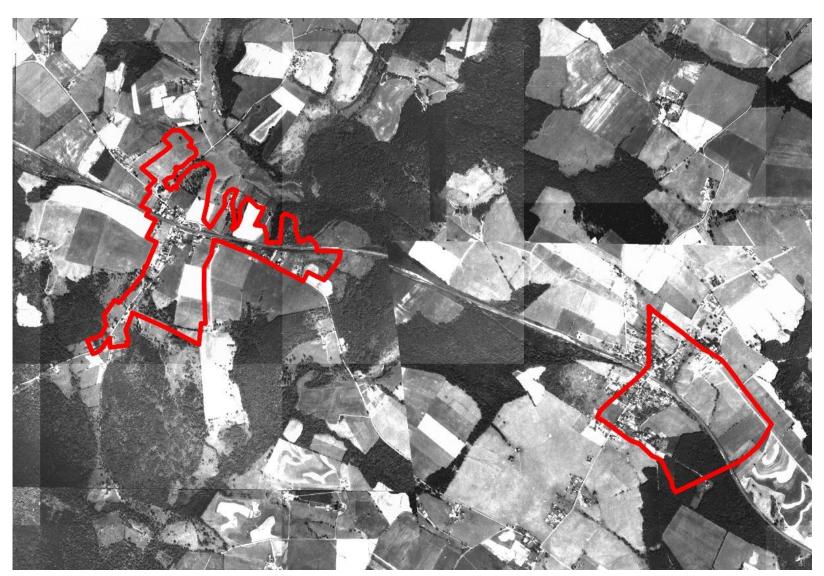








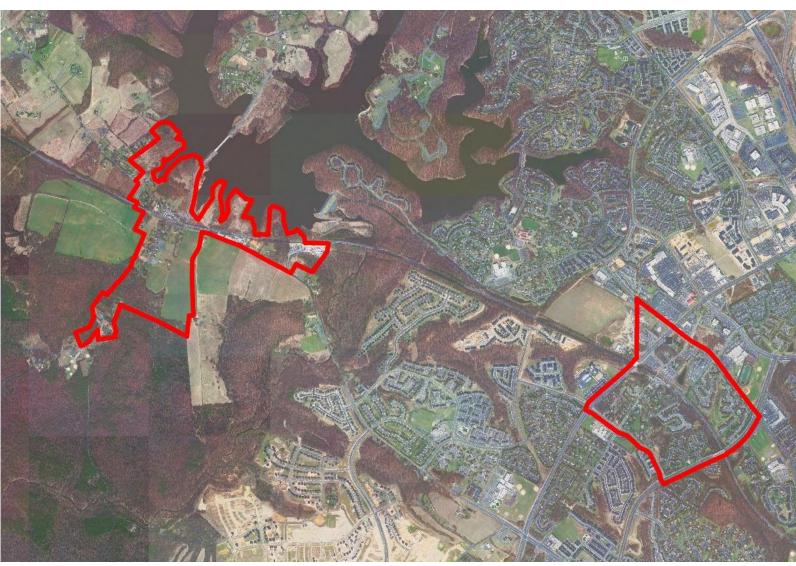










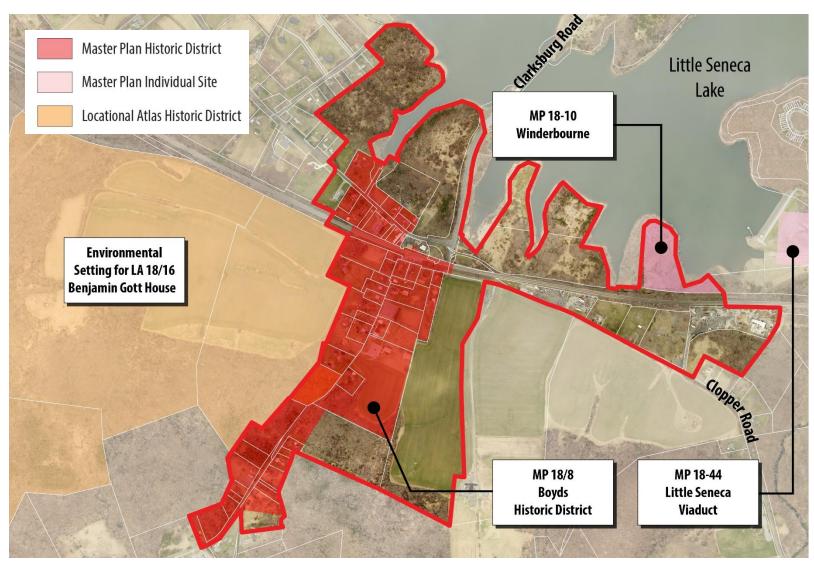








Boyds Historic Resources

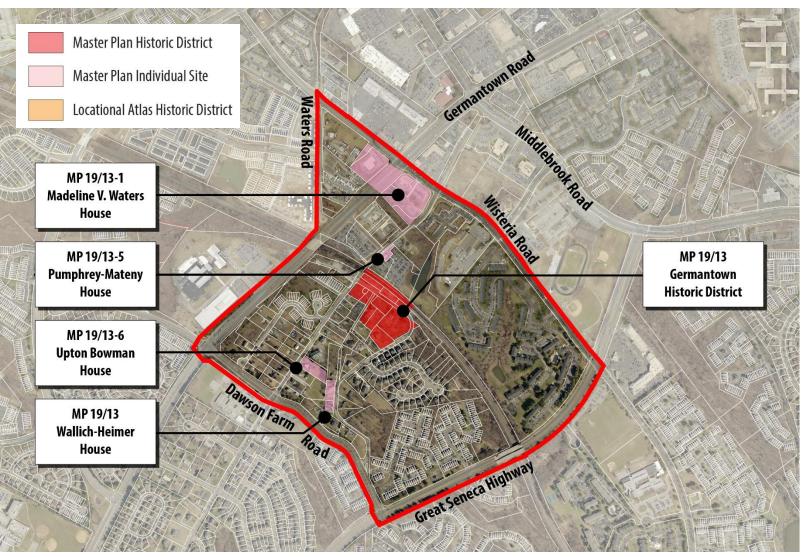








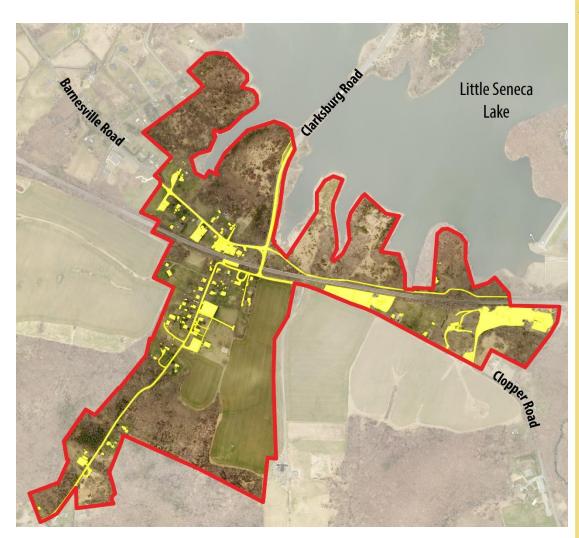






Boyds Imperviousness

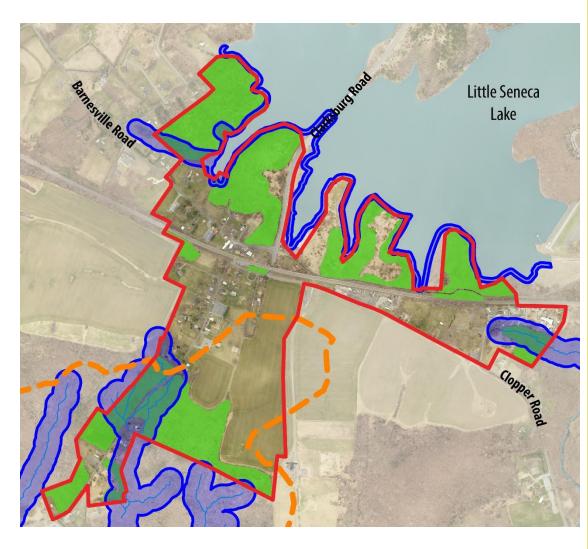
Parking lots comprise
 9.8% of the unshaded imperviousness within the boundary area.







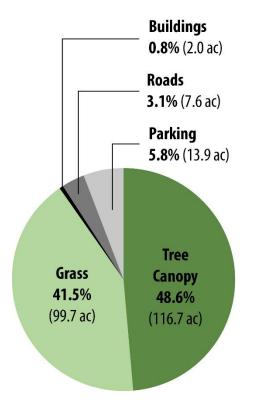
Boyds Forest Canopy

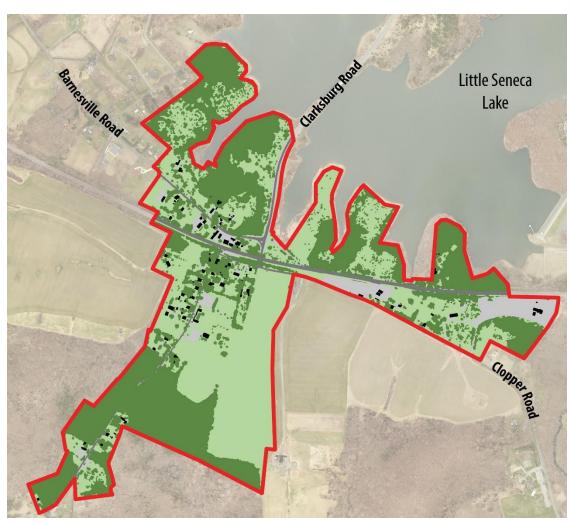






Boyds Tree Canopy Analysis





Notes:

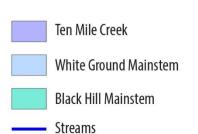
1. Forest comprises 39.2% (or 94.1 acres) of the tree canopy.

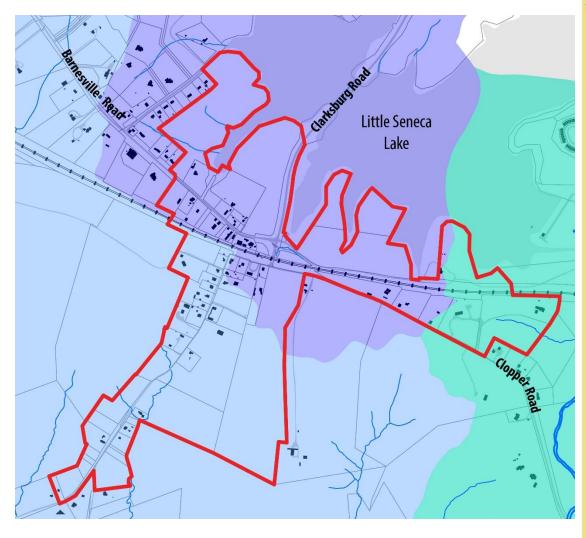


Boyds Watersheds

The Boyds MARC Station area is within the Little Seneca Creek Watershed and three subwatersheds, which are:

- ► Ten Mile Creek
- White Ground Mainstem
- Black Hill Mainstem







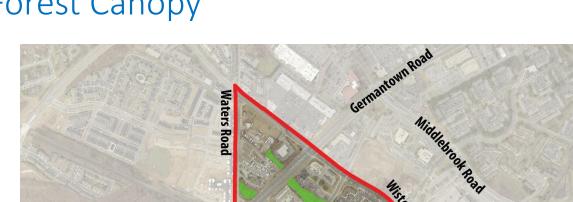
Germantown Imperviousness

 Parking lots comprise 31.3% of the unshaded imperviousness within the boundary area.





Germantown Forest Canopy





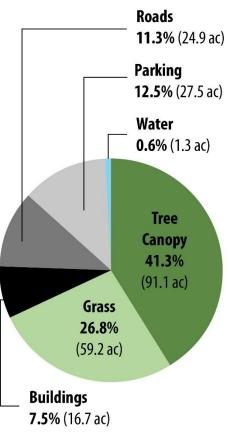




Germantown Tree Canopy Analysis







Notes:

1. Forest comprises 10.1% (or 22.2 acres) of the land cover within the boundary.





Germantown Watersheds

The Germantown MARC Station area is within the Little Seneca Creek Watershed and two subwatersheds, which are:

- Gunners Branch
- Germantown Estates Tributary







Streams





Boyds Existing Parks

(within Proposed Boundary)

Includes parts of the Black Hill Regional Park.

- Historic Boyds Maughlin House
- 2. Empty lot within the Historic District
- 3. Best Natural Area
- Boyds Local Park (undeveloped)





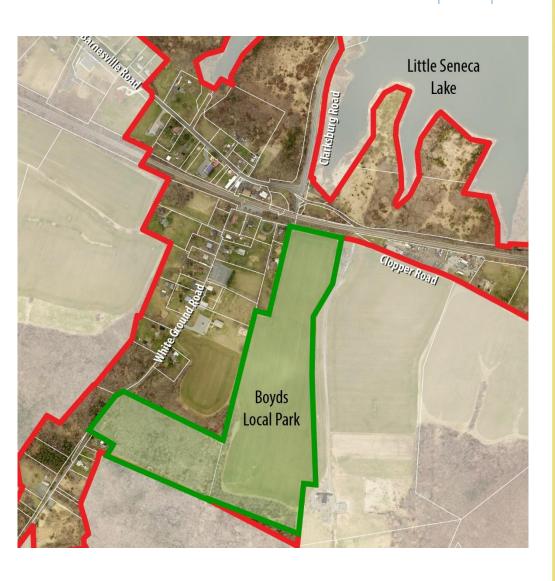


Boyds Existing Parks

(within Proposed Boundary)

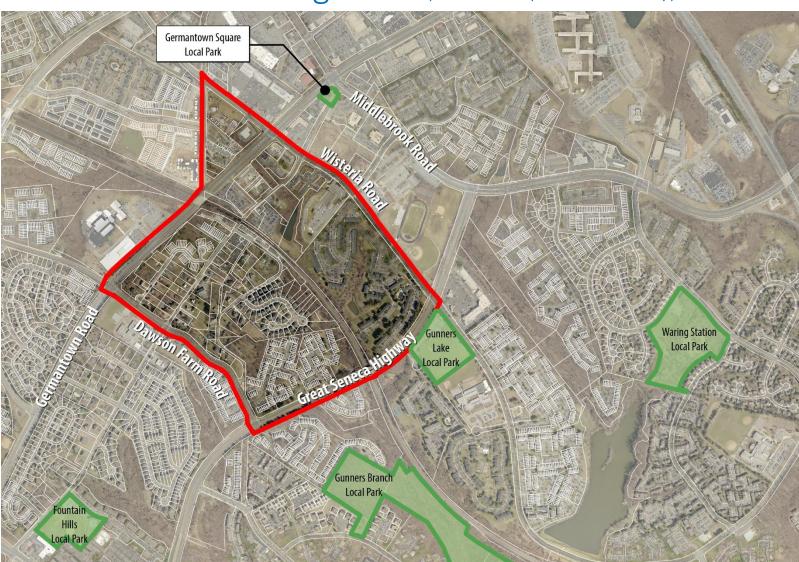
Boyds Local Park

- 46 acres (not all buildable).
- Partially wooded.
- Contains Hoyles Mill Trail.
- Currently under agricultural lease.
- Adjacent to historic district.
- Soil may be very rocky and expensive to develop.
- Purchased for \$5 million in 2002.
- Current Master Plan language may be outdated.

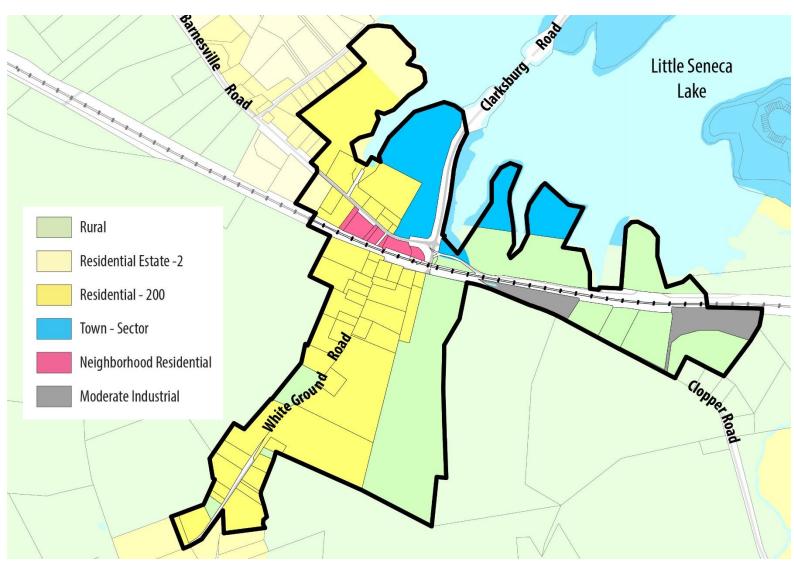




Germantown

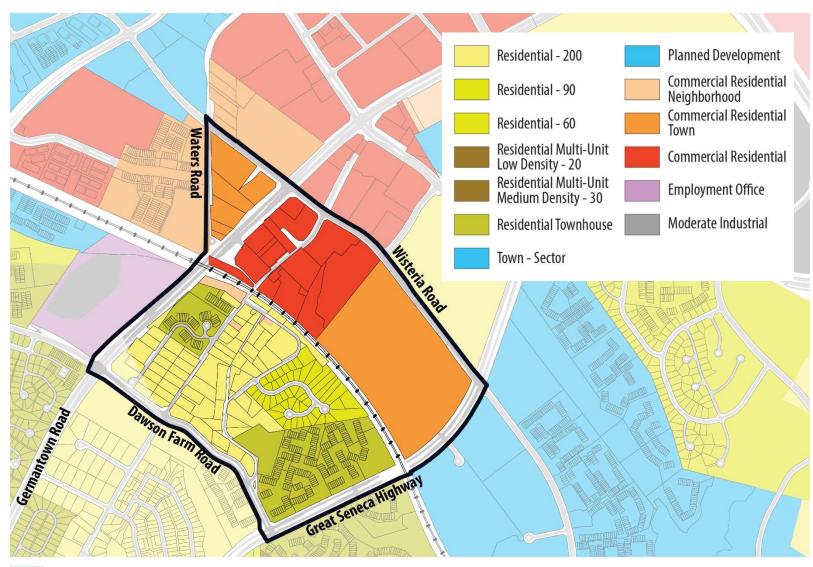


Boyds Zoning





Germantown Zoning





Mapping Exercise

We want to find out from the community the following things:

- 1. What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?
- What would you like to change?
- 3. How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?
- 4. How do you envision the future of your communities?

Each question was posed at the meeting. The community had an opportunity to provide written comments on flip charts and visual comments on maps regarding a question. The maps and comments from are included in the briefing book. This information can also be found at the project website which is:

www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/marc rail station/



Commuter Rail Station Area Examples





Hartsdale, NY (images from Google Earth)





Croton Falls, NY (images from Google Earth)





Riverdale Park, MD (images from Google Earth)



Commuter Rail Station Area Examples





Lansdale, PA





Swarthmore, PA





Chalfont, PA

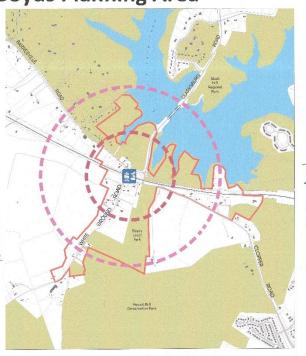


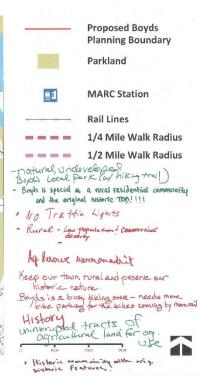
What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?

MARC-Boyds Planning Area



- · Walking hiking trails are fantastic! however traffic is much too fast.
- . The link to the historic past.
- · Green spaces
- · Potential for Live/work-mixed use
 - · Jobs Reserve
 - · Great neighborhoods

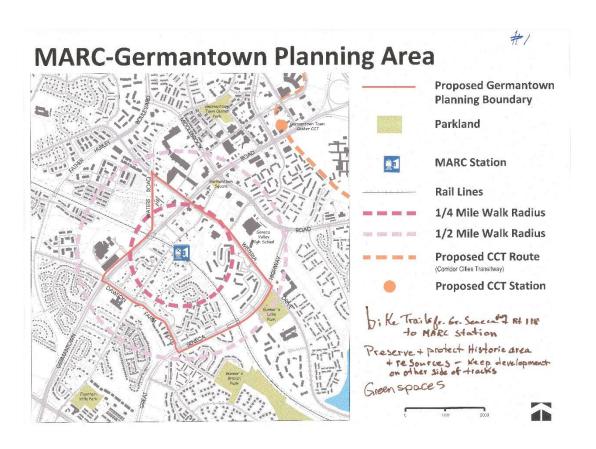








What makes the Boyds and/or Germantown areas special?

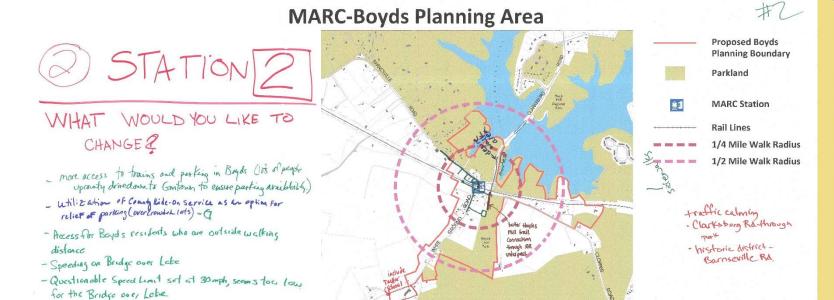




- Sidewalks in Boyds

- Confortable with 30 mph limit on Bridge - Move train station to Industrial Zone

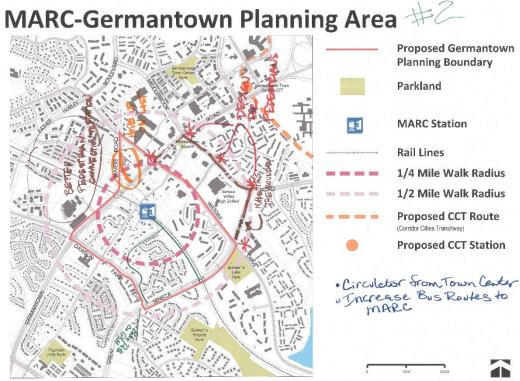
What would you like to change?





What would you like to change?

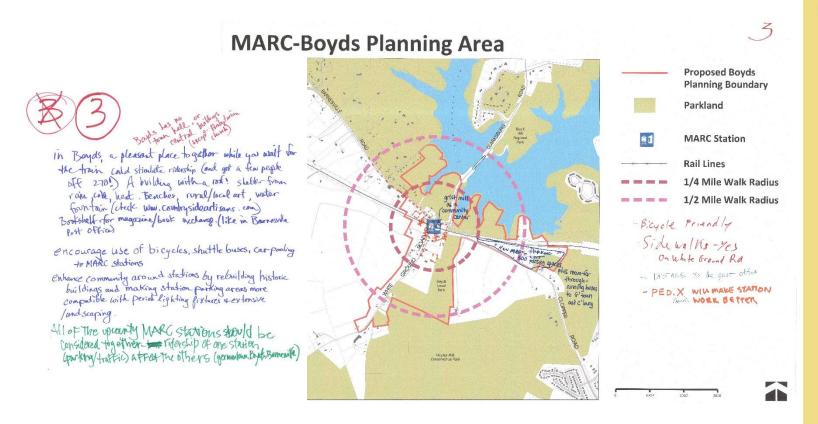
- Include Taylor School in Study Area
- Sidewalks (See map) 1
- Improved bucycle safety other than sharing existing lanes. (B)
- In G. town-bike lones from Great Soneca Hours to MARC station
- Bicycle access along troin tracks? to GSH
- Consider Germantown/Boyds/Barnesuille Stations and ridership together Bachanges to one affect the other.
 - more trains, fares to be the same as Garmantoun.







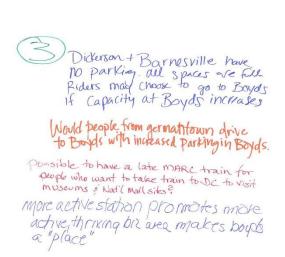
How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?

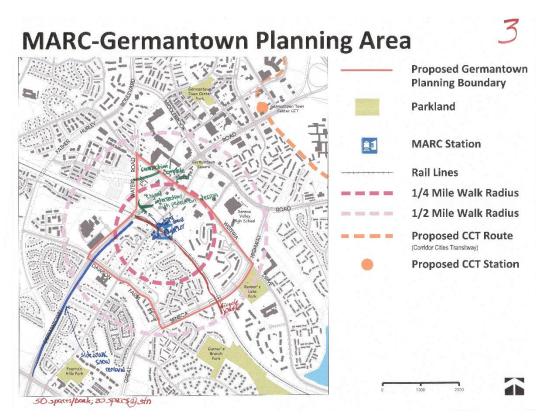




November 2015 Briefing Book

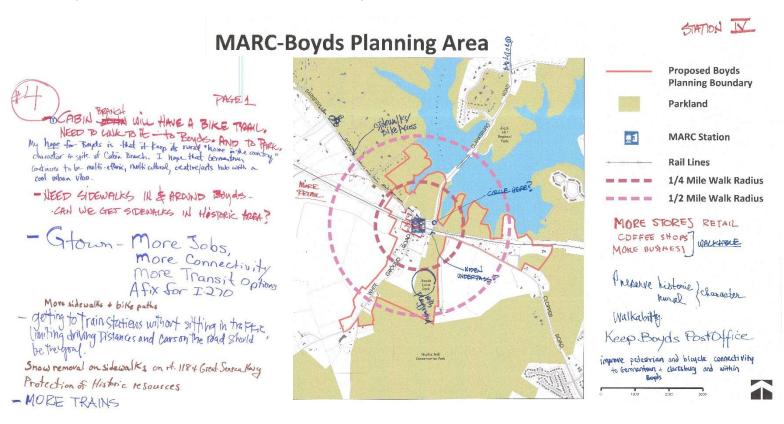
How can the MARC rail station areas be a catalyst for that change?







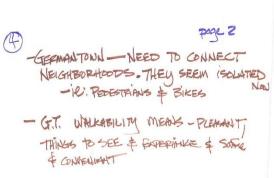
How do you envision the future of your communities?

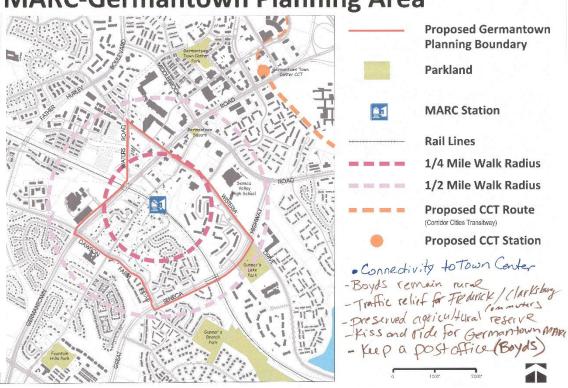




How do you envision the future of your communities?









Project Schedule

Scope of Work Presentation to Planning Board

▶ Community Design Workshop

► Presentation of Preliminary Recommendations to Community

Presentation of Refined Recommendations to Community

Presentation of Working Draft to Planning Board Winter 2016

Spring 2016

late April/early May 2016

May 2016

Summer 2016



What is a Design Workshop?

- Several days event in the community.
- Involves a multitude of stakeholders working to develop a common vision for the future of their community.
- Allows everyone who participates to be an author of the plan.
- Work one-on-one with County Planning staff who will capture the ideas, visions and goals of the MARC Rail Station Communities Plan.
- ▶ Will be held in Spring 2016.





Team Members

Kipling Reynolds, Area 3 Chief, 301.495.4575 | kipling.Reynolds@montgomeryplanning.org Fred Boyd, Supervisor, 301.495.4654 | fred.boyd@montgomeryplanning.org Roberto Duke, Lead Planner, 301.495.2168 | roberto.duke@montgomeryplanning.org Leslie Saville, Senior Planner, 301.495.2194 | leslie.saville@montgomeryplanning.org Tom Autrey, Functional Planning, 301.495.4533 | tom.autrey@montgomeryplanning.org Michael Garcia, Transportation, 301.495.4549 | michael.garcia@montgomeryplanning.org Paul Mortensen, Senior Urban Designer, 301.495.4523 | paul.Mortensen@montgomerypanning.org Katherine Nelson, Environmental, 301.495.4622 | katherine.nelson@montgomeryplanning.org Roberto Ruiz, Research, 301.650.5618 | roberto.ruiz@montgomeryplanning.org Sandra Youla, Historic Preservation, 301.563.3419 | sandra.youla@montgomeryplanning.org Charles Kines, Parks, 301.495.2184 | charles.kines@montgomeryparks.org Mark Wallis, Parks, 301.650.4389 | mark.wallis@montgomeryparks.org



21

Contacts:

Roberto Duke 301.495.2168 roberto.duke@montgomeryplanning.org

Leslie Saville
301.495.2194
leslie.saville@montgomeryplanning.org

Stay Connected:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/marcrailplan

