

I. INTRODUCTION

The White Oak Master Plan is one of four master plans covering Eastern Montgomery County (see Figure 5, page 2). These four master plans (Cloverly, Fairland, White Oak, and Four Corners) are being updated simultaneously so that common issues can be addressed in each master plan in a comprehensive and consistent manner. Supporting information regarding the analysis of the region covered by the four plans can be found in the following documents and are referenced in this Plan: *Population and Household Profile for Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan Areas* (1995), *Eastern Montgomery County Neighborhood Retail Study* (1994), *Transportation Report for the Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan Areas* (1995), *Historic Resources for the Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan Areas* (1995), and *Environmental Resources: Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan Areas* (1996).

This Master Plan is an amendment to the *Master Plan for Eastern Montgomery County Planning Area: Cloverly, Fairland, White Oak* (1981), as amended. The 1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan is being updated through the development of three individual master plans (Cloverly, Fairland, and White Oak). The Four Corners Master Plan area has been included as part of the Eastern Montgomery County update due to its physical relationship and a number of common issues with the region covered by the 1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan.

In this Plan, the term "master plan area" is used to define the area covered by the individual master plan. The master plan area boundaries are established to respond to common issues, natural boundaries, community affiliations, or other characteristics. Master plan areas often differ from other geographic boundaries in Montgomery County, such as "planning areas" and "policy areas," that have been established and used by the County Council for other purposes.

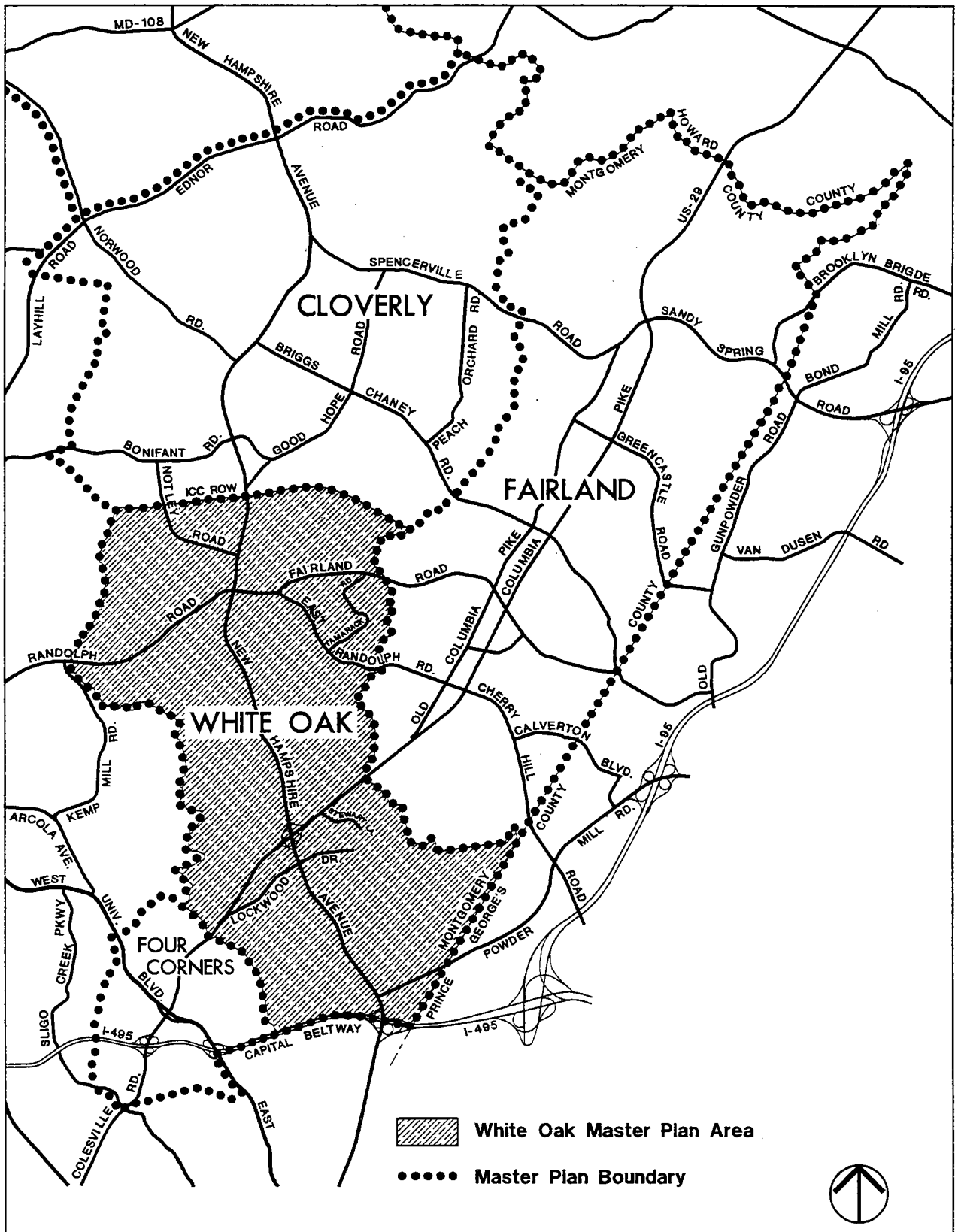
In 1992, at the direction of the County Council, the Montgomery County Planning Board hired a consultant to assist in designing a consensus-based citizen participation process that would be used in revising the Four Corners, White Oak, Fairland, and Cloverly Master Plans. The consultant team hired was The Concordia Systems Group and The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. The Planning Board endorsed the consultant recommendations to initiate a collaborative method for citizen involvement in the Eastern Montgomery County master plans. The major changes that have been applied to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) process for these four master plans include: selection of a chairperson by the CAC members, development and presentation of the Issues Report and subsequent master plan drafts as a collaborative effort between the Montgomery County Planning staff and the CAC, and extension of the life of the CACs through County Council adoption of the master plan.

This Plan is the culmination of a three-year process that has featured over 38 meetings of the White Oak Master Plan CAC, M-NCPPC, and County agencies. During these meetings, issues and concerns regarding the Master Plan area were discussed. Additional forums with the other Eastern Montgomery County CACs and informational meetings with various citizens groups in the Master Plan area have also been held.

As a result, this Plan represents the recommendations of the Planning Board with considerable input from CAC and staff. This Master Plan is a guide for the communities that make up the White Oak Master Plan area, the general public, and government agencies to direct and assure that public investment and future growth occur in a manner that is consistent with and enhances the essence of these communities. The White Oak Master Plan supports the goals of the General Plan for Montgomery County and the seven visions of the Maryland Planning Act of 1992. This Plan presents a vision for the future of the White Oak Master Plan area and a concept that is supported by recommendations which can be found in the Land Use and Zoning, Transportation, Community Facilities, Environmental Resources, and Historic Preservation chapters.

RELATIONSHIP TO EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FIGURE 5



REGIONAL LOCATION

FIGURE 6

