

INTRODUCTION

New master plans that describe the long-term future of downtown Silver Spring and the surrounding communities of Four Corners, North and West Silver Spring, Takoma Park and East Silver Spring were prepared between 1996 and 2000. These plans reflect the spirit of the Smart Growth initiative created by the State of Maryland, which emphasizes quality of life in established communities, neighborhood conservation and efficient use of existing public facilities.

This Framework for Action provides agencies, businesses, and residents with a checklist of the projects needed to achieve the vision of a revitalized downtown surrounded by livable residential neighborhoods in Silver Spring/Takoma Park. This Framework can be used to focus and monitor our collective efforts to achieve the vision of each master plan.



Georgia Avenue at Montgomery Hills

The Framework for Action identifies the specific projects that are recommended in the master plan for each area. Some of these projects like the homes at Cameron Hill, the relocation of the Tastee Diner, and the pedestrian improvements at Four Corners have already been constructed. Some are currently underway, such as the construction of the global headquarters for Discovery Communications and the renovation of the Silver Theatre. Many others remain to be built, including the new community center in Takoma Park, the Silver Spring Transit Center and the expansion of Montgomery College.



Discovery Communications World Headquarters

Projects likely to have the greatest impact on achieving the vision of the master plans are identified in this report as "Priority Actions". Many of the Priority Actions are also shown on the Silver Spring/Takoma Park Master Plans poster that illustrates the major master plan recommendations. Important projects contributing to structuring the master plan vision are identified as "Other Actions".

Implementing this action strategy will require a sustained, long-term commitment. Various government agencies may be involved in implementing each action. Many actions will depend on the response of the business community to market changes in the area. Other actions will emerge as community groups and private organizations see opportunities to improve the community. Cooperation by everyone will be required to achieve the vision of the master plans for the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area.



Downtown Silver Spring