



## APPENDIX 17: TRAIL CONNECTIONS

### Park Planning and Stewardship, Department of Parks, 2008

Trails are integral to the Germantown pedestrian network. Connect trails, bikeways and sidewalks through all districts promoting an alternative to vehicle use and improving access to destinations such as transit stations, schools, commercial services, parks and natural areas. The trail recommendations in this document will update the 2005 Park, Recreation, & Open Space (PROS) Plan.

#### Key Park Trail Planning Issues

New visions for the Germantown study area include a more compact and walkable environment within each of several distinct mixed-use neighborhoods that are clustered around the transit stations of the Corridor Cities Transitway. The key issue for trail connections will be to assure

connectivity between urban centers, parks, community facilities, and local and regional bikeways. The proposed pedestrian and bike system will support the plan’s vision of a pedestrian-oriented environment, with linkages into open spaces, regional trail systems, and other destinations. (See also Appendices 17, 19 and 20, Bikeways, Recreation Needs and Parks and Open Spaces.)

Assure connectivity by creating a park trail system that in combination with the bike paths provides an integrated, interconnected pedestrian network throughout the community, and links neighborhoods to the larger community by trails, sidewalks, and bike paths

#### Policy Guidance

The 1998 *Countywide Park Trails Plan* proposed a 250-mile interconnected system of hard surface and natural surface trails in eight greenway corridors throughout Montgomery County. The Germantown Planning Area is located in two of the eight corridors:

Corridor 2: Seneca Greenway Corridor, a natural surface trail corridor that stretches from the Potomac to the Patuxent and utilizes a portion of the Germantown Greenbelt.

Corridor 8: Upcounty Corridor, a hard surface trail corridor that features a proposed hiker-biker trail to link the communities of Germantown, Clarksburg and Damascus.

**Table 1 Summary of Proposed Trail Recommendations, Germantown Corridor Area**

Facility	Status	Issues	Recommendations
M-83 Segment of Germantown Bicycle Beltway	Countywide Park Trails Plan	Road might not be built due to environmental issues	Identify alternate alignment(s)
Crystal Rock Greenway	In existing ROW		Create linear recreation corridor between Town Center and Black Hill Park, with hiker/biker path, seating, landscaping.

As recommended by the Countywide Park Trails Plan we have developed an extensive natural surface trail system that will surround the Planning Area and will have a hard surface bicycle beltway with connections to the north and south. The *Countywide Park Trails Plan* identifies the need for a more comprehensive look at how park trails and bike paths can be integrated in the upcounty area and stresses the need for a “well-thought out trail concept to guide both private and public development”. Both the Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan and the larger MD 355 corridor study will help assure enhanced connectivity along the entire length of the I-270 Corridor.

### Trail Connection Needs

Connectivity to park trails, existing and proposed parks, and community facilities is essential. Closing the gap in the North Greenbelt proposed trail is important between Seneca Crossing Local Park and Great Seneca Stream Valley Park. The M-83 segment of the Germantown Bicycle Beltway will provide this function, however if M-83 is not built, an alternate alignment must be provided. Trail head parking is needed at the Waters house. New trails planned for Black Hill Regional Park will add to recreational opportunities.

### Trail Recommendations

The Trail Concept both links the study area to nature, parks, and community destinations and to regional trail systems. Specifically the Plan proposes to:

Link the Town Center to the greenbelt parks to:

- Create a “greenway” that integrates the Town Center entertainment district, public parks, and private open space and features easy access from transit This is a linear green space that connects Black Hill to the Town Center (via Crystal Rock Drive road narrowing). If possible and through work with private developers, this plan proposes a cultural walk that could build upon one or more of the historical themes identified in this Plan.
- Provide a Bicycle Beltway that connects the Study Area to the north, south and east to parks and trails. If M-83, Midcounty Highway, and its related bikeway are not built, an alternate bikeway alignment must be identified.