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Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan: Worksession #2

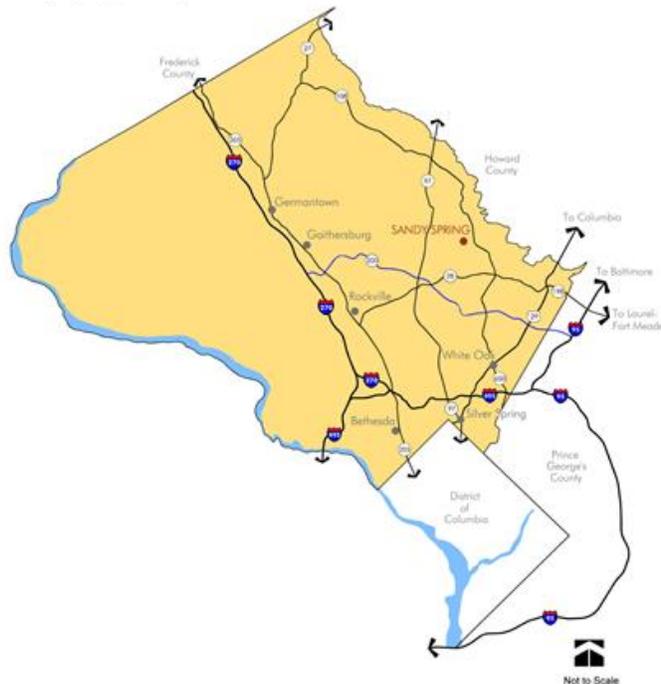
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Completed: 10/16/2014

Description

**Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan:
Worksession #2**

Staff Recommendation: *Review the public testimony and staff responses and transmit the Planning Board Draft Plan to the County Council and County Executive*



Summary

This memorandum provides a summary of the public testimony and the staff response on the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan. Worksession No. 1 focused on the general concepts of the Plan including the vision and history; land use, density and height; transportation capacity; and implementation strategies to create a vibrant Village. Worksession No. 2 will provide a new history section and will allow the Planning Board a final opportunity to review of all the modifications to the Public Hearing Draft of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan before transmitting the Planning Board Draft Plan to the County Council and County Executive.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends completing any modifications to the Plan and approval to transmit the Planning Board Draft of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan to the County Council and County Executive.

DISCUSSION

Public Hearing Draft of the Spring Rural Village Plan

Residents, property owners, and the representatives of the County Executive have proposed a limited number of modifications to the Plan. All edits to the Draft Plan have been incorporated to reflect the actions of the Planning Board.

Worksession No. 2 will provide a new History Section for the Planning Board to review, and it will allow a final opportunity for the Planning Board to review of all the modifications made to the Public Hearing Draft of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan before transmitting the Planning Board Draft Plan to the County Council and County Executive. The modifications to date as a result of the previous worksession include the following:

- Including a History Section into the Plan
- Including a Design Check List in the Implementation Chapter that summarizes the design recommendations in the Plan
- Rezoning 617 Olney-Sandy Spring Road from R-200 to R-60 and amending the zoning map.
- Considering adaptive reuse as part of redevelopment in Village Core Neighborhood, Specific Property #1
- Retaining the off-road shared use bikeway along the northern portion of MD 108 and eliminate the on-street bikeway
- Retaining the designation of Bentley Road as a Rustic Road with the opportunity for safety improvements at the intersection with MD 108
- Incorporating the limited number of modifications to the Plan proposed by residents, property owners, and the County Executive

A list of the specific modifications was provided to the Planning Board at Worksession No. 1. The modifications were incorporated into the draft Planning Board Draft (see attached). This Draft will be transmitted to the County Council and County Executive following Worksession No. 2.

SPECIFIC PLAN CHANGES REMAINING FROM WORKSESSION NO. 1

1. **History Section:** Community residents (Miche Booz and Robin Ziek) and Heritage Montgomery have requested the Plan have more language about history, specifically the importance of the architecture in the historic district and cultural heritage of the area that helps support the recommendations of the Plan.

Staff Response: Provide a short history section in the Introduction Chapter. Staff developed a history section and has attached it to the Planning Board Draft Plan.

- 2. Minor modifications to update factual information:** Residents, property owners, and representatives of the County Executive have proposed a limited number of modifications to the Plan.

Staff Response: *Edits have been incorporated into the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan (see attached).*

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Heritage Montgomery's letter was received last week from Sarah L. Rogers, the Director of Heritage Montgomery. The Director suggested that the Plan include the following:

- Include notable historic and cultural features in the Plan area (in added History Section)
- Include parts of the 2002 Management Plan (Sandy Spring target investment zone) in the Implementation Section
- Add Heritage Area grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to the CIP Section

Staff Response

Staff recommends the following to respond to the suggestions: include a more detailed History Section to support the need to highlight historic and cultural features in the Plan area. Staff will also include a Sandy Spring target investment zone side bar in the Implementation Section as well as include language on Heritage Area grants in the CIP Section on page 60.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends approval to transmit the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan, with modifications discussed today, as the Planning Board Draft to the County Council and the County Executive.

PLANNING STEPS

Below is a schedule for the Plan:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Approval of the Staff Draft as a Public Hearing Draft | July 17, 2014 |
| • Planning Board Public Hearing | September 4, 2014 |
| • Worksession No. 1 | October 2, 2014 |
| • Worksession No. 2 | October 23, 2014 |
| • Worksession No. 3 (if necessary) | November 6, 2014 |
| • County Council Hearing and Work Sessions | January 2015 |

Attachments:

1. Planning Board Draft
2. Letter from Sarah L. Rogers, dated September 30, 2014



Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan



PLANNING BOARD DRAFT

SANDY SPRING RURAL VILLAGE PLAN

Abstract

This Plan contains the text and supporting maps for a comprehensive amendment to the approved and adopted 1998 Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan. It also amends the *General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties* as amended, the *Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County* as amended, and the *Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan* as amended. This Plan makes recommendations for land use, zoning, design, historic preservation, transportation, trail connections, parks and open space, environment and community facilities.

Source of Copies

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760
Online: montgomeryplanning.org/sandyspring

Notice to Readers

Each area master plan reflects a vision of future development that responds to the unique character of the local community within the context of a Countywide perspective. Area master plans are intended to convey land use policy for defined geographic areas and should be interpreted together with relevant Countywide functional master plans.

Master plans generally look ahead about 20 years from the date of adoption. As communities evolve, the specifics of a master plan may become less relevant over time. Generally, sketches or drawings in an adopted master plan are for illustrative purposes only; they are intended

to convey a general character rather than a specific commitment to a particular detailed design.

Master plans do not specify all development possibilities for a particular property or area. In order to understand the full range of development options, the reader should be aware of additional land uses and development potential available through permitted conditional uses; variances; transferrable development rights (TDRs); moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs); rezoning by local map amendments; public projects and mandatory referral process; and municipal annexations.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bi-county agency created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles in the two counties.

The Commission is charged with preparing, adopting and amending or extending the General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

PLANNING BOARD DRAFT

SANDY SPRING RURAL VILLAGE PLAN

Prepared by the Montgomery County Planning Department
November 2014

montgomeryplanning.org/sandyspring

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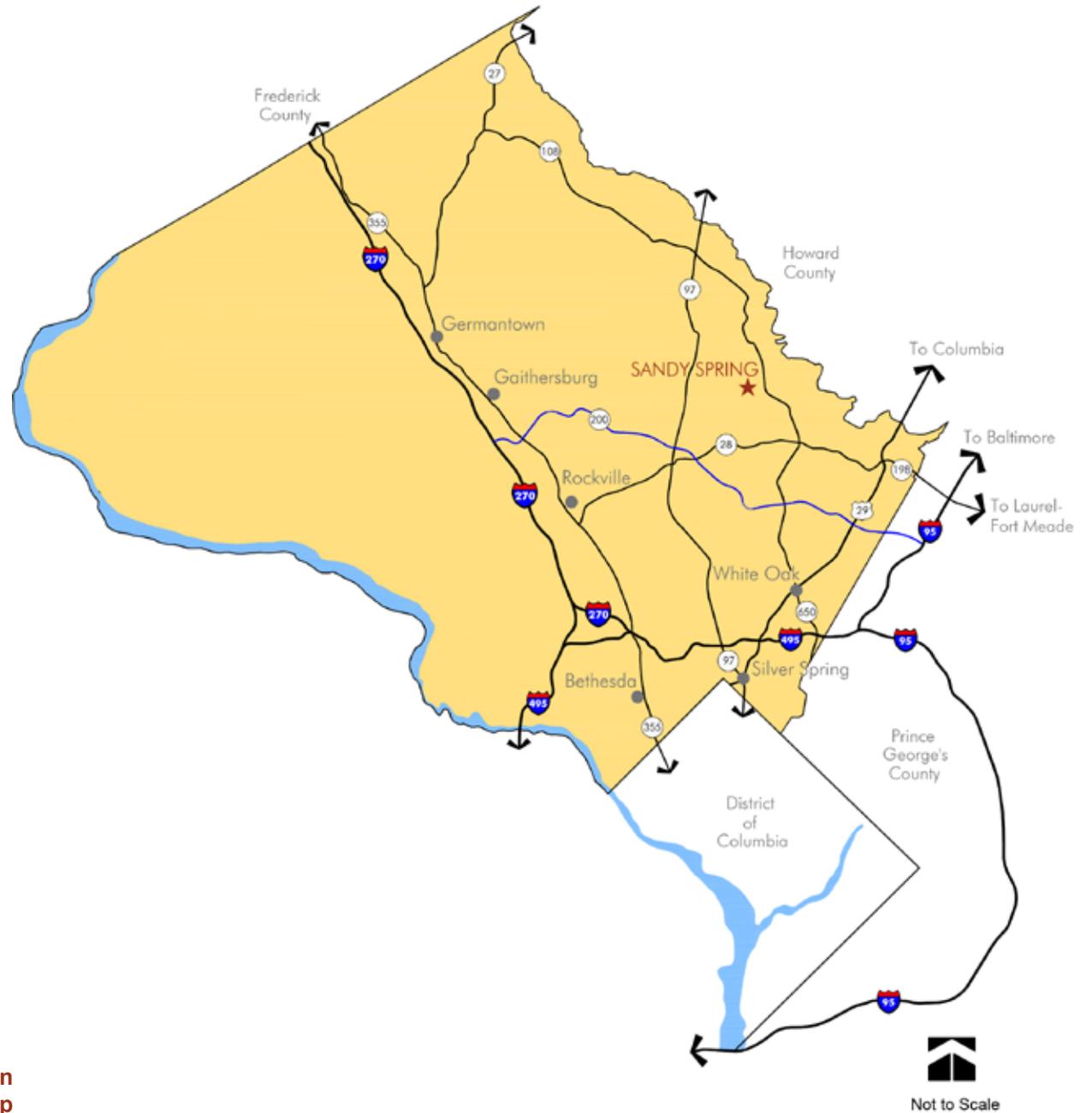
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**Sandy Spring within
Montgomery County Map**

INTRODUCTION

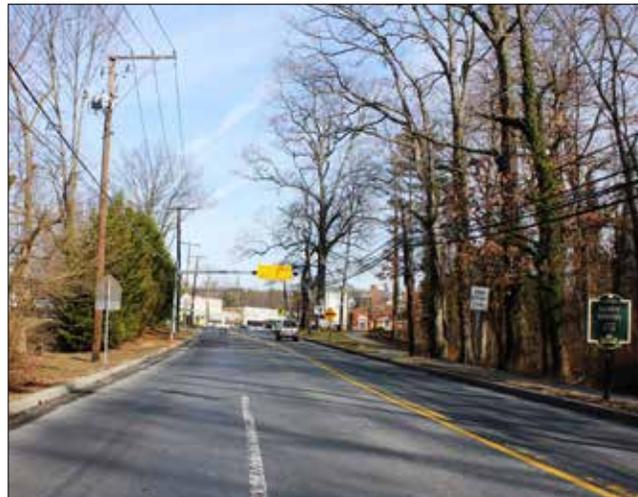
PURPOSE

In Spring 2013, the Montgomery County Council requested that the Planning Department examine a limited amendment to update the 1998 Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan. The 1998 Master Plan recognized the Sandy Spring village center as the “heart of the community in terms of local commerce and community gatherings” (page 32). The Plan also acknowledged the well-established character of the village center on the south side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) and the need to reinforce the village center on the north side. The 1998 Plan (page 34) required that a more detailed study be conducted to address the following:

- **Rural Village Character:** Establish a scale that provides an appropriate transition to adjacent low density residential neighborhoods and buildings in keeping with historic character of the area,
- **Mix of Land Uses:** Consists of one- to three-story buildings with commercial uses that serve the community,
- **Connections and Street Character:** Provide pedestrian and vehicular improvements and address street character, and
- **Open Space:** Create a quality open space in the village center that provides opportunities for gathering.

Rural Village Character

Sandy Spring is a rural village with low scale buildings. It is clearly distinguished from the surrounding land as one travels along MD 108. Homes of varying eras, historic buildings, offices, and institutions line the road, set off in some cases by wooden fences, picket fences or hedgerows. This cluster of buildings and institutions creates the village and has a clear entrance from the west—the intersection of Norwood Road and MD 108. This Plan seeks to preserve the rural character of Sandy Spring by enhancing the existing gateway and reinforcing the distinctions between the rural village and adjacent residential neighborhoods.



Eastern rural entry to Sandy Spring: Wooden fence defines the edge of a number of properties on the south side of MD 108.



Western rural entry to Sandy Spring: Fencing marks the dressage center at Avalon Farm (above).

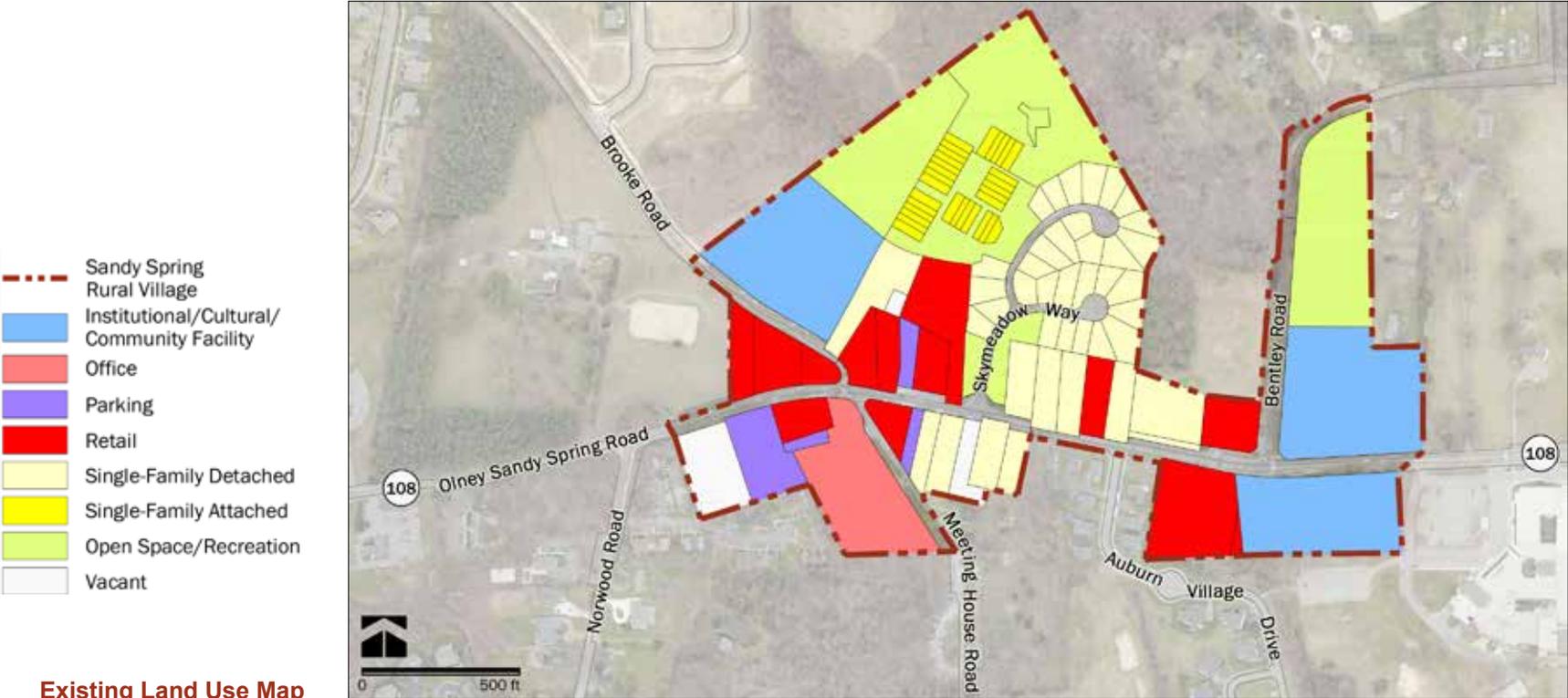
MD 108 has a rural character west of the Norwood Road intersection (left).

Mix of Land Uses

Single-use zoning currently dominates the village. The existing C-1, C-2 and O-M Zones do not allow a flexible response to the growing residential, retail and office markets. In addition, the allowed office and commercial zones do not provide a mix of uses or any public space, nor do they support infill development. The development standards in these existing zones create a significant limitation to the existing local businesses and future commercial development. The Sandy Spring-Ashton Rural

Village (SSA) Overlay Zone provides some use and density protections, but its height limitation constrains development potential in the village.

It should be noted that after October 30, 2014, the nonresidential properties in the village, along with all nonresidential properties in the County, will be governed by the new zoning code. The new zoning code currently calls for the C-1, C-2 and O-M Zones in the village to be converted to CRT (Commercial Residential Town), EOF



Existing Land Use Map

Existing Zoning within the Sandy Spring Rural Village prior to October 30, 2014

ZONE ¹	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	LIMITATIONS	SINGLE-USE ZONING	RESIDENTIAL ALLOWED
C-1	General Commercial	6.89	High intensity uses; Limited mix	Yes	No
C-2	Convenience Commercial	0.43	Limited commercial uses	Yes	No
O-M	Office Building, Moderate Intensity	5.42	Limited retail uses	Yes	No
RC	Rural Cluster	7.24	One house per 5 acres	Yes	Yes
RE-1	Residential, One Family, 1 acre	0.04	One-family detached on 40,000 sf, no mix of uses	Yes	Yes
RE-2	Residential, One Family, 2 acre	3.06	One-family detached on 87,120 sf, no mix of uses	Yes	Yes
R-60	Residential, One Family, 6,000 sf	12.82	One-family detached on 6,000 sf, no mix of uses	Yes	Yes
R-200	Residential, One Family, 20,000 sf	9.97	One-family detached on 20,000 sf, no mix of uses	Yes	Yes

¹ All zones are subject to the densities of the SSA Overlay Zone, including the C-1, C-2, and O-M Zones, which are limited to 0.75 FAR.

(Employment Office), and NR (Neighborhood Retail) Zones. The CRT Zone provides for a mix of residential and nonresidential uses. However, many of the allowable uses conflict with the SSA Overlay Zone. The EOF Zone is a zone that allows only up to 30 percent residential development. The NR Zone is an auto-oriented commercial zone and is not typically geared toward pedestrian-oriented uses. These converted zones will not fully promote the character of a rural village.

Market Analysis

Property owners and residents have long been concerned about the economic viability of the

commercial properties at the intersection of MD 108 and Brooke Road. The existing land uses and zoning have prevented redevelopment to date because of the limited range of land uses permitted, outdated development standards and excessive parking requirements.

Montgomery Planning’s Research and Special Projects Division conducted a retail market analysis to determine the amount and type of retail space that the Sandy Spring Study Area could support. (See Appendix for the full report.) The analysis reviewed retail supply and demand, competition from nearby areas and examined the demographic trends and patterns to help identify retail



Existing buildings within the Sandy Spring Rural Village

opportunities. This analysis is based on existing retail conditions, including retail currently in the development pipeline.

The retail market analysis indicates there is a market for both convenience and shoppers goods in the Plan area. Convenience goods include food and beverage stores, health and personal care stores, miscellaneous retailers, food services and drinking places. Shoppers goods include the following retail categories: electronics and appliance stores, building materials, garden equipment and supply stores, clothing and clothing accessories stores, sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores, and general merchandise.

The growth in neighborhoods surrounding Sandy Spring has created a strong market for more upscale

businesses, specialty shops and restaurants. A good indicator of this need in the area is that the existing Urban Barbeque restaurant recently expanded and doubled in size.

Household Growth

The Sandy Spring/Ashton area has seen significant growth in households since the 1990s and the approval of the 1998 Master Plan. Between 1990 and 2011, 746 new households were added to the Sandy Spring/Ashton area, a 56 percent increase. During that same time, the Sandy Spring/Ashton population grew at a faster pace than the County as a whole (see the Appendix). As compared to the County, the Sandy Spring/Ashton area has a high rate of homeownership and household incomes. One quarter of the households in Sandy Spring have incomes greater than \$200,000.

Household Growth 1990-2011

LOCATION	YEAR	NUMBER OF HOUSES	CHANGE IN NUMBER OF HOUSES	% GROWTH OF HOUSES
Sandy Spring/Ashton	1990	1,329	-	-
	2000	1,692	363	27%
	2011	2,075	383	23%
Total	1990-2011	-	746	56%
Montgomery County	1990	282,228	-	-
	2000	324,940	42,712	15%
	2011	355,434	30,494	9%
Total	1990-2011	-	73,206	26%

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Decennial Census and 2007-2011 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.



Looking east on Olney Sandy Spring Road, 1909: This intersection with its historic alignment serves as the heart of the community life. (Source: Sandy Spring Legacy by Thomas Y. and Elie S. Rogers, edited by CANBY, 1999)

This Plan seeks to provide a thriving retail setting in Sandy Spring to serve the increase in residents. The Plan recommends a small expansion of the village center to reinforce the center's viability with the mix of uses, including housing. The Plan will promote new commercial and retail establishments in a village center that will be closer to the street and activate the public space.

Connections and Street Character

This Plan examines a village center in the commercial core that will keep Brooke Road in its historic alignment. Today, the north side of MD 108 has limited pedestrian facilities and perpendicular parking in the public rights-of-ways

that requires vehicles to back out into the road. This design is dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists, and it inhibits traffic flow.

The Plan provides for major safety improvements for pedestrian, cyclists and vehicles. The Plan recommends contiguous shaded, tree-lined roads, bike lanes, sidewalks, relocated parking and improved pedestrian crosswalks at intersections.

Open Spaces

The Plan encourages a village green and other quality open spaces for public gathering and community activities. Creating additional vibrant public gathering spaces will add to civic engagement, place-making and opportunities for special events and festivals.

This Plan **preserves** Sandy Spring's historical role as a village center and will include **a mix of uses, connections and quality open spaces.**



Open space at the Sandy Spring Museum: The lawn in front of the museum is the site of many community functions.

PLAN FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

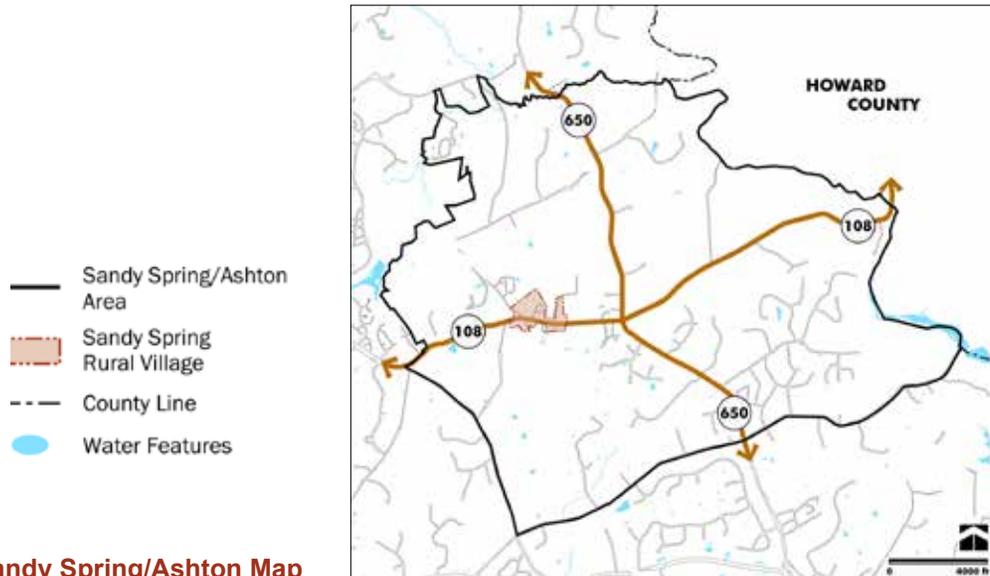
The Sandy Spring/Ashton area is a community of 5,800 in northern Montgomery County, Maryland, approximately 20 miles north of Washington, DC and eight miles east of Rockville, Maryland. Located between two north-south routes (Georgia Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue), MD 108 is the east-west main street through the Sandy Spring Rural Village. MD 200, the Intercounty Connector (ICC) completed in 2011, is located approximately five miles south and serves as the main east-west highway in the northern and central parts of the County.

While Quaker culture and history still influence the area, many newer residents have also settled into neighborhoods surrounding the rural village over the past 10 years. These recent community members have diverse interests and viewpoints. The market study of the area indicates a wide variety of incomes with a high level of home ownership and new housing construction in the area. Based on this analysis, a strong potential for new businesses, specialty retail and restaurants exists within the village.

Study Area Boundary

The Sandy Spring Rural Village area is centered around the commercial properties near the intersection of MD 108 and Brooke Road, and it is generally bounded by the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department site and Sandy Spring Meadow neighborhood on the north; Sandy Spring Museum on the east; historically designated properties of the Sandy Spring Bank, Montgomery Mutual Insurance building and old fire station on the south; and Brooke Road on the west.

This Plan amends pages 32-35, 37, 46, 55-56, 58-61, and 65 in the 1998 Plan that specifically identifies the Sandy Spring Village Center and amends the area's road and bikeway classifications.



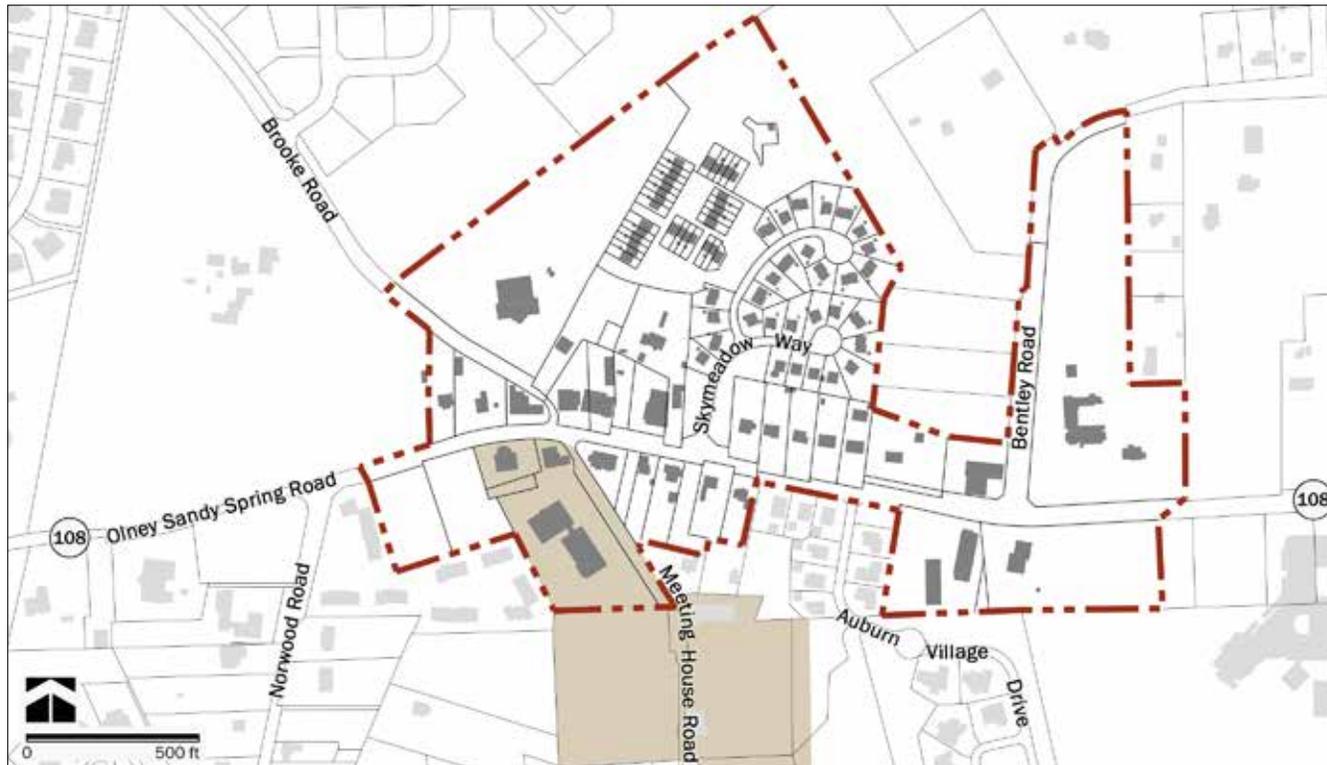
Sandy Spring/Ashton Map

Population Estimates 2010

AGE DISTRIBUTION	SANDY SPRING /ASHTON AREA 2010 ¹		MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2010	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
0-4 years	275	4.7%	63,809	6.7%
5-19 years	1,377	23.5%	187,117	19.5%
20-34 years	534	9.1%	182,574	19.0%
35-44 years	666	11.4%	141,623	14.8%
45-64 years	2,022	34.6%	267,203	27.8%
65 years and older	975	16.7%	117,412	12.2%
Total Population (% of County)	5,849	0.6%	959,738	-

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimate, U.S. Census Bureau; Research and Special Projects, Montgomery County Planning Department, M-NCPPC.

¹ The Sandy Spring/Ashton area is defined by the boundary of 2010 U.S. Census tract 13.16.



Sandy Spring Rural Village Map



The Sandy Spring Store (demolished)
Source: The Sandy Spring Museum



Sherwood School (demolished)
Source: The Sandy Spring Museum



Old Volunteer Fire Station
Source: The Sandy Spring Museum

HISTORY

The development patterns and architecture of the Sandy Spring community provide an important context and serve as a resource for the revitalization of the Sandy Spring Rural Village. The information for this section is compiled from a number of sources including *Annals of Sandy Spring* from the Sandy Spring Museum; the *Maryland Historic Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form* submitted by the Historic Preservation Commission and M-NCPPC; *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* by M-NCPPC; *Olney, Maryland: Local Building Traditions History and Analysis* by Miche Booz Architect; and the *Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan* by Heritage Montgomery.

Development Patterns

The village of Sandy Spring, founded in the early 1700s, is one of the oldest settlements in Montgomery County. It is atypical of many of the towns established in county during the 18th and 19th centuries. The town did not evolve along a convenient trade or transportation route with a significant commercial core. Sandy Spring developed as a small, largely residential community with an agriculture-based economy and strong Quaker heritage revolving around the Sandy Spring Meeting House.

Land to the west of the Patuxent River in Sandy Spring was densely forested and largely uninhabited.

Speculators began patenting tracts in the area in 1713. Richard Snowden, a well-known Quaker land owner and industrialist from Anne Arundel County, patented acreage that included a small spring that bubbled up from white sands and became known as the Sandy Spring. The spring, located off Meeting House Road, lent its name in the mid-1700s to the original Quaker meeting; two successive meeting houses, including the present brick Meeting House erected in 1817; and the surrounding neighborhood from which meeting attendance was drawn.

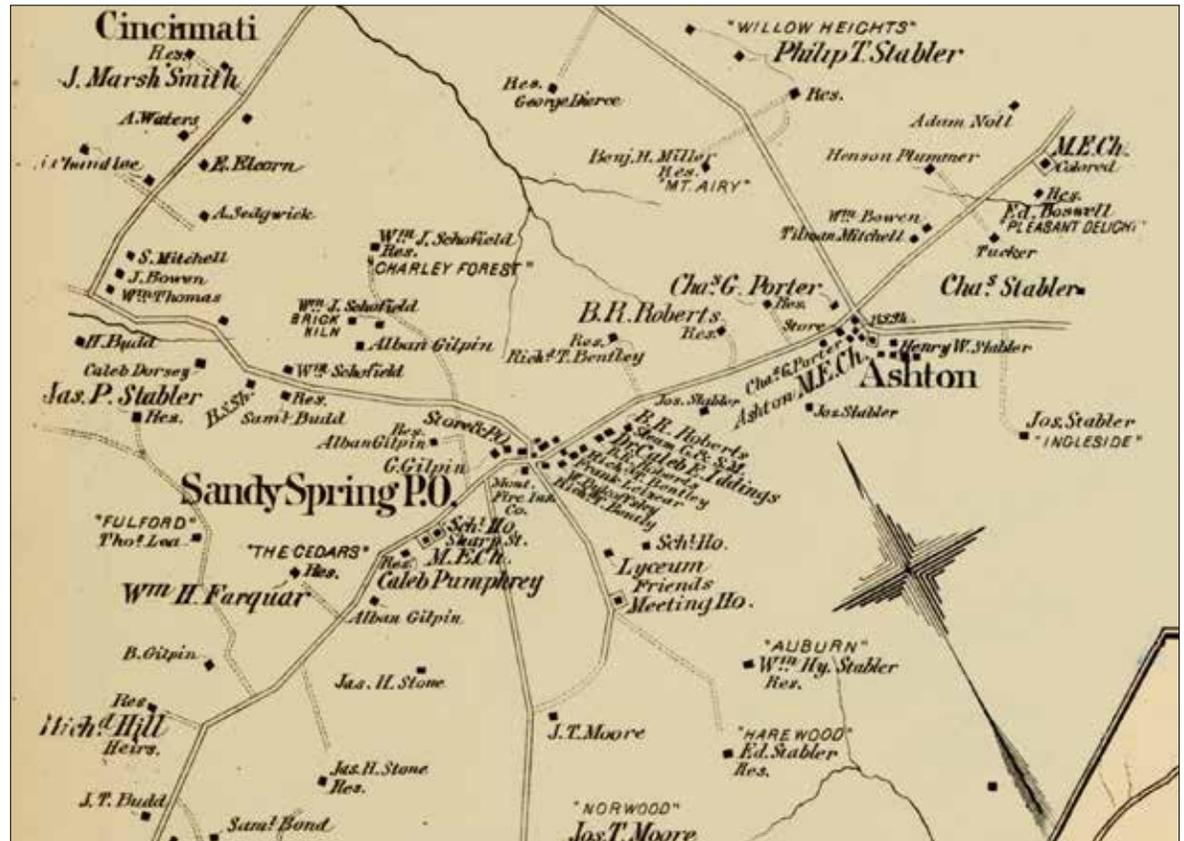
Significant changes occurred throughout the 1800s in Sandy Spring. Sandy Spring Quakers freed their slaves in the early 1800s, decades earlier than the rest of the county. A free black community grew north of Charley Forrest, along today's Brooke Road, and descendants live there still. New commercial and community institutions arose. A post office was established in 1817 at Harewood, a residence on Meeting House Road to the southwest of the Sandy Spring Meeting House. A commercial area began to grow near the intersection of Meeting House Road and MD 108 with a general store dating from 1817, and a blacksmith shop from 1819.

To the east on MD 108, the steam-operated Sherwood grain mill opened in the 1830s on the site of today's hardware store. The Sandy Spring Library Company was formed in 1842 and was located in a room at the Sandy Spring Store, moving in 1883 to a room in the new Sherwood Academy (site of

today's Sherwood High School). In 1887, the library moved again to a building across the street from the Sandy Spring Store. During that time, the post office moved to the Sandy Spring Store. To provide a venue for lectures, the Lyceum, now called the community house, was erected next to the meeting house. In 1859, Brooke Road provided a northerly extension of the old Meeting House Road.

From the mid-1800s, the village became home to local institutions of regional or countywide importance. In 1848, concerned residents organized the county's first fire insurance company, eventually known as Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company, which moved in 1857 to a building at the southwest corner of MD 108 and Meeting House Road, opposite from the Sandy Spring Store. The replacement building from 1904 still stands. Another institution was born in 1868, when local farmers formed the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring Road, now the Sandy Spring National Bank, the county's oldest bank. First occupying a room at the fire insurance building, the bank moved to its own brick headquarters next door to the west in 1895.

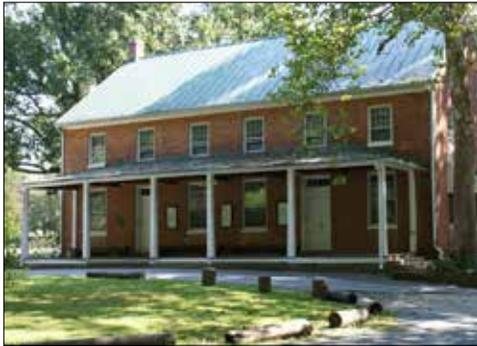
By the early 1900s, the basic form of the village had been established. The village stretched in a linear fashion along MD 108, Meeting House Road and Brooke Road. Non-residential and residential uses were located side-by-side. The village had no secondary streets or street grid, and farmland reached up to MD 108, the main road through the



Sandy Spring Post Office and Vicinity (1879 G. M. Hopkins Map): The map begins to show the formation of the linear commercial development pattern along MD 108, centered around the important intersection with Brooke Road.

village. Houses were built close to MD 108 on the south side. Additional stores were built along the northeast corner of MD 108 and Brooke Road.

The first apartments in the area were units added above the Sandy Spring Store by owner Herbert Adams in 1935. A fire house, built at the southeast



Sandy Spring Meeting House:

The Meeting House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 22, 1972. The Meeting House is a Georgian/Federal style building. Typical of Quaker meeting houses, the Sandy Spring Meeting House is simple in design with a rectangular form with two front entrances made of high quality materials. The bricks were made at a nearby farm and laid by mason William W. Farlin.

Watercolor of the original portion of the Lyceum: (Source Miche Booz Architect) Built by the community, the Lyceum reflects the Quaker commitment to education and continues to be a center of social and intellectual activity in Sandy Spring. The Lyceum, or Community House, is a single-story building in the Greek Revival style. The original portion of the building had a front gable with an entry porch.

corner of MD 108 and Meeting House Road in 1956, was replaced in 2001 with a new firehouse just to the north on Brooke Road. The former firehouse building is now occupied by retail. Sandy Spring residents in 1981 formed the Sandy Spring Museum, located at the eastern end of the village.

Suburban subdivisions came to parts of Sandy Spring. These include the neighborhood off Skymeadow Way, developed by the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission in 1984, and two developments along Auburn Village Drive built between 2005 and 2007.

Notable Architecture

A portion of the Sandy Spring Rural Village is located in the Sandy Spring Historic District. This district entirely comprises public buildings that reflect the spiritual and financial core of the



community. These buildings are the Sandy Spring Meeting House (1817), Lyceum (1859), Sandy Spring National Bank (1895) and Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company (1904). Additionally, the newer 1977 former Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company building is also located in the district. The district is mostly characterized by simple design and brick construction.

Other notable buildings within the Sandy Spring Rural Village, but outside of the historic district, are the Holly Cottage (1903) located at 913 Olney Sandy Spring Road, the adaptively reused single family home at 1001 Olney Sandy Spring Road, former fire station at 816 Olney Sandy Spring Road, and newer buildings including the Sandy Spring Museum, Christopher’s Hardware Store and Nichols Office Building.

These buildings represent a wide range of architectural styles, including Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Craftsman styles, and add great visual interest to the Sandy Spring Rural Village. Some identifying features of the architectural styles are as follows:

- **Georgian** - symmetrical, five-bay facades, side-gabled roofs and paired chimneys.
- **Federal** - simple box building forms similar to the Georgian style. Some notable features of the Federal style are side gable or low hipped roof areas and rounded fanlights over doors and windows. Windows are also arranged in a symmetrical, five-bay patterns.

- **Greek Revival** - front-oriented gables, porches with square columns, entry from the porches, doors with transoms and narrow side lights and small attic windows.
- **Colonial Revival** - buildings with symmetrical façades, centered doors with decorative pediments and aligned windows. Roof areas are gabled or hipped.
- **Queen Anne** - asymmetrical facades using varied wall planes and bay windows, towers and porches; complex intersecting or gabled roofs; and use of multiple wall materials and textures.
- **Craftsman** - low pitched, front or side gabled roof areas, generous overhanging eaves, full or partial porches, and earth-toned colors in building facades.



1997 Montgomery Mutual Insurance Building: The building reflects many elements of a Georgian house, but on a much larger scale. Grand features include the pediment over the front door, cupola in the center, four large chimneys and dormers.



Sandy Spring National Bank (foreground) and the Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company (background): Both buildings are examples of Colonial Revival architecture. The bank is one-story high and three bays wide with a center gabled roof hidden behind a front façade. The insurance building is a two-story, three bay by two bay brick structure with a low bracketed, overhanging hipped roof with a pronounced, bracketed cornice. There is a large single bay hipped dormer within the roof along the front of the building.



1001 Olney Sandy Spring Road: The former residence immediately west of the Holly Cottage is an example of a Colonial Revival building with a Dutch influence. It has five bays with a gambrel roof with projecting dormer windows.



Holly Cottage: The former residence is a two-story Queen Anne-style building with a hipped roof and a cross gable. There is a small, double rounded window in the gabled end of the roof.



OUTREACH APPROACH AND PROCESS

Sandy Spring is a unique community with a small focused planning area and an active engaged group of residents and business owners. Maximizing their roles in the Plan was a key goal of the process.

In February 2014, a four-day planning workshop was held in the community at the Sandy Spring Museum. The workshop was an intense collaborative process open to all interested community members, property owners, business owners, local civic associations and government agencies. Stakeholders were able to express their views regarding the issues that affect Sandy Spring.

Through consensus, the community developed a concept for the Sandy Spring Rural Village. This draft plan is the direct result of the workshop.



VISION, CHARACTERISTICS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The four-day workshop identified the vision, unique characteristics of the community and an implementation strategy for enhancing Sandy Spring as a great community. The workshop established an agreed upon vision for the Plan: “An historic rural village that serves as a focal point of community life.” The characteristics identified by workshop participants included:

- A rural, walkable village.
- Civic spaces for gathering, socializing, eating and contemplation.

- Safe connections to schools, museums, fire station, stores, post office and places of worship.
- Streets, open spaces, buildings and wayfinding signage that reflect the area’s historic character.
- Streets with appropriate pedestrian-scaled lighting, signage, landscaping and streetscape elements.
- Contextual building types of one- to three-stories.
- Retail, service and restaurants in the village center.
- Vibrant streetscape with areas for sidewalks and seating.
- A variety of housing types for all ages and incomes.

Workshop participants discussed a plan to implement the community’s vision. The Plan includes:

- Mixed-use development using the Commercial Residential Neighborhood (CRN) Zone. This zone is consistent with the uses and vision expressed in the Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Village (SSA) Overlay Zone.
- Capital Improvements Program for greater pedestrian and street safety, connectivity and signage.



February 2014 Community Workshop

RURAL VILLAGE PRECEDENTS

To gain a better understanding of the components of a great rural village, planners analyzed and studied several Mid-Atlantic villages and towns as precedent models for Sandy Spring. The village precedents included Sharpsburg and St. Michaels, Maryland; Allentown, New Jersey; Little Washington and The Plains, Virginia; and Centerville, Delaware. Buildings, public spaces, and street character were analyzed in these places (see Appendix). The precedents shared the following themes:

- A main street with two lanes of traffic and on-street parking.
- One- to three-story, mixed-use buildings offering ground-floor retail with active commercial storefronts.
- Well-defined street edges with buildings placed close to the street and parking located to the side or rear.
- Sidewalks with random street trees and bike lanes.
- Small and large civic spaces.
- Roads lined with homes, historic buildings, scattered views of fields and woodlands, fences and hedgerows that create strong rural village entries.

These ideas are incorporated into the recommendations for the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan.



St. Michaels, MD: Defined building edges with varying heights create visual interest and activate the narrow sidewalks of South Talbot Street. Randomly spaced trees provide shade and crosswalks provide safe pedestrian connections.





The recently built Auburn Village neighborhood



Existing business on MD 108



Example of specialty retail

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

SANDY SPRING RURAL VILLAGE CONCEPT

The growth of neighborhoods in the Sandy Spring/Ashton area has created a market for more businesses, specialty shops and restaurants. Based on the growth in households and income, the Sandy Spring market can be characterized as a well-educated, affluent community that offers increasing market potential for services and goods. Many residents go elsewhere for their service and retail needs, but they are willing to shop locally if the opportunity is made available.

The strong market potential provides opportunities for new businesses, specialty shops and restaurants in the Sandy Spring Rural Village. The existing land use and zoning have prevented redevelopment to date because of the limited range of land uses permitted, outdated development standards and excessive parking requirements. As a result, property owners and residents have been concerned about the economic viability of the commercial properties at the intersection of MD 108 and Brooke Road.

The retail market analysis, completed by the Montgomery Planning Department's Research and Special Projects Division, identified the amount and type of retail space that the Sandy Spring Study Area could support. The study reviewed retail supply and demand, competition from nearby areas and examined the demographic trends and patterns to

help identify retail opportunities. This analysis was based on existing retail conditions, including retail currently in the development pipeline. The retail market analysis found there is a market for both convenience goods and shoppers goods in the Plan area.

Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) will become the main street through the Sandy Spring Rural Village. The village is envisioned as a pedestrian-oriented place with local retail businesses, new infill housing and services, commercial redevelopment with shared parking opportunities, and well-connected open spaces for gathering, socializing and contemplation. The village will have three distinct neighborhoods. The Plan includes planning and land use, buildings, connections, open spaces and specific property recommendations for the following three neighborhoods:

- Village Core Neighborhood
- Residential Neighborhood
- Cultural Neighborhood

Where applicable, the specific property recommendations lists the zoning for a property prior to October 30, 2014; then lists the zoning for the property after October 30, 2014, in parenthesis; and finally lists the proposed zoning for the property.



Sandy Spring Rural Village Concept



Ground-Floor Retail Uses with Commercial/Residential Above



Open Space for Community Gathering

VILLAGE CORE NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning and Land Use

This Plan specifically targets the intersection of Brooke Road and Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) as the “heart” of the village for improvements to streetscape, open spaces, connections, traffic operation, and proposals for under-utilized buildings. The Village Core is envisioned as the vibrant, walkable center for community life in Sandy Spring, along both sides of MD 108.

Planning and land use recommendations include:

- Provide a mix of residential and commercial uses with a floor area ratio (FAR) consistent with the SSA Overlay Zone.
- Provide a village green and open spaces for gathering.
- Extend the Village Core to the north and east to Skymeadow Way.
- Reinforce the edges of the Plan area with medium density residential uses.
- Increase heights in the Village Core and taper building heights from the Village Core to the Plan boundaries.
- Provide opportunities for shared parking.



Village Core Neighborhood

- Encourage various housing opportunities, including townhouses and residential over retail/office.
- Provide for business expansion, infill and revitalization opportunities.

Buildings

Throughout the planning process, the community expressed the importance of developing a historic main street character for the Village Core Neighborhood. This character is established, in part, by how buildings are located along the street. The south side of the Village Core along MD 108 has a well-defined street edge with buildings placed close to the street and parking located to the side or

rear of buildings. The north side is significantly less defined. Buildings are mostly situated behind a row of perpendicular parking within the right-of-way.

As evident in many older, traditional main streets found throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, building placement is critical to achieving the character of a place. A build-to-area, which is an area where building facades are located, should be established immediately outside of the 80-foot right-of-way of MD 108 to allow some flexibility in building location, while creating a defined building edge. The variations in the build-to-area along MD 108 will create a vibrant streetscape with areas for sidewalk cafés and seating.



Chestnut Hill, PA: Slight variations in building placement create visual interest along Germantown Avenue.



Conceptual Aerial View of the Village Core: New buildings in the Village Core should be placed close to the street in order to activate MD 108.



Mashpee, MA: A signature building marks an important street corner.



Lansdowne, VA: The rear facade of the building has a secondary entrance that is articulated similarly to the front facade.

Buildings should fit seamlessly into the quality and character of the historic context, such as the Nichols building, Christopher’s Hardware Store and proposed Olive Branch Community Church. There should be opportunities for distinctive architectural elements, such as front porches, stoops, bay windows, dormer windows and awnings. Pitched roofs are encouraged.

A signature building with architectural embellishment is encouraged for the northeast corner of the intersection of Brooke and Olney Sandy Spring Roads. This landmark should be identifiable to both pedestrians and motorists, and serve as the center of the Village Core.

The Plan recommends that mixed-use buildings in the core area be one-to-three stories in height with active commercial fronts at the ground level. Side and rear elevations should be articulated in a manner that does not create long blank walls. Secondary entrances are encouraged in these locations. Building recommendations include:

- Provide for buildings with one to three stories, compatible with the Sandy Spring Historic District and other buildings facing MD 108.
- New and renovated commercial buildings should face streets with active fronts that define a street edge on the north side of MD 108.
- Provide variations in the build-to-area along MD 108 to help create a vibrant streetscape with areas for sidewalk, seating and street trees.

- Provide a signature building at the northeast corner of the intersection of Brooke Road and MD 108.
- Provide active commercial fronts at the ground level.
- Articulate elevations so buildings do not have long blank walls.
- Create parking areas that are to the rear or side of buildings.
- Create well-landscaped parking areas that have the potential to become completely shaded, particularly within the Patuxent River watershed north of MD 108.
- Provide pedestrian-scaled lighting and signage that is consistent with the area’s character.

Connections

Improving pedestrian and bicycle connections and providing for multiple modes of transportation are important in making the Village Core a vibrant, safe and functional area. Sidewalks and off-road shared-use paths along county and state roadways need to meet the requirements stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) for compliance.

The connections on the south side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) are well-defined. A sidewalk runs the full length of the Village Core. In front of the old fire station, which is now a bakery and florist, the sidewalk area provides café space. On the north side of Brooke Road, the eight-foot wide shared use path on Fire Department property has been extended to the north on the northeast side



Conceptual Streetscape Perspective of the Village Core Looking West:
 The north side of the Village Core (right side of image) will have a wide sidewalk to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Additional crosswalks provide safe connections across MD 108.

of Brooke Road past the Orchards Subdivision all the way up to Meadowsweet Drive (outside the Plan boundary area). This Plan recommends a connection to this shared use path as well as a sidewalk on the western side of Brooke Road.

This Plan recommends that the north side of MD 108 have a wide sidewalk to accommodate pedestrians/bicyclists and provide ample space for seating areas and street trees in front of revitalized properties. The proposed shared use path should turn the corner on MD 108 and connect with the existing path on Brooke Road. Parallel parking and a dedicated planting strip for landscape and trees

along MD 108 should provide a needed buffer for pedestrians and bike riders. Enhanced crosswalks should be provided at appropriate locations to promote pedestrian movement across MD 108. Coordinated pedestrian-scaled street lighting and signage should unify the area and give it a unique character and charm. Connection recommendations include:

- Enhance Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) with sidewalks, landscape, street trees and on-street parking and narrow travel lanes.
- Provide for multiple modes of transportation, including a shared use path for bikes and pedestrians.



The Kentlands, Gaithersburg, MD: A small pocket park adjacent to several houses provides shade and a place for passive recreation.

- Enhance crosswalks to improve visibility and safety across MD 108.
- Extend the existing shared use path on Brooke Road on the northeast side between MD 108 and the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department.
- Provide sidewalks on the east side of Brooke Road extending from the existing sidewalk at Meadowsweet Drive (outside the boundary area) south to MD 108.
- Coordinate design of lighting and signage.

Open Space

Open spaces in the Village Core will come in a variety of forms. New development along the south

side of MD 108 should be set back to provide a transition from the rural entry to the Village Core. Additionally, the 1998 Plan identified the area around the intersection of Brooke and Olney-Sandy Spring Roads as a potential location for a central village green adjacent to the new fire station. The fire station was built in 2001 on Brooke Road, but a community green space was never built.

During numerous meetings for this planning effort, the community reaffirmed the need and importance of an open space. A civic space of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre is recommended to be incorporated into redevelopment along the north side of MD 108. Buildings should be sited along the eastern edge of

Conceptual Aerial View of MD 108 Looking East: A small green on the south side of MD 108 adjacent to future residential uses may serve as a transition from the rural western entry of Sandy Spring to the Village Core.



the green and should have ground-floor entrances and windows that face onto and activate the public space. Open space recommendations include:

- Provide a minimum of ¼ acre village green on the north side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) in the Village Core with a combination of landscape, hardscape and ample space for large shade trees with areas for seating.
- Provide a wide retail sidewalk along the building frontage with pedestrian-scaled lighting and

street furnishings.

- Provide a small green space that will serve as a transition from the western rural entry to the Village Core.

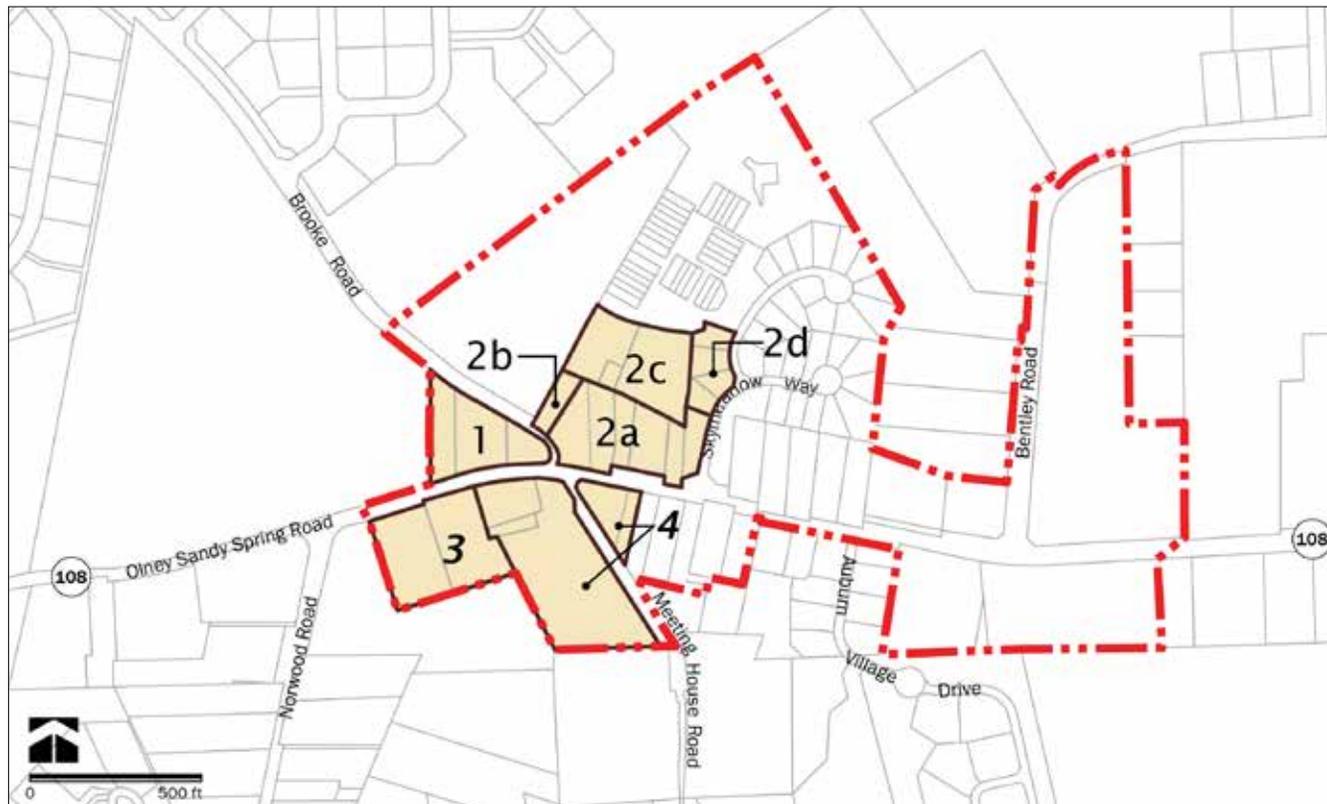
Specific Property Recommendations

1. **Parcels P318, P333, and P330 on the North Side of MD 108 (west of Brooke Road) from C-2 (CRT 1.5: C 0.75, R 0.75, H 35’/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.75: C 0.25, R 0.75, H 45’ (See adjacent sidebar).**

SSA Overlay Zone

The existing Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Village (SSA) Overlay Zone limits the density on all commercial properties in the Plan area to a maximum of 0.75 FAR instead of the 1.5 FAR allowed in the existing C-2 and CRT Zones. This Plan recommends CRN 0.75 to be consistent with the densities identified in the SSA Overlay Zone.

The SSA Overlay Zone also limits building heights to 24 feet (up to 30 feet with Planning Board approval). The Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan provides for heights of 35 to 45 feet to allow one- to three-story buildings. More information on the SSA Overlay Zone can be found in the Implementation Chapter of this report.



Village Core Neighborhood Properties Map



Adaptive reuse of the former 1903 Holly Cottage as a commercial building

The western entry into the Plan area is lined with two houses, the Kirk House circa 1924 and Holly Cottage dated 1903 (which are now occupied by commercial), and the Sandy Spring Store and Post Office building with apartments above. The two frame houses are National Register eligible and add vernacular architectural interest to the Village Core Neighborhood. These independently-owned commercial properties are located to the west of Brooke Road. Access to these properties is located on MD 108 with limited access from driveways on Brooke Road. The proposed CRN Zone is recommended to ensure uses with ample transitions to the adjacent residential properties. Buildings in the Brooke Road right-of-way should be removed. New buildings should face the street and be between one and three stories in height. The perpendicular parking area that is located in the right-of-way should be replaced with a pedestrian-oriented streetscape that includes a tree-lined planting strip, pedestrian-scaled lighting and shared pedestrian/ bike path. The Plan recommends:

- Consider adaptive reuse as part of additional development.
- Provide an ADA-compliant, shared use path along the north side of MD 108.
- Support redevelopment that provides safe vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle connections.
- Support special tree plantings along the western edge of the plan area that has the potential to become landmark/large shade trees that define the transition from the village core to rural farmland.

2. **North Side of MD 108 east of Brooke Road**
 - a. **Commercial parcels along MD 108 from C-2 (CRT 1.5: C 0.75, R 0.75, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone), to CRN 0.75: C 0.75, R 0.50, H 45'**
 - b. **Commerically zoned portion of split zoned Parcel P260 (with single-family detached unit facing Brooke Road from C-2 (CRT 1.5/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.75: C 0.75, R 0.50, H 45'**
 - c. **Parcel P260, Parcel P282, and Parcel P281 from R-60 to CRN 0.50: C 0.25, R 0.5, H 40'**
 - d. **Four single-family properties west of Skymeadow Way from R-60 to CRN 0.50: C 0.25, R 0.5, H 40'**

The properties on the north side of MD 108 between Brooke Road and Skymeadow Way offer infill and redevelopment potential. The Plan



recommends extending the mix of uses north and east of the existing commercial area. This area should be revitalized with new local-serving, mixed-use development that has ground-floor retail/office uses with residential/office above. These properties can be individually redeveloped or combined for full assemblage. Once platted, four property owners can combine and provide a mixed-use project on approximately five acres. The existing perpendicular parking area in the right-of-way should be relocated to the side and rear of the new buildings. Redevelopment should provide safe vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle connections, and extensive tree planting to provide canopy cover over roads and parking areas.

The CRN Zone is recommended to provide the uses, especially neighborhood-serving retail and residential for the village. The Plan recommends:

- Design a mixed-use village center with new buildings facing MD 108.
- Provide street-activating uses along MD 108.
- Provide one- to three-story buildings with building heights up to 45 feet but tapering down to 40 feet at the rear, adjacent to the existing townhomes.
- Provide a pedestrian-oriented streetscape that includes a tree-lined planting strip, shared pedestrian/bike path, pedestrian-scaled lighting and seating area.
- Provide an extensive mature tree canopy for parking lot areas and surrounding property edges.
- Provide a central village green near the intersection of Brooke Road and MD 108 with new retail and other commercial or residential uses facing onto it.
- Encourage sharing driveways with adjacent uses

The examples below illustrate three concepts for potential development on the 5-acre site, but are not intended to limit ideas for layout and design consistent with the principles in the Plan.

Concept for the North Side of MD 108 East of Brooke Road Properties:

Street-activating retail of one to three stories faces MD 108 and the civic green. A civic green with a combination of landscaping and hardscape between the fire station and the new development serves as a gathering space for the community. Parking is located on the side or rear of buildings. Shared parking is encouraged between the properties. Access to the parking is from Brooke Road and MD 108.

One Property Redevelops: The western property redevelops with two mixed-use buildings that have ground-floor commercial uses and office or residential uses above.

Three Properties Redevelop: The existing, one-story commercial building in the middle of the site remains. A new mixed-use building is located at the northwest corner of MD 108 and Skymeadow Way. New residential development faces Skymeadow Way.

All Properties Redevelop: The entire site redevelops with mixed-use and residential development. A third access point to parking is provided from Skymeadow Way.





Single-Family Attached Homes

to maximize space available for the village green.

- Locate parking to the side and rear of buildings and encourage shared parking between parcels.
- Encourage parallel on-street parking on the north side of MD 108.

3. South Side of MD 108: Stabler 1848 LLC Parcels P383 and P426 from C-2 (CRT 1.5, C 0.75, R 0.75, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone), C-1 (CRT 1.0, C 0.75, R 0.5, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone), and O-M (EOF 1.0, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.75: C 0.25, R 0.75, H 45'.

This vacant site has an existing approval for a three-story, 40,800 square foot office/school building with 296 parking spaces. This Plan recommends the parcels be rezoned to accommodate a residential development of up to 24 townhomes. CRN zoning with sufficient residential floor area ratio (FAR) and a modest amount of commercial FAR is recommended on this property to ensure a residential project with ample transitions to adjacent residential properties west and south of the site. The Plan recommends:

- Support single-family, attached homes up to 45 feet in height.
- Provide a setback on MD 108 compatible with the existing townhouses to create a transition.
- Provide an overall tree canopy goal of 40 percent.
- Support special tree plantings at the western edge of the plan area along MD 108.

4. Historic District Properties and Parcels P368 and P369 (Old Fire Station and parking lot) from C-2 (CRT 1.5, C 0.75, R 0.75, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone), C-1 (CRT 1.0, C 0.75, R 0.5, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone), and O-M (EOF 1.0, H 35'/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.75: C 0.75, R 0.25, H 45'.

Individually owned commercial properties are located on the south side of MD 108 in the Sandy Spring Historic District (#28/11) and adjacent to the District. The historic designations allow certain protections for the 1904 fire insurance building, 1895 Sandy Spring Bank building, and 1977 Montgomery Mutual building, while accommodating reasonable changes. The properties in the Historic District within the Plan area are recommended for CRN Zoning with limitations on commercial uses and an opportunity for residential. Adaptive reuse does not preclude new development or restrict the allowable density of development, but assures that the high standards of sensitive design will be extended to the construction of other new buildings on the site. The Plan recommends:

- Adaptive reuse of the buildings to residential and small-scale commercial uses.
- Provide street-activating uses, such as retail and small office uses along MD 108.
- Provide access to commercial and residential properties from a driveway off MD 108 and Meeting House Road.
- Maintain existing 40 percent canopy cover.
- Encourage shared parking.

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning and Land Use

The residential neighborhood contains a stable housing stock of single-family dwellings and townhomes. Opportunities for additional infill housing should be permitted and encouraged. The right-of-way in front of the new and existing housing should have sidewalks to increase connectivity along Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108). This Plan proposes a modest expansion to an additional 20 homes to preserve the attractive rural

edge adjacent to the Village Core. These new homes will provide housing for all ages and incomes. Planning and land use recommendations include:

- Support single-family detached and attached residential development.
- Protect the single-family residential edge along Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108).
- Provide infill housing opportunities for all ages and income levels.



Residential Neighborhood



Housing in the Sandy Spring Meadows subdivision

Buildings

The residences along Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) should continue to be located farther back from the right-of-way than the buildings in the Village Core Neighborhood. Along the side streets beginning at Skymeadow Way, residences are located closer to the street.

This Plan envisions that any new residential units built within the neighborhood will meet the street in a manner similar to the existing buildings. The height of new residential buildings will be between one and three stories to match the heights of existing homes. Building recommendations include:

- Site any new residential buildings in this area to be compatible with existing buildings.
- Design new housing to be between one and three stories to match the heights of existing homes.

Connections

Within the Residential Neighborhood, the south side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) has a four- to five-foot wide sidewalk behind a planting strip. The Sandy Spring Meadow subdivision along the side streets has some sidewalks contiguous to the street. The north side of MD 108 has an open road section with no sidewalk or bike facilities.

This Plan recommends a shared use (pedestrian/ bike) path connecting to the sidewalks in the Village Core Neighborhood. The street should have a curb and the shared use path should be buffered from

the roadway by a protected planting strip. Street trees should be clearly spaced along both sides of the roadway to provide a defined edge and shading for pedestrians. Connection recommendations include:

- Provide for a shared use path on the north side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) to connect to the Village Core.
- Provide a planting strip of trees between the shared use path and the road to buffer pedestrians and cyclists.
- Provide a constant spacing of street trees along both sides of the roadway to provide shading.

Open Space

The public open spaces within the existing Residential Neighborhood include the front yard setbacks and the streetscape along MD 108. A total lot and open play areas serve as the open spaces in the Sandy Spring Meadow neighborhood. The open space recommendation is:

- Provide compatibility with the setbacks of existing and proposed residences along Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108).

Specific Property Recommendations

- 1. Residential properties: North Side of MD 108 Retain R-60 and R-200 Zones with the exception of Parcel P338 which is recommended for R-60**

All but five units in the Sandy Spring Meadow's subdivision are owned and operated by the Housing

Opportunities Commission. This subdivision consists of 61 residential units (30 single-family detached and 31 attached units). Six R-200 Zoned single-family detached homes exist along MD 108.

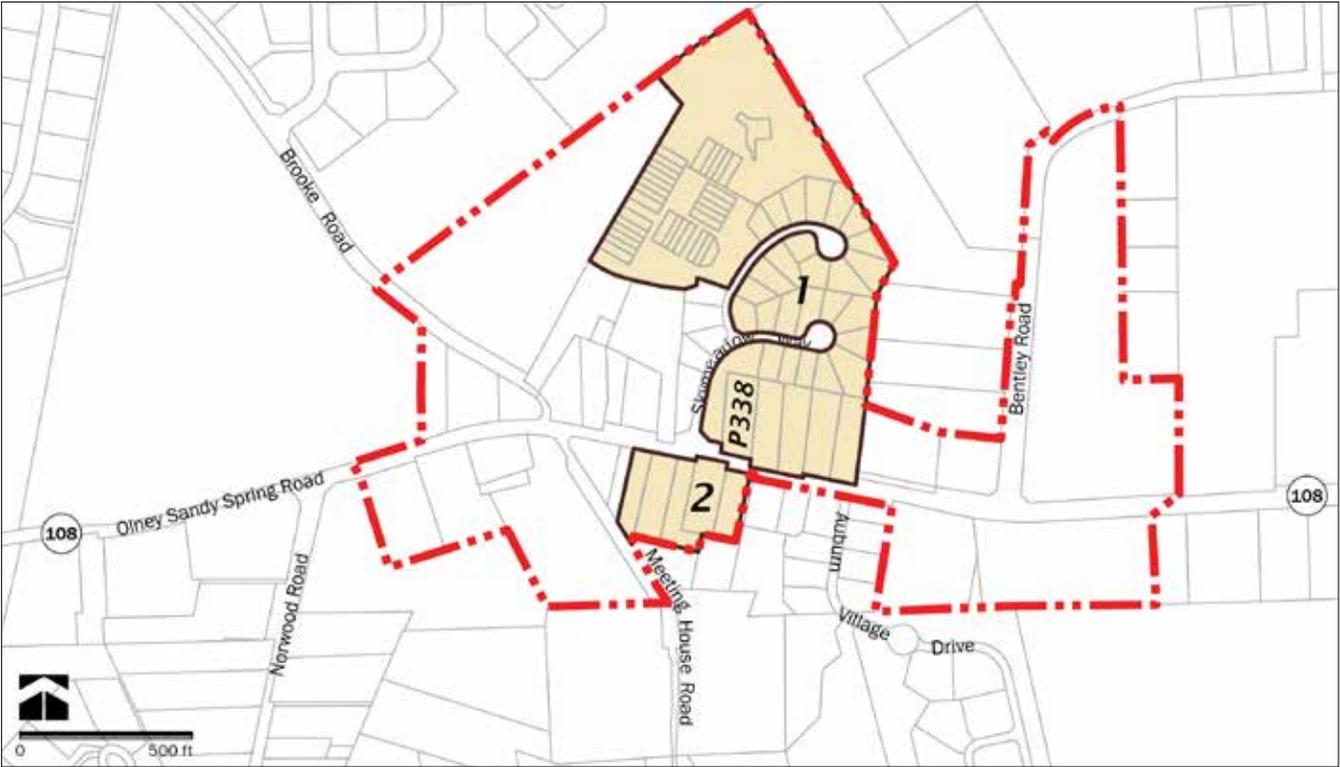
The Plan recommends protecting the single-family residential edge along MD 108. An ADA-compliant shared use path is recommended with trees along the roadway to provide shading for pedestrians. The Plan recommends:

- Protect the single-family residential edge along MD 108.

- Provide housing for all ages and income levels.
- Develop at R-60 and R-200 densities.
- Provide infill opportunities for additional residences through the subdivision process.
- Maintain the northern forested edge of trees.

2. Residential properties: South Side of MD 108 Retain R-200 Zone

Four older homes, dating from the mid- to late-1800s to the 1940s, line the south side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108). These homes add vernacular architectural interest to the



Residential Neighborhood Properties Map

neighborhood. The Plan recommends protecting the single-family residential edge along MD 108 at R-200 densities. The Plan recommendation is:

- Protect the single-family residential edge along MD 108.
- Provide additional street trees along the edge.

CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning and Land Use

The Cultural Neighborhood is a part of the continuation of the rural edge described in the

1998 Plan. This neighborhood, which includes the Sandy Spring Museum, Olive Branch Community Church Rectory and Christopher’s Hardware Store, has cultural and institutional uses. The museum has an open space in front used on occasions for community events. Plans for the new Olive Branch Community Church have been approved.

The Plan recommends that uses in this neighborhood be maintained and enhanced. The Sandy Spring Museum will offer demonstrations of historic trades that will bring additional visitors to the area and the Olive Branch Church will have a



Cultural Neighborhood

new place of worship. To accommodate the influx of people and improve connectivity within this area, the Plan recommends extending the existing shared use path on the north side of MD 108.

This Plan recommends preserving the attractive rural edge of the Cultural Neighborhood. This rural entry was identified in the 1998 Plan and continues to be an important aspect of the area's character. Planning and land use recommendations for the Cultural Neighborhood include:

- Maintain the rural neighborhood concept to maintain the rural entries.
- Support residential, retail, office and cultural and religious institutions at an FAR of 0.5 and maximum heights of 40 feet.
- Encourage tree planting along Bentley Road.
- Encourage the use of the Museum's open space along MD 108.
- Provide pedestrian connections to institutions.
- Provide opportunities for shared parking.

Buildings

The existing buildings in the Cultural Neighborhood have a less defined build-to-area than the Residential Neighborhood. Buildings are set back at varying distances from the right-of-way to further emphasize the rural edge.

New development in this area should be allowed to have varying setbacks. New buildings should be between one and three stories in height. The building recommendations are:

- Replicate the idea of the rural edge with varying building setbacks from the right-of-way and large front yard trees that have the potential to arch over the road, creating a tree-lined gateway.
- Design new buildings at one to three stories in height.

Connections

The north side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) has a shared use path approximately seven to eight feet in width in front of the Sandy Spring Museum. It does not continue in front of the existing gas station. This shared use path should be extended to complete the connectivity along the north side of MD 108 within the boundary area. The connection recommendation is:

- Extend the existing shared use (pedestrian/ bike) path in front of the museum to complete the connectivity along the north side of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108).

Open Space

The primary open space in the Cultural Neighborhood is the green in front of the Sandy Spring Museum. This green is the site of a number of cultural activities, including the Strawberry Festival held annually in June. The open space recommendation is:

- Support open space activities on the green in front of the Sandy Spring Museum.



Existing gas station west of Bentley Road

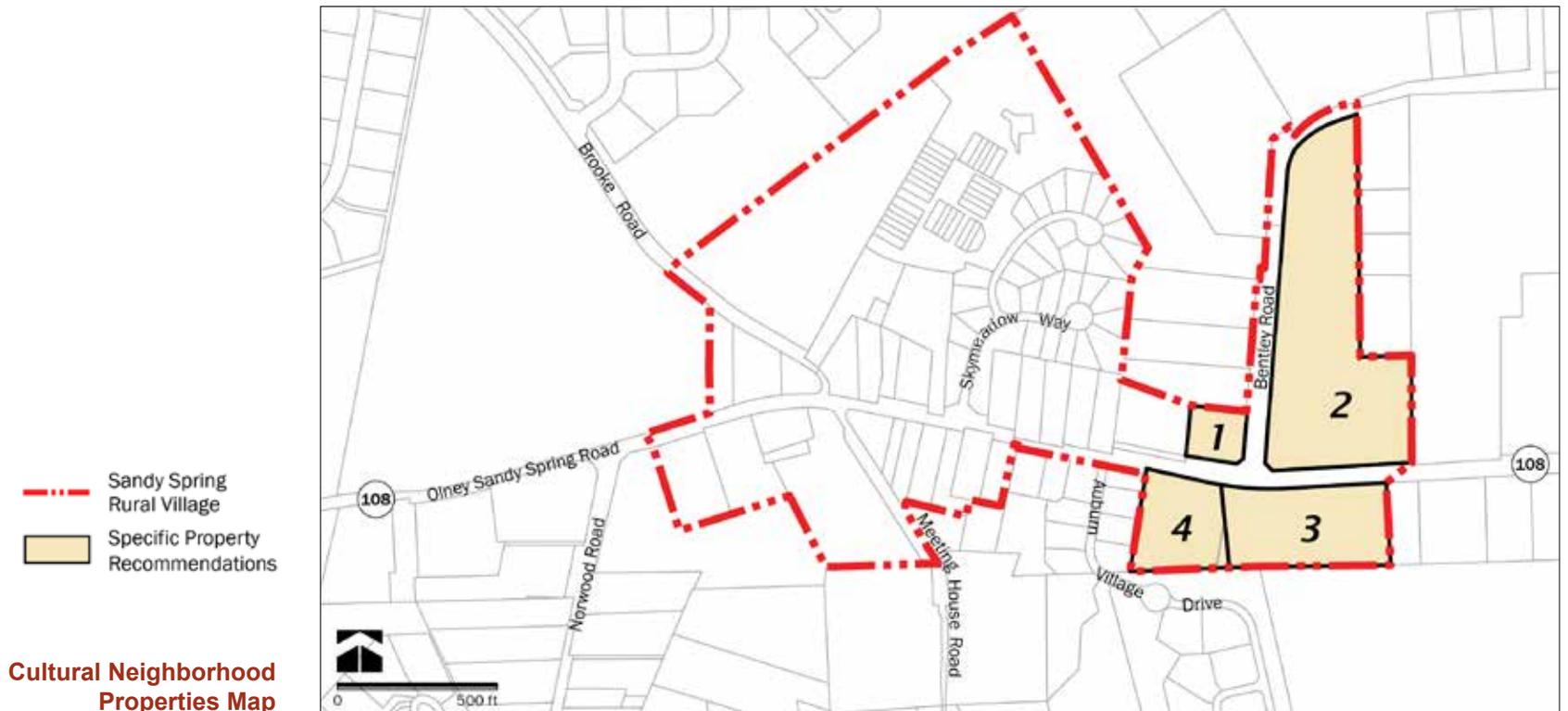
Specific Property Recommendations

1. Commercial property, west of Bentley Road: from C-2 (CRT 1.5/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.50: C 0.50, R 0.50, H 40'

This site currently serves as a gas station with a large awning, a convenience store and a three-story building with office above and a garage in the rear. The site has access from MD 108 and Bentley Road. This Plan recommends the site to be rezoned to CRN 0.50 to accommodate a mixed-use development with ample transitions to adjacent

residential and cultural properties along Bentley Road. The Plan recommends:

- Support residential, retail and office uses in this location.
- Design new buildings at one to three stories in height with an FAR of 0.5 and a maximum height of 40 feet.
- Extend the existing shared use (pedestrian/bike) path in front of the museum to complete the connectivity along the north side of MD 108 within the boundary area.



- Provide front yard shade trees.
- Provide additional street trees.

2. Sandy Spring Museum Property, east of Bentley Road: Retain RC

The Sandy Spring Museum opened its doors on Bentley Road in 1997 on land donated by the Bentley Family, whose ancestors moved to Sandy Spring in the late 1700s. The museum, located on seven acres, was completed with a library and a collections storage facility in 2007. The museum serves as a place where the community can develop meaningful connections to history by exploring local, cultural arts.

The Plan recommends the site remain in the RC Zone to protect sensitive areas and surrounding agricultural uses. The property is adjacent to low density neighbors (RC, RNC, RE-1 and RE-2) with large setbacks and wooded areas. The site is defined as the eastern edge of the rural entry into the Plan area. A house is also located on the site. This house has access off of MD 108. The Plan recommends:

- Support low-density cluster development toward the front of the property to preserve environmentally sensitive areas in the north.
- Support the cultural institution and its large, protected forested areas.
- Allow artisan and living history demonstrations at the Sandy Spring Museum as a limited use (see Implementation Chapter).

3. Olive Branch Community Church property: Retain RE-1.

Originally known as the Lansdale property, this three-acre site consists of a two-story building that houses the rectory and administrative office for the Olive Branch Church. With access from MD 108, the site has an approval for an 8,074 square-foot church and associated parking lot. The church will hold a capacity of 220 people with a central surface parking lot that provides 55 on-site standard parking spaces and one motorcycle space.

The proposed church will be oriented perpendicular to MD 108 to maximize the amount of space needed for the on-site parking, to protect the existing forest along the eastern boundary and to preserve the existing landscape buffer along the western and southern boundaries. The Plan recommends:

- Support the religious institution with on-site parking.
- Protect the eastern forested edge of the site and large individual trees.
- Preserve the existing landscape buffer along the western and southern boundaries.
- Provide safe vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle connections.



Sandy Spring Museum



Olive Branch Existing Rectory



Rendering of future Olive Branch Community Church



Christopher's Hardware



Nichol's Office Building

4. Christopher's Hardware and Nichols Office Building property: from C-2 (CRT 1.5/SSA Overlay Zone) to CRN 0.50, C 0.50, R 0.50, H 40'.

This site currently contains a hardware store, a parking lot, and a two-story office building with access to MD 108. This Plan recommends the site be rezoned to CRN 0.50 to accommodate a mixed-use development with appropriate setback transitions to adjacent residential properties along Auburn Village Drive. The Plan recommends:

- Support residential, retail and office in this location.
- Design new buildings at one to three stories in height with traditional architectural fenestration and an FAR of 0.5 and maximum heights of 40 feet.
- Site new residential buildings to meet the street with screened parking at the side and/or rear.
- Provide tree planting along MD 108 and in parking areas.
- Preserve the existing landscape buffers along the eastern and southern boundaries.

AREA-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Historic Preservation

The Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan area contains resources that were designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation, found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or both. Designation on the Master

Plan of Historic Preservation confers certain benefits and protections, including tax credits for qualified exterior maintenance and repair projects.

A portion of the designated Sandy Spring Historic District (28/11) is included within the Plan area. It includes the 1895 Sandy Spring Bank building, 1904 fire insurance building, 1977 Montgomery Mutual Insurance building and a part of Meeting House Road. This Plan confirms the current designation of the Sandy Spring Historic District within the Plan area. The 1904 fire insurance building was placed as an individual site on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

In 2011, two other buildings within the Plan area, the 1903 Holly Cottage at 913 Olney Sandy Spring Road and the circa 1924 Kirk House at 1001 Olney Sandy Spring Road, were also found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but were included.

In addition, many properties outside of the Plan area were designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Plan recommends:

- Retain the Sandy Spring Historic District (28/11).

Heritage Montgomery

Sandy Spring is located within the Underground Railroad and Quaker Cluster of the Montgomery

County Heritage Area, per the Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan, which recommends revitalization of Sandy Spring. As a certified Maryland Heritage Area, Sandy Spring may therefore qualify for grants for interpretive signage and promotion through Heritage Montgomery, which administers the Montgomery County Heritage Area. This Plan recommends that interpretive signage and wayfinding be installed in the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan area to highlight Sandy Spring’s heritage. The Plan recommends:

- Support the implementation of the Montgomery County Heritage Area

Management Plan (2002).

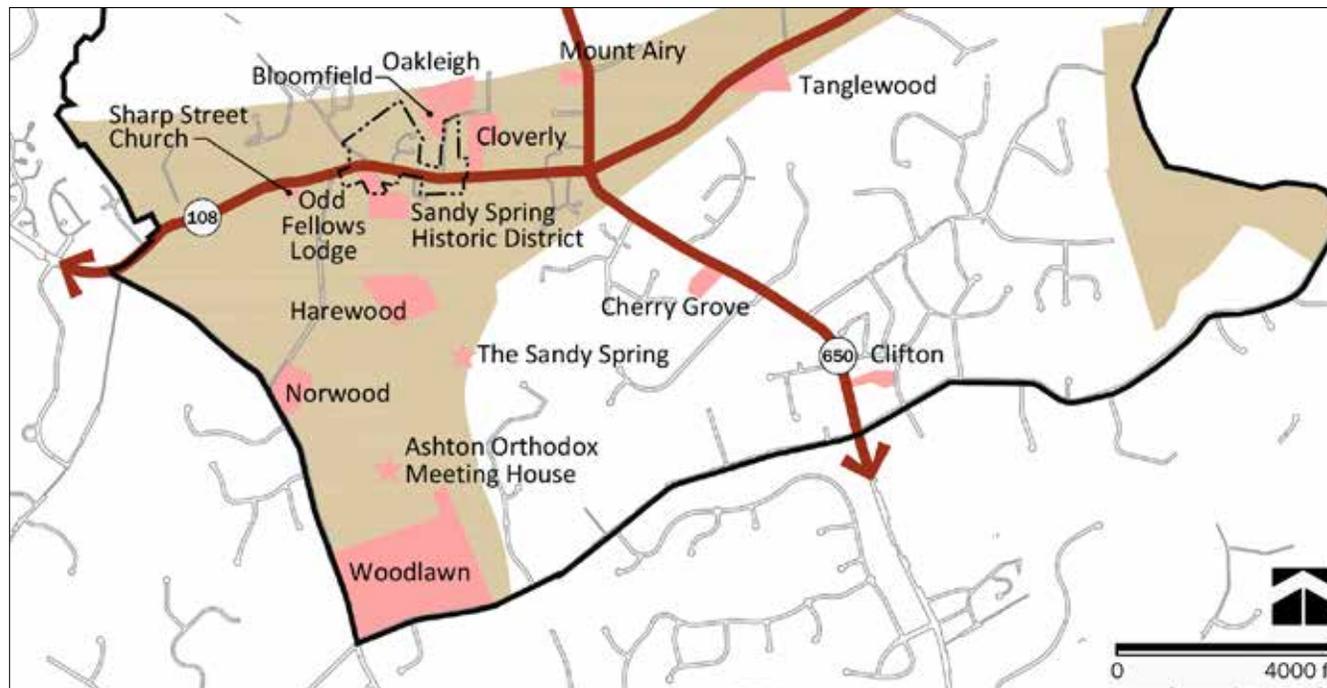
- Provide wayfinding, pedestrian linkages, sidewalk, landscape, parking, traffic calming measures and interpretive signage in the Certified Heritage Area of the Quaker and Underground Railroad Cluster.

Environment

This Plan addresses water quality and forest protection issues. The Plan, as well as the 1998 Plan, pays particular attention to protecting the existing high quality of the Patuxent River Watershed. It recommends mixed-use development concentrated in the village center, and low-density residential development near the watershed.



Historic 1904 fire insurance building with toll gate



Historic Context Map



Greenville, SC: Mature trees provide shade and help to limit the amount of impervious surface in the parking lot.



Orlando, FL: Landscaped islands in a parking lot provide an area for stormwater collection.

The sensitive environmental resources that surround the Sandy Spring Rural Village are critical to maintaining the quality of the Patuxent River Watershed. The Functional Master Plan for the Patuxent River Watershed recommends containing development in commercial areas in a logical and well-planned manner.

Most of the existing development in the Sandy Spring Rural Village was built before there were County requirements for stormwater management. New development should limit impervious surfaces and be subject to current stormwater management regulations, both of which are intended to provide protection for the watershed.

Approximately 16 percent of the Plan area is forested. Other areas of forest in the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan area will be removed as part of approved development projects. In addition to forested areas, large trees in the Plan area provide a canopy cover of approximately 47 percent. Unshaded roads and parking lots make up approximately 24 percent of the Plan area. Future redevelopment should provide shade trees, limit imperviousness, expand and protect the forests, and meet the current environmental site design standards. The Plan recommends:

- Protect and enhance the water quality of the Patuxent River Watershed with low density edges outside of the village core.
- Limit imperviousness as much as possible.
- Protect and expand the forested edges.

- Plant trees along the perimeter and interior of parking lots to provide maximum shade and stormwater management enhancement.
- Designate the Plan area as part of the Shades of Green program.

Transportation

This Plan reinforces the 1998 Plan's transportation objectives to maintain the rural character of the existing roadways while meeting the requirements stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for compliance.

The underlying C-2, C-1 and O-M Zones allowed a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.5. With the Sandy Spring Overlay Zone, the 1998 Plan reduced the overall FAR in these zones to 0.75. The overall commercial square footage provided in the 1998 Plan, even with the overlay zone, was not achievable over the life of the plan due to parking requirements, floor plan constraints and market realities. This Plan retains the total 0.75 FAR and allows for commercial and residential uses.

The development potential in the Sandy Spring Rural Village will not exceed the acceptable congestion levels at the area's intersections. The recommended highway and local street system will provide sufficient capacity. The table on the following page compares the development potential for the current Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan and 1998 Master Plan with what exists today. The recommended land uses and transportation infrastructure are in balance.

Capacity

The Plan proposes a small increase of housing units and a modest decrease of non-residential square feet. This minor amount of development will have a limited impact on the transportation system. The Plan does not propose adding additional through lanes or additional rights-of-way (ROW) for Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108). The existing ROW width allows for intersection improvements for safety and circulation purposes.

Circulation

This Plan recommends that roadway and street designs should promote pedestrian use with investment in streetscape elements, including pedestrian crosswalks and signals (see Proposed Concept for Olney Sandy Spring Road map on page 43). Fire trucks and other fire and rescue-related apparatus from Volunteer Fire Department Station 4 must maneuver efficiently through the Plan area. Intersections in the policy areas may need to be improved to accommodate safe travel for pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles.

The proposed local streets will provide additional circulation and off-street parking for the area. Sidewalks will connect the Village Core to the residential and cultural areas of Sandy Spring. A new shared use path will continue the connection from Sherwood High School through the planning area. This Plan will support a continued connection to Sherwood Elementary School to link the two schools to the proposed regional trail.

Street and Highway Classifications

The local streets, sidewalks, bikeways and trails will create a connected street system that reduces automobile dependence on the state road. Rustic Roads program, established by the County, preserves historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County.

Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108)

This road is a two-lane arterial road with an 80-foot ROW. In the Village Core Neighborhood, the ROW will contain the following elements:

Development Potential

	EXISTING DEVELOPMENT	1998 MASTER PLAN MAXIMUM POTENTIAL	2014-15 PLAN MAXIMUM POTENTIAL
Residential Units	78 units	98 units	150 units
Nonresidential Square Feet	147,100 square feet	253,400 square feet	231,300 square feet ¹
Nonresidential Square Feet Converted to Jobs	420 jobs	725 jobs	660 jobs

¹Zoning maximum on all development may be reduced to accommodate parking requirements in the zone.

- One travel lane in each direction (see Bicycle Classifications Table to determine lane width).
- One center turn lane or on-street parking on the north side.
- An eight-foot shared use path on the north side (The shared use path continues through the Residential and Cultural Neighborhoods).
- A minimum six-foot sidewalk on both sides.
- A landscaped amenity panel on both sides with adequate soil volumes to allow maximum tree maturity.

These streetscape elements are subject to State Highway Administration (SHA) approval.

Brooke Road

From MD 108 to 200 feet north of Station Drive, this section will be a two-lane primary residential, closed section road with a 70-foot right-of-way. Brooke Road is designated as a shared roadway for bicycle and vehicular use.

There is an existing eight-foot wide shared-use path parallel to Brooke Road on the Volunteer Fire Department property. A shared-use path is recommended for the eastern side of Brooke Road from MD 108 to the existing facility on the Volunteer Fire Department site.

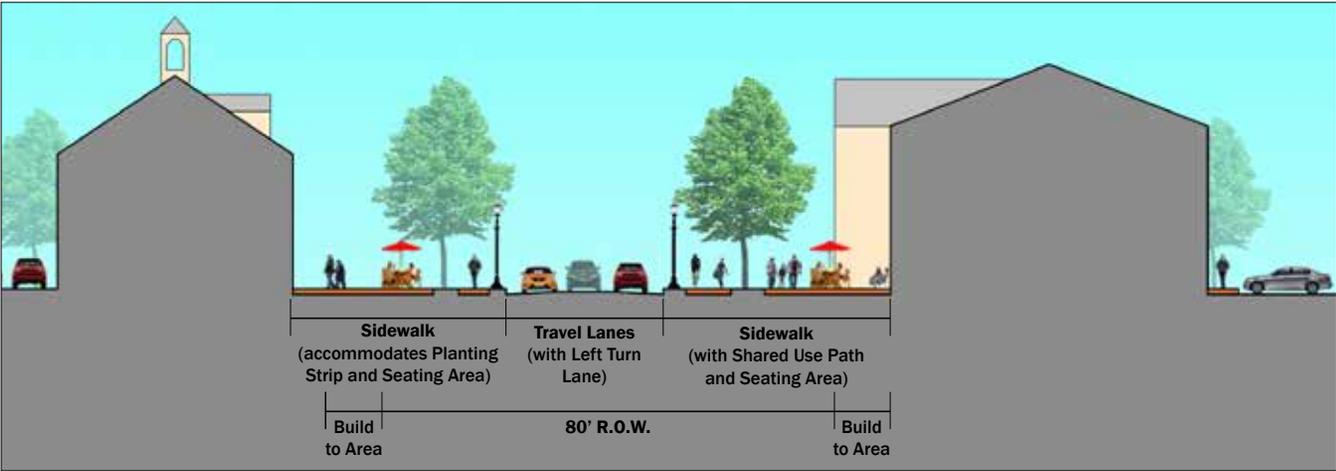
Road Classifications

MASTER PLAN STREETS	FROM	TO	MASTER PLAN OF HIGHWAYS NUMBER	MINIMUM RIGHT-OF-WAY (FT)	THROUGH TRAVEL LANES ¹	TARGET SPEED (MPH) ²	DESIGN STANDARD ³
Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD 108)	100 feet east of Norwood Road	500 feet east of Bentley Road	A-92	80	2 lanes	30	Modified 2004.25
Brooke Road	MD 108	200 feet north of Station Drive	P-2	70	2 lanes	35	Modified 2003.10
Skymeadow Way	MD 108	Proposed Internal Connector	B-26	60	2 lanes	25	Modified 2005.01
Bentley Road	MD 108	0.47 mile north of MD 108	R-64	70	2 lanes	25	N/A
Meeting House Road	MD 108	About 0.40 mile south of MD 108	E-14	80	2 lanes	25	N/A

¹These are the number of planned through travel lanes for each segment, not including lanes for turning, parking, acceleration, deceleration, and other purposes auxiliary to through travel.

²Target speed listed reflects the ultimate target speed upon build out at which people should drive.

³See MCDOT Context Sensitive Road Design Standards: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/common/standards.



Proposed Street Section for MD 108
(Modified 2004.25)



- - - Sandy Spring Rural Village
- Arterial Roads
- Primary Residential Streets
- Proposed Rustic Road
- Business District
- Proposed Exceptional Rustic Road

Roadway Classifications Map

EXISTING OLNEY SANDY SPRING ROAD (MD 108)



VILLAGE CORE NEIGHBORHOOD

- No sidewalks on the north side of MD 108
- Limited crosswalks for pedestrians
- No bicycle infrastructure
- Conflicts with perpendicular parking along the north side of MD 108
- Turning conflicts for emergency vehicles going east and west on MD 108
- Open section road with undefined access points
- No street character

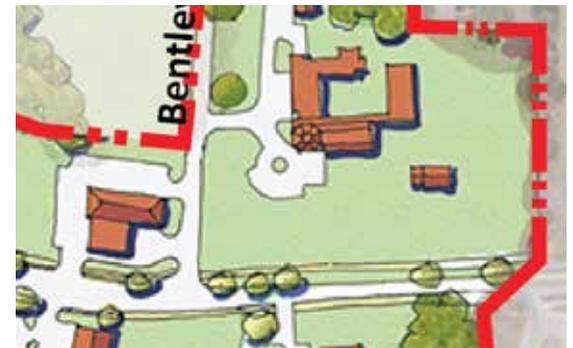
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

- No sidewalks on north side of MD 108
- No bike infrastructure
- Lack of crosswalks
- No street character

CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD

- Incomplete shared-use path on the north side of MD 108
- No street character

PROPOSED CONCEPT FOR OLNEY SANDY SPRING ROAD (MD 108)



VILLAGE CORE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Remove pull-in parking on the north side of MD 108.
- Add minimum eight-foot shared-use path on north side MD 108.
- Provide four-way crosswalks at the intersection of Brooke Road, Meeting House Road and MD 108.
- Identify access points along the north side of the Village Core with permanent driveways.
- Provide clearly spaced street trees and appropriate pedestrian-scaled street lighting.

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

- Provide a minimum eight-foot shared-use path on the north side to connect pedestrians and bicyclists to schools, religious institutions, and museum.
- Evaluate a crosswalk at Skymeadow Way.
- Provide clearly spaced street trees and appropriate pedestrian-scaled street lighting.

CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD

- Continue the eight-foot shared-use path on the north side of MD 108.
- Provide clearly spaced street trees and appropriate pedestrian-scaled street lighting.

RUSTIC ROADS CRITERIA

The criteria established for rustic roads by County Code, Chapter 49, Article 8, includes the following:

1. Is located in an area where natural, agricultural or historic features are predominant, and where master planned land use goals and zoning are compatible with a rural/rustic character;
2. Is a narrow road intended for predominantly local use;
3. Is a low volume road with traffic volumes that do not detract significantly from the rustic character of the road;
4.
 - a. Has outstanding natural features along its borders, such as native vegetation, stands of trees, stream valleys;
 - b. Provides outstanding vistas of farm fields and rural landscape or building; or
 - c. Provides access to historic resources, follows historic alignments or highlights historic landscapes; and
5. The history of vehicle and pedestrian accidents on the road in its current configuration does not suggest unsafe conditions.

Skymeadow Way

From MD 108 to a new local road, this section will be a two-lane business district street with a 60-foot right-of-way and on-street parking on the west side of the road. Sidewalk location can be flexible to allow the retention of mature trees. The right-of-way width is the minimum used in the business street classification and should be considered the maximum width for this road except for pedestrian or safety improvements. The remaining portion of Skymeadow Way will remain unclassified.

Rustic Roads

The Rustic Roads program preserves historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County. This Plan recommends two roads for the Rustic Roads program: Meeting House Road and Bentley Road.

Bentley Road

This Plan recommends Bentley Road as a Rustic Road.

Justification: Bentley Road is a narrow road intended for local use with a traffic volume and accident history consistent with a rustic designation. The road has high historic value, outstanding natural features, including mature trees, a stream beside the road, and rural views across farm fields. Bentley Road meets the criteria for a rustic road.

Significant Features:

- Historic roadway alignment

- Holly orchard
- Mature trees lining the road

Description: Bentley Road is a narrow, two-lane paved road, 18 feet wide near its beginning at MD 108 and narrowing to 10 feet wide on the northern leg. The road extends north from Olney Sandy Spring Road to Bloomfield, the original house on the road. The road sweeps east around a bend, passing the Oakleigh and Cloverly properties, then sharply turns north again, parallel to a small stream to its northern terminus. There are no shoulders, centerlines or edge markings on the road.

Evaluation

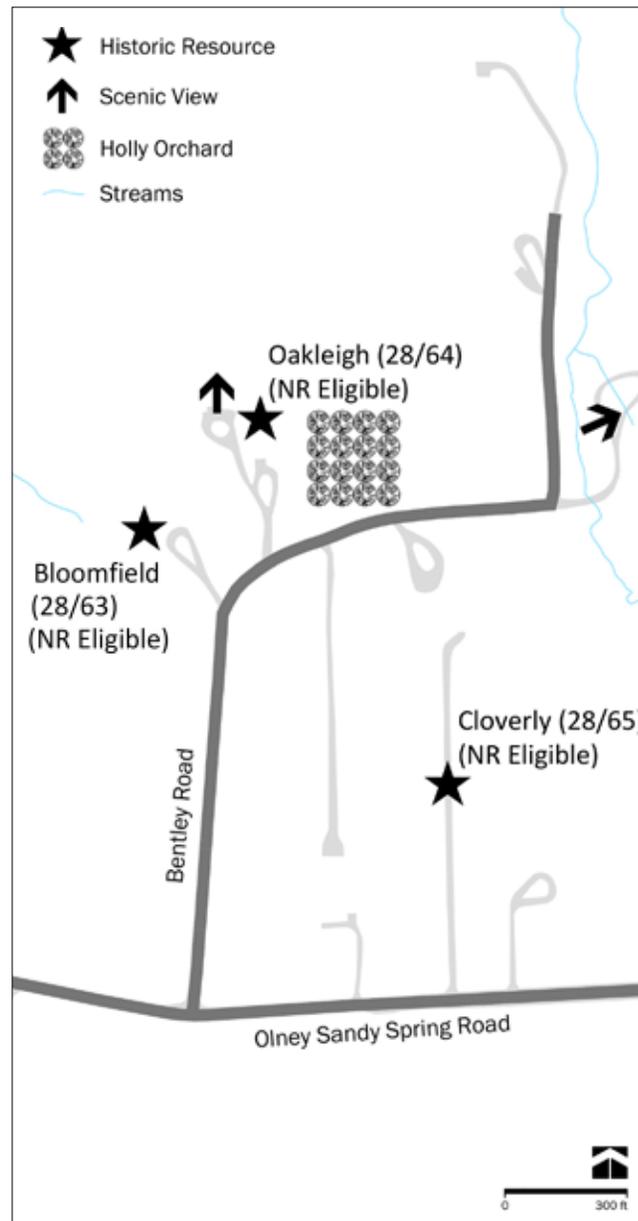
History: Bentley Road began as a late 18th-century farm path leading from MD 108 to Bloomfield (28/63). The farm path was extended after the construction of nearby Oakleigh (28/64) in 1882. Three properties along the road, Bloomfield, Oakleigh and Cloverly (28/65), a nearby farm built from 1849 to 1852, have been designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (M: 28-11-10).

The properties and road are notable for their associations with the Bentley family, prominent Quakers and citizens. Bloomfield is said to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. The discovery of two quartz arrowheads by a resident in the 1970s indicates the possibility of a nearby Native American site.

Driving Experience: Bentley Road begins at MD 108. A gas station sits close to the road on the west side, and the Sandy Spring Museum sits behind groups of trees to the east. Passing the museum, the road is enclosed by forest on both sides, framing a view of Bloomfield. The road makes a sweeping turn right as it passes Bloomfield, and climbs. Passing Oakleigh, located on a rise on the west, long views across fields can be glimpsed from the house, and a mature holly orchard, planted in the 1950s, is seen to the east.

On the east side of the road, Cloverly and its barn can be glimpsed through the trees edging the road. The road descends toward a small stream, turning abruptly left before reaching it. As the road turns, the pavement narrows as it passes into a tunnel of trees. A culvert crosses under the road as it continues north alongside the stream. The views across the wooded stream valley dominate on the east as the road ends in a private driveway.

Traffic: The 2002 Average Daily Traffic volume for Bentley Road was 940 trips. Three lots for new single-family dwellings were approved along the road.



Bentley Road Map



Bentley Road



Holly Orchard



Sweeping bend at Bloomfield

EXCEPTIONAL RUSTIC ROADS CRITERIA

The criteria established for exceptional rustic roads by County Code, Chapter 49, Article 8, includes the following:

1. Qualifies as a rustic road;
2. Contributes significantly to the natural, agricultural or historic characteristics of the County;
3. Has unusual features found on few other roads in the County; and
4. Would be more negatively affected by improvements or modifications to the physical characteristics of the road than would most other roads in the Rustic Roads program.



Sandy Spring Meeting House

Meeting House Road

This Plan recommends Meeting House Road as an Exceptional Rustic Road.

Justification: Meeting House Road is one of the oldest roads in the County. It is a narrow road intended for local use with a traffic volume and accident history consistent with a rustic designation. The road has outstanding historic value, natural features and farm views. The unusual features include narrow pavement, mature trees and the historic Meeting House. The character of the road would be negatively affected by making improvements to it. Meeting House Road meets the criteria for an Exceptional Rustic Road.

Significant Features

- Historic roadway alignment and narrow pavement
- Relationship of the Sandy Spring Meeting House to the road and the views of the Meeting House
- The mature trees lining the road

Description: Meeting House Road intersects with MD 108 at Brooke Road. Near that intersection, the road has 20 feet of asphalt pavement, curbs and gutters. As the road passes the Montgomery Mutual Building, the curbs end and the pavement narrows to 12 feet. The road continues within easements through the Sandy Spring Meeting House property and south to the Harewood site. The road ends at the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. There are no shoulders, centerlines or edge markings on

any part of the road. In addition to the Exceptional Rustic Road designation, the section of Meeting House Road from MD 108 to the south Meeting property line is located within the Sandy Spring Historic District. The inclusion of this portion of the road within the district is also intended to preserve the rural character of the road including its width, design and landscaping.

Evaluation

History: Meeting House Road originated as a path to the Sandy Spring shortly after the village was first settled in 1728. By the mid 1740s, it had become a route to Quaker meetings held near the spring. The Sandy Spring Meeting House was formally established in 1753 and in 1770, James Brooke conveyed land for a meeting house that already stood on the property. The deed specified that the Quaker congregation and others were to have free access to the land and buildings, in order to use, build upon and repair them for worship.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the road became rural Sandy Spring's cultural, spiritual and institutional artery, as schools, farms, replacement brick meeting house, early post office, lecture hall, fire insurance company and bank were established along it. There are several historic resources along the road. The Sandy Spring Historic District (28/11), including a portion of the road, has been designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation, as have two historic sites, Harewood (28/35) and The Sandy Spring (28/36), all in 1988. Harewood, Auburn, the Lyceum,

cemetery and 1904 fire insurance building were found in 2011 to be eligible as individual sites for the National Register of Historic Places (M: 28-11-8). The Sandy Spring Meeting House was listed on the National Register in 1972.

Driving Experience: The entry onto Meeting House Road at MD 108 is closely flanked by the 1904 fire insurance building and 1930 fire station. Passing those and the Montgomery Mutual Building, the pavement narrows and the road enters the Sandy Spring Meeting property; the historic Community House and cemetery are on the east, with a former County champion tulip-poplar in the cemetery visible from the road. The Meeting House sits on the edge of the pavement, facing the road. A wooded parking loop is on the west. Continuing south, the narrow pavement is bordered by mature trees beyond the Meeting House and through the Auburn property. In addition to the Auburn house, a notable brick barn is on the left, and a long view across a field appears on the right. Beyond a second barn, trees enclose the road, the driveway to Harewood forks to the right and the road turns left and climbs, becoming an unpaved driveway as it enters the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. The driveway emerges on the edge of a field at the crest of a hill, offering panoramic views. The paved portion narrows to a rocky track as it curves right and descends down a long slope under a narrow canopy of trees leading to The Sandy Spring.

Traffic: The 2014 Average Daily Traffic volume for Meeting House Road is 800 trips.



Meeting House Road



Former County Champion Tulip Poplar



Meeting House Road Map

Bikeways/Sidewalks/Transit

This Plan recommends enhancing mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists by providing a network that links open spaces, parks, village core and other community destinations within the regional network.

The Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan (CBFMP) recommends a shared-use bike path along MD 108. The path exists on the Sandy Spring Museum property. This Plan supports the recommendation for a eight-foot wide shared-use

path on the north side of MD 108 connecting the elementary school to the high school. The existing sidewalk on the south side of MD 108 will remain.

This Plan confirms the proposed shared road bicycle route on Brooke Road, which will allow vehicles and bicycles to use the road together without extra pavement. There is an existing eight-foot wide shared-use path on the Volunteer Fire Department property which is recommended to connect to MD 108 and residences to the north. Sidewalks are recommended on the west side of Brooke Road



connecting residences outside of the planning area to Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108).

The planning area is served by the Z2 Metrobus. This route connects the Silver Spring Metro Station to Olney at MD 97 and MD 108. The bus travels along Colesville Road to New Hampshire Avenue, continuing west on MD 108 to Norwood Road. There are several bus stops located within this Plan.

This Plan supports the continuation of Metrobus service within the planning area and any sidewalk, bicycle and road improvements that need to be made to accommodate bus service.

Trail Connections

This Plan strongly supports the 1998 Master Plan goal of providing land uses that offer “ample opportunities for social interaction and promote a strong sense of community” (p. 8, 1998 Plan). Parks, open spaces and Rural Legacy/Rachel Carson/Underground Railroad Trail provide connections that build on the community’s strong sense of identity as a rural area and its heritage.

The regional trail system includes the Northwest Branch and Rural Legacy Trails. The Northwest Branch Trail provides a connection between the Northwest Branch stream valley park to the south and the Hawlings River stream valley park to the north. The Rural Legacy Trail connects Woodlawn Manor Park to Sherwood High School at MD 108 (through Auburn Village Neighborhood) and continues to the Sandy Spring Museum.

The Plan recommends that this trail also extend from Meeting House Road to MD 108, on existing pavement, to Brooke Road and eventually tie in with the existing Northwest Branch Trail near the Hawlings River and Rachel Carson Park. The Plan recommends the following:

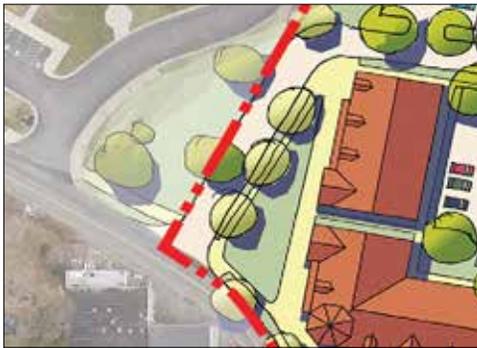
- Provide Rural Legacy/Rachel Carson/Underground Railroad Trail extension on Meeting House Road to MD 108, on existing pavement, to Brooke Road.
- Maintain Rural Legacy Trail from Woodlawn Manor Park to Sherwood High School through Auburn Village Neighborhood.



Examples of shared-use paths

Bicycle Classifications

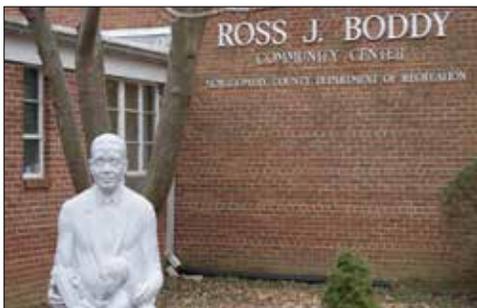
ROUTE	NAME	LOCATION	BIKEWAY LOCATION	STATUS
DB-49	Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) – Ashton	Western to eastern plan boundary	Dual Bikeway: Signed Shared Roadway and Shared-Use Path	Proposed (Shared-use path exists only on the museum property)
PB-68	Brooke Road	Olney Sandy Spring Road (MC 108) to northern plan boundary	Signed Shared Roadway	Proposed



Proposed Village Green Concept:
An open space located south of the fire station.



Proposed Townhouse Setback



Ross Boddy Community Recreation Center on Brooke Road

Parks and Open Space Concepts

The Plan recommends a mix of small and large open spaces connected by a system of sidewalks, building setbacks, shared-use paths and trails.

The Plan recommends a village green in the Village Core adjacent to the wooded southern portion of the Volunteer Fire Station site. In the Village Core, the proposed Village Green adjacent to the new fire station will provide a place for both social interaction and individual contemplation. This space will be developed as a part of revitalization along the north side of MD 108. It may have a combination of landscape, hardscape and shade trees, and provide areas for seating. Buildings may be located along the eastern edge of the green, and they will have ground-floor openings that engage the public space. Large gatherings may occur here when Rural Legacy/Rachel Carson/Underground Railroad Trail users spill out onto the Village Green. The Meeting House grounds also serve as gathering space for events associated with the Meeting House.

Smaller, informal spaces in the Village Core are also recommended in the Plan. At the western Plan boundary, residential open space (townhouse setbacks) on both sides of MD 108 are recommended with shade trees and benches to provide residential setbacks similar to those that already exist on the north side of MD 108.

For the Residential Neighborhood, the Plan recommends public use space along MD 108 that includes sidewalks, bike lanes, street trees and a

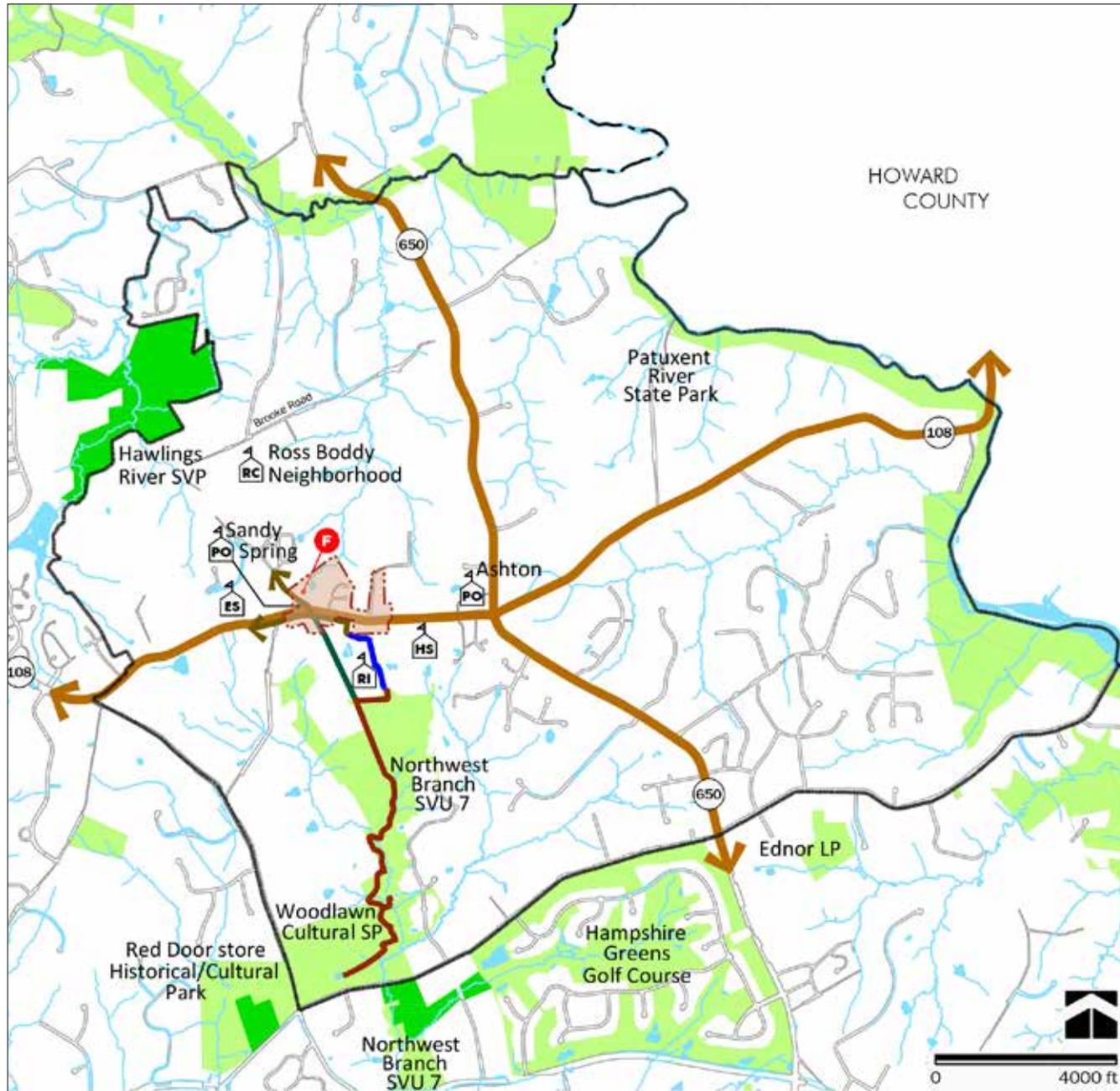
landscaped panel. In the Cultural Neighborhood, the Plan confirms the open space on the museum site to be used for community-wide events, such as the Strawberry Festival and farmer’s market. The Plan recommends the following:

- Create a village green (1/4 to 1/2 acre in size) in the Village Core in conjunction with the existing fire station open space on Brooke Road to serve as a focal point for the Rural Legacy Trail as it reaches the village center.
- Provide small gathering spaces or setbacks with shade trees and benches for new residential development on the western boundary of the Village Core along MD 108.
- Retain existing open space at the museum and Sandy Spring Meeting House.
- Provide sidewalks and a shared use path to serve as open space and to connect the open spaces.

Community Facilities

Recreation

Recreation facilities are adequate to serve the area’s needs. The greater Sandy Spring area is served by several recreation facilities. Some are located nearby but outside the Plan area. These include the Ross Boddy Community Recreation Center, Olney Manor Recreation Park and Swim Center, Ednor Local Park and Manor Oak Park. The Ross Boddy Community Recreation Center is located off Brooke Road. This facility also serves the Ashton, Brookeville and Olney areas. The facility offers a variety of activities, classes and programs for people



- Parkland
- Proposed Parkland
- Sandy Spring Rural Village
- Sandy Spring/Ashton Area
- County Line
- M-NCPPC Rachel Carson/Underground Railroad Park Trail
- Public Access Easements
- Multi-Use Trail/Sidewalk
- Pedestrian Pathway (Easement)
- ES Sherwood Elementary School
- HS Sherwood High School
- RC Recreation Center
- RI Sandy Spring Meeting House
- PO Post Office
- F Sandy Spring Fire Station
- Streams
- Water Features

Regional Connections Map

HISTORY OF FIRE PROTECTION IN SANDY SPRING

The predominately agricultural community of Sandy Spring lost many structures and crops to fire, having no means to control it. Neighbors would rally to each other's aid during such emergencies, and while this demonstrated the ability of neighbors helping neighbors and pulling the community together, it also illustrated the increasing need for organized fire protection."

Excerpt from the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department website



Former Fire Station 4: The old station has been adaptively reused as commercial space with cafe seating in front.

of all ages, with many activities designed especially for youth and families. Outdoor facilities include a baseball field, two sand volleyball courts, a tennis court and full length outdoor basketball courts. The grounds can be rented for family picnics and other outdoor events.

In addition, there are outdoor recreation facilities within the greater Sandy Spring/Ashton area at Sherwood Elementary and Sherwood High Schools. These facilities are available to residents after school hours. Along with the schools, there are several ballfields in the area. Other parks with recreation in the general area include Greenwood Local Park in Olney and Cloverly Local Park.

Police

The Sandy Spring area is served by the Wheaton/Glenmont District 4 police station. The facility is located at the intersection of Randolph Road and Georgia Avenue. Additional facilities are not needed or being recommended to serve the area.

Fire and Rescue

Fire prevention has long been a Sandy Spring hallmark. Chartered in 1925, the fire station covers the following areas: Sandy Spring, Olney, Ashton, Brookeville and Ednor. Fire and Rescue services are currently provided from a new station located on the seven acres of land at 17900 Brooke Road. Opened in 2001, the building has three drive-through-bays, spacious offices and living, dormitory and meeting areas. Station 4 also includes the Oakroom Ballroom that can be rented for civic

functions. The existing fire station is sufficient to serve the build-out of Sandy Spring based on current and future population projections.

Library Facility

Sandy Spring is served by the Olney Branch Library located on Olney Laytonsville Road (MD 108). The recently renovated and expanded library opened to the public in March 2014 and adequately serves the area's needs. Exterior features include improved handicapped accessibility and a repaved parking area. The facility's interior features include a larger children's room, a separate teen area with seating, new group study and tutor rooms, and a program room in the children's area. Also included with the renovation is a new 100-seat meeting room for the community to use. The library has a bridge overlooking a landscaped bio-retention pond for stormwater management and several other pedestrian walkways and public use areas.

Public Schools

The Plan area is served by Sherwood Elementary School, Farquhar Middle School and Sherwood High School. This Plan accommodates 150 new residential units that could generate up to 24 elementary school students (grades K-5), 13 middle school students (grades 6-8) and 18 high school students (grades 9-12). A revitalized/expanded Farquhar Middle School is scheduled to open in August 2016. All schools in the Sherwood cluster are currently within capacity and will adequately serve the area in the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Plan supports the preservation of the historic rural village character of Sandy Spring while creating a mixed-use village center that serves as a focal point for community life. In support of the goal, the following land use and zoning changes are recommended:

- Retain R-200 and the majority of the R-60 Zoning.
- Retain the RE-1, RE-2, and RC Zoning.
- Propose a Zoning Text Amendment for Cultural Institutions in the RC Zone.
- Rezone a small amount of the R-60 and all C-2, C-1, and O-M to the CRN Zone.
- Remove the SSA Overlay Zone from Sandy Spring.

ZONING

Retain R-200 and the Majority of the R-60 Zoning

This Plan recommends retaining these existing residential zones to keep the residential character along MD 108. These zones create a strong housing presence in the Sandy Spring Rural Village. The Plan recommends:

- Cluster development to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide infill housing for all ages and incomes.
- Front houses onto MD 108.

Retain RE-1, RE-2, and RC Zoning

This Plan recommends retaining the large lot residential and agricultural zones found along the eastern portion of the Sandy Spring Rural Village area in order to protect the rural character and forest conservation area. These zones create a strong low-density edge to the village core, limit expansion of the commercial areas and reduce the negative environmental impacts on the Patuxent River Watershed. The Plan recommends:

- Low-density development.
- Cluster development to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.

Zoning Text Amendment for Cultural Institutions in the RC Zone

A primary purpose of the RC Zone is to protect sensitive areas and agricultural uses. The Sandy Spring Museum, located in the R-C Zone, preserves approximately half of its seven-acre site in forest conservation. The property is adjacent to low density neighbors (RC, RNC, RE-1 and RE-2) with large setbacks and wooded areas. The site is defined as the eastern edge of the rural entry into the Plan area.

The Museum is identified as a Cultural Institution in the Zoning Ordinance. According to the

The Sandy Spring Museum

The Sandy Spring Museum is a place where people can develop meaningful connections by exploring community history through the visual, literary and performing arts. The museum began when a group of residents noticed that the community's history was being sold off with every passing of a long-time resident. The organization was incorporated in 1981 by volunteers who set up shop in the basement of the Sandy Spring Bank. For many years, they operated out of the bank, exhibiting artifacts in hand-made cases and hosting many lectures on local history.

(Source: Museum website www.sandyspringmuseum.org)



Exhibit at the Sandy Spring Museum



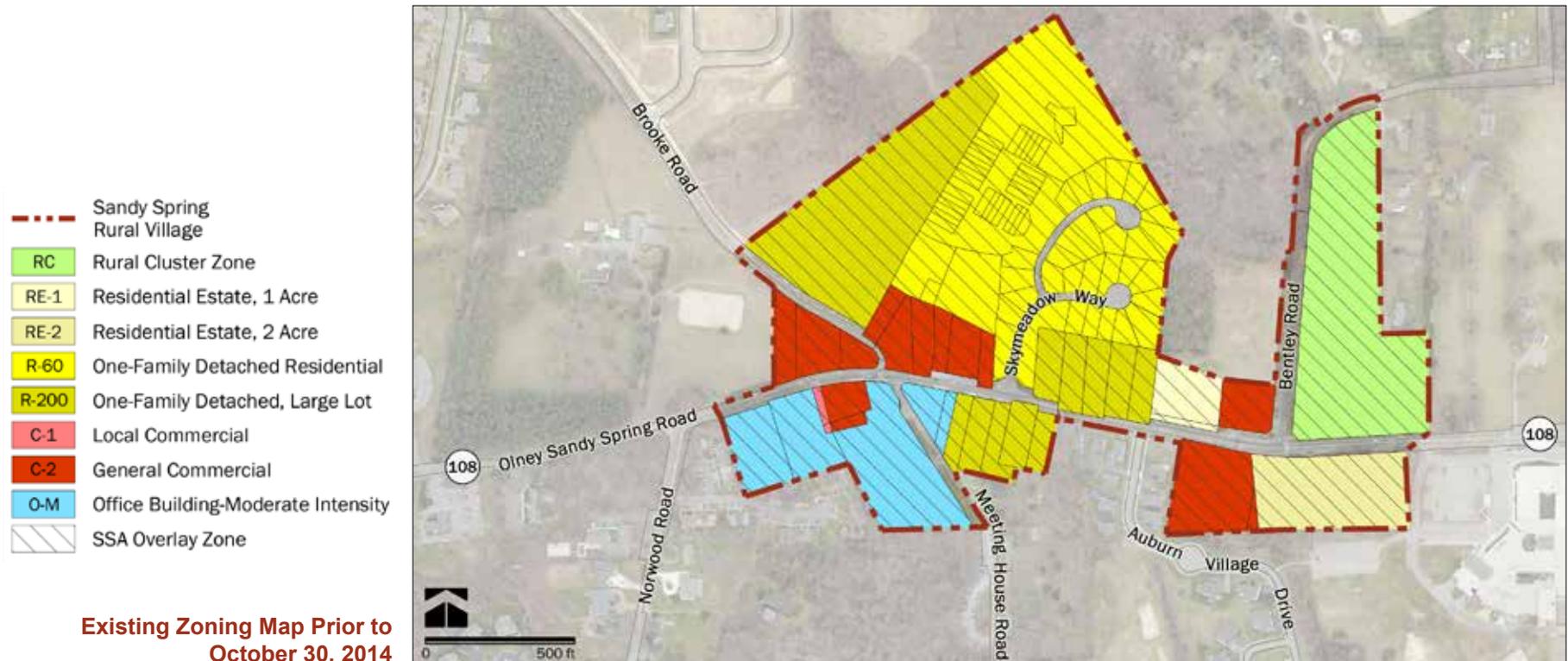
Sandy Spring Museum: Desires to have living demonstrations on site such as working blacksmiths.

Ordinance, Cultural Institutions are uses where works of art or other objects are kept and displayed, or where books, periodicals and other materials are offered for reading, viewing, listening, study or reference, but not typically offered for sale.

The Sandy Spring Museum desires to allow artisan manufacturing and production and sale of goods that are not permitted under current zoning. The Zoning Ordinance defines artisan manufacturing and production as: “the manufacture and production of commercial goods by a manual

worker or crafts person, such as jewelry, metalwork, cabinetry, stained glass, textiles, ceramics or handmade food products. Artisan manufacturing and production do not include any activity that causes noise, odor or vibration to be detectable on a neighboring property.”

The sale of merchandise, on site production of arts and crafts, and living history demonstrations occur in other zones in the County. Allowed in the County Inn Zone, blacksmiths can operate and sell merchandise. Ancillary buildings like barns and



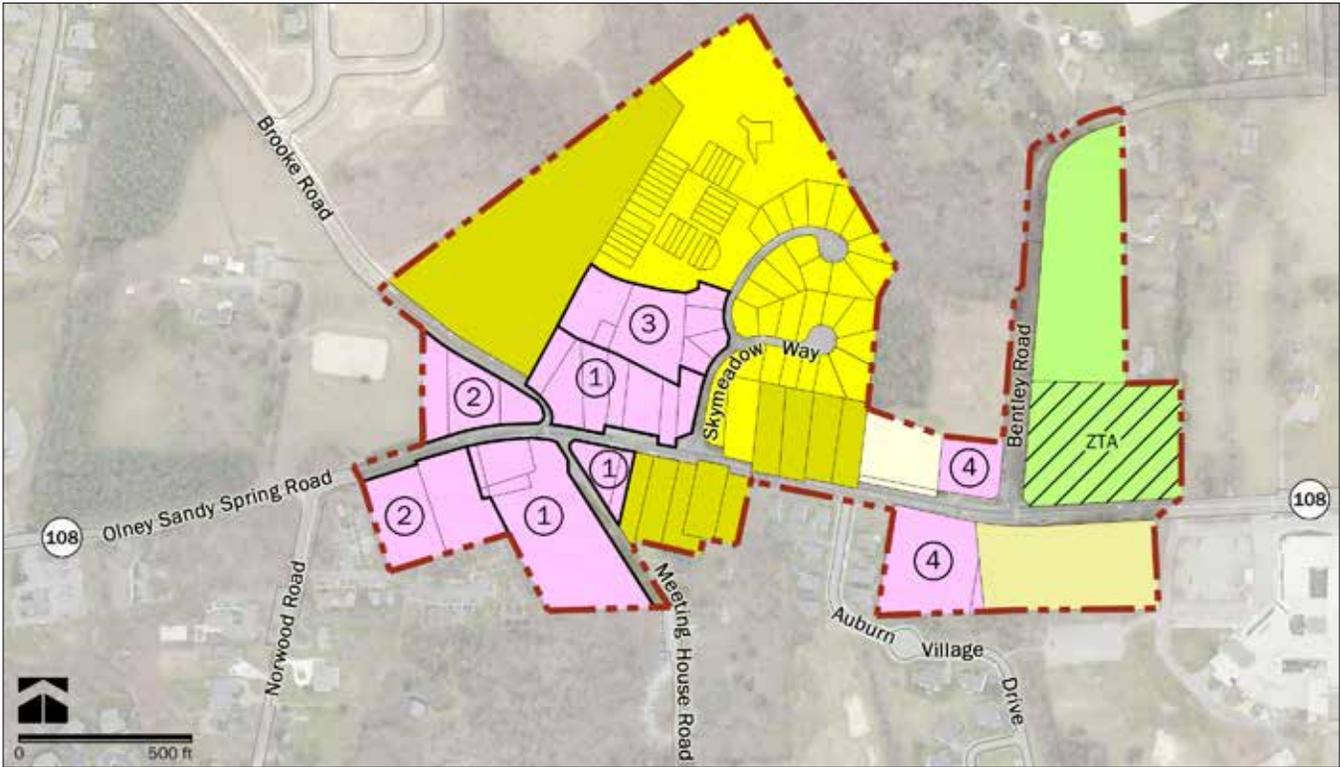
Existing Zoning Map Prior to October 30, 2014

houses are often located in the Country Inn Zone. The museum site includes a brick house and a barn on their property. It is desired to hold the demonstrations in the barn located on the museum property. Equally desirable would be to sell the artists' merchandise on the property.

The house can permit up to five unrelated people living on site, an artist studio with up to five unrelated people living in the house, bed and breakfast, rural antique shop, home occupation (low impact) and guest house. The museum would like

to utilize its entire site. A text amendment would clarify the sale of such demonstrations and artist manufactured items on a museum property located in the RC Zone.

The County boasts other museums such as Glen Echo Park, Button Farm and Mooseum that sell artists' goods and other on-site crafts. Allowing artisan and other living history demonstrations at the Sandy Spring Museum as a limited use will provide insight into the agricultural past of the community.



Proposed Zoning Map

This Plan recommends a zoning text amendment to permit Cultural Institutions and their ancillary buildings (barns and house) to allow artisan manufacturing and production in the RC Zone as a limited use.

CRN Zoning

This Plan proposes to replace the commercial zoning and a small amount of residential zoning in the Village Core with the CRN Zone along both sides of Olney Sandy Spring Road (MD 108), along the east side of Brooke Road. The CRN Zone permits a mix of residential and non-residential uses at varying densities and heights. The zone:

- Targets opportunities for redevelopment of single-use areas with a mix of uses.
- Reduces dependence on the automobile by encouraging development that integrates a combination of housing types, mobility options, commercial services and public facilities and amenities.
- Allows a mix of uses, a variety of densities and building heights appropriate to a rural context.
- Ensures compatible relationships with adjoining neighborhoods.
- Allows an appropriate balance of employment and housing opportunities.

In the Village Core, the CRN Zone will allow additional uses and provide more flexible development standards. Specifically, the Plan recommends replacing the existing C-2, C-1,

O-M and R-60 Zones in the Village Core with the CRN Zone with a FAR between 0.25 and 0.75. In addition, C-2 zoning along Bentley Road and to the east of Auburn Village Drive will be replaced with the CRN Zone.

Why the CRN Zone?

Recently developed for areas of the County like Sandy Spring where there are smaller properties, lower densities and more challenging economic conditions, the Commercial/Residential Neighborhood Zone (CRN) identifies a total floor area ratio (FAR), residential FAR, non-residential FAR and maximum heights for each property. The CRN Zone has consistent land uses and densities with the SSA Overlay Zone. The maximum total, non-residential and residential densities, and maximum height for any property is shown on the zoning map. The CRN Zone is designed to:

- Provide greater flexibility to respond to current market conditions.
- Provide more certainty about density and building height.
- Provide a mix of commercial uses and housing opportunities.
- Support infill and adaptive reuse of buildings.
- Provide neighborhood protections.
- Allow development at a scale of a village.

The CRN Zone will provide a mix of uses, including housing, in the revitalized commercial properties on the north side of MD 108. The CRN

Zone will also help to establish street-oriented retail, public gathering spaces and a variety of building heights along MD 108.

Removal of the Overlay Zone

The 1998 Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan created the SSA Overlay Zone. The adopted Overlay Zone was tailored to the specific needs of Sandy Spring/Ashton without affecting the other rural places in the County. The purpose of the Overlay Zone is to:

- Address zoning issues related to enhancing rural village character.

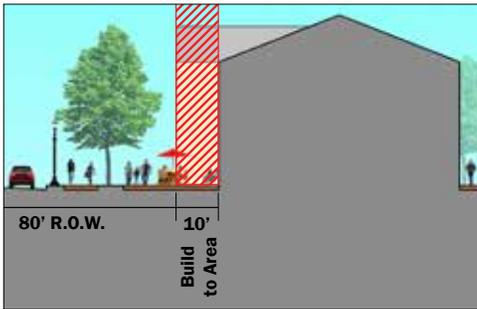
- Provide design flexibility.
- Continue the land uses and patterns that characterize rural settlements.

This Plan recommends the removal of the SSA Overlay Zone within the Plan area as the CRN Zone provides the mix of uses needed to establish a successful village center, while achieving the purposes of the overlay zone. The following table below provides a comparison of the SSA Overlay Zone to the CRN Zone. The Overlay Zone will remain on the areas outside this Plan area, including Ashton.

Comparison of the Sandy Spring/Ashton Overlay Zone with the CRN Zone

	OVERLAY ZONE	CRN ZONE
1. Flexibility to create better design with site plan review	Yes	Yes ¹
2. Flexibility in siting to allow parking in conjunction with commercial uses to float between certain adjacent properties to the most desirable locations on the site if the master plan so recommends	Yes	Yes
3. Height limit consistent with the Sandy Spring Historic District and an appropriate FAR limit for the size and scale of the village center	24-30 feet	45 feet maximum
4. Exclusion of new auto-oriented or typically large-scale uses that are inconsistent with traditional rural development patterns with flexibility to ensure the continuation of existing uses through grandfathering	Yes	Yes

¹Site plan review for buildings over 10,000 square feet and height greater than or equal to 40 feet.



MD 108 Build-to-Area



Garrett Park, MD: Adaptive reuse of an existing building into a retail use.



Laurel, MD: Retail/office building along main street that has traditional architectural elements, such as front porches and gabled roofs.

DESIGN CHECKLIST

This Design Checklist is a summary of the Plan Recommendations that were developed through extensive community outreach process during the creation of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan. The checklist does not mandate the exact form and location of buildings, connections and open space. The checklist is intended to be a convenient resource for all stakeholders, including community members, property owners and reviewers, to help create an attractive public realm that is compatible with and enhances the historic character of the Sandy Spring community. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide revitalization solutions that exceed the suggestions established in the checklist. The Design Checklist is divided into three areas: buildings, connections and open space.

Buildings

Buildings define the street with appropriate architectural elements. They provide visual interest for pedestrians. Any building renovations or new infill in the Sandy Spring Rural Village should consider the following:

- ❑ Adaptive reuse of historically significant structures that have maintained their historic integrity.
- ❑ Placing new buildings within the build-to-area which extends 10 feet behind the ROW along MD 108 and 20 feet behind streets intersecting MD 108.

- ❑ Providing new and renovated mixed-use buildings that define the street edges and create active street fronts.
- ❑ Orienting primary building facades toward streets (secondary facades are located to the rear and sides of buildings).
- ❑ Locating primary entrances to building so that they face public streets. Ground-floors should have active fronts that engage the public realm.
- ❑ Providing entrances to upper story uses along public streets.
- ❑ Encouraging architectural styles compatible with the existing buildings in the Sandy Spring Rural Village, including the Sandy Spring Historic District.
- ❑ Incorporating traditional architectural elements on buildings, such as porches, stoops, bay windows, dormer windows and cupolas.
- ❑ Varying building heights and massing to achieve visual interest and a distinct building character (buildings should reflect the scale and character of existing structures and be between one and three stories in height).
- ❑ Providing a signature building with architectural embellishment to any new development along the northeast corner of the intersection of Brooke Road and MD 108.
- ❑ Providing greater window transparency at the street level to any new mixed-use buildings.
- ❑ Providing signage that is an integral part of a building façade, complements it and does not obstruct key architectural features.

Connections

Great streets have active and vibrant public spaces and storefronts, accommodate multiple users and connect to a larger street network. In order to create a true main street within the Sandy Spring Rural Village, the follow should be considered:

- ❑ Eliminating the parking between the ROW and buildings with revitalization of properties.
- ❑ Providing continuous sidewalks along both sides of MD 108 .
- ❑ Ensuring appropriate paving materials for sidewalks that complement the traditional architecture of the Sandy Spring Rural Village.
- ❑ Providing a continuous shared-use path on the north side of MD 108.
- ❑ Encouraging a secondary connection on the north parallel to MD 108.
- ❑ Providing shade trees in tree boxes in the Village Core Neighborhood and continuous tree planting strips in the Residential and Cultural Neighborhoods.
- ❑ Encouraging additional crosswalks within the Sandy Spring Rural Village.
- ❑ Providing appropriate pedestrian-scaled, coordinated lighting and wayfinding signage along the entire stretch of MD 108 within the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan.
- ❑ Allowing for areas with café seating/street furniture.

Open Space

Open spaces provide places for community gatherings. The following should be considered within the community:

- ❑ Creating a small gateway open space that serves a transition from the rural western entry near the intersection of MD 108 and Norwood Road to the Sandy Spring Rural Village.
- ❑ Incorporating a village green space of approximately 1/4 acres on the north side of MD 108 with a combination of landscape, hardscape and ample space for large shade trees and seating areas.
- ❑ Providing appropriate paving materials for sidewalks that complement the traditional architecture of the Sandy Spring Rural Village.
- ❑ Supplying appropriate pedestrian-scaled lighting for the open space.



Kentlands, MD: The open space is a vibrant gathering area with a combination of landscape and hardscape.



Front-n parking along MD 108



Special paving in front of the Sandy Spring National Bank



Shared-use path in front of the Sandy Spring Museum

REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Sustainable Communities: *The State of Maryland has a Maryland Sustainable Community program. Sustainable Communities are entitled to benefits that can help revitalize them and protect their historic character, including income tax credits under certain circumstances for qualifying rehabilitation expenses for historic and non-historic buildings. Most of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan area is within a Priority Funding area (excluding the 1895 bank building and 1904 fire insurance building), which is a threshold requirement for becoming a Sustainable Community. This Plan recommends extending the Priority Funding Area to the entire Plan area.*

Target Investment Zone (TIZ): *A specific area within the Certified Heritage Area (CHA) is a priority for private investment. The Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan area is located within a CHA and is eligible for funding of various heritage tourism/development activities.*

SEWER AND WATER

This Plan confirms the 1998 Master Plan recommendation of providing community water and sewer service for properties in the Plan area. The 1998 Plan recommended that sewer service for properties within the Patuxent Watershed be provided by extensions from the existing Northwest Branch sewerage system, which also includes the Sandy Spring Meadows and James Creek wastewater pumping stations. This Plan recommends:

- Provide water and sewer to commercial, mixed commercial residential uses and residential uses within the Plan area.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) should implement the following recommendations:

Street and Intersection Improvements

- MD 108 Sidewalk, Safety, and Resurfacing Project (SHA, MCDOT, property owners)
- Brooke Road Sidewalk, Shared Use Path and Safety Improvements (MCDOT, property owners)

Sidewalks, Signage, and Landscape Improvements

- SHA Community Safety and Enhancement Program (SHA, MCDOT)
- Transportation Alternatives Program including Safe Routes to Schools (SHA, MCDOT)
- MDOT Bikeway Program (MDOT)

- National Recreational Trails Program (SHA)
- Maryland Sustainable Community designation (M-NCPPC)
- Priority Funding Area extension (M-NCPPC)
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage (Heritage Montgomery)
- Property Owner Participation
- Sidewalk, landscape improvements, and traffic calming measures (Heritage Montgomery)

Open Spaces

- Open spaces (Heritage Montgomery, property owners)
- Shades of Green designation (M-NCPPC)

Utilities

- Lighting and utility relocation (Pepco, SHA, MCDOT, property owners)
- Sewer and water (WSSC, property owners)

Housing

- New market rate housing (property owners, HOC)

Historic Site Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration

- Grants and loans for acquisition, preservation, development, or restoration (Heritage Montgomery, private foundations)
- Loans from revenue bond proceeds (Heritage Montgomery)
- Heritage Preservation Tax Credit for structures not already designated locally or in the National Register of Historic Places (Heritage Montgomery)

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SEP. 29 2014

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-CTRACK

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 11:38 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Cc: Sarah L. Rogers (director@heritagemontgomery.org); Wright, Gwen; Oconnor, Kristin; Whipple, Scott; Youla, Sandra
Subject: RE: Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan Comments from Heritage Montgomery

Also, Ms. Rogers tells me she meant to refer to the Public Hearing Draft not the Staff Draft in her email to the Chair below.

Sandra Youla

From: Youla, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:34 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Cc: Sarah L. Rogers (director@heritagemontgomery.org); Wright, Gwen; Oconnor, Kristin; Youla, Sandra; Whipple, Scott
Subject: Re: Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan Comments from Heritage Montgomery
Importance: High

Ms. Rogers below of Heritage Montgomery asked that this email be forwarded to the Chairman, for consideration by the Planning Board re: the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan, for which the Planning Board is holding a worksession on 10.2.2014 for the Public Hearing Draft.

Ms. Rogers sent a similar email to Francoise Carrier after the Staff Draft came out, but too late to be considered during the earlier PB agenda item on the Staff Draft. Here is the link to the webpage with the [Heritage Montgomery 2002 Management Plan](#) to which Ms. Rogers makes reference -- there are several sections that deal with Sandy Spring.

Sandra Youla

*Sandra Youla
Senior Planner/Historic Preservation
Functional Planning & Policy Division
Montgomery Planning Department/M-NCPPC
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tel: 301-563-3419 fax: 301-563-3412
sandra.youla@montgomeryplanning.org
www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic*

From: Sarah L. Rogers <director@heritagemontgomery.org> #
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Youla, Sandra
Subject: Please forward to Casey as I do not have any contact for her

To Whom it may Concern,
I have made a quick review of the Sandy Spring Rural Village Plan: Staff Draft.

It appears to be a solid jumping off point for a bit more discussion leading to a great plan for the future great area.

I would like to recommend that the notable historic and cultural features of the area be presented in more depth/context and thus result in more judicious development of plan recommendations.

As the director of Heritage Montgomery, I feel it is important to note that the State and County have been significant investors in the area through our agency and consider it to be a major hub in our ongoing countywide cultural and heritage stewardship and tourism development goals.

It would be helpful to include parts of our 2002 management plan, particularly the Sandy Spring target investment zone portions of the plan. In this plan you will note that as part of the Heritage Area they are eligible for substantial capital grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance as you proceed in this process.

Thank you.
Sarah

--

--
Sarah L. Rogers
Executive Director
Heritage Montgomery
12535 Milestone Manor Lane
Germantown, MD 20876
301.515.0753