




TAKOMA PARK MINOR MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT



DESCRIPTION

Update on the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment including a briefing on the Community Engagement Update Report, plan partnerships and next steps including the Fall 2022 Visioning efforts

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SUMMARY

- The Takoma Park Minor Master Plan (TPMMA) is an update to the Approved and Adopted 2000 *Takoma Park Master Plan*. The plan is a partnership with the City of Takoma Park.
- Staff has been working with City partners and a diversity of community stakeholders in a multi-pronged approach that included local farmers markets, door-to-door canvassing with the assistance of Everyday Canvassing, pop-up events in neighborhood retail districts and the City of Takoma Park’s newsletters, both mailed and emailed versions.
- At this briefing, staff will present an overview of the community engagement work and the resulting report. Staff will also discuss how the key takeaways from this effort will inform the plan process, the upcoming visioning effort and the plan recommendations.

MASTER PLAN INFORMATION

Topic

Update on Community Engagement and Next Steps

Date

September 15, 2022

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Planning Board Information

MCPB

Item No. 7

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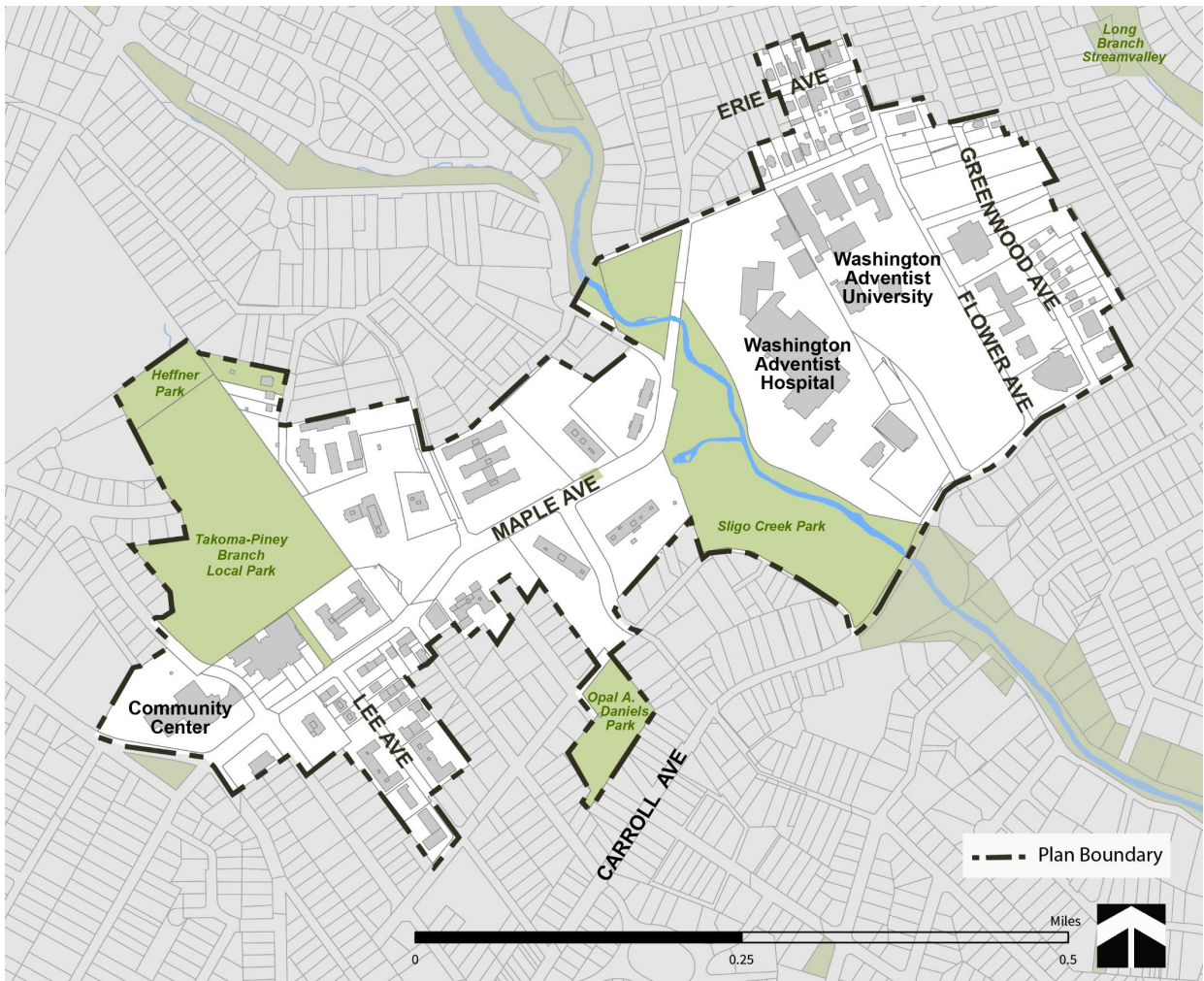


Figure 1. Approved Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment Boundary

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PLAN UPDATE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Since the fall of 2021, the planning team has conducted a multi-pronged effort to reach residents, property owners and other stakeholders, including those living within the Plan Area and those who have a vested interest in the future of the area. These efforts included:

- canvassing at multifamily properties along Maple and Lee Avenues;
- canvassing at Washington Adventist University;
- outreach at farmer’s markets and “pop-up” efforts at neighborhood retail centers;
- meetings with civics, homeowners’ associations, community and neighborhood organizations;
- an online survey;
- posting signage throughout the Plan Area; and
- participating in several community events, including National Night Out.

The attached Community Engagement Update Report summarizes the work conducted to date and notes the key takeaways from the efforts which will inform the plan recommendations.

Staff also briefed the City of Takoma Park and the Planning Board on Existing Conditions and Historic Resources during the existing conditions phase. The City of Takoma Park will be briefed on the Community Engagement Update Report on September 14, 2022.

Staff has been working in partnership with staff from the City of Takoma Park and coordinating regularly with the Adventist HealthCare and the Washington Adventist University, MHP, MCPS, and MCDOT.

Key Takeaways



Residents really enjoy living in Takoma Park and appreciate its walkability, safety, proximity to DC (District of Columbia) and Silver Spring, Sligo Creek, and small businesses.



Community members lamented the loss of the Washington Adventist Hospital and want to see a health clinic or urgent care facility remain on this site.



Though there were diverse views on scale, compatibility, and type, community members would like more housing, especially housing that is affordable, to be part of the future development of the Washington Adventist Campus.



In addition to housing, community members would like more walkable retail options, particularly a grocery store.



Community members would like to see more resources for the community incorporated into the redevelopment of the Washington Adventist Campus. Most often mentioned were a community gathering space, a park, a gym or fitness center and a swimming pool.



Community members see Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park as an important asset to the community and want to make sure it is protected, through better stormwater management and environmentally sensitive design, especially on the Washington Adventist Campus.

The attached report describes the engagement efforts in detail and includes a summary of the comments received and demographic information (where available).

VISIONING

The visioning phase of the plan will build on the previous plan efforts by utilizing the key takeaways from the Community Engagement Update Report to begin to answer three main questions:

- What is the future of Maple Avenue and surrounding area?
- What is the future of Washington Adventist Campus and surrounding area?
- How can the plan build on community assets to enhance the livability and quality of life in the Plan Area?

On October 18th staff, in partnership with the City of Takoma Park, will host a Visioning Open House (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) at the Piney Branch Elementary School located at 7510 Maple Avenue in the Plan Area. This effort will feature interactive exhibits and provide attendees with an opportunity both to further their understanding of the plan process and provide feedback to help define the vision for the future of the Plan Area.

The open house will focus on potential futures of the Maple Avenue and Washington Adventist campus areas and overall plan area quality of life and provide attendees with various methods of participation. Attendees will have the opportunity to move freely between thematic areas and speak with staff while also receiving information on a variety of plan topics.

Though the open house will be the primary in-person visioning event, an online version of the activities offered at the open house will be made available and staff will continue to meet with stakeholders throughout the visioning phase.

NEXT STEPS

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, County primary elections, on-going City initiatives, and other happenings necessitated additional time to complete the existing conditions and engagement work, including meeting with stakeholders and landowners. As a result, the proposed schedule incorporates six additional months and has been reviewed and agreed upon by the City of Takoma Park.

Staff proposes the following update to the plan schedule:

- Visioning
 - Community Engagement Update/Briefing to the Planning Board and City of Takoma Park City Council: September 2022
 - Visioning Open House – October 18, 2022
- Preliminary Recommendations: Fall 2022
- Working Draft: Winter 2023
- Public Hearing Draft and Work Sessions: Winter-Spring 2023
- Planning Board Draft: Spring 2023
- County Council Review/Hearing/Work Sessions: Summer 2023
- Commission Adoption of Plan: Fall 2023
- Sectional Map Amendment: Fall 2023

Additional information can be found on the project website: montgomeryplanning.org/takomapark