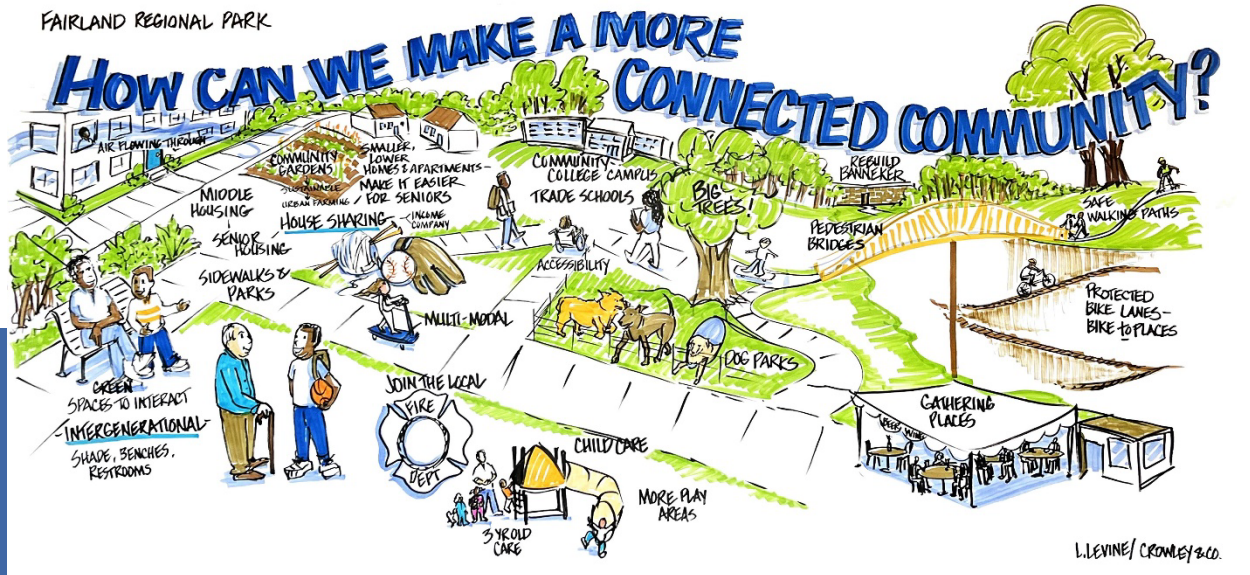


FAIRLAND AND BRIGGS CHANEY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

WORKING DRAFT PRESENTATION



Artist's illustration of community feedback from a visioning workshop event

Description

Request to approve the Working Draft of the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Update as the Public Hearing Draft and to set the Public Hearing Date.

Completed: 03-16-2023

MCPB
Item No. ##
03-23-2023

Montgomery County
Planning Board
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Planning Staff

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Update Working Draft as the Public Hearing Draft and set the Public Hearing for May 4, 2023.

SUMMARY

The Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan is a corridor-focused amendment to the 1997 *Fairland Master Plan* that seeks to establish a renewed vision for a portion of Columbia Pike (U.S. 29) over the next 10 to 20 years. The Plan embraces a future for this corridor as a more complete, equitable, transit-oriented, and compact community.

Anticipating potential significant impacts from future development and a growing population in the eastern region of the county, this Plan also seeks to address inequities pertaining to housing opportunities, impacts stemming from and resiliency to climate change, enhancements to underutilized properties through infill development and redevelopment, and improvements to existing systems (e.g., parks, circulation, and food) to meet the needs of residents, workers, and visitors in the Plan Area and beyond. The Plan also prioritizes the goals and policies of *Thrive Montgomery Plan 2050*, the General Plan for Montgomery County.

The main objectives of this Master Plan are to realize:

1. **Equitable Communities:** The Plan considers racial equity and social justice as essential themes of its purpose and implementation. Attention to past injustices in planning policy and public investment, particularly in the East county, as well as present inequities in the public and personal realm, informed the development of the Plan to support a stronger social network that embraces the advantages of a multi-racial and multi-cultural community.
2. **Economic Health:** The Plan seeks to ensure a vibrant, strong, and competitive economy by attracting and maintaining major employers, continuing to enhance nearby federal and institutional campuses, supporting local small businesses and innovation, and attracting and retaining a high-quality, diverse workforce.

3. **Environmental Resilience:** The Plan seeks to apply the best available strategies to fight climate change and mitigate the impacts of both planned changes and unexpected events in the community while continuing to preserve and enhance our natural resources.

The master plan amendment kicked off in April 2021 with an approved Scope of Work by the Planning Board. Since then, the planning team has briefed the Planning Board on community engagement efforts, an existing conditions assessment, and a framework of preliminary recommendations that incorporated ideas generated from previous visioning workshops and previewed the Plan's emerging recommendations.

Key recommendations of the Plan are to:

- Establish Community Gateways and Activity Centers as compact, mixed-use centers focused on frequent transit service, safe pedestrian movement, expanded housing and shopping choices, greater tree canopy and 'cool' surfaces at summer hot spots, attractive community gathering spaces, and cultural and historic landmarks.
- Prioritize U.S. 29 (Columbia Pike) as a 'transit-first' corridor that provides frequent and convenient regional connections from the plan area to Silver Spring, Washington D.C., and Howard County.
- Complete a continuous network of trails and paths connecting Activity Centers, neighborhoods, parks, and community facilities, both within and beyond the Master Plan Area.
- Establish a Resilience Hub in East county as a community center for daily community needs and a destination for reliable electricity, water, temporary shelter, food, indoor heating and cooling, social services, and fellowship during public emergencies.
- Support a healthy community food system that includes healthy grocery and dining destinations, farmers' markets, community gardens, and an Agricultural-Technology Park for education, research, and demonstration.

The Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Working Draft is the culmination of staff's efforts to prepare the context, vision, recommendations and supporting information for the plan, based on the preceding public engagement and visioning process, for Planning Board review. The Working Draft provides the Planning Board an ability to review and revise the plan prior to seeking official testimony on a Public Hearing Draft. Setting a Public Hearing date initiates the start of the statutory 30-day public comment period on the Public Hearing Draft to receive testimony for consideration during subsequent Planning Board work sessions.

Staff recommends accepting the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Update Working Draft as the Public Hearing Draft and requests that the Planning Board schedule the Public Hearing for May 4, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan Working Draft