

A RESIDENT'S GUIDE TO

Demographic and Statistical Resources for Montgomery County

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-495-4600, TTY 301-495-1331, www.mc-mncppc.org

This is one in a series of brochures designed to help you participate in the land use planning, park planning, zoning, subdivision and site plan processes for your Montgomery County community.

This brochure has information on:

- the Montgomery County Planning Board's web site;
- how the Commission uses computer technology to track park reservations and park permits, as well as to help the Park Police keep the parks safe;
- the kinds of demographic and statistical information available from the Planning Department and how such information assists residents, businesses and County decision makers;
- the types of publications available to assist with important personal and countywide decisions;
- the Geographic Information System (GIS) and information these maps provide.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER



The Research and Technology Center of the Montgomery County Planning Department creates and maintains the Planning Board's Internet web site and provides other community services, in addition to compiling, analyzing and publishing statistical data.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD INTERNET WEB SITE

The Internet web site of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Planning Board is www.mc-mncppc.org. This web site provides a wealth of information about the planning, zoning and subdivision processes in Montgomery County, as well as information about the Montgomery County Planning Board, Department of Parks, the Planning Department and the County.

At www.mc-mncppc.org you will find links to many topics, including the following:

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- Weekly Planning Board meeting agendas and staff reports for items on the agenda
- Forms and information about procedures related to the planning, zoning and subdivision process
- Text of all adopted area master plans, which put forth the long-term vision for the physical development of each area of the County (Note: By law, all contracts to purchase housing require that the buyer must be made aware of and have the opportunity to review the applicable area master plan.)
- Demographic and statistical data
- Information about the various divisions of the Montgomery County Planning Department
- Links to related information, such as the text of the adopted Annual Growth Policy and the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission News Releases
- Information about locations and recreation activities in the county's more than 32,900 acres of parks
- Maps for county parks and trails
- Information about how to reserve park facilities such as ballfields and picnic shelters
- Park and nature center news and activities
- Employment opportunities
- Publication lists
- Wedding, meeting, conference and special event sites.

OTHER USES OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Park Permitting Services

With more than 32,900 acres of parks, keeping track of individual reservations for ballfields, tennis courts, ice skating rinks, campsites, picnic shelters and recreation buildings is a complex business. Reservations for park facilities and issuance of park permits are computerized, making the process easy and accurate. Residents and visitors can now reserve and make payments for park permits online at www.mc-mncppc.org.

Technical Support for Park Police

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police keep our County parks safe. They are committed to providing quality police services through the prevention, detection, investigation of crime and prosecution of criminals while providing a safe and enjoyable recreational environment in the County's parks.

The Research and Technology Center also assists the Park Police in their mission by providing precise geographic information through GIS (page 4) and supports the Computer Assisted Dispatching of the Emergency Communications Center jointly operated by the Montgomery County Police and Fire and Rescue Departments.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTY

Since the 1970s, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has played a leadership role in forecasting population, jobs, and housing for Montgomery County and the Washington region. Since 1974, every three or four years the Planning Department conducts a large survey of Montgomery County households, called the "Census Update Survey," to help update forecasts and better understand the dynamics of change in the County.

- Assist County officials— who must keep pace with, or anticipate, a vast array of complex issues— in making decisions about County facilities and services.

For example, before a decision is made to build a new school, recreation center, library or other public facility in the County, the County Council must be assured that the demand for the facility will not be short-lived. Demographic and statistical information provided by the Planning Department helps the County Council identify the availability of and need for County facilities and information about development to support special populations in the County, such as adequate affordable housing, housing for the elderly, nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

The Department also assists the County Council in the development of the **Growth Policy**, which the Council uses to manage the pace of development in the County to ensure that necessary public facilities, such as schools, roads and sewer service are available to support new development.

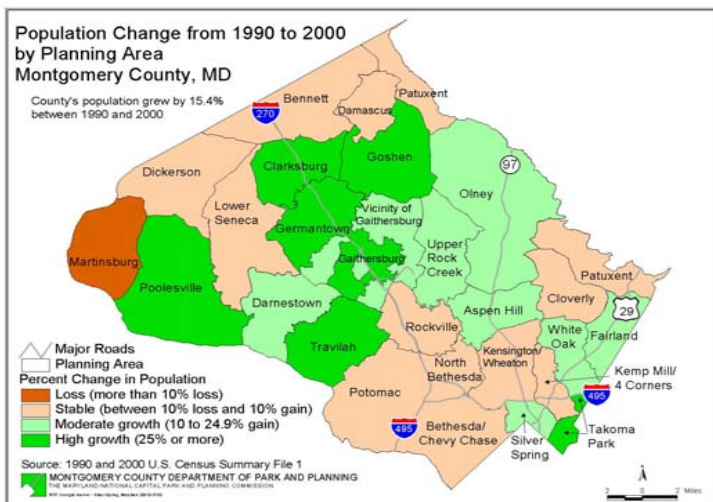
PUBLISHED RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Through the Research and Technology Center, the Planning Department produces many publications with statistics and forecasts, which can be of use to residents, businesses and decision makers. The information is conveniently available at www.mcfacts.org. Here is a sample of the demographic and economic study publications:

Population, Household and Job Forecasts: Household and job forecasts are based on land use and economic information, including upcoming approved development. Population forecasts are compiled using the housing forecasts and the Department's own demographic model to project household size and household population by age and sex, calibrated to the latest U.S. Census or the Department's Census Update Survey figures. These forecasts are available for County planning areas, policy areas and community analysis zones and are prepared as part of a cooperative program with other member jurisdictions through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Montgomery County at a Glance: Provides current estimates of population, housing, and employment characteristics such as age, race, educational level, occupation, commuting method, household size, composition, type and income.

The Department compiles other demographic reports detailing the County's population and household characteristics and emerging trends, and provides profiles of areas within the County such as Planning Areas, Regional Services Centers, and Community-Based Planning Team



Demographic and Statistical Information is used to:

- Assist current and future County residents with decisions about where to live, work and attend school in the County.
- Assist businesses with decisions about business locations and marketing.
- Assist County planners in all their activities, including the preparation of area master plans, which set forth the long-term vision for future physical development in each planning area.

Areas. In addition, special reports on industries are prepared, including information technology and biotechnology industries and on land-use topics (housing, offices and shopping centers).

Economic Forces that Shape Montgomery County:

Provides an analysis of each year's employment patterns, development status and labor force demographics. Several years of these reports are available, each focusing on a particular aspect of the County economy.

Need for Housing for Older Adults in Montgomery County:

The county needs moderate but steady growth in the number of senior housing units in the county. There are immediate needs in the areas of assisted living for low- and very low-income people and independent living for low- and moderate-income households.

The Information Technology and Communications Industry in Montgomery County:

Documents the economic role played by the 1,900 Montgomery County firms in this industry. The analysis includes: firm size and activity, locations of firm clusters, type of space used, and the differences between Montgomery County firms and those found elsewhere in the region.

Profile of Leading Technology Companies in Montgomery County:

This is a bi-annual profile of the County's leading biotech, info-tech, aerospace and research firms.

Affordable Housing in Montgomery County – Status and Inventory:

Provides a detailed inventory of the many types of affordable housing. More than just a list, the report provides substantial analysis of the findings to present a clear picture of the current status of affordable housing in Montgomery County.

The Biotechnology Industry in Montgomery County:

Analyzes the impact of, and prospects for, one of Montgomery County's signature industries: biotechnology. A focus of the study relates commercial space needs of biotechnology firms to County land use plans. The report finds that Montgomery County is well-positioned to participate in the worldwide growth of the biotechnology industry.

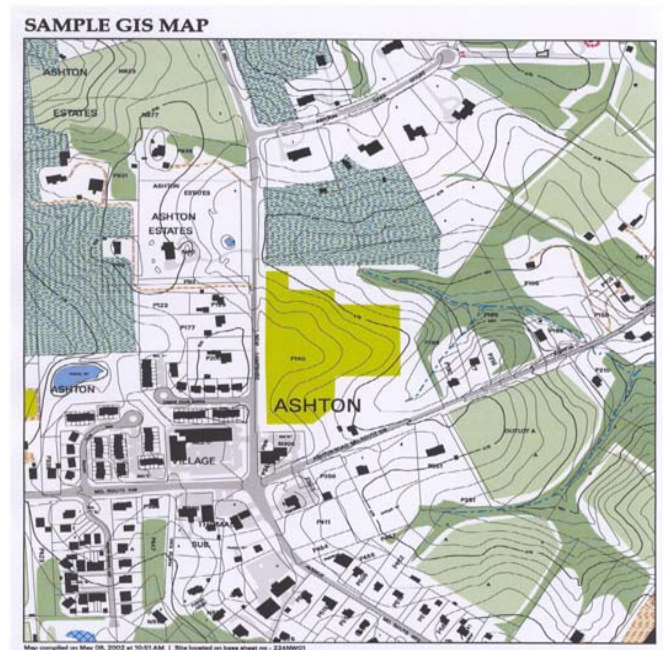
You can obtain these publications free of charge through the Research and Technology Center at the Montgomery Regional offices at 8787 Georgia Avenue in downtown Silver Spring, 301-495-4700, or online at

www.mc-mncppc.org

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

The Montgomery County Planning Department, through its Research and Technology Center is responsible for the highly acclaimed Geographic Information System (GIS), which integrates data with computerized maps to provide decision-making support to the Department. The Center plays a strategic role in coordinating GIS development and in building and maintaining the basic computer map data and systems for GIS within the County. Since the completion of the basic GIS layers in 1997, the continually maintained geographic data and maps have become an essential planning tool.

The GIS Team of the Research and Technology Center coordinates and maintains the County's two basemaps, as well as several dozen other map layers. The first basemap, "Planimetric", includes many of the features that can be viewed from air such as, buildings, roads, tree cover, streams and other natural features. The second basemap, "Property", includes the real property ownership boundaries for the land within the County. Other GIS data include zoning, parks and administrative boundaries.



Maps are currently available via the Commission web site and work is underway to make other geographic data readily accessible through the Internet. GIS data and printed maps can be purchased at the Information Counter at the Montgomery Regional Office in Silver Spring.



**The Maryland-National Capital
Park and Planning Commission**

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The M-NCPPC encourages the participation of all individuals in its programs and services. For accommodations, please call 301-495-4600, TTY 301-495-1331.

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