



## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

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**Meeting No. 24-25**  
**Monday, October 6, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

### **AGENDA**

**Agenda item times are estimates only. Items may be considered at times other than those indicated.**

#### **Ways to Participate**

If you require a reasonable accommodation, for community forum or a public hearing and need reasonable accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting at 240-314-8280 or [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by filling this form: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Manager-2/Request-a-Reasonable-Accommodation-50>

#### **Translation Assistance**

If you wish to participate in person at a Mayor and Council meeting during community forum or a public hearing and may need translation assistance in a language other than English, please contact the City Clerk's Office by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting at 240-314-8280, or [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov), or by using this form: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-Up-for-Translation-Assistance-at-Co-368>

#### **In-Person Attendance**

Community members attending in-person who wish to speak during Community Forum, or a Public Hearing, should sign up using the form at the entrance to the Mayor and Council Chamber. In-person speakers will be called upon in the order they are signed to speak and before virtual speakers.

**Note: In-Person Speakers will be called upon to speak before those who have signed up to speak virtually for Community Forum and Public Hearings.**

#### **Viewing Mayor and Council Meetings**

The Mayor and Council are conducting hybrid meetings. The virtual meetings can be viewed on Rockville 11, Comcast, Verizon cable channel 11, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

#### **Participating in Community Forum & Public Hearings:**

If you wish to submit comments in writing for Community Forum or Public Hearings:

- Please email the comments to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the date of the meeting.

If you wish to participate in-person or virtually in Community Forum or Public Hearings during the live Mayor and Council meeting:

1. Send your Name, Phone number, For Community Forum and Expected Method of Joining the Meeting (computer or phone) to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the day of the meeting. Each speaker will receive 3 minutes.
2. Send your Name, Phone number, the Public Hearing Topic and Expected Method of Joining the Meeting (computer or phone) to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the day of the meeting.
3. On the day of the meeting, you will receive a confirmation email with further details, and two Webex invitations: 1) Optional Webex Orientation Question and Answer Session and 2) Mayor & Council Meeting Invitation.
4. Plan to join the meeting no later than approximately 20 minutes before the actual meeting start time.
5. Read for <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38725/Public-Meetings-on-Webex> meeting tips and instructions on joining a Webex meeting (either by computer or phone).
6. If joining by computer, Conduct a WebEx test: <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html> prior to signing up to join the meeting to ensure your equipment will work as expected.

### Participating in Mayor and Council Drop-In (Mayor Ashton and Councilmember Jackson)

The next scheduled Drop-In Session will be held by phone or in-person on Monday, October 20 from 5:15 - 6:15 pm with Mayor Ashton and Councilmember Jackson. Please sign up by 10 am on the meeting day using the form at:

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/formcenter/city-clerk-11/sign-up-for-dropin-meetings-227>

#### 1. Convene - 5:30 PM

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3. Proclamation and Recognition - 5:35 PM

- A. Certificate of Recognition to celebrate and acknowledge the promotion of Nicholas Patrick Lopreiato to the Rank of Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps
- B. Proclamation Declaring October 9, 2025, as Ageism Awareness Day in Rockville, Maryland
- C. Proclamation Declaring October 6-11, 2025, as National Youth Sports Week and endorsing the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports
- D. Proclamation Declaring October 13, 2025, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Rockville, Maryland
- E. Proclamation Declaring October 20, 2025 as Diwali - Festival of Lights in Rockville, Maryland

- F. Proclamation Declaring October 20-24, 2025, as Economic Development Week
- G. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Arts and Humanities Month
- H. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- I. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Bullying Prevention Month in Rockville, Maryland
- J. Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Community Planning Month in Rockville, Maryland
- K. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- L. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland
- M. Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as LGBTQ+ History Month in Rockville, Maryland
- N. Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Walktober in Rockville, Maryland

**4. Agenda Review - 6:30 PM**

**5. City Manager's Report - 6:35 PM**

**6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - 6:40 PM**

- A. Board and Commission Appointment and Reappointment

**7. Community Forum - 6:50 PM**

**8. Special Presentations - 7:10 PM**

- A. Presentation of the Historic District Commission FY25 Annual Report

**9. Consent Agenda - 7:30 PM**

- A. Adoption of a Resolution to Adopt Rockville's 2026 State Legislative Priorities and Legislative Bond Initiatives for the Maryland General Assembly Session to Begin on January 14 and End on April 13, 2026

**10. Public Hearing - NONE**

**11. Action Items - 7:35 PM**

- A. Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend City Code Section 23-47, Permit Issuance, Fee, Term, Etc. to Expand Residential Parking Permit Eligibility and Provide a Mechanism for the City Manager to Grant Exceptions

**12. Worksession - 7:45 PM**

- A. Montgomery County Public Schools Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility Study Presentation
- B. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite (ZOR) Work Session - Review of Remaining Topics: Amenity Space, Landscaping, Signs, Nonconformities, Findings, Subdivision and Plats, Neighborhood Conservation Plans, Historic Preservation and Recommended Rezoning Near the Twinbrook Metro Station.

**13. Mock Agenda - 9:30 PM**

- A. Mock Agenda

**14. Old / New Business - 9:35 PM**

**15. Adjournment - 9:45 PM**





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: RECOGNITION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## Subject

Certificate of Recognition to celebrate and acknowledge the promotion of Nicholas Patrick Lopreiato to the Rank of Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends Mayor and Council present a Certificate of Recognition to Nicholas Patrick Lopreiato to honor his promotion to the rank of Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps.

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## Discussion

To get promoted to Commander in the Navy Medical Corps, officers typically need to meet the following criteria:

**Time in Service:** Accumulate a minimum number of years of service in the Navy Medical Corps.

**Performance:** Maintain a high level of performance in duties and responsibilities.

**Leadership Potential:** Demonstrate leadership skills and potential to lead others.

**Availability:** Be available for promotion to higher ranks.

**Specialties:** Consider specializations in high-demand fields such as Cyber, Intelligence, or Nuclear.

**Education:** Advanced education and training can enhance promotion chances.

Board Reviews: Be selected for promotion through consecutive boards and board reviews. Promotions are competitive and based on the selection board review of fitness reports, leadership potential, and service needs. The annual defense manpower profile report and related reports provide insights into promotion trends and the attrition rate of officers at various ranks.

**NOTE:** Promotions get tougher as you move up. Limited slots mean senior ranks are highly competitive.

Commander Lopreiato clearly met or exceeded these criteria, and we congratulate him for this amazing accomplishment.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

This is a special recognition of an officer being promoted to the esteemed rank of Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps.

### **Attachments**

Nicholas Patrick Lopreiato - Promotion to Commander - United States Navy Medical Corps - October 6, 2025





**The Mayor and Council**  
**City of Rockville, Maryland**  
*Recognize and Congratulate*  
**NICHOLAS PATRICK LOPREIATO**  
**COMMANDER**  
***United States Navy Medical Corps***

The Mayor and Council proudly recognize and extend their sincere congratulations on the promotion of Nicholas Patrick Lopreiato to the rank of Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps.

Your distinguished service, exceptional education, professional qualifications, strong leadership, and unwavering dedication have all contributed to this significant milestone in your Naval career. We thank you for your exemplary service to the United States and wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.



 Monique Ashton, Mayor	 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 9, 2025, as Ageism Awareness Day in Rockville, Maryland

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation.

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## Discussion

**Ageism Awareness Day** is an opportunity to draw attention to the impact of ageism in our society and work together to build age-inclusive communities.

**Ageism** refers to stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others or ourselves based on age. It negatively impacts our health and well-being, our financial security, and the economy. It impacts us at every age.

**The good news is that we can do something about it together on Ageism Awareness Day!**

**Age inclusion is the way forward.**

How we view aging impacts where we as a society invest and how we make policy—and we need a shared, realistic view of aging to create solutions that serve us all. We have challenges to tackle and bias against a growing segment of our society—and ourselves, as we age, gets in the way. It's time to expand our understanding of aging and bring everyone into the tent so we can work together.

**Age-inclusion is crucial.** Limited, unrealistic views of aging and the “us vs. them” mentality hinder our ability to collaborate and build solutions. This Ageism Awareness Day, help spread the word that **aging is a rich and varied experience, but one that unites us, and offers an opportunity to build a society that works for us all—once we get past ageism.**

**Here are our top priorities for Ageism Awareness Day:**

- Raise awareness about ageism's impact and the importance of age-inclusion

- Encourage and promote member efforts to raise awareness and collaborate
- Flood the internet and media with a realistic picture of aging and tools for change

Source: <https://asaging.org/ageism-awareness/>

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### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the second time the Mayor and Council have presented this proclamation.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as Ageism Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland



**WHEREAS**, Ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others based on age; and

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 1.269 million adults in the state of Maryland, older than age 60, who are potentially impacted by ageism; and

**WHEREAS**, ageism toward older adults affects their mental and physical health, financial well-being, and the economy of Maryland and the City of Rockville; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that it is up to all of us to ensure that older adults are respected and portrayed as capable, competent, effective, and valued in all areas of society; and

**WHEREAS**, ageism awareness and preventing ageism are beneficial to all citizens of Rockville, Maryland, by improving the quality of life within our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025 as Ageism Awareness Month**, and want to emphasize the profound impact of meaningful interactions and social connections on the well-being and health of older adults in our community. We call upon all residents to recognize the contributions of our older residents and promote programs and activities that foster connection, inclusion, and support for older adults.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

**October 6, 2025**



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025  
Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION AND RECOGNITION  
Department: RECREATION & PARKS  
Responsible Staff: DERRICK THOMPSON

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 6–11, 2025, as National Youth Sports Week and endorsing the Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports

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## Department

Recreation & Parks

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation declaring October 6-11, 2025, as National Youth Sports Week in the City of Rockville and endorsing the Children’s Bill of Rights in Youth Sports, affirming the City’s commitment to safe, inclusive, and equitable sports experiences for all children.

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## Discussion

The *Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports*, developed by the Aspen Institute’s Project Play, identifies eight rights every child deserves in sports. Together, these rights provide a standard to ensure youth sports remain positive and inclusive.

1. **To play sports.**  
Organizations should make every effort to accommodate children’s interests to participate and to help them play with peers from diverse backgrounds.
2. **To safe and healthy environments.**  
Children have the right to play in settings free from all forms of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), hazing, violence, and neglect.
3. **To qualified program leaders.**  
Children have the right to play under the care of coaches and other adults who pass background checks and are trained in key competencies.
4. **To developmentally appropriate play.**  
Children have a right to play at a level commensurate with their physical, mental, and emotional maturity, and their emerging athletic ability. They should be treated as young people first, athletes second.

5. **To share in the planning and delivery of their activities.**  
Children have the right to share their viewpoints with coaches and for their insights to be incorporated into activities.
6. **To an equal opportunity for personal growth.**  
Programs should invest equally in all child athletes, free of discrimination based on any personal or family characteristic.
7. **To be treated with dignity.**  
Children have the right to participate in environments that promote the values of sportsmanship, of respect for opponents, officials, and the game.
8. **To enjoy themselves.**  
Children have the right to participate in activities they consider fun, and which foster the development of friendships and social bonds.

Declaring October 6–11, 2025, as *National Youth Sports Week* in Rockville underscores the City’s support for these principles. Endorsing the Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports formalizes what has long been a priority for the Department of Recreation and Parks: youth sports are a vital part of child development, academic success, and community well-being. This endorsement also aligns with *Healthy People 2030* and the *National Youth Sports Strategy*, which call on communities to expand access to safe and supportive sports opportunities.

To implement the Bill of Rights, the Department of Recreation and Parks will:

- Post the rights in youth sports facilities, the recreation guide, and on the City’s sports webpage.
- Include the rights in coach orientations, training, and seasonal certifications.
- Provide parent workshops and add acknowledgment language in the Rec1 registration system.
- Engage young athletes directly for program feedback using post-season surveys and focus groups.
- Establish accountability and recognition systems to address concerns and highlight best practices.

This effort also connects Rockville to a broader regional work. Montgomery County Recreation, in partnership with Rockville and other municipalities, will host a countywide recognition event on October 9, 2025, during National Youth Sports Week. The County will spotlight the *Soccer4Change* program, which emphasizes equity and access in youth sports. Rockville’s participation will demonstrate leadership within the youth sports realm and reinforce its commitment to meaningful opportunities for all youth.

By declaring October 6–11, 2025, as *National Youth Sports Week* and endorsing the *Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports*, Rockville will strengthen trust with families, improve the quality of programs, and affirm its role as a champion of youth development, inclusion, and equity in recreation.



### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the first time the City of Rockville has considered endorsing the Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports. The proclamation also acknowledges National Youth Sports Week, October 6–11, 2025, aligning the City with national efforts to promote safe and inclusive sports opportunities for children.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 6-11, 2025, as National Youth Sports Week & Children’s Bill of Rights in Sports



**WHEREAS**, youth sports are vital to healthy child development, linking participation to improved health, academic success, social connection, and life satisfaction, in line with Rockville's commitment to community well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, national strategies such as Healthy People 2030 and the National Youth Sports Strategy call on communities to expand access to safe, inclusive, and supportive sports opportunities for all children and youth, regardless of background or ability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports, created by the Aspen Institute's Project Play, affirms every child's right to experience sports in a safe environment, to be guided by qualified coaches, and to be treated with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville recognizes that these rights strengthen children, families, schools, and neighborhoods by fostering resilience, teamwork, and belonging; and

**WHEREAS**, National Youth Sports Week, recognized by the National Council of Youth Sports, will be celebrated October 6–11, 2025, highlighting the importance of expanding and protecting youth sports access across the nation and within our community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim their support for the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports and affirm the City's commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to play, grow, and thrive through sports; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 6–11, 2025**, as **"National Youth Sports Week"** and call upon residents, coaches, parents, schools, and community organizations to join in this celebration by uplifting youth athletes, promoting safe, inclusive, and fun opportunities for play, and advancing Rockville's proud tradition of excellence in recreation and community life.



 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Monique Ashton, Mayor
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Manissa Valeri, Councilmember
	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

**October 6, 2025**



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 13, 2025, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Rockville, Maryland

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation.

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## Discussion

In 1977, the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, sponsored by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, began discussing the replacement of Columbus Day in the United States with a celebration to be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Similarly, Native American groups staged a sort of protest in Boston instead of Thanksgiving, which has been celebrated there to mark the collaboration between New England colonists and Native Americans in the first years. In July 1990, at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance in Quito, Ecuador, representatives of indigenous people throughout the Americas agreed that they would mark 1992, the 500th anniversary of the first voyages of Christopher Columbus, as a year to promote "continental unity" and "liberation".

In 1992, the group convinced the City Council of Berkeley, California, to declare October 11 as the "Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People" and 1992 as the "Year of Indigenous People." The city implemented related programs in schools, libraries, and museums. The city symbolically renamed Columbus Day as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" beginning in 1992 to protest the historical conquest of North America by Europeans, and to call attention to the losses suffered by the Native American peoples and their cultures through diseases, warfare, massacres, and forced assimilation.

In the years following Berkeley's action, other local governments and institutions have either renamed or canceled Columbus Day, either to celebrate Native American history and cultures, to avoid celebrating Columbus and the European colonization of the Americas, or due to raised controversy over the legacy of Columbus.

## How to Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day 2025:

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day 2025 can be done in many different ways. One of the best ways to celebrate the day is to join in with the celebrations that are happening in your city, town, or state. There are plenty of festivities hosted on the day, and more states are favoring Indigenous Peoples Day over Columbus Day as the years go by. Another great way to celebrate the day is to learn more about indigenous peoples, histories, and cultures. This can be a fascinating learning experience for people of all ages.

On October 13, 2025, Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated throughout the United States in the following states: Alabama, Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and in Rockville, Maryland.

**Special Note:** On the list of Maryland Public holidays. October 13, 2025, is listed as Columbus Day, and November 28, 2025, is listed as Native American Heritage Day.

### **History of Maryland's Indigenous Peoples**

Maryland's Native American history is primarily composed of Algonquian-speaking tribes like the Piscataway, Nanticoke, Assateague, and Pocomoke, who inhabited the Chesapeake Bay region and coastal areas when European settlers arrived in the 17th century; these groups lived along the rivers, hunting, fishing, and cultivating crops like corn, squash, and tobacco; with the arrival of European settlers, conflict arose, leading to treaties and reservations, but many Native Americans eventually left the area due to displacement and disease epidemics; today, descendants of these tribes still live in Maryland, including a notable Lumbee population in Baltimore, and the state officially recognizes the Piscataway Indian Nation and Piscataway Conoy Tribe.

The first inhabitants of Maryland were Paleo-Indians who came more than 10,000 years ago from other parts of North America to hunt mammoth, great bison, and caribou. By 1,000 B.C., Maryland had more than 8,000 Native Americans in about 40 different tribes. Most of them spoke Algonquian languages.

The largest division of Maryland's indigenous population is primarily defined by language. In the 1600s, European explorers encountered a great diversity of people living in the area that would be named Maryland. Most of the land was claimed by Algonquin tribes, although both Iroquois and Sioux maintained a presence.

Tribes. Among these are the Accohannock, Assateague, Choptank, Delaware, Matapeake, Nanticoke, Piscataway, Pocomoke, and Shawnee. Tribes of similar traits and interests often created allegiances and political bodies for protection and commerce. Often referred to as confederacies or nations by Europeans, the largest was gathered under Chief Powhatan. Composed of Algonquin tribes, the Powhatan Confederacy stretched from the Carolinas to Maryland and was the primary governing body encountered by European settlers.

**Bands:** The smallest recognized group of natives, the term band usually was applied to a single village, or a cluster of closely grouped small villages of a similar tribe, or a migrant group of families. Bands could range from a few dozen to several hundred. Although few bands of certain tribes lived in Maryland, those tribes, including the Susquehannock and the Doeg, also played significant roles in Maryland colonial history.

## **ALGONQUIN**

The Algonquin people were very prosperous during European colonization. At that time, tribes and bands were present in most colonies, and Maryland was no exception. Of the Algonquin subtribes living in Maryland, the four most prominent were the Choptank, the Delaware, the Matapeake, and the Nanticoke. As coastal people, these subtribes spent the warmer months hunting and fishing in or near the Chesapeake Bay.

Due to tribal wars and colonial incursions, a large portion of the Maryland Algonquin had emigrated by the end of the 17th century. Some Algonquin, however, chose to stay, including the Nause-Waiwash band of Dorchester County.

## **ANNEMESSEX**

The Annemessex were a small tribe living in the area of present-day Crisfield, now Somerset County. They held close ties with the Nanticoke and the Pocomoke. Although recognized by Maryland's colonial government in the Treaty of 1662, the tribe assimilated with the Pocomoke sometime before the 1680s.

## **ASSATEAGUE**

Living on the Eastern Shore in what today are Wicomico and Worcester counties, the Assateague (also known as Kickotanks) often were at odds with European settlers (as well as some of the other native bands). Consequently, most Assateague emigrated from Maryland by the early 1700s. Though a few moved to the Western Shore, and some traveled to Virginia and Pennsylvania, the majority settled and assimilated with tribes in Delaware.

## **CHAPTICO**

Also known as Cecomocomoco, the Chaptico resided in southern Maryland in the area around St. Mary's City. It is believed that the Chaptico were absorbed by neighboring Piscataway bands during the early 1700s.

## **CHOPTANK**

With villages located on the lower Eastern Shore in what are now Dorchester and Wicomico counties, the Choptank maintained close relations with the Nanticoke.

While some tribe members purchased property and lived among the Europeans, most emigrated from Maryland during the 1700s.

### **TRANSQUAKING**

The Transquaking were a band of Choptank encountered by Capt. John Smith (1580-1631) lived near present-day East New Market in Dorchester County.

### **DELAWARE**

Also known as the Lenape, the Delaware bands located in Maryland were found mainly in Cecil County.

Their numbers greatly reduced from conflict and disease, most of the remaining Delaware were relocated to Oklahoma by the mid-1800s.

### **DOEG**

Also known as the Taux or Moyumpse, the Doeg were located mainly in Virginia. With villages along the Potomac, however, the Doeg maintained trade relations with Maryland tribes, including the Nanticoke and the Piscataway.

An escalated trade dispute between the Doeg and European settlers in 1675 led to the colonist uprising known as Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia. By the late 1600s, with few villages remaining and increasing tension in Virginia, it is believed that the Doeg were absorbed by their Maryland neighbors.

### **MATAPEAKE**

With the growing European presence on Kent Island, the Matapeake, also known as Monoponson, emigrated during the late 1600s and early 1700s. They found new homes with neighboring Algonquin tribes.

### **MATTAPANIENT**

Located in Charles and Prince George's counties, the Mattapanient absorbed the Patuxent by the mid-1600s. During the late 1600s, the Mattapanient assimilated with the Chaptico.

### **MATTAWOMEN**

Also known as Mataughquamend, the Mattawomen were centered near present-day Indian Head in Charles County. They maintained villages along Mattawoman Creek and on both banks of the Potomac.

### **NACOTCHTANK**

Also known as Anacostian, Anaquashtank, and Nacostine, the Nacotchtank were a semi-agrarian band of Algonquin who lived along the eastern bank of the Anacostia River in the area that became Washington, DC. They constituted a sizable village of approximately 500 natives. With abundant wildlife, they thrived from ready access to the fur trade. During the 1600s, however, the Nacotchtank were decimated by European diseases.

With diminished numbers, the Nacotchtank relocated during the late 1660s to present-day Theodore Roosevelt Island on the Potomac River in Washington, DC. No further record of the Nacotchtank exists, and it is believed that the remnants merged with their neighboring Piscataway allies.

### **OZINIE**

Also known as Wicomiss, the Ozinie tribe was located on the upper Eastern Shore near present-day Rock Hall in Kent County. With an estimated population of 255 in 1608, they were reduced by disease and conflict, and assimilated with the Nanticoke in the 1660s.

### **PATUXENT**

Originally recorded as Pawtuxunt, the Patuxent tribe maintained dwellings in Calvert, Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties before being absorbed by the Chaptico during the 1690s.

### **POCOMOKE**

Before European settlement, the Pocomoke were known as the Wighcocomoco. Capt. John Smith, during his 1608 exploration of the Chesapeake Bay, observed a "people with 100 men" seated on the river Tants Wighcocomoco, meaning "Little Wighcocomoco" (now known as the Pocomoke River). Smith noted that these people were separate and distinct from the tribes that lived to the south, and that they spoke "another language from the rest." The land inhabited by the Pocomoke encompassed modern-day Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. Over time, the Pocomoke traded with other indigenous tribes and European settlers.

Due to disease, tribal wars, and growing unrest between natives and settlers, a large number of Pocomoke had emigrated north by the late 1700s. These bands assimilated with tribes from Delaware and Pennsylvania. Those who remained tended to assimilate with European settlers.

## **PISCATAWAY**

Also known as Conoy, the Piscataway was one of the more prevalent tribes in the Chesapeake region at the time of European contact. Piscataway bands encountered by European settlers included the Chaptico, the Moyaone, the Nanjemoy, and the Potapoco.

Today, the Piscataway still reside in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Wicomico counties. From 1995 until 2015, the Piscataway operated the Piscataway Indian Museum and Cultural Center at Waldorf (Charles County), Maryland, in cooperation with the Maryland Historical Trust. Following the Museum's closure, its mobile program, Living the American Indian Experience, traveled around the State to educate the public about Native American history and culture, though it too has since closed.

On January 9, 2012, the Governor officially recognized two tribes of Piscataway heritage: the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe (which includes the Cedarville Band of Piscataways), and the Piscataway Indian Nation (Executive Order 01.01.2012.01; Executive Order 01.01.2012.02). They are the first tribes recognized by Maryland.

## **MOYAONE**

Also known as Accokeek, the Moyaone were located at present-day Accokeek, in Prince George's County. Once the government seat of the Piscataway, with a population of nearly a thousand people, the village itself was abandoned before European settlement. It is believed that the population was absorbed into neighboring Piscataway tribes.

## **NANJEMOY**

The Piscataway band, who lived between Malloys Bay and Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County.

## **POTAPOCO**

Also known as Portobacks, or Potobagos, the Potapaco maintained three villages along the Port Tobacco River in Charles County. Recorded in Captain John Smith's 1608 explorations of the Chesapeake Bay, the tribe migrated south during the late 1600s, settling along the Rappahannock River in Virginia, and assimilated with other Algonquin tribes.

## **SHAWNEE**

During the 1660s, due to conflict among the native nations in the west, a large number of Shawnee bands emigrated south and east from their homes in what is now Illinois. Most fled into Kentucky, but one band, the Youghiogheny, traveled further and settled in western Maryland in what later became Garrett County.



In the late 1600s and early 1700s, other Shawnee bands that traveled through Maryland did not stay.

### **TOCKWOGH**

Encountered by Captain John Smith in 1608, along the Sassafrass River, the Tockwogh lived on the upper Eastern Shore in Cecil and Kent counties.

### **YOACOMACO**

A small tribe located along the St. Mary's River in southern Maryland, the Yoacomaco maintained sovereignty while conducting trade with the Piscataway, the Powhatan Confederacy of Virginia, and European settlers. Whether by disease, tribal conflict, or colonial expansion, there is no further record of the Yoacomaco tribe after the late 1600s.

A re-creation of a traditional Yoacomaco village may be seen at Historic St. Mary's City.

Source: <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/mdhistory.html>

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present the Indigenous Peoples' Day proclamation annually.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 13, 2025, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Rockville, Maryland



**WHEREAS**, the second Monday in October is recognized by the City of Rockville, Maryland, as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

**WHEREAS**, this day honors the vibrant cultures, traditions, and histories of the indigenous peoples of the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that this region is built upon lands likely originally inhabited by tribes such as the Piscataway, Anacostank, Pamunkey, Mattapanient, Nangemeick, and Tauxehent; and

**WHEREAS**, the arrival of European settlers led to the forced removal, displacement, enslavement, and genocide of countless indigenous peoples, causing immeasurable suffering and oppression; and

**WHEREAS**, despite centuries of injustice, indigenous communities have shown remarkable strength, resilience, and a continued commitment to preserving their identities; and

**WHEREAS**, as a city, we recognize the importance of confronting the painful legacies of colonization, genocide, and stolen land; and

**WHEREAS**, we are committed to promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion for all residents, including the indigenous community; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day is a step towards rectifying historical invisibility and honoring the ongoing contributions of Native Americans; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **Monday, October 13, 2025**, as **Indigenous Peoples' Day** in Rockville, Maryland, and call upon all members of the community to join us in celebrating with our friends, family, and neighbors.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fulton, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## **Subject**

Proclamation Declaring October 20, 2025 as Diwali – Festival of Lights in Rockville, Maryland

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## **Department**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve this proclamation.

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## **Discussion**

Diwali (also known as Deepavali or Diwali) is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. The festival lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November). This is one of the most popular festivals of Hinduism. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual “victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.”

The festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, Goddess of prosperity, and is associated with other regional traditions connecting the holiday to Sita and Rama, Vishnu, Krishna, Yams, Yami, Durga, kai, and Hanuman, to name a few.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali>

Observances: Diya and lighting, home decoration, shopping, fireworks, puja (prayers), gifts, feast, and sweets.

In the lead-up to Diwali, celebrants prepare by cleaning, renovating, and decorating their homes and workplaces with diyas.

## **Who Celebrates Diwali?**

Diwali is primarily celebrated by followers of the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths. However, the holiday is celebrated throughout India, Singapore, and several other South Asian countries as a national holiday, meaning that people outside these religions may participate in Diwali celebrations, too. Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities in the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, and elsewhere around the globe also regularly celebrate Diwali.

When Is Diwali?

Diwali occurs annually in autumn (or spring, in the southern hemisphere), during the Hindu month of Kartik. (To put it in Western terms, Kartik begins around mid-October and ends in mid-November.) Specifically, Diwali occurs on the darkest day of the lunar month, which is the day of the new Moon.

#### **Day 1 — Dhanteras: October 18th 2025 (Saturday) Trayodashi**

This is the first day of the festival, when people clean their homes and prepare for the events ahead. This is also a busy shopping day when it is considered lucky to go to markets and buy gold or new kitchen items.

#### **Day 2 — Choti Diwali: October 19th, 2025 (Sunday) Chaturdashi**

The second day is when people start decorating their homes. Many families will put up string lights and start creating their rangoli, which are intricate designs placed on the floors of homes.

#### **Day 3 — Diwali and Lakshmi Puja: October 20th, 2025 (Monday) Amavasya**

The most important part of the celebration is the ritual that takes place on this day.

Clay oil lamps or diyas are lit, and rituals worshipping the goddess Lakshmi are performed. The worshipping can be done at temples or at home by placing a red cloth on the puja chowki ('worship table'), putting the idol on it, and then offering flowers, fruits (water chestnuts, pomegranate, quince, and coconut) and sweets (notably kesari bhaat — semolina pudding with saffron, nuts, and sugar) to Goddess Lakshmi, then prostrating in front of the idol and joining your palms for prayers.

On the day of Diwali, families get together to exchange gifts and have a large meal. Many people wear their nicest clothes on this day and say "Happy Diwali" to each other.

#### **Day 4 — Padwa: October 21st, 2025 (Tuesday) Pratipada**

The fourth day of celebrations is dedicated to the love between husband and wife, and men will often buy gifts for their wives. Many businesses open new accounts on this day as it is considered auspicious.

#### **Day 5 — Bhai Duj: October 22nd, 2025 (Wednesday) Dwitiya**

Bhai Duj (Bhaubeej), the last day of celebrations, is dedicated to brothers and sisters. To celebrate their bond, sisters perform a special ceremony for their brothers for their protection. Brothers give presents to their sisters.

#### **Importance of 5 Days of Diwali – The Five Days of Diwali Festivities**

The Diwali festival extends beyond cultures and religions, encompassing and surrounding all. That is the only thing that makes Diwali the most famous festival in India. The 5 days of Diwali

have something for everyone, from informative poojas for faith lovers to night-long card parties.

The 5 days of Diwali do not last merely five days but almost the entire week, the celebrations lasting 5 days, and after-effects here and there for the remaining two days. The beauty of this festival is the unity of five different ideas, each of which takes place in a special thought or ideal every day. Therefore, every five days of festivities, people celebrate with true intelligence to enhance their lives.

It is a true market festival, from a local goldsmith to a local potter. Much is done, and even the poorest or forgotten parts of society are helped to make some money by legal means through this commercial practice. Blessings of Lord Kuber may also be sought by buying the Kuber yantra.

### **1st Day of Diwali Week – Dhanteras**

Dhanteras (Dhanvantari Trayodashi) is the first day of Diwali week, marking the official beginning of the sparkling Diwali festivities. Indeed, this is the 13th lunar day of the Krishna Paksha, the dark quarter of the month of Karthik, according to the Hindu calendar.

Dhanteras is a special day, as it is thought that Lord Dhanwantari came from the sea on this day with Ayurveda, a medical science, for the good of humankind. A large number of purchases take place this day, particularly gold, silver, and precious stones, ornaments, new clothing, and utensils.

At sunset, Hindus bathe and pray for the safety of Yama Raj, the Lord of Death, with a lighted deeya, Prasad (sweets offered during worship). This offering is rendered near the Tulsi tree, the Holy Basil, or any sacred tree in the yard.

You can also book an online Lakshmi Puja, performed exclusively for you by our learned Pandits.

This day marks the start of the Diwali festivities.

### **2nd Day of Deepavali – Choti Diwali**

Kali Chaudas, or Narak Chaturdashi, is known as the second day of Diwali week. It is just the Choti Diwali; the festival celebrated on the second day of Deepavali in some parts of India. It is understood that Lord Krishna killed Narakasur's demon on this day, freeing the world from terror.

It is believed that on this day, the body must be massaged by oil to alleviate fatigue, bathing, and rest so as to celebrate Diwali with vigour and pity. It is also thought that on this day you shouldn't light diyas or step out of your home. In modern times, however, on Choti Diwali, people visit each other to wish 'a happy, successful Diwali' and exchange gifts and sweets.

### **3rd Day of Diwali Week – Actual Diwali Day**

The real Diwali is on the third day of the 5 days of Diwali. It is the day when Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha are worshipped. Hindus get purified and join their families and their Pandit

(priest) to worship the Divine Goddess Lakshmi for the blessings of prosperity and riches, the victory of good over evil, and light over darkness. People in their homes are lighting diyas and candles, and millions of crackers, crackers, and fairy lights are on the street throughout India.

#### **4th Day of Diwali Week – Vishwakarma Day After Diwali**

The fourth day of the five days of Diwali is celebrated in different ways in India. This day is observed with pomp as Bestu Varas, the new year according to its calendar in western states such as Gujarat.

In Northern Indian states, this day, when people worship their instruments, arms, and equipment, is commonly celebrated as the day of Govardhan Puja and the day of Vishwakarma. Therefore, most or all businesses remain closed on this day. Also named Annakut this day. Lord Krishna brought the people of Vraja to Govardhan Puja several thousand years ago. From then on, Hindus worship Govardhan every year in honor of the first Puja of the Vraja people.

#### **5th Day of Diwali Week – Bhai Dooj**

The fifth of 5 days of Diwali is celebrated as the Bhai Dooj or Bhai Beej day. Yama (Yamraj, the Lord of Death) came to his sister Yamuna on this day several moons ago during the Vedic period. He gave a Vardhan (a boon) to his sister so that the person who visited her that day would be freed from all sins and attain moksha or ultimate liberation.

From then on, the brothers visit their sisters and their children to inquire about their well-being, and the sisters prepare sweets as a mark of love for their brothers.

The five days of Diwali festivities come to an end on this day.

Diwali Day 3 is considered the most important day of the Diwali festival, as celebrants visit family and friends to feast and exchange sweets and gifts. Celebrants also continue to light lamps and candles to welcome light and prosperity from the Goddess Lakshmi.

The last day of the five-day-long Diwali festival ends with Bhai Dooj, the day when sisters pray for long and happy lives for their brothers. Bhai Dooj is also called Yama Dwitiya, Bhai Tika, or Bhai Bij. Brothers and sisters share their love for each other with an Aarti, a meal, and gifts.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

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### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 20, 2025, as Diwali in Rockville, Maryland







**WHEREAS, Diwali** is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and some Buddhists; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika, between mid-October and mid-November; and

**WHEREAS, Diwali** symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, Goddess of prosperity and Moksha Kalyanak, the liberation of Tirthankar Mahavir, and is associated with other regional traditions connecting the holiday to Sita, Rama, Vishnu, Krishna, Yams, Yami, Durga, Kai, and Hanuman, as well as others; and

**WHEREAS**, the five days of **Diwali** are: Day 1- **Dhanteras**, Day 2 – **Choti Diwali**, Day 3 – Lakshma Puja/Kali (families gather to feast and welcome the goddess of wealth, fortune, and prosperity to enter their homes), Puja, Day 4 – **Govardhan Puja**, and Day 5 – **Bhai Dooj/Vishwakarma**; and

**WHEREAS**, the last day of the festival ends with **Bhai Dooj**, the day when sisters pray for long and happy lives for their brothers and sisters, and brothers share their love for each other with Aarti, meals, and gifts:

**WHEREAS**, Bandi Chhor Divas is celebrated by Sikhs on the last day of Diwali as the liberation of Guru Hargobind from imprisonment, and will be commemorated on the same date; and


**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, hereby proclaim **October 20, 2025**, as **Diwali** in Rockville and invite all residents to understand its principles and enjoy the celebration of the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The City encourages everyone to share the principles of the **Festival of Lights** and to share love for all residents of Rockville and beyond.



  
Marique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fush, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 20-24, 2025, as Economic Development Week

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation, and present to Ms. Susan Prince, Board Chair, REDI, Ms. Cindy Rivarde, CEO, REDI, and Ms. Richelle Wilson, Deputy Director, REDI.

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## Discussion

Economic Development Week in Maryland, October 20-24, 2025, will emphasize the importance of economic development for the State of Maryland. The week is designed to increase understanding of economic development's contribution to the state's business climate, job retention and growth, the tax base, and the overall quality of life in Maryland.

## Recognition

Economic development will take center stage in counties, cities, and towns throughout Maryland when proclamations are made heralding the significant projects that have made Maryland a great place to live, work, and play. Recognizing the dedicated work of economic developers is a primary focus of the effort. Listed below are the activities planned during Economic Development Week in Maryland.

**Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI)**, a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 by the City of Rockville to proactively support existing industry and attract new businesses, is an active member of the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA), a nonprofit organization that encourages economic development to promote the well-being of all Marylanders and collaboratively works to improve the State's business climate.

## How to Celebrate Economic Development Week in Maryland

Please check out: Toolkit, Proclamation Template, and Press Release Template to plan for your participation in Economic Development Week in Maryland. Whether elaborate or small, there is something for every level of participation.

[2025 Economic Development Week in Maryland – Maryland Economic Development Association \(MEDA\)](https://www.mtech.umd.edu/events)  
<https://www.mtech.umd.edu/events>

The proclamation will be presented to Ms. Susan Prince, Board Chair, REDI, Ms. Cindy Rivarde, CEO, REDI, and Ms. Richelle Wilson, Deputy Director, REDI.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 20-24 2025, as Economic Development Week in Rockville, Maryland



**WHEREAS**, the economic growth and stability of the State affect all regions and jurisdictions of Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville is a vital component of Maryland's economic success, representing over 9,500 businesses and 72,000 employees in a wide range of for-profit and nonprofit sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville supports economic development through investments in infrastructure, parks, housing, planning, and other high-quality-of-life amenities that are central to a thriving climate for conducting business; and








**WHEREAS**, **Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI)**, a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 by the City of Rockville to proactively support existing industry and attract new businesses, is an active member of the **Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA)**, a nonprofit organization that encourages economic development to promote the well-being of all Marylanders and collaboratively works to improve the State's business climate; and

**WHEREAS**, REDI highlights business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts, and key economic development programs and partners during **Economic Development Week** in Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, October is **Global Diversity Awareness Month**, and this is an opportunity to spotlight support for diverse businesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council hereby proclaim the week of **October 20-24, 2025**, to be **Economic Development Week** in the City of Rockville, Maryland, in recognition of the importance of economic development and its role in supporting the business community, creating new and dynamic opportunities for residents and visitors, and enhancing the fiscal health of the city.



 Kate Fuchs, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Mayor
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Arts and Humanities Month

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## Department

City Manager's Office (CMO)

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## Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation, and present it to Karen Askin, Chair of the Rockville Cultural Arts Commission.

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## Discussion

October is National Arts & Humanities Month (NAHM), a collective recognition of the importance of culture in America. NAHM was launched by Americans for the Arts more than 30 years ago as National Arts Week in honor of the twentieth anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1993, it was reestablished by Americans for the Arts and national arts partners as a month-long celebration, with goals of:

**FOCUSING** on equitable access to the arts at local, state, and national levels;

**ENCOURAGING** individuals, organizations, and diverse communities to participate in the arts;

**ALLOWING** governments and businesses to show their support for the arts; and

**RAISING** public awareness about the arts and humanities' positive impact on our communities and lives.

The arts are a national asset and should be available everywhere to everyone—and while a majority of the public, based on public opinion polling and other research, believes this, it's often not their default way of thinking about the arts. National Arts & Humanities Month is an opportunity for everyone to help change public perception and promote the crucial role of the arts and humanities in promoting individual well-being, addressing trauma, connecting cultures, highlighting inequities, and making our communities healthier and more robust.

The City of Rockville’s Cultural Arts Commission promotes and enhances the Arts and Humanities throughout the City. The Commission recommends to the Mayor and Council appropriate programs, activities, and policies to further develop Rockville as a cultural center. Rockville offers residents and visitors various amenities like the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, the historic Glenview Mansion, and the Art in Public Places program. Residents and visitors also benefit from other quality arts and humanities organizations in Rockville.

Everyone in the community is encouraged to participate in what has become the country’s largest annual collective celebration of the Arts and Humanities. Here are a few ways you can celebrate.

- Read a book.
- Dance to the music you love.
- Put your child’s artwork on the refrigerator.
- Take an art lesson.
- Watch a theatrical production.
- Snap your picture with a piece of Rockville Public Art.
- Explore a local art gallery.
- Sing in the car.
- Advocate for the arts.
- Buy art from a local artist.
- Participate in the National Arts & Humanities Month #ShowYourArt Instagram campaign.

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## **Boards and Commissions Review**

The Cultural Arts Commission recommends that the Mayor and Council declare October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

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## **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

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## **Public Notification and Engagement**

Activities Schedule in and Around Rockville: October 1: Arts and humanities workshops at the Rockville Senior Center (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Beginner Watercolor
- Your Story, Your Voice: A Writing Workshop
- Advanced Watercolor

October 1-3: Han-Mee Artists Association of Greater Washington’s “Departure Golden Jubilee Art Exhibition” At the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

October 3: Spanish Heritage Celebration at the Rockville Senior Center (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

October 3-5: Rockville Little Theatre, "Woman in Black" Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in-person, by telephone at 240-214-8690, or online at <https://fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/>.

October 6: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Dia de los Muertos
- Piecemakers' Club (Quilting)

October 7: Information for these programs at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#)

- Intermediate Watercolor
- Handbells #1
- Handbells #2

October 8: Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#)

- Storytelling with Erin: The Road Taken
- Beginner Watercolor
- Your Story, Your Voice: A Writing Workshop
- Advanced Watercolor

October 12: Rockville Concert Band, "Winds of the Night" 3pm F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater.

October 12: The Maryland Pastel Society's *Shades of Pastel 2025*, a national juried exhibit, on display from Oct. 12 through Nov. 26. The "Meet the Artists" event will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

October 13: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Apron Decorating
- Piecemakers' Club (Quilting)

October 14: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Intermediate Watercolor
- Handbells #1
- Handbells #2

October 15: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Beginner Watercolor
- Advanced Watercolor

October 17: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Moss Art Workshop

October 18:

- F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival. (Information at [Home Page - F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference Inc.](#))
- Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show ((Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

October 20: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Crafting with Tammy: Sea Glass Tree
- Piecemakers' Club (Quilting)
- Intermediate Watercolor

October 21: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Intermediate Watercolor
- Handbells #1
- Handbells #2
- Painting with Cathy: Puffy Painting on Pumpkins

October 22: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Beginner Watercolor
- Advanced Watercolor

October 23: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Book Club
- Felt Ornaments

October 25: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Mini-Creep (trick or treating for little ones)

October 27:

- Piecemakers' Club (Quilting) (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))
- Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band – A Springsteen Celebration (Information at [Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band - A Springsteen Celebration - Visit Montgomery](#))

October 28: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Intermediate Watercolor
- Handbells #1
- Handbells #2

October 29: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Beginner Watercolor

October 31: (Information at [Calendar • Rockville, MD • CivicEngage](#))

- Halloween Costume Bash

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### **Boards and Commissions Review**

The Cultural Arts Commission recommends that the Mayor and Council declare October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Arts and Humanities Month in Rockville, Maryland





**Whereas**, the month of October has been recognized as **National Arts and Humanities Month** by thousands of communities, cities, and states across the country, as well as by the White House and Congress; and

**Whereas**, the Arts and Humanities enhance the senses, stimulate creativity, and enrich every American; and

**Whereas**, the Arts and Humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, our communities, and our country, and help embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and

**Whereas**, **National Arts & Humanities Month** is an opportunity for everyone to help change public perception and promote the crucial role of the arts and humanities in promoting individual wellbeing, addressing trauma, connecting cultures, highlighting inequities, and making our communities healthier and stronger.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025** as **National Arts and Humanities Month** in Rockville, Maryland, and call upon our residents to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our nation, and to specifically encourage the greater participation by those said residents in taking action for the Arts and Humanities in their towns and cities.



 Monique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shew, Councilmember
 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Barry Jackson, Councilmember
 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	 David Myles, Councilmember
 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

**October 6, 2025**



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation.

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## Discussion

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we honor all those who lost their lives to Breast Cancer, and we recognize the courageous survivors who are fighting it. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. 60-70% of people with breast cancer have no known pre-existing risk factors. Therefore, having an early detection plan including breast exams and mammograms is key. As part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Mammography Day is observed on October 18, 2024, the third Friday in October. This day serves as a reminder that the best defense is early detection.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an international health campaign that's held every October. The month aims to promote screening and reduce the risk of the disease, which affects 2.3 million women worldwide. Known best for its pink theme color, the month features a number of campaigns and programs designed to:

- support people diagnosed with breast cancer, including those with [metastatic breast cancer](#)
- educate people about [breast cancer risk factors](#)
- encourage women to go for [regular breast cancer screening](#) starting at age 40 or earlier, depending on personal breast cancer risk
- raise money for breast cancer research
- 

In the month of October, there are also specific dates designed to raise awareness of specific groups within the breast cancer community.

### Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day (October 13)

October 13 is nationally recognized in the U.S. as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. About 168,000 women in the U.S. are estimated to have [metastatic breast cancer](#) (cancer that spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the body). Some [researchers believe this number will rise to over 246,000](#) living with the disease by 2030. Despite the growing numbers of people living with metastatic disease, [most money for breast cancer research doesn't go toward studying it](#).

Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day seeks to educate the public about the challenges that people with metastatic breast cancer face and the need for more research — and more treatments — for this deadly disease.

The day also serves as a reminder that people can do all the right things — breast cancer screenings and all the recommended treatments for early-stage breast cancer — and still have cancer spread to other parts of the body. As sf-cakes, a member of the Breastcancer.org Community, shared, “Being stage IV during Breast Cancer Awareness Month sucks. All the messaging about ‘if you catch it early, you'll be fine,’ is simply not always true.”

## **Men's Breast Cancer Awareness**

Although breast cancer is much more common in women, [breast cancer affects men](#), too. In 2021, President Joe Biden designated October 17 to October 23 Men's Breast Cancer Awareness Week. According to the [American Cancer Society](#), about 2,800 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2025, and about 510 are expected to die from the disease. But lack of awareness and stigma can be barriers to detection and care in men, trans men, and non-binary people.

## **How common is breast cancer?**

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States, except for skin cancers. It is about 30% (or 1 in 3) of all new female cancers each year.

The American Cancer Society's estimates for breast cancer in the United States for 2024 are:

- About 313,510 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women.
- About 55,720 new cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) will be diagnosed.
- About 43,600 women will die from breast cancer.

Breast cancer mainly occurs in middle-aged and older women. The median age at the time of breast cancer diagnosis is 63. This means half of the women who developed breast cancer are 63 years of age or younger when they are diagnosed. A very small number of women diagnosed with breast cancer are younger than 45.

## **Trends in breast cancer deaths**

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. (Only lung cancer kills more women each year.) The chance that a woman will die from breast cancer is about 1 in 39 (about 2.5%).

Since 2007, breast cancer death rates have been steady in women younger than 50 but have continued to decrease in older women. From 2013 to 2018, the death rate went down by 1% per year.

These decreases are believed to be the result of finding breast cancer earlier through screening and increased awareness, as well as better treatments.

Differences by race and ethnicity

Some variations in breast cancer can be seen between racial and ethnic groups. For example,

- The median age of diagnosis is slightly younger for Black women (60 years old) compared to white women (63 years old).
- Black women have the highest death rate from breast cancer. This is thought to be partly because about 1 in 5 Black women with breast cancer have triple-negative breast cancer, more than any other racial/ethnic group.
- Black women have a higher chance of developing breast cancer before the age of 40 than white women.
- At every age, Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than any other race or ethnic group.
- White and Asian/Pacific Islander women are more likely to be diagnosed with localized breast cancer than Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native women.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders have the lowest death rate from breast cancer.
- American Indian/Alaska Natives have the lowest rates of developing breast cancer.
- Ashkenazi Jewish women (usually of Eastern European ancestry) are at a higher risk for getting breast cancer at a young age and also for getting ovarian and other cancers due to mutations in the BRCA gene. If a mother or father has a BRCA gene mutation, you have a 50% chance of having the same gene mutation.
- About 50 out of 100 women with a BRCA gene mutation will get breast cancer by the time they turn 70 years old, compared to only about 7 out of 100 women in the general U.S. population.

## **Breast Cancer Survivors**

**The population of cancer survivors in the US continues to grow:**

As of January 1, 2025, about 1 out of every 18 Americans (18.6 million people) was a cancer survivor. By 2035, that number is projected to exceed 22 million.

**4.3 million women are living in the United States with a history of breast cancer as of January 2025:**

By 2035, we expect to have about 5.3 million – nearly 1 million more breast cancer survivors.

### **The History of Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

The event began in 1985 as a week-long awareness campaign by the American Cancer Society, in partnership with Imperial Chemical Industries, a British company that made tamoxifen. The campaign eventually grew into a month-long event.

In 1992, the pink ribbon came into play after Alexandra Penney, *SELF* magazine's editor-in-chief, partnered with Evelyn Lauder, Estée Lauder's senior corporate vice president and a breast cancer survivor, to distribute pink ribbons after the magazine's second annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month issue.

Source: <https://www.breastcancer.org/about-breast-cancer/breast-cancer-awareness-month>

Source: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html>

Source: <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/survivor-facts-figures.html>

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council issue this proclamation annually.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland





**WHEREAS**, October is referred to as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities to increase awareness of the disease, raise funds for research and development of treatment and cure; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, approximately 316,950 women and 2,790 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and more than 42,170 women and 510 men will die from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 8 women (13%) will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, and approximately 95% of all breast cancers in the US occur in women 40 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women in the US and the leading cause of cancer death among women globally; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in early detection has led to advancements in treatments and an increase in survivability in the US, and there are more than 4 million breast cancer survivors, which is the largest group of cancer survivors nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, there is some good news as breast cancer incidence rates in the United States began decreasing steadily in 1989, after increasing for the previous two decades. The decrease in death rates is believed to be the result of early discovery of breast cancer and increased awareness.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025** as **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month** in Rockville, Maryland, and call upon all members of the community to join us in encouraging and supporting those experiencing treatment, and celebrating survivors.



 Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 Monique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Bullying Prevention Month in Rockville, Maryland

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation and present it to the Principals from our Rockville Middle and High schools.

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## Discussion

October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

When we think of bullying, we often picture children in a playground, but bullying doesn't always stop after adolescence. According to YouGov, two-thirds of British people said they have been bullied at some point, with 21% expressing they have experienced bullying as an adult.

Bullying has a massive impact on mental health and can affect someone's personal and professional lives greatly, so it's important to understand the signs of bullying if you come across it.

As a leader, it's necessary to be aware of bullying in your workplace to safeguard the mental health of your people for better productivity and engagement.

Traditionally, bullying has been [seen as "a childhood rite of passage"](#) that "made kids tougher". In reality, it can have devastating, often long-term effects such as a [loss of self-esteem, anxiety disorders, and depression](#) for its victims, as well as [mental issues for the bullies themselves](#). National Bullying Prevention Month fights to end bullying in all its forms by educating against it and empowering its victims. So, we had to ask: What is the most important information you need to know about this year's National Bullying Prevention Month?

This year, we want to focus on bullying of adolescents. In August every year, 'Don't be a Bully Month' is a dedicated month to raise awareness for the dangers and impacts of bullying. Bullying can hold a significant strain and stress on someone's mental health, such as damage to self-esteem, sleep disturbances, and isolation. The month is a reminder to always be kind and



compassionate to others, promote acceptance, and boost inclusivity to prevent bullying. The City of Rockville, Maryland, has combined the two months to raise awareness during October while school is in session.

The City of Rockville has reached out to the principals of the three High Schools that Rockville residents attend to lend our support to their efforts to address and eliminate bullying. This is a time to acknowledge that bullying has devastating effects on children and families, such as school avoidance, low grades and low attendance, loss of self-esteem, increased anxiety, and depression.

Bullying can occur in multiple ways. It can be verbal, physical, through social exclusion, or via digital sources like email, texts, or social media. Unlike mutual teasing or fighting, bullying occurs when one person or a group of people is perceived as being more powerful than another and takes advantage of that power through repeated physical assaults, threats of harm, intimidation, or by purposefully excluding a person from a valued social group. Being bullied can severely affect a person's self-image, social interactions, and school performance and can lead to mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and substance use, and even suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

[90% of middle school students](#) are victims of harassment or bullying, and [nearly 30% of youth](#) aged 12-18 experience bullying at school. Students ages 12–18, about 13% reported that they were made fun of, called names, or insulted; 12% reported being the subject of rumors; 5 percent reported that they were pushed, shoved, tripped, or spit on; and 5 percent reported being excluded from activities on purpose. Additionally, 4 percent of students reported being threatened with harm, 3 percent reported that others tried to make them do things they did not want to do, and 2 percent reported that their property was destroyed by others on purpose.

As a result, [over 160,000 students](#) miss school every day for fear of their bullies. Victims and teachers can also [avoid reporting the bullying](#) for fear of [job loss, retaliation, or not being believed](#). In the long run, bullying leads to [mental disorders such as depression and violent behavior](#), while also impacting [school productivity, self-identity, and physical health](#). Furthermore, bullied youth are [2.2 times more likely](#) to develop suicidal thoughts.

### 3 Interesting Facts About National Bullying Prevention Month

1. **Orange celebration:** [Unity Day](#) is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month, with the slogan [“Make it Orange and Make it End. Unite Against Bullying!”](#). Schools in [all 50 states and many other countries, such as the UK, Australia, and Canada](#), organize events with anti-bullying experts to help youth socialize healthily and without prejudices. [Even Ellen DeGeneres participated](#) by wearing orange on her TV show and posting about the event on her website.
2. **Bullying witnesses:** Not all children and adults will be bullied in their lifetimes, but [70% have reported seeing bullying](#) occur at least once. Almost [40% have seen bullying](#) occur

regularly, [but very few people intervene](#) during a bullying incident. Yet, bullied students report that [interventions from their peers are more helpful](#) than self-defense or help from educators. In [57% of cases](#) when bystanders get involved, the bullying stops [within 10 seconds](#).

3. **Internet bullies:** [Cyberbullying](#) is a growing issue amongst youth and [is now a significant concern](#) for school teachers. [Nearly half of US teens](#) have been cyberbullied, with [55% of them](#) stating that this is a major problem for people their age. In addition, nearly [twice as many female students](#) reported being cyberbullied compared to male students. More worryingly, [60% of cyberbullying victims](#) have their education impacted, while [25% are pushed to self-harm](#).

On a larger scale, National Bullying Awareness Month is a timely reminder for organizations to take action at the local level to foster safe and supportive environments. Workplace bullying—whether through hostile comments, discriminatory actions, or other forms of intimidation—should never be tolerated.

By promoting kindness, inclusiveness, and respect, we can contribute to creating workplaces where everyone feels valued and respected. Together, we have the power to make bullying a thing of the past and build a better, more compassionate world.

Let's all do our part to acknowledge bullying, learn the triggers and traits, call it out, and work hard to prevent it and eliminate it.

Source:

- <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/national-bullying-prevention-month#:~:text=October%20was%20first%20declared%20as,%2C%20increased%20anxiety%2C%20and%20depression>
- <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>
- <https://www.healthassured.org/blog/dont-be-a-bully-month/>
- <https://hr.nih.gov/working-nih/civil/national-bullying-awareness-month#:~:text=October%20is%20National%20Bullying%20Awareness,intimidation%E2%80%94%20should%20never%20be%20tolerated.>
- <https://impactful.ninja/national-bullying-prevention-month/>

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## Mayor and Council History

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

## **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Bullying Prevention Month in Rockville,  
Mayland



**WHEREAS**, bullying is the most common form of violence in our society. More than seventy (70) percent of young people nationwide say they have seen bullying in their schools, and thirty (30) percent have admitted to bullying others. Membership in either the bully or the victim group is closely associated with dropping out of school, poor social development, criminal activity, or other negative long-term consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, bullying at school, cyberbullying, and bullying in group settings have been on the rise, and many organizations, school districts, community centers, educators, and parents have publicly expressed concern about the bullying of children; and

**WHEREAS**, we must safeguard schools, the workplace, and our communities for children and adults by offering them an environment that holds promise and security; and





**WHEREAS**, *National Bullying Prevention Month* takes place every October and provides an opportunity to raise awareness and highlight efforts made by the City of Rockville for our community. We join forces with thousands of other communities across the country to promote safe environments that foster and embrace the uniqueness of each child; and

**WHEREAS**, the youth programs provided through the Rockville Recreation and Parks Department play a vital role in addressing the concerns of bullying through safe and supportive programs, delivered with acceptance and kindness, such as afterschool initiatives, sports, youth development, and counseling programs; and

**WHEREAS**, workplace bullying and harassment have become an epidemic that must be addressed, and workers must be provided with a safe work environment to help foster respectful social interactions.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025** as **National Bullying Prevention Month** and ask that everyone be models for children and adults to help combat bullying behavior through kindness, empathy, and compassion towards others.



 Kate Fulmer, Councilmember	 Michael Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shew, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025  
Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION  
Department: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CPDS)  
Responsible Staff: RICKY BARKER

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Community Planning Month in Rockville, Maryland

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## Department

Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS)

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council approve the proclamation and present it to Suzan Pitman, Member, Rockville Planning Commission.

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## Discussion

October has been recognized by the American Planning Association to be Community Planning Month. It is a month to celebrate how community planning has led to creating and continuing to make Rockville a great community.

Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by leveraging professional expertise, [data-driven insights, and a long-term, comprehensive vision for the future](#). This approach leads to safer, more resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities.

We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month.

Planning is more important than ever as communities continue to navigate the [growing housing crisis](#). As experts who understand broad community impact across housing, transportation, and resilience, planners can advise and implement reforms that meet communities where they are to increase more attainable housing for all.

Source: [https://www.planning.org/ncpm/?trk=public\\_post\\_main-feed-card-text](https://www.planning.org/ncpm/?trk=public_post_main-feed-card-text)

Rockville's history of exceptional community planning is one of the reasons that the city is recognized as one of the best places to live, work, and play in the country. Mayor and Council and those before them, our Planning Commission, our stakeholders, staff, and residents are dedicated and focused on creating and maintaining a well-planned community. Together, we make Rockville great because of our partnership with each other and a united vision for our city.

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## Mayor and Council History

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

## **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Community Planning Month





**WHEREAS**, change is constant and affects all cities, towns, suburbs, counties, rural areas, and other places; and

**WHEREAS**, planners can help navigate this change with data-driven insights and expertise that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

**WHEREAS**, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

**WHEREAS**, the full benefits of planning require public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories, and is endorsed by The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of National Community Planning Month gives us the opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the City of Rockville, Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the valuable contributions made by professional community planners of the City of Rockville, Maryland and extend our thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025, as Community Planning Month in the City of Rockville, Maryland, in conjunction with the celebration of National Community Planning Month throughout the Country.



*Monique Ashton*  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

*Kate Fusco*  
Kate Fusco, Councilmember

*Izola (Zola) Shaw*  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

*Barry Jackson*  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

*Monissa Valeri*  
Monissa Valeri, Councilmember

*David Myles*  
David Myles, Councilmember

*Adam Van Grack*  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation.

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## Discussion

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month, and this year marks its 80th anniversary, with the theme **“Celebrating Value and Talent.”**

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, or NDEAM, we celebrate the value and talent workers with disabilities add to America’s workplaces and economy. NDEAM takes place annually each October, but its purpose is to confirm our commitment to ensuring disabled workers have access to good jobs, every month of every year. That’s the spirit behind this year’s official theme: **“Celebrating Value and Talent.”**

National Disability Employment Awareness Month was declared in 1988 by the United States Congress for October to raise awareness of the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. This month's observance is an extension of “National Employ the Physically

Handicapped Week” was originally observed during the first week of October beginning in 1945. In 1962, the word “physically” was removed from the week to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. Americans observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month by paying tribute to the accomplishments of people with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming their commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for all.

## History

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits any public institution that receives federal funds from discriminating based on disability. Only two years later, in 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed, requiring public schools that accept federal funding to

provide equal education and access to education for disabled children. Years later, in 1990, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), guaranteeing access to and prohibiting discrimination against individuals with physical or mental disabilities.] In 2000, President Clinton signed an Executive Order, requesting that the federal government hire 100,000 people with disabilities over the next five years. The final major event that happened is when Congress created the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor.

Under the United States Department of Labor is the Office of Disability Employment Policy. This office has created the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI), which aims to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Through the DEI, there are 70 Disability Resource Coordinators. Along with State Project Leads, they serve to strengthen the capacity of American Job Centers in hopes of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Source – Wikipedia

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland



**WHEREAS**, October 2025 is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and this year marks its 80th anniversary, with the theme “Celebrating Value and Talent;” and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the value and talent workers with disabilities add to America’s workplaces and economy; and

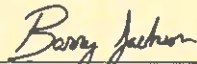

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990, a civil rights law aimed at eliminating discrimination and assuring equality for people with disabilities, including the right to dignity and respect in the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, workplaces welcoming the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy. In this spirit, we recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville supports internship programs to help young adults with developmental disabilities develop knowledge and skills that can lead to paid employment through Project SEARCH-Montgomery, a one-year school-to-work program that began in 1996 at the Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center and has been replicated more than 250 times throughout the US and internationally.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025** as **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** in Rockville, Maryland, and urge everyone to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities and affirm our commitment to an inclusive community.



 Kate Fung, Councilmember	 Monique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

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## Subject

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland

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## Department

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation and present it to Ms. Judith Clark, CEO, Women Who Care Ministries.

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## Discussion

Domestic violence is an intentional pattern of controlled and dominant behavior exhibited by one partner in an intimate relationship over another. It can also include violence or abuse from a family member. Domestic Violence Awareness Month reminds us of the many people who experience the fear, emotional stress, and physical and financial hardship of abusive relationships, and courageous survivors who work to regain peace, hope, safety, and trust.

The 2025 Team for Domestic Violence Awareness Month is: **"With Survivors, Always."**

Nearly half of all women and men in the United States will experience psychologically violent behavior by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Domestic violence is not limited to the boundaries of race, age, gender identity, or ethnicity. Its impact is widespread, including the partners in the relationship, children, friends, and family. Nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner and reported it having a related impact on their functioning.

Domestic violence is a violent crime or abuse in a domestic setting, such as in cohabitation or marriage. Domestic violence is often used as a synonym for intimate partner violence, which involves a spouse or intimate partner in an intimate partner relationship.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any age and can occur in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships. Domestic violence can also include violence against children, parents, or the elderly and can take on several forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual abuse.

- **Survivors deserve safety** - When we advocate for survivors' safety, we must consider all that safety encompasses: physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial. Survivors have a right to live in homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and institutions that are free of violence.
- **Survivors deserve support** - Living through and healing from trauma can be a lifelong journey. And new threats to their safety can resurface trauma reactions in profound ways. Survivors are deserving of support and care at all stages of their lives as they navigate both these echoes and emerging new threats.
- **Survivors deserve solidarity** - Nobody should have to stand alone in the face of hardship. Community connectedness is critical to effective advocacy. We must continue to show up for survivors, no matter what.

The abuser often believes that the abuse is an entitlement, acceptable, justified, or unlikely to be reported. Victims often feel trapped by the abuser in domestic violence situations through isolation by their abuser from family and friends, lack of finances, fear, shame, cultural acceptance, and power and control. Victims can develop physical disabilities and chronic health problems as well as severe psychological disorders.

In the United States, an estimated 10 million people experience domestic violence every year. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, about 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner. As identified above, about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence, and/or partner stalking with injury, PTSD, contraction of STDs, etc.

The state of Maryland is below the lower half of state statistics regarding Domestic Violence, but No Domestic Violence is a goal we would all like to achieve. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to celebrate survivors and for organizations to collaborate for action and change.

Source for some of this information: <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

Source: <https://www.dvawareness.org/blog/DVAM2025>

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## Mayor and Council History

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

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## Public Notification and Engagement

For anonymous and confidential help, available 24/7, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 and TTY 800-787-3224. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

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## **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland





**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, and victims of intimate partner violence lose a total of 8 million days of paid work each year, and

**WHEREAS**, extreme jealousy, blaming, rage, control over partner spending and whereabouts, put-downs, stalking, and threats of bodily harm to a partner or partner's loved ones or even pets are often imposed on victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2025 is: "**With Survivors, Always,**" and domestic violence intensifies over time and appears in any racial, social, economic, and gender category, and the impact of domestic violence impacts not only the partner but also category, and children; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in nine female and one in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act is an integral part of legislation that improved our public health response to domestic violence and increased the capacity of critical services for victims; and

**WHEREAS**, **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** provides an opportunity to learn more about preventing this crime and how to lend support to survivors and the organizations that offer day-to-day services such as safe shelter, food, counseling, clothing, and education.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim **October 2025**, as **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and call upon everyone to speak out against domestic violence, to support organizations that assist domestic violence victims in our community, and to help victims of these crimes find the assistance and healing that they need by sharing the 24- hour hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE), and the TTY number at 1-800-787-3224.



  
Monique Ashton, Mayor

  
Kate Fucini, Councilmember

  
Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember

  
Barry Jackson, Councilmember

  
Marissa Valeri, Councilmember

  
David Myles, Councilmember

  
Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

October 6, 2025





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

## **Subject**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as LGBTQ+ History Month in Rockville, Maryland

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## **Department**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation, and members of the Rockville Human Rights Commission will accept it.

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## **Discussion**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Queer/Questioning Plus (LGBTQ+) History Month is celebrated in the United States to recognize the impact LGBTQ+ individuals have had on history—locally, nationally, and internationally.

In January 1994, a teacher from a suburban St. Louis, Missouri, high school, Rodney Wilson, conceived an idea that a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of LGBTQ+ history. He gathered other teachers and community leaders to join him in this cause and selected the month of October as LGBTQ+ History Month.

The origins of LGBTQ+ history harken back to New York City and the Stonewall riots of June 28, 1969, and the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson, a visible and prominent member of the gay rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Since 1994, October has been recognized as LGBTQ+ history month by international, national, and local civil rights organizations, and multiple States, municipalities, and school boards, including Montgomery County and the City of Rockville.

The month of October is notable in LGBTQ+ history, including aligning with the first and second LGBTQ+ Marches on Washington. The City of Rockville recognizes the growing politicization and attacks on LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum in schools across the United States and the need to reaffirm support for increased visibility and awareness of LGBTQ+ history. Recent findings show that LGBTQ+ students in Maryland feel safer and more accepted where LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum and resources are a part of educational and community programs.

The City of Rockville wishes to recognize the many contributions of LGBTQ+ activists, organizations, students, and other residents who have contributed to making Rockville a

welcoming and accepting place to live, work, and attend school, including the Montgomery County Pride Center, Live in Your Truth, Trans Maryland, Maryland Trans Unity, and Pride Prom.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the second time that the Mayor and Council have presented the proclamation declaring October as LGBTQ+ History Month.

### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as LGBTQ+ History Month in Rockville, Maryland



**WHEREAS**, in January 1994, a teacher from a suburban St. Louis, Missouri, high school, Rodney Wilson, conceived an idea that a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of LGBTQ+ history. He gathered other teachers and community leaders to join him in this cause and selected the month of October as LGBTQ+ History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the origins of LGBTQ+ history harken back to New York City and the Stonewall riots of June 28, 1969, and the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson, a visible and prominent member of the gay rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1994, October has been recognized as LGBTQ+ history month by international, national, and local civil rights organizations, and multiple States, municipalities, and school boards, including Montgomery County and the City of Rockville; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is notable in LGBTQ+ history, including aligning with the first and second LGBTQ+ Marches on Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville recognizes the growing politicization and attacks on LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum in schools across the United States and the need to reaffirm support for increased visibility and awareness of LGBTQ+ history; and

**WHEREAS**, recent findings show that LGBTQ+ students in Maryland feel safer and more accepted where LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum and resources are a part of educational and community programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville wishes to recognize the many contributions of LGBTQ+ activists, organizations, students, and other residents who have contributed to making Rockville a welcoming and accepting place to live, work, and attend school, including the Montgomery County Pride Center, Live in Your Truth, Trans Maryland, Maryland Trans Unity, and Pride Prom.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as **LGBTQ+ History Month**, and that the Mayor and Council encourage all residents to participate in observances and celebrate the many contributions of notable members of the LGBTQ+ community, and further commit to protecting LGBTQ+ students and ensuring that LGBTQ+ history is recognized and acknowledged.



 Marique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Kate Fusco, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PROCLAMATION

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: DANNY WINBORNE

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## **Subject**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025, as Walktober in Rockville, Maryland

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## **Department**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council read and approve the proclamation.

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## **Discussion**

Walking is an activity that's part of daily life for many Marylanders and is recognized as a healthy transportation choice. Walking is Maryland's official state exercise. But with issues of pedestrian safety and access, many communities recognize walking – and improving the walkability of our neighborhoods – are goals that require public attention and action.

Throughout October, working in coordination with several state agencies and other partners, MDOT shared informational resources and a series of free webinars – or Walkinars – that are open to all. The month also includes Walk Maryland Day on October 1, 2025, a celebration that encourages all Marylanders to step out to enjoy walking or some other form of physical activity.

The Walkinar series is tailored to interest pedestrian enthusiasts, advocates, planners, and residents. These Walkinars highlighted how we can collectively rally around walking, an activity that is both central to the state's active transportation efforts and a critical strategy to promote public well-being.

The Walktober Walkinar series, hosted by the Maryland Department of Planning, helps planners, local officials, stakeholders, and the public at large learn how to advocate for safe walking infrastructure. Walkinar panelists will highlight pedestrian-focused topics such as safety, health, infrastructure, and enforcement, as well as successful pedestrian programs throughout the State.

## **[Walk Maryland Day](#)**

**October 1, 2025**, is officially Walk Maryland Day! To celebrate, we are encouraging our Maryland citizens to register for the official walk. Click below to learn more and register.

**October 8, 2025**, is Walk and Roll to School Day nationally. [Register with the national partnership here.](#)

## **2025 Walkinar Series**

**[October 2 – National and Local Impact: Walking, Health, and Communities](#)**

**[October 9 – Safety: Designing Walkable Communities for All](#)**

**[October 16 – Accessibility: How Transportation Trails Improve Community Access](#)**

**[October 23 - Education: Teaching Walking Safety from a Young Age](#)**

**[October 30 - Agency: Walking Across Maryland with the State Secretaries Roundtable](#)**

**Source:** <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PagelId=136>

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council present this proclamation annually.

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### **Attachments**

Proclamation Declaring October 2025 as Walktober in Rockville, Maryland





**WHEREAS**, the State of Maryland was the first state in the country to designate walking as the official exercise in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Wes Moore designated the month of October as “Walktober” in Maryland by recognizing the state’s official exercise – walking – for its health benefits and well-being for all Marylanders; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville supports “Walktober” and walking as beneficial to Rockville residents and Marylanders of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maryland Department of Health identified that there are more than 1200 miles of trails on the State of Maryland public land alone; and the City of Rockville has many walking trails, in addition to biking and hiking trails; and

**WHEREAS**, pedestrian access to good walking trails and pedestrian safety measures are important to the residents of Rockville and its surrounding communities, and Rockville supports these infrastructures and initiatives to increase them across the state and the region; and

**WHEREAS**, Maryland observed a month-long celebration of walking by kicking off the annual “Walk Maryland Day” on October 1, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council hereby proclaim **October 2025** as “Walktober” in the City of Rockville, Maryland, and invite all residents to take advantage of walking for its health, recreation, and transportation benefits, as well as “Walktober Walkinars” focused on pedestrian safety. The City encourages everyone to find time to walk every day and to make it a priority for residents of all ages.



 Kate Fush, Councilmember	 Marique Ashton, Mayor	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember	
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack, Councilmember	

October 6, 2025



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025  
Agenda Item Type: APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS  
Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE  
Responsible Staff: VERONICA MITCHELL

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## **Subject**

Board and Commission Appointment and Reappointment

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## **Recommendation**

The Mayor put forth the following nomination for membership to the Boards and Commissions for confirmation by Councilmembers.

### **Cultural Arts Commission**

Melissa Beattie- reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on October 1, 2028.

### **Environment Commission**

Cindy McCabe- reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on October 1, 2028.

### **Historic District Commission**

Seth Denbo-reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on October 1, 2028.

### **Human Rights Commission**

Rebecca Murphy- reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on October 1, 2028.

### **Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission**

Louzolo Ganga- reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on July 1, 2028.

### **Recreation and Park Advisory Board**

Ken Scales- reappointment to serve a full three-year term to expire on November 1, 2028.

## **Attachments**





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: PRESENTATION

Department: CPDS - COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Responsible Staff: SHEILA BASHIRI

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## **Subject**

Presentation of the Historic District Commission FY25 Annual Report

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## **Department**

CPDS - Comprehensive Planning

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## **Recommendation**

Receive the Annual Report and engage with Historic District Commission members, as desired.

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## **Discussion**

The Historic District Commission (HDC) is pleased to present its Annual Report to the Mayor and Council. This Annual Report covers accomplishments from Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) and the objectives and goals looking forward to Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

As a quasi-judicial commission, the HDC is tasked with acting on Certificates of Approval (COA) and Evaluations of Significance (EOS), as well as conducting courtesy reviews for the benefit of applicants. The HDC also reviews Historic Preservation Tax Credit applications through a program administered by Montgomery County.

The HDC conducts monthly public meetings that allow for testimony from staff, applicants, and any member of the public who wishes to testify. In FY25, the HDC moved from virtual meetings to hybrid meetings, allowing commissioners and members of the public to participate in person at City Hall or virtually via Webex.

Major accomplishments of the HDC for Fiscal Year 2025 include:

- Conducted 10 meetings.
- Reviewed and approved 5 Certificate of Approval applications.
- Conducted 3 Evaluation of Significance Reviews for the purpose of demolition.
- Submitted 1 Map Amendment Application to Mayor and Council for historic designation consideration.
- Received 10 Montgomery County Tax Credit applications for processing.

### **Notable Activities**

The HDC held a ribbon cutting ceremony for new historic signage honoring an African American Civil War soldier, Zed Thompson, in March 2025. The sign was installed as part of a partnership with Civil War Trails, Inc., a nonprofit organization that tells stories of the generals, soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved who found themselves in the midst of the Civil War through interpretive signage throughout the mid-Atlantic. This sign is the first Civil War Trails sign in Montgomery County to tell the story of a formerly enslaved person's role in the Civil War.

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month, the HDC hosted an event called the *"Sustainability in Historic Preservation"* on May 17. In addition to the City's Historic Preservation staff, a representative from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Department and historic property owners gave presentations in the Historic Courtroom of the Grey Courthouse. Members of the public learned how various energy systems can be used on historic buildings, the resulting financial savings, and the available tax credit advantages. At the end of the event, the attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions of the guest speakers. This was the HDC's second event honoring Historic Preservation Month and was deemed by all to be a smashing success.

As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the HDC members and staff are required to attend at least one Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) approved educational training per year, pertaining to the work and functions of the commission or to historic preservation generally. Approved trainings include those offered by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC), Preservation Maryland, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). The HDC is a quasi-judicial board, and the members are proactive about increasing their knowledge. The HDC staff and members attended an average of five trainings during FY2025. In addition to the Preservation Month event, the HDC members also attended the *"NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course"* (NAPC Webinar *"Creating and Updating Historic Preservation Guidelines,"* and NAPC 2-part webinar *"Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs."*

The City's Preservation Planner, Sheila Bashiri, was invited to share her knowledge with other Maryland historic preservation professionals at two statewide events. Ms. Bashiri was a guest speaker and panel moderator for a joint Montgomery County and State of Maryland Tax Credit Open House. Ms. Bashiri was also invited by the Executive Director of the Maryland Historical Trust to moderate a roundtable and be a guest speaker at another historic preservation event, which focused on preservation and underrepresented communities in Maryland.

Throughout the second half of the fiscal year, preservation staff worked to transition Certificate of Approval, Evaluation of Significance, Courtesy Review, and Historic Property Tax Credit applications into the city's My Government Online Connect (MGOC) portal. MGOC has already been used for many types of permits and licenses issued by the Department of Community Planning and Development Services. HDC applications went live in the system on July 1, 2025.

Previously, applications were submitted to staff via email. The new system will allow for better tracking by the applicant of the status of the project review, as well as streamline workflows and communications for staff.

Looking ahead into Fiscal Year 2026, beyond conducting the standard quasi-judicial review expected from the Historic District Commission, the HDC will focus much of its time on continuing implementation of the Historic Preservation Work Plan, which was endorsed by the Mayor and Council in May 2023.

The actions set forth in the Work Plan will help to update and improve Rockville’s preservation programming. Some of the proposed amendments to the historic preservation section of the Zoning Ordinance outlined in the Work Plan include:

- Administrative Approvals;
- Evaluation of Significance Reviews;
- Demolition by Neglect;
- Historic Property Maintenance; and
- Historic Property Delisting.

Through the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite process, currently underway, staff and the HDC will be assessing potential changes to the Zoning Ordinance to address these topics.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the first time the Mayor and Council are receiving a presentation of the FY25 Annual Report from the Historic District Commission. The HDC Chair, Anita Neal Powell, presented the FY24 Annual Report on September 30, 2024.

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### **Boards and Commissions Review**

The Historic District Commission reviewed the FY25 Annual Report at its July 2025 meeting.

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### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - HDC 2025 Annual Report, FY25 Annual Report PPT

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Accomplishments for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

#### **Regulatory and Review Authority**

- Conducted 5 Certificate of Approval reviews. All 5 were approved.
- Conducted 3 Evaluation of Significance reviews for the purpose of demolition. None were recommended for historic designation.
- Conducted 1 Map Amendment Application Review for 4 Courthouse Square for local historic designation. Ultimately, it was designated by the Mayor and Council.
- Received 10 Montgomery County Tax Credit applications for processing.

#### **Public Education and Outreach Activities**

- Sent tax credit reminders and applications to all historic property owners.
- Updated and installed new historic signage for Carver Junior College.
- Updated text for Frieda's Cottage historic signage.
- Held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new historic signage on African American Civil War soldier, Zed Thompson, in partnership with Civil War Trails, Inc.
- Proclaimed May 2025 as Historic Preservation Month in Rockville.
- Conducted a Historic Preservation Month event called "Sustainability in Historic Preservation."
- Updated the narrative for the African American History walking tour on the City of Rockville website.

#### **HDC Member Trainings**

- Staff and the City attorney conducted an internal training for HDC members focusing on legal ramifications of Commission decisions.
- Attended the joint Montgomery County and State of Maryland Tax Credit workshop.
- National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Webinar "*Creating and Updating Historic Preservation Guidelines.*"
- NAPC 2-part Webinar "*Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs.*"
- "*NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course.*"

#### **HDC and Staff Joint Projects**

- Actively participated in the *Historic Preservation Work Plan 2023-2033* working groups including:
  - Assessed and made recommendations local incentive programs;
  -

- Assessed and made recommendations for a local easement/protective covenant program; and
- Assessed and made recommendations for below grade resources.

### **HDC Administration/Staff Actions**

- Administratively approved 5 Certificate of Approval applications.
- Completed Certified Local Government (CLG) FY24 Annual Report.
- Transitioned Certificate of Approval and Evaluation of Significance applications to the MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) platform.
- Developed standard operating procedures for reviewing applications in MyGovernmentOnline (MGO).
- Reviewed and completed signoffs on projects in Project Plan/MGO.
- Prepared HDC meeting agendas, reports, and minutes.
- Updated the Historic Preservation webpages to ensure accurate and up to date information.
- Reviewed Natural Resources Inventories / Forest Stand Delineations (NRI/FSD) for historic preservation impacts.
- Consulted and made recommendations to the Development Review Committee.
- Developed revisions to the historic preservation sections of the Zoning Ordinance as a part of the broader Zoning Ordinance Rewrite project.
- Applied for two grants from the Maryland Historical Trust.
- Reinstated historic bronze marker program for locally designated properties. Ordered five new plaques to be affixed to recently designated sites.
- Conducted ground penetrating radar and archaeology testing at the Avery Road Colored Cemetery in an attempt to delineate the bounds of the cemetery.

### **HDC Staff Activities / Professional Development**

- Moderated and presented for Maryland Historical Trust panel, *“Documenting Underrepresented Communities: Presentations from Practitioners and a Round Table Discussion.”*
- Moderated and presented for a joint Montgomery County and State of Maryland Tax Credit Open House.
- Served on the Board of Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC).
- Attended Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Planner Roundtable.
- Attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Webinar *“Monuments & Justice.”*
- Attended 2-day Webinar *“NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course.”*
- Attended NAPC Webinar *“Historic Resource Surveys: Unlocking the Foundations of Preservation.”*
- Attended NAPC 2-part Webinar *“Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs.”*
- Attended NAPC Webinar *“Navigating ADU Development in Historic Districts.”*
- Attended NAPC Webinar *“Creating and Updating Historic Design Guidelines.”*

### **Objectives for FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)**

#### **Regulatory and Review Authority**

- Review and make decisions Certificate of Approval applications within the 45-day time period established by state law.
- Review Evaluation of Significance applications within the 210-day period established by state law.
- Conduct Courtesy Reviews in a timely fashion to provide potential applicants with feedback on their project(s).
- Review and recommend Montgomery County Tax Credit applications.
- Finalize the update of the Historic Preservation sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

#### **Public Education and Outreach Activities**

- Sponsor a Preservation Month Event, targeting May 2026.
- Continue historic plaque program for homeowners, providing designated properties with a bronze plaque to display on the exterior of their property. Order additional plaques as needed for historic properties that are missing their marker.
- Complete installation of updated Frieda's Cottage Sign.

#### **HDC Member Activities**

- Attend National Trust for Historic Preservation webinars and trainings, as needed and appropriate.
- Attend and/or present at the Maryland Association of Historic Districts (MAHDC) 2026 Symposium.
- Attend Maryland Association of Historic Districts (MAHDC) trainings, as needed and appropriate.

#### **HDC Administration/Staff Actions**

- Continue to implement the Action Steps identified in the *Historic Preservation Work Plan* for FY 2026 which includes:
  - Updating codification of existing zoning code for preservation regulations.
  - Approve a zoning text amendment to update local designation and associated designation criteria.
  - Approve a zoning text amendment addressing administrative-level COA process.
  - Approve a zoning text amendment addressing delisting of locally designated properties.
  - Approve a zoning text amendment regarding parties of interest and owner consent.
  - Approve a zoning text amendment to strengthen existing property maintenance code for historic building or develop new ordinance section for demolition by neglect.
  - Examine ways to expand public outreach in relation to municipal historic preservation.
- Review and provide comment for Section 106 Program referrals, as needed.
- Continue assessment of the Avery Road Colored Cemetery and Benjamin Smith Homestead sites through various non-destructive means to confirm the existence of any below grade resources.





- Continue to identify funding opportunities to supplement the needs of the Historic Preservation Division.
- Complete update of internal inventory of historic designations.
- Develop standard operating procedures for documenting HDC related processes.



# Historic District Commission FY2025 Annual Report

July 2024 – June 2025

October 6, 2025

# Historic District Commission Responsibilities

# HDC Responsibilities



- ▶ Review and act on Certificate of Approval applications for construction or exterior alterations to historic properties.
- ▶ Review and act on Evaluation of Significance applications submitted for the purpose of demolition to determine if they meet the adopted criteria for historic or cultural significance for historic designation.
- ▶ Review and act on Historic Designation applications to determine if the property meets the criteria for historical or cultural significance.

# FY2025 HDC Accomplishments

# FY2025 Accomplishments

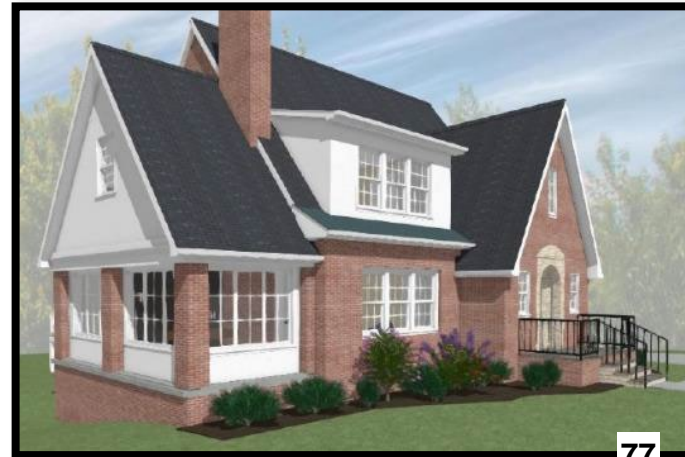
- ▶ Conducted a Map Amendment Application Review for 4 Courthouse Square, which was designated by the Mayor and Council.
- ▶ Conducted 5 Certificate of Approval Reviews. All 5 were approved.
- ▶ Conducted 3 Evaluation of Significance Reviews for the purpose of demolition.
- ▶ Conducted 10 HDC meetings.





# FY2025 Accomplishments

- ▶ Reviewed and recommended 10 Montgomery County Tax Credit Applications.
- ▶ Administratively approved 5 Certificate of Approval applications.
- ▶ HDC Commissioners attended 5 specialized trainings.
- ▶ Staff moderated and presented at two statewide events.



# FY2025 Accomplishments

- ▶ Hosted a Historic Preservation Month event called “Sustainability in Historic Preservation” at the Grey Courthouse.
- ▶ Transitioned applications to and developed standard operating procedures for the MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) platform.
- ▶ Applied for and was awarded 2 grants from the Maryland Historical Trust.



# FY2025 Accomplishments

- ▶ Held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new historic signage on African American Civil War soldier, Zed Thompson, in partnership with Civil War Trails, Inc.
- ▶ Updated the narrative for the African American History walking tour on the City of Rockville website.
- ▶ Updated and installed new historic signage for Carver Junior College.
- ▶ Updated historic signage for Frieda's Cottage.



# FY2026 Goals and Objectives



# FY2026 Goals & Objectives

- ▶ Continue to consider all application requests objectively and fairly and make decisions based on the required standards, guidelines, and adopted criteria.
- ▶ Process a greater number of tax credit applications as a result of the recurring joint State of Maryland and Montgomery County Tax Credit Workshops.
- ▶ Continue implementing the Historic Preservation Work Plan.



# Join Us for an HDC Meeting



The Historic District Commission (HDC)  
Meets every third Thursday of the month  
at 7:00 PM at City Hall and on WebEx.





MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: CONSENT

Department: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (CMO)

Responsible Staff: LINDA MORAN

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## **Subject**

Adoption of a Resolution to Adopt Rockville's 2026 State Legislative Priorities and Legislative Bond Initiatives for the Maryland General Assembly Session to Begin on January 14 and End on April 13, 2026

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## **Department**

City Manager's Office (CMO)

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council adopt the resolution.

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## **Discussion**

The resolution, Attachment A, reflects the broad direction provided by the Mayor and Council to staff at the September 15, 2025, work session. The resolution includes the approved State legislative priorities, legislative bond initiatives options, and issues to monitor during the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session.

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## **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council held a work session on 2026 State legislative priorities and legislative bond initiatives on September 15, 2025.

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## **Next Steps**

On November 19, 2025, a City representative will testify on the approved 2025 State legislative priorities and legislative bond initiatives at the Legislative Priorities Hearing before the Montgomery County House and Senate Delegation. The Mayor and Council, staff, and the City's State lobbyist will collaborate with District 17 and other key stakeholders to advance Rockville's adopted 2026 State legislative priorities and legislative bond initiatives in the 2026 General Assembly Session.

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## **Attachments**

2026 Proposed State Legislative Priorities Resolution

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_ RESOLUTION: To Adopt Rockville’s 2026  
State Legislative Priorities and Legislative  
Bond Initiatives for the  
Maryland General Assembly Session to  
Begin on January 14 and end on  
April 13, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rockville prioritizes engagement in the work of the Maryland General Assembly as it relates to the Rockville community and municipal government; and

**WHEREAS**, the 448th Maryland General Assembly Session is scheduled to begin on January 14, 2025, and conclude on April 13, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of Rockville identified State legislative priorities, legislative bond initiatives, and issues to monitor as a framework for their advocacy and engagement in the 2026 General Assembly Session;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of Rockville adopt the following State Legislative Priorities, Legislative Bond Initiatives, and issues to monitor for the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session (not in order of importance) in preparation for the upcoming 2026 Session:

- Support legislation that would require the State Highway Administration to be responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks and bicycle pathways on State-owned roads.
- Support legislation that would expand access for low-and income homeowners (including income-challenged seniors and individuals with disabilities) to the State Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit, to provide relief from inflationary pressures and cost-of-living increases.
- Preserve and Protect Municipal Highway User Revenue and Police Aid Protection funds that contribute to the cost of maintaining/repairing Rockville’s transportation infrastructure and support Police protection services in the Rockville community.
- Support the MML’s approved priority on Modernizing Municipal Revenues. This may include enabling legislation that would expand the Admission and Amusement Tax by adding up to a 3% local fee on food and beverage consumption and/or Local Government Revenues Workgroup legislation.
- Advocate for State funding for school construction projects and operations to support education from birth through community college, including childcare, and the following:
  - Advocate for a fair share of State funding for Montgomery County to cover the Implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland and prevent larger class sizes, potential furloughs, and layoffs.
- Advocate for youth and at-risk youth programming, including:
  - Youth Service Bureau funding restoration;
  - Out of school activities; and

- Juvenile services for youth involved in repeat crimes, who do not have access to restoration services support.
- Advocate for increased funding for senior transportation services, recreation and wellness programs, senior programs in neighborhoods, aging in place and village initiatives, and senior outreach.
- Advocate in support of the City's Vision Zero and Master plan efforts, including:
  - A comparative negligence law that allows pedestrians to claim damages in proportion to the percentage to which they are determined to be at fault in a vehicle crash.
  - Revising the State transportation code to make it clear that the State is responsible for maintaining all transportation facilities, including sidewalks, and streetlights at State intersections along State roadways, and providing dedicated State funding for such maintenance.
  - Advocate for State Stop Sign Monitoring Systems in school zones legislation that would provide this authority to all local governments.
  - Advocating for the State to mitigate the increase in streetlight outages in support of pedestrian safety and to address increased overtime for City Police to maintain safety and direct traffic during outages.
  - Advocating for Don't Block the Box legislation that would prohibit a vehicle facing a green or yellow signal from entering an intersection if the vehicle is unable to proceed completely through the intersection.
  - Advocate for legislation that would authorize the establishment of Regional Transportation Authorities that would implement regional transportation plans and raise transportation revenues for the State and local governments.
  - Advocate for additional complete streets implementation along MD 355, Veirs Mill Road, and all State roads with high numbers of crashes or fatalities
- Advocate for legislation supporting Rockville's Climate Action plan goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, prioritizing equity, and building resiliency.
- Advocate for Legislation Strengthening Tenant Protections Legislation, including:
  - Advocate for Just Cause Eviction Legislation, as originally introduced in 2025 (HB 709- not amended), that would prohibit a landlord from failing to renew a lease during the lease period or seeking to terminate a holdover tenancy without good cause.
  - Advocate for Landlord Tenant Residential Leases Fee Disclosure Legislation, including the disclosure of rent history (period to be determined by the State), broken out by year.
  - Advocate for legislation prohibiting a landlord from using certain algorithmic devices to determine the amount of rent to charge a residential tenant.
- Advocate in support of the health care safety net and access to vaccines for all.

### **Legislative Bond Initiatives:**

The following 2026 legislative bond initiative options will be shared with the District 17 Delegation for their input on which projects are most likely to be successful in receiving capital improvement funds from the State:

- **Option #1 - Twinbrook Park and Dogwood Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacements** – \$570,000 State funding request for each project. These projects support the Mayor and Council priorities of equity and inclusion as well as Vision Zero. These projects involve the design and construction of the replacement of the steel truss pedestrian bridges which provide access for residents to critical school and community facilities.
- **Option #2 – Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Gender Neutral Restroom** - \$150,000 State funding request. This project supports the Mayor and Council priorities on equity and inclusion. This project includes the design and construction of converting a storage space within the concession building into a single-user, accessible restroom.

**Watch List Items:**

- Legislation supportive of native plant and animal species and restricting invasive species, including measures for spotted lanternfly mitigation and eradication, in alignment with Rockville’s efforts.
- Legislation relating to tenant issues and protections.
- Legislation that would impact Rockville’s development review process and/or local planning and zoning authority.
- Legislation that enhances pedestrian, bike safety, and transportation safety.
- Legislation relating to financial empowerment.



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025  
Agenda Item Type: INTRODUCTION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION  
Department: PW - TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION  
Responsible Staff: BRYAN S. BARNETT-WOODS

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## **Subject**

Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend City Code Section 23-47, Permit Issuance, Fee, Term, Etc. to Expand Residential Parking Permit Eligibility and Provide a Mechanism for the City Manager to Grant Exceptions

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## **Department**

PW - Traffic & Transportation

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council introduce the proposed ordinance. If the Mayor and Council wish to proceed with adoption of the ordinance at the same meeting, the ordinance should first be introduced and then a motion should be made to waive the layover period. If the motion to waive the layover period is approved by an affirmative vote of six or more members of the Mayor and Council, a motion to adopt the ordinance may then proceed.

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## **Change in Law or Policy**

The proposed amendment will modify Chapter 23, "Traffic," Article II, "Stopping, Standing and Parking," Division 2, "Permit Parking for Residents," Section 23-47, "Permit Issuance, Fee, Term, Etc.," of the Rockville City Code. The amendment will also add a new subsection to Section 23-47, "Permit Issuance, Fee, Term, Etc.," of the Rockville City Code.

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## **Discussion**

City Code Section 23-47, "Permit Issuance, Fee, Term, Etc.," provides direction for issuing residential parking permits, installing parking permit area signage, determining the validity of the permit, and establishing a fee for the permit.

The current code provides that, "Permits shall be issued only to persons residing on the property immediately adjacent to a street or road within the parking permit area."

Residents who live on streets with permit-restricted parking are eligible to obtain a parking permit. Residents who live on nearby streets with permit-restricted parking, but do not live on a permit-restricted street, are not eligible to obtain residential parking permits. Moreover, residents living on streets far from parking permit areas are also not eligible to obtain a residential parking permit.



This provision seeks to ensure that residents living on specific streets will have access to on-street parking on their own street and to prevent motorists from other neighborhoods, those visiting nearby commercial businesses, or those commuting via a nearby transit station to park on those streets. It is expected that residents who do not live on permit-restricted streets are able to conveniently park on their own street.

However, there are some instances in which residents live on streets that prohibit on-street parking for some or part of the day. These include streets that are classified as arterial and streets that have rights-of-way that are too narrow to accommodate on-street parking and travel lanes. If a resident lives on a street that prohibits parking, and the nearby streets are permit-restricted, that resident is still ineligible to obtain a residential parking permit, because their residence is not “immediately adjacent to a street or road within the parking permit area.” These residents and their visitors are not able to park on-street near their homes.

The proposed amendment (Attachment 1) expands the eligibility to allow residents to obtain residential parking permits if they live on streets with prohibited parking and the nearest streets are permit-restricted.

A review of existing streets with prohibited on-street parking and nearby streets with permit-restricted on-street parking indicate approximately 100 properties city-wide would become eligible.

Additionally, the current City Code does not provide any mechanism for the City to provide a residential parking permit as an exception. While the city should not give out residential parking permits to residents that are ineligible, there may be unanticipated situations in which a residential parking permit is appropriate, but the resident is not eligible. The proposed amendment includes a new subsection for Section 23-47, to provide the City Manager to grant an exception and to issue a residential parking permit, subject to guidance that will be promulgated by the City Manager.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the first time this proposed amendment has been raised with the Mayor and Council.

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### **Public Notification and Engagement**

The Department of Public Works hosted a virtual public meeting on July 8, 2025, and a second virtual public meeting on July 23, 2025, to discuss the proposed City Code amendment. These meetings were open to everyone and community and homeowner associations which also have designated residential parking permit areas were sent meeting invitations. Residents raised questions related to the timeline for the amendment, enforcement of permit parking areas, and authority of the City Manager to provide exceptions. Residents in the meeting supported the amendment.

A public comment period was open between June 24 and August 15 for residents or stakeholders to submit written comments or questions. Two messages were received from residents, both in favor of the proposed amendment. A third message was received by the King Farm Citizens Assembly management requesting additional residents be eligible for residential parking permits. City staff directed the King Farm Citizens Assembly management to the process of designating streets as residential permit parking areas, which would be better and more directly address their request.

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### **Boards and Commissions Review**

The Transportation and Mobility Commission discussed the proposed amendment during the June 2025 meeting and proposed revisions to the amendment language. These revisions were incorporated into the amendment and the Transportation and Mobility Commission voted to support the amendment during the July 2025 meeting.

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### **Next Steps**

The Mayor and Council may choose to adopt the amendment. If the Mayor and Council do not introduce the proposed amendment, waive the layover period, and adopt the proposed ordinance, the item can be brought back at a future Mayor and Council meeting.

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### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Sec. 23-47 - Proposed Amendment

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE: To amend City Code Section 23-47, "Permit issuance, fee, term, etc." to expand residential parking permit eligibility and provide a mechanism for the City Manager to grant exceptions

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE,  
MARYLAND** as follows:

SECTION I – That Chapter 23 of the Rockville City Code, entitled "Traffic," be amended as follows:

**Chapter 23**

**TRAFFIC**

\* \* \*

**ARTICLE II. – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING**

\* \* \*

**DIVISION 2. – PERMIT PARKING FOR RESIDENTS**

\* \* \*

Sec. 23-47. - Permit issuance, fee, term, etc.

(a) Following the designation of a parking permit area, the City Manager or his designee shall issue appropriate parking permits and shall cause parking signs to be posted in the area, indicating the times, location and conditions under which parking shall be by permit only.

(b) Permits may ~~shall~~ be issued only to: the following

(1) persons residing on the property immediately adjacent to a ~~abutting~~ a street or road within the parking permit area, and

(2) persons residing on a property that abuts a street or road prohibiting parking when at least one intersecting street within one block of the property is within the permit parking area.

(c) The City Manager may issue a residential parking permit to persons residing on a property that is otherwise ineligible for a residential parking permit upon a showing of

good cause. The City Manager must promulgate guidance establishing the grounds for demonstrating good cause under this subsection.

(d) A permit shall remain valid for such time as the holder thereof continues to reside in the area for which the permit is issued.

~~(b)~~ (e) The City Manager shall recommend to the Council the fee for a parking permit to be issued under this section and the Council shall establish, by resolution, the fee for a permit.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOTE:       ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates material deleted.

Underlining indicates material added.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Mayor and Council of Rockville at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

Sara Taylor-Ferrell

City Clerk/Director of Council Operation



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: WORKSESSION

Department: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (CMO)

Responsible Staff: LINDA MORAN

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## **Subject**

Montgomery County Public Schools Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility Study  
Presentation

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## **Department**

City Manager's Office (CMO)

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council receive the presentation.

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## **Discussion**

The purpose of this work session is for the Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Planning and Construction, Division of Facilities Management, to formally present the Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility study progress to the Mayor and Council. The presentation and feedback from the Mayor and Council are part of MCPS's feasibility study community engagement process.

MCPS staff has three questions in which they seek feedback from the Mayor and Council:

- 1) Of the approaches outlined in the Feasibility Study, does the Mayor and Council have a preferred approach they would like to endorse, should the project be selected to advance into design?
- 2) Recognizing that the Feasibility Study is complete, are there additional site or building considerations the Mayor and Council would like MCPS to be aware of, should the project be selected to advance into design?
- 3) The Twinbrook community has expressed that the existing Community-Sized Gymnasium is a valued asset they would like to see retained. This size exceeds the standard MCPS Educational Specifications for an elementary school gymnasium. Should

the project be selected to advance into design and the Replacement option identified as the approach, would the Mayor and Council be supportive of the City of Rockville covering the additional costs required to provide a larger, Community-Sized Gymnasium?

The MCPS Twinbrook Feasibility Study presentation is attached as Attachment A. The presentation includes a detailed description of the four project options that are under consideration:

- Option 1 – Renewal;
- Option 2 – Less Than 50% Demolition;
- Option 3 – More than 50% Demolition; and
- Option 4 – New Construction.

MCPS Division of Facilities Management staff and their architects met with City staff on June 12, 2026, for a Pre-Development meeting to discuss the details of the Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility Study. Staff from the Community Planning and Development Services, Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and the City Manager's Office participated and provided general comments to the school system officials.

The City's Department of Recreation and Parks reviewed the feasibility study from a programmatic perspective. Currently, the Department of Recreation and Parks operates the Twinbrook After School Club at the school site. The activities focus on arts, crafts, games, and physical exercise. Homework help is available, and a snack is provided. Recreation and Parks is interested in expanding the City's programming that supports students' academic, social, and emotional growth to reach a larger number of students who could benefit from these services.

Additionally, staff is interested in collaborating with MCPS to ensure that a community-sized gym is included in the final, approved project. Three of the options retain the existing community-sized gym, and the new construction option includes an add-alternate to expand the gym for community use. Staff is supportive of option 4.

In addition to Mayor and Council comments, staff recommends that the city provide the following feedback to MPCPS in support of the community-sized gym and an expanded partnership for the city to provide additional programming at the Twinbrook Elementary School:

- An expanded and upgraded gym accommodating a wider range of sports and recreational activities, with added spectator seating to serve as a venue for community events.
- A dedicated recreation classroom ("rec room") for after care.
- Dedicated office space for on-site program coordination to ensure seamless integration between after-school programs and the school's daily schedule.



- Enhanced storage solutions for city equipment.
  - Improved restroom facilities accessible from primary activity areas.
- 

### **Mayor and Council History**

This is the first time that MCPS has provided a Twinbrook Feasibility Study presentation to the Mayor and Council. Since 2009, the Mayor and Council have advocated for the full rebuild of the Twinbrook Elementary School.

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### **Next Steps**

Following the Mayor and Council discussion, staff will draft a letter to MCPS conveying the Mayor and Council's direction.

The Superintendent's recommendations for the FY2027 Capital Budget and the FY2027-2032 will be released on October 13, 2027. The Mayor and Council will have the opportunity to continue advocating in support of the replacement option for Twinbrook Elementary School during the Board of Education's CIP hearings (10/23 and 10/28) and the County Council CIP hearings in the winter/spring of 2026 (TBD).

The next steps will not be determined until the County Council adopts the FY 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program.

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### **Attachments**

MCPS Twinbrook ES City Council Meeting\_REDACTED

# TWINBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY

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CITY OF ROCKVILLE / MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OCTOBER 6, 2025



COOPER CARRY



# AGENDA

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1. Introductions
2. Process & Timeline
3. Proposed Concepts
4. Community Feedback
5. Next Steps





# 1 INTRODUCTIONS



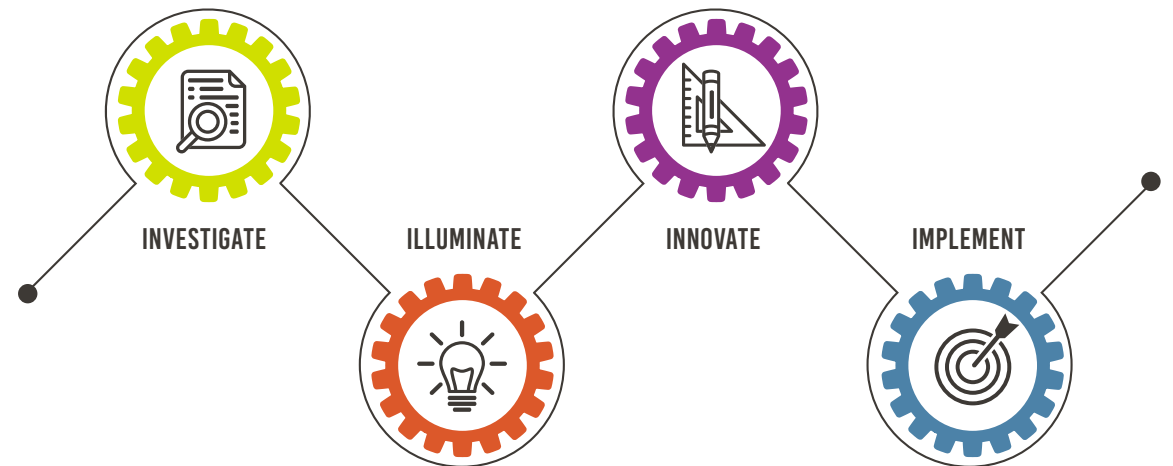


2

# PROCESS & TIMELINE

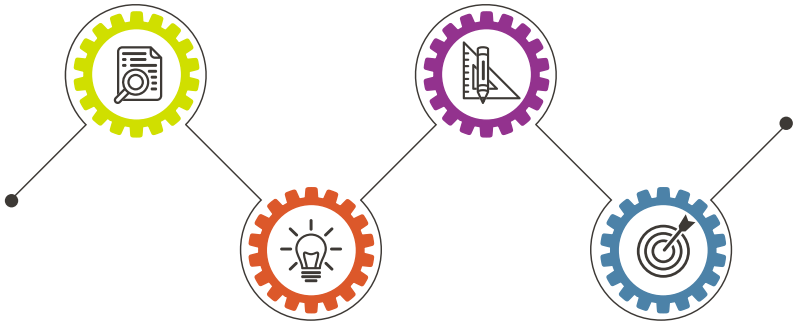
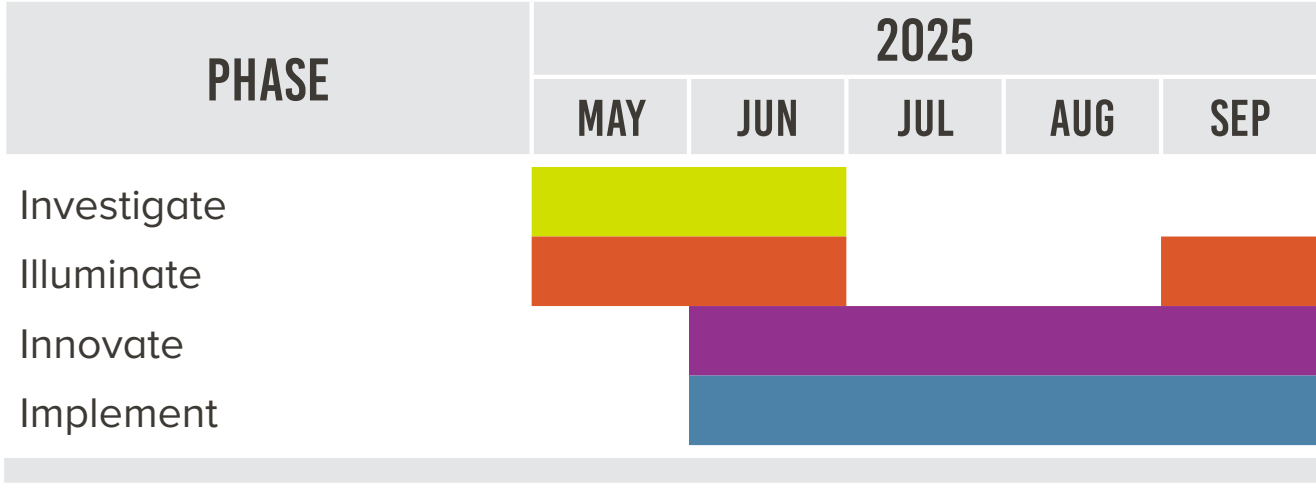


# FEASIBILITY STUDY





# TIMELINE



## KEY DATES:

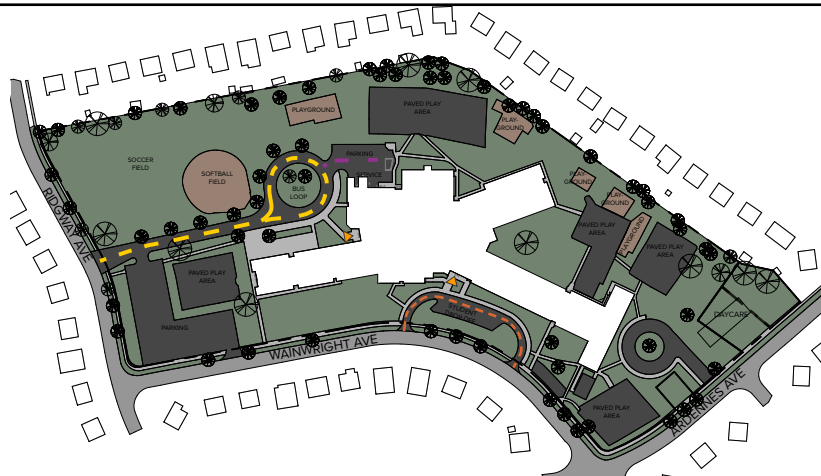
- Community Meeting #1 was held on May 20
- Staff Meeting was held on May 27
- Community Meeting #2 was held on June 2
- Community Meeting #3 was held on June 27
- Community Meeting #4 was held on September 16



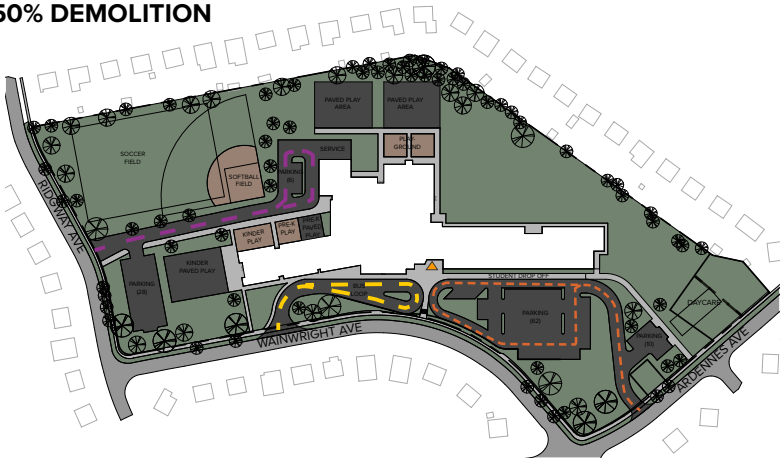
# 3 PROPOSED CONCEPTS

# FOUR APPROACHES

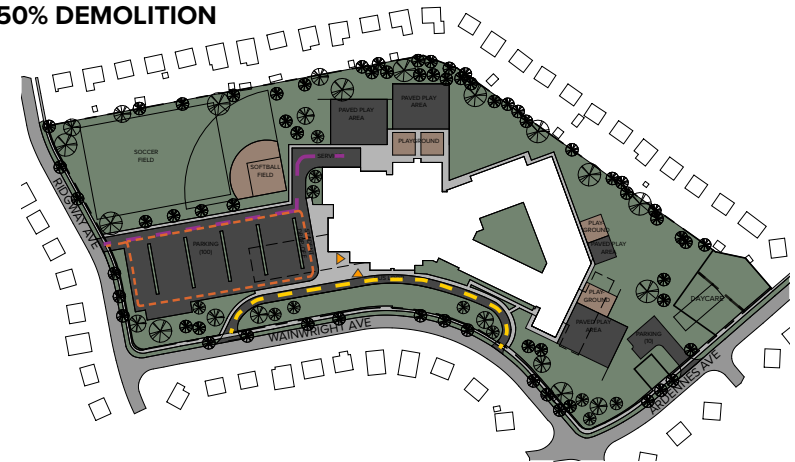
OPTION 1 - RENEWAL



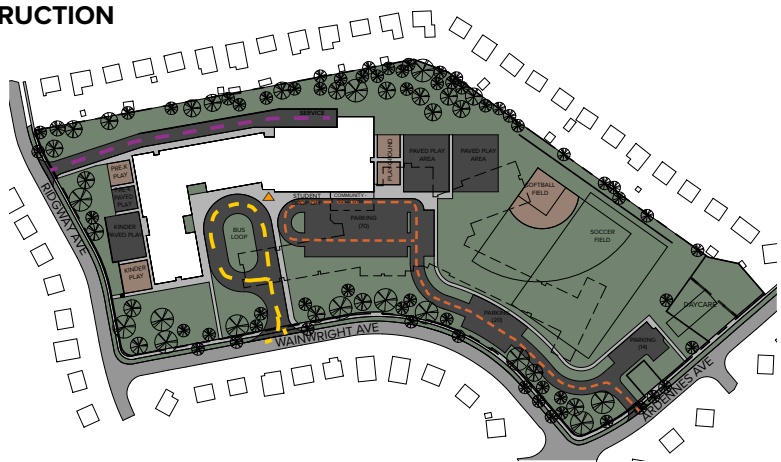
OPTION 3 - MORE THAN 50% DEMOLITION



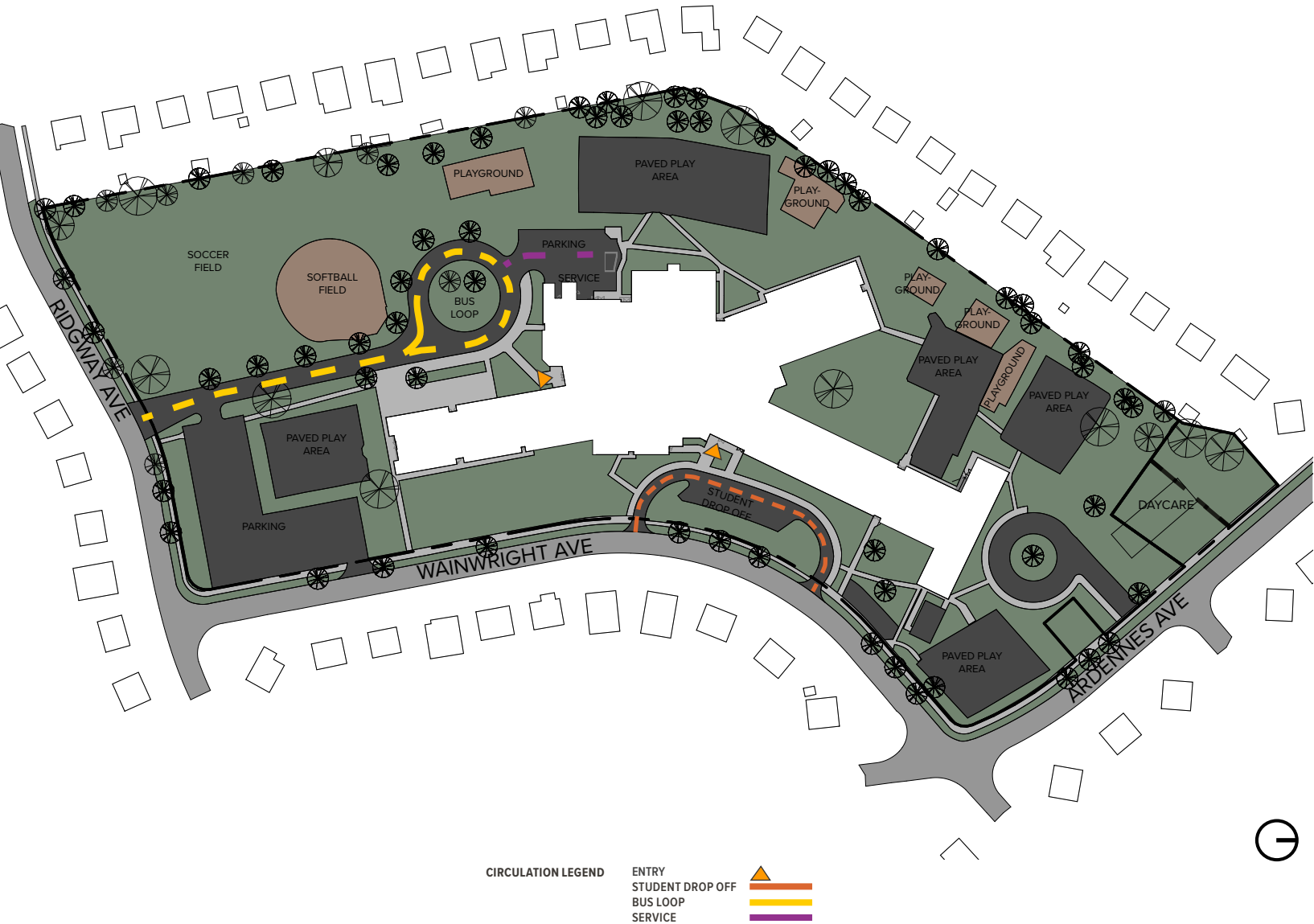
OPTION 2 - LESS THAN 50% DEMOLITION



OPTION 4 - NEW CONSTRUCTION



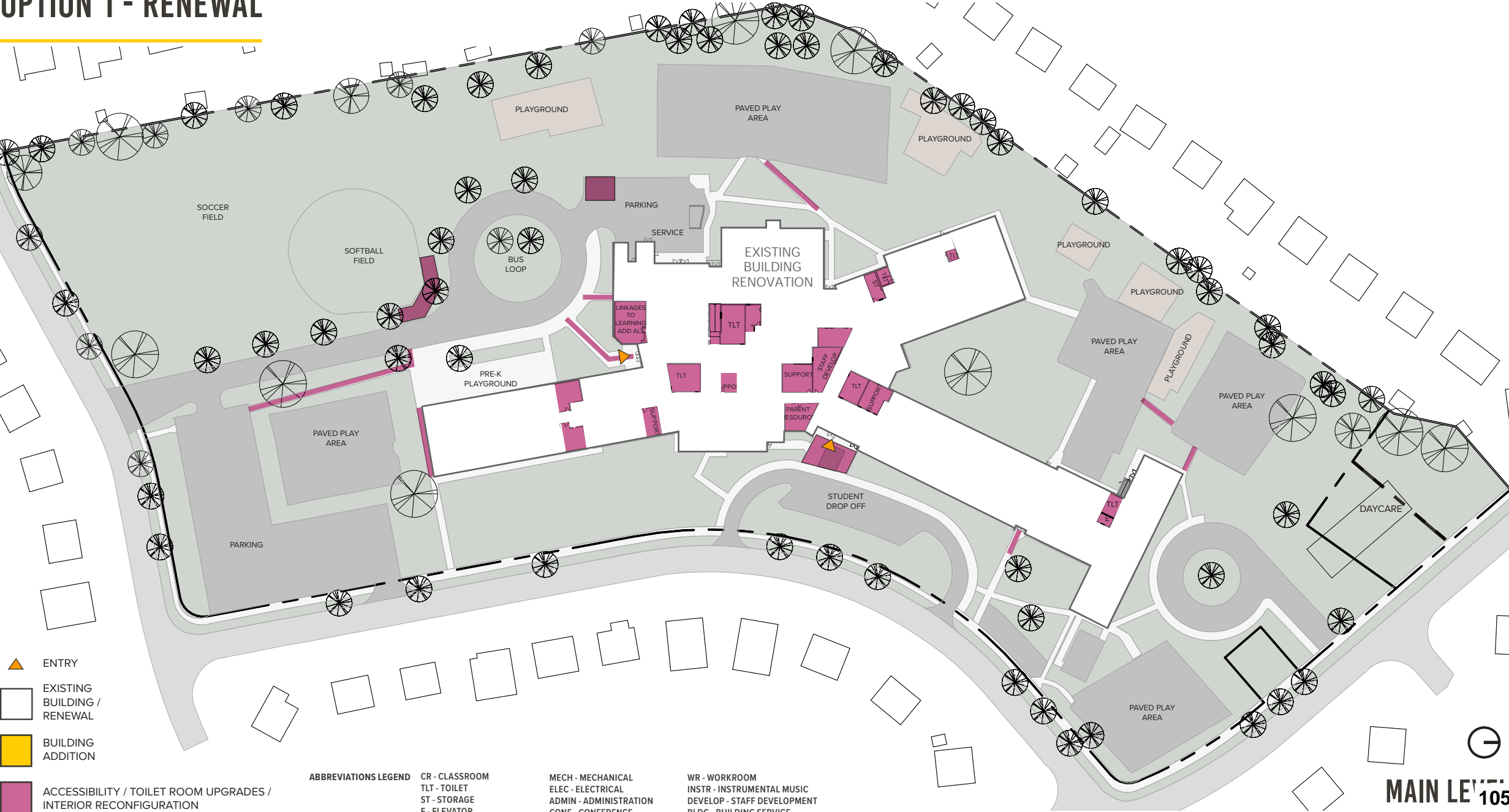
# OPTION 1 - RENEWAL SUMMARY



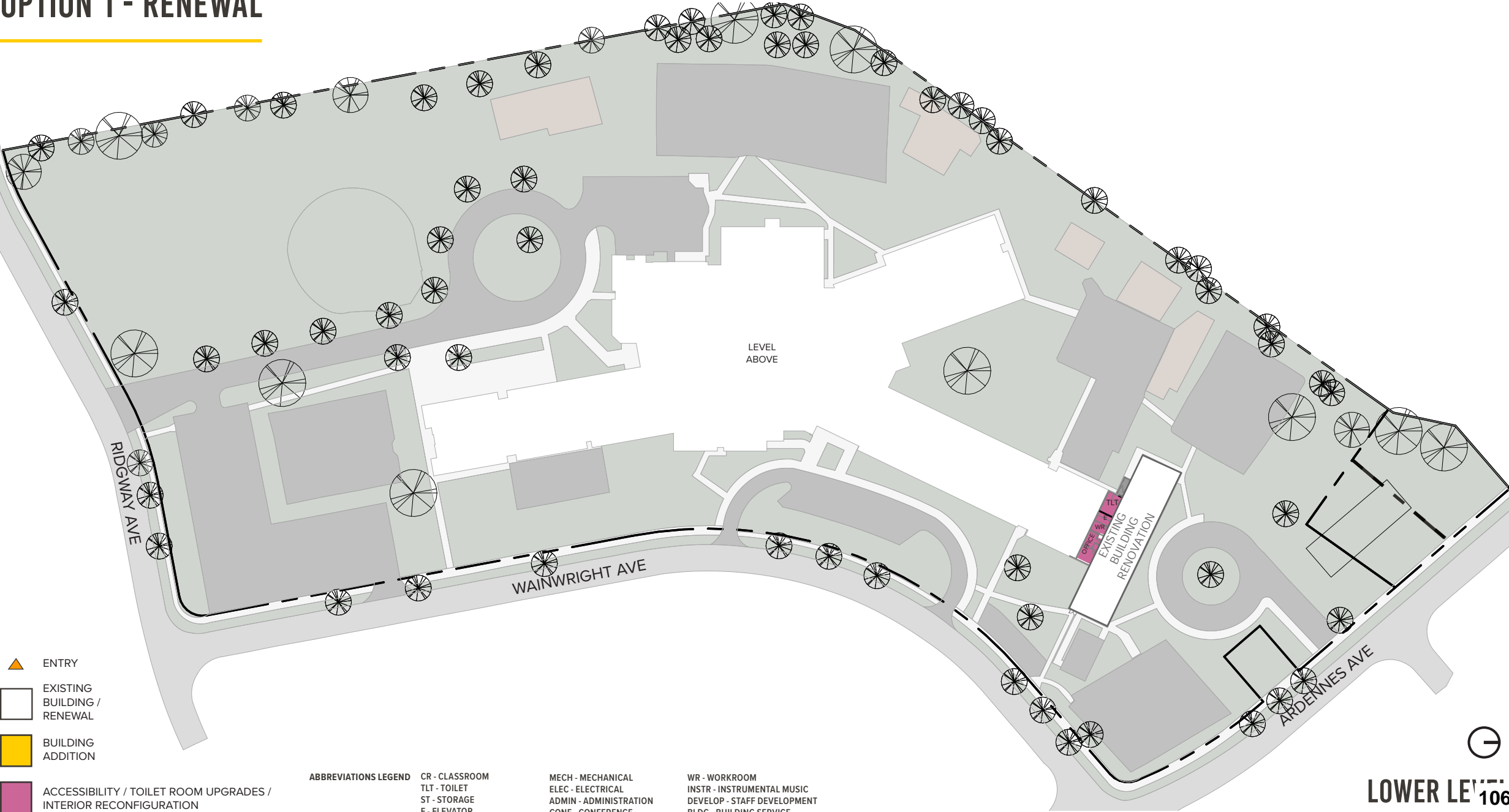
	Option 1 - Renewal
AREA SUMMARY	70,750 GSF - Renewal 7,948 GSF - Renovation 69% - Gross Efficiency
SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Renovation</li><li>• New Elevator</li><li>• Electrical &amp; Plumbing system replacement</li><li>• Renovate finishes</li><li>• Gender Neutral Restroom upgrade</li><li>• Accessibility Standard renovations for site and building</li><li>• Maintain location of play areas and fields</li><li>• Maintain location of parking, car and bus drop offs.</li></ul>



# OPTION 1 - RENEWAL

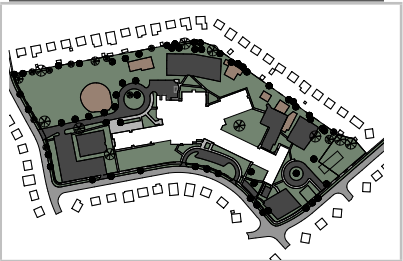


# OPTION 1 - RENEWAL





# OPTION 1 - RENEWAL

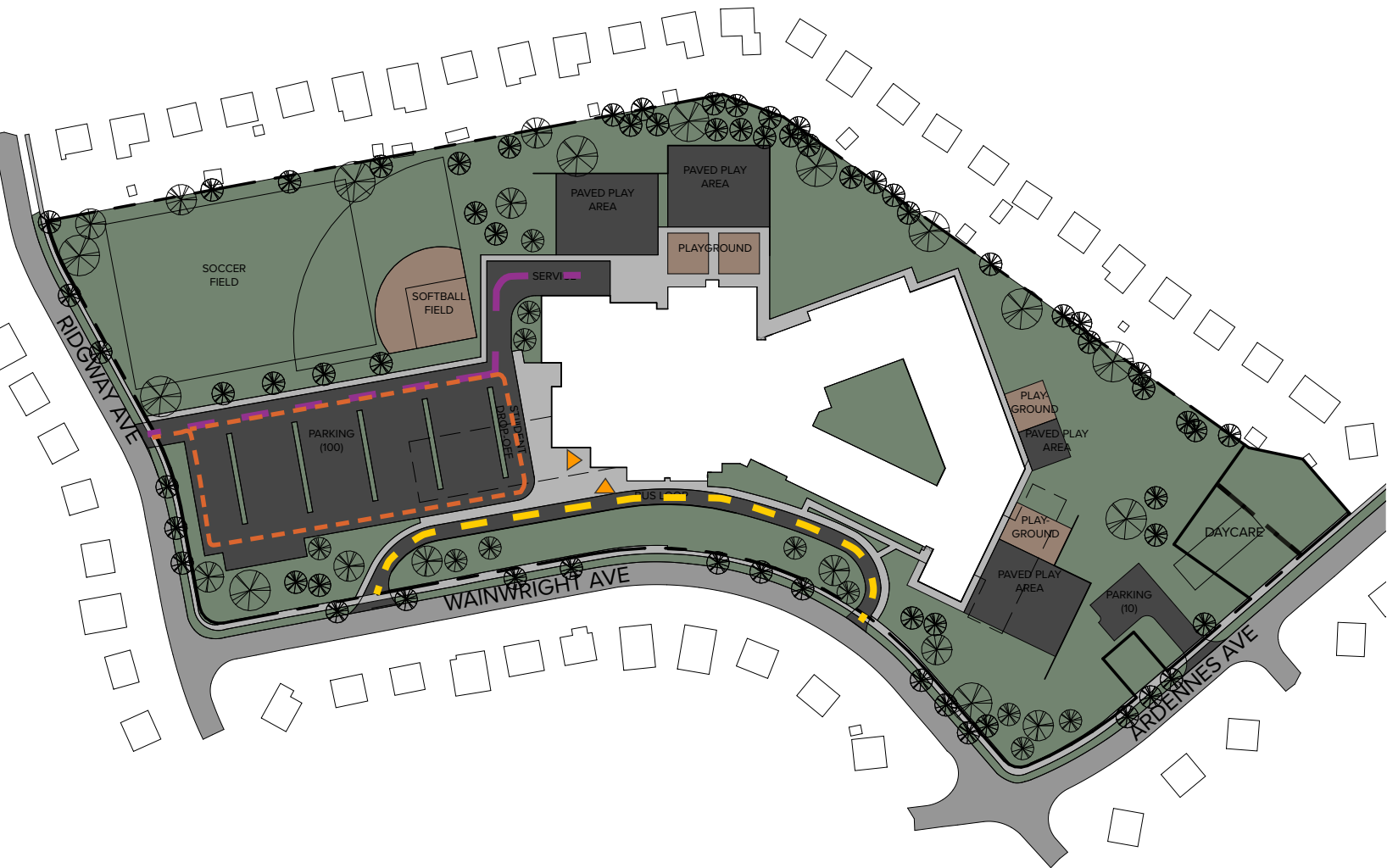
Option	
Criteria	Option 1: Renewal
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Addresses Accessibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Play Area Visibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Civic Presence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Sustainability	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Clarity of Circulation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cost	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$</div>

**Area Summary:**  
70,750 GSF - Renewal  
7,948 GSF - Renovation  
69% - Gross Efficiency

- Pros:**
- Sprinkler system added
  - New building systems
  - Addresses accessibility issues
  - Community-sized gym remains
  - Cost effective
  - Sustainable finish building materials
  - Shortest Construction Schedule
  - Compartmentalization added with new firewalls

- Cons:**
- Cannot accommodate program spaces: Dual-Purpose Room, Music, Instrumental Music, Kitchen support spaces.
  - Rooms undersized: Administration, Health Services, 5 Classrooms, Multi-Purpose Room, & Kitchen
  - No lockers in corridors
  - Low visibility to playgrounds
  - Low visibility to main entrance
  - Does not address safety concerns at Daycare drop off
  - Type V-B Construction remains

# OPTION 2 - LESS THAN 50% DEMO - SUMMARY



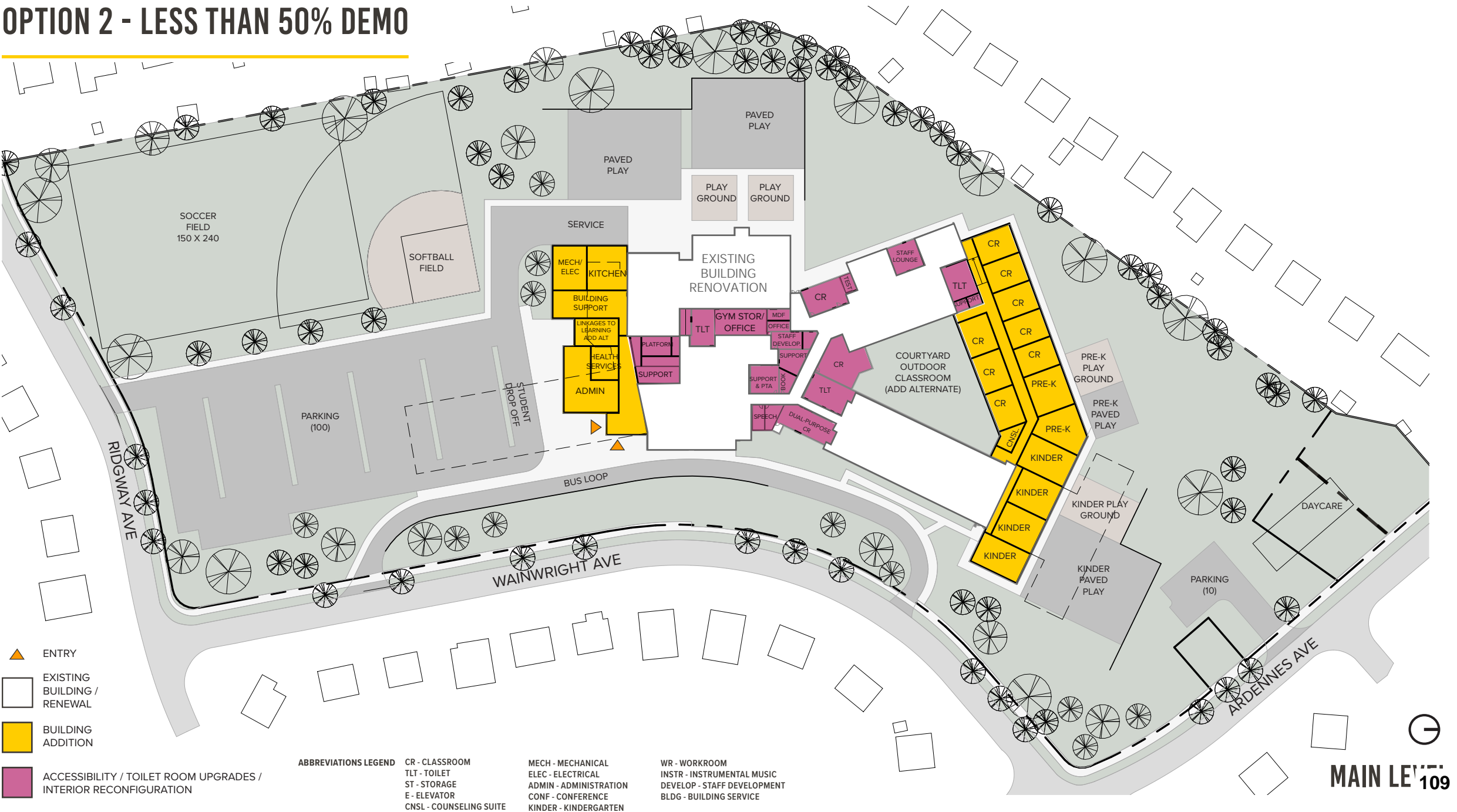
CIRCULATION LEGEND

ENTRY  
STUDENT DROP OFF  
BUS LOOP  
SERVICE

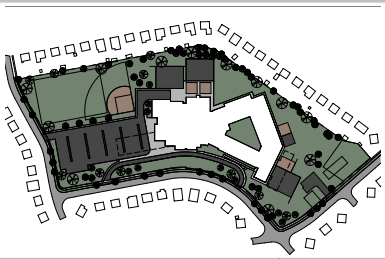


MAIN LEVEL

	Option 2 - Less than 50% Demo
AREA SUMMARY	30,913 GSF - Demolition 36,645 GSF - Renewal 12,192 GSF - Renovation 29,772 GSF - Addition 72% - Efficiency
SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Additions added to meet program requirements.</li><li>• Electrical &amp; Plumbing system replacement</li><li>• Renovate finishes</li><li>• Restroom upgrade</li><li>• Accessibility Standard renovations</li><li>• Maintain location of fields</li><li>• New location for parking, car and bus drop offs</li><li>• New location for play areas</li></ul>



# OPTION 2 - LESS THAN 50% DEMO

Option	
Criteria	Option 2: Less than 50% Demo
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Addresses Accessibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Play Area Visibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Civic Presence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Sustainability	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Clarity of Circulation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cost	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$</div>

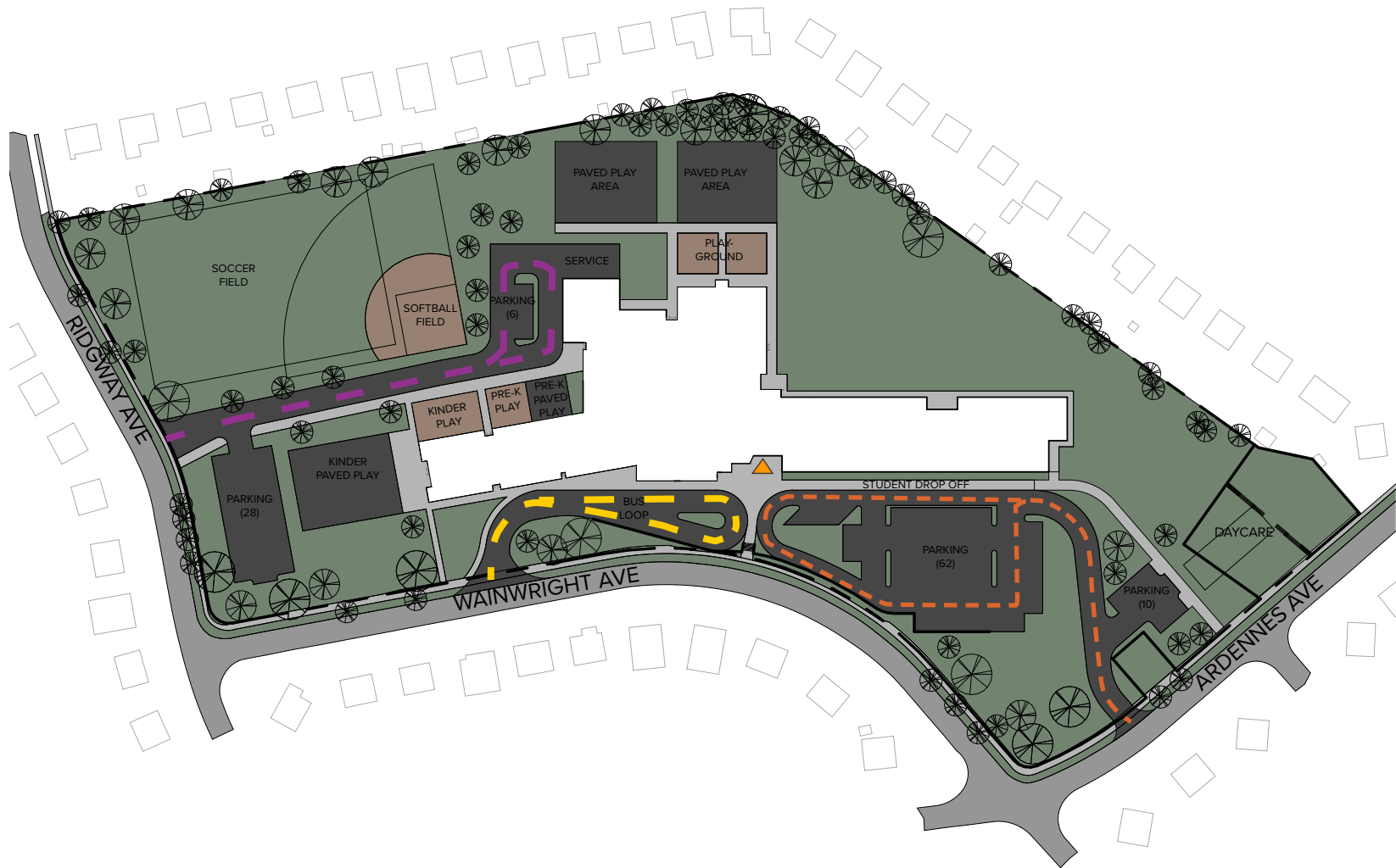
**Area Summary:**  
30,913 GSF - Demolition  
36,645 GSF - Renewal  
12,192 GSF - Renovation  
29,772 GSF - Addition

- Pros:**

  - Sprinkler system added
  - Replaces outdated building systems
  - Addresses accessibility issues
  - Design meets ed spec
  - Community-sized gym
  - Compartmentalization added with new firewalls
  - Sustainable finish building materials.
  - New Daycare drop off
  - 1-Story building
- Cons:**

  - Lockers cannot fit in existing corridors
  - Low visibility to playgrounds
  - Type V-B Construction remains
  - No daylight in Media Center & Resource Rooms.

# OPTION 3 - MORE THAN 50% DEMO - SUMMARY



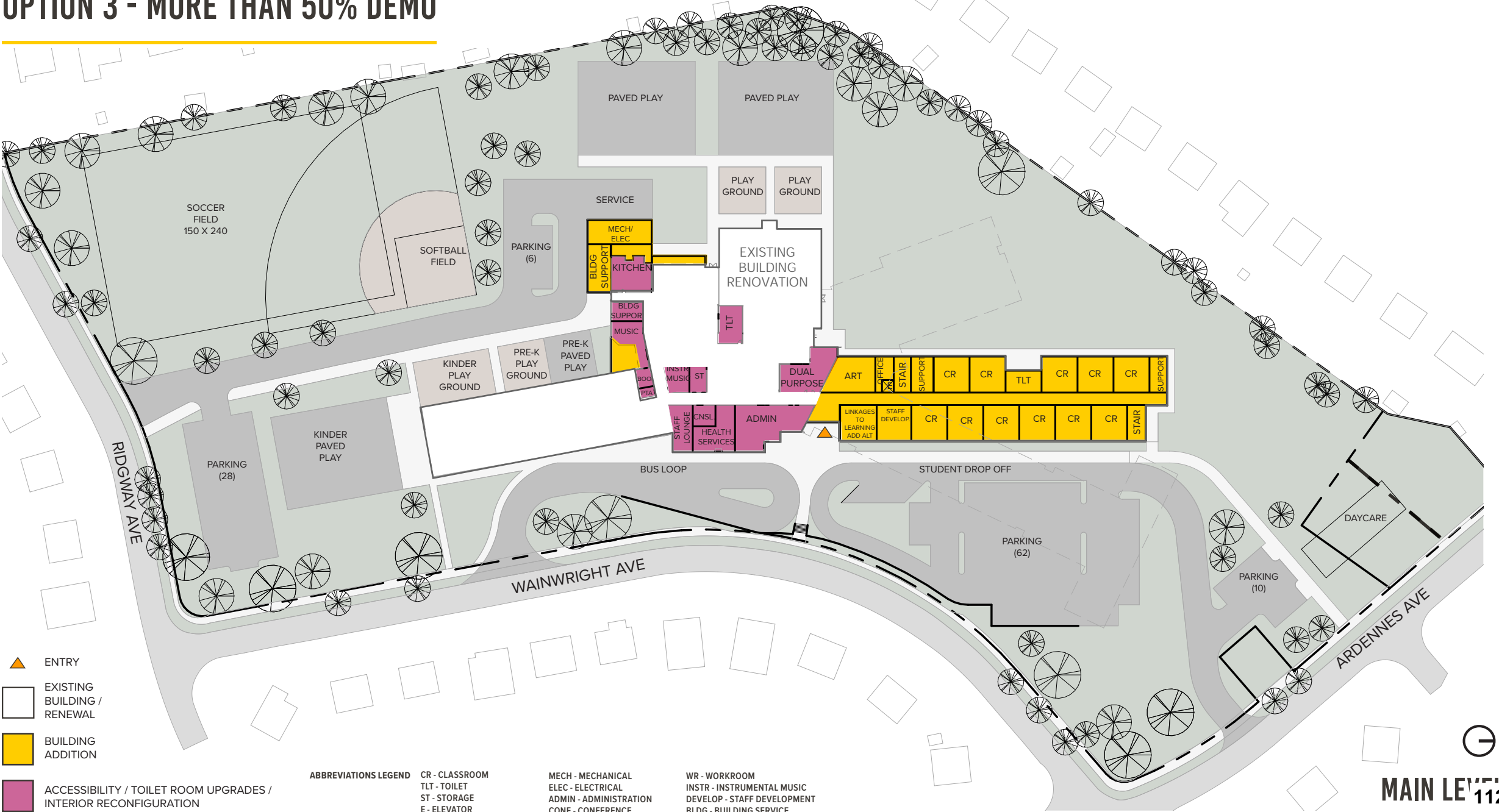
CIRCULATION LEGEND

ENTRY  
STUDENT DROP OFF  
BUS LOOP  
SERVICE



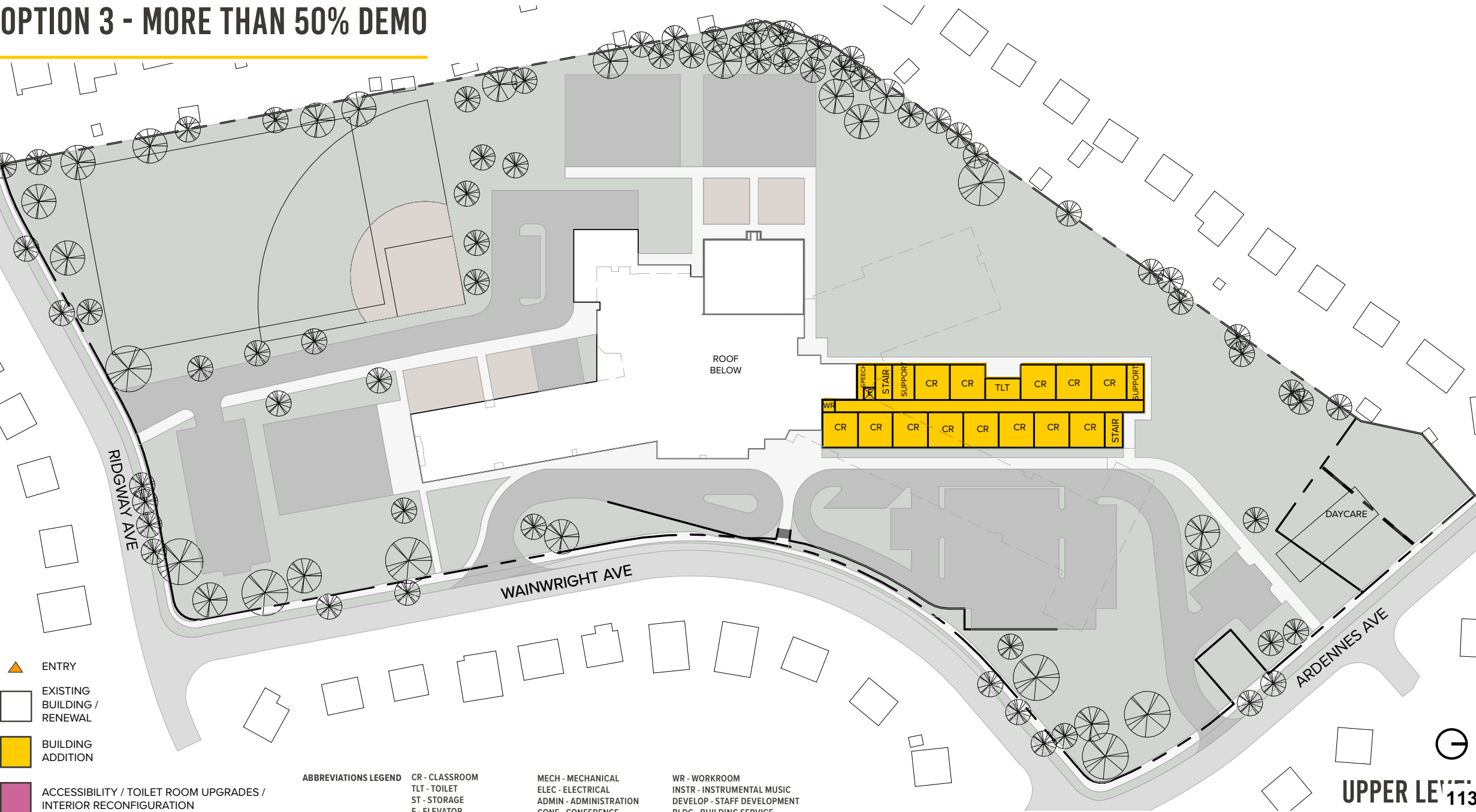
  
MAIN LEVEL

	Option 3 - More than 50% Demo
AREA SUMMARY	40,813 GSF - Demolition 28,971 GSF - Renewal 9,966 GSF - Renovation 41,568 GSF - Addition 71% - Efficiency
SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Building Additions</li><li>• Electrical &amp; Plumbing system replacement</li><li>• Renovate finishes</li><li>• Gender Neutral Restroom upgrade</li><li>• Accessibility Standard renovations</li><li>• Maintain location of fields</li><li>• New location for parking, car and bus drop offs</li><li>• New locations for play areas</li></ul>

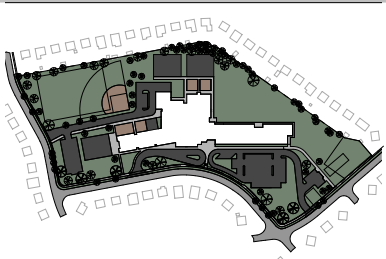




# OPTION 3 - MORE THAN 50% DEMO



# OPTION 3 - MORE THAN 50% DEMO

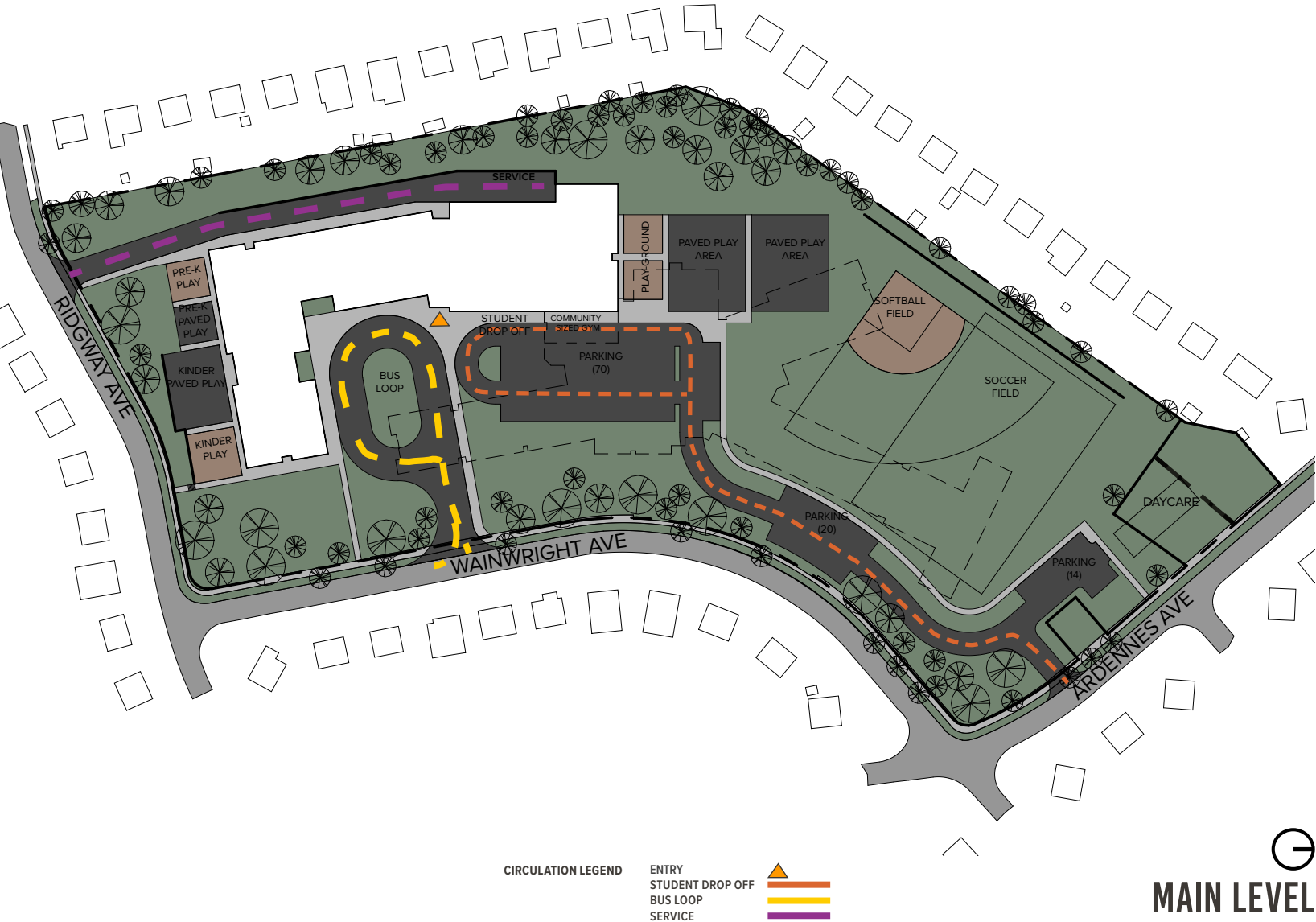
Option	
Criteria	Option 3: More than 50% Demo
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Addresses Accessibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Play Area Visibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Civic Presence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Sustainability	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Clarity of Circulation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cost	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$</div>

**Area Summary:**  
40,813 GSF - Demolition  
28,971 GSF - Renewal  
9,966 GSF - Renovation  
41,568 GSF - Addition  
71% - Efficiency

- Pros:**
- Sprinkler system added
  - Replaces outdated building systems
  - Addresses accessibility issues
  - Compartmentalization added with new firewalls
  - Design meets ed spec
  - Community-sized gym
  - Sustainable building materials
  - Simple Internal circulation
  - Smaller building footprint
  - New daycare drop off

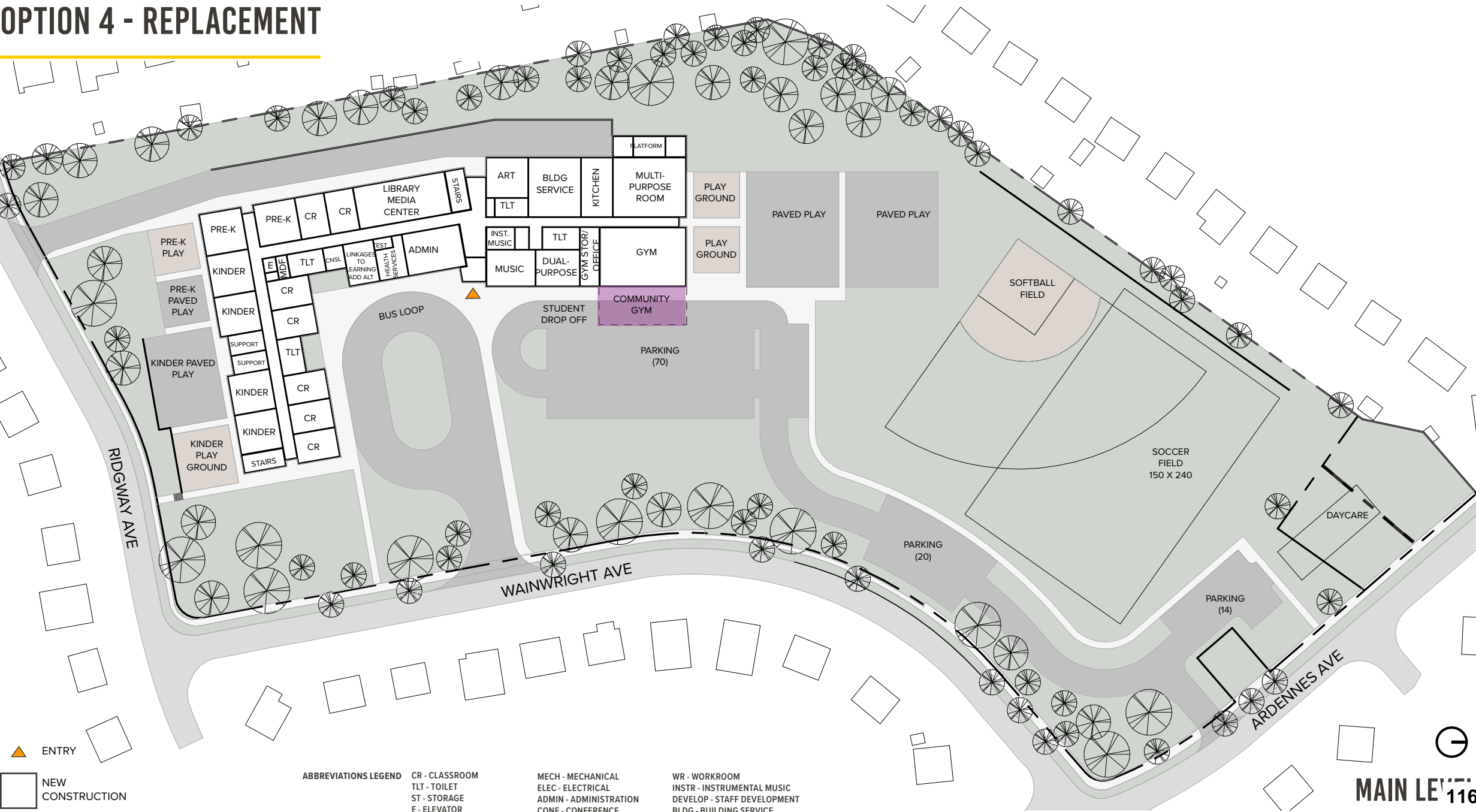
- Cons:**
- Lockers cannot fit in existing corridors
  - Low visibility to play areas
  - No daylight in Library Media Center
  - Type V-B Construction remains
  - Multiple parking lots.

# OPTION 4 - REPLACEMENT - SUMMARY

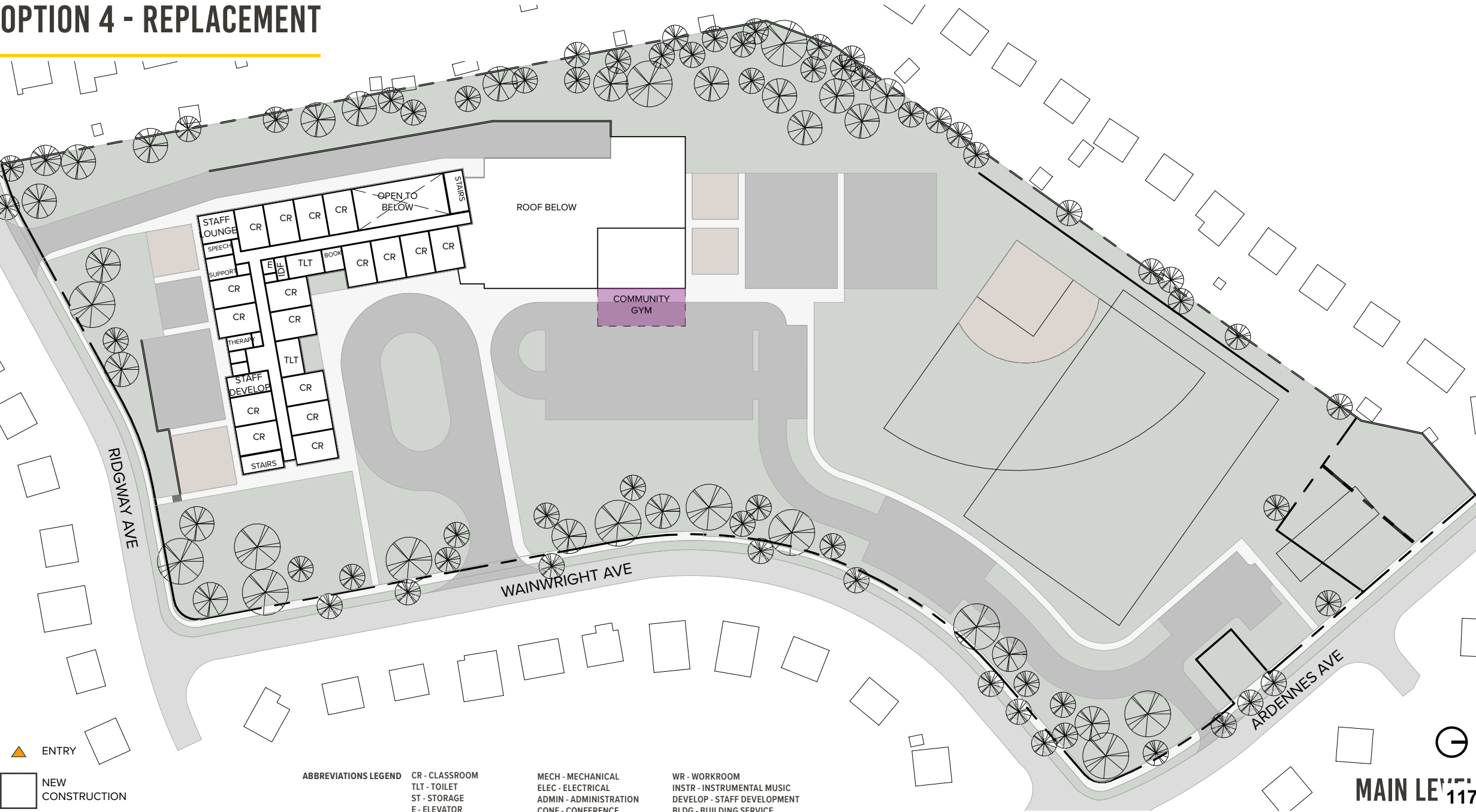


	Option 4 - Replacement
AREA SUMMARY	79,750 GSF - Demolition 79,668 GSF - Addition 68% - Efficiency
SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Existing building is demolished</li><li>New building</li><li>New play areas</li><li>Relocate site program and circulation</li><li>New location for play areas and fields</li><li>New location for parking, car and bus drop offs</li></ul>

# OPTION 4 - REPLACEMENT

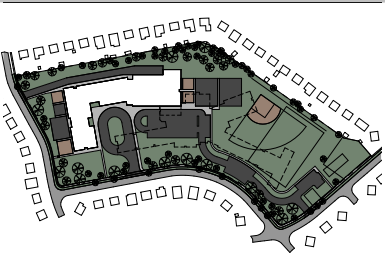


# OPTION 4 - REPLACEMENT





# OPTION 4 - REPLACEMENT

Option	
Criteria	Option 4: Replacement
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Addresses Accessibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Play Area Visibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Civic Presence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Sustainability	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Clarity of Circulation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cost	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$\$\$\$\$</div>

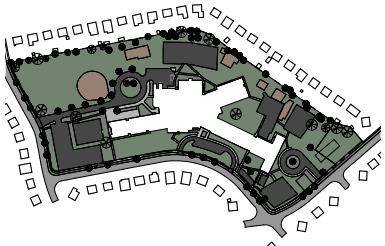
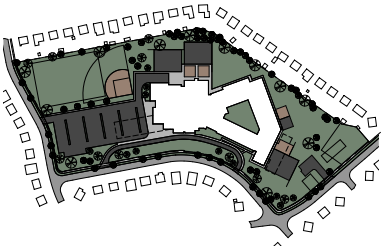
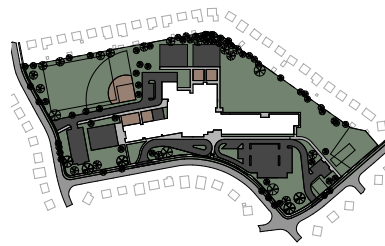
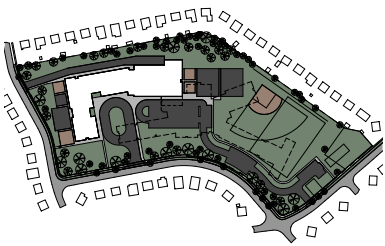
































**Area Summary:**  
 79,750 GSF - Demolition  
 79,668 GSF - Addition  
 68% - Efficiency

- Pros:**
  - All new construction
  - Fully Accessible
  - Design meets ed spec requirements
  - Sustainable building materials.
  - Small building footprint
  - Good room adjacencies
  - Good visibility to play areas
  - Community gathering space

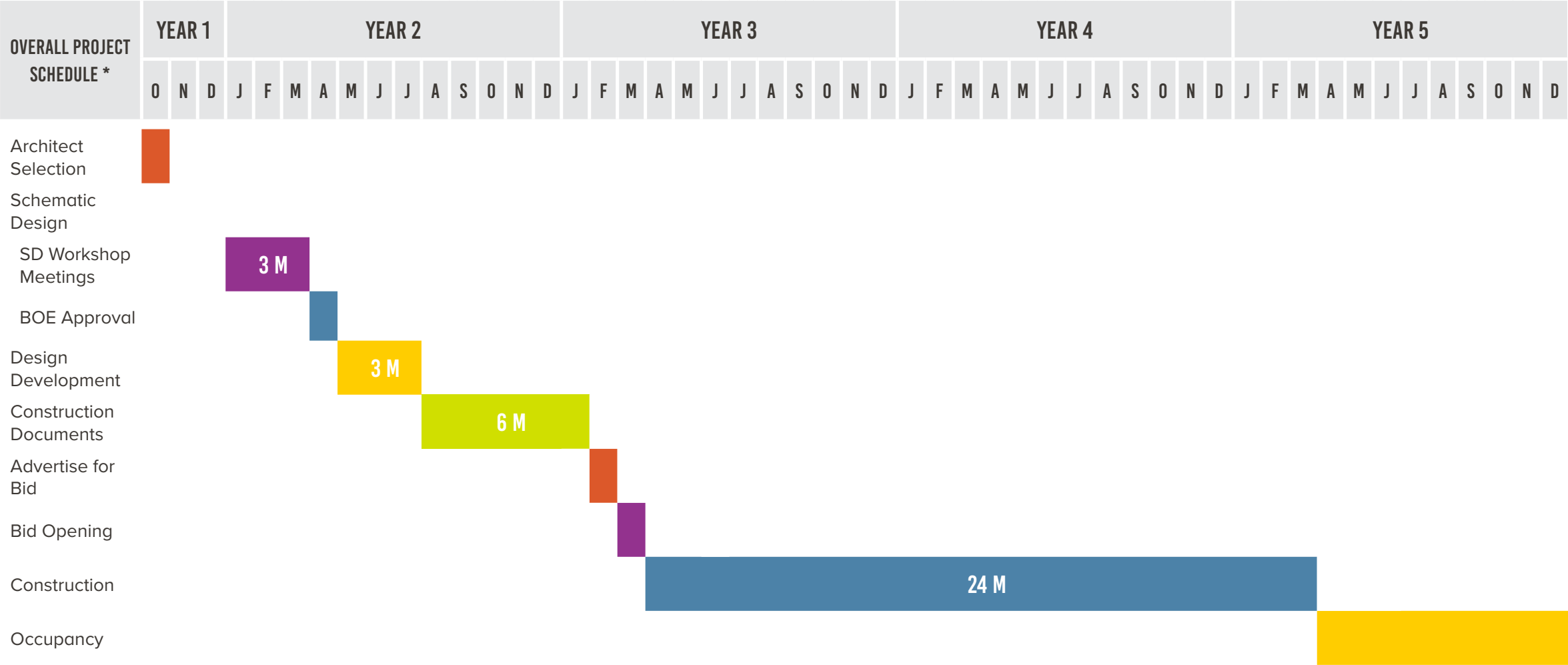
**Cons:**
  - High impact to the site = higher cost
  - Community-sized gym is an add alternate
  - Longer on-site vehicular circulation
  - High volume of construction waste.
  - Bus traffic on Wainright Avenue.



# SUMMARY

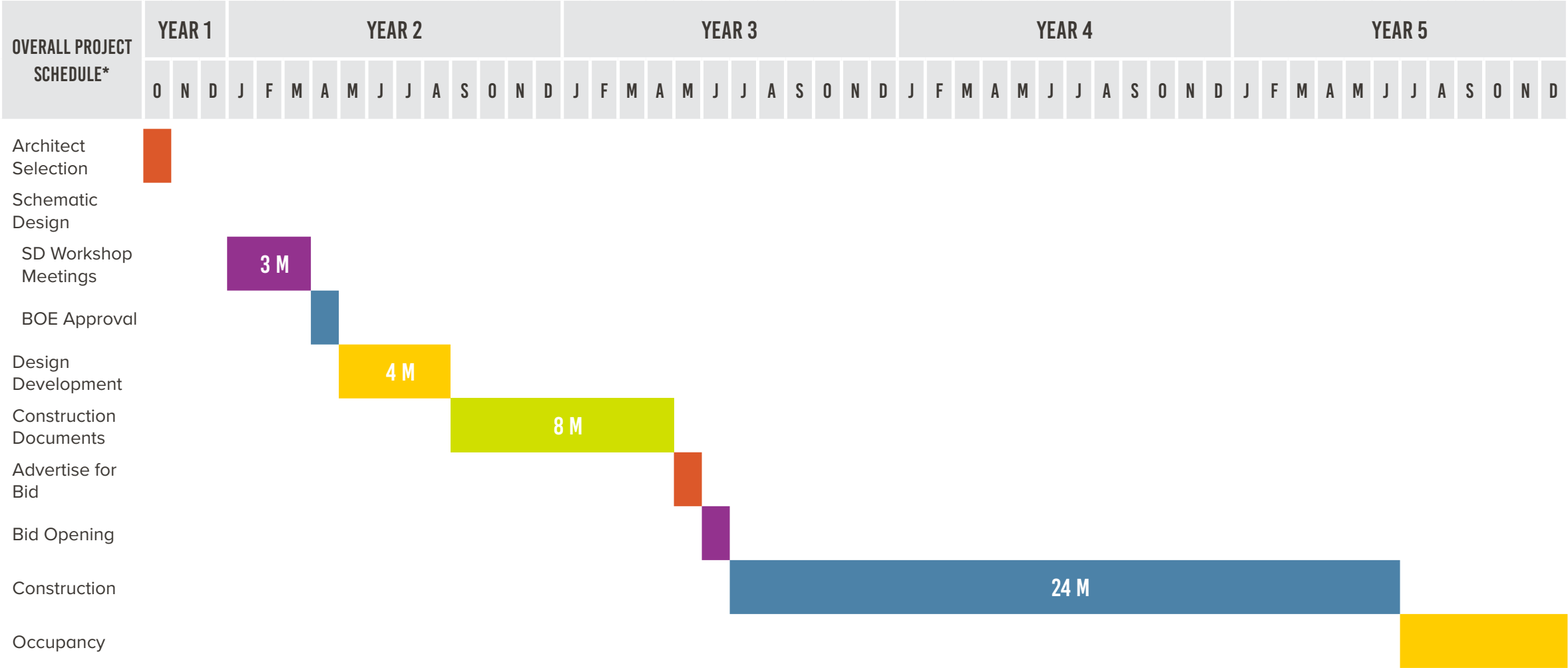
Option				
Criteria	Option 1: Renewal	Option 2: Under 50% Demo	Option 3: Over 50% Demo	Option 4: Replacement
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs				
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs				
Addresses Accessibility				
Play Area Visibility				
Civic Presence				
Sustainability				
Clarity of Circulation				
Cost	 \$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$	 \$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$	 \$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$	 \$    \$\$    \$\$\$    \$\$\$\$

# POTENTIAL SCHEDULE - OPTION 1



\* The actual calendar years are to be determined.

# POTENTIAL SCHEDULE - OPTIONS 2, 3 & 4



\* The actual calendar years are to be determined.



# 4 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



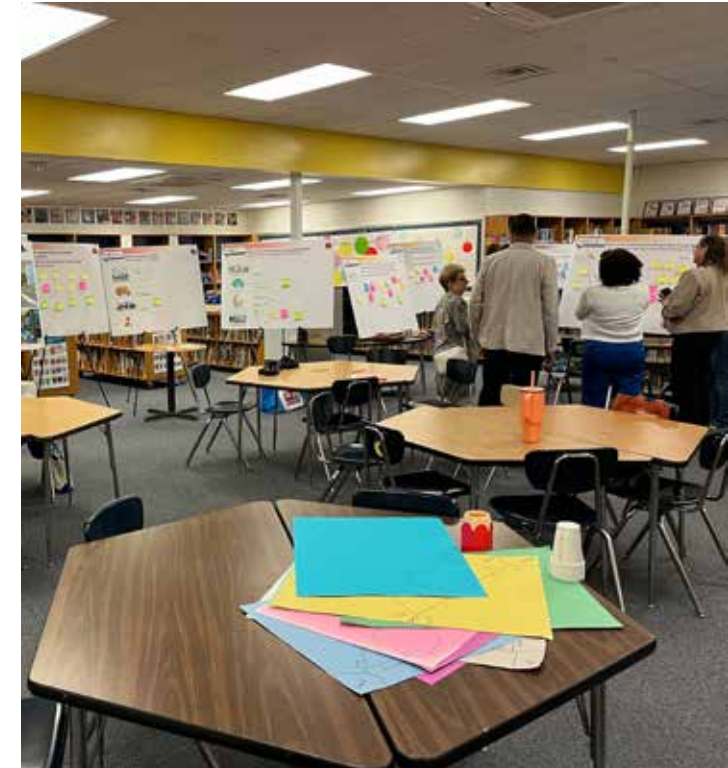
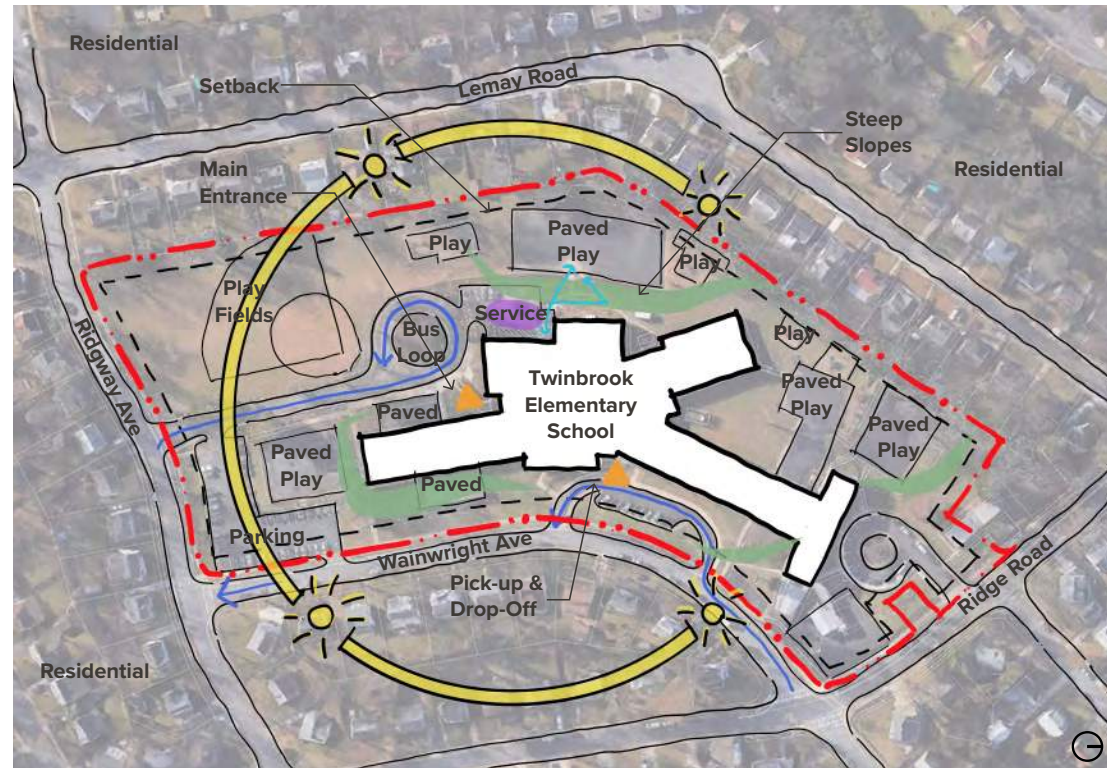
# COMMUNITY MEETING 1 - ILLUMINATE



## PHASE 1 - INVESTIGATE: TWINBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

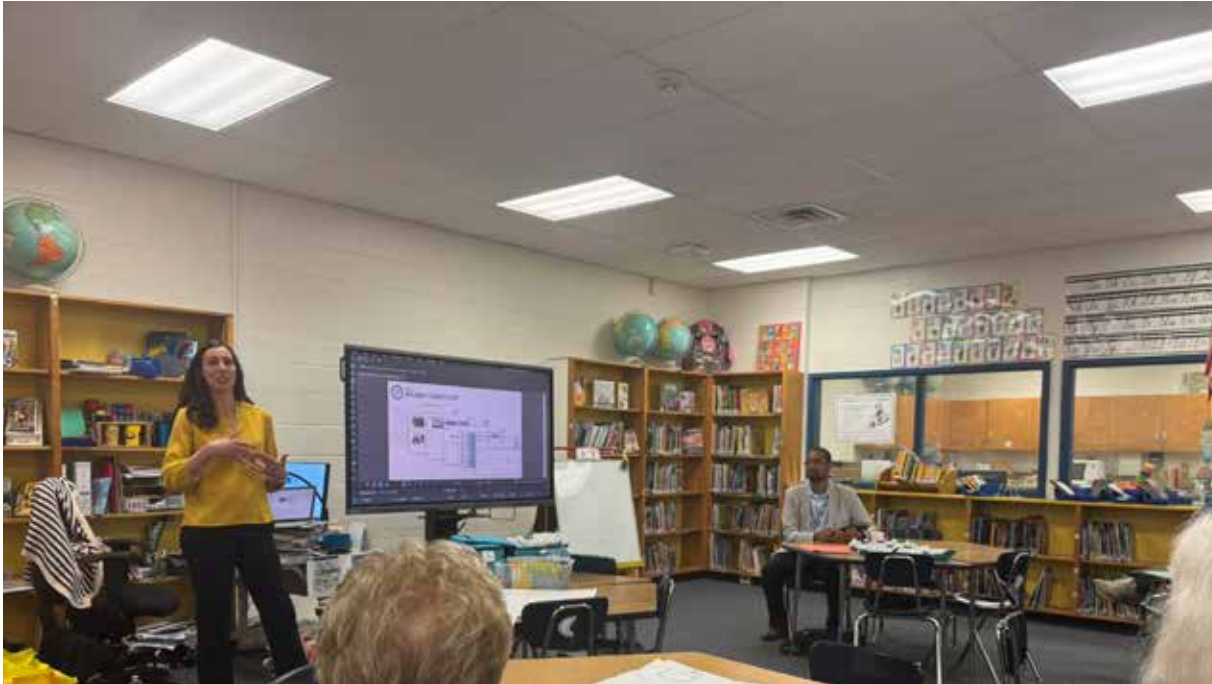
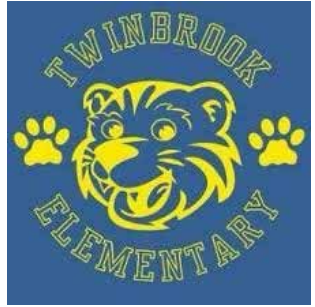
### Observations:

- Circulation
- Main Entrance
- Adjacencies



# COMMUNITY MEETING 1 - WHAT WE HEARD

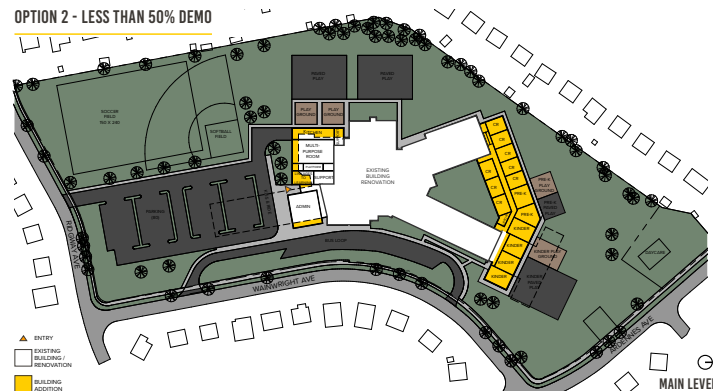
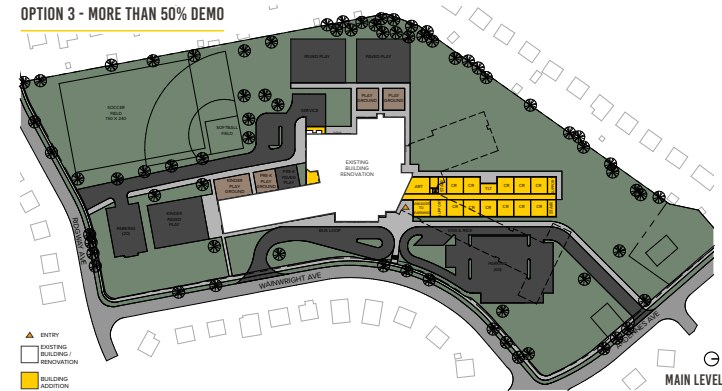
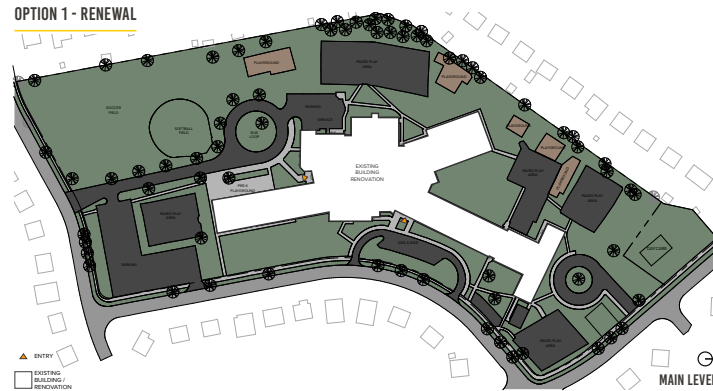
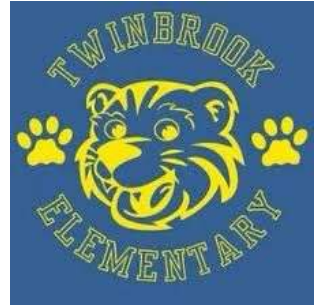
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- Community members inquired about preserving the open space including fields and playgrounds.
- Consider established relationship with City of Rockville.
- Handicap access for playgrounds is a concern.
- There are issues with the current site and building including the electrical and plumbing systems. The building is perceived as 'old & dated' and navigation within the school is challenging.
- Students benefit from the wide variety of after school activities including soccer, 'girls on the run' and an on site after school program with final pickup 6:30pm.
- Many parents use public transit or walk as many community members do not have access to cars.

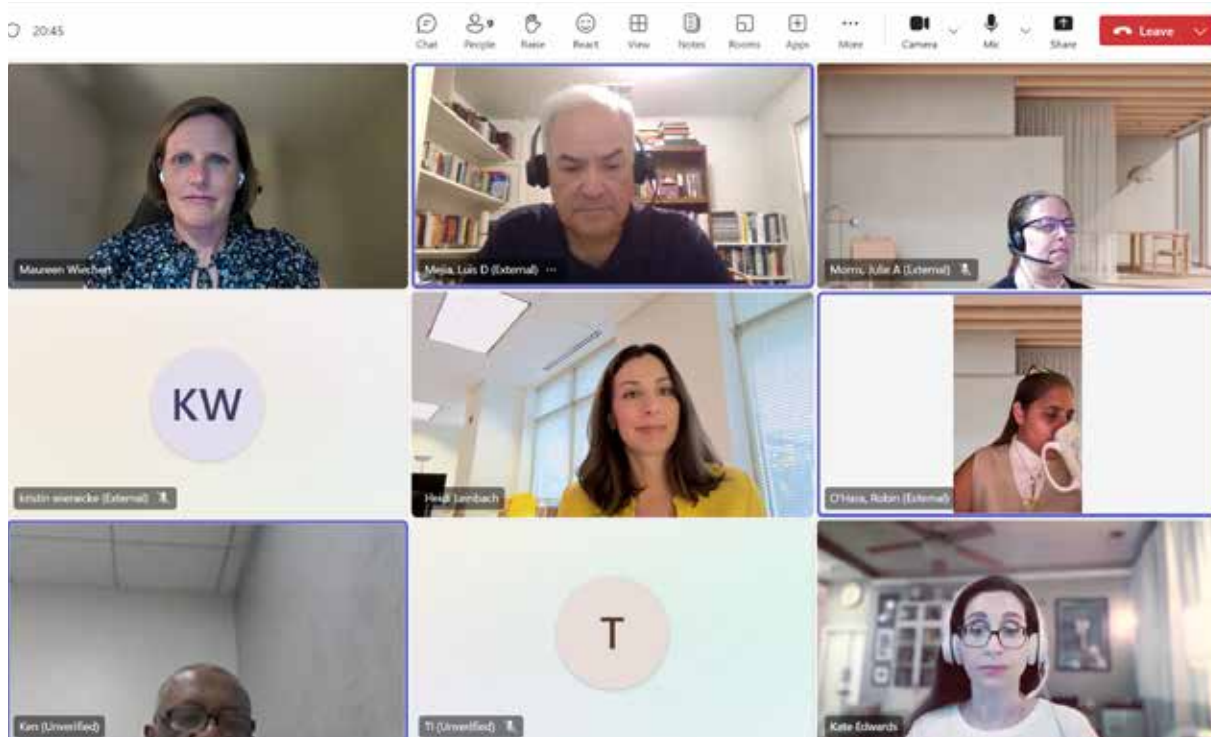


# COMMUNITY MEETING 2 - INNOVATE



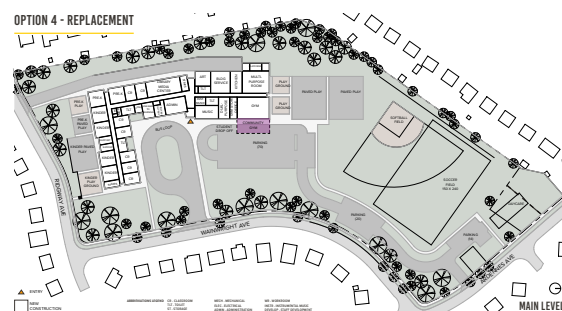
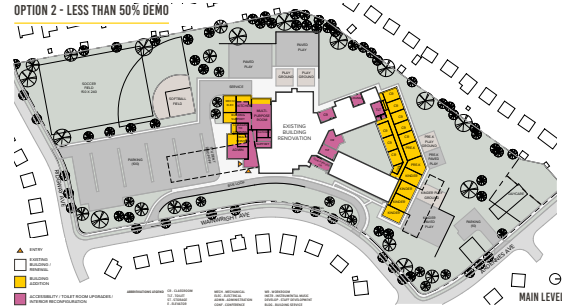
Q&A from Community Meeting 2 is posted to the MCPS website:  
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/twinbrookes/>

# COMMUNITY MEETING 2 - WHAT WE HEARD



- Community use of the gym and adjacent parking is important.
- Use of Wainwright Ave for school traffic is a concern as this is a one-way road.
- Preference for an approach that has visibility to playgrounds and play areas from the surrounding public streets.
- The bus loop configuration must allow the bus driver to view the students entering the building.
- The existing driveway and turnaround next to the daycare is a safety concern.
- Inquiries were made regarding tree preservation and grading.

Q&A from Community Meeting 2 is posted to the MCPS website:  
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/twinbrookes/>



614 students - Core Capacity 640 students

[illegible]

## ACCESSIBILITY



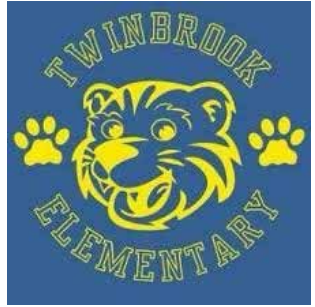
- |   |   |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing building has three occupied levels, and 2-stories, connected via stairs and ramps.</li> <li>Existing ramps are not ADA compliant.</li> <li>There is no existing elevator to access the lower level classrooms.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramps do not have appropriate landings or are too steep.</li> <li>Exterior access to school on Wainwright Ave side is not ADA compliant.</li> <li>Interior building signage is not ADA compliant.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff restrooms are not ADA compliant.</li> <li>Most student plumbing fixtures are not ADA compliant.</li> <li>No ADA stalls or restrooms present in entire school, ambulatory stalls only in group restrooms.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

- New Building Systems (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, sprinkler)
- New Finishes throughout
- New Windows
- All MCPS Educational Specification space provided in options 2,3, & 4.



# COMMUNITY MEETING 3 - WHAT WE HEARD

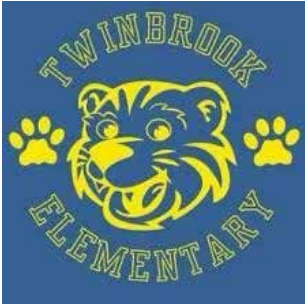
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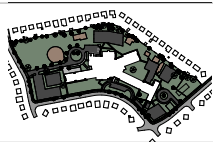
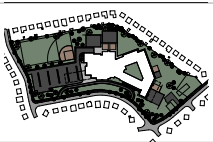
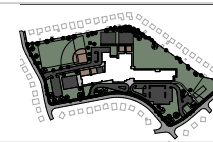
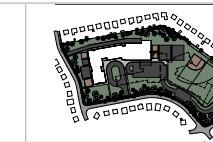


- The school needs to reflect how great Twinbrook is as a community.
- Twinbrook community should have a premier school for their children.
- Larger classrooms, open space and a community garden is important to the school.
- Community advocated for sustainable features like photovoltaic panels, green roofs and storm rainfall collection.
- Community advocated for onsite daycare to be included within the school.
- The staff rooms need to be convenient for all teachers to use.

Q&A from Community Meeting 3 is posted to the MCPS website:  
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/twinbrookes/>

# COMMUNITY MEETING 4 - IMPLEMENT

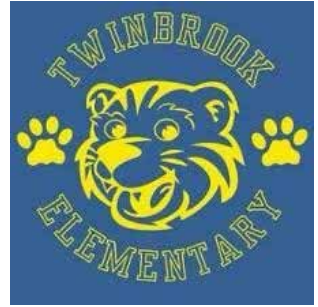


Option				
Criteria	Option 1: Renewal	Option 2: Under 50% Demo	Option 3: Over 50% Demo	Option 4: Replacement
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Program Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Meets MCPS Educational Specification Site Needs	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Addresses Accessibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Play Area Visibility	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Civic Presence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Sustainability	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Clarity of Circulation	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cost	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$ \$ \$ \$ \$</div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$ \$ \$ \$ \$</div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$ \$ \$ \$ \$</div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>\$ \$ \$ \$ \$</div>

- Comparison of the four options were presented, discussed as a community, and compared using the following metrics:
  - Meets School Program needs
  - Meets School Site needs
  - Addresses Accessibility
  - Play Area Visibility
  - Civic Presence
  - Sustainability
  - Clarity of Circulation
  - Cost

# COMMUNITY MEETING 4 - WHAT WE HEARD

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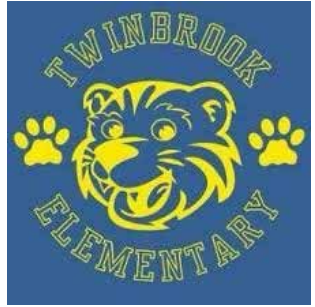


- Community needs a space for the students and families to gather, the school is truly used as a hub for Twinbrook.
- Sustainable features and storm water collection should be included in the future school building.
- Growth of surrounding area should be tracked for sizing of school.
- Community wants to participate in more public meetings to ensure the school is prioritized for future improvements.



# NEXT STEPS

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## Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Timeline

- **October 13, 2025:** Superintendent published recommendations for the FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027-2032 CIP
- **October 14, 2025:** Facilities and Boundaries Preliminary Presentation and Work Session
- **October 23, 2025:** Facilities and Boundaries Public Hearing #1
- **October 28, 2025:** Facilities and Boundaries Public Hearing #2
- **November 4, 2025:** Facilities and Boundaries Work Session #2
- *November 6, 2025: Facilities and Boundaries Work Hearing #3 (if needed)*
- *November 11, 2025: Facilities and Boundaries Work Session #3 (if needed)*
- **November 20, 2025:** Board Business Meeting with Facilities and Boundaries Decisions



A photograph of three young children in a science laboratory setting. They are wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. The child on the left is holding a green test tube. The child in the middle is clapping their hands. The child on the right is holding their hands up to their face. A teacher or adult is partially visible on the left, wearing a striped shirt. In the foreground, there are test tubes and a beaker on a table. The background shows shelves with various lab equipment.

# Q&A



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: WORKSESSION

Department: CPDS - ZONING REVIEW & OTHER

Responsible Staff: HOLLY SIMMONS

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## Subject

Zoning Ordinance Rewrite (ZOR) Work Session - Review of Remaining Topics: Amenity Space, Landscaping, Signs, Nonconformities, Findings, Subdivision and Plats, Neighborhood Conservation Plans, Historic Preservation and Recommended Rezoning Near the Twinbrook Metro Station.

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## Department

CPDS - Zoning Review & Other

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## Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Mayor and Council hold a work session to discuss and provide direction on the ongoing Zoning Ordinance Rewrite (ZOR) and Comprehensive Map Amendment (CMA).

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## Change in Law or Policy

The adoption of the new Comprehensive Zoning Map will replace the existing zoning map in its entirety. The adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance will replace the existing Zoning Ordinance in its entirety.

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## Discussion

### Background

The city is undertaking a comprehensive rewrite of the city's Zoning Ordinance to modernize this chapter of the city code so that it better accommodates the changing living, working, and recreation trends of the 21st century. In conjunction with the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, the city's zoning map will be updated through a Comprehensive Map Amendment that will implement the rezonings recommended in the *Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan*.

The following objectives have been identified for the project:

- Implement many of the recommended land use actions identified in the *Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan*, including implementing the Plan's zoning recommendations.
- Accomplish goals from the city's ongoing FAST Initiative, making the development review and permitting process Faster, Accountable, Smarter, and Transparent.

- Incorporate planning and zoning best practices that have become common in the field of urban planning and in other similarly situated communities.
- Incorporate the city’s commitment to equity, resilience, and sustainability, as described in the 2021 Mayor and Council social justice resolution and the 2022 Climate Action Plan.
- Ensure compliance with current federal and state regulations.
- Create a modern ordinance that can accommodate the changing living, working, and lifestyles of the 21st century.
- Create a user-friendly, accessible, and well-organized document that provides appropriate graphics and information to aid in its understanding.

The September 29 work session is intended to focus on the following elements of the ongoing ZOR and CMA project:

- Amenity space
- Landscaping
- Nonconformities
- Signs
- Subdivision
- Historic Preservation

Authorization to file the zoning text amendment and comprehensive map amendment is planned for December 2025.

### **Amenity space**

The current Zoning Ordinance requires private developments to provide a specific amount of open area or, in certain cases, “public use space.” Where public use space is required, it is treated as a subset of open space, with any public use space provided counting toward the open space requirement as well. Public use space is intended “to promote an appropriate balance between the built environment, public parks and other open spaces intended for respite from urban development, and to protect natural features and preserve the character of the City”; however, both requirements are currently defined very broadly,<sup>1</sup> and the current Zoning Ordinance does

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<sup>1</sup> Per Sec. 25.03.02, “Open area” is defined as follows: “An area of land associated with and located on the same tract of land as a major building or group of buildings providing light and air, scenic or recreational space, or other similar purpose.

1. Open area must, in general, be available for entry and use by the occupants of the building involved but may include space so located and treated as to enhance the amenity of the development by providing landscaping features, screening for the benefit of the occupants or those in neighboring areas, or a general appearance of openness.
2. Open area may include, but not be limited to, lawns, decorative planting, sidewalks and walkways, and active and passive recreation areas, including children's playgrounds, fountains, swimming pools, rooftop recreation areas, wooded areas, and watercourses; but shall not include parking lots or vehicular surfaces, accessory buildings other than swimming pools, or areas of open space so located or so small or so circumscribed by buildings, parking, or drainage areas as to have no substantial value for the purposes stated in this paragraph.”



not ensure that the open space or public use space provided by developments in the City is of high quality.

The ZOR proposes to replace the structure of the current requirements with a new requirement that will guarantee residents have access to high-quality recreational and social areas while helping to reduce pressure on existing parks and amenities. The ZOR proposes to introduce a requirement for “amenity space” that is more narrowly defined than the current open space and public use space. Specifically, it will require that all development projects subject to the amenity space requirement provide contiguous, high-quality, amenitized space for residents, employees, patrons, and the public, including those for both passive and active uses. The proposed changes would generally reduce the amount of space required to be provided, but greatly increase the quality of these spaces. Additionally, understanding that the proposed requirements would make it necessary for applicants to provide more meaningful, contiguous, amenitized space, which may be a difficult requirement to meet in the City’s densest transit-oriented zones, the proposal would also allow flexibility in the MXTD zones for a portion of the required amenity space to be accessible only to residents of the development, such as on a rooftop. With few exceptions, amenity space would continue to be required to be publicly accessible. Amenity space requirements could also be met through dedication of land to the city, fee-in-lieu, or alternative compliance.

Substantive recommendations are as follows:

- Transition from broadly defined “open area” and “public use space” to “amenity space,” which is defined to include only high-quality space with amenities, including those for both passive and active uses.
- Require amenity space for residential and mixed-use projects in the mixed-use zones, residential medium density zones, and the Residential High Density zone, except when the project:
  - Consists of five or fewer dwelling units
  - Is a non-residential use with a gross floor area of 20,000 square feet or smaller

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“Public use space” is defined as: “An open area associated with and located on the same tract of land as a principal building or group of buildings providing light and air, recreational space, or other similar purpose. Such open area must be accessible for use and enjoyment by the general public when provided in a residential, retail or mixed-use project, and may include space so located and treated as to enhance the amenity of the development by providing landscaping features, screening, or a general appearance of openness, and may include accessible portions of a stormwater management facility. In addition, public use space may also consist of indoor spaces dedicated to the provision of publicly-accessible art and open areas or dedicated spaces open to the public such as museums, art galleries, science centers and/or facilities, cultural arts centers, or community rooms. Public use space may also consist of open areas recommended in an adopted master plan, including enhanced public walkways and off-site public improvements. Such public improvements do not include road improvements or other capital projects in the vicinity of the property. Internal landscaping within a parking facility, as required in section 4.d of the landscaping, screening and lighting manual, does not constitute public use space. Development consisting primarily of office and/or industrial uses may include space accessible to the public or the employees of the site for the purpose of satisfying the public use space requirement.



- Is on a site of one acre or less in the MXTD-235, MXTD-200, and MXTD-85<sup>2</sup> or 20,000 square feet in any other zone, or
- Is a 100 percent affordable residential development located within ¼ mile of a public park or publicly accessible amenity space

Currently, the Zoning Ordinance exempts all affordable housing projects, as well as projects that consist of Housing for Senior Adults and Persons with Disabilities; however, staff does not propose continuing these exemptions as currently written, due to concerns regarding the equitable provision of recreation and amenity space for all Rockville residents.

- Allow flexibility in the MXTD (where the Plan prioritizes density and where land is at a premium) for 50 percent of the required amenity space to be accessible only to residents of the development, such as on a rooftop.

### Landscaping

Landscaping and vegetative screening requirements aim to enhance aesthetic appeal, reduce visual and noise impacts, and promote environmental benefits, such as increased shade. Requirements for landscaping and screening are currently contained in the City's *Landscaping, Screening, and Lighting Manual*, which was most recently amended in 2015. As part of the ZOR, the landscaping and screening portion of the *Manual's* requirements are proposed to be pulled out and codified; the lighting requirements are proposed to be retained in the *Manual* and will be updated via a separate process.

The *Manual's* landscaping and screening requirements, with some exceptions, primarily focus on buffering parking lots from adjacent rights-of-way and uses to ensure a smoother and more aesthetically pleasing transition. The ZOR will restructure these requirements from narrative format into tables for ease of use. City Forestry staff have also reviewed all required planting strips, including strip width and the mix and quantity of plant materials, to ensure plant materials will be able to survive while also performing their intended purposes. The ZOR will also include new specifications for planting materials, including height and caliper, consistent with City Code Chapter 10.5 and best practices, which will help add clarity to the Zoning Ordinance.

The following bullet point addresses one issue with the current landscaping and screening requirements that warrants further conversation, along with the Staff's recommendation. Staff will request Mayor and Council guidance on this item.

- The current *Manual* requires industrial uses abutting residential uses to provide a 30-foot landscaped buffer with a minimum six-foot opaque wall or fence (the wall/fence requirement may be waived). This requirement lacks specificity and treats all industrial uses in the same manner. For example, both Heavy Industrial uses and Research and Development uses would require the same 30-foot buffer and wall/fence, although their

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<sup>2</sup> The Mixed-Use Transit District zone is the city's most walkable and transit-oriented zone. Through the ZOR, and as discussed with Mayor and Council during the May 5 work session, this zone is proposed to be expanded into a 'family' of mixed-use zones (the MXTD-85, MXTD-200, and MXTD-235) to implement the recommendations of the Town Center Master Plan.

impact is anticipated to be very different. Staff recommends the context-sensitive buffer requirements for industrial and similar uses when these uses are shown in the table below.

Use	Proposed Requirement when Abutting Residential	When abutting...
Heavy Industrial ( <i>This use is currently not permitted in any zones within the city.</i> )	30-foot buffer & 3-foot berm	All uses other than Heavy Industrial
Light Industrial	30-foot buffer & 3-foot berm OR 15-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential
General Warehousing	30-foot buffer & 3-foot berm OR 15-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential
Alcoholic Beverage Production	30-foot buffer & 3-foot berm OR 15-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential
Automobile Repair Establishment	30-foot buffer & 3-foot berm OR 15-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential
Self-Storage Facility	10-foot buffer OR 7-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential
Gas Station	10-foot buffer OR 7-foot buffer & 6-foot opaque fence or wall	Residential

The proposal outlined in the above table would increase the requirements for Heavy Industrial uses to apply when they abut any use; allow flexibility for less-intense industrial uses, such as Light Industrial, General Warehousing, and Alcoholic Beverage Production; and add new buffering requirements for Automobile Repair Establishments and Gas Stations. In naming the uses specifically, it would also eliminate the possibility for any interpretation that buffering requirements apply to Artisanal Craft Production and Research and Development, which are included in the Zoning Ordinance’s general “Industrial” use category.

## Signs

The Zoning Ordinance regulates all signs to be installed in City limits, with the intention of promoting public safety and reducing visual clutter. The City’s sign ordinance specifies types of signs permitted, allowable sign sizes and locations, style (in certain cases; described below), and processes by which signs may be permitted. In addition to the below recommendations, the sign ordinance is being comprehensively reviewed by ZoneCo for updates to modernize requirements and also to restructure the underutilized optional sign package.

In 2015, through their ruling in the case *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, the Supreme Court clarified when municipalities may impose content-based restrictions on signs. Generally, this ruling reduces a municipality’s ability to regulate the message on signs (e.g., whether the messages are “religious,” “political,” or “real estate,” etc.) and has prompted many jurisdictions to adopt sign

regulations that are “content-neutral” to minimize risk. To address the ZOR’s goal of complying with federal regulations, the following is recommended:

- Make all sign regulations content-neutral. Define all sign types according to the structure, design, or location of the sign rather than the sign’s content. Remove distinctions between commercial and noncommercial signs, flags, etc.

The sign ordinance also includes regulations related to color and design consistency, which were initially adopted in the 1960s to curtail a proliferation of unsightly signs along Rockville Pike. Individual shopping centers were required to submit “sign plans” that specified one color (subsequently expanded to one main color and two accents) and one letter style to be used on all signs within the shopping center. Though not common among other jurisdictions in the region, this practice persists to this day, with a wide array of outcomes. Some shopping centers are governed by sign plans that were approved in the 1980s and specify only one color and one letter style; others were approved more recently and include significantly more detail on sign color, letter style, placement, measurements, etc. Ultimately, however, the stylistic specifications of each sign concept plan do not correspond with the regulations contained in the sign ordinance; cause difficulty when a company wants to use a trademarked logo; and may preclude smaller businesses from using culturally relevant colors and letter styles in favor of homogeneity. To address these issues, the draft ZOR recommends:

- Eliminating the requirement for sign plans and associated regulation of color and design consistency.

### **Nonconformities**

“Nonconformity” is a term that captures both uses and structures that were lawful when established but which no longer conform to the requirements of the zone in which they are located. Generally, creating nonconformities is to be avoided, but in certain instances, it can be part of a broader strategy to implement City goals and transform the built environment over time to better match the City’s vision. In these instances, creating nonconformities allows the existing nonconformities to persist while encouraging their eventual replacement.

For example, through a review of relevant uses by CPDS and DPW – Environmental Management Division staff, two changes are proposed that would create minor nonconformities to implement the goals of the Climate Action Plan and the Town Center Master Plan:

- *Gas Stations.* Gas Stations are currently a Special Exception use within the MXTD zone; however, understanding that Town Center is proposed to be rezoned to the MXTD-235, MXTD-200, and MXTD-85, the ZOR recommends that this use be reclassified as Prohibited within these zones to support and enhance their transit-oriented, walkable character. Existing Automobile Filling Stations would be allowed to continue, but development on-site would be constrained by the Zoning Ordinance’s nonconforming use provisions. No new Automobile Filling Stations would be permitted.
- *Drive-Through Windows.* Drive-through windows are allowed only when associated with banks, pharmacies, restaurants, and cannabis dispensaries. Currently, restaurants with

Drive-Through Windows are not permitted in the MXTD zone, but banks and pharmacies with Drive-Through Windows are permitted, so long as they are “incorporated and enclosed within a building or structure” (Sec. 25.13.04.b and .d). For the same reasons stated above, the ZOR recommends that all Drive-Through Windows be reclassified as Prohibited within the MXTD family of zones.

If created, these nonconforming uses will be allowed to continue operating, but any future changes will be constrained by the Zoning Ordinance’s nonconforming use requirements (described further below), or they will need to transition to a modern use aligned with the zone.

In addition to creating limited nonconformities, the ZOR proposes to change the requirements that govern nonconformities. Currently, the regulations contained within the ordinance are confusing and quite restrictive. For example, under the current Zoning Ordinance, it would not be possible for a business owner to replace their nonconforming building in kind if it were to burn down or otherwise be destroyed by a natural disaster. Additionally, the current regulations make it difficult for nonconforming buildings and uses to come closer to conforming with the zoning requirements. Finally, existing nonconformities are currently unable to increase their nonconformity by even a nominal amount, whereas in some zoning ordinances, limited expansions are permissible.

Understanding the scope of the issues, the ZOR proposes to simplify, clarify, and amend nonconformity requirements as follows:

- Allow structures housing nonconforming uses to be altered for certain purposes, including to bring the nonconforming use into greater conformity with the Code<sup>3</sup>; for maintenance, safety, and ADA compliance; and for improvements to a façade or stormwater management and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Allow structures housing nonconforming uses and nonconforming structures to be replaced or repaired in kind in the event of a fire, flood, or other natural disaster or emergency.
- Allow for nonconforming uses to expand by up to 20 percent, subject to approval by either the Chief of Zoning or the Planning Commission, depending on the extent of the expansion.

### **Findings of Approval**

To approve Project Plans, Site Plans, and Preliminary Plans of Subdivision, Approving Authorities must make several findings. In the current Zoning Ordinance, some of these findings are highly discretionary, and the intent of the finding is substantially addressed through regulations

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<sup>3</sup> One recent project which was significantly impacted by the stringency of the City’s nonconformities requirements was an application filed in 2022 for an existing car wash that is a nonconforming use in the MXTD zone. The owner proposed to modify the use by removing the self-serve car wash bays and replacing with vacuum machines, a proposal that would reduce the nonconformity without going so far as to eliminate it. Ideally, such a change would be encouraged; however, under the current Zoning Ordinance, the proposal was required to go through a nonconforming alteration approval process and a Level 2 Site Plan, which was able to be combined. Under the current proposal, this request to reduce the existing nonconformity would be subject to a Minor Amendment only.

contained in City Code. The ZOR proposes to rework and simplify these discretionary findings to be objective, accessible, consistent across application types, and strongly tied to the City's Comprehensive Plan and regulations governing life safety, natural features, public facilities, and the like. This will ensure that the grounds for approving or denying project plans, site plans, and preliminary plans are uniformly applied to all development applications and are unambiguous for both applicants and Approving Authorities.

The most significant reframing is proposed for the findings identified as five through 12 in the table below. In part because the findings are not tied to clear standards, they have rarely been determinative in staff's recommendations to approve or deny applications. As a result, Staff anticipates that the proposed revisions will provide substantial improvements in terms of clarity, objectivity, and accessibility while having minimal impact on the final outcomes of future applications.

As outlined in the table below, under the ZOR, project plans, site plans, and preliminary plans of subdivision will still need to demonstrate consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, adequate public facilities, and conformance to all requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and other applicable law governing health, safety, natural resources, and the environment of the City.

**Table 1. Existing and Proposed Approval Findings for Level 1 and 2 Site Plans, Project Plans, and Preliminary Plans of Subdivision**

ID	Existing Finding	Applies to...	Proposed Replacement Finding	Rationale
1	The application will not conflict with the Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Plan</li> <li>Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>	The application is consistent with the Plan.	The proposed revision (positive instead of double negative) strengthens the Comprehensive Plan consistency finding.
2	The application will not violate or adversely affect the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>		
3	The application will not overburden existing and programmed public facilities as set forth in Article 20 of this chapter and as provided in the adopted adequate public facilities standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Plan</li> <li>Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>	The application is supported by adequate existing and programmed public facilities as set forth in [the APF section of the ZOR] and as provided in the adopted Adequate Public Facilities Standards.	The proposed revision ensures that the APF finding is uniform for all approval types and clearly references both the APFS and the APF requirements in the Zoning Ordinance.
4	The application will not overburden existing public services, including but not limited to water, sanitary sewer, public roads, storm drainage, and other public improvements;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>		
5	The application will not be unsuitable for the type of development, the use contemplated, and available public utilities and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>	The application conforms to the requirements of this Chapter and other applicable law governing health, safety, natural resources, and the environment of the City.	The proposed revision is intended to retain the overall intent of the current findings, while making them clear, objective, and accessible. The general thrust of the current findings is covered by federal, State, County, and local regulations. For
6	The application will not be incompatible with the surrounding uses or properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>		
7	The application will not adversely affect the health or safety of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Plan</li> </ul>		



	persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>		<p>example, suitability and compatibility is tied to assignment of zones and uses within zone; health and safety are addressed through various portions of city code, including the Zoning Ordinance, Road Code, Building Code, and Fire Code; and natural resources and stormwater are addressed through the Floodplain Management ordinance, Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance, and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management ordinance.</p>
8	The application will not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the subdivision or neighborhood;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>		
9	The application will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>		
10	The application will not adversely affect the natural resources or environment of the City or the surrounding areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Plan</li> <li>• Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> </ul>		
11	The application will not unreasonably disturb existing topography, in order to minimize stormwater runoff and to conserve the vegetation cover and soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>		
12	The application will not constitute a violation of any provision of this chapter or other applicable law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Plan</li> <li>• Level 1 &amp; 2 Site Plans</li> <li>• Preliminary Plan</li> </ul>		

### Subdivision and Plats

Along with development regulations, the Zoning Ordinance contains regulations governing subdivision (generally, the division or assemblage of land, whether for sale or development) and the preparation of plats (the maps showing subdivision boundaries and location of lots) for recordation in the Montgomery County land records. These regulations are contained in the Subdivision and Plats article. This article provides the processes for approval of preliminary plans of subdivision, record plats, and ownership plats, as well as requirements that apply at time of subdivision, including standards related to streets and public infrastructure, public utility easements, and public sites and open spaces.

Unlike other sections of the Zoning Ordinance, the Subdivision and Plats article has remained largely unchanged in recent years, and in fact was not significantly revised or updated during the 2009 rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance. The current structure of the article presents meaningful opportunities for reorganization and simplification to assist code users, such as organizing existing subdivision application types into two broad categories (“minor subdivision” and “major subdivision”) to align with the required approval processes, and locating all subdivision standards in one Division, while also updating these standards for accuracy, clarity, and completeness.

The ZOR also proposes more substantive changes to align subdivision standards with city goals and objectives. These include:

- Placing the authority to accept land dedications or reservations at the time of subdivision with the Mayor and Council, as land dedication often has financial and long-term maintenance implications which, are best addressed under the Mayor and Council’s

policy and budgetary responsibilities. (Under the current Zoning Ordinance, this authority lies with the Planning Commission.)

- Allow record plats for minor subdivisions to be approved by the Chief of Zoning (currently, this requires Planning Commission approval),<sup>4</sup> streamlining the process for simple, low-impact land divisions, saving time and resources for both applicants and local governments, helping to reserve public hearings for more complex or controversial projects that warrant greater scrutiny. This would include the below types of subdivisions, so long as they meet all applicable code requirement and require no extension of public facilities.
  - Dividing land into four or fewer lots fronting an existing road;
  - Adjusting or eliminating a common property line between lots;
  - Consolidating two or more lots into one lot;
  - Correcting information shown on a plat;
  - Replatting a piece of property to show the dedication of land, or to incorporate land that had previously been dedicated but is now being abandoned; and
  - Conversion of a part of a lot into a record lot.
- Eliminating provisions related to “cluster developments,” which are unlikely to be used again.<sup>5</sup>
- Permitting pipestem lots (which have been expressly prohibited by the Zoning Ordinance since 2006) to increase options for single-family homes that make use of underutilized land on existing lots.

**Figure 1. Existing Pipestem Lots in Twinbrook**



<sup>4</sup> While this is preliminarily proposed to be written into the ZOR, Maryland law requires the City’s Planning Commission to delegate approval authority to the Chief of Zoning as well.

<sup>5</sup> Cluster subdivision provisions, which allow single-unit dwellings to be “clustered” (i.e., built on slightly smaller lots than the underlying zoning allows, ideally allowing for increased preservation of natural features) became popular in the 1970s and 1980s. The city has a number of cluster subdivisions that were approved and developed when large swaths of undeveloped land still existed west of I-270; however, few if any sites remain where cluster subdivisions could prove useful. Indeed, no cluster subdivision has been approved in the city since prior to the 2009 Zoning Ordinance update.

### **Neighborhood Conservation Plans**

The Zoning Ordinance currently contains provisions related to special “neighborhood conservation plans,” through which neighborhood conservation zoning districts can be established. Neighborhood conservation plans can be initiated in one of two ways: 1.) The Mayor and Council identify areas for designation through a master plan process; or 2.) local property owners may petition the Mayor and Council to initiate a neighborhood conservation district study.<sup>6</sup> The “neighborhood conservation plan” concept was introduced into the Zoning Ordinance in 2009. While the city has many master plans, the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Conservation Plan is the only example of a neighborhood conservation plan within the city.

The ZOR recommends that the concept of “neighborhood conservation plans” be eliminated from the Zoning Ordinance. Eliminating neighborhood conservation plans will not impact the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Conservation District Zone, which will continue to exist in its current form unless it is proposed to be amended, in which case it can be amended through a standard zoning text amendment or sectional map amendment. Master plans, including neighborhood or area plans that address specific areas of the city, will still be undertaken through the master planning process, and rezonings or other changes to the zoning map can continue to occur through sectional and comprehensive map amendments; however, these initiatives would be based solely upon the priorities and timing of the Mayor and Council and aligned with the broader priorities for the city as established in the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Comprehensive Map Amendment**

At their May 5, 2025 work session, the Mayor and Council supported the new MXTD-235 zone, one of a ‘family’ of three Mixed-Use Transit District zones being created to implement the recommendations of the 2025 *Town Center Master Plan*, being applied to the MXTD properties near the Twinbrook and Shady Grove metro stations to ensure that these properties are positioned to be similarly competitive to those in Town Center and transit-oriented properties in Montgomery County. This recommendation implements the Comprehensive Plan’s principle to “Steer the most-dense development to mixed-use, transit-served locations” and the Climate Action Plan’s Action C-16 to “Implement the Comprehensive Plan to steer the densest development/redevelopment to mixed-use, transit-served locations, reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and emissions, and conserve/restore environmental areas.”

Following the May 5 work session the owners of 1460 and 1488 Rockville Pike, properties currently zoned MXCD (Mixed-Use Corridor District; maximum height of 75 feet), sent a letter to the Chief of Zoning (see Attachment 1 – 1460 and 1488 Rockville Pike Comment) expressing support for the proposed rezonings described above and “request[ing] the City expand on its initial recommendations for the South Pike area in the CMA to include additional properties to the north and west, which will ensure that market-responsive zoning is in place for the continued revitalization of this important section of Rockville Pike.” Specifically, they request that the City

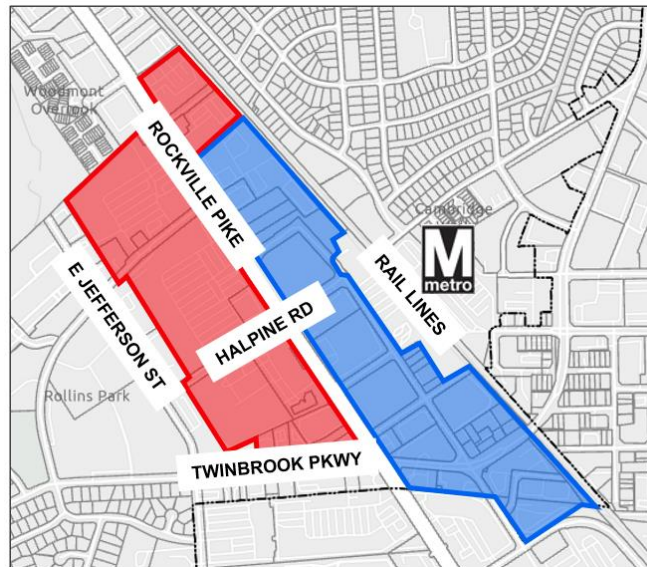
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<sup>6</sup> Purpose and procedures related to neighborhood conservation districts and neighborhood conservation plans are outlined in Sec. 25.14.02.

consider rezoning properties within  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles of the Twinbrook Metro Station to the new MXTD-200 (the MXTD zone that corresponds with the Town Center Master Plan's Core Character Area).

Upon further analysis, staff agrees with the basis for the request, finding that such a rezoning would provide a transition similar to the one planned for Town Center while also supporting Comprehensive Plan goals related to transit-oriented development; however, staff's recommendation differs slightly from the request of the property owner. Instead of rezoning all properties within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the metro station to the north and west, staff recommends rezoning the properties currently zoned MXCD that are generally within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the Twinbrook Metro, shown red in Figure 2 below, which corresponds with the South Pike context and development pattern. Properties shown in blue are currently zoned MXTD and are proposed to be rezoned MXTD-235, as supported by the Mayor and Council at the May 5, 2025, work session. A transition to lower-density properties to the west will be afforded by the MXCT (Mixed Use Corridor Transition) Zone along East Jefferson Street.

**Figure 2. Properties Proposed to be Rezoned to MXTD-200 (in red; Previously supported rezoning to MXTD-235 shown in blue)**



## Historic Preservation

In 2023, the Historic District Commission (HDC) and subsequently the Mayor and Council, endorsed the 2023-2033 Historic Preservation Work Plan (HPWP) as an internal document designed to update and modernize Rockville’s preservation program. This document laid out 40 work items across six different themes. Work Item A within the HPWP called for making updates to the Zoning Ordinance to address the following:

- Streamline and clean up existing code;
- Prepare a zoning text amendment regarding the local designation process and local designation criteria;
- Prepare a zoning text amendment regarding administrative Certificate of Approvals;
- Develop a new section on delisting procedures;
- Prepare a zoning text amendment on parties of interest and required owner consent; and
- Prepare a zoning text amendment regarding demolition by neglect.

Since the HPWP was endorsed two years ago, the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite project has been flagged as the primary vehicle to make these updates.

The following bullet points outline the issues with our current code regarding historic preservation that are flagged in the HPWP, followed by the staff’s proposed revisions to solve these issues.

- *Issue:* Historic preservation regulations are currently located within several different articles of the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 25. As a result, there are many cross-references



to different articles, and it can be difficult for the user to locate and understand all regulations regarding historic preservation.

- *Solution:* Create a new article to house all regulations tied to historic preservation. This would make these regulations easy to find in one consolidated location.
- *Issue:* The Historic District Commission (HDC) utilizes nine criteria when evaluating a property for local historic designation. For a site to be locally designated, the site must display at least one of these criteria, as agreed to by the HDC and the Mayor and Council. These criteria are not codified in our Zoning Ordinance; instead, the code references outside documents where these criteria can be located.
  - *Solution:* Create a new section codifying our nine designation criteria. This will be more user-friendly and provide a stronger legal connection between the criteria and designation. Additionally, staff propose requiring that, in addition to meeting at least one of the designation criteria, the site must also display integrity to be designated. This would prevent a structure that may meet designation criteria but is in a severe state of disrepair from being designated.
- *Issue:* There is currently a restriction that a Certificate of Approval (COA) application may not be submitted within one year of an identical Certificate of Approval application being submitted and denied by the HDC. The intent behind this is to prevent applicants from consistently submitting the same application repeatedly, hoping that it may eventually get approved. There is no limit, however, on consecutive Evaluations of Significance. This means that if the HDC or Mayor and Council deny an application for historic designation, an applicant may immediately file a new application, starting that process over. Conversely, this also means that every time there is a proposed demolition of a structure, it must undergo a full Evaluation of Significance, even if one was recently completed for the property.
  - *Solution:* Add a regulation that a site or structure does not need to be reviewed for potential historic designation if it was previously evaluated for historic significance in the preceding five years. The one exception to this rule is that the property owner may file one application for an Evaluation of Significance within the five-year period.
- *Issue:* Nearly any exterior alteration to a designated historic site is required to come before the Historic District Commission for review and approval prior to being implemented. There are very limited exceptions where staff can administratively approve work to historic properties; these exceptions are limited to fences, signs, or diseased/hazardous trees. The requirement for all other alterations, even those that are minor in nature, to come before the HDC takes considerable staff time to review the application and write a staff report, and delays the property owner from making these enhancements to their property.
  - *Solution:* Create a process whereby staff may administratively approve a Certificate of Approval (COA) for certain work deemed to be minor or common. COA applications must still be submitted, but in certain instances, staff could approve the COA without bringing the case to the HDC. Staff propose that the following work may be administratively approved:
    - Construction of an accessory structure, such as a shed;
    - A minor alteration to plans already approved by the HDC;

- Replacement of an existing driveway with different materials;
- Installation or replacement of minor landscaping features;
- Installation or replacement of exterior light fixtures;
- Minor paving work, such as walkways or sidewalks;
- Installation of storm doors and windows; or
- Installation of utility meters or devices.
- *Issue:* There is no way to remove a property from the historic district overlay zone. As a result, structures that no longer exist and/or have lost all of their historic integrity will remain as designated historic sites, as there is no process to remove them.
  - *Solution:* Create a process for removal of a property from the historic district overlay zone if a site or structure has lost the physical characteristics that justified its designation, known as “delisting.” Delisting would only be allowed in very specific circumstances, and only the Mayor and Council or the property owner may file an application to remove the historic designation. The process for removing a site or structure from the historic district overlay zone would be similar to the process for designating a site as historic: it would require a review and recommendation by the Historic District Commission, the filing of a sectional map amendment, and Mayor and Council approval.
- *Issue:* Currently, anyone may file an application to nominate a property for historic designation. The applicant for the designation nomination does not need to be affiliated with the property in any way. In the past, third parties have filed applications for designation for properties they have no affiliation.
  - *Solution:* Revise the code so that only the property owner, Historic District Commission or Mayor and Council may file an application nominating a property for historic designation. If a third party is interested in seeing a site be designated, they should appeal to one of the aforementioned parties and ask one of those groups to file a nomination.
- *Issue:* Property owners are not required to consent to the designation of their property as historic. As a result, there have been properties that are designated against the wishes of the owner. Furthermore, the lack of a requirement for owner consent has been flagged by the HDC, Planning Commission, and Mayor and Council as problematic during recent nominations.
  - *Solution:* Revise the code to address property owner consent with historic designations. If the property owner consents, in writing, to the nomination, a majority vote of the HDC is required to file a sectional map amendment, and a majority vote of the Mayor and Council is required to rezone the property to the historic district overlay zone. If the property owner does not consent to designation, or is silent on the matter, a unanimous vote of the HDC and Mayor, and Council would be required. This would establish a higher bar for those properties without owner consent, but would still allow designation to happen in a circumstance where a truly exceptional historic site/structure was at risk of being lost forever.
- *Issue:* The term “demolition by neglect” is defined in the Zoning Ordinance, but there are no other references to the term, and it cannot be enforced. Demolition by neglect of

historic properties is defined as “failure to maintain property, or any component thereof, located within a designated Historic District Zone so as to jeopardize the historic integrity of the property.”

- *Solution:* Revise the code to expressly prohibit demolition by neglect and allow a municipal infraction to be issued in cases of demolition by neglect.

The changes outlined above address the six work items in the HPWP tied to the Zoning Ordinance and call for updates to the code to enhance Rockville’s preservation program. While doing this review and drafting a new historic preservation article, staff have made several other recommendations that are not tied to the HPWP, but staff believe should be implemented.

- *Issue:* All structures, regardless of age or condition, must undergo an evaluation of significance before they can be demolished. The results in extensive staff time spent researching property history and drafting reports to the HDC, chronicling the property’s history. Additionally, requiring all proposed demolitions to come before the HDC for a full Evaluation of Significance adds time and an additional barrier to the redevelopment process. In many cases, it is clear to staff early on that the property does not meet any of the nine designation criteria, yet a full report and vote of the HDC is still required. For context, in Fiscal Year 2025, nearly 40% of the HDC’s cases were Evaluations of Significance for the purpose of demolition. In Fiscal Year 2024, 50% of the HDC’s cases were Evaluations of Significance for the purpose of demolition.
  - *Solution:* Evaluation of Significance applications will still be required to be submitted for all proposed demolitions, but must only come to the HDC if the structure is located within a historic district, is identified in the Historic Building Catalog, or is determined by staff to potentially meet at least one of the designation criteria. In other cases, staff will review the application and property history and have the ability to administratively sign off on the Evaluation of Significance when it is clear that the property does not meet any of our designation criteria or does not display integrity.
- *Issue:* Certificates of Approval expire one year from the date that they were approved. It is not uncommon for COAs to expire before the applicant has completed the work, requiring them to stop and receive a new COA before continuing.
  - *Solution:* Extend the expiration date for Certificates of Approval from one year to five years. This would allow the applicant more time to make their improvements, especially amidst a changing economic climate, and put COA approval timeframes in line with other approvals issued by CPDS.
- *Issue:* Rockville is a Certified Local Government (CLG) by the National Park Service. This means that we have committed to upholding certain standards and practices in our preservation program. Our CLG Agreement requires that HDC Commissioners hold certain qualifications to be eligible for their roles, but these qualifications are not listed anywhere in our code.
  - *Solution:* In the section of our code that authorizes and gives powers to Approving Authorities, add the required qualifications for Historic District Commissioners per our CLG Agreement.

- *Issue:* Our current code provides a list of reference documents that can be consulted for design review during the Certificate of Approval process by the HDC. One of these documents is from 1977, and as such, is outdated and no longer reflects the diversity that exists within Rockville's historic districts.
  - *Solution:* Remove Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation of Buildings in Rockville's Historic Districts (1977) from the list of documents to consider when reviewing designs for Certificates of Approval.

The Historic District Commission reviewed all of these proposed changes and provided feedback to staff at their July 17, 2025, meeting. The Commission was overwhelmingly positive about these changes. A summary of the discussion amongst the HDC during their July meeting is included in this staff report as Attachment 2 – HDC Discussion on Proposed Code Revisions.

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### **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council approved a project charter for the ZOR project in October 2022. Since the project was initiated, staff have provided periodic updates on the project via email. The first Mayor and Council work session for the project, which focused on the Comprehensive Map Amendment, was held on January 27, 2025. A second work session, focusing on process improvements, was held on April 24, 2025. A third work session, focusing on new zones, revisions to existing zones, height transitions, and follow-up from the January 27 work session, was held on May 5, 2025. A fourth work session, focusing on land uses and parking, with an update on recommended process improvements following Planning Commission input, was held on August 4, 2025.

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### **Public Notification and Engagement**

Engagement for the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite (ZOR) and Comprehensive Map Amendment (CMA) has been ongoing since Fall 2024. In the time since the last staff report for the Mayor and Council work session on August 4, 2025, staff have conducted notification and engagement actions, as follows:

- Rockville Reports, City social media channels, email blasts, and newsletters to inform the community about scheduled meetings (both community meetings and Mayor and Council/Planning Commission work sessions) and opportunities to learn more.
- Virtual public meeting on July 31, 2025, on Land Uses and Parking, overviewing information presented to Mayor and Council on August 4. Eight people attended.
- Virtual meetings with neighborhood associations, as follows:
  - New Mark Commons Board of Directors and residents, September 4, 2025. Fifty-four people attended.

A public meeting related to the Review of Remaining Topics: Amenity Space, Landscaping, Signs, Nonconformities, Findings, Subdivision and Plats, Neighborhood Conservation Plans, and Recommended Rezoning Near the Twinbrook Metro Station is scheduled for September 25, 2025.

Finally, this project also builds on and furthers the goals and policies established through the *Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan*. Extensive outreach and engagement were conducted over a period of five years to inform the Rockville 2040 Plan.

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### **Boards and Commissions Review**

The ZOR and CMA will be reviewed by city boards and commissions as per the project charter upon release of a draft ordinance and zoning map. To date, the Planning Commission has received regular updates on project progress as well as work sessions with similar content to those of the Mayor and Council, with the most recent update occurring on August 13, 2025. The Environment Commission and the Transportation and Mobility Commission also requested and received briefings on November 7, 2024, and May 27, 2025, respectively.

Additionally, the Historic District Commission was briefed on the project and provided feedback on the proposed changes to historic preservation regulations at their meeting on July 17, 2025.

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### **Next Steps**

The adoption process for both ZOR and CMA is planned to begin with the Authorization to File the Zoning Text Amendment and Comprehensive Map Amendment, scheduled for December 1, 2025, with public hearings and work sessions by the Planning Commission and Mayor and Council in early 2026 prior to adoption.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - 1460 and 1488 Rockville Pike Comment, Attachment 2 - HDC Discussion on Proposed Revisions, ZOR Work Session No. 5 Presentation



July 31, 2025

**VIA Email**

Mr. James Wasilak  
Chief of Zoning  
City of Rockville  
111 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: City of Rockville Comprehensive Map Amendment (the “CMA”); Shellhorn Rockville LLC’s written comments regarding 1460 and 1488 Rockville Pike

Dear Mr. Wasilak:

On behalf of Shellhorn Rockville LLC, an affiliate of Quantum Companies (“Quantum”), the owner of the shopping center (1488 Rockville Pike) and neighboring auto repair facility (1460 Rockville Pike) located approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile to the north of the intersection of Rockville Pike and Congressional Lane (the “Property”) in the South Pike area, please accept these written comments to the City of Rockville’s (the “City”) recommended rezoning of properties in the vicinity of Twinbrook Metro Station.

By way of background, the Property is improved with approximately 29,874 square feet of retail uses and ancillary surface parking spaces and is located approximately 0.40 miles to the northwest of the Twinbrook Metro Station entrance. An aerial image showing the Property’s proximity to Twinbrook Metro Station is attached as Exhibit “A”. The Property is presently zoned MXCD and located immediately to the south of the Twinbrook Quarter mixed-use redevelopment. In this respect, the Property is appropriately positioned for redevelopment with additional density, height and a mix of uses. To this end, we respectfully request that the City rezone additional properties in the South Pike area to further the approved Rockville 2040: Comprehensive Plan Update (the “Comprehensive Plan”) recommendations, including to “continue to develop the Twinbrook Metro Station area and the south Rockville Pike area as a major activity and growth center.” *See* page 32, land use element.

Quantum supports the City’s recommendations to rezone many of the properties to the south of the Property, on the east side of Rockville Pike, to a new MXTD-235 Zone. However, Quantum respectfully requests that the City also recommend that the Property and surrounding sites to the north and west that are within ¾ mile of Twinbrook Metro Station be rezoned to the MXTD-200 Zone. These properties are transit-oriented with strong pedestrian access to both the Twinbrook Metro Station and planned BRT on Rockville Pike. Many of these properties are developed with low-rise commercial buildings and an abundance of surface parking, which do not represent their highest and best use.

The CMA designates areas to the south of the Property for MXTD-255 zoning based upon a framework developed as part of Rockville Town Center Plan (the “Town Center Plan”). The Town Center Plan designated properties as MD-355 Corridor Character Areas (MXTD-255 zoning), Core Character Areas (MXTD-200 zoning), and Edge Character Areas (MXTD-85 zoning). Significantly, properties evaluated as part of the Town Center Plan that are more than 0.80 miles from the Rockville Metro Station were designated as Core Character Areas and recommended for rezoning to MXTD-200 as part of the CMA. Map 19 from the Town Center Plan is attached as Exhibit “B” for context. In this respect, the City should use the same methodology in the South Pike area to recommend properties that are located within ¾ mile of Twinbrook Metro Station, but outside the limits of properties recommended for MXTD-255 zoning, be rezoned to MXTD-200 through the CMA.

Quantum’s request that the City expand the limits of properties recommended for rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan’s recognition that “thousands of people walk or bike from Twinbrook Metro Station to residences, offices and shops,” and “the land use plan provides flexibility for the future, allowing a mix of high intensity office, residential, and commercial uses through the Office Commercial Residential Mix (OCRM) land use designation for the majority of land in the south Pike area.” See page 32, land use element. As a result, we respectfully request that the City expand on its initial recommendations for the South Pike area in the CMA to include additional properties to the north and west, which will ensure that market-responsive zoning is in place for the continued revitalization of this important section of Rockville Pike.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the CMA and look forward to continuing to work with staff and other interested stakeholders to achieve the Comprehensive Plan’s vision along this important corridor in the City.

Very truly yours,

*Matthew Gordon*

Matthew Gordon

cc: Ms. Holly Simmons  
Mr. Alex Forbes  
Mr. David Sullivan

5,250 sf GFA  
Auto Repair

1460 1488

29,874 sf GFA  
Retail

LEWIS AVENUE  
CODM  
(CD-245)

ROCKLAND

HALPINE VILLAGE

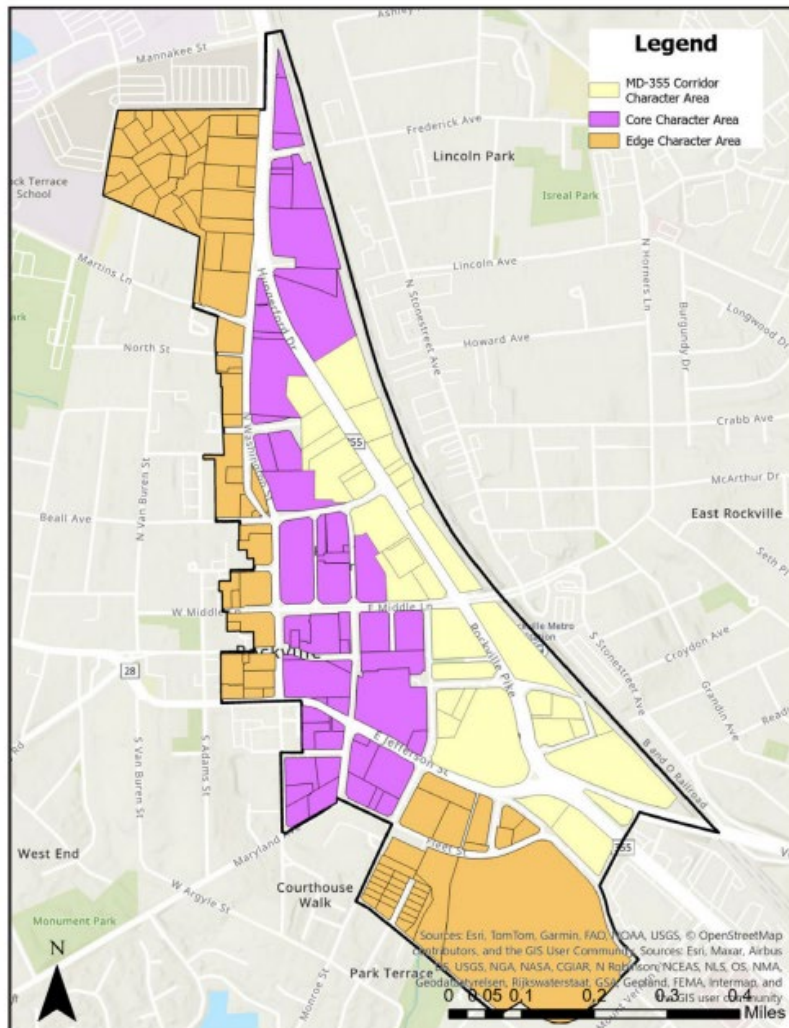
HALPINE SQUARE

TWINBROOK  
QUARTER  
TWINBROOK  
QUARTER  
PHASE 1  
CODM

~0.38 Miles  
Twinbrook Metro  
Station Entrance

## Exhibit “B”

### Map 19: Town Center Character Areas



## **Historic District Commission Discussion on Proposed Code Revisions**

### **July 17, 2025**

- Reorganizing historic preservation regulations into one division
  - All commissioners agree the reorganization and consolidation is common sense and are supportive of this modification.
- Adding in historic designation criteria to the code
  - All commissioners agree we should codify the nine existing designation criteria and are supportive of this modification.
- Adding in integrity as a requirement for local designation
  - Commission Denbo: What is the definition of integrity? In some ways, this could make it harder for the HDC to do our job/for the city to enforce our rulings.
    - We intend to use the definition of integrity used by the Secretary of the Interior. There are seven characteristics of integrity in that definition, which would provide some flexibility.
  - Commissioner Shenge: Would this be adding in a 10<sup>th</sup> criterion?
    - There would be the same nine designation criteria, but a property must also display integrity. Integrity alone would not be the case for designation.
- Restrictions on Consecutive Evaluation of Significance Application
  - All commissioners agree that a 5-year review period for evaluations of significance is appropriate and are supportive of this modification.
- Administrative Certificate of Approvals
  - Commissioner Denbo: In theory, supportive of this, but there is a potential slippery slope where more and more is taken out of the purview of the HDC. Concerned with reducing the influence of the HDC in future.
  - Commissioner Neal Powell: How will the HDC know what has been approved?
    - Approval letters will be provided to the HDC so you know what has been given approval to proceed.
- Delisting Procedure
  - Commissioner Goldfinger sought clarification of the HDC's role in the process.
  - Commissioner Neal Powell sought staff's opinion on if Chestnut Lodge would qualify for delisting. Staff wouldn't recommend since that is such a large piece of property with other existing historic structures on site.
- Parties of Interest for Filing Designation Application

- Commissioner Shenge sought clarification that these rules would only apply in Rockville and that other jurisdictions have their own rules here. Staff confirmed.
- Owner Consent for Local Designation
  - Commissioner Denbo: We may not be able to get in touch with a property owner, meaning there are both active and passive nonconsent to designation. Would like to consider the active nonconsent to designation to be what triggers that higher bar.
  - Commissioner Denbo: Are there best practices for how municipalities handle owner consent?
    - Staff provided some examples from past experience in other communities. This varies by community and how critical the resource is, but typically owner has a say in the decision.
  - Commissioner Denbo sought clarification that if this rule was in place for 4 Courthouse Square it may not have been designated. Staff concurred that there was not a unanimous decision by the Mayor and Council.
  - Commissioner Neal Powell: This is always a fuzzy area. We do not want to put a financial burden on the owner, I don't agree with doing that. This will always be an issue with me.
- Demolition by Neglect
  - Commissioner Goldfinger: How do you identify properties who are suffering by demolition by neglect?
    - Code enforcement staff and zoning inspector staff.
  - Commissioner Neal Powell: We are sort of waiting to a point where there is no going back. After a decision is made by this body, if the property continues to disintegrate, right now we can't do anything.
  - Commissioner Goldfinger: If a property owner does not maintain the property in a reasonable manner, can the city do the work and back charge for it?
    - It would follow typical municipal infraction process, which allows for a process of notification, allowing time to remedy and then eventually issuing a fine if the problem is not remedied.
  - Commissioner Fosselman: What happens if the property owner has a legitimate financial issue that prevents them from doing that work?
    - The municipal infraction process includes process for looking into the cause behind these issues. Code allows a municipal infraction to be issued but does not mandate it. Staff would consult with the City Attorney's Office to determine if we proceed with an infraction or not.



- Commissioner Shenge: If the property owner neglects the building, is there a way for the city to arrest the property owner?
  - The City cannot arrest a property owner for a municipal infraction—it is a civil infraction that usually results in a court order and a fine.
- Commissioner Neal Powell: There can be situations where a property cannot be maintained due to financial hardship. Would financial hardship go into this proposed revision?
  - It wouldn't be in the code itself, but it would be a factor when we are enforcing. The definition of Demolition by Neglect uses terms like “intentional” and “willful.” This is meant to describe situations where there is the means to maintain a property but the owner is intentionally choosing not to.
- Triggers for an Evaluation of Significance
  - All commissioners agree with this change and are supportive of this modification.
- Certificate of Approval Extension from 1 to 5 years
  - All commissioners agree with this change and are supportive of this modification.
- Remove Reference to Adopted Architectural Design Guidelines for the Exterior Rehabilitation of Buildings in Rockville's Historic District
  - All commissioners agree with this change and are supportive of this modification.
- HDC Commissioner Qualifications
  - All commissioners agree with this change and are supportive of this modification.



# **Zoning Ordinance Rewrite & Comprehensive Map Amendment**

Work Session #5:  
Outstanding Topics  
September 29, 2025



# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Project Timeline
- ▶ Topic Areas
  - Historic Preservation
  - Amenity Space
  - Nonconformities
  - Subdivision & Plats
  - Approval Findings
  - Neighborhood Conservation Plans
  - Comprehensive Map Amendment
- ▶ *Note: We will pause at the end of each section for direction*

# Project Timeline



# Historic Preservation

# Historic Preservation Work Plan



## Background Information

- ▶ Maps out division work plan and priorities from 2023 – 2033.
- ▶ Endorsed by Mayor and Council in May 2023.
- ▶ Work Item A lays out 6 specific updates to make to the Zoning Ordinance.
- ▶ Proposed edits stem almost entirely from HPWP, with a few other staff suggestions.
- ▶ HDC discussed these edits at their July meeting.





# Proposed Preservation Changes

## Certificate of Approval (COA)

### Existing Conditions

- ▶ Nearly any exterior alteration on a historic site or structure requires a Certificate of Approval. There are very limited exceptions to staff-level approvals.
- ▶ COAs expire after 1 year.

### Proposed Revisions

- ▶ Create a process where staff can administratively approve a COA for certain work deemed to be minor or common.
- ▶ Extend expiration period from 1 year to 5 years.

# Proposed Preservation Changes



## Local Designations – Process and Consent

### Existing Conditions

- ▶ Anyone may file an application to nominate a property for local designation.
- ▶ Property owners are not required to consent to nomination or designation.

### Proposed Revisions

- ▶ Only the property owner, Historic District Commission, or Mayor and Council may file a nomination application.
- ▶ If the property owner consents, a majority vote of HDC and M&C required to move forward. If no consent, a unanimous vote required.

# Proposed Preservation Changes



## Delisting

### Existing Conditions

- ▶ There is no way to remove a property from the historic district overlay zone. There are structures that do not currently exist on our local register.

### Proposed Revisions

- ▶ Creates a process for removal from the historic district overlay zone if the site or structure has lost the physical characteristics that justified its designation.
- ▶ Only M&C may file an application to remove historic designation.



# Proposed Preservation Changes

## Demolition by Neglect

### Existing Conditions

- ▶ “Demolition by neglect” is a defined term, but can’t be enforced.

### Proposed Revisions

- ▶ Expressly prohibits demolition by neglect.
- ▶ Allows a municipal infraction to be issued in cases of demolition by neglect.



# Proposed Preservation Changes

## Evaluation of Significance (EOS)

### Existing Conditions

- ▶ All structures, regardless of age or condition, must undergo an Evaluation of Significance before they can be demolished.

### Proposed Revisions

- ▶ Structures proposed for demolition must only come to the HDC for an Evaluation of Significance if the structure is identified in the Historic Building Catalog or determined by staff to potentially meet at least one designation criteria.
- ▶ A site or structure doesn't need to undergo an EOS for demolition if it has been reviewed in the preceding five years.



## Requested Feedback

Do you support...

1. Allowing administrative approval of minor changes to sites?
2. Extending the expiration date for COAs to 5 years?
3. Eliminating third parties from nominating properties for designation?
4. Requiring unanimous consent of approval authorities if there is no owner consent on designation?
5. Creating a delisting procedure/protocol?
6. Prohibiting demolition by neglect?
7. Modifying the criteria requiring a full EOS before the HDC and allowing staff to approve in other instances?



# Amenity Space

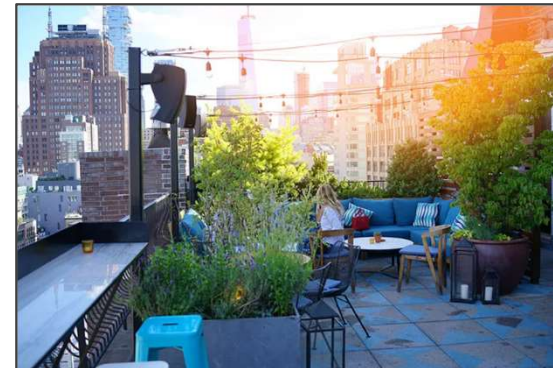
# Amenity Space

## Current

- Zoning Ordinance broadly defines “public use space” and “open space.”
- Difficult to obtain high-quality space.

## Proposed

- Narrowly define “amenity space.”
- Tailor criteria to quality.
- Continue to require most space to be publicly accessible.



## Requested Feedback



Do you support...

1. Restructuring requirements from broadly defined “public use space” to narrowly defined “amenity space” as described?

# Nonconformities

# Nonconformities



*Uses and structures that no longer conform to code requirements*

## **Current**

- Drive-throughs and gas stations allowed in the MXTD zones, counter to broader goals for the zone.
- Nonconforming uses and structures regulations are confusing and overly restrictive.

## **Proposed**

- Create strategic nonconformities in the MXTD zones.
- Reduce the process required for nonconforming structures and uses to be altered for certain purposes.
- Allow in-kind replacement of nonconformities damaged or destroyed by natural disaster.
- Allow nonconforming uses to expand by up to 20 percent.

# Requested Feedback



Do you support...

1. Creating strategic nonconformities in the MXTD zones?
2. Simplifying and reducing the regulation of nonconformities as proposed?



# Subdivision and Plats



# Subdivision and Plats

## Current

- Allows the Planning Commission to accept land dedication.
- Requires Planning Commission approval of all plats, including minor subdivisions.
- Includes cluster subdivision provisions.
- Prohibits the creation of new pipestem lots (post-2006; aka “flag lots”).

## Proposed

- Place the authority to accept land dedication with the Mayor and Council.
- Allow administrative approvals of minor subdivisions, as allowed by State law.
- Eliminate cluster subdivisions.
- Allow the creation of new pipestem lots.

# Existing Pipestem Lots in Twinbrook



# Requested Feedback



Do you support...

1. Placing the authority to accept land dedication with the Mayor and Council?
2. Allowing record plats for minor subdivisions to be approved by the Chief of Zoning (subject to delegation from the Planning Commission)?
3. Eliminating “cluster subdivision” provisions?
4. Permitting pipestem lots?

# Approval Findings

# Findings of Approval: Site Plans, Project Plans, and Preliminary Subdivision Plans



## Current

- Highly discretionary.
- Inconsistent across application types.
- Intent of findings is substantially addressed through regulations.
- Rarely determinative in Staff's recommendations.

## Proposed

- Rework and simplify findings of approval to be:
  - Objective and accessible.
  - Consistent across application types.
  - Strongly tied to the Comprehensive Plan.
  - Strongly tied to City regulations.



# Requested Feedback



Do you support...

1. Reworking and simplifying discretionary findings to be objective, accessible, consistent across application types, and strongly tied to the City's Comprehensive Plan and regulations governing life safety, natural features, and public facilities, etc.

# Neighborhood Conservation Plans

# Neighborhood Conservation Plans



## Current

- Created as a concept in 2009.
- Plans can be initiated by petition of local property owners.
- Lincoln Park Conservation Plan is the only example.

## Proposed

- Eliminate Neighborhood Conservation Plans
  - Master plans, including neighborhood plans, can still be initiated and amended through the standard master plan process.
  - Lincoln Park Neighborhood Conservation Plan and Conservation District will not be impacted.



## Requested Feedback

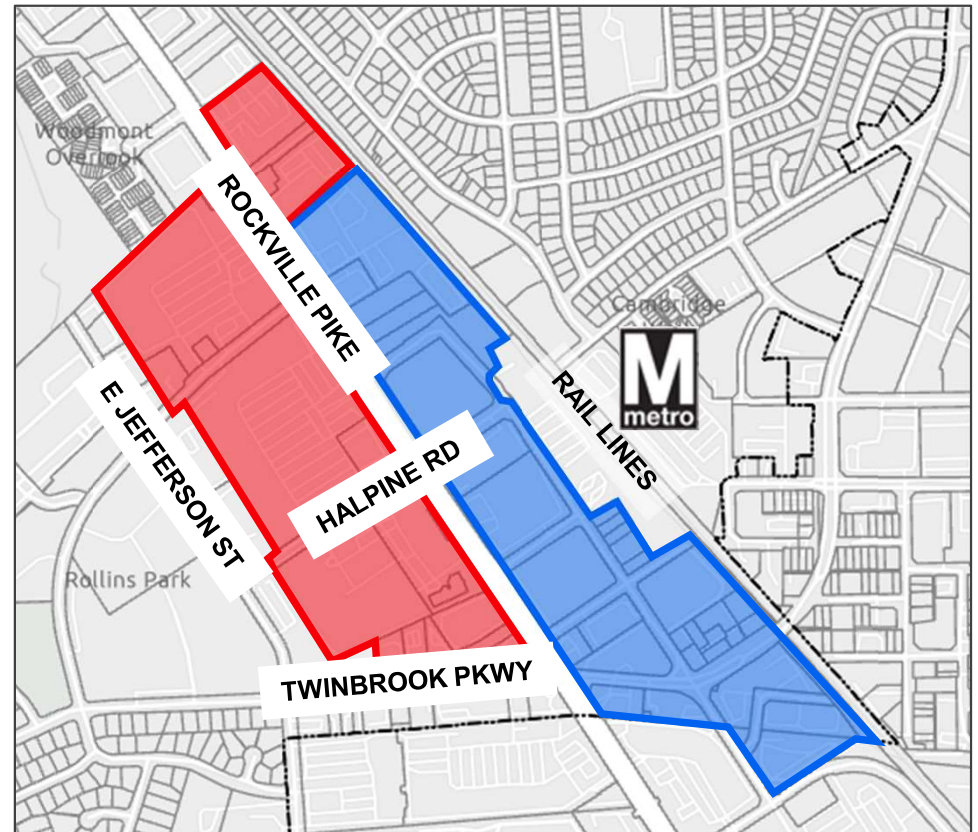
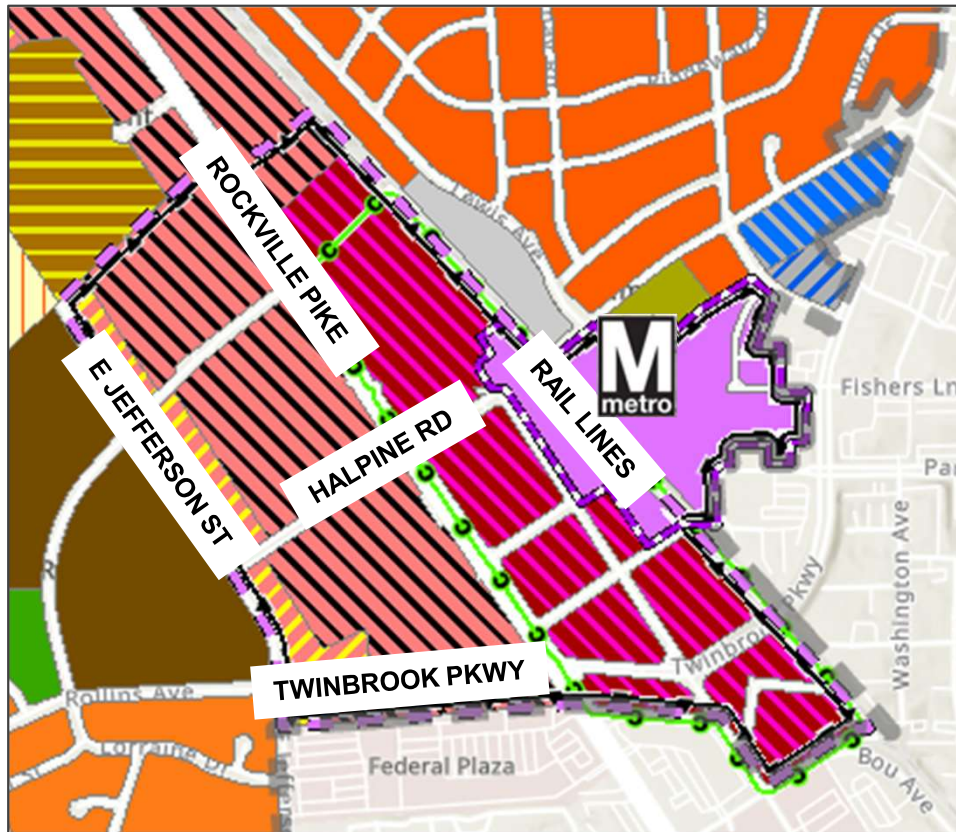
Do you support...

1. Eliminating new neighborhood conservation plans?



# **Comprehensive Map Amendment**

# Properties Proposed for MXTD-200 (red)





# Requested Feedback



Do you support...

1. Rezoning additional properties near the Twinbrook Metro to MXTD-200 to create a height transition similar to Town Center?

# Next Steps

# Project Timeline





## Next Steps

- ▶ Pre-Release Mayor and Council Work Sessions
  - Began January 2025
  - Covered major policies
  - Produced non-binding direction to staff to inform the First Draft
- ▶ Authorization to File ZTA and CMA (December 1)
  - First Draft of draft Zoning Ordinance will be released
  - “Cliffs Notes” will highlight major changes from the current Ordinance
  - Authorization begins the review and adoption process
- ▶ Adoption process
  - Full process anticipated to take 6 months
  - Formal public hearings, additional work sessions, public comment
  - Significant opportunity for revisions and amendments to the Draft
  - Adoption anticipated late Spring 2026



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Agenda Item Type: MOCK AGENDAS

Department: CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS OFFICE

Responsible Staff: SARA TAYLOR-FERRELL

## **Subject**

Mock Agenda

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## **Department**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Mayor and Council review and provide comments.

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## **Attachments**

Oct. 20, 2025 Mock Agenda



## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

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**Meeting No.**

**Monday, October 20, 2025 - 6:30 PM**

### **MOCK AGENDA**

**Agenda item times are estimates only. Items may be considered at times other than those indicated.**

#### **Ways to Participate**

If you require a reasonable accommodation, for community forum or a public hearing and need reasonable accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting at 240-314-8280 or [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by filling this form: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Manager-2/Request-a-Reasonable-Accommodation-50>

#### **Translation Assistance**

If you wish to participate in person at a Mayor and Council meeting during community forum or a public hearing and may need translation assistance in a language other than English, please contact the City Clerk's Office by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting at 240-314-8280, or [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov), or by using this form: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-Up-for-Translation-Assistance-at-Co-368>

#### **In-Person Attendance**

Community members attending in-person who wish to speak during Community Forum, or a Public Hearing, should sign up using the form at the entrance to the Mayor and Council Chamber. In-person speakers will be called upon in the order they are signed to speak and before virtual speakers.

**Note: In-Person Speakers will be called upon to speak before those who have signed up to speak virtually for Community Forum and Public Hearings.**

#### **Viewing Mayor and Council Meetings**

The Mayor and Council are conducting hybrid meetings. The virtual meetings can be viewed on Rockville 11, Comcast, Verizon cable channel 11, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

#### **Participating in Community Forum & Public Hearings:**



If you wish to submit comments in writing for Community Forum or Public Hearings:

- Please email the comments to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the date of the meeting.

If you wish to participate in-person or virtually in Community Forum or Public Hearings during the live Mayor and Council meeting:

1. Send your Name, Phone number, For Community Forum and Expected Method of Joining the Meeting (computer or phone) to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the day of the meeting. Each speaker will receive 3 minutes.
2. Send your Name, Phone number, the Public Hearing Topic and Expected Method of Joining the Meeting (computer or phone) to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10:00 am on the day of the meeting.
3. On the day of the meeting, you will receive a confirmation email with further details, and two Webex invitations: 1) Optional Webex Orientation Question and Answer Session and 2) Mayor & Council Meeting Invitation.
4. Plan to join the meeting no later than approximately 20 minutes before the actual meeting start time.
5. Read for <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38725/Public-Meetings-on-Webex> meeting tips and instructions on joining a Webex meeting (either by computer or phone).
6. If joining by computer, Conduct a WebEx test: <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html> prior to signing up to join the meeting to ensure your equipment will work as expected.

#### Participating in Mayor and Council Drop-In (Mayor Ashton and Councilmember Jackson)

The next scheduled Drop-In Session will be held by phone or in-person on Monday, October 20 from 5:15-6:15 pm with Mayor Ashton and Councilmember Jackson. Please sign up by 10 am on the meeting day using the form at: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/formcenter/city-clerk-11/sign-up-for-dropin-meetings-227>

1. **Convene - 6:30 PM**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Proclamation and Recognition - NONE**
4. **Agenda Review - 6:35 PM**
5. **City Manager's Report - 6:40 PM**
6. **Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - NONE**
7. **Community Forum - 6:50 PM**
8. **Special Presentations - NONE**
9. **Consent Agenda - NONE**
10. **Public Hearing - NONE**

**11. Action Items - 7:10 PM**

- A.** Adoption of King Farm Farmstead Master Plan
- B.** Adoption of Amendments to Green Building Regulations

**12. Worksession - 8:40 PM**

- A.** Proposed Amendment to Chapter 9 Fire Code
- B.** Rockville Housing Enterprises (RHE) Annual Report

**13. Mock Agenda - 10:00 PM**

**14. Old / New Business - 10:05 PM**

**15. Adjournment - 10:20 PM**