



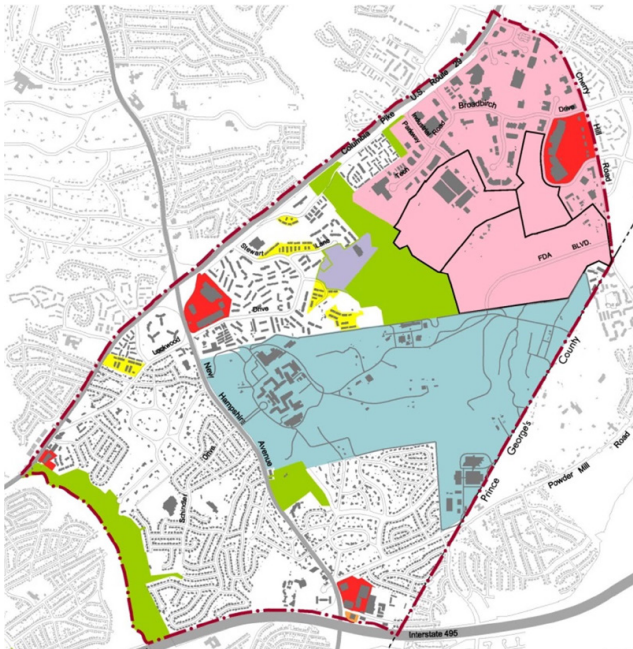
# White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan Overview

The White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan (WOSGMP) is a comprehensive development strategy that aims to create a vibrant, sustainable, and economically just community in the White Oak area of East County in Silver Spring, Maryland. The plan envisions White Oak's major centers — Hillandale, White Oak and the Life Sciences/FDA Village — evolving from conventional, auto-dependent suburban shopping centers, business parks and light industrial areas into vibrant, mixed-use, transit-served nodes.

The Master Plan was approved and adopted on July 29, 2014 by the Montgomery County Council. The Plan amends portions of the 1997 White Oak and Fairland Master Plans.

The goals of the WOSGMP were to:

- Leverage the consolidated headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the White Oak Federal Research Center (FRC) to establish life-sciences-focused communities that offer more opportunities to live-learn-work-play.
- Redevelop to transform White Oak's major centers from conventional auto-dependent suburban shopping centers, business parks and light industrial areas into vibrant, mixed-use, transit-serving nodes.
- Provide more employment opportunities in East County.
- Implement the County's vision to create a Life Sciences Center in East County.



The following is a summary of key aspects of the Master Plan.

## **Economic Inclusion and Opportunity**

The plan aims to create a diverse and inclusive economy by providing opportunities for all residents to participate in and benefit from the economic growth of the area. This is achieved through the development of mixed-use spaces that incorporate affordable and market rate housing, commercial establishments, and public amenities.

## **Housing and Community Development**

The plan incorporates strategies to address housing by promoting mixed-income housing developments, implementing inclusionary zoning policies, and providing incentives for creating affordable and market rate

housing units. This approach ensures that residents of varying income levels have access to quality housing options within the community, thereby reducing the risk of displacement and promoting socio-economic diversity. The plan prioritizes community development by investing in public infrastructure, recreational facilities, and social services that enhance the overall quality of life for residents.



## **Small Business Support and Entrepreneurship**

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The plan recognizes the importance of small businesses and entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and creating opportunities for local residents. It includes provisions for the development of mixed-use commercial spaces that accommodate small businesses, startups, and local entrepreneurs.

## **Sustainable Economic Development**

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Sustainable economic development is a fundamental component of the plan, as it seeks to create long-term prosperity while preserving the natural environment and community resources. The plan integrates principles of environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure into the design and operation of the built environment.

## **Workforce Training and Education**

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In order to ensure that residents have the skills and knowledge to participate in the local economy, the plan emphasizes workforce training and education. The plan establishes partnerships with educational institutions, vocational training programs, and workforce development agencies to provide residents with access to quality education, job training, and career advancement opportunities.

## **Equitable Access to Transportation and Mobility**

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The plan prioritizes equitable access to transportation and mobility by integrating multimodal transportation options, such as public transit, pedestrian pathways, and cycling infrastructure, to ensure that residents have convenient and affordable access to employment centers, educational institutions, and essential services. By reducing transportation barriers and improving connectivity, the plan enhances economic mobility and access to opportunities for all members of our community, regardless of their socio-economic status.

The White Oak Gateway Master Plan presents numerous advantages for renters, homeowners, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and job seekers through its comprehensive approach to economic inclusion, affordable housing, small business support, sustainable development, workforce training, and equitable transportation. By addressing the diverse needs of our community and promoting opportunities for all residents to thrive, the plan serves as a model for creating a more equitable White Oak. The Friends of White Oak supports the full implementation of this Master Plan for our community.

To read the full master plan, visit [www.friendsofwhiteoak.org](http://www.friendsofwhiteoak.org).