

From: [Adamstown Resident](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Council Members](#); [County Executive](#)
Subject: Fwd: The Illusion of Mitigation of the 1600 of current Data Center
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:08:34 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Planning Commission,

The assertion by some officials, such as Councilman Brad Young, that Adamstown **"will never notice they are there"** is demonstrably false. The reality on the ground—captured in the attached photographs—is a clear violation of the mitigation promises made to this community and a shocking indictment of the self-regulation model.

The visual promises made to shield our community from this industrial zone have been completely ignored or minimized.

1. Failure to Construct Protective Berms

The planned **protective berms** and elevated screening structures meant to hide this massive complex are nowhere to be found.

- As seen in **BigUglyNoBermHere.jpg** and **BallengerDCNOBerm.jpg**, what residents actually face are unshielded, sprawling industrial warehouses and colossal electrical infrastructure projects completely dominating the horizon.
- **NoBerm2Mess.jpg** illustrates the messy, industrial reality on the immediate boundary, with construction materials and fencing directly abutting the streetscape, proving the buffers are entirely absent or ineffective.

2. Failure of Reforestation and Visual Screening

The commitment to replace natural buffers with meaningful reforestation has been reduced to a token, insufficient gesture:

- **CatellusReforestation.jpg** is a powerful visual document showing the so-called "reforestation effort." The industrial buildings stand fully exposed behind a line of sparse, young trees—what amounts to little more than **"Charlie Brown trees"** planted against the backdrop of an enormous industrial wall. This is an insult to the commitment that was made to replace the mature natural buffers we lost.

These failures are a direct result of the industry being allowed to **"police themselves"** and systematically ignore most of the Council's own guidelines. The current reality on the ground is a loud, highly visible industrial sprawl with virtually no effective mitigation.

We cannot trust this company to mitigate the impact of 3,300 acres when they have failed so completely to mitigate the visual and environmental impact of the first 1,600 acres. The visual evidence attached is our strongest argument against approving any further expansion.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so if you do not want to take our word for it see some of these pictures.

PS-We have many more but then the email won't go through.

Ken Stephens

Adamstown MD









From: [Angela Cook](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Data Center Zone
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:34:51 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Members:

Please pump the breaks on the requested expansion of the critical digital infrastructure overlay. My reasons are numerous, and I will just name a few.

The noise and pollution created by the diesel generators should be enough in my opinion. Our scenic byway will become an industrial waste land. May sound dramatic, however, one just needs to do a shallow dive into local news from Loudoun County to see the nightmare in the backyards of homeowners who now face staggering losses in their property value.

More work is needed to look at the long-range damage to the community and its residents. No need to rush because once the land is turned to concrete it is difficult to go back. My husband and I live on East Basford Road for twenty plus years. Before retiring early to care for my disabled husband, I drove to Bethesda every day to work. I was happy once I hit Fredreick County because it was calm and allowed nature to thrive. Farms with crops, animals and children enjoying the outdoors. We don't want only the trees our children see to be on a screen.

Thank you,

Angela Cook

James and Angela Cook - 4501 East Basford Road

From: [Michael Cook](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:26:42 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

As a citizen of Frederick and Frederick county, I wanted to comment on the upcoming session to discuss the Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone.

I believe this zone should NOT be expanded until further studies are done. I am concerned in particular about agricultural preservation.

If data centers have to be built eventually, that's understandable, but I see no reason they have to be built on rural legacy or preservation planning areas. The presence of farms and Frederick County's overall current agricultural makeup is one of the reasons I and my family love living here so much. Impeding agricultural preservation for the sake of data centers would be a big mistake.

Thank you,

Michael Cook

--

301-452-1602

futurescribe@gmail.com





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From: [Darlene](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Meeting code 8768
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 9:38:06 AM
Attachments: [More on the Data Center.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Sent from my iPhone

More on the Data Center

While my personal concerns to data centers include water and power resources, property values, and impact on family farms, these issues have already been discussed at length.

Now it appears that the officials in Maryland and Frederick County are using the Data Centers as a “cash cow” for Maryland with no consideration for the roads, displaced wildlife, and residents.

Powerlines along the roads, which would have been placed underground in other areas, are instead being replaced with new and larger utility poles. Why isn't the infrastructure being constructed properly?

Traffic in the area has increased dramatically. There is an increase in volume and in huge construction vehicles. Some can't make turns adequately on the existing roads. Recently, a vehicle splintered part of a utility pole and damaged personal property on the corner of Mountville and Adamstown Roads. It appears that nothing has been done. A few blocks away on Mountville Road, I witnessed a huge truck in the traffic circle scraping the curb and cutting into the opposing lane while exiting the circle. The circle was not built to accommodate construction and industrial traffic. Shoulders are nonexistent on most of our local roads. There is no where to go when a supersized vehicle is barreling down the road taking their lane plus. It is dangerous to all. Our roads need attention!

Does anyone care about the bald eagles and other wildlife?

Local residents are being disadvantaged by the data centers while the rest of the state reaps the benefits. What can the residents around the data centers expect? Data centers are getting tax advantages and other breaks. What about us? What's in it for the residents?

The overlay appears to offer data centers easy expansion in the area. Require them to show what kind of neighbors they will be. Give the officials who desire to implement the overlay an opportunity to determine how to best serve their disadvantaged constituents.

Darlene DeFrehn

Adamstown

From: [Derek Tietze](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Wednesday, October 15, 2025 Meeting Agenda Item 7. CDI OVERLAY ZONE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT & ZONING MAP AMENDMENT
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:33:08 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Public Comment Regarding Wednesday, October 15, 2025 Meeting Agenda Item 7. CDI OVERLAY ZONE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT & ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to express concerns about the planned footprint of the CDI zone.

The CDI zone is too close to residential areas. 500 feet is insignificant when considered against the monolithic structures that are data centers. The visual, noise, light, heat, and environmental pollution from the data center's operation, to say nothing of its construction, are not sufficiently mitigated by this distance.

Their proximity to residents of the area aside, these same issues destroy the beauty and vital agriculture that are such a critical part of Frederick county. Farmlands are a resource that we need to preserve, and our local agriculture is essential to what our community is. The opportunity to live in such a beautiful place is what brought me and I'm sure many others to live here.

The inclusion and proposed re-zoning of priority preservation and rural legacy areas into the CDI zone indicates problematic priorities in the direction Frederick county is heading. The destruction of the natural and agricultural beauty and identity of the county being replaced by the soulless gray walls of data centers is so against the identity of the Frederick that I have come to love that it hurts to see proposed.

The offsetting of land used for data centers is heartening, but insufficient since a greater amount was at one point recommended. It seems like a minimal, token effort compared to what was recommended, but never brought as a proposal.

The nearby communities rely on groundwater to live, and between water use, water runoff, and construction, data centers have had a poor history of preserving this for people nearby. The current proposal does not prevent data centers from absorbing more than their share of water from the local area.

Electricity is, of course, another concern. It is well-observed that data centers' arrival is expected to be accompanied by a spike in electricity prices for residents.

Of course, not every data center is the same, but surely the preponderance of issues arising around the country with data centers we should be considering carefully how to best protect all our residents from the same fate as has been seen elsewhere.

The benefits of data centers for the people living in our community are minimal. Beyond their initial construction, data centers offer little in terms of jobs for the community in comparison to the enormous amount of land and resources they use.

The expansion of the CDI zone beyond the already accepted campus is unnecessary, and should be postponed. If data centers truly are a boon to our community, we will be supporting the expansion in the future. If they are safe and good neighbors, our neighborhoods will welcome

them. Right now, they are unproven and not properly analyzed for their effects.

Sincerely,
Derek Tietze
Frederick, MD

From: [Carl gallegos](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Comprehensive Rezoning Hearing
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:54:14 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

**Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone
Comprehensive Plan Amendment &
Comprehensive Rezoning**

**Planning Commission Public Hearing
October 15, 2025**

My name is Carl Gallegos, 32000 Baker Circle, Adamstown MD, and I am a resident of Buckingham's Choice Senior Living Community.

The 300 residents of BC are retired professionals, well educated, and well informed. We made an educated choice to live in a more rural, scenic area, as this is our "forever home".

The overlay zone makes the data centers location too close to our homes, schools, houses of worship, and other sensitive locations like BC. Proximity to these centers exacerbates the already known impacts of noise at decibel levels that may be detrimental to people and animals, greenhouse gases and risks surrounding potential diesel fuel leakage from storage tanks used for backup generators, and the agricultural land designated for preservation. It increases the number of years building will continue.

We are alarmed at the known demands these data centers will place on our electric bills, the increased demand for scarce water resources, the contamination and pollution of potable water, plus the increase in climate pollution.

With all these concerns you must also take into consideration the human factor. The Frederick Council members and State Senators, as well as the Maryland Department of Environment that attended the meetings in Adamstown and St. Joseph's Church last month heard the frustration, fear, and anger in the voices of those who spoke. They told you of the wells already being contaminated; how although the decibel levels may be within code, the constant noise at that level will be detrimental to residents and particularly children playing outside and on the school playground; and how noise is very debilitating for children on the spectrum. They told you about the speeding trucks, and the devaluation of their homes. How with each rainstorm, contaminated water is being washed into Tuscarora Creek, then into the Monocacy River, and eventually into the Potomac River; and how this affects several communities in Maryland, northern Virginia, as well as Washington D.C. that draw potable water from the Potomac River. These are real factors that diminish residents' lives every single day.

I know the Governor wants the data centers, but he doesn't live here; he is only thinking of the revenue this will bring to the State's coffers. So it's up to the Planning Commission to do the right thing. How about proceeding with the decision to reduce the size of the overlay zone, and attempt to fix some of the real problems caused by the building taking place at the EastAlcoa site that are affecting your Adamstown constituents. Get the studies done that need to be done, get both the county and the state to effectively monitor and regulate environmental violations from the current construction. In other words, take your time, try to mitigate the problems you know exist and plan for possible future concerns by reviewing those found in northern Virginia and elsewhere. Do the right thing.

From: [Lisa Gaver](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Critical Digital Infrastructure Zoning Overlay Map
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:09:06 PM
Attachments: [Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Letter 10-14-25.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As lifelong residents and lifelong farmers of Frederick County we are writing to ask the Planning Commission to limit the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone to the current existing Comprehensive Plan Growth Area only and not expand.

We are unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday in person due to the commitments at our Agritourism farm. Our family, our farming operation, Gaver Farm, LLC and our land will be severely impacted by the proposed MPRP transmission line. I am told the land grab has the greatest impact in size and scope on OUR farm. It will be devastating to us financially as well as to the next generation here on our farm. Expanding or adding any land for data center growth will only require more power transmission lines. Any additions without a plan for the infrastructure would be irresponsible. That could even expand the size and scope of the proposed MPRP from 500kv to 750kv. There are so many other concerns -environmental, water resources, fire service (there campus should self support a fire station), health etc. that others can speak to.

As a member of the FC Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board, I am also opposed to removing any ag zoned parcels from Rural Legacy and Priority Preservation areas. Our Board sent a letter detailing the impacts to the County Executive and the County Council Members and I have attached it here as I believe it is important for your Board to review it as well.

Rezoning any additional land would have a detrimental effect on Frederick County agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Lisa and Mike Gaver and family
Gaver Farm, LLC
12020 Old National Pike
New Market, MD 21774
301-305-2800

October 14, 2025

Re: Critical Digital Infrastructure Zoning Overlay Map

Dear County Executive Fitzwater and County Council Members,

The Frederick County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board is providing the following advice, related to the current proposed scope of the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone map, in accordance with our authority under Maryland Agriculture Article §2-504.1(d)(4) and Resolution 78-13 of Frederick County Government. The Board is further authorized under Maryland State Finance and Procurement Article §5-408(b) to approve the County's application for certification of its agricultural land preservation programs. Additionally, it should be noted that any change in the boundaries of the State certified Priority Preservation Area (PPA) will require *recertification* of the County's agricultural land preservation programs. Such actions could result in revocation of FCG's certification by the Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. *See Maryland State Finance and Procurement Article §5-408(i)(3).*

The Board does not support any change in land use classification from Agricultural to Limited or General Industrial. Rather we recommend that the CDI Overlay Zone be limited to the current Limited Industrial and General Industrial zoned land and the Windridge Properties parcel, which is already inside of the Comprehensive Plan Growth Area. Any other reclassification of agricultural land in this area will jeopardize land that has already been identified by the County as a high priority for preservation and possibly result in de-certification of the County's entire agricultural land preservation program.

Immediately outside the existing Comprehensive Plan Growth Area lies the Carrollton Manor Rural Legacy Area and Priority Preservation Area. The Rural Legacy Program's goal is to protect and preserve large, contiguous tracts of rich agricultural and forested land from sprawling development. Expansion of the existing industrial-zoned land onto these large parcels of farmland will fragment the Rural Legacy Area which has been working to protect the land, natural resources, history, and viewshed of the Adamstown area since 2003. With the exception of the Windridge Properties parcel, which is already inside of the Comprehensive Plan Growth Area, the Board does not support any reclassification of agricultural land to industrial inside the Rural Legacy Area.

Similarly, Priority Preservation Areas were selected to target land preservation efforts and build a critical mass of protected lands on the highest priority landscapes. The parcels outside of the current Community Growth Area contain some of the highest quality farm soils in the County. 642-acres of prime farm soils could be rezoned from agriculture if the current proposed CDI Overlay Map is approved.

In summary, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board recommends that the County vote to limit the Critical Digital Infrastructure Overlay Zone to the existing Comprehensive Plan Growth Area. Limiting the Overlay Zone to this area will ensure that our priority farmland remains available for agriculture and that Frederick County maintains its eligibility for additional revenues from State agricultural transfer taxes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sandra Tucker, Chair

Cc: Chief Administrative Officer John Peterson
Katie Stevens, Director, Office of Agriculture
Shannon O'Neil, Agricultural Preservation Program Administrator, Office of Agriculture
Deborah Carpenter, Director, Division of Planning and Permitting
Kimberly Gaines, Livable Frederick Director, Division of Planning and Permitting
Michelle Cable, Executive Director, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
Deborah Herr Cornwell, Manager, Natural Resources and Working Lands Unit, Maryland Department of Planning

From: [Laurel Beavan](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on Proposal to Expand Data Center Overlay
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:07:32 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good evening,

I plan to speak at tomorrow's Planning Commission Meeting, but in case I'm not able to, I wanted to send my comments in writing as well.

The data center overlay map is clearly a product of a lot of thought, time, research, and deliberation. I do not doubt the Planning Commission and the County Council are going to do what they think is best for Frederick County and its residents. However, expansion of the overlay map shouldn't even be a topic of conversation right now, and I am here to advocate against the expansion of the data center overlay zone at this present time. I say at this present time because as of yet, there has been no cost-benefit analysis conducted, which is severely needed given what we've been seeing in Adamstown.

There has been countless testimony in numerous meetings regarding the data center construction, and Adamstown residents have already been experiencing adverse effects - which it seems are up to no one to try to resolve. These issues include: excess mud and dirt on local roads, increased traffic and unsafe vehicle speeds from workers at the sites, noise pollution, and potential exposure to harmful chemicals - I know some residents have mentioned contaminated well water and potentially harmful giant dust clouds.

Neither the County nor the State have seemingly done much of anything to address these concerns. I get concerned when our government can't give us real answers. For example, at a recent County Council meeting, one of the council members reported visiting the site and noted there are "a lot of problems down there that I don't think we have our arms around right now." Senator Karen Lewis-Young said she strongly advocated for a cost-benefit analysis but the Governor vetoed it - but she'll keep fighting for it because she sees it as being necessary. Pat Murray, the Chief of Staff for the County Executive stated he didn't know if there has been a study done on the impact of data centers on human health but wouldn't be surprised if there was. This lack of responsibility and lack of answers is unacceptable and is just going to get worse over time if we continue to let this thing grow.

Additionally, it seems like the current harm mitigation plan (if you can even call it that) is to rely on the residents to bring up any adverse effects of the data center construction, and yet, when they have brought up concerns, they've been shut down because there is no system in place to mitigate potential harmful effects of the data center construction.

For these reasons, I believe that Frederick County desperately needs a cost-benefit analysis completed prior to expanding the overlay any further.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Laurel Beavan
Frederick County Resident

From: [Alex Lima, MDE](#)
To: [Quantum](#)
Cc: [Alex Lima, MDE](#) / [Dana Wilson](#) / [Steve Black](#) / [Carol Monahan](#) / [Planning Commission](#) / [County Executive](#) / [Baltimore](#) / [Baltimore County/Associates](#)
Subject: Re: QED - "Quantum" Site
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2020 11:36:38 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good morning, Mrs. Green,

Thank you for contacting the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding your dust concerns.

I have forwarded your message to the Land and Materials Administration, and they are currently investigating the issue further.

I will follow up with you as soon as I receive an update.

Regards,
Alex



Alex Lima
Civic, Community, and Public Engagement Coordinator
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
alex.lima@maryland.gov
443-890-0926 (M)
443-926-0966 (O)
[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

On Tue, Oct 14, 2025 at 10:38 AM Hope Green <hope.green76@yahoo.com> wrote:

Attached is copy of letter from MDE to Catellus regarding issues with construction dust at Quantum. Alyse Wilson has photos. Dust issues only got worse after the letter went out, like they totally ignored it. Got so angry that I sent an email to Ann Mckenty/MDE 9/17 saying how horrific the dust had become. Messaged the Governor as well.

Silica, asbestos, and heavy metals

Dangers of Construction Dust from Superfund Sites

The dangers of construction dust from Superfund sites are significant, as it can lead to serious health risks for both workers and the surrounding community. The dust can contain harmful substances such as silica, asbestos, and heavy metals, which can cause respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and other long-term health issues. Proper safety measures and protective equipment are essential to minimize exposure and protect health.

Hope Green
5252 Mountville Rd
Adamstown, MD 21710
301-943-1915

From: [David Meeske](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Data center feedback
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:30:52 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Commissioners,

I would like the Planning Commission to recommend limiting the CDI Overlay Zone to the existing Quantum Frederick campus until an independent, comprehensive study can assess the true economic, energy, and environmental impacts of further data center development. I truly have mixed feelings about data centers and believe I can see both positives and negatives. I think that the revenue they can bring in via taxes is good, but only if well balanced with true economic, energy, and environmental impacts well understood.

I don't want my power bill or my neighbor's power bills to soar exponentially due to these incoming data centers. I am concerned that much of the existing green buffer that currently separates the Ballenger Creek Community Growth area from the East alco site could conflict with the County's goals for its Green Infrastructure plan as well.

Thank you for your consideration.
David Meeske

From: [Lisa Orr](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: edeckerorr@comcast.net
Subject: Limit CDI Overlay Site to Quantum Frederick campus
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:08:54 PM
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Planning Commission Members,

We support the establishment of an CDI Overlay Zone that is centered on the Quantum Frederick site; however, I have serious concerns about any expansion of data center development beyond the Quantum Frederick campus until a comprehensive study of the economic, energy, and environmental impacts of data centers is completed for that limited site. There are important unanswered questions about the future availability of adequate electricity and water for cooling needs and the impact of data centers on the County's ability to meet its climate goals and renewable energy targets.

We urge you to cap the size of the current Overlay Zone at .5 percent of the County's land acreage (roughly the size of the existing Quantum Frederick campus).

We are also concerned about the fact that several of the tracts proposed for inclusion in the Overlay Zone are zoned agricultural and located in Priority Preservation or Rural Legacy Areas. Allowing rezoning of these tracts for future data center development undermines the goals of the County's agricultural land preservation programs. While the bill text states that the County Council intends to preserve 5 new tracts of agricultural land for each agricultural tract that is upzoned for data center development through community benefit agreements between the County and developers, this is not enforceable as a condition of rezoning.

We also support an amendment to the residential setback requirement that would increase the current 200-foot setback from residential properties to a minimum of 500 feet, with discretion vested in the Planning Commission to increase the setback further as necessary to address noise, vibration, viewshed or other community impacts.

Frederick County is at an important crossroads for data center development. Our approach should be cautious and we should assess the impacts of data centers on just the Quantum site before approving any additional lands for data center development.

Elizabeth Orr & Charles Cottingham
305 E. Main Street
Burkittsville, MD 21718
Edeckerorr@comcast.net
240.529.3177

From: [Cecilia Plante](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Critical Digital Infrastructure (CDI) Overlay Zone map
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:49:23 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

As a resident of Frederick, I object to the implementation of any plan that furthers the construction of datacenters in this area until a thorough evaluation is made of the potential harm. It is already abundantly clear that datacenters pose a problem with electricity consumption, water consumption and noise. We don't know about any other harms at this point, but that doesn't mean they don't exist. The current plans for datacenters already put them too close to residential areas, which is irresponsible. This whole process seems to put the cart before the horse. I understand the desire to jump on any additional revenue sources, but it is wildly impractical and irresponsible to make decisions with too little facts.

Please back this train up and do the due diligence required. It can't be easily undone.

Thanks!

Cecilia Plante
1021 Holden Road
Frederick, MD 21701

From: [Nick Ring](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Limit the CDI Overlay Zone
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 12:57:30 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I am a concerned citizen urging the commission to limit the CDI Overlay Zone to the existing Quantum Frederick campus until an independent, comprehensive study can assess the true economic, energy, and environmental impacts of further data center development.

The terrible impacts of data centers continue to come to light. They cause wide ranging negative health effects for humans, disturbances to wildlife, and increased utilities and taxes. Stop forcing more tech on people who don't want it. It only benefits tech companies and rich folks who don't live in Frederick. The internet works just fine here. [I don't want my kids growing up with PFA exhaust in the air thanks to data centers.](#)

Really, Frederick needs to halt all new development in favor of redeveloping existing community areas. Does the planning commission drive around the city and county? Traffic sucks, farmland and forest land is disappearing, all prices are going up, and the unique appearance and community of Frederick is hanging on by a thread.



Nick Ring

Nick@FrederickSEO.com

Custom web design for local businesses with mobile-friendly, SEO-ready websites. Boosting search results through copywriting, social media, graphic design, and more.



From: [Sharon Garland](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Data center
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 8:39:04 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Frederick County Planning Commission
30 N. Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701

RE: Opposition to the Expansion of the Data Center in Frederick County

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the data center within Frederick County, Maryland. While I understand the need for technological infrastructure in our increasingly digital world, the environmental, economic, and community-related consequences of this project outweigh its proposed benefits.

1. Environmental Concerns

Data centers are extremely energy- and water-intensive. Given the growing concerns about climate change and the local push toward sustainable development, expanding such facilities runs counter to the county's stated environmental goals. Data centers often require vast amounts of electricity, potentially drawing from non-renewable sources and stressing local grids. Moreover, these facilities sometimes use millions of gallons of water for cooling, which can strain our local water resources, especially during dry seasons.

2. Noise and Light Pollution

Large data centers operate 24/7 and often generate significant noise from cooling systems and backup generators. The constant humming and operational sounds can negatively impact nearby residents' quality of life. Additionally, light pollution from facility operations can disturb both human and animal habitats, further disrupting the natural environment and rural character of Frederick County.

3. Minimal Local Economic Benefit

While proponents argue that data centers bring jobs and investment, the reality is that these facilities are typically automated and require relatively few long-term employees. The jobs they do create are often specialized and may not benefit local residents. Compared to the amount of land and resources they consume, the return on community investment is minimal.

4. Land Use and Community Impact

Frederick County has long been appreciated for its rural charm, natural beauty, and small-town character. Expanding industrial infrastructure like data centers could set a precedent that encourages more large-scale, high-impact developments. This may lead to further suburban sprawl, loss of agricultural land, and erosion of the county's identity and appeal.

5. Precedent for Unchecked Growth

Approving this expansion may open the floodgates for future development that is incompatible with the county's long-term vision. Our community must consider not just short-term gains but the long-term consequences of allowing large-scale industrial facilities in or near residential and rural areas.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Frederick County Planning Commission to reject the proposed expansion of the data center and to prioritize projects that align more closely with the county's values of sustainability, responsible growth, and community well-being.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Garlena
Frederick, MD 21703
sharong0722@gmail.com

From: [R. Snyder](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Limit the CDI Overlay Zone
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:04:42 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I want to express my concern about the expansion of the CDI Overlay Zone without adequate assessment of the real impacts on our community. I believe we should limit the zone to the Quantum campus for now.

Ruth Snyder

From: [Meredith Stafford](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Rezoning proposal
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 5:11:05 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good morning,

As a Frederick county resident, I oppose the rezoning of agricultural land marked for preservation for the purpose of building data centers. This move would be premature given studies on the impact on water table and greenhouse gas emissions have not been performed. There is no pressing need here- I urge the commission to leave time for additional public comment and impact studies prior to rezoning lands which have been legally preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

Meredith Stafford

Ballenger Creek 21703

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

From: [susani](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: CDI Overlay Zone
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:37:58 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am writing to ask the Commission to limit the overlay zone to the existing Quantum site. We need more data on the numerous effects further development will bring. I could write five paragraphs but I will keep my message brief. As an environmentalist for 30 years, count me as another concerned County citizen against the proposed overlay map.

Thank you,
Susan Jiacinto
Frederick

From: [Theresa](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Council Members](#); [County Executive](#)
Subject: Planning Meeting 10/15
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 8:12:30 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

To Planning Commissioner Members:

Today, you will receive emails and hear comments with respect to your decision on the Adamstown's Data Center Overlay. I could go into great detail about why approving this is unfair to those of us living in Adamstown and, for Frederick County in-general; however, I will not repeat that of what you will hear and read today. Rather, I would like to add that the street that I live on has, and will continue to have, increased road traffic of heavy construction vehicles [as long as the data center construction continues the traffic will as well and there is no way to enforce the limited laws with respect to any of this]. There are children that live on this road and this poses a threat to them; the noise levels of "jake brakes" and tires is deafening; and the wear and tear on the road is a cost to the county.

I fully support the Planning Commission voting NO to this overlay. To do otherwise, is to support the greed of some at the expense of others. Please do the right thing for our county and don't open the door for us to become Loudoun County.

Respectfully,

Theresa A. Rutter
Adamstown, MD

From: [Elyse Wilson](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Cc: [Council Members](#); [County Executive](#); [Linda Everett](#); [FRANK HOLLEWA](#); [Paula damico-Hollewa](#); [rollbackfarmer@comcast.net](#); [Steve Black](#); [STEVE MCKAY](#); [Donald, Jerry](#)
Subject: Fwd: The Illusion of Mitigation of the 1600 of current Data Center
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:11:58 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Planning Commission,

The assertion by some officials, such as Councilman Brad Young, that Adamstown **"will never notice they are there"** is demonstrably false. The reality on the ground—captured in the attached photographs—is a clear violation of the mitigation promises made to this community and a shocking indictment of the self-regulation model.

The visual promises made to shield our community from this industrial zone have been completely ignored or minimized.

1. Failure to Construct Protective Berms

The planned **protective berms** and elevated screening structures meant to hide this massive complex are nowhere to be found.

- As seen in **BigUglyNoBermHere.jpg** and **BallengerDCNOBerm.jpg**, what residents actually face are unshielded, sprawling industrial warehouses and colossal electrical infrastructure projects completely dominating the horizon.
- **NoBerm2Mess.jpg** illustrates the messy, industrial reality on the immediate boundary, with construction materials and fencing directly abutting the streetscape, proving the buffers are entirely absent or ineffective.

2. Failure of Reforestation and Visual Screening

The commitment to replace natural buffers with meaningful reforestation has been reduced to a token, insufficient gesture:

- **CatellusReforestation.jpg** is a powerful visual document showing the so-called "reforestation effort." The industrial buildings stand fully exposed behind a line of sparse, young trees—what amounts to little more than **"Charlie Brown trees"** planted against the backdrop of an enormous industrial wall. This is an insult to the commitment that was made to replace the mature natural buffers we lost.

These failures are a direct result of the industry being allowed to **"police themselves"** and systematically ignore most of the Council's own guidelines. The current reality on the ground is a loud, highly visible industrial sprawl with virtually no effective mitigation.

We cannot trust this company to mitigate the impact of 3,300 acres when they have failed so completely to mitigate the visual and environmental impact of the first 1,600 acres. The visual evidence attached is our strongest argument against

approving any further expansion.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so if you do not want to take our word for it see some of these pictures.

PS-We have many more but then the email won't go through.

Elyse Wilson

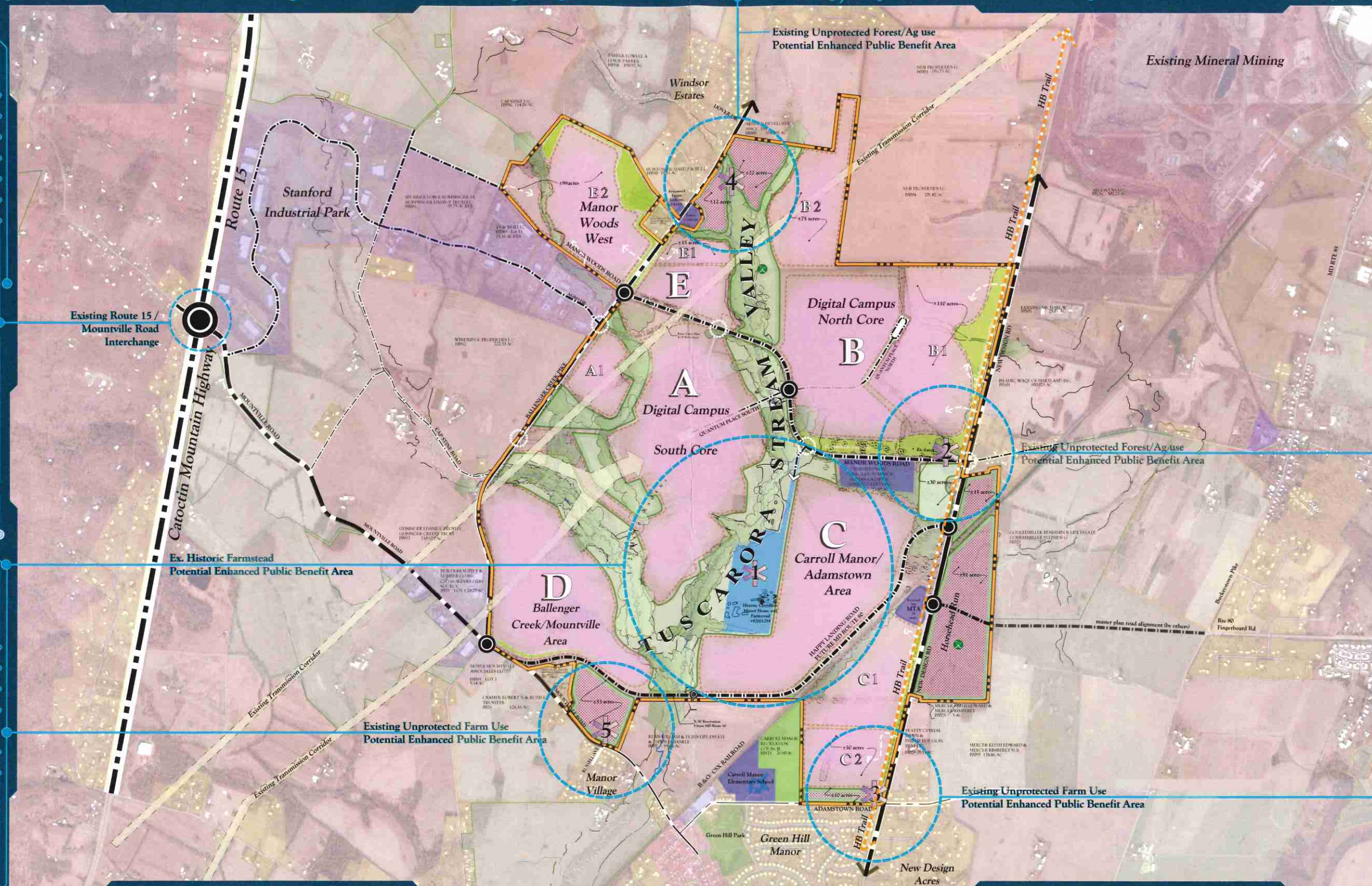
Adamstown MD











Legend



Public Benefit Node (TBD)



Generalized Compatibility Treatment Area



Proposed Lands to be Protected and/or Public Benefit Use



Livable Frederick Connected Initiatives

Total Campus Acreage

-Area In Developable Opportunity

- Area in Environmental Protection/Regulatory Constrained

- Area in Public Benefit Opportunity

- Area in Historic Farmstead

- Area in Compatibility Buffer/ROW

$\pm 2,122$

 $\pm 1,252$ ± 425 ± 120 ± 60

±265



CATELLUS

GRAPHIC SCALE

0 20 40 60 80 100

draft

RODGERS
CONSULTING

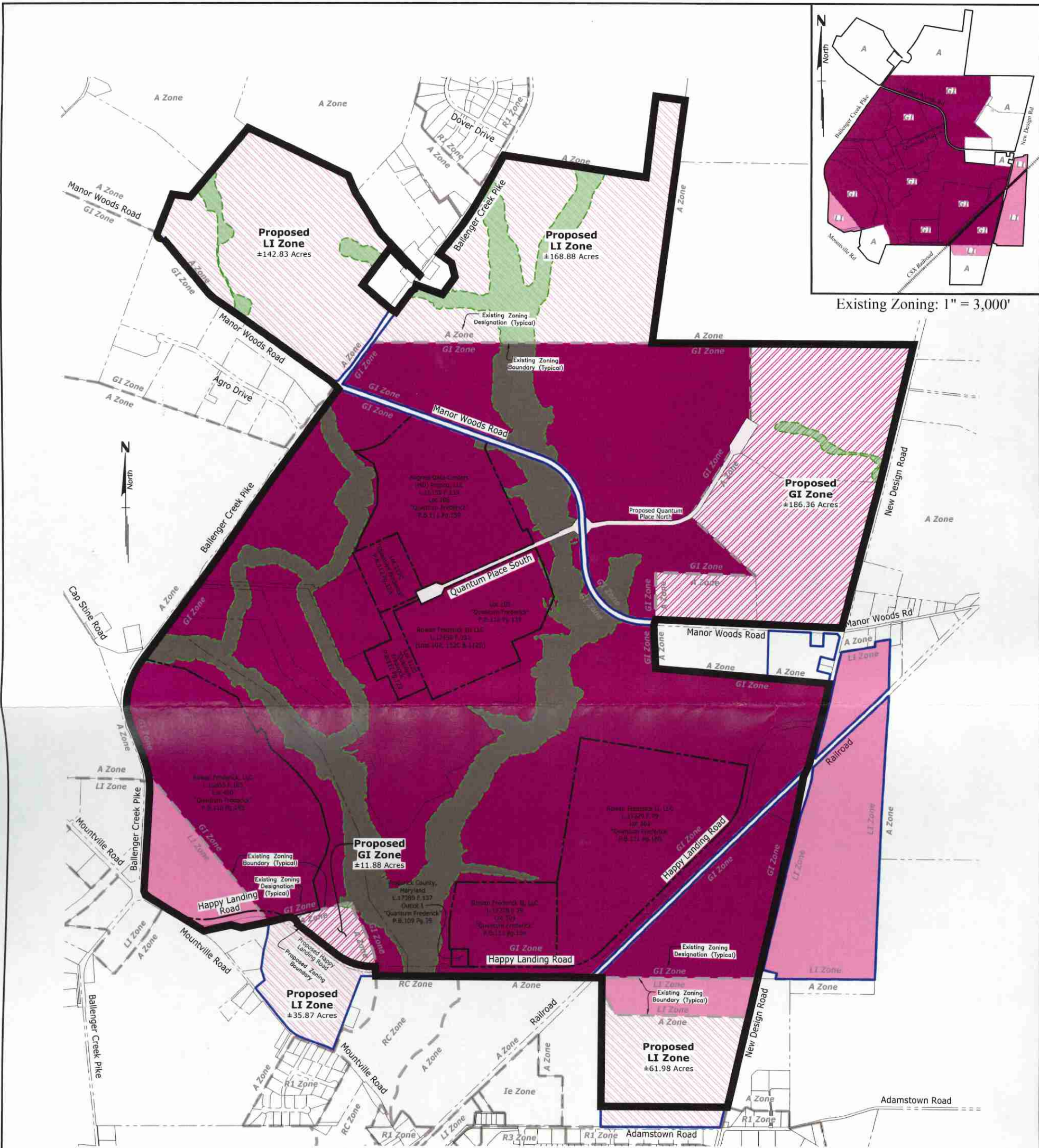
19817 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Germantown, Maryland 20876
Ph: 301.948.4700 www.rdcnsl.com

This plan is a preliminary conceptual Draft and subject to change.

Eastalco Data Center

A Livable Frederick **Connected** Environ-

Campus Master Plan



Existing Zoning Tabulation (in Acres)				
Owner	GI Zone	LI Zone	A Zone	Gross Tract
Quantum Maryland	916.15	134.83	619.76	1670.74
Aligned Data Centers	74.89	0	0	74.89
Rowan Frederick	342.09	33.21	0	375.3
Frederick County	1.22	0	0	1.22
TOTAL	1334.35	168.04	619.76	2122.15

Proposed Zoning Tabulation (in Acres)				
Owner	*GI Zone	*LI Zone	A Zone	Gross Tract
Quantum Maryland	1114.39	544.39	11.96	1670.74
Aligned Data Centers	74.89	0	0	74.89
Rowan Frederick	342.09	33.21	0	375.3
Frederick County	1.22	0	0	1.22
TOTAL	1532.59	577.6	11.96	2122.15

*Area of GI & LI Zones in Waterbody Buffer = 294.2 Acres

Hatch Legend

A Zone

GI Zone

LI Zone

Waterbody Buffer

REQUESTED CDI OVERLAY AREA

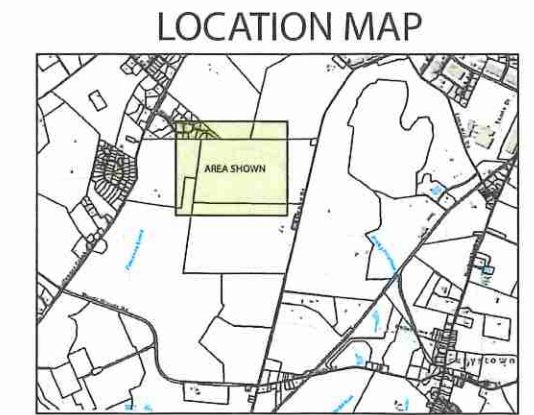
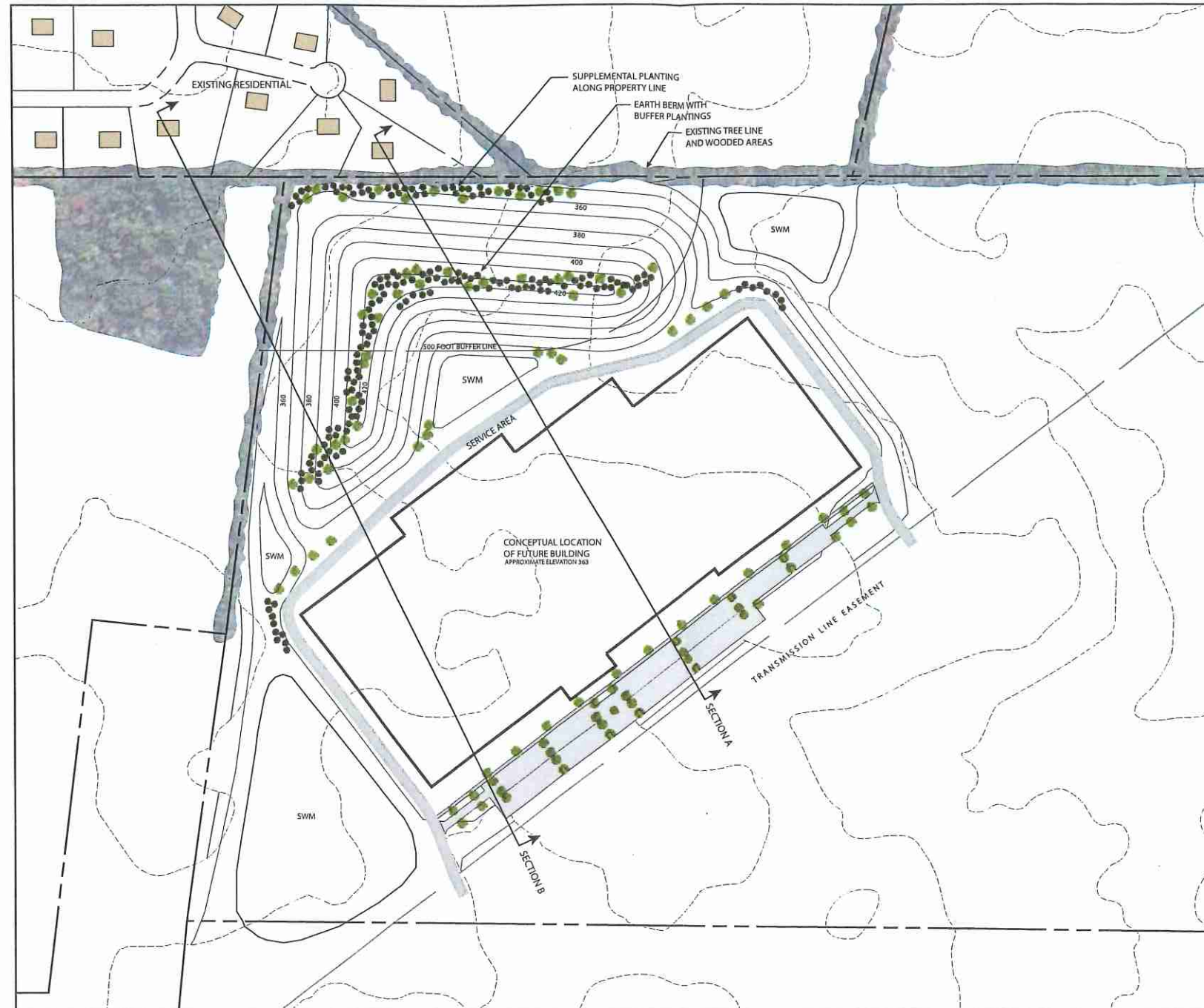
+/- 1,970 AC

Exhibit of
The Property of Quantum Maryland, LLC, et al
"Quantum Frederick"
Buckeystown (1st) & Ballenger (23rd) Election Districts
Frederick County, Maryland
Scale: 1"= 800'

Parcel 5+6

Parcel 5+6

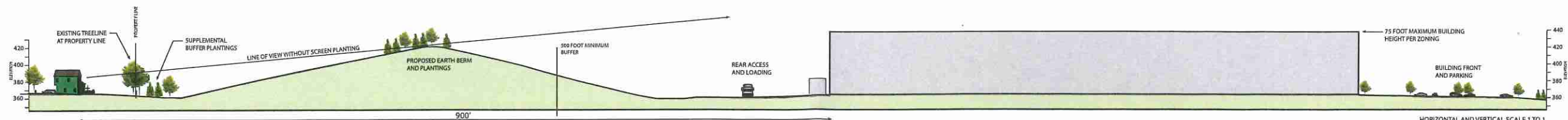
Donald Pleasants



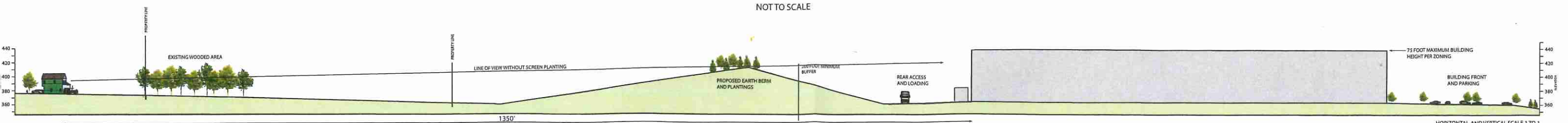
SCALE: 1" = 200'

0 100 200 400

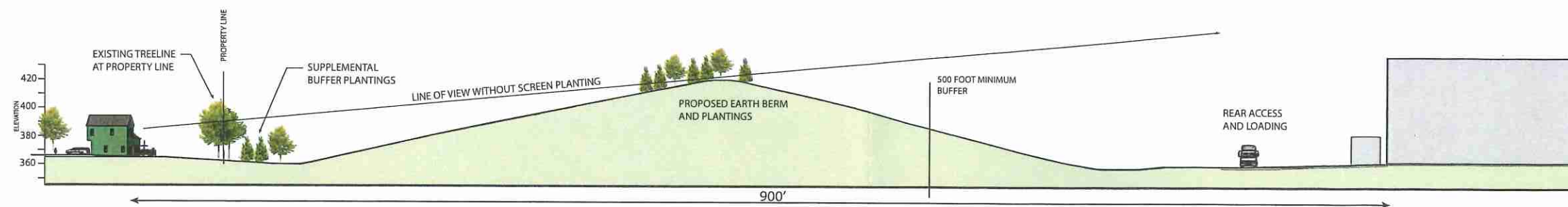
OCTOBER 2025



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION A
NOT TO SCALE

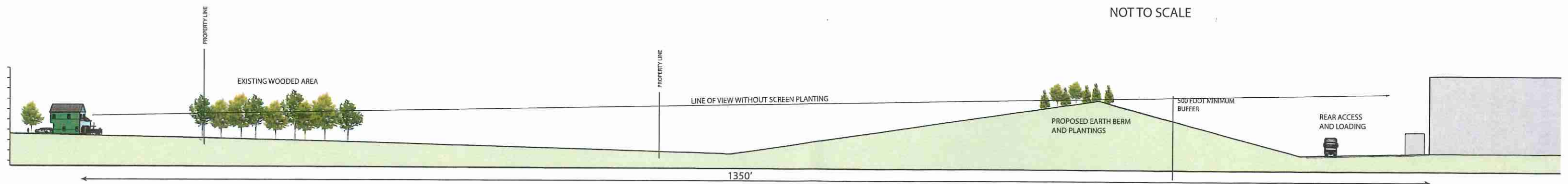


ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION B



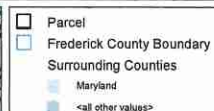
ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION A
NOT TO SCALE

NOT TO SCALE



ILLUSTRATIVE SECTION B
NOT TO SCALE

RESIDENTIAL LINE OF SIGHT



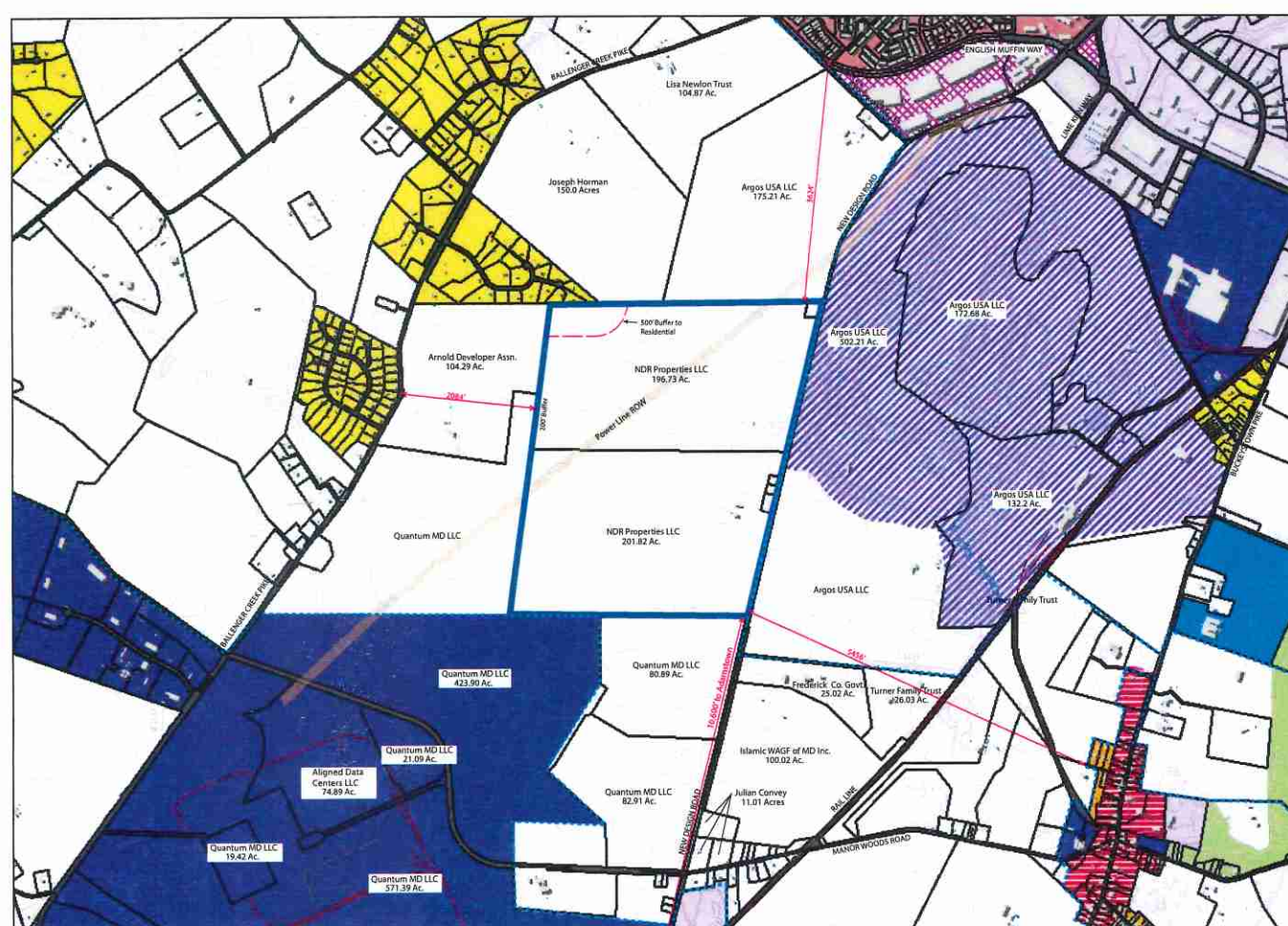
1: 19,200

5/15/2025

NAD_1983_StatePlane_Maryland_FIPS_1900_Feet



While efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, Frederick County accepts no liability or responsibility for errors, omissions, or positional inaccuracies in the content of this map. Reliance on this map is at the risk of the user. This map is for illustration purposes only and should not be used for surveying, engineering, or site-specific analysis.



NEW DESIGN ROAD PROPERTY EXHIBIT

