

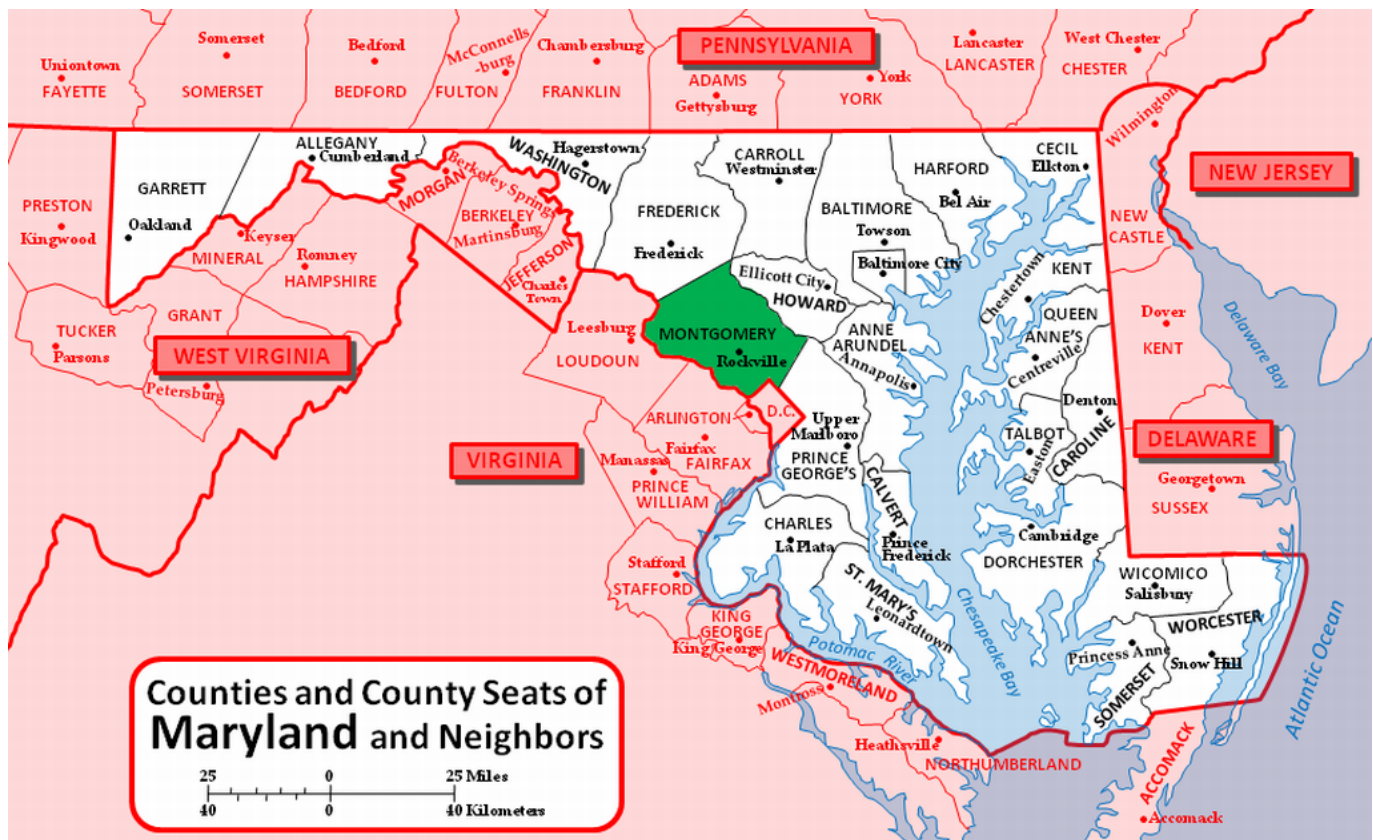
# Montgomery County, Maryland



**Montgomery County** is the most populous county in the State of Maryland, located adjacent to Washington, D.C. As of the 2020 census, the county's population was 1,062,061, increasing by 9.3% from 2010.<sup>[6]</sup> The county seat and largest municipality is Rockville, although the census-designated place of Germantown is the most populous place within the county.<sup>[7]</sup> Montgomery County is included in the Washington–Arlington–Alexandria, DC–VA–MD–WV metropolitan statistical area, which in turn forms part of the Baltimore–Washington combined statistical area. Most of the county's residents live in unincorporated locales, of which the most urban are Silver Spring and Bethesda, although the incorporated cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg are also large population centers, as are many smaller but significant places.<sup>[N 1]</sup>

As one of the most affluent counties in the United States,<sup>[8]</sup> Montgomery County also has the highest percentage (29.2%) of residents over 25 years of age who hold post-graduate degrees.<sup>[9]</sup> The county has been ranked as one of the wealthiest in the United States.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Like other inner-suburban Washington, D.C. counties, Montgomery County contains many major U.S. government offices, scientific research and learning centers, and business campuses, which provide a significant amount of revenue for the county.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery\\_County,\\_Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_County,_Maryland)



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FACTS & STATS

Formerly a part of Frederick County, Montgomery County was formed in 1776. The county was named after General Richard Montgomery, who was the first general to give his life fighting for American Independence. Here are a few interesting facts and statistics about our county.

- Montgomery County has a total area of 507 square miles.
- The county consists of 3 cities, 12 towns, 4 villages, and 33 census-designated places, and 5 unincorporated communities.
- Approximately 1 million people make their home in Montgomery.
- Montgomery is a part of the Washington Metropolitan area, which consists of Washington, DC, 7 counties in Maryland, and 5 counties in Virginia; this area has a total of 5.8 million residents.
- This is the second richest county in the state of Maryland, in terms of per-capita income.
- About 7 million tourists visit Montgomery County every year.
- There are over 156,000 school-aged children throughout the county.
- There are nearly 2 dozen lakes scattered throughout Montgomery County, which make up part of the 16 square miles of water throughout the county.
- The Potomac River is the only large river that passes through the county.
- There are nearly 40 islands located in Montgomery County, all of them within the waters of the Potomac River.
- Montgomery's county seat is Rockville, Maryland.

From: <https://visitmontgomery.com/county-info/facts-and-stats/>

**Did you know?** Montgomery County is the seventh-most common U.S. county name by count (18).

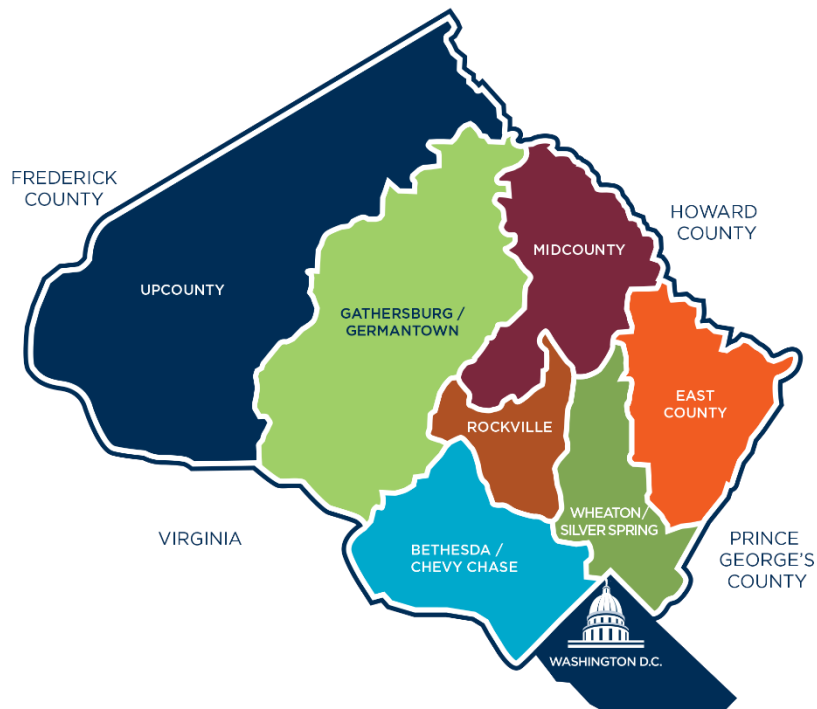
### Montgomery County Cities

**ROCKVILLE:** Settled in the 1750s and incorporated in 1801, Rockville served as an important crossroads community offering train and transportation lines. Rockville is the County seat of Montgomery County.

**BETHESDA:** Bethesda, one of the most renowned communities in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, is known as a great destination for ethnic restaurants, boutiques, home décor shops and artistic and trendy hot spots. Additionally, as home of the National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine and the National Naval Medical Center, it is one of the leading biomedical research centers.

**SILVER SPRING:** Silver Spring's family-friendly, walkable downtown atmosphere is the perfect place to stay when visiting the Washington, D.C., area. Strategically located minutes from the Nation's Capital and the Beltway, Silver Spring offers excellent restaurants and stores for every budget and a vibrant mix of arts and entertainment, like the Fillmore Silver Spring and the Silver Spring Civic Building.

From: <https://visitmontgomery.com/county-info/our-towns/>



## Agricultural Facts

Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve is an important environmental resource for future farm enterprises. A strong agricultural heritage provides a diverse business community and a strong economic base. Combining these strengths with the commitment for farmland preservation makes Montgomery County an attractive place to live and work.

Agricultural activities occupy about one-third of Montgomery County's land area. Over half of the 93,000-acre Agriculture Reserve is preserved through transfer of development rights or easement purchase initiatives.

The County's diverse agricultural industry's 540 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises produce more than \$287 million in economic contribution from agricultural products and operations. The majority of Montgomery County farms are family-run operations, many reaching back several generations, which employ more than 10,000 residents. Of the County's 540 farms, 42% are farmed as a primary occupation.



From: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/AqServices/aqfacts.html>

**2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE** *County Profile*

## Montgomery County Maryland

### Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	558	+3
Land in farms (acres)	65,537	+3
Average size of farm (acres)	117	(Z)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	
Market value of products sold	42,581,000	-12
Government payments	1,179,000	+41
Farm-related income	14,507,000	+33
Total farm production expenses	61,806,000	+5
Net cash farm income	-3,538,000	-353

### 2 Percent of state agriculture sales

#### Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	89
Livestock, poultry, and products	11

#### Land in Farms by Use (%) <sup>a</sup>

Cropland	74
Pastureland	12
Woodland	9
Other	5

Link to most recent census data:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/Maryland/cp24031.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/Maryland/cp24031.pdf)



## Horticulture



During the past 25 years, the Horticultural Sector has grown dramatically. The 350 horticultural businesses employ more than 7,000 of the people working in agriculture. With gross sales of \$154 million annually, horticulture is one of the largest sector in agriculture and includes nurseries and landscaping companies, arborists, sod farms and lawn care firms, and green house businesses.

Twenty percent of the horticultural industry in Maryland is in the County and **Montgomery County** ranks second in the State in total number of horticultural firms.

Horses have become a major component of the agricultural industry numbering almost 10,000 horses. Horses represent a tremendous opportunity for farmers in terms of the supplies, services and products needed to support the horse population, which exceeds the population of all other livestock combined.

The growing hay industry in Montgomery County is directly proportional to the growing number of horses. High quality veterinarians that provide services to horses are now available for other livestock operations in the County.



## The Rural Areas

Montgomery County is home to a surprising number of rural areas. The forward-thinking 1964 General Plan focused growth in defined corridors emanating from the population centers in and around the Capital Beltway. Between those corridors, the General Plan called for wedges of low-density residential uses, open space and protected farmland.

The rural areas encompass the 93,000 acre Agricultural Reserve along with the larger rural communities of Damascus and Poolesville; small crossroad communities such as Beallsville, Sunshine and Dickerson; and areas with mixed open land and housing.

## The Agricultural Reserve

In 1980, the Montgomery County Council made one of the most significant land-use decisions in county history by creating what we call the Agricultural Reserve. Heralded as one of the best examples of land conservation policies in the country, the Agricultural Reserve encompasses 93,000 acres – almost a third of the county's land resources – along the county's northern, western, and eastern borders.

The Agricultural Reserve and its accompanying Master Plan and zoning elements were designed to protect farmland and agriculture. Along with a sustained commitment to agriculture through the county's Office of Agriculture, the combination of tools helps retain more than 500 farms that contribute millions of dollars to Montgomery County's annual economy. This is a notable achievement in an area so close to the nation's capital, where development pressure remains perpetual and intense.

## How Can Residents Enjoy the Agricultural Reserve?

Although primarily a working agricultural landscape, the Agricultural Reserve offers county residents a plethora of activities — pick-your-own fruit farms, a winery, bike





routes and pastoral scenic vistas. Beyond that, the Reserve represents a historic landscape as well as a resource that protects our public water supply and provides access to green open spaces.

#### How does the Agricultural Reserve protect farmland?

In 1980, after determining that there was a critical need to protect productive farmland in Montgomery County, the County Council and Planning Board adopted a Master Plan accompanied by a series of land use regulations and incentives designed to minimize inappropriate development, avoid the fragmentation of farmland by subdivision, strengthen agriculture and channel growth to down-county growth areas through rezoning with a transfer of development rights program.

From: <http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/agricultural-reserve/>

## 2017 NATIONAL PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD: PLANNING LANDMARK

### Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve

Montgomery County, Maryland

#### Summary

Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve is a 93,000-acre designated land use zone that preserves farmland and rural open space in the northwestern part of the county. The Reserve has successfully kept more than one-fourth of the county as a contiguous rural area and provides economic benefits to local farmers. The Reserve's innovative land conservation policy is widely studied and emulated in many other locations throughout the U.S.

*The Agricultural Reserve was created to preserve farmland and open rural space. Photo courtesy Montgomery County, Maryland.*



#### PROCESS

Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve was conceived in 1980 to prevent urban sprawl, protect farmland, and limit development. Several measures were implemented to accomplish these goals, including reducing the rate of new residential development from one house per five acres to one house per 25 acres. The county also implemented a transferable development right (TDR) allowing landowners to recover the equity in their land without having to sell it.



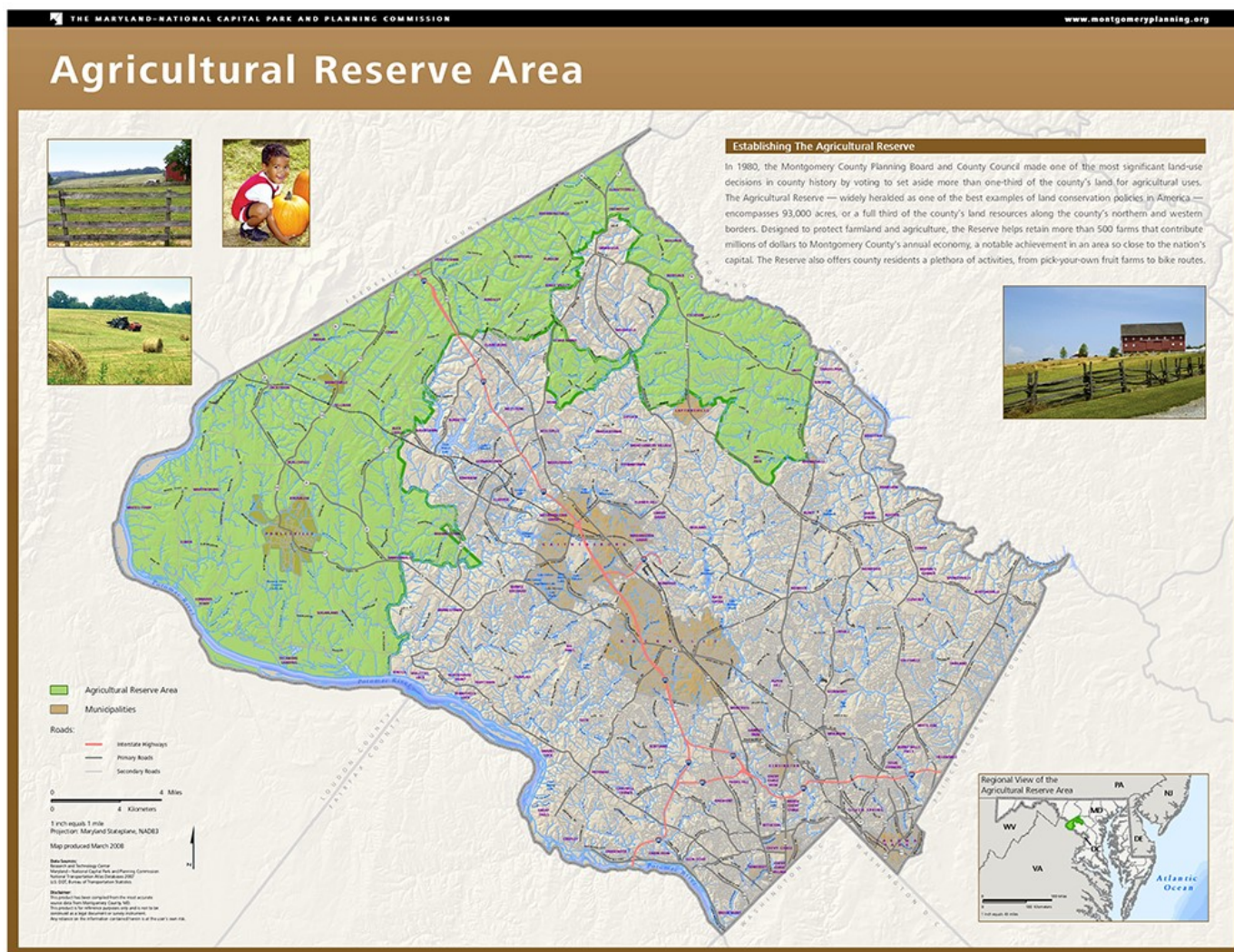
## RESULT



The policies and measures implemented through the Agricultural Reserve program helped retain 540 farms in the county and contributed millions of dollars to the local economy. Of the 93,000 acres in the Reserve, 63,493 acres are devoted to farming.

*The policies of the Agricultural Reserve have helped retain 540 farms and contributed millions of dollars to the local economy. Photo courtesy Montgomery County, Maryland.*

Counties from around the country, from California to Connecticut, have adapted the Reserve model and development transfer tools to their own locations. Many farmers in Montgomery County have participated in more restrictive protective measures through conservation easement programs administered by their county and state.



The Ag Reserve model has been so successful that many other communities in the U.S. have adapted it to their own circumstances. Photo courtesy Montgomery County, Maryland.

From: <https://www.planning.org/awards/2017/agriculturalreserve/>

# Sugarloaf Mountain

## A Storied History

Sugarloaf came by its name because its shape reminded early hunters and pioneers of the sugar loaves common in those days. A Swiss explorer, in 1707, sketched the earliest known map of the mountain. A written account, penned 5 years later, described a plain atop the mountain and the delicious chestnuts grown by the trees on its flanks.

General Braddock, commander of British troops during the French and Indian War, marched his men past the mountain in 1755. Northern and Southern forces alternated in posting lookouts at its summit during the Civil War. Brave wounded and dying soldiers were hospitalized in a log cabin that still stands at the mountain's foot.



From: <https://www.poolesvillemd.gov/340/Sugarloaf-Mountain>

**Sugarloaf Mountain** is a small (1,282 foot; 391 m) mountain and park about 10 miles (16 km) south of Frederick, Maryland, USA. The closest village is Barnesville, located just over one mile from the foot of the mountain. The peak of this relatively low mountain is approximately 800 feet (244 m) higher than the surrounding farmland. It is visible from many parts of northern Montgomery County and southern Frederick County, notably from I-270 north of the town of Germantown. Because of its geological and natural history interest, it was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1969. It is a notable example of an admission-free, privately owned scenic park.

## History

During the Maryland Campaign of the American Civil War in 1862, Union forces occupying the summit, which was being used as an observation and signal station, first spotted the Army of Northern Virginia on September 5 as it crossed the Potomac River into Maryland. The following morning as the small Union force on the mountain began to retreat in the face of the oncoming Confederate Army, they ran into the unsuspecting 1st North Carolina Infantry and a small skirmish ensued. The Union force was able to escape, but it was later caught by Confederate cavalry at Urbana.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the early 20th century Chicago businessman Gordon Strong bought substantial land holdings on and around the mountain. In 1925, the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, on commission from Strong, proposed an automobile objective development for the top of the mountain, but that was never carried out.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, briefly considered using Sugarloaf as his Presidential retreat, but he was persuaded by Strong to choose the nearby Shang-Ri-La site on the Catoctin Mountain, which today is known as Camp David.



Strong set up a trust fund in 1947 that maintains a trail system and other tourist facilities at Sugarloaf Mountain. The mountain and its immediate environs continue to be open to the public, but they are privately owned by Stronghold, Incorporated.

## Geology

1971 air photo, showing the complex structure. Width of image is approximately 4.7 miles.

Sugarloaf Mountain is an example of a monadnock — an isolated hill or small mountain rising abruptly from gently sloping or level surrounding land. It appears to be either an outlier to the east of the main mass of Catoctin Mountain, or a root remnant of the ancient Appalachian land mass.



The bedrock is the Lower Cambrian Sugarloaf Mountain Quartzite, a massive white quartzite interbedded with softer sericitic quartzite, slate, and phyllite. The formation is divided into upper, middle, and lower members.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **Tourism**

Sugarloaf Mountain is an area tourist attraction, free of an admission charge, and open to the public. Activities include hiking, rock climbing, picnicking, and sightseeing. The mountain is known to locals for its scenic views. The Sugarloaf Mountain Trail system is a popular network of trails that link the East Face with the West Face. The blue trail system is popular with hikers while the yellow trail system can also be used by bikers and horseback riders at designated times of the year. The Stronghold Mansion at the base of the mountain is often used for Weddings and other special events, and the nearby vineyard is a popular side excursion.

From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarloaf\\_Mountain\\_\(Maryland\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarloaf_Mountain_(Maryland))



### **Agricultural Reserve Websites**

Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) [www.mocoalliance.org](http://www.mocoalliance.org)

Sugarloaf Citizens Association (SCA) [www.sugarloaforcitizens.org](http://www.sugarloaforcitizens.org)

Countryside Artisans [www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com)

Sugarloaf Regional Trails [www.sugarloafregionaltrails.org](http://www.sugarloafregionaltrails.org)

Historic Medley District [www.historicmedley.org](http://www.historicmedley.org)

Friends of Ten Mile Creek [www.tenmilecreek.org](http://www.tenmilecreek.org)