

Report of the 2022 Redistricting Advisory Committee

to the

Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia



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Committee Membership & Workgroups

Paul Berry, Chairman (At-Large)
 Lisa Sales, At-Large
 Bill Bouie, At-Large
 Prashanth Rajan, Braddock District
 Jimmy Bierman, Dranesville District
 Richard Chew, Hunter Mill District
 Bryon Garner, Lee District
 Alis Wang, Mason District
 Hon. Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District
 Denver Supinger, Providence District
 Jenee Lindner, Springfield District
 Sam Walker, Sully District
 Tim Thompson, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
 Candace Butler, League of Women Voters
 Coretta Perkins, African American Community
 Rafael Marin, Hispanic Community
 Saif Rahman, Arab-American Community
 Scott Price, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
 George Becerra, Northern Virginia Labor Federation

Workgroups

Districts & Precincts	RAC members assigned
Mt. Vernon & Mason (Gunston)	Gerry Hyland, Alis Wang, George Becerra, Jimmy Bierman, Lisa Sales, Saif Rahman, Paul Berry
Lee & Sully (Mosby, Hollin Hall, Ravensworth, Stuart, Van Dorn, Graham-Greenway, Oak Marr, Penderbrook, Lees Corner)	Bryon Garner, Sam Walker, Bill Bouie, Candace Butler, Richard Chew, Coretta Perkins
Springfield	Jenee Lindner, George Becerra, Scott Price, Denver Supinger, Prashanth Rajan, Tim Thompson, Ray Marin

Chairman's Letter

Chairman McKay and members of the Board of Supervisors,

Following your December 9th directive extending the Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) mandate to evaluate magisterial district names, we are pleased to submit this report for your review and consideration.

The RAC was assembled as an unpaid, volunteer advisory body whose membership consisted entirely of Fairfax County residents. Our goal was to undertake the decennial reapportionment process, and with the new December 9th mandate, an evaluation of district names. During our work, we examined the demographic and civic landscape of Fairfax County with great care. Many residents brought to our attention that the very districts we were discussing for reapportionment are public institutions that should reflect our best vision of the next ten years of county life. In short, the names we give to our homes and communities should celebrate the best achievements and individuals linked to county history.

To achieve this, we adopted an identical model to our work from 2021. Our meetings were open and accessible to anyone, Fairfax County resident or not, and we published all our work for this report at each stage of consideration. This report contains our recommendations for five district names: Lee, Mason, Mount Vernon, Springfield, and Sully. We used public involvement, historical records, demographic information, census data, and the lived experiences, or “living history” of today’s residents, to prepare and organize our recommendations.

At our first meeting the RAC passed two resolutions. The first recognized the importance of One Fairfax to our work and the RAC’s commitment to directly apply its principles. One Fairfax is the joint social and equity agenda adopted by the Board to discover gaps and advance opportunity in our diverse county. The second was a resolution recommending that the Board conduct outreach activities to the public to communicate the importance of resident input and participation into the process.

It is critical to note that it was never within our scope to make *new* name suggestions for the magisterial districts, simply to show evidence that a name may or may not conform with Fairfax County values. When evidence showed a name does not conform to our values – such as names honoring Confederate officers – we made a recommendation in this report to change it. If the Board does accept a recommendation to rename a district, we offer no advice or comment for how the renaming process should be undertaken, other than we believe it should be resident-led and directly involve the communities impacted.

Beginning in January, we reviewed testimony and feedback from members of the public who were interested in the names of magisterial districts. This review was certainly inspired by the ongoing work of Supervisor Rodney Lusk to address community concerns with the name of the district he represents, Lee, but extended to all parts of the county.

When considering the public sentiment and opinion on various districts we also developed a set of criteria to evaluate potential name changes. This criterion is described at the beginning of this report and can be summarized as a way to determine if a magisterial district name represents Fairfax County values and celebrates the best qualities of our lives together.

We took a broad and inclusive approach when evaluating names: when selecting a district to discuss we chose to include it if they were linked to our criteria, even tenuously, rather than exclude it prematurely. This resulted in a comprehensive list using a “wide net” approach, guaranteeing that all community concerns would be included and addressed using consistently high evaluation standards. If a district merits

a name change recommendation, we make that determination based on the facts and show where these facts can be verified by independent, reliable sources. When a district does *not* merit a name change, we similarly give evidence supporting that reasoning.

I am pleased to write that the public engaged with us throughout the duration of our work by participating in our meetings, sending written feedback to the RAC, and communicating through social media. A townhall was also held on February 9th to discuss the Springfield District renaming prospect. The work you find below represents a diverse set of perspectives, experiences, and knowledge, and encompasses roughly eight months of commitment to the civic richness of Fairfax County by a group of residents who wish to see their communities prosper. I extend my thanks to them for the countless hours of work they have dedicated to our public good.

I also wish to thank the county staff supporting our efforts.

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Evaluation Criteria & Candidates

The following criteria were assembled by the members of the Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) to use when selecting magisterial district and precinct names to consider for the renaming process. The steps in which a name would be considered for discussion proceeded as follows:

- A committee member would make a motion to the full RAC to include a district or precinct name based on one or more of the criteria below
- If the motion was seconded, a discussion would follow and the motioning committee member would justify, if asked, how their candidate for renaming met the criteria
- When discussion was closed, the Chair called for a vote. If the motion passed, the candidate was added to the list of names to be evaluated.
- Please note this process allowed for the list of names for consideration to be as broad as possible so that any concerns regarding existing names could be discussed openly with the aim of being inclusive of all different views in this process. Including a name for consideration does not equate to endorsement by the RAC that this name should indeed be changed.

Candidate selection criteria

1. Does the name violate the spirit or explicit meaning of the One Fairfax policy?
2. Is the name offensive to the community?
3. Is the name related to the Confederate past?
4. Is the name associated with segregation, Jim Crow, racism, discrimination, or slave ownership?
5. Is the name confusing to residents or is it geographically representative of the district?
6. Is the name of historical significance or is the name no longer reflective of life in that part of the county?
7. Does it help residents aspire to the best possible quality of life in the future?

Districts were evaluated based on the following criteria:

Magisterial district name	Criteria for evaluation
Lee	2, 3, 4
Mason	4
Mount Vernon	4
Springfield	4, 5
Sully	1, 3, 4

District Recommendations

Lee & Sully

Recommendation The RAC unanimously recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider renaming Lee and Sully districts.

The subcommittee members agree that the intent of the process conducted by the Redistricting Advisory Committee is not to erase history but to align the values of the [One Fairfax Policy](#) with the expectations of the Lee and Sully communities when considering accountability, and racial and social equity. The discussion centered on the conceptual distinction between commemoration of Confederate names, properties associated with the Confederacy and its officers, and preserving shared history by cherishing community landmarks in the public space.

After discussions with the public:

The subcommittee agrees that *commemoration* of Confederate names and associated properties does not reflect the values of our community today. The subcommittee defines commemoration as a celebration of a person or event.

Scholarly historical context provides evidence that Confederate commemorations began in the late 19th century and early 20th century as part of the rise of the “Lost Cause of the Confederacy”.¹ Lost Cause proponents sought to alter narratives about the Civil War by denying the centrality of slavery. Moreover, Lost Cause proponents were part of efforts to counter the fight for civil rights and to enforce laws and practices that supported white supremacy.² These commemorations occurred during what we refer to as the *Jim Crow* era.

The intent of the commemoration of names and properties associated with the Confederacy is to carry forward a dark part of our community’s history by mythologizing the Confederate historical narrative. For this reason, the commemoration of Confederate names attached to districts is *not* recommended to continue within Fairfax County because it violates the One Fairfax Policy. This is consistent with the criteria for evaluation developed by the RAC that determines if a district should be renamed or not.

Specifically, this subcommittee was assigned to evaluate Lee District and Sully District. The subcommittee acknowledges that historical record is somewhat inconclusive on whether Lee District is named for Robert E. Lee or a family member. However, consideration should be given to a name change given the context of all the Confederate names that are in use within Fairfax County and the significance of the Lee name to our area. Whether the Lee name attributed to Lee District is or is not Robert E. Lee is immaterial if the Board of Supervisors is to change names associated with the Confederacy but leaves in place a name which will cause confusion because of ambiguity. Therefore, the subcommittee acknowledges the historical record but still recommends Lee District name to be changed by the Board of Supervisors.

Sully District is more straightforward. “Sully District is named for the Sully Historic Site,”³ and “the farm was supported by enslaved African Americans who were field laborers, domestics and skilled artisans.”⁴

¹ Gallagher, G., Nolan, A., eds. (2000). *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

² Ibid

³ Accessed on 2-20-2022. <http://www.sullydistrict.org>

⁴ Accessed on 2-20-2022. <https://www.virginia.org/listing/sully-historic-site/4593/>

Four generations of human beings were enslaved and trafficked on the Sully Plantation⁵ in Chantilly—Sully Plantation’s repugnant past. Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia’s first member of Congress, was Sully’s founding slave-master. Lee named the land he inherited *Sully* in 1789 and for twenty-years under his charge the Sully Plantation was the location of commercial activity and profit from the kidnapping, human trafficking, and abuse of over one hundred lives—men, women and children.⁶

Therefore, the subcommittee recommends the candidate names associated with a Confederate past and/or segregation, Jim Crow, racism, discrimination to be changed by the Board of Supervisors. These names include Lee and Sully districts.

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⁵ Sansbury, B. (2017). Slavery at Sully under Richard Bland Lee. In Sully. In Sully historic site: The Story of the house and the people that called it home. Lulu Press.

⁶ UnSully.org—This Is Where We Draw The Line

Mount Vernon & Mason

Recommendation: The RAC unanimously recommends that the Board of Supervisors neither consider renaming Mount Vernon nor Mason districts.

Subcommittee Members: George Beccera, Paul Berry, Jimmy Bierman, Gerry Hyland, Saif Rahman, Lisa Sales, Alis Wang

Background and context: Mount Vernon and Mason were placed on an as-inclusive-as-possible list of potential districts for consideration due to the association of both names with the institution of slavery. Ultimately, the subcommittee voted unanimously to *not* recommend any changes. That vote was communicated to the full RAC committee which also concurred immediately and unanimously in a “preference canvass” (also known as a “straw poll”).

Mount Vernon

The subcommittee makes the recommendation against renaming Mount Vernon after considering the following:

Public comment emphasized,

1. The importance of George Washington to the development of the nation;
2. The importance of Mount Vernon as a major attraction and key landmark in the Mount Vernon community;
3. The work that the operators of Mount Vernon, now a *World Heritage Site*, have done to contextualize Mount Vernon, the good and the bad, and the inclusion of a memorial to enslaved people at Mount Vernon; and,
4. The distinction between Founding Fathers and Confederate leaders.

General American History knowledge reaffirming the important connection of the Mount Vernon name to George Washington and his accomplishments, as well as his failings, as a source of reflection, learning, and restorative justice:

- Mount Vernon was the home of the Commander of the Continental Army and our first President, George Washington, who was elected in 1789.
- Mount Vernon was a working plantation. At the time of his death, 317 people were enslaved at Mount Vernon.
- In his will, Washington decreed that the 123 slaves that he owned at Mount Vernon would be freed upon the death of his wife, Martha Washington.
- George Washington was the Commander of the Continental Army, led Patriot forces to victory in the Revolutionary War.
- He was unanimously elected by his peers to preside as president over the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which resulted in the drafting of the United States Constitution.
- Serving as an example for all to follow in an epoch of dynastic, patrilineal leadership that frequently rejected the idea of popular sovereignty and embraced life-long rule, George Washington declined to run for president after serving two terms.
- This action demonstrated his belief that democracy required the peaceful transfer of power outside familial ties to properly embrace the concepts of the new nation.
- George Washington is rightly recognized as the “Father of the Nation.”

- The Mount Vernon District, named after the house, is one of the original six townships of Fairfax County when the General Assembly divided the county in 1870.
- In 1874, Mount Vernon was converted into one of six districts in the county.

Mason

Similarly, the subcommittee explored general American History knowledge reaffirming the important connection of the Mason name to George Mason and his accomplishments, as well as his failings, as a source of reflection, learning, and restorative justice:

- George Mason, another founding father, wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, a precursor to the Bill of Rights.
- George Mason was one of three delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention who did not sign the Constitution.
 - In his *Objections to this Constitution of Government*, Mason wrote: “There is no declaration of rights, and the laws of the general government being paramount, the declarations in the separate states are no security...There is no section preserving liberty of the press or trial by jury in civil cases. . .”
 - Eventually fellow Virginian James Madison would introduce the Bill of Rights along the lines of Mason’s sentiments. George Mason is widely credited as the principal author of the Bill of Rights.
- Records suggest that 90 people were enslaved at George Mason’s plantation estate, Gunston Hall.
- In 1953, the Court-appointed redistricting committee of Fairfax County chose to create a seventh district, Mason, named after him.

Analysis and Outcome: On January 25, 2022, a subcommittee of the RAC considered the renaming of Mount Vernon and Mason with input from the public. There was no recorded public or RAC support to rename the districts.

RAC Subcommittee members drew a clear distinction between those who had helped found our nation and those who individually, and as part of the Confederate States of America, supported rebellion and secession. The subcommittee members acknowledged and thoroughly discussed the flaws of our Founding Fathers as relates to slavery but pointed out that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have, in the end, been central to the progress of the Nation.

These contributions do not absolve the founding fathers of their deliberate perpetuation of slavery. The RAC encourages the Board to continue the work of educating the public on the achievements of founding fathers while teaching complete histories that bring diverse perspectives of the communities marginalized during our nation’s founding through to present day.

Because the names “Mount Vernon” and “Mason” act as important opportunities to highlight early founding contributions that positively impact our nation today, and as opportunities to elevate the pursuit of restorative justice and reflective education, the subgroup distinguishes these names from others under consideration. Further, the subcommittee also points out a distinction between honoring Confederate leaders – a deliberate and concerted attempt to whitewash the causes of the Civil War – and honoring Founding Fathers like Washington and Mason. Commemorating Washington and Mason occurs *in spite of* rather than *because of* their association with the evils of the institution of slavery.

On February 1, 2022, the full RAC voted unanimously in a “preference canvass” to concur with the findings of the subcommittee and recommend that *neither* Mount Vernon *nor* Mason be renamed.

Springfield

Recommendation: In a 12-5 vote, the RAC recommends against renaming Springfield district

At the beginning of the renaming process Springfield District was placed on the list of districts for evaluation based on two criteria: geographical relevance and connections with the institution of slavery. After careful consideration the subcommittee and full RAC determined that Springfield district should not be renamed because neither criterion apply.

These criteria were: Criteria #5, “*Is the name confusing to residents or is it geographically representative of the district?*” At the February 15th meeting, it was updated to also include consideration under Criteria #4, “*Is the name associated with segregation, Jim Crow, racism, discrimination, or slave ownership?*”

Workgroup Summary

The workgroup and the full RAC examined the geographic boundaries of the current Springfield district and its historical ties to slavery in alignment with Criteria #4 and #5. Research indicates the following:

- The US Census recognizes *Greater Springfield* as Springfield, North Springfield, and West Springfield.
- *Greater Springfield* has not been in Springfield district for over 30 years – at present day only 8.4% remains in Springfield *magisterial district*.
- The “Springfield” portion of *Greater Springfield* recognized by the US Census Bureau was named after Springfield Farm.
- Springfield Farm was a plantation that had enslaved people working there until the end of the Civil War.
- Springfield *magisterial district* is also named for this plantation according to Fairfax County History Commissioner Jack Hiller’s 2005 investigation.
- Hiller shows evidence that the name “Springfield” is not attributed to water springs in the area or to the area around Tyson’s Corner where the Fairfax County seat of government was in 1752.⁷
- Another Fairfax County History Commissioner, Edith Moore Sprouse, attributes the name “Springfield” to water springs and/or the 1742 first Fairfax County seat of government called “Springfield.”
- A June 2020 report indicates that Springfield district was “named for the Springfield community,”⁸ in agreement with Hiller’s work.
- Springfield District is still home to many essential public services, namely, leadership buildings that bear the name of the district it serves and renaming may cause confusion for residents:
 - Springfield Government Center
 - Springfield Police Station
 - Springfield Fire & Rescue
 - West Springfield High School
 - West Springfield Post Office

⁷ Accessed 2-17-2022. <https://www.edsallpark.org/history-of-springfield>.

⁸ Page 7, bottom. Accessed on 2-14-2022 from

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/board-of-supervisors-naming-history.pdf>. C. Barbuschak 2020.

Background and reasons for consideration

During the 2021 phase of the RAC's work public testimony from residents was shared with the committee suggesting that Springfield magisterial district should be renamed. While the RAC did not address this directly through our work, it did share that this wider concern from the public was present and that the Board of Supervisors would benefit from a discussion on the Springfield name.

During the 2022 phase where the renaming issue was taken up two elements deserve mention as part of the RAC's overall decision to not rename. First, Supervisor Pat Herryty offered to host a town hall meeting on February 9th to give members of the public an opportunity to offer feedback on the renaming possibility. The town hall was held as planned and members of the public attended to share their thoughts.⁹ Individuals spoke for and against renaming. The testimony by these residents largely reflected that which has been received over the county email account dedicated to the renaming issue:¹⁰ *community identity* and *identifying where one lives* are the most important concepts driving public participation in giving testimony on the renaming topic.

Second, the Supervisor shared that no residents had contacted his office to express concern or motivation for a name change. This is significant, considering the only comparable example in Fairfax County history where the old Centreville District changed names to Hunter Mill. Public comment and involvement in the process was widespread, prolonged, and enthusiastic. This process was important enough to residents that it even became a political issue in the campaign space.¹¹ In the case of Springfield District here, there has been nothing comparable.

The remainder of this section on Springfield District outlines the additional background research conducted by RAC members. This research relies on public county documents, US Census information, and historical research. There are two possibilities for the origin of the name "Springfield". Both are based on the research conducted by two Fairfax County History Commissioners, Jack Hiller and Edith Moore Sprouse, respectively, and are summarized below.

Sprouse Account – Springfield District named after natural springs in the county

Edith Moore Sprouse was a founding commissioner of the Fairfax County History Commission and for a time it's President. Her historical interpretation supports that idea that Springfield magisterial district was named after the first ever Colonial Era Fairfax County seat, located at a place called "Springfield".¹² This location was itself named after a major ecological feature in the area, the natural springs found throughout 18th century Fairfax County.

The practice of naming areas with natural springs "Springfield" is consistent with the English naming tradition widely in adoption in Colonial America. According to *Ancestry.com*, "Springfield is a habitational name from a place in Essex, recorded in Domesday Book as *Springinghefelda* and as *Springafelda*, probably from Old English Springingafeld 'pasture (field) of the people who live by a spring.'"¹³ Many "Springfields" exist throughout the United States.¹⁴

⁹ Accessed 2-15-2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmLxGkG4Anc>

¹⁰ redistricting@fairfaxcounty.gov All emails to this account are available for historical access upon request.

¹¹ Accessed 2-21-2022. Pages 9-10.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/board-of-supervisors-naming-history.pdf> Barbuschak 2020.

¹² It cannot be verified independently that Edith Moore Sprouse ever made this historical claim. The claim as stated here is based on recollections of the Springfield District representative to the RAC.

¹³ Emphasis added. Accessed on 2-21-2022. <https://www.ancestry.com/name-origin?surname=springfield>

¹⁴ Accessed 2-21-2022. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springfield>

The book, *Preservation of History in Fairfax County, Virginia: A Report Prepared for the Fairfax County History Commission, Fairfax County Virginia: 2001*, states “the 18th century name ‘Springfields’ designated the area containing the headsprings of the Accotink, Wolf Trap, Pimmets, and Scotts Runs.”¹⁵ Another Springfield name description supporting this conclusion appears in a book prepared by county staff by order of the Board of Supervisors, *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History*. It is worth quoting at length:

1742: The government in Williamsburg had placed all the effective power in Fairfax County in the hands of men who were a known quantity; the county lieutenant, sheriff, clerk, and the quorum of the county court had all held office in Prince William County.¹⁶ The council also “ordered that the courthouse of Fairfax County built at a place called Springfield situated between the New Church and Ox Road, in the Branches of Difficult Run, Hunting Creek and Accotink. Springfield (in the area which is now Tysons Corner) was a 1,429 acre tract of land owned by William Fairfax. It drew its name from Wolftrap Branch of Difficult Run, Scotts Run, Pimmit Run, and the Long and Bear Branches of Accotink all having their sources there.¹⁷

Specifically, she associates natural spring waters in the county emanating from the Pohick Creek watershed with the district name. These natural springs exist in abundance throughout Fairfax County and Pohick’s are located almost completely within Springfield District. See map labeled “**3.1-1**”¹⁸

As seen below, the 14-mile-long Pohick Creek basin encompasses 32.21 square miles and includes Pohick Creek, Rabbit Branch, Sideburn Branch, Middle Run, South Run and Rocky Branch, which collectively drain into the Potomac River. Its headwaters (springs) are at Rabbit Branch and Sideburn Branch, in the heart of contemporary Springfield.

These springs and the watershed are significant as an element of the Potomac basin and the wider Chesapeake watershed. (See **Map 1**) Federal action confirmed this when major construction projects took place from 1970-1985 under the provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Six dams and water retention lakes were constructed from 1970-1985 including:¹⁹

1. Lake Braddock which impounds Pohick Creek in Burke
2. Huntsman Lake which impounds Middle Run in Springfield
3. Lake Royal which impounds Rabbit Branch in Burke above its confluence with the Sideburn Branch, the headwaters of Pohick Creek
4. Lake Barton which impounds a tributary of Sideburn Branch in Burke
5. Woodglen Lake which impounds Sideburn Branch in the City of Fairfax
6. Lake Mercer which impounds South Run in Springfield

¹⁵ Ross Netherton and Nan Netherton, *Preservation of History in Fairfax County, Virginia: A Report Prepared for the Fairfax County History Commission, Fairfax County Virginia: 2001*, (University Press of America, 2001). Pg.190

¹⁶ Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (Berryville, Virginia: Chesapeake Book Company, 1964), pgs. 318 - 20

¹⁷ Ibid.

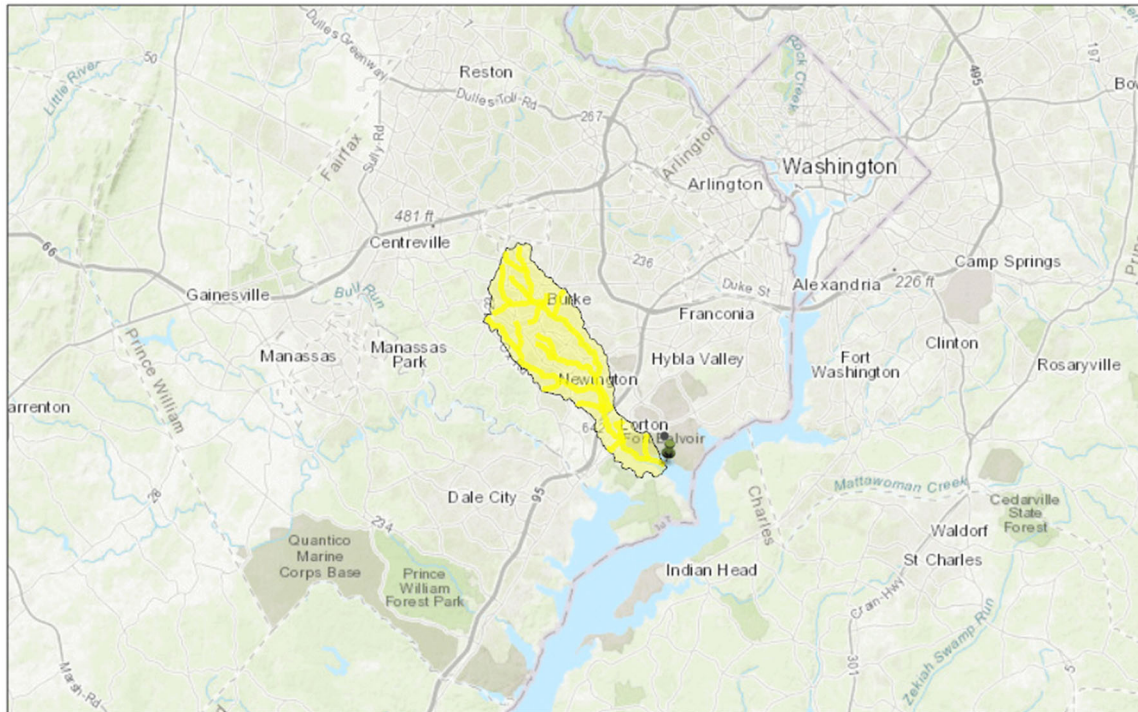
¹⁸ Accessed on 2-21-2022.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/watersheds/pohick-creek-watershed-chapter-3.pdf>

¹⁹ ["GNIS Detail - Pohick Creek". geonames.usgs.gov. US Geological Survey](#)



Watershed of Pohick Creek Creek (Potomac River tributary)



3/11/2020, 5:04:31 PM

Result: Link Path
Result: Delineated Area
Result: Streams Selected



Result: Delineated Area



Streams

1:469,456



US EPA. Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp.,

US Environment Protection Agency
County of Fairfax, County of Prince William, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS | US EPA |

Map 1²⁰

An alternative historical interpretation by Jack Hiller describes a connection between the plantation owned by Henry Daingerfield named “Springfield Farm” and the Springfield magisterial district name. Sprouse’s historical account contends that because Daingerfield’s plantation was not at the same location as the original 18th century Fairfax County seat (which is located at today’s Tyson’s Corner) there is simply a coincidence in naming. This leads us to the Hiller account.

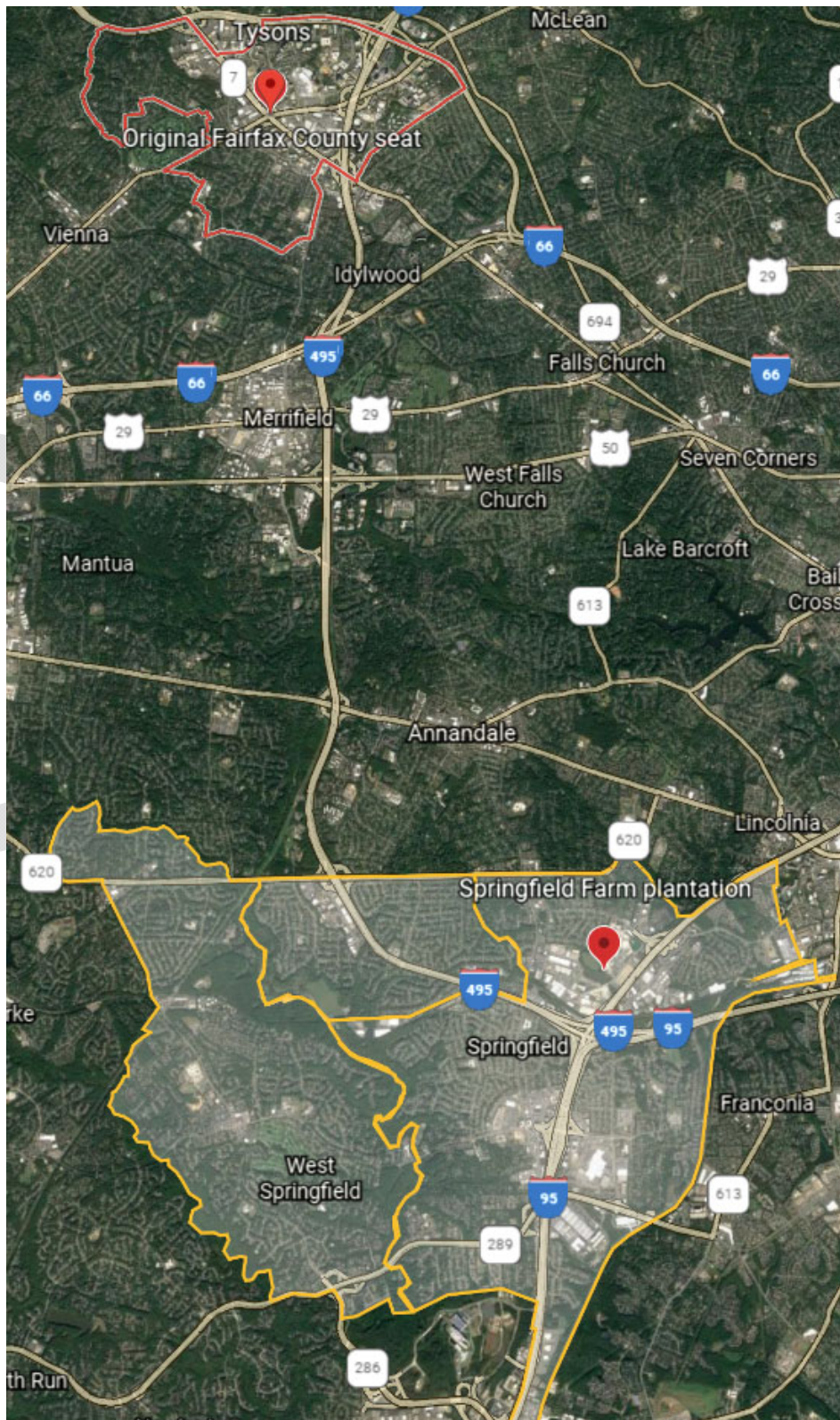
Hiller Historical Account – Springfield District named after Springfield Farm

Hiller contends that the Sprouse perspective is incorrect because modern Springfield *magisterial district* does not, and never has, encompassed the area of the original 18th century Fairfax County seat. Today, that location is in *Providence* magisterial district and is named Tyson’s Corner. Simply, the Springfield name of the 18th century county seat disappeared long before Springfield magisterial district was created in 1967 *and* wasn’t even in the same part of the county, making it impossible to connect the district name and the original county seat.

Alternatively, *Greater Springfield* – the communities of Springfield, North Springfield, and West Springfield – does still exist, and was completely within the borders of Springfield district when it was created in 1967. Importantly, the *Greater Springfield* of 1967 is the modern location of 19th century Springfield Farm, an

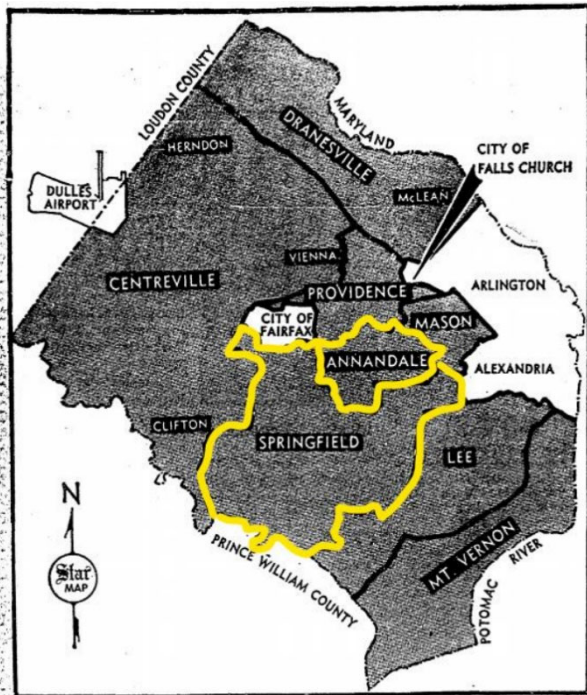
²⁰ US Environment Protection Agency: County of Fairfax County, County of Prince William, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS

antebellum slave plantation. Therefore, because Springfield Farm predates the naming of Greater Springfield and is located within the 1967 borders of Springfield magisterial district, we can accurately draw a direct connection between the plantation and the name of the district.

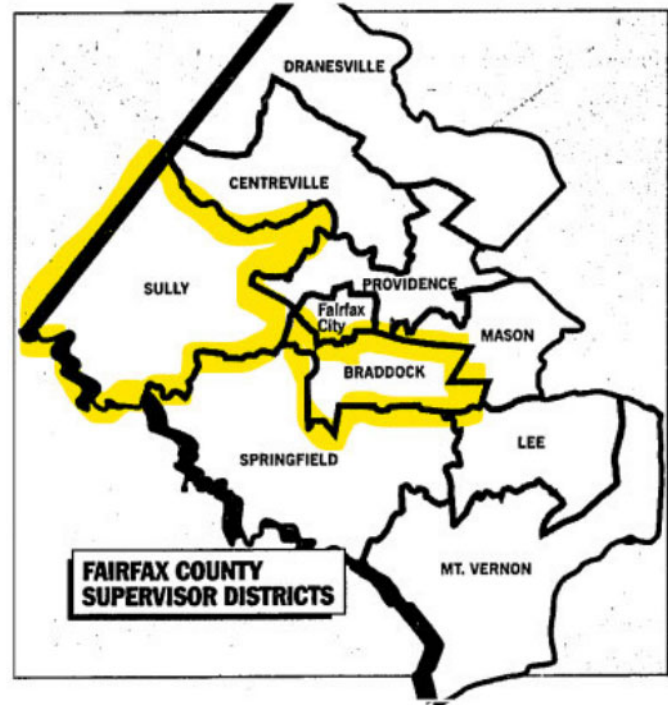


Creation of Springfield in 1967

Springfield and Annandale magisterial districts were first created in February 1967 following the adoption of the *urban county* form of government. The *urban county* form requires that local government divide Fairfax County into between 5-11 equally populated districts. As noted in *The History of the Naming and Redistricting of Fairfax County's Magisterial Districts: A Brief Report*, Springfield District and Annandale District were created in alignment with the urban county governance requirements and were "named after the communities they will serve."



Map 1a²¹



Map 2²²

Map 1a illustrates the original boundaries of Springfield and Annandale districts. Stretching from Alexandria in the east to Clifton in the west, and from Fairfax City in the north to the Prince William County line, Springfield District originally encompassed all of *Greater Springfield* (Springfield, West Springfield, and North Springfield).

1991 Redistricting moves Greater Springfield community from Springfield district

The borders remained approximately the same as **Map 1a** until the 1991 decennial redistricting process that resulted in **Map 2**. In 1991 the Board of Supervisors adjusted boundaries and the US Department of Justice approved the redrawn map. This new map expanded Springfield, Lee, Mason, and Mt. Vernon districts westward. This was not motivated by geographical or political concerns, but rather population growth: "The 1990 Census revealed that the population of western Fairfax County had dramatically increased, which required the creation of a ninth district."²³ This was Sully magisterial district. With the

²¹ Page 1, bottom. Accessed on 2-14-2022 from <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/board-of-supervisors-naming-history.pdf>. C. Barbuschak 2020.

²² Map of Fairfax County districts in October 1991. Page 8. Accessed on 2-14-2022 from <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/board-of-supervisors-naming-history.pdf>. C. Barbuschak 2020

²³ Ibid. Page 8.

addition of Sully the current districts required rebalancing of the populations in order to “guarantee that all of its citizens had equal representation.”²⁴

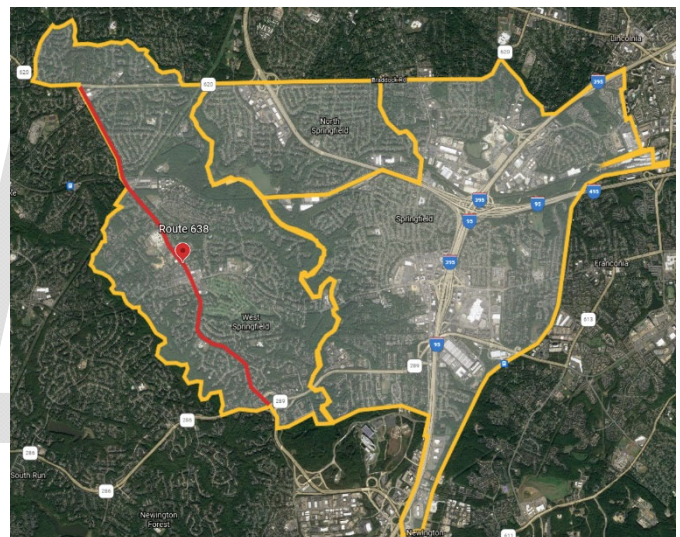
As a result, Springfield district no longer bordered Alexandria, and the Springfield and North Springfield communities were split between magisterial districts Mason, Lee, and the renamed Annandale district, Braddock. West Springfield remained in the Springfield district.

2021 Redistricting

The 2021 reapportionment marked 30 years since *Greater Springfield* was part of Springfield magisterial district. *Greater Springfield* refers to the community of interest recognized informally by Fairfax residents as well as by the US Census Bureau. The US Census Bureau designates *Greater Springfield* as the communities of Springfield, West Springfield, and North Springfield. **Map 3**²⁵ shows what the US Census designated as *Greater Springfield* in 2010, and **Map 4**²⁶ shows the US Census *Greater Springfield* in 2022.



Map 3



Map 4

The US Census observes the following total areas for *Greater Springfield*:

- Springfield: 9.76 mi²/25.28 km² – 51%
- North Springfield: 2.55 mi²/6.61 km² – 13%
- West Springfield: 6.87 mi²/17.80 km² – 36%

Portion of *Greater Springfield* remaining in Springfield magisterial district after 2021 redistricting: 1.61 mi²/4.16 km² – 8.4%²⁷

As was the case in 1991, population growth in the *Greater Springfield* area and elsewhere in the county required the Board of Supervisors to determine if all magisterial districts were being fairly represented. The Redistricting Advisory Committee advised the Board to adopt a map that balanced populations

²⁴ Anderson, John Ward. “NAACP Targets Fairfax Redistricting: Group Says Plan Dilutes Minority Votes, Asks U.S. to Reject It”. The Washington Post, June 19, 1991, C4

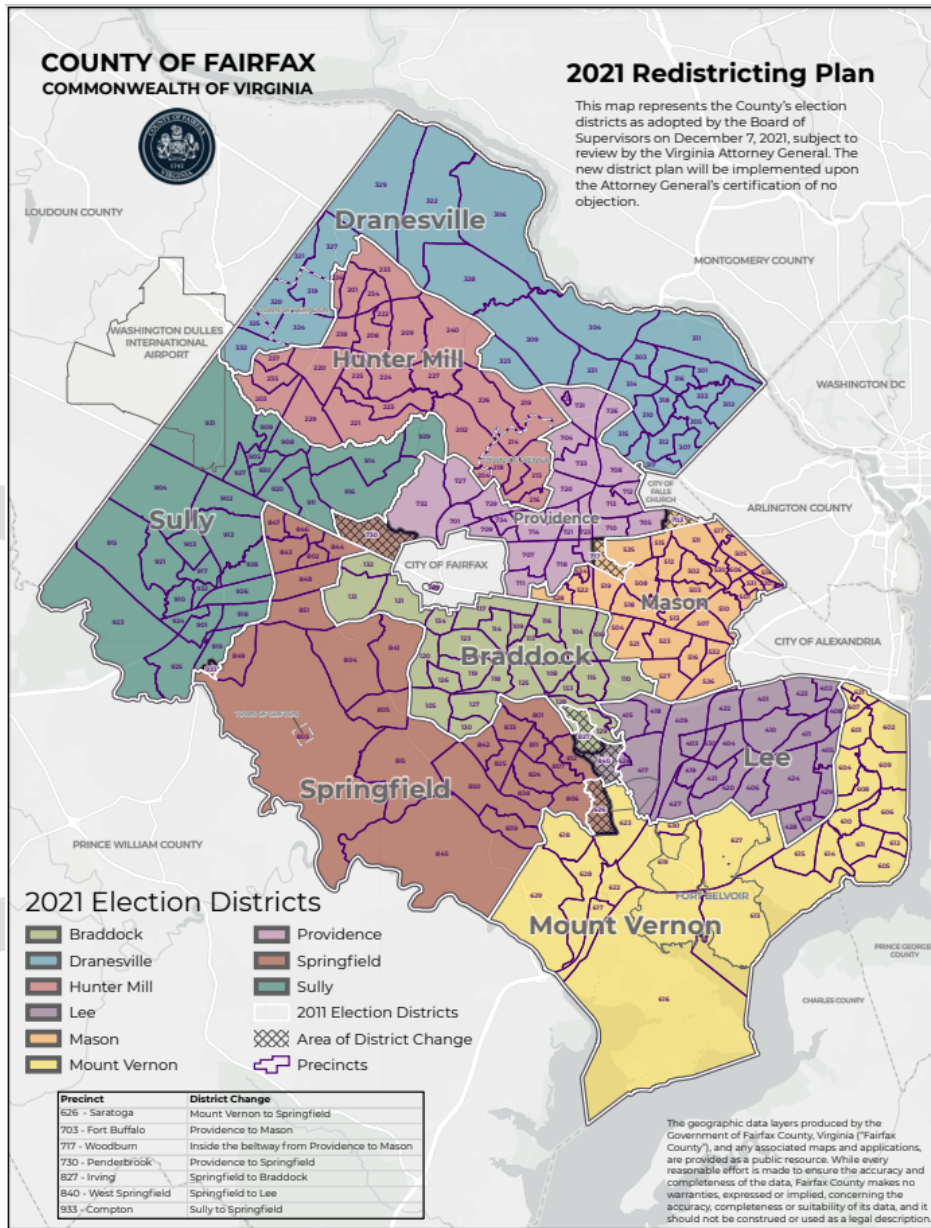
²⁵ Accessed on 2-17-2022 from

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demographics/sites/demographics/files/assets/decennialcensus/2010/cdp_map.pdf

²⁶ Created by Paul Berry on 2-17-2022. View here: <https://earth.google.com/earth/d/14rcP-hVtDRON-OvcOwaTqB06SgS01CN3?usp=sharing>

²⁷ Calculated using the “Distance measure” feature on Google Maps on 2-19-2022.

between all magisterial districts to achieve the equal representation. The Board accepted this recommendation and adjusted Springfield district boundaries westward again, exactly as in 1991, so that the “one person, one vote” principle would be protected in Fairfax County. This is **Map 5²⁸** below.

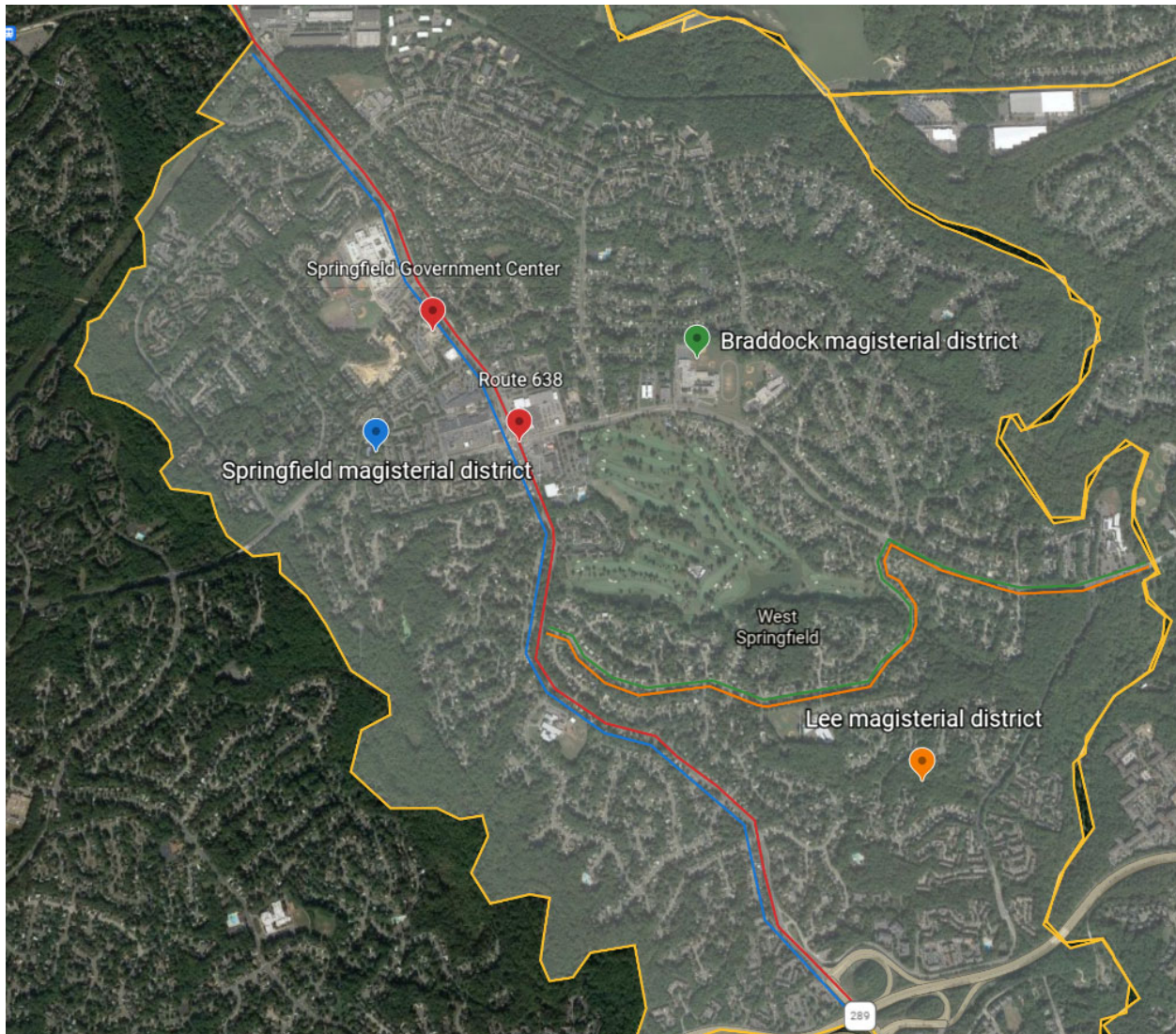


Map 5

As concerns Springfield District, the new map with these adjustments was the result of two deliberate choices. First, as much of the West Springfield community as possible was merged with the rest of the *Greater Springfield* area that hadn't been in Springfield district since 1991. This meant that all West Springfield residents east of Route 638 would rejoin the original *Greater Springfield* community (**Map 6²⁹**) as opposed to their separation across three magisterial districts.

²⁸ Accessed 2-17-2022. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/2021-adopted-redistricting-plan-map.pdf>

²⁹ Created by Paul Berry on 2-17-2022. View here: <https://earth.google.com/earth/d/14rcp-hVtDRON-OvcOwaTqB06SgS01CN3?usp=sharing>



Map 6

Second, the small portion of West Springfield community lying west of Route 638 that should have otherwise merged with *Greater Springfield* was kept in Springfield magisterial district to prevent unnecessary taxpayer expenditures. As is seen in **Map 6**, the Springfield Government Center abuts the district line under the new maps. If the West Springfield area west of Route 638 where it is located merged with the rest of *Greater Springfield* the Springfield magisterial district would have been without a dedicated point of government services. The Redistricting Advisory Committee discussed this point throughout the reapportionment process and recommended against moving the Springfield Government Center out of the district because of the roughly \$6,000,000 combined expense to finance a new building. Absent this potential taxpayer expense, the RAC would have likely advised joining West Springfield community together with the wider “community of interest” of *Greater Springfield*.

The ties to slavery of the Springfield magisterial district name

According to *Springfield: Then and Now*, by Fairfax County History Commissioner Jack Hiller, “the name ‘Springfield’ originated with Henry Daingerfield who, in January 1851, acquired 920 acres in the vicinity of where Backlick Road crosses the Southern Railroad tracks. This land today is partially occupied by Shirley Industrial Park and the intersection between Routes 95, 395, and the Beltway. He named his land

‘Springfield Farm.’”³⁰ As a June 2020 report observes, in 1967, “the Board (of Supervisors) carved out and created a new Springfield District, named for the Springfield community” on which Daingerfield’s Springfield Farm sat.³¹

Land grant and purchase documents show that Springfield Farm was itself composed of multiple parcels of property that once were entirely within the Ravensworth land grant. Ravensworth was home to “a large plantation owned by...slaveholders” according to history research conducted by students of West Springfield High School.³²

Slavery on the property of Springfield Farm is likely, although direct evidence doesn’t exist for this report. The paragraph above confirms that enslaved peoples worked the Springfield Farm land under the previous landowner, and we can confirm that Henry Daingerfield did own enslaved peoples during the antebellum period. He inherited 126 slaves from Robert Darnall Sewall in 1853.

It is likely that he owned slaves separate from this inheritance that did work on Springfield Farm. This assumption is based on the fact that in the seven-year span between 1853 and the 1860 census Daingerfield *increased* the number of slaves in his ownership from 126 to 160.³³ This is consistent with abundant records that cite his wealth and commercial activities during the antebellum period where he was recognized as one of the most successful merchants in Northern Virginia.³⁴

Economic Impact

There have been suggestions that a name change will have negative economic impacts on residents of the districts. This concern is minimized upon deeper evaluation:

- Unlike the name changes for Lee and Lee-Jackson highways, there are no signs or other public landmarks that require public funds to correct old names.
- Residents are not required to list their magisterial district on postal addresses, eliminating the possibility that individual or commercial economic activities will be newly confusing if Springfield is renamed
- Hunter Mill district, formerly named *Centreville* district, underwent a name change in 1991 without any notable impact on economic activity

Precincts

The following precincts were discussed within the context of the RAC’s criteria for this report: Gunston, Hollin Hill, Lee’s Corner, Mosby, Stuart, Ravensworth, Van Dorn, Graham-Greenway, Oak Marr, and Penderbrook. No further action was taken so as to focus on the district recommendations.

³⁰ Accessed 2-14-2022. <https://www.edsallpark.org/history-of-springfield>

³¹ Page 7, bottom. Accessed on 2-17-2022 from <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/sites/redistricting/files/assets/documents/board-of-supervisors-naming-history.pdf>. C. Barbuschak 2020.

³² Accessed 2-14-2022. <https://westspringfieldhs.fcps.edu/about/history/local/enslaved>. Also see <https://ravensworthhistory.org/people/owners/daingerfield-henry/#fn-1455-1>

³³ Accessed 2-14-2022. <https://www.poplarhillonhik.com/aahp/infirmar/infirmar.html>

³⁴ Hurst, Harold W. “The Merchants of Pre-Civil War Alexandria: A Dynamic Elite in a Progressive City.” *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.* 52 (1989): 327–43. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40067871>.

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