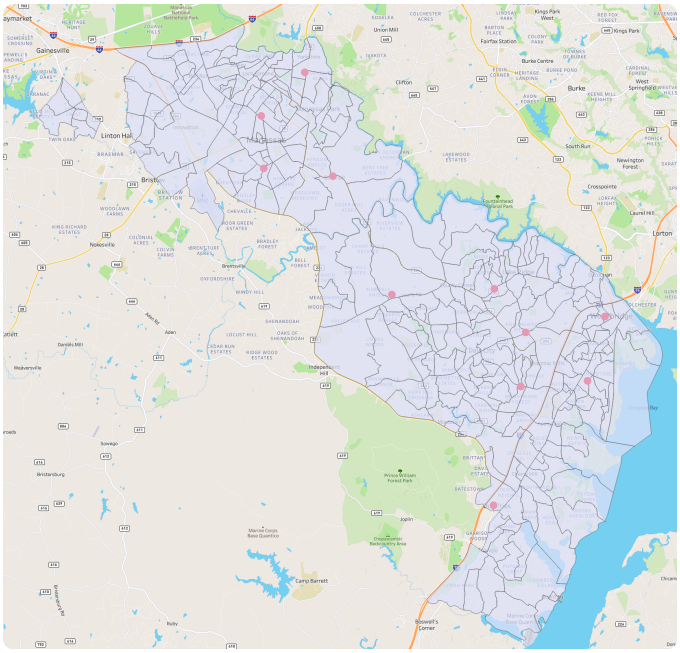
A MICRO-COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Prince William Inner Ring

Dense suburban/urban, highway corridors, apartments, mixed-use centers



Micro-community shown with block group boundaries

458,371	12	1,321	13
residents in 2025 481,077 projected by 2030 (+5.0%)	UM churches	average in worship	appointed UM clergy

WE ALREADY KNOW MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS

1,321 average in worship × **150** Dunbar's Number* = **198,150** Number of people within the Micro-community we may already know

That is 43% of everyone who lives here.

It can seem daunting to reach a community of 458,371. Yet as neighbors we are already within meaningful relationship with about 198,150 of our neighbors.

***Dunbar's number (150)** the number of meaningful relationships a person can sustain, per anthropologist Robin Dunbar — a conservative gauge of a community's existing relational reach.

© 2026 encourageous, LLC. Not for redistribution outside of UMC use without permission.

WHERE WE CALL HOME

We live in a diverse and rapidly urbanizing commuter belt tied closely to Washington, D.C., and the Northern Virginia job centers. Ours is a fence of high-density housing developments and suburban neighborhoods with significant immigrant communities and strong representation from African American, Latino, and Asian residents. Woodbridge is our commercial heart along the I-95 corridor. Manassas and Manassas Park keep their independent city identities with historic cores now surrounded by growth. And Marine Corps Base Quantico, the FBI Academy, and Marine Corps University anchor our southern edge.

THE LIFE WE'VE BUILT

Our lives are shaped by long commutes — I-95, US-1, Prince William Parkway, and VRE trains carry many of us toward Washington each morning. Shopping is concentrated in malls and strip centers, with Potomac Mills — the largest outlet mall in Virginia — as our anchor. Prince William County Public Schools, Virginia's second-largest school division at more than 90,000 students, reflects both the scale and the diversity of our population. Most of us are homeowners across the townhouse and single-family neighborhoods of Dale City, Lake Ridge, Woodbridge, Cherry Hill, Montclair, Sudley, and Bull Run, where our immigrant neighbors are American-suburbanized while carrying strong ethnic and cultural identity — Ghanaian, Salvadoran, Filipino, Pakistani, Korean, Nigerian, Vietnamese. In older neighborhoods like North Manassas, ethnic-concentration character runs closer to the classic enclave.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

Our challenges come from being one of the fastest-growing and most-pressured suburban corners of Virginia. Traffic on I-95, US-1, and Prince William Parkway shapes daily life, and housing affordability has become genuinely difficult — roughly 14% of Prince William residents in 2025 lived with severe housing problems, and one recent estimate reported $300,000 income is needed to buy a single-family home in Northern Virginia. Even our school district is shifting: after decades of rapid growth, Prince William County Public Schools projects enrollment to decrease by about 3,776 students over the next five years as migration flows have shifted to Northern Virginia's exurbs and the Richmond area. And data center pressure has been our defining land-use fight of 2023 through 2026.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

Our future is being built through major infrastructure investment and school reinvention. Virginia Railway Express is transforming from weekday commuter service into a full regional rail system. Doubling daily trains and weekend service. The Long Bridge Project, the largest rail expansion in the region in generations, began construction in January 2026. Old Town Manassas has multiple mixed-use redevelopment projects advancing simultaneously — a boutique hotel, apartments, and 500-space parking garage on the Olde Towne Inn site, and a Center Street mixed-use rezoning under review. The 145-acre Quartz District in Woodbridge is bringing more than 1,000 homes. Manassas Regional Airport is preparing for its first scheduled commercial flights in spring 2027. And PWCS's Elevate 2030 plan, unanimously adopted in February 2026, commits to universal pre-K for every 4-year-old in the county.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND HOPE

Hope shows up in citizen coalitions and stubborn community diversity. The Prince William Digital Gateway — the proposed 2,000-acre, 22-million-square-foot campus that would have been the largest data center project in the world was defeated after a multi-year lawsuit. The final developer, QTS, withdrew its Supreme Court appeal in July 2026. The pattern has already carried forward: the Board of Supervisors denied another 2,000-acre data center proposal after roughly 100 protesters gathered at the county government center. Our diversity is a durable asset — Prince William was recognized as the 10th most diverse county in the United States, and immigrant entrepreneurs like the Sheikh family (who launched the Woodbridge Islamic School in 2024) and Ebenezer Allotey of Woodbridge (who leads the Tema USA choir of Ghanaian immigrants) are visible community anchors.

© 2026 encourageous, LLC. Not for redistribution outside of UMC use without permission.

THE CONNECTION

United Methodist Churches

12 congregations – our faithful presence within the micro-community

- **Bethel UMC (Woodbridge)**
  13506 Minnieville Rd, Woodbridge, 22192-4203
  (703) 670-4929
- **Buckhall UMC**
  10251 Moore Dr, Manassas, 20111-2556
  (703) 368-0276
- **Cokesbury UMC**
  14806 Blackburn Rd, Woodbridge, 22191-3432
  (703) 494-5400
- **Dumfries UMC**
  3890 Cameron St, Dumfries, 22026-2320
  (703) 221-2880
- **Ghana Wesley UM Mission UMC**
  1400 G St, Woodbridge, 22191-1605
  (703) 494-1588
- **Good Shepherd UMC**
  14999 Birchdale Ave, Dale City, 22193-1317
  (703) 670-6127
- **Grace UMC**
  9750 Wellington Rd, Manassas, 20110-6086
  (703) 361-7800
- **Old Bridge UMC**
  3966 Old Bridge Rd, Woodbridge, 22192-5006
  (703) 730-3895
- **Prince of Peace UMC**
  6299 Token Forest Dr, Manassas, 20112-8805
  (703) 670-4143
- **Saint Mark's UMC**
  7803 Well St, Manassas, 20111-2103
  (703) 651-2929
- **Saint Paul UMC**
  1400 G St, Woodbridge, 22191-1605
  (703) 494-2445
- **Saint Thomas UMC (Manassas)**
  8899 Sudley Rd, Manassas, 20110-4728
  (703) 368-5161

© 2026 encourageous, LLC. Not for redistribution outside of UMC use without permission.