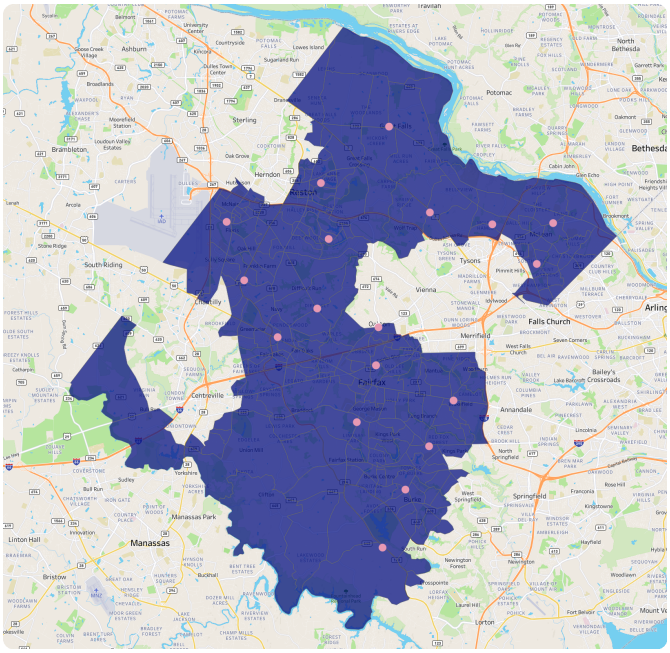
A MICRO-COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Western Fairfax

Rolling wooded suburbs, cul-de-sacs, creek valleys, and semi-rural estates



Micro-community shown with block group boundaries

486,944	19	3,254	32
residents in 2025 511,879 projected by 2030 (+5.1%)	UM churches	average in worship	appointed UM clergy

WE ALREADY KNOW MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS

3,254 average in worship × **150** Dunbar's Number* = **488,100** Number of people within the Micro-community we may already know

We may already have enough reach to know and connect to the people.

It can seem daunting to reach a community of 486,944. Yet as neighbors, we may well be more in relationship with one another than we know.

***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.

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WHERE WE CALL HOME

We are the broad suburban heart of Fairfax County — the wooded neighborhoods, cul-de-sacs, and creek valleys that stretch from Great Falls and McLean down through Oakton, Fairfax City, Burke, and Fairfax Station, out to the horse farms and open land around Clifton. Ours is classic Northern Virginia suburbia, from large-lot estates to planned subdivisions and townhome communities, with Burke Lake, Cub Run, and mature tree canopy never far away. Just west of the region's job centers, we trade some of the bustle for space, greenery, and a family-centered pace.

THE LIFE WE'VE BUILT

We value space, good schools, and family life. Weekends fill the ballfields, the farmers markets, and the shopping centers at Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes, and our civic associations and PTAs run strong. Many of us are long-time Fairfax homeowners, some multigenerational; others are newer families drawn by the schools. We're a well-educated, professionally diverse community — and more international than our quiet streets might suggest, with thriving congregations like the Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington among us. Most of us still commute by car, though the Metro's reach keeps growing westward.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

Even our comfortable suburb feels the squeeze. Home prices keep climbing — the Northern Virginia median passed $815,000 in early 2026 — pushing younger families and public-service workers out of the neighborhoods where they grew up. Our aging 1980s-era subdivisions, office parks, and malls are showing their years, and traffic still chokes Route 28, Braddock Road, the Fairfax County Parkway, and I-66 despite limited transit in our western reaches. As the county pushes denser, mixed-use redevelopment into our commercial hubs, we wrestle over how much change our roads, schools, and low-density character can absorb.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

Our future is being rebuilt on the county's aging commercial land. Along the Silver Line, Reston Town Center is expanding into a small city — roughly four million square feet of new offices, homes, and a coming performing arts center — while nearby office parks are being reborn as walkable, transit-served neighborhoods. At Fair Oaks, the county has cleared the way for some two thousand homes on what was once mall parking and obsolete office space. Fairfax City, now the region's fastest-growing locality, keeps reinvesting in its walkable Old Town. The shape of our next chapter is density, done deliberately.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND HOPE

There's real momentum in the everyday places we use. Fair Oaks Mall is being reborn with a climbing gym, a trampoline park, and a new grocery in its old department-store spaces, and Reston is funding a new regional library and shelter as part of its growth. And as the cost of living bites, neighbors are stepping up for neighbors: for example, Reston's Cornerstones runs the largest food pantry in northwest Fairfax County — now meeting a wave of first-time families pushed in by layoffs and lost work — while Fairfax's Britepaths leans on some 300 volunteers to keep struggling households fed and in their homes. The safety net here is woven by hand.

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THE CONNECTION

United Methodist Churches

19 congregations – our faithful presence within the micro-community

- **Andrew Chapel UMC**
  1301 Trap Rd, Vienna, 22182-1640
  (703) 759-3509
- **Burke UMC**
  6200 Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, 22015-3019
  (703) 250-6100
- **Chesterbrook UMC**
  6817 Dean Dr, McLean, 22101-5442
  (703) 581-7835
- **Christ UMC**
  7600 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, 22039-2527
  (703) 425-3580
- **Community of Faith UMC**
  13224 Franklin Farm Rd, Herndon, 20171-4034
  (703) 620-1977
- **Fairfax UMC**
  10300 Stratford Ave, Fairfax, 22030-3217
  (703) 591-3120
- **Floris UMC**
  13600 Frying Pan Rd, Herndon, 20171-3110
  (703) 793-0026
- **Great Falls UMC**
  10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 22066-2823
  (703) 759-3705
- **Korean UMC of Greater Washington**
  1219 Swinks Mill Rd, McLean, 22102-2426
  (703) 448-1131
- **New Life International at Fairfax UMC**
  10300 Stratford Ave, Fairfax, 22030-3217
- **Oakton UMC**
  2951 Chain Bridge Rd, Oakton, 22124-3022
  (703) 938-1233
- **Pender UMC**
  12401 Alder Woods Dr, Fairfax, 22033-2477
  (703) 278-8023
- **Restoration UMC (Reston)**
  11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, 20191
  (703)955-9888
- **Saint George's UMC**
  4910 Ox Rd, Fairfax, 22030-4513
  (703) 385-4550
- **Saint Matthew's UMC**
  8617 Little River Tpke, Annandale, 22003-3604
  (703) 978-3500
- **Saint Stephen's UMC**
  9203 Braddock Rd, Burke, 22015-1613
  (703) 978-8724
- **Trinity UMC**
  1205 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean, 22101-3019
  (703) 356-3312
- **United Christian Parish UMC**
  11508 N Shore Dr, Reston, 20190-4316
  (703) 620-3065
- **Vale UMC**
  11528 Vale Rd, Oakton, 22124-1342
  (703) 620-2594

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