

https://www.somdnews.com/independent/news/local/new-document-details-charles-development-asset-inventory/article_7d182748-7d9c-11ee-8002-f303f779da64.html

New document details Charles development asset inventory

Darryl Kinsey Jr. dkinsey@somdnews.com
Nov 8, 2023



Kelly Robertson-Slagle, director of the Charles County Economic Development Department, speaks during the department's fall meeting on Nov. 7.
DARRYL KINSEY JR./SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

Charles County has a new document that displays a variety of assets in the county that could be important to future economic growth.

That was one of the announcements made at the annual Charles County Economic Development Department fall meeting held at the Waldorf Jaycees on Nov. 7.

"I think it's an incredible opportunity for the county to understand and know and for businesses that want to come into the county, the assets we have and the very diverse areas of the county," Commissioner Gilbert "BJ" Bowling (D) told Southern Maryland News.

The asset inventory handed out to attendees is a 46-page document listing various economic statistics and business infrastructure available to the county.



Waterfront Living in Maryland

Main-level living homes for sale from the \$500's with resort-style amenities - Swan Point

Swan Point

[Open >](#)

According to the guide, the county's economic development department prepared the inventory to "add perspective and serve as a knowledge base for strategic planning," adding that asset mapping is a "critical" step in utilizing county resources for economic development.

"This is very similar to our annual report in just a couple of ways," Taylor Yewell, chief of commercial development, told attendees. "It's a situational awareness document on the current conditions in Charles County and various things that impact our progress and economic development."

The document lists physical infrastructure within the county such as the XSX freight line that runs through the central portion of the county through La Plata and south to the old Morgantown power plant.

Yewell added during his presentation that the Morgantown site has attracted logistics investors due to the rail and barge access the site allows.

Other physical infrastructure of note includes the Maryland Airport near Indian Head, which had much of the land nearby returned to commercial use after the county commissioners approved an amendment to the comprehensive plan in 2021.

According to the asset inventory, the zoning text amendment that would reflect the amendment that changed the lands from Watershed Conservation to Commercial Aviation Business Park Zone is underway.

The report also gave an overview of the county's workforce, which stated that 84,256 residents in Charles County were employed, according to the 2022 U.S. census.

According to the report, 79.6% of workers in the county worked in white collar jobs, while 20.4% worked in blue collar professions.

Workers in management positions filled out 14.1% of workers while business/financial accounted for 8.4% of workers.

The report also listed other factors such as educational levels in the county, business organizations in the county and quality of life amenities.

Yewell said the report will be updated on an annual basis and will be available on the Charles County Economic Development Department website.

He also highlighted several targeted industries including energetics, which has become the main focus of the Maryland Technology Corridor that runs from Maryland Airport to Naval Support Facility Indian Head.

One of the developments for the area includes plans to house a sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIF, in the area, though details on the precise location were not disclosed during Tuesday's meeting.

A modernization plan is also taking place on the base to prepare for greater manufacturing activities.

Yewell added that future manufacturing activities for work at the base could also take place in Charles County away from the main base facilities.

Twitter: @DarrylSoMdNews

