

Prince William's Rural Crescent is: Beautiful National Parks Family Farms & Agriculture Wildlife & Habitat Scenic Views & Recreation

and... *DATA CENTERS??*

[Learn how you can help](#)

[See how data centers threaten our Rural Crescent](#)

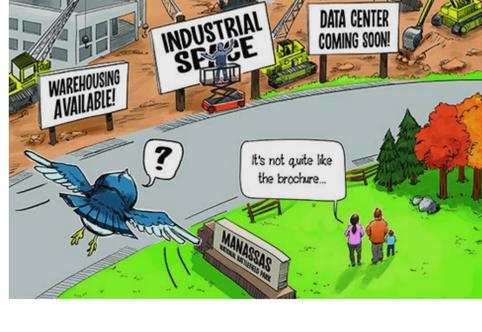
Prince William's Rural Crescent and National Parks need our protection now more than ever!

Prince William County's Board of Supervisors is considering designating nearly a thousand acres of Rural Crescent land for data centers and other industrial or commercial uses. These lands are right next to Manassas Battlefield National Park and Prince William Forest National Park.

These two national parks' unsurpassed historic, cultural, recreational and environmental significance are among the county's top tourist destinations. Nearly 1 million people visit these parks every year for their miles and miles of quiet trails, unblemished forests, unchanged historic landscapes, and restorative properties of nature away from the hustle and bustle of northern Virginia.

The fact is, data centers are a modern industrial reality that can serve Prince William County well **if they are carefully and properly sited**. Data centers take up vast amounts of land, use enormous volumes of power and water, and pollute our waterways and environment. And we cannot afford to lose the environmental benefits of our forests and open spaces for an industry that will contribute to climate degradation.

Prince William already has about 3,100 acres in its industrial-zoned data center overlay district. Adding rural land to that district is short-sighted and unnecessary; the losers would be our two precious national parks, Prince William's character, environment, and water quality; and the people of Prince William County.



[Learn more about what we're protecting](#)

Important Things to Know

Four concerning proposals are underway:

Data Center Overlay District – Comprehensive Review ([project webpage](#))

Project Manager: Alexander Stanley – Community Development Coordinator
Email: datacenteroverlay@pwcgov.org | Phone: 703-792-7359

On May 18, 2021, the Board of County Supervisors initiated a comprehensive review of the current Data Center Overlay District and passed a [resolution](#) directing staff to include in that review potential impacts to environmental resources, cultural resources, and tourism, and to consider conservation of open space and use of green technologies. And yet, the Planning Office project [website](#) (Task 1 Research Expanded) shows that current *key research in progress* focuses only on economic development aspects. We are concerned that the process will de-emphasize land use, environmental, and infrastructure impacts.

The Planning Office hosted a virtual meeting to update the public on this process on October 21 and collected input via a [questionnaire](#). Posted on their website are the [presentation](#) and the [in-meeting chat](#).

On January 20th, they hosted a community meeting. A recording of the public comment time will be posted to the project webpage. An in-person meeting will be rescheduled for a later time.

Independent Hill Small Area Plan

On Mar. 16, 2021, the Board of County Supervisors voted 5-3 to approve the [Independent Hill Small Area Plan](#), effectively altering the Comprehensive Plan to allow industrial development, including a data center, on a property that is both inside the legislative border of Prince William Forest [National] Park, in the Rural Crescent and transected by Quantico Creek, one of our highest quality streams.

PW Digital Gateway

On July 20, 2021, the Board of County Supervisors voted 5-3 to initiate a comprehensive plan amendment that would change the long-range land use for approximately 801 acres from Rural Crescent and Environmental Resource to Technology/Flex, for the purpose of developing data centers. This application covers 27 individual properties that are located on both sides of Pageland Land and adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. County staff are reviewing the proposed amendment and will return to the board to present their recommendations. Our coalition held a press conference prior to this meeting to express our concerns about its potential impacts on our rural crescent, national parks, wildlife and habitat, and other cultural, historical and ecological resources. Watch our press conference prior to the vote below. Staff is now reviewing the amendment proposal and will return to the board (date TBD) to present their recommendations. A community meeting hosted by the Planning office is [scheduled for January 27th](#).

House Farm Data Center Application

On May 11, 2021, the Planning Department received a Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment request to convert rural land into a new category called the Data Center Edge District. The Comprehensive Plan change is currently being considered, with a Board vote planned for early 2022. For further details, [read here](#).

[Learn more about these and other developments as they arise.](#)

How You Can Help

[See our Sample Letter](#)

Attend an upcoming event:

[Check here for a list](#) of upcoming events!

Write your representative:

Because these land-use decisions would impact National Parks, this is more than a local issue. Consider writing a letter to the [local, state, and federal elected officials](#) that represent Prince William County.

Write to your county supervisor to express your views. Send a message to bocs@pwcgov.org or send a [pre-crafted message with one click here](#). Consider mailing your letter too. [Addresses are here](#).

Attend & speak at upcoming Board of Supervisors Public Hearings:

We'll update this site with meeting dates as they become available. You can also sign to receive updates in the Prince William Conservation Alliance newsletter below. We'll update this site with public hearing meeting dates as they become available. Until then, you can speak during public comment time at any upcoming Board meeting. [Sign-up to speak and see the schedule](#).

Place "Protect National Parks & Rural Crescent" yard sign in your yard. [Email](#) or [call](#) Prince William Conservation Alliance to find out how to pick up your sign. Spanish version is available!

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates from the Prince William Conservation Alliance.

First Name <input type="text"/>	Last Name <input type="text"/>	Email Address <input type="text"/>	Subscribe
---------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------

We respect your privacy and will not share your email address with others.

In The News

Community knowledge and engagement is critical in the matters that are important to us all. Below you'll find a collection of news articles relevant to the current threats to Prince William County's Rural Crescent, National Parks and natural resources posed by various proposals for data center overlay expansion and tech/flex industrial corridors.

- Dec 23, 2021 [Prince William County's environmental staff rejects rural crescent data center plan over 'major' impacts to natural resources](#)
- Dec 19, 2021 [Bipartisan opposition to Pageland data center plan emerges at Heritage Hunt meeting | Headlines | insidenova.com](#)
- Dec 14, 2021 [Battlefield: Pageland data centers would have 'negative impact' on historic resources | Headlines | insidenova.com](#)
- Dec 10, 2021 [Most Popular Tourist Sites in Greater DC - Washington Business Journal](#)
- Dec 7, 2021 [Battlefield superintendent calls data center plan the 'single greatest threat to the park' in decades | News | princewilliamtimes.com](#)
- Dec 6, 2021 [Wheeler says 'PW Digital Gateway' plan could reduce residents' tax burden | News | princewilliamtimes.com](#)
- Dec. 2, 2021 [QUEST OPINION: Data centers, the Bi-County Parkway are too much for the rural crescent | Opinion | princewilliamtimes.com](#)
- Dec. 1, 2021 [Rural crescent data center plan resurrects Bi-County Parkway debate | News | princewilliamtimes.com](#)
- Nov. 18, 2021 [Opposition mounts against 'rural crescent' data center plans | News | princewilliamtimes.com](#)

How Proposed Data Center Development in Prince William County's Rural Crescent Threatens the Place We Love.

①

Is That a Data Center in the Fields?

How proposed data center development in Prince William County's Rural Crescent threatens our drinking water, natural and historic resources

Anélyse Regelbrugge, PEC Fellow
July 20, 2021

[View Story Map](#)

Coalition to Protect National Parks and the Rural Crescent

Prince William Conservation Alliance | Piedmont Environmental Council | Coalition for Smarter Growth | Manassas Battlefield Trust | Virginia Native Plant Society | Sierra Club – Great Falls Group | Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area | The Journey National Heritage Area | American Battlefield Trust | National Park Conservation Association

Our Work

[About](#)
[Current Proposals](#)
[Take Action](#)