



AGENDA

Public Meeting on Master Plan for Josiah Henson Special Park
(Formerly, "Uncle Tom's Cabin")

August 24, 2010

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Montgomery Regional Office Building

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

- I. Welcome and Purpose of Meeting – Shirl Spicer, Museum Manager – 5 minutes**
- II. PowerPoint Presentation – Rachel Newhouse, Master Plan Project Manager – 20 minutes**
 - Background
 - Master Plan schedule
 - Draft Plan Responses and Preliminary Goals and Objectives
- III. Breakout Stations - introduce staff (participants free to move from station to station) – 60 minutes**
 - **Goal 1 – Interpret Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County** – Shirl Spicer, Heather Bouslog, Don Housley
 - **Goal 2 - Retain the Integrity of the Historic Architecture and Landscape** - Joey Lampl, Herb White
 - **Goal 3 - Create a safe accessible site** – Ed Axler, Rachel Newhouse, Sabrina Pirtle
 - **Advocacy – Fundraising, Friends Groups, Partners** – Jayne Hench
 - **Overall questions** – John Hench, Brian Woodward
- IV. Report Back to Whole Group – scribes from each station – 30 minutes**
- V. Conclusions and Final Questions and Comments - 5 minutes**

Thank you for attending!

Please visit our website at www.ParkPlanning.org for project information.



Comments from Josiah Henson Public Meeting

August 24, 2010

GOAL #1 – Interpret Josiah Henson’s life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County.

Shirl Spicer reviewed the proposed staff plan for interpretation of the Henson Site, while explaining the interpretive themes for the exhibitions and programming.

- Pull together “touchstones/key stories” of Montgomery County, history of Charles Prince home in Rockville. Bring together these three stories that are internationally known:
 1. The Pearl
 2. Escape of Maria Weems
 3. Josiah Henson
- Underground Railroad See the larger context that Josiah Henson/Isaac Riley Story
 - Beall Dawson connection
- Broaden even further to international community
 - Edmoston family going to Europe
 - Abolitionists going to Europe
- Tie to religious community: Methodist
- Tie to Baltimore
- Money from Europe and religious community, i.e. Washington Grove, Asbury Methodist
- Discuss split within Methodist community during the Civil War (Rockville)
- Punishment: not only violence but other means, such as lack of education
- Local interpretive programming partner:
 - Menare Foundation – [Living history site] Interpretation of plantation life
- Myth, Literature, History and Stereotypes:
 - No branches [listed on interpretative theme outline, and the following were suggested:]
 - Relationship between Josiah Henson and “Uncle Tom.”
 - Josiah Henson and his own “myth making.”
 - How Josiah Henson manipulates fame of Stowe’s book to his own advantage.
 - What Josiah Henson establishes in Canada
 - What does Josiah Henson mean to us today? Man vs. myth
 - Teachable moment
- Garden element for reflection:
 - How stereotypes are still with us today. “How do we change today our role in making a better place?”
 - Reflection/teachable moments
- Slavery in the modern world

Interpretive themes will not be restricted to text on walls, but will incorporate programs. Programs are key to the interpretation of the site, such as ongoing programs with partners in county and throughout the country.

- Living history/interpreters
- Living historians
- Interpretation will evolve over time
- From “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” to what it is today



- Local folklore
- Emphasis on agriculture in county
- Emphasis on economics [in county]: Mills, agriculture, etc.

Archaeology:

Archaeology can locate features that can tell the story of life experiences of others on the property.

- Different perspectives
- Other slaves on property
- Ceramic: Economic social status
- Archaeology can enrich the interpretation.
- Reports, papers, presentations about archaeology

GOAL #2 – Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape.

Joey Lampl reviewed the proposed staff plans for retaining the integrity of the Henson Site’s historic architecture and landscape.

Bring landscape elements back:

- Agricultural crops
- Willows
- Well
- Make Rozier agricultural

GOAL #3 – Create a safe accessible site.

Ed Axler reviewed minutes from the meeting with state and county traffic staff which addressed the public comments from the June 15 public meeting.

Concerns

- Number of traffic accidents at Tilden Lane and on Old Georgetown Rd at 270 (non-reported).
- ADA compliance with pedestrian crossing timings.
- Possible incorporation of new pedestrian crossing technology.
- Recommend Tilden and Old Georgetown become a test site for crosswalk technology.
- Suggestion of installing “no right on red”

Next steps?

Public contact McDOT and SHA and Senator and legislators and advise of potential dangers.

Suggestions:

- Extend pedestrian signal timing.
- Widen pedestrian sidewalk/curb.
- Improve sense of safety for pedestrians.
- Is there interest of parking on western side of Old Georgetown?
- Include study of parking on Old Georgetown.
- Reviewed action items from traffic meeting.
- Seek support from Old Georgetown parking garage developers.



- Thing if installing a historic site specific sign.

Goal #4 – ADVOCACY: Funding, Friends Groups, Partners. Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.

Objectives

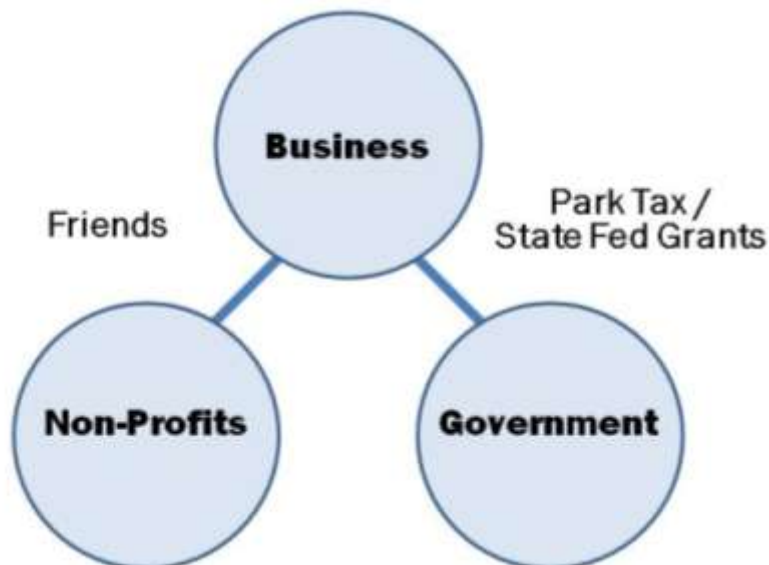
- Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.
- Establish a volunteer corps to provide interpretive program assistance to serve as advocates within the community and to provide pro bono services in specialty areas, such as development and advocacy.

Jayne Hench, acting chief of Special Programs Division for Parks, discussed the ways to achieve the objectives:

Montgomery County Department of Parks needs to avail ourselves of all available and potential income streams to both fund this project and to develop strong advocates. There are three basic models and we should consider how best to engage each:

1. **Government Model** – funds projects through tax dollars – including Park Tax, bond, POS, etc
2. **Business Model** – includes selling goods and services above cost to generate a profit – could be selling programs, gift shop items, sponsorships, etc.
3. **Non-Profit Model** – supports a mission by fund/friend raising – includes elements like grant writing for private foundation/publicly funded grants, Fundraising appeals, Friends Group development , solicitation of donations (cash/in-kind), planned giving, volunteerism (traditional, pro-bono, interns, corporate), etc.

Donations Fixed Program





Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan

VISION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

VISION

A public museum that ...

- *celebrates the challenging and inspiring life of Rev. Josiah Henson, the man who inspired the fictional character "Uncle Tom";*
- *educates visitors about the enslavement of African Americans in Maryland;*
- *promotes a greater appreciation of history in Montgomery County; and is*
- *treasured by the people it serves.*

GOAL #1: *Interpret Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County*

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide guided tours of Riley House and archaeological dig site with some artifacts on exhibit; hold three annual events: Emancipation Day, Heritage Days, and Luxmanor Art Show; and, continue showing the video "Father Henson – His Spirit Lives On" (produced by Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Ontario).
2. Research Henson descendants, other Montgomery County plantations, and conduct oral history interviews with Montgomery County residents (e.g., free Black community members, descendants of slaves, etc.) to deepen history and broaden context.
3. Convene key members of African American local and scholarly communities in interpretive advisory group. Coordinate with local and regional African American museums to support joint programming, and coordinate with the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Ontario.
4. Expand program opportunities to include hands-on activities, lectures and symposia, interactive website, living history demonstrations, costumed reenactments, and programs for school children.
5. Plan and produce new orientation film focused on Henson's life in Maryland, other areas of U.S., and international community (produced by Parks).
6. Design and install permanent exhibits (including possible scaled model of plantation) and small research library within Riley house. Interpret the log wing as an antebellum kitchen—its original purpose.

GOAL #2: *Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape*

OBJECTIVES

1. Demolish 1960s Rozier house and garage.
2. Consider possible future expansion of existing park boundary based on presence of contributing historical and/or archaeological features as shown on aerial photography from



1927 and 1943. These features may include the farm road and former outbuildings with their adjacent land area. Future park acquisition assumes willing sellers, fair market value as determine through three independent appraisals, and available funding.

3. Preserve historic house according to historic preservation standards and applicable laws.
4. Use historic documentation and archaeology to identify former structures and features of the plantation and make archaeology a vital element of ongoing work and future permanent exhibits.
5. Identify and label remaining large trees, remove non-historic plantings and possibly entrance drive, and return landscape to an earlier form with known crops/planting. Use landscape screening where appropriate to transport one back in time.
6. Demolish non-contributing Henson garage if new space is designed and built for video and restrooms. Alter garage appropriately if that space is still needed for programming or storage functions.

GOAL #3: *Create a safe, accessible site.*

OBJECTIVES

1. Keep neighborhood context by continue to respond to neighbor watch, providing neighbors with Park Police phone numbers, and requesting traffic control during Parks special events.
2. Add picnic tables, benches, and bike racks so visitors can access the site and sit and enjoy its surroundings.
3. Remove sight-limiting shrubs, add motion-detection lighting, and better secure house and contents against potential vandals. Install brown and white standard Parks sign.
4. Bring to attention of McDOT and SHA need for improved safety at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane through crosswalk delineation, pedestrian countdown signal, landscaping buffers, and better lighting.
5. Research shared parking opportunities with public entities such as schools and with Department of Recreation at Wall Local Park.
6. Encourage Metro, bus, and trolley loop transportation through new signage at Metro and bus stops, coordination with trolley tours, and request to McDOT for bus shelter in front of park. Install wayfinding signage to park from Metro, Wall Local, and major intersections.
7. Coordinate with private developer on future structured parking north of the Montgomery County Aquatic Center.
8. Keep public access on Old Georgetown Road by retaining driveway apron to Rozier site and putting appropriate number of parking spaces (including accessible spaces) and potential bus pull-off there.
9. Create a visitor orientation point (kiosk, shelter, or small visitor center) on the Rozier site for ticketing, restrooms, video, etc.
10. Design and implement ADA to make site paths and first-floor of historic house accessible.



Additional Public Input Received

- **Reduce the speed limit on OLD GEORGETOWN RD. to 30 mph in this vicinity.** The 40 mph is not appropriate for a "city" situation, which is what White Flint is going to be. Lowering the speed limit to 30 mph on OLD GEORGETOWN RD. between Rockville Pike and Tuckerman Lane would reduce the traffic volume and the speed of traffic in the vicinity of your property. This would prevent traffic moving at 45 mph to speed up to 55 mph or more to "make the light". Reducing the OLD GEORGETOWN RD. speed limit to 30 mph would -- ALONE -- significantly promote and increase pedestrian safety at the OLD GEORGETOWN RD./ Tilden Lane / Nicholson intersection. It would become much safer to cross OLD GEORGETOWN RD. for pedestrians. It would also lower the speed of traffic turning onto Nicholson or Tilden Lane, from OGR.
- **Increase the walking time for pedestrians crossing OGR, to meet ADA standards.** Reportedly the State and County are already planning to do this.
- **Install a "No Right on Red Light" sign for southbound OLD GEORGETOWN RD. traffic, wishing to turn right onto Tilden Lane (westbound).** This would make it safer for pedestrians crossing both OLD GEORGETOWN RD. and Tilden Lane in this vicinity.
- **Install a raised crosswalk on Tilden Lane just west of the OLD GEORGETOWN RD. intersection.** That would greatly slow traffic coming from OGR.
- **Eliminate east / west "thru" traffic between Nicholson and Tilden Lane in both directions.** This idea would meet resistance, but it would greatly improve the situation and it could be done at this time.
 1. This would tremendously "calm" traffic in this vicinity.
 2. THIS single change would SATISFY the County Council's promise (when it approved the White Flint Sector Plan) to "protect" Luxmanor from non-resident "cut through traffic".
 3. This would mean traffic on Nicholson or Tilden Lane could no longer travel straight through the intersection, but could only turn left or right onto OGR. Much of the traffic at this intersection is motorists who are in the habit of using this route to drive between Potomac and Wheaton. This was historically a "standard route" for this traffic. Eliminating this would significantly reduce the traffic volume for this OLD GEORGETOWN RD./ Tilden / Nicholson intersection.
 4. This would eliminate "speeding" on Tilden Lane and Nicholson to "make the light" and then cross the intersection at a high rate of speed. This would make all three roads much safer in this vicinity.
 5. This would reduce the number of vehicles entering Tilden Lane and speeding, coming down the hill from OLD GEORGETOWN RD. for westbound Tilden Lane traffic.
 6. It would make parking on Tilden Lane safer, and then walking across Tilden to reach the Henson property (for Henson visitors).
 7. This would not significantly inconvenience Luxmanor residents, who could still turn left or right onto OLD GEORGETOWN RD. and have other streets they could use to enter or exit the neighborhood.
 8. Residents from Old Farm and Tilden Woods would not be unduly affected - because they can now conveniently enter and exit their neighborhoods via Montrose Road and the NEW Montrose Parkway (that cost many millions of dollars).
- **Encourage changes to reduce school bus traffic using this intersection.** For example, the Green Acres School could be given their own entrance and exit from Executive Boulevard or Montrose



Parkway. Also, the County could arrange to have school buses enter via other streets, rather than rely exclusively on Tilden Lane.

- Again, I believe that the White Flint developers' traffic consultants would be the best source of advice for you. Their primary theme is "pedestrian friendly", "walkability", and reducing the vehicles. They WANT pedestrians to be able to walk from the Luxmanor area over to White Flint. The traffic using this intersection that could use other routes is significant. It would be better to change old habits now. The traffic engineers are the experts and their ideas will be much better and more comprehensive than anything I could come up with.
- You had also said that currently a parking lot is proposed for the Rosier property directly adjacent and to the south of the Henson/Riley property. I want to emphasize, as I said on the phone, this is a rare opportunity to put in some agricultural model land down county, rather than pave it over with yet another parking lot. I would assume you are targeting a period of significance that includes the pre-Civil War era, and possibly a model farm from that time period would be considered. I believe the property was occupied in the 18th century as well, however, and of course post-Civil War, the late-19th and 20th-century period of tenant farms has been sorely overlooked in the county from what I can tell.
- Also, given that the thrust of the Planning Board is to make WF a walkable area, it would be in keeping with that planning to make sure visitors take metro and walk to this park. It would also be in keeping with the 'feel' and the viewshed of this historic site that a parking lot is not built next door to it.
- You also mentioned the number of visitors at ~16,000. That is significantly more than we now have, and more, I believe, than my neighbors were anticipating, so I would assume, and I believe my neighbors do too, that parking and traffic would be elsewhere, in the WF Sector, and nowhere near Old Georgetown and our residential neighborhood.



Meeting Notes - Transportation Issues

AGENDA

Interagency Meeting on Master Plan for Josiah Henson Special Park

August 10, 2010, Tuesday, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Location: MCDOT's Gaithersburg Office's at 100 Edison Park Dr, Gaithersburg
(4th Floor NW corner (large), Traffic Conference Room)

Meeting Purpose: To prepare for the next/2nd scheduled public meeting on Aug.24, 2010 by coordinating with MCDOT on traffic-related issues.

The appropriate representatives from MCDOT, SHA, others agencies are invited to attend the 2nd public meeting in August to listen to the public concerns & respond if/when necessary.

Historical Background: The famous Harriet Beecher Stowe novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was based on Josiah Hensen life. He lived as a slave on the Riley Plantation (on the west side of Old Georgetown Road between Tilden Lane and Sedgwick Lane) where a log cabin exists attached to an existing house.

Introduction: Rachel Newhouse, project manager, to introduce this master plan project, its schedule, the key issues.

Discussion Topic: Based on the public input at the first 06/15/10-meeting, vehicular & pedestrian traffic-related issues associated with M-NCPPC's Parks Department's Master Plan for the Josiah Henson Special Park -- to recognize & celebrate Josiah Henson's life & achievements. A facility planning project would follow this master plan.

Overall Issues:

- a. Pedestrians' difficulty crossing Old Georgetown Road at intersection with Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane.
- b. Safe pedestrian access to/from the off-site parking proposed at the Wall Park (with the swimming pool) on the east and the White Flint Sector Plan.

Specific Issues:

1. Signal Timing at MD 187/Nicholson Lane-Tilden Lane (John Riehl): The public perceived that the pedestrian traffic signal timing crossing Old Georgetown Road is not sufficient -- although the signal timing is set at the MUTCD recommended guidelines.
2. Pedestrian Safety (Will Haynes):
 - a. Public's safety concerns at the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Nicholson Lane-Tilden Lane (currently with crosswalks, pedestrian signal heads, and handicapped ramps).
 - b. Adequacy of sidewalks that are a minimum 5-foot wide that are less than the new "Road Code" standards.
 - c. Devang Dave provided accident data for the years 2006 and 2007 along Old Georgetown Road between Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane and Poindexter Lane.



The results were no reported pedestrian injuries or fatalities. At the intersection with Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane, the 7 reported accidents in 2007 and 6 reported accidents in 2006 that are not considered significant. There were also 7 other reported accidents at points south of this intersection (towards Sedgwick Lane).

3. Bus Stops (Stacy Coletta):
 - a. Possible relocated bus stops to be in front or at least closer to historic site,
 - b. An 8-foot-wide sidewalk at the bus stop to be ADA compliant that is visually adequate, and
 - c. Installation of a bus shelter.
4. Street Lighting along Old Georgetown Road (Tommy Shoemaker): Possible street lighting improvements along the east side of Old Georgetown Road between Nicholson Lane and the future Sector-Planned site of the Swim Center's parking garage (on the north side of Wall Park).
5. Tilden Lane (Resurfacing) Project from Old Stage Road to Old Georgetown Lane (Donald Noble or Randy Paugh): Status of this traffic calming project.
6. Tilden Lane Traffic Calming & Wayfinding Signage (Fred Lees):
 - a) Status of Traffic Calming- Narrowing the through travel lanes while eliminating parking on the south side & adding a bike lane on the north side.
 - b) Status of Tilden Lane Access Restrictions Study- Possible left turn restrictions from Old Georgetown Road during the PM peak periods to prevent the "cut-through" movement from Old Georgetown Road, to Tilden Lane, left to Marcliff Road, and to Tuckerman Lane.
 - c) Wayfinding signs along County roadways.
7. Wayfinding from the White Flint Metro Station (WMATA's Toni Byrd): Updating WMATA's neighborhood maps at this Metro Station (at no cost to M-NCPPC) including directions, a picture, and a write-up on a map of nearby points of interest.
8. North Bethesda Transportation Management Organization (TMD) assistance (Peggy Schwartz): Help with wayfinding info, etc.
9. Other traffic-related issues?
10. Need to have a follow-up meeting?

ADJOURN