

Approved and Adopted

# Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan

Prepared by the Montgomery County Department of Parks

Approved and Adopted by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning

Commission

December 2, 2010



## Abstract

Title	Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan
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Abstract	This Master Plan provides background materials, describes the public outreach and planning process, and outlines a plan for the development of the Josiah Henson Special Park. It contains materials on natural and cultural resources, needs assessments, the preliminary program of requirements and implementation strategies.

### THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bi-county agency created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties. The Commission is charged with preparing, adopting, and amending or extending The General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The Commission operates in each county through Planning Boards appointed by the county government. The Boards are responsible for preparing all local plans, zoning amendments, subdivision regulations, and the administration of parks.

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MontgomeryParks.org ■ ParkPlanning.org

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## Purpose of the Master Plan

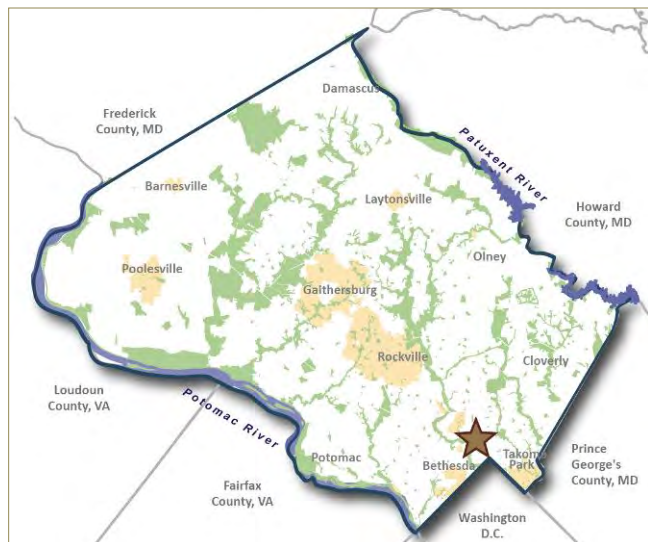
The purpose of the Master Plan is to establish:

- a Vision for the Park;
- the Goals and Objectives for ongoing operations and programming; and
- a Preliminary Program of Requirements to guide the Facility Plan.

*Figure 1 - Process for developing the Preliminary Program of Requirements*



Figure 2 - Park Locator Maps



Right - Vicinity Map  
Below - Countywide Map





## The Park Today

### Site Description

- 1.5 acres in an R-200 Zone
- Special Park
- Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane in North Bethesda
- Southern Parks Division
- Adjacent to White Flint Sector Planning Area



Top - Front view of Riley Farm house and log kitchen

Middle - Front view of Riley Farm log kitchen

Bottom - The Rozier house

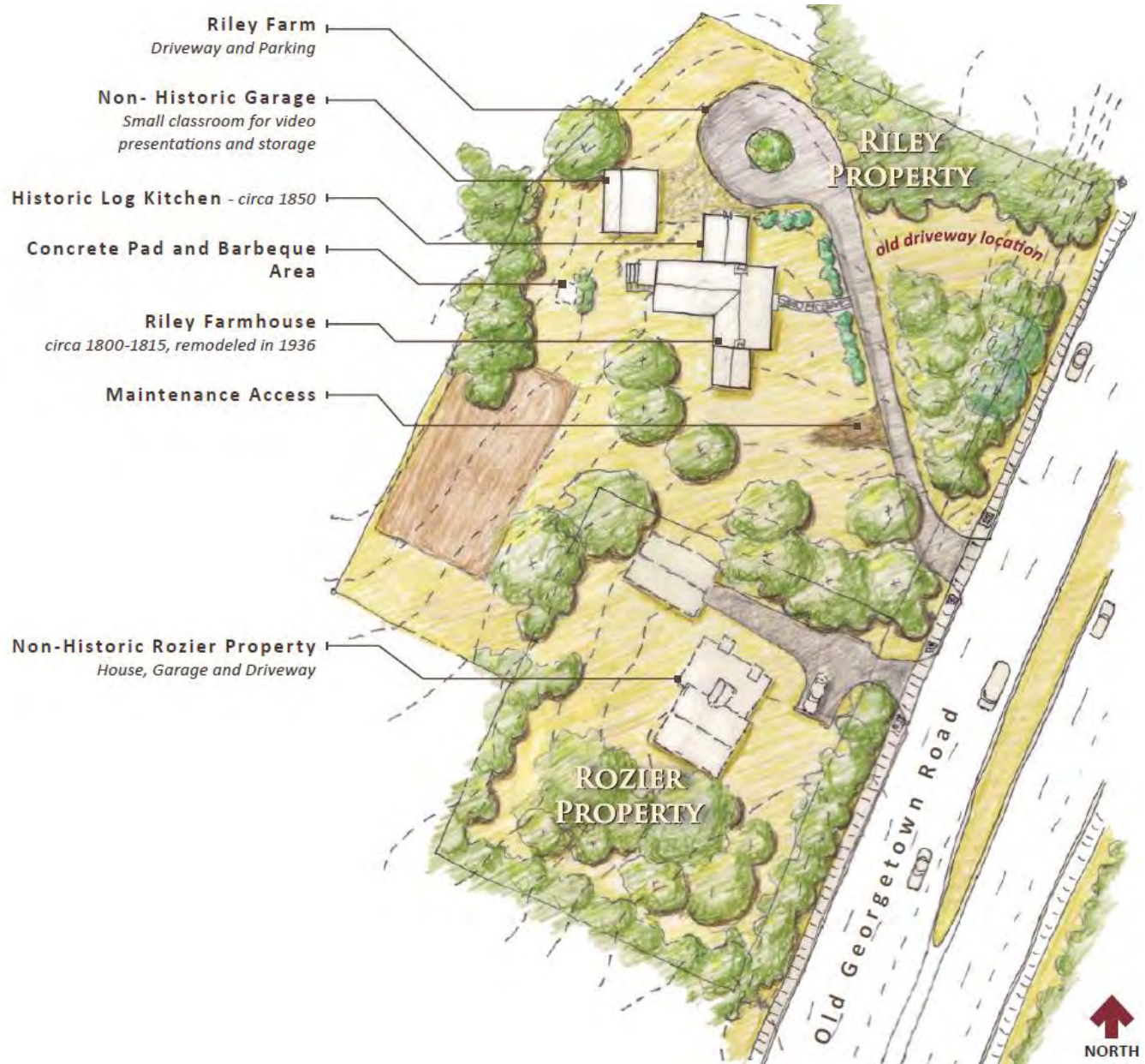
### Opportunities

- An internationally significant cultural resource focused on the real life story of Reverend Josiah Henson (1789 - 1883), which inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's fictional novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- Interpretation can be achieved through Henson's own words from his published autobiographies.
- Interpretation of the history of slavery in Montgomery County and Maryland.
- Stakeholders: Consensus can be achieved and efforts realized through cooperation among adjacent Luxmanor residents, historians and archaeologists, African American communities countywide, the Maryland-National Capital Park Planning Commission and other interested parties.

### Potential Constraints

- Surrounding land-use is single-family residential, R-200 Zone.
- Adjacent private, land-use pattern does not reflect historic landscape.
- Small, constrained site with no parking.
- Site's historical public 'persona' mandates improved security (Note: Implementation of recommendations from a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Study is underway).
- Wayfinding and destination signage are required.
- M-NCPPC's future operating and capital budgets are likely insufficient for full program.

**Figure 3 - The Park Today**



### **Transportation and Access Issues**

- Safe, adequate pedestrian and vehicular access is a concern.
- Traffic and parking situations are concerns given neighborhood setting.

### **Regulatory Impacts**

- Historic Preservation Ordinance/Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code (Site is a local landmark.)
- Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (M-NCPPC is in receipt of a National Park Service “Save America’s Treasures Grant” for this site.)
- Forest Conservation and Environmental Site Design
- Noise Regulations (If applicable)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

**Figure 4 – Reverend Josiah Henson's Journeys through Maryland, 1789-1830**

- 1. Henson's Birthplace, 1789**  
Francis Newman Plantation, Port Tobacco, Charles County, MD
- 2. Owner of Henson's Mother**  
Dr. Josiah McPherson Plantation, Charles County, MD
- 3. Site of Slave Auctions near Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.**
- 4. Adam Robb, former owner of Henson**  
Adam Robb Plantation, Rockville, MD
- 5. Site of Henson's Enslavement, 1795-1830**  
Isaac Riley Plantation, Rockville, MD
- 6. Site of Henson's Spiritual Conversion**  
Newport Mill, Montgomery County, MD
- 7. Marketplace frequented by Henson**  
Georgetown, Washington, DC



Map of Maryland, c. 1795

## Historic Context

- The park is part of the Isaac Riley plantation where Reverend Josiah Henson, an enslaved person, grew from early childhood into adulthood.
- After escape to Canada in 1830, Henson wrote his autobiography in 1849 which inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Henson's autobiography describes the Riley plantation and his forced labor there. It also describes being inside the Riley house.
- Henson's particular life story and the history of slavery and emancipation in Montgomery County connect this site to other historic sites in the county. In Rockville there are sites such as the former Newport Mill in the Ken-Gar neighborhood (where Henson converted to Christianity), the site of the Rockville auction block (where slaves were sold and families separated), Adam Robb's tavern (Henson's owner before his purchase by Isaac Riley), etc.
- The park also has connections to other destinations in Henson's story: his birthplace in Charles County, his travels to Kentucky (where he was sent to work as a slave under



**Figure 5** – 1863 Property Boundary of Riley Farm. Shown on a 2006 aerial photograph

Amos Riley, Isaac Riley’s brother), and his travels along on the Underground Railroad as both fugitive and conductor.

- This park is the only site with a standing public structure left in the United States where people interested in Henson can still visit and recognize an association with his life.
- Henson established a free black settlement called Dawn in Dresden, Ontario, Canada that is an Ontario Heritage Trust Site, and part of the Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site. Canada has designated Henson a “Canadian of National Historical Significance.”

## Guiding Documents

### Planning Board Approved Actions

- *1979 – Master Plan for Historic Preservation* - Resource #30/6, Individual Designation: “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” Subject to Chapter 24-A of the Montgomery County Code, Historic Preservation Ordinance.
- *2005 – Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* - “Integrate interpretive programs into park master plans.”
- *2009 – Legacy Open Space Master Plan*. Josiah Henson site added as a “heritage resource” during Parks’ acquisition of the Rozier parcel.
- *2010 – White Flint Sector Plan* - “The redesign of the nearby Wall Local Park should . . . include a pedestrian connection to the Josiah Henson/Uncle Tom’s Cabin site, a cultural site of international significance, about one quarter-mile south on Old Georgetown Road and one half-mile from the Metro station. This Plan envisions a public/private partnership with adjacent properties to relocate the surface parking within a parking structure built in conjunction with new residential development such as a public/private agreement.”

### Staff Documents

- *2006 – From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks* - A “Top 20 Priority Project” with the long-term goal of public interpretation.
- *2008 – Historic Structure Report for the Riley Farm / Josiah Henson Site* - Three (3) alternative treatment plans are proposed to lay the groundwork for schematic design in accordance with *the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation* and to support historical exhibits on Henson and Slavery in Montgomery County. (Visit

**Figure 6 – Reverend Josiah Henson’s North American Travels, 1795-1830**

1. Montgomery County, MD
2. Daviess County, KY
3. Mississippi River, LA
4. Cincinnati, OH
5. Sandusky City, OH
6. Buffalo, NY
7. Dawn Settlement, Ontario, Canada



JosiahHensonSite.org online or review excerpts from the *Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site* in **Appendix 2 - Alternative Options**

## Plan Recommendations

### Plan Vision

Staff recommends the following:

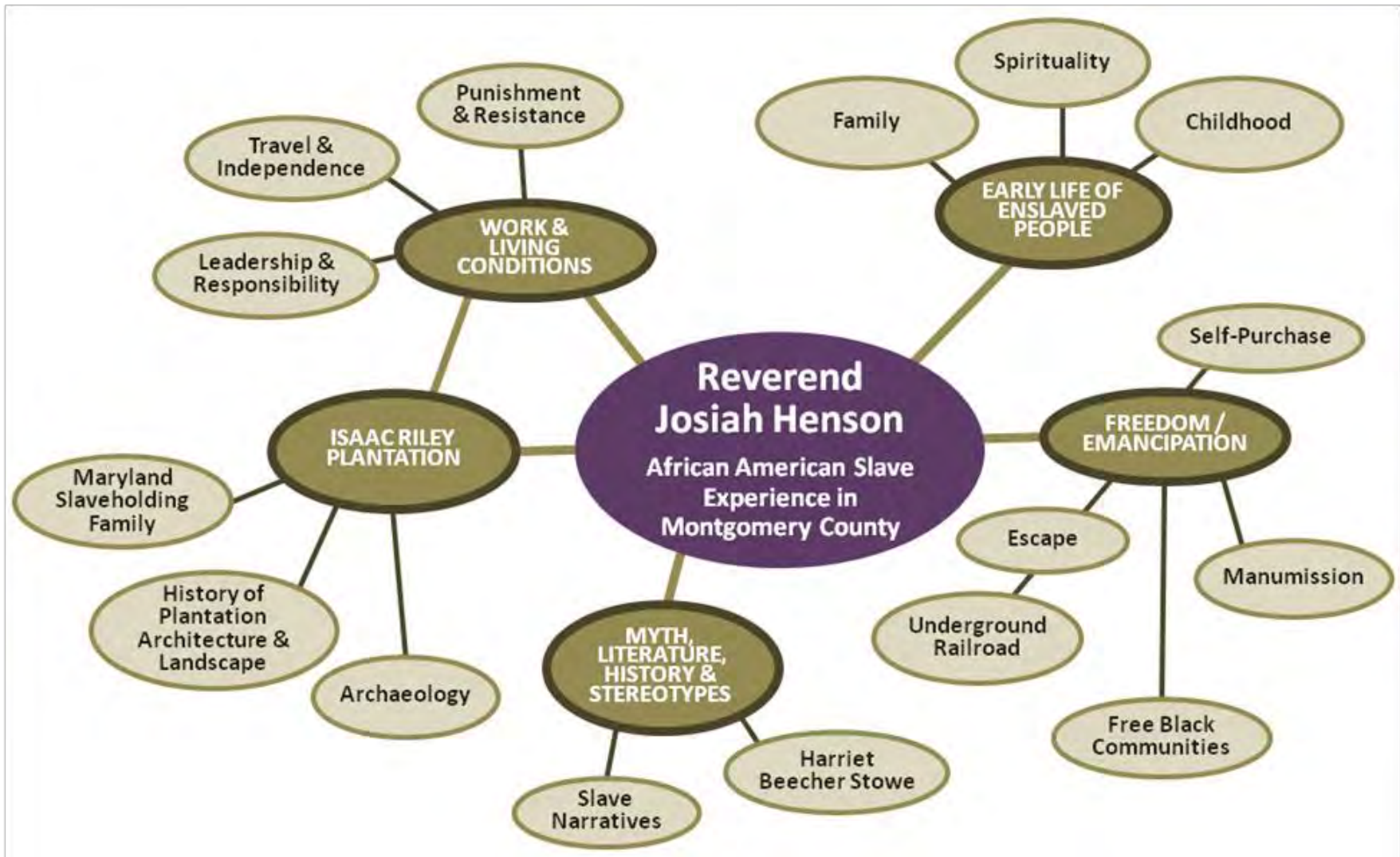
#### A public museum that ...

- celebrates the challenging and inspiring life of Reverend Josiah Henson, the man who inspired the fictional character “Uncle Tom;”
- educates visitors about the enslavement of African Americans in Maryland; and
- promotes a greater appreciation of history in Montgomery County.



Top - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and portrait of the author, Harriett Beecher Stowe in 1881.  
Bottom - Reverend Josiah Henson in 1881 and the cover of *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life*.

Figure 7 - Interpretive Themes Diagram





## Interpretive Themes & Strategies

Work is ongoing to explore and refine the best interpretive themes to guide programming for the park.

The exhibit themes listed below will enable the public to come to know, appreciate, and put into context the life of Reverend Josiah Henson, an African American Marylander who represents an iconic American image. Henson's Maryland years, especially the years spent in Montgomery County at the Riley plantation, illustrate what slavery was like.

Through Henson's experiences the exhibit will explore the childhood of enslaved persons, family life, work, travel and independence, spiritual life, punishment and resistance, and freedom.

It is impossible to understand Reverend Josiah Henson's life in a historical vacuum. Riley family life and tradition are linked to the understanding of Henson's Maryland years (**Figure 4**).

Whenever possible, Henson's own words will give voice to the stories of his life.

This interpretive plan will explore the themes (**Figure 7**) by incorporation of ongoing research and interpretative strategies such as exhibit signage, exhibit brochures, public programs, public tours, video documentary, and outdoor experiences/living history (*Historic Structure Report*). The chapter regarding *Implementation Strategy and Preliminary Program of Requirements* provides more details.

Listed below are the main themes for future programming for the park. Each theme was developed by Staff, the *Historic Structure Report* (HSR) consultants, and the public as noted in parentheses after each topic.



Above - The Reverend and Mrs. Josiah Henson, circa 1880.

## Reverend Josiah Henson & the African American Slave Experience in Montgomery County, Maryland

### Early Life of Enslaved People

- **Childhood**

Slavery extracted a huge toll on the lives of enslaved children. *(HSR, Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Family Life**

Slavery in 19<sup>th</sup> century Maryland separated families, created hardships, and forced families to struggle to remain united. *(HSR, Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Spiritual Life**

Many enslaved persons maintained a spiritual life under varying circumstances, as spirituality was a sustaining resource to them in their daily lives. The desire to read the *Bible* was also motivation to become literate during a period when literacy for the enslaved was illegal. *(HSR)*

### Work & Living Conditions

Economic conditions of slaveholders varied, determining the living conditions of enslaved people and the work they performed, whether that be domestic, industrial, and/or agricultural. *(HSR, Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Travel and Independence**

Enslaved people sometimes exercised independence when given opportunities to travel on their own, promoting their own causes and satisfying their own desires. *(HSR, Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Leadership & Responsibility**

Enslaved people struggled to be recognized as human, not chattel; they demonstrated leadership skills and claimed responsibility when they could. *(HSR, Public Meeting: J. Henson Theme)*

- **Punishment & Resistance**

The institution of slavery was held in place by violence — much of which took place within the confines of the law. Punishment of the enslaved impacted both living conditions and family life. Resistance to enslavement and its cruel punishments was exercised by using many methods, including escape. *(HSR)*

## **Freedom / Emancipation**

Enslaved people sought emancipation via manumission, purchase of their own freedom, or escape. Enslaved people made personal sacrifices to gain their own and others' freedom via the Underground Railroad. *(Public Meeting J. Henson Theme, Public Meeting: Montgomery County History of Slavery Theme)*

- **Free Black Communities (1800s)**

Emancipated slaves and their descendants formed close-knit communities, including many in Montgomery County, Maryland. *(Public Meeting: Montgomery County's History of Slavery Theme)*

## **Isaac Riley Plantation**

- **Slaveholding Family**

The life of the Riley family, a slaveholding family near Rockville, is linked to understanding both Henson's Maryland years and Montgomery County's role within a border state. *(HSR, Public Meeting: Montgomery County History of Slavery Theme)*

- **Plantation History**

The evolution of the Riley Plantation, from its beginning to the present, demonstrates changes in American architecture and landscape, also evident through archaeology. *(HSR, Public Meeting: Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation Theme and Archaeological Discovery Theme)*

## Myth, History, Literature & Stereotypes

Myth, literature, history, and stereotype are woven together in the interpretation of the period from slavery to freedom to civil rights.

- **Harriet Beecher Stowe**

It was due to the widespread publication of her 1852 book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in many different languages around the world that Henson's true-life story came to be known. (HSR)

- **Slave Narratives**

The complexities of slavery are revealed through the examination of slave narratives and stories surrounding slavery and relevant primary documents. (HSR)



Top - An archaeology volunteer at work.  
Bottom - Archaeological excavation in the backyard of the Josiah Henson Site.

## Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives are used to guide future operational and capital improvements.

Based on public input, the following four goals were developed:

- **Goal #1** - Interpret Reverend Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County.
- **Goal #2** - Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape.
- **Goal #3** - Create a safe, accessible site.
- **Goal #4** - Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.

A summary of the public meetings and input are located online at [ParkPlanning.org](http://ParkPlanning.org).



**Figure 8 - Plan Drawing for the Approved Development Option**







## **Approved Development Option**

The Planning Board approved the **Moderate Development Option** as best meeting the goals of the public, the carrying capacity of the small park situated in a residential neighborhood, and the realities of the Department and County budgets. The Approved (Moderate) Development Option is illustrated in **Figure 8**.

The **Moderate Development Option** takes the Park to the next level in capital improvements and interpretive programming.

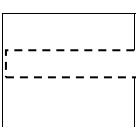
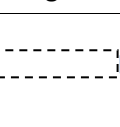
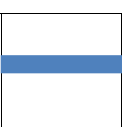
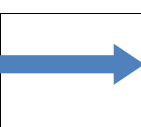





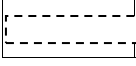
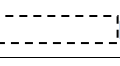


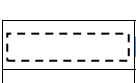



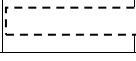
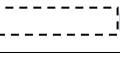


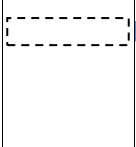


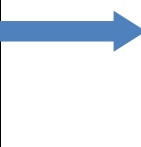
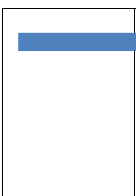

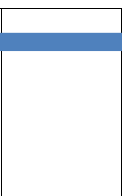

1. It raises the profile of this internationally significant historic site.
2. It successfully fulfills the interpretive goals proposed in the master plan.
3. It maintains compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood.
4. It achieves operational benchmarks with a reasonable request for facility-specific staff.
5. It is compatible with the economic realities of the Department and County, neither accepting of a status-quo vacant house with minimal public openings, nor overreaching to emulate capital outlays achievable in the private museum sector.





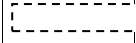
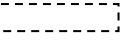


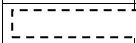
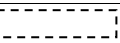
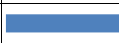
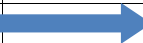
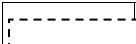
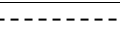


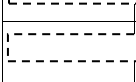
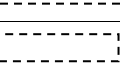


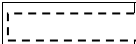
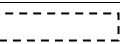






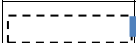



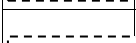



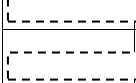
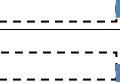






*The Development Options Chart (Appendix 1 - Development Options Chart) details the three options considered for development of the park (Minimum, Moderate and Maximum).*


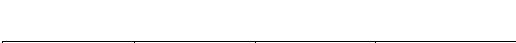

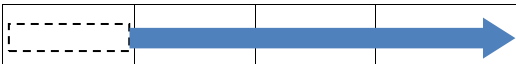
## Implementation Strategy and Preliminary Program of Requirements

KEY: “Plan and/or Design” = White Boxes and “Construct and/or Implement” = Blue Arrows

Plan Element	Description	FY11-12	FY13-14	FY15-16	FY17-18
<b>GOAL 1</b>					
<b>Interpret Reverend Josiah Henson's life and the history of slavery in Montgomery County.</b>					
<b>Objective 1.1</b> Provide interpretative programming of the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen, grounds and archaeological sites.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Open to public during (4) annual special programs: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (November).	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 2</b>	Open to public on weekends February through November.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 3</b>	Conduct limited special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily for 4th + 8th grade levels).	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 4</b>	Hire (1) full-time employee whose office will be on the site.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Objective 1.2</b> Conduct ongoing research into Reverend Josiah Henson (especially his experiences in Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Canada and Europe), slavery in Montgomery County, make connections to local and regional African American history, and related topics.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Expand research topics to include expanded interpretive themes.	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 2</b>	Expand the archival and library collections.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 3</b>	Conduct 200 hours of research annually.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Objective 1.3</b> Establish collaborations with local, regional, statewide, national and international historical organizations to support joint interpretive programming for the site.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the facility plan.	[Blue arrow spanning FY11-12 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 2</b>	Expand interpretive program coordination to include the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (Ontario, Canada), regional and national historical organizations such as: M-NCPPC Prince George's County historic sites, the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History (Baltimore), Harriet B. Stowe Center (Hartford, CT) and the Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH).	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Objective 1.4</b> Produce an orientation film focused on Reverend Josiah Henson's Maryland years and the Isaac Riley family.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Produce a 5-10 minute orientation film to introduce Reverend Josiah Henson, the Riley plantation history and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County; and continue to show the 30-minute video produced by Canadian historic site.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			
<b>Action 2</b>	Show orientation film within the onsite museum exhibition.	[Dashed box from FY11-12 to FY17-18, with blue arrow from FY13-14 to FY17-18]			

Plan Element	Description	FY11-12	FY13-14	FY15-16	FY17-18
<b>Objective 1.5</b>	Design, fabricate and install museum quality exhibitions in the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen and on the grounds.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Design and develop exhibits that tell the story of Reverend Josiah Henson and slavery in Montgomery County and Maryland to include permanent didactic panels, low-tech interactive exhibits, artifact displays, and interactive web presence.				
<b>GOAL 2</b> <b>Retain the integrity of the historic architecture and landscape.</b>					
<b>Objective 2.1</b>	Demolish 1961 Rozier house and retain garage for visitors or demolish.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Demolish the Rozier house and retain garage with moderate design changes as an option.				
<b>Objective 2.2</b>	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 exhibits.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Continue ongoing archaeological investigation.				
	<b>Action 2</b> Make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibit.				
<b>Objective 2.3</b>	Identify and label large trees, remove non-historic plantings, and return landscape to an earlier form with known crops/plantings.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Use landscape screening where appropriate and label historically significant trees.				
	<b>Action 2</b> Alter landscape to re-create historic feel where appropriate.				
<b>Objective 2.4</b>	Preserve historic house according to historic preservation standards and applicable laws.				
	<b>Action 1</b> <b>Riley House:</b> Restore the exterior of house; completely rebuild the screened-in porch for research library and small museum shop; convert modern kitchen at rear for museum; and repair second story. ** <i>Note - Staff's recommendation places interpretive emphasis on the first half of the 19th century more than on 1936. (See Appendix 2 - Alternative Options taken and modified from the Historic Structure Report to reflect staff priorities.)</i>				
<b>Objective 2.5</b>	Expand the park to reflect its historic and/or cultural landscape significance.				
	<b>Action 1</b> 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 determined through three independent appraisals, and available funding.				

Plan Element	Description	FY11-12	FY13-14	FY15-16	FY17-18
<b>GOAL 3</b>					
<b>Create a safe, accessible site.</b>					
<b>Objective 3.1</b>	Make this site a safe park and protect its resources.				
	<b>Action 1 Riley House:</b> Paint interior, add security lighting, remove sight-limiting shrubs and install an accessible ramp and walkway to the house.				
<b>Objective 3.2</b>	Create onsite parking spaces.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Create (5) parking spaces: (3) staff spaces and (2) ADA public spaces.				
	<b>Action 2</b> Create a bus pull-off for 55-passenger coach buses and school buses.				
<b>Objective 3.3</b>	Design and implement adequate public access on Old Georgetown Road.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Eliminate the circular driveway on the Riley grounds and restore the historic spring access.				
	<b>Action 2</b> Identify ADA compliant access points.				
<b>Objective 3.4</b>	Install restroom facilities.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Install (2) permanent ADA restrooms on the existing non-historic site.				
<b>Objective 3.5</b>	Create a Visitor Orientation/Information Point onsite.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Install a property boundary marker and standard Parks information kiosk on the former Rozier property.				
	<b>Action 2</b> Install up to 3 interpretive signs.				
	<b>Action 3 Rozier Property:</b> Option 1- Use garage as visitor orientation site with moderate design changes and demolish the Riley garage and restore additional landscaping				
	<b>Action 4: Riley Property:</b> Option 2 – Use garage as visitor orientation site, and demolish the Rozier garage and restore additional landscaping				
<b>Objective 3.6</b>	Install park amenities for the enjoyment of visitors.				
	<b>Action 1</b> Install bike racks in the parking area.				

Plan Element	Description	FY11-12	FY13-14	FY15-16	FY17-18
<b>GOAL 4</b> <b>Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site.</b>					
<b>Objective 4.1</b> Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Establish income streams and operating support from (3) areas: Government agencies: Solicit funding sources from items such as park tax, bonds, etc. Seek assistance and opportunities to join with M-NCPPC/Prince George’s County programming and staff. Business model: Establish a museum shop onsite; enlist benefits from future private developers (as available); and generate revenue from programming such as fees charged for special programs, group tours, etc. Non-profit model: Seek funds through fund/friend-raising, including grant writing, planned giving programs, solicitation of donations, volunteerism, etc.				
<b>Objective 4.2</b> 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.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Encourage the Luxmanor Citizens Association to create a committee of community members in support of the Josiah Henson Special Park.				
<b>Action 2</b>	Establish a volunteer corps to provide guided tours and assist with special programs.				
<b>Objective 4.3</b> Facilitate the establishment of a Friends group.					
<b>Action 1</b>	Develop a site-specific Friends group whose primary focus will be to support the Josiah Henson Special Park with fundraising/development activities.				

## Offsite Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

During the planning process, concerns were raised as to how to address off-site issues such as:

- How to make the pedestrian crossing safer at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane. (**Figure 10 - Pedestrian Connections Map**),
- How to connect the park to the major bike trails, existing or planned in the area. (**Figure 11 - Bike Connections Map**) and
- How to provide wayfinding signage to the park from the public parking locations at the White Flint Metro, nearby schools, the Montgomery Aquatics Center and future public parking garages. (**Figure 12 - Directional and Interpretive Signage, and Parking Map**).

In response to concerns about the anticipated pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic generated by visitors to the park, M-NCPPC staff convened a meeting on August 10, 2010 with staff from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) and the Northern Bethesda Transportation Management District. Various improvements were discussed as indicated in the meeting minutes.

The meeting culminated in a letter from the Montgomery County Planning Board to MCDOT and MSHA supporting transportation infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the Josiah Henson Special Park (**Appendix 3 – Traffic Meeting Minutes and Letter of Support**).

Figure 9 - Pedestrian Connections Map

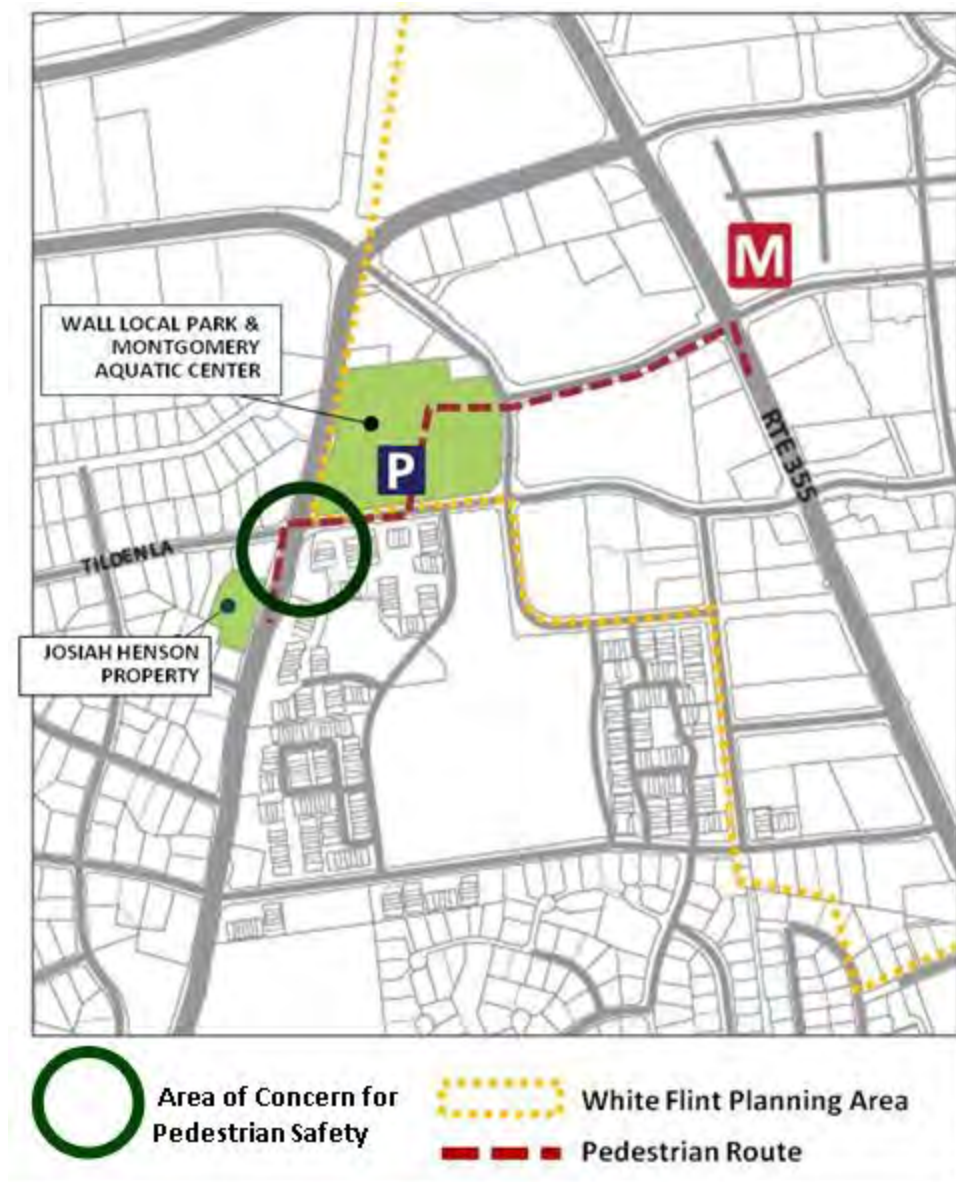


Figure 10 - Bike Connections Map

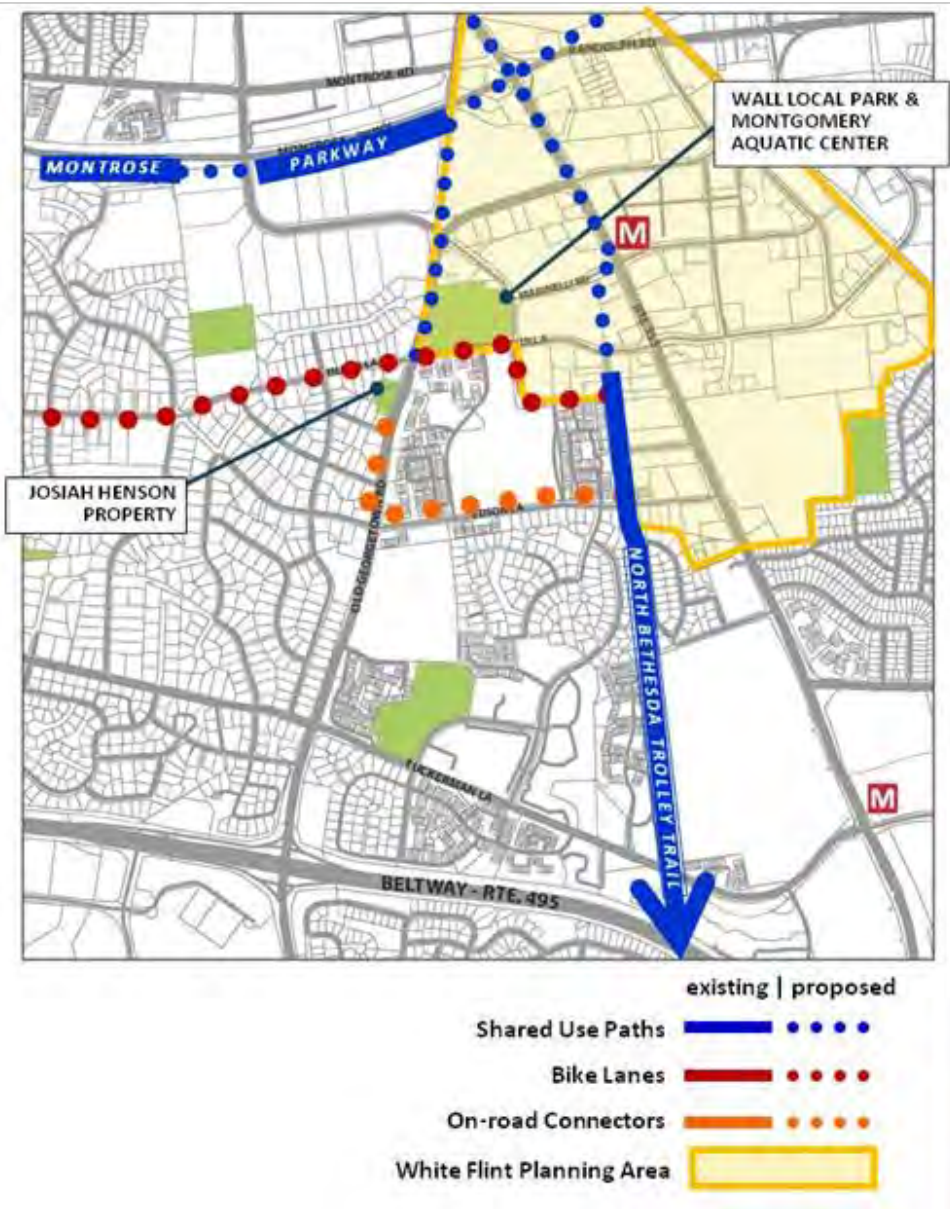
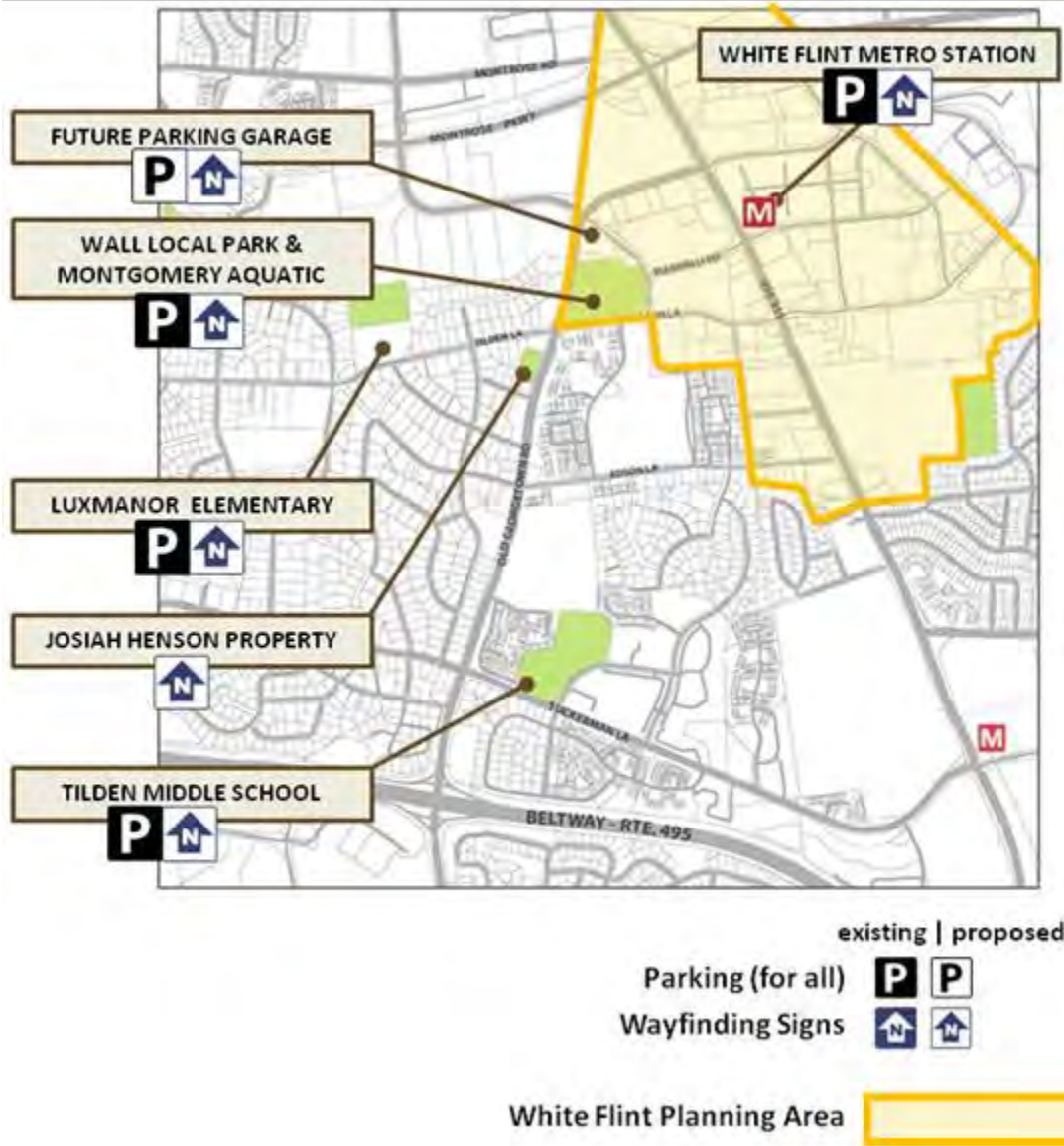




Figure 11 - Directional and Interpretive Signage, and Parking Map



## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Development Options Chart
- Appendix 2 - Alternative Options
- Appendix 3 - Traffic Meeting Minutes and Letter of Support

## Appendix 1 - Development Options Chart

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

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<p><b>Provide interpretive programming of the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen grounds and archaeological sites.</b></p>	<p>Open to public 4 days per year for annual special events: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House &amp; Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (November). Conduct limited special request tours for private and school groups. No new staff.</p>	<p>Open to public on weekends February through November. Open to public during 4 annual special programs: Luxmanor Citizens Community Art Show (April), Maryland House &amp; Garden Pilgrimage (May), Montgomery County Heritage Days (June), and Maryland Emancipation Day (November). Conduct special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels). Hire 1 full-time employee to manage the museum on-site.</p>	<p>Open to public February through November 5 days per week 3 weekdays, Saturday and Sunday.  Conduct special request tours for private groups and school groups (primarily for 4<sup>th</sup> + 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels).  Hire 2+ full-time employees to manage the museum and develop programming, with offices on the site.  Expand program opportunities to include additional hands-on activities, lectures and symposia, living history demonstrations, and programs for school children.</p>
<p><b>Conduct ongoing research into Josiah Henson (especially his experiences in Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Canada and Europe), slavery in Montgomery County, and make connections to local and regional African American history and related topics.</b></p>	<p>Establish archival and library collections on-site, focused primarily on Reverend Josiah Henson and slavery in Montgomery County.</p>	<p>Expand the archival and library collections. Expand research topics to include expanded interpretive themes. Conduct 200 hours of research annually.</p>	<p>Expand the archival and library collections. Hire 1 part-time historian. Establish an ongoing paid collegiate internship program to enlist 1 intern per semester to work onsite.</p>
<p><b>Establish collaborations with local, regional, statewide, national and international historical organizations to support joint interpretive programming for the site.</b></p>	<p>Coordinate with local &amp; countywide historical agencies on programming for the site, such as: Lincoln Park Foundation, Peerless Rockville, Montgomery County Historical Society, Menare Foundation, etc. Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the facility plan.</p>	<p>Establish an interpretive advisory committee to assist in the development of the interpretive plan. Expand interpretive program coordination to include the Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (Ontario, Canada), regional and national historical organizations such as: M-NCPPC Prince George County historic sites, the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History (Baltimore), Harriet B. Stowe Center (Hartford, CT) and the Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH). Establish a one-room research library (non-borrowing), specializing in Josiah Henson, slavery in Montgomery County and the international appeal of both Henson's narrative and H. B. Stowe's novel, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>.</p>	<p>Expand interpretive program coordination to include more national and international historic organizations such as the National Museum of African American History and Culture (D.C.), and historic institutions throughout Europe. Establish a research center (non-borrowing) onsite that will be open the same hours as the museum. Hire 1 part-time or seasonal archivist/librarian to manage the research center.</p>

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<b>Produce an orientation film focused on Josiah Henson’s Maryland years and the Isaac Riley family.</b>	Continue to show 30-minute educational video, "Father Henson – His Spirit Lives On" produced by Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site in Ontario, Canada.	Produce a 5-10 minute orientation film to introduce Reverend Josiah Henson, the Riley plantation history and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County as part of museum exhibition.  Continue to show 30-minute educational video, "Father Henson – His Spirit Lives On" produced by Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site in Ontario, Canada.	Produce a full-length documentary on the life of Reverend Josiah Henson (focused on his Maryland years), the Riley family and plantation history, and an overview of slavery in Montgomery County. Documentary will be available for sale.
<b>Design, fabricate and install museum quality exhibitions in the Riley house, 1850s log kitchen and on the grounds.</b>	Create temporary exhibit about Reverend Josiah Henson and slavery inside the farmhouse and log kitchen. The exhibit would include only stationary didactic panels and minimal archaeological displays.	Design and develop interpretive exhibits that tell the story of Reverend Josiah Henson, slavery in Montgomery County and Maryland to include permanent didactic panels, low-tech interactive exhibits, artifact displays, and interactive web presence.	Increase the level of technology for the museum exhibit interactives such as touch screen computer stations, and expand the interactive online exhibits. Restore and furnish the kitchen to a functional 1850s kitchen with working hearth. Expand the gardens to include samplings of historic crop plantings; and reconstruct outbuilding(s) such as the smokehouse.

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

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<b>Demolish 1960s Rozier house and retain garage for visitors or demolish.</b>	Demolish house and retain garage and parking areas.	Demolish house and retain garage with moderate design changes, as an option for the visitor orientation site.	Demolish house and garage.
<b>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 exhibits.</b>	Pursue ongoing archaeological investigation and make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibits.	Continue ongoing archaeological investigation.  Make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibits.	Continue ongoing archaeological investigation and make archaeological artifacts a vibrant component of exhibits.
<b>Identify and label large trees, remove non-historic plantings, and return landscape to an earlier form with known crops/planting.</b>	Install minimal landscape screening.	Use landscape screening where appropriate and label historically significant trees.  Alter landscape to re-create historic feel where appropriate.	Use landscape screening and label historically significant trees.  Alter landscape to re-create historic feel where appropriate.

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<p><b>Preserve historic house according to historic preservation standards and applicable laws.</b><sup>1</sup></p> <p>(See <i>Appendix 1</i> for Staff priorities.)</p>		<p><b>Riley House:</b> Restore the exterior of house; completely rebuild the screened-in porch for research library and small museum shop; convert modern kitchen at rear for museum; and repair second story.</p>	<p><b>Riley House:</b> Generally, extensive changes to each part of the house, for the most accurate or useful design of each of the house's components as facilities for a museum focused on Reverend Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, the Riley family and slavery.</p>
<p><b>Expand the park to reflect its historic and/or cultural landscape significance.</b></p>		<p>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 determined through independent appraisals, and available funding.</p>	<p>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 determined through independent appraisals, and available funding.</p>

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

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<p><b>Make this site a safe park and protect its resources.</b></p>	<p><b>Riley House:</b> Paint interior, add security lighting, remove sight-limiting shrubs and install an accessible ramp and walkway to the house.</p>	<p><b>Riley House:</b> Paint interior, add security lighting, remove sight-limiting shrubs and install an accessible ramp and walkway to the house.</p>	
<p><b>Create onsite parking spaces.</b></p>	<p><b>Rozier Property:</b> Keep garage and parking areas.</p>	<p><b>Rozier Property:</b> Create 5 parking spaces: 3 staff spaces and 2 ADA public spaces.</p> <p>Create a bus pull-off for 55-passenger coach buses and school buses.</p>	<p>Create parking areas and spaces for cars and buses to load, unload and park.</p>
<p><b>Design and implement adequate public access on Old Georgetown Road.</b></p>	<p>Continue to use the existing driveway onto the Riley property.</p>	<p><b>Riley Property:</b> Remove the circular driveway and restore the historic spring access.</p> <p>Identify ADA compliant access points for the Park.</p>	
<p><b>Install restroom facilities.</b></p>	<p>Use 2 port-a-johns (ADA and regular) during special events.</p>	<p>Install 2 permanent public restrooms on the existing non-historic site.</p>	<p>Install multiple permanent restrooms in a future onsite or off-site visitor center.</p>

<sup>1</sup> *Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site* (June 2008), prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc.

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<b>Create a visitor orientation/information point onsite.</b>	Install standard park identity sign, 3 outdoor interpretive panels and an information kiosk.  Install a property boundary marker.  <b>Riley Property:</b> Use garage as visitor orientation site.	Install standard park identity sign, 3 outdoor interpretive panels and an information kiosk.  Install a property boundary marker.  <b>Rozier Property:</b> Option 1- Use garage as visitor orientation site with moderate design changes and demolish the Riley garage and restore additional landscaping.  <b>Riley Property:</b> Option 2 – Use garage as visitor orientation site, and demolish the Rozier garage and restore additional landscaping.	Build a visitor center onsite or off-site (if additional land becomes available). Include state of the art LEED building techniques, sustainable sites initiative landscape solutions, and create multiple restrooms and accessible features.
<b>Install park amenities for the enjoyment of visitors.</b>		Install bike racks in the parking area.	Install additional site amenities, such as bike racks in the parking area and outdoor benches.

**GOAL #4: Develop advocacy and fundraising strategies to ensure the viability of the site**

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
<b>Establish income streams to support ongoing programming and staffing.</b>	Obtain federal grants and state bond bills in addition to county funding sources.	Establish income streams and operating support from 3 areas:  Government agencies: Solicit funding sources from items such as Park Tax, bonds, etc. Seek assistance and opportunities to join with M-NCPPC/Prince George’s County programming and staff.  Business model: Seek developer contributions from future private developers; and generate revenue from programming such as fees charged for special programs, group tours, etc.  Non-profit model: Seeks funds through fund/friend-raising, including grant writing, planned giving programs, solicitation of donations, volunteerism, etc.	Establish an ongoing income stream that will fund one position for a full- or part-time employee for the site.  Establish a museum shop on site.  Contract a development/fundraising consultant to identify target funding opportunities and to fundraise.
<b>Establish a volunteer corps to provide interpretive program assistance, to serve as advocates within the community and to provide</b>	Manage small group of volunteer docents.	Encourage the Luxmanor Citizens Association to create a committee of community members in support of the Josiah Henson Special Park.  Establish a volunteer corps to provide guided tours and assist with special programs.	Hire staff person to manage volunteer corps.

OBJECTIVE	MINIMUM	MODERATE	MAXIMUM
pro bono services in specialty areas, such as development and advocacy.		Establish partnerships with local schools.	
Facilitate the establishment of a Friends group.		Develop a site-specific Friends group whose primary focus will be to support the Josiah Henson Special Park with fundraising/development activities.	Financially supported by the Friends' fundraising programs, the following staff will be hired: (1) grant writer or development officer, (1) program coordinator and possibly a volunteer coordinator.

## Appendix 2 - Alternative Options

### Excerpts from the *Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site*

The following alternative options for the Josiah Henson Special Park are built upon recommendations contained in the *Historic Structure Report for the Riley House/Josiah Henson Site* (June 2008), prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. The three Options presented here are specific to the Riley house and immediate grounds of the 1.02-acre parcel originally purchased.

It should be noted that certain elements in each Option are modified from John Milner Associates, Inc.'s recommendations in order to reflect Staff's priorities. **NOTE:** Staff comments are highlighted by *[italic and brackets]*.

#### Alternative #1 [Minimum Option]

Minimum changes to the House for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery with some interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would be the least costly and would have the least adverse effect on the historic resources.

1. **General Landscape** — Keep landscape approximately as it is now. *[Purchase additional land as possible guided by documentation of historic and/or archaeological features and given willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding.]*
2. **Driveway Access** — Keep the road access as is. Staff parking is accommodated at the terminus. *[Note: Public parking is off-site at the nearby Wall Local Park.]*
3. **Garage** — *[Keep as is.]*
4. **General Restoration of Exterior Features** *(the same in all alternatives)*
5. **Shutters** — *[Restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.]*
6. **Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — *[Keep the window and door design as they are now. Install interior storm windows for improved thermal characteristics. All options assume the house would have an air-conditioning system and a forced-air heating system other than an oil-fired furnace.]*
7. **Kitchen (West) Porch** — Restore/repair the rear (west) porch adjoining the kitchen, replacing damaged materials, following the 1936 design.
8. **Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Leave the window as it is.
9. **Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing** — Leave window as it is.



- 10. Log Room Interior** — *[Keep as is, removing appearance of modern-day intrusions such as electrical outlets. Make interpretive focus on Henson and slavery.]*
- 11. Library** — Keep the Library as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Interpret or use as a library, possibly with books that can be used by visitors.
- 12. Living Room** — Keep the Living Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Use primarily as exhibit space.
- 13. Dining Room** — *[Use the wall space and floor area for exhibits about the plantation experience.]*
- 14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing** — *[Remove all appliances.]* Keep the details that date from 1936 in place. Use the room as a combination of part exhibit on the 1930s and kitchen functions and part other uses, possibly including a small museum shop.
- 15. Screened-in Porch** — Keep it as it is, but repair damaged details.
- 16. Second Story** — Repair any damaged materials. *[Use the space as part of Henson interpretation.]*

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#### **Alternative #2 [Moderate Option]**

More *[moderate changes]* to the House, for use as a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery, also with interpretation of the Riley family and of the 1936-era architecture. This approach would entail a few costs over what is absolutely necessary and would have a more pronounced effect on the historic resources.

- 1. General Landscape** — Remove boxwoods, some trees, and most twentieth century hardscape features (patios, walkways, barbecue, etc.) to achieve a design that more closely resembles the property in Henson's time. Create a facsimile of a slavery-era vegetable garden between the 1936 kitchen wing, the garage, and the log house and in the area behind the kitchen wing. *[Purchase additional land as possible guided by documentation of historic and/or archaeological features and given willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding.]*
- 2. Driveway Access** — *[Remove the circular terminus to provide more green space. Accommodate public parking at Wall Local Park and potentially other public institutions. Build accessible paths at the site itself.]*
- 3. Garage** — Convert Garage to an orientation center at which a video can be shown and from which tours begin. The building may also be large enough to accommodate some small meetings, an admissions desk, and a display rack with free brochures and a limited number of items for sale. The building should include two accessible rest rooms.
- 4. General Restoration of Exterior Features** (the same in all alternatives)
- 5. Shutters** — *[Maintain and restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.]*
- 6. Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — *[Keep as is.]*

**7. Kitchen (West) Porch** — Restore the porch, repairing or replacing damaged materials, following the 1936 design in all aspects but keeping glazed storm enclosure.

**8. Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Leave the window as it is.

**9. Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing** — Reopen the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the south end of the hallway from the dining room to the kitchen and living room, using it as part of an accessible path into the house by way of a ramp.

**10. Log Room Interior** — Treat the log room as a teaching environment [*about antebellum kitchen spaces and log slave quarters on the property up through 1850. Leave log walls exposed;*] re-open rear (west) door so that access can be made part of an accessible path from an orientation space in the garage; lower the floor to align with the lowest logs; create a floor surface that resembles a dirt floor (possibly tinted concrete with a slightly uneven surface and a sand finish); reinstall the loft floor to serve as a ceiling, using hand-hewn framing members.

**11. Library** — Remove the bookcases added to the room in 1936, but keep all other aspects of the room's design as they are now.

**12. Living Room** — Keep the Living Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match the 1936 design. Interpret as a living room, but also with some interpretive exhibits.

**13. Dining Room** — Keep the Dining Room as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match 1936 design. Interpret as a dining room, possibly displaying Riley family artifacts.

**14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing** — Keep the details that date from 1936 in place. [*Remove most modern appliances. Interpret the history of the evolution of a plantation from antebellum times to a modern day subdivision.*]

**15. Screened-in Porch** — Completely rebuild this space to provide one more room for the house. New floor should be on level with interior of house, and room should be completely sealed as part of interior space. Use the room to house a research library and possibly a small museum shop.

**16. Second Story** — Repair where materials have been damaged without removing or destroying any details shown on the 1936 drawings. Reinforce the floors as needed. Use the space as office and library space for a research facility, to the extent that may be allowed by code.

### Alternative #3 [Maximum Option]

Generally, extensive changes to each part the House, for the most accurate or useful design of each of the house's components as facilities for a museum focused on Josiah Henson's story, plantation life, and slavery, with interpretation of the Riley family as well. This alternative has more focus on the 1936-era architecture in some parts of the house than the other alternatives. An exception would be in the kitchen, which would be gutted and rebuilt as an exhibit space. This approach incorporates some items that may be disproportionately costly, and in some areas, it would have a negative effect regarding some of the historic materials, particularly those dating from 1936.

- 1. General Landscape** — Remove boxwoods, some trees, and most twentieth-century hardscape features (patios, walkways, barbecue, etc.) based on achieving a design that more closely resembles the property in Henson's time. Create a facsimile of a slavery-era vegetable garden between the 1936 kitchen wing, the garage, and the log house extending back into the area behind the kitchen wing. Purchase adjoining property *[if willing sellers, fair market value, and available funding to allow for additional archeology, the creation of larger representations of agricultural fields, and possible recreation of slave quarters and other outbuildings.]*
- 2. Driveway Access** — *[Remove circular terminus to provide more green space. Accommodate public parking at Wall Local Park and potentially other public institutions. Build accessible paths at the site itself.]*
- 3. Garage** — Convert Garage to an orientation center at which a video can be shown and from which tours begin. The building may also be large enough to accommodate some small meetings, an admissions desk, and a display rack with free brochures and a limited number of items for sale. The building should include two accessible rest rooms.
- 4. General Restoration of Exterior Features** (the same in all alternatives)
- 5. Shutters** — Restore the shutters, repairing damaged elements, and remaining faithful to the 1936 design.
- 6. Windows and Entrance Door of the Frame House** — *[Preserve and restore historic façade per local, state, and federal directives.]*
- 7. Kitchen (West) Porch** — *[Keep as is.]*
- 8. Window/Door from Current Library to Exterior** — Reopen the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the north wall of the current library and rebuild the porch, based on the photographs that exist, to provide a connection to the current front door of the log wing.
- 9. Southeast Window/Doorway to the 1936 Kitchen Wing** — Reopen the exterior doorway that formerly existed at the south end of the hallway from the dining room to the kitchen and living room, using it as part of an accessible path into the house by way of a ramp.
- 10. Log Room Interior** — Treat the log room as a teaching environment to tell the story of kitchen spaces and log quarters on the property prior to 1828. Leave log walls exposed; reopen rear (west) door so that access can be made part of an accessible path from an orientation space in the garage; lower the floor to align with the lowest logs; create a floor surface that resembles a dirt floor (possibly tinted concrete with a slightly uneven surface and a sand finish); reinstall the loft floor to serve as a ceiling, using hand-hewn framing members.

**11. Library** — Remove the book cases and other 1936 details, keeping fireplace as it is, restoring surfaces and fixtures to match presumed 1820s-1880s design. Reopen the doorway where the north window is now, in tandem with restoring the missing porch that connected the frame house to the log house. Possibly use as part of the visitor path (though this section would not be accessible for those with disabilities).

**12. Living Room** — While keeping the plaster, fireplace, window details, and doorway details as they are, use the wall space and floor space for exhibit materials, such as enlarged photographs, interpretive panels, a timeline, display cases, interactive exhibits, etc.

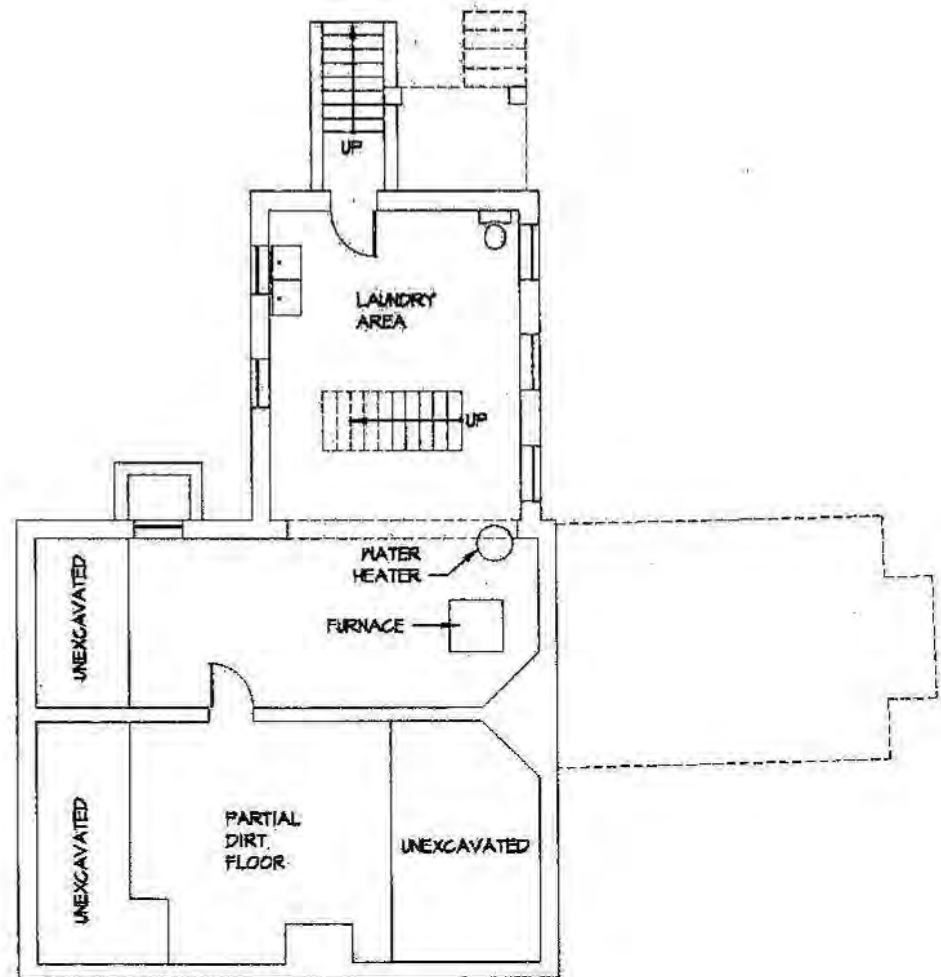
**13. Dining Room** — Return some aspects of the Dining Room to the presumed design before 1936. Remove shelves over fireplace. Reverse other 1936 alterations to fireplace. Possibly interpret the room as a dining room (or it may have been a bedroom). Use as space for exhibits on both the Henson and Riley stories, perhaps showing the contrast between the formality and higher standard of living in the frame house and the conditions in the log house, seen at a distance looking through the opening that now connects the two rooms.

**14. Kitchen in 1936 Wing** — Remove all appliances. Completely convert the room to contain interpretive exhibits on the plantation experience.

**15. Screened-in Porch** — Completely rebuild this space to provide one more room for the house. New floor should be on level with interior of house, and room should be completely sealed as part of interior space. Use the room to house a research library and possibly a small museum shop.

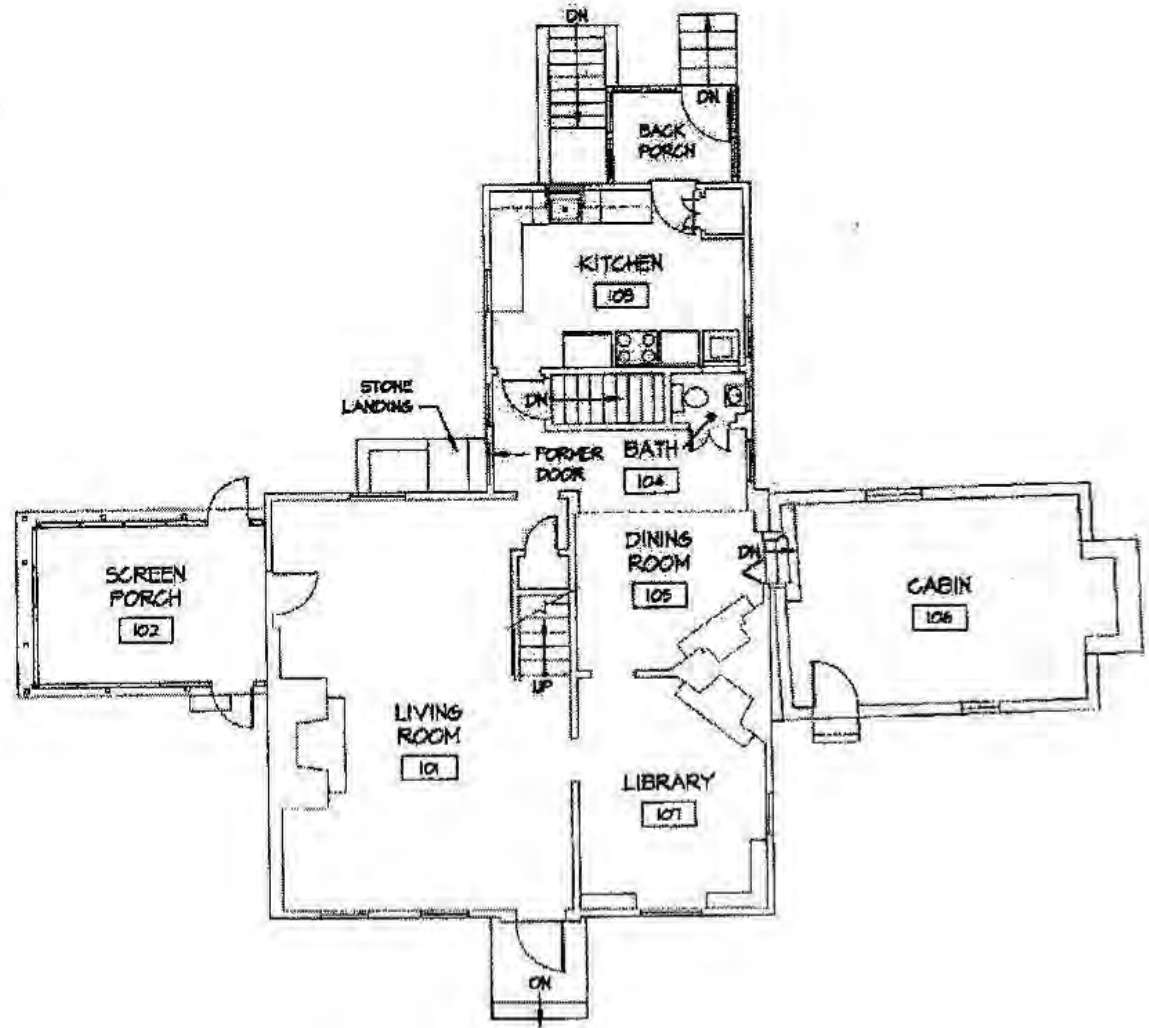
**16. Second Story** — Repair where materials have been damaged without removing or destroying any details shown on the 1936 drawings. Reinforce the floors as needed and provide accessibility features (chair lift or elevator) to allow use by public. Use the space as exhibit space, to the extent that may be allowed by code.

## EXISTING FLOOR PLANS



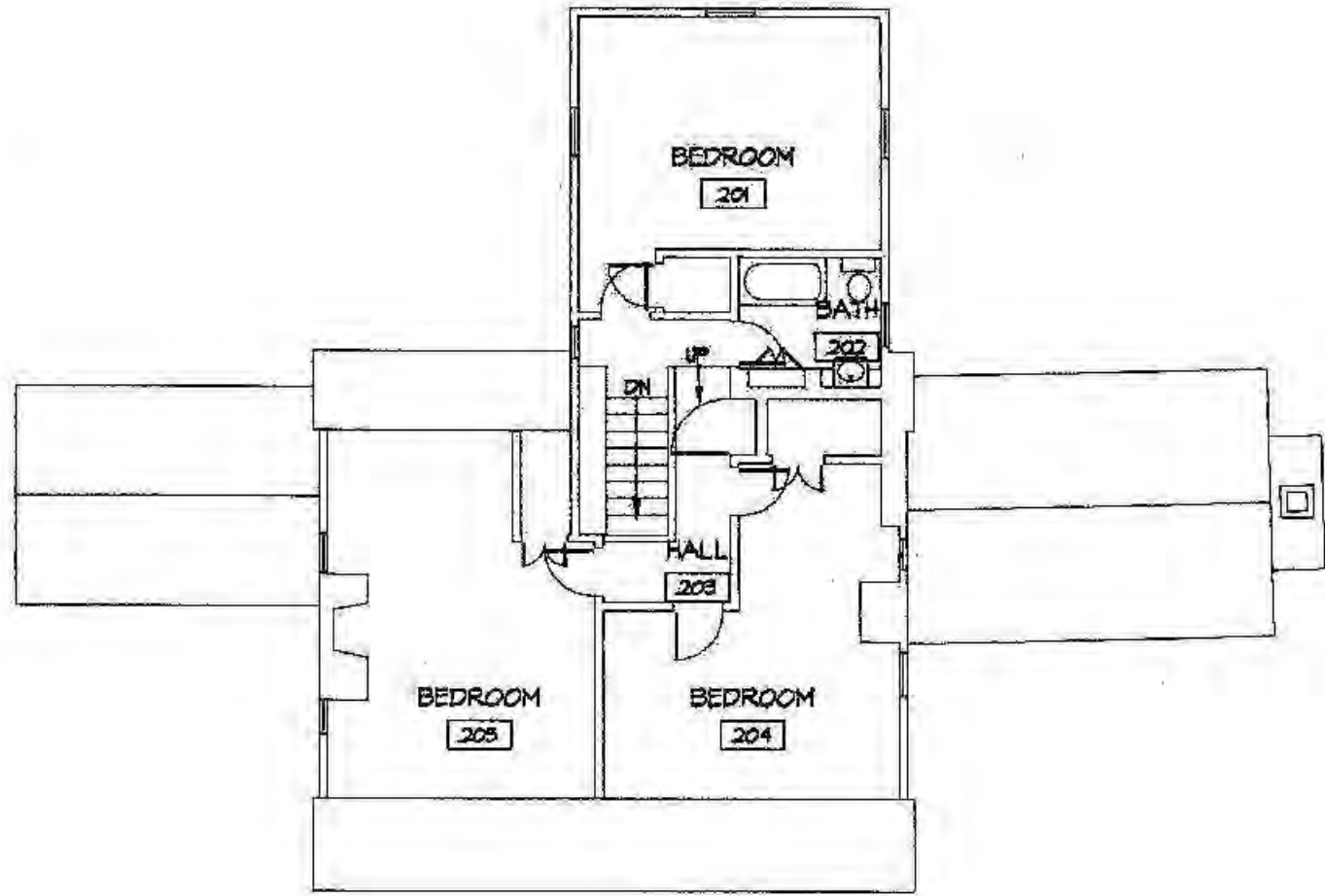
 1 EXISTING BASEMENT  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"





1 EXISTING FIRST FLOOR  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"





  **EXISTING SECOND FLOOR**  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



### Appendix 3 - Traffic Meeting Minutes and Letter of Support

**Meeting Minutes for  
Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Hensen Special Park  
August 10, 2010 at MCDOT Gaithersburg Office**

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

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail	Agency - Role
Ed Axler	301-495-4536	<a href="mailto:ed.axler@mncpc-mc.org">ed.axler@mncpc-mc.org</a>	MRO Transportation Planning APF
Tom Shoemaker	240-777-2161	<a href="mailto:tom.shoemaker@montgomerycountymd.gov">tom.shoemaker@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	MCDOT- Street lighting
Fred Lees	240-777-2196	<a href="mailto:fred.lees@montgomerycountymd.gov">fred.lees@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	MCDOT- Operational Traffic Studies
Peggy Schwartz	301-770-8108	<a href="mailto:pschwartz@nbtmd.org">pschwartz@nbtmd.org</a>	North Beth. TMD- Trip Mitigation
Stacy Coletta	240-777-5836	<a href="mailto:stacy.coletta@montgomerycountymd.gov">stacy.coletta@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	MCDOT, DTS - Ride-On Bus Stops
Youcef Hamroun	1-301-512-7481	<a href="mailto:YHamroun@sha.state.md.us">YHamroun@sha.state.md.us</a>	MD SHA District 3 Traffic
Brooke Farquhar	301-650-4388	<a href="mailto:brooke.farquhar@montgomeryparks.org">brooke.farquhar@montgomeryparks.org</a>	Parks- Planning & Trails Supervisor
Rachel Newhouse	301-650-4368	<a href="mailto:rachel.newhouse@montgomeryparks.org">rachel.newhouse@montgomeryparks.org</a>	Parks- Master Plan Project manager
Will Haynes	240-777-2132	<a href="mailto:william.haynes@montgomerycountymd.gov">william.haynes@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	MCDOT - Pedestrian Safety
Randy Paugh	240-777-7608	<a href="mailto:randy.paugh@montgomerycountymd.gov">randy.paugh@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	MCDOT - Tilden Lane Project
Eileen Emmet	301-495-2550	<a href="mailto:eileen.emmet@mncpc-mc.org">eileen.emmet@mncpc-mc.org</a>	Parks- Facility Planning Project Manager
Corren Giles	1-410-545-5595	<a href="mailto:Cgiles@sha.state.md.us">Cgiles@sha.state.md.us</a>	MD SHA Access Permits
Nkosi Yearwood	301-495-1332	<a href="mailto:nkosi.yearwood@mncpc-mc.org">nkosi.yearwood@mncpc-mc.org</a>	MRO Planning - Master Plan Review
Shirl Spicer	301-650-4373	<a href="mailto:shirl.spicer@montgomeryparks.org">shirl.spicer@montgomeryparks.org</a>	Parks Project's Museum Manager

**B. Introduction to the Josiah Hensen Special Park**

1. Project Manager of the Master Plan, Rachel Newhouse:  
Project schedule: Next public meeting is scheduled on August 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by staff draft presentation to the PB in September, and a PB public hearing on October 28.
2. Project Manager of the Facility Planning Project, Eileen Emmet:  
After the Master Plan process, the Facility Plan will follow by developing 30% design plans.

**C. Safe pedestrian crossing of Old Georgetown Road at the intersection with Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane.**

1. Pedestrian Signal Timing-Citizen's concerns regarding inadequate time for pedestrians to cross Old Georgetown Road
  - a) Currently, the Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane approaches operate as a split signal phasing (i.e., one approach has a green signal, while the other opposite approach has a red signal.
  - b) The SHA "controls" the signal timing and has final approval of any signal timing or geometric changes (Old Georgetown Road is State Route, MD 187).
  - c) The MCDOT operates the traffic signals as part of their countywide computerized traffic signal control system.
  - d) Suggested Improvements by Public agencies to address the citizen's concerns:
    - 1) Installation of pedestrian count-down signal heads:  
Now being installed at most signalized intersections in the County.
    - 2) Widen the Old Georgetown Road median to provide a pedestrian refuge median:  
A refuge island in the middle of the intersection is not needed because pedestrian signal timing is set to provide enough time for pedestrians to walk between opposing curbs.
    - 3) Prohibit RTOR from southbound Old Georgetown Road to westbound Tilden Lane to prevent conflicts between free right-turning vehicles with pedestrians:  
The "rules of the road" should require motorist to stop for pedestrians before turning right on red.
    - 4) Install signs to warn motorists turning left that conflicting pedestrian movements crossing Old Georgetown Road might be occurring:



**Meeting Minutes for  
Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Henson Special Park  
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Pedestrian crossing time would start after left turns (particularly from) from Nicholson Lane are stopped.

- 5) Construct a pedestrian overpass over Old Georgetown Road:  
An overpass is not warranted, its construction costs are too prohibited, and insufficient right-of-way is available for the long landing that is required to satisfy ADA's grade requirements.
  - 6) Convert the intersection into a roundabout:  
The existing right-of-way is Insufficient and, thus, would require "taking" the adjacent properties.
  - 7) Eliminate east-west or Nicholson Lane/Tilden Lane through traffic:  
Not feasible because public interconnectivity to and from neighborhoods is essential and needed for school bus access to Luxmanor Elementary School.
- e) Other suggested improvement by SHA and MCDOT staff:
- 1) Will Haynes: Relocate the pedestrian push button to be at the starting point of crosswalks.
  - 2) Corren Giles: Realign the crosswalks to be perpendicular and the shortest path to cross the intersection.
  - 3) Fred Lees: Priority is given to improve "unsafe" pedestrian intersection crossings over improving the "undesirable" operational" conditions.

**D. Initiate improvements by the Project Manager, Rachel Newhouse:**

1. Write to the SHA District 3's Assistant Traffic Engineer, Anyesha Mookherjee, at Maryland SHA, 9300 Kenilworth Avenue, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or [AMookherjee@SHA.state.md.us](mailto:AMookherjee@SHA.state.md.us). She is currently on maternity leave and will return after Labor Day, but is checking her e-mails and will forward to the appropriate person.
2. After SHA and MCDOT investigation, a detailed traffic engineering study is needed that would be prepared by the Facility Planning Project's selected consultant. The study should include the existing traffic conditions and future build-out conditions.

**E. Any improvement would be funded and implemented by the "developer" or, in this case, the Parks Department.**

Possible source of funded could be using North Bethesda developer's PAMR (i.e., at \$11,300 per PAMR trip) payment directed towards improvements located in North Bethesda. MCDOT's Gary Erenrich must approve the transfer of the PAMR funds to Parks Department and into an established Park's CIP project.

**F. Suggested improvement of a mid-block crossing of Old Georgetown Road directly across from the Josiah Henson Park site:**

A mid-block crossing is unsafe for pedestrians to cross because drivers do not expect pedestrians to be present.

**G. Ride-on Bus Stops on Old Georgetown Road (lead by Stacy Collita):**

1. Relocate the nearest bus stop at the southwest corner of Old Georgetown Road/Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane intersection southward closer to the Josiah Henson site:  
MCDOT does not supported mid-block bus stops because they are more disrupted to the traffic flow and harder for bus to pull out from compared with the existing far side bus stop. In addition, the current spacing between bus stops is at the preferred 550 feet apart.
2. Ride-On route 26 operates on Old Georgetown Road with service to/from the White Flint Metrorail Station and peak-hour scheduled 30-minutes between buses.

**Meeting Minutes for  
Transportation-Related Topics associated with Josiah Hensen Special Park  
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- a) The largest current ridership is occurring at the southbound far side bus stop on Old Georgetown Road at intersection with Tilden Lane-Nicholson Lane with 65 boarding and 50 alighting.
  - b) Based on the current transit usage, the bus stop should be improved as follows:
    - 1) Move the bus stop 10 feet back from the curb.
    - 2) Improve the ADA accessibility.
    - 3) Install a bus shelter that would be one of the standard Clean Channel (with commercial ad space) design with the smallest footprint.
    - 4) SHA permits would be needed.
  - 3. The other bus stops on Old Georgetown Road have a fewer number of boarding and alighting.
  - 4. The existing right-of-way along the southbound/west side of Georgetown Road is sufficient to install bus shelters. However, the right-of-way along on the northbound/eastside of Old Georgetown Road is not sufficient to install a bus shelter.
- H. Site access from Old Georgetown Road:**
- 1. SHA would require either combining the Josiah Hensen site and house curb cuts or permitting a one-way right-turn in/right-turn out combination.
  - 2. Any non-residential curb cut is considered to be “commercial”.
  - 3. Parks Department must submit a concept plan for SHA approval.
- I. Bus access to/from Old Georgetown Road and on-site circulation:**
- 1. Bus pull off lane along Old Georgetown Road was discussed.
  - 2. Minimum required setback from intersection with Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane.
  - 3. Depending on the proposed scheduled bus arrivals, may need to bays. Adequate distance from the intersection at Tilden Lane/Nicholson Lane is required to store one bay for a boarding/alighting and another bus waiting behind it.
  - 4. Consider alternate designs for right turn into the site, bus drop-off/pick-up, and right-turn out of the site.
  - 5. Master Plan to develop “sketch plan concept” drawings with dimension while the Facility Planning would develop the details.
- J. Off-site parking locations are under consideration at Luxmanor Elementary School, Tilden Middle School, and Wall Park.**
- K. A visual buffer could be provided by planting trees in Old Georgetown right-of-way with SHA approval.**
- L. Street Lighting (lead by Tom Shoemaker):**
- 1. The “developer” (or Parks Department) would pay for the street lighting improvements.
  - 2. Currently wooden Pepco poles with street lighting fixtures are along the nearby segment of Old Georgetown Road (preferred spacing between lighting fixtures is between 150 and 200 feet).
  - 3. Project manager, Rachel Newhouse, should write to Emil Wolanin to request improvements.
  - 4. Prevent spill-over lighting by using cut-off flat lighting on the site.
- M. M. WMATA White Flint Metrorail Station way finder signs of nearby activity centers include maps, descriptions, and which bus route serves that site.**
- N. North Bethesda Trail signs direct users to Josiah Hensen site.**
- O. MCDOT’s Tilden Lane Project is not related to the Josiah Hensen Project other than the public meeting being a forum for citizens to state their concerns about local traffic issues.**
- P. Other traffic suggestion:**
- Q. Reducing the speed limit to 35 mph on Old Georgetown Road is beyond the control of this project.**
- ADJOURN (20 minutes early)**

Josiah Hensen Special Park-meeting minutes 8-10-20.doc



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

December 2, 2010

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Jr. Director  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Mr. Brian W. Young, District Engineer  
Maryland State Highway Administration, District 3 Office  
9300 Kenilworth Avenue  
Greenbelt Maryland 20770

RE: Supporting Transportation Infrastructure Improvements in Vicinity of Josiah Henson Special Park

Dear Mr. Holmes & Young:

We are writing to ask for your assistance to upgrade the transportation infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic generated by visitors and staff to and from the referenced site. The Josiah Henson Special Park is the site where an internationally recognized historical figure lived – the basis for the “Uncle Tom” character of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel. The Josiah Henson Special Park is now proceeding as a master plan followed by a facility planning project and is anticipated to be completed in five years.

The referenced Special Park is located in North Bethesda on the west side of Old Georgetown Road (MD 187) south of the intersection with Nicholson Lane/Tilden Lane. The candidate transportation infrastructure improvements were developed through the Special Park master plan process, including the August 10, 2010 meeting with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). The minutes of the August 10 meeting are enclosed.

We look forward in partnering with your agencies to move forward in programming the most promising transportation infrastructure improvements identified to facilitate safe access to this Special Park project. We will be providing needed access improvements based on a traffic engineering study to be prepared during the upcoming facility planning project. We will look for opportunities to pursue other supporting improvements in both transportation

Messrs. Holmes and Young  
December 2, 2010  
Page Two

agency capital budgets and as possible offsite improvements associated with future nearby development projects.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Ed Axler in the Transportation Planning Division at 301-495-4536 if you have any questions regarding these transportation infrastructure improvements. If you have question regarding Parks Department's Special Park, please contact Rachel Newhouse in Park Planning and Stewardship at 301-495-4368 or Eileen Emmet in Park Development at 301-495-2550.

Sincerely,

  
Marye Wells-Harley  
Vice Chair

Enclosure

## Acknowledgements

### **Department of Parks**

Mary Bradford, Director  
Mike Riley, Deputy Director Administration  
Gene Giddens, Acting Deputy Director Operations

### ***Park Planning and Stewardship Division***

Dr. John E. Hench, Chief

- **Park and Trail Planning Section**  
E. Brooke Farquhar, Supervisor  
Rachel Davis Newhouse, Project Coordinator  
Barbara Lerch, Sr. Graphic Designer
- **Cultural Resources Stewardship Section**  
Joey Lampl, Supervisor  
Heather Bouslog, Archaeologist  
Shirl Spicer, Museum Manager

### ***Park Development Division***

Mitra Pedoeem, Chief

- **Design Section**  
Eileen Emmet, Architect

### ***Southern Parks Division***

Brian Woodward, Chief  
Scott Geasey, Park Manager

### ***Park Police Division***

Darien Manley, Chief  
Sabrina Pirtle, Officer

### ***Facilities Management Division***

John Nissel, Chief  
Michelle Grace, Specialist

### **Department of Planning**

#### ***Transportation Planning Division***

Dan Hardy, Chief  
Ed Axler, Planner Coordinator

#### ***Development Review Division***

Sandra Pereira, Senior Planner

#### ***Community Based Planning***

Nkosi Yearwood, Senior Planner

## Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan



1210000033

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Montgomery County Department of Parks  
Approved and Adopted December 2, 2010