



Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan - Public Meeting, June 15, 2010

Public Input: Vision and Issues by Category

Vision Statement Categories	Public Comments
<p>Josiah Henson's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not ignore prehistoric, continuum of history to present – 4 dots • Make website as “rich” with information as possible, so that it provides interpretation of the Josiah Henson story. Keep it current with historic archeological discoveries and attract visitors to the site. – 4 dots • A living museum, w/ re-enactors or people in character – 3 dots • Make things hands on for kids – 3 dots • Centrality of Henson/celebrate the man and person (not just novel story) – 3 dots • Auditory environment to recreate sounds from the times – 3 dots • Focus on History over archeology – 3 dots • Influence on inside – more input in context of his/Harriet Beecher Stowe story/abolition/civil war – need timeline start to finish what happened after – 2 dots • Josiah Henson could be a good platform to talk about history of global slavery in the past and present – 2 dots • Tours with good, accurate telling of the life story – 2 dots • Shift from “frozen in time” idea to more organic idea – 2 dots • Narrated excerpts from his book – 2 dots • How to separate the myth of Uncle Tom from the man Josiah Henson – 2 dots • Museum exhibits on stages of Henson's life – 1 dot • Website accessibility on site – multi-media access (MP3, iPhone) – 1 dot • Living history interpreter in costume – 1 dot • Build site into school curriculum – 1 dot • Experiential Factor – 1 dot • People want to walk where Josiah Henson walked – 1 dot • Comparison to Uncle Tom's Cabin in Canada – talk to Canada • Hybrid morph of everything • Kids relate better to artifacts than architecture • Slavery is not just in the South • Isaac Riley never learned to read and write but Josiah Henson did learn • Slavery has existed for thousands of years. Not just black people – slavery exists today • Story is interesting to students • Site is a trickle in time of his entire life • Kids will ask why important (moral, ethic, spiritual issues) • Need access to Autobiography, not just on internet (maybe in high school curriculum) • Who is Henson – make connection to <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID students in preservation programs for internships • See Canon Prairie in Indiana www.canonprairie.org • How can this be put into MC Public School curriculum – 8th grades?
<p>Montgomery County's History of Slavery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address denial of slavery in Montgomery County, neighborhood – 2 dots • Tie into history of Luxmanor i.e. religious and racial covenants – 2 dots • Tell of the connections/relationships between Josiah Henson and other slaves and plantations in the region. – 1 dot • Promote greater history of Montgomery County not just west Mo Co trails – 1 dot • Connect to other antebellum sites in Mo Co - 1 dot • Everyone's history – rules of different groups = Mo Co story • Life on plantations in Mo Co • Tying in other sites in County (Sandy Spring, Oakley) • Tie to Underground Railroad • Context of whole historic history of county • Need to make connection to other Mo Co sites • Context – size county, Quakers, Unique mid Atlantic, only free community in Sandy Spring; freedom to hire out • Connect to other attempts at freedom: Georgia Avenue/Rt. 28, escape on the Pearl, Edmonston sister, captured corn field, Miner school.
<p>Architectural and Historic Landscape Interpretation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship of present site to its historical landscape – what features still exist that tells the story? – 9 dots • Raised 3-d scale model showing Riley's plantation in context with Canty plantation – 2 dots • Interpret house as part of living landscape – 1 dot • Authenticity of house to Henson period at farm, examples of other houses shown original style – 1 dot • New building with classrooms – multi-use building, visitor's center – classroom 35-40 kids • Small museum showing prehistoric as well as historic continuum • Kitchen (rain) garden situated to help treat run-off • Historic Preservation philosophies – landscape is changing – organic neighborhood • Log cabin back to 1850
<p>Archaeological Discovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological interpretation on the site – use it to tell the story – 8 dots • Ongoing archeology on site – 1 dot • Make archeological process available to visitors, as well as historical and architectural process.



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Public Input: Issues

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<p>#1 Community Outreach: African American History</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much African American community input has Parks sought? Still living residents available to obtain authentic experiences. Senior Citizens oral history. Go into churches to inform. Mo Co Channel 21 – watch this channel for city information. Go where black people are. Seven Locks Church. Scotland Area, Travilah Area, Cabin John. Kid volunteers to pass out information. Get word out about project. Mine rich history of existing residents, esp. African American community – 11 dots • African American community involvement – 7 dots
<p>#2 Safe Crossing at Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Tilden and Old Georgetown Road safer for Pedestrians – 4 dots • Pedestrian Crossing of Old Georgetown Road (pedestrian overpass) – alternatives – 3 dots • Concern – pedestrian safety – crossing Old Georgetown Road – 2 dots • OG Rd. and Tilden Roundabout – according to design concept by Ian Lockwood (decom.com) – 1 dot • Pedestrian crossing – crossing guards (Old Georgetown) – wire cage elevated crosswalk – 1 dot • Really need to work with County Department of Transportation(DOT) and MD DOT – 1 dot • Issue - Disconnect between agencies MNCPPC, County DOT and SHA – 1 dot • Old Georgetown crossing • White Flint Sector Plan build-out impact on intersections
<p>#3 Programming Impact of Traffic and Parking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at adjunct interpretive center offsite on public property in early phase of the park (Wall Park, Tilden MS) – 3 dots • How big should the program be? Vis-a vies site size, road access parking – 1 dot • Concern – parking needs are addressed so community is not driven out by traffic and parking – 1 dot • Neighborhood traffic /congestion – 1 dot • Ask synagogue to help with parking – 1 dot • Suggestions – • portable pavers • shuttles • Bus pull-off on Rozier – 1 dot • Open as often as possible • Parking and Pedestrians: How about parking at Tilden Middle School? • Share doctor’s offices parking on weekends • Bus access • Monitor crossing if parking buses at the swimming pool • An area plan for traffic – vehicles and pedestrian • One plan: realistic impacts



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear timeframes for visiting - start outside rush hours – 10 – 3, consider reverse commuters arrive earlier • Traffic control in neighborhood
<p>#4 Security of Site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security: Lighting that doesn't spill over into neighborhood but makes it safe. Neighborhood watch – 3 dots • Security at night etc. (visibility) – 1 dot • Issue: Rozier house – vagrancies – security issues – fire – park police • Timeline for demolition • Security and Policing (how) especially when closed – night attracts kids • Blair High School in great need of Maintenance
<p>#5 Directional and Interpretive Signage for Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent county way finding - ex. UDC walking tours - 1 dot • Essential – a connection between Rock Creek Trail (Newport Mill) – significant to Josiah Henson's life – 1 dot • Way finding from Trolley Trail and Metro • Visibility – do we want people to be able to see the site from old Georgetown Road? • Connect to interpretive signage at Ken Gar
<p>#6 Need for Open Public Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency in Process – 1 dot • Schools, esp. elementary – information on meetings – 1 dot • Meeting log on website so everyone can see who we are meeting with – 1 dot
<p>#7 Need for Additional Park Amenities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider neighbors use of access to the site (could be other than cultural interpretation) (sunrise to sundown): - 3 dots • Benches • Walking paths • Other casual uses
<p>#8 Future Acquisition Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition: Expand the site? – 1 dot • Acquisition of alternative land for parking – 1 dot
<p>#9 Site Drainage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run-off issues – 1 dot • Parking – parking run-off
<p>#10 Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Private Partnerships • County Executive Community Partnerships – Bruce Adams director