

**Montgomery County Parks Department**  
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Phone (301)495-2504

**VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** **GARDENER (Cultural Resources)**  
**LOCATION:** Josiah Henson Special Park, 11420 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda  
**TIME:** March – November, and before special events.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section of Montgomery Parks protects the historic and archaeological resources of the county's park system. The Josiah Henson Special Park is the site of the Riley-Bolten House (ca. 1800) and former Riley Plantation where Josiah Henson was enslaved. It is a historic two-acre park and features important mature trees, but most of the plantings are dated to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. A volunteer gardener is needed to manage and maintain the plantings as the site is open to the public eight times a year for guided tours and special events. Henson's autobiography was the inspiration for the novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Eventually, a museum honoring Reverend Henson and dedicated to the subject of slavery in Montgomery County is planned for the site, and there is an associated future concept plan for the gardens.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Review and be knowledgeable about the **Josiah Henson Historic Structure Report** of June 2008, specifically the *Landscape Conditions Assessment*.
2. Follow a Landscape Maintenance Plan crafted by the Park Manager, HFEE Arboriculture Staff, Forest Ecologist/Field Botanist, and Cultural Resources staff.
3. Assist park staff and work independently performing routine gardening and landscaping work of the grounds and gardens.
4. Follow a non-native invasive plant removal plan, after successfully completing the Park's Weed Warrior training.
5. If interested and available, be on hand to answer questions about the garden and grounds during public openings and events.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Gardening skill
2. Able to bend and lift materials
3. Follow direction
4. Attention to detail
5. Can work independently
6. Enjoy working in the public eye

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Minimum age 18 years.
2. Work outdoors during different seasons.
3. Commit to a schedule worked out with Supervisor
4. References required.
5. Background Screening required.
6. Park provided shirt/hat should be worn while volunteering.

**TRAINING:**

Complete Weed Warrior training (removal of non-native invasives) in April 2012. On-Site Orientation Meeting to review specifics of Landscape Maintenance Plan.

**COMMENTS:**

Due to budget cuts, the Park's landscape maintenance of this historic site is minimal. This position would greatly enhance the upkeep of the site, and make it a place the public would enjoy visiting.

**BENEFITS:**

This volunteer would be invited to participate in the annual Cultural Resources volunteer appreciation event. The volunteer may also be invited to participate in an annual volunteer all-day field trip of historical interest.