Purpose of Presentation

• Provide planning context and background
• Inform the group of the purpose and schedule of the plan
• Discuss ideas and issues for the master plan update
• Next steps
History of Park Gift

Ovid Hazen Wells was born in Claiborne County, Tennessee in 1894, as was Hallie, in 1893. They moved to the District of Columbia in 1918 when they were in their twenties.

Ovid worked on the White House Police Force (now known as the Secret Service) and Hallie worked first for War Risk Insurance (a Federal department for WW1 veterans) and later for the IRS.

In 1940, Ovid retired and the Wellses bought 94 acres on Skylark Road in Clarksburg and later they acquired more adjoining land, including a dairy farm, bringing their total acreage to 290.

In 1956 they made their decision to deed the 290 acres of farmland which they owned to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission so that it might remain as open space and be used for recreation.

In 1981, when Hallie officially made the donation, their vision had become reality.
History of Park Gift

The bequest imposed the following conditions:

- Maintain the property for open space, parkland, and recreational purposes.
- Erect a bronze plaque near the entrance of the park inscribed with language set forth in the deed.
- Develop a portion of the property with recreational facilities, such as picnic areas, athletic fields, multi-use courts, landscaping, etc.
- Acquire and install at a park of the Commission’s choosing the Hershell-Spillman Carousel dedicated to the name of Ovid Hazen Wells, pending its relocation to the Ovid Hazen Wells Park.

The 1994 Clarksburg Mater Plan

Chapter 7 – Public Facilities

- Establish the Ovid Hazen Wells Greenway to the east of the park connecting it to Damascus Recreational Park
- Establish the Little Seneca Creek Greenway to connect the park with Little Bennett Region Park and Black Hills Regional Park
- Designate locations for additional local parks.
- Designate local parks that are integrated with future development.
- Coordinate the development of the master plan for Ovid Hazen Wells Park with this plan.
Surrounding Parks and Amenities

Regional Parks
- Little Bennett
- Black Hill

Recreational Parks
- Ovid Hazen Wells – 290 acres
- Damascus – 277 acres

Special Park
- Dowden’s Ordinary – 2.8 acres

Local Parks

Neighborhood Parks

Urban Parks

The Park Today
The Park Today

- Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park
- Ned Watkins House
- Oliver Watkins House
- Little Seneca Greenway SWP
- Agora Hills LP
The Park Today
Historic Ned Watkins House

Constructed in 1892 for Ned Watkins, a farmer from Cedar Grove.

The Wells moved here in 1952.

The property is currently rented on a month to month lease.
The house is dated from the mid to late nineteenth century and was purchased by Oliver Watkins, a store keeper in Cedar Grove shortly before 1851 before his marriage.

The house is currently vacant.
### 1995 Park Master Plan recommendations....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations that have been completed:</th>
<th>Recommendations to re-visit in this update:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide an active Recreational Area off of Skylark Road that would include soccer fields, tennis courts,</td>
<td>Include a Special Recreation Area in the center of the park that may include a creative playground with</td>
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<tr>
<td>multi-use courts, playground and possibly a community center to benefit the surrounding community.</td>
<td>family picnic area, miniature golf, fishing and a carousel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preserve the Little Seneca Stream Valley and other important natural areas.</td>
<td>Provide a greenway that will ultimately link Ovid Hazen Wells Park to Little Bennett Regional Park and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use state of the art “Stormwater Management” techniques to prevent degradation of the Little Seneca</td>
<td>Damascus Recreational Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creek Stream Valley from development within the park as well as from private development within the</td>
<td>Create a passive Recreation Area in the eastern portion of the park, that would provide opportunities for</td>
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<tr>
<td>watershed.</td>
<td>nature interpretation and trails and consider utilizing the current historic buildings for enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide the future Athletic Area – Aurora Hills Local Park.</td>
<td>activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create a passive Recreation Area in the eastern portion of the park, that would provide opportunities for</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>nature interpretation and trails and consider utilizing the current historic buildings for enterprise</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>activities.</td>
<td>Include the Red Wiggler Farm operation in the master plan update.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use state of the art “Stormwater Management” techniques to prevent degradation of the Little Seneca</td>
<td>Include a site for a community center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creek Stream Valley from development within the park as well as from private development within the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watershed.</td>
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### The Resource Atlas for the Park

![Resource Atlas for the Park](image-url)
Developable Areas within the Park

Leases at Park
Water and Sewer Availability to Park

Park Master Plan Update Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>Begin staff meetings to review background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - March 2014</td>
<td>Attend regularly scheduled public meetings including the Clarksburg Civic Association, HOAs, School PTA meetings, Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board and the Upcounty Recreation Advisory Board meetings to hear the issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Issues and Outreach to the Planning Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
<td>Preliminary Recommendations to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Staff Draft to the Planning Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>30 day review period for the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Public Hearing at the Planning Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Worksession #1 with Planning Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Board adopts plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Send us your ideas at our webpage!

www.parkplanning.org

Or contact the project coordinator for this plan:

Rachel Davis Newhouse, RLA
Planner Coordinator, Park and Trail Planning Section, Park Planning and Stewardship Division

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Thank you!