Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park
Master Plan Update
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
Vicinity Map
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 they 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 Master 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
  Damascus
  Ridge Road
  Goshen

Special Park
  Dowden’s Ordinary

Local Parks
  Neighborhood Parks
  Urban Parks
The Park Today

- Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park Master Plan Update
- Map showing the Park Today with marked areas and landmarks such as Ned Watkins House, Oliver Watkins House, Little Seneca Greenway SVP, and Arora Hills LP.
NOTE: All facility locations are conceptual and will be refined before construction, after environmental and engineering studies.
The Park Today
NOTE: All facility locations are conceptual and will be refined before construction, after environmental and engineering studies.
Arora Hills Local Park

Park includes:

- Baseball Field
- Softball Field
- Playground
- Tot Lot
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Parking
The Park Today
Historic Ned Watkins House

- Constructed in 1892 for Ned Watkins, a farmer from Cedar Grove.
- Ovid and Hallie Wells moved here in 1952.
- The property is currently rented.
- The building is designated as individual resources on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation with an associated environmental setting.
1995 recommended site for the carousel
The Park Today
Historic Oliver Watkins House

- The house is dated from the mid to late nineteenth century and was built by Oliver Watkins, a store keeper in Cedar Grove in 1851 before his marriage.
- The house is currently vacant.
- The building is designated as an individual resources on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation with an associated environmental setting.
Red Wiggler Farm
1995 Park Master Plan recommendations....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations that have been completed:</th>
<th>Recommendations to re-visit in this update:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide an active Recreational Area off of Skylark Road that would include soccer fields, tennis courts, multi-use courts, playground and possibly a community center to benefit the surrounding community.</td>
<td>Include a Special Recreation Area in the center of the park that may include a creative playground with family picnic area, miniature golf, fishing and a carousel.</td>
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<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 Damascus Recreational Park.</td>
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<td>Use state of the art “Stormwater Management” techniques to prevent degradation of the Little Seneca Creek Stream Valley from development within the park as well as from private development within the watershed.</td>
<td>Create a passive Recreation Area in the eastern portion of the park, that would provide opportunities for nature interpretation and trails and consider utilizing the current historic buildings for enterprise activities.</td>
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<td>Provide the future Athletic Area – Arora Hills Local Park.</td>
<td>Develop a trail system with minimal disturbance to the natural environment by using good conservation principals. The trail would connect all facilities, and provide recreational opportunities for walkers, bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians where possible.</td>
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<td>Include the Red Wiggler Farm operation in the master plan update.</td>
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<td>Include a site for a recreation/aquatics center.</td>
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The Resource Atlas for the Park
Developable Areas within the Park
Leases within the Park

Ovid Hazen Wells Recreation Park-Leased Areas

LEGEND
- Park House Lease-Lease is currently month-to-month
- Stanley Grain & Fertilizer Agricultural Lease expires 12/31/14
- Red Wiggler Lease expires 9/30/25
Existing Water & Sewer Availability for Park Development
# Park Master Plan Update Schedule

## Ovid Hazen Wells Master Plan Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>Begin staff meetings to review background.</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Issues and Outreach to the Planning Board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
<td>Preliminary Recommendations to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Staff Draft to the Planning Board.</td>
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<td><strong>30 day review period for the public</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Public Hearing at the Planning Board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Worksession #1 with Planning Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Planning Board adopts plan.</td>
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</table>
Thank you!

Tell us your ideas through our online comment tool!

www.ParkPlanning.org

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