

September 21, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Derick Berlage, Chairman  
Montgomery County Planning Board

**VIA:** Charlie Loehr, Director  
Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning

Gordon Rosenthal, Acting Superintendent  
Montgomery County Parks

Jeff Zyontz, Chief Countywide Planning Division

**FROM:** John E. Hench, Supervisor  
Park Planning and Resource Analysis Unit

**SUBJECT:** Development and Analysis of Programming Options for the Agricultural  
History Farm Park

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At the Chairman's request, a staff committee was formed in mid-July 2005 to develop and analyze programming options for the Agricultural History Farm Park. The committee included:

Doug Alexander – Park Development  
Mike Dwyer, Countywide Planning, Historic Preservation  
Jayne Hench – Superintendent's Office, Volunteer Services  
John E. Hench – Countywide Planning, Park Planning and Resources Analysis  
Mike Horrigan – Northern Region, Acting Chief  
Jim Humerick – Northern Region, Rock Creek Regional Park  
Jeff Raines – Northern Region, Agricultural History Farm Park  
Claire Runkles – Park Development  
Susan Soderberg – Countywide Planning, Historic Preservation  
Heidi Sussmann – Park Development  
Dean Turnbull – Northern Region, Agricultural History Farm Park  
Grace Yick – Northern Region, Meadowside Nature Center.

The committee produced a report consisting of 11 major sections:

- I. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS**
- II. INTRODUCTION**
- III. BACKGROUND**
  - **Value and Economic Benefits of Agriculture**
  - **Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve**
  - **Close Encounters with Agriculture**
  - **Description of the Farm Park**
  - **Agricultural Leases**
- IV. PRINCIPAL PLANNING BOARD APPROVED POLICY**
  - **Historic Farm Area**
  - **Modern Agricultural Area**
- V. SUMMARY OF PAST CONSULTANT STUDIES**
- VI. FRIENDS OF THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK**
- VII. CURRENT FUNDING**
  - **Operating Budget**
  - **Capital Improvements Program**
- VIII. DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMMING OPTIONS**
  - **Current Reality**
  - **Enhanced Programming**
  - **Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters**
  - **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters**
- IX. INTEREST GROUP AND AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMMING OPTIONS**
  - **Senior Staff at the Agricultural Services Center**
  - **Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park**
- X. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RELATED DISCUSSION**
  - **Committee Majority**
  - **Committee Minority**
  - **Farm Service Area**
  - **Future Office Space**
  - **Proposed Partnership: Option 2 – Enhanced Programming, Agricultural Emphasis**
  - **Estimating Cost for the Preferred Programming Option**
- XI. ATTACHMENTS**

The report follows.

## I. PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

1. The staff committee developed and analyzed four options for programming the Agricultural History Farm Park:
  - Option 1 - Current Reality
  - Option 2 - Enhanced Programming
  - Option 3 - Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters
  - Option 4 - Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters.
2. The staff committee believes that each of the programming options can be accommodated within the Planning Board approved policy framework of the Agricultural History Farm Park Program & Facility Development Plan (M-NCPPC, 1990).
3. A majority of the staff committee supports Option 4 – Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters; a small minority of committee members supports Option 3 – Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters. Senior staffs from the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development’s Agricultural Services Division, Montgomery Soil Conservation District, and the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service support Option 4. The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park support Option 4 as well.
4. Option 2 – Enhanced Programming could logically transition to either Option 3 or Option 4. Option 2 could be realized through a Commission funded staff position, interest group funded position, or partnership.
5. For Options 2, 3, and 4, maintenance activities at the Agricultural History Farm Park should no longer be staged from their present location, *i.e.* the maintenance shed and equipment shed located between the bank barn and farmhouse, but instead moved to a new “Farm Service Area” west of the Agricultural Services Center and adjacent to the Friends’ Equipment Building. A small bridge over a tributary of Rock Creek west of the Agricultural Services Center should be rebuilt. A connected network of small, gravel, parking areas in and around the historic farm area should be designed and built to accommodate increased visitation. Public restrooms with hand-wash stations should be provided – however in the short-term, these can be in the form of port-a-johns.
6. New M-NCPPC staff, volunteers, and/or partners will require on-site office space, storage space, and restrooms. In the short-term, this need may possibly be accommodated on the second floor of the farmhouse. However, this solution needs to be examined by an architect in the Park Development Division or a qualified consultant to ensure conformity with all applicable Montgomery County Codes. In addition, staff of the Montgomery Soil Conservation District, working

out of the Agricultural Activities Center, has expressed a need for more office space, storage space, meeting space, and a lunch/break room. The staff committee believes that the space needs of M-NCPPC and the Soil Conservation District should be considered jointly and evaluated by a staff architect or qualified consultant. The evaluation should look at both the need for space and options for providing that space in the form of an addition to the existing Agricultural Services Center.

7. Approximately 27 percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Montgomery County Public Schools currently participate in the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service's award winning Close Encounters with Agriculture Program. Any future increase in the percentage of participating students is dependent (in part) on an expansion of programming space at the Agricultural Services Center.
8. Staffs in the Northern Park Region and Volunteer Services Office have recently received a preliminary proposal from Cindy Ryan of Redland, Maryland to form a new 4-H club at the Agricultural History Farm Park. The staff committee recommends that the Department continue to work with Ms. Ryan on her proposal.
9. Based on direction from the Chairman and/or Planning Board, staff will estimate cost for the preferred programming option. The estimate will include Operating Budget costs and Intergovernmental Service Fund costs. Cost estimates for various improvements (*e.g.*, relocation of the Farm Service Area and possible expansion of the Agricultural Services Center) will be obtained through a new facility planning project in the Department of Park and Planning's proposed FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program.

## II. INTRODUCTION

In July 2005, Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage directed staff to develop and analyze programming options for the Agricultural History Farm Park that would:

1. Increase public awareness of the value and economic benefits of agriculture in Montgomery County.
2. Increase public awareness of and support for Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve.
3. Increase the number of students participating in educational programs related to agriculture *e.g.*, Montgomery County's Close Encounters with Agriculture Program.

The Chairman also suggested a standard for the Farm Park and its future program: "*The Agricultural History Farm Park should become to agriculture what Brookside Gardens is to horticulture.*"

### **III. BACKGROUND**

#### **Value and Economic Benefits of Agriculture**

Agricultural activities occupy about one-third of Montgomery County's 316,800 acres. The County's diverse agricultural industry includes 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises and produces more than \$252,000,000 in annual economic activity. Fifty percent of Montgomery County's farmers work full-time at farming and approximately 10,000 people are employed in agricultural enterprises. The majority of Montgomery County farms are family-run operations, many of which reach back several generations.

Montgomery County's agricultural industry primarily includes traditional agricultural enterprises (*e.g.*, cereal grains, forage crops, and livestock), a wide variety of horticultural enterprises, and horse-related enterprises.

Over the past 25 years, the horticulture sector has grown dramatically. Three hundred and fifty horticultural businesses employ more than 7,000 people. With gross sales of \$125,000,000 annually, horticulture is the largest agricultural sector and includes production nurseries, greenhouses, landscaping companies, arborists, sod farms, and lawn care firms.

Horses have become the second largest component of Montgomery County's agricultural industry. Gross sales related to the equine industry total close to \$85,000,000 annually. There are over 12,000 horses in Montgomery County, exceeding the population of all other livestock combined. Horses represent a tremendous opportunity for farmers and other businesses in terms of supplies, services, and products needed to support the growing equine industry.

#### **Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve**

In 1980, Montgomery County adopted the Functional Master Plan for Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space. The critical land-use issue addressed in the plan is the loss of productive farmland. The primary focus of the plan is the identification and application of land-use regulations and incentives to help retain agricultural land in farming and complementary rural open space areas.

The plan established the Agricultural Reserve and its corresponding land-use density of one home per twenty-five acres. The plan also provided farmers and other landowners within the Reserve (the so-called Rural Density Transfer or RDT zone) the right to sell five-acre development units (so-called Transfer Development Rights or TDRs) to be used in more densely populated "receiving areas" in other parts of the County.

Through its adoption of the plan, Montgomery County set a goal of protecting approximately 93,000 acres or about 30% of the county. As of June 30, 2004 a total of

61,032 acres have been preserved through a variety of farmland preservation programs including Montgomery County's Transfer Development Rights Program, the Montgomery County Agricultural Easement Program as well as other easement programs managed by the Maryland Environmental Trust, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, and the State Rural Legacy Program.

For twenty five years, Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve has received widespread support and has been referred to as "*the country's most successful farmland preservation program.*" However, several recent trends – including the economic viability of large lot subdivisions (*i.e.*, subdivisions with one home for each 25 acres), the use of sand mounds for septic discharge, selling "child lots" on the open market, and the approval of large scale institutional land-uses in the Rural Density Transfer Zone – are beginning to seriously threaten the integrity of the Reserve.

## **Close Encounters with Agriculture**

Close Encounters with Agriculture is an award-winning program developed by the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development Agricultural Services Division, the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, and the M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning. The Close Encounters program is described as "*an exploration into Montgomery County agriculture, environment, and nutrition*" for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Goals of Close Encounters with Agriculture are to:

- Promote and increase visibility of agricultural science and related fields.
- Demonstrate the inter-relationship of agriculture, the environment, and nutrition.
- Increase the understanding of youth and their families.
- Involve volunteers in promoting agriculture and related fields.

The three-hour Close Encounters program is presented each year at the Agricultural History Farm Park during the months of March and April. Participating schools provide pre-trip in-class activities for students using resources from the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service; arrange for bus transportation to and from the Farm Park; and cooperate with Extension Service staff on follow-up class-room activities, pre- and post-experience testing, and program evaluations.

In 2005, approximately 2,700 students participated in the program out of an estimated 4<sup>th</sup> grade student body of 9,948. Thus, staff and volunteers working out of the Agricultural Services Center at the Agricultural History Farm Park presented the Close Encounters program about 27 percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools.

## **Description of the Farm Park**

The Agricultural History Farm Park is located at 18400 Muncaster Road, Redland, Maryland and totals 454.8853 acres. Acquisition of the park began in 1964 with the purchase of 3.663 acres for \$10,531.13 and continued through 2003 when 13.9939 acres were acquired for \$1,050,000. To date, a total of \$2,943,616 has been spent to acquire the Farm Park's acreage.

The Agricultural History Farm Park adjoins Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 12 to the south, Rock Creek Units 15 and 16 to the north, Rock Creek Unit 14 to the west, and M-NCPPC's Pope Farm Plant Nursery to the southwest. Approximately 185 acres of the park are in agricultural use and 193 acres are forested or in early stages of secondary plant succession. The remaining 77 acres include the environmental setting of the historic Bussard Farm (68.36 acres), roads, parking lots, and the Agricultural Services Center.

The Farm Park is located near the headwaters of Rock Creek in the Upper Rock Creek Special Protection Area. The Special Protection Area has an impervious cap of eight percent.

In 1975, the Montgomery County Council called for an evaluation of a multi-purpose community agriculture education and training center. A task force appointed by the County Executive issued a report in 1977 and recommended the former Magruder/Bussard Farm in Rock Creek Park as an appropriate site for the facility. The Department of Parks initiated a Capital Improvement Program in 1980 to stabilize the historic structures. Construction of a modern activity center, the Agricultural Services Center, followed in 1987. Today, the Center houses five agencies that work in support of agricultural interests in Montgomery County: the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development's Agricultural Services Division; the Montgomery Soil Conservation District; the Farm Service Agency; the Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service.

## **Agricultural Leases**

The Property Management Office of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning's Enterprise Division has leased 95.4 acres of the park to a private farmer for agricultural use. The lease extends from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2009, with three renewal terms of five years. The farmer intends to grow -- using modern no-till practices -- corn, wheat, and soybeans on the leased acreage.



## IV. PRINCIPAL PLANNING BOARD APPROVED POLICY

The principal policy document for evaluating programming options at the Agricultural History Farm Park is the Planning Board approved Agricultural History Farm Park Program & Facility Development Plan (M-NCPPC, 1990).

The master plan for the Agricultural History Farm Park recognizes and provides policy guidance for two distinct areas in the park: the historic farm area and the modern agricultural area.

### Historic Farm Area

The historic farm area consists of approximately seventy acres of the original Bussard Farm and forms an attractive entrance vista to the park. In addition to some of the park's agricultural fields, this area includes the farmhouse, bank barn, and various out-buildings including a maintenance shed, chicken coop, carriage shed, granary, well house, tank house, corn-crib, saw mill, equipment shed, and pole barn.

With regard to the historic farm area, the master plan notes:

*"The historic section of the park will be the staging area for programs related to lifestyles of the past. As the structures date from the turn of the twentieth century, the basic appearance will reflect this era in the restoration of fences, gardens, and buildings. Beyond this however, programming will be broad-based in nature and will not focus in one time period in order to keep options as flexible as possible. A mixture of tours, displays and demonstrations will be offered by interpretive staff in renovated historic structures. School groups in particular will benefit from the educational nature of programs presented here.*

*Special seasonal events such as spring planting and fall harvest festivals will supplement the day-to-day programming at this site. These festivals may include demonstrations such as horsedrawn plowing, sheep shearing, cider pressing, blacksmithing, and the operation of antique farm equipment. Activities such as hayrides, music crafts and games could all take place within a recreational atmosphere designed for the enjoyment of all ages and groups."*

### Modern Agricultural Area

The modern agricultural area encompasses the remainder of the park's 385 acres. The centerpiece of this area is the Agricultural Services Center. The Center was designed along an agricultural theme and was sited to offer panoramic views of crops planted along hillside contours, meadows, and stream valley forests. Construction was completed in 1987. The \$2.7 million building includes offices for five agencies that work in support of agricultural interests in Montgomery County: the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development's Agricultural Services Division; the Montgomery Soil

Conservation District; the Farm Service Agency; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service. In addition, the Center contains a multi-purpose meeting room with a demonstration kitchen and classrooms for educational activities.

*According to the master plan, "The modern section of the park is where the public will learn about the present and future trends in agriculture and where new farming techniques, improved crop varieties and conservation practices will be demonstrated. Staff from the agricultural agencies will be available along with the Department of Parks interpreters in order to offer advice and programs on contemporary agricultural practices to bridge the gap in information between city dwellers and farm families."*

The modern agricultural area was also to feature a variety of demonstration plots.

*"While traditional agricultural demonstration areas are easily recognized, increasing attention will be paid to the alternative methods of agriculture becoming popular in the County. These programs are particularly attractive to those suburbanites who wish to practice farming on a few acres. Demonstration plots (e.g., pasture management, turf, orchards and vineyards, vegetables, weeds, and aquaculture) will be established and maintained on-site by the agricultural agencies, should funds become available."*

And finally, the plan noted the trend toward increasing urbanization in Montgomery County and the effect of this trend on programs offered at the Agricultural Services Center:

*"As the County moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there will likely be an increasing trend towards focusing on an urban audience. This trend is already evident in the programs of the Cooperative Extension Service. While traditional programs like home economics still offer canning demonstrations, classes in consumer education, time management, and child care are also available."*

Relevant excerpts from the 1990 master plan for the Agricultural History Farm Park are presented in ATTACHMENT A. Original text is in italics. In some cases, the original text was up-dated to reflect current information. Text up-dates appear in Times New Roman font.

## V. SUMMARY OF PAST CONSULTANT STUDIES

### Historic Farm Area

Master plan recommendations pertaining to the historic farm area were based on proposals contained in a two-phase consultant report prepared by Mr. Mark Walston in 1988 for Historic Preservation staff. The report was titled: THE BUSSARD FARM An Interpretive Prospectus for a Turn-of-the Century Montgomery County Farmstead. Phase I of the report dealt with the Site Preparation Plan whereas Phase II dealt with Site Interpretation and Artifact Acquisition. In Phase I, Walston suggests *“saving the exteriors of the buildings and retaining the general lay of the cultural landscape in a way that recreates and presents to the public a relatively complete and historically accurate portrait of a turn-of-the century Montgomery County farm.”* Walston notes *“the plan allows for certain areas within the park – and the interiors of the various buildings – to be restructured and superficially modified for some form of adaptive or interpretive use.”*

Phase II contains an outline for how the interiors of the various buildings could be modified and the various artifacts that could be displayed and interpreted therein. Walston intended *“to introduce visitors to the material aspects of the Montgomery County farmer’s world at the turn-of-the-century, to initiate a broader discussion of the county’s agricultural past, and to help residents and visitors alike realize that the county’s history does in fact reach back far beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> century, that there is more to the county’s cultural and material heritage than affluent suburban developments punctuated by divided highways, glass-and-concrete office towers and toney shopping malls.”*

### Bank Barn

In 1996, Historic Preservation staff contracted with a consultant to provide preliminary exhibit concepts for the bank barn. The consultant suggested two options for using the barn’s upper interior space (*i.e.*, space formerly used for storage of hay and straw) to compare and contrast yesterday and today’s farm equipment, processes, and crops. In the Single-level Barn Exhibit Environment (Option 1), the barn space is divided into a museum-like central space and a flow-through U-shaped space that supports the telling of diverse agricultural stories. In the Two-level Barn Exhibit Environment (Option 2), a second level would be created on both ends of the barn with steel decking and connected by a catwalk. The second level would be accessed by stairways at either side of the barn. A residential-style elevator would also be available for handicapped visitors. In addition to displays of agricultural equipment and related artifacts, information would be displayed on panels and pedestal-mounted electronic touch-screens.

## **VI. FRIENDS OF THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK**

The Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park is a 501C3 organization that operates within the framework of the Montgomery County Parks Foundation. The Friends group was formed in 1994 in order to:

- Support objectives of the Agricultural History Farm Park.
- Support adequate funding for the Farm Park.
- Offer programming relating to Montgomery County agriculture – past, present, and future.
- Provide demonstrations and educational programs on historical farm life, agriculture and environmental pursuits.
- Work with individuals and organizations having goals and objectives similar to their own.

[See the letters (**ATTACHMENT B**) dated July 19, 2005 from Ms. Amelia “Mimi” Stubbs, President of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, to Mr. Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board and Mr. Berlage’s response to Ms. Stubbs dated August 30, 2005.]

Over the years, the Friends have developed and implemented a number of annual events at the Farm Park including the Gas and Steam Engine Show, the Draft Horse and Mule Field Day, Old-fashioned Wheat Binding, the Blue Grass Show, the Blacksmith’s Show, and Christmas on the Farm. The Friends also provide significant support for the Department of Park and Planning’s annual Arbor Day Celebration, past Spring Festivals, and the autumn Harvest Festival.

The Friends currently utilize both the kitchen and a large room on the first floor of the farmhouse for storing small equipment and supplies and staging certain activities associated with their various annual events.

The Friends have undertaken and completed restoration projects involving the chicken coop, well house, and tank house. Additional work on the corn-crib and sawmill are on-going. The Friends provided funding and labor for each of these projects.

In addition, the Friends have funded the planning, design, and construction of a large 4,800 square foot building at the Farm Park dedicated to the storage of a wide variety of antique farm equipment – including tractors, engines, thrashing machines, grain binders, a stationary baler, wagons, carriages, sleighs, cutters, and a wide variety of tractor and horse or mule-drawn farm implements – including plows, disks, harrows, planters, cultivators, hay loaders, and manure spreaders. The farm equipment is owned and maintained by the Friends and used during their annual events, the Department of Park and Planning’s Festivals, and for growing crops at the Farm Park.

The Friends typically grow a variety of farm crops each year in order to demonstrate the regular seasonal cycle of soil preparation, planting, cultivating, and harvesting. Crops of corn, wheat, and oats are usually rotated among four one-acre fields. Wheat is harvested the last weekend of June, corn the first weekend in October. In addition, the Friends plant a quarter acre plot of potatoes and a quarter acre plot of pumpkins in spring for harvest in early autumn. The Friends also utilize two areas, each approximately one acre in size, for demonstrating the various tasks associated with making hay – including mowing, raking, and loading or baling. Hay is made during the month of May. Antique tractors as well as draft horses and mules provide the power for all of these activities. To the greatest extent possible, the public is always invited to participate. Volunteer farm interpreters (members of the Friends organization) are always present to explain the various tasks.

Over the past few years the Friends have also worked to provide, either through their members or contacts, a variety of farm animals -- including chickens, rabbits, goats, sheep, pigs, dairy cattle, riding horses, draft horses, donkeys, and mules -- for events and festivals at the Farm Park. The animals are usually displayed in appropriate out-buildings (*e.g.*, chickens in the chicken coop), the paddock in front of the bank barn, or are contained within temporary fencing. Draft horses and mules are regularly used for work in the fields. The presence of farm animals “on the farm” adds significantly to the quality of the public’s experience, especially when volunteer farm interpreters (members of the Friends organization) are able to provide a variety of information about each type of animal.

During the 12 years of their existence, the Friends have likely helped bring many hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of visitors to the Farm Park for a wide variety of agriculturally related programs and events. In doing so, they have provided visitors with a positive impression of agriculture and the Agricultural History Farm Park.

## VII. CURRENT FUNDING

### Operating Budget

(From the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning's FY06 Budget Document)

#### Maintenance

*"The Agricultural History Farm Park provides the setting for the Annual Spring and Harvest Festivals that attract more than 5,000 visitors to the park. The Park also hosts the annual Arbor Day event and several "Friends" activities at the farm that attract another 3,000 visitors. These events focus on agricultural practices of the past at the Historic Site with some representation of modern day agricultural activities as well.*

*Daily maintenance of the site includes turf management, noxious weed control, snow removal, trail maintenance, wildlife and conservation activities, and upkeep of equipment and buildings. The program also provides assistance to other agricultural and historic agencies/groups concerned with programming logistics, preparation, and presentation, e.g., Close Encounters with Agriculture where 2,500 Montgomery County school children visit the site. The site also plays host to the Landscape Contractor's annual training."*

The Agricultural History Farm Park is managed and maintained by staff from Montgomery County Parks' Northern Park Region in the Rock Creek Area. At the present time, one full-time career maintenance employee (1.0 WY) and one part-time, non-career seasonal intermittent employee (0.7 WY) is assigned to the Farm Park. Actual operating budget expenditures in FY04 were \$88,744; the FY05 budget was \$98,600; the FY06 appropriated budget was \$96,100.

#### Interpretive Programming

Over the years, staff from Meadowside Nature Center (in the Northern Park Region) has provided a very limited amount (*i.e.*, 12 - 24 programs/year) of interpretive programming at the Agricultural History Farm Park. In general, program topics have dealt with either natural history or cultural history. Programs typically involve children and are one to two hours in length.

Staff from the Historic Preservation Unit (working out of the Needwood Mansion) has previously offered a summer Archaeology Camp at the Farm Park. Archaeological excavations have focused on both prehistoric and historic sites.

In FY06, the Historic Preservation Unit of the Countywide Planning Division was appropriated funds to increase a part-time career position that provides Countywide Educational and Outreach Services from 20 hours to 30 hours per week. *"The purpose of this change was to allow for additional educational events and activities, particularly*

*related to Oakley Cabin, the Rural Legacy/Underground Railroad Trail, the Bussard Farm at the Agricultural History Farm Park, and other Heritage Tourism related efforts.”*

## **Capital Improvements Program**

### **Current Projects**

The Historic Preservation Unit of the Countywide Planning Division manages the Restoration of Historic Structures PDF. Therein are a couple of projects that pertain to the Agricultural History Farm Park (**ATTACHMENT C**).

- \$10,992 is available in FY06 as carry-over from FY01. The FY01 project involved installation of a septic system for the farmhouse.
- \$58,966 is available in FY06 as carry-over from FY05 for on-going restoration of the first floor of the farmhouse. This project involves conversion of the parlor, hallway and dining room into a house museum, circa 1910. The money is being used for electrical and carpentry work (primarily associated with “hiding” electrical switches and boxes), installation of period wall paper, carpeting and floor coverings, and draperies. In addition, an existing restroom is being made handicapped accessible. In association with the restroom work, an exterior handicap ramp and accessible entrance is being constructed on the rear of the house and modifications are being made to interior walls. The work is to be finished by Spring 2006.

The first floor of the farmhouse is being furnished with a variety of furniture and other artifacts typical of the period 1890-1910. Members of the Friends of the Farm Park have donated many of the items; the Department of Park and Planning purchased others. Two parlor stoves (non-working) and a dining room table and chairs are still needed. The kitchen will be restored at a later date.

## VIII. DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

Staff has developed four programming options for the Agricultural History Farm Park:

1. **Current Reality**
2. **Enhanced Programming**
3. **Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters**
4. **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters**

A more detailed explanation of each option follows.

### 1. Current Reality

Department of Park and Planning Staff, the Friends of the Farm Park, staffs associated with the Agricultural Services Center, and volunteers currently offer a variety of programs at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

#### **Interpretive Programming and Camps**

Interpretive naturalists, working out of Meadowside Nature Center, generally offer between one and two programs per month. Recent program titles have included *Little House on the Prairie*, *School Days*, and *Children's Chores*. Programs are directed at children and are usually one to two hours in length.

Staff from the Historic Preservation Unit (working out of the Needwood Mansion) has previously offered a summer Archaeology Camp at the Farm Park. Archaeological excavations have focused on both prehistoric and historic sites.

#### **Arbor Day**

The Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled in April. Arbor Day is essentially a celebration of "trees" and features a wide variety of demonstrations and activities associated with arboriculture, horticulture, and forestry. Entertainment and food are also offered. The event typically draws approximately 750 visitors and is coordinated by the Natural Resources Division with assistance from Farm Park Staff, the Volunteer Services Office, Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, and staff from the Agricultural Services Center.

#### **Spring Festival and Harvest Festival**

The Spring Festival and Harvest Festival are held in May and October, respectively. However, the Spring Festival has been canceled in recent years due to financial and staffing constraints. Both festivals have much more of an agricultural flavor than the annual Arbor Day Celebration or the farm-based programming currently offered by



interpretive naturalists from Meadowside Nature Center. The Festivals typically feature crafts (e.g., weaving, knitting, tin-smithing, soap making, candle dipping), activities (e.g., story telling, clothes washing, fence painting, log sawing, hay rides), demonstrations (e.g., shingle splitting, sheep shearing, sheep herding), music (typically blue-grass), square dancing and/or clogging, vendors (e.g., seasonal produce, jams, jellies, honey, crafts), and food.

Using draft animals, antique tractors, and steam engines, the Friends of the Farm Park demonstrate a variety of seasonally appropriate field activities at each Festival including soil preparation, planting, cultivating, and harvesting. The Friends also demonstrate the operation of a large, belt driven saw mill, thrashing machine, baler, corn shellers, grain grinders, shingle mill, stone crusher, and stationary gasoline engines. To the greatest degree possible, the public is invited to assist with the Friend's activities and members of the Friends group are always available to explain the various tasks.

The Festivals are coordinated by park naturalist staff working out of the Northern Park Region with a significant contribution from park naturalists in the Southern Park Region, maintenance staff from both Regions, the Volunteer Services Office, staff from the Agricultural Services Center (as well as representatives of associated organizations such as Montgomery County 4-H and Master Gardeners), and the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. A few staff from the Countywide Planning Division also regularly assists. The Spring Festival and Harvest Festival typically draw approximately 2,000 and 3,500 visitors respectively. However in one recent year, approximately 5,000 people attended the Harvest Festival.

### **Annual Events of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park**

As previously mentioned, the Friends have developed and implemented a number of annual events at the Farm Park including the Gas and Steam Engine Show (April), the Draft Horse and Mule Field Day (May), Old-fashioned Wheat Binding (June), the Blue Grass Show (September), the Blacksmith's Show (November), and Christmas on the Farm (December). The two-day Gas and Steam Engine Show is perhaps the best-attended event and usually draws approximately 500 people. The Maryland Draft Horse and Mule Association has often co-sponsored the Draft Horse and Mule Field Day and its members regularly provide both draft animals and assistance for many of the Friend's events.

### **Educational Programming**

The largest agriculturally based educational effort to reach Montgomery County's students is Close Encounters with Agriculture. As noted in the **BACKGROUND** Section, Close Encounters with Agriculture is an award-winning program developed by the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service. The program is described as "*an exploration into Montgomery County agriculture, environment, and nutrition*" for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Montgomery County Public Schools. The three-hour program is presented each year during the months of March and April by staff and volunteers working out of

the Agricultural Services Center. In 2005, approximately 2,700 students participated in the program out of an estimated 4<sup>th</sup> grade student body of 9,948.

### **Other Volunteer-based Programming**

Two volunteer-based groups – 4-H and Master Gardeners – provide educational opportunities at the Agricultural Services Center. Both groups operate within a framework administered by the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service.

#### 4-H

4-H is a dynamic, ever-changing youth development program. Montgomery County residents five to eighteen years of age are eligible to participate in a variety of fun and educational programs. 4-H Programs focus on family life, farming skills, agriculture, livestock, environmental sciences, leadership, public speaking, and community service. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Maryland, and the Montgomery County Office of Economic Development's Agricultural Services Division jointly sponsor the 4-H program. Volunteers trained and certified by the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service operate all 4-H programs. University of Maryland faculty serves as program advisors.

Montgomery County 4-H clubs are divided into three groups: Project and Special Audience Clubs (*e.g.*, Dairy Clubs, Horse Clubs, Small-animal Clubs, Aerospace Clubs, Computer Science Clubs, Small-engine Clubs); Community Clubs (*e.g.*, Damascus Club, Derwood Club, Laytonsville Club); and Clover Clubs (Clovers are 4-H members five to seven years of age).

#### Master Gardeners

Montgomery County Master Gardeners offer a variety of plant related programs to the public. Program offerings include seasonal plant clinics, telephone consultations, a demonstration garden (located behind the Agricultural Services Center), horticultural therapy, and speakers. The demonstration garden includes flowers, vegetables, flowering shrubs, and a water feature. Master Gardeners are available in the demonstration garden each Thursday during the growing season. Speaker topics include Starting a Vegetable Garden, Living With White-tailed Deer, and Water Gardening. Master Gardeners are trained and certified by Cooperative Extension Service staff.

### **Maintenance, Public Access and Restrooms**

Northern Region staff assigned to the Agricultural History Farm Park provides daily maintenance of the historic farm area as well as other areas of the park. Maintenance activities are staged from the maintenance shed and equipment shed located between the bank barn and farmhouse. Temporary parking areas are designated in fields for large events; otherwise informal parking is available on a large, gravel-covered site in the historic farm area. Port-a-johns are provided for public “restroom” use.

## **2. Enhanced Programming**

### **Agricultural Emphasis**

In this option, the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning would implement an agriculturally based interpretive program at the Agricultural History Farm Park. The interpretive program could be realized either through a full-time Commission funded staff position, an interest group funded position (*e.g.*, Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park), or partnership (*e.g.*, Montgomery County 4-H). The farm interpreter's responsibility would be to expand agriculturally based educational opportunities at the Farm Park and better coordinate educational efforts with the Friends group and staff at the Agricultural Services Center. A regular series of year-round agriculturally based program offerings would be available to families, students, and organized groups. In this programming option, the initial programming focus would likely be on the planting, harvesting, and storage of typical field crops (*e.g.*, hay, wheat, and corn); use and care of farm animals; use, maintenance and repair of farm equipment; and the seasonal nature of farm life. The farm interpreter would offer three to ten programs per week depending on program subject and program length. The farm interpreter would also develop and manage a small volunteer program.

### **Historical Emphasis**

In this option, the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning would implement a historically based interpretive program at the Agricultural History Farm Park. The interpretive program could be realized either through a full-time Commission funded staff position, an interest group funded position, or partnership. The historical interpreter's responsibility would be to expand history based educational opportunities at the Farm Park and better coordinate educational efforts with the Friends group and staff of other interested organizations (*e.g.*, Heritage Montgomery). A regular series of year-round history based program offerings would be available to families, students, and organized groups. In this option, the initial programming focus would likely be on the farmhouse and the on-going conversion of the first floor parlor, dining room and kitchen to a "house-museum." Rooms would be furnished with period appropriate furnishings and interpreted by a historian or docents. The historical interpreter would offer a number of programs per week depending on program subject and program length. Likely program topics could include the interpretation of farm life and culture; life of women on the farm; life of children on the farm; household activities; life without electricity; and the importance of "family" on the family farm. The historical interpreter would also develop and manage a small volunteer program.

Both the Agricultural Emphasis and Historical Emphasis of the Enhanced Programming Option would result in better utilization of the Farm Park – with the Agricultural Emphasis focused on the barn, outbuildings, and fields and the Historical Emphasis focused on the farmhouse. New partnerships would likely be formed with groups having

similar interests. And these partnerships could result in further expansion of program opportunities.

### **Maintenance, Public Access, Restrooms, and Office Space**

Northern Region staff currently assigned to the Agricultural History Farm Park would continue to provide daily maintenance of the historic farm site as well as other areas of the park. Maintenance activities would no longer be staged from their present location, *i.e.* the maintenance shed and equipment shed located between the bank barn and farmhouse, but instead would require design and construction of a new “farm service area” west of the Agricultural Services Center and adjacent to the new Friends equipment building. A small bridge over a tributary of Rock Creek west of the Agricultural Services Center would need to be rebuilt. A formal, gravel-based parking area would need to be designated within the historic farm area. Public restrooms with a hand-wash station would need to be provided – however in the short-term, these could be in the form of port-a-johns. Signage and interpretive displays would be designed, installed, and maintained. The interpreter and associated volunteers would require on-site office space, storage space, and restrooms.

### **3. Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters**

This option involves the development of an interactive farm museum based on Walston’s 1988 consultant study. (See the SUMMARY OF PAST CONSULTANT’S STUDIES.) The proposed farm museum would have the following mission: “to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of the agricultural past and present of Montgomery County.” As the representation of a grain farm of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the Bussard Farmstead would be part of a county-wide network of farm museums and private working farms that work together in order to give a complete picture of farming activities of the past and present and be part of the “Agricultural History” Montgomery County Heritage Tour. Examples of other participants in this project could be the King Dairy Mooseum, a pick-your-own orchard farm, a restored mill, and perhaps an equestrian operation or a “farm of the future.”

The focus of the restoration of the Bussard Farm Historical Area has been to re-create a historically accurate portrait of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Montgomery County grain farm. This farm is not precisely the farm that existed here in 1910, neither is it a representation of a generic farmstead that is merely an amalgam of American Agriculture. It is a representation of farming activities that were specific to this area. Care has been taken to ensure the visual integrity of the buildings to create a historical ambiance so that visitors would sense they were entering a world of the past. At the same time, modern parking areas and facilities have been integrated into the park in an unobtrusive way to accommodate a variety of activities and flexible uses. This is a teaching facility, not just a museum exhibit behind glass, and is meant to be used for many different learning experiences.

Programs at the Bussard Farmstead can use this historical background to introduce visitors to the farmer's world of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and to initiate a broader discussion of the county's agricultural past, present and future and how this relates to their own lives and agriculture in other parts of the country and world.

To help the visitor gain a clearer conception of what took place here and to enrich that understanding through material details and associations, the house, barn and outbuildings will be furnished with historically accurate artifacts, tools and equipment of the period placed as they would have been in an active farm. All of the equipment, whether antique or reproduction, will be fully operational for use in demonstrations and at special events. Specific interpretive themes will be associated with each outbuilding and section of the house. For instance, in the barn all aspects of hay production from seed sowing to reaping to hay storage would find a physical counterpart for interpretation in place.

Trained volunteer interpreters will guide the visitors through the historic area after an orientation. Demonstrations and hands-on activities will take place throughout the tour. Exhibits will illuminate farming activities not demonstrated, historical context, historical figures important in the development of the county's agriculture, and the relationship of the agricultural past to the present. As such, the programming would not be seasonally or weather dependent – although programming could be arranged to correspond to the seasons. A map/ brochure will guide visitors to other agricultural sites in the Agricultural Reserve. Livestock activities and demonstrations of the large operations such as plowing, reaping, and threshing will take place at special events and seasonal programming. The facility would be open in the afternoons, Tuesday through Sunday, leaving the mornings for special programs.

When an interpreter or docent is not available, self-guided tours could be accommodated with unobtrusive outdoor signage, cellular phone tours, or electronic talking signs.

This option would require a full time program manager (museum specialist), a part-time artifact curator, a seasonal gardener (experienced with vegetable gardens, herb gardens, or kitchen gardens, field crops, orchard trees and general horticulture), an administrative assistant, the on-going assistance of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, and approximately 25 volunteer interpreters trained by the program manager.

### **Maintenance, Public Access, Restrooms, and Office Space**

Northern Region staff currently assigned to the Agricultural History Farm Park would continue to provide daily maintenance of the historic farm area as well as other areas of the park. However, maintenance activities within the historic farm area would be coordinated with the program manager and seasonal gardener. Maintenance activities would no longer be staged from their present location, *i.e.* the maintenance shed and equipment shed located between the bank barn and farm-house, but instead would require design and construction of a new "farm service area" west of the Agricultural Services Center and adjacent to the new Friends equipment building. A small bridge over a tributary of Rock Creek west of the Agricultural Services Center would need to be

rebuilt. A network of small, gravel parking lots would need to be designed and constructed in and around the historic farm area to accommodate increased site visitation. Public restrooms and hand-wash stations would need to be provided – however in the short-term, these could be in the form of port-a-johns. The program manager, artifact curator, gardener, administrative assistant, and volunteer interpreters would require on-site office space, workrooms, storage space, and restrooms. Various farm-related artifacts would be acquired and installed in displays keyed thematically to the barn and outbuildings. Signage and interpretive displays would be designed, installed, and maintained.

### **Related Projects**

Historic Preservation staff has proposed a number of future projects at the Farm Park that may require capital funding including: acquisition and installation of a hydraulic ram pump; design and installation of a kitchen garden; design and installation of an apple orchard and construction of a cider-house; restoration of the ice-house and root cellar; and construction of an out-house and woodshed.

## **4. Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters**

This option would provide for the historic area of the Agricultural History Farm Park becoming a fully functioning farm operation, circa 1900 to 1940. As noted in the 1990 Agricultural History Farm Park Program & Facility Development Plan, the modern section of the park is where the public will learn about present and future trends in agriculture and where new farming techniques, improved crop varieties and conservation practices will be demonstrated by staff from the Agricultural Services Center. The historic farm area would feature animals, field crops, farmhouse, bank barn, outbuildings, sawmill, kitchen garden, and orchard. Farm Park staff would include a facility director, farm manager, farm interpreter, seasonal “farm-hands”, and volunteers. Like the Brookside Gardens model, a director would manage the farm and associated staff; give direction to the overall program; cooperatively work to build partnerships with other agencies, professional organizations, and interest groups; and actively pursue grants and alternative sources of funding. There would be a regular, and on-going interpretive program tied to the normal, seasonal cycle of farm work (*e.g.*, plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, animal husbandry, equipment maintenance and repair, *etc.*). Such a dynamic, ever-changing program would likely keep public interest in the Farm Park and its associated program high. This option would result in the best utilization of the Farm Park’s land and improvements for “hand-on” experiential learning. Less emphasis would be placed on traditional museum collections and exhibits, opting instead to treat the entire site as a living, working farm – open for the public’s enjoyment, appreciation, and learning.

The farm would be open for visitation Tuesday through Sunday, except for major holidays. Visitors would have a variety of options: exploring on their own, participating in a self-guided or volunteer guided tour, registering for a scheduled program, or participating in a special event.

- Visitors could participate in or observe routine farm activities including farm or garden chores (*e.g.*, plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, feeding animals, gathering eggs, pumping water; stacking wood; weeding a garden; repairing an implement; caring for an animal).
- School offerings would be developed in consultation with staff from Montgomery County Public Schools to compliment a broad range of curriculums ranging from biology to math, history, and the arts. Staff would continue to cooperate with the Close Encounters program.
- Interpretive programs on various aspects of agricultural and farm life would be developed to support the mission of the Farm Park. Programs focusing on history and culture could be augmented by programs aimed at providing training and guidance to those interested in topics such as sustainable agriculture, organic-based market gardening, black-smithing, animal husbandry, *etc.*
- Year round seasonal activities would provide a natural incentive to return to the farm during the spring, summer, autumn, and winter in order to experience the regular cycle of life that accurately reflects the very nature of farming. To sow and harvest, to “put up” or sell, to enjoy and survive the challenge of drought or flood. Human ties to the regular cycles of nature would characterize the seasonal themes on the farm.
- By strengthening on-going relationships with agencies in the Agricultural Services Center and expanding partnerships with other government sponsored organizations (*e.g.*, 4-H and Master Gardeners), professional organizations (*e.g.*, Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums), and interest groups (*e.g.*, Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Maryland Draft Horse and Mule Association, Central Maryland Antique Tractor Club), the Agricultural History Farm Park would indeed become to agriculture what Brookside Gardens is to horticulture – a resource of significance in the interpretation of farming and its impact on the development of Montgomery County – past, present, and future.

As noted above, this option would require a facility director, farm manager, farm interpreter, seasonal “farm-hands”, and volunteers as well as the on-going assistance of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park and an enhanced cooperative relationship with staff at the Agricultural Services Center.

### **Maintenance, Public Access, Restrooms, and Office Space**

Northern Region staff currently assigned to the Agricultural History Farm Park would continue to provide daily maintenance of the historic farm area as well as other areas of the park – however this work would now be conducted under the supervision of the farm manager and/or facility director. Maintenance activities would no longer be staged from

their present location, *i.e.* the maintenance shed and equipment shed located between the bank barn and farmhouse, but instead would require design and construction of a new “farm service area” west of the Agricultural Services Center and adjacent to the new Friends equipment building. A small bridge over a tributary of Rock Creek west of the Agricultural Services Center would need to be rebuilt. Appropriate fencing would be required for animals pastured in fields. A network of small, gravel parking lots would need to be designed and constructed in and around the historic farm area to accommodate increased site visitation. Public restrooms and hand-wash stations would need to be provided – however in the short-term, these could be in the form of port-a-johns. The facility director, farm manager, farm interpreter, and volunteers would require on-site office space, workrooms, storage space, and restrooms. Signage and interpretive displays would be designed, installed, and maintained.



## **IX. INTEREST GROUP AND AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE PROGRAMMING OPTIONS**

### **Senior Staff at the Agricultural Services Center**

Committee members Jeff Raines and John E. Hench presented the Programming Options to senior staff at the Agricultural Services Center on July 11, 2005. Jeremy Criss, Montgomery County Agricultural Services Manager, David Plummer, Montgomery County Soil Conservation District Manager, and Doug Tregoning, Senior Agent and Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service Manager, and Chuck Shuster, Montgomery County Extension Agent for Commercial Horticulture participated in the discussion.

The senior staff from the Agricultural Services Center (*i.e.*, Criss, Plummer, Tregoning, and Shuster) strongly prefers Programming Option 4 **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters** and believes:

- This option has the best potential for increasing public awareness of the value and economic benefits of agriculture in Montgomery County, increasing public awareness of and support for Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, and increasing the number of students participating in educational programs related to agriculture.
- There would likely be few "repeat" visitors to a Farm Museum given the static nature of displays and the regular or routine nature of interpretive programming.
- An active, on-going farm operation would always have a variety of things going on (*e.g.*, plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, animal husbandry, equipment maintenance and repair, *etc.*) in synchrony with the changing seasons and that this type of dynamic program would likely keep visitors "coming back for more."
- A focus on the time frame of 1900 to 1940 segues nicely into their respective programs, which focus on present and future trends in agriculture.

### **Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park**

Committee members Dean Turnbull and John E. Hench presented the Programming Options to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park at their regular monthly meeting at the Agricultural Services Center on July 21, 2005. [Note: the Park Manager for the Agricultural History Farm Park routinely attends the monthly Board Meetings.] The Board of Directors strongly supported Option 4 **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters** and believes:

- This option is most in synchrony with the stated purpose of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park and the interests of a majority of their members.
- Option 2 **Enhanced Programming - Agricultural Emphasis** could eventually transition to Option 4 **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters** and therefore would be acceptable as a short-term solution to programming the Farm Park.
- No changes should be made to the interior of the bank barn or associated outbuildings that would preclude re-establishment of an active, on-going farm operation at the Farm Park. In her letter to Chairman Berlage dated July 19, 2005, Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs wrote *"The Agricultural Farm Park as it currently exists is truly unique among other "farm parks" in the region because it has all of the elements necessary (tillable land and farm-related improvements) to actually farm the land. The proposed alterations to the structure and function of the barn and out-buildings would forever alter the heart and soul of the farm Park and make re-establishment of an active, on-going farm operation all the more difficult."* [The entire letter and Mr. Berlage's response dated August 30, 2005 are presented in **ATTACHMENT B.**]

The Programming Options were also presented to a wider audience of Friends at the group's annual Family Picnic on July 28, 2005. Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage and committee members Jayne Hench, Susan Soderberg, and John E. Hench attended the Annual Picnic and participated in the effort. In general, the attendees were very pleased to hear that the Department of Park and Planning was supportive of agriculture in Montgomery County, interested in furthering an emphasis on agriculture in the County's educational curriculum, and committed to increasing support for future programs at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

## X. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RELATED DISCUSSION

Staff believes that the Option 2 **Enhanced Programming - Historical Emphasis** could logically transition to Option 3 **Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters** and that Option 2 **Enhanced Programming - Agricultural Emphasis** could logically transition to Option 4 **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters**.

### Committee Majority

A majority of the committee members supported Programming Option 4: **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters**. The majority believes that Option 4 best supports the stated objectives of this analysis:

- Increase public awareness of the value and economic benefits of agriculture in Montgomery County.
- Increase public awareness of and support for Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve.
- Increase the number of students participating in educational programs related to agriculture.

### Committee Minority

A small minority of the committee supported Option 3: **Interactive Farm Museum with Historical Interpreters**.

Option 3 would:

- Present to the public a relatively complete and historically accurate *portrait* of a turn-of-the twentieth century Montgomery County farm.
- Allow for the interiors of the buildings to be reconstructed for interpretive use based on a scheme thematically keyed to specific buildings and associated groups of artifacts.
- Initiate a broader discussion of Montgomery County's agricultural past.
- Help visitors to realize that the history of Montgomery County does in fact reach back beyond the twentieth century and that there is more to the County's material and cultural heritage than can be seen on today's landscape.

Option 3 is consistent with a strategy of Cultural Resources Preservation presented in the PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

STUDY: A STAFF REPORT TO IMPLEMENT THE 1998 PROS PLAN (M-NCPPC, 2001) and the concept of Heritage Tourism. The 1998 plan notes "*Heritage Resources in Montgomery County's parks can play an important role in developing economic benefits from Heritage Tourism.* An important aspect of the Heritage Tourism strategy is to identify groups of important historic or cultural sites that may be interpreted as a whole. These groups are referred to as "Heritage Clusters." Staff in the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning's Historic Preservation Unit identified three major "Heritage Clusters" in Montgomery County: 1) Quakers and the Underground Railroad; 2) Farming History; and 3) Technological Innovation. Important historic sites within each cluster are linked by a common theme and thus are more conducive to touring and to stimulating economic activity.

As noted in the PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STUDY (M-NCPPC, 2001), the focus of the Farming History Cluster "*would be to celebrate Montgomery County's agricultural heritage, which is the primary force which shaped this country from its inception in 1776 through the early part of this century. Individual farms, early farming communities, and different types of agricultural outbuildings would be highlighted and interpreted.*

*An important focal point of this cluster would be the Bussard Farmstead at the Agricultural History Farm Park. The farmhouse and bank barn would be the centerpiece for a series of interpretive exhibits and demonstrations on farming in 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> century Montgomery County. In addition, M-NCPPC owns a number of farms which are part of the cluster and which reflect different periods in our county's rural past: the Joseph White House to represent early 19<sup>th</sup> century plantations, the Oliver Watkins House and Barn to display mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farming, and the Waters House and Barn to show the evolution of agriculture from the 1790s through the early 1900s. The Hyattstown Mill and miller's house would also be part of the cluster to shown early businesses that supported farmers.*

*The Bussard House and farmyard would be the focus of the **Farming History** cluster and would be the starting point for a tour of up-county historic sites related to the development of agriculture in Montgomery County. The farmstead would act as both a visitor center and museum interpreting a typical Montgomery County farmer's lifestyle at the turn of the last century. The barn would house a museum on farming machinery and tools and other outbuildings could house exhibits relating to their original function. In addition to the restored house, barn and outbuildings, there would be hands-on programs for both children and adults, exhibits, and audio-visual presentations."*

The Red Wiggler Community Farm at Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park near Cedar Grove is currently utilizing the Oliver Watkins Barn as part of its organic-based market garden operation.

The Woodlawn House and Barn near Olney are proposed as the focal point for the Quakers and the Underground Railroad Cluster. The barn is currently being renovated to serve as a visitor center, museum and research center for the Underground Railroad, and central office for the cluster coordinator. (See ATTACHMENT C.)

The Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan prepared for the Montgomery County Heritage Area Advisory Committee by Mary Means and Associates, Incorporated, in October 2002 provides a visual and verbal description of the Heritage Area Boundaries. The Underground Railroad and Quaker Cluster is in the eastern Montgomery County and has a boundary that follows the Rock Creek, Northwest Branch, and Sligo Creek Stream Valley Parks, ending up in the Sandy Spring and Brookeville communities to the north. The boundary of the Farming History Cluster is defined by the limits of Montgomery County's 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve. The area identified with Technological Innovation Cluster basically follows the Potomac River.

The Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan suggests developing an orientation gateway to the Farming History Cluster in Poolesville, possibly at the historic John Poole House rather than the Agricultural History Farm Park. The plan also suggests that Poolesville offers an excellent opportunity for interpretation as an archetype of the Maryland/Mid-Atlantic agriculture village.

A majority of the staff committee believes implementation of Option 4 **Fully Functioning Farm Operation with Farm Interpreters** would not preclude the Agricultural History Farm Park serving as a gateway to the Farming History Cluster -- although the Farm Park is in fact located outside of the cluster boundary.

### **Farm Service Area**

On March 25, 2005, Northern Park Region staff (Jim Humerick and Jeff Raines) met with Park Development Division staff (Eileen Emmet) and discussed including funding for relocation of the maintenance function at the Agricultural History Farm Park in the upcoming FY07-12 CIP. During this meeting, staff also discussed construction of a culvert bridge over a small tributary of Rock Creek west of the Agricultural Services Center.

Based on the March 25<sup>th</sup> discussion, Northern Region staff prepared a preliminary program of requirements – including rough cost estimates -- for the proposed Farm Service Area.

40' x 80' Butler-style building with 3 bays	\$100,000
Pesticide storage cabinet	\$2,000
Above ground fuel station	\$10,000
Public water (8" line, extended to a new hydrant)	\$100,000
Septic system	\$25,000
Electrical service	\$30,000
Perimeter fencing with gate	\$10,000
Bridge culvert	<u>\$15,000</u>
	\$292,000

The staff committee suggests that the preliminary program be amended to include stormwater management quality and quantity controls, Forest Conservation, and other

permitting costs. The committee also suggests that the Park Development Division review both the preliminary program of requirements and cost estimates for accuracy and completeness.

### **Future Office Space**

New M-NCPPC staff, volunteers, and/or partners at the Farm Park will require on-site office space, storage space, and restrooms. In the short-term, this need may possibly be accommodated on the second floor of the farmhouse. However, this solution needs to be examined by a building architect in the Park Development Division or a qualified consultant to ensure conformity with all applicable Montgomery County Codes.

In addition, Staff of the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, working out of the Agricultural Activities Center, has expressed a need for more office space, storage space, meeting space, and a lunch/break room. Further expansion of the Close Encounters with Agriculture Program is dependent (in part) on an expansion of programming space at the Agricultural Services Center as well. Details are provided in an e-mail message from David Plummer to John E. Hench dated August 8, 2005 (**ATTACHMENT D**).

The staff committee believes that the space needs of M-NCPPC and the Soil Conservation District should be considered jointly and evaluated by a building architect in the Park Development Division or a qualified consultant. The evaluation should look at both the need for space and options for providing that space in the form of an addition to the existing Agricultural Services Center.

### **Proposed Partnership: Option 2 Enhanced Programming - Agricultural Emphasis**

Staffs in the Northern Region and Volunteer Services Office have recently received a proposal from Cindy Ryan of Redland, Maryland to form a new 4-H club at the Agricultural History Farm Park (**ATTACHMENT E**). Ms. Ryan is an active member of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. She and her family provide a variety of farm animals for many of the Friends annual events. Ms. Ryan is also very active in Montgomery County's 4-H programs.

Although Ms. Ryan's proposal -- titled Back In Time 4-H -- is very preliminary in nature, it does illustrate the type of focused programming that can be expected from a non-paid partner. The staff committee recommends staffs in the Northern Region and Volunteer Services Office continue to work with Ms. Ryan on implementing her proposal.

### **Estimating Cost for the Preferred Programming Option**

Based on direction from the Chairman and/or Planning Board, staff will estimate cost for the preferred programming option. The estimate will include Operating Budget costs (e.g., personnel, supplies and materials, professional services, utilities) and

Intergovernmental Service Fund costs (e.g., tractor, farm machinery, truck). Cost estimates for various improvements (e.g., Farm Service Area, culvert bridge, gravel parking lots, expansion of the Agricultural Services Center, interpretive displays, signage) will be obtained through a new facility planning project in the Department of Park and Planning's proposed FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program.

Pc. Jeremy Criss  
Judy Daniel  
Bill Mooney  
David Plummer  
Mike Riley  
Doug Shuster  
Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs  
Doug Tregoning  
Gwen Wright

Attachments: **ATTACHMENT A** - Relevant excerpts from the Planning Board approved Agricultural History Farm Park Program & Facility Development Plan (M-NCPPC, 1990).

**ATTACHMENT B** - Letters dated July 19, 2005 from Ms. Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs, President of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, to Mr. Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board and Mr. Berlage's response to Ms. Stubbs dated August 30, 2005.

**ATTACHMENT C** – Back-up Sheet for the Restoration of Historic Structures PDF.

**ATTACHMENT D** – E-mail dated August 8, 2005 from Mr. David Plummer, Manager, Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, to John E. Hench regarding office space at the Agricultural Services Center.

**ATTACHMENT E** – A proposal from Ms. Cindy Ryan to staffs in the Northern Park Region and Volunteer Services Office to start a new 4-H club at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

## ATTACHMENT A

Relevant excerpts from the Planning Board approved Agricultural History Farm Park Program & Facility Development Plan (M-NCPPC, 1990) are presented in **ATTACHMENT A**. Original text is in italics. In some cases, the original text was updated to reflect current information. Text up-dates appear in Times New Roman font.

### *THE HISTORIC FARM AREA*

*This property consists of approximately seventy rolling acres that form the entrance vista to the park. Historic hilltop farm buildings complete the clear and aesthetically pleasing image of the farmstead. The overriding challenge for this area will be to maintain the integrity and appearance of the environmental setting.*

#### Programming:

*The historic section of the park will be the staging area for programs related to lifestyles of the past. As the structures date from the turn of the twentieth century, the basic appearance will reflect this era in the restoration of fences, gardens, and buildings. Beyond this however, programming will be broad-based in nature and will not focus in one time period in order to keep options as flexible as possible. A mixture of tours, displays and demonstrations will be offered by interpretive staff in renovated historic structures. School groups in particular will benefit from the educational nature of programs presented here.*

*Special seasonal events such as spring planting and fall harvest festivals will supplement the day-to-day programming at this site. These festivals may include demonstrations such as horsedrawn plowing, sheep shearing, cider pressing, blacksmithing, and the operation of antique farm equipment. Activities such as hayrides, music crafts and games could all take place within a recreational atmosphere designed for the enjoyment of all ages and groups.*

#### Facilities

*Although the farm buildings have been repaired and painted additional work needs to be done in order to have the structures function as interpretive facilities. Of even greater concern however, is the presence of maintenance activity in the midst of the site since the related vehicle traffic, machinery and chemicals create an unsafe environment for programs. This area, unlike the modern activity center, lacks the basic infrastructure such as access, parking, and restrooms.*

#### Existing

*Bank Barn – The barn serves as a focal point for the site. Currently used in the farming and maintenance operation, the structure could be converted to house exhibits and*



*displays pending the recommendations of a professional museum designer. Such a conversion needs to be examined carefully as it would impact and possibly preclude other uses for which the building was originally intended i.e., storage of crops and shelter for livestock.*

*Maintenance Shed – An additional location offering good potential for displays or exhibits, this modest structure presently functions as an office for the farm’s maintenance staff.*

*Farmhouse – Currently serving as housing for a tenant and office space, access to the interior will be limited due to structural and code requirements. Period restoration of the first floor parlors and kitchen, however, could depict domestic farm life while retaining office space on the upper floor.*

*Smokehouse – One of the most interesting buildings on the farm, the old log meathouse is an attractive backdrop for descriptions of how meats were cured and preserved.*

*Chicken Coop – The chicken coop has been rebuilt in order to house poultry.*

*Carriage Shed – Forerunner of the modern garage, this building shelters small equipment and serves as a reception area during special events.*

*Granary – Once used to store seeds and grains, this structure could also feature displays or exhibits explaining its original purpose.*

*Equipment Shed – Although of recent construction, this building’s design is compatible with the rest of the farm. It is used for storing large farm equipment and serves as additional shelter during special events.*

*Pole Barn – Also of recent construction, the open-sided pole barn is screened somewhat from the sites and is currently used for hay storage. It could continue this use and also serve as a picnic shelter or groups visiting the property.*

*Orchards – A small remnant of the original orchard remains adjacent to the pole barn. Restoration of the property should include some examples of fruit trees typical of the period.*

### Proposed

*Security Systems – As the loss of the house or barn would irreparably damage the programming of the site, alarm and sprinkler systems are proposed for both structures.*

*HVAC – A climate controlled system is highly desirable for the house to protect historic artifacts and furnishings and to eliminate inefficient and unsightly air conditioning units.*

*Fencing – In order to delineate the historic farm setting for visitors and enclose fields for livestock, period post and rail fencing should be installed during the early stages of development.*

*Access and Parking – In order to direct vehicular traffic away from the historic area, a driveway from the activity center will connect to a small parking area near the site. All facilities will make provisions for handicapped access.*

*Restrooms – The restrooms should be accessible from the parking lot and the historic site and great care taken to insure that the exterior appearance will be compatible with the other historic buildings.*

### Relocated Structures

*From time to time it is proposed that certain threatened historic structures be moved to the farm. Some suggestions have included a corn crib, a log tobacco house and the Brighton Grange Hall. Due to the factors of site integrity and expense, each proposal should be weighed carefully for compatibility with overall plans for the facility.*

### Archaeology

*As a prelude to the restoration and interpretation of this historic visitation facility, a thorough and professional archaeological investigation should take place. In addition to recovering artifacts and information for use in the interpretation of the property, the investigation will note any historic features that should be avoided during site development. A preliminary survey has revealed extensive prehistoric and historic remains. A large group of volunteers are assisting in excavating the old ice house.*

*Restoration of a number of features essential to the interpretation of the site is dependent on the continuation and expansion of the archaeological program. These features include the following:*

*Ice House – Used to store ice cut from the nearby pond in wintertime in order to preserve food during the warmer months.*

*Root Cellar – Also used in cold storage of foods, particularly root crops.*

*Hog Pen – This structure would complement the butchering/meat preservation process described in the smokehouse.*

*Kitchen and Herb Gardens – Important features to complete the picture of daily farm life and the basic necessity of raising food.*

## *THE MODERN AGRICULTURAL AREA*

*Located just beyond the historic farmstead, the modern agricultural area consists of a group of office buildings designed along an agricultural theme. Set amidst the balance of the property's fields and forest, this area includes panoramic views of crops planted along hillside contours.*

### Facilities

*The \$2.7 million activity center houses offices for three agencies involved with agricultural programs in the County. In addition, it contains a multi-purpose meeting room with a demonstration kitchen and classrooms for educational activities. The surrounding farmland serves as an outdoor classroom where research theories can be put into practice. The five agencies are the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, Agricultural Services Division; the Montgomery Soil Conservation District; Farm Service Agency; Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service.*

### The Agricultural Services Division

Agricultural Services Manager:

Mr. Jeremy V. Criss  
(301)590-2830

The Agricultural Services Division was created to support and promote the viability of the agricultural industry in Montgomery County. In addition to the Manager, the Division includes four employees.

Agricultural activities occupy about one-third of Montgomery County's land area and the County's diverse agricultural industry produces more than \$250 million in economic contribution and employs more than 10,000 residents.

The Agricultural Services Division works to increase the public's awareness of the value and economic impact of agriculture. In order to preserve working farmland, the Division works closely with farmers in the County's Agricultural Reserve.

In keeping with Montgomery County's reputation as a high tech Mecca, one the Division's missions is to provide farmers with up-to-date information on technological advancements, cooperative arrangements, foreign trade opportunities, and marketing ideas to assist them with their ventures. The Division also works to leverage greater assistance with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maryland State Highway Administration, and various Montgomery County agencies. The Division also serves as a liaison with the Farm Service Agency, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Montgomery Soil Conservation District. By providing a more cohesive public sector emphasis on agricultural programs and services, the Division helps to make Montgomery County an attractive, balanced place to live and work.

## The Montgomery Soil Conservation District

Soil Conservation District Manager:

Mr. David Plummer

(301)590-2855

The Montgomery County Soil Conservation District is a statewide political subdivision and operates as a public body exercising public powers to educate and assist landowners implementing soil conservation practices and techniques. The District is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors and is supported by a staff of seven employees. The County, State, and Federal governments fund these employees.

The Soil Conservation Program is concerned with the wise use of the County's soil and water resources. Program efforts are carried out through development of soil conservation and water quality plans that are designed to minimize non-point source pollution from agricultural land. District staff also provide technical assistance to County residents experiencing drainage and/or erosion problems.

The Montgomery County Soil Conservation District offers a cost share program for implementing Soil Conservation Plans, provides technical assistance with Best Management Practices (e.g., grass waterways) for water quality and quantity control, sponsors the Montgomery County ENVIROTHON – an annual academic competition for county high school Students, and provides storm-water management review for the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg.

### Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service

Senior Agent and County Extension Service Director

Mr. Douglas Tregoning (301)590-2809

The Cooperative Extension Service is sponsored jointly by the University of Maryland, Montgomery County Government, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is perhaps best known for its "agents" and 4-H affiliations.

The Extension Service's 19 employees provide the public with useful, practical, and up-to-date information based on on-going research at the nation's land-grant universities. Extension Service staff:

- Answer telephones
- Speak one-on-one with visitors
- Make on-site farm visits
- Sponsor public meetings, tours, demonstrations, fairs, and expos
- Conduct seminars and speaking engagements
- Publish newsletters and write newspaper columns
- Make radio and television broadcasts

- Distribute accurate technical publications with solutions to specific problems
- Engage in computer networking.

The “answer people” at the Cooperative Extension Service serve --

#### Families

- Gardening, landscape, and lawn-care – including weekly plant clinics and a telephone hotline
- Managing family budgets
- Understanding diet, nutrition, and health
- Building and improving parenting skills
- Consumer education
- Senior health program
- Recycling and composting education

#### Youth

Hundreds of fun and interesting projects allow children to learn by doing...

- 4-H clubs and special interest groups
- School enrichment programs
- After-school food and nutrition programs
- Camping
- Helping to make their community a better place to live
- Teaching self-reliance

#### Farmers, Landscapers, and Nurserymen

- Raising crops and livestock
- Protecting the environment
- Educating for water quality
- Marketing commodities
- Farm and business management
- Pest Management

#### Programming:

*The “modern section” of the park is where the public will learn about the present and future trends in agriculture and where new farming techniques, improved crop varieties and conservation practices will be demonstrated. Staff from the agricultural agencies will be available along with the Department of Parks interpreters in order to offer advice and programs on contemporary agricultural practices to bridge the gap in information between city dwellers and farm families.*

*Since more than 577 farms still operate in Montgomery County, farmers can learn about the latest innovations in agriculture through applied research field projects such as integrated pest management, crop rotations, fungicide applications and weed control. In addition, the farm will provide demonstrations that encourage the utilization of soil and water conservation best management practices. Natural grass waterways, diversions, minimum tillage, stream crossings and buffers, strip-cropping systems and crop residue management will be highlighted. Each management practice promotes economic returns to farmers through reduced soil, fertilizer and pesticide loss in addition to reducing non-point pollution of waters that flow to the Chesapeake Bay.*

#### Demonstration Plots:

*While traditional agricultural demonstration areas are easily recognized, increasing attention will be paid to the alternative methods of agriculture becoming popular in the County. These programs are particularly attractive to those suburbanites who wish to practice farming on a few acres. Demonstration plots will be established and maintained on-site by the agricultural agencies, should funds become available.*

- *Pasture management – Intensive rotational grazing utilizing small paddocks for sheep, cattle, and/or horses.*
- *Turf – Plots will be designated to test new turf varieties and demonstrate integrated pest management.*
- *Orchards and Vineyards – Various types of fruit trees and vines will be grown for the benefit of homeowners and commercial growers. New varieties, cultivation techniques and pest management will be demonstrated.*
- *Vegetables – A vegetable plot featuring smaller growing areas, new varieties and planting techniques, organic gardening and composting will serve the backyard gardener.*
- *Weeds – A weed control plot will be another demonstration. This plot will have an area displaying weeds typically found in agricultural, lawn, and garden areas. The identification and control of weeds will benefit farmers and homeowners alike.*
- *Aquaculture – While “fish farming” programs tend to be complex and expensive, the utilization of a closed system featuring a “high pond” method may be possible.*

*As the County moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there will likely be an increasing trend towards focusing on an urban audience. This trend is already evident in the programs of the Cooperative Extension Service. While traditional programs like home economics still offer canning demonstrations, classes in consumer education, time management, and child care are also available.”*



## ATTACHMENT B

Letter dated July 19, 2005 from Ms. Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs, President of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, to Mr. Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board and Mr. Berlage's response to Ms. Stubbs dated August 30, 2005.

Mr. Derick Berlage  
Chairman  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED  
1309  
JUL 21 2005

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Berlage,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc., I would like to thank you and the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning for your ongoing support of the Agricultural History Farm Park. As you know, we recently lost our founding president and very good friend, Michael Roth. As current president, I am attending to the myriad of tasks related to keeping the events and business of the Friends moving forward until we can elect our next president this coming autumn.

We believe that corresponding with you at this time is important. We are happy to hear that you have directed your staff to initiate a study of Programming Options for the Farm Park. John Hench and Dean Turnbull attended a meeting of our Board of Directors on Thursday evening July 14th. Following our Board meeting, John provided an overview of the planning process, schedule, and coordination efforts. He then explained your staff's current thinking with regard to future programming. He also explained that this thinking would be captured in a report that would be delivered to you later on this summer.

We would like to state that we are pleased with your attention to this wonderful facility and with your willingness to involve us in this important effort. We hope that you and other public officials are committed to moving forward with a planning process that results in increasing public support for this valuable resource. John assured us that your staff will continue to keep the Friends involved as the process develops. Rest assured that the Friends are firmly committed to a programming option that brings a fully functioning farm, complete with crops and farm animals, to life at the Farm Park.

Since the Friends group was formed in 1994 our purpose has remained constant: to support the objectives of the Agricultural History Farm Park; to support adequate funding of the Agricultural History Farm Park; to offer programming relating to Montgomery County Agriculture -- past, present and future; to provide both demonstrations and educational programs on historical farm life, agriculture and environmental pursuits; and to work with individuals and organizations having goals and objectives similar to our own.



The Friends group formed in large part to provide programming for a facility we believe is very important to preserving the rich heritage of farming in Montgomery County. Mike Roth's past experience with the Old Timers Show at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and his connections with the agricultural community made him a natural to involve a wide variety of talented people in creating programming at the park directly related to agriculture and agricultural history.

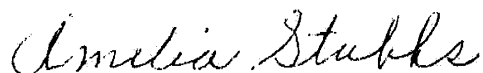
The dedication of the Friends to Montgomery County's agricultural heritage is evidenced by the many annual events the Friends have developed and implemented at the Farm Park. Our events include the Gas and Steam Engine Show, Draft Horse and Mule Field Day, Old-Fashioned Wheat Binding, Blue-grass Show, Blacksmith's Show, and Christmas on the Farm. The Friends also provide significant support for the Arbor Day celebration, past Spring Festivals, and the autumn Harvest Festival. In addition, the Friends have funded the planning, design, and construction of a large 4,800 square foot building at the Farm Park dedicated to the storage of a wide variety of antique farm equipment -- including tractors, engines, thrashing machines, wagons, and implements. The Friends have also undertaken and completed restoration projects involving the chicken house, well house, and tank house. Additional work on the corn-crib and sawmill are on-going. Under eleven years of Mike's leadership, the Friends have likely helped bring many hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of visitors to the Farm Park for a wide variety of agriculturally related programs and events and worked to ensure that farming remains a viable and dynamic part of Montgomery County's future.

However, I must also tell you that another rationale for our formation was our concern about a plan put forth by your staff approximately 10 years ago to turn the bank barn and associated out-buildings (carriage shed, granary, corn crib, maintenance shed, chicken house, tank house, etc.) into a museum of exhibits related to Montgomery County farming. It is our express hope that no matter what programming option is eventually selected, that it refrain from creating a museum out of these buildings, especially the beautiful old barn. The Agricultural History Farm Park as it currently exists is truly unique among other "farm parks" in the region because it has all of the elements necessary (tillable land and farm-related improvements) to actually farm the land. The proposed alterations to the structure and function of the barn and out-buildings would forever alter the heart and soul of the Farm Park and make re-establishment of an active, on-going farming operation all the more difficult.

Other barns in the county park system have been or will be turned into museums. The dairy barn in South Germantown Recreational Park for example is in the process of being developed as a "Mooseum" and will provide exhibits related to Montgomery County's dairy industry. It is my understanding that the stone barn at Woodlawn Special Park is also being considered for conversion to a museum or visitor center as well. Those barns may be more appropriate for conversion to an alternative function since the parks they occur in are dedicated to uses other than agriculture.

The Friends look forward to continuing our program support, funding for restoration activities, and extensive volunteer work at the Agricultural History Farm Park. To date, we believe that our partnership with Park and Planning has worked very well. We are very excited about the possibility of implementing a program option that might actually put a fully functioning farm back in the Farm Park. The Friends are truly grateful for your continued support of both the Farm Park and Montgomery County's agricultural community and look forward to seeing you and your family "down on the farm!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amelia Stubbs".

Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs  
President  
Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.  
1901 Olney-Sandy Spring Road  
Sandy Spring MD 20860-1340



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
Office of the Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

August 30, 2005

Ms. Amelia "Mimi" Stubbs  
President  
Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.  
1901 Olney-Sandy Spring Road  
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860-1340

Dear Ms. Stubbs:

Thank you for your letter dated July 19, 2005, regarding the Agricultural History Farm Park. I also want to thank you for your invitation to the Friends Annual Family Picnic on July 21<sup>st</sup>. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with you and other members of the Friends at the event. The food and fellowship were outstanding and the ongoing commitment of the Friends to the Farm Park and its program were very apparent. Even the light rain that fell later in the evening failed to dampen the good cheer of all who attended.

On behalf of my fellow members of the Montgomery County Planning Board I want to acknowledge the eleven-year commitment of the Friends to the Agricultural History Farm Park. Under the leadership of Michael Roth, and more recently you, the Friends have made a significant and lasting contribution to facilities and programs at this wonderful park. The support of the Friends for our Department's past Spring Festivals, Autumn Harvest Festivals, and Arbor Day Celebrations has always been appreciated. The Friends' annual program of events — including the Gas and Steam Engine Show, Draft Horse and Mule Field Day, Wheat Binding, Blue Grass Show, Blacksmith's Show, and Christmas on the Farm — has ably filled a void in our Department's ability to adequately program all of our park facilities. The Friends' various restoration projects involving the chicken house, well house, tank house, corn-crib and saw mill have done much to ensure that the Farm Park and its various buildings will be enjoyed by visitors well into the future. And finally, I would be remiss not to mention the wonderful equipment building funded by the Friends. I am well aware of the large number of visitors to the park that have enjoyed seeing the various pieces of antique equipment stored therein actually used on the farm during the various events. The sights and sounds of an old steam engine, tractor, or team of workhorses working in a field of hay, wheat, or corn adds immeasurably to the experiences of those who visit the farm.

As I reflect on the list of Friends' accomplishments in your letter, I believe the future of the Farm Park is bright. However, I also believe that our local government needs to do more — especially with regard to increasing the support among our citizens for agriculture and the 93,000 acre Agricultural Reserve in northern and western portions of Montgomery

Montgomery County Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Phone: (301) 495-4605, Fax: (301) 495-1320, E-mail: [mcp-chairman@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:mcp-chairman@mncppc-mc.org), [www.mncppc-mc.org](http://www.mncppc-mc.org)

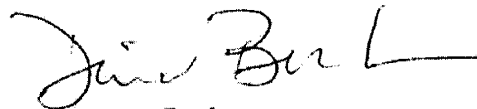
County. That is why I have directed staff to develop and analyze various options for enhancing the level of agriculturally related programming offered at the farm. During a time when the future integrity of Montgomery County's 25-year-old Agricultural Reserve is somewhat in doubt, it is very important that we increase public awareness of the value and economic benefits of agriculture in Montgomery County. The Farm Park, with its beautiful old farmhouse and barn, rolling fields, wooded stream valleys, and the much newer Agricultural Services Center, is an excellent platform from which we can accomplish this worthy goal. With the ongoing commitment of the Friends, various agencies at the Agricultural Services Center, and our citizens, I'm sure that we shall.

I encourage you to stay in contact with us as we continue our work on the various programming options for the Agricultural History Farm Park. John E. Hench in our Countywide Planning Division is available in this regard. John's telephone number is 301-650-4364. Please do not hesitate to contact either John or me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

I am planning to share staff's recommended programming options for the Farm Park with my fellow Board members in early autumn. Later, we will likely consider funding issues associated with a preferred option as part of the Board's deliberations regarding the overall budget for the Department of Park and Planning during an October/November timeframe.

Again, I want to thank you and the Friends for your ongoing work in support of the Agricultural History Farm Park and agriculture in Montgomery County.

Sincerely,



Derick P. Berlage  
Chairman

DPL:JEH:ccq  
2005-1309

# ATTACHMENT C

Back-up sheet for Restoration of Historic Structures PDF

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12
<b>CIP Projects FY06 – FY12</b>							
Historic Markers	5,000 + 13,472 (from prev. years)			5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Strategic Plan/Planning	10,000			10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Joseph White	34,147 (from FY04)						
Bussard Farmhouse	58,966 (from FY05)						
Bussard Septic	10,992 (from FY01)						
Woodlawn Barn – Design	226,621 (from FY05)						
Woodlawn Barn – Construction	275,000	300,000	300,000				
Holland (Red Door) Store				285,000			
Seneca Stone Barn Stabilization					225,000		
Oliver Watkins Interior – Design					60,000		
Oliver Watkins Interior – Construction						210,000	
Needwood Mansion – Design						75,000	
Needwood Mansion – Construction							285,000
<b>Special Revenue Fund Account</b>							
Holland (Red Door) Store	50,000						
Kensington Cabin	88,000						
Darby House & Store Stabilization	50,000						
Waters House (Painting)		45,000					
Poole Store (Painting)					30,000		

## ATTACHMENT D

E-mail dated August 8, 2005 from Mr. David Plummer, Manager, Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, to John E. Hench regarding office space at the Agricultural Services Center.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Plummer, David C. [mailto:david.plummer@montgomerycountymd.gov]

**Sent:** August 08, 2005 7:21 PM

**To:** Hench, John

**Cc:** Criss, Jeremy; TheLecksFarm@aol.com

**Subject:** Montgomery SCD Building Expansion at Ag History

Good Afternoon John,

Thanks for stopping by on Friday to let me know about the information you needed. I am delighted to know that there is so much interest and that things are moving so rapidly! I apologize for not getting this to you earlier, but we had all we could do just to get our Newsletter and invitations to our Annual Cooperators Dinner out today. I will attempt to provide the best answers I can to the questions you posed, but as we discussed, my estimates should be considered draft at this point. Our Board of Supervisors will have the final say on how much additional office space the District will actually need as part of the proposed expansion. But I can give you a general idea about staffing levels, square footage, and our projected space needs.

We are understaffed right now because of turnover. The Montgomery Soil Conservation District (MSCD) office typically has a staff of about 8 people. We are in the process of hiring 2 employees from MDA and we expect another Federal employee sometime later this year. That would bring the number of staff working at MSCD back to about 9. The big problem we have right now is that when we are fully staffed (9) we will have 7 people sharing an office that is 566 square feet. That equates to about 80 sq. ft. per person. Not only does this pose a potential fire hazard, but it also compromises personal space and comfort. The office is set up with cubicle style partitions, and can only be described as cluttered at best. We have only one closet for storage so our records, educational materials, and reference guides are kept in cubicles, offices and in the main hall. Ideally, each of our staff members would have their own office, just as employees in the rest of the building enjoy.

In addition to the critical office space, MSCD is also in desperate need of rooms for meetings, storage, and lunch/breaks. Following are some of these needs:

- Our current storage room is grossly undersized at about 6' x 14' (84 sq. ft.). I have filing cabinets throughout my whole office, there are

cabinets in the hall, and many staff members are forced to store equipment in their own cubicles. With the increasing dependence on technology and the equipment that goes with it, we need storage space more on the order of 240 sq. ft.

- We have a monthly Board meeting, a monthly staff meeting, various conservation group meetings, and meetings associated with the various agencies that support MSCD. We have to compete with all the other groups in the building to attempt to facilitate the use of one meeting room. The District should have its own meeting room, ideally about 25' x 25'. This could also be used for many aspects of our conservation education programs through Close Encounters with Agriculture and the Envirothon (HS students) program.
- The employee dining area/break room only seats about 10 people, and there are over 35 people assigned to the building. There are also regular problems with refrigerator space, kitchen use, etc. MSCD would like to have a separate break/staff room where we could store food and eat lunch.
- Two small offices for meeting with clients. When a landowner comes to discuss details of their operation with one of our staff she is forced to squish into a cubicle that is barely big enough for the employee, let alone two people! We are embarrassed by this unprofessional scenario, but have few options to address the problem. Small conference rooms allow client and employee to discuss issues that some landowners may not want broadcast around the whole office.

As you requested, here is a rough breakdown of our current situation and projected needs for the future:

<u>SPACE REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>CURRENT sq. ft.</u>	<u>Sq. Ft. NEEDED</u>
Office Space for Personnel And Supervisors	7 staff w/566 sq. ft. (*) 2 staff w/288 sq. ft.	9 staff w/1296 sq. ft. 2 staff w/400 sq. ft.
Storage space	84 sq. ft.	240 sq. ft.
Meeting Room	N/A	625 sq. ft.
Break Room	N/A	200 sq. ft.
<u>Client offices (2)</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>200 sq. ft.</u>

TOTAL MSCD SPACE REQUIREMENT (DRAFT) 2961 SQ. FT.

(\*) Avg. staff level without current turnover

As we discussed, one of the elements this entire facility needs is another large room for educational purposes. I assume the proposed building expansion would include a lower floor that could provide a large educational room. During Close Encounters with Agriculture we are stepping over top of each other. And if it rains you wouldn't want to see the madhouse that erupts when we have to pull all the activities inside! An additional large room would greatly ease the situation and provide room to grow.

There appears to be an interest in increasing the number of 4<sup>th</sup> graders that participate in the Close Encounters with Agriculture program. There is no question that this award winning program is a model around the state and country. However, everyone in this building will tell you that they give all they have for a month in the spring, frequently at the detriment to their other assignments. Everyone is behind the program 100% and would love to include more students but we will need RESOURCES. In 2005 we had about 2700 students participating in the program out of an estimated 4<sup>th</sup> grade student body of 9,948. That means that we serve roughly 27% of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the county, a substantial accomplishment. Additional space for educational activities will obviously be a critical component of any future plans to expand CEw/Ag.

I don't have time or space here to go into the layout of the building, but would like to discuss this with you in the future. I think it would work fine if the office space, storage space, and client rooms were on the top floor, but any number of combinations could be used to determine the location of the other rooms.

Thanks for promoting this major undertaking and for helping us to move toward a resolution to our long struggle over space issues!

Talk to you soon - David.

David C. Plummer  
District Manager  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District  
301-590-2855





## ATTACHMENT E

A proposal from Ms. Cindy Ryan to staffs in the Northern Park Region and Volunteer Services Office to start a new 4-H club at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

### Options 2 Proposal for Education at the AHFP

Recommendation is being made to recruit a new 4-H club which would meet at the Ag. History Farm Park. The target audience will be suburban families within Montgomery Co. and volunteer recruitment through specialized volunteers and old-timers skilled in farming. Some club members will participate in acquiring specific farming skills reflecting the early 1900's. Other club members will be mentored to assist with events and volunteer to lead interpretive programs for the general public through existing "Nature Center" and "Friends" sponsored programs. Cooperative efforts for this 4-H Club will be collective among the M-NCPPC, the Friends of the Ag. History Farm Park, and the 4-H Montgomery County Extension Office. The mission of the 4-H club entitled "Back In Time 4-H" will be the education and implementation of heritage family farming specific to the Bussard homestead of the 1900's now owned by M-NCPPC. Community service will be provided through scheduled educational events at the AHFP already in place on the calendar of events through the "Parks" and the "Friends."

### What is 4-H?

4-H represents educational programs for youth aged 5 – 18, regardless of sex, handicap, or national origin. 4-H Programs focus on the members being mentored in areas of family life, farming skills, agriculture, livestock, environmental sciences, leadership, public speaking, and community service. Specialty clubs focus on areas such as aerospace, computer science exploration, electricity, and small engines. Leadership, citizenship, and community service flourish within 4-H. Presently, in Montgomery County 4-H clubs are divided into two areas: 1) Community based clubs focusing on non-animal related education, and 2) Animal clubs focused on domestic pets and farm animal projects. 4-H clubs fall under the domain of the Cooperative Extension Service through the University of MD. All programs are age-appropriate activities, educationally based, serving the community at large. Clubs presently meet in chosen locations such as homes, church buildings, the Ag Center Fairgrounds, and the Extension Office. Volunteer adults are trained by the state and held accountable for program management, implementation, and evaluation. Numerous project materials are available along with valuable resources within the community. Completed projects consist of a club member learning something new, demonstrating their knowledge to others, presenting an exhibit on their acquired skills or knowledge, and completing a written record to document levels achieved. 4-H volunteer adults and club members team together to use their Head for clearer thinking, their Hear for greater loyalty, their Hands for larger service, and their Health for better living, for their club, their community, their country, and the world.

Short range goals for Back In Time 4-H include:

1. Recruit members and administrate an organization program plan for the club for a 1<sup>st</sup> year period. Recruit a sponsor for club T-Shirts. Recruit Dr. Patrick K. Skipton of Woodfield Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Lonnie Luther of Damascus, and Dr. Dave Shinham from the Frederick Animal Health Lab to provide poultry medical education, breeding education, and MD State Testing Certification.
2. Design a club by-laws statement highlighting membership commitment, expectations, and limiting club size to enhance club development.
3. Confirm a monthly meeting facility at the Farm House or Extension Office.
4. Select and help administrate three events sponsored by the Friends of the Ag History Farm Park during 2006.
  - a. Gas and Steam Engine Show
  - b. Christmas on the Farm
  - c. All Blacksmith Show
5. Select and participate in three events sponsored by the Parks at the Ag History Farm Park during 2006
  - a. Arbor Day Celebration
  - b. Montgomery County Heritage Days
  - c. Farm Harvest Festival
6. Implement poultry care and education typical of the 1900's
  - a. Daily care and feeding of chickens on the Farm site (2 times each day)
  - b. Certification of Avian Influenza and Pollorum Testing through the MD State Department of Agriculture.
  - c. Completion of 4-H project on poultry
  - d. Educational presentations on poultry:
    - i. Breeds
    - ii. Incubation of eggs
    - iii. Egg development
    - iv. Feed options
    - v. Medications
    - vi. Hands-on education
7. Approval by the Parks and Boy Scouts for a chicken run design and construction of a chicken run attached to the existing coop on Farm property.
8. Provide one monthly club meeting twelve times a year emphasizing and instructing education on:
  - a. **Family Life Skills** on the farm
    - i. Goat milk soap making – July 2006
    - ii. Apple butter making – October 2006
    - iii. Log splitting-educational demo, September 2006 and cord wood raffle October 2006 at Farm Harvest Festival
  - b. **Farm Animal Care** (poultry – 2006)
  - c. **Event Education**
  - d. **Community Service**

Proposal for Year 1 – 2006  
4-H Club Organization Program Plan

Planning

October – December 2005

- Administrative planning of new 4-H Club
- Completion of membership and volunteer forms
- Training and certification of adult volunteers through 4-H
- By-Laws proposed and approved through 4-H and Parks

*Implementation*

January – December 2006

January

- Induction of Club officers
- Overview of Parks programs, 4-H, and Friends
- Presentation of the purpose for the Club

February

- Recruiting of key resource people
- Recruiting of specialty skilled volunteers
- Begin master resource list

March

- Farm history
- Farm site plan knowledge
- Master Gardeners overview
- Farm tree and leaf identification (preparation for Arbor Day Celebration)
- Vegetable garden site planning

April

- Horticulture education – Seeds and how to plant them
- Provide farm building education of historic area
- Assist with Arbor Day Celebration
  - Educational presentation – trees on the farm

May

- Soil preparation and garden planting
- Poultry education
- Participation in Gas & Steam Engine Show

June

- Garden care
- Assist with Montgomery County Heritage Days (provide education to public on the Farm Family Life, what the farm looked like, and how it ran in the early days since the Magruder sale to the Bussards)

July

- Garden care
- Goat milk soap making education
- Participate with Friends picnic
- Design a float or walking unit advertising the 4-H Club in the Montgomery County Ag Fair

August

- Participate in the Montgomery County Ag Fair parade
- Display education on the farm at the County Fair
- Highlight life on the farm with poultry in the Poultry Barn at the Fair

September

- Review and evaluate club by-laws
- Program plan for 2007
- Recruit new volunteers for 2007
- Log splitting education demo

October

- Recruit new members
- Teach poultry education
- Participate in Harvest Festival
  - Teach apple butter making
  - Monitor 1900s children's games and races
  - Cord wood raffle

November

- Officer nominations
- Participate in All Blacksmith Show
- Learn about Thanksgiving and Christmas on the farm
- Decorate entrance fencing with greens

December

- Election of 2007 club officers
- Help decorate the grounds for Christmas on the Farm
- Participate in Christmas on the Farm

Proposal for Year 2 – 2007  
4-H Club Organization Program Plan

- 12 monthly meetings
- 6 shared events (work closely with scarecrow making)
- Add a new animal (i.e. dairy goats – another low maintenance, safe, smaller breed of livestock)
  - Learn to milk and make cheese
  - Review soap making skills
- Teach and implement into events plowing skills related to planting potatoes
- Research and make a display on games, toys, and recreation of the early 1900s family farm children. Teach on these games at the Harvest Festival.
- Decorate a Holiday Tree complete with homemade ornaments, popcorn garland, and fabric bows.
- Tour a historic farm to obtain new ideas
- Evaluate club progress with Parks, Friends, and 4-H

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Proposal for Year 3 – 2008  
4-H Club Organization Program Plan

- 12 monthly meetings
- 6 shared events
- Have a Holiday Wreath Making Contest among the club members and decorate the Farm Park Buildings
- Visit Williamsburg for ideas
- Introduce the club members to Blacksmithing (take a field trip to Kinder Farm in Anne Arundal County to see their working displays)
- Have a display contest on the clothing of the era and display on life-sized mannequin boards
- Help design the homeschooling classroom in the Farm House under the direction of the Park's Historian
- Learn the purposes and design of the Ice House
- Make homemade ice cream
- Add a new animal (i.e. sheep – teach shearing, carding, dyeing, and spinning of wool)

Necessary Considerations for the New 4-H Club  
**Back In Time 4-H**

**Administrative Support**

- Friends of the Ag Farm
  - Include Back In Time 4-H in the newsletter mailing
  - Provide volunteer resource people to mentor club members in specialized old time farming
  - Welcome 4-H members as volunteers at planned events
  - Allow for annual update at November Friends meeting
  - Annual meeting with Parks Department and 4-H
- M-NCPPC
  - Access to Ag History Farm Park for meetings, events, animal housing, animal equipment, and supply storage
  - Resources from Nature Centers and Naturalists
  - Advertisements of club and activities in the Nutshell News
  - Quarterly meetings for planning, evaluation, and updates with Park Directors, Park Historian, and key personnel
  - Annual meeting with the 4-H Extension Educators and Friends
  - Provide program forms for all activities to inform Park Police and Directors
- 4-H Extension
  - Oversight by 4-H Professionals
  - Volunteer training and certification
  - Project resources
  - Membership records
  - Duplication of club paperwork
  - Promotionals for club activities and events through the 4-H News & Notes
  - Include club on the Back Forty mailing
  - Include club on the Conservation Matters mailing
  - Annual meeting with Parks Department and Friends

**Animal Cost Coverage**

- Animals owned by 4-H'ers
- Feed provided by 4-H'ers
- Vet care provided by 4-H'ers
- Housing and grounds provided by M-NCPPC

**Budget**

- To be discussed

**Potential Sponsor and Donor Communities**

- Montgomery County livestock owners
- Montgomery County Veterinarians
- Montgomery County Historical Societies
- Montgomery County 4-H families
- Montgomery County Special Interest Groups

**Liability Coverage**

- To be discussed

- Most likely to be provided by 4-H during club meetings and Parks Department during events at the Farm
- Off-site activities fall under the Short-Term Volunteer Appointment Agreement Forms provided by 4-H Extension Office