

State Of Maryland

2019 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Josiah Henson Park		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Lee	Korman	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Montgomery County	\$250,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Josiah Henson Park		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements: Equal	Type: The matching fund may consist of funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.	
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Emily Mitchell	301-495-2510	Emily.Mitchell@montgomeryparks.org
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>The Montgomery County Department of Parks is a key agency of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the proud steward of over 35,000 acres of parkland. Our mission is to protect and interpret the county's valuable natural and cultural resources; balance the demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer a variety of enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places for leisure-time activities. The Cultural Resources program exists to preserve historic buildings and archaeological sites on parkland that tell the history of Maryland's rich heritage according to preservation laws; to find them a viable use; and to interpret those sites through accessible programming.</p>		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

The Josiah Henson Park is a National Register historic resource of local, state, national, and international significance because of its association with Reverend Josiah Henson, whose 1849 autobiography describes the strength and resilience he used to overcome slavery. Hensons memoir inspired Harriet Beecher Stowes landmark novel, Uncle Toms Cabin, which fueled the abolitionist movement. The Riley/Bolten House and grounds in Rockville, MD, known today as Josiah Henson Park, is where Henson was enslaved for nearly 30 years. It is now part of the NPS National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The project will build a museum and modern visitors center to tell the story of Hensons ability to overcome slavery, using his own words and artifacts from archeology at the site. In addition to permanent exhibits, a film and audio-visual display, there will be a research library on Henson and slavery in Maryland.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	
Design	\$629,000
Construction	\$6,683,000
Equipment	
Total	\$7,312,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Montgomery County Government (G.O. Bonds)	\$5,622,000
State Program Open Space Funds	\$1,026,000
Josiah Henson Park Bond Bills (2015, 2018)	\$300,000
Legacy Open Space	\$164,000
Private Donations	\$200,000
Total	\$7,312,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
September 2015	May 2018	February 2019	August 2020
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
150000.00	2,000	70,000	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2018	\$200,000	Josiah Henson Park	
2015	\$100,000	Josiah Henson Park	
2006	\$50,000	Uncle Tom's Cabin historic preservation	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901		Josiah Henson Park 11420 Old Georgetown Road North Bethesda, MD 20852	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	16 - Montgomery County		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[X]	[]	[]	[]
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Adrian Gardner	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-495-2460		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Montgomery County Department of Parks 9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901 Attn: Emily Mitchell, Division Support Specialist			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
0	5	5000.00	374347.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
N/A			
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
N/A			
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	2,000		
Space to be Renovated GSF	2,000		
New GSF	3,000		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion

1800-1850

28. Comments

Josiah Henson Park is the former plantation property of Isaac Riley where Reverend Josiah Henson was enslaved from 1795-1830. It is also a historic resource of local, state, national and even international significance because of its association with Reverend Josiah Henson, whose 1849 autobiography, as narrated by himself, describes his extraordinary experience overcoming slavery. This memoir inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Ongoing archaeological excavations seek to find out where Josiah Henson and other enslaved persons may have lived on the site, as well as how the plantation functioned. The house in the park that stands belonged to the slave-owning family, and dates from 1800-1815. Josiah Henson Park is currently under construction to transform into a public museum with visitor center and destination for education - a place where all Maryland school children can learn about the resilience and strength of those who overcame slavery. The new public museum will celebrate the courageous and remarkable story of Josiah Henson's life. The primary project work will construct a new visitor orientation building, a bus-drop off area and small parking lot, convert the existing historic house to a museum, and rehabilitate associated landscape sitework that will make the park more accessible for visitors. The narrative of Henson's life will unfold in an orchestrated manner through way-finding exhibits, an introductory film and exhibit inside the new building, outdoor museum exhibits, and primary exhibits in the rehabilitated historic house and living-history in the log kitchen. The goal for the interpretation of Josiah Henson Park is to accurately portray Henson's life and bring his story to the foreground of American history. It also will explore the impact of Stowe's novel and preserve the African American Experience. The impact of Stowe's novel should not be underestimated. Published in 1852, it broke all sales records of the time and sold over half a million copies by 1857. It has inspired debates and greatly influenced politics, race relations, and myths and stereotypes throughout history. The realization of this project will have a permanent educational and societal benefit through cultural conservation. This project will preserve and share the complete story of the remarkable and influential Reverend Henson, the often-forgotten real man behind Stowe's fiction. Currently, Montgomery Parks makes limited use of Josiah Henson Park, offering only school-based learning opportunities and field trips, targeting students in grades 4 and up. In addition, the site is opened to the public a few times each year for special events, bringing the total usage of the site to less than approximately 2,000 visitors annually. The story can only be told, and the site can only accommodate visitors with a docent-led tour. With the help of this requested funding, the complete museum with interpretive exhibits will allow the transformed site to bring up to 70,000 visitors annually, approximately. The exhibits will be designed to expose visitors to Henson's experiences and create lasting impressions through the challenges and inspiration of his story and the application of the lessons learned to that of today's America. The intended outcome of the museum is to leave visitors with an awareness of their country's history, culture, and identity, and the ability to participate in discussion and reflection of race relations in America today. The Josiah Henson Park Museum and Education Center is an essential investment in preserving, interpreting, and creating more effective access to this unique historic site. More funding is needed for the historic sites full restoration, for enhanced exhibits, and for amenities in the landscape for field trips and groups, such as an amphitheater, picnic pavilion, archaeology station and possible reconstructed outbuildings.