



01/12/2021

# County Council Request: Renaming of Public Streets and Parks

Briefing on the Montgomery County Street and Parks Facilities Naming Review



# Council Request: June 15, 2020



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD  
Office of the County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

The Honorable Casey Anderson  
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 15, 2020

Dear County Executive Elrich and Chair Anderson,

We are at an inflection point in our country and in our county. The brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis represents not just a singular tragedy of one man, but another grotesque manifestation of generations of structural racism that permeate our society. Addressing institutional problems require institutional solutions, and we appreciate your shared efforts as we begin that critical work together in Montgomery County. But as we work to dismantle the structures that perpetuate racism, we must also target the symbols that normalize and legitimize it. The names of public streets and buildings are not merely a reminder of the past; they are a very clear indication of who and what we value today.

**As stewards of Montgomery County's public assets, we are calling on you to initiate a comprehensive review of all County owned and maintained street names and public facilities to determine all those named for Confederate soldiers or those who otherwise do not reflect Montgomery County values. Following that review, we hereby request a public process to rename these county streets and facilities in a manner that more appropriately reflects the community to which they belong.**

When we name a street or a building, we are not merely reflecting history. We are using our public funding and assets to bestow a high honor. These public tributes should appropriately reflect the entirety of our community and our values. This comprehensive review would build upon the efforts that the Board of Education has recently undertaken in reviewing the names of Montgomery County Public Schools facilities.

Per the County Council to County Executive Marc Elrich and Planning Board Chairman Casey Anderson:

*As stewards of Montgomery County's public assets, we are calling on you to initiate a comprehensive review of all County owned and maintained street names and public facilities to determine all those named for **Confederate soldiers or those who otherwise do not reflect Montgomery County values.** Following that review, we hereby request a public process to rename these county streets and facilities in a manner that more appropriately reflects the community to which they belong. . . . The names of our buildings and streets should reflect the people in and on them, not threaten and intimidate them.*

# Council Request: Applies to all County Agencies



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Council's Letter of June 15, 2020 was addressed to the County Executive as well as the Planning Board Chair, with the expectation that all County agencies would undertake the renaming effort.

MCPS has initiated renaming efforts, beginning with renaming E. Brooke Lee Middle School to Odessa Shannon Middle School.

The Park & Planning Departments continue to coordinate with MCPS while proceeding with our work on renaming.

Updates on the renaming effort by other County agencies are still pending.

# Initial Public Outreach

- Created website with FAQs
- Created public email address to accept input
- Corresponded with other Municipalities
- Requested information from MCPS
- Coordinated with MCDOT, 911/Emergency Services, DGS



<https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/m-ncppc-montgomery-county-street-and-parks-facilities-naming-review/>

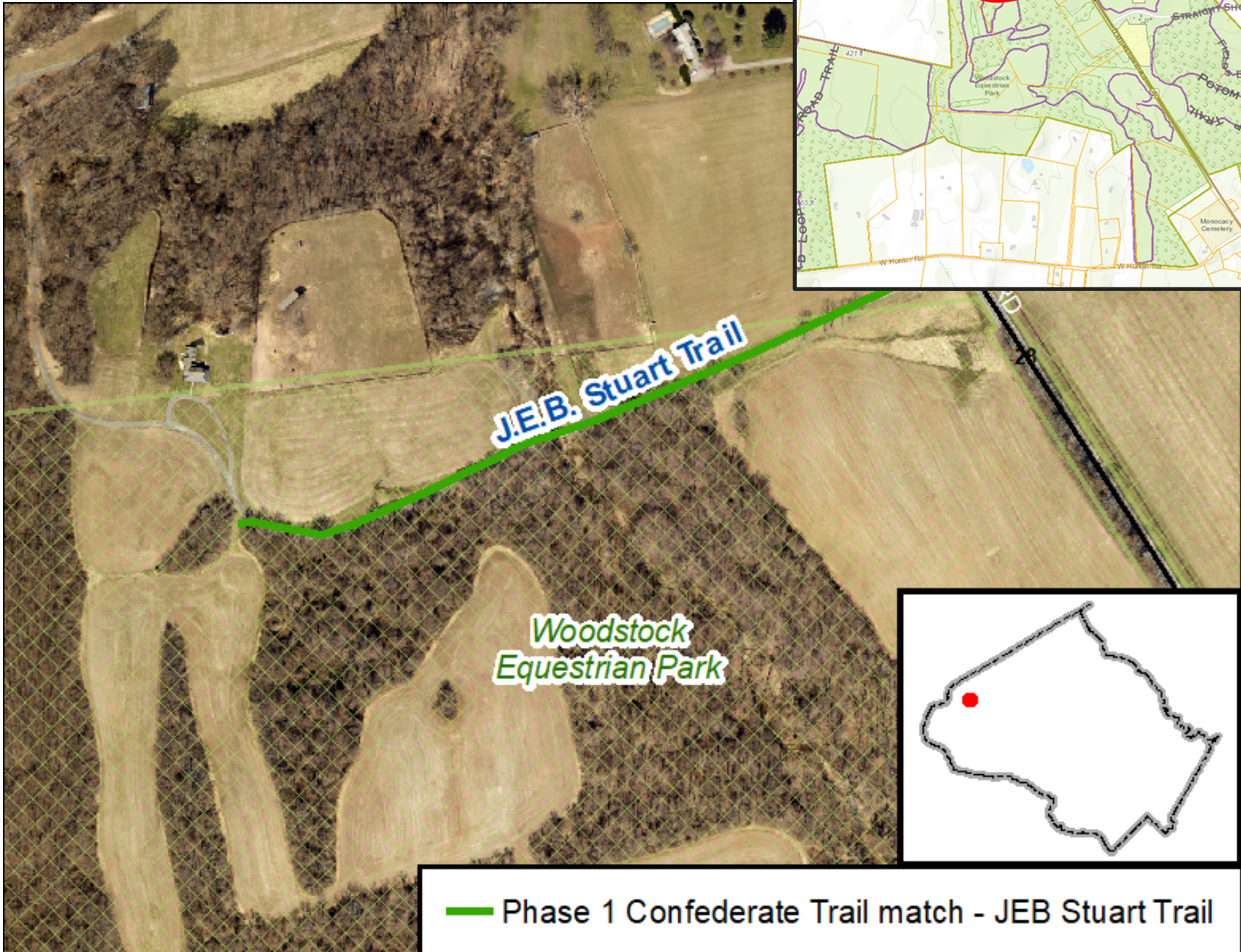
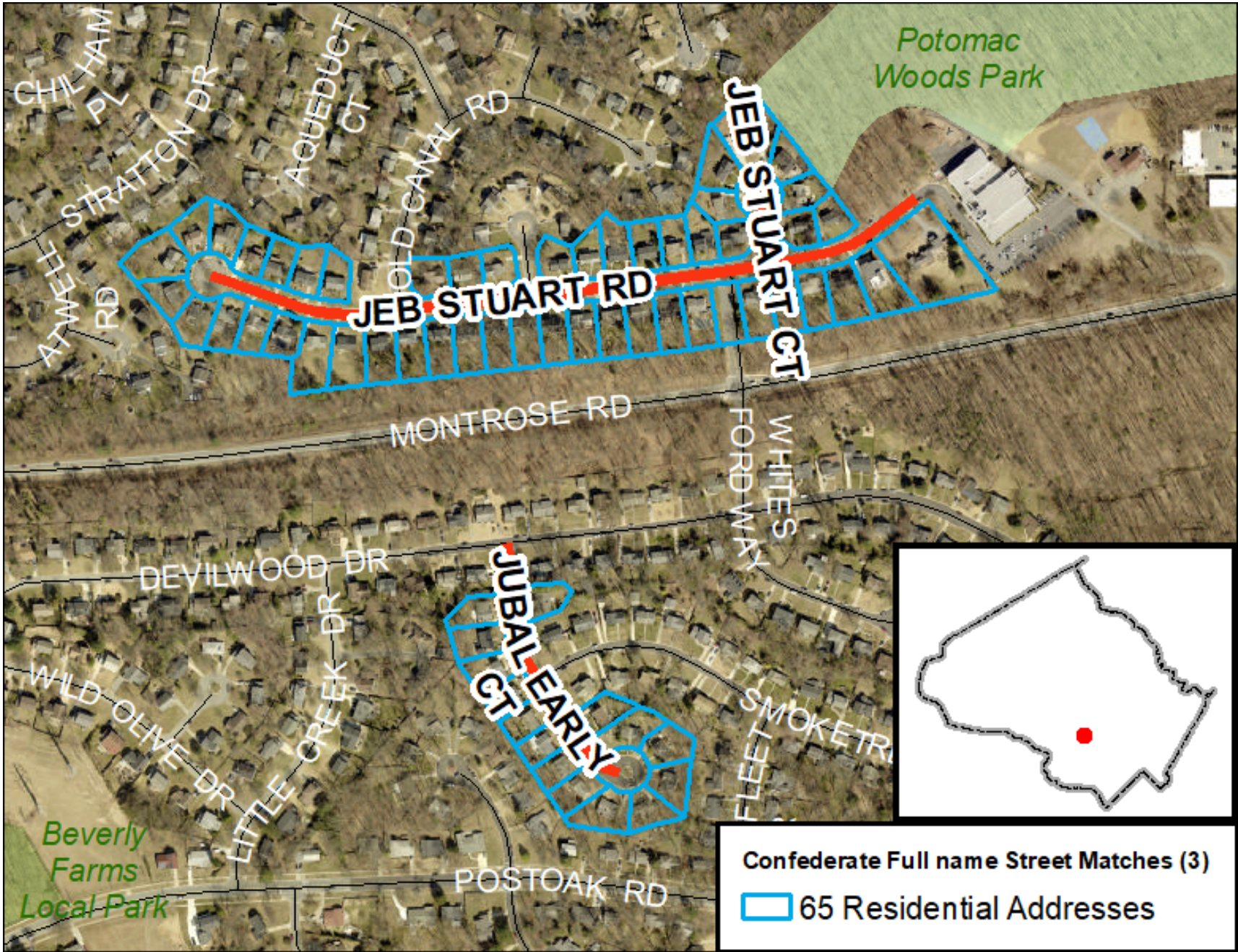
# Research Database, Categorization of Names, Phasing

- **709 known Confederates; 5,826 slaveholders; 3,300 named enslaved individuals held in bondage in Montgomery County.** These numbers reflect research to date.
- **325 Streets preliminary match with Confederate surnames; 2 parks confirmed match with Confederate surnames.**
- **Note: Research still required to confirm surname associations.**
- **Four categories of names initially identified in Phase 1 as “Confederate soldiers or those who otherwise do not reflect Montgomery County values”**
  - 1. Nationally Known Confederates –full name matches recommended for Phase 1 Action**
  - 2. Local Confederates**
  - 3. Confederate Sympathizers**
  - 4. Slaveholders**

# M-NCPPC Naming & Renaming Policies

- M-NCPPC is sole entity authorized with naming or renaming streets in Montgomery County, except within certain independent municipalities. **Planning Board has sole approval authority over street renaming.**
- Either a property owner or developer can request a street name or the Planning Board can initiate street naming.
- The *Addressing and Street Naming Manual* (2014) & Street Renaming Policy (2017) available online.
  - [https://www.montgomeryplanning.org/development/about/documents/Address\\_Manual\\_Final.pdf](https://www.montgomeryplanning.org/development/about/documents/Address_Manual_Final.pdf)
- Existing board-adopted park naming policy strongly encourages naming park assets after geographical or ecological features, neighborhoods, or nearby public facilities and grants board sole authority to commemoratively name park assets after individuals.

# Phase 1: Nationally Known Confederates w/Full Name Matches: 3 Streets and 1 Trail



# PHED Committee Briefing, December 7, 2020

## **Council Staff Report:**

- Recommended concurrence with the research methodology and findings to date.
- Cited potential to build upon research to promote broader understanding of the County's historical narrative, as well as commemorate history of enslaved residents and African Americans in Montgomery County.
- Supported focusing on **place names** for the next phase to include evaluation of all parks, facilities, and buildings whose names are matched with the surname of any Confederate (nationally known or local) or any Montgomery County identified slaveholder.
- Noted that place name matches should prompt greater participation from other County agencies having received same request last June.

**M-NCPPC concurs with Council staff recommendation.**

# PHED Committee Direction

- Proceed with renaming of three streets identified in Phase 1
- Follow up with City of Takoma Park regarding certain streets with nationally-known Confederate last name matches.
- Focus on facility Place Names per Council staff recommendations.
  - *Look for named associations that have nothing to do with the geographic location*
  - *Look for named associations that are not named for property owners or farms*
  - *Look for named associations that represent deliberate choice to send message as to who is welcome and who is not in certain communities.*
- Investigate financial implications of the street renaming on affected property owners on those 3 streets & work with the County to explore options for providing financial resources to help property owners with those costs.

# Next Steps

- **January 14, 2021:** Planning Department will introduce Planning Board Resolution to initiate the process of renaming Jubal Early Court, J.E.B. Stuart Road, and J.E.B. Stuart Court
- Continue with Place Name Research
- Implementation Follow-up with:
  - PHED Committee
  - Planning Board
  - Full Council