

NPC22: New Heroes: Renaming Montgomery County's Streets





Agenda

Introduction to Montgomery County, MD

Legacy of Slavery in Maryland

Naming Authorities

Implementing the Charge: Street & Park **Facilities Renaming Project**

Lessons Learned

Q&A—Questions To Consider

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Montgomery County, MD **Context & Decision-Making Authority**

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Montgomery County, MD

- Founded in 1776
- 507 square miles
- Over 1 million residents
- 19 independent Cities/Towns/Villages
- Diverse population
 - 59.4% are people of color Ο
 - Over 30% are foreign-born Ο
 - Largest Jewish population in Ο Maryland



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Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1990-2020





Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

Bi-County Regional Planning Agency for Montgomery & Prince George's Counties

Chartered by the State of Maryland; established in 1927

Responsible for Planning, Zoning & Parks Management; 5 departments in total

Two Council-appointed **Planning Boards** for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties—comprise the 10-member Full Commission

Do <u>**not**</u> have land use control over five (5) independent municipalities in Montgomery County

• City of Rockville, City of Gaithersburg, Town of Poolesville, Town of Laytonsville, Town of Brookeville

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Authorities in Montgomery County—Land Use & Facilities



- Led by 5-member appointed Planning Board in Mont. Co.
- **Decision-making authority** over development proposals, street naming & parks facilities
- Land use advisors to Montgomery County Council on planning & zoning
- **Oversees** Montgomery County **Planning Department & Parks** Department



Montgomery County Government

- Executive branch led by elected **County Executive**
- Agencies under CE oversight include Department of General Services, Department of Recreation, Libraries, County Department of Transportation

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Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

- Led by independent School **Board & Superintendent**
- Authority over School & School-support facilities
- Authority over School & Mascot names

Legacy of Slavery in Montgomery County

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Maryland's Enslaved Legacy

- Maryland was a border state where it was legal to own slaves.
- In 1860, over 27 percent of the population in Montgomery County was enslaved by 762 known slaveholders. Click



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Bacon's Military Map of the United States (1862). The states shaded yellow (blue arrow) represented the border states.

Maryland's Enslaved Legacy

- 1861, hundreds of Montgomery County citizens joined the Confederacy.
- Many Montgomery County plantation owners and farmers sympathized with the Confederacy and continued using forced labor.
- After the Civil War, subsequent generations remained enamored with the Confederacy and Lost Cause ideology.





Implementing the Charge: Street & Park Facilities Renaming Project

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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, 2nd 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. 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.

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Per the Montgomery County Council to County Executive Marc Elrich & Planning Board Chairman

Council Request: Applies to all County Agencies



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL Rockville, Maryland

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Montgomery Planning & Parks Departments initiated M-NCPPC's renaming project in June 2020.

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

Montgomery County renamed Silver Spring Library after Tuskegee Airman Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee (2022)

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Resolution on Solidarity with National Movement to End Injustice and Violence against African Americans June 17, 2020

M-NCPPC

... the Commission also hereby declares and affirms that it squarely subscribes to the indisputable principle that Black lives do matter, and they must matter, in all civic endeavors in order for our agency and our nation to achieve the cardinal promises of our government – that ALL people will be treated fairly and equally.

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M-NCPPC Street/Park Naming Authority

Under Maryland law, 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 (delegated to Planning) **Director) over street renaming.**

- M-NCPPC Addressing and Street Naming Manual (2014) & Street Renaming Policy (2017) available at montgomeryplanning.org
- Property owner or developer can request a street name or Planning Board can initiate street naming
- Many streets with an historical basis were named prior to the 1950s, when M-NCPPC's street naming authority began
- M-NCPPC Park Assets naming policy strongly encourages names based on geographical/ecological features, neighborhoods, or nearby public facilities. Planning Board has sole authority to commemoratively name park assets after individuals.

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M-NCPPC Street & Park Renaming Project Team

M-NCPPC

- Montgomery Parks & Planning Information Technology & Information Division—GIS
- Legal Department
- **Montgomery Planning**
 - Leadership
 - Historic Preservation Section, Countywide Planning & Policy Division
 - Intake & Regulatory Coordination Division
 - Communications Division
- **Montgomery Parks**
 - Leadership
 - Cultural Resources Stewardship Section, Park Planning and Stewardship Division
 - Public Affairs and Community Partnerships
 - NPC22: New Heroes: Renaming Montgomery County's Streets





M-NCPPC Renaming Summer-Fall 2020 Public Outreach

- Planning Director Gwen Wright sent letters to municipalities. Further discussions held with four.
- Coordination with MCPS, MCDOT, 911/Emergency Services, DGS

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Project website with FAQs at launch, Summer 2020

M-NCPPC Montgomery County Street and Parks Fe	acili	ties
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Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning working together to meet the County Council's June 15 request

Background:

On June 15, 2020, the Montgomery County Council sent a letter to County Executive Marc Elrich and Montgomery Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson asking for "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."

nttps://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meet-the-board/ps oversight over the Montgomery County Planning Department and

• Created email address for community questions/concerns/ideas on potential renamings: Renaming@montgomeryplanning.org



Research Methodology and Sources



- Digitized local newspapers
- Burials of Confederate veterans
- Men from Montgomery County identified in Daniel Hartzler's Marylanders in the Confederacy (1986) based largely on C.S.A. records at the National Archives
- Fact checking names against the National Park Service **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database**
- Data transfer from Maryland State Archives' Legacy of Slavery database, including census records, manumission documents, and runaway ads
- Tax assessment records from 1793 to 1864 (preliminary review only)

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Ex-Confederates at Rockville. The Washington Post (1877-1922); Feb 3, 1896; ProQuest Historical Newspap pg. 7

Ex-Confederates at Rockville.

The third annual meeting of the Ridgely Brown Camp of Confederate Veterans of Montgomery County was held Saturday at the Rockville court house. Officers for the ensuing year were elected, as foilows: Capt. E. J. Chiswell, Commander; Capt. Thomas Griffith, Lieutenant Com-mander; E. L. Amiss, Adjutant; E. L. Tschiffely, Treasurer; Frank B. Horner, Spencer C. Jones, John P. Sellman, and D. H. Horner, executive committee. The following were elected delegates to the general encampment: Spencer C. Jones and John P. Sellman; alternates, Cooke

D. Luckett and E. L. Tschiffely. Delegates to the Baltimore convention, which will convene for the purpose of organizing a State division of Confederate Veterans, were elected as follows: James Anderson, Robert M. Mackall, and David Griffith Grlffith.

An appropriation of \$10 was made to the Jefferson Davis monument fund.

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Confederate Documentation

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Slaveholding Documentation

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Preliminary Findings

Confederates/Slaveholders in Montgomery County

- 5,826 known slaveholders from 1790 to 1864
- 269 residents of Montgomery County fought for or materially supported the Confederate Army
- 440 senior officers of the Confederate Army

Confederate Surnames and Full Names

- 137 Streets matching local **Confederate surnames**
- 325 Streets matching all **Confederate surnames**
- 30 parks and 6 trails matching Confederate surnames

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New Information

• Names of over 3,300 enslaved individuals who were held in bondage in Montgomery County.

3 streets & 1 park trail—full-name matches Phase 1 implementation: to nationally known Confederates

JEB Stuart Court & JEB Stuart Road Jubal Early Court

Potomac Woods Park EB STUART RD Confederate Full name Street Matches (3) 65 Residential Addresses



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J.E.B. Stuart Trail at Woodstock Equestrian Park

Planning Board Resolution—January 14, 2021



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB No. 21-005

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by virtue of the authority vested upon it in Sections 17-212 and 20-202 of the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, is the exclusive street naming and re-naming authority within that portion of the Regional District lying situate within Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Planning Board has delegated said authority to the Montgomery County Planning Department; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, the County Council of Montgomery County made the following request of the Chair of The Montgomery County Planning Board and of the County Executive:

[a]s 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 ...; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Planning Department timely conducted said review and determined, in consultation with the County Council, that the following streets within that portion of the Regional District lying situate within Montgomery County should immediately be subject to re-naming, to wit, Jubal Early Court, J.E.B Stuart Road, and J.E.B Stuart Court.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission does hereby direct the Montgomery County Planning Department to immediately initiate the process of renaming Jubal Early Court, J.E.B. Stuart Road, and J.E.B. Stuart Court.

Approved as to

Planning Board adopted a Resolution to initiate the process of renaming Jubal Early Court, J.E.B. Stuart Road, and J.E.B. Stuart Court

community meeting.



• Letter sent to 70 owners/residents in early February announcing Feb. 22, 2021

Phase 1 Streets Renaming: Community Engagement

Feb. 22, 2021 Virtual Community Meeting

- Briefed affected residents on renaming project & pending street renaming process
- Invitations sent only to property owners on 3 affected streets
- Sought feedback on new name options through Q&A and poll during/after meeting
- Montgomery Planning identified potential street Ο names: African American history of Mont. County, natural features & place names
- Noted that Planning Director makes final decision Ο

Initial Street Name Ratings

Geneva Mason Uriah Perry Jeremiah Dutch Sidney Randolph John Diggs George Peck

> Blue Lilac Chipmunk

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Results from live poll during the meeting

Process to Rename Streets

Montgomery County Planning Dept.

- Notify affected residents of street name changes.
- Coordinate with Montgomery County DOT, Fire & Emergency Services, DTS, DPS, and SDAT.
- Notify U.S. Postal Service of the address change.
- Closely monitor transition to new street name, ensuring all public databases (SDAT, USPS, MC emergency services) reflect the correct information.

Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation

- Remove and replace street signs
- Responsible for costs of labor and materials

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Residents

 Complete a Change-of-Address form with the U.S. Postal Service.

 Update all personal records and contacts regarding the new address, including with banks, schools, the MVA, subscriptions, any pertinent federal agency.



Street Renaming Ceremony, July 2021

- Streets named for Confederate Generals renamed to honor local African American activists and elders Geneva Mason and William Dove.
- New sign installation celebration held July 2021.
- Mason and Dove descendants from the Scotland community attended.



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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION **MONTGOMERY COUNTY STREET & PARK** FACILITIES NAMING REVIEW PROJECT



Street & Park Renaming Process to date

- **Summer 2020:** Joint Montgomery Planning & Parks Departments research project
- Fall 2020: Montgomery Parks renames J.E.B. Stuart Trail
- **October 1, 2020:** Planning Board briefing; received concurrence with research methodology & authorization to seek guidance from County Council
- **December 7, 2020**: Briefing for County Council's Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee: Proceed with renaming of three streets identified in Phase 1
- January 12, 2021: Briefing for full County Council
- January 14, 2021: Planning Board resolution to rename Phase 1 streets
- **February-July 2021**: Montgomery Planning implementation to rename Phase 1 streets, including community engagement

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Future phases— Dependent on budget & work program capacity:

- Vetting of additional street names identified through research & community requests
- Coordination with City of Takoma Park
- QC & release of research database

Six Lessons Learned from Montgomery County Street Renamings



Lesson #1:

It's complicated to accurately identify places & associations

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Last Names are Not Enough



The Howard-Holland reunion of 1992. (Photo: Sandy Spring Museum)

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Last Names are Not Enough



The Fifty-Ninth Annual Union **CAMP MEETING** EMORY GROVE - NEAR GAITHERSBURG, MD. AUGUST 13, 20 & 27, 1950 The Methodist Church, Wash. District AT THE MINERAL GROVE CAMP GROUNDS Order of Services SUNDAY AUGUST 18th All Sister Churches, Singing Bands and Pastors are Invited 0:00 A.M. Church School E. U. Taylor, Superintende Rev. T. H. Reed Brook Grove Charge hoir and Prof. C. E. Ross' Sacred Band COMMITTEE of ARRANGEMENTSChurch School Rev. Moses Prather v. Richard H. Johnson Frank Duvall Pearl B. Gree Sarah Braxton Ruize TylerChurch School . . Rev. I. H. Gray impanied by Choi of Baltimore, Md.

Admission Adults 25c - Children 10c

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THE HEBRON PRESS - 11 W. Wood Lane, Rockville, Md

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Lesson #2:

Interpreting the renaming scope to make it **actionable** is key.

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Distilling the Charge

Council Request

...to determine all those named for <u>Confederate</u> <u>soldiers or those who</u> <u>otherwise do not reflect</u> <u>Montgomery County</u> <u>values...</u> Who does this encompass?

Nationally-known Confederates Local Confederates Confederate Sympathizers Slaveholders Segregationists Others?

Confederates & Slaveholders

Created a GIS map that included **Place Names**, **Surnames**, **Full Names**

Preliminary Total of **1241 streets** with 1000s of properties potentially impacted

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Lesson #3:

Getting officials' buy-in on the process early & often is critical.

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Multiple touchpoints with decision-making officials for renaming process guidance & buy-in



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Montgomery County Council Direction

"Village of Dickerson"	Look for names not tied to an established geographic locat
"Wilson Orchard Road"	Look for names that are not associated with property own
"Jeb Stuart Road"	Look for names & associations that represent a <i>deliberate</i> is welcome and who is not in certain communities and asso

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e choice to send message as to who sociations tied to Lost Cause efforts.

Lesson #4:

Renamings provide opportunity to do **original research**—leverage for future efforts

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Manumissions Records



Age	County	Date Docume	ent First Name	Last Name	Sex	First Name	Last Nam
	Montgomery	May 22, 1860	Basil	Beall	F	Hester	
	Montgomery	February 26, 1856	Thomas	Bowie	F	N/A	N/A
	Montgomery	August 24, 1845	Nicholas	Gassaway	Μ	Harry	
	Montgomery	October 21, 1859	Sarah	Griffith	Μ	Elijah	Hacket
	Montgomery	May 22, 1860	Basil	Beall	F	Hester	
	Montgomery	August 15, 1864	Anna	Forrest	Μ	Thomas	Sedgwick
	Montgomery	May 25, 1840	Nathan	Holland	Μ	Jeffrey	Richardso
	Montgomery	August 26, 1844	Isaac	Moore	Μ	Negro Evan	
	Montgomery	August 26, 1844	Isaac	Moore	F	Negro Mary	
	Montgomery	August 26, 1844	Isaac	Moore	Μ	Negro Lawso	n
	Montgomery	June 9, 1807	James	Spencer	Μ	Negro Phillip	
	Montgomery	June 9, 1807	James	Spencer	F	Negro Mary	
	Montgomery	June 9, 1807	James	Spencer	F	Negro Carolir	ne
	Montgomery	January 13, 1815	Anna	Slater	F	Negro Suck	
	Montgomery	January 13, 1815	Anna	Slater	Μ	Arnold	Thomas
	Montgomery	January 13, 1815	Anna	Slater	Μ	George	Edwards
	1 Montgomery	August 12, 1839	Thomas	Lyles	F	Nancy	Lyles
	1 Montgomery	June 5, 1843	Martha	Ford	F	Amanda	Brown
	1 Montgomery	April 30, 1851	Allen	Bowman	Μ	Otho	Dorsey
	2 Montgomery	April 30, 1851	Allen	Bowman	F	Leah	Dorsey
	2 Montgomery	April 24, 1855	William	Gaither	F	Isabella	
	2 Montgomery	July 26, 1859	William	Gaither	F	Eliza	
	2 Montgomery	January 3, 1854	William	Bowen	F	Juliana	Edwards

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40

Lesson #5:

New Names bring New Opportunities and Challenges

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Lessons Learned: New Names

What is the role of Commemoration in your **Community**?

Name Options—A Person, Place, Thing, Attribute?

Vetting—Standards in your Community?

Who decides & What is the role of community engagement?

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Lesson #6:

Renamings—a way to elevate local African-American history, outside of museums & classrooms

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Connect | Questions

Montgomery County Planning Department

Website: montgomeryplanning.org

Twitter: @montgomeryplans

Facebook.com/montgomeryplanning

Instagram: @montgomeryplanning

Tanya Stern, AICP Deputy Planning Director:

Tanya.Stern@montgomeryplanning.org

Twitter: @PlannerStern

Rebeccah Ballo Historic Preservation Supervisor:

Rebeccah.Ballo@montgomeryplanning.org

- **Q1**: Public spaces such as parks & streets were frequently named to memorialize events & individuals associated with racism, slavery, colonialism, & other forms of discrimination. Has your community made efforts to address and/or atone for this memorialization within the public realm?
- Q2: Are there any streets or public facilities that have been renamed or are being considered for renaming in your community?
- Q3: How has your community responded to the potential renaming of public spaces?

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#NPC22NewHeroes