

Wed, Oct 13, 11:09 AM

**Bouslog,
Heather** <Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org>

to Eva, Brian, Rebeccah, Kriss, me, Nick, Cassandra, Matthew

Hi Eva,

You are welcome!

Yes, you are correct, no matter which route is chosen an archaeological investigation will occur.

Yes, [compared to the other proposed routes, the Brown Street option has the smallest impact on parkland and archaeological resources.](#)

Kyle Lukacs, MCDOT, Kyle.Lukacs@montgomerycountymd.gov, is the project lead if you would like to follow up with him too,

Take care,

Heather

From: Eva Patrone <evamarie.patrone@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:15 AM

To: Bouslog, Heather <Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org>

Cc: Crane, Brian <Brian.Crane@montgomeryplanning.org>; Ballo, Rebeccah <rebeccah.ballo@montgomeryplanning.org>; Kriss Grisham <chambers.grisham@icloud.com>; Gary Temple <gftemple@gmail.com>; Nick Suzich <nicksuzich@comcast.net>; Michaud, Cassandra <cassandra.michaud@montgomeryparks.org>; Harper, Matthew <Matthew.Harper@montgomeryparks.org>

Subject: Re: Washington Grove Connector Project

Hi Heather,

Thank you so much for this information. It's very useful. Thanks for getting back to us so quickly!

It seems you're saying that no matter which route is chosen, an archeological investigation will occur before work begins, is that correct?

Also, to clarify, is it your professional opinion that, compared to the other proposed routes, the Brown Street option has the smallest impact on parkland and archeological resources?

Thanks again, Eva

On Oct 12, 2021, at 6:42 PM, Bouslog, Heather
<Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Hello Eva,

In April 2020 I visited the Washington Grove Connector and Crabbs Branch Way Extension Project and prepared a preliminary archaeological review of the area. For the review I looked at the Montgomery County GIS Archaeology Layer for potential impacts to prehistoric archaeological resources. The GIS Archaeological Layer indicated that part of the Limits of Disturbance (LOD) are located within the predetermined High Potential Prehistoric Zone. The GIS Archaeology Layer is a model that Montgomery Parks uses as a resource management tool. The high potential zone marks areas that have characteristics similar to locations where prehistoric sites are most often found in Maryland, however, prehistoric sites may be encountered anywhere within the landscape. I also review the archaeological site data on file with the Maryland Historic Trust. Two prehistoric sites were identified (and registered) within the vicinity of the project area. This information suggests that there is a potential for the presence of prehistoric resources within the LOD. I have not conducted any subsurface investigations at this time.

A review of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties M:21-183, the Mount Pleasant/Magruder/Clements/ Offutt/ Casey Farm, indicate that the project area has potential to have historic archaeological resources relating to farming in the early 18th century to mid-20th century. Beginning in the early 18th century, the property passed through the Magruder, Clements, and Offutt families before being purchased by Eugene B. Casey in the early 20th century.

Three previous archaeological investigations have been conducted in the vicinity of the *Washington Grove Connector and Crabbs Branch Way Extension* project area. These studies were carried out in conjunction with the planning of the ICC (Rte. 200) A 2004 investigation yielded a quartz flake and a stoneware sherd. In a 2006 investigation an early 20th century barn was noted but no subsurface artifacts were recovered.

I have not conducted any subsurface investigations at this time. It is MDOT's project and they will address any historical and archaeological issues when they move forward. We will work with DOT to review all aspects of this work that may impact parkland if they intend to propose new alignments or advance the existing approved alignment.

1. Are there Native American grave sites or other archeologically significant areas in any of the proposed path option locations: Railroad Street, Brown Street, Meadow 2A or Meadow 2B?

There are no recorded grave sites in any of the proposed path options. The archaeological work that has been done so far is preliminary. Because there is potential for both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, I recommend that before the project is undertaken an archaeological survey needs to be conducted. At this point we cannot determine if there are any significant archaeological areas in any of the proposed path option locations.

2. We'd like more information about the meadow. We've heard that the tree line separating the upper and lower meadow is historically/archeologically significant. Can you give us more information about that?

The tree line separating the upper and lower meadows is most likely a natural division between former farm fields. The existing path between the two meadows is an old farm road. Montgomery Parks plans to map and record some of these farm features.

3. Can you give more information about the Crabbs Branch Extension project, which would affect the "lower meadow?" Is the lower meadow less archeologically and historically significant than the upper meadow (the WG Conservation Meadow)?

Both the upper and lower meadows have areas within them that have high prehistoric potential. They also have historical potential in that over the centuries both fields would have been farmed.

4. Given that the Brown Street option is preferred for advancement, are there any historical or archeological considerations to keep in mind for this option?

Before any work is undertaken an archaeological investigation will take place. The Brown Street option has less impacts to parkland and archaeological resources:

"Of the alternatives advanced by MCDOT, Montgomery Parks supports Alternative #3 (Brown Street) as the most effective connection from the Washington Grove neighborhood to the end of Crabbs Branch Way. This option provides an efficient connection while minimizing impacts to natural, cultural, and historical resources outlined. Alternative #2 is not supported due to the additional impacts this alignment presents to existing forest, wetland, and meadow habitat, and potential historic/archaeological resources." Page 14:

https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Washington-Grove-ConnectorCrabbs-Branch-Extension-Briefing-jks_Final_4-22-21.pdf).

Thank you again for your interest in this project,
Sincerely,

Heather

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