

## INTRODUCTION

---

Hammond's Connection is part of the 857-acre United States Naval Academy Dairy Farm in Gambrills, Maryland. The U.S. Department of the Navy acquired the property in 1913 to provide milk and food for the Naval Academy. Prior to that time, the parcel was part of Howard's Adventure, the estate of the Hammond family who achieved recognition as wealthy merchants and political figures in the 1700s. In the 1990s, Federal legislation allowed the Navy to cease dairy operation and specified that the property remain in a "rural and agricultural nature." The farm is currently leased to Maryland Sunrise Farm, LLC.

In March of 2007, Anne Arundel County submitted a Lease Offer Proposal to the U.S. Department of the Navy in response to a Notice of Availability for Lease of the U.S. Naval Academy Dairy Farm. The Proposal put forth the concept for a park that would focus on the agricultural and rural character of Anne Arundel County by following the U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of "Community Supported Agriculture." The County's vision for the site is "Preservation, Utilization, Recreation, and Education."

The Lease Proposal was accepted and Anne Arundel County signed a 30-year lease on the 857-acre property. The majority of the farm will remain a farming operation leased to a tenant farmer. Approximately 176 acres will become a public park. About 140 acres of the park were part of the 300 acres estate formerly known as "Hammond's Connection." To recognize the important history of the Hammond Family, and to differentiate the public access area from the farm operations, the park was named Hammond's Connection at the Dairy Farm.

In April of 2008, an Advisory Committee was appointed by County Executive John R. Leopold to provide goals and objectives for the development of Hammond's Connection and general suggestions for the overall use of the entire Dairy Farm. The Committee was composed of representatives from adjacent community associations, civic groups, and organizations interested in the development of the Dairy Farm. County, State, and Federal Government employees served as advisors to the Committee offering their expertise on various issues to be considered during the planning process. Human & Rohde, Inc., Landscape Architects, was retained by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Public Works to assist the Advisory Committee in preparing a Master Plan for Hammond's Connection. This report is a summary of that process and the Master Plan developed by the Advisory Committee and subsequently approved by Anne Arundel County.