

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee was responsible for the planning of Hammond's Connection and expressed their thoughts concerning the use of the entire Dairy Farm. Following is a summary of their recommendations.

General Dairy Farm Site

- Any activity must result in an improvement of water quality of Towser's Branch and Jabez Branch.
- Stream restoration efforts should be taken on both Towser's Branch and Jabez Branch tributaries flowing through the Dairy Farm.
- Stormwater management must complement stream restoration projects and result in the improvement of water quality.
- A 300-foot wooded buffer should be established along Towser's Branch.
- A Phase II Archaeology Study may be required prior to any development of Hammond's Connection. Beyond that, archaeology programs could be established for public participation. A research program should be established to study the Hammond family, farming activities, and activities of Native Americans, Europeans, and African-Americans. The information should be displayed and presented to the public.
- The roads on the Dairy Farm are considered historic elements and will remain as such.
- Fencing should separate the active farming operation and Hammond's Connection. The type of fencing provided should be typical of a farm of the 1900s.
- The farming operation should remain organic.
- A solar energy farm should be considered for the area adjacent to the BGE substation.

Hammond's Connection

- A composting facility should be available for recycling of garden materials.
- An apiary should be located near the community gardens. Hives should be accessible by vehicle for honey harvesting and maintenance.
- Benches and individual picnic tables should be located around the site. Grills should be provided only at pavilions.
- Berry patches should be located in shrub borders along the perimeters of wooded areas. Fall bearing raspberries and blackberries were suggested crops.
- Hammond's Connection should remain predominately rural and natural in character.
- More than the required number of handicap parking spaces should be provided on this site.

- Musical events would be acceptable if there is no amplification, the bands / acts are small, and performances would be held between dawn and dusk, while on Sundays events would not begin before 1:00 p.m. The audience should be limited to 250 people and the performance should last only a couple of hours.
- Natural surface foot trails would meander through the gardens and restoration areas.
- New structures on site should have solar panels and / or green roofs.
- The reforestation should be native plant material with a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees.
- Gardens should use native species of plants when appropriate.
- Sculptures could be located within the various gardens and along the trail system.
- Small portable passive greenhouses could be an added feature.
- Storyboards along the trails and throughout the site should identify plants, wildlife, water management features, and historic significance of the site.
- The community garden plots should be organic.
- The existing roadways should be shared with the farming operation.
- The garden types suggested include:
 - Aquatic
 - Arboretum of native trees
 - Bio-fuel
 - Children's
 - Crop
 - Herb / medicinal
 - Kitchen
 - Native plants
 - Pollination (butterfly)
 - Sensory
 - Stormwater management demonstration
- The gravel pit should be used for road repair and educational opportunities.
- The hike / bike trail should be wide enough to accommodate multiple users and provide a connection to the South Shore Trail, to the Odenton Natural Area, and if possible to the adjoining schools.
- The labyrinth should be an area for quiet contemplation. Surrounding uses must be designed to complement this feature.
- The meadow area should be between 15 and 25 acres to support grass land wildlife.

- The orchard should not be any larger than a half acre and include crops such as: Asian pears, crabapples, sour cherries, and walnuts. These crops are less intensive to maintain and deer may not destroy these trees as easily as apple trees.
- The park should accommodate sledding and cross-country skiing.
- The use of pervious paving solutions for roadways, parking areas, and trails is strongly recommended.
- The view of the farm fields from the Hammond Manor House foundation should remain open.

The Village

- 4-H Dairy Leasing Program should continue.
- A petting zoo could be operated in association with the farming operation.
- Educational programs with University of Maryland Cooperative Extension should be provided.
- Educational programs held at the Village and in Hammond's Connection should be structured around agriculture production could include:
 - Cooking demonstrations
 - Canning
 - Butter making
 - Candle making
 - Caring for farm animals as well as wildlife
- Festivals, corn maze, and hay rides should be offered.
- Meeting facilities for community groups should be provided.
- Youth farming program and farm summer camp could be initiated.