

September 2024

Source	Date	Prompt	Comment	CPG Response	Fairfax County Response
Public Input	9/4/2024	Please share any other comment(s) or question(s) about the Gum Springs Heritage Resources Study.	I'd like to know what the mechanics will be for how the community will decide. Will a vote be conducted – like a survey monkey? Who will be eligible to vote – homeowners only or any resident?	As a product of the Gum Springs Heritage Resource Study, the consultant will produce a Management Document which will assess the feasibility of several historic preservation tools. The Management Document will not make specific recommendations for the use or implementation of any of these tools. The consultant will present the toolkit of options at the final community meeting in October 2025. Plans are currently underway for a separate, larger visioning study to engage the community in determining long term goals and vision for the future. The Heritage Resources Study will help inform the separate visioning process by explaining the universe preservation tools available to the community.	As a product of the Gum Springs Heritage Resource Study, the consultant will produce a Management Document which will assess the feasibility of several historic preservation tools. The consultant will present their findings at the final community meeting in October 2025. Plans are currently underway for a larger visioning study to engage the community in determining long term goals and vision for the future, which includes this Heritage Resources study. During this visioning process, facilitated community discussions will occur, and the heritage resources study will be part of that conversation.

August 2024

Source	Date	Prompt	Comment	Next Steps/CPG Response	Notes
Public Input	8/8/2024	Please share any information you think is important to the history of Gum Springs. This can include significant places (whether still around or not) in Gum Springs, and/or your recollections of life in Gum Springs	I have written about the historical connections between Gum Springs, the Woodlawn African American settlement, and the pre-Civil War Quaker antislavery colony in Part One of my book, <i>The Quaker Scout: Testimony of a Civil War Non-Combatant of the Woodlawn Antislavery Colony</i> ; also, in my article, "Liberty and Divine Worship: The African American Methodist Community at Woodlawn," Martha Claire Catlin, <i>Gum Springs Historical Society – History In Motion</i> (Spring Issue 2019) (Part One).	Thank you for sharing this resource with us!	
Public Input	8/8/2024		Harvest Assembly Baptist Church and Cornerstone are not listed on the map. Harvest Assembly Baptist Church is focused on serving the community whether you are a member or not.	Harvest Assembly Baptist Church and Cornerstone are within the the boundary lines for the field work and will be included in this way. The churches that are called out on the map are those that are previously recorded historic sites, but are not the only churches that will be included in this project.	
Public Input	8/8/2024		It is encouraging that each of the historic preservation "tools" will be evaluated in the current initiative. I hope the recommendations will also look at combining tools. One approach would be to combine HOD status with adoption of a version of the Conservation Plan that provides a level of protection comparable to the one that was in place before it was sidelined when the County Comprehensive Plan was amended. If HOD designation for Gum Springs were to be one of the paths chosen to help preserve the historic character of Gum Springs, HOD provisions and a reinstated Conservation Plan could be designed to be mutually supportive. Since both would require amending the Comprehensive Plan, they could be coordinated and added to the Comprehensive Plan in tandem.	The consultants will share the feasibility of each tool in the final report. The community will be able to utilize this report to determine which tool or tools they would like to implement.	

July 2024

Source	Date	Prompt	Comment	Next Steps/CPG Response	Notes
Public Input	7/23/24		Concerned about the status of the study	We would like to hear about your specific concerns. We want this process and product to be informed by the community and something that community members can use and benefit from.	
Public Input	7/23/24		Representative from Bethlehem Baptist Church concern about information communicated regarding church property	The consultants will gather information from research and oral histories, as well as survey of physical features of the buildings and sites in Gum Springs. This information will then be input into the statewide Virginia Cultural Resource Information System, which houses information about historic buildings, structures, and sites in Virginia. The survey data collected can be used by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Fairfax County, future consultants, and the community to inform decisions and future projects. The consultants prioritize gathering accurate information about Gum Springs to recognize its rich history.	
Public Input	7/23/24		I moved to the Woodlawn area after my Father retired from the Army in 1964, after serving as the First Crew Chief on the Presidential Helicopter stationed at Davidson Army Airfield. He flew with Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. At that time the Gum Springs Community was an integral part of Fairfax County. I believe it is very important to continue the deep History that surrounds that area of the Route 1 corridor. My old High School, Mount Vernon High School, was named an Historical Site several years ago as well. There is a lot of Rich history in that particular area of Fairfax County. I applauded the fact that this study is being undertaken to preserve that History!	Thank you for sharing aspects of your history with us! It is facinating to hear about your father's accomplishments as well as your view of this area of Fairfax County.	
Public Input	7/23/24		Bethlehem Baptist Church and other Gum Springs landmarks need to be preserved. We cannot just keep erasing history in our country. People need to learn about the struggles our black community has had and the successes that followed as a result of their perseverance.	It is helpful to hear about places that the community sees as important and worthy of preservation such as the Bethlehem Baptist Church. This study will document the current physical appearance of the church, and incorporate any known history or research. The study will also make recommendations about sites or properties that may be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which encourages preservation. Collectively, the information gathered together for this study can be used by the community to highlight and recognize its history, and make decisions about the future.	
Public Input	7/23/24		(information filled out by Stephanie Newman, DPD, on behalf of Cyrus Roher after phone call from the latter). Mr. Roher would like to get in contact with the consultant to discuss Bethlehem Baptist Church and ensure the church's story is being told. Mr. Roher's phone number is _____	We are in contact with Mr. Roher regarding Bethlehem Baptist Church.	Some personal contact information has been withheld for privacy.
Public Input	7/23/24		The real meaning of Historical Overlay and the impact on our community	This project will result in a comprehensive list of tools including a Historic Overlay District. The purpose and use of these tools will also be explained, so the community will know the various options you all can use to preserve your history.	
Public Input	7/23/24		Best of Luck with the Study!!	Thank you!	

Public Input

7/23/24		Thank you for doing all you can to preserve Gum Springs' heritage and history!	Thank you!	
7/23/24		Thank you for preserving history	Thank you!	

Public Input

May 2024

Date	Prompt	Comment	Next Steps/CPG Response	Fairfax County Response
5/28	What do we need to know for this project to be successful?	Can we get a copy of the contract between your company and the county?		A copy of the final proposal is available via the project website.
5/28/24		The layout of the property throughout time	Agree. We hope our research, as well as input at the second community meeting will help us understand this.	
5/28/24		It is most important to keep the flavor of the community	Noted. We will keep this in mind. It would be helpful to know what is meant by "flavor," so we can provide the best recommendations	
5/28/24		The community is heavily underfunded, the West Ford public housing units are outdated and require maintenance and updating	Thank you for this input. We will keep this in mind as we continue through the project.	
5/28/24		You need people that know how to interact with the people of the community. When doing your research, you should know how to relate to the community	CPG's staff is experienced in one-on-one interactions with many different types of communities. We take time to get to know the community, its members, and seek to learn from you all.	
5/28/24		Help people tell their own stories instead of telling them on their behalf	CPG's staff has experience with oral history interviews, and using direct quotes from interviewees in the project reports in order to allow the community to tell the story as they see it. We do our best to bring professional expertise to the presentation and context from similar communities or larger historical trends in a way that shows how the community we're working in is significant.	
5/28/24		Ensure that homeowners are notified. There should have been community engagement before tonight	We welcome and encourage recommendations from the community for better ways to connect and share updates. Ahead of the 5/28/24 meeting, mailers were sent to all property owners in Gum Springs.	
5/28/24		More detailed information on West Ford and what he wanted for the Gum Springs community specifically from his living descendants who know his thoughts and can share	We hope to learn more about this from descendants living in the community.	
5/28/24		Need to really understand in detail the potential preservation tools. (The designations)	This will be a part of the management plan. Additionally, we will strive to explain the various tools as part of Community Meeting 2 in October so that we can get feedback on what the community would like to see in the recommendations.	Fairfax County Staff are developing informational flyers outlining and defining each preservation tool.
5/28/24		We need the less intrusive designations to avoid loss of home/ lot value	This feedback will be considered as we continue to understand where the community lands as a whole on this issue.	
5/28/24		I live in the adjacent community. I would like to see the community receive funding to build it back up and be recognized like other historical areas in the county	Thank you for this input. We will keep this in mind as we continue through the project.	

5/28/24		<i>the team needs to have active people gather the history who know how to communicate with individuals and who know the history</i>	CPG's staff has experience with research and oral history interviews, and using direct quotes from interviewees in the project reports in order to allow the community to tell the story as they see it. We do our best to bring professional expertise to the presentation and context from similar communities or larger historical trends in a way that shows how the community we're working in is significant.	
5/28/24		She is not using language these people understand. She's using buzz words that many aren't familiar with	We appreciate this feedback. We will work on developing more key terms to help the community better understand the tools. We do not want to use language the community does not understand, however, we also want the community to be empowered to make informed decisions about the various zoning and historical designations available to them. We would like to work together with the community to strike the right balance.	
5/28/24		Please have African American interviewers not just whites gathering information	We appreciate this comment, and understand the concerns. CPG does not discriminate based upon race, and our staff represent diverse backgrounds, race, ethnicities, genders. CPG's staff assigned to this project have experience and expertise with oral histories, and follow industry best practices. We work in different communities, and we enjoy getting to know individuals from varying backgrounds as we build trust.	
5/28/24		Can recommendations include recreating buildings that were previously in Gum Springs?	This can be explored further. Reconstruction is typically taken on by private organizations.	
5/28/24		How will you explore ties outside Gum Springs (Randall Estates, Old Town Alexandria, Mount Vernon, Woodlawn...)	CPG will encourage outreach to these communities, and invite all to participate in oral histories and community meeting two. One way we may reach out beyond the current Gum Springs residents is through alumni pages for the school to reach people who live in different areas	
5/28/24		Gum Springs has a very long period of historic significance pre 1833-present	Thank you for this information. We will certainly be doing research back to the community's founding.	
5/28/24		Can people start to think about or write histories before you start to collect them	Yes! And we encourage this! We hope that you will bring these to our second community meeting in October, or share them with us directly.	
5/28/24		Need contact info for researchers and Board	A central contact will be provided on the project website.	
5/28/24		Recommend a book: Potomac Interlude For history of Quaker Community with free blacks here	Thank you for this recommendation.	
5/28/24		I was on the Fairfax County Park(?) Authority representing Mount Vernon and voted in the 1970s to keep open the Gum Springs ____ swimming pool when it was nearly closed for the summer	Thank you. We may want to reach out regarding an oral history interview.	

5/28/24		<p>"Without taking a strict preservation approach"</p> <p>Is that a toe in the door for a fast-talking developer with deep pockets?</p>	<p>CPG is not a developer. We are an historic preservation firm. We specialize in research, architectural history, building treatment recommendations, and community planning efforts. There are a variety of tools that the community could choose to use to preserve Gum Springs. Some of those tools require strict protection of resources. For example, local historic district ordinances regulate any exterior change. This would require property owners to apply to the local board of architectural review for approval prior to making any exterior change. On the other hand, some communities have ordinances that regulate only certain aspects of the community, such as the height of buildings, design of new construction or major additions, or garages, for example.</p>	
5/28/24		<p>Are they going to improve this for the people that is displaces and get housing</p>	<p>This question will not be solved by the Heritage Resources Study, however, future visioning projects in the neighborhood may take on a more broad range of topics.</p>	
5/28/24		<p>What other communities in South County are you doing this research with, if any?</p>	<p>This is the only project that CPG is doing for the County currently.</p>	<p>The County/DPD-Heritage Resources is currently working with the Randall Estates neighborhood to develop a National Register Nomination, historic context, and architectural survey for their district. The neighborhood has been successfully listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.</p>
5/28/24		<p>How long will this research approximately take? Years?</p>	<p>This project has a 20 month timeline, and is anticipated to conclude at the end of 2025.</p>	
5/28/24		<p>Why does the Study Committee not have an African American on its team? Folks in the Community might be more open with speaking with someone who looks like them</p>	<p>We appreciate this comment, and understand the concerns. CPG does not discriminate based upon race, and our staff represent diverse backgrounds, race, ethnicities, genders. CPG's staff assigned to this project have experience and expertise with oral histories, and follow industry best practices. We work in different communities, and we enjoy getting to know individuals from varying backgrounds as we build trust.</p>	

5/28/24		During your study- Should you come back with suggestions on recommendations? As historic buildings on properties, should the owner want to make renovations, will the county say no or even the Planning Commission?	There are a variety of tools that the community could choose to use to preserve Gum Springs. Some of those tools require strict protection of resources. For example, local historic district ordinances regulate any exterior change. This would require property owners to apply to the local board of architectural review for approval prior to making any exterior change. On the other hand, some communities have ordinances that regulate only certain aspects of the community, such as the height of buildings, design of new construction or major additions, or garages, for example. CPG will assess a variety of preservation tools for feasibility in Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented.	
5/28/24		What is going to happen to the Elders and homeless	This project is a study of the community's history and recommendations for managing change. We may include recommendations to avoid displacement. Partnership with other social organizations on this issue is key.	Please visit the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/), for more information.
5/28/24		Many people attending the meeting are here as volunteers at GSCC + participants in the GSCC Senior Program	Thank you for this information. We hope you will stay engaged, and share information among your networks.	
5/28/24		Who were the members of the committee by name and how many are Gum Springs Homeowners? Please note that Cox was not a member	Members of the Community Leaders Team have been listed on the project website	
5/28/24		We need to ___ the inspirational stories of Gum Springs__ in the face of racism + cultures. How is it still here?	Need additional information.	
5/28/24		What if a really important story does not have a tie to a building or place? Can you still tell it?	We will be looking for all history of the community. It does not have to be tied to a specific place. Additionally, a place does not have to still be there in order for you to share the history with us.	
5/28/24		How will you place Gum Springs stories in ___ context	Our team has experience and expertise in research and development of historic contexts for similar communities. We will use our research and community engagement in Gum Springs and compare that to our knowledge of larger historical trends as well as other specific similar communities.	
5/28/24		Places are only important for the stories they hold and ___	Need additional information.	
5/28/24		Does the initial documentation process include evaluations of how the plat and property lines of Gum Springs have evolved since its founding by West Ford?	We will analyze overall community size and boundaries. Unfortunately, the project scope does not allow for parcel-by-parcel level research.	
5/28/24		If the people who have the power are the homeowners why are certain members opposed to homeowners who afraid to consolidate and sell their property for housing?	We will be taking all perspectives into account.	

5/28/24		What evidence and documentation can be provided that "More than 2,500 Gum Springs residents many descendants of original families are fighting to preserve their home" to be a part of a HOD (historic overlay district)?	Need more information on the origin of this quote.	
5/28/24		How will HOD Designation Affect Home or Real Estate Sales?	Local overlay designations have different impacts in different communities. There is not a direct association.	CPG will assess a variety of preservation tools for feasibility in Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented.
5/28/24		What are the costs to homeowners that result from HOD designation?	Typical direct costs may include application fees (if applicable), penalty fees (when an owner does not get approval or a change). There are also typically costs associated with compliance, such as those associated with materials or design changes requested by the commission.	CPG will assess a variety of preservation tools for feasibility in Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented.
5/28/24		Since the homeowners have the power, how can homeowners go through the Heritage Study Process while considering new housing supply that homeowners support but this committee may oppose	All homeowners and community members are welcome to participate in the engagement process, including community meeting 2. CPG will look at all input and summarize this input and share what the differences of opinion maybe, as well as where consensus lies.	
5/28/24		What are the different types of Historic Designations? Which ones include regulation and oversight? Which ones are incentive drive?	We will include more information on this topic at the next community meeting. Once this information is generated, we will post it to the website so that you can come back to it any time.	Fairfax County will provide definitions and guidance on each preservation tool via the project website.
5/28/24		The neighborhoods of Gum Springs named after prominent community families	Thank you for this information.	
5/28/24		Cultural and social clubs that residents met and exchanged info	Thank you for this information.	
5/28/24		Spend more time at community meetings	The project scope includes 3 in-person community meetings. These meetings were originally scoped to include 1-1.5 hours, however, we spent 2-3 hours at Meeting 1. Additionally, we are already planning for a drop-in style community meeting spanning 2-3 hours in October. The final community meeting will be 1-1.5 hrs. Our project team will also have representatives at the Gum Springs Family Reunion Community Day on 6/15/24, which is an extra engagement opportunity beyond the scope of our contract.	
5/28/24		Can you help me develop an interactive underground railroad Sherwood Hall and Fords Rd Underground railroad	This would be an interesting topic to bring to county officials. This could become a recommendation in the management plan for future work.	

5/28/24		Spend personal time with Comm Leaders	CPG will be spending time with community leaders throughout the project, including oral history interviews.	
5/28/24		Please put name back on building Drew Smith Saunder B. Moon Center	Thank you for this input. This may be outside the scope of this project, but it will be shared with county officials, and include as recommendations in the management plan.	
5/28/24		Will there be home our children can afford	This plan may provide tools for avoiding displacement, or preserving affordability such as the development of community land trusts.	
5/28/24		Concerns about housing but too old at this time to own a home	This plan may provide tools for avoiding displacement, or preserving affordability such as the development of community land trusts.	
5/28/24		Someone wrote on the paper- "No Job" " I work in Hospice No Mask"	This is outside the scope of this project.	
5/28/24		If a historic overlay district is approved how does that affect homeowners? Will we have to obey "historic preservation" for any home improvements?	There are a variety of tools that the community could choose to use to preserve Gum Springs. Some of those tools require strict protection of resources. For example, local historic district ordinances regulate any exterior change. This would require property owners to apply to the local board of architectural review for approval prior to making any exterior change. On the other hand, some communities have ordinances that regulate only certain aspects of the community, such as the height of buildings, design of new construction or major additions, or garages, for example. CPG will make a set of recommendations that we think will work well for Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented. There is also recent legislation that allows the county to enact real estate tax incentives for historic overlay districts.	
5/28/24		Will there be some comprehensive report in addition to populating the state's database?	Yes. In addition to VCRIS (state database) reports for individual properties, CPG will prepare a comprehensive survey report.	
5/28/24		Does an overlay district require vote the of the affected residents?		A Historic Overlay District begins with a separate study mandated by the Board of Supervisors. Following that study, the Board evaluates the results and proposed boundaries, and most significantly, input from community members. An organized vote by residents is not necessarily required, but historically, Supervisors have reached out to community members for their input and recommendations, in order to make a more informed decision.

5/28/24		Will a list of all community member Q's be posted anywhere suggest-possibly thru Sup. Stork's office-reaches more residents	The questions will be posted to the website, and updated at each of the project's milestone meetings.	The project website will be updated monthly and will include answers to submitted questions.
5/28/24		Will slides be available?	Posting on website	A recording of the presentation is available on the project website.
5/28/24		Will recent, non-"historical" structures be affected by historical restrictions of any sort?	All properties in overlay districts are subject to the regulations. Non-historical properties typically have a different set of standards, and fewer restrictions.	CPG will assess a variety of preservation tools for feasibility in Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented.
5/28/24		How does being designated "historic" reflect on property taxes?		Local overlay designations have different impacts in different communities. There is not a direct association. CPG will assess a variety of preservation tools for feasibility in Gum Springs. After the project conclusion, the community will be responsible for deciding what gets implemented.
5/28/24		Will POC info be available to provide info like, "you should talk to_ "	A central contact will be posted to the website	
5/28/24		Will an overlay district prevent tear-downs; replacement w/ McMansions?	Overlay districts require review for demolition, and can slow the demolition process. While it cannot prevent demolition, it can sometime result in saving the building.	Overlay districts do not change the underlying Zoning District regulations. Demolitions may still happen in Overlay districts and owners may build up to the allowable set backs.
5/28/24		Suggestion for future meetings: Use larger font on slides and/or more displays	Thank you for this feedback. We will work on that for future presentations.	
5/28/24		How might an overlay affect the Comprehensive Plan and current zoning?	Overlays are just that-- they are applied on top of existing zoning. That means if there is a conflict between base zoning and the overlay, then the overlay supersedes base zoning. The comp plan is what allows for things like overlays.	
5/28/24		They need to attend Civic Association Meetings	The Community Leadership Team will be responsible for communicating updates to the Civic Association.	

