Fort Negley: Past, Present, Future

VI: The Future of Fort Negley

OLLI WINTER 2020

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The Plan

• Jan 17: Enslavement & Building the Fort
• Jan 24: Defense, the US Colored Troops, Battle of Nashville, Emancipation
• Jan 31: Fort Negley & 19th Century Black Nashville
• Feb 7: Fort Negley as a Historic Site Under Threat
• Feb 14: Fort Negley & UNESCO (11am)
• Feb 21: The Future of Fort Negley (Followed by optional walking tour – weather permitting)
Monuments to the “Loyal Slave”

Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery, VA

Tyrrell County Confederate Memorial, Columbia, NC

Grave of Alfred Jackson, enslaved by President Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage.
Puerto Rico (1956)
Gorée, Senegal - Maison des Esclaves - 1962
Haiti (1967)

French: Le Marron Inconnu de Saint-Domingue - “The Unknown Slave of Saint Domingue”

Creole: Nég Mawon - “Maroon Man (one of us)”
Guyana (1976)
Barbados (1985)
The monument and marker for the Door of No Return, Ouidah, Benin (1994)
Curacao (1998)
“Old pirates, yes, they rob I
Sold I to the merchant ships
Minutes after they took I
From the bottomless pit
But my hand was made strong
By the hand of the Almighty
We forward in this generation
Triumphantly
Won't you help to sing
These songs of freedom?
'Cause all I ever have
Redemption songs
Redemption songs
Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery
None but ourselves can free our minds”

-Bob Marley, Redemption Song, 1980
The Ark of Return, UN Headquarters, NY (Rodney Leon, erected 2015)
Denmark, 2018
Fort Negley Park
Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Cultural Landscape Report

SEPTEMBER 2019

ENCORE INTERPRETIVE DESIGN
ASHWORTH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
LOSE DESIGNS
ARDENT GEOTECHNICAL
NASHVILLE NATIVES
TENNESSEE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
SOUTHEASTERN GRASSLANDS INITIATIVE
BEARD PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Metro Historical Commission
Metro Parks and Recreation
Treatment of Boardwalks and Restricted Areas

- Retain Boardwalks and Decks
- Remove Boardwalks
- Removal of Sawhorses
Two multi-purpose fields can be used for Fort Negley interpretive programs such as military demonstrations, living history encampments, and other educational programs. Community use of the fields could include athletic events, vintage baseball, farmer's markets, movies on the lawn, etc.

Two parking lots with approximately 460 total spaces.

WPA Stonework

Possible remnants of WPA Stonework

Monarch Butterfly Milkweed Garden Expansion with maintenance shed

Green Space with picnic shelters and tables available to daily visitors, school groups, family reunions, special interest groups, etc. This area may also serve well to expand the Fossils at the Fort fossil collection area-one of our most popular features.

Fort Negley themed play space. A tactile and interactive educational play space that allows for exploration and imaginative play without risk to the real fort structure.

Primitive trails linking Fort Negley Park to the City Cemetery expand the visitors historical experience.

Trailhead

These connectors allow visitors to start their tour of the Fort from the themed play space by linking to existing paved pathways and interpretation panels.

Fossils-rich limestone exposed by the hill cut

Contraband Memorial Trail / Heritage Trail. This trail serves to expand interpretation of African American laborers that built Fort Negley as well as add the history of Blacks, Germans and Celts who settled in the surrounding neighborhoods. It also serves as a walking trail.

The current paved access road can remain to reach the rear parking lot.