



2019 - Freetown Farm

In 2019, the Community Ecology Institute (CEI) bought a 6.4 acre organic farm in Columbia Maryland, in order to preserve and restore it. The farm now offers hands-on learning opportunities and programs for sustainable living.

1980 - Shaw Farms

In 1987, David Shaw purchased the farm from the Dorsey Family. Throughout their care of the property, the Shaw family planted, harvested and sold organically grown fruits and vegetables for Community Supported Agriculture.

1967 - Columbia

James Rouse founded the city of Columbia in 1967. Rouse envisioned a community that would support all people to build happy and healthy lives - a city that was also a garden for growing people. Rouse's community vision is what makes Columbia such a unique place to live.

1949 - Harriet Tubman School

The Harriet Tubman School was built in 1948 and opened its doors for the school year of 1949. This was the only black school available in Howard County and students traveled upwards of 21 miles to attend. The school was closed through desegregation in 1965, dispersing its students all over the county. The Harriet Tubman School was named in honor and celebration of Harriet (Araminta) Tubman's unbreakable spirit and courage.

1900's - Deed & Parcel Sales

Throughout the 1900's, the deed to the land now known as Freetown Farm was purchased and sold many times. The Dorsey, Boardley, and Clark families are all recorded owners of this property. The adjacent property owners, the Kelly's, have long-standing memories of picking blackberries and potatoes on this land.

Historical
Walking Tour @
**Freetown
Farm**

Presented by
The 2023/2024
Roots and Wings
Buds Class

1849 Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross, was an incredibly brave Maryland woman who escaped enslavement and helped over 300 Black people who had also been enslaved, travel along the Underground Railroad towards freedom. Harriet Tubman led an incredible life during her 91 years, including working as a nurse and spy for the Northern Army during the Civil War. The area surrounding Freetown Farm was an important part of the Underground Railroad, with documented stops to the west and east, which is part of why this area became known as Freetown during the 1800s.



1634 - 1700s - European Settlement

In 1634, the first European people settled in Maryland, forever changing the land. Indigenous peoples who had lived in this area for millennia were systematically pushed off this land through violence and broken treaties. Much of what we know as historic Howard County, including Simpsonville Mill down the road, was built during this time using the labor of enslaved Black people.

This is Indigenous Land

Prior to European contact, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe was a part of a confederacy of tribes occupying the areas between the Chesapeake Bay and the Appalachian Mountains. The Piscataway and many other indigenous tribes called this land their home. The Piscataway were farmers, growing numerous crops, making pottery and weaving baskets. Indigenous peoples have a rich tradition of stewarding the land they live on with great care and respect.

For book resources, recipes, crafts & more, please visit

communityecologyinstitute.org/historical-walking-tour.html

Student Participants:

Aden Saunier	Josie Trumbauer
Isabelle McKay	Emma Kreisher
Izzy Lozier	Henry Kelsey
Juniper Tarr	Amy Baumert
Dean Frank	Chloe Brager
Linnea Tarr	Norah Halley
Madeleine Kelsey	Bryn McMullin