

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6693

To establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. ARCURI (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Harriet Tubman Na-
5 tional Historical Park and Harriet Tubman Underground
6 Railroad National Historical Park Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) Harriet Tubman (born Araminta “Minty”
4 Ross)—

5 (A) was born into slavery in Maryland
6 around 1822;

7 (B) married John Tubman at age 25;

8 (C) endured through her youth and young
9 adulthood the hardships of enslaved African-
10 Americans; and

11 (D) boldly emancipated herself from bond-
12 age in 1849;

13 (2) not satisfied with attaining her own free-
14 dom, Harriet Tubman—

15 (A) returned repeatedly for more than 10
16 years to the places of her enslavement in Dor-
17 chester and Caroline Counties, Maryland; and

18 (B) under the most adverse circumstances
19 led away many family members and acquaint-
20 ances to freedom in the northern region of the
21 United States and Canada;

22 (3) Harriet Tubman was—

23 (A) called “Moses” by African-Americans
24 and white abolitionists; and

1 (B) acknowledged as 1 of the most promi-
2 nent “conductors” of the resistance that came
3 to be known as the “Underground Railroad”;

4 (4) in 1868, Frederick Douglass wrote that,
5 with the exception of John Brown, Douglass knew of
6 “no one who has willingly encountered more perils
7 and hardships to serve our enslaved people” than
8 Harriet Tubman;

9 (5) during the Civil War, Harriet Tubman—

10 (A) was recruited to assist Union troops as
11 a nurse, a scout, and a spy; and

12 (B) served in Virginia, Florida, and South
13 Carolina, where she is credited with facilitating
14 the rescue of hundreds of enslaved people;

15 (6) Harriet Tubman established in Auburn,
16 New York, 1 of the first incorporated homes for
17 aged African-Americans in the United States, which,
18 10 years before her death, she bequeathed to the Af-
19 rican Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;

20 (7) there are nationally significant resources
21 comprised of relatively unchanged landscapes associ-
22 ated with the early life of Harriet Tubman in Caro-
23 line, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland;

1 (8) there are nationally significant resources re-
2 relating to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York, in-
3 cluding—

4 (A) the residence of Harriet Tubman;

5 (B) the Tubman Home for the Aged;

6 (C) the Thompson Memorial AME Zion
7 Church; and

8 (D) the final resting place of Harriet Tub-
9 man in Fort Hill Cemetery;

10 (9) in developing interpretive programs, the Na-
11 tional Park Service would benefit from increased
12 scholarship of the African-American experience dur-
13 ing the decades preceding the Civil War and
14 throughout the remainder of the 19th century; and

15 (10) it is fitting and proper that the nationally
16 significant resources relating to Harriet Tubman be
17 preserved for future generations as units of the Na-
18 tional Park System so that people may understand
19 and appreciate the contributions of Harriet Tubman
20 to the history and culture of the United States.

21 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

22 (1) to preserve and promote stewardship of the
23 resources in Auburn, New York, and Caroline, Dor-
24 chester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, relating to
25 the life and contributions of Harriet Tubman;

1 (2) to provide for partnerships with the African
2 Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the States of New
3 York and Maryland, political subdivisions of the
4 States, the Federal Government, local governments,
5 nonprofit organizations, and private property owners
6 for resource protection, research, interpretation, edu-
7 cation, and public understanding and appreciation of
8 the life and contributions of Harriet Tubman;

9 (3) to sustain agricultural and forestry land
10 uses in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties,
11 Maryland, that remain evocative of the landscape
12 during the life of Harriet Tubman; and

13 (4) to establish a competitive grants program
14 for scholars of African-American history relating to
15 Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) CHURCH.—The term “Church” means the
19 Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church located in
20 Auburn, New York.

21 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
22 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
23 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
24 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
25 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)).

1 (3) PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.—

2 The term “Predominantly Black Institution” has the
3 meaning given the term in section 499A(c) of the
4 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 1099e(c)).

6 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (5) VISITOR CENTER.—The term “Visitor Cen-
9 ter” means the Harriet Tubman Underground Rail-
10 road State Park Visitor Center to be constructed
11 under section 5(d).

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL**
13 **HISTORICAL PARK.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the execution of ease-
15 ments with the Church, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) establish the Harriet Tubman National His-
17 torical Park (referred to in this section as the “His-
18 torical Park”) in the City of Auburn, New York, as
19 a unit of the National Park System; and

20 (2) publish notice of the establishment of the
21 Historical Park in the Federal Register.

22 (b) BOUNDARY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Historical Park shall be
24 comprised of structures and properties associated
25 with the Harriet Tubman home, the Tubman Home

1 for the Aged, the Church, and the Rectory, as gen-
2 erally depicted on the map entitled “Harriet Tub-
3 man National Historical Park—Proposed Bound-
4 ary”, numbered _____, and dated _____.

5 (2) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described
6 in paragraph (1) shall be available for public inspec-
7 tion in the appropriate offices of the National Park
8 Service.

9 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-
10 quire from willing sellers, by donation, purchase with do-
11 nated or appropriated funds, or exchange, land or inter-
12 ests in land within the boundary of the Historical Park.

13 (d) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
14 provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements
15 with—

16 (1) the Church for—

17 (A) historic preservation of, rehabilitation
18 of, research on, and maintenance of properties
19 within the boundary of the Historical Park; and

20 (B) interpretation of the Historical Park;

21 (2) the Fort Hill Cemetery Association for
22 maintenance and interpretation of the gravesite of
23 Harriet Tubman; and

1 (3) the State of New York, any political sub-
2 divisions of the State, the City of Auburn, and non-
3 profit organizations for—

4 (A) preservation and interpretation of re-
5 sources relating to Harriet Tubman in the City
6 of Auburn, New York;

7 (B) conducting research, including archae-
8 ological research; and

9 (C) providing for stewardship programs,
10 education, public access, signage, and other in-
11 terpretive devices at the Historical Park for in-
12 terpretive purposes.

13 (e) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may provide
14 interpretive tours to sites located outside the boundaries
15 of the Historical Park in Auburn, New York, that include
16 resources relating to Harriet Tubman.

17 (f) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
19 the date on which funds are made available to carry
20 out this subsection, the Secretary, in cooperation
21 with the Church, shall complete a general manage-
22 ment plan for the Historical Park in accordance
23 with section 12(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C.
24 1a–7(b)).

1 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
2 ordinate the preparation and implementation of the
3 general management plan for the Harriet Tubman
4 National Historical Park with—

5 (A) the Harriet Tubman Underground
6 Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland;
7 and

8 (B) the National Underground Railroad:
9 Network to Freedom.

10 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARRIET TUBMAN UN-**
11 **DERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTOR-**
12 **ICAL PARK.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as a unit
14 of the National Park System the Harriet Tubman Under-
15 ground Railroad National Historical Park (referred to in
16 this section as the “Historical Park”) in Caroline, Dor-
17 chester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland.

18 (b) BOUNDARY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Histor-
20 ical Park shall consist of certain landscapes and as-
21 sociated resources relating to the early life and en-
22 slavement of Harriet Tubman and the Underground
23 Railroad, as generally depicted on the map entitled
24 “Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National

1 Historical Park—Proposed Boundary”, numbered
2 _____, and dated _____.

3 (2) ADDITIONAL SITES.—The Secretary, after
4 consultation with landowners, the State of Maryland,
5 and units of local government, may modify the
6 boundary of the Historical Park to include addi-
7 tional resources relating to Harriet Tubman that—

8 (A) are located within the vicinity of the
9 Historical Park; and

10 (B) are identified in the general manage-
11 ment plan prepared under subsection (g) as ap-
12 propriate for interpreting the life of Harriet
13 Tubman.

14 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—On modification of
15 the boundary of the Historical Park under para-
16 graph (2), the Secretary shall make available for
17 public inspection in the appropriate offices of the
18 National Park Service a revised map of the Histor-
19 ical Park.

20 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-
21 quire from willing sellers, by donation, purchase with do-
22 nated or appropriated funds, or exchange, land or an in-
23 terest in land within the boundaries of the Historical
24 Park.

1 (d) GRANTS.—In accordance with section 7(b)(2), the
2 Secretary may provide grants—

3 (1) to the State of Maryland, political subdivi-
4 sions of the State, and nonprofit organizations for
5 the acquisition of less than fee title (including ease-
6 ments) or fee title to land in Caroline, Dorchester,
7 and Talbot Counties, Maryland, within the boundary
8 of the Historical Park; and

9 (2) on execution of a memorandum of under-
10 standing between the State of Maryland and the Di-
11 rector of the National Park Service, to the State of
12 Maryland for the construction of the Harriet Tub-
13 man Underground Railroad State Park Visitor Cen-
14 ter on land owned by the State of Maryland in Dor-
15 chester County, Maryland, subject to the condition
16 that the State of Maryland provide the Director of
17 the National Park Service, at no additional cost, suf-
18 ficient office space and exhibition areas in the Vis-
19 itor Center to carry out the purposes of the Histor-
20 ical Park.

21 (e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
22 provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements
23 with, the State of Maryland, political subdivisions of the
24 State, nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities,
25 and private property owners for—

1 (1) the restoration or rehabilitation, public use,
2 and interpretation of sites and resources relating to
3 Harriet Tubman;

4 (2) the conduct of research, including archae-
5 ological research;

6 (3) providing stewardship programs, education,
7 signage, and other interpretive devices at the sites
8 and resources for interpretive purposes; and

9 (4)(A) the design and construction of the Vis-
10 itor Center; and

11 (B) the operation and maintenance of the Vis-
12 itor Center.

13 (f) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may provide
14 interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside
15 the boundary of the Historical Park in Caroline, Dor-
16 chester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, relating to the
17 life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

18 (g) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
20 the date on which funds are made available to carry
21 out this subsection, the Secretary, in coordination
22 with the State of Maryland, political subdivisions of
23 the State, and the United States Fish and Wildlife
24 Service, shall complete a general management plan

1 for the Historical Park in accordance with section
2 12(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

3 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
4 ordinate the preparation and implementation of the
5 general management plan for the Historical Park
6 with—

7 (A) the Harriet Tubman National Histor-
8 ical Park in Auburn, New York;

9 (B) the National Underground Railroad:
10 Network to Freedom;

11 (C) the Maryland Harriet Tubman Under-
12 ground Railroad State Park; and

13 (D) the Harriet Tubman Underground
14 Railroad Byway in Dorchester and Caroline
15 Counties, Maryland.

16 (3) PRIORITY TREATMENT.—The general man-
17 agement plan for the Historical Park shall give pri-
18 ority to the adequate protection of, interpretation of,
19 public appreciation for, archaeological investigation
20 of, and research on Stewart’s Canal, the Jacob
21 Jackson home site, the Brodess Farm, the Ben Ross
22 and Anthony Thompson properties on Harrisville
23 Road, and the James Cook site, all of which are pri-
24 vately owned potential future properties in the
25 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

1 (h) BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.—

2 (1) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
3 shall ensure that, not later than 1 year after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the National Park
5 Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife
6 Service enter into an interagency agreement that—

7 (A) promotes and mutually supports the
8 compatible stewardship and interpretation of
9 Harriet Tubman resources at the Blackwater
10 National Wildlife Refuge; and

11 (B) provides for the maximum level of co-
12 operation between those Federal agencies to
13 further the purposes of this Act.

14 (2) EFFECT OF ACT.—Nothing in this Act
15 modifies, alters, or amends the authorities of the
16 United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the ad-
17 ministration and management of the Blackwater Na-
18 tional Wildlife Refuge.

19 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
21 the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and the
22 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Histor-
23 ical Park in accordance with this Act and the laws gen-
24 erally applicable to units of the National Park System in-
25 cluding—

1 (1) the National Park Service Organic Act (16
2 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

3 (2) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461
4 et seq.).

5 (b) PARK REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding sub-
6 section (a), regulations and policies applicable to units of
7 the National Park System shall apply only to Federal land
8 administrated by the National Park Service that is located
9 within the boundary of the Harriet Tubman Underground
10 Railroad National Historical Park.

11 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
13 priated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act
14 (other than subsection (b)), including the provision of Na-
15 tional Park Service personnel and National Park Service
16 management funds for the Harriet Tubman National His-
17 torical Park and the Harriet Tubman Underground Rail-
18 road National Historical Park.

19 (b) GRANTS.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated not more than—

21 (1) \$7,500,000 to provide grants to the Church
22 for—

23 (A) historic preservation, rehabilitation,
24 and restoration of resources within the bound-

ary of the Harriet Tubman National Historical
Park; and

(B) the costs of design, construction, installation, and maintenance of exhibits and other interpretive devices authorized under section 4(d)(1)(B);

(2) \$11,000,000 for grants to the State of Maryland for activities authorized under subsections (d)(1) and (e)(4)(A) of section 5; and

(3) \$200,000 for fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter for competitive grants to historically Black colleges and universities, Predominately Black Institutions, and minority serving institutions for research into the life of Harriet Tubman and the African-American experience during the years that coincide with the life of Harriet Tubman.

(c) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) CHURCH AND VISITOR CENTER GRANTS.—

The Federal share of the cost of activities provided grants under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) and any maintenance, construction, or utility costs incurred pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into under section 4(d)(1)(A) or section 5(e) shall not be more than 50 percent.

1 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNI-
2 VERSITIES.—The Federal share of the cost of activi-
3 ties provided assistance under subsection (b)(3) shall
4 be not more than 75 percent.

5 (3) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-
6 Federal share required under this subsection may be
7 in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or serv-
8 ices fairly valued.

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