

Development Hearing Script

Runs 1:52 • Tape Counter Time: 12:06

Video	Audio
Prison Fields, road	As the District of Columbia's Lorton prison complex is closed and the inmates moved away, three thousand two hundred acres of farmlands, country roads, rolling fields will be available. How is it to be used?
ON CAMERA	Most of the 32-hundred acres looks like this: completely rural. Most of it within a half hour's drive of the nation's capital, on a good day. And all of it, land that is terribly tempting.
Meeting	At the county's planning commission, those attracted to this huge plot have their say. Elaine O'Hora, who lives close by, has been waiting, she says, ten years, for a new elementary school.
SOT: ELAINE O'HORA	WE DESERVE THIS SCHOOL NOW. PLEASE HELP US ENSURE THAT WE GET THIS SCHOOL IN A TIMELY FASHION.
Man with a map	Bill Niedringhaus finds the place great for walking, and brought his own map to show the commission where he and others envision trails.
De La Fe setup	A man from the Park Authority sees a glorious future.
SOT: FRANK DE LA FE	...FROM AN ENCLAVE OF IMPRISONMENT TO AN OUTLET FOR ENJOYMENT.
SOT: IRMA CLIFTON	THERE IS INTEREST IN REUSING THE BUILDINGS OUT THERE.
Beauty shots	Irma Clifton grew up here, near the prison. She sees lots of those "outlets for enjoyment."
SOT: IRMA CLIFTON (covered)	GYMS COULD BECOME COMMUNITY CENTERS. DORMITORIES COULD BECOME RETAIL SHOPS OR SMALL MANUFACTURING CENTERS. THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL USES IS ENDLESS.
Clifton on location	Ms. Clifton has been battling to keep those old buildings—and winning. And she would return the open acres to their bucolic past.
SOT: IRMA CLIFTON	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CATTLE BACK IN THE FIELDS AGAIN. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WELL-PAINTED FENCES, THE WAY IT ONCE WAS.
Beauty shots, Lorton	For most of its life as a prison, Lorton was a huge, productive farm. In the new century it will become, mostly, open space. For NewsLab, I'm Jed Duvall.