Preliminary Concept A

Concept A embraces the rich continuum of national, regional, and local history at the park. While maintaining its focus on the Battle of New Orleans, the NPS would also introduce visitors to the broader historical contexts of battle and non-battle related resources at the site. The NPS would work in close partnership with local and regional managers of related historic resources to promote cross visitation and improve access by all visitors to more historic resources than can be provided in the park alone.

Concept Highlights:

- A future off-site Visitor Center (VC) would be developed in partnership with Parish Gov't and others.
- A new visitor contact station and parking area near the tour boat landing would consolidate infrastructure and services for visitors who arrive by boat or automobile.
- Tour loop road alignment would not be changed.
- Rampart would be extended in northwest direction from tour loop to the park boundary.
- Battlefield vegetation is more manicured in appearance than other alternatives.
- Maintenance storage area moved off-site.
- Lower development and staffing costs than other alternatives.

Preliminary Concept B

Concept B creates an active and dynamic interpretive environment that engages visitors both intellectually and physically. The concept significantly upgrades visitor service facilities and provides multiple opportunities for visitors to participate in self-guided and ranger or volunteer-led interpretive programs.

Concept Highlights:

- A full service Visitor Center would include space for visitor orientation, interpretive exhibits, classrooms, lectures, multi-media presentations, bookstore, and adminstrative offices. Consolidates visitor services at one convenient location for visitors arriving by automobile, tour bus, or tour boat.
- Existing VC and restrooms to be removed. Monument parking area redeveloped as a tour loop pull-through and drop-off area.
- Primary visitor parking area located near VC, Malus-Beauregard House, tour boat landing, and levee overlook.
- Creates the longest contiguous rampart segment of all concepts. The Park would work in cooperation with Parish Gov't and others to symbolically project rampart across St. Bernard Highway.
- Battlefield vegetation maintained to reflect historic conditions at time of battle.
- All maintenance facilities moved off-site.
- A southern section of the tour loop road would be removed and the remainder widened for two-way traffic.

Preliminary Concept C

Concept C substantially enlarges the contiguous battlefield by modifying the existing vehicle and pedestrian circulation systems. Historic drainage patterns are rehabilitated and new interpretive opportunities created by reconnecting the battlefield landscape to the Mississippi River, River Road, and levee.

Concept Highlights:

- Full service Visitor Center, amenities, and parking same as Concept B.
- Existing VC, restrooms, and parking area near monument same as Concept B.
- A northwest and southeast section of tour loop road would be removed, the south section realigned, and the remainder widened for two-way traffic.
- Unifies two rampart segments at a location where significant battle events occurred.
- Creates the largest contiguous battlefield landscape of all concepts.
- Better reflects the battlefield landscape during the colonial period by acknowledging the site's colonial drainage patterns and roadways.
- Relocates and redesigns the British Memorial.
- Accentuates the important historic relationship between Battlefield, Mississippi River, River Road, and levee.
- All maintenance facilities would be moved off-site.

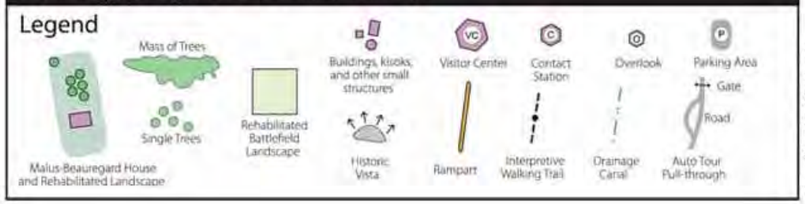
Common Elements Present in All Concepts

- Additional studies and archeological investigations would be conducted to confirm historic dimensions of the rampart, gun emplacements, and Rodriguez Canal.
- Additonal studies and archeological investigations would be conducted to identify unknown but potentially significant archeological resources prior to any ground disturbing activity.
- The rampart would be reconstructed to its historic height and width including gun emplacements. Historically accurate reproduction artillery would be placed at each gun emplacement.
- The Rodriguez Canal would be rehabilitated to its historic width and depth. Stormwater run-off would be drained through the canal to an existing outfall on St. Bernard Highway.
- The Malus-Beauregard House and its historic landscape would be rehabilitated and incorporated into the park's interpretive program. The building would not be air conditioned. Reproduction furnishings could be used.
- A new levee overlook would provide visitors who arrive by boat or auto with interpretive vistas of the battlefield, river, and New Orleans skyline. Universal access would be provided between top of levee and battlefield.
- Public access for walking would be permitted after normal operating hours until dusk. After hours parking would be restricted to the new parking area near battlefield entrance gate.
- The existing sewage treatment plant would be removed.
- The battlefield and cemetery entrances on St. Bernard Highway would be landscaped to improve the park's visibility and appeal.
- New pedestrian only interpretive trails would enhance opportunities for a self-guided interpretive experience and improve visitor safety by separating vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Pull-in parking areas on the tour loop would be replaced with pull-thru configurations.
- Cemetery walls, headstones, trees, and other landscape elements would be managed as specified in the 2004 NPS Cemetery Assessment Report and 2002 NPS Cultural Landscape Report.
- A rostrum (gazebo-like structure) would be constructed inside the cemetery and used for interpretive programs and special events.

National Park Service

Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery
Preliminary Concepts for GMP Amendment / DCP

Legend



Chal_altTrev_033005_11x17.ai