



Operational Update - Fall 2016

DEER MANAGEMENT: From October through March, NPS will continue deer management at GETT and EISE, reducing the number of deer in the parks directly by shooting. All venison will be donated to area food banks.

Eisenhower National Historic Site

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: Park and NPS regional office staff are developing a comprehensive plan to identify how visitors can best access the Eisenhower site. The plan will evaluate the use of the shuttle system as the site's only public access and provide recommendations for additional public access opportunities.

EISENHOWER EXHIBITS: To promote EISE to more than one million annual visitors to Harrisburg International Airport (HIA), Mamie's luggage is now on display in the terminal and so is one of President Eisenhower's tractors. In addition, work continues on planning the "Eisenhower's Gettysburg" exhibit for the Gilder-Lehrman Gallery at GETT. PRD Group, a Chantilly, VA based company that is also working with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, is assisting the NPS with this exhibit.



Ike's Cockshutt Black Hawk Model 40 Tractor at HIA.

REDESIGN OF THE EISENHOWER RECEPTION CENTER: Site staff are working with the NPS Harpers Ferry Design Center to redesign the Reception Center to improve the visitor experience. New forms of media, interactive exhibits, and an area for temporary exhibits are being explored.

OAK BOARD FENCE: Approximately 2 miles of new oak board fencing is being installed at EISE Farms 1, 2 and 3. We have replaced approximately 1,200 posts and plan to complete the project by September 30.



Repairing and repointing flagstone walkways around the Eisenhower home.

WALKS, WALLS, AND PATIOS: Contractors are repairing and repointing brick walks, stone walls, and flagstone walkways around the Eisenhower home and the tea house. We anticipate completion by September 30.

REHABILITATE EISENHOWER TREE SCREEN: New plants have been installed to ensure the long-term health and preservation of the historic tree screen between the Eisenhower house and the barn.

REHABILITATE HISTORIC WOVEN WIRE FENCE: This project will replace one mile (10 percent) of woven wire fence at the Eisenhower horse pasture and along the west side of the entry lane. The project includes fabricating new decorative top rails for the horse pasture. This project will be complete by September 30.

SPECIALIZED ARBOR CARE EISENHOWER: The NPS Olmsted Training Center and a group of arborist students evaluated the health of the trees at Farm 1, developed a treatment plan, and removed trees in unhealthy condition. They also did emergency trimming of trees throughout the entire site.



Culinary Arts: Eisenhower Farm to Table Event.

NPS Centennial Events and Legacy Projects

NPS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS: Throughout 2016 we created numerous programs and special events to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. Programs focused

on engaging youth and Millennials; arts programming; community and employee wellness; and expanding stewardship of park resources through philanthropy. As we look back at our successes, we're also looking ahead and re-committing to our work with the Gettysburg Foundation to engage new audiences and accomplish preservation projects that ensure Gettysburg's two national parks will be here for future generations.



Cemetery Ridge Rehabilitation.

AT A GLANCE

Gettysburg National Military Park

- \$6.8 million FY 2016 federal budget
- \$68 million in visitor spending in 2015
- 750,702 visitors as of August 1, an increase of 3.4% YTD
- 61 permanent employees and 36 seasonal employees in FY 2016
- 3,012 people donated 41,028 hours of service in FY 2015
- 6,033 acres in the park boundary
- 865 acres not yet protected

Eisenhower National Historic Site

- \$1.1 million FY 2016 federal budget
- \$3.1 million in visitor spending in 2015
- 30,239 visitors as of August 1, an increase of 5.9% YTD
- 8 permanent employees and 3 seasonal employees in FY 2016
- 769 people donated 19,934 hours of service in FY 2015
- 690 acres in the park boundary

CEMETERY RIDGE REHABILITATION: As of September 7, this project is 45% complete. Completed work includes tree and stump removal, demolition and removal of the existing parking lot and concrete sidewalks, and cutting and filling to the required elevations. Grade changes now reflect the historic ravine and historic Hancock Avenue. Work is proceeding on an underground storm water system to be followed by curb and sidewalk installation over the next few weeks. Park staff will be working simultaneously on site to reconstruct the 1923 Hancock Gate at Taneytown Road. The new parking area and features are expected to be completed and

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ready for November 19 Gettysburg Address anniversary events. Funding for this project was provided by the Gettysburg Foundation and National Park Service Centennial funds.

LITTLE ROUND TOP: NPS staff and contractors refined efforts over the past 30 days to develop feasible site improvements to Little Round Top. Draft alternatives include re-purposing previous alignments of Sykes Avenue for additional parking, converting the Little Round Top School House into non-staffed visitor facilities with parking, restrooms, and informational kiosks, and creating a more formalized trail system that allows both large and small groups to experience the site with minimal to no impacts to resources. An Environmental Assessment will be available for public review early 2017. The Gettysburg Foundation continues to raise funds for this project. Preliminary estimates are between \$8 & \$10 million.

75 ACRES PRESERVED AT GETTYSBURG: In August, Roxanne Quimby and the Elliottsville Plantation donated 75 acres of the historic George Bishop and James Ewing farms to GETT. Union cavalry confronted Confederate troops on July 3, 1863 on this land, and Confederate entrenchments also run across a portion of it. The site has two historic structures, a sensitive riparian area, and critical grasslands habitat. This donation helps protect the viewshed for both Gettysburg and Eisenhower



Park staff at the George Bishop Farm.

park, located just to the north. The donation was part of a national effort marking the Centennial of the NPS. Quimby donated 87,500 acres that now

comprises the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument in Maine and land at numerous parks. In FY2016, GETT also acquired 08-108 (1.74 acres); 04-211 (6.8 acres); and 05-165 (44.6 acres).

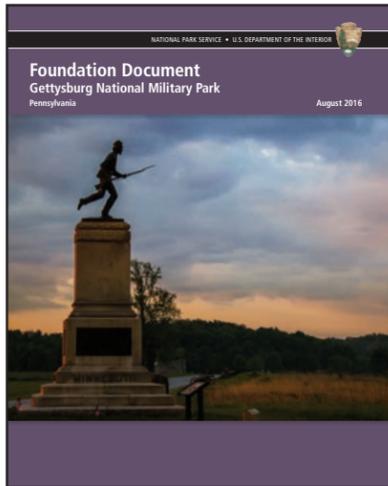
SEKIGAHARA BATTLEFIELD IS NOW GETTYSBURG'S "SISTER PARK": On September 5, Gettysburg celebrated two historic international agreements, "Sister Park" status and "Sister City" status between Gettysburg and Sekigahara, Japan. Hundreds of visitors and special guests at the Museum and Visitor Center learned more about Samurai Warriors and Civil War soldiers.



Sister Park and Sister City agreements were signed on September 5.

Reenactors from the two famous battles and about 100 hundred members of the public attended the signing ceremony at the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station.

FOUNDATION DOCUMENTS COMPLETED FOR GETTYSBURG NMP AND EISENHOWER NHS: To effectively manage a national park unit and plan for its future, a basic understanding of a park's resources, values, and history is needed - a foundation for planning and management. These are called foundation documents. Foundation documents are at the core of each park's planning portfolio. The Foundation Documents for GETT and EISE were completed in August and are now available on the park websites.



Foundation Document.

Gettysburg National Military Park

FALL STUDENT EDUCATION SEASON: The Fall student education season begins in mid-September. The park is offering two new curriculum based education programs this year. "Citizenship Stories" will focus on the experiences of Gettysburg civilians. Additionally, the park will pilot a special monument program which will use the art and symbolism of Gettysburg's monuments and memorials to draw deeper conclusions about the American Civil War and the veterans who memorialized the battlefield. The popular Virtual Gettysburg Distance Learning programs will also be expanded.

"GREAT TASK" YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE: This September three new pilot programs for the new "Great Task: Youth Leadership Initiative" will be hosted on the battlefield. Students from Washington, D.C. schools will spend a day in the park discovering leadership lessons that they will be challenged to apply to their own lives.

WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PLAN: Work continues on creating a new, comprehensive, interpretive wayside plan. The initial draft and proposal is near completion and will soon transition to the design, fabrication, and crafting the text. This plan will tie in with the Comprehensive Trails Plan and the rehab of Little Round Top to improve the visitor experience across the park.

RESOURCE ROOM REVITALIZATION: Through a joint effort of the National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation, the Resource Room has been expanded to include new computers with access to Ancestry.com and military records at Fold3. "Discovering your Civil War Ancestor" workshops will be held on Veterans Day.

LICENSED BATTLEFIELD GUIDES: We continue to have success with the revised Licensed Battlefield Guide testing system. Since the written exam in December, six new guides have successfully completed the four-level system and are now enjoying status as Licensed Battlefield Guides.

ETERNAL LIGHT PEACE MEMORIAL: On September 6, NPS preservation experts from the Historic Preservation Training Center started a major rehabilitation project at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial. The work includes dismantling and resetting all plaza stones, granite capping stones, stairs, and flagstone walkways; selective repointing of the memorial shaft; and cleaning of all masonry on the monument and its bronze urn. During the majority of the work, the gas flame will continue to burn, with some planned outages. Park visitors may continue to park there but the area immediately surrounding the memorial will be closed through 2016. This is a federally funded project that totals \$519,000.

EPHRAIM WISLER/FIRST SHOT HOUSE: The park is contracting for an engineering study for the stabilization of the retaining wall in front of the First Shot monument and the foundation walls of the historic Ephraim Wisler house. The study will also identify drainage improvements and post-battle portions of the house for future removal. We expect the study to be completed over the next four months.

WATER INFILTRATION: Materials have been purchased to complete the Weikert House.

CEMETERY LODGE: Rehab continues with installation of new HVAC. Plaster will be finished, then paint will be touched up. Storm windows and linoleum will be replaced and hardwood floors will be refinished.

PRESCRIBED FIRE AT THE TRIANGULAR FIELD: NPS staff from the NE Region's Fire Office, GETT, other parks, and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry had another successful prescribed fire on 8 acres at the Triangular Field on September 7. Last April's 36-acre Munshower Hill burn unit looks great. Prescribed fire is helping maintain open fields and meadows by reducing woody vegetation without the use of chemical or labor-intensive mowing or mechanical hand trimming. Weather permitting the park intends to use prescribed fire in the fall and spring annually.



Prescribed Fire at Triangular Field.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY TRAILS PLAN: NPS staff and contractors continue to develop feasible alternatives for providing alternative trail alignments and connections for pedestrian, cyclists, and equestrian users at GETT and EISE. The planning team continues to develop alternatives and an Environmental Assessment will be available for public comment and review by the end of 2016.

CIVIL WAR ART EXHIBIT: "With Brush, Mold, Chisel and Pen: Reflections on Civil War Art" opened June 29 in the museum's Gilder Lehrman Gallery. The exhibit includes art from the collection of Gettysburg National Military Park, as well as several from the collections of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. **ARTIFACT ACQUISITIONS:** Through the generosity of the Gettysburg Foundation, the park has been able to acquire several significant artifacts, including the US Sharpshooters frock coat of Corporal William Henderson, Company A, 1st United States Sharpshooters; an original printing of General George G. Meade's General Orders Number 68, July 4, 1863; and a Henry Collins Bispham oil painting entitled "The Raid" or "The Foragers Return."