



### Eisenhower National Historic Site

**TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN:** EISE and GETT staffs are working with NPS regional staff to develop a comprehensive planning document to address how visitors can best access the site. The planning document will evaluate the use of the shuttle system as the site's only public access and will provide recommendations for other methods of public access to the site.



EISE shuttle bus

**EISENHOWER'S GETTYSBURG EXHIBIT:** A working group of NPS staff and historians is creating draft themes and story lines for the "Eisenhower's Gettysburg" exhibit for the museum's Gilder Lehrman Gallery. They are exploring interesting stories that could draw the public in to learn about how the Battle of Gettysburg, the study of the battle, and the community impacted the lives of General Eisenhower and former first lady Mamie Eisenhower. This group will continue to work together to develop the exhibit with the help of PRD Group, a Chantilly based company that is also working with the Eisenhower Presidential Library to revamp the library's exhibits.

**REDESIGN OF THE EISENHOWER RECEPTION CENTER:** Site staff is working with the 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.

**DAYS WITH DOCUMENTS TEACHER WORKSHOP:** The *Days with Documents* Teacher Professional Development Workshop will take place July 19-21. Participants from across the mid-Atlantic will investigate compelling

Cold War era documents and objects, learn to create reading strategies, objectives and assessments for students, and be inspired to make the Cold War and the Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower come to life in their classrooms.

**SUMMER INTERPRETIVE SEASON:** The interpretive summer season began May 31 and extends to August 14. We have 4 unique programs every day at the Eisenhower Farm, ranging from Eisenhower during World War I to his retirement in Gettysburg.

**OAK BOARD FENCE REPLACEMENT AT FARM 1 AND FARM 2:** GETT maintenance staff will be working to replace all the oak board fencing at Farm 2 at EISE. The cattle have been moved to their summer pasture on Farm 1. Fencing materials are being assembled on site and removal of the old fence will be starting in late June.

**REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF PATHWAYS ON FARM 1:** The brick and flag stone pathways surrounding the Eisenhower home will be repaired, relayed, and damaged materials replaced this summer. Visitors will be rerouted around the backyard area just outside of the Eisenhower's sun porch.

**OLMSTED CENTER TREE ASSESSMENT AT EISE:** The Olmsted Center is bringing a group of students to assess the health of the trees on Farm 1 and to create a plan for their care and treatment. The group will be documenting tree health, creating fertilization schedules, and doing emergency trimming.



EISE Reception Center

# Operational Update - Summer 2016

# 2016

## National Park Service CENTENNIAL

**CENTENNIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS** – The National Park Service Centennial is about celebration, discovery and making new connections, using the theme "Find Your Park." Centennial funding is allowing us to accomplish two legacy projects at Gettysburg: the rehab of Cemetery Ridge and planning for improvements at Little Round Top. We have also created new events and programs to engage new audiences.

This spring we hosted hundreds of visitors at the *Come Walk with Me* Community Wellness event on April 30, *Doors Open Gettysburg* on May 7, the *Gettysburg BioBlitz* on May 20, *Presidential Paint and Wine Night* on May 19, and *Gettysburg Artists-in-Residency* programs.



Gettysburg BioBlitz

### AT A GLANCE

#### Gettysburg National Military Park

- 6,034 acres in the park boundary
- \$6.8 million FY 2016 federal budget
- \$68 million in visitor spending in 2015
- 1,154,585 visitors in 2015, an increase of 5.4% over 2014
- 61 permanent employees and 36 seasonal employees in FY 2016
- 3,012 people donated 41,028 hours of service in FY 2015

#### Eisenhower National Historic Site

- 690 acres in the park boundary
- \$1.1 million FY 2016 federal budget
- \$3.1 million in visitor spending in 2015
- 54,377 visitors in 2015, a decrease of 6.6% compared with 2014
- 8 permanent employees and 3 seasonal employees in FY 2016
- 769 people donated 19,934 hours of service in FY 2015

Upcoming programs include the continuation of Every Kid in a Park and Artists-in-Residency programs; the Civil War Art exhibit "With Brush, Mold, Chisel, and Pen: Reflections on Civil War Art"; 100<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration for the Eisenhowers; NPS Founders Day on August 25; the Centennial Ball on August 26; the Centennial Farm to Table event at Eisenhower National Historic Site on August 27; and the Gettysburg Battlefield Marathon on November 6, a fundraiser for the Gettysburg Foundation and the Gettysburg YWCA.

#### Gettysburg National Military Park

**CEMETERY RIDGE REHAB:** This project includes Ziegler's Grove, Ziegler's Ravine, and the rebuilding of the Hancock Avenue gate. The project is being funded by the Gettysburg Foundation and the NPS. Work will begin in mid-July.

**LITTLE ROUND TOP:** NPS staff and contractors continue to develop feasible alternatives for 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

# FIND YOUR PARK

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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 in late summer.



Summer Interpretive Programs

**SUMMER INTERPRETIVE SEASON:** The interpretive summer season began June 11 and extends to August 14. We have 18 unique programs every day, both in the Museum & Visitor Center and across the battlefield. In addition, Meade's Headquarters and the Abraham Brian farm are open every weekend, allowing visitor access to these historically significant buildings. Living history demonstrations will take place every Saturday and Sunday, bringing the sights and sounds of Civil War soldiers to life.

**WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PLAN:** Work continues on creating a draft interpretive wayside plan. Outdated graphics will be replaced with new art and text and interpretive signage will be planned for areas such as the Emmanuel Harman Farm, Power's Hill, and the Josiah Benner Farm. This plan will tie in with the Comprehensive Trails Plan and the Little Round Top rehabilitation efforts to improve the visitor experience across the park.



Waysides at The Angle

**RESOURCE ROOM REVITALIZATION:** The Resource Room is being revitalized through a joint NPS and Foundation effort. Outdated computers will be replaced with cutting edge technology. Additionally access to genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com and Fold3 will be available for free for park visitors and school groups. This will enable visitors to learn about their Civil War ancestry and establish a personal connection to this battle and place.

**GETTYSBURG DAYS WITH DOCUMENTS TEACHER WORKSHOP:** The *Days with Documents* Teacher Professional Development Workshop will take place July 13-15. Participants from across the mid-Atlantic will investigate compelling Civil War era documents and objects, learn to create reading strategies, objectives and assessments for students, and be inspired to make the Civil War and Gettysburg come to life in their classrooms.



Days with Documents Teacher Workshop

**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 both GETT and EISE. The planning team continues to develop alternatives and an Environmental Assessment will be available for public comment and review in late summer.

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT FOR GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY:** NPS is finalizing the treatment recommendations for the Gettysburg National Cemetery Cultural Landscape Report. This work is being completed through a cooperative agreement between Olmsted Center for Landscape Design and the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at SUNY. This documentation process included the full evolution of the cemetery; site history; existing

conditions; and treatment recommendations. A final document is expected by December 2016.

**COMMEMORATIVE LANDSCAPE TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY:** GETT is working with the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation to develop a concise historical overview of the development of the commemorative landscape at Gettysburg. This plan will identify the typical landscape characteristics and features associated with the commemorative landscape, including issues pertaining to existing physical condition and historical integrity. The project will craft general treatment principles to guide future landscape rehabilitation, including reasons for reestablishing commemorative landscapes or individual features that have been lost or obscured. A draft plan will be available late in 2016.

**FIRST DAY, UNION 1<sup>ST</sup> CORPS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT (CLR):** GETT is working with the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation to develop a CLR for the former Country Club property to fully understand the components that characterized the Civil War-era farm and how the features influenced the evolution and outcome of the battle. The report will discover and evaluate the changes that have occurred to that landscape over time, provide analysis, and develop treatment recommendations that are sensitive to the nationally significant cultural resources associated with this historic property. A draft will be available in early fall of 2016.

**AMERICAN CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE:** This program, based on the model of the Youth Conservation Corps, is providing 8 workers at GETT this summer to help maintain historic landscapes. They are treating non-native invasive vegetation and cutting brush along fence lines. The program is a trial for us on two fronts: a new way for Gettysburg to engage young adults in a non-traditional manner, while gaining some benefit from their efforts; and to test the former National Tower site for possible future use as the youth group campground (now located at McMillan Woods).

**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 from the collections of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

**CEMETERY LODGE:** We have nearly completed rehabbing the interior of this building which will be used for the park's resource management staff beginning later this year.



Virginia Monument cleaning and waxing

**MONUMENT AND CANNON CARRIAGE PRESERVATION:** Monument preservation staff replaced five "unknown" markers in the National Cemetery due to deterioration and damage; completed stone repairs on the Friend to Friend Monument; reset the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry monument at South Cavalry Field; fixed the handrail on the Pennsylvania Memorial; placed cannons at Rhett's and Stribling's battery; repaired and reinstalled Dilger's Battery tablet in the National Cemetery; installed new Dearing's Battery tablet, missing for 20 plus years; continued the Soldiers' National Monument project, cleaning the marble figures; cleaned and waxed the Sedgwick equestrian statue, North Carolina monument, and the Virginia Monument; currently working on the gilding of the Louisiana monument. At Eisenhower, the staff polished the bells and cleaned and waxed the entrance plaque.