



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Harpers Ferry National  
Historical Park

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## Harpers Ferry NHP News Release

**Release date:**           **Immediately**  
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**Phone number:**       **304-535-6748**  
**Date:**                   **September 15, 2009**

### **Harpers Ferry Park Hosts Fee Free National Public Lands Day**

Lace up your hiking boots or just put on a comfortable pair of sneakers and head to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for National Public Lands Day. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands in America. This event for hikers and walkers of all ages and levels of experience is designed to show off the opportunities for walking and hiking in and around Harpers Ferry, while helping to preserve these trails for the future enjoyment. Harpers Ferry Park has over 18 miles of hiking trails that include mountains, gently rolling fields and flat walking—trails for everyone. Join in one of our four guided walks this day or explore on your own.

Stop in our Public Lands Day Tent in the Lower Town to find out more about our event partners— The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Harpers Ferry Historic Town Foundation, Potomac Appalachian Trail Conservancy (PATC), and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Visitors are invited to contrast and compare items in a civil war soldier's pack versus a modern hiker's pack, the latest in modern hiking equipment and lightweight food stuffs. Take in a guided hike and enjoy the breathtaking vistas! Guided hikes are appropriate for families and are rated easy to strenuous. If you plan to join one of our hikes, please come prepared with water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes.

The park will also show a 45-minute preview of Ken Burn's *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on the second floor of the John Brown Museum at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, Harpers Ferry NHP, the Appalachian Trail Park Office, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club are sponsoring a volunteer clean up project from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers should meet at 9 at the Keyes Gap Parking area and from there be shuttled to the clean up site. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and gloves. Bring a lunch. Water will be provided. This is a rain or shine event. Contact is Jessica Liptak 304-535-5017.

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**Guided Hikes:****12:00-3:00 Maryland Heights Hike—Rating: strenuous. 4.5 miles to the Overlook. Meet at the Lower Town Green.**

Stop along the way at the Civil War Naval Battery and at the rocky overlook, a favorite view of the town of Harpers Ferry. For those who would like to go higher, an additional 2 miles of trail will take you to the top of the mountain to the 19<sup>th</sup> century ruins of the Stone Fort.

**1:00-2:00 Virginus Island Trail Walk—Rating: easy. Meet at the Lower Town Green.**

Archeological evidence of our park industrial and transportation story can be found along the trail. Here lie the ruins of a bygone industrial center—Hall's and Virginus Islands.

**2:00-3:00 Lower Town to Jefferson's Rock and ATC Office 1 mile, Walk--Rating: moderate. Meet at the Lower Town Green.** Join the Appalachian Trail staff and walk in the steps of Presidents, captains of industry and social reformers.

**3:00 to 4:00 C&O Canal- Rating easy. Meet at Lower Town Green.** The hike will cover about .9 mile to the C&O Canal towpath via the Potomac River footbridge. Take in the view Thomas Jefferson described as, "*worth a voyage across the Atlantic*" and witness some of Harpers Ferry's transportation history.

For additional information, please contact the Visitor Center at 302-535-6029.