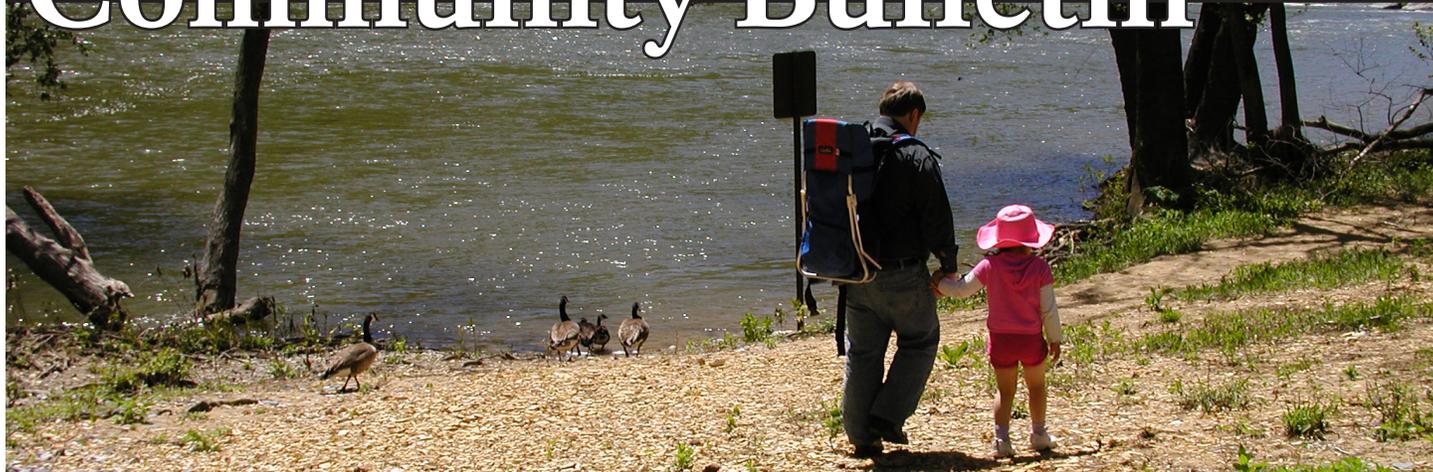




# Community Bulletin



## 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 27, 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 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 5 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 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.

### 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 19th century ruins of the Stone Fort.

**12:30-2:00 Murphy Farm "Tiger on the Trail" A hike for youngsters. Rating: moderate. 2.2 miles. Meet at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center to begin this hike.**

**1:00-2:00 Virginius Island Trail Walk—Rating: easy. Meet at the Lower Town Green.** Archeological evidence of our park's industrial and transportation stories can be found along the trail. Here lie the ruins of a bygone industrial center—Hall's and

Virginius Islands.

**2:00-3:00 Lower Town to Jefferson 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 miles to the C&O Canal towpath via the Potomac River footbridge. Witness Harpers Ferry's transportation history.

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

September 6 U. S. Marine Band "Free Country" will perform at Mather Training Center on Camp Hill from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free concert

September 20-21 The Eyes of the Army: The Cavalry Factor. Living History volunteers demonstrate cavalry riding, weapons firing, sabre drill, and bugling.

# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Unveils General Management Plan

Following four and one half years of study, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NHP) announces it's Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is now ready for public review.

A general management plan is a document that guides park management and development for the foreseeable future, in this case 15-20 years. Similar to a master plan for a community, it provides a vision and broad framework within which the park will manage cultural and natural resources, identify appropriate types and levels of visitor activities, and determine the extent of facility development needed. Incorporated into the general management plan is an environmental impact statement describing the effects of actions proposed in the plan.

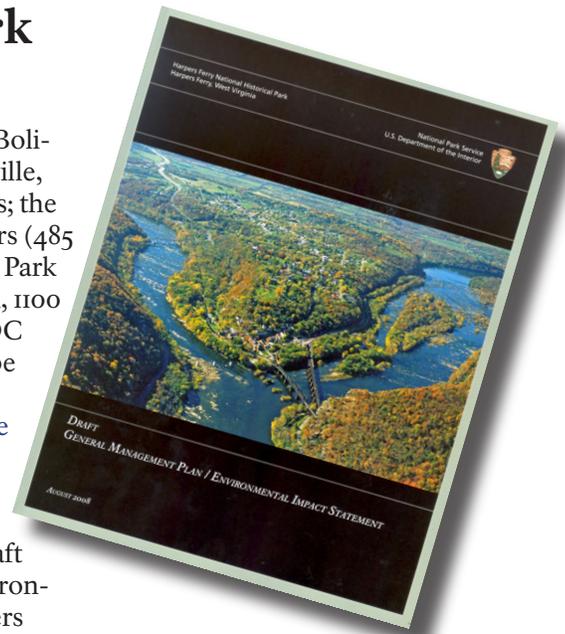
More than 3,800 copies of the document will be sent to the park's mailing list. Additional copies will be available

for review at the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar, Charles Town, WV; Lovettsville, VA; and Brunswick, MD libraries; the Harpers Ferry NHP headquarters (485 Fillmore Street); and at National Park Service, National Capital Region, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, DC 20242. The document will also be available on the internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hafe> and comments can be made directly to the website.

Along with the release of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will be conducting public meetings to explain the plan and to answer any questions the public may have. These are scheduled for:

**September 23, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the upper classroom of the Mather Training Center, 51 Mather Place, Harpers Ferry

**September 25, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the C. W. Shipley Elementary School on Route 340, Harpers Ferry.



The plan will be on review for a period of 60 days following publication of a notice in the Federal Register. We expect the review period to start mid-September.

Questions should be directed to Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, 485 Fillmore Street, P.O. Box 65, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425 or email address [HAFE\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:HAFE_Superintendent@nps.gov).



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 65  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center  
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop  
304-525-6881 or 800-821-5206

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page  
[www.nps.gov/hafe/](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## The Paymaster's Garden: Living Antiques

The park plants its kitchen garden with heirloom plants and seeds--living antiques. These varieties of plants are historically documented as being sold or grown locally in 19th century Harpers Ferry.

Heirloom vegetables are vegetables or herbs grown from seeds that have not been genetically improved or hybridized. Hybrid plants are bred from two different parent plants. If allowed to reseed, the hybrids will yield a plant that harks back to one of the parent plants. Unfortunately, most of these seeds are sterile.

Vegetables grown from heirloom seeds will produce fertile seeds yearly. A farmer or gardener could collect next year's seed for free and eliminate the yearly purchase of hybrid seeds. Heirloom seeds are also more genetically

diverse over the long-term and can defend against disease.



Park staff (L to R) Christy Tew, Megan Sullivan, and Vanessa Smiley show off heirloom vegetables that recently won ribbons at the Jefferson County Fair. Fair officials made note that historic varieties do not meet modern standards of smooth, no bumps, etc. They may add an heirloom section for next year's fair.