



Newsletter Number Two

Dear Friends,

In June 2008, our first newsletter announced the opportunity to participate in a General Management Plan (GMP) effort for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. When completed, the GMP will serve as a blueprint that will guide the management of the park for the next 15 to 20 years. In the newsletter we requested input from you on the draft management zones and preliminary alternatives. The newsletter was followed by two public open houses.

About 600 people attended the public open houses and we received over 2,000 written comments from the open houses and on Newsletter Number One. Many interested citizens and groups provided us with valuable information, suggestions and concerns. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the public open houses during June and July and your comments on Newsletter Number One. All of the input we received is being carefully considered. This newsletter summarizes the many comments we received so far in this process.

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In the next phase of the planning effort we are pulling together all of the input we received to refine the preliminary management alternatives, select a preferred alternative and prepare a draft General Management Plan, which will be presented for your review and comment in the Winter of 2009.

As we read through your comments, we realized that some of your general questions and assumptions about the



Memorial could be best addressed in another format, so from time to time, we will be updating the park's "Frequently Asked Questions." The "Frequently Asked Questions" can be found in the GMP section of the park website (www.nps.gov/jeff).

Your input has been instrumental, and we hope you will stay involved throughout the planning process, as we value your ideas and opinions. Please check the park website often for updates.

Sincerely,

Tom Bradley

Superintendent

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Your Comments

Earlier this Spring, the planning team developed a set of preliminary alternatives and management zones that take different approaches to achieving future desired conditions for the site and resolving long-standing issues. These preliminary alternatives were published in Newsletter Number One earlier this summer (June 2008). Since then, a tremendous number of comments have been received on-line, by correspondence and at the two public open houses. Well over 700 letters and comment forms (hard copy and electronic) were received at the park, and nearly fourteen hundred comments were collected at the two public open houses that were held in St. Louis on June 25 and July 1. The comments relayed numerous personal experiences many of you had with the Memorial. Also, the comments covered a broad range of issues, concerns, and recommendations for the park that reflect a public passionate about the future of the Memorial and its use. The complete Public Comment Summary Report (August 2008) can be found on the park website and hard copies of the report will be available at the Park.

What We Heard From You

A vast majority of the comments expressed appreciation for the Gateway Arch. Frequently, respondents mentioned the greenspace, tranquility and beauty of the Arch, and considered the greenspace to be an integral part of the Memorial's integrity. Others valued the history that the Memorial symbolizes and interprets on its grounds. Many other responses noted the economic benefits of the Memorial to the City of St. Louis. The majority of responses reflected a widespread desire to increase the connection between the Memorial and the City. In addition to these comments, we received comments regarding development, programs, the potential addition of East St. Louis, and park operations.

Development

Many comments addressed development. Comments were received both in support of and opposition to development. Comments in favor of more development expressed that new development on the Arch Grounds would improve and enhance the current conditions of the Memorial and help to attract more visitors and economic benefits. Comments in opposition to development on the Arch Grounds reflected a belief that the Arch Grounds were intrinsically valuable for the site's historic integrity, as well as for greenspace, and that development of the space would detract from the visitor's experience of the site.

Program and Visitor Services

The program and visitor service comments focused on adding more activities and amenities to the Arch Grounds, such as walking tours, concerts, and more restrooms. Comments noted a desire to purchase refreshments within the park.

Connectivity/Urban Interface

The public was highly supportive of improved connectivity, including safe, pedestrian-friendly access to downtown, the riverfront and the neighboring areas of Laclede's and Chouteau's Landings. Specific comments about the style of "connector" across Memorial Drive and the benefits of a connector were noted in about one-fourth of the comments.

Access

There was unanimity that the Arch Grounds must be more universally accessible and be more easily navigable for older adults and parents with young children in strollers, specifically, down to the riverfront and into the visitor center and museum under the Arch.

East St. Louis

There was a good deal of support for including the East St. Louis riverfront in the Memorial boundary and adding water taxis and other improvements into the General Management Plan.

Your Comments continued on page 3

Park Purpose

The park commemorates, through a designed memorial, the vision of Thomas Jefferson for building a unified continental nation and St. Louis' role as a confluence and gateway in the westward expansion of the United States during the 19th century.

The park interprets the key individuals and cultural groups involved in exploring, exploiting, and inhabiting the western lands from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

The park preserves the architecturally significant Old Courthouse as the site of the Dred Scott case, which divided North and South over the extension of slavery into the western territories and led to the American Civil War.

Park Significance

St. Louis was politically and geographically pivotal in the westward expansion of the United States during the 19th century. Significant historic events associated with westward expansion, exploration and the fur trade occurred at the site, including the transfer of the Louisiana Territory from Spain to France to the United States, the negotiation of numerous treaties removing Indian tribes from their lands, and the provisioning and return of the Lewis and Clark expedition. St. Louis was the starting point for numerous explorers, fur traders, overland pioneers, and others who made the journey west.

In 1846, Dred and Harriet Scott sued for their freedom from slavery at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis. This historic case, argued in 1847, 1850, and 1854, resulted in an 1857 U.S. Supreme Court decision which determined that all "people of color," enslaved or free, could not become citizens of the United States, and removed restrictions on the extension of slavery into the U.S. Western Territories, further dividing the North and South and eventually leading to the Civil War.

The Old Courthouse is a prime example of mid-19th century Greek Revival civic architecture, utilizing the very latest technological innovations and materials available at the time, including the first cast iron dome completed in the United States.

Park Significance continued on page 3

Park Operations

Comments regarding park operations focused on parking, the maintenance facility and security. Comments were received in support of and against keeping parking and the park maintenance facility on the Arch Grounds. The majority of the comments favored keeping parking on the Arch Grounds, whether at the current location in the North Node or in a different location. In general, the public recognized the need for security measures to protect the grounds and visitors.

Refining the Alternatives

Fewer than one-fifth of the comments we received noted any of the preliminary alternatives. Of the comments we did receive, Alternative 3 (Expanded Programming) and Alternative 4 (Portals) received the most comments. More frequently, the comments referenced a specific service, amenity, and type of development or connector.

Alternative 1: No Action –
A minimal amount of support was found for this alternative. Most of the comments expressed that a change in the current status was necessary to improve access, connectivity and use of the grounds.

Alternative 2: Connections –
Comments were received for and against Alternative 2. Some comments indicated more significant change was needed in programming or connectivity, while other comments favored the minimal development approach in Alternative 2.

Alternative 3: Expanded Programming –
The comments generally expressed a preference for an above ground museum/attraction/cultural facility to create more activity on the Arch Grounds and riverfront. These comments reflected a desire to create a destination atmosphere that would attract more visitors and economic benefits to St. Louis.

Alternative 4: Portals -
Comments specific to Alternative 4 noted a preference for how this alternative addresses the facility, accessibility, and urban improvement needs without greatly affecting the integrity of the Arch Grounds. Alternative 4 also generated support for the connection to the East St. Louis riverfront.

Alternative 5: Park Into the City -
Comments referencing Alternative 5 liked the emphasis on connecting the park and the city, and the additional activity at the North and South Nodes of the Memorial.

Summary

Overall, the comments support “invigorating” the Memorial, improving connections between the park and the surrounding areas, and for improving site accessibility. The comments reflect broad support for some level of development, though there is not consensus on the amount, location and type of development. Support for an above-ground attraction appears to be based on the desire to increase the tourist economy in downtown St. Louis, and has the strong support of the business and civic community and local governments. There is strong

The Memorial is recognized globally as an exceptional example of mid-20th century Modern design. The soaring Gateway Arch is one of the world’s great architectural and engineering achievements. It is a tangible symbol of St. Louis’ historical role as the “Gateway to the West,” purposefully located on the footprint of the original 1764 village of St. Louis. The site is recognized as a deliberate built experience, a complete design for a public monument, and a masterpiece of integrated composition of structure, landscape and interpretation.

The museum objects and archival records in the park’s collection document the westward expansion of the United States and the creation, planning, and building of the Memorial. The collection is used in ongoing research by scholars and staff and is the basis of the historic site’s interpretation programming and museum exhibits.

support as well for developments that would improve upon existing park facilities and maintain the Memorial’s greenspace, while preserving the character of the National Historic Landmark. The substantial number of comments generated in this process so far is reflective of the importance of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to St. Louis, the region and the nation.



The Old Courthouse

The history of the Old Courthouse mirrors the history of St. Louis and the entire United States. St. Louis was the true “Gateway to the West” during the nineteenth century, and its profile was accented by a tall, architecturally-significant building in which many of the most important scenes of the city’s life were played out. It was a public forum as well as a courthouse, a refuge for justice and a witness to the times. Slaves were auctioned from its steps in estate settlements, while one man’s suit for his freedom helped plunge the country into Civil War.

The Old Courthouse stands on land donated to St. Louis County in 1816 by Auguste Chouteau and Judge John B.C. Lucas, to be “used forever as the site on which the Courthouse of the County of St. Louis should be erected.” Up to that time, the courts had been housed in the Baptist church, a tavern, and the commandant’s house of the old Spanish fort. The first courthouse was built on the site between 1826 -1828, but within ten years the city outgrew this brick building.

A new design by Henry Singleton was chosen – a large four-winged stone structure topped by a low, classical dome. The existing courthouse was constructed in two phases, and began on October 21, 1839, with the laying of the cornerstone. The first phase of construction included the west wing, the rotunda, and two extensions which would later serve as links to the north and south wings. The Federal-style courthouse of 1828 was left standing and remained in use until the second phase of construction began in 1851. A huge celebration with bands and speeches was held to officially dedicate the rotunda on February 22, 1845.

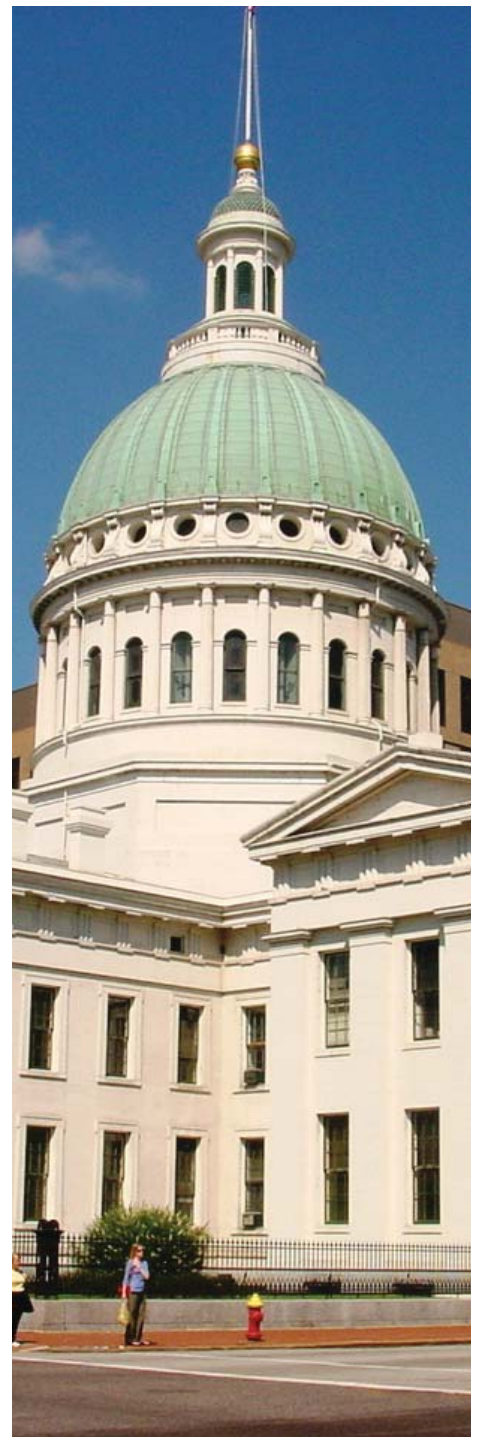
The large, ornate rotunda was a popular site where St. Louisans congregated to attend lectures, meetings, assemblies and other gatherings during the mid-nineteenth century. Emigrants bound for Oregon organized at the Old Courthouse. Rallies were held for volunteers when the War with Mexico began, and troops slept in the rotunda. A mass meeting of the supporters of slavery was followed a few weeks later by a meeting of slavery opponents. At an important national convention in October of 1849, Senator Thomas Hart Benton made an impassioned speech advocating a transcontinental railway.

The second stage of construction on the Old Courthouse, planned by Robert S. Mitchell, began in 1851. The original brick courthouse of 1828, still standing on the east side of the building, was demolished. The low Classical Revival dome was also removed, because it now looked out of proportion to the expanded building. William Rumbold designed a new cast-iron dome in the Italian-Renaissance style, modeled after St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. This new dome, along with that on the Federal Capitol in Washington, D.C., were the first of their kind in the U.S. By 1862, the Old Courthouse looked much as it does today.

But more important than the physical appearance of the building were events that unfolded within it. The lower west courtroom was the setting of one of the most important cases ever tried in the United States. In 1846, Dred and Harriet Scott, a slave couple, sued here for their freedom, which was granted in 1850. Their enslaver then appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court, which declared “times now are not as they were” when past decisions had been made, and returned the Scotts to slavery. St. Louis lawyer Roswell Field, disgusted at this partisan decision, convinced the Scotts to sue in Federal court, where they lost their case but appealed the verdict to the U.S. Supreme Court. In March 1857, the Supreme Court upheld the Missouri ruling that Dred Scott should remain a slave, decreed that African Americans could not be citizens of the United States, and declared the Missouri Compromise of 1820 unconstitutional. The Dred Scott Decision hastened the start of the Civil War.

The Old Courthouse, only two blocks from the Gateway Arch, is a splendid architectural treasure. Today it contains restored courtrooms, museum exhibits on local and national history, historical dioramas, and the headquarters of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. A film, “Slavery on Trial,” traces the history of the Dred Scott case along with an extensive exhibit that tells the story of the Scott family in detail. Ranger-led tours are available at scheduled times, or you may want to wander on your own, exploring a building which exemplifies some of the tumultuous years of our nation’s history.

For further information about the Old Courthouse visit www.nps.gov/jeff



Next Steps

Over the next several months, the planning team will continue to review the public input and adjust the preliminary alternatives as necessary based on public comment and agency input. The planning team will also analyze the effects of implementing each of the alternatives and compose rough cost estimates for each of the alternatives in order to identify a preferred alternative. A draft GMP/Environmental Impact Statement that includes the revised alternatives, and identifies a preferred alternative, will then be published and distributed to the public for review and comment. Additional public meetings will be held during this step of the process.

Contact Information

Mail:

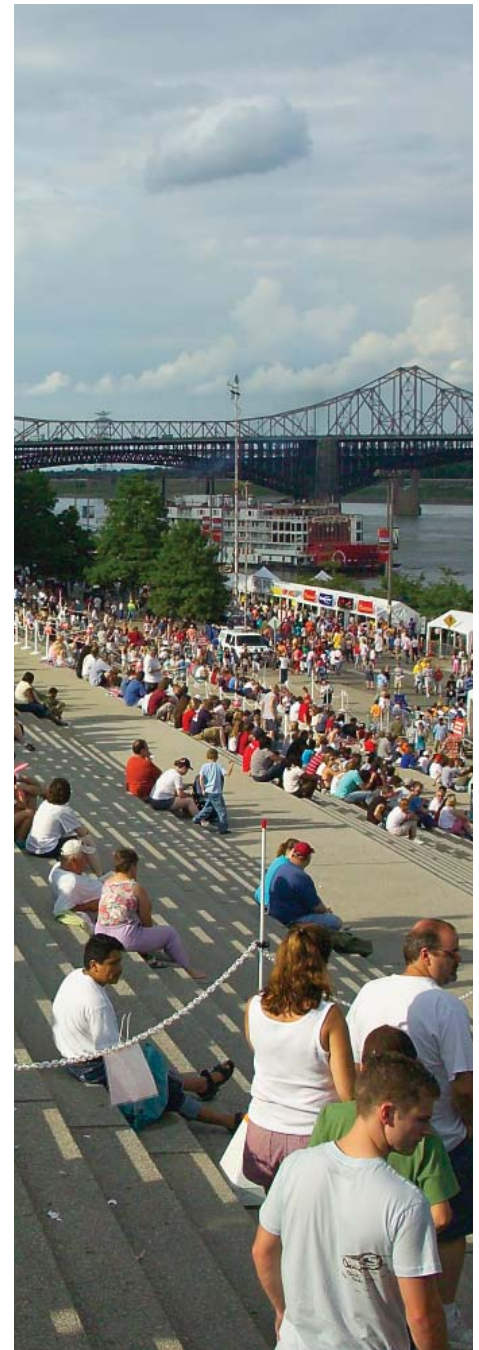
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GMP Planning Web Site: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jeff>



	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunity
Schedule	1 / Set the stage for planning and develop preliminary management activities: Affirm purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and primary interpretive themes of the Memorial; determine issues and concerns. Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the Memorial's future, assess their effects, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative.	Spring 2008 to Summer 2008	Provide comments on the initial alternatives by using a response form. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
	2 / Prepare and publish Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Prepare draft describing the planning, alternatives, and impacts; distribute to the public.	Fall 2008 to Winter 2009	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
	3 / Revise and publish Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.	Spring 2009 to Summer 2009	
	4 / Implement the approved plan: Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement plan as funding allows.	Fall 2009 and beyond	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan.