

CHAPTER THREE: MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following management recommendations are provided to help the park apply the research provided through this study, the List of Classified Structures survey (LCS), and the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI). No structures from the 1900 to 1903 Wright brothers site remain. Most of the resources from the commemorative period, 1926 to 1941, including the Wright Brothers Monument and the First Flight Marker, have been protected and should be included in the visitor experience at the park.

The area defined by the location of Kill Devil Hill, the monument, the marker, the powerhouse, the monument's curving trails and circular road and the spatial relationship between the monument and marker represents the historic commemorative zone of the park. Every effort should be made to protect and interpret these resources as the remaining elements of the first commemoration of the Wright brothers' work. No alterations or additions should be made in this area that detract from the commemorative core. Especially significant is the vista along the axis from the Wright Brothers Monument to the First Flight Marker. The existing vegetation adjacent to the commemorative zone is not historically significant and can be manipulated in order to reinforce the memorial space or to screen out undesirable views to adjacent development. Refocusing the visitor experience on the monument and marker should include reopening the monument to visitor access and utilizing the series of curving trails on the monument hill. Traffic on the circular drive may be restricted, but removable bollards or chains are preferable to the construction of more permanent gates. Every effort should be made to use the historic material for resurfacing the road and trails. The First Flight Marker should be returned to its original orientation with the inscription facing the monument on the south.

The maintenance area and superintendent's residence are not significant to the historic commemorative zone. Limited development or removal of these areas will not compromise the park district's historic value.

The reconstructed hangar and quarters buildings should be removed from their current location. If rebuilt, the exhibits should be placed in the Visitor Center or in an area where they do not intrude on the historic commemorative zone. The site and history of the buildings may be identified with a small wayside.

The National Register documentation for the park will be updated to include the new periods of significance and lists of contributing and noncontributing resources as discussed in this study.

Any future changes to structures or landscape features at the park should be recorded because some resources, such as the visitor center and the airstrip, may achieve significance at a later date.