State of the Park Report for Andersonville NHS

Scoping Workshop and Report Development Documentation

February 12-13, 2014

1. Introduction

This document provides background information and methods used to develop the 2013 State of the Park report for ANDE, including a summary of the scoping workshop process, the list of participants involved in the scoping workshop and the assessments of resource condition, and notes to document why certain decisions or assessments were made.

A State of the Park report will be developed for each park to "assess the overall status of park resources and use this information to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public in a clear and simple way" (NPS Call to Action Plan). The report is a truthful assessment of the overall condition of priority park resources and values, irrespective of the ability of the park superintendent or the National Park Service to influence it. The purpose of each report is to:

- Provide to visitors and the American public a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park's priority resources and values.
- Summarize and communicate complex scientific, scholarly, and park operations factual information and expert opinion using non-technical language and a visual format.
- Highlight park stewardship activities and accomplishments to maintain or improve the State of the Park.
- Identify key issues and challenges facing the park to help inform park management planning.

State of the Park reports bring a standardized approach to assessing the condition of priority resources and values for a park, and for communicating the condition summaries. The reports focus on the priority resources and values of the park based on the park's purpose and significance, as described in the park's Foundation Document or General Management Plan. The assessments of resource condition are based upon the best available scientific and scholarly research, reports, and publications, which are cited and linked to throughout the report and the associated "drill-down website version" of the report, but the condition assessments also involve expert opinion and the professional judgment of park staff and the subject matter experts involved in developing the report. The in-depth knowledge by park staff of park resources and recent events and activities, plus their expertise from being involved in the day-to-day practice of all aspects of park stewardship, are reflected throughout this report.

The status and trends in the condition of priority park resources and values are continually changing, and this State of the Park Report will require updating as new data and understanding for the resources becomes available. A full revision of the report is expected every five years; however, incremental updates may be made periodically between major revisions.

2. Approach and Methodology

2.1 Definition of Key Terms

- **Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values**: Fundamental resources and values are the particular systems, processes, experiences, scenery, sounds, and other features that are key to achieving the park's purposes and maintaining its significance. Other important resources and values are those attributes that are determined to be particularly important to park management and planning, although they are not central to the park's purpose and significance. These priority resources are identified in the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan. The short-cut name that will be used for this will be **Priority Resources**.

- **Desired Conditions**: A qualitative description of the integrity and character for a set of resources and values, including visitor experiences, that park management has committed to achieve and maintain. These Desired Conditions are tied to the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan.

- **Indicator of Condition**: A selected subset of components or elements of a Priority Resource (i.e., a Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value for the park) that are particularly "information rich" and that represent or "indicate" the overall condition of the Priority Resource. There may be one or several indicators of condition for a particular Priority Resource.

- **Specific Measure of Condition**: One or more specific measurements used to quantify or qualitatively evaluate the condition of an Indicator at a particular place and time. There may be one or more Specific Measures of Condition for each Indicator of Condition.

- **Current Condition**: The current quantifiable or otherwise objective value or range of values for an Indicator or Specific Measure of Condition based on scientific data or scholarly analysis.

2.2 Symbols Used to Communicate State and Trend in Resource Condition

The Status and Trend symbols used throughout the State of the Park report are summarized in the following key. The background color (Green, Yellow, or Red) represents the current condition of a resource, the direction of the arrow summarizes the trend in condition, and the thickness of the outside line represents the degree of confidence in the assessment of condition based on available data and understanding. In some cases, the arrow is omitted because data are not sufficient for calculating a trend (e.g., data from a one-time inventory or insufficient sample size).

Condition Status		Trend in Condition		Confidence in Assessment	
	Warrants Significant Concern		Condition is Improving		High
	Warrants Moderate Concern		Condition is Unchanging		Medium
	Resource is in Good Condition		Condition is Deteriorating		Low

Examples of how the symbols should be interpreted:

Resource is in good condition, its condition is improving, high confidence in the assessment.

Condition of resource warrants moderate concern; condition is unchanging; medium confidence in the assessment.

Condition of resource warrants significant concern; trend in condition is unknown or not applicable; low confidence in the assessment.

2.3 Rules for Combining Multiple Status and Trend Symbols

The overall assessment of the condition for a Priority Resource or Value may be based on a combination of the status and trend of multiple indicators and specific measures of condition. A set of rules are proposed for summarizing the overall Status of a particular Priority Resource based on assessments of Status for two or more specific measures of condition, and for summarizing the overall Trend for the resource based on multiple Trend arrows. The proposed set of rules, based on an approach used by Parks Canada Agency to develop State of the Park reports, is as follows:

Condition:
To determine the combined condition, each red symbol is assigned zero points, each yellow symbol is assigned 50 points, and each green symbol 100 points. Calculate the average, and apply the scale below to determine the resulting color.

Score 0 to 33	Score 34 to 66	Score 67 to 100
Red	Yellow	Green

Trend:
To determine the overall trend, subtract the total number of down arrows from the total number of up arrows. If the result is 3 or greater, the overall trend is up. If the result is -3 or lower, the overall trend is down. If the result is between 2 and -2, the overall trend is unchanged.

3. Scoping Workshop Agenda and Participants

The ANDE State of the Park workshop was held at Americus, GA on February 12-13, 2014. See Appendix 1 for the workshop agenda.

3.1 Participants in Development of the State of the Park Report

Name	Title
Brad Bennett	Park Superintendent
Alan Marsh	Chief of Resource Management
Eric Leonard	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Amy Hite	Chief of Maintenance
Karen Barry	Chief of Administration
Kevin Bentley	FMSS Support Specialist
Ali Miri (unable to attend due to weather issues)	Historical Architect, Southeast Region
Lisa Garrett (unable to attend due to weather issues)	Division Chief , Inventory and Monitoring, Southeast Region
Joe DeVivo (unable to attend due to weather issues)	Ecologist and Program Manager, Southeast Coast I&M Network
Jim Haskell	State of the Parks Project Manager

4. Notes/Comments about Decisions Made in Selecting the List of Priority Resources and Values, Indicators of Condition, and Specific Measures of Condition and Assessing the Condition of Priority Resources

The internet version of the park's State of the Park report, available at http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/ande/, provides detailed information and sources of information for the resources summarized in the report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytical approaches used in the assessments. The intent of the "drill-down website version" is to allow the reader to access the large amount of complex scientific and scholarly data and information upon which the assessments of condition are based. There will be some situations in which it may not be clear how the assessments were made based on the underlying "evidence" available through the website version plus the professional expertise of the participants. The information and notes in the table below are intended to assist the readers and reviewers of the report in understanding why certain decisions were made as part of summarizing a large amount of complex data and information and professional judgment for the purposes of communicating the information to visitors and the public.

4.1 Notes/Comments about the List of Priority Resources Used in the Report

Priority Resource or Value	Notes/Comments
	[include any notes or comments about why certain resources were selected to be included in the report]

4.2 Natural Resources Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments

4.3 Cultural Resources Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments
Archeological Resources	
Cultural Anthropology	
Cultural Landscapes	
Historic Structures	
History	
Museum Collections	

4.4 Visitor Experience Section

Priority Resource	Notes/Comments
Visitor Numbers and Visitor Satisfaction	

Interpretive and Education Programs – Talks, Tours, and Special Events	
Interpretive Media – Brochures, Exhibits, Signs, and Website	
Accessibility	
Safety	
Park Community: Volunteers and Partnerships	

4.5 Park Infrastructure Section

Report Component	Notes/Comments
Overall Facility Condition Index (FCI)	Facility condition data extracted from NPS Facility Management Software System (FMSS): Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Current Replacement Value (CRV) are summed by Asset Category for all assets with "Operating", "Oper/Obso", or "Inactive" Status. Each Asset Category's FCI is calculated by dividing its subtotaled DM by its subtotaled CRV. The park's Overall FCI is calculated by dividing its total DM by its total CRV. A lower FCI indicates a better condition. To achieve standardization between 2008 and 2013, 2008 CRV is multiplied by (1.7774 ÷ 1.45), resulting in 2008 Adjusted CRV.
FCI Condition Status	FCI ≤ 0.100 the facility is in Good condition 0.100 > FCI ≤ 0.150 the facility warrants Moderate concern FCI > 0.150 the facility warrants Significant concern
FCI Condition Trend	Based on calculated percentage change in FCI: (2013 FCI - 2008 FCI) ÷ 2008 FCI. Up Arrow: FCI improved by > 10% over the 5 years Unchanged: FCI is within plus or minus 10%, 2013 vs. 2008 Down Arrow: FCI degraded by > 10% over the 5 years
API/FCI Scatter Plot	Retrieved from AMRS. For more information, refer to: http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/assets/docs/Park_Facility_Management_Terminology_and_Concepts.pdf
Energy Consumption and Water Consumption (Green Parks Plan)	Energy and Water consumption graphs were obtained from the NPS Energy Data Reporting Tool (EDRT). A Resource Brief describing the park energy and water use is included in the report.

4.6 Other Notes or Comments

Appendix 1 – Workshop Agenda

Agenda
State of the Park Report Workshop
Andersonville National Historic Site

Location: Americus, GA
Dates: February 12-13, 2014

Day 1 (Wednesday, February 12)

8:30 Welcome and Introductions

Overview of State of the Park reporting: What we are doing and why.

- Brief overview of State of the Park reporting and why it is important. "It's the Park's report"
- Review examples of the State of the Park products and what goes into each chapter
- Review the initial starting draft of the State of the Park report for ANDE and what we have already compiled from various sources for the park's consideration.
- Work through examples for different types of Resources and Values
- Show examples of Resource Briefs and how different resources or events or accomplishments by the park can be highlighted in the reports
- Demonstrate the internet version of the report and show how the IRMA data system makes it possible to "drill down" to technical reports and documents and "evidence" that are the basis for the assessments of condition
- Brainstorming session to develop ideas and materials for Resource Briefs and Chapter 3:
    - What are the three biggest success stories at the park in the past five years?
    - What are some of the noteworthy stewardship actions and activities that the park is doing to maintain or improve the condition of Priority Resources and Values?
    - What accomplishments and "stories" should we highlight in the report as Resource Briefs? What are some of the things you are proud of, or that you think are really important, and that you want to tell people about?
- Instructions to the breakout groups for work on priority Resources and Values, Indicators of Condition, Specific Measures of Condition: what we will be doing today and tomorrow in breakout groups.

10:20 20 minute break

10:40 Breakout Groups: Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience. Jim Haskell will meet with Chief of Maintenance to discuss the Park Infrastructure section later today.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Breakout Groups: Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience

4:00 Reconvene the larger group. Review progress and discuss any problem areas or questions that came up.

Discuss plans for Day 2. Revisit the list of suggested Resource Brief topics and the lead for each.

4:30 Adjourn for the day.

Day 2 (Thursday, February 13)

8:30 Continue the group discussion about management/stewardship actions that the park is taking to maintain or improve resource condition

9:00 Breakout groups: additional time in smaller groups to continue discussions and assess the condition of priority resources

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Reconvene the larger group

- Review progress for each of the sections of Chapter 2
- Identify any documents that provide the basis for the condition assessments and "stories" that need to be uploaded into the IRMA data system
- Break out into workgroups as needed to continue work on State of the Park tables
- Some people work independently to summarize data, track down various documents and datasets, and begin writing content for Chapters 3 and 4 of the reports.

Adjourn the larger workshop, but use the remaining time for people to work individually or in small groups on writing assignments, and for gathering up documents to upload to the IRMA data system.

3:00 If needed, reconvene the larger group to make sure all of the objectives of the workshop have been met, review who will take the lead on each action item, each of the resource briefs, and getting digital copies of references.

4:00 Final comments and close out