



# News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

*News from White Haven* is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. It is also available online by visiting [www.nps.gov/ulsg/](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/).

#### Editorial Staff

Katherine Potter  
Pam Sanfilippo  
Abbi Telander

#### Chief of Interpretation

Chris Eckard

#### Contributors

Dick Nixon  
Kristine Sneeringer

#### Comments? Write to:

Chief of Interpretation  
Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site  
7400 Grant Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123

#### Telephone

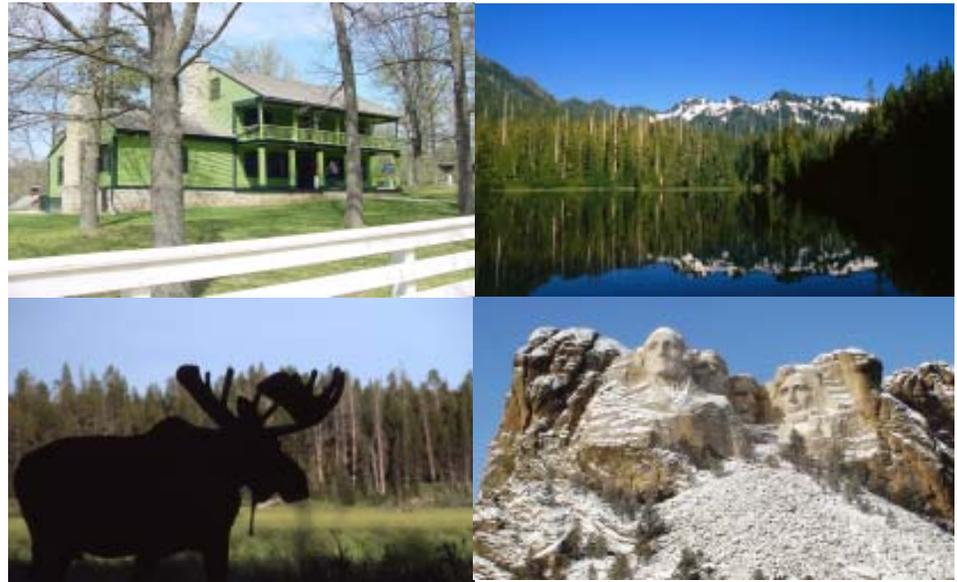
314-842-3298 x245

#### E-mail

[ulsg\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov)

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

## Green: An NPS Color



Clockwise from top left: Ulysses S. Grant NHS, Olympic NP, Mount Rushmore NM, Yellowstone NP. Photos: National Park Service.

People recognize the National Park Service as a caretaker of beautiful places and historic treasures. The green-and-gray of the NPS uniform appears in nearly 400 units stretching across the continent and the islands beyond. That's a lot of acreage, animal and plant species, structures, roads, trails, and potential influence.

In 2007, approximately 275 million people visited our national parks, which translates to around 750,000 a day. With such a large visiting audience, there exists a wonderful opportunity to protect the earth and influence people. One of our primary messages concerns the

preservation of our natural and cultural resources. It's clear at natural parks, like Olympic and Yellowstone, that the landscape and habitat should be preserved, but it is just as important at historic parks like Ulysses S. Grant NHS.

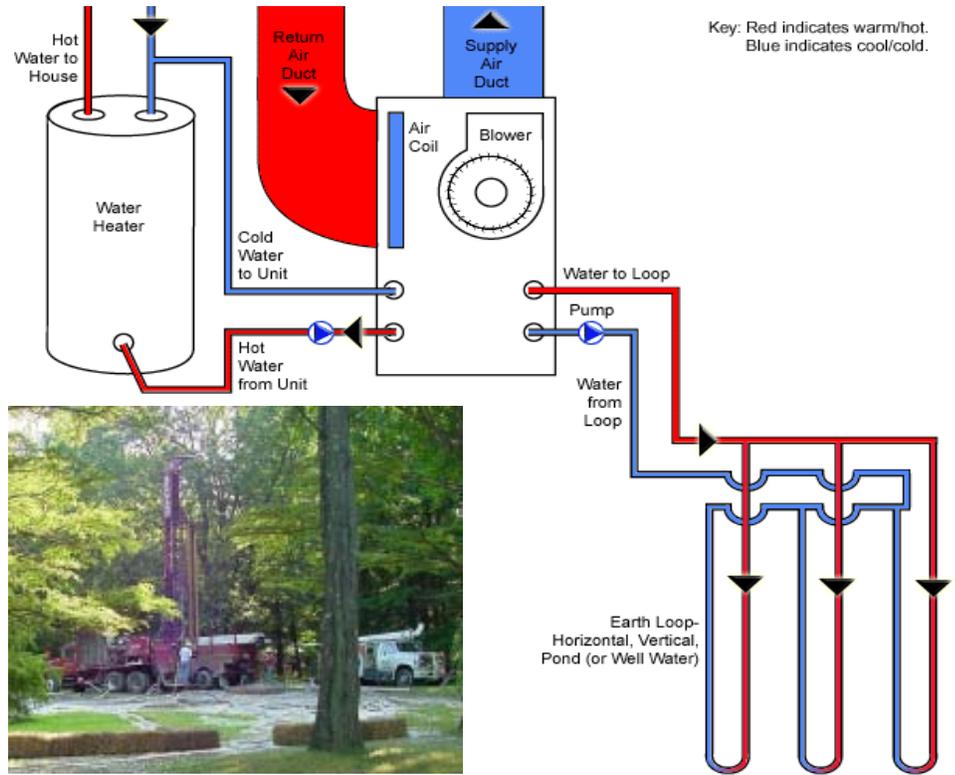
We are continually adapting our methods to be greener and environmentally conscious by recycling, using sustainable construction materials, and employing energy-saving utilities and means of transportation. Environmental Leadership is one of the goals of the NPS Centennial Challenge ([www.nps.gov/2016](http://www.nps.gov/2016)), which will mark the NPS 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Is green one of your colors?



## Spotlight on the Park: Cool Geothermal Heating System

Geothermal heating is the process of using the earth's heat to create a relatively constant, baseline temperature from which to warm or cool a building. Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site employs this process to heat and air condition several buildings and to heat water. According to Superintendent Mike Ward, there are numerous advantages to this system. It eliminates the need for a modern condensing unit outside an historic structure. It also provides a significant cost savings over time. There are no CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as there are from burning natural gas. It is environmentally friendly, contributing to the park's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

There are two ways that the transfer of heat from the earth to a building is accomplished—water to water or water to air. In both cases, water is pumped through pipes that extend vertically deep into the ground,



This diagram shows the type of geothermal heating system used at the site. Inset: Buechting Drilling Company of Imperial, Missouri, drills to install the vertical pipes that pump and heat water to run the geothermal system. This system was installed in June 2003. Diagram: Green Business Technologies. Photo: National Park Service.

thereby heating the water. The warm water creates radiant heat or warm air to be used in a forced air system.

Geothermal heating has real

applicability in today's world. It can be used to heat and cool homes and businesses in a more environmentally friendly manner and its use continues growing throughout the Midwest.

## Pure Power and the National Park Service: A Natural Partnership

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site continues its commitment to green practices as the first NPS site in the Midwest region to switch to buying wind and water power.

Recently, the Midwest Region Contracting branch received approval from the Solicitor's office for purchasing green power. Ameren UE, the local utility company, has allowed for

its customers to pay 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour more for "pure power." The program, which is certified by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy, removes a customer's energy use off of the normal carbon-based grid and replaces it with the same amount of green power.

With a commitment to participate as a Pure Power

Supporter, the site will help prevent 448,500 pounds of carbon dioxide, a leading greenhouse gas, from entering the atmosphere each year. This is equal to the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction equivalent of protecting 170 acres of forest-storing carbon for one year or taking 44 cars off the road for a year. Now that pure power has approval from the NPS Solicitor and the Midwest Region, any NPS site can use pure power if it is offered in their area.



**Ulysses S. Grant NHS**  
7400 Grant Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
(314) 842-3298

## Upcoming Events

- March 15-May 15: “White House Horses” exhibit from the White House Historical Association on display in the Visitor Center.
- April 19-27: National Park Week. NPS Postage Stamp exhibit on display in the Visitor Center.
- April 26: Junior Ranger Day includes a variety of activities for kids aged 5-14.
- May 2-4: Ulysses S. Grant Association annual meeting in St. Louis.
- May 18-September 7: “Lee and Grant” exhibition on loan from the Virginia and New-York Historical Societies at the Missouri History Museum.

## Did you know?

John Wilkes Booth intended to assassinate two men, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, in Ford’s Theatre on the evening of April 14, 1865. The Lincolns had invited General and Mrs. Grant to accompany them to the theater that night. However, the Grants declined the invitation, as Julia insisted on returning that day to Burlington, New Jersey, to see their children.

Ulysses agreed and they took the afternoon train to Philadelphia.

Still, Grant barely escaped. Booth’s accomplices watched Julia at lunch that day and followed the Grants’ carriage to the train station. On April 15, the Grants received an anonymous letter that read, “General Grant, thank God, as I do, that you still live. It was your life that fell to

my lot, and I followed you on the [train] cars. Your car door was locked, and thus you escaped me, thank God!”

Grant regretted not going to the theater with the Lincolns, sure he could have done something to prevent the President’s death.

*Based on information from The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant, and Grant by Jean Edward Smith.*