



## Yosemite Museum Master Plan

### Why plan for the museum?

Yosemite's collection of over 2 million items is one of the oldest and finest in the National Park Service in size, value, and complexity. The Yosemite Museum Master Plan is a joint project of the National Park Service and The Yosemite Fund to address renovation and, where necessary, expansion of the museum



**Yosemite Museum: then and now**  
Former "club room" converted into research library

to house the exhibits, museum storage, work spaces, library and archives of Yosemite National Park. An emphasis of the plan is enhanced preservation and protection of museum objects, as well as more public access to this important collection. Currently, museum objects are exhibited in a portion of the historic Yosemite Museum building, which was completed in 1925. Other portions of the historic Museum Building are now used as offices and storage for non-museum functions. Despite the historic significance of the Yosemite Museum, there are limitations in the current museum facility and program, including insufficient space for exhibits, collections, and archival storage, and problems controlling the environmental conditions in the historic building. The Yosemite Museum Master Plan will provide a means to address these issues, modernize our museum facilities, and develop a museum program that will better serve park visitors.

---

### What are the objectives of the Yosemite Museum Master Plan?

The objectives of the Yosemite Museum Master Plan include:

- Provide sufficient and appropriate space for Yosemite's museum exhibits, archives, and library
- Restore the historic Yosemite Museum to its original function as a museum
- Improve public access to collection for research and education purposes
- Consolidate museum collections in one location
- Provide sufficient and appropriate storage space for collections
- Examine the potential for integrating visitor center functions into the new museum facility

---

### What are some of the key questions for this plan to address?

Important questions that will need to be addressed in the Yosemite Museum Master Plan include:

- Is it necessary to renovate and/or expand the Yosemite Museum?
  - What function does the museum serve at Yosemite National Park?
  - Should collections and archives storage be located with the museum exhibit facility in Yosemite Valley or can some storage functions be located in the El Portal Administrative Site, a gateway community, or in another location?
  - Should the park combine some Visitor Center functions with the new museum facility or keep those functions separate?
-

---

## What is the planning process for the Yosemite Museum Master Plan?

At present, the Yosemite Museum Master Plan is following the guidance of the *Yosemite Valley Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*, which proposes to restore the function of the historic Museum building, relocate collections storage to Yosemite Valley, adaptively reuse or replace the Valley Visitor Center as a museum facility, and potentially relocate the Valley Visitor Center to another Yosemite Village location. The planning team has been carefully documenting the future needs of the museum program, and is analyzing the suitability of the *Yosemite Valley Plan* proposal to provide for this future program. If changes to the *Yosemite Valley Plan* proposal result from Museum Master Planning, then the park would complete the appropriate environmental analysis and documentation. The park is currently determining the compliance level of the project based on museum function programmatic needs. Information and updates will be available online.

---

## Public Participation

Public participation is essential for the success of this and all other park projects. Here are some ways to stay involved in the park:

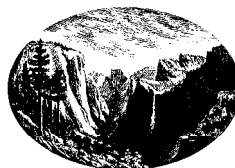
- **Attend a National Park Service public open house** to talk with project specialists and obtain more information on this topic. Visit the park's planning website (listed below) for upcoming dates.
- **Add your name to the park's planning list** and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive the park's periodic electronic newsletter.
- **Additionally, you can submit comments with your thoughts about this topic or any other project in the park by any of the following means:**

**Mail:** Superintendent  
Attn: Yosemite Museum Master Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

**Phone:** 209/379-1365; **Fax:** 209/379-1294

**E- mail:** [Yose\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_Planning@nps.gov)

- **Visit online:** [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm)



**THE YOSEMITE FUND**  
*Providing for Yosemite's Future*