Meeting Objectives

- Provide an opportunity for participation of friends of the park in the planning process for the Spanish American War Battery
- Provide a summary of the history of the Battery and an overview of the site and its significance and context in the neighborhood and the Preserve
- Identify NPS goals for the Spanish American War Battery
- Present a summary of the planning process for the site including preservation of significant cultural and natural resources
- Provide a timeline for the project and define where we are in the planning process
- Describe opportunities to participate in the planning process now and in the future
Site History, Significance, and Context

Strategic Location

- The Spanish American War Battery is located on St. Johns Bluff on the south side of the St. Johns River.

- As a defensive post, St. Johns Bluff offered one of the highest elevations along the river corridor and a strategic location near the mouth of the river.

- St. Johns Bluff has been the site of five fortifications over a period from 1564 to 1898. The Spanish American War Battery was the last in a series of military defense emplacements established over a period of more than 250 years.

- The importance of the Spanish American War Battery as an intact example of a period battery has long been recognized.
Site History, Significance, and Context

Physical Context

- The Battery is located within the southeastern portion of the Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve.

- Northwest of the site is the Timucuan Preserve Visitor Center, located at Fort Caroline National Memorial. To the south is the 600-acre Theodore Roosevelt Area.

- The site occupies approximately 2.96 acres in a residential subdivision located within Duval County, Florida.
Spanish American War Battery
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida

Project Site, Context, and Significance
Acquisition of the Battery Land Parcel

- In 1934, the property was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

- During the late twentieth century, the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) began working towards acquisition and protection of the property.

- Acquisition of the Battery for inclusion in Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was indicated as a priority of the National Park Service (NPS) in its 1990 General Management Plan.

- The NFLT and the City of Jacksonville purchased the battery parcel in 2016.

- NPS accepted the deed for the fort property from the NFLT on December 14, 2018.
**Project Site, Context, and Significance**

Current Management Goals

- Establish preservation protocols
- Provide access to the public
- Management improvements
  - Parking
  - Views / Viewsheds
  - Fencing and Signage
  - Vegetation
  - Battery Structure
  - Visitor Experience and Safety
  - Interpretation
Summary of the NPS Planning Process

- Cultural Landscape Report underway to provide a landscape-level understanding of the property. ETA 2021

- Historic Structure Report on concrete masonry fort to develop treatment recommendations for the continued preservation and maintenance of the fort. ETA 2023

- Archeological survey of the area to identify buried archeological deposits to further investigate and avoid during construction of any infrastructure. ETA 2023

- Work with engineering team to create preliminary and schematic designs (blueprints) for any infrastructure necessary to provide interpretation and preservation of the battery. ETA 2024

- Contract with construction company to create parking lot, install fencing, signage, and accessibility infrastructure. ETA 2025
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Purpose of the Document

Definition of a Cultural Landscape

“... a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibit other cultural or aesthetic values.”

- NPS Preservation Brief 36

Cultural Landscape Report for the Spanish American War Battery

The CLR will provide needed documentation of the cultural landscape and facilitate development of an appropriate treatment alternative to guide future fort restoration and visitor use. The CLR will facilitate an understanding of events associated with the history of the Spanish American War and its relationship to more than 300 years of military presence in the Jacksonville area.
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Landscape History

1862
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Landscape History

1899
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Landscape History

1944
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Landscape History

2020
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Existing Conditions
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Existing Conditions
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

Existing Conditions
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
Landscape Significance and Integrity

Contributing Features Map
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR Part II: Treatment Plan / General Recommendations

• Protect and maintain all contributing cultural landscape features in good condition including the Spanish American War Battery, views to St. Johns River, sloped topography, and deciduous and evergreen woodland vegetation south of the battery.

• Conduct appropriate care of the battery based on condition issues and maintain the battery free of vegetation. Develop a preservation treatment guide that addresses concrete, masonry and metal materials associated with the structure.

• Engage an arborist to evaluate the trees and address any pruning or removal needs related to potential hazards to the public, park staff, and the battery.

• Erect boundary fencing along the property perimeter and mark the property as administered by the National Park Service.

• Facilitate development of a design concept option that ensures at a minimum that the public will be allowed to enter the property during prescribed hours in order to experience the historical character of the site and learn about the history and context of the Spanish American War Battery.

• Develop the design concept option in coordination with the NPS and in response to specific park objectives and management and maintenance issues.
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR: Part II: Treatment Plan / Potential Concept Design Option

Design Goals

• Maintain historical character of the site and minimize visual intrusions in the cultural landscape

• Address pedestrian and vehicular circulation

• Consider options for providing interpretative information to the public

• Address visual separation of the property from neighboring properties

• Consider access control and visitor safety

• Identify and protect / restore significant views and vistas
Spanish American War Battery
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida

Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR: Part II: Treatment Plan / Potential Concept Design Option

Concept Design Plan

- Entrance / exit drive from Fort Caroline Road, gates at the entrance and exit lanes
- Angled parking for six regular and two ABAAS/ADA accessible spaces
- Accessible walkways leading to paved orientation area with benches and interpretive panels
- Cleared site line to the battery
- Accessible elevated path leading to the battery and a raised landing with interpretive panels and handrail/barrier
- Non-accessible elevated boardwalk with stair to bluff overlook with handrail/barrier
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report

CLR: Part II: Treatment Plan / Potential Concept Design Option

Section Looking South
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR Part II: Treatment Plan / Options for Structures, Materials, and Colors

Boundary Fences
Privacy Fences
Paving and Parking
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR Part II: Treatment Plan / Options for Structures, Materials, and Colors

Accessible Path and Overlook Railings

Accessible Path Surfaces
Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR Part II: Treatment Plan / Options for Structures, Materials, and Colors

Stairs to Overlook

Signage
Spanish American War Battery
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida

Overview of the Cultural Landscape Report
CLR Part II: Treatment Plan / Options for Structures, Materials, and Colors

Benches

Trash Receptacles
Spanish American War Battery
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida

Question and Answer Session