

WHAT'S NEXT?

The planning team will be working on developing preliminary alternatives over the next several months. This process starts with drafting management prescriptions, which are descriptions of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences and appropriate levels of development. Once the management prescriptions are determined, the planning team will develop a range of alternative future scenarios for the national monument by varying how these prescriptions are applied to particular areas in the monument called zones and varying the placement of the zones. You will have opportunities to comment on and contribute ideas about these alternative future scenarios. We anticipate sending those out in a newsletter later this year.

Step	Planning Activity	What You Can do
1	Assemble planning team and design the process for carrying out the project. (Spring 2005)	
2	Determine issues and concerns from public NPS staff, and other agencies. Gather and analyze resource and visitor use information. (Summer - Fall 2005)	Read newsletter and send us your comments. Attend public meetings.
3 Where we are now	Develop and evaluate a range of alternatives.	Read alternatives newsletter 3 (Fall 2006) and send us any further thoughts or concerns.
4	Prepare and publish the <i>Draft Effigy Mounds General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> for public review. The draft will describe alternatives and anticipated impacts. (Summer 2006 - Summer 2007)	Read draft plan and send us your comments. Attend public meetings.
5	Revise, publish, and distribute the <i>Final Effigy Mounds General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> . (Fall 2007 - Spring 2008)	
6	Implement the plan. After the "Record of Decision" is issued, the plan will be carried out as funding allows. (starting Summer 2008)	Support the monument in implementing the plan.

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National Park Service
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Effigy Mounds National Monument
Iowa



Summary of Comments



Dear Friends,

Effigy Mounds National Monument is in the early stages of a process to develop a general management plan — a 20-year vision for the monument's protection and management. As an important part of this process, the planning team collected information from the general public and interested parties regarding what they value about the national monument, related issues or opportunities, and visions for the monument's future. We mailed our first newsletter last November, with a return comment form, and held two public meetings. As a result, we received many good comments and ideas that are summarized in this newsletter.

I want to thank you for your time, thoughtful comments, and continued interest in this process. Many of you have expressed specific ideas and concerns about the monument and its future. Your input has been, and will continue to be, invaluable in helping us develop a management plan that will make a lasting difference in long-term management.

Thank you for your interest in the future of Effigy Mounds National Monument.


Phyllis Ewing
Superintendent

WHAT WE HEARD SO FAR – A SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

In November 2005 more than 200 newsletters were distributed to the public and local agencies to announce the beginning of a new general management plan (GMP) for Effigy Mounds National Monument. The newsletter introduced the National Park Service planning process and outlined how the public can participate. The newsletter also invited anyone interested to attend and provide comments at public meetings in McGregor, Iowa, and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

In the newsletter and at the meetings, the planning team asked the following questions:

- *What do you value most about Effigy Mounds National Monument?*

- *What are the most important issues affecting the resources of the national monument now and in the future?*
- *Given the purpose, significance, and fundamental resources for Effigy Mounds, how do you think the monument should look or be managed in 20 years?*
- *Any other comments or ideas?*

Twenty-five people signed in at the two meetings, and their comments were recorded on flip charts. In addition, we received 27 comment forms and letters through the mail and 4 comments through the Park Service's planning website. All the comments received were read and considered and are summarized below.

OTHER COMMENTS

Some other comments or ideas we received follow:

- *Include site-specific interpretation (Heritage Addition, river confluence, bluffs, etc.).*
- *Put more artifacts in display.*
- *Keep entrance fees low.*
- *Encourage canoeing on Yellow River.*
- *Partner with Yellow River State Forest, state parks, and counties.*
- *Consider establishing a National Heritage Area.*
- *Keep a pristine piece of land, the Heritage Addition, for Iowa and the country.*
- *Record and interpret early Indian settlement remnants on the Heritage Addition.*
- *Consider acquiring more mounds/land.*



WHAT THE PUBLIC VALUES

In general, we heard that the public values the cultural and natural resources in the monument. More specifically, the public values the well-preserved Indian mounds, scenic views, natural beauty, and resources. In addition, respondents appreciate the recreational opportunities (hiking, birding, etc.) and participation in various programs and events offered at the monument.

"Effigy Mounds is one of the greatest treasures in Iowa."

"How could one also not value the setting, the scenery, the history that has been saved and protected?"



ISSUES

(PROBLEMS, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES)

The issue receiving the most comments was the need to improve/strengthen interpretive and educational outreach programs at the monument and in nearby communities. Concerns over the limited funding and work force were expressed. The preservation of natural resources was identified as an important issue. Many people felt that the National Park Service should partner with other local agencies and organizations to manage resources in a regional context.

"One of my biggest concerns is protecting the native plants and trees, the woodland and prairie species."

"Size of [public] land base is big for Iowa and provides opportunities not available elsewhere in the state."



FUTURE MANAGEMENT

(20 YEARS FROM NOW)

The planning team received many interesting ideas and suggestions for the future management of the monument. Many respondents felt that the National Park Service is doing a good job and want the monument to stay the way it is now with little further development. Others would like to see more Native American involvement. Commenters also told us that the National Park Service should continue or enhance its efforts to preserve cultural and natural resources. Some think that the Park Service should expand the visitor opportunities available at the monument and provide more trails, activities, or other visitor amenities.

"Open backcountry through trails and interpretation including other 19th century history (i.e., Davis Sawmill and military road)."

"The monument could provide the visitor a rich experience and full understanding of the human-ecosystem relationship . . ."

