



# Effigy Mounds National Monument

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that the National Park Service is planning for the future of Effigy Mounds National Monument. A general management plan will be developed to establish a general framework to guide future management decision making. This will be based on a vision of what people think the monument should be like in the next 20 years.

The planning team will work closely with federal, state, and local agencies, interested parties, and the public. We want you to participate in this planning process.

As a part of the national park system, Effigy Mounds National Monument is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the prehistoric, historic, and natural resources associated with the ancient moundbuilders of the region.

The purpose of the general management plan is to ensure that park managers have a clearly defined direction for protecting resources and providing appropriate public access. Together, the National Park Service, the public, other agencies, and interested groups will explore ways to answer this question: *What range of resources conditions and visitor experiences should be provided, and where?*

You are invited to share your ideas about these and other questions with the planning team by participating in this process. Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for the future.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Ewing  
Superintendent



## Effigy Mounds National Monument

DSC / Oct. 05 / 394 / 20,021

**Please plan to attend  
one of our Public Scoping Meetings**

**November 14, Monday**

7:00 P.M.

McGregor Public Library  
334 Main Street  
McGregor, Iowa

**November 15, Tuesday**

7:00 P.M.

Prairie du Chien City Hall  
(Use parking lot door)  
214 E. Blackhawk Avenue  
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

# GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Park planning is an ongoing process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision making for national parks. General management plans are required for all units in the national park system and are intended to set management direction for the national monument for 15 to 20 years.

The general management plan for Effigy Mounds National Monument is being developed by the park staff and NPS planning professionals with participation by park partners, neighbors, and the general public to address the following questions:

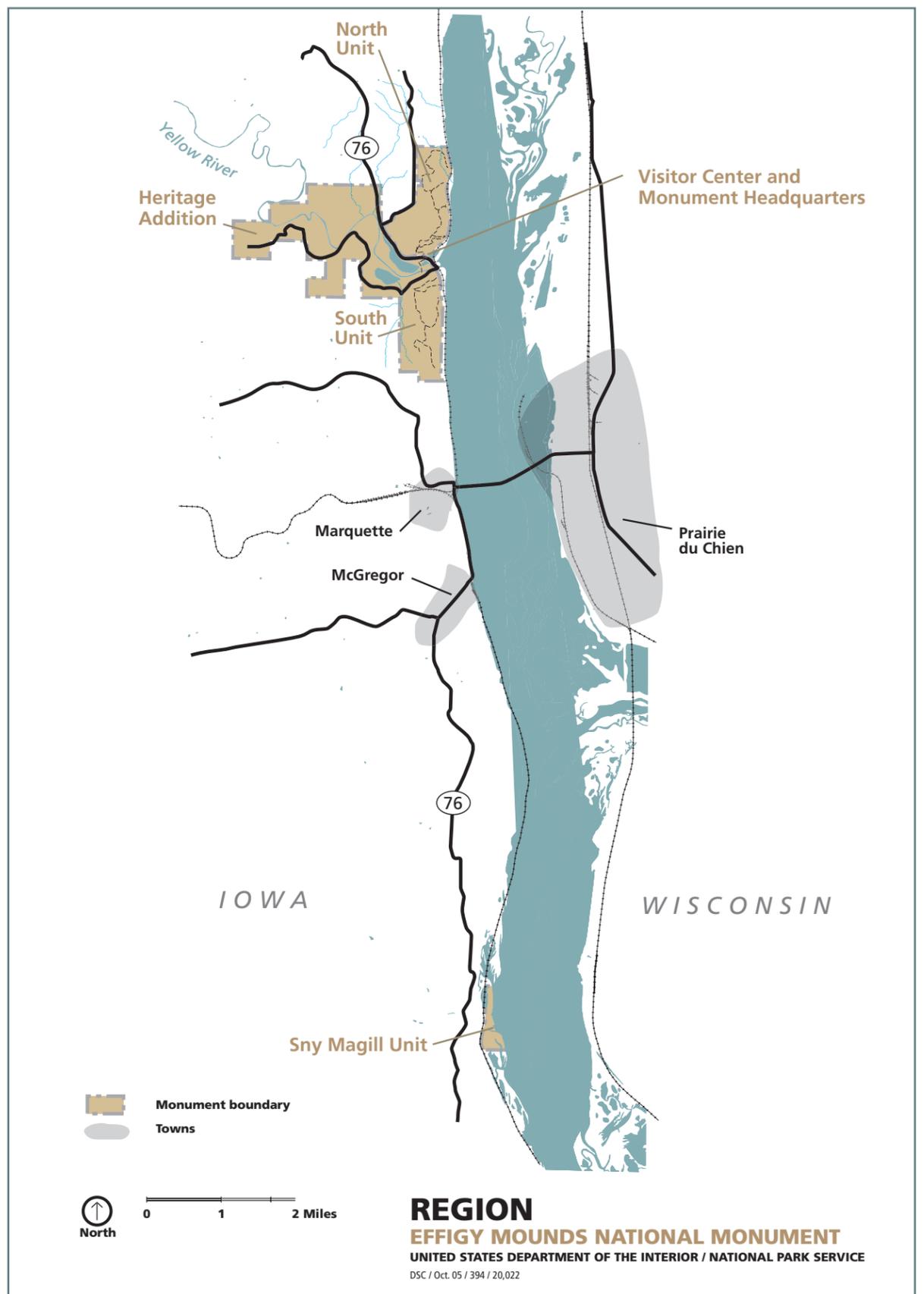
- What actions must we take to ensure that the monument's resources are protected and preserved in good condition?
- What actions must we take to ensure that visitors understand and appreciate the monument's resources?
- What levels and types of visitor use are appropriate for various areas of the monument?
- How can we work effectively with partners (other interested groups and individuals) to protect the resources and increase support for the monument?

Several possible visions for the monument's future (called management alternatives) will be developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables the planning team to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the various courses of action.

As a long-term vision for management of the monument, the general management plan will provide "big picture" guidance. The plan will not include specific facility designs, resolve all issues, or guarantee funding for actions being proposed.

## Planning Timeframe

Effigy Mounds National Monument's general management plan process is expected to take three to five years to complete. A summary of the process and anticipated timeframe is presented below. You will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the process.



STEP	TIMEFRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED
1	Spring 2005	<b>Initiate Project</b> The planning team assembles and begins to identify the project's scope, customize the planning process, and establish contacts with participants.	
2 We Are Here	Fall 2005	<b>Define Planning Context and Foundation</b> The team affirms the monument's purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and fundamental resources. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	Review newsletter Send us your ideas and comments Participate in public meetings
3	Winter 2005 – Fall 2006	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</b> Based on staff and public input, the team explores what the future of the national monument should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.	Review newsletter Send us your ideas and comments
4	Winter 2006 – Spring 2008	<b>Prepare a Draft Document</b> A draft general management plan and environmental impact statement is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	Review draft plan Send us your ideas and comments Participate in public meetings
5	Spring 2008 – Spring 2009	<b>Publish Final Document</b> Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the general management plan and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published Record of Decision.	Review the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.
6	Summer 2009 and beyond	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> After the Record of Decision is issued, and as funding allows, the general management plan is implemented.	Work with the monument to implement plan



American Indians built mounds at various times and places throughout the Americas. The earthen mounds in northeastern Iowa, southern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, and northern Illinois were built beginning approximately 500 B.C. and continued through 1200 A.D. The monument contains four distinct types of mounds: conical, linear, compound, and effigy.

In the upper Midwest there was a unique “effigy mound” culture that built numerous mounds in the shapes of the animals. The building of effigy, or animal-shaped, mounds began around 650 A.D. These effigy mounds and the other mounds are a physical expression of the moundbuilder culture and continue to have significance to many modern peoples as a sacred place.

Later, European exploration, the role of the military, and settlement of the upper Mississippi River Valley significantly impacted Indian cultures and history, including a spiritual and geographical association with the modern descendants of the moundbuilders.

### Monument Purpose

Effigy Mounds National Monument’s purpose is to preserve outstanding representative examples of significant phases of prehistoric Indian moundbuilding cultures in the American Midwest; to protect wildlife and natural values within the monument; and to provide for scientific study and appreciation of its features for the benefit of this and future generations.

### Significance Statements

Significance statements capture the essence of the national monument’s importance to our country’s natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements do not inventory resources; rather, they describe the national monument’s distinctiveness and help to place the monument within its regional, national, and international contexts. Defining the national monument’s significance helps managers make decisions that preserve the resources and values necessary to accomplish the monument’s purpose.

The monument contains nationally significant archeological resources comprising one of the largest concentrations of American Indian mounds including some of the finest and best preserved examples of effigy mounds in their original forms. These earthworks provide a glimpse into the social, spiritual and ceremonial life of prehistoric moundbuilding cultures.

The monument’s varied land forms and habitats, characteristic of the unglaciated “driftless” area, provide an exceptional diversity of plant and animal species. Attributes of this unique landscape attracted the moundbuilders and led to preservation of their mounds.

The monument contains historic resources that represent the dichotomy of this country’s attempts at both American Indian cultural destruction and preservation. A road built by the military in 1840 that connected Fort Crawford, Wisconsin, with Fort Atkinson, Iowa, and the Jefferson Davis sawmill are some of the few visible reminders in the monument of how early 19<sup>th</sup> century American Indian treaties involved the military in resolving the “Indian question” and opened up the territories for United States expansion and settlement before the Mexican War.

The monument is one of the earliest sites of methodical archeological investigations of the moundbuilding cultures.



### Fundamental Resources

*Fundamental resources and values are those that are critical to achieving the monument’s purpose and maintaining its significance.*

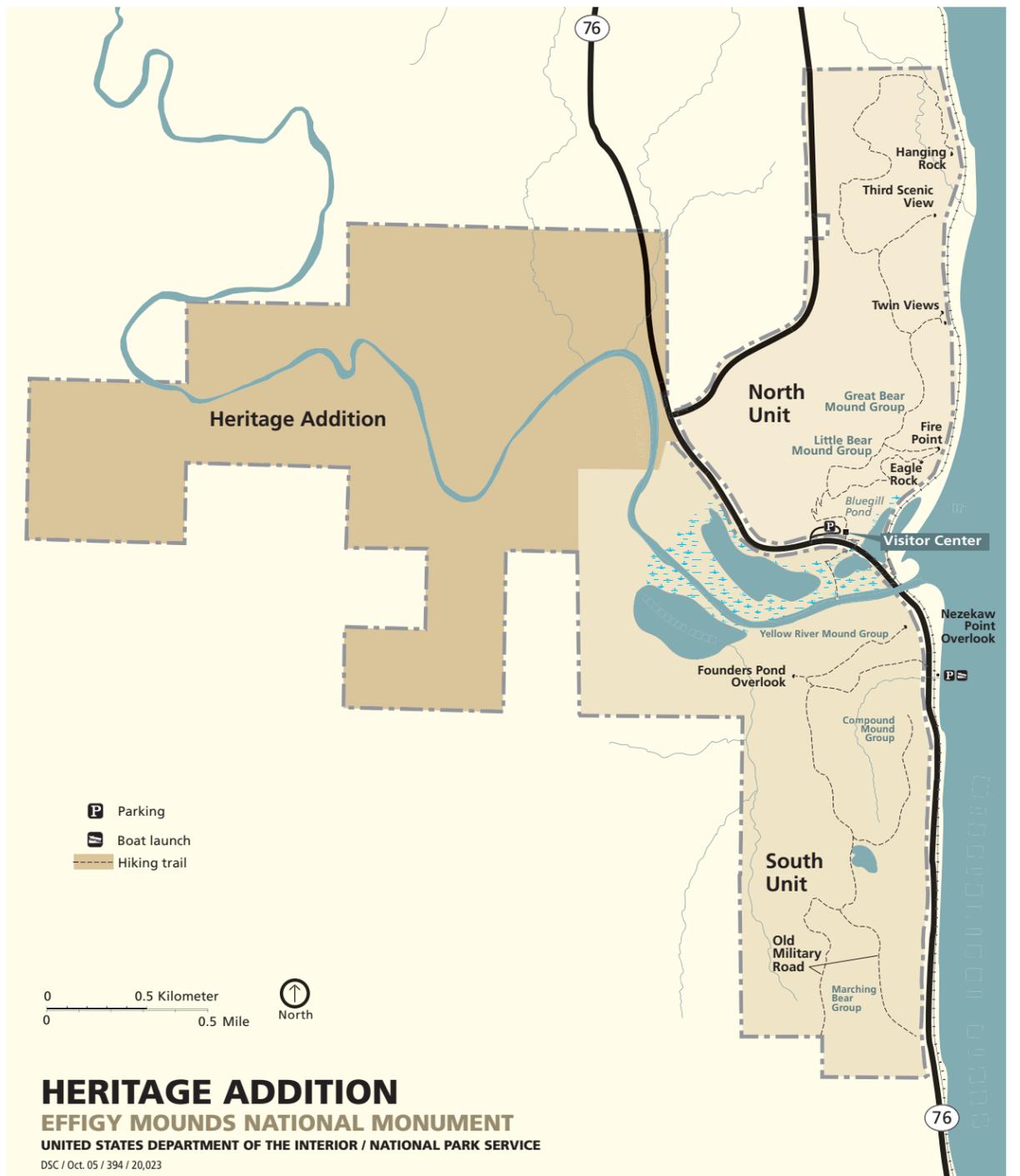
The general management planning team has identified the prehistoric Indian mounds as a fundamental resource. Other resources under preliminary consideration for inclusion in the list of fundamental resources are key elements of the natural setting (the flora, fauna, and topography that attracted the moundbuilders and have helped to preserve the mounds) and the historic resources that document the time of military involvement in relocating American Indian tribes of the upper Midwest (1840 military road and Jefferson Davis sawmill).

Effigy Mounds contains other resources considered important for planning purposes. These important resources are water resources (the Yellow River is on the Nationwide Rivers

Inventory) and the monument’s museum collections that include material from one of the earliest methodical investigations of the mounds.

### Interpretive Themes

During this planning process we will develop a set of primary interpretive themes based on these statements of purpose and significance. These themes are the major messages, or stories, that visitors should receive during their visit. They will also assist in the development of a long-range interpretive plan that will guide park managers as they enhance and expand future visitor opportunities. Park rangers can develop new programs that increase visitor enjoyment and lead to improved park stewardship and resource preservation from these themes.



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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The current public comment period for this newsletter will continue to the end of this year. In the meantime, the planning team is collecting and analyzing information about resources, learning more about opportunities and obstacles to fulfilling goals of the national monument, and identifying the diversity of resources and visitor experiences available in the area.

After we gather data and receive your comments, we will begin to identify the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences at Effigy Mounds National Monument. These broad descriptions will form the basis for the development of future alternative management strategies.

Public participation is crucial to a good general



## HOW CAN I BE A PART OF THE PLANNING PROCESS?

management plan. Throughout the planning process, you will have several opportunities to express your thoughts and concerns about the future of the monument, comment on preliminary management alternatives, and review draft documents. In this phase of the process, we are asking what you value about the monument and what you think are the issues (problems, concerns, or opportunities) facing management. We are also asking for your visions — how do you think the monument should look and operate 20 years from now?

You may tell us your thoughts and suggestions in several ways. You can fill out and mail the enclosed prepaid comment card; you can send a letter to Effigy Mounds National Monument GMP, 151 Highway 76, Harpers Ferry, IA, 52146-7519; you can visit the NPS planning website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>); or you can attend our public meetings, the first of which are shown on page 1 of this newsletter. All comments must be received by December 30, 2005.

