

FAQ:

QUESTION: What is the Memorandum of Agreement?

The Memorandum of Agreement is a high level agreement between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Energy (DOE) that identifies agency roles and responsibilities in managing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The agreement does not deal with the day to day operations of the park.

QUESTION: Why doesn't the agreement identify the park headquarters?

The NPS is carefully evaluating how to best manage the park. To be successful the park will rely on partnerships between DOE, NPS, local governments and other partner organizations. One of National Park Service's primary goals is to create a management structure that fully capitalizes on the strengths that each community brings to managing the park. To that end, we expect that we have a similar presence in each of the communities without a designated headquarters.

QUESTION: Why are only the DOE facilities included in the park?

ANSWER: Properties eligible to be included in the park were named in the authorizing legislation. Decisions on the specifics of inclusion of eligible properties – and where, precisely, to draw the boundaries for the DOE managed areas– will be made by the Secretary of Interior and Energy between now and December 2015. The sites and boundaries for areas outside the DOE managed areas will be determined as the agencies move through the subsequent planning processes.

QUESTION: Why will both the Department of Energy and National Park Service manage the park together?

ANSWER: The National Park Service will bring unparalleled skill in interpretation, expertise in historic preservation, and a proven approach to providing visitor services. The Department of Energy will continue to ensure safe, public access to Park sites, and will continue to maintain and improve its historic facilities and required infrastructure to improve the visitor experience.

QUESTION: When will the Manhattan Project National Historical Park open?

ANSWER: In accordance with the law that creates Manhattan Project NHP, the National Park Service and Department of Energy are preparing an agreement covering the roles and responsibilities of the two agencies. The park will be formally established when the secretaries of Interior and Energy sign the MOA. But DOE and NPS aren't waiting for that milestone to begin their work together. They already are collaborating on historic preservation plans and improved interpretation in DOE's existing public tour programs at historic Manhattan Project facilities.

QUESTION: Will the public have a say in how the new park is set up?

ANSWER: A team with members from both agencies visited with and received feedback from elected officials, involved stakeholder groups and interested individuals in Oak Ridge, Hanford and Los Alamos. In addition, NPS and DOE held an open house at each site to talk informally with the public and hear their ideas. The agencies have now developed a draft agreement for park management that is available for public review.

The next step will be the development of a foundation document in 2016. This document will identify the basic understanding of a park's resources, values, and history. Later, NPS will prepare additional

plans that will lay out the full vision for the park, including proposed long-term access and operations. That process under the National Environmental Policy Act includes a formal public comment period.

QUESTION: Where will you locate park visitor centers and visitor contact stations?

ANSWER: We are beginning to evaluate each site's resources and have not decided yet.

QUESTION: What will visitors be able to see and do at Manhattan Project NHP?

ANSWER: The level and type of public access will vary among the three Manhattan Project NHP sites. Hanford and Oak Ridge have public tour programs in place today that can be expanded and enhanced. DOE is evaluating options for future public access to the Los Alamos site and will work closely with the NPS. These approaches will be reflected in future plans.

QUESTION: What is the operating budget for the Manhattan Project NHP?

ANSWER: Current work on the DOE/NPS agreement is being paid for with existing funds from both agencies. The President's fiscal year 2016 budget request for the National Park Service includes \$180,000 for the new park.

QUESTION: Will DOE also budget funds for the process of creating and operating the Manhattan Project NHP?

ANSWER: In addition to collaborating with NPS on the MOA and planning activities, DOE is actively working to determine what work it may undertake to support Park implementation.

QUESTION: Why are you creating a new park that celebrates the atomic bomb, an invention that caused incredible loss of life and left generations of world citizens to live in fear of nuclear annihilation?

ANSWER: The goal of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is not to celebrate the atomic bomb, but to educate the public about the history and legacy of the Manhattan Project that created it. The park will do so by interpreting, preserving and providing access to the historical sites associated with the project. At numerous other national park sites, NPS professionally interprets complex and sometimes controversial parts of American history, including slavery, civil rights, the Civil War and massacres committed against Native Americans.