

Consultation and Coordination

NPS DO #12 requires the NPS to make diligent efforts to involve the interested and affected public in the NEPA process. This process, known as scoping, helps to determine the important issues and eliminate those that are not; allocate assignments among the interdisciplinary team members and/or participating agencies; identify related projects and associated documents; identify other permits, surveys, consultations, etc. required by other agencies; and create a schedule that allows adequate time to prepare and distribute the environmental document for public review and comment before a final decision is made. This chapter documents the scoping process for this project and includes the official list of recipients for the document.

PUBLIC SCOPING

A public notice was placed on the park's website homepage, Facebook page, and Twitter account, on the park bulletin board adjacent to the project site, on the Friends of Valley Forge Park membership email blast, on the Tredyffrin Township website, and on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

Five individuals responded with comments using the web form on the PEPC website. Key issues raised are addressed in this document, and included:

Natural Resources

- Concerns over impacts to flora and fauna from the proposed use of the grounds

Visitor Use and Experience

- Concern over future park support from visitors and elected officials if a historic building is used for commercial purposes

Soundscapes

- Concern with loud music and amplified sound that could be audible from nearby neighborhoods

Traffic and Circulation

- Concern over increased traffic in the general vicinity.
- Concern about increased traffic over the Covered Bridge

Safety and Accessibility

- Concern about smoking and open flames on the premises.

Historic Structures

- Concern about increased wear and tear with proposed use of the P. C. Knox house.

In addition, a number of questions and comments were received that are not the subject of this EA/AOE. These included:

- Concern over pressure from vendors to lease other park properties. Response: there is no requirement for NPS to lease properties. Response: the park's *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (NPS 2007) identified the properties that could be considered for leasing, provided all requirements of the leasing authority were met.
- Request for a pedestrian trail along Yellow Springs Road to Valley Creek Trail. Response: this trail will be implemented in 2013 in a separate project.
- Recommendation to rebuild other outbuildings and features of the P. C. Knox estate. Response: Features that were located on the floodplain and were destroyed by floods will not be rebuilt. Other features will be restored, rehabilitated, or stabilized as funds permit.
- Implement the General Management Plan's proposed parking area in this area of the park. Response: this parking lot and connecting trail will be implemented in 2013 in a separate project.
- Concern about how the proposed lease would affect similar businesses in the area. Response: we believe sufficient demand exists to support an additional venue. We will encourage our lessee to consider a joint marketing plan to include other historic properties in the area.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Local governments and agencies contacted during the planning process included Tredyffrin Township, the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI), the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and four traditionally associated Indian Tribes, which Valley Forge NHP sent letters to on June 13 and June 20, 2012. Valley Forge NHP received correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office on July 9, 2012, which concluded there would be no effect on resources with the project proposal. Correspondence from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service dated July 17, 2012 revealed that there are no federal listed species known or likely to occur in the project area. See Appendix B for copies of written correspondence with these agencies.

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

The document was sent for review to:

Federal Agencies

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tribal Governments

Delaware Nation

Oneida Indian Nation

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin

Elected Officials

Congressman Jim Gerlach

Congressman Pat Meehan

State Representative Warren Kampf

State Senator Andrew Dinniman

State Agencies

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

Local Agencies and Governments

Tredyffrin Township

Individuals Who Requested a Copy