

# IV: Environmental Consequences

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The following table summarizes the environmental consequences of the partnership concepts presented in this feasibility study. The environmental factors that are discussed are described briefly below:

## Cultural Resources

Addresses the potential effects on cultural resources including historic structures, historic landscapes, archeology, and ethnographic resources.

## Natural Resources

The effects on natural resources include those on wildlife, vegetation, soils, and air and water quality historic properties associated with each partnership concept as well as on roadways.

## Opportunities for Public Use and Enjoyment

Under Opportunities for Public Use and Enjoyment, the effects discussed include public access to information and orientation, public ability to locate and have access to women's history resources, and the effects of interpretive and educational programming.

## Landownership and Land Uses

This category would describe any effects the proposed partnership concepts may have on landownership and land use.

## Socioeconomic Conditions

The category would address the possible effects that any of the proposed partnership concepts may have on the local or regional economy.



Source: Library of Congress

Alice Paul, c. 1920

Resolved, that the women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live... by asserting that they have all the rights they want.

*-Declaration of Sentiments, 1848*

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Partnership Concept I: *"Votes for Women" History Trail (Upstate NY)*

With the exception of Women's Rights NHP, the National Park Service would be working primarily with private partners. As a result, the National Park Service would have limited authority to require that cultural resource values be protected. However, under this partnership concept the National Park Service can offer several incentives to support the protection of resources associated with the trail.

This partnership concept calls for a limited matching grant program for historic preservation that could encourage historic property owners to take the necessary steps to preserve their properties. The use of federal funds would require compliance with section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Additionally, under this option, research and documentation of trail properties would be funded and could provide private property owners with fundamental information about their properties and recommendations on how to best maintain them.

Through the development and promotion of this trail concept, it is possible that a significantly larger audience for these properties will emerge. This would present the opportunity to educate the public about the values associated with these places and to foster public support and stewardship for these places.

The possibility of higher visitation at many of these properties raises issues about carrying capacity. Historic houses and landscapes would have to be monitored to ensure that increased visitor use is not impairing resource values.

### Partnership Concept II: *National Women's Rights History Project*

Partnership Concept II emphasizes the inventory and evaluation of women's rights history properties for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Receiving a determination of eligibility from the National Register is often the first hurdle faced by property owners seeking to raise both public and private monies to support the preservation of their properties. This program would support this effort and provide National Register recognition to numerous women's rights history properties.

Also under this concept, further documentation and research of National Register-listed women's rights history properties would be funded and could provide fundamental information and preservation recommendations. This information could and should be used to support the preservation of these structures.

Under this concept, a website describing National Register-listed women's rights historic properties nationwide would be developed. The website would note where properties were located and whether they are open to the public. It is possible that this website could encourage a considerable increase in visitation at some of the historic properties noted on the website. These properties could benefit by the increased visitation and public interest but could also be subject to resource degradation if the level of visitation increases dramatically and appropriate steps are not taken to protect resource values.

### Partnership Concept III: *Women's Rights National History Project and Partnerships Network*

Partnership Concept III expands upon the Women's Rights National History Project by creating a technical assistance program that emphasizes partnerships at the local and regional level. In addition to the cultural resource impacts identified under Partnership Concept II, the Partnerships network could have the following effects on cultural resources:

Participating partnerships in the network would be eligible to compete for grants and technical assistance. A limited matching grant program for historic preservation, grants to support research and documentation, and National Park Service technical assistance would all support resource protection initiatives among participating partnerships.

This concept emphasizes partnerships to foster better cooperation and coordination among properties and to encourage better-established properties to work with new and emerging properties. In emphasizing these partnerships, this concept would help expand and involve the local base of support for these historic properties.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Partnership Concept I: *"Votes for Women" History Trail (Upstate NY)*

Despite the rural character of upstate NY, most of the properties associated with the proposed "Votes for Women" trail exist within an urban context where most, if not all, the native vegetation has been altered or otherwise disturbed. The National Park Service would be working primarily with private partners and would have very limited authority to require the protection of natural resource values.

Several properties that could be identified along the trail are gravesites located in local cemeteries. Though they are designed landscapes, as open spaces within urban contexts they could be of some importance from a natural resources standpoint.

During the planning process, project planners should be cognizant of any natural resource values and should consider them when addressing issues such as carrying capacity, pedestrian pathways, and vehicular access.

### Partnership Concept II: *National Women's Rights History Project*

Partnership Concept II calls for a major inventory and evaluation effort to nominate property to the National Register of Historic Places. There would be a website associated with the project that allows visitors to determine where properties were located and which ones were open to the public.

Although the website could result in increased visitation to some of these properties, the overall impact on natural resources would be nominal.

### Partnership Concept III: *Women's Rights National History Project and Partnerships Network*

Under Partnership Concept III, participating partnerships within the network could include properties with substantial natural resource values. The National Park Service would have very limited authority to require that natural resource values are protected.

The National Park Service could provide educational information and otherwise attempt to foster resource stewardship at the local level, where needed.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC USE & ENJOYMENT

### Partnership Concept I: *"Votes for Women" History Trail (Upstate NY)*

While visiting the "Votes for Women" History Trail in upstate New York, the public would have the opportunity to visit numerous women's history properties that are open to the public and offer interpretive and educational programming on a regular basis. In locations where public access is not available or limited, exterior exhibits (interpretive waysides) would be available to convey important aspects of the story.

The visitor would have the opportunity to understand and appreciate the significance of several key personalities in the women's suffrage movement, as well as to be oriented to the scope and depth of the broader women's rights movement.

Visitor access to properties associated with the trail would be enhanced by a coordinated, directional signage system and the use of a trail logo indicating trail properties. The use of directional signage and trail logos should serve to minimize visitor confusion and enhance their sense of arrival as they reach each property associated with the trail.

### Partnership Concept II: *National Women's Rights History Project*

Visitors to the Women's Rights National History Project website would have a tremendous (albeit virtual) opportunity to become familiar with the women's rights movement and the numerous properties nationwide that are associated with it.

Visitors could learn of properties in any given geographic area of the country or could identify properties associated with one or more of the themes associated with the women's rights movement. Using information from the website or by using the published companion guide series, visitors could plot their own travel itineraries for exploring women's rights history properties.

The website and the companion guides would provide limited information on what programming and amenities a visitor could expect at each property. The quality of the experience at each property could vary markedly.

In addition, visitors would rely on existing signage and markers; no new signage would be introduced. In some locations, it may be difficult to locate properties.

### Partnership Concept III: *Women's Rights National History Project and Partnerships Network*

As in Partnership Concept II, visitors to the Women's Rights National History Project website would have a tremendous (albeit virtual) opportunity to become familiar with the women's rights movement and the numerous properties nationwide that are associated with it.

The visitor would also learn about the participating network partnerships nation-wide, the variety of properties associated with them, and any current programming or special events. Network partnerships could offer pre-packaged travel itineraries for numerous areas across the country and may offer published guides and educational materials particular to their partnership properties.

Visitors would be made aware of a wide variety of properties that extends well beyond Register-listed properties to include museums, libraries, archives, public art installations, memorial tablets and plaques, etc.

The extent to which directional signage and markers are available and coordinated will vary from partnership to partnership. In some areas locating the desired property would be easy, while in others it could require much more effort on the part of the visitor.

In addition, the quality of visitor services and programming may vary from partnership to partnership and from property to property. The visitor experience could be quite variable.

## LAND OWNERSHIP/ LAND USE

### Partnership Concept I: *"Votes for Women" History Trail (Upstate NY)*

The National Park Service owns a number of parcels associated with Women's Rights NHP. No additional federal land acquisition is anticipated to support the creation of a "Votes for Women" history trail.

Participation is voluntary. Private properties will not be included on the trail without the expressed consent of the property owner.

### Partnership Concept II: *National Women's Rights History Project*

No additional federal land is required to support the implementation of the National Women's Rights History Project.

Participation is voluntary. Private properties will not be included on the project website without the expressed consent of the property owner.

### Partnership Concept III: *Women's Rights National History Project and Partnerships Network*

No additional federal land is required to support the implementation of the National Women's Rights History Project and Partnerships Network.

Participation is voluntary. Private properties will not be included on the project website or in a network partnership without the expressed consent of the property owner.

## SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### Partnership Concept I: *"Votes for Women" History Trail (Upstate NY)*

Under Partnership Concept I, enhanced cooperation among properties and coordinated promotion of the trail could result in a modest to moderate growth in visitation to women's rights history properties in the Rochester/Seneca Falls/Syracuse region of upstate New York.

With more coordination among properties and the increased possibility of multi-day events, overnight visitation could grow. Increased overnight visitation could have a modest, positive effect on the regional economy.

### Partnership Concept II: *National Women's Rights History Project*

Visitation at various properties across the country may increase but the ultimate effect that this would have on local and regional economies is impossible to gauge nationwide. If visitation at a single property or a concentration of properties in a particular geographic area were to go up markedly, a clear economic benefit would result, particularly if that increase in visitation involved multi-day visits.

### Partnership Concept III: *Women's Rights National History Project and Partnerships Network*

Similar to Partnership Concept II, it is difficult to assess the economic benefit of the program nationwide. It will vary widely depending upon the concentration of properties, the scope of visitor programming, coordination of programming among properties, and the schedule of special events. In an area where a strong partnership has emerged and the visitor experience has been crafted and promoted in way that allows the public to visit multiple properties and experience a diversity of programming, multiday visitation could increase and result in local or regional economic benefits.