



Manassas National Battlefield Park General Management Planning Process Moves Forward

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Manassas National Battlefield Park:

I would like to thank you for your continued interest in the future of Manassas National Battlefield Park. As you may recall, we began the planning process for the General Management Plan (GMP) back in 1996. The intent of the GMP effort is to develop a long-range plan to guide the park in resource preservation, visitor use, interpretation, operation and development over the next 20 years. Working with you and the greater public since the onset of the planning process, we confirmed the park purpose and significance and developed alternatives for the future management of the park to address long-range management issues.

One of the major assumptions of the GMP alternatives is the eventual closure of US 29 (Lee Highway) and VA 234 (Sudley Road) to commuter traffic through the park. This assumption is founded upon the 1988 Manassas National Battlefield Park Amendments Act which acknowledged the major conflicts between traffic congestion and park resources. The Act also required that the Park Service study alternatives to close the roads within the park.

In 2000, the Manassas GMP process was put on hold due to the pending Manassas National Battlefield Park Bypass Environmental Impact Study (EIS), which began in 2001. Fulfilling the intent of the legislation, the Bypass Study is evaluating alternatives and impacts for re-routing traffic from the existing US 29 and VA 234 roadways. Public meetings for the Bypass project began in the fall of 2001 and are ongoing. The next round of public meetings will be held in early 2004 to present a preferred alternative for the Bypass alignment.

With the Bypass Study effort nearing completion, it is now time to move forward with the GMP. We need your help. The following pages present the alternatives for the future management of the park. Also included are concepts for the future transportation and circulation within the park related to the closure of the roads to through traffic. The purpose of this newsletter is to re-familiarize you with the overall alternatives proposed in the GMP. It also serves as your first opportunity to provide us with your comments on the proposed transportation concepts and management zones relative to each alternative.

Although formal public meetings will be held over the next year following the completion of the Bypass Study and release of the Draft GMP, I encourage you to provide comments on the concepts outlined in this newsletter. All comments will be considered and analyzed and ultimately contribute to the refinement of the transportation concepts and management zoning. Your suggestions will help us to select a preferred alternative.

Please send your comments to me at the address below by Friday, December 5, 2003. Your participation is invaluable to creating the best plan for this important national resource.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

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As part of the overall planning process, the team also initiated a comprehensive public involvement strategy for the GMP. The public involvement efforts began in the spring of 1996. In March of that year, the park superintendent sent invitations to more than 800 people and groups. The letter described the effort to develop a new plan and invited groups and the general public to participate in the project. More than 100 people attended the public meeting that year and had the opportunity to learn about the planning effort, ask questions and comment on the park.

The information gathered from public outreach combined with the analysis of technical information related to the park resources helped to establish goals for the park's future and develop several conceptual alternatives to achieve these goals. In 1997, the park presented these preliminary alternatives to the public through both a project newsletter and formal public meetings. Feedback from this round of public outreach helped the team to refine the park goals and preliminary alternatives and begin to address more details related to the treatment of resources throughout the park. Pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter highlight the

park purpose, goals and the conceptual alternatives.

By 1998, the planning process was well underway and the team began drafting the GMP document. Around this same time, it became clear that the issues related to transportation and traffic concerns within the park remained unresolved and would require further study. In 2000, the Park Service made the decision to halt the GMP process so that separate, but related, efforts to address transportation concerns and develop

viable long-term solutions could occur. One of the most relevant studies addressing this issue is the current Bypass Study which began in the fall of 2001. This project is on-going and will result in the selection of a preferred Bypass alternative that would allow for the eventual closure of US 29 and VA 234 within the park.

With the Bypass Study underway, the Park Service reassembled a professional planning team to move forward with the GMP in the early summer of 2002. The major focus of the effort was to refine the GMP alternatives, develop management zoning, internal park transportation concepts and evaluate impacts within the context of the new Bypass Study and changing local conditions. In early December of 2002, the study team held an informational meeting with the public to present some of the preliminary ideas regarding the management of traffic flow within the park. Based on the feedback from these discussions and further analysis, the team developed new park circulation and transportation concepts. Pages 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this newsletter present the refined alternatives and the proposed management zoning and internal park transportation concepts.

The First Battle of Manassas, July 18-21, 1861

As the Civil War's first major battle, the First Battle of Manassas had been eagerly awaited by raw recruits and inexperienced officers who rushed into service following the firing on Fort Sumter. Soldiers and civilians from both the North and South envisioned a short easy war highlighted by shiny uniforms, brass bands, and heroic adventure. However, the reality of ten hours of fighting on Matthews Hill, Henry Hill, and Chinn Ridge, put away all preconceived notions of a short war. The Union would call this field of battle Bull Run, while the Confederacy would name it Manassas. The 900 Americans killed on the battlefield that day were graphic proof that civil war would be a protracted bloody struggle.

The Second Battle of Manassas, August 28-30, 1862

This lesson was reinforced thirteen months later when armies returned to fight a four-times larger, four-times bloodier battle. The Second Battle of Manassas, a contest fought by seasoned veterans, took the Confederacy to the height of its power, and opened the way for General Robert E. Lee's first offensive campaign north of the Potomac River. Like First Manassas before, Second Manassas was the largest battle fought in the United States up to that time.

What is the Purpose of the Park?

On May 10, 1940 the Secretary of the Interior established Manassas National Battlefield Park based on its historic importance as the site of the Civil War's First and Second Battles of Manassas. The park now includes more than 5,000 acres and a majority of the key battlefield areas. The park's most important resources are the large tracts of land that represent the historic landscape as it existed at the time of the battles.



The purpose of Manassas National Battlefield Park is to preserve the nationally significant lands containing historic sites, buildings, objects and views associated with the First and Second Battles of Manassas for the use, inspiration and benefit of the public.

What is Special about the Park?

As the site of the First and Second Battles of Manassas, the park serves to preserve the resources associated with these major battles and contribute to the country's understanding of the social and economic impacts of the Civil War.

The First and Second Battles of Manassas are significant because:

- ▲ The First Battle of Manassas was the first major land battle of the Civil War.
- ▲ The First Battle of Manassas dispelled all preconceived notions of a short war, and the fact that 900 Americans were killed on the battlefield was graphic proof that civil war would be a protracted bloody struggle.
- ▲ The Second Battle of Manassas brought the Confederacy to the height of its power and opened the way for the first Confederate campaign into the North.
- ▲ The two battles were the largest fought in the United States up to that time.

The park itself is important because:

- ▲ It is one of only a few Civil War battlefields in America that includes the majority of the actual battlefield areas where troops formed, fought and died.
- ▲ It provides visitors with an opportunity for first-hand experience with the features that shaped the battles, including: the structures, road traces, sites, cemeteries, monuments, artifacts and archeological resources that date from the battle (1861-1862) and commemorative (1865-1940) time periods; and the woodlands, fields, streams, rolling hills and views representative of the landscape that existed at the time of the battles.
- ▲ It serves to protect and interpret resources that illustrate Northern Virginia's unique history and role in the Civil War.
- ▲ It preserves the region's historic agrarian landscape that is slowly giving way to development pressures throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.
- ▲ It attracts visitors from other parts of the region, the nation and the world.
- ▲ It enhances the region's environmental quality and supports a variety of wildlife and plant communities.

What are the Goals for the Park?

Establishing goals for Manassas National Battlefield Park ensures that all management actions are consistent with the park purpose and significance. The purpose of Manassas National Battlefield Park will be fulfilled when the following goals are achieved:

- ▲ The historic landscape is preserved and maintained in such a way that it gives visitors an understanding of the events of the two battles of Manassas.
- ▲ Significant cultural resources of the battles and their commemorative value are preserved, protected, restored or maintained as appropriate.
- ▲ Visitors learn about both battles through a variety of quality interpretive and educational opportunities, programs, and facilities.
- ▲ All park uses and visitor experiences are compatible with the park's purpose.
- ▲ The roadways within the park are primarily used by visitors and for park operations.
- ▲ Park facilities and services provide visitors with a high-quality experience and support the park's purpose.
- ▲ Modern intrusions into the historic landscape are minimal.
- ▲ The park cooperates with other local, state and national groups to protect resources and tell the stories of the battles of Manassas.
- ▲ The park works collaboratively with local jurisdictions to preserve the rural and agrarian views outside of the park.

In addition to the park goals, there is also a large body of federal laws and policies that shape park resource management and visitor use decisions. Some of the most relevant laws, policies, and programs include the Chesapeake Bay Program, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 regarding the management of flood plains and wetlands, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Organic Act, and the National Park Service Mission Goals.

What are the Alternatives?

To explore various options to achieving the park goals, the planning team developed the following alternatives based on considerable public input, examination of the park purpose and significance and evaluation of the resources. Each alternative concept presents a different future condition for the park.

Alternative A: Continuing Current Management Practices (No Change in Action)

Alternative A involves making only minor changes to current park management practices. The most recognizable features in the park would serve as the primary focus for visitor use and interpretation. Orientation and visitor services for both battles would continue from a single, centralized location.

Alternative B: The Two Battles of Manassas - A Comprehensive Understanding of Each Battle

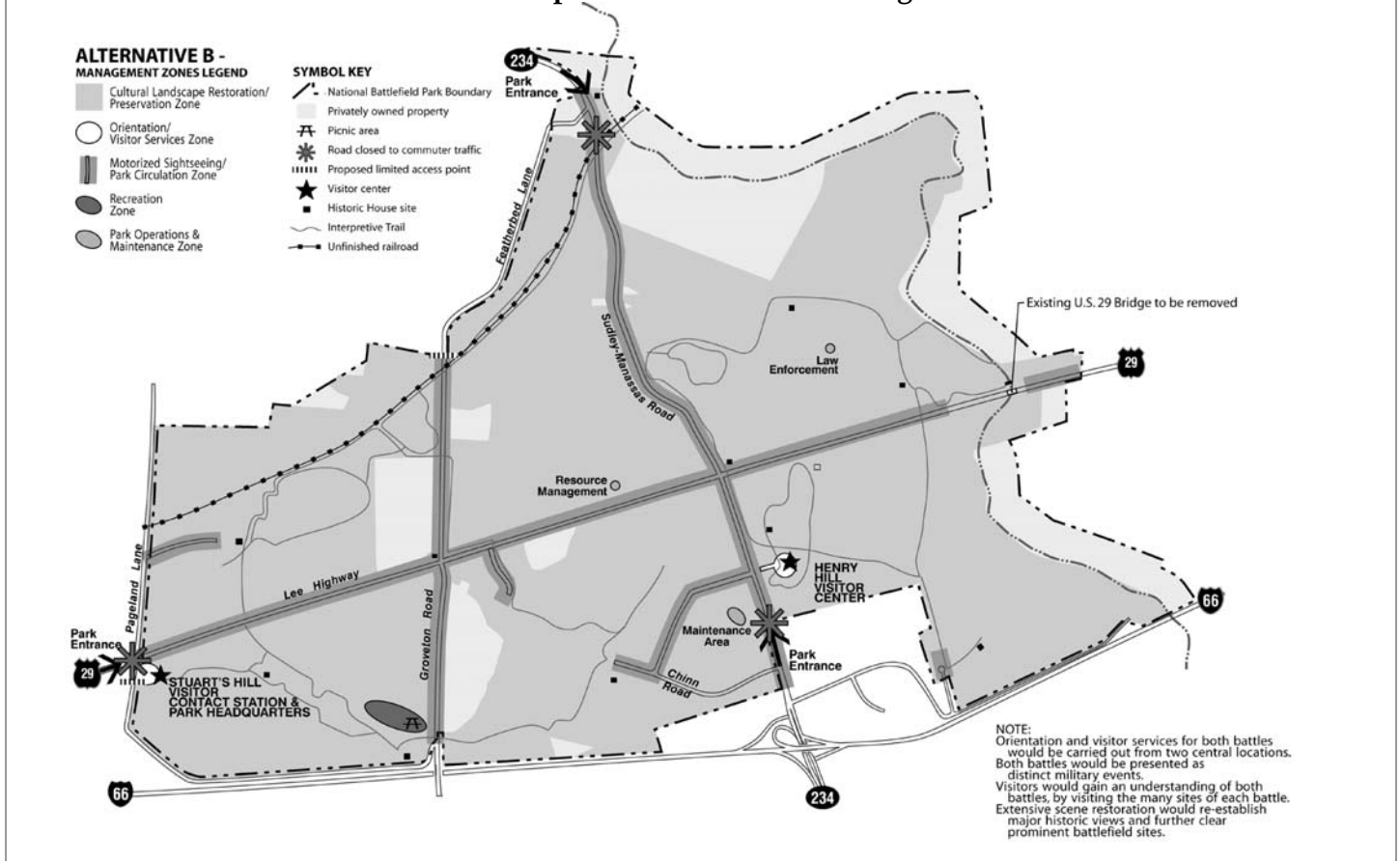
Alternative B presents and interprets the two battles as distinct military events. Visitors would gain a thorough understanding of both battles by visiting two separate visitor centers and the many historic sites associated with each event. The experience at each battlefield would be unique, with stand-alone visitor areas and auto-tour routes. In this alternative, the restoration of the historic landscape scene would be a critical element in helping visitors understand the events and military tactics associated with each battle.

Alternative C: The Defining Moments of the Battles of Manassas - An Understanding of the Principal Events

Alternative C focuses on the "watershed" events of the battles, encouraging visitors towards two or three significant sites. Interpretation of these general events, the outcomes of the battles and the broader story of the Civil War would be emphasized over the detailed military tactics of each battle. Although other sites in the park would be accessible, the concentration for interpretation and visitor use would focus in areas that illustrate the "defining" moments of the battles. Restoring the historic scene in these areas would be important to help visitors understand these principal events.

Alternative B

The Two Battles of Manassas - A Comprehensive Understanding of Each Battle



Management Prescriptions and Zones

Another element of the alternatives' refinement process is the development of management prescriptions and management zones for the Park. Management prescriptions define the range of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences within the park. Associating these prescriptions with specific geographic areas creates the various management "zones" within the park. The maps above illustrate the location of these zones within the park for Alternatives B and C. Alternative A, the no-action alternative would maintain current management practices as shown in the existing conditions map on page 2.

Orientation/Visitor Services Zone

This zone represents areas in the park where visitors would encounter a high concentration of activity, services, interpretation and orientation. The areas are developed more intensely, but remain protected from intrusive

effects of modern development and incompatible activities. This zone is located within the same area for both Alternatives B and C.

Cultural Landscape Restoration/ Preservation Zone

This zone restores cultural and natural resources (including historic buildings, structures, and landscapes) to conditions representative of the Civil War time period essential for visitor understanding or for in-depth interpretation of the battles. Non-historic elements are not evident in this zone. Management of visitors, interpretation sites, historic structures and trails would ensure resource protection and preservation in this zone. This zone is located within the same area for both Alternatives B and C.

Motorized Sightseeing/Park Circulation Zone

This zone applies to areas that provide scenic, visually appealing natural and cultural backdrops for motorized touring and circulation in the park.

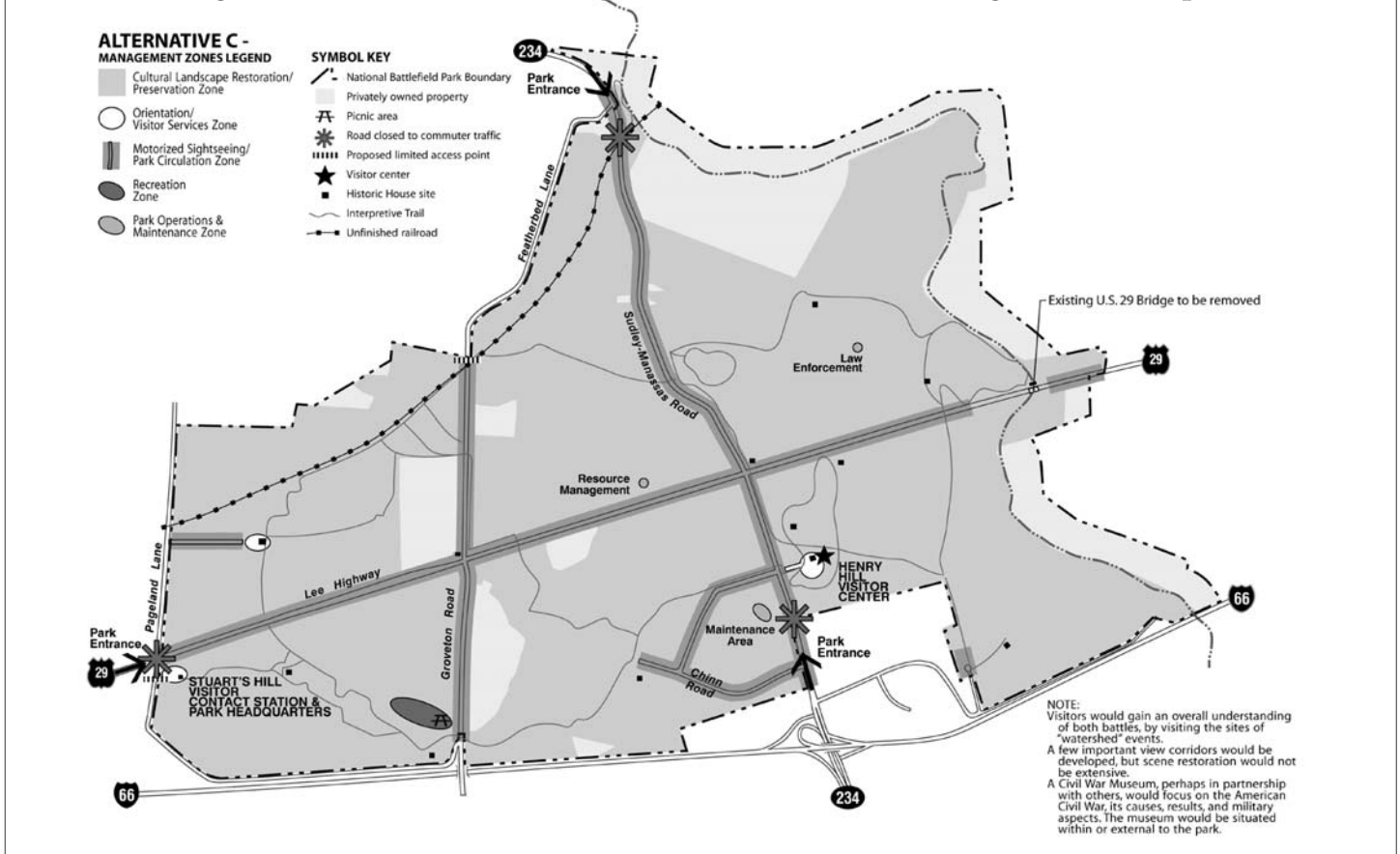
Visitors could experience this zone by vehicle or bicycle modes. This would involve driving along well maintained roads in a linear/sequential nature and making frequent stops at interpretive exhibits. This zone is located in two slightly different areas for each alternative. For Alternative B, this zone would include only a portion of the Chinn Road loop and the entire drive along New York Avenue. For Alternative C, this zone would include the entire Chinn Road loop.

Recreation Zone

This zone represents areas in the park where visitors would be able to picnic in large groups and enjoy approved recreational activities. Visitor amenities such as picnic tables, restrooms and parking would be present. Interaction with cultural and natural resources is secondary in this zone. This zone is located within the same area for both Alternatives B and C.

Alternative C

The Defining Moments of the Battles of Manassas - An Understanding of the Principal Events



Park Operations and Maintenance Zone

This zone meets the essential operational and maintenance needs of the Park. Management of activities and facilities in this zone would focus on limiting visual, audio or olfactory impacts to park resources and visitor enjoyment. This zone is located within the same area for both Alternatives B and C.

Internal Circulation and Transportation Concepts

The prospect of creating a new bypass route for US 29 and VA 234 offers the park an opportunity to take control of the flow of traffic throughout the park. To accomplish the park's mission, protect the resources and enhance the visitor experience, the proposed concepts for transportation would limit traffic within the park boundaries to park visitors, and other traffic associated with residential and commercial properties located within

or directly adjacent to the park boundaries. These concepts are only viable if the current traffic patterns and capacities are rerouted to outside the park.

The concept for managing traffic flow within the park for Alternatives B & C, involves the placement of a controlled access point or staffed gate entrances adjacent to park boundaries in three locations:

- ▲ VA 234 at the northern boundary of the park
- ▲ VA 234 at the southern boundary of the park
- ▲ US 29 at the western boundary of the park

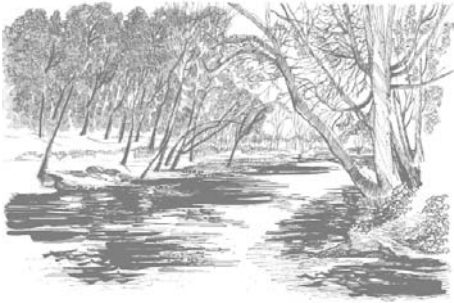
In addition, the concept involves the removal of the existing US 29 bridge over Bull Run, permanently limiting access to the park from the east and opening up the Stone Bridge area for enhanced interpretive opportunities. The existing paved roads throughout the park remain paved and intact, but speed limits are reduced and the new stop signs, marked pedestrian crossings and other traffic calming measures are introduced. Pageland Lane south of Route 29 and Featherbed Lane within the park boundaries is limited to local traffic only. For Alternative A, the "No action" alternative, all roads remain as they exist today with no new restrictions or controls.

Management Zoning Table

The table to the right presents the five proposed management zones so that one can easily compare the differences between each zone as it relates to desired resource conditions, visitor experience, activities and facilities. As described in the previous pages, the application of these zones to various areas in the park is very similar in both Alternatives B and C.

	Orientation and Visitor Services Zone	Cultural Landscape Restoration and Preservation Zone
Resource Condition/Character	<p>Minor modifications to existing facilities, amenities and resources.</p> <p>Non-historic additions to the landscape allowed, but designed to compliment the historic and natural context.</p> <p>Zone located in such a way as to not intrude on historic views/vistas of the cultural landscape.</p> <p>Visitors and facilities intensely managed in this zone.</p>	<p>Cultural and natural resources are restored (including historic buildings, structures, and landscapes) to conditions representative of the Civil War time period essential for visitor understanding or for in-depth interpretation of the battles.</p> <p>The sights and sounds of people are evident, but not in great amounts.</p> <p>Resource protection and preservation are the focus.</p> <p>Except for essential changes, the park service's tolerance for resource impact is low. Non-historic elements are not evident.</p>
Visitor Experience	<p>Orientation and interpretation occur in this zone through a variety of formats.</p> <p>Buildings, structures, and the signs of people are predominant.</p> <p>Cultural and natural resources are present.</p> <p>Facilities are convenient and accessible; there is little need for visitors to physically exert themselves or make a long time commitment to see the area.</p> <p>Social interaction with others is likely.</p>	<p>This zone emphasizes in-depth learning about and visitation of significant park resources.</p> <p>These experiences are either self-guided or ranger-led.</p> <p>Structure and direction provided (i.e. trails, interpretive media, signage, etc.), but some opportunities for discovery are also available.</p> <p>Visitors need to exert some physical effort and make a moderate time commitment to experience the resources.</p> <p>At certain times of the day or season, opportunities for solitude exist, but in general there are likely to be encounters with other park visitors.</p>
Types of Activities or Facilities	<p>This zone includes areas with major visitor and administrative facilities.</p> <p>Visitor support facilities such as contact stations, museums, interpretive media, book stores, parking areas, comfort stations, benches, picnic tables, water fountains, side-walks, and walking trails are representative of the types of facilities found in this zone.</p> <p>Orientation and interpretation provided through a variety of formats.</p>	<p>Trails, overlooks, wayside exhibits, small parking areas, paved driveways, and other interpretive media are found in these areas.</p> <p>Predominant activities include walking, viewing resources and attending interpretive walks and talks.</p> <p>Special events/activities by permit only allowed in this zone.</p>

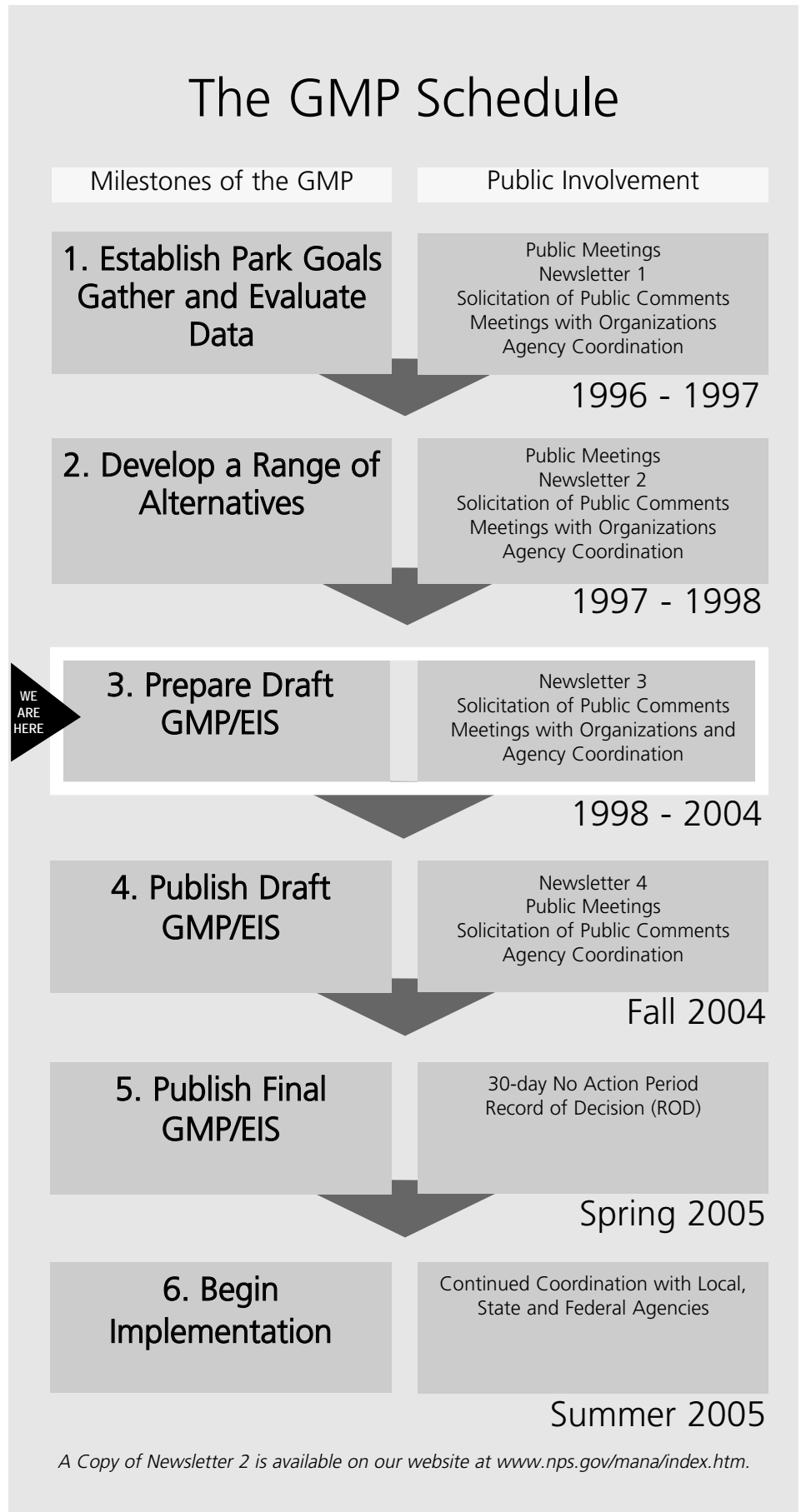
Motorized Sightseeing and Park Circulation Zone	Recreation Zone	Park Operations and Maintenance Zone
<p>Areas in this zone provide a scenic, visually appealing natural and cultural backdrop for motorized park touring and circulation.</p> <p>Intensive management provided in this area to ensure resource protection and public safety.</p> <p>Resources modified (e.g. paving roads or felling hazard trees) for essential visitor and park operational needs.</p>	<p>Zone includes minor modifications to existing facilities, amenities and resources to accommodate large groups of visitors.</p> <p>Zone located in such a way as to not interfere with historic views/vistas of the cultural landscape.</p> <p>Visitors, facilities and resources intensely managed in this zone.</p>	<p>Zone includes minor modifications to existing facilities, amenities and resources to accommodate changing operational needs.</p> <p>Zone located in areas to minimize intrusions on the historic views/vistas and areas of high visitor use.</p>
<p>Paved roadways and associated developments used for touring the park, enjoying scenic overlooks and stopping to visit roadside interpretive media.</p> <p>Visitor experience generally dependent upon vehicle or bicycle, involves driving along a well maintained road, and is linear/sequential in nature.</p> <p>Observing the natural/cultural environment is important, and a sense of discovery is part of the experience, but there is little need for visitors to exert themselves.</p> <p>The probability of encountering other visitors is high.</p>	<p>Visitor experience focused on recreational and social interaction with some interpretive opportunities present.</p> <p>Natural and cultural resources provide the visual backdrop within this setting with predominant signs of people.</p> <p>Visitor support facilities are convenient and accessible.</p>	<p>Zone dedicated to park operational and maintenance needs. Visitors discouraged from this zone.</p>
<p>Motorized sightseeing occurs in a non-intrusive way throughout the park, primarily on existing roadways.</p> <p>The area includes paved roadways, pullouts, overlooks, associated short trails, parking areas and other facilities that support visitor touring.</p> <p>Roadway design and speed limits are adjusted in this zone to safely accommodate cars and bicyclists, and frequent stops.</p> <p>This zone includes park entrance facilities and associated visitor service areas.</p>	<p>Facilities present to accommodate large group picnics and approved recreational activities.</p> <p>Visitor amenities include picnic tables, restrooms and parking.</p> <p>Recreational activities such as ball playing, frisbee throwing and picnicking would occur in this zone.</p> <p>Special events/activities by permit only are allowed in this zone.</p>	<p>Zone includes essential facilities, structures and equipment to meet operational and maintenance needs of the Park.</p> <p>Activities and facilities in this zone intensely limit visual, audio or olfactory impacts to park resources and visitor enjoyment.</p>



Next Steps

Over the next several months, the planning team will continue to refine the alternatives and prepare the draft General Management Plan documents for public comment. We will also be monitoring the progress of the Bypass Study as it nears completion and the selection of a preferred alternative. The outcome of the Bypass Study will be incorporated into the final General Management Plan.

In order for the General Management Plan to be a success, the planning team needs your help. Please fill out the enclosed form, go on-line to submit your comments or contact the park directly. We would appreciate your comments at any time. However, for the preparation of the draft GMP, we would like to receive them by Friday, December 5th, 2003. The schedule to the right illustrates the sequence of events and target dates for completing the General Management Plan. We hope you stay involved in this process and continue to help us to define the best possible future for Manassas National Battlefield Park.



Here's How You Can Be Involved

1. Fill out the enclosed comment form and send it back to us by Friday, December 5th, 2003.

2. If you use the internet, you can find ongoing updates about the study at www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm. You can also submit your comments on the website.

3. Attend the summer and fall 2004 public meetings. Dates and times for these meetings will be announced at a later date.

INTERESTING PARK FACTS

- ▲ The park encompasses 5,071 acres.
- ▲ Annually, approximately 790,000 people visit the park.
- ▲ Over 55 miles of walking and bridle trails traverse the entire park.
- ▲ The park includes: large tracts of land managed to represent the historic scene as it existed at the times of the battles, 3 historic houses, 1 confederate cemetery, the reconstructed Stone Bridge over Bull Run, 6 miles of historic road traces, and numerous other archeological resources including historic and prehistoric structures, ruins, cemeteries, trenches and earthworks. .
- ▲ Of the 384 conflicts representing the principal battles during the Civil War, only 58 of these sites fall under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service - Manassas National Battlefield Park preserves 2 of these significant sites.
- ▲ There are 168 bird, 26 mammals, 23 reptile and 19 amphibian species documented within the park.
- ▲ The park consists of a patchwork of 60% open fields/grasslands and 40% second growth forests.



Manassas National Battlefield Park General Management Plan COMMENT FORM

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Capital Region



Please take a few moments to share your views with us concerning the proposed management zoning and transportation concepts highlighted in this newsletter. As well, feel free to provide comments on the alternatives and any other aspects of the General Management Plan. We welcome your comments at anytime, but ideally we would like to receive them by Friday, December 5, 2003. You can also post your comments to these same questions on the internet at www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm.

1. Do the management zones adequately reflect the range of visitor experiences and resource conditions you would like to see at Manassas National Battlefield Park? Are they located in the appropriate areas?

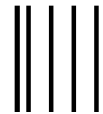
2. What do you think of the proposed internal park circulation and transportation concepts? Are there any other strategies we should consider to control the flow of traffic within the park?

3. If you were to choose one of the three alternatives, which one best meets the purpose and goals of Manassas National Battlefield Park? Why?

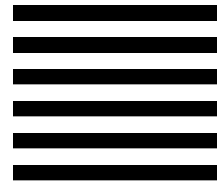
4. Do you have any other comments or concerns regarding the information presented?



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Please fold this comment form so that the return address shows and tape or staple closed. No postage necessary.

Do you wish to remain on the mailing list for Manassas National Battlefield Park?

Yes, I would like to remain on the park mailing list and my name and address are correct.

Yes, I would like to remain on the park mailing list, but please correct my name and address to the following:

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No, please remove my name and address from your mailing list (please include your name and address below).

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