



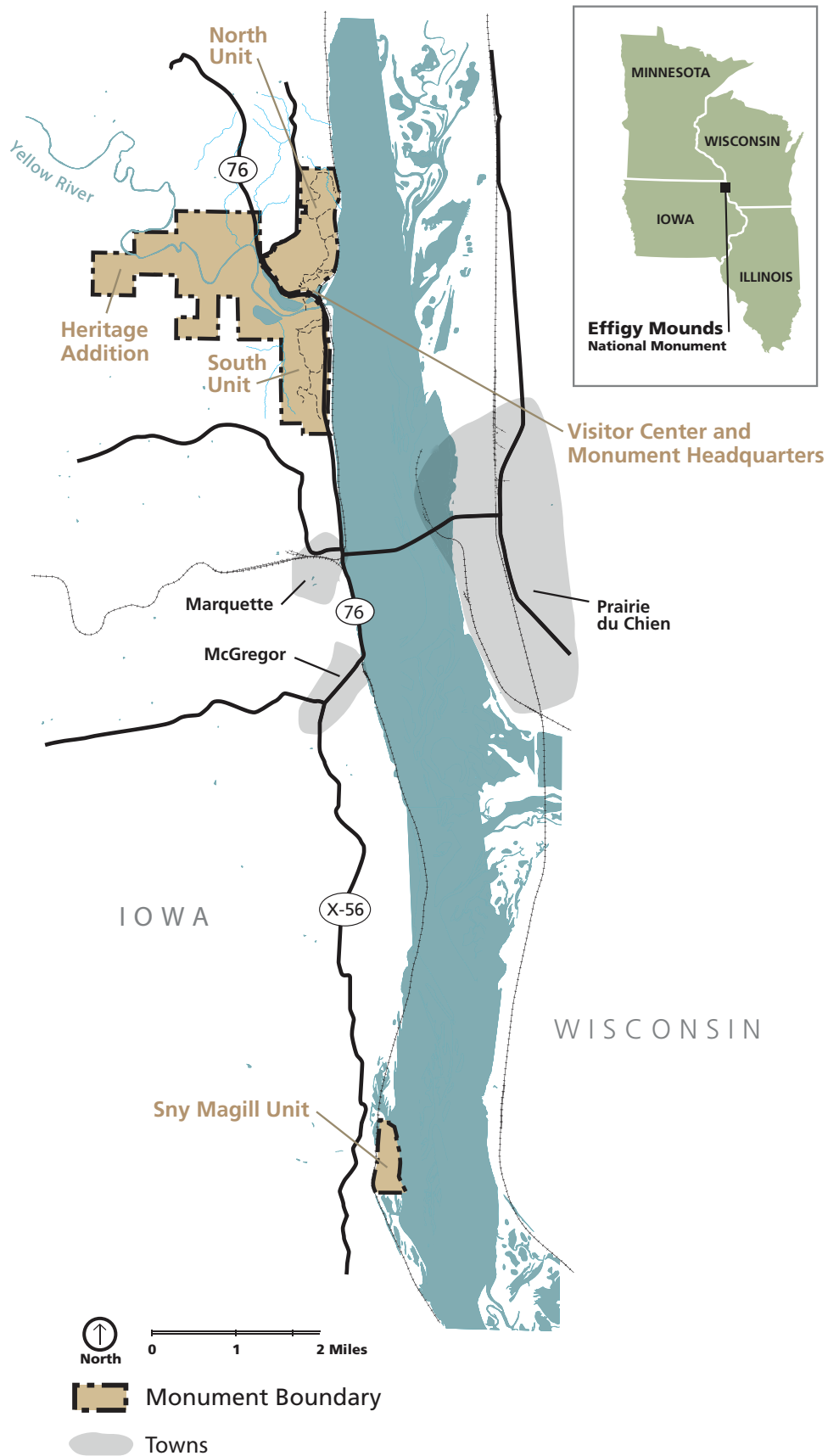
Effigy Mounds National Monument

Iowa

General Management Plan Summary

March 2014





Contents

Introduction 2

General Management Plan Summary 2

 Summary 2

 The Selected Action: A Summary 3

 Desired Conditions 4

Resource, Visitor Use, and Monument Management 7

 Resource Management 7

 Visitor Use Management 7

 Monument Management 8

 Mitigating Impacts to Protect Cultural and Natural Resources 10

Management Zones 13

 Heritage Addition 19

 North Unit (Not including the Visitor Center Area). 20

 North Unit Visitor Center Area 20

 South Unit 21

 Sny Magill Unit 21

 Proposed Changes to Legislated Boundary (Non-NPS Land) 22

User Capacity 24

 Overview 24

Tables

 Table 1: Management Zones 16

 Table 2: User Capacity Indicators and Standards. 25

Figures

 Figure 1: Known, Probable, and Possible Mound Locations
 in Developed Area 9

 Figure 2: Management Zones 14

 Figure 3: Recommended Boundary Adjustments 23

Introduction

The February 2013 *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (GMP/EIS) for Effigy Mounds National Monument is a large document, at 280 pages. General management plans are long-term documents that articulate a management philosophy and framework for decision making and problem solving in units of the national park system. As such, general management plans must meet a variety of important legal requirements and are usually very lengthy. Unfortunately, their sheer size can intimidate anyone who might be looking for a quick answer.

As a result, a shorter version of the original plan has been produced. This shorter version is 100% consistent with the original. To reduce the document size, unnecessary introductory text, boilerplate language, alternatives discussed and analyzed but not chosen, explanatory language, and the environmental analysis were eliminated. The end result is a version of the plan that is far more manageable and easier to navigate.

Ultimately, this version of the plan is meant to supplement, rather than replace *Effigy Mounds National Monument Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*. Although you may find quicker answers to some of your questions by reading this document first, you will have to consult the full-length version if you are looking for the rationale behind certain decisions. In short, you'll find the *what* here, but not the *why*. Ideally, readers should keep the two documents side by side.

General Management Plan Summary

Summary

During the development of the general management plan, the National Park Service closely examined past construction activities and practices in the park, particularly those with the potential to harm archeological resources, which the park was created to protect. To ensure the safety of these resources, the National Park Service spent a significant amount of time during the general management plan process reassessing the proper role, function, and form of development in a landscape dominated by the mounds. Additionally, management direction was needed for the newly added 1,045-acre Heritage Addition and for the Sny Magill unit.

The goals of this plan are to:

- Provide enhanced natural and cultural resource protection.
- Provide opportunities for increased understanding of the monument.
- Expand opportunities for visitors to experience relative quiet and solitude.

Due to the sensitivity and irreplaceable nature of the mounds and cultural landscape, the National Park Service will accomplish these goals with the minimum amount of development.

The Selected Action: A Summary

Under the selected action, allowing visitors to make personal connections to the monument's tangible resources through understanding of the significance of the (pre-European contact) American Indian moundbuilding story and its relationship to the heritage of the region will comprise the desired visitor experience.

The landscape and visitor facilities will support a contemplative atmosphere with opportunities for visitors to spend time reflecting on the lives and legacy of the moundbuilders and the sacred nature of the site today. Education and interpretation of the natural resources of the park will be expanded.

The natural setting created by preserving or restoring landscapes will provide a connection between the moundbuilding culture and the environment that shaped the lives and beliefs of the moundbuilders. This attribute will be especially enhanced through the extensive backcountry zone.

Visitor experience throughout the monument will be primarily self-guided on a variety of trails in a quiet, contemplative setting to maintain an atmosphere of respect for the sacred nature of the monument.

Consistent with the resource conditions and visitor experiences defined in the backcountry zone, visitors to some areas of the monument will be able to traverse marked walking trails through some of the natural, undeveloped landscapes and experience some mounds in a more natural state (with a minimum of woody materials removed for preservation purposes).

Providing access to mounds that are in varying conditions will provide an expansion of existing interpretive opportunities and a better understanding of the monument's fundamental resources. A trail connecting the Yellow River Bridge and North unit trails to the South unit trails will be developed in consultation with the Iowa state historic preservation officer, Office of the State Archaeologist, and traditionally associated American Indian tribes.

A virtual research center will be developed to serve as an online portal for information exchange on mound research and management in the region. The virtual research center will be developed and managed by monument staff, in partnership with other land managers and academic institutions.



Desired Conditions

Archeological Resources

Archeological sites are identified and inventoried and their significance is determined and documented. Archeological sites are preserved and protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. When disturbance or deterioration is unavoidable, the site is professionally documented and excavated in consultation with the Iowa state historic preservation officer and traditionally associated tribes. Resulting artifacts, materials, and records are curated, conserved, and/or repatriated. Some archeological sites that can be adequately protected may be interpreted to the visitor.

Sample Actions:

- Complete archeological surveys of all units of the national monument.
- If archeological resources are discovered, they will be treated as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (national register) pending a formal determination of their significance by the National Park Service, the Iowa state historic preservation officer, and traditionally associated American Indian tribes.
- Protect all archeological resources; if disturbance to such resources is unavoidable, conduct formal consultation with the Iowa state historic preservation officer, traditionally associated American Indian tribes, and as necessary, with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- When archeological resources are discovered, consult with traditionally associated American Indian tribes.
- In advance of any new development or modification of existing developments, consult with the Iowa state historic preservation officer and traditionally associated American Indian tribes.

Historic and Prehistoric Structures

Historic structures are inventoried and their significance and integrity are evaluated under national register criteria. The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic structures in the national register are protected in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (unless it is determined through a formal process that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable).

Sample Actions:

- Maintain and certify the List of Classified Structures—the NPS inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures that have historical, architectural, or engineering significance.
- Determine the appropriate level of preservation for each historic structure formally determined to be eligible for listing or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscape inventories are conducted to identify landscapes potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to assist in future management decisions for landscapes and associated resources, both cultural and natural.

A cultural landscape report clearly identifies the landscape characteristics and associated features, values, and associations that make a landscape historically and culturally significant. The content of a cultural landscape report provides the basis for making sound decisions about management, treatment, and use.

The management of cultural landscapes focuses on preserving the landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use (when that use contributes to its historical significance).

Sample Actions:

- Maintain and certify the cultural landscapes inventory—an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance in which the National Park Service has acquired or plans to acquire legal interest.
- Update the current cultural landscapes inventory to determine whether an “ethnographic landscape” exists, to determine its boundaries, and to document any resources.
- Complete the cultural landscape report for the monument.
- Maintain cultural landscapes according to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

Museum Collections

All museum collections (precontact and historic objects, artifacts, works of art, archival documents, and natural history specimens) are identified and inventoried, cataloged, documented, preserved, and protected; and provisions are made for access to and use of the collections for exhibits, research, and interpretation according to NPS standards.

The qualities that contribute to the significance of collections are protected in accordance with established standards.

Sample Actions:

- Inventory and catalog all museum collections in accordance with standards in Director's Order 24: *Museum Collections Management* and the *NPS Museum Handbook*.
- Develop and implement a collection management program according to NPS standards to guide the protection, conservation, and use of museum objects.

Visitor Use and Experience

Cultural and natural resources are conserved “unimpaired” for the enjoyment of future generations. Visitors have opportunities for forms of enjoyment that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the superlative natural and cultural resources found in the national monument. No activities occur that will cause derogation of the values and purposes for which the monument has been established.

Visitors will have opportunities to learn about and appreciate the significance of the national monument and its resources and to develop a personal stewardship ethic.

For all zones, units, or other logical management divisions in the monument, the types and levels of visitor use are consistent with the desired resource and visitor experience conditions prescribed for those areas.

To the extent feasible, programs, services, and facilities are accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities.

Sample Actions:

- Give all visitors the opportunity to understand, appreciate, and enjoy the resources and values of the national monument.
- Continue to monitor visitor comments on issues such as crowding, access, and other experience-related topics.
- Identify implementation commitments for user capacities for all areas of the national monument.



Resource, Visitor Use, and Monument Management

Resource Management

- The mounds will be preserved in place.
- Archeological survey and evaluations and a cultural landscape report will be completed for the entire monument.
- National Register of Historic Places nomination forms will be updated to include descriptions of all eligible (contributing) resources not presently described and to incorporate new scientific information.
- When feasible, the resources of the monument will be managed for a landscape that emulates that which existed during the moundbuilding era and to be identified in the cultural landscape report. The sensitive cultural and natural resources will be preserved using the natural processes that sustained the moundbuilders and protected their heritage through time, combined with the appropriate management practices to conserve them for the future.
- Cooperative management strategies with stakeholders for resource protection and preservation will be developed.
- Archeological evaluations of sites could include noninvasive geophysical investigations of mounds and limited archeological testing of nonmound areas of cultural sites.
- While natural resources and processes will be preserved or restored to the extent possible, they could be managed, when necessary, to restore landscapes or preserve fundamental cultural resources.
- Ongoing ecosystem restoration efforts and nonnative species management will continue.
- The monument staff will complete a resource stewardship strategy that includes an ecosystem restoration strategy, nonnative species management, and a fire management plan.
- Riverbanks in the Sny Magill unit will be stabilized for erosion control and selected trees may be removed from the mound group and adjacent area.

Visitor Use Management

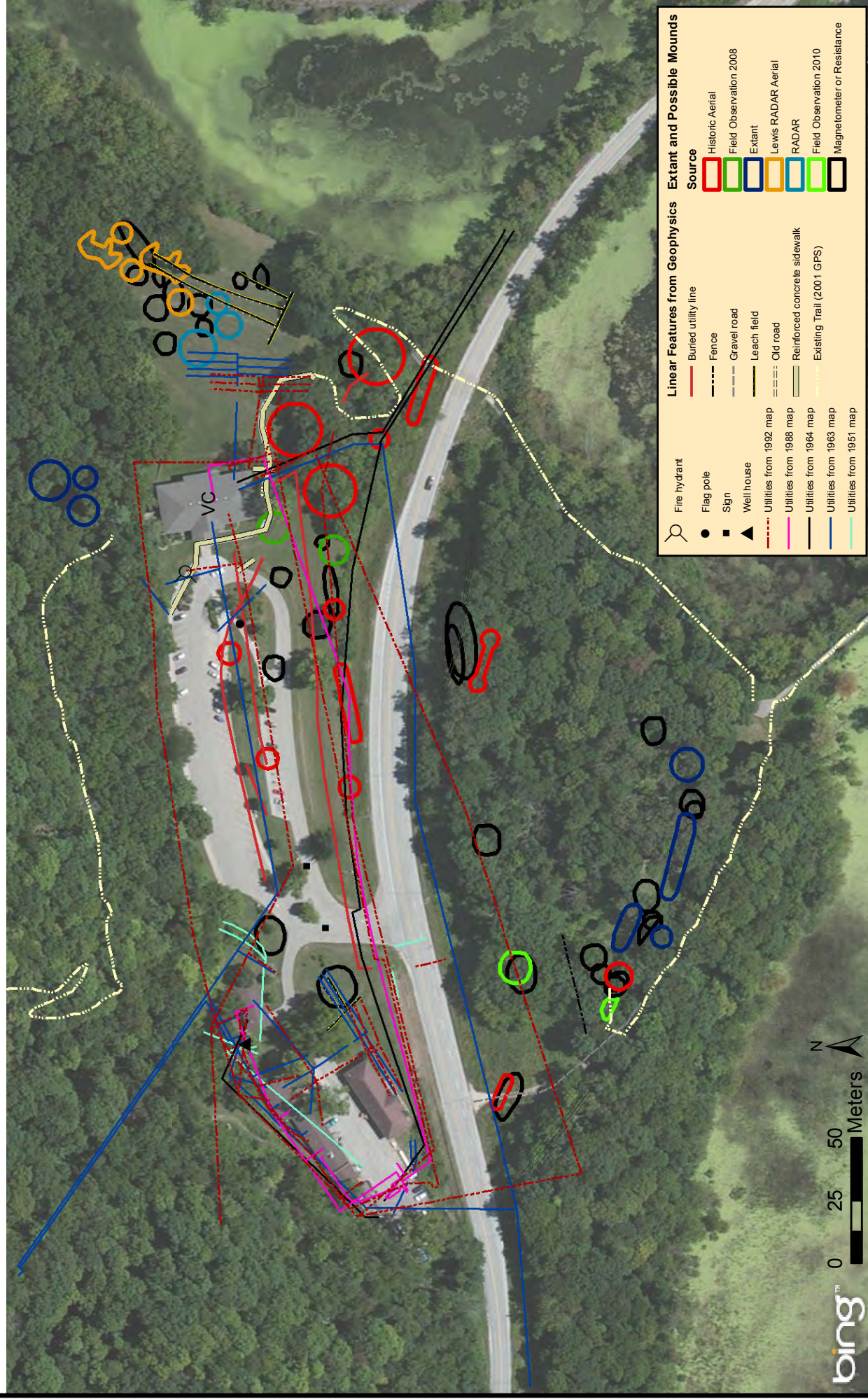
- Safety messages will be prominent in communications to the public.
- Interpretation will emphasize the sacred nature of the mounds and resources and will consider the cultural resources (mounds) as symbols of the values, beliefs, and accomplishments of the moundbuilders.
- The National Park Service will explore partnership possibilities with appropriate groups to offer interpretive canoe trips.
- Frequent special events will take place in developed areas.
- Wetland habitat interpretive programs will be offered as accessible opportunities for all visitors.



Monument Management

- An approved boundary survey will be completed to resolve land issues.
- Treatment of unused logging roads will be dictated by the completed cultural landscape report.
- Maintenance facilities and functions will stay where they are while actively adapting to the changing needs of resource and facility requirements.
- Radon, which has been found in the basement of the headquarters building, will be mitigated.
- The recently remodeled former park housing units will continue to be used as office space for park employees.
- If new information reveals that repairing or replacing existing infrastructure in the headquarters area will cause harm to archeological resources, the National Park Service will investigate ways to repair or replace that infrastructure in a nonintrusive manner or will consider relocating facilities (figure 1).

Figure 1: Known, Probable, and Possible Mound Locations in Developed Area



Mitigating Impacts to Protect Cultural and Natural Resources

To ensure activities stay within the parameters of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act compliance documents; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers section 404 permits; and other applicable law, policy, and regulation, Effigy Mounds National Monument will:

Cultural Resources

- Continue to develop inventories and oversee research on cultural resources.
- Subject projects to site-specific planning and compliance.
- Inventory all unsurveyed areas of the park.
- Document and identify treatments for cultural and ethnographic landscapes.
- Conduct archeological site monitoring and routine protection.
- Avoid, if not possible mitigate, impacts on ethnographic resources.
- Continue ongoing consultations with traditionally associated American Indian tribes.
- Design facilities to avoid known or suspected archeological resources.
- If previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during project work, all work in the area will cease until the site can be evaluated by a qualified person and appropriate action can be implemented.
- Encourage visitors through the park's interpretive programs to respect and leave undisturbed any inadvertently encountered archeological resources and any offerings placed by American Indians.
- Strictly adhere to NPS museum collections standards and guidelines on the display and care of artifacts.





Natural Resources

- Implement a dust abatement program.
- Build new facilities on soils suitable for development.
- Conduct surveys for rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Locate and design facilities to avoid adverse effects on rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Implement measures to reduce adverse effects of nonnative plants and wildlife on rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Monitor areas used by visitors for signs of native vegetation disturbance.
- Develop revegetation plans for disturbed areas and use native species.
- Prevent water pollution during construction by using best management practices such as erosion control measures.
- Build a runoff filtration system to minimize water pollution from larger parking areas.
- Employ techniques where necessary to reduce impacts on wildlife, including visitor education programs and restrictions on visitor and park management activities.
- Implement a natural resource preservation program.
- Delineate and clearly mark wetlands by qualified NPS staff or certified wetlands specialists before construction work begins.
- Minimize noise impacts from construction by monitoring noise levels of equipment and using noise-reduction technologies.
- Where appropriate, use facilities such as trails and fences to route visitors away from sensitive natural and cultural resources, while still permitting access to important viewpoints.
- Design, site, and construct facilities to avoid or minimize adverse effects on natural and cultural resources and visual intrusion into the natural and cultural landscape.
- Provide vegetation screening where appropriate to conceal intrusive equipment and structures into natural areas.



Management Zones

The primary building blocks for creating a framework for consistent and defensible management for a national park system unit are the management zones (figure 2 and table 1).

Management zones define specific resource conditions and visitor experience to be achieved and maintained in each particular area of Effigy Mounds National Monument. Each zone description includes the types of activities and facilities appropriate to support the desired conditions.

The majority of the monument will be in the backcountry zone. The area around the visitor center will be zoned as development, and the most heavily used trails and mound groups will be in the discovery zone.

In the backcountry zone, the emphasis will be on the protection of resources in a natural setting. There will be minimal development and visitor experience will be one of quiet and solitude.

The emphasis of the development zone will be to provide the facilities and amenities necessary for visitor services and monument operations.

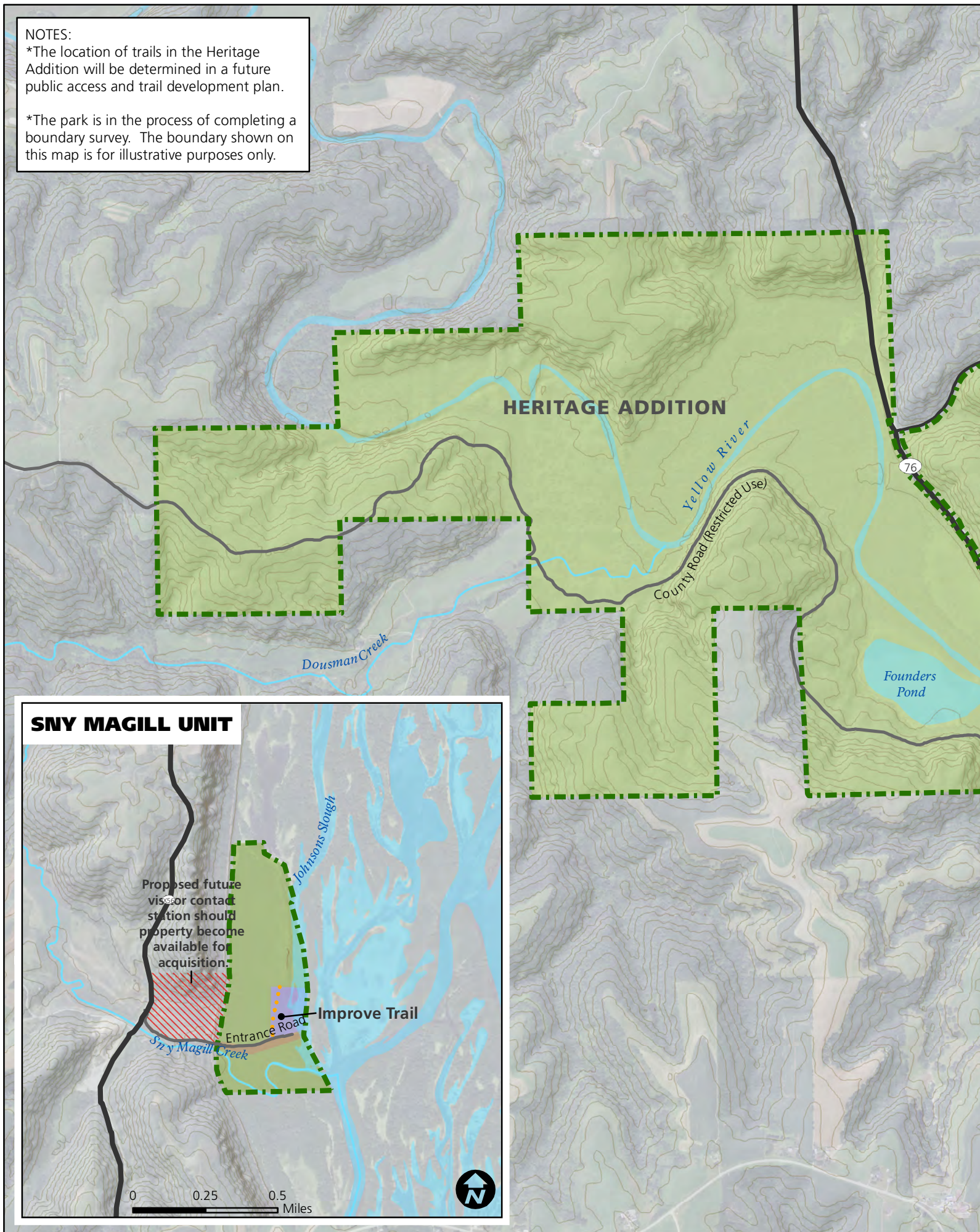
In the discovery zone, the emphasis will be on enhancing visitor access and experience of the mounds, while maintaining a natural setting.

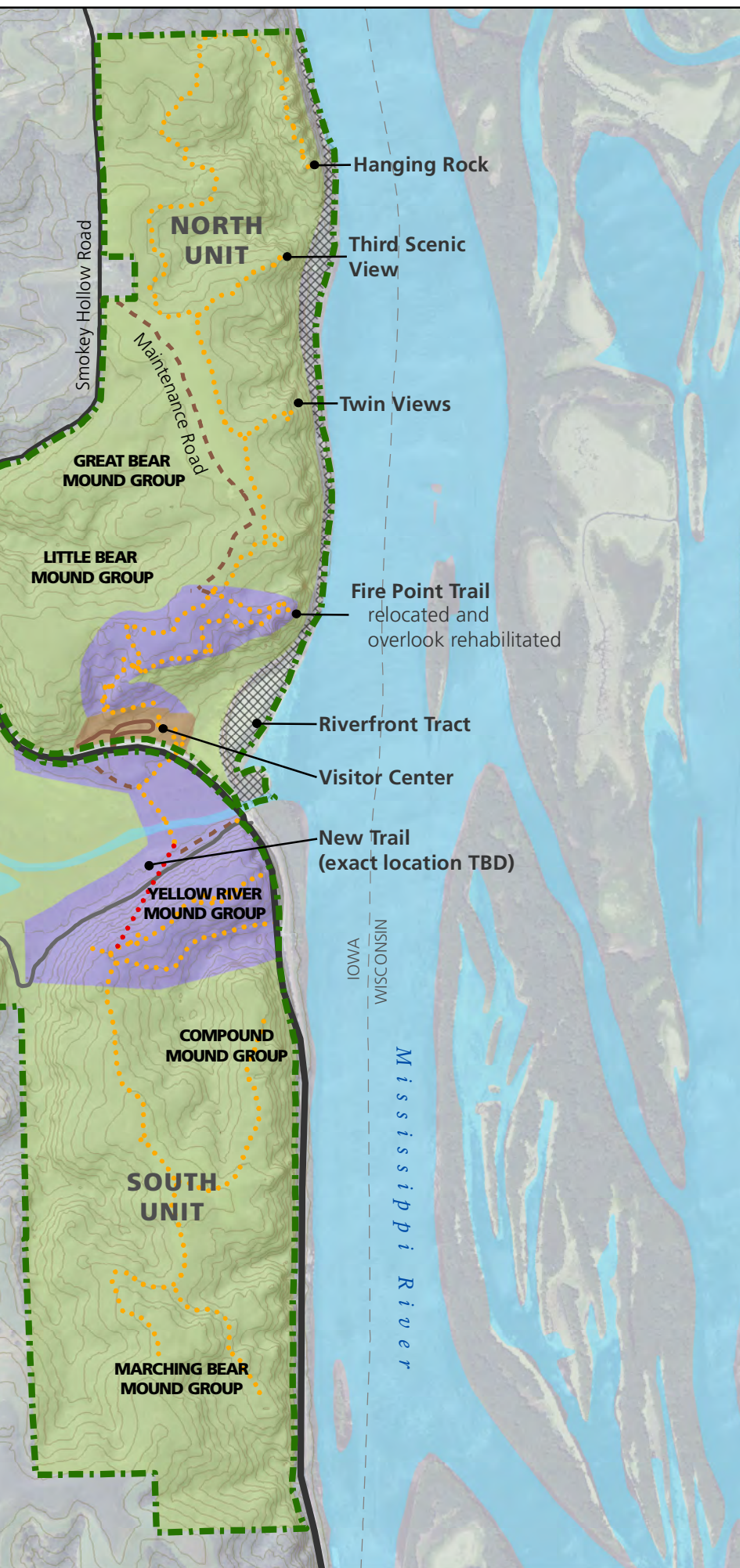


NOTES:

*The location of trails in the Heritage Addition will be determined in a future public access and trail development plan.

*The park is in the process of completing a boundary survey. The boundary shown on this map is for illustrative purposes only.





**Figure 2:
Management Zones**

EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Legend

- Contour Lines (10 m interval)
- Public Road
- County Road
- Park Road
- Maintenance Access
- Trail
- New Trail (location TBD)
- State Boundary
- Waterbody
- National Monument Boundary
- Non-NPS Land within Park Boundary

Alternative Management Zones

- Backcountry Zone
- Developed Zone
- Discovery Zone

Air Photo Source: National Agricultural
Imagery Program (NAIP)
Collection Year: 2010



0 0.25 0.5
Miles

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

DSC/June 2012

Table 1: Management Zones

	Backcountry Zone (green)	Discovery zone (purple)	Development Zone (brown)
Purpose/ Emphasis	<p>In this zone, the emphasis would be on the protection of resources in a natural setting.</p> <p>There would be minimal development and the visitor experience would be one of quiet and solitude.</p> <p>Maintenance activities would occur primarily to further resource preservation, while accommodating visitor experience as appropriate.</p>	<p>In this zone, the emphasis would be on enhancing visitor access and understanding of the mounds, while still maintaining a natural setting.</p> <p>There would be some development designed to enhance understanding, such as interpretive waysides and signs. Ranger-led activities would occur here, and visitors would be likely to see others in this zone.</p> <p>Maintenance activities in this zone would occur primarily to enhance visitor experience as much as possible, while preserving resources.</p>	<p>The emphasis of this zone would be to provide the facilities and amenities necessary for visitor services and monument operations.</p> <p>Although zoned for development, the recent discovery of numerous mound remnants in the headquarters development zone make careful and thoughtful consultation with associated tribes and other parties increasingly important whenever changes or improvements to this area are contemplated. See figure 1.</p> <p>The primary purpose of maintenance activities in this zone would be to maintain resources and facilities in support of visitor experiences, safety, and park operations.</p>
Desired Resource Conditions			
Cultural Resources	<p>Burial mounds and other cultural resources would be preserved in place in good condition according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.</p>	<p>Burial mounds and other cultural resources would be preserved in place in good condition according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.</p> <p>Mowing on or around the mounds would be done in accordance with the treatment recommendations of an approved cultural landscape report.</p>	<p>Where present in this zone, cultural resources would be protected and monitored according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.</p>
Natural Resources	<p>Natural resources would be managed to preserve or restore the approximate appearance of the landscape associated with the moundbuilding era (to be identified in the cultural landscape report) and to preserve rare habitat.</p>	<p>Natural resources in this zone would be managed to allow for visitor access and to approximate the appearance of the landscape associated with the moundbuilding era (to be identified in the cultural landscape report).</p>	<p>Natural resources would be modified when necessary for visitor use or monument operations.</p>

	Backcountry Zone (green)	Discovery zone (purple)	Development Zone (brown)
Desired Visitor Experience			
	<p>This zone would be experienced primarily by hiking or paddling via self-guided or ranger-led trips.</p> <p>On-site information and interpretation would be limited within the zone.</p> <p>The visitor experience would be relatively quiet and contemplative. Encounters with other visitors and monument staff would be rare.</p> <p>To fully experience this zone, a higher level of preparation would be necessary and a greater time commitment than in the other zones (1–4 hours) would be needed.</p>	<p>This zone would be experienced primarily by hiking or paddling via self-guided or ranger-led trips.</p> <p>On-site information and interpretation would be available at many sites in this zone.</p> <p>Encounters with other visitors and monument staff would be expected in this zone.</p> <p>A moderate time commitment and physical ability would be necessary to experience this zone.</p>	<p>This zone would offer the primary orientation to the park. Information and interpretation would be offered in an indoor setting.</p> <p>Special events for large crowds could be accommodated here. Many encounters with other visitors and monument staff would be expected.</p> <p>All visitors, regardless of time allowance and physical ability, could experience this zone. Visitors could gain some understanding of the park with a 30 to 60 minute time commitment.</p>
Appropriate Facilities and Monument Operation Practices			
Facilities	<p>Trails: Simple, minimally developed foot trails; over time, trails in this zone would be 2 to 3 feet in width with some naturally occurring obstacles. The trails would generally have a natural dirt surface, unless preservation needs require</p>	<p>Trails: Foot trails in this zone would be moderately developed; over time, trails in this zone would be 3 to 6 feet in width. Natural surface materials would be used to maintain the trail tread; examples include woodchips, compacted</p>	<p>Unless future studies demonstrate unacceptable harm occurring to recently discovered mound remnants in this area, this zone would have the visitor center, research and educational facilities, administrative offices,</p>

	Backcountry Zone (green)	Discovery zone (purple)	Development Zone (brown)
Facilities, continued	<p>the use of surface materials for resource protection. Drainage features would be designed to blend with the natural environment.</p> <p>The one exception to the trail standards (above) is the South unit trail to the Marching Bear Mound Group. This trail would continue to accommodate occasional use (not to exceed two vehicle trips a week) by small park vehicles.</p> <p>There would be no additional raised boardwalk trails.</p> <p><u>Roads:</u> Maintenance roads in the backcountry zone would be limited. The maintenance road in the North unit (that supports maintenance of the discovery zone) would be used on an occasional basis by park staff, not to exceed three trips per week. The North unit maintenance road would have a natural dirt surface and would not exceed 10 feet in width. The northern maintenance road in the North unit would be abandoned.</p> <p><u>Other Facilities:</u> Other facilities in this zone would include small rustic benches and limited, unobtrusive informational signs.</p>	<p>crushed stone, and dirt. Drainage features would be designed to blend with the natural environment.</p> <p>There would be no additional raised boardwalk trails.</p> <p><u>Roads:</u> Maintenance roads in the discovery zone would be acceptable. If possible without disturbing resources, some trails would be constructed or rebuilt to accommodate occasional use by small park vehicles and could be accessed by people with mobility impairments.</p> <p><u>Other Facilities:</u> Other facilities in this zone would include benches, interpretive waysides, and amenities such as trash/recycling receptacles.</p>	<p>maintenance facilities, trailheads, primary indoor and outdoor interpretive exhibits, museum collections storage and management space, parking lot, surfaced trails, developed outdoor program area, and accessible facilities.</p>
Practices for Maintenance/ Operations and Resource Management	<p>Park staff and volunteers would maintain resources and facilities in this zone with an emphasis on preserving resource integrity.</p>	<p>Park staff and volunteers would maintain resources and facilities in this zone with an emphasis on the support of visitor experience and safety to the extent possible without compromising resource integrity.</p>	<p>Park staff and volunteers would maintain resources and facilities in this zone with an emphasis on the support of visitor experience, safety, and park operations.</p>

Heritage Addition

The Heritage Addition will be primarily zoned as backcountry.

Public trails will be provided in the Heritage Addition using the existing county road and appropriate logging roads. Some new trails could be constructed according to a public access/trail development plan. Trails will be designed according to trail standards for the backcountry zone. Trails will be for pedestrian use—no horses, bicycles, or public vehicles will be allowed. Leave No Trace principles will be emphasized, including trash removal.

The specific site of trails in the Heritage Addition will be identified in a subsequent trail development or public access plan. The access plan will explore and analyze potential options that require a minimum of new trail construction. The National Park Service will seek hiking access, county relinquishment, or abandonment of the restricted use county road to facilitate use of the road as a trail. Treatment of unused logging roads will be dictated by the completed cultural landscape report.

Visitors will receive information and orientation at the visitor center before accessing the Heritage Addition. Wayside and sign placement (for orientation and/or interpretation) will be minimized; locations will be selected to carefully reflect the contemplative setting desired. Placement of signs will be guided by the long-range interpretation plan. Appropriate activities allowed in the unit will include quiet, low impact, resource-based activities such as hiking, canoeing, and wildlife viewing.

Public access will include canoeing and ranger-led hikes. Pass-through canoeing on the Yellow River will be allowed, but take-out will be prohibited in the monument to protect riverside resources. River and aquatic biology educational programming could be offered using the Yellow River and wetlands. No facilities will be provided. Boat take-out will be prohibited and this prohibition will be actively enforced. Wild and scenic river designation will be pursued for the Yellow River.



North Unit (Not Including the Visitor Center Area)

Most of the North unit will be zoned as backcountry. The area immediately north of the visitor center and maintenance area will be placed in the discovery zone. There will be no development of new facilities in the North unit. Maintenance access to the northernmost portion of the monument will be nonvehicular and the northern maintenance road will be abandoned.

The National Park Service will pursue acquisition of the Riverfront Tract in the legislated boundary from a willing seller to protect cultural resources on the tract and will evaluate the sites for national register or national landmark status.

Existing trails that do not meet the trail standards for the backcountry and discovery zones will be corrected. If possible without compromising resource integrity, the existing trail at Fire Point will be moved for visitor safety and resource preservation. The mound at Fire Point will be stabilized after the trail is moved. All work will be done according to Advisory Council regulations (36 CFR Part 800), *NPS Management Policies 2006*, Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resources Management*, and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*. All work will be done in consultation with the Iowa state historic preservation officer and traditionally associated American Indian tribes.

Visitors will be provided opportunities to reflect on the influence of the natural world on the moundbuilders in a primarily quiet contemplative setting. There will be limited personal services such as guided hikes and talks. On-site information could be expanded subsequent to a long-range interpretation plan. Interpretive waysides and signs will be primarily sited in the discovery zone. Some interpretive waysides and signs may be carefully sited in the backcountry zone to provide essential information, but not detract from the natural and contemplative setting. Wayside and sign placement will be determined in the long-range interpretation plan.

North Unit Visitor Center Area

This area will be managed as part of the development zone. Those portions of the monument's museum collections and archives that are in long-term storage and not on display in the visitor center will either be (1) removed from the visitor center basement to a safer and more secure location where they will still be accessible for legitimate research; or (2) the current facility will be improved and staffing will be increased to more closely meet NPS museum collections standards. The National Park Service is willing to cooperate with local universities, museums, nonprofit organizations, or government agencies to store the museum collections and archives closer to Effigy Mounds National Monument, in accordance with NPS museum collections standards. Due to concerns

raised by traditionally associated tribes and other stakeholders, it may be preferable to keep the collections at Effigy Mounds National Monument. If the collections are moved, the NPS Midwest Regional Office, chief of museum collections and records will oversee the move and serve as a technical advisor. All options will be carefully considered in consultation with the state historic preservation officer, Office of the State Archaeologist, and traditionally associated tribes.

The depth of information and interpretation content in the visitor center will increase and new technology will be used as it becomes available.



South Unit

The majority of the South unit will be zoned for backcountry. The area immediately south of the visitor center and maintenance area will be placed in the discovery zone. The majority of the existing trails will be in the backcountry zone.

Existing trails that do not meet trail standards for the backcountry and discovery zones will be corrected. Existing trails could be realigned for resource preservation purposes in the backcountry zone and for visitor experience purposes in the discovery zone. The Yellow River Bridge Trail will be connected to the existing Marching Bear Trail. The exact location of the trail will be determined through careful site planning in consultation with the Iowa state historic preservation officer, Office of the State Archaeologist, and traditionally associated American Indian tribes.

Visitors will be primarily on their own in the backcountry zone and will have minimal contact with monument staff or other visitors. Visitors will be provided opportunities to experience the influence of the natural world on the moundbuilders through interpretation and contemplation and will receive information primarily from the visitor center and limited wayside exhibits. Interpretation of mound preservation and the related 19th century American Indian cultural experience will be enhanced by interpreting the military trail and cistern.

Interpretive waysides and signs will be primarily sited in the discovery zone. Some interpretive waysides and signs may be carefully sited in the backcountry zone to provide essential information, but not to detract from the natural and contemplative setting. Directional signs will be added as needed to assist visitors. Wayside and sign placement will be determined in the long-range interpretation plan. On-site information could be expanded subsequent to a long-range interpretation plan.

Sny Magill Unit

The majority of the Sny Magill unit will be zoned for backcountry. A small portion of the unit that contains an improved trail is zoned discovery.

The National Park Service will pursue acquisition of the land between the highway and the railroad tracks from a willing seller for a contact station to provide an NPS presence for resource protection and visitor services. A site development plan will be created to evaluate options for site and design of the visitor contact station, access trail, and trail surface improvements.

A portion of the existing trail will be improved according to the Sny Magill site development plan. The trail will be built from the parking area only to the first mounds encountered (approximately 412 yards). A site plan will be developed to evaluate options for location and design of the visitor contact station, access trail from visitor contact station to the mounds, and trail surface improvements.

Depending on the time of year, visitors will receive formal and informal personal services at the contact station such as NPS-conducted educational programs; conducted interpretive demonstrations, talks, and walks; and additional contacts with rangers. The National Park Service will explore possible cooperative partnerships with other agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide visitor services.

The public will continue to have access to this unit for recreational activities in appropriate areas. Boating on the Mississippi River adjacent to and within this unit will be monitored for use levels and resource impacts.

Proposed Changes to Legislated Boundary (Non-NPS Land)

During the course of the planning process, several land parcels were identified as potential additions to Effigy Mounds National Monument (figure 3).

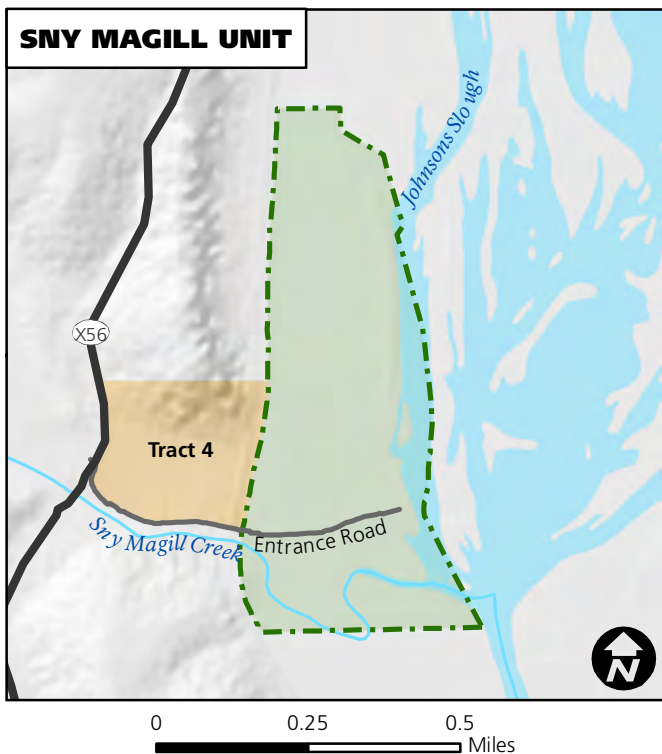
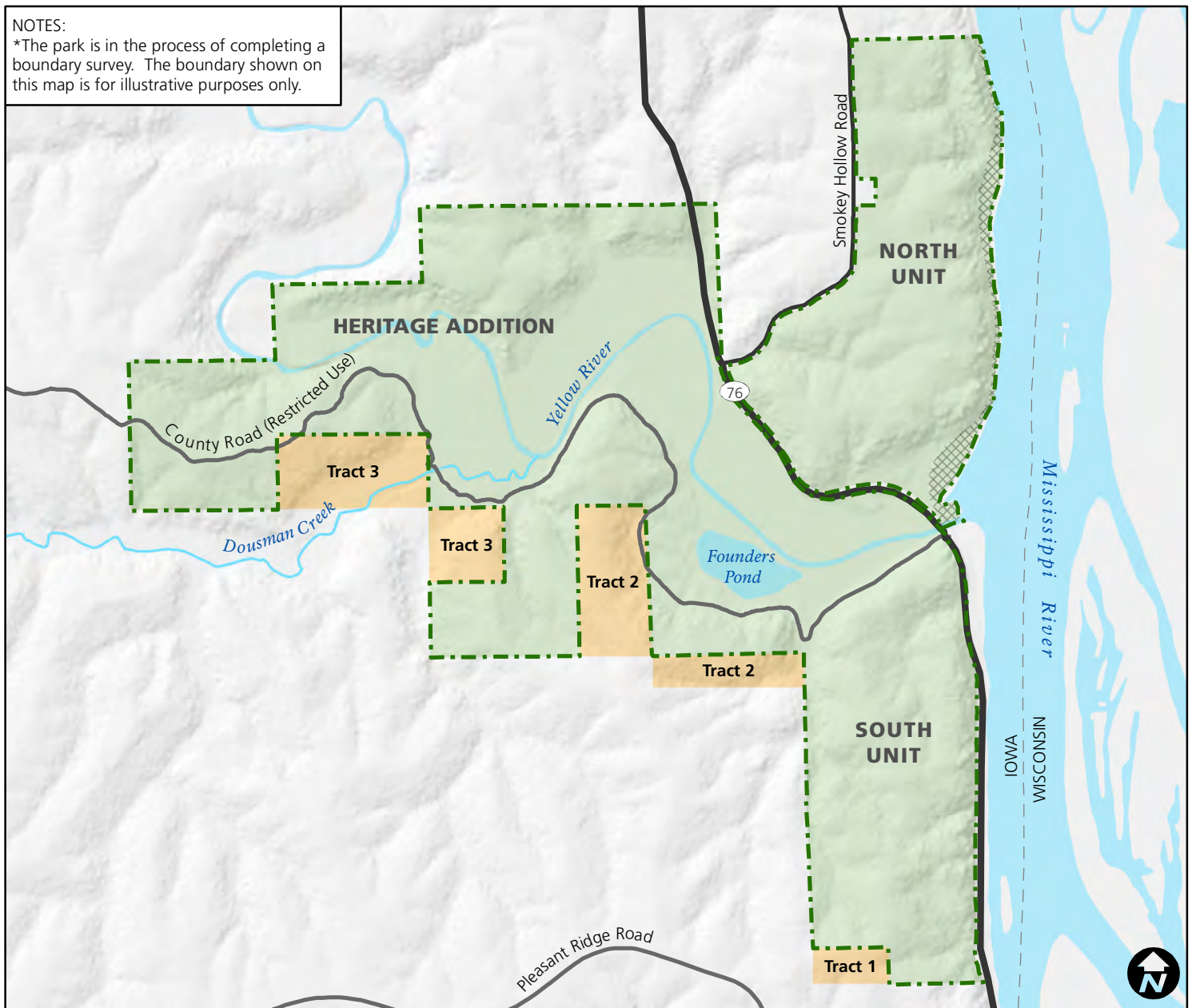
Tract 1 is adjacent to the part of the South unit that preserves the Marching Bear Mound Group. It is an approximately 20-acre parcel of agricultural land currently in row crops and hay rotation. Inclusion of this tract in the monument's boundary is necessary to protect significant resources and values and to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to monument purpose. Tract 1 lies within approximately 20 feet of the Marching Bear Mound Group. Development of this tract could threaten this fundamental park resource.

Tract 2 is an approximately 120-acre parcel, mostly on the sides and top of a bluff over the Yellow River. The tract consists of a mixture of open pasture, fields, and steep wooded slopes and has been used for farming and logging. In a narrow area between wetlands and bluffs on the west side of Founders Pond, a county road weaves in and out of the current park boundary and tract 2. Inclusion of this tract in the monument's boundary is necessary to protect significant resources and values and to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to monument purpose. The adjacent part of the monument is included in the backcountry zone in this plan where cultural resources are preserved in place in good condition and natural resources are managed to be preserved or be restored to an approximate appearance of the landscape associated with the moundbuilding era.

Tract 3 includes approximately 120 acres of land south and west of the monument. The tract consists mostly of steep wooded slopes punctuated by the valley formed by Dousman Creek and is mostly used for production forestry (logging). A county road weaves in and out of the current park boundary and this tract. Inclusion of this tract in the monument's boundary is necessary in order to protect significant resources and values and to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to monument purpose. The part of the monument adjacent to this tract is zoned to protect the natural setting of the mounds and the ability of visitors to experience them in this setting. If tract 3 continues to be used for commercial forestry and/or is developed, it will be difficult for the park to achieve desired conditions in the adjacent part of the monument. Without this tract in the monument's boundary, it will also be challenging to prevent degradation to the quality of Dousman Creek, which is a tributary to the Yellow River and a rare native trout stream. Commercial forestry activities upstream have the potential to increase surface runoff and sedimentation in the stream.

Tract 4 is an approximately 30-acre tract just west of the railroad corridor between the western border of the Sny Magill unit and Clayton County Road X56. This field is used for agricultural purposes, but most of it is seasonally flooded, which results in reduced crop yields. Adjusting the boundary to include this property will address operational and management issues. The selected alternative envisions this property to contain a small visitor contact station and possibly parking for visitors in high-profile vehicles that cannot currently access the Sny Magill unit given the low overhead railroad underpass. Because trail access from this visitor station to the mounds at Sny Magill will be provided, including this tract in the boundary will enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purpose.

NOTES:
 *The park is in the process of completing a boundary survey. The boundary shown on this map is for illustrative purposes only.



0 0.5 1 Miles

Legend

- Public Road
- County Road
- State Boundary
- Tract Proposal
- Waterbody
- National Monument Boundary
- Non-NPS Land within Park Boundary

Figure 3: Recommended Boundary Adjustments

EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 DSC/March 2012

User Capacity

Overview

General management plans for national park system units are required by law to identify and address implementation commitments for user capacity, also known as carrying capacity. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the types and levels of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experience consistent with the purposes of the park. Managing user capacity in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors, but also on where the visitors go, what they do, and the “footprints” they leave behind. In managing for user capacity, the park staff and partners rely on a variety of management tools and strategies rather than relying solely on regulating the number of people in a park area. In addition, the ever-changing nature of visitor use in parks requires a deliberate and adaptive approach to user capacity management.

Table 2 includes the indicators, standards, and potential future management strategies that will be implemented as a result of this planning effort.



Table 2: User Capacity Indicators and Standards

General Visitor Impact Topic	Indicator	Standard	Potential Management Strategies
<p>Visitor impacts to archeological resources and cultural landscapes</p>	<p>Documented changes in condition of cultural resources from visitor caused threats and disturbances, as defined in NPS Archeological Site Management Information System and List of Classified Structures (defined as good, fair, poor, or destroyed). Look at characteristics such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ visitor-caused degradation or visitor-caused increase in natural wear ▪ deliberate and unintentional vandalism or theft ▪ use of unauthorized areas/sites 	<p>Visitor impacts do not exceed threshold of changing overall site condition to a lesser condition (i.e., good to fair, fair to poor, etc.) with emphasis on maintaining sites in good condition</p> <p>Visitor impacts do not threaten character defining features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new opportunities for active or passive interpretation of sites that include education about staying on trails and park regulations (e.g., not walking on the mounds) ▪ Develop site stewardship programs with volunteers and organizations ▪ Partner with other historic preservation and friends groups to create awareness about archeological and historic sites and public archeology programs ▪ Mitigate/take corrective action consistent with Secretary of the Interior standards ▪ Restrict visitor activity at designated areas ▪ Add signs and/or barriers to better protect resources ▪ Increase law enforcement ▪ Establish site/area closures
<p>Visitor created trails (could be focused along the river and/or in other areas)</p>	<p>Number of visitor created trails on switchback or mound areas</p> <p>Total number of class 2 or above trails that leave designated trails</p>	<p>No tolerance (No new trails on switchback or mound areas)</p> <p>No more than a 5% increase above current baseline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in visitor education on staying on trails and park regulations ▪ Place border logs or other barriers along formal trails at the junction with informal trails ▪ Restore visitor created trails; add formal trailhead signs explaining the problem and asking visitors to remain on formal trails ▪ Enhance marking of the official trail and/or improve adjacent designated trails ▪ Increase enforcement or presence of rangers or volunteers ▪ Area closures ▪ Reduce use levels

Table 2: User Capacity Indicators and Standards

General Visitor Impact Topic		Indicator	Standard	Potential Management Strategies
Condition of designated trail system		Number of linear feet where the trail has expanded 1–3 feet wider than adjacent, more typical, sections of the trail per mile	No more than 500 linear feet per mile of trail exceeding the normal width in any zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider more substantial trail maintenance Increase in visitor education about staying on trails and park regulations Enhance marking of the official trail and/or further improve designated trails Consider trail realignment and/or reconstruction Install temporary or permanent signs Area closures Reduce group sizes and/or use levels
	Crowding at visitor center parking lot	Number of days with vehicles parked in unauthorized paved areas per year Number of days with vehicles parked in grassy areas per year	No more than 4 days per year No vehicles would be tolerated in unpaved (grassy) areas at any time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trip planning/education about off-peak times / additional signage Education about new findings of mound remnants in grassy areas of the park and why it is important to stay in designated parking areas Better demarcation (e.g., signage, barriers, and education) of area closures of sensitive areas Access by shuttle Increased enforcement Protection and interpretive rangers would be tasked with collecting data for vehicles parked in unauthorized areas

Trail Classification System

- Class 0: Trail barely distinguishable; no or minimal disturbance of vegetation and/or organic litter.
- Class 1: Trail distinguishable; slight loss of vegetation cover and/or minimal disturbance of organic litter.
- Class 2: Trail obvious; vegetation cover lost and/or organic litter pulverized in primary use areas.
- Class 3: Vegetation cover lost and/or organic litter pulverized within the center of the tread, some bare soil exposed.
- Class 4: Nearly complete or total loss of vegetation cover and organic litter within the tread, bare soil widespread.
- Class 5: Soil erosion obvious, as indicated by exposed roots and rocks and/or gullyng.



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

EFMO 394/122341

March 2014



Effigy Mounds National Monument

National Park Service • U.S. Department of the Interior

