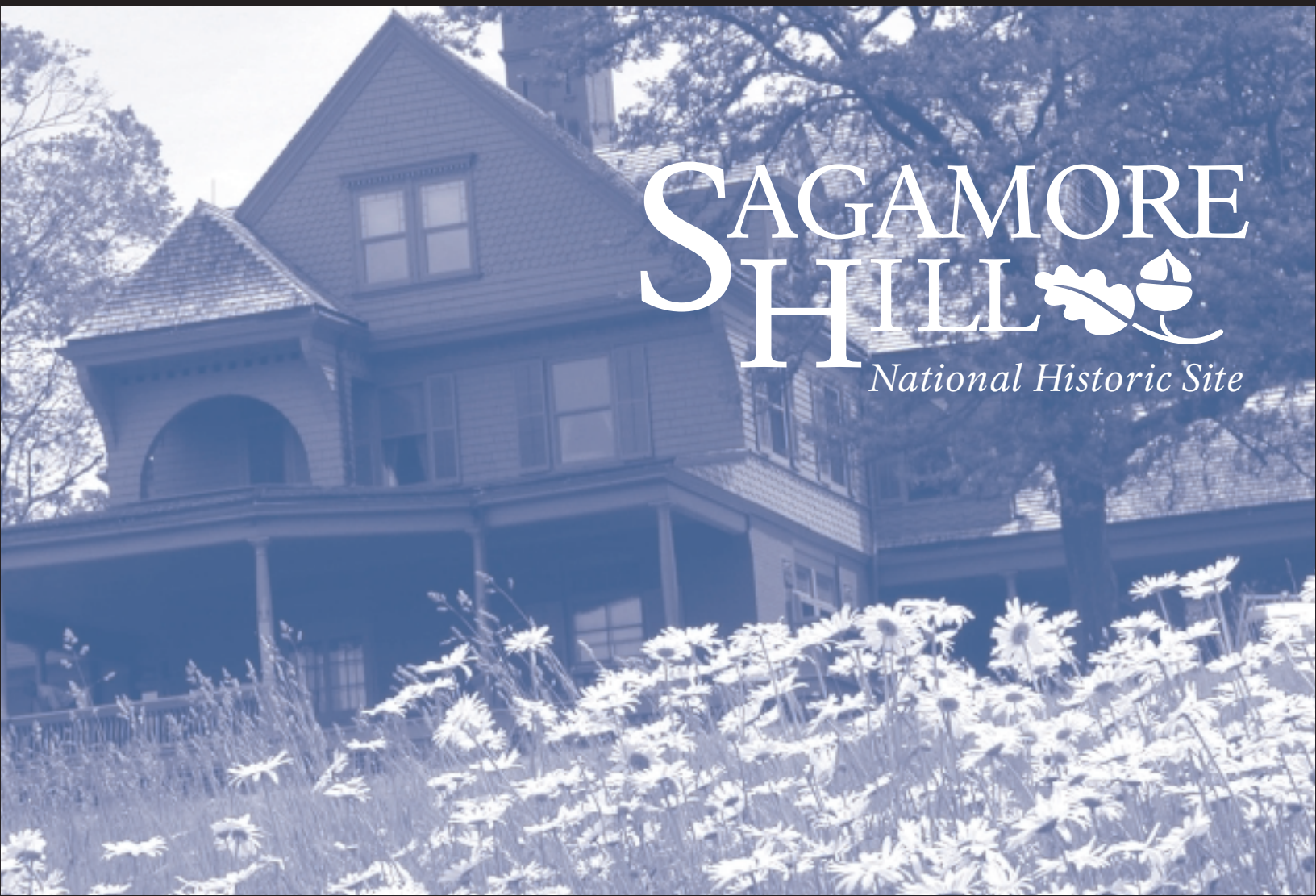


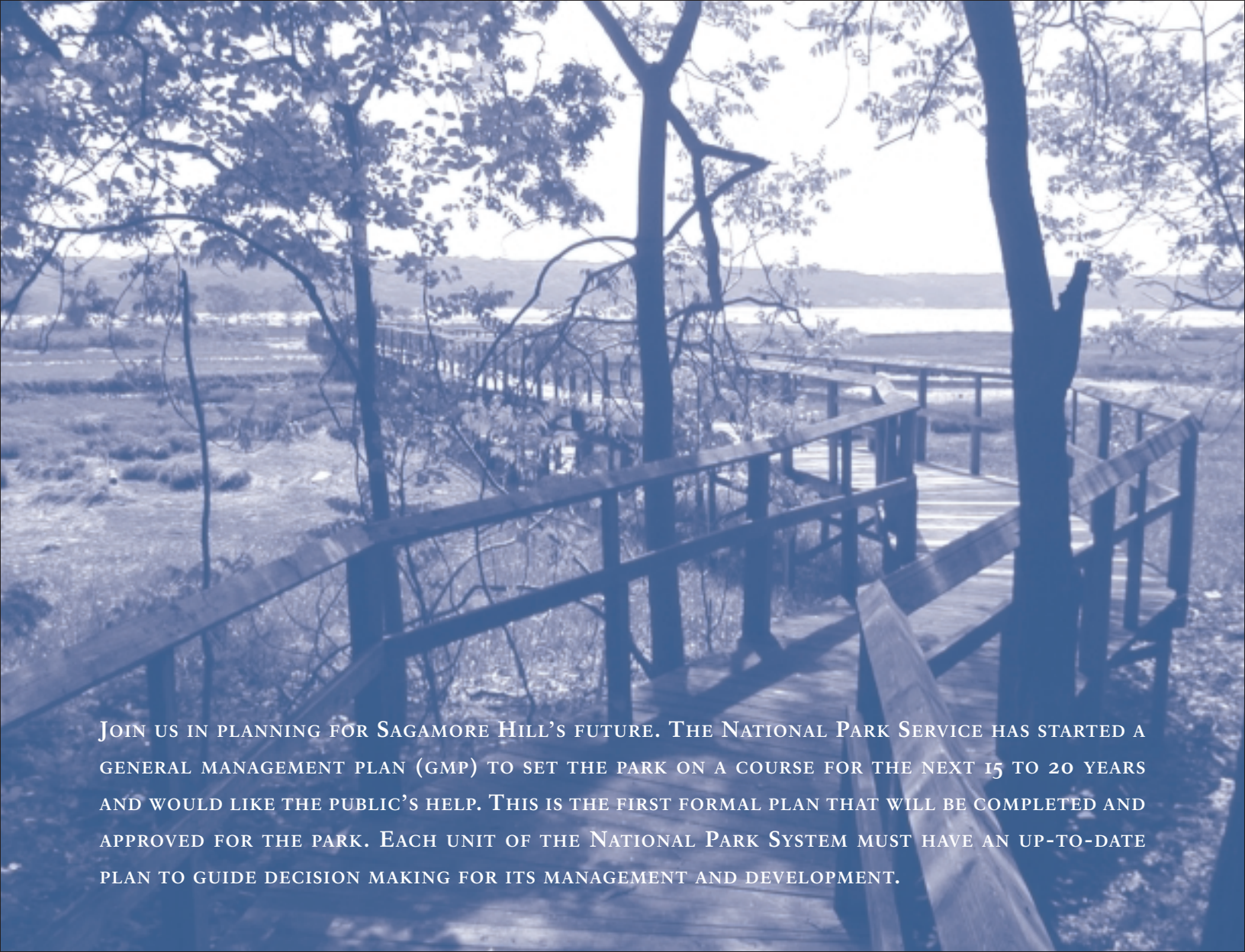
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# SAGAMORE HILL

*National Historic Site*





JOIN US IN PLANNING FOR SAGAMORE HILL'S FUTURE. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS STARTED A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (GMP) TO SET THE PARK ON A COURSE FOR THE NEXT 15 TO 20 YEARS AND WOULD LIKE THE PUBLIC'S HELP. THIS IS THE FIRST FORMAL PLAN THAT WILL BE COMPLETED AND APPROVED FOR THE PARK. EACH UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM MUST HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE PLAN TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.





## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE PLANNING EFFORT FOR SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**I**n this newsletter, we offer some of the initial ideas that have emerged that will guide our planning efforts. These ideas form the foundation for the plan and consider the fundamental purpose and significance of Sagamore Hill, as well as, suggest the most important ideas that should be shared here. Many of these ideas were also presented at public meetings held in April 2004.

The National Park Service would also like to take this opportunity to share some of the comments gathered during the April public meetings. We encourage you to share your vision of the park 20 years from now and tell us how Theodore Roosevelt and his fascinating home can speak to tomorrow's generations. Please use the preaddressed mail back comment card or contact the planning team via electronic mail, phone or fax. Contact information is located on the last page of this newsletter.





The Roosevelt family at Sagamore Hill, 1903.




## PLANNING ISSUES

A number of issues specific to Sagamore Hill will be addressed through this planning process. The following issues have been identified thus far:


 Sagamore Hill NHS was established to preserve and interpret “the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, his family and significant events associated with him during his years at Sagamore Hill.” However, current park facilities limit the interpretive potential of the site by focusing mostly on the house, and not the property as a whole. Additionally, the preservation of resources is also hampered by inadequate facilities and current operational constraints.

 In 1993, the typical visitor experience at the park changed. Tours of the Roosevelt House, which had previously been self-guiding, became ranger- or docent-led with strict limitations placed on the number of participants per tour.

Now visitors often have to wait an extended period of time to tour the house or sometimes are unable to tour the house at all. Few well-developed visitor programs or facility-based alternatives exist for these visitors, and, as a result, some people may leave uninformed and dissatisfied with their experience. There is also currently no facility in which the site can host a lecture, concert or school program, limiting the options for addressing this concern.

 Facilities for visitor services and park operations present a variety of issues. Visitor service facilities are dispersed across multiple locations on the site making them inefficient to staff and confusing for the visitor. Likewise, administrative space is found in numerous locations also leading to operational inefficiencies. Finally, a number of park operations activities continue to be located in the Roosevelt house and are not considered appropriate uses for that structure.

Moreover, current buildings do not contain the space required to fully address the preservation of the museum collection, access to research materials, and maintenance of the historic structures.

 There are numerous institutions, historic sites and monuments associated with Theodore Roosevelt located across the country. Desired relationships between Sagamore Hill and these sites have not been clearly defined and may present interesting opportunities. Additionally, there are a number of regional heritage tourism and alternative transportation initiatives now under development in the vicinity of the park. Because Sagamore Hill is a major attraction in the area, the park needs to evaluate its position relative to these new efforts in order to maximize benefits to the park and the region.



## THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PLAN

### PARK PURPOSE

The reason this park was established in 1962 was to preserve in public ownership and interpret the structures, landscapes, and collections associated with Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, New York to ensure that future generations understand and appreciate the life and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, his family, and the significant events associated with him at Sagamore Hill.

The National Park Service, which manages Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, is bound by law to carry out this mission.



### PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Theodore Roosevelt bought land in Oyster Bay in 1880 where he built his family home and lived until his death in 1919. Throughout his life, Roosevelt attracted national and international figures from

every walk of life to this home. Sagamore Hill was the summer White House between 1902 and 1908. Today, due to a high level of dedication to the site's preservation, Sagamore Hill looks remarkably as it did when it was the home of the 26th President.





## THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PLAN

### INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Illuminating Sagamore Hill's resources and national significance are a series of "interpretive themes," which express the most important ideas communicated to the public about the site. They are:

#### *Sagamore Hill as Presidential Residence – The Presidency in a Changing World*

Sagamore Hill served as a stage for the public activities of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, who provided leadership during an era of rapid social, economic, and technological change in American life.



Roosevelt addressing suffragists from piazza, 1917.



Roosevelt family returning from a hike.

#### *Sagamore Hill as Family Home – A Private Refuge for a Public Man and his Family*

Sagamore Hill is a tangible expression of the importance of family – both immediate and extended – to Theodore Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt's choice to live at Sagamore Hill and farm the land reflects his love of nature and the outdoors, and his desire for a "strenuous life." He and his family enjoyed sports and recreation here, including hiking, horseback riding, swimming, and rowing.



## THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PLAN

### *Sagamore Hill as Base Camp and Beacon for Theodore Roosevelt's Public Career*

Beyond his role as President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt had a long and varied career as a public servant and elected official.

Sagamore Hill served as the center of Theodore Roosevelt's writing and his literary career.

### *Sagamore Hill as a Monument to the Man and a Place for Continuing Conversation on his Legacy*

Theodore Roosevelt redefined the Presidency.

Theodore Roosevelt raised the stature of the United States to the level of a world power.



Roosevelt receiving word of his nomination as Republican candidate for President, 1904.

Theodore Roosevelt served as the first conservation President.

Theodore Roosevelt saw a role for government in protecting the public welfare.

Theodore Roosevelt exemplified the importance of citizenship and participation in civic life.

Sagamore Hill has been and continues to be a place of public pilgrimage.



## PROPOSED GOALS FOR THE PARK

Over the past six months, the planning team has developed a set of draft goals to guide the plan. Goals describe the conditions a visitor of the future may expect to see. In addition, it is important to note that first and foremost, the park is guided by the 1916 legislation creating the National Park Service – the Organic Act. This act requires parks to balance the needs for resource protection with those of providing for public access while minimizing negative impacts to their nationally significant resources.

### RESOURCE PROTECTION

Park resources are preserved and maintained in good condition and in a manner that supports a balanced approach to cultural and natural resource management.

### VISITOR SERVICES/VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Visitors traveling to Sagamore Hill experience well-marked routes with good directional signage, multiple transportation options, and a clear sense of arrival upon entering this national park site.

At Sagamore Hill, pathways and circulation within the park are well-marked, easy to navigate, and follow a logical sequence.

Visitors receive orientation to Sagamore Hill which helps them understand the

opportunities available at the site and provides an overview of the site's significance and the relevance of Theodore Roosevelt.

All people have opportunities to experience authentic, tangible resources that help them understand, draw inspiration from, and examine the larger meanings, concepts, themes, and stories about Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Theodore Roosevelt and his legacy.

A wide range of interpretive offerings, educational materials, and outreach programs are available to meet the learning needs of individuals, families, and organized groups.





## PROPOSED GOALS FOR THE PARK

The park uses established and emerging technologies to provide new opportunities to enhance the visitor experience and to attract new audiences.

### RESEARCH

The park encourages and disseminates scholarship that contributes to the continuing dialog on and understanding of Theodore Roosevelt, his contributions and accomplishments in the context of US and world history, and his legacy.

Students and scholars have access to opportunities for research in an environment that offers accessible, appropriate and dedicated space.

Sagamore Hill is engaged in the continuing study and assessment of park resources

including the cultural landscape, museum collection, historic architecture, and natural resources.

### PARTNERSHIP

The park strengthens its network of partners and works cooperatively to preserve and interpret Sagamore Hill NHS within the context of US history and in relationship to the network of Theodore Roosevelt-related sites and organizations.

The greater park community is engaged on a broad variety of issues affecting the park in an effort to generate effective public participation and better informed decisions.

The park develops positive working relationships with the Oyster Bay community.

The park and its primary park partners – the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the Friends of Sagamore Hill, and the Sagamore Hill Volunteers – actively contribute to their mutual success.

### OPERATIONS

The park and its partners actively pursue park goals in a flexible and cost effective manner.

The park provides a safe and healthy environment for both employees and visitors to the site.

The park capitalizes on existing and emerging technology to increase efficiency and enhance the overall park operations.













## WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM THE PUBLIC



Farm hands with dairy cows in front of New Barn, c.1907.

At two public meetings this spring and through emails and written correspondence, many individuals have commented about the future of Sagamore Hill. These are some of the key points made by the public thus far:

-  Better connections need to be made with the village of Oyster Bay and other historic sites in the community
-  Transportation could be improved to bring more people to Sagamore Hill without their cars and create better links between the site and public transportation hubs
-  The park could do more to protect and interpret its natural resources and to enhance its relationship to the estuary and with the wildlife refuge
-  There should be a presidential library or research center at Sagamore Hill

-  The cultural landscape at Sagamore Hill could be emphasized and interpreted
-  Programs for visitors, school groups, and even remote “visitors” must be augmented and expanded. There were many ideas about how to accomplish this
-  Restore the landscape to the early 1900s
-  There should be historical reenactments
-  There should be multilingual programs
-  There needs to be a larger theater for visitors and a conference space for lectures and events



PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US  
AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

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Roosevelt timing children running obstacle course at Old Barn, c.1896.

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**SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FALL 2004**