



Public Scoping Newsletter

Comprehensive Trails Plan / Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to develop a Comprehensive Trails Plan for Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP) and Eisenhower National Historic Site (NHS). This project has been initiated to broaden the availability of multi-modal experiences available to park visitors and because visitors to both Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS have been seeking alternative ways (e.g. hiking, cycling, horseback riding) to experience park resources in addition to the parks' traditional auto tour and limited formal trail options.

Purpose of and Need for the Comprehensive Trails Plan

The purpose of the Comprehensive Trails Plan is to improve visitor access, convenience, safety, and opportunities for understanding and appreciation of the historic battlefield and the landscape of the Eisenhower site. This project is needed because:

- opportunities to interpret the park landscape more intimately (i.e. outside of a vehicle) should be expanded to improve the visitor experience and understanding of the history of the parks.
- during peak visitation there is considerable traffic and tour bus related congestion on the self-guided tour route.
- there are safety concerns due to a lack of designated separation between vehicles and pedestrians along paved roadways.
- a lack of clearly defined trails and pathways in the park leads to “social trailing” that often results in erosion and degradation of cultural resources.
- there is a lack of connections for visitors to access park sites by modes other than vehicles or motorized tours.
- visitors experience wayfinding challenges due to fragmented trail segments, poorly identified pedestrian routes.
- conflicts exist on trails (i.e. equestrian trails) authorized for multiple user groups.
- physical degradation of the parks' existing trails results in accessibility challenges to persons with disabilities.
- the lack of wayfinding and poor delineation of trails limits the ability to enforce temporary trail closures needed for maintenance or resource management.

You're Invited to the Public Open House!

As part of the planning process for the Comprehensive Trails Plan / EA the NPS has announced a public comment period to seek new ideas and/or comments regarding the proposal. The NPS will also hold a public open house at the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center. You are encouraged to attend the open house to learn more about the project and provide input.

Thursday, January 21, 2016

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Ford Education Center

Museum and Visitor Center

Gettysburg National Military Park

1195 Baltimore Pike

Gettysburg, PA 17325

For further information contact Gettysburg NMP
Headquarters at (717) 334-1124.

Proposal

The proposal involves the creation of a Comprehensive Trails Plan that includes strategies, including individual projects, to enhance the trail system, primarily for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Plan would include developing improved pathways and multi-modal connections within Gettysburg NMP, as well as determining feasible options for linking Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS. New trails would follow historic alignments such as avenues, lanes, railways (where appropriate), tree lines and fence lines in place at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. As the Comprehensive Trails Plan is being developed, the NPS will consider the following general concept strategies to enhance the existing trail system within Gettysburg NMP and to improve access to Eisenhower NHS:

Expand Pedestrian Trail Network so visitors can experience more of the battlefield without vehicles.

- Provide improved multi-modal access to the battlefield from the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center.
- Establish new trail segments in parts of the battlefield where trails do not currently exist.
- Provide formal connections to existing and planned community and regional trail systems.
- Provide select amenities to support the pedestrian trail network, including benches, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage.
- Carefully locate/construct trail segments, waysides, and parking to provide universal access to significant destinations in the park landscape while telling the story of the 3-day battle.
- Provide an additional level of visitor experience by establishing interpretive trailheads.

Consider Multi-Modal Uses of Commemorative Park Avenues to improve safety and accessibility.

- Improve safety on park avenues by establishing pedestrian-only lanes and combining bicyclists and vehicles into one shared-use lane.
- Convert select two-way park avenues to one-way to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Reverse existing traffic flow on select one-way avenues.
- Close select avenues to vehicle traffic.

Establish Additional Bike Routes to improve accessibility.

- Allow bicycle access on select pathways currently authorized for pedestrian use only.
- Allow bicycle-use on newly constructed pathways.

Assess the Expansion of Equestrian Trails within areas of the park where inclusion of horses is appropriate to the story of the battle and where resources would not be impacted.

- Authorize equestrian use on select existing pedestrian trails.
- Strategically plan new equestrian trails to connect to existing equestrian trail network to improve accessibility.
- Provide additional interpretive opportunities on equestrian trails.

Expand Opportunities for Visitor Access to Eisenhower NHS in addition to the park shuttle from the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center.

- Authorize bicycle access to Eisenhower NHS using the main entrance off of Millerstown Road via Confederate Avenue and/or Eisenhower Farm Road.
- Provide new multi-modal pathway from Gettysburg NMP to Eisenhower NHS.



Confederate Avenue near the North Carolina Memorial

Evaluate Hiker/Biker Shuttle Opportunities to key areas on the battlefield and Eisenhower NHS.

- Expand the Gold Line Shuttle service to include areas such as West Confederate Avenue and Big and Little Round Top.

Potential Opportunities to Enhance the Trail System

The NPS has identified several potential opportunities related to the concept strategies described on page 2 to enhance the trail system within Gettysburg NMP and to improve access to Eisenhower NHS. The following list of projects, which are being considered by the NPS for inclusion in the Comprehensive Trails Plan, would result in new multi-modal pathways and trail segments, or changes to how existing paths are used. Each project below is numbered. These numbers correspond to the numbers on the map on page 4, which provides each project's general location within the park. Each project is also drawn conceptually on the graphics that follow the park map (pages 5-7).

- 1) Propose a new multi-modal path between the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Auto Tour Stop #1 on Reynolds Avenue. The path could continue into the Harman Farm property where a loop trail could be created using existing trails at the site.
- 2) Propose a new multi-modal path between the Benner Farm and the Blocher House.
- 3) Propose a new multi-modal path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Powers Hill and the G. Spangler Farm.
- 4) Propose a new multi-modal path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Spangler's Spring.
- 5) Propose a new bicycle path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Hunt Avenue.
- 6) Allow equestrian access on select trails at (a) Big Round Top and/or (b) Devil's Den, and (c) construct a new equestrian trail to the east of Plum Run near the Slyder House.
- 7) Propose a new multi-modal path through a forested area between Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS off of West Confederate Avenue just north of the Emmitsburg Road intersection. The trail would emerge at the skeet range on the Eisenhower property and would continue along the fence line eventually connecting to Eisenhower Farm Road.

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list of projects to be included in the Comprehensive Trails Plan. Some of these projects may not be included and many other projects may be added that are not identified above.



Pedestrian-only path between Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center and Taneytown Road

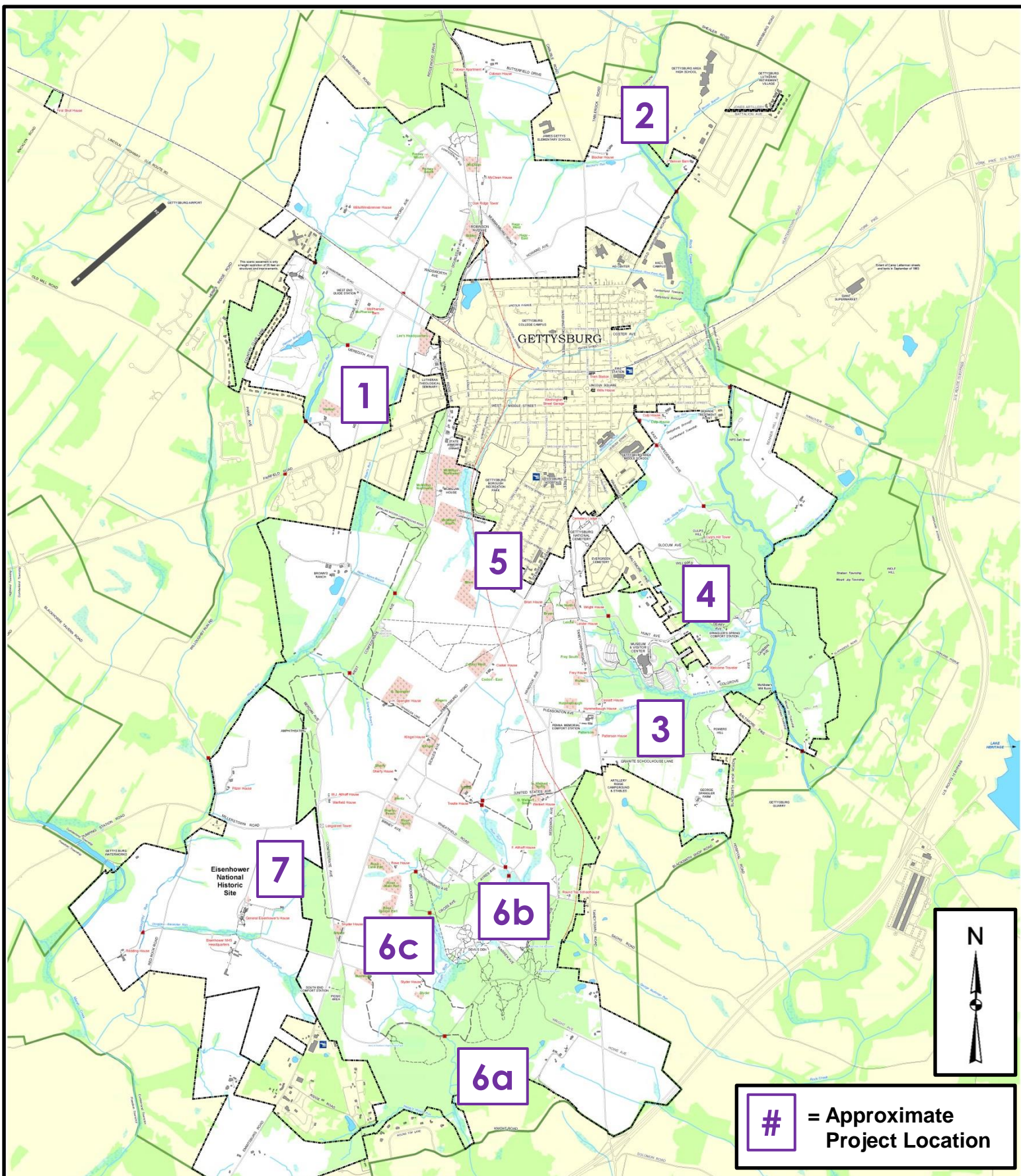


Pedestrian crossing on Taneytown Road

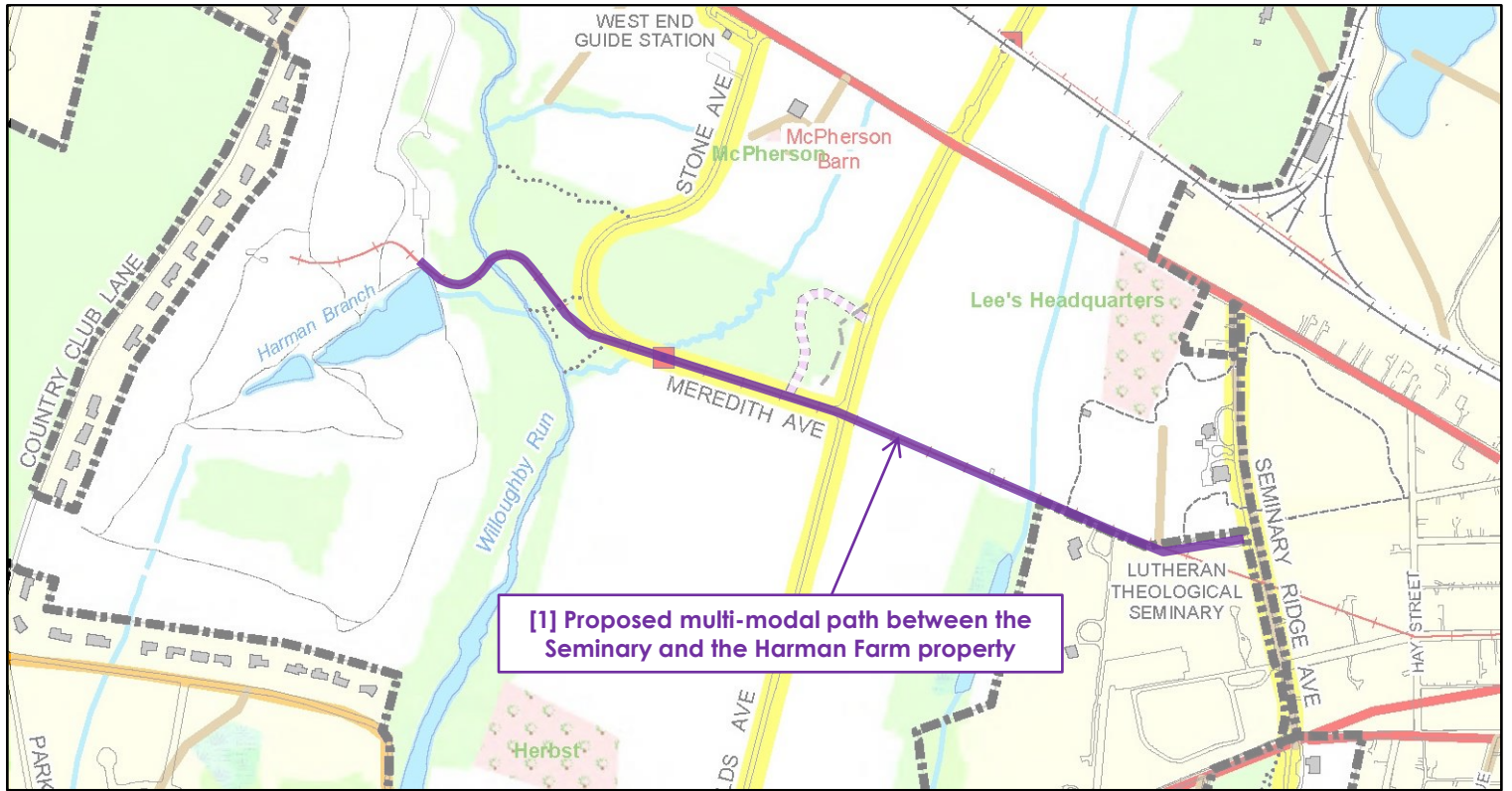
National Park Service accepting new ideas and comments on the proposed Comprehensive Trails Plan

The NPS seeks your participation in the planning process for the Comprehensive Trails Plan. We are now accepting written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposal, which can be submitted online at the NPS PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/TrailsPlan>. **Comments are requested by January 30, 2016.** The NPS will also hold a public open house to provide the opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the proposal. The open house will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center, Ford Education Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The NPS will also be accepting comments at the open house.

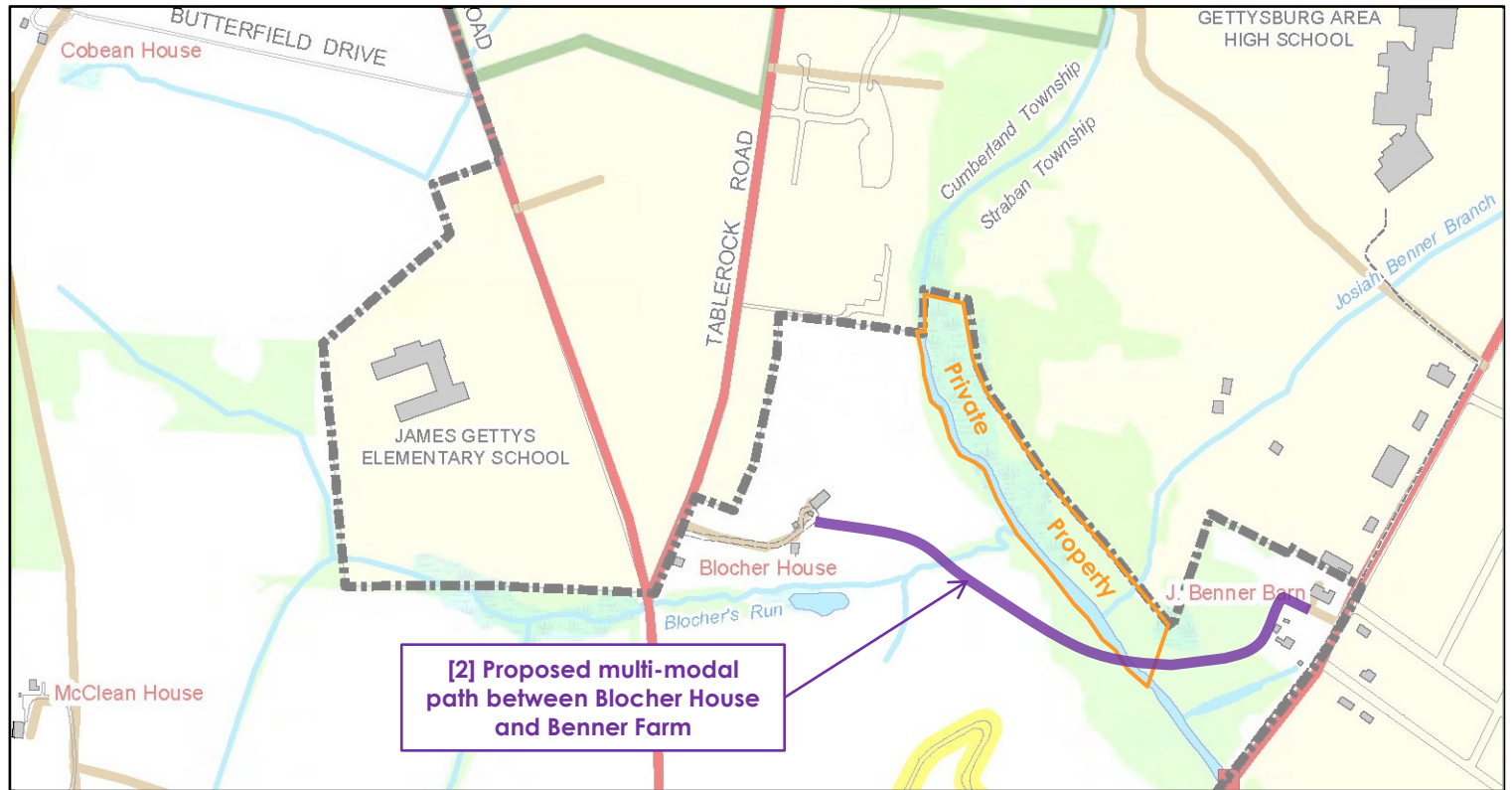
Input provided will be used to help further develop project alternatives and to identify significant issues to analyze in detail in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Also, in accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. 800), the NPS will consider the effects of this undertaking on historic resources. The NPS intends to use the NEPA process to fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800.8(c).



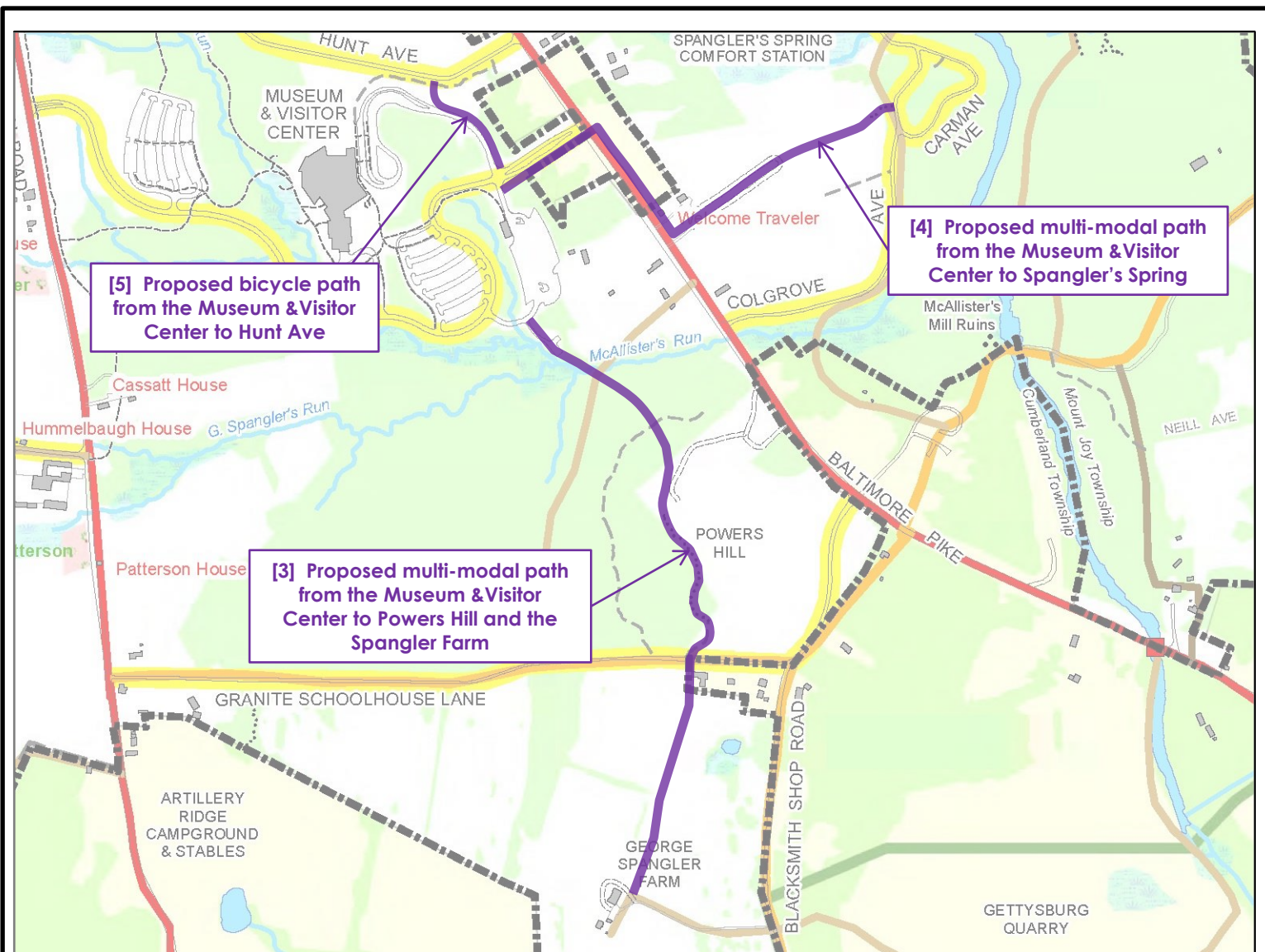
Locations of Potential Projects to Enhance the Trail System of Gettysburg NMP and Improve Access to Eisenhower NHS



[1] Proposed Multi-modal Path between the Seminary and the Harman Farm Property
 Opportunity provided: Further interpretation of Day 1 of the Battle of Gettysburg.



[2] Proposed Multi-modal Path between the Blocher House and Benner Farm
 Opportunity provided: Further interpretation of Day 1 of the Battle of Gettysburg.



[3] Proposed Multi-modal Path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Powers Hill and the Spangler Farm

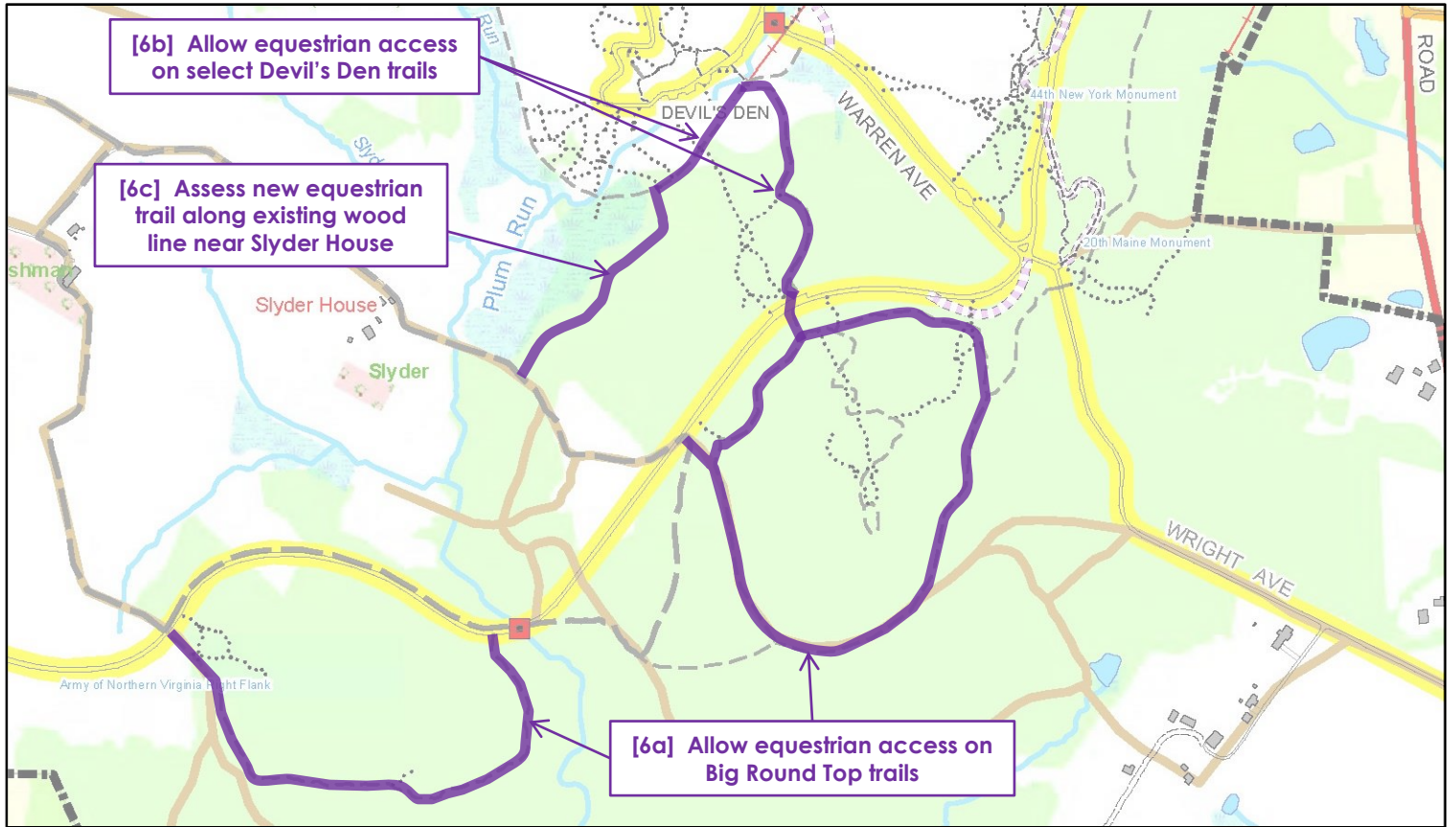
Opportunity provided: Additional visitor experience within the park not necessarily related to the Battle.

[4] Proposed Multi-modal Path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Spangler's Spring

Opportunity provided: Improve access to important Day 2 interpretative experiences for pedestrians and bicyclists.

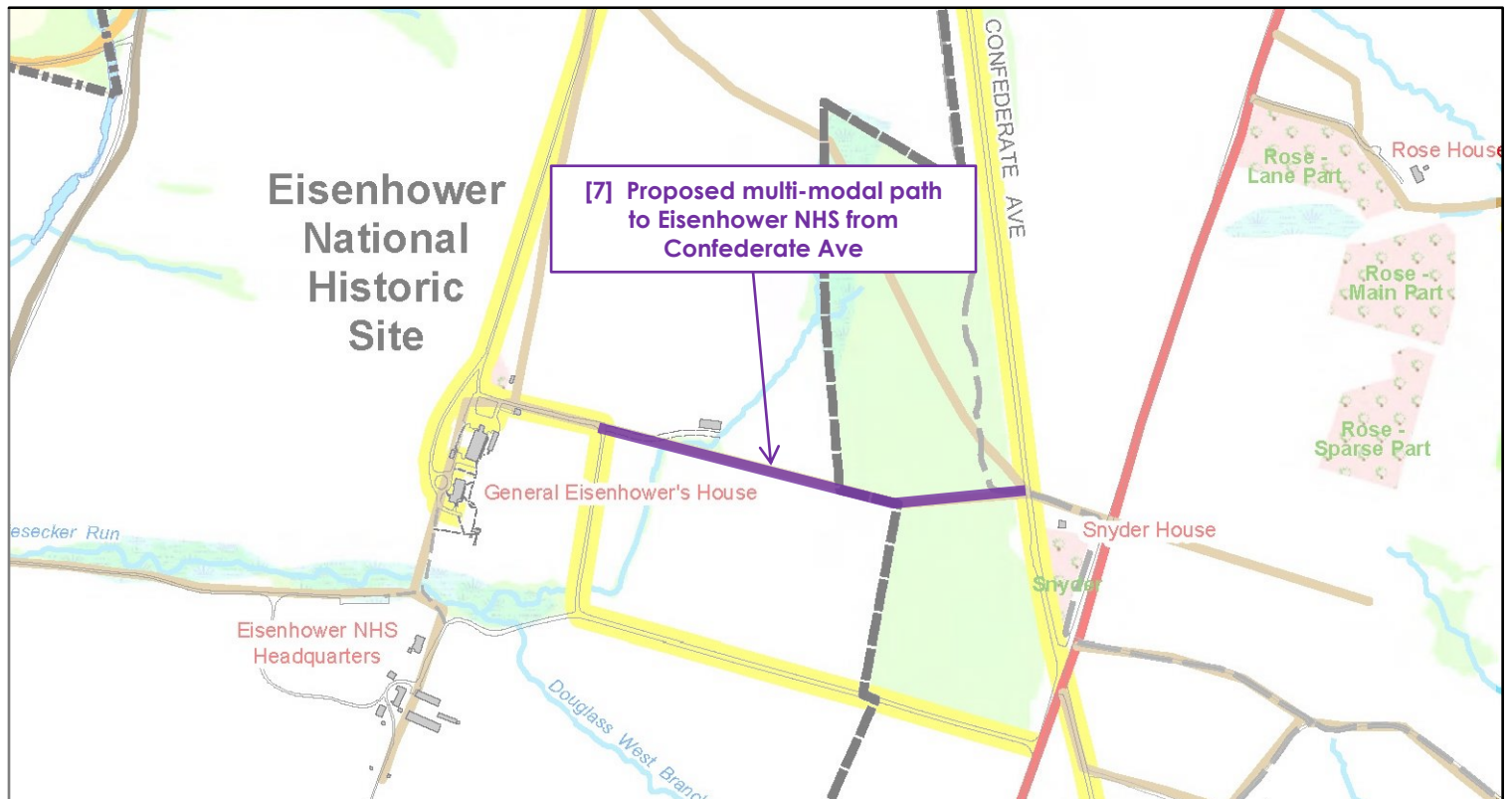
[5] Proposed Multi-modal Path from the Museum and Visitor Center to Hunt Avenue

Opportunity provided: Safe and separated exit/entry for bicyclists accessible from Baltimore Pike and Taneytown Road.



Allow Equestrian Access on Select Trails at [6a] Big Round Top and/or [6b] Devil's Den, and [6c] Assess a New Equestrian Trail near Snyder House

Opportunity provided: Expanded recreational opportunities within the park.



[7] Proposed Multi-modal Path to Eisenhower NHS from Confederate Avenue

Opportunity provided: Access to Eisenhower NHS for pedestrians and bicyclists.