

Roosevelt – Vanderbilt

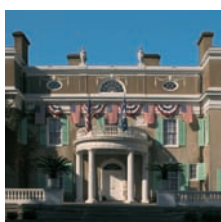
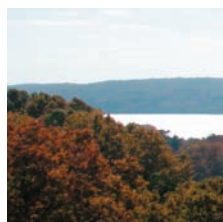
National Historic Sites

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

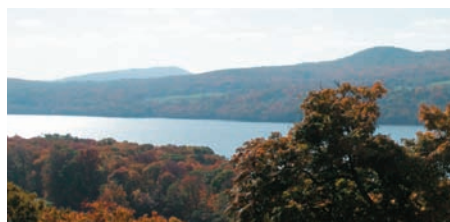
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



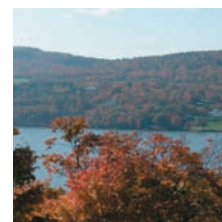
TOP COTTAGE



HOME OF FDR



VANDERBILT MANSION



VAL-KILL



Our Parks, Our Future
Some Choices for Management



A Message from the Superintendent

Since our last planning newsletter in 2006, we have moved much further toward completing our general management plan. The plan will guide the three national historic sites in Hyde Park, New York—Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, and Vanderbilt Mansion—for the next 20 years. It seems particularly fitting that we are undertaking this plan now, with two important benchmarks in 2007: the 125th anniversary of FDR's birth, and the 30-year anniversary of the establishment of Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

Please keep in mind that any plan we adopt will retain, as a core value, our ongoing commitment to building capacity, financial and otherwise, to reduce our backlog of maintenance projects and other operations shortages.

Previously, we described feedback received from the public. Visitors told us what they find important and what they would like to see in the future: they value the landscapes, fields, trails, and views of the Hudson River, and appreciate spending time outdoors at these sites. They recognize and appreciate the wealth of historical material preserved at these sites, and they look for more educational offerings for today's youth and future generations. And, the public would like to see more tourists, which would also benefit the local economy.

Using these ideas and others, the planning team has developed several options for the future, and we present them here as "preliminary management alternatives." Each alternative envisions a different future direction for the

national historic sites. The final plan may consist of one of these alternatives, or a combination of parts from several alternatives. Within the next year we will refine alternatives and publish the proposed alternatives in a draft plan for formal public comment, but at this time it is helpful to get your response before the process goes further. Please share your views about these directions by sending us an email, a postcard, or a letter. (See response information on the last page.)

Some of the proposals will depend upon substantial participation from partners and volunteers. I hope you will also let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer.

If you would like to be more informed about activities at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, we invite you to sign up for periodic email notices. You will find notices of events, as well as the exciting series of Community Photography workshops where people are invited to learn about and record different aspects of the sites through photos. Please sign up at www.Roosevelt-VanderbiltPlan.org.

At this time, we are very pleased to announce a significant addition to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS. A 334-acre tract of former Roosevelt Estate lands between Routes 9 and 9G is now part of the site. This property restores a vital link between the homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Acquisition of this property was made possible through the efforts of Scenic Hudson, Inc., which has worked for several years with the National Park Service (NPS), Town of Hyde Park, and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area to determine the future of this parcel. The addition of these lands ranks among the most significant developments in the preservation history of the Roosevelt sites.

Sincerely,
Sarah Olson, *Superintendent*



The NPS is cosponsoring a series of "Landscape Expeditions" with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association and the Dutchess County Arts Council as part of our efforts to seek input from the community about the future of our parks. The workshops are led by regionally accomplished photographers, teamed with NPS

staff members. Several photos in this document were taken by workshop participants. The photo to the right shows the participants in action. To view a larger sample of the photographs from the workshops, visit Roosevelt-VanderbiltPlan.org or www.flickr.com/groups/rova.



William F. Bogle Jr. (2)



NPS WD Urbin

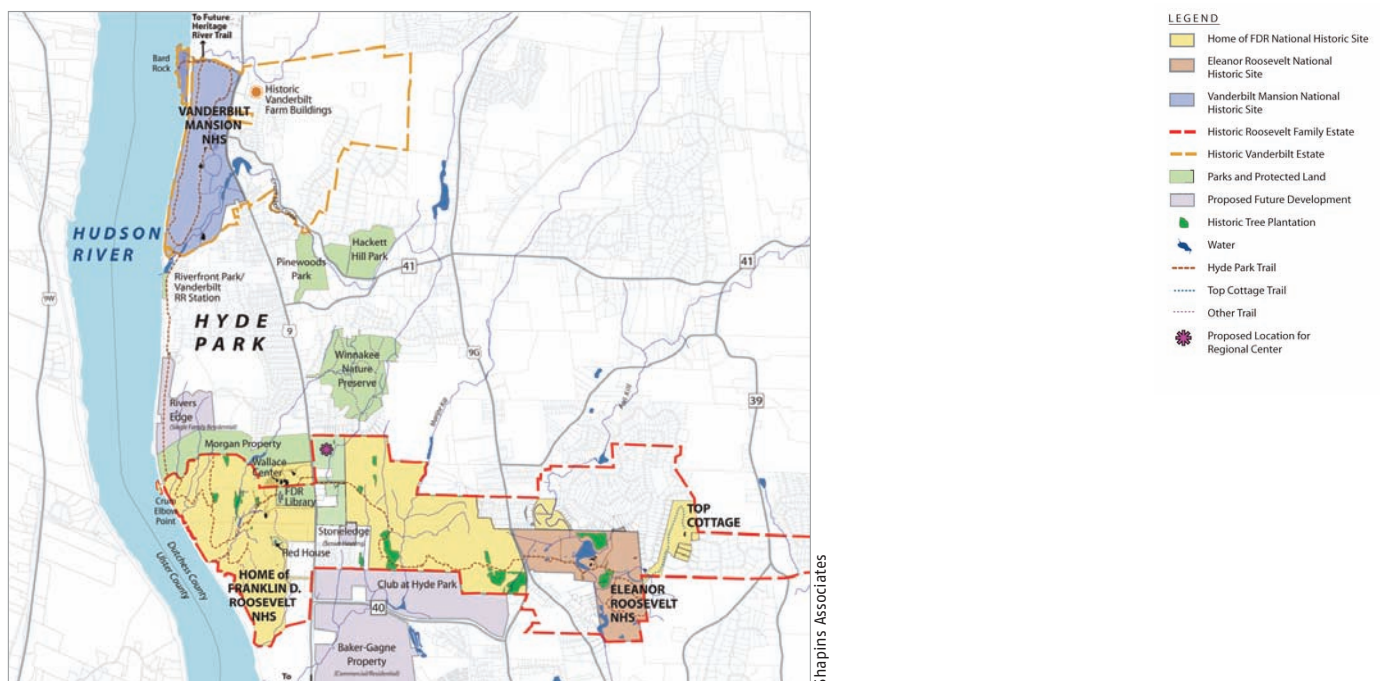
The Three Sites

Hyde Park, New York, is home to three great national historic sites that together draw more than half a million visitors every year. First established was Vanderbilt Mansion in 1940, containing 212 acres, outstanding buildings, and breathtaking Hudson River views. The Home of FDR, now 719 acres, opened to the public as a national historic site in 1946, one year to the day after the President's death, and today includes Top Cottage, his retreat two miles east of the home, and lands between Route 9 and Route 9G. And, finally, Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, 181 acres, was established by Congress in 1977 to preserve Mrs. Roosevelt's cherished home at Val-Kill on the Roosevelt Estate. Together, these three national historic sites contain 1,111 acres of federally owned land.

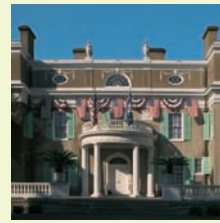
You may notice that, although the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is part of the Roosevelt "campus," it is not part of the management plan, since it is managed by the National Archives and Records Administration, a different federal agency. Here in Hyde Park, however, the site managers work closely together sharing a visitor center and presenting a comprehensive depiction of the Roosevelts.

Making Progress

After engaging the public for their input as to what is important about the sites, we developed a new "purpose and significance statement" for each site. Why do this after nearly 70 years of experience managing these sites? Because we wanted to start the process by stepping back and taking a fresh look at what these sites really mean. Although the sites themselves may not appear to change much, the communities around them do, and the needs of people and their attitudes toward the sites continue to evolve. The statements that follow are the product of long and careful discussion, drawing on the legislation that established the sites, public comment, the knowledge and experience of the park staff, and input from the various park partners.



Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site



Few figures in American public life have been so closely identified with a particular place as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt with his Hyde Park home. The country place on the Hudson River where FDR was born in 1882 was the nucleus of his personal life and public career. It was his lifelong home and served as his political headquarters. It was a haven for spiritual renewal, a place for physical rehabilitation after he contracted polio, and a showcase for his active pursuits in rural improvement. Here, he welcomed dignitaries, the media, and supporters; he set out forest plantations, maintained family and tenant farms, and he participated in community life. The President also conceived and built Top Cottage on a wooded summit at the easternmost reaches of his estate as a retreat where he could escape the pressures of his office.

Today the Home contains furnishings and objects of great historical value including FDR's bird collection, his top hat, his personally designed wheelchair, and his telephone once connected directly to the White House, all of which reflect the human details of an extraordinary life. Other structures and grounds were familiar and important features of FDR's life, among them a Stable, Garage, two Ice Houses, and a Greenhouse. The fields and forests where FDR spent his boyhood and, later in life, explored and showcased ideas about land stewardship are central to the historical value of the national historic site. The site's magnificent view overlooking the Hudson River to the mountains beyond inspired his deepest feelings, even after a lifetime of travel.

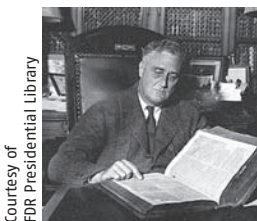
FDR was the first president who made a conscious effort to perpetuate a physical legacy. He did so by creating a presidential library, thereby inventing the concept of presidential libraries, and by establishing his home as a national historic site. As a final expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, the President and his wife, Eleanor, lie buried in a gravesite of his choosing and design in the family's Rose Garden.

Purpose and Significance

This national historic site preserves and interprets the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt so that current and future generations can appreciate the life and legacy of the longest-serving U.S. President—a man who led the nation through the two great crises of the 20th century, the Great Depression and World War II.

The Home of FDR NHS, together with the adjoining presidential library and museum, is the best place in the world to understand the influences that helped shape the personality and world view of the U.S. President who, in a time of deep national crisis, redefined the role of the federal government to provide more security and opportunity for its citizens and who led the nation into an era of profoundly greater involvement in world affairs. The assemblage of resources preserved here offers unrivaled insight into the life and legacy of the 32nd U.S. President, a man who, in many ways, shaped the world in which we live.

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Courtesy of
FDR Presidential Library



Bonnie Kriscska



NPS WD Urbin

Few figures in American public life have been so closely identified with a particular place as President Franklin Delano

Roosevelt with his home on the Hudson River. The Home of FDR NHS, together with the adjoining FDR Presidential

Library and Museum, is the best place to understand the influences that helped form the personality and world view of

the 32nd U.S. President, a man who, in many ways, shaped the world in which we live.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site



Val-Kill is the place most closely associated with Eleanor Roosevelt. It started as a family picnic site and in 1945 became her home after FDR's death. Here she started a furniture factory, Val-Kill Industries, to help rural people remain on the land. Later, with her son Elliott, she launched Val-Kill Farms, a commercial agricultural operation. At Val-Kill, Mrs. Roosevelt surrounded herself with family and friends and, reflecting her diverse interests, hosted a range of people from international and domestic political leaders and dignitaries, to local youth and students. At her Val-Kill home she wrote books and newspaper columns, chaired the committee that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and came into her own as one of the most influential political figures of her time.

Eleanor Roosevelt cherished the beauty and tranquility of the Val-Kill landscape, which remain today. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, is a central feature around which the main buildings, Stone Cottage and Val-Kill Cottage, are situated. Other important structures are the Swimming Pool, the Playhouse, and the Stable-Garage. Lawns, gardens, woodlands, and forest plantations set out by FDR surround the structures. Objects such as handcrafted Val-Kill Industries furniture, family photographs, and personal memorabilia express the human dimension of life at Val-Kill. Congress authorized a group to carry on ER's legacy through continuing programs, which is the mission of The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK). It also specified that a memorial be established to ER at Val-Kill.

The 1980 management plan for the site designates ER's Cutting Garden as the memorial.

Purpose and Significance

This national historic site commemorates the lifework of Eleanor Roosevelt. It preserves and interprets the place most central to her emergence as a public figure so that current and future generations can appreciate her life and legacy as a champion of democracy and human rights.

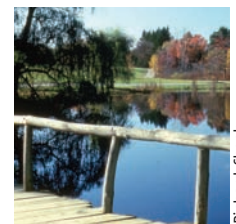
Eleanor Roosevelt chose Val-Kill for her retreat, her office, her home, and her "laboratory" for social change during the prominent and influential period of her life from 1924 until her death in 1962. During that time she formulated and carried out her social and political beliefs. This is the place most closely associated with one of the most prominent women of 20th-century America.



Courtesy of FDR Presidential Library



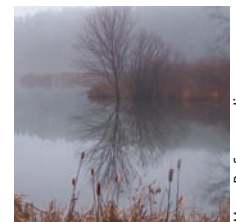
Richard Cheek



Richard Cheek



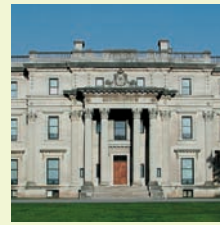
Daphne Geismar



Mary B. Summerlin

Eleanor Roosevelt chose Val-Kill for her retreat, her office, her home, and her "laboratory" for social change during the prominent and influential period of her life when she formulated and carried out her social and political beliefs.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site



The centerpiece of the estate is the Mansion created for Frederick W. and Louise Vanderbilt by McKim, Mead and White, a preeminent architectural firm at the turn of the 20th century. It incorporates highly advanced building features for its time, such as steel and concrete construction and a centralized heating system; it had electric power and running water supplied by its own hydroelectric plant. Important buildings associated with the Mansion, and which expand the depiction of the estate operation, include the Power House, the Pavilion (a neoclassical-style guest house), the Coach House (a brick Queen Anne-style structure), the Tool House and Gardener's Cottage, and gatehouses. More than 7,000 historic objects, highlighted by European fine art, American and European decorative arts and furnishings, and carriages and automobiles, are vital in portraying the lifestyle of the Vanderbilts. This collection has outstanding integrity for its association with the family, the distinction of the designers, and the intrinsic and artistic value of individual art and decorative objects.

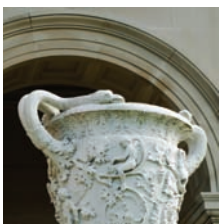
The site comprises one of the best remaining Hudson River picturesque landscapes and it represents the evolution of landscape design in America over some 200 years. An overlook from the Mansion provides a dramatic view up the Hudson Valley, with the Catskill Mountains in the distance, a view that has become emblematic of the great Hudson Valley estates.

Purpose and Significance

This national historic site preserves and interprets the country estate of Frederick W. and Louise Vanderbilt as a premier example of an American country place, illustrating important economic, social, and cultural developments resulting from American industrialization following the Civil War.

The site is a superb example of "country-place" design and has one of the most outstanding Hudson River picturesque landscapes remaining today. Developed with one of the country's first industrial fortunes, the country place, historically known as "Hyde Park," represents the domestic ideal of an elite class in late-19th-century America and provides a context for studying estate life and the social stratification of the period. The property's legacy as a celebrated landscape was among the factors that prompted FDR to direct the designation of a portion of the estate as a national historic site.

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William F. Bogle Jr.



Richard Cheek



Roger D. McKnight

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site is a superb example of "country-place" design and has one of the

most outstanding Hudson River picturesque landscapes remaining today.

Some Challenges Facing the Sites

After analyzing the three historic sites, their fundamental resources, and their purpose and significance, we then identified, in consultation with the public and site staff, key challenges related to managing these resources. Summarized below, these challenges helped frame the development of the preliminary alternatives.

Resource Management

- There is a critical backlog of cyclic maintenance and preservation projects and limited staffing with which to conduct site operations and undertake repairs. This situation poses a generalized threat to the sites' resources.
- The historic properties have changed since the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts lived here. These properties are no longer working farms and forests.
- Acres of agricultural lands have become obscured by woody growth; forest plantations set out by FDR are becoming unrecognizable; gardens have been altered or completely removed; some structures are being compromised by inappropriate uses; and prized Hudson River views are increasingly obstructed by tree growth and further threatened by external development pressures across the river. Existing plans provide little guidance for preserving or managing these landscapes.
- Continued suburban-type development, already evident when earlier plans were formed, has further separated the sites from their surroundings in a way that was not foreseen when the sites were established.

Visitor Use

- As at many other historic sites, the number of visitors has declined over the decades, with the greatest declines experienced at the two Roosevelt sites. Also, site visitors do not reflect the diversity that now characterizes the U.S. population. However, recent cooperative marketing efforts for the sites, such as "Historic Hyde Park," have begun to reverse this trend.
- Visitor introduction and orientation to the sites has improved dramatically with the opening of the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, its film and exhibits, and with the new Eleanor Roosevelt film at Val-Kill. These provide exciting and essential additions to the visitor experience. Over the decades, however, the National Park Service's method of presenting the sites has changed little. The historic residences continue to be the focus of interpretation, with little acknowledgment of other estate structures and landscapes and their stories.
- Additionally, opportunities exist to further develop educational programming at the sites.

Operations

- Operations facilities are inadequate, most notably the maintenance facilities.



The sites face challenges related to managing resources, providing visitor services, and site operations.



The Management Alternatives

The planning team has formulated two “action alternatives” for the sites' future. And, following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, we also describe the continuation of current practices, which is known as “no action.” The final plan may consist of one of these alternatives, or a combination of parts from each.

Regardless of which alternative is ultimately chosen, there is a set of objectives that will be pursued under any of the choices. For example, no matter which alternative is chosen, site managers will continue to preserve the historic structures and present the main residences—the FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—as fully furnished historic house museums. These proposals, which are common to all, are described on page 14.

Continuation of Current Management Practices (No Action)

The “No Action” approach is to continue current management practices, to complete projects for which funding is already secured, and to continue to seek funding to reduce the backlogged repair and operations needs.

Resource Management

- Historic structures would continue to be managed as at present, with continued efforts to secure funding for their repair and maintenance.
- Landscapes would continue to be managed as at present. For example, historic forest plantations would be inventoried, but no actions taken to keep them from reverting to mixed-species woodlands.
- River views would be maintained as at present, allowing them to become increasingly obstructed by tree growth.
- Existing gardens, orchards, and other designed landscapes would appear largely as they do now.

Visitor Experience

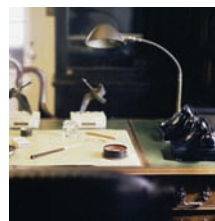
- The primary way for visitors to experience the sites would continue to be through guided tours of the main residences.
- Per initiatives already underway, access to the larger landscape would be improved by rehabilitating Roosevelt Farm Lane, the historic farm route that linked the FDR Home with Val-Kill.



Roger D. McKnight



Bonnie Kriska



Daphne Geismar

This document highlights two “action” alternatives for the sites' future, and also describes the continuation of current practices.

Developing New Directions

Operations and Partnerships

- Two new facilities, which are already planned and funded, would be completed. A collections storage facility would be developed at the Home of FDR to improve environmental conditions for the stored collections. And, an administration facility would be completed at Val-Kill to support the operation of ERVK, making its present headquarters, Stone Cottage, available for interpretation.
- Staff levels and funding sources would remain largely as at present, with fees increased intermittently to permit funding for special projects.
- Existing partnerships with nonprofit organizations and other entities would be maintained, with partner support provided for special projects.

The planning team posed three broad questions, or “decision points,” around which we structured future management approaches.

Resource Management

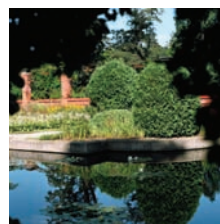
What level and extent of resource preservation treatment is desirable and appropriate to portray the historic conditions of the estates?

Visitor Use

What should the sites be doing to maintain or build visitation and attract new audiences, and how can they convey meaning to generations that lack personal experience with the period?

Operations and Partnerships

What level and extent of partnership activities related to operations, interpretation, education, and programming is appropriate and feasible?



Roger D. McKnight



The planning team proposed three broad questions, or “decision points,” around which we structured future management approaches.

Action Alternative One

Action Alternative One perpetuates the general philosophy and direction of the existing management plans but updates them to address changed conditions and additions to the sites. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and attempt to create a literal restoration of the historic setting in select areas. The reconstruction of missing landscape features would be encouraged in select areas to complete the historic scene. Modern intrusions would be minimized, and this alternative would limit the addition of features or facilities that were not present during the periods of historic significance. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with a greater number of historic out-buildings opened for interpretation than at present.

Efforts to increase visitation would center on expanding the tour options available to visitors and strengthening educational programming. Interpretation would focus on placing the sites in historical context and encouraging visitors to explore not only the historic residences, but the entirety of the estates through a range of guided and self-guided tours. Educational programming would be strengthened and would concentrate on curriculum-based, after-school, and other types of children's programs.

Alternative One would rely on enhanced partnerships to accomplish its vision. Coordination with partners would focus on enhancing interpretive programming and assisting with resource preservation efforts.

Resource Management

Resource management would aim to restore an accurate historic appearance to the fullest extent possible in key areas.

Some examples

- Forest plantations would be actively managed to preserve their historic character and perpetuate original species, size, and location, as practicable.
- Former farm fields would be reclaimed to their full historic configuration, as possible, and maintained as open meadow or, if feasible, planted with crops grown there historically.
- Restoration of designed landscapes and gardens—including the FDR Home Garden, Val-Kill Cutting Garden, and Vanderbilt Italian Garden—would concentrate on historic core areas and could include restoration of planting beds, orchards, paths, roadway surfaces, and small-scale structures to more accurately reflect their historic appearance.
- Hudson River views would be restored to their historic appearance, but adjusted to screen incompatible development, and protect the river edge and older-growth woodlands.

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Action Alternative One aims to restore an accurate historic appearance of key cultural resources to the extent possible in select areas.

Visitor Experience

Visitors could still take guided tours of the historic residences, but would also be encouraged to explore more of the estate buildings and grounds through an expanded menu of tours and educational programs. Most guided tours and educational programs would be presented by the site staff and supplemented by volunteers. New media and technologies would be used to expand the options for self-guided tours.

Some examples

- The Vanderbilt Coach House would be opened to the public, selectively furnished, and used to explain how the Vanderbilt Estate functioned. The public would have increased access to other outbuildings, such as the Vanderbilt Power House.
- Guided tours of the gardens, forest plantations, and estate lands would describe historic conditions of the properties. In addition, visitors might pick up a self-guided GPS audio unit at the Wallace Center and walk the grounds at will.
- School groups would come to the Wallace Center and refurbished outbuildings to hold interactive class and after-school programs. Curriculum-based study material would be developed by park staff, with partner participation. Day-camp programs might be offered.

Operations and Partnerships

Partners and volunteer efforts would focus on interpretive programming and maintaining site resources.

Some examples

- Based on the successful examples of the Frederick W. Vanderbilt and the Beatrix Farrand garden associations, other partner groups and volunteers would be sought to assist with the maintenance of site resources, such as the forest plantations, the restored FDR Home Garden, and the Val-Kill Cutting Garden.
- Volunteer docents would be sought and trained to aid NPS staff in giving tours and educational programs.



Daphne Geismar

Under Action Alternative One, an expanded menu of tour options would be provided to visitors and children's educational programming strengthened. Additional partner groups and volunteers would be sought to assist with interpretive programming and maintaining site resources.

Action Alternative Two

Action Alternative Two adopts a less “traditional,” more flexible approach. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and be aimed at rehabilitating existing features and following contemporary practices for land management in certain areas. Resource management decisions would be guided to a greater extent by programmatic needs, especially interpretation. The reconstruction of missing landscape features would be limited; they would be represented by new features of similar massing and scale, or through interpretive media. Construction of new trails and other amenities to support recreational use would be allowed. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with selected historic outbuildings adaptively re-used for NPS or partner programmatic functions.

Efforts to increase visitation would focus on providing a wide range of options, including recreational activities, special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. While interpretation would be place-based, it would make a more deliberate attempt to explore issues of contemporary relevance. An education center would be established to expand the scope and magnitude of programs offered.

This alternative foresees a significant expansion of partnership activities in the creation and presentation of new programs and operation of the sites. It also opens up greater potential to generate revenue.

Resource Management

Resource management efforts would retain the historic character of the estates and perpetuate historic land uses. This approach would allow a variety of modifications to support educational or utilitarian purposes.

Some examples

- Forest stands would be actively managed using the latest forestry practices, and be used for research and demonstrations; this would allow for planting of non-historic species and harvesting of timber.
- Former farm fields would be reclaimed in certain areas, with agricultural practices reinstated as feasible through leases with local farmers, or other appropriate mechanisms to help maintain the fields and to bring to life the sites' agricultural past. This follows Mrs. Roosevelt's belief that “one should not own land unless it produces.” Farmers would be permitted to plant non-historic crops and conduct other activities that adhere to contemporary practices.
- Designed landscapes would appear largely as at present, but major missing features would be indicated through physical or other means. For example, a Victory Garden and associated program would be located on the site of the FDR Home Garden. Its design would be guided by historic precedent but not be a literal re-creation of the historic scene.
- Improvements in Hudson River views would focus on the severely diminished view from the Home of FDR. Action would be taken to preserve the current extent of the view from the Vanderbilt Mansion.

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John Auwaerter



Action Alternative Two aims to rehabilitate existing cultural features and to follow contemporary practices for land management in certain areas.

Visitor Experience

In partnership with entrepreneurs, nonprofits, volunteers, universities, and other entities, a wide choice of visitor experiences would be offered, highlighted by a center for place-based learning.

Some examples

- Demonstrations of forestry and farming practices could be introduced.
- Educational programming would be expanded to reach all ages, pre-schoolers to retirees, with space provided in refurbished outbuildings to augment the Wallace Center.
- Changing exhibits and forums would be developed with partners to explore the contemporary relevance of site stories and reach audiences that currently do not visit the sites.
- Compatible recreational use of the sites would be promoted, recreation-based tours offered, and new trails developed to support recreational use.
- Connections to the Hudson River would be improved: Bard Rock would become a “day-use” site (i.e., kayak/canoe put-in area) to promote waterborne access; and Roosevelt Cove would become a focus for natural resource interpretation.

Operations and Partnerships

Existing partnerships would be enhanced and new partnerships established to expand interpretive and educational opportunities and to generate revenue. Partners would present programs alongside NPS employees, some of whom would function more as coordinators and facilitators than at present.

Some examples

- Partners would be sought to adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House through a lease or other arrangement. Any re-use would be thematically compatible and help offset maintenance and operations costs. The site would maintain strict requirements for preservation and visitor services for any outside partner.
- Grounds, gardens, and other select spaces at Vanderbilt and at Bellefield, the park headquarters, could be available for special functions for a fee, provided they did not interfere with public use, site operations, or resource preservation.



Under Action Alternative Two, a wide array of interpretive options would be provided to visitors with partner support, including recreational activities,

special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. A significant expansion of partnership activities would be sought to create and

present new programs, notably a place-based learning center, and to seek new sources of revenue.

To Be Done Under Any Alternative

Regardless of which alternative is ultimately selected, several management objectives will be applied to the sites as a whole.

Resource Management

- Park managers will continue to seek funding to reduce the maintenance backlog and other operations shortages.
- The historic residences—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—will continue to be presented as fully furnished historic house museums, with the original quality of the interiors maintained to the extent possible.
- A broad-based campaign to preserve shared views of the Hudson River Valley will be pursued in partnership with others to help protect the Hudson Valley's scenic resources.

Visitor Use

- To provide an attractive and safe alternative to private vehicle access to the sites, a park shuttle system will be operated seasonally and, with partner participation, expanded to a regional system serving area attractions.
- At Val-Kill, Stone Cottage will be interpreted through guided tours and exhibits, with portions of the first floor available for special programs; the second floor will be used to support ERVK programs. The Cutting Garden will remain the legislatively mandated memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt. Its design will be re-evaluated and an accompanying program developed as part of the commemoration.

Operations and Partnerships

- The maintenance operations now in the Vanderbilt Coach House and Bellefield outbuildings will be relocated to a new facility, making the vacated buildings available for new uses. If no suitable location is found on NPS property, an additional property would be sought for the facility.
- Park managers will continue to work closely with National Archives and Records Administration to provide a cohesive visitor experience at the FDR Home and Library.
- Park managers will continue to work with Scenic Hudson, the Town of Hyde Park, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and others as appropriate, to develop the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center and associated amenities on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.

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J. Meehan



NPS WD Urbin

Regardless of which alternative is ultimately chosen, there is a set of objectives that will be pursued under any of the choices.

Moving Ahead

Public input and discussion have been vital in forming these preliminary ideas. It is essential for this response to continue as we move forward to refine and revise the preliminary alternatives and present proposed alternatives in a draft plan. In the draft plan, the NPS will likely identify one of the management alternatives (or a combination of proposals from each) as being the “preferred” alternative. At all stages we will consider the input received from concerned citizens. So, please share your thoughts with us!

You may express your views on the alternative ideas presented in this document in several ways—mail in the attached postcard, write us a letter, make your comments on the website www.Roosevelt-VanderbiltPlan.org, or send an email to rova_info@nps.gov.

Here are some questions to consider:

- Which of the preliminary action alternatives appeals to you, and why?
- What are the most and least appealing parts of the preliminary action alternatives?
- Do you find anything missing?
- If you were to create your own alternative, what would its most important components be?
- Some of the proposals depend upon substantial involvement of partners and volunteers for their realization. Are you interested in volunteering your time? If so, what types of activities would you like to engage in?

Next Steps

We are roughly midway in our planning process, with completion expected by winter 2008.

Winter 2005 – 2006

Preliminary research & background preparation

Winter – Fall 2006

Public outreach

Summer – Fall 2007

Preliminary management alternatives

Winter 2007/2008

Draft plan and draft environmental impact statement

Summer 2008

Final plan and final environmental impact statement

Fall/Winter 2008

Record of decision



Public input has been vital in forming these preliminary ideas. Please share your thoughts with us.

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"There is nothing so American as our National Parks."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1936



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Which of the preliminary action alternatives appeals to you, and why?

What are the most and least appealing parts of the preliminary action alternatives?

Do you find anything missing?

If you were to create your own alternative, what would its most important components be?

Some of the proposals depend upon substantial involvement of partners and volunteers for their realization. Are you interested in volunteering your time? If so, what types of activities would you like to engage in?

Name:

Email:

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here

Superintendent

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