



Monocacy National Battlefield

General Management Plan

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Monocacy National Battlefield:

We need your help. The National Park Service (NPS) has started a major planning effort to define the future of Monocacy National Battlefield. This effort includes the preparation of a general management plan (GMP) to help guide resource preservation, visitor use, interpretation, operation, and development in the national battlefield for the next 15 to 20 years.

A professional NPS planning team has been assembled to work with national battlefield staff and the public on the plan. The planning team has already met with the Maryland State Highway Administration to better understand how proposed improvements to I-270 might affect Monocacy National Battlefield. Another meeting was held with the Frederick County Planning Department to learn about any proposals they may have that could affect the national battlefield. A third meeting was held with a representative of the Maryland Historical Trust to explain the planning process and go over ongoing activities at the national battlefield.

Most importantly, two public open houses were held on July 29th and 31st last summer at the Gambrill Mansion to seek public ideas and concerns about Monocacy National Battlefield. A notice was placed in local newspapers with an invitation to anyone with an interest to attend one or both of the open houses. Although total attendance at the open houses was less than 20 people, the ideas and suggestions presented were exciting and thoughtful and will be very useful to the staff and planning team in developing alternatives.

The newsletter that follows should bring you up-to-date on what we heard at the open houses. We invite you to participate in this planning process by commenting on the purpose and significance statements and issues listed in this newsletter and on any other concerns you may have about the battlefield. All comments will be considered and analyzed, and results will be presented in a subsequent newsletter. Additional opportunities for comment will follow as we proceed through the planning process, which will take two-three years. At any time during this process if you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns feel free to contact me by mail, e-mail, or telephone at

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Thank you for being a friend of Monocacy National Battlefield. We look forward to meeting with you and hearing from you as we plan for the future of this important historic resource.

Sincerely,

Susan Trail
Superintendent
Monocacy National Battlefield



GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

What Is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan looks at what historic, archeological, ethnographic, and natural resources exist and provides alternatives for their management, preservation, and interpretation. It looks at where development of facilities would least impact the resources and most benefit the visitor. The environmental impact statement (EIS) portion of the general management plan analyzes the impacts of implementing the actions proposed in the management plan. Unlike a master plan, a general management plan (GMP) is not primarily a development (or redevelopment) plan. The general management plan takes a comprehensive look at the national battlefield and focuses on resource preservation and visitor experience. Facility development is minimized to the greatest extent possible consistent with resource preservation and visitor experience.

A general management plan is a public document. Comments are sought from the public at various stages throughout the planning process: at the beginning of the “scoping” process when ideas and concerns are sought through open houses; at the alternatives development stage when various alternative concepts are described in a newsletter to see whether or not an appropriate range of alternatives has been developed; and at the draft plan stage when copies of the document are sent to everyone on the Monocacy mailing list for review and comment and public meetings are held. At each stage the comments of the public are evaluated and ideas incorporated into the plan. A final plan is then written, and when approved by the National Park Service National Capital Region’s regional director, the plan is implemented.

The Planning Process

Park planning is organized around three primary questions: WHY, WHAT, and HOW? “Why” is the reason the park was originally established. It is defined by developing purpose and significance statements for the park. “What” is the vision for the future. It is defined through an alternatives development process that describes what kind of place Monocacy should be in the next 15 to 20 years. “How” is the method for implementing this vision to create this desired future. (The answers to the

“how” question are developed in more detail through future project-specific planning efforts and are not generally included in a general management plan.)

Purpose and significance statements for Monocacy National Battlefield provide answers to the WHY questions and form the foundation for the general management plan. Developing a vision for the park’s future (answering the WHAT question) is the primary function of the general management plan. Comments from park visitors and the general public are very important in identifying issues, developing possible visions (called alternatives) for the needs of our visitors, and addressing the concerns of neighbors and partners. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables us to compare and contrast the advantages of one course of action over another and establishes a rational approach to decision making, which is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy.

General issues that are addressed in all general management plans and on which we welcome your comments are as follows:

What should we do to ensure that the national battlefield and its resources are adequately protected, preserved, restored, and/or maintained in good condition?

What should we do to ensure that visitors and the general public learn and understand the purpose and significance of the national battlefield?

What level and type of visitor use is appropriate?

Are the national battlefield boundaries appropriate for the continued protection of its resources?

What facilities, if any, are needed for resource management and visitor use?

You are invited to share your ideas on these and other questions with the planning team by completing and mailing the enclosed postage-paid comment form.

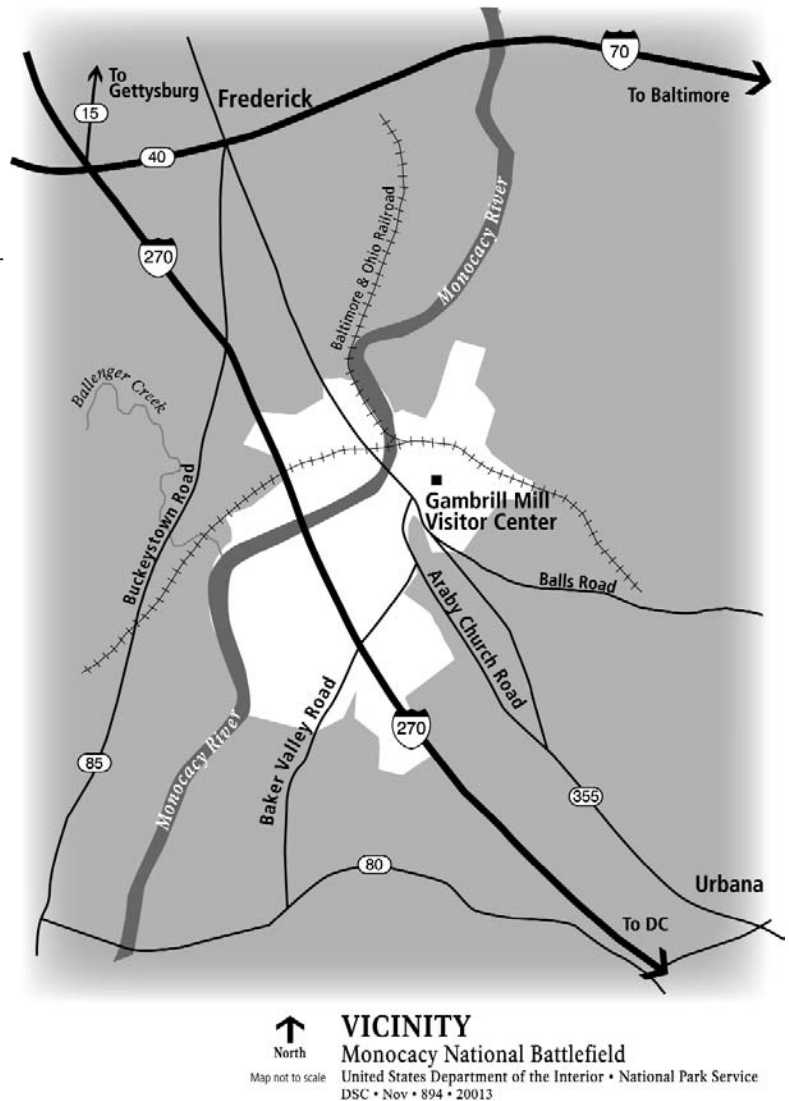
PARK CONTEXT

Location

Monocacy National Battlefield is on the southern boundary of Frederick, Maryland, which is approximately 50 miles west of Baltimore and 44 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. The national battlefield visitor center can be reached by traveling south from Frederick on Maryland 355 to the intersection with Araby Church Road. The Gambrill Mill Visitor Center and headquarters is a left turn at the intersection.

The Battle

On July 9, 1864, Monocacy National Battlefield was the site of an important battle of the American Civil War. Confederate forces under General Jubal Early defeated Union forces under General Lew Wallace here. However, the battle cost Early a day's march and allowed Union forces time to fortify the capital, thus thwarting the Confederacy's last campaign into the north. The failure of this mission also ended southern hope of diverting Union troops away from Lee's army at Petersburg, Virginia.



Current Conditions

Within the national battlefield are the well-preserved remains of the battlefield landscape, including the Best, Worthington, and Thomas farms; the Gambrill mill; and military earthworks. A visitor center in the Gambrill mill provides an orientation to the site and directions to historic features. It is open daily throughout the year.

Although originally established in 1934 as Monocacy National Military Park, the boundary and land acquisition was not authorized until 1976. Public Law 94-578 (90 Stat. 2732) authorized acquisition of up to 1,000 acres and resulted in a name change to Monocacy National Battlefield. In 1978 Public Law 95-625 added about 587 acres. With much of the land within the boundary in private ownership, Monocacy National Battlefield focused its management efforts on land acquisition and staffing.

Today, with land acquisition nearing completion, the national battlefield is focused on its future. The general management plan will provide the long-range guidance necessary for resource preservation, visitor use, interpretation, development, and operations. The plan will also identify studies and further actions necessary to implement this vision.

PLANNING ISSUES

Issues That May Be Addressed By The General Management Plan

The general management plan will provide a framework for addressing major issues within the context of the national battlefield's purpose and significance. The following is a summary of the issues and concerns that were presented to the planning team during last summer's open houses. Comments are listed fairly verbatim with no priority order implied. Please give us your additions and comments.

Resource Preservation

Maintain the rural 19th century character of the landscape.
Keep actively farming the land.
Where possible restore the structures to their historic appearance and remove intrusions from the landscape.
Restore some of the historic houses inside and out.
Don't bother to restore the nonhistoric barns, let them fall and replace them with replicas of the original barns.
Remove the nonhistoric structures from the Best farm.
Make trails ecologically sound, noninvasive.
The 8 by 12 wide trail proposed in the County Trail Plan seems like a highway.

Commemoration

Confine new monuments to the Baker Valley corridor.
Place new monuments where troop movements began.
Define the size of new monuments.
Cluster new monuments along Baker Valley Road.
Cluster new Confederate monuments on the Worthington farm.
Place new monuments on the site to show battle lines.

Visitor Use

Have special events and community activities of a Civil War nature to bring site alive.
Open historic houses to the public.
This should be a walking park with trails to connect the historic properties.
Need a trail system that connects all sites; some trails, if not all, should be handicap accessible.
Making the site accessible to visitors with disabilities must be done without impairing the historic character of the site.
Build a footbridge over I-270 to connect the Worthington and Thomas farms.
Don't allow a paved trail along the Monocacy River.
A trail could be developed along MD 355.
Consider shared hiker/biker trails.
Part or all of the trails should accommodate bicycles.
Need a tour road system through the battlefield.
There should be minimal roads, just those necessary to allow access to historic structures and visitor facilities (minimize the need for new roads).
Need picnic facilities near the visitor center or possibly somewhere else.
Install better signs.



Interpretation and Education

Tell a more comprehensive story than just the battle; tell how those who lived in the battlefield and in Frederick were affected by the battle, how those soldiers who fought were affected, and tell of the battle's context within the greater Civil War.

Focus on battle but place it in its broader historical context.

Interpret the nonbattle aspects of the site such as the encampments, the railroad junction, and troop movements.

Study Lewis farm may have been a field hospital.

Interpret the battle era rifle pits on the battlefield's eastern side but don't jeopardize their existence.

Interpretate more of the civilian aspects of the site.

Consider use of virtual tours in the visitor center.

Put waysides where troops fought.

Restore the historic landscape to facilitate interpretation.

Restore the Gambrill Mill to its historic appearance and consider restoring the raceway.

Restore the Gambrill Mill to its historic appearance with a trail along the mill race.

Consider restoring Gambrill Mill to working order.

Identify the location of the original Gambrill house for interpretation.

Reconstruct the historic railroad station and figure out how to get visitors there.

Reconstruct the historic Union blockhouses.

Reconstruct two blockhouses.

Incorporate a preservation bulletin exhibit at the visitor center.

At the Thomas House, interpret the battle damage to the house.

Need troop movement maps for visitors.

Consider the African American interpretive story.

Provide access to Wallace's headquarters and interpret the Union side of the battle as well.

Interpret the Best grove.

Need more cannons on the site.

Operations

Keep office/maintenance on the edges of the battlefield.

Consider adding a new maintenance facility behind the existing one.

Don't try to use a historic barn for maintenance- too much unusable space, high expense, and would not be efficient.

Boundary Adjustments

Acquire the site of Camp Hooker (14th New Jersey Infantry) to protect the site's archeological significance.

Consider addition of battle-related structures to the national battlefield such as Jug Bridge toll house and houses used as hospitals.

PLANNING PROCESS



Where Are We In the Planning Process?

In this early phase of the planning process, we need your help to complete the statements of **purpose** and **significance** (the WHY) of Monocacy National Battlefield. Purpose statements are based on national battlefield legislation and legislative history, other special designations, and NPS policies. The statements reaffirm the reasons that Monocacy National Battlefield was established as part of the national park system and provide the foundation for battlefield management and use. A draft purpose statement for the national battlefield is presented below.

The **purpose** of Monocacy National Battlefield is to preserve the physical structures and attributes that comprise the battlefield landscape and allow it to be interpreted in its specific as well as its broader historical context.

Significance statements capture the essence of the national battlefield's importance to our country's natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements are not a list of battlefield resources; rather, they describe its distinctiveness and help to place the battlefield within its regional, national, and international contexts. Defining significance helps managers make decisions that preserve the resources and values necessary to accomplish the battlefield's purpose. A draft of the significant statements for the national battlefield is presented below.

The **significance** of Monocacy National Battlefield is:

As the site of the July 9, 1864, battle that ultimately saved the Federal Capital from capture in the Confederacy's third and final attempt to bring the war to the north—a campaign designed to divert pressure from Lee's army at Petersburg and potentially lessen President Abraham Lincoln's chances for reelection.

As the site of important events associated with the Civil War including the 1862 Maryland Campaign and Lee's Lost Order, the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign, and the 1864 Grant-Sheridan meeting outlining the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

In the integrity of the battlefield, the historic landscape, and the historic structures thereon.

As a site that provides unique opportunities for understanding the evolution of settlement patterns in the region and the Civil War in its broader context of American history.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Developing a vision for the future of Monocacy National Battlefield is the primary role of the general management plan. Your comments are important for identifying issues and desired visitor experiences and will be used to finalize the draft purpose and significance statements and help guide the range of viable alternative futures for the national battlefield. All ideas are encouraged.

During the winter of 2003, the planning team will be gathering data on the natural and cultural resources of the national battlefield. Knowing the resources better will help to identify such things as where vulnerable resources are located and whether enough architectural data exists to accurately restore buildings on the landscape.

The next newsletter will describe some preliminary alternatives (desired conditions) and management prescriptions (zones) for the battlefield. Management prescriptions define what resource conditions should be maintained, what degree of visitor use should occur, and what degree of development would be appropriate. These prescriptions are then applied to areas within the battlefield. Theoretically, the more sensitive the resources within an area the less development would be appropriate; the more interpretive potential, the more likely visitor use would be encouraged in that area. A variety of approaches to zoning the battlefield will be developed into preliminary alternatives. This will be the next opportunity for public input.

Planning Process Timeline

The development of the general management plan will take about two to three years to produce, including collecting information, analyzing data, writing the draft document, and reviews by the public and other agencies.

Project Schedule			
Step	Milestones	Start	Complete
→ 1	Data Gathering and Analysis Develop purpose and significance statements Initiate agency consultation Conduct public scoping Prepare and distribute scoping newsletter Gather data	March 02	April 03
2	Alternatives Development Develop management prescriptions Develop alternatives Prepare and distribute alternatives newsletter	October 02	April 03
3	Draft GMP/EIS Preparation Produce Draft GMP/EIS Internal NPS review and revisions Publish and distribute Draft GMP/EIS for public review Public review/meetings	May 03	July 04
4	Final GMP/EIS Preparation Analyze and respond to public comments Produce and print final plan	July 04	October 04
5	Plan Approval Record of Decision (ROD)		November 04

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