



Management Plan Bulletin

November 2006

Preliminary Alternatives – *A Vision for the Future*

Greetings

In this second newsletter on the development of the General Management Plan, we are pleased to present preliminary management alternatives for your consideration to guide the future management direction of Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

After the first round of public meetings in 2004, we gathered and analyzed your ideas for inclusion into these alternatives. We would now like to hear your ideas about these alternatives. Please provide us with your comments on the enclosed form. We also invite you to attend a series of upcoming public meetings to learn more about the plan and the planning process.

Preserving and conserving the resources through public communication and involvement is essential to the completion of a successful plan for this new national park unit. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Catherine Light
Superintendent

Background

In 1998, the National Park Service (NPS) conducted a special resource study of Moton Field that outlined steps for commemorating the valuable contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen to the World War II effort. The study included specific recommendations for the preservation, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of 15 historic structures at Moton Field. On November 6, 1998, Public Law 105-355 established the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site for inclusion in the National Park System.

This enabling legislation describes the roles of the NPS and its partners, Tuskegee University and the Tuskegee Airmen, in the development of the park. Today, the NPS now approximately 44 acres of Moton Field, with an additional

46 acres to be acquired in the future in accordance with the enabling legislation.

The legislation also provides detailed information on how the park will be managed, developed, and operated. Mandates to implement alternatives C and D, as described in the study, were included in the legislation.

Alternative C is currently serving to help guide the initial overall development and management of the park. Alternative D will be implemented after an agreement is reached with Tuskegee University on the development of the Tuskegee Airmen National Center (TANC).

Getting the GMP Underway

All parks in the National Park System require the development of a long range overarching plan known as the General Management Plan (GMP). The purpose of the GMP is to lay out a far-reaching direction for managing Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site for the next 15 to 20 years. The GMP represents the broadest level of planning conducted by the NPS and provides guidance for future park resource conditions, visitor experiences, and the kinds and levels of development in the park.

The GMP for Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site aims to ensure that the requirements of the enabling legislation are implemented. A central principle of the GMP is the need for it to complement the initial development now underway at the park and to support the long term preservation of the historic landscape (buildings, grounds, and related features) as it appeared in 1945.

In 2004, the NPS conducted public meetings to identify issues and to solicit preliminary public input on the development of the GMP. Based on

these meetings the planning team developed a set of management alternatives. We are pleased to present a summary of the alternatives in this newsletter, and look forward to hearing what the public and our partners have to say.

Public Meeting Schedule

We would like to invite you to attend any of the public meetings so the NPS can obtain your comments and suggestions and answer any questions you might have.

All of the meetings will take place at the National Guard Armory. The National Guard Armory is located at 1101 Chappie James Avenue, Tuskegee, AL 36083.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

November 29, 2006 2:00-4:00 p.m.

November 30, 2006 2:00-4:00 p.m.
5:30-7:30 p.m.

GMP Zoning

The GMP employs maps to delineate management zones or districts that correspond to a description of the desired future resource and visitor experience conditions for particular areas of the park. As you'll see in the pages that follow, the alternatives use different combinations of zoning to present a range of possible ways for managing and guiding the development of Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site over the next 15 to 20 years.

The planning team developed five zones (described below) that correspond to desired future resource and visitor experience conditions at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. The five

zones are: *Historic 1945 Zone*, *Visitor Orientation Zone*, *Administration Zone*, *Recreation Zone*, and *Nature Discovery Zone*.



Historic Front Gate

A Closer Look at the Zones

The *Historic 1945 Zone* represents areas of the park that focus on restoration and preservation of resources, education, and outreach. This zone encompasses the core historic resources across all of the alternatives. In this zone, visitors

would be able to take guided tours, interact with people in period dress, and view extensive exhibits and artifacts on the Tuskegee Airmen story.

The *Visitor Orientation Zone* represents areas where the visitor experience would include such things as orientation to the park, viewing historic resources, self-guided tours, and picnicking. Typical facilities and development in this zone could include contact stations, memorials, parking areas, roads, trails, exhibit areas, group shelters, and picnic areas.

The *Administration Zone* represents areas that would focus on site operations. Visitors typically would not enter this zone except to conduct research or for official business.

The *Recreation Zone* represents areas that would focus on visitor access, providing recreational opportunities, education, and outreach. The types of

visitor experiences would include such activities as hiking, picnicking, nature viewing, park orientation, and viewing programs.

The *Nature Discovery Zone* represents areas that would focus on restoring and preserving resources, education and outreach. In this zone, the types of visitor experiences would include opportunities for viewing natural and cultural resources, hiking, self-guided tours, solitary experiences, and research.

The planning team developed potential future uses and conditions—called management prescriptions—for each of the zones. The prescriptions identify the assortment of visitor activities, resource conditions and facilities that are appropriate in each of the zones.

The table below shows examples of visitor activities that could be appropriate for each zone.

Summary of Management Zones

	Historic 1945 Zone	Visitor Orientation Zone	Administration Zone	Recreation Zone	Nature Discovery Zone
TYPES OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES					
Barbecuing		X		X	
Dog walking		X		X	
Guided tours	X				
Hiking				X	X
Interact with people in period dress	X				
Kite flying				X	
Model airplane flying				X	
Nature Viewing				X	X
Park orientation		X		X	
Picnicking		X		X	
Reflective experience	X	X			X
Research	X	X	X		X
Self-guided tours	X	X			X
Solitary experience					X
Viewing cultural resources	X	X			X
Viewing programs	X	X		X	X

Developing Preliminary Alternatives

Within the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS Management Policies, the GMP must present a range of alternative future conditions and management direction for consideration as the plan is developed. Consequently, the planning team is pleased to present five preliminary alternatives for public consideration to guide Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site for the next 15 to 20 years. Although these alternatives carry letter designations, please note that they have no direct relation to the letter-denoted alternatives of the special resource study.

Alternative A

Alternative A is referred to as the “no action” alternative. In this alternative, current management practices and trends would continue into the future. There is no application of the zones in the no action alternative. This alternative is generally used as a way to evaluate the effects of the other alternatives and is also useful in understanding why the NPS or the public may believe that changes are necessary.

Earlier we mentioned some of the specific requirements of the enabling legislation. Under the No Action alternative, the enabling legislation and the park’s development concept plan, which is currently under development, would be the documents to guide the management and development of the park into the future.

Alternative B

(refer to map on page 4)

The general theme of Alternative B is to emphasize the natural environment by keeping Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site largely undeveloped and natural in character outside of the core historic areas. Potential areas for visitor interpretive programs are the most limited in this alternative.

- In this alternative, the Historic 1945 Zone – shown in red on the map –

encompasses the two hangars, Skyway Club, entrance road, and gate.

- The Visitor Orientation Zone – the area in orange – encompasses the parking area, TANC site, Airmen Memorial, picnic area, overlook and visitor contact station.
- A small Administration Zone – the area in blue – is located just south of the parking areas, along Chappie James Drive and would be accessed from Chappie James Drive.
- The Nature Discovery Zone – the areas in green – encompasses approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site including most of the eastern half of the site and a smaller area in the western portion of the site.
- This alternative does not have any areas in the Recreation Zone.

Alternative C

(refer to map on page 4)

Alternative C aims to restore the most areas of the park to the 1945 appearance. In this alternative, the Historic 1945 Zone is the largest of all the alternatives, encompassing the core 1945 historic areas as well as large areas surrounding this core to allow for broader interpretive and restoration efforts related to the Tuskegee Airmen story.

- The Visitor Orientation Zone remains the same as in Alternative B.
- The Administration Zone also remains the same as in Alternative B.
- The Nature Discovery Zone encompasses slightly more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Site.
- As in Alternative B, this alternative does not have any areas zoned as Recreation.

Alternative D

(refer to map on page 5)

Alternative D offers the most diversity of visitor interpretive programs and recreational opportunities. It is the only alternative to contain all five of the management zones.

- The Historic 1945 Zone encompasses the core 1945 historic areas as well as areas extending from the core, but is smaller than in Alternative C.

- The Visitor Orientation Zone is slightly larger than in Alternatives B and C.
- The Administration Zone contains a smaller area than in Alternatives B and C along Chappie James Drive and an area just east of the hangars to be accessed through the Historic 1945 Zone. This would provide flexibility for the location of administration and maintenance facilities.
- The Recreation Zone – the area in purple – in the southeastern portion of the Site allows for low impact recreational activities and interpretive program topics other than the Tuskegee Airmen Experience.
- The Nature Discovery Zone encompasses less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Site.

Alternative E

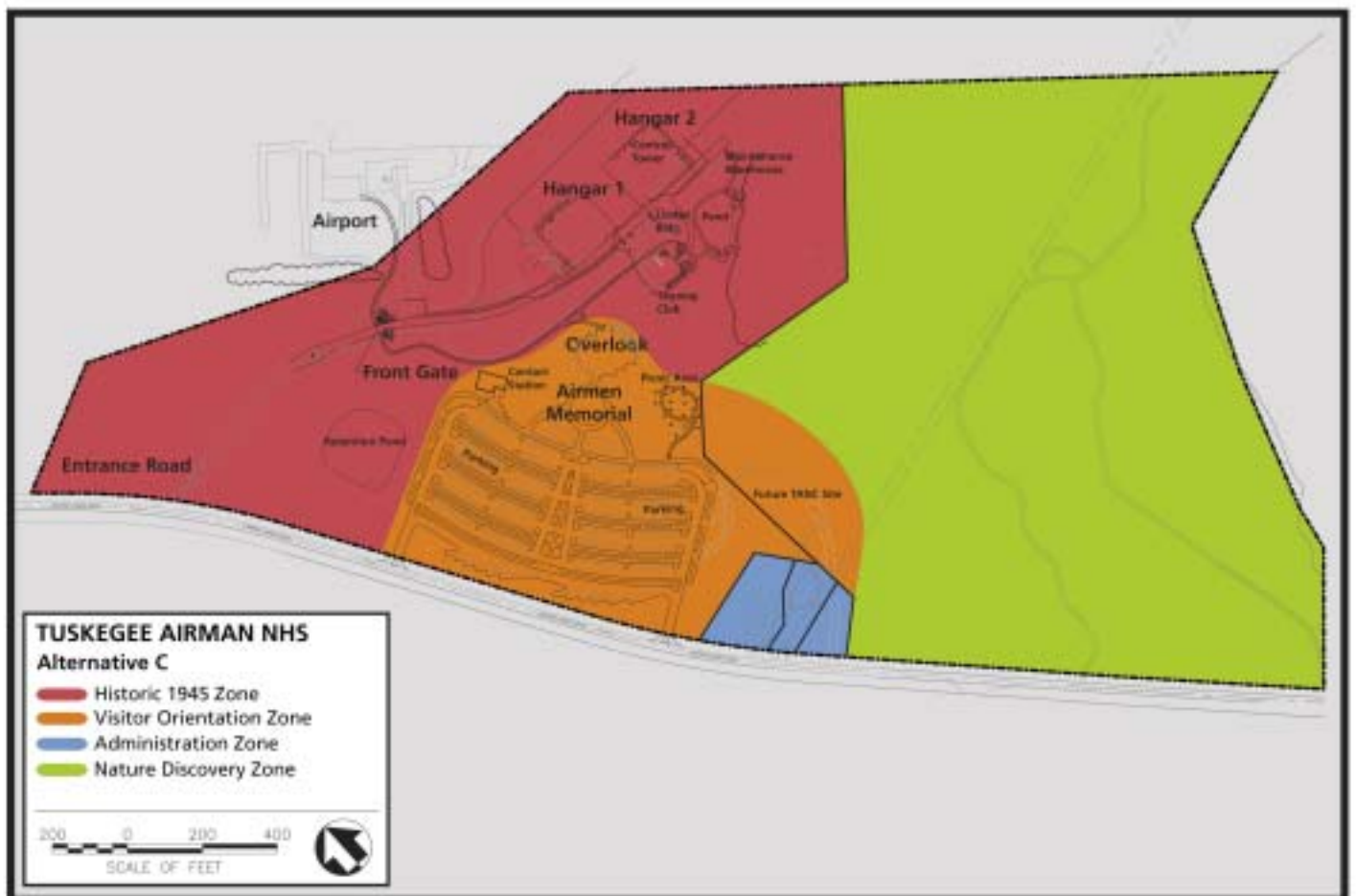
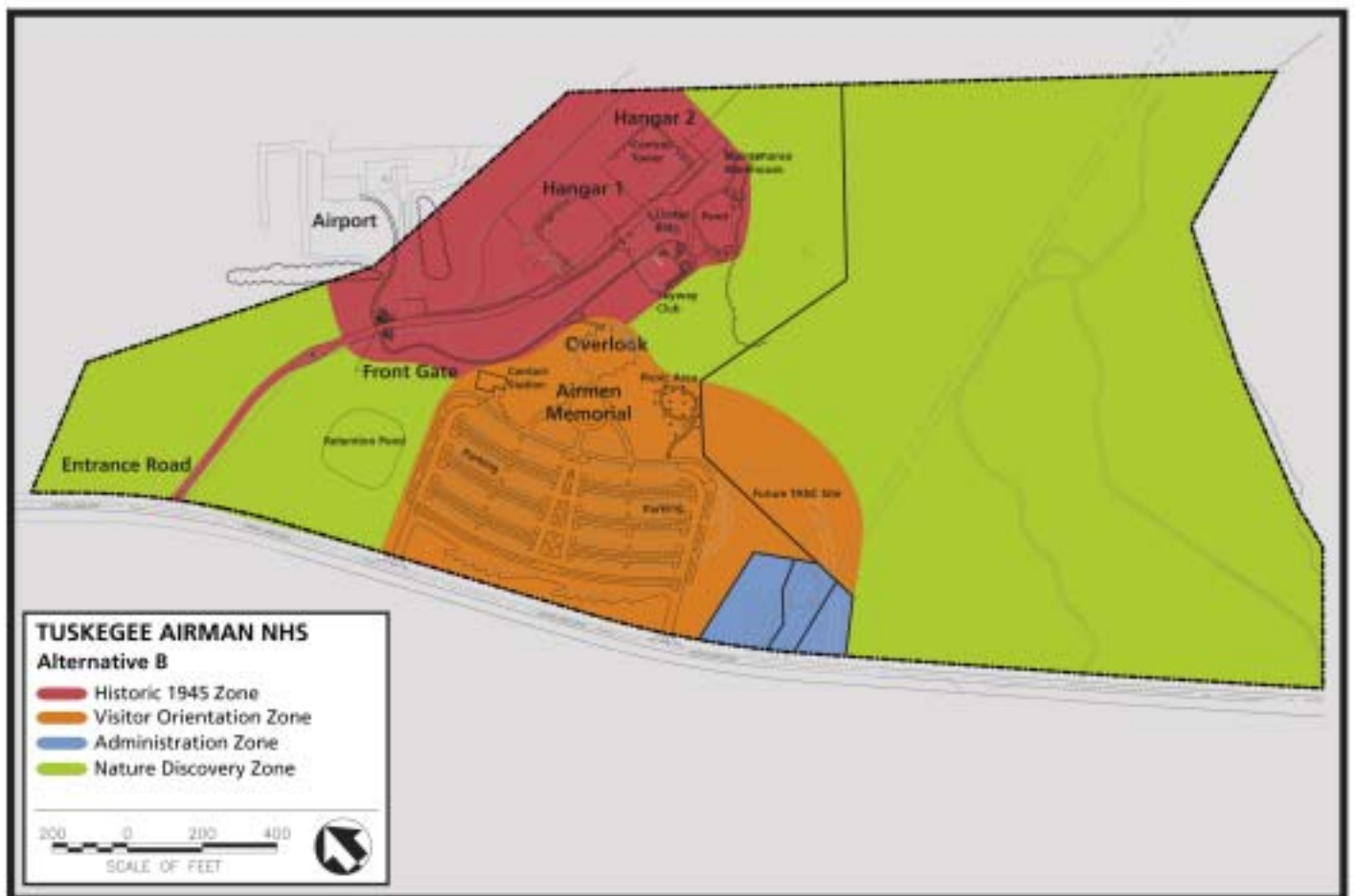
(refer to map on page 5)

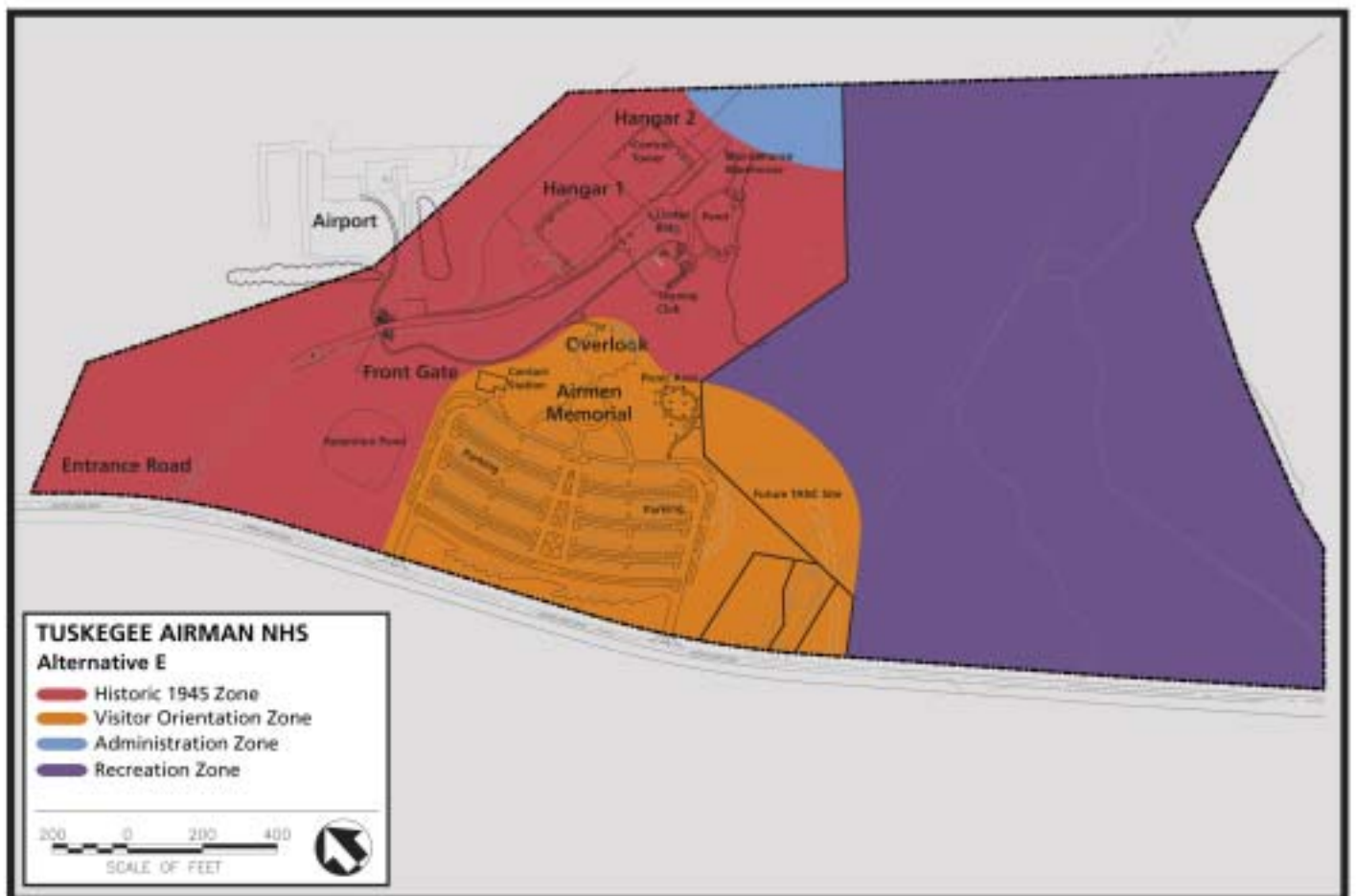
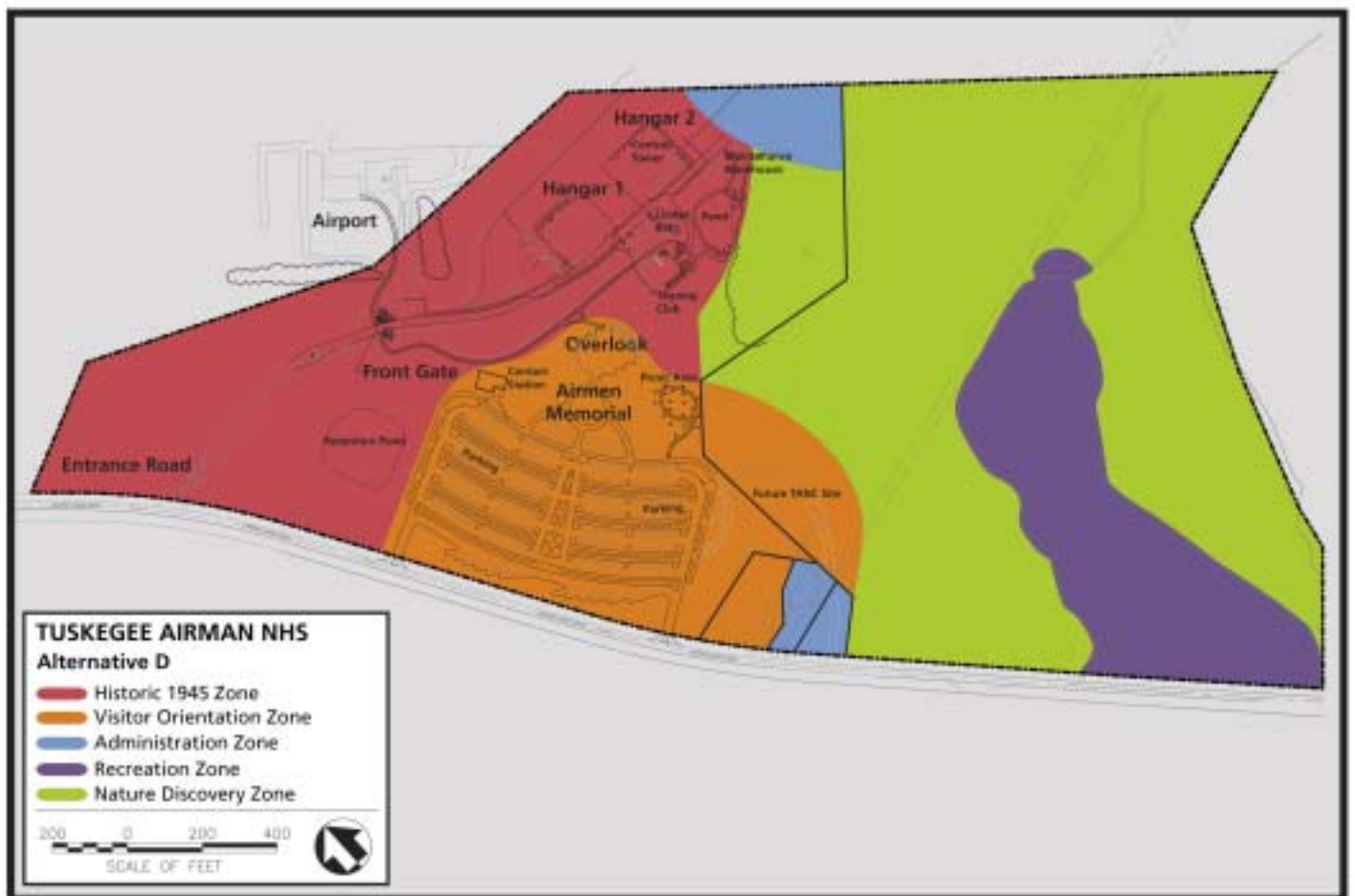
Alternative E offers the most recreational opportunities of all the alternatives.

- The Historic 1945 Zone is slightly smaller than in Alternatives C and D, but larger than in B.
- The Visitor Orientation Zone is the largest of the alternatives.
- The Administration Zone contains only the area just east of the hangars to be accessed through the recreation zone.
- The Recreation Zone encompasses approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Site allowing for more outdoor recreation endeavors.
- This alternative does not have any areas in the Nature Discovery Zone.



Raptor and Tuskegee Airmen







National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tuskegee Airmen NHS GMP
1616 Chappie James Avenue
Tuskegee, AL 36083

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Contacts

The National Park Service appreciates your input into this planning process and would like your feedback. You may provide your comments at the public meetings, through the internet (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>). Under "Choose a Park" click on "Tuskegee Airmen NHS" and follow the link to the GMP), or by mail using the following contact information:

**National Park Service
Tuskegee Airmen NHS GMP
SERO – John Barrett
100 Alabama ST SW
1924 Building
Atlanta GA 30303-9725**



Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
National Park Service

Please provide us with feedback on the preliminary alternatives for Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. If you need more space, feel free to attach additional pages to this form. If you prefer, you may comment online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Under "Choose a Park" click on "Tuskegee Airmen NHS" and follow the link to the GMP. We would appreciate receiving your comments by January 8, 2007.

2. Which elements or features of the alternatives do you like best?

3. Which elements or features of alternatives do you dislike?

4. Additional suggestions?

Do you want to be on the mailing list for the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site General Management Plan? If you are not on our mailing list or have a correction to make, please check the appropriate box below and fill out the mailing information.

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