



# Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park General Management Plan



The Sunken Road and reconstructed stone wall at Fredericksburg

Newsletter 1, Summer 2009

Dear Friends,

The approaching 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War (2011-2015) provides a fitting time to craft a new vision for Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. We would like your help envisioning the future of the park, and invite you to participate as we develop a new General Management Plan (GMP) to guide park management for the next twenty years. Much has changed since the last plan was adopted in 1986. Commercial and residential development and expanding roadways have put pressure on battlefield land both inside and outside park boundaries.

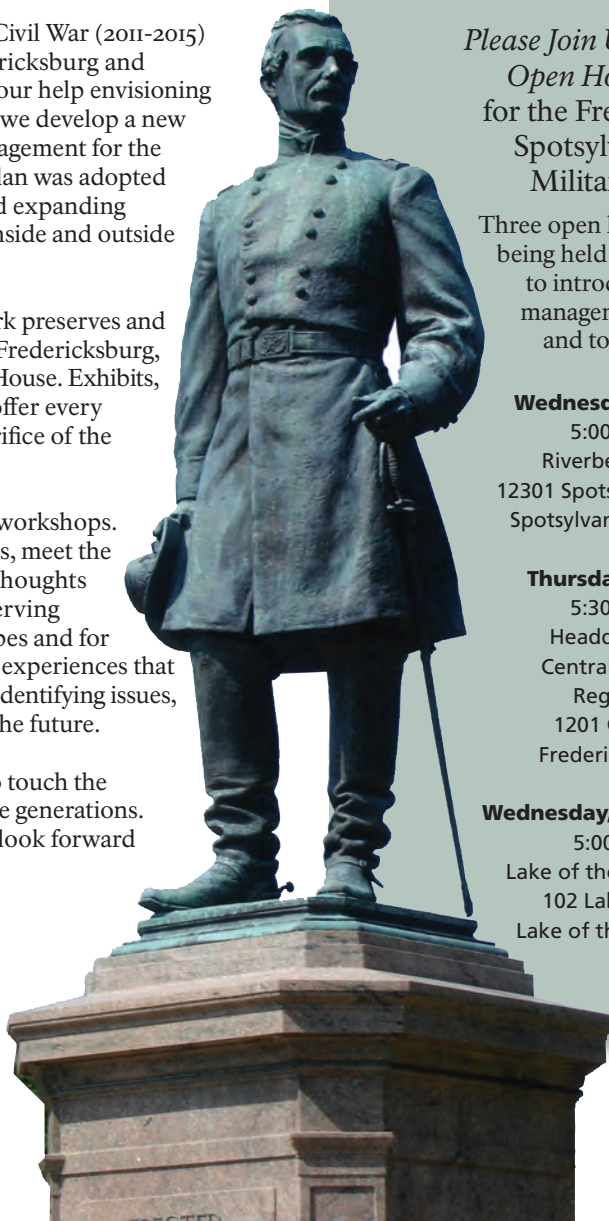
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park preserves and protects the resources of the Civil War battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. Exhibits, films, trails, and nearly 1,500 live programs each year offer every visitor a chance to understand and appreciate the sacrifice of the soldiers and the struggles of the civilian population.

Beginning in July, we will host a series of open house workshops. Please join us to learn more about the planning process, meet the planning team, and share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about the park. We want to hear your ideas for preserving tremendously significant historic objects and landscapes and for providing the type of high quality visitor facilities and experiences that both educate and stimulate. We will need your help in identifying issues, formulating solutions, and peering twenty years into the future.

We believe that the GMP is an exciting opportunity to touch the future as we envision the park that will be left to future generations. We encourage you to take part in our workshops and look forward to seeing you at these important meetings.

Sincerely,

*Russ Smith*  
Russ Smith,  
Superintendent



## *Please Join Us for One of Three Open House Workshops for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park GMP*

Three open house workshops are being held at several locations to introduce the general management plan project and to hear from you.

### **Wednesday, July 29, 2009**

5:00pm—8:00pm

Riverbend High School

12301 Spotswood Furnace Road  
Spotsylvania County, Virginia

### **Thursday, July 30, 2009**

5:30pm—8:30pm

Headquarters Branch

Central Rappahannock

Regional Library

1201 Caroline Street

Fredericksburg, Virginia

### **Wednesday, September 9, 2009**

5:00pm—8:00pm

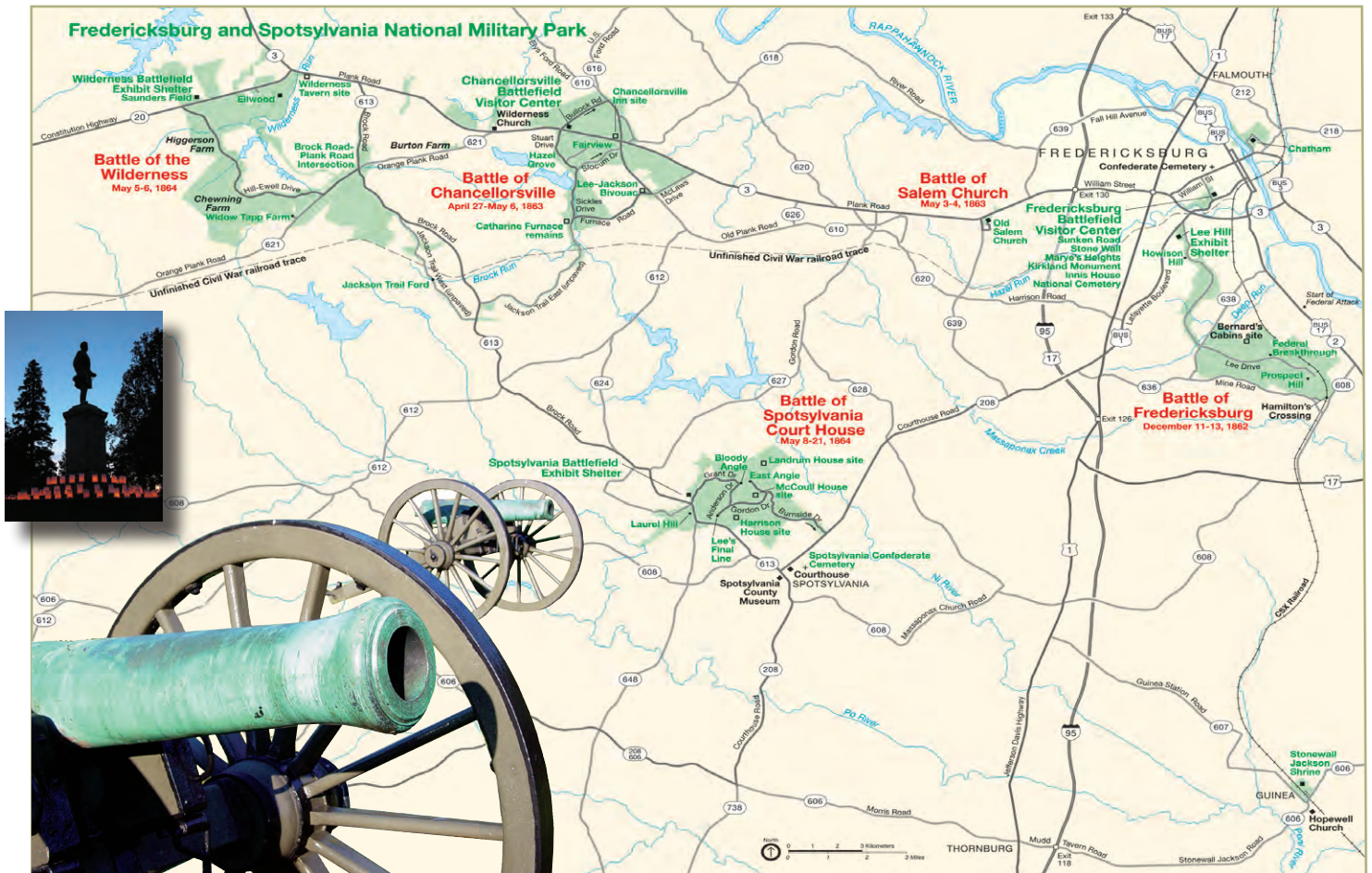
Lake of the Woods Clubhouse

102 Lakeview Parkway

Lake of the Woods, Virginia



# Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park



**F**redericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park commemorates and interprets four major battles of the American Civil War: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. Located midway between Washington D.C. and Richmond, VA along the Rappahannock River, the Fredericksburg area became the most fought over ground of the war, resulting in over 100,000 casualties and devastation to the local communities.

Established by Congress in 1927, the park today encompasses over 7,000 acres spread over 145 square miles in four counties and one independent city. The park features two visitor centers and five historic structures: Chatham Manor, Ellwood Manor, Salem Church, Innis House, and the

plantation outbuilding at Guinea Station where General “Stonewall” Jackson died. The park is a place of deeds great and common, of places tragic and inspiring. The quiet, peaceful woods and fields are reminders of how much we owe to the sacrifice of others.

The park is open year-round with hours varying according to the season. Summer activities include ranger talks and walking tours, as well as special events and living history programs. Visitors can learn the story of the park through films, exhibits, publications, and exploration of the park’s fields and woods, historic homes, and monuments. For dates and more information on events at the park, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).

## We Welcome Your Ideas:

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome ideas for the plan. Some questions we have for you are:

- What is most special to you about Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park?
- What opportunities do you see for the future of the park?
- How can we better protect important views and historic lands related to the battles?
- What are ways for visitors to enjoy and experience the park, while ensuring that historic, cultural, and natural resources are protected?
- What organizations, institutions, and individuals might be interested in partnering with park staff to preserve and interpret battlefield lands?



## A Vision for the Future of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

A General Management Plan provides the overall direction for the future management of each unit of the National Park system. GMPs take a long-range view, answering the question, "What kind of place do we want this park to be?" A team of National Park Service planners, natural and cultural resource specialists, and consultants will develop the plan in coordination with interested citizens, organizations, and government agencies.

When completed, the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park GMP will provide a framework for managers to use in making decisions about how best to protect resources, what levels and types of uses are appropriate, what facilities should be developed, and how people should access the park. The plan will identify desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that would be appropriate for each part of the park and the strategies for achieving those conditions. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the environmental consequences of the plan will be analyzed.

## Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park General Management Plan Schedule

General Time Frame	Planning Phase	Ways to Be Involved
Summer 2009	<b>Scoping</b> —We will identify ideas and opportunities related to the park in cooperation with the public, government agencies, and stakeholders	Review Newsletter 1 Participate in an open house workshop Send us your ideas
Fall 2009 to Spring 2010	<b>Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives</b> — We will outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, government agencies, and stakeholders	Review Newsletters 2 and 3 Participate in an open house workshop Send us your ideas and comments
Spring 2010 to Spring 2011	<b>Prepare and Distribute a Draft GMP</b> —We will develop a draft plan and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders	Review Draft GMP Participate in an open house workshop Send us your ideas and comments
Summer 2011	<b>Revise Draft Plan and Prepare a Final GMP</b>	We will refine the draft plan based on comments Review Final GMP
2012	<b>Implementation</b> —We will begin to implement the approved plan	Work with the park to implement the GMP



### Ways to Participate:

- Share your ideas, questions, and comments by sending a letter or email to:
  - Superintendent  
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park  
120 Chatham Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2508
  - FRSP\_GMP@nps.gov
- Visit our websites for updates on the process, meeting announcements, copies of newsletters, planning documents, and to sign up for the park mailing list:
  - [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp) (park website)
  - <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/frsp> (planning website)
- Attend an open house workshop





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania  
National Military Park  
120 Chatham Lane  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2508



This newsletter is a publication of the National Park Service, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. For additional information, please contact Superintendent, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, 120 Chatham Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22405-2508 or call (540) 371-0802. Visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/ffsp](http://www.nps.gov/ffsp)

## FREDERICKSBURG AND SPOTSYLVANIA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

### Open House Workshops

The National Park Service has scheduled the first open house workshops to begin the new General Management Plan for Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

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