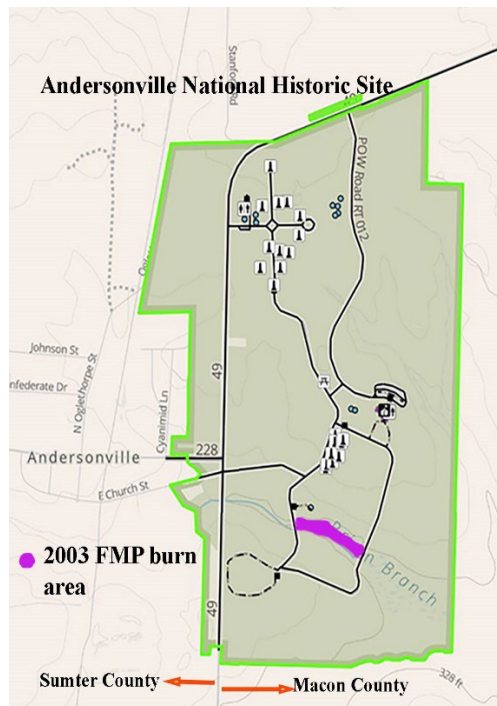




Purpose and Need/Background

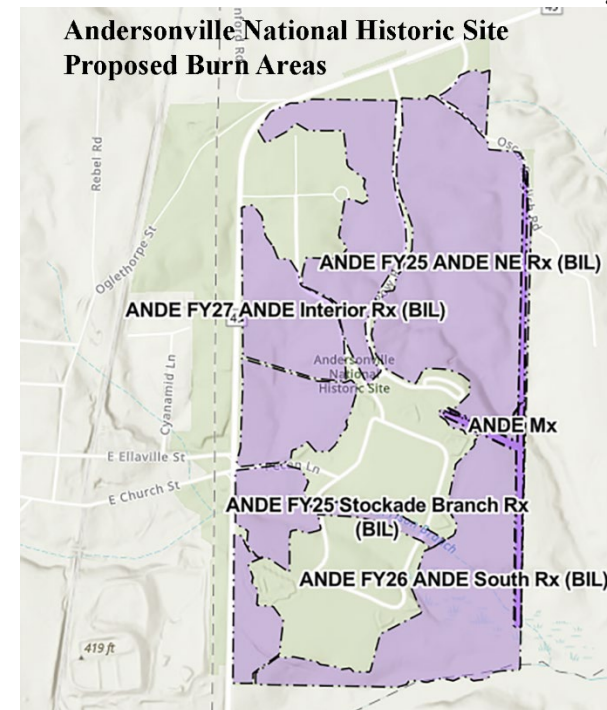
The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to update the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Andersonville National Historic Site (ANDE), Andersonville Georgia. The park's 2003 FMP only allowed the burning of one section in the park.

The park is undergoing a civic engagement process to solicit input from the public on the proposed update to the FMP. Information on how you can provide input to the NPS is explained on the back of this announcement.



Proposal The proposed plan would provide a framework and parkwide guidelines for the management of all wildfires, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. The plan would provide guidance on the use of prescribed fire and non-fire fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel loading and

accomplish resource protection objectives. The plan would provide for firefighter and public safety, consider the ecological benefits of wildland fire, and remain consistent with ANDE's resource management goals.



Objectives

- Protect human health and safety, property, and infrastructure
- Promote conditions that maintain fire-resilient landscapes in a changing climate
- Protect natural and cultural resources, including species federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, and ethnographic resources through engagement with area tribes
- Maintain communication and engagement with the public, bordering agencies, and tribes on fire-related issues and activities
- Update ANDEs 2003 FMP and Environmental Assessment (EA) to address

comprehensive fire management needs for the entire park

Concepts to be Evaluated

No Action: Under this concept, the park would not update ANDE’s FMP and would continue with the current management under the 2003 FMP.

Action: Revise/Update the Fire Management Plan to zones within Andersonville National Historic Site’s to provide comprehensive guidance for wildland fire preparedness and management. Under the Action Concept, both prescribed fire and mechanical treatments could be used in all zones to reduce the risk of a high severity of wildfire and restore a more natural regime Andersonville National Historic Site.

Resources

The table below presents information on some, but not all, of the resources that could be affected by activities proposed under the FMP:

Resource	Description
Visitor Use and Experience	Manual and mechanical treatments and prescribed burns could cause closures of certain areas of the park as such treatments occur, and evidence treatments (e.g., burn scars) could affect visitor experience.
Cultural Resource	Archeological sites, Historic Structures and Cultural landscapes are present.
Wildlife	The park is home to various wildlife. Invasive pine beetles have infected one fourth of the parks wooded areas.
Vegetation	Approximately 120 acres of Andersonville National Historic Site are maintained in park-like condition, with landscaped lawns, ornamental shrubbery, and trees. In unmaintained portions of the park the vegetation is primarily a pine/hardwood association represented by shortleaf pine, loblolly pine, southern red oak, live oak, sweetgum and yellow poplar with pine dominating. Areas of swampy bottomland at the park are vegetated by sweetgum, yellow poplar, laurel oak, river birch, black gum, various species of willow as well as some residual loblolly and shortleaf pine. Along Stockade Branch, inside the Prison site, vegetation consists mainly of native grasses and forbs.
Soil and Water Resources	Soils are deep and well drained, with reddish brown sandy loam or loamy sand surface layers over yellowish red to dark red sandy clay loam or sandy clay subsoils. These soils are highly erodible when the protective vegetative cover is disturbed.

Resource	Description
Air Quality	Principal sources of air pollutants in the park vicinity include industrial emissions, including a paper mill and kaolin processing plant, agricultural operations, and motor vehicle emissions.

Questions for the Public to Consider:

The proposed action is only an initial proposal; no decision to implement any action would be made until the park begins the National Environmental Policy Act process.

1. Are there specific issues or questions that should be examined in the FMP planning?
2. Are there other potential topics that should be included for consideration?
3. Are there other strategies that should be considered for fire management planning at Andersonville National Historic Site?

Please submit comments on the proposed Fire Management Plan Update by July 5, 2024.

Your comments will help identify issues, concerns, and other concepts to evaluate in the FMP Update.

There are three ways to submit your comments:

1. Attend a public meeting on June 26, 2024 at the National Prisoner of War Museum between 12:30 and 3:30 pm
2. Through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website: [National Park Service - PEPC - Parks Search \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/pepc)
3. By mail to:
Superintendent, Andersonville National Historic Site
Attn: Fire Management Plan Update
496 Cemetery Rd, Andersonville, GA 31711

Will there be other opportunities to comment on the project?

Yes. There will be future opportunities for public comment on the FMP which will be made available for public review via the PEPC website.