

analyzes three action and one no action alternatives for guiding management of the park over the next 20 years. The environmental consequences anticipated from implementing the various alternatives are addressed in the document. Impact topics include cultural resources, natural resources, interpretation and museum operations, park operations and administration, and quality of life and the socioeconomic environment. The three action alternatives incorporate various management prescriptions to enhance resource protection and visitor experience conditions. The no-action alternative would continue current management practices into the future. The three action alternatives are described as follows:

The Sandburg Center alternative is the preferred alternative. Under this alternative, the park would serve as a focal point for learning about Carl Sandburg. Access to Sandburg related information, literature, and research would be enhanced by expanding the park's Internet database and creating secure and climate controlled exhibit areas for information and objects currently housed in the museum preservation facility. Additional interpretive program areas would be created by rehabilitating the interior of one or more historic structures near the main house or barn. The existing visitor contact station would be renovated to improve its interpretive and visitor services functions and a visitor center created outside the current authorized boundary of the park. The Sandburg Center alternative includes a Congressional legislated boundary expansion of 110 acres for scenic view and boundary protection and up to 5 acres for construction of a visitor center and new parking area.

The Paths of Discovery alternative would supplement the park's traditional high quality interpretive programs and enhance walking opportunities by constructing a ¾ mile long interpretive trail. The alternative promotes a community-wide partnership strategy to address common needs such as additional parking and multi-purpose meeting space. The Paths of Discovery alternative includes a Congressionally legislated boundary expansion of 110 acres for scenic view and boundary protection and up to 5 acres for construction of a visitor center and new parking area.

In the Connemara Lifestyle alternative, visitors would experience the site much as Carl Sandburg knew it. Park management would focus on maintaining the site's historic landscape, structures, and furnishings

and providing interpretive programs on site and at local schools. Primary access to the objects and information contained in the museum collection would occur at the main house, an expanded visitor contact station, and through the Internet or other mass media formats.

Opportunities for access to objects and information would be greater than existing conditions but less than the Sandburg Center or Paths of Discovery alternatives. The Connemara Lifestyle alternative includes a Congressionally legislated boundary expansion of 25 acres for scenic view and boundary protection and up to 2 acres for construction of a new parking area.

In all action alternatives, the park would continue to provide guided tours of the Sandburg residence and maintain the historic landscape at a high level of integrity. Opportunities for walking would be available and closely managed to maintain the historic character of the site. The existing amphitheater would be relocated to a less intrusive location and the trailer restroom would be replaced by an appropriately designed modern facility at the same location. Any additional property interest would be acquired under a willing seller/willing buyer arrangement without the exercise of eminent domain.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, 81 Carl Sandburg Lane, Flat Rock, North Carolina, 28731, Telephone: 828-693-4178.

The responsible official for this Environmental Impact Statement is William W. Schenk, Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 100 Alabama Street, SW., 1924 Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Dated: June 19, 2003.

**W. Thomas Brown,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Green Spring Unit, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Availability of Final General Management Plan Amendment and Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement for Green Spring Unit, Colonial National Historical Park.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy

Act of 1969, the National Park Service announces the availability of a Final General Management Plan Amendment and Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final GMPA/AEIS) for Green Spring Unit, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia. The Final GMPA/AEIS proposes a long-term approach to managing Green Spring. Consistent with the park's mission, NPS policy, and other laws and regulations, three alternatives are presented to guide the management of the park over the next 15 to 20 years. The alternatives incorporate various zoning and management prescriptions to ensure resource preservation and public enjoyment of the park. The environmental consequences that are anticipated from implementing the various alternatives are evaluated in the report. Impact topics include cultural and natural resources, visitor experience, park operations, the socioeconomic environment, cumulative impacts and sustainability. Alternative C is the preferred alternative. After a 30-day no action period, a Record of Decision will be prepared. The Process is anticipated to be completed in August 2003.

**DATES:** The Draft GMPA/EIS was on public review from May 2 through July 11, 2001. Responses to public comment are addressed in the Final GMPA/AEIS. A 30-day no-action period will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the Final GMPA/AEIS.

To Request Copies of the Document Contact: Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, Post Office Box 210, Yorktown, Virginia 23690, (757) 898-3400. Public reading copies of the Final GMPA/AEIS will be available for review at the following locations:

- Colonial National Historical Park, Park Headquarters, Yorktown Visitor Center, Yorktown, Virginia, Telephone: (757) 898-3400.
- Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- James City County Library, 7770 Croaker Road, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, 313 1st Street Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Department of Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: (202) 208-6843.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Superintendent, Colonial National Historical Park, at the above address and telephone number.