Roosevelt–Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

2009

Roosevelt–Vanderbilt
National Historic Sites

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Draft General Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
2009

This Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement describes the resource conditions and visitor experience as they should exist at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites over the next 20 years. It presents three management alternatives, one of which has been selected as the preferred option. It also assesses the potential impacts of the alternatives on park resources, the visitor experience, park operations, and the surrounding area.

This document is available for public review for 60 days. The public review period will end 60 days after a Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*. During the review period, the National Park Service will accept written and oral comments, which will be carefully reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, in the final plan and final environmental impact statement.

You can submit comments via mail or online to the addresses below. Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available.

Please submit comments online to http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rova or via mail to:
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Roosevelt–Vanderbilt

National Historic Sites

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site





TOP COTTAGE

Draft General Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement





HOME OF FDR





VANDERBILT MANSION





VAL-KILL



Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Boston, Massachusetts
2009

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Preface

On April 12, 1946, one year after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death, his home in Hyde Park, New York, was opened to the public as a national historic site. The few National Park Service personnel assigned there were hard-pressed to accommodate the streams of visitors who wanted to see the home. Managing these crowds might have been an overwhelming task for this first band of employees, but at least they did not have to worry much about "interpretation"—the Park Service term for explaining the meaning of the park to visitors. The people who waited in line in 1946, and long afterward, needed no explanation of who Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt were, or their place in American history. For many years the American public had been absorbed with the lives of the Roosevelts and, although they often disagreed vehemently about particular policies, to some degree Americans viewed the Roosevelts as part of an extended family.

This remained largely true through Eleanor Roosevelt's lifetime. Since her death in 1962, this familiarity has been steadily disappearing. In 2007 we noted the 125th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's birth and the 45th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's death. Each year the number of people who have personal recollection of the Roosevelts' lives diminishes.

Yet FDR took great care to preserve his legacy, and the National Park Service is committed to operating its three historic sites in Hyde Park—Home of FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, and Vanderbilt Mansion—in perpetuity, as with all units of the National Park System. Even as the Roosevelts recede in memory, the issues they grappled with remain as timely as the latest news. The Roosevelt parks provide a lens through which we can examine political questions that remain vital. Changing conditions call attention to the enduring Roosevelt legacy in unexpected ways, as the economic crisis that began in 2008 reminds us. One of the critical issues facing Park Service managers is how to use park resources to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts, and their relationship to these places, for generations who have no personal experience with that time.

This is one of several challenges that confront the National Park Service in its management of the three Hyde Park sites, and is among the reasons a new general management plan is needed. Although constructing a management plan

can be a lengthy process, it offers an exceptional opportunity to re-examine the parks from the perspective of greatly changed conditions and to make decisions based on that new information. The plan that follows represents the sustained thought and effort of many people, both in the National Park Service and among members of the public. It is intended to set out a course of action that will convey the importance of these sites to a new audience in a new century.



Dedication, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, April 12, 1946

Executive Summary



Visitors in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center

Introduction

Hyde Park, New York, is home to three national historic sites established by separate legislation: the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The sites are combined into a single administrative unit, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, under one superintendent and operated by one staff. Together the parks include over 1,100 acres of federally owned land along the east bank of the Hudson River.

Adjacent to the Home of FDR is the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, which occupies nearly 20 acres of historic Roosevelt land. The Presidential Library is administered by a separate entity, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA also owns the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, which serves as the visitor center for the Presidential Library, as well as the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

Purpose of the Plan

The main function of a general management plan is to clearly define a park's purpose and management direction over the long term, 20 years into the future. More detailed technical site plans expand upon the general management plan. The National Park Service seeks to have all parks operate under approved general management plans to ensure that park managers carry out the mission of the National Park Service as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Creating the Plan

This draft general management plan/environmental impact statement for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites covers the three historic sites in Hyde Park. The draft plan has been created over several years under the guidance of an interdisciplinary team including the Superintendent, park staff, consultants, and NPS regional office staff. During this process, the team has identified issues, described goals, gathered background information, compared similar sites, consulted with partners and resource experts, involved the public, explored solutions, presented management alternatives, and assessed the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives.

At the outset, the team recognized that, although a general management plan was needed for each of the three Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, a single unifying plan was not only the most expeditious approach, but was also essential for continued coordinated management, now necessary in an environment of limited federal funding.

Purpose and Significance of the Parks

The purpose and significance statements, which are based on the authorizing legislation and legislative history, form the foundation of the plan. The purpose statement explains why the park was established as a unit of the national park system, while the significance statement describes the resources from which the park derives its national significance.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so that current and future generations can appreciate the life and legacy of the longest-serving U.S. president—a man who led the nation through the two great crises of the 20th Century, the Great Depression and World War II.



Touring the FDR Home

SIGNIFICANCE

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, together with the adjoining FDR Presidential Library, is the best place to understand the influences that helped shape the personality, values, and world view of the U.S. President who, in a time of deep national crisis, redefined the role of the federal government to provide more security and opportunity for its citizens and who led the nation into an era of profoundly greater involvement in world affairs. The unparalleled assemblage of resources preserved here—the home and birthplace, gravesite, gardens, greenhouses, landscaped grounds, outbuildings, farmland, forests, farm roads, trails, views, furnishings and memorabilia, and the adjacent presidential library and its collections—offers unrivaled insight into the life and legacy of the 32nd U.S. President, who profoundly influenced the world in which we live.



Girls' Leadership Workshop, a program of The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To commemorate and perpetuate the lifework of Eleanor Roosevelt, and to preserve and interpret the place most central to her emergence as a public figure, so that current and future generations can appreciate her life and legacy as a champion of democracy and human rights.

SIGNIFICANCE

Eleanor Roosevelt chose Val-Kill for her retreat, her office, her home, and her "laboratory" for social change during the prominent and influential period of her life from 1924 until her death in 1962. During that time she formulated and put into practice her social and political beliefs. This is the place most closely associated with one of the most important public figures of the 20th Century.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the country estate of Frederick W. and Louise Vanderbilt as a premier example of an "American country place," illustrating important economic, social, and cultural developments resulting from America's industrialization following the Civil War.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historically known as Hyde Park, the site is a superb example of country-place design, with its centerpiece 50-room Beaux-Arts–style mansion surrounded by one of the most outstanding Hudson River picturesque landscapes remaining today. Developed with one of the country's first industrial fortunes, the country place represents the domestic ideal of the elite class in late 19th-Century America. It provides a context for studying estate life, the social stratification of the period, and a glimpse into the world of the American elite prior to the Depression and World War II. The property's legacy as a celebrated landscape was among the factors that prompted FDR to direct the designation of the national historic site in 1940.



Visitors enjoy a concert on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Mansion

Park Partners

Partners play key roles in the operation of the parks, providing advocacy, volunteer workers, and assistance in raising funds. In addition to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, the NPS has formal agreements with the following partners: The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill; the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute; Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home; the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association; the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association; and the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Inc. The National Park Service also provides technical and financial support to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (established by Congress in 1996) and works with numerous other nonprofit organizations and governmental entities to advance stewardship initiatives.

The Roosevelt–Vanderbilt Stories

Interpretive themes, which help visitors connect with and find meaning in the resources, were developed for each of the historic sites.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

AT HOME ON THE HUDSON RIVER

Franklin D. Roosevelt was deeply rooted in the Hudson River Valley, which had been home to his ancestors since the 17th century. The Roosevelt Family Estate was FDR's birthplace and lifelong home and became the nucleus of his personal life and public career. The stability and security he experienced here helped mold his responses to both personal challenges and national crises. As a crowning expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the family's Rose Garden as the final resting place for himself and his wife, Eleanor, and designed their plain white marble monument.

A LEADER DURING WORLD CRISES

Elected president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation through two great crises of the 20th century, the Great Depression and World War II. During his unprecedented 12 years in office, he redefined the role of the federal government by forging a "New Deal" with the American people through the creation of federal agencies and policies. During World War II, he mobilized America's vast latent industrial resources and led a coalition of nations to defend democracy against authoritarian regimes. He enunciated the Four Freedoms—freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech and expression, and freedom to worship in one's own way.



Children in the Roosevelt Greenhouse

HIS "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

The Roosevelt country place in Hyde Park exhibits Franklin D. Roosevelt's experiments in rural improvement and preserving local heritage. He used his properties to explore and showcase ideas about land stewardship, conservation, and rural life; and he practiced a type of wise-use conservation intended to benefit the land and help sustain the farms and teach sound agricultural practices. These experiments and demonstrations fed into his state and national policies in forestry, agriculture, and the environment. He designed his presidential library and other estate buildings in the traditional Dutch Colonial architectural style of the Hudson River Valley, influencing the design of public structures in Hyde Park and across the country.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

In Franklin Roosevelt's concern for the future of democracy, he championed issues and created programs of enduring relevance to American society, including Social Security, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He was the first president to intentionally perpetuate a physical legacy by establishing the first presidential library and by donating his home as a national historic site to preserve these resources for future generations.



On a tour of Val-Kill Cottage

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S PLACE, VAL-KILL

Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home, represents the emergence of her personal and political independence. With the freedom she felt there, Eleanor Roosevelt developed Val-Kill according to her tastes and interests. Its simple and casual décor, in marked contrast to the FDR Home, reflects her personality. Over time, Val-Kill served as a retreat and a center for social activism. Its informal, tranquil atmosphere and rural setting made it a place for Roosevelt family gatherings and meetings with friends and invited guests, from world leaders to students.

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

Eleanor Roosevelt championed social welfare and civil rights, first through her husband and later on her own. She supported sometimes controversial causes and interceded with FDR. "I was the agitator, and he was the politician," she said. After FDR's death, as chair of the UN Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From her home at Val-Kill, she continued to write and teach, and made public appearances on behalf of humanitarian concerns. She especially enjoyed working with disadvantaged young people, and brought many of them to enjoy the relaxing rural atmosphere of Val-Kill.

HER "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

Eleanor Roosevelt used Val-Kill to express the interest in education and training that was evident in other portions of her life. With her associates, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, she established Val-Kill Industries, a business that produced furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of training unemployed rural residents to revive traditional crafts. After FDR's death, Eleanor Roosevelt purchased some of the estate for a farming venture, Val-Kill Farms.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

Eleanor Roosevelt's dogged advocacy of human rights and world peace, her firm insistence on social justice, her proud patriotism, and her commitment to individual and government action continue to inspire today. The ideas expressed in the open atmosphere of Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill remain vital to public debate and to the pursuit of democratic ideals. "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places close to home," she wrote in 1958.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

WEALTH AND SOCIETY IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site illustrates the rise of American industrial fortunes in the decades following the Civil War, when personal accomplishments, possessions, and philanthropic interests, rather than lineage, came to determine social standing. The Vanderbilt family epitomized this new American class, which looked to the residences of European nobility as inspiration for its grand homes.

A HUDSON RIVER GREAT ESTATE

The national historic site is a premier example of the Hudson River Valley great estates as they flourished before the Depression and World War II. The Valley's extraordinary setting, which has inspired artists and authors, as well as architects, landscape designers, and conservationists, distinguishes the stately homes here from similar properties elsewhere. Comparing the Vanderbilt estate and the Roosevelt estate can reveal important differences in the lifestyles and tastes of the occupants.

A LEGACY OF THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

The Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site retains a designed landscape developed and adapted over the course of two centuries by several designers. Beginning in the 1790s, successive owners conducted horticultural experiments and extensive gardening. Around 1830, the Belgian landscape designer Andre Parmentier was hired to lay out a picturesque landscape including a system of roads, paths, and scenic vistas. Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt enhanced the features and grounds of the estate, which included an Italian garden and, during much of its history, a working farm.



At the Vanderbilt Overlook

PATRONAGE AND THE FLOWERING OF ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt acquired the Hyde Park estate during an era of remarkable artistic creativity and patronage in the United States, and they enlisted an army of professionals to create a place that would imitate and rival the palatial houses of Europe. The Vanderbilt Mansion came to exemplify the American Renaissance style and to embody the Vanderbilt family's role as modern "merchant princes" at the vanguard of finance, the arts, and international society.

Developing New Directions

The planning team developed management alternatives in response to public input and an analysis of the parks' legislation, purpose and significance, fundamental resources, and goals. After examining this information, the team identified several subject areas for which visions for the future of the parks could differ substantially, given factors introduced since the parks' creation, and planning issues identified by stakeholders. The team defined and applied three broad questions, or "decision points," around which they structured the management approaches.

1. What level and extent of resource preservation treatment is desirable and appropriate to portray the historic conditions of the properties?

The historic properties have changed since the Roosevelt and the Vanderbilt families lived here. They are no longer working farms and forests. Acres of agricultural lands have become obscured by woody growth. Forest plantations, left unmanaged, are becoming unrecognizable as such. Gardens have been altered or completely removed. Some estate support buildings have been lost due to poor repair; others are being compromised by inappropriate uses. Prized Hudson River views are becoming increasingly obstructed by tree growth on parklands and further threatened by development pressures across

the river. Continued suburban-type development, already evident when the existing plans were formed, has further separated the parks from their surroundings in a way that was not foreseen when the sites were established.

2. What should the parks be doing to maintain or build visitation and attract new audiences, and how can they best interpret these historic sites to generations that lack personal experience with the period?

As at many other historic sites, the number of visitors has decreased in recent decades, with the greatest declines at the Roosevelt sites. In addition, visitors do not reflect the ethnic, racial, or socio-economic diversity that now characterizes the U.S. population. While the new Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, with its film and exhibits, and the new Eleanor Roosevelt film and exhibits at Val-Kill provide exciting and essential additions to visitor introduction and orientation, the National Park Service's method of presenting the parks has changed little since the parks' establishment. The historic residences continue to be the focus of interpretation, to the neglect of other important structures and cultural landscapes and their stories. In addition, it is possible to further develop the parks' educational programming, which at present focuses on the Home of FDR, with far fewer programs offered at Val-Kill and Vanderbilt. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of students take house tours, as opposed to participatory programs.

3. How can the parks work with partners to garner resources to enhance capacity for operations and services?

As at many other NPS sites, the condition of key park resources is in decline, as there is a critical backlog of maintenance and preservation projects and limited staffing with which to conduct site operations and manage repairs. While modest increases have been made to the park budget in the past few years, they are insufficient to overcome shortfalls accruing over several decades from rising fixed costs, such as employee cost-of-living adjustments, retirement and health insurance benefits, and utility costs; and the increasing costs of delaying deferred maintenance and preservation. This poses a general threat to the long-term preservation of the sites' resources. Increasingly, park managers are seeking opportunities to involve partners in the accomplishment of the parks' missions.

The Management Alternatives

The team developed two "action alternatives" and, as required by law and policy, an alternative that represents a continuation of current management practices, the "No-Action Alternative." The two action alternatives differ in terms of resource preservation, primarily in the realm of cultural landscape treatment; in interpretive and educational services; and in the level of partnership activities to help enhance operational capacity. Action Alternative Two has been identified as the preferred alternative.

The alternatives are general and set the direction for future actions. When funds become available to construct facilities, undertake landscape treatment, or implement other actions in the general management plan, then site-specific

research, planning, design, compliance, and technical environmental analysis will be carried out. All such undertakings will also be subject to federal and state consultation and compliance requirements.

Implementation of the final plan will depend upon the availability of funds. Proposed construction projects must compete for funds through the National Park Service's priority-setting process.

No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative represents a continuation of current management practices at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. It allows projects to be completed for which funding has been secured or for which environmental compliance has been fulfilled, but does not allow for major changes in direction. The No-Action Alternative is presented to help compare current practices to the other alternatives. Examining the projected results of continuing current practices is useful for understanding why certain changes are necessary or advisable.

Action Alternative One

Action Alternative One perpetuates the general philosophy and direction of the existing management plans but updates them to address changed conditions, additions to the parks, and increased knowledge of park resources gathered in the intervening years. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and be aimed at restoring the historic appearance of resources to the fullest extent possible within select areas. The reconstruction or replacement of missing landscape features would be encouraged in core areas. Modern intrusions would be minimized, and this alternative would limit the addition of features or facilities that were not present during the periods of historic significance. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with a greater number of historic outbuildings opened for interpretation than at present.



FDR Home, Library, and grounds, circa 1941

Efforts to maintain and increase the level of visitation would center on expanding the tour options available and strengthening educational programming. Interpretation would focus on describing historic conditions and encouraging visitors to explore not only the historic residences, but the entirety of the estates through a range of guided and self-guided tours. Educational programming would be strengthened and would concentrate on curriculum-based, after-school, and other types of children's programs.

This alternative would rely on enhanced partnerships to accomplish its vision. Coordination with partners would focus on increasing access and awareness of the sites, enhancing interpretive programming, and assisting with resource preservation efforts.

Highlights of Action Alternative One:

Aims to restore an accurate historic appearance in key areas:

- Forest plantations and natural woodlands would be actively managed to restore historic character
- Former farm fields would be returned to their historic extent and maintained as open meadow

- Restoration of designed landscapes—FDR Home Garden, Eleanor Roosevelt Cutting Garden, and Vanderbilt formal gardens—would concentrate on historic core areas
- Hudson River views would be restored to their historic extent

More tour options would be offered and educational programs enhanced:

- Regularly scheduled guided tours of gardens and grounds would be offered
- New media would be developed for self-guided interpretation
- There would be an increased focus on interpretation of outbuildings, for example the Vanderbilt Coach House would be open to the public, restored, and interpreted
- Children's educational programming would be enhanced with additional teaching space, staff support, and interactive programming

Partners and volunteers would provide increased assistance with maintenance and programming:

- Partners and volunteers would assist with maintenance of forests and gardens
- More volunteer docents would be trained and aid NPS staff in giving tours and educational programs



Enjoying the grounds at Vanderbilt

Action Alternative Two (The Preferred Alternative)

Action Alternative Two seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources. These efforts would be in keeping with the historic residents' use of the land for outdoor enjoyment and resource stewardship. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and be aimed at rehabilitating existing features, but would follow contemporary best practices for land management within select areas. Resource management decisions would be guided to a greater extent by programmatic needs, especially interpretation. The reconstruction of missing landscape features would be limited; generally they would be represented by new features of similar massing and scale, or through interpretive media. Construction of new trail segments to support visitor access would be allowed. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with select historic outbuildings adaptively re-used for NPS or partner programs.

Efforts to build and maintain visitation would focus on providing a wide range of activities, including recreational activities, special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. While interpretation would be place-based, it would more deliberately use resources to explore issues of contemporary relevance. A learning center would be established to expand the scope and magnitude of the educational programs. Creation and presentation of these new programs would depend largely on partners, with some NPS employees functioning more as coordinators and facilitators than at present.

This alternative calls for a significant expansion of partnership activities in the management and operation of the sites and opens up greater potential for new approaches to generating revenue to help sustain and improve operations.

Highlights of Action Alternative Two:

Rehabilitates cultural resources to enhance the historic character of estates and continues historic land uses with allowances for contemporary practices:

- Forests would be actively managed; treatments would range from managing for historic character to using latest forestry practices
- Historic fields would be reclaimed and farming reintroduced, with contemporary practices allowed
- Designed landscapes would be rehabilitated and missing features indicated via media or elements of similar massing/scale, for example, a community "Victory Garden" could be developed on the FDR Home Garden site
- The Hudson River view would be expanded at the Home of FDR, with action taken to preserve the view at Vanderbilt

With partners, a wider choice of visitor experiences would be offered to reach more audiences:

- Forestry and farming demonstrations and special events would be developed
- A place-based learning center, serving preschoolers to retirees, would be established
- Changing exhibits/forums that explore the contemporary relevance of site stories would be pursued
- Compatible recreational use of trails would be promoted with multi-use trail links among the sites
- River connections would be improved at Roosevelt Cove and Bard Rock



Teaching the Hudson Valley program

Significantly increased partner participation would help maintain resources, run programs, and generate revenue:

- Partners would be sought for a compatible public use of the Vanderbilt Coach House to offset maintenance costs
- Partnerships would be developed to operate the learning center and conduct demonstrations, special programs, and recreation-based tours
- New sources of revenue would be evaluated and implemented with partner participation, such as the development and sale of branded products

Common to All Alternatives

Regardless of which alternative is chosen, particular management objectives would be pursued. For example, park managers would make preservation and maintenance of park resources a priority in implementation of any alternative, with addressing the maintenance backlog the top priority. The historic residences—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—would continue

to be presented as fully furnished historic house museums. Park managers would strive to preserve the collections in good condition to support programs and interpretive themes, with original and associated collections acquired when available. Important natural communities, such as freshwater tidal marsh, mature forest stands, and habitat for the Blanding's turtle, would be preserved and enhanced when possible. Maintenance facilities would be relocated from historic buildings to a new structure, possibly outside park boundaries. The Bellefield property would remain the park headquarters but would be updated for efficiency. Steps would be taken to achieve energy efficiency, establish sustainable practices, and promote car-free access to the parks. Park managers would continue to work with partners to promote stewardship and work to protect the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley, the parks' historic setting, and reestablish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors to the extent practicable.

Why Action Alternative Two is Preferred

NPS has identified Action Alternative Two as the preferred alternative because it offers a greater possibility of benefits than the other alternatives. Its proposed greater reliance on partnerships and new sources of revenue would free park employees and funding to focus on management to a greater degree than the other alternatives. As the experience of the last several decades indicates, reliance on a high level of government support over the long term for operations and services (as proposed by the other alternatives), even augmented with strong volunteer support, may not be a sustainable management approach. Therefore, the integration of partners in many levels of operations and services, as proposed in Action Alternative Two, may facilitate better resource preservation and stewardship over the long term.

By allowing greater flexibility in resource treatment and relying more on perpetuating historic land uses, as opposed to strictly seeking to re-establish historic appearance, Action Alternative Two presents an approach to landscape management that is more practical, cost-effective, and sustainable over the long term, and thus more likely to succeed in preserving resources.

By encouraging more diverse interpretation, Action Alternative Two is the most likely to halt or even reverse the long-term decline in visitation. Making the parks more lively places, promoting compatible recreational use, and interpreting the parks to demonstrate their relevance to contemporary concerns should increase the qualitative benefits of the parks, as well as stimulating greater and more varied use by the American public. Similarly, the greater scope of education under Action Alternative Two may more effectively renew interest in the parks and motivate new park stewards.

The emphasis in Action Alternative Two on partnerships and innovative programs should increase community involvement in the parks, which would support both preservation and a compatible diversity of uses. Moreover, it echoes to a greater degree than the other alternatives the Roosevelts' ideals of active participation in government and civic life.

Potential Environmental Impacts

An analysis of the potential environmental impacts of each alternative is included in the draft environmental impact statement. Potential impacts on cultural resources, natural resources, visitor use and experience, park operations, and the socio-economic environment were considered in the environmental analysis. Overall, Action Alternative Two provided more beneficial impacts than the other alternatives and has been identified as the "environmentally preferred alternative," as well as the agency preferred alternative.

Next Steps

The draft general management plan/draft environmental impact statement is available for public review for 60 days. During this time, the team will solicit public comment and hold public forums that will be publicized in local media outlets. The planning team will carefully review the comments received and develop responses to all substantive comments in a final general management plan/final environmental impact statement. After a 30-day "no-action" period, a Record of Decision will be prepared to document the selected management option and set forth any stipulations for implementation of the general management plan, thus completing the environmental compliance requirements.

A Note about Implementation

Implementation of the approved plan will depend on the availability of future NPS funding, on NPS service-wide priorities, and on partner funds, time, and effort. The approval of a general management plan does not guarantee that funding and staffing to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be realized many years in the future.





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Part One: Foundation for Planning

Introduction

Hyde Park, New York, is home to three national historic sites that together attract more than half a million visitors every year: the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (also known as Val-Kill); and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The sites are combined into a single administrative unit: Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, under one superintendent and operated by one staff, but each of the sites was established by separate legislation and has its own national significance. The properties comprise three of the approximately 390 areas that make up the National Park System. Although they are formally designated as national historic sites (NHS), these areas may be considered—and are frequently referred to in this document—as national parks. Together the parks include over 1,100 acres of federally owned land along the east bank of the Hudson River, along with two fully furnished mansions, 40 historic buildings, 14 miles of roads and trails, 35 acres of forest plantations set out by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), five historic gardens, nearly 100 acres of open fields, and over 25,000 objects and artifacts. The parks are supported by an annual budget of over $5 million and the work of hundreds of volunteers.

Hyde Park is located in the central Hudson River Valley, some 80 miles north of New York City, the largest metropolitan area in the United States (population over 16 million). The two closest urban centers are the City of Poughkeepsie (population 30,000), which borders Hyde Park to the south, and the state capital, Albany (population 96,000), some 70 miles to the north.

Named by Native Americans *Muhheakantuck*, meaning "great waters in constant motion" or "river that flows two ways," the Hudson River stretches 315 miles, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains to its mouth in Upper New York Bay. It is a tidal estuary for over 150 miles, from New York Harbor to the federal dam at Troy. With its verdant landscapes and scenic views of the Shawangunk and Catskill Mountains to the west and the Taconic range to the east, the Hudson River Valley has inspired artists and authors for generations. It has also been home to entrepreneurs, enriched by the proximity to New York City. In addition to the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts, the mid-Hudson region has been home to other prominent families,

such as the Livingstons, the Montgomerys, the Millses, and telegraph pioneer Samuel F.B. Morse, who also established "country places" along the east bank of the river in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Today, many of these estates are preserved and are open for public enjoyment, making this section of the Hudson Valley famous as the "Great Estates Region."

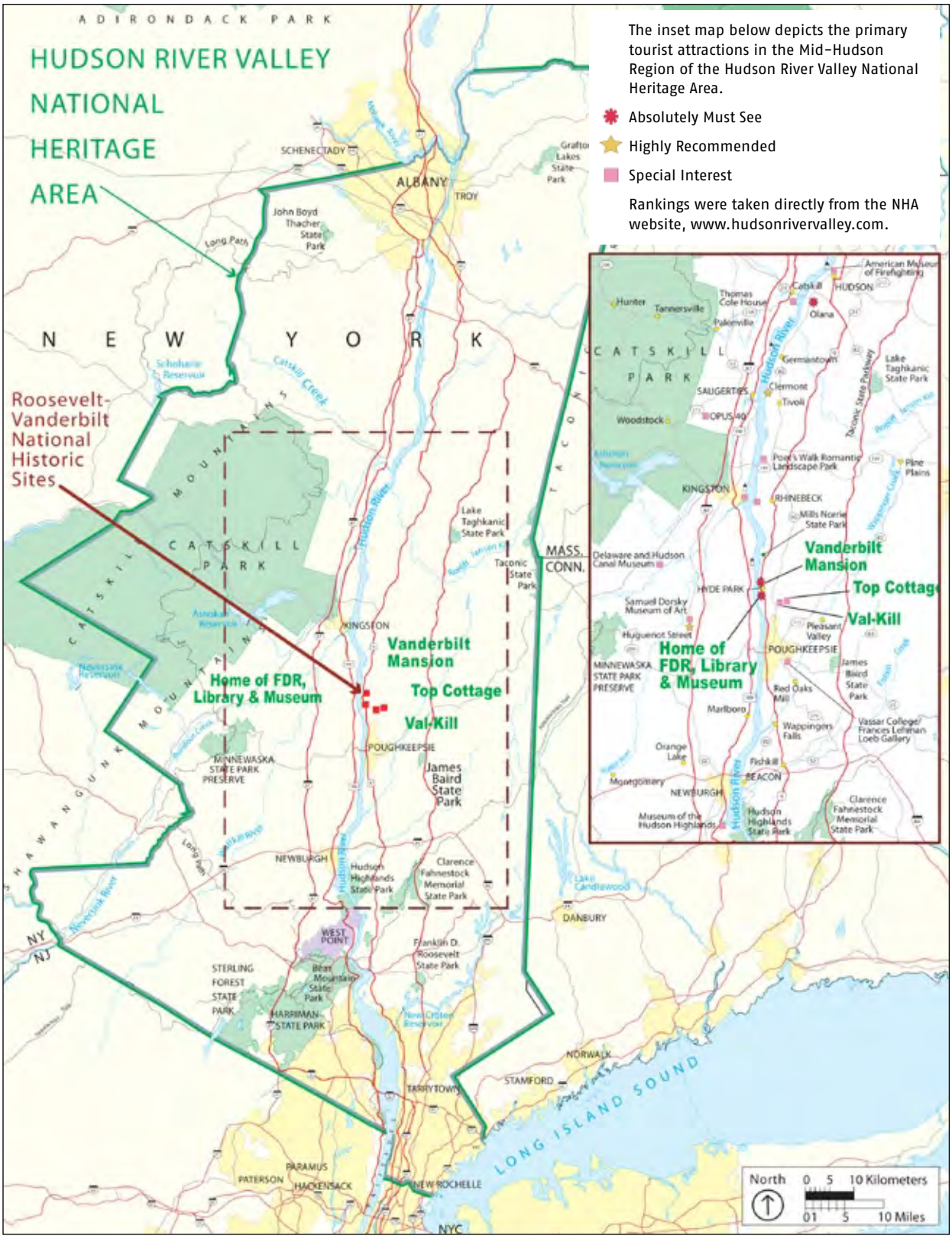
The region is also host to numerous colleges and universities. Notable nearby institutions include the Culinary Institute of America (two miles to the south) and Marist, Bard, and Vassar Colleges.

Purpose of the General Management Plan

The Roosevelt and Vanderbilt sites are at present guided by three separate planning documents: the Vanderbilt Mansion's 1976 Master Plan; the Home of FDR's 1977 Master Plan (along with a 2000 Master Plan Amendment); and the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS's 1980 General Management Plan. Although the plans for the Home and the Mansion coordinate some aspects of management, no single plan addresses commonalities among the sites; this document is meant to fill that need.

The main function of a general management plan, after providing a clear definition of a park's purpose and management direction, is to guide subsequent planning and management. The NPS seeks to have all parks operate under approved general management plans. This ensures that park managers effectively and efficiently carry out the mission of the NPS:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



Map 1-1: Hudson River Valley Context

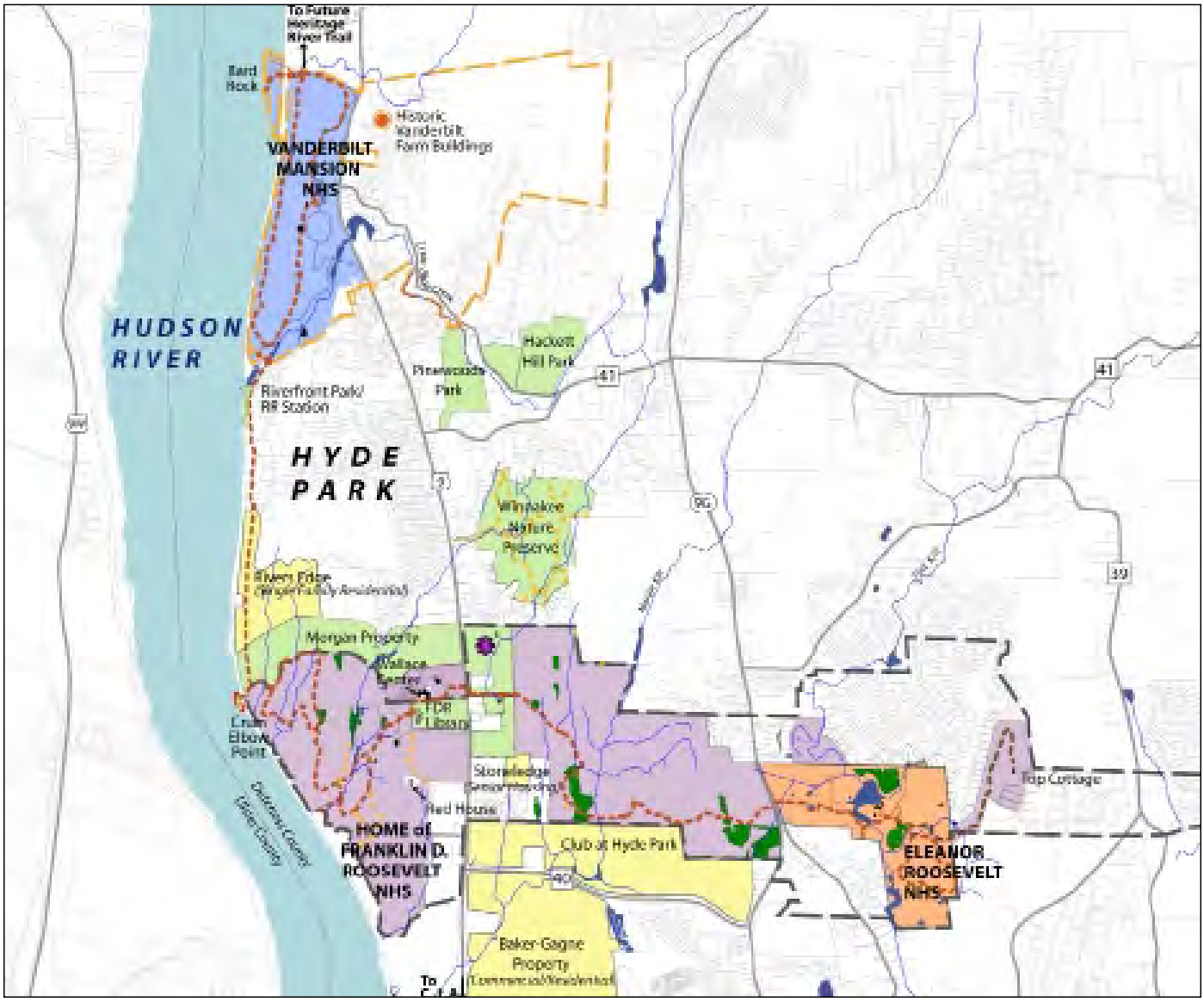
A general management plan describes and explains a park's resource conditions and visitor experiences. It takes the long view, 20 years into the future, and is meant to be a policy-level guide to park managers.

The planning process follows National Park Service *Management Policies 2006* and Park Planning Program Standards. Law and policy require plans to address four key elements:

- the types of management actions required for the preservation of park resources;
- types and general intensities of development (including visitor circulation and transportation patterns, systems, and modes) associated with public enjoyment and use, including general locations, timing of implementation, and anticipated costs;
- visitor carrying capacities and implementation commitments for park areas; and
- potential modifications to the external boundaries of the park, if any, and the reasons for the proposed changes.

The process employed in creating this plan is sequential, and the presentation of the plan follows the stages in this process. It begins with collecting, reviewing, and defining vital information about the parks, which includes inviting public opinion about the parks and the plan. This leads to the formulation of elements such as park purpose and significance, interpretive themes, and goals (ideal conditions). Together, these elements compose the Foundation for Planning portion of the plan. This information was used to identify issues that the plan needed to address. In the subsequent and central stage of the process, the team created management alternatives, which describe objectives, or desired future conditions, and potential resulting actions. After analyzing the environmental impacts and getting public feedback, the team selected one of the alternatives as preferred. Input from partners and the public was crucial at several stages, particularly the scoping, review of alternatives, and this, the draft plan, stage. Next steps, after the conclusion of the public comment period, are to prepare the final plan and record of decision. The planning process is described fully in Part Five.

After the general management plan is adopted, implementation plans will be developed to lay out near-term management actions consistent with the plan. Site-specific planning, research, and technical environmental analysis will be performed when funds for implementation become available. Such specific undertakings are subject to federal and state consultation requirements, which call for public involvement.



Map 1–2: Hyde Park Context

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS acquisition boundary)
- Historic Vanderbilt Estate
- Parks and Protected Land
- Proposed Future Development
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Water
- Hyde Park Trail
- Top Cottage Trail
- Other Trail
- Proposed Location for Hudson Valley Welcome Center

Overview of the National Historic Sites

The following section provides an overview of each park. National Park Service planning guidelines distinguish "Fundamental Resources and Values," or those that are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. The fundamental resources, as well as other important resources, are described below. For an analysis of the fundamental resources, see the end of Part One. For a summary of the historical context for the parks, please refer to Part Six "Appendix B: Historical Overview." For an in-depth description of the parks, please see "The Affected Environment" (Part Three).



FDR Home

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Congress accepted President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's pledge to donate a portion of his estate for a presidential library and a national historic site in 1939. The President made his donation for the historic site, consisting of his home and 33 adjacent acres, to the American people in 1943. Expanded through subsequent donations and acquisitions, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site now comprises almost 719 acres of the former 1,522-acre historic Roosevelt Family Estate. (Eleanor Roosevelt NHS was also part of the Roosevelt estate, and its 181 acres bring the total NPS portion of the estate to 900 acres.) Under Public Law 105–364, approved November 10, 1998, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands and interests in lands that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death. The lands so acquired are to be added to and administered as part of the Home of FDR or Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

Few figures in American public life have been so closely identified with a particular place as President Roosevelt with his Hyde Park home. FDR was born at his family's country place on the Hudson River and remained closely connected to the house and surrounding lands his entire life. The property was both home and political headquarters, a haven for spiritual renewal and, after he contracted polio, for physical rehabilitation. On this land he set out forest plantations, maintained family and tenant farms, built a hilltop retreat, and established the nation's first presidential library. Here he participated in community life, welcomed dignitaries, supporters, and the media, and conducted the work of the presidency.



Top Cottage, conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat

The FDR Home, or main house, is the centerpiece of the estate. It contains furnishings and objects of great historical value. Among the more than 10,000 items in the site collections are FDR's bird collection, top hat, personally designed wheelchairs, and telephone that once connected directly to the White House, all of which convey the human details of an extraordinary life. Other structures that were familiar features of FDR's life include the Stable, the Garage, two Ice Houses, and the Greenhouse. Top Cottage, at the easternmost reach of the Roosevelt estate, was conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat and reflects his architectural sensibilities, regional interests, and physical needs. The intimate cottage evokes the personality of one of the 20th Century's towering figures.

The NHS preserves lands of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate that stretch from the Hudson River east to Route 9G and include gardens and grounds, woodlands, and former agricultural lands. These fields and forests are where FDR spent much of his boyhood and where he explored and showcased ideas about land stewardship later in life. FDR's home included not just his house, but the entire estate, over half of which he personally acquired. Significant features include the native oak forest, numerous forest plantations, remnants of his first Christmas tree plantation set out in 1926, and experimental plantations established in cooperation with the New York State College of Forestry between 1930 and 1933.

The estate also included several gardens and orchards. As the ultimate expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the family rose garden as his final resting place, where he and his wife Eleanor lie buried in a gravesite of his design.

The site's magnificent view overlooking the Hudson River to the mountains beyond inspired the President's deepest feelings.

The Home of FDR National Historic Site also includes roughly one-half of the estate of FDR's half-brother, James "Rosy" Roosevelt. This property historically was similar to the FDR property in layout, with a straight, tree-lined main entry drive and a stately home (the "Red House") at its terminus. The other half of the former J. R. Roosevelt property is outside NPS ownership and is now occupied by the Hyde Park Mall.

The National Park Service expanded the national historic site in 1974–75 by adding, by donation, 24 acres of the adjacent Newbold-Morgan estate, known as Bellefield, for use as park headquarters. The parks' main administrative building is the historic centerpiece of the Bellefield property, Bellefield Mansion, originally built c. 1795 and reconstructed in a neoclassical style by McKim, Mead, and White in 1909–11. Extending from the south side of the Mansion is the formal garden built c. 1912 to the design of Beatrix Farrand, widely considered one of the finest landscape architects of the early 20th Century.

In 2007, through the efforts of Scenic Hudson, Inc., the Town of Hyde Park, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the NPS acquired an important tract of 334 acres between Route 9 and Route 9G, which restored much of the unity of the estate as it had existed during FDR's lifetime. (See "Related Programs, Plans, and Initiatives" for a description of the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Project.)



The Bellefield Mansion, the parks' main administrative building, with the Farrand Garden in the foreground

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum

Also established by the 1939 legislation was the nation's first presidential library, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, which forms a vital part of the Roosevelt "campus." It is managed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Library property comprises nearly 20 acres. The visitor center for the parks and the FDR Presidential Library is the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, located to the west of the Bellefield Mansion, on property transferred from the NPS to NARA for this purpose. The managers of the two sites work together closely, sharing the visitor center and presenting a comprehensive depiction of the Roosevelts.



The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum



Stone Cottage, the first building constructed at Val-Kill



Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden



Val-Kill Cottage, originally built as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries and later converted into Eleanor Roosevelt's residence

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

The 181-acre Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1977 to preserve Mrs. Roosevelt's cherished home at Val-Kill on a portion of the Roosevelt Family Estate. Here she founded Val-Kill Industries to provide new skills and employment opportunities for unemployed local farm workers. At her Val-Kill home, she wrote books and newspaper columns, served as the first U.S. delegate to the United Nations, chaired the committee that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and came into her own as one of the most influential figures of her time.

Purchased by FDR in 1911, Val-Kill soon became a favorite family picnic site. In 1924, FDR urged Eleanor and her friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman to build a cottage so they could enjoy the peace and solitude year-round. Construction of the Stone Cottage was started in 1925 and completed the following year. Val-Kill Cottage was built in 1926 as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries that was run by the three women. Eleanor Roosevelt converted it to her residence in 1936–37, and it became her year-round home after FDR's death in 1945. At Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt surrounded herself with family and friends and hosted a range of people, from national and world leaders to local youth and students, who reflected her diverse interests.

Other important structures at Val-Kill are the Stable-Garage, the Doll House, the Playhouse, and the swimming pool. The Doll House is a small wooden structure, originally located near the FDR Home and moved to Val-Kill by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1945 for the use of her grandchildren. The Playhouse, a one-story frame building, was built in several phases beginning in 1928 and was adapted for various uses, including a forge and metal-working shop for Val-Kill Industries.

Eleanor Roosevelt loved the beauty and tranquility of the Val-Kill landscape, characteristics that endure today. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, is a central feature around which the main buildings, Stone Cottage and Val-Kill Cottage, are arranged. Lawns, gardens, woodlands, and forest plantations set out by FDR surround the structures. The site also includes a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914. The plantation, known as "The Secret Woods," is said to be where Eleanor Roosevelt read stories to her grandchildren. In addition to the Secret Woods, the remains of several plantations survive, including white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry. The agricultural context of Val-Kill remained important throughout Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and she actively sought to continue it after FDR's death, when she and her son Elliott launched Val-Kill Farms.

Although most of the furnishings and personal possessions were dispersed following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the park has since been able to acquire historic furnishings and other collections associated with the site. The collection includes primarily historical material (4,000 items). Objects such as handcrafted Val-Kill Industries furniture, family photographs, and personal memorabilia reflect the human dimension of life at Val-Kill.

In the enabling legislation, Congress authorized the NPS to enter into cooperative agreements with qualified public or private entities to carry on Eleanor

Roosevelt's legacy. The NPS has a cooperative agreement with The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) to carry out this mission. The park's legislation also specified that a memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt be established at Val-Kill. The 1980 management plan for the site designated her beloved Cutting Garden as the memorial.

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

Located about three miles north of Franklin D. Roosevelt's home is the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. President Roosevelt directed the designation of this property as a national historic site in 1940. The NPS administers 212 acres, or the "pleasure grounds" portion of the former 684-acre country place. The 212 acres represent the entire area authorized by the designation order of December 18, 1940.

Frederick W. Vanderbilt, a grandson of the shipping and railroad magnate "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt, saw himself as part of his family's illustrious tradition of arts patronage. In 1895, he purchased an existing estate and employed the nation's most prestigious architects, landscape architects, artisans, and craftsmen to improve and furnish it. The centerpiece of the estate is the Mansion created for Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt by McKim, Mead, and White, a preeminent architectural firm at the turn of the 20th Century. The fully furnished 50-room house rivals the most stately North American homes of the period in the quality of its design, interiors, and decoration. It also incorporates advanced building features, such as steel and concrete construction and a centralized heating system.



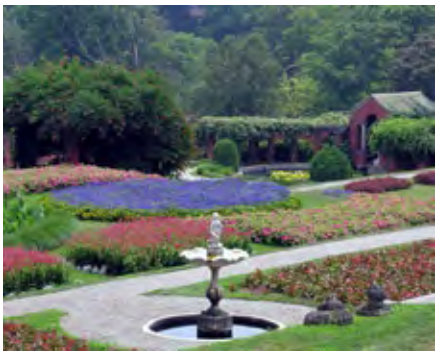
The Vanderbilt Mansion

To the north of the Mansion is the Pavilion, a neoclassical-style guest house, also designed by McKim, Mead, and White. The Coach House was built in 1897 to the design of architect Robert H. Robertson. It is a brick structure in Queen Anne style that the architect adapted as a garage for automobiles in 1910. The Tool House and Gardener's Cottage are matching buildings and the only ones that pre-date Vanderbilt occupancy. The Main Gate House and Lower Gate House, which echo the Beaux-Arts style of the mansion, were built to McKim, Mead, and White designs in 1898. The Mansion had electric power and running water supplied by its own hydroelectric plant. Located on the south side of Crum Elbow Creek, the Power House is a one-story cobblestone building built in 1897 that provides a prime illustration of the self-sufficiency of the large estates of the era. It produced electricity by water power until 1938 and pumped water to the farm portion of the estate until 1941.



The Vanderbilt Coach House

The site is one of the most intact remaining Hudson River picturesque landscapes and depicts the evolution of landscape design in America over some 200 years. The Vanderbilts retained much of the landscape as it was planned after 1828 by the Belgian landscape designer Andre Parmentier, who laid out carriageways and pathways to reveal an unfolding series of dramatic views framed by precisely arranged trees. They modified the formal Italian garden and added a rose garden and classically inspired support structures. Below the formal gardens is the Crum Elbow Creek valley, a naturalistic landscape that forms the southern end of the park. Paralleling the creek with its ponds and waterfalls



The Vanderbilt formal gardens



One of a pair of grand orreries purchased by Stanford White for the Vanderbilts in 1897. Grand orreries are decorative instruments that were used to demonstrate the movement of the planets. These objects are exceptionally rare and are one of the treasures of the NPS.



Freshwater tidal marsh at Roosevelt Cove

is a gently winding drive lined by specimen trees and grass shoulders. Numerous structures were erected to support and enhance the estate's vast gardening operation and embellish the designed landscape, among them the Pool House (1903), the Loggia (Garden House, 1910), Pergola (1903), and White Bridge (1897). The White Bridge is significant as one of the early surviving Mellan arch bridges in the U.S.

An overlook from the Mansion provides a dramatic vista up the Hudson Valley, with the Catskill Mountains in the distance, a view that has become emblematic of the great Hudson Valley estates. Bard Rock, one of the few arms of land in the area that offers direct access to the Hudson River.

More than 7,000 historic objects, featuring European fine art, American and European decorative arts and furnishings, and carriages and automobiles, are vital in portraying the lifestyle of the Vanderbilts. This collection has outstanding integrity for its association with the family, the distinction of the designers, and the intrinsic and artistic value of individual objects. Approximately 90% of the original furnishings for the Mansion survive in the collection and include many important examples of European fine art and American and European decorative arts and furnishings from the 16th to the early 20th Centuries. In addition to the objects displayed in the main public rooms on the first and second floors of the Mansion, the collection includes most of the domestic equipment and furnishings associated with the kitchens, laundry, and other basement work areas.

Natural Resources

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites include natural resources that, while not fundamental to the legislated purposes of the parks, are important and are protected by federal laws, executive orders, and policy. These include wetlands and other aquatic resources, several natural communities considered rare and/or significant within New York State, and prime agricultural lands.

The parks' aquatic resources include a wide variety of palustrine (marshy) and tidal river systems. Within the parks are approximately 4 miles of streams, 20 acres of ponds, and 46 acres of known freshwater wetlands. There are also numerous clusters of vernal pools, seeps, and intermittent streams, many of which have not been inventoried or mapped.

At the Home of FDR NHS, a 25-acre freshwater tidal marsh provides nesting and migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. (The waterway is owned by New York State.) This feature was created by the railroad embankment in the 19th Century. It is largely dependent upon the flushing action of the tidal flows through culverts under the embankment, which have diminished over the years.

There are several good, mid-size examples of red cedar rocky summit forest type located to the west of the FDR Home. This community type is characterized by dry upland ridges with low areas, shallow soils, and prickly-pear cactus, and it is dependent upon periodic fires. This type of community is limited in distribution, restricted essentially to the mid-Hudson Valley and Lake George regions, with about 20 documented in New York State.

A hemlock-northern hardwood forest is located on the lands between Route 9 and Route 9G. It is the most intact of the forests within the parks, with very few exotic species. This forest extends into the undeveloped lands to the north and south of the park. The property between Route 9 and Route 9G also contains rich beech-maple mesic areas with basswood and white ash trees and ephemeral spring flowers, along with well-buffered red maple-black gum swamps.

At Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, there is an impressive example of a mature oak/tulip tree forest community over 60 acres in size, with a 40-acre core of very mature trees. A portion of this community is considered "old growth." This community is defined by large oaks, beeches, and tulip trees, with at least 24 oaks averaging 1 meter DBH (diameter at breast height). Embedded within this community is a Norway spruce plantation.

The parks contain some prime agricultural lands—those lands best suited to producing food, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Within the parks there are two categories of prime agricultural lands: 3.1 acres of prime farmland soil and 15 acres of soils of statewide significance.

The parks contain a diverse array of animal species, in part due to the perpetuation of large areas of wetland and forest since the 17th Century. The parks are within the summer range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), which is on the federal list of endangered species, but the presence of this species has not been verified. Val-Kill has been home to the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), which is on the New York State list of threatened species and was last seen in the park in 2003. Several other turtle species (spotted, wood, and box) and salamander species (Jefferson's, blue-spotted, and marbled), which have been identified as species of special concern in New York State, are known to occur in the parks. The presence of several birds on Federal or State lists of species of concern (including the bald eagle and red-shouldered hawk) has been documented, but there are few reliable long-term data.

Primary Partners

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS collaborates with several partner organizations to further its mission. Collaborative activities include managing related resources, providing advocacy and volunteers, and raising funds. The following are organizations with which the park has formal agreements.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum was established in 1939 by FDR and opened in 1941. It is operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which also administers the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, operated in partnership with the NPS.

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) is a private nonprofit organization that promotes the study of the Roosevelt era and is the primary support organization for the FDR Presidential Library. FERI funded the restoration of Top Cottage and has preserved the former James Roosevelt House, the "Red House."

The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Incorporated (ERVK) is a private nonprofit organization established in accordance with the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS authorizing legislation to conduct programs that perpetuate Eleanor Roosevelt's interests and concerns. The organization is headquartered and operates programs at Val-Kill.

Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home is an official project of Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership between the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was established in 1999 to raise funds for preservation, education, and interpretation. The organization is based in New York City and Boston.

The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association (RVHA) is a nonprofit cooperating association based in Hyde Park established to support the historic sites through sales of interpretive materials. RVHA operates stores at Vanderbilt and Val-Kill.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association is a regional organization of volunteers formed in 1994 to re-establish and maintain the gardens at Bellefield. Beatrix Farrand, one of the nation's foremost landscape architects, designed the gardens in 1912.

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Incorporated is a local nonprofit organization of volunteers founded in 1984 to re-establish and maintain the formal gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS.

Purpose and Significance of the National Historic Sites

The general management plan is based on the purpose and significance of the national historic sites. The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 states the fundamental purpose of each unit in the National Park System:

. . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

The park purpose is further guided by the legislative history for each site. (To review key sections of the parks' legislative history, see "Appendix A: Legislation"). The purpose statements below present the fundamental reasons each park was established based on the legislative history.

The significance statements focus on what is most important about each park or the resources from which the park derives its national significance. They are guided not only by the parks' legislation, but also by an understanding of the resources derived from research, management experience, and public input.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the birthplace, lifelong home, and memorial gravesite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, so that current and future generations can appreciate the life and legacy of the longest-serving U.S. president—a man

who led the nation through the two great crises of the 20th Century, the Great Depression and World War II.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, together with the adjoining FDR Presidential Library, is the best place to understand the influences that helped shape the personality, values, and world view of the U.S. President who, in a time of deep national crisis, redefined the role of the federal government to provide more security and opportunity for its citizens and who led the nation into an era of profoundly greater involvement in world affairs. The unparalleled assemblage of resources preserved here—the home and birthplace, gravesite, gardens, greenhouses, landscaped grounds, outbuildings, farmland, forests, farm roads, trails, views, furnishings and memorabilia, and the adjacent presidential library and its collections—offers unrivaled insight into the life and legacy of the 32nd U.S. President, who profoundly influenced the world in which we live.



Franklin D. Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To commemorate and perpetuate the lifework of Eleanor Roosevelt, and to preserve and interpret the place most central to her emergence as a public figure, so that current and future generations can appreciate her life and legacy as a champion of democracy and human rights.

SIGNIFICANCE

Eleanor Roosevelt chose Val-Kill for her retreat, her office, her home, and her "laboratory" for social change during the prominent and influential period of her life from 1924 until her death in 1962. During that time she formulated and put into practice her social and political beliefs. This is the place most closely associated with one of the most important public figures of the 20th Century.



Eleanor Roosevelt

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

PURPOSE

To preserve and interpret the country estate of Frederick W. and Louise Vanderbilt as a premier example of an "American country place," illustrating important economic, social, and cultural developments resulting from America's industrialization following the Civil War.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historically known as Hyde Park, the site is a superb example of country-place design, with its centerpiece 50-room Beaux-Arts–style mansion surrounded by one of the most outstanding Hudson River picturesque landscapes remaining today. Developed with one of the country's first industrial fortunes, the country place represents the domestic ideal of the elite class in late 19th-Century America. It provides a context for studying estate life and the social stratification of



The Vanderbilt Mansion, circa 1950s

the period and a glimpse into the world of the American elite prior to the Depression and World War II. The property's legacy as a celebrated landscape was among the factors that prompted FDR to direct the designation of the national historic site in 1940.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are tools to help people understand the importance of a national park. Based on the purpose and significance statements, the interpretive themes express the central meaning of a park's resources. Themes are conceptual—linking larger ideas and beliefs—rather than a simple listing of important topics or a chronology of events.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

AT HOME ON THE HUDSON RIVER

"All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River."

—FDR, July 11, 1944, in a letter agreeing to accept the Presidential nomination for a fourth term

Franklin D. Roosevelt was deeply rooted in the Hudson River Valley, which had been home to his ancestors since the 17th Century. FDR's father, James Roosevelt, purchased the Hyde Park home in 1867. After his death, the property remained under the ownership of Sara Delano Roosevelt, FDR's mother, until her death in 1941. The Roosevelt Family Estate was FDR's birthplace, his lifelong home, and the nucleus of his personal life and public career. The stability and security he experienced here helped mold his responses to both personal challenges and national crises. As president, he conducted official business during his frequent visits to his Hyde Park home. As his political ambitions and prominence grew, FDR adapted and enlarged his family home. He transformed the Italianate country villa into a formal Colonial Revival mansion, nearly doubled the size of the estate by acquiring upland farms, and designed and built a personal retreat, Top Cottage, set on a wooded hilltop looking out onto the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Mountains. The cottage and its surrounding landscape provided an intimate setting where he could meet with important visitors and close friends to discuss the state of the world or simply relax. He planned Top Cottage to accommodate his wheelchair and give him greater mobility. As a crowning expression of his attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the family's Rose Garden as the final resting place for himself and his wife, Eleanor, and designed their plain white marble monument.



President Roosevelt in Hyde Park on Christmas Eve, 1943

A LEADER DURING WORLD CRISES

"The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over the government."

— FDR, Fireside Chat from the White House, April 14, 1938

Elected president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation through two great crises of the 20th Century, the Great Depression and World War II. In that troubled era he dominated American life through the force of his personality and

his political mastery. During his unprecedented 12 years in office, he redefined the role of the federal government by forging a "New Deal" with the American people through the creation of federal agencies and policies designed to protect the poor, the unemployed, and the elderly and to provide greater opportunity for all Americans, while preserving the capitalist system. In World War II, he mobilized America's vast latent industrial resources and led a coalition of nations to defend democracy against authoritarian regimes. He enunciated the Four Freedoms—freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech and expression, and freedom to worship in one's own way—and embodied them in the United Nations, an organization that he hoped would guarantee lasting international peace.

HIS "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

— FDR, January 29, 1935 in a statement given upon acceptance of the Schlich Forestry Medal

As the security he found on his family estate helped mold Franklin D. Roosevelt's character, he in turn expressed his ideas and values on this land. The property reflects his active pursuits in rural improvement and preserving local heritage. He acquired upland farms and used the new properties to explore and showcase ideas about land stewardship, conservation, and rural life. Here he practiced a type of wise-use conservation intended to improve the land, and also to help sustain the economic viability of farming and teach area farmers sound agricultural practices. His outdoor experiments and practical demonstrations at Hyde Park in many ways paralleled his state and national policies with regard to forestry, agriculture, and the environment. Here FDR also displayed his interest in architecture rooted in local heritage. He designed his presidential library, as well as his and Eleanor's private retreats, based on the traditional Dutch Colonial architecture of the Hudson River Valley. FDR's architectural influence can be seen in the design of many public structures in Hyde Park and across the country.



FDR inspecting forestry work

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

Franklin Roosevelt championed issues and programs of enduring relevance to American society, including concern for the future of democracy, economic revitalization, and sustaining rural life. Agencies and programs such as Social Security, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation reflect and perpetuate his view of government's role in a just society. FDR was also the first president who made a conscious effort to perpetuate a physical legacy. He did so by creating a presidential library, thereby inventing the concept of presidential libraries, and by establishing his home as a national historic site. By donating family lands to the National Park Service and the National Archives and establishing a portion of the Vanderbilt estate as a national historic site, FDR actively sought to preserve these resources for future generations.



Civilian Conservation Corps inspection trip, August 12, 1933 at Shenandoah National Park, Virginia



Eleanor Roosevelt in her living room at Val-Kill, 1957



Eleanor Roosevelt hosts Wiltwyck School for Boys students at Val-Kill



Eleanor Roosevelt with at Val-Kill shop apprentice, Karl Johannesen

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S PLACE: VAL-KILL

Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home, represents the emergence of her personal and political independence. With the freedom she felt there, Eleanor Roosevelt developed Val-Kill according to her tastes and interests. Its simple and casual décor, in marked contrast to the FDR Home, reflects her personality. Its informal, tranquil atmosphere and rural setting made it an important gathering place for Roosevelt family and friends. Over time, Eleanor Roosevelt used her Val-Kill home as a center for social activism and a meeting place for guests, ranging from students to world leaders.

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

Eleanor Roosevelt championed social welfare and civil rights, wielding influence without being elected to office. She supported sometimes controversial causes and interceded with FDR. "I was the agitator, and he was the politician," she said. Her political activism was forged through friendships with progressive reformers including Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman, whom she invited to live at Val-Kill. She toured the country and war zones on FDR's behalf, returning with detailed observations and determined advocacy. After FDR's death, any thoughts she entertained of a quiet retirement ended when President Truman named her a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. As chair of the UN Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a project close to her heart. Although she resigned her position in 1952, she continued to promote the UN and regarded her work with the world organization as her greatest source of satisfaction. In copious writings and public appearances and later teaching at Brandeis University, she continued to be a strong advocate for humanitarian concerns. Recalling her own difficult childhood, she enjoyed working with young people, especially the disadvantaged, and brought many of them to enjoy Val-Kill's charms. While she refused calls to be a candidate, she used her considerable influence to steer the Democratic Party in a progressive direction. Though she did not always prevail, she helped provide ordinary citizens and the underprivileged access to administrative and legislative power.

HER "LABORATORY" FOR IDEAS

Eleanor Roosevelt used Val-Kill to express the interest in education and training that was evident in other portions of her life. With her associates, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, she established a business there named Val-Kill Industries that produced furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of reviving traditional crafts as a means to train and assist unemployed rural citizens. After FDR's death, Eleanor Roosevelt used the bulk of her own resources to purchase the east half of the estate, including some upland farms, Top Cottage, and Val-Kill, and immediately sold the property to her son Elliott for a farming venture, Val-Kill Farms. Her dedication to social improvement also found outlets farther afield, such as in the Arthurdale community in Appalachian West Virginia.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S LEGACY

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places close to home. So close and so small they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

—Eleanor Roosevelt, United Nations, 1958

To this day, the ideas addressed in the open atmosphere of Val-Kill remain vital to public debate and to the pursuit of democratic ideals. Eleanor Roosevelt's dogged advocacy of human rights and world peace, her firm insistence on social justice, her proud patriotism, and her commitment to individual and government action continue to inspire.



"Hyde Park, Hudson River." Currier and Ives print, circa 1935

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

WEALTH AND SOCIETY IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site illustrates the rise of American industrial fortunes in the decades following the Civil War. Rapid industrialization allowed the accumulation of great wealth and sharpened class differences. In the late 19th Century, a new wealthy elite redefined the requirements for social standing. Rather than lineage, one's personal accomplishments, possessions, and philanthropic interests came to determine prestige. The Vanderbilt family epitomized this new American class, which looked to the residences of European nobility as the inspiration for its grand homes.



The pool and pool house in the Vanderbilt formal gardens, circa 1930

A HUDSON RIVER GREAT ESTATE

Vanderbilt Mansion NHS is a premier example of the Hudson River Valley great estates as they flourished before the Depression and World War II. The valley's extraordinary setting, which has inspired artists and authors, as well as architects, landscape designers, and conservationists, distinguishes the stately homes here from similar properties elsewhere. The great Hudson River estates contributed significantly to the development of the valley through close connections to the communities that grew up around them and provided much of their workforce. The comparison between the Vanderbilt estate and the Roosevelt estate, as well as other aristocratic country places in the Hudson River Valley, can reveal important differences in the lifestyles and tastes of the occupants.



Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt on the grounds at Hyde Park with their dogs

A LEGACY OF THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

The Vanderbilt Mansion NHS retains a designed landscape developed and adapted over the course of two centuries. Beginning in the 1790s, successive owners conducted horticultural experiments and extensive gardening at the country place known as Hyde Park. Around 1830, the Belgian landscape designer Andre Parmentier was hired to lay out a picturesque landscape including a



The Reception Room of the Vanderbilt Mansion, circa 1940

system of roads, paths, and scenic vistas. Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt enhanced the features and grounds of the estate, which included an Italian garden designed by James Greenleaf. During much of its history, it also included a working farm with buildings designed by Alfred Hopkins.

PATRONAGE AND THE FLOWERING OF ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt acquired the Hyde Park estate during an era of remarkable artistic creativity and patronage in the United States, made possible in part by the nation's rising industrial fortunes. The Vanderbilts enlisted an army of professionals to create a place that would imitate and rival the palatial houses of Europe. The Beaux-Arts-inspired mansion by McKim, Mead, and White is one of the finest examples of the renowned architectural firm's mature work. Other important architects, landscape architects, and decorators contributed to the estate and employed the finest craftsmen to outfit and furnish the mansion. Ultimately, the landscape, architecture, and interiors represented by the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS came to exemplify the American Renaissance style and to embody the Vanderbilt family's role as modern "merchant princes" at the vanguard of finance, the arts, and international society.

Associated Resources Outside of Park Ownership

A number of sites associated with the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts are outside of NPS ownership. The following section highlights some of these important places, both in Hyde Park and farther afield.

Roosevelt-related Resources

RESOURCES WITHIN THE HISTORIC ROOSEVELT ESTATE

The following resources are located within the historic Roosevelt Estate. All but the FDR Presidential Library and Museum are within the area of NPS acquisition authority for the Home of FDR National Historic Site.

FDR Presidential Library and Museum

A primary Roosevelt-related resource outside of the park boundaries is the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, which consists of nearly 20 acres of property between Bellefield and the FDR Home.

The Red House

The Federal-style James R. Roosevelt House, also known as the Red House, is located to the south of the FDR Home, on the James R. Roosevelt portion of the Roosevelt Family Estate. James R. Roosevelt was FDR's half-brother.

The Val-Kill Tea Room

A small building referred to as the Weaving Cottage, or Val-Kill Tea Room, remains just north of the traffic island formed by the intersection of Route 9G and Creek Road. The structure was built in 1933 for Eleanor Roosevelt as a tea house and has long functioned as a restaurant.

Remaining Undeveloped Roosevelt Lands

Four parcels of largely undeveloped land remain on the eastern side of Route 9: the 29-acre parcel across from the Home of FDR main entrance; a 4-acre parcel south of the 29-acre parcel; a 15-acre parcel south of the Roosevelt Cinema; and a 13-acre parcel east of the Stoneledge senior housing development. One undeveloped parcel remains on the western side of Route 9, a 98-acre parcel located to the south of the Hyde Park Mall.

Former Farm Structures

The Roosevelt farmhouse, located in the present-day Springwood Village development, remains but in altered condition. All but one of the farmhouses associated with the upland farms that FDR acquired also remain in altered condition.

LOCAL RESOURCES OUTSIDE OF THE HISTORIC ROOSEVELT ESTATE

The following resources are located outside the historic Roosevelt Estate and outside the area of NPS acquisition authority for the Home of FDR National Historic Site.

St. James Episcopal Church

Across from the Vanderbilt Mansion is St. James Episcopal Church, where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt worshipped and where FDR's parents are buried.

Rosedale

In the southern part of Hyde Park are the remaining structures associated with "Rosedale," the estate of Isaac Roosevelt and later John A. Roosevelt, FDR's uncle: the main house, the Roosevelt Point Boathouse, and the Cottage. Now a private residence, the main house (1832) sits on the crest of a hill with a view of the Hudson River. The boathouse and cottage remain at the river's edge. The boathouse was built to store John Roosevelt's 68-foot ice yacht, the "Icicle." The entire Roosevelt family shared use of the boathouse, and FDR frequented the Rosedale Estate during his childhood.

Oak Terrace

Near Hyde Park in Tivoli, New York, is Eleanor Roosevelt's Grandmother Hall's country home, Oak Terrace, where Eleanor lived as a child after her mother died.

Public Buildings

Beyond the bounds of his estate, FDR's passionate interest in architecture rooted in local heritage influenced the design of many public buildings, among them libraries, schools, post offices, and municipal buildings.

RESOURCES BEYOND THE HUDSON VALLEY

New York City

Several important sites associated with the Roosevelts are located in New York City. Most notable is the United Nations, in addition to various apartment buildings where the Roosevelts lived.

Warm Springs, Georgia

Much farther afield is the Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia, where FDR sought rehabilitation after contracting polio, and where he died on April 12, 1945. The site is now the Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House State Historic Site.

Arthurdale

Eleanor Roosevelt's dedication to social improvement was showcased at Arthurdale, a community in Appalachian West Virginia.

Washington D.C.

In Washington D.C., in addition to the White House, the Roosevelts' official residence from 1933 to 1945, is the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, a national park site near the National Mall.

Campobello Island

On Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada, is Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, the Roosevelt summer home.

Vanderbilt-related Resources

RESOURCES WITHIN THE HISTORIC VANDERBILT ESTATE

The following resources are located within the historic Vanderbilt Estate, but outside of the authorized boundary, or area of NPS acquisition authority, for the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site.

Vanderbilt Farm

The boundaries of the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS embrace the "pleasure ground" portion of what once was a nearly 700-acre estate. Vestiges of the Vanderbilt farmlands remain across Route 9, including farm buildings clustered along a narrow, stone wall-lined lane that aligns with the park's north gate.

Wales House

Just outside the park boundary on its southeastern corner is the Wales House (1896), built for a classmate of Frederick Vanderbilt. Originally part of the Vanderbilt Estate, it was designed by McKim, Mead, and White and is now a private residence.

Howard House

Other related structures include the Howard House (1896), designed by McKim, Mead, and White and built for a niece of Louise Vanderbilt, and its associated Carriage House located to the east of Route 9.

RESOURCES BEYOND THE HUDSON VALLEY

Other Frederick Vanderbilt Estates

In addition to Hyde Park, Frederick Vanderbilt maintained residences in New York City, Bar Harbor, Upper St. Regis Lake in the Adirondacks, and at "Rough Point" in Newport, Rhode Island.

Other Vanderbilt Family Estates

Other Vanderbilt family estates in the United States are preserved and opened to the public. Among the most noted are Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, and The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island.

Related Programs, Plans, and Initiatives

Many institutions, organizations, and governmental agencies play an important role in providing the public with resources and information about the Hudson River Valley and the Hyde Park area. Given the number and breadth of organizations and agencies working in the region, the list below is not comprehensive, but is intended to highlight key programs in the region.

Regional Efforts

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was established by Congress in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation. This four-million-acre heritage area between Waterford and the northern border of New York City is a partnership of local, state, and federal sites with the Hudson River Valley Greenway serving as its manager. The National Park Service provides technical and financial support through the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt parks.

New York State's **Hudson River Valley Greenway**, the manager of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area program, is an agency created to facilitate the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources of the Hudson Valley, while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision-making.

One important program of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is "**Teaching the Hudson Valley**," which aims to help teachers share with students and other educators an understanding of and love for the culture, ecology, and history of the Valley and the tools needed to preserve it. "Teaching the Hudson Valley" is administered by the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in partnership with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program,** and the **Hudson River Valley Institute** at Marist College.

One regional effort underway is the **Hudson Valley Welcome Center Project**, a partnership among the NPS, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Scenic Hudson, and the Town of Hyde Park. The project started in 2000 to preserve and utilize undeveloped lands adjacent to the Home of FDR. Community leaders and local residents helped develop the concept through a series of facilitated discussions initiated when the Scenic Hudson Land Trust purchased land to protect it from incompatible development. From this series of productive discussions, the "Hyde Park Planning Concept," which outlined plans for a regional information and transportation center, emerged. Building on this concept, the Partners have sought to effectively and innovatively use four parcels of former Roosevelt Family Estate lands to build a sustainable economy and

tax base, create a vibrant community identity, and preserve the historical integrity of the area. The project involves four undeveloped parcels of Roosevelt land purchased by Scenic Hudson: a 29-acre parcel across from the Home of FDR entrance; a 4-acre, land-locked parcel south of the 29-acre parcel; a 15-acre parcel adjacent to the Roosevelt Cinema; and a 334-acre parcel between Route 9 and Route 9G. (The 334-acre parcel has been acquired by the NPS and is now part of the Home of FDR NHS). This vision involves the following overarching goals:

- To create a hub for tourist services in the Hudson Valley and promote economic development opportunities for complementary cultural and recreational amenities.
- To provide a sustainable transportation system for tourists visiting Hyde Park and establish links with other regional visitor destinations.
- To rehabilitate an historic route, "Roosevelt Farm Lane," and other landscape features of the historic Roosevelt estate. (Roosevelt Farm Lane was completed in November 2008).

The partners envision the hub, the "Hudson Valley Welcome Center" (proposed to be located across from the Home of FDR) to serve as a focal point in the Hudson Valley where tourists, visitors, and residents can get comprehensive information on the rich variety of entertainment, cultural, and hospitality options available throughout the region. The partners also envision co-locating thematically related complementary development on the Welcome Center site, such as a wine and culinary center or native plant nursery, to enhance visitation to the Center and provide additional amenities.

Another regional initiative in New York State is the **Hudson–Fulton–Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration**, the goals of which include stimulating and encouraging tourism during and after the 2009 Quadricentennial year.

In 1998 the Hudson River became an **American Heritage River**, one of only 14 nationwide. The Hudson's unique place in American history and culture, its role in the birth of the modern environmental movement, and the marked improvements in its ecological health over recent decades all contributed to this designation.

The **Hudson River Estuary Program** is a partner-based effort among federal, state, and local programs administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Its mission is to conserve and restore the Hudson River's extraordinary natural heritage and scenery.

The **Hudson River Watertrail Association**, a nonprofit volunteer coalition of non-motorized boating enthusiasts, formed in 1992 to improve river access by car-top boaters.

Regional and national land trusts, including Scenic Hudson, the Open Space Institute, and the Trust for Public Land are working in collaboration to protect lands within the Hudson Valley from development and preserve the scenic quality of the region.

The **Northern Dutchess Alliance** aims to create a broad-based and inclusive institutional structure for regional cooperation and economic development throughout northern Dutchess County.

Local Efforts

The **Town of Hyde Park Comprehensive Plan**, developed over a decade with extensive public input, expresses the vision for the future of Hyde Park and identifies challenges facing the Town. It suggests strategies to guide development and enhance the Town's sense of place, encourage civic identity, expand economic vitality, and capitalize on the Town's wealth of historic, scenic, and natural resources.

Completed in 2002, the **Albany Post Road Corridor Study** (Route 9) identifies land uses and traffic conditions along the corridor. Recommendations focus on consolidating vehicular entries, improving pedestrian networks, providing more street trees and landscaping, and extending the area covered by the 30-mph speed limit. A local Route 9G Corridor Committee also works to enhance the setting of the Route 9G corridor.

Planning Issues

In consultation with members of the public and partners—through meetings, newsletter mail-back cards, and via email and the web—the planning team identified the following list of substantial planning issues. (For more details on public involvement and the planning process, see Part Five: Coordination and Consultation.) The planning issues are presented in three categories that correspond to overarching goals of the NPS: 1) to preserve park resources; 2) to provide for visitor use and enjoyment, and 3) to ensure organizational effectiveness.

Preserving Park Resources

CONDITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

A generalized threat to the parks' cultural resources is the enormous backlog of preservation projects (now totaling well over $50M) due to inadequate funding. Many of the parks' fundamental resources, including historic structures, designed landscapes, and museum objects, are in poor or serious condition. See "Critical Backlog of Maintenance and Preservation Projects" below, for further description of this issue.

DIMINISHED HISTORIC SETTING

The historic setting or rural context of the properties has diminished. The original rural setting is no longer evident. Over the years, the historic Roosevelt lands outside of NPS ownership along the eastern side of Route 9 have become increasingly built-up and commercial. Buildings, parking lots, and signs have been erected on lands that were FDR-era farm fields. The 100-foot deed restriction granted on this land by the trustees of the Roosevelt estate has not been strictly enforced and is insufficient to protect the estate's historic agricultural character. Development pressures on historic Roosevelt Family Estate lands along Route 9, the "gateway" to the sites, threaten the historic setting. Beyond management of park lands, the planning team considered whether there is a feasible and appropriate role for the park in advocating for the protection of the parks' historic setting.

UNDETERMINED TREATMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS lands now total 1,111 acres and include designed landscapes, former agricultural lands, forest plantations, managed woodlands, and orchards, stone walls, and historic roads and trails. The existing management plans provide little guidance on the treatment of these rich cultural landscapes. The properties contain forest plantations that have gone unmanaged and are becoming unrecognizable. Former farm fields have become overgrown. There is also the opportunity to re-consider treatment of the Roosevelt Home Garden, now that the 1948 visitor parking area has been removed from the garden site. The planning team considered what type and level of treatment is desirable and appropriate for the cultural landscape, and whether there are better ways to portray its historic condition.

OBSCURED SCENIC VIEWS

Views of the Hudson River from the FDR Home and the Vanderbilt Mansion are diminishing due to the vegetative growth on the park property along the Hudson River. In addition, intensifying development pressures beyond park boundaries across the river in Ulster County could severely compromise views unless action is taken. The planning team evaluated the appropriate level and extent of viewshed treatment and protection.

INCONSISTENCIES ABOUT PERIODS OF TREATMENT AND INTERPRETATION

Over the years various plans and studies have suggested appropriate dates for the Period of Treatment (time during the period of significance when the property reached its height of development and when it best reflected the characteristics for which it is significant) and the Period of Interpretation (period of interpretive emphasis) for each park. At the outset of the planning process, however, the dates had not been formally decided. This determination provides a reference for making decisions about the presentation of cultural resources and, through its effect on interpretive activities, would have an impact on the visitor experience. Based on the purpose and significance statements, themes, and studies undertaken to inform the planning, the team developed a consensus on this issue.

Providing for Visitor Use and Enjoyment

DECLINING VISITATION

As the Roosevelt era recedes into history and fewer people are connected to it by memory, visitation to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites has declined, as is the case with many historic sites. Overall visitation has declined by 14% in the past decade. The declines are most pronounced at the Home of FDR and Val-Kill, with visitation down by some 40% since 1996. Vanderbilt visitation, although below its peak, has generally leveled off. A grant-supported marketing effort by NARA, FERI, ERVK, and the NPS is intended to help reverse this trend and has met with some success, evidenced by the visitation increase to the Home of FDR in 2006, which was up by 10.4% over 2004 levels. The planning team considered additional ways to encourage visitation.

UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCES

At present, visitors experience only a portion of the resources preserved at the parks. The primary interpretive experience continues to be a guided tour of the historic residences that has changed little since the parks were established. The majority of the other estate buildings and the cultural landscape are not adequately interpreted and therefore not fully appreciated. The team considered how the NPS could provide a more complete presentation of the park resources to the visitor.

APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL USES

A network of designed trails traverses the parklands—including key segments of the town-wide Hyde Park Trail, a portion of which is designated a National Recreation Trail— but is woefully underutilized. Park guidelines allow hiking on the trails, while equestrian and motorized (ATV) uses are prohibited, and bicycle use is restricted to park roads. However, experience shows that ATVs and mountain bikes are ridden throughout the national historic sites. The team looked at current trail use throughout the park and on adjacent trail networks to determine whether guidelines should be modified to make the trail system more accessible to visitors and to enable more effective controls on prohibited uses.

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

An issue raised repeatedly by members of the public is the desire for more and improved educational opportunities at the parks. While a variety of participatory educational programs are offered, they are generally under-enrolled, with the overwhelming majority of students (89%) instead taking historic house tours. The programming also concentrates heavily on the Home of FDR NHS (79%). Only 5% of the programs relate to Val-Kill and 16% relate to Vanderbilt. These programs reach about 3% of the overall visitors to the sites, or over 17,000 children per year. Given that the sites are located in the most densely populated region in the U.S., there is an opportunity to serve more students. Also, while the Wallace Center offers state-of-the-art conference and meeting space and is used for school groups, little dedicated space is available for hands-on programs. A single educational specialist serves all three parks. Seasonal staff may provide support to the education specialist on an ad-hoc basis. Roosevelt Library staff work with NPS to coordinate education programs. The planning team considered ways in which the park could better support its educational programming.

CONGESTED ACCESS ROUTES

The parks are located between two and six miles apart on congested suburban roadways and are separated by disparate auto-oriented land uses. According to two studies conducted by the Volpe National Transportation and Systems Center, visitors traveling to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt experience traffic conflicts, delays, and risk of vehicular collision at park entries due to high levels of traffic congestion on access routes. This traffic congestion significantly detracts from the visitor experience. Moreover, visitation is effectively limited to users of private vehicles and group bus charters. Although the sites are located some five miles from New

York City metro rail lines, they are not regularly accessible by this transit service. The planning team considered a coordinated framework for an alternative transit system.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

CRITICAL BACKLOG OF MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

As mentioned above under "Preserving Park Resources," a major operational capacity issue is the enormous backlog of cyclic maintenance and preservation projects (now totaling well over $50M) and inadequate staffing with which to pursue those projects. While modest increases have been made to the park budget in the past few years, they are insufficient to overcome deepening shortfalls accruing over several decades from rising fixed costs, such as employee cost-of-living adjustments, retirement and health insurance benefits, and utility costs; and the greater costs of overcoming the effects of deferred maintenance and preservation. Operations increases such as additional seasonal positions, afforded as part of the "National Park Centennial Initiative" (a broad effort by the Department of the Interior to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the NPS in 2016), and project funds, such as those provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have provided some needed assistance, but are not sufficient to remedy the outstanding backlog. The team considered whether there are new ways to garner resources and work with partners to help address the backlog.



The Bellefield Outbuildings

INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

Park maintenance operations are housed in historic structures within the parks. Since the 1970s, the maintenance division has been operating out of the Vanderbilt Coach House and the Bellefield outbuildings. Using these structures for maintenance operations undermines their long-term preservation. In addition, these facilities do not meet health and safety standards for NPS employees. The master plans for the FDR Home and for the Vanderbilt Mansion, completed some 30 years ago, called for the construction of a new maintenance facility and relocation of the maintenance function from the Vanderbilt Coach House. In 2001, the NPS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the relocation of maintenance operations from the historic structures, and the Northeast Regional Director approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in January 2002. The EA/FONSI concluded that decades of constant use have caused impairments to the historic structures currently housing maintenance operations, and that the historic structures do not provide adequate facilities for a modern maintenance staff to work efficiently and effectively. Due to issues on the town access road, the site that was under consideration for the maintenance facility at the time of the FONSI has since been utilized for a new museum services facility. The GMP team confirmed the need for a new maintenance facility and updated this proposal.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

The mid-Hudson River region has a growing number of historic, natural resource, and cultural resource interest groups. One of the larger regional initiatives is the

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites are located within the heritage area and are germane to its "Freedom and Dignity" theme. As significant attractions with nearly 500,000 visitors annually, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites are expected to play a leadership role in the region. In addition, the park has formal agreements with numerous primary park partners (see "Park Partners" section) and works with many other organizations on stewardship initiatives affecting the broader region. Partner and volunteer efforts, while clearly beneficial, require ongoing involvement of park staff members and a significant commitment of their time. At present, much of this is done as collateral duty. The planning team examined the role of partnerships in the parks, determined whether additional involvement is desirable and appropriate, and identified the conditions for such involvement.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The National Park Service works to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of resources and values fundamental to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. These qualities, if allowed to deteriorate, would jeopardize the park's purpose or significance. The park may possess other resources and values that are important but not fundamental. Identifying fundamental resources and values is intended to help focus planning and management on what is truly important about the park.

The fundamental resource values analysis was developed during the planning process and reflects the input of the planning team and other National Park Service resource management professionals. The following section identifies the fundamental resources and values for each park, describes their condition, and lists the stakeholders in their preservation and management. It also identifies other important resources located within the parks.

Table 1–1: Fundamental Resources, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS

Fundmental Resources	Analysis and Guiding Principles
The FDR Home, Support Buildings, and Top Cottage	**Importance:** At the core of the site is the house where FDR was born in 1882. The importance of the house in shaping his perception of the world cannot be exaggerated. After its renovation in 1915, the house figured prominently in his political career as a setting for meetings and accommodation for important guests. Several outbuildings or dependencies are associated with the FDR Home and were essential to the functioning of the estate, including the Stable, the Garage, the Laundry, two Ice Houses, the Gardener's Cottage, the Duplex, and the Greenhouse. Top Cottage, situated in the far eastern corner of the Roosevelt estate, was conceived and built by FDR as a personal retreat and reflects his architectural sensibilities, regional interests, and physical needs. **Condition and Trends:** According to the NPS Facility Condition Index (FCI), a system of rating of the overall condition and importance of park resources, the park contains 18 historic buildings considered critical to its mission. The FCI indicates that the buildings range in condition from good to serious. The FDR Home is in poor to fair condition, while its outbuildings range from serious to good. Top Cottage is in good condition. Beginning in 2009, the NPS targeted funding, including ARRA funds, to improve the condition of these key buildings. The FDR Home is furnished to FDR's period of occupancy and is open for guided tours year-round. Though some changes have been made to accommodate visitors, it remains largely as FDR knew it. Though the outbuildings are preserved and appear as they did during FDR's occupancy, only the Stable and Garage are open to the public on a regular basis. The Garage has been reconstructed. Top Cottage (a National Historic Landmark) is remote from the more frequently visited areas of the park. The structure is restored to FDR's occupancy, is used for "seminar-style" tours, and is opened periodically for small meetings and conferences. Given its intimate setting and its location in a residential neighborhood, public access to the structure needs to be balanced with protection of its intimate scale and quiet atmosphere.

Potential Threats: Continued delay of maintenance and repair projects.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to the taxpaying public, two primary partners at the Home of FDR NHS have an interest in all aspects of the Roosevelt legacy: the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI). The park cooperating association, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association, has a profit-sharing agreement with NARA for the Wallace Center book store. The management of and public access to the Home of FDR is of interest to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, within which the park sites are located. Cooperation among managers, especially of thematically related sites, is an important consideration.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of historic structures are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

Special Mandates: The original portion of the Home of FDR site, consisting of 33.23 acres surrounding the home and adjoining outbuildings, was conveyed to the United States by deed from Franklin Roosevelt dated December 29, 1943. The deed stated that the property ". . . shall be maintained as a National Historic Site and in a condition as nearly as possible approximating the condition of the residence and grounds prevailing at the expiration of the life estate of Franklin D. Roosevelt, as hereinafter reserved."

GMP Issues: Dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; poor condition/maintenance backlog; and inadequate maintenance facilities.

The FDR Landscape, including Scenic Views

Importance: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site includes gardens and grounds, forest plantations and managed woodlands, former agricultural lands, and associated archeological resources. The park lands stretch from the Hudson River east to Top Cottage. The fields, forest, historic stone walls, farm roads, and other cultural resources are central to the historical importance of the estate. The estate also included several gardens and orchards. To the north of the FDR Home is the Rose Garden, which contains the graves of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, marked by a plain white marble monument designed by FDR. There are also archeological features, including building and structural remnants related to earlier farmsteads, as well as prehistoric sites. A network of farm roads and trails traverses the sites. A portion of the park trail system is designated a National Recreation Trail.

FDR often spoke of the splendid view from his bedroom, overlooking the Hudson River to the mountains beyond. The importance of this view to FDR is underscored by the stipulation in the deed donating the property to the US government, which states that the view should be preserved (see below). FDR sited Top Cottage atop a wooded summit, known as Dutchess Hill, taking full advantage of the views toward the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Mountains.

Condition and Trends: The grounds surrounding the FDR Home, including the Rose Garden and trails, are in good condition. The cultural landscape, in general, is not adequately utilized or interpreted. The trail system is largely underutilized. Demand for access to and interpretation of the Hudson River is growing, but access is largely blocked by the railroad and steep embankments. Use and interpretation of the forest plantations and other former agricultural lands have yet to be determined. Successional growth has obscured roughly 40 of the nearly 60 acres of open fields that existed in FDR's day. Several important historic features have been lost. Major among them is the Roosevelt Home Garden, which was located on the grounds of the FDR Home to the north of the

Rose Garden. It included large and small vegetable gardens, a fruit tree orchard, an apiary, and several outbuildings. In 1948, to accommodate the large number of visitors to the FDR Home, the NPS replaced the Home Garden with an asphalt parking lot. In 2004, with the development of the Wallace Center, parking was relocated to the Wallace Center on the Bellefield property. Elsewhere, other missing elements include several small-scale service and utility features removed by the NPS, such as a garage and a chicken coop. The Hudson River view from the FDR Home is entirely blocked, except in the winter. The Top Cottage primary view—through the woodlands surrounding Top Cottage to the Shawangunks and Catskills—remains largely reflective of FDR's tenure. A second vista to the southwest has become obscured by vegetation.

Potential Threats: Continuing low-density residential and commercial strip development in the area increases traffic and makes it difficult to convey the historic rural character of the sites. Forest plantations developed by FDR have not been maintained since 1945, and the historic plantation conifers are being crowded out by successional hardwoods. Aspects of the designed landscape are gradually deteriorating due to the loss of specimens, diseases and pests, and inadequate maintenance. In addition, some small-scale garden structures, such as the hot beds and the cold frames, are in ruins. Also, there is illegal use of the trails by all-terrain vehicles. The view of the Hudson is becoming increasingly obstructed by vegetation, even with annual mowing of the fields below the Home. Though views across the river in Ulster County remain largely uncluttered by modern development, development pressure there is growing and could undermine the long-term protection of the viewshed.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to those noted above, the Town of Hyde Park, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area have an interest in the use and interpretation of some 334 acres of former Roosevelt Estate lands between Route 9 and Route 9G that were transferred to the NPS from Scenic Hudson (see "Related Plans, Programs, and Initiatives" section). In addition, the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry (formerly the College of Forestry) has an interest in assisting with future treatment and management of the forest plantations, building on the historic association with FDR. Preservation of the scenic views has a broad range of stakeholder interests that includes, in addition to those previously mentioned: municipal planning and legislative bodies; county planning, policy, and legislative offices; regional and state planning and regulatory entities; regional open-space organizations; and land trusts.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural landscapes, farmland soils, archeological resources, and air quality are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

The portion of the national historic site located to the west of Route 9 is situated within New York State's designated coastal zone management area. All proposed activities for this portion of the park must be consistent with the state's coastal zone management program policies.

Special Mandates: As described previously, the deed conveyed to the U.S. from Franklin Roosevelt stated that the property shall be maintained in a condition as nearly as possible approximating the condition prevailing at the expiration of FDR's life estate.

Deed restrictions granted by the trustees of the FDR estate in 1948, in the sale of Roosevelt land along the eastern side of Route 9, prohibited certain land uses and established a 100-foot setback for signs, buildings, and structures. The deed states that ". . . owners of any tracts, parcels or plots of land adjacent to or in the vicinity of said premises who may have derived title directly or

indirectly from or through Franklin D. Roosevelt, Deceased, to institute and prosecute any proceedings at law or in equity in connection with any violation or threatened violation of said covenant."

Public Law 105-364 (1998) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or otherwise, lands or interests in lands in Hyde Park that were owned by FDR or his family at the time of his death. The lands so acquired are to be added to and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of FDR or Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, as appropriate.

The deed conveyed to the United States from Franklin Roosevelt stated that: ". . . there is also granted and released unto the party of the second part and its assigns, the right , at any and all times hereafter, to enter upon the 'Boreel and Kirchner Farms or Places' immediately south of the land herein conveyed, and upon the 'Wheeler Place' immediately west of the land herein conveyed, and cut down and remove from each of the said three named Places all trees and timber of any and all kinds that may be necessary to secure and preserve to the party of the second part and its assigns, the river and mountain views as they now exist."

GMP Issues: Undetermined treatment; diminished historic setting; periods of treatment and interpretation; appropriate recreational uses; opportunities to improve educational programs; congested access routes; poor condition/maintenance backlog; inadequate maintenance facilities; and obscured scenic views.

Museum and Archival Collections

Importance of the Resource: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site collections include over 10,000 historic items, archeologically recovered objects (77,000), and associated field records. Like the site as a whole, the significance of the collection is based on its close association with FDR and other members of the Roosevelt family. The core of the collection consists of the furnishings of the FDR Home, with FDR's collecting interests and hobbies well represented. The park holds photographs of the Roosevelt and Newbold-Morgan properties and limited archival collections associated with the historic period.

Condition and Trends: Several items in the collection are in need of conservation. For example, the spines of the President's books are failing, bronze pieces are becoming permanently etched with soot, and textiles are torn and in need of major repairs. The stored museum and archival collections presently dispersed throughout a number of locations in the park including the FDR Home, the Vanderbilt Mansion, and Val-Kill are being moved to the new museum services facility (an approximately 9,600 square-foot structure that provides secure and environmentally controlled space for the stored collections, as well as space for research and some offices for museum services staff), which was completed in 2008.

Potential Threats: Delayed conservation projects; large tour-group size, which makes it difficult to properly monitor visitors and discourage inappropriate handling of objects.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to the taxpaying public, the collections are of interest to NARA, FERI, ERVK, and RVHA as well as to FDR and ER scholars and other researchers. There are hundreds of requests each year for historic photographs, documents, and general information that can be found only in the park's archives.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of museum collections and archives are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

Special Mandates: As described previously, the deed conveyed to the U.S. from Franklin Roosevelt stated that the property shall be maintained in a condition as nearly as possible approximating the condition prevailing at the expiration of FDR's life estate.

GMP Issues: Use of historic structures; periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; and poor condition/maintenance backlog.

Table 1-2: Fundamental Resources, Eleanor Roosevelt NHS

Fundamental Resources	Analysis and Guiding Principles
The Cottages and their Dependencies	**Importance:** Originally purchased by FDR in 1911 for forestry experiments, the site offered a refuge from the formality of the Roosevelt home, or the "big house." Val-Kill became a retreat for Eleanor and after FDR's death became her home. Construction of the Stone Cottage was started in 1925 and completed the following year. Val-Kill Cottage was built in 1926 as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries. Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends converted it to her residence in 1936-37. It became her year-round home in 1945. Associated outbuildings or dependencies include the Stable-Garage, the Doll House, and the Playhouse, all of which are important in illustrating aspects of Eleanor Roosevelt's life. **Condition and Trends:** According to the NPS Facility Condition Index (FCI), a system of rating of the overall condition and importance of the park resources, the park contains seven historic buildings that are considered critical to its mission. The FCI indicates that the buildings range in condition from good to serious. Val-Kill Cottage is in good condition; Stone Cottage in poor condition; the Playhouse is in fair condition; the Doll House, Stable-Garage, and West Garden Shed are in serious need of repair. Eleanor Roosevelt's apartment in Val-Kill Cottage is furnished to her occupancy. Though some changes were made to accommodate public access to the interiors, the structure remains largely intact. Since the site's establishment in 1977, Stone Cottage had served as headquarters and the centerpiece of ERVK's programs. In 2008, ERVK relocated to a new headquarters building on the site of a former non-historic caretaker's cottage. **Potential Threats:** Continued delay of maintenance and repair projects. **Stakeholder Interests:** In addition to the concerns of the taxpaying public, NARA, FERI, and the Hudson River Valley NHA, the park has an agreement with ERVK to conduct programs that carry on Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy. Another partner, Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home, works to support the preservation and interpretation of the site. Eleanor Roosevelt NHS and ERVK are also members of the International Coalition of Historic Sites of Conscience. The RVHA operates the bookstore at Val-Kill. **Laws and Policy Guidance:** Pertinent federal laws and policies for the protection of historic structures as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five). **GMP Issues:** Uses of historic structures; periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; poor condition/maintenance backlog; and inadequate maintenance facilities.

The Val-Kill Landscape

Importance: Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site includes all of the land historically associated with Val-Kill at the time of her death. The property includes forest plantations and natural woodlands, agricultural lands, designed landscapes, and associated archeological resources. Eleanor Roosevelt valued many aspects of Val-Kill, notably its beautiful setting and the tranquility of the natural landscape surrounding the Fall Kill. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, opens a view of the historic core of Val-Kill on the east bank. Several remaining landscape features underscore the importance of this site for Roosevelt family gatherings: the stone barbecue, the swing and teeter-totter, and the swimming pool. There are also archeological features associated with the former structures from the Eleanor Roosevelt period, as well as an earlier farmhouse and a dump site from the Roosevelt period.

The agricultural context of Val-Kill remained important throughout Eleanor Roosevelt's life. She actively sought to preserve it after FDR's death, when she and her son Elliott purchased land from the FDR estate trust and formed a company called Val-Kill Farms. The site also includes a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914 and the remains of several plantations, including white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry in 1930–31. The Cutting Garden, Shed, and Greenhouse were established c. 1937 to provide the cottages with fresh flowers.

Condition and Trends: The walkways and gardens are in good condition; the grounds are in poor condition; and the trails and Fall Kill Bridge are in serious condition.

Interpretation remains focused on the historic structures; other cultural resources, in general, are not adequately interpreted. Like the Home of FDR, the site's trail system is also largely underutilized. Use and interpretation of the Secret Woods, other forest plantations, and other former agricultural lands have yet to be determined. In addition, the forest plantations developed by FDR have not been maintained and are becoming unrecognizable as plantations. Open fields are diminishing in size; some 15 of the roughly 40 acres open in ER's day are now covered by woody vegetation.

Missing landscape features from the period of significance include the agricultural buildings in the central and western regions of the site, as well as the hot and cold frames associated with the Cutting Garden.

The enabling legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to erect and maintain an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the NHS (see below). The 1980 general management plan for Val-Kill calls for the Cutting Garden, with a commemorative memorial tablet, to serve as the memorial. The NPS refurbished the garden, although it is not an accurate restoration to historic conditions. No memorial tablet was erected on the site, and visitors are not made aware of the significance of the garden.

Potential Threats: For much of the period of significance (1924–1962), Val-Kill's setting was rural and agricultural, surrounded by farmland. As with the Home of FDR NHS, the suburbanization that began in the 1950s continues to threaten the rural context, with low-density residential and commercial strip development and associated traffic problems.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to those noted previously, the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry (formerly the College of Forestry) has an interest in assisting with future treatment and management of the forest plantations, building on the historic association with FDR.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural landscapes, farmland soil, and archeological resources as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

Special Mandates: Public Law 95-32 (1977) authorizing the establishment of Eleanor Roosevelt NHS directs the Secretary of the Interior to erect and maintain an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the NHS.

Public Law 105-364 (1998) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or otherwise, lands or interests in lands in Hyde Park that were owned by FDR or his family at the time of his death. The lands so acquired are to be added to and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of FDR, or Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, as appropriate.

GMP Issues: Treatment of cultural landscapes; diminished historic setting; dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; underutilized resources; appropriate recreational uses; opportunities to improve educational programs; congested access routes; and poor condition/maintenance backlog.

Museum and Archival Collections

Importance: Following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the furnishings and personal possessions either passed to family and friends or were sold. The park has since acquired historic furnishings and other collections associated with the site. The collection comprises primarily historical material (4,000 items), including objects necessary to maintain the historic appearance of Val-Kill Cottage, original furnishings with site-specific provenance, and replacement pieces. In addition to objects associated with the historic site, the collection includes approximately 15 linear feet of documents, photographs, and movie film.

Condition and Trends: The collection is expected to grow substantially as the NPS continues acquisition of original objects related to Eleanor Roosevelt's life and work at Val-Kill, most of which were dispersed at public auction following her death. Several items in the collection are in need of conservation. As described previously, the NPS has developed a new museum services building to improve the condition of the stored collections.

Potential Threats: Continued delay of conservation projects.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to those noted above, the collections are also of interest to FDR and ER scholars and other researchers.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of museum collections and archives as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

GMP Issues: Use of historic structures; dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; and poor condition/maintenance backlog.

Table 1–3: Fundamental Resources, Vanderbilt Mansion NHS

Fundamental Resources	Analysis and Guiding Principles
The Mansion and Dependencies	**Importance:** The centerpiece of the country place is the Beaux-Arts-style mansion created for the Vanderbilts by McKim, Mead, and White, a prominent architectural firm at the turn of the 20th Century. The fully furnished 50-room house rivals the most stately North American homes of the period in the quality of its design, interiors, and decoration. Modern for its day, the mansion was framed in steel, with concrete beneath the limestone facing. Important buildings associated with the Mansion, and which expand the depiction of the estate operation, include the Power House, the Pavilion (a neoclassical-style guest house), the Coach House (a brick Queen Anne-style structure), and gatehouses. The Power House, a one-story cobblestone building built in 1897 in a rustic style, was one of the first private power houses built and is one of few extant today. **Condition and Trends:** According to the NPS Facility Condition Index (FCI), a system of rating of the overall condition and importance of the park resources, the park contains 13 historic buildings considered critical to its mission. The FCI indicates that the buildings range in condition from good to serious. The Vanderbilt Mansion is in fair condition; the Coach House is in good condition; the Tool House, Power House, and the Main Gate House are in poor condition; and, the Lower Gate House is in serious condition. In the absence of a centralized maintenance facility, the Coach House is being used for that purpose. However, the Coach House is inadequate for maintenance purposes and, although considered in good condition, such use threatens the long-term survival of this nationally significant structure. A missing feature from the Vanderbilt era is the Sexton Boat House, which was located on Bard Rock. The 1.5-story, 800-square-foot structure housed sailboats and other small craft and received passengers brought in by launch from the Vanderbilt's yacht anchored in the river. It was the only outbuilding that the Vanderbilts retained on the former Sexton tract (the northern portion of the estate purchased in 1905). The NPS removed the Boat House in the 1950s. **Potential Threats:** Continued delay of maintenance and repair projects and continued use of the Coach House for maintenance functions. The view of the Hudson remains, but has been reduced by encroaching vegetation since the time of the Vanderbilts. **Stakeholder Interests:** In addition to the concerns of the taxpaying public, the site is of interest to RVHA, which operates the bookstore at Vanderbilt Mansion, and the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, which refurbished and maintains the formal gardens. **Laws and Policy Guidance:** Pertinent federal laws and policies for the protection of historic structures as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five). **GMP Issues:** Uses of historic structures; dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; poor condition/maintenance backlog; and, inadequate maintenance facilities.

The Vanderbilt Landscape, including Scenic Views

Importance: The site is one of the best remaining Hudson River picturesque landscapes. The property includes cultural landscapes and associated archeological resources. The grounds reflect the general organization of the picturesque landscape as designed by Andre Parmentier in 1829–1830. Two forest plantations remain: a small Norway spruce plantation, and a white pine plantation along Bard Lane. There are also archeological features relating to previous owners of the property, remains of the Sexton Estate purchased by Frederick Vanderbilt, as well as several trash dumps. An overlook along the northern end of the drive provides a dramatic view up the Hudson Valley, with the Catskill Mountains in the distance. This view was central to the original pre-Vanderbilt picturesque designed landscape and has become emblematic of the great estates of the Hudson Valley.

Numerous structures were erected to support and enhance the estate's vast gardening operation and embellish the designed landscape. The National Register nomination for the site specifically notes the Pool House (1903), the Loggia (Garden House, 1910), Pergola (1903), and White Bridge (1897). The White Bridge, built in 1897, is significant as one of the early and surviving Mellan arch bridges in the U.S.

Condition and Trends: The grounds and trails surrounding the Vanderbilt Mansion are in good condition. Garden elements range in condition from good to serious. The missing five greenhouses alter the original massing and scale of the garden. The cultural landscape is not adequately utilized or interpreted. Demand for access to and interpretation of the river is growing.

Potential Threats: Aspects of the designed landscape, notably the pine buffer along Route 9, are seriously deteriorated due to the loss of specimens and inadequate maintenance. Landscape features such as the perimeter wall and the wrought iron fence along the railroad are decaying. Extensive spring bulb plantings, including masses of naturalized daffodils that once appeared on open banks of Crum Elbow Creek, have almost disappeared. Invasive species are a problem at various locations. Although mown regularly, the fields have diminished by about 10 acres since 1936. At present, views across the river to Ulster County remain largely uncluttered by modern development. However, growing development pressure could undermine the long-term protection of the viewshed.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to those described above, the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, an organization of volunteers, refurbished and maintains the formal gardens. Preservation of the scenic views has a broad range of stakeholder interests that includes, in addition to those previously mentioned: municipal planning and legislative bodies; county planning, policy, and legislative offices; regional and state planning and regulatory entities; and regional open space organizations and land trusts.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural landscapes, farmland soil, archeological resources, and the protection of air quality as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five). The national historic site is

situated within New York State's designated coastal zone management area. All proposed activities for the park must be consistent with the state's coastal zone management program policies.

GMP Issues: Treatment of cultural landscapes; diminished historic setting; dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; appropriate recreational uses; opportunities to improve educational programs; congested access routes; poor condition/maintenance backlog; and obscured scenic views.

Museum and Archival Collections

Importance: The significance of the Vanderbilt collection is based largely on its integrity as a single collection from one owner representing late 19th- and 20th-Century tastes in architecture, landscape, and interior design, as well as the prominence of the designers responsible for the interiors, the intrinsic and artistic value of both the individual art and decorative objects, and the designed interiors as a whole. The Mansion collections include many important examples of European fine art and American and European decorative arts and furnishings from the 16th to the early 20th Centuries.

The park's collections include over 6,500 historic objects, approximately 4,000 of which are on display in the Mansion. The collection also includes numerous archeological objects. Approximately 90% of the original furnishings for the Mansion survive in the collection. In addition to the objects displayed in the main public rooms on the first and second floors of the Mansion, the collection includes most of the domestic equipment and furnishings associated with the kitchens, laundry, and other basement work areas. The textiles are among the finest examples of the period in any collection. Vanderbilt-associated carriages and automobiles, stored in the Coach House, form part of the collection. Historic archival material includes a remarkably complete resource on Vanderbilt estate management.

Condition and Trends: Several items in the collection are in need of conservation. Gilded elements are becoming dislodged from furnishings, tapestries are buckling and worn from hanging without support, bronze elements are becoming permanently etched with soot, upholstery is shredding, and major furnishings, such as the grand orreries and the dining room table, are separating at their joints. As described previously under the "Museum and Archival Collections" section associated with the Home of FDR, the NPS has developed a new museum services facility to improve the condition of the stored collections.

Potential Threats: Delayed conservation projects; and large tour-group size, which makes it difficult to properly monitor visitors and discourage inappropriate handling of objects.

Stakeholder Interests: In addition to those noted above, the collections are also of interest to Vanderbilt scholars and other researchers.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of museum collections and archives as described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

GMP Issues: Use of historic structures; dates for periods of treatment and interpretation; opportunities to improve educational programs; and poor condition/maintenance backlog.

Table 1-4: Other Important Resources, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt

Other Important Resources	Analysis and Guiding Principles
The Bellefield Property, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Headquarters	**Importance:** Bellefield, a portion of the Newbold-Morgan estate, is not considered fundamental to the purposes of the parks, but as headquarters, is critical to the functioning of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. The Bellefield property is located within the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS. The property includes buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources. The main administrative building, the Bellefield Mansion, was originally built c. 1795 and reconstructed in a neoclassical style by McKim, Mead, and White in 1909-11. Extending from the south side of the Mansion is the formal garden built c. 1912 and designed by Beatrix Farrand. Three outbuildings located to the west of the Bellefield Mansion are used for park maintenance: the Yellow Barn, the Stone Garage (designed by McKim, Mead, and White and erected in 1916–17), and the Block Garage (an early example of concrete block construction, built 1905). Southwest of the three outbuildings is the Stone House, built in 1905, which is used for park housing. **Condition and Trends:** The Bellefield Mansion and outbuildings are in poor condition. The Farrand Garden is in good condition. **Potential Threats:** The use of the Bellefield outbuildings for maintenance purposes continues to threaten their long-term survival. **Stakeholder Interests:** The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, an organization of volunteers, refurbished and maintains the Farrand Garden. **Special Mandates:** Public Law 94-19 (1975), which authorized acquisition of Bellefield, allows the federal government to accept, via donation, lands within or contiguous to the historic Roosevelt Family Estate for use in administration of the parks. **Laws and Policy Guidance:** Pertinent federal laws and policies in effect for the protection of historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological resources, and museum collections and archives are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five). **GMP Issues:** Use of historic structures; poor condition/maintenance backlog.
James R. Roosevelt Place	**Importance:** The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS includes roughly one-half of the estate of James R. Roosevelt, FDR's half brother. The property includes buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources. Like the FDR Home, it had a straight, tree-lined main entrance drive passing through open fields, a stately home (the Red House) at its terminus, formal gardens and grounds on the terrace above the river, and river views to the south and west. Today, a large portion of the JRR property is occupied by the Hyde Park Mall. The Red House and surrounding grounds are privately owned. The parks' horticultural recycling area is located near the trotting course, as is the new museum services facility.

Condition and Trends: Missing features include river views, farm fields, and formal gardens (only foundations of garden structures remain).

Potential Threats: Incompatible use of the Red House could threaten the historic context of the FDR Home.

Stakeholder Interests: The James R. Roosevelt house, the Red House, is owned by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI), which is in the process of seeking a new long-term property owner.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies for the protection of historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological resources, and museum collections and archives are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).

GMP Issues: Treatment of cultural landscapes.

Important Natural Communities

Importance: The parks contain wetlands and other aquatic resources, several natural communities considered rare and/or significant, and prime agricultural lands. At the Home of FDR, a 25-acre freshwater tidal marsh provides nesting and migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. Other important natural communities include: examples of red cedar rocky summit forest type at Home of FDR; hemlock-northern hardwood forest between Routes 9 and 9G; a mature oak/tulip tree forest community at Vanderbilt Mansion; and vernal pools and seeps. These communities are uncommon in New York State, though the examples in the parks are not considered outstanding. Val-Kill contains habitat for Blanding's turtle, listed as threatened in New York State, as well as several other turtle and salamander species identified as being of special concern.

Condition and Trends: No Blanding's turtles have been observed for several years. The full extent of vernal pools is not known. Improved flushing action would help sustain the freshwater tidal marsh.

Potential Threats: No threats specific to the parks are known other than damage by off-road vehicles. Some of these resources could be threatened by larger outside forces such as air and water pollution or global climate change.

Stakeholder Interests: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation would have an interest in protection of the natural communities. Private conservation organizations might be concerned.

Laws and Policy Guidance: Pertinent federal laws and policies for the protection of the important natural resources are described in "Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations" (Part Five).




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Stone Cottage and pond at Val-Kill

Part Two: The Alternatives and Their Common Elements

Overview

This section of outlines alternative approaches for managing the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970 requires that alternative concepts be developed in a draft general management plan to set forth a reasonable range of ideas for managing the parks. All alternatives, though diverse, should be feasible. If park managers are leaning toward one of the alternatives, regulations require that the draft plan identify the preferred alternative for the benefit of the public.

The alternatives are general in nature, not detailed, specific, or highly technical. When funds become available to construct facilities, to undertake landscape treatment, or to implement other actions consistent with the approved general management plan, then site-specific research, planning, design, compliance, and technical environmental analysis will be carried out. For example, the cultural landscape actions outlined below would be implemented based on the recommendations of a cultural landscape treatment plan, archeological research, and site-specific design. All undertakings will also be subject to federal and state consultation and compliance requirements.

It is important to note that all construction and staffing proposals under the various alternatives are subject to National Park Service funding limitations and priorities and are expected to be staged over the life of the general management plan.

Goals for the National Historic Sites

As an initial step in the process, the planning team articulated the following goals—the broad ideal conditions that park managers strive to attain in perpetuity. In brief, the goals for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites assert that the sites be protected, that the park audiences be informed and satisfied, and that park managers work with others to foster stewardship. The goals are not listed in order of priority.

PRESERVING PARK RESOURCES

- All resources significant to the purposes of the parks are protected and preserved, with cultural and natural resources maintained in good condition.

- Resource management is guided by the highest quality research and analysis.
- Through NPS and/or partner efforts, land outside of NPS ownership that constitutes the parks' historic setting is protected from incompatible development.

PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT

- Visitors are informed and oriented before they arrive; are comfortable, safe, and able to navigate clearly among the sites throughout their visit; and leave with an enhanced understanding of the parks' resources and NPS priorities for stewardship.
- Actual and virtual audiences find interpretive materials, exhibits, and programs appealing and enriching. Interpretive presentations are upgraded in form and content.
- The parks attract new generations of visitors who better reflect the current diversity of the U.S. population.

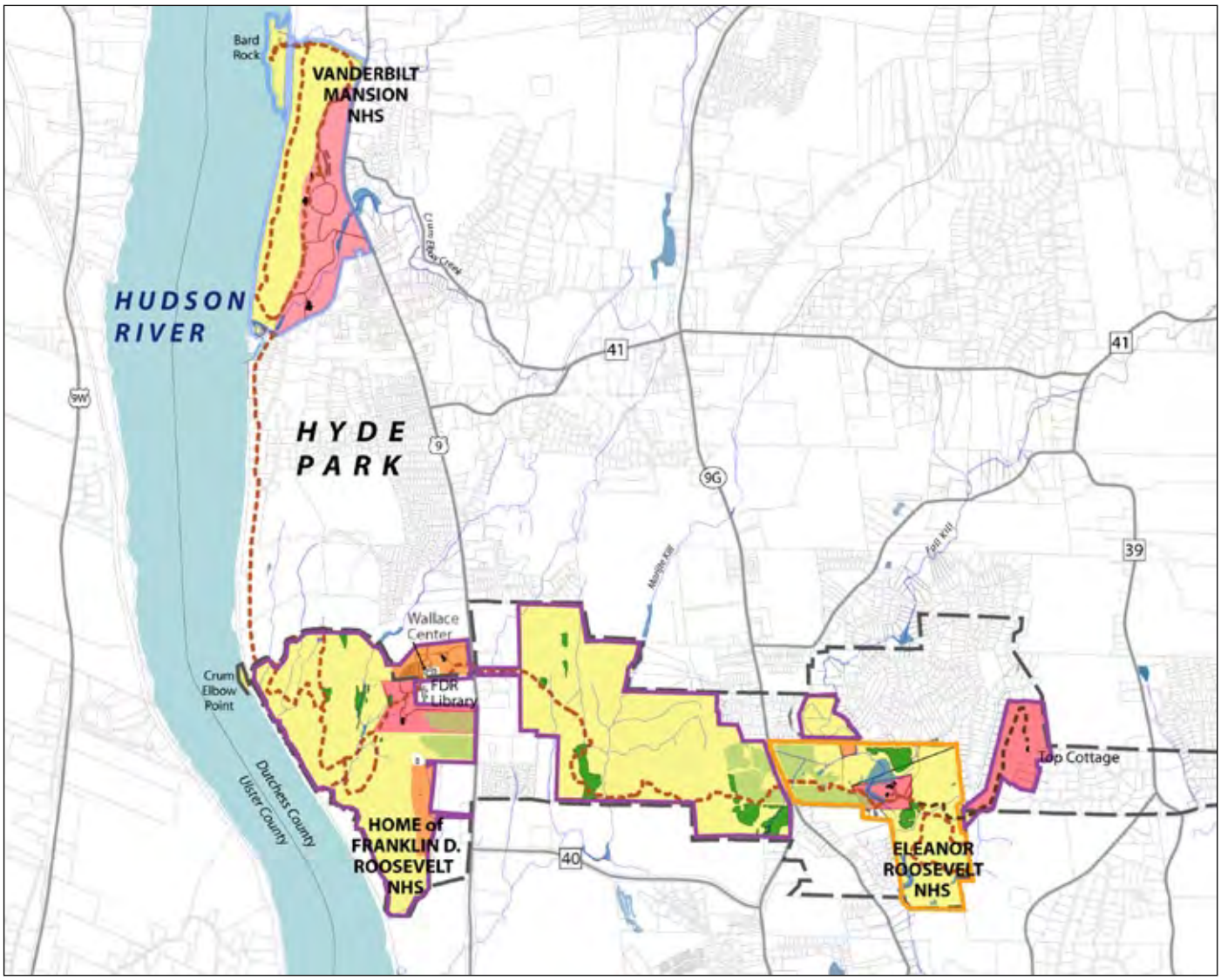
ENSURING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- Partnership development is ongoing and builds constituencies that advocate for the long-term preservation of the sites and of related resources and values beyond park boundaries.
- The three national historic sites are administered in a safe, energy-efficient, and cost-effective manner, with park support facilities located to allow the greatest efficiency with the least impact on park resources and surrounding community.
- There is sufficient park staff, support facilities, and equipment to protect and preserve resources, with the maintenance backlog largely eliminated. Funding, staffing levels and capabilities, partnerships, volunteer programs, and technology are secure, cost-effective, and used efficiently to enhance overall operations. Staff research, training, scholarship, and professional development are encouraged and facilitated.

Management Zoning

National Park Service policies for park planning require the identification of management zones that guide park managers on how each part of a park should be managed to achieve desired conditions. Management zoning directs the location and character of development and other management activities within the park. It is used in combination with other policies governing proposed changes to parklands.

Under this general management plan, the management zoning is the same for all alternatives. As the following map indicates, the planning team identified three management zones for the parklands: Historic Core, Cultural Landscape Preservation, and Park Support. The zones possess different characteristics, based on the resources they encompass, and may need to be adjusted if new information changes the current understanding of the history and use of the property. The zones require varying management approaches for resource



Map 2–1: Management Zoning

Management Zoning

- Historic Core Zone
- Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone
- Park Support Zone

Legend

- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS acquisition boundary)
- Historic Forest Plantations
- Historic Farm Fields
- Water
- Hyde Park Trail
- Top Cottage Trail
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

management and visitor experience. To address carrying capacity, resource and social condition standards and indicators will be identified for each of the zones and a monitoring plan developed. (See Part Six, Appendix E: Visitor Experience & Resource Protection – Carrying Capacity.)

The resource conditions and appropriate activities for each of the zones are described below.

HISTORIC CORE

This zone embraces areas of the parks that have high concentrations of cultural resources, intensive management requirements, and moderate to high visitor density.

Description

The historic core includes the main residences, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and their surrounding grounds. The key resources within this zone include historic structures, archeological resources, formal gardens, entry drives, gate houses, bridges, and other designed landscape features. At the Home of FDR NHS, this zone includes the FDR Home, gravesite, and dependencies (roughly the area of the original FDR donation of 33 acres), and Top Cottage. At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, this zone includes Val-Kill and Stone Cottages and their dependencies and makes up approximately 8 acres. This zone corresponds with the approximately 8-acre area that was the subject of a 1926 lease agreement FDR entered into with Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman, and Nancy Cook allowing them to use the property for residential, industrial, or manufacturing purposes for their life term. At Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, this zone includes the Mansion, the Pavilion, gardens, outbuildings, encompassing the developed areas from the northern entry gate south. The historic core also harbors what are presumed to be the most sensitive archeological areas, as well as visitor facilities that are housed within historic structures.

Desired Resource Condition

The cultural resources in this zone would be managed for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive re-use. Changes to the historic scene would be permitted to allow for basic visitor services, safety, and resource protection.

Desired Visitor Experience

Visitors would experience the historic quality and character-defining features of the resources. There would be abundant opportunities for learning about the history and significance of the parks.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Development

Development would be permitted in this zone but be limited to what is necessary to provide fundamental visitor services. Such development could include visitor contact facilities, trails, trailheads, parking, and interpretive media. All development must be undertaken in a manner that meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and be sensitive to the character and setting of the historic core.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Management Activities

Moderate to intensive management in this zone would be applied to stabilize, preserve, restore, rehabilitate, adaptively re-use, and interpret cultural resources.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Visitor Use

Visitor activities would include viewing historic structures, artifacts, gardens, and grounds, and participating in interpretive tours, programs, and special events. Visitors to this zone are likely to experience moderate to high visitor density and should expect to encounter groups of other visitors, especially when receiving orientation, taking tours and during special events.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION ZONE

This zone embraces the majority of the parklands, requires moderate intensities of management, and offers visitors opportunities for self-paced exploration.

Description

Key resources found within this zone include scenic views, former agricultural fields, natural woodlands, forest plantations, roads and trails, stone walls, and archeological sites.

Desired Resource Condition

The resources in this zone would be managed to preserve the character-defining features, physical attributes, biotic systems, and historic land uses that contribute to the historical significance of the parks. Natural resources would be managed to maintain significant cultural landscape features and/or to sustain biological diversity.

Desired Visitor Experience

Visitors would experience the historic quality and character-defining features of the cultural resources, as well as streams, native woodlands, and other natural resources. There would be abundant opportunities for learning about the history and significance of the parks, for self-paced, individual exploration, and for quiet appreciation of the parklands in the areas more remote from the core zones.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Management Activities

Management actions, such as mowing and haying fields, agricultural leasing, grazing animals, prescribed fire, forestry management, and invasive species management would be applied in this zone to maintain the historic character and appearance of the cultural resources and to encourage native species and natural diversity.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Development

Development would be permitted in this zone but limited to what is necessary to provide visitor services. Such development could include interpretive media, parking areas, and other provisions for visitor access, trails, and trail heads. All development must be undertaken in accordance with the Secretary of the

Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and be sensitive to the character and setting of the zone.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Visitor Activities

Visitor education would take place in this zone, as would guided and self-guided tours of the landscape and special programs related to historic land uses and activities. Non-motorized recreational activities on designated trails, such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, would be permitted. Visitors are likely to experience low to moderate visitor density and should expect to have periodic encounters with other visitors, especially on Roosevelt Farm Lane and other segments of the Hyde Park Trail.

PARK SUPPORT ZONE

This zone embraces areas of the parks that can accommodate administrative and other park support facilities with minimal impact on the overall character of the property.

Description

The key park resources associated with this zone include facilities to support park and park partner administration and operations. The zone also includes contemporary and historic structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources. At the Home of FDR NHS, the Park Support Zone encompasses the park headquarters: Bellefield and its outbuildings (some of which are used for maintenance functions until a new facility can be constructed), Wallace Center parking area, the new museum services facility site south of the Red House, and the composting operation. At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, it encompasses the Caretaker's Cottage site (the location for the new partner administrative facility).

Desired Resource Condition

Park support facilities are maintained in good condition. Necessary facilities in this zone would be placed as unobtrusively as possible and sited to blend aesthetically with the natural and cultural environment.

Desired Visitor Experience

Typically, members of the public would enter the park support areas when they have business with the park or the park partners, or are attending a public event. Public access to the collections for research purposes would be permitted with adherence to NPS policies and guidelines. When entering these areas, visitors might encounter maintenance or administrative buildings, equipment, and machinery in operation.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Development

Development in this zone would be permitted and would include park operations and visitor facilities, roads, and parking. The most intensive new development within the park would be undertaken in this zone. All development must be undertaken in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the*

Treatment of Historic Properties and be sensitive to the character and setting of the zone.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Management Activities

Active management in this zone would accommodate intense use, as well as regular maintenance of both the structural and landscape elements. It would also include staging and preparation for maintenance and resource protection.

Appropriate Kinds and Levels of Visitor Activities

Visitor activities appropriate within this zone would include parking, conducting business at the park, or attending a public event.

Developing New Directions

The planning team developed the two action alternatives in response to public input and an analysis of the parks' legislation, purpose and significance, fundamental resources and values, and goals. After examining this information, the team identified several subject areas for which visions for the future of the parks could differ substantially, given a number of factors introduced since the parks' creation, and given the planning issues identified by stakeholders. The team defined and applied three broad questions, or "decision points," around which they structured the management approaches or action alternatives.

1. What level and extent of resource preservation treatment is desirable and appropriate to portray the historic conditions of the properties?

The historic properties have changed since the Roosevelt and the Vanderbilt families lived here. They are no longer working farms and forests. Acres of agricultural lands have become obscured by woody growth. Forest plantations, left unmanaged, are becoming unrecognizable. Gardens have been altered or completely removed. Some estate support buildings have been lost due to poor repair, and others are being compromised by inappropriate uses. Prized Hudson River views are becoming increasingly obstructed by tree growth on parklands and further threatened by development pressures across the river. Continued suburban-type development, already evident when the existing plans were formed, has further separated the parks from their surroundings in a way that was not foreseen when the sites were established.

2. What should the parks be doing to maintain or build visitation and attract new audiences, and how can they best interpret these historic sites to generations that lack personal experience with the period?

As at many other historic sites, the number of visitors has declined in recent decades, with the greatest declines experienced at the Roosevelt sites. In addition, visitors do not reflect the ethnic, racial, or socio-economic diversity that now characterizes the U.S. population. While the new Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, with its film and exhibits, and the new Eleanor Roosevelt film and exhibits at Val-Kill provide exciting and essential additions to visitor introduction and orientation, the National Park Service's method of presenting

the parks has changed little since the parks' establishment. The historic residences continue to be the focus of interpretation, to the neglect of other important structures and cultural landscapes and their stories. In addition, opportunities exist to further develop educational programming, which at present centers on the Home of FDR NHS, with far fewer programs offered at other sites. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of students take house tours as opposed to participatory programs.

3. How can the parks work in partnership to garner resources to enhance capacity for operations and services?

As at many other NPS sites, the condition of key park resources is in decline, as there is a critical backlog of maintenance and preservation projects and limited staffing with which to conduct site operations and manage repairs. While modest increases have been made to the park budget in the past few years, they are insufficient to overcome deepening shortfalls accruing over several decades from rising fixed costs, such as employee cost-of-living adjustments, retirement and health insurance benefits, and utility costs; and the greater costs of delaying deferred maintenance and preservation. This poses a generalized threat to the long-term preservation of the sites' resources. Increasingly, park managers are looking for ways to involve partners to help accomplish the parks' missions.

The two "action alternatives" respond to these broad decision points in different ways. The alternatives differ in terms of resource preservation, primarily in the realm of cultural landscape treatment; in interpretive and educational services; and in the level of partnership activities to help enhance operational capacity. In addition to the two "action alternatives," law and policy require an alternative that represents a continuation of current management practices, and this is provided by the "No-Action Alternative."

Similarities among the Management Alternatives

There is a particular set of management objectives that will be pursued regardless of which alternative is ultimately chosen. The planning team developed the objectives that are common to all alternatives in cases where there is little divergent opinion about the appropriate treatment, presentation, or course of action related to a particular resource; where there is no feasible and appropriate alternative to a particular proposal; or where the existing condition presents no problems and no reason to pursue a change of course. The major common elements are described below. (The elements that differ among the alternatives are the focus of the "Management Alternatives" section.) A detailed description of the common objectives is also presented in the management alternatives table that follows the narrative description of the alternatives.

Preserving Park Resources

Resource Condition

Many of the parks' fundamental resources, including historic structures, designed landscapes, and museum objects are in poor or serious condition. Whichever alternative is ultimately chosen, park managers must make the preservation

and maintenance of park resources a priority. Under any scenario, park managers will develop an implementation strategy that identifies available funding sources, sets specific targets from those sources, and establishes maintenance/preservation activities as priority items. Park managers will then implement the plan within that framework.

Presentation of Key Historic Structures

Whichever alternative is implemented, presentation and treatment of key historic structures will remain constant. The historic residences—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—will continue to be presented as fully furnished historic house museums. Top Cottage will continue to be presented as a furnished exhibit with reproduction furnishings and interpreted through "seminar-style" guided tours. At Val-Kill, Stone Cottage will be opened and interpreted to the public on a regular basis. (See Appendix F for treatments and uses of primary historic buildings.)



Mrs. Vanderbilt's Room

Collections

Under all alternatives, park managers will seek to preserve the collections in good condition so that they may continue to support site programs and interpretive themes. Original and associated collections will be returned to the national historic sites as they become available, and park managers will advocate for the protection of related collections held by others.

Collections management will emphasize maintaining and restoring, where possible, the original appearance and quality of the historic furnished interiors of the residences through ongoing conservation. Creative passive approaches to improve the environmental conditions for the objects will be evaluated and implemented, such as mitigating fluctuations in humidity by keeping doors and windows shut, and regulating temperatures by using insulation and thermostatically controlled dampers.

The stored collections are preserved and maintained in a recently constructed museum services facility, an approximately 9,600 square-foot building that provides a secure, dedicated, environmentally controlled space and meets NPS standards. Collection storage and some associated administration functions are being relocated there from their present dispersed locations. Access to the collections and collections records will be improved through the creation of more finding aids, the use of the internet, as well as the use of the new facility, which will make the collections more readily available to researchers.

Important Natural Communities

Important natural communities on parklands will be preserved, fully protected, and improved as possible. Such communities include a freshwater tidal marsh (a globally important community), red cedar rocky summit forest type (a community of statewide significance), mature oak/tulip tree and other mature forest stands, vernal pools and seeps, and habitat for the Blanding's turtle (a state-listed threatened species). Stewardship of the communities will be enhanced through such actions as prescribed fire, vegetation management, and/or improving the



Red cedar rocky summit forest type

flushing action in the tidal marsh, in addition to limiting visitor access in sensitive areas as necessary. Surveys will be undertaken to document the important natural communities and populations, to educate visitors about these communities, and to monitor visitor-use impacts to help mitigate effects on resources.

Historic Setting (Lands Outside NPS Ownership)

Park managers will be actively engaged with a broad-based coalition of interested parties—governmental entities, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, concerned citizens—to protect the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley that have become emblematic of the Great Estates region. Potential activities include developing an atlas of lands within the park viewsheds, sharing information with interested parties, convening forums, and developing action plans. Opportunities will be explored to coordinate protection efforts with major regional and federal initiatives, such as the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commemoration of 2009 (and beyond) and the NPS "Centennial Challenge."

Park managers work collaboratively with partners to protect the parks' historic setting, and to re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors in the vicinity of the parks to the extent practicable. For example, park managers will continue to work with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners to protect the remaining undeveloped Roosevelt Family Estate lands between Route 9 and Route 9G; actively advocate for limiting development on lands proximate to or within the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt estates; promote the compatible use of the Val-Kill Tea House by others; work cooperatively with local officials, property owners, and other interested parties to protect the remaining resources associated with the historic Vanderbilt Farm; continue to engage in the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process to influence development decisions on adjacent lands in ways that would benefit the parks; participate with other affected landowners and the Town of Hyde Park in enforcing the existing 100-foot deed restriction in place along the east side of Route 9 on former Roosevelt Family Estate lands; and work cooperatively to develop a town dock and river access on properties held by others, while protecting the scenic quality of the Hudson riverfront.

Research and Scholarship

Research, evaluation, and monitoring of cultural landscapes, museum collections, historic architecture, archeological resources, and natural resources will be undertaken to improve the management of park resources. Scholarship will be facilitated and disseminated to advance understanding of the parks' significance, guide interpretation and educational programs, and explore interpretive themes from differing viewpoints.

Periods of Treatment and Interpretation

Addressing one of the issues identified early in the process, the planning team determined a period of treatment and interpretation for each site. In practice, the defined period of interpretation represents the period of interpretive emphasis and does not exclude some discussion of earlier and later events, such as the

geological setting of the parks, the earlier inhabitants, or aspects of their management by the NPS. The period of treatment provides a reference to guide treatment and presentation efforts. It identifies a time during the period of significance when the property reached its height of development and when it best reflected the characteristics for which it is significant. Further consideration is given to the level of historical documentation and to the existing conditions.

The period of interpretation for the Home of FDR NHS extends from the purchase of the property by FDR's father in 1867 through the President's death in 1945. Eleanor Roosevelt's interment in the Rose Garden in 1962 is also interpreted. In terms of the period of treatment, it is recommended that the property be managed to reflect its character as it had developed through circa 1941, before the U.S. entered World War II. During the war various temporary structures were erected for security reasons, and the use of the buildings and grounds was affected. Placing the treatment period in circa 1941 allows these ephemeral changes to be addressed interpretively without creating a demand to reconstruct temporary facilities and conditions that are not representative of the property's normal use. At Top Cottage, the treatment period extends to circa 1944, to accommodate changes FDR made and depict the site near the end of his occupancy.

At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, the period of interpretation extends from 1924, when the decision to build at Val-Kill was made, to Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1962. In terms of the treatment period, it is recommended that the property be managed to reflect its character as it had developed through circa 1960. This determination is based on both physical and thematic considerations and embraces the last major addition to the landscape, the Rose Garden that John Roosevelt built on the lawn between Val-Kill Cottage and Stone Cottage in 1960 so that Mrs. Roosevelt could see the flowers from her sleeping porch. In the last years of her life Mrs. Roosevelt became ill and was unable to participate in some of the decision making, so that 1960 represents the last date when she was actively involved in management of the property. Without her care and attention certain landscape features, such as the cutting garden, deteriorated in condition. A treatment period of circa 1960 represents the culmination of Mrs. Roosevelt's influence on the evolution of Val-Kill's landscape and is also the time by which she had reached the peak of her national and international influence.

For Vanderbilt Mansion NHS the period of interpretation begins with the Bard family occupancy in 1764, which marked the start of its development as a Hudson River estate, and ends in 1938, the year of Frederick Vanderbilt's death. In terms of treatment period, it is recommended that the property be managed to reflect its character as it had developed through circa 1938. This date incorporates all of the major changes to the landscape that happened in the later Vanderbilt period, including changes to the formal gardens and to the site's trees. Documentary evidence indicates that, after Louise Vanderbilt died in 1926, Frederick Vanderbilt spent even more time at Hyde Park, and tree inventories from the 1940s suggest that Vanderbilt planted numerous trees in the later years of his residency at Hyde Park. Significant changes to the landscape, including a redesign of the Italian garden by Robert Cridland around 1930, also occurred in the later Vanderbilt period. The historical record gives a relatively

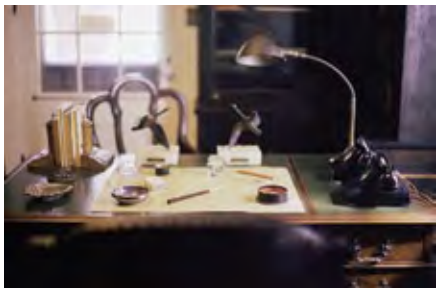
complete picture of the character, composition, and condition of the landscape in the early 1940s, and by reasonable estimation, in 1938. This documentation of the landscape at the end of the period of significance will help reduce conjecture and allows a higher level of detail and specificity in treatment recommendations.

Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment

Orientation and Arrival

Park managers will make pre-arrival information and updated orientation materials available to visitors through a variety of venues, including NPS and partner websites, as well as the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center, should it become operational.

The visitor arrival sequence at the Home of FDR will be evaluated and modifications made to improve the sense of park entry leading to the Wallace Center, as well as to correct the misconception that Bellefield is the Home of FDR. Such improvements could include screening views of staff parking at Bellefield, upgrading the appearance of the Bellefield outbuildings, modifying drives and paths, and improving directional signage.



FDR's office

Guided Tours

Guided tours of the residential interiors will remain a primary visitor offering, but will be modified to offer a fuller presentation of key structures. For example, at the FDR Home, public access to the kitchen, service areas, and FDR office will be increased. At the Vanderbilt Mansion, public access to the basement, service areas, and upper floors will be increased.

Tour group size in the main residences and cottages will be re-evaluated to support interpretive and resource management objectives. New upper limits on the number of people per tour will be established if warranted to ensure the protection of resources and a high-quality visitor experience.

Ensuring Operational Effectiveness

Facilities

The new facilities completed while this plan was in preparation will become operational: Roosevelt Farm Lane, the administration facility at Val-Kill on the site of the Caretaker's Cottage to support the operation of ERVK, and the new museum services facility.



Rehabilitated Roosevelt Farm Lane

As described in the 2007 environmental compliance documentation that supported the rehabilitation of Roosevelt Farm Lane (a categorical exclusion), the rehabilitated route will be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and the park shuttle/tram. The New York State Historic Preservation Officer made a finding of No Adverse Effect on Roosevelt Farm Lane in 2007. While Roosevelt Farm Lane is a park road that is closed to public vehicles and restricted to motor vehicles used for administrative purposes only, it is possible for the Superintendent to designate it as open for bicycle use without a special rule-making, per 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 4.30.

As called for in approved planning documents, to support the long-term preservation of the historic structures and to provide adequate health and safety

standards for employees, the maintenance operation will be relocated from the Vanderbilt Coach House and from the Bellefield outbuildings (Stone Garage, Yellow Barn, and Block Garage) to a new structure. A new, consolidated maintenance facility that meets health and safety standards will be developed in a location that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets the following criteria: has adequate space for a building, maintenance yard, and parking; is easily accessible by road and allows for heavy truck use; is free of wetlands, floodplain, threatened and endangered species, and prime agricultural soils; has relatively gentle topography; and can be visually and aurally screened from neighbors. Should such a site not exist within the boundary, a new location for the development of the facility will be sought. If land selected for the facility is outside of the boundary, an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required, depending upon the size and location of the property.

The Bellefield property will be retained as park headquarters and updated to make more efficient use of space for administrative functions, to improve the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems throughout the property, and to expand and screen staff parking.

Sustainability

Park managers will seek to reduce utility bills and the parks' carbon footprint by increasing sustainable practices and energy efficiency. For example, park managers will conduct an energy audit, evaluate the feasibility of using alternative sources of energy, develop new facilities according to "green" principles, replace inefficient systems, and participate in the NPS programs addressing climate change.

Car-Free Access

Park managers will seek to improve car-free access to the parks. To that end, a multi-year pilot or field test (started in 2008) will continue to determine optimum service characteristics for an alternative transit system (ATS). The pilot will field-test different routes, vehicle types, and operational structure. Based on the results of the field test and available funding, park managers will structure and implement an ATS that best offers an attractive and safe alternative to automobile use, encourages multi-site visitation, and improves mobility for those with ambulatory challenges. The objectives of the field test, and ultimately the long-term ATS, will be to link the park sites with one another, the town center, and the Poughkeepsie train station. The park ATS will be supported by a set-aside in tour fees, grant funds, and if necessary, by an additional on-board fare. The tour fee set-aside, as well as the tour fees, may need to be increased intermittently to support the service. In addition, park managers will work in partnership to develop and support a regional ATS that serves the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center and other regional attractions (see "Partnerships" below).



The Roosevelt Ride, a field test of the shuttle service

Housing

Seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars and researchers will have access to affordable, clean, and well-maintained housing, either through

arrangements with local property owners or through park housing, per the approved Northeast Region Housing Needs Certification Plan, which authorizes seven units of on-site housing. Structures which remain in use as housing include the Bellefield Stone House and the Duplex at the Home of FDR, the Gardeners' Cottage, and the Upper and Lower Gatehouses at Vanderbilt. Guidelines will be developed for use of on-site park housing to address proper storage of outdoor equipment, garden furnishings, car parking, and other outdoor personal effects to minimize visual intrusions of cars and other modern elements into the historic scene.



The Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center

Partnerships

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Park managers will continue to work with the FDR Presidential Library and Museum to provide a cohesive visitor experience at the FDR Home and Library. The NPS and NARA will continue to conduct joint operations in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center; produce joint programs; coordinate interpretive materials, ticketing, and transit; reduce any redundant management activities; develop a cooperative strategy for cultural landscape treatment and management; and promote complementary collections activities.

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Park managers will continue to provide technical assistance to the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area and seek collaborative opportunities with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, the Hudson River Institute (Marist College), and others to further the goals of the heritage area. Park managers will work with schools and other partners to implement the "Teaching the Hudson Valley" program and to tie the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt families' lives in Hyde Park to the regional story of the Hudson River Valley.

PRIVATE PARK PARTNERS

Park managers will continue to support the efforts of its primary private partner organizations, whose work supports the purposes of the parks:

- The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill
- Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Proejct to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home
- The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association
- The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association
- The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association

OTHER COLLABORATORS

Park managers will continue to collaborate with the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the primary support organization for the Library, to protect Roosevelt-related resources associated with the historic Roosevelt Family Estate.

Park managers will continue to join forces with the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Presidential Library & Museum on marketing and other activities through "HistoricHydePark.org."

Park managers will continue to work closely with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners—Scenic Hudson, Inc., the Town of Hyde Park, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area—and others as appropriate, to advance the Hudson Valley Welcome Center project on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.

Park managers will continue to connect the parks' interpretive programs with those of other thematically related sites, such as those associated with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Vanderbilts, other presidents, and the Hudson Valley.

Park managers will continue to work cooperatively with other partners in the Hyde Park Trail and Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail networks to extend and improve the trail system, including forging new links north to Mills-Norrie State Park in Hyde Park and south to Quiet Cove and Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie.

Park managers will continue to work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to manage invasive plant species, as well as to advance other stewardship objectives.

Boundary Adjustment

Federal law directs the NPS to evaluate the need to adjust a park's boundary when a general management plan is undertaken. None of the alternatives seeks a boundary adjustment as part of its overall management actions.

All alternatives, however, propose a new maintenance facility. The general management plan does not select a specific site for the new maintenance facility. Instead, it identifies criteria that would be used in site selection. It is possible that the facility could be located on lands within the existing boundaries or area of NPS acquisition authority. Should such a site not exist, a new location for the development of the maintenance facility will be sought. If land selected for the facility is outside of the park boundaries or area of NPS acquisition authority, an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required, depending upon the size and location of the property.

The Management Alternatives

The planning team has formulated two "action alternatives" and, following the requirements of NEPA, a "no action" alternative, which assumes continuation of current practices. This section of the document presents the alternatives in two ways. First, each alternative is summarized in a narrative that highlights key points. Following the narrative, the alternatives are presented in greater detail in a table that describes the management objectives, or desired future conditions, for each alternative (in bold, italic type) and outlines potential actions that may result from the management objectives (as bulleted statements).

The No-Action Alternative (Continuation of Current Practices)

The No-Action Alternative represents a continuation of current management practices at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. It allows projects to be completed for which funding has been secured or environmental compliance has been fulfilled, but does not allow for major changes in direction. The

No-Action Alternative is presented to help compare current practices to the other alternatives. Examining a continuation of current practices is useful for understanding why the National Park Service may believe that certain changes are necessary or advisable.

In addition to the elements described below, the No Action Alternative includes those described previously in "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

Preserving Park Resources

CONDITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Under the No-Action Alternative, park managers would continue to work to improve the condition of the cultural resources within available funding. As described below in "Administration and Partnerships," park managers would seek to fill vacancies to help address the maintenance/preservation backlog.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND COLLECTIONS

See "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Under this alternative, the configuration and management of the cultural landscape would remain largely as is. Existing views of the Hudson River would be maintained by the present method (annual mowing of fields below the FDR Home and Vanderbilt Mansion), though this means they will become increasingly obstructed by tree growth.

Forest plantations would be inventoried and subject to continued research, but no management actions would be taken to keep them from being lost to natural succession. No additional management of natural woodlands would be undertaken.

Existing gardens, orchards, and other designed landscapes would appear largely as they do now, with no efforts made to restore, replace, or interpret missing features. At Val-Kill, the Cutting Garden would remain the legislatively mandated Memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt (as designated in the site's 1980 general management plan), with the current design retained and no information given to visitors about the meaning or purpose of the memorial.

Mowing and/or haying of existing fields would continue on an annual basis to suggest the agricultural history of the properties. No attempt would be made to reclaim former farm fields now obscured by tree growth.

Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment

Visitor Use

General orientation to the parks would continue to be provided at the Wallace Center, with area-specific orientation provided at Val-Kill and Vanderbilt. Interpretation would continue to be centered on guided tours of the historic residences, with little emphasis placed on other estate buildings and cultural landscapes. Outdoor and recreation-based interpretive programs would continue to receive little emphasis.

The Vanderbilt Coach House would become vacant once a new maintenance facility is in operation. In this alternative, its exterior would be interpreted, and the interiors might be opened for an occasional tour. The other estate buildings now closed to the public would remain so. (See Appendix F for treatments of buildings.)

Educational programs would continue to function at current capacity, with the overwhelming majority of programs offered at the Home of FDR and house tours serving as the core of the programming. Occasional outreach programs would continue.

As at present, special events would continue to be offered per available funding. Holiday open houses, a summer concert series, and several graveside ceremonies would continue to be offered annually.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

FACILITIES

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Bellefield outbuildings would become vacant once a new maintenance facility is operational. The outbuildings would be repaired and used for park administrative functions and/or storage.

ADMINISTRATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The annual budget for regular operations would continue to rely on federal appropriations, augmented by entrance and special-use fees, which would be increased periodically to help defray repair and other project costs. Intermittent grant funding would provide the sole support for marketing and promotion.

Existing partnerships would be maintained and volunteer programs would continue, with support provided for special projects on an occasional basis. Coordination of educational and interpretive programming with partners would continue on a limited basis.

Under the No-Action Alternative, to achieve basic preservation and maintenance activities and visitor services, the park superintendent would seek to fill lapsed and vacant positions as outlined in the existing target organization based on the Northeast Region Position Management Review Board recommendations of 2006 (80.5 full-time-equivalent positions). Insofar as the park continues to be unable to fill these positions with available funds, the long-term ability to sustain NPS preservation standards and provide a satisfactory visitor experience will be progressively diminished.

Proposals

Core Zones:

- Primary Historic Structures: In all alternatives: continue to present main residences as fully furnished interiors; Top Cottage as a furnished exhibit; and open Stone Cottage on a regular basis and present with interpretive exhibits.
- Designed Landscapes: Maintain as at present, with no attempt made to re-establish historic conditions or lost landscape elements, e.g. Roosevelt Home Garden. Retain Val-Kill Cutting Garden as the focus of a Memorial to ER; retain current, non-historic design.

Views: Maintain as at present, allowing continued obstruction by tree growth.

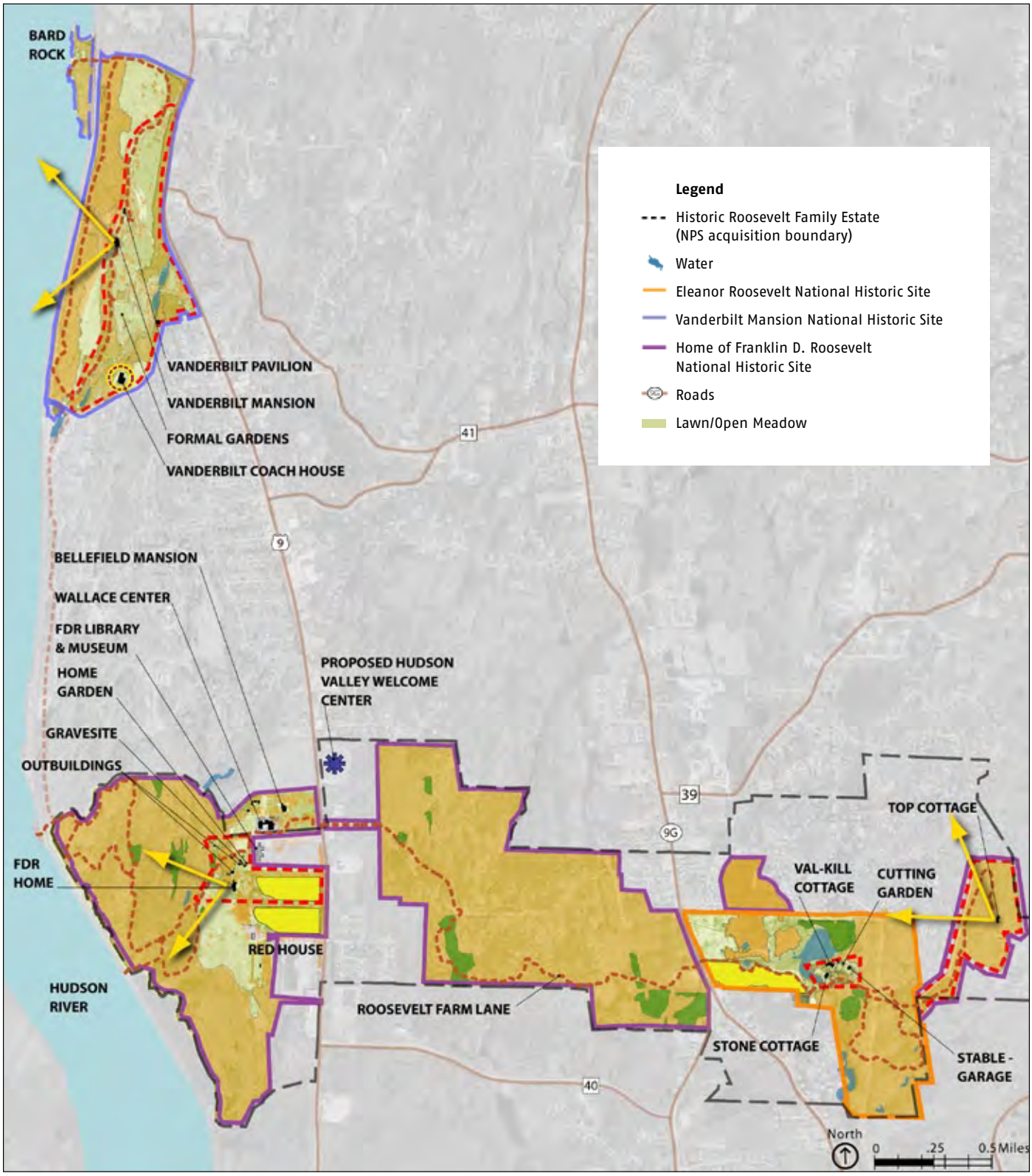
Historic Forest Plantation: No active management.

Natural Woodlands: No active management.

Historic Farm Fields: Maintain present extent of existing farm fields.

Roads and Trails: Maintained as at present; recreational use of trails allowed as at present.

Potential New Uses: Vanderbilt Coach House: Develop new maintenance facility elsewhere. Open interiors for occasional tours.



Map 2–2: No Action Alternative

Action Alternative One

Action Alternative One perpetuates the general philosophy and direction of the existing management plans but updates them to address changed conditions, additions to the parks, and increased knowledge of park resources gathered in the intervening years. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the landscape and be aimed at restoring the historic appearance of resources to the fullest extent possible within select areas. The reconstruction of landscape features lost since the historic period would be encouraged in core areas to complete the historic scene. Modern intrusions would be minimized, and this alternative would limit the addition of features or facilities that were not present during the periods of historic significance. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with more historic outbuildings opened for interpretation than at present.

Efforts to maintain and build visitation would center on expanding the tour options available to visitors and strengthening educational programming. Interpretation would focus on describing historic conditions and encouraging visitors to explore not only the historic residences, but the entirety of the estates through a range of guided and self-guided tours. Educational programming would be strengthened and concentrate on curriculum-based, after-school, and other types of children's programs.

This alternative would rely on enhanced partnerships to accomplish its vision. Coordination with partners would focus on increasing access to and awareness of the sites, enhancing interpretive programming, and assisting with resource preservation efforts.

In addition to the elements described below, the Action Alternative One includes those described previously in "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

Preserving Park Resources

CONDITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Under Action Alternative One—building on the successful examples of the garden associations—park managers would substantially increase opportunities for partner participation in maintenance activities, largely related to the cultural landscape, and would open up new opportunities for volunteer assistance with visitor programming. The increased volunteer participation would provide additional capacity and would free up some NPS staff time to address other maintenance projects. As described in "Administration and Partnerships" below, park managers would also seek to fill positions to address the maintenance/preservation backlog and to coordinate and manage the volunteers.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND COLLECTIONS

See "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Under this alternative, management would focus on restoring the historic appearance of cultural landscape features in key areas. Based on a viewshed

management plan, views of the Hudson River would be expanded to restore, to the fullest extent possible, those that existed during the periods of significance. In addition, the view to the southwest at Top Cottage would be re-opened.

Forest plantations and native woodlands would be inventoried and researched, but also actively managed. Based on a forest management plan, and as practicable, forest plantations would be managed to preserve their historic character and perpetuate original species composition, size, and location and the lineage of historic trees. In locations to be determined by the forest management plan, natural woodlands would also be actively managed to perpetuate their historic character of manicured, maintained, and productive forests. For example, in areas of high visibility, downed trees, broken and dead lower limbs, and understory would be removed and other actions taken to promote the timber productivity of the forests.

Restoration, repair, and reconstruction of designed landscapes and gardens would concentrate on the historic core zones, with missing historic elements replaced or reconstructed when possible. Based on a cultural landscape treatment plan, archeological investigations, and other information, major landscape features, such as the Roosevelt Home Garden, would be reconstructed, including planting beds, orchards, the apiary, and other small-scale features.

To more fully reflect the agricultural history of the properties, field patterns would be restored to their historic configuration. The historic fields would be kept open and mown or hayed to suggest their historic appearance when fallow. Or, if feasible, select fields would be planted with corn, wheat, or other crops that were grown there historically.

NPS would explore the feasibility of extending the historic vehicular farm route from Val-Kill to Top Cottage, utilizing historic alignments to the degree possible. Additional lands may be required to support the extension of the farm route. If the lands are outside of the site boundary, an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required.

At Val-Kill, the Cutting Garden would remain the focus of the legislatively mandated Memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt as designated in the site's 1980 general management plan. The NPS would restore the historic appearance of the garden and develop an accompanying program to enhance this commemorative resource.

Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment

Visitor Use

Under this alternative, to enhance historic connections between the Roosevelt sites, the NPS would develop new printed and web-based materials that present the Roosevelt estate as a single entity, introduce both ER and FDR, and direct visitors to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours of the Home, Val-Kill, and Top Cottage. General orientation to all the sites would continue to be provided at the Wallace Center, with area-specific orientation provided at Val-Kill and Vanderbilt. Should future visitation warrant, the feasibility of reducing or removing visitor parking areas at Val-Kill and limiting access to shuttle, bicycles, and pedestrians would be evaluated.

Interpretation would focus on placing the sites in their historic context. Visitors would be encouraged to explore more estate outbuildings and the outdoors through an expanded menu of tours, exhibits, and educational programs, and through improved trail information. At the Home of FDR, the use and functioning of the outbuildings such as the Laundry and Power House would be interpreted. At Vanderbilt, the Coach House would be opened to the public, furnished to more fully illustrate its earlier use, and used to explain how the Vanderbilt Estate functioned, including the farm, rural workforce, and evolving technology that supported its operation. Greater attention would be given to the Power House, which would be used to interpret the estate's self-sufficient energy generation and water supply system. Stone Cottage would be used to interpret the history of Val-Kill, including Val-Kill Industries and Val-Kill Farms.

Visitors would access restored landscapes via historic trails and roads. No new trail segments would be developed that did not exist during the periods of significance. Interpretive media—both traditional forms and emerging technologies—would be developed to provide outdoor interpretation and improve wayfinding among the sites.

Outreach to new audiences would be enhanced as site resources are devoted to strengthening children's educational programming. Park staff would work in partnership with the Presidential Library and Museum, educators, and other partners to develop curriculum-based study materials, interactive class and after-school programs, and possibly day-camp programs. In addition to the Wallace Center, space devoted to this function would be located in outbuildings at the Home (Garage), at Val-Kill (Stable-Garage) and, if required to support programming, at Vanderbilt Coach House.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

FACILITIES

See "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

ADMINISTRATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The annual budget for regular operations would continue to rely on federal appropriations, augmented by entrance and special-use fees, which would be increased periodically to help defray repair and other project costs.

Increased volunteer efforts would be sought to implement this alternative. Partner and volunteer efforts would focus on increasing public awareness of the sites, assisting with interpretive and educational programming, and maintaining resources. Volunteer docents would be sought and trained to aid NPS staff in giving tours and programs. Volunteer groups would be sought to assist with maintenance of gardens, including the restored Roosevelt Home Garden and the Val-Kill Cutting Garden. Other partners would be sought to help in the management of cultural resources, such as the historic forest plantations and reclaimed farm fields.

An increase in NPS staff would be required to implement the resource preservation activities and enhanced interpretive and educational programming proposed in this alternative (18 additional full-time equivalent positions over the No-Action Alternative).

Proposals

Core Zones:
- Primary Historic Structures: In all alternatives: continue to present main residences as fully furnished interiors; Top Cottage as a furnished exhibit; and open Stone Cottage on a regular basis and present with interpretive exhibits.
- Designed Landscapes: Restore to historic appearance to fullest extent possible, with missing features re-established, e.g. Roosevelt Home Garden. Retain Val-Kill Cutting Garden as the focus of a Memorial to ER; restore historic appearance.

Views: Restore views that existed during the periods of significance to the fullest extent possible.

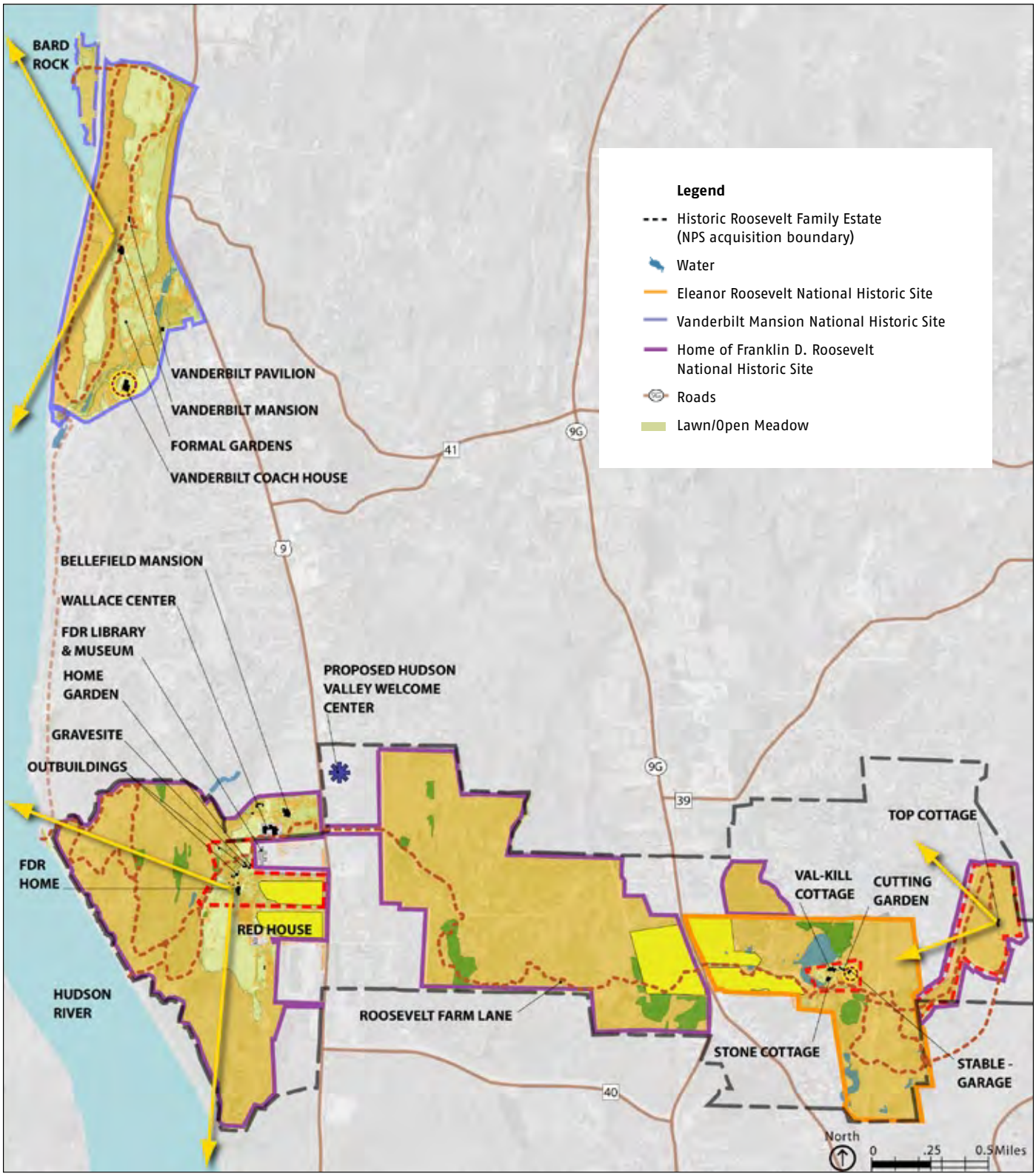
Historic Forest Plantation: Actively manage to preserve historic character.

Natural Woodlands: Actively manage to perpetuate historic character (that of manicured, maintained forests) in select areas.

Historic Farm Fields: Restore historic dimension and keep open through mowing, haying, or if feasible, planting crops grown there historically.

Roads and Trails: Restore historic surfaces, alignments, and missing historic routes as possible, including missing link between Val-Kill and Top Cottage; add no new segments or additions to trail system; encourage compatible use of trails.

Potential New Uses:
- Vanderbilt Coach House: Develop new maintenance facility elsewhere. Restore, open to public, and re-furnish to portray functioning of estate.
- Val-Kill Stable-Garage: Rehabilitate for teaching space.



Map 2-3: Action Alternative One

Action Alternative Two (Preferred Alternative)

Action Alternative Two seeks to make the parks relevant to more audiences by encouraging greater civic participation in park activities, while significantly enhancing the historic character of park resources. These efforts would be in keeping with the historic residents' use of the land for outdoor recreation and resource stewardship. Proposed resource management efforts would focus on the cultural landscape and on rehabilitating existing features, while following contemporary best practices for land management within select areas. Resource management decisions would be guided to a greater extent than in other alternatives by programmatic needs, especially interpretation. The reconstruction of missing buildings and other features of the landscape lost since the historic period would be limited; generally they would be represented by new features of similar massing and scale, or through interpretive media. Construction of new trail segments to support visitor access would be allowed. The main residences would continue to be presented as historic house museums, with select historic outbuildings adaptively re-used for NPS or partner programs.

Efforts to build and maintain visitation would focus on providing a wide range of activities, including recreational activities, special events, and programs to reach varied audiences. While interpretation would be place-based, it would make a more deliberate attempt to use resources to explore issues of contemporary relevance than would be the case in other alternatives. A learning center would be established to expand the scope and magnitude of the educational programs. Creation and presentation of these new programs would depend largely on partners, with some NPS employees functioning more as coordinators and facilitators than at present.

This alternative foresees a significant expansion of partnership activities in the management and operation of the sites and opens up greater potential for new approaches to generating revenue to help sustain and improve operations.

In addition to the elements described below, Action Alternative Two includes those described previously in "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

Preserving Park Resources

CONDITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Under Action Alternative Two, park managers would seek to improve the condition of the cultural resources by bringing new funding and expertise to the parks to help support the costs of maintenance and preservation activities, as well as implement the proposals in the alternative. Park managers would also seek to reduce the parks' maintenance burden by re-purposing structures through lease or other mechanisms for alternate public uses. As described below, in "Administration and Partnerships," park managers would also seek to fill positions to address the maintenance/preservation backlog.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND COLLECTIONS

See "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Management would focus on rehabilitating cultural landscapes to enhance the historic character of the properties and perpetuate historic land uses, while allowing for compatible alterations that support educational or utilitarian purposes. Thus, efforts to reclaim Hudson River views would focus on rehabilitating the view from the Home of FDR, which is the most diminished. Management would take actions, such as removing invasive species, vines, and small trees on the west-facing slopes below the formal gardens and Mansion, to maintain and enhance the current view from the Vanderbilt Mansion.

Forest plantations would be actively managed, employing a range of treatments from preserving historic character to using contemporary best practices. Based on a forest management plan, certain forest plantations would be managed to perpetuate original species composition and size, while others would be managed according to modern practices and used for research and demonstration purposes (as they were used by FDR) with allowances for planting of non-historic species, for plantings in areas that were not historically used for forest plantations, and for harvesting and use of timber. Natural woodlands would also be actively managed in select areas. In locations determined by the forest management plan, some areas would be managed to perpetuate their historic character (that of manicured, maintained, and productive forests), while others would reflect progressive practices in ecological management, with actions taken to reestablish the diversity of plants and animals within certain ecological communities.

To bring to life the agricultural past of the properties and to maintain open fields, agricultural practices would be reinstated as feasible through leases with farmers or by other mechanisms. Farmers would be permitted to plant non-historic crops, pasture types of animals that were not pastured here historically, and otherwise follow contemporary practices, provided the changes are compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Designed landscapes would be rehabilitated, and major missing features would be indicated through interpretive media or through physical means. For example, a community garden modeled on the Victory Gardens of World War II and an associated program could be located on the site of the FDR Home Garden. The garden design would recall the character of the historic garden, but not be an exact replica.

At Val-Kill, the Cutting Garden would remain the focus of the legislatively mandated Memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt as designated in the site's 1980 general management plan. The NPS would rehabilitate the garden to reflect its historic layout, while allowing for flexibility to enhance public use, and develop an accompanying program to enhance this commemorative resource.

Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment

Visitor Use

Orientation materials and facilities would continue to present the Roosevelt sites as separate entities. General orientation to the parks would continue to be provided at the Wallace Center, with area-specific orientation provided at Val-Kill and Vanderbilt.

In partnership with others, a wider array of visitor experiences would be offered than in the other alternatives. For example, new programs would demonstrate forestry or farming practices. Changing exhibits and forums would explore the contemporary relevance of park themes from varying perspectives to reach audiences that currently do not visit the sites. These exhibits could be presented at Top Cottage, FDR Garage, Val-Kill Stable-Garage, Vanderbilt Pavilion, and other select spaces. Greater consideration would be afforded to the "cyber" visitor, with web content increased and coordinated with the changing exhibits and discussion forums.

Select historic structures would be adaptively reused for NPS or partner programmatic functions. Historic buildings that are not essential to interpretation or operational use would be made available for alternate uses by the NPS or by partners through lease, cooperative agreement, or other mechanism. For example, NPS would seek a partner to adaptively reuse all or a portion of the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible, thematically related function, working under strict requirements for preservation and visitor access. Top Cottage would be more fully promoted to hikers as a destination that offers a sense of retreat. Some estate buildings now closed to the public, such as the Vanderbilt Power House, would remain so, but greater focus would be placed on their interpretation.

In cooperation with partners, a place-based learning center would be established to serve a broad audience: children to seniors. To augment space available in the Wallace Center, teaching and programming space would be provided in estate outbuildings, such as the Bellefield outbuildings and the Val-Kill Stable-Garage.

Recreational use of trails would be actively promoted, provided the uses support resource management objectives. With partners, the parks would offer tours and interpretive programming, possibly via bicycle, extended hikes, cross-country skiing, and other active means that allow visitors to learn about the park themes. The parks' trail system would be upgraded and improved by adding new trail segments to form loops with historic trails, connecting to pathways outside park boundaries, and developing new trails in select locations to support interpretation. With partners, a continuous multi-use trail would be established to link the park sites.

Connections to the Hudson River would be improved. A focal point would be created at Roosevelt Cove to interpret the historic connection to the Hudson River estuary. Key among the river connections would be the designation of Bard Rock as an undeveloped "day use" site on the Hudson River Water Trail to promote water-borne access in cooperation with the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Hudson River Water Trail Association.

Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness

FACILITIES

See "Similarities among the Management Alternatives."

ADMINISTRATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The annual budget for regular operations would continue to include federal appropriations, augmented by entrance and special-use fees, which would be increased periodically to help defray repair and other project costs.

New and augmented sources of revenue would be actively sought to help the parks support the costs of maintenance, collections care, and visitor services. A variety of new entrepreneurial ventures and fee-based programs would be evaluated and introduced. For example, special fee-based programs could be developed by the parks or partners, such as "After Hours" evening tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion. Prominent structures and gardens at Vanderbilt and at Bellefield would be made available for targeted fund-raising opportunities by partners that are advancing the purposes of the parks, provided they do not interfere with visitor use and enjoyment of the sites and are compatible with the preservation of park property. Other new sources of revenue would be explored with partner support, including value-added "branded" products and a licensing program for reproduction and sale of items inspired by objects in the sites' collections. At the appropriate time, a feasibility study would be undertaken to investigate the potential future uses of leased structures and other revenue-generating ventures.

Existing partnerships would be expanded to develop new interpretive opportunities and to establish a place-based learning center. For example, site managers could work with NARA, FERI, ERVK, universities, and other partners by formal agreement to sponsor lecture series, conferences, seminars, or other forums through which to explore varying aspects of the parks' themes. Outreach, coordination, and cross-promotion with other organizations would be expanded. In order to achieve this level of partner participation, a coordinating entity made up of organizations whose primary mission is to support the parks would be sought.

This alternative would require a new way of doing business at the parks, as NPS staff would be joined by others to provide visitor services, maintain resources, and operate the park. Rather than carrying out tasks themselves, park staff would function more as coordinators and facilitators (through cooperative agreements, leases, special use permits, and other mechanisms) than at present, and act to ensure the protection of cultural and natural resources on parklands through clear communication of NPS priorities and policies. The new administrative structure, however, would still require additional NPS staff (4.5 more full time–equivalent positions than the No-Action Alternative) to meet the needs of partnership building and coordination, as well as to support expanded operations and use of facilities.

Proposals

Core Zones:
- Primary Historic Structures: In all alternatives: continue to present main residences as fully furnished interiors; Top Cottage as a furnished exhibit; and open Stone Cottage on a regular basis and present with interpretive exhibits.
- Designed Landscapes: Rehabilitate designed landscapes to more closely reflect their historic appearance; indicate missing features through new elements of similar scale, e.g. community "Victory Garden" on FDR Home Garden site, or interpretive media. Retain Val-Kill Cutting Garden as the focus of a Memorial to ER; rehabilitate to reflect historic appearance and enhance its identity as a place of contemplation.

Views: Rehabilitate views to more closely reflect their historic appearance.

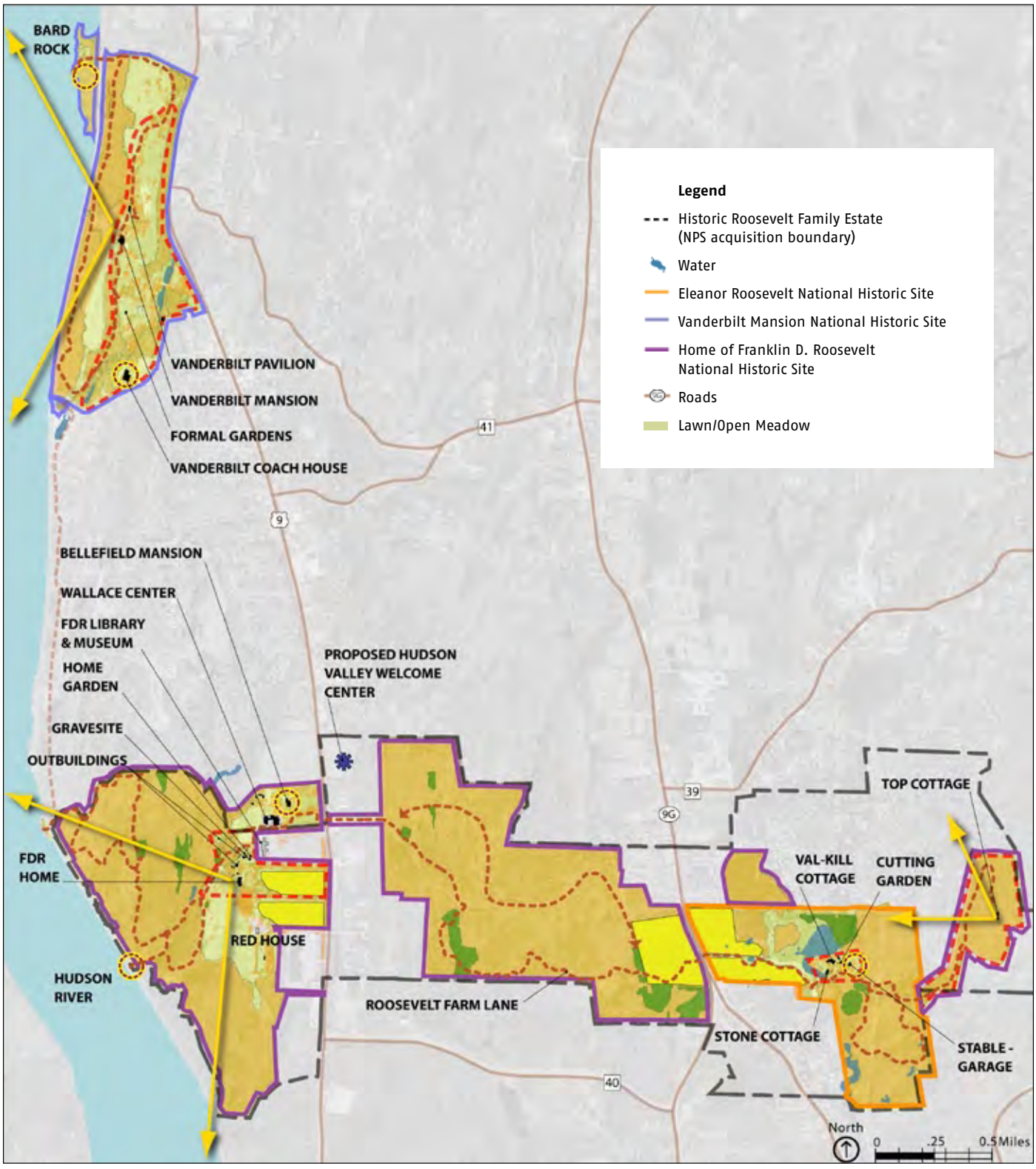
Historic Forest Plantations: Actively manage forest plantations with treatments ranging from preserving historic character to employing modern forestry practices for research and demonstration purposes.

Natural Woodlands: Actively manage natural woodlands with treatments ranging from perpetuating historic character in select areas to managing for ecological diversity and habitat values in other areas.

Historic Farm Fields: Rehabilitate key historic farm fields and return to agricultural use as feasible, with allowances for contemporary farming equipment and practices.

Roads and Trails: Rehabilitate key historic roads allowing for use of alternate pavements; introduce new trail segments to enhance public access; promote recreational use of trails as a way to experience and learn about the parks.

Potential New Uses:
- Vanderbilt Coach House: Develop new maintenance facility elsewhere. Seek partner to adaptively re-use for public, thematically compatible use; retain portion for visitor services.
- Bellefield: Rehabilitate outbuildings to house learning center. Make Bellefield available for partner use for special events.
- Enhance Hudson River Connections: Establish Bard Rock as day-use site on Water Trail; create interpretive node at Roosevelt Cove.
- Val-Kill Stable-Garage: Rehabilitate for flexible programming space/changing exhibits.



Map 2-4: Action Alternative Two

Management Objectives and Potential Resulting Actions

The following table presents the management objectives for each alternative (in bold type) and lists potential actions (bulleted statements) that may be adopted to achieve the management objectives. The actions outlined provide examples, but do not imply a commitment to carry out those particular actions, as more appropriate ways of achieving the objectives may come to light. For purposes of brevity, the table uses NPS acronyms to refer to the national historic sites: HOFR refers to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, including Top Cottage; ELRO refers to the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site; and VAMA refers to Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The applicable management zones are indicated in parentheses in the left column. The table is structured as follows. First, it lays out the key concepts for each alternative. Then, it describes the management objectives and potential resulting actions under the subheads "Preserving Park Resources," "Providing for Visitor Use and Enjoyment," and "Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness." Under each subhead, it presents the elements common to all alternatives followed by those that are unique to each alternative.

Table 2-1: Management Objectives and Potential Resulting Actions

Key Concepts		
NO-ACTION	ALTERNATIVE ACTION ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Preserving Park Resources		
Overall management of park resources would remain unchanged.	Proposed resource management would attempt to restore the historic appearance of cultural resources to the extent possible within key areas.	Proposed resource management efforts would rehabilitate cultural resources to enhance the historic character of the estates and reestablish historic land uses, with allowances made for compatible contemporary management practices.
Serving Visitors		
Interpretive and educational programs would be offered at current levels.	Visitors would be encouraged to explore more of the estate buildings and grounds through an expanded menu of tour options and strengthened children's educational programming. Interpretation would emphasize placing the estates in their historical context.	To reach varied audiences, visitors would be offered a wider choice of experiences, with new programs, strengthened educational programming serving a wide range of ages, and greater emphasis on exploring the continuing relevance of park stories.
Enhancing Capacity through Partnerships		
Existing partnerships and volunteer programs would be maintained and continue at existing levels.	Partnerships would provide increased support for interpretive programming and for maintaining the parks.	Partnerships would be significantly enhanced to bring new expertise and resources to the parks.

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Condition of Cultural Resources (Park-wide)

Park managers make the preservation and maintenance of park resources a priority in plan implementation.

- Develop an implementation strategy that sets specific funding targets from available sources and establishes maintenance and preservation activities as priority items.

Primary Historic Structures (Historic Core Zone)

Primary historic structures are repaired and maintained in good condition. The historic homes—FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, and Vanderbilt Mansion—continue to be presented as fully furnished interiors that reflect a defined treatment period.

- Present the FDR Home as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late FDR period: circa 1941.
- Present the Val-Kill Cottage as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late ER period: circa 1960.
- Present the Vanderbilt Mansion as a fully furnished interior reflecting the late Vanderbilt period: circa 1938.

Top Cottage continues to be used for activities and programs that support its long-term preservation and preserve its intimate and quiet atmosphere.

- Present Top Cottage as a furnished exhibit reflecting the late FDR period: circa 1944; furnish with reproductions that can be used by visitors.
- Continue to use Top Cottage for small-group meetings and conferences as outlined in current agreements, with access limited to shuttle.

At Val-Kill, Stone Cottage is opened to the public on a regular basis and presented as an interpretive exhibit.

- Present Stone Cottage interiors via interpretive exhibits and other media.
- Use the first floor for occasional special events and the second floor for an ERVK office as outlined in current agreements.

Collections and Archives (Historic Core and Park Support Zones)

Collections are preserved in good condition so that they continue to support park programs and interpretive themes.

- Continue to make the conservation and maintenance of the collections a priority for funding and implementation to address the backlog of collections care.
- Improve public access to collections and archives for research through the creation of more finding aids, including use of the internet, and other means.
- Seek the return of original and associated collections to the parks as they become available.
- Advocate for the protection of related collections held by others.
- Emphasize maintaining and restoring, where possible, the original appearance and quality of the historic furnished interiors of the main residences through ongoing conservation. Permit the use of reproductions of objects not available to the NPS to complete the historic scene.
- Explore and implement creative, passive approaches to improving the environmental conditions for museum objects in the collections.

Important Natural Communities (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones)

Important natural communities on parklands are fully protected and preserved, with management actions taken to enhance their viability.

- Document and map, as appropriate, important natural communities and populations, as well as important culturally sensitive landscapes (i.e. vernal pools, seeps, invertebrate populations, bats, and forest plantations).
- Monitor visitor-use impacts to help mitigate effects on resources, and limit visitor access in sensitive areas, as necessary.
- Enhance stewardship of red cedar rocky summit forest type through vegetation management or prescribed fire.
- Improve flushing action at the Roosevelt Cove freshwater tidal marsh by working with CSX (owner of the railroad embankment) to install additional culverts under the embankment.
- Enhance the mature oak/tulip tree forest community: fully protect this area, especially the 40-acre core, when conducting viewshed management

activities and forestry activities; expand the width of the shrub layer along the forest edge proximate to this community to provide a greater buffer between it and the field.
- Map and inventory all vernal pools and seeps; protect vernal pools and seeps when conducting forestry activities; evaluate trail system to determine whether buffer areas should be increased between the trails and vernal pools to ensure their protection.

Historic Setting (Lands Outside of NPS Ownership)

The lands outside of NPS ownership that constitute the parks' historic setting are protected, with the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors re-established in the vicinity of the parks to the extent practicable.
- Continue to work with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners (the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Scenic Hudson, and the Town of Hyde Park) to protect the remaining undeveloped Roosevelt Family Estate lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.
- Work proactively with property owners and actively advocate for limiting development on lands within or proximate to the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt estates.
- Work cooperatively with local officials, property owners, and other interested parties to protect the remaining resources associated with the Vanderbilt Farm.
- Continue to engage in the state review (SEQR) process to influence land-use decisions on lands outside of NPS ownership, but within or adjacent to the parks' boundaries that are integral to the historic setting.
- Work proactively to facilitate the protection and compatible use of the Val-Kill Tea House (located on former Roosevelt Family Estate lands), by partners or others. Interpret for visitors the history of the Tea House and its relationship to Val-Kill Industries.
- Participate with other affected landowners in enforcing the existing 100-foot deed restriction in place along the east side of Route 9 on former Roosevelt Family Estate lands, and work with the Town of Hyde Park to institute a parallel overlay in the zoning ordinance.
- Work cooperatively to develop a town dock and river access on properties held by others, while protecting the scenic quality of the Hudson riverfront.

Distant Viewsheds (Lands Outside NPS Ownership)

Lands across the Hudson River that constitute the sweeping views of the Hudson Valley are protected by a broad-based coalition of interested parties.
- Continue to raise the profile of this critical issue and highlight the positive role that these important scenic resources play in the Hudson Valley.
- Develop an atlas of lands beyond park boundaries that lie within the park viewsheds and share the information with interested parties.
- Work in partnership with governmental entities, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, and others to convene forums, examine other regional viewshed protection efforts as potential models, disseminate information, and develop action plans to protect the viewsheds.

Research and Scholarship (Park-wide)

The management of park resources is improved through research, evaluation, monitoring, and planning. Scholarship advances understanding of the parks' significance, guides interpretation and educational programs, and explores interpretive themes from differing viewpoints.
- Conduct research and develop plans to serve as foundations for the preservation and treatment of park resources and for the development of interpretive and educational programs. Such research/plans would include archeological investigations, cultural landscape treatment plans, and historic structures reports. Make the studies and plans more widely available to park partners and general public.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Condition of Historic Properties (Park-wide)		
Continue to rely on existing resources to improve the condition of historic properties over the long term. · Continue to seek available funding sources for maintenance and preservation projects. · Seek to fill vacancies using existing and forecasted funding to increase the parks' maintenance and preservation capacity (see "Administration and Partnerships" below).	***Augment the parks' maintenance capacity with increased volunteer efforts.*** · Continue to seek available funding sources for maintenance and preservation projects. · Provide more opportunities for volunteers to help NPS staff conduct maintenance activities, mainly in relation to the cultural landscape. · Seek to fill additional positions to increase the parks' maintenance and preservation capacity (see "Administration and Partnerships.").	***Bring new resources and expertise to the parks to help support the costs of maintenance and preservation.*** · Continue to seek available funding sources for maintenance and preservation projects. · Work with partner groups to generate new sources of revenue to support resource preservation activities, as well as implement the plan. · Provide more opportunities for partners to assist with maintenance activities through volunteer efforts and through building and ground leases or other mechanisms. · Seek to fill positions to increase the parks' maintenance and preservation capacity (see "Administration and Partnerships").
Views (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones)		
The views continue to be managed as at present. · Mow areas below the Home and Mansion annually. · Take no actions to reduce canopy height to reveal Hudson River Views at HOFR or VAMA, which will lead to their eventual loss. · Maintain the restored views to the west and the northwest at Top Cottage.	***The views that existed during the periods of significance are restored to the fullest extent possible.*** · Based on a viewshed management plan, expand field size as needed, and reduce canopy height at HOFR and VAMA to reestablish the views of the Hudson River that existed historically. · Maintain the restored views to the west and the northwest at Top Cottage. · Reopen the historic view to the southwest at Top Cottage, removing non-historic elements as necessary.	***The views are rehabilitated to reflect their appearance during the periods of significance.*** · Based on a viewshed management plan, expand field size as needed and reduce canopy height at HOFR to improve the view of the Hudson River, but adjust as needed to screen out incompatible development and protect freshwater wetlands, sensitive species, vernal pools, and other natural resource values. · Minimize encroachment of invasive species and other vegetation in open areas and reduce tree canopy height to maintain and enhance the view at VAMA while protecting mature oak/tulip tree forest and wetlands. · Maintain the restored views to the west and the northwest at Top Cottage.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Woodlands: Forest Plantations (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones)		
Forest plantations are not actively managed or maintained. · Inventory, map, mark, and identify forest plantations to identify historic limits, species, and planting dates. · Based on a forest management plan, evaluate plantations according to their historical and ecological significance. · Allow natural processes to advance without intervention, which will result in forest plantations being lost to natural succession.	***Forest plantations are actively managed to preserve their historic character.*** · Inventory, map, mark, and identify forest plantations to identify historic limits, species, and planting dates. · Based on a forest management plan, perpetuate species composition, size, and location through in-kind replacement; thin understory to reestablish historic appearance of plantation. · Establish nursery to perpetuate the historic lineage of the trees.	***Forest plantations are actively managed with treatments ranging from preserving historic character to demonstrating modern forestry practices.*** · Inventory, map, mark, and identify forest plantations to identify historic limits, species, and planting dates. · Based on a forest management plan, employ a range of treatments extending from perpetuating species composition, size, and location through in-kind replacement to using contemporary best practices, which can include planting species that were not used historically, planting on areas that were not historically forest plantations, harvesting of timber, and for research and demonstration purposes.
Woodlands: Natural Forests (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones)		
Natural woodlands are not actively managed. · Allow natural processes to advance unimpaired, except for reasons of visitor safety, to ensure access, or to control invasive species.	***Natural woodlands in areas of high visibility are actively managed to perpetuate their historic character (manicured, maintained, and productive forests) to the greatest extent possible.*** · Based on a forest management plan, treat natural woodlands in areas of high visibility (such as in corridors paralleling Roosevelt Farm Lane) to perpetuate their historic character as managed forests, for example, removing downed trees, broken and dead lower limbs, understory, and taking other actions that would have been carried out historically to promote health and vigor of the individual trees. · Based on an invasive species management plan, manage invasive plant species to preserve the historic character of the native woodlands.	***Natural woodlands are actively managed with treatments ranging from perpetuating historic character (manicured, maintained, and productive forests) in select demonstration areas to managing for ecological diversity and habitat values to the degree possible.*** · Based on a forest management plan, employ a range of treatments extending from perpetuating historic character as managed forests in discrete demonstration areas to managing for ecological diversity and habitat values. · Based on an invasive species management plan, manage invasive plant species to protect ecological diversity and habitat values, as well as the historic character in select locations.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Designed Landscapes and Gardens (Historic Core Zone)		
The designed landscapes and gardens are maintained as at present. · Based on cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans, preserve existing vegetation and features, or replace in-kind. · In the gardens, update the plant selections to approximate the historic palette based on cultural landscape treatment plans. · Continue to take action to preserve specimen trees, to replace them in-kind, and to remove hazardous trees on a case-by-case basis.	*The designed landscapes are restored to their historic appearance to the fullest extent possible, with missing garden features reconstructed.* · Based on cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans, return the designed landscapes to their appearance during their respective treatment dates to the greatest extent possible (HOFR c. 1941 with Top Cottage c. 1944; ELRO c. 1960; VAMA c. 1938). This would entail reconstructing and replacing missing gardens; garden ornaments and structures; small-scale features; recreational features; historic road and path surfaces, alignment and widths; and orchard and specimen trees, hedges, and foundation plantings. Involve partners in major restoration activities. This treatment would allow for the reconstruction of the FDR Home garden at HOFR and the reconstruction of the five greenhouses at VAMA. Partner involvement in the construction and ongoing maintenance of the greenhouses would be sought. · Remove non-historic elements as practicable, such as furnishings, light fixtures, and roadways and paths that did not exist during the periods of treatment. · (See "Park Headquarters" for treatment of Farrand Garden at Bellefield.)	*The existing designed landscapes are rehabilitated to reflect their historic appearance, with missing garden features indicated through new elements or interpretive media.* · Based on cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans, rehabilitate the designed landscapes to more closely reflect their respective treatment dates (HOFR c. 1941 with Top Cottage c. 1944; ELRO c. 1960; VAMA c. 1938). This would entail preserving character-defining features (i.e. structures, circulation, and layout); repairing garden features of the periods; upgrading plantings to be more consistent with historic periods but substituting modern varieties for hard-to-obtain plants or to address pest/maintenance issues; bringing path and roadway surfaces and alignments more in line with historic conditions; and indicating missing features through new physical elements of similar massing and scale or through interpretive media. Involve partners in major rehabilitation activities. This treatment would allow the establishment of a community garden on the site of the FDR Home Garden modeled on the Victory Gardens of WW II (if funding for development and ongoing maintenance can be assured). The community garden design would recall the character of the historic garden, but not be an accurate replica. At VAMA, it would allow the replacement of one or more of the greenhouses if needed for garden operation (and if funding for construction and ongoing maintenance can be assured). · (See "Park Headquarters" for treatment of Farrand Garden at Bellefield.)

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial (Historic Core Zone)		
Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden at Val-Kill remains the focus of a Memorial to ER and is preserved as at present. · Develop programs to support the purposes of the Memorial and inspire greater reflection on the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. · Seek volunteer and partner participation to support development and maintenance. · Retain the current design of the Cutting Garden.	***Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden at Val-Kill remains the focus of a Memorial to ER and is restored to its historic appearance to the fullest extent possible.*** · Develop programs to support the purposes of the Memorial and inspire greater reflection on the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. · Seek volunteer and partner participation to support development and maintenance. · Based on a cultural landscape treatment and maintenance preservation plan, restore the Cutting Garden and adjacent potting sheds to be as accurate a re-creation of historic conditions circa 1960 as possible.	***Eleanor Roosevelt's Cutting Garden at Val-Kill remains the focus of a Memorial to ER and is rehabilitated to reflect its historic appearance and enhance its identity as a place of contemplation.*** · Develop programs to support the purposes of the Memorial and inspire greater reflection on the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. · Seek volunteer and partner participation to support development and maintenance. · Based on a cultural landscape treatment and maintenance preservation plan, rehabilitate the Cutting Garden, including adjacent potting sheds, to have a character similar to the historic garden, but allow flexibility of detail to support programs that increase awareness of the memorial and enhance its identity as a place of contemplation.
Agricultural Lands (Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone)		
The farm fields are maintained as at present. · Continue current practice of mowing and/or haying existing open farm fields on an annual basis.	***The farm fields that existed during the periods of significance are restored to their historic dimensions.*** · Based on an agricultural lands management plan, restore historic field-forest pattern by removing woody successional growth from overgrown areas and reestablishing historic field dimensions. · Hay or mow fields to maintain them as open meadow, as they would have appeared historically when left fallow. Or, if feasible, plant select fields with crops, such as corn and wheat, which were grown historically.	***The former farm fields reflect their historic appearance, with agricultural use reinstated.*** · Based on an agricultural lands management plan, rehabilitate historic field-forest pattern by removing woody successional growth from some overgrown areas. · To maintain open fields, allow select areas to be put back into agricultural production through lease, cooperative agreement, or other appropriate mechanism. · Allow for flexibility in planting crops, pasturing animals, and employing contemporary farming practices.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Historic Roads & Trails (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones)		
Historic roads and trails are maintained as at present. · Continue to maintain roads and trails in their current appearance, with no attempt to remove non-historic surfaces or re-establish historic alignments of roads and trails.	***The historic appearance and location of the historic roads and trails is restored to the fullest extent possible.*** · Based on an historic resource study and treatment plan, remove non-historic surfaces on historic roads and trails and replace with historically accurate surfaces. · Reestablish historic grades and widths of historic roads and trails. · Reestablish missing historic roads and trails in accordance with their original appearance. · Explore the feasibility of extending vehicular access via Roosevelt Farm Lane from Val-Kill to Top Cottage utilizing portions of the historic farm route as feasible and minimizing use of public roadways. If the roadway is feasible, determine if land acquisition is necessary to support the route, and if an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required.	***The historic appearance and location of the historic roads and trails is rehabilitated based on programmatic and interpretive needs.*** · Based on an historic resource study and treatment plan, remove non-historic surfaces on key roads and trails and replace with alternate pavements that suggest the original earth/gravel surfaces but are easier to maintain. · Reestablish historic widths and alignments on key roads and trails to support interpretive purposes. · Indicate locations of missing roads and trails that connect with existing routes through physical means, such as by mowing corridors through fields, or by interpretive media.
The Red House (Lands Outside of NPS Ownership)		
The Red House is protected through Partnership efforts, without NPS acquisition. · Seek a partner to continue to protect the Red House and to continue its use for purposes compatible with its long-term preservation.		***The Red House is protected through NPS acquisition and Partnership efforts.*** · Acquire full-fee or less-than-fee interest in the Red House property; seek partner through lease or other mechanism to adaptively reuse structure for compatible use. · If no partner can be found, allow structure to be used for park purposes compatible with its long-term preservation until such time as an appropriate partner is identified.

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Period of Interpretation (Park-wide)

The period of interpretation for each park (or the period the park stories emphasize) is clearly defined and supports interpretive objectives.

- The period of interpretation for HOFR resources is from 1867 to 1945, the year of Roosevelt occupancy to the year of FDR's death (with 1962 addressed as the year of ER's death and burial in the Roosevelt family's rose garden).
- The period of interpretation for ELRO resources is from 1924 to 1962, the year when the decision was made to build Val-Kill to the year of ER's death.
- The period of interpretation for VAMA resources is from 1764 to 1938, the year of the Bard occupancy to the year of Frederick Vanderbilt's death.

Orientation (Park-wide)

Orientation materials for the three sites are updated and are widely distributed throughout the region. Information, ticketing, and reservations for the parks, as well as for regional attractions, are made widely available.

- Update printed and web-based orientation materials for all three sites to reflect existing conditions.
- Provide visitors traveling to the park with ready access to pre-arrival information through a variety of venues, including NPS and partner websites and printed materials available throughout the Hudson Valley.
- Continue to work with the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Partners (Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Scenic Hudson, Town of Hyde Park) to develop the Hudson Valley Welcome Center on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G and to provide a central point for tourists, visitors, and residents to get comprehensive information on the rich variety of visitor attractions and services available throughout the valley.
- Provide well-marked routes with good directional signage and onsite orientation information.

Arrival Experience (Park-wide)

Visitors have a sense of arriving at places of great importance and easily understand how to begin their park experience.

- At HOFR, minimize the visual impact of the Bellefield park support functions at the main entry by removing from public view machinery, equipment, maintenance vehicles, deer fencing, dumpsters, and other non-historic elements.
- At HOFR, as part of a development concept plan for the Bellefield property, identify and implement measures to correct the misconception that Bellefield Mansion is the Home of FDR and that it is the starting place for a visitor tour.
- At ELRO, upgrade and clarify signage to help visitors understand where to begin their visit.
- At VAMA, designate a more appropriate location for parking of staff vehicles and prohibit staff parking at the main entrance (see "Park Housing" below).

Visitor Offerings (Historic Core Zones)

Guided tours of the residential interiors offer a fuller presentation of key structures, with tour group size managed to support interpretive and resource management objectives.

- Re-evaluate the number of people allowed per tour in the main residences and cottages. Establish new upper limits on the number of people per tour if warranted to ensure the protection of resources and a high-quality visitor experience.
- At the FDR Home, increase public access to the kitchen, service areas, and FDR office; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors.
- At Top Cottage, continue interpretation through replacement (usable) furnished interiors and "seminar-style" guided tours and continue to restrict public access by shuttle, only.
- At Val-Kill Cottage, continue to allow public access as at present; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors.
- At Stone Cottage, open first floor to the public on a regularly scheduled basis; interpret through guided tours and self-guided permanent exhibits, not fully furnished interiors (to allow greatest flexibility in use of space); allow first floor to be used for special events on an occasional basis.

- At the Vanderbilt Mansion, increase public access to the basement, service areas, and upper floors; continue interpretation through guided tours of fully furnished interiors, but also explore the feasibility of developing new media for self-guided interpretation of Mansion.

Trails (Park-wide)

Trail accessibility for people with disabilities is improved.

- Provide information that enables people with disabilities to make informed trail decisions (i.e. trail grade, cross slope, width, surface firmness, and the presence of obstacles) via signage, park brochures, handouts and information sheets, and the internet.

ELEMENTS UNIQUE TO EACH ALTERNATIVE

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Orientation(Park-wide) ***Orientation materials and facilities continue to present the Roosevelt sites as separate entities.*** · Retain individual published and web-based orientation materials for HOFR and ELRO. · Continue to direct visitors via pre-arrival and orientation materials to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours of HOFR, to Val-Kill Cottage as the starting point for tours of ELRO, and to the Pavilion as the starting point for tours of VAMA, where tickets for tours can be purchased.	***Orientation materials and facilities emphasize the historic connections between the Roosevelt properties and present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single historic estate.*** · Develop uniform printed and web-based pre-arrival and orientation materials for HOFR and ELRO that introduce visitors to both sites and both historical figures. · Direct visitors via pre-arrival and orientation materials to the Wallace Center as the starting point for all tours of the Roosevelt sites, where tickets may be purchased. · Should future visitation warrant, evaluate the feasibility of reducing parking spaces or removing parking areas at ELRO, and limiting public access to shuttle, bicycles, and pedestrians.	***Orientation materials and facilities continue to present the Roosevelt sites as separate entities.*** · Retain individual published and web-based orientation materials for HOFR and ELRO. · Continue to direct visitors via pre-arrival and orientation materials to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours of HOFR, to Val-Kill Cottage as the starting point for tours of ELRO, and to the Pavilion as the starting point for tours of VAMA, where tickets for tours can be purchased.
Visitor Experience (Historic Core and Cultural Landscape Preservation Zones) ***The visitor experience continues to center on the primary residences.*** · Continue to offer guided tours of the primary residences. · Continue to offer the limited self-guided presentation at the HOFR Stables and Garage.	***The visitor experience is improved by increasing interpretation of important estate outbuildings and the broader landscape to present a more complete depiction of the history and use of the estates and their historic occupants.*** · Provide regularly scheduled ranger-led and self-guided tours of the landscape to better explain how the estates were used. · Develop media—both traditional and emerging technologies—to provide interpretation and improve wayfinding among the sites.	***The visitor experience is improved by offering a wider array of experiences to appeal to a broader range of audiences and to enhance understanding of the contemporary relevance of park themes.*** · With partners, provide cultural landscape tours, new special events, ongoing demonstrations (e.g. forestry, farming, or gardening), and recreation-based interpretation. · Develop media to enhance self-guided interpretation of the landscape and outbuilding exteriors.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
	· Indicate through media or physical means, the boundaries of the properties acquired by FDR and FWV. · Enhance public access to estate support buildings through updated wayfinding materials. · Offer guided and self-guided tours of the interiors of key estate outbuildings.	· Indicate through media or physical means the boundaries of the properties acquired by FDR and FWV. · With partners, establish a program of changing exhibits in dedicated spaces such as the HOFR Stables, Top Cottage bedroom wing, ELRO Stable-Garage, and VAMA Coach House and Pavilion to explore park themes from varying perspectives. Design programs to involve populations who currently do not visit the parks. Build lecture series and other public discussion forums. · Increase focus on "cyber visitors;" enhance content and availability of web-based materials.

Use of Vanderbilt Coach House (Historic Core Zone)

The Vanderbilt Coach House is preserved and opened to the public on a limited basis. · At VAMA, once maintenance function is removed from Coach House, open interiors for an occasional tour.	***The Vanderbilt Coach House is restored and presented as furnished interior that reflects a defined treatment date.*** · At VAMA, once maintenance function is removed from Coach House, furnish to more fully portray the functioning of Vanderbilt Estate, including the farm, rural workforce, and evolving technology employed to support its operation; provide dedicated teaching and administrative space, as needed; retain historic vehicles for public display.	***The Vanderbilt Coach House is rehabilitated and adaptively re-used for a thematically related public function.*** · At VAMA, once maintenance function is removed from Coach House, seek a partner to adaptively re-use interiors via lease or other mechanism for a thematically related activity with a public component (e.g. garden center, inn, other hospitality function). Requirements of such use include: preservation of the historic structure and its setting; and provision of space for visitor services and display of historic vehicles. (Should no private partner be identified in the near-term, NPS would still relocate the maintenance function to a new facility and open the Coach House in its current condition for tours, while working to establish the partnership.)

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
Educational Programming (Park-wide)		
Educational programming continues at current levels. · Continue to coordinate with the Presidential Library on educational programming. · Continue to manage "Teaching the Hudson Valley" on behalf of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. · Based on an education plan, continue to operate educational programming commensurate with existing resources.	***Children's educational programming is expanded and upgraded.*** · Continue to coordinate with the Presidential Library on educational programming. · Based on an education plan, work with educators and others, as appropriate, to develop high-quality, interactive, curriculum-based programs that serve children at all sites. · Work with educators and others to develop new types of children's programming, such as after-school sessions and day camps. · Continue to manage "Teaching the Hudson Valley" on behalf of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. · Augment the space available in the Wallace Center with dedicated teaching space for hands-on children's programs in such locations as the HOFR Garage, ELRO Stable-Garage, and if needed, the VAMA Coach House.	***Educational programming is expanded, upgraded, and serves a wide age distribution.*** · Continue to coordinate with the Presidential Library on educational programming. · Based on an education plan, expand existing and establish new partnerships to institute a place-based learning center that delivers high-quality educational programs to serve lifelong learners, from children to seniors, for all three sites. Programming could include after-school sessions and day camps; college internships; senior programs; and teacher resources. · Incorporate "Teaching the Hudson Valley" into the learning center program. · Augment the space available in the Wallace Center with dedicated teaching space for the learning center in such locations as the Bellefield outbuildings, and if needed, the VAMA Coach House.
Recreational Uses (Park-wide)		
Recreational use of the trails is allowed as at present. · Map all roads and trails. · Continue to allow hiking on park trails and biking on Roosevelt Farm Lane and paved roadways. · Continue to offer a trail map to visitors at the Wallace Center upon request. · Add no new segments or additions to the trail system.	***Recreational use of the trails is encouraged in coordination with interpretive programming.*** · Map all roads and trails and incorporate trail information into park brochures and other standard orientation materials. · Continue to allow hiking on park trails and biking on Roosevelt Farm Lane and paved roadways. · Encourage visitors to use the trails to explore more of the estate outbuildings and the broader landscape. · Manage trail use to ensure the long-term protection of natural and cultural resources. · Based on an historic resource study, reestablish original grades and widths of historic trails, and re-establish missing historic trails as possible.	***Recreational use of the trails is actively promoted as a way to experience and learn about the parks' resources and themes.*** · Map all roads and trails and incorporate trail information into park brochures and other standard orientation materials. · Based on an historic resource study, rehabilitate the historic trail system and add new non-historic trail segments to support visitor access. · Based on a multi-use trail master plan (and historic resource study) designate specific shared-use trails. · Eliminate currently authorized trails and unauthorized trails that cannot be properly maintained or that contribute to resource damage, even if they are historic.

ELEMENTS UNIQUE TO EACH ALTERNATIVE

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO (PREFERRED)
	· Add no new segments to the trail system.	· With partner support, develop recreation-based programs, events, and tours (i.e. extended nature hikes, bicycle-based tours, cross-country skiing, picnicking-at-the-park programs, running events, and snow-shoe tours) that are tied to interpretation. · Manage trail uses to ensure the long-term protection of natural and cultural resources. · Promote Top Cottage more strongly to hikers as a destination that offers a sense of retreat.

River Connections (Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone)

Connections to the Hudson River remain as at present. · Continue land-based access to Bard Rock and visual connections from HOFR and VAMA as at present.	***Visual connections to the Hudson River are restored.*** · Continue land-based access to Bard Rock and improve the historic visual connections to the river at HOFR and VAMA by recreating the expansive views that existed during the periods of significance.	***Connections to the Hudson River and water-borne park access are increased.*** · In collaboration with partners, create a focal point at Roosevelt Cove to interpret the historic connections to the Hudson River estuary. · In collaboration with partners, designate Bard Rock as an undeveloped "day use" site on the Hudson River Water Trail to promote river-related access and interpretation. · Help promote special events undertaken by partner organizations that highlight the Hudson River and water-related activities.

Insuring Organizational Effectivenes

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Facilities (Park Support Zone)

New facilities enhance operational efficiency.

- Relocate the maintenance facilities from historic structures (Vanderbilt Coach House and Bellefield Outbuildings) to a new consolidated maintenance facility sited in a location that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets the following criteria: provides adequate space for a building and associated maintenance yards and vehicle parking; is easily accessible by road and allows for heavy truck use; is free of wetlands, floodplain, threatened and endangered species, and prime agricultural soils; has relatively gentle topography; and can be visually and aurally screened from neighbors.
- Should such a site not exist within the park boundary, a new location for the development of the maintenance facility will be sought. If land selected for the facility is outside of the park boundary, an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required, depending upon the size and location of the property.

Energy Efficiency (Park-wide)

The parks reduce utility costs and their carbon footprint through conserving energy, increasing efficiency, relying more heavily on green sources of energy, and increasing use of alternative fuels.

- Conduct an energy audit and implement its recommendations.
- Evaluate the feasibility of using alternative sources of energy to power park support buildings as well as historic buildings.
- Develop the new maintenance facility and any other new facilities according to "green principles" to the extent possible.
- Replace inefficient systems and equipment with higher-efficiency systems and equipment.
- Conduct an evaluation of fuels to determine whether park vehicles can use alternative sources.
- Participate in NPS and other programs addressing climate change.

Alternative Transit System (Park-wide)

A sustainable transit (shuttle and tram) system offers an attractive alternative to automobile use, encourages multi-site visitation, and increases mobility for people with ambulatory difficulties. Traffic-calming measures provide greater safety for park visitors traversing access routes.

- Conduct a multi-year field demonstration to determine optimum service characteristics of a shuttle system.
- Based on the field demonstration, acquire vehicles as warranted to reduce the cost of the services contract with the operator.
- Monitor visitor satisfaction with the service and modify as necessary to support changing visitor use patterns.
- Support the shuttle by a set-aside in tour fees, and if necessary, by an additional on-board fare and by intermittently increased fees.
- Provide facilities as necessary, such as shuttle stops and/or shelters and maps and other information to support public use of the service.
- Work with the New York State Department of Transportation, the Town of Hyde Park, and other partners to provide safe pedestrian, bicycle, and shuttle crossings at Route 9 and Route 9G and implement traffic-calming measures.
- With partner support, expand the system to serve regional destinations.

Park Housing (Park-wide)

Seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars and researchers have access to affordable, clean, and well-maintained housing.

- Provide suitable housing through arrangements with local property owners or through provision of on-site housing. Per the NPS Northeast Region Housing Needs Certification Plan approved in 1998, continue to provide housing in the Stone House and Duplex at HOFR; and Gardeners Cottage, and Upper and Lower Gatehouses at VAMA.
- Develop and implement guidelines for the use of park housing and take measures as needed to ensure that cars, equipment, and other personal effects stored outdoors do not intrude on the historic scene. Provide alternate arrangements for staff parking for the VAMA upper Gatehouse.

Partnership Efforts (Park-wide)

Existing partnerships are continued and communication between the park and partners is improved.

- Continue to work closely with and support the efforts of existing partners.
- Update existing agreements and establish new agreements with partners as necessary.
- Distribute to partners an annotated index that includes contact information and roles and functions of park staff.
- Host periodic "meet and greets" with partners and park staff as well as occasional presentations of park staff work.
- Provide appropriate NPS training and technical assistance to help volunteers and partners better carry out their roles.
- Develop collaborations among partners as a way to build resources with which to strengthen each partner's capacity.

Boundary Adjustments

The parks' boundaries, or area of NPS acquisition authority, are sufficient to protect fundamental resources and values and adequately provide for visitor services and park operations.

- Relocate the maintenance facilities to a site that has minimum impact on prime visitor and resource areas and meets identified criteria (see above). If land selected for the facility is outside of the parks boundaries or area of NPS acquisition authority, an administrative or legislative boundary change would be required, depending upon the size and location of the property.

ELEMENTS UNIQUE TO EACH ALTERNATIVE

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO

Park Headquarters (Park Support Zone)

The Bellefield property functions efficiently as park headquarters.

- Plan, design, and implement modifications to the Bellefield property to make more efficient use of its space for administrative functions, to improve the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems, to expand and screen Bellefield parking, to enhance pedestrian connections between the Wallace Center and the Farrand Garden, and to accommodate new functions in the Bellefield outbuildings.
- Repair Bellefield outbuildings and use them for limited park administrative functions and storage.

The Bellefield property functions efficiently as park headquarters and is made more available for partner and public use.

- Plan, design, and implement modifications to the Bellefield property to make more efficient use of its space for administrative functions, to improve the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems, to expand and screen Bellefield parking, to enhance pedestrian connections between the Wallace Center and the Farrand Garden, and to accommodate new functions in the Bellefield outbuildings.
- Adaptively reuse the Bellefield outbuildings to support the place-based learning center operated by others and for administrative space, as needed.
- Allow partners to use select spaces in the Bellefield Mansion and grounds for targeted fund-raising events, so long as park operations are not disrupted and the events support the purposes of the parks.
- Promote the Farrand Garden more fully as a public destination.
- Rehabilitate the "wild garden" portion of the Farrand Garden to improve the pedestrian connections between Bellefield and the Wallace Center, if funds for its development and ongoing maintenance can be assured.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO
Funding (Park-wide)		
Park funding continues as at present. · Continue to rely on base budget plus entrance fee, special-use fees, and program funding. · Seek increased authorities for visitor and special-use fees periodically to help defray repair and other project costs. · Continue partner support for special projects as at present.	***Park funding continues as at present, but increased partner participation in maintenance and interpretation helps offset other costs.*** · Continue to rely on base budget plus entrance fee, special-use fees, and program funding. · Seek increased authorities for visitor and special-use fees periodically to help defray repair and other project costs. · Seek increased partner and volunteer participation to help offset maintenance costs and to help present interpretive and educational programs.	***New and augmented sources of revenue are actively sought to help support operations, maintenance, collections care, and provision of visitor services. Revenue-generating ventures that are within NPS authority and do not interfere with or adversely impact park operations, administration, or preservation are evaluated and implemented.*** · Continue to rely on base budget plus entrance fee, special-use fees, and program funding. · Seek increased authorities for visitor and special-use fees periodically to help defray repair and other project costs. · Seek increased authorities for special program fees and/or arrangements with partners to conduct special programs for a fee (e.g. "After Hours" evening tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion). · Allow select areas of Bellefield (e.g. Morgan Room, terrace, Farrand Garden) and VAMA (e.g. Pavilion, grounds, gardens) and Top Cottage (limited to small groups and to shuttle access) to be used for targeted fund-raising opportunities with partners that are advancing park purposes. · Based on a feasibility study, lease historic structures that are deemed not essential solely for interpretation to help support their preservation. · Develop a park-wide "branding" system and value-added branded products with partners to strengthen the identity of the parks and to generate revenue to support park activities. · Develop a licensing program for product lines to generate a dedicated revenue source to support park activities.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO
Staffing (Park-wide)		
Vacant positions are filled to achieve basic preservation and maintenance activities and visitor services. · Fill positions (as outlined in the existing target organization based on the Northeast Region Position Management Review Board recommendations of 2006) in the areas of administration, maintenance, interpretation, natural resources, and museum services.	***The number of park staff, augmented by partnership and volunteer support, is sufficient to achieve the objectives outlined in this alternative.*** · Seek increases in staff devoted to volunteer coordination, education, maintenance, interpretation, museum services, and visitor protection. · Augment NPS staff with volunteer docents.	***The number of park staff, augmented by extensive partnership and volunteer resources, is sufficient to achieve the objectives outlined in this alternative.*** · Seek increases in staff devoted to partnership coordination, maintenance, museum services, and visitor protection. · Park staff members in certain positions, such as in educational programming and interpretation, function as facilitators and coordinators of partner and volunteer efforts more than in the other alternatives. · Augment staff with extensive partner and volunteer efforts. · Work with partners to endow critical positions.
Marketing and Promotion (Park-wide)		
Key partners continue to assist with marketing and promotion. · Continue to seek funding and collaborate on marketing and other activities through HistoricHydePark.org with the FDR Library, ERVK, FERI, and through other efforts.	***Marketing efforts are enhanced in partnership with others.*** · Continue to seek funding and collaborate on marketing and other activities through HistoricHydePark.org with the FDR Library, ERVK, FERI, and through other efforts. · Focus marketing efforts on increasing access to the sites in collaboration with partners and improving way-finding to and among the sites.	***Marketing and promotion are considered ongoing park operational activities.*** · Continue to seek funding and collaborate on marketing and other activities through HistoricHydePark.org with the FDR Library, ERVK, FERI, and through other efforts. · Seek sources of funding and new partners to promote the parks to a more diverse audience.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO
Partnership Efforts (Park-wide)		
Existing partnerships and volunteer programs are maintained and continue at existing levels. · Continue to work with primary partners to carry out programs and activities as at present.	***Partnerships with primary partners are enhanced to develop new interpretive opportunities and assist with resource management.*** · Work with partners and volunteers to provide increased assistance with management and maintenance of cultural landscapes. · Work with partners and volunteers to provide increased assistance with tours and educational programs.	***Partnerships are expanded to develop new interpretive opportunities (including learning center), conduct resource management, and generate revenues. A new partner umbrella group facilitates coordination and enhances capacity of the partner organizations.*** · Work with partners to expand revenue generation to support park operations, maintenance, and programs. · Work with partners to develop and deliver interpretive tours, demonstration programs, special events, and recreation-based interpretive activities, and institute the learning center. · Work with partners and volunteers to increase assistance with maintenance of cultural landscape and historic structures, through lease or other mechanisms. · Work with partners to explore diverse aspects and enduring relevance of site themes through lecture series, conferences, seminars, changing exhibits, and other forums.

Cost Estimates for the Alternatives

The GMP provides a framework for coordinating and integrating subsequent planning and management decisions affecting Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS. When funds become available to begin designing facilities or undertaking individual actions consistent with the GMP, site-specific planning, research, and environmental analysis will take place. Specific actions will be subject to federal and state consultation requirements, and the public will be involved throughout the process. The draft and final environmental impact statements accompanying the general management plans are essentially programmatic statements that present an overview of potential impacts. Later plans that derive from the GMP would be subject to a more detailed review of environmental impacts.

The presentation of costs within the GMP is applied to the types and general intensities of development in a comparative format. The costs are presented as estimates that allow for flexibility in application of components and are not appropriate for budgeting purposes.

The costs presented have been developed using industry standards to the extent available. Actual costs will be determined at a later date, considering the design of facilities, identification of detailed resource protection needs, and changing visitor expectations. The cost estimates presented represent the total costs of projects. Potential cost-sharing opportunities with partners would reduce the overall costs.

Approval of the GMP does not guarantee that funding or staffing for proposed actions will be available. Implementation of the plan will depend on the availability of funds. Full implementation of the general management plan may occur many years in the future. All NPS construction and staffing proposals are contingent on NPS funding limitations and have to compete for funds through the NPS priority-setting process.

Table 2–2: Comparison of Cost Estimates for the Alternatives

	NO-ACTION	ACTION ONE	ACTION TWO (PREFERRED)
Annual Operating Costs (ONPS)[1]	**$6,277,300**	**$7,661,900**	**$6,638,700**
Amount Over No-Action		$1,384,600	$361,400
Staffing - FTE[2]	**80.5 FTE**	**98.5 FTE**	**85 FTE**
Amount Over No-Action		18	4.5
Total One-Time Costs	**$3,600,000**	**$26,400,000**	**$20,900,000**
Facility Costs[3]	**$3,500,000**	**$13,600,000**	**$8,600,000**
Non-Facility Costs[4]	**$100,000**	**$12,800,000**	**$12,300,000**
Other Costs			
Regional Center (Hudson Valley Welcome Center)		**$13,100,000**	[ALL ALTERNATIVES]

1 Annual operating costs are the total annual costs for park operations associated with each alternative, including: maintenance, utilities, staff salaries and benefits, supplies, and other materials. Cost estimates assume that the alternative is fully implemented as described in the narrative.

2 The total FTE is the number of person-years required to maintain the assets of the parks at a good level, provide acceptable visitor services, protect resources, and generally support the parks' operations. The FTE number indicates the ONPS-funded staff only, not volunteer positions or positions funded by partners. FTE salaries and benefits are included in the annual operating costs.

3 One-time facility costs include design, construction, rehabilitation, or adaptive re-use of visitor centers, roads, parking areas, administrative facilities, comfort stations, educational facilities, maintenance facilities, museum service facilities, and other visitor facilities.

4 One-time non-facility costs include actions not related to facilities, such as the treatment of cultural or natural resources, the development of exhibits or visitor materials, and other park activities that would require substantial funding above annual operating costs. Examples of non-facility costs include forest management and treatment of designed landscapes.

The Environmentally and Agency Preferred Alternative

After evaluating the potential impacts of the alternatives on cultural and natural resources, the visitor experience, park operations, and the socioeconomic environment, the NPS has determined that Action Alternative Two is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. As Action Alternative Two conveys the greatest number of beneficial results in comparison with the other alternatives, it is also the NPS Preferred Alternative. The following discussion explains why Action Alternative Two is both the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and the NPS Preferred Alternative.

The Environmentally Preferred Alternative is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as "the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 101(b)." Generally, the Environmentally Preferred Alternative

is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and that best protects, preserves, and enhances cultural and natural resources. Section 101(b) defines the following six criteria for an Environmentally Preferred Alternative:

1. Fulfills the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.
2. Assures for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.
3. Attains the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
4. Preserves important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintains, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.
5. Achieves a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.
6. Enhances the quality of renewable resources and approaches the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Since the six criteria overlap to a considerable degree, so that the potential impacts of the alternatives under consideration are similar or interconnected, they are addressed in a unified statement. In addition, Criteria 5 and 6 are not substantially engaged by the actions proposed under any of the alternatives.

The goal of the NPS is to serve as a trustee for the environment for future generations. This fundamental requirement to preserve significant resources is contained in the agency's 1916 Organic Act. The No-Action Alternative would seek to maintain resources at a basic level and thereby fulfill the NPS obligation to preserve the resources with which it has been entrusted. However, the experience of the last several decades, characterized by appropriations that have decreased in relative value combined with numerous increased demands on the park staff, have resulted in a growing maintenance backlog and an observable deterioration in some primary resources. Filling vacancies in critical staff positions, as outlined in the No-Action Alternative, would provide some needed assistance in addressing the backlog, but would not be sufficient to remedy the diminished resource condition and provide a satisfactory visitor experience.

Action Alternative One, which proposes an expansion in staff and a larger role for volunteers, would enable the park to better fulfill its responsibilities as trustee of cultural and natural resources. Action Alternative Two would have a more pronounced beneficial impact, because it proposes greater reliance on partnerships and new sources of revenue, which would free park employees and funding to focus on management to a greater degree than Action Alternative One. As the experience of the last several decades indicates, reliance on a high level of sustained government support over the long term for operations and services, as is the case with Action Alternative One, even augmented with strong volunteer support, may not be as sustainable a management approach as it

once was; whereas the integration of partners in many levels of operations and services, as is the case with Action Alternative Two, facilitates better resource preservation and stewardship over the long term.

All three alternatives seek to maintain the primary historic structures and collections in good condition and to present the historic homes as fully furnished interiors that reflect their period of significance. Differences in treatment among the alternatives are evident primarily in the cultural landscape. In continuing current management practices, the No-Action Alternative would continue to permit field encroachment, naturalization of forest plantations, obstruction of views, and other types of unfavorable cultural landscape conditions. Action Alternative One, which seeks to present a more literal re-creation of the historic scene, seems at first to offer the best prospects for preserving cultural resources. Its ultimate practicability remains debatable, however, as it cannot be assured that the NPS will be able to muster the resources needed to essentially freeze the parks at a fixed stage of development and maintain them in that state indefinitely. Action Alternative Two, by allowing greater flexibility, will actually provide better prospects of perpetuating the character-defining aspects of the parks' cultural resources and making them meaningful to the public. In relying more on re-establishing historic land uses, as opposed to strictly re-establishing historic appearance, it presents an approach to landscape management that is more practical, cost-effective, and sustainable over the long term, and thus more likely to succeed in preserving resources.

By encouraging flexibility of treatment and more diverse and imaginative interpretation, Action Alternative Two has the greatest likelihood of achieving healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings. This alternative, by improving the presentation of cultural resources, offers the best possibility of halting or even reversing the long-term decline in visitation at the Roosevelt sites. Making the parks more lively places and interpreting them in ways that demonstrate their relevance to contemporary concerns should increase the qualitative benefits of the parks, as well as stimulating greater and more varied use by the American public. Similarly, the greater scope of education under Action Alternative Two may more effectively renew interest in the parks and motivate new park stewards.

With respect to natural resources, the No-Action Alternative would convey certain minor benefits, as continued lack of management would allow some greater diversity of habitats and species. This limited improvement would be greatly outweighed by the overall lack of interpretive attention to these resources, and resulting lack of visitor understanding of their importance. Action Alternative One, by increasing certain uses and managing forest plantations, natural woodlands, and agricultural fields as more of a monoculture, reduces diversity and habitat value in some areas. These impacts would be balanced by the aspects of the alternative that would yield improved interpretation and visitor understanding. Under Action Alternative Two, the minor negative impacts would be further decreased by greater flexibility and the use of contemporary farming and forestry practices, which tend to better support natural resource values. In addition, natural resources would benefit from the various measures to intro-

duce new stewards and find new sources of support for the preservation effort.

Action Alternative Two supports greater recreational use of the trails (compatible with the resources that make them nationally significant), and thus provides a wider range of choice for public enjoyment of the parks. The expanded trail use envisioned under Action Alternative Two, and to a lesser extent under Action Alternative One, may actually generate a collateral benefit toward wildlife, vegetation, and soils, as a greater public and staff presence would tend to curtail illegal all-terrain-vehicle use in outlying areas. The No-Action Alternative would do little to reduce such continuing resource damage.

With its stress on stimulating interest in the parks, which should translate into more stabilized visitation, Action Alternative Two is expected to have a modest, but greater beneficial socioeconomic impact than the other alternatives. At the same time, its emphasis on partnerships and innovative programs should increase community involvement in the parks, which will support both preservation and a compatible diversity of uses. Moreover, it is consistent with the Roosevelts' ideals of active participation in government and civic life.

Ideas Considered but Not Advanced for Further Analysis

During the course of planning, the team considered several other proposals that, after consideration, proved to be unfeasible or undesirable. The following section summarizes these proposals and the reasons they were eliminated.

Creating a combined Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historical Park

This idea was proposed because it might have reduced administrative redundancies. However, the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt parks are not closely related thematically. Even if the parks were combined legislatively, thematic differences would require separate treatments. In daily operation, funding can be moved between sites, and the staff can share management responsibilities without the parks being combined.

Merging the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites

This could reduce administrative redundancies and reinforce the historic connections between the sites, which shared the same ownership in FDR's lifetime. As with the preceding proposal, the administrative savings would probably be negligible. In fact, a merger would have a negative impact on the parks' ability to compete for funding, and the legislative process to permit a merger could have unforeseen consequences. Plus, the parks differ in their periods of significance and interpretation. In practice, historic connections between the sites can be brought out through interpretive media.

Acquiring the Hyde Park Mall, removing the mall structures and parking lot, and reclaiming the land as a part of the Roosevelt Family Estate

This acquisition would restore a large portion of the historic James R. Roosevelt property and protect the historic scene of the Home and Library, thus greatly enhancing the park's setting. It is considered unfeasible because property acquisition, tenant relocation, and land reclamation would make the expense

enormous. There would be a substantial loss of tax revenue to the Town of Hyde Park.

Acquiring the remaining resources related to the Vanderbilt Farm, upgrading their historic appearance, and opening them to the public for interpretation

This would provide maximum protection to the resources and enable fuller interpretation of the Vanderbilt estate. After study, the idea was not advanced because the integrity of the farm has been lost, the interiors of structures have been modified, the cost of property acquisition and tenant relocation would be too great, and opening and interpreting the structures to the public on a regular basis would be logistically difficult.

Relocating management and administrative offices from Bellefield

If the offices were relocated, the park could lease the structure and decrease its maintenance responsibilities. While this could be a benefit, the proposal is impractical. The development of the Wallace Center requires park managers to be in proximity to the Library within the administrative "campus" at the Home of FDR. No other facility within the Home of FDR NHS is of sufficient size, and the acquisition of a new facility is neither feasible nor desirable. Relocation to the Vanderbilt Coach House would provide sufficient space to consolidate the staff, but the location is too remote from the core of activity around the Wallace Center.

Rebuilding the Bard Rock Boathouse

This proposal would have interpretive benefits in conveying the importance of the river to the Vanderbilts and creating a focal point that would serve as a landmark along the Hudson. While somewhat appealing, these interpretive benefits are of very low priority compared to more pressing needs. The operational requirements of maintaining, staffing, and protecting the boat house would be prohibitive. NPS policy discourages such reconstruction unless there is some overwhelming necessity. In addition, there was concern that a rise in the river level due to climate change could threaten the long-term survival of the structure.

Building a new structure at Bard Rock

This proposal would have provided a structure within which to house new facilities for car-top boat users, such as lockers and kayak racks. It also would create a focal point that would serve as a landmark along the Hudson. It was determined that, although desirable, the facility would not be essential for car-top boat use. The operational requirements of maintaining, staffing, and protecting the facility would be prohibitive. In addition, there was concern that a rise in the river level due to climate change could threaten the long-term survival of the structure.




3

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Part Three: Affected Environment

Overview

This section describes existing conditions in the parks and their environs to form a basis for comparison of the environmental effects that would result from the implementation of the alternatives presented in this draft plan. It is organized by cultural and natural resource "impact topics." These topics are included because they could be affected by the proposals outlined in the alternatives. In selecting the impact topics, the planning team considered legislative requirements, information presented in the "Foundation for Planning" (Part One), and public input. The potential effects of the alternatives on these impact topics are described in Part Four: "Environmental Consequences."

Cultural Resources

Cultural Landscapes

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site preserves a significant portion of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate, including the main house (FDR Home), gardens, gravesite of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, river view, woodlands, forest plantations, former farm lands, and Top Cottage and its views. The property also encompasses portions of the adjoining estate of J. R. Roosevelt, FDR's half-brother. In addition, the park includes land at Bellefield and Crum Elbow Point that was not historically owned by the Roosevelt family.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum occupies a 16-acre parcel between the FDR Home and Bellefield that was historically part of the Roosevelt Family Estate but has been under separate federal ownership by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) since FDR donated land for the Library in 1939. NARA also owns the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the rear of Bellefield. Upon completion of the Wallace Center in 2003, the public vehicular entrance to the park was moved to a new road along the northern boundary of the Bellefield property. Visitor parking for all of the NPS and NARA facilities is provided in a new lot on NPS land adjoining the Wallace Center.

Landscape Surrounding the FDR Home

The area to the front of the Home presents a rural scene along the busy Post Road (Route 9) that contrasts with the commercial and residential development on the opposite side of the road. The road frontage is lined by a rubble stone wall



Map 3-1: FDR Home and Grounds

Legend

- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Hyde Park Trail
- Other Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields

and a tall screen of white pines set out by FDR in 1914. The original entrance, known as the Home Road, is a straight, tree-lined road marked by brownstone entry piers with iron gates relocated from Mount Hope, the Roosevelt family's previous residence in Hyde Park. With the opening of the Library in 1941, a new public entrance drive was created along the north edge of the property, marked by a stone gatehouse. Both drives, now closed to the public, pass through the North and South Avenue Lots, which the Roosevelts maintained as agricultural fields. At the west end of the fields, the Home Road turns south to the FDR Home, situated along the edge of the terrace overlooking lowlands that extend to the Hudson River. The house faces east toward the Post Road, across a shaded lawn. From the southwest end of the house, FDR enjoyed a panoramic view down the Hudson Valley, with the river, Shawangunk Ridge, and the Poughkeepsie bridges in the distance. This view has been obscured in recent years through forest growth.

To the north of the house are the formal gardens, which were redesigned in 1912 and include a hemlock hedge-lined perimeter, two garden rooms, rose and annual beds, the gravesite of FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt, and a greenhouse built in 1906. West of the formal gardens, along the edge of the terrace, are several outbuildings, the largest of which is the Stable. North of the formal garden is the land FDR knew as the Home Garden, which contained large and small vegetable gardens and a tree nursery. Much of this area was used for the visitor parking lot, which was built by the NPS in 1948 and largely removed as part of the Wallace Center project.

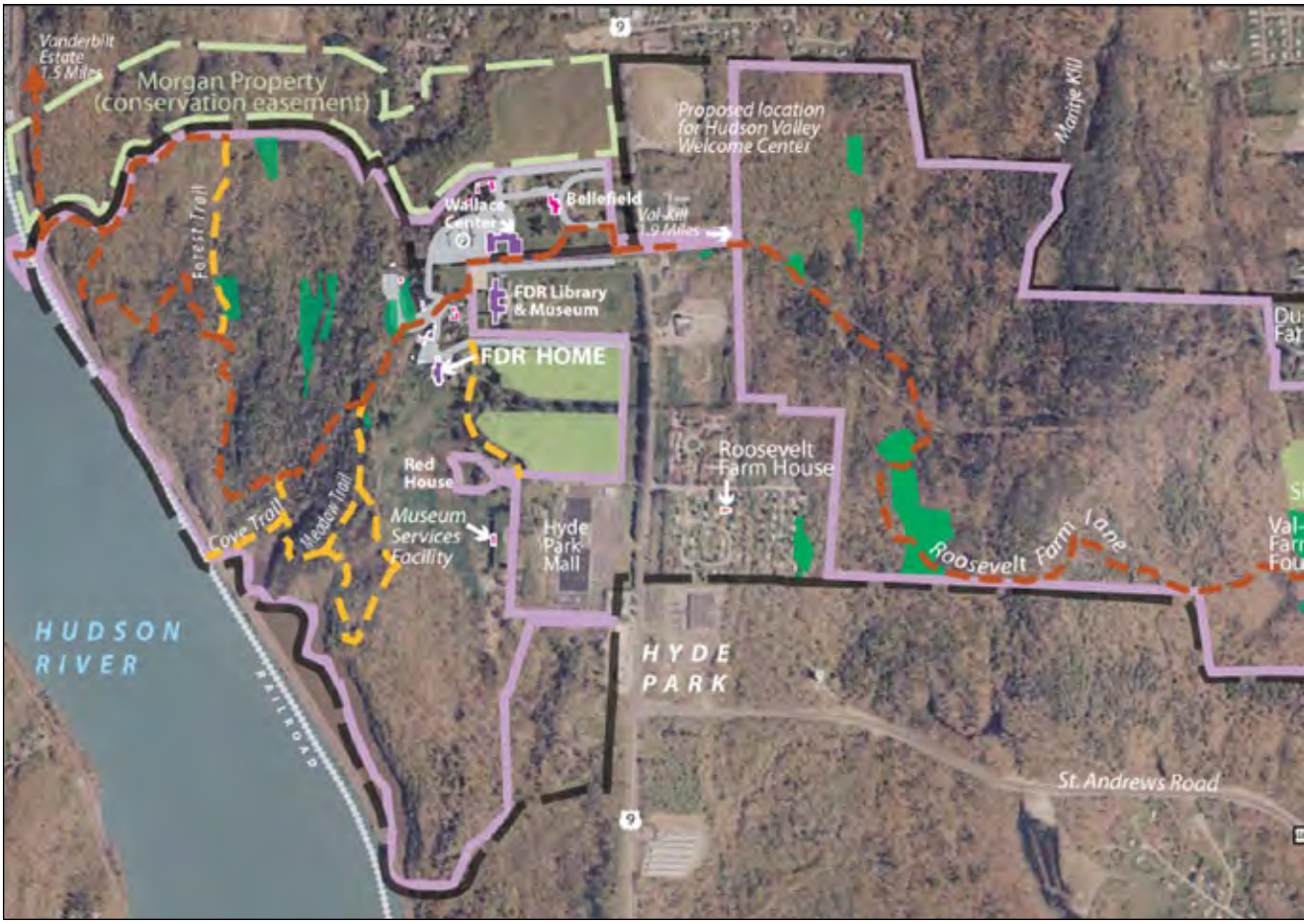
On the lowlands west of the main house are woods that are accessed by the River Road, which crosses the lower part of the J. R. Roosevelt Place to reach the riverfront. This road now forms part of the Hyde Park Trail. With its native oak woods, river frontage, and varied topography, these lower woods were traditionally used by the family as a pleasure ground. There were bridle paths, a swimming pond in the creek that runs through the area, and a network of roads built through the woods by FDR. He also established his first forest plantations on several small old fields and gravel pits here, beginning in 1912. Remnants of these plantations of white and red pine remain along the creek, along with several others set out through the 1910s. Although carefully managed during FDR's day, the NPS largely ceased management after 1945 and allowed the plantations to naturalize.

North of the lower woods is the 53-acre Rogers Land, which FDR purchased in 1935. It contains a white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1936. The northern boundary of this land is formed by Stone Cottage Road, which extends west across a steel truss bridge over the railroad to Crum Elbow Point. FDR had a right-of-way over this road from the Post Road to the river, but a public right-of-way is not currently recognized over the eastern half of the road.

J. R. Roosevelt Place Landscape

The NPS owns approximately one-half of the J. R. Roosevelt Place as it existed at the time of FDR's death. The lower portion of the property along River Road and in the viewshed of the FDR Home contains roads and trails used by the

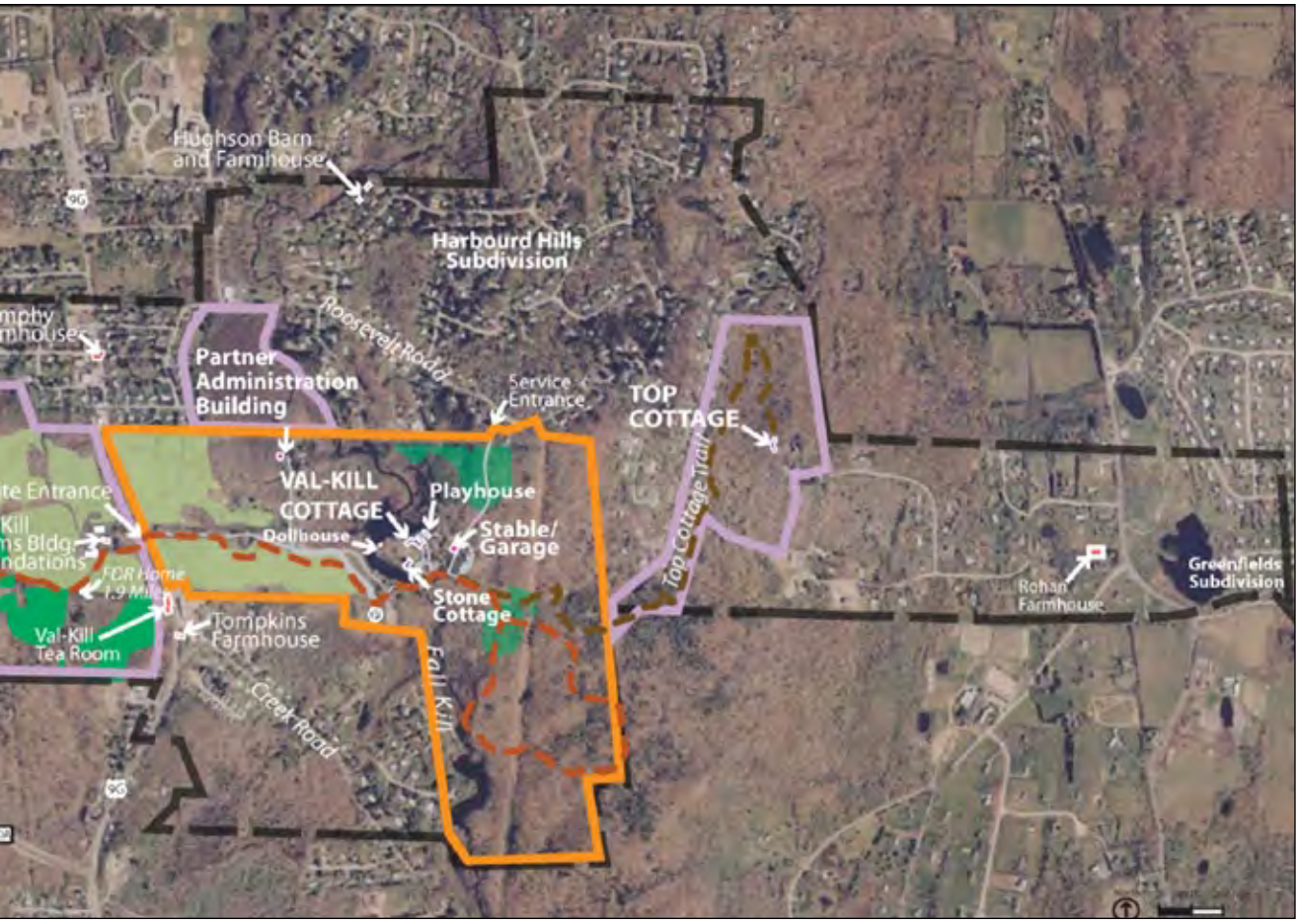
public. The J. R. Roosevelt Place layout is largely a mirror-image of the Home property. The straight, tree-lined main entrance drive from the Post Road, today a public road, historically passed through open fields, the southern one occupied by the Hyde Park Mall, and the northern one owned by the NPS. At the terminus of the drive is the Red House, owned by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI). To the south of the Red House on the river terrace were formal gardens, now the site of the park museum services facility, screened by the gardens' hemlock hedge. Beyond the gardens was a tree-lined trotting course. Although the outbuildings originally stood alongside (north of) the house, the Roosevelt family later moved them to a location off the south side of the main entrance drive. Half of this complex was demolished for the Hyde Park Mall, leaving two former staff residences that survive under private ownership.



Map 3–2: Historic Roosevelt Family Estate

Legend

- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate Boundary (NPS acquisition boundary)
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Outlying Historic Bldgs
- Top Cottage Trail
- Hyde Park Trail
- Other Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields



Lands between Route 9 and Route 9G

The land between Route 9 and Route 9G, acquired by the NPS in 2007 and comprising 334 acres, includes the "Home Farm" (established by James Roosevelt) and the western portions of farms acquired by FDR in 1911, 1925, and 1937. Aside from old-field succession on the fields that lined Route 9G and the loss of one farmhouse and barns, this parcel retains much of the character that FDR knew. Notable historic features include the native oak forest, managed by FDR for timber production; numerous conifer plantations, including several early examples FDR set out in the 1910s and 1920s; remnants of his first Christmas tree plantation set out in 1926; and demonstration and experimental plantations established by the New York State College of Forestry between 1930 and 1933. Together, these plantations represent the full spectrum of FDR's forestry program. They have suffered from lack of management since FDR's death, but remain largely intact. The property is traversed by a network of roads used by FDR to go to Val-Kill and Top Cottage from the Home and to access his plantations. A portion of this network was recently rehabilitated as Roosevelt Farm Lane. Numerous stone walls date to the early history of the property. Only one building remains standing: a concrete-block dairy barn erected by Elliott Roosevelt as part of Val-Kill Farms in 1947. There are also building and structural remnants of the former farmsteads.

The Home Farm has lost most of its rural character along its most prominent side facing the Home, due to commercial strip development along Route 9. Remnants of the open fields that historically lined the highway are found in three parcels of largely undeveloped land, encompassing some 50 acres now owned by Scenic Hudson, Inc. These include the 29-acre Hyde Park Drive-in parcel, which retains the open character of the northernmost field, with stone walls and aged sycamores lining the road; a 15-acre parcel south of the Roosevelt Theater, now characterized by old-field succession; and an adjacent land-locked 4-acre parcel. Contiguous with the NPS property to the southwest is an approximately 13-acre parcel that is privately owned. Two other substantial parcels of former Roosevelt estate lands remain: a 13-acre and a 24-acre parcel, each with a residence, adjacent to the southern boundary of Val-Kill.

The remaining property historically part of the Roosevelt Family Estate was developed for residential and commercial purposes after 1945. Some of these lands retain landscape features that existed in FDR's lifetime, including farmhouses associated with upland farms he purchased. A large number of mature evergreens, remnants of the forest and Christmas-tree plantations FDR established during the 1930s and 1940s, dominate the landscape of the Harbourd Hills development north of Val-Kill.

Top Cottage Landscape

Top Cottage preserves 40 acres of FDR's hilltop retreat, located on the highest point in the Roosevelt estate. It consists of a mostly wooded landscape surrounding the cottage. Much of its rural setting has been lost to suburban development. The NPS boundaries reflect mostly post-1945 subdivision lines, and the NPS also owns three undeveloped lots along Val-Kill Drive, which are covered with

woody succession growth. Due east and northeast of the property, the land remains forested and undeveloped. The southeastern end of the NPS property lies outside the historic estate boundary and was acquired to provide a right-of-way for a trail connection with Val-Kill.

From the porch of Top Cottage there are panoramic views through the forest understory across the Hudson Valley to the Catskill Mountains. Historically, the view to the Hudson Highlands to the southwest was open but is now obscured by vegetation. In 1999-2000 the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute returned the landscape to the naturalistic, forested character that FDR had intended, removing several post-1945 structures and restoring the original entrance drive loop on the east side of the house. To the north of Top Cottage is a road (now part of the trail to Val-Kill) that FDR laid out c. 1935 as his first access to the site.

Bellefield Landscape

Bellefield is a 24-acre property north of the Home that historically formed the core of the Newbold-Morgan estate. The property extends from the Post Road to the edge of the river terrace, excluding the Wallace Center. North of the NPS property is a large field along the Post Road that was also owned by the Morgan family and remains in private ownership, but is protected from development by a conservation easement. Bellefield was connected to the FDR Home by a drive that ran north-south from the Home Road along the east side of the Rose Garden. Portions of this road remain as a pedestrian path, but most of it was removed for construction of the Wallace Center. Stone Cottage Road, the historic Bellefield river road, originally followed the north property boundary but has been replaced in part by the new visitor entrance road.

The centerpiece of Bellefield is the mansion. Unlike the FDR Home and the Red House, it is positioned in the middle of the river terrace closer to the Post Road. The land in front of the house is occupied by a broad lawn and a tree-lined U-shaped entry drive built prior to 1867. The landscape is set apart from the Post Road by a clipped hemlock hedge, ashlar masonry walls, and a mature white-pine screen that is an extension of the one planted by FDR at his home. Extending off the south side of the house is a formal garden built c. 1912 and designed by Beatrix Farrand, considered one of the finest landscape architects of the early 20th Century. This garden consists of three sections enclosed by rustic stone walls and hemlock hedges, and fronting on a raised brick terrace along the mansion. While plantings have changed over time, the walks and spatial character of the garden remain intact. Farrand also purportedly designed a "wild garden," characterized by naturalistic plantings, in an area outside of the garden. Few remains of the wild garden are visible, although evidence of it may remain below ground as archeological resources.

West of the mansion is the rear lawn with specimen trees, and beyond that is land historically used as flower and vegetable gardens and now occupied by the Wallace Center and parking lot. Northwest of the Wallace Center is the 50-square-foot Crooke Family burial ground, partially enclosed by a stone wall and containing three visible headstones, the earliest dating to 1772. Along one

side of the burial ground, hidden by mature trees, is a water tower and pump house. To the north of the burial ground is the estate's complex of service buildings, erected between 1905 and 1917.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill)

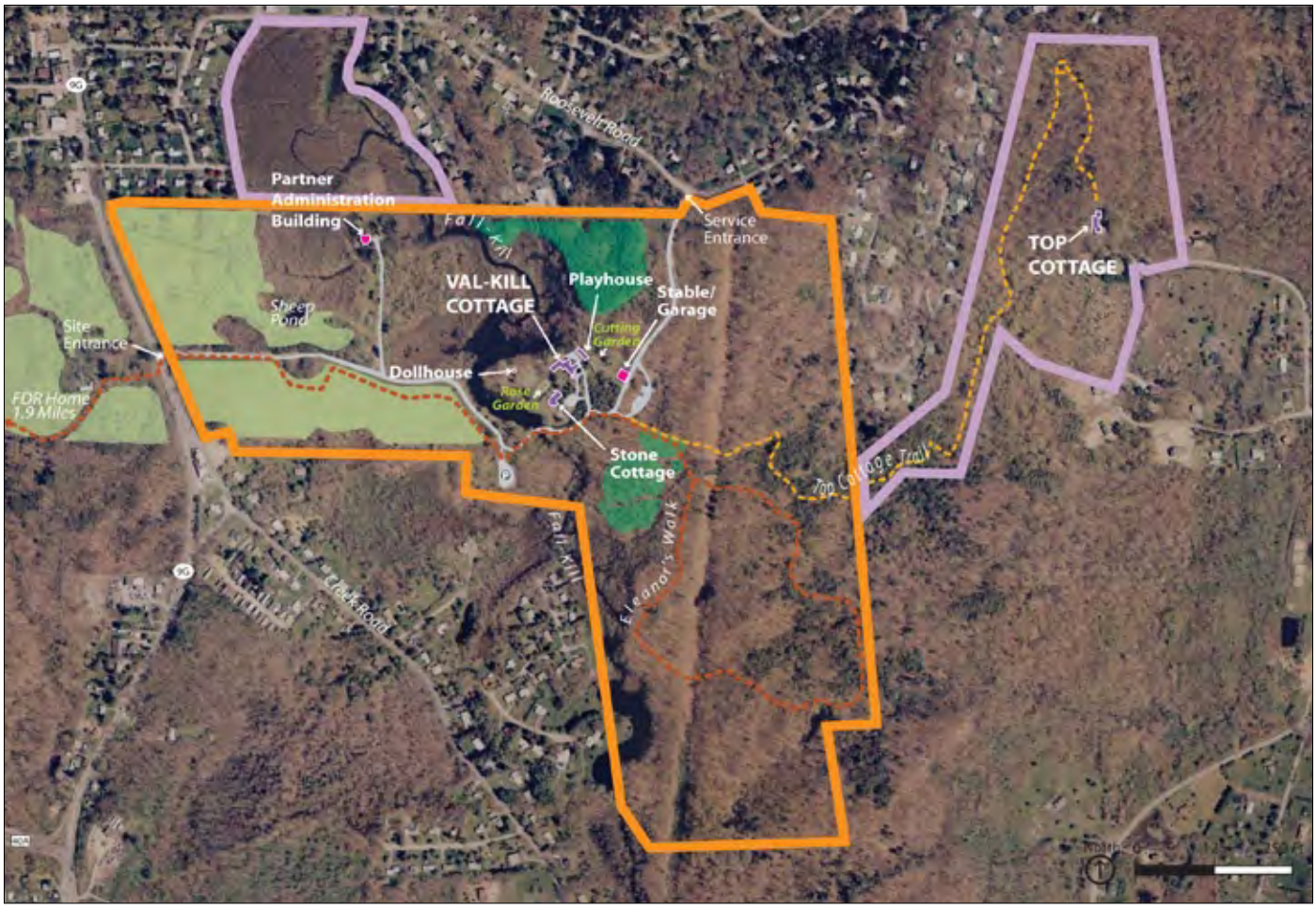
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site is a 181-acre property containing Val-Kill, a complex of buildings that served as Eleanor Roosevelt's country retreat and experimental business beginning in 1924, and as her home from 1945 until her death in 1962. The park comprises all of the land historically associated with Val-Kill at the time of Eleanor Roosevelt's death, including the original property acquired by the NPS in 1978 and a small lot on Roosevelt Road acquired in 1980. (An 18-acre parcel located along the Fall Kill north of the site, acquired in 2002, is administered as part of Home of FDR NHS, as is the Top Cottage land to the east).

The park is located along the east side of Route 9G (Violet Avenue), a two-lane highway. The approach to the park from both directions has a suburban character, dominated by tracts of single-family houses, but the park itself preserves the rural character of the Roosevelt era. Most of the suburban development occurred during the last ten years of Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and so she witnessed the dramatic change in the landscape.

The entrance to the park from Route 9G is a narrow lane, originally a farm road predating the construction of Val-Kill. The lane divides the property roughly in half, bordering a broad, maintained hayfield to the south and areas of successional field, wetlands, and woods to the north. A minor road extends off the north side of the entry lane toward the former caretaker's house, built after Eleanor's death.

Toward the east end of the hayfield, the entry lane turns south along the southeastern side of Val-Kill Pond, a section of the Fall Kill dammed by the Roosevelts in 1925. On the approach from the entry lane, the pond opens to a view of the core of Val-Kill. To the northeast, a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914 frames the view. The entry lane reaches the historic core over a plank bridge and stone dam on the Fall Kill. Public vehicular access to the core is restricted, and visitors park in a small lot built by the NPS within an orchard. A side road, now maintained as part of the Hyde Park Trail, extends in a loop through the lower section of the park. This south part of the park is primarily oak forest, except for the remnants of several white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry in 1930-31.

The core of Val-Kill is anchored by two primary buildings and several outbuildings, set mostly in a wooded landscape with open lawn bordering the pond. The earliest building is Stone Cottage. Eleanor Roosevelt's friend, Nancy Cook, maintained extensive flower gardens at the back and south side of the house during her residency from 1924 to 1947, but most of these gardens were not maintained in the later years of Eleanor Roosevelt's life. To the rear of Stone Cottage is Val-Kill Cottage.



Map 3-3: Val-Kill and Top Cottage

Legend

- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Top Cottage Trail
- Hyde Park Trail
- Visitor Parking
- Historic Forest Plantation
- Historic Farm Fields

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site preserves the park or western half of the Vanderbilt Estate, "Hyde Park," including the mansion, formal gardens, service buildings, entrance gates, riverfront, and river views. The property is bounded by U.S. Route 9 (Albany Post Road) on the east; Market Street and Hyde Park hamlet to the south; a railroad and the Hudson River to the west; and private property to the north. The only portion of the former Vanderbilt property west of Route 9 that is not owned by the NPS is the privately owned Wales House at the southeast corner of the estate.

The front of the estate on Route 9 and Market Street is lined by an ashlar masonry wall, with a tall screen of white pines behind it along Route 9. The primary visitor entrance to the site is through the Vanderbilts' main entrance at the south gate, built in 1898 and matching the river gate near the end of Market Street. The grounds reflect the general organization of the picturesque landscape designed by Andre Parmentier in 1829-1830 in the idealized rural style of English landscape gardening then coming into fashion in America. This style is most evident in the naturalistic alignment of the main drive, the setting of the Mansion amid expansive lawns, and the river views.

Past the south gate, the main drive descends to a dammed section of Crum Elbow Creek, which it crosses via the White Bridge. The drive then ascends the creek bank and turns north at the corner of the formal gardens toward the oval, a broad expanse of open lawn along the east front of the Mansion encircled by the main drive as realigned in 1910. To either side of the oval stretch the north and south lawns, which are framed by woods and contain numerous specimen trees, notably a ginkgo that may have been planted by Samuel Bard in 1797. North of the oval, the main drive continues along the edge of the river terrace, bordering the north lawn, the location of the visitor parking lot added by the NPS. An overlook along the far side of the drive provides a dramatic view up the Hudson Valley, with the Catskill Mountains in the distance. This view was made famous in numerous 19th-Century prints, beginning with Currier & Ives around 1835. Beyond the overlook, the main drive exits to Route 9 by the north gate, built in 1906.

Just before the north gate, the main drive intersects with Bard Lane, which follows the north boundary of the park to the Hudson River, passing an open field. Bard Lane crosses over the railroad on a narrow iron-girder bridge to one of the few arms of land in the area that extend beyond the railroad into the Hudson River. This land is wooded and contains a small visitor parking lot added by the NPS. The remainder of the park to the south is separated from the riverfront by the railroad. A carriage road laid out in 1898 parallels the riverfront from Bard Lane to the river gate near Market Street. This road, separated from the railroad by an iron fence with cast-stone piers erected c. 1919, originally accessed the main Vanderbilt boathouse (no longer extant). Also along the road is a small plantation of Norway spruce and a plantation of white pine along Bard Lane.

The Mansion is situated roughly in the middle of the park near the edge of the river terrace. It occupies the site of the previous houses erected by the Bard, Hosack, and Langdon families. The view is maintained through clearing

the steep bank below the house, extending nearly to the lower carriage road. The Mansion is surrounded by lawn and specimen trees and is approached from a widened area of the main drive. In 1923, evergreen foundation plantings were added, but they were removed by the NPS in the 1970s. To the north of the Mansion is the Pavilion.

South of the Mansion, at the far end of the south lawn, are formal gardens, the only part of the landscape that deviates from a picturesque, naturalistic style. Between 1901 and 1934, the Vanderbilts redesigned and enlarged the gardens and rebuilt the greenhouses, retaining much of the earlier organization and some of the built features, continuing the use of red brick for walls and buildings. This maintained the character of the gardens as a discrete landscape feature, without formal relationship to the Mansion and accessed from it only by an inconspicuous footpath bordering the edge of the river terrace.

The formal gardens consist of a series of garden rooms that form a square with an extension to the east. To the north are the matching brick Tool House and Gardener's Cottage. Between the two structures was the Carnation House, removed in the 1950s. To the north are two raised terraces where the Vanderbilt greenhouses stood. These were erected between 1897 and 1908 and were removed by the NPS in the 1940s and 1950s. Below the greenhouse sites are two terraces with raised beds, and below them, the Italian Garden, the primary garden room. It features perimeter brick walls, an axial walk, terminal pergolas, and a pool, and was initially built in 1902-1904 according to the design of James L. Greenleaf. In 1910, a new garden room enclosed by brick walls and including a Renaissance Revival-style pavilion was built off the east side of the Italian Garden according to the design of the Philadelphia nurserymen and landscape architects Thomas Meehan and Sons. In 1916, this extension, now known as the Rose Garden, was replanted with roses. The formal gardens reflect significant efforts by the park and The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association that began in the late 1970s to address the abandonment that had begun during World War II. To date, the garden landscape has been reestablished, with the exception of the greenhouses.

Below the formal gardens is the Crum Elbow Creek valley, a naturalistic landscape that forms the southern end of the park. Paralleling the creek with its ponds and waterfalls is a gently winding drive lined by specimen trees and grass shoulders. The drive extends from the main drive at the White Bridge to the river gate off Market Street and provides access to the Coach House. Between the White Bridge and the Coach House is situated the Power House, which used waterpower to generate electricity for the estate. The access road to the Coach House, which connects with Market Street, crosses Crum Elbow creek over a rustic stone-faced arched bridge built in 1897.

The Vanderbilt farm—the portion of the Vanderbilt estate east of the Post Road—consisted of approximately 459 acres during Vanderbilt ownership, aligning with the north and south boundaries of the National Historic Site and extending east approximately a third of a mile. This area is now privately owned, and much of it has been subdivided for residential development. South of the farm complex is a tunnel beneath Route 9, known as the Subway and constructed in 1906 to facilitate access between the farm and the park sections of the estate.

Legend

- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Hyde Park Trail
- Visitor Parking



Map 3–4: Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site



Map 3-5: Vanderbilt Estate

Legend

- Historic Vanderbilt Estate Boundary
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Main Bldgs (open to tours and/or public use)
- Park Operation Bldgs (maintenance, storage, residential, or administrative uses)
- Historic Vanderbilt Farm Bldgs
- Hyde Park Trail
- Visitor Parking

Historic Buildings and Structures

There are some 40 historic buildings and over 90 other historic structures at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. The primary historic structures are the FDR Home, Val-Kill Cottage, Stone Cottage, Top Cottage, the Roosevelt Gravesite, the Vanderbilt Mansion, and the various outbuildings associated with the main residences. Other historic structures include bridges, roads, dams, gardens, stone and masonry walls, and statuary.

The buildings at the three sites are important not only as architectural specimens, but for what they reveal about the lives of the families who lived there. For example, when horses were required for transportation, some form of shelter was necessary, but the scale and embellishment of stables and coach houses suggest their importance to the owners. Similarly, a greenhouse is not absolutely essential but informs us about the family's tastes and values.

According to the parks' Facility Condition Index (a system of ranking the condition of park resources) the conditions of these structures park-wide can be generalized as one-quarter in good/fair condition, one-half in poor condition, and one-quarter in serious condition. Because of personnel and funding constraints, deterioration of structures is almost exclusively due to deferred preventive and cyclic maintenance.

Roosevelt Estate

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HOME

Like other rural estates in the vicinity, the FDR Home was oriented toward the Albany Post Road, but set well back from it. FDR's father James purchased the house and surrounding land in 1867 and named his estate "Springwood". The original main house on the property dates to c. 1800 and was altered over the years, most notably by Josiah Wheeler, who added a three-story tower on the south end and a servants' wing on the north. Additional changes were made under James Roosevelt's ownership. The house was substantially rebuilt by FDR and his mother Sara Delano Roosevelt in a neoclassical style according to the design of Francis W. Hoppin in 1915–1916. This alteration, which gave the house its present appearance, generally succeeded in imposing dignified unity on the piecemeal construction. A fire in 1982 did considerable damage, particularly to the third floor, and the NPS restored the structure to its previous condition.

The importance of this house in FDR's life can scarcely be exaggerated. Looking out at the Hudson from his window formed his perception of the world, and thereafter the house gave him a sense of continuity and security that were central in his life. After its modernization, it figured prominently in his political career as a setting for meetings, workplace, and housing for important guests.

STABLE

The Queen Anne-style Stable was built in 1886 according to the design of noted Hudson Valley architect Frederick C. Withers to supplant the structure that existed when James Roosevelt bought the property. There were no major structural changes until a sleeping porch was added in 1924. Raising trotting horses

was important to James Roosevelt, and FDR began riding when he was four years old, accompanying his father on inspections of the estate. FDR's body was drawn in a caisson by horses from this stable on its final journey from the railroad siding to his gravesite.

GARAGE

After the larger stable was completed in 1886, the original stable Josiah Wheeler built c.1850 housed only work animals. It was modified for automobile use in 1910, and Sara gave FDR his first auto in 1911. The NPS rebuilt this structure in 1974 after a fire in 1971.

GREENHOUSE

Sara ordered a new greenhouse built in 1906. Fresh flowers, especially roses, were important in the lives of the Roosevelts. Their surname is derived from roses, and the family crest contains three roses. The NPS continued planting roses, though not the same varieties; and the greenhouse may be the only structure used as it was in FDR's time. The NPS performed an extensive rehab of the structure 1989-90.

LARGE ICE HOUSE

James Roosevelt built this saltbox-style structure in 1899 to supplement a small ice house that existed when he purchased the property. FDR believed that home-grown ice made drinks taste better, and ice cut on the pond below the house may have been used as late as 1940.

OTHER STRUCTURES

Also on the property are a utilitarian equipment shed built in 1911 to replace an earlier one that was torn down; a laundry, dating to c.1850, where laundry was done by traditional methods until an electric washer and mangle were installed in 1918; a small 19th-Century ice house; a pump house; a gothic-style Gardener's Cottage (1850s); and a duplex residence (c.1883).

ROOSEVELTS' GRAVESITE

The graves of Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt are marked by a plain white marble monument designed by FDR and located at a site he chose in the Roosevelt rose garden.

TOP COTTAGE

Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Hill-top Cottage" was built in 1938–39 according to the President's design, working with architect Henry Toombs. Expressing FDR's interest in the regional Dutch Colonial vernacular architecture, it is a one-story, seven-bay, fieldstone building with a broad porch along the front (west) side. Various features of the building were designed to enhance accessibility for FDR's wheelchair. The president made some modifications to Top Cottage in his life-time, but alterations made after his death were removed during a restoration in 1999–2000 by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. FDR's personality

is perhaps even more strikingly evident at this cottage than at the main house. Whereas the main house shaped his character, Top Cottage was designed to express the ideas and values formed during his life. Top Cottage was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1997.

Bellefield Estate

This property, also known as the Newbold-Morgan Estate, was acquired by the NPS in 1974 and 1975. The historic centerpiece of Bellefield is the mansion, originally built c. 1795 and reconstructed in a neoclassical style by McKim, Mead, and White for Thomas Newbold in 1909–11. Newbold had purchased the mansion and its immediate surroundings in 1885. A prominent Democrat, he became a friend and adviser of young FDR. His remodeling of the mansion may have inspired FDR to follow suit, and Newbold expanded his estate by taking up adjacent farms, as FDR also began doing. Newbold also erected all the outbuildings except the Yellow Barn. Forming the north side of the courtyard, this barn may have been built with the original mansion house before 1800, with board-and-batten siding most likely added in the mid-19th Century. On the east side fronting on the new entrance drive is the fieldstone Colonial Revival-style Stone Garage, designed by McKim, Mead, and White and erected in 1916–17. To the rear, forming the west side of the courtyard, is the Block Garage, an early example of concrete block construction, built in 1905 and later. Southwest of these buildings, facing the Wallace Center parking lot, is the Stone House, the former superintendent's quarters, built in 1905. The last building in the Bellefield service complex is the privately owned Morgan House, located on the north side of Stone Cottage Road just outside the park boundary.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill)

VAL-KILL COTTAGE

Eleanor Roosevelt referred to this building as "the furniture factory," "the factory," and "the shop." She began calling it Val-Kill Cottage after converting it to her home. It was built in 1926 by Poughkeepsie general contractor John Eylers as a furniture factory for Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook. With additions in 1928 and 1929, it operated as a furniture factory until 1936. Eleanor Roosevelt converted it to serve as her residence in 1936-37, using local labor to add wings and modify the interior. It became her year-round home in 1945 but was converted to four apartments after her death in 1962.

STONE COTTAGE

Construction of The Stone Cottage was begun in 1925 and completed the following year. It was designed by Henry Toombs of McKim, Mead, and White, influenced by FDR's interest in the Dutch Colonial-Revival style. It is an L-shaped 1.5-story structure with gabled roofs and a fieldstone end chimney. When Eleanor made Val-Kill Cottage her home, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook continued living in Stone Cottage and added to it in 1936–37.

STABLE-GARAGE

This is a utilitarian two-story unpainted concrete-block structure east of Val-Kill Cottage, built in 1937.

DOLLHOUSE

In 1935 Sara Roosevelt had this small frame building added for her grandchildren near the Roosevelt Main House and known there as Swan Cottage. Eleanor Roosevelt moved it to Val-Kill in 1945 for use by her grandchildren, and it was remodeled into a studio apartment after her death in 1962.

PLAYHOUSE

A one-story frame building behind Val-Kill Cottage, it was built in several phases, beginning in 1928. Originally a garage/tool shed, it was adapted to a forge and metal-working shop for Val-Kill Industries in the 1930s. It was converted to a recreation room and small apartment in 1941 and made into a single apartment in 1962.

MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES

Miscellaneous structures from the Eleanor Roosevelt period include the swimming pool, completed in 1935 and repaired and stabilized by the NPS in 1981; the picnic fireplace; the tennis court, and a flagpole.

Vanderbilt Estate

VANDERBILT MANSION

The Mansion, a monumental Beaux-Arts neoclassical-style house designed by Charles F. McKim of McKim, Mead, and White and built in 1896–1899, is situated in the approximate middle of the park near the edge of the river terrace. Supported by steel girders and faced with Indiana limestone, the three-story mansion (plus basement) was built by the Norcross Brothers. It contains more than 50 rooms, including servants' quarters, and the interior spaces used by the Vanderbilt family are lavishly decorated.

THE PAVILION

To the north of the Mansion is the Pavilion, a neoclassical-style guest house designed by McKim, Mead, and White and built by Norcross Brothers in 1895. It was used by the Vanderbilts as their residence while the mansion was being constructed and furnished.

COACH HOUSE

The Coach House was built in 1897 to the design of architect Robert H. Robertson. It is a two-story brick structure in Queen Anne style. The architect altered the building in 1910 to adapt it as a garage for automobiles. It contained a fully equipped machine shop and living quarters.

POWER HOUSE

Located on the south side of Crum Elbow Creek, the Power House is a one-story cobblestone building built in 1897 in a rustic style. It produced electricity by water power until 1938.

TOOL HOUSE AND GARDENER'S COTTAGE

These matching buildings are the only two remaining that pre-date Vanderbilt occupancy. Two-story brick structures in a style suggesting an Italian Villa, they were built in 1875 by Walter Langdon to a design of Boston architects John H. Sturgis and Charles Brigham.

GATE HOUSES

The Main Gate House and Lower Gate House were both built by Norcross Brothers to McKim, Mead, and White designs in 1898. Both echo the classical Beaux-Arts styling of the mansion.

MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES

Numerous structures were erected to support and enhance the estate's vast gardening operation and embellish the designed landscape. The National Register nomination for the site specifically notes the Pool House (1903), the Loggia (Garden House, 1910), Pergola (1903), White Bridge (1897), Rustic Bridge, Lower Dam, Power House Dam, White Bridge Dam, Railroad Bridge, Albany Post Road Bridge, Italian Gardens, and stone walls and gates. The White Bridge, designed by the firm of W.T. Hiscox & Co. and built in 1897, was one of the first steel and concrete bridges in the U.S.

Archeological Resources

The archeological resources at the parks are physically and historically associated with the nationally significant historic structures and cultural landscapes. This archeological evidence provides an additional set of information about the parks and those who historically lived and worked on these lands. This evidence can also shed various perspectives on the major interpretive themes for the parks.

While not fully documented, an array of historic and a lesser amount of prehistoric archeological resources are contained in the parks. The NPS began conducting archeological surveys of the parks in the 1970s, relying on historical documentation and visual observation. An Archeological Overview and Assessment was completed for the Home of FDR National Historic Site in 2008 and one is underway for Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. A preliminary assessment of archeological resource potential was conducted at Val-Kill in 1979. More detailed archeological work has generally been done as compliance in conjunction with individual construction projects rather than as a systematic investigation.

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Franklin D. Roosevelt's interest in his estate extended to its archeological resources, both prehistoric and historic. He noted prehistoric artifacts, which he

called arrowheads, turned up by plowing and speculated on the location of buildings that were no longer extant. These surmises were often acknowledged in later studies. An Archeological Overview and Assessment was completed in 2008, but was limited to park lands west of Route 9. The study discusses 17 previous archeological projects and interventions, beginning in the 1970s, and describes 27 sites or resource locations. It lists more than 70 entries for the NPS Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS), of which about 10% are prehistoric. East of Route 9, an archeological survey conducted to accompany the Roosevelt Farm Lane rehabilitation project in 2007 confirmed the presence of more than 30 sites, with the possibility of several others.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (VAL-KILL)

A 1979 survey located the sites of most former structures from the Eleanor Roosevelt period, as well as an earlier farmhouse site and a dump site from the Roosevelt period. The site is stable, but the NPS has covered it with brush and wood. It is not known whether this site dates from before or after the historic period (1962). The area has little potential for disturbance.

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

A 1973 survey located several sites relating to previous owners of the property, remains of the Sexton Estate purchased by Frederick Vanderbilt, as well as several trash dumps. A planned highway rehab in 1995 prompted archeological surveys that located previously unknown historic features. An Archeological Overview and Assessment is in progress.

Collections and Archives

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Collections at this site include materials associated with the Roosevelt property as well as with Bellefield. The park's museum collection includes primarily historic material (approximately 10,000 items) and archeologically recovered objects (77,000 items and associated field records). Like the site as a whole, the significance of the collection is based on its close association with FDR and other members of the Roosevelt family. The core of the collection is comprised of the furnishings of the main house, most of which were received by the NPS along with the house itself from the Roosevelt family in 1946. Other items original to the house have been returned through donation, purchase, and loan from family members and others.

Family portraits and snapshots, along with autographed photographs of royal guests and world leaders, present a compelling depiction of Roosevelt family life. FDR's collecting interests and hobbies are represented through his personal library, maritime prints and paintings, ship models, and bird and coin collections. The fine Chinese porcelain and lacquer ware are reminders of the Delano family's involvement in the China trade. Among the most evocative artifacts in the collection are the President's top hat, personally designed wheelchair, and telephone, once connected directly to the White House. The significance of the collections also derives from their integrity. Despite the fact that family

members removed some personal items, the collection remains much as it was at the time of FDR's death. As he intended, the house, despite an imposing exterior, conveys a comfortable impression that invites the visitor into the lives of its occupants.

The park's natural history collection is comprised primarily of herbarium samples generated during the Historic Plant Inventory conducted in 1996. Collections resulting from archeological research on park lands are by law part of the park holdings. The park holds limited archival collections associated with the site during the historic period, including a collection of daybooks of the estate gardener William Plog, photographs received as part of the furnishings in 1946, and a small photograph series of the Roosevelt and Newbold/Morgan properties. Remaining archival collections are comprised primarily of NPS management records, plans, studies, oral history interviews, and photographs created during the course of research, preservation work, and site management since 1946.

Outside of the Home of FDR, the largest Roosevelt collection is held at the adjacent Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, the Library holds the primary collection of presidential and personal papers associated with FDR, Eleanor Roosevelt, and numerous associates, as well as large collections of historical objects associated with both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (VAL-KILL)

Following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the furnishings and personal possessions either passed to family and friends or were sold, primarily in two major auctions. Collections at the site include materials associated with Val-Kill and the historic use of the property and comprise mainly historical material (about 4,000 items). The bulk of the collection includes objects necessary to maintain the historic appearance of Mrs. Roosevelt's cottage. A primary objective of the park's collection is to illustrate Roosevelt family life, Eleanor Roosevelt's activities at Val-Kill, and her influence as a world leader. Significant items include handcrafted furniture produced by the Val-Kill company, family photographs, personal memorabilia, and gifts valued for their associations. Collection-based interpretation is facilitated through furnished historic interiors and small thematic exhibits throughout the park. The collection is expected to grow substantially as the NPS continues to acquire original objects related to Mrs. Roosevelt's life and work at Val-Kill.

In addition to objects associated with the historic site, the collection includes approximately 15 linear feet of documents, photographs, and movie film, primarily comprised of the Cook-Dickerman collection dating from the 1920s–1940s; and shop drawings, tools, and equipment associated with Val-Kill Industries and the Arthurdale project; and Mrs. Roosevelt's friendship and business association with Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman.

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The museum collection associated with the Vanderbilt Mansion includes over 6,500 historic objects, of which approximately 4,000 are on exhibit in the mansion; about ten linear feet of historic archival material associated with the estate;

and a small collection of site-associated archeological artifacts. The significance of the collection is based on its integrity as a single collection from one owner representing late 19th- and early 20th-Century tastes in architectural, landscape, and interior design. Approximately 90% of the original furnishings for the mansion survive in the collection. The interior furnishings of the mansion, which represent the largest percentage of the collection, demonstrate the Euro-centric styles preferred during the American Renaissance. In addition to the objects displayed in the public rooms of the mansion, the collection includes equipment and furnishings associated with the kitchen, laundry, other domestic work areas and offices, and the servants' bedrooms. The family's carriages and automobiles are also part of the collection. The overall impact of the furnishings conveys the opulence of their era, replete with symbols of wealth and power.

Two highly important subcollections are the 19th-Century French decorative arts and the surviving original textiles. Furniture, ceramics, clocks, and bronzes represent the work of highly skilled and popular 19th-Century French artisans. The textiles are among the finest examples of the period in any collection, and represent the highest standard of quality and craftsmanship. The collection also includes important antiques ranging from Greek and Roman garden ornaments to exceptionally rare and important objects acquired by Stanford White for the house. Highlights of this collection are the pair of 18th-Century grand orreries by George Adams of London and the four-century-old Isfahan audience carpet in the Dining Room—one of the largest of its type in existence.

Historic archival material includes a remarkably complete resource on Vanderbilt estate management. The collection of original estate records, ledgers, account books, diaries, and photographs allow for a year-by-year reconstruction of estate management and staffing by department, providing insight into the operation of the farm, the park and formal gardens, as well as the mansion, pavilion, and coach house.

Natural Resources

The following section is adapted from Sheila Colwell, "Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Natural Resource Assessment" (draft, 2007).

The Physical Setting

Hyde Park is located in the mid-Hudson Valley, and its geography is strongly influenced by the great river. The river here is still tidal, so that the Native Americans reportedly described it as flowing both ways. The valley in this region is bounded—and the watershed is defined—by the Catskill Mountains to the west and the Taconic Range to the east. The Catskills provide a magnificent vista from several points in the park and help define the grandeur of the Hudson Valley that inspired early artists.

The origins of the Hudson River may go back to the Cretaceous Period, some 75 million years ago, but the current landforms were strongly affected by the Laurentide ice sheet. During the last glacial period—called the Wisconsin (10,000-20,000 years ago)—ice sheets covered almost all of Canada and extended as far south as New York harbor, where the farthest reach of the glaciers is marked

by a terminal moraine. As the ice sheet advanced towards the south, it eroded soils, sediments, and bedrock; and as the glaciers retreated, they deposited layers of glacial till.

When the glacier began to retreat, its disruption of previous drainage patterns created temporary glacial lakes, long bodies of frigid water that survived for several thousand years until the rivers recovered their former channels. Glacial Lake Albany once extended as far north as Glens Falls and accounts for the clay deposits that are important in portions of the Hudson Valley. The passing of the glaciers is visible in the area's rounded hills, altered drainage patterns, and deposits of glacial till, which consists of a heterogeneous mixture of poorly sorted rock materials. The western half of Home of FDR NHS consists of till, but the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS has only a small portion. The thickness of the glacial till over bedrock ranges from 0 to 20 feet on hilltops and from 20 to 40 feet on the slopes. Kettles formed when large blocks of ice and sediment left behind by the glacier created depressions that became small ponds or lakes. Kame terraces, found in the vicinity of the parks, are deposits that often slope down-valley more steeply than the valley floor and were formed where a glacial stream flowed along the margin of the glacier.

There are five types of bedrock in Dutchess County; however, all three national historic sites overlie the Middle Ordovician-aged Austin Glen Graywacke member of the Normanskill formation. This formation was deposited approximately 430 to 470 million years ago on an unstable continental shelf. Sediments were shed from a rapidly rising landmass to the east during the orogeny that formed the Taconic Highlands. The prevailing configuration of the land, which has guided human occupancy, consists of steep bluffs 100 to 200 feet high overlooking the Hudson River, which is less than 10 feet above sea level. Vanderbilt Mansion is situated approximately 175 feet above sea level, and the Home of FDR NHS reaches a height of about 180 feet at its northern boundary along Route 9. Moving inland, the surface of Val-Kill Pond lies at an elevation of 217 feet, and Eleanor Roosevelt NHS reaches a maximum elevation of nearly 400 feet at its extreme southeast corner. Top Cottage, as its name implies, is situated on a hill about 450 feet high. It is likely the highest elevation on the FDR property, but is by no means the highest point in Dutchess County, as stated in the National Register nomination.

Water Resources and Wetlands

The Water Resources Management Plan produced for the sites in 1997 provides the most comprehensive review of water resources and potential threats to date, though it does not cover lands subsequently acquired by the NPS. The plan notes that while water quality appears to be good, the knowledge base for all water resources is limited.[1] Estimates of water resources for the three sites include 7.1 km (4.4 mi) of streams, 8.4 ha (20.8 acres) of ponds, 18.7 ha (46.2 acres) of known freshwater wetlands, and 10.1 ha (25 acres) of tidal and freshwater wetlands. Additional wetland habitats, such as vernal pools and wet meadows, have been identified but need to be systematically delineated, mapped, and inventoried.

Primary water resources at Home of FDR NHS include perennial and non-perennial streams and an impounded pond. A perennial stream enters from Morgan Ice Pond on the adjacent property and empties into a freshwater tidal cove on the Hudson River. Two intermittent streams in the northern section of the park total about 1.6 km (1 mi). Roosevelt Ice Pond, once used for ice harvesting and swimming by the Roosevelt family, is an impounded pond of about 0.3 ha (0.7 acres). Siltation is an issue, and a 1985 sedimentation study of the pond yielded a crude approximation of another 100 years before the water retention capacity would be reduced to 20%. Adjacent to the southwest boundary of the park is Roosevelt Cove, a 10.1-ha (25-acre) freshwater tidal marsh owned by the State of New York but under the stewardship of the NPS. (The tidal marsh is described in greater detail in the "Important Natural Communities" section.) The cove represents a rare wetland habitat type in the lower Hudson River basin and provides important habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.

The hydrography of Eleanor Roosevelt NHS is more extensive than the other sites, and more is known about the ponds and wetlands due to the work by Klemens et al. on reptiles.[2] The main fluvial system at the site is the Fall Kill and its perennial and ephemeral tributaries. A wet meadow of approximately 3.2 ha (8 acres) drains into the Fall Kill near the northern edge of the park boundary. Five permanent ponds are on the site: Middle Woodland, Boundary, Hayfield, Curnan House, and Loosestrife. The North Woodland Pond and Buttonbush Pond are ephemeral. Impounded ponds include the Upper and Lower Val-Kill and South Woodland Pond.

Upper Val-Kill, the largest of the three impoundments at about 2.8 ha (7 acres), was created by the Roosevelt family in 1925 by damming the Fall Kill. It serves as the cornerstone of the cultural landscape of the park, though the open character of the pond has been difficult to retain due to silting and invading emergent plants.[3] The results of a recent hydrographic and sediment survey of the pond show that the surface water area has been reduced to approximately 1.6 ha (4 acres), and sediment thickness in the majority of the pond is between 1.8 and 2.4 m (6 and 8 feet). The NPS is currently proposing to restore the pond to more closely reflect its historic conditions by removing accumulated sediment from the open water portion and dredging/clearing emergent vegetation along the edges.

The wetlands at Eleanor Roosevelt NHS comprise part of the Dutchess County Wetlands Complex described by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).[4] This complex provides significant habitat for Blanding's turtles and other wildlife species. Wetlands include a shrub swamp west of Upper Val-Kill Pond, a wooded swamp and marsh habitats southwest of Lower Val-Kill Pond, a sphagnum shrub swamp near Buttonbush Pond, and a wet meadow near the main entrance.

At Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, there are two perennial streams, Crum Elbow Creek and Bard Rock Creek, and one ephemeral stream. Crum Elbow Creek originates in Rhinebeck and travels 21.4 km (13.3 mi) before entering the eastern edge of the park and emptying into the Hudson River. Bard Rock Creek, 2.4 km (1.5 mi) in total length, originates in Hyde Park and forms a portion of the site's northern boundary before emptying into the Hudson River. One intermittent

stream drains the hillside below the Visitors Center. In addition, three permanent ponds are impoundments of Crum Elbow Creek: Upper (White Bridge) Pond, Middle (Power House) Pond, and Lower (Lower Dam) Pond. Significant sedimentation has been noted in all three ponds.[5] Known wetlands include four small, non-tidal marshes that total about 0.4 ha (1 acre) and a non-tidal freshwater swamp along the western boundary.

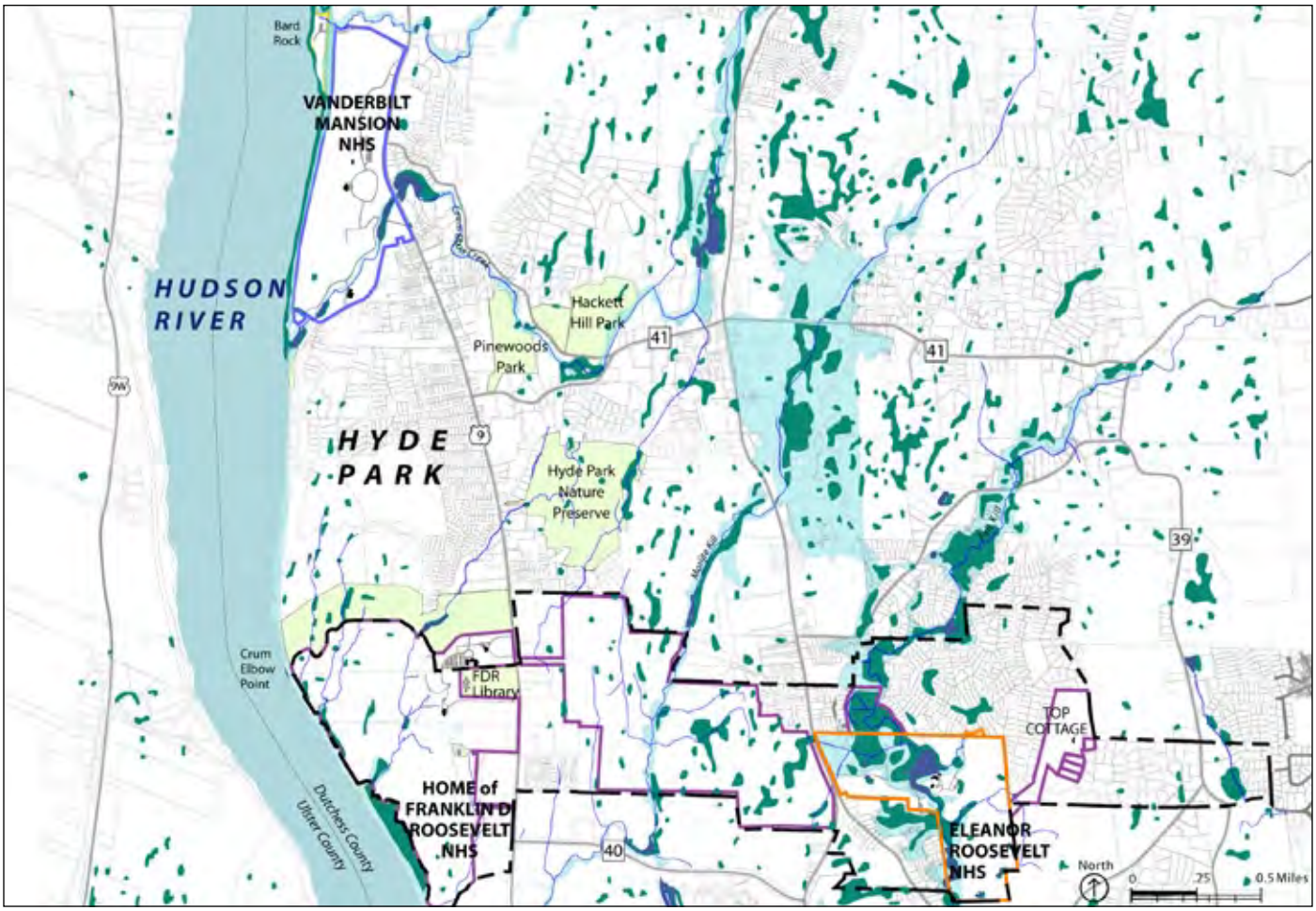
Other than the Hudson River, no fluvial systems within or adjacent to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt have consistently been monitored for discharge. The nearest U.S. Geological Survey Hydro-Climatic Data Network (HCDN) station most representative of streamflow conditions in the park is Wappinger Creek, about 15 miles south of Hyde Park. Data from this station indicate an increase in discharge from October through March and declines from April through September. Flow levels in the parks are considered adequate to preserve natural processes and cultural features, and there are no known flow reductions by upstream landowners.

All waters at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt have been classified under New York State law as Class C (suitable for fish propagation and fishing) or Class D (suitable for fishing). Crum Elbow Creek, currently rated as Class D, was contaminated with alum by an upstream municipal treatment plant prior to its closing in 1978. Alum concentrations in the water column have remained minimal or below detection levels since that time. Crum Elbow Creek and all other Class D streams in the park have been proposed for upgrading to Class C.

Surface water quality is considered good, based on sampling at 11 stations from 1994-1996. Parameters measured included temperature, salinity, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, nitrate, phosphate, chloride, and turbidity. During the 1994-1996 sample period, only five pH measurements from the parks equaled or exceeded EPA criteria. Episodic occurrences of low dissolved oxygen were evident on the Fall Kill, which was likely due to decomposition of organic matter. This was especially evident in Upper Val-Kill Pond. The major potential polluters of park waters are the Hyde Park municipal water treatment plant on Crum Elbow Creek, septic discharges from nearby homes, salt used in road maintenance, agricultural runoff, and the release of toxic material from industrial or commercial facilities.

The NPS Northeast Temperate Inventory & Monitoring Network began water quality monitoring at the sites in 2006 as part of its vital signs monitoring program. Measures of water chemistry (pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, specific conductance, acid neutralizing capacity, color, and turbidity), nutrient enrichment (algal biomass, total and dissolved phosphorus and nitrogen, and water clarity), stream flow, and invasive species are being conducted as part of this program.

Ground water quality has not been measured within the park, and knowledge is limited to either proximate areas or basin-wide assessments of the Hudson River drainage. Nutrient enrichment of ground waters and wetlands adjacent to Eleanor Roosevelt NHS has occurred due to increased residential development. Nutrients are then transported to Upper Val-Kill Pond, where they have contributed to vegetative growth, resulting in a loss of open water habitat.



Map 3-6: Water Resources

Legend

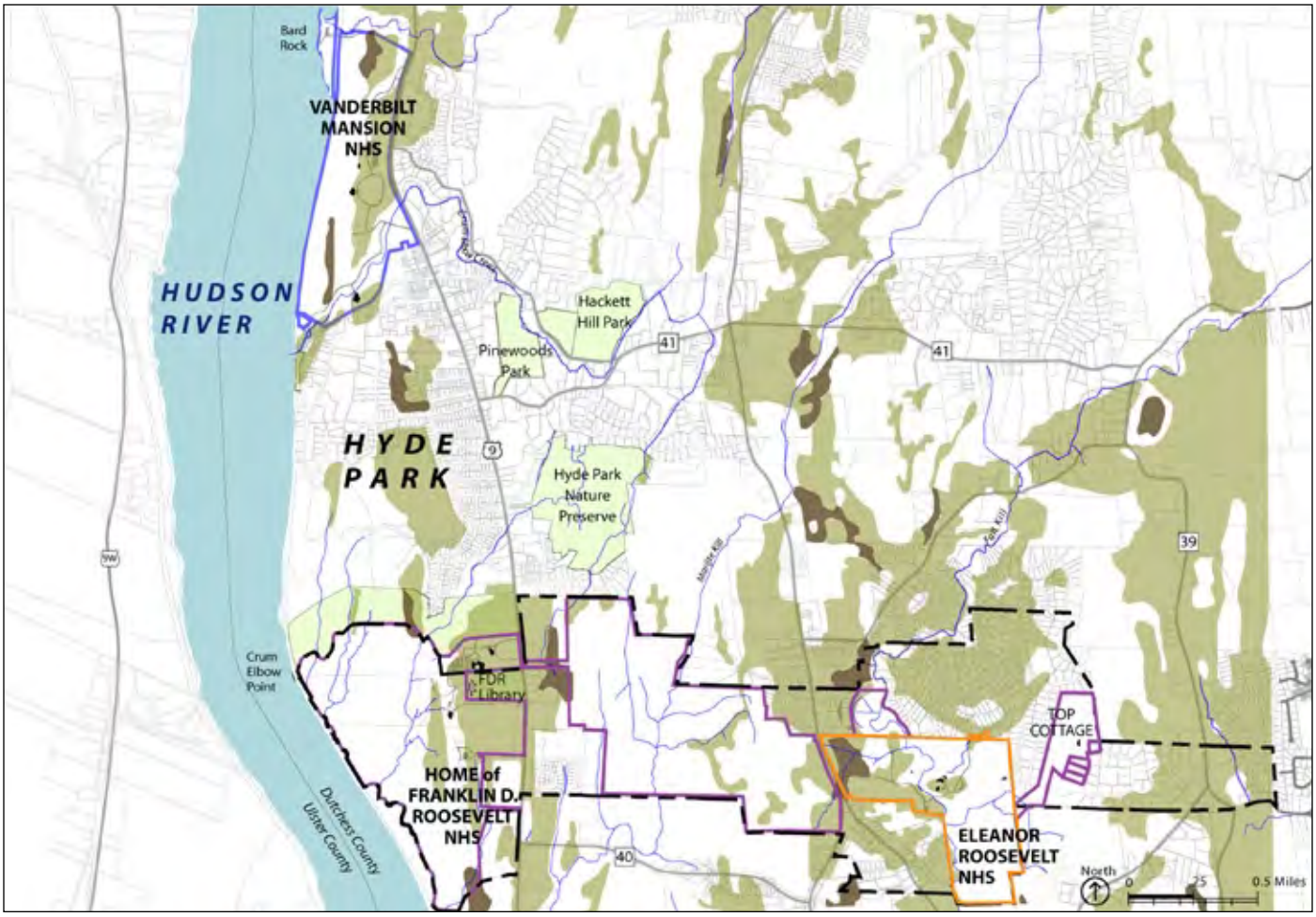
- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS acquisition boundary)
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Parks and Protected Land
- Floodplain
- Wetland
- Water

Soils and Prime Agricultural Lands

Dutchess County soils are derived primarily from glacial till and outwash, organic matter, and lacustrine (lake deposits) and alluvial sediments.[6] Major soil types at Vanderbilt Mansion NHS are Colonie fine sandy loam and Hoosic gravelly loam. The majority of the physical development at this site is on the nearly level phase of Hoosic gravelly loam; the steep phase of Hoosic gravelly loam occurs below the physical development along the floodplain of the Hudson River. Smaller amounts of the following soils also occur: Staatsburg gravelly loam and Nassau Cossayuna gravelly loams. The latter occurs in the Bard Rock area and along the southwestern boundary in the Hudson River floodplain.

At Home of FDR NHS, the major soil types include Hoosic gravelly loam, Colonie fine sandy loam, Steep ledgy land (Wassaic and Staatsburg soil materials), and Staatsburg gravelly loam. All physical development and landscaped areas are on Hoosic gravelly loam and Colonie fine sandy loam. Small areas of Rhinebeck silt loam (indicative of a former lake plain terrace) and tidal marsh, freshwater phase (north end of tidal cove), are also present. Major soil types at the Eleanor Roosevelt NHS include Hoosic gravelly loam and Saco silty clay loam. Minor soil types include Staatsburg gravelly loam, Hoosic gravelly sandy loam, and muck.

Prime farmland soils, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are soils best suited to producing food, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Prime farmland soils produce the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and economic resources, and farming these soils results in the least damage to the environment. Two categories of prime agricultural lands are recognized: prime farmland soils and soils of state significance. The Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District has identified several soil types that qualify for such recognition in the vicinity of the park. Within each park unit, the extent of such soils is: Home of FDR, 1/10 acre prime farmland soil and six acres of statewide significance; Eleanor Roosevelt, one acre prime farmland soil and six acres statewide significance; Vanderbilt Mansion, two acres prime farmland soil and three acres statewide significance.



Map 3-7: Soils

Legend

- Historic Roosevelt Family Estate (NPS acquisition boundary)
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
- Parks and Protected Land
- Soil: Prime Farmland
  Prime farmland soils, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are soils that are best suited to producing crops and produce the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and economic resources.
- Soil: Farmland of Statewide Importance
  Although these soils do not produce the high yields of prime farmland, they will produce fair to good crop yields when managed properly.

Wildlife

MAMMALS

Currently, 23 species of mammals have been documented at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt.[7] Although additional species likely occur in the parks, they have not been formally recorded. The inventory conducted by Gilbert et al. in 2004, though not exhaustive, provides the most up-to-date information for the parks, with 18 species noted. The most common mid-size mammal identified across all habitat types in that survey is raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), domestic cat (*Felis sylvestris*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) are also detected frequently. Common and widely distributed small mammals include white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and short-tailed shrews (*Blarina brevicauda*). Anecodotal reports indicate that a population of fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is using the lands between Route 9 and Route 9G. Based on the 2004 surveys, no part of the park is clearly more species-rich. Wetland habitat is slightly more diverse than riparian and conifer habitats, followed by field habitat.

A large and conspicuous white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) herd exists at all three sites, with no apparent overpopulation problem. Though deer browsing on cultural plantings continues to be a time-consuming and expensive problem for the park's horticultural operations, deer do not yet appear to be having a negative impact on natural vegetation.

While no federal or state-listed species have been detected, it is possible some occur at the parks. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is a historic species at the park. It is listed as endangered in the state, is known to occur in eastern New York, and wintering hibernacula have been found across the Hudson River in Ulster County. No formal bat surveys have been conducted in the park. New England cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*), a New York State species of special concern, has been identified in Dutchess County.

Domestic cats are exotic species to North America and are recognized as a widespread and serious threat to the integrity of wildlife populations and natural ecosystems. Roads dissect wildlife habitat, movement corridors, and feeding areas, which can result in vehicle-animal collisions. In addition, they introduce pollutants into the landscape from exhaust, pavement de-icers, and oil. Loss of adjacent habitat and habitat fragmentation can have a deleterious effect on mammals and other wildlife.

BIRD COMMUNITIES

The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites Bird Checklist identifies 159 species of birds that have been detected within the three parks. Of these species, 51 are confirmed as breeding in the parks. Amassed through Christmas bird counts, New York State Breeding Bird Atlas surveys, and other local birding club efforts over the past 50 years, the checklist is considered an accurate assessment. Franklin Roosevelt's mounted bird collection, all of which was collected by the future president from the Roosevelt estate, is a valuable source of historical data.

A more quantitative analysis of birds was done by Trocki and Paton (2003), who examined spatial distribution and abundance of birds during the 2002 and 2003 breeding seasons.[8] Variable point count surveys detected 62 species

during the breeding season, of which 42 species were determined to be breeding in the parks. Tufted titmice (*Parus bicolor*), red-eyed vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*), and American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were the most abundant breeding species. Most of the species were detected in managed landscapes. In addition, freshwater and forested wetlands were heavily used habitats.

Nine of the species in park records with confirmed breeding status are listed by Partners in Flight (PIF) as conservation priorities for the Northern Ridge and Valley Physiographic Area. Wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) and worm-eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) are listed as high continental conservation priority. Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*), eastern wood-pewee (*Myiochanes virens*), scarlet tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Louisiana waterthrush (Seiurus motacilla), and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) are high priorities for regional conservation. Both the gray catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) and mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) appear on the U.S. National Watch List. An additional eight species observed at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS are PIF conservation priorities, although they are not confirmed breeders on site. Blue-winged warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), prairie warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), American woodcock (*Philohela minor*), American black duck (*Anas rubripes*), and Canada warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) are continental conservation priorities. The field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) is a high regional priority.

Other species of conservation interest that have been recorded at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), which are state-listed as threatened. (The bald eagle is no longer federally listed as endangered.) Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipeter cooperii*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), common nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), and cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) are species of special concern in New York State.

Many of the threats facing bird populations are the same as those described for mammals, including feral cats and fragmentation and loss of adjacent habitat. Invasive plant species have altered the composition of the forest understory, which likely has affected habitat quality for breeding birds. As vegetation composition continues to change and structural complexity is reduced, avian community composition will also change, likely reducing species richness. The abrupt edges between the forest and lawn habitat could be a source of cowbird parasitism or increased predation.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

A total of 15 reptile species have been recorded at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt national historic sites (Klemens et al. 1992)[9]. Eleanor Roosevelt NHS (11 species) and Home of FDR (ten species) have shown greater diversity in reptiles than Vanderbilt Mansion (seven species). Of conservation interest is Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) a New York State threatened species. This species is losing habitat in the area due to land development and resultant filling/draining of wetlands. Several other turtle species—spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), and eastern box turtle (*Terrapene c. carolina*)—have been identified as species of special concern in New York State. The bog turtle

(*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), a historic species at the park, has a federal status, "Species Threatened by Similarity of Appearance," which means that, because the bog turtle so closely resembles another endangered or threatened species, it is treated as a threatened species as well.

In New York State, there are two disjunct distributions of Blanding's turtles, one in the St. Lawrence River drainage and the other in Dutchess County. Eleanor Roosevelt NHS lands form part of what has been identified as the Dutchess County Wetlands Complex, a significant habitat complex that supports Blanding's turtles and other species of special emphasis.[10] Blanding's turtles have been documented at three sites in the park: Middle Woodland Pond, Upper Val-Kill Shrub Swamp, and Buttonbush Pond.[11] While the population in the park is relatively small, the park can be considered a regionally significant site for this species.

Fifteen amphibian species have been recorded at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt.[12] The extensive wetland habitats at Eleanor Roosevelt NHS support 14 of these species. Ten species have been recorded at Home of FDR NHS and six at Vanderbilt Mansion NHS. Two of the amphibians are New York State species of concern: Jefferson salamander complex (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum x A. laterale*) and marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*). The Jefferson salamander complex includes the Jefferson salamander and the blue-spotted salamander along with a hybrid that results from interbreeding of the two. Because of the difficulty of identifying the hybrid, the three species are generally grouped into this complex. Hybrids have been documented breeding at North, Middle, and Woodland Ponds in Eleanor Roosevelt NHS. An individual belonging to the Jefferson salamander complex was also observed in a vernal pool above Roosevelt Cove at Home of FDR NHS. Marbled salamanders have been observed in vernal swales near the horticultural recycling area of this park.

The unshelled eggs and porous skin of amphibians makes them especially sensitive to environmental changes. In addition, with both aquatic and terrestrial stages in their life cycle, they are among the first to suffer from environmental threats. Adjacent habitat loss and fragmentation is likely the greatest threat facing park populations. Water quality issues, atmospheric deposition, and invasive aquatic plant species are also potentially significant threats.

FISH

The three sites each have a variety of aquatic habitats, including forest streams, impoundments, and a tidal freshwater marsh, that support fishes. Habitats were surveyed for freshwater fish in 1995 and again in 2000 (excluding Roosevelt Cove), resulting in the identification of 25 species from 11 families.[13] Mather et al. looked at relative abundance by habitat type and found mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) with the highest relative abundance in low-gradient streams and blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*) with the highest relative abundance in moderate and high-gradient streams. Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) were most abundant in low-flow impoundments, while largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*) were most abundant in high-flow impoundments.

A notable species found in Crum Elbow Creek and Roosevelt Cove is the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). This species is the only catadromous fish on the East Coast (catadromous fish spawn in the ocean but spend the majority of their lives in fresh water).

Three of the species are non-native: bluegill, rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), and carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Bluegill and rock carp have been present in many northeastern systems for over 100 years and are not considered a threat to biodiversity.[14] Little is known about carp in the Hudson River, although they are considered detrimental to sport and food fish populations in many areas where they are abundant.[15] Depletion of fishery habitat may occur through excessive sedimentation and invasive aquatic plants, such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

INVERTEBRATES

Information about aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates is limited. No systematic surveys have been conducted for any of the major invertebrate groups, although there have been a few focused studies. An inventory of invertebrate populations was conducted at Eleanor Roosevelt NHS.[16] Aquatic macroinvertebrates were sampled on lower Crum Elbow Creek in 1995 to assess water quality, and clean-water indicators were found at all sampling sites: mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, riffle beetles, and hellgrammites.[17] A 1988 study focused on aquatic invertebrates associated with two morphologically different host plants found in Roosevelt Cove, *Microphyllum sp.* and *Trapa natans*.[18] The presence of deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) has been documented and Lyme disease is a major problem throughout the region. The invasive Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) was first detected at the Home of FDR NHS in 2008. This species has potential for causing substantial ecological change.

SUMMARY OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The following table lists the threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern that may occur at the parks.

Table 3-1: Threatened and Endangered Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS
Ambystoma jeffersonianum	Jefferson's salamander	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Ambystoma laterale	Blue-spotted salamander	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Ambystoma opacum	Marbled salamander	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Accipiter gentilis	Northern goshawk	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned hawk	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Chordeiles minor	Common nighthawk	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle	State listed as Threatened
Podilymbus podiceps	Pied-billed grebe*	State listed as Threatened
Pandion haliaetus	Opsrey	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Dendroica cerulea	Cerulean warbler*	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Clemmys guttata	Spotted turtle	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Clemmys insculpta	Wood turtle	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)
Emydoidea blandingii	Blanding's turtle	State listed as Threatened
Terrapene carolina	Box turtle	State listed as Rare (Special Concern)

* Present on the bird checklist as "uncommon."

Vegetation (Plant Resources)

Detailed descriptions and maps of the vegetation at the three historic sites are currently being developed by the New York Natural Heritage Program using the National Vegetation Classification System. The products of this effort, the first vegetation mapping of the historic sites using a national classification standard, will provide information on community composition and rarity, and will update the 1998 survey on plant resources by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden described below. Please note that forest plantations at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt are discussed as cultural landscapes.

VASCULAR PLANT SURVEY DATA

At present, the data available for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt come from 1998 vascular plant surveys by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.[19] The nomenclature differs from that under development by the New York Natural Heritage Program, and the studies did not consider the lands between Routes 9 and 9G acquired by the NPS in 2007.

Dutton (1998a) identified five ecological communities at Home of FDR NHS: 1) *Cultivated,* located in the westernmost third of the site and including mowed lawns and fields, gardens, and ornamental plantings; 2) *Hemlock-*

Northern Hardwood Forest, the largest area, extending from the northern border to the southern border of the site; 3) *Old Field*, a centrally located mowed area; 4) *Marsh*, situated on the southwestern boundary; and 5) *Rocky Outcrop*, found in the extreme northwest corner of the site between the Hudson River and the railroad. Dutton identified 362 plant species representing 90 plant families at the NHS. Of those, eight species are on the New York Natural Heritage Program active/watch rare plant inventory lists: smooth bur-marigold (*Bidens laevis*), yellow harlequin (*Corydalis flavula*), field-dodder (*Cuscuta pentagona*), spring avens (*Geum vernum*), false lettuce (*Lactuca floridana*), gypsy-wort (*Lycopus rubellus*), winged monkeyflower (*Mimulus alatus*), and swamp buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus var. nitidum*).

Dutton (1998b) divided Eleanor Roosevelt NHS into four ecological communities: 1) *Cultivated*, located in the center of the site, including mowed lawns, gardens, parking lot plantings, and ornamental plantings; 2) *Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest*, representing the largest area and extending from the northern to the southern boundaries of the eastern half of the site; 3) *Old Field*, which is periodically mowed and is located on the western side of the site; and 4) *Marsh*, which is primarily found west and north of the large pond in the center of the property. The site contains 307 plant species representing 86 plant families. None of the species are on the New York Natural Heritage active/watch inventory lists.

Glenn described four ecological communities within Vanderbilt Mansion NHS. These include: *Cultivated areas*, *Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest*, *Old Fields*, and *Bard Rock*. The Cultivated areas consist of turf, gardens, and ornamental plantings and are located on the terrace surrounding the mansion. The Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest parallels the Hudson River. The Old Field community type is seasonally mowed and is located on the west terrace slopes between the cultivated areas and the mixed hardwoods and on the extreme southern end of the property. Bard Rock is a unique community found on a rocky outcrop on the Hudson River. Glenn's inventories have identified 385 plant species representing 98 plant families at Vanderbilt. Six of these species are on the New York Natural Heritage Program active/watch rare plant inventory lists. Flat sedge (*Cyperus odoratus*) and rough goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* ssp. *aspera*) were found in the old fields. Field dodder (*Cuscuta pentagona*) and Hill's pondweed (*Potamogeton hillii*) were located in the hemlock-hardwood forest. Bush clover (*Lespedeza violaceae*) and bugleweed (*Lycopus rubellus*) were found at Bard Rock.

IMPORTANT NATURAL COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED BY NEW YORK STATE HERITAGE PROGRAM

The New York Natural Heritage Program has identified several natural communities within the parks that are rare and/or significant within New York State, although they are not considered outstanding examples.

Red Cedar Rocky Summit

There are several good, mid-size examples of red cedar rocky summit forest type to the west of the FDR Home. This community type is characterized by dry upland ridges with low areas, shallow soils, and prickly-pear cactus and is dependent upon

periodic fires. These communities are limited in distribution, being essentially a mid-Hudson Valley type, with about 20 documented in the state.

Fresh Water Tidal Marsh

A shrub swamp/freshwater tidal marsh lies at Roosevelt Cove, within the boundary of Home of FDR NHS. This small freshwater tidal marsh is connected to a larger tidal marsh by a collapsed culvert under the Cove Trail. (The main area of the tidal marsh is located outside the park boundary, which is demarcated by the high-water mark, and under NYS jurisdiction.) This feature was created by the railroad embankment in the 19th Century and is largely dependent upon the flushing action of the tidal flows under the embankment. Over the years, the flushing action in the tidal marsh has diminished. Improved flushing action would enhance this community and could enable it to become a freshwater tidal swamp.

Mature Oak/Tulip Tree Forest

There is a mature oak/tulip tree forest community totaling 63 acres at Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, with a 40-acre core of very mature trees. This community is defined by large oaks, beeches, and tulip trees, with at least 24 oaks averaging 1 meter DBH (diameter at breast height) and is an impressive example of a mature forest. Embedded within this community is a Norway spruce plantation. There is a quick transition from forest to open field at the perimeter of this community, a condition that does not afford as much protection to the mature forest as would a more gradual transition with a wider buffer of shrub layer.

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest

The lands between Route 9 and Route 9G contain the most intact forest areas in the parks. A hemlock-northern hardwood forest, running in a north-south direction, remains relatively intact with very few exotic species. This community extends into the undeveloped lands to the north and south of the park. It totals some 375 acres, with 90 acres on NPS lands. This community may be significant for the region and the state, due to its quality as a habitat corridor and its excellent condition.

Vernal Pools and Seeps

All park properties contain clusters of vernal pools. The Vanderbilt lands contain a series of seeps in the slopes that drain into the Hudson in the mature forest areas. The seeps have naturalized magnolias and add diversity to the forest. On the lands between Route 9 and Route 9G there are some 20 healthy vernal pools of varying size and clusters that are well-buffered within the hemlock forest, which provide “stepping stones” for amphibians.

Other Communities of Interest

The property between Route 9 and Route 9G also contains rich beech-maple mesic areas with basswood and white ash trees and ephemeral spring flowers located on its northwest portion, along with well-buffered red maple-black gum swamps, hemlock-hardwood swamps, and red maple-hardwood swamps.

THREATS

Invasive Plants

Several species of invasive plants have become established in the park, some of which pose a significant threat to native plant populations or cultural landscapes, significantly increasing the maintenance workload. In addition to damaging natural resources directly, ATVs and mountain bikes provide corridors for invasive species, especially Japanese stilt-grass. An invasive plant inventory and assessment identified 58 non-native invasive plants in both the cultivated and natural areas.[20] Of these, 31 were cultivated components of the landscape or gardens during the historical period at each site. The most common invasive plants of management concern are Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), black swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*), Japanese stilt-grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), garlic-mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). Of these, perhaps the greatest threat is Japanese stilt-grass, which does well under a shaded forest canopy and through allelopathy changes the soil chemistry to suppress competitors.

Tree-of-heaven becomes established along edges and in disturbed areas, and can form the dominant forest canopy for its life span of 30-40 years. Norway maple is found throughout the park, usually in edge habitats, although sprouts and saplings are sometimes evident in the forest. Japanese barberry is widely scattered, with birds spreading seed throughout forested habitats. Forest understory and edges have seen the establishment of garlic-mustard and Japanese stilt-grass, both of which are allelopathic.

Wetlands are often invaded by purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), which dominates the open space of the Fall Kill reservoir, and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). In some areas Japanese knotweed has become established, although this species is actively controlled and several populations have been eliminated.

In open fields and woodland edges, oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and various honeysuckle species (*Lonicera* spp.) have become established. Maintaining areas as open field becomes much more difficult when these species are present, especially on steep slopes.

OZONE

The risk of foliar ozone injury to plants within the historic sites is high.[21] High ozone exposure results in impaired physiological processes, including a reduction in photosynthesis and transpiration and perturbed carbon dynamics.

Disease and Pests

Pathogens and insect pests that may affect forested habitats within the historic sites include gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), beech bark disease, and hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*). Hemlock woolly adelgid is the most serious threat, given the large amount of hemlock vegetation, and this pest has caused significant mortality in some sections of the forest. The park has treated hemlocks in landscaped areas since 1989, but control measures in native forests are infeasible. Gypsy Moth has caused little defoliation in the park; however, this pest has the potential to become a serious problem, especially to old specimen trees, which have little capacity to recover from repeated defoliation. Additional

regional threats not yet present in the mid-Hudson Valley include Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), and the sirex woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*).

Visitor Use and Experience

Overview

Visitors to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites find opportunities for commemoration, contemplation, and appreciation of the lives of the influential Americans who resided there. The sites offer opportunities for enjoying the scenic beauty of the Hudson River and the fields, forests, and historic trails and roads.

Visitors can experience the sites through guided tours of the historic homes, enjoying the trails, and special events, programs, and exhibitions. Access to the primary historic residences is by guided tour only. A hallmark of these ranger-led tours is their unscripted quality—interpreters proudly state that while the tours are based on solid research, they are "not canned." The grounds of the three sites are open to the public and offer opportunities for enjoyment of the setting and landscape, which is in keeping with the historic residents' use of the properties.

Visitor Use Patterns

The Home of FDR and Vanderbilt Mansion are open year-round, seven days a week, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Buildings are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grounds are free and open dawn to dusk. Top Cottage is open daily from May to October, and closed November through April. Val-Kill is open daily May through October, closed Tuesday and Wednesday from November through April. The sites are used year-round, with the majority of visitors in the months of August and October, Thanksgiving weekend, winter holidays, and special events.

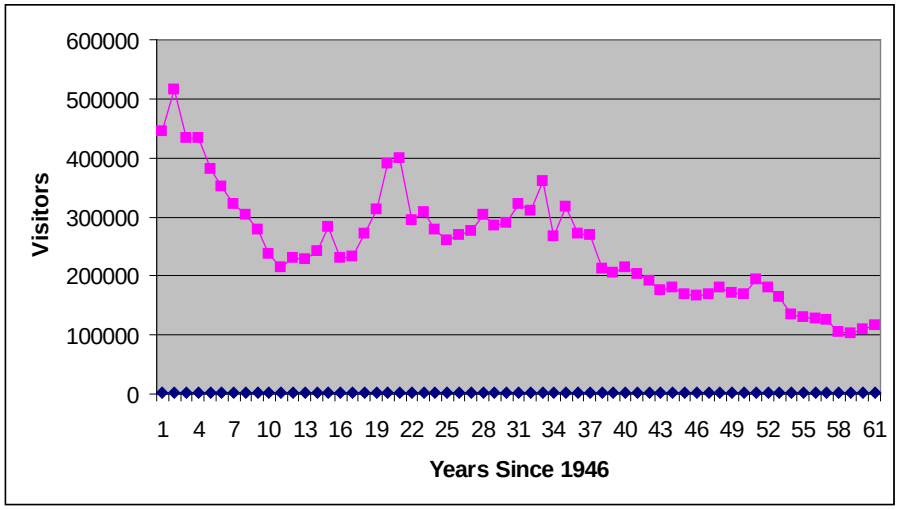
Most visitors are familiar with the historical figures commemorated at the sites. Park neighbors and local and regional residents tend to be repeat visitors, often accompanying out-of-town relatives and friends. Local visitors take advantage of the parks' recreational opportunities, utilize the walking and hiking trails, attend special programs, and view exhibits at the FDR Library and Museum. Many visitors see several of the park sites in one visit. For example, of 120 parties interviewed who toured the Home of FDR, 36 also toured Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, 58 also toured Vanderbilt Mansion, and 15 also toured Top Cottage.[22]

CURRENT VISITATION

The parks receive a total of more than 500,000 visits each year. During the summer season an average of 12,000 to 15,000 visitors per month arrive at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center. Tours sell out during peak season and on holiday weekends. A visitor survey in 2004 found that 40% of visitors to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites came from New York State. Many of the regional visitors are from Dutchess County (36%), with Westchester County accounting for the next largest visitor origin (nearly 17%). The other states with

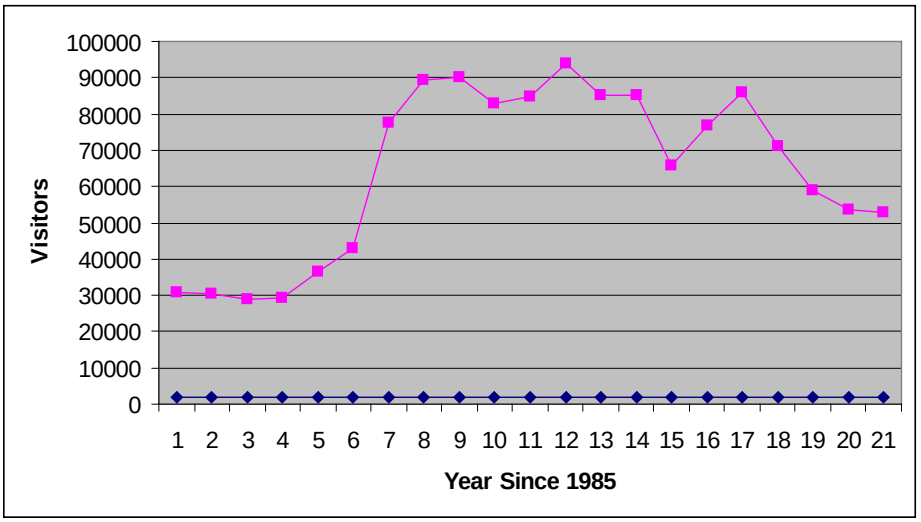
the highest number of visitor parties were New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Three percent or more of the parties were from distant locations, including Texas, California, Florida, and Virginia, and some visitors came from Canada and Denmark. The survey also found that visitors to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites tend to be older. Over 44% of visitors are between the ages of 40 and 64, and nearly 36% are above age 65. Visitor income is relatively high, with 55% of respondents earning more than $75,000 per year. Educational levels are also high—nearly two-thirds of the visitors have at least a college degree. The reasons motivating people to visit the parks are diverse. Over 32% visited the parks because of a special event or program, and over 24% visited out of professional interest. Regional visitors are more likely to have a historic interest or hobby motivating the visit, whereas special events draw a larger proportion of visitors from outside the region.[23]

As is the case with many historic sites across the country, visitation to the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites is trending downward. Combined visitation to the three sites has declined by 14% since the mid 1990s. The greatest declines are felt at the Home of FDR and Val-Kill, with visitation since 1996 down by 40% and 44%, respectively. Vanderbilt visitation, although not at its peak, has leveled off. The highest level of visitation to the Home was reached in 1947 with 516,000 visitors. In 2007, visitation was 114,195. The highest level of visitation to Val-Kill, in 1996, was nearly 94,000. In 2007, it was 59,846. At Vanderbilt, a sharp spike in visitation was recorded in 1990, when nearly 724,000 visited the property, with 1989 also high, at over 573,000 visitors. In 2007, visitation was 398,125. It is worth noting that 2007 visitation to the Home of FDR was up about 9% over 2004 levels, after the launch of a grant-supported marketing effort by NARA, FERI, ERVK, and NPS. The following graphs show visitation figures for the parks since they opened to the public.



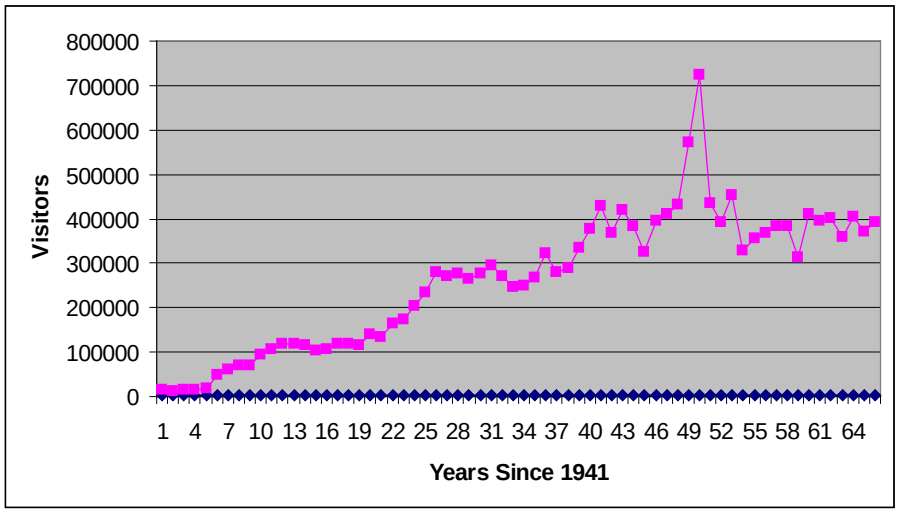
Visitation since the Home opened to the public in 1946 (Source: NPS Visitor Use Statistics)

Visitation figures for the Home of FDR NHS are derived by counting the number of people taking a tour of the FDR Home and adding 25% of all those who enter the FDR Library as an estimate of the number of visitors who use the grounds only.



Visitation since Val-Kill opened to the public in 1985 (Source: NPS Visitor Use Statistics)

Visitor numbers are derived from an actual count of visitors taking a tour of Val-Kill Cottage, plus an estimate for those using the grounds only. The increase in visitation shown in year eight (1993) was due to changing the park from a seasonal to year-round operation.



Visitation since Vanderbilt opened to the public in 1941 (Source: NPS Visitor Use Statistics)

Visitors to Vanderbilt Mansion NHS are counted by means of a traffic counter, using a standard figure of 2.6 people per vehicle. An estimate for non-reportable vehicles (employees, service vehicles, etc.) is subtracted, and tour bus and school bus passengers are counted individually. It is estimated that 412,270 people used the Vanderbilt site in 2007, of whom 65,489 purchased tour tickets. This suggests that 346,781 visitors used the grounds only.

PRE-ARRIVAL AND ACCESS

Several web-based resources are readily available for people who want to plan their park visit or to learn about nearby services and attractions. A variety of regional organizations offer basic information about the parks, including the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Historic Hyde Park, and Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt. Dutchess County Tourism and the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce provide free guides for businesses, shopping, lodging, and dining. Web sites for the individual national historic sites can be accessed directly or through the National Park Service site. They provide directions, maps, operating hours, fees and reservation instructions, special events, accessibility information, nearby attractions, and links to park partners, including Historic Hyde Park. At present, there is no single physical location for visitors to receive comprehensive information about regional events and attractions.

Over 84% of visitors rely on private vehicles to get to the parks. Although the Metro North commuter rail and Amtrak provide frequent service from New York City to Poughkeepsie, and visitors from the New York City metro area compose a significant percentage of park visitors, there are no reliable transit links to the train, which limits access for those who do not own cars (with the exception of the NPS field test of the shuttle system, the Roosevelt Ride).

For visitors arriving by car, numerous standard brown-and-white signs along Route 9 direct visitors to the FDR Home and Library and the Vanderbilt mansion. Once at the entrance to the Home, however, a lack of directional signage to the Wallace Center leaves many visitors uncertain about where to begin their visit, and the Center's title sign can become hidden by plantings. Visitors traveling to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt experience traffic conflicts, delays, and risk of vehicular collision at park entries due to congestion on Routes 9 and 9G. Traffic volumes average nearly 20,000 daily on Route 9 near the Home and over 14,000 daily on Route 9G near Val-Kill. Exiting the sites onto Route 9 can be dangerous, as drivers are compelled to accelerate rapidly from the park exits into narrow gaps in traffic.

TICKETING

Tickets are required for tours of the historic homes, and visitors are assigned specific tour times. Tickets for the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt are available at the Wallace Center. These tickets are two-day passes ($14) that include a one-hour guided tour of the Roosevelt Home and admission to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. Admission to Top Cottage, although part of the Home of FDR site, requires a separate ticket ($8), also sold at the Wallace Center. Tickets for Eleanor Roosevelt NHS and Vanderbilt Mansion, sold at those sites, include

45-minute guided tours of Val-Kill Cottage ($8) and the Mansion ($8). Individuals and groups can make advance reservations for all three sites on the reservation system used by the NPS, "Reserve America." Groups of ten or more are required to make reservations. The parks honor all NPS and interagency passes according to the provisions of the pass. An annual pass, which allows entry for one person to all three sites, is available for $40.

While a single ticket covering all sites would be ideal, the current ticketing software cannot accommodate multi-site reservations. Previous attempts to issue single passes for multiple sites required staff to book each tour individually to ensure availability, a process that was time-consuming and required much explanation.

One combination package, the "Roosevelt Experience," was instituted as a pilot program beginning in 2006. It includes tours of the Roosevelt Home and Library, Val-Kill, and Top Cottage, shuttle bus transportation among the sites and the Wallace Center, and the Poughkeepsie train station. Visitors must make advance reservations for the "Experience" and purchase their tickets at the individual sites. However, the total cost is only $22.

ORIENTATION

Each of the sites has a dedicated visitor welcome and orientation space. Visits to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Top Cottage begin at the Wallace Center, administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, which provides a comprehensive introduction to the three sites. The Wallace Center offers ticketing, visitor information about programs and activities, a new high-definition orientation film, a museum store, café, and opportunities to meet and talk with park staff. It provides public restrooms and conference rooms for meetings, school groups, and special programs. At Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, orientation takes place in the apartment wing of Val-Kill Cottage and in the Playhouse. New orientation exhibits, totaling some 700 square feet, were installed in 2008. Orientation to the Vanderbilt property takes place at the Vanderbilt Pavilion.

A variety of publications, maps, and signs help to answer visitor questions at the historic sites. Publications include "Official Map and Guide" brochures for each site and brochures describing the designed landscapes and the buildings of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Little specific information, however, is given in either signage or brochures about the parks' gardens or grounds. An 8½ x 11-inch map of the Hyde Park Trail system is displayed at the ticket counter, and copies are available upon request. A text panel and a regional map displayed near the information desk describe the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and a rack displays a limited number of free brochures with information on nearby attractions. Though most visitors seeking information want to know how to plan their visit, staff members can provide only limited information due to time constraints.

The orientation media in the Wallace Center include stand-alone exhibit kiosks in the lobby, which provide information about the historic sites and the FDR Library and Museum. A separate wall panel is dedicated to Henry A. Wallace,

for whom the center is named. The 22-minute film titled "A Rendezvous with History: The Roosevelts of Hyde Park," introduces visitors to the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their connection to the sites. Shown every 30 minutes in the Center's 140-seat theater, the film presents a narrated history illustrated with newsreel footage and reminiscences of some of the Roosevelt grandchildren. Ranger-led tours of the FDR Home begin at a large mosaic floor map based on a 1929 illustration. The map provides orientation to the parks within the context of the Hudson River Valley.

The Wallace Center is a significant improvement over previous visitor orientation, with more unified programming and better outreach to the community. It is able to hold large groups and to accommodate visitors during inclement weather. Nevertheless, the cafeteria can be overwhelmed by school groups at busy times, and the conference rooms do not provide appropriate facilities for "messy" science and agriculture-based or children's programs.

OTHER VISITOR AMENITIES

Mrs. Nesbitt's Café, named for the Roosevelt's Hyde Park neighbor and cook at the White House during the FDR administration, serves breakfast and lunch at the Wallace Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily April through October. Three shops operate at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, selling educational and souvenir items related to park themes, including books, maps, posters, slides, videotapes, CD-ROMs, and gift items. The FDR Presidential Library and Museum manages the largest shop, in the Wallace Center lobby. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association runs the sales areas at Vanderbilt Mansion and Eleanor Roosevelt NHS and presents interpretive messages with the displays of merchandise.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY

An internal circulator, or tram, operates seasonally at both Roosevelt sites for people who have ambulatory difficulties. The shuttle, tram, and all sites are wheelchair-accessible, although some spaces within the historic homes cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Accessible restrooms are available at all sites and at the FDR Library and Museum. Handicapped parking is also available at all sites. Sign language interpretation or other special accommodations may be possible by advance arrangement. There are plans to make closed captioning available for the orientation films at both the Wallace Center and Val-Kill, as well as to provide audio descriptions for the visually impaired.

INTERPRETATION

The historic residences are presented as fully furnished historic house museums. Visitors can also view forest plantations, historic trails and walking paths, gardens, and designed landscapes. Overall, however, interpretation—whether guided tours or publications—places little emphasis on the historically significant landscape.

Ranger-led Tours

Guided tours of the historic homes are offered daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the last tour at 4:00 p.m. The frequency of tours is determined by demand

and staffing capacity, ranging from once every half hour during the high season to as few as four times daily during slower periods. Tours of Top Cottage take place daily from May to October at 11:30 a.m., and 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Guided tours of the Roosevelt Home and Top Cottage begin at the Wallace Center. Val-Kill tours begin at the front entrance to Val-Kill Cottage. Visitors go directly to the visitor center at the Vanderbilt Pavilion for tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion. Despite the physical and thematic separations, park personnel attempt to connect the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt sites by noting FDR's role in creating Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, discussing the different social classes between the two families, and through the use of the mosaic map at the Wallace Center, which shows the sites as "neighbors."

Rangers follow approved outlines for tour content, but the information conveyed and the quality of interpretation depend on the interests and ability of the ranger and the interests and engagement level of the group. Tours are designed to be non-political and encourage visitors to do further research and to form their own conclusions.

Tour of the FDR Home

The ranger-led tour of the Home covers the first floor and second floor in one hour. Tour groups are limited to 50 people. At busy times, such large groups can crowd the intimate interior spaces and can make it difficult for visitors to fully engage in the experience. The 2004 visitor survey indicated that nearly 22% of respondents felt that there were too many people in their tour group. The interpretive goal is for visitors to understand why this was a special place to FDR. This concept is conveyed formally through the rangers' narrative and informally by viewing the home's furnishings and artifacts, FDR's collections, and the natural setting. Interpretation is based in thematic and chronologic organization.

The home's third floor (former servants' quarters) is off-limits to visitors, but a text panel near the stairs shows the floor layout, with photographs. Other signs provide detail about the rooms. These signs need refreshing to create a more cohesive presentation. At the tour's end, visitors exit the home onto a back porch facing the Hudson River, views of which are partially obscured. The lack of transition creates an abrupt ending to the indoor experience and misses an opportunity to interpret the landscape.

Outside, visible through exterior windows on the ground floor, but generally inaccessible to the public, are the kitchen, laundry, and FDR's small study, each containing exhibits. The furnished study is open to small groups in the off-season, but the majority of visitors never see this important space.

Tour of Top Cottage

Top Cottage is open to the public on a seasonal basis, with access limited to shuttle, as public parking is prohibited. Group size is limited to 24, though the optimal tour size is closer to ten, due to the intimate scale of the building. Visitors are invited inside the building and encouraged to explore at their leisure. Rangers point out elements that highlight the site's special character and the design features that accommodated FDR's wheelchair. Furniture and artifacts have been

chosen to represent those that would have been present in FDR's day, although none are original to the cottage. The main interpretive program usually takes place (weather permitting) on the open front porch, where the public is invited to sit in rocking chairs and wicker sofas and enjoy the view that FDR so loved. From here, rangers initiate free-form discussions, which tend toward anecdotes and ideas for contemplation. A sole text panel describes a visit by the Duke of York in 2002 commemorating a 1939 picnic for the king and queen of England. Smaller ground-floor rooms are used for meetings and occasionally for temporary exhibitions.

Tour of Val-Kill Cottage

The apartment wing of Val-Kill Cottage is the main focus of guided tours. Half-hour ranger-led tours, limited to 15 people, take visitors through Eleanor Roosevelt's private residence and portray her as a humanitarian and defender of democracy. Due to space constraints, the second floor of the apartment can be accessed only by small groups (eight or fewer people). Visitors see furnished interiors as Eleanor Roosevelt decorated and used them, including her bedroom, furnished with a simple, single bed. The design and decoration reflect Eleanor Roosevelt's humility and approachability. These characteristics are further conveyed through rangers' anecdotes and in the recollections of many visitors themselves. At the same time, she is presented as a political force and influential leader.

Tour of Vanderbilt Mansion

Rangers lead tours through the Mansion's first and second floors and parts of the basement. Sixty-minute tours begin every half hour at the Pavilion during peak times and every hour in slower periods. The interpretive goal is for visitors to recognize the mansion as a premier example of a gilded-age country place and to understand its significance within the social and economic context of the post-Civil War period. Aside from interpreters' commentary, the tours are informal: visitors can explore each floor at their own pace and ask questions. Tour groups are limited to 50 people. However, as with the tour of the FDR Home, this large size can make it difficult for visitors to fully engage in the tour.

Attention is directed to the former dairy farm across Route 9 to demonstrate the previous extent of the property and the estate's functions. The connection to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who established the Vanderbilt Estate as a National Historic Site, is also noted by the interpreter. Whenever possible, the historical context is presented outdoors, so that once inside, the group can focus on the interior details. Tours also visit portions of the service areas to give a sense of the support required to maintain the grand home.

Interpretation of Other Buildings and Grounds

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

At present, the park has two interpretive waysides at the Home of FDR. One is located at the gravesite and describes the President's burial. The other is located near the Gardener's Cottage and directs visitors to the Cottage (which is not

interpreted) and to the Hyde Park Trail. Four tabletop maps provide orientation at the site. Six new wayside exhibits are scheduled for installation in 2009.

The Stable is interpreted with an audio program indicated by a faded marker that reads simply "Mrs. Roosevelt." It plays a three-minute excerpt of Eleanor Roosevelt reminiscing about riding at the estate. Without accompanying signage, the audio is difficult to comprehend. Visitors can access the Garage independently of the ranger-led tour. Inside the Garage are temporary exhibitions, public restrooms, and the Roosevelt Education Discovery Center for family activities.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Soon to be part of the standard tour is Stone Cottage, the original residence at Val-Kill. The Cottage contains a small interpretive display comprised of furnished sitting rooms, Roosevelt photos, and books. Visitors may explore the grounds independently and are also invited to walk the Val-Kill loop trail through the site's wooded areas. The site includes one of the most complete extant examples of Franklin Roosevelt's demonstration forests. Interpretive waysides are to be installed at key sites throughout the grounds.

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Visitors can take in views of the Hudson River, stroll through the formal gardens, walk historic carriage trails through the Romantic-era landscape, picnic at the Overlook, or access the Hudson River at Bard Rock.

Changing Exhibits

Changing exhibits at the Presidential Library are major attractions. The NPS curatorial staff prepares temporary exhibits in a small gallery space at Val-Kill and at the Vanderbilt Pavilion. Exhibits are sometimes installed at the FDR Garage and Top Cottage. Though the exhibits are of high quality, they are changed infrequently, as limited funding and staffing permit.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The park offers educational programs at each site, as well as in area schools. School groups come to the park through a reservation system operated jointly by the FDR Library and the NPS. The programs are presented to grades two through twelve. The school programs are curriculum-based (NYS and National Standards) and cover themes related to the parks' interpretive goals.

The curriculum-based programs at the Home of FDR NHS are given in tandem with the FDR Library and Museum, with each agency leading a 45-minute portion of the complete one-and-a-half-hour program. The students' tours of the FDR Home are not necessarily coordinated with the Library programs. The two agencies also distribute a joint publication listing the education program offerings.

While there is a range of NPS curriculum-based programs available for students (12 were offered in FY08), the overwhelming majority of students take house tours, not the NPS curriculum-based programs. The majority of the tours/programs serve the Home of FDR, with fewer given at Val-Kill and Vanderbilt.

In FY 2008, a total of 17,634 students, or about 3% of the total visitation to the parks, participated in the tours/programs (including those conducted off site). Park staff gave a total of 623 tours/programs, of which 556 were house tours and 67 were programs. Of the 17,634 students served, 15,766 (over 89%) took house tours and 1,868 (over 11%) took educational programs. Of the total number of students taking house tours, nearly 67% toured the FDR Home; about 5% toured Val-Kill Cottage; and some 28% toured the Vanderbilt Mansion. Of the total number of students taking programs, 79% took programs related to the Home of FDR NHS; about 16% took programs related to Vanderbilt Mansion NHS; and just 5% participated in Val-Kill-based programs. (The Val-Kill programs were off-site. No on-site Val-Kill programs were offered in FY 2008).

The three parks have one full-time education staff person, who visits teachers in area schools to introduce programs, create focus groups, and run workshops. Teacher workshops are also available at Top Cottage once or twice each year. Depending upon their availability, volunteers, teachers, Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns, and rangers assist with the programs under the direction of the education specialist. Typically, the program assistants are untrained in children's education. In FY 2008, the vast majority of the educational programs (66%) were given by park rangers and seasonal park guides. Indoor programs are held in the Wallace Center conference rooms, which have adequate space but are not equipped for hands-on, "messier" types of programs. The Wallace Center cafeteria accommodates groups of 50 students, but can become overcrowded and overwhelming to other visitors when school groups are present. School groups also use a tent outside the Wallace Center for lunch, weather permitting.

In conjunction with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the NPS manages an education initiative entitled "Teaching the Hudson Valley" (THV). This program aims to cultivate an appreciation for the Valley's culture, ecology, and history. THV provides grants, holds summer institutes for teachers, and helps disseminate teaching materials developed by grantees. THV also operates a website as a clearinghouse for teaching materials related to Hudson Valley sites.

Drop-in family activities are offered at the Roosevelt Education Discovery Center at the Home of FDR Garage. Media and exhibits in the 240-square-foot center are meant to convey FDR's boyhood interests and his experiences on the estate. The center features books, activities, interactive exhibits, natural specimens, and other media, some created by volunteers. However, many visitors find it only by chance when looking for nearby restrooms.

Beyond its own programs, the park offers a special version of the NPS Junior Ranger program, the "Junior Secret Service," for children visiting the Home of FDR outside of school groups. Park web sites direct interested children through a "For Kids" link to the Junior Ranger page.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Park staff, volunteers, and partners coordinate and support a variety of special

programs and activities, depending upon the availability of resources. For example, at the FDR site annual special events commemorate FDR's birthday (January 30), the anniversary of his death (April 12), Memorial Day in May, and Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday (October 11). The United States Military Academy at West Point provides an honor guard and color guard for the birthday commemoration. All events include guest speakers and the presentation of wreaths by community organizations.

At Val-Kill, ERVK organizes an annual Medals Ceremony to honor outstanding humanitarians (October). ERK also runs several sessions of a Girls Leadership Workshop (July-August) for high-school students from across the nation (even the world).

Working with the Town of Hyde Park and community organizations, Vanderbilt Mansion hosts a summer Music in the Parks lawn concert series. Other special events at Vanderbilt may be organized by the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association co-sponsors the Bellefield Design Lecture Series. Large crowds have come to see the historic homes decorated for the holidays at open houses.

RECREATIONAL USE

The Roosevelts and Vanderbilts used their Hyde Park estates for environmental pursuits and outdoor recreation. Comments indicate that many visitors value the parks for their natural settings and designed landscapes. Depending on the season, park trails are used by hikers, joggers, birders, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers, and sometimes by all-terrain vehicles, though this last activity is prohibited. Bicycle use is restricted to paved routes and Roosevelt Farm Lane. There are no trails for equestrians. Visitors to the Vanderbilt Mansion take more advantage of its landscape and setting for walking and picnicking than do visitors at the other sites. Bard Rock, located within the Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, is the only place in the parks that affords direct access to the Hudson River. It is a popular location for picnicking and provides informal river access for car-top boats.

There are five sections of the Hyde Park Trail on the three sites that can be hiked together or separately: the Vanderbilt Loop (2.4 miles), the Riverside Trail (1.0 miles), the Roosevelt Trail (1.8 miles), the Roosevelt Farm Lane (1.8 miles), and the Top Cottage Trail (1.0 miles). The trail is marked by white-and-green markers with a tulip-tree leaf emblem. New wooden kiosks have also been installed throughout the Hyde Park Trail system. The Hyde Park Trail is managed by a partnership among NPS, the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc., Winnakee Land Trust, Inc., and the Town of Hyde Park. It is also designated as part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail and in 2006 received designation by the Department of the Interior as a national recreation trail.

Side trails follow historic carriage or farm roads. They are identified by colored blazes and include the Val-Kill Loop (0.8 miles) and, at the Home of FDR, the Forest Trail, Meadow Trail, and Cove Trail. The trail system, though extensive, is generally under-utilized. To encourage active and appropriate use, NPS

and its trail partners, together with the Dutchess County Health Department, created Hyde Park Healthy Trails, improving trail markers, providing trail maps and a brochure, and hosting occasional guided hikes. The "Healthy Trails Walkabout" provides incentives to complete five of eight trail sections.

Permitted Uses

Park management makes decisions regarding use of the park for recreation based on potential conflict with the park's primary mission of preserving and commemorating the historic landscape. The park permits passive and low-impact day-use activities. Hiking and walking, jogging, cycling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are accepted activities when they do not conflict with the primary mission. There are two designated picnic areas, one by the Vanderbilt parking lot and one at the Val-Kill Stable-Garage.

Prohibited Uses

Per the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), the park does not allow metal detecting or in-line skating (or similar sports using wheeled devices) because of potential adverse impacts to resources, visitor safety, and visitor experience. Sledding/tobogganing, ice skating, and use of all-terrain vehicles are prohibited at all sites.

Special Uses

The park grants permission on a case-by-case basis for a limited number of organized activities conducted by others, such as wedding photography.

Park Operations and Facilities

Operational and Support Facilities

A single staff administers the three national historic sites. The park infrastructure includes facilities necessary for the support of operational activities, which are conducted from the following locations:

- The majority of the administration and management team is located in the historic Bellefield Mansion, which was acquired primarily to serve as the park headquarters. The size of the structure is sufficient for this use, but the layout and the large rooms of its original configuration as a mansion result in inefficient use of the space. All building systems require upgrading to serve the administrative uses.
- One office for the fee supervisor is located in the Wallace Center.
- Historic outbuildings throughout the parks are used by the administrative and management staff. At the Home of FDR, the Gardener's Cottage is used for interpretive offices. The Chauffeur's House on the former J.R. Roosevelt property is intermittently used as office space on a temporary basis, usually for personnel working on preservation projects. The Stone Garage at Bellefield is used as office space for the Visitor and Resource Protection Division. At Val-Kill, one office space is located on the second floor of Val-Kill Cottage. At Vanderbilt Mansion, the Pavilion is used for office space for interpretive and curatorial staff and as an office for the

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association. The Natural Resource Division operates out of the Vanderbilt Coach House. The education specialist is located in the Home of FDR Garage.

- The Museum Services Division has offices in the new museum services facility, and retains an office in Bellefield and in the Vanderbilt Pavilion.
- The Area Services (maintenance) Division uses two main locations: the Vanderbilt Coach House (Roads & Grounds) and the Bellefield outbuildings (Buildings & Utilities). The historic buildings were not intended for use as contemporary maintenance facilities. This use degrades the buildings, threatens their long-term preservation, and impedes efficient operation. The usable space in the buildings is inadequate for current maintenance needs, and there is no room for expansion. The HVAC systems are old and inefficient. Some workspaces are in old frame buildings that are not winterized. Restrooms for employees are inadequate. This division also uses the Val-Kill Stables-Garage for storage, and the gardener has permanent office space in the Greenhouse at the Home of FDR.
- The new partner administration building at Val-Kill provides office and program space for ERVK.
- The Garden Association uses the Vanderbilt Tool House for meeting space.

The provision of park housing was evaluated and certified by the NPS Northeast Region. The park is authorized to provide seven units of housing. The park currently maintains the following historic structures as quarters for seasonal and temporary park staff and law enforcement: at Vanderbilt, the Upper Gate House, the Lower Gate House, and the Gardener's Cottage; and at the Home of FDR, the Duplex and the Bellefield Stone Cottage. All of these structures were built to be homes and serve well as housing. All have been updated but still require routine and cyclic maintenance. The housing is offered to employees and interns at a comparable market rate for the northeastern United States, as determined by the Department of Interior.

The average rent in Dutchess County for a one-bedroom apartment is $815 per month; a two-bedroom is $998; and a three-bedroom is $1,224. Given the difficulty employees (especially new employees) have in finding suitable rental units, particularly for the short term, the availability of these facilities allows the park to attract and keep seasonal, intern, and law-enforcement personnel. An added benefit is that occupancy helps keep the buildings in good repair and offers an additional degree of protection for park resources.

Public Use Facilities

The Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, located on NARA property, serves as the visitor center and primary information and orientation center for the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites. The Pavilion at Vanderbilt Mansion NHS houses a visitor center, park offices, a museum shop, and a 420-square-foot gallery for temporary exhibitions.

The park maintains approximately six miles of roads and eight miles of trails throughout the three sites. The bulk of the roadways within the

parks are former private estate and farm roads that solely serve the visiting public and park operations and are not used as public throughways. Likewise, most of the trails were intended for estate and farm purposes, not as public facilities. One exception is the recently established trail from Val-Kill to Top Cottage.

The visitor circulation system is composed largely of historic roads and visitor parking facilities. The main visitor parking facility at the Home of FDR provides space for approximately 120 cars and six buses. At Val-Kill the main visitor parking facility provides space for approximately 15 cars and three buses. At Vanderbilt, the main visitor parking facility provides space for approximately 120 cars and two buses. No private parking is provided at Top Cottage. Visitor access there is limited to shuttle, pedestrian, and bike access. Demand frequently exceeds capacity at the visitor parking lots: an estimated 15 times annually at the Home and Val-Kill, and 50 times annually at Vanderbilt Mansion. During those times, cars park on lawn areas within the historic cores, which is disruptive to visitor enjoyment of the cultural landscape. A limited number of parking spaces are provided at the Roosevelt Farm Lane trailheads on Route 9 and Route 9G.

Operational Funding and Staffing

The number of park staff fluctuates, depending upon which positions are filled or vacant. In 2008, there were 64.13 FTEs filled ("full-time equivalent" positions are the most accurate means of describing staffing, since some positions are seasonal or part-time), with 7.37 positions under hire or soon to be filled, which totals 71.5 FTEs. The 71.5 FTEs are distributed among seven operating divisions. Costs for these employees, including salary and benefits, total nearly $4.3 million. The operating divisions include:

Superintendent's Office
Administration
Area Services (Maintenance)
Interpretation
Museum Services
Natural Resources
Visitor and Resource Protection

All functions have been operating with declining numbers of personnel, as well as inadequate funding for non-personnel costs. Since the establishment of the parks, several significant historic properties have become the responsibility of park management. These include the Bellefield property added to the Home of FDR in 1975; Eleanor Roosevelt NHS added in 1977; Top Cottage added in 1997, and the historic farm road and surrounding lands in 2007.

Though operating funds have been increased over the years, they have not kept pace with the increasing responsibilities of preserving and interpreting additional features and lands or with inflationary rising fixed costs (particularly employee cost-of-living adjustments, retirement and health insurance benefits, and utility costs).

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

This division consists of the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, a Management Assistant, and a temporary Office Automation Assistant. The coordinator for the "Teaching the Hudson Valley" program is a fee-funded employee who is also within this Division. In addition to responsibility for all aspects of the park's operation, the superintendent and deputy provide oversight and direction to the parks' numerous partnership efforts and serve as NPS liaisons to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. They are also responsible for Congressional contacts and contacts with the Roosevelt Family. They participate in the Upstate New York Subcluster, which enables them to exchange information and expertise with a group of nearby NPS units.

ADMINISTRATION

This division consists of an Administrative Officer and four other employees responsible for managing the parks' budgeting, human resources, housing, acquisition and property management, energy reporting, and record-keeping. A computer specialist is responsible for keeping the parks' information technology performing efficiently.

MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance (Area Services) Division is divided into two sections: Roads & Grounds and Buildings & Utilities. A Facilities Operations Specialist is in charge of the entire operation. The Roads & Grounds staff consists of a foreman and seven other employees (two of whom are subject to furlough), and a varying number of seasonal positions. Roads & Grounds staff are responsible for more than 40 acres of fine turf, more than 90 acres of rough turf, 53,000 square feet of formal gardens (with the assistance of the Frederick W. Vanderbilt and Farrand Garden Associations), more than 1,200 specimen trees, five dams, five bridges, more than 27,000 feet of stone walls, 11 lane-miles of roadway, eight miles of trails, and seven parking lots. The Buildings & Utilities section has a foreman and seven maintenance people, as well as two custodians, and a varying number of seasonal positions who care for all the historic buildings, which include more than 30 electrical systems, 19 alarm systems, 23 heating systems, 22 plumbing systems, 13 septic and three water systems. These figures do not include the two new buildings placed in service in 2008.

INTERPRETATION

There are 13 full-time permanent employees and a varying number of employees who are seasonal, subject to furlough, and/or part-time. The Interpretive Division is responsible for the NPS presence in the Wallace Center, which functions as the parks' visitor center. In addition to its primary responsibility of preparing and presenting public programs, the division manages the park education program and Alternate Transit System; coordinates volunteers; manages the fee-collection program; and provides photography and videography services for the parks. Division personnel coordinate the "Rail-to-Trail" interpretive programs in conjunction with Amtrak.

MUSEUM SERVICES

This division consists of five permanent professional employees, with a varying number of part-time and/or term employees. They are responsible for all aspects of preserving and maintaining the parks' collections and archives, including the portions on public exhibit. They develop park exhibits and provide support for other park programs and also work with a variety of partners and special initiatives relating to park themes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The staff of this division consists of one person, a chief, sometimes assisted by interns provided by outside or grant-funded programs. In addition to researching, monitoring, managing, and advising on natural resources (a topic of increasing concern as urban sprawl continues to reduce open land), the division has a variety of additional responsibilities. These include overseeing park activities for trails, landscape planning, environmental compliance, and archeology.

VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

This division is responsible for security, safety, traffic control, crowd control, and special events at all units. It consists of a chief ranger and four park rangers. The division owns two fully equipped police vehicles. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt parks have concurrent jurisdiction, and the ranger force maintains good working relationships with town, county and state police. Per recent legislation, the rangers have police officer status in New York State, which gives them jurisdiction outside park boundaries. The division also works with the FDR Library and has placed a radio there to facilitate coordination. The Library depends on a contracted security service, which provides round-the-clock protection but does not have police powers. Park rangers also occasionally assist other parks for special events and are on call for wildland fire details.

Partnerships and Volunteers

Partners play key roles in the operation of the parks, providing advocacy, volunteer workers, and assistance in raising funds. The primary partners with which the NPS has formal agreements are:

- The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Incorporated (ERVK)
- The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI)
- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
- Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home
- The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
- The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association (RVHA)
- The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association
- The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Inc.

Park managers also work cooperatively with **Scenic Hudson**, **the Town of Hyde Park**, **the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area**, and others to advance the Hudson Valley Welcome Center project (previously known as the Regional Center) on lands between Route 9 and Route 9G.

Park managers connect the parks' interpretive programs with those of **thematically related sites**, such as those associated with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Vanderbilts, other presidents, the Hudson Valley, and "**sites of conscience**." They also cooperate with partners in the **Hyde Park Trail Network** to extend and improve the trail system and conduct increasingly important work with the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation** to protect views of lands outside the park boundary and to manage invasive plant species. Volunteers assist the parks in interpretation, maintenance, and resource management. (Student Conservation Assistants are considered volunteers for the purposes of this discussion.) The interpretive volunteers function as docents, giving tours of the main residences and providing back-up for tours with large groups. In fiscal year 2007, interpretive volunteers provided 3,023 hours of service. In addition, 12 volunteers provided 260 hours of service on "Rail-to-Trail" interpretive programs presented on Amtrak trains. Cumulatively, volunteer efforts in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 translate into six additional FTEs for the park. Two garden associations provided a total of 9,200 volunteer hours to maintenance operations.

Socioeconomic Environment

The Town of Hyde Park, home to the national historic sites, is located in the mid-Hudson Valley, approximately 80 miles north of Manhattan and 70 miles south of Albany. Located in Dutchess County, Hyde Park stretches along ten miles of scenic and historic shoreline on the east bank of the river and contains about 37 square miles (nearly 24,000 acres). The town general zoning ordinance was already in place when the previous master plans for the Home of FDR and Vanderbilt Mansion were being prepared in the 1970s, at which time 91% of the land was zoned residential. However, no plan governed the detailed pattern of land use. As a result, the main commercial area grew up along Route 9 between the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt sites, with strip malls and small business establishments mingled with municipal and historic buildings, some of which have associations with the Roosevelts.

Population and Demographic Profile

In the 2000 census Hyde Park recorded a population of 20,851, the fifth largest of the 20 towns in Dutchess County. The estimate for 2006 shows 20,697, or a drop of 0.7%. The density for Hyde Park is 563 persons per square mile, compared to 349 in Dutchess County and 402 in New York State. In 1900 Hyde Park had a population of 2,100, which had increased to 16,700 in 1970. Planning agency estimates incorporated in the 1970s master plans predicted that the population of Hyde Park would grow to 32,000 in 1990, but in fact it leveled off in its present range around 1980.

Hyde Park remains overwhelmingly White non-Hispanic (89.3%), with 4.3% of the population Black and 3.2% Hispanic. Only 4.9% is foreign-born, compared to 20.4% statewide. Thus, although the population has increased greatly since FDR's time, its composition has changed little. The residents are quite well-educated, with 86.9% having at least a high school diploma, 24.7%

with a bachelor's degree or higher, and 10.5% with a graduate or professional degree. Some 20% of the population attends public schools—2,658 in the town's five elementary and middle schools and 1,550 in FDR Senior High School.

Dutchess County was estimated to have a population of 295,146 in 2006, an increase of 5.4% from the 280,150 of 2000. The New York State population increased only 1.7% in that period. The county had a population of 81,670 in 1900 and stood at around 125,000 at the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945. Unlike many other rural areas, Dutchess did not lose population during the Great Depression or the general rural decline of the 20th Century. Its greatest rate of increase occurred during the 1960s and 1970s, as urban sprawl largely skipped over rugged Putnam County. The rapid growth of that period may have led planning agencies to make the prediction of 400,000 for 1990 that is cited in the 1977 Home of FDR master plan. Dutchess County as a whole has a higher minority population than Hyde Park, with 10.2% Black and 8.1% Hispanic. The foreign-born figure is also higher, at 8.4%. The median resident age is 36.4 years for Dutchess County and 35.9 for the state.

Transportation

Dutchess County has a land area of 801.59 square miles. It extends from the Hudson River to the eastern boundary of New York State. The major regional north-south highway is the New York State Thruway (I-87), though it lies on the other side of the river. There are vehicular bridges across the Hudson at Poughkeepsie in the south and Rhinecliff in the north. U.S. Route 9, the old Albany Post Road, which runs past the Vanderbilt Mansion and the Home of FDR, intersects I-84 about 20 miles south of Hyde Park. The Taconic State Parkway, a scenic roadway from which commercial vehicles are prohibited, runs through the center of the county to terminate at a junction with I-90 (the Berkshire branch of the New York Thruway, which links to the Massachusetts Turnpike). The nearest commercial airports are Dutchess County in Poughkeepsie, 13 miles from Hyde Park, and Stewart International in Newburgh, 25 miles away. The Poughkeepsie railroad station, which is a terminus for Metro North commuter trains and is also served by Amtrak long-distance trains, is 5.5 miles from Hyde Park.

Housing

Dutchess County had 110,712 housing units in 2005 and a home ownership rate of 69%. In that year, the median value of an owner-occupied home in Dutchess County was $306,900, and in Hyde Park was $259,500, close to the state figure of $258,900. The Hyde Park value had increased dramatically from the $130,400 recorded in 2000, though the general downturn in housing prices after 2006 has undoubtedly had an impact. In 2006, the average rent in Dutchess County for a one-bedroom apartment was $815 per month; a two-bedroom $998 per month; and a three-bedroom $1,224 per month.

Income and Employment

The median household income for Dutchess County was $56,971 in 2004 and

for the Town of Hyde Park $59,300 in 2005, an increase from $50,870 in 2000. These figures are considerably higher than for the state as a whole: $45,343 in 2004 and $49,480 a year later. An estimated 5.7% of residents of Hyde Park and 7.7% of those in Dutchess County have incomes below the official poverty line. This compares with 14.6% state-wide.

Employment data indicate a predominantly service orientation, with little manufacturing or agriculture remaining. The most common industries for Hyde Park males are: construction (12%), computer and electronic products (10%), educational services (7%), professional, scientific and technical services (7%), public administration (7%), health care (5%), and repair and maintenance (4%). For females the figures are: educational services (21%), health care (17%), accommodation and food services (6%), professional, scientific, and technical services (4%), social assistance (4%), and food and beverage stores (4%). A sizable portion of workers commute substantial distances, as the mean travel time to work is nearly 30 minutes for the county and 26 minutes for the town.

While the rate of development may have slowed, it has by no means ceased, as evidenced by the 860 building permits issued in Dutchess County in 2006. In Hyde Park, several large projects, which would combine multi-family housing with commercial use, have been proposed for some of the remaining large tracts of vacant land. If constructed, they would complete the transition from the largely rural setting that prevailed during most of the lifetimes of Frederick Vanderbilt and President Roosevelt to a suburban environment. These proposals are being reviewed within the context of the Comprehensive Plan of 2005.

Tourism occupies an important place in the regional economy. A study, "The Economic Impact of Tourism in New York," prepared by Tourist Economics in 2007 using 2006 data, offers some revealing figures about the role of tourism in the state economy. The study divides the state into 11 economic regions, with Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties forming the Hudson Valley region. For this region in 2006 it is estimated that tourism generated $2,943,224,000 in direct sales and labor income of $1,646,767,000. Tourism employed 55,763 people and generated $179,926,000 in local taxes and $167,984,000 in state taxes. The Hudson Valley produced only 6% of the state total direct sales (New York City was the major contributor, at 63%).

Within the Hudson Valley Region, Dutchess County produced 16% of the direct sales; Westchester was the dominant contributor at 53%. In Dutchess, tourism direct sales reached $466,747,000, with labor income at $261,261,000. Tourism in the county provided employment for 10,277 people, local taxes of $31,946,000, and state taxes of $26,640,000. A breakdown of direct sales shows $91,772,000 derived from lodging, $33,807,000 from recreation, $107,848,000 from food and beverage, $79,607,000 from retail and service stations, $134,794,000 from transit, and $18,920,000 from second homes. Tourist labor employment (direct and indirect) was about 8.7% of the total, and tourist labor income was about 5.2% of the county total.

Economic Impact of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

The following section is adapted from Daniel J. Stynes, "Economic Significance of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites to the Local Economy" (April, 2008).[24]

The three Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites combined received 572,163 visitors in 2007, including 178,408 paid tours. The mix of visitors at each unit was estimated by dividing visitors into those who took tours and those who did not. The segment mix for tour visitors was assumed to be 10% local, 60% day trips, 20% overnight stays in area motels, and 10% other overnight stays (camping or stays in private homes). Non-tour visitors were divided into 80% local and 20% day trips from outside the local area (Table 3-2).

Applying the tour and non-tour segment mixes to each unit yields an overall distribution of visitors to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt of 58% local, 32% day trips, 6% overnight stays in motels, B&B's etc., and 3% other overnight stays. Vanderbilt had a higher percentage of local visitors, while the Home of FDR visits mostly involved tours.

Table 3-2: Visitors to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt 2007

			SEGMENT MIX			
UNIT	TOTAL RECREATION VISITS	TOURS	LOCAL	DAY TRIP	MOTEL	OTHER OVN
ELRO	59,846	23,631	52%	36%	8%	4%
HOFR	114,193	90,684	24%	52%	16%	8%
VAMA	398,124	64,093	69%	26%	3%	2%
ROVA Total	572,163	178,408	58%	32%	6%	3%

Spending averages for Roosevelt-Vanderbilt were estimated at $22 per party per day for local visitors, $68 per party for day trips, $220 per night for visitors staying in area motels, and $110 per party per night for other overnight visitors. The spending averages apply to roughly a 50-mile radius of the park. An average party size of 2.5 was assumed.

Re-entry rates were estimated to adjust for double counting of those who visited more than one unit on their trip or entered a single unit more than once. The re-entry factors were estimated based on park estimates of the percentage of tour takers who take tours at more than one site. To estimate the number of unique visitors represented in the tour counts, we began with the 90,684 tour visitors at the Home of FDR and added 15% of the tours at Vanderbilt and 10% of tour visits at Val-Kill to represent distinct visitors.

For overnight visitors, 1.7 nights of spending was attributed to the park visit for visitors in motels and 1.2 nights for other overnight visitors. Since re-entry factors for these segments are close to these length-of-stay figures, the effect is to count roughly one day of spending for each visit (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3: Average Spending and Visit Conversion Factors for ROVA, 2007

	LOCAL	DAY TRIP	MOTEL	OTHER OVN
Spend Avg per Party per day	$22.16	$68.41	$220.00	$109.88
Length of stay	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.2
Party size	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Re-entry/Multi-park visits	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.2

The figure of 572,163 visits (park entries) converts to 494,755 unique visitors and 205,327 party days/nights in the area. Applying the per day/night spending averages for each segment to the number of party days/nights yields a total Roosevelt-Vanderbilt visitor spending of $11 million in 2007. Local visitors accounted for $2.68 million of the total (Table 3-4). Thirty percent of the spending was for restaurant meals, 15% for lodging, 18% souvenirs, and 18% auto fuel. The $1.17 million spent on admissions includes the park admission and tour fees.

Table 3-4: ROVA Visits and Spending by Segment, 2007

	LOCAL	DAY TRIP	MOTEL	OTHER OVN	TOTAL
Visits	333,231	184,437	35,002	19,492	572,163
Unique visits	302,937	153,698	21,877	16,243	494,755
Party nights	121,175	61,479	14,876	7,797	205,327
Total spending ($000's)	$2,685	$4,206	$3,273	$857	$11,021

Table 3-5: ROVA Visitor Spending by Category

CATEGORY	SPENDING ($000'S)	PCT
Motel, hotel, B&B	$ 1,523	14%
Camping fees	131	1%
Restaurants & bars	3,334	30%
Groceries, take-out	689	6%
Gas & oil	1,974	18%
Other vehicle expenses	66	1%
Local transportation	98	1%
Admissions & fees (including tour fees)	1,171	11%
Souvenirs	2,034	18%
Total	**$11,021**	**100%**

Economic impacts of visitor spending are estimated by applying the spending estimates to a model of the local region's economy. Impacts apply to the local region, encompassing roughly a 30-mile radius of the park. Impact estimates can be made using all visitor spending (economic significance to the region) or just spending by visitors from outside the local region (economic impact). Estimates made using all visitor spending, including secondary effects, generate $11 million in spending, which in turn supports 232 jobs in the area, generates $3.85 million in labor income (wages and salaries), and contributes $5.6 million in value added.[25] Visitor spending directly supports 88 jobs in restaurants, 41 jobs in motels, and 38 retail jobs (including grocery stores and gas stations). A rural area sales multiplier of 1.3 was factored in, which means that $.30 in secondary sales is generated for every dollar of direct sales (Table 3-6). Economic impacts are about 25% less if spending by local visitors is excluded (Table 3-7).

Table 3–6: Economic Significance of Visitor Spending, 2007

SECTOR/SPENDING CATEGORY	SALES $000'S	JOBS	LABOR INCOME $000'S	VALUE ADDED $000'S
Direct Effects				
Motel, hotel cabin or B&B	$1,523	41	$664	$1,078
Camping fees	131	1	15	36
Restaurants & bars	3,334	88	1,262	1,424
Admissions & fees	1,171	27	425	711
Other vehicle expenses	66	0	13	29
Local transportation	98	2	53	59
Grocery stores	174	4	67	89
Gas stations	440	6	158	205
Other retail	986	28	451	631
Wholesale Trade	183	5	99	111
Total Direct Effects	**8,107a**	**202**	**3,207**	**4,374**
Secondary Effects	2,400	31	647	1,247
Total Effects	**10,507**	**232**	**3,853**	**5,621**

a. Note that direct sales are less than the $11 million in spending, as not all spending is captured by the local economy. In particular, only retail margins and a portion of wholesale margins on goods bought by visitors accrue to the local economy, as most goods bought by visitors are not made in the local area.

Table 3-7: Economic Impact of Visitor Spending, 2007

SECTOR/SPENDING CATEGORY	SALES $000'S	JOBS	LABOR INCOME $000'S	VALUE ADDED $000'S
Direct Effects				
Motel, hotel, cabin, or B&B	$1,523	32	$664	$1,078
Camping fees	131	2	15	36
Restaurants & bars	2,171	51	822	927
Admissions & fees	881	23	320	535
Other vehicle expenses	66	1	13	29
Local transportation	98	2	53	59
Grocery stores	113	3	43	58
Gas stations	332	5	119	155
Other retail	744	17	340	475
Wholesale Trade	136	4	73	82
Total Direct Effects	**6,195**	**138**	**2,461**	**3,434**
Secondary Effects	1,811	23	492	947
Total Effects	**8,005**	**161**	**2,953**	**4,381**

Note: Excludes spending by local visitors

As visitor spending on admissions and tour fees mostly accrue to the NPS, this spending should be excluded if visitor spending impacts are combined with the impacts of park operations. In FY 2006, the three units and the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Headquarters had a total payroll of $3.88 million supporting 67 NPS jobs.[26] Including secondary effects, the total impact of the park payroll on the region was 100 jobs, $4.8 million in labor income, and $5.5 million value added.

Notes

1. NPS, "Water Resources Management Plan." (NPS, 1997).

2. Klemens, M.R., et. al., "Herpetofauna of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites" (Tech. Report. NPS/NAROSS/NRTR-92-08; Boston, MA: NPS, North Atlantic Regional Office, 1992).

3. NPS, "Water Resources Management Plan." (NPS, 1997).

4. USFWS, "Significant habitats and habitat complexes of the New York Bight Watershed." (Charlestown, RI: Southern New England-New York Bight Coastal Ecosystems Program, 1997).

5. NPS, "Water Resources Management Plan." (NPS, 1997).

6. Dutchess County Dept. of Planning, "Natural Resources" (Poughkeepsie, 1985).

7. Gilbert, A.T., et. al., "An inventory of terrestrial mammals at National Park Service Sites in the Northeast Temperate Network (draft). (NPS, 2006); Pandullo Quirk Associates, "Natural Resources Inventory at Eleanor Roosevelt NHS." (Boston: NPS, 1979).

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11. Klemens, M.R., et. al. "Herpetofauna."

12. Ibid.

13. Mather, M.E., et. al., "Freshwater fish inventory, Northeast National Parks." (NPS, 2003); Schmidt, R.E., "Fishes of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS." (NPS, ROVA: 1995).

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19. Dutton, B.E., "FDR NHS vascular plant survey" (Hyde Park: NPS, 1998a); "Eleanor Roosevelt NHS vascular plant survey" (1998b); Glenn, S.D., "Vanderbilt Mansion NHS vascular plant survey" (1998).

20. Bravo, M.A., "Invasive plant assessment and inventory." (Hyde Park: NPS, 2002).

21. NPS, "Assessing the risk of foliar injury from ozone on vegetation in parks in the Northeast Temperate Network." (NPS: 2004).

22. Ann Davis, "Report of Interviews at Historic Sites in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area." (Poughkeepsie: Marist College Bureau of Economic Research, 2005).

23. Ibid.

24. Daniel Stynes, "Economic Significance of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites to the Local Economy." (East Lansing MI, Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources, Michigan State University, April, 2008).

25. Jobs include full-time and part-time jobs, but adjust seasonal positions to annual equivalents. Labor income includes wages and salaries and payroll benefits. Value added is the sum of labor income, profits and rents, and indirect business taxes.

26. Seasonal positions are converted to an annual equivalent.




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OVERLEAF:
Family library, FDR Home

Part Four: Environmental Consequences

Introduction

In conjunction with the *Draft General Management Plan,* this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, which requires the evaluation of potential impacts resulting from federal actions or lands involving federal jurisdiction. NEPA procedures have been used to inform the public about possible undertakings with the potential to affect properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places.

The alternatives presented in this draft document establish management objectives and outline potential actions that may result from those objectives. The general nature of the alternatives dictates that the analysis of impacts is also general. Thus, although the National Park Service can make reasonable projections of likely impacts, these projections are based on assumptions that may eventually prove to be inaccurate. As a result, the environmental impact statement (EIS) is **programmatic** in character and presents an overview of potential impacts relating to each alternative. This EIS will serve as a foundation for further environmental compliance (including both NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) as actions are implemented.

The following chapter describes the probable consequences of the alternatives on cultural and natural resources, visitor use and experience, park operations and facilities, and the socioeconomic environment associated with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. Impact topics were selected for analysis by determining which park resources or related elements would be affected by actions proposed under the three alternatives. Topics were also chosen to address planning issues and concerns. Resources and environmental concerns that would not be appreciably affected by any of the alternatives were eliminated from further consideration and are listed below. Actions and topics are addressed only where there is a potential impact.

Analyzing Impacts

Terms

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, potential impacts are described in terms of type (positive or negative, direct or indirect), context (site-specific, local, or regional), duration (short-term or

long-term), and level of intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, or major). Cumulative impacts are also assessed. The NPS based these impact analyses and conclusions on a review of the existing literature and the professional judgment of subject matter experts within the park and other agencies. Where necessary and appropriate, this draft suggests mitigating measures to minimize or avoid impacts. The following general definitions are used throughout the impact analysis.

Type of Impact

"Type of impact" is the effect of an action on a resource.	
Positive	A beneficial change in the condition or appearance of the resource or a change that moves the resource toward a desired condition.
Negative	A change that detracts from the appearance or condition of the resource or a change that moves the resource away from a desired condition.
Direct	An effect that is caused by an action and occurs at the same time and place.
Indirect	An effect that is caused by an action but occurs later in time or farther removed in distance, though still reasonably foreseeable.

Context

"Context" is the setting within which an impact is analyzed.	
Site-specific	The impact would affect the project site.
Local	The impact would affect the park.
Regional	The impact would affect localities surrounding the park.

Duration of Impact

Short-term	Impacts only during construction or that last less than one year.
Long-term	Impacts that last longer than one year.

Level of Intensity

The level of intensity is measured by severity and magnitude of impact, i.e. negligible, minor, moderate, or major. Because the level of intensity varies by impact topic, intensity definitions are provided separately for each impact topic. (See Tables 4-1 through 4-5.)

Cumulative Impacts

In addition to direct and indirect impacts, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implements NEPA, also requires assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision-making process for federal projects. Cumulative impacts are defined as the impact on the environment that results from an action when added to other present and reasonable foreseeable actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes the action (40 CFR 1508.7). In defining the contribution of each alternative to cumulative impacts, the following terminology is used:

Imperceptible	The incremental effect contributed by the alternative to overall cumulative impacts is so small that it is impossible or extremely difficult to discern.
Noticeable	The incremental effect contributed by the alternative, while evident and observable, is still relatively small in proportion to the overall cumulative impact.
Appreciable	The incremental effect contributed by the alternative constitutes a large portion of the overall cumulative impact.

Impairment of Resources

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the alternatives, National Park Service management policies require that potential effects be analyzed to determine whether proposed actions would impair the resources of the unit.

The fundamental purpose of the National Park System, established by its 1916 Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve resources and values. National Park managers must always seek to avoid or minimize, to the greatest degree practicable, negative impacts on resources and values. However, these laws give the NPS management discretion to allow impacts when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impacts do not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the NPS this management discretion, it is limited by the statutory requirement that the NPS must leave the resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise.

A prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of contributing resources and values. This would include the opportunities that otherwise would be available for the enjoyment of those resources or values. An impact on any contributing resource or value may constitute an "impairment," most likely if it affected a resource or value whose conservation would be (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (3) identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or

other relevant NPS planning documents. Impairment might result from NPS activities in managing a park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. An impairment determination is provided in the "Impairment of Resources" section under the cultural and natural resource impact topics. No impairment determination is required for the visitor use and experience, socioeconomic environment, and park operations and facilities impact topics.

Impact Topics Considered

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that agencies consider whether a number of different possible issues require detailed analysis as impact topics. They cover a wide variety, ranging from air quality to threatened and endangered species to socioeconomic conditions. While some of these mandatory topics will be examined in greater depth, others have been dismissed from further analysis.

Based on the decision points, planning issues, and analysis of existing conditions, the following impact topics are considered and analyzed in this document:

- cultural resources (comprising cultural landscapes, historic buildings and structures, collections and archives, and archeological resources)
- natural resources
- visitor use and experience
- park operations and facilities
- socioeconomic environment

For a detailed description of these resources, please refer to Part Three: Affected Environment.

The impact topics are examined across the spectrum of activities associated with each of the alternatives, including those that are common to all alternatives. These impacts are interrelated; an activity generated in one topic area can affect another topic area. For example, a cultural resource-related activity would have an impact on cultural resources, but could also have an effect on visitor use or park operations.

Impact Topics Dismissed from Further Consideration

The NPS considered the following mandatory impact topics but did not analyze them further, because they were irrelevant to the alternatives, would have no discernible impacts, or required no more detailed work to understand their impacts.

AIR QUALITY

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt is designated a Class II area. The alternatives presented in this document make proposals to promote car-free access, increase energy efficiency, upgrade buildings and landscapes, and develop a new maintenance facility (which would be constructed to meet energy efficiency standards). Construction activities could produce an increase in fugitive dust from soil exposure and disturbance and increased exhaust from construction vehicles. However,

this effect would occur only during construction and would be localized. Pollution reductions related to promoting car-free access and increasing energy efficiency are expected to be of such a modest scale in comparison to the regional/state emissions as to be difficult to measure. Thus, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

CARBON FOOTPRINT/CLIMATE CHANGE

On a global scale, changes in climate are associated with the increase in levels of greenhouse gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels and the extensive removal of vegetation, primarily tropical rainforests. Increases in greenhouse gas emissions could occur within the parks as a result of increased car-dependent visitation and the associated use of vehicles that burn fossil fuels, land deforestation, and new development that consumes fossil fuels for heating, cooling, and electricity. Although the alternatives include proposals to promote car-free access, increase energy efficiency, remove successional woody growth, upgrade buildings and landscapes, and develop a new maintenance facility (which would be constructed to meet energy efficiency standards), the scale of the proposals is such that the amount of increase or decrease of emissions in comparison to the regional/state emissions would be so minimal that this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

CONFORMITY WITH LOCAL LAND-USE PLANS

The existing and proposed land uses of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS are in compliance with local land-use plans. In addition, no conflict is expected with existing state planning efforts. The implementation of the draft plan or any of the analyzed alternatives is not expected to conflict with local plans.

ENERGY, NATURAL OR DEPLETABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

None of the alternatives would result in the extraction of resources from Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS. Under all alternatives, conservation principles would be applied to ensure the maintenance of the parks' natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

All federal agencies are required to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations (Executive Order 12898). The planning team eliminated this impact topic from further evaluation because none of the alternatives presented in this document would result in disproportionately high adverse environmental effects on minority or low-income communities. There are no air or water pollution effects that would affect human health. Any economic impacts from employment, associated income, and construction are expected to be modest but positive. There would be no change in land use in the surrounding area that could affect minority or low-income communities.

FLOODPLAINS

Floodplains are defined by the NPS Floodplain Management Guideline (1993) as "the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including flood-prone areas of offshore islands, and including, at a minimum, that area subject to temporary inundation by a regulatory flood." The NPS has adopted the policy of preserving floodplain values and minimizing potentially hazardous conditions associated with flooding in 100- and 500-year floodplains. The alternatives presented in this document propose no major development or alterations within floodplains. Potential activities would be limited to trail upgrades and activities related to management of the viewshed and forest. Given that these activities would cause no change in the ability of the floodplain to convey floodwaters, or its values and functions, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

SACRED SITES AND INDIAN TRUSTS

No known sacred sites (Executive Order 13007) or Indian trust resources (ECM95-2) are involved in the plan or proposals. The Delaware Nation and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin have identified the lands of Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS as being within original Delaware territory. This group is considered a "traditionally associated people." In January 2006, the planning team initiated the consultation process with the tribal representatives. As of this date, tribal representatives have raised no concerns or issues regarding sacred sites; therefore this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

NATURAL AMBIENT SOUNDSCAPES

The alternatives outlined in this document would not affect noise levels over the long term. During construction of facilities or landscape rehabilitation efforts, for example, short-term increases in noise levels could be expected in the site vicinity due to equipment use. However, any development would occur in a suburban area, where it is not unusual to hear machinery on occasion. Because any impacts on noise levels would be short-term and present no variance from current noise levels, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

NATURAL LIGHTSCAPES

Generally, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS is closed after dark and has few night programs, other than the annual Holiday Open Houses and night meetings at the Wallace Center. Park management limits the use of night lighting to levels required to ensure public safety around park facilities and to secure resources. The alternatives presented in this document propose no extension of the park hours into the evening and no significant increase in night programs. Because the alternatives would cause no perceptible change in the natural lightscape, this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

WATER RESOURCES

The NPS *Management Policies* state that the NPS will "take all necessary actions to maintain or restore the quality of surface waters and ground waters within

the parks consistent with the Clean Water Act and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations." Construction activities outlined in the alternatives could result in an increase in fugitive dust from soil exposure and disturbance and potential fluid leaks from construction vehicles. These effects would occur only during construction, would be localized, and mitigation measures would be taken to protect water quality. Overall, the alternatives presented in this document would have no discernible impacts on water-quality conditions; therefore this topic was dismissed from further analysis.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

Methodology

In this impact analysis, cultural resources include cultural landscapes, historic buildings and structures, museum collections and archives, and archeological sites and resources. Effects on cultural resources are described in terms consistent with the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NPS intends to comply with requirements of NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require that the impacts of the alternatives and their component actions be disclosed. Consistent with those regulations, the analysis of individual actions includes identification and characterization of impacts. Characterization includes a discussion of the type of impact (positive or negative), duration (short-term, long-term, or permanent), and intensity of impact (see Table 4-1).

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative. (36 CFR Part 800.5, *Assessment of Adverse Effects*). A determination of no adverse effect means that there is an effect, but it would not in any way diminish the character-defining features of the cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register. CEQ regulations and the NPS Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision Making (Director's Order 12) also call for a discussion of the appropriateness of mitigation, as well as an analysis of the effectiveness of the mitigation in reducing the intensity of a potential impact, e.g., from major to moderate to minor. Any resultant reduction in intensity of impact due to mitigation, however, is an estimate of the effectiveness of mitigation under NEPA only. It does not suggest that the level of effect as defined by Section 106 is similarly reduced. Although adverse effects under Section 106 may be mitigated, the effect remains adverse.

This analysis is not intended to fully meet the requirements of Section 106, but is based on currently available information. A formal finding of effect

for the undertaking (implementation of the alternative) on cultural resources, based upon the criteria of effect found in the Advisory Council's regulations, will be made when the documentation requirements for a finding are available, prior to taking action to implement the alternative. (See Part Five: Coordination and Consultation for more information about how Section 106 will be addressed.)

The planning team based this impact analysis and conclusions largely on the review of existing research and studies, information provided by experts in the NPS and other agencies and organizations, and the professional judgment of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt staff. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts on cultural resources, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined in the following table.

Table 4-1: Impact Intensities for Cultural Resources

	CULTURAL RESOURCES			
	CULTURAL LANDSCAPES	HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES	ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
Negligible	Impact(s) is at the lowest levels of detection, barely perceptible, and not measurable			
Minor	Impact would affect a pattern or a feature and would be perceptible and measurable, but slight and localized. The action would not diminish the overall integrity of the landscape.	Impact would affect a feature and would be perceptible and measurable, but slight and localized. The action would not diminish the overall integrity of the structure or building.	Impact would affect the condition and long-term preservation of a few items in the collection. The action would not degrade the usefulness of the collection for future research and interpretation.	Impact would result in little, if any, loss of important information potential.
Moderate	Impact would affect one or more character-defining pattern(s) or feature(s) and would be perceptible and measurable. The action would not diminish the integrity of the landscape to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized.	Impact would affect one or more character-defining feature(s) and would be perceptible and measurable. The action would not diminish the integrity of the building or structure to the extent that its National Register eligibility is jeopardized.	Impact would affect the condition and long-term preservation of many items in the museum collection. The action would diminish the usefulness of the collection for future research and interpretation.	Impact does not result in substantial loss of important information potential.
Major	Impact would affect character-defining patterns or features, and be substantial, discernible, and permanent. The action could diminish the overall integrity of the resource to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed on the National Register.	Impact would affect character-defining features, and would be substantial, discernible, and permanent. The action could diminish the integrity of the resource to the extent that it is no longer eligible to be listed on the National Register.	Impact would affect the condition and long-term preservation of the collection as a whole. The action would destroy the usefulness of the collection for future research and interpretation.	Impact would be substantial, and result in the loss of most or all of the site and its potential to yield information.

Impacts of Elements Common to All Alternatives on Cultural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following resource management actions: develop an implementation plan; continue to present the residences as furnished interiors or exhibits and continue basic repairs; preserve collections, acquire objects, and restore original quality of the interiors; enhance the viability of important natural communities; work with partners to protect the historic setting and distant views; and advance scholarship. Some of these activities would have an impact on cultural resources. Those impacts are described below.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- In all alternatives, park managers would develop an implementation strategy that identifies available funding sources, sets specific funding targets, and makes repair, maintenance, and preservation projects a priority for plan implementation. This would help managers develop a long-term business plan for the parks that would aid in securing resources. Depending upon the success of park managers in securing resources, this proposal could have a **negligible to moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes.
- In all alternatives, park managers would work in partnership to protect the parks' historic setting, re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors, work cooperatively to ensure compliance with the 100-foot deed restriction along Route 9, and preserve the sweeping views of the Hudson River. Depending on the extent and success of these efforts, the incremental effect contributed by these activities would be positive and could range from **noticeable to appreciable** in proportion to the overall cumulative impact on cultural landscapes.
- In all alternatives, park managers would advance research and scholarship to support management objectives and make more of this information available to the general public. This could have an **overall positive** impact on the stewardship of cultural landscapes.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Developing an implementation strategy could have a **negligible to moderate long-term positive** impact on the historic buildings and structures, depending upon the success of park managers in securing resources.
- In all alternatives, park managers would continue to present the residences and cottages as fully furnished interiors that reflect a defined treatment period (see Part Two for explanation of period of treatment) or via exhibits. This proposal would have a **negligible to minor long-term positive** impact on the primary historic buildings. The residences and their outbuildings largely reflect their treatment periods, with the exception of alterations made for public access and some post-1960s alterations to Stone Cottage. Potential changes to the buildings' exteriors would be minimal, such as updating paint color, with the possible exception of

updating the metal external staircase at the FDR Home, and removal of post-1960 alterations (laundry, porch modifications, and possibly brick garden wall) at Stone Cottage.
- Advancing research and scholarship could have an **overall positive** impact on the stewardship of historic buildings and structures.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Developing an implementation strategy could have a **negligible to moderate long-term positive** impact on collections and archives, depending upon the success of park managers in securing resources.
- In all alternatives, park managers would strive to preserve the collections in good condition, continue to acquire collections, and continue conservation activities to maintain and restore the original appearance and quality of the interiors. These activities would have a **major long-term positive** impact on the park's collections, as they would support its continued conservation, enhance the scope and the comprehensiveness of the collections, and return and protect features original to the national historic sites.
- Advancing research and scholarship could have an **overall positive** impact on the stewardship of collections and archives.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- In all alternatives, park managers would continue basic repairs and replacements to utility infrastructure. Although most of these areas have been previously disturbed, these actions would have the potential to cause **negligible to minor negative** impacts. Archeological reviews, surveying, and monitoring would be employed to mitigate these impacts.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following public-use related actions: confirm the period of interpretation; update orientation materials; improve the arrival experience; offer a fuller presentation of the homes; manage the size of tour groups; and provide information about trail accessibility. Some of these activities would have an impact on cultural resources. Those impacts are described below.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Improving the visitor arrival experience could involve removing or screening from view equipment, machinery, and staff vehicles at the parks' entrances. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- In all alternatives, park managers would offer a fuller, more complete presentation of the main residences, which would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on the historic buildings due to increased wear

and tear on more areas of the FDR Home and Vanderbilt Mansion.
- In all alternatives, park managers would re-evaluate and limit, if warranted, the size of tour groups in the historic structures at one time. This proposal could reduce wear and tear on the historic structures, which would result in a **minor long-term positive** impact.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Offering a fuller, more complete presentation of the main residences would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on museum collections by putting more museum objects on display in those structures, thereby increasing the general exposure of more items to environmental stresses and risk of handling and theft.
- Managing tour group size would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on displayed museum objects by increasing surveillance during tours and increasing the ability of interpretive rangers/tour leaders to protect all objects on display from handling and theft.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- There would be no impacts on archeological resources related to the public use and enjoyment actions.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following park operations actions: develop a new maintenance facility; increase energy efficiency; promote car-free access; continue to provide housing, but establish tenant guidelines; and continue existing partnership efforts. Some of these activities would have an impact on cultural resources. Those impacts are described below.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- In all alternatives, park managers would enhance the operational efficiency of the parks by providing new maintenance facilities. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscapes associated with the historic structures that are now used for maintenance functions by removing heavy equipment, parked vehicles, dumpsters, and other non-historic elements from the historic scene. The site for the new facility will be chosen based on its minimal effect on cultural resources. Depending upon which location is ultimately selected, negative impacts on cultural landscapes could range from **negligible to moderate**.
- In all alternatives, park managers would provide a sustainable alternative to private vehicle access to the parks. This could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes. The sensitivity of the cultural landscapes at the parks limits the amount of parking available. Although current parking facilities occupy a relatively large area of the parks (with the exception of Top Cottage, where visitor parking is prohibited), parking levels exceed capacity an estimated 15 times per year at the Home and Val-Kill, and an estimated 50 times per year at Vanderbilt.

At these times, visitors are directed to park on unpaved lawn areas, which introduces modern visual and aural intrusions into the historic scene. The alternate transit system, in concert with overflow parking provided at the site of the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center or other appropriate location, would obviate the need to increase parking areas to accommodate overflow.

- In all alternatives, park managers would provide housing for seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars and researchers. Developing guidelines for the use of the structures that limit storage of outdoor personal effects and private vehicle parking would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape, as it would reduce visual clutter around the structures.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Providing a new maintenance facility would have a **major long-term positive** impact on historic structures by removing uses from the Vanderbilt Coach House and Bellefield outbuildings that are undermining their long-term preservation.
- In all alternatives, park managers would increase energy efficiency and work to decrease the carbon footprint of the parks. This could have a **minor negative long-term** impact on historic buildings and structures if it involves making changes to historic fabric to improve energy efficiency or to use alternative (or greener) energy sources. Alterations that may be made to the structures could involve upgrading systems to improve efficiency, installing insulation, and/or changing incandescent light bulbs to fluorescent ones. All work would follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, NPS management policies, and Director's Order 28, *Cultural Resource Management*.
- In all alternatives, park managers would continue to provide housing for staff members and visiting researchers. This would have a **negligible** impact, as it would result in little noticeable change to the historic structures. These structures were originally designed for residential use. Repairs are required to one unit (FDR Duplex) to make it habitable, which would reduce the maintenance backlog on the unit. Overall, occupancy is preferable to leaving the structures unoccupied.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- There would be no impacts on the parks' collections and archives related to park operations actions.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- In all alternatives, park managers would develop a new maintenance facility. The site for the new facility will be chosen based on its minimal effect on cultural resources. Existing archeological studies will serve as guiding documents indicating known and potential archeologically

sensitive areas. Depending upon the selected site, new research may be needed to evaluate the known and potential archeological resources. Archeological sites would need to be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction. During construction, archeological monitoring will ensure that proper procedures are followed for minimal disturbance, such as appropriate construction staging areas. If any unknown significant resources are uncovered during ground-disturbing activity, procedures to implement Section 106 of the NHPA would be instituted. Depending upon which location is ultimately selected, negative impacts on archeological resources could range from **negligible to moderate**, with **minor short-term negative** impacts on archeological resources during construction.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative on Cultural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would manage cultural landscapes as at present and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- The No-Action Alternative would allow the continued degradation of historic views and the forest plantations and maintain the designed landscapes and gardens, farm fields, historic roads and trails, and natural woodlands as at present. This course of action would have a **major long-term negative** impact on the cultural landscape, as it would allow for the continued degradation of and eventual loss of fundamental resources, notably the river views and forest plantations; would retain garden features, road and trail surfaces, and other elements that do not reflect historic conditions and that detract from the historic character of core areas; and would allow continued field encroachment that would diminish the size of the open areas, thereby moving further from historic conditions.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- The No-Action Alternative would continue management of the designed landscapes as at present. This would have a **moderate to major long-term negative** impact on historic buildings and structures within the designed landscapes by allowing garden buildings and structures to continue to deteriorate.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- There would be no impacts on the parks' collections and archives related to the resource management actions.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- There would be no impacts on the parks' archeological resources related to the resource management actions.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: update orientation materials; continue to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but open the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour; continue educational programs as at present; and continue trail use/river connections as at present. Some of these activities would have an impact on cultural resources. Those impacts are described below.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Updating orientation materials would have a **negligible** impact on cultural landscapes.
- Continuing trail use at current levels would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on cultural landscapes, because the prohibited all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use would continue at present levels and could damage trails and allow new ATV routes to develop.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Continuing to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but opening the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour would have a **negligible** impact on the historic structures.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Continuing to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but opening the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour would have a **negligible** impact on the collections and archives.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Continuing trail use at current levels could have a **negligible to moderate long-term negative** impact on archeological resources, because the prohibited ATV use would continue and could allow new off-trail ATV routes to develop.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: upgrade the Bellefield property; fill staff positions to implement the target organization with existing funding sources; and maintain partnerships at existing levels. Some of these activities would have an impact on cultural resources. Those impacts are described below.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to facilitate its use as park headquarters would: remove the visual clutter from the vicinity of the Bellefield outbuildings; improve and/or expand and screen the staff parking area (thereby keeping cars from parking haphazardly along the front entry drive); and complete a cultural landscape treatment and landscape management plan for the Bellefield grounds. Overall, this would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape.

- Implementing the No-Action Alternative would involve filling vacancies and other positions as outlined in the existing organization (based on the Position Management Review Board recommendations of 2006) with existing funding sources. This would stem the decline in the condition of cultural resources that has taken place over many years of diminished capacity, and would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes by increasing the park's capacity for resource preservation activities. Should the positions not be filled and staffing levels continue to decrease in line with the decline in federal appropriations, however, it would become increasingly difficult to maintain the cultural landscapes to NPS standards, which could lead to an eventual loss of integrity.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Upgrading the Bellefield property could have a **minor to moderate long-term negative** impact on the Bellefield buildings, because it could involve making additional changes to historic interiors for more efficient use of space. Alterations that may be made to the structures could involve moving walls and doors, adding new partitions, making accessibility accommodations, and/or adding a second means of egress. Any potential impacts on historic fabric would be identified, and appropriate planning would mitigate and minimize loss of historic fabric. All work would follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, NPS management policies, and Director's Order 28, *Cultural Resource Management*. Treatment plans developed in consultation with the NYS SHPO would ensure the preservation of remaining features and the rehabilitation of others. Conversely, improvements made to the Bellefield buildings would reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on the structures, which could be a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact.
- Filling vacancies and other positions would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on historic buildings and structures by increasing the park's capacity for resource preservation activities. Again, should the positions not be filled and staffing levels continue to decrease in line with the decline in federal appropriations, it would become increasingly difficult to maintain the historic structures to NPS standards. This could lead to an eventual loss of integrity.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Filling vacancies and other positions would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on collections by increasing the park's capacity for conservation activities. Again, should the positions not be filled and staffing levels continue to decrease in line with the decline in federal appropriations, it would become increasingly difficult to maintain the collections to NPS standards.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Upgrading the Bellefield property could involve expanding the existing parking area and providing new pathways for public access. Known archeological sites would need to be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction, with monitoring undertaken during construction. These activities could have negative impacts on archeological resources that range from **negligible to moderate**, with **minor short-term negative** impacts during construction.

Impacts of Action Alternative One on Cultural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would restore cultural landscapes in core locations and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Action Alternative One would restore historic views, designed landscapes, historic roads and trails, and farm fields to their fullest extent, and manage the forest plantations and natural woodlands to perpetuate their historic character. These activities would have a **major long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape by bringing the landscape closer to historic conditions.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Action Alternative One would have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact on historic structures and buildings within the designed landscapes by repairing deteriorating garden structures and allowing for the reconstruction of missing greenhouses and other garden structures.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- There would be no impacts on collections and archives related to resource management actions.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Action Alternative One would restore historic views, designed landscapes, historic roads and trails, and farm fields to their fullest extent, and manage the forest plantations and natural woodlands to perpetuate their historic character. Action Alternative One would also evaluate extending Roosevelt Farm Lane from Val-Kill to Top Cottage. These activities could have a **negligible to moderate long-term negative** impact and a **minor short-term negative** impact on archeological resources due to the potential for disturbance by planting, removal of vegetation, pathway resurfacing, grading, and by equipment use during implementation. Activities would be preceded by survey, careful planning, and consultation to avoid, or if necessary, mitigate impacts.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would: update orientation materials to present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single entity and the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours; improve public access and interpretation of outbuildings, including a restored Vanderbilt Coach House; enhance children's educational programming, with select outbuildings used for teaching space; and encourage use of the trails in coordination with expanded interpretation of the landscape.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Updating orientation materials to better communicate the historic importance of the estates and emphasize the historic connections between the Roosevelt sites would have little impact on cultural landscapes. However, Action Alternative One directs all Roosevelt site visitors to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours, which would allow for the future consideration of reducing the size or removing of the parking area at Val-Kill. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape, as the area would be restored to either natural conditions or a designed landscape.
- Depicting the history and use of the estates more completely could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes by providing fuller portrayal of important themes, which could result in increased support for stewardship. Conversely, this could also have **minor long-term negative** impacts on landscape areas that receive greater wear and tear.
- Enhancing children's educational programming could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes by appealing to a new generation of prospective stewards, potentially increasing support for stewardship.
- Encouraging use of the trails in association with interpretive programming would increase the wear and tear on historic roads and trails. Conversely, greater public exposure to the cultural landscapes through trail use could appeal to a new audience of prospective stewards. In addition, increased public use could reduce the (prohibited) use of ATVs on parklands, as more people using the trails could report unauthorized uses to park staff and make the forested area less appealing for unauthorized uses. Given these considerations, the overall impact on the cultural landscape is expected to be **minor, long-term, and positive**.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Improving public access to important estate outbuildings could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural resources by providing fuller portrayal of important themes, which could result in increased support for stewardship. The outbuildings selected for increased public access, such as the Vanderbilt Coach House, would also experience a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact due to their more frequent monitoring, and to the repairs that would be required to allow access,

which would decrease the deferred maintenance on these structures. Conversely, this proposal could also have **minor long-term negative** impacts on estate outbuildings that would receive greater wear and tear.
- Enhancing children's educational programming could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact by appealing to a new generation of prospective stewards, potentially increasing support for stewardship.
- Modifications would be made to outbuildings, such as the Val-Kill Stable-Garage and the FDR Garage, for use as teaching space. Alterations that may be made to the structures could involve adding new partitions or making accessibility accommodations. Such modifications could have a **minor to moderate long-term negative** impact on the outbuildings. Any potential impacts on historic fabric would be identified, and appropriate planning would mitigate and minimize loss of historic fabric. All work would follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and NPS *Management Policies*. Treatment plans developed in consultation with the NYS SHPO would ensure the preservation of remaining features and the rehabilitation of others. Conversely, improvements made to the outbuildings would reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on the structures, which could have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Enhancing children's educational programming could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact by appealing to a new generation of prospective stewards, potentially increasing support for stewardship.
- Restoring and re-furnishing the Vanderbilt Coach House could have a **minor long-term negative** impact on museum objects that are placed on display by increasing their general exposure to environmental stresses and to handling and theft.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Removal of the Val-Kill parking lot could have **minor to moderate long-term negative** impacts on any archeological resources that had escaped prior destruction from construction of the lot.
- Encouraging use of the trails in association with interpretive programming would likely have a **negligible** impact on archeological resources, as the trail use would take place on historic roads and trails and existing facilities.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would upgrade Bellefield and seek increases in staff and in volunteer participation through enhanced partnerships.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to facilitate its use as park headquarters would have the same **moderate long-term positive** impacts as in the

No-Action Alternative.

- Implementing Action Alternative One would require filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative. It would also involve augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and increasing partner participation in programs and maintenance. This would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes, as it would allow more labor to be devoted to their care and would help increase the parks' capacity to maintain and repair resources.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have the same **minor to moderate long-term negative** and **moderate to major long-term positive** impacts as the No-Action Alternative.
- Filling positions, augmenting staff with volunteer docents, and increasing partner participation in programs and maintenance would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on historic buildings and structures, as it would help increase the parks' capacity to maintain and repair resources.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Filling positions, augmenting staff with volunteer docents, and increasing partner participation in programs and maintenance would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on collections, as it would help increase the parks' capacity to maintain and repair resources.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have the same **negligible to minor long-term** and **minor short-term negative** impacts as the No-Action Alternative.

Impacts of Action Alternative Two on Cultural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: rehabilitate cultural landscapes, making allowances for contemporary practices; and protect the Red House through NPS ownership and partner efforts.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Action Alternative Two would rehabilitate historic views, designed landscapes, historic roads and trails, historic fields (and return some to agricultural uses); and manage forest plantations and natural woodlands with a range of treatments, from perpetuating historic character to using and demonstrating modern forestry practices and enhancing habitat values. The new farming and forestry uses would be compatible with the historic character of the landscape. These activities would have an overall **major long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape by bringing it more closely in line with historic conditions; by doing so in ways that make it easier and more cost-effective for the NPS to maintain over the

long term; and by perpetuating historic land uses, as opposed to focusing solely on historic appearance.

- Protecting the Red House through NPS ownership and partnership efforts, such as through a lease arrangement, would offer greater control over its redevelopment than relying solely on partners with no NPS ownership interest, as in the other alternatives. Future uses would be controlled by formal agreements with the NPS and would need to comply with NPS *Management Policies* and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties*. This would have a **negligible to minor positive** impact on the setting of the FDR Home by allowing for greater mitigation efforts and prevention of undesirable actions.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Action Alternative Two would rehabilitate and repair deteriorating garden buildings and structures, which would have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact.
- Protecting the Red House through NPS ownership and partnership efforts would have a **negligible to minor positive** impact on the building by allowing for greater mitigation efforts and prevention of undesirable actions.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- There would be no impacts on collections and archives related to the resource management actions.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Action Alternative Two would rehabilitate historic views, designed landscapes, historic roads and trails, historic fields (and return some to agricultural uses); and manage forest plantations and natural woodlands with a range of treatments, from perpetuating historic character to using and demonstrating modern forestry practices and enhancing habitat values. This proposal has the potential for a **negligible to moderate negative** impact and a **minor short-term negative** impact on archeological resources due to the potential for disturbance by planting, vegetation removal, agricultural equipment, and equipment use during implementation. Activities would be preceded by survey, careful planning, and consultation to avoid, or it necessary, to mitigate impacts.

IMPACTS OF VISITOR USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: update orientation materials; offer a wide array of programs to reach a range of audiences; adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible public purpose; expand educational programming, including the establishment of a learning center; actively promote compatible recreational use of the trails; and enhance river connections.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Updating orientation materials would have a **negligible** impact on cultural landscapes.

- Introducing more diverse programs could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact by communicating park themes to diverse audiences, thereby potentially broadening the base of support for cultural resource stewardship. Conversely, this proposal could also have the potential for **minor long-term negative** impacts on cultural landscapes that receive greater public exposure due to increased wear and tear.
- Enhancing and expanding educational programming to reach a broader audience could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact by appealing to a wider range of prospective stewards than in other alternatives, thereby potentially broadening the base of support for increased cultural landscape stewardship.
- Actively promoting recreational use of the trails would increase the wear and tear on the historic roads and trails and could lead to increased trampling of vegetation and increased spread of invasive plant species. Allowing bicycle riding on designated trails could result in new, informal, unauthorized trails to be opened in the forested areas of the parks. Conversely, greater public exposure to the cultural landscapes through recreational use could appeal to new audiences of prospective stewards. In addition, greater authorized use of the trails would reduce the (prohibited) use of ATVs on parklands, as more people could report unauthorized uses to park staff, making these areas less appealing for unauthorized use. Given these considerations, the overall impact on the cultural landscape is expected to be **minor, long-term, and positive**.
- Developing new segments of the trail system to improve visitor access and support interpretation would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on cultural landscapes by introducing elements that did not exist during the periods of significance. Extreme care would be taken in siting new trails to minimize their visual impact on the historic scene.
- Increasing connections to the Hudson River and water-borne park access would have **negligible** impacts on the cultural landscapes of Bard Rock and Roosevelt Cove, as few new physical elements would be introduced. There is the potential for a **minor long-term negative** impact at Bard Rock and Roosevelt Cove due to wear and tear associated with increased visitor use.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Introducing more diverse programs could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact by communicating park themes to diverse audiences, thereby potentially broadening the base of support for cultural resource stewardship. Conversely, this proposal could also have the potential for **minor long-term negative** impacts on historic buildings and structures that receive greater public exposure due to increased wear and tear.
- Adaptively re-using certain estate outbuildings, such as the Vanderbilt Coach House, for contemporary purposes via lease or other arrangement could have both positive and negative impacts. The leasing of some historic buildings would prevent their continuing deterioration and improve their condition. Depending on the proposed use, some modifications to

historic interiors could be required, including installation of heating, cooling, and fire suppression systems; modern plumbing; alterations to walls and locations of doors; addition of accommodations for accessibility; and/or additions of second means of egress. In cases in which the buildings contribute to the significance of the park, new uses would be limited to those requiring changes that pose no greater than **moderate long-term negative** impacts to the buildings. Any potential impacts would be identified, and appropriate planning would mitigate and minimize loss of historic fabric. All work would follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and NPS management policies. Treatment plans developed in consultation with the NYS SHPO would ensure that park staff make good decisions regarding the preservation of remaining features and the rehabilitation of others. The number of buildings that would be leased is not yet known. Conversely, improvements made to the outbuildings would reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on the structures, which could have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact. In general, occupancy is preferred to leaving the buildings unoccupied.

- Modifications made to structures, such as the Bellefield outbuildings and the Val-Kill Stables-Garage, for use as teaching and flexible programming space would have the same impacts as those described above.
- Enhancing and expanding educational programming to reach a broader audience could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact by potentially broadening the base of support for increased stewardship.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Introducing more diverse programs could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact by communicating park themes to diverse audiences, thereby potentially broadening the base of support for stewardship of collections.
- Enhancing and expanding educational programming could also have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact for similar reasons.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Adaptively re-using certain estate outbuildings, such as the Vanderbilt Coach House, for contemporary purposes may require the introduction of new parking areas, pathways, or other non-historic elements. Known archeological sites would need to be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction. These activities could have **negligible to moderate long-term negative** impacts on archeological resources, with **minor short-term negative** impacts during construction.
- Developing new segments of the trail system to improve visitor access and support interpretation activities could have **negligible to moderate long-term negative** impacts on archeological resources, with **minor short-term negative** impacts during construction due to the potential for disturbance by tree removal and equipment use during implementation. Known archeological sites would need to be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction.

IMPACTS OF PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: upgrade Bellefield for park and partner use; augment sources of revenue; and seek increases in staff and extensive partnership support.

Impacts on Cultural Landscapes

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to facilitate its use as park headquarters and make it more available to the public and partners for fee-generating purposes would generally have the same **moderate long-term positive** impacts as in the No-Action Alternative. Increased use by partners and the public could have the potential for **minor long-term negative** impacts due to greater exposure and increased wear and tear.
- As part of the upgrades to Bellefield, the "wild garden" portion of the Farrand Garden would be rehabilitated, which would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the cultural landscape by bringing the appearance of the garden more in line with historic conditions.
- Implementing Action Alternative Two would require filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative, augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support, as well as seeking new sources of revenue to help implement the plan and support park operations and maintenance. This would have a **major long-term positive** impact on cultural landscapes, as it would allow more labor and funding from new sources to be put toward their preservation and substantially increase the capacity to care for park resources.

Impacts on Historic Buildings and Structures

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to facilitate its use as park headquarters and make it more available for partner use would have the same **minor to moderate long-term negative** and **moderate to major long-term positive** impacts as described in the No-Action Alternative.
- Filling positions, augmenting staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support, and seeking new sources of revenue would have a **major long-term positive** impact on historic buildings and structures, as it would allow more labor and funding from new sources to be put toward their preservation and substantially increase the capacity to care for park resources.

Impacts on Collections and Archives

- Seeking increasing staff, volunteer and partner support, and new sources of revenue would have a **major long-term positive** impact as it would substantially increase the capacity to research and care for park resources.

Impacts on Archeological Resources

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have the same **negligible to minor long-term** and **minor short-term negative** impacts as the No-Action Alternative.

- Rehabilitating the "wild garden" portion of the Farrand Garden could have negative impacts on archeological resources that range from **negligible** to minor, with **minor short-term negative** impacts during construction. Known archeological sites would need to be avoided and archeological resource data collected prior to construction.

Conclusion

The impacts on cultural resources range from minor to major, are largely long-term, and include both positive and negative impacts.

The No-Action Alternative, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to major long-term negative impacts on the cultural resources. The major long-term negative impacts on the cultural resources would be due to the eventual loss of the Hudson River views and the forest plantations. However, these impacts are not permanent and could be reversed.

Both Action Alternatives One and Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to moderate long-term and short-term negative impacts on the cultural resources. The moderate negative impacts would be largely associated with historic structures and archeological resources.

Overall, the No-Action Alternative would have the most negative impacts on cultural resources. Action Alternatives One and Two would have similar levels of impact on cultural resources that are generally positive, with Action Alternative One providing a slightly greater benefit.

Impairment of Resources

Given that there are no identified permanent major negative impacts on a resource or value whose conservation (1) would be necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (2) is key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (3) has been identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents, implementing the alternatives would result in no impairment of cultural resources.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Methodology

In this impact analysis, natural resources consist of wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, soils, and topography. To conduct the analysis, research reports were consulted, and information on known resources was compiled. Where possible, locations of sensitive resources were compared with the locations of proposed modifications and development. The analysis is qualitative in nature. Predictions about short-term and long-term impacts were based on previous studies and in consultation with subject-matter experts. Please note that the actions and topics are addressed only where there is a potential impact. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts to natural resources, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact are defined in the following table.

Table 4–2: Impact Intensities for Natural Resources

	NATURAL RESOURCES
Negligible	Impact would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence.
Minor	Impact would be slightly detectable and localized; it would not affect the overall structure of any natural community.
Moderate	Impact would be clearly detectable and readily apparent; it could appreciably affect individual species, communities, or natural processes.
Major	Impact would be noticeable and include a substantial or widespread influence on natural resources or processes and could result in a loss or alteration of communities.

Impacts of Elements Common to All Alternatives on Natural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following resource management actions: develop an implementation plan; continue to present the residences as furnished interiors or exhibits and continue basic repairs; preserve collections, acquire objects, and restore original quality of the interiors; enhance the viability of important natural communities; rely on partners to protect the historic setting and distant views; and advance scholarship. Some of these activities would have an impact on natural resources. Those impacts are described below.

- Developing an implementation plan could have a **negligible to minor long-term positive** impact on wildlife and vegetation due to enhanced capacity for research and monitoring, depending upon the success of park managers in securing funding.
- Enhancing the viability of important ecologically sensitive natural communities on parklands would result in a **moderate long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands. Pursuing new and more proactive management options, such as increasing the tidal flushing action at the tidal marsh and using prescribed fire to enhance the Red Cedar Rocky Summit forest type, would help maintain these communities. Additional documentation of these communities and other populations, such as invertebrates and bats, would improve our scientific understanding of the park.
- In all alternatives, park managers would work in partnership to protect the parks' historic setting, re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors, work cooperatively to ensure compliance with the 100-foot deed restriction along Route 9, and preserve the sweeping views of the Hudson River. This course of action may have positive cumulative impacts that range from **imperceptible to appreciable**, depending on how much land is protected and what types of conservation measures are put in place. Scenic easements and other protection measures would

reduce the amount of development permitted along the river corridor, thereby reducing habitat fragmentation and disturbances to wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, soils, and topography.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND EXPERIENCE ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following public-use related actions: confirm the period of interpretation; upgrade orientation materials; improve the arrival experience; offer a fuller presentation of the homes; manage the size of tour groups; and provide information about trail accessibility.

- These activities would have little impact on natural resources.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following park operations actions: develop a new maintenance facility; increase energy efficiency; promote car-free access; continue to provide housing, but establish tenant guidelines; and continue existing partnership activities. Some of these activities would have an impact on natural resources. Those impacts are described below.

- A specific location for the new maintenance facility will be selected when funding becomes available. The site will be chosen, in part, to have minimal effect on natural resources. Regardless of which site is selected, construction activity would be restricted to the smallest possible area. The new maintenance facility could have **minor short-term negative** impacts on soils, which would be disturbed during construction. Best practices, such as using existing alignments and minimizing grade changes, would mitigate negative impacts on topography, which could range from **negligible to minor**. Construction of the new facility could have negative impacts on vegetation and wildlife, but would be limited to a location that would pose no greater than **minor long-term** impacts. The site would be selected to avoid impacts on wetlands.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative on Natural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative park managers would manage cultural landscapes as at present and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

- Continuing to manage the views as at present would result in a positive but **negligible** impact on vegetation and wildlife. Shrubs and other woody species would continue to encroach on the field edge. Forest and edge-dependent grassland species would benefit from this increase in habitat. The potential for growth of exotic species, however, would increase without active management of the field edge.
- Allowing natural processes to advance without intervention among the forest plantations would result in a **minor long-term positive** impact on vegetation and wildlife, since the more diverse native forest would continue to succeed the forest plantation monoculture.

- Maintaining the existing annual mowing and/or haying regime would result in a positive long-term but **negligible** impact to wildlife and vegetation, since the practice allows for incremental forest encroachment and, potentially, for a gradual increase in forest-field edge habitat. The potential for growth of exotic species, however, would increase without active management of the field edge. As vegetation succeeds to forest, a modest amount of prime and significant agricultural land would be lost, which would result in a **minor long-term negative** impact. This change in the forest-field configuration, however, would not entirely alter the composition of the soils, and though the result would be long-term, it would not be permanent, as the forest could be cleared to support agriculture in the future.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: update orientation materials; continue to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but open the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour; continue educational programs as at present; and continue trail use/river connections as at present. Some of these activities would have an impact on natural resources. Those impacts are described below.

- Continuing to present educational programs at current levels would have little impact on natural resources, other than continuing the missed opportunity for increased public appreciation and stewardship.
- Continuing trail use at current levels would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on vegetation, wildlife, and soils, because the prohibited ATV use could cause new unauthorized routes to be developed and disturb vegetation along the new routes, exacerbate soil erosion, increase the spread of invasive species, and disturb wildlife.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: upgrade the Bellefield property; fill positions to implement the target organization with existing funding sources; and maintain partnerships at existing levels. Some of these activities would have an impact on natural resources. Those impacts are described below.

- Upgrading the Bellefield property may involve introduction of new plantings or the construction of new walkways, but would have a **negligible** impact on wildlife, soils, and topography.
- Filling staff vacancies and other positions as outlined in the existing organization would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on wetlands, vegetation, and wildlife, as additional resources would become available to monitor wildlife and its habitat, control invasive species, and support other natural resource measures. Should the positions not be filled and staffing levels continue to decrease in line with federal appropriations, however, it would become increasingly difficult to conduct natural resource management activities. This could lead to diminished protection

for important habitats, decline in monitoring capacity, and increase in proliferation of invasive species.

Impacts of Action Alternative One on Natural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would restore cultural landscapes in core locations and rely on others to protect the Red House.

- Recreating the expansive Hudson River views to the extent possible at the Home of FDR, Vanderbilt Mansion, and Top Cottage would result in **minor long-term negative** impacts on vegetation and forest-dependent wildlife species due to the removal of mature trees and the possible disturbance of riparian habitat. By allowing more light to penetrate to the forest floor, thinning would likely result in increased establishment of invasive plants, and could cause a decline in ground-nesting birds, such as ovenbirds, as predators like raccoons and skunks prefer edge/fragmented habitats. Grassland-dependent species, however, would receive a **minor long-term benefit** from the increased acreage of open field.
- Actively managing the forest plantations and select areas of natural woodlands to perpetuate their historic character would result in a **minor long-term negative** impact on vegetation and wildlife due to the clearing of the understory, which would result in a loss of habitat for certain species. Mitigation measures would be taken to control soil loss and erosion, to protect vernal pools, seeps, and wetlands, and to control invasive species. Overall, this approach would offer few natural resource benefits.
- Reestablishing the original appearance of designed landscapes would introduce new plantings and therefore a new food source for opportunistic wildlife. However, the use of fencing would mitigate this impact. This proposal would have a **negligible** impact on wildlife.
- Clearing successional growth, maintaining haying and mowing practices, and possibly planting fields with cultivated crops would reduce native forest cover and change the current field-forest ratio. This would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on woodland species, but a **minor long-term positive** impact on grassland species. As soils now under successional growth are returned to meadow or cultivation of crops, there would be a **minor long-term positive** impact on prime agricultural lands.
- Restoring historic roads and trails in core locations would result in **negligible** impacts on vegetation, soils, and wildlife. Reestablishing the historic trails may require some removal of vegetation, which could result in slight increases in fragmentation of habitat, dispersal of wildlife, and soil disturbance.
- Extending Roosevelt Farm Lane from Val-Kill to Top Cottage could require construction of a new road alignment for some of its length, as the historic alignment has been altered by residential uses. This would require clearing of vegetation, grading, soil disturbance and compaction, and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, resulting in **minor short-**

term negative impacts on soils, vegetation, and wildlife, as construction would take place in previously undisturbed areas, and would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on topography. In addition, the route would pass through wetlands, which would require bridging or other mitigation measures.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would: update orientation materials to present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single entity and the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours; improve public access and interpretation of outbuildings, including a restored Vanderbilt Coach House; enhance children's educational programming, with select outbuildings used for teaching space; and encourage use of the trails in coordination with expanded interpretation of the landscape.

- Emphasizing the historic connections between the Roosevelt sites would have no impact on natural resources. However, Action Alternative One directs all Roosevelt site visitors to the Wallace Center as the starting point for tours, which would eventually allow for consideration of reducing the size (or removal) of the parking area at Val-Kill. This would allow the area to be restored to either natural conditions or a designed landscape, which, overall, would have a **negligible** impact on wildlife, vegetation, soils, and topography.
- Improving public access to important estate outbuildings and presenting a more complete depiction of the history and use of the estates could have long-term negative but **negligible** impacts on wildlife and vegetation, as there would be more visitors in the landscape to disturb vegetation and disperse wildlife. Clear signage and formalized pathways to outbuildings would mitigate negative impacts on vegetation.
- Enhancing children's educational programming could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands by appealing to a new generation of prospective stewards, potentially increasing support for stewardship.
- Encouraging greater use of the trails could lead to increased trampling of vegetation, spread of invasive species, and disruption of wildlife. Conversely, increase in use of the trails may lead to a reduction in the amount of unauthorized ATV use in the forested areas. The negative consequences of this illegal use include soil compaction, habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and loss of vegetation. However, increases in authorized trail use could lead to greater appreciation and understanding of the parks' natural resources, thereby increasing support for their stewardship. Overall, this proposal would result in a **minor long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and soils.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would upgrade Bellefield and seek increases in staff and in volunteer participation through enhanced partnerships.

- As in the No-Action Alternative, upgrading Bellefield would have **negligible** impacts on wildlife, soils, and topography.
- Implementing Action Alternative One would require filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative. It would also involve augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and increasing partner participation in programs and maintenance. This would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands, as it would allow more labor to be devoted to monitoring wildlife and its habitat, controlling invasive species, and supporting other natural resource measures, and increasing the parks' capacity to conduct projects and management activities related to natural resources.

Impacts of Action Alternative Two on Natural Resources

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would rehabilitate cultural landscapes, making allowances for contemporary practices, and seek an NPS ownership interest in the Red House.

- Although the acreage of area cleared and the number of trees selectively removed for viewshed restoration efforts may be smaller than in Action Alternative One, the impacts to natural resources would generally be the same.
- Actively managing the forest plantations and natural woodlands with a range of treatment would have both positive and negative impacts on natural resources. In areas managed to perpetuate historic character, there would be a **minor long-term negative** impact on vegetation and wildlife due to the clearing of the understory, removal of downed trees, and other actions that would result in a loss of habitat for certain species. Mitigation measures would be taken to control soil loss and erosion, to protect vernal pools, seeps, and wetlands, and to control invasive species. The adoption of modern forestry practices for some of the forest plantations would result in more diverse and healthier forest plantations, which would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on vegetation and wildlife. Harvesting trees would result in short-term minor negative impacts on vegetation and wildlife. The increase in human activity in the forest plantations, including more interpretation and forestry research, would have a negative but **negligible** impact on vegetation, soils, and wildlife.
- Rehabilitating designed landscapes and indicating missing features through physical means or media would introduce new plantings and therefore a new food source for opportunistic wildlife. However, plants that are less attractive to wildlife could be substituted for original materials. In addition, the use of fencing would mitigate this impact. This proposal would have a **negligible** impact on wildlife.
- Reclaiming key historic farm fields and leasing them for use by local farmers, with allowances for contemporary farming practices, would

have the same impacts as in Action Alternative One. The introduction of livestock in this alternative would result in a greater impact on wildlife and vegetation. However, mitigation measures such as controlling invasive weeds, minimizing inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides), and controlling livestock would minimize these impacts.

- Rehabilitating historic roads and trails based on programmatic and interpretive needs would result in **negligible** impacts on vegetation, soils, and wildlife. This proposal may require some removal of vegetation, which could result in slight increases in fragmentation of habitat, dispersal of wildlife, and soil disturbance.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: update orientation materials; offer a wide array of programs to reach a range of audiences; adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible public purpose; expand educational programming, including the establishment of a learning center; actively promote compatible recreational use of the trails; and enhance river connections.

- Introducing more diverse and innovative programs and placing greater emphasis on the contemporary relevance of park themes could have a long-term negative but **negligible** impact on wildlife and vegetation, as there would be more visitors in the landscape to disturb vegetation and disperse wildlife. Clear signage and formalized pathways to outbuildings would mitigate negative impacts on vegetation.
- Enhancing and expanding educational programming to reach a broader audience could have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands by appealing to a wider range of prospective stewards than in other alternatives, thereby potentially broadening the base of support for increased stewardship.
- Actively promoting recreational use of the trails would increase visitor traffic and resultant trampling of vegetation and disturbance and dispersal of wildlife. Clear signage and formalized pathways would mitigate negative impacts on vegetation. Allowing bicycle use on designated trails could result in new, informal, unauthorized trails to be opened in the forested areas of the parks. Conversely, the promotion of the trails and resulting increased use may lead to a greater reduction in the amount of unauthorized motor vehicle use in the forested areas than in the other alternatives. The negative consequences of this unauthorized use include soil compaction, habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and loss of vegetation. Increased recreational use could lead to greater appreciation and understanding of the parks' natural resources, thereby increasing support for their stewardship. Overall, this proposal would result in a **minor long-term positive** impact on vegetation, wildlife, and soils.
- Expanding the trail system to support appropriate public access and interpretation would result in **minor long-term negative** impacts on

vegetation and wildlife. The construction of new trail segments would require removal of vegetation and result in increased fragmentation of habitat, dispersal of wildlife, and soil disturbance.

- Increasing connections to the Hudson River and water-borne park access could result in long-term negative but **negligible** impacts to vegetation and soils.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: upgrade Bellefield for park and partner use; augment sources of revenue with partners; seek increases in staff; and seek extensive partnership support.

- Making the Bellefield property more available for partner use and promoting the Farrand Garden more fully as a public destination would involve new plantings, some in association with the "wild garden" portion of the Farrand Garden. This would introduce a new food source for opportunistic wildlife. The use of fencing would mitigate this impact. In addition, this proposal could involve development of new pathways. Overall, this proposal would have long-term negative but **negligible** impacts on wildlife, topography, and soils.
- Implementing Action Alternative Two would require filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative. It would also involve augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support, as well as seeking new sources of revenue to help support park operations and maintenance. This would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands, as it would allow more labor and funding from new sources to be devoted to monitoring wildlife and its habitat, controlling invasive species, developing and running environmental education programs, and supporting other natural resource measures.

Conclusion

The impacts to natural resources range from minor to moderate long-term positive, to minor to moderate long-term negative, to minor short-term negative. The No-Action Alternative, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to moderate long-term positive and minor long-term and short-term negative impacts on natural resources. Action Alternative One, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to moderate long-term positive and minor to moderate long-term negative impacts and minor short-term negative impacts on natural resources. Action Alternative Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to moderate long-term positive and minor long-term and short-term negative impacts on natural resources.

Overall, all alternatives would have positive and negative impacts on natural resources, with Action Alternative Two resulting in somewhat greater benefits to natural resources.

Impairment of Resources

Given that there are no permanent identified major negative impacts to a resource or value whose conservation (1) would be necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, (2) is key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities to enjoy it, or (3) has been identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents, implementing the alternatives would result in no impairment of natural resources.

Impacts on Visitor Use and Experience

Methodology

The National Park Service's *Management Policies* states that people's enjoyment of park resources and values is part of the fundamental purpose of all parks and that the NPS is committed to providing appropriate, high-quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy the parks. Thus, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites seek to offer opportunities for education, inspiration, and enjoyment.

Public input and observation of visitation patterns, combined with assessment of what is available to visitors under current management, were used to estimate the impacts of the actions in the various alternatives in this document. The potential for change in visitor use and experience proposed by the alternatives was evaluated by identifying projected increases or decreases in visitor uses, and determining whether or how these projected changes would affect the desired visitor experience and to what degree and for how long. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact on visitor use and experience are defined in the following table.

Table 4-3: Impact Intensities for Visitor Use and Experience

	VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE
Negligible	Impact would be below or at the level of detection and short-term.
Minor	Impact would be detectable, although slight, likely short-term, and/or would affect a few visitors.
Moderate	Impact would be readily apparent (somewhat beneficial or somewhat negative), likely long-term, and/or would affect many visitors.
Major	Impact would be readily apparent (severely negative or exceptionally positive), have important long-term consequences, and/or would affect most visitors.

Impacts of Elements Common to All Alternatives on Visitor Use and Experience

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following resource management actions: develop an implementation plan; continue to present the residences as furnished interiors or exhibits and continue basic repairs; preserve

collections, acquire objects, and restore original quality of the interiors; enhance the viability of important natural communities; work with partners to protect the historic setting and distant views; and advance scholarship. Some of these activities would have an impact on visitor use and experience. Those impacts are described below.

- In all alternatives, park managers would continue to present the residences and cottages as fully furnished interiors or via exhibits. Overall, this proposal would have a **negligible** impact on the visitor experience, as there would be little discernible change. In general, the exteriors of the residences and their outbuildings already reflect their periods of significance, with some alterations made for access and visitor use.
- Striving to preserve the collections in good condition so that they continue to support park programs and interpretive themes, returning original objects to the national historic sites, as well as restoring the original quality of the interiors would contribute to a more authentic experience of the interiors. A greater number of original objects would be on display, with the quality of the interiors better reflecting their historic condition. This would have a **major long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience. If sufficient resources are not secured to preserve the collections in good condition, a **major long-term negative** impact could ensue.
- Enhancing the viability of important natural communities would have a **negligible** impact on the visitor experience, because it is not likely to be noticed by most visitors.
- In all alternatives, park managers would work in partnership to protect the parks' historic setting, re-establish the rural character of the Route 9 and Route 9G corridors, enforce the 100-foot deed restriction along the east side of Route 9, and preserve the sweeping views of the Hudson River. This course of action may have positive cumulative impacts on the visitor experience ranging from imperceptible to appreciable, depending on how much land is protected and what types of conservation measures are put in place.
- Advancing scholarship would have an **overall positive** impact on visitor use, as it would support more accurate interpretation.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following public-use related actions: confirm the period of interpretation; update orientation materials; improve the arrival experience; offer a fuller presentation of the homes; manage the size of tour groups; and provide information about trail accessibility. Some of these activities would have an impact on visitor use and experience. Those impacts are described below.

- Confirming the period of interpretation would provide guidance to the parks' interpretive staff, but is not likely to be noticeable to the visitor and would have a **negligible** impact.
- Updating orientation materials, increasing access to pre-arrival

information, and improving the arrival experience would have a **major long-term positive** impact on visitors by clarifying how to begin their park experience.

- Offering a more complete presentation of the main residences, including opening additional areas to public viewing would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by providing greater access to primary park resources.
- Limiting the size of tour groups to support interpretive and resource management objectives would have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact, as it would allow visitors to have greater interaction with the tour guide and a better view of the resources. This proposal may result in longer waits to take tours, which could cause frustration or disappointment, but such problems could be mitigated by conducting tours more frequently as resources allow.
- Providing information about trail lengths, grades, and surfaces could help those with disabilities make better informed decisions about which areas of the parks they wish to experience. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following park operations actions: develop a new maintenance facility; increase energy efficiency; promote car-free access; continue to provide housing, but establish tenant guidelines; and continue existing partnership efforts. Some of these activities would have an impact on visitor use and experience. Those impacts are described below.

- Providing new maintenance facilities would have a **major long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by making the Vanderbilt Coach House available for public use and by removing visual clutter from the entrance to the Home of FDR. It would also enhance the ability of the park staff to maintain and present park resources to the visitor.
- Providing a sustainable alternative to private vehicle access to the parks would have a **moderate to major long-term positive** impact, as it would decrease the number of automobiles on site and on access roads, improve visitor safety at the park entrances, enhance access for visitors without automobiles and those with ambulatory challenges, encourage multi-site visitation, and enhance visitor access to more areas of the parks.
- Providing affordable, clean, and well-maintained housing, with guidelines for parking tenants' vehicles and storage of personal effects, would have a minor positive impact, as it would remove visual clutter in high-impact areas, such as the Wallace Center parking lot and the entrance to Vanderbilt.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative on Visitor Use and Experience

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative park managers would manage cultural landscapes as at present and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

- The No-Action Alternative would allow the continued degradation of historic views and the forest plantations and the present level of maintenance of the designed landscapes and gardens, farm fields, historic roads and trails, and natural woodlands. This course of action would have a **major long-term negative** impact on the visitor experience by obscuring resources that had great meaning to the historic occupants, and by presenting conditions that do not fully reflect the historic conditions.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: update orientation materials; continue to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but open the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour; continue educational programs as at present; and continue trail use/river connections as at present.

- Updating orientation materials to reflect current conditions would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by facilitating wayfinding.
- Continuing to center the visitor experience on the primary residences would have a **negligible** impact, as there would be little discernible change to the visitor experience. However, this would continue to limit visitor understanding of the estate outbuildings and landscape and present an incomplete picture of the parks to visitors.
- Continuing to present educational programs at current levels would have a **negligible** impact, as there would be little discernible change to the visitor experience. However, this represents a lost opportunity to provide children and other visitors with a more in-depth understanding of the parks' resources and values.
- Continuing recreational use and river connections as at present would have a **negligible** impact, as there would be little discernible change to the visitor experience.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: upgrade the Bellefield property; fill staff positions to implement the target organization with exiting funding sources; and maintain partnerships at existing levels.

- Upgrading Bellefield would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the visitors who go to headquarters to conduct business at the parks.
- Filling staff positions as outlined in the existing target organization would begin to stem the decline in the condition of park resources (which has taken place over many years of diminished funding) and would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience, by improving the condition of park resources. Should the vacancies and positions not be filled and staffing levels continue to decrease along with federal appropriations, however, it would become increasingly difficult to maintain park resources and offer programs, which would degrade the visitor experience.

Impacts of Action Alternative One on Visitor Use and Experience

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would restore cultural landscapes in core locations and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

- Action Alternative One would restore historic views, designed landscapes, historic roads and trails, and farm fields to their fullest extent, and manage the forest plantations and natural woodlands to perpetuate their historic character. These activities would have a **major long-term positive** impact by recreating an authentic experience as fully as possible and by providing greater understanding of the historic operations and functioning of the properties.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would: update orientation materials to present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single entity and the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours; improve public access and interpretation of outbuildings, including a restored Vanderbilt Coach House; enhance children's educational programming, with select outbuildings used for teaching space; and encourage use of the trails in coordination with expanded interpretation of the landscape.

- Publishing new materials that more effectively express the extent and function of the historic estates would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by providing greater understanding of the context of the historic estates.
- Interpreting the historic Roosevelt Family Estate as a once-unified entity would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience, as it would enhance understanding of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's experiences and uses of the property.
- Directing visitors to the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours would have both positive and negative impacts on the visitor experience. In one sense, it would ensure that visitors receive as complete an orientation to Val-Kill as possible, allowing them to view the introductory exhibits and see the film in the Wallace Center. However, should the parking area be removed, this proposal would require visitors whose primary destination is Val-Kill to travel to the Home of FDR NHS first. This could cause frustration and negatively affect the visit. Overall, this course of action could have **moderate long-term** consequences that are both **positive and negative**.
- The introduction of more varied tours and new media, and greater access to and interpretation of the grounds and primary outbuildings, would provide a fuller depiction of important themes, address stories that are now underrepresented, and stimulate visitation. These actions would have a **major long-term positive** impact on visitor use and experience.
- Providing adequate teaching space and enhancing the capacity of park staff to offer a greater quantity and quality of interactive educational

programs would improve the experience of school groups and would have a **major long-term positive** impact on visitor use and experience.
- Encouraging greater use of the trails in association with interpretive programming would provide more opportunities for visitors to explore the estates and thereby enhance interpretation, which would be a **moderate long-term benefit**.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would upgrade Bellefield and seek increases in staff and in volunteer participation through enhanced partnerships.

- Upgrading Bellefield would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the visitors who go to headquarters to conduct business at the parks.
- Seeking increases in staff and volunteer participation would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by increasing the capacity of the park staff to present programs and maintain resources.

Impacts of Action Alternative Two on Visitor Use and Experience

IMPACTS OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would rehabilitate cultural landscapes, making allowances for contemporary practices, and seek an NPS ownership interest in the Red House.

- Action Alternative Two would expand historic views, preserve, rehabilitate, and repair designed landscapes, re-establish key historic roads and trails, return some historic fields to agricultural uses, and manage forest plantations and natural woodlands with a range of treatments, from perpetuating historic character to modern forestry practices and enhancing habitat values. These activities would have a **major long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by increasing visitors' understanding of the historic condition and functioning of the properties, and by presenting themes in a contemporary context that offers greater opportunities for interpretation, public participation, and understanding of the parks' resources.
- Protecting the Red House through NPS ownership and partnership efforts, such as through a lease arrangement, would offer greater control over its redevelopment than relying solely on partners with no NPS ownership interest, as in the other alternatives. This would have a **negligible to minor positive** impact on visitor use by allowing for greater mitigation efforts and prevention of undesirable actions.

IMPACTS OF PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: update orientation materials; offer a wide array of programs to reach a range of audiences; adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible public purpose; expand educational programming, including the establishment of a learning center; actively promote compatible recreational use of the trails; and enhance river connections.

- Publishing new materials that more effectively portray the layout and function of the historic estates would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by providing a fuller depiction of historic conditions.
- The introduction of more diverse and innovative programs, such as demonstrations and special events, and interpretive offerings aimed at schools and other organized groups, in addition to increasing emphasis on the contemporary relevance of the parks' stories, would provide a fuller depiction of important themes and stimulate repeat visitation. This would offer a more engaging and participatory experience than the other alternatives, a **major long-term positive** impact.
- Public access to key structures and fuller interpretation of their exteriors, with some structures being adaptively reused, would have a **major positive** impact on the visitor experience.
- The wider scope and projected audience for educational programming under this alternative would result in a **major long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by involving more people in the educational programs.
- This alternative places a greater emphasis on offering a variety of recreational activities on park trails and would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by allowing a greater diversity of ways to experience and learn about the parks.
- Increasing connections to the Hudson River would have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience by increasing the ability to access the sites via the Hudson River and by increasing understanding of the Hudson River, which was fundamental to the development of the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt sites.

IMPACTS ON PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: upgrade Bellefield for park and partner use; augment sources of revenue with partners; seek increases in staff; and seek extensive partnership support.

- In addition to the proposals in Action Alternative One, Action Alternative Two proposes to make areas of the Bellefield property (portions of the first floor of the Mansion and the Farrand Garden) more available to partners for fee-generating purposes. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact for those who attend the functions.
- Implementing Action Alternative Two would require filling more staff positions than proposed in the No-Action Alternative. It would also involve augmenting the staff with volunteer docents, extensive partner support, and seeking new sources and augmenting existing sources of revenue to help support park operations and maintenance. This could have an appreciable positive impact on park resources and would encourage greater community access, which would translate to a **major long-term positive** impact on the visitor experience.

Conclusion

The impacts to visitor use and experience range from minor to major and from positive to negative. The No-Action Alternative, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to major long-term negative impacts. Action Alternative One, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to moderate long-term negative impacts. Action Alternative Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive impacts.

Overall, the No-Action Alternative would result in the greatest number of negative impacts on the visitor experience, with Action Alternative Two providing the greatest overall benefit.

Impacts on Park Operations and Facilities

Methodology

The term Park Operations and Facilities, for the purpose of this analysis, refers to the quality and effectiveness of the infrastructure and the ability to maintain the infrastructure necessary for the operation of the parks. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact on park operations and facilities are defined in the following table.

Table 4-4: Impact Intensities for Park Operations and Facilities

	PARK OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES
Negligible	Impact would not be detectable, with no discernible effect on park operations and facilities.
Minor	Impact would be detectable but with no appreciable effect on park operations and facilities.
Moderate	Impact would be readily apparent, likely long-term, and would result in a change in park operations and facilities in a manner noticeable to staff and to the public.
Major	Impact would be readily apparent, long-term, would result in a substantial change in park operation and facilities in a manner noticeable to staff and the public, and would be markedly different from existing operations.

Impacts of Elements Common to All Alternatives on Park Operations and Facilities

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following resource management actions: develop an implementation plan; continue to present the residences as furnished interiors or exhibits and continue basic repairs; preserve collections, acquire objects, and restore original quality of the interiors; enhance

the viability of important natural communities; work with partners to protect the historic setting and distant views; and advance scholarship. Some of these activities would have an impact on park operations. Those impacts are described below.

- Developing an implementation strategy would help managers develop a long-term business plan for the parks that would aid in securing resources. Depending upon the success of park managers in securing resources, this proposal could have a **negligible to moderate long-term positive** impact on park operations. If sufficient resources are not secured, a **major long-term negative** impact on park operations could result.
- In all alternatives, park managers would continue to present the historic residences as fully furnished interiors or as interpretive exhibits. This represents little change over the current management, making the impact **negligible**.
- In all alternatives, park managers would strive to preserve the collections in good condition and continue to acquire museum objects. This represents little change over the current management philosophy, making the impact **negligible**. If sufficient resources are not secured to preserve the collections in good condition, a **major long-term negative** impact could ensue.
- Fully protecting important natural communities may alter management regimes, but would not likely result in an appreciable requirement for additional staff time, yielding an overall minor impact on park operations.
- Working cooperatively to protect the parks' historic setting and broader viewsheds would require additional staff time for coordination with interested parties and building effective relationships, but would have an overall **negligible** impact on park operations.
- Advancing scholarship would have an **overall positive** impact on park operations by helping employees make more informed decisions and provide more accurate and stimulating interpretation.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following public-use related actions: confirm the period of interpretation; upgrade orientation materials; improve the arrival experience; offer a fuller presentation of the homes; manage the size of tour groups; and provide information about trail accessibility.

- Confirming the period of interpretation would provide guidance to the parks' interpretive staff by clarifying the time period embraced by the parks' interpretive themes, which would provide a **minor benefit**.
- Improving orientation materials in addition to the visitor arrival experience would have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact on park operations by helping visitors better understand how to start their visit, with less involvement of the park staff. This could also reduce the frequency with which the park staff is called to re-direct visitors from Bellefield to the FDR Home (due to a misconception that the Bellefield Mansion is the Home).

- Offering a fuller presentation of the historic residences would have a **negligible** impact on park operations, as it would require no additional staff and become part of the standard tour.
- Managing the size of tour groups to support interpretive and resource management objectives would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on park operations, as it would improve security within primary historic structures.
- Providing information on trail accessibility would involve the development of publications and signage, but would have a **negligible** impact on park operations.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following park operations actions: develop a new maintenance facility; increase energy efficiency; promote car-free access; continue to provide housing, but establish tenant guidelines; and continue existing partnership activities.

- Consolidating all maintenance functions (Buildings and Grounds, and Roads and Trails) in a new facility would have a **major long-term positive** impact on park operations by: halting the ongoing damage to the Vanderbilt Coach House and the Bellefield outbuildings caused by decades of maintenance use and storage of heavy equipment; improving the health and safety of park maintenance staff by providing a well-ventilated workspace that meets OSHA standards; and improving operational efficiency by consolidating maintenance functions in a single location. Increases in utility costs and maintenance requirements associated with a new structure would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on the park budget.
- Increasing the parks' energy efficiency and sustainability would have a **minor to moderate long-term positive** impact on park operations and facilities by reducing the utility costs associated with operating the parks.
- From an operational standpoint, providing a sustainable alternative to private vehicle access to the parks would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact by increasing management responsibilities and direct costs of operating the system. Costs for the system would be covered by a set-aside in tour fees, grant funding, and if necessary, an on-board fare. Conversely, this proposal may preclude the need to expand parking lots to accommodate overflow parking at the sites and thereby avoid an increase in maintenance responsibilities. Over time, it might also reduce the need for staff to provide traffic control.
- Continuing to provide housing to seasonal and temporary staff members and visiting scholars will allow the parks to continue to attract and retain quality personnel and to accommodate staff from outside the region. Establishing tenant guidelines for the parking of cars and storage of personal items would help manage clutter around the residences that are located in areas of high visitor use. The continued presence of park employees improves resource protection, and using the structures for housing improves monitoring of their condition. Increases in costs would

continue to be absorbed by increases in rents. Overall, this proposal has a **minor long-term positive** impact on park operations.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative on Park Operations and Facilities

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would manage cultural landscapes as at present and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

- The No-Action Alternative would continue management regimes as at present, which would have **negligible** impacts on park operations.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: update orientation materials; continue to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but open the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour; continue educational programs as at present; and continue trail use/river connections as at present.

- Updating orientation materials, continuing tours at present, with an occasional Coach House tour and continuing educational programs as at present would have a **negligible** impact on park operations.
- Continuing recreational use at current levels would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on park operations, as prohibited ATV use would continue and may require increased attention by law enforcement staff.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: upgrade the Bellefield property; rely on existing revenue sources; fill positions to implement the target organization; and maintain partnerships at existing levels.

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on park operations and facilities by providing adequate workspace for the park staff.
- Filling staff vacancies and other positions as outlined in the existing organization would begin to stem the decline in the condition of park resources (which has taken place over many years of diminished capacity) and would provide the staff necessary to offer basic visitor services. This proposal would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on the park budget, but a **minor long-term positive** impact on the ability to preserve resources and offer visitor services.

Impacts of Action Alternative One on Park Operations and Facilities

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would restore cultural landscapes in core locations and rely on partners to protect the Red House.

- Recreating the historic appearance of the views, forest plantations, forest-field configuration, the designed landscape, and historic roads and trails to the extent possible and managing select natural woodlands for

their historic character would result in significant additional maintenance and landscape management responsibilities. There would be additional acres of open meadows and fields to be mown or hayed, additional gardens to tend, forest plantations to manage, and more soft-surfaced roads and trails to maintain. More staff time would be devoted to routine maintenance activities. Some of these additional responsibilities could be undertaken by volunteers, contractors, or other entities. However, these activities would still require staff hours to coordinate volunteers, provide resource information, and administer cooperative agreements or contracts. Overall, these proposals would have a **major long-term negative** impact on park operations, due to the additional requirements for maintenance and additional park staff and equipment.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would: update orientation materials to present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single entity and the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours; improve public access and interpretation of outbuildings, including a restored Vanderbilt Coach House; enhance children's educational programming, with select outbuildings used for teaching space; and encourage use of the trails in coordination with enhanced interpretation of the landscape.

- This alternative allows for consideration of reducing the size of, or even removing, the main visitor parking area at Val-Kill. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on park operations, because it would reduce maintenance requirements.
- Improving public access to important estate outbuildings and presenting a more complete depiction of the history and use of the estates would impose additional operational responsibilities. Some of the programs, however, would be offered through new technologies and media and with volunteer support. Opening more outbuildings to the public would increase the maintenance and protection workload. There would also be a slight increase in utility costs. The increases to staff workload and utility costs would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on operations.
- Enhancing children's educational programming would require the adaptation of the Val-Kill Stable-Garage and minor interior improvements to the Roosevelt Garage and, potentially, the Vanderbilt Coach House. These buildings are currently used for public, administrative, maintenance, and storage functions. The level of maintenance of the Val-Kill Stable-Garage (and possibly the Vanderbilt Coach House, if portions of it are used as educational space,) would be increased by public use. Under Action Alternative One, it is presumed that NPS staff would conduct the bulk of educational programming, as well as routine maintenance and janitorial requirements of the education space, augmented by volunteers. The increases in park staff responsibilities required to conduct these activities would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on park operations.

- Encouraging greater use of the trails would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on park operations by increasing the associated maintenance and protection workload.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would upgrade Bellefield and seek increases in staff and in volunteer participation through enhanced partnerships.

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have the same **minor long-term positive** impact as in the No-Action Alternative.
- Implementing Action Alternative One would require filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative, as well as augmenting the staff with volunteer docents. Bringing the staff up to this level would improve the condition of park resources and enhance visitor services. Greater reliance on volunteers for visitor services and some maintenance responsibilities would be positive in terms of freeing the staff to perform other duties, but would require the staff to spend time managing volunteers. It also presents the challenge of monitoring the volunteers as closely as NPS employees. Overall, this proposal would have a **major long-term negative** impact on the park budget due to the additional staffing responsibilities, but a **major long-term positive** impact on the ability to preserve resources and offer visitor services.
- Increasing volunteer and partner participation in the maintenance of the parks could have a **moderate long-term positive** impact on park operations and facilities by augmenting the parks' capacity to conduct maintenance activities and by reducing the maintenance backlog.

Impacts of Action Alternative Two on Park Operations and Facilities

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would rehabilitate cultural landscapes, making allowances for contemporary practices, and seek an NPS ownership interest in the Red House.

- Rehabilitating cultural landscapes, allowing for modern forestry and farming practices and for flexibility to accommodate interpretive objectives, and managing select natural woodlands for historic and ecological value would result in more maintenance and management responsibilities than the No-Action Alternative. There would be additional open meadows and fields to be managed, gardens to tend, and soft-surfaced roads and trails to maintain, but fewer than in Action Alternative One, as many of the new responsibilities would be undertaken by others through agreements, leases, or contracts. For example, open field areas could be returned to agriculture through leases with local farmers; establishing a community garden on the site of the FDR Home Garden would only be undertaken if it can be done by partners. This alternative may require that less NPS staff time be devoted to routine maintenance activities

than under Action Alternative One, but more NPS staff hours would be needed for coordination and administration. Overall, these proposals would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on park operations, due to increases in management and administrative requirements and the additional park staff required to conduct activities.
- Protecting the Red House through partnership efforts, with or without NPS involvement, would have a **negligible** impact on park operations, as it is presumed that the structure would be maintained by others.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: update orientation materials; offer a wide array of programs to reach a range of audiences; adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible public purpose; expand educational programming, including the establishment of a learning center; actively promote compatible recreational use of the trails; and enhance river connections.

- Introducing more diverse and innovative programs and placing greater emphasis on the contemporary relevance of park themes would require additional staff, even though more of the programs would presumably be presented by park partners. Staff time would be required for coordination of partners and administration of cooperative agreements, contracts, and leases. It is possible that NPS regional offices or other administrative centers could undertake some of these responsibilities. The increase in activities and park staff would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on park operations. However, these activities would establish long-term relationships with partners to absorb some of the visitor service, maintenance, and operations responsibilities, which would result in more community and partner support for park stewardship. In addition, increased focus on "cyber visitors" would offer educational opportunities for visitors that are essentially impact-free. Overall, these activities would also have a **major long-term positive** impact on park operations.
- Adaptively re-using the Vanderbilt Coach House for compatible public purposes through lease or other mechanism would allow public access to this structure and improve its condition with minimal requirements of park staff time. This would have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the park operations.
- Enhancing and expanding educational programming to reach a broader audience would require the adaptation of the Bellefield outbuildings for educational purposes. Although these buildings are currently maintained for administrative and maintenance functions, the level of maintenance would increase due to their use as public spaces. Under Action Alternative Two, it is presumed that a private partner would conduct the educational programming, as well as share routine maintenance and janitorial responsibilities. The increase in NPS staff time for coordination with the private partner and administration of agreements would have a **minor long-**

term negative impact on the park budget by taking already limited staff time away from other matters.

- Working with partners to expand educational programming would establish long-term relationships that would enable the park to provide substantially more educational programming without commensurate increases in NPS staff. It would result in greater community and partner involvement, potentially eliciting greater support for park stewardship. This proposal would have a **major long-term positive** impact on park operations.
- Actively promoting recreational use of the trails, developing new trail segments, and establishing a multi-use trail system that links the park sites would have a **moderate long-term negative** impact on park operations by increasing the maintenance and law enforcement workload, due to the potential for a larger number and variety of such uses. Multi-use trails could cause user conflicts and could increase the complexity of enforcing appropriate trail use.
- Increasing connections to the Hudson River and water-borne park access would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on park operations and facilities by increasing the maintenance and visitor protection workload at Roosevelt Cove and Bard Rock.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: upgrade Bellefield for park and partner use; augment sources of revenue with partners; seek increases in staff; and seek extensive partnership support.

- Upgrading the Bellefield property to improve its use as park headquarters would have the same **minor long-term positive** impact as in the No-Action Alternative. In addition, Action Alternative Two proposes to make areas of the Bellefield property (portions of the first floor of the Mansion and the Farrand Garden) more available for partner use for fee-generating purposes. This proposal would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on park operations by adding to associated administrative and maintenance responsibilities. The benefits associated with the additional revenues are discussed below.
- Implementing Action Alternative Two would require filling more staff positions than those proposed in the No-Action Alternative and also augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support. Bringing the staff up to this level, and working in a new capacity with partners, would improve the condition of park resources and enhance visitor services. Greater reliance on volunteers and on partners to provide visitor services and conduct maintenance activities would be positive in terms of freeing the staff to perform other duties, but would require the staff to spend additional time to manage the volunteers and coordinate with partners. This type of management is more complex and also presents a greater challenge of monitoring. Overall, this proposal

would have a **minor long-term negative** impact on the park budget, but a **major long-term positive** impact on the ability to preserve resources and offer visitor services.

- Seeking new sources and augmenting existing sources of revenue to help support park operations and maintenance could have a **major long-term positive** impact on park operations and facilities by substantially increasing the capacity to maintain the resources and operate the park. Increased use of certain areas of the parks for partner-based revenue-generating purposes would increase maintenance responsibilities, though it is expected that the costs associated with these increases would be covered by the gains in revenue generated. There may be **moderate short-term negative** impacts on park operations until the partners and staff members develop systems for accommodating these uses and sufficient revenues are generated to cover the increased costs.

Conclusion

The impacts to park operations and facilities range from minor to major and from positive to negative. The No-Action Alternative, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to moderate long-term negative impacts. Action Alternative One, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to major long-term negative impacts. Action Alternative Two, including the elements common to all alternatives, would have minor to major long-term positive and minor to major long-term negative impacts, with moderate short-term negative impacts.

Overall, all alternatives would result in positive and negative impacts on park operations, with Action Alternative Two providing the greatest benefit.

Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment

Methodology

The impacts of proposed alternatives on the economy are created by visitor expenditures and through the NPS management and operation of the parks, principally employment and regional non-labor expenditures. The planning team based this impact analysis largely on review of existing studies, information provided by experts in the NPS and other agencies, and the professional judgment of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt staff. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts, the thresholds of change for the intensity of an impact on the socioeconomic environment are defined in the following table.

Table 4–5: Impact Intensities for the Socioeconomic Environment

	SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
Negligible	Impact on the regional and local economy would not be measurable.
Minor	Impact would affect only a small sector of the economy and would require effort to measure. The consequences would not be readily apparent.
Moderate	Impact would be clearly measurable and affect either a small or large sector of the local or regional economy. Adverse impacts would not prove sufficient to threaten any economic sector, and positive impacts would not result in noticeable structural shifts.
Major	Impact would be readily apparent and cause appreciable shifts in the regional and local economy, either negative or positive.

Impacts of Elements Common to All Alternatives on the Socioeconomic Environment

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following resource management actions: develop an implementation plan; continue to present the residences as furnished interiors or exhibits and continue basic repairs; preserve collections, acquire objects, and restore original quality of the interiors; enhance the viability of important natural communities; work with partners to protect the historic setting and distant views; and advance scholarship. These activities are unlikely to have a measurable effect on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following public-use related actions: confirm the period of interpretation; upgrade orientation materials; improve the arrival experience; offer a fuller presentation of the homes; manage the size of tour groups; and provide information about trail accessibility. These activities are unlikely to have a measurable effect on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In all alternatives, park managers would undertake the following park operations actions: develop a new maintenance facility; increase energy efficiency; promote car-free access; continue to provide housing, but establish tenant guidelines; and continue existing partnership activities.

- Constructing new maintenance facilities and making improvements to Bellefield to improve its efficiency as park headquarters would have a **minor short-term benefit** on the local and regional economy by providing a limited number of jobs for the duration of the construction.
- Providing a sustainable alternative to private vehicle access to the parks would enhance access for visitors without automobiles, encourage multi-

site visitation, and, depending upon the scope of the system, improve connections to the town business district, the Culinary Institute of America, and other visitor destinations. This enhanced access could increase visitor spending at local restaurants, grocery stores, lodging establishments, and other businesses and visitor attractions, but decrease visitor spending at gas stations. Overall, this proposal could result in a **minor long-term benefit** to the local economy.

- Continuing to provide housing to staff and researchers would have **negligible** impacts on the local economy, as this represents no change over the current situation.
- One of the partnership projects in the planning stage, the Hudson Valley Welcome Center Project, could appreciably increase off-site visitor spending, primarily due to extending length of stay in the region. Depending upon the success of the effort, the proposed Hudson Valley Welcome Center project could result in **minor to moderate positive** impacts on the local and regional economy.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative on the Socioeconomic Environment

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative park managers would manage cultural landscapes as at present and rely on partners to protect the Red House. These actions would have **negligible** impacts on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: update orientation materials; continue to center the visitor experience on the historic residences, but open the Vanderbilt Coach House to an occasional tour; continue educational programs as at present; and continue trail use/river connections as at present. These actions would have **negligible** impacts on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In the No-Action Alternative, park managers would: upgrade the Bellefield property; fill staff positions to implement the target organization with existing funding sources; and maintain partnerships at existing levels.

- Park operations actions would involve filling more staff positions and expenditures on repairs and upgrades. The impact on the local and regional economy would be **negligible to minor long-term and positive**.

Impacts of Action Alternative One on the Socioeconomic Environment

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would restore cultural landscapes in core locations and rely on others to protect the Red House.

- Resource management activities proposed under Action Alternative One would require expenditures by the park, its partners, and others.

These investments would have a **negligible to minor short-term positive** impact on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would: update orientation materials to present the Roosevelt sites as components of a single entity and the Wallace Center as the starting point for Val-Kill tours; improve public access and interpretation of outbuildings, including a restored Vanderbilt Coach House; enhance children's educational programming, with select outbuildings used for teaching space; and encourage use of the trails in coordination with expanded interpretation of the landscape.

- The introduction of more varied tours and new interpretive media, improving interpretation of the estate grounds and outbuildings, encouraging greater recreational use of the trails, and enhancing children's educational programming would provide a fuller depiction of important themes, and could stimulate repeat and new visitation and potentially extend the length of a visitor's stay. These actions could have a stabilizing influence on visitation, and avert a continued decline, which could have a **negligible** to **minor long-term positive** impact on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative One, park managers would upgrade Bellefield and seek increases in staff and in volunteer participation through enhanced partnerships.

- Implementing Action Alternative One would require increasing partner participation in the operation and maintenance of the parks, filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative, as well as other expenditures. The impact on the local and regional economy would be **minor, long-term, and positive**.

Impacts Associated with Action Alternative Two

IMPACTS RELATED TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would rehabilitate cultural landscapes, making allowances for contemporary practices, and seek an NPS ownership interest in the Red House.

- Resource management activities proposed under Action Alternative Two would require expenditures by the park, its partners, and others. These investments would have a **negligible to minor short-term positive** impact on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: update orientation materials; offer a wide array of programs to reach a range of audiences; adaptively re-use the Vanderbilt Coach House for a compatible public purpose; expand educational programming, including the establishment of a learning center; actively

promote compatible recreational use of the trails; and enhance river connections.

- Action Alternative Two provides a greater range of visitor offerings than the other alternatives. These activities would offer a more engaging and participatory experience, which could stimulate repeat and new visitation and extend visitors' length of stay to a greater degree than the other alternatives. This could result in stabilizing or even increasing visitation, which could have a **minor long-term positive** impact on the local and regional economy.

IMPACTS RELATED TO PARK OPERATIONS ACTIONS

In Action Alternative Two, park managers would: upgrade Bellefield for park and partner use; augment sources of revenue with partners; seek increases in staff; and seek extensive partnership support.

- Implementing Action Alternative Two would require augmenting the staff with volunteer docents and extensive partner support, filling more staff positions than those outlined in the No-Action Alternative, as well as other expenditures. The emphasis on partnerships would increase the capacity to offer programs and promote community involvement. The adaptive re-use of structures and agricultural uses of the landscape could generate opportunities for businesses. The overall impact on the local and regional economy would be **minor, long-term, and positive**.

Conclusion

The impacts to the socioeconomic environment are generally minimal in all alternatives, with Action Alternatives One and Two providing a similar level of benefit.

Table 4-6: Summary of Impacts — Common to All Alternatives

Please note that this table significantly condenses the alternatives and summarizes the potential impacts.
For a full description of the alternatives, see Part Two.
For a full description of the potential impacts, see the narrative in Part Four.

Potential Activities	Cultural Resources			
	LANDSCAPES	STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS	ARCHEOLOGY
Preserving Park Resources				
Develop Implementation Strategy	Negligible to Moderate +	Negligible to Moderate +	Negligible to Moderate +	
Continue to Present Residences as Furnished Interiors/Exhibits; Continue Basic Repairs		Negligible to Minor +		Negligible to Minor –
Work with Partners to Protect Historic Setting and Distant Views	Noticeable to Appreciable +			
Preserve Collections; Acquire Objects; Restore Original Quality of Interiors			Major +	
Enhance Viability of Important Natural Communities				
Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment				
Confirm Period of Interpretation				
Update Orientation Materials				
Improve Arrival Experience	Minor +			
Offer Fuller Presentation of Homes		Minor –	Minor –	
Manage Size of Tour Groups		Minor +	Moderate +	
Provide Accessibility Information on Trails				

Legend

Positive Impacts: +
Negative Impacts: –
Short-term impacts indicated in *italic*
Cell is blank if no impact is expected

Natural Resources					Visitor Use	Park Ops	Socio-Econ
WILDLIFE	VEGETATION	WETLANDS	SOILS	TOPOGRAPHY			
Negligible to Minor +	Negligible to Minor +					Negligible to Moderate +	Negligible
					Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Imperceptible to Appreciable +	Imperceptible to Appreciable +	Imperceptible to Appreciable +	Imperceptible to Appreciable +	Imperceptible to Appreciable +	Imperceptible to Appreciable	Negligible	Negligible
					Major +	Negligible	Negligible
Moderate +	Moderate +	Moderate +			Negligible	Minor –	Negligible
					Negligible	Minor +	Negligible
					Major +	Minor to Moderate +	Negligible
					Major +	Minor to Moderate +	Negligible
					Moderate +	Negligible	Negligible
					Moderate to Major +	Minor +	Negligible
					Major +	Negligible	Negligible

Potential Activities	Cultural Resources			
	LANDSCAPES	STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS	ARCHEOLOGY
Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness				
Develop New Maintenance Facility	Minor +; Negligible to Moderate –	Major +		Negligible to Moderate –; *Minor –*
Increase Energy Efficiency		Minor –		
Promote Car-Free Access	Moderate +			
Provide Housing, Establish Tenant Guidelines	Minor +	Negligible		

	Natural Resources					Visitor Use	Park Ops	Socio-Econ
	WILDLIFE	VEGETATION	WETLANDS	SOILS	TOPOGRAPHY			
	Minor –	Minor –		*Minor* –	Negligible to Minor –	Major +	Major +; Minor –	*Minor* +
							Minor to Moderate +	
						Moderate to Major +	Moderate –	Minor +
						Minor +	Minor +	Negligible

Table 4-7: Summary of Impacts — No-Action Alternative

Please note that this table significantly condenses the alternatives and summarizes the potential impacts.
For a full description of the alternatives, see Part Two.
For a full description of the potential impacts, see the narrative in Part Four.

Potential Activities	Cultural Resources			
	LANDSCAPES	STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS	ARCHEOLOGY
Preserving Park Resources				
Manage Cultural Landscapes as at Present (e.g. Views, Forest Plantations, Woodlands, Farm Fields, Designed Landscapes, and Historic Roads and Trails)	Major -	Moderate to Major -		
Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment				
Update Orientation Materials	Negligible			
Continue to Center Visitor Experience on Residences, but Open Coach House for Occasional Tour		Negligible	Negligible	
Continue Educational Programs as at Present				
Continue Trail Use / River Connections as at Present	Minor -			Negligible to Minor -
Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness				
Upgrade Bellefield	Moderate +	Minor to Moderate -, Moderate to Major +		Minor to Moderate -; *Minor* -
Implement Target Organization with Existing Funding Sources	Minor +	Minor +	Minor +	

Legend

Positive Impacts: +
Negative Impacts: –
Short-term impacts indicated in *italic*
Cell is blank if no impact is expected

Natural Resources					Visitor Use	Park Ops	Socio-Econ
WILDLIFE	VEGETATION	WETLANDS	SOILS	TOPOGRAPHY			
Negligible to Minor +	Negligible to Minor +	Negligible	Minor –		Major –	Negligible	Negligible
					Minor +	Negligible	Negligible to Minor +
					Negligible; Minor +	Negligible	Negligible to Minor +
					Negligible	Negligible	Negligible to Minor +
Minor –	Minor –		Minor –		Negligible	Minor –	Negligible to Minor +
Negligible			Negligible	Negligible	Minor +	Minor	Negligible to Minor +
Minor +	Minor +	Minor +			Minor +	Minor – and Minor +	Negligible to Minor +

Table 4-8: Summary of Impacts—Action Alternative One

Action Alternative One

Please note that this table significantly condenses the alternatives and summarizes the potential impacts.
For a full description of the alternatives, see Part Two.
For a full description of the potential impacts, see the narrative in Part Four.

Potential Activities	Cultural Resources			
	LANDSCAPES	STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS	ARCHEOLOGY
Preserving Park Resources				
Restore Cultural Landscapes (e.g. Views, Forest Plantations, Woodlands, Farm Fields, Designed Landscapes, and Historic Roads and Trails including Extension of RFL to Top Cottage)	Major +	Moderate to Major +		Negligible to Moderate –; *Minor* –
Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment				
Update Orientation Materials and Present Roosevelt Sites as Single Entity, with Wallace Center as Starting Point for Tours	Minor +			Minor to Moderate –
Improve Public Access to Landscapes and Outbuildings, Including Restored Vanderbilt Coach House	Moderate +; Minor –	Moderate +; Moderate to Major +; Minor –	Minor –	
Enhance Children's Programs	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	
Modify Outbuildings for Teaching Space		Minor to Moderate –; Moderate to Major +		
Encourage Authorized Trail Use	Minor +			Negligible
Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness				
Upgrade Bellefield	Moderate +	Minor to Moderate –; Moderate to Major +		Minor to Moderate –; *Minor* –
Seek Increases in Staff and Volunteer Participation through Enhanced Partnerships	Moderate +	Moderate +	Moderate +	

Legend

Positive Impacts: +
Negative Impacts: –
Short-term impacts indicated in *italic*
Cell is blank if no impact is expected

Natural Resources					Visitor Use	Park Ops	Socio-Econ
WILDLIFE	VEGETATION	WETLANDS	SOILS	TOPOGRAPHY			
Negligible; Minor +; Minor –	Negligible; Minor –		Negligible; Minor +; Minor –	Moderate –	Major +	Major –	Minor +
					Moderate +; Minor –; Moderate +; Moderate –	Minor +	Minor +
Negligible	Negligible				Major +	Moderate –	Minor +
Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +			Major +	Moderate –	Minor +
							Minor +
Minor +	Minor +		Minor +		Moderate +	Minor –	Minor +
Negligible			Negligible	Negligible	Minor +	Minor +	Minor +
Moderate +	Moderate +	Moderate +			Moderate +	Major –; Major +; Moderate +	Minor +

Table 4-9: Summary of Impacts — Action Alternative Two

Please note that this table significantly condenses the alternatives and summarizes the potential impacts.
For a full description of the alternatives, see Part Two.
For a full description of the potential impacts, see the narrative in Part Four.

Potential Activities	Cultural Resources			
	LANDSCAPES	STRUCTURES	COLLECTIONS	ARCHEOLOGY
Preserving Park Resources				
Rehabilitate Cultural Landscapes (e.g. Views, Forest Plantations, Woodlands, Farm Fields, Designed Landscapes, and Historic Roads and Trails) with Allowances for Contemporary Practices	Major +	Moderate to Major +		Negligible to Moderate –; *Minor* –
Protect Red House with NPS Participation	Negligible to Minor +	Negligible to Minor +		
Providing for Public Use and Enjoyment				
Update Orientation Materials	Negligible			
Introduce More and Diverse Programs	Moderate +; Minor –	Moderate +; Minor –	Moderate +	Moderate +
Adaptively Reuse Vanderbilt Coach House for Compatible Public Use		Moderate –; Moderate to Major +		Negligible to Moderate –; *Minor* –
Expand Educational Programming, including the Establishment of a Learning Center	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	
Modify Outbuildings for Learning Center		Moderate –; Moderate to Major +		
Actively Promote Recreational Use of Trails and Create New Trail Segments	Minor +; Minor –			Negligible to Moderate –; *Minor* –
Enhance River Connections	Negligible to Minor –			
Ensuring Organizational Effectiveness				
Upgrade Bellefield and Make it More Available for Partner and Public Use	Moderate +; Minor –; Minor +	Minor to Moderate –, Moderate to Major +		Negligible to Minor –; *Minor* –
Augment Revenue Sources; Seek Increases in Staff as well as Extensive Partner Support	Major +	Major +	Major +	

Legend

Positive Impacts: +
Negative Impacts: –
Short-term impacts indicated in *italic*
Cell is blank if no impact is expected

Natural Resources					Visitor Use	Park Ops	Socio-Econ
WILDLIFE	VEGETATION	WETLANDS	SOILS	TOPOGRAPHY			
Negligible; Minor +; Minor –	Negligible; Minor +; Minor –		Negligible; *Minor +*		Major +	Major –	Minor +
					Negligible to Minor +	Negligible	Minor +
					Moderate +		Minor +
Negligible	Negligible				Major +	Moderate –; Major +	Minor +
					Major +	Minor +	Minor +
Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +	Minor to Moderate +			Major +	Minor –	Minor +
						Major +	Minor +
Minor +; Minor –	Minor +; Minor –	Minor +			Moderate +	Moderate –	Minor +
	Negligible		Negligible		Moderate +	Minor –	Minor +
Negligible			Negligible	Negligible	Minor +	Minor +; Minor –	Minor +
Moderate +	Moderate +	Moderate +			Major +	Minor- and Major +; *Moderate –*	Minor +




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OVERLEAF:
Sculpture of FDR and ER at the Wallace Center

Part Five: Consultation and Coordination

Summary of Planning

The National Park Service takes an interdisciplinary approach to planning. The planning team for the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites was composed of individuals skilled in the areas of cultural resource management, history, interpretation, collection management, landscape architecture, park operations, and natural resource management. The planning team also consulted with technical staff from within the NPS and from other agencies in the areas of historical architecture, historic preservation, forestry, and the natural sciences.

Leading into the planning process, several research projects were undertaken to provide information with which to make decisions for the park's future. Subject matter experts conducted research on such topics as the cultural landscape, structural loading on the historic homes, visitor use, vegetation, and wildlife. The information generated from the research projects was incorporated into planning.

In preparation for considering Roosevelt-Vanderbilt's future, a series of interpretive workshops was held over the course of 2002-2003 as part of a long-range interpretive planning process. At these sessions, park staff, scholars, and park partners discussed issues associated with visitor programming and services and the parks' overall mission and goals. The results of these sessions informed the general management plan and were instrumental in defining the statements of purpose, significance, and themes.

In January 2005, Dr. Edward Linenthal led a workshop on the commemorative nature of the park. Several local and regional scholars were present, as well as representatives of the park staff, the park partners, and the public. The session offered an opportunity to consider the nature of commemoration itself and ways to highlight the relevance of the parks in the 21st Century.

Also in April 2005, a two-day session was held to review natural resource values associated with the parks and provide input to the planning team on issues related to natural resources and the forest plantations. The session involved specialists from the NPS Northeast Temperate Network Inventory and Monitoring program, the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, the New York State Heritage Program, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF), and Scenic Hudson, Inc.,

among others. In a follow-up session in October 2005, team members met with the senior management and faculty at SUNY ESF to further examine issues related to forestry and cultural landscape, to view forest plantations of age and species similar to those at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, and to explore opportunities for future collaboration between SUNY ESF and NPS.

Over the summers of 2005 and 2006, sub-committees of the planning team visited a number of sites with similar themes or characteristics to observe how they handled different aspects of management and visitor services. In determining the sites to visit, emphasis was placed on the character and composition of the resource base and the similarity of issues. The sites selected fell into the following categories: major presidential sites; those with strong outdoor programming; those that contain and interpret working landscapes; those with historic forest plantations; and those associated with figures of great wealth. During these visits, the planning team observed the practical application of a number of ideas being explored at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt: better integration of the cultural landscape into the visitor experience; active management of working landscapes; adaptive re-use of historic buildings; greater support for educational programming; generating revenue; and making important figures in American history more relevant to contemporary audiences.

The sites included:

- **Mount Vernon**, Mount Vernon, Virginia
- **Monticello**, Charlottesville, Virginia
- **Colonial Williamsburg**, Williamsburg, Virginia
- **Shelburne Farms**, Shelburne, Vermont
- **Marsh–Billings–Rockefeller National Historical Park**, Woodstock, Vermont
- **State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry**, Syracuse, New York
- **Intervale**, Burlington, Vermont
- **Minute Man National Historical Park**, Lincoln, Lexington, and Concord, Massachusetts
- **Stone Barns**, Pocantico Hills, New York
- **Kykuit**, Tarrytown, New York
- **Biltmore**, Asheville, North Carolina

Consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office was initiated in December 2005 and continued in October 2006 and October 2007 via newsletter mailings and a phone briefing. An update on the draft general management plan was provided in May 2009 at the park's regular bi-annual consultation meeting.

In January 2006 letters regarding the plan preparation were sent to Native American tribes historically associated with this area of the Hudson Valley. The tribes contacted included the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin and the Delaware Nation. Newsletters were also sent to tribes in October 2006 and October 2007.

Although informal consultation took place with natural resource specialists over the course of the planning effort, formal consultation with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was initiated in December 2008 with regards to the status of threatened and endangered species in the area. According to USFWS, there are seven Federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species that are known or are likely to occur in Dutchess County. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) website and New York Natural Heritage Program data, the project area contains rare plants and animals and significant natural communities. The NPS will continue consultation with USFWS and NYS DEC as site-specific plans are advanced to implement the general management plan.

Building on the information gleaned from the various working sessions and from reviews of enabling legislation and legislative histories, the team developed statements of park purpose (why the park was established), significance (why the resources are important enough to warrant national park designation), and themes (the most important stories to be told at the parks). The planning team also identified and analyzed the parks' primary resources (those that directly support its purpose and significance). These elements compose 'Part One: Foundation for Planning' in this document.

The preparation of the plan was announced to the public in November 2005. The team distributed postcard announcements to an extensive mailing list (over 11,000 addresses) to publicize the preparation of the plan and to invite public input. To acquaint the community and interested citizens with the planning process, to solicit comments or concerns regarding the future of the parks, and to report on the status of planning, the planning team established a project website "Roosevelt-VanderbiltPlan.org" (which is linked to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment or "PEPC" website) and held a public scoping session in December 2005 at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park, New York.

The agenda for the scoping session began with a complimentary holiday open-house of the FDR Home and screenings of a new film on Eleanor Roosevelt, followed by a brief presentation on the planning process, the purpose and significance statements, and the purpose of the meeting. Participants were then asked what they consider to be the parks' most important assets; what they would like to see and do at the parks; and for comments on the materials presented. The meeting was well-attended, attracting some 80 participants. Comments were recorded on flipcharts and comment cards.

As part of the public scoping process, the planning team also met with each of the parks' primary partners to solicit their views about the future of the parks and the issues that the plan should address.

The plan's first formal newsletter was printed and distributed in October 2006. The newsletter reviewed the planning process and key planning issues, as well as Roosevelt-Vanderbilt's purpose and significance and an overview of park resources. It also shared highlights of the public input to date. The newsletter included a mail-back card and invited the public to comment on the material presented. The newsletter was mailed to approximately 6,000 addresses and posted on the websites. The newsletter and website resulted in formal comments from some 30 respondents.

Over the course of 2006 and 2007, as a way to build the mailing list and further publicize the preparation of the plan to the community, the park held a series of free "community photography workshops" in cooperation with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Society and the Dutchess County Arts Council. The workshops, led by professional photographers and park staff, highlighted different park resources, such as architecture, landscape, and collections. At each session, a brief overview of the plan was provided and planning newsletters made available. Five workshops were held, with total attendance of some 350 people. Selected works are featured on the park and planning websites and are posted on the photography-sharing website "Flickr.com."

In October 2007 a second newsletter or "Progress Report" describing three preliminary alternatives was distributed to approximately 6,000 addresses and posted on the websites. At the same time, the Superintendent and planning team members reviewed the preliminary alternatives with the eight primary park partners, as well as the Regional Center Partners: the Town of Hyde Park, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and Scenic Hudson, Inc. The preliminary alternatives newsletter generated some 30 comments by phone, electronic mail, and letter.

In August 2008, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt's core planning team met to identify the preferred alternative. The planning team reviewed the potential advantages and impacts (developed in previous sessions), including those related to cost, the public comments received, and the relevant external influences (e.g., community support). Based on this analysis, the planning team modified Action Alternative Two (as it was presented in the "Progress Report") in response to the comments received. The planning team then recommended that the Northeast Regional Director identify the updated Action Alternative Two (as it is presented in this draft) as the National Park Service's preferred alternative. In a subsequent meeting, the Northeast Regional Director concurred with this recommendation.

The draft general management plan/draft environmental impact statement is made available for public review for 60 days. During that time, the team will solicit public comment and hold public forums that will be publicized in local media outlets. The planning team will carefully review the comments received and develop responses to all substantive comments in a final general management plan/final environmental impact statement. After a 30-day "no-action" period, a Record of Decision will be prepared to document the selected management option and set forth any stipulations for implementation of the general management plan, thus completing the environmental compliance requirements.

The draft and final environmental impact statements accompanying the draft and final general management plans are essentially programmatic statements presenting an overview of potential impacts relating to each management option. More detailed plans may be developed for individual actions outlined in the options, and these would be subject to a more detailed review of environmental impacts.

Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations, Policies, and Mandates

As with all units of the National Park System, the management of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites is guided by the 1916 Organic Act (which created the National Park Service), the General Authorities Act of 1970, the act of March 27, 1978, relating to the management of the National Park System, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Actions are also guided by the National Park Service *Management Policies 2006* and the parks' legislation (see Appendix A). The applicable laws, regulations, and policies most pertinent to the planning and management of the park are described below. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites will be managed in accordance with these laws and policies, regardless of which alternative is ultimately implemented.

Cultural Resource Management Requirements

Cultural resource management activities are guided by National Park Service *Management Policies 2006* and Director's Order 28: the National Park Service *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*. Laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural resources include: the National Historic Preservation Act (1966); the Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008); and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In addition to those listed above, laws and policies in effect for the protection of archeological resources include Executive Order 11593: "Archaeological Resources Protection Act;" Director's Order 28A: Archeology, and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*. Law and policies require that archeological sites be identified and inventoried and their significance determined and documented. Archeological sites are to be protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable. If so, the site is to be professionally documented and salvaged in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and American Indian tribes. Some archeological sites that can be adequately protected may be interpreted to visitors.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

In addition to those listed above, laws and policies in effect for the protection of cultural landscapes include the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Law and policies require that cultural landscapes inventories be conducted to identify landscapes potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to assist in future management decisions for

landscapes and associated resources, both cultural and natural. The management of cultural landscapes focuses on preserving the landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use when they contribute to its historical significance.

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Certain contemporary American Indian and other communities are permitted by law, regulation, or policy to pursue customary religious, subsistence, and other cultural uses of National Park Service resources with which they are traditionally associated. To the extent permitted by law, the National Park Service will take care to protect resources in a way that will accommodate their religious value. All agencies, including the National Park Service, are required to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of these sacred sites. Other federal agencies, state and local governments, potentially affected American Indian and other communities, interested groups, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are to be given opportunities to become informed about and comment on anticipated NPS actions at the earliest practicable time. All agencies are required to consult with tribal governments before taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

In addition to the laws and policies listed above, the National Park Service *Museum Handbook* applies to the protection of museum collections and archives. Law and policies require that all museum collections (objects, specimens, and manuscript collections) be identified, inventoried, catalogued, documented, preserved, and protected; and provision is made for their access and use for exhibits, research, and interpretation. The qualities that contribute to the significance of the collections are protected in accordance with established standards.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Law and policies require that historic structures be inventoried and their significance and integrity evaluated under National Register criteria. The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic properties on the National Register of Historic Places are to be protected in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, unless it is determined through a formal process that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable.

Natural Resource Management Requirements

AIR QUALITY/SCENIC VIEWS

The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) requires federal land managers to protect air quality, and National Park Service *Management Policies* address the need to analyze air quality during park planning. States are responsible for the attainment and maintenance of national ambient air quality standards developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These standards have been established for several pollutants: inhalable

particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, carbon monoxide, and lead. Elevated concentrations of these pollutants can have adverse impacts on park resources and visitors. Three air quality categories (I, II, and III) have been established for the national park system areas. The ambient air quality standard for the area covering the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites is designated Class II, meaning that the state may permit a moderate amount of new air pollution, as long as neither ambient air quality standards nor the maximum allowable increases over established baseline concentrations are exceeded. Current laws and policies require that the air quality in the park meet national ambient air quality standards and that healthful indoor air quality at National Park Service facilities be ensured. Although the NPS has very little direct control over air quality in the air shed encompassing the parks, managers will cooperate with the State of New York, regional governments, and the EPA to monitor air quality and ensure that it is not impaired.

COASTAL ZONE

New York State's Coastal Area has been divided into four geographic regions: Long Island, New York City, Hudson Valley, and Great Lakes. The portion of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site situated west of Route 9 and the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site are located within the Hudson Valley landward coastal boundary of a coastal zone management area. All proposed activities for the sites must be consistent with the state's policies per the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, which is the primary federal statute for protecting the nation's coastal areas.

NATURAL LIGHTSCAPES OR NIGHT SKY

Natural lightscapes are natural resources that exist in the absence of human-caused light. They vary with geographic location and season. The National Park Service management guidelines recognize that night sky and darkness can be significant components of the overall experience of a visitor to a national park. Agency guidelines direct the National Park Service to cooperate with park neighbors and local government agencies to minimize the intrusion of artificial light into the night scene.

NATURAL SOUNDS

The natural ambient soundscape is the aggregate of all natural sounds together with the physical capacity for transmitting sounds. Natural sounds occur within and beyond the range of sounds that humans can perceive and can be transmitted through air, water, or solid materials. Mandates and policies require that the National Park Service preserve the natural ambient soundscapes, restore degraded soundscapes to their natural ambient condition wherever possible, and protect natural soundscapes from degradation due to human-caused noise. Disruptions from recreational uses are to be managed to provide a high-quality visitor experience in an effort to preserve or restore both the natural quiet and natural sounds.

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Federal laws are in effect for the protection of the nation's farmland soils, a unique natural resource that provides food and fiber necessary for the continued welfare of the people of the United States. Federal laws require that the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies take steps to assure that the actions of the Federal Government do not cause farmland to be irreversibly converted to nonagricultural uses in cases in which other national interests neither override the importance of the protection of farmland nor otherwise outweigh the benefits of maintaining farmland resources.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Laws and policies in effect for the protection of species of special concern include the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) and National Park Service policies on invasive species. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires that when a project or proposal by a federal agency has the potential to affect a known candidate, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species, that agency must enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National Park Service management policies direct the NPS to give the same level of protection to state-listed species as to federally listed species. The laws and policies require that federally listed and state-listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats be sustained and that populations of native species that have been severely reduced in or extirpated from the park be restored where feasible and sustainable.

WILDLAND FIRE

Laws and policies in effect regarding fire management require that all fires burning in natural or landscaped vegetation in parks be classified as either wildland fires or prescribed fires. All wildland fires are to be effectively managed, considering resource values to be protected and the safety of firefighters and the public, using the full range of strategic and tactical operations as described in the park's approved fire management plan. Prescribed fires are ignited by park managers to achieve resource objectives and are to include monitoring programs to determine whether specified objectives are met.

WATER RESOURCES, FLOODPLAIN, AND WETLANDS

Laws and policies in effect for the protection of water resources include the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, the Clean Water Act of 1977, the Water Quality Act of 1987, Executive Order 11988: "Floodplain Management," and Executive Order 11990: "Protection of Wetlands." Law and mandates require that: (1) surface water and groundwater be restored or enhanced; (2) National Park Service and National Park Service–permitted programs and facilities be maintained and operated to avoid pollution of surface water and groundwater; (3) natural floodplain values be preserved or restored; (4) the natural and beneficial values of wetlands be preserved and enhanced; and (5) long-term and short-term environmental effects associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplain be avoided.

Park Operations Requirements

ACCESSIBILITY

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and federal guidelines published in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 define specific access requirements for persons with disabilities to parking facilities, pathways, and buildings. The accessibility requirements apply to government facilities (Title II) and to private entities that provide public accommodations (Title III). Accordingly, park managers are to strive to ensure that disabled persons are afforded the same experiences and opportunities enjoyed by other visitors to the greatest extent practicable. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services are to be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonably be made accessible.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 directs all federal agencies to assist in the national goal of achieving a seamless telecommunications system throughout the United States by accommodating requests by telecommunication companies for the use of property, rights-of-way, and easements to the extent allowable under each agency's mission. The National Park Service is legally obligated to permit telecommunication infrastructure in the parks if such facilities can be structured to avoid interference with park purposes. Law and policies also require that park resources and/or public enjoyment of the park not be denigrated by nonconforming uses. Telecommunication structures are to be permitted in the park to the extent that they do not jeopardize the park's mission and resources. No new nonconforming use or rights-of-way are to be permitted through the park without specific statutory authority and approval by the director of the National Park Service or his or her representative, and such use is to be permitted only if there is no practicable alternative to such use of National Park Service lands. The management of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites has determined that, because of the historic significance of the parks' resources and cultural landscape values, no appropriate locations exist for telecommunication infrastructure within the parks.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN/DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability can be described as the result of managing units of the National Park System in ways that do not compromise the environment or its capacity to provide for present and future generations. Federal laws, executive orders, and executive memoranda, including Executive Order 13123: "Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management;" Executive Order 13101: "Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition;" and the National Park Service *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design* direct the National Park Service management philosophy on sustainability. Principles have been developed and are followed for interpretation, natural resources, cultural resources, site design, building design, energy management, water supply, waste prevention, and facility maintenance and operations. The National Park Service strives to reduce energy costs, eliminate waste, and conserve

energy resources by using energy-efficient and cost-effective technology. Park managers also strive to incorporate energy efficiency into the decision-making process during the design and acquisition of buildings, facilities, and transportation systems, emphasizing the use of renewable energy sources.

Socioeconomic Requirements

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898: "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their actions on minority and low-income populations and communities, as well as the equity of the distribution of benefits and risks of those actions. In implementing the general management plan, park managers will comply with all applicable laws and executive orders, such as those outlined in the "Laws, Policies, and Mandates." Consultation and coordination with appropriate federal and state agencies have been conducted during the preparation of this document. Regarding cultural resources, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was initiated in December 2005. Regarding historic properties of significance to Indian tribes, consultation with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin and the Delaware Nation was initiated in January 2006.

Section 106 Compliance Requirements for Future Undertakings

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of undertakings on National Register listed or eligible properties and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment. Toward that end, the National Park Service will work with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council to meet requirements of 36 CFR 800 and the November 2008 Programmatic Agreement among the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service (Department of the Interior). This latter agreement requires the National Park Service to work closely with the SHPO and the ACHP in planning for both new and existing national park areas.

Prior to any ground-disturbing action by park managers, a professional archeologist will determine the need for archeological activity or testing evaluation. Any such studies would be carried out in advance of construction activity and would meet the needs of the State Historic Preservation Office. Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the National Park Service to identify and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places all resources under its jurisdiction that appear to be eligible. Historic areas of the National Park System are automatically listed on the National Register upon their establishment by law or executive order.

The following table identifies future actions under the preferred alternative that would likely require review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and under the Programmatic Agreement, and the nature of the review.

Table 5–1: Summary of Actions Requiring Review under Section 106

Expand views
Rehabilitate designed landscapes and indicate missing features through new elements of similar massing/scale or media
Retain Eleanor Roosevelt Cutting Garden as Memorial, rehabilitate garden and develop commemorative program
Actively manage forest plantations with range of treatments
Actively manage natural woodlands with range of treatments
Rehabilitate former farm fields with some returned to agricultural use
Rehabilitate historic roads and trails
Develop new trail segments to support visitor access and interpretation
Rehabilitate/adaptively re-use Vanderbilt Coach House
Rehabilitate buildings for interpretive and educational purposes
Develop new maintenance facility
Upgrade Bellefield to better support park uses

Section VI-G of the Programmatic Agreement requires that general management plans include a statement about the status of the parks' cultural resources inventory and that the statement indicate needs for additional cultural resource information, plans, or studies required before undertakings can be carried out.

The following plans and studies relating to cultural resources have been identified as necessary to support the implementation of proposals made in this document. Some of these are underway. This list may be expanded or otherwise modified as the specific requirements for individual projects become better defined:

- Archeological studies and investigations
- Historic structures reports for the main residences and cottages, Bellefield and its outbuildings
- Historic furnishings plans for the main residences
- Collections management plans and scope of collections statements
- A viewshed management plan to guide removal and treatment of vegetation for viewshed management purposes
- A forest management plan to guide treatment of the forest plantations, the natural woodlands, and to address diseased and dying trees
- An agricultural management plan to guide the use and treatment of agricultural properties
- Cultural landscape treatment and preservation maintenance plans for the designed landscapes
- An historic resource study and treatment plan to guide treatment for historic roads and trails along with a multi-use trail master plan

List of Draft General Management Plan Recipients

Partners in Stewardship

Beatrix Farrand Garden Association
Cedar Grove, the Thomas Cole National Hisstoric Site
Clermont State Historic Site
Culinary Institute of America
Dutchess County Economic Development and Tourism
Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation
Dutchess County Planning
The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Inc.
Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum operated by the National Archives and Records Administration
Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association
Great Estates Consortium
Historic Hudson Valley
Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt: A Project to Preserve Her Val-Kill Home
Hudson River Heritage
Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership
Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
Hyde Park Central School District
Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce
Hyde Park Historical Society
Hyde Park Planning Board
Hyde Park Recreation Department
Hyde Park Town Board
Hyde Park Town Supervisor
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
Locust Grove: The Samuel Morse Historic Site
Marist College
Mid-Hudson Patterns for Progress
Montgomery Place
National Parks Conservation Association
National Park Foundation
New York State Department of Transportation
Northern Dutchess Alliance
Olana State Historic Site
Open Space Institute
Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historic Association
Route 9G Corridor Committee
Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council
Roosevelt Family Members
Scenic Hudson, Inc.
Staatsburg State Historic Site
State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Wilderstein Historic Site
Winnakee Land Trust

Consultation

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
American Indian interests (Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin, Delaware Nation)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of State, Coastal Zone Management Program
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office
US Environmental Protection Agency
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OVERLEAF:
FDR on Top Cottage Porch, June 1941

Part Six: Appendices

Appendix A: Legislation

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION (7/18/39) —

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY &

HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

[CHAPTER 324]

JOINT RESOLUTION

July 18, 1939
[S. J. Res. 118]
[Pub. Res., No. 30]

To provide for the establishment and maintenance of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and for other purposes.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—DEFINITIONS

Terms defined.
"Donor."
"Historical material."
"Board."

SECTION 1. As used in this joint resolution—

(a) The term "donor" means Franklin D. Roosevelt.

(b) The term "historical material" includes books, correspondence, papers, pamphlets, works of art, models, pictures, photographs, plats, maps, and other similar material.

(c) The term "Board" means the Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

TITLE II—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Archivist authorized to accept site for library from donor.

SEC. 201. The Archivist of the United States is authorized to accept for and in the name of the United States from the donor, or from such person or persons as shall be empowered to act for the donor, title to a tract of land consisting of an area of twelve acres, more or less, of the Hyde Park estate of the donor and his family, located on the New York-Albany Post Road, in the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York; such area to be selected and carved out of the said estate by the donor and to be utilized as a site for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library provided for in this title.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., construction of buildings, landscaping, etc., authorized.

SEC. 202. The Archivist is authorized to permit the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Incorporated, a New York corporation organized for that purpose, to construct on the area referred to in section 201 of this title a building, or buildings, to be designated as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and to landscape the grounds within the said area. Such project shall be carried out in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Archivist. The Federal Works Administration is authorized to permit the facilities and personnel of the Public Building Administration to be utilized in the preparation of plans for and in the construction and equipping of the project: *Provided*, That the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Incorporated, shall enter into an arrangement satisfactory to the Secretary of the Treasury to reimburse the said Public Building Administration for the costs and expenses incurred for such purposes, as determined by the Federal Works Administration.

Assistance by Public Building Administration.

Proviso.
Reimbursement.

Acceptance of project, upon completion, as a gift from donor.

SEC. 203. Upon the completion of the project authorized in section 202 of this title, the Archivist shall accept for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, as a gift from the donor, such collection of historical material as shall be donated by the donor. The Archivist may also acquire for the said Library from other sources, by gift, purchase, or loan, historical books related to and other historical material contemporary with and related to the historical material acquired from the donor. The historical material acquired under this section shall be permanently housed in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library: *Provided*, That the Archivist may temporarily remove any of such material from the said Library when he deems it to be necessary: *And provided further*, That the Archivist may dispose of any duplicate printed material in the said Library by sale or exchange, and, with the approval of the National Archives Council, may dispose of by sale, exchange, or otherwise any material in the said Library which appears to have no permanent value or historical interest. The proceeds of any sale made under this section shall be paid into the special account provided for in subsection (d) of section 205 of this title, to be held, administered, and expended in accordance with the provisions of that subsection.

Acquisition of similar related material from other sources.

Provisos.
Temporary removal of material.

Disposal of duplicate, etc., printed material.

Proceeds from sales to be paid into special account.

Funds pledged for upkeep, etc.

SEC. 204. The faith of the United States is pledged that, upon the construction of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and the acquisition from the donor of the collection of historical material in accordance with the terms of this title, the United States will provide such funds as may be necessary for the upkeep of the said Library and the administrative expenses and costs of operation thereof, including the preservation and care of historical material acquired under this title, so that the said Library shall be at all times properly maintained.

Board established; membership; tenure, vacancies; not deemed U. S. officers.

SEC. 205. (a) A Board to be known as the Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library is hereby established. The Archivist and the Secretary of the Treasury shall be ex officio members, and the Archivist shall be chairman of the Board. There shall also be five members of the Board appointed by the President for life, but the President may remove any such member for cause. Vacancies on the

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Board shall be filled by the President. Membership on the Board shall not be deemed to be an office within the meaning of the Constitution and statutes of the United States.

Compensation restriction; expense allowance.

(b) No compensation shall be paid to the members of the Board for their services as such members, but they shall be allowed their necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties under this title. The certificate of the chairman of the Board shall be sufficient evidence that the expenses are properly allowable.

Acceptance and administration of gifts as trust funds; investment.

(c) The Board is hereby authorized to accept and receive gifts and bequests of personal property and to hold and administer the same as trust funds for the benefit of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. The moneys or securities composing trust funds given or bequeathed to the Board shall be receipted for by the Secretary of the Treasury who shall invest, reinvest, and retain investments as the Board may from time to time determine: *Provided, however*, That the Board is not authorized to engage in any business nor to exercise any voting privilege which may be incidental to securities in such trust funds, nor shall the Secretary of the Treasury make any investments for the account of the Board which could not lawfully be made by a trust company in the District of Columbia, except that he may make any investment directly authorized by the instrument of gift under which the funds to be invested are derived, and may retain any investments accepted by the Board.

Proviso. Restriction.

Deposit and disbursement of income from trust funds.

(d) The income from any trust funds held by the Board, as and when collected, shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States who shall enter it in a special account to the credit of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and subject to disbursement by the Archivist, except where otherwise restricted by the instrument of gift, in the purchase of equipment for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library; in the preparation and publication of guides, inventories, calendars, and textual reproduction of material in the said Library; and in the purchase, under section 203 of this title, of historical material for the said Library. The Archivist may make sales of any publications authorized by this section at a price which will cover their cost and 10 per centum added, and all moneys received from such sales shall be paid into, administered, and expended as a part of the special account herein provided for.

Use of, in publication of guides, textual reproduction of Library material, etc.

Sales of publications; use of receipts.

Use of principal of any gift or bequest for designated purposes.

(e) Unless otherwise restricted by the instrument of gift, the Board, by resolution duly adopted, may authorize the Archivist to use the principal of any gift or bequest made to it for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (d) hereof.

Powers of Board as trustee.

(f) The Board shall have all the usual powers of a trustee in respect to all funds administered by it, but the members of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for misfeasance. In the administration of such trust funds the actions of the Board, including any payments made or authorized to be made by it from such funds, shall not be subject to review or attack except in an action brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which is hereby given jurisdiction of such suits, for the purpose of enforcing the provision of any trust accepted by the Board.

Custody and control of buildings and grounds.

SEC. 206. The Commissioner of Public Buildings shall be responsible for the care, maintenance, and protection of the buildings and grounds of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in the same manner and to the same extent as he is responsible for the National Archives Building in the District of Columbia. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, the immediate custody and control of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and such other buildings, grounds, and equipment as may from time to time become a part thereof, and their contents shall be vested in the Archivist of the United States, and

he is authorized to appoint and prescribe the duties of such officers and employees, including clerical assistance for the Board, as may be necessary for the execution of the functions vested in him by this title.

Archivist to prescribe suitable regulations.

SEC. 207. The Archivist shall prescribe regulations governing the arrangement, custody, protection, and use of the historical material acquired under this title; and, subject to such regulations, such material shall be available to the public free of charge: *Provided*, That the Archivist is authorized to charge and collect, under regulations prescribed by him, a fee not in excess of 25 cents per person for the privilege of visiting and viewing the exhibit rooms or museum portion of the said Library; and any funds so derived shall be paid by the Archivist into the special account provided for in subsection (d) of section 205 of this title, to be held, administered, and expended under the provisions of that subsection.

Proviso. Admittance fee.

Report to Congress.

SEC. 208. The Archivist shall make to the Congress, at the beginning of each regular session, a report for the preceding fiscal year as to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. Such report shall include a detailed statement of all accessions, all dispositions of historical material, and all receipts and expenditures on account of the said Library.

Appropriation authorized, payable from appropriations for National Archives Establishment.

SEC. 209. The costs incurred by the Archivist in carrying out the duties placed upon him by this title, including the expenses of the members of the Board and the costs of the Board's necessary clerical assistance, shall be paid out of the appropriations for The National Archives Establishment as other costs and expenses of The National Archives Establishment are paid; and such sums as may be necessary for such purposes are hereby authorized to be appropriated.

TITLE III—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT RESIDENCE

Acceptance of parts of Hyde Park estate of donor for use designated, subject to life estate, etc.

SEC. 301. The head of any executive department, pursuant to agreement between him and the donor, may accept for and in the name of the United States from the donor, or from such person or persons as shall be empowered to act for the donor, title to any part or parts of the said Hyde Park estate of the donor and his family which shall be donated to the United States for use in connection with any designated function of the Government administered in such department. The title to any such property may be accepted under this section notwithstanding that it may be subject to the life estate of the donor or of any other person or persons now living: *Provided*, That during the continuance of any life estate reserved therein no expense to the United States in connection with the ordinary maintenance of the property so acquired shall be incurred: *Provided further*, That the acceptance hereunder by the United States of the title to property in which any life estate is reserved shall not during the existence of such life estate exempt the property, except to the extent provided in section 304 of this title, from taxation by the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, or the State of New York as other real property in the said town, county, or State is taxed under the applicable laws relating to taxation of real property.

Provisos. No Federal expense during continuance of life estate reserved therein.

Local and State taxes.

Jurisdiction and control upon expiration of all life estates reserved.

SEC. 302. Upon the expiration of all life estates reserved in any property acquired under this title for use in connection with a designated function of the Government, or, if no life estate is reserved, immediately upon the acceptance of title thereto, the head of the department administering the said function shall assume jurisdiction and control over the property so acquired and administer it for the purpose designated, subject to the applicable provisions of law.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

Rights reserved by Congress.

SEC. 303. The right is reserved in the Congress to take such action and to make such changes, modifications, alterations, and improvements in connection with and upon any property acquired under this title, during or after the expiration of any life estate reserved therein, as the Congress shall deem proper and necessary to protect and preserve the same; but neither the improvements so made nor any increase in the value of the property by reason thereof shall be subject to taxation during the existence of any life estate reserved in the property.

Approved, July 18, 1939.

C: DESIGNATION ORDER

FEDERAL REGISTER, *Thursday, January 27, 1944*

TITLE 36—PARKS AND FORESTS

Chapter I—National Park Service

PART I—AREAS ADMINISTRATED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE[1]

ORDER DESIGNATING HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Whereas the Congress of the United States has declared it to be a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the Congress of the United States by Joint Resolution of July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062–5), authorized the head of any executive department to accept for and in the name of the United States title to any part or parts of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park estate for use in connection with any designated function of the Government administered in such department; and

Whereas subject to certain reservations and conditions title to approximately 33.23 acres of said historic and nationally significant estate has been vested in the United States pursuant to said Joint Resolution, having been donated by the said Franklin D. Roosevelt;

Now, therefore, I, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), do hereby designate the following described lands, together with all historic structures thereon and all appurtenances connected therewith, situated in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, and State of New York, to be a national historic site, having the name "Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site":

Beginning at a point in the west line of the New York and Albany Post Road where the said line is intersected by the southerly line of a 16.31 acre tract known as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library site and described in the deed from Franklin D. Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, his wife, to the United States, dated July 24, 1939, and recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office in Book 576 of Deeds, at page 227, and which point is monumented by an iron pipe set five inches above the ground; thence along the southerly line of said library site the following courses and distances: North 87°27' West 0.03 of a chain (3.3 feet) to a granite monument set in the ground and marked "US FDR 1939", and North 87°27' West 17.87 chains (1179.42 feet) to a similarly marked granite monument; thence along the westerly line of the said library site North 0°10' East 8.45 chains (557.70 feet) to a similarly marked granite monument set in the division line between the lands of the said Franklin D. Roosevelt and land now or formerly of Mary Newbold Morgan; thence along the land now or formerly of said Mary Newbold Morgan the following courses and distances: South 67°06' West 7.56 chains (498.96 feet) to a point marked by a one-inch iron pipe set in a six-inch square concrete monument six inches above the ground with a brass cap marked "AP1 FDR 1943", and South 89°24' West 4.16 chains (273.90 feet) to a point in the center of a rock fence on said division line and which point is the northwesterly corner of the tract herein described; thence along other land of said Franklin D. Roosevelt the following four courses and distances: South 18°51' East 0.04 of a chain (2.64 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP2 FDR 1943"; South 18°51' East 7.52 chains (496.32 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP3 FDR 1943"; South 28°49' West 9.46 chains (624.36 feet) to an iron pipe constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP4 FDR 1943"; and South 43°56' East crossing a road leading to the river 0.68 of a chain (44.88 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid, marked "AP5 FDR 1943", and set in the original division line between the southerly line of "Wheeler Place" and the northerly line of "Boreel Place"; thence along the said original division line and along other land of Franklin D. Roosevelt the following courses and distances: South 87°40' East 30.88 chains (2038.08 feet) to an iron pipe monument constructed as aforesaid and marked "AP6 FDR 1943"; and South 87°40' East 0.10 of a chain (6.6 feet) to a point where the westerly line of said New York and Albany Post Road intersects the original southerly line of said "Wheeler Place" and the original northerly line of "Boreel Place", and which point is monumented by an iron pipe set six inches above the ground; thence continuing along the westerly line of the said road the following courses and distances: North 2°56' East 7.31 chains (482.46 feet) to an iron pipe set six inches above the ground and North 5°08' West 1.06 chains (69.96 feet) to the point or place of beginning, containing 33.23 acres, more or less.

The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Joint Resolution of July 18, 1939, and the Act of August 21, 1935, supra, all subject to the reservations and conditions contained in the deed conveying said property to the United States.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this historic site.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed, at the City of Washington, this 15th day of January 1944.

[SEAL] HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

[F. R. Doc. 44-1345; Filed, January 26, 1944; 10:06 a. m.]

19. Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt

An Act to amend the joint resolution of July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062), to provide for the acceptance of additional lands for the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, and for other purposes. (89 Stat. 81) (P.L. 94–19)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title III of the joint resolution approved July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062), is amended as follows:

(1) Amend section 301 to read as follows:

"SEC. 301. The head of any executive department may accept for and in the name of the United States, title to any part or parts of the said Hyde Park estate and title to any contiguous property or properties located in the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, State of New York, which shall be donated to the United States for use in connection with any designated governmental function in the administration of this area. The title to any such property may be accepted under this section notwithstanding that it may be subject to the life estate of the donor or of any other person or persons now living: *Provided,* That during the continuance of any life estate reserved therein no expense to the United States in connection with the ordinary maintenance of the property so acquired shall be incurred: *Provided further,* That the acceptance hereunder by the United States of the title to property in which any life estate is reserved shall not during the existence of such life estate exempt the property from taxation by the town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, or the State of New York as other real property in the said town, county, or State is taxed under the applicable laws relating to taxation of real property.".

(2) A new section 304 is added, to read as follows:

"SEC. 304. In addition to such amounts as have been appropriated prior to the enactment of this section, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title, but not to exceed $104,000 for development purposes.".

* * * * * * *

Approved April 30, 1975.

Legislative History:

House Report No. 94–149 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Senate Report No. 94–98 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Congressional Record, Vol. 121 (1975):
Apr. 21, considered and passed House.
Apr. 29, considered and passed Senate.

Public Law 105–364
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 2241]

To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes.

16 USC 461 note [table].

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR–NHS 3008. Such map shall be on file for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.

Lands and interests therein acquired by the Secretary shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 10, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2241:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–400 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 15, considered and passed House.

Public Law 106–147
106th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site to the Archivist of the United States for the construction of a visitor center.

Dec. 9, 1999
[H.R. 1104]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled ,

SECTION 1. VISITOR CENTER FOR HOME OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK.

16 USC 461 note.

(a) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Secretary of the Interior may transfer to the Archivist of the United States administrative jurisdiction over land located in the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, for use by the Archivist for the construction of a visitor center facility to jointly serve the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, located in Hyde Park, New York.

(b) CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.—

(1) PROTECTION OF HISTORIC SITE.—The transfer authorized in subsection (a) shall be subject to an agreement between the Secretary and the Archivist that shall include such provisions for the protection of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and the joint use of the facility to be constructed as the Secretary and the Archivist may consider necessary.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—A transfer made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made without consideration or reimbursement.

(3) TERMINATION.—If use by the Archivist of the land referred to in subsection (a) is terminated by the Archivist at any time, administrative jurisdiction over the land shall automatically revert to the Department of the Interior.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) shall consist of not more than 1 acre of land as may be mutually

agreed to by the Secretary and the Archivist and more particularly described in the agreement required under subsection (b)(1).

Approved December 9, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1104 (S. 946):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106–141 (Comm. on Resources).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 106–94 accompanying S. 946 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):
Aug. 2, considered and passed House.
Nov. 19, considered and passed Senate.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

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THIS INDENTURE, made the 10th day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, between JAMES ROOSEVELT, residing at 623 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, BASIL O'CONNOR, residing at 49 East 96th Street, New York, N. Y., and HENRY T. HACKETT, residing at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, AS TRUSTEES under the Last Will and Testament of FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, late of the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Deceased, parties of the first part, and VAL-KILL CO., INC., a New York corporation having an office at 295 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., party of the second part,

WITNESSETH, that the parties of the first part, by virtue of the power and authority to them given in and by said Last Will and Testament, and in consideration of ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND ($115,000.00) DOLLARS, lawful money of the United States, paid by the party of the second part, do hereby grant and release unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever,

ALL that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess and State of New York, lying west of the center of Mariches Creek, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a corner of walls in the easterly line of the Albany Post Road, known as Route 9, and in the northerly line of lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, and running thence along said road line N 15° 54' 50" E 718.19 feet; N 15° 27' 20" E 21.47 feet; N 15° 30' 20" E 568.93 feet; N 14° 50' 40" E 42.27 feet; N 14° 38' 20" E 404.67 feet; N 13° 46' 20" E 104.86 feet; N 7° 43' 20" E 98.63 feet; and N 7° 04' 00" E 626.04 feet to the center of the present driveway running easterly through the hereinafter-described premises from Route 9 to Violet Avenue known as Route 9G; thence still along the line of said Post Road N 5° 44' 40" E 13.39 feet; N 7° 56' 00" E 454.75 feet; N 7° 23' 10" E 147.18 feet; N 8° 08' 30" E 326.99 feet and N 7° 11' 20" E 509.58 feet to a corner of walls in the southerly line of lands of the Crumwold Acres Development Corporation, formerly Rogers; thence along the wall the line of said lands S 75° 41' 40" E 735.06 feet; S 75° 41' 10" E 192.55 feet; S 75° 02' 00" E 185.48 feet; S 76° 16' 50" E 201.49 feet; S 75° 49' 50" E 244.38 feet and S 75° 36' 40" E 676.44 feet to a corner of walls in the westerly line of lands of Gilbert; thence along the wall, the line of said lands,

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S 5° 14' 02" W 392.12 feet and S 4° 57' 48" W 381.99 feet to a corner; thence still along said wall S 75° 20' 00" E 149.90 feet; S 74° 50' 00" E 406.29 feet; S 77° 01' 50" E 68.39 feet; S 75° 39' 00" E 110.03 feet; S 78° 26' 50" E 119.54 feet and S 78° 24' 20" E 304.3 feet more or less to a point in the center of Mariches Creek; thence down and along the center line of said creek, the line of lands of Elliott Roosevelt to the center of the bridge on the above mentioned driveway connecting Route 9 with Route 9G, the course connecting the last two above mentioned points being S 32° 44' 50" W 2099.13 feet; thence continuing down and along the center line of said creek and along said Elliott Roosevelt lands to a point in the northerly line of the above mentioned lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson, the course connecting the last two above mentioned points being S 16° 44' 50" W 1296.64 feet; thence along the wall, the line of said lands of St. Andrew-on-Hudson N 76° 26' 40" W 234.0 feet more or less; N 75° 16' 30" W 261.06 feet; N 75° 03' 50" W 212.30 feet; N 77° 59' 50" W 72.13 feet; N 75° 11' 30" W 217.50 feet; N 74° 01' 40" W 129.17 feet; N 75° 07' 10" W 133.72 feet; N 76° 13' 50" W 81.60 feet; N 75° 24' 30" W 112.41 feet; N 74° 34' 30" W 65.80 feet; N 77° 04' 30" W 75.26 feet; N 76° 48' 00" W 74.31 feet; N 73° 53' 50" W 122.43 feet; N 76° 31' 10" W 351.21 feet and N 75° 22' 20" W 529.24 feet to the point or place of beginning. Containing 258.54 acres.

TOGETHER with the right in common with the public to a perpetual and unobstructed right-of-way or easement to the width of fifty (50) feet in, over and upon the portion of the existing private road, the south line of said road being 25 feet southerly from the center line of said road and the north line of said road being 25 feet northerly from the center line of said road, extending from the center of Mariches Creek on the west to Violet Avenue (New York State Highway 9G) on the east beginning at a point in the center of Mariches Creek and thence running in an easterly and northeasterly direction across the easterly portion of the "Boreel Farm" and the westerly portion of the "Dunphy Farm" and terminating at the intersection of said private road with New York State Highway 9G commonly known as Violet Avenue.

Said premises are sold SUBJECT TO:

(1) The right in common with the public to a perpetual and unobstructed right-of-way or easement to the width of fifty (50) feet in, over and upon the portion of the existing private road, the south line of said road being 25 feet southerly from the center line of said road and the north line of said road being 25 feet northerly from the center line of said road, extending from the Albany Post Road on the west to the center of Mariches Creek on the east beginning at the intersection of said private road with the Albany Post Road and thence running in an easterly and a southeast-

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erly direction across the Bracken and a part of the Borsel Farm to a point in the center of Maricbea Creek.

(2) The rights of the Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation and the New York Telephone Company in and upon said premises.

(3) All covenants, instruments, agreements, restrictions and easements of record affecting said premises.

TOGETHER with the appurtenances, and also the estate therein which the parties of the first part have power to convey or dispose of, whether individually, or by virtue of said Will or otherwise.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises herein granted unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever.

The grantor, in compliance with Section 13 of the Lien Law, covenants that the grantor will receive the consideration for this conveyance and will hold the right to receive such consideration as a trust fund to be applied first for the purpose of paying the cost of the improvement and that the grantor will apply the same first to the payment of the cost of the improvement before using any part of the total of the same for any other purpose.

The party of the second part covenants that it will not at any time erect, maintain or suffer to be erected or maintained upon the premises hereby granted any factory, manufacturing establishment of any kind, machine shop, slaughter house, public garage for the storage or repair of vehicles, and will not erect, maintain or suffer to be erected or maintained on said premises any building, commercial sign or sign-board or structure of any kind within a distance of one hundred (100) feet of the east line of the New York and Albany Post Road. This covenant on the part of the party of the second part shall be binding upon its successors and assigns and shall and does attach to and run with the land hereby conveyed and it shall be lawful not only for the

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said parties of the first part, their successors or assigns, but also for the owner or owners of any tracts, parcels or plots of land adjacent to or in the vicinity of said premises who may have derived title directly or indirectly from or through Franklin D. Roosevelt, Deceased, to institute and prosecute any proceedings at law or in equity in connection with any violation or threatened violation of said covenant.

AND the parties of the first part covenant that they have not done or suffered anything whereby the said premises have been encumbered in any way whatever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

In the presence of:

Earle R. Kome

James Roosevelt
James Roosevelt

Basil O'Connor
Basil O'Connor

Henry T. Hackett
Henry T. Hackett
as Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Deceased.

ACCEPTED
this 1st day of July, 1948.

VAL-KILL CO., INC.

By Elliott Roosevelt
Pres.

ATTEST:
Secretary

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STATE OF NEW YORK)
: ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

On this 10th day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, before me came JAMES ROOSEVELT, who resides at 673 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, BASIL O'CONNOR, who resides at 49 East 96th Street, New York, N. Y., and HENRY T. HACKETT, who resides at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, to me known and known to me to be the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Deceased.

William J. Donovan
Notary Public

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Kings County
Kings County No. [illegible] Reg. No. 240 D-6
N.Y. County No. [illegible] Reg. No. 240 D-6
Commission Expires March 30, 1950

STATE OF NEW YORK)
: ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

On this 1st day of July nineteen hundred and forty-eight, before me came Elliot Roosevelt, to me known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides at Hyde Park New York (no. & street, road or number) that he is the President of VAL-KILL CO., INC., the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the Board of Directors of said corporation and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

Eugenia Whalen
Notary Public

EUGENIA WHALEN
Notary Public in the State of New York
Residing in [illegible] County
Queens Co. Clk's No. [illegible] Reg. No. [illegible]
Certificate filed in
N.Y. Co. Clk's No. [illegible] Reg. No. [illegible]
Kings Co. Clk's No. [illegible] Reg. No. [illegible]
Bronx Co. Clk's No. [illegible] Reg. No. [illegible]
Queens Co. Clk's No. [illegible] Reg. No. [illegible]

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DEED

602367

JAMES ROOSEVELT, BASIL O'CONNOR and HENRY T. HACKETT, as Trustees under the Last Will and Testament of FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, Deceased,

-to-

VAL-KILL CO., INC.

DEED

Dated: June 10, 1948.

Hyde Park Duchess County

O'CONNOR & FARBER
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Form 1

State of New York, County of New York, } ss.:

No. 35910

I, ARCHIBALD R. WATSON, County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County, a Court of Record having by law a seal, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that

whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavit, deposition, certificate of acknowledgment or proof, was at the time of taking the same a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of New York, duly commissioned and sworn and qualified to act as such throughout the State of New York; that pursuant to law a commission, or a certificate of his official character, and his autograph signature, have been filed in my office; that as such Notary Public he was duly authorized by the laws of the State of New York to administer oaths and affirmations, to receive and certify the acknowledgment or proof of deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney and other written instruments for lands, tenements and hereditaments to be read in evidence or recorded in this State, to protest notes and to take and certify affidavits and depositions; and that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary Public, or have compared the signature on the annexed instrument with his autograph signature deposited in my office, and believe that the signature is genuine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ____ day of ____ 194__

FEE PAID 2.50

County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County

Form 1.

State of New York, County of New York, } ss.:

No. 39052

I, ARCHIBALD R. WATSON, County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County, a Court of Record having by law a seal, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that

whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavit, deposition, certificate of acknowledgment or proof, was at the time of taking the same a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of New York, duly commissioned and sworn and qualified to act as such throughout the State of New York; that pursuant to law a commission, or a certificate of his official character, and his autograph signature, have been filed in my office; that as such Notary Public he was duly authorized by the laws of the State of New York to administer oaths and affirmations, to receive and certify the acknowledgment or proof of deeds, mortgages, powers of attorney and other written instruments for lands, tenements and hereditaments to be read in evidence or recorded in this State, to protest notes and to take and certify affidavits and depositions; and that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of such Notary Public, or have compared the signature on the annexed instrument with his autograph signature deposited in my office, and believe that the signature is genuine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this ____ day of ____ 194__

FEE PAID 2.50

County Clerk and Clerk of the Supreme Court, New York County

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

11. Eleanor Roosevelt

An Act to authorize the establishment of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes. (91 Stat. 171) (P.L. 95–32)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to commemorate for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the life and work of an outstanding woman in American history, Eleanor Roosevelt, to provide, in a manner compatible with preservation, interpretation, and use thereof by and for the general public, a site for continuing studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which she devoted her considerable intellect and humanitarian concerns, and to conserve for public use and enjoyment in a manner compatible with the foregoing purposes an area of natural open space in an expanding urbanized environment, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to establish the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, including the former home of Eleanor Roosevelt, Val-Kill, as depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site", numbered ELRO–90,000–NHS and dated May 1977. Said map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia. The Secretary is authorized to acquire such land and improvements thereon by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

SEC. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the site shall be renovated, maintained, and administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

(b) The acquisition, renovation, administration, and management of the site and its conservation for public use and enjoyment shall be carried out by the Secretary and the studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which Eleanor Roosevelt devoted her intellect and concern may be carried out under cooperative agreements between the Secretary and qualified public or private entities. Such agreements shall contain provisions authorizing the Secretary or his designated representatives to enter upon the site at all reasonable times for purposes of renovation, maintenance, administration, interpretation, and visitor conduct, assuring that no changes or alterations are made to the site inconsistent with its historic significance, and may include such other provisions assuring the conduct of studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors as are mutually agreeable to the Secretary and the public or

private entities responsible for conducting the same under such agreements.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the site.

SEC. 4 (a) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed $575,000 for acquisition of land and interests in lands, and not to exceed $420,000 for development, not more than $50,000 of which may be made available for the purposes of section 3 of this Act.

(b) Within three years from the effective date of this Act the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a general management plan for the use and development of the site consistent with the purposes of this Act, indicating—

(1) the lands and interests in lands adjacent or related to the site which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, or management and administration of the area in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the estimated cost thereof;

(2) the number of visitors and types of public use within the site which can be accommodated in accordance with the protection of its resources; and

(3) the location and estimated cost of facilities deemed necessary to accommodate such visitors and uses.

* * * * * * *

Approved May 26, 1977.

Legislative History:

House Report No. 95-264 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Senate Report No. 95-148 accompanying S. 1125 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
Congressional Record, Vol. 123 (1977):
May 9, considered and passed House.
May 17, considered and passed Senate.
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, Vol. 13, No. 22:
May 26, Presidential statement.

Public Law 105–364
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 2241]

To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes.

16 USC 461 note [table].

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR–NHS 3008. Such map shall be on file for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.

Lands and interests therein acquired by the Secretary shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 10, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2241:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–400 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 7, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 15, considered and passed House.

B: DESIGNATION ORDER

14. Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

Designation of certain lands to comprise the site: Order of December 18, 1940

ORDER DESIGNATING THE VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, HYDE PARK, N. Y.

[Dec. 18, 1940—5 F. R. 5282]

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has declared it to be a national policy to preserve for the public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States, and

WHEREAS certain lands and structures in the town of Hyde Park, New York, part of the estate of the late Frederick W. Vanderbilt, have been declared by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments to be representative and illustrative of their period and hence of national significance in the economic, sociological, and cultural history of the United States, and

WHEREAS title to the above-mentioned lands and structures is vested in the United States, having been donated by Margaret Louise Van Alen for preservation as a memorial to her uncle, the late Frederick W. Vanderbilt, from whom she inherited the property by will:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, under and by virtue of the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior by Section 2 of the act of Congress approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), do hereby designate the following-described lands, with the structures thereon, to be a national historic site, having the name "Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site":

All those pieces or parcels of land, together with the structures thereon, situated in the Town of Hyde Park, County of Dutchess, State of New York, conveyed to the United States of America by Margaret Louise Van Alen by deed dated May 21, 1940, and recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Dutchess County, in book number 583 of deeds at page 323, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1

Beginning at the northeasterly corner of a stone post in a corner of wall in the westerly line of the Albany Post Road, and in the southerly line of lands of the Huyler Estate, and running thence along the easterly face of the wall, the westerly line of said Post Road, south 21°00′30″ west 83.65 feet; south 22°51′10″ west 140.32 feet; south 21°30′50″ west 396.97 feet; south 15°07′20″ west 42.81 feet; south 9°51′40″ west 206.21 feet; south 9°45′00″ west 231.40 feet; south 8°38′50″ west 873.49 feet; south 7°15′30″ west 193.15 feet; south 1°45′40″ west 37.14 feet; south 1°00′50″ east 68.41 feet; south 2°30′40″ east 170.55 feet; south 4°20′10″ east 100.16 feet; south 5°57′20″ east 142.63 feet; south 12°55′11″ east 68.20 feet; south 19°26′40″ east 34.40 feet; south 22°03′40″ east 39.58 feet; south 25°33′50″ east 32.47 feet; south 27°35′20″ east 206.71 feet; south 25°23′50″ east 143.02 feet; south 25°57′40″ east 77.08 feet; south 24°39′30″ east 305.01 feet; south 25°04′50″ east 122.08 feet; south 22°00′00″ east 115.89 feet; south 20°24′20″ east 226.52 feet to a crowsfoot cut in the easterly wall;

thence leaving the Albany Post Road south 75°53'20" west 213.84 feet to the southeastern corner of the Old Stoutenburgh Cemetery; thence following the boundary wall of said Cemetery north 19°08'30" west 130.72 feet; south 77°56'05" west 108.95 feet; south 11°37'28" east 134.28 feet; thence leaving said wall and following along a board fence at the end of Doty Avenue south 77°05'01" west 11.97 feet to a corner; thence leaving said fence south 75°45'23" west 267.06 feet to a post; thence south 13°40'33" west 820.27 feet to a crowsfoot cut in the top of the stone wall along the northerly line of West Market Street; thence following along said stone wall south 44°40'02" west 10.95 feet; south 40°33'30" west 43.20 feet; south 35°08'40" west 203.25 feet; south 34°28'20" west 32.94 feet; south 50°37'10" west 23.63 feet; south 57°39'40" west 25.53 feet; south 62°40'00" west 38.32 feet; south 68°36'10" west 305.06 feet; south 68°13'40" west 16.44 feet; south 62°55'30" west 19.28 feet; south 58°24'40" west 420.71 feet; south 62°53'20" west 27.41 feet; south 68°09'40" west 110.01 feet; south 78°03'45" west 31.73 feet; south 85°08'00" west 132.14 feet to an angle in said wall where it leaves said street; thence south 57°30'10" west 10.54 feet to a point, being a corner of lands of the New York Central Railroad Company; thence along the same north 60°40'40" west 160.90 feet; north 59°22'40" west 28.95 feet; south 43°23'20" west 5.67 feet; and north 59°36'40" west about 8.10 feet to a point in the westerly bank of Crum Elbow Creek; thence down and along the same to a point distant south 44°14'10" west about 215.95 feet from the last above-described point; thence leaving said creek and still along the lands of said railroad company north 51°35'50" west about 48 feet to a rail monument; thence on the same course 39.86 feet to another rail monument; north 83°02'40" west 48.38 feet; north 1°30'20" east 138.45 feet; and north 36°30'50" west 69.81 feet to the southerly end of the fence; thence along the easterly face of said fence north 1°08'50" east 65.66 feet; north 6°44'50" east 406.07 feet; north 9°09'40" east 276.67 feet; north 7°43'50" east 334. 57 feet; north 3°55'00" east 199.67 feet; north 13°02'30" east 2722.14 feet; north 12°42'20" east 240.24 feet; north 11°16'00" east 61.08 feet; north 9°03'40" east 172.43 feet; 6°51'00" east 94.61 feet; north 5°45'00" east 50.94 feet; north 3°07'30" east 238.42 feet; and north 2°33'30" east 1095.27 feet to a concrete post at the end of the fence in the southerly line of lands of the Huyler Estate; thence along the same, a wire fence south 44°27'50" east 93.57 feet; south 67°20'20" east 69.38 feet; north 69°44'20" east 132.07 feet; north 23°26'50" east 24.90 feet to the westerly end of a wall; thence along said wall south 74°46'00" east 234.67 feet; south 82°22'40" east 234.06 feet; south 60°17'00" east 578.04 feet; south 60°35'50" east 176.17 feet; and south 61°01'40" east 85.38 feet to the point or place of beginning. Containing 201.086 acres.

PARCEL 2

Beginning at a concrete fence post in the westerly line of lands of the New York Central Railroad Company, and on the high water line of the Hudson River, said point being distant north 24°46'00" west 275.62 feet from the northwesterly corner of the above-described Parcel 1, and running thence along the westerly face of the fence, the line of said railroad lands, south 3°00'00" west 1639.27 feet and south 3°04'40" east 102.20 feet to another point on the high water line of said river; thence up and along said high water line to the point or place of beginning. Containing 10.56 acres.

Together with all rights of the United States in and to the roadway and

bridge connecting the above-described parcels over the lands of the New York Central Railroad Company.

The administration, protection, and development of this national historic site shall be exercised by the National Park Service in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935, *supra*.

Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this historic site.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 18th day of December, 1940.

[SEAL]

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

Appendix B: Historical Overview

By Larry Lowenthal

Introduction

As the 20th Century recedes, we gradually gain perspective on that dynamic but tormented period. Historians will endlessly revisit and reevaluate the departed century, and public perceptions will swing through cyclic oscillations. Over time, details will blur until only the most prominent events and individuals will stand out, like islands in a hazy sea. Yet, although we are still a long way from achieving detachment, it is certain that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt will endure as landmarks of the past century.

One of the many paradoxes of Franklin D. Roosevelt's life is that, although his influence reached into the remotest corners of the world, he was deeply grounded in a particular locality. We often associate prominent historical figures with their favored places—Washington with Mount Vernon, Jefferson with Monticello—but even they do not match Roosevelt's lifelong, intimate connection with Hyde Park. Since the central story of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt describes their development as individuals, their growth into managing the responsibilities that they accepted, it becomes especially important to understand the setting in which this development took place. As their administrator, the National Park Service bears a weighty obligation to preserve these sites so that the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt can be understood and interpreted indefinitely into the future.

Although the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites today form distinct units, their landscapes share many similarities, beginning with their common setting on the east bank of the Hudson River. Vanderbilt Mansion and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt are centered on river terraces, while Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill) is located on an upper terrace. Between the terraces is rough land, marked by conspicuous stone outcroppings. Top Cottage, the easternmost park component, is situated on Dutchess Hill, a Taconic foothill that overlooks the valley.

Prior to European settlement, the region surrounding the park formed part of the homeland of the Algonquian-speaking Wappinger Indians. The Wappingers were agriculturalists who also hunted and gathered. While their primary villages were to the south, there is evidence that they cultivated the river terraces within the parks and hunted and gathered in the oak-chestnut forests. Aware of the former native presence, FDR believed (probably incorrectly) that the wide-spreading form of the oaks in front of the Library showed that they had grown up in agricultural fields cleared by the Wappingers.

Although future Dutchess County formed part of the New Netherlands colony claimed by the Dutch after Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery in 1609, no Dutch settlers are known to have occupied the area when it was conquered by Great Britain in 1664. Settlement proceeded slowly as the royal governors divided the territory into large grants. It was only in the last decade of the 17th Century that Poughkeepsie was settled and land comprising the future Roosevelt estate was granted to private owners.

During the early stages of European land acquisition and settlement, the histories of the Vanderbilt and Roosevelt lands followed a broadly similar pattern, though they began to diverge in detail. The Roosevelt lands were part of the Great Nine Partners Patent, granted in 1697, while the Vanderbilt lands lay within the next tract to the north, the Fauconnier Patent, split off from Henry Pawling's purchase in 1705. The subdivision of the Great Nine Partners Patent into long, rectangular riverfront parcels called Water Lots had a significant influence on the development of the Roosevelt property. In contrast, most of the Vanderbilt lands were originally held as a single estate that comprised the entire patent. Despite these differences, the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt lands later evolved as country estates, sharing a common setting along the Albany Post Road. While Val-Kill and Top Cottage display some of the characteristics of country-place development, their landscapes originated as early 20th Century retreats formed from small yeoman farms that had been settled on uplands above the river estates.

Roosevelt Estate

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

After its hesitant beginning, Euro-American settlement of Dutchess County expanded rapidly in the 1730s and '40s and reached the Nine Partners Patent, where the first permanent settler arrived in 1742. The Roosevelt estate and neighboring Bellefield trace their occupancy to the Crooke and Everson families, who established farms on subdivisions of the Water Lots. Each rectangular Water Lot extended from the Hudson River nearly two miles east to the Taconic foothills, an arrangement dictated by the fact that the river offered the most practical means of transport. On their south subdivision, the Crooke family built a stone house in the early 1750s on the west side of the Post Road, near the present Red House (J. R. Roosevelt house); and on the north subdivision (now Bellefield) they set off a family burial ground. The subdivision between the two Crooke properties was purchased by John Everson in 1734, and by 1793 his widow or nephews built a tenant house that may have become the core of the Roosevelts' "big house."

During the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, the Crooke and Everson families subdivided their lands into riverfront and upland parcels. The uplands, with poorer soils and less picturesque settings, were settled by yeoman farmers, while the riverfront parcels were developed into country places by wealthy residents of New York City. The Everson land and the northerly Crooke subdivision became the country place of the Boorman-Wheeler family (Josiah Wheeler was the son-in-law of James Boorman, who resided at a house built in 1795 by the Johnston family, now Bellefield). The Wheelers resided at an estate they called Brierstone, the predecessor of Roosevelt's Springwood. The southerly Crooke subdivision became the country place of the Boreel family, centered at a house built or remodeled c.1830 and later known as the Red House.

In 1867, FDR's father, James Roosevelt, purchased the 111-acre Wheeler Place and named his estate "Springwood." The next year, he purchased the neighboring 234-acre Boreel Place, comprising the "Red House" on the west side of the Post Road and a complex of farm buildings opposite it on the east side of

the road. James Roosevelt was the seventh generation of his family in America, beginning with a Dutch immigrant in the 1640s, and was the third generation to reside in Dutchess County. Although the Dutch name persisted down the male line, the ancestry was gradually diluted by other ethnic strains. James Roosevelt had been born in and resided at Mount Hope, a home built by his grandfather in 1818 farther south along the Post Road but still in the town of Hyde Park. It was after Mount Hope burned in 1866 that James purchased the Wheeler property. He made the Wheeler house his family's country home and leased out the "Red House." In 1871 he expanded his holdings by purchasing the 183-acre farm component of the Boorman Place across from Springwood on the east side of the Post Road. Together with the Boreel farm to the south, the Roosevelts called their lands east of the Post Road the "Home Farm." In 1886, the elder Roosevelt purchased a 98-acre parcel to the south of the Red House property known as the Kirchner Place, a parcel without any major structures. Bellefield, the Boorman land west of the Post Road adjacent to Springwood, was purchased in 1885 by Senator Thomas Newbold and remained in his family throughout FDR's lifetime.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: EARLY YEARS AT HYDE PARK

James Roosevelt's wife died in 1876, and four years later he married Sara Delano, a woman 26 years younger. She was also a member of the Hudson Valley gentry, having grown up on an estate at Newburgh, and was proud to trace her ancestry to Plymouth Colony. James had a son by his first marriage, James Roosevelt Roosevelt (1854–1927), known as Rosy. He was FDR's half-brother, but old enough to have been his father. The "Red House" became Rosy's country home. At nearby Springwood, on January 30, 1882, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only child of the elder James and Sara Delano, was born.

As a favored only child of an older father and a devoted mother, Franklin enjoyed an idyllic childhood within the shelter of the Hudson River aristocracy. His earliest impressions were suffused with comfortable household images, set amid the varied natural beauty of the estate, enhanced by generations of previous owners. Outside his window, the majestic Hudson seemed to represent changeless stability. Meanwhile, the spectacle of bustling river traffic, the busy main line of the Hudson River Railroad on its shore, perhaps the lofty Poughkeepsie railroad bridge, completed when he was six, accompanied by his father's references to business dealings, thrilled the boy's imagination with the prospects of an expanding national economy.

Despite the 54-year age difference, James Roosevelt was an informative companion for his son. As they explored and monitored the estate, the boy unconsciously absorbed an intimate knowledge of the endlessly fascinating landscape. Most of the future president's education was supervised by his mother. Except for necessary dealings with servants and deferential local trades people, the family's social contacts were confined to members of their elite class. Every aspect of Franklin's early years combined to give him a sense of confident security, untouched by the risks and uncertainties that beset the overwhelming majority of his countrymen. Until he left for Groton school at the age of 14, Franklin had never been separated from his immensely supportive family. He departed

sustained by an upbringing that had given him every reason to believe that he was special.

After preparing at Groton under the formidable direction of Endicott Peabody, Franklin Roosevelt entered Harvard in 1900, and during his first semester there his father died. James Roosevelt's will left the "Red House" and adjoining Kirchner Place to Rosy, and the Wheeler Place and the Home Farm to FDR, subject to a life estate for Sara. Lonely and fearful of losing control, Sara took an apartment in Boston to be near her son. At Harvard, Franklin generally enjoyed himself and was content with a "gentleman's C." His main distinction, which proved useful in his later career, was as editor of the school newspaper, the Crimson.

Growing up in Hyde Park and on his visits afterwards, Franklin Roosevelt socialized actively with neighboring families and engaged in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. Even after his father's death, no sharp distinction was made between the two segments of the estate, and Franklin regularly visited his half-brother and his children, who were closer to Franklin's age. Following a series of interior trails or by small boat on the Hudson, Franklin often traveled to his uncle's home at Rosedale, where he engaged in the once-popular and fast sport of ice yachting, as well as other riverfront activities.

FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR: BEGINNINGS OF A POLITICAL CAREER

Perhaps the most surprising and ultimately far-sighted act of Franklin's youth was the courtship of his distant cousin, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt. Franklin's mother opposed the match, ostensibly because both parties were too young, but the relationship survived, and the couple was married March 17, 1905. Until then the young man had revealed little evidence of personal or intellectual depth. Handsome and affable, he skimmed along the gilded surface of life, enjoying the benefits of his privileged status. Although her family background was similar, Eleanor's childhood had been different and unsettling. Her mother had died when she was eight, and her father, a younger brother of President Theodore Roosevelt, though irresistibly charming, was an alcoholic and died when Eleanor was ten. Cared for by often unsympathetic relatives, Eleanor experienced little of the serenity that defined Franklin's childhood. Considering herself awkward and unattractive, she emerged with feelings of insecurity that took years to surmount. The stresses of her early life also gave her the sensitivity to understand the anxieties and hardships of others.

As president from 1901 to 1909, Theodore Roosevelt was an overpowering presence in the lives of his niece Eleanor and her husband. At their wedding, he gave away the bride, after which he took over as the center of attention. The Roosevelt lines had split after Nicholas Roosevelt, the first generation born in America, who was the common ancestor of both Roosevelt presidents. In the 19th Century, the "Oyster Bay" Roosevelts became Republican, while the "Hyde Park" branch were Democrats; although in reality their views were not far apart; and, prior to Theodore, the Roosevelt and Delano families were primarily concerned with business, not politics. The two branches remained in frequent contact; Eleanor's father Elliott had been Franklin's godfather, and the future

married couple had occasionally played together as children at Hyde Park. From spending many summers at a Hudson River estate near Tivoli, north of Hyde Park, Eleanor was familiar with the lifestyle of the valley aristocracy.

President in his own right after the 1904 election, Theodore Roosevelt came forth as the dynamic leader of the reformist movements gathered under the heading of progressivism. Roughly 25 years older than Franklin and Eleanor, he was the right age to inspire emulation. Franklin had been sufficiently moved to break with his family's Democratic tradition and support him in 1904. Eleanor, whose innate human sympathy had been deepened by the experience of volunteering at a Lower East Side settlement house and education at a liberal school in England, greatly admired her energetic uncle.

Sara Roosevelt kept close to the young couple by building adjoining connected houses for herself and them in Manhattan. Franklin attended Columbia Law School, passed the bar exam, and practiced law halfheartedly with a prestigious law firm. Meanwhile, Eleanor devoted herself to domesticity, bearing six children (one of whom died in infancy) in ten years. Franklin's political career began in 1910, when he accepted the Democratic nomination for state senator in his home district. Campaigning in a Republican stronghold, he learned political skills and narrowly won election in a year when Democrats made substantial statewide gains. Running for office caused him to spend more time at Hyde Park, and he began to take an active role in the management of the estate. With his mother, he planned a program of improvements to the big house, gardens, and Home Farm, and began a scientific forestry program. As a youthful senator in Albany, he generally promoted progressive measures, occasionally clashed with the Tammany Hall political machine, and was conspicuous in upholding the interests of farmers and fruit growers. In the 1912 election he established a productive relationship with Louis Howe, a keen political advisor.

In the pivotal election of 1912, Franklin Roosevelt actively supported the progressive Democrat, Woodrow Wilson. When Wilson won against a divided Republican Party, Roosevelt was rewarded by being named assistant secretary of the Navy—a position Theodore Roosevelt had earlier held. In this demanding post in the years before and during World War I, Franklin gained vital administrative experience and learned his way around Washington. Looking ahead to further political advancement and needing a larger home for his family, Franklin and his mother substantially rebuilt the Hyde Park house in neoclassical style in 1915–16. This alteration, which gave the home its present appearance, imposed dignified unity on the previous piecemeal construction.

Without actively seeking the honor, Roosevelt was nominated for vice-president on the Democratic ticket in 1920. He waged a valiant struggle in what proved to be a hopeless cause, but his wide-ranging travels and innumerable speeches made his name familiar and impressed the public with his vigor. He and the presidential candidate James M. Cox of Ohio battled to support Wilson's League of Nations, but the mood of the country had swung away from the excitement of progressivism and internationalism, and the Democrats were crushingly defeated.

Despite occasional political setbacks and the early loss of one of their children, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to be fortune's favorites. Handsome, successful, born into an aristocracy that smoothed their path, they were easy to envy. Then, in a relatively short span of time, the façade of bliss was shattered by two catastrophes. First was Eleanor's discovery in late 1918 that her husband was having a love affair with a woman she knew well. She was devastated by this revelation. Then, in August 1921, while vacationing at Campobello, Maine, Franklin became seriously ill. For a person who cultivated a vigorous image, he had experienced several bouts of illness; but this one proved far more serious, and after a couple of weeks of medical indecision he was diagnosed with polio. A man not yet 40, who had relished physical activity in the style of Theodore Roosevelt, now lay paralyzed. Together, these disasters reshaped the couple's relationship and had far-reaching effects on American political life.

In fighting back from his affliction, Franklin Roosevelt displayed strength of character that few would have expected. He determined to recover to the fullest extent possible and to resume his political career. This placed him in opposition to his mother, who used the crippling illness to strengthen her feeling, based on a patrician distaste for politics, that Franklin should remain a Hyde Park squire. Undoubtedly, his personal anguish gave him sensitivity to other people's troubles that had not previously been evident. As Eleanor confirmed, "It is only when someone has gone through the kind of suffering my husband had that they can relate to the problems of mankind."

For Eleanor the two crises also reshaped her character. She never recovered the trust she had formerly felt, so the nature of the marriage changed to become more a partnership of equals. New circumstances forced her to become more independent and self-reliant. Coached by Louis Howe, whom she grudgingly came to respect, she overcame at least the outward signs of insecurity and took an ever-widening and more effective role in politics. She served as her infirm husband's representative and agent, keeping his name alive in the party and informing him of developments. At the same time, although she had not supported the women's suffrage amendment, she began to pursue a feminist agenda, working to give women a stronger voice in politics. In the process, she formed close friendships with several strong-willed, competent women.

These friendships strengthened Eleanor Roosevelt's growing independence and self-assurance and led to the creation of her personal retreat, Val-Kill. In 1924 Franklin helped Eleanor and two close friends, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, create a retreat along the banks of the Fall Kill on one of the upland farms he had acquired. After building a stone cottage, which became Nancy and Marion's home, the women established a business, named Val-Kill Industries, producing furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of reviving traditional crafts as a means to train unemployed rural residents so that they could remain on the land. Franklin was wholly sympathetic to this effort; as an essentially rural person he was concerned that lack of opportunity was forcing rural youth to migrate to the cities, exposing them to less wholesome influences and creating an imbalance in national life. For Eleanor, who said that "For over forty years I

was only a visitor" at the big house, Val-Kill allowed her to develop her personality and interests away from the presence of her mother-in-law. Her dedication to youth remained strong, and she became a part owner and teacher at a private school in New York City.

Beginning in 1911, Franklin had embarked on a program to expand his estate eastward beyond the "Home Farm" his father had assembled by purchasing upland farms. Usually he referred to these farms by the name of their occupants when he was growing up. Over the course of nearly three decades, he more than doubled the size of the estate to 1,521 acres. His primary motivation was to enhance his forestry program, which he conceived to showcase progressive practices aimed at returning marginal farmlands to productivity in order to conserve natural resources and revive the rural economy. In 1912, he set out his first forest plantation in old fields below the Big House, and began reforesting marginal lands on the Home Farm and his newly acquired upland farms. These accessions of scruffy land were of little interest to Sara and enabled Franklin to pursue his concerns away from the main house, much as Eleanor did at Val-Kill.

Sara and Franklin shared the management of the "Home Farm," but Sara wanted it to continue as a gentleman's farm, as it had been when her husband was alive. Buying the outlying farms allowed Franklin to attempt to make them profitable, in accord with his principles. Franklin was perfectly happy as a village squire; he differed from his mother in wanting to build on this solid local foundation to operate in a larger and more challenging realm. Within the sphere of Hyde Park, he was a familiar figure, with a wide circle of friends and thoroughly integrated into the ordinary life of the town. His deep-rooted fascination with the history of Dutchess County never wavered, and he held the post of Hyde Park town historian while serving as governor of the state.

Roosevelt's memorable "happy warrior" speech nominating New York Governor Al Smith for president at the 1924 Democratic national convention marked his return to national politics. The business-dominated "normalcy" of the 1920s was an unpropitious time for the Democrats; nevertheless Franklin felt that duty to the party compelled him to make the race for governor in 1928, when Smith was accepted as the national standard-bearer. Roosevelt had hoped to delay his candidacy for four more years in order to make further progress in his recovery from polio but concluded that refusal would alienate his party. In taking up the campaign for governor, he recognized the likelihood that he would never regain full use of his legs. Although Smith, carrying several political burdens, was trounced, Roosevelt fought to a narrow victory. As governor of the nation's most populous state during a low ebb in his party's fortunes, he automatically emerged as a leading prospect for national office.

Roosevelt compiled a respectable record in two terms as governor, despite Republican control of the legislature, and proved that his disability did not impede him from carrying out the duties of high office. As governor he was in a position to seek professional assistance with his forestry program. Between 1930 and 1933, he worked with the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University to establish demonstration and experimental plantations on the estate and

to draw up management plans for the native oak forest. From then on, the forestry program was managed in large part by Nelson C. Brown, a professor in the College of Forestry. By the time of his death, FDR had planted over a half-million trees on the estate, primarily on the upland farms.

In addition to forestry, FDR rented out the upland farms to tenants, who used the land for crops, dairy cattle, and poultry. This land and its residents retained their restorative effect, and he often drove his specially equipped auto to the farms, forest plantations, and oak woods along a network of earthen roads. He felt that the mansion grounds had a similar beneficial effect, and he followed a regimen of swimming and walking to help his physical recovery. The house, after its modernization, facilitated his political career as a setting for meetings, a personal retreat, and housing for important guests. He followed a ritual of greeting the public from the terrace on his election nights.

Despite powerful advantages, Roosevelt's campaign failed to capture the 1932 Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot. He was nominated only on the fourth ballot and only after accepting John N. Garner of Texas as his vice-presidential candidate. The party that Roosevelt now headed, though it considered itself to be the successor of the Jeffersonians, was not so much an organized political party as an assemblage of factions and interests. Most conspicuously, it was an uneasy alliance of big-city political bosses, often grounded in ethnic neighborhoods, and segregationist southerners. The urban machines in the North, though providing a power base for their bosses, were seldom able to carry entire states, so the party's geographical and congressional base was the South. In that region the party leadership, though sometimes tinged with racist populism, represented extremely conservative political and social ideas and saw as its primary objective the preservation of second-class status for African Americans. As candidate and president, Roosevelt was never lastingly successful at reshaping this cumbersome entity into an effective instrument of his policies.

Roosevelt's acceptance speech rather casually promised a "new deal," and this term caught on to become the defining label of his campaign and administration. With the country struggling through the Great Depression, Roosevelt would have seemed to have an easy path to the White House against the incumbent Republican Herbert Hoover; nevertheless he waged an active campaign and emerged with a solid victory.

THE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENCY

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, the country was sunk in the most desperate crisis it had known since the Civil War. A quarter of the workforce was unemployed; banks throughout the nation were on the brink of collapse; bankruptcies proliferated; and mortgage foreclosures threatened millions who had considered themselves homeowners. The defining image of the time showed former white-collar workers in newly shabby suits selling apples on dreary street corners. Roosevelt's campaign had provided mixed clues about his future course: he had promised to lower taxes, balance the budget and reduce the federal bureaucracy, commitments that later proved troublesome. By nature he was not an ideologue, and he probably did not have a consistent

philosophy, but he was able to inspire a dispirited citizenry. His memorable phrase "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," his big grin, and his radio "fireside chats" began to restore confidence.

In contrast to the perceived inactivity of the Hoover administration, the New Deal generated a sense of vigor and purpose, bringing to Washington a flood of idealistic people, many of them young and imbued with the progressive belief that society could be remolded to provide greater security, opportunity and equality. Seizing on the country's desperate hunger for leadership, the Roosevelt administration, in its famed "Hundred Days" brought forth a bewildering but electrifying proliferation of programs and agencies. These extraordinary "alphabet agencies"—AAA, CCC, TVA, NIRA—and measures such as the "bank holiday" and regulation of the securities business, though sometimes unclear and even contradictory in their scope, instilled new hope. Many of these acts showed signs of being improvised and experimental, but the sheer sense of dynamism they conveyed was welcome. Despite the wide gulf in personal experience, the President was able to convince ordinary people that he understood and felt their concerns.

With her resolute energy, Eleanor Roosevelt became her husband's emissary and "eyes," traveling widely to observe conditions and meet people throughout the nation. In contrast to Hoover, who had used force to disperse a "bonus army" of veterans, FDR sent Eleanor to visit their camp and express sympathy with their plight. She also wrote books and launched a regular editorial column, "My Day," which showed increasing independence of thought and attracted a devoted following. She became by far the most visible presidential spouse in American history, but her prominence had a cost, as she gave up teaching, and her interest in Val-kill Industries diminished. Her dedication to social improvement had found a more compelling outlet in the Arthurdale community in Appalachian West Virginia. Primarily a victim of economic conditions, the Val-kill business closed in the mid-1930s, and Eleanor converted the factory building into her seasonal home and retreat.

After a relative lull, the "Second Hundred Days" in the Spring of 1935 brought further legislative success with the passage of the Social Security and Wagner Labor Relations Acts. Roosevelt and his labor secretary Frances Perkins had long advocated some form of social security, and although the act as passed contained various political compromises, it could be seen as a beachhead for further advances.

The 1936 election served as a referendum on the New Deal. For the first part of Roosevelt's administration his conservative foes, stunned by the magnitude of the economic catastrophe, were in disarray; but by 1936, encouraged by the business revival, they had regrouped. To an unprecedented degree, the President became the focus of vehement personal hostility. His opponents, many of them powerful in the media and corporate board rooms, described him as a traitor to his class, referred to him as "that man" or refused to utter his name. The intensity of this hatred is difficult to explain in rational terms. His enemies ignored the fundamentally conservative nature of the country squire, with his profound respect for tradition and continuity. Rather than betraying his class,

he had probably saved American capitalism when it seemed to have collapsed. Always pragmatic, he never pursued a doctrinaire program, not even Keynesian economics. Vituperation spilled over onto Eleanor Roosevelt, who to many seemed more dangerously radical than her husband and represented a new and threatening type of woman. As the campaign progressed the President, whose natural inclination was to build consensus, responded in kind. Declaring that the forces of privilege were unanimous in their hatred of him, he defiantly welcomed their hostility: "I should like to have to have it said of my first administration that in it the forces of selfishness and of lust for power met their match. I should like to have it said of my second administration that in it these forces met their master."

If, indeed, the election had been a referendum on the New Deal, the voters gave it overwhelming approval, as Roosevelt swept all but two states and his party increased its already great preponderance in Congress. In his second inaugural his declaration that "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished," proclaimed that the work of reform was far from complete. Perhaps overconfident after his smashing victory, FDR made an uncharacteristic political miscalculation when he attempted to enlarge, or pack, the Supreme Court, where a narrow reactionary majority had blocked many New Deal initiatives. Although the effort may have led to shifts in the court that swung the balance away from the obstructionists, the overall failure of the maneuver dissipated the aura of infallibility and invincibility that had surrounded the President since 1932. Soon after, a surprising economic slump, with renewed unemployment, added to Roosevelt's troubles. After some indecision, he responded with more federal initiatives, but although the WPA expanded to a peak employment of 3.3 million, Congress was in no mood to accept bold new spending programs. By the end of 1938, after the Republicans had regained some of their losses in Congress and strengthened their alliance with conservative Democrats, it was clear that the momentum of the New Deal had spent itself.

While the domestic situation drifted into stalemate, the international outlook worsened and increasingly absorbed the attention of American political leaders. As the tumultuous, tormented decade of the 1930s unfolded, unchecked aggression by fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and militaristic Japan threatened a new global war. The Western democracies, supposed winners of the World War, seemed befuddled and indecisive. Roosevelt followed developments closely and was keenly aware of the dangers. On several occasions he tried to alert the American public to the threat posed by the aggressive dictatorships, but provoked more resistance than support. The Spanish Civil War (1936–39) was bitterly divisive in the United States, as it was in Europe. Overlooking their part in producing that outcome, many Americans came by various routes to believe that the World War had been a futile waste. From her humanitarian and pacifist perspective, Eleanor Roosevelt leaned toward this point of view. Powerful Congressmen and influential spokesmen like Charles A. Lindbergh rallied a vocal isolationist movement. Roosevelt still towered over the scene during this troubled period when the survival of western civilization seemed to be threatened by economic disaster and the upsurge of dark, irrational

ideologies, and he personified the era both as a target and an inspiration; but he seemed incapable of directing the course of events.

These currents flowed together in the crucial year of 1940. After Germany launched the Second World War by invading Poland in September 1939, a majority of Americans seemed to favor aiding the Western democracies, though remaining adamantly opposed to active participation. The great mystery was whether Roosevelt would defy tradition and seek a third term. Probably he was equally uncertain. There were potent attractions toward retiring to Hyde Park and pursuing his interests in history and managing his estate. He had begun attending to his legacy in 1939, when he transferred a field fronting the Post Road to the federal government for construction of his presidential library, which was dedicated June 30, 1941. In 1938 he designed and largely completed construction of the hilltop retreat east of Val-Kill later known as Top Cottage, where he hoped to escape the crowds that disturbed him at the main house. More than any other building associated with him, this cottage expressed the President's values and needs. Clearly the facilities were in place if he truly wished to devote himself to writing history and other domestic pursuits. If that was indeed his intention, it was shattered by the fall of France to the Nazis in the Spring of 1940. As Britain fought for its life against German aerial and undersea onslaught during the following months, Roosevelt found it difficult to leave his post; moreover, he had failed to anoint a successor. Roosevelt insisted on the appearance of a genuine draft before accepting his party's nomination and also demanded acceptance of Henry Wallace as his running-mate. To help achieve this, he dispatched Eleanor to mollify the restive convention delegates. In a hard-fought campaign FDR won a third term against Wendell Willkie, a charismatic political amateur. Willkie was not an isolationist, which spared the country even more bitter polarization.

During the campaign, Roosevelt courageously pushed a conscription bill through Congress, though it might not have passed without Willkie's approval. Later, the President found creative means of aiding the British, who fought alone until Germany launched a massive unprovoked attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. Meanwhile, the U.S. seemed powerless to halt Japan's brutal invasion of China. It was only the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines on December 7, 1941, that brought the United States into the war. The surprise attack instantly unified the nation, and Roosevelt, who was at his best in moments of crisis and high drama, expressed the nation's anger and resolve in his "day of infamy" speech. Germany then solved what might have been a tricky problem by gratuitously declaring war on the U.S., just days before its forces suffered their first serious setbacks at the outskirts of Moscow.

Even before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt had been pushing to make the United States the "Arsenal of Democracy." Now awakened, the vast industrial capacity the country then possessed was harnessed to the war effort. Roosevelt prodded boards and industries to achieve unimagined feats of production. Since small companies were unable to handle immense wartime contracts, the big corporations regained their former position and constructed what was later termed the "military-industrial complex." Unemployment finally disappeared; if anything,

the problem was finding enough skilled workers. With unemployment no longer a concern, Roosevelt, to the distress of his wife and other confirmed New Dealers, seemed to lose interest in social experimentation and modification. Anxious to avoid repeating the disillusion that set in after the previous war, he enunciated lofty principles for which the nation was striving: the Four Freedoms and an international organization, the United Nations, that would be more effective than the League and from which the United States would not shirk its responsibilities.

During these years Eleanor appeared to be her husband's conscience, striving to keep New Deal principles and humanitarian concerns in the foreground, often provoking his annoyance. Many of his wartime decisions have become the subject of intense scrutiny and criticism. He bowed to West Coast hysteria and acquiesced in the relocation of Japanese Americans to concentration camps, although they had displayed no evidence of disloyalty. Intent on prosecuting the war, he seemed largely indifferent to the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, even to the extent of removing or restraining the anti-Jewish, nativist head of the State Department visa office. Unless prodded by Eleanor or by African American leaders, he showed little initiative toward improving the status of blacks. His sympathy toward organized labor had always been limited, and as labor demands sometimes seemed to obstruct the war effort, he seemed even more reserved. Confident that he had the bulk of the black, Jewish, and labor vote in his pocket, he was reluctant to offend southern segregationist congressmen and other powerful interests.

One of the paradoxes of the period is that FDR, profoundly identified with a particular locale, presided over a vast movement of population, as unprecedented numbers of Americans took advantage of wartime opportunities and fluidity to relocate. For Franklin Roosevelt, Hyde Park retained its familiar associations and provided a welcome refuge, although his visits there became increasingly pressured. Until her death in 1941, Sara Delano Roosevelt maintained the estate as a traditional country place, including the gardens around the big house and the Home Farm with its dairy and poultry operations. The war produced jarring contrasts, as harried world leaders discussed strategy amid the bucolic surroundings of Hyde Park, and the need for security brought many physical and operational changes to the estate. In a telling illustration of the tragedy of his last years, Franklin Roosevelt's retreat at Top Cottage, where he hoped to retire to contemplate and write history while overlooking the peaceful hills of Dutchess, was drawn into service as a setting for important meetings. Even after her mother-in-law's death, Eleanor, who said the Big House "never was my home in the sense that I had anything to with the furnishing or running of it," preferred to spend time at Val-Kill.

While trying to the limits of her influence to shape the postwar world, Eleanor Roosevelt contributed to the war effort in a multitude of ways, making arduous journeys to Britain and to visit soldiers in the South Pacific. Wherever she went, her visible human sympathy made an unforgettable impression. Franklin wore himself out filling the extraordinary demands of his office. By 1944, when he won a fourth term, he was desperately ill. People close to the President, as well as the general public and probably the President himself, did

not recognize, or sought to deny, the visual evidence of his decline. On occasion, such as his memorable "Fala" speech during the 1944 campaign, he was able to draw on reserves of energy and show flashes of his old vigor.

Franklin D. Roosevelt died at Warm Springs, Georgia, April 12, 1945, less than three months into his fourth term and in the last month of the war in Europe. The somber train journey, the tearful crowds unashamedly mourning a man they regarded as a friend and protector, inevitably recalled scenes of Lincoln's death 80 years before, at the close of another terrible war. Horses from the Roosevelt stable drew the hearse up from a railroad siding to FDR's chosen burial site in the rose garden. Roosevelt had never been able to reshape the American party structure by translating his personal coalition into a permanent political realignment, or to designate a political heir. In 1944 he had replaced Wallace with Senator Harry Truman, a man he hardly knew. Truman came into office unaware of the atomic bomb project Roosevelt had supported, and which would soon be used to bring the war against Japan to a cataclysmic end.

AFTER 1945

Franklin Roosevelt's death left many of his plans for his estate incomplete, as he did not live to use the library or Top Cottage as he envisioned, or continue his forestry experiments. Expanding on his earlier gift of land for a presidential library, in 1943 FDR gave the adjoining thirty-three acres of Springwood, including the Big House and gardens, to the federal government as a National Historic Site, reserving his family's right to life estate there. His wish that the home and grounds would be preserved as it was in his lifetime has largely been observed. After the family members waived their life rights, the site was transferred to the federal government November 21, 1945. When President Roosevelt's home was opened to the public in 1946, on the first anniversary of his death, the few park staff was hard-pressed to accommodate the long lines of visitors who wanted to touch the life of a man who had been such an important part of their lives.

Presumably preoccupied with larger matters, FDR made no provision for preserving the outlying portions of the estate, which had meant a great deal to him. Perhaps he believed that the income the land might provide could be important to his family. He and Eleanor may have understood that the era of Hudson River estates was drawing to a close, and in 1940 he intervened to ensure that the nearby Vanderbilt Mansion was protected by being included in the National Park System. By 1938 Eleanor recognized that the serene, self-contained way of life in which FDR had grown up, where the stately Hudson seemed to mirror their secure existence, was not as changeless as they had believed. For Eleanor this outcome may not have been entirely a source of regret, as she later observed that "I have never felt in any way interested in a country place just as a country place. I feel that land should produce. . . ."

Upon FDR's death, the lands remaining in his ownership were turned over to trustees (his son John and two lawyers) for disposition. Interpreting their duty as maximization of financial return, the trustees began selling land. While some of the eastern tracts had been in Roosevelt ownership less than ten years, the

Home Farm that had been assembled in the previous century also went on the market. In 1947, however, Eleanor Roosevelt employed the bulk of her own resources to purchase the east half of the estate, 842 acres including the upland farms, Top Cottage, and Val-Kill; and then sold the property to her son Elliott for his planned farm business, in which she became a partner. Raising dairy cows, pigs, chickens and Christmas trees on "Val-Kill Farms," Elliott seemed to be carrying out his mother's dictum that "land should produce." However, in attempting to launch a general farm in Dutchess County at that time, the Roosevelts were battling powerful currents of change, and poor management increased the odds against success.

Eleanor retained a life estate to Val-Kill and continued to reside there after buying out Cook and Dickerman's interests in 1947. As ever, she enjoyed the natural and cultivated charms of that retreat, although she did not maintain the grounds and gardens as meticulously as her former associates had done. Any thoughts she entertained of a quiet retirement there ended when President Truman named her a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. As chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, always a subject close to her heart, in December 1948. Although she resigned her position after Eisenhower was elected in 1952, she continued to promote the UN and regarded her work with the world organization as her greatest source of satisfaction.

In copious writings and public appearances and later teaching at Brandeis University, she continued to be a strong advocate for humanitarian concerns. Recalling her own difficult childhood, she enjoyed working with young people, especially the disadvantaged. While she refused calls to be a candidate, she used her considerable influence to steer the Democratic Party in a progressive direction. "The only chance the Democratic Party has for election," she declared in 1948, is "to be the liberal party. We cannot be more conservative than the Republicans, so we cannot succeed as conservatives." Her experience in the UN had increased her wariness of Soviet Communism. She was instrumental in founding the Americans for Democratic Action in 1947 as a non-communist liberal alternative, and represented American principles as a roving ambassador. Sensitive to the plight of the remnant of European Jews who survived the Holocaust, she assisted their emigration to Palestine and supported the new state of Israel. To some degree her increasing involvement in international affairs, rather than the domestic concerns that had initially engaged her, replicated Franklin's experience in the presidency. Val-Kill, the one home that was truly her own, came increasingly to reflect Eleanor Roosevelt's personality and principles. People ranging from world leaders such as Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to disadvantaged urban schoolchildren traveled to Val-Kill to spend time with a woman who by the time of her death in 1962 had become recognized as "the First Lady of the World."

Elliot Roosevelt had purchased the Home Farm in 1948 and began extensive commercial and residential development along the Post Road. By the early 1950s, Val-Kill Farms had failed, and Elliot began to sell off land, including Top Cottage where he had lived, to developers, except for the 174-acre parcel

containing Val-Kill. This land was purchased by Elliot's brother, John Roosevelt, and his wife Anne. John resided in the Stone Cottage and divided the former factory into four apartments. Elliot also sold the large tract west of Val-Kill and to the rear of the commercial development along the Post Road, but that land was never developed. Following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, John Roosevelt retained the Val-Kill property until he sold it to developers in 1970. Aside from a small parcel he owned until 1980 in the adjoining housing development, this sale marked the end of Roosevelt family ownership at Hyde Park. Anxious to ensure that the stamp she had placed on Val-Kill remained truly indelible, admirers of Eleanor Roosevelt, both nationally and in the local community, defeated development proposals and won the designation of the property as a National Historic Site in 1977. The organization that emerged from this campaign continued its efforts as Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill (ERVK).

The portion of the Wheeler Place below the main house was purchased by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation and added to the National Historic Site in 1952. At the time efforts were underway to preserve Val-Kill in the early 1970s, additional acreage was added to the Home of FDR National Historic Site, mostly historic Roosevelt estate lands. Mary Newbold Morgan, owner of Bellefield, had purchased the former Rogers land in 1949. Between 1973 and 1975, her son Gerald Morgan gave this land, which FDR had purchased in 1935, along with an adjoining small lot at Crum Elbow Point and Bellefield (two parcels not historically owned by the Roosevelt family), to the National Park Service, altogether amounting to 76 acres. In 1984, the NPS acquired 26 acres of the former Boreel and Kirchner Places west and south of the "Red House" through purchase by the Trust for Public Land. Through the Beaverkill Land Conservancy, the NPS acquired a 35-acre parcel at the southern end of the Kirchner Place, fronting on the Hudson River, in 2002. In the same year, the NPS acquired a restored Top Cottage and surrounding 40 acres through the efforts of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Beaverkill Conservancy. Finally, through the efforts of Scenic Hudson, Inc., the NPS added in 2007 a 334-acre tract between Routes 9 and 9G, which contained a long section of the farm lane that linked Val-Kill and the Home of FDR and thus recovered much of the unity of the estate as it had existed in the Roosevelt era.

Vanderbilt Lands

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Vanderbilt estate traces its origins to John Bard, who purchased the 3,600-acre Fauconnier Grant in 1764 and established "Hyde Park," which became one of the most renowned of the Hudson Valley estates. In 1772 Bard built a house along the east side of the Albany Post Road also known as the "Red House," and a secondary residence across the road known as Bard Cottage. He also maintained a farm, mills, a store, and three boat landings along the Hudson, the southerly one known as Hyde Park Landing and the northerly called Bard's Rock. The estate bordered Crum Elbow Creek to the south, adjoining a small hamlet that later took the name of the estate. In 1799 Bard left the 1,500-acre core of the estate to his son, Samuel. The younger Bard was responsible for establishing the

formal residential grounds, known as the park, on the river side of the Post Road, leaving the land to the east including the "Red House" as the estate farm. He built a mansion on the terrace overlooking the Hudson Valley.

In 1828 David Hosack, a prominent New York physician and botanist, purchased the 700-acre estate. Almost immediately, he brought in Andre Parmentier, a pioneering American landscape gardener of Belgian birth, to lay out the park landscape in the romantic English manner. John Jacob Astor, the wealthiest New Yorker of the time, purchased the south portion of the park, consisting of 108 acres including the mansion, in 1840 as a country place for his daughter and son-in-law, Dorothea and Walter Langdon. In 1845 fire destroyed the Bard-Hosack house, and Langdon soon reconstructed it on the original site. The farm component east of the Post Road was sold separately but was reunited with the park in 1872 through its purchase by the Langdons' son, Walter, Jr. The north portion of the park, comprising 64 acres including Bard Cottage and Bard's Rock, was retained by the Hosack family, who sold it to James Curtis. Curtis developed the property into a country place known as "Torham" and built a large Italian Villa-style mansion on the river terrace. He laid out gardens and a farm complex along the lower flats adjoining the Hudson River Railroad, which had been built in 1851. Torham was sold to Samuel Sexton in 1890 and was subsequently known as the Sexton Tract.

VANDERBILT PERIOD

In 1895, Frederick W. Vanderbilt purchased the Langdon place, comprising the 'park" or "pleasure ground" of 153 acres, and the farm, with 459 acres on the east side of the Post Road. When the existing house proved structurally unsound, he built a new house on the site, designed by Charles F. McKim of the noted McKim, Mead, and White firm. While it emulated the palaces of European nobility, the house contained many modern structural innovations. Similar care was given to the interior, much of which was designed by Stanford White, the leading designer of the age.

Though built rather late in the period, the Hyde Park mansion came to represent the palatial country homes erected by a group of extraordinarily wealthy families. Economic conditions after the Civil War had allowed some individuals to amass wealth on a scale that had not been seen or imagined previously in America, but the origins of the Vanderbilt fortune were established before the war. The founder of the family's wealth and fame was Frederick's grandfather, Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794–1877). An aggressive entrepreneur in a time of boisterous national expansion, Cornelius Vanderbilt won a fortune in steamboating, earning the honorific title Commodore. Rather late in life, especially during and after the financial panic of 1857, he began to invest in railroads and in 1867 formed the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, which became one of America's mightiest corporations. At his death ten years later, he left a fortune of $100 million, at a time when even skilled workers seldom earned $1000 a year.

The Commodore was a flamboyant character, and subsequent generations of Vanderbilts provided regular fodder for journalists, making them an early

example of celebrity culture. Frederick W. was not at all in that mold; by nature quiet and reserved, he sought to avoid publicity. He also differed from his siblings in having the investment skill to increase greatly the inheritance he received when his father William Henry Vanderbilt died in 1885. Frederick's major act of defiance was to marry Louise Anthony Torrance, a divorced woman 12 years older than him, against his family's wishes.

Unlike the rough-edged Commodore, his descendants placed great value on social acceptance and the attributes of refinement. Their vast wealth was not in itself entirely satisfactory, and America's financial aristocracy tried to assume the tastes and behavior of the hereditary landed families of Western Europe. A cluster of historical factors enabled the wealthiest American families to carry out their lavish plans with few impediments. They benefited from a vast economic disparity between themselves and most of the people who worked for them, and were able to take advantage of the 19th Century's sweeping technological advances. Furthermore, the European nobility they sought to emulate were in many cases having difficulty maintaining their lifestyle, so they were amenable to allowing Americans to marry titles or buy outstanding art objects. These circumstances created an ideal environment for gifted designers like Stanford White, with results that are visible at the Hyde Park.

In the first five years of their ownership, Frederick and Louise oversaw the replacement of nearly every structure on the property. In addition to the mansion, described as a Beaux-Arts interpretation of the Italian Renaissance, they added perimeter walls, gate houses, a coach house, and tree plantations, and erected several secondary residences. Whereas the Commodore had become a boatman to escape the drudgery of farm work, his grandson Frederick rebuilt the farm complex, strove to operate it efficiently, and took pride in the awards his farm received. Despite the massive reconstruction, the Vanderbilts retained the overall organization of the landscape dating back to Parmentier, including the farm/park division, the location of the formal gardens, specimen trees, drives, lawns, and views. In 1905, Frederick Vanderbilt acquired the 64-acre Sexton Tract, including Bard Rock, thus reestablishing the extent of the park as it existed under Bard and Hosack ownership. All of the remaining Sexton buildings were removed except for the boathouse (the mansion had burned down in 1899), and the main drive was restored to the alignment Parmentier had designed.

Hyde Park was one of a number of lavish country places constructed by Vanderbilt heirs, and there was undoubtedly an element of competition among them. Moreover, each family usually owned more than one residence, so that an estate like Hyde Park was occupied only a few months out of the year. Despite his reticence, Frederick undoubtedly relished the prestige gained by owning one of the renowned Hudson River estates and having a private station along the railroad line that was the wellspring of his family's fortune.

For about three decades Frederick and Louise lived the existence of country squires, employing and patronizing many people in the community while maintaining the vast socioeconomic divide. Including the farm, the Vanderbilt estate had more than 60 employees. More studious than his siblings, Frederick had earned a degree in horticulture from the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale and

enjoyed applying his training on the sprawling estate. Louise died in 1926, and Frederick twelve years later. Frederick left the estate to Louise's niece, Mrs. Margaret Van Alen, who decided to dispose of the property. President Franklin D. Roosevelt became interested in preserving the estate, citing its collection of trees, and his influence was a major factor in having the park portion of the estate, including the mansion, transferred to the NPS. The acquisition was approved in 1939, and in July 1940, the property was opened to the public under its current name. In its early years, President Roosevelt found time to intervene repeatedly in details of managing the site. Congress had agreed to the acquisition only on condition that the site could pay for itself, and from 1941 into the mid-1950s a food and souvenir concession operated in the Pavilion. Early in the history of the site, NPS officials decided against acquiring the estate farm, so Mrs. Van Alen sold it. In the years after World War II it was partially developed with suburban housing tracts.

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

The following glossary includes descriptions of primary historic structures whose names have changed over the years and may cause confusion. It does not include descriptions of all historic buildings.

accessibility—The provision of park programs, facilities, and services in ways that include individuals with disabilities, or makes available to those individuals the same benefits available to persons without disabilities. See also, *universal design*. Accessibility also includes affordability and convenience for diverse populations.

adaptive reuse—The process of adapting an historic structure for a new purpose, while retaining the character-defining features that contribute to the historic significance of the structure.

American Renaissance—Made possible in part by rising industrial fortunes, the American Renaissance (ca. 1880–1914) was an era of renewed national self-confidence marked by an outpouring of artistic patronage and creativity. Historians use the term to identify the most enduring cultural achievements of the Gilded Age. The period witnessed the birth of grand civic architecture, the foundation of many of America's cultural institutions, a flowering of artistic activity, the unprecedented development of palatial mansions, and the arrival of international art treasures through the efforts of millionaire collectors whose fortunes were based on the exploitation of working-class labor. The term reflects the contention by many Americans (particularly artists, craftsmen, architects, and scholars) that the United States had captured the spirit of the European Renaissance.

archeological resource—Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. An archeological resource can yield scientific or humanistic information through research.

archeological site—Any place where there is physical evidence of past human occupation or activity. Physical evidence may consist of artifacts, agricultural terraces and hearths, structures, trash deposits, or alterations of the natural environment by human activity.

Beaux Arts—Denotes the academic neoclassical architectural stylethat was taught at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. The style was the cumulative product of two and a half centuries of instruction under the authority, first of the Académie royale d'architecture, then, following the Revolution, of the Architecture section of the Académie des Beaux-Arts. The Beaux-Arts style heavily influenced US architecture in the period 1885–1920.

Bellefield—The 24-acre property north of the FDR Home that comprises the former Newbold-Morgan Estate. The main house, built in 1795–96, was expanded in 1909–11 according to the design of McKim, Mead, and White. This property was acquired by the NPS in 1974 and 1975 specifically for use as park headquarters.

best management practices (BMPs)—Practices that apply the most current means and technologies available, not only to comply with mandatory environmental regulations, but also to maintain a superior level of environmental performance. See also *sustainable practices or principles*.

carrying capacity (visitor)—The type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in a park.

Coach House (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)—A brick structure in Queen Anne style that was built on the Vanderbilt estate in 1897 to the design of architect Robert H. Robertson. The architect adapted the structure as a garage for automobiles in 1910.

Colonial Revival—The Colonial Revival was an enduring nationalistic movement that established a stronghold during the 1876 United States Centennial celebration and reached a peak from roughly the 1890s through the 1920s. The Colonial Revival style, characterized by both precise replication and free interpretation of colonial precedents, is represented in Hyde Park by furniture made at Val-Kill Industries, FDR's redesign of his family home into a Georgian-revival mansion, and his interest in the Dutch vernacular architectural tradition.

consultation—A discussion, conference, or forum in which advice or information is sought or given, or information or ideas are exchanged. Consultation generally takes place on an informal basis. Formal consultation is conducted for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and with Native Americans.

critical habitat—Specific areas within a geographical area occupied by a threatened or endangered species that contain physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species, and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of its listing, upon a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

cultural landscape—A geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

There are four non–mutually-exclusive types of cultural landscapes: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

cultural resource—An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture, or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. For the National Register of Historic Places, tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects; for National Park Service management purposes, they may include archeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources.

ecosystem—A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their physical environment, considered as a unit.

ecosystem management—Management related to the interdependence of natural and cultural systems that integrates scientific knowledge of ecological relationships with resource stewardship practices.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site—A unit of the National Park Service comprising 181 acres established by Congress in 1977 to preserve Mrs. Roosevelt's cherished home at Val-Kill on a portion of the Roosevelt Family Estate.

enabling legislation—Laws authorizing units of the national park system.

environmental assessment (EA)—A concise public document prepared by a federal agency to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The document contains sufficient analysis to determine whether the proposed action (1) constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, thereby requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, or (2) does not constitute such an action, resulting in a finding of no significant impact being issued by the agency.

environmental impact statement (EIS)—A detailed public statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The statement includes a detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives, as well as the identification and evaluation of potential impacts of implementing the proposed action or alternatives.

ethnographic landscape—An area containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that traditionally associated people define as being related to their heritage. The area may include plant and animal communities, structures, and geographic features, each with their own special local names.

ethnographic resources—Objects and places, including sites, structures, landscapes, and natural resources, with traditional cultural meaning and value to associated peoples, assessed through research and consultation with such people. Ethnographic resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are called traditional cultural properties.

exotic species—Plants or animals that are not indigenous to the area in which they are now living. See *nonnative species*.

the Factory (Val-Kill)—See **Val-Kill Shop** and **Val-Kill Cottage**

Farm Group—The cluster of buildings located to the east of Route 9 that were historically part of the agricultural operation of the Vanderbilt Estate.

The FDR Home (Home of FDR NHS)—The house where FDR was born in 1882, which was built in c. 1793 and enlarged to its present appearance in 1915–16. It is also known as the "Home" and the "Big House," and was formerly referred to as "Springwood" by the NPS. The NPS no longer uses the name "Springwood" in reference to the FDR Home, as this reference was not used by FDR.

formal gardens (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)—The 4-acre gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The Vanderbilts redesigned and enlarged existing gardens between 1901 and 1934 to form the formal gardens.

general management plan—A National Park Service term for a document that provides clearly defined direction for a park for resource preservation and visitor use over 20 years. It gives a foundation for decision-making and is developed in consultation with program managers, interested parties, and the general public. Such a plan is based on analysis of resource conditions and visitor experiences, environmental impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action.

geologic resources—Landscape features that reflect the physical history of the Earth, or processes such as exfoliation, erosion and sedimentation, glaciation, karst or shoreline processes, seismic, and volcanic activities.

Gilded Age—Term coined by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warren's utopian satire by the same title that lends its name to the period stretching from the end of the Civil War (1865) to roughly the end of the 19th Century. The label invokes the wasteful indulgences of the late century's captains of industry, and was not immediately or consistently used by historians. However, by the mid-1950s, historians employed the term in the standardization of American history surveys to designate a period characterized by the larger-than-life personalities of an emerging industrial state. The term does not address the dramatic changes generated by an industrializing society and the complexity of diverse responses to them.

goals—The ideal conditions to be attained or maintained; expressions of desired future conditions.

Historic Roosevelt Family Estate—The estate on the east bank of the Hudson River in Hyde Park purchased by Franklin D. Roosevelt's father James in 1867 and greatly enlarged by FDR. The estate was the President's lifelong home and the nucleus of his life and career. At the time of FDR's death in 1945, the property included a total of 1,522 acres and included the main house and supporting structures, **Top Cottage**, **Val-Kill**, pleasure grounds, the estate farm known as the **Home Farm**, the rose garden, agricultural fields and orchards, forestry plantations, and natural woodlands with riverfront access. FDR's name for the entire estate was "Krum Elbow," a name that referred to early Dutch settlement of the area.

Also located within the historic estate boundary, but not part of the NHS, are the **Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum** and the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, both operated by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Home Farm (Home of FDR NHS)—The agricultural lands purchased by James Roosevelt located on the east side of the Albany Post Road that included the 183-acre farm component of the old Boorman Place and the agricultural portion of the Boreel Place.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site—A unit of the National Park Service comprising 719 acres. The park includes the family home and its grounds, the memorial gravesite of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and **Top Cottage**, the President's retreat. In addition, the site includes a wetland parcel north of **Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site** and a portion of the former Newbold-Morgan family property called **Bellefield** that includes the mansion redesigned in 1909–11 by McKim, Mead, and White for the Newbold family.

Hyde Park—Town located in Dutchess County on the east bank of the Hudson River, halfway between New York City and the state capital of Albany. The town takes its name from the Hyde Park estate established during the 18th Century and named after the colony's last Royal Governor, Sir Edward Hyde, Lord Cornbury. During the early 20th Century, the reputation of the town of Hyde Park overshadowed that of the estate Hyde Park because the town was home to its most famous resident, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Although the Roosevelt family estate was **Springwood**, FDR referred to his home almost exclusively as Hyde Park. Thus, many visitors associate the name Hyde Park with the **Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site**. The preserved portion of the estate Hyde Park is today known by the name of its last private owners, Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt, and is managed by the National Park Service as **Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site**. At the time of Frederick Vanderbilt's death in 1938, the estate Hyde Park included approximately 600 acres with manicured pleasure grounds, a working farm, a mansion and 20

supporting structures, two additional residences, formal gardens and greenhouses, a fine collection of specimen trees, riverfront access, and a network of woodland carriage trails and farm roads.

impairment of resources—An impact so severe that, in the professional judgment of a responsible park manager, it would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 National Park Service Organic Act.

implementation—Actions taken to achieve a long-term goal.

implementation plan—A plan to carry out an activity or project to achieve a long-term goal. An implementation plan may direct a specific project or an ongoing activity.

infrastructure—The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of the park, such as transportation and communications systems and water and power lines.

interpretation—As used in the National Park Service, the explanation to the public of the importance and meaning of NPS resources. Early National Park Service interpretation was referred to as education or nature study; today it includes historical and recreational resources. The term "interpretation" is still not well-understood by the public.

interpretive story or interpretive theme—A narrative to help people understand the importance of a national park unit. Interpretive stories or themes express the central meaning of a park's resources.

lightscapes, natural ambient—The state of natural resources and values as they exist in the absence of human-caused light.

management areas—The designation of geographic areas of the park depending on the resource conditions and visitor experiences desired.

management prescriptions—A planning term referring to statements about desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each park area.

the Mansion (Vanderbilt Mansion NHS)—The centerpiece of Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site is the Beaux Arts–style mansion created for the Vanderbilts by McKim, Mead, and White, a prominent architectural firm at the turn of the 20th Century. Modern for its day, the Mansion was framed in steel, with concrete beneath the limestone facing.

mesic—Of, characterized by, or adapted to a moderately moist habitat.

mitigating measures—Modification of a proposal to lessen the intensity of its impact on a particular resource.

museum services facility—An approximately 9,600 square-foot structure located within the Home of FDR National Historic Site on the former James "Rosy" Roosevelt property. The facility provides a secure and controlled environment for the parks' stored collections, as well as research space and offices.

native species—Plants and animals present as a result of natural processes in parks.

natural resources—Collectively, physical resources, such as water, air, soils, topographic features, geologic features, and natural soundscapes; biological resources such as native plants, animals, and communities; and physical and biological processes such as weather and shoreline migration, and photosynthesis, succession, and evolution.

NEPA process—The objective analysis of a proposed action to determine the degree of its environmental impact on the natural and physical environment; alternatives and mitigation that reduce that impact; and the full and candid presentation of the analysis to, and involvement of, the interested and affected public. Required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

nightscape—See *lightscapes*.

nonnative species—Species that occupy or could occupy parklands directly or indirectly as the result of deliberate or accidental human activities. Also called exotic species.

Organic Act (National Park Service)—The 1916 law (and subsequent amendments) that created the National Park Service and assigned it responsibility to manage the national parks.

palustrine—Relating to a system of inland, nontidal wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). Palustrine wetlands range from permanently saturated or flooded land (as in marshes, swamps, and lake shores) to land that is wet only seasonally (as in vernal pools).

partners—Individuals, agencies, and organizations that work with the park on the park's goals.

period of Interpretation—The span of time during which events took place that are described in the park's interpretive themes.

period of Treatment—The span of time during the period of significance when the property reached its height of development and when it best reflected the characteristics for which it is significant.

period of Significance—The span of time during which a property attained the significance that makes it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

preservation—The application of measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object. May include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally refers to the ongoing preservation, maintenance, and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work. For historic structures, exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

prime and unique farmland—Soil that produces general crops such as common foods, forage, fiber, and oil seed.

Progressive Era—In the United States, the Progressive Era was a period of reform that began in America's urban regions lasting from approximately the 1890s through the 1920s, although some experts say it lasted from 1900 to 1920. Reformers sought change in labor and fiscal policies at various levels of government. Many reforms marked the movement, including women's suffrage, the 19th amendment, and the establishment of an income tax. Notable laws established during the progressive era include the Antiquities Act, the Federal Reserve Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, the Clayton Anti-trust Act, the New York State Tenement House Act, and the Pure Food and Drug Act. Eleanor Roosevelt's activities during this era typified Progressivism—she was a member of the National Consumers League, the Women's Trade Union League, the League of Women Voters, and the City Club of New York. An active leader in these groups, Eleanor Roosevelt championed maximum hour, minimum wage, and child labor laws; worker safety standards; and protective legislation for women workers.

rehabilitation—Making possible an efficient, compatible use for a historic structure or landscape through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, and architectural values.

restoration—Accurate depiction of the form, features, and character of a historic structure, landscape, or object as it appeared in a particular historic period by removing features from other periods and reconstructing missing features.

riparian zone—The interface between land and a stream or river. Plant communities along the river margins are called riparian vegetation and are characterized

by water-loving plants. Riparian zones are significant in ecology, environmental management, and civil engineering because of their role in soil conservation, their biodiversity, and the influence they have on aquatic ecosystems.

Rose Garden (Home of FDR NHS)—Garden located to the north of the FDR Home. Redesigned in 1912, it includes a perimeter lined with hemlock hedge, two garden rooms, rose and annual beds, and the graves of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, marked by a plain white monument designed by FDR.

soundscape—Ambient sounds not caused by humans.

Springwood (Home of FDR NHS)—The NPS uses "Springwood" to refer to the 111-acre portion of the Roosevelt estate (the Wheeler Place) acquired by FDR's father, which includes the big house and surrounds. FDR's parents used the name for their entire estate, corresponding with the lands they owned between the Hudson River and the Maritje Kill, a stream halfway between Routes 9 and 9G.

stabilization—Rendering an unsafe, damaged, or deteriorated property stable while retaining its present form.

stakeholder—An individual, group, or other entity that has a strong interest in decisions concerning park resources and values. Stakeholders may include, for example, recreational user groups, permittees, and concessioners. In the broadest sense, all Americans are stakeholders in the national parks.

stewardship—The cultural and natural resource protection ethic of employing the most effective concepts, techniques, equipment, and technology to avoid or mitigate impacts that would compromise the integrity of park resources.

Stone Cottage (Val-Kill)—The first structure erected on the Val-Kill site as a home shared by Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman and originally called Val-Kill Cottage. A fieldstone-faced house in the Dutch vernacular style, it was a permanent home for Nancy and Marion from the time it was completed in 1927 to 1947, when they sold their interest in the property to Eleanor Roosevelt and moved to Connecticut. Following the dissolution of the Val-Kill Industries partnership in 1937 and Eleanor Roosevelt's conversion of the adjacent **Val-Kill Shop** into a cottage for her own personal use, the two structures were jointly referred to as the Val-Kill Cottages. The National Park Service began referring to the original Val-Kill Cottage as Stone Cottage to avoid confusion with the converted shop building.

strategic plan—A National Park Service five-year plan that lays out goals and management actions needed in the near term to implement the general management plan.

sustainability—The quality of integrating economic, environmental, and equity (health and well-being of society) considerations in decisions so that the Earth's resources are passed on to future generations in a healthy and abundant manner

sustainable design—Design that applies the principles of ecology, economics, and ethics to the business of creating necessary and appropriate places for people to visit, live, and work. Development that has been sustainably designed sits lightly upon the land, demonstrates resource efficiency, and promotes ecological restoration and integrity, thus improving the environment, the economy, and society.

sustainable practices/principles—Choices, decisions, actions, and ethics that will best achieve ecological/biological integrity; protect qualities and functions of air, water, soil, and other aspects of the natural environment; and preserve human cultures. Sustainable practices allow for use and enjoyment by the current generation, while ensuring that future generations will have the same opportunities.

Top Cottage (Home of FDR NHS)—A fieldstone-faced one-story building designed and built by FDR in association with architect Henry Toombs in the Dutch vernacular tradition. FDR built Top Cottage as a place to escape the pressures of the presidency and to serve as a future office for writing history and his memoirs during retirement. He incorporated several features in the design of Top Cottage to accommodate his wheelchair. The structure is located within the easternmost parcels of acreage that FDR added to the family estate lands. Situated at one of the county's highest elevations, the porch at Top Cottage provides stunning views across the Hudson River. FDR never spent any time alone at Top Cottage, primarily because its isolated location made it difficult for the U.S. Secret Service to secure. FDR typically referred to this structure as Hilltop Cottage. Top Cottage and 40 acres of land were added to HOFR in 2002. Top Cottage is the only structure in the park with individual National Historic Landmark status.

traditional—Pertains to recognizable, but not necessarily identical, cultural patterns transmitted by a group across at least two generations. Also applies to sites, structures, objects, landscapes, and natural resources associated with those patterns. Popular synonyms include "ancestral" and "customary."

traditionally associated peoples—May include park neighbors, traditional residents, and former residents who remain attached to a park area despite having relocated. Social or cultural entities such as tribes, communities, and kinship units are "traditionally associated" with a particular park when (1) the entity regards park resources as essential to its development and continued identity as a culturally distinct people; (2) the association has endured for at least two generations (40 years); and (3) the association began prior to establishment of the park.

universal design—The design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

use fees—Charges for an activity or an opportunity provided in addition to basic free park services.

Val-Kill—An area situated within the historic boundary of the **historic Roosevelt Family Estate** on the banks of the Fall Kill. The site includes a number of historic buildings, including the **Stone Cottage**, **Val-Kill Cottage**, and the **Playhouse**.

Val-Kill Cottage (Val-Kill)—The term typically used to refer to the converted **Val-Kill Shop** building renovated into a private residence for Eleanor Roosevelt's use after 1937. Although the heading on her printed stationery was "Val-Kill Cottage," on at least one occasion Eleanor Roosevelt referred to this home as "the factory." The National Park Service sometimes refers to this building as **The Factory** to avoid confusion with **Stone Cottage**. (See also **Stone Cottage**.)

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site—A 211.65-acre parcel of the 683.9-acre country estate known as **Hyde Park**, purchased by Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt in 1895. The NHS comprises the Mansion with original furnishings, Pavilion, two Gate Houses, Coach House, Powerhouse, manicured landscape, formal gardens and support structures (Gardener's Cottage and Tool Shed), woodlands, and the Bard Rock river landing. It does not include the Wales House or the Howard House, woodlands, farm or related structures situated on the east side of Route 9.

victory garden—Victory gardens, also called war gardens or food gardens for defense, were vegetable, fruit, and herb gardens planted at private residences in the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom during World War I and World War II to reduce the pressure on the public food supply brought on by the war effort. In addition to indirectly aiding the war effort, these gardens were also considered a civil "morale booster," in that gardeners could feel empowered by their contribution of labor and rewarded by the produce grown. Making victory gardens became a part of daily life on the home front.

viewshed—The area that can be seen from a particular location, including near and distant views.

visitor—Anyone who uses a park's interpretive, educational, or recreational services.

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework—A visitor carrying capacity planning process applied to determine the desired resource and visitor experience conditions, and used as an aid to decision-making.

wayfinding—The ways in which people and animals orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. Wayfinding is typically used in the context of the built environment to refer to the user experience of orientation and choosing a path, but it also refers to the set of architectural and/or design elements that aid orientation.

Appendix D: Visitor Experience Vision Statement

In considering what the sum of the visitor experience should be at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, the planning team reviewed the purpose and significance of the sites, gathered input from our partners and the public, analyzed current conditions, and arrived at the following vision statement. This vision for the visitor experience would be addressed in different ways and to varying degrees under each alternative.

People visiting the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, both virtually and through tours and diverse media on site, are introduced to places that reflect the historical, cultural, and personal significance of the historic residences and the larger landscapes that make up the parks.

Visitors are meant to understand that the Roosevelt birthplace was the President's home, haven, and political headquarters, as well as a laboratory and showcase for forestry and agriculture. They should come to view Val-Kill as the place where Eleanor Roosevelt expressed herself most fully and where she fashioned and carried out her social and political beliefs. They will learn that the Vanderbilt Mansion is a premier example of an "American country place" and representative of a period in the nation's history—the decades following the Civil War—marked by extreme economic, social, technological, and cultural change. Visitors should appreciate the importance of the sites' location along the Hudson River and the river viewsheds. All the while, they will be made aware that all three sites are units of the National Park Service.

Through well-developed orientation media, visitors are offered the information they need and the means to explore the sites, whether via park vehicles, other permitted conveyances, or on foot. In all programming (on-site, outreach, Web-based), the sites invite audiences to discover many personal and public dimensions of the historical figures being commemorated. Facilities are maintained to ensure that visits are safe and visually appealing.

Using a variety of techniques, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites reach a wide range of audiences. The park encourages people to think critically as they learn about the Roosevelt and Vanderbilt families and apply this to the context of their own lives. Ideally, both actual and virtual visitors will pursue additional information—either at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum or independently—and will engage actively in civic life.

At the end of their experience, people are provided with the opportunity to reflect on their visit and share their thoughts.

Appendix E: Visitor Experience & Resource Protection (Carrying Capacity)

The Process

One of the requirements of a general management plan is the identification and implementation of commitments for carrying capacity. To comply with this mandate, a process known as visitor experience and resource protection has been developed within the National Park Service. This process interprets carrying capacity not as a prescription of numbers of people, but as a prescription of desired ecological and social conditions. Measures of appropriate conditions replace measures of maximum sustainable use. Based on these conditions, the process identifies and documents the kinds and levels of use that are appropriate as well as where and when such uses should occur. The prescriptions, coupled with a monitoring program, are intended to give park managers the information and rationale needed to make sound decisions about visitor use and to gain the public and agency support needed to implement those decisions. A major premise of the visitor experience and resource protection process is that the characteristics of a management area, which are qualitative in nature, must be translated into something measurable to provide a basis for making wise decisions about appropriate visitor use. Since management actions are normally more defensible when based on scientific data, the process incorporates the concept of "limits of acceptable change" as part of the decision-making process. Desired resource or social conditions are expressed as explicit, measurable indicators; and standards (i.e., minimum acceptable conditions) are selected to determine whether the conditions are met or exceeded.

Resource indicators are used to measure impacts on the biological or physical resources, while social indicators are used to measure impacts on park users and park employees. The first critical steps of applying the visitor- experience- and resource-protection process to Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites will be accomplished as part of the general management plan.

These steps are:

- Develop a statement articulating the parks' purpose and significance.
- Analyze park resources and existing visitor use.
- Describe the range of resource conditions and visitor experiences for the park as distinct management areas.
- Apply the management areas to specific locations of the park.

Subsequent to the preparation of the general management plan, the following steps will be taken to complete the process:

- Select quality indicators and specify associated standards for each management area. The purpose of this step is to identify measurable physical, social, or ecological variables that will indicate whether a desired condition is being met. Monitoring techniques for each management area are also selected and evaluated in this step.

- Compare desired conditions to existing conditions. Each management area will be monitored to identify any discrepancies with the desired resource and social conditions.
- Identify the probable causes of discrepancies in each management area.
- Identify management strategies to address discrepancies. Visitor use management prescriptions will start with the least restrictive measures that will accomplish the objective and move toward more restrictive measures, if needed.
- Carry out long-term monitoring. Monitoring provides periodic, systematic feedback to park managers to ensure that desired resource and visitor experience conditions continue to be achieved over the long term.

Once the indicators and standards are established, park managers can develop a monitoring plan to determine priorities and identify methods, staffing, and analysis requirements. The results of the monitoring analysis will enable park managers to determine whether a park's resources are being adequately protected and desired visitor experiences are being provided, and to take management actions necessary to achieve the goals of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

Examples of Indicators and Standards

The planning team developed the following examples of resource indicators and standards. These examples are preliminary and will be reviewed and revised by resource managers, based on the relative tolerance for resource impacts and judgment about the minimum conditions needed to maintain the desired experience.

Historic Core Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No historic structures, no designed landscapes, and no displayed collections are lost or damaged due to excessive or unauthorized use.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Degradation of historic buildings, displayed collections, and/or cultural landscapes caused by excessive or unauthorized visitor use.

Example Social Condition Standard: No more than 10% of visitors will experience crowding that prevents satisfying participation in interpretive activities or programs.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The number of times per year that visitors experience excessive crowding during tours, programs, or participatory activities.

Cultural Landscape Preservation Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No additional natural areas or cultural landscapes are significantly trampled or eroded, with no new personal or unauthorized trails opened.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Degradation of cultural and/or natural resources caused by excessive or unauthorized visitor use, such as off-trail hiking or use of all-terrain-vehicles.

Example Social Condition Standard: No more than 10% of visitors will experience crowding to a degree that prevents them from enjoying their landscape experience or will encounter visitors engaged in unauthorized uses.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The percentage of visitors per year who experience excessive crowding on trails or encounter visitors engaged in unauthorized uses.

Park Support Zone

Example Resource Condition Standard: No new cultural landscape areas are eroded or substantially damaged.

Example Resource Condition Indicator: Substantial degradation of natural resources and/or cultural resources caused by unauthorized or excessive visitor use, such as frequent overflow parking on park lawns.

Example Social Condition Standard: Visitors will experience overflow conditions no more than 20 days per year.

Example Social Condition Indicator: The number of days per year that visitors encounter overflow parking sufficient to impair their enjoyment of the parks.

Appendix F: Treatment, Use and Condition of Primary Historic Buildings

	Building	Dates	Proposed Treatment
	NAME; STRUCTURE #	CONSTRUCT; ALTER	NO ACTION
Home of FDR National Historic Site			
1.	FDR Home 101	c.1793, 1867, 1915–16	Preserve
2.	Laundry 102	c.1850	Preserve
3.	Stable LCS: Coach House) 103	1886	Preserve
4.	Small Ice House 104	c.1850	Preserve
5.	Garage (LCS: Garage & Stables)105	c.1850, 1910, 1974 (reconst.)	Rehabilitate
6.	Greenhouse 106	1906	Preserve
7.	Greenhouse Tool House 114	1911; 1997 (stabilized)	Preserve
8.	Large Ice House 107	1898	Preserve
9.	Gardeners Cottage Garage 108	1906, 1916	Preserve
10.	Gardeners Cottage 109	c.1850	Preserve
11.	Duplex House 110	c.1886	Preserve
12.	Lower Shed 116	1911	Preserve

Proposed / Potential Use					Comment
ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	NO ACTION	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	FMSS: ASSET #;FCI; RANK; API
Preserve	Preserve	Historic house museum	Historic house museum	Historic house museum	60451; 0.196 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Interpretive exhibits	Part of historic scene	60452; 0.344 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Interpretive exhibits	Interpretive exhibits	60455; 0.122 FAIR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60458; 2.011 SERIOUS; 93
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Educational use; Interpretive exhibits	Educational use; Interpretive exhibits	Educational use; Interpretive exhibits	60453; 0.155 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Park operations; Part of historic scene	Park operations; Part of historic scene	Park operations; Part of historic scene	60457; 0.417 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Park operations; Part of historic scene	Park operations; Part of historic scene	Park operations; Part of historic scene	60457; 0.417 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60459;0.122 FAIR;100
Preserve	Preserve	Storage	Storage	Storage	60462; 0.513 SERIOUS; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Admin space	Admin space	Admin space	60461; 0.205 POOR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Residence	Residence	Residence	60463; 1.151 SERIOUS; 92
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60456; 0.246 POOR;93

	Building	Dates	Proposed Treatment
	NAME; STRUCTURE #	CONSTRUCT; ALTER	NO ACTION
13.	Pump House 118	1916	Preserve
14.	Cold Frame 124	No Record	Preserve
15.	Lower Ram House 117B	1881	Preserve
16.	Ash Pit 121	No Record	Preserve
17.	Hot Bed 120	1933	Preserve
18.	Top Cottage Tbd	1938–39, 1999–2000 (restored)	Preserve
Newbold-Morgan Estate (part of Home of FDR)			
19.	Bellefield Mansion 401	c.1795, 1909–11	Rehabilitate
20.	Stone (LCS: New) Garage 402	1916–17	Rehabilitate
21.	Block (LCS: Old) Garage 404	1905	Preserve
22.	Yellow (LCS: Old) Barn 407	1800, 1860–1870	Rehabilitate
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site			
1.	Val-Kill Cottage (LCS: The Factory) 501	1926, 1936–37, 1981	Preserve
2.	Stone Cottage 502	1925–26	Rehabilitate
3.	Dollhouse 504	1935, 1945 (moved)	Preserve

			Proposed / Potential Use			Comment
ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	NO ACTION	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	FMSS: ASSET #;FCI; RANK; API	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	73656; 0.240 POOR;100	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	80761; 0.494 POOR;100	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60468; 10.484 SERIOUS;83	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	73658; 1.154 SERIOUS;100	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	80764 2.926 SERIOUS;100	
Preserve	Preserve	Guided tours	Guided tours, some conference + meetings	Guided tours, some conference + meetings; partner events	60482; 0.000 GOOD;100	
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Park admin Hdq.	Park admin Hdq.	Park admin Hdq.	60436; 0.405 POOR; 92	
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Admin	Admin	Admin	60437; 0.166 POOR; 80	
Preserve	Rehabilitate	Admin or storage	Admin or storage	Educational use	60439; 0.201 POOR; 80	
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Admin or storage	Admin or storage	Educational use	60438; 0.329 POOR; 80	
Preserve	Preserve	Historic house museum; visitor contact; museum shop	Historic house museum; visitor contact; museum shop	Historic house museum; visitor contact; museum shop	60643; 0.023 GOOD; 100	
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Tours + exhibits	Tours + exhibits	Tours + exhibits	60644; 0.461 POOR; 100	
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Interpretive exhibits	Exterior interpreted	60647; 0.820 SERIOUS; 93	

	Building	Dates	Proposed Treatment
	NAME; STRUCTURE #	CONSTRUCT; ALTER	NO ACTION
4.	Playhouse 505	1928–1941	Preserve
5.	Stable-Garage 506	1937	Preserve
6.	East Garden Shed 507	1937; 1963 (altered)	Preserve
7.	West Garden Shed 508	1940	Preserve
Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site			
1.	Vanderbolt Mansion 001	1896–1899	Preserve
2.	The Pavilion 002	1895	Preserve
3.	Gardeners Cottage 003	1875	Preserve
4.	Tool House 004		Preserve
5.	Coach House 005	1897, 1910	Preserve
6.	Main (LCS: Upper) Gate House 006	1898	Preserve
7.	Lower Gate House 007	1898	Preserve

		Proposed / Potential Use			Comment
ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	NO ACTION	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	FMSS: ASSET #;FCI; RANK; API
Preserve	Preserve	Interpretive exhibits; theater	Interpretive exhibits; theater	Interpretive exhibits; theater	60646; 0.131 FAIR; 100
Rehabilitate	Rehabilitate	Storage	Educational use	Interpretive exhibits; maintenance	60650; 0.559 SERIOUS; 93
Restore	Rehabilitate	Storage	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene and to support Memorial	60648; 0.245 POOR; 87
Restore	Rehabilitate	Storage	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene and to support Memorial	60649; 0.52 SERIOUS; 9 3
Preserve	Preserve	Historic house museum	Historic house museum	Historic house museum fee-generating	60492; 0.136 FAIR;100
Preserve	Preserve	Visitor contact; museum shop; interpretive exhibits	Visitor contact; museum shop; interpretive exhibits	Visitor contact; museum shop; interpretive exhibit	60505; 0.159 POOR;100
Preserve	Preserve	Residence	Residence	Residence	60507; 0.136 FAIR; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene; partner use	Part of historic scene; partner use	Part of historic scene; partner use	60524; 0.409 POOR; 100
Preserve	Rehabilitate	Exterior interpretation	Selectively furnished; interpreted	Exhibits; Adaptive reuse	60531; 0.091 GOOD; 100
Preserve	Preserve	Residence	Residence	Residence	60536; 0.187 POOR; 93
Preserve	Preserve	Residence	Residence	Residence	60538; 0.674 SERIOUS; 83

	Building	Dates	Proposed Treatment
	NAME; STRUCTURE #	CONSTRUCT; ALTER	NO ACTION
8.	Power House 008	1897	Preserve
9.	Loggia (LCS: Garden House) 011	1910	Preserve
10.	Large Pergola (LCS: Pool House) 012	1903; 1982 (restored)	Preserve
11.	Small Pergolas 1791014	1903; 1922 (altered); 1982 (restored)	Preserve
12.	Cold Frames 013	1900	Preserve
13.	Potting Shed 010	1874; 1982 (restored)	Preserve

Note: Buildings that rank below Asset Priority Index of 80 are not considered primary historic buildings and are not listed he
Frames (API 47); Boiler House (API 55); and Stone House (API73).

	Proposed / Potential Use					Comment
	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	NO ACTION	ACTION ALTERNATIVE ONE	ACTION ALTERNATIVE TWO	FMSS: ASSET #;FCI; RANK; API
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Interpretive exhibits	Exterior interpreted	60541; 0.481 POOR; 93
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60547; 0.109 FAIR; 93
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60546; 0.058 GOOD; 93
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60546; 0.603 SERIOUS; 93
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	Part of historic scene	60544; 0.261 POOR; 92
	Preserve	Preserve	Part of historic scene; partner use	Part of historic scene; partner use	Part of historic scene; partner use	60543; 2.130 SERIOUS; 93

ere. All are within HOFR: Cinder Block Dairy Barn (non-historic, no API rating); Pump House Storage (API 56); Water Tower (API 67); Chauffeur's Building (API 19); Bellefield Cold

Appendix G: List of Classified Structures

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
1	HOFR	Duplex House	000666	Contributing
2	HOFR	Franklin D. Roosevelt Home	000667	Contributing
3	HOFR	Coach House	000668	Contributing
4	HOFR	(Reconstructed) Garage & Stables	000669	Contributing
5	HOFR	Laundry Building	000670	Contributing
6	HOFR	Large Ice House	000672	Contributing
7	HOFR	Greenhouse	000673	Contributing
8	HOFR	Small Ice House	000675	Contributing
9	HOFR	Greenhouse – Tool Shed	006556	Contributing
10	HOFR	Hot Bed	006557	Contributing
11	HOFR	Roosevelts' Grave	006558	Contributing
12	HOFR	Ash Pit	006559	Contributing
13	HOFR	Pump House	006560	Contributing
14	HOFR	Ram House	006561	Contributing
15	HOFR	Gardener's Cottage	006562	Contributing
16	HOFR	Gardener's Cottage – Garage	006563	Contributing
17	HOFR	Cold Frame	006564	Contributing
18	HOFR	Tennis Court Ruins	006566	Contributing
19	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – "Bellefield"	040000	State
20	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Old Barn	040001	State
21	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Stone House	040002	State
22	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Old Garage	040003	State
23	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – New Garage	040004	State
24	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Pump House	040005	State
25	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Water Tower	040006	State
26	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate – Cold Frames	040007	State

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
27	HOFR	Estates Road	040770	Contributing
28	HOFR	Flagstone Walk Around Springwood	040771	Contributing
29	HOFR	Gravel Walks at Rose Garden & Gravesite	040772	Contributing
30	HOFR	Lower Woods Road	040773	Contributing
31	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Estates Road	040774	Contributing
32	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Farm Road	040775	Contributing
33	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Main Entrance Drive	040776	Contributing
34	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - South Boundary Service Rd.	040777	Contributing
35	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Walks at Formal Garden	040778	Contributing
36	HOFR	River Wood Road	040779	Contributing
37	HOFR	Service Road (Kessler Property)	040780	Not Significant
38	HOFR	Service Road	040781	Contributing
39	HOFR	Trail Network	040782	Contributing
40	HOFR	Cast-Iron Hose Bibb at Vegetable Garden Site	040783	Contributing
41	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Iron Pump at Windmill Site	040785	Contributing
42	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Cistern At West Lawn	040786	Contributing
43	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Well at West Lawn	040787	Contributing
44	HOFR	Sundial Base at Rose Garden	040788	Contributing
45	HOFR	Wood Trellis at Laundry	040789	Contributing
46	HOFR	Shed	040790	Contributing
47	HOFR	Concrete Bridge	040791	Contributing
48	HOFR	Ice Pond Dam	040792	Contributing
49	HOFR	Lilac Garden Wall	040793	Contributing
50	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Albany Post Road Fence	040794	Contributing
51	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Cemetery Fieldstone Wall	040795	Not Significant
52	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Entrance Gates	040796	Contributing

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
53	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Formal Garden Stone Walls	040797	Contributing
54	HOFR	Old Main Entrance Gate	040798	Contributing
55	HOFR	Ram House Foundations	040799	Contributing
56	HOFR	Old Standpipe Foundations	040800	Contributing
57	HOFR	Stone Boundary Wall at Route 9	040801	Contributing
58	HOFR	Stone Boundary Walls	040802	Contributing
59	HOFR	Stone Culverts At Lower Woods Road	040803	Contributing
60	HOFR	Stone Wall Along Trail Into Woods	040804	Contributing
61	HOFR	"Fala" & "Chief" Grave Markers	040805	Contributing
62	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Ann Broom Headstone	040806	Not Significant
63	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Gabriel Broom Headstone	040807	Not Significant
64	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Sarah Broom Headstone	040808	Not Significant
65	HOFR	Newbold-Morgan Estate - Crook Family Headstone	040809	Not Significant
66	HOFR	"Worship" Statue	040810	Contributing
67	HOFR	Pump Control Mechanism	040811	Contributing
68	HOFR	Main Entrance Driveway	040812	Contributing
69	HOFR	Top Cottage	292452	National

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
1	ELRO	Stone Cottage	022294	Contributing
2	ELRO	Playhouse	022295	Contributing
3	ELRO	Dollhouse	022297	Contributing
4	ELRO	Stable-Garage	022315	Contributing
5	ELRO	West Garden Shed	022316	Contributing
6	ELRO	Swimming Pool & Pool Shed	022600	Contributing
7	ELRO	Stone Barbecue	022601	Contributing
8	ELRO	Tennis Court	022653	Contributing

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
9	ELRO	East Garden Shed	022697	Contributing
10	ELRO	Swing and Teeter Totter [Remnants]	022698	Contributing
11	ELRO	Bridge and Dam	022699	Contributing
12	ELRO	The Factory	022701	Contributing
13	ELRO	Flagpole	040820	Contributing
14	ELRO	Roadways	040821	Contributing
15	ELRO	Apple Orchard Gateposts	040822	Contributing
16	ELRO	Walkways	040823	Contributing
17	ELRO	Stone Walls	040824	Contributing
18	ELRO	Low Retaining Wall	040825	Contributing
19	ELRO	Stone Cottage Patio	040826	Contributing
20	ELRO	Trails	040827	Contributing

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
1	VAMA	Vanderbilt Mansion	001350	Contributing
2	VAMA	Tool House	001351	Contributing
3	VAMA	Main Gate House	001353	Contributing
4	VAMA	Power House	001354	Contributing
5	VAMA	The Pavilion	001355	Contributing
6	VAMA	Lower Gate House	001356	Contributing
7	VAMA	Gardener's Cottage	007503	Contributing
8	VAMA	Coach House	007504	Contributing
9	VAMA	Pool House	007505	Contributing
10	VAMA	Loggia	007506	Contributing
11	VAMA	Italian Gardens - Pergola (Large)	007507	Contributing
12	VAMA	White Bridge	007508	Contributing
13	VAMA	Rustic Bridge	007509	Contributing

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
14	VAMA	Lower Dam	007510	Contributing
15	VAMA	Power House Dam	007511	Contributing
16	VAMA	Railroad Bridge	007512	Contributing
17	VAMA	Albany Post Road Bridge (West Half)	007513	Contributing
18	VAMA	White Bridge Dam	007514	Contributing
19	VAMA	Historic Trails	040831	Contributing
20	VAMA	Bard Rock Road	040832	Contributing
21	VAMA	Main Entrance Road	040833	Contributing
22	VAMA	Coach House Road	040834	Contributing
23	VAMA	Lower Gate Road	040835	Contributing
24	VAMA	Service Road Along Hudson River	040836	Contributing
25	VAMA	Garden Ornament Fragments	040838	Contributing
26	VAMA	Potting Shed	040839	Contributing
27	VAMA	Boat Hook	040840	Contributing
28	VAMA	Cold Frames	040841	Contributing
29	VAMA	Dock Street Bridge	040842	Contributing
30	VAMA	Concrete Fence Posts	040843	Contributing
31	VAMA	Italian Gardens – Piers and Walls	040844	Contributing
32	VAMA	Cutting Garden Retaining Wall	040845	Contributing
33	VAMA	Cherry Walk Wall	040846	Contributing
34	VAMA	Italian Gardens – Pool	040847	Contributing
35	VAMA	Rose Garden Fountain	040848	Contributing
36	VAMA	Italian Gardens – Steps	040849	Contributing
37	VAMA	North Exit Gate	040850	Contributing
38	VAMA	North Property Line Wall	040851	Contributing

	Park	Structure Name	LCS ID	Significance Level
39	VAMA	Italian Gardens – Pergolas (Small)	040852	Contributing
40	VAMA	Bard Lane Retaining Walls	040853	Contributing
41	VAMA	Market Street Wall	040854	Contributing
42	VAMA	Route 9 Stone Wall	040855	Contributing
43	VAMA	Lower Gate	040856	Contributing
44	VAMA	West Entrance to Subway	040857	Contributing
45	VAMA	West Property Line Fence	040858	Contributing
46	VAMA	Italian Gardens – Paths	040859	Contributing
47	VAMA	White Bridge Riverside Curbing	040860	Contributing
48	VAMA	Main Entrance Gate	040861	Contributing

Appendix H: Selected Resources Consulted

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Corbis: Title page image of FDR; 15, top; 18, top.

Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library: xiii; 16; 17, top; 18, bottom; divider pages for Part Six (Margaret Suckley).

Daphne Geismar: 56, top.

Matthew Garrett: Cover; title page images (except historic photos and Top Cottage); vi; vii; ix; xi; xiv; divider pages for Part One, Part Two, Part Three, Part Four, and Part Five; 8, top; 10, top; 11, top.

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Dave Hayes: 53, bottom.
Frank Futral: 12, top.
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