



Valley Forge
National Historical Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



2006 Annual Report

Dear Friends



The staff and volunteers of Valley Forge National Historical Park join me in providing you with our review of 2006. The year was marked by both challenges and opportunities, and we are proud to report that we continue to make progress in preserving the park for future generations and providing for a meaningful visitor experience.

Valley Forge encompasses 3,500 acres of the original encampment grounds used by General George Washington and the Continental Army from December 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778. Today, the park is recognized not only for its essential history, but also for its abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities. Citizen efforts to preserve the park began in the mid 19th century, in preparation for the centennial anniversary of the encampment. Citizen participation continues to be essential to preservation of the park's cultural and natural resources and to the quality of visits to the park.

This year we implemented the most important recommendations of the 2005 Business Plan—moving toward community-based stewardship and financial solvency to ensure a robust future for the park. We are growing our network of partners and volunteers, increasing our financial flexibility, expanding choices for visitors to experience the park, and managing the first significant federal capital investment project in park history. At Washington's Headquarters.

In 2007 you will continue to see enhancements to our visitor programs; increased preservation of our existing infrastructure; and progress in preserving the abundant natural resources of the park. Most importantly, the park's draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP) is now on public review and will be completed in 2007, with implementation beginning immediately. The park developed this once-in-a-generation draft plan over the past four years, with the help of the community. Internally, the GMP already has provided the foundation for the business plan, our analysis of core operations, and the realignment of staff. Beginning in 2007, it will guide major changes in the park as a whole.

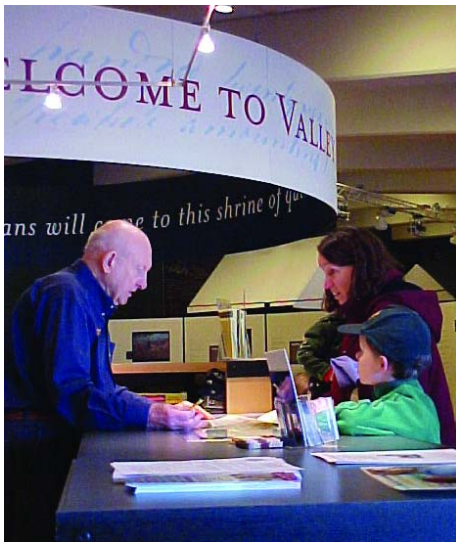
We look forward to seeing you in the park!

Michael A. Caldwell
Superintendent

On the cover and this page: The National Memorial Arch.

Cover inset: Volunteers from Lockheed Martin constructed a soldiers' hut to replace one that had been lost to arson.

AGAIN IN 2006, we made great strides in working with organizational partners to multiply staffs' work in managing the park. A key accomplishment was the rebirth of our oldest partner—the Friends of Valley Forge Park. Together, we engaged the Center for Park Management to assist us with a strategic plan. That process engaged all of the park's partner organizations and resulted in fundamental changes in the mission of the Friends and in our working relationship. Highlights of our activities with partners are found on this page and throughout this report.



Above, top: Volunteer Pete Peterson, helping visitors at the park Welcome Center, is part of the blended volunteer corps of the park and the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Above: Grants make special projects possible. A Unilever grant provided materials to rebuild this observation deck, under construction by volunteers.

Right: The Encampment Store supports the park by providing visitor services, expertise for special events, and direct donations.

2006 Key Accomplishments

The Friends of Valley Forge Park and the Valley Forge Park Interpretive Association voted to come together under the umbrella of the Friends. This was accomplished through a facilitated dialogue about how best to support the park and further the missions of these formerly individual organizations. A new board was established, and a number of new board members joined, providing connectivity with other key organizations in the region. The organizations pooled their funds, resulting in a larger and more flexible fund source in support of education and interpretation and other park priorities.

The Friends of Valley Forge Park, in conjunction with park staff, worked with a professional membership consultant to define ways to increase the membership of the Friends by appealing to a wider audience of park users and supporters. The first membership drive resulted in an increase from fewer than 100 members in February, 2006 to over 250 in December, 2006. Work with the consultant continues.

The popular Encampment Store, a 501c3 organization, became the park's new cooperating association as of January 2006. The Encampment Store works with the park on a wide variety of special events, educational and interpretive programming, and development of educational products. The store's gross receipts grew to \$875,000, of which 10% was donated back to the park: the best year yet!

The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau extended its long-time partnership with the park through a new cooperative agreement. The CVB placed three full time employees here. The new Director of Cooperative Sales and Marketing ensures that the park's programs and resources become known to a wide range of current and potential visitors. Two Welcome Center staff provide orientation and information about the park and the region to visitors. The value of these three positions exceeds \$168,000.



For a second year, the Eno Transportation Foundation, through the National Park Foundation, provided funding for a full-time transportation planner for the park. The planner provides expertise that helps the park to work with state and local traffic and transportation partners in addressing congestion and protecting park resources.

A \$50,000 grant from Unilever through the National Park Foundation funded a "Healthy Parks-Healthy Living" initiative that provided a Student Conservation Association intern, the development of a new cell phone tour and updated trail map, and support for National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day. A \$4,500 Unilever Sustainability grant was used to buy recycled materials for an observation deck and handicapped access railings.

We continued to work with state and local elected officials and jurisdictions to advance long-term traffic projects that will reduce congestion in the region, protect park resources, and enhance the visitor experience.

The park received the 2006 Partnership Award from the Upper Merion Parks and Historic Foundation.

*If we are together
nothing is impossible.
If we are divided all
will fail.* —WINSTON CHURCHILL

Every Volunteer Makes a Difference

AGAIN THIS YEAR, volunteers made essential contributions to all areas and functions of the park, and had a good time doing it. For the second year in a row, the total number of volunteers and of volunteer hours increased over the previous fiscal year.

A position for a full-time volunteer coordinator was filled this year, to more effectively work with volunteers. The coordinator works with park staff to develop a diversity of projects and programs throughout the park; matches current volunteers with the right positions and actively recruits new volunteers; and provides training and other services to ensure that each volunteer finds his or her service to be rewarding. The coordinator also spearheads large public stewardship events and seeks funding to enhance volunteerism. Filling this position was an essential strategy toward our goal of involving the community in all aspects of caring for and managing the park. Illustrations of volunteer accomplishments can be found on this page and throughout this report.



Right, top: A Park Watch program was started this year, and included volunteer patrols on horseback.

Right, bottom: Girl Scouts removed trash and debris from Catfish Island, in the Schuylkill River, on National Trails Day.

Opposite, top: Volunteers are an essential part of providing engaging interpretive programs to visitors.

Opposite, bottom: Volunteers spearheaded construction of a soldier's hut.

2006 Key Accomplishments

A total of 1,328 people volunteered at Valley Forge in FY 2006.

The total number of hours increased 32.5% over 2005 to 26,506 hours.

Special stewardship events are more and more popular for volunteerism. On National Trails Day, 120 volunteers contributed 840 hours to staff educational exhibits and displays and conduct trail clean-ups and repairs. Twenty-seven organizations provided educational information and demonstrations. Eastern Mountain Sports and Unilever co-sponsored the event. On Earth Day 50, citizens conducted a clean-up along the park's boundary. On National Public Lands Day, 320 volunteers contributed 1,280 hours to 12 hands-on projects. REI and Unilever co-sponsored this event.

Members of the Upper Merion Senior Center Garden Club, as well as an individual volunteer, adopted the garden beds at the Welcome Center and kept them looking sharp.

Spearheaded by partner Lockheed-Martin and its Network of Volunteers (NOVA), 35 volunteers spent ten Saturdays working with park staff to construct a replica of a soldiers' hut, replacing one that had been destroyed by arson. The hut was built in much the same way as during the encampment, using axes, saws, and drawing knives. Lockheed and the Valley Forge Interpretive Association donated funds to the project. A local teenager asked that guests at his birthday party donate funds to the project, in lieu of giving gifts to him. "These replica huts are icons of Valley Forge," said Superintendent Mike Caldwell. "We're tremendously grateful for all the donations and to NOVA for the relationship we've enjoyed with them over the years."

A merger of park volunteer services with the Valley Forge Visitor and Convention Bureau occurred in June, and increased the number of visitor-services volunteers by 20 new people. Fifty volunteers now assist at the Welcome Center desk year 'round.

89 volunteers and 11 student interns contributed over 9,300 hours to interpretive programs and events, providing important visitor services such as conducting tours and programs and staffing Washington's Headquarters and the Welcome Center desk.

A Park Watch Program was initiated this year after an absence of several years. Initially focusing on trails, volunteers patrolled on foot, bicycle, and horseback. The new program resulted in a ten-fold increase in volunteer hours donated to law enforcement in the park.

Park Watch volunteers also participated in the Revolutionary Run, Earth Day and National Trails Day, in which they assisted in leading a Girl Scout troop in helping to pick up trash and debris on Catfish Island, in the Schuylkill River. More than 26 bags of trash, 18 tires, and numerous other articles were taken off the island.

Community service participants, fulfilling requirements of sentences from the Federal Magistrate, provided 60 hours of service to the park's Law Enforcement branch.

Natural Resource volunteers donated 579 hours to maintain and repair the fencing that protects riparian buffers along Valley Creek. They also eradicated non-native and invasive plants; and participated in data gathering for inventory and monitor programs. The park's large collection of Valley Creek photo point slides was organized. Volunteers helped to develop content for the park's new cell phone tour; helped to develop the Bone Cave exhibit at the Welcome Center; compiled invasive non-native plant profiles; and compiled information for the Important Bird Area nomination.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—MARGARET MEAD

OUR WORK WITH the community during the general management planning process made it clear that our visitors want more opportunities to enjoy and learn about the park, more information, and more ways to access information. Several new choices were added to the menu of programs and activities this year—the result of initiatives with both long standing partners and also new partners. Visitors responded to the new opportunities—bucking a nation-wide decline at historic sites, the park's visitation increased 1.37% this year.



Above, top: Overseas-bound non-commissioned officers participated in a program that looked at lessons in leadership from the Revolution.

Above: Student Conservation Association interns produced the park's popular new cell phone tour.

Right: The new Quest for Freedom program traces the stories of African American involvement in the American Revolution and the Civil War.

2006 Key Accomplishments

A cell phone tour, with short, geographicaly oriented messages about the history and natural history of the park was implemented during the summer. The tour is free to visitors, and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The messages can be changed easily and the medium allows us to reach our many recreational visitors with engaging park information.

In a new partnership, we began to work with Once Upon a Nation, the well regarded Philadelphia non-profit that provides interactive interpretation, adventure tours, and evening programming. Together, we launched a fee-based heritage adventure tour from downtown Philadelphia to the park. Called "The Road to Valley Forge: Secrets and Spies," the program attracted more than 225 participants. The partnership will be expanded in 2007.

The park participated in a regional partnership sponsored by the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau entitled "Quest for Freedom." The six-month program traced the stories of African American involvement in the American Revolution and the Civil War. This collaboration included the CVBs of Gettysburg, Lancaster and York counties and was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Tourism and Economic Development.

A new curriculum-based educational program was inaugurated in which park rangers accompany school classes on their buses through the park, stopping at key sites for hands-on history. "A Ride through History" is a fee-based education program targeted at grades three through eight. This popular new program is being booked twice as often as our existing school programs. Altogether, 91 educational programs were booked this year.

In 2006, the Encampment Store, the park's cooperating association, opened a small food service and a bike rental operation adjacent to the park's main Welcome Center parking lot. These enhancements added to the visitor's convenience, increased dwell time, advanced the park's ability to connect with recreational users, and offered an alternative form of transportation through the park.

The park held the second annual, week-long, Revolutionary War Teachers' Institute, planned with the assistance of an advisory board of classroom teachers and scholars. The institute enabled area classroom teachers to work with well known scholars and educators to gain new perspectives on history and learn how to use local historic sites and collections with their students. Teachers were provided with a stipend and Act 48 credits.

The park and the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau moved to a shared staffing model for the park's Welcome Center. The visitor desk now is staffed by volunteers from both partners. All volunteers have undergone training and have been brought under the NPS volunteer program. This partnership provides better quality control and information services for visitors, and frees park rangers to concentrate on additional visitor programs.



LOCAL RESIDENTS make up the greatest proportion of visitors to the park. They visit frequently to enjoy the opportunity to get outdoors in a beautiful and historic setting. The park's 28-mile trail system is heavily used by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, and more progress was made this year in bringing it back to excellent condition.



Walking has the best value as gymnastics of the mind.

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Above, top: Thousands of hours of work by volunteers are returning miles of trails to good condition.

Above: Sierra Club vacationers assisted in trail rebuilding.

Right, above: The River Trail was repaired and resurfaced following damage from Hurricane Jeanne.

Right: The first annual Revolutionary Run supports keeping the park's 28 miles of trails in good condition.

2006 Key Accomplishments

Over 7,000 linear feet of the Schuylkill River Trail was repaired and resurfaced to correct flooding damage from 2005's Hurricane Jeanne.

The Baptist Trace Road was restored to good condition. The steepest section, near its intersection with the Chapel Trail, was repaired with drainage swales to mitigate severe erosion.

Through partnerships with REI and Eastern Mountain Sports, funds and new volunteers were provided for trail cleanups and reconstructions on National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day.

The Appalachian Mountain Club hosted monthly work sessions and provided training to volunteers in the skills needed for trails maintenance.

The Sierra Club sponsored a second annual working vacation for members. Sixteen volunteers traveled from all over the country, lived in Lafayette's Quarters for a week, and donated 288 hours in strenuous rehabilitation of a steep section of the Mount Misery Trail, one of the park's most popular trails.

For the second year, AmeriCorps provided a team of young volunteers who lived in the park for five weeks and completed multiple trail projects.

The first Revolutionary Run was established as the single annual running event in support of the park. This inaugural five-mile race attracted 1,300 runners and was supported by 60 volunteers. The sponsors were the Valley Forge CVB and a range of community businesses and organizations. The race produced \$12,000 in revenue, which was donated to the Friends of Valley Forge Park in support of maintaining the park's trail network.

School and youth organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, and students from St. Gabriel's Hall, the Manito Alternative School, and others provided maintenance and rehabilitation of five miles of trails.



Preserving Cultural History

FOR THE FIRST TIME since Valley Forge was established as a national park, major federally funded capital improvements to the park's cultural resources are underway. To manage these and other large projects that soon will be implemented, a Project Management Office was established at the park. The office's professional staff coordinates the work of contractors and other park staff to ensure the highest quality preservation and restoration. And as always, the park's cultural resources and maintenance staffs provide expert service every day.



Above, top: Eleven monuments were cleaned, repaired, and re-waxed, protecting them from weathering and pollution.

Above: Rehabilitation began on the park's historic tour roads, freeing them from decades of debris and patches.

Right, above: The historic Valley Forge Train Station is under rehabilitation to provide much-needed orientation and exhibits for the Washington's Headquarters area.



2006 Key Accomplishments

This is the first major work since the early 20th century. In the first phase of a \$6 million project, the Washington's Headquarters area is under rehabilitation. The slate roof on the 1911 train station was replaced; and an intrusive modern road was removed and replaced with a beautiful lawn and sinuous path. In 2007 and 2008, the oversized parking lot will be removed and the landscape restored; new restrooms will be constructed; the train station interior will be rehabilitated to provide orientation to the story of General Washington; and interpretive features and visitor amenities will be placed throughout the landscape.

Four historic structures received new roofs, a key step in their ongoing preservation: the Steuben Memorial Information Center, the Walnut Hill barn, and two houses in the Village of Valley Forge known as Horseshoe Trail East and West.

For the first time since their construction over a century ago, the park's historic tour roads are being rehabilitated. Originally designed as carriage roads, their hand-laid stone gutters have been excavated from under decades of dirt; broken drainage structures repaired; and paving completely replaced. The \$2.2 million project will be completed in 2007.

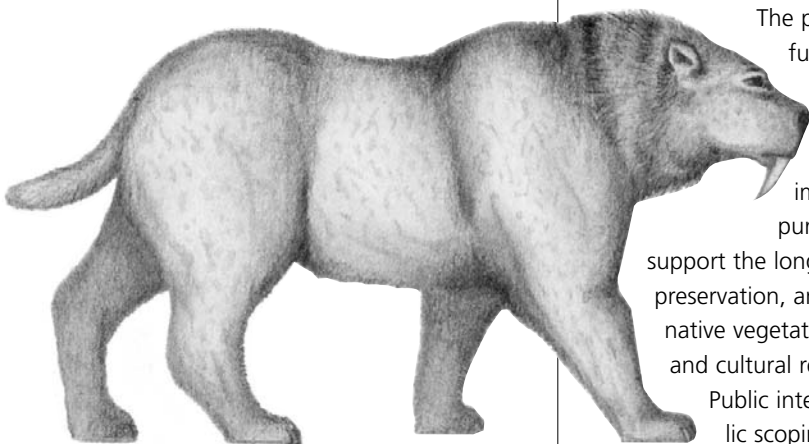
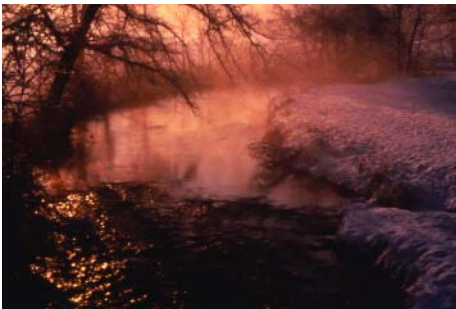
Three enormous and unused parking lots, which had been constructed for the Bicentennial, were removed. The landscape was restored to its historic contours and reseeded with meadow grasses. By this spring, it will be impossible to tell that asphalt once covered these areas.

An important cultural resources goal was realized through the completion of an extensive volunteer project in which the entire collection of historic photographs was digitized, described, and placed on the web for public use.

Two Student Conservation Association interns worked with park staff to completely rehabilitate five major and six minor monuments in the park. Despite summer heat, monuments were cleaned, closely examined, re-waxed, and polished, protecting them against weathering and pollution.

A large project to develop detailed, common, condition assessments for all park structures, and a complex transfer of deferred maintenance work orders to a new facility management software system were completed. These projects are the foundation of strategic management for these resources.

AT THE CENTER of an urbanized region, the park is increasingly important as a habitat reserve for plants and animals. The park's 3,500 acres include forests, grasslands, riparian areas, waterways, and wetlands. Each is affected by influences that arise beyond the park's boundaries. A great deal of time and thought are invested in developing and maintaining relationships with other partners to ensure and advocate for resource protection and restoration.



Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint.

—ROBERT FROST

Above, top: Protection of the Exceptional-Value Valley Creek continues as a primary natural resources priority.

Above: An exhibit of the Pleistocene fossils found in a park cave, including some from a saber-toothed tiger, is on display at the Welcome Center.

Right: Public meetings were held and work began on a White-tailed Deer management plan for the park.

2006 Key Accomplishments

It has been a number of years since the park has sponsored a paid internship program for college and graduate students. This year, with funding from the Upper Merion Parks and Historic Foundation and the Schoor Depalma Foundation, a natural resources student internship program was initiated. This model program will be expanded in 2007 to include cultural resources and other park functions. Positions will be shared with partners such as the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove.

Through a grant from the Student Conservation Association, the park and the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove partnered on an important natural resources project, the development of a joint nomination for the park and center as an Important Bird Area.

The park secured federal funding to begin a white-tailed deer management plan/environmental impact statement. The purpose of the plan is to support the long-term protection, preservation, and restoration of native vegetation and other natural and cultural resources in the park. Public interest is high and public scoping meetings were held to establish the breadth of the study. A draft plan with management alternatives for public review will be completed in 2007, and the final plan is targeted for 2008.

Through efficiencies and reallocations of funds, the park was able to fill the natural resources manager position, which had been vacant for three years. Filling this position enabled us to make substantial progress in addressing park priorities including beginning the deer management plan, strengthening relationships with natural resource partners, securing new funding to support the park natural resource mission, and organizing to implement the natural resource actions of the new GMP.

The park worked with the Mid-Atlantic Inventory and Monitoring Network to complete identification, prioritization, and final selection of network and park-level environmental vital signs. The NPS and partners are developing criteria for desired conditions for upland forest and grassland plant communities, in order to facilitate future restoration of these important plant communities.

The park continued to work with municipalities and environmental partners to understand and protect against the potential negative impacts of the proposed widening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

A temporary exhibit highlighting the discovery and excavation of "the Bone Cave," containing over 1,200 Pleistocene-era fossils, was completed and is on display at the Welcome Center until mid-2007.

The park and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission comprise the Valley Creek Trustee Council, charged with overseeing a grant program for the restoration of the creek. The Council awarded its first grant--\$3,000--to the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited to complete a detention basin retrofit. The project was successfully completed in June.

Park staff completed identification of existing water quality monitoring sites within the 24 square-mile Valley Creek watershed, and developed a database to facilitate access by the NPS and partners to monitoring data.



Protecting Visitors and Resources

PARK RANGERS AND other park staff protect visitors every day. In 2006, law enforcement rangers responded to 2,059 incidents, including medical emergencies, criminal acts, motor vehicle crashes, and traffic violations. Rangers continued the work begun in 2005 that integrates park protection activities with those of neighboring municipalities. Park staff also made continued progress in freeing the park's environment of contaminants that are the legacy of years of industrial and agricultural use.



Above: A solution is at hand to remediate 112 acres of asbestos and other toxic wastes, so that the area can be re-opened to the public.

Opposite: The Encampment Store began a very successful bike rental service in the park.

2006 Key Accomplishments

Rangers continued to work collaboratively with the police, fire, and EMS departments of the five townships and two counties in which the park is located. This was the first full year of operation with new mobile radios that use the Montgomery County radio system. Park law enforcement dispatching now is provided through the county emergency management system, at no charge to the park. Benefits include closer cooperation among entities, improved safety for both park staff and visitors, and a savings to the park.

The arson destruction of a soldier's hut was resolved with a conviction of the arsonist and an order for restitution to the park of \$20,000. This case was solved through the cooperation of park rangers, area detectives, the FBI, and the ATF.

To better protect the park's resources and allow fire department personnel quicker access to park buildings, roads and facilities during off hours, Knox Boxes and Locks were installed at three major complexes and on road gates on the south side of the park. This project was completed by the NPS in cooperation with the Upper Merion Township Fire Marshal's office as well as the King of Prussia and Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Departments.

Park rangers now participate in numerous training courses with local police agencies. These courses provide highly valuable skills and ensure that rangers meet their annual training requirements, at a low cost to the park. An additional significant byproduct of these courses is the furthering of relationships with cooperating agencies.

Park rangers spearheaded a task force with local law enforcement agencies which is working on solving an ongoing series of thefts from vehicles in the park. Combined information resulted in suspects being identified and search and arrest warrants being served. These thefts had resulted in losses in excess of \$60,000. Investigations are continuing. The task force included Upper Merion Police Department, Philadelphia Police Department, US Secret Service and Independence National Historical Park.

Park staff removed an abandoned swimming pool from a former residence in a corner of the park adjacent to a residential neighborhood. The pool had filled a natural drainage swale and had acted as a dam, leading to flooding of neighborhood streets. Restoration of the original contours has eliminated the problem.

Three huge steps toward cleanup of the 112-acre Asbestos Release Site in the park were taken this year. The final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was completed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and accepted by NPS. The Site remediation plan was developed by the NPS, and its range of alternatives was presented for public review. A plan was selected, and the Record of Decision was signed early in 2007. This brings to a close a nearly ten-year process from initial discovery of contamination to decision.

Over 400 cubic yards of lead-, arsenic-, and asbestos-contaminated soil was removed from an old farm dump on Covered Bridge Run, a tributary of Valley Creek. Testing was completed to determine the extent of contamination in the upper channel for the continued clean-up of the site and the future removal of an additional 750 cubic yards of contamination in FY07.

Ten cubic yards of asbestos-contaminated soil, and a large amount of dumped solid waste were removed from an old quarry located near the Pennsylvania Turnpike, also close to Valley Creek.

Contaminated by deteriorated lead paint, nine cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil was removed by from the dripline area of Lafayette's Quarters.

In order to protect any personnel who may need to enter the 112-acre asbestos release site in the park, site awareness training was conducted for Law Enforcement Rangers and maintenance employees, as well as emergency response personnel from the local municipal police, fire and ambulance squads surrounding the park.



Implementing a New Business Model

PROGRESS CONTINUED

toward a new management model for the park, in which the role of park staff and the way we accomplish our goals is changing from past practices. Valley Forge has moved away from traditional models in which employees implement all objectives to a model in which each employee adopts the role of facilitator and works through the community to take advantage of abundant available resources such as partners, volunteers, and grants.

Internally, the park continued to sharpen its pencil and look hard at projections and expenditures, resulting in significant savings and more flexibility in meeting the park's mission.

2006 Key Accomplishments

A Business Plan was completed and released, outlining the context for funding, essential investments, and financial strategies.

The park has the authority to charge applicants for the costs of the services it provides. A more comprehensive and effective special use permit program was implemented this year, resulting in a 50% increase in reimbursed costs.

A new housing management plan was drafted. The number of structures used for housing will drop from almost 30 to five, resulting in significant savings and the capacity to use these structures for other purposes.

Several new fee-based interpretive and educational programs were developed and marketed. Charging a fee sustains our ability to offer educational programs and more choices to visitors.

An analysis of the park's core operations was completed. This work, combined with the efficiencies identified through the Business Plan process, helped the park realize savings.

Some highly technical programs were outsourced to organizations that specialize in them, resulting in better service and freeing up park staff for other tasks.



Right: Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Director Mary Bomar and former Congressman Charles Taylor visit the park for a briefing on the status of the General Management Plan and implementation of the Business Plan.

A GREAT DEAL of investment was made in Valley Forge NHP in 2006 and 2007 is shaping up to be another good year. The multi-year projects of Washington's Headquarters Rehabilitation and Inner Line Drive tour road improvements are scheduled to continue into 2007. Additionally, the park has secured funding to begin much needed renovations of the Welcome Center and Administration Complex.

In addition to investments in the park over the next year, Valley Forge NHP is working on key planning issues that will influence the future of the park.

Capital Construction - \$7,051,000

Washington's Headquarters Area Rehabilitation, Phase II

Includes reconfiguration of circulation and parking, renovation of the historic train station, multimedia presentation highlighting Washington's leadership, interpretive signage in the landscape, major infrastructure improvements and restoration of the historic landscape. **\$4.6 million**

Inner Line Drive Tour Road Improvements

Federal Lands Highway funding is serving to completely rehabilitate this internal tour road. This includes restoration of historic features such as hand-laid stone gutters, culverts, and trail features as well as removal of unnecessary parking lots coupled with restoration of the landscape. This is the first project of a multi-year funding opportunity. **\$2.2 million**

Welcome Center Roof and HVAC Replacement

Funding will provide replacement of the 1970s roof and heating and cooling system as well as repairs to brickwork. **\$300,000**

Administration Building Roof and HVAC Replacement

Funding provided will replace roof and original HVAC system that date to building construction in the late 1960s. **\$451,000**

Knox's Quarters Stabilization

Project will replace main structural support beam in this encampment-period building. Funding is being provided by both the NPS and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **\$500,000**



Visitor Experience - \$225,000

Virtual tour interactive DVD will be offered as a sales item in The Encampment Store. (Funds provided by park partners.) **\$35,000**

Continuation of the cell phone tour and production of new comprehensive, user friendly trail map of the park. (Funds provided through grant from Unilever.) **\$40,000**

Development of a new CD audio tour of the park, replacing the 25-year-old version. (Funded by The Encampment Store.) **\$25,000**

PECO grant secured to produce three podcast products for the park including a downloadable tour of the Washington's Headquarters area and two tours for school groups—one for elementary groups and one for secondary groups. **\$20,000**

Third annual Teachers' Institute will be held the week of July 16-20, 2007. Week-long continuing education credit course for area classroom teachers featuring sessions with well known scholars and educators, helping teachers to use local history sites and collections in their classrooms. Teachers are provided with both a stipend and ACT 48 credits. Grant funded through NPS.

Partnership with Once Upon a Nation to provide both trolley tours and storytelling benches for summer season. (Funding provided by Lenfest Foundation, Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau and The Encampment Store.) **\$75,000**

Major Planning Documents

Final General Management Plan

This once-in-a-generation planning effort defines the future for the park. Public meetings were held on February 21-22. Record of Decision will be signed by summer 2007.

Asbestos Site Remediation

The 10-year effort to resolve hazardous materials contamination on 112 acres at the center of the park was brought to conclusion in late December 2006. The NPS and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are now in legal negotiations on costs for remediation. The NPS is the lead agency for the resulting clean up effort.

Deer Management Plan

Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement are in process. First public meetings were held in November 2006. Development of alternatives for management and second set of public meetings will occur in 2007.

Above Construction crews begin the rehabilitation of the landscape around Washington's Headquarters

Connecting with Communities

VALLEY FORGE NHP has made great strides this past year in furthering our mission of connecting with the communities and counties in which the park resides. This is expressed in a more than 30% increase in volunteerism, development of educational programming, and our on-going work with a variety of state, local and Federal agencies to resolve the many regional transportation issues. We are even making great physical connections through our integration of trails with the various county trail networks.



Above: The Betzwood boat ramp is a favorite gateway to the Schuylkill River.

Below: Visitors utilize the trails throughout the park year round.

WITH THE NEW General Management Plan, Business Plan, and Core Operations Analysis complete, the park continued this year to move toward more choices for visitors and employees, flexibility in funding and staffing, and actions that support achieving our desired future conditions. The park is becoming a life-long classroom of the American Revolution, a healthy regional bio-refuge, an effective manager of our catalog of historic structures, and a site supported by the ongoing efforts of an engaged and committed group of citizen stewards.



New and expanded programs have created more choices for visitors.



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