



FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL
BATTLEFIELD

A Resource Assessment

june 2004



NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

STATE
OF THE
PARKS®

THE FORT NECESSITY ASSESSMENT

1
Fort Necessity National Battlefield



Schoolchildren learn about the French and Indian War from an interpreter dressed as a soldier.

In 1754, numerous American Indian tribes joined French and British troops (including colonists) in the battle to control the Ohio River valley in the French and Indian War—called the Seven Years' War in Europe. Historians assert that this war led to the American Revolution and thus was the beginning of America's path to independence. In the area of Fort Necessity, a 22-year-old George Washington led his troops against the French and their Indian allies in the first battles of the French and Indian War. Washington was forced to surrender. The only time in his public

life that he did so was at this site.

Established as a national battlefield in 1931, Fort Necessity commemorates this battle and educates nearly 90,000 visitors each year about the war's critical significance to the country's heritage. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, this 900-acre park is composed of three sections. The main site includes a visitor center, the reconstructed Fort Necessity, and the Mount Washington Tavern. The tavern, built on land once owned by George Washington, provided food and lodging for travelers on the National Road, the first

highway built entirely with federal funds. Jumonville Glen marks the place where the first shots were fired in the 1754 Fort Necessity campaign, and the Braddock Grave section of the park is where British Major General Braddock was buried after his failed attempt to take the French Fort Duquesne.

In the summer of 2004, Fort Necessity National Battlefield will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the start of the French and Indian War. In honor of this milestone, the National Parks Conservation Association's State of the Parks program conducted an assessment to determine the condition of the park's cultural resources and staff's capacities to protect those resources (stewardship capacity). Fort Necessity's natural resources were also considered in this assessment, but their condition was not rated.

The current overall condition of cultural resources at Fort Necessity rates a "poor" score of 56 out of 100. The park's ability to care for its resources, also known as its stewardship capacity, also rates a "poor" score of 44 out of 100, due primarily to critical and chronic operational funding shortfalls. Because the State of the Parks methodology strictly assesses current conditions, the overall rating does not reflect a significant investment of \$12 million to build a new visitor center and state-of-the-art exhibits, due to be completed in mid-2005.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

ETHNOGRAPHY (PEOPLES AND CULTURES)—INCREASED AMERICAN INDIAN PARTICIPATION NEEDED

SCORE: POOR, 36 OUT OF 100

Fort Necessity's staff focus their efforts on interpretation of the French and Indian War. This interpretation includes the 12 groups of Native peoples who were allied with French and British troops. The Huron, Abenaki, Nipissing, Algon-

quin, Shawnee, and Ottawa were generally allied with the French, while the Delaware, Seneca, Mohawk, Onondaga, Tuscarora, Oneida, and Cuyahoga often fought on the side of the British. These tribes are from present day New York, New England, and Canada. Park staff contacted these Native groups to solicit contributions to an education packet that will be used to create exhibits at the new visitor center (Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretive and Education Center) currently under construction. The new exhibits will incorporate an interpretation of Fort Necessity that includes tribal perspectives.

Building relationships with traditionally associated groups helps park staff better manage the resources they are bound to protect and aids in development of interpretive programs, and such collaboration is required by National Park Service standards. However, few park units have the resources to carry out this policy. Fort Necessity is fortunate to have a part-time American Indian specialist to help interpret Indian involvement in the French and Indian War. To meet Park Service ethnography standards, this position should become full-time and permanent.

The park needs to conduct a traditional affiliation study and an ethnographic overview and assessment to help identify traditionally associated groups that want to work with the park. The park's 1994 Resource Management Plan calls for such studies to "identify and document site-associated groups (and contemporary descendants of these groups) and their relationships to the park's cultural and natural resources," but limited funds prevent action.

The park's strong commitment to cultivate partnerships with outside organizations and universities has yielded a few ethnographic projects. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) and local universities are partnering with the park to accomplish several traditional use studies, including an examination of the role that the Washington Tavern and the entire National Road might have played in the Underground Railroad.

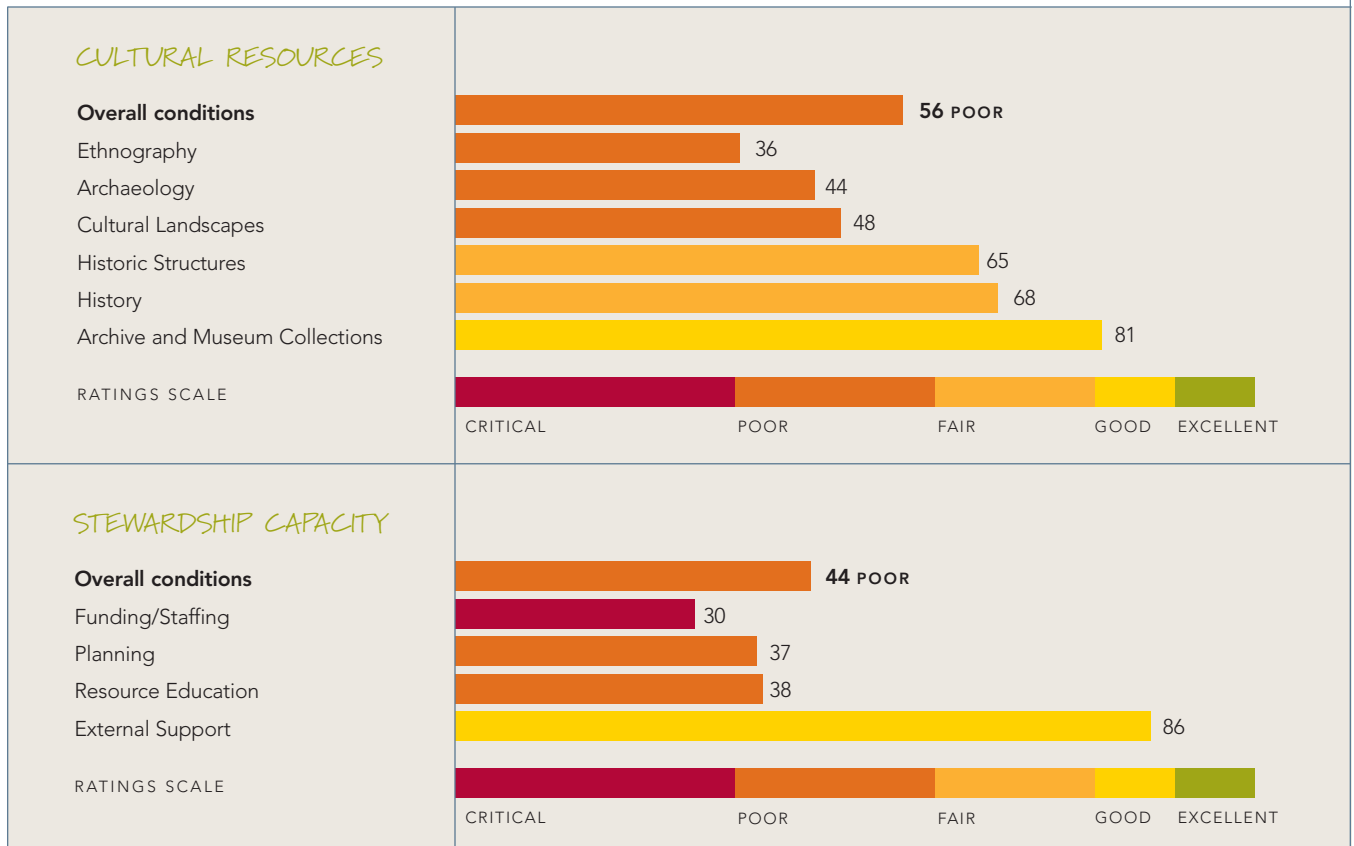
A scholar at the McNeill Center of the University of Pennsylvania is studying American Indian associations with the Fort Necessity region, and five years ago, the park began an internship program in conjunction with West Virginia University to bring American Indian interns to the park.

For the most part, contact with traditionally associated people occurs on a project-by-project basis, and the park does not have regular communication with any traditional group. The park needs to appoint a staff member as the official liaison between the park and Native groups, and this person should establish regular contact with these associated people.

ARCHAEOLOGY—MORE RESEARCH NEEDED

SCORE: POOR, 44 OUT OF 100

Fort Necessity has eight recorded archaeological sites that help contribute to the understanding of the French and Indian War and the National Road. Possible pre-historic sites have not been identified, but there is reason to believe that a pre-historic village may have existed near the site of the Civilian Conservation Corps picnic area. In the past ten years, in addition to the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 compliance work, surveys have been completed at the Mount Washington Tavern, Jumonville Glen, the



The State of the Parks assessment methodology and other State of the Park reports can be found at <http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/> or contact the State of the Parks program at 970.493.2545

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Congress and the administration must provide the park with a \$500,000 increase in base funding needed to carry out routine maintenance and rehabilitation and to hire a preservation specialist with technical skills. In addition, Congress and the administration must provide a \$495,000 increase in base funding to staff and maintain the park's new visitor center by the time it is completed in mid-2005.
- The American Indian specialist (or park guide) position at Fort Necessity should be turned into a permanent full-time position, and one person should be responsible for developing regular communication and long-term relationships with each associated tribe.
- Congress and the administration should increase funds so park staff can complete cultural landscape inventories and reports for the undocumented landscapes and restore the Great Meadows to its historic state through an ecosystem-wide planning process.
- Congress and the administration should increase funds to support the park's archaeology program.

Funds are needed to complete an archaeological overview and assessment, add sites into the National Park Service archaeological database, determine the condition of all the identified sites, and complete a long-term plan to document and nominate all sites to the National Register of Historic Places. Park staff should investigate possible adverse effects of park development on archaeological sites before plans are complete and approved.

- The park needs to develop a new comprehensive interpretive plan and a statement that outlines an updated list of themes and objectives for park interpretation. The planning process may influence final design of exhibits at the new visitor center to reflect new interpretation strategies.
- Fort Necessity National Battlefield should hire a part- or full-time historian to complete original research about topics relating to the park unit and to consult with staff engaged in developing interpretive programs. An administrative history of the park is also needed.
- Congress and the administration should provide funding for the park to complete rehabilitation work on the historic Mount Washington Tavern's interior, implement the 2004 historic furnishings plan, and replace HVAC units.
- The Park Service should conduct a business plan assessment so the park and the public can better understand funding needs, priorities, and levels of service.



The park's American Indian Specialist teaches a school group about Eastern Woodland Indian cultures and their roles in the French and Indian War.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES— AGGRESSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEEDED

SCORE: POOR, 48 OUT OF 100

The park has five identified cultural landscapes: Great Meadows, the National Road, Mount Washington Tavern, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Picnic Area, and Braddock Grave. Of these, Great Meadows receives the most time and attention. In the 1930s, the CCC played a major role in developing the historic site for visitation. A Cultural Landscapes Inventory completed for the CCC Picnic Area in 2004 found the landscape in fair condition, and provided recommendations for stabilization of the site. Conditions of the other landscapes are unknown. The park's 1994 Resource Management Plan identified the need for a baseline study to determine the condition of Fort Necessity's landscapes, but the park has not conducted even the most basic inventory work on the unevaluated landscapes due to staffing and funding constraints. All five of the battlefield's landscapes are probably eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and documentation should be updated to meet nomination standards.

Great Meadows, the place where the battle of Fort Necessity was fought, is the park's most actively managed landscape. At the time of the battle, the landscape was dominantly marshland. Today, non-native species, particularly honeysuckle, are changing the landscape by crowding out trees and opening up the meadow.

Great progress toward the restoration of Great Meadows is underway. Last year, staff eradicated honeysuckle from 20 acres of parkland and scheduled an archaeological survey by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to determine if artifacts are present. With help from the National Park Service's regional office, the park now has a stream survey and a pollen sample study to help determine the historic tree line. Other successes include a recently completed natural resource program review for the park and regular vegetation monitoring.

Despite this progress, cultural landscapes at Fort Necessity rated poorly with a score of 48. Additional funds are needed to restore the historic tree line, continue to address non-native invasive plants, determine the condition of all identified landscapes, and implement a plan to monitor and protect these landscapes.

Great Meadows, and Braddock Grave. The Hansel (Ink's) Tavern, the Rankin (Rue England) Tavern, Jumonville Glen, and Braddock Grave are in poor or unknown condition. The Great Meadows has had the most archaeological work completed to date.

The park does not have any sites listed in the NPS national archaeology database, though at least one site was supposed to have been added in 2003, according to the park's goals. This goal could have been achieved if the NPS Northeast Regional Office had enough staff to do the work. Consequently, no official condition information has been established for the park's archaeological sites. The park's goals also included the pursuit of funding to complete an archaeological overview and assessment. This baseline study began in 1994, but was never completed.

Staff are unable to meet archaeological goals due to a lack of funding and staff expertise. Because there is not an archaeologist on staff, the park works with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Cultural Heritage Research Services, and other consultants on archaeological investigations and compliance. Archaeologists from the NPS Northeast Regional Office are also available to assist the park. Compliance studies have been completed for the new visitor center and proposed road construction. However, the park lacks funding to implement a long-term plan for filling gaps in baseline data or documenting resources for the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 106 compliance, required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, was designed to be a planning tool, but too often it becomes a reactive response to development plans that have already been approved, as is the case in this park. Thus, the most startling threat to archaeological resource at Fort Necessity is park development, including roads, buildings, and parking lots.

Overall, park staff and guests understand the history and significance behind archaeological sites and artifacts in the park. An exhibit of J.C.

Harrington's archaeological work at the fort site in the Great Meadows is on display in the visitor center. Harrington's work uncovered the foundation and posts of the original fort and helped inform the plans for the reconstruction. The reconstruction of Fort Necessity is central to the interpretation of the battle, and the park does a good job of explaining how archaeology and history contribute. The new visitor center will provide additional exhibit space in which to interpret these themes. New exhibits are being developed to enhance the theme of archaeology.

More research needs to be done to evaluate archaeological resources and assess conditions and threats. This research should lead to National Register of Historic Places documentation and nominations and an archaeological overview and assessment. Currently, archaeological data for Fort Necessity is not listed in the Park Service's national database. Park planning and decision-making processes often take archaeological sites into account after plans have already been sealed, forgetting the spirit of Section 106 compliance in the process.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES— \$3.2 MILLION IN DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

SCORE: FAIR, 65 OUT OF 100

Fort Necessity staff manage 30 historic structures that are listed in the Park Service official List of Classified Structures (LCS). Visitor favorites include the reconstructed Fort Necessity stockade and storehouse and the Mount Washington Tavern. Among the other historic structures are monuments, remnants of historic roads, and picnic shelters constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. According to the LCS, 57 percent of structures are in good condition, 33 percent are in fair condition, and 10 percent are in poor condition. The overall assessment of historic structures also uncovered a significant maintenance backlog and a lack of technical staff to



This reconstruction of the fort is critical to interpretation of the history of Fort Necessity.

complete necessary work.

There is insufficient base funding to maintain historic structures, so maintenance has been deferred over the years. Today, Fort Necessity's deferred maintenance costs are \$3.2 million and climbing. Because of these funding constraints, extra projects such as painting a building or replacing a roof cannot be completed. Thus, there is little being done to improve or further assess historic structures. Even basic tasks such as keeping buildings clean are difficult to achieve. A historic architect and other preservation expertise are available at the Park Service regional office, but without funding for rehabilitation projects, these people are rarely consulted. Two park employees have received preservation training, but Fort Necessity needs another preservation specialist.

Base funding at the park has eroded over the past several years, and the park has been supported through funds from Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Without an increase in base funding to carry out routine maintenance and rehabilitation, the historic structures in the park will further deteriorate from the effects of

the elements, visitor traffic, and encroaching development.

HISTORY—A HISTORIC SITE WITHOUT A HISTORIAN?

SCORE: FAIR, 68 OUT OF 100

The park rated 68 out of 100, a score of fair because more research is needed to expand staff and visitor understanding of the historic battlefield and surrounding areas.

Much historical work has been done at Fort Necessity, yet there is more to do. The themes that the Park Service focuses on at the historic battlefield are: a youthful George Washington; the French and Indian War; the battle of Fort Necessity; and the National Road. A comprehensive interpretive plan, completed in 1994, is outdated and no longer used. A new plan and a statement for interpretation that outlines a revisited list of themes and objectives for park interpretation would enhance the park's already good resource education program. Interpretive exhibits have been neglected in the past, though the scholarship surrounding the battle of Fort Necessity continues to evolve.

Further studies about the American Indians associated with the battle of Fort Necessity would enrich the park's current interpretive programs. This research began through a local scholar's work on a history of American Indians in the southwestern region of Pennsylvania. The scope of the project, however, does not specifically deal with the French and Indian War. The park's education materials incorporate American Indian groups, but there is much more the park staff could do given more time and resources.

The National Road, now U.S. Route 40, was the first highway built entirely with federal funds. This closely paralleled George Washington and General Braddock's military road and opened in 1754-55. The National Road is significant in that it opened the Ohio River Valley and the Midwest for settlement and economic development.

Fifteen years after the battle of Fort Necessity, George Washington purchased land along the National Road, which he owned until his death in 1799. Taverns were located about one mile apart along the National Road, including the Mount Washington Tavern, built in 1828 and named after George Washington. The Mount Washington Tavern, part of the historic battlefield site, was an upper class establishment and did not serve the majority of the road's travelers. Additional research on the National Road and all of its travelers would enhance the park's interpretation at the tavern.

A study of the Underground Railroad is currently underway. In addition, the park needs a comprehensive administrative history to supplement the work done in 1987.

As the score indicates, the park has done a fair job managing its history even though the park does not have a historian on staff. To improve stewardship, the park needs at least a part-time historian to conduct original research, consult with others in the park who may be engaged in interpretive research, and maximize existing partnerships with French and Indian War scholars.

ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS—AN EXAMPLE OF IDEAL STEWARDSHIP

SCORE: GOOD, 81 OUT OF 100

Fort Necessity provides excellent stewardship of its archival and museum collections. Documents detailing George Washington's early land holdings, the French and Indian War, and the National Road are well cared for, as are historic furnishings associated with the French and Indian War.

The park has a full-time curator who has worked on-site for more than 20 years, and along with other staff members, she has cataloged all of the park's 3,600 archival and museum objects. No other park that has been assessed by the State of the Parks program possesses fully cataloged collections.

A fully processed collection means that staff know what they have, can make use of it, and can more easily monitor its condition, as well as safely offer its use to researchers. In addition, the NPS *Checklist for Preservation and Protection for Museum Collections* shows that the park is meeting 94.7 percent of Park Service standards. The visitor center meets 97.8 percent of standards, Mount Washington Tavern's exhibits meet 95 percent of standards, and the Mount Washington Tavern meets 91.7 percent of standards.

The park's storage facilities properly house museum and archival items, and the new visitor center, currently under construction, will provide 300 square feet for library materials and 895 square feet for artifact storage and curatorial workspace as the collection increases.

The largest threats to the park's museum collections are temperature and humidity control in the Mount Washington Tavern. The tavern's HVAC system was replaced in 1992, but it is still difficult to maintain constant temperature and humidity levels throughout the year. Exhibition can wear on museum objects, so some exhibit display objects such as the original posts from

Fort Necessity have been removed for conservation. Small rodents can also be a problem at the park, but the new visitor center will include storage space, thereby eliminating most of the climate control and rodent problems.

STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

FUNDING AND STAFFING—PARK'S BUDGET INADEQUATE

SCORE: CRITICAL, 30 OUT OF 100

Protection of park resources depends on sufficient funding. Fort Necessity's funding score is the lowest of the 14 parks the State of the Parks program has assessed to date. The park's fiscal year 2004 operating budget of \$1.22 million remains the same as it was in 1994 and supports the 23 full-time staff and the materials required to maintain the park. However, this budget does not support the 58 unfunded park projects that total about \$2.8 million, some of which are included in the park's \$3.2 million maintenance backlog. The park needs a \$500,000 addition to its annual budget to begin to address this backlog



FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

MORE THAN 65 PERCENT OF FORT NECESSITY'S MUSEUM OBJECTS ARE IN GOOD OR EXCELLENT CONDITION.

PLANNING—SOME PLANS NEED UPDATING

SCORE: POOR, 37 OUT OF 100

Although funding for planning is meager, the park is conducting important planning efforts for wildfire management and invasive plants. The park is also planning a boundary study that will examine whether all pieces of the historical story are included in the park, and will address how to ameliorate threats to the park's viewshed due to increasing development on adjacent lands. A historical furnishings plan for Mount Washington Tavern was completed in early 2004, but there are no funds to implement the plan.

Like many parks, however, the two principal management documents—the General Management Plan (GMO) and the Resource Management Plan (RMP)—are outdated. The GMP was written more than 13 years ago, and many of the recommendations from the 1994 RMP have already been implemented.

The park also needs a native animal plan to deal with the issue of over-abundant white-tailed deer and woodchucks. These animals alter the vegetation and thus the historical scene.

Given the changes made to the stream in the Great Meadows, problems with native and non-native invasive species, and development adjacent to the park's boundaries, the Park Service should find funding for a plan that takes an ecosystem view to address the natural resource changes that are transforming the park's landscapes.

and to perform routine maintenance activities.

Most important for resource protection are projects to rehabilitate the Mount Washington Tavern, implement a plan to address vegetation issues, including invasive species and cultural landscape restoration at Great Meadows, and complete the study for trail construction along the historic Braddock Road. Other needs not previously addressed in this report include repairs to some trails, monuments, fort storehouse, picnic area, and Conestoga Wagon shed, replacement of outdated park publications, and development of school curriculum for park exhibits.

Currently, the likelihood of these projects being financed appears remote. Staff are now being asked to reduce levels of service by only addressing maintenance needs with materials that are currently on-hand, reducing days and hours of some operations and support facilities, not replacing some staff, and eliminating summer seasonal employees. Thus, the maintenance backlog will likely grow, and visitors to the park will experience declining levels of service.

RESOURCE EDUCATION—FUNDS NEEDED TO SUPPORT NEW VISITOR CENTER

SCORE: POOR, 38 OUT OF 100

Part of the reason for the park's relatively low score for resource education is its current visitor center which, along with its exhibits and audio-visual program, is very dated. Since this score represents current conditions, a low score results. However, this score will be greatly improved in future assessments as construction for a new visitor and interpretive center is underway. The park has helped to raise \$12 million through an innovative partnership to build the new center complete with exhibits, an education room, film, and education kits.

Only four interpretive rangers are present at the park. Two are permanent, while the other two are subject to six-month furlough. In 2003, these



rangers answered questions and provided programming to the park's nearly 96,000 visitors. Interpretive rangers made more than 86,000 personal contacts through the visitor center and contact station, formal programs, and special events. More than 41,000 people came to the visitor center or the park's contact station in 2003. Nearly 900 additional contacts were made through the 20 community programs offered. Noteworthy, too, is the park's award-winning curriculum, "A World on Fire," designed to maximize children's experiences at the park.

Concern remains that, due to budget limitations, sections of the park and the Mount Washington Tavern are not always open when the public is present. The park must cover increased costs with a static operating budget this year, and so has no paid seasonal staff to manage the existing center and present public programs. This situation may become worse as the Park Service has prioritized the park's request of \$495,000 to staff and maintain the new visitor center for the fiscal year 2006 budget cycle. The new visitor center is scheduled for completion in mid-2005. Because funding is not certain, the park should develop alternative and creative ways to staff the center, such as an innovative volunteer program. Supplies for the center may remain tight.

Other resource education needs are an updated interpretive plan to chart the future course of this program and an education specialist to seek funding for development of an education plan.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT—AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF PARTNERSHIPS

SCORE: GOOD, 86 OUT OF 100

Augmenting a park's capacity to care for its resources are the many forms of support a park receives from those outside the Park Service. More than 300 volunteers, for example, contributed about 7,300 hours of service to the park in 2003. The park has an excellent support base



A new visitor center is under construction in a partnership with the Pennsylvania States Heritage Parks Program. It will replace the current outdated center and feature an exemplary interpretive facility for park visitors.

regionally and statewide.

A noteworthy partnership developed in the park's recognition of its outdated visitor center facilities. In 1994, the Park Service and the Pennsylvania State Heritage Parks Program joined in a federal, state, and private sector partnership to advance the complementary missions of two of their respective sites. The vision of the partnership was to develop a state-of-the-art Visitor and Interpretive Center for Fort Necessity (a unit of the National Park System) and the National Road (a Pennsylvania State Heritage Park). The goals and plans for Fort Necessity and the National Road are complementary, compatible, and mutually beneficial. The new Visitor and Interpretive Center is designed to provide a more efficient and cost effective means to chronicle related histories, serve visitors, protect resources, enhance compatible economic development, and encourage new and repeat visitation to southwest Pennsylvania.

The park developed a major outreach program to secure support and funding for facilities and programs over the last five years. Nearly \$3 million in private funding, \$4.5 million in state funding, and \$4 million in federal funds were

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Park Service staff have initiated formation of a Friends group for Fort Necessity National Battlefield. To become a member, write to: Superintendent, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, 1 Washington Parkway, Farmington, Pennsylvania, 15437. Include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.
- Support of become a member of groups helping to protect the park, such as the National Road Heritage Corridor (www.nationalroadpa.org), NPCA (www.npca.org/support_npca), and other regional organizations.
- Volunteer in the parks. Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Fort Necessity, contact the park at 724.329.5511.

secured for the construction of the new visitor center, development of new state-of-the-art exhibits, and the development of a new curriculum-based education kit.

The park also developed a unique partnership with a private sector donor and the local children's museum to design and construct the first interpretive playground in the National Park System, to be located at the new visitor center.

The park was instrumental in helping to create and support the French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Consortium. Fort Necessity National Battlefield is the only Park System site specifically dedicated to commemorating the French and Indian War. For many years, the park has been collaborating with partners in southwest Pennsylvania, including the French and Indian 250th Inc., Fort Ligonier, Fort Pitt, and Bushy Run Battlefield, among others, to plan local and regional events to commemorate the 250th anniversary. Along with these partners, the park has taken a number of additional steps to expand public awareness efforts such as working with

Congressional offices to secure support for a national commemoration, and with governors to recognize the importance of this event and gain state funding for educational programs and tourism marketing.

Towards those ends, the park helped to create a French and Indian War Commemoration National Advisory Council to be co-chaired by Michele Ridge, former First Lady of Pennsylvania, and another co-chair to be announced soon; establish a National Education Advisory Board for educational initiatives; and assist with numerous other events in commemoration of the French and Indian War, including 77 events in 11 states from 2004 through 2009.

Advocacy support for the park exists but must be expanded to protect the park from future external threats and pro-actively advocate on its behalf. In 2002, a Hollywood developer sought to buy land adjacent to the historic Great Meadows and turn it into a movie lot and stage. NPCA successfully led a coalition of regional and statewide park friends to derail the proposal, which was ultimately withdrawn after concerned residents made hundreds of letters and phone calls to key decision makers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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For more information about the State of the Parks® Program and this and other program reports, contact:

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FORT NECESSITY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

STATE OF THE PARKS®

On average, less than 10 percent of the National Park Service's annual budget is earmarked for management of cultural resources and just 20 percent is targeted for natural resources. In most years, only about 7 percent of permanent park employees work in jobs directly related to preservation of park resources.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks® Program in 2000 to assess the condition of cultural and natural resources in national parks, forecast future conditions of those resources, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks. The goal is to provide information that will help policy-makers and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks and ensure a lasting natural, historical, and cultural legacy for future generations.

State of the Parks® cultural resource assess-

ment methodology is based on National Park Service cultural resource management guideline standards. For information about the methodology, other reports in this series, and the State of the Parks® Program, contact National Parks Conservation Association, State of the Parks® Program, P.O. Box 737, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Phone: 970-493-2545; Fax: 970-493-9164; E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

The National Parks Conservation Association, established in 1919, is this country's only private, nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System for present and future generations by identifying problems and generating support to resolve them.

- * Nearly 300,000 members
- * 7 regional offices
- * 35,000 activists

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