

STATE
OF THE
PARKS®

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LONGFELLOW NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



A Resource Assessment

National Parks Conservation Association



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STATE OF THE PARKS® Program

More than a century ago, Congress established Yellowstone as the world's first national park. That single act was the beginning of a remarkable and ongoing effort to protect this nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage.

Today, Americans are learning that national park designation alone cannot provide full resource protection. Many parks are compromised by development of adjacent lands, air and water pollution, invasive plants and animals, and rapid increases in motorized recreation. Park officials often lack adequate information on the status of and trends in conditions of critical resources. Only 10 percent of the National Park Service's (NPS) budget is earmarked for natural resources management, and less than 6 percent is targeted for cultural resources management. In most years, only about 7 percent of permanent park employees work in jobs directly related to park resource preservation. One consequence of the funding challenges: two-thirds of historic structures across the National Park System are in serious need of repair and maintenance.

The National Parks Conservation Association initiated the State of the Parks® program in 2000 to assess the condition of natural and cultural resources in the parks, and determine how well equipped the National Park Service is to protect the parks—its stewardship capacity. The goal is to provide information that will help policy-makers, the public, and the National Park Service improve conditions in national parks, celebrate successes as models for other parks, and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.

For more information about the methodology and research used in preparing this report and to learn more about the State of the Parks® program, visit www.npca.org/stateoftheparks or contact: NPCA, State of the Parks®, 230 Cherry Street, Ste. 100, Fort Collins, CO 80521; Phone: 970.493.2545; E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org.

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice of the American people in the fight to safeguard our National Park System. NPCA and its 300,000 members and hundreds of partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come.

- * Nearly 300,000 members
- * 8 regional offices, and 6 field offices
- * 42,000 activists



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REPORT SUMMARY



“He who undertaketh a great house undertaketh a great care!”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow recorded these prophetic words in his journal shortly after becoming owner of his “great house” in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The year was 1844, and Longfellow was enjoying some success as an up-and-coming poet and professor of modern languages at nearby Harvard College. He

had recently married Fanny Appleton, and one of their wedding gifts was “Castle Craigie”—a gracious home that had already witnessed more than its share of history.

The Longfellows were well-acquainted with the celebrated role of their house in the American Revolution. The Georgian-style mansion, built in 1759 for loyalist John Vassall, became home and headquarters to George Washington during the famous Siege of Boston

The Longfellow house, pictured here in a photo from the 1860s, is an outstanding example of mid-Georgian architecture, so famous that it has been replicated in many parts of the country as an American and historic icon.

The gardens, which were enjoyed by generations of the Longfellow family and continue to be appreciated by visitors today, require much work to maintain. The park needs funds to hire two full-time gardeners.

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in 1775-76. This was the scene of tremendous activity as Washington welcomed wife Martha, received a host of dignitaries and fellow patriots, plotted strategy with his generals, and eventually celebrated the evacuation of the British army. Decisions and alliances made there would ultimately lead to America's freedom from Great Britain and the beginnings of the new nation.

Andrew Craigie, the nation's first Apothecary General, purchased the house a decade after the war ended and increased its size and splendor. His widow eventually took in boarders, one of whom was Henry Longfellow. He delighted in "Castle Craigie" with its history and beauty and entertained friends such as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"How noble an inheritance this is," wrote Fanny Longfellow, "where Washington dwelt in every room." Having been presented with the gift of "Castle Craigie," the Longfellows were eager to fill it with treasures to remind them of their travels and interests in art, literature, and history. The couple had six children, and their home became a welcoming place for family and friends along with writers, artists, and politicians from around the world. Inspired by this stimulating environment, Longfellow produced most of his esteemed poetry and scholarly translations.

After Longfellow's death in 1882, his children and extended family preserved the house with its gardens and furnishings as a memorial to the

poet and to Washington before eventually donating it to the National Park Service in 1972.

Longfellow National Historic Site manages and interprets the home today and welcomes visitors to explore the legacy of its occupants through its stories, collections, architecture, and gardens. The park is open to the general public for guided tours only four months of the year, from June through September. As funding and staffing permit, the park offers education programs in the spring, and occasional special events from October through May.

RATINGS

The current overall condition of **cultural resources** at Longfellow National Historic Site rated a "fair" score of 72 out of 100. The park has exceptional museum collections and archives important to America's heritage, but does not have funding for a curator who might give these treasures the full-time care they deserve and move the park forward as a center for research and scholarship. Substantial investments in its resources have benefited the park in recent years, but there are not enough maintenance staff to protect and preserve what has been accomplished. The park also has a rich history and story to tell, but does not have sufficient interpretive and education staff to fully bring this story to life for visitors year-round, reach a broad audience of school children, or build the range of partnerships that could help the park realize its potential as a place for learning and creativity.

The park's ability to care for its resources, also known as its **stewardship capacity**, rated a "fair" score of 74 out of 100. Funding and staffing shortfalls are the most serious challenges to resource stewardship. Fortunately, the park benefits from a broad network of volunteers, a strong friends group, and other supporters who help provide needed services and financial assistance. Their support enables the park to provide visitor services and complete projects that would not otherwise be possible.

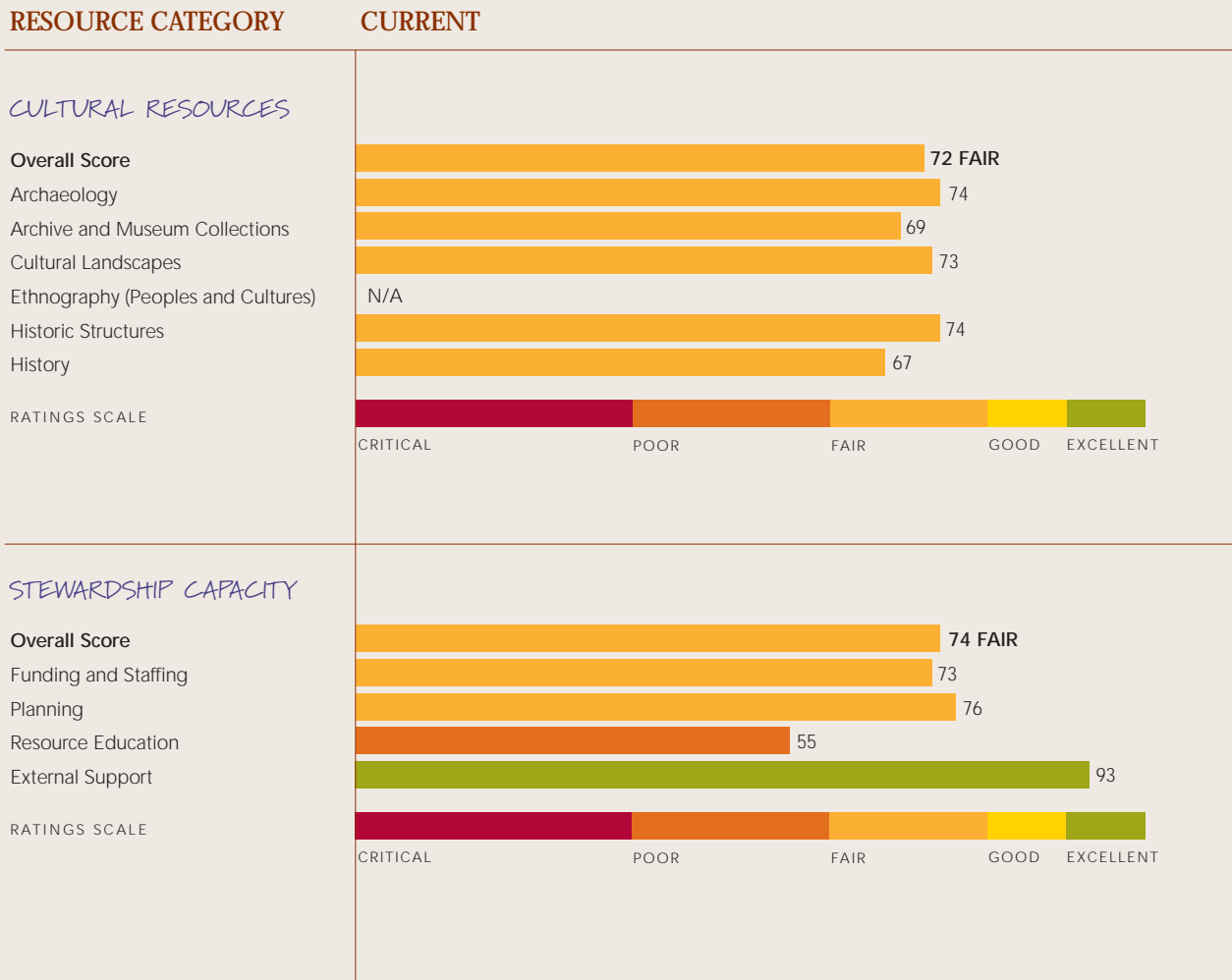
THE HISTORY OF THE VASSALL-CRAIGIE-LONGFELLOW HOUSE

- 1759** The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House is built in the Georgian style for John Vassall, a wealthy loyalist, and his family.
- 1775** Vassall abandons the house on the eve of the American Revolution, and General George Washington occupies it as a home and military headquarters for nine months during the Siege of Boston.
- 1791** Andrew Craigie, Apothecary General during the Revolutionary War, lives at "Castle Craigie" with his wife Elizabeth until his death in 1819, gradually increasing its size and grandeur.
- 1819** Elizabeth Craigie continues to make "Castle Craigie" her home and begins taking in boarders, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1837.
- 1843** Following his marriage to Fanny Appleton, Longfellow receives "Castle Craigie" as a wedding gift from his father-in-law. Six children are born to the couple, and Longfellow produces many of his most famous poems and translations here during the remaining years of his life. The house also becomes a gathering place for famous artists, writers, politicians, and other luminaries attracted to Longfellow's hospitality and fame as a poet of world renown.
- 1882** Longfellow dies and his children continue to care for the family home. Daughter Alice Longfellow, a founder of Radcliffe College, occupies the house until her death in 1928. She commissions two of America's first female landscape architects, Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Biddle Shipman, to redesign the formal garden in the Colonial Revival style.
- 1913** Longfellow House Trust is established by the surviving children to preserve the property as a memorial to Longfellow and Washington and as a prime example of Georgian architecture.
- 1972** The Trust donates the property to the National Park Service. Longfellow National Historic Site is established and the house is open to the public.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ca. 1860

LONGFELLOW NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ASSESSMENT RATINGS



The findings in this report do not necessarily reflect past or current park management. Many factors that affect resource conditions are a result of both human and natural influences over long periods of time, in many cases before a park was established. The intent of the State of the Parks® program is to document the current status of park resources and determine which actions can be taken to protect them into the future.

KEY FINDINGS

- Recent federal capital investments have significantly improved the condition of the Longfellow historic buildings and collections. Private support has helped provide a margin of excellence at the park, including restoring the historic grounds. Critical needs remain, but the preservation base line is far better than it was a decade ago.
- Although individual projects have received funding, the park's operating budget has not kept pace with rising costs. This has presented short-term challenges and serious long-term implications for resource preservation and visitor access.
- Funding shortfalls prevent Longfellow National Historic Site from filling key staff vacancies, particularly in maintenance and curatorial personnel. Funds to hire a curator for the park's extensive collections have been lacking since 2003, and two maintenance positions have been lost. Over time, reduced maintenance (of buildings and grounds) and inadequate care and oversight (of the world-class collections) will threaten to erase the important gains that have been made.
- Tight funding margins have also restricted the park's ability to build the very partnerships that would sustain and expand its education and interpretive programs. Such cost-effective outreach is critical to maintaining the park's vital connections with its audience and with the private sector and potential donors.
- Perhaps the most serious consequence of funding and staffing shortfalls is that the park is far less available to the general public than it was a decade ago. From 1972 to 1994, the park was open seven days each week throughout the year. Starting in 1994, funding constraints caused a gradual decline in the site's visitor season. Today, the site is open only five days each week (Wednesday through Sunday) from June through September. The park's website helps increase access by offering a virtual tour, but where so much beauty and history is available, there is no substitute for access to the real thing.



As a result of budget shortfalls, Longfellow National Historic Site has lost two maintenance positions. Funds are needed to replace these positions so that important maintenance work like repairing peeling paint can be completed.



THE LONGFELLOW ASSESSMENT



The library served a variety of functions over the years. It was Washington's staff room, Craigie's grand ballroom, and the Longfellow family's library and music room.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

ARCHIVAL AND MUSEUM
COLLECTIONS—PARK IS HOME TO
HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS

SCORE: 69, FAIR

Longfellow National Historic Site is a treasure trove of archival and museum collections dating from the late-17th to mid-20th centuries. In

1972, the Longfellow family donated the house to the Park Service with all its fine and decorative arts, furniture, library, and family papers. Most of the original furnishings from 1843-1928 remain and include a high level of written and visual documentation.

On exhibit or in storage are 35,000 items of historic furnishing and decorative arts, including vernacular to high-style furniture, family silver, ceramics and glass, elegant lighting fixtures,

and wallpapers; a fine-arts collection of 2,000 pieces representing important painters and sculptors such as Gilbert Stuart, Albert Bierstadt, and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot; a Longfellow family library collection of 14,000 volumes; more than 700 textile items such as family clothing and Japanese kimonos; an archive of 775,000 items, including original family diaries and journals, letters, and documents representing Washington, Lincoln, and other notables; and 12,000 photographs, including rare 19th-century images of Japan and China.

The Longfellow collections connect visitors to the daily lives and cosmopolitan interests of the house's former occupants. Generations of family witnessed or actively engaged in events such as the American Revolution and the Civil War; social movements such as abolition, women's education and equality, historic preservation, and socialism; and developments in art, literature, and architecture. Henry Longfellow's writings such as *Tales of a Wayside Inn* and *The Courtship of Miles Standish* inspired the memorialization of American colonial history, and his family's furnishings and memorabilia from that period tell of their reverence for the past and the role of the house as Washington's headquarters. Longfellow also introduced the languages, literatures, and cultures of the world to his readers—interests shared by his family and reflected in letters, journals, photographs, and furnishings from America, Europe, and Asia. One of the park's most prized collections includes Japanese ceramics, textiles, and rare photographs of the Ainu people collected by Longfellow's son, Charles, during his travels.

Considerable investments have been made in cataloging, conserving, and making the Longfellow collections more accessible to visitors and researchers. In 2002, the park completed a \$2-million federally funded construction project that included upgrading museum storage, environmental controls, fire protection, and security. In 1998, the Save America's



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Treasures initiative recognized Longfellow House as one of its first nationwide projects, generating close to \$1 million for conservation of the most “at risk” collections. The park has received \$900,000 in project funding to catalog its collections, a project that will be completed by 2010 if funding is sustained. Financial support for collections from private and other public donors has also been generous—most notably from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Fidelity Foundation, and the Friends of the Longfellow House.

Longfellow National Historic Site currently serves 450 researchers annually (196 on-site), and park personnel would like to respond to ris-

The park's museum collection includes many items acquired during the Longfellow family's travels abroad. Longfellow's son, Charles, collected this rare photo of the Ainu people of Japan in 1871.

Some of the park's irreplaceable museum objects and archives are stored in the attics of the house and carriage house where appropriate security, proper environmental controls, and storage equipment are lacking.



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ing interest by increasing this number up to 50 percent, if staffing levels and facilities allow. A full-time archivist provides access to collections by appointment, a computer database provides access to many of the museum collections, and finding aids help researchers locate items cataloged within the archives collections. Uncataloged archives, however, are not readily available to researchers.

The park needs to fully digitize its museum collections and archives, records, and photographs to protect originals from handling and increase access through its web site and other publications. Collaborative development of exhibit loans and programs with other museums, historic sites, and national parks would also generate more interest in the collections and increase scholarship.

Adequate museum staffing for collections care and management is essential to protect these large project investments and ensure pub-

lic access. An increase in annual base funding of \$108,000 would allow the park to fill its critical curator position that has been vacant since 2003; hire a full-time museum technician to assist the archivist with researchers; continue cataloging and organizing collections; and ensure routine conservation care. An estimated \$1 million in project dollars for conservation and \$400,000 for cataloging are also needed to address outstanding work.

The park is currently unable to meet 38 percent of the standards on the Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections, and deficiencies are especially pronounced in the areas of museum environment and storage despite recent improvements. Only 15 percent of the 35,000 museum objects are on exhibit to visitors. The remaining objects and more than 700,000 archives are stored in the recently-refurbished basement storage areas, or in the house and carriage house attics, where

conditions are not ideal and appropriate security, proper environmental controls, and storage equipment such as racks and cabinets are still needed. In addition to upgrading these secondary storage areas, park officials estimate the site needs 600 square feet of off-site storage, as space will be even tighter when more collections are processed and cataloged. This extra space would also accommodate donated items, which regularly come from Longfellow family members and others.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES—OVERUSE AND LACK OF MAINTENANCE STAFF THREATEN HISTORIC STRUCTURES

SCORE: 74, FAIR

Longfellow National Historic Site has two primary historic structures, the main house and its carriage house, as well as assorted building and landscape features such as a driveway, paths, fences, and balustrade. Most are in good to excellent condition according to the List of Classified Structures inventory conducted in 2005.

The Longfellow house is an outstanding example of mid-Georgian architecture, so famous that it has been replicated in many parts of the country as an American and historic icon. The house has been continuously occupied since 1759 and has a high level of integrity, preservation, and documentation. Guided visitor tours of the main house feature 16 furnished rooms. The 1844 carriage house is principally used as a public meeting and education program space, with some museum storage on the second floor.

In 1998, the park received \$2 million in federal project funding for critically needed upgrades of its museum storage, fire protection, environmental, electrical, and security systems. Park maintenance operations in the carriage house were moved off-site so the building could be remodeled for program use, and modifications were also made to the park's visitor center to provide wheelchair access to the first floor of

ONLINE TOUR IS A GREAT EDUCATIONAL TOOL

Visitors to the park's web site can take an online tour of the historic Longfellow house and gardens. Great care has been taken to assemble photographs and descriptions of each of the major rooms in the house, in addition to information on history of use, architectural elements, furnishings, and works of art associated with each room.

The virtual tour also provides an introduction to the museum collections and archives, as well as background on the 250-year history of the house and occupants other than Henry Longfellow and family. Revolutionary War enthusiasts can discover how the house functioned as an early home and headquarters for George Washington during the Siege of Boston in 1775-76. The study, where Longfellow wrote some of his most famous poems in the 19th century, was Washington's dining and meeting room. There he plotted strategy with his generals in the desperate early months of the war, met with Benjamin Franklin and other distinguished patriots, and began to envision a free nation separate and independent from Great Britain. Experiencing this room and others online offers web site visitors a palpable sense of the enormously significant history of Longfellow house and encourages them to visit the park.

To take the Longfellow National Historic Site online tour, visit <http://www.nps.gov/long> and click on the "In Depth" link.



The dining room holds part of the family's extensive collection of fine and decorative arts that are international in scope.

the house. These projects, completed in 2002, have significantly improved building condition, security, and access.

A number of important building studies were completed in advance of the construction projects, including a historic structures report on the carriage house, interior paint and wallpaper analyses for the house, and a historic furnishings report. More research and planning is needed to inform maintenance work and treatments, collections cataloging, and interpretive and education programs. Documents needed include a preservation maintenance plan and studies of the pre-1759 house foundation discovered through archaeology and of the slave and servant housing at Washington's headquarters. In addition, a weight-load study would help determine the carrying capacity of the house and improve the park's ability to manage the size and frequency of visitor tours, as well as the placement of office and museum equipment and storage.

Limited space for visitor and administrative functions is a major concern. Several historic rooms are currently used for visitor center and bookstore operations, staff offices, and storage. This is potentially damaging to building fabrics and furnishings, and is very inefficient opera-

tionally. The park would like to acquire another facility nearby to house its modern-day functions. This would also allow staff to interpret historic rooms that are currently unavailable to visitors and researchers and eliminate the incompatible and consumptive use of the historic building.

Maintenance staff at Longfellow are shared with two sister sites in nearby Brookline—the Frederick Law Olmsted and John F. Kennedy national historic sites. Competing responsibilities often make it difficult for the small maintenance crew to keep up with work. New and more sophisticated building systems, visitor spaces, and structural features demand much higher levels of staff time and proficiency to maintain and operate. Routine and cyclic maintenance such as painting, woodwork, and repairs for the 13,000-square-foot main house and 1,000-square-foot carriage house require ongoing attention. An increase of \$150,000 in annual base operating funds would enable the park to fill its vacant maintenance mechanic position and hire a maintenance employee to work solely at the Longfellow house. This funding would also support the operation of new building systems and utilities, as well as routine and cyclic maintenance.

Because the park has limited space, several historic rooms are currently used for visitor center and bookstore operations, staff offices, and storage.



CULTURAL LANDSCAPES—GLORIOUS
GARDEN RESTORATION CONTINUES

SCORE: 73, FAIR

The 1.96-acre garden setting for Longfellow House has been loved and enjoyed by many generations of occupants and visitors. Today's landscape is the core of the much larger colonial property that overlooked the meadows of the Charles River.

The lush gardens and grounds provided comfort to the family of Henry Longfellow, and many of the poet's popular poems like "Flowers" were inspired by his sojourns in the landscape. He was proud of the role of his home during the American Revolution, and set out to preserve landscape features from that period such as the welcoming forecourt of elms and the link between house and river. Longfellow also added a few refinements of his own such as a simple flower garden behind the house. Daughter Alice, who lived in the house until her death in 1928, continued this careful nurturing of the grounds. She hired two leading landscape architects, Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Biddle Shipman, to redesign and expand her father's garden as a memorial to him and Washington. The formal garden became an icon of the Colonial Revival style and was featured in garden publications across America.

Unfortunately, time has not been kind to the Longfellow landscape. Many plantings and features have been ravaged or lost to age, disease, and devastation from storms. Longfellow National Historic Site has joined forces with its friends group and community to recover this rich and diverse landscape and return it to its former glory. A capital campaign completed by the Friends of the Longfellow House in 2005 raised \$800,000 in public and private donations for the landscape, including a grant of \$200,000 from the Save America's Treasures program—the first landscape project recognized by this initiative.

Rehabilitation of the formal garden and



house forecourt is under way, including replacement of hundreds of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. Historic features such as a dramatic garden pergola missing since the 1930s and fences, paths, and driveway have been reconfigured or replaced. Visitors will also benefit from new directional signs and lighting in the landscape.

Preservation maintenance of the landscape will increase substantially in 2006 once rehabilitation is complete. The park currently relies on a part-time grounds crew supervised by a horticulturist—all of whom are shared with its two sister sites. An increase in annual base funding of \$115,000 would make it possible to hire two full-time gardeners to work solely at Longfellow and support routine and cyclic maintenance activities. The park also plans to recruit and train community volunteers to assist with routine gardening efforts such as pruning and mowing. Other related projects requiring funds include a preservation maintenance plan, visitor landscape guide, and a variety of focused research studies.

Rehabilitation of the historic landscape is under way thanks to funds raised by the Friends of the Longfellow House and a grant from the Save America's Treasures program. A garden pergola, missing since the 1930s, has been replaced.



In the garden, visitors can sit and relax or meander its paths contemplating its beauty.

The gardens of the Longfellow house have always been a favorite family and community gathering place and were frequently used to stage artistic, political, and social events. Today's visitors enjoy a variety of outdoor programs, including the popular Summer Festival of Music and Poetry, family day games and activities, and garden painting—an art form clearly enjoyed by the Longfellows as evidenced in the 700 children's paintings in the house collections.

Longfellow National Historic Site would like to offer visitors even greater opportunities to experience the rehabilitated landscape in concert with the home, its architecture, furnishings, and archives. If staffing and funding allow, the

park will offer landscape-focused programs such as lectures and workshops in garden history and design, as well as formal study opportunities for students and interns, through partnerships with the Radcliffe Seminars Landscape Design Program and others. Funding for implementation of the "Historic House Explorers" program will make it possible to offer curriculum-based education programs on-site and online, teaching middle school students to "read" historic homes using the cultural landscape, museum collections, archives, and architecture. Special theme tours such as the Mother's Day Lilac Walk can also be offered annually with volunteer support.

ARCHAEOLOGY—STUDENTS GAIN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SCORE: 74, FAIR

While not known primarily for its archaeological resources, the park has an important and interesting archaeological heritage. Longfellow National Historic Site has approximately 22,000 archaeological artifacts dating from 4,500 years ago to the 20th century, excavated from park grounds from the 1980s through 2004, primarily as a result of compliance activities. They reflect occupation of the house and landscape over time, and provide insight into many of the park's evolving historical themes.

The park works closely with the Senior Archeologist of the Park Service's Northeast Region Archaeology Program to identify archaeological needs and oversee research and field work. In the past several years, many archaeological compliance projects have yielded important information about the site. Park Service project funding allowed for completion of an archaeological overview and assessment of the whole site in 2003. The park recently received \$90,000 through the Save America's Treasures program for archaeological investigations along fence lines and pathways associated with the grounds rehabilitation.

The park has also provided archaeology students with excellent study and field experiences, and benefited from their in-kind services as a result. The recent rehabilitation of the historic grounds offers a case in point. Archaeology was needed to confirm historic landscape features, and the park entered into a partnership with Harvard University to use Longfellow as a case study for classroom and field training for students in archeological methods and research. Under supervision of the Senior Archaeologist, and with guidance from the Massachusetts and Cambridge Historical Commissions, students conducted on-site excavations that informed the landscape treatment plan and compliance work. The archaeological component of the

grounds rehabilitation has received much attention from landscape historians, garden donors, the media, and visitors who have enjoyed and benefited from observing archaeological work in progress.

Archaeology has increased the park's understanding of earlier prehistoric and colonial land use practices on the site and helped expand interpretive and education programming in new directions. Cataloging of artifacts from past fieldwork is ongoing, and further study of the associated history and significance of archaeological materials is needed before the park can successfully use artifacts in exhibits, publications, and programs. Park personnel hope to continue developing partnerships, student projects, and internships to assist with these efforts.

HISTORY—LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH EXIST

SCORE: 67, FAIR

The buildings, grounds, and museum and archival collections of Longfellow National Historic Site are interconnected on many different levels, allowing researchers to study them at great depth and in an interdisciplinary way. Continuous occupancy of the Longfellow house since 1759 also presents a rare opportunity to study and understand American history through the lives and records of the people who lived there.

Over the past decade, the park has benefited from project funding for several major studies to help better understand its history and resources, including a cultural landscape report, historic resource study focusing on aspects of colonial revival, historic furnishings report, and archaeological overview and assessment. The Friends of the Longfellow House have made a joint investment with the park of \$125,000 since 1996 to produce a twice-yearly bulletin that explores the history and significant themes of the house. The Friends also offer twice-yearly research fellowships to encourage use of the archives and collec-

LONGFELLOW
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE HAS
APPROXIMATELY
22,000
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS
DATING FROM
4,500 YEARS
AGO TO THE
20TH CENTURY.

Henry W. Longfellow in his study ca. 1876. The room today retains all its original furnishings from the time of Longfellow's occupancy.

tions. Two recent histories making use of park resources are Charles Calhoun's *Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life*, the first biography of Henry W. Longfellow written in forty years, and David McCullough's *1776*, a study of the pivotal year in American history when Washington headquartered in Cambridge.

The park still requires an administrative history to better understand the period from 1972, when Longfellow National Historic Site was established, to the present. Additional resource studies focusing on George Washington's home and headquarters and 18th- and 19th-century slave history within the context of the house have been proposed, as well as research on other topics such as Japanism and the Longfellow house, the Longfellow art collection and its patrons, and family and domestic history from 1759 onwards.

The park seeks to raise its profile as an important resource and research center within

the academic, historical, and museum communities. More sophisticated online publications and similar marketing tools need to be developed, and partnerships with local universities to engage graduate students in research projects should be explored more fully. The park will also be seeking co-sponsors for conferences, symposia, and workshops to discuss such topics as the abolitionist movement in Boston and Cambridge and writers as nation builders in the 19th century.

Encouraging wider appreciation of the role of the house during the American Revolution and its association with Washington is a major challenge facing the park. Expansion of its interpretive and education programs and publications to more fully emphasize this story is planned, and the park is also considering a link with Washington's headquarters in its official designation as a National Historic Site.





STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY

FUNDING AND STAFFING—SHORTFALLS CHALLENGE RESOURCE PROTECTION

SCORE: 73, FAIR

The most significant factor affecting a park's ability to protect its resources is the amount of basic operations funding it receives from Congress. In 2004, Longfellow National Historic Site had an annual operating budget of \$766,000. This covers ongoing expenses such as utilities, and supports the equivalent of 6.5 full-time staff dedicated to the park and roughly nine others who provide maintenance, educational programs, and

management support to Longfellow and its sister parks, the Frederick Law Olmsted and John F. Kennedy national historic sites.

The park's annual operating budget is \$25,000 less than it was in 2001, without accounting for inflation or the "erosion to base" that mandated salary increases and health insurance costs incur. Annual funding is approximately \$400,000 short of what is needed to adequately protect resources and provide necessary visitor services. Currently, the shortfall is covered, in part, by funding from its sister park, Olmsted National Historic Site.

The funding situation causes staffing challenges. Positions that have been lost recently

Park staff provide guided tours and educational programs to school groups and other visitors.

The annual Longfellow Summer Festival of Music and Poetry is a popular event that would not be possible without the support of groups such as the Friends of the Longfellow House.

include a curator (vacant since 2003), maintenance mechanic (vacant since 2001), and three seasonal park rangers (vacant since 2004).

The park has requested a base operating increase of \$423,000. If the additional funding were available, the park could also return to a longer visitor season (the park is only open to visitors from June through September of each year), meet fundamental maintenance needs, and respond to public requests for educational programs and research access.

PLANNING—GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN NEEDED

SCORE: 76, FAIR

Adequate planning is essential to resource protection and stewardship in order to identify needed actions and efficiently allocate staff time and efforts. The general management plan (GMP) is one of the most important plans as it guides long-term decision making for the park

and provides a foundation for other plans that may be needed. At Longfellow, as in many parks, funding for a GMP has not been secured and the park's master plan (1978) has long outlived its usefulness.

The park has been fortunate to receive funding over the past decade for other planning efforts, including structural fire management, collections management, cultural landscape history and treatment, historic furnishings, historic structures (carriage house), comprehensive interpretation, and archaeological overview and assessment.

Apart from the general management plan, funding is required to update the collections management plan written in 1995 and to develop a preservation maintenance plan for the Longfellow buildings and grounds that will be used to identify objectives, provide a framework for inspections and record keeping, assess conditions, and guide work. An education component is needed for the comprehensive interpre-



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tive plan to identify and guide curriculum-based programs for teachers and students. To further assist resource protection and stewardship, it would be helpful if the park wrote an ethnographic overview and determined the amount of human use the park grounds can tolerate (i.e., its carrying capacity).

RESOURCE EDUCATION—CREATIVE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN VISITORS

SCORE: 55, POOR

The Longfellow National Historic Site was founded by educators, scholars, and explorers who made extraordinary contributions to America's intellectual and cultural life. Their interests in education, equality, family, and diversity—all precursors to contemporary issues—remain a driving force for resource education at Longfellow National Historic Site.

As a result of staffing and budget shortfalls, the park is open to visitors five days a week (Wed-Sun) from June through September and is closed during the remaining eight months (with the exception of special events and educational programs).

A total of 30,380 visitors participated in interpretive and education programs in 2004. Of these, 4,207 visitors took part in 616 guided tours of the Longfellow house; 2,198 visitors enjoyed special events such as the Longfellow Summer Festival; 563 teachers and students participated in 22 educational programs; 196 researchers used museum collections and archives on-site; and the remaining visitors took advantage of visitor center information, bookstore services, and informal interpretive talks on the grounds.

The park excels in presenting special community programs involving literature and the performing arts. The annual Longfellow Summer Festival of Music and Poetry offers visitors an opportunity to hear distinguished poets of world renown read from their latest works, as well as enjoy popular and classical



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

music thematically tied to the park's history and occupants. In 2004, a new collaborative program with the American Theatre of Living History featured performances by professional actors representing famous 19th-century individuals such as Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, who were connected with the Longfellow National Historic Site. The park is also busy developing new program ideas around the story of Washington's headquarters to help move this theme forward, and will need to involve a

Known for its innovative programming, Longfellow National Historic Site offers programs with international themes.

THE PARK ALSO
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PEOPLE ABOUT
ITS RESOURCES
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SPECIAL
EXHIBITS.

number of partners and co-sponsors to help stage celebratory events in 2007 to mark the 200th anniversary of Longfellow's birth.

Longfellow has an active program for students. Two different curriculum-based educational programs involving house and neighborhood study and tours are offered to students in grades 3-11 in tandem with periodic teacher development workshops. Park education specialists have also produced a new electronic teaching unit that introduces younger students in grades 3-5 to Longfellow's life and poetry and cultivates skills essential for reading, writing, analyzing, and appreciating poetry and creativity. One of the most exciting programs in development is "Historic House Explorers," which will teach students in grades 8-11 how to "read" the historic Longfellow house by drawing inferences from the site's architecture, collections, landscape, and archives. The park has received \$30,000 since 1998 from "Parks as Classrooms" (PAC) and Eastern National to develop the framework for this program and an additional \$25,000 from PAC towards implementation. The program will be piloted in 2005, but the park needs \$400,000 in additional project funding and a support network of volunteer educators to implement it.

The park also educates people about its resources by loaning items from its museum collection for use in special exhibits around the world. Collection pieces have recently been shown at the Portland Museum of Art in Maine, Minneapolis Institute of Art in Minnesota, and the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, Japan.

An increase of \$162,000 in base operating funds for resource education is critically needed to expand the park's visitor season from four to nine months, support salaries for a park guide (subject to furlough) and three seasonal rangers to staff the visitor center and guide house tours, and support the park's portion of shared costs for two education specialists.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT—VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORT GROUPS CRITICAL TO PARK'S SUCCESS

SCORE: 93, EXCELLENT

A strong support system of volunteers, partners, a friends group, and the park's congressional delegation make enormous contributions to resource protection and interpretation at Longfellow National Historic Site.

In 2004, 80 volunteers contributed nearly 3,700 hours to the park, a substantial increase over 2002 numbers (48 volunteers, 1,000 hours of service). The park would like to expand its program to recruit, train, and use volunteers to carry out formal education programs and perform routine maintenance in the newly rehabilitated grounds.

Longfellow National Historic Site is fortunate to have an active and dedicated friends group that advocates for the park, assists the park in meeting many challenges, and is committed to making the public more aware of the riches of the Longfellow house. Established in 1994, the Friends of the Longfellow House is composed of concerned individuals representing the neighboring community and the business, academic, arts, museum, and landscape architecture communities. The Friends provide annual research fellowships and publish a twice-yearly bulletin featuring important histories, news stories, collection highlights, and scholarship activities at the park. They recently raised \$800,000 in public and private donations for the rehabilitation of the historic landscape and thousands of dollars for museum collections conservation. Since 1998 the group has sponsored the annual Longfellow Summer Festival, contributing up to \$10,000 each year to this popular event featuring poetry readings and musical concerts. Members also give time and energy to plan and stage a variety of other special events and activities throughout the year.

Partnerships with several area universities including Harvard, Tufts, and Simmons have

made it possible for the park to accomplish many research, education, and archival processing programs and projects. For example, Harvard University archaeology students spent more than 2,500 hours conducting landscape archaeology research in preparation for the grounds rehabilitation project, and a scholar from Wellesley College recently surveyed more than 500 historic German books in the Longfellow collection.

Programming opportunities that would not otherwise be possible are provided by partnerships with the New England Poetry Club, Longy School of Music, Cambridge Arts Council, Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Historic Cambridge Collaborative, Literary Trail of Greater Boston, and other groups.

Exciting new prospects include collaborative programming with “Teachers as Scholars,” a local initiative that encourages professional development by linking teachers to universities, museums, and historic sites. Longfellow National Historic Site was recently selected as the first national park setting for its series of popular seminars, and park personnel hope to build on this relationship, which makes good use of park resources and staff expertise.

Park staff are also interested in promoting multi-lingual and language study programs through co-sponsorships with the Longfellow Institute of Harvard University—named after the poet who introduced the languages, literatures, and cultures of the world to the American reading public. The institute promotes the study of “culturally fascinating, historically important, and aesthetically interesting” texts written in languages other than English.

Another opportunity is the development of week-long study institutes with Primary Source, a local organization that promotes history and humanities education by connecting educators to people and cultures around the world. In 2005, the park hosted its first program for teachers, “The Flight of the Peacock: Exploring Chinese Literature from the Earliest Times to 1900.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Support or become a member of groups helping to protect Longfellow National Historic Site:** Friends of the Longfellow House (www.longfellowfriends.org/index.php), NPCA (www.npca.org/support_npca), and other organizations.
- **Volunteer in the parks.** Many parks are looking for dedicated people who can lend a helping hand. To learn about opportunities at Longfellow National Historic Site, contact the park at 617-876-4491.
- **Become an NPCA activist.** When you join our activist network, you will receive *Park Lines*, a biweekly electronic newsletter with the latest park news and ways you can help. Join by visiting www.npca.org/takeaction.



Members of the Friends of the Longfellow House regularly volunteer with park programs.



APPENDIX METHODOLOGY

To determine the condition of known cultural resources at Longfellow National Historic Site and other national parks, the National Parks Conservation Association developed a resource assessment and ratings process. It examines current resource conditions and evaluates the park staff's capacity to fully care for the resources. The assessment methodology can be found online at NPCA's State of the Parks® web site (www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/). The methodology also includes a natural resource assessment and ratings process, which was not used in this report on Longfellow National Historic Site.

The scores for cultural resources are determined based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own Cultural Resource Management

Guideline and other Park Service resource management policies.

Stewardship capacity refers to the Park Service's ability to protect park resources, and includes discussion of funding and staffing levels, park planning documents, resource education, and external support.

For this report, researchers collected data and prepared a paper that summarized the results. The draft underwent peer review and was also reviewed by staff at Longfellow National Historic Site.

NPCA's State of the Parks program represents the first time that such assessments have been undertaken for units of the National Park System. Comments on the program's methods are welcome.

Conservators clean the sculpture collection in the historic kitchen of the Longfellow House.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

**National Parks Conservation Association
State of the Parks® Program**

230 Cherry Street, Suite 100
Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-493-2545

E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org
Or visit us at www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/

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Primary researcher: Summer Hahn
Writer: Elizabeth Meyers
Editor: Scott Kirkwood
Design/Layout: Paul Caputo

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Zion National Park (UT)

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National Parks Conservation Association
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1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
p/ 202.223.6722
f/ 202.659.0650
www.npca.org

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