

GMP Dynamic Sourcebook, version 2.1 - Appendix F: Alternatives
F.2 Examples of Alternative Concepts for General Management Plans

Carl Sandberg Home National Historic Site

Alternative	Concept
Sandburg Center	<p>This alternative is the proposed action, the NPS preferred alternative, and the environmentally preferred alternative. The park would serve as a national, if not worldwide, focal point for interpretation and research about Carl Sandburg. This concept recognizes that significant Sandburg related resources exist outside the park. The park already enjoys close relationships with the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign which houses an extensive collection of the author’s manuscripts and personal correspondence and the Carl Sandburg Historic Site in Galesburg, Illinois which interprets his birthplace and life. This concept would not duplicate or compete with any of these institutions but would rather foster strong partnerships that would encourage and support continued learning about the work and life of Carl Sandburg. The park would coordinate closely with these and other organizations and individuals to promote knowledge of and access to as complete a collection of Sandburg related information and resources as possible.</p> <p>The Main House and grounds of the park would remain the center piece of the interpretive program at Connemara. The intent of this concept is not to divert attention from the historic significance of these features but rather to enhance a visitor’s understanding of Carl Sandburg by providing access to more in-depth information about his works and life.</p> <p>Creating additional high quality interpretive venues is seen as an essential component of the alternative. Additional venues would be created by rehabilitating one or more historic structures near the main house or barn for interpretive program areas, renovating the existing visitor contact station to improve its interpretive and visitor services functions, and creating a visitor center in a new or existing structure on property purchased or leased by the NPS outside the authorized park boundary.</p> <p>Access to Sandburg information, literature, and research would be provided through an extensive internet database and other mass media formats. Visitors who come to the site in person would have an extraordinary opportunity to learn about Sandburg’s life and works through participation in a variety of interpretive programs. The alternative provides additional museum quality environments where visitors would be able to view objects and other information contained in the museum collection.</p>
Paths of Discovery	<p>In the Paths of Discovery alternative, the park would strategically blend the community’s need for additional walking opportunities with the mission and overall function of the National Historic Site. In turn, the park would look outward to the community for help with internal park needs such as additional parking, enhanced visitor services, and administrative infrastructure. The Paths of Discovery alternative acknowledges the important bond that exists between the park, local governments, and park neighbors and relies upon its traditionally close partnerships with them to identify, protect, and enhance both park resources and local quality of life values. Prescriptive management zones for the alternative are shown in Figure 2-g.</p> <p>Many people visit the park specifically to enjoy its pastoral beauty. The Paths of Discovery alternative would incorporate the activity of walking as a significant component of the interpretive program by adding a pedestrian only interpretive trail connecting the visitor entrance area with the historic back gate and the barn area. Enhanced interpretive opportunities would be available at an improved visitor information station in the visitor services zone.</p> <p>A visitor center would be created in a new or existing structure on property purchased or leased outside the current authorized boundary of the park. The visitor center would be developed in partnership or through donation of property and/or services with preservation groups, friends groups, individuals, and/or local, county, and state governments to reduce development and/or maintenance costs to the NPS. Specific details regarding such partnerships or donations would be developed at a future date in a memorandum of understanding or partnership agreement.</p>
Connemara Lifestyle	<p>In the Connemara Lifestyle alternative, visitors would experience Connemara much as Carl Sandburg knew it. Park management would concentrate its efforts and resources on maintenance of the site’s historic landscape, structures, and furnishings and providing high quality interpretive programs on site and at local schools. Prescriptive management zones for the alternative are shown in Figure 2-j.</p> <p>Primary access to the objects and information contained in the museum collection would occur at the main house, the expanded visitor information station, and through the internet or other mass media formats. Opportunities for access to objects and information would be greater than existing conditions but less than the Sandburg Center or Paths of Discovery alternatives.</p>

Alternative	Concept
	<p data-bbox="490 128 1442 212">An improved visitor information station in the visitor services zone, expansion of the existing parking area, and additional NPS controlled parking area outside the currently authorized boundary of the park would improve the parks ability to serve park visitors.</p> <p data-bbox="490 218 1442 329">The Connemara Lifestyle alternative acknowledges the uncertainty of receiving significantly increased federal funding by taking a more conservative approach than the Sandburg Center or Paths of Discovery alternatives to new infrastructure, staff increases, and added maintenance responsibilities.</p>