

Fort Stanwix National Monument

2008

DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



National Park Service – Experience Your America

This document describes the conditions and experiences that should exist at Fort Stanwix National Monument over the next 15 to 20 years. It presents a preferred proposal and one alternative and assesses the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects of the actions presented on park resources, the visitor experience and the surrounding area. This document will be available for public review for 60 days. During the review period, the National Park Service will accept written and oral comments regarding these proposals. The National Park Service will carefully review all comments and incorporate them, as appropriate, in the final plan and the final impact statement. Park managers will then implement the plan over the next 15 to 20 years, as funding and other contingencies allow.

Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of respondents available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their name and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations of businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations and businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments should be submitted to:

Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 E. Park Street
Rome, NY 13440

For further information, please contact the Superintendent at:

Phone: (315) 338-7730

FAX: (315) 334-5051

FOST_superintendent@nps.gov

Prepared by:

Fort Stanwix National Monument
Northeast Region - Boston Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document serves two functions: (1) it is a Draft General Management Plan (DGMP) for Fort Stanwix National Monument (NM) and (2) it is also a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which assesses the probable impacts of the proposed plan and alternatives to it. The purpose of the Fort Stanwix NM General Management Plan is to define the basic management philosophy that will guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and to direct the actions required to support that philosophy. This document describes the conditions and experiences that currently occur at Fort Stanwix NM and those that should exist in the near future. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years in the future.

The National Park Service began this process in Fiscal Year 1997. During this time, two studies examining areas that are geographically and thematically relevant to Fort Stanwix NM also were undertaken—Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site in Whitestown, NY, and the Northern Frontier encompassing a ten county area of central New York. Oriskany Battlefield is a site in close proximity and with strong historical connections to Fort Stanwix. The study for a boundary adjustment for Oriskany Battlefield (2001) was undertaken with the intent of using its findings to influence Fort Stanwix's general management planning. The study addressed Oriskany Battlefield's inclusion in the national park system. The study found that Oriskany Battlefield is nationally significant and it would be suitable to be added to the national park system. The study did not find it feasible at the time to include in the national park system, because of New York State's interest in continuing to manage the battlefield site. The park will continue to explore with New York State officials the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements to manage the site cooperatively or include the site in the national park system.

The Northern Frontier study was prepared as an independent document, not necessarily designed to explicitly influence or relate to Fort Stanwix's general management planning process; the study addressed the possible definition and designation of a national heritage area. The Northern Frontier Study, which was reviewed by the public in late 2002, was completed and forwarded to Congress in late 2003. The studies did not recommend establishment of a new national park system unit or a new national heritage area. The findings of the studies included recommendations for collaborative programming and activities involving Fort Stanwix NM and Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and broader outreach efforts by Fort Stanwix NM to better integrate and affiliate with Northern Frontier interpretive themes and related sites.

Extensive research and consultation with many subject matter experts, local community representatives, and institutions was conducted throughout the planning process. Thoughtful participation by Fort Stanwix NM staff, partners, city offices, community groups, tribal organizations, state agencies, and other institutions has been instrumental in developing the plan. The DGMP/DEIS describes two planning alternatives – a “No Action” and a “Preferred Action” alternative. The NPS believes the Preferred Action alternative, which builds upon key aspects of the 1967 master plan but also recognizes current historical scholarship and partnership opportunities, offers the best balance of resource preservation, public use, and partnership. The two planning alternatives described below share several common elements. Both recognize the 2005 opening of the multi-purpose Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, which addressed longstanding operational needs; both provide for visitor orientation (the Willett Center proposal underwent its own public planning and environmental compliance process, which was completed in early 2003). The No Action alternative defines current

management practices and conditions. The

Preferred Action alternative defines the 21st century

role for Fort Stanwix NM within the context of central New York in a number of areas, including resource education, preservation, and partnerships.

Alternative 1

No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Current management directions, practices, and conditions would continue largely unchanged if this alternative is selected.

Alternative 2

Preferred Alternative: The National Park Service would propose significantly broadening the context of interpretation and collaborative heritage development and preservation initiatives involving local and regional partners. Fort Stanwix would take advantage of existing authorities to increase its capacity to support community outreach and other partnership initiatives.

Alternative 2 has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative, since it provides the greater number of benefits in comparison with Alternative 1. Any adverse impacts are considered minimal.

Estimated operations and development costs for each of the two alternatives are provided. Potential environmental impacts on the cultural resources, interpretive and educational programming, visitor services, park operations, parking, circulation, and the socioeconomic environments are also included. The costs are subject to NPS budget priorities and available funding.

The Next Steps

After the distribution of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, there will be a 60-day public review and comment period, after which the NPS planning team will evaluate comments from other federal agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals regarding the draft plan. The planning team will incorporate appropriate changes into a Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The final plan will include letters from governmental agencies, any substantive comments on the draft document, and NPS responses to those comments. Following distribution of the final plan and a 30-day no-action period, a record of decision approving the final plan will be signed by the NPS regional director. The record of decision documents the NPS selection of an alternative for implementation. Once it is signed the plan can then be implemented.

Implementation of the Plan

The approval of this plan does not guarantee that the funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. The implementation of the approved plan will depend on future funding, and it could also be affected by factors such as changes in NPS staffing, visitor use patterns, and unanticipated environmental changes. Full implementation could be many years in the future. Once the general management plan has been approved, additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning, environmental documentation, and consultations would be completed, as appropriate, before certain actions in the preferred alternative can be carried out.

Future program and implementation plans, describing specific actions that managers intend to undertake and accomplish in the monument, will tier from the desired conditions and long-term goals set forth in this general management plan.

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PART 1. PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This draft general management plan/draft environmental impact statement (DGMP/DEIS) presents two management alternatives for Fort Stanwix National Monument: a “No Action” and a “Preferred Action” alternative. Potential consequences and environmental impacts of each alternative have been identified and assessed.

General management plans are intended to be conceptual documents that establish a management philosophy and provide a basic foundation for decision making and problem solving in parks. General management plans provide guidance over a 15 to 20 year period and help to ensure that the park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use. Actions called for in general management plans and in subsequent implementation plans are accomplished over an extended period of time. Full implementation of the general management plan is largely contingent on the availability of funds and changing National Park Service or national budget priorities. Implementation could be many years in the future. Once the general management plan has been approved, additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning, environmental documentation, and consultations would be completed, as appropriate, before certain actions in the preferred alternative can be carried out.

This plan has been developed by a core team of professionals including park staff at Fort Stanwix NM, planners from the National Park Service Northeast Region’s Boston Office, staff from Saratoga National Historical Park, and key partners within the community. The core team worked closely in consultation with representatives of the City of Rome, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), various “friends” and Revolutionary War groups, former Representative Sherwood Boehlert’s office, the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission, the Northern Frontier Project, Inc., the Oneida Indian Nation, New York State Museum, and the Rome Historical Society. The National Park Service staff and private consultants prepared several studies and reports in support of the management planning process. These research projects provided critical baseline data and detailed information to the planning team.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Plan

The National Park Service requires a general management plan (GMP) for each unit of the National Park System. According to the National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Section 2.3.1, “The purpose of each general management plan, which will begin with the development of a foundation statement for the park unit, will be to ensure that the park has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use.”

Several plans have guided the development and programming for Fort Stanwix, including a master plan (1967), a comprehensive design report (1973), a Development Concept Plan (1974), and an Interpretive Prospectus (1975). More recently, a Business Plan (2002) and a Long Range Interpretive Plan (2003) have been completed. In compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), annual plans have been developed by park staff to guide park activities for each year. Many of the proposals in these previous plans have been carried out, although several phases of the fort’s reconstruction were never completed. The multi-purpose Marinus Willet Center was opened in 2005.

The GMP addresses strategies for the provision of visitor services and the protection of resources; identifies development proposals and associated costs; examines partnership opportunities; and addresses carrying capacity and the park boundary. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) ensures that the policies and goals defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et. seq.) are integrated into the planning,

decision making, and actions of the National Park

Service regarding the management of the park. The

DEIS assesses the proposals advanced in the draft plan for potential environmental and socioeconomic effects on site resources, visitor experience, and the surrounding area. National Park Service leadership carefully considers this information through analysis of the benefits, environmental impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action.

1.2.1 General Management Plan Structure

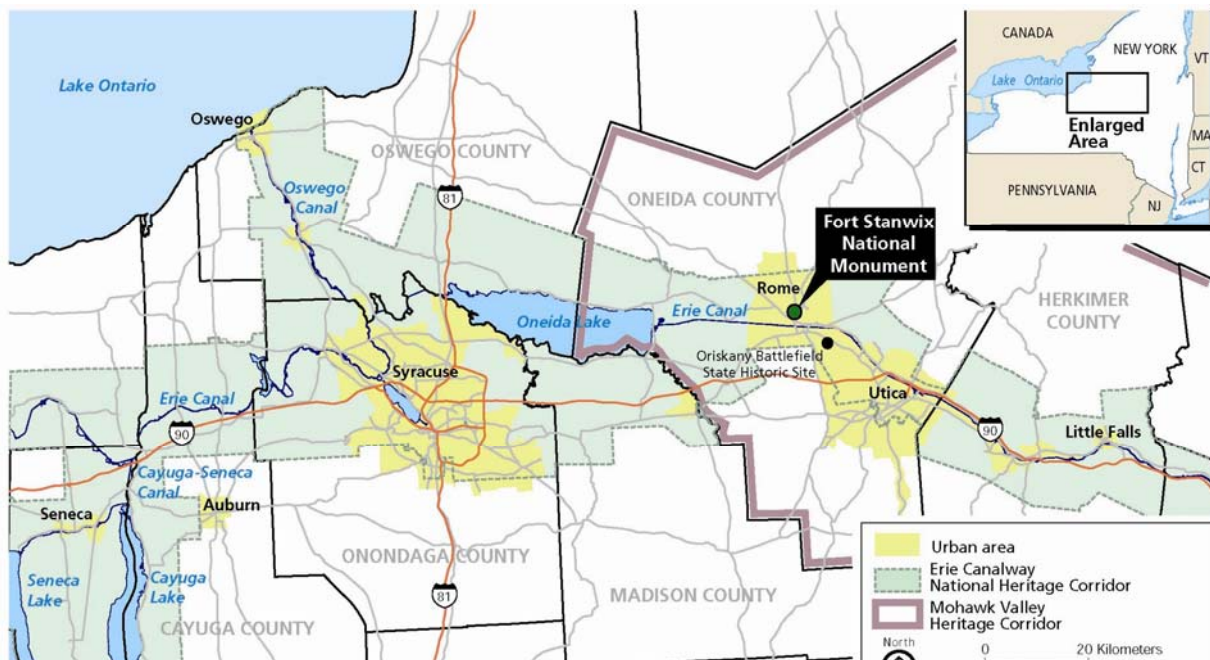
The general management plan is divided into four parts:

- **Part 1: Planning Background** – describes the purpose of the general management plan and environmental impact statement, the park and its environs, the national monument's purpose, significance and mission goals, and the issues and concerns that have influenced the plan.
- **Part 2: Management Alternatives** – describes the two alternatives – a No Action alternative and a Preferred Action alternative, as well as alternatives that have been considered but rejected.
- **Part 3: The Affected Environment** – describes the cultural, natural, and socioeconomic environment potentially affected by implementing the alternatives.
- **Part 4: Environmental Consequences** – describes the potential impacts that would result from implementing each of the alternatives. Part 4 also describes public involvement and agency coordination during the planning process and identifies the principal parties who have prepared and will receive this document.
- The **Appendix** includes additional information, as well as the park's enabling legislation and information from related technical studies.

1.3 Park Description

1.3.1 Community Context

Fort Stanwix is located in the city of Rome, Oneida County, New York, along the main east-west transportation corridor of upstate New York. This corridor initially developed along natural river systems, reinforced by the Erie Canal, railroad lines, and the New York State Thruway. Rome is located in the 24th Congressional District.



The development of Rome was originally historically centered on Dominick and James Streets as laid out by Dominick Lynch in the 1800s, prior to the construction of the Erie Canal, and surrounding the present site of Fort Stanwix. Through massive urban renewal projects begun in the 1960s, including the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the historic downtown was in large part replaced by new larger urban blocks, a pedestrian mall on Dominick Street, and less dense development. Planning by the city of Rome is underway to reinvigorate the downtown core. To that end, the city has removed the pedestrian mall and reintroduced vehicular traffic to that section of Dominick Street.

Nearly 22.5 million people live within a 200-mile radius of the fort—on average, a three and one-half hour drive. Twenty-five per cent of the U.S. and Canadian population are within a day's drive of the fort; New York City is 264 miles away, Montreal and Toronto roughly 300 miles, Ottawa 235 miles, and Boston 231 miles. Syracuse, NY, the nearest large city, is 40 miles away. Albany is roughly 90 miles away, and Buffalo is 200 miles.

Rome's climate offers four distinct seasons. January days average 20 degrees and July days average 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer humidity averages around 60 percent. Rome receives an average of 43.28 inches of precipitation each year and, thanks to "lake effect" snowfall off Lake Ontario, an average of 153 inches of snow each year.

1.3.2 Fort Stanwix National Monument

Fort Stanwix National Monument is a reconstructed Revolutionary War-era fort, with related outworks. It is federally owned and managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The reconstructed fort was built on the footprint of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1935, but fort reconstruction did not commence until 1974 when an archeological study by NPS was completed. The reconstructed fort was opened to the public in 1976, exhibiting a portion of the extensive archeological collections found on-site. The National Monument site occupies approximately 16 acres and is bordered by main thoroughfares surrounded by a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial, and institutional land uses, none of which were present during the fort's period of occupation. The site of the fort, but not the reconstructed structure, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark, significant for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution.

The reconstructed fort consists of an earth and timber-clad, reinforced concrete structure that surrounds three freestanding buildings. Located within the reconstructed fort, there is an original feature -- the foundation of a brick hearth. A detailed description of the fort features can be found in the Affected Environment section (Part Three) of this document. Several structures which were proposed in the 1967 master plan have not been reconstructed, including the ravelin, sally port, headquarters, and guardhouse.

There are a number of sites located within a day's drive of the fort that are related to the siege of Fort Stanwix. They include Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, NY, and Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site in nearby Whitestown.

The reconstructed fort is closed to the public during the winter months, but the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center (2005) is open year-round.

This aerial map provides a detailed view of the National Monument grounds and its surrounding urban environment. Key features include:

- Streets:** COURT STREET, LIBERTY STREET, JAMES STREET, W. DOMINIC STREET, ERIE BLVD., BLACK RIVER BLVD., and E. DOMINIC STREET.
- Landmarks and Buildings:** County Courthouse, Memorial Park, Old City Hall, Tomb of the Unknown Rev. War soldier, St. Peter's Church, Monument Maintenance Complex, Monument Headquarters (2nd floor), Private Residences, Police and Fireman's Memorial, Fire Station, Retail, Offices Restaurant, St. John's Church, Hardware store, Motel, Willett Center, Public parking garage (Fee), Bank, and Building now demolished.
- Parks and Green Spaces:** Gansevoort Park, Glads, Wayside, and various green areas within the monument grounds.
- Infrastructure and Access:** Parking lot, Rectory, Monument, Secondary visitor access route (unauthorized), Foot bridge, Dry streambed, Sallyport door closed to public, Pedestrian crossing, Primary visitor access route, Walkway, Perimeter sidewalk has weather and salt damage, National Monument boundary line, and Public entrance (difficult for mobility impaired visitors).
- Other Features:** Evergreen hedge, View toward glass trench, View toward Mohawk River, and View toward British camp.



1.3.3 Creating Fort Stanwix National Monument

After the 150th anniversary of the siege was celebrated in 1927, interest in the fort and the historic events in which it had figured was renewed. The State of New York purchased a small lot and erected a commemorative monument on the site in 1927. As a result of state and local interest, Fort Stanwix National Monument was authorized by Public Law No. 74-291 [s.739] August 21, 1935 [see 16 U.S.C. 450 l-n] in order to preserve “*a national monument for the benefit and inspiration of the people.*” Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes recommended that the bill be passed, noting that the area is “the site of a battle of great importance in American history and is worthy of federal protection...”

Although the legislation further states that the Secretary may designate some or all of the Fort Stanwix site (including the buildings and other property located there) as is “*necessary or desirable for national monument purposes,*” no formal boundaries have ever been established. The National Park Service was also authorized to accept donations of land, interests in land and/or buildings, structures, and other property, as well as donations of funds for this purpose and/or for subsequent facility management.

At the time of its national monument designation, the site was examined, and recommendations were made for its management. The National Park Service recommended that a monument not be built on the site, but instead, that a marker be placed. No further action was taken at Fort Stanwix until November 1962, when the site of the fort was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). In 1963 a bronze marker recognizing the National Historic Landmark was placed on the site. In the mid-1960s, officials of the city of Rome requested that the National Park Service provide the city with advice on development of the fort as a part of planned urban renewal.

New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller signed a bill on July 14, 1965, giving the city of Rome authority to purchase land so that development of the fort could get underway. Concurrently, the NPS prepared a master plan for administering, protecting, and developing Fort Stanwix National Monument. This master plan was completed in 1967.

Subsequently, the city’s urban renewal program cleared approximately 70 structures and five streets from the fort site to prepare for reconstruction. Full title to the fort site was conveyed to the U.S. Government in 1973. Groundbreaking for the fort reconstruction project was held on August 23, 1974. Reconstruction of the fort was based on extensive archeological and historical research which was largely completed between 1970 and 1973.

Archeologists continued salvage archeology during 1974 and 1975 while the fort was being rebuilt. The first phase of reconstruction was completed in 1976, in time to open the fort for the nation’s bicentennial celebration. The fort was opened to the public on March 10, 1976, and was dedicated in a ceremony held on May 22, 1976.

1.3.4 Other Recent Planning Efforts and Initiatives

Fort Stanwix National Monument - Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center

Environmental Assessment (2003): The Willett Center (opened summer of 2005), named for the officer who was second-in-command of the fort during the siege, serves as the park's primary visitor orientation, education, and collections management facility. The Center enhances the operations, collections management, education and interpretation of Fort Stanwix National Monument. Within the facility are exhibits, audiovisual presentations, a bookstore, and a climate-controlled museum collections storage area for 450,000 objects.

National Park Service - Northern Frontier Special Resource Study (2002): Related to Fort Stanwix National Monument, this regional initiative assessed options for formal heritage related designation of the Northern Frontier area encompassing part or all of 10 counties between Schenectady and Oswego, New York. This report also recognizes both the historic significance of Fort Stanwix and its role as a central attraction in the Mohawk

Valley region. The recommendations of this report could serve as a foundation for administrative, cultural

resources, and interpretive programming that would effectively link the fort to the heritage resources of the region. In-depth interpretation of the role of the Six Nations in colonial history also is emphasized in the recommendations of the Northern Frontier Special Resource Study.

National Park Service Study of Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site (2001): Directed by Congress, the NPS initiated a study of whether to incorporate the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site into the national park system. Before a study was completed, the NPS concluded that it should seek to develop an enhanced cooperative partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which manages Oriskany. Fort Stanwix and Oriskany Battlefield seek to share resources and improve resource protection, interpretation, and the visitor experience.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan: This national heritage corridor was established by Congress in December 2000, following completion of a special resource study in 1998 by the National Park Service. The 27-member federal commission has prepared a preservation and management plan to identify, preserve, promote, maintain, and interpret the historical, natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the Erie and related canals and foster economic development and community revitalization. The designation applies to all 234 municipalities adjoining the 524 miles of navigable waterway that comprise the New York State Canal System, including the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego canals, the historic alignments of these canals, and related navigable lakes. The City of Rome, astride the Erie Canal, is included within the boundary of the national heritage corridor.

New York State Canal Recreationway: Based on a 1995 plan directed by the state legislature, the New York State Canal Recreationway is a state-sponsored effort to rehabilitate the existing New York State Canal System (active Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga and Seneca Canals) and revitalize it for recreational use as commercial activity has substantially declined. A towpath-based trail between Albany and Buffalo for bicycling, hiking, etc., and provision of increased canal recreational boating services are two of the major Recreationway initiatives that will have an impact on the City of Rome and the Village of Oriskany that lie adjacent to the 20th century Erie Barge Canal. The Erie Canalway Trail will be 348 miles long. The New York State Canal Corporation maintains the canal system.

North Country National Scenic Trail (NPS): When completed the trail will become the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. From the Missouri River in North Dakota to the shores of Lake Champlain in New York, the trail allows hikers to experience a variety of features. Authorized by the National Trails Act, as amended, and established in March, 1980, the North Country National Scenic Trail links scenic, natural, historic, and cultural areas in seven northern states, including Fort Stanwix National Monument. The unit administrator is working with state and local volunteer groups, the City of Rome, and various partners to connect trail ends on either side of the city, permitting hikers to visit the fort.

Mohawk River Trail Plan: Over the years, residents and visitors have created informal social trails to gain access to the recreational benefits of the Mohawk River and Erie Canal. Rome's Parks Master Plan, Comprehensive Master Plan, and the East Rome Family Merchants and Civic Association Plan are recent plans that address the significance of trails and other developments along the Mohawk River as a means to provide heritage and recreational resources for the community. Designated in 2003 as one of 12 New York State Quality Communities, Rome has worked with the New York Department of State - Coastal Resources Office to create a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program focusing on trail and other development along the banks of the Mohawk River and the Erie Barge Canal. The City of Rome received a 2004 technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program for the study of bicycle route alternatives to safely connect the city with the proposed river and canal bicycle trails.

City of Rome Comprehensive Master Plan: In 2003, the City of Rome completed a two-year comprehensive master planning effort. Included in the Comprehensive Plan is an Action Plan component that is intended to provide current and future city leaders and other stakeholders with guidance regarding the kind of place

residents would like Rome to become. The City of Rome Master Plan includes three catalyst projects: 1) Rome Family Recreation Campus; 2) Central Business District Improvements; and 3) Main Street Corridors. These catalyst projects integrate Fort Stanwix to varying degrees. The plan focuses on planned investments in human, technological, educational, financial, and physical infrastructure with the goal of creating economic opportunity, achieving high levels of employment, and quality jobs.

Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor: Established in 1999, the Mohawk Valley State Heritage Corridor Commission (MVHCC) completed an *Interpretive Facility Development Plan* for the corridor that includes specific recommendations for a western gateway center for the Mohawk Valley. Rome is envisioned as one of four facility development sites for the corridor. The MVHCC in its report acknowledges that the interpretation of Oriskany Battlefield and its relationship to Fort Stanwix is an important part of the overall educational outreach within the valley and that a western gateway center will be a key component in linking the myriad of significant sites.

1.4 Purpose - Significance - Vision of Fort Stanwix National Monument

1.4.1 Park Purpose

The purpose of Fort Stanwix National Monument is to preserve the location, resources, and stories associated with the military, political, and cultural events that occurred at the site of Fort Stanwix and to provide opportunities for visitor understanding and appreciation of these events.

1.4.2 Significance

Fort Stanwix National Monument is significant because it commemorates the broader contest of nations for economic and political control of the rich resources within the Mohawk Valley region of New York State and the Northern Frontier during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

In particular, it derives its primary significance because:

- During the American Revolution, the successful defense of Fort Stanwix and the Battle at Oriskany in 1777 undermined British strategy and helped to win European allies for the United States. The outcome of the siege of Fort Stanwix and the Battle at Oriskany are of great importance in American history and contributed to the American victory at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga.
- Beginning with the earliest contacts at The Great Carry (near Fort Stanwix), continuing through the influential years of Sir William Johnson, and culminating in the Treaties of 1790 negotiated at Fort Stanwix, a controversial pattern of European/American Indian relations evolved through the negotiation and signing of various treaties. These treaties served as the basis for contemporary legislative policy at both the state and national levels pertaining to American Indian relations.
- The national monument, as part of the Mohawk Valley, preserves and interprets the historical record of critical events related to the Six Nations experience, the military activities, the cultural diversity, and the geographic situation that characterized the development of both the colonies and the United States.
- Fort Stanwix reflects 18th-century military architecture and armaments and provides a place to study the interaction of geography with military strategy and tactics.

1.4.3 Visitor Experience Vision Statement

The visitor experience vision statement was developed from GMP purpose and significance statements and from input from partners and the public. People visiting Fort Stanwix National Monument, both in person and

virtually, should appreciate the significance of military events at Fort Stanwix that shaped the outcome of the American Revolution as well as the place that Fort Stanwix played in the relations between American Indians, the British, French, and Americans during the 18th century.

Through well developed orientation media, visitors are provided the information they need to explore and understand the site. Quality programming communicates the park's stories and resources for a range of audiences. It fosters opportunities for visitors to make emotional and intellectual connections with the meanings of those stories and resources.

1.4.4 Parkwide Interpretive Themes

There are four themes that the park's interpretive programming and media will introduce and fully explore:

1. The history of Fort Stanwix, from first contact through the end of the fort's useful military life, symbolizes the broader contest of nations (European and American Indian) for economic and political control of the Oneida Carrying Place, the Mohawk Valley, and the rich resources of North America.

Interpretation of this theme weaves local events into the tapestry of regional, national, and international events. It offers a chronology of military strategy and diplomatic history in the region and places that history into regional, national, and international contexts.

2. During the American Revolution, the successful defense of Fort Stanwix in 1777 undermined British strategy and helped win European allies for the United States.

This theme helps visitors understand what happened at Fort Stanwix and why it was important to American History.

Several events contributed to the defense of Fort Stanwix. Continental troops strengthened the fort and critical supplies arrived in advance of British Colonel Barry St. Leger. The attempt to relieve the siege of the fort by Tryon County militia (the Battle of Oriskany) weakened the British, Loyalist, and Indian forces. A successful American sortie against the enemy captured supplies needed for a prolonged siege. And a second American relief attempt convinced St. Leger to withdraw from the still defiant fort. Unsupported by St. Leger, harassed by a Patriot army in Vermont, and defeated at Saratoga, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his invading army. The French, impressed with American battlefield resolve, joined the war against the British.

3. The combatants involved in building, living, and fighting at and around Fort Stanwix illustrate the human complexities of the American Revolution and provide a variety of personal perspectives on historical events, such as the devastation of the Mohawk Valley.

This theme focuses on who was involved at Fort Stanwix during the American Revolution. It interprets the diverse personal stories associated with Fort Stanwix. It discusses the perspectives of those who built the fort, fought at the fort, and why many would endure an isolated post like Fort Stanwix, particularly in wartime.

Residents of the Mohawk Valley fought on both sides of the Revolution; many nationalities were represented on muster rolls. The Six Nation Confederacy split as its member nations took sides and fought. And when the

division between military and civilian objectives blurred, women and children endured the raids that bypassed military bastions like Fort Stanwix and destroyed crops, villages, and human lives.

4. Beginning with the earliest contacts at the Great Carry, continuing through the influential years of Sir William Johnson, and culminating in the Treaties of 1790 negotiated at Fort Stanwix, a controversial pattern of

European/American Indian relations evolved and was applied on a national level.

Fort Stanwix brought together military officers and diplomats, priests and ministers, chiefs, sachems, and war chiefs to test their powers of negotiation and diplomacy and to argue differing world views. The treaties negotiated at the site in 1768 and 1784 established boundary lines, created reservations, ceded native lands, and set precedents generally applied to interaction with other native tribes in other parts of the country. According to Daniel K. Richter's chapter "The States, the United States and the Canandaigua Treaty," in *Treaty of Canandaigua 1794* (2000), the Treaty of Fort Stanwix of 1784 was the first effort of the United States, after securing its independence from Great Britain, to establish formal relations with Indian peoples.

In addition to these interpretative themes, the fort possesses an extensive archaeological collection illustrative of the 19th- and 20th-century development of Rome, NY. Although this collection is outside the primary mission of the park, it will be maintained and made available for research and/or exhibit.

1.5 Fort Stanwix National Monument Fundamental Resources

The table below defines and analyzes the resources and values determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the Fort Stanwix National Monument's purpose and maintaining its significance.

Table 1: Fort Stanwix NM Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental Resource	Analysis and Guiding Principles
Fort Stanwix Archeological Site	Importance: The location of Fort Stanwix was a known portage area and was likely utilized from the beginning of human settlement in Central New York. The portage was a link between Wood Creek and the Mohawk River, an important transportation route, and hence a strategic military site. Fort Stanwix was originally built in 1758 to protect British supply lines during the French and Indian War. During the American Revolution in 1777, American troops successfully resisted a British siege at Fort Stanwix, setting the stage for the critical American victory at Saratoga. The fort was abandoned in 1781.
	Euro-American settlement in the Rome area began after 1785 with the settlement of Lynchville, renamed Rome in 1819. The digging of the Erie Canal, and later the Black River Canal, extended the ability of Rome to easily reach markets from New York City to the Great Lakes. The site of Fort Stanwix became the focus for Rome's industrial, commercial, and residential development and gradually evidence of the fort disappeared under city development.
	Current State and Related Trends: During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the main elements of the fort were excavated, along with many 19 th - and 20 th - century features associated with buildings that had been constructed over the ruins. The grounds of Fort Stanwix National Monument still have potential for containing additional archeological resources relating to the Oneida Carrying Place, Fort Stanwix, and 19 th -century Rome, New York. Significant 19 th - and 20 th -century archeological sites have been found north and south of the fort. These sites are generally in good condition, based on information contained in the Archeological Sites Management Information System database. Significantly, burials of soldiers have been found in the immediate area of the fort and archeological research should precede any ground-disturbing excavations, particularly in the northern sections of the monument.

	<p>Potential Future Threats: Known archeological resources at Fort Stanwix National Monument need to be protected from unauthorized excavation and vandalism and further studied to document their nature and significance in order to inform site planning and management. Additional surveys and evaluations are needed to identify other significant sites that are predicted to be present on park lands and assess and document their significance. Otherwise, loss of these resources may occur.</p> <p>There is potential for municipal infrastructure/utility line relocation and street realignments that could affect the Fort Stanwix National Monument.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: Fort Stanwix National Monument has been identified as an ethnographic resource important to nations of the Six Nations Confederacy, particularly the Oneida Nation, and possibly other Indian tribes from the area of the Great Lakes. Members of the Six Nations and Great Lakes tribes used the carry before the fort was established and served in military operations at the fort between 1758 and 1781. The Oneida Nation gave the British permission to build a fort on the site during the 1750s. The fort was the site of treaty signings between the British and the Indians, particularly the Treaty of 1768. In 1784, the United States negotiated a treaty with the Six Nations, who had sided with the British, to give up much of their land. The State of New York also negotiated four land deals with the Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga Indians at the site in 1788 and 1790.</p> <p>In 1996, Fort Stanwix National Monument initiated an active program of ethnographic resource documentation focused on associations between American Indians and other ethnic or associated groups with ties to Fort Stanwix National Monument and Oriskany Battlefield. In 2002, the National Park Service signed a formal General Agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to promote mutual cooperation and assistance with resources protection, interpretation, and public relationships.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: All cultural management activities are guided by DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline. Laws and policies in effect for the protection of archeological resources also include National Park Service Management Policies, The National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11593: "Archeological Resources Protection Act," and the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.</p> <p>GMP Issues: Formalize the boundary of the National Monument, since it has never been definitively established by the federal government; develop a strategy for Fort Stanwix NM to strengthen the National Monument as a community partner and tie its operating capacity more effectively to neighboring attractions, including Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site; complete needed historical and contextual studies to achieve the interpretive and educational potential of the site and inform resource management and preservation; the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Fort Stanwix National Monument should be substantially revised and updated to reflect current scholarship to emphasize the range of significant resources needing further study and preservation.</p>
<p>Fort Stanwix Historical and Archeological Collections</p>	<p>Importance: As the Collections Management Plan for the park states, the park's archeological collection is among the most significant set of artifacts from an 18th-century fort. The ceramics, glassware, metal tools, and architectural hardware span almost the entire range of available items representative of this time period. For the period between 1850 and 1890, the archeological collection is an outstanding representation of material culture from a small urban community (Rome, NY).</p>

	<p>Current State and Related Trends: During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the main elements of the fort were excavated, along with many 19th- and 20th- century features associated with buildings that had been constructed over the ruins. The Fort Stanwix National Monument museum collections, including archives, number approximately 450,000 items pertaining to both the 18th- century fort occupation (1758-1781) and the 19th and 20th century City of Rome, NY (1796-1970). The military collection is comprised of approximately 45,000 objects. The balance of the collection relates to the 19th and 20th century. The fort's collections are in storage at the Marinus Willett Center. The military archeology of the site is primarily documented in the report <i>Casemates and Cannonballs: Archeological Investigations at Fort Stanwix National Monument</i>. Little additional collection research has been done.</p> <p>Based on information in the 2006 Automated National Catalog System database for the park, approximately 33 percent of the collection is in good to excellent condition, 50 percent is in poor to fair condition, and 17 percent of items do not have condition determined.</p> <p>Potential Future Threats: The 2007 Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections shows 90 percent of standards being met in the new facility. This percentage will continue to improve as operations in the new facility are standardized and formal plans are approved. It is imperative that heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in the Marinus Willett Collections Management and Educational Center be consistently maintained to provide the proper environment to preserve and protect the significant museum collections.</p> <p>A security survey and plan need to be completed and the plan implemented to protect objects in exhibits and in storage. Park procedures for accessing and using collections need to be followed to prevent unauthorized access, use, and harm. Information in the Automated National Catalog System database for the park needs to be continually updated for both collection accountability and research purposes, or potential public benefit of the collection will not be realized.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: As part of Fort Stanwix NM, the historical and archeological collections have the same stakeholder interests described above.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: Cultural management activities are guided by NPS Management Policies, DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline, and the NPS Museum Handbook.</p> <p>GMP Issues: The interpretation of collections should be broadened, using them to promote collaborative heritage development involving local and regional partners.</p>
Fort Stanwix Reconstruction	<p>Importance: Since the existing Fort Stanwix is a reconstruction completed in 1976, its primary significance lies in its being an interpretive device for enhancing public understanding of an 18th- century earthen fort, whose historical importance is described under the Fort Stanwix Archaeological Site.</p>

	<p>Current State and Related Trends: The reconstructed fort was built on the site of the original Fort Stanwix. The site was established as a national monument in 1935, but fort reconstruction did not commence until 1974, when an archeological study by NPS was completed. The partially reconstructed fort was opened in 1976. The fort consists of an earth and timber-clad, reinforced concrete structure. The wood used for the fort is primarily southern yellow pine and tamarack.</p> <p>Based on the National Park Service’s Facility Condition Index, the fort and the three freestanding buildings inside the fort are generally considered to be in good condition. Only the small guard houses are rated as poor, and the facility management division refurbishes them as necessary.</p> <p>The landscape around the fort, based on the park’s Facility Condition Index, is considered to be in good condition. Much of the area is mowed lawn. The grounds surrounding Fort Stanwix were managed as meadow for several years after the fort first opened. Vegetation was left to grow freely as it may have when the original fort was occupied. Some members of the public saw the uncut grasses as unsightly. More recently, the fort grounds have been mechanically mowed to maintain a lawn. In order to preserve the fort slopes, prevent erosion, and present a well-maintained facility in downtown Rome, the park is experimenting with planting various meadow grasses in selected areas adjacent to the fort and in the vicinity of the Willett Center. The park is not attempting to present an “accurate representation of what once existed there” (<i>NPS Management Policies</i> 5.3.5) because the landscape was indifferently maintained during the period of historical significance.</p> <p>Potential Future Threats: The fort, built of wood (southern yellow pine and tamarack), is over 30 years old and structural decay is becoming more evident. The heating and ventilation system in the fort should be upgraded to prevent mold and mildew from developing in the rooms controlled by the system. Shingle roofs over barracks and log roofs over casemates (and their linings) need to be repaired or replaced to maintain structural integrity or else the interior of the buildings will be threatened.</p> <p>The fort has occasionally been entered by unauthorized persons when the facility was closed to the public. Also, false alarms have occurred when unoccupied. The security system in the fort needs to be upgraded to a newer version to cut down on false alarms and catch intruders in the fort.</p> <p>The landscape around the fort has shown signs of small sink holes and also settling of the berms and counterscarp in the ditch area. Significant damage is also being caused by voles. Some members of the public do not support park experiments to plant grasses, wildflowers, and other species to model a historic meadow landscape.</p> <p>The parade ground area consists of a dirt/sand/stone material that becomes soft during rainstorms. After each rainfall material is washed into the drain in the middle of the parade ground. A harder parade ground surface may be required.</p> <p>Stakeholder Interests: Fort Stanwix NM plays an important role in the Rome community, serving as a focal point for the downtown area. The site is also important to the historical reenactor and living history communities. The fort works cooperatively with Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, Steuben Memorial, Northern Frontier Project, Inc., New York State’s Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the Six Nations, and other partners.</p> <p>Laws and Policy Guidance: Cultural management activities are guided by NPS Management Policies and DO-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Management Guideline.</p> <p>GMP Issues: The park needs to improve overall accessibility at the site, improve vehicular and pedestrian routes to the National Monument, and maintain and preserve the cultural landscape and reconstructed fort.</p>
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1.6 Issues to Be Addressed By the GMP

The following presents a summary of issues and concerns raised by the GMP team and park staff in consultation with numerous public and private entities and individuals, including city, state, and federal agencies and American Indians during the public scoping process. These discussions helped identify the critical issues that must be addressed in the proposed alternatives.

Lack of Properly Defined Boundary

Fort Stanwix National Monument's 1935 enabling legislation authorized the NPS to acquire "out of any donated funds" any tracts of land considered necessary to establish and complete the national monument. The legislation further stated that boundaries were to be formally established by presidential proclamation, but no such proclamation was ever made. The area currently administered by the NPS was apparently determined during the urban renewal process, within the constraints of Rome's street grid. The area transferred to the NPS was large enough to encompass the entire reconstructed fort and outworks and some surrounding buffer space. Action is needed to formalize the monument's boundaries.

Fort Stanwix as a Regional Asset

The National Park Service has the opportunity to become a major partner in shaping the direction, quality, and sustainability of regional heritage development over the coming years in Central/Upstate New York. What is the role of Fort Stanwix in this equation? The City of Rome is approximately 40 miles east of Syracuse, 90 miles west of Albany, a gateway to the Adirondack Mountains, and is proximate to three exits on the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90). Rome is within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and a beneficiary of the state's Erie Canalway Trail, the 348-mile bicycling and hiking route under construction along the canal between Albany and Buffalo. Twenty percent of the U.S. population lives within 300 miles of the site. There are many historic and cultural attractions within the geographic area, most importantly the thematically related Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site. There are extensive opportunities to coordinate programming and interpretation with thematically related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley and with the Six Nations Confederacy. Also in the larger region are the Baseball Hall of Fame, Turning Stone Casino, Adirondack Mountains, and the North Country National Scenic Trail. What should the National Park Service do to ensure the operational capacity of Fort Stanwix NM in assisting with tying these assets together and to strengthen Fort Stanwix as a strong community partner?

Accessibility

The primary visitor experience at the park is derived through total immersion in the reconstructed fort. Due to lack of accessibility for visitors with disabilities (particularly those with physical impairments) and continued degradation of the fort structure, access opportunities will become more limited. Handicapped accessibility deficiencies have been repeatedly identified in various reports and analyses conducted at Fort Stanwix. Through the Long Range Interpretive Planning process the park has found that the interpretive media is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and National Park Service Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines. The Northeast Regional Office completed a Comprehensive Accessibility Assessment Inventory in 2000 and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation completed an accessibility overview of the site in 2003. Each of these surveys identified the need to improve the overall accessibility within the site. The park has taken steps to implement some of the recommendations; however, a large-scale effort is needed. The parade ground is the primary feature needing attention as it is now loose soil and does not drain well for universal accessibility.

Maintenance/Administration

The maintenance facility located north of the fort is vital to support the park operation, but its continued deterioration and inefficient systems are a drain on park fiscal resources. The park's utilities infrastructure is constantly tested to handle yearlong weather extremes of central New York (winter temperatures regularly as

low as zero degrees Fahrenheit and 153 inches of annual snowfall). The park spends up to \$81,000 per year on utilities – approximately six percent of its current budget. Unless corrective action is taken, the park will continue to put money into an inefficient utility infrastructure and lose operational dollars for an ever-increasing uncontrollable fixed cost. When a new maintenance facility is designed, the park will pursue an upgrade to a more environmentally efficient solution. The park's administrative offices are presently in space leased from the Rome Historical Society. In recent years, concerns over the cost of this space have been raised. Whether the park will be able to manage the cost of the term of the lease is yet to be determined. Alternative funding strategies are needed.

Wayfinding/Safety

A confusing pattern of streets combined with limited signage makes it difficult for visitors to find the monument. Visitors who park in the parking garage that is designated as visitor parking often find it difficult, and even dangerous, to cross James Street to get to the fort entrance. The goal of the visitor experience is to have the visitor stop at the Willett Center before visiting the fort. Directional and informational signage is not considered adequate.



Figure 2: Fort Stanwix Maintenance Facility.

PART 2. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

This section of the document outlines two alternatives for managing Fort Stanwix National Monument. The alternatives presented fulfill the site's purpose as outlined in its enabling legislation. They both provide for resource preservation and visitor use, yet differ in the level and scope to which this is accomplished.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to consider alternative courses of action and the environmental impacts of those alternatives by writing either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or an Environmental Assessment (EA). *NPS Management Policies 2006* 2.3.1.6 also requires that general management plans consider a range of alternatives. All alternatives, though diverse, should be feasible. If park management is leaning toward one of the alternatives, regulations require that the draft plan identify the preferred alternative for the benefit of the public. Regulations also require that there be a "no action" alternative presented, meaning a direction that would retain the existing status, with no major change in park management philosophy or direction, and no major physical changes. In this draft plan, the two management alternatives represented consist of a "No Action" alternative and a "Preferred Action" alternative.

The planning team considered options and developed the following alternatives in response to public input, the park's legislation, NPS policies, the condition of park resources, the status of existing plans, the park's mission and significance, the park's mission goals, and the planning issues. After examining this information, the team determined that there were few subject areas where visions for the future of the park differed substantially from current practices. However, it became clear that current management practices and conditions could be updated and improved, especially in the areas of interpretive scope, visitor services and facilities, and participation in community and regional partnership initiatives. The Preferred Action alternative suggests specific actions that would upgrade and improve upon the status quo. The potential impacts associated with these actions are considered in the "Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives" section.

Each alternative recognizes the national monument's 13,700 sq.-ft. Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center. It has been named in honor of the fort's second-in-command (1777) Continental Army officer. The facility houses visitor orientation exhibits and audio-visual programming, visitor amenities (e.g. restrooms, sales area), collections storage and workspace, and staff support area. The center is open to the public year-round and is owned and operated by the National Park Service. A separate planning document, with a site plan and environmental assessment, was completed in early 2003, and a Finding of No Significant Impact document was published on the development, siting, and programmatic design of this facility.

2.2 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

2.2.1 Concept

Alternative 1, the No Action alternative, describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. The No Action alternative also provides a baseline against which to measure and evaluate changes proposed in the Preferred Action alternative. Interpretive focus would emphasize modest updating of interpretive media to better reflect the siege story of Fort Stanwix, including causes and effects. Fort Stanwix would physically remain largely in its current condition with emphasis on fort structure adaptive use and continued maintenance of grounds. No further reconstruction of fort elements would be undertaken in favor of enhanced interpretation. There would be modest community outreach and regional partnership initiatives for coordinative purposes in the areas of improving cultural resources protection, interpretation, visitor services, and

tourism development.

2.2.2 Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services

Interpretive Emphasis

The interpretive emphasis at the fort would continue to highlight the siege of Fort Stanwix and fort life with limited allusions to the Burgoyne Campaign and other related sites and activities. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site as a result of the events that occurred there.

Visitor Orientation

Using directional and informational signage, visitors would be directed to/from the public parking garage on the corner of James and Liberty Streets, as well as adjacent surface parking lots. At the Willett Center they will be oriented to the park mission and its unique history, made aware of program offerings, and directed to the fort itself. Also, at the center, visitors will be presented with choices of enhanced interpretive exhibits and educational programs, which effectively represent themes and perspectives associated with diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups that foster an appreciation of their diverse points of view. Basic information on other related historic and cultural sites in the region will also be made available to visitors at the center.

Under the No Action alternative, the park would work with traditionally associated groups and other park partners to continue updating the story of the fort and its national significance.

Interpretive & Educational Programming

The park would continue to emphasize the fort's role in the Revolutionary War and would minimally expand interpretation to emphasize related contextual resources including linkages to historic sites, such as Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, and other thematically related resources associated with the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley.

Programs in the Willett Center complement those in the fort by offering updated exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and a chance to view museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction.

The park would continue its efforts to incorporate diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups into public programs conducted by the National Park Service. The experience of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples would be more fully and accurately interpreted. The park's ongoing partnership with the Oneida Indian Nation would continue to add credibility and perspective to the interpretation.

The park would expand visitor access to the fort as additional fort spaces become available for interpretive use and as funds permit.

The park would continue to seasonally offer interpretive and educational programming that emphasizes military and civilian life within the fort, utilizing techniques such as costumed interpretation, black powder demonstrations, and static exhibits, as staffing and funding permit.

The park would maintain its current inventory of wayside interpretive exhibits and would retain existing content and current locations of wayside exhibits. Wayside interpretive exhibits would be replaced as needed.

The park would continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools, ensuring that children receive quality educational experiences at Fort Stanwix during their primary and secondary school years.

In addition to NPS-conducted programs, the fort and the Willett Center would be available as a venue for programs conducted by park partners and community groups. Such programs would necessarily reflect the park's mission and themes.

Parking and Circulation

The park has constructed a fully handicapped-accessible Willett Center facility and pathways have

been improved where appropriate to improve accessibility.

Under this alternative, the park would make fort structures and pathways compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as feasible.

The park would participate in planning with partners for any redesign of major traffic arteries into downtown, placement of directional signing, and improving safe and functional pedestrian access and circulation.

The park would support efforts to link downtown Rome via hike and bike trail to the New York State Canalway Trail/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, North Country National Scenic Trail, and the Black River Trail.

2.2.3 Zoning

Overall, the park would continue current resource management, facility management, and preservation practices with minimal improvements, as feasible. The NPS would establish the following zoning districts:

Development Area: This area would accommodate existing or expanded park operational and visitor facilities. This area does not encompass any significant natural or cultural resources related to the purpose of the national monument. The Willett Center is located within the development area and is characterized by contemporary construction within an urban context in visual proximity to the fort. Ideally, the Willett Center serves as the first point of contact for visitors to Fort Stanwix National Monument. During times when carrying capacity might be exceeded, park staff would take appropriate steps to manage visitor flow (e.g. offering alternative programming at other locations in the park).

Gathering Area: A large portion of the green space (mown lawn) at the fort is a valuable community asset in an otherwise developed urban environment. The west lawn, where archeological resources would not be threatened, would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events (e.g. Honor America Days). Such appropriate events and programs serve to remind all citizens of our shared heritage.

Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the fort structure and its immediate environs where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs.

2.2.4 Resource Management

Collections

A collection catalog would be completed.

Archeology

A comprehensive archeological inventory would be completed. The park would protect its archeological resources from illegal excavation.

Ethnographic Resources

The park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley.

The park would continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management and use of these resources.

Other Research

The park has completed an administrative history and would use that information to seek a revision of the park's National Register of Historic Places documentation. The administrative study provides a comprehensive history of Fort Stanwix as a colonial and early United States military site, and provides information about the evolution of the site from the time it was decommissioned, through its 20th century designation as a national monument, and up to the present. It also elaborates on the reconstruction of the fort.

The park would continue participating in the National Park Service's Visitor Service Project.¹ The park would undertake an additional visitor use survey in order to measure the effect of the Willett Center on visitor activity, visitor understanding of the park's mission and resources, and visitor impacts on the local and regional economy.

2.2.5 Park Operations

The park would use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.

Fort Structures

The park would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the *List of Classified Structures* as being in fair or poor condition (e.g. West Casement, Sentry Boxes, and Tunnel) and would maintain those assessed as being in good condition through a preventive maintenance program. No further reconstruction of fort features would be proposed. Fire detection and suppression systems would be installed in areas where open flame is used in interpretive demonstrations.

With removal of administrative offices and collections from the fort to the park headquarters at the Rome Historical Society and to the Willett Center, the vacated spaces would be adapted for public access and interpretation as funding becomes available. Redevelopment of these areas would be guided by the Long Range Interpretive Plan.

Other space within the fort would continue to be used for such functions as staff working space, storage of interpretive materials and secure storage for the park's black powder magazine. Tunnels beneath the reconstructed fort would require minor rehabilitation to be continually available for these support functions.

Administrative Facilities

Through a lease with the Rome Historical Society, park headquarters has been moved from the fort to the adjacent Rome Historical Society building (the former Post Office). Contingent upon funding, leasing off-site administrative facilities would continue.

Facility Management

The park would make minor interior improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve operational efficiency, including fort utility improvements.

Staffing

The park would maintain the number and type of park staff to continue current levels of visitor programming and resource management at the fort and the Willett Center.

The park, as a member of NPS's Upstate New York Sub-cluster, would continue to participate in an administrative resources sharing program among NPS units for such functions as human resources management and purchasing. Administrative positions at the park would be structured with this inter-park network in mind.

Fort Stanwix has a dedicated corps of volunteers who commit a significant number of hours in support of park programs and operations. The park would expand the current corps of volunteers in order to support the increased level of visitor programming and services at the Willett Center.

¹ The National Park Service's Visitor Services Project (VSP) is part of a larger social science research program focused on learning more about the National Park Service's visitors and the impact of national park units on their neighboring communities. The Visitor Services Project is undertaken in cooperation with the University of Idaho. The information collected from visitor surveys can influence and contribute to improving park interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

2.2.6 Partnerships and Cooperative Actions

Fort Stanwix National Monument has the support of many partners. The National Park Service would strengthen and formalize these relationships to provide better coordination of shared resource protection, interpretive, educational, and tourism activities that support the park mission of Fort Stanwix National Monument.

2.2.7 Park Boundary

Under this alternative, Fort Stanwix NM would seek legislation to formalize the park's existing boundary as required under the park's enabling legislation. The proposed boundary would, at a minimum, define the fort site as the 16 acres bounded by James Street, East Park Street, Black River Boulevard, and Erie Boulevard in Rome, New York. The lands within this boundary are owned by the federal government and administered by the National Park Service. In effect, this legal boundary clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument. The park will confer with the American Battlefield Protection Program before formalizing the boundary.

2.2.8 Legislative Requirements

Fort Stanwix NM would require a legislative amendment to formalize its boundary.

2.2.9 Costs

Two categories of costs are estimated for each alternative: one-time capital and annual staff and operations. These figures are for planning and comparison purposes only. They represent gross costs and are in 2007 dollars. Actual funding for these potential costs is subject to NPS budget priorities and available funds.

One-time capital costs include the costs to repair and rehabilitate the historic forts and landscape, make infrastructure upgrades, and undertake associated research and planning. These actions are dependent upon the availability of funding and would be phased over the life of the plan. Annual operations and periodic costs are the annual cost to operate Fort Stanwix National Monument. This figure includes the cost of periodic maintenance for structures and landscapes, such as replacement roofs, heaters, and other durable systems.

The one-time capital costs for Alternative 1 are projected to range from approximately \$533,000 to \$639,600 (20 percent range from base estimate). The costs under this alternative are associated primarily with fort rehabilitation projects, developing a new audio-visual program, and upgrading exhibits and signage.

Under this alternative, annual operations and periodic costs would range from \$1,084,220 to \$1,301,064. These costs would cover approximately 17.94 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and well as basic operational costs (20 percent of total). These figures are held constant for the purposes of comparison with other alternatives and are not meant to imply that there could be no future growth in park staff should this alternative be selected.

The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are intended only to provide an estimate of the relative costs of alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent possible, but the estimates should not be used for budgeting purposes. Specific costs will be determined in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to the NPS will vary depending on if and when the actions are implemented and on contributions by partners and volunteers. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding and servicewide priorities. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

Figure 3: Alternative 1 – No Action



Alternative 1: No Action

Fort Stanwix National Monument
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Draft General Management Plan
December 2007

2.3 Alternative 2: The Preferred Action Alternative

2.3.1 Concept

Alternative 2, the Preferred Action alternative, would broaden interpretation to emphasize the role of Fort Stanwix in the greater Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context; expand its interpretation of the Six Nation Confederacy; and, within available funding and authority, foster programmatic coordination as well as technical assistance to thematically related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley. Fort Stanwix NM would also use existing authorities to increase its capacity to pursue community outreach and regional partnership initiatives, particularly in seeking hike and bike trail linkages or shuttle vehicle connections with related sites. Efforts would be made to modify a limited part of the lawn area near the reconstructed fort to establish landscape conditions, using native grasses and other vegetation more evocative (not a reconstruction) of the historic meadow landscape while still maintaining sufficient lawn area to support community events.

As in Alternative 1, vacated fort spaces would be adapted for public use, relying on enhanced interpretation to educate visitors and provide for the essential comprehension of the fort's original appearance.

2.3.2 Interpretation, Education & Visitor Services

Interpretive Emphasis

Under this alternative, the interpretive emphasis would be broadened to place Fort Stanwix in the context of the critical social, political, and military events that took place within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regions of the state of New York from 1754 through 1792 (from the French and Indian War through the American Revolution and after). In partnering with other thematically related properties, such as Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site, the National Park Service would make visitors aware of other interpretive and educational opportunities that would enrich their visitor experience in the region and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the significance of Fort Stanwix NM. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site as a result of the events that occurred there.

Visitor Orientation

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes using directional and informational signage to direct visitors to the Willett Center where they would be oriented to the park, made aware of program offerings, and directed to the fort itself.

Under this alternative, working with related American Indian tribes and other park partners, the park would develop a new regional orientation film that updates the story of the fort, but also elaborates on its role in the Mohawk Valley and describes its national significance. The film would also broaden understanding of related sites in the region.

The fort would develop an expanded webpage to allow park visitors to have access to orientation materials about the fort and information about related sites in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley area.

Interpretive & Educational Programming

Under this alternative, the park would expand interpretation to emphasize the relationships between the fort and Oriskany Battlefield, French and Indian War, the Treaties of Fort Stanwix, and related thematic resources including interpretive linkages to historic sites and other resources associated with the Mohawk Valley. Visitors would be presented with choices of new interpretive exhibits and educational programs, which effectively represent themes and perspectives associated with diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups and that foster an appreciation of their points of view. The experience of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples would be more fully and accurately interpreted. Enhanced and new interpretive media at the fort and in the Willett Center would be employed to more fully convey an understanding of non-reconstructed features.

Interpretive improvements at Fort Stanwix would ensure that visitors are offered more activity choices. They would be able to select from a variety of interpretive techniques and media including wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, audio-visual programs, publications, living history programs, guided and self-guided tours, and possibly interactive or multi-sensory experiences.

The park would explore the use of current and emerging sustainable methods and technologies to deliver interpretive, educational, and orientation programs to visitors who are experiencing parks and resources in new ways.

The park would work with local and regional partners, such as the City of Rome, Oriskany Battlefield, State of New York, and others to upgrade existing interpretive content and provide additional outdoor wayside exhibits that are accurate, educational, and interactive.

As in Alternative 1, the park would initiate the following actions. The park would expand visitor access to the fort as additional fort structures, formerly used for administrative or other purposes, became available for interpretive use. Programs in the center would complement those in the fort by offering visitors up-to-date exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and a chance to explore and research the museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction. The park would continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools, ensuring that children receive quality educational experiences at Fort Stanwix during their primary and secondary school years. In addition to NPS-conducted programs, the fort and the Willett Center would be available as a venue for programs conducted by park partners and community groups. Such programs would necessarily reflect the park's mission and themes.

Parking and Circulation

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes the following actions. Working with park partners and local, state, and federal transportation agencies, the park would seek to redesign pedestrian and bicycle access through major downtown traffic arteries, develop better directional signing, and improve safe and functional pedestrian access for visitors to the park. The park will continue to work with public and private parking lot owners to meet the park needs of visitors to the fort. Fort structures and pathways would also be made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as feasible. The park would work to establish a hike and bike linkage with downtown and the New York State Canalway Trail/Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

This alternative proposes traffic calming actions to foster public safety at street crossings, in collaboration with municipal government.

Under this alternative, the park would explore with the State of New York, Oneida County, the City of Rome, the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Black River Trail, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, Northern Frontier, Inc., and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the creation of physical links, such as hiking and bike trails or alternative fuel shuttle vehicle service to Oriskany Battlefield and other thematically related sites. State scenic byway connections would also be studied.

2.3.3 Zones

The NPS would establish the following management areas (same as Alternative 1 except for enlargement of the Fort Experience Area to allow for a more historically evocative landscape adjacent to the fort):

Development Area: This area would accommodate existing or expanded park operational and visitor facilities. The Willett Center is located within the development area and is characterized by contemporary construction within an urban context in visual proximity to the fort. Ideally, the Willett Center serves as the first point of contact for visitors to Fort Stanwix National Monument. During times when carrying capacity might be exceeded, park staff would take appropriate steps to manage visitor flow (e.g. offering alternative programming at other locations in the park).

Gathering Area: A large portion of the green space (mown lawn) at the fort is a valuable community asset in an otherwise developed urban environment. The west lawn, where archeological resources would not be threatened, would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events (e.g. Honor America Days). Such appropriate events and programs serve to remind all citizens of our shared heritage.

Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the fort and its immediate environs where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs. Under this alternative, to help evoke a greater sense of the historic landscape, cultural landscape studies would be undertaken to establish appropriate meadow grasses and wildflowers in select but limited areas adjacent to the fort.

2.3.4 Resource Management

Collections Management

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. A collection catalog would be completed.

Archeology

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. A comprehensive archeological inventory would be completed. The park would protect its archeological resources from future excavation.

Ethnographic Resources

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. Park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley. The park would continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management of these resources.

Other Research

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes the following. The park has completed an administrative history and would seek a revision of the park's National Register of Historic Places documentation. The administrative study provides a comprehensive history of Fort Stanwix as a colonial military site, and provides information about the evolution of the site from the time it was decommissioned through its 20th century designation as a national monument, and up to the present. It also elaborates on the reconstruction of the fort. The park would continue participating in the National Park Service's annual Visitor Service Project² and would undertake an additional visitor use survey in order to measure the effect of the Willett Center on visitor activity, visitor understanding of the park's mission and resources, and visitor impacts on the local and regional economy.

This alternative proposes preparation of a cultural landscape treatment plan to address the appropriate vegetative treatment of the landscape near the reconstructed fort to provide a more historically evocative meadow setting. Sufficient lawn area would be maintained to support community events. The public would have the opportunity to review and comment on proposed treatment recommendations.

² The National Park Service's Visitor Services Project (VSP) is part of a larger social science research program focused on learning more about the National Park Service's visitors and the impact of national park units on their neighboring communities. The Visitor Services Project is undertaken in cooperation with the University of Idaho. The information collected from visitor surveys can influence and contribute to improving park interpretive and educational programming, park facilities, operations, and planning.

2.3.5 Park Operations

The park would use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.

Fort Structures

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. The park would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the *List of Classified Structures* as being in fair or poor condition (e.g. West Casement, Sentry Boxes, and Tunnel) and would maintain those assessed as being in good condition through a preventive maintenance program. With recent removal of all administrative offices and the collections from the fort to the park headquarters at the Rome Historical Society building and to the Willett Center, the vacated spaces would be adapted for public access and interpretation. Redevelopment of these areas would be guided by the Long Range Interpretive Plan. Fire detection and suppression systems would be installed where open flame is used in interpretive demonstrations; interpretive material and black powder storage would continue; and minor tunnel rehabilitation would be undertaken to support these functions.

Administrative Facilities

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. Through a lease with the Rome Historical Society, park headquarters has been moved from the fort to the adjacent Rome Historical Society building (the former Post Office). Leasing off-site administrative facilities would continue.

Facility Management

This alternative is the same as Alternative 1. The park would make interior improvements as necessary to the existing facility management building to improve operational efficiency.

Staffing

Increased staffing would be required in order to implement this alternative which calls for a broadened interpretation of the fort and its relationship to the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley history, as well as more partnership activities and technical assistance capability. Year-round visitor programming would require increased staffing. In order to facilitate expanded interpretation and educational programs at Fort Stanwix, particularly in its relationship to the surrounding region, a historian and two park rangers need to be added to the staff. The historian would conduct scholarly research and oversee contracted services. Ranger positions would help encourage partnerships to foster connections between the park and related sites increase educational programming, and expand the role of "living history" volunteers. A half-time museum aide should be added at the Willett Center to provide needed support for visitor services. In order to cope with increased visitation throughout the year and expanded maintenance needs, a half-time administrative technician and a full-time maintenance worker need to be added to the staff. Increased staffing would be dependent on NPS budget priorities and available funding.

The park, as a member of the National Park Service's Upstate New York Sub-cluster, would continue to participate in an administrative resources sharing program among NPS units for such functions as human resources management and purchasing. Administrative positions at the park would be structured with this inter-park network in mind.

Fort Stanwix has a dedicated corps of volunteers, many from the Oneida Indian Nation, which commits a significant number of hours in support of park programs and operations. Under this alternative, the park would expand the corps of volunteers in order to offer expanded and enhanced visitor programming and services to the visiting public. The park would seek to define volunteer job descriptions beyond "living history" in the fort to general visitor service and interpretation at the Willett Center.

2.3.6 Partnerships and Cooperative

Actions

As in Alternative 1, the National Park Service would strengthen and formalize partnerships to provide better coordination for shared interpretive, educational, and tourism activities. Additionally, this alternative would, in light of a number of regional, heritage development initiatives, propose that the park seek new partnerships and management agreements with thematically related sites in the region and with other organizations that can help improve the regional visitor experience and economic health. The enhancement of regional program coordination as well as the park's community outreach and provision of technical assistance services in resource protection, interpretation, and visitor services would be essential.

2.3.7 Park Boundary

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes that Fort Stanwix NM pursue legislation to formalize the park's existing boundary as required under the park's enabling legislation. The proposed boundary legislation would, at a minimum, define the fort site as the 16 acres bounded by James Street, East Park Street, Black River Boulevard, and Erie Boulevard in Rome, New York. The lands within this boundary are owned by the federal government and administered by the National Park Service. In effect, this legal boundary clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument. The park will confer with the American Battlefield Protection Program before formalizing the boundary. The park may explore the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements with other entities to include key related sites within the national park system or to cooperatively manage them. Sites might include the Carrying Place landings, Oriskany Battlefield, and other associated sites.

2.3.8 Legislative Requirements

As in Alternative 1, this alternative proposes that Fort Stanwix National Monument seek a legislative amendment to formalize its boundary.

2.3.9 Costs

Two categories of costs are estimated for each alternative: one-time capital and annual staff and operations. These figures are for planning and comparison purposes only. They represent gross costs and are in 2007 dollars. Funding for all improvements would be subject to NPS budget priorities and available funds.

One-time capital costs include the cost to repair and rehabilitate the historic fort and landscape, make infrastructure upgrades, and the associated research and planning. Annual operations and periodic costs are the annual cost to operate Fort Stanwix National Monument.

The one-time capital costs for Alternative 2 are projected to range from approximately \$1,243,000 to \$1,491,600 (range is 20 percent above base estimate). The construction costs under this alternative are associated primarily with cultural resource projects, developing a new audio-visual program, and upgrading exhibits and signage. Planning and research activities include cultural resource projects, a visitor services project, accessibility plan, visitor circulation and signage plan, and the Stanwix-Oriskany Trail.

Annual operations and periodic costs associated with this management alternative would range from \$1,446,437 to \$1,735,724. Under this alternative staff would be approximately 22.94 full time equivalent employees (FTE) and would account for 80 percent of the operations and periodic costs budget. Additions to park staff would include a historian (1 FTE), two park rangers (2 FTE), one maintenance worker (1 FTE), one museum aide (.5 FTE), and one administrative technician (.5 FTE).

The cost figures shown here and throughout the plan are intended only to provide an estimate of the relative costs of alternatives. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs to the extent

possible, but the estimates should not be used for budgeting purposes. Specific costs will be determined in

subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. Actual costs to the NPS will vary depending on if and when the actions are implemented and on contributions by partners and volunteers. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding and servicewide priorities. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

Figure 4: Alternative 2 - Preferred Action



2.4 Alternatives Eliminated from Consideration

Expand Fort Boundary to Include Oriskany Battlefield

The National Park Service considered but deferred supporting a proposal that would have recommended inclusion of Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site within the boundary of Fort Stanwix National Monument. The study did not find it feasible at the time to include Oriskany in the national park system because of New York State's interest in continuing to manage the battlefield site. The park will continue to explore with New York State officials the feasibility of a future boundary adjustment and agreements to manage the site cooperatively or include the site in the national park system. Fort Stanwix NM and Oriskany Battlefield have entered into a cooperative management agreement that encourages coordinated programming, interpretation, and publicity. Federal legislation {Section 802(a) of Public Law 105-391} authorizes the National Park Service to enter into mutually beneficial agreements with state and/or local governmental agencies for cooperative management purposes.

Complete Reconstruction of the Fort

Fort Stanwix was intended to be a complete and accurate reconstruction, based on the fullest possible documentary and archeological investigation. Constraints of time and money caused some elements of the reconstruction to be deferred during what became the first phase. A second phase of construction in 1978 was intended to complete the missing elements, but insufficient funding forced some construction to be deferred. As an interim measure to completing reconstruction of missing elements, it may be feasible to use interpretation media to convey adequate understanding and appreciation of these elements. Reconstruction of limited features could be considered if funding is secured from an outside source.

2.5 Summary of Alternatives

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative		Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
<i>Concept</i>	The No Action alternative describes current management practices and conditions at Fort Stanwix National Monument. Current management practices and conditions would remain largely unchanged if this alternative were selected. The No Action alternative provides a baseline against which to measure and evaluate changes proposed in action alternatives.	The National Park Service would broaden interpretation to emphasize the role of Fort Stanwix in the greater Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley regional context; expand its interpretation of the Six Nations; and, within available funding and authority, foster programmatic coordination as well as technical assistance to thematically-related sites within the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley.
Interpretation, Education and Visitor Services		
<i>Interpretive Emphasis</i>	Improve interpretation of the Six Nations and American Indian experience at Fort Stanwix.	
	The interpretive emphasis at the fort would continue to highlight the siege of Fort Stanwix and fort life with limited allusions to the Burgoyne Campaign and other related regional sites and activities. Also, interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the people of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site and as a result of the events that occurred there.	Interpretive emphasis would be placed on the role of Fort Stanwix in the influential social, political, and military events that took place in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley region of New York from 1758 through 1800. Interpretation at Fort Stanwix would provide a more complete and accurate interpretation of the experiences of the Six Nations and other American Indian peoples at the site and as a result of the events that occurred there.
<i>Visitor Orientation</i>	Directional and informational signage directs visitors to/from Willett Center, parking, etc.	
	Primarily oriented toward fort's history and local context. New orientation film would reflect this focus.	Expanded emphasis placing fort in regional context and including more information on regional partners' sites / themes / programs. New orientation film would reflect this focus. Park would develop expanded webpage to provide visitor orientation and regional linkages.
<i>Interpretive and Educational Programming</i>	Continue to seasonally offer interpretive and educational programming that emphasizes military life within the fort using techniques like costumed interpretation, black powder demonstrations, and static exhibits. Expand visitor access and interpretive opportunities at the fort through adaptive re-use of spaces formerly used for offices and collections storage. Continue efforts to incorporate diverse cultural, ethnic, and regional groups into NPS-conducted public programs. Continue to develop curriculum-based education programs with local schools.	
	Maintain current inventory of wayside exhibits and current content, and replace as needed.	Upgrade wayside exhibits and as appropriate provide new interpretive media at the fort and on the site to enhance visitor understanding of both old and new interpretive stories. The park would work with partners to improve and expand their programs, provide for coordinated interpretation, and publicize programs. Programs in the center would complement those in the fort by offering up-to-date exhibits, a new audio-visual program, and an opportunity to explore and research the museum objects related to Fort Stanwix and the role of archeology in the fort's reconstruction. In addition to NPS programs, the fort and Willett Center would be available for those conducted by programmatic partners (such programs must be consistent with park mission).

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative		Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
<i>Parking & Circulation</i>	<p>Participate in planning for any redesign of local traffic arteries and signage into downtown, and to improve pedestrian circulation and access.</p> <p>Make fort and pathways compliant with ADA and Rehabilitation Act, as feasible.</p> <p>Link to downtown and NY State Canalway Trail / Erie Canalway NHC, and others with hiking and bike trail.</p>	<p>Work with other partners to provide traffic calming measures for adjacent streets.</p> <p>Explore with partners developing trail links or shuttle services to Oriskany Battlefield and other related sites.</p> <p>Pursue scenic byway connections.</p>
Management Areas		
	<p>The NPS would establish the following management areas:</p> <p>Development Area: This area would accommodate park operational and visitor facilities (e.g. facility management building).</p> <p>Gathering Area: A portion of the green space at the fort is a valuable community asset and would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events.</p>	
	<p>Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the structure of the fort where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs.</p>	<p>Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the structure of the fort where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs. The site would add vegetation evocative of the historic landscape.</p>
Resource Management		
<i>Collections</i>	Complete collection catalog.	
<i>Archeology</i>	Undertake comprehensive inventory and protect archeological resources from excavation.	
<i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	<p>Park would complete research to identify and understand the full range of ethnographic resources and traditionally associated groups related to Fort Stanwix, the Northern Frontier, and the Mohawk Valley.</p> <p>Continue to work with traditionally associated groups to define and undertake appropriate management and use of these resources.</p>	
<i>Other Research</i>	<p>Park would undertake a revision of National Register documentation.</p> <p>Park would participate in the National Park Service's Visitor Services Project.</p>	
		Park would prepare a cultural landscape treatment plan to address options for making portions of the grounds more evocative of an 18 th century setting.
Park Operations		
<i>General Operations</i>	Use best management practices, systems, and techniques in support of mission-related goals and efficient, effective, and accountable operations.	
<i>Fort Structures</i>	<p>The NPS would rehabilitate features of the reconstructed fort identified in the List of Classified Structures as being in fair or poor condition and would maintain them in good condition through a preventive maintenance program.</p> <p>Fort spaces formerly used for administrative or other purposes would be used for interpretive opportunities.</p>	

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative		Alternative 2 – The Preferred Action Alternative
Administrative Facilities	Park headquarters would continue to be leased in off-site facility.	
Facility Management	Make minor interior improvements to facility management building as necessary to improve operational efficiency.	
Staffing	Expand the dedicated corps of park volunteers to support visitor services at the Willett Center.	
	Maintain the number and type of park staff to support current levels of programming and resource management at the fort and provide sufficient staff for the Willett Center.	Expand the number and type of park staff to enhance programming at the fort, provide sufficient staff for the Willett Center, and enhance park’s ability to participate in community and regional outreach, build partnerships, and provide technical assistance.
Partnerships/ Cooperative Actions		
	NPS would strengthen and formalize existing relationships to provide better coordination of shared interpretive, educational, and tourism activities that support the park mission. The park would coordinate with traditional groups.	
		NPS would forge new partnerships with public and private entities, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, and organizations including historically and thematically related sites throughout the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley to improve regional visitor experiences and tourism benefits. NPS would use existing authorities to offer technical assistance and help coordinate programming at thematically related sites in the Northern Frontier and Mohawk Valley region.
Park Boundary		
	The National Park Service would pursue legislation to formalize the park’s existing boundary as required by the park’s enabling legislation. This clarification would help protect the archeological and historic resources specifically and immediately associated with the national monument.	
Legislative Requirements		
	Formalize park boundary through legislative amendment.	
Costs		
Operations	\$1,084,220 – 1,301,064	\$1,446,437 – 1,735,724
One-Time Capital Costs	\$533,000 – 639,000	\$1,243,000 – 1,491,600