

Guidelines for Development Projects

These guidelines are for the successor and its partners to follow when developing facilities for public access and interpretation in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

PROCEDURE FOR SITE SELECTION

1. *Assure the need for the development:* This includes the construction of parking, trails, stream crossings, interpretive and directional signs, interpretive facilities, comfort facilities, or other development. The need should be confirmed through thorough planning and analysis. This generally requires knowledge of planned and existing interpretive programs, size of audience, and relationship to other sites. Facilities are to be shared as much as possible, and when possible (as in the case of facilities for maintenance and some administrative functions) to be sited away from public areas and critical cultural landscapes.
2. *Know the possible environmental and cultural impacts:* Impacts on environmental and cultural resources are best avoided, rather than mitigated. A thorough knowledge of wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, endangered species, archeological sites, historic structures, historical views, and important cultural landscape features—e.g., fencelines, field patterns, woodlots, or specimen trees—is required prior to selecting any site for any purpose. Such resources are to be avoided wherever possible, and mitigation is to be pursued to the maximal extent feasible when impacts are unavoidable.
3. *Know the possible impacts on the community:* Following a full analysis of environmental and cultural resources, impacts on traffic and other community-related or neighborhood-related impacts should be considered in developing a short list of potential sites or, in the case of trails, alternative designs.
4. *Follow all applicable laws:* In developing a short list of potential sites or designs, all applicable environmental and other laws are to be followed. Section 106 review is expected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and an environmental assessment or environmental impact study is expected under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Reviews by local authorities are expected under all applicable local laws; if the constructing organization is exempt, the courtesy of local review is encouraged.

CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. *Undertake adaptive use wherever feasible:* Where a building is required as a part of the development, re-use of existing buildings is to be the first option examined and is preferred.
2. *Follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards:* Where a historic building is involved in development, rehabilitation is to be undertaken according to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
3. *Create unobtrusive design:* Design of new development on battlefields should respect the cultural landscape and the integrity of the battlefield, and contribute to a satisfactory visitor experience. Colors, materials, scale, paving materials (if any), landscaping, and other elements of design should combine to form a pleasing and generally unobtrusive aspect that

complements the existing cultural landscape. Replication or the moving in or historic buildings materials is not recommended in the development of new structures. If new structures are needed, they should reflect the place and the needs and customs of the present.

4. *Create safe parking and traffic impacts:* The analysis of the potential traffic and safety impact of the development is critical, and all feasible mitigation should be pursued. Parking should be sufficient for ordinary use, and plans should be incorporated into the development for accommodating parking needs during peak times or overflow events.
5. *Follow the state of the art in earthmoving and construction to avoid temporary or permanent impacts to the environment, especially streams and wetlands.* Specifications for construction and earthmoving should be explicit on this point, and supervision of construction practices should be vigilant. Tree removal should be minimized except where scene restoration is recommended for interpretive purposes. (This does not apply to forestry activities on public-trust lands, which should follow best-management practices in maintaining woodlots and other forested areas not accessible to the public.)
6. *Minimize impervious surfaces:* To avoid water quality impacts and runoff problems, the area of the site to be covered by roofs, paving, and other impervious surfaces should be minimized.
7. *Conserve energy, minimize waste:* The specifications, construction, and operation of any structure should be designed to minimize energy use and waste products. Analysis of the total energy impact of the development is encouraged. To minimize cooling and heating costs, and to reduce the solar impact on visitors' parked cars (in summer), landscaping and solar orientation should be considered in the design phase.
8. *Avoid or minimize impacts to biotic resources:* Consider the impact of new plantings on existing habitats for both animal and plants, avoid exotic and/or high maintenance species, and design landscaping and landscape maintenance practices to minimize or avoid entirely the need for herbicides or pesticides and in order to take maximum advantage of the principles of integrated pest management. Where possible and appropriate, landscaping should be designed with native plants and provide forage and cover for wildlife.

COORDINATION / CONTACTS

Appropriate local, state, and federal governments should be consulted when undertaking development projects. Some of the contact agencies and groups include:

1. *Wetlands and Floodplains:* Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Valley Regional Office
2. *Agricultural Land:* Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and American Farmland Trust
3. *Threatened and Endangered Species:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for animals, and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for plants
4. *Ecologically / Environmentally Critical Areas:* local governments to identify critical areas

5. *Biotic Communities*: local governments for identified areas; Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for information on native plants; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
6. *Streams and Other Water Resources*: local governments for stormwater management and setback requirements; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Valley Regional Office; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program; other contacts include River Network, Shenandoah Valley Pure Water 2000, Shenandoah and James River Watershed Managers, and Friends of the North Fork
7. *Historic, Archeological, and Cultural Resources*: National Park Service, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation per the Programmatic Agreement for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
8. *Land Use*: local governments regarding land use plans and potential spin-off development
9. *Visual Impacts*: Virginia Department of Transportation regarding the placement of road signs; local governments and historical societies regarding the appearance of new development; National Park Service, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (per the Programmatic Agreement for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) when historic properties may be impacted
10. *Public Health and Safety*: local governments and Virginia Department of Transportation for traffic safety and accessibility considerations (visitor facilities, interpretive pulloffs, walking tours); local governments for issues regarding people with disabilities; Virginia Department of Health for waterworks and sewerage regulations
11. *Construction*: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service and local officials for permit requirements, applicable regulations, and suggestions for best practices; National Park Service if federal funds, permits or assistance are involved (may require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969); Virginia Department of Environmental Quality if state funds are involved
12. *Air Quality*: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Valley Regional Office
13. *Transportation*: Virginia Department of Transportation and local governments
14. *Solid and Hazardous Waste*: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Valley Regional Office and Department of Emergency Services
15. *Energy Use and Conservation*: Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

16. *Recreation*: National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and local governments