



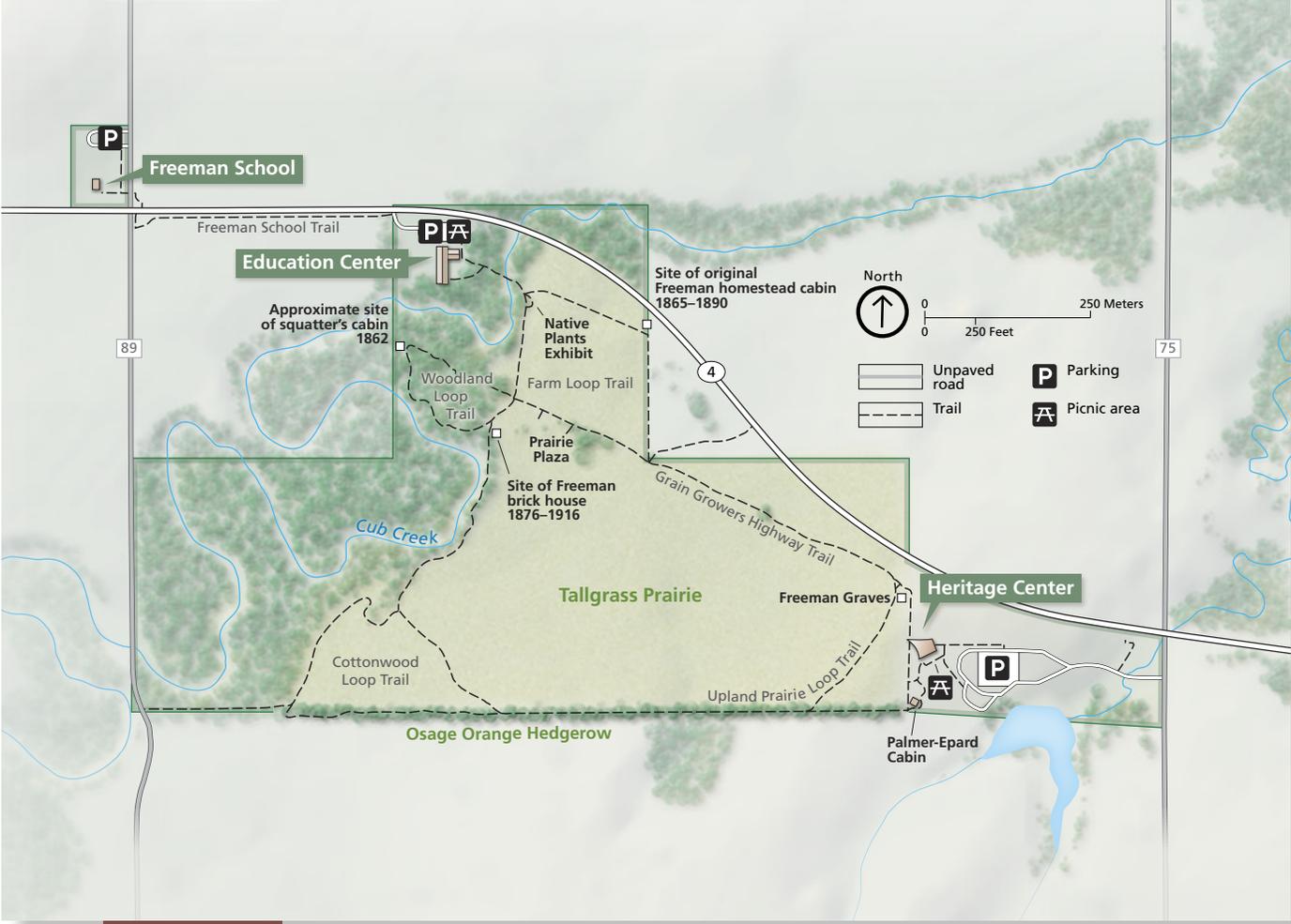
Foundation Document

Homestead National Monument of America

Nebraska

August 2015





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Visitors enjoying Homestead's hiking trails.

Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises over 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Homestead National Monument of America can be accessed online at:

<http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Heritage Center

Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, was created on March 19, 1936, to commemorate and interpret the impacts of the Homestead Act on the United States and the world. Historians have often declared the Homestead Act to be one of the nation's most significant laws. This law declared that anyone who was a citizen, or intended to become one, could claim 160 acres (one-quarter square mile) of surveyed government land. Claimants had to build a home and live on the land for five years. During that five-year period, claimants were required to improve the land agriculturally. After five years, the government would transfer ownership of the land to the successful claimant.

Homesteaders faced a great deal of uncertainty and numerous hardships, including drought, locusts, and blizzards; 60% of all homesteaders abandoned their claims. Still, the US government distributed more than 270 million acres of land to 1.6 million successful homesteaders between 1863 and 1986. Homestead lands were located in 30 of the 50 states. Today there are estimated to be more than 93 million descendants of homesteaders in the United States.

This 211-acre monument commemorates the Homestead Act with displays examining the social, economic, and environmental impacts of this legislation. The park land encompasses 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie and includes a T-shaped quarter section of tallgrass prairie, stream, and mixed hardwood forest that comprised the entire original claim of Daniel Freeman. On January 1, 1863, Freeman was one of the first homesteaders to file under the provisions of the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862. The primary monument structures include the Homestead Heritage Center, the Homestead Education Center, the Palmer-Epard Cabin, and the Freeman School, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1872 and located a quarter mile west of the Education Center.

Homestead National Monument of America is unique as the only location in the United States dedicated to the story of the Homestead Act in its broadest context. Through exhibits, films, educational programs, and special events, the staff educates the public about the importance of the Homestead Act to our nation's history. The exhibits and events examine a variety of topics related to homesteading, including agriculture, industrialization, American Indians, immigration, introduction of plant species, and prairie ecology. The park maintains excellent relationships with other organizations and facilities dealing with specific aspects of homesteading history, such as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The Friends of Homestead (a nonprofit organization) own and manage the 140-acre parcel directly to the south of the national monument. The Friends of Homestead's stated goal is to donate the parcel to the National Park Service in the future. The national monument also has authority to create the Homestead Educational Parkway in the vicinity of the park, if Nebraska Highway 4 is rerouted.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Homestead National Monument of America was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on March 19, 1936 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA is to commemorate the Homestead Act and its influence on the country and the world; protect and care for the 160-acre original homestead's resources and the Freeman School; and erect and manage suitable buildings to be used as a museum for the preservation, education, and interpretation of homesteading literature, history, and culture.



President Roosevelt signing the Homestead National Monument Act with Senator Norris and Representative Luckey looking on.

Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Homestead National Monument of America, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Homestead National Monument of America. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. The monument encompasses a 160-acre homestead claim established on the first day of the Homestead Act's implementation, which is among the first of the millions of homesteads established under the act between 1863 and 1886.
2. The Freeman School was one of the longest continually operating one-room schoolhouses during the Homestead Era in Nebraska. It was in use from 1872 to 1969. The school structure is the original building located on its original site adjacent to Daniel Freeman's homestead.
3. The Homestead Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 and implemented from 1863 to 1886, brought profound changes to the land and to the nation: it had major influence on federal land and immigration policy; it defined and hastened settlement and community development; it empowered women, African Americans, and immigrants; it increased opportunities for social, political, and economic mobility for all homesteaders; it promoted cultivation of millions of acres of land, which resulted in destruction of native ecosystems across the country; it hastened agricultural and technological development; and in some regions it contributed to the dispossession of American Indian tribes.
4. Homestead National Monument of America contains the second oldest tallgrass prairie restoration in the nation, and the Freeman School site contains one acre of tallgrass prairie that has never been plowed, which is among the last 4% of the native prairie remaining in the country.
5. The Freeman Homestead contains ideal conditions for a homestead: woodlands, water supply, good soil, adequate rainfall, convenient access to a road, and proximity to an established town.
6. Homestead National Monument of America is the world's primary repository of objects associated with homesteading. The museum housed within the Heritage Center preserves important resources related to the homestead story and was mandated by the park's enabling legislation.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Homestead National Monument of America:

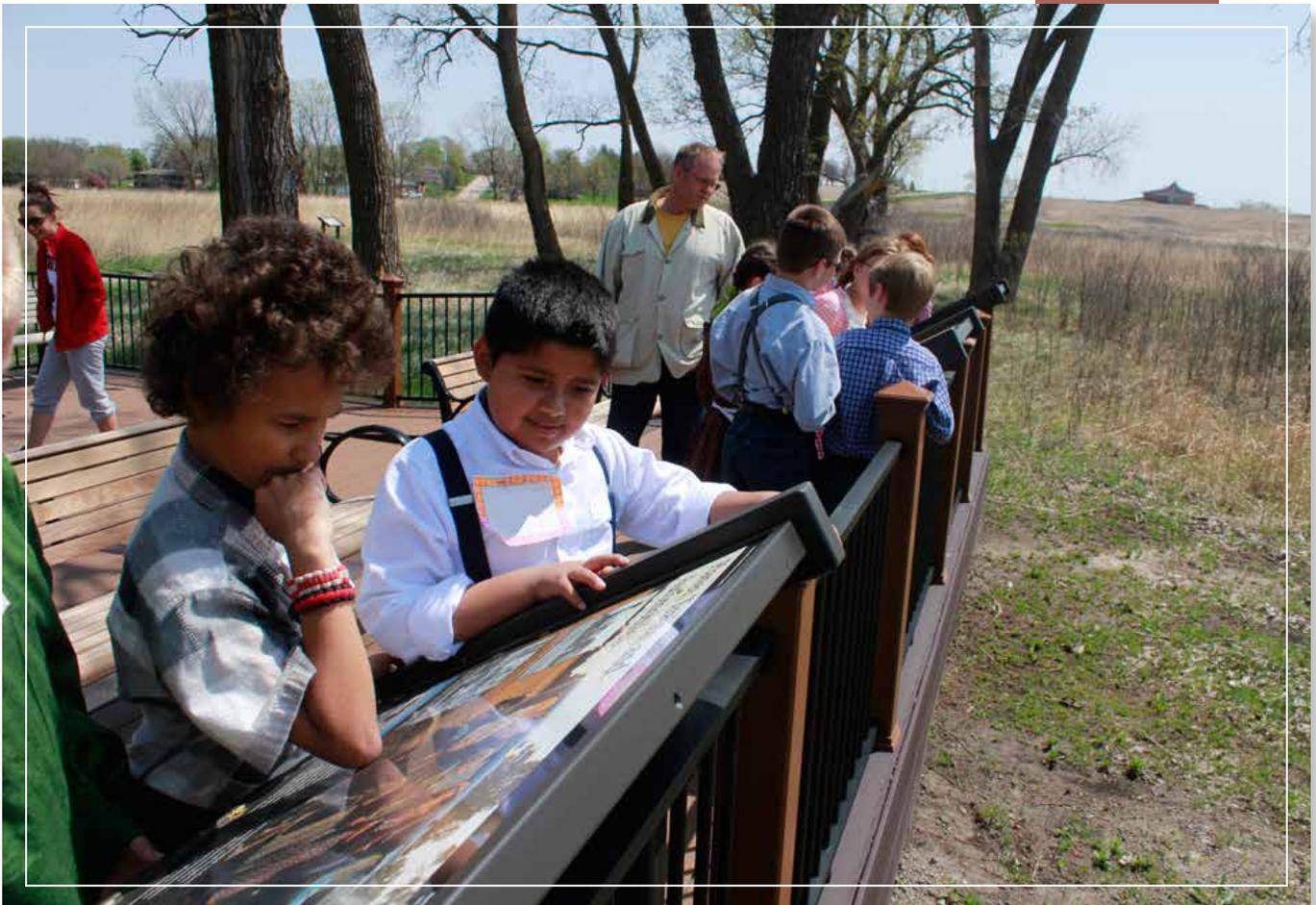
- **The original 160-acre homestead claim, including related landscape features such as Cub Creek, bur oak forest and woodlands, restored prairie, Freeman-planted Osage orange hedgerow, Freeman grave site, and wildlife found on site.** This area is defined by the “imaginary line” of Freeman’s application for a homestead.
- **The Freeman School grounds.** This includes the school, related outbuildings, play equipment, the native prairie remnant, and the connection between the school and the Freeman Homestead.
- **Museum collections, including family and oral histories.** Homestead National Monument of America preserves the material and social culture of the Homesteading Era, such as farming implements, photographs, letters, literature, tools, clothes, and artifacts used and valued by homesteaders.
- **Lowland bur oak forest.** This was part of the original landscape of the homestead, and is now a rare ecosystem in the state.
- **“Grain Grower’s Highway” freight road remnants.** The physical trace of this road from Beatrice to the Freeman Homestead and other points west still exists, along with culverts, bridge footings, and related structures. This road also connected the Freeman Homestead to the Freeman School.
- **Archeological sites related to habitation.** There are several archeological sites within the park, from before and during the Homestead Era. Together, they show the changes in occupation and land use on the parcel from American Indian tribes to the homesteaders.
- **Palmer-Epard Cabin.** This structure was built by a homesteader in Gage County in 1867, with the same materials and tools that Freeman would have used.
- **Sense of time and place.** Sights and sounds within the park provide a sense of time and place to the visitor. Views to and from the original 160-acre homestead help visitors experience the beauty and solitude that homesteaders encountered when they first approached their land. Looking outside the boundary, visitors see farming, industry, and housing development that resulted from homesteading. Relatively clear night skies and the natural sounds of bird songs, rushing water, blowing winds, and waving prairie allow visitors to experience what the homesteaders would have experienced.

Other Important Resources and Values

Homestead National Monument of America contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Homestead National Monument of America:

- **Partnerships.** The park uses partnerships to execute its management goals, raise funds, conduct scientific study, support park operations, produce interpretive programming, and promote the park and its programs.
- **Daughters of the American Revolution Monument and the Centennial Time Capsule.** These features contribute to the memorial aspect of the park and commemorate special events.
- **Mission 66 suspension bridge over Cub Creek.** A unique architectural small-scale suspension bridge links the park’s education center to the restored prairie and the Heritage Center.



Children learning about the tallgrass prairie at the Homestead Prairie Plaza.

Related Resources

There are resources that are related to the Homestead story that are owned and managed by entities outside the National Park Service. These are referred to as related resources, and they are noted here for their importance to the park. Although the National Park Service has no direct management role in these resources, their continued preservation is of great importance to Homestead National Monument of America.

The following related resources have been identified for Homestead National Monument of America:

- **The Homestead Act itself.** The physical document signed by President Abraham Lincoln is maintained by the National Archives Records Administration.
- **Homestead land-entry case files.** The National Archives Records Administration houses the original applications, records of improvements, and witness testimonies that homesteaders filed to “prove up” their homestead claim. These case files are currently in the process of being digitized by Family Search to be shared with Homestead National Monument of America and others. In addition to finding these records at Homestead one can find these records through Fold3.com and Ancestry.com.
- **Friends of Homestead 140-acre parcel.** The 140-acre parcel adjoining the south park boundary, currently owned by the Friends of Homestead nonprofit organization, protects part of the Osage orange hedgerow and includes a prairie restoration project.
- **Millions of homesteaded sites and farms.** There are millions of homesteaded sites or farms connected to the story of homesteading throughout the nation’s 30 homesteading states. Many of these farms or homestead sites hold special meanings to families who homesteaded on these sites and they also hold American homesteading history. Examples range from sod houses in Custer County, Nebraska, to America’s last homestead patent, filed in Alaska in 1986.



Homestead Act on loan to Homestead from the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Homestead National Monument of America:

- The Homestead Act empowered traditionally marginalized groups, including women, African Americans, and foreign-born individuals, by increasing their political, social, and economic mobility through land ownership, thus providing enfranchisement and access to the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- The Homestead Act made possible the realization of the American Dream; an ethos that all people have the opportunity to be prosperous and successful through hard work.
- The European American concept of progress was fueled by expansion, acquisition, and use of natural resources. The Homestead Act provided opportunity to private citizens, brought unprecedented prosperity to the nation, and helped create the largest agricultural and industrial superpower in the history of the world.
- Homesteaders instituted networks of community services through town building, creating transportation systems, and establishing financial, commercial, and education institutions. The increase in technological innovation and invention that followed eased the laborious tasks of homesteading.
- Westward expansion produced dramatic changes for many American Indian people.
- “Free Land!” was the homesteading cry. While being monetarily free, the process required mental, physical, and emotional hardships that made the acquisition of free land an expensive undertaking.
- In 1862 the 37th Congress passed a legislative package that promoted westward expansion by establishing the US Department of Agriculture, providing free land to individuals under the Homestead Act, endorsing the construction of railroads through the Pacific Railway Acts, and helping states establish agricultural and mechanical universities through the Morrill Act in an effort to support the anticipated growth of family farms.
- Throughout history, brave individuals have stepped forward and challenged the status quo to ensure their rights, liberties, and freedoms were not violated. Daniel Freeman challenging the teaching of religion in the Freeman School is a constant reminder of this important American value.
- Biodiversity of the natural resources often determined the success of homesteaders, yet the very act of homesteading disrupted many of those resources. Today we work to restore/protect what is left.
- The Homestead Act represented a radical shift in how the government distributed public lands.

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Homestead National Monument of America.

Special Mandates

- Per the enabling legislation, the park is required to “Erect suitable buildings to be used as a museum in which shall be preserved literature applying to such settlement and agricultural implements used in bringing the western plains to its present high state of civilization.” Therefore the park has a mandate to develop and operate museums on site and to preserve literature and agricultural implements related to homesteading and development.
- The enabling legislation also requires the park to “Use the land to perpetuate the history of the country as developed by the Homestead Act.” This is a mandate to tell the homestead story as it applies to the United States as a whole, and not focus just on the Freeman Homestead.
- The enabling legislation requires the park to “Lay out the land in a suitable and enduring manner.”
- The National Park Service has legislation allowing for the creation of the Homestead Education Parkway along Nebraska Highway 4. This is to be accomplished by working with partners, individuals, and local and state governments. The park may move forward on this educational and economic opportunity in the future.

Administrative Commitments

- Scenic easements exist along the northern boundary of the park. These perpetual easements were purchased in 1960s and cover areas along Highway 4 from the Education Center to the Freeman School site. They ensure that this area will remain predominantly agricultural in nature.
- Three right-of-way permits cross the park boundary for provision of water, telephone, and electricity.
- Annual special use permit with Nebraska Department of Roads for operation and maintenance of Nebraska Highway 4.
- Agreements with local fire, law enforcement, and communication agencies.
- Memorandums of understanding with Friends of Homestead and other partners.
- Standard cooperating associating agreement with Eastern National to run the bookstore and concessions operations in the Heritage Center and Education Center.
- An agreement with Educational Service Unit 5 provides Internet for Homestead's distance learning and public access for electronic homestead records research.

For more information about the administrative commitments for Homestead National Monument of America, please see appendix B.



Family fun near the Palmer-Epard Cabin

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
2. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
3. prioritization of planning and data needs

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the prioritization of planning and data collection needs.

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

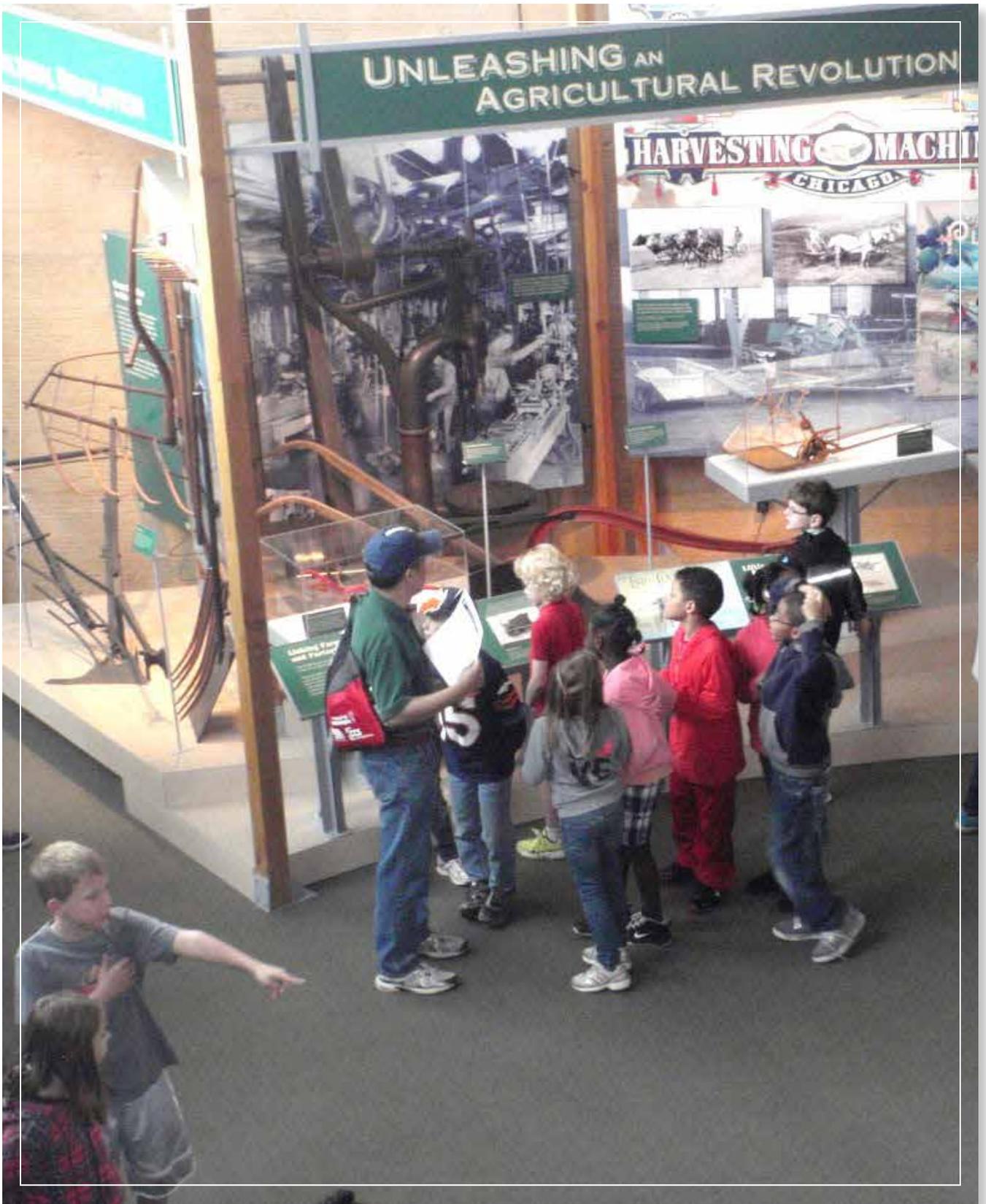
The following are key issues for Homestead National Monument of America and the associated planning and data needs to address them:



Visitors attending a special event at the Homestead Education Center.

Key Parkwide Issues	Planning and Data Needs
<p>Highway 4 concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle traffic on Nebraska Highway 4, including heavy truck traffic to the industrial activities north of the park, impacts views, soundscape, and visitor safety. • The park desires to relocate Highway 4 and develop the Homestead Heritage Parkway as prescribed in the general management plan. • Desire to complete a hiking/biking trail from Beatrice to allow safer access than Highway 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need updated traffic counts and information on Highway 4 for sound and safety issues. • Need to coordinate ongoing efforts to relocate Highway 4 and to cooperate with the local community and the Nebraska Department of Roads. External partners needed for maximum support. • The National Park Service does not want to own the trail or parkway but could assist in maintenance and interpretation.
<p>Land use and resource concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed industrial energy developments threaten night skies, viewsheds, and other visitor experience issues. • Uncertainty of continued agricultural use of neighboring lands may threaten the sense of time and place at the park. • Depletion of groundwater aquifer and other watershed issues due to heavy agricultural and industrial use and climate change may be impacting forest and prairie health. • Ongoing agricultural practices have damaged the Osage orange hedgerow in the past; this fundamental resource is vulnerable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the public, local officials, and developers on assessing impacts of industrial energy development on the monument. • Work with the NPS Climate Change Response Program to understand the range of influences from a changing climate on the monument's natural systems. • Consider methods to encourage continuation of ongoing agricultural use on neighboring lands. • Strategy for implementation of recently completed boundary study.
<p>Recreational activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to provide additional recreation opportunities for visitors. • Concern over hunting on the property or crossing the property while hunting; hunting on edge of the park may be a safety issue for visitors. • Visitors use trails up to the edge of the property where hunters are stationed. • Farm pond – The National Park Service owns half of the pond at the Heritage Center. Management of the dam is shared and reduces opportunities for the National Park Service to use it for programs and activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with neighboring landowners to improve safety. • Outline goals for the pond and investigate options for reaching or coming close on desired goals. • Develop a partnership plan and objectives for the pond with the other owner. • Strategy for implementation of recently completed boundary study.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing invasive plant species threaten the prairie and forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop site-specific adaptive plan to manage invasive prairie and forest plant species.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of space for current and future collection. Limited ability to fulfill Scope of Collections due to space concern. Especially important to better care for the large farm implements imperiled by potential floods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase space needed for collections through an expansion. Increase reliance on digital records for case files, literature, etc. to increase capabilities to acquire and use information.

Key Parkwide Issues	Planning and Data Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An administrative history is needed to understand decisions that have been made in the past and how they impact the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the park’s administrative history, which was last revised in the 1980s. An administrative history could incorporate an environmental history of the park that would focus on the interaction between and among the human and nonhuman components of the natural world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park has additional technology needs. Keeping up with current communications trends is a priority. Distance learning is a major focus. Need additional staffing and direction to continue growing the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication plan is needed, and can be included in the long-range interpretive plan. Document critical need and continue to solicit on-site IT support. Request additional staff for distance learning programs. Complete the five-year education plan that is in progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to accommodate growing number of volunteers and meaningfully engage them in projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need updated volunteer plan and strategy. Continue recruiting volunteers for targeted projects. Enlist supportive organizations to coordinate volunteer work with the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big changes have taken place in the interpretive programs in the last 10 years; need a vision for the future to ensure it is comprehensive and meets desired visitor experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New long-range interpretive plan is needed to direct vision for multidimensional interpretation programs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park name: 85% of first-time visitors are confused by the name and expect to see a physical monument. Visitors expect a smaller experience and less time than is needed to know the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue options to change the name of the park. Continue to use the park’s website to inform potential visitors as to the extent of the park.



Students visiting the homesteading museum at the Heritage Center.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Original 160-Acre Homestead Plot
Related Significance Statements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First homestead claim 4. Restored and original prairie 5. Ideal conditions for a homestead
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original homestead plot is intact and is managed as a whole. • The area is partially fenced. • Trails can be found throughout the site. • The Freeman Homestead site can be seen from the Heritage Center. • The Osage orange hedgerow management follows the established cultural landscape report and vegetation management plan. The hedgerow was originally planted on the homestead by Freeman. This was a typical hedgerow planting of the time. • Stable and acceptable water quality, nutrients, and <i>E. coli</i> loads in Cub Creek. • Many of the original prairie community components are limited and severely fragmented on the landscape. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonnative plant species on restored prairie are minimal. Woody invasives, smooth brome, and reed canary grass pose the biggest threats. • No prescribed burns of the prairie since 2011 due to drought and insufficient funds. • Visitations/use is increasing during all four seasons. • Hedgerow regrowth is 75 years old and may be approaching the end of its expected life; thus, a plan has been established to promote growth and weaving. • Deer population is higher than the assumed pre-settlement time but the numbers have remained stable since monitoring started in 2003.
Threats	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species, such as smooth brome, sumac, and dogwood, decrease species diversity. • The groundwater table was recently reported to have declined 20 feet. • Agricultural and/or industrial runoff into Cub Creek. • Excess nitrogen deposition from air pollution may be disrupting soil nutrient cycling and affecting biodiversity of some plant communities. • Concern for long-term maintenance of Cub Creek stream banks due to erosion. • Concern for subsequent stream sedimentation, turbidity, and so on due to erosion. • Deer poaching occurs in the park boundaries, posing a threat to visitor safety. • Planned county road work, paving Hickory to 89th Road, will have an adverse impact on vehicle traffic in and around the Freeman School. • Osage orange hedgerow potentially threatened by neighboring farm equipment on neighboring property, combined with natural aging process. • Proximity to anhydrous ammonia producing industrial plants could be dangerous for visitors and employees if an accident should occur at the production sites or during transportation of the product near the monument. • Increase in mean annual temperature projected for the region (+3.5°F to 5.0°F by 2070) will impact hydrological systems and ecological processes (e.g., dryer landscape, increase in fire frequency, and increase in invasive species).

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Original 160-Acre Homestead Plot
Opportunities	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realignment of Nebraska Highway 4 will enhance the visitor experience and protection of park resources. • Encourage visitors to explore off trails, and into the creek and timber. Allow visitors to use the creek and pond for fishing and other recreation. • Trails were expanded following historic roads; there is an opportunity for even more trails throughout the site. • Interpretive outdoor classroom to be constructed adjacent to education center.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighboring Friends of Homestead parcel connects directly to the original 160 acres.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report. • Vegetation management plan. • General management plan. • Trails realignment plan. • Hedgerow management plan. • Fire management plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • State and local comprehensive trail plans.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research best strategies and tools for the bur oak forest, including the use of prescribed burns and mechanical means. • Deer concentration data and their impacts on lowland bur oak plant community. • Water table requirements of woodland and prairie plants. • Impacts of climate change on health of prairie and woodland communities. • Woodland vegetation monitoring. • Air quality monitoring • Stream bank monitoring. • Wetland mapping • Additional water quality interval data for physical environment (sediment, turbidity, etc.). • Water quality monitoring for chemicals (phosphorus, nitrogen, bacteria, <i>E. coli</i>, other indicators relative to industrial inputs on creek, etc.). • Hedgerow data on better growing methods.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2004 vegetation management plan prescribes desired conditions for the park woodlands but does not specify precisely how dead and downed woody debris from bur oaks should be treated; an update to the plan is needed. • Cultural landscape report update • Fire management plan update needed to address land around the Heritage Center and the use of fire in the woodlands.

<p>Fundamental Resource or Value</p>	<p>The Original 160-Acre Homestead Plot</p>
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment • Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 • Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” • Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes • Migratory Bird Treaty Act; 16 USC 703-712 • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Lacey Act, as amended • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act • Clean Air Act • Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards” • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>Director’s Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • <i>Director’s Order 18: Wildland Fire Management</i> • <i>Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>Director’s Order 28A: Archeology</i> • <i>Director’s Order 47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> • <i>Director’s Order 77-2: Floodplain Management</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.4) “Park Management”</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries”</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (3.1) “General”</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.1.4) “Partnerships”</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.2) “Studies and Collections”</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.4.1) “General Principles for Managing Biological Resources</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Original 160-Acre Homestead Plot
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.4.4.2) "Removal of Exotic Species Already Present" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7) "Air Resource Management" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.9) "Soundscape Management" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.10) "Lightscape Management" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1) "Archeological Resources" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.7) "Cultural Soundscape Management" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) "Historic and Prehistoric Structures" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services" (Interpretation) NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2) "Visitor Use" NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2.3) "Use of Motorized Equipment" NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> NPS <i>Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</i></p>



Daniel and Agnes Freeman on their original 160 acre homestead claim – Brick House Site

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Freeman School Grounds
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>2. Freeman School 4. Restored and original prairie</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is listed in good condition. • Play equipment is rusting. • Limited interpretation occurring on site. • Furnishings from 1890s. • Outbuildings are in good condition. • Intense local interest in the school from former students and others. • A trail goes from the Heritage Center to the Freeman School (through the ditch and across the highway). • Heavy truck traffic at the Freeman School intersection challenges the soundscape and historical structures. • Smoke detectors, but no sprinklers, are in place. • Monitored and alarmed. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play equipment is rusting. • Increased traffic and related vibrations. • Road realignment could bring even more traffic. • Visitation is up overall, but visitation to the Freeman School site is less than 10% of the visitation to the Heritage Center.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of proper climate control damages the paint and entire structure, including outbuildings. • Vandalism is occurring but is minimal (per photo assessment). • Rainwater run-off from nearby farm fields needs to be determined. • Proximity to anhydrous ammonia-producing industrial plants could be dangerous for visitors if an accident occurs at these industrial sites or during transport on Highway 4. • Planned road work: paving of Hickory from U.S. 77 to 89th Road will likely create a new traffic pattern that would increase the volume of commuter traffic coming into the park at 89th Road and Highway 4 adjacent to the Freeman School. Increased traffic would impact visitor experience and safety. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different trail alignment (if land is acquired). • Different approaches to interpretation of the schoolhouse instead of a furnished structure.
<p>Related Resources and Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who attended the school and their families still visit and are stakeholders.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furnishing plan (1976/77) provides guidance for furnishing the interior of the school. • 1973 Freeman School Historic Structures Report. • Some direction is provided in long-range interpretive plan. • Cultural landscape report provided structural guidance. (The general management plan does not provide guidance for this site).

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Freeman School Grounds
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural monitoring is needed to determine if the school is sinking or if foundation issues are present. • Need specific visitation numbers.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed new long-range interpretive plan would prescribe an interpretive treatment for the school. • A comprehensive site plan for Freeman School.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • National Invasive Species Act • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Director's Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (3.1) "General" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.4) "Historic and Prehistoric Structures" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2) "Visitor Use" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2.3) "Use of Motorized Equipment" • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77



Freeman School

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections, Including Family and Oral Histories
Related Significance Statements	6. Museum collections
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessioned items are in good condition. • Literature needs to be organized. • The curator position is currently unfilled. Need a professional on staff. • Ownership questions exist for accession #2, the Gage County donation of approximately 2,000 items. • Collection is diverse. • The collection contains 60,000 plus pieces, and more than 8,000 of them are three-dimensional objects. • The photo collection is growing. • Excellent facility to house collection. • Some of collection housed at the NPS Midwest Archeological Center. • Local interest in keeping donation items local. • Large farm implements are not all stored in environmentally controlled space at the Heritage Center; many are in nonenvironmentally controlled space and others are outdoors at the Education Center. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection is growing, particularly the archives. • Ongoing project archiving and developing finding aids for industrial records relating to homesteading. • Oral and family history collections are being organized, and “finding aids” are being developed. • There is a backlog of archival items to be entered in the system. • The monument is working with the National Archives and Records Administration and other partners to digitize homestead land-entry case file records (estimated: 30 million records). • As part of a long tradition of working sustainably, the monument is working toward a designation as a “Climate Friendly Park” (Director’s Order 13A).
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of potential collection materials from large flood, theft, or other means. • Lack of space for current and future collections. • Lack of a professional curator on staff means work will not get accomplished in a timely manner and may not meet certain standards. • Acquisition of additional objects will increase space problem. • Large farm implements that are not housed in climate-controlled space will deteriorate. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the collection properly with a professional curator. • Encourage additional research by scholars using park’s collection. • Establish a park program for conservation and treatment of farm tools and equipment. This could be for internal uses or for external concessions / special use permit opportunities.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Archives has homesteading case files, patents, and the actual Homestead Act document signed by President Lincoln; these have appeared at Homestead National Monument of America at times.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections, Including Family and Oral Histories
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 scope of collection statement. • 2007 housekeeping plan. • 2006 collection management plan and staffing plan. • 2004 collection storage plan.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership of accession #2 needs to be resolved. • Need estimate of storage space to fulfill scope of collection: space issues.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation treatment plans and work are needed for large and small objects.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • Director's Order 13A: <i>Environmental Management Systems</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (3.1) "General" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.2) "Studies and Collections" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.2) "Fire Detection, Suppression, and Post-fire Rehabilitation and Protection" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.5) "Pest Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.5) "Museum Collections"



Homestead Education Center

Fundamental Resource or Value	Lowland Bur Oak Forest
Related Significance Statements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First homestead claim 5. Ideal conditions for a homestead
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both sides of Cub Creek support small woodlands (sometimes referred to as gallery forest) providing the homestead with timber supplies for building and heating, and habitat for small game to hunt. Woodlands also afford some structural shelter from summer sun and driving winter winds. Recent classification of these woods identified a small section as “rare lowland bur oak community.” • Cub Creek has down-cut the area and the banks are steep. • Beavers are present in the park, and they cut trees and attempt to dam Cub Creek. • Dead and downed trees are minimally managed. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging forest, not regenerating. • Increasing dead and downed trees on forest trails.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term woodland tree and understory plant species survivorship and replacement are uncertain. • Nonnative plants that out-compete existing undergrowth / ground cover plants. • Potential harmful insect pest and disease species. • Public perceptions may not be supportive of park management of this area, because it is managed differently than forested areas on other public lands. • Increase in mean annual temperature projected for the region (+3.5°F to 5.0°F by 2070) could impact the oak forest (e.g., dryer landscape, increase in fire frequency, increase in invasive species). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor classroom on the edge of bur oaks. • Additional interpretive signage outside the woods. • Recreation in the creek. • Reduce barriers by opening access for the public.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bur oaks exist on properties outside the NPS boundary, but not at as great a density. Other pockets of mature bur oak forest may exist in the vicinity.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report provides minimal direction for forest management, including removing the dead and down oak. This is sometimes in conflict with the desire to allow the forest to maintain a “natural” condition.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information is needed on the location and size of the dike and its influence on the water table relative to the location and types of forest vegetation present. • Extent of bur oak forest. • Fire in relation to forest type. • Research on the type, frequency, duration, extent, and return interval of disturbance to this ecosystem to determine whether or not to introduce fire to the bur oak forest, and if so, to what extent of the area in any given burn season. • Increased concentration of deer and impacts on bur oak. • Regularly updated information on threats and presence / control mechanisms for nonnative insect and disease pathogens. • Regularly updated information on outbreaks/spread of native insect populations and diseases.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire management plan update needed to address use of fire in the woodlands.

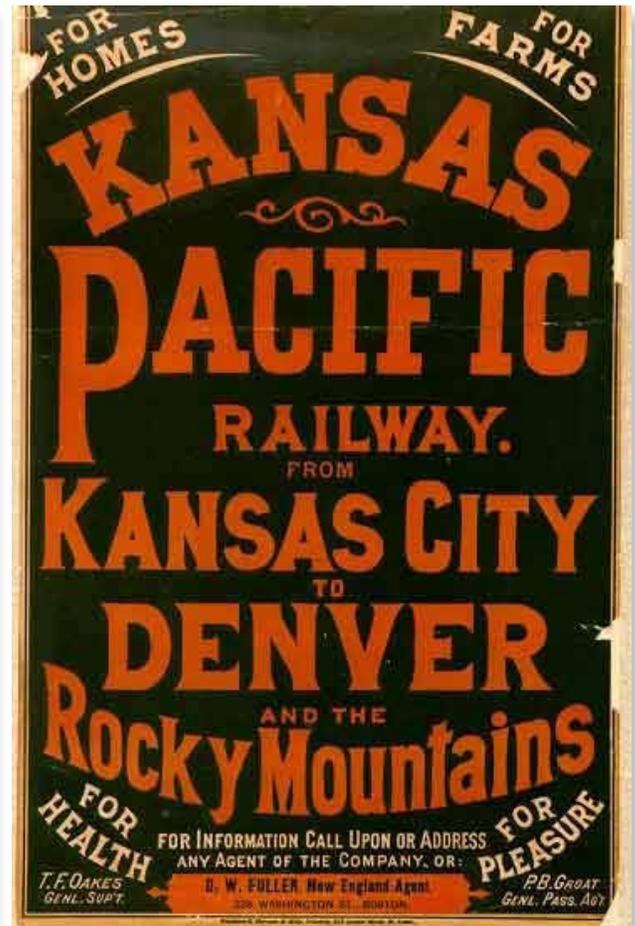
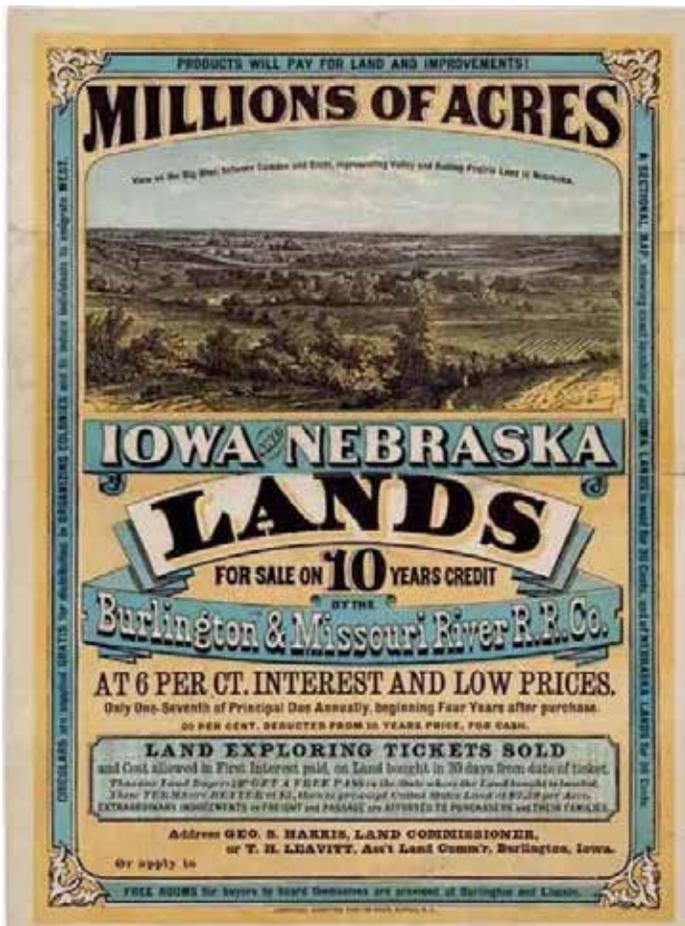
Fundamental Resource or Value	Lowland Bur Oak Forest
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Lacey Act, as amended • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act • Clean Air Act • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • National Flood Insurance Program <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.6.4) "Floodplains" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.9) "Soundscape Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.10) "Lightscape Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) Historic and Prehistoric Structures • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2) "Visitor Use" • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</i>



Burr Oak forest

Fundamental Resource or Value	"Grain Grower's Highway" Freight Road Remnants
Related Significance Statements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First homestead claim 5. Ideal conditions for a homestead
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some remnants exist and the approximate route is known. • Mostly unmarked and not visible (can be seen after burns). • Provides historical connection to the school. • A wayside exhibit interprets the road. • Is highlighted through realignment of trail system. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road remnants will continue to deteriorate over time.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road remnants will deteriorate and may eventually be lost altogether if not protected and interpreted. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional interpretation and access. • More known remnants could be included in the park's boundary with land acquisition. • With the Homestead Parkway, opportunities to promote and provide information on the freight road remnants will expand.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertain if other remnants of the freight road exist outside the park and immediate vicinity, and where they are.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report. • Trail plan / environmental assessment.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better idea of historical road alignment and extension (Brownville to Kearney). • Need historical research to determine if the road through the park is actually the Brownville to Kearney Road.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed long-range interpretive plan would prescribe an interpretive treatment for the road.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"

Fundamental Resource or Value	"Grain Grower's Highway" Freight Road Remnants
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Director's Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (3.1) "General" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.4) "Historic and Prehistoric Structures" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2) "Visitor Use"



Fundamental Resource or Value	Archeological Sites Related to Habitation
Related Significance Statements	5. Ideal conditions for a homestead
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven sites are listed in the Archeological Sites Management Information System database; six are listed in good condition and one is listed in fair condition. • The sites are not fully interpreted (some are consciously not interpreted). • Nothing is visible for visitors at these locations. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of vandalism or misuse.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion from down-cutting of the creek. Increases in storm intensity and frequency are projected due to the changing climate. This could accelerate erosion. • Treasure hunters or other improper visitor impacts. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be interpreted away from their actual locations for security purposes. • Could partner with archeology curriculum to develop programming. • Could survey the north 40 acres to determine if additional sites are present; most documented sites are elsewhere.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 archeological overview and assessment. • Additional assessments have been completed over time, per the overview and assessment (page 2).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to confirm the nature of the resources in the dump site by interviewing Midwest Archeological Center and former workers. • A full survey of the park by the Midwest Archeological Center would be appropriate.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes • The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Lacey Act, as amended • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources”

Fundamental Resource or Value	Archeological Sites Related to Habitation
<p>NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • <i>Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>Director's Order 28A: Archeology</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes"</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services"</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2) "Visitor Use"</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2.3) "Use of Motorized Equipment"</i>



AmeriCorps members and Student Conservation Association volunteers working in Homestead's Cub Creek.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Palmer-Epard Cabin
Related Significance Statements	5. Ideal condition for a homestead 6. Museum collections
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Palmer-Epard Cabin is a very large piece of the museum collections. The cabin is treated and managed as an interpretive object. • Good condition. • Recently restored when moved to its new location near the Heritage Center. • Many pieces are replaced from original. • Now has a wood floor. • Being interpreted through wayside and personal history. • Furnished with replicas and some period pieces. • Needs whitewashing on a regular basis. • Period furnishings are part of the museum collection items. • Camera on it and in it; alarm system in place for security (location better protects it from vandalism, too). • Complemented by landscape and neighboring implements, garden and pond. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging furnishings, exposed to the elements. • Pests such as mice, rats, and grasshoppers are increasing.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest damage. • Exposure to weather and elements. • Continued replacement threatens integrity of cabin. • Interior wall finish difficult to maintain. • Rain seeps through chinking and stains the wood. • Lack of professional curator to oversee treatment. • Original objects exposed to extreme levels of heat, cold, and humidity. • Climate change could accelerate weathering of the cabin (e.g., increase in storm frequency/intensity, increase in extreme heat events). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could replace furnishings in collection with reproductions for durability.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homesteading cabins from the same era are present in other locations and could be considered related resources.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1968 historic structures report, Palmer-Epard Cabin.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated furnishing study for Palmer-Epard Cabin would be valuable. • Need to fact check the oral history of Palmer-Epard Cabin for validity. • Survey to determine which parts of Palmer-Epard Cabin are original. • Search for additional original photos/images of the Palmer-Epard Cabin that could aid in interpretation or restoration. • Prepare a history of historic preservation treatment actions toward the Palmer-Epard Cabin.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the historic structure report for Palmer-Epard Cabin. • Update or revise the historic furnishing plan.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Palmer-Epard Cabin
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • Director’s Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (3.1) “General” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2) “Weather and Climate” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.2) “Fire Detection, Suppression, and Post-Fire Rehabilitation and Protection” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.5) “Pest Management” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.1) “Preservation” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.2) “Stabilization” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.3) “Rehabilitation, Stabilization, and Reconstruction” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) “Historic and Prehistoric Structures” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.5) “Museum Collections” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (7.3) “Personal and Nonpersonal Services” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2) “Visitor Use”



Palmer-Epard Cabin



Night Sky Monitoring at Homestead

Fundamental Resource or Value	Sense of Time and Place
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>4. Restored and original prairie 5. Ideal conditions for a homestead</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easements assist in preserving viewsheds on the park boundary and visual connection to schoolhouse. • From the prairie, the Osage orange hedgerow acts as partial screen to visual intrusions to the south; bur oak forest acts as partial screen to the west. • The Homestead Heritage Center and related grounds were sited to take advantage of the agricultural landscapes to help tell the homestead story. • Views are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To north: industrial and housing, highway • To east: agricultural, county road • To west: agricultural from the Heritage Center, nearly as homesteaders saw it; elevator is the only thing that rises above the timber • To south: agricultural • Viewshed analysis has been completed at the NPS Midwest Regional Office and Argonne National Laboratory. • Views are often obscured by pollution-caused haze. At night, air pollution scatters artificial light, increasing the effect of light pollution. • All lands surrounding the monument are zoned by Gage County as A-3: Agricultural Conservation District. This zoning allows agricultural and accessory uses, and defines which special uses can only be allowed by permit. • Lands within the viewshed of the park are zoned to allow for industrial development as well. • Gage County is interested in economic development. It is important to continue dialog and relationship with this group, the zoning commission, and the county government. • Night skies are fairly dark, though they do not match the homesteading era. • The soundscape is sometimes reminiscent of the homesteading era, and is sometimes threatened by vehicle traffic.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Sense of Time and Place
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North: increased development. • East: stable.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased development and traffic if road realignments or other changes occur to the north. • Uncertain how zoning will be interpreted if major developments are proposed. • Proposed industrial wind farms threaten existing viewshed. • Increasing industrial development to north may have impacts on resources including but not limited to viewsheds, soundscapes, smells, traffic, and night skies. • Commercial or confined animal operations, while permissible under local zoning ordinances, could be a threat to the sense of time and place. • Nocturnal animals are highly dependent on the night sky; industrial development may impact them negatively. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing views of original 160 acres from the Heritage Center. • Maintain Osage orange hedgerow as feature. • Look for opportunities to develop protective agreements, easements, acquisition, etc. on neighboring properties. • Continue/increase interpretive and educational efforts with public and visitors on the sense of time and place. Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections to the sense of time and place, climate change, views, air quality, night sky, natural and cultural resources, human health, and other associated resources. • Work with Nebraska Department of Roads to relocate Highway 4 and industrial traffic away from the park.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nearby land uses impact the sense of time and place that visitors experience and could be considered related to this fundamental value.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of highway traffic is many years out of date. • The park's most recent general management plan proposes the realignment of the state highway and the establishment of a Homestead Education Parkway on the existing state highway.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a night sky study. • Update the park's administrative history to determine how decisions regarding the sense of time and place have been made in the past. • Study of highway traffic needs to be updated to capture the current trends. • Establish baseline data for air quality. • Air quality monitoring
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential boundary adjustments and alternative mechanisms to protect viewshed and soundscape.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Sense of Time and Place
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act • Clean Air Act • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (3.1) "General" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.4.4.2) "Removal of Exotic Species Already Present" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.9) "Soundscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.10) "Lightscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.5.2) "Cultural Landscapes" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (5.3.1.7) "Cultural Soundscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.2.3) "Use of Motorized Equipment" • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77

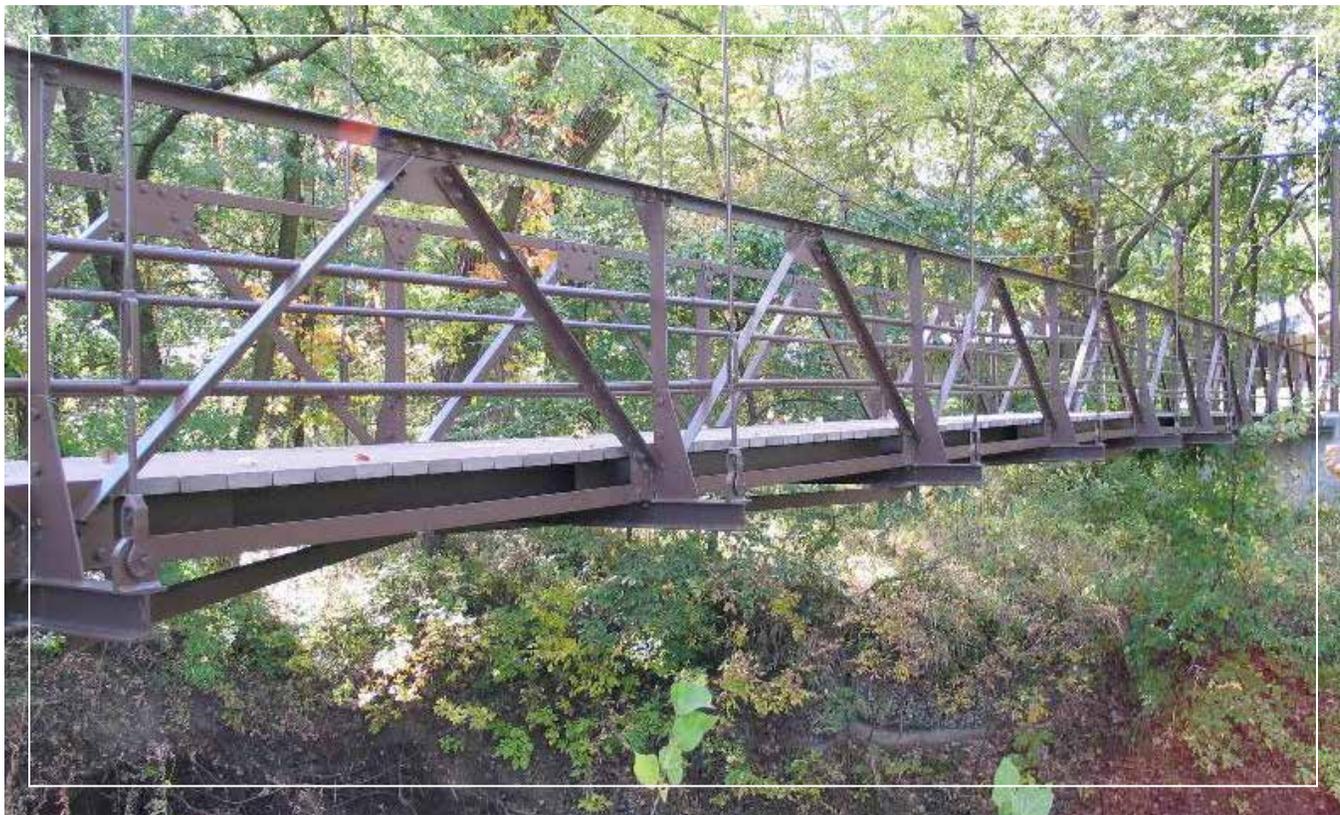


Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Partnerships
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park staff currently maintains many good relationships with a variety of organizations; these partnerships are an integral part of operating the monument. • Partnerships augment all aspects of the park’s management and programming. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is always looking for more ways to match park needs with other organizations’ goals for a common purpose.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations to maneuver through or mismatch with partners. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further partnership work in many aspects of natural and cultural resource management, education and interpretation, and special events.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication plan involving partnership activities. • Volunteer plan for engaging groups of partners, etc.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Order 7: <i>Volunteers in Parks</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.1.4) “Partnerships” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (4.2) “Studies and Collections” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (8.10) “Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities”



Other Important Resource or Value	DAR Monument and Centennial Time Capsule
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daughters of the American Revolution monument is in good condition with some abrasions. Holes provide a home for wasps. • Time capsule is in excellent condition. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is known by the Daughters of the American Revolution and referenced by them.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration from the elements and insects. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add an additional time capsule at selected time intervals (i.e., 25 years).
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report guides treatment of these resources.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly include the future opening of the time capsule in a comprehensive interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Director's Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making</i> and <i>DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (3.1) "General" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.2) "Fire Detection, Suppression, and Post-Fire Rehabilitation and Protection" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.1.5) "Pest Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.1) "Preservation" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.2) "Stabilization:" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.1.3) "Rehabilitation, Stabilization, and Reconstruction" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) "Historic and Prehistoric Structures" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.5) "Museum Collections" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (7.3) "Personal and Nonpersonal Services" (Interpretation) • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2) "Visitor Use"



Other Important Resource or Value	Mission 66 Suspension Bridge over Cub Creek
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bridge structure itself is in excellent condition. • Design and size of bridge is considered unique. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive work upgrading bridge just a few years ago.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gabions could fail if not properly monitored and repaired when needed. Failure of the gabions could threaten the bridge structure. • Climate change could alter the hydrology of Cub Creek, impacting structural integrity of the bridge over time (e.g., increase in storm frequency/intensity). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
<p>Related Resources and Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bridge connects the tall grass prairie to the lowland bur oak forest and the facilities on the west side of the park.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-annual bridge reports from Federal Highway Administration exist.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with NPS Geologic Resources Division in Fort Collins, Colorado, to determine best course of action for dealing with the gabions. • Work with US Geologic Survey and NPS Water Resources Division for alternatives to dropping water table and stream flow manipulation. • Work with NPS Midwest Region to add the bridge to the List of Classified Structures.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.

Other Important Resource or Value	Mission 66 Suspension Bridge over Cub Creek
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • National Invasive Species Act • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Director’s Order 12: <i>Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making and DO-12 Handbook</i> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (3.1) “General” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.1.4) “Partnerships” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.4.1) “General Principles for Managing Biological Resources” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (4.7.2) “Weather and Climate” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.2) “Cultural Landscapes” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (5.3.5.4) “Historic and Prehistoric Structures” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (7.3) “Personal and Nonpersonal Services” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2) “Visitor Use” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (8.2.3) “Use of Motorized Equipment” • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i>



Ranger led program crossing Mission 66 Suspension Bridge

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.



Restoration work on the Palmer-Epard Cabin

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Original 160 Acres; Bur Oak	Research best strategies and tools for the bur oak forest, including the use of prescribed burns and mechanical means; deer concentration information and impact on bur oak forest; impact of dike on bur oak forest; extent of bur oak forest community outside park boundaries	H	Fiscal year 2014 (FY14) environmental assessment project will provide management direction for the bur oak forest. This information is needed to feed the environmental assessment.
Original 160 Acres; Bur Oak	Recent trends in water table and its relation to the health of the prairie and bur oak forest	H	Planned environmental assessment project will provide management direction for the bur oak forest. This information is needed to feed the environmental assessment.
Original 160 Acres	Osage orange hedgerow: need research better propagation techniques/methods	H	Have a plan but unable to get young trees to grow well, so the viability of the plan is in question. Different approaches/ techniques for success should be considered.
Parkwide Issue	Update the park's administrative history	H	Need to have a good record to document NPS actions over the decades. Last updated in the mid-1980s; limited and has gaps for usefulness. Helps staff understand thought process from the past and maintain some consistency. An administrative history could also include the environmental history of the park, a section that would focus on the interaction between and among the human and nonhuman components of the natural world. It would provide a broader geographic and historical context for park resources, a robust interpretation of evolving land uses at the site, and inform historic resource conditions.
Parkwide Issue	Need updated traffic counts and information on Highway 4 for sound and safety issues	H	Most recent data are from 2001–2002. Need this information in order to inform local land use discussions and decisions.
Freeman School	Foundation structural monitoring to determine if the school is sinking	H	Potential for structural damage to this resource. Photos appear to show change over time.
Archeological Sites	Need to confirm if park dump site is classified properly	H	As time goes on, will provide false information if not corrected. First-hand accounts are still available if we act soon. The NPS Midwest Archeological Center is prepared to assist in this effort.
Sense of Time and Place	Establish baseline data for air quality	H	Information about air quality can be incorporated into future visual resource assessments and a cultural landscape inventory.
Original 160 Acres	Air Quality Monitoring	M	Needed for visitor health and safety information.
Collections	Ownership of Accession #2 needs to be clarified.	M	Need to examine and verify everything is correctly documented.
Original 160 Acres	Gather information on possible impacts of climate change on health of prairie (include water quality data)	M	Climate change may be why park staff are seeing the expansion of nonnatives on the prairie. More nonnatives may limit our ability to implement the existing vegetation management plan.
Original 160 Acres	Wetland Mapping	L	None
Palmer-Epard Cabin	Updated furnishing study for Palmer-Epard Cabin	L	Informs what type of material culture should be inside the cabin.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Palmer-Epard Cabin	Need to fact-check the oral history of Palmer-Epard Cabin for validity	L	Need to determine that the interpretation programs are citing the oral history and explaining it appropriately.
Palmer-Epard Cabin	Survey to determine which parts of Palmer-Epard Cabin are original	L	No immediate threat or need.
Palmer-Epard Cabin	Research additional original photos/ images of the Palmer-Epard Cabin that could aid in interpretation and restoration	L	No immediate threat or need.
Freight Road Remnant	Better understand historical road alignment and extent	L	Need to fully review the cultural landscape report that shows maps of historical line of freight. Need historical research to determine if the road was the "Brownville to Kearney Freight Road." The goal is to determine if the freight road should be considered in a potential boundary assessment.
Original 160 Acres	Additional water quality data within Cub Creek, including more frequent sampling	L	Include with impacts of climate change. Need to educate visitors and neighbors on watershed pollution issues.



Palmer-Epard Cabin interior

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Need	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Parkwide Issue	Strategy for implementation of recently-completed boundary study	H	Short- and long-term threats to resources from industrial development, increased traffic, etc. New science on bur oak forest has indicated it is rare and dwindling. The study explores potential boundary adjustments and alternative mechanisms to protect these resources.
Parkwide Issue	New long-range interpretive plan to direct vision for comprehensive interpretation program	H	Need for new plan but need a new Chief Ranger/ Chief of Interpretation to get established before starting the plan. Park should prepare a Project Management Information System project statement requesting Midwest Region 20% Recreation Fee Funds for the plan.
Parkwide Issue	Develop comprehensive social media communications plan.	H	This could be completed as part of the long-range interpretive plan.
Freeman School	Need for comprehensive interpretation plan specifically for the Freeman School	H	Interpretation strategy for this site last updated in 1970s. Difficult to open due to budget issues, so dependent on nonpersonal interpretation. There are many former students of the school who remain strongly invested in its use and future. This could be completed as part of the long-range interpretive plan or separately if needed sooner.
Original 160 Acres; Bur Oak	Fire Management Plan Update	H	Needs to be updated to include the land around the Heritage Center and address the use of fire in the woodland.
Freeman School	Comprehensive site plan for managing, interpreting, maintaining the Freeman School	M	Potential changes to traffic patterns and potential boundary adjustments will influence how this site is managed and interpreted in the future.
Parkwide Issue	An update to the vegetation management plan or a specific invasives management plan	M	Need to update strategy for invasive species management for prairie and forest to account for possible new methods and data. Action ongoing per the vegetation management plan, but plan could be refreshed. Prescribed burns occur, but have been limited as a result of costs and drought. Constant vigilance and adaptive management are necessary for effective invasives management, including woody species on the prairie, which are of particular concern.
Parkwide Issue	Complete the five-year education plan that is in progress	M	Will allow more vision and direction and overall will improve the educational programming. Will help new staff as old staff leaves, especially as it relates to distance learning.
Parkwide Issue	Need updated volunteer plan and strategy	M	Outdated approach needs to be updated as the program is growing. Core volunteer group getting older, but 30 new members within the last year. Important to keep them engaged and recruit more and younger members. Particularly important to identify needed actions and recruit toward those activities.
Original 160 Acres	Updated cultural landscape report	M	Needs to reflect boundary changes and incorporate any new administrative or environmental history data.
Palmer-Epard Cabin	Update historic structure report for Palmer-Epard cabin; prepare a record of past preservation efforts and their impact on the historical integrity of the structure, especially the 1973 project	L	The general management plan supplied some guidance on the future of the cabin, and the park has invested significant funds to stabilize and furnish it. There are small maintenance issues currently. There are concerns to determine if any restoration treatments need to take place, especially the removed wall covering the interior staircase. An updated historic structure report would look to the future and how to best preserve the cabin while minimizing maintenance expenses. Not an immediate concern.

Part 3: Contributors

Homestead National Monument of America

Mark Engler, Superintendent
Merrith Baughman, (former) Chief Ranger
Rob Ruskamp, Facility Manager
Blake Bell, Historian
Susan Cook, Ranger
Jesse Bolli, Resource Management Specialist
Molly Watters, Park Guide
Katie Teynor, Student Conservation Association Intern

NPS Midwest Region

Ruth Heikkinen, Chief, Planning and Compliance Division
Tom Richter, Chief, Interpretation and Education Division
Tokey Boswell, Project Manager
James Lange, Environmental Protection Specialist
Natalie Franz, Planner

Partners

Lauren Riedesel, Vice President, Friends of Homestead



Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Homestead National Monument of America

Legislative Summary:

- PL 74-480 (49 Stat 1184), 3/19/1936 established the national monument
- The park was formally designated on 1/3/1939, after the parcels were acquired
- PL 91-411, 9/25/1970 added the Freeman School and extended authority to protect the setting of the school, access to the school, and preserve the visual relationship to the main park site
- PL 107-332, 12/16/2002 extended the boundary, adding multiple parcels; this law also allowed for actions related to the proposed Homestead Heritage Highway

PUBLIC LAW 74-480

MARCH 19, 1936.

An Act to establish The Homestead National Monument of America in Gage County, Nebraska.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to acquire, on behalf of the United States, by gift, purchase, or condemnation, the south half of the northwest quarter, the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter section 26, township 4 north, range 5 east, of the sixth principal meridian, Gage County, Nebraska, the same being the first homestead entered upon under the General Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, by Daniel Freeman, and that when so acquired, the said area be designated "The Homestead National Monument of America."

SEC. 2. That there is authorized to be appropriated a sum not to exceed \$24,000, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of acquiring said tract.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to lay out said land in a suitable and enduring manner so that the same may be maintained as an appropriate monument to retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematical of the hardships 'and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in the settlement, Erection of buildings, cultivation, and civilization of the great West. It shall be his duty to erect suitable buildings to be used as a museum in which shall be preserved literature applying to such settlement and agricultural implements used in bringing the western plains to its present high state of civilization, and to use the said tract of land for such other objects and purposes as in his judgment may perpetuate the history of the country mainly developed by the homestead law.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of carrying out the suggestions and recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior, the necessary annual appropriations therefor are hereby authorized.

Approved, March 19, 1936.

PUBLIC LAW 91-411

SEPTEMBER 25, 1970

An Act Providing for the addition of the Freeman School to the Homestead National Monument of America in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the

United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to further the interpretation and commemoration of the pioneer life of early settlers of the West, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation or purchase with donated or appropriated funds acquisition the following described lands and interests therein, on which is situated the old school building known as Freeman School: Beginning at the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 22, township 4 north, range 5 east, sixth principal meridian, Gage County, Nebraska, thence running north on the east line of the said quarter section 297 feet, thence west 214.5 feet, thence south 297 feet, thence east 214.5 feet to the point of beginning.

The Secretary is further authorized, in order to protect the setting of the Freeman School, preserve an adequate visual relationship with the existing Homestead National Monument of America, and provide access to the school from the national monument, to acquire by any of the above methods such lands and interests therein, as he deems necessary within the areas in certain sections of township 4 north, range 5 east, sixth principal meridian, Gage County, Nebraska, which are described as follows: Section 22, beginning at a point 297 feet north of the southeast corner of the southeast quarter on the east line of the said quarter section, thence north along the east line of the said quarter section 103 feet, thence west 300 feet, thence south 400 feet to the south line of said quarter section, thence east along the south line of said quarter section 85.5 feet to the boundary of the Freeman School property, thence north along the boundary of the school property 297 feet, thence east along the boundary of the school property 214.5 feet to the point of beginning; Section 23, the south 300 feet of the southwest quarter thereof; Section 26, the north 300 feet of the northwest quarter thereof; Section 27, beginning at the northeast corner of the northeast quarter, thence south along the east line of the said quarter section 300 feet, thence west 300 feet, thence north 300 feet to the north line of said quarter section, thence east along the north line of said quarter section 300 feet to the point of beginning; all containing about 31 acres.

Sec. 2. The property acquired pursuant to this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as part of the Homestead National Monument of America, in accordance with the Act of March 19, 1936 (49 Stat. 1184), and the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

SEC. 3. For the purposes of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$50,000, of which not more than \$45,000 (April 1970 prices) plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reasons of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein shall be appropriated for the rehabilitation and development of the Freeman School.

Approved September 25, 1970.

PUBLIC LAW 107-332

DECEMBER 16, 2002

An Act to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundaries of the Homestead National Monument of America in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes. [H.R. 38]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Homestead National Monument of America Additions Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.-The term “map” means the map entitled “Proposed Boundary Adjustment, Homestead National Monument of America, Gage County, Nebraska”, numbered 368/80036 and dated March 2000.

(2) MONUMENT.-The term “Monument” means the Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska.

(3) SECRETARY.-The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONS TO HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA.

(a) IN GENERAL.-The Secretary may acquire, by donation or by purchase with appropriated or donated funds, from willing sellers only, the privately-owned property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b). The Secretary may acquire, by donation only, the State-owned property described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b).

(b) PARCELS.-The parcels referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) GRAFF PROPERTY.-The parcel consisting of approximately 15.98 acres of privately-owned land, as depicted on the map.

(2) PIONEER ACRES GREEN.-The parcel consisting of approximately 3 acres of privately-owned land, as depicted on the map.

(3) SEGMENT OF STATE HIGHWAY 4.-The parcel consisting of approximately 5.6 acres of State-owned land including Nebraska State Highway 4, as depicted on the map.

(4) STATE TRIANGLE.-The parcel consisting of approximately 8.3 acres of State-owned land, as depicted on the map.

(c) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.-Upon acquisition of a parcel described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall modify the boundary of the Monument to include the parcel. Any parcel included within the boundary shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the Monument.

(d) DEADLINE FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.-If the property described in subsection (b)(1) is not acquired by the Secretary from a willing seller within 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall no longer be authorized to acquire such property pursuant to this Act and such property shall not become part of the Monument pursuant to this Act.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.-The map shall be on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.-There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$400,000.

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Nebraska, Gage County, local units of government, private groups, and individuals for operation, maintenance, interpretation, recreation, and other purposes related to the proposed Homestead Heritage Highway to be located in the general vicinity of the Monument.

Approved December 16, 2002.

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Number	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
	Scenic easements	1960s?	Perpetual		Protect neighboring lands from development.
	Right-of-way – water	11/07/13	11/07/23	Lower Big Blue Natural Resource District	Services for the monument.
	Right-of-way – electricity	7/12/12	7/12/22	Norris Public Power	Services for the monument.
	Right-of-way – telephone	4/23/14	4/22/14	Verizon Communications	Services for the monument.
	Special use permit	8/01/13	7/31/14	Nebraska Department of Roads	Highway 4 operations and maintenance (NOTE: Issued annually for one-year term).
6480-11-0001	Memorandum of agreement – fire	4/1/72	4/1/16	Beatrice Rural Volunteer Fire Department	Provides terms for wildland and structural fire control activities and vehicle use between Homestead National Monument of America and the Beatrice Rural Fire District. It affirms the basic agreement between the two agencies in effect since April 1972.
6480-02-01	Memorandum of agreement – hazardous materials response	2/17/14	2/16/14	Beatrice Fire and Rescue	This agreement shall define and set forth the basic understanding concerning the cooperation in hazardous material spills and confined spaces control activities between Homestead National Monument of America and the Beatrice Fire and Rescue Department.
GA-6530-05-0001	Memorandum of agreement – law enforcement	6/01/04	12/01/16	Gage County Sheriff’s Office Gage County Board of Supervisors	The objective of the agreement is to coordinate emergency law enforcement assistance between the two agencies. The Homestead National Monument of America is under concurrent jurisdiction, and the National Park Service and the Gage County Sheriff’s Office therefore share a common interest in law enforcement at the national monument.
	Memorandum of agreement – communications	3/01/00	This agreement will remain in effect unless terminated by either party by means of a 30-day written notice.	Beatrice Communications City of Beatrice	The purpose of this agreement is to define and set forth the terms of service for Beatrice Communications to provide Homestead National Monument of America law enforcement rangers dispatch services for law enforcement duties and other emergencies.

Number	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
	Memorandum of agreement – communications	5/01/07	This agreement may be modified, superseded, or cancelled for any reason at any time with the concurrence of both superintendents.	JEFF	Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Dispatch Center will monitor and provide dispatch services for all calls from the elevator emergency phone at Homestead National Monument of America, located at 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, Nebraska, 68310.
	Memorandum of agreement – communications	10/01/11	In the event that one party provides the other party with notice of its intention to terminate, the parties will meet promptly to discuss the reasons for the notice and to try to resolve their differences.	Gage County Emergency Management Agency Gage County Board of Supervisors	The objective of the agreement is to enhance communication services for Homestead National Monument of America and Gage County Emergency Management Agency; this enhancement will be via installation of a UHF Voter Module / Repeater.
	Memorandum of agreement – emergency management systems	9/25/12	9/01/17	Urgent Care Clinic of Lincoln	The purpose of this agreement is to establish oversight and on-line medical direction for the Homestead National Monument of America emergency medical services and automated external defibrillator programs.
	Standard cooperating association agreement			Eastern National	Operate bookstore
	Memorandum of understanding			Friends of Homestead	
	Memorandum of agreement			ESU5	An agreement with ESU5 provides Internet for Homestead's distance learning and public access for electronic homestead records research. Currently paid on an annual basis.

Appendix C: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Existing plans that provide guidance:

- 1961 Master Plan
- 1969 Palmer-Epard Cabin Historic Structure Report
- 1973 Freeman School Historic Structure Report
- 1986 Report on Excavations at the Freeman School
- 1988 General Management Plan
- 1990 Interpretive Prospectus
- 1993 Statement for Interpretation
- 1994 Statement for Management
- 1997 Long-Range Interpretive Plan
- 1999 General Management Plan
- 2000 Cultural Landscape Report
- 2004 Collection Storage Plan
- 2004 Vegetation Management Plan
- 2005 Archeological Overview and Assessment
- 2005 Hedgerow Management Plan
- 2005 Volunteer Management Plan
- 2006 Fire Management Plan
- 2006 Collection Management Plan and Staffing Plan
- 2007 Housekeeping Plan
- 2009 Visitor Use Study
- 2009 Impacts of visitor spending on the local economy
- 2011 Business Plan
- 2011 Scope of Collection Statement
- Trail Realignment Plan (in progress FY2014)
- Five-Year Education Plan (in progress FY2014)
- 2014 Maintenance Division Annual Work Plan
- 2014 Boundary Adjustment Study, General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment

Midwest Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Homestead National Monument of America
August 2015

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Midwest Regional Director.

Mark Engler

August 12, 2015

RECOMMENDED

Mark Engler, Superintendent, Homestead National Monument of America

Date

C. H. Sholly

July 17, 2015

APPROVED

Cameron H. Sholly, Regional Director, Midwest Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

HOME 368/128967
August 2015

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