Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

White Cliffs of the Missouri
Photo by Scott Mestrezat
Posting of the colors at the naturalization ceremony.

3D Chalk Art during the Bridge Beats Concert Series, a partnership with the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Department.

Teddy Roosevelt helps staff celebrate the NPS Centennial.

Superintendent Mark Weekley accepts a flag during a flag ceremony to honor the sailors aboard the USNS Lewis and Clark and the USNS Sacajawea.
As I reflect back on 2016, I find myself amazed at all that was accomplished. A personal highlight for me was celebrating the National Park Service Centennial. The Trail staff enthusiastically embraced the Centennial with numerous special events, webinars, and activities. One of the most exciting Centennial events for me was the partnership with Union Pacific Railroad Museum. Our Visitor Center became a stop for the annual Railroad Days. Over 3,000 visitors stopped in over the two-day event. Another key Centennial program was a naturalization ceremony for new citizens with “Teddy Roosevelt” as the speaker, followed by a flag ceremony to honor the sailors aboard the USNS Lewis and Clark and the USNS Sacajawea.

After many years with little change in staff, 2016 was the exception with several new staff coming to replace outgoing employees. Tom Smith joined us as Education Specialist filling the position previously held by Jill Hamilton-Anderson. Linda Helm, Environmental Protection Specialist, replaced Denise Nelson. Kristine Struck, Outdoor Recreation Planner, took over Neal Bedlan’s old position. Kristin Khan became our new Business Services Associate, taking over for Dawnisha Bullion. Ashley Danielson became the Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator after the departure of Nichole McHenry. We welcomed Ryan Kephart as our new Park Guide filling in behind Byrony Forbes. And lastly, Julie Blanchard was selected to fill a new position of Visitor Center Manager. While it is bittersweet to see long-time employees move on as they advance in their careers, we have been very fortunate in being able to bring in outstanding new employees with a high level of energy and fresh ideas.

In 2016, vital partnerships and cooperative agreements increased the leverage of our funding. While available resources for such agreements are often limited, they facilitate engagement with key partners and achieve amazing results. Groups we partner with bring in additional funds, skills and experiences. In many cases they also bring a host of talented and committed volunteers.

Our agreements in 2016 included partnerships with the Omaha Parks Foundation, the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Fort Mandan Foundation, the Lewis and Clark Trust, J. Greg Smith, the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and Solimar International.

The agreement with Solimar International was put in place towards the end of the year and is set up to build a partner-focused geotourism program for the Lewis and Clark Trail over the next several years. In addition to this project we hope to continue our existing partnerships and agreements and work to implement our Communications Strategy Plan, develop a Long Range Interpretive Plan, continue work on our Administrative History, continue implementing our Wayshowing and Wayfinding plan, and work to further disseminate and implement the Honoring Tribal Legacies project.

The key to all of this great work is the support provided by all of you and the great staff at the Trail. I am hopeful and excited by all the opportunities coming our way in 2017.

Happy New Year!
Mark Weekley, Superintendent
LEWIS AND CLARK
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

- 23 national wildlife refuges
- 9 intersecting national historic and scenic trails
- 13 national forests/grasslands
- 6,157 miles of auto route
- 8 tribal trust lands
- 27 congressional districts

3,700 miles
8 NPS units along trail

15 Indian reservations

1,439 miles of water trail

19 trail-related national historic landmarks

11 states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois

151 counties
Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri, you will take observations of latitude and longitude at all remarkable points on the river, & especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands...  President Thomas Jefferson
Story Maps

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail released a new Story Map highlighting the six officially designated water trails along the Lewis and Clark Trail. This interactive Story Map allows visitors to explore the geography of each water trail and provides photos, descriptions, and links to more information.

View the Story Map: http://arcg.is/1SZgHq
To view other Lewis and Clark Story Maps and the Trail Atlas, visit www.nps.gov/lecl/planyourvisit/maps.htm

Missouri
Missouri River Water Trail

Nebraska and South Dakota
Missouri National Recreational River Water Trail

Montana
Upper Missouri Breaks Water Trail

Montana
Jefferson River Canoe Trail

Idaho, Washington, and Oregon
Northwest Discovery Water Trail

Washington and Oregon
Lower Columbia Water Trail

A New App

In the summer of 2016, the Missouri National Recreational River Water Trail released a new GPS-enabled mobile app with the assistance of the National Park Service that serves as a tour guide on the Missouri River from Pickstown, SD to Sioux City, IA. The free app helps visitors find out information about this historic river and explore recreational opportunities along the National Water Trail. This interactive tour experience is free to download and is available for most smartphones, tablets, and mobile devices.

For more information:
http://i-treks.com/routes/4/
Descent Trail

This year, development of a new recreational trail along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was begun by the National Smokejumper Association in cooperation with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in Montana.

The new 2.75-mile hiking trail is located on a narrow ridge in the Bitterroot National Forest and follows a portion of Lewis and Clark’s September 1805 descent from Lost Trail Pass into the Bitterroot Valley in Montana.

Signs and trail markers for the project were provided by the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. When the trail is completed, visitors will be given the experience of following closely in the footsteps of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Useful Links:
www.smokejumpers.com
www.lewisandclark.org
http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot/

Mark Smith of the Bitterroot National Forest installs a Lewis and Clark Trail marker on the Descent Trail. Photo by Ted Hall.
Auto Route

The Lewis and Clark Auto Route is a system of 6,100 miles of roads and highways designated by each trail state. The Auto Route brackets each side of the trail and is the primary way in which visitors travel to trail destinations.

In 2016, NPS Trail staff continued to actively engage Department of Transportation offices in Trail states in order to begin the Trail-wide implementation of the recommendations from the 2013 plan entitled Effective Wayshowing for Enhanced Visitor Experience, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Auto Tour Route.

Trail staff worked in collaboration with the Montana Department of Transportation to fabricate and install 66 auto route guide signs and 35 directional signs to attractions along four different auto route segments.

High Potential Historic Sites

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail entered the final phase in the process of designating High Potential Historic Sites, which according to the National Trails System Act are places “related to or in close proximity to the Trail, which provide the opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the Trail during the period of its major use.”

Over the past five years, Trail staff have identified and mapped an initial list of 181 sites in collaboration with 118 local experts across all Trail states, including State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, historians, geographers, archeologists, and members of partner groups.

Staff also consulted with 64 trail-affiliated tribes to ensure that sites of traditional, religious, and/or cultural significance would not be adversely impacted by increased public awareness. Trail staff used historic significance, interpretive potential, scenic quality, freedom from intrusion, sense of place, and presence of historic remnants as criteria for inclusion as a High Potential Historic Site.

In 2016, after applying the criteria, staff narrowed down the list to 90 proposed sites. A project was created in the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site. A National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Review was completed and a determination of No Adverse Effect was made based on the outcome of consultations and consensus from all State Historic Preservation Offices was received.

After a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Review, a Categorical Exclusion was received after a determination of no potential for environmental impact was made. In 2017, the final list of 90 High Potential Historic Sites will be published as an addendum to the Trail Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).
Honoring Tribal Legacies curriculum designers, Shana Brown (Yakama), of Washington State, and Rose Honey, of Montana, presenting at the National Indian Education Association meeting in Reno, Nevada, in October 2016.

Bellingham Indian Education Summit, October 2016, which was attended by HTL curriculum designer, Shana Brown (Yakama).
Honoring Tribal Legacies

The Honoring Tribal Legacies (HTL) project enjoyed a year of exciting dissemination activity in 2016. In February alone, NPS tribal liaison Richard Basch carried the news about the two-volume handbook and seven demonstration Teachings to more than 300 people during meetings of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Columbia River Tribes. Also in that month, our National Archives partner, Carol Buswell, and Washington State teacher, Shana Brown (Yakama), presented information about our digital resources at the Northwest Council for Computer Education, reaching another 50 people.

In March, Richard Basch and Stephanie Wood made informal contacts with some 40 educators and met with the Director of Education, Tara McCauley, at the Burke Museum on the campus of the University of Washington, getting HTL in on the ground floor of new directions in education for the new and expanding museum there. We are excited about establishing close contacts with universities in the Northwest, including not only UW but also increasing our relationships with the administration and faculty at the University of Oregon, where we have a solid supporter in the Associate Vice President and Tribal Liaison, Jason Younker, a representative for the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon. Also at UO, Professor Michelle Jacob has embraced HTL, as she assigned our materials in one of her teacher-education courses (Fall 2016) and invited Stephanie Wood to present our approach.

Another highlight of 2016 was the participation of the HTL curriculum designers, including Julie Cajune (Salish), Rose Honey, and Shane Doyle (Apsaalooke), at a Gilder Lehrman Seminar at the University of Montana. These colleagues were able to introduce and demonstrate some of their Teachings to a number of other educators. In the fall, Shana also attended an American Indian Education summit in Bellingham, Washington, where, she says, “Every superintendent, dean, principal, and tribal education leader walked away with a pamphlet and a look at the [HTL] website!”

In all, at these various meetings and over the remaining months of 2016, which saw presentations at another nine conferences across the United States, the Honoring Tribal Legacies teachings and methods were shared with some 1,700 people! We will continue this outreach all through 2017.

We are also proud to announce the launch of a new, open-source, open-access website, where the demonstration curriculum and two-volume handbook are now housed by the University of Oregon: https://blogs.uoregon.edu/honoringtriballegacies. This site is secure and should have a greater assurance of longevity than our original site. People visiting the older site will be automatically redirected to the new site.
Freshly installed new Lewis and Clark wayside at Sergeant Floyd Monument in Sioux City, Iowa.
Recognize this wayside?

This generic Lewis and Clark informational sign can be found all across the Trail. It has served as a useful tool for visitors over the years but it is definitely showing its age. The fiberglass imbedded panels are looking worn and tired and are in need of an update.

We are happy to announce that in 2016, we redesigned and fabricated a new wayside panel. The updated and fresh look will enhance and complement existing signage along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in 11 states. We have begun to distribute the panels for replacement, but we need your help.

Is there an old panel at your site that needs to be replaced? We’ll be happy to send you a replacement at no cost. It’s easy - just send an email to lecl_communications@nps.gov to get started. We’ll ask for your contact information and for a photo taken with a smartphone so that we can have it geolocated.
Social Media

The Trail continued to have an active presence on social media and the internet.

Social media platforms are a unique asset to amplify accomplishments along the Trail. These platforms were used to promote events, facilitate dialogue, engage the public, provoke discussion on historical topics, encourage recreation and trail visitation, and promote stewardship.

14,065 Page Likes

@LewisClarkTrail

2,189 Followers

StoryMaps

In 2016, staff created three new, and updated five existing online web maps utilizing the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Story Maps platform. These customized, lightweight applications combine web maps with multimedia content in order to share stories and present geographic information to a wide audience.

These Story Maps are among the most popular available on the web today and are currently used as flagship examples in ESRI Story Map webinars, trainings, and presentations. In June, three Lewis and Clark Story Maps were chosen to represent the National Park Service Centennial Exhibit at the ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA.

www.nps.gov/lecl/planyourvisit/maps.htm

lewisandclarktrailmap.com

Trail Atlas

A major revision to the Trail Interactive Atlas was completed in 2016. It was enhanced to improve speed and performance and expanded to include a multitude of different data layers, including historic Lewis and Clark Expedition data highlighting the people, places, and resources along the Trail.

A new Points of Interest layer was added to display sites along the trail and new natural resources data was added allowing users to visualize animal and plant species, ecological regions, and explore links to further information. Existing data layers were updated to include the most recent land ownership, boundaries, and census data.
Lewis and Clark NHT provided funding and technical support to The Wilderness Society and partners from the city of Lincoln, Montana on a brochure for the Alice Creek Historic District in the Helena National Forest.

Trail staff completed the mapping for the brochure, wrote narratives on area history and unique cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Feedback from partners and stakeholders was incorporated into the design of the brochure. It was completed and printed for distribution in advance of the 2016 tourist season.

Staff worked in collaboration with the NPS Harpers Ferry Center to update the Trail Unigrid Brochure. Over 150 sites on the map were reviewed and updated and 34 new locations were added.

More than 50 updates to the text, features, labels, and symbology on the map were made and significant revisions to the interpretive text and visitor information were made to correct mistakes, enhance understanding, and provide additional information.

The brochure is scheduled to be printed and distributed in early 2017.

This summer, 20,000 copies of a site bulletin entitled Experiencing Climate were distributed to over 100 visitor centers across the Trail. It’s purpose is to illustrate and discuss climate today and that observed by Lewis and Clark.

For those of you who enjoyed the site bulletin and would like to print more on your own, please contact us for the digital file at 402-661-1826 or lecl_communications@nps.gov
FY16 Volunteer Report

Each year, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail benefits from the dedication of thousands of volunteers. Here are just a few facts and figures from the past year illustrating their grand contributions. Thank you for your service!

This data is based on the reporting of the following 15 trail partners.

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center (WA)
Fort Atkinson State Historical Park (NE)
Friends of the Columbia River Gorge (OR)
Healthy Rivers Partnership (Missouri River)
Knappton Cover Heritage Center (OR)
Missouri River Basin
  Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (NE)
Lewis and Clark State Historic Site (IL)
Lewis and Clark Trail
  Heritage Foundation (trailwide)

Lewis and Clark Trust (trailwide)
Missouri River Relief (Missouri River)
Omaha Visitor Center (NE)
Rock Bridge State Park
  (Katy Trail Section)
Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural
  and Educational Center (ID)
Sacajawea State Park (WA)
Lewis and Clark State Park (IA)

Thank you!

In the past year, we counted

3,825
volunteers along the trail

Combined, they contributed

129,752
hours of service

That's the equivalent of over

62
full-time staff members

...which converts to a labor value of

$3.5 million
(calculated at $23.56 per hour)
Whenever I tell others here in Iowa that I volunteer for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, they almost always ask, “Oh, did you go work on parts of the trail or build something?” So when I explain I primarily write Facebook posts from my small home office, their faces wrinkle in confusion. “Really…?”

Lacing up my hiking boots, tossing a backpack in the car and heading West for a few weeks is something I would love to do several times a year. But, even though I’m 90% retired, it would be a challenge for me to find the time for on-site volunteer work. Instead, I was blessed to discover about a year ago that the Trail staff in Omaha needed someone to help develop content for their daily social media posts – a perfect match, it seemed, with my career in advertising and my love of 19th century American history and our country’s National Parks.

I’ll be the first to admit I do this partially for myself. I enjoy the research, the increased knowledge and the time spent writing. But I also do it because I hope our 14,000 Facebook followers enjoy reading and learning more about the many facets of the incredible Lewis and Clark story. For sure, this task is small, dwarfed in comparison with the work of thousands of other volunteers along the Trail’s 3,700 miles – from trail restoration to research, interpretation to internal operations. The point being – every role is important and contributes to the overall mission of the Trail.

Being a National Park VIP (Volunteers-in-Parks) is a hugely rewarding experience. There’s a place for you to help, a way for you to share your skills and talents, and an opportunity for you to make a positive impact. Contact Trail headquarters to find out how you can connect -- it’ll be a Win-Win-Win experience for you, for the staff and for everyone who enjoys and appreciates the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Kent Schlawin, Volunteer
Johnston, Iowa
This year the National Park Service launched a special centennial award just for volunteers.

Any volunteer who dedicated 201.6 hours of service to a national park site during the Centennial 2016 calendar year was eligible for a Centennial Volunteer Coin.

We are proud to announce that Lewis and Clark presented 27 coins to volunteers across the Trail. That's over 5,400 hours of donated time!

Congratulations and thank you for your service!
Volunteer Sharon Stewart and the Friends of Sacajawea State Park were recognized for the many years of work and personal commitment to providing a quality visitor experience to park visitors. Stewart first volunteered at Sacajawea State park in 2000 as a campground host. Since then she has worked tirelessly in a variety of roles to support park operations and make the site a meaningful experience for the public.

The Friends of Sacajawea State Park was founded as a nonprofit in 2013 to support the park and formalize the large community already volunteering with the park, and has weathered many challenges to continue park operations undisturbed. The volunteer-driven group has served thousands in the Tri-City Area, including many school children who received a fun and educational look at the history of the area. The Friends of Sacajawea State Park volunteers are always ready to give interpretive tours of the park.

Congratulations!

On June 16, 2016, tribal liaison Richard Basch of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail presented **Sharon Stewart and the Friends of Sacajawea State Park** with a **National Park Service Midwest Region Partnership Award**.
Ranger Kenny Points presented the Scout Ranger patch to 58 Boy Scouts upon their completion of a service trip down the Missouri River.

Two new Junior Ranger Activity Books, designed specifically for those visiting the Omaha Visitor Center, were unveiled in 2016.

Each activity book has age-specific activities that will guide kids of all ages to learn about the history, science, and American Indian traditions during the time of Lewis and Clark.

The 2016 2nd Saturday Speaker Series offered both youth and all-ages programs during the summer months.

Featured speakers:
Renae Hunt
Brad Tennant
Matthew Jones
Hasan Davis (right)

The Lewis and Clark NHT Visitor Center welcomed 3,141 visitors as one of the stops for Railroad Days, a community event to celebrate Omaha’s railroad history.

This year’s theme was All Set for the West: Railroads and National Parks.

Ranger Ryan Kephart swears in triplets as Junior Rangers during this two-day event.
Omaha, Nebraska is home to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's Headquarters and Visitor Center. Rangers offer interpretive programming, special events, and outreach to the local area.

Feb 4, 2016

Dear Miss Julie,

Thanks so much for the Lewis and Clark badge and pin.
I enjoyed learning about Lewis, Clark and the rest of the crew. My favorite fact was that Lewis got shot in the butt. My class had a Wax Museum of Lewis and Clark. I was Sacagawea. Again thank you so much for my badge and the pin.

Sincerely, Kennedy

I liked when you taught us about animal furs. Thank you for leading us around the Lewis Clark Headquarters and teaching us about Lewis, Clark, Sacagawea, and the Missourians.

Kyle
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Volunteer-In-Parks Ken Schlueter was a guest speaker at the United States Postal Service unveiling event that took place in Omaha, Nebraska. The Midwest Regional Office was one of several locations around the country where the National Parks Stamps were unveiled to the public.

Volunteer Ken shared his love for national parks and how they have taken on a new meaning since his retirement from Union Pacific three years ago.
The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday on August 25, 2016 with special events and programs throughout the year. It was no exception at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

NPS CENTENNIAL GOAL
CONNECT with and CREATE the NEXT GENERATION of park visitors, supporters, and advocates.
**Lewis and Clark Videos**

As part of the National Park Service Centennial, we joined in the fun of creating meaningful Find Your Park videos to help spread the word and encourage people everywhere to define “park” in their own way.

The first video focuses on the spectacular and awe-inspiring landscapes along the trail and features the song “The Hunt” by River Whyless.

https://youtu.be/Y_-f35nPAr8

The second video highlights the many ways visitors can find adventure along the trail. The video features the song “Lost” by The Fruit Flies.

https://youtu.be/8hh0zNacF5g

**Volunteer Ambassador**

Charlotte Murtishaw

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters was selected to host a Student Conservation Association Centennial Volunteer Ambassador to support volunteer activities and community engagement.

Charlotte Murtishaw, a recent graduate of Barnard College spent a year with us helping to expand the volunteer base in Omaha and beyond.

**Nebraska Passport**

The Nebraska Passport Program strives to get Nebraskans and visitors out to 80 different sites around the state every year. In 2016 they wanted to help celebrate the NPS Centennial by including the five NPS sites in Nebraska in the “Find Your Park Tour.” LCNHT was the most visited spot on that tour with **1,043** visits to our location.

**Centennial Plan**

In preparation for the NPS Centennial, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail developed a Centennial Plan that outlined activities and projects that would be carried out throughout the year. It was our guiding document for the year.


**Great Park Pursuit**

The Great Park Pursuit promotes an active lifestyle by getting visitors involved in outdoor recreation in Nebraska. They also wanted to help celebrate the Centennial at NPS sites around the state. The Trails marker was in the native garden next to the visitor center.
In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial, StoryCorps visited Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters as part of an effort to conduct oral history recordings throughout the Midwest parks. This was an opportunity for Trail staff and stakeholders to share their stories to be preserved for future generations.

StoryCorps’ mission is to preserve and share humanity’s stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.

All StoryCorps interviews are archived in perpetuity at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
As we look ahead in the new year, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will be focusing on a few key projects that will help further the Trail’s mission.

**GEOTOURISM**
Working in partnership with Solimar International, we will strive to enhance tourism along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Capitalizing on local expertise, unique and authentic experiences will be gathered and disseminated to promote the Trail. The focus will be the environment, culture, heritage, and well-being of its residents.

**LONG-RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN**
We will enter into an interpretive planning process to develop a unified approach for interpretation for the benefit of partners and stakeholders.

**COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**
A Strategic Communication Plan was developed in 2016. In 2017, a working group of partners will be established to start the implementation of the plan. The overall goal is to coordinate an effort with partners and stakeholders to increase awareness of the Trail.

**AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**
Lewis and Clark will be working with a contractor to create a documented history of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail’s administrative progress.

**HONORING TRIBAL LEGACIES**
We will continue further dissemination of Honoring Tribal Legacies. Its purpose is to encourage educators at all levels and in every environment to benefit from the collective wisdom that can be gained from a shared history that simultaneously embraces the past, present, and future and honors tribes.

**DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH POTENTIAL ROUTE SEGMENTS**
The National Trails System Act calls for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to designate High Potential Route Segments. These are segments of the trail that would “afford high quality recreation experience” and “greater-than-average scenic value” or an “opportunity to vicariously share the experience.” Segments are focused on visitor experience.
Chief of Interpretation Neal Bedlan is welcomed to work by Teddy Roosevelt.

Junior Ranger Aida Frey makes a stop at the Omaha Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Visitor Center.

Rangers Ryan and Abraham meet Seaman.

Hasan Davis takes a moment to chat with some young visitors during the summer Speaker Series.
Outdoor Recreation Planner Kristine Struck is greeted by Teddy Roosevelt on August 25, 2016.

Trail staff give a presentation at the Annual Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Meeting in Harpers Ferry, WV.

Junior Ranger Reilly explores the exhibits.

A young visitor during Earth Day Omaha learns about the tools Lewis and Clark used on their journey.
Happy New Year!

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
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www.nps.gov/lecl