Learn how to participate in planning for the future of Pullman National Monument.

You're Invited: Informational Meetings on February 2 and 3

Who: All interested parties are invited.

What: Presentation with updates on National Park Service planning projects at Pullman National Monument followed by question and answer session

When: Thursday, February 2 at 7:00pm and Friday, February 3 at 10:00am with the same presentation offered both days

Where: Historic Pullman Foundation Visitor Center at 11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave, Chicago, Illinois (Cottage Grove and 112th)

To request American Sign Language interpretation during the meeting, please contact 402-661-1584 at least one week in advance.

Planning Isn't New to Pullman

From designing a factory town to organizing for collective rights to building citizen-led preservation initiatives, Pullman has been the center of major planning efforts for most of its history. That tradition continues in many ways, including through the development of a national monument in the community.

National Park Service (NPS) planning requirements for Pullman are described in the 2015 Presidential Proclamation that created Pullman National Monument and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The planning process will evolve over the coming years, and we hope you will participate. There are two primary areas of focus:

The first step is developing a Site Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Pullman Factory Site in partnership with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). This newsletter introduces the Environmental Assessment and how you can be involved.

Future steps include establishing a long-term vision for the future through the Foundation Document and then a Management Plan. Future newsletters and notifications will keep you informed about these processes.

The framework for these planning projects comes from (NEPA). It requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental impacts of their actions through a set of proposed alternatives and to involve the public in that process. Natural, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts to resources are all considered.
Pullman Factory Site Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (EA) will clarify goals and objectives for the Factory Site and establish a larger vision among the NPS, the State of Illinois as the landowner, and other interested parties including the public. This 12-acre property is a component of Pullman State Historic Site within Pullman National Monument. The EA will examine conceptual designs for improvements, rehabilitation, and use of the Factory Site.

Preliminary Alternative Concepts

As part of the planning process, conceptual design alternatives will be evaluated. Draft concepts being considered include the no-action (or baseline) alternative and two action alternatives. Brief descriptions of each are provided below. The draft EA will describe the alternatives and their impacts in greater detail. Under all alternatives, the NPS will work with the State of Illinois to implement the final plan.

* No Action (or Baseline) Alternative
The No Action alternative would convert the Administration Clock Tower Building into Pullman National Monument's principal Visitor Center suitable for other administrative uses. This development would include the provision of utilities into the building. There would be limited development of visitor and employee parking on the site, basically using the same disturbed areas presently used for parking.

* Alternative 2
Alternative 2, the George Pullman Period (ca. 1880-1897) alternative, includes the actions described within Alternative 1 (No Action) and adds other elements to interpret the 1880 Factory Site and provide additional landscape features reminiscent of that period in the history of Pullman.

* Alternative 3
Alternative 3, the Post Pullman Era (ca. 1897-1941) alternative, includes all actions described within Alternative 1 (No Action) and adds a series of other elements, including landscape features to interpret the Factory Site after 1907.

Please Join Us in Planning for Pullman

The NPS will be seeking public comment on the EA in the days following the public meetings on February 2 and 3. You will receive notification when that document is available for review.

If you know of others who should be receiving updates, please forward this newsletter to them using the "Forward this email" link at the bottom of the page.