



Foundation Document

Fort Smith National Historic Site

Arkansas and Oklahoma

January 2017



Signatures
1/19/2017



Contents

Mission of the National Park Service	1
Introduction.	2
Part 1: Core Components	3
Brief Description of the Park.	3
Park Purpose	6
Park Significance	7
Fundamental Resources and Values	8
Other Important Resources and Values	9
Interpretive Themes	10
Part 2: Dynamic Components	11
Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments	11
Special Mandates.	12
Administrative Commitments.	12
Assessment of Planning and Data Needs	14
Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs	14
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values	17
Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values	30
Planning and Data Needs	35
Part 3: Contributors	39
Fort Smith National Historic Site.	39
NPS Midwest Region	39
Other NPS Staff	39
Appendixes	40
Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Fort Smith National Historic Site	40
Appendix C: Inventory of Administrative Commitments	47
Appendix D: List of Archeological Survey Work Conducted at Fort Smith National Historic Site	49
Appendix E: Jurisdictional Considerations at Fort Smith National Historic Site	51



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 more than 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 Fort Smith National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



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

Shaped by diverse groups of individuals—American Indians, soldiers, outlaws, and lawmen—Fort Smith National Historic Site evokes 80 years of turbulent history on the western frontier. At the park you can explore the remnants of two frontier forts, the tragic story of the Trail of Tears, and the historic jail and federal courthouse of Judge Isaac C. Parker. The U.S. military and federal court presence at Fort Smith changed the fate of the region by introducing a new political system, economic structure, and set of rules and social values from which people benefited, adapted to, or perished. Fort Smith National Historic Site provides opportunities to create a dialogue within the public discourse to reflect on the profound impact that the concept of Manifest Destiny and frontier heritage played in the nation's history and the influence it has had on the fabric of American identity.

Fort Smith National Historic Site is a landscaped park, interwoven with interpretive opportunities through restored and recreated elements of 19th century history. Fort Smith National Historic Site was officially established on October 23, 1964, and currently encompasses 37 acres within the urban environment of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Fort Smith is a national historic landmark.

Historically, the landscape and setting was continually modified between 1817 and 1896, directly related to activities associated with the evolving nature and purpose of the site. Between 1897 and 1955, the historic scene and setting was significantly modified by urban development when the property of the fort and federal court was deeded over to the City of Fort Smith. Since the late 1950s, the City of Fort Smith and the National Park Service have worked collaboratively to preserve and restore the 19th century historic scene and setting by removing buildings, streets, and other intrusive landscape alterations that occurred at this site in the early 20th century while at the same time restoring, replacing, recreating, and marking missing key features of Fort Smith. These improvements continue to help evoke a feeling and association with the 19th century site history, while at the same time developing the site as an urban greenspace.

According to historic accounts, when army units first arrived at Belle Point, the land was heavily wooded with several varieties of oak, hickory, and cottonwood trees. Canebrakes occupied low ground along the rivers' edge. The forests soon disappeared, cut down to make room for the First Fort, and used for construction material and fuel. Construction of the First Fort was started in 1817 by a detachment of the U.S. Rifle Regiment and was 132 feet square with two blockhouses and many outbuildings. Soldiers cleared land for an 80-acre garden to feed the garrison. One correspondent noted in 1838 that "nearly all remaining timber on the land for near half a mile back" from Belle Point was cut down.

The distinctive location at Belle Point, the rocky promontory selected by Major Long for the fort site, is a significant intersection of several important trade routes with continued use dating back at least 1,000 years. This site and its associated history is a powerful reminder of natural and cultural interconnectedness and how each affects the other. Beyond the mission endowed by Congress through the park's enabling legislation, the park establishes common ground where people come together to share in the American experience and formulate a public identity.

The purpose of the U.S. Army military installation at this location was to protect the expanding sovereign interests and ensure regional influence by the United States of America against other sovereign European nations that laid claim to territory within North America, as well as American Indian sovereign nations. President James Monroe made treaties with the Cherokee, moving them into Western Arkansas in the 1820s. Fort Smith also served as a post to mediate a peaceful coexistence between local Osage Indians and Cherokee Indians who had been resettled there. The Cherokee had clashed severely with the local Osage populations, as well as with American immigrant hunters and squatters who had moved into the region. Through Army efforts, the immigrant squatters were removed from the region and in 1822 the two Indian tribes successfully negotiated a treaty.

The federal government, after passing the Indian Removal Act of 1830, forcibly removed the Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole from their ancestral homelands in the Southeast to Indian Territory. Fort Smith is directly associated with the historic events surrounding the removal of many American Indian tribes, both before and following the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Fort Smith National Historic Site and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail preserve the specific location and physical remnants of a portion of one of the historic American Indian removal routes.

The overlook site and the associated setting provide opportunities for visitors to experience this significant location where key events occurred that were instrumental in the ensuing history. The intrinsic qualities associated with this specific site, as well as the individual stories and related history, are integrally connected and embedded within the landscape. These inherent qualities encourage personal reflection, essential dialogue, and discussion that ultimately engender a greater understanding of these events in our collective history.

The Second Fort, begun in 1838 a short distance from the site of the First, was garrisoned until 1871. The Fort Smith Commissary received incoming goods such as food, medicine, hay, tents, and uniforms, for distribution to approximately 17 forts. The fort continued in this function until 1861, when peace in the Indian Country, a goal shared by the Army and the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, and Creek Nations—who were known as “the Five Civilized Tribes”—was shattered by the Civil War.

A significant “meeting of nations” occurred at Fort Smith in 1865 called the “Council of 1865.” This council was called to address several major issues following the Civil War. Three significant topics were reinstatement of tribal loyalty to the United States by those tribes who supported the Confederacy; additional attempts by the U.S. government to acquire land cessions from various tribes along with rescinding much of their original tribal authority; and the initial naming and establishment of “Oklahoma” as a territory. The tribes did not agree to the initial provisions of the treaty, and the negotiation process continued until 1866 when the treaty was finally signed in Washington, DC. The Treaty of 1866 has had a lasting impact on federal relations and American Indian policy to this day.

After the fort was abandoned by the military, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, which included jurisdiction within Indian Territory, moved into the facility in 1872.

By the late 19th century, social and economic upheaval spread through the territory in the aftermath of the Civil War that created an environment conducive to criminal activity. Judge Isaac C. Parker was appointed to the bench in 1875 and for a few years, Parker’s jurisdiction initially extended over 74,000 square miles—half of Arkansas and all of the Indian Territory. During his 21 years Parker tried more than 13,000 cases, sentencing 160 men and women to be executed by hanging. Of those, only 79 men were hanged. The Courthouse/Jail remains today through the initial restoration work of the Fort Smith Public Historical Restorations, Inc.

The exact location of the First Fort Smith foundation was unknown until the 1959 test excavation by Clyde Dollar, an archeologist employed by the Department of Defense. The site was excavated in 1963 by the National Park Service for preservation and for viewing by park visitors. Today the foundations of the First Fort Smith are stabilized and accessible to visitors.

Archeological digs conducted from 1978 to 1985 revealed where major portions of the Second Fort wall existed. Further, Second Fort wall foundations were discovered at the former quartermaster building, an area that is now separated from the remainder of the Second Fort Smith by railroad tracks. The wall foundations were uncovered extending from the east and south sides of the Commissary and in lots that were formerly used for parking by the Speer Hardware Company and the Fort Smith Paper Company.

Early in 1983, during the monitoring of the Coca-Cola Complex demolition, foundations from the officers' quarters were also discovered by Dollar and archeologist Roger Coleman. Their findings were documented in the report "Search for Officers' Row at Fort Smith, Phase One (1982)." In July 1983, the massive support system for the Second Fort flagpole (which stood about 100 feet high) was located under what was formerly Second Street and was partially excavated.

The historic Frisco Railroad Station (the Frisco), situated north of the Commissary, is within the park's boundary and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, although for reasons not related to the park's military and federal court history. Historically there were nine other railroad stations in Fort Smith and today, the Frisco is the only remaining train depot in the city. Completed in 1904, the Frisco was constructed of limestone blocks cut smoothly to resemble grey marble.

A trail system at Fort Smith National Historic Site provides a contemporary means for visitors to use and enjoy this historic site. Being in an urban setting, the trail system allows visitors to move from the downtown commercial district to the urban greenspace the park provides along the river. By increasing accessibility throughout the park grounds, the visiting public and local members of the community can enjoy the riverfront historic site both for educational and recreational purposes.



Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Fort Smith National Historic Site 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 September 13, 1961 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent legislative acts). The City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, officially transmitted all properties owned by the city to the U.S. government on October 28, 1961, through a formal deed of transfer. The remaining properties necessary for formal designation as stipulated in the legislative authorization were subsequently transferred to the federal government, and following review and certification requirements, Fort Smith National Historic Site was officially established on October 23, 1964. The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve, protect, and interpret the significant resources and stories associated with federal Indian policy that facilitated westward expansion, Indian removal, two military forts, and the federal justice system.



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 Fort Smith National Historic Site, 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 Fort Smith National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. **Location.** At the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers, an intersection of several important trade routes with continued use dating back to at least the early Mississippian Period, Fort Smith was strategically located on a pivotal boundary that remained significant throughout much of the 19th century.
2. **Establishment of Two Military Forts (1817–1824 and 1838–1871).** Fort Smith National Historic Site preserves the remains of two military forts representing American military operations and federal policy of that era. The First Fort Smith, present in foundations and archeological remains, was founded in 1817. The Second Fort, established in 1838, was a transitional fort and one of the last examples of walled coastal fort architecture built on the interior of the continent. Its transition from garrison to supply post is evident in archeological remains and existing buildings dating to the Second Fort period.
3. **Eighty Years of Federal Indian Policy.** The First and Second Forts and subsequent federal court were established for the enforcement and implementation of federal Indian policy. The Fort Smith Council of 1865 and the Treaty of 1866 were events that defined the U.S. government's relationship with tribes residing in the Indian Territory over a century. Fort Smith National Historic Site illustrates and interprets the cultural and economic consequences of these policies on the lives of American Indians and westward migrating European Americans.
4. **Indian Relations, Indian Removal, and U.S. Westward Expansion.** For some American Indians being relocated from ancestral lands, Fort Smith served as a final stop before entering Indian Territory. Fort Smith tells the stories of American Indian removal to Indian Territory, Indian and federal government relations there, and the westward U.S. expansion that impacted the area. Of the multiple removal routes followed by various eastern tribal nations, the water route is most closely associated with Fort Smith—including that recognized by the Cherokee as the Trail of Tears.
5. **Federal Justice System in Indian Territory.** The Federal Court of the Western District of Arkansas had jurisdiction over crimes in Indian Territory when either the accused or the victim was non-Indian. Fort Smith National Historic Site preserves the original courtroom, two jails, and reconstructed gallows.
6. **Judge Isaac C. Parker—Jurisdiction and Lasting Legacy.** Fort Smith National Historic Site preserves the stories, objects, and places of the judicial career of Isaac C. Parker. Parker oversaw a legal and geographical jurisdiction for 21 years of the court's 45 years of history. The Western District of Arkansas was one of the most dangerous for law enforcement in the nation's history. Many of the cases he adjudicated had a lasting influence on the legal system today. Referred to as the "hanging judge" by sensational journalists of his time, the title misrepresents the more complex reality surrounding the life, political aspiration, civic engagement, and stories surrounding the judge's tenure on the bench.

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 Fort Smith National Historic Site:

- **Historic Scene and Geographical Setting.** Fort Smith is on a prominent bluff, known as Belle Point, at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. The First Fort site sits immediately atop this point and the Second Fort site is approximately 500 feet northeast of the First Fort site on graded and leveled ground, also within view of the rivers. The physical appearance of the scene and setting at this historically strategic site and the visual relationship of the site to these two rivers are integral components in the contemporary Fort Smith experience.
- **Indian Removal Routes/Paths and Trail of Tears.** Fort Smith is directly associated with the historic events surrounding the removal of many American Indian tribes, both before and following the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Fort Smith National Historic Site and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail preserve the specific location and physical remnants of a portion of one of the historic American Indian removal routes, including a segment of the Cherokee Trail of Tears. The overlook site and the associated setting provide opportunities for visitors to experience this significant location where key events occurred that were instrumental in the ensuing history.
- **First and Second Fort Sites.** Fort Smith National Historic Site preserves the physical landscape, cultural landscape, and archeological resources of the First and Second Forts within the designated boundary of the park. Legislation authorizing the establishment of Fort Smith as a national historic site identifies the First and Second Forts as the primary impetus for preserving Fort Smith as a National Historic Site within the national park system.
- **Existing Historic Structures—Military Barracks, Courthouse, Jail, and Commissary.** The most prominent building within the park is the courthouse/jail/barracks, one of the few extant resources from the Second Fort and Federal Court periods. It is situated in the middle of a large, open grassy area and is visible from most areas within the park. The second most prominent structure is the Commissary building. The Commissary building was restored in 1985 and is the least historically altered buildings within the designated historic site. It is the oldest standing building in the City of Fort Smith. This large building sits northwest of the courthouse/jail building and was built on the old stone foundations of the Second Fort bastion 1.
- **Collections—Artifacts, Research Files, and Library Resources.** There are more than 139,000 artifacts from the First Fort Smith, Second Fort Smith, and Federal Court periods. These artifacts include furniture, paintings, documents, microfilm, photographs, firearms, handcuffs, locks, books, ceramics, associated archeological material, metal objects, and prehistoric stone materials. The park's museum and research collections provide a library of historical objects for public research and understanding of past events, conditions, and individuals associated with this site.
- **Reconstructed Elements and Reproductions.** The physical representation, including reconstructions of many landscape elements present during the periods of significance, is necessary to appropriately convey several important concepts associated with this site. By creating a tangible environment of historic context, visitors can gain a better understanding of the site's significance.

Other Important Resources and Values

Fort Smith National Historic Site 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 Fort Smith National Historic Site:

- **Frisco Railroad Station.** The historic Frisco Railroad Station, situated north of the Commissary, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, although for reasons not related to the park military and federal court history. Completed in 1904, the Frisco was a defining property for a town with a population of 23,500, constructed of limestone blocks cut smoothly to resemble grey marble. Two separate waiting rooms, physical evidence of past segregation practices, remain today. Historically there were nine other railroad stations in Fort Smith, but today the Frisco is the only train depot in the city.
- **Forgecraft Property.** The former United States Forgecraft Corp. property is an abandoned private property within the authorized park boundary. In operation for nearly 90 years in the 20th century, this facility produced metal fitting and military supplies. Once abandoned, it became apparent that refuse from the operations violated regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency. The agency conducted emergency clean-up of the site and it is now primarily a vacant lot. The former military cemetery is thought to be within this property. Additional potential interest in this property relates to the historic Butterfield Trail that crossed the site at this location. A further interpretive opportunity at this site exists for educating the public on environmental stewardship.
- **Historical Commemorative Markers.** During the period of ownership by the City of Fort Smith, three small stone monuments and a plaque on the reconstructed fort wall commemorating the centennial of Arkansas statehood were constructed in the vicinity of the Second Fort. At the southwest corner of Rogers Avenue and Third Street is the Memorial Gate, erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is believed that many or all of the stones used in this feature were taken from the original Second Fort walls. These historic features and the bronze cast tablets reflect and illustrate past practices of historic commemoration and provide a contemporary, tangible educational opportunity to better understand our collective and changing attitudes as a nation regarding the historic significance of this site and how the associated events were once memorialized.



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 Fort Smith National Historic Site:

- **Belle Point – A Cultural Crossroads.** The distinctive location at Belle Point, the rocky promontory selected by Major Long for the fort site, is a significant intersection of several important trade routes with continued use dating back at least 1,000 years. This site and its associated history is a powerful reminder of natural and cultural interconnectedness and how each affects the other.
- **First Fort Smith.** The First Fort Smith (1817) was established as a visible presence to assert national expansionist frontier policies and create a presence to stem violence between the already present Osage Indians, newly arriving Cherokees, and white settlers moving into the area as part of the U.S. government’s policy of Indian removal.
- **Indian Removal.** Prior to the Louisiana Purchase, some tribes chose to voluntarily move west to escape encroachment from European Americans. This migration was taken in part to retain their economic and cultural independence. With the creation of Fort Smith in 1817, the pattern of voluntary removal shifted to a federally mandated policy of forced relocation. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 later set in motion the Trail of Tears, a Cherokee term for the forced relocation of tribes from their ancestral homelands. By 1896, more than 60 tribes had been relegated to Indian Territory against their will.
- **Second Fort Smith.** The Second Fort Smith (1838) was originally built as a result of local community fears of attack by relocated tribes. However, the U.S.–Mexican War (1846–48), California Gold Rush (1849), forts built further west, surging westward expansion, and the American Civil War changed its role from a protection force to a supply source.
- **Federal Court Period.** From 1872 to 1896, the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas served a primary role in establishing and administering federal law in Indian Territory.
- **Judge Parker.** Judge Isaac C. Parker presided over one of the largest, deadliest, and busiest federal court districts. The rulings during his tenure (1875–1896) still influence today’s judicial system.

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 Fort Smith National Historic Site.



Special Mandates

- **Public Law 87-215 – September 13, 1961, 75 Statute 489.** Authorized park establishment and acquisition of “property as the Secretary may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.”
- **Public Law 94-578 – October 21, 1976, 90 Statute 2737.** Amended PL 87-215 by deleting the detailed boundary established in 1961 and expanding the total park boundary to a limit, not to exceed 75 acres including the provision that the delineated boundary may be changed administratively provided the total park acreage does not exceed 75 acres.
- **Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.** In 1987, Public Law 100-192, December 16, 1987, Statute 578, formally established the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Trail designation includes Fort Smith National Historic Site as a federally protected component of this national historic trail (PL 90-543, section 3[a][3])

Administrative Commitments

- Rights-of -way exist for three separate rail lines that cross the park, including two active lines—Fort Smith Railroad (out of Peoria, Illinois) and Union Pacific / Burlington Northern—as well as one inactive storage line whose ultimate right-of-way holder is undetermined at this time. The land through which these rights-of-way pass is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- The park acquired a 20-foot-wide easement that is part of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way in an effort to establish a universally accessible rail crossing. The park easement includes a portion of the crossing over the Fort Smith Railroad (west set of railroad tracks), but does not include any rights over the Arkansas Missouri railroad tracks (east side of the crossing). A pedestrian rail crossing exists in this location, but to date has not been improved yet to meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards.





- Other rights-of-way and easements across the park or underground include
 - Army Corps of Engineers easement to the high water limit
 - Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company electrical lines and major natural gas conduits
 - Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
 - City of Fort Smith utility easements
 - Southwestern Bell easements (various: telecommunication lines, including fiber optics)
 - 15-foot sanitary sewer easements (for example, lying in the east-west valley between Rogers Avenue and Garrison Avenue west of Second Street)
 - 10-foot water line easements
 - Oil and gas leases
 - Other private easements
- A memorandum of understanding was signed on August 4, 2014, between the Fort Smith Police Department and Fort Smith National Historic Site. Law enforcement is managed by concurrent jurisdiction. Pea Ridge National Military Park law enforcement personnel and the Buffalo National River special agent provide assistance in situations of federal law violations.
- Two parcels of the former Forgecraft property previously identified as priority acquisition parcels (Parcels 01-144 and P1-1) were purchased by the Fort Smith Trolley Museum owner through an Arkansas Commission of State Lands post auction sale process in April 2015. Parcel 01-144 is within the designated park boundary immediately adjacent to the park visitor parking lot. Parcel P1-1 includes an area adjacent to the park at the site of the historic mule barn. A third parcel (01-122), also within the designated park boundary and identified as a priority parcel for acquisition, is currently up for bid and includes land within the park's legislative boundary along the Poteau River that is believed to have been the location of the First Fort cemetery and a crossing station for the historic Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line.
- A fire agreement memorandum of understanding was signed between the Fort Smith Fire Department and the National Park Service on November 21, 2012.
- An ongoing short-term loan agreement process with the Cherokee National Prison Museum occurs twice a year (on the Cherokee National Holiday in September and on Ned Christie's birthday in December) for the display of Ned Christie's two guns.

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Fort Smith National Historic Site, please see appendix C.

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. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification 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 Fort Smith National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Public and Employee Safety and Site Vulnerabilities.** Fort Smith National Historic Site is in the City of Fort Smith and the exterior spaces of the park are open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Park staff are only on site during business hours. This has created some concerns about protecting visitors, protecting staff, and protecting park resources. There have been cases of archeological resource violations and illegal digging, surveillance is not always reliable, and the park has no law enforcement ranger. Because the park cannot be closed at night, vandalism and resource damage are concerns during that time. Park staff cannot monitor activities after hours, and visitors are using the site for activities that would require special use permits during the site's staffed hours. The perception by these visitors is that "anything goes." A law enforcement needs assessment was done in 2012, and is in the process of being updated. The superintendent's compendium is being updated to reflect current conditions. The park is working closely with the NPS Midwest Regional Office law enforcement specialists. A physical site security and public safety assessment and recommendations are needed to evaluate the vulnerability of people and resources and to make actionable recommendations for improving security.

- Frisco Railroad Station.** The park is working with the Leasing and Concessions office in the NPS Midwest Regional Office to explore leasing opportunities for the Frisco Railroad Station. A “Request for Expression of Interest” document was released in June 2016. Upon receipt and review of ideas submitted through this process, the park will determine the next steps in the historic lease process. In the interim, the Frisco is being used for special events, special uses, and interpretation. The historic documentation process has also begun with three-dimensional laser scanning of the building and measured drawings. Restoration work and lead abatement on the building’s historic windows has also been completed. A historic structure report has been funded and work began in July 2016 to fully document the historic integrity of the building and to determine future preservation / restoration recommendations. An interpretive services plan (short-term) for the Frisco Railroad Station is also needed.
- Forgecraft Property.** Two parcels of the former Forgecraft property previously identified as priority acquisition parcels (Parcels 01-144 and P1-1) were purchased by the Fort Smith Trolley Museum owner through an Arkansas Commission of State Lands post auction sale process in April 2015. Parcel 01-144 is within the designated park boundary immediately adjacent to the park visitor parking lot. Parcel P1-1 includes an area adjacent to the park at the site of the historic mule barn. A third parcel (01-122), also within the designated park boundary and identified as a priority parcel for acquisition, is currently up for bid and includes land within the park’s legislative boundary along the Poteau River that is believed to have been the location of the First Fort cemetery and a crossing station for the historic Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line. The site was a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site and was cleaned to residential grade. The National Park Service needs a phase 1 environmental site assessment before it would accept the property. A revised acquisition plan and strategy for Forgecraft property is needed to help address this key issue.
- Viewshed Issues and Potential Scenic Easements.** The park remains concerned about protecting the scenic viewshed that includes lands across the rivers. A revised land protection plan would identify land acquisition strategy and look at alternatives to preserve viewshed and scenery. The park wants to ensure setting is not compromised any further than it already is with regard to the period of significance and/or a neutral scene/setting is needed. Authorization exists to establish a scenic easement and the park needs to work out the details for options on how this might be accomplished (agreements, etc.). The park website currently lists the park as being in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Of particular concern are development and activities across the river including a vehicle salvage yard. An assessment and coordinated plan with the Cities of Fort Smith and Moffett to address nonconforming commercial developments in the vicinity of the park are needed to help ensure that long-term management goals for all parties involved are achieved in a mutually beneficial manner.



- **Rail Lines Crossing Through the Park.** Rights-of-way exist for three separate rail lines that cross the park, including two active lines—Fort Smith Railroad (of Peoria, Illinois) and Union Pacific / Burlington Northern—and one inactive storage line for which the holdship of the right-of-way is undetermined (it may be Union Pacific or Missouri Pacific Railroad Company). The land through which these rights-of-way pass is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These rail lines create significant issues with regard to visitor accessibility and park purpose. There have been times when railcars have physically blocked access to the park across the tracks. In addition, the abandoned rail cars attract graffiti and serve as shelter for the homeless. Park staff has been working with the railroad to resolve the parked rail car issue. There may be a process underway to move the rail yard to a location north of the park, which might help, but work is needed still.

A strategy to address existing rail lines that cross the park boundary is needed as this use creates several significant issues for maintaining a public park environment. Specifically, noise impacts, visual impacts, visitor safety related to the trains themselves and the rail line crossing within the park, storage of cars inside the park, hazardous materials transportation, and existing relationships with rail companies to ensure open communication between the individual companies and park management all need to be addressed. Additionally, the rail lines currently create a transit route for homeless citizens, and a proliferation of graffiti, drug paraphernalia and use on park grounds, and through-travel by intoxicated individuals along the rail lines require constant monitoring and action by park law enforcement.

- **Need to Reconnect with Traditionally Associated Tribes.** The park is proactively reconnecting with traditionally associated tribes, although continued work is necessary due to previous park emphasis focus on European American centric themes. The park is exceeding what is deemed minimum standards for formal consultation regimes in order to facilitate much stronger tribal relationships. Tribal involvement and engagement is critical to acquiring buy-in on park planning efforts from tribes, tribal members, and other associated partners. This includes archeological and ethnographic work. Previously, the park consulted only with the “Five civilized Tribes” (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole); today, the park is working to determine which tribes are traditionally associated tribes; the number of potential tribes ranges from 5 to 60. The park is preparing for a formal consultation process to inform interpretive products, programs, and the comprehensive interpretive plan.
- **Need for Guidance to Widen the Scope of Interpretation.** The park’s current long-range interpretive plan (2009) is outdated because most of the planning goals having been completed and additional general direction requires reconsideration. Of least benefit are the 2009 plan’s interpretive themes that deviate from the federal Indian policy-focused themes developed by the park in 1995. The overarching issue of federal Indian policy needs to be comprehensively addressed regarding Fort Smith connections in educational programming, interpretation and outreach activities, including local school curriculums. The park currently lacks strong interpretive materials that tie the significance of the fort, court, and cultural landscape to the overall theme of westward expansion and the industrialization of western civilization.

Some research on the interpretive themes took place many years ago and little has been done to update and elaborate on this base. Little research has been accomplished to discover and correlate why Fort Smith played such a massive role in the settling of the Southwest. Much of what has been researched is caught up or hidden among myths and legends. An accurate research initiative is needed to strengthen interpretive programs, brochures, response to inquiries, and for exhibits throughout the site.

There is a need to maintain and revisit the park's living history interpretive program, develop specific guidelines, clearly define individual roles, provide adequate training, and conduct regular evaluations. Improvements are needed in the types and methods of providing on-arrival information/orientation to visitors. This applies to people traveling area highways, visiting other area attractions, or just arriving in the parking lot. Improvements are needed in providing consolidated information regarding visitor attractions within the vicinity of the park, especially those with strong interpretive links to the park. A new park film could be developed to incorporate recent scholarship and the evolving nature of interpretation at the site.

The park desires to expand its current education program and better engage area educators in program development. Located in a populated area and encompassing two states, there is much potential to go beyond the present program of providing guided tours to school groups, to connect with many more area students, and to reach multiple audiences, through podcasts and/or distance learning. Distance learning lesson plan development is needed.

A revised comprehensive interpretive plan is needed. The park has requested funding to create a new comprehensive interpretive plan in fiscal year 2017. The interpretive themes from the foundation document would serve as the basis for the comprehensive interpretive plan.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis tables include 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	Historic Scene and Geographical Setting
Related Significance Statements	All significance statements
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is within an urban environment and cannot be isolated from that existing environment. While many of the surrounding buildings are noncontributing, associated impacts on the historic scene vary. • The landscape associated with the three historic periods (First Fort, Second Fort, Federal Court) has been extensively altered. Complete restoration of the historic scene is difficult, if not impossible. • Historically, the landscape and setting was continually modified between 1817 and 1896, directly related to activities associated with the evolving nature and purpose of the site. Between 1897 and 1955, the historic scene and setting was significantly modified by urban development when the property of the fort and federal court was deeded over to the City of Fort Smith. • Since the late 1950s, the City of Fort Smith and the National Park Service have worked collaboratively to preserve and restore the 19th century historic scene and setting by removing buildings, streets, and other intrusive landscape alterations that occurred at this site in the early 20th century while at the same time restoring, replacing, recreating, and marking missing key features of Fort Smith. • The Burlington Northern and Missouri Pacific Railroads have active lines that intersect the Second Fort wall foundations in two locations. The impact is visual, along with creating noise and safety problems for park visitors. Both rail lines actually sever the Second Fort, separating the southwest bastion and the site of the quartermaster building from the rest of the fort. Rail cars are frequently parked along these sections of tracks for months and years at a time, introducing modern, visually intrusive elements into the park setting. • Overhead electrical lines are prevalent throughout the site. There is an electrical tower on Belle Point supporting a 69 kv line that crosses the Arkansas River from Oklahoma. • Along the riverbanks, the site today provides a peaceful and scenic view along the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. • From the flat rock at the river's edge that forms a natural dock, the landscape rises to the east, fairly steeply to a relatively level area on the hilltop. The river's level and breadth has probably changed due to modifications made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the historic period, meaning that the flat rock that currently appears as a dock or landing may have been well above the water level in the 19th century. The rock outcrop at the rivers' edge was also a primary source for rock quarried to construct the walls of the Second Fort. • Trees generally occur informally throughout the park, especially along the western sections closest to the river. Along the paths and grounds of the Second Fort, trees have been planted to provide shade or beautification of park grounds. Deciduous trees line the base of the slope, although not so densely as to obscure the southwestern view upriver. • As a result of the extensive damage and loss of vegetation from a tornado that touched down on April 21, 1996, many of the older and in some cases historic trees dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries at Fort Smith National Historic Site were lost in locations adjacent to the river. With the creation of a vegetation management plan following this event, the park was able to expand access to the park grounds and plant a larger variety of trees. Most of the outlined elements in the vegetation management plan have been implemented as of the publication date of this document. • The urban environment of the park and history of how the park grounds have changed over time present a case study in the evolving urban and environmental stewardship responsibilities that the National Park Service embodies and in turn educates the public about.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Scene and Geographical Setting
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural setting along the riverfront provides a location of reflection and rejuvenation, connecting the visitor to nature in what would otherwise be an urban environment. • Since 2012 the park has continued with operations to clear out the overgrowth along the river's edge, remove invasive species, replant native grasses, and maintain a more "open" landscape condition. • Benches and aesthetic viewsheds have been developed along the park's trail system. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued preservation of the natural setting combined with restoration efforts to reverse or incorporate 20th century and contemporary landscape modifications in the immediate surrounding environment demonstrate improving conditions trending toward the general desired goal of a scene and setting that is evocative of the 19th century. • As the city's industrial base has declined since the end of the 20th century, the park has become an anchor and open space for public gatherings in a location that might otherwise have remained a blighted post-industrial area of the city.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railroad tracks –These rail lines crossing through the park create significant issues with regard to visitor accessibility and park purpose. There have been times when railcars have physically blocked access to the park across the tracks. In addition, the abandoned rail cars attract graffiti and serve as shelter for the homeless. • Adjacent roadways create traffic noise and therefore impact the park soundscape. • Power lines – The tower and power lines are a visual intrusion on the historic site. The power lines impede the scenic nature of the park and also pose an obstacle to the park's growing tree canopy. • Light pollution – Halogen lights from the adjacent Budweiser distribution center flood the northern sections of the park. Ground lighting for walking paths throughout the park is negated by lighting offsite. Visitors, being exposed to the brighter flood lights, are unable to see the surrounding grounds along the walk paths, thus posing a safety threat to visitors who enjoy the park at night. The blinking red safety beacon atop the high-voltage power lines adjacent to the park creates additional lighting impacts. At night, air pollution scatters these artificial lights, increasing the effect of light pollution on the visitor experience and night sky. • Viewshed integrity – The scenic viewshed on the Oklahoma side of the Arkansas River is privately owned. While congressional authorization exists for land acquisition, no acquisition or land protection measures have ever occurred in these areas. Should subsequent development occur within these areas, the setting would probably be jeopardized. This has recently been the case given that property directly across from the park is now being used as an auto salvage yard. When the winter foliage is gone, the salvage yard is exposed in full view. Noise from the salvage operations can be heard in the park in all seasons. Land behind the authorized boundary could potentially be developed or incompatible uses could occur and would further impact the park viewshed and soundscape. Scenic views are often obscured by pollution-caused haze. • Urban landscape – The active cityscape of Fort Smith borders the Second Fort site on two sides. Without appropriate zoning or other land use controls, activities and development within this adjacent landscape could potentially impact the historic site's scene and setting. Garrison Avenue carries U.S. Highway 64 across the Arkansas River into Oklahoma just north of the Second Fort site and introduces considerable traffic and the associated noise from vehicles. • The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers easement and high water limit could potentially cover the river overlook completely. • More large storms and an increase in average annual temperature and extreme heat events due to climate change increase potential for flooding, erosion, northward shift in ecosystems, and an increase in invasive species, all of which may alter the cultural landscape.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Scene and Geographical Setting
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential exists to establish a scenic easement across the river as a result of the 1961 enabling legislation. • Although there are many intrusions in and around the historic site, there also remain many natural attributes of the historical setting view from Belle Point. Retention of the existing tree canopy on lands already within the jurisdiction of park along with native grasses and flowers would stabilize the natural setting. • Seeking right of first refusal (if not already) for all property inside the authorized boundary from existing landowners on a willing seller basis; acquire the necessary interest of lands in Oklahoma across the Arkansas River from Belle Point to ensure scenic preservation and to prevent encroachment of development into the historical scene. It would be necessary to purchase these acres from eight landownerships on an opportunity-purchase basis. Another option is to seek assistance from the Land Legacy Trust to negotiate a scenic/conservation easement with the landowners/agencies who have ownership/jurisdiction of this land/riverfront included in the legislative boundary. • Landscaping improvements on the Oklahoma scenic protection area. • Develop the river overlook as a more contemplative experience. • Opportunity to enhance visitor path (trees along path, move power line transmission tower, remove high voltage loop/bypass at end of parking lot, move the railcars and/or tracks, absorb/acquire beer distribution center, acquire land across river). • Relocate incompatible power lines. • Develop a stronger sense of entry into the site, which would improve the accessibility of the site from the surrounding city blocks. • Preserve cultural and aesthetic values by addressing nonconforming commercial developments in the vicinity of the historic site by working closely with state, county, and city authorities. • Plan for adaptation to climate change per Secretarial Order 3289.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail crosses this site. • A segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line ran through a portion of the park – the route is currently being studied as a potential national historic trail.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectified and digitized historical base maps in appropriate formats (GIS etc.). • Visual resource inventory.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual resource management plan. • Revised land protection plan. • Cultural landscape report update. • Comprehensive long-range plan to minimize existing levels of night sky light pollution. • Floodplain and sedimentation study and mitigation plan. • Overlook site plan. • Comprehensive interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

Fundamental Resource or Value	Indian Removal Routes/Paths and Trail of Tears
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 3, and 4
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roads, rivers, and trails passing through Fort Smith incorporate the physical routes and some physical features associated with the forced removal of American Indians from east to west, and the site has been formally designated as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The 2001 constructed overlook contains a series of wayside exhibits, a stone wall, and seating. Interpretive waysides at the overlook describe the removal routes and use of the Arkansas River for this associated purpose. This site provides an opportunity for visitors to sit, rest, and contemplate what happened here during this chapter of U.S. history. The location was also the site of a ferry landing 1824–1838. The military and public ferry was under the care of Rogers & Nicks, with the provision they would ferry troops and government supplies free of charge and maintain fort structures. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phrase “Trail of Tears” is most associated with the Cherokee Tribe. Other tribes call the Indian Removal by different names. Indian Removal is more than just the “Five Civilized Tribes” historically associated with the Trail of Tears. More than 60 American Indian tribes were ultimately removed to Indian Territory.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River flooding has the potential of damaging the Trail of Tears interpretive overlook and river trail. Vandalism of Trail of Tears signs and overlook. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching issue of federal Indian policy needs to be comprehensively addressed regarding Fort Smith connections in educational programming, interpretation, and outreach activities, including local school curriculums. There is a need and opportunity to reconnect with traditionally associated tribes. The park is currently moving in this direction, although continued work is necessary. Perceptions have changed, creating new opportunities for tribal input, involvement, and perspective of how the site can be understood and interpreted. Closer consultation with the Trail of Tears Association and NPS office. The park needs to refine interpretation of the relationships the federal government had with tribes in Indian Territory after the American Civil War. A symposium to refine questions and statements relating to federal American Indian removal policy.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other segments of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The Arkansas River.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal routes research. Visual resource inventory.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlook site plan. A comprehensive interpretive plan would address interpretation of trains and removal routes. Visual resource management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

Fundamental Resource or Value	First and Second Fort Sites
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 3, and 4
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavations conducted in 1959 by Clyde Dollar uncovered the First Fort foundations that are visible today. The excavated walls were stabilized and repointed as a preservation measure. Small stone signs flush with the ground identify the various buildings and rooms found in the fort. • Portions of the Second Fort Smith foundations have been excavated; some were then covered with dirt, some have been left exposed, and one portion near the Commissary has been capped. • An interpretive wayside panel on the east side of the courthouse/barracks currently (2015) interprets the changing use of the building and the well that once existed on the grounds. • Situated in downtown Fort Smith and surrounded by an urbanized environment, the present contours of Fort Smith National Historic Site are primarily the result of past terrain-altering activities. Over the preceding century, city streets, railroads, utilities, and nonhistoric buildings extensively altered the historic landscape of the site. • Although prehistoric resources are not interpreted at Fort Smith based on legislated purpose, archeological excavations have yielded both prehistoric and historic resources, and the potential for further discoveries is high. Efforts to interpret and study have been ongoing since 1958—four years before the site was designated a unit of the national park system. In 1963, the work at that site expanded into a full-scale archeological excavation to document surviving structural remains. • The remainder of Fort Smith National Historic Site has received less archeological exploration. Beyond excavations to document the Second Fort's defensive works, archeological investigations have consisted almost entirely of small-scale test excavations, limited trench work, and monitoring for archeological clearance projects. Nearly all land tracts within the park have been tested, but large areas remain to be systematically sampled. The least altered of these is the front lawn of the visitor center, the only area to escape dissection by city streets and commercial buildings during the 20th century. • Wayside exhibits define and interpret the First Fort, Second Fort, and their associated structures. • Specific features of these sites include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic rock quarry. • Second Fort boundary. • Water well east of Courthouse (1880) (may relate to the Existing Historic Structures FRV). • Water well adjacent to Commissary/quartermaster building. • Other building foundations not marked: quartermaster building and laundress' quarters. • Two ordinance sheds (weapons storage), also referred to as stables. • Walking paths that follow and mark the original parade ground, walls, and bastions. • Second Fort cistern. • Exposed First Fort foundation and related early 19th century buildings. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological surveys continue to reveal information and help provide data that provide additional bases for protective treatments. A list of excavations, reports, and projects conducted on the grounds of the historic site for research, planning, and compliance issues are listed in appendix D.

Fundamental Resource or Value	First and Second Fort Sites
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal excavation and theft of archeological resources. • Vandalism or damage of First and Second Fort site features. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially there are resources yet to be discovered in the park's First and Second Fort areas. Significant finds would include the First Fort's well, privy, river frontage usage, and cemetery areas; the Second Fort's sawmill, hospital, blacksmith shop, river frontage usage, and cemetery areas. • The site of the First Fort Smith is partially delineated and interpreted with wayside exhibits but additional connections and methods need to be explored to help visitors see the extent of the fort, its strategic and political importance, and how people who once lived and worked here.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forgecraft property to the south of the current park boundaries is related to the federal cemetery site and this site is within the authorized boundaries. As such, this site is probably directly related to the established park purpose and until acquisition is possible, will remain a "related archeological resource." • Fort Gibson State Park in Oklahoma and the Arkansas River Valley in general are both related to historical events associated with American Indian Removal.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient archeological data and a GIS resource data base, especially in relation to Second Fort structures and artifacts are needed. • Rectified and digitized historical base maps in appropriate formats (GIS etc.) • Update archaeological overview and assessment. • Architectural context research. • Additional research and reporting to draw valid conclusions on the environmental conditions and the physical location of structures associated with the site's historic period.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report update. • Comprehensive interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

Fundamental Resource or Value	Existing Historic Structures—Military Barracks, Courthouse, Jail, and Commissary
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courthouse/jail/barracks – One of the few extant features from the Second Fort and Federal Court periods. Condition is good. Prioritization of cyclic funding stream by the maintenance division helps keep the buildings well maintained. • Courthouse/jail/barracks – A jail wing was added to this structure in 1887 to replace the jail in the basement that was inadequate. The courthouse/jail/barracks remains today through the initial restoration work of the Fort Smith Public Historical Restorations, Inc. • Commissary building – Restored in 1985 and is the least historically altered building within the designated historic site. It is the oldest standing building in the City of Fort Smith. Condition is good. Prioritization of cyclic funding stream by the maintenance division also helps keep this building well maintained. • Cistern –The cistern is a stone-lined cylindrical reservoir with a slightly concave stone floor and a stone vaulted dome ceiling with a square opening. The walls, floors, and dome are covered with several coatings of plaster. The cistern served as a water supply for the Second Fort Smith's officers' quarters. A metal cap has been installed over the cistern opening, and the entire cistern filled with sand for the protection of the resource and park visitors. • In 1980 the National Park Service reconstructed a portion of the Second Fort bastion 3 wall incorporating a representation of the gallows used for hanging criminals during the Federal Court period of 1872 to 1896. • The maintenance building, previously a RC Cola bottling plant, sits over a portion of land where the Second Fort wall used to be. This fact was known at the time of the gallows reconstruction. It was also thought that at some point in the future, the Second Fort wall would be reconstructed or further defined and so the bastion and gallows were shifted slightly from their historic positions to avoid having the reconstructed Second Fort wall intersect the maintenance building. • Historic structures, including the courthouse/jail/barracks and the Commissary, require preservation maintenance. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some components are nearing the end of their life cycle. • Commissary – This structure's first floor has been recently restored (2014) and currently houses interpretive exhibits on the first floor that interpret the Second Fort and Federal Court periods.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tornadoes and hail, potentially exacerbated by climate change, could damage aboveground structures. • Fire, potentially exacerbated by climate change, could damage aboveground structures. • Vandalism. • Railroad operations and trucking route (shipping contents and vibrations). • Historic structure preservation guides prescribing preservation procedures, treatments, materials, and schedules to direct the continuing preservation of these structures are long out of date, the last of which was completed in 1996. An up-to-date assessment is needed as ongoing operations and maintenance always present problems for historic buildings.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Existing Historic Structures—Military Barracks, Courthouse, Jail, and Commissary
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissary threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moisture in columns on the first floor. • Birds, rodents, termites. • Lack of climate control. • Disintegrating plaster on second floor. • Courthouse/jail/barracks threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deteriorating windows and water damage. • Basement level moisture seepage and plaster damage. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration/reconstruction porch on the Commissary. • The U.S. Marshals Museum is a partner of the park. Groundbreaking for a new museum is planned. This facility will focus on historic marshals and will be eight blocks from the park across the major thoroughfare, Garrison Avenue. As part of city plans to comprehensively develop the Fort Smith riverfront (a separate effort), a pedestrian connection could be made between the park and new museum (by way of a long walk) to avoid major traffic on Garrison Avenue. • The Commissary is the oldest building in the city. It is basically unchanged from the historic period and partially furnished with interpretive materials as a commissary and homestead. The building has never been fully used, with the second and third floors currently inaccessible to the public. In the attic of this structure exists an original windlass that was used to construct the building and move supplies from the ground to the second floor of the building. • Opportunity for a comprehensive cultural landscape inventory update—this process was begun and some data may be available. • Plan for adaptation to climate change per Secretarial Order 3289.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Garrison Avenue Historic District (listed in the national register). • Joseph Noble Brewery (listed in the national register). • Fort Smith Museum of History interprets some history related to Fort Smith.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectified and digitized historical base maps in appropriate formats (GIS etc.) • Historic structure preservation guide.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report update. • Vegetation management plan. • Strategic or business plan. • Comprehensive interpretive plan. • Physical site security and public safety assessment and recommendations.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

Fundamental Resource or Value	Collections—Artifacts, Research Files, and Library Resources
Related Significance Statements	All significance statements
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are more than 139,000 artifacts from the First Fort Smith, Second Fort Smith, and Federal Court periods. These artifacts include furniture, paintings, documents, microfilm, photographs, firearms, handcuffs, locks, books, ceramics, associated archeological material, metal objects, and prehistoric stone materials. • The park has limited secure, climate-controlled curatorial storage space, which is shared with park facilities and maintenance. • The park library currently has a collection of more than 2,500 books, 1,000 periodicals, and other secondary information sources that relate directly or closely to the historical significance that the park protects and interprets. • Research files and microfilm are currently held in filing cabinets adjacent to the library. • Collection items are used primarily as physical and documentary sources that further historical research, architectural investigations leading to restoration of historic structures, and improvements of all phases of interpretation. The artifacts, secured from archeological excavations at the site, are retained as a major part of the park's collections. Recent scholarship pertaining to the site is also collected and housed for the enjoyment and use of future generations' interest in the site. • Some of these items are displayed in exhibit cases in the visitor center, most notably in the restored courtroom. • Although it is often referred to as "Judge Parker's Courtroom," none of the furnishings are original to the courtroom of this building. The bench that may have been used by Parker after 1890 on Sixth Street currently resides on loan at the Fort Smith Museum of History. • In the Commissary, reproductions are used in an exhibit depicting the building's interior appearance during the 1850s and as a home for the Hammersly family in the 1890s. • Other items, including wooden furniture donated to the park in the 1960s, are currently stored in the Frisco Railroad Station. • The last Fort Smith National Historic Site collection management plan is from 1993. A new plan could help organize the future scope and planning for the entire collections. • In 2015, the park's 20-year part-time museum technician retired. The responsibilities of the position were reassigned to a GS-9 park ranger as a collateral duty. In April 2016, the NPS Midwest Regional Office curator visited the park and conducted a two-day site visit that included staff training and a collection condition assessment to provide recommendations to the park on needs and next steps. The park received support and education on annual reporting requirements and bringing park plans up to date. The park received help to identify items to be deaccessioned and employees were trained on the process. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research requests relating to the U.S. deputy marshals who worked for the Western District of Arkansas have increased exponentially since the announcement of the planned opening of the U.S. Marshal Museum in downtown Fort Smith in 2017. • Research requests relating to the anthropological and historical significance of the site have increased exponentially due to the establishment and growing enrollment of an accredited four-year university in the city (University of Arkansas – Fort Smith). • Access to information by the researching public is expanding the understanding and significance of the park and increasing the amount of published literature that exists on the site's history. • Publication of the information found in the park's collection has been at the forefront of developing cultural narratives that include minorities, women, and a deeper social/economic understanding of how the site relates to American history as a whole. • A museum operations emergency plan is in development.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Collections—Artifacts, Research Files, and Library Resources
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park does not have a park curator to identify, assess, catalogue, treat, and properly store all artifacts located at the site. • The park does not have a park historian to organize the site's interpretive and academic information in a way that could make it more accessible to the public and help revitalize the depth of knowledge pertaining to the site's cultural importance. • The site is heavily reliant on volunteer staffing to fulfill the volume and depth of inquiries it receives. Without volunteer help, many of the public research requests would go unanswered. • The interpretive research files remain in a state of deferred organization due to the lack of time of the rangers who care for them. A full inventory and status analysis of the interpretive and research collection is needed. • Loss of institutional knowledge due to staff turn-over. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for greater study of the collection's historical and archeological artifacts, iconographic materials, manuscripts, and other documents relating to the themes being interpreted at the site. • Opportunity for the park to use the Independence Multipark Facility for curatorial storage. • Encourage the development of local interest in the preservation of cultural heritage beyond that of the park. • Digitization of park files, photographs, and curatorial collections would aid in the organization and potential for sharing this information online with the general public. • Expand publication and partnership opportunities with the local university. • Conduct a systematic inventory evaluation of the park's research files. • Deaccession items in the museum collection that do not fit the park's scope of collection statement. • Continue to develop the U.S. Marshal online database with regional office support.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Smith Museum of History adjacent to the site holds a vast array of complementary artifacts, research materials that relate to the site's story and significance. • The bench that may have been used by Judge Parker after 1890 in the courtroom is now in the Fort Smith Museum of History on Sixth Street in Fort Smith. • Fort Smith Historical Society collections. • Fort Smith Public Library collections. • Records stored at the National Archives in Fort Worth, Texas.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hundred percent collection inventory. • Security survey. • Collection condition survey. • Systematic inventory evaluation of the park's research files.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire protection survey. • Collection management plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Collection storage plan. • Housekeeping plan. • Updated scope of collection statement.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B



Fundamental Resource or Value	Reconstructed Elements and Reproductions
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 2, 3, 4 and 5
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallows – Early in 1983 the National Park Service rebuilt the gallows on the site determined to be the original location through archeological testing and surveys. The original gallows was built in 1873. Records show that there was a new gallows built in 1886 and repaired in 1896. By 1897 the gallows no longer existed. The 86 hangings had given Fort Smith an unpleasant notoriety that distressed the town's citizens, so the gallows were torn down. • Fort Walls and Bastions – Stone has been used along the ground to mark the original locations of the Second Fort walls. Three of the bastion walls have been partially reconstructed to aid in the visitor's imagination of where the cannon emplacements once stood. • Guardhouse – An exoskeleton of the Second Fort guard house exists on the north side of the parade grounds. • Officers' quarters and garden – Concrete slabs with brick outlines are present on the west side of the parade grounds. The officers' garden has also been recreated behind the officers' quarters. • The restored and rehabilitated location of the historic parade grounds is marked with wayside panels and surrounded by a concrete path. • The reconstructed garrison flagpole stands in the center of the parade grounds. • The park has created or purchased a reproduction cannon, jail wagon, and supply wagon that add to the elements of explorable realism throughout the parade grounds. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most reconstructed elements have been added to the park grounds over the last 20 years. • A variety of fund sources have been used for the acquisition, maintenance, and use of these elements including: Project Management Information System project funds, cyclic maintenance, end of year money, and Youth Conservation Corps funds. • Reproduced elements throughout the park have become popular backdrops for public photographers and local tourist promotion entities. • Most reconstructed elements have been added to the park without creating an extensive burden on cost and labor investment. However, there is a growing concern that a threshold exists where cost will outweigh the benefits based on current funding levels.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Reconstructed Elements and Reproductions
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemporary reproductions of historic artifacts that are on display throughout the park create a risk of giving the false impression that contemporary items are actual historic artifacts. This creates the potential for misinterpretation by visitors that contemporary recreations are actual historic elements. Severe weather, projected to increase under climate change, accelerates the degradation of reproduction items. Each item requires cyclic maintenance and attention. Lack of funding to maintain these reproductions could result in their loss. Vandalism could damage the structure or appearance of reconstructed elements and reproductions. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gallows evoke strong feelings in nearly every visitor who experiences the park. The reconstructed gallows are connected to several components of the purpose and significance of Fort Smith. The only crimes receiving capital punishment at the time were murder and rape. The empowering and, at times contentious, nature of the reconstructed gallows allows for deep, though sometimes painful interpretive opportunities. QR code, GIS, GPS, and smart phone technology can be used to enhance the interpretive information available at points of tangible recreation throughout the park. Reconstructed historical elements throughout the park provide photographic opportunities for visitors. These visitor produced photos are often shared online and on social media, thus promoting the park through a free form of advertising. Restoration of the Commissary exterior appearance should it be determined that such a restoration is feasible and desirable. Enhanced interpretation at the First Fort site to help visitors better experience this site. Plan for adaptation to climate change per Secretarial Order 3289.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical site security and public safety assessment and recommendations.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Frisco Railroad Station
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The historic Frisco Railroad Station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, although for reasons not related to the park military and federal court history. Its construction and history occur after the park's 1817–1896 timeline and thus does not directly connect to the park's significance and mission. Completed in 1904, the Frisco was a defining structure for a town with a population of 23,500, constructed of limestone blocks cut smoothly to resemble grey marble. Two separate waiting rooms, physical evidence of past segregation practices, remain in existence today. The building was last used by the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad under a special use permit to use the building for railroad passengers to purchase tickets for railroad excursion tours. Currently the building is vacant. There have been no formal concessions or leases in the Frisco Railroad Station since its acquisition in 2003. The building has been used by the U.S. Marshals Museum via special use permit for administrative offices. There is a cultural resources concern over how the railroad station fits into the narrative and historic landscape. The condition of the building is currently stable. The building resides in the authorized boundary of the park established by Congress. Details related to ownership and maintenance of an electrical transformer by the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company on Parcel 01-131 (a parcel identified for priority acquisition within the designated park boundary) require further action prior to the park entering into any lease agreement for use of the historic Frisco Railroad Station building. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the city's last remaining train station, the Frisco Railroad Station serves as a unique reminder of railroad transportation history.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building will increase deferred maintenance liability for park. The park cannot rehabilitate/manage/operate/maintain the building on base funding alone and must rely on project and special funding. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Frisco Railroad Station presents significant opportunities to expand the park's interpretation and education programs. These include, but are not limited to, the history of railroading, building communities, segregation, connecting Fort Smith to the world, and westward expansion. Opportunity to lease the building. Opportunity to explore the possibilities of future partnerships with the railroad. The Frisco Railroad Station offers an opportunity to interpret the role of the railroads in the development (or ruination) of Indian Territory and the impact they had on crime and the court; the impact of the railroads on the fort during the historic period, i.e., the fort wall was taken down and relocated to the bank of the railroad cut; and finally the ongoing use of the modern railroad in their day-to-day activities through the park. The park interprets the role of the steamboat, river traffic, and the roads leading out of the area, but the story of the railroad has not been told until now. A segment of the American public enjoys railroads and the park should take advantage of an opportunity to help the visitor connect with the history of railroads.

Other Important Resource or Value	Frisco Railroad Station
Threats and Opportunities	Opportunities (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unique nature and timeline of the Frisco Railroad Station presents an opportunity to interpret the building and its significance in the community as a stand-alone historic site. It is currently listed as part of a historic district and would contribute nicely as part of a larger cultural heritage concept. Viewing the Frisco Railroad Station in this light (two historic sites sitting side by side) makes it easier to justify developing interpretive opportunities and theme statements that fall outside of the main park's mission and significance.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive services plan (short-term). Comprehensive interpretive plan. Updated collection management plan to potentially address the Frisco Railroad Station as a possible repository. Updated scope of collection statement. Historic structure preservation guide. Physical site security and public safety assessment and recommendations. Fire protection survey.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B

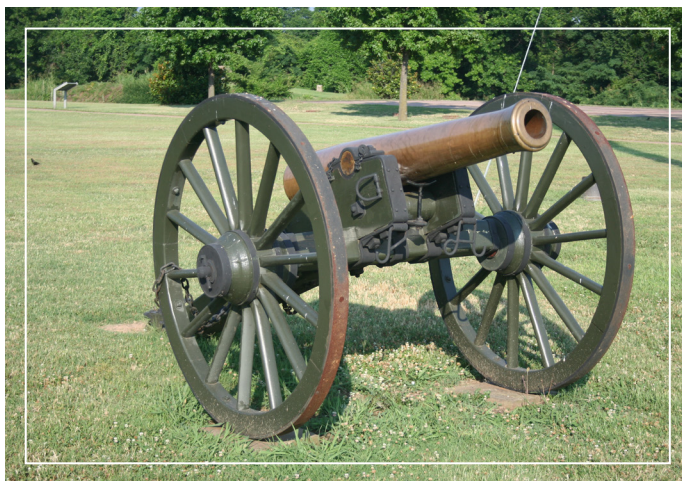


Other Important Resource or Value	Forgecraft Property
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The former United States Forgecraft Corp. property is an abandoned private property within the authorized park boundary. • The former military cemetery is thought to be within this property. • The property relates to the historic Butterfield Trail that crossed the site at this location. A further ancillary interpretive opportunity at this site exists for educating the public on environmental stewardship. • In May 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started an emergency clean-up of the site, removing several barrels and containers previously used in metal plating and finishing operations at the abandoned facility. Two feet of soil were also removed from the site due to contamination. The site is now primarily a vacant lot. • Contractors employed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency completed demolition of buildings that made up the plant in 2009. • The Forgecraft property is part of the original Fort Smith, and soldiers at the fort were buried in that area between 1817 and 1823, according to Bill Black, former superintendent. • Remnants of the property have been left fallow and are underdeveloped. • Parts of the original foundation can still be seen where the park's current boundary adjoins the former Forgecraft property. • Growth of the homeless population along the Poteau River just south of the park has seen overflow and use of the vacant property by that community. This has put pressure on park personnel to be more vigilant, and has been reported by a number of concerned citizens. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Smith National Historic Site has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and park partners to acquire the former Forgecraft property to protect the sites of the First Fort Cemetery and the Poteau River crossing of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line. This will also provide recreational vehicle parking, preservation of a historic mule barn, and will serve as a buffer protecting the site of the First Fort Smith.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is not aware of the current status of the Forgecraft property. There may be an opportunity for acquisition, but the National Park Service has neither the funds for purchase nor the political clout to start the transfer process from the private entities. • The vacant nature of the property is currently attracting vagrants and increasing the potential of criminal activity of the southern edge of the park. This also increases the liability of risk for visitors when in the area of the First Fort. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forgecraft property offers several possibilities for enhancing interpretation and education programs. Of the demolished structures, a historic mule barn remains. A segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line ran through a portion of this site, and the park may in the future be designated as an official site of the NPS Butterfield Overland Trail for which a special resource study was begun in 2008. • Development of interpretive opportunities in regard to the Butterfield Overland Trail. • Development of interpretive opportunities in regard to the Santa Fe Trail. • Development of interpretive opportunities in regard to the Mexican–American War. • Archeological opportunities relating to the First Fort Smith soldiers' burial grounds and privy. • The area could be turned into a self-sustaining wildflower area on the southern perimeter of the park boundary. • Wayside panels and other interpretive information could be developed on the flora and fauna that was native to the area in the early 19th century.

Other Important Resource or Value	Forgecraft Property
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectified and digitized historical base maps in appropriate formats (GIS etc.).
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised land protection plan. • Revised acquisition plan and strategy for Forgecraft property. • Comprehensive interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B



Other Important Resource or Value	Historical Commemorative Markers
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The condition of the historical markers and fort wall are currently fair to good. Some of the elements have been exposed to graffiti etchings, but this has not diminished the integrity of any of the markers. The markers can all be found within the vicinity of the Second Fort. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The markers are often asked about by visitors on ranger tours. The markers have come under increased interest with GPS and geocaching interests. Questions have arisen regarding the proper preservation and funding sources to take care of the makers. Several of the historical markers are located off park grounds.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism to the markers. Quartermaster building marker is currently not Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the markers as part of the history between when the federal court was located at the site and before the property was acquired by the National Park Service. Provide information about how generations before us started the tradition of stewardship and historical preservation, and how that has been incorporated into the NPS mission. Allow the markers to be included in a city walking tour or geocaching program designed by other local cultural institutions.
Related Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other commemorative historical markers erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Arkansas can be found in the surrounding area of downtown Fort Smith.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	See appendix B



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.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Physical site security and public safety assessment and recommendations	H	Assessing vulnerabilities and making recommendations for how to best protect the park resources and visitor and employee safety. Exterior spaces in the park are unsecured and not monitored by staff outside of park hours. Concerns about safety, resource protection, investigations and data recording.
FRV	Floodplain and sedimentation study and mitigation plan	H	Erosion at the First Fort site into the Poteau and Arkansas Rivers must be continually mitigated to prevent the natural rock formations along the river from being covered by sediment. This condition may require a floodplain and sedimentation study and mitigation plan. Consider climate change projections in this survey.
FRV	Strategic or business plan	H	
FRV, OIRV	Fire protection survey	H	Existing survey is from 1993. Consider climate change projections in this survey.
OIRV, Key Issue	Revised acquisition plan and strategy for Forgecraft property	H	Acquisition appears to be “stuck” due to procedural and regulatory requirements; contacts with the appropriate NPS Midwest Region entities and political entities that can move the project forward need to be established.
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Revised land protection plan	H	The land protection plan relates to the scenic easement issue.
FRV	Collection storage plan	H	The park needs to explore the possibilities for on- and off-site long-term curatorial storage solutions. There is limited secure, climate controlled curatorial storage space at the park, and it is shared with park facilities and maintenance.
FRV	Integrated pest management plan	H	For park museum collection items, display, and storage spaces.
FRV, Key Issue	Visual resource management plan	M	Needed to make recommendations for preserving key views within and from the park.
OIRV, Key Issue	Interpretive services plan (short-term) for the Frisco Railroad Station	M	Pending completion of the comprehensive interpretive plan.
Key Issue	Distance learning lesson plan development	M	

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV, OIRV, Key Issue	Comprehensive interpretive plan	M	Needed because the 2009 long-range interpretive plan no longer offers meaningful guidance and interpretive themes have changed (see “Key Issues” discussion.) Should include the Frisco Railroad Station and improved interpretation of Indian removal, especially recommendations for graphics and illustrations needed to help interpret the trails and removal routes.
FRV, OIRV	Collection management plan	M	Should address Frisco Railroad Station as possible repository for collections.
FRV	Updated scope of collection statement	M	Expanding park’s scope of collection statement to include artifacts related to the Frisco Railroad Station. Present scope of collection statement is from 2011.
FRV	Cultural landscape report update	M	The current cultural landscape report (1998) is outdated and incomplete. Ensure that cultural landscape inventory and cultural landscape report data and GIS data needs incorporate natural resources. Additional research and reporting are needed to draw valid conclusions on the environmental conditions and the physical location of structures associated with the site’s historic period for planning and interpretation. This work should be incorporated into ongoing cultural landscape report efforts. Climate change considerations should be integrated into this report.
FRV	Housekeeping plan	M	A required document for museum collections.
FRV	Vegetation management plan	L	A planning effort to find a balance between vegetation management best management practices for areas within urban settings and vegetation management for natural resource conservation purposes is needed at this site. The 1999 revegetation plan no longer provides sufficient guidance and most of the outlined elements have been implemented. Implementation of a vegetation management / landscape restoration plan is supported by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, which has also offered to assist with the project. Prior to undertaking any actions recommended by a vegetation management / landscape restoration plan, additional compliance would be completed and the plan would be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arkansas state historic preservation office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for review and comment. Integrate climate change considerations into this plan.
FRV	Overlook site plan	L	Future site planning is needed to redesign the overlook in a manner that lowers or removes the existing stone wall as the Arkansas River is screened from view due to the existing overlook design.
FRV	Comprehensive long-range plan to minimize existing levels of night sky light pollution	L	

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
FRV, OIRV	Rectified and digitized historical base maps in appropriate formats (GIS etc.)	H	Fort Smith National Historic Site has some historical base maps documenting the location of all extant and no longer extant, but relevant, cultural resources. The national historic landmark documentation provides some of this information. Successional historic mapping through the various periods of significance related to this site, including periods leading up to and following park establishment, is needed and should include geo-rectified period map layers overlays.
FRV	Archeological overview and assessment	H	The park does not have a current archeological assessment or overview documenting deficiencies in the information base and evaluating past work at the site. Archeological sites within the NPS-administered areas should be documented with adequate site survey records, map locations, photo records, and artifact catalogues. The Midwest Archeological Center has an extensive collection of historical maps. An archeological overview and assessment was done in 2003 by Roger Coleman and Doug Scott, but it is out of date.
FRV, OIRV	Historic structure preservation guide	H	Historic structure preservation guides prescribing preservation procedures, treatments, materials, and schedules to direct the continuing preservation of these structures are long out of date, the last of which was completed in 1996. An up-to-date assessment is needed as ongoing operations and maintenance always presents problems for historic buildings.
FRV	One hundred percent collection inventory	H	This inventory would give the park a better understanding of its museum collection and help to determine next steps and further recommendations.
FRV, Key Issue	Security survey	H	For collection items, display, and storage.
FRV	Collection condition survey	H	This survey would give the park a better understanding of the museum collection's conditions and inform the collection management plan and collection storage plan.
FRV	Systematic inventory evaluation of the park's research files	H	
	Research and develop baseline administrative history	M	
FRV	Removal routes research	M	Research is needed to identify routes, stories, and resources associated with trails and American Indian removal routes to inform interpretive and education efforts.
FRV	Visual resource inventory	M	Needed to inform the visual resource management plan.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
FRV	Archeological data and a GIS resource database, especially in relation to Second Fort structures and artifacts	L	In 1999 Nickel and Hunt conducted a geophysical and remote sensing survey of the perimeter fortification system at the site of the second Fort Smith and identified that in general, that there is insufficient data related to these resources. There is also additional information from the early 2000s that relates to this need.
FRV	Additional research and reporting to draw valid conclusions on the environmental conditions and the physical location of structures associated with the site's historic period	L	Needed to inform the cultural landscape report update.
FRV	Architectural context research	L	There is a need to research the Second Fort in terms of its unique inland architecture. Fort Smith was one of the last coastal fort designs built so far inland during the antebellum period. (There may be more out there, but the National Park Service is not aware of any others in terms of research and scholarship.)



Part 3: Contributors

Fort Smith National Historic Site

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Darin Huggins, Chief of Maintenance
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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Fort Smith National Historic Site

Public Law 87-215

AN ACT

Authorizing the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, in the State of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

September 13, 1961
[H.R. 32]

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 authorized to designate for preservation as the Fort Smith National Historic Site the site of the original Fort Smith established in 1817 on LaBelle Point at the confluence of the Arkansas

Fort Smith National Historic Site, Ark.
Establishment.

and Poteau Rivers, together with such adjoining property as the Secretary may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act. The area so designated shall include also the commissary building and the barracks building in which Judge Isaac Parker's courtroom has been restored, both of such buildings having been a part of the fort built during the latter part of the 1830's.

SEC. 2. Within the area designated pursuant to section 1 hereof, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to procure by purchase, donation, with donated funds, or otherwise, land and interests in lands: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall purchase no property under this Act until the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, conveys to the United States, without expense thereto, all right, title, and interest of such city in and to the property designated by the Secretary as necessary for the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site. When the historically significant lands and structures comprising the designated area have been acquired as herein provided, the Fort Smith National Historic Site shall be established and notice thereof shall be published in the Federal Register: *Provided further*, That lands purchased by the Secretary for the purposes of this Act shall be within the exterior boundaries of the following described tracts of land:

A three-sided, approximately 0.3-acre tract about 250 feet eastward of the easterly abutment of the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridge over the Arkansas River, bounded on all sides by railroad right-of-way 100 feet wide, approved by the Department of the Interior May 2, 1887, as delineated on the plat of West Fort Smith (Choctaw Nation), approved by the Acting Secretary of the Interior August 3, 1904, and filed June 24, 1911, and being block 2 thereon.

A tract of land beginning at the intersection of the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad and the northerly line of Garland Avenue; thence easterly along the northerly line of Garland Avenue to its intersection with the westerly line of Third Street; thence northerly along the westerly line of Third Street to its intersection with the southerly line of Rogers Avenue; thence westerly along the southerly line of Rogers Avenue to its intersection with the westerly line of Second Street; thence northerly along the westerly line of Second Street to the northeasterly corner of property of the Arkansas Warehouse Company; thence westerly along the northerly property lines of the Arkansas Warehouse Company and of the city of Fort Smith (known as the commissary) to the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad; thence southerly along the easterly right-of-way line of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad to the point of beginning.

SEC. 3. The Fort Smith National Historic Site, as constituted under this Act, shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a part of the National Park System pursuant to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented.

SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not in excess of \$319,000, as are necessary to acquire the real property necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Approved September 13, 1961.

Public Law 94-578 – October 21, 1976 90 Statute 2737

SEC. 312. The Act of September 13, 1961 (75 Stat. 489), authorizing the establishment of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Arkansas, is amended as follows:

16 USC 461 note.

(a) in section 1, after "adjoining" insert "or related" in the first sentence, and add the following after the second sentence: "The total area so designed for the purposes of this Act may not exceed seventy-five acres.";

(b) in section 2, change the colon at the end of the second sentence to a period and delete the remainder of the section (through the second proviso); and

(c) revise section 4 to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, not to exceed, however, \$1,719,000 for land acquisition and not to exceed \$4,580,000 for the development of Fort Smith National Historic Site undertaken after the effective date of this section."

Appropriation
authorization.

Appendix B: Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, Executive Orders, and NPS Policy-level Guidance

Management decisions at Fort Smith National Historic Site are based on specific laws, policies, and regulations designed to protect environmental quality, preserve historic resources, and promote public enjoyment of the site. The primary laws of particular importance to the decision-making process and management in the National Park Service are outlined below.

- **The Organic Act of 1916 (16 USC 1, et seq.).** The National Park Service Organic Act remains after nearly 100 years the core of NPS authority and the definitive statement of the purposes of the parks and of the National Park Service mission: “to promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the[ir] fundamental purpose . . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”
- **General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 USC 1).** This act affirms that all national park areas are “united through their interrelated purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage.”
- **Endangered Species Act of 1973 (7 USC 136, 16 USC 1531, et seq.).** The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems on which they depend. Under the act, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. “Endangered” means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. “Threatened” means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. All species of plants and animals, except pest insects, are eligible for listing as endangered or threatened.
- **Redwood Act of 1978 (16 USC 1a-1).** Congress supplemented and clarified the provisions of the Organic Act through enactment of the General Authorities Act in 1970, and again through enactment of a 1978 amendment to that law (the “Redwood Amendment”) contained in a bill expanding Redwood National Park. This amendment states that the provisions of the Organic Act apply to all units of the national park system. A key phrase is that activities “shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these areas have been established.” It is applicable unless Congress has “directly and specifically provided” otherwise. This amendment also affirms that, if a conflict occurs between visitor use and protection of resources, the intent of Congress is to favor resource protection.
- **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321–4370).** This landmark environmental protection legislation requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternative to those actions. The National Environmental Policy Act establishes the format and process that the National Park Service must use in preparing the environmental analyses that are incorporated into the general management planning process. The results of these analyses are presented to the public, federal agencies, and public officials in document format for consideration prior to taking official action or making official decisions.
- **Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, as amended (40 CFR 1500–1508).** These regulations implement the National Environmental Policy Act and provide guidance to federal agencies in the preparation of environmental documents identified under the act.

- **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Sec. 106 and Sec. 110, 16 USC 470; 36 CFR 800).** The purpose of this act is to protect and preserve historic properties, which includes any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains relating to the district, site, building, structure, or object. Section 110 requires that the National Park Service identify and nominate all eligible resources under its jurisdiction to the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of the act requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction take into account the effect of any actions on cultural resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Clean Air Act, as amended through Public Law 108–201, February 24, 2004.** In this act, Congress set a national goal “to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores, and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic or historic value” (42 U.S.C. §7470(2)). This goal applies to all units of the national park system.
- **Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment,” May 13, 1971.** This executive order directs federal agencies to inventory cultural properties under their jurisdiction, to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places all federally owned properties that meet the criteria, to use due caution until the inventory and nomination processes are completed, and also to assure that federal plans and programs contribute to preservation and enhancement of nonfederal properties.
- **Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (54 USC 312502 et seq.).** This act requires survey, recovery, and preservation of significant scientific, prehistorical, historical, archeological, or paleontological data when such data may be destroyed due to a federal project. The act directs federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the Interior whenever they find that such a project may cause loss or damage.
- **Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (54 USC 302902).** This act defines archeological resources as any material remains of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest and at least 100 years old; requires federal permits for their excavation or removal, and sets penalties for violators; provides for preservation and custody of excavated materials, records, and data; provides for confidentiality of archeological site locations; and encourages cooperation with other parties to improve protection of archeological resources. The act was amended in 1988 to require development of plans for surveying public lands for archeological resources, and systems for reporting incidents of suspected violations.
- **Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites,” May 24, 1996.** This executive order instructs each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of federal lands to (1) accommodate to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites, and (3) where appropriate, maintain the confidentiality of such sites.
- **“General Provisions” (36 CFR 1).** 36 CFR 1 provides the regulations “for the proper use, management, government, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the NPS.” These regulations are used to fulfill the statutory purposes of national park system units—to conserve scenery, natural and historical objects, and wildlife and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.

- **NPS Management Policies 2006.** *NPS Management Policies 2006* is the basic servicewide policy document of the National Park Service. It is the highest of three levels of guidance documents in the NPS directives system. The directives system is designed to provide NPS management and staff with clear and continuously updated information on NPS policy and required and/or recommended actions, as well as any other information that would aid in the effective management of parks and programs.
- **Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, 2009.** This act requires the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to 1) promulgate regulations as soon as practical; 2) develop plans for fossil inventories, monitoring, and scientific and educational use; 3) manage and protect paleontological resources on federal land using scientific principles and expertise; 4) establish a program to increase public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources; 5) allow casual collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils on BLM, Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation lands where consistent with the laws governing those lands; 6) manage fossil collection via specific permitting requirements; 7) curate collected fossils in accordance with the act's requirements; 8) implement the act's criminal and civil enforcement, penalty, reward and forfeiture provisions; and 9) protect information about the nature and specific location of fossils where warranted. The act authorizes appropriations necessary to carry out these requirements.

Other Relevant Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations

- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Historic Sites Act of 1935
- Museum Properties Management Act of 1955
- "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Architectural Barriers Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191)
- Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"
- The National Trail System Act (PL 90-543, as amended through PL 111-11, March 30, 2009) (also found in United States Code, Volume 16, Sections 1241–1251)

Sections relevant to Fort Smith National Historic Site:

- (16)(A) The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, a trail consisting of water routes and overland routes traveled by the Cherokee Nation during its removal from ancestral lands in the East to Oklahoma during 1838 and 1839, generally located within the corridor described through portions of Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma in the final report of the Secretary of the Interior prepared pursuant to subsection (b) of this section entitled "Trail of Tears" and dated June 1986. Maps depicting the corridor shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. No lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the Trail of Tears except with the consent of the owner thereof.

(B) In carrying out his responsibilities pursuant to sections 5(f) and 7(c) of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall give careful consideration to the establishment of appropriate interpretive sites for the Trail of Tears in the vicinity of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Trail of Tears State Park, Missouri, and Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

(C) In addition to the areas otherwise designated under this paragraph, the following routes and land components by which the Cherokee Nation was removed to Oklahoma are components of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, as generally described in the environmentally preferred alternative of the November 2007 Feasibility Study Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Trail of Tears National Historic Trail:

- (i) The Benge and Bell routes.
- (ii) The land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.
- (iii) The routes from the collection forts in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to the emigration depots.
- (iv) The related campgrounds located along the routes and land components described in clauses (i) through (iii).

(D) The Secretary may accept donations for the Trail from private, nonprofit, or tribal organizations. No lands or interests in lands outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the Federal Government for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail except with the consent of the owner thereof.

(c) The following routes shall be studied in accordance with the objectives outlined in subsection (b) of this section.

(25) Trail of Tears, including the associated forts and specifically, Fort Mitchell, Alabama, and historic properties, extending from the vicinity of Murphy, North Carolina, through Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, to the vicinity of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Cultural Resources

The Trail of Tears corridor in Arkansas, along the Arkansas River, has more sites included in the National Register of Historic Sites than any other study area State. The 22-county study area is the location of 258 sites, 114 in the Little Rock area of Pulaski County. Fort Smith National Historic Site in Sebastian County is the only Register site which plays an important role in Indian removal. Although Fort Smith was not in active operation during the Cherokee removal, it was important to the Indian resettlement following removal. Several other park sites afford excellent opportunities for Trail of Tears interpretation along the route in Arkansas. The Arkansas Post National Memorial on the White River cutoff from the Mississippi River to the Arkansas River was the location of Arkansas' first capital. This early frontier village and trade center had been abandoned by the time the Cherokees travelled the river to Oklahoma, and the capital moved to Little Rock. Pea Ridge National Military Park in northwestern Arkansas post-dates the Indian removal, but offers an opportunity for interpretation of the Trail of Tears as the trail moves from Missouri, across the corner of Arkansas, and into Oklahoma. Numerous State and private cultural and historical sites are also located along the Arkansas River trail corridor.

NPS Policy-Level Guidance

- Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management*
- Director's Order 28A: *Archeology*
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*
- Director's Order 24: *NPS Museum Collections Management*
- *NPS Museum Handbook*, parts I, II, and III
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries"
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education"
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks"
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (chapter 4) "Natural Resource Management"
- *NPS Management Policies 2006* (chapter 9) "Park Facilities"
- Director's Order 6: *Interpretation and Education*
- Director's Order 17: *National Park Service Tourism*
- Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services*
- Director's Order 47: *Soundscape Protection and Noise Management*
- Director's Order 48B: *Commercial Use Authorizations*
- Director's Order 50C: *Public Risk Management Program*
- Director's Order 78: *Social Science*
- *NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77*

Appendix C: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Agreement Type	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Rights-of-way and easement	BLM, NPS, and railroad companies	Access	<p>Start Date: 08/04/2014</p> <p>Need verification of ownership, ROWs and easement.</p> <p>The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is listed as holding title in fee to the 5.80-acre parcel (01-149) over which the rail lines cross the park boundary. The Burlington Northern Railroad (3.00 acres) and the Missouri Pacific Railroad (2.80 acres) are listed as holding rights-of-way across this parcel. The National Park Service has acquired a 0.05-acre (20 feet wide) easement over a stated right-of-way held by the Union Pacific Railroad across the same corridor as that identified as being held by the Burlington Northern Railroad.</p>
Memorandum of agreement – jurisdiction	NPS and City of Fort Smith		<p>A memorandum of agreement was signed on August 4, 2014 between the Fort Smith Police Department and Fort Smith National Historic Site.</p> <p>Law enforcement is managed by concurrent jurisdiction, although the park tries not to rely heavily on the city police department whenever possible to maintain good relationships by not unnecessarily burdening the department's workload.</p> <p>Pea Ridge National Military Park law enforcement personnel and the Buffalo National River special agent provide assistance in situations of federal law violations.</p>
Verbal agreement	NPS, city, county, and state	Land acquisition	<p>The city, county and state have verbally committed to allowing park acquisition of the Forgecraft property.</p> <p>Two parcels of the former Forgecraft property previously identified as priority acquisition parcels (Parcels 01-144 and P1-1) were purchased by the Fort Smith Trolley Museum owner through an Arkansas Commission of State Lands post auction sale process in April 2015. Parcel 01-144 is within the designated park boundary immediately adjacent to the park visitor parking lot. Parcel P1-1 includes an area adjacent to the park at the site of the historic mule barn. A third parcel (01-122), also within the designated park boundary and identified as a priority parcel for acquisition, is currently up for bid and includes land within the park's legislative boundary along the Poteau River that is believed to have been the location of the First Fort cemetery and a crossing station for the historic Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line.</p> <p>The National Park Service may need to seek an agreement to establish right of first refusal with present land owner for recently acquired parcels within designated park boundary.</p>
Fire agreement memorandum of understanding		Structural fire protection	<p>Start Date: 11/21/2012</p> <p>A fire agreement memorandum of understanding was signed between the Fort Smith Fire Department and the National Park Service on November 21, 2012; the NPS Midwest Region structural fire management officer has a copy.</p>
Utilities memorandum of agreement	Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company		Green transformer box, issues before leasing the Frisco Railroad Building.
Loan agreements	Cherokee National Prison Museum	Museum / education	An ongoing short-term loan agreement process with the Cherokee National Prison Museum occurs twice a year (on the Cherokee National Holiday in September and on Ned Christie's birthday in December) for the display of Ned Christie's two guns.

Agreement Type	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Regulatory authority	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Navigation	Flowage easement: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains jurisdiction and regulations on the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers (navigation). The Corps has jurisdiction on all land lying below elevation 392 feet mean sea level (typical pool elevation of the impounded portion of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers adjacent to Fort Smith); the Corps has flowage easements on all of Tracts 02-105, 02-109, 02-110, and 02-111 and has a 50-foot easement on Tracts 02-102, 02-103, 02-107, and 02-108.
Regulatory authority	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard	Navigation	Regulatory authority over waterways, bridges, wharves, and other structures and operation of vessels and rafts rests with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard along the Arkansas River and riverbank within the park boundary.
Regulatory authority	Arkansas Game and Fish	Public fishing	Arkansas Game and Fish maintains jurisdiction to manage and regulate fishing within navigable and nonnavigable waters of the state, including submerged lands and riverbanks, including those within park boundaries.
Right-of-way	City of Fort Smith	Floodplain and flood hazard planning and management	Rights held by the City of Fort Smith with regard to levee and/or sewer improvement districts exist for the constructed levee near the present beer distributing building located within the designated park boundary.
Regulatory authority	FEMA	Floodplain regulation	Regulatory floodplains and Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated flood hazard areas exist within portions of the park.
Right-of-way / easements	Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company	Electric and gas line conduits	Oklahoma Gas & Electric electrical lines and major natural gas conduits.
Right-of-way / easements	Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation	Gas line conduit	Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation.
Easements	City of Fort Smith	Utility easements	City of Fort Smith Utility Easements.
Easements	Southwestern Bell	Telecommunication line easements	Southwestern Bell easements (various) (telecommunication lines, including fiber optics).
Easements	City of Fort Smith	Sewer line easements	15-foot sanitary sewer easements (for example, lying in the east-west valley between Rogers Avenue and Garrison Avenue west of Second Street).
Easements	City of Fort Smith	Water line easements	10 foot water line easements (for example, on Third Street between Rogers Avenue and the alley to the north).
Oil and gas leases	Hanna Oil and Gas Company, Stephens		Oil and gas leases (research needed on lease status).
Easements	Doug Stites		Other private easements
Zoning and regulatory authority	City of Fort Smith	Local zoning ordinances	Portions of nonfederal lands within the authorized park boundary are subject to local zoning, ordinances, rules, and regulations of the City of Fort Smith.

Appendix D: List of Archeological Survey Work Conducted at Fort Smith National Historic Site

The following is a list of excavations, reports, and projects conducted on the grounds of the historic site for research, planning, and compliance issues.

- 1959: First archeological excavations made by Clyde Dollar. Uncovered foundations of First Fort.
- 5/63 Moore: First Fort site revisited.
- 10/63 Dollar: RC Cola bottling plant on tract 01-125, excavation for parking area revealed linear rubble mound and structural debris from Second Fort wall and bastion 4.
- 9/78 Anderson: Additional testing of tract 01-125 and revealed walls of the Second Fort and sections of stone concentrations.
- 3/80 Anderson: Commissary (bastion 1: found wall remains) and gallows (bastion 3: failed to reveal structural remains, road cuts destroyed evidence).
- 3/81 Traylor: Revealed bastion 2 (quartermaster supply) and adjoining walls, bastion 4 and bastion 5 (Beverly) and adjoining wall. Bastion 3 (gallows) unsuccessful.
- 9/82 Dollar: Commissary building.
- 4/83 Dollar: Monitoring of the demolition of Meek bottling plant: found linear rubble concentrations of officers' quarters A and B, flagstone pavement, fort walls, well, and privy.
- 8/83 Coleman: Flagstaff base found.
- 7/84 Coleman: Revealed post well, found evidence of 1.7 feet of fill on visitor center lawn.
- 9/84 Coleman: Commissary building.
- 6/85 Coleman: Parking area testing; ravine found.
- 1986 Coleman: Buried overhead powerline along Third Street and Parker Avenue; midden found.
- 7/87 Coleman: Missouri Pacific Railroad excavations.
- 12/87–5/88 Coleman: Second Fort cistern found.
- A: 8/85 Coleman: Bastion 5 (Beverly), foundation is 95% intact, stone encountered 1 foot below surface.
- B: 10/85 Coleman: Bastion 4 (east) and adjacent walls.
- C: 12/86 Coleman: Bastion 2 (quartermaster building) and adjacent wall structure, revealed intact foundation and 180 feet of wall exists.
- 10/88 Coleman: Mitigation for pedestrian trail construction, revealed major information on entire site.
- 8/88 Coleman: Monitoring of city sewer closure, revealed evidence of the post garden – tract 01-113.
- 4/89 Parrish: Monitoring of storm drain construction, revealed 1.5 to 3.5 foot of fill, artifacts mostly of 20th century origin.
- 4/89 Parrish: Monitored the removal of flagpole in tract 01-108, revealed 4 feet of fill in visitor center lawn.

- 7/89 Parrish: Monitored fiber optic cable installation Tract 01-111.
- 9/89 Parrish: Monitored electrical line.
- 1990 Archeological Assessment for Fort Smith National Historic Site: "...although geographic coverage within Fort Smith NHS has been sporadic and large areas remain to be systematically sampled, nearly all land tracts within the park have been tested."
- 1990 Archeological Investigation for Construction of a Pedestrian Trail and Identification of Laundress Row.
- 01/01 Archeological investigations around the barracks/courthouse/jail building.
- 2002 Nickel and Hunt: Geophysical Surveys of the Perimeter Fortification System at the Site of the Second Fort Smith, FOSM.
- 2003 Archeological overview and assessment.
- 2013: Recent work near the Commissary building and garden areas resulted in archeology spot test digs before expanding and installing new sidewalk and interpretive viewing platform area. Digs uncovered late 18th and early 19th century material culture unrelated to the military occupation of the fort. Reports on file with NPS Midwest Region.



Appendix E: Jurisdictional Considerations at Fort Smith National Historic Site

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains jurisdiction and regulations on the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers for navigation. The Corps has jurisdiction on all land lying below elevation 392 feet mean sea level (typical pool elevation of the impounded portion of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers adjacent to Fort Smith). The Corps also has flowage easements on all of Tracts 02-105, 02-109, 02-110, and 02-111, and a 50-foot easement on Tracts 02-102, 02-103, 02-107, and 02-108.
- Regulatory authority over waterways, bridges, wharves, and other structures and operation of vessels and rafts rests with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard along the Arkansas River and riverbank within the park boundary (U.S. Coast Guard – navigation). (There is a need to delineate jurisdictional boundary lines with regard to erosion control issues on the hill above the river in the event of a spill or other river event.)
- Arkansas Game and Fish maintains jurisdiction to manage and regulate fishing within navigable and nonnavigable waters of the state, including submerged lands and riverbanks, including those within park boundaries.
- Rights held by the City of Fort Smith with regard to levee and/or sewer improvement districts exist for the constructed levee near the present beer distributing building within the designated park boundary.
- Regulatory floodplains and Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated flood hazard areas exist within portions of the park.
- Portions of nonfederal lands within the authorized park boundary are subject to local zoning, ordinances, rules and regulations of the City of Fort Smith.





Midwest Region Foundation Document Recommendation Fort Smith National Historic Site

January 2017

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.

RECOMMENDED

Lisa Conard Frost, Superintendent, Fort Smith National Historic Site

Date

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.

FOSM 421/134160

January 2017

Foundation Document • Fort Smith National Historic Site



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