



# Wright-Dunbar Heritage News

## Progress Report on the General Management Plan Amendment

This newsletter provides an update on our preparation of a general management plan amendment for Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. This process started in 2002 to address changes in park management associated with opening or upgrading many of the park's facilities. As shown on the status chart, we are making good progress and expect to release the draft general management plan amendment and environmental impact statement in the spring of 2005.

The greatest challenge has been the identification of a preferred alternative. As described in our Summer 2003 newsletter, three alternatives were identified by the National Park Service and its partners. They include:

- Alternative A – No Action/Continue Current Management
- Alternative B – Traditional Urban National Park
- Alternative C – Community Partner Emphasis (now the NPS preferred)

To review the alternatives in the earlier newsletter, go to the park web site at [www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm) and click on "In Depth" and then "Press Room."

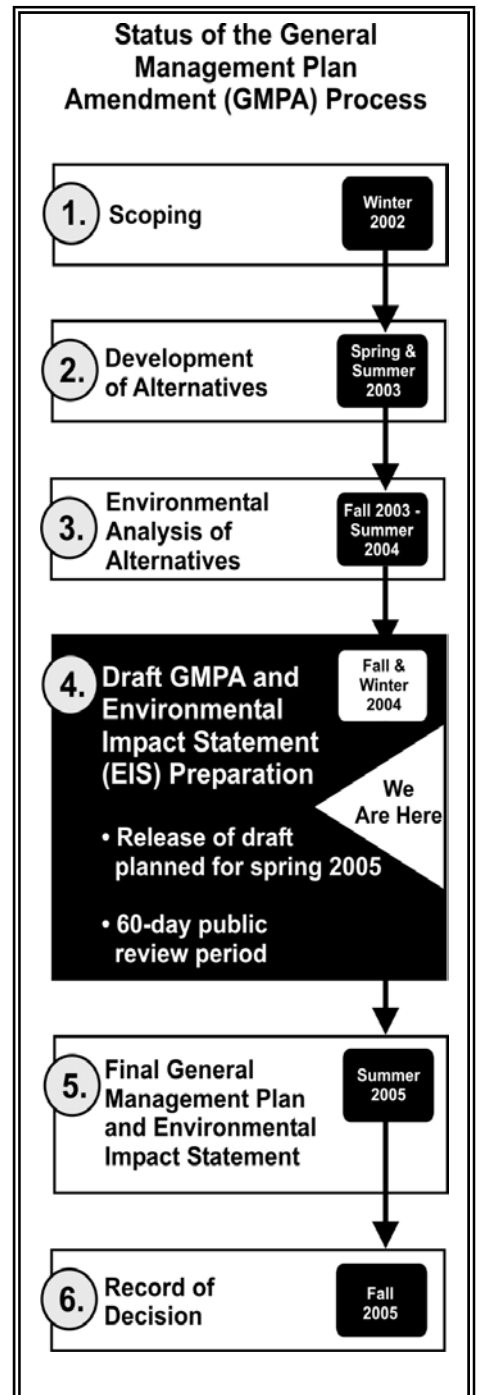
The preferred alternative originally included a bridge to link the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center at Wright Brothers Hill with the flying field. However, following internal NPS review of this proposal, concern was expressed regarding the cost of this alternative. Park staff then worked with the involved

stakeholders to investigate the feasibility of a lower-cost option for connecting the interpretive center and the flying field.

Throughout the winter and spring of 2003/2004, NPS and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base staff met with the involved stakeholders, including representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Greene County Engineer, Greene County Parks District, Miami Conservancy District, and Aviation Heritage Foundation. These stakeholders analyzed ten alternatives for linking the two sites, including bridges, tunnels, and at-grade access.

In May 2004, all of the affected stakeholders reached consensus on a new preferred alternative. It involves extending Kauffman Avenue north to intersect Marl Road and entering Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Gate 18C. This approach would save taxpayers approximately \$11.5 million compared to a bridge and substantially reduces impacts on the natural and cultural environments. This preferred alternative is fully supported by the affected stakeholders.

Since then, we have performed a detailed environmental analysis of the alternatives and prepared the first version of the EIS. That document currently is in internal review. We anticipate that the draft general management plan amendment and environmental impact statement will be released for public review in early 2005.



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# Opportunities for Public Review and Comment

As a recipient of this newsletter, you already are on the mailing list for the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park general management plan amendment. As such, you will receive notification when the draft general management plan amendment and environmental impact statement are available for public review.

*Copies of the document will be available for public review at numerous sites around Dayton.* These will include public libraries and all Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park units (The Wright Cycle Company Complex, Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial, and Carillon Historical Park). Also, *an electronic version of the document in PDF format will be posted on the Internet.* Specific locations of public review copies and the Internet address will be included in the announcement of document availability.

We will have a limited number of paper copies of the draft general management plan amendment and environmental impact statement for distribution to the public. To conserve resources, we prefer that most people access an electronic version or review it at a public location.

However, if you need to receive a paper copy, please send us written notification by one of these methods.

- Send us a letter at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, P.O. Box 9280, Wright Brothers Station, Dayton, Ohio 45409-9280.
- E-mail us at [daav\\_gmpa@nps.gov](mailto:daav_gmpa@nps.gov).
- Go to our internet site at [www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm). Click on “contact us” on the right side of our home page.

There will be a 60-day comment period after the draft general management plan amendment and environmental impact statement is released. A public meeting held during this time will provide citizens with the opportunity to comment on the document. The National Park Service also will accept written comments throughout this period.

## To Join Our Mailing List

If you are not yet on our mailing list, there still is time to join. Just contact us by one of the three methods listed above and ask to be added to the mailing list. If you would like to receive our newsletters and notices of park events by e-mail, please provide us with your e-mail address.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park commemorates the legacy of three exceptional men – Wilbur Wright, Orville Wright, and Paul Laurence Dunbar – and their lives and works in the Miami Valley. It recognizes the national significance of the contributions made by these three individuals and the city of Dayton's role in their contributions. It promotes the preservation and interpretation of resources related to the lives of these three men and the invention of flight through a management framework based on cooperation among diverse groups that share an interest in aviation history and Paul Laurence Dunbar.

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