



Foundation Document De Soto National Memorial

Florida

May 2015





Contents

Mission of the National Park Service	1
Introduction.	2
Part 1: Core Components	3
Brief Description of the Park.	3
Park Purpose	4
Park Significance	5
Fundamental Resources and Values	6
Other Important Resources and Values	7
Interpretive Themes	8
Part 2: Dynamic Components	9
Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments	9
Special Mandates.	9
Administrative Commitments.	9
Assessment of Planning and Data Needs	9
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values	10
Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values	13
Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs	22
Planning and Data Needs	23
Part 3: Contributors	26
De Soto National Memorial	26
NPS Southeast Region.	26
Other NPS Staff	26
Appendixes	27
Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for De Soto National Memorial.	27
Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments	33



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.



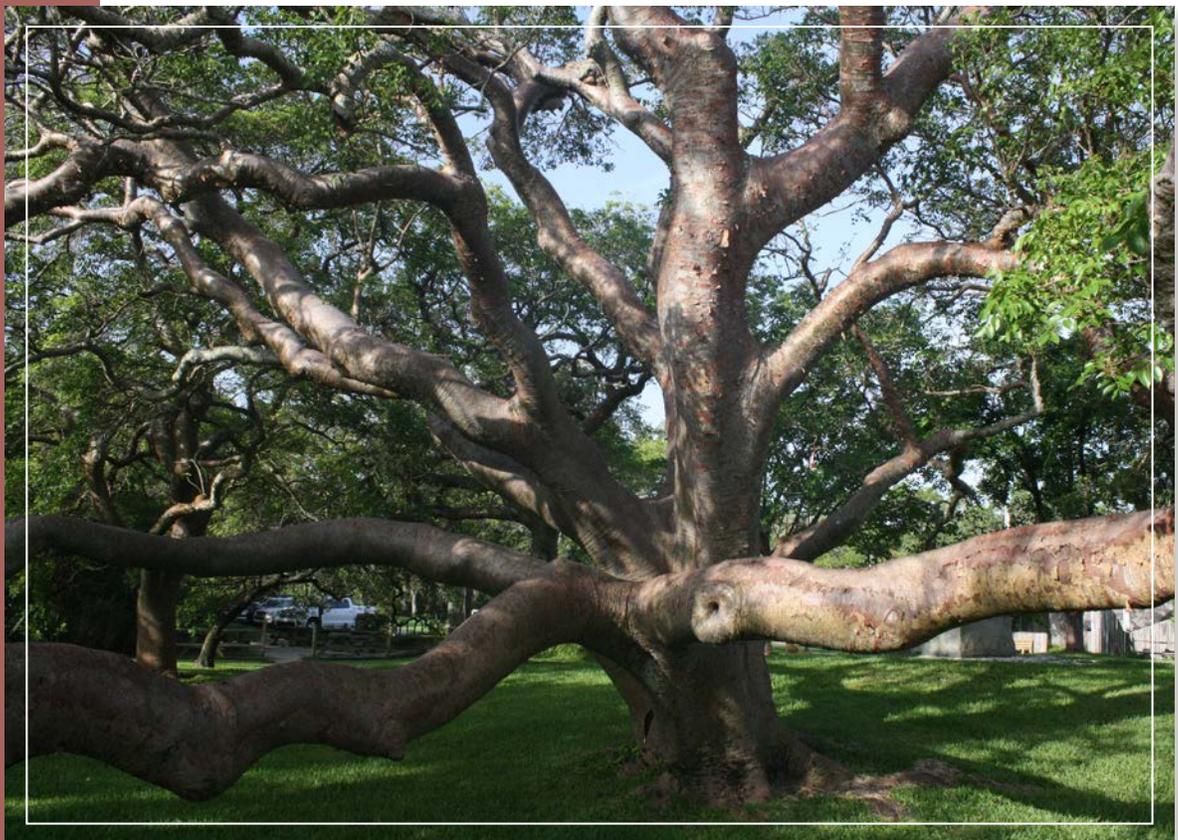
The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological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

De Soto National Memorial was authorized by Congress on March 11, 1948, to establish an appropriate memorial to Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, and to construct a suitable memorial structure for the benefit of the people of the United States.

De Soto National Memorial commemorates De Soto's landing in Florida in 1539 and the first large-scale European exploration of what is now the southeastern portion of the United States. Reports of the vast resources encountered by the De Soto expedition later spread throughout Europe and, as a direct result, colonization of "La Florida" commenced.

De Soto's exploratory force traveled 4,000 miles during its four-year mission. In opening the southeastern United States to European expansion, the expedition had an overwhelming impact on the course of North American history as well as its native inhabitants. Traditional social and cultural patterns were severely affected as a result of clashes between De Soto's forces and native warriors and a forced interaction of independent and disparate cultures. The expedition brought pigs with them from Europe for sustenance; however nonnative species competed for food with native species and could destroy a native village's food resource overnight. It had no predators and reproduced prolifically. Native inhabitants had no immunities to the many diseases that this nonnative species would bring. Native populations were decimated. After initial contact with De Soto, Native American lifeways were never the same.

De Soto National Memorial is in the National Register of Historic Places as a district and a site. Archeological resources included are 11 shell middens, the oldest of which dates to 365 BC, and the William H. Shaw "tabby house" ruins. Also included is a historic structure, the granite monument dedicated on the 400th anniversary of De Soto's 1539 landing in Florida.

De Soto National Memorial comprises 30 acres in Manatee County on the west coast of central Florida. Situated on a spit of land at the mouth of the Manatee River at its confluence with Tampa Bay, the park has more than 3,000 feet of shoreline. Roughly 80% of the park is mangrove estuary with the remainder consisting of pine uplands and mixed hardwoods, remnant shell ridges, and deposited dredge material from the adjacent Manatee River. Live oaks and gumbo limbo trees command much of the landscape of the memorial. Though not occurring naturally on the site, these trees have become a valuable park resource, adding significantly to visitor enjoyment. The most notable wildlife in the park is birds; however, small mammals and reptiles are also found.

The memorial offers robust programming for visitors including living history demonstrations, reenactments, seasonal kayak tours, Junior Ranger Program, museum exhibits, a park web page and Facebook page, special events, and other activities.



Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for De Soto National Memorial was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on March 11, 1948 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL is to commemorate Hernando de Soto's 1539 expedition throughout what is now the southeastern portion of the United States and its overwhelming impact on the course of North American history.





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 De Soto National Memorial, 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 De Soto National Memorial. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- De Soto's 1539 expedition was the first large-scale organized European exploration, which traversed 4,000 miles during its four-year quest.
- The contact between De Soto's expedition and American Indians caused social and cultural instability among indigenous peoples. Within 200 years of the expedition, American Indian populations were drastically reduced as a result of warfare, the introduction of pigs, disease, and the capture and displacement of leaders.
- Written accounts by members of the De Soto expedition were the first widely published and translated documents of their kind, which encouraged and accelerated European powers to explore and colonize North America.

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 De Soto National Memorial:

- **Commemoration of the 1539 expedition of Hernando de Soto** – De Soto National Memorial is entrusted to promote understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic resources and make them relevant to the time period of the expedition. The aftermath of the contact between the expedition and American Indians is also portrayed. Living history and educational programs are crucial to commemorating, educating, and conveying the importance of the expedition to the public. Living history at Camp Uzita, the historic weapons demonstrations, and ranger-led programs are some of the primary resources that the park has to explain the expedition.
- **Granite monument dedicated on the 400th anniversary of Hernando de Soto's 1539 landing in Florida (1939)** – The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America dedicated the monument during the 400th anniversary commemorating the landfall of De Soto's expedition.

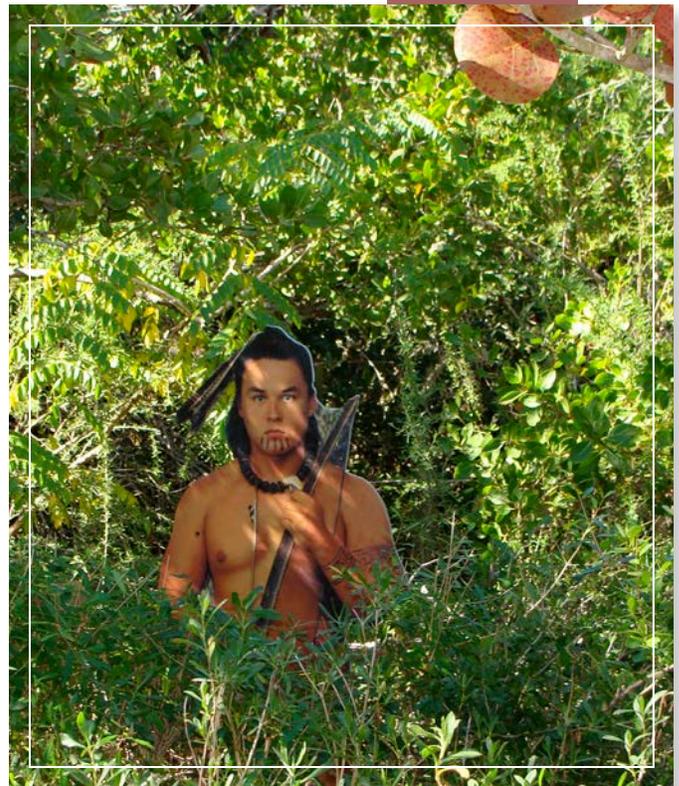
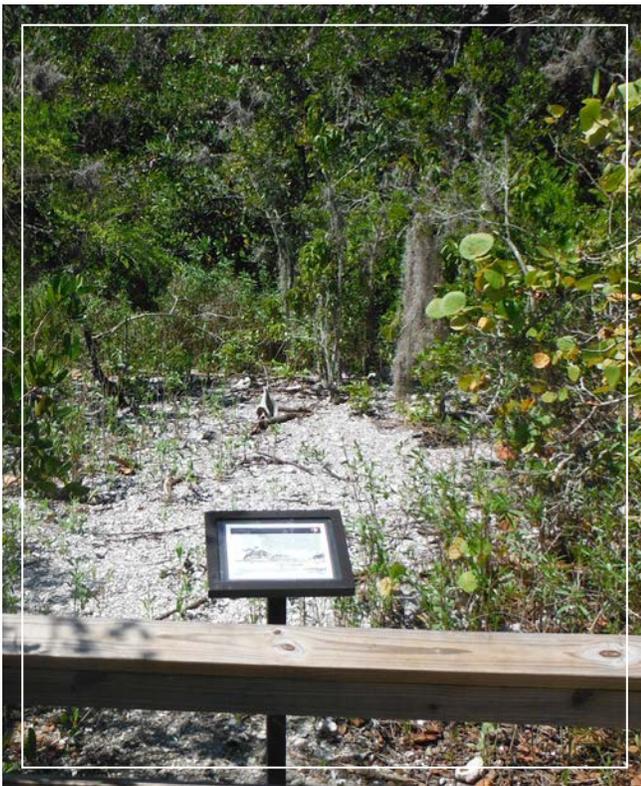


Other Important Resources and Values

De Soto National Memorial 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 De Soto National Memorial:

- **William H. Shaw tabby house ruins** – The tabby house, built in 1843 by William H. Shaw, links De Soto National Memorial to other sites in the region with similar building materials and provides evidence of the continuous use of the Shaw’s Point Archeological District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic structure (which is on the List of Classified Structures) served many roles over the years: a trading post, a barracks house for Confederate soldiers, and a shelter for Florida cracker cowmen (so called for the sound of the whips they used to drive stock).
- **Natural resources** – The natural Florida coastal wetland estuary and environments give visitors an understanding of the lifeways of indigenous peoples and the obstacles that the De Soto expedition encountered.
- **Museum collection** – The museum collection preserves and makes available materials that foster a discussion and promote further research and understanding of history relevant to early 16th century exploration and contact with American Indian cultures. The collections also document NPS management of the site and its resources. As of September 2014, the museum collection consists of approximately 167,000 archival documents, archeological artifacts, history objects, and biological specimens.
- **Middens** – Middens mark the presence of indigenous peoples at the site (such as Uzita) and their culture prior to European contact.



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 park's current long-range interpretive plan is from 1998 and was revised in 2003. The longevity of the plan is 5–10 years. The park has identified the need for a new plan as a high priority. Currently, the park is using the following interpretive themes for De Soto National Memorial from the revised 2003 long-range interpretive plan:

- The expedition provides written accounts of the tactics and warfare between the two cultures.
- The people who were a part of the expedition were a product of their time and their place in their beliefs, cultures, and societies.
- De Soto National Memorial is a unit of the National Park Service, which educates and promotes the values of conservation and preservation of the places set aside by the American people for the unimpaired enjoyment of present and future generations.
- In present day, this expedition would have traveled through 10 states and approximately 20 NPS units.
- De Soto National Memorial is entrusted to promote understanding of the natural, cultural, and historic resources resulting from the written accounts of the De Soto expedition.
- The Spanish entradas (expeditions) of the 16th century brought about drastic change in native cultures and existing native landscapes due to the introduction of nonnative organisms that would transform the history of the southeastern United States.



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 De Soto National Memorial.

Special Mandates

No legislated mandates.

Administrative Commitments

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for De Soto National Memorial, please see appendix B.

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

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

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

Fundamental Resource or Value	Commemoration of the 1539 Expedition of Hernando de Soto
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Soto’s 1539 expedition was the first large-scale organized European exploration, which traversed 4,000 miles during its four-year quest. • The contact between De Soto’s expedition and American Indians caused social and cultural instability among indigenous peoples. Within 200 years of the expedition, American Indian populations were drastically reduced as a result of warfare, the introduction of pigs, disease, and the capture and displacement of leaders. • Written accounts by members of the De Soto expedition were the first widely published and translated documents of their kind, which encouraged and accelerated European powers to explore and colonize North America.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Uzita needs repair to most of the structures within the camp. • Multiple programs are delivered in a limited amount of time and space at Camp Uzita. • There is a lot of stimulus for visitors to take in. Programs at Camp Uzita are very interactive and include trying on period clothing, period cooking demonstrations, and the sensory experience of the weather, sights, sounds, and smells of the environment. • The park uses many different avenues to educate the public, such as kayak tours, living history demonstrations, interpretive trails, waysides, and ranger-led programs. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living history and education is continuously the most effective method of interpreting the story of the expedition. • The living history program is very popular with visitors. • The park is exploring new opportunities for expanding the living history programming to other areas of the park. • The park is continually researching documents to improve interpretive programs and media information.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of interpretive and other materials through general use (wear and tear) and insufficient funding for replacements. • The loss of black powder program certification would be detrimental to the interpretive program. • Limited and static interpretation could lead to loss of visitor interest and reduced ability to effectively educate the visitor on the purpose of the park. • Employee/visitor injury during educational programs could threaten the specific program in which the injury occurred.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Commemoration of the 1539 Expedition of Hernando de Soto
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make story more dynamic by possibly including more stories and experiences relevant to the park's purpose. • Expand the Youth Advisory Council, Junior Ranger Program, and others including Big Brothers Big Sisters. • Standardize training for new interpretive staff on interpretive techniques. • Increase the Volunteers in Parks program. • Interpretive programs can be "boiler-plated" and documented in a central location for staff use. • Continue to explore new opportunities to expand living history programming to other areas the park. • Update the park film.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Living History Association.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range interpretive plan (2002). • The De Soto Chronicles: <i>The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539–1543</i>, edited by Clayton, Knight, and Moore, published by the University Press of Alabama. • Program library. • "Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History" (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape inventory.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Historic resource study. • Long-range interpretive plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Granite Monument Dedicated on the 400th Anniversary of Hernando de Soto’s 1539 Landing in Florida (1939)
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Soto’s 1539 expedition was the first large-scale organized European exploration, which traversed 4,000 miles during its four-year quest.
Current Conditions	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A solid structure in excellent condition. Made of granite with no cracks. Well maintained – the park maintains the landscape surrounding the 400th anniversary monument. There is minimal interpretation of this resource. Although the 400th anniversary monument is located in the park, the story about the site being the landfall point is contested and therefore, continues to make interpretation critical.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism, including graffiti, is a threat to the structure. Acid rain will erode the structure. Tree and limb falls can damage the 400th anniversary monument. The 400th anniversary monument is located near a visitor parking area where it is possible for a visitor to hit it with a car. Mold, mildew, and fungus can degrade the structure. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This resource should be evaluated as part of a comprehensive update to the existing national register nomination. The updated documentation should record current conditions, consider new areas and periods of significance, and classify all park resources per current National Register of Historic Places documentation standards. Develop and implement a monument preservation plan that is a cyclic maintenance document for cleaning the monument. This can be part of the monument management plan. Seating and tables could be placed strategically around 400th anniversary monument for visitors to reflect on the story surrounding the monument. Update the wayside exhibit panel content. Expand on the interpretive story about the 400th anniversary monument; interpret The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and their involvement in the commemoration. Explore ways to increase visibility, such as with up lighting and trimming branches. Research the origin of the granite used to construct the 400th anniversary monument.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History” (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 400th anniversary monument needs to be GPS geo-referenced and the data added to existing NPS GIS databases.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monument management plan. Update the existing national register nomination.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management Director’s Policy Memorandum 14-02, “Climate Change and Stewardship of Cultural Resources”

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	William H. Shaw Tabby House Ruins
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The house is in ruins with only small portions of the walls remaining. The ruins are exposed to the elements (not under cover). The ruins are accessible to improper visitor access. The site is on the List of Classified Structures. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation is encroaching. The park is increasing its interpretation of this cultural asset and the protection of the house.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper visitor use poses a threat to the site (possible vandalism, graffiti, and taking of artifacts). Littering can damage resources. Erosion degrades the tabby. Hurricanes and strong storms have the potential to damage the ruins. Climate change projections for the region include sea level rise (+0.5 to +1.75 feet by 2050; +0.93 to +5.25 feet by 2100), and increase in storm intensity, which threatens to accelerate weathering and loss of the house ruins and to alter the current topography and vegetation that comprise the cultural landscape. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This resource should be evaluated as part of a comprehensive update to the existing national register nomination. The updated documentation should record current conditions, consider new areas and periods of significance, and classify all park resources per current National Register of Historic Places documentation standards. Develop and implement a monument preservation plan that is a cyclic maintenance document for cleaning the monument. This can be part of the monument management plan. Stabilization of the site. Remove vegetation. Develop a management strategy for the tabby house and the site that explores ways to prevent deterioration from visitor access (such as fencing). The park will continue to explore ways to further interpret the site.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaw's Point Archeological District National Register of Historic Places nomination. "Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History" (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic structure report (to include recommendations for managing the site). Climate change vulnerability assessment.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnographic overview and assessment. Climate change scenario planning. Update the existing national register nomination.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's Policy Memorandum 14-02, "Climate Change and Stewardship of Cultural Resources"

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contact between De Soto’s expedition and American Indians caused social and cultural instability among indigenous peoples. Within 200 years of the expedition, American Indian populations were drastically reduced as a result of warfare, the introduction of pigs, disease, and the capture and displacement of leaders. Written accounts by members of the De Soto expedition were the first widely published and translated documents of their kind, which encouraged and accelerated European powers to explore and colonize North America.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural environment contains a variety of healthy ecosystems. Nonnative plants and animals are removed and/or monitored on a routine basis. The natural environment is dynamic and ever changing. Natural processes provide a constant challenge to which the park is constantly adapting. The park monitors for hazards (i.e., oil spill, toxins, nonnatives). Constant monitoring of natural areas is required so they do not encroach into visitor areas. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resources are continually growing and in good condition. Natural resources continue to be a good backdrop for the expedition story.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storms cause damage, such as wind damage and erosion, to the natural resources. Climate change projections for the region include sea level rise (+0.5 to +1.75 feet. by 2050; +0.93 to +5.25 feet. by 2100), increase in storm intensity, and increase in mean annual temperature (+2.9°F to +3.8°F by 2050; +3.8°F to +6.8°F by 2100). These projected climate futures threaten to alter the current landscape and ecological processes through erosion, inundation, and saltwater intrusion. Contaminants (runoff, pet/human waste, oil spill, release of toxins) are harmful to natural resources. Human disturbances such as user created trails and other impacts can degrade and alter natural resources. Introduction of invasive and nonnative plants and animals (Cuban tree frog, insects) can increase diseases in the native populations. Dying trees can enhance the shoreline erosion. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand interpretive programs about natural resources as related to the purpose of the park, link past to present through active use. Enhance environmental education (to protect resources). Develop guides or handouts for visitors regarding the identification of plants and animals. Expand interpretation of climate change regarding how it may impact the park. Where appropriate, encourage scientific research for inventory and monitoring purposes. Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections between climate change, sea-level rise, natural and cultural resource protection, recreational uses, scenic views, air quality, human health, and other associated resources.
<p>Related Resources and Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbarium specimens in the museum collection.

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The 2009 Vegetation Map of De Soto National Memorial.” • “Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History” (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional inventory work and specimen collection regarding natural resource species present within the park. • Visual resource inventory. • Climate change vulnerability assessment.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range interpretive plan. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Climate change scenario planning. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Pest management plan – including treatment recommendations of invasive and noninvasive species. • Shoreline erosion control plan. • Scenery conservation plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act of 1996 • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 42 USC 4321 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended • The Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.) gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” • Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands” • Executive Order 11998, “Floodplain Management” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1) “General Management Concepts” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1.4) “Partnerships” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.4.1) “General Principles for Managing Biological Resources” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.7.2) “Weather and Climate” • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.6.4) “Floodplains” • Director’s Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> • Director’s Order 77-1: <i>Wetland Protection</i> • Director’s Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Protection</i> • Special Directive 93-4 “Floodplain Management, Revised Guidelines for National Park Service Floodplain Compliance” (1993)



Other Important Resource or Value	Museum Collection
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contact between De Soto’s expedition and American Indians caused social and cultural instability among indigenous peoples. Within 200 years of the expedition, American Indian populations were drastically reduced as a result of warfare, the introduction of pigs, disease, and the capture and displacement of leaders.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Soto National Memorial partners with the South Florida Collections Management Center at Everglades National Park and the NPS Southeast Archeological Center for collection management and storage needs. These off-site locations are not readily accessible to on-site park staff. Electronic finding aid is available for all cataloged archives. Some of the museum collection is listed in the NPS Web Catalog for staff and public access. The methods in which the collections are displayed in the visitor center do not have descriptions identifying them. 87.16% of the collections have been cataloged to date. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Displays in museum continue to be static. Improvements in the museum exhibit facilities in recent years increase the ability to borrow objects from other institutions. In fiscal year 2015 (FY 2015), all cataloged De Soto National Memorial archives (administrative history records, historic photographs, maps and drawings, etc.) are being microfilmed for preservation and scanned for digital access. When completed, this will provide on-site access to these records by all staff, including tens of thousands of images that can be used for interpretive media, the park web site, exhibits, and other park needs.

Other Important Resource or Value	Museum Collection
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mold, condensation, and humidity can damage collections. • Natural disasters such as hurricanes or storms can damage collections. Mitigations have been developed for many threats. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload additional catalog records (with images) to the NPS Web Catalog to improve access. • Explore way to make exhibits more dynamic. • Rewrite interpretive themes. • Redesign the displays in the museum for better interpretive value for visitors. • Acquire collections needed for exhibits to tell a more complete story. • Add state-of-the-art (audio/visual) interpretation programs/media. • Continue and expand partnerships with universities and museums to improve exhibits and interpret collections. • Borrow artifacts from known De Soto sites to improve relevance of interpretation and exhibits.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection management report, updated annually. • Museum collection protection and preservation checklist, updated annually. • Interior collections management system database. • Scope of collections statement (2010). • Museum security and fire protection survey (2010). • Emergency operations plan for museum collections (2013). • Collection management plan (2004). • Structural fire management plan (2014). • Appraisal of 16th century artifacts (2010, confidential). • "Small Park, Large Issues: <i>De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History</i>" (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection condition survey for objects on exhibit.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection management plan (will be part of South Florida Collections Management Center plan in FY 2017). • Long-range interpretive plan. • Museum housekeeping plan. • Exhibit plan. • Interpretive media plan.

Other Important Resource or Value	Museum Collection
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacey Act of 1900 (18 USC 42-43) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-711) • Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended (16 USC 668) • Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (PL 106-580) • Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended (“Records Management by Federal Agencies” [44 USC 3101 et. seq.] • Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended (5 USC 552) • Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 USC 1361-1407) • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531-1543) • Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) • Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et. seq. [1988 and sup. V 1993]) • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996) • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) (25 USC 3001-3013) • “Federal Property Management Regulations” (41 CFR 101) • 410 Departmental Manual, “Interior Property Management Regulations” • 411 Departmental Manual, “Managing Museum Property” (chapters 1-3) • NAGPRA Final Regulations (43 CFR 10) • “Disposition of Federal Records” (36 CFR 1228) • “Protection of Archaeological Resources”(43 CFR 7) • “Preservation of American Antiquities” (43 CFR 3) • Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records (44 USC 2109) • “Disposal of Records” (44 USC 3301 et. seq.) • 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora • 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (implemented in the US by PL 970446 in 1993, 19 USC 2601) • “Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections” (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§8.10) “Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities” • Director’s Order 11A: <i>Information and Technology Management</i> • Director’s Order 11D: <i>Records and Electronic Information Management</i> • Director’s Order 19: <i>Records and Electronic Information Management</i> • Director’s Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • Director’s Order 44: <i>Personal Property Management</i> • Director’s Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Protection</i> • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III



Other Important Resource or Value	Middens
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contact between De Soto’s expedition and American Indians caused social and cultural instability among indigenous peoples. Within 200 years of the expedition, American Indian populations were drastically reduced as a result of warfare, the introduction of pigs, disease, and the capture and displacement of leaders.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middens are vulnerable due to many of the threats listed in this table. Vegetation is encroaching on middens. Some are located in swamp areas. Middens are not intact and have been disturbed for centuries. Approximately 13 shell ridges are in existence in the park. Middens are mapped and verified. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park is increasing interpretation of middens. Monitoring is increasing for public accessibility for shell ridge number two.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looting of middens causes damage and loss of material. Climate change projections for the region include sea level rise (+0.5 to +1.75 feet by 2050; +0.93 to +5.25 feet by 2100), and increase in storm intensity, which threatens to accelerate erosion and loss of middens. Encroaching vegetation causes damage to middens. Vandalism to middens causes damage and loss of material. Improper visitor use such as climbing on mounds and digging causes damage to middens. Natural disasters such hurricanes or storms can damage middens. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand interpretation and education to connect American Indian story to larger purpose of the park. Explore ways to prevent deterioration from visitor access. Improve informational signage to educate the visitor. Add this resource to the cultural resource inventory for facility condition assessment.
Related Resources and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaw’s Point Archeological District.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information in the De Soto National Memorial resource management records collection in the park archives. “Archeological Investigation of De Soto National Memorial: SEAC Technical Reports No.8 – 2002.” “De Soto National Memorial: Archeological Overview and Assessment” (1998). “Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History” (2007).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change vulnerability assessment.

Other Important Resource or Value	Middens
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act plan of action. • Ethnographic overview and assessment. • Historic resource study. • Climate change scenario planning.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • “National Register of Historic Places” (36 CFR 60) • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> and <i>Director’s Orders</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§8.10) “Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 7) “Interpretation and Education”



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 De Soto National Memorial and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Accessibility to shore and trails.** The park has an elevated boardwalk that traverses the mangrove estuary for approximately 500 linear feet. It was built in the early 1990s and will need to be replaced. The boardwalk adds an accessibility component for visitors, which is significant because the shoreline and trails are too sandy to allow wheelchair access through much of the park.
- **Climate change.** Mean annual temperature is projected to increase +2.9°F to +3.8°F by 2050 and +3.8°F to +6.8°F by 2100 for the region. Sea level is projected to increase +0.5 to +1.75 ft by 2050 and +0.93 to +5.25 ft by 2100 for the region. An increase in more intense storms and heat waves are also projected for the region. These projected climate futures will impact natural resources, cultural resources, visitor use, park operations, and infrastructure at the park. It is important for park management to understand the range of climate futures possible for the region and to plan and manage with that new understanding. This will require the ability to adapt as new and sometimes unprecedented climate conditions evolve. Climate change scenario planning as well as a climate change vulnerability assessment and are needed.
- **Interpretive messaging and media.** To fulfill the purpose of the park, the stories of the expedition, the American Indian lifeways, and the resulting aftermath need to be communicated to the public in engaging ways. A long-range interpretive plan and an interpretive media plan are needed. This will provide a great opportunity to work with affiliated tribes to update the themes and messages in the plans.



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 or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Ethnographic overview and assessment	H	Gaining the knowledge from this study would round out the educational programs to include the American Indian aspect of the story, such as interpreting natural resources related to ethnobotany.
FRV	Long-range interpretive plan	H	The park's current long-range interpretive plan is from 1998 and was revised in 2003. The longevity of the plan is 5–10 years. The park has identified the need for a new plan.
OIRV	Interpretive media plan	H	The purpose of the park is to interpret the expedition story. The plan will address programmatic accessibility and explore the idea of audio tours.
Parkwide Issue	Planning for elevated boardwalk through mangrove estuary	H	The boardwalk was built in the early 1990s and is being assessed for structural soundness and will most likely need to be replaced. The park would need assistance from the regional office staff with National Environmental Policy Act considerations, the assessment of fragile ecosystems, and from wetland ecologists.
FRV	Historic resource study for early inhabitants	M	Project Management Information System (PMIS) 204132 – study to document the early inhabitant's use of the site.
OIRV	Collection management plan	M	A plan is needed to make recommendations on the management and care of the collections, and to provide a framework to help organize the variety of collections management tasks. This would be included as part of FY 2017 collection management plan for the South Florida Collections Management Center.
FRV	Climate change scenario planning	M	Outcomes from such an effort could support a range of park planning projects (e.g., resource stewardship strategy, landscape management plan, integrated pest management plan, vegetation management plan) and adaptive management decisions. The NPS Climate Change Response Program has spent many years exploring and applying climate change scenario planning and now has resources available to assist parks with scenario planning.
OIRV	Resource stewardship strategy	M	This would be an analytical document focused on identifying and tracking indicators of desired conditions, recommending comprehensive strategies to achieve and maintain desired conditions over time, and assessing and updating these strategies periodically based on new information and the results of completed activities.
OIRV	Pest management plan	M	Including treatment recommendations of nonnative, invasive, and noninvasive species.
OIRV	Exhibit plan	M	Rated a medium priority because the interpretive media plan is the higher need and this would tier after it. The plan should incorporate a rotating exhibit or ability to change exhibits every few years.
OIRV	Updated shoreline erosion control plan	M	The shoreline erosion control environmental assessment is from 1981 and the park needs an updated plan.
FRV	Update the existing national register nomination	M	A comprehensive update to the existing national register nomination is needed. The updated documentation should record current conditions, consider new areas and periods of significance, and classify all park resources per current National Register of Historic Places documentation standards.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
OIRV	Scenery conservation plan	L	Using the Visual Resource Inventory, a plan is needed to identify management strategies and collaborations for protection of scenic views both within and outside the boundary of the park.
OIRV	Museum housekeeping plan	L	PMIS 123125 – Needed to set up a schedule for preventive maintenance.
FRV	Monument management plan	L	Needed for ensuring high quality, efficiency, and consistency in a park's monument management program. Plan would also outline preservation maintenance standards for monuments.
OIRV	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act plan of action	L	This plan is needed to streamline the consultation process. Individual consultation takes place until this plan is in place.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
FRV	GPS geo-reference for the 400th anniversary monument	H	The 400th anniversary monument needs to be GPS geo-referenced and the data added to existing NPS GIS databases.
FRV	Cultural landscape inventory	H	Needed to identify cultural landscape features that are determined eligible for the national register by the State Historic Preservation Office.
FRV	Climate change vulnerability assessment	H	Climate change vulnerability assessments for cultural and natural resources would help managers better understand which resources within the park may be most at risk from climate change, and to facilitate prioritization of monitoring and management actions.
OIRV	Collection condition survey for objects on exhibit	M	PMIS 123135A.
OIRV	Visual resource inventory	M	The inventory process will identify the scenic quality of important viewsheds and also identify NPS and visitor values, and serve to complement the cultural landscape inventory.
OIRV	Additional inventory work and specimen collection regarding natural resource species present within the park	L	Needed to identify the diversity of plant and animal species in the park.
OIRV	Historic structure report for William H. Shaw tabby house ruins	L	To include recommendations for managing. This need would be somewhat addressed in an ethnographic overview and assessment and a historic resource study, but those may not include recommendations.

Part 3: Contributors

De Soto National Memorial

Jorge Acevedo, Superintendent
David Bocanegra, Chief of Interpretation
Marielle Lumang, Student Trainee Park Guide
Michelle Marc, Administrative Officer
Daniel Stephens, Interpretive Park Ranger

NPS Southeast Region

Anita Barnett, Environmental Protection Specialist, Southeast Regional Office
Amy Wirsching, Project Manager, Southeast Regional Office

Other NPS Staff

Antoinette Jackson, Regional Cultural Anthropologist, Southeast Regional Office
Rafael Zak Wood, GIS Specialist, Denver Service Center–Planning
Nancy Russell, Museum Curator, South Florida Collections Management Center
Kelly Hatton, Editor, Denver Service Center–Planning
John Paul Jones, Visual Information Specialist, Denver Service Center–Planning

Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for De Soto National Memorial

78

PUBLIC LAWS—CHS. 108, 109—MAR. 11, 1948

[62 STAT.]

[CHAPTER 109]

AN ACT

March 11, 1948
[H. R. 4023]
[Public Law 441]

To authorize the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial, in the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

De Soto National
Memorial, Fla.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of establishing an appropriate memorial to Hernando De Soto, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in his discretion, to acquire on behalf of the United States, by donation, by purchase with donated funds when purchaseable at prices deemed by him reasonable, or by condemnation with donated funds, such lands and interests in land within an area of not to exceed twenty-five acres as he may select in the vicinity of Tampa Bay and Bradenton, Florida, and to construct thereon a suitable memorial structure, together with such connecting roads and public facilities as may be desirable.

Publication of order
in Federal Register.

SEC. 2. Upon a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that sufficient land has been acquired by the United States for the memorial, such property shall be established as the "De Soto National Memorial", and shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, for the benefit of the people of the United States. An order of the Secretary of the Interior, constituting notice of such establishment, shall be published in the Federal Register.

Insofar as applicable and not in conflict with this Act, the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), providing for the establishment of a National Park Service, as amended and supplemented, shall govern the promotion and development of the national memorial.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed \$25,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved March 11, 1948.

AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DE SOTO
NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 3, 1948.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WELCH, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4023]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4023) to authorize the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial, in the State of Florida, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish in the State of Florida the De Soto National Memorial, to commemorate one of the most important exploratory expeditions in the history of the United States.

Erection of the memorial is contemplated on an area not to exceed 25 acres in the vicinity of Tampa Bay and Bradenton, Fla. At the present time a marker erected by one of the colonial societies is located there. The committee is informed that local interests in Florida will donate the land desired as soon as approval is given by Congress.

The National Park Service proposes that the memorial shall consist of a museum to house the relics already collected or which may come into its possession in the future.

The landing of the De Soto Expedition at this site in 1539 inaugurated the first exploration by Europeans of the interior of the present States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Hernando De Soto's explorations are considered of equal or greater importance in our history than the Coronado Expedition. Since Congress in 1941 provided for the memorialization of the explorations of Coronado, it seems justifiable to your committee to provide in a suitable manner for the memorialization of the De Soto explorations.

It is contemplated by the National Park Service that the proposed museum can be constructed for \$15,000 or \$20,000 and will shortly become self-sustaining from admission charges to be made.

The Committee on Public Lands unanimously recommends the enactment of this legislation, which is further explained in a favorable report dated July 22, 1947, from Under Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman, hereinunder set forth.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington 25, D. C., July 22, 1947.

HON. RICHARD J. WELCH,
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. WELCH: Your committee has requested a report on H. R. 4023, entitled "A bill to authorize the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial, in the State of Florida, and for other purposes." This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation or with donated funds, not to exceed 25 acres of land in the vicinity of Tampa Bay and Bradenton, Fla., for establishment of the proposed memorial. The bill also would authorize the construction upon the property of a suitable memorial structure, together with such connecting roads and public facilities as may be desirable. The appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for purposes of the legislation would be authorized.

If the Congress considers the enactment of this proposed legislation to be desirable, this Department, through the National Park Service, would be pleased to develop the memorial project, as provided by this bill, and as funds become available for that purpose.

The De Soto exploration of the interior of the territory now included in the United States was one of the outstanding events in the annals of the exploration and conquest of North America. It resulted in the first geographical knowledge by Europeans of the interior of the present States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and in the earliest account of the great Indian tribes or nations residing in those States. As the Congress by the act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 630), has provided for the memorialization of the explorations of Coronado by the proposed Coronado International Memorial, and as the De Soto expedition was of equal or greater importance in our history, it would appear justifiable to provide in a suitable way for the memorialization of the De Soto explorations.

While the exact site of the landing place of De Soto in Florida cannot be established definitely beyond question, Dr. John R. Swanton, the leading student and authority on the subject, after many years of careful investigation and research concluded that it was in Tampa Bay, on the east, or southeast, side of the bay. (Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission, H. Doc. No. 71, 76th Cong., 1st sess., pp. 137, 138.) Consequently, there is justification for a De Soto memorial at the place named in the bill.

It is not practicable for this Department at present to estimate the probable cost of this proposed legislation in the event of enactment. Such cost would be dependent upon the type of memorial structure and related features and public facilities that would be designed and planned for the area after surveys and plans are completed. It would be necessary to use some of the funds to be appropriated for the purpose of making such surveys and plans for the area.

In view of the fact that your committee has requested an immediate report on this bill, this letter has not been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget. Therefore, no commitment can be made concerning the relationship of the foregoing views to the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

OSCAR L. CHAPMAN,
Under Secretary of the Interior.

Calendar No. 373

86TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{

REPORT
No. 380

DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL, FLA.

JUNE 9, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'MAHONEY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

To accompany S. 1214]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1214) to amend the act of March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 78), relating to the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial in the State of Florida, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

At page 2, line 2, after the word "use", insert the words "up to \$10,000 of".

PURPOSE OF S. 1214

The De Soto National Memorial was established in 1948 (62 Stat. 78) and commemorates the explorations of Hernando de Soto, who conducted the first major explorations of the North American Continent. Existing law limits the acreage of the memorial to 25 acres and places a limitation of \$50,000 on expenditures for development of the area.

The National Park Service desires to acquire a 3-acre strip lying along the south boundary of the memorial which, if acquired, would afford a suitable protective zone at the memorial entrance gate that would provide additional needed space for administrative purposes and would preclude undesirable commercial and residential development near the entrance gate.

The National Park Service has been unable to effect the donation of the needed lands; S. 1214 provides for their acquisition with appropriated funds.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The lands proposed to be acquired are estimated to have a value of approximately \$10,000. The amendment adopted by the committee is designed to limit to that figure the amount paid for the needed lands.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION

Set forth below is the letter of transmittal in which the Department of the Interior sought the introduction of this legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 13, 1959.

HON. RICHARD M. NIXON,
President of the Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is a draft of a proposed bill to amend the act of March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 78), relating to the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial, in the State of Florida.

We suggest that this bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and we recommend that it be enacted.

This bill would permit a small increase in the presently authorized acreage for this area, and would remove the existing limitations on the use of appropriated funds.

The De Soto National Memorial, which was established pursuant to authority contained in the act of March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 78), commemorates the explorations of Hernando de Soto, who conducted the first major expedition to explore the North American Continent. In about 4 years De Soto and his companions crossed some 4,000 miles of wilderness in what is now southern United States, recording valuable information about the interior lands and native life of the new world.

The land proposed to be acquired for the memorial is a 3-acre strip which lies along the south boundary of the memorial. This additional land is needed to provide a suitable protective zone at the entrance gate to assure administrative control of an important drainage ditch, and to provide additional space for administrative purposes.

At the present rate of growth and development in this section of Florida, the approach road to the area may be crowded with homesites in the foreseeable future. Such development would destroy much of the serenity and dignity of the area that visitors now experience as they approach the entrance. One of the outlets of a drainage ditch that cuts across the southwestern portion of the memorial, and several hundred feet of the ditch itself, lie within the proposed addition. It would be desirable to place administrative control of this necessary facility in the Secretary. This acquisition will further provide additional needed space for administrative purposes, including employee housing.

The existing law limits the acreage of the memorial to 25 acres, and places a limitation of \$50,000 on expenditures for development of the area. This precludes the acquisition of the additional strip of land, and prevents the fulfillment of the mission objectives for this area

which contemplate the providing of adequate facilities to enable visitors to understand better the De Soto expedition and its importance in the development of this country.

The lands proposed for addition are valued at about \$10,000 and are jointly owned by the persons who donated lands already included in the memorial. The Department has been unable to effect the donation of the additional lands, and for that reason the bill provides for their acquisition with appropriated funds.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill (S. 1214), as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

62 STAT. 78

CHAPTER 109

AN ACT To authorize the establishment of the De Soto National Memorial, in the State of Florida, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of establishing an appropriate memorial to Hernando de Soto, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, in his discretion, to acquire on behalf of the United States, by donation, by purchase with donated funds when purchasable at prices deemed by him reasonable, or by condemnation with donated funds, such lands and interests in land within an area of not to exceed [twenty-five] thirty acres as he may select in the vicinity of Tampa Bay and Bradenton, Florida, and to construct thereon a suitable memorial structure, together with such connecting roads and public facilities as may be desirable.

SEC. 2. * * *

SEC. 3. [There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed \$50,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.] *The Secretary of the Interior, in acquiring lands for the Memorial, is authorized to use up to \$10,000 of any funds now or hereafter made available to acquire lands for the National Park System.*

○

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date / Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Manatee County Sheriff	Memorandum of understanding	Expired		Law enforcement	Needs to be renewed
Manatee County Natural Resource Department	Memorandum of understanding			Co-manage Riverview Point Preserve	Current
West Manatee Fire and Rescue District	Memorandum of agreement			Structural fire protection	Memorandum of Agreement in place; signed on 8/14/2014
Florida Power and Light	Easement			Goes through the park and services properties outside the park	
Manatee County Water and Sewer	Easement			Services park only	
Verizon	Easement			Cable and telephone service for park only	
Chickasaw Nation	Special use permit – non-fee			The Chickasaw Nation partnered with De Soto National Memorial to produce a film on park property; a future screening of the film may be held in the park	
University of South Florida Heritage Resource Lab Partnership	Verbal agreement				
Eastern National					
Florida Department of Archeology	Formal letter of agreement	Expired (9/2012)		Long-term agreement for the collections items on loan in the park museum	Needs to be renewed
Hernando de Soto Trail of 1539 – Partnerships					
South Florida Collections Management Center	Charter		Multipark superintendents, regional curator, regional director	Multipark museum collection management program	Will be renewed in FY 2015 update to charter



HERHANDO DE SOTO:

Extremeno: uno de los descubridores y conquistador del Perú: recorrió toda la Florida y venció á sus naturales invencibles hasta entonces: murió en su expedición el año de 1543. á los 42. de su edad.

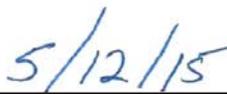
Southeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation De Soto National Memorial

May 2015

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

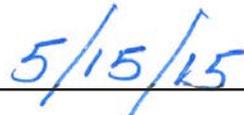

RECOMMENDED

Jorge Acevedo, Superintendent, De Soto National Memorial


Date


APPROVED

Stan Austin, Regional Director, Southeast 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.

DESO 388/128329

May 2015

Foundation Document • De Soto National Memorial

