



# Foundation Document Overview

## Flight 93 National Memorial

Pennsylvania



### Contact Information

For more information about the *Flight 93 National Memorial Foundation Document*, contact: [fni\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:fni_superintendent@nps.gov) or (814) 893-6322 or write to: Superintendent, Flight 93 National Memorial, 6424 Lincoln Highway 30, Stoystown, PA 15563

## Purpose



*The purpose of FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL is to honor and commemorate the passengers and crew whose courageous actions prevented a terrorist attack on our nation's capital, part of a larger attack on America on September 11, 2001, and to interpret this history. Flight 93 National Memorial preserves the crash site and manages the memorial landscape in western Pennsylvania.*



## Significance

Significance statements express why Flight 93 National Memorial resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- The crash site is the final resting place of the passengers and crew of Flight 93.
- On September 11, 2001, the courageous action of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 prevented the flight from reaching the terrorists' intended target, resulting in the plane crashing in a field in rural Pennsylvania.
- Evidence gathered here, including cockpit and flight data recorders, documents, weapons, and financial records, was crucial to the FBI investigation of September 11th and efforts to seek justice and prevent future attacks.
- The terrorist attack on September 11th led to changes in laws, policies, practices, and attitudes worldwide.
- Flight 93 National Memorial was designed and constructed to commemorate and honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93, to provide varied opportunities for education, reflection, and healing, and to make meaningful connections with the events of September 11th at this site.



## Fundamental Resources and Values



Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Crash Site**
- **Understanding of the Crash Site**
- **Memorial Landscape**
- **Collections**
- **Sense of Place**
- **Partnerships**
- **Living Memory**

Flight 93 National Memorial contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Natural Resources**
- **Pre-9/11 Mining Sites**
- **Post-9/11 Temporary Memorial and Investigation Locations**

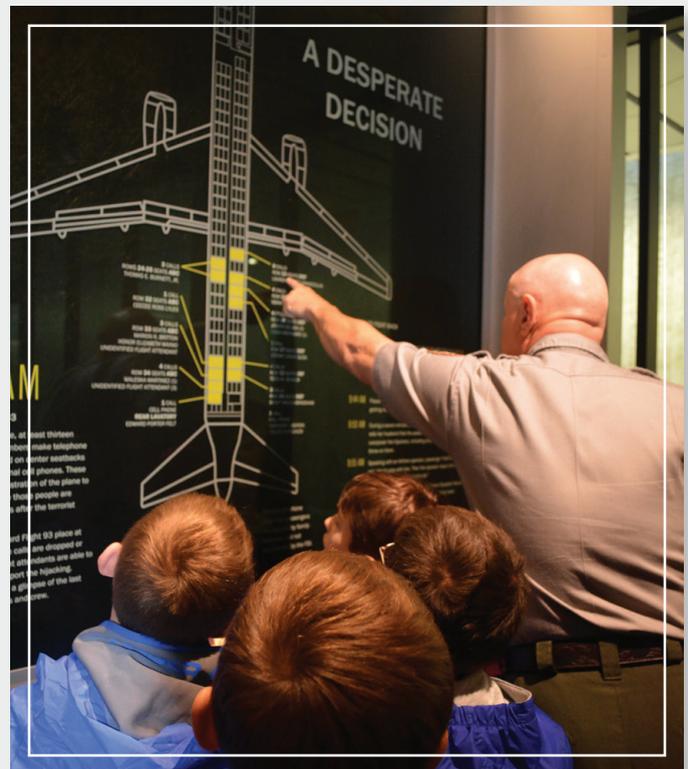
Related resources are not owned by the park. They may be part of the broader context or setting in which park resources exist, represent a thematic connection that would enhance the experience of visitors, or have close association with park fundamental resources and the purpose of the park. The related resource represents a connection with the park that often reflects an area of mutual benefit or interest, and collaboration, between the park and owner/stakeholder.

- **World Trade Center Site, New York, New York**
- **Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia**
- **Related sites in the surrounding community**

## 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 of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- **A Call to Action.** On the morning of September 11, 2001, the passengers and crew aboard hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 demonstrated the power of spontaneous leadership and action, resisted their attackers, and prevented a larger disaster at the center of American government.
- **A Place of Honor.** Flight 93 National Memorial honors the passengers and crew by providing a place to express respect for their lives and actions as well as a place of comfort, hope, and inspiration.
- **A World Changed.** The terrorist attacks on America on September 11, 2001, and the actions of the passengers and crew of Flight 93, were part of a historic milestone and global event that impacted individuals and local, national, and world communities.



## Description

Flight 93 National Memorial honors the 7 crew members and 33 passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 who lost their lives on the morning of September 11, 2001, when their plane crashed in a field in Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, about 75 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Their plane was one of four planes hijacked that day by a group of terrorists targeting the United States. Authorities later concluded that the likely target of Flight 93 was the U.S. Capitol, just 18 minutes flying time from the crash site. On September 24, 2002, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law authorization for the creation of a permanent memorial to honor the heroic action and sacrifice of the passengers and crew aboard Flight 93. It took nine years and the collaborative efforts of many to develop Flight 93 National Memorial, which was dedicated on September 10, 2011.

The boundary of the national memorial encompasses an area of approximately 2,200 acres, of which about 1,500 acres are in federal ownership. The crash site, the adjacent debris field, and a designed memorial landscape are within the boundary. Prior to September 2001, this area had been used for surface mining and agriculture, characteristics of which remain on the landscape. Access to the memorial is by an entrance to a 2-1/2 mile approach road off Pennsylvania State Route 30 leading first to the Visitor Center Complex. The complex, opened on September 10, 2015, sits on an exposed hilltop and consists of the Visitor Center with exhibit space, the Flight Path Walkway and Overlook, the Learning Center, parking area, and the Allée and Western Overlook trailheads.

From the Visitor Center the approach road follows the Allée in a 1-mile semicircular Ring Road to the Memorial Plaza. The Allée consists of 40 memorial groves planted adjacent to the road. A wetlands bridge allows visitors walking the Allée to cross the wetlands, providing opportunities for reflection and changing views of the wetlands habitat. The Memorial Plaza includes the Wall of Names and a visitor shelter with parking and overlooks, the Impact Site, identified by a sandstone boulder moved to that location from the northern area of the memorial, and the Hemlock Grove.

The Memorial Plaza was designed by Paul Murdock Architects with Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, the team selected from 1,100 entries in a design competition that opened on September 11, 2004, and included entries from 27 countries and 49 states. The concept, selected in the second phase of the competition, was approved by the task force and formally adopted by the Flight 93 National Memorial Federal Advisory Commission and publicly announced on September 7, 2005. A dedication ceremony for the memorial was held on September 10, 2011. Approximately 907 additional acres comprise the perimeter viewshed, and the fields, wooded groves, and rolling hills visible from the overlook areas offer a sense of tranquility conducive to reflection. The crash site is the final resting place for the 40 passengers and crew aboard Flight 93. Access to the crash site is reserved for the family members of the passengers and crew and for care by National Park Service staff.

Flight 93 National Memorial was developed according to the general management plan with the Flight 93 National Memorial Federal Advisory Commission, the Families of Flight 93, Inc., and the Friends of Flight 93, Inc., as outlined in the Flight 93 National Memorial Act (Public Law 107-226). Following dedication of the national memorial in 2011, the Flight 93 National Memorial Federal Advisory Commission was dissolved. With completion of the Tower of Voices, estimated for 2017, the actions prescribed in the general management plan will be complete. Today, Flight 93 National Memorial is managed by the National Park Service. Park staff, the Friends of Flight 93, the community, and a corps of volunteers provide services and programs to visitors and maintain the memorial.

