

General  
Management  
Plan

D-27A

# Hopewell Culture

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4/3/97

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4/8/97



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# General Management Plan

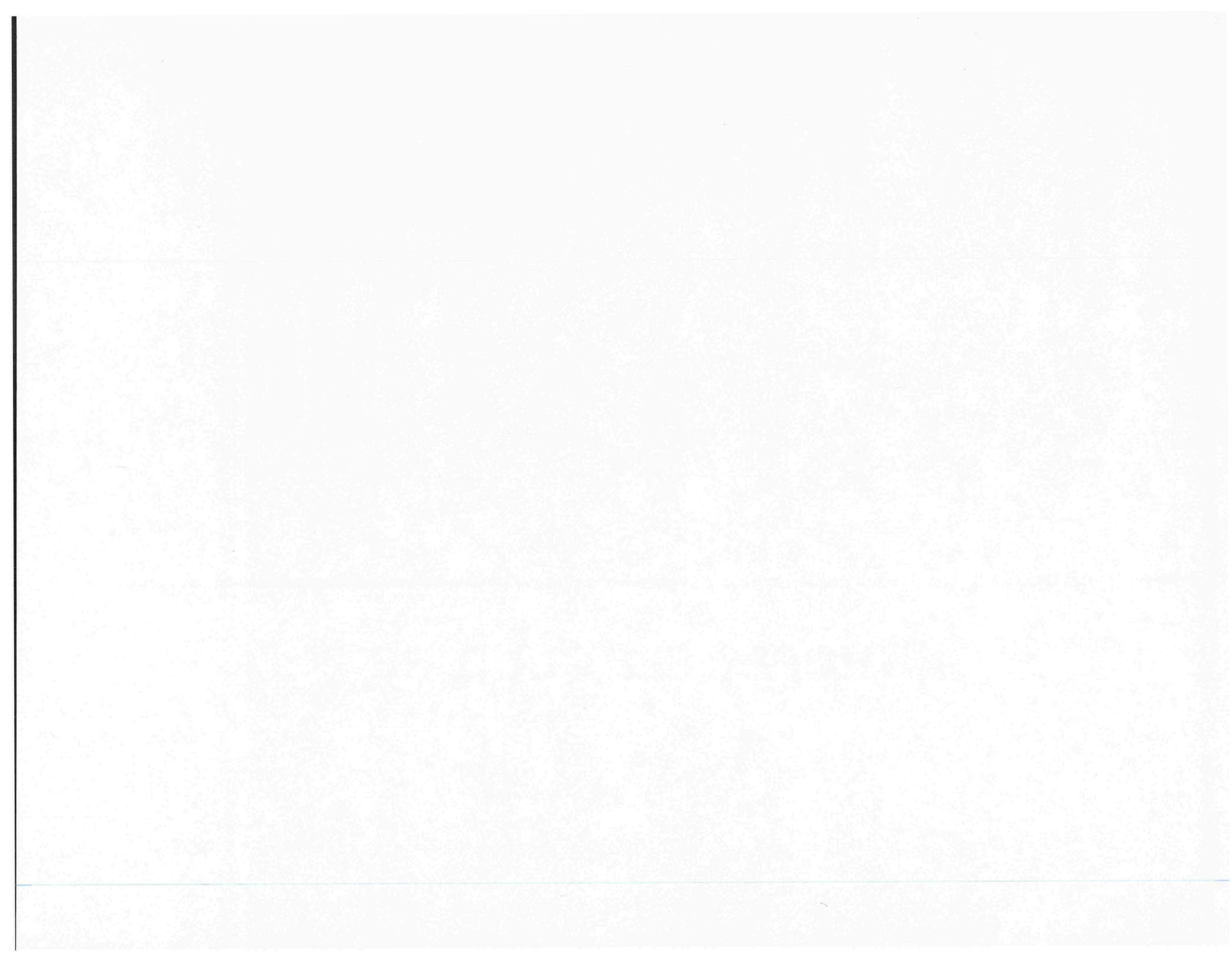
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# HOPEWELL CULTURE

National Historical Park • Ohio

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service

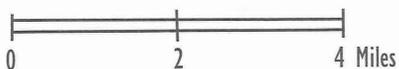
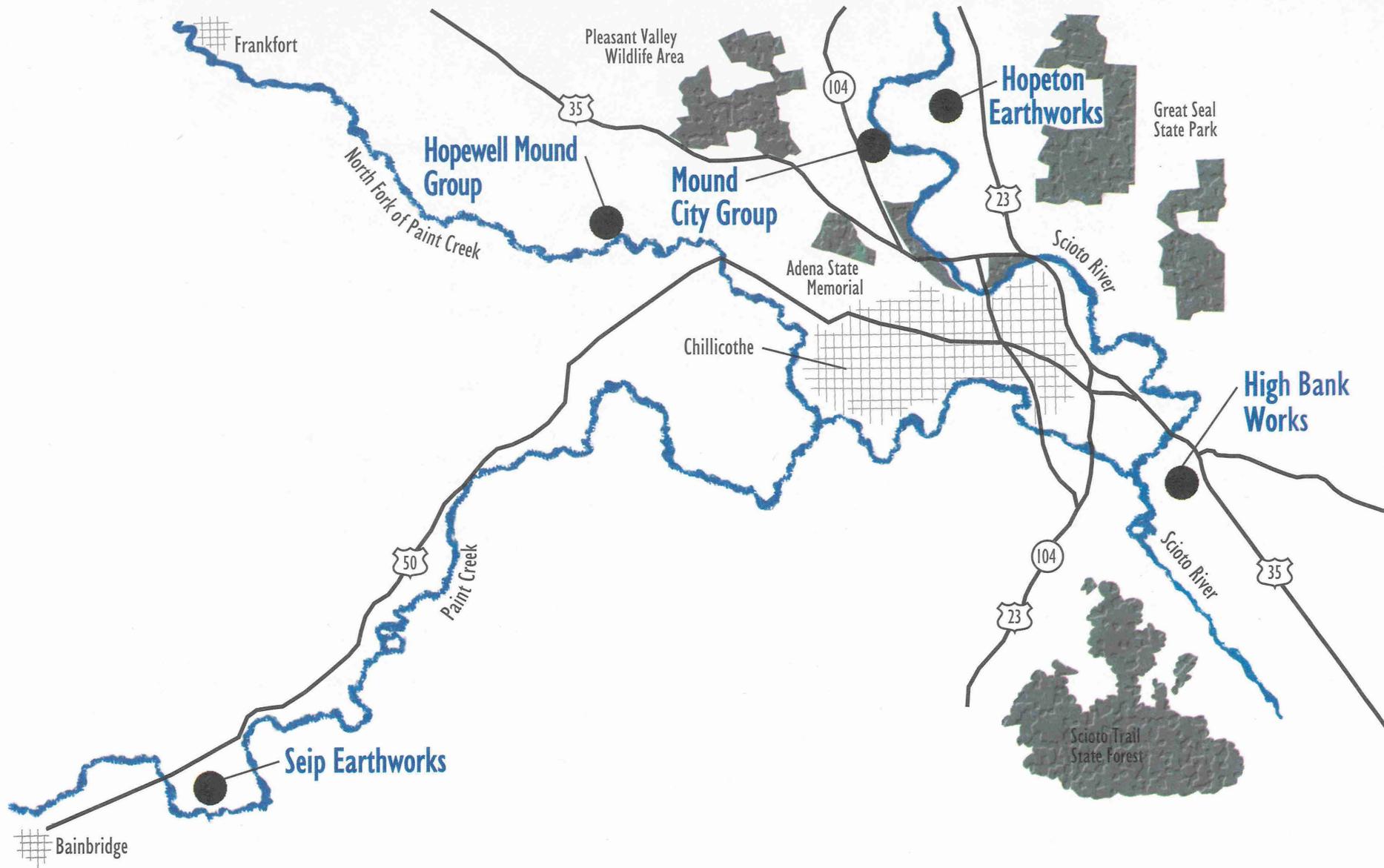
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## Location



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## CONTEXT FOR THE PLAN

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### INTRODUCTION

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in south-central Ohio, contains remarkable groups of large geometric earthworks as well as exquisite artifacts crafted by the Hopewell peoples. There is a sense of mystery surrounding the culture. Why did these people build the huge earthworks? Why did they bury thousands of objects under the mounds? What happened to the culture? What was so compelling about the culture that its influence was felt over a huge area of the midwestern and eastern United States? There are few answers and many intriguing theories. But the mystery only enhances the experience of walking among the mounds on a misty morning or viewing the beautifully crafted objects of these ancient peoples.

This final *General Management Plan* for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park was developed and strongly endorsed by a variety of groups and individuals as a strategy that best accomplishes the purpose and visions of the park and recognizes its significance. It will provide the framework for decision making in the park over the next 10 to 15 years.

Proposals in this plan are designed to celebrate the culture and protect the resources. An international center for the interpretation, study, and preservation of the Hopewell culture is proposed along with the acquisition and opening of several new earthwork sites that would expand the park and enhance the visitor experience.

Within Hopewell Culture National Historical Park are five noncontiguous units — Mound City Group, Hopeton Earthworks, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, and

High Bank Works — representing some of the finest examples of Hopewellian resources. The park contains an array of significant cultural resources, including mounds, earthworks, and archeological remains, as well as related collections and records. Portions of the earthen construction have deteriorated, have been partially destroyed, or have been razed. The park and many of its resources are threatened by suburban growth, mineral extraction, plowing, soil erosion, and collecting. The isolation of each unit from the others poses challenges to management, including resource protection, development, and visitor use. Research and the park interpretive program have not been updated to incorporate the additional archeological resources in the new park areas. This *General Management Plan* has been prepared to address these and other issues at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park.

Proposals in this plan will (1) help visitors have a quality experience and appreciate the significance of the park's resources, (2) protect resources from threats, (3) ensure adequate boundaries at the three new units, (4) protect resources and park values extending beyond the park's current boundaries, (5) initiate and coordinate research, (6) provide adequate support facilities, (7) provide an expanded educational program, and (8) provide administrative and physical continuity among the five park units.

Visitors will be encouraged to visit three units (Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks) to learn about various facets of the Hopewell culture. The other two units, Hopeton Earthworks and High Bank Works, will offer limited access to visitors and will be devoted primarily to preservation and research. The plan provides for

comprehensive interpretation of the Hopewell culture based on an active and ongoing research program. A new or expanded visitor center and a collections facility are proposed as well as facilities for research. Proposed plans for each site are guided by the need for resource protection and quality visitor experiences.

*An Environmental Assessment* was published with the *Draft General Management Plan* in September 1996 to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed plan. It indicated that significant impacts would not be incurred; thus, a "finding of no significant impact" has been completed (see appendix A), and the general management planning process has been completed.

A long-range interpretive prospectus, which was produced separately, supplies greater detail on visitor experience opportunities and also provides guidance for the interpretive staff and exhibit designers.

## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The present Hopewell Culture National Historical Park evolved in part from the former Mound City Group National Monument. The national monument was established by a proclamation signed by President Warren G. Harding in 1923 to preserve prehistoric mounds of "great historic and scientific interest." In 1980 Congress expanded the monument, adding a portion of the nearby Hopeton Earthworks and directed the National Park Service to investigate other regional archeological sites for their suitability for preservation. Of the nearly 20 sites considered, the National Park Service recommended the addition of four sites (the High Bank Works, the Hopewell Mound Group, the Seip Earthworks, and the remainder of Hopeton Earthworks).

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio, was established on May 27, 1992, by a law that renamed the Mound City Group National Monument, expanded the Hopeton Earthworks Unit, and authorized the acquisition of three additional Hopewell sites: High Bank Works, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks. These units, which bring the park's total authorized acreage to 1,134, will be acquired as funds become available. This law also directed the secretary of the interior to conduct archeological studies of the newly authorized areas to determine the adequacy of the present unit boundaries. The results of some of these studies are included as recommendations in this plan.

The legislation also called for a special resource study to be conducted to determine the desirability of adding the following sites to the park: the Harness Group, about 4 miles south of Chillicothe; Cedar Bank, about 4 miles north of Chillicothe; and Spruce Hill, about 10 miles southwest of Chillicothe. The legislation directed that other sites significant to the Hopewell culture be identified and studied as well, such as the Mann site in Indiana. The special resource study will be conducted when adequate research is available to determine the eligibility of these sites for inclusion in the national park system.

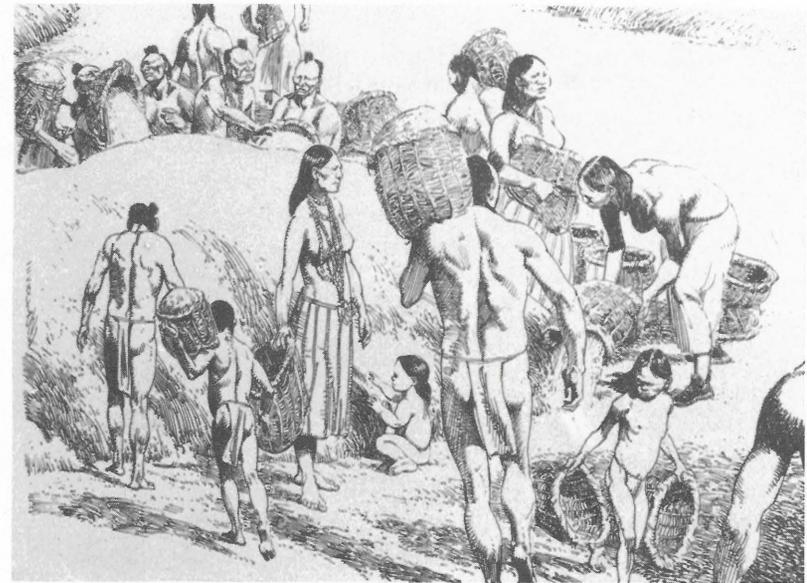
*Hopewell Culture National Historical Park was established to protect the prehistoric remains of a dynamic social and ceremonial phenomenon that flourished in the woodlands of eastern North America long before Europeans first landed on this continent.*

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE HOPEWELL CULTURE

The Hopewell culture developed in southern and central Ohio between 200 B.C. and 500 A.D. The term Hopewell describes a broad network of economic, political, and spiritual beliefs and practices among different Native American groups over a large portion of the Eastern United States. The culture is characterized by the construction of enclosures made of earthen walls, often built in geometric patterns and mounds of various shapes. The culture is known for a network of contacts with other groups, which stretched from the Gulf of Mexico into central Canada and from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains. This network brought materials such as mica, shark's teeth, obsidian, copper, and shells to Ohio. Sometimes large amounts of these materials were brought back in journeys that may have been a "quest" with spiritual purposes.

Visible remnants of Hopewell culture are concentrated in the Scioto River valley near present-day Chillicothe, Ohio. The most striking Hopewell sites contain earthworks in the form of circles, squares, and other geometric shapes. Many of these sites were built to a monumental scale, with earthen walls up to 12 feet high outlining geometric figures more than 1,000 feet across. Conical and loaf-shaped earthen mounds up to 30 feet high are often found in association with the geometric earthworks.

Hopewellian people left no known written records. Archeological evidence and knowledge of other Native American cultures suggest that these mound and earthwork complexes may have been used for a variety of social, economic, and ceremonial purposes. Elaborate copper images of birds and bears, stone carvings of frogs, squirrels, ravens, and other birds and animals were under the mounds along with mica images of the human figure. The raw



materials were traded or obtained from distant places, such as copper from the northern Great Lakes area, mica from the southern Appalachians, stone from the Knife River area of the western Great Plains, obsidian from the northern Rocky Mountains, and mollusks from the Gulf of Mexico and south Atlantic.

The Hopewell culture is significant beyond its artifacts and earthworks. It represents an important cultural development. Their years were a critical period in development of agricultural lifeways that sustained later populations. It is clear they had a stable society, capable of major efforts to build earthworks, as well as establishing their network of contacts with other peoples. Yet by 500 A.D. their way of life had disappeared, changed to meet new conditions and ideas.

Following the decline of the Hopewell culture, other groups such as the Intrusive Mound culture, the Cole culture, and the Fort Ancient peoples built small villages in this area and reused Hopewell sites. During the historic period, Native American hunting parties continued to seek game in this area, but many of the tribes were dispersed by warfare and pressure from Euroamerican settlers.

When the first Europeans began to explore the river valleys of the Midwest, they were awed by the thousands of mounds and earthworks they found spread across the landscape. Today few of these sites remain intact. Early settlers curious about the mounds thought nothing of digging in them. Others thought of them only as nuisances to be plowed flat to make farming easier. Most of the mounds and earthworks described and illustrated by early antiquarians and archeologists have since disappeared. Some were lost beneath roads and buildings as towns and cities expanded. Looters destroyed others while seeking artifacts to sell to collectors and museums. Early investigations also took their toll, as techniques were often crude compared to current methods.

Today, agriculture and urban development, looting, legal collecting, and vandalism threaten remaining Hopewell sites. If steps are not taken to protect them, the last remnants of the Hopewell culture will be lost to us and our children. This plan is based on the need to protect and preserve these remnants

### **BASIS FOR THE PLAN**

The planning process is a systematic approach that uses the park's purpose and significance and visions for the future of the park as a foundation for its plan.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PARK**

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- Preserve, protect, and interpret the remnants of a group of once extensive archeological resources that might be lost if not protected, including mounds and earthworks, artifacts, the archeological context, the cultural landscape, and ethnographic information.
- Promote cultural resource stewardship and understanding of the importance of the resources to present and future generations.
- Promote, coordinate, conduct, and synthesize anthropological research that focuses on the major questions about the Hopewell culture.
- Educate the public about the Hopewell peoples' daily lives, contributions, perceived values, and dealings with other peoples and the environment around them.
- Understand past societies and foster an appreciation of past, present, and future societies.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK**

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- It is the only federal area that preserves, protects, and interprets remnants of the Hopewell culture, a culture (including various regional settlement patterns, rituals, and trade routes) that was distinctive and widespread for over 700 years.
- The park and the related sites represent some of the most elaborate of the Hopewell culture, evidenced by the large tripartite geometric enclosures that are unique to the Scioto River area, as well as the biggest and densest concentrations of Hopewellian earthworks in the country.

- Park units were among the first places in North America where the practice of scientific archeology was used and described in scientific publications.
- The park contains the type-site for the culture; that is, the site where the Hopewell culture was first defined by archeologists.
- It contains Hopewell resources, including nonmound resources, with tremendous potential for directed research and further investigation to answer many questions about the Hopewell culture.
- It preserves some of the general physical environment in which the Hopewell people lived, worked, and played.
- It preserves some of the most spectacular Hopewellian achievements — the biggest conjoined mound (Hopewell Mound Group); largest concentration of mounds within an enclosure (Mound City Group); and one of two known extant octagonal structures (High Bank Works) — and a substantial collection of artifacts.
- The park provides the potential for new knowledge about the Hopewell peoples and their relationship with the environment and other peoples, which will be valuable to researchers in the future.

#### **VISION FOR THE PARK**

- The park educates the public about the daily lives, contributions, perceived values, and interactions of the Hopewell peoples with other peoples and the environment around them.

- The significant sites in the park and related sites are protected and preserved by various means, and the local community feels a sense of stewardship for these and other sites.
- The different characteristics of the sites guide how the sites are used, whether for visitor use, interpretation, limited visitor use, research, or preservation.
- The park cooperates with others for stewardship, research, management, interpretation, transportation, and facility development for sites within and outside the park boundaries.
- Intrusions have been removed and potential new intrusions or impacts are actively resisted by the park and partners.
- The park conducts and serves as a focus for research on Hopewell culture, attracting scholars from around the world.
- The visitor leaves the park and related sites with a greater knowledge about the Hopewell culture, an understanding the relationship between the sites, an admiration of the Hopewell accomplishments, and a cognizance of the need to preserve them.
- Artifacts are available for study, education, and display.
- The visitor has the opportunity to experience different sites in a variety of ways and their interest is stimulated in seeing other associated sites.

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretive themes are those ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to a park's purpose, identity, and visitor experience. Every visitor should have access to those ideas, concepts, and stories. Themes provide the framework for a park's interpretive program.

### ■ **Who Were the Hopewell?**

The term "Hopewell" describes a broad interregional network — concentrated in what is now southern Ohio — of economic and political contacts, beliefs, and cultural traits among different Native American groups from approximately 200 B.C. to 500 A.D.

### ■ **Artistry and Earthworks**

Many Hopewell groups seem to have maintained a complex social order, and are known today mostly for their earthworks and artistic achievements. Objects made often of exotic materials were frequently interred with the dead in burial mounds, such as those at the Mound City Group and the Hopewell Mound Group Units.

### ■ **Daily Life of the Hopewell**

Most Hopewell societies apparently lived in small villages, scattered hamlets, or farmsteads that were frequently located on or near floodplains; they made their living through gathering wild plants, hunting, fishing, and horticulture (chiefly native seed-bearing annuals such as goosefoot, knotweed, marsh elder, sunflower, and squash; and maize as a minor crop in later years).

### ■ **The Past: How Do We Know?**

We know relatively little about the Hopewell society; most of what we are able to surmise or infer comes from the interpretation of physical remains. Archeology is the study of past cultures based on the material remains resulting from the activities and behaviors fostered by each culture and available for recovery. Additional perspectives and insight come through oral traditions, beliefs, and world views of Native American groups.

### ■ **Preserving Rights, Remnants, and Resources**

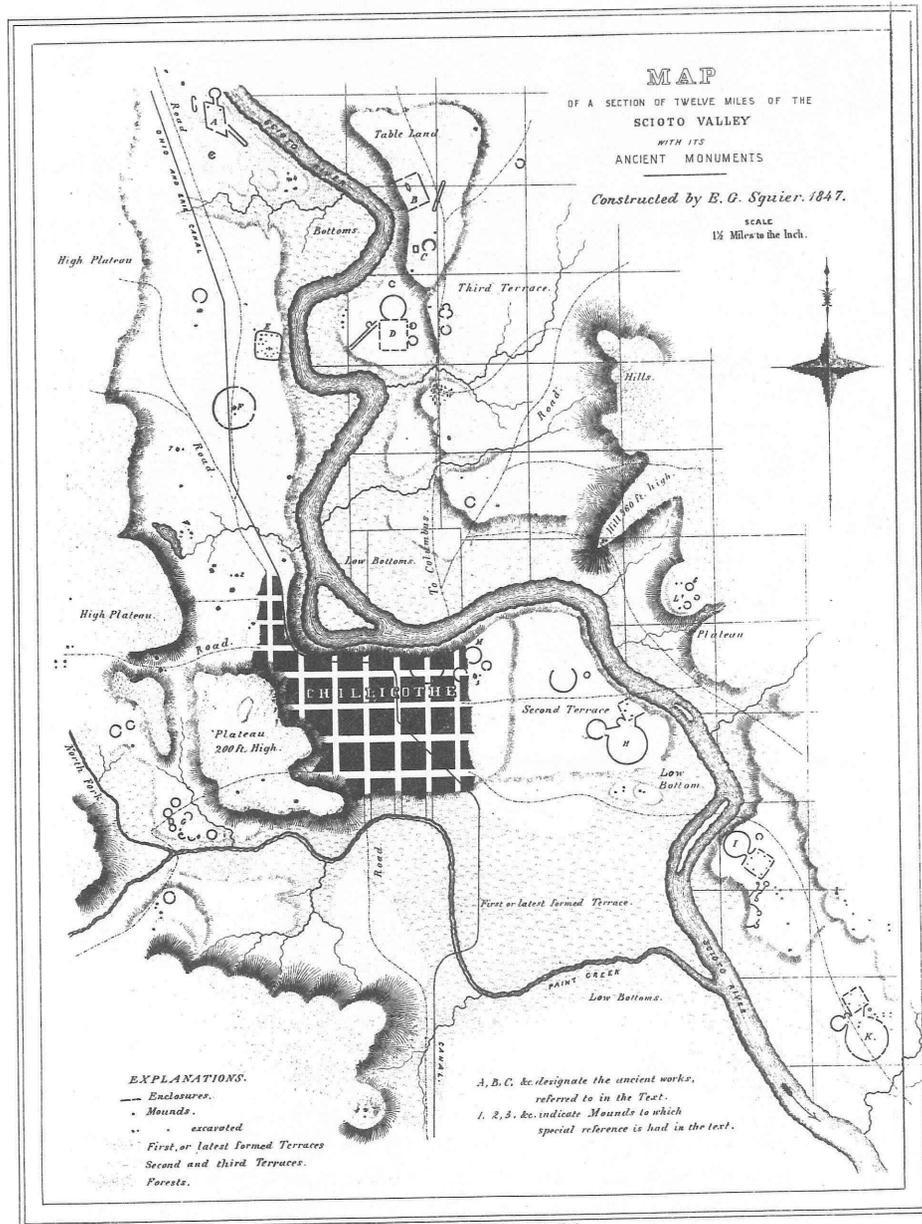
Archeological resources such as mounds and artifacts have been affected by developments such as the Ohio-Erie Canal, Camp Sherman, roads, railroads, agriculture, industry, and both professional archeology and private collecting and pot hunting. The resources continue to be threatened, and if not preserved soon, will be lost forever.

### ■ **Early Archeology and Speculation**

Mounds have long fascinated scholars, residents, and travelers; the systematic study of Hopewell and other "mound-building cultures" began in the 19th century and was an impetus to the development of American archeology and scholarship.

### ■ **Camp Sherman**

Camp Sherman was a temporary World War I Army training camp, portions of which were built over the site of the Mound City Group.



1848 Squier and Davis map of the Scioto River valley.



## **ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

A major part of planning is determining the issues and concerns that should be addressed. Information was gathered through discussions with park staff, state and local governments, and citizens; consultations with tribes; and from newsletter comments. The following issues were identified and are addressed in this *General Management Plan*.

### **RESOURCE TREATMENT**

Some of the earthen constructions have deteriorated, are partially destroyed, or have been razed; some still have integrity. What treatments are appropriate to preserve resources while presenting a visually accurate interpretation of Hopewell society and providing the most suitable visitor experience for each unit?

### **RESOURCE PROTECTION**

The park and many of its resources are threatened by suburban growth, mineral extraction, plowing, soil erosion, illegal collecting, and other forms of degradation. Each unit is isolated from the others posing challenges to resource protection. Important archeological resources are being degraded. Archeological research and collections space and facilities are inadequate.

### **RESEARCH AND ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

Lack of funding and other problems have resulted in a lack of comprehensive research on the Hopewell peoples. Many researchers have contributed to the body of knowledge

regarding the Hopewell, but coordinated research efforts are needed.

#### **HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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Site features associated with Euroamerican settlement at all park units are poorly documented. These historic features and site components require inventory and evaluation of their National Register of Historic Places status.

#### **UNIT USE**

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Each unit has a specific character, has different resource concerns, and lends itself to a particular interpretive approach. What is the appropriate visitor experience opportunity for each unit?

#### **UNIT DEVELOPMENT**

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Facility development based on the desired visitor experience and resource protection for all units must be determined.

#### **UNIT LINKAGE**

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There are five distinct units to the park, located several miles apart. These sites are not yet linked interpretively, administratively, and physically.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

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The interpretive program has not been substantially updated to incorporate new information and the opportunities presented by the addition of new and diverse sites. Native American concerns are not adequately considered. The level of public awareness of the park and the need for protection of park resources may be heightened.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

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The park is actively involved in a variety of partnerships that further the purposes of the park. With the addition of new sites, it is important that partnerships continue to realize the potential of the park while benefitting the community (i.e., trails, tourism, cooperative management, interpretation).

#### **BOUNDARIES**

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Park boundaries may not be sufficient to ensure adequate protection of resources. The current sites do not adequately represent the full range and content of Hopewellian life.

#### **FISCAL CONSTRAINTS**

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Sufficient funding for improvement of resource protection, interpretation, collections storage, cultural resource management, and research has been lacking.

## PARK ENVIRONMENT

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### THE UNITS

#### ① Mound City Group Unit

**Location.** Mound City Group lies northwest of Chillicothe on the west side of the Scioto River, and is accessed from Ohio State Route 104 (S.R. 104), about 1.5 miles north of U.S. 35.

**Description.** This 120-acre area consists of developed visitor facilities, a mowed clearing containing the mounds, hardwood forest, riparian vegetation along the river, and agricultural land. The site is fairly flat, and wooded areas on the north, east, and south visually enclose the earthworks.

**Cultural Resources.** A 13-acre rectangular earth enclosure with at least 23 mounds. The height of the earth walls of the enclosure is about 3 to 4 feet, with an entrance or gateway on both the east and west sides. All the mounds are dome shaped except for one that is elliptical. The largest mound of the group was described by early explorers as 17.5 feet high and 90 feet in diameter. There are two additional mounds just outside the enclosure. All the walls and mounds have been reconstructed and are clearly visible. The Mound City Group is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ohio-Erie canal, built in the 1830s, ran 0.25 mile west of the Mound City Group. Lock No. 35 from the canal was dissembled in the 1930s, and the stones have been placed along the nature trail. During World War I the Mound City Group site was occupied by a military training center known as Camp Sherman. In the early 1920s after Camp Sherman was razed, the Ohio Historical Society excavated the site and began reconstruction of the Hopewell earthworks and mounds.

**Function.** Mound City Group, the only unit currently open to the public, is the central visitor orientation point for the other units. Facilities include a visitor center, a library, several administrative buildings, interpretive wayside exhibits (some with audio stations), and a nature trail. Selected items from the many Hopewellian artifacts excavated at the Mound City Group are on display in the visitor center.

The park headquarters is at the Mound City Group. Most of the administrative offices are in a structure that once served as housing for the park superintendent. A new maintenance

building and the structure housing the park's collections are also nearby.

**Surrounding Land Uses.** *South:* Chillicothe Correctional Institution; *west:* Ross Correctional Institution; *north:* prison-owned land in agricultural production; *east:* Scioto River.

## ② Hopeton Earthworks Unit

**Location.** The site is about 1 mile east of the Mound City Group unit on a terrace east of the Scioto River. It is not directly accessible from the Mound City Group Unit; access to Hopeton Earthworks is off Business Route 23, S.R. 159, about 2 miles north of U.S. 35.

**Description.** The site is fairly flat and open, but with some elevation gain eastward from the river. There is an early growth hardwood forest and a black walnut orchard near an intermittent creek at the southeast corner of the site. Most of the land is in agricultural production. There is one private residence and a gravel mining operation adjacent to the site. The gravel mining has stripped much of the area west of the principal earthworks, and the mining operation will continue until the gravel deposit has been exhausted.

**Cultural Resources.** Hopewell earthwork remnants on this 292-acre site consist of a square about 900 feet on a side joined on its north side to a circle with a diameter of about 1,050 feet. Smaller circular structures also join the square at various points, and linear parallel earthworks extend westward toward the river for about 2,400 feet from the northwest corner of the square. A description from 1846 indicates that the walls were 50 feet wide at the base. At that time the walls enclosing the square were 12 feet high. Continued cultivation since then has reduced the earthworks to less than 5 feet in

height in most places. Most of them are difficult for the untrained person to see. The small circles and parallel walls are no longer visible. The entire unit is a national historic landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Function.** The unit is owned and administered by the National Park Service, which has acquired most of the available land inside the boundaries. There is no regular visitor use of the area because of the lack of facilities and safety issues associated with a gravel mining operation immediately adjacent to the earthworks.

Management is primarily aimed at preserving the remaining archeological resources, most of which are underground. There is potential for discovery of Hopewell settlement sites on adjacent land, so the park is working with the gravel company to conduct archeological investigations in the area proposed for gravel extraction. Indications of prehistoric horticulture and habitation were discovered in summer 1995.

**Surrounding Land Uses.** *South:* multifamily housing and agriculture; *west, southwest, and north:* Scioto River; *east:* Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

## ③ Hopewell Mound Group Unit

**Location.** The site lies about 5 miles southwest of Mound City Group on the North Fork of Paint Creek. It is accessed from Sulphur Lick Road, which crosses through on the south.

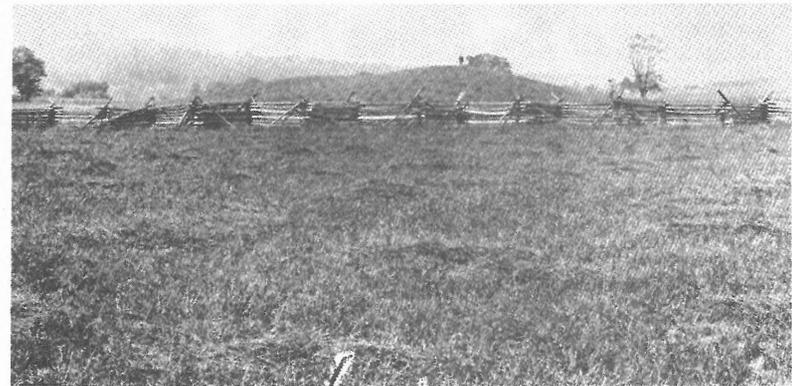
**Description.** There are two abandoned railroad beds south of and parallel to Sulphur Lick Road. Ross County Park District owns much of the right-of-way of the northern line between the Hopewell Mound Group Unit and the town of Frankfort and plans to convert it into a trail. There are two

private residences and outbuildings on the site. The site slopes gently upward from south to north and rises abruptly into forested hills along the northern boundary. The Hopewell Mound Group Unit has the widest variety of plants of the five sites. Hills and vegetation on the north and the hills across the river provide a feeling of enclosure, which is reinforced by trees along Sulphur Lick Creek and along the western boundary.

**Cultural Resources.** The 300-acre Hopewell Mound Group unit is the type site for the Hopewell culture. Early archeologists named the site for its owner, Capt. Mordecai C. Hopewell. The general shape of the Hopewell Mound Group is a parallelogram 1,800 feet long on the east and west sides and 2,800 feet long on the north and south. Archeologists estimated that the walls were originally 35 feet wide at the base, and enclose an area of 111 acres. A smaller square enclosure with sides 850 feet long is connected to the east side of the parallelogram. Remnants of the east, west, and north walls are visible. Two earthwork features are located within the parallelogram, one circular and one D-shaped. Three of the seven mounds in the D-shaped enclosure are joined. Their original size is estimated to be 500 feet long, 180 feet wide, and 30 feet tall. This is the largest known mound constructed by the Hopewell culture, and a remnant of it is visible today. Although it has been extensively excavated in the past, the site still offers considerable potential for expanding knowledge about the Hopewell culture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Function.** The Hopewell Mound Group is not currently accessible to visitors. It is owned and managed by the Archeological Conservancy and five other owners and is authorized for acquisition under the 1992 legislation.

**Surrounding Land Uses.** *South:* agricultural except for private residence and three storage structures; *north and west:* mixture of hay fields and wooded areas, with low residential density (new subdivision development will add several hundred residences to this area in the near future); *east:* some new single-family residential development along Anderson Station Road.



Mound 25 at the Hopewell Mound Group as seen by Warren K. Moorehead in 1891. Photo #9. Field Museum of Natural History.

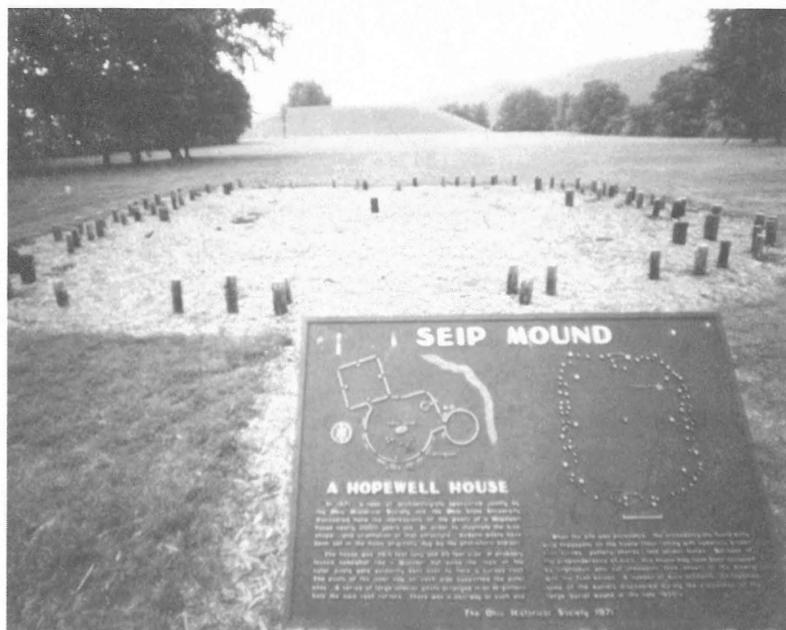
#### ④ Seip Earthworks Unit

**Location.** The site is about 17 miles southwest of Mound City Group and 2 miles east of the town of Bainbridge on U.S. 50.

**Description.** The site is 236 acres in size. There is an Ohio Department of Transportation rest area along U.S. 50 that contains a small picnic area and restrooms. The central third of the unit is owned and managed by the Ohio Historical Society, and includes an interpretive kiosk, wayside exhibits

that interpret workshop foundations, and a reconstructed mound. The surrounding parcels are privately owned.

**Cultural Resources.** The large earthworks complex contains a low embankment forming a small circle and an irregular circle and a square, all connected and enclosing about 121 acres. Within the enclosure is a large elliptical mound, three smaller conjoined mounds, several small mounds, and several workshop outlines found through excavations. It is estimated that the largest mound was originally 240 feet long, 160 feet wide, and 30 feet high. A reconstructed mound and a portion of reconstructed wall are visible, and a portion of original wall is visible near Dill Road. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**Function.** The site is open for visitation. Although the site has been heavily excavated in the past, it offers considerable research potential. It is authorized for acquisition under the 1992 legislation, and land not currently owned by the Ohio Historical Society and the Paint Valley School District will be acquired by the National Park Service when funds become available.

**Surrounding Land Uses.** *South:* Paint Creek and agricultural; *west:* residential and agricultural; *north:* Highway 50 and agricultural; *east:* school and agricultural.

### ⑤ High Bank Works Unit

**Location.** The site lies about 8 miles south of the Mound City Group Unit on a terrace above the Scioto River. It is accessed from U.S. 50 near the junction with U.S. 35.

**The Site.** Three different sets of railroad tracks traverse the area, and agricultural land and three private residences occupy the 197-acre site.

**Cultural Resources.** At the time the site was recorded in 1848, it contained a circle and an octagon, each measuring just over 1,000 feet in diameter. On the interior of the octagon were eight small mounds that correspond to the eight intersecting points of the outer walls. Six of the intersecting points form gateways, and one to the north forms an entrance into the large circle. The large circular earthwork has one gateway to the east and is opposite a smaller circular enclosure 250 feet in diameter.

Beyond the southernmost point of the octagon there were two more small circular enclosures with a single gateway, each 300 feet in diameter. They were connected to the larger

forms by two nearly parallel embankments extending southwest for almost 2,000 feet. Three small conjoined enclosures were located at the far end of the parallel embankments.

Cultivation, erosion, and flooding have reduced many of the surface features, but the walls are relatively intact and portions of the octagon are visible and many subsurface resources remain. This unit offers outstanding potential for research. The area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Function.** The site is not accessible to visitors. It is currently owned and managed by the Archeological Conservancy and four private owners. It is authorized for purchase under the 1992 legislation and will be acquired when funds become available. A survey to determine the final acquisition boundaries will be conducted once questions of access are resolved. Appropriate boundaries must be established as soon as possible.

**Surrounding Land Uses.** Vacant or agricultural except on the east is U.S. 35 and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and on the west is one private residence.

## COLLECTIONS

Over the years the Hopewell artifacts have been a source of great interest to archeologists. The first major collection of artifacts from the Hopewell sites was gathered in the 1840s during Squier and Davis' investigations. This collection is now in the London British Museum. Past efforts to return these artifacts to the park have been unproductive. The bulk of the Hopewell Mound Group artifacts are in the Field Museum in Chicago. The Ohio Historical Society has the Seip Earthworks collections and material from the Hopewell

Mound Group. In recent years Hopewell artifacts have been the focus of new studies of the Mound City Group and the Hopewell culture in general.

The park's collection contains approximately 85,000 objects, most of which are Ohio Hopewell. The park curates an additional 5,000 historical, archival, and natural objects. The collection is expanding rapidly as a result of archeological studies and may increase even more with expected donations of several large private collections. The limited storage and work space are major concerns. Safety is also a concern because the collections are located in the basement room of a 50-year-old wood structure, which has been upgraded to provide monitoring equipment and smoke detection, but which is still vulnerable both to fire and floods. The visitor center exhibits need to improve artifact condition and security.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Although protection and preservation of cultural and archeological resources were the primary reasons for the park's establishment, there are also important natural resources. It is not possible to accurately interpret and understand the prehistoric Hopewell culture without viewing it in the context of the natural environment. All five sites are sited along rivers and creeks, with a typical riparian landscape. All of the sites have been logged and farmed. Hopewell Mound Group is the only site with substantial woodlands; the remaining units consist mostly of farmlands. A variety of small animals and birds inhabit the sites. There are no known threatened or endangered species within the sites.

## **VISITOR USE**

The Mound City Group Unit hosted approximately 33,800 visitors in 1993 and over 37,000 visitors in 1994. Visitor use at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park has been relatively stable in the decade prior to 1993. In 1994 the park's peak season included the months of May through October when 79% of all visitor use occurred. During the months of October-November and April-May school groups make up the bulk of the visitors at the Mound City Group. During December, January, and February the park received less than 5% of the total recreational use for the year.

In January 1994 the park had less than 200 visitors for the entire month, averaging just over six recreation visits per day. During the peak month of July 1994, the park averaged 221 recreation visits per day.

Park staff estimate that 80% of the use of the park is due to visitors from the local and regional areas. Approximately 20% of visitors are from outside Ohio. The average length-of-stay at the park is 45 minutes. Tour groups tend to stay longer.

Activities offered at the Mound City Group Unit of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park are visiting the visitor center with its displays of Hopewell objects and introductory video and touring the Hopewell burial mounds in the 13-acre earthen enclosure. There is also a short interpretive trail and picnic facilities. The visitor center has been remodeled and offers a small museum, an auditorium seating about 50 people, and a book sales area.

## **PARK OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

Currently all facilities and management functions are located at the Mound City Group unit. The functions include maintenance, located in a new structure, administration located in an older residential structure, visitor services and resource management. The visitor center serves as the focal point for visitors, and provides information for their visit. The park offers extensive onsite and offsite educational programs, concentrating on preservation, the Hopewell culture, and the value of archeological resources.

The park actively manages cultural resources at the Mound City Group and Hopeton Earthworks Units. Activities include trail maintenance, mowing, general maintenance, ranger patrols and curation of artifacts. Park staff makes periodic visits to the Hopewell Mound Group and Hopeton Earthworks Units to monitor resource conditions and potential threats, and also works closely with the owners of the sites. As required by legislation, the National Park Service is conducting archeological surveys to define the appropriate boundaries for the units.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The park has long depended on partnerships with other governmental agencies, private organizations and individuals. Its relationships with Ross Correctional Institution, Chillicothe Correctional Institution, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center have been important to providing visitor and resource protection, resource management and safe and well-maintained facilities. The park works with several other organizations and institutions to interpret archeological resources, protect resources, and conduct research.

For example, the Archeological Conservancy, a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of archeological resources, has assisted the park's acquisition program by acquiring portions of Hopewell Mound Group and High Bank Works. The National Parks and Conservation Association has been active in support of park land acquisition and is working with the park to form a friends group.

The park also depends on a number of professional archeologists for research, planning, political support and for assistance to visitor programs. The park has worked with the Ohio Historical Society in planning, tourism, preservation, interpretation and research. Other partners include the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Archeological Council, and Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.

The park considers the involvement of Native American tribes very important to long-term management, especially for resource preservation and interpretation. A number of tribes including the Loyal Shawnee, Eastern Shawnee, Absentee-Shawnee, Miami, Wyandotte, Eastern Delaware and Western Delaware have been involved in the planning effort and have offered suggestions and guidance.

The park also works with many local partners, including Ross-Chillicothe Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Chillicothe-Ross Chamber of Commerce, Ross County Park District, City of Chillicothe, Adena State Memorial, Scioto Society, the Pumphouse Art Gallery, the Friends of Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, the Ross County Historical Society, and the Tri-County Triangle Trails.

## THE PLAN

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### INTRODUCTION

The plan for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park integrates the desired visitor experience, resource protection, and research potential of the park into a comprehensive program for park management. To meet visitor use potential, the park must open more sites to the public and provide a comprehensive interpretive program. This will provide visitors with a range of experiences and a much better understanding of the culture.

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park will become an international center for the interpretation, study, and resource preservation of the Hopewell culture. Activities will focus on preservation with an emphasis on interpretation and research. The park will not only acquire the sites within the boundary but also acquire adjacent land or easements for necessary resource protection. Partnerships will protect other related sites outside the authorized boundaries of the park.

A central visitor center at the Mound City Group will provide orientation and tell the overall Hopewell story through interpretive media and personal contacts. The other sites will be used and interpreted according to their characteristics, optimizing the visitor experience, research potential, and resource protection. Expanded collection and research facilities will be provided at Mound City Group. The comprehensive interpretive program will be based on new information resulting from the expanded research program.

Cooperation with and funding from nonfederal sources will be essential to the success of this plan. The National Park Service will take the lead in forming partnerships to achieve common goals. The plan will be implemented in phases.



## **INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR USE**

Choices of sites for interpretation and visitor use have been based on a number of factors, including condition and vulnerability to damage, visibility and accessibility for visitors, significance to the interpretive themes defined for the park, and interest to the public.

The Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks Units will receive significant visitation. Visitation to the Hopeton Earthworks and High Bank Works Units will be restricted to research, viewing from overlooks, and to guided tours or other special programs. These sites are not as well suited for visitors because of safety and access concerns, but they offer excellent potential for research. Visitors will arrive at the sites by car, bike, foot, canoe, or shuttle bus.

### **Visitor Experience**

Visitors will be able to learn the comprehensive park story and become more interested in the culture. Visitors may experience park resources by walking around the sites, viewing them from an overlook, hiking an interpretive trail, reading waysides and brochures, joining an interpretive program, seeing outlined or partially restored earthworks to get an idea of their original size and extent, watching interpretive demonstrations, and imagining what the original sites looked like.

Most visitors will start at the Mound City Group visitor center and use a variety of media to receive an overview of the park story and orientation to other sites. In-depth interpretation will be provided here as well. Visitors will be able to view the park collections and other collections using a computer, tour

the park collections, and see actual artifacts. The exhibits will be greatly expanded, allowing more of the extensive park collection to be viewed. Visitors will gain an understanding of the daily lives and practices of the Hopewell peoples. Visitors will also directly experience archeology by observing and participating in activities. The other sites open to the public will complement and expand on the visitor center interpretive experience.

### **Visitor Management**

Visitor center staff and media will orient visitors to all the sites and educate them on the vulnerability of the sites. Visitors will be directed to sites and areas that best accommodate use. Interpretive messages will help preserve and protect sites by helping visitors understand and appreciate the importance of these resources. Interpretation will also help build respect for the sites' perceived spiritual values.

Facilities will be designed, located, and managed to minimize impacts on resources and to maximize the quality of the visitor experience. Visitor activities in the mound areas will be focused on opportunities to see them in their context and within the cultural landscape. Visitors will only be encouraged to enter the earthwork enclosures at specific points, with their movements being directed by trails, vegetation, and other design elements. Visitors will not be allowed to climb on the mounds. There are no known "burial sites" distinct from the mounds and earthworks. Resource protection and modern Native American concerns have been addressed by the prohibition against climbing on the mounds and the use of trails or paths to direct visitors in and around the earthworks.

Only the development necessary to properly guide visitors and protect resources will be allowed, and facilities such as

restrooms and trash receptacles will be out of sight of the earthworks. Such separation of activity areas from the mounds will focus visitors on the resources and their context, which will help increase appreciation and respect for the resources.

The park and the tourism industry will cooperate to promote the park. The park will work cooperatively with transportation and law enforcement agencies to provide access to the sites and protect the resources.



### **Interpretive Program**

A comprehensive story of the Hopewell — including all interpretive themes and incorporating latest research — will be told in the visitor center. The other sites will supplement the visitor center interpretation. Some repetition might be

required since some visitors will arrive first at the Seip Earthworks or the Hopewell Mound Group Unit. A variety of interpretive media will convey the complexity of the park story and enable diverse visitors to mentally reconstruct the original environment and appreciate the significance of the park story. Some interpretive media and programs will be changeable to accommodate new research findings.

In addition to the interpretive themes presented in the “Context for the Plan” section, other aspects of the story will include:

- continental, regional, and local perspectives of the Hopewell culture
- contemporary Native American perspectives
- the Hopewell story related to an international time line including all Woodland peoples
- the history and current practice of archeology, including the nature of scientific evidence
- integrated and dynamic relationships among natural and cultural resources
- the importance of stewardship, preservation, and resource protection
- the evolution of the cultural landscape
- the links between all the ancient features shown on the Squier and Davis survey for the Chillicothe and Paint Creek areas as a means of placing the park units in their wider context for the Hopewell period

The interpretive program will include

- outreach programs
- multiple approaches to learning styles in designing media and telling the story
- video conferencing with other archeological sites to see and exchange work in progress
- visual and conducted tour access to laboratories and ongoing archeological investigations
- library and media access and electronic links to other collections
- direct participation in research wherever feasible

The park will be managed to comply with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and related NPS policies. In carrying out this mandate, all park programs will reflect informed awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect for cultural values and religious beliefs of Native Americans.

### **CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The goal is to identify, evaluate, preserve, interpret, and protect significant cultural properties, including archeological sites and cultural landscapes. The plan identifies cultural resource concerns and the steps needed to address them. While natural resource considerations will be taken into account when evaluating cultural resources needs, protection of the cultural environment will be given the highest priority.



### **Research**

The research program will be designed around the information essential to further the purpose and significance of the park and to preserve resources for future education and enjoyment. The park will serve as the focal point where integrated and comprehensive information will be readily available and where scientists can locate and exchange information and develop new ideas about the culture. A research design will guide research direction and scope. The comprehensive interpretation program will be based on the results of field and academic research. Research objectives will be defined to develop a program to attract research interest. Public education will be a vital component of the research program.

A stable annual budget and permanent staff devoted to cultural resource management and research will be essential to accomplishing research goals and coordinating the research efforts of the partners.

Additional research will allow the park to serve as a focal point for the orderly and scholarly collection, analysis, and dissemination of information relating to the Hopewell culture. In cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies, preservation groups, and Native American tribes, the park can provide leadership, direction, and assistance for a broad interdisciplinary research program. Exchange of scientific information will be a primary goal.

### **Resource Protection**

Cultural resources are nonrenewable, and degradation is unacceptable. But it is clear that changes will take place over time and that some resource deterioration is inevitable. For this reason, a program will be developed to systematically monitor resources in the different units. Resources vulnerable to natural processes, looting, vandalism, and visitor use will be identified.

The park will develop criteria for impact assessment and define unacceptable levels of change and key indicators of potential damage before adverse impacts occur. A computerized database will be used to analyze and provide baseline information so that unacceptable changes in resource condition can be identified and protective measures can be initiated promptly.

Park managers will determine the best combination of facility design, operations, maintenance, direction of visitor activities, law enforcement, and educational programs for protecting resources. The park will modify programs to address ongoing and changing visitor use patterns and resource management needs if damage becomes evident.

**Park Units.** Acquisition of High Bank Works and Hopewell Mound Group Units, additional acreage at Hopeton

Earthworks Unit, and the non-Ohio Historical Society and nonschool lands at Seip Earthworks Unit are crucial to protection of these sites. Sensitive design, operation, and maintenance of facilities will demonstrate care and concern to the visitor. Interpretive programs and materials, law enforcement patrols, and regular maintenance all convey the message that the area should be treated with respect.

Cooperative efforts with adjacent landowners, neighborhood watch programs, and establishment of an NPS presence will also foster unit protection. Archeological survey data will be used to site new facilities such as parking, trails, and roads away from significant resources and to avoid adverse effects. Where sites cannot be avoided, measures to mitigate impacts on sites and features will be developed and implemented. Wherever possible, new facilities such as trails will follow existing routes to preserve the cultural landscape and prevent new disturbance of archeological resources.

**Earthwork Treatments.** Earthworks are the initial attraction for most park visitors. Treatment of the earthworks will emphasize resource preservation, restoration of selected features, and outlining features. The goal is to provide meaningful and compelling experiences for visitors. It is important that visitors understand the original extent, appearance, and significance of the earthworks, and the roles they may have played in Hopewell life.

Only one wall segment at the Hopewell Mound Group Unit provides an opportunity for visitors to see original fabric that resembles its prehistoric condition. Restored structures at Mound City Group and Seip Earthworks allow visitors to imagine the original size of the earthworks; original appearances may have been quite different from the grassy mounds of today. Most of the structures at High Bank Works and Hopeton Earthworks have been plowed and eroded to the point of being barely discernible.

### EARTHWORK TREATMENT GOALS

- ◆ Preserve original structures, artifacts, materials, and other archeological information and research opportunities.
- ◆ Respect the heritage of the peoples of the Hopewell culture.
- ◆ Enable visitors of diverse backgrounds to experience, comprehend, appreciate, and care about the heritage of the Hopewell.
- ◆ Adhere to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation* in treatment design.
- ◆ Design treatment strategies that are suited to the characteristics of each structure, and are sustainable within projected trends for budget and staffing.

### RECOMMENDED EARTHWORK TREATMENTS

- ◆ **Maintain existing conditions and protect against further deterioration.** Activities such as no-till farming will continue. Tilling will not be allowed.
- ◆ **Correct restorations that have been shown by subsequent research to be inaccurate in location and/or appearance.** This includes the earth wall at Seip Earthworks Unit. Restoration work will be

preceded and guided by archeological investigations. Earth mounds will be accurately sized and located to restore a selected part of the landscape to the condition as described and surveyed during historic times. If adequate information exists to restore features to their prehistoric condition, this option can be pursued. Earth will be stabilized by noninvasive vegetation.

- ◆ **Restore a limited number of selected features to repair previous damage and provide for a more compelling visitor experience.** Restorations will leave existing archeological resources unaffected and will be based on the historical appearance of these features when they were first described and surveyed and based on archeological evidence. Prehistoric appearance can be restored if adequate information exists. Restoration will consist largely of placing and stabilizing clean fill to restore the historic appearance and location. A small portion of earth wall can be restored with accurate materials such as soils and cobbles. An example of a possible restoration will be a small portion of earth wall at Hopewell Mound Group that is currently not visible.
- ◆ **Outline features to enable visitors to visualize their original extent.** Methods will include contrasting vegetation and use of materials such as cobbles. Outlined features will include those structures at Hopewell Mound Group and Seip Earthworks that are currently indiscernible.



**Collections.** Museum objects and natural and cultural resource collections, study collections, archeological materials, site records, and other archival materials are included among the park resources to be preserved and protected. Appropriate and sustainable facilities will be developed for curation and storage of the park's extensive collections. Interpretive use of the collections will make them more available to the public as exhibits, through videos and slides, and by allowing the public to watch archeological research. Facility improvements will include the addition of adequate collections storage, a larger library, laboratory and equipment, a processing facility, staff and visiting researcher offices, computers, and classrooms. Collections will be managed in a manner that acknowledges through consultation the special meaning that Native Americans ascribe to artifacts found in the mounds.

**Cultural Landscape.** A cultural landscape report will be developed for the Mound City Group Unit and other park units to document landscape development from Hopewellian times through European settlement. This report will serve as a guide for management decisions and actions related to resource protection and incorporated into the park's interpretive programs.

Care will be taken to ensure that new or refurbished facilities are compatible with the overall cultural landscape. Facility design will have a common theme that reflects park values and that will be repeated in all developed areas to link the overall visual image of the units. Landscape modifications will follow recommendations in an approved cultural landscape report. Facilities such as trails and interpretive kiosks will be designed to direct the visitor's attention toward the landscape and resources and away from intrusive urban development and will be placed as far as possible from the prehistoric scene. Kiosks and waysides will be designed to appear nonobtrusive.

**Native American Consultation.** Ongoing consultation with Native Americans is a primary goal of this plan. A comprehensive American Indian consultation plan will be developed. An ethnographic overview is also needed to identify historic Native American tribes associated with this area in southern Ohio during late prehistoric/historic times and to identify traditional uses of natural resources. Future requests for traditional uses will be decided in government-to-government consultation among park managers and federally recognized tribal officials and acknowledged tribal religious leaders to ensure that no resource damage or use conflicts occur and that uses are consistent with purposes of the park.

**Cooperative Protection.** In addition to acquisition, other means of protection are needed for adjacent sites, newly identified sites, and significant sites that will not be included in the park. Threatened resources outside the legislated boundary will be protected through a variety of means using a cooperative approach with partners. Some examples follow:

- Local planning will be sought to provide protection for related and adjacent sites.
- A comprehensive public education program, including outreach activities, will be employed to instill a sense of stewardship in the community.
- Informal surveillance will be conducted by neighbors.
- Visual easements will be acquired by partners.
- Schools or civic groups will adopt units to patrol, clean up trash, and monitor damage.
- Easements can be sought by various partners to protect significant Hopewell sites outside park boundaries.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Natural resources will be more actively managed. Natural resource management will follow recommendations in an approved cultural landscape report. Detrimental nonnative plants and animals will be actively controlled and eliminated to the extent practicable. Native vegetation will be planted and encouraged. Habitat management will likely involve a fire management program. Threatened and endangered species

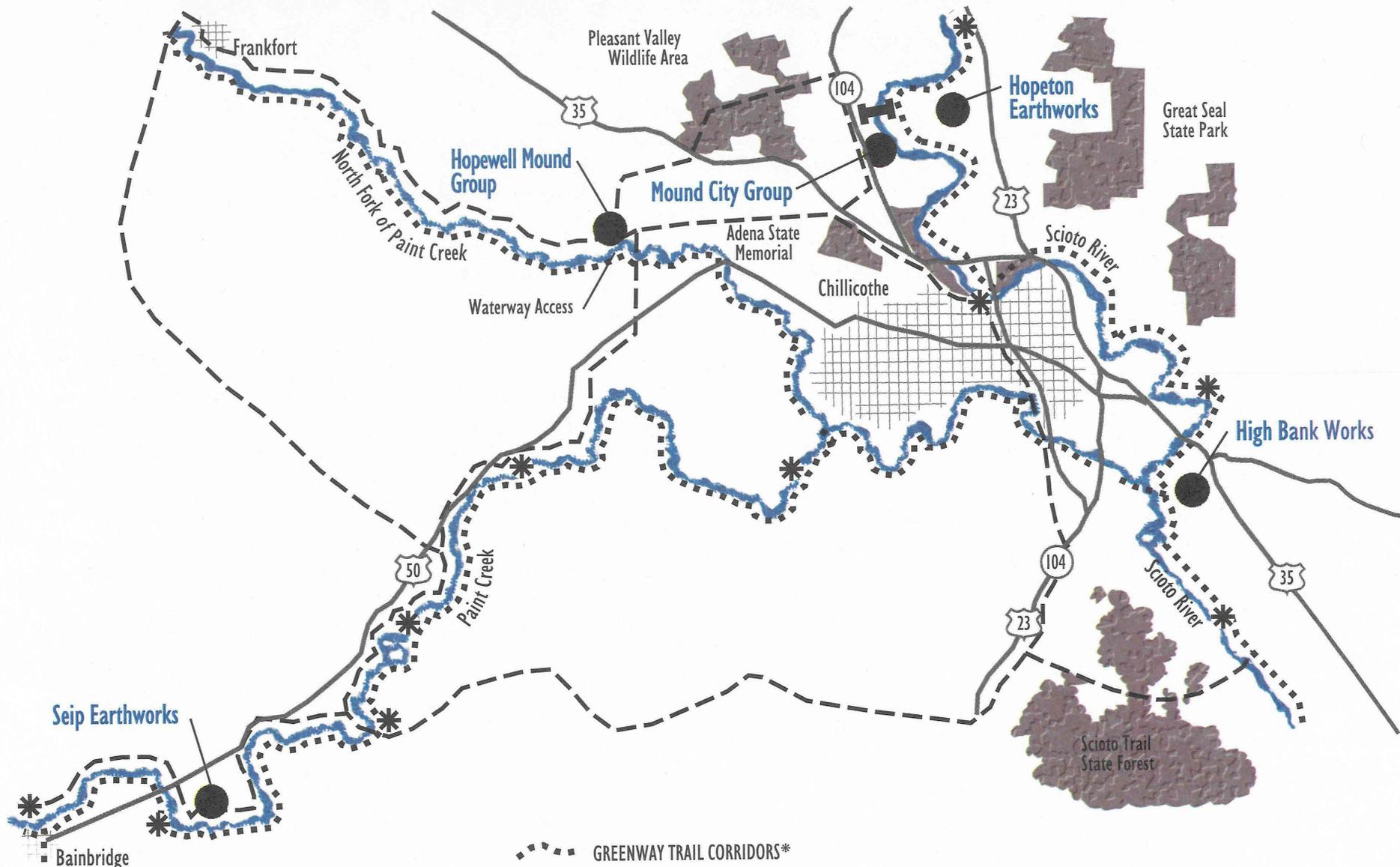
will be identified and encouraged by aggressive habitat restoration.

The earthworks will be protected by a low, mown vegetation cover or other vegetation that promotes resource protection, and integrated pest management measures will be used to control animals and insects as necessary. Woody vegetation will be cleared in the pedestrian zone up to and on the existing wall remnants. Vegetation that can threaten the structural integrity of the earthworks will be selectively thinned or removed. Interpretive messages will encourage visitor stewardship. Cooperative efforts will be pursued to enlist the assistance of surrounding residents in protecting the site.

## **LINKING THE UNITS**

A long-term goal is for the different units of the park to be linked by a network of trails and canoe routes. Linking the units will increase visitors' options for taking different modes of travel between the sites. A trail system will also broaden the range of potential visitor experiences and will provide more opportunities for visitors to imagine the natural environment and the connections between sites as the prehistoric valley residents may have experienced it. Trail linkage will enable the park sites to function more as a system than as isolated units — a system that ideally will also encompass all the community, county, state, and federal park and recreation areas and thus serve local residents and visitors alike.

The *Ross County Park District Master Plan* has proposed that the floodplains of the north and main forks of Paint Creek and the Scioto River become greenways containing pedestrian/bicycle trails. The National Park Service will



- GREENWAY TRAIL CORRIDORS\*
- BIKE PATHS, BIKE ROUTES, AND RAILBEDS CONVERTED TO TRAILS
- WATERWAY ACCESS POINTS\*
- PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

\*As proposed in 1996 Ross County Park District Master Plan

## Potential Linkages



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support the county plan by designing improvements at sites, including bike racks and directional signs near the greenway trail and constructing a trail from the greenway to the earthworks and interpretive areas. The National Park Service may also assist county efforts by advocating the trail and greenway concept when working with landowners and may provide technical assistance through the rivers and trails program.

Long-term proposals for linking the Hopewell sites include installing a pedestrian bridge across the Scioto River between Mound City Group and Hopeton Earthworks. A potential trail connection between Mound City Group and the Hopewell Mound Group might include either a bike path along S.R. 104 to the proposed Tri-County Triangle Trail along an abandoned railway or a route through the Veterans Affairs Medical Center grounds and the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area to the Tri-County Triangle Trail. The *Ross County Park District Master Plan* proposes that Hopewell Mound Group and Seip Earthworks be connected via a bike route along Maple Grove Road that links the greenways along the Main and North Forks of Paint Creek.

There is potential for canoe access at Mound City Group, Seip Earthworks, and Hopewell Mound Group. The *Ross County Park District Master Plan* proposes waterway access points a short distance upstream from the Seip Earthworks at Bainbridge and near Paint Creek State Park. Waterway access points are proposed upriver from the Hopewell Mound Group. The National Park Service will coordinate with the Ross County Park District, the city of Chillicothe, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to locate, design, and construct canoe launches and site access trails at Seip

Earthworks and Hopewell Mound Group. Trail and canoe access to Hopeton Earthworks and High Bank Works will not be an immediate priority because these sites are not proposed to be open to the general public.

Until easements are acquired along the floodplains and trails and bridges are installed, the National Park Service will rely on other means to connect the sites for visitors. A contract can be arranged with the Chillicothe Transit Company to provide scheduled bus service to the different sites from Mound City Group. At times a park ranger will provide an interpretive tour using a shuttle bus. Interim interpretive exhibits at each site will refer to the other sites and explain similarities and differences. Interpretation will take a more dynamic form and, through the use of computer or satellite technology, broadcast at the Mound City Group visitor center research or ranger-led tours in progress at other sites. Visitors traveling in cars between the sites can listen to a ranger program on cassette tape or on the radio. A brochure will also be produced that guides visitors between sites and provides information about the Hopewell culture.

Ohio Department of Transportation proposals for new or upgraded roads will improve access to some sites. For instance, turn lanes and bike trails being proposed along S.R. 104 would improve access and visitor safety at Mound City Group. The park and its partners will coordinate with the Ohio Department of Transportation to ensure that bike and pedestrian considerations are included in proposed road projects. An effective sign system will also be needed to direct visitors along roads and trails from major roads and highways.

## CARRYING CAPACITY

The concept of visitor recreation carrying capacity at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park has been integrated into visitor use planning and management in this plan by determining the types and locations of uses at each unit (management zoning) and identifying sensitive areas to be avoided by visitors.

Subsequent to this plan, the park staff will establish indicators and standards and monitor resources and visitor use according to those indicators and standards to judge whether or not carrying capacity is being exceeded in any zone. Several actions, such as those listed below, will then be taken to restore conditions to acceptable levels:

- Assign staff to be present at the site to promote stewardship.
- Require reservations to spread out visitation.

- Provide guided tours rather than allow free access.
- Close certain areas of the sites to protect resources
- Use unit management techniques (e.g., vegetation) to define public areas.
- Redesign facilities at the unit (moving parking lots, rerouting trails, etc.).
- Encourage nonpeak use via a variety of media techniques.

The expected level and types of visitor use and facility development are not expected to result in unacceptable impacts on the desired visitor experience or on the park's natural and cultural resources. For the life of this plan, park visitation is expected to be controlled by the quantity and quality of facilities as well as by management actions.



## MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones are used to define in general terms the types and levels of development, use, and preservation in different areas of the park units. Management zoning provides a guide for current and future park personnel to ensure that management activities are consistent with the

park's identified purpose, vision, and resource values. The delineation of zones is based on an inventory of natural and cultural resources and consideration of planning issues and the overall concept for each site. For each zone, levels of intensity are defined for visitor use, resource management, and development. Management zones for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park are provided in the chart below.

ZONE	LIMITED ACCESS	NATURAL RESOURCE	PEDESTRIAN	DEVELOPMENT	EDUCATIONAL SUBZONE (DEVELOPMENT ZONE)	SPECIAL USE SUBZONE
Purpose	Preserve archeological resources and cultural landscapes	Preserve and interpret natural areas	Provide opportunity to walk among the earthworks	Provide facilities for visitor use, education, orientation, and management functions	Provide outdoor classroom area, within sight or walking distance of archeological resources	Accommodate Native American religious activities
Interpretation	Research and education	Natural resources and the Hopewell culture	Using earthworks to tell the story	Multimedia indoor and outdoor interpretation	Specialized focus – hands-on activities, demonstrations	None
Type of Use	Research	Walking, jogging, observing nature	Walking, guided tours	Center of visitor use	Educational activities	Religious activities
Levels of Use	Low	Low to moderate; some solitude	High; other visitors readily apparent	Very high; little opportunity for solitude	High; but seasonal	Minimal; opportunities for solitude
Facilities	Minimal and temporary	Trails, interpretive overlooks, wayside exhibits	Trails, kiosks, wayside exhibits, signs	Visitor services, visitor center or contact station, curation, museum, maintenance, administration	Minimal; open air shelter	None
Resource Protection	High resource protection; visitation limited	Restore and maintain biological diversity	High resource protection; rangers present	Moderate resource protection; resources altered or absent. Visitor use management; high	Resources interpreted, but not a focus. High management by interpretive staff	High level of security and resource protection

## UNIT PLANS

### MOUND CITY GROUP UNIT PLAN

**Concept.** This park unit will be the most highly developed, and will function as a central point for park orientation and interpretation. The unit is intended to excite visitors about the culture and to encourage them to visit other Hopewell sites.

**Boundary.** The boundary will remain the same as legislated. If visitor and curation facilities are expanded, a long-term option may be to locate parking on the north side of the Chillicothe Correctional Institution if a long-term lease agreement can be negotiated.

If a pedestrian bridge is installed across the Scioto River, additional land or easements will need to be purchased on the east side of the river to connect to Hopeton Earthworks.

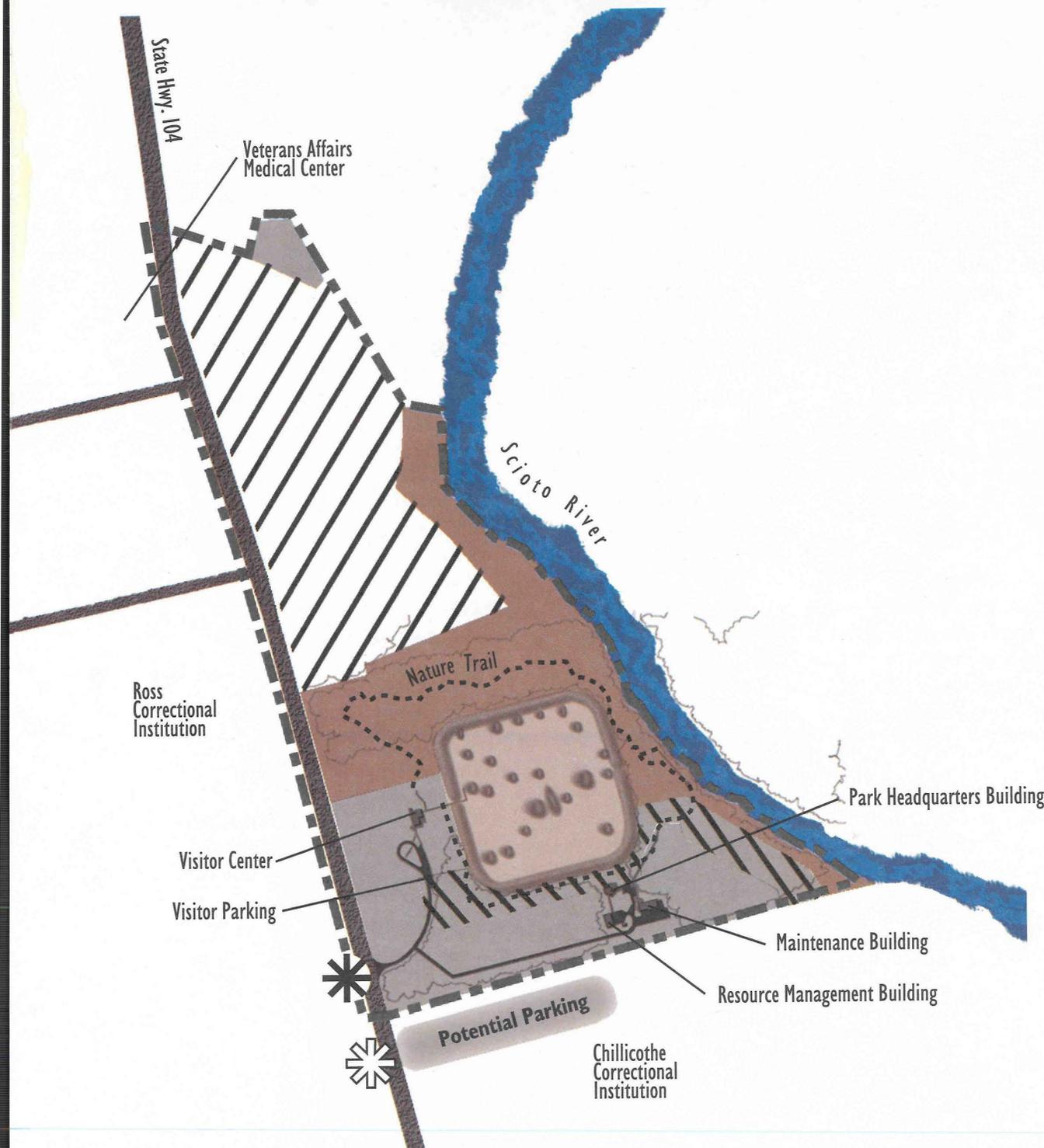
**Management Zones.** The development zone will be on the south and west sides and in the northeast corner of the site. The pedestrian zone will encompass the Mound City Group proper, and a natural resource zone will stretch along the Scioto River with a finger extending westward into the central part of the site. An education zone will form a transition between the pedestrian and development zones.

**Visitor Experience and Interpretation.** Most visitors will start at the visitor center at Mound City Group, and use a variety of media to receive an overview of the Hopewell culture and orientation to the other sites. In-depth interpretation will be provided here as well. Visitors will be able to view the park collections in formal exhibits at the visitor center.

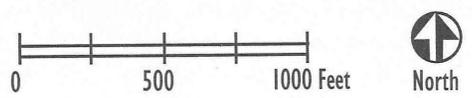
The earthworks will continue to be accessible to foot traffic. Methods of representing part of a wall or mound in abstract form might be explored to help demonstrate the size and appearance of the earthworks and the methods of construction. Interpretation will be updated and expanded to put more emphasis on context and archeological evidence. Visitors will gain an understanding of the daily lives and practices of the Hopewell. Visitors can also directly experience archeology by observing and participating in activities. The other sites generally open to the public — Seip Earthworks and Hopewell Mound Group — will complement and expand on the visitor center interpretive experience.

Schools and other groups will be able to participate in organized activities within the educational zone, and visitors may experience the natural zone by walking along a trail.

**Access and Facilities.** Access to this unit will remain in the current location or perhaps offsite, to the south. Depending on available funding, the visitor center will be either modified or additional structures built to accommodate more exhibit, research, and curatorial space. It is estimated that an additional 5,000 square feet of curatorial and educational space will be needed, and the visitor center will need 1,600 square feet of additional space for exhibits and public areas. Parking capacity will be increased and bus parking will be added. Exhibits and circulation patterns will be improved. Trails will link major activity areas and will extend into the natural zone.



-  PRIMARY ACCESS POINT
-  FUTURE ACCESS
-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  PAVED WALK
-  UNPAVED TRAIL
-  EARTHWORKS  
(ALL ARE RECONSTRUCTED)
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE
-  EDUCATION ZONE
-  NATURAL RESOURCE ZONE
-  PEDESTRIAN ZONE
-  LIMITED ACCESS ZONE



# Mound City -Site Plan



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## HOPEWELL MOUND GROUP UNIT PLAN

**Concept.** The legislated boundaries will be expanded to ensure maximum protection of archeological resources and the landscape context of the earthworks, including the viewshed. Visitor use and interpretation will be emphasized at this unit.

**Boundary.** The boundary on the east will be extended to Sulphur Lick Creek. The National Park Service will purchase land west of the legislated western boundary to protect significant archeological resources. This will also provide visual protection from future residential development and alleviate the recreational pressure on the main Hopewell Mound site from the residential areas.

**Management Zones.** A development zone will be near the eastern boundary. Facilities within that zone will be carefully sited to avoid impacting archeological resources. The natural resource zone will encompass wooded areas adjacent to earthwork remnants along the western and northern boundaries. The remainder of the site will be designated as the pedestrian zone.

**Visitor Experience and Interpretation.** Orientation to the site will be provided in the development zone. Trails of varying degrees of difficulty will enable visitors to explore and experience the resources, views, and stories at this site. Wayside exhibits and other interpretive media will address interpretive themes and offer ways for visitors to imagine

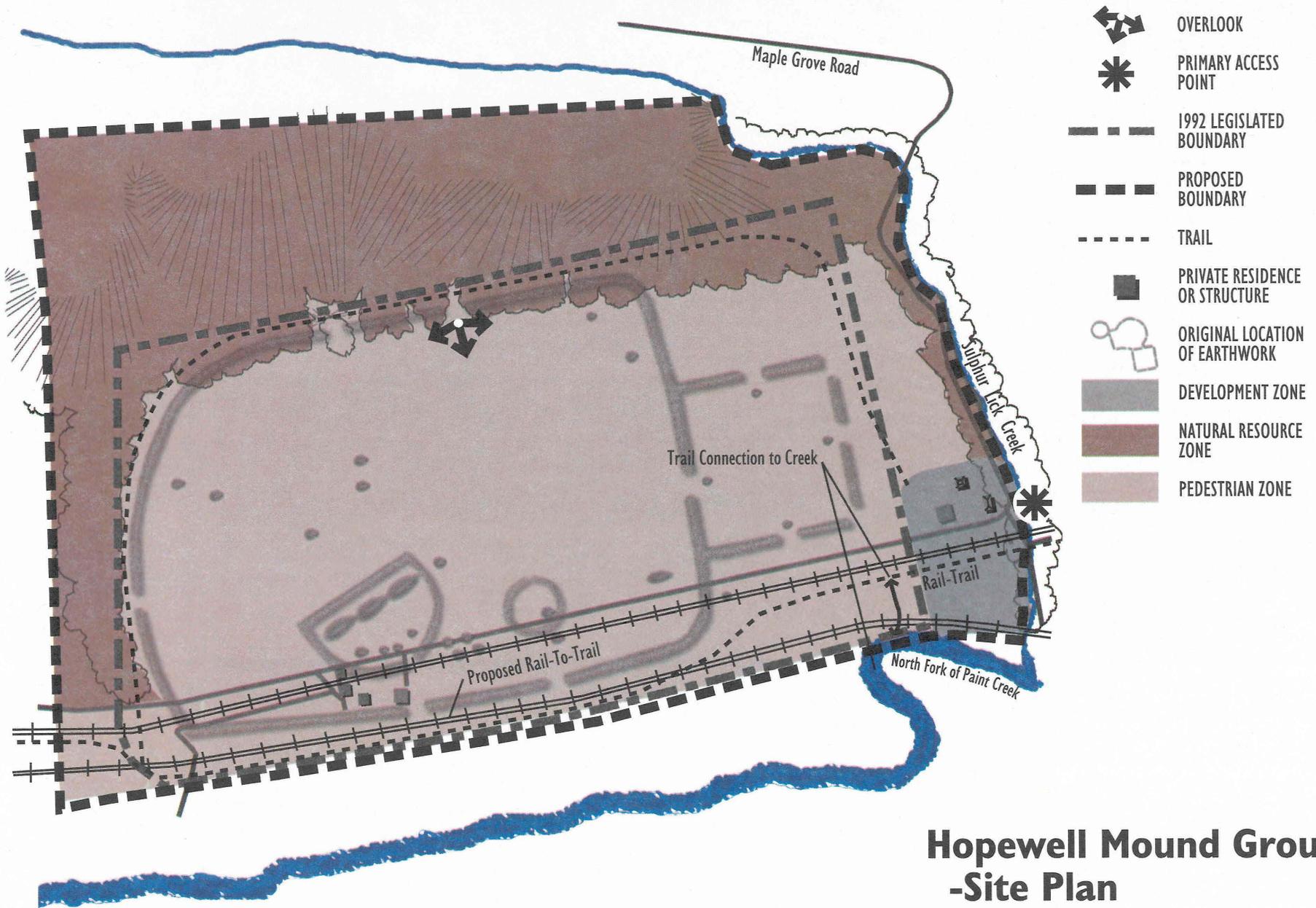
what the earthworks may have originally looked like. Overlooks along trails will offer different views of the earthworks.

**Access and Facilities.** Access for motorized vehicles will be at the eastern edge of the site. In the future, visitors will also arrive by trail. The rail-to-trail should be moved south of its present alignment to avoid crossing earthworks. Directional signs and a pedestrian connection will be provided between the trails and the site's central orientation point. As many trails as possible will be universally accessible; however, this will not be feasible on the hillier section.

Parking for 20 cars, a visitor contact station with restrooms, trails with wayside exhibits, and overlooks will be provided at the site.

A method of outlining the earthworks on the ground with a nonpermanent material to make them more visible will be used.

Before any site improvements are undertaken at Hopewell Mound Group, it will be desirable for the park and the county to cooperatively study alternatives for road and traffic management that will avoid future negative impacts on cultural resources and local residents. Visitation to this site in combination with build-out of proposed residential development in surrounding areas may result in impacts that can be avoided with a more cooperative, proactive approach.



-  OVERLOOK
-  PRIMARY ACCESS POINT
-  1992 LEGISLATED BOUNDARY
-  PROPOSED BOUNDARY
-  TRAIL
-  PRIVATE RESIDENCE OR STRUCTURE
-  ORIGINAL LOCATION OF EARTHWORK
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE
-  NATURAL RESOURCE ZONE
-  PEDESTRIAN ZONE

## Hopewell Mound Group -Site Plan



Hopewell  
Culture

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK · OHIO  
DSC · JAN 97 · 353 · 20,009B

0 400 800 Feet



North

ON MICROFILM

## HOPETON EARTHWORKS UNIT PLAN

**Concept.** The majority of the site will not be open to the general public; the primary use of the site will be research and education. Limited development will allow visitors to learn about the Hopewell culture from a distance and to view the earthworks. Development of visitor facilities at Hopeton Earthworks will be a lower priority than at Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, or Seip Earthworks.

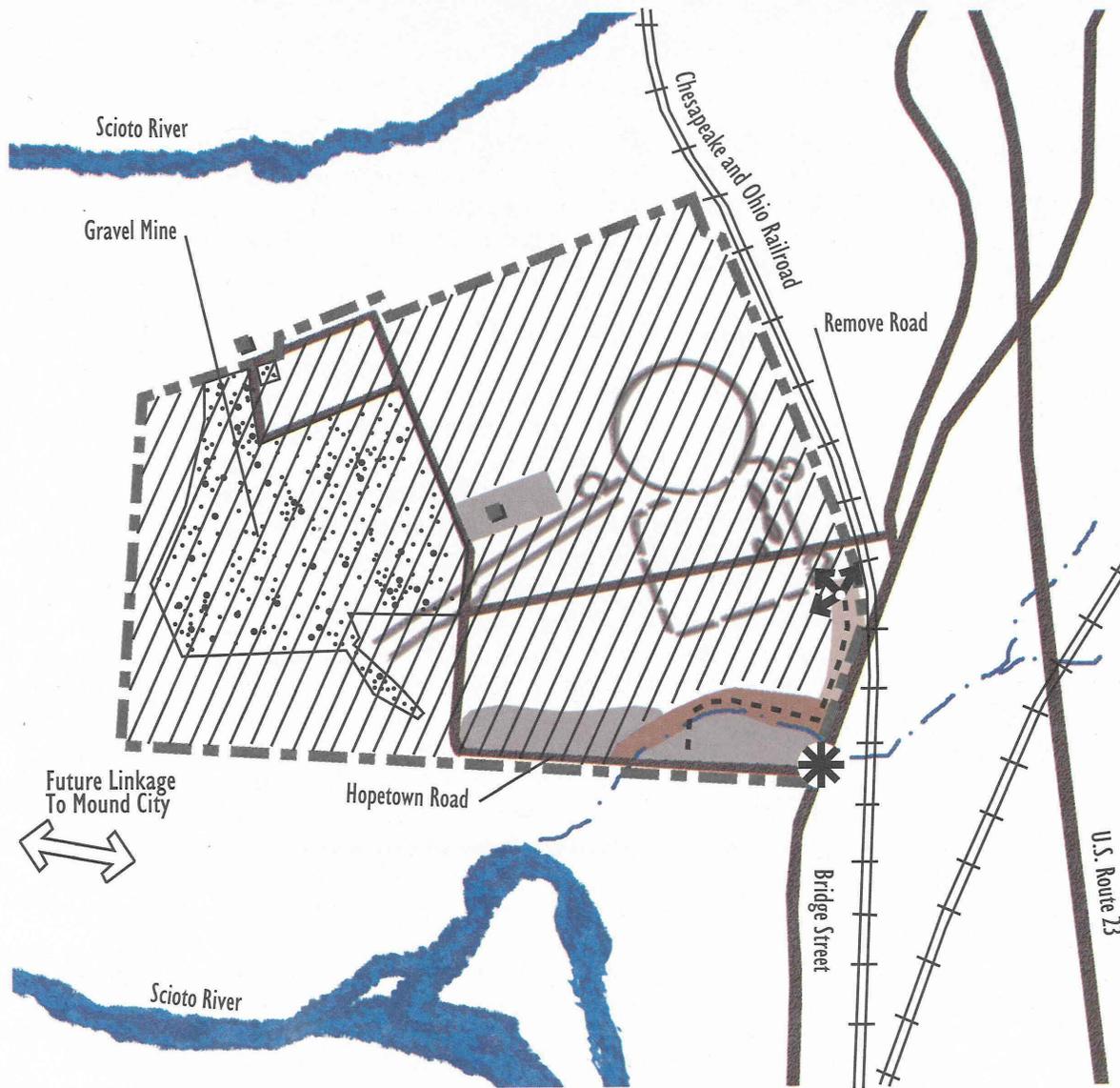
**Boundary.** The boundaries will remain as legislated.

**Management Zones.** A development zone will be in the center of the site where there are existing structures and at the entrance along Hopetown Road. Access to views of the earthworks will be provided in a pedestrian zone along the eastern and southern boundary. The remainder of the area

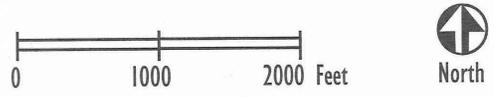
will be a limited access zone, with a natural resource zone buffering the earthworks from development to the south.

**Visitor Experience and Interpretation.** In addition to the occasional guided tours, visitors will be able to drive to the site, hike on a short trail, see the earthwork locations from a viewpoint, and read wayside exhibits and/or a brochure that describe the site and show the original extent and appearance of the earthworks. Archeological research and field schools will be conducted.

**Access and Facilities.** Vehicular access, a small parking lot, and a primitive picnic area will be in the southeast corner of the site. A pedestrian path will connect this visitor orientation area to a viewpoint. A long-term goal will be to install a pedestrian bridge across the Scioto River for a more direct linkage of this unit with the Mound City Group.



-  OVERLOOK
-  PRIMARY ACCESS POINT
-  1992 LEGISLATED BOUNDARY
-  TRAIL
-  PRIVATE RESIDENCE OR STRUCTURE
-  ORIGINAL LOCATION OF EARTHWORK
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE
-  NATURAL RESOURCE ZONE
-  PEDESTRIAN ZONE
-  LIMITED ACCESS ZONE



# Hopeton Earthworks -Site Plan



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## SEIP EARTHWORKS UNIT PLAN

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**Concept.** The National Park Service and the Ohio Historical Society will cooperate to provide staff and structures necessary to present a complete interpretive story of the Hopewell culture. The central part of the site would continue to be owned and operated by the Ohio Historical Society. Interpretation and facilities at the site will also provide an overall orientation to the park for those whose first stop will be the Seip Earthworks unit. Because of highway access, Seip Earthworks has the potential to become the second-most used unit of the five. The focus at Seip Earthworks will be to demonstrate the size, complexity and diversity of the Hopewell earthworks. The unit has potential for linkages with the nearby high school, including outdoor classes and informal stewardship by students.

If it is not possible to provide interpretation and facilities at the Seip Earthworks, the National Park Service would join with other agencies such as the Ohio State Parks to provide a visitor center in a nearby community such as Bainbridge. The long-term goal will be to provide a gateway for a grand tour of the Hopewell sites, including those on state land. This facility will be considerably smaller and the interpretation will be less extensive than at the Mound City Group. The visitor center may be staffed and managed cooperatively with communities, volunteers, and other agencies such as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or the Ohio Historical Society.

**Boundary.** The boundary will be extended to Paint Creek on the west and south sides. The proposed eastern boundary will be east of the Paint Valley High School, pending archeological investigation. A long-term goal will be to relocate Dill Road to the eastern boundary.

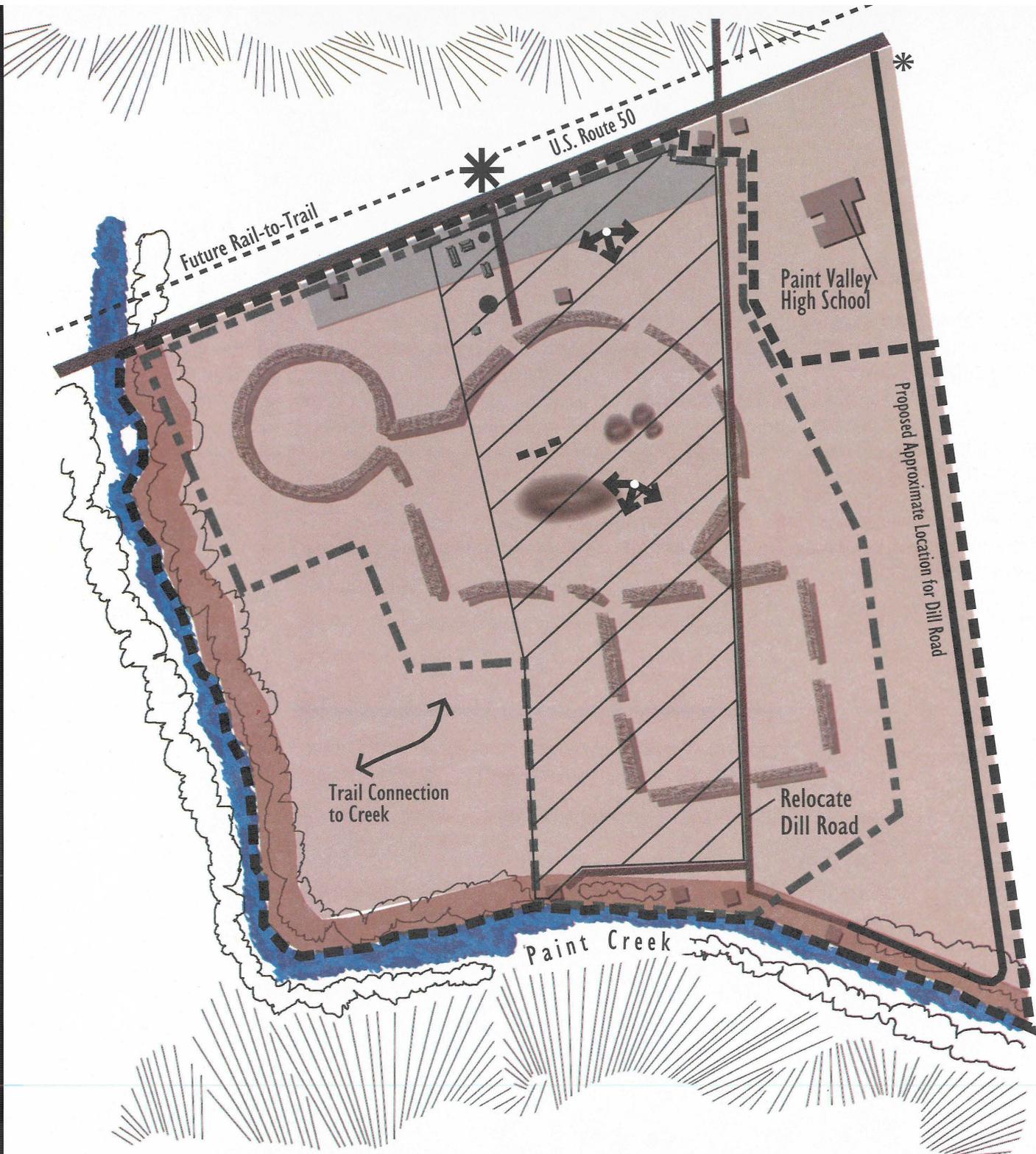
**Management Zones.** The development zone will be in the areas closest to U.S. 50., which are already disturbed. The area adjacent to Paint Creek will be managed as a natural resource zone. The remainder of the site will be in the pedestrian zone.

**Visitor Experience.** Visitors will receive orientation through wayside exhibits and brochures. During times of high visitation, an attendant will be available to provide information and answer questions — as a roving interpreter, tour group leader, or possibly stationed in a permanent or temporary building. Visitors will view a Hopewell workshop site interpreted with wayside exhibits and the existing reconstructed wall segment and mound.

Some means of getting above the ground level to view the extent of the earthworks will be provided, possibly a viewing platform either on top of the mound or a freestanding platform in the development zone. From the platform, visitors will be able to visualize the height of the mound, the extent of the earthworks (which may have been outlined for better visibility), and the surrounding landscape that contains many other Hopewell sites. Visitors will be prohibited from climbing directly on the mound. Visitors may also walk to a demonstration garden of the plants the Hopewell cultivated.

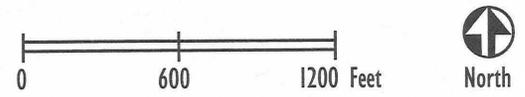
Most visitors will walk through the site at their own discretion; an average stay at the archeological site is estimated at 20 minutes for the public, and 30–45 minutes for school groups. Visitors may also use the picnic area, either before or after they visit the site.

Visitors will receive an orientation to the park and other related sites and services in the area at the offsite visitor center. They will also receive an overview of the interpretive story, with specific emphasis on resource protection, respect



- OVERLOOK
- PRIMARY ACCESS POINT
- PROPOSED BOUNDARY
- 1992 LEGISLATED BOUNDARY
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE OR STRUCTURE
- ORIGINAL LOCATION OF EARTHWORK
- DEVELOPMENT ZONE
- NATURAL RESOURCE ZONE
- PEDESTRIAN ZONE
- OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY OWNERSHIP

\* Eastern boundary location to be determined by archeology studies.



# Seip Earthworks -Site Plan



NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK - OHIO  
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for cultural values, and the role and importance of archeology. The center will be easily accessible to visitors who intend to visit the park, as well as attracting travelers who happen to be passing by.

Interpretive media at the visitor center will include exhibits, audiovisual programs, and publications. There will also be an attended information area and personal services such as interpretive talks, educational programs, and demonstrations. It can serve as a staging area for school programs and interpretive programs for visitors.

**Access and Facilities.** The primary visitor access will be from U.S. 50, and the entrance road and parking area will be redesigned to accommodate vehicles more efficiently. In the future, visitors will also enter the site from the proposed rail-to-trail along U.S. 50 and from the proposed greenway trail along Paint Creek. Facilities will include a temporary or

possibly permanent visitor contact station, outdoor interpretive wayside exhibits, and a viewing platform.

A trail to Paint Creek will also be cleared or mown. A method of outlining the earthworks on the ground to make them more visible will be investigated. Materials used in outlining will be of an impermanent nature but will not involve extensive maintenance. These techniques will be designed to prevent any contamination of or negative impacts on buried resources. An inaccurately restored wall section will be corrected.

Fencing will be built around the perimeter. Trees and shrubs will also be placed at the boundaries as needed to visually enclose the mounds and screen undesirable views or frame desirable views. A long-term goal will be to remove existing features that detract from the integrity of the scene.

## HIGH BANK WORKS UNIT PLAN

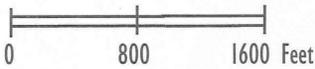
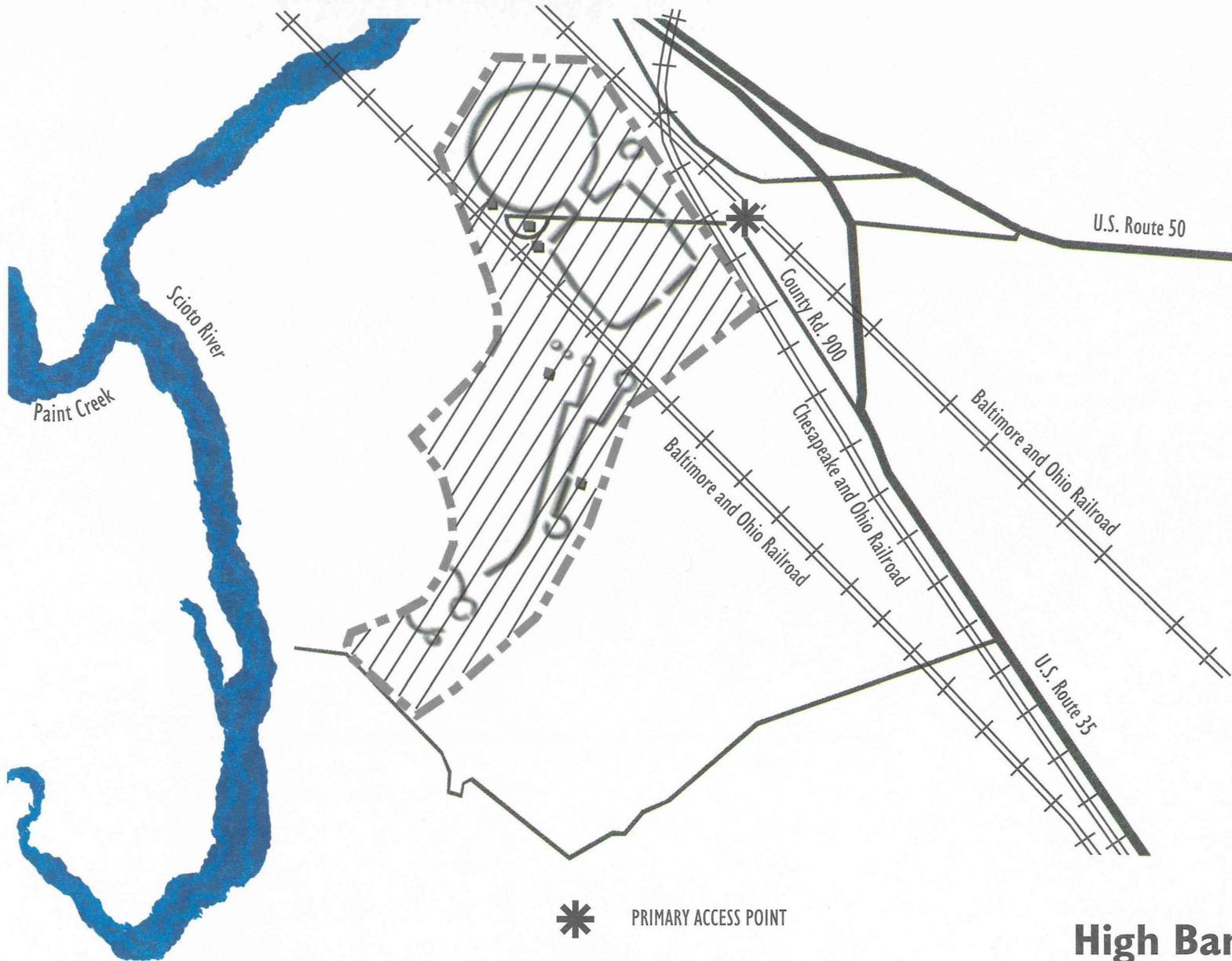
**Concept.** This unit contains the most intact earthworks of the five sites and has tremendous potential for research. For this reason, the unit will be used primarily for research, with some guided tours for schools and archeology field schools.

**Boundary.** The National Park Service will attempt to work with landowners to gain permission to enter the site to conduct archeological research that will either confirm, reduce, or expand the acquisition boundary. For the time being, the boundaries will remain the same as legislated. Resolution of this issue should be completed as soon as possible.

**Management Zones.** The entire site will be a limited access zone.

**Visitor Experience and Interpretation.** Visitor experiences will be limited to occasional guided tours, especially at times when the public can watch archeological fieldwork in progress.

**Access and Facilities.** Temporary facilities for researchers will be provided, such as portable restrooms and sun and rain shelter.



-  PRIMARY ACCESS POINT
-  1992 LEGISLATED BOUNDARY
-  LIMITED ACCESS ZONE
-  PRIVATE RESIDENCE OR STRUCTURE
-  ORIGINAL LOCATION OF EARTHWORK

# High Bank Works -Site Plan



NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK · OHIO  
DSC · JAN 97 · 353 · 20,008A

ON MICROFILM

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

### Priorities for Acquisition of Park Units

The National Park Service will purchase areas within the authorized boundary, plus additional adjacent or related sites as necessary for their protection. Preacquisition through partnerships may be necessary for interim protection of these sites. The first priority for acquisition will be land within the legislated (or adjusted) boundaries. Secondly, it may be necessary to acquire the sites within the boundaries and additional lands to avoid land-locking owners or making their remaining land unusable. Thirdly, it is recommended that adjacent related resources be acquired, and then, if needed, visual easements be acquired to protect the context of the unit. Finally, land acquisition for facilities will be achieved.

Alternative methods of protection, such as easements, local planning, and trusts will be explored to protect sites outside the boundaries. Stewardship programs will be instituted by the park to recognize and benefit individual landowners who protect the resources on their land. Technical assistance will be provided upon request.

The park or others will also acquire short-term research easements outside the authorized boundary.

### Partnerships

The National Park Service will form new partnerships and expand existing ones to enhance education, interpretation, preservation, volunteer activities, transportation, recreation, acquisition, and complementary open space. The park will also rely heavily on volunteers. Following is a list of possible partnerships that will be formed to accomplish implementation of this plan.

### POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIPS

#### Cultural Resource Management:

Universities — research collaboration, technical assistance; cooperate to provide archeological training for students  
Archeological Society of Ohio, Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society, Ross County Historical Society, Archeological Conservancy — public education, site preservation initiatives  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center — engineering services, student housing, surveying, maintenance assistance  
Ross Correctional Institution — skilled and unskilled labor  
Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and William Howard Taft National Historic Site — cultural resource management specialists (historian, restoration specialist)

#### Maintenance:

Ross Correctional Institution — grounds work, minor construction, miscellaneous labor, general roads maintenance, trail maintenance  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center — engineering services, contracting services  
Ross County Park District — visitor facilities, restrooms, picnic grounds, recreation facilities  
Industry — donations of materials, services to offset operation costs

#### General Park Partners:

Friends Group — fund-raising, volunteer services, marketing/tourism  
Industry — educational program funding, materials, and supplies  
Schools — site cleanup, cooperate on curricula  
Ross County Park District — adjacent green space, trails, job-sharing, facilities-recreational  
Trail Associations — linkages  
Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and William Howard Taft National Historic Site — job-sharing (administrative functions, facility management, small maintenance projects)  
Archeological Conservancy  
Nature Conservancy  
Scioto Valley Nature Club  
Ross County Sheriff  
Township Volunteer Fire Departments  
Boy Scouts of America — resource management

**IMPLEMENTATION – 10-YEAR PROGRAM**

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY/YEAR
<b>Land Acquisition</b>		
Complete Hopewell Mound Group Hopeton Earthworks Seip Earthworks High Bank Works	Lands - Midwest Regional Office; dependent on funding	1/1997- 1998 2/1997 - 1998 3/1998 - 2000 4/2000 - 2002
<b>Archeology</b>		
Complete archeological investigations related to land acquisition: Seip Earthworks High Bank Works	MWAC/Park MWAC/Park	1  A/underway - 1998 B/2000
Complete special resource studies: Spruce Hill Harness	MWAC/Park MWAC/Park	2  A/underway - 1998 B/1998
Review and revise sites listed in 1987 Hopewell Sites Study - evaluate sites Cedar Bank	MWAC/Park MWAC/Park	C/underway - 2007 D/cannot get on property
Develop overall plan to solicit research	Park	3/1998
Acquire research easements as necessary	Park	4/ongoing
Complete archeological overviews and assessments: Hopewell Mound Group Seip Earthworks High Bank Works	MWAC/Park MWAC/Park MWAC/Park	5  A/1997 - 1998 B/1998 - 2000 C/2000 - 2002
Conduct archeological and historic resource inventories, all units	MWAC/Region/Park	6/ongoing
Complete archeological evaluation studies, all units	MWAC/Park	7/ongoing
Key: MWAC = Midwest Archeological Center, DSC = Denver Service Center, HFC = Harpers Ferry Center		

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY/YEAR
<b>Cultural and Natural Resource Management</b>		
Develop comprehensive Native American consultation guideline	Region/Park	1/1998
Construct curatorial research and education facility Develop 10-238 to get in construction priorities Complete 106 compliance	DSC/Park Park Park	2 1997 One year ahead of planning and design
Develop program for monitoring maintenance and preservation of earthworks and mounds and remove intrusive vegetation	Park	3/underway - 1998
Prepare cultural affiliation study	Region/Park	4/1998
Prepare ethnographic overview and assessment	Region/Park	5/1998
Set up natural resource monitoring program indicators and standards	Region/Park	6/1998
<b>Education and Visitor Services</b>		
Complete long-range interpretive plan	HFC/Park	1/1997
Integrate research into personal and nonpersonal interpretation	Park	2/ongoing
Develop web page; integrate visitor information and services, archeology, collections, and research; provide links to other web sites	Park	3/1997

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY/YEAR
<b>Education and Visitor Services (cont.)</b>		
Mound City Group Unit Develop and install interactive kiosk in visitor center Redesign present exhibits to protect objects Replace waysides Construct visitor center addition - complete 10-238 Replace exhibits - complete 10-238	Park Region/Park HFC/Park DSC/Park HFC/Park	4 A/1998 B/1998 C/2000 D/1997 E/1997
Hopewell Mound Group Unit Conduct traffic study with Ross County to improve access  complete 10-238 Construct parking lot Construct link to Tri-County Triangle Trail Do initial wayside exhibits Construct visitor contact station - complete 10-238 Complete wayside exhibits - complete 10-238	Region/Park Region/Park Region/Park Region/Park DSC/Park HFC/Park	5 A/1997 B/1998 C/1998 D/1998 E/1997 F/1997
Seip Earthworks Unit Construct visitor contact station - complete 10-238 Construct viewing platform - complete 10-238	DSC/Park DSC/Park	6 A/1998 B/1998
Hopeton Earthworks Unit Construct parking area - complete 10-238 Construct interpretive trail - complete 10-238 Complete wayside exhibits - complete 10-238	Region/Park Region/Park HFC/Park	7 A/1998 B/1998 C/1998
106 Compliance All compliance work will be done one year before planning begins		
Contract for bus transportation to Hopewell Mound Group, Seip, and occasionally to Hopeton	Park	8/1999

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY/YEAR
<b>Development and Facility Maintenance</b>		
Mound City Group		1
Improve S.R. 104 ingress and egress - complete 10-238	Region/Park	A/1997
Expand visitor center parking lot - complete 10-238	Region/Park	B/1997
Hopewell Mound Group		2
Develop trail system - complete 10-238	Region/Park	A/1998
Replace and install additional boundary fence - complete 10-238	Region/Park	B/1997
Seip Earthworks		3
Construct Paint Creek Trail - complete 10-238	Region/Park	A/1998
Install vegetative screen - complete 10-238	Region/Park	B/1998
Replace and install boundary fence - complete 10-238	Region/Park	C/1998
Hopeton Earthworks		4
Replace and install boundary fence and gate	Region/Park	A/underway - complete 1998
Install chain-link fence around gravel mine area		B/1998
Acquire land for bridge connection to Mound City – draft possible legislative change	Region/Park	C/1997
<b>Stewardship and Partnerships</b>		
Form park friends group	Park	1/1998
Work with Ross County Park District to develop links and greenways	Park	2/ongoing

## APPENDIX

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### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN HOPEWELL CULTURAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

#### PROPOSAL

The National Park Service has developed a general management plan that proposes the creation of a national center for the interpretation, study, and preservation of the Hopewell culture. The five units of the park would be used differently to provide visitors with a varied experience as they travel through the park.

Visitors would be encouraged to visit three sites (Mound City Group, Seip Earthworks, and Hopewell Mound Group) to learn about varied facets of the Hopewell culture. Two units, Hopeton Earthworks and High Bank Works, would offer limited access to visitors and would be devoted primarily to preservation and research. The proposal provides for a comprehensive interpretation of the Hopewell culture, based on an active and ongoing research program. A new or expanded visitor center and collections facility are proposed as well as facilities for research. Proposed plans for each site are guided by the need for resource protection and desired visitor experiences. There are several site options for use of the five sites, featuring different management zoning schemes, access points, buffers, and facilities.

A complete description of the proposal is contained in the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* for Hopewell Culture National Historical Park.

#### WHY THE PROPOSED ACTION WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The cumulative impacts on cultural resources (prehistoric, historic, ethnographic, and collections) of implementing the proposal would be beneficial. Over the past century, hundreds of Hopewell sites have vanished or have lost their scientific value through inappropriate excavation and use. Artifacts have been removed from their archeological context through inappropriate collecting. By acquiring these sites and affording protection of their resources, and by upgrading the park's collections capabilities, scientific data are preserved for future research and public education. These sites and artifacts do not exist in isolation, and their preservation would also be vital to the understanding of Hopewell sites throughout the eastern United States.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Officer, in a letter dated December 4, 1996, fully supported the general management plan goals, initiatives, and objectives. Other state and local agencies and organizations (Ohio Historical Society, The Archaeological Conservancy, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, etc.), in letters dated in October and November 1996, also endorsed the proposal.

Actions with potential to affect historic properties would undergo section 106 review in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's guidelines in 36 CFR 800, and the 1995 programmatic agreement with the National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

More active resource management as proposed in the *General Management Plan* would have a positive impact on natural resources. Increased community outreach would also have a positive effect on protecting the natural environment. There would be an overall positive effect on vegetation and wildlife with the restoration of native plant communities and the enhancement of native wildlife habitats and populations. There will be no significant impacts on air quality, water quality, geology, soils, and prime and unique farmlands. Construction activities would occur outside the 100- and 500-year floodplains and would have no effect on wetlands and threatened and endangered species.

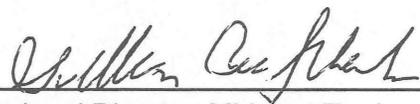
#### **PUBLIC REVIEW AND AVAILABILITY**

The environmental assessment was released for a 30-day public review period. Upon completion of this review period, the National Park Service determined that this project will not create any serious environmental consequences nor involve any controversial issues.

#### **DETERMINATION**

On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment as summarized above, it is the determination of the National Park Service that the proposed project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Nor is the proposed action without precedent or similar to one that normally requires an environmental impact statement. Therefore, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Recommended:  \_\_\_\_\_ 4/3/97  
Superintendent, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park      Date

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_ 4/8/97  
Regional Director, Midwest Region      Date

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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 historical 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.

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