

V. IMPLEMENTATION

This plan has identified many needs, activities, and projects for the Society to pursue to improve the Newark Earthworks State Memorial. Because the Society is limited by budgetary considerations, it has identified short-term priorities that can be accomplished by the end of 2008. These have been identified in the plan by italicizing the text and by the notation "Short-term priority" in the sidebar. How these priorities can be accomplished is outlined here. The implementation of each of these priorities will be guided by the broad themes and goals identified in this plan.

1. Establish an Advisory Board to work with OHS to increase public understanding and knowledge of the site and to improve the quality of operations.

Target establishment date: January 2004

Staff responsible: Senior management team. Board approval required.

First step: Create founding committee to work with OHS staff

2. Create a site master plan to guide short, mid and long-term development of the Newark Earthworks as a first-class historic site. The plan will:

Survey existing conditions

Plan areas for various uses, coordinating with interpretive plan

Locate facilities to accommodate them

Locate trails to link the facilities and to provide access and viewing points

Determine the costs and priorities for implementing the site master plan

Determine cost of restoring the Octagon

Determine cost of maintaining the Octagon

Determine potential revenues and costs for operating the site

Target completion date: April 2005

Staff responsible: Facilities Management Division(Architectural Services) working with Museums and Archaeology staff

First steps: Seek and obtain matching funds

Have comprehensive surveys of each component (Great Circle, Octagon, and Wright) completed.

Retain services of a landscape architect

Include public input in process

3. Create an interpretive plan for the Newark Earthworks. The plan will:

Identify major themes and messages

Determine appropriate means to deliver them

Develop concepts for new interpretive and educational programs

Develop concepts for new exhibits

Determine costs and priorities for implementation

Incorporate diverse viewpoints

Target completion date: April 2005

Staff responsible: Museums Division (Interpretive Services) working with Facilities Management and Archaeology staff

- First Steps: Seek and obtain matching funds
 Create process for public involvement
 Benchmark interpretive plans/exhibits of other significant programs such as those at Cahokia, Poverty Point, and Ocmulgee.
 Include public input in process
4. Prepare for the northernmost moonrise which will occur in Fall, 2005
 - a. Create sight-line through the Octagon working with Mound Builders Country Club

Required completion date: August 2005
 Staff responsible: Facilities Management
 First step: Evaluate existing sight line to determine trees to be removed
 - b. Create partnerships with the Newark/Heath community including educational institutions, local governments, Native Americans and others to plan and implement events

Start Date: Fall 2003
 Staff responsible: Assigned OHS liaison working with the Museums and Archaeology staff
 First step: Identify local partners and work with them to establish steering committee
 5. Develop a comprehensive database of existing sources of information about the Newark Earthworks and prepare a strategic, long-term research plan

Database Implementation Date: Ongoing with majority of database completed for use during the interpretive planning process.
 Research Plan Completion Date: April 2007
 Staff responsible: Archaeology staff
 First step: Establish working committee of OHS staff and others to create a broad-based working group.
 6. Complete an assessment of the existing condition of each earthwork. Establish a treatment plan for restoration and maintenance of each identified area to correct and prevent problems.

Completion Dates: Assessment of Great Circle and Wright –April 2004
 Treatment Plan for Great Circle and Wright – April 2005
 Assessment of Octagon – April 2006
 Treatment Plan for Octagon – April 2007
 Staff Responsible: Facilities Management and site staff working with Archaeology staff
 First Steps: Develop format and guidelines for assessment
 Consult with others experienced in problems identified

7. Work to identify and preserve other remnants of the earthworks.

Completion Date: Ongoing

Staff Responsible: Archaeology staff working with site and Facilities Management staff

First Steps: Inventory known remnants and determine owners
Develop methodology for identifying other remnants
Identify appropriate preservation means

8. Investigate the process for nominating the earthworks as a World Heritage Site, develop a plan to prepare the nomination and seek funding for its preparation.

Completion Date: June, 2004

Staff responsible: Archaeology staff working with Historic Preservation staff
First Step: Contact United States coordinating office at the National Park Service

9. Develop a contingency plan for the operation of the Octagon in the event that Mound Builders Country Club should seek to terminate its lease or be unable to fulfill the terms of its lease.

- a. Develop an interim management plan that will ensure the continued preservation of the resources

Completion Date: June 2004

Staff responsible: Facilities Management working with Museums and Archaeology staff

First steps: Develop list of issues and priorities
Provide for public input while developing plan

- b. Develop a process involving the community and others interested in the site to determine the future of the site to insure their needs and desires are taken into consideration and their support is obtained.

Completion Date: June, 2005

Staff responsible: Facilities Management working with Museums and Archaeology staff

First Steps: Meet with advisory board
Provide for public input into the development of the process

FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Ohio Historical Society is currently under severe financial constraints due to the poor economy and competing priorities for the State of Ohio which provides 70-75% of the Society's funding. However, resources that are available will be directed to the extent possible to achieve these priorities.

Staff time will be a critical element, especially with recent and anticipated staffing cutbacks. Redefining and shifting responsibilities may allow some time to be freed to pursue these projects. Capital funds appropriated several years ago for the benefit of the Great Circle are still available and can be used to accomplish the planning for the Great Circle and can be used to match and leverage grants and other funding in order that the projects can include the Octagon and Wright Earthworks. Continuation of the process beyond available funding will require continued state capital and operating funding as well as community support.