

# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

This plan has been created to guide decisions concerning the development, use, interpretation, study, and preservation of the Newark Earthworks State Memorial and related resources. It will provide the Society with the means to make informed and comprehensive decisions concerning its stewardship of the site. It has identified strategic objectives and achievable goals for the site.

Because no formal planning has been done for the site in the past and no comprehensive history of the site existed, the scope of this plan is broader and more comprehensive than a cultural resource management plan. For those reasons, it was decided to call the plan a “historic site management plan.” Likewise, public participation in the planning process was broader and more extensive than in many processes because of widespread public interest.

A cultural resource management plan for the Newark Earthworks was proposed during a series of public meetings that were conducted in September 2000. The meetings were held in response to the public concerns that surfaced following the announcement by the Moundbuilders Country Club of its intention to replace its clubhouse at the Octagon Earthworks, a unit of the Newark Earthworks State Memorial. The Society successfully sought funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Favrot Fund and the National Park Service’s Challenge Cost Share Program to fund in part the preparation of this plan.

This plan for Newark Earthworks State Memorial is the first of its type and scope to be developed by the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) to guide the management of any of the 61 sites the Society administers.

Founded in 1885, the Ohio Historical Society is a private non-profit organization that operates under Ohio law to provide a wide variety of historical services for the citizens of Ohio through a public/private partnership with the State of Ohio. In addition to operating a system of state memorials and museums, it operates the state historic preservation program, the state archives, a library and the state museum; publishes historical material; provides assistance to local historical groups; and collects and maintains historical, archaeological, and natural history collections.

The Newark Earthworks State Memorial is a National Historic Landmark and internationally recognized as the largest and best preserved geometric earthworks complex in the world. It is characteristic of the work of Native Americans now known as the Hopewell. The site is comprised of three units: the Octagon Earthworks (which has been used as a golf course since 1901), the Great Circle Earthworks (formerly known as Moundbuilders State Memorial and the location of the Society’s Museum of Native American Art), and the Wright Earthworks, (a pocket park preserving a remnant of a large earthworks feature). These sites were identified as separate state memorials for many years. In 2001 the Society Board of Trustees combined the three into one site to be administered as the Newark Earthworks State Memorial, recognizing that they are parts of a much greater whole.

## **HOW TO USE THIS PLAN**

This plan is primarily a document which will be used by Society staff in its day-to-day operation of the site and for making long-term decisions and plans for the benefit of the site. However, it also is a public statement which informs those interested in the site of the Society's plans and aspirations for it. It will serve as a model to be used in the preparation of plans for other sites. It is also a dynamic document which sets the stage for future endeavors at the site. It will need to be revisited as work is accomplished and conditions change. In addition to being a document, the plan embodies a process to connect with the site's broader community and as such is the beginning of new relationships with members of that community.

The plan is divided into five main sections – an historical chronology of the site, a management framework, a preservation and treatment plan, guidelines for interpretation and visitor facilities, and an implementation schedule, that develops priorities. It also has nine appendices including a brief history of the Newark Earthworks, supporting documentation including an extensive resources inventory, several documents relating to the operational management of the site, recommendations from the advisory panel, public comments, and the deeds and leases for the site.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The National Park Service, *Cultural Resource Management Guideline, Release No. 5, 1997*, and Robert Page, Gilbert and Dolan, *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*, National Park Service, 1998, were used to prepare this plan. However, much of the plan has been developed in order to suit its use as an internal planning tool for the Ohio Historical Society. One of the intents of the plan was to draw together the existing information about the Newark Earthworks into one location, in a user-friendly format.

The Society retained Gray & Pape, assisted by Meisner and Associates as consultants. They assisted with developing the scope of the plan and with gathering public input.

## **ADVISORY PANEL AND PUBLIC INPUT**

The earthworks mean many different things to different people such as archaeologists, historians, residents of Newark and Native Americans. Thus, a critical part of the planning process was public input. The Society established an advisory panel to provide input and to engage in a constructive dialogue. This panel, which was comprised of 32 leaders representing business, government, Native Americans, archaeologists, preservationists, educators, and other stakeholders, worked with the Society to ensure that public input was broadly based and representative of the community's aspirations for the site. The complete list of panel members is attached as Appendix VI.

The panel was divided into four committees to consider issues and topics that had been identified by the Society. Each committee was assigned a topic to focus on: access and community context, conservation and maintenance, public interpretation and education, and resource identification and research. Each committee developed recommendations responding to the issues and topics that had been discussed. These recommendations along with the Society's responses are included in this plan as Appendix VII. The recommendations have been included in the plan whenever possible, and most of the ideas expressed by the panel can be found in the plan. Those recommendations and ideas not included in the plan remain valuable input and will continue to inform the Society as it continues its work in Newark and across the state. The panel also reviewed and commented on the Society's draft version of this plan.

Meetings of the panel were open to the public as observers. In addition, two public meetings were held, one to seek input and the other to present the final plan to the public. The schedule for panel meetings and public presentations was as follows:

October 16, 2002	Process orientation and background information
November 2, 2002	Committees develop recommendations
December 11, 2002	Committees review and finalize their recommendations
January 15, 2003	Society presents draft plan to panel
January 29, 2003	Society presents draft plan to public
May 28, 2003	Society presents final plan to panel
	Society presents final plan to public

The draft plan was made available to the public during a 30 day comment period which ended June 8, 2003. Comments were received from 14 groups and individuals. Summaries of the comments from the public and the May 28 meeting of the panel are included as Appendix VIII.

Several concerns were raised, which in the end the committees decided could not be resolved at Newark because they have implications to the Society's statewide activities as well as the entire archaeological community that studies the prehistoric builders of the mounds. These include the following:

- Use of Newark Earthworks as the basis for incorporating more emphasis on Native Americans in school curriculums
- Ending the use of images of burials in interpretation
- Ending the exhibition of artifacts from burials or reproductions of them
- Artifact collections: how the Society obtained them and by what right does it keep them
- Finding an alternative to the use of the term Hopewell

26-30 Public Interpretation and  
Education Committee -  
Appendix VII

Of particular concern was the use of the term "Hopewell" to identify the unique culture that built earthworks such as those found in Newark. The name "Hopewell" was assigned to the culture based on excavations that were done at the Mordecai Hopewell farm near Chillicothe in 1891-2 by Warren K. Moorehead. This followed the archaeological practice of assigning names based on the excavation that revealed the traits of a unique culture. Unfortunately, we do not know what these people called themselves. Many Native Americans find it objectionable that Anglo-European names are used to describe Native American cultures. While we recognize their desire to discontinue the use of "Hopewell" and other names, there is no consensus on a name to replace "Hopewell." We have decided that the use of the term "Hopewell" will help the important messages contained in this plan reach as wide an audience as possible. However, OHS is willing to engage in dialogue with Native Americans, archaeologists, the National Park Service and others to find other appropriate names that will be universally recognized and used. In the meantime, OHS will include discussions of the development and use of the name and alternative terminology as part of its interpretation.

## **PRIORITIES**

This plan has identified many needs, activities, and projects for the Society to pursue to improve Newark Earthworks State Memorial. Because the Society is limited as to what it can accomplish because of budgetary considerations, it has identified short-term priorities. Throughout the plan, these have been identified by italicizing the text and identifying each as a “**Short-term priority**” in the sidebar. The Society intends to accomplish these items by the end of 2008. These priorities are outlined in Section V: Implementation.