

New Philadelphia Special Resource Study Fact Sheet

In December 2014, Congress passed **Public Law 113-291** directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia Townsite. The Department of the Interior then charged the National Park Service (NPS) with the completion of this special resource study to evaluate the site's potential to be added to the national park system. The purpose of the study, as directed by Congress, is to evaluate the national significance of the site and the suitability and feasibility of adding it to the national park system, as well as consider alternatives for the preservation, protection and interpretation of the New Philadelphia Townsite by Federal, State or local government entities or any other interested individuals. These alternatives may encourage partnerships and other efforts to protect the New Philadelphia Townsite by means that do not necessarily require direct NPS management.

The National Park Service was created to conserve unimpaired outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The treasures in this system have been set aside to protect, preserve, and share our nation's greatest stories. Usually a new unit of the national park system is established by an act of Congress. Before making a decision, Congress requires reliable information about the quality of resources and the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management. This process ensures that only those candidate sites that are most deserving of national designation are included within the national park system.

The New Philadelphia special resource study will take place within the next two years. At the conclusion of the study, the National Park Service will forward our findings to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will make a recommendation for the site, and submit the study and recommendation to Congress for their consideration.

By sharing your ideas and opinions about the New Philadelphia Townsite, you can help us shape its future. Thank you for taking the time to learn about and comment on this study. You may provide your thoughts during this meeting or online at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/New_Philadelphia_Special_Resource_Study

Special Resource Study Criteria for Inclusion in the National Park System

1. National Significance

A proposed unit will be considered **nationally significant** if it meets **all four** of the following standards:

- ✓ It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- ✓ It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
- ✓ It offers superlative opportunities for recreation, for public use and enjoyment, or for scientific study.
- ✓ It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of the resource.

2. Suitability

To be **suitable** for inclusion in the system, a cultural site must represent a theme that is not adequately represented in the national park system or is not represented and protected for public enjoyment by another land-management entity.

3. Feasibility

To be **feasible** as a unit of the national park system, an area's natural systems and/or historic settings must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and to accommodate public use. The area must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Important feasibility factors include landownership, acquisition costs, life cycle maintenance costs, access, threats to the resource, and staff or development requirements.

4. Direct NPS Management

To be eligible as a unit of the national park system, an area must also require **direct NPS management** that cannot or will not be accomplished by another government entity or by the private sector.