



# Foundation Document

## Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

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## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

### Brief Description of the Park

The 181-acre Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1977 to preserve Mrs. Roosevelt's cherished home at Val-Kill on a part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate. Here she founded Val-Kill Industries to provide new skills and employment opportunities for unemployed local farm workers. At her Val-Kill home, she wrote books and newspaper columns, served as the first U.S. delegate to the United Nations, chaired the committee that drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and came into her own as one of the most influential figures of her time.

Purchased by Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) in 1911, Val-Kill soon became a favorite family picnic site. In 1924, FDR urged Eleanor and her friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman to build a cottage there so they could enjoy the peace and solitude year-round. Construction of the Stone Cottage was started in 1925 and completed the following year. Val-Kill Cottage was built in 1926 as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries, which was run by the three women. Eleanor Roosevelt converted it to her residence in 1936–1937, and it became her year-round home after FDR's death in 1945. FDR enjoyed outings at Val-Kill during his presidency. During her residency at Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt surrounded herself with family and friends and hosted a range of people, from national and world leaders to local youth and students, who reflected her diverse interests.

Other important structures at Val-Kill are the Stable-Garage, Doll House, Playhouse, and swimming pool. The Doll House is a small wooden structure, originally located near the FDR Home and moved to Val-Kill by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1945 for the use of her grandchildren. The Playhouse, a one-story frame building, was built in several phases beginning in 1928 and was adapted for various uses, including a forge and metal-working shop for Val-Kill Industries.

Eleanor Roosevelt loved the beauty and tranquility of the Val-Kill landscape, characteristics that endure today. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, is a central feature around which the main buildings, Stone Cottage and Val-Kill Cottage, are arranged. Lawns, gardens, woodlands, and forest plantations set out by FDR surround the structures. The site also includes a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914. The plantation, known as "The Secret Woods," is said to be where Eleanor Roosevelt read stories to her grandchildren. In addition to the Secret Woods, the remains of several other plantations survive, including white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry. The agricultural context of Val-Kill remained important throughout Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and she actively sought to continue it after FDR's death, when she and her son Elliott launched a business venture called Val-Kill Farms.





Although most of the furnishings and personal possessions were dispersed following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the park has since been able to reacquire historic furnishings and other collections associated with the site. The collection includes primarily historical material (4,000 items). Objects such as handcrafted Val-Kill Industries furniture, family photographs, and personal memorabilia reflect the human dimension of life at Val-Kill.

Visitation at Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site was 64,791 in 2015.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site is one of three national historic sites located in Hyde Park, New York, along with Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The three sites are combined into a single administrative unit under one superintendent and operated by one staff. Although each site was established by separate legislation and has its own purpose and significance, they have intertwined stories and share many of the same resources.

### **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area**

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites are central attractions within the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. They provide NPS liaison and technical assistance to the heritage area, including the educational initiative, "Teaching the Hudson Valley," which serves schools throughout the region.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 1996 to recognize the importance of the history and the resources of the Hudson River Valley to the nation. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area includes 250 communities in 10 counties bordering the Hudson River between New York City and Albany. The Hudson River Valley resources represent themes of the Corridor of Commerce; Freedom and Dignity; Art, Artists, and the Hudson River School; Landscapes and Gardens; Revolutionary War; and the Environment.



## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on May 26, 1977 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*The purpose of ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to recognize the lifework of Eleanor Roosevelt, wife and political partner of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and preserve and interpret a place central to her emergence as a public figure, so that current and future generations can understand her life and legacy as a champion of democracy and pursue discussion about human rights issues.*



## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park’s resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statement has been identified for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

- Val-Kill, which was part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate, was a Roosevelt family retreat, as well as Eleanor’s home and office, from its construction in 1926 until her death in 1962. During the time she spent at Val-Kill, she hosted political discussions with a wide range of people and formulated her social and political beliefs.

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park’s legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site:

- **Cottages and Dependencies**
- **Val-Kill Landscape**
- **Museum and Archival Collections**

## Other Important Resources and Values

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site:

- **Natural Resources**

## Related Resources

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

The following related resources have been identified for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site:

- **Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.** The family home for Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt that, together with Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, made up the historic Roosevelt Family Estate. The park contains Bellefield, the administrative headquarters for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. It is managed by the National Park Service.
- **Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site.** The estate of Frederick W. Vanderbilt, located three miles north of Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites. FDR directed the designation of the property as a national historic site. It is managed by the National Park Service and part of the same administrative unit as Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites.
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum.** Located on the Roosevelt estate, it was dedicated and opened to the public by FDR in 1941. It was the nation's first presidential library and the only presidential library used by a sitting president. The visitor center for the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites and the FDR Presidential Library is the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center. The Wallace Center is on property authorized by Congress for transfer from the Department of the Interior to the National Archives and Records Administration by Public Law 106-147 (December 9, 1999). The managers of the NPS sites and the FDR Presidential Library work together closely, sharing the visitor center and presenting a comprehensive depiction of the Roosevelts.



- **James R. Roosevelt Place.** The Federal-style James R. Roosevelt House, also known as the Red House, is to the south of the FDR Home on the historic Roosevelt Family Estate. James R. Roosevelt was FDR's half-brother. The property includes buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, and archeological resources. The National Park Service leases the Red House and surrounding grounds as a residence. The parks' horticultural recycling area and the new museum services facility are located near the trotting course.
- **Oak Terrace, Tivoli, New York.** Oak Terrace was Eleanor Roosevelt's childhood home.
- **Wilderstein, Rhinebeck, New York.** Wilderstein was the home of Margaret (Daisy) Suckley, FDR's distant cousin and close friend.
- **Clermont, Germantown, New York.** Clermont was the estate of several generations of Livingstons, who were ancestors of Eleanor Roosevelt.
- **"Rosedale" Estate, Hyde Park, New York.** In the southern part of Hyde Park are the remaining structures associated with "Rosedale," the estate of Isaac Roosevelt, FDR's grandfather, and later John A. Roosevelt, FDR's uncle. They include the main house, Roosevelt Point Boathouse, and Cottage.
- **The Roosevelt House, New York City.** Sara Roosevelt, FDR's mother, gave this duplex to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt as a Christmas gift in 1906. Sara lived in half of the duplex.
- **Little White House, Warm Springs, Georgia.** Little White House, where he died on April 12, 1945, was FDR's cottage and polio rehab center.
- **Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada.** The Roosevelt summer home where FDR was stricken with polio is preserved at Roosevelt Campobello International Park. The park is owned and administered by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission; it is an affiliated area of the National Park Service and Parks Canada.
- **Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Oyster Bay, New York.** Sagamore Hill was the home of President Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt's uncle. It is managed by the National Park Service.
- **Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, New York City.** This brownstone in Manhattan commemorates where Eleanor Roosevelt's uncle was born. It is managed by the National Park Service.
- **Arthurdale, West Virginia.** This is the site of a Subsistence Homestead Project in West Virginia during the Roosevelt administration. It was designed to provide homes, employment, and education for unemployed coal miners. It was dubbed "Eleanor's Baby" because of Mrs. Roosevelt's special interest in the project.

## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site:

- **At Home on the Hudson River.** The Roosevelt family’s Hyde Park estate nurtured the boy who became president and was a family compound where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt created an environment to promote political and social change.
- **A Powerful Partnership.** Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt experienced personal challenges and relationships that helped them forge a partnership focused on social and economic progress that would make a difference in the lives of all people.
- **Legacy and Memorialization (Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt).** The political and social legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are interpreted and memorialized at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites, including their burial site and the FDR Presidential Library.
- **Advocacy and Activism.** Eleanor Roosevelt’s lifetime advocacy for human rights and world peace was grounded in her belief that the individual must participate in his or her community and government to facilitate change.



## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

#### Special Mandates

There are no special mandates for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

#### Administrative Commitments

The park's enabling legislation allows the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with qualified public or private entities for the purposes of providing studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which Eleanor Roosevelt devoted her intellect and concern. As written in the enabling legislation, such agreements shall contain provisions authorizing the Secretary or his designated representatives to enter upon the site at all reasonable times for purposes of renovation, maintenance, administration, interpretation, and visitor conduct, assuring that no changes or alterations are made to the site inconsistent with its historic significance, and may include such other provisions assuring the conduct of studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors as are mutually agreeable to the Secretary and the public or private entities responsible for conducting the same under such agreements. The park has entered into agreements with the FDR Presidential Library (administered by National Archives and Records Administration), Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association, Roosevelt Institute, and Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership.

### Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

### Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Cottages and Dependencies
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Val-Kill, which was part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate, was a Roosevelt family retreat, as well as Eleanor’s home and office, from its construction in 1926 until her death in 1962. During the time she spent at Val-Kill, she hosted political discussions with a wide range of people and formulated her social and political beliefs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Originally purchased by FDR in 1911 for forestry experiments, the site offered a refuge from the formality of the main house. Val-Kill became a retreat for Eleanor and, after FDR’s death, her home. Construction of Stone Cottage was started in 1925 and completed the following year. Val-Kill Cottage was built in 1926 as a furniture factory for Val-Kill Industries. Eleanor Roosevelt and her friends converted it to her residence in 1936–1937, and it became her year-round home in 1945. Associated outbuildings or dependencies include the Stable-Garage, Doll House, and Playhouse, all of which are important in illustrating aspects of Eleanor Roosevelt’s life.</li> <li>• Eleanor Roosevelt’s quarters in Val-Kill Cottage are furnished to recall her occupancy. Though some changes have been made to accommodate public access to the interiors, the structure remains mostly intact.</li> <li>• Val-Kill Cottage has an API of 100 and as FCI of 0.006 (good). Stone Cottage has an API of 87 and an FCI of 0.001 (good). The Playhouse has an API of 87 and an FCI of 0.087 (good). Doll House has an API of 80 and an FCI of 0.000 (good). The Stable-Garage has an API of 77 and an FCI of 0.000 (good). The East and West Garden Sheds have an API of 77 and FCIs, respectively, of 0.018 (good) and 0.002 (good).</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2010, the National Park Service completed a general management plan for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site that currently guides the park’s management and development.</li> <li>• Since the site’s establishment in 1977, Stone Cottage had served as headquarters and the centerpiece of Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill programs. In 2008, the center was relocated to a new headquarters building on the site of a former nonhistoric caretaker’s cottage.</li> <li>• The park has an agreement with Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill to conduct programs that carry on Eleanor Roosevelt’s legacy.</li> <li>• The Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership is a nonprofit public-private partnership that supports visitor programs and interpretive media at Val-Kill and programming dedicated to Eleanor Roosevelt’s ideals.</li> <li>• Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site and Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill are joint members of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.</li> <li>• The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association (the parks’ cooperating association) operates the bookstore at Val-Kill and provides the proceeds to programming at the park.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Cottages and Dependencies
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interior of the Doll House needs to be restored.</li> <li>• Continued delay of maintenance and repair projects threatens structures.</li> <li>• Crowding of visitors in Val-Kill Cottage can negatively impact artifacts and the visitor experience.</li> <li>• There is an ongoing threat to the Val-Kill Cottage structure associated with inadequate climate control, high water table, and the presence of termites.</li> <li>• Climate change could have damaging impacts on cultural resources at Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. These potential impacts are not clearly understood and should be researched.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of student education programs concentrate on Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, with far less focus on Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. Student participation could be increased.</li> <li>• There are partnership opportunities for enhancing the visitor experience and upgrading educational programs with such local colleges as Bard College, Vassar College, State University of New York–New Paltz, Marist College, and Dutchess Community College.</li> <li>• There is a need for more contextual research regarding the role of the Roosevelts in the Mid-Hudson Valley, including families in the community and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender connections.</li> <li>• With much new scholarship in recent years, a new long-range interpretive plan would enhance and make more relevant the visitor experience.</li> </ul>
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated national register documentation.</li> <li>• Historic resource study on the role of the Roosevelts in the Mid-Hudson Valley.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan.</li> <li>• Maintenance facilities plan.</li> <li>• Integrated pest management plan and interior pesticide plan.</li> <li>• Climate adaptation plan.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• Executive Order 13287, "Preserve America"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation &amp; Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Val-Kill Landscape
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Val-Kill, which was part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate, was a Roosevelt family retreat, as well as Eleanor's home and office, from its construction in 1926 until her death in 1962. During the time she spent at Val-Kill, she hosted political discussions with a wide range of people and formulated her social and political beliefs.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national historic site includes all of the land historically associated with Val-Kill at the time of Eleanor's death. The 181-acre property includes forest plantations, natural woodlands, agricultural lands, designed landscapes, and associated archeological resources. Val-Kill Pond, a dammed section of the Fall Kill, opens a view of the historic core of Val-Kill on the east bank. Several remaining landscape features underscore the importance of this site for Roosevelt family gatherings: the stone barbecue, swing and teeter-totter, and swimming pool. There are also archeological features associated with the former structures from the Eleanor Roosevelt period, as well as an earlier farmhouse and a dump site from the Roosevelt period.</li> <li>The agricultural context of Val-Kill remained important throughout Eleanor Roosevelt's life. She actively sought to preserve it after FDR's death, when she and her son Elliott purchased land from the FDR estate trust and formed a company called Val-Kill Farms. The site also includes a large white pine plantation set out by FDR in 1914 and the remains of several other plantations, including white cedar, tulip tree, and Scotch pine plantations set out as experimental plots by the New York State College of Forestry in 1930–1931. The Cutting Garden, Shed, and Greenhouse were established around 1937 to provide the cottages with fresh flowers.</li> <li>The Val-Kill landscape has an API of 80 and an FCI of 1.285 (serious).</li> <li>The park's walkways have an API of 100 and an FCI of 0.000 (good). The park's trails have APIs ranging from 31 to 90 and an average FCI of 0.092 (poor).</li> <li>Interpretation remains focused on the historic structures, and, in general, other cultural resources are not adequately interpreted.</li> <li>Missing landscape features from the period of significance include the agricultural buildings in the central and western parts of the site and the hot and cold frames associated with the Cutting Garden. The pond is much smaller than it was historically when it dominated the landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park is using the <i>Cultural Landscape Report for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, Volume II: Treatment</i> (2013) to restore the cultural landscape.</li> <li>As with Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, the site's trail system is underused. Use and interpretation of the Secret Woods, other forest plantations, and other former agricultural lands have yet to be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For much of the period of significance (1924–1962), Val-Kill's setting was surrounded by farmland. As with Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, the suburbanization that began in the 1950s continues to threaten the park's rural context with low-density residential and commercial strip development and associated traffic problems.</li> <li>Scenic views are susceptible to air pollution-caused haze. Coal-fired power plants, vehicle exhaust, and agriculture are contributors to air quality impacts regionally. Significant reductions in power plant and vehicle exhaust emissions in the past decade have reduced ozone and fine particles, which has improved air quality at the park.</li> <li>The forest plantations developed by FDR have not been maintained and are becoming unrecognizable as plantations. Open fields are diminishing in size; some 15 of the roughly 40 acres that were open in Eleanor Roosevelt's day are now covered with woody vegetation.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Val-Kill Landscape
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projected climate change may affect the landscape and viewsheds by increasing the threat of erosion, increasing invasive species, shifting species phenology, and driving northward shifts in species ranges.</li> <li>• The Val-Kill Pond is in the 100-year floodplain and is being filled in by sedimentation caused by the dam.</li> <li>• The historic dock has deteriorated and needs to be replaced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is space at Val-Kill for expanding the parking lot.</li> <li>• Cultural and natural landscapes could be enhanced by noise reduction. Opportunities to reduce noise could include changing equipment and reducing crowding.</li> </ul>
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual resource inventory.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational uses plan.</li> <li>• Val-Kill Pond restoration plan.</li> <li>• Visual resource management plan.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Clean Air Act of 1977</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.4.6) "What Constitutes Park Resources and Values"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.9) "Soundscape Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§5.3.1.7) "Cultural Soundscape Management"</li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i></li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum and Archival Collections
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Val-Kill, which was part of the historic Roosevelt Family Estate, was a Roosevelt family retreat, as well as Eleanor's home and office, from its construction in 1926 until her death in 1962. During the time she spent at Val-Kill, she hosted political discussions with a wide range of people and formulated her social and political beliefs.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following Eleanor Roosevelt's death, the furnishings and personal possessions either passed to family and friends or were sold. The park has since acquired historic furnishings and other collections associated with the site. The collection comprises primarily historical material (4,000 items), including objects necessary to maintain the historic appearance of Val-Kill Cottage, original furnishings with site-specific provenance, and replacement pieces. The collection also includes approximately 15 linear feet of documents, photographs, and movie film.</li> <li>More than 78% of the museum collection is cataloged but not to park or NPS standards.</li> <li>Current planning documents include a scope of collection statement (2013), integrated pest management plan (2013), historic furnishings report (1986), and housekeeping plan (draft).</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The collection is expected to grow as the National Park Service continues acquisition of original objects related to Eleanor Roosevelt's life and work at Val-Kill, most of which were scattered at public auction following her death.</li> <li>In 2014, new exhibits on the early Val-Kill years employing park collections funded by the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership were opened to the public in Stone Cottage.</li> <li>In collaboration with Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, the park has a new museum services building, which has improved the condition of the stored collections. Martin Van Buren National Historic Site also uses this storage space.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The collection faces ongoing threats associated with inadequate climate control and the presence of dermestid pests.</li> <li>Only 10%–15% of park management records of permanent value have been retired to the park archives and processed. The large body of resource management records in the files of several park divisions needs to be archivally processed and made available for broader staff and research use and selected records retired to the National Archives and Records Administration as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original furnishings at Val-Kill were scattered after the death of Eleanor Roosevelt, and opportunities to acquire more of her furnishings frequently arise.</li> <li>The park's large oral history collection could be used more fully in park interpretive and educational programs.</li> <li>Retiring and processing park management records could be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve quality of catalog records to park and NPS cataloging standards.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum and Archival Collections
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection management plan (update).</li> <li>• Roosevelt-Vanderbilt records management file plan (update).</li> <li>• Integrated pest management plan and interior pesticide use plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• “Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections” (36 CFR 79)</li> <li>• “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management”</li> <li>• Director’s Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director’s Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul>



## Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources of the park include wetlands and other aquatic resources, several natural communities considered rare and/or significant within New York State, forest lands, and prime agricultural lands.</li> <li>Aquatic resources include a wide variety of palustrine (marshy) and tidal river systems. There are also numerous clusters of vernal pools, seeps, and intermittent streams, many of which have not been inventoried or mapped.</li> <li>The park contains some prime agricultural lands best suited to producing food, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Within the park there are two categories of prime agricultural lands: prime farmland soil (1 acre) and soils of statewide significance (6 acres).</li> <li>A diverse array of animal species is present in the park, in part due to the large areas of wetland and forest. The presence of the northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septemrionalis</i>), a federal threatened species, has been documented. The park is within the summer range of the Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>), which is on the federal list of endangered species, but the presence of this species has not been verified. Val-Kill has been home to the Blanding's turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>), which is on the New York State list of threatened species and was last seen in the park in 2003. Several other turtle species (spotted, wood, and box) and salamander species (Jefferson's, blue-spotted, and marbled) have been identified as species of special concern in New York State and are known to be present in the park. The presence of several birds on federal or state lists of species of concern, including the bald eagle and red-shouldered hawk, has been documented, but there is little reliable long-term data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A growing deer population is having negative impacts on the park's natural resources.</li> <li>Soil stability, vegetation, species composition, vernal pools, forest types, and habitat diversity may be affected by projected increases in temperature, overall precipitation, and frequency/intensity of storms due to ongoing and accelerating climate change.</li> <li>Natural resources in the park are at risk for harmful effects from air pollution, including nutrient enrichment and acidification from excess deposition of nitrogen and sulfur air pollutants. Nitrogen deposition levels are above critical loads for lichen and forest vegetation. Wetlands are sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects of excess nitrogen from deposition, which can help invasive plant species to grow faster and out-compete native vegetation adapted to lower nitrogen conditions. Sugar maple and red spruce trees are especially sensitive to effects of acidification. Also, airborne toxics, including mercury and pesticides, deposited with rain or snow can accumulate in park wildlife, resulting in reduced foraging efficiency, survival, and reproductive success.</li> <li>Soil stability, vegetation, species composition, vernal pools, forest types, and habitat diversity may be affected by projected increases in temperature, overall precipitation, and frequency/intensity of storms due to ongoing climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park is a member of the NPS Northeast Temperate Network and benefits from a number of inventory and monitoring efforts including the collection of long-term bird, water quality, and forest health data to inform park management decisions. Opportunities exist to obtain technical assistance for addressing natural resources issues at the park, particularly forest management.</li> </ul>

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor federal and state threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>• Investigate air pollution impacts on sensitive park ecosystems.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer management plan.</li> <li>• Climate adaptation plan.</li> </ul>
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</li> <li>• Clean Air Act of 1977</li> <li>• Clean Water Act</li> <li>• Endangered Species Act of 1973</li> <li>• Migratory Bird Treaty Act</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• National Invasive Species Act</li> <li>• Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality"</li> <li>• Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species"</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 4) "Natural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i></li> </ul>



## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but that still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Connection between Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites.** Although Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites are separate national parks, they share the same themes and stories, and it is important to integrate the visitor experience and interpretation of each park with the other.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Long-range interpretive plan; historic resource study on the role of the Roosevelts in the Mid-Hudson Valley
- **Long-Range Interpretive Plan.** Abundant recent research and thinking about historic interpretation and the visitor experience at the park underscore the need for a new combined long-range interpretive plan, especially designed to thematically link the park with Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites. To develop interpretive content, the park needs to complete important background research through updated national register documentation.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Long-range interpretive plan; updated national register documentation
- **Visitation.** Visitation at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites has increased over the last few years, in part due to the addition of the new Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the FDR site in 2003. Since 2003 the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center has been a popular venue for community events and increased numbers of school groups and other educational groups. Other contributing factors include major renovation upgrades and new state of the art exhibits at the FDR Presidential Library/Museum, publication of a record number of new books on the Roosevelts, and release of the Ken Burns film, “The Roosevelts: An Intimate History,” all of which have increased people’s interest in the Roosevelts.
 

There is a sense that, because visitors with personal knowledge/experience of park history are aging and the stories of the Roosevelts are further away in time, new approaches and new audiences need to be developed for the park. The park has strengthened its social media program and expanded programs, and park staff are putting more emphasis on outreach programs to schools.

  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Long-range interpretive plan; recreational uses plan; visitor profiles
- **Records and Archival Management.** There is a backlog of work cataloging and organizing records and archives for the park. Park staff need guidance from the NPS Northeast Region, particularly regarding storage and retrieval of digital records and archiving of park resource management records.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Improve quality of catalog records to park and NPS cataloging standards



- **Natural Resources Management.** Some of the important resource management issues facing the park include a growing deer population, restoration of Val-Kill Pond, better management of forest resources, and removal of trees that interfere with important viewsheds.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Deer management plan; Val-Kill Pond restoration plan
- **Maintenance Facilities.** Maintenance facilities are housed in historic structures at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites and are inadequate for accommodating machinery. In addition, maintenance activities adversely impact the fabric of the historic structures.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Maintenance facilities plan
- **Park Boundary Survey.** The park does not have an accurate boundary survey.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Park boundary survey
- **Information Technology Infrastructure and Support.** Information technology infrastructure and support is needed to facilitate park operations and enhance the visitor experience at the park.
  - *Associated planning and data needs:* Information technology infrastructure and support plan

### Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.



Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H,M,L)	Notes
FRV, Key Issue	Long-range interpretive plan	H	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites. Would include an education plan.
OIRV, Key Issue	Deer management plan	H	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV, Key Issue	Val-Kill Pond restoration plan	H	
FRV, OIRV	Climate adaptation plan	H	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV, Key Issue	Maintenance facilities plan	H	Maintenance facilities are located at Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV	Collection management plan (update)	M	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV	Integrated pest management plan and interior pesticide use plan	M	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
Key Issue	Information technology infrastructure and support plan	M	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV, Key Issue	Recreational uses plan	M	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.
FRV	Visual resource management plan	M	Plan would use visual resource inventory as a baseline and identify goals and strategies to protect important views. Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
FRV	Roosevelt-Vanderbilt records management file plan (update)	L	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data Needs	Priority (H,M,L)	Notes
FRV, Key Issue	National register documentation (update)	H	Existing documentation dates from 1980.
FRV, Key Issue	Historic resource study on role of the Roosevelts in Mid-Hudson Valley	H	Need to understand cultural context of sites. Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.
Key Issue	Park boundary survey	H	
FRV, Key Issue	Improve quality of catalog records to park and NPS cataloging standards	H	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
Key Issue	Visitor profiles	M	Should include Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites.
OIRV	Investigate air pollution impacts on sensitive park ecosystems	M	Include potential impact of mercury and other toxins on biota in the park such as bird, bat, insect, and fish species.
FRV	Visual resource inventory	M	Identify scenic quality and NPS/visitor values for important views and support protection of cultural landscape.
OIRV	Monitoring of federal and state threatened and endangered species	L	Should include northern long-eared and Indiana bats, Blanding's turtle, and other turtle, salamander, and bird species.



## Part 3: Contributors

### Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Sites

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# Appendixes

## Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

PUBLIC LAW 95-32—MAY 26, 1977

91 STAT. 171

Public Law 95-32  
95th Congress

### An Act

To authorize the establishment of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

May 26, 1977  
[H.R. 5562]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in order to commemorate for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations the life and work of an outstanding woman in American history, Eleanor Roosevelt, to provide, in a manner compatible with preservation, interpretation, and use thereof by and for the general public, a site for continuing studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which she devoted her considerable intellect and humanitarian concerns, and to conserve for public use and enjoyment in a manner compatible with the foregoing purposes an area of natural open space in an expanding urbanized environment, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to establish the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, including the former home of Eleanor Roosevelt, Val-Kill, as depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site", numbered ELRO-90,000-NHS and dated May 1977. Said map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia. The Secretary is authorized to acquire such land and improvements thereon by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, N.Y. Establishment. 16 USC 461 note.

SEC. 2. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the site shall be renovated, maintained, and administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

Land acquisition.

Administration. 16 USC 461 note.

(b) The acquisition, renovation, administration, and management of the site and its conservation for public use and enjoyment shall be carried out by the Secretary and the studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors relating to the issues to which Eleanor Roosevelt devoted her intellect and concern may be carried out under cooperative agreements between the Secretary and qualified public or private entities. Such agreements shall contain provisions authorizing the Secretary or his designated representatives to enter upon the site at all reasonable times for purposes of renovation, maintenance, administration, interpretation, and visitor conduct, assuring that no changes or alterations are made to the site inconsistent with its historic significance, and may include such other provisions assuring the conduct of studies, lectures, seminars, and other endeavors as are mutually agreeable to the Secretary and the public or private entities responsible for conducting the same under such agreements.

16 USC 1. 16 USC 461. Cooperative agreements.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained an appropriate monument or memorial to Eleanor Roosevelt within the boundaries of the site.

Monument or memorial, erection and maintenance. 16 USC 461 note.

91 STAT. 172

## PUBLIC LAW 95-32—MAY 26, 1977

Appropriation  
authorization.  
16 USC 461 note.

Management  
plan, transmittal  
to congressional  
committees.

SEC. 4 (a) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act, not to exceed \$575,000 for acquisition of land and interests in lands, and not to exceed \$420,000 for development, not more than \$50,000 of which may be made available for the purposes of section 3 of this Act.

(b) Within three years from the effective date of this Act the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a general management plan for the use and development of the site consistent with the purposes of this Act, indicating—

(1) the lands and interests in lands adjacent or related to the site which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, or management and administration of the area in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and the estimated cost thereof;

(2) the number of visitors and types of public use within the site which can be accommodated in accordance with the protection of its resources; and

(3) the location and estimated cost of facilities deemed necessary to accommodate such visitors and uses.

Approved May 26, 1977.

112 STAT. 3300

PUBLIC LAW 105-364—NOV. 10, 1998

Public Law 105-364  
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998  
[S. 2241]

To provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes.

16 USC 461 note  
[table].

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire, by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands located in Hyde Park, New York, that were owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt or his family at the time of his death as depicted on the map entitled "F.D. Roosevelt Property Entire Park" dated July 26, 1962, and numbered FDR-NHS 3008. Such map shall be on file for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

**SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

Lands and interests therein acquired by the Secretary shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site or the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, as appropriate.

**SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 10, 1998.

## Appendix B: Interpretive Themes for Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites

### Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites

**Note:** Because their lives were inextricably intertwined, the interpretive themes about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and the national park units that commemorate the couple naturally intersect as well. Although each site retains site-specific themes and the approach, attention, and degree of interpretation will depend on the site and the story being interpreted, an overlapping theme structure for the two parks provides a structure that enables exploration of the relationships, influences, and events that affected the lives and work of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. This structure supports the connections between their stories rather than creating an artificial and contrived separation that is a disservice to both of them.

#### Theme 1: A Powerful Partnership

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt experienced personal challenges and relationships that helped them forge a partnership focused on social and economic progress that would make a difference in the lives of all people.

*About this theme:* This theme is about the powerful partnership between Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. It is about their personal and professional interdependence and growth and how together, they were able to accomplish things that neither could have accomplished independently. It is about their family and family relationships.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<p><b>Personal Lives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Family and Personal Relationships:</i> FDR's relationships with father James and mother Sara and half-brother Rosy. His admiration for distant cousin Theodore Roosevelt. His relationships with his children, Anna; James; Elliott; Franklin, Jr.; and John. His relationships with ER's social secretary Lucy Mercer, his political mentor, Louis Howe, Harry Hopkins, and cousin Daisy Suckley. ER's early relationships with her mother, father, grandmother and aunts. Her relationships with FDR, her mother-in-law and children.</li> <li>FDR and ER's relationship with Louis Howe and with Lucy Mercer.</li> <li>ER's relationships with Nancy Cook, Marion Dickerman, Elizabeth Reed, Lorena Hickok, Joseph Lash, and Earl Miller. The effect of these relationships on each of them and on their relationships with each other.</li> <li>Impacts of polio/disability on relationship between FDR and ER. Describe how FDR viewed his disability, and how others viewed him. Psychological effects of FDR's disability on his family.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Lives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FDR's work as New York state senator, governor, and president. Work on issues that dealt with conservation, social welfare issues like unemployment insurance, minimum wage. FDR's promotion of programs that gave assistance to people during the Great Depression, e.g., farmers (Agricultural Adjustment Act) the unemployed population in general (Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps), homeless (Subsistence Homestead projects).</li> <li>ER's work as a young woman with tenement residents, political work while FDR was recovering from polio, her work as First Lady of New York State and later as First Lady. ER's advocacy of civil rights and programs to help the impoverished during the Great Depression, including Arthurdale. Her work on the "My Day" column that connected people with what was happening in the government during the Great Depression and War Years and use as a tool to explore issues of concern with the American public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Franklin Roosevelt</li> <li>Eleanor Roosevelt</li> <li>Sara Delano Roosevelt</li> <li>The children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna</li> <li>Franklin, Jr.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Theodore Roosevelt</li> <li>Roles as President and First Lady</li> <li>Disability</li> <li>Four Freedoms</li> </ul>

*I was the agitator, he was the politician.*

—Eleanor Roosevelt, on her political role vis á vis President Roosevelt

## Theme 2: At Home on the Hudson

The Roosevelt family’s Hyde Park estate nurtured the boy who became president and was a family compound where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt created an environment to promote political and social change.

*About this theme:* This theme is about the Roosevelt family’s Hyde Park properties and how they functioned separately and together as components of a larger family compound. It covers Springwood as the Roosevelt family home, Top Cottage as a personal retreat, and Val-Kill as a family recreational ground and retreat for Eleanor Roosevelt where she pursued her political and human rights work.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<p><b>Home to the Roosevelts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the various Roosevelt properties as components of a larger whole that comprised a “family compound” at Hyde Park. Illustrate how the (now administratively separate) sites were regarded by the family (in contrast to NPS bureaucratic separations).</li> <li>Illustrate and explore the dynamics of Roosevelt family relationships and trace how those relationships played out over the family’s properties. Compare and contrast how the family used their various homes. Describe the ways the family used their homes in their professional lives.</li> <li>Describe the homes and properties through the perspectives of the people who lived and worked there.</li> <li>Describe how FDR’s disability is reflected in the homes. Describe how FDR’s disability is reflected in his home and his Top Cottage retreat.</li> <li>Explain FDR’s opinion of his neighbors, the Vanderbilts, and the Vanderbilts of the Roosevelts. Explore issues of old money/new money in Hyde Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Springwood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Family Home:</i> Explain how FDR’s father came to purchase the property in 1867. Explain that after James Roosevelt’s death, the property remained under the ownership of FDR’s mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, until her death in 1941.</li> <li><i>Family Dynamics:</i> Describe the effect that Sara’s ownership of Springwood had on FDR and Eleanor—both separately and as a couple.</li> <li>Describe how the Roosevelt Family Estate was FDR’s birthplace, his lifelong and family home, and the nucleus of his personal life and public career. Illustrate how the stability and security FDR experienced here (as a child and as an adult) helped to mold his responses to both personal challenges and national crises. Describe how, as president, FDR conducted official business during frequent visits to his Hyde Park home.</li> <li>Explore what the Home meant to the people who lived and/or worked there. What was FDR’s sense of the Home? For example: for FDR (comfort, home, restoration), for ER (not her home, discomfort, overwhelming burden of a family, difficult relationship with Sara), for Sara (healing, escape). Describe the personal relationships between people who lived and worked at Springwood.</li> <li><i>FDR’s Ownership:</i> Trace how, as his political ambitions and prominence grew, FDR adapted and enlarged his family home and transformed the Italianate country villa into a formal Colonial Revival mansion. Describe how he nearly doubled the size of the estate by acquiring upland farms and how the property reflects FDR’s pursuits in rural improvement and preserving local heritage. Illustrate how he used the new properties to explore and showcase ideas about land stewardship, conservation, and rural life and practiced a type of wise-use conservation intended to improve the land, and to help sustain the economic viability. Who did the farming? This implies that local farmers were lost without FDR telling them how they should work. Describe his various outdoor experiments and practical demonstrations at Hyde Park in forestry, agriculture, and the environment. Describe how what FDR learned at Hyde Park affected national policy—such as the Agricultural Adjustment Act.</li> <li>Describe the role and evaluate the impact of FDR’s early 20th century preservation efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Roosevelt</li> <li>Sara Delano Roosevelt</li> <li>Top Cottage</li> <li>Gravesite</li> <li>Handicap and accessibility</li> <li>Presidential years</li> <li>Agricultural practices</li> <li>Rural landscape conservation</li> <li>Family relationships</li> <li>Family</li> <li>Servants and workers</li> <li>Trees, farming and the CCC</li> <li>River families</li> <li>Sanctuary</li> <li>Contrast informal décor of ER site and more formal décor of FDR site</li> <li>Guests to Val-Kill</li> <li>Family</li> <li>Children</li> <li>Political, social, and economic justice.</li> <li>Dutch Colonial architecture</li> <li>“Picnic Diplomacy”</li> <li>Guests</li> <li>The press</li> </ul>



## Theme 2: At Home on the Hudson (continued)

The Roosevelt family's Hyde Park estate nurtured the boy who became president and was a family compound where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt created an environment to promote political and social change.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<p><b>Springwood (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how FDR's experience at Hyde Park informed his policy in the offices he held. For example, at Springwood he explored reforestation techniques. ER explored issues of poverty and job re-training to attain economic equity through the Val-Kill Industries experiment.</li> <li><i>Gravesite</i>: Describe why, as an expression of attachment to his Hyde Park home, FDR chose the Rose Garden as his final resting place and his plans to gift the property to the National Park Service.</li> <li><i>FDR Presidential Library</i>: Explain that FDR chose to build the presidential library on the estate that had been so important to him since childhood. His design of the library and love of Dutch Colonial architecture, which translated to other structures built on the property as well as local schools and post offices in the mid-Hudson valley.</li> </ul> <p><b>Val-Kill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the Roosevelt family's use of Val-Kill. Describe the social and familial atmosphere Eleanor Roosevelt cultivated at Val-Kill. Describe the guests to Val-Kill, their activities, and how the home became a meeting place for social activism and for hosting people ranging from students to world leaders.</li> <li>Describe how Val-Kill became a family recreation area and a personal sanctuary for Eleanor Roosevelt. Describe the building of the stone cottage and then the factory as purposeful decisions directed at political and economic justice activities on site.</li> <li>Explore family dynamics and how Val-Kill was the home of her own she had longed for since childhood, explaining how she always felt "homeless" in the sense that as a child she was shuttled among relatives and after marriage she lived in rentals or homes owned and decorated by her mother-in-law. Explore then sense of freedom she felt at Val-Kill as a place where she could bring friends and explore issues of mutual interest with women who were involved in the political scene. Show Val-Kill as a place that finally reflected her personality and interests.</li> <li>Describe Eleanor Roosevelt's relationships with people such as Nancy Cook, Marion Dickerman, Lorena Hickock, and Elizabeth Reed that created a network of support that enabled her social activism.</li> <li>Describe Eleanor Roosevelt's family, background, the social norms of her life and class, and the elements of her personality to both underscore and contrast with her later life at Val-Kill where she became comfortable with exercising her personal power.</li> <li>Describe entertaining the press and guests at Val-Kill.</li> </ul> <p><b>Top Cottage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Top Cottage</i>: Explore the personal and practical reasons that FDR designed and built a personal retreat, Top Cottage, set on a wooded hilltop looking out onto the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Mountains. Explain how the cottage and its surrounding landscape provided an intimate setting where FDR would meet with important visitors and close friends to discuss the state of the world or simply relax. Illustrate how he planned Top Cottage to accommodate his wheelchair and give him greater mobility. List some of the people who went to Top Cottage, the occasions held there, and the lifestyle in the cottage.</li> </ul>	

*All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River.*

—FDR, July 11, 1944, in a letter agreeing to accept the presidential nomination for a fourth term

### Theme 3: Legacy and Memorialization (Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt)

The political and social legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are interpreted and memorialized at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Sites, including their burial site and the presidential library.

*About this theme:* This theme summarizes FDR’s social and political legacy and discusses the idea of a personally curated presidential legacy with the creation of a presidential library. It also touches on the national park and conservation ideas in making the homes, together with the Vanderbilt Mansion, national historic sites. Memorialization allows space to evaluate how FDR has been memorialized over time.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<p><b>Joint Legacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the legacy of FDR and ER’s public work and their partnership. Discuss ER and her role as an advocate with FDR, based on observations made during her travels nationwide.</li> </ul> <p><b>FDR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Political Legacy:</i> Describe how Franklin Roosevelt championed programs related to equal economic opportunities, decent housing for all, sustaining rural life, educational opportunities for all. The creation of agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (employing people from all walks of life during the Great Depression) and the Subsistence Homestead Project (decent housing and retraining for the unemployed as well as relocating people to farming areas). These agencies today would be similar to programs created by government agencies such as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Housing and Urban Development and programs such as sustainable communities. Government programs such as Social Security, minimum wage, unemployment insurance were created to help people during hard times and unemployment as well as help create a living wage for all.</li> <li><i>Presidential Library:</i> FDR was the first president who made a conscious effort to perpetuate a physical legacy for himself by creating a presidential library and establishing his home as a national historic site. By donating family lands to the National Park Service and the National Archives and establishing a part of the Vanderbilt estate as a national historic site, FDR actively sought to preserve these resources for future generations. Describe how FDR showed an interest in architecture rooted in local heritage by designing his presidential library and his and Eleanor’s separate private retreats based on the traditional Dutch Colonial architecture of the Hudson River Valley.</li> <li>Discuss FDR’s and ER’s desire for an organization where issues among nations could be discussed and problems worked out to prevent future wars. Discuss their mutual concern about the possibilities of a third world war and how their living through two previous world wars created their mutual horror of the possibility of future conflicts among nations.</li> <li>Explore ER’s desire to ensure that FDR’s vision for a United Nations organization would be realized. Discuss the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as her road map to world peace – which outlined the need for equality and human rights in all areas of life.</li> <li>Compare and contrast how history views FDR and the legacy he crafted for himself.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eleanor Roosevelt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Evaluate Eleanor Roosevelt’s legacy regarding progressive social and political issues both in the context of her own time and as a legacy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FDR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legacy</li> <li>Presidential library</li> <li>National Archives</li> <li>NPS</li> </ul> <p><b>Eleanor Roosevelt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</li> <li>United Nations</li> <li>Women’s rights</li> <li>Issues of equality</li> </ul>

*I see an America devoted to our freedom, unified by tolerance and by religious faith, a people consecrated to peace and a people confident in strength because their body and their spirit are secure and unafraid.*

—FDR, November 2, 1940

## Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

### Theme 4: Leadership Amidst Crises

President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the United States through the crises of the Great Depression and World War II, championing a vision of economic security for all and world peace, using the power of government to achieve these goals.

*About this theme:* This theme is about FDR's social and political legacy and all the times he was a leader including his early career as a state senator, Secretary of the Navy, and Governor of New York. It includes conflicts, successes, political alliances, missteps and controversies of leadership.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presidency:</i> Describe how elected president in 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation through two great crises of the 20th century, the Great Depression and World War II.</li> <li>• Set context by describing the condition of the nation when FDR took office, the forces that created those conditions and the challenges he faced. Describe FDR's political experience and the strategies he used at a state level that he employed later at national levels.</li> <li>• <i>Redefining the Role of the Federal Government:</i> Analyze and evaluate the statement, "Americans live in the world FDR put into place." Explain the ways in which during an unprecedented 12 years in office, FDR redefined the role of the federal government with the American public by forging a "New Deal" that created progressive federal agencies and policies designed to create social safety nets to protect the poor, the unemployed, and the elderly.</li> <li>• Explore some of the more questionable decisions/moves FDR made during his career as a politician. For example: turning away the refugee ship, St. Louis; internment camps for Japanese; the decision to develop atomic energy, and others.</li> <li>• Debate the concept that FDR was a "traitor to his class" that emerged from the repeal of prohibition without a promised reduction in income taxes for the very wealthy (imposed earlier to offset the cost lost revenue of alcohol "sin taxes.")</li> <li>• <i>WWII:</i> Describe how during World War II, FDR mobilized America's latent industrial resources and led a coalition of nations to defend democracy against authoritarian regimes. Explore FDR and his relationship with Winston Churchill, the alliance that saved the world.</li> <li>• <i>Personal Skills:</i> Describe the ways in which FDR led the nation through force of personality, communication savvy, and political skill during one of the most troubled and crisis-ridden eras so far in American life.</li> <li>• <i>United Nations:</i> Describe how FDR's Four Freedoms (freedom of speech and expression; freedom to worship; freedom from want; and freedom from fear) are embodied in the United Nations, an organization that he hoped would guarantee lasting international peace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Great Depression</li> <li>• WWII</li> <li>• The New Deal</li> <li>• Role of the federal government</li> <li>• Churchill</li> <li>• Stalin</li> <li>• Four Freedoms: freedom of speech and expression; freedom to worship; freedom from want; and freedom from fear</li> <li>• United Nations</li> <li>• Refugees</li> <li>• Atomic bomb</li> <li>• Internment camps</li> </ul>

*The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over the government.*

—FDR, Fireside Chat from the White House, April 14, 1938

## Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

### Theme 5: Advocacy and Activism

Eleanor Roosevelt’s lifetime advocacy for human rights and world peace was grounded in her belief that the individual must participate in his or her community and government to facilitate change.

About this theme: This theme is about Eleanor Roosevelt’s lifelong commitment to human rights and personal dignity and the ways this commitment is evident in her work and legacy—including her advocacy as First Lady, Val-Kill Industries, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>: Describe Eleanor Roosevelt’s role in establishing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Discuss human rights—and specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—as a lens through which to examine contemporary issues in the news today. Explore issues of human rights in a way that provides opportunities to explore tough issues such as: women’s rights, economic opportunity, police actions, and refugees. Describe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as one of most radical documents ever written and the concept of “consensus through diversity.”</li> <li>• Describe how after FDR’s death, President Truman named Eleanor Roosevelt as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and how, as chair of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in winning acceptance in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Describe what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights meant to Eleanor Roosevelt and why. Describe that although she resigned her position in 1952, she continued to promote the United Nations and regarded her work with the world organization as her greatest source of satisfaction.</li> <li>• <i>First Lady</i>: Evaluate ER’s role in shaping the modern conception of first lady.</li> <li>• <i>Advocate</i>: Recount Eleanor Roosevelt’s difficult childhood and how she enjoyed working with young people, especially children who were disadvantaged. Describe her commitment to advocate on behalf of ordinary citizens and the underprivileged and provide them access to administrative and legislative influence.</li> <li>• <i>Social Welfare</i>: Describe Eleanor Roosevelt’s lifelong interest and work in social welfare. Describe how she was able to advocate for social welfare and civil rights and wielding influence without holding elected office—but capitalizing on the political power of being a first lady and a former first lady.</li> <li>• Describe how Eleanor Roosevelt’s political activism blossomed through friendships with progressive reformers including Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman. Describe their ideas and the influences they had on Eleanor Roosevelt.</li> <li>• Describe Eleanor Roosevelt’s travels as her education on social issues. Describe how she traveled the country and war zones on FDR’s behalf, returning with detailed observations and determined advocacy. Describe the political dynamic and alliance between Eleanor and FDR. Explore how she was more likely than he to support issues and causes that some thought were controversial; how she advocated for causes and how she interceded with FDR. (For example, “I was the agitator, and he was the politician,” she said.) Describe Eleanor’s (and FDR’s) attitudes toward issues such as race, education, employment, housing, and women’s equality.</li> <li>• Illustrate the ways in which Eleanor Roosevelt continued to advocate for humanitarian concerns through her writings, public appearances, and teaching at Brandeis University. Describe the ways that she used her influence to steer the Democratic Party toward progressive issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Lady</li> <li>• Social welfare issues</li> <li>• Marion Dickerman</li> <li>• Nancy Cook</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Social Class</li> <li>• Harry Truman</li> <li>• United Nations</li> <li>• Universal Declaration of Human Rights</li> <li>• Brandeis University</li> <li>• Democratic Party</li> <li>• Women’s rights</li> <li>• Issues of equality</li> <li>• Vocational training</li> <li>• Val-Kill Industries</li> <li>• Arthurdale community in WV</li> <li>• Theodore Roosevelt</li> <li>• Diplomacy</li> <li>• Connections with other parks: National Mall, Mary McLeod Bethune</li> </ul>

### Theme 5: Advocacy and Activism (continued)

Eleanor Roosevelt's lifetime advocacy for human rights and world peace was grounded in her belief that the individual must participate in his or her community and government to facilitate change.

Concepts	Topics and Stories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Val-Kill was a place where women in the political field debated and discussed ideas that they wanted to pursue as part of the national platform of the Democratic Party.</li> <li>• Describe how Eleanor Roosevelt used Val-Kill as a “laboratory” for small industry and vocational training in pursuit of larger goals of economic and social justice. Explain how, with her associates Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook, Eleanor Roosevelt established Val-Kill Industries that produced furniture, metal ware, and fabrics with the aim of reviving traditional crafts as a means to train and assist unemployed rural citizens. Evaluate the success of Val-Kill Industries.</li> <li>• Describe the range of Eleanor Roosevelt's social improvement ventures, their purpose, and success such as, at Arthurdale, she oversaw the creation of decent housing, and high-quality educational opportunities and retraining of former unemployed coal miners and their families which would ultimately give many of them a better way of life.</li> <li>• Evaluate Eleanor Roosevelt's legacy regarding progressive social and political issues both in the context of her own time and as a legacy.</li> <li>• Explore ER's attitudes on race and class, including her treatment of staff. Discuss her power to influence people in her own political party, such as Senator John Kennedy, to make race equality a priority of the Democratic platform.</li> <li>• Trace how ER develops her authority. Describe who and why domestic and world leaders seek her out for discussion and endorsement. Describe the times Eleanor Roosevelt is a team player.</li> </ul>	

*Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places close to home. So close and so small they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.*

—Eleanor Roosevelt, United Nations, 1958








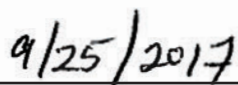
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**Northeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation  
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site**

September 2017

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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.

	
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RECOMMENDED	Date
Larry Turk, Superintendent, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site	
	
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APPROVED	Date
Gay Vietzke, Regional Director, Northeast Region	



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 historic 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.

Foundation Document • Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

