Public Scoping Open House
Petroglyph National Monument
Visitor Use Management Plan/EA

How to Comment

Public Comment Period is open through October 16, 2016
There are several ways to provide input on the plan/EA:

- Fill out a comment card at this meeting
- Submit comments electronically (preferred) at:
  - http://parkplanning.nps.gov/PETR
- Submit written comments at the park visitor center or by mail to the following central address for this project:

  Headquarters Administration Offices
  6001 Unser Blvd. NW
  Albuquerque, NM 87120

Meeting Agenda

6:00–6:15 p.m.  Sign-in & Open House
6:15–6:30 p.m.  Welcome from NPS
6:30–8:00 p.m.  Open House
Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Visitor Use Management Plan for Petroglyph National Monument is to formalize a trail system and manage public use within the monument. The trail network and activities will be compatible with the park’s purpose, significance, and the legislation that established the monument. Strategies will address the management and maintenance of the trail system, access points, associated infrastructure, and provide direction for visitor use management and decision-making. Cultural and traditional uses and values will be integrated into the planning and decision-making processes. The strategies associated with the trail system will also provide guidance on resolving differences between visitor groups and impacts to cultural and natural resources. It will include expectations for long term monitoring and analysis of visitor capacity.

A plan is needed because:

- The trail system at the monument is complex and not systematically managed, leading to high maintenance costs, haphazard visitor circulation patterns and experiences, and natural and cultural resource impacts.
- Connections to adjacent trails, neighborhoods, and open spaces could be improved to more effectively link the park to the surrounding community.
- Visitation by all user groups is increasing and a designated trail system would proactively manage to protect resources and provide for a diversity of visitor experiences.
- Unplanned social trails have become increasingly prevalent, causing erosion problems and threatening to damage valuable archeological resources.
- Deliberate and tactful visitor use planning would improve opportunities for education and interpretation, recreation and exercise, solitude and traditional cultural use while increasing connections to the monument’s resources.
Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

Trail Network

1. The monument contains an extensive network of trails comprised of historic ranch and military roads, maintenance roads, formal trails, and social trails. There is a need for a comprehensive sustainable trail system to decrease the current complex trail system’s impacts and decrease maintenance.

2. There are also opportunities that could benefit the monument and surrounding neighborhoods such as the establishment of trails connecting the monument to city trails and open space.

Visitor Use

3. An increase in visitation resulted in conflicts between various types of use (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, and dog walking) as well as with the monument’s mission to protect resources and provide a quality visitor experience.

Neighborhood Access

4. Residents from adjacent communities desire neighborhood access to the monument. Social trails that have developed have resulted in numerous erosion problems and increase the risk of damage to archeological resources.

General Access

5. Access points to the trail system (e.g., major/minor public access points, neighborhood access points) need to be improved or more appropriate locations identified.

Is there anything you would like to share with the planning team about these key issues?

What are the opportunities associated with some of these issues?
NEPA requires that a no-action alternative be analyzed. This alternative describes existing management and policies and establishes a baseline.
Draft Management Concept A: Cultural and Natural Resource Focus

This management concept intends to enhance the protection of natural and cultural resource areas. This is accomplished by providing a designated trail system throughout the park that links neighborhoods to park resources and provides visitors the opportunity to learn about and understand the value of petroglyphs. For the protection of natural and cultural resources this management concept limits use to primarily pedestrian hiking and walking, with dog walking prohibited in petroglyph viewing areas, encouraging a balance of traditional and local values. The trail system provides close-to-home recreation experiences without adversely impacting park resources. This management concept seeks to restore and rehabilitate the petroglyphs viewing areas, unsustainable trail corridors, informal trails, and promote resource conservation for cultural traditions.
Draft Management Concept B: Managed Intentional Recreation for Visitors and the Local Community

This management concept intends to provide diverse visitor experiences and purposeful neighborhood accesses while recognizing the cultural and natural resources of the park. This is accomplished by providing a designated trail system throughout the park that comprehensively links neighborhood access and provides visitors the opportunity to learn about and understand the value of petroglyphs and engage in a diverse range of visitor experiences. For the enhancement of visitor experiences and local community access this management concept provides an extensive trail network with number of escarpment connector trails providing opportunities to link visitor experiences and opportunities to learn about fundamental resources and values. The trail system provides the most access throughout the park, the hike to the top of the volcanoes area would be pedestrian only to protect the traditional values in the area. Trail experiences under this management concept range from dog walking, hiking, mountain biking and traditional uses.
Aerial Photos of the Monument Area Over the Years