

Restoring the Landscape: The Cemetery Ridge Project

To teach and inspire the millions who visit here, Gettysburg National Military Park preserves the topographic, landscape and cultural features that were significant to the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg. Over the years, however, many of those features have been obscured or changed because of natural vegetative growth and other processes.

The National Park Service and the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation are partnering to rehabilitate a portion of the July 2-3, 1863, battle line along Cemetery Ridge. This rehabilitation initiative will involve:

- Removal of two outdated visitor facilities built in the 1920s and the 1960s
- Removal of the parking lots and roads associated with these two buildings
- Removal of 6,700 feet of overhead power lines
- Re-establishment of the historic landscapes
- Expansion of education opportunities along Cemetery Ridge.

The Cemetery Ridge project area covers 43.5 acres. These acres contain historic houses, barns, fences, stone walls and orchards. More than 70 monuments are located in this area of Cemetery Ridge; seven of them were moved to accommodate the construction of the Cyclorama building in 1962. They will be returned to their original locations, where they had been placed by veterans of the battle.

The Cemetery Ridge rehabilitation project is a major initiative of Gettysburg National Military Park's 1999 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The project cost is \$9,588,694. Of that total, the Gettysburg Foundation is raising \$7 million. The National Park Service is requesting \$2,588,694 in Congressional appropriations. The Cemetery Ridge project is also eligible for matching funds through the Centennial Challenge, President George W. Bush's initiative in commemoration of the National Park Service's centennial in 2016.