

West Point Foundry Preserve 2016-2017 Access Improvements

Scenic Hudson has plans to develop a new public overlook for its West Point Foundry Preserve and to improve the Central Gathering Area in front of the historic administration building.

- to improve visitor access and experience
- to identify and protect the historic and natural features of these sites
- to enhance aesthetic and ecological quality of the sites

Project Description

A. Central Gathering Area

This site is currently used as a picnicking area and flexible multi-purpose area for large tours, field trips, events, etc. Improvements at the Central Gathering Area will provide better visitor circulation to the standing ruins and the Foundry Brook and the stations of the audio tour, while the overall aesthetic value of the area is enhanced and providing better functionality of the space. Existing drainage patterns will remain the same within an active flood zone. Work for the central gathering area includes grading and seeding of a new lawn area retained by a curb step, construction of stonedust pathways, delineation of a small maintenance parking area, and the placement of additional bench seating. Removals in this area will be limited the ramp structure, the perforation of the large concrete slab to improve drainage, and any minor grading for placement of a new pathway.

B. Kemble Overlook

The Kemble Overlook is located on a portion of the Campbell property (originally Governor Kemble's) at the top of the bluff. This unique vantage offers wide sweeping elevated views of the Hudson River, West Point, and the Hudson Highlands to the south east. A visitor will be to ascend an open-fer steel staircase from the existing marsh path while looking down at once was the original Foundry Dock. The archaeology report produced by MTU students, identify that the Kemble's once had a bluff staircase and possibly at this same location. The staircase is designed to stand apart from the steep slope with landings that offer their own unique perspectives on the River. A stonedust pathway leads to a low viewing platform that will be constructed similarly to other platforms at WFPF. Small interpretive signs will be located at most of the landings and be attached to the railing in similar fashion to those at the Boring Mill staircase within the park.

Maintenance and emergency access will be maintained across the neighboring property with a ROW not be accessible to the public. This driveway will be closed off with a gate and will become secondary in nature. This driveway will also be restricted from regular residential use to protect the privacy of the neighboring properties.