

**From:** [McGeary, Malcolm D](#)  
**To:** [Milkman, Louise F](#); [Krakoff, Sarah A](#)  
**Cc:** [Tittler, Andrew](#); [Porsia, Sara C](#); [Sams, Charles F](#); [Reynolds, Michael T](#); [Lands, Frank W](#); [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:23:41 PM

---

Thank you, Louise. Will let you know if we have any additional questions.

---

**From:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>; Sams, Charles F <[charles\\_sams@nps.gov](mailto:charles_sams@nps.gov)>; Reynolds, Michael T <[Michael\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov)>; Lands, Frank W <[frank\\_lands@nps.gov](mailto:frank_lands@nps.gov)>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

Malcolm, attached is a draft outline regarding authority. As you'll see, we will need to (b) (5) [REDACTED] of issues if the proposal goes forward.  
Let us know any questions.

Louise

Louise Milkman (she/her)  
Assistant Solicitor for National Parks  
Department of the Interior  
202-208-6535 (office)  
202-604-5489 (cell)

---

**From:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 3:15 PM  
**To:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>; Sams, Charles F <[charles\\_sams@nps.gov](mailto:charles_sams@nps.gov)>; Reynolds, Michael T <[Michael\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov)>; Lands, Frank W <[frank\\_lands@nps.gov](mailto:frank_lands@nps.gov)>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

Thank you, I am looping in Chuck and his team.

---

**From:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:24 PM  
**To:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

OK. We are looking at the (b) (5)

---

**From:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:06 PM

**To:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

Got it, thank you. Will wait to see (b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:05 PM

**To:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A

<[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

I don't think this is (b) (5)

Louise Milkman (she/her)  
Assistant Solicitor for National Parks  
Department of the Interior  
202-208-6535 (office)  
202-604-5489 (cell)

---

**From:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:03 PM

**To:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:08 PM

**To:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Tittler, Andrew <[Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov)>; Porsia, Sara C <[sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Penn Park question

Thanks Malcom. As I just mentioned, (b) (5)

Louise

Louise Milkman (she/her)  
Assistant Solicitor for National Parks  
Department of the Interior  
202-208-6535 (office)  
202-604-5489 (cell)

---

**From:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:06 PM

**To:** Milkman, Louise F <[louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov](mailto:louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov)>; Krakoff, Sarah A <[sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov](mailto:sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Penn Park question

Louise – please see this article. (b) (5)



[William Penn statue may be permanently removed from Welcome Park, angering some \(msn.com\)](#)

Malcolm McGeary  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**From:** [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)  
**To:** [Sams, Charles F](#); [Reynolds, Michael T](#); [Lands, Frank W](#); [McGeary, Malcolm D](#)  
**Cc:** [Wilson, Jim L](#)  
**Subject:** RE: INDE draft news release\_DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:11:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

It's posted- [Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Chief of Public Affairs & Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: [\(202\) 230-2088](tel:(202)230-2088)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Sams, Charles F <[charles\\_sams@nps.gov](mailto:charles_sams@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Reynolds, Michael T <[Michael\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov)>; Lands, Frank W <[frank\\_lands@nps.gov](mailto:frank_lands@nps.gov)>; McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Jim L <[jim\\_wilson@nps.gov](mailto:jim_wilson@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: INDE draft news release\_DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE

Good by me. Thank you. If anyone else sees something please chime in.

Charles F. Sams III  
National Park Service Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 354-1881



---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Sams, Charles F <[charles\\_sams@nps.gov](mailto:charles_sams@nps.gov)>; Reynolds, Michael T <[Michael\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov)>; Lands, Frank W <[frank\\_lands@nps.gov](mailto:frank_lands@nps.gov)>; McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Jim L <[jim\\_wilson@nps.gov](mailto:jim_wilson@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** INDE draft news release\_DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE

All, as you know Independence and NER have drafted an updated news release to pull back their design proposal and public comment period for Welcome Park. Please let me know if you have any

questions or concerns before I send this to Tyler.  
Thanks

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

(b) (5)

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** — Independence National Historical Park has (b) (5) the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review.

The National Park Service (NPS) remains committed to rehabilitating Welcome Park as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Upon completion of all the necessary internal reviews, the park looks forward to engaging in a robust public process to consider options for refurbishing the park in the coming years. No changes to the park or the William Penn statue are planned at this time.

Welcome Park was designed by the design firm Venturi & Scott Brown Associates. The park is located on the site of William Penn's home, the Slate Roof House, and is named for the ship, Welcome, which transported Penn to Philadelphia. The design and construction of Welcome Park was funded by the Independence Historical Trust and was completed in 1982.

Updates on the project as plans evolve may be found on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/INDE](http://www.nps.gov/INDE).

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Chief of Public Affairs & Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

**From:** [Sams, Charles F](#)  
**To:** [Estenoz, Shannon A](#)  
**Subject:** FW: INDE draft news release\_DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:55:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

This was sent to Tyler.

CS

Charles F. Sams III  
National Park Service Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 354-1881



---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Sams, Charles F <charles\_sams@nps.gov>; Reynolds, Michael T <Michael\_Reynolds@nps.gov>; Lands, Frank W <frank\_lands@nps.gov>; McGeary, Malcolm D <malcolm\_mcgeary@nps.gov>  
**Cc:** Wilson, Jim L <jim\_wilson@nps.gov>  
**Subject:** INDE draft news release\_DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE

All, as you know Independence and NER have drafted an updated news release to pull back their design proposal and public comment period for Welcome Park. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns before I send this to Tyler.

Thanks

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

(b) (5)

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** — Independence National Historical Park has (b) (5) the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review.



The National Park Service (NPS) remains committed to rehabilitating Welcome Park as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Upon completion of all the necessary internal reviews, the park looks forward to engaging in a robust public process to consider options for refurbishing the park in the coming years. No changes to the park or the William Penn statue are planned at this time.

Welcome Park was designed by the design firm Venturi & Scott Brown Associates. The park is located on the site of William Penn's home, the Slate Roof House, and is named for the ship, Welcome, which transported Penn to Philadelphia. The design and construction of Welcome Park was funded by the Independence Historical Trust and was completed in 1982.

Updates on the project as plans evolve may be found on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/INDE](http://www.nps.gov/INDE).

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Chief of Public Affairs & Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

**From:** [McGeary, Malcolm D](#)  
**To:** [Sams, Charles F](#); [Estenoz, Shannon A](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Welcome Park Briefing Statement  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:23:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-34mf531r.png](#)  
[20240108 INDE Welcome Park Briefing Statement.docx](#)

---

**From:** Vietzke, Gay E <[Gay\\_Vietzke@nps.gov](mailto:Gay_Vietzke@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:23 PM  
**To:** McGeary, Malcolm D <[malcolm\\_mcgeary@nps.gov](mailto:malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov)>; Reynolds, Michael T <[Michael\\_Reynolds@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Reynolds@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lands, Frank W <[frank\\_lands@nps.gov](mailto:frank_lands@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Welcome Park Briefing Statement

---

**From:** Sims, Steven D <[Steven\\_Sims@nps.gov](mailto:Steven_Sims@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Vietzke, Gay E <[Gay\\_Vietzke@nps.gov](mailto:Gay_Vietzke@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Waldbuesser, Cinda <[Cinda\\_Waldbuesser@nps.gov](mailto:Cinda_Waldbuesser@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Welcome Park Briefing Statement

Gay,

I'm sorry for the delay. Attached is the briefing statement on Welcome Park.

Regards,  
Steve

Steven D. Sims  
Superintendent  
[Independence National Historical Park](#)  
[Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)  
[Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#)  
[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#)  
215-597-7120 (o)



## Briefing Statement FY 2024

**Bureau:** National Park Service  
**Issue:** Rehabilitation of Welcome Park  
**Member:** Internal to NPS/DOI  
**Park:** Independence National Historical Park (INDE)

### Key Points:

- Welcome Park holds significance as the only location in Philadelphia that memorializes William Penn's life and accomplishments through a timeline of his life, a model of his "Slate Roof" house and a smaller scale replica of the statue of William Penn that sits atop City Hall.
- After 40 years, many of the exhibits and other features of Welcome Park are faded and in need of repair.
- Independence National Historical Park, in consultation with Haudenosaunee and Lenape representatives, developed a new design proposal for the park. Consultation was initiated after new information revealed the existence of a "Wampum Lot" deeded to the Haudenosaunee in 1755 by William Penn's grandson for a parcel of land along south Second Street.
- The two stories are not mutually exclusive. They can be told in the same space. In fact, in many ways, they complement each other as Penn is best known today for his policy of religious toleration and his attempt to deal fairly with the tribes he encountered.
- The park initiated a period of public comment on January 5<sup>th</sup> through the issuance of a press release and social media channels.
- The release has generated an overwhelming response as the release stated that the statue of William Penn will be removed.
- The park is seeking public comment as the new design proposal is exactly that, a proposal. The final decision will be made based upon comments received during the public comment period in PEPC which is open from January 8<sup>th</sup> until January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The proposed design has been in development for four years with informal collaboration with park neighbors, the City, and tribal nations
- Formal tribal consultation was initiated on October 13, 2023.
- Formal consultation with PA State Historic Preservation Office was initiated on December 20, 2023.
- The project is currently in the design development phase.

### Background:

- After 40 years, many of the exhibits and other features of Welcome Park are faded and in need of repair.
- Information came to light about 4 years ago that in the 1750's William Penn's grandson deeded a parcel of land along south Second Street to the Haudenosaunee as a site where that would always be available to them should they come to the City.
- This agreement was reaffirmed in 1915 by the Mayor of Philadelphia.
- When new designs for Welcome Park were being considered, the federally recognized tribes associated with INHP were consulted.

- In November of 2022, INHP hosted an event with the Haudenosaunee and a representative of the Delaware Nation at Welcome Park. The parcel of land is referred to as the Wampum Lot by the Haudenosaunee people.
- According to the participants, it was the first time in over 300 years that leadership from the Lenape and the Haudenosaunee met face to face and exchanged gifts.
- Following this event, the park initiated formal consultation with the tribes regarding new design proposals for Welcome Park, with an opportunity to tell the Native American story either on land that had been deeded to them by Penn's grandson or immediately adjacent to that land.
- The National Park Service owns Welcome Park. The project scope includes replacing landscaping and hardscaping, increased site lighting and security cameras, planting of trees, circular benches and a gathering space.
- The new design proposal also called for the removal of the statue of William Penn and the Slate Roof House model for a simplified landscape aesthetic.

**Current Status:**

- [Public comment](#) is open January 8-January 21, 2024
- INDE is directing all media inquiries to [newsmedia@nps.gov](mailto:newsmedia@nps.gov) until further notice
- Members of the public are being directed to PEPC to submit comments
- INDE is updating the January 5, 2024 news release and social media post to emphasize that INDE initiated this project and that the design is proposed
- Public comments will be used to determine which elements of the new design proposal will remain and which may need to be reworked.
- The park hopes to hear from local organizations, neighbors and other stakeholders were included in the press release.

**Contact Person:** Steve Sims, Superintendent, INDE (215) 597-7120  
 Andrew McDougall, Public Affairs Officer, INDE (215) 435-4372  
 Marilou Ehrler, Cultural Resource Manager, INDE (215) 597-7087

**Last Updated:** January 8, 2024