

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
Cc: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Draft Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 7:09:06 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-vmfmnl0p.png](#)
[Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC.docx](#)

Marilou

Please see attached draft of press release for public comment on Welcome Park.

- Please let me know if any changes are needed.
- Could you please add what you feel is an appropriate paragraph?
- I did not know exactly how long we want it open for? I put 21 days but that is your call.
- When your paragraph is added I'll have to adjust formatting again and may lose 75th logo.
- Goal is to release this Friday the 5th along with social media posts.

This was a great day....



Thanks.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2023

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Contact:
Andrew McDougall 215-435-4372

Independence National Historical Park

Media Release

Park seeks input on rehabilitation of area with indigenous connection.

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park is seeking public input on a proposed design for the rehabilitation of Welcome Park. Named for the ship which brought William Penn to his new home, the site interprets the life and accomplishments of Pennsylvania’s founder. Funded by the Independence Historic Trust in 1982, the original design by Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown created an open-air museum or public plaza over a large map of Thomas Holme’s original grid for Philadelphia. Four trees mark the locations of the four green squares that were part of Penn’s vision for the city.



The public is invited to submit comments on this proposed design for the rehabilitation of Welcome Park for a 21-day period from January 8th – 21st, 2023 through the National Park Service’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) [website](#). Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. All public comments must be received through PEPC by midnight Sunday, January 21st, 2023.

For information about Independence National Historical Park, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

—NPS—

Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America’s history.

For 75 years, Independence National Historical Park has preserved and interpreted the buildings, grounds, and museum collections of outstanding national significance associated with the American Revolution and growth of the country.



From: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
Subject: Fw: Draft Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:30:39 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-vmfml0p.png](#)
[1.4.23 - DRAFT Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC - ME.docx](#)

A quick follow up.

Once the press release is out, I would like to follow up with emails to the list we put together before the holidays. That email will include an invitation to a team's call.

We can review and confirm the list, as soon as I have a confirmed date and time for that call. Working on that now.

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:05 AM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC

Thank you Andrew

Following is the text included in the PEPC public project summary page:

The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to correct unsafe conditions and present a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience to visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed design firm Venturi & Scott Brown Associates. The park is located on the site of Penn's home, the Slate Roof House, and is named for the ship, Welcome, which transported Penn to Philadelphia. Design and construction of Welcome Park was funded by Friends of Independence National Historical Park (now Independence Historical Trust) and was completed in 1982. The park is listed as

a non-contributing resource in both the Old City Historic District and Independence National Historic Park District nominations.

Over the past 41 years, the condition of Welcome Park has deteriorated to the point where a major rehabilitation is needed. Pavement has deteriorated due to age, misuse, and inadequate initial construction, and presents a trip hazard. The original flowering trees failed in intense summer heat due the lack of an irrigation system. While replacement trees have done well, the absence of established vegetation gives an appearance of abandonment and hampers the public's ability to enjoy the site. Many of the original benches have been damaged or deteriorated and were subsequently removed. Insufficient lighting and a lack of cameras pose a security and safety risk to visitors and property.

The rehabilitation of Welcome Park was initially conceived as an in-kind replacement of landscape and hardscape features with only minimal changes to the design. However, following outreach from representatives of the Haudenosaunee and consultation with the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the National Park Service has revised the design for Welcome Park to include expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia. The reimagined Welcome Park design, developed in collaboration with the indigenous nations, maintains certain aspects of the original design (including the street grid, the rivers and the east wall) while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed from the park, and not reinstalled. Under separate contract, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

The National Park Service will continue to consult with tribal nations and has initiated consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office under the National Historic Preservation Act. The National Park Service is now inviting public comment on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park.

Attached are my suggested edits. I combined some of the above w/ your text.

I do think (b) (5)

The text reads it will be open for public comment on January 8 and close on Sunday January 21 - I think that is good. It is a full two weeks for comments.

Thanks for the photos, it was a great day, but some Lenape do not think it was. This project has been a bit of a dance between multiple nations.

Thank you for sharing - see what you think.

Marilou

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead

Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 7:08 PM
To: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>
Cc: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2023

Contact:
Andrew McDougall 215-435-43

Independence National Historical Park

Media Release

Park seeks input on rehabilitation of Welcome Park

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to (b) (5) provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for (b) (5) visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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. Design and construction of Welcome Park was funded by (b) (5) Independence Historical Trust) and was completed in 1982. (b) (5)

Commented [KAR1]: (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Commented [KAR2]: (b) (5)

Commented [EM3R2]: (b) (5)

Commented [KAR4]: (b) (5)

Commented [EM5]: (b) (5)

Commented [EM6]: (b) (5)

Commented [KAR7]: (b) (5)

The reimagined Welcome Park design, developed in collaboration with the indigenous nations, maintains certain aspects of the original design (including the street grid, the rivers and the east wall) while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed from the park, and not reinstalled. (b) (5) new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

The National Park Service will continue to consult with tribal nations and has initiated consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office under the National Historic Preservation Act. The National Park Service is now inviting public comment on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park.

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Commented [KAR8]: Also write out <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>

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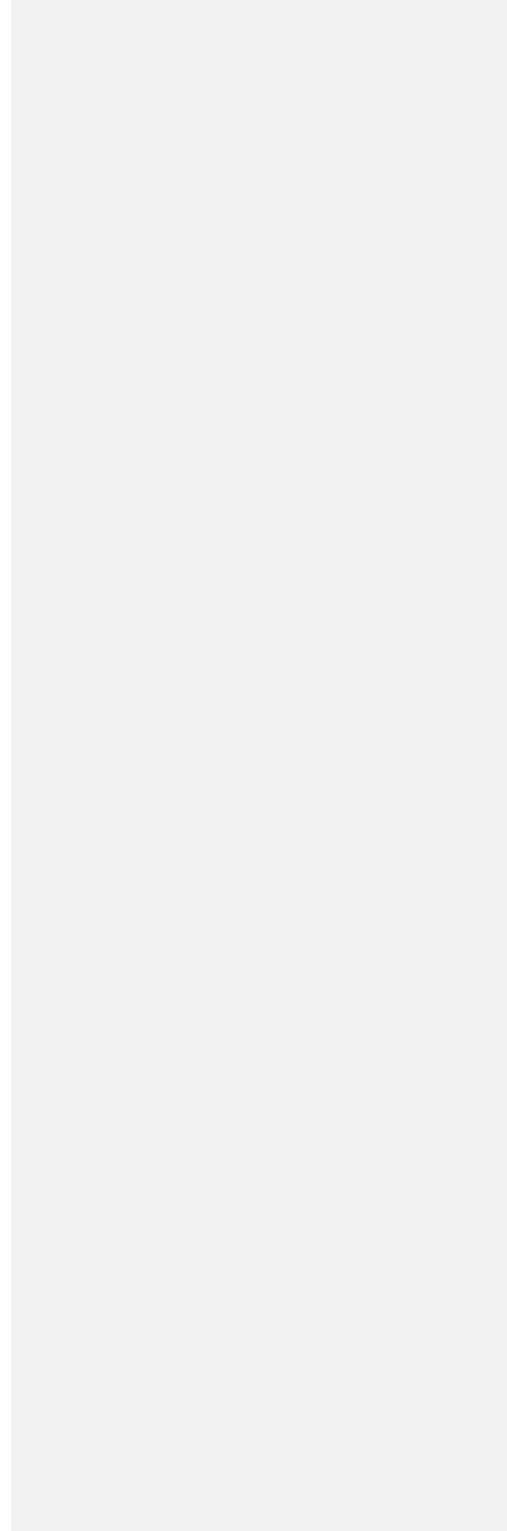
—NPS—

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with the American Revolution and growth of the country.



From: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Sims, Steven D](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
Subject: Re: Press Release for Welcome Park
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 8:41:43 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-ebm4zkle.png](#)
[Outlook-t5ermgiy.png](#)
[Final Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC AK and ME 1.5.24.docx](#)

Good morning Andrew

I did not see this before I left. Thank you Amnesty for your edits. I have added a few more to Amnesty's edits and responded to a few.

Thank you for doing this - always good to see it in a "final" version.

Marilou

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 6:45 PM
To: [McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>](mailto:Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov); [Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>](mailto:Steven_Sims@nps.gov);
[Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>](mailto:Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov)
Subject: Re: Press Release for Welcome Park

Hello,

Thanks for sharing. A few edits for consideration are in the attached doc.

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent | [Independence National Historical Park](#)
Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 17:35

To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>

Subject: Press Release for Welcome Park

Steve/Amnesty/Marilou

Please see attached for final review before sending out Friday afternoon.

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer

Independence National Historical Park

143 South Third Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Cell: 215-435-4372

www.nps.gov/inde



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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2023

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Contact:
Andrew McDougall 215-435-43

Independence National Historical Park

Media Release

Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

The proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park includes expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia and was developed in consultation (b) (5) with representatives of the indigenous nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The reimagined Welcome Park maintains certain aspects of the original design such as the street grid, the rivers and the east wall while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed and not reinstalled. In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

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Commented [EM1]: (b) (5)

Commented [KAR2]: Also write out <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>

From: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: Press Release
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:29:42 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-glu5dq2y.png](#)
[Outlook-mqojedlq.png](#)
[Outlook-diwy5pfi.png](#)
[Final Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC DRAFT FINAL 1.5.24.docx](#)

Thank you all - I do tend to put too much detail in.

I made one suggestion which was (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We got to the design w/ the nations, PA
SHPO has been aware.

I hope this works for all - thanks again.

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:08 PM
To: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release

All,

I made some edits with the goal of being short and succinct. I tried to take into consideration everyone's comments with the attached edit. Sorry, I know editing this way is onerous. Hopefully we can find a way to better streamline this process in the future when it involves the input of many.

I tracked changes so if there is something you want back in the document, it should be easy to recover.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks!

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)



From: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 1:28 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release

Hi,

Simpler and clearer, I like it. With more about the tribal nations being added, I only have one edit: Historic to Historical in third sentence.

Thank you,

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent | [Independence National Historical Park](#)
Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 09:58
To: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Press Release

Looking at the comments in the press release review, I also felt (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I certainly do not want (b) (5) [REDACTED]. My original draft (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am unclear (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This level of detail should be reserved for PEPC as the purpose of this press release is simply to make people aware that they can publicly comment on the new design proposal.

I am reattaching my original draft. If we could (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall
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Independence National Historical Park
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Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
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From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Fw: Press Release
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 3:16:10 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-glu5dq2y.png](#)
[Outlook-mqojedlq.png](#)
[Outlook-diwy5pfi.png](#)
[Outlook-ekpzyigc.png](#)
[Final Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC DRAFT FINAL 1.5.24.docx](#)

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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Subject: press release
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 3:21:21 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-4y2ojw1f.png](#)
[Final Press Release - Welcome Park PEPC DRAFT FINAL 1.5.24.docx](#)

see attached



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From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:13:52 PM
Attachments: [75 logo.png](#)



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Date: January 5, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov, 215-435-4372

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PHILADELPHIA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

The proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park includes expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia and was developed in consultation with representatives of the indigenous nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The reimagined Welcome Park maintains certain aspects of the original design such as the street grid, the rivers and the east wall while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed and not reinstalled. In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

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- www.nps.gov/inde -



Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created 75 years ago by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. Events, programs and special exhibits which celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held throughout the year. For more information on our 75th Anniversary events, visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us on social media by searching @IndependenceNHP.

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:17:16 PM
Attachments: [75 logo.png](#)
[Outlook-weekbi5v.png](#)

Beautiful!

Thanks man.



Andrew McDougall

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Cell: 215-435-4372
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Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:13 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
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Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
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215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Date: January 5, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov, 215-435-4372

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- www.nps.gov/inde -



Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created 75 years ago by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia’s Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. Events, programs and special exhibits which celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held throughout the year. For more information on our 75th Anniversary events, visit the park’s website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us on social media by searching @IndependenceNHP.

From: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: Press release - Have a nice weekend.
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:21:51 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-rulpv5mn.png](#)

Thank you so much Andrew.

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:21 PM
To: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Press release - Have a nice weekend.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Date: January 5, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov, 215-435-4372

Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park

PHILADELPHIA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

The proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park includes expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia and was developed in consultation with representatives of the indigenous nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The reimagined Welcome Park maintains certain aspects of the original design such as the street grid, the rivers and the east wall while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed and not reinstalled. In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

The public is invited to submit comments on this proposed design for the rehabilitation of Welcome Park for a 14-day period from January 8th – 21st, 2024 through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. All public comments must be received through PEPC by midnight Sunday, January 21st, 2024.

For information about Independence National Historical Park, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/inde.

- www.nps.gov/inde -



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Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: [Jamie Gearhart](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Cc: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 5:09:51 PM
Attachments: [75 logo.png](#)
[75 logo.png](#)

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Thank you for your email. I will ensure the residents of Adagio (the complex just east of Welcome Park) receive this information regarding public input. Thank you for all your efforts.
Best Regards,
Jamie Gearhart

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024, 4:14 PM Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov> wrote:



Date: January 5, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov, 215-435-4372

Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park

PHILADELPHIA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

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house model will be removed and not reinstalled. In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

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From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6)@astound.net
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:09:27 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6)@astound.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@astound.net to reply to this message

Category: Information

Mailing Address:

Victoria A Zaper

(b) (6)

WHY is the William Penn statue being removed from Welcome Park?

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:11:06 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @hotmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @hotmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

I am a math teacher in (b) (6) and live in (b) (6). I disagree with the removal of William Penn's home and statue from the park. There is no need to erase history in order to explain more of it. I'm not sure whose agenda this is, but please listen to the people of PA and do not remove Penn's house or statue.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Penn Statue
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:32:01 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @hotmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @hotmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please do not remove the statue of William Penn in Welcome Park. This is an iconic statue and one of enormous historical significance. Replacing his statue will do nothing to promote inclusiveness. In fact it will have the opposite effect. The Park Service should be protecting our history not tearing it down.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park "rehabilitation"
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 1:01:43 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @startmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @startmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please do NOT remove the statue of William Penn or the historical timeline. That is part of our American history and we do not want it erased. This belongs to the American people not special interest groups.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 3:04:33 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @yahoo.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @yahoo.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

I can't find any link on the comments section to give feedback on this proposed "rehabilitation" of Welcome Park, so sending it here. This plan -- to REMOVE the statue of William Penn -- is the most asinine decision I've ever heard. Our government has truly lost its mind. The state is only named after the guy! He fought against religious and personal persecution, wrote documents that paved the way for the the first experiment in personal freedom in the history of the world -- how could anyone be considered MORE inclusive than that?! So absolutely ridiculous.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: deanatrustgod@yahoo.com
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 3:40:48 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @yahoo.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @yahoo.com to reply to this message

Category: Programs

Mailing Address:

Dean Anderson

(b) (6)

Your system certainly makes it difficult to comment on projects. But I wanted to put one more complaint in about removing the William Penn Statue from Welcome Park (located at the site of Penn's home.) Penn is an important and admirable historical figure. He opposes slavery and supported religious liberty. Your job is to help remember our heritage, this certainly is an act that tears down the American heritage. Please reconsider.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Cannot provide feedback
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 6:33:25 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @gmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Digital Experience

I navigated to the site to provide feedback about the removal of William Penn statue from Welcome Park. It doesn't appear to be available or accessible. Can you please provide the link for this ? Thank you

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Statue of William Penn
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 8:00:53 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @msn.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @msn.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please do not remove the statue of William Penn from its current site in Welcome Park.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: William Penn
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 8:10:30 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @pm.me at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @pm.me to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:

Charles Sims

(b) (6)

So sorry to discover you have determined to do away with William Penn's statue at Welcome park. Nor am I enthusiastic about the rest of your revisionist history plans.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: myfreedomfirst@cox.net
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:21:36 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @cox.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @cox.net to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:
Andrew L Sullivan

(b) (6)

I am not able to find the public comments section for Welcome Park and the removal of William Penn. I can tell you the Quakers and colonists were great friends of Native Americans. Removing William Penn statue is an insult to the Native Americans who ACTUALLY KNEW HIM! Leave the monument alone. Instead, build a statue honoring the Native American Tribes and add it to the Park.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:21:02 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @yahoo.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @yahoo.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Don't even think of tearing down William Penn's statue. You bunch of leftists need to leave it the way it is. Stop destroying history.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 11:55:19 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6)@gmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:

Ann Johnson

(b) (6)

I strenuously object to your attempt to erase American history by removing the statue of William Penn from his home site. What gives you the right to decide for all Americans whom we can celebrate? Indigenous people are not the only ones that need be consulted. Build something for them somewhere else if you must. Trying to stamp out our history and replace it with something YOU like better, is disgusting in the worst way.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: William Penn Statue
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:21:10 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @verizon.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @verizon.net to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:

Marguerite Gress

(b) (6)

PLEASE do not remove the William Penn Statue from Welcome Park. The early history of our city tells of the incredible difficult challenges faced by those who began building this amazing city. William Penn worked WITH the indigenous people to build a cooperative community. PLEASE don't remove the statue, as it represents the story of the courage of the people who worked together for the city we enjoy and cherish today.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: how to comment on Welcome Park
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:39:48 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @verizon.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @verizon.net to reply to this message

Category: Information

I would like to comment on the NPS plan to take down William Penn's statue in Welcome Park, but the link provided doesn't take me anywhere that I can make that comment. Can you direct me to the appropriate place, please?

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Ehrler, Marilou](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
Subject: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00:14 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-q2f2454t.png](#)

Not sure if either of you are following the facebook posting on the Welcome Park public comment period. I am noticing quite a reaction to the removal of the William Penn statue. What was the past discussion/sentiment on keeping the statue?

Thanks!
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)



From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome park
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00:22 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @verizon.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @verizon.net to reply to this message

Category: Information

How do I leave comments about the removal of William Penn statue in welcome park. I followed the link given but cannot find the park name to leave comments. Thank you

From: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
Subject: Re: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:08:42 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-q2f2454t.png](#)

Good morning

Just reading them now. We discussed moving the statue off of the center and also discussed the fact that there are other statues of Penn and other park's dedicated to Penn in Philadelphia.

Marilou

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Subject: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments

Not sure if either of you are following the facebook posting on the Welcome Park public comment period. I am noticing quite a reaction to the removal of the William Penn statue. What was the past discussion/sentiment on keeping the statue?

Thanks!
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)



From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park proposed changes in Philadelphia
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:20:15 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6)@zoominternet.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@zoominternet.net to reply to this message

Category: Other

I would like to provide input as requested for the proposed changes to Welcome Park in Philadelphia, specifically the regarding the removal of the William Penn statue. However, the link to the page for public comments does not provide the ability to do so, in fact, the park is not even listed. Please advise

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Removal of Penn statue
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:31:34 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6)@msn.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@msn.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please stop the removal of William Penn statue from Welcome Park I believe that we live in Pennsylvania and do not change this area because of Woke ideals of a few and not a majority of the citizens of PENNSylvania What's next doing away with the battlefields and statues at Gettysburg also in PENNSylvania Do not judge the actions of the past by todays judgements

From: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
To: [Ehrler, Marilou](#); [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:32:52 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-q2f2454t.png](#)
[Outlook-ay21s0qk.png](#)

Good morning,

Along with social media, these two articles came through my Google tracker for INDE:

[Biden admin to remove statue of William Penn from Philadelphia park and 'rehabilitate' the park to commemorate Native Americans | The Post Millennial | thepostmillennial.com](#)
[Park Service To Remove Statue of William Penn From Philadelphia Park, Replace It With More 'Inclusive' Displays | The New York Sun \(nysun.com\)](#)

Yes, it was a deliberate conversation and decision to have the statue removed from the current design.

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent

[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) | [Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#) | [Independence National Historical Park](#) | [Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)

Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 08:08
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments

Good morning

Just reading them now. We discussed moving the statue off of the center and also discussed the fact that there are other statues of Penn and other park's dedicated to Penn in

Philadelphia.
Marilou

Marilou Ehrler, RA
Cultural Resource Management, Program Lead
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-7087
cell: 917-831-8820

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R
<Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Subject: Welcome Park - Facebook Comments

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Thanks!
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)



From: [Maiti Gallen](#)
To: Steven_Sims@nps.gov; [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Jonathan Burton](#); [Natasha Calabria](#); [Caramanico, Thomas](#)
Subject: Welcome Park: Quick teams call if possible
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:33:34 AM

Hi Steve and Andrew,

I am sure you are getting calls today since the news about Welcome Park dropped on Friday and so is the Trust. Jonathan said that the Inquirer reached out to him for a comment and a few of our donors also reached out regarding concern for the removal of the statue of William Penn.

Would it be possible to have a quick call today so we can discuss 1) a unified message for future requests for comments and 2) if we can discuss how the narrative of William Penn will be interpreted in the space if the statue is no longer there.

Thanks,
Maiti

Maiti Gallen | Director of Operations
Independence Historical Trust
Cell: (b) (6)

Mail: 143 S. 3rd Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106
Office: 316 Chestnut Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106

Supporting the Best Park in History!

From: [Maiti Gallen](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Jonathan Burton](#); [Natasha Calabria](#); [Caramanico, Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park: Quick teams call if possible
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:48:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Steve!

Your comment below is good in that it reminds folks that they have a say in their public lands and that the design could (word being could) change depending on the public's thoughts. The Trust is scheduled to be in a staff meeting today between 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Would you be available during that time to have a quick chat with us? If so, I can send you the link to the meeting.

Best Wishes,
Maiti

Maiti Gallen, Director of Operations
Independence Historical Trust

Supporting the Best Park in History!

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Maiti Gallen <maiti@inht.org>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Jonathan Burton <Jonathan@inht.org>; Natasha Calabria <natasha@inht.org>; Caramanico, Thomas <tacaramanico@mccormicktaylor.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park: Quick teams call if possible

Hi Maiti,

Yes, the current proposed design does not include the statue of William Penn. Due to the proposed changes in the design of the park, we are asking the public for comment. Once we hear from the public (all comments must be submitted on PEPC...link is in the press release) then we'll take into consideration all substantive comments. This is the beauty of the public process because this is the public's park, and they have a voice.

Happy to get on a call, just let me know what time works.

Thanks!
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)



From: Maiti Gallen <maiti@inht.org>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Jonathan Burton <Jonathan@inht.org>; Natasha Calabria <natasha@inht.org>; Caramanico, Thomas <tacaramanico@mccormicktaylor.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park: Quick teams call if possible

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Steve and Andrew,

I am sure you are getting calls today since the news about Welcome Park dropped on Friday and so is the Trust. Jonathan said that the Inquirer reached out to him for a comment and a few of our donors also reached out regarding concern for the removal of the statue of William Penn.

Would it be possible to have a quick call today so we can discuss 1) a unified message for future requests for comments and 2) if we can discuss how the narrative of William Penn will be interpreted in the space if the statue is no longer there.

Thanks,
Maiti

Maiti Gallen | Director of Operations
Independence Historical Trust
Cell: (b) (6)

Mail: 143 S. 3rd Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106
Office: 316 Chestnut Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106

Supporting the Best Park in History!

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:01:40 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @gmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Digital Experience

Mailing Address:

Anne Perella

(b) (6)

I am trying to voice my opinion on proposed changes to Welcome Park; namely, the intent to remove the William Penn statue, however, search results on your site do not provide the means to do so. Please provide accurate links.

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#); [Warren, John H](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [O'toole, Tracy M](#); [Kupper, Kathy](#)
Subject: Re: INDE comms plan
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:21:53 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-bfdg2ebw.png](#)

Thank you, Jenny. We are working on a comms plan and briefing statement. We'll send up through region when they are ready.

Thanks!
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)



From: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:16 AM
To: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: INDE comms plan

Thanks, all. WASO can come off this thread until the park and region have worked together on the comms. We'll look to region to close the loop when folks are ready.

Thanks,
Jenny

From: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:52 AM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy

<Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: INDE comms plan

All,

I am doing clips now and I saw this one, which I assume Jenny already knows about: [Biden Admin to Remove William Penn Statue in 'Rehabilitation' of Park Dedicated to Pennsylvania Founder \(westernjournal.com\)](#)

This post, I believe, mixes up the two Penn statues. Of course, the iconic heavy one is atop City Hall and isn't ours.

John Harlan Warren (he/him)
Communications Specialist, NPS Region 1
1234 Market Street, 20th floor
Philadelphia PA 19107
Works 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
215-908-3159

From: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:06 AM

To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>

Subject: Fw: INDE comms plan

Andrew,

WASO wants to know what your comms plan is for this release. Please note that Jenny Anselmo-Sarles in WASO asks, "Until we regroup, please have the park clear any press queries on this up to DC."

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215-908-3159

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Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:03 AM
To: O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: INDE comms plan

Hi all, can you all please share up the comms plan on this? Until we regroup, please have the park clear any press queries on this up to DC.

[Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Thanks,
Jenny

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

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

From: [NPS News Media](#)
To: [NPS News Media](#)
Subject: News Clips 1.8.24
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:24:34 AM



NPS News Clips

Contact: NewsMedia@nps.gov

National NPS News

[Biden admin removing William Penn statue in 'rehabilitation' of park](#)

Daily Mail | 79,279,623 unique visitors per month

• Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania in 1681, was notorious for his amicable relations with the Native tribes of the region • However, the parks service says it wants to 'provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors' • That means, according to the request for ideas, an 'expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia' The Biden administration's National Park Service is starting a 'rehabilitation' process for a Pennsylvania park that includes...

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Park Service to Remove Statue of William Penn from Philadelphia Park, Replace it With More 'Inclusive' Displays](#)

By [Scott Norvell](#)

The New York Sun | 382,690 unique visitors per month

The Biden administration's National Park Service will remove a statue of William Penn from a park in Philadelphia commemorating the founder of the state of Pennsylvania as part of an upcoming "rehabilitation" meant to make the park more "welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience" for visitors.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Alaska

[OPINION: A better alternative to the Ambler Road](#)

By [Carl Benson](#)

Anchorage Daily News | 747,604 unique visitors per month

The Ambler Road is not needed. An alternative exists for mining in Western Alaska that is more economical and produces less damage to the environment. The proposed Ambler Road would traverse about 200 miles of ice-rich permafrost. Its cost is excessive both in dollars and the irreversible damage to a large wilderness area. The alternative road, or preferably railroad, is only about 50 miles long to the Bering Sea. It would reduce the net road construction by 75%.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[See why the fat bears are big fans](#)

The Gaston Gazette (North Carolina)

Many people couldn't point out Katmai National Park and Preserve on a map, but they've probably heard of it burly residents. Each fall, Katmai hosts Fat Bear Week, a beloved celebration of the park's brown bears and larger ecosystem in the northern Alaska Peninsula.

1/07/2024

Pacific West

[Lake Mead moves to cashless fee system](#)

By [Coleby Phillips](#)

The Arizona Republic

The Lake Mead National Recreation Area transitioned to a cashless fee collection system for 2024, accepting only electronic card payments for entrance, lake use, and campground fees, according to park officials. The transition to cashless, which went into effect Jan. 1, will align Lake Mead with 29 other National Park Service locations across the U.S., according to a news release. It also notes that the new system allows for more efficient, cost-effective operations.

1/08/2024

[Time running out for landmark 'Inverness Shipwreck' that became a California social media star](#)

Lee News Central | 76,844 unique visitors per month

INVERNESS, Calif. — Time is apparently running out for California's "Inverness Shipwreck," an old wooden boat that became an Instagram star as it rotted on a shoreline north of San Francisco. Recent storms have made a shambles of the forlorn vessel named Point Reyes, which was already deteriorated from the over-attention of visitors to the Marin County coast, San Francisco Bay news media reported.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Intermountain

South Dakotan named new facility manager at Devils Tower

Rapid City Journal | 147,430 unique visitors per month

South Dakota-raised John Hinrichs has been named the new facility manager at Devils Tower National Monument. "We are happy to welcome John to the Tower's Leadership Team. John's knowledge and expertise are a great fit for this position," said Superintendent Doug Crossen.

1/06/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Actor Pierce Brosnan charged with going off-trail in Yellowstone National Park

By [Paul Hamby](#)

Mason City Globe Gazette | 115,309 unique visitors per month

Pierce Brosnan, the Irish actor who starred in four James Bond films, has been cited for allegedly skirting travel regulations in Yellowstone National Park. The 70-year-old Brosnan was charged on Dec. 26 in U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming with traveling off a trail in one of the park's thermal areas and not adhering to the park's closure and limited use notices.

12/27/2023 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Opinion: A passenger rail to Moab is long overdue

Yahoo News | 57,994,017 unique visitors per month

The entrance road to Arches National Park outside of Moab begins to back up with visitors on Sept. 19, 2021. Passenger rail between the Wasatch Front and Moab would be relatively affordable, while requiring relatively little new infrastructure, one reader writes. | Spenser Heaps, Deseret News According to the National Park Service over 1.8 million people visited southeastern Utah's national parks in 2020, equivalent to over half of Utah's population.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Former James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan charged with crime at Yellowstone National Park - here's what happened

By [Doric Sam](#)

Yahoo | 413,026,482 unique visitors per month

Pierce Brosnan has faced his fair share of sticky situations while playing James Bond, but he's now in hot water in real life. What happened? BBC reported that Brosnan was charged by U.S. National Park Service rangers with trespassing in Yellowstone National Park. The 70-year-old actor, who was in the area shooting the Western "Unholy Trinity" that also stars Samuel L. Jackson, was caught going off trail near the Mammoth Hot Springs on Nov. 1. Brosnan has yet to comment on the matter.

1/06/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Lake Mead moves to cashless fee system

By [Coleby Phillips](#)

The Arizona Republic

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1/08/2024

Why You'll Have To Pre-Plan Your Visits To These Popular National Parks

By [Tricia Goss](#)

Explore.com | 630,258 unique visitors per month

Why You'll Have To Pre-Plan Your Visits To These Popular National Parks Fly View Productions/Getty Images America's national parks are some of the most breathtaking natural wonders in the world, and millions of people visit them every year. But their immense popularity has led to a few problems that need to be addressed. To tackle issues like overcrowding, environmental harm, and safety concerns, famous parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon have implemented reservation,...

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Montana to start trucking grizzlies into Yellowstone region to improve delisting prospects – Daily Montanan

By [Mike Koshmrl](#)

The Daily Montanan | 116,422 unique visitors per month

Fresh grizzly bear bloodlines are expected to arrive in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem this summer, adding genetic diversity to a population of animals that's been isolated for a century. The infusion of genetics will come from the North Continental Divide Ecosystem, and it will roll down the highway in the form of a slumbering grizzly or two. Why truck in grizzly bears to a population last estimated at nearly 1,000 animals?

1/06/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Midwest

[Recently retired superintendent presided over historic transitions at Indiana Dunes and Pullman National Parks, developed many miles of trail](#)

By [Joseph S. Pete](#)

The Times of Northwest Indiana | 501,281 unique visitors per month

Paul Labovitz took an interest in nature from the time he caught a lizard in the New Jersey woods at the age of 7. Despite growing up in Philadelphia, where the National Park Service runs Independence Hall, other historic sites, and the Valley Forge National Historic Park, he never visited a national park until he was hired to work for the National Park Service.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Plover restrictions may expand at popular Sleeping Bear beach](#)

By [Garret M. Ellison](#)

MLive | 6,486,028 unique visitors per month

BENZIE COUNTY, MI — Beachgoers may share more of Platte Point with an endangered shorebird this year after a Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore excavation project. The National Park Service may restrict beach areas previously open to the public if piping plovers nest in a new habitat area created by an excavation project that removed dredged sand and rocks from the Platte River mouth.

1/08/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Nature & history: Five sites that showcase importance of Mississippi River](#)

Jacksonville Journal-Courier (IL)

When you picture America's national parks and historic places, you might be thinking of the impressive Teton mountain range, the rock formations of Bryce Canyon or the geysers at Yellowstone. But you can make your way through several sites of national importance

just by following one of the nation's great rivers: the Mississippi. Here, we've rounded up National Park Service sites and other federally protected places along the river.

1/07/2024

National Capital

Rock Slides On Chestnut Hill Road Raise Concerns

By [Toni Milbourne](#)

Daily News-Record | 75,122 unique visitors per month

HARPERS FERRY — Route 340 near Harpers Ferry recently reopened after a three-month closure for rockslide mitigation on a segment of the roadway. Closed to through traffic at the same time was Chestnut Hill Road, a steep mountainside highway just off Route 340 that leads to several neighborhoods on the Blue Ridge. The mitigation work was a result of years' worth of study on rockslides or potential rockslides in the area.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Trump and Bidenviews on Jan. 6 split nation; Voters divided by starkly different versions of day

By [Maureen Groppe](#), [Lauren Villagran](#), [Sudiksha Kochi](#)

USA Today

WASHINGTON For Donald Trump, Jan. 6, 2021, was "a beautiful day." For Joe Biden, it was the day "we nearly lost America." As the nation passed the third anniversary of the nation's most serious insurrection since the Civil War, the contrasting views encapsulate how Trump and Biden are approaching the 2024 campaign. And their split over Jan.

1/08/2024

Northeast (Mid Atlantic)

William Penn statue in Philadelphia will be removed from Welcome Park, National Park Service proposes

By [Frank Kummer](#)

The Philadelphia Inquirer | 5,439,098 unique visitors per month

New plans by the National Park Service to renovate Old City's Welcome Park include removing the centerpiece statue of William Penn permanently, and redesigning the park to highlight Native American history — a move that has angered Pennsylvania's Republican

leadership. The plan is a major shift considering that the park was built on the site of Penn's home, the Slate Roof House, and is named for the ship, Welcome, that transported him from England.

1/08/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Susan Gray Detweiler, 85, longtime art curator, historian, author, community leader](#)

Philadelphia Daily News

Susan Gray Detweiler, 85, of Philadelphia, longtime curator of the Robert L. McNeil Jr. Americana art collection, former curatorial assistant at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, historian, celebrated author, and community leader, died Tuesday, Dec. 26, of complications from heart disease and Parkinson's disease at her home in Chestnut Hill. Devoted to the preservation of American art and ceramics, especially U.S. presidential china, Mrs.

1/08/2024

[THE END OF PENN? Biden Admin Removing William Penn Statue for More 'Inclusive' Experience](#)

The Sean Hannity Show

Collecting the Latest Stories... According to a Fox News report, the Biden Administration is planning on removing a statue of William Penn in Welcome Park in Philadelphia, PA. The park is named after the ship Penn took to Philadelphia in 1682. The proposed "rehabilitation" of the park includes a focus on Native American history.

1/08/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Speeding e-bikes have this D&L Trail community eyeing 10 mph limit](#)

By [Kurt Bresswein](#)

Lehigh Valley Live | 485,589 unique visitors per month

With the proliferation of e-bikes, coexisting on Lehigh Valley multi-use trails can mean staying on high alert, listening for the rapidly approaching crunch of gravel from behind. Now a community that owns a stretch of the D&L Trail in Carbon County is considering taking action by instituting a 10 mph speed limit. That's half the 20 mph limit the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources put into effect in late 2022.

1/08/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Northeast (New England)

Maine's sea stars: Down but not out

By [Lynda DeWitt](#)

The Maine Monitor | 21,926 unique visitors per month

Turns out we've been looking at starfish all wrong. First, they're not fish. They belong to a group of marine invertebrates called echinoderms, which also includes sea urchins, sand dollars and sea cucumbers. Starfish now go by the classy common name of sea stars. Then there's the matter of those arms. It's true, sea stars can regrow, or regenerate, if an arm should be torn off by, say, the sharp bill of a hungry sea gull. But recent studies show those arms are actually heads.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

8 National Parks That Require Reservations to Enter

WOBM-FM (Toms River, NJ) | 471,371 unique visitors per month

It's nice to know national parks continue to be a popular place for family vacations and getaways. When I was little I found them so boring, opting to be skiing or on the beach or playing with friends on vacations. However, I completely appreciate them so much now and really enjoy them. However, just showing up during your travels is no longer an option for so many due to overcrowding.

1/07/2024 | [Tweet](#) [Share on LinkedIn](#)

Please let us know if there's anything we can do to improve these news clips; our goal is to help you be informed and engaged!

WAS THIS EMAIL USEFUL?

Feedback will be used to improve future editions.

Yes

No

[Email additional feedback to your team](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) from our emails

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: William Penn statue, philadelphia
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:27:21 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @netzero.net at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @netzero.net to reply to this message

Category: Information

Mailing Address:

Ellen Cassidy

(b) (6)

I am against your removal of the William Penn statue in the Welcome park, Philadelphia, PA. Why would you do this? It's near his house. He is the founder of Pennsylvania. His Roots are Everywhere here in our area. How can you show such disrespect for a founder of the area we live in? Put the Native American display somewhere else. You can find room for it I'm sure. If I have written this to the wrong person, please pass it on. Thank you, Ellen Cassidy

From: [Warren, John H](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Sims, Steven D](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [O'toole, Tracy M](#); [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#); [Kupper, Kathy](#)
Subject: Re: INDE comms plan
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:31:05 AM

More:

- [Celebrating Sylvania: NPS Moves to Remove Statue of Penn – JONATHAN TURLEY](#)
- [THE END OF PENN? Biden Admin Removing William Penn Statue for More 'Inclusive' Experience; Report \(hannity.com\)](#)
- [Biden administration to tear down William Penn statue, make historic park more 'welcoming' and 'inclusive' | Blaze Media \(theblaze.com\)](#)
- [Biden admin removing William Penn statue in 'rehabilitation' of park commemorating founding of Pennsylvania – WGMD](#)
- [National Park Service Plans to Remove William Penn Statue from the Site of His Philadelphia Home – Twitchy](#)
- [Biden's National Park Service to Remove William Penn Statue from Philadelphia \(breitbart.com\)](#)
- [Biden admin to remove statue of William Penn from Philadelphia park and 'rehabilitate' the park to commemorate Native Americans | The Post Millennial | thepostmillennial.com](#)
- [Biden admin removing William Penn statue in 'rehabilitation' of park commemorating founding of Pennsylvania | WCCS AM1160 & 101.1FM \(wccsradio.com\)](#)

John Harlan Warren (he/him)
Communications Specialist, NPS Region 1
1234 Market Street, 20th floor
Philadelphia PA 19107
Works 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
215-908-3159

From: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:52 AM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy

<Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>

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This post, I believe, mixes up the two Penn statues. Of course, the iconic heavy one is atop City Hall and isn't ours.

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Philadelphia PA 19107

Works 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:03 AM
To: O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: INDE comms plan

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[Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Thanks,
Jenny

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles
Chief of Public Affairs & Chief Spokesperson
National Park Service
Mobile: [\(202\) 230-2088](tel:2022302088)

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

From: [NPS News Media](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kupper, Kathy](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:15:47 AM

The inquiry below pertains to your park/program. Please prepare your response according to [established protocol](#) and coordinate as needed.

Many thanks,
The NPS Office of Public Affairs

National Park Service
Office of Public Affairs

From: Patty <pattysaffran@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:00 AM
To: NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

To: Office of Communications NPS
removal

Re: Reactions to William Penn statue

The news of the proposed removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park is receiving a huge amount of negative comments, and even satire.

Why is this statue removal a fait accompli, without previous public input, and why is it being considered at all since this statue does not represent a Confederate and isn't part of the defunct Naming Commission? Why do the Native American tribes that you report listening to, have more power to dictate what's in the park than other groups of people who actually live and work nearby?

In addition, the more ethical and democratic solution is obvious and the one the public preferred, and one that has been routinely ignored in places like Richmond, Charlottesville and elsewhere, and that's to create additional statues to go in the park.

The public in Philadelphia it seems, according to comments, is against removing this statue. Are there any plans to revise doing so? Of note, Penn's removal would leave a gap in the city's history and putting up panels about him is far less beautiful.

A speedy reply would be appreciated, as this is for an article.

Thank you.

Patty Saffran

US Editor

Politicalite.com UK

(b) (6)

From: [Investigative Services Branch of LESES, NPS](#)
To: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kwiatkowski, Leszek](#)
Subject: Tip Line call re: INDE
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:21:32 AM
Attachments: [US_67870602.wav](#)

Good morning ~ This was called in via the NPS-wide Tip Line (presumed related to [Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park](#))

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00 AM Pacific
To: Investigative Services Branch of LESES, NPS <nps_isb@nps.gov>
Subject: New eVoice Voicemail from (b) (6)



You Received a New Voicemail

Your voicemail is attached. Here is a transcription of the message content:

"Don't take that William Penn statue in Philadelphia. It's a pack of democracy in his story of his Nation. How dare you?"

Message Details

Dialed: 888-653-0009 [NPS-wide Tip Line]
Received: Mon, Jan 08 2024 07:59 AM
From: (b) (6)
Length: 10 SECONDS

ISB: the [Investigative Services Branch](#) of the National Park Service



Report something suspicious or aid an investigation in any NPS site:

go.nps.gov/SubmitATip | Call 888-653-0009

CONFIDENTIALITY/SENSITIVITY NOTICE: This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is law enforcement sensitive, proprietary, privileged, confidential and may be legally protected or otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by email and delete all copies of the message.

From: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
To: [Investigative Services Branch of LESES, NPS](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kwiatkowski, Leszek](#); [Sims, Steven D](#); [Petersen, Ryan J](#)
Subject: Re: Tip Line call re: INDE
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:24:21 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-kwn5so0.png](#)
[US_67870602.wav](#)

Thank you, ISB.

Including Superintendent Sims and Chief Ranger Petersen in this email.

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent

[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) | [Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#) | [Independence National Historical Park](#) | [Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)

Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: Investigative Services Branch of LESES, NPS <nps_isb@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:21
To: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kwiatkowski, Leszek <Leszek_Kwiatkowski@nps.gov>
Subject: Tip Line call re: INDE

Good morning ~ This was called in via the NPS-wide Tip Line (presumed related to [Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park](#))

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:00 AM Pacific
To: Investigative Services Branch of LESES, NPS <nps_isb@nps.gov>
Subject: New eVoice Voicemail from (b) (6)



You Received a New Voicemail

Your voicemail is attached. Here is a transcription of the message content:

"Don't take that William Penn statue in Philadelphia. It's a pack of democracy in his story of his Nation. How dare you?"

Message Details

Dialed: 888-653-0009 [NPS-wide Tip Line]

Received: Mon, Jan 08 2024 07:59 AM

From: (b) (6)

Length: 10 SECONDS

ISB: the [Investigative Services Branch](#) of the National Park Service



Report something suspicious or aid an investigation in any NPS site:

go.nps.gov/SubmitATip | Call 888-653-0009

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From: [Kupper, Kathy](#)
To: [Warren, John H](#)
Cc: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [O'toole, Tracy M](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: INDE comms plan
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:12:06 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-bfdq2ebw.png](#)

Hi John,

Thanks for the update.

Can the park please submit a comms plan that includes the below info, draft language for the outreach materials, an "If Asked" statement, and FAQs?

Thank you,
Kathy

From: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:07 PM
To: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: INDE comms plan

Kathy and all,

I have now spoken with Steve, Amnesty and Andrew about this.

Since I leave (b) (6) in half an hour, I've asked Andrew to send the PR directly to you, Kathy, since I have spoken to all the main parties and we agree on what needs to be done.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

WASO, whaddaya think?

John Harlan Warren (he/him)
Communications Specialist, NPS Region 1
1234 Market Street, 20th floor
Philadelphia PA 19107
Works 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
215-908-3159

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: INDE comms plan

Thank you, Jenny. We are working on a comms plan and briefing statement. We'll send up through region when they are ready.

Thanks!
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)



From: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:16 AM
To: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: INDE comms plan

Thanks, all. WASO can come off this thread until the park and region have worked together on the comms. We'll look to region to close the loop when folks are ready.

Thanks,
Jenny

From: Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 9:52 AM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Cc: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
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This post, I believe, mixes up the two Penn statues. Of course, the iconic heavy one is atop City Hall and isn't ours.

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Subject: Fw: INDE comms plan

Andrew,

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To: O'toole, Tracy M <tracy_otoole@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: INDE comms plan

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[Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Thanks,
Jenny

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: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
Subject: Fw: INDE comms plan
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:12:34 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-bfdg2ebw.png](#)
[Outlook-gythnrsq.png](#)

FYSA

Steven D. Sims
Superintendent
[Independence National Historical Park](#)
[Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)
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[Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Thanks,
Jenny

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

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2023

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Contact:
Andrew McDougall 215-435-4372

Independence National Historical Park

Media Release

UPDATED: Park seeks input on the rehabilitation of Welcome Park

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate Welcome Park to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

Independence National Historical Park ~~The~~ ~~proposes~~ ~~to~~ ~~rehabilitate~~ ~~ion~~ ~~of~~ Welcome Park ~~to~~ includes expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia and was developed in consultation with representatives of the indigenous nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The reimagined Welcome Park maintains certain aspects of the original design such as the street grid, the rivers and the east wall while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. [Independence National Historical Park's](#) ~~The~~ ~~design~~ ~~also~~ ~~proposes~~ ~~the~~ ~~removal~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ Penn statue and Slate Roof house (b) (5)

In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

The public is invited to submit comments on this proposed design for the rehabilitation of Welcome Park for a 14-day period from January 8th – 21st, 2024 through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) at

(b) (5) <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. All public comments *must* be received through PEPC by midnight Sunday, January 21st, 2024.

Commented [KAR1]: Also write out <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>

For information about Independence National Historical Park, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

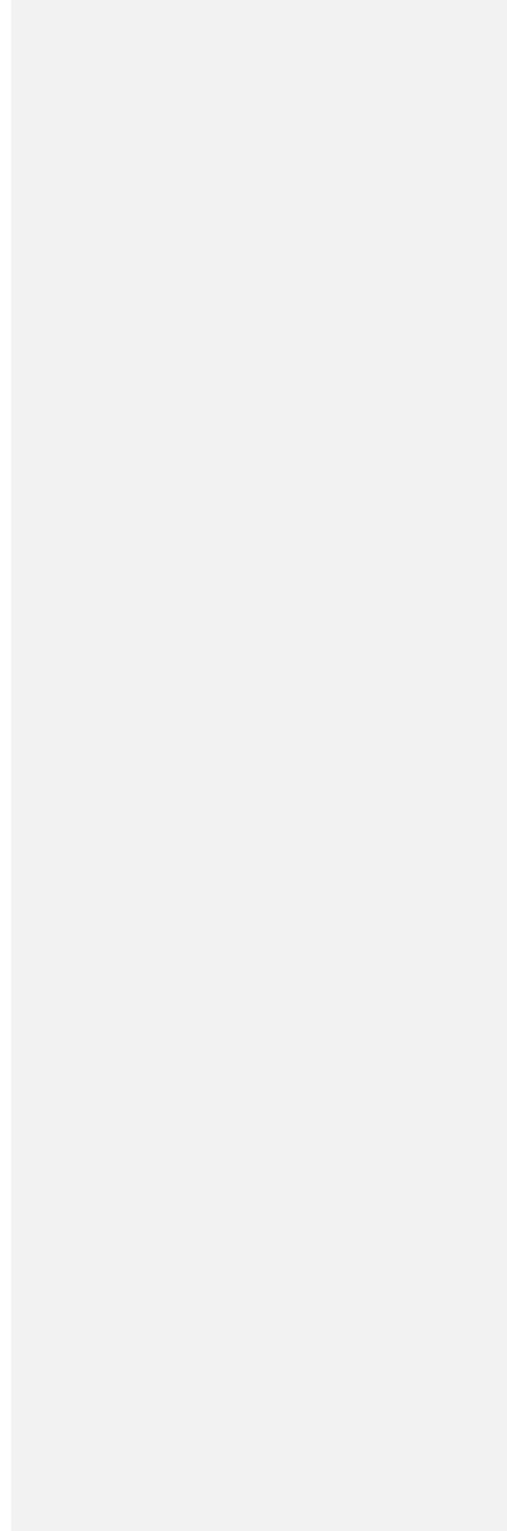
—NPS—

Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

For 75 years, Independence National Historical Park has preserved and interpreted the buildings, grounds, and museum collections of outstanding national significance associated



| *with the American Revolution and growth of the country.*



From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [Warren, John H](#)
Cc: [Kupper, Kathy](#); [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:19:33 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-mzhgqhfd.png](#)
[Revised Press release - Welcome Park.docx](#)

Ellen

I have attached a revised press release which will be posted to our Facebook, X, and Instagram channels making clear the statue removal is part of a proposal and the final decision will be informed by public comments, along with the following language:

(b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

If we want an actual apology in there, we could say... (b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

We could use the same language on our website alert that provides the direct link to the Welcome Park section of PEPC.

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park

Waiting on approval before taking any action.

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall
Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: [Anne Kelly](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Cc: [Mark Squilla](#); [Jennifer Slavic](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:12:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Steve – this is helpful. Some constituents have complained that they do not have internet access and are unable to get to the website. Are you planning any in person meetings?

Anne

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your email. The proposed design is available for public feedback through January 21, 2024, through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC): https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. The key message is that we are inviting public input to the design process and that the removal of the statue has not been decided. We are interested in involving the public through their feedback on the proposed design.

I apologize for the surprise on this invitation for public input. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mr. Sims,

I hope all is well. Our office is receiving calls and emails about the removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park, and we were unaware. I guess it hit the press today. Can you please provide a reply and a contact on your end that we can share. Below are some of the stories our constituents referenced. Thank you!

Anne

Anne Kelly King
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Mark Squilla
First District - Philadelphia

The NY Sun, which is a conservative publication, has also written a story. The push is that the Park Service is trying to "cancel" William Penn:

<https://www.nysun.com/article/park-service-to-remove-statue-of-william-penn-from-philadelphia-park-replace-it-with-more-inclusive-displays>

[Park Service To Remove Statue of William Penn From Philadelphia Park,](#)



[Replace It With More 'Inclusive' Displays](#)

The park service is soliciting public comment on the proposed project for 14 days beginning Monday.

www.nysun.com

The National Park Service announced this plan recently:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=98154>

Channel 6 and other media outlets have jumped on the story:

<https://6abc.com/william-penn-statue-slate-roof-house-removal-welcome-park/14295518/>

<https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/national-park-service-proposes-removing-william-penn-statue-from-philadelphia-park/> (Channel 27 is the most conservative and even has the House Republican leader commenting on the issue).

Briefing Statement FY 2024

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: Proposed Rehabilitation of Welcome Park
Member: 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 significant 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 park initiated a period of public comment on the new design proposal on January 5th through the issuance of a press release and posting on 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 8th until January 21st.
- The overwhelming majority of the comments received thus far are opposed to the removal of William Penn's statue.
- 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.

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 the Lenape at Welcome Park. The parcel of land is referred to as the Wampum Lot by the tribal 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.

- Project scope includes replacing landscaping and hardscaping, increased site lighting and security cameras, planting of trees, circular benches and an open fire pit.
- The new design proposal also called for the removal of the statue of William Penn.

Current Status:

- The park is fielding media inquiries and public comments through email, and voice mail and directing people to the PEPC website for the receipt of official comments.
- The public comment period runs through January 21st.
- A revised press release will be issued with clarifies that the removal of the statue is part of the proposed design only. A Final determination will be made based on public comments.
- 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, Independence National Historical Park, 215-597-7120

Andrew McDougall, Public Affairs Officer, Independence National Historical Park, 215-435-4372

Last Updated: January 8th, 2024

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Briefing Statement
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:13:45 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-r5izetbz.png](#)
[Briefing Statement Welcome Park 1-8-24.docx](#)

See attached.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: [Kupper, Kathy](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [Warren, John H](#)
Cc: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:18:07 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-mzhgqhfd.png](#)

Hello- Just a reminder that the park should not edit or repost anything until the comms plan is reviewed/approved by NER and DOI/WASO. Thank you.

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:19 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Ellen

I have attached a revised press release which will be posted to our Facebook, X, and Instagram channels making clear the statue removal is part of a proposal and the final decision will be informed by public comments, along with the following language:

(b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

If we want an actual apology in there, we could say... (b) (5)
[Redacted text block]

We could use the same language on our website alert that provides the direct link to the Welcome Park section of PEPC.

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park

Waiting on approval before taking any action.

Thanks.


Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

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 5th 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 8th until January 21st.
- 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 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

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Anne Kelly](#)
Cc: [Mark Squilla](#); [Jennifer Slavic](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:24:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-c2dr22mr.png](#)

Anne - There is no in-person meeting planned at this time.

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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

Thanks Steve – this is helpful. Some constituents have complained that they do not have internet access and are unable to get to the website. Are you planning any in person meetings?

Anne

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your email. The proposed design is available for public feedback through January 21, 2024, through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC): https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. The key message is that we are inviting public input to the design process and that the removal of the statue has not been decided. We are interested in involving the public through their feedback on the proposed design.

I apologize for the surprise on this invitation for public input. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media cal's about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mr. Sims,

I hope all is well. Our office is receiving calls and emails about the removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park, and we were unaware. I guess it hit the press today.

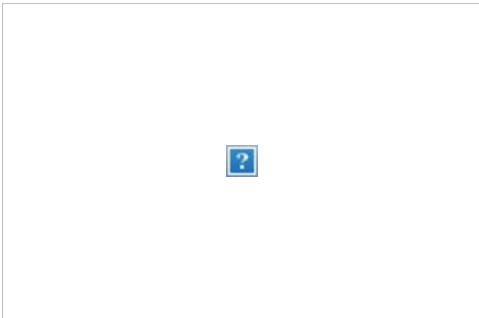
Can you please provide a reply and a contact on your end that we can share. Below are some of the stories our constituents referenced. Thank you!

Anne

Anne Kelly King
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Mark Squilla
First District - Philadelphia

The NY Sun, which is a conservative publication, has also written a story. The push is that the Park Service is trying to "cancel" William Penn:

<https://www.nysun.com/article/park-service-to-remove-statue-of-william-penn-from-philadelphia-park-replace-it-with-more-inclusive-displays>

	<p>Park Service To Remove Statue of William Penn From Philadelphia Park, Replace It With More 'Inclusive' Displays</p>
	<p>The park service is soliciting public comment on the proposed project for 14 days beginning Monday.</p> <p>www.nysun.com</p>

The National Park Service announced this plan recently:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=98154>

Channel 6 and other media outlets have jumped on the story:

<https://6abc.com/william-penn-statue-slate-roof-house-removal-welcome-park/14295518/>

<https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/national-park-service-proposes-removing-william-penn-statue-from-philadelphia-park/> (Channel 27 is the most conservative and even has the House Republican leader commenting on the issue).

From: [NPS News Media](#)
To: [O'toole, Tracy M](#); [Warren, John H](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Cc: [Kupper, Kathy](#); [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] WSJ question on deadline
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:25:37 PM

The inquiry below pertains to your park/program. Please prepare your response according to [established protocol](#) and coordinate as needed.

National Park Service
Office of Public Affairs

From: Kris Maher <kris.maher@wsj.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:59 PM
To: NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WSJ question on deadline

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi, I was hoping to speak to someone at the National Parks Service today about the Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal in Philadelphia. I saw some opposition to the proposal in the state and was hoping to speak to someone about that. My cell is (b) (6). Specifically, I was wondering if someone at the NPS would comment on statements by state Rep. Bryan Cutler who opposes removing the William Penn statue.
Thanks,
Kris

--
Kris Maher
STAFF REPORTER

M: +1 917 587 8130
E: Kris.Maher@wsj.com; Twitter: @Kris_Maher
A: Pittsburgh, PA 15217

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Carlson, Ellen L](#)
Subject: Fw: Welcome Park Briefing Statement
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:28:52 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-34mf531r.png](#)
[Outlook-xohkvw43.png](#)
[20240108 INDE Welcome Park Briefing Statement.docx](#)

Sorry Ellen...moving too fast. Attached is the briefing statement.

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)



From: Sims, Steven D
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:22 PM
To: Vietzke, Gay E <Gay_Vietzke@nps.gov>
Cc: Waldbuesser, Cinda <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)



From: [Carlson, Ellen L](#)
To: [Kupper, Kathy](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Warren, John H](#)
Cc: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:13:29 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-mzhgghfd.png](#)
[Outlook-5xjoot4w.png](#)

Thanks for the clarification, Kathy.

Best,
E.

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:12 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Yes, we would like a full comms plan. It should include the info mentioned as well as FAQs, an "If Asked" media response and a "If Asked" public inquiry response.

Thank you,
Kathy

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:10 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Ellen

I was told earlier that our Comms plan consists of:

1. Our revised press release
2. Our message on social media clarifying about the statue
3. Posting the revised press release to our website as an alert.

Did you want a full Comms plan with timeline, goals, audience, key messages, tactics, internal communications, talking points and social media metrics?

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:40 PM

To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>

Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Hi Andrew,

Have you also pulled together a draft Comms Plan as well?
It looks like that is a key piece that WASO COMMS is seeking.

best,

E.

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist

Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:19 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Ellen

I have attached a revised press release which will be posted to our Facebook, X, and Instagram channels making clear the statue removal is part of a proposal and the final decision will be informed by public comments, along with the following language:

(b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]."

If we want an actual apology in there, we could say..." (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]."

We could use the same language on our website alert that provides the direct link to the Welcome Park section of PEPC.

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park

Waiting on approval before taking any action.

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall
Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372

www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

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 3:14:37 PM

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

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

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: McGeary, Malcolm D <malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:06 PM
To: Milkman, Louise F <louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov>; Krakoff, Sarah A <sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Tittler, Andrew <Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov>; Porsia, Sara C <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>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:05 PM
To: McGeary, Malcolm D <malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov>; Krakoff, Sarah A <sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Tittler, Andrew <Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov>; Porsia, Sara C <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>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:03 PM

To: Milkman, Louise F <louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov>; Krakoff, Sarah A <sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Tittler, Andrew <Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov>; Porsia, Sara C <sara.porsia@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Penn Park question

Thank you. For what its worth, Jenny just sent me what NPS has previously said about this topic:

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: Milkman, Louise F <louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:08 PM
To: McGeary, Malcolm D <malcolm_mcgeary@nps.gov>; Krakoff, Sarah A <sarah.krakoff@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Tittler, Andrew <Andrew.Tittler@sol.doi.gov>; Porsia, Sara C <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>

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

To: Milkman, Louise F <louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov>; Krakoff, Sarah A <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: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Media Inquiry
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:17:03 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: costescu@freebeacon.com at </inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm>

Use costescu@freebeacon.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

Good afternoon! My name is Jessica Costescu and I am a reporter with the Washington Free Beacon. I was hoping you'd be able to comment on the recent announcement that the NPS, in its renovation plan for Old City's Welcome Park, to remove the centerpiece statue of William Penn as well as the Slate Roof house model. What went into the decision to remove the statue entirely? Concurrently, some argue that removing the statue creates an "absurd and revisionist view of [Pennsylvania's] state history." Comment? My deadline is eod. I hope to hear from you soon. Thanks a lot! Best, Jessica Costescu Reporter Washington Free Beacon

From: [Carlson, Ellen L](#)
To: [Petrella, Paula A](#); [Waldbuesser, Cinda](#)
Cc: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:20:48 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-mzhgqhfd.png](#)

Thanks, Paula.

Best,
E.

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: Petrella, Paula A <Paula_Petrella@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Waldbuesser, Cinda <Cinda_Waldbuesser@nps.gov>
Cc: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Thanks, Ellen. Should (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] That's my only question.

Paula

Paula Petrella (she/her)
Associate Regional Director
Park Operations and External Affairs

National Park Service
Interior Region 1, North Atlantic - Appalachian

1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 597-0865 (desk)
(610) 342-7734 (mobile)

From: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:07 PM
To: Waldbuesser, Cinda <Cinda_Waldbuesser@nps.gov>; Petrella, Paula A <Paula_Petrella@nps.gov>
Cc: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Fw: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Hi all,

I should have sent this forward earlier. I am so sorry.

Please take a look at the revised Press Release (attached) and suggested web and social media updates below.

Let me know if you have any suggestions or comments. I will forward to WASO COMMS as soon as I hear back.

Best,
E.

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:19 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Warren, John H <John_Warren@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Subject: Revised Release, Social Media and Alert language

Ellen

I have attached a revised press release which will be posted to our Facebook, X, and Instagram channels making clear the statue removal is part of a proposal and the final decision will be informed by public comments, along with the following language:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

If we want an actual apology in there, we could say...." (b) (5)

We could use the same language on our website alert that provides the direct link to the Welcome Park section of PEPC.

https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park

Waiting on approval before taking any action.

Thanks.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2023

Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Contact:
Andrew McDougall 215-435-4

DRAFT AFT Independence National Historical Park

Media Release

Park (b) (5) review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The National Park Service (b) (5) the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park. The draft proposal was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review.

Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed 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.

The National Park Service remains committed to the rehabilitation of Welcome Park with the intent of ensuring that it offers a welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Upon completion of all the necessary internal review, the park looks forward to engaging in a robust public process to consider options for achieving these objectives.

Updates on the project may be found at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) at

(b) (5) <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Commented [KAR1]: Also write out <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>

For information about Independence National Historical Park, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

—NPS—

Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

For 75 years, Independence National Historical Park has preserved and interpreted the buildings, grounds, and museum collections of outstanding national significance associated with the American Revolution and growth of the country.



From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Carlson, Ellen L](#)
Cc: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: DRAFT PR re: postponing review period
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 4:34:07 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-x5uimwyh.png](#)
[Outlook-tx2vekmr.png](#)
[Revised Press release - Welcome Park Postponed ss.docx](#)

Ellen,

Thank you again for drafting this PR. Attached are some minor edits. Do we want to say anything about the statue remaining up? That's the question around here...

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)



From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 4:23 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>
Cc: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: DRAFT PR re: postponing review period

Thank you, Ellen. Will get back to you shortly.

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)



From: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: DRAFT PR re: postponing review period

Hi Steve,
Take a look at this. I think I hit the key points that Jenny recommended.
Let me know if you have any comments or suggestions.
If it looks good to you, I'll post it to our Team call chat.

Best,
e.

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: removal of William Penn statue in Welcome Park (Philadelphia)
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 4:56:50 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: klyons@penncapital-star.com at </inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm>

Use klyons@penncapital-star.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

Hello, I'm writing a news article about the plan to remove the William Penn statue from Welcome Park in Philadelphia. There seems to be a perception this is being done as a rebuke of Penn or as a political statement, but that doesn't appear to be correct as far as I can ascertain. Can anyone there speak to why the statue is being removed? Thanks, Kim Lyons, Editor, Pennsylvania Capital-Star

From: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
To: [Rob Hotakainen](#); [NPS News Media](#)
Cc: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Question
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:05:31 PM

Hi Rob, connecting you with Andrew from the park on this. I believe he'll have something for you within the hour.

From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:03 PM
To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question

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Do you want to comment on the criticism NPS is facing for its decision to remove the William Penn statue from Welcome Park? I reached out to the NPS press officer in Philly but did not hear back, so I wanted to give you a chance to respond, too.

What is NPS going to do with the statue? Why is it being removed? (Press release was sparse on details.) And what's your response to criticism from Pennsylvania republicans who say this is an attempt by NPS to erase history?

Many thanks.

Rob

Rob Hotakainen
National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter
E&E News | **POLITICO**
rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob

1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209

www.eenews.net

Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [NPS News Media](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:05:59 PM

Andrew, please make sure Kristy gets the news release when it goes out.

From: Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:01 PM
To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST

For your follow up once the Park sends their statement out. I would make sure this producer receives the update directly so we don't have misreporting during primetime.

From: Capiello, Kristy <Kristy.Capiello@FOX.COM>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:19 PM
To: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST

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Good Afternoon,

This is Kristy Capiello from Jesse Watters Primetime on the Fox News Channel. We're running a story on the removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park and would like to include comment from Secretary Haaland. The show airs at 8 p.m. ET. Feel free to reply here or shoot me a call or text at (b) (6)

Thank you,
KC

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee(s). If you are not an addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to an addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox Corporation, or its subsidiaries must

be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by any of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

From: [Rob Hotakainen](#)
To: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
Cc: [NPS News Media](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:07:38 PM

Great thanks much

Rob Hotakainen
National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter
E&E News | **POLITICO**
rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob
1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209
www.eenews.net
Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

On Jan 8, 2024, at 5:06 PM, Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Rob, connecting you with Andrew from the park on this. I believe he'll have something for you within the hour.

From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>
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To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question

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Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [NPS News Media](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:07:58 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-gzuzxoij.png](#)

Got it.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:05 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>;
NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST

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Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST

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From: Cappiello, Kristy <Kristy.Cappiello@FOX.COM>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:19 PM

To: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME STATEMENT REQUEST

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Thank you,
KC

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From: [Carlson, Ellen L](#)
Subject: Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:49:18 PM

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

The National Park Service (NPS) remains committed to rehabilitating Welcome Park as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th 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.

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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE

Ellen Carlson
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Interior Region 1
Mobile: 617.834.2626

From: [Ashwell, Jacqueline L](#)
To: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#); [Carlson, Ellen L](#); [Vietzke, Gay E](#); [Waldbuesser, Cinda](#); [Sims, Steven D](#); [Lestino, Leo M](#)
Cc: [Kupper, Kathy](#); [Fifer, Jordan T](#)
Subject: RE: Cleared INDE release
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:51:02 PM

Congressional notifications are done. Ellen has sent to Fetterman, Casey, and Boyle, and I have sent to the two non-PA offices that inquired through our office earlier today.

- Jacqueline

From: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:42 PM
To: Carlson, Ellen L <Ellen_Carlson@nps.gov>; Vietzke, Gay E <Gay_Vietzke@nps.gov>; Waldbuesser, Cinda <Cinda_Waldbuesser@nps.gov>; Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Ashwell, Jacqueline L <Jacqueline_Ashwell@nps.gov>; Lestino, Leo M <leo_lestono@nps.gov>
Cc: Kupper, Kathy <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>; Fifer, Jordan T <jordan_fifer@nps.gov>
Subject: Cleared INDE release

Cleared release is below. Please proceed with steps outlined in Teams. Let's make sure social tracks with same messaging.

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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Updates on the project may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [Anne Kelly](#)
Cc: [Mark Squilla](#); [Jennifer Slavic](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calls about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:53:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-c2dr22mr.png](#)
[Outlook-ho1fnrvf.png](#)

Anne,

I wanted to provide you an updated Press Release regarding Welcome Park below. It will be sent out momentarily to the media and congressional delegation. Please let me know if you have any questions.


Regards,
Steve

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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	Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)
The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.	
www.nps.gov	

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)



From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:24 PM

To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>

Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calls about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

Anne - There is no in-person meeting planned at this time.

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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:11 PM

To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>

Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calls about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

Thanks Steve – this is helpful. Some constituents have complained that they do not have internet access and are unable to get to the website. Are you planning any in person meetings?

Anne

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:47 PM

To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>

Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calls about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your email. The proposed design is available for public feedback through January 21, 2024, through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC): https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. The key message is that we are inviting public input to the design process and that the removal of the statue has not been decided. We are interested in involving the public through their feedback on the proposed design.

I apologize for the surprise on this invitation for public input. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
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](#)
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From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mr. Sims,

I hope all is well. Our office is receiving calls and emails about the removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park, and we were unaware. I guess it hit the press today. Can you please provide a reply and a contact on your end that we can share. Below are some of the stories our constituents referenced. Thank you!

Anne

Anne Kelly King
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Mark Squilla
First District - Philadelphia

The NY Sun, which is a conservative publication, has also written a story. The push is that the Park Service is trying to "cancel" William Penn:

<https://www.nysun.com/article/park-service-to-remove-statue-of-william-penn-from-philadelphia-park-replace-it-with-more-inclusive-displays>

	<p>Park Service To Remove Statue of William Penn From Philadelphia Park, Replace It With More 'Inclusive' Displays</p> <p>The park service is soliciting public comment on the proposed project for 14 days beginning Monday.</p> <p>www.nysun.com</p>
--	---

The National Park Service announced this plan recently:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=98154>

Channel 6 and other media outlets have jumped on the story:

<https://6abc.com/william-penn-statue-slate-roof-house-removal-welcome-park/14295518/>

<https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/national-park-service-proposes-removing-william-penn-statue-from-philadelphia-park/> (Channel 27 is the most conservative and even has the House Republican leader commenting on the issue).

From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: Pull the trigger
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:56:10 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-zwfj12qm.png](#)

Okay so am i sending out the press release?

Respectfully,

Adam

Adam Duncan
**Public Affairs, Partnerships &
Special Events Office**
Independence Nat'l Historical Park
143 S 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19106
cell: 215-439-5557

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:55:16 PM
To: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Subject: Pull the trigger

Here is the text for social media:

"The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned. Please see attached press release."

The approved new press release is below:

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Subject: Re: Pull the trigger
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:14:21 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-zwfj12qm.png](#)
[Outlook-qhxiaj4s.png](#)

Yes, please!



Andrew McDougall

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www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: For Immediate Release: Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:23:33 PM
Attachments: [75 logo.png](#)



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

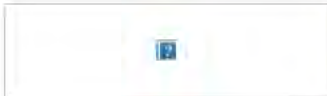
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www.nps.gov/inde



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The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

www.nps.gov



Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created 75 years ago by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. Events, programs and special exhibits which celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held throughout the year. For more information

on our 75th Anniversary events, visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us on social media by searching @IndependenceNHP.

From: [Sims, Steven D](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
Subject: Re: Press release is out
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:26:31 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-z3kk1ple.png](#)

Thank you!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:25:21 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>; Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>; Ehrler, Marilou <Marilou_Ehrler@nps.gov>
Subject: Press release is out



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

www.nps.gov/inde



Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and

international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
www.nps.gov



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Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Albertoli, Renee L](#)
Cc: [Doveton, Michael](#)
Subject: New Press Release
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:29:15 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-u51eqoa4.png](#)

Renee

Could you please post this is on the Alert section of the website?

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned. Please see below.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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Thank you very much.



Andrew McDougall

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Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: Pull the trigger
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30:35 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-zwfj12qm.png](#)
[Outlook-qhxiaj4s.png](#)

All done, social media too

Respectfully,

Adam

Adam Duncan
**Public Affairs, Partnerships &
Special Events Office**
Independence Nat'l Historical Park
143 S 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19106
cell: 215-439-5557

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:14:21 PM
To: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Pull the trigger

Yes, please!



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:56 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Pull the trigger

Okay so am i sending out the press release?

Respectfully,

Adam

Adam Duncan
**Public Affairs, Partnerships &
Special Events Office**
Independence Nat'l Historical Park
143 S 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19106
cell: 215-439-5557

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:55:16 PM
To: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Subject: Pull the trigger

Here is the text for social media:

"The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned. Please see attached press release."

The approved new press release is below:

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#)
To: [NPS INDE All Employees](#)
Subject: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30:35 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-z3kk1ple.png](#)
[Outlook-ur4bedfg.png](#)

Good evening,

Please know the park invited public comment on the proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park on Friday, January 5. We just retracted that preliminary draft proposal and closed public comment because we released the draft prematurely. It needs additional agency review. See news release below (park news releases located [here](#)).

Many of you fielded questions about this project and the public comment process the past three days. Thank you for your continued professionalism and adaptability! If you receive media inquiries regarding Welcome Park, please direct them newsmedia@nps.gov until further notice.

In the future, we commit to sharing all news releases with you. Additionally, we commit to providing guidance and talking points for instances such as this.

Thank you,

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent

[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) | [Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#) | [Independence National Historical Park](#) | [Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)

Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 18:25

To:

Subject:



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: X Post
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:40:53 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-zwaeedq.png](#)

[\(21\) IndependenceNPS_____ on X: "The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned. For more info, please visit: <https://t.co/XWkOzPbEvl>. <https://t.co/Ly0aooxXcx>" / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Respectfully,

Adam



Adam Duncan

Public Affairs & Special Park Use
Independence National Historical Park
office: 215-597-0067 | cell: 215-439-5557

143 S. 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19106
www.nps.gov/inde

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Subject: Fw: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:46:49 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-z3kk1ple.png](#)
[Outlook-ur4bedfg.png](#)
[Outlook-gtqebbj1.png](#)

This is wrong. They should not be fielding questions.

Is she also saying that we did not send to all employees?



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
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From: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30 PM
To: NPS INDE All Employees <INDE_All_Employees@nps.gov>
Subject: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

Good evening,

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Thank you,

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent

[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) | [Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#) | [Independence National Historical Park](#) | [Thaddeus Kosciuszko National](#)

Memorial

Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0237



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 18:25

To:

Subject:



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

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Andrew McDougall

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Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Rob Hotakainen](#); [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
Cc: [NPS News Media](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:47:22 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-ydhaund.png](#)

Hey Rob

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
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Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
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215-597-0060 phone
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Independence National Historical Park News Release

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Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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www.nps.gov/inde



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From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:07 PM
To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Cc: NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question

Great thanks much

Rob Hotakainen
National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter
E&E News | **POLITICO**
rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob
1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209
www.eenews.net
Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

On Jan 8, 2024, at 5:06 PM, Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Rob, connecting you with Andrew from the park on this. I believe he'll have something for you within the hour.

From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:03 PM

To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Do you want to comment on the criticism NPS is facing for its decision to remove the William Penn statue from Welcome Park? I reached out to the NPS press officer in Philly but did not hear back, so I wanted to give you a chance to respond, too.

What is NPS going to do with the statue? Why is it being removed? (Press release was sparse on details.) And what's your response to criticism from Pennsylvania republicans who say this is an attempt by NPS to erase history?

Many thanks.

Rob

Rob Hotakainen

National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter

E&E News | **POLITICO**

rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob

1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209

www.eenews.net

Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: [Duncan, Adam](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:49:46 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-z3kk1ple.png](#)
[Outlook-ur4bedfg.png](#)
[Outlook-gtqebbj1.png](#)

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From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:46 PM
To: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Subject: Fw: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

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Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
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Philadelphia, PA 19106
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www.nps.gov/inde



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From: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30 PM
To: NPS INDE All Employees <INDE_All_Employees@nps.gov>
Subject: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

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Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP
Deputy Superintendent

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Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 18:25

To:

Subject:



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
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Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Duncan, Adam](#)
Subject: Re: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:51:03 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-z3kk1ple.png](#)
[Outlook-ur4bedfg.png](#)
[Outlook-qtqebbj1.png](#)
[Outlook-w0iv4tcn.png](#)

I know and I know you didn't send it to all employees. That was her new thing over the summer.



Andrew McDougall

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From: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:49 PM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

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From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:46 PM
To: Duncan, Adam <Adam_Duncan@nps.gov>
Subject: Fw: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

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Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: Kochanowski, Amnesty R <Amnesty_Kochanowski@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:30 PM

To: NPS INDE All Employees <INDE_All_Employees@nps.gov>

Subject: Withdrawing Review of Welcome Park Rehab. Proposal

Good evening,

Please know the park invited public comment on the proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park on Friday, January 5. We just retracted that preliminary draft proposal and closed public comment because we released the draft prematurely. It needs additional agency review. See news release below (park news releases located [here](#)).

Many of you fielded questions about this project and the public comment process the past three days. Thank you for your continued professionalism and adaptability! If you receive media inquiries regarding Welcome Park, please direct them newsmedia@nps.gov until further notice.

In the future, we commit to sharing all news releases with you. Additionally, we commit to providing guidance and talking points for instances such as this.

Thank you,

Amnesty

Amnesty Kochanowski, CSP

Deputy Superintendent

[Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site](#) | [Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site](#) | [Independence National Historical Park](#) | [Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#)

Office (215) 597-7120 | Cell (307) 290-0227



From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 18:25

To:

Subject:



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical
Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

www.nps.gov/inde



Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

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Andrew McDougall

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Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: Kristy.Cappiello@FOX.COM
Subject: William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:54:07 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-nq3j4dki.png](#)

Hey Kristy

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



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[Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: mike.donofrio@axios.com
Subject: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:56:58 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-3b3a33mp.png](#)

Hey Mike

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



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Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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From: [Cappiello, Kristy](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:58:21 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-ng3j4dki.png](#)

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Thanks for letting me know!

From: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:54 PM
To: Cappiello, Kristy <Kristy.Cappiello@FOX.COM>
Subject: William Penn

Hey Kristy

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



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From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: pattysaffran@verizon.net
Subject: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:10:18 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-abfhfqh0.png](#)

Hey Patty

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



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Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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Andrew McDougall

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Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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From: [Kris Maher](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:12:54 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Outlook-qqlr0ijt.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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Thanks Andrew, can you tell me the reason for the withdrawal?

On Monday, January 8, 2024, McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov> wrote:

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Hey Kris

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.

No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



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Independence National Historical Park News Release

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

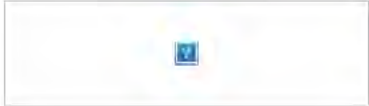
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Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer

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Kris Maher
STAFF REPORTER



(b) (6)
E: kris.maher@wsi.com; Twitter: @Kris_Maher
A: Pittsburgh, PA 15217



From: [Andrew McDougall](#)
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] William Penn statue in Philadelphia will not be removed from Welcome Park, National Park Service proposes
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:18:11 PM

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<https://www.inquirer.com/news/william-penn-statue-philadelphia-welcome-park-removal-20240108.html>

From: [Rob Hotakainen](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:18:20 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-ydhauncl.png](#)

Great Thanks

Rob Hotakainen
National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter
E&E News | POLITICO
shotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: [@HotakainenRob](#)

1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209

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Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

On Jan 8, 2024, at 6:47 PM, McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Rob

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.
No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

<image.png>

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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<image.png>

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<Outlook-02d4rcsv.jpg>

Andrew McDougall

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<Outlook-ydhauncl.png>

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From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:07 PM

To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>

Cc: NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>; McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question

Great thanks much

Rob Hotakainen
National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter
E&E News | **POLITICO**
rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob

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Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

On Jan 8, 2024, at 5:06 PM, Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Rob, connecting you with Andrew from the park on this. I believe he'll have something for you within the hour.

From: Rob Hotakainen <rhotakainen@eenews.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:03 PM

To: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>; NPS News Media <NewsMedia@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question

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Do you want to comment on the criticism NPS is facing for its decision to remove the William Penn statue from Welcome Park? I reached out to the NPS press officer in Philly but did not hear back, so I wanted to give you a chance to respond, too.

What is NPS going to do with the statue? Why is it being removed? (Press release was sparse on details.) And what's your response to criticism from Pennsylvania republicans who say this is an attempt by NPS to erase history?

Many thanks.

Rob

Rob Hotakainen

National parks, oceans and fisheries reporter

E&E News | **POLITICO**

rhotakainen@eenews.net

(b) (6)

Twitter: @HotakainenRob

1000 Wilson Blvd., 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209

www.eenews.net

Greenwire, ClimateWire, EnergyWire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#); [Kochanowski, Amnesty R](#); [Ehrler, Marilou](#)
Subject: William Penn statue in Philadelphia will not be removed from Welcome Park, Nat
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:20:04 PM

The Governor spoke to the White House.

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/william-penn-statue-philadelphia-welcome-park-removal-20240108.html>

Thanks.

Andrew McDougall

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From: [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#)
To: encinas@gannett.com; echen@gannett.com
Cc: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Urgent correction request from national park service,
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:28:16 PM

Hi Amaris, we see USA Today published a [story](#) at 6:30 tonight reporting that Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia is taking comment on a proposal to rehab Welcome Park, which had included the possibility of removing the Penn Statue. Want to be sure you saw this news release from the park this afternoon. Looping my colleague, Andrew, at the park.

Eve, since its late in the day looping you in case you can help make sure this gets to the correct editor ASAP.

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

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

Date: January 8, 2024

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Contact: [Andrew McDougall](#), 215-435-4372

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www.nps.gov/inde

Thanks so much,
Jenny

From: [Mike D'Onofrio](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 7:51:03 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[Outlook-3b3a33mp.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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Got this. Thank you very much for adding me to your media list. If you are around tonight, just to be sure, so the proposal that was put forward has been completely canceled? It's not just that the statue won't be removed, it's that the whole plan has been scrapped?

Do you guys have any ETA on when a new plan may be put forward? Or the justification for canceling it?

On Mon, Jan 8, 2024, 6:57 PM McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov> wrote:

Hey Mike

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn.

No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.



Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

The National Park Service (NPS) remains committed to rehabilitating Welcome Park as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th 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.

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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

www.nps.gov/inde

Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)



The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
www.nps.gov



Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created 75 years ago by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. Events, programs and special exhibits which celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held throughout the year. For more information on our 75th Anniversary events, visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us on social media by searching @IndependenceNHP.



Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1. I applaud a redesign of Welcome Park. Because this park never had a clearly defined purpose it always seemed to be a way just to fill the space on a parcel where William Penn's house once stood. At one time, there was supposed to be an exit ramp from I-95 that would bring visitors to the adjacent parking garage, from which they supposedly would enter INDE on foot through Welcome Park. But the ramp wasn't built and the pedestrian circulation didn't make sense regardless. So it has never worked as a place that visitors or Philadelphians choose to spend time. Far from "welcoming," it almost repels use.

The proposed design seems to fall into the same trap, however. It doesn't seem to respond to any particular purpose or need, other than to replace failing paving and to update interpretation. How is this park intended to be used? What will attract people to it? Are we just filling space again? The PEPC entry lacks adequate description about the purpose and need and how design choices were made, leaving them open to question. It's also very surprising that no alternative designs are presented.

2. Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates' design was both literal and tongue-in-cheek. It was humorous in plan-view but deadly dull as a space to experience. So what is the point of keeping any part of it? If it's intended to be a nod to the original designers, keeping a random chunk doesn't achieve that. (Additionally, the richness of materials [marble and brick] of the existing paving is being sacrificed for concrete pavers.) If keeping the random chunk is intended as a nod to the 1683 Holme map, this is particularly tone-deaf in its lack of understanding of the significance of the map as a representation of Penn's nationally significant original vision for the city, and the importance of the five green public squares. What alternative designs were considered by the NPS for this park?
3. What is the purpose of the "ceremonial gathering space" and does the proposed design represent the best way to facilitate the unknown (to us) use? I do note that the choice to retain so much paving puts it in the center of a heat island. If it's intended to be used at a time other than winter, consider adding a shade tree to the south.
4. Like all national parks, INDE lacks the budget to maintain its designed landscapes. The mall, where the plantings were never adequately maintained and have seriously deteriorated from their early excellent condition just two decades ago, is a case in point. I question whether the park will be able to maintain the proposed Welcome Park landscape, and whether maintenance was considered during the design process. Was the inclusion of lawn considered, given that lawn is the easiest landscape feature to maintain?
5. It's true, as the brief project description states, that Welcome Park itself is a non-contributing resource. The site, however, was included in the park boundary because it was the site of Penn's residence. The land had a long history before Penn's arrival, and Penn's work for freedom and his utopian vision for Pennsylvania and for the physical development of the city also are nationally significant. All these histories can and should be reflected in

the design of the park. Therefore, I applaud the proposed inclusion of interpretation of Native American history, but I question whether there is a justification for the permanent removal of the Penn statue and the interpretation of Penn. Consider relocating the statue, perhaps minus the oversized plinth, within the landscaped area. Consider including interpretation of Penn and his significance. In a park called "Independence," Penn's story and the treatment of the tribes following his death, have a lot to teach us.

6. Perhaps there were public meetings to discuss the design, although none are noted in the PEPC entry. Questions might have been answered and alternatives discussed. Possible users of the park in addition to tribal nations could have been consulted. It's unfortunate that there now is a rush to get to construction. The NPS once was noted for its commitment to excellence in park planning and design. The proposed plan doesn't reflect that.

From: [Anne Kelly](#)
To: [Sims, Steven D](#)
Cc: [Mark Squilla](#); [Jennifer Slavic](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:49:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-c2dr22mr.png](#)
[Outlook-ho1frnvf.png](#)

Thank you!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 5:53:33 PM
To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

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Anne,

I wanted to provide you an updated Press Release regarding Welcome Park below. It will be sent out momentarily to the media and congressional delegation. Please let me know if you have any questions.


Regards,
Steve

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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Updates on the project may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE

	<p>Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)</p> <p>The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>www.nps.gov</p>
---	--

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)



From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

Anne - There is no in-person meeting planned at this time.

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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

Thanks Steve – this is helpful. Some constituents have complained that they do not have internet access and are unable to get to the website. Are you planning any in person meetings?

Anne

From: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

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Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your email. The proposed design is available for public feedback through January 21, 2024, through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC): https://parkplanning.nps.gov/INDE_Rehabilitate_Welcome_Park. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. The key message is that we are inviting public input to the design process and that the removal of the statue has not been decided. We are interested in involving the public through their feedback on the proposed design.

I apologize for the surprise on this invitation for public input. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
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)



From: Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Sims, Steven D <Steven_Sims@nps.gov>
Cc: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Jennifer Slavic <Jennifer.Slavic@Phila.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: You might get media calcs about this story: US Park service wants to remove William Penn Statue from Welcome Park in your district

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Hi Mr. Sims,

I hope all is well. Our office is receiving calls and emails about the removal of the William Penn statue from Welcome Park, and we were unaware. I guess it hit the press today. Can you please provide a reply and a contact on your end that we can share. Below are some of the stories our constituents referenced. Thank you!

Anne

Anne Kelly King
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Mark Squilla
First District - Philadelphia

The NY Sun, which is a conservative publication, has also written a story. The push is that the Park Service is trying to "cancel" William Penn:

<https://www.nysun.com/article/park-service-to-remove-statue-of-william-penn-from-philadelphia-park-replace-it-with-more-inclusive-displays>



[Park Service To Remove Statue of William Penn From Philadelphia Park, Replace It With More 'Inclusive' Displays](#)

The park service is soliciting public comment on the proposed project for 14 days beginning Monday.

www.nysun.com

The National Park Service announced this plan recently:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=98154>

Channel 6 and other media outlets have jumped on the story:

<https://6abc.com/william-penn-statue-slate-roof-house-removal-welcome-park/14295518/>

<https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/national-park-service-proposes-removing-william-penn-statue-from-philadelphia-park/> (Channel 27 is the most conservative and even has the House Republican leader commenting on the issue).

From: [Deirdre Gibson](#)
To: [Sims, Steven](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park - yikes!
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:58:10 PM
Attachments: [INDE Welcome Park comments.docx](#)

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Hi Steve,

I'm genuinely sorry that you are stuck dealing with the outcome of what looks like a poorly run process that happened before you arrived. It's unfair but I know that the park is lucky to have you as a leader because I've seen you manage the tough stuff.

I'm amazed that this was called a rehab, when it's a total demolition and reconstruction. I'm amazed that there doesn't seem to have been any public involvement and that the public comment period is the shortest possible under NEPA.

You might remember that I was the principal author for the park's GMP. Denver had really fumbled the early days and the mayor, the Friends, all of Society Hill, every cultural organization, etc. was angry. That's when the RD yanked me out of the Heritage Area program and told me that I was going to represent her and the park and ride herd on the DSC team. We started over. I can tell you that people here really care about being part of the decisions and they really expect good design. I know you know that from having lived and worked here before.

I also was the co-author (with the park historian) for the cultural landscape report for Independence Mall and learned a lot about the physical history of the park through that research.

It seems that whoever developed this plan might not have had the advantage of that kind of background. I'm amazed at how lame the design is.

Just FYI, I've attached the comments that I'll put into PEPC tomorrow once I've reread them. I recognize that it's easy for me to sit here and critique the plan, but I put years of work into INDE and I do care about it. I also care about you, and I think you've been badly served by this. I know that you'll find a good solution, though.

Deirdre

From: [Chen, Eve](#)
To: [Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles](#); [Andrew McDougall@nps.gov](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Urgent correction request from national park service,
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 10:04:21 PM

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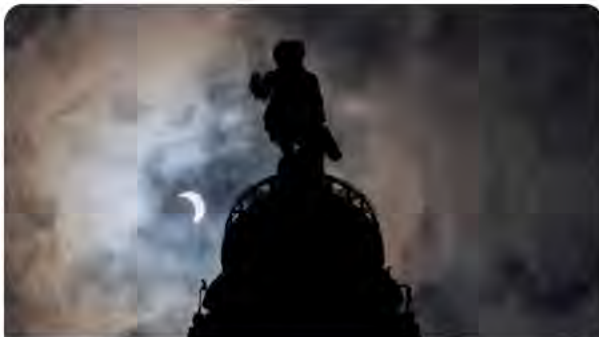
Hi Jenny and Andrew,

Happened to see your email while I was off and found the right editors to pass it along to.

They asked me to note that Amaris tried reaching out to NPS multiple times today and never heard back but happened to see the update and updated her story accordingly.

I don't know who she tried to contact or anything about the story, but hope that helps.

Best,
Eve



National Park Service scraps plan to remove Philadelphia statue after online firestorm
[usatoday.com](#)

From: Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov>
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:28 PM
To: encinas@gannett.com <encinas@gannett.com>, Chen, Eve <echen@gannett.com>

Cc: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>

Subject: Urgent correction request from national park service,

Hi Amaris, we see USA Today published a [story](#) at 6:30 tonight reporting that Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia is taking comment on a proposal to rehab Welcome Park, which had included the possibility of removing the Penn Statue. Want to be sure you saw this news release from the park this afternoon. Looping my colleague, Andrew, at the park.

Eve, since its late in the day looping you in case you can help make sure this gets to the correct editor ASAP.

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

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

Date: January 8, 2024

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Contact: [Andrew McDougall](#), 215-435-4372

PHILADELPHIA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

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Updates on the project may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

www.nps.gov/inde

Thanks so much,
Jenny

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Welcome Park Rehab - Keep the Will Penn statue
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 12:05:59 AM

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Email submitted from: (b) (6)@eichert.org at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@eichert.org to reply to this message

Category: Other

<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm> is a bad plan. Keep the William Penn statue.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: William Penn Statue Welcome Park
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:51:06 AM

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Email submitted from (b) (6)@yahoo.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6)@yahoo.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:

A Lee Hanze

(b) (6)

It is a shame that you are allowing this "Woke" culture and politics to guide your rehabilitation decisions and consider removing historical statues such as William Penn from Welcome Park. It is understandable considering the weak-kneed administration you work under now, please reconsider this egregious decision. Thank You!

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: History preservation
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:21:52 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @reagan.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @reagan.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

As a 28 year veteran homeschool mom and adoptive mom of 3 girls from China, I am asking that you reconsider removing the statue of William Penn from the Welcome Park. In my experience as a teacher-mom and adoptive mom, I understand that William Penn was a man of extraordinary vision, who valued religious freedom and who wanted Pennsylvania to be a place where its people could enjoy freedom of conscience. I find that concept to be an extremely valuable lesson, having been to China to adopt our 3 girls, a country where freedom is limited - parents are forced to abandon their babies by government order. Let us work to preserve the power of liberty and freedom of conscience by respecting those who went before us, like William Penn, who valued it. I would never advocate for limiting freedom. Let's work to preserve it. The statue needs to stay as a reminder that the lessons of history need to be learned.

From: [The Washington Post](#)
To: steven_sims@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Early 202: The consequences of Trump's immunity court case
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:27:29 AM

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FROM The Washington Post

[View in browser](#)



The Early 202



Presented by [the American Petroleum Institute](#)

By <a href=



By Leigh Ann Caldwell and Theodoric Meyer

with research by Tobi Raji

Leigh

Ann Caldwell and
Theodoric Meyer">

Good morning, Early Birds. The statue of William Penn in Philadelphia's Welcome Park isn't going anywhere — and neither is a much larger Penn statue atop City Hall. Look how big it is! The sculptor, Alexander Milne Calder, was the grandfather of Alexander Calder, whose works grace the Hart Senate Office Building and the National Gallery of Art.

Tips: earlytips@washpost.com. Was this forwarded to you? [Sign up here](#). Thanks for waking up with us.

In today's edition ... Release of the bipartisan border security framework is likely delayed ... A look at the violent threats against members of Congress, state officials, local leaders and judges since 2020 ... but first ...



From the courts

The consequences of Trump's immunity court case



Former president Donald Trump during the civil fraud trial against the Trump Organization in New York on Dec. 7. (Eduardo Munoz Alvarez/Pool/AFP/Getty Images)

Former president **Donald Trump** is expected to watch today as his lawyers try to convince three appeals court judges that he can't be tried for his alleged role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and trying to overturn the 2020 election.

The outcome could have big implications for Trump — and future presidents. That's because the case raises a novel issue for the courts, which have never before been asked whether a former president is immune from federal criminal prosecution.

Trump is hoping to avoid a trial in the 2020 election case, which was brought by special counsel **Jack Smith**. He's accused of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election.

Trump is also facing political stakes, as he's on track to become the Republican nomination for president.



“His choice to attend the argument — not uncommon but also not required in an appeal — instead of spending more time in Iowa just one week from the GOP's first nominating contest there reflect the bet he and his campaign are placing on blending his criminal defense with electoral message. Tuesday's appearance is poised to be the first of many times this year that he quickly pivots between the courtroom and the campaign trail or brings the campaign to the courthouse steps as he faces four separate criminal cases and two civil trials,” our colleague **Isaac Arnsdorf reports**.

- Trump's purpose in showing up in the courtroom is to show “seriousness and defiance” and garner media attention as he's going on the offense, according to Isaac's reporting.

To understand the legal aspects of the case, we picked the brains of our fantastic colleagues who cover the ins and outs of the Trump trials.

HOW THE CASE CAME TO BE

Trump appealed the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia after U.S. District Judge **Tanya S. Chutkan** rejected his attempt to dismiss the case in December. The former president argued that he is immune from federal prosecution because he was president at the time of the alleged crime.

- “Whatever immunities a sitting President may enjoy, the United

States has only one Chief Executive at a time, and that position does not confer a lifelong ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ pass.” Chutkan wrote in her decision. “No court — or any other branch of government — has ever accepted it. And this court will not so hold.”

- Smith asked the Supreme Court to fast-track the case, but the court refused to do so. It didn’t explain why.

THE ARGUMENTS

The former president is arguing that he is immune from federal prosecution for his acts as president — and because he was not convicted in his impeachment trial, trying him now would amount to double jeopardy.

“Presidential immunity and the Impeachment Judgment Clause foreclose the criminal prosecution of President Trump for his official acts,” his lawyers argued in a brief to the court.

Smith argues that courts haven’t found that former presidents have immunity from criminal liability. And even if they do, Smith argues, it wouldn’t apply to Trump, who worked with private individuals and government officials to remain in power.

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- Smith has also argued that a lack of conviction in an impeachment trial does not limit Trump’s ability to be prosecuted. Trump was acquitted in his Senate impeachment trial.

A NOTE ON THE IMPEACHMENT STANDARD

But about that impeachment argument ... it’s complicated.

When **Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.) voted to not

convict Trump in his trial, he said the courts would be the more appropriate venue for assessing the president's actions.

"Impeachment was never meant to be the final forum for American justice," McConnell argued at the time. "We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation. And former Presidents are not immune from being held accountable by either one."

THE JUDGES

None of the judges on the panel, who are randomly assigned, were nominated by Trump.

Judge Karen L. Henderson was nominated by **President George H.W. Bush** and has served on the court since 1990. Reporters and legal watchers will listen to Henderson closely.

The other two judges on the panel, **Florence Y. Pan** and **J. Michelle Childs**, were nominated by **President Biden** and confirmed by the Senate in 2022.

Childs was in the running for former Supreme Court justice **Stephen Breyer's** seat on the court. **Rep. Jim Clyburn** (D-S.C.) and **Sen. Lindsey Graham** (R-S.C.) urged Biden to choose Childs, who was a federal district court judge in South Carolina, but the appointment went to **Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson**. Biden nominated Pan for the seat vacated by Jackson.

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TRUMP'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS

Our colleague **Devlin Barrett** says it's hard to say whether Trump's legal arguments will hold sway. But he says this: "This appeals court has already found in a separate case that Trump is not immune to civil liability

for his actions as a presidential candidate around Jan. 6, so it is hard to imagine they will find he has absolute criminal immunity.”

Another colleague, **Spencer S. Hsu**, adds that he’s watching what the judges say about each of the arguments raised by Trump.

- For example, are they more concerned with Trump’s claim of presidential immunity or his double jeopardy claim that former president’s cannot be charged for conduct they have been impeached but not convicted of by the Senate?
- How much credence do they give an argument raised by outside left-leaning analysts suggesting Trump cannot appeal the immunity issue before trial at all?

THE TIMELINE

Time is of the essence. Smith had hoped to begin the trial against Trump on March 4, but that could be delayed depending on the outcome and timeline of a decision in this case.

Because this is a new legal question and they know it will be reviewed by the Supreme Court, the judges will want to write a thoughtful, in-depth opinion, according to Supreme Court reporter **Ann Marimow**. She predicts that a D.C. Circuit decision will “take weeks — not days.”

But no matter the outcome of today’s proceedings, the Supreme Court is likely to have the last word.

“After the D.C. Circuit issues its ruling, either party can seek rehearing by a full complement of appeals court judges or go directly to the Supreme Court,” Ann adds.

THE IMPACT

While the outcome of this case will have huge consequences for the

special counsel case, it could have implications in the Georgia case, too.

Trump filed similar claims in the [Georgia case](#) on Monday, where he is charged with 13 counts related to an alleged conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election results in the state. If the Supreme Court finds that Trump was immune as president, that could affect the Georgia prosecution, even though he is charged with state crimes, Spencer notes.

And presidential immunity would not apply to the Florida case involving classified documents “because he was not president during the time of the alleged actions in the indictment,” our colleague **Perry Stein** says. It also won’t apply to the case in New York, which alleges that Trump paid hush money to adult actress **Stormy Daniels**.



What we're watching

ON THE HILL

Austin fallout: We are watching continued fallout over **Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's** [failure to disclose his hospital stay](#) to the president, members of Congress and officials at the Pentagon.

Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) is filing articles of impeachment. The top Republican on the **House Armed Services Committee**, **Rep. Mike Rogers** (Ala.), [tweeted](#) that he’s “quickly losing faith” in Austin’s ability to lead the Defense Department.

Austin was admitted to a hospital after a procedure on Jan. 1 and was discharged from the intensive care unit last night.

Border security framework probably delayed: Senate negotiators on border security said Monday night that a framework is unlikely to be released this week, which negotiators had suggested was likely as

recently as this weekend. Disagreements remain on too many issues, including parole, which has been the most difficult part of already tough negotiations.

“We’ll continue to try and get this nailed down,” **Sen. Chris Murphy** (D-Conn.) told reporters, per our colleague **Paul Kane**.

OVERSEAS

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in Tel Aviv today as escalating tensions between Israel and the Lebanese militant group **Hezbollah** raise the specter of a full-scale regional war.

On Monday evening, Israeli **Foreign Minister Israel Katz** said in a televised interview that Israel had killed a top Hezbollah commander, **Wissam al-Tawil**, calling it “part of the war,” our colleague **Annabelle Timsit** reports. The targeted killing comes as Israel weighs launching a major military operation in Lebanon.

- But as our colleagues **John Hudson, Yasmeen Abutaleb** and **Shane Harris** reported over the weekend, the Biden administration has privately warned Israeli officials against the escalation. Washington believes, based on a secret assessment from the **Defense Intelligence Agency**, that “it will be difficult for the **Israel Defense Forces** (IDF) to succeed because its military assets and resources would be spread too thin given the conflict in Gaza,” our colleagues report.

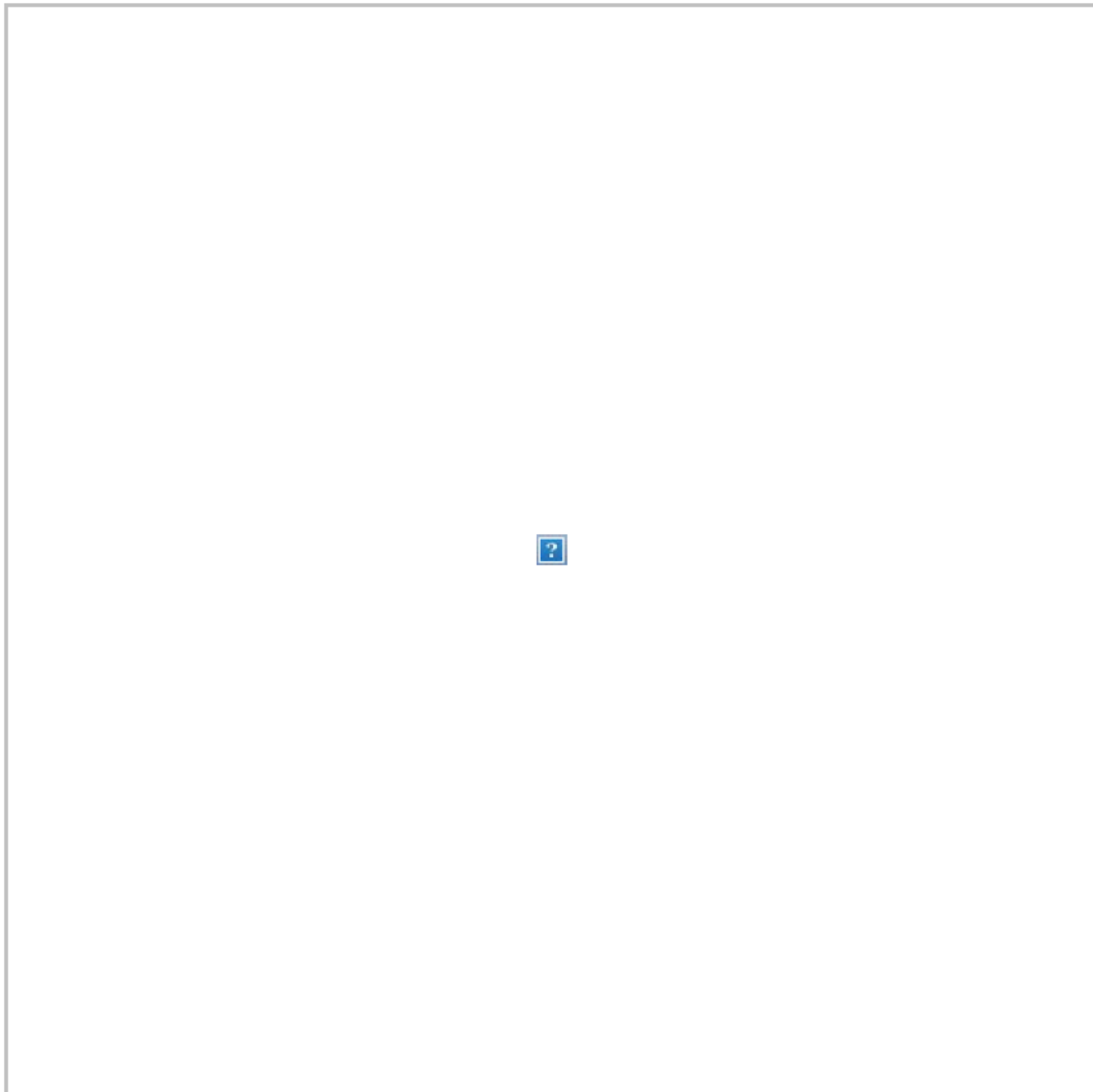
Follow The Post’s live updates.



The campaign

Violent political threats surge as 2024 begins, haunting

American democracy



Law enforcement officers patrol the grounds of the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson on Jan. 4 as they deal with a second consecutive day of bomb threats. (Rogelio V. Solis/AP)

Our colleagues **Sarah Ellison**, **Yvonne Wingett Sanchez** and **Patrick Marley** take a look at the violent threats and acts of intimidation against many government officials since the 2020 presidential election and its effect on American democracy.

Members of Congress, state officials, local leaders and judges have all been subjected to swatting, bomb threats and death threats.

Special counsel Jack Smith, who is overseeing the prosecution of Trump in two federal cases, was the target of an attempted swatting at his Maryland residence on Christmas Day, per **NBC News's Michael Kosnar and Zoë Richards**. Chutkan, the judge presiding over Trump's election subversion case, was the target of a similar incident on Sunday.

The targets of the threats share a common attribute: They have done or said something that has earned the ire of the former president, our colleagues write.

- “I am really worried that there is going to be a tragedy,” Wisconsin Supreme Court **Justice Jill Karofsky** said in an interview with our colleagues. “I believe people when they say that they want to hurt us or kill us. I don't think they're idle threats.”



The Media

Must reads

From The Post:

- [Millions of gig workers could qualify as employees under new Biden-era rule.](#) By **Lauren Kaori Gurley**.
- [Rep. Steny Hoyer to seek reelection, quashing speculation of retirement.](#) By **Erin Cox**.

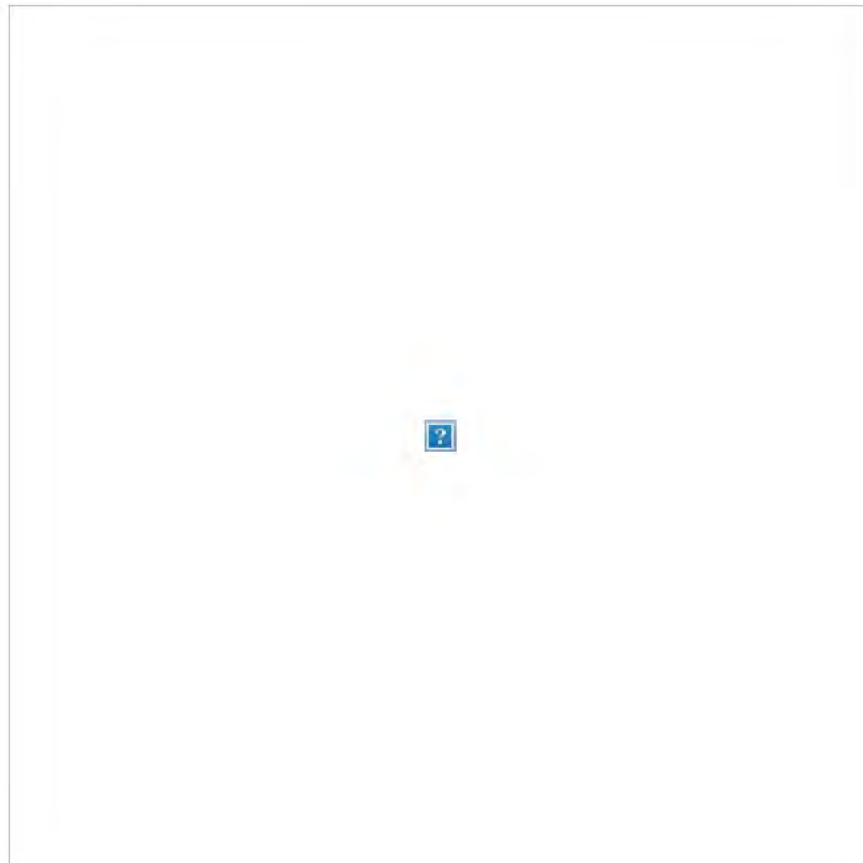
From across the web:

- [Biden renominates Julie Su for labor secretary after Senate declined to confirm her for ten months.](#) By the **Associated Press**.

- Filing alleges 'improper' relationship between Fulton DA, top Trump prosecutor. By the **Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Bill Rankin** and **Tamar Hallerman**.
- Challenged on policy views in town hall event, Haley doesn't budge. By the **New York Times's Jonathan Weisman** and **Jazmine Ulloa**.

Viral

Too soon



author headshot

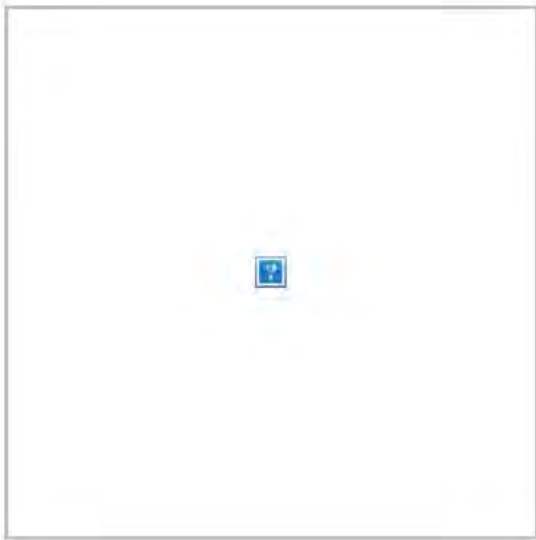


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From: [Patty](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 8:14:16 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Andrew, Re: Penn and more

Thanks for the update. Glad for the decision. It's politicians and a small group of activists calling for statue removals, not the public. Some of the polls are in my last article on Arlington which I've included below. The process all along, including in Richmond and other cities, has been undemocratic, and not reported at all in the press. In addition, statue removals result in much higher crime rates such as in New Orleans, Charlottesville and Baltimore.

Kind regards,
Patty Saffran



Patricia N. Saffran, The Unlawful Assault on Ezekiel's Masterpiece, the Arlington Reconciliation Memorial
jameshietzer.org

On Jan 8, 2024, at 7:10 PM, McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov> wrote:

Hey Patty

The review of the new design proposal for Welcome Park has been withdrawn. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

<image.png>

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal

PHILADELPHIA — Independence National Historical Park has withdrawn the review of a draft proposal to rehabilitate Welcome Park and closed the public comment period. The preliminary draft proposal, which was released prematurely and had not been subject to a complete internal agency review, is being retracted. No changes to the William Penn statue are planned.

The National Park Service (NPS) remains committed to rehabilitating Welcome Park as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th 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.

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 may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/INDE.

www.nps.gov/inde

	<p>Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)</p> <p>The park represents the founding ideals of the nation, and preserves national and international symbols of freedom and democracy, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Declaration of Independence and U.S Constitution were both debated and signed inside Independence Hall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>www.nps.gov</p>
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<image.png>

Celebrating 75 years: Our history is America's history.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created 75 years ago by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. Events, programs and special exhibits which celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held throughout the year. For more information on our 75th Anniversary events, visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us on social media by searching @IndependenceNHP.

<Outlook-cadt3zqw.jpg>

Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde

<Outlook-abfhfgh0.png>

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: The Wampum Lot AKA "Welcome Park"
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 8:28:01 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @gmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-withdraws-review-of-welcome-park-rehabilitation-proposal.htm

Use (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

I am writing in regards to the review of revitalizing "Welcome Park". I understand that there was a lot of backlash at the announcement - specifically when it comes to removing the statue of William Penn. BUT i fully support reconfiguring this plaza like park to honor the Natives that this land was given to by Penn's grandson. This land was meant to be a sacred place to gather filled with heritage trees, plants, and grass. I will link an Inquirer article of note <https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia/welcome-park-philadelphia-native-americans-stolen-land-iroquois-haudenosaunee-20200325.html> where members of the native tribe that owned this plot of land visited...PLEASE try to heed what they are saying in this article. Please center the native stories for this site. It is possible to honor more than one entity or person at one site. Please consider decentralizing Penn he is already honored at many sites all across the city. Its possible to keep his statue in the space but not make it the centerpiece. Consider creating a vastly smaller pedestal for the artwork and shifting it to another location within the space. Consider removing the paving all together except where paths should be so that we can bring this space back to some semblance of what it was supposed to be. This should be a useable, accessible, heritage site in our city that folks know exists, I have lived her over 12 years and I never knew this park existed and I most likely walked right by it hundreds of times. Please partner with the native tribes this land was given to and please do some community engagement when it comes to educating folks on this site...it is NOT just the site that housed William Penn's rental house...it was a very important heritage site for natives to gather. Thank you for all of your hard and necessary work in keeping and sharing our history. I look forward to a day where this park is once again, beautiful and equally as important to visit. Warmly, Stephanie

From: [Campbell, Paul F](#)
To: [Kummer, Frank](#); [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] William Penn Statue Removal
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:22:08 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-kopt4nr0.png](#)

Hello Frank,

I am sure at this point that this is old news to you, but here is the link from our website: [Park withdraws review of Welcome Park rehabilitation proposal - Independence National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

Respectfully,



Paul Campbell

Special Park Use Coordinator
Independence National Historical Park
143 S. 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19106
www.nps.gov/inde
Office: 215-597-9205/Cell: 267-586-7225
Tuesday-Saturday

From: Kummer, Frank <fkummer@inquirer.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:49 AM
To: McDougall, Andrew <Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov>; Campbell, Paul F <Paul_Campbell@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] William Penn Statue Removal

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hey Andrew and Paul,

I just learned of the notice that the statue would be removed. Is there someone I can speak with about this?

Thanks,
Frank

Frank Kummer
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Reporter, environment
fkummer@inquirer.com



From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Potential removal of State monuments
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:26:28 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @vfbt.org at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @vfbt.org to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please do not remove long-standing State monuments such as our William Penn statue from Welcome Park. It doesn't serve our country or our state to sponge or redact our history. Certainly you see the growing unrest in our country, and offending the citizens does not help.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: William Penn Statue
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:23:50 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @gmail.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Facilities

I read of your preliminary decision to remove the William Penn statue from Welcome Park. I understand that the public reaction to this idea was negative. Let me add my voice to those who oppose that harebrained idea. William Penn is the most important figure in Pennsylvania history and also an important figure in American history. He was a model for us all. His statue and teaching his legacy must always hold a prominent place in Welcome Park and wherever American history is taught.

From: [Fox, Charles](#)
To: Andrew_McDougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Welcome Park confusion
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:18:22 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Andrew,

As you may know that as a Inquirer photographer, and sometimes writer, I have been following the Haudenosaunee group and the story of Welcome Park/Wampum Lot over the past 4 years. Mostly I dealt directly with Superintendent MacLeod before she retired. I'm trying to make sense of where things stand after the recent happenings with the William Penn statue. I know the Haudenosaunee group is confused as well. I feel bad for them that after 4 years of discussions the superintendent they dealt with is retired, the mayor they met with is no longer in office. We both had understood the Penn statue as well as the Chief Tamanend statue were to find new homes. I understand Tamanend may be moving to 2nd/Market.

I was hoping you could clear these matters up and offer some additional information. I know the Haudenosaunee group last went over artistic plans for Welcome Park in the fall via zoom. If the Penn statue remains how will that impact plans.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Chip Fox

(b) (6)

cfox@inquirer.com



From: [Patty](#)
To: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Welcome Park/William Penn
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 7:49:28 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi again, Andrew, Re: Decision on park

Sorry to bother you but I have a question on the decision. Who in DC ordered the park to remain as is? I know the PA governor spoke up but he doesn't control DC. It's part of the story to know who made the decision. Please let me know.

Thank you.
Best,
Patty Saffran

On Jan 9, 2024, at 8:13 AM, Patty (b) (6) @verizon.net wrote:

Hi Andrew, Re: Penn and more

Thanks for the update. Glad for the decision. It's politicians and a small group of activists calling for statue removals, not the public. Some of the polls are in my last article on Arlington which I've included below. The process all along, including in Richmond and other cities, has been undemocratic, and not reported at all in the press. In addition, statue removals result in much higher crime rates such as in New Orleans, Charlottesville and Baltimore.

Kind regards,
Patty Saffran

<Pattys-latest-featured-image-.jpeg>

[Patricia N. Saffran, The Unlawful Assault on Ezekiel's Masterpiece, the Arlington Reconciliation Memorial](#)
jameshfetzer.org

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<image.png>

Release Date: January 8, 2024

Contact: Andrew McDougall, Andrew_Mcdougall@nps.gov 215-435-4372

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<Outlook-cadt3zqw.jpg>

Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde

<Outlook-abfhfgh0.png>

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal.

From: no-reply@nps.gov
To: andrew_mcdougall@nps.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Keep William Penn statue in Welcome Park
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 8:25:11 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Email submitted from: (b) (6) @yahoo.com at /inde/learn/news/park-seeks-input-on-the-rehabilitation-of-welcome-park.htm

Use (b) (6) @yahoo.com to reply to this message

Category: Facilities

Mailing Address:

David B. Morgan

(b) (6)

Please preserve the statue of William Penn in Welcome Park and other historic areas. The public should most definitely be aware of his great contribution toward religious liberty and the establishment of the great state of Pennsylvania. The setting of the statue in the park looks beautiful.

From: [McDougall, Andrew](#)
To: [Andrew.McDougall](#)
Date: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:52:45 PM

The Welcome Park press release has blown up. We received over 500 comments on Twitter. It's being carried by major national news organizations, in a way that reflects badly on the park. I received 49 emails and 23 voice messages on Sunday. Comments are overwhelmingly, perhaps 99%, opposed to the plan, especially the removal of the Penn statue.

I sent a draft press release Wednesday night which I worked very hard on. I kept to the purpose of the press release (to make people aware of the opportunity for comment) and carefully constructed each sentence.

I did not present this as we are tearing down a statue of William Penn. In fact, I didn't mention the statue at all. That type of detail is for PEPC. I did not suggest our story gets more inclusive by excluding William Penn. People can spot that nonsense from a mile away. I did mention there is an interesting Native American claim to the area which Marilou did not mention at all and I linked the rehab to 2026, like all our other rehabs currently in progress.

It was like I never sent it. It was completely ignored and then completely rewritten by Marilou and then revised by Amnesty. On Friday morning, looking at Marilou's rewrite and Amnesty's comments, I sent my original draft again and once again asked Marilou to just add a paragraph. It was not until I received the final edits from Steve and was sending to Adam to post on social media that I realized we were sending out Marilou's language. I was very frustrated and disappointed.

I knew there were lines which would cause problems. I did not think it would reach this level, but I knew it would create problems. My original said all that needed to be said and set up the public comment period perfectly because I have experience communicating with the public.

I am the Public Affairs Officer and have been communicating for this park, INHP, for 24 years. I understand Philadelphia and I understand people and I know how to write a press release. Just out of common courtesy, I would never completely rewrite someone's work. It's extremely arrogant and condescending. But that's what happened and we once again have a situation that reflects badly on the park. We asked for public comment. I sure hope we plan to honor public sentiment.

Andrew McDougall

Public Affairs Officer
Independence National Historical Park
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Cell: 215-435-4372
www.nps.gov/inde



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