



Engaging With Our History: Manhattan Project National Historical Park Updates

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Manhattan Project National Historical Park

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Manhattan Project National Historical Park Updates

- What is this park?
- What does it do/why should I care?
- What stories resonate with people?
- What makes this story complex?
- How can the public visit a national park in a top-secret laboratory?

Main entrance gate to Los Alamos during Project Y



Manhattan Project National Historical Park Introduction

- Established in 2015
- Located in 3 states: New Mexico, Tennessee, Washington
- Operated as a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of Energy (DOE)
- **NPS:**
 - Interpretation
 - Advisory role in historic preservation
- **DOE:**
 - Operate and maintain park facilities
 - Provide visitor access
- Development of Interpretive Plan is a high priority for the park



Park Interpretive Themes (NPS)

- Secret Cities, Sacrifice, Displacement
- Big Science
- Incomprehensible Destructive Power, Consequences
- Dawn of the Nuclear Age



NPS Stakeholder Engagement: Purpose

- Inform interpretive planning process.
- Engage the public in developing dialogue about the Manhattan Project and its many complex legacies.
- Reach out to underrepresented or non-represented groups to contribute to a broader script with diverse perspectives.
- Provide park interpretive themes as a framework for discussion.
- Significant dichotomies:
 - Health issues / Health benefits
 - Economic benefits / Environmental damage
 - Patriotism & Unity / Distrust of the government
 - Community development / Loss of land

NPS Stakeholder Engagement: Public Meetings

- Target Cities
 - Seattle / Portland, May 18
 - Santa Fe / Espanola, May 19
 - Knoxville, May 20
- Focus Groups
 - African Americans
 - Downwinders
 - Japanese Americans
 - Native Americans
 - Next Generation

www.nps.gov/mapr



First election in the town of Oak Ridge, TN.

“Behind the Fence” tours at Los Alamos

- Pajarito Canyon (TA-18) MAPR tours offered 3 times per year – April, July, October
- Visitors see:
 - Ancestral Puebloan Cavates
 - Pond Cabin
 - Battleship Bunker
 - Slotin Building



Top: TA-18 tour
Bottom: Pond Cabin

But what about these?

- Gun Site
- V-Site
- S-Site (storage m
- L-Site (firing pit)
- K-Site (betatron)
- Q-Site (high-speed photography)
- Concrete Bowl
- “The” Quonset Hut



Questions?

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<https://www.lanl.gov/museum/manhattan-project/>

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