

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE MASTER PLAN

Proposed Actions

Mansion

- Develop and implement a comprehensive Conditions Study to appropriately protect and preserve the mansion.

Historical/Cultural Landscape

- With Historic Preservation staff, evaluate remnant historic structures and stabilize selected elements.
- Implement a comprehensive archaeological survey and develop a report and sensitivity analysis.
- Develop a management/maintenance program for historic landscape elements.
- Assess the feasibility of providing public access to the Site's holdings along the Hudson River.
- Retrofit Sylvan Cottage as an accessible, multi-use education center.
- Rehabilitate the interior of the Red Barn to accommodate three-season use while preserving character-defining elements.
- Stabilize the icehouse and root cellar structures.
- Restore the Locust Tree allée.
- Implement a comprehensive plan to stabilize the Arryl House Ruins.

Collections

- Develop a furnishing plan that documents objects as they existed historically.
- Work with the Bureau of Historic Sites to re-evaluate Clermont's Collections Policy.
- Improve access to Clermont's collections by developing an online "Virtual Wing."
- Evaluate storage conditions for object collections held in the mansion.

Environmental Stewardship

- Develop long-range planning recommendations to protect the Site's natural elements from future impacts of climate change.
- Define and prioritize regular invasive species management tasks.
- Protect old-growth trees in Clermont's woodlands and historic landscape.
- Evaluate water resources site-wide and determine actions for their protection.
- Incorporate green infrastructure, where feasible, in retrofits and new infrastructure.
- Implement pollinator support strategies (e.g., reduced mowing, planting native species).
- Partner with landowners at adjacent properties to improve habitat connectivity.

Education, Interpretation and Outreach

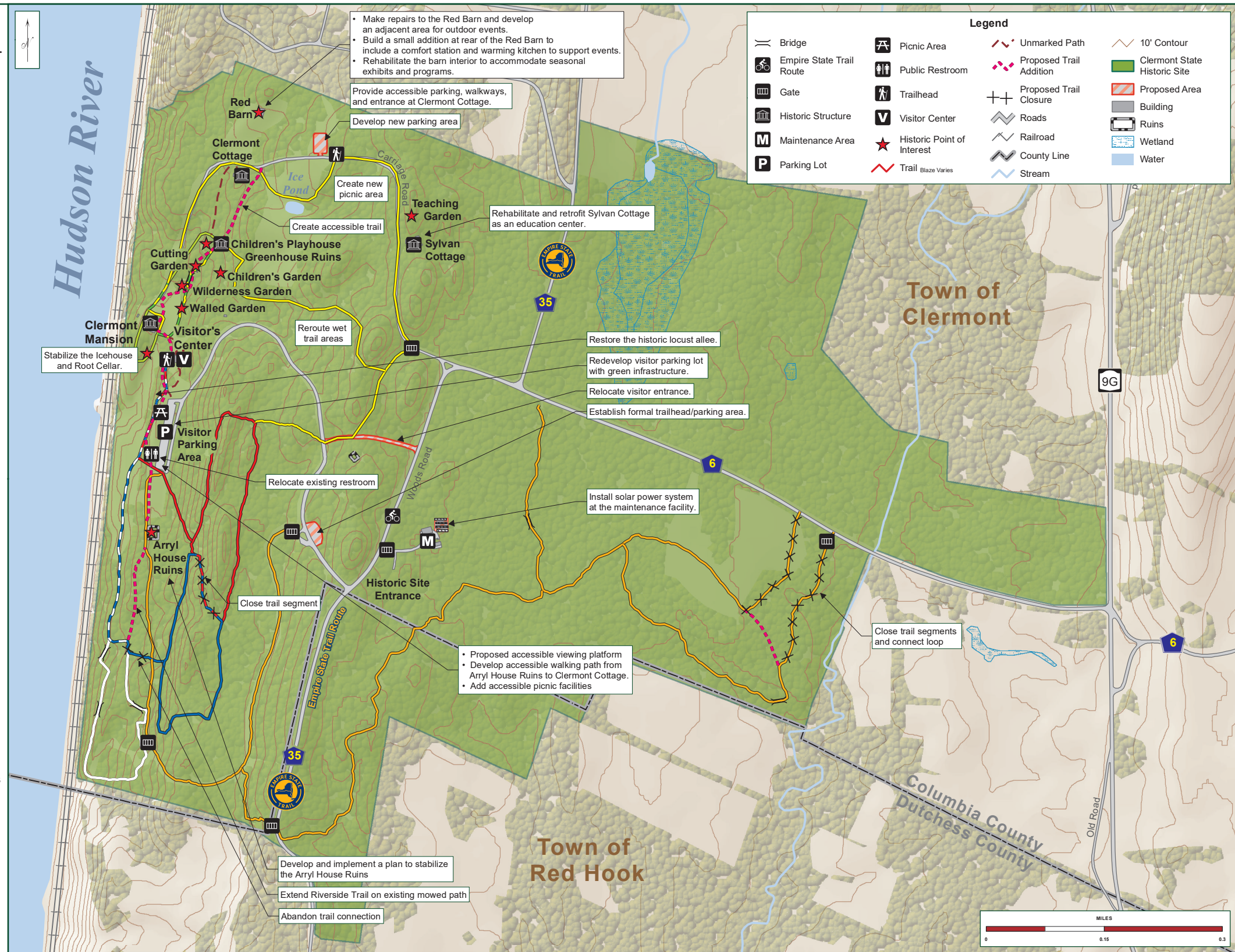
- Develop programs and educational content about the experience of enslaved people, indigenous communities, Palatines, servants, and tenant farmers.
- Cultivate funding sources for developing an annual exhibit for the mansion gallery.
- Update the interpretation program/plan to define new content goals and ensure a cohesive message.
- Strengthen role of the Clermont's Advisory Committee to guide interpretive development.
- Foster more visibility for Clermont and its programs by increasing type and volume of outreach.
- Revise and update Clermont's Interpretative Statement.
- Develop interpretative content for the Site's underutilized resources.
- Implement special programs about different aspects of the Site's history, such as civilian experiences during the Revolutionary War.

Accessibility

- Conduct a comprehensive site analysis to identify accessibility issues with recommendations for providing universal access where feasible.
- Develop a study to determine how to provide the mansion with accessible entrance and restrooms, and an elevator for universal access to exhibits and staff office spaces.
- Create accessible picnic facilities in the existing picnic area.
- Develop an accessible trail from the Arryl House to the Site's north section with connections to key points of interest.
- Improve access to the Visitor Center by providing an accessible route from the parking lot, clear signage, and entry improvements.

Operations, Maintenance and Management

- Upgrade the maintenance facility.
- Select energy-efficient equipment, materials, and low impact, green approaches for Site maintenance and operations.
- Develop solar power at Clermont to offset utility costs.
- Purchase fuel generators to provide emergency backup power for the mansion and maintenance facility.
- Station staff at key locations on high-volume days to address FAQs and address ongoing maintenance issues, such as littering.
- Develop a plan that identifies current and anticipated future climate change impacts at Clermont with strategies to address at-risk elements.
- Install a site-wide security camera system.
- Develop a staffing plan to ensure that levels are sufficient to support planned development.
- Improve litter/debris management using new strategies to educate visitors.
- Evaluate the Site's utility infrastructure to ensure it meets current and future requirements.
- Improve drainage infrastructure to address wet areas, erosion, and deteriorated pavement.
- Upgrade the Site's Internet/WiFi technology or both staff and public use.



Trails

- Close or re-route unused or wet trail sections and install or replace trail bridges and culverts.
- Make connections with the nearby Empire State Trail by installing, where appropriate, signage, maps, bicycle racks, and/or picnic tables.
- Develop a trail signage plan and install trailhead kiosks, trail marking blazes, and signage.
- Develop an accessible interpretive trail near the mansion.
- Improve the existing trail system by addressing areas with erosion, wetness, or steep grades.
- Develop a trailhead and parking near the flagpole.
- Formalize trail access points and encourage connections with the Empire State Trail.

Recreation

- Develop special events that highlight equestrian use as a historic recreation activity at the Site.
- Develop outdoor events to encourage new visitorship (e.g., youth groups, cyclists).
- Assess the feasibility of providing public access to holdings along the Hudson River shoreline.
- Create a new picnic area adjacent to the Ice Pond.

Circulation and Parking

- Improve existing parking areas at the mansion, Sylvan and Clermont Cottages, and the Red Barn.
- Improve emergency access by installing a route from the main parking lot to the mansion with firm, stable materials.
- Improve access to north section of the Site by re-paving the carriage road.
- Relocate the main public entrance.
- Redevelop the visitor parking lot with green infrastructure, pedestrian paths, and clear pavement markings.
- Develop a parking area with green infrastructure in the north section of the Site.

Partnerships and Volunteers

- Create a paid position for a volunteer coordinator.
- Identify partnerships to help support a range of projects, including education, trail maintenance, invasive species removal.
- Develop stronger connections with local fire department, EMS, and police.