National Preservation Institute

Cultural Landscapes:
Advanced Tools for Managing Change

Seminar Overview

In this advanced cultural landscapes seminar, explore the sometimes conflicting issues that direct the process of change and decisionmaking for challenging landscapes. Review the practice and discuss the implications of inventorying, evaluating, treating, and maintaining landscape resources. Identify tools and techniques for managing change when difficult issues affect the process. Understand the philosophical foundations for making sound, educated decisions about the preservation and long-term management of historic and cultural landscapes.

Agenda

Introduction to Making Difficult Decisions

Cultural Landscape Preservation:
Beyond the Basics
- Planning strategy
- Inventory methods and documentation
- Evaluation and assessment
- Treatment strategy
- Management strategy

Managing Change
- Expected change over time
  - Process of change: plant growth and mortality
  - Plant succession
  - Impacts of changing agricultural practices
  - Managing known pests and disease issues
  - Impacts of maintenance practices

- Unexpected change
  - Managing natural disasters
  - Addressing new pest and disease issues

- New initiatives
  - Security measures in a post-9/11 world
  - Accessibility
  - Adaptive use of historic sites and affects on landscape resources

- Changes in values
  - Politics in cultural landscape preservation
  - Environmental sustainability—going green
  - Emphasis on native plants
  - Invasive species as intentional plantings in era-specific landscapes

Challenging Landscapes/
Challenging Decisions
- Linear landscapes
  - Managing historic roads and trails
  - Changing road safety standards
  - Changing setings—viewsheds

- Traditional cultural properties
  - Sites of religious and cultural significance
  - Considering associated groups— going beyond Native Americans

- Cultural landscapes in environmentally sensitive areas
  - Changing ecosystems
  - Protecting cultural landscape integrity
  - Conflict resolution for cultural and natural areas

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Making Difficult Decisions
- Gray areas
  - Dealing with limited information
  - Determining boundaries
  - Defending significance and integrity
  - Managing landscapes under budgetary constraints

- Making impossible choices:
  - Doing the best you can
  - Not all landscapes are eligible for protection
  - Losing landscapes

Hands-on Case Study
Participants will internalize the decisionmaking process by working through a case study embodying difficult choices