



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Superintendent

Herbert Hoover
National Historic Site

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Hoover Presidential Foundation Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting – August 2022 Superintendent's Report

Gravesite Rehabilitation:

As mentioned in April, the park rejected bids for the gravesite rehabilitation work in the fall of 2021 with the hope of receiving more competitive bids in 2022. That strategy did not result in better bids. Park staff and Regional Office staff are attempting to accept one of the bids received to enable the project to move forward acknowledging that the current construction climate is driving costs to be higher than we would normally anticipate.



This work was last completed in 1996, when a more intensive rehabilitation was needed. During that time, drainage lines were added throughout the bank to help fight against erosion.

This upcoming project will reset the walking stonework as it has shifted creating larger gaps where grout formerly was, as well as replace all of the backdrop vegetation. Timing of the project will greatly depend on the contractor's ability to mobilize and coincide with appropriate planting seasons for the shrubbery.



Prairie Revegetation:

The difficult job of revegetating the reconstructed prairie has begun. Those areas (approximately 22 acres) impacted by the stormwater mitigation project have been reseeded and mowed throughout the summer. It is anticipated that this will require many years of work to successfully get the native prairie plantings to outnumber the invasive plants.

Discussions have been held with the National Park Service prescribed fire staff to re-introduce burning after about 10 years of fire absence as a management tool. This may include a smaller burn in 2023 with a larger burn across the new berms in 2024.

In other areas of the prairie, the parks mow/hay regiment used at the end of the 2021 growing season has resulted in many new orchid species thought to be endangered or missing completely from this part of Iowa to emerge. The park will attempt to hold a seed collection project for Public Lands Day to help find and collect seeds that can then be broadcast in other areas of the prairie.

The prairie will require additional funding not currently available in park base accounts to truly be successful in the revegetation process.

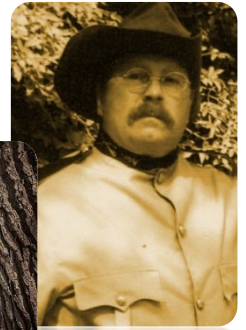
Herbert Hoover's Hometown Days 2022:

The park will have several activities going on during this year's celebration, including the traditional time period demonstrators and non-profit exhibitors. Entertainment at the newly named Hoover Presidential Performance Area includes:

- 11:30 a.m. Iowa Military Veterans Band
- 1:30 p.m. Theodore Roosevelt as presented by Adam Lindquist
- 3:00 p.m. Ulysses S. Grant as presented by Pete Grady



There will also be children's activities at the park's Junior Ranger Tent and the blacksmith demonstrations are always very popular this weekend.



A Christmas Past 2022:



Planning for the annual December event is underway as well. The park plans to continue operating the blacksmith shop through this event which is always a big draw for people (and usually warm inside). Discussions are underway to have an outdoor performance area for caroling and storytelling to help draw visitors from the busy downtown area into the park.