

Minidoka: A pictorial summary (2011 – 2015) of progress in establishing this national park

Note: The Park continues to provide guided tours through reservations. An “on-site” facility should be completed in 2016, followed by the *construction of the new visitor center in 2017*. The following is a march toward that goal.

2011 Projects



A new entrance sign greets visitors to Minidoka



The 1.6 mile walking trail includes sections of the historic walkways.



Ten benches were installed along the trail to provide a place to rest and reflect. Annual work to maintain, improve and expand trails completed.



Twenty-three interpretive signs were installed along the walking trail.

Re-establishment of Block 22

First step: return and provide some stabilization to a historic Barrack Building and Mess Hall at Block 22



Structure Rehabilitation



Barrack Building interior after cleaning



Repairs to missing historic fabric of the Mess Hall



Historic lockers used by the firefighters



Fire Station No. 1 stabilization: Re-built doors, refurbished windows

Interpretation/Education Programs



Long Range Interpretive Plan workshops were held in Idaho, Seattle, and Bainbridge Island.



Staff and a helpful visitor prepared an exhibit for a special group tour.



A park ranger provides historic context before starting a tour of Minidoka at the entrance area.



The Minidoka exhibit at Hagerman Fossil Beds NM Visitor Center introduces visitors to the Minidoka story.

Re-establishment of the Honor Roll



The Honor Roll was installed in June 2011.



2011 Minidoka Pilgrimage



The dedication of the Honor Roll on July 3, 2011 was an emotional experience for the veterans, their families, and friends.

Bainbridge Island Unit: *Nidoto Nai Yoni* Memorial

Note: The Bainbridge Japanese American Exclusion Memorial is west of Seattle, a far distance from the Camp, but it is forever connected. It commemorates the first location at which citizens were “rounded up” by the U.S. military under an Executive Order # 9066. The incarceees were taken to Manzanar, but later, the majority requested to be transferred to Minidoka, and the War Relocation Authority transferred them.

This site was dedicated August 6, 2011. The site is managed through a mandated collaborative between the National Park Service, two non-profits and local governments. Driven by personal engagement of many people, the site now contains interpretive panels and plaques of family and individual names.



The Memorial is on an eight acre parcel on Bainbridge Island, Washington. It commemorates the pathway taken by Bainbridge Islanders who were forced to leave their homes on March 30, 1942.



2012 Projects

Completion of the Museum Storage Building



The Museum Building provides space and a controlled environment for the expanding collections of three parks: Hagerman Fossil Beds, Minidoka, and City of Rocks.

Minidoka Museum Collections

The Minidoka museum collection consists of artifacts such as furniture and personal items, historic fabric, and archival collections.



Construction of Barbed Wire Fence



A portion of the historic barbed wire fence was re-created along the North Side Canal.



Minidoka Junior Ranger Program



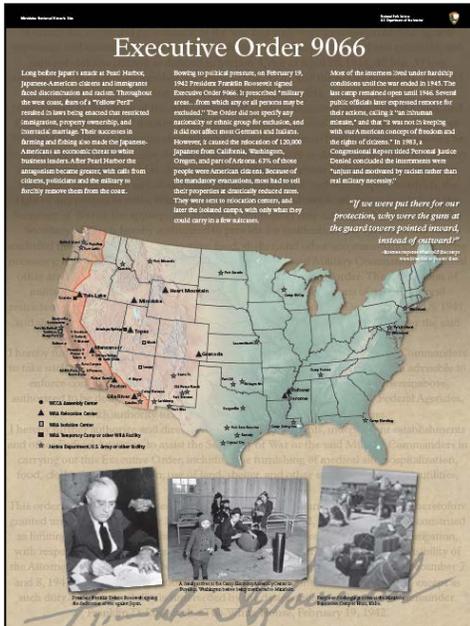
The park launched the first phase of the Minidoka NHS Junior Ranger Program in 2011. Additional funding in 2012 helped to expand the program.

Also in 2012

- Directional signs were added to the trail
- Stabilization of the historic root cellar
- 7th Annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium
- 10th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage

2013 Projects

Additional trail signage



Historic Overview Exhibit Panel – created in 2013 and will be installed when Visitor Center was completed



23 Building ID signs were installed to identify existing foundations

Water Tower Foundation



The small spur trail, which leads to the foundation of Water Tower 2, was improved.

Interpretation of the Mess Hall

Eight picnic tables were constructed by the Grand Teton NP Preservation Crew based on historic photographs placed in Mess Hall. Windows and doors were restored.

Interpretive props were purchased for kitchen area.

Two temporary exhibits were created related to the operation of the Mess Hall and the impact of this dining experience on the incarcerated.



Historic picture of one of the Mess Halls

Service-Learning Project

As part of a week-long study of the Japanese American incarceration experience, 8th Grade students from Buhl Middle School toured the historic site and participated in clean-up activities.



Also in 2013

- 8th Annual Civil Liberties Symposium (Immigrant Nation – Class, Culture, Conflict)
- 11th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Completion of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, incorporating many public comments!
- History and Culture Features added to Minidoka website
- Fuel Load Reduction around buildings for fire prevention

2014 Projects

Visitor Center in the historic camp warehouse – schematic design begun



2014 view of the only portion of an original Warehouse that remains on site.

Design phase of the new Visitor Center began in 2014. This involved public input, value analysis of alternatives, and four alternatives. Compliance consultation and documentation began with the State Historic Preservation Officer. The NPS also began an environmental assessment.

Guard Tower Project (With wayside & parking lot)

While the design phase of the Guard Tower Project began in the fall of 2013, construction of the tower was completed in 2014, just prior to the annual Pilgrimage.

(Image from Denso archive)



The Construction Management Program at Boise State University initiated the project, and collaborated with Friends of Minidoka (which oversaw a supportive grant from the NPS). Many other collaborators were engaged, including local farmers and heavy equipment owners.



“Meet Me at the Higo”

From Seattle, the Wing Luke Museum’s “Meet Me at the Higo” traveling exhibit: hosted at Hagerman Fossil Beds Visitor Center.



Bainbridge Island Wayside and Wayfinding Project



The design phase began for additional wayside panels, wayfinding signs, and an entrance sign for the Bainbridge Island unit (located west of Seattle) of the park.

Also in 2014

- Capacity building: park gained Student Conservation Association interns
- 9th Annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium (Struggle for Religious Freedom: Yesterday & Today)
- 12th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage – June 20-22, 2014
- Continued development of the Junior Ranger Program
- Completion of a trail guide and rack card for Minidoka
- The development of a unigrid brochure (primary brochure used throughout the NPS) for Minidoka will be done by staff at Harpers Ferry Center
- 2nd year of service learning project with Buhl 8th grade
- Began planning the rehabilitation of the Herrmann House (Farm-in-a -Day House), which will serve as a temporary visitor center until the new visitor center has been completed.
- Implementation of the Long Range Interpretive Plan
- Plan rehabilitation of the Farm-in-a-Day House for temporary staff offices
- Master student began working with the park to develop an app for interpreting the historic site
- Buhl 8th Graders project: history, literature, and art
- Began examining ways to improve communications with neighbors and communities
- Face Book site launched
- Congressional legislation added “Exclusion” to name of Bainbridge unit to Japanese American Exclusion Memorial
- Presence at local, state, and regional events, including fundraising events, ceremonies, and exhibits.
- Bainbridge Unit – NPS roles moved to Seattle: Klondike Gold Rush

2015 Projects

Farm-in-a-Day House

Restoration project underway. First phase of two-phase project to be completed.



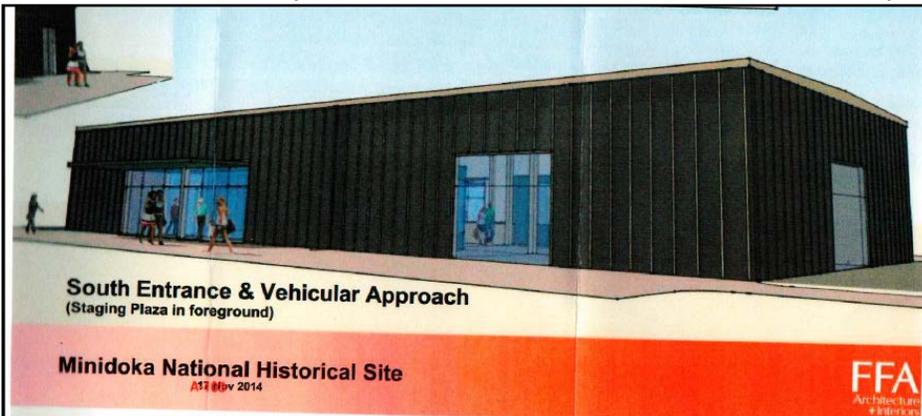
Twin Falls Visitor Center

Provided assistance in designing displays:
focus on 4 southern Idaho National Parks.
Began discussions on collaborative training.



Minidoka Visitor Contact Station (Visitor Center)

Schematic view of the preferred alternative. Park continues to seek public input.



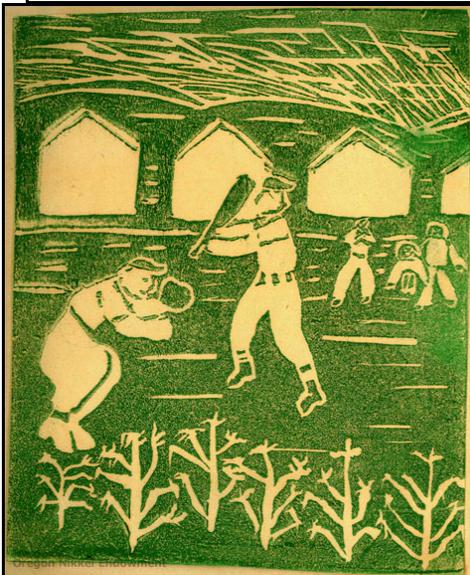
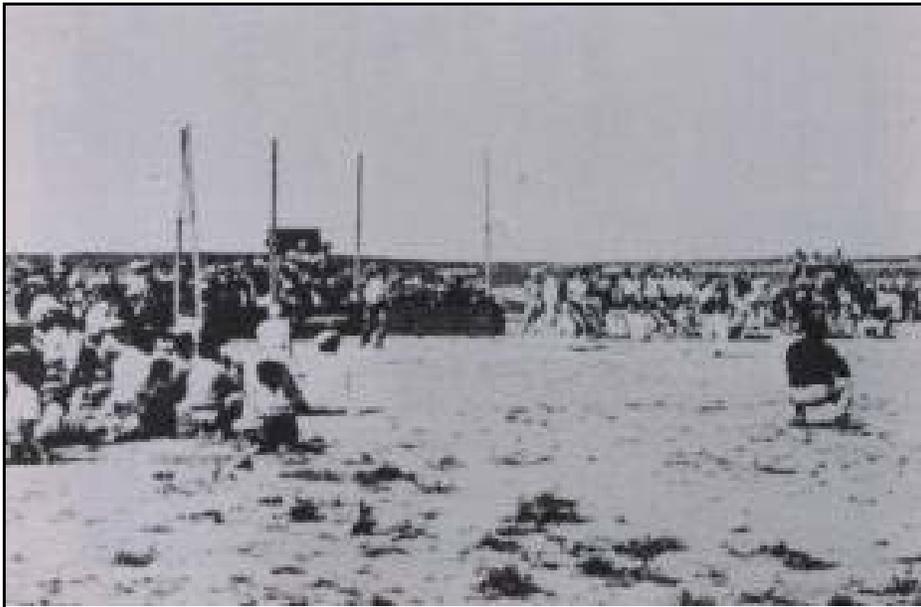
Fire Station

Began additional stabilization work

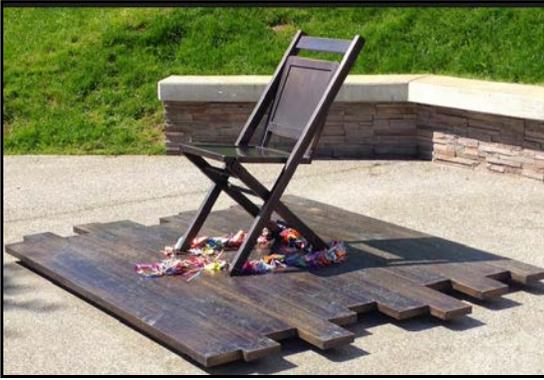


Center Field / Amphitheater

Began discussions on re-establishment, gathering & examining historic images, gathering stories



Traveling Exhibits



The park hosted the traveling exhibit from Juneau, Alaska – The Empty Chair Project. It commemorates the impact of EO 9066, American children and citizenship, and the grit of Alaska’s Japanese Americans.

Website Revisions



Also in 2015

- Launched monthly newsletter
- Visitor Center in the historic camp warehouse (continue planning)
- Guard Tower Project (plan wayside & parking lot)
- 10th Civil Liberties Symposium: Citizenship & Responsibilities (Boise)
- Continue app development for interpreting the historic site [internship]
- Finalize and print Junior Ranger booklets
- Website structure revisions
- Traveling Exhibits
- Foundation Document – Park purpose, focus, identified needs
- Annual Pilgrimage
- Expansion of work with CSI
- Potential award of NEA grant to Boise Art Museum
- Continue working with neighbors
- Special use permits and future lease
- Continue working with communities of interest
- Continue website revisions
- Prepare for NPS Centennial (2016)
- Prepare for 75th anniversary of U.S. entering into WWII (Dec 8, 1941-2016) & Executive Order 9066 (February 19, 1943-2017)
- Weed abatement, grounds keeping
- Begin environmental monitoring

2016 and well beyond

The timeline of projects is driven by multiple factors, including public engagement and comments, compliance to meet needs with regard to historical integrity and natural resources (including management of lands to address wildfire concerns), funding, and philanthropic interest.

- Complete Farm-in-a-Day house (temporary visitor center)
- Create blue prints for the visitor contact station (visitor center)
- Center Field / Amphitheater planning
- Collaborative events
- Engagement with grantors & fund raising events
- Complete visitor center & parking lot
- Issei memorial
- Remove 3 buildings (no historical integrity, dilapidated, not original to site)
- Complete a historic structures study/report
- Stabilize , repair, rehab
 - Root Cellar
 - Mess Hall
 - Historic barrack
- Museum curation barrack
- Re-establish (may be shadow representation) remainder of Block 22
 - ... bathrooms, laundry, other barracks
- Excavation/re-furbish historic (existing) paths
- Archeological dig at the dump site
- Support and engagement of projects/events associated with EO 9066, Bainbridge Memorial, and WWII.