

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Fort Donelson National Battlefield

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FODO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Fort Donelson National Battlefield's NPS Centennial celebration will convey the enduring significance and relevance of the Civil War in all its aspects while at the same time sustaining the resources that reflect a nation's struggle that permeated every aspect of American society. Our park goals will focus on public education-from updating park media, to expanding personal interpretive services and curriculum-based education programs, and developing stronger community partnerships in order to protect critical historic and cultural landscapes.

The physical resources within parks are the points of departure for the stories it tells. Preservation and restoration of those resources and cultural landscapes is fundamental to the education of our visitors. The park will continue to build strong partnerships with communities, non-profits, and educational institutions in order to provide tangible means of preserving, educating and caring for the park's history. The National Park Service must reflect the diverse public audience that we serve. The Civil War evolved from a war to restore the Union to a war that transformed a nation. Thus, the NPS is challenged to provide Americans of various backgrounds and perspectives the opportunity to explore the story, meaning and significance of the Civil War in a way that is relevant to them. We cannot continue to provide interpretive services and education programs with visitor facilities and media that date to the 1960s.

Likewise, park wayside and museum exhibits do not reflect modern scholarship. In advance of the Centennial, the NPS will evaluate current facilities, develop and/or upgrade permanent on-site media, and better use the resources and stories of the site to illuminate the major themes of the American Civil War.

Organizing the learning experience, or the preservation of the historic site and associated resources, can no longer be the exclusive responsibility of the National Park Service-it must be a shared responsibility; a partnership that is directed by and developed for the visiting American public. Simultaneously, the NPS will use Fort Donelson as a lens for engaging Americans in discussions about major events, places and themes associated with the war-many of which have not traditionally fallen within the realm of public history. By working with partners, the park can encourage programming and special commemorations to encourage the public discussion about the war and its consequences.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Steven A. McCoy

Site: FODO

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Ensure that all interpretive facilities and media are designed or retrofitted to provide access and inclusion to all visitors regardless of physical abilities. Restore the national cemetery carriage house interior and provide access to site information and interpretive media. (PMIS: 122583, 136898, 136902, 122583,120921,101427,115002)

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FODO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Through combined efforts of battlefield staff, regional specialists, volunteers and partners continue efforts to mitigate and control exotic and evasive vegetation species on the battlefield landscape. Systematically remove exotic and evasive vegetation species on newly acquired property additions within the expanded park boundary. Initiate efforts to reintroduce native grass species where feasible. (PMIS: 119109, 119057)

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Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Rehabilitate earthen fortifications and the cultural landscape at the Fort Heiman Unit of Fort Donelson National Battlefield. (PMIS: 118723, 112343, 112336, 112383. OFS: 24286A, 24288A)

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Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

In conjunction with the National Parks Conservation Association's State of the Parks (NPCA-SOTP) program, Inventory and Monitoring Network and other partners, complete natural resources assessments to provide accurate and timely information on natural and cultural resource conditions, as well as stewardship capacity, in Fort Donelson National Battlefield. This information will assist in sustaining and/or improving conditions in the park and ensure a lasting legacy for future generations. Through resource evaluations and park-unit and special thematic reports foster awareness of park resource conditions among the general public, the National Park Service, park advocacy groups and policy-makers.

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Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Conduct Archeology Overview and Assessment projects on landscapes within the battlefield and boundary expansion and property acquisitions including the Fort Heiman Unit.

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Site: FODO

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand efforts with the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Underground Railroad Research Institute and other partners to create interpretive media and exhibits relating to the Freedman Camps and their national significance. Continue efforts with the Civil War Preservation Trust and other partners to acquire significant properties associated with the campaign for and battle of Fort Donelson.

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Site: FODO

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish a viable resource preservation curriculum within the State and County school system and make such programming available through park staff for on and off site presentations.
Expand annual Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program at the park. (PMIS: 80917)

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Site: FODO

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Increase the use of solar energy for outdoor lighting and other feasible systems. Design projects for low environmental impact including the use of recycled products for building materials and permeable pavement options for walkways and trail tread.

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Site: FODO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Increase park recycling program, green procurement and purchasing efforts.

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Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Replace one vehicle in park fleet with energy efficient hybrid technology. Purchase and install ethanol fuel storage tank for use with park fleet. (PMIS: 112677, 131676)

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Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

Ensure new construction and rehabilitation to park structures and assets, including restrooms at the park picnic area, incorporate LEED standards. (PMIS: 121380)

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Site: FODO

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Coordinate interpretive and recreational efforts between the NPS, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service. Initiate "Civil War Camp" summer youth program at Fort Donelson NB. Develop and implement brochures, wayside exhibits and interpretive media at the Fort Henry site, US Forest Service Land Between The Lakes NRA. Develop new trail connection in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Stewart County and Dover, TN.

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Site: FODO

RECREATION

- Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.
- Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Increase Volunteer in Park contributions by 2% through "residential VIP" and other programs. Rehabilitate and restore cultural resources and historic landscapes and provide support to visitor service programs. (PMIS: 112183)
Expand Volunteer in Park Program to Fort Heiman utilizing Calloway County, KY, volunteers to conduct programs and services including tours for ROTC military groups to the newly preserved site.

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Site: FODO

EDUCATION

- Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Information pertaining to the Parks As Classrooms and youth programs will be available on the park's website. Teacher guides and lesson plans will be available electronically.
Initiate research on methods and programs to reach students via satellite "live feed" programs.
Continue expansion of Parks As Classrooms Program and expand partnerships with school systems and educational institutions. (PMIS: 136699, 123554)

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Site: FODO

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Park website will remain current meeting or exceeding all NPS standards for excellence.
On-line park brochure and virtual tour, including 360 degree photography, will be available.
Initiate downloadable IPod tours, cell phone and other technology to provide enhanced educational and informational services.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Seek a long-term partnership with commercial television networks and media (for example, History Channel, National Geographic Society, Travel Channel) to produce a high-quality series of programs aimed at the popular market. The series will use the Fort Donelson Campaign as settings for discussions of major events, trends, figures, themes, and ties to other related sites. The series will emphasize significance and meaning. An offshoot of this partnership may be the creation of audio-visual programs and publications derived from episodes produced for broadcast or articles published. (PMIS: 136635)

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Site: FODO

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Increase Junior Ranger program participation by 2% through expansion of current activity booklet use, program offerings and special events.
Expand family oriented park opportunities through special programming including: the interactive "Living Map"; the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom: Quilt Code and Stewart County beautification project; the Arts in the Parks program where families paint, draw, or sing Civil War songs in the inspiring setting of the historic battlefield; Summer Evening Concert Series at the outdoor visitor center amphitheater.
Expand celebration of the arts and expand partnerships with the Stewart County Arts and Heritage Council and the Stewart County Public Library, Dover, TN. (PMIS: 136684)

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Site: FODO

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Celebrate the Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) to engage people and create relevance and enduring connections to places and events associated with America's Civil War.

-Evaluate current facilities, develop and/or upgrade permanent on-site media and better use the resources and stories of the site to illuminate the major themes of the American Civil War.

-Increase personal services and implement programs and events in support of the Sesquicentennial.

-Revise and update park-level Long Range Interpretive Plan to reflect the latest scholarship and the most relevant themes. (PMIS: 130824)

-Prepare project packages that specifically articulate needs in each medium: facilities, museum exhibits, audio-visual, wayside exhibits, furnishings, personal services and publications. (PMIS: 121952, 121467, 120921)

-Initiate workshops and training for staff, chiefs and front-line, that focus on how to integrate larger thematic and contextual issues and most recent scholarship into onsite interpretation.

-Schedule and execute a series of special events focused on key 150th anniversaries: special tours, year-long interpretive initiatives, and the premiere of the media improvements.

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Site: FODO

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

-New Land Acquisition and Boundary Expansion: Conduct baseline and operational planning, rehabilitate, survey and inventory newly-acquired lands. Initiate development of facilities and visitor services and secure the support necessary to maintain, operate and preserve the Fort Heiman Site, KY, and Civil War Preservation acquisitions in TN.
Define the set or resource conditions, visitor experiences and management actions that will best achieve the mandate to preserve resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations. (PMIS: 112383, 130766, 11820, 118723, 119328. OFS: 24286A, 24288A, 24284A)
-Complete a General Management Plan: Conduct planning and implement strategies to restore and maintain historic scenes and viewsheds, cultural and commemorative landscapes (including commemorative works, plaques and monuments), earthen fortifications and historic structures. (PMIS: 19180)
-Continue review and update of baseline facility conditions and implement specific performance targets for improving assets. Implement cyclic maintenance goals to reduce rehabilitation and deferred maintenance backlogs of facilities and historic structures.

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Site: FODO

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue staff implementation of Environmental Management System. Complete Job Hazard and Risk Analysis for daily operations and visitor activities.

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Site: FODO

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will implement and maintain over 35 major partnerships. Expansion will emphasize those in Kentucky associated with new land acquisitions and boundary expansion. Priorities include:
-Local and Civic Organizations: Town of Dover/City Manager; Stewart County/Major; Town of Cumberland City/Major; Stewart County: Chamber of Commerce; Tourism; Department of Education; Highway Department; Sheriff; Historical Commission; Clarksville Civil War Roundtable; Kiwanis; Fort Donelson Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans; Boy and Girl Scouts of America.
-State and Regional: Tennessee Three Star Program; TN Wars Commission; TN Civil War National Heritage Area; Center for Historic Preservation/Middle Tennessee State University; TN Historical Commission; TN Civil War Preservation Association; Kentucky Heritage Council; Greater Nashville Regional Council; TN Historical Society; Middle Tennessee Tourism Council; Austin Peay University, TN; Murray State University, KY.
-Federal and National: Civil War Preservation Trust; American Battlefield Protection Program; Civil War Sites Advisory Commission; Lower Mississippi Delta Initiative; US Army Corp of Engineers, USFS, USF&WS, TN Valley Authority

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Site: FODO

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Convene partner workgroups to assist the NPS in development and implementation of Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) process, branding logo, public relations and tourism strategic plans.

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