

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Fort Larned National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FOLS

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Fort Larned was a lonely outpost on the vast Kansas prairie which provided protection for mail coaches and freight caravans on the Santa Fe Trail during the turbulent period known as the "Indian Wars". The Fort was home to both infantry and cavalry units, including a troop of African-American soldiers known as "Buffalo Soldiers". Many famous people came to the Fort during its heyday, including General George Custer, Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson and Indian Chiefs Black Kettle, Satanta and Yellow Bear. While most forts from that time were torn down or have deteriorated over the years, Fort Larned survives largely intact due to its sandstone construction. Visitors to the Fort today are delighted to find one of the most complete and authentic forts remaining from the 1860s and 1870s. Nine original buildings, most beautifully restored inside and out, surround the parade ground and await your exploration. The park visitor center includes a museum, audio-visual programs, and a bookstore. Staff and volunteers recreate the "Old West" with living history programs on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during the summer, and occasionally at other times of the year. Other park features include a picnic area with shaded tables, visible Santa Fe Trail Ruts at a detached site which includes an active prairie dog town and a nature/history trail. Fort Larned is located six miles west of Larned on Kansas Highway 156.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Kevin D. McMurry, Superintendent

Site: FOLS

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)

Develop media to effectively educate visitors and cyber visitors of all aspects of African-American Military Heritage and Native-American Conflict Heritage.
Complete acquisition of the Cheyene and Sioux Indian Village site.
Complete reconstruction of the Sutlers Complex and Stables.
Reconstruct Historic entrance bridge and demolish failing vehicle bridge.
Pursue Multi-Agency, Western Kansas Heritage Center for both FOLS and NICO on I-70.
Use additional FY08 funding to hire seasonals for interpretative and maintenance program improvements.

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

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ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase protection through expanded land protection planning and subsequent scenic easements.

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RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Initiate National Parks Kids Fitness Day, similar to Kansas Kids Fitness Day we host annually.

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Site: FOLS

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Partner with KS. State Historical Society to launch their curriculum based education program in NPS units.

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Site: FOLS

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Encourage and create opportunities for partners to fully participate in propelling resources and programs at FOLS to future relevancy.

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