

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Fort Scott National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FOSC

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Fort Scott National Historic Site will be a "Destination for Diversity" - a place where diverse stories and experiences will be our legacy and audiences will be inspired to become good stewards of our cultural heritage.

Diverse Stories (of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, the Indian Home Guards, Refugees, the role of women during the Civil War, the political strife of Bleeding Kansas, the views of people in relation to Indian Removal, and the disputes over boundaries and growth of our nation) will inspire visitors to connect and appreciate the resources that symbolize our national heritage.

Diverse Experiences (provided through partnerships, a knowledgeable and skilled staff, and traditional and state-of-the-art technology) transition the modern visitor onto a path of historical, recreational, natural, and environmental discovery that promotes stewardship, understanding, appreciation, and relevancy of multi-cultural influences on people and places.

Diverse audiences (including people of all generations and many cultures and ethnicities) will experience a renewed interest in their culture (through multi-lingual formats, varied activities and programs, and multiple learning styles) and will be engaged and inspired as they connect emotionally and intellectually to the compelling stories of the NHS and how they relate to contemporary issues, events, and people.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Betty J. Boyko, Superintendent

Site: FOSC

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 an enjoyable and inspiring visitor experience by moving non-compatible activities outside the core historic area. Develop new exhibits in vacated areas and programs that expand the opportunities for visitors to make intellectual and emotional connections to the park's compelling stories and resources. Conduct an accessibility study and develop a plan to improve accessibility to the park's historic structures and other resources. Construct an accessible auditorium where visitors can view the park's new film. Explore new technologies that would improve accessibility for all.

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

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Direct adequate project funding on a consistent basis to maintain the site's historic buildings in good condition. Develop a process that applies the criteria for the Cultural Condition Assessment and the FMSS Assessment in a manner that results in identical outcomes or conditions. Eighty percent of the buildings listed in both systems are in good condition by 2016.

Acquisition of an adjacent facility which currently houses the local electric utility company would allow the maintenance operations to be moved out of numerous historic structures. These structures are currently impacted by the storage and use of motorized and small equipment, fuel, solvents, lumber, scaffolding, tools and other materials. The maintenance shop shares a structure with exhibits and furnished rooms enjoyed by visitors. These visitors are exposed to the noise and smells of a carpentry shop and painting area totally out of place in the historic setting. Relocating these non-compatible operations to a contemporary structure will allow the historic buildings to be rehabilitated and maintained in good condition.

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

Utilize partners such as the Bourbon County Fire Departments, the Student Conservation Association and local schools, colleges, and area universities to help control invasive species on the park's tallgrass prairie restoration. Work with partners (i.e. Riverfront Authority and KS Department of Transportation) and other park neighbors to control invasives near the park boundary.

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

Continue documenting detailed inspections using the Facility Management System Software to establish a baseline cyclic and repair project program. Complete Historic Structures Reports to guide the park in developing a priority list of projects. Completely integrate Asset Management and the use of the Facility Condition Index to establish facilities and park priorities.

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Site: FOSC

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Preserve and protect the museum collection through the acquisition and/or development of an improved museum collection storage facility that provides appropriate environmental controls and adequate storage and work space.

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

Site: FOSC

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)

Complete Boundary Study and seek legislation necessary to acquire (by donation, lease, agreement, or purchase), an adjacent structure which would address the visual intrusion of a local electric utility company operation and substation adjacent to the park's western boundary. Reduce audible intrusions and enhance stewardship of existing resources by eliminating or reducing non-compatible uses such as the maintenance facility and its associated materials storage activities.

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Site: FOSC

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a state-of-the-art education center where children and teachers will learn the importance of stewardship and participate in learning about the preservation of our cultural and natural history.

Engage children in resource stewardship through the park's Junior Ranger and Trailblazer programs. Incorporate the latest technologies into these programs to assist in delivering the message. Develop a park specific web ranger program.

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Site: FOSC

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Research and incorporate new technology to reduce energy consumption of heating and cooling systems in historic structures. Conduct energy efficiency study to make museum spaces more efficient, stabilize artifacts, and to reduce waste in energy use. Gas emissions, fuel storage, and other environmental impacts to historic structures will be reduced by relocating the maintenance facility and its associated materials storage area to an adjacent site outside the historic scene.

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Site: FOSC

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Eliminate gasoline and diesel powered equipment (i.e. mowers) by replacing them with alternative fueled equipment as technology permits. Continue to replace small equipment with quieter and more energy efficient models.

Replace GSA vehicles with alternative fueled or hybrid vehicles when available.

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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.

Become a model (for the local community and Southeast Kansas) in the use of technology and new conservation activities. Research efficiencies such as waterless urinals (water conservation), HVAC controls in rooms versus zones (electric conservation), and progressive use of insulation (energy efficiency). Partner with local education centers such as Pittsburg State University to explore new ideas and technology. Utilize equipment such as the electric GEM vehicle to showcase (to the public) park efforts towards energy and environmental savings.

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Site: FOSC

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Work cooperatively with Fort Scott/Bourbon County Riverfront Authority to rehabilitate and develop property (abandoned railroad and refuse area) adjacent to the park's northern boundary into recreational trails and provide expertise and assistance in the development of educational panels addressing environmental stewardship.

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Site: FOSC

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)

Work cooperatively with Fort Scott/Bourbon County Riverfront Authority to develop recreational trails from property directly adjacent to the park's western and northern boundaries to a network that will connect to a Bi-State (Kansas, Missouri) Trail System.

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Site: FOSC

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.

Utilize volunteers in all aspects of park operations including interpretation, natural and cultural resource protection. Partner with the city and/or Riverfront Authority to provide camping areas for out-of-area volunteers.

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Site: FOSC

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)

Develop partnerships with youth and scouting organizations through development of merit badge workshops and self-directed activities. Conduct teacher and youth leader workshops to familiarize them with park resources and provide them with skills for conducting self-directed activities. Expand mentorship programs with high school and college students allowing them opportunities to explore the fields of interpretation and preservation through hands-on learning experiences.

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Site: FOSC

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Work with partners such as the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce and the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area to promote park programs. Develop new programs and update exhibits to encourage repeat visitation. Increase interpretive staffing and use of volunteers in order to accomplish this goal. Collaborate with partners such as the Riverfront Authority and the Downtown Visioning committee to provide compatible experiences that would draw additional visitors to the area.

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Site: FOSC

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue to improve and expand existing curriculum based onsite educational programs. Develop curriculum materials to be delivered in classroom settings to include topics such as the Civil War, African American history, and American Indian heritage, with the objective of reaching youth who are not able to attend onsite programs. Work with existing partners such as the Kansas State Historical Society and other National Park Service sites on curriculum materials that highlight the history of the state. Expand use of technology to make curriculum-based programs, materials, and activities accessible online and through distance learning. Develop a state-of-the-art education center to facilitate the use of technological delivery to reach students who are unable to physically visit the site.

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Site: FOSC

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Replace the park's 30-year-old static exhibits and incorporate the latest technology to engage young people and their families. Utilize holograms to tell some of the park's most compelling and emotionally charged stories. Develop audio tours that could be downloaded onto an iPod or cell phone to enhance the visitor experience.

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Site: FOSC

EDUCATION

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

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

Engage children in resource stewardship through the park's Junior Ranger and Trailblazer programs. Incorporate the latest technologies into these programs to assist in delivering the message of stewardship. Develop a park specific web ranger program.

Develop partnerships with youth and scouting organizations through development of merit badge workshops and self-directed activities. Conduct teacher and youth leader workshops to familiarize them with park resources and provide them with skills for conducting self-directed activities. Expand mentorship programs with high school and college students allowing them opportunities to explore the fields of interpretation and preservation through hands-on learning experiences.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Work cooperatively with a national educational foundation in Fort Scott established to develop projects (in the form of performances, documentaries and exhibits and other creative ideas) and network with schools around the world to teach respect and understanding of all people.

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Site: FOSC

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

Seek additional opportunities to reach diverse populations when recruiting for new employees to fill permanent or temporary vacancies. Expand on e-recruitment endeavors and work with targeted colleges and universities to expand and develop professional relationships with contacts in our current database. Continue utilizing special hiring authorities to support diversity goals and increase employment opportunities for specific groups, such as students, veterans, and Americans with Disabilities.

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Site: FOSC

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop incentive programs to recognize and encourage professional development. Complete Individual Development Plans and identify and implement supervisory accountability measures to assure the commitment of resources (funding, technology, and time) needed for formal or informal learning opportunities. Identify deficiencies and/or relevancy of curriculum to professional objectives.

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Site: FOSC

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Provide a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. Assure that employees understand and take responsibility for performing their duties in a safe manner, with consideration for their fellow employees and visitors by: relaying safety messages to visitors during orientation to the park; ensuring all hazardous areas (i.e. wet, icy surfaces) and worksites (scaffolding, etc.) are roped off to keep employees and visitors safe; conducting monthly safety committee meetings; reviewing all safety concerns and taking action to mitigate problems; conducting safety sessions that involve all employees to encourage active involvement; provide employees with supervision, knowledge and training required to perform their jobs in a safe manner; review incidents/accidents and take action whenever possible to prevent recurrences; establish a safety awards program to recognize efforts of all employees in maintaining a safe work environment; encourage employees to participate in health and wellness programs at work and on personal time; establish an employee physical fitness center to provide opportunities for employees to improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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Site: FOSC

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

A multi-use facility (acquired through diverse partnerships with Foundations, Corporations, Public and Private Institutions, and Local Governments and Municipalities) provides efficiencies and professional excellence as employees of various educational, skill and experience levels interact and share knowledge, research, technology, insight, and visions with various disciplines and scholars.

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Site: FOSC

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.

Members of the management team serve on committees and attend meetings to educate and promote understanding of appropriate park uses and to assist the community with planning activities that promote preservation of historic resources, environmental awareness, and the importance of community interaction and stewardship in achieving economic benefits.

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