

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Jimmy Carter National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** JICA

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site is an intriguing site that intertwines the histories of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter and Plains Georgia, representing the experiences of individuals and a community whose faith and willingness to share of themselves, gave to the United States and the world a history and message of enduring hope and perseverance. The site consist of four cultural resources in or near Plains Georgia that have special significance in the life and presidency of Jimmy Carter. The site consist of Plains High School, the Boyhood Farm, the Depot , and the Carter residence. The vision for the park and its partners is to develop an educational capacity through new interpretive and educational opportunities. New facilities are to include new multi-use trails that will connect all four areas of the site. By implementing the Greenprint plan for Plains, visitors will be able to enjoy the sights, sounds, and environment that President Carter calls home. The site has a growing list of supporters including the Plains Historice Preservation Trust, the City of Plains, the Plains Better Hometown, and the State of Georgia. Park management and its parners stand ready, willing and able for opporunities of the Centennial challenge.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Steve Theus

Site: JICA

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Jimmy Carter NHS and its partners propose through new multi-use trail systems that connect all four sites of the park a new interpretative program. This program would include ranger led bike tours and programs on the native trees and plants. The program would introduce children to the natural beauty found in south Georgia and how nature assisted in the shaping the early years of Jimmy Carter's life. The tours would teach children how to conserve and protect the environment surrounding the areas in which they live.

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

Site: JICA

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Jimmy Carter NHS proposes to engage our community and partners through a combined effort to take a pro-active approach to land use planning and management. Through these efforts, JICA & its partners are determined that protection of its rural and historic character will remain. Four principles will be used (1) protect the rural visual character and cultural landscape of the lands that comprise the City of Plains through the creation of visual buffers, conservation easements, and increased public park lands. (2)document the history of the Plains community through the creation and installation of educational signage and plaques. (3) enhance economic development through the promotion of increased opportunities for tourism. (4)provide pedestrian connections to the four sites that compromise the site.

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Site: JICA

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.
- Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Jimmy Carter NHS and its partners propose to create a system of bike trails linking all of the four areas of the park with the City of Plains. The trails would allow visitors to enjoy the site by bike. Eventually the bike trail would be a part of a larger system of trails through out this section of the state of Georgia.

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Site: JICA

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.

Jimmy Carter NHS and its partners propose a "Presidential Nobel Peace Prize" exhibit and web broadcast from the Presidentail sties that have Nobel Peace Prize winners. These sites would include the Carter Center, Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace, Theordore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS, Woodrow Wilson House, and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. Through the exhibit and web broadcast all presidential Nobel Peace Prize winners would be linked and this would contact a wide array of visitors who might have never heard of Jimmy Carter NHS. The park link is to learn about President Carter and the community that formed a governor, president, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. The visitor experience will be enhanced through a major exhibit for them to visit and learn about Presidential Nobel Peace Prize winners.

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Site: JICA

**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.

Jimmy Carter NHS and its partner, the State of Georgia Department of Education, propose to increase the educational experience of the park's e-field trip by incorporating live web broadcast and acousta phone access that meets the National and State educational curriculum guidelines. Live web broadcast of special educational programs will be given at different times throughout each school year. An inter active tour of all the sites at Jimmy Carter NHS will be incorporated with the Acousta phone technology.

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Site: JICA

**EDUCATION**

- Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.
- Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Jimmy Carter NHS is a small park with great educational opporunities. By adding a multi-use trail to the park, the Junior Ranger Program at the site would benefit. The trails would potentially attract more families to the park causing an increase in visitation and opporunities to enhance the Junior Ranger program. The park would also tie the educational web cast to the Junior Ranger program allowing the park to reach an significantly larger number of school aged children. This program will allow students who other wise would never have the opporunity to participate in the Junior Ranger program to become familiar with the site and the program.

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Site: JICA

**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.

Jimmy Carter NHS is a small park and all of its various sites are spread out over a 2 mile radius in the City of Plains and Archery. Visitors can get to the different sites by car, train, bike, or foot. To reduce visitor injuries, the park and its partners propose a bike trail to be implemented. The current trail is located at the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm and is a foot trail only. This trail is made of red clay and is in need of replacement.

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Site: JICA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Jimmy Carter NHS has a number of very active and involved partners who give to the park in many different forms. This includes volunteer hours, in kind monetary assistance and advocacy of its needs. These partners include the State of Georgia, Plains Historic Preservation Trust, City of Plains, Plains Better Hometown Inc., SAM Shortline Train, Presidential Pathways, Boys and Girls Club of Sumter County, and the Sumter County Tourism committee. A friends group for the site is needed to assist the park in various ways to allow the park to move in a more positive direction.

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