

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Organic Act of 1916 states that “the [National Park] Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations... by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” This act not only dictates the purpose of managing parks to the staff at Fort Scott National Historic Site, it tells us how to manage them – that is, leave parks and their resources unimpaired for future generations.

Fort Scott National Historic Site was established by Public Law 95-484 in 1978. This enabling legislation set the park aside to “commemorate the significant role played by Fort Scott in the opening of the West, as well as the Civil War and the strife in the state of Kansas that preceded it.” Therefore, the staff at FOOSC is charged with restoring and protecting the outstanding cultural resources associated with the Permanent Indian Frontier, the opening of the West, Bleeding Kansas, and the Civil War.

In order to carry out its mission to ensure the preservation, conservation and enhancement of the valuable natural, historic, and ecological resources, FOOSC will provide environmental leadership by example. We will conduct operations in an environmentally responsible manner, in accordance with NPS Director’s Order 13A and other pertinent directives and Executive Orders relating to the environment. We will meet or exceed all applicable Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. To fulfill these commitments, we will incorporate best management practices, foster the sustainable use of natural resources, promote pollution prevention, reduce waste generation, purchase environmentally preferable products, and recycle and reuse all materials where practicable in our operations.

We will continue to work cooperatively with Federal, state, county and local governments as well as with other organizations and local communities to promote sound environmental management of the park and, to the extent of our authority and influence, the surrounding region. We will strive to educate visitors, recreational users, and other park stakeholders on these concepts.

We will strive for continual improvement in environmental management.

We at FOOSC will provide leadership in working with suppliers, vendors, contractors, visitors and patrons to comply with these same principles.