

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Fort Frederica National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Vision Statement

James Oglethorpe established Fort Frederica and the town of Frederica in 1736 to protect the southern boundary of his new colony of Georgia. In the early 18th century, the land lying between British South Carolina and Spanish Florida was known as the debatable land. This land (which we call Georgia today) became the nexus of a centuries-old imperial conflict between Spain and Britain. Under the leadership of Oglethorpe, troops from Frederica successfully repulsed a Spanish attempt to retake St. Simons Island, and consequently halted forever any further Spanish expansion in the Southeastern part of North America.

Today, visitors to Fort Frederica National Monument can observe few visible remnants of the bustling frontier military settlement that existed from 1736 until the regiment was disbanded in 1749, precipitating the decline and partial abandonment of the community. There have been at least 40 archeological investigations at Fort Frederica since the 1940's. This history of archeological activity at Fort Frederica reflects the evaluation of historical archeology in America as a scientific field. Many of the excavated sites have been left exposed as interpretive exhibits, with some stabilization accomplished to protect the features. The 21 brick and tabby ruins of the fortified town of Frederica consist of the remains of the burial vaults, the foundations of homes within the town wall, the King's Magazine, and the barracks.

The Centennial vision for the park and its partners is to increase our education capacity through exciting new interpretive displays, draw in new audiences through a new and visually exciting visitor center complex and to provide better orientation and safety information for park visitors. The park is looking to expand its number of partners to include Glynn County to replace existing dock/bulkhead to bring visitors to the site via Frederica River. The new landing would give visitors an opportunity to view the site, as if they were one of the first settlers. Fort Frederica is also the site of one of the most innovative and successful examples of "Parks as Classrooms" in the National Park System. The annual Archeology/Education program provides an opportunity for fourth graders in the Glynn County public school system to learn about the history of Fort Frederica and the science of archeology through a curriculum of classroom instruction, archeological field investigations, and laboratory work. The park would like to make this program available to all fourth graders in the state of Georgia and include second, eighth and disadvantage students. This will also tie into the annual Hands-on History Camp where children of all ages get an opportunity to live the life of the first settlers, hands-on activities that include the Jr. Ranger Program.

The modification of the visitor center facilities include the development of new interpretive exhibits for the Visitor Center, the replacement of 24 outdated wayside exhibits, and the development of the Bloody Marsh/ Gully Hole Creek sites. Resource management efforts will include maintaining the 1742 view shed and the surveying of the archeological resources/sites within the city of Frederica remains using ground-penetrating radar, designed to find other associated sites that played a significant role in the defense of the earlier colonies.

Fort Frederica National Monument has a growing list of supporters including an active and energized partner in the Fort Frederica Association. The Fort Frederica Association is aware of the Centennial Challenge and is willing to raise matching funds for the preservation of park Resources.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Superintendent Mary Beth Wester, Acting Superintendent Tyrone Brandyburg

Site: FOFR

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fort Frederica National Monument and its collaborators propose to expand the Archeology/Education program to include second and eighth graders and disadvantage youths. Currently our Archeology Education program serves approximately 1050 4th grade students per year. The park would like to construct or modify an existing facility to accommodate the increased demand by other groups and fourth graders in the surrounding counties. This facility will assist in the facilitation of educational programs and provide access to park visitors to the wonders of archeology and educational activities. The additional component will give these students a full understanding regarding 18th century material culture and the park will partner with NPS Archeologists at SEAC (Southeast Archeological Center) to provide telnet learn opportunities for students.

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)

Fort Frederica National Monument proposes to engage our community and partners through increased educational opportunities and resource management efforts. The park and partners will maintain the view shed to reflect the 1742 appearance, by removing trees and underbrush that take over the original moat, earth walls and brick and tabby foundations. This includes the cutting and removal of hazardous trees and the yearly pruning of approximately 50 to 75 trees that has experienced pine beetle infestation. The restoration efforts will ensure a safe environment for visitors and prevent further destruction of parks resources.

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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)

Fort Frederica National Monument and its partners propose to enhance the Archeology/Education program providing an opportunity to redefine the partnership with Glynn County public schools, along with the partnership with developing Boys and Girls Club, and other organizations for disadvantage youths. The park will collaborate with NPS Archeologists at SEAC (Southeast Archeological Center) to provide telnet learn opportunities for students.

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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.

Fort Frederica National Monument and partners proposes to increase visitation by expanding the number of local partners to include Glynn County to replace existing dock/bulkhead to bring visitors to the site via Frederica River. The new landing would give visitors an opportunity to view the site, as if they were one of the first settlers. This would increase visitation by 25 percent and accommodate visitor that are not aware of the site that come to St. Simon Island and surrounding island on vacation. The new access point along with new exhibits in Visitor Center will increase visitor understanding of the significant and important of Fort Frederica National Monument and its resources. Not only will visitors begin to understand more about the archeology and history of coastal defense, but also the ecology of the river and why that is important today.

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Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Fort Frederica National Monument and it collaborators propose to provide opportunity for second and eight graders and disadvantage youths by expand the Archeology/Education program. Currently our Archeology Education program serves approximately 1050 4th grade students per year. The park would like to construct or modify existing facility to accommodate the increase demand by other groups and fourth graders in the surrounding counties. This facility will assist in the facilitation of educational programs and provide excite park visitors to the wonders of archeology and numerous recreational and educational activities that include an addition to the Junior Ranger program. The additional component will give these students a full understanding regarding 18th century material culture and the park will partner with NPS Archeologists at SEAC (Southeast Archeological Center) to provide telnet learn opportunities for students.

The Junior Ranger program is currently an extensive activity learning experience where the participations trace the lives of select individuals in the town of Frederica.

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RECREATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Construct the Battle of Bloody Marsh Military Road trail to illustrate the connection between Bloody Marsh battle and the Fort Frederica. The trail will trace the footsteps of the soldiers who covered the retreat that resulted in a British ambush. The Bloody March battle site is six miles south of Fort Frederica. The Old Military road trail would connect the two sites along with the Gully Hole Creek site, the scene of earlier skirmish. The trail will outline what earlier settlers survive using the things they found in the environment. Although it will appear is a nature trail, it will also highlight the culture of the native people Oglethorpe befriended and the trade cultural that was important to the survival of the first settlers.

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EDUCATION

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

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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.

Fort Frederica National Monument and it collaborates proposes to use technology to create an interactive interpretive program to complement the fourth grade archeology program. The program will be design to incorporate the fourth grades and activities that student could discover online. The development of the interactive web-base programs would link not only the existing archeology program but also to a Historic re-enactors curriculum. The program will be design with historical date about the site but also information about the possible archeological artifacts that could be found in the location. The student would then become explores and find the prefect place to start their city in the same manor as James Oglethorpe. The same obstacles would challenge participants, except they are tied to National Educational Standards for Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and English.

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EDUCATION

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

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PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

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