

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Harry S Truman National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: HSTR

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Much of our modern world is a product of events that occurred during Harry S Truman's presidency from 1945-1953. The character Mr. Truman displayed as President at a great turning point in world history was grounded in his relationship with family, friends, and community. The park seeks to educate present and future generations about Mr. Truman and his role as a citizen, and his influence and contribution to history.

Were he alive today, Mr. Truman would be proud of the National Park Service and its commitment to a national Centennial Strategy. The emphasis of working in partnerships to preserve parks, while re-connecting adults and children to their cultural and natural history, as well as scenic view sheds, will lead to the enhancement of enriched minds and healthier bodies.

The Centennial initiative emphasizes concepts which Mr. Truman stood for. Some of these are accountability to the American people, and the fostering of new generations of stewards to care for the riches we enjoy as Americans. He would also ask that the Truman site park employees endorse Director Bomar's centennial concept of our "fulfilling a common American dream of leaving things better for those who will follow."

The employee's at Harry S Truman National Historic will support the Centennial Initiative through accomplishment of the following projects:

- Implementing electronic technology through the installation of I-Pod stations, multi-information touch screens, and cell phone audio messaging.
- In the area of providing community leadership and serving as a model in educational programming, we will design and produce an innovative hands on, week long program, for kids in the elementary and junior high schools. The "Arrowhead" programs main emphasis will be on developing and grooming park stewards and good citizens.
- In an effort to reach the most diverse audiences possible, we would develop and produce a tri-annual radio show which would highlight national park information, advisories, Truman bio-segments, plus guest speakers. Truman era music (1945-1953) will be played between featured information segments.
- As part of our commitment to preserving our nation's resources and heritage, we will pursue all possible avenues to finance the purchase of a 5.2 acre Truman Farm land tract which is available in Grandview, Missouri.
- Our Centennial partnership efforts will be directed towards developing prospective partners which would take an interest in specific cultural resources restoration projects relating to the Truman Home.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Larry Villalva

Site: HSTR

STEWARDSHIP

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.

Goal: Complete wallpaper restoration project at the Truman Home.

The Truman Home retains original wallpapers from the period 1944-1973. Many of the wallpapers have been compromised because of environmental changes to the structure over the past 60+ years and are in need of repair or replacement. In order to maintain the historical integrity of the Truman Home, it is important to maintain the appearance of the interior, including wall finishes, to the period of interpretation 1953-1972. We will seek to partner with private industry to to work with Truman museum and cultural resources staff to accomplish projects such as this one.

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

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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)

Purchase a 5.2 acre Truman Farm Tract adjacent to existing park lands. Congressional legislation for boundary expansion is already in place. The Truman Farm resource is nationally significant and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. The 5.2 acres which are being sought for aquisition were once part of the original Truman farmstead. This land aquisition request would prevent further commercial encroachment. If the target property can be aquired, it would come with a building which now serves as a paint store. This structure has the potential to serve as a visitor orientation and staging area, and as a place to store grounds maintenance equipment and supplies. This additional land purchase will also permit the removal of non-historic facilities which include an asphalt drive way and a twenty vehicle asphalt parking lot which are currently on the farm home property.

If purchased by the National Park Service, the City of Grandview, Missouri has expressed that they would like to partner with us in the operation of a new visitor center. In addition, the city would relinquish the ownership and right of way of a paved road which currently cuts across the two parcels

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Site: HSTR

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)

Goal: Harry S Truman National Historic Site will engage Grandview and Kansas City schools in participating in a pilot project Environmental Education Program at the Truman Farm.

This pilot project will feature new educational programs for children at the Truman Farm which were not previously offered to school groups and visitors. Valuable lessons in topics such as web of life, the value of water resources, urban sprawl, and nature as an art stimulant will be emphasized. These topics will be discussed and staged in an outdoor field environment. Course curriculum will be matched to State of Missouri Education Standards. The courses offered will be designed for not only school groups, but family units as well.

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Site: HSTR

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Goal: Install touch screen information/orientation videos about National Park units in the state of Missouri.

The featured sites at the Truman visitor center would include; Washington Carver National Monument, Jefferson Expansion Memorial, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Ozark National Scenic River, and the Ulysses S. Grant Historic Site. Visitors would be able to bring up information on the screen to assist them in planning their visit, or simply obtaining information about each park.

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Site: HSTR

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.

Goal: Establish IPOD stations in visitor centers and individual park web sites where visitors can download Truman information, Truman era music, park information, and other community attraction information.

This exciting technology would help us attract younger visitors who want to primarily obtain information about Harry S Truman, available cultural resources, and the park. Expanded information which could also be made available would include Truman era music which would emphasize the big band sound of Mr. Truman's era, plus information on other nearby sites such as the Truman Library and other Independence, Missouri attractions. Downloadable information can also be made available on the park's web site. In this format option, we would attempt to offer information for students needing historic or biographical information about Mr. Truman and his era. We would attempt to design this aspect of our information to be different than what can be obtained from text material already on the site.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Goal: Incorporate electronic technology through the installation of cell phone audio message technology.

Visitors arriving after hours to any of the three principle park sites, the Truman Home, the visitor center, or the Truman Farm Home, would be able to obtain park, tour, and resource information from a contract provided concessioner. A phone number would be posted at all three sites which would enable visitors to obtain information via their personal cell phones which could help them plan their next day visit to the park. This technology is currently being offered at other National Park sites with great success.

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Site: HSTR

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Goal: Design an "Arrowhead" educational hands on program for kids in elementary and junior high schools.

The focus of this innovative program would be to groom and develop kids to become park stewards and good citizens. The program would be structured around a one week (7 day) summer program which calls for students to be mentored by several Truman staff members. The students will participate in classroom and hands on application projects with lots of field work. The target class size would be approximately 25 students who would be recruited from local Independence, Missouri and adjoining metro schools in Kansas City. This program would be a partnership effort with several school districts. A major portion of the course would also include a citizenship element in addition to teaching about park history, cultural resources, natural resources etc. Graduates would receive a certificate, a distinctive "Arrowhead" shirt and cap, and recognition through the media.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Impart to a broad base of Americans a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Goal: Produce a tri-annual radio show which highlights National Park Service units in Missouri and the nation. To coincide with the use of this radio media, we would offer Truman era music (1945-1953) between featured information segments.

We will attempt to partner with a local radio station such as a PBS site for use of equipment and air time. Truman park information can be provided, along with tid bits on new cultural resource preservation projects, and even a call period for listeners to participate in. We will also be able to saturate the air waves with web site addresses and other pertinent information to potential visitors where expanded information could be obtained. We will also advertise our servicewide Centennial Campaign. Another added feature would be to provide guest speakers and subject matter experts on the show.

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