

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

**Theodore Roosevelt  
Inaugural National Historic  
Site**

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: THRI

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site (TR Site) in Buffalo, New York envisions building on its unique partnership model to reach new goals as part of the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial. For forty years, the TR Site has been successfully managed by a partner, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation (Foundation), through a cooperative agreement with the NPS. This partnership, which provides strong support from both the NPS and the local community, will continue to be a springboard for growth and development well into the future.

A capital project is currently underway that will impact all phases of the TR Site's operations and support the NPS's Centennial vision. The project, which includes improvements to the landmark Ansley Wilcox House as well as a new addition on the footprint of the former carriage house, will provide universal access, improved visitor services, and expanded space for exhibits and education programs. With construction completed in 2008, the next five years will see the introduction of new school programs, interactive exhibits and guided tours geared to all age levels, expanded internet offerings, and collaborations with other Theodore Roosevelt parks. These improvements will provide the impetus to attract a broader and more diverse audience through educational partnerships and local and national tourism initiatives.

Looking out ten years, the TR Site's goal is to complete its Master Plan by restoring the original boundary of the historic Wilcox property. Acquisition of an adjacent property would allow the removal of a major intrusion, a modern glass and concrete structure, from the TR Site's historic setting and permit interpretation of the Wilcox property in its entirety.

The TR Site's vision for the future will be accomplished through its NPS partnership along with the combined efforts of the Foundation's leadership, staff expertise, and volunteer dedication, the successful alliance that has guided the TR Site for forty years.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Molly Quackenbush

Site: THRI

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)

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will provide universal access and a safe environment for visitors, staff and volunteers with the installation of an elevator, new entrances, handicapped accessible bathrooms and a fire suppression system. It will improve the visitor experience by relocating and expanding the currently overcrowded visitor's entrance.

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

Site: THRI

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.

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will complete necessary repairs and restoration at the former Ansley Wilcox house which will include repainting the exterior, replacing the existing roofing with new, historically accurate roofing materials, improving exterior storm drainage, upgrading the electrical systems and replacing the existing boiler.

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Site: THRI

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will develop an instructional program using Theodore Roosevelt as an example of why conservation is important to society, and what children can do in their own lives to advance the cause of conservation. This program can be made available for family days, scout groups, or school groups.

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Site: THRI

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.**

**Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.**

In order to reduce Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site's impact on air and water quality, the staff will focus upon reducing energy consumption needs and selecting carbon neutral energy alternatives. Additionally, all new equipment will be selected to ensure a long term maintainable life cycle to reduce the environmental impact of replacement and disposal. To further reduce the Site's impact, all new facilities will be designed to meet a minimum Silver LEED certified energy rating. All existing facilities will be retrofitted for energy efficiency whenever feasible. Current facilities will also be studied to develop a plan to reduce energy usage.

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Site: THRI

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.**

**Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.**

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will develop an instructional program emphasizing Roosevelt's powerful personal commitment to conservation, demonstrating why conservation is important to our society, and encouraging visitors to determine what they can do in their own lives to advance the cause of conservation. This program can be made available for family days, scout groups, or school groups.

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

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will explore alternative sources for its energy needs, including the purchase of energy from green generation. Additionally, the Site will explore the use of bio-fuels or other alternatives for power equipment.

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Site: THRI

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will revise the current interpretive program, upgrade current exhibits and develop new educational programming to increase focus on its mission, while at the same time creating exciting new ways in which visitors may experience the Site. Interactive exhibits, audio and video clips, and first-person interpretation will be explored to create a more dynamic, active, and multimodal learning experience. Work with community educators will develop stronger curriculum links to make education programs more responsive to teachers needs, and online information and activities will create the opportunity for visitors to continue their learning long after they leave the park site.

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Site: THRI

**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.

An expanded and upgraded website for the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will offer interactive activities, online exhibits, and improved research materials to assist both home web users and educators. Web-based resources will be linked to new educational programs to provide a cohesive pre-visit, on-site, and post-visit learning experience, with materials provided for teachers in an easily accessible and ready-to-use format.

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Site: THRI

**PROFESSIONALISM**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site will perform all necessary asbestos abatement and relocate all employees from the current third floor office space to a second floor administrative area with adequate means of egress.

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Site: THRI

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation will work with local governments, corporations, foundations and individuals to raise the dollars needed to maintain its share of the Site's operating expenses as stated in the cooperative agreement between the Foundation and the National Park Service.

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