

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** LIBO

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is the site where Abraham Lincoln spent 14 formative years of his life, from the ages fo 7 to 21. The purpose of the park is to preserve the natural and cultural resources associated with the boyhood and family of Abraham Lincoln in a manner which will permit both public use and enjoyment as well as the perpetuation of those resources for future generations. To fulfill that purpose, we will strive to establish and maintain the highest level of quality possible in the areas of stewardship, environmental leadership, education and professional excellence. In so doing, we will assure that the compelling story of Lincoln's boyhood will be told and that this site associated with his life will be managed in a professional manner to ensure its preservation.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Randy Wester

Site: LIBO

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)

Visitors to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will be provided with a safe, accessible environment in which to learn about Lincoln's boyhood and experience the resources associated with that time of his life. Annual safety and management inspections will continue to be conducted as a means of identifying and correcting existing hazards and preventing future ones. Monthly safety committee meetings will continue to be conducted as well. Program, as well as facility, accessibility will be examined and steps taken to assure that barriers are identified and removed wherever possible, including language barriers.

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

Site: LIBO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Develop management practices that reduce/eliminate invasive exotics in the park. Actions will be taken to improve habitat for native plant and animal species. These efforts will result in a natural environment more indicative of that which existed during the time of Lincoln's residence here.

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Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

All 39 of the 39 historic structures (100%) listed on the current List of Classified Structures are in good condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete needed research projects concerning 1820s crops and agricultural practices, the impact and extent of the pioneer economy, and the history of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln cemetery and prepare a cultural resource base map in order to better preserve park resources and assets

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Site: LIBO

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will take steps to assess the environmental impacts of its operations on air and water quality by seeking to determine its carbon footprint and to study the effects of rainwater runoff from its parking areas.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will reduce the environmental impacts of its park operations by increasing fuel efficiency, installing energy saving devices and expanding its recycling activities. Alternative fuel vehicles will replace standard gasoline powered vehicles.

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Site: LIBO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will implement means and methods of increasing its use of alternative energy and fuels at the park.

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Site: LIBO

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)

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will work with schools in Spencer and surrounding counties to establish partnerships as a means of encouraging stewardship.

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Site: LIBO

RECREATION

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

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

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will work to increase attendance at ranger facilitated programs by expanding the offering of such services at the park, but also by working with the Lincoln State Park to integrate our programs with theirs. We will also work with area schools to encourage more visitation from them.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop Spanish language materials and services as a means of reaching out to a growing Hispanic population. This would include materials such as brochures, rack cards, informational handouts, Junior Ranger materials and services such as personal interpretive services, cell phone audio tours, etc.

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Site: LIBO

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Cooperate with educators to revise the current Teacher Packet so that it is more curriculum based and expanded into a distance learning program. Develop a second Teaching with Historic Places lesson plan that uses the park as an example of preservation and stewardship of cultural resources. Work with local universities to develop distance learning programs and materials.

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Site: LIBO

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.

Develop a web-based virtual tour of the Little Pigeon Creek community in which Lincoln grew up. Such a tour would consist of photos, text, and audio describing sites both within the national memorial and the Lincoln State Park. Other interactive features would include clearing a virtual forest and building a virtual log cabin.

Develop a Web Ranger component for the park's website for those children unable to visit the park.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Explore the technology of pod-casts, cell phone audio tours, and other ways of expanding the methods of delivering interpretive services.

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Site: LIBO

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a Junior Ranger program that includes all three of the primary Lincoln sites.

Develop a program that would identify individuals from previous generations who had visited the park on school field trips and devise a means (perhaps an online blog) by which they could communicate with present generations of school children who have visited the park in order to compare and contrast their experiences.

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Site: LIBO

**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.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will strive to increase visitor satisfaction in park facilities and services and to increase their understanding of the park's significance as a means of investing a sense of ownership. Children who complete the Junior Ranger program and receive their certificate will be told that they are now part owners of Lincoln Boyhood NM. The certificate will be modified to indicate this.

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

Site: LIBO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Accomplish the goals enumerated in the park's Strategic Plan.

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Site: LIBO

**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.

Maintain a safe and healthful environment for visitors and employees and promote safe working practices. Continue monthly safety committee meetings and annual safety and management inspections.

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Site: LIBO

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand the park's partnerships by organizing a friends' group.

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