

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: TIMU

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve contains many nationally significant resources within its vast expanse of salt marsh grasses and waterways, quiet wooded islands, and long views of a flat horizon. Some views within the preserve are pristine, while others display striking evidence of humans.

Located within the city of Jacksonville, Duval, and Nassau Counties, of Florida, the Timucuan Preserve encompasses approximately 46,000 acres, 75% of which are waterways and wetlands that form an extensive estuarine system between the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers where they meet the Atlantic Ocean. Much of the salt marsh is among the least disturbed on the southern Atlantic Coast.

Known prehistoric and historic archeological sites within the preserve number about 200. These sites provide evidence of human occupation in the region spanning 6,000 years. Fort Caroline National Memorial, an NPS area since 1950, commemorates the historic 16th century French colony, was assimilated as part of the Timucuan Preserve.

The Preserve provides large open areas for many types of recreation, especially water based, within the boundaries of a major metropolitan area. Existing water-based recreation resources include the Intracoastal Waterway, fish camps, fisheries, and the St. Johns and Nassau Rivers.

The Centennial vision for the Preserve is to strengthen the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks partnership through a concerted effort of providing high quality, accessible, and safe recreational opportunities. This unique partnership seeks to provide cooperative management to over 50,000 acres of public and private lands owned by 200 agencies, private citizens and governmental bodies. The mission of the partnership is to increase public access to these lands in a seamless experience package for all visitors.

This partnership has in the past cooperated to do many things that would have been impossible for the partners to do singularly. Such as the purchase of thousands of acres of land, restoration and opening to the public of a 1920's era resort club as a multi-use facility, and the collaboration and funding to construct a bike path. Now the City and the NPS will embark on another project that will provide an improved and safe boat launch for visitors.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Barbara Goodman

Site: TIMU

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 current boat ramp at Cedar Point is in an unsafe condition and has caused damage to several visitor vehicles as they attempt to use the boat launch. As a result of the poor condition of the ramp, visitors launch from areas next to the existing ramp. This has caused extensive damage to the salt marsh grass beds on either side of the existing ramp. The marsh grass provides erosion protection to the shoreline.

The National Park Service and the City of Jacksonville are striving to provide increased recreational opportunities and as such are involved in the rehabilitation of this boat ramp thereby making it accessible to more visitors.

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

Site: TIMU

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

The current FCI of the Cedar Point boat ramp (asset #12938) is 0.732 placing it in Serious condition. This project would decrease the FCI to 0.0 which would raise the asset to a Good condition.

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Site: TIMU

ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve is a member of a unique partnership with the City of Jacksonville and the Florida State Park Service. This partnership is called the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks. Its mission is to promote stewardship of natural and cultural resources and to provide high quality, accessible, and safe recreational and educational opportunities. This unique partnership seeks to provide cooperative management to over 50,000 acres of public and private lands owned by 200 agencies, private citizens and governmental bodies.

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Site: TIMU

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The National Park Service entered into an official Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Park Service. This partnership between the Federal, State and City governments is to provide cooperative management for the lands within the boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. This Partnership is referred to the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks. This unique agreement has benefited the visitors to these sites by providing as much of seamless experience as is possible.

This partnership has in the past cooperated to do many things that would have been impossible for the partners to do singularly. Such as the purchase of thousands of acres of land, restoration and opening to the public of a 1920's era resort club as a multi-use facility, and the collaboration and funding to construct a bike path. Now the City and the NPS will embark on another project that will provide an improved and safe boat launch for visitors.

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Site: TIMU

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)

The repair and rehabilitation of this boat ramp will increase visitation to an area within the park that is underutilized. The Cedar point area of the park is located within the most rapidly developing area of the county. Currently, few opportunities exist in the north side area for visitors to access the water resources.

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Site: TIMU

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.

A positive result of this project will be the increased visitor satisfaction with the recreational facilities measured by GPRA goal IIa1. The restoration of a valuable recreational boat ramp will provide our partner the City of Jacksonville with positive benefits as well. The City has been under public scrutiny to provide more access to the water resources of the area.

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Site: TIMU

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

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