

Chapter 4: Park Vision and Goals

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Park Vision

Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve will continue to be a place for visitors to enjoy passive recreational opportunities while, at the same time, affording visitors the chance to enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural resources of an historic former estate on Long Island's North Shore.

Overall Park Goal

Achieve a balance between recreation and the protection of natural and cultural resources of Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve while making available compatible public environmental and historic education and interpretive programs.

Natural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect, preserve and interpret the significant natural resources throughout Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve.

Goals

- Identify areas with environmental sensitivity, such as salt water wetlands, and design programs and facilities that will provide interpretation without impacting the resources.
- Protect and maintain areas important as habitat for rare, threatened, endangered or protected plant and animal species and community types.
- Maintain, restore and/or enhance the natural environment, where appropriate, to improve the quality of natural resources and support biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- Develop management strategies for the unique natural resource areas of the park, including significant forest, beach and marsh communities
- Encourage the propagation of plants considered indigenous to the park.
- Protect the park's natural resources by managing threats (e.g. animal, insect, pollutants, stormwater runoff).
- Restore historic landscapes utilizing native or historically appropriate and non-invasive plants.
- Control and/or eliminate invasive species.
- Design and locate recreational and interpretive facilities to assure that they do not exceed the parkland's capacity to withstand use or infringe on important natural habitats and are compatible with the protection of park resources.

- Apply the principles of Ecosystem-based Management to operational and resource protection activities within the Park.

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide day use facilities and programming that is compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources.

Goals

- Provide year-round facilities and programs for the public.
- Implement programs and facilities that are consistent with regional and local needs and demands as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and other federal, state and local plans and programs.
- Develop programs and media to interpret the natural, cultural and physical resources and educate the public of their importance.
- Identify recreational activities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources, and provide appropriate support facilities for those activities.

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect, preserve and interpret important historic structures, landscapes and archeological resources within Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve.

Goals

- Identify and protect archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Maintain, protect and restore important historic gardens, views and vistas.
- Preserve historic structures and identify new uses for vacant and underutilized buildings that are compatible with their historic function.
- Develop and coordinate programs and activities that interpret the Native American, Colonial and country estate history and culture associated with the park.

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect the scenic quality of the park; especially the open views, vistas and picturesque landscape.

Goals

- Design and locate activities, structures and infrastructure that fit into the park's setting and minimize visual impacts.
- Provide and maintain vistas to Long Island Sound using topography or existing clearings whenever possible.

Open Space Protection Goals

Overall Goal

Protect open space within and adjacent to the park through acquisition, designation, and coordination with existing partners.

Goals

- Research connectivity to nearby parks, natural areas and open spaces.

Access Goals

Overall Goal

Provide appropriate access to and within Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve.

Goals

- Provide and maintain a safe entrance and exit to the park from local roads.
- Provide a non-motorized trail system that links the parking area(s) to the natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Consider alternative means of transportation to improve circulation within the park.
- Provide a vehicle access road system that connects parking areas with internal parking areas, structures and activity areas.
- Provide and maintain access for emergency response and rescue operations.
- Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA).

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

Goals

- Develop educational programs that focus on the park's natural and cultural resources focusing on the major eras of the park: Geologic; Native American; Colonial; and Marshall Field.
- Provide guided and self-guided interpretive programs designed for the general public and for organized groups, especially in natural areas like the Salt Marsh, the Fresh Water Pond, as well as at the various historic structures from the Field era and Colonial period.
- Develop programs that are compatible with the protection of park resources.
- Provide a year-round interpretive program.
- Develop an outreach program designed for local schools and other organizations.
- Foster partnerships, like the one with Nassau County BOCES, and with other environmental and historic/cultural educators, to provide interpretive programs designed for park visitors and groups.

- Develop interpretive signage that is cohesive in its aesthetic throughout the park.

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal

Operate and maintain the park in a safe, clean and green (sustainable) manner that protects the natural and cultural resources of the park and the welfare of the park patrons.

Goals

- Develop and implement a set of maintenance and operation guidelines.
- Develop partnerships for maintenance and operation guidelines.
- Identify specific approaches to address resource protection and natural resource maintenance within the park's operation and maintenance programs.
- Identify and implement alternatives for waste management and, particularly, the handling and disposal of manure.
- Provide a more efficient communications system for park staff.
- Replace high maintenance items with more sustainable, low maintenance items.

Facility Development and Capital Investment Goals

Overall Goal

Provide quality facilities consistent with the park's historic design aesthetic and sustainable/green buildings practices

Goals

- Rehabilitate the Dairy Complex to serve as a visitor center and environmental education center for park patrons.
- Identify potential uses for vacant or underutilized buildings in the park, specifically, the Main House and Winter Cottage.
- Schedule and perform preventative maintenance on existing buildings, structures, roads, and infrastructure.

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goal

Develop partnerships with other organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit groups and the private sector.

Goals

- Organize a group that includes the Caumsett Foundation and the organizations residing at the park to improve coordination of programs, services and facilities and to address any issues.
- Develop partnerships for maintaining facilities and conducting programs.

- Coordinate with federal, state and local agencies in the management and stewardship of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goals

Encourage inventory, monitoring and conducting scientific research of the natural and cultural resources of the park.

Goals

- Provide a coordinated approach to inventories, monitoring programs and research that facilitates data exchange.
- Conduct and encourage inventory, monitoring and research by individuals, interest groups and institutions.
- Assure that all inventory, monitoring and research programs are compatible with the protection of the park resources and that findings are incorporated into the OPRHP research tracking system.

