



Welcome to the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Partnership Team!

As residents of the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA), your participation is important to create a heritage area that is responsive to the needs of our citizens and preserves our shared heritage.

Freedom's Frontier began as a grassroots effort through the work of people just like you, who were concerned about our landscape and understood that we have an important, nationally significant story to share about the struggles over freedom on the frontier, a struggle that shaped our nation's history, a struggle that remains relevant even today.

Freedom's Frontier is at an exciting stage of development! Partners are beginning to plan for and implement the recommendations in the management plan. Stakeholders like you have an opportunity to get involved and shape these actions. We are moving forward on several fronts: preservation, marketing, interpretation, tourism, conservation, economic development and recreation. These actions will be woven together to help residents and visitors realize that this place is a special one—one that is worth preserving, living in, and traveling to.

Please take some time to look through this information packet and familiarize yourself with the heritage area program, the development of Freedom's Frontier and how you can become involved in this dynamic and important partnership organization.

For more information, please visit our website, freedomfrontier.org.

We appreciate your interest and involvement in Freedom's Frontier and look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Judy Billings
Executive Director
Destination Management Inc.



National Heritage Areas

A National Heritage Area is a nationally distinctive landscape shaped by natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources, recognized by the U.S. Congress. A heritage area tells a nationally important story through its geography, its man-made structures, and the traditions that have evolved within the landscape.

National Heritage Areas are managed by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders. These stakeholders include individual citizens, local, state, and Federal governments, and nonprofit and private sector groups. Together these stakeholders work to preserve the integrity of their distinct landscape and local stories so that future generations will understand their relationship to the land. This collaborative approach does not compromise traditional local control over and use of the land.

Using this approach, National Heritage Areas are based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across traditional boundaries in order to collaboratively shape a plan and implementation strategy that preserves the area's unique and distinct qualities.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ/INDEX.HTM>



A Compelling Story

On June 2, 1856, in a prairie slough named for a species of oak tree that thrived there, militias from Kansas and Missouri fought the first skirmish in what Abraham Lincoln would call our “great war to determine whether any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal can long endure.” Led by anti-slavery zealot John Brown and future Confederate Colonel Henry Clay Pate, the Battle of Black Jack preceded the siege of Fort Sumter and the formal start of the Civil War by five years. During those years, the events in our region focused the nation’s attention on the great struggle between state and federal authority over slavery and the humanity of a nation. To call our western Missouri and eastern Kansas homeland the birthplace of the Civil War is no exaggeration.

Our region is the epicenter of conflicts that still define American values, and its struggles to achieve them. The issues of slavery’s abolition, the forced migration of Native American nations and the inspiring resilience of those nations in the face of oppression, the voluntary immigration of settlers along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and the final resolution of racial segregation in our public schools a century later—all these belong to the story of the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. This story continues to evolve, to define and influence who we are today, in the region and as a nation.

Our landscape is dotted with places that capture the pivotal role this region played in the development of the nation. Together we will weave these individual stories into a cohesive experience explained through divergent yet integrated philosophical perspectives, connected by maps, virtual guideposts, and honest, accurate explanations designed to educate, enlighten, and bring to life the rich and diverse impact that made this region Freedom's Frontier.



Freedom's Frontier National Heritage

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area began with President George W. Bush's signature on The National Heritage Act of 2006, on October 12, 2006, after seven years of local work and full support from the Kansas/Missouri Congressional delegation. The National Heritage Act of 2006 recognized the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and gave Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance, Inc., a 501c3, the authority to oversee the development of a management plan and to coordinate the implementation of its recommendations for Freedom's Frontier. The purpose of this management plan is to present a comprehensive program for the conservation, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the heritage area in order to sustain the American story told within its boundaries. Freedom's Frontier involves residents, public agencies, and private organizations working together to make the goals of preservation, conservation, education and interpretation a reality. For the complete text of the National Heritage Act of 2006, visit <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s109-203>.

Our region, with its divisive history powerfully remembered, still refers to the state boundary as a "border." Yet today our citizens are learning to integrate their differing points of view into a shared story. Citizens will pool resources, set common goals, and encourage dialog to transform that story into a plan of action. This method has produced much success in heritage areas across the nation.

The grassroots Partnership Team, consisting of willing partners from each of the 41 counties in the designated area, meets monthly at locations throughout the area.



Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Timeline

1999 Territorial Kansas Heritage Area (TKHA), a group of historians and tourism agencies, formed to plan for the Sesquicentennial of Kansas Territory (2004).

2001 TKHA brought in representatives of National Park Service (NPS) and an established heritage area to provide information about developing a heritage area in eastern KS.

2002 At the urging of the TKHA, Governor Graves appointed the Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission to organize and promote events in 2004. Chaired by Deanell Tacha, it raised funds to complete a series of activities and projects in celebration of the 150th anniversary.

The Lawrence City Commission & Douglas County Commission appointed a committee, chaired by Deanell Tacha to explore the feasibility of establishing a heritage area in Douglas County.

2003 In January, NPS officials, heritage area consultants and administrators facilitated a Heritage Summit in Lawrence. About 75 people attended, representing all counties that were potential participants in establishing a heritage area. The Summit launched the grassroots planning committee meetings that have occurred each month throughout the area to date.

Potential participants agreed upon Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggles for Freedom Heritage Area as the working name of our emerging heritage area

In August, the Joint Committee on Economic Development for the Kansas Legislature invited Judy Billings, director of the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau, to give testimony about heritage area development in KS. Representative Kenny Wilk and Senator Nick Jordan wrote letters of support to the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor.

The Planning Group hired Dr. Dale Nimz to complete a required feasibility study. The KS Department of Commerce contributed \$15,000 toward this effort. The grassroots participants submitted information and raised matching funds for the study.

2004 The feasibility study was officially presented to the NPS as well as the KS Congressional delegation.

In March, identical bills were written and introduced in both the House and Senate to establish a Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area (BKNHA). These bills eventually died in committee.

A professional was hired to work with a committee of the planning committee to facilitate the naming process and develop a graphic for BKNHA. Grassroots groups came to consensus on "Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area" as the name for the area.

NPS requested TKHA to study the natural environment and the effects of the people on the land and vice versa in the defined area of the study. The study was completed in mid-August and forwarded to NPS.

Monthly grassroots committee meetings continued under the guidance of a steering committee.

Grassroots group continued work on development of site data in the area.

Deanell Tacha, Lawrence, agreed to chair and assist in establishing the advisory board.

2005 Legislation to establish BKNHA was re-introduced in Congress with the support of entire KS delegation.

In March, Judy Billings testified before the Senate Energy & Resources Subcommittee on NPS. MO Senator Talent, serving on the committee, added 12 MO counties to the bill, which passed the Senate.



Tacha began to call regular meetings of the advisory board to learn how such a board might support the heritage area efforts.

Grassroots committee continued monthly meetings building the number of participants and inviting MO representatives to join in.

2006 In June, Billings testified before the House Committee. House Committee negotiations led to an agreement that the official name be Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

The Advisory Board, led by Tacha, continued to meet regularly and the grassroots group, now called the Partnership Team, continued to meet monthly.

In July, the legislation passed the House but had to go back to Senate for ratification with changes.

In September, the legislation got bundled with 9 other heritage area proposals and passed designating 10 heritage areas including Freedom's Frontier making a total of 39 in the country.

On October 12, 2006, President George W. Bush signed enabling legislation.

2007 The Board developed an organizational structure with bylaws and confirmed IRS 501c3 status—officially becoming a Board of Trustees—and invited MO delegates to join. Board began to organize fundraising.

In June, after a Request for Proposals and an extensive interview process conducted by a Partnership Team Committee, the Board of Trustees hired a team of consultants headed by Cheryl Hargrove, Center for Sustainable Destinations, National Geographic.

The Board continued to raise funds for management planning process. KS Department of Commerce committed \$75,000, City of Lawrence \$25,000, Mid America Regional Council (MARC) \$25,000 and Capitol Federal Foundation \$10,000 in addition to numerous small contributions to the effort.

In November, Cheryl Hargrove facilitated an orientation meeting for the Partnership Team and Board of Trustees to begin management planning process. Over 100 people attended.

2008 In January, a contract was signed with professional consultants for facilitation of the NPS required Management Plan.

A Steering Committee for the management planning process developed with the task of providing input to consultants prior to presenting information to the general partnership and reviewing minutes and documents prior to being posted on the web.

In February, the first facilitated management planning meeting of the Partnership Team was held in Harrisonville, MO. Over 100 people attended and signed on for committee work including Heritage Development, Interpretation and Education, Resources Development, Marketing and Civic Engagement.

Monthly Partnership Team meetings continued with contractors facilitating each phase of responsibility called for in the Scope of Work. Attendance ranged between 50 and 100 people for each meeting. Meanwhile, conference calls with committees and public surveys solicited information to be used for management planning.

Board continued to raise funds and generate publicity.

2009 In June, the required Management Plan was completed, approved by the Board, presented to the Partnership, and submitted to the NPS for review.

Recommended changes to organizational structure were implemented, resulting in an increase in Board membership and the creation of a Board Executive Committee. The Steering Committee assumed the role of the Advisory Committee while Partnership committees formed to work toward actions recommended in the management plan.

Congress approves national heritage area in Kansas, Missouri

SAM HANANEL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – A wide swath of eastern Kansas and western Missouri will become a national heritage area that highlights the region’s Civil War history, under legislation approved in Congress on Friday.

The Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area includes 29 counties in Kansas and 12 in Missouri, where the heated dispute over slavery played out in the months leading up to the Civil War.

The measure, approved by voice vote in the Senate and sent to the president for his signature, means money and other resources from the National Park Service will help the area preserve its history and attract a new generation of tourists to the region.

“It’s been a huge grassroots effort over these last four years,” said Judy Billings, director of the Lawrence, Kan., Convention and Visitors Bureau. “We are now at the goal line pulling more people into the effort.”

The area was a hotbed of violence and political strife—known as Bleeding Kansas—following the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which allowed a popular vote to determine if Kansas would be added to the country as a free or slave state. Three months after Kansas was admitted as a free state, the Civil War began in 1861.

“Though far from the main campaigns, Bleeding Kansas became a prominent symbol in the fight for the freedom of all people, and the territory would become a battleground over the question of slavery,” said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who sponsored the bill together with Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

Heritage areas can qualify for up to \$10 million over 15 years in federal funds, though funds won’t begin flowing until a management plan is completed and approved by the Secretary of Interior.

Once that happens, planners will budget money to improve and enhance exhibits at museums and historic sites, Billings said. New projects, like developing the riverfront in Lawrence or building a bike trail connecting historic sites, may also be considered, she said.

Though the bill originally applied only to Kansas, a dozen Missouri counties were later added to expand the scope of the project.

“This legislation will not only preserve and showcase the pivotal history of our state and the subsequent contribution Kansas made to the nation, but it will also serve as a tool to promote economic development through travel and tourism for our state,” Brownback said.

The region joins at least 24 other national heritage areas around the country where federal, state and local officials work to conserve historic landscapes and cultures.

A good plan for encouraging increased tourism in our region

Kansas City Star

The Star's Editorials
July 5, 2009

A well-organized plan to tap into the rich history of the Civil War in this region is making progress, and deservedly so. Now, federal funds are needed to develop and market the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage area.

Eventually, supporters hope to attract many more visitors to historic sites in eastern Kansas and western Missouri, where they can learn more about the effects of the Civil War on this region and the nation.

The heritage area would encompass 41 counties along the Kansas-Missouri border, including Jackson, Cass, Clay, and Platte. These 41 counties were the "epicenter of events that led to the Civil War," says U.S. Appeals Court Judge Deanell Reece Tacha, chairwoman of the heritage area board.

The National Park Service is now reviewing plans for the educational effort, which could attract \$10 million in federal support over 15 years. Combined with private contributions, this funding would be a wise investment in education about the Civil War as well as a good way to jumpstart more tourism and economic development in the counties.

It's essential to get the heritage area established by the end of this year, because the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War occurs in 2011. That year could see a quickening of interest in the war and all the hot-button issues it involved. They include slavery, abolition, immigration, the impact of the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and later matters such as the Brown vs. Board of Education case and its effects on the U.S. school system.

Current plans call for spending about \$500,000 a year to manage and promote the heritage area. In the long run, that would be a smart use of public funds, especially if more people discover the significant role this region played in the nation's bloodiest war.



Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Counties

Kansas: Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clay, Coffey, Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Wilson, Woodson, Wyandotte

Missouri: Barton, Bates, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray, St. Clair, Vernon



VISION FOR 2028

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) is an internationally recognized region in western Missouri and eastern Kansas where a young nation's diverse definitions of freedom collided. Through sharing authentic and honestly interpreted stories, residents respect multiple views of freedom. Compelling learning experiences, interpretation and preservation offer visitors and residents of all ages an understanding of the region's importance. Historically aware citizens collaborate to build diverse economies for current and future generations.

MISSION

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) is dedicated to building awareness of the struggles for freedom in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. These diverse, interwoven and nationally important stories grew from a unique physical and cultural landscape. FFNHA inspires respect for multiple perspectives and empowers residents to preserve and share these stories. We achieve our goals through interpretation, preservation, conservation and education for all residents and visitors.

GOALS

- 1 Build awareness of the struggles for freedom that took place within the boundaries of Freedom's Frontier for current and future generations
- 2 Enhance, sustain and preserve the unique cultural and historic assets within our nationally important physical and cultural landscapes that fostered these stories.
- 3 Inspire tolerance and respect for multiple perspectives.
- 4 Empower residents to preserve and share our nationally important authentic stories in an engaging way.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 We believe in tolerance and respect diverse stories from multiple perspectives.
- 2 We respect property rights.
- 3 We strive to focus on authentic and engaging experiences.
- 4 We honor the region's peoples, past and present.
- 5 We appreciate unique cultural and historic assets within the nationally important landscape.
- 6 We will invest in community engagement, education and empowerment.
- 7 We will strive to sustain and grow a sense of place.
- 8 We will value the natural environment.
- 9 We will consider future generations in all actions.



Struggles for Freedom on the Missouri Kansas Border

Statement of National Significance

Extraordinary events in the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) forever changed America. In the 1850s, the nation turned its eyes to the Missouri/Kansas border, where peoples with diverse definitions of freedom collided, inciting and fueling the Civil War. The impact of these events is forever woven into the nation's fabric.

- **Shaping the Frontier:** For the half million pioneers who traveled on the Santa Fe, California, Mormon and Oregon Trails, the Missouri/Kansas border was the jumping off point. In this place where river travel ended, traders, miners and emigrants purchased provisions and prepared for long overland treks. As they traveled west, many began to see the "permanent" Indian frontier beyond Missouri's western border as an obstacle to Manifest Destiny.
- **Missouri-Kansas Border War:** When Kansas was opened for settlement in 1854, a border war ensued, capturing the nation's attention. The Kansas-Nebraska Act nullified the uneasy balance established by the Missouri Compromise and left the territory's future slave status in the hands of settlers. The stakes were high for both sides. The violence of the Missouri-Kansas Border War ushered in the Civil War, consumed the region in bloody conflict through war's end, and devastated communities on both sides of the border.
- **Enduring Struggles for Freedom:** The nation's struggle for freedom did not end with the Civil War. Though the war eliminated clashes over geography, efforts to break down society's barriers continue. Since the Civil War, this place has inspired national policies and ongoing efforts to secure equal freedoms for all Americans.

The FFNHA provides new opportunities for visitors and residents to explore the evolving ideal and fundamental American value of **Freedom**.



DONOR RECOGNITION

The creation of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area presents an unprecedented opportunity to the 41-county area to share with the nation and the world the incredible role played by this region in defining what Freedom's Frontier means to America. This national heritage area will support and nurture the hundreds of individual museums, attractions, historic sites and activities that together define Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. While there is no fee for participation, financial investment at every level will continue to support the development and sustainability of our area.

Recognition Level Donation

Friends of Freedom under \$500 These organizations and individuals will be listed as donors in our annual report and will receive a certificate of contribution.

Missouri River Steamboat Circle \$500 to \$999 These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. They will be listed on our website and in our annual report and will receive a certificate of contribution.

California Road Circle \$1,000 to \$4,999 These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. They will appear on our website and in our annual report and will receive a certificate of contribution.

Pony Express Circle \$5,000 to \$9,999 These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. They will be listed on our website and in our annual report and will receive a certificate of contribution. Their gift will be recognized in news releases from FFNHA to the media in their locale.

Santa Fe Trail Circle \$10,000 to \$19,999 These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. Their company logos or individual names will appear on our website and in publications. Their gift will be recognized in news releases from FFNHA to the media in their locale. They will receive a donor recognition commemoration.

Oregon Trail Circle \$20,000 to \$49,999 These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. Their company logos or individual names will appear on our website and in publications. A news release will be issued to all press, radio and television in the portions of our region where they operate or live. They will receive a donor recognition commemoration.

Freedom's Frontier Circle \$50,000 or more These organizations and individuals will be recognized as contributors to FFNHA. Their company logos or individual names will appear on our website and in literature and other publications. A news release will be issued to all press, radio and television in the 41county area. They will receive a donor recognition commemoration as well as invitation to and recognition at our annual meetings.



Donors who provided financial investment during the management planning process are recognized below as Founding and Charter Donors.

Founding Donors

Freedom's Frontier Circle

Douglas County Commission Lawrence, Kansas Convention and Visitors Kansas Department of Commerce, Travel & Bureau Tourism City of Lawrence, Kansas Missouri Division of Tourism

Oregon Trail Circle

Mid America Regional Council (MARC) Barton P. & Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust

Santa Fe Trail Circle

Capitol Federal Foundation Charles & Virginia Clark Fund of GKCCF The Monarch Cement Company

Pony Express Circle

Central National Bank Breidenthal Foundation New Dymax, Inc.

Charter Donors

California Road Circle

Bank of America John A. Dillingham Andrea Glenn Fund Ed Rolfs Maag Family Fund Charles Evan Hughes Fund Judy Billings Gary A. Nevius CoreFirst Bank & Trust Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie

Missouri River Steamboat Circle

Allen County Commission Bill Tempel Joan S. and Stephen J. Tempero William & Rosemary Williamson

Friends of Freedom

Southeast Kansas Tourism Region Lecompton Historical Society John & Alicia Salisbury Ross Marshall Tim & Judy Keller James and Connie Banwart Honorarium to Judge Deanell Reece Tacha Jody Craig Allen County Commission Ken and Mary Asher Eileen Robertson Franklin County Convention & Tourism Bureau St. Joseph's Church Jan English, in memory of Evelyn Zane Chapin Humboldt Historical Society Mound City Historical Society Humboldt Historic Preservation Alliance Honorarium to Debbie White Humboldt's Civil War Days Charles Jones Humboldt Chamber of Commerce Deanell and John Tacha 1910 Club of Fredonia David Dunfield & Patricia Graham Border War Network Julie Lenger Paul Bahnmaier



Becoming Involved

Now that you know more about the Heritage Area Program and about Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, there are many easy ways to become involved in the process of stewarding our landscape and nationally important stories.

Keep up-to-date on Freedom's Frontier happenings by signing up for our bi-monthly e-newsletter and other news updates. To become a member of the e-mailing list, simply send a request to info@freedomfrontier.org. By signing up for this list, you will also receive notice of upcoming meetings that you can attend and become involved our efforts. You can also become a fan of Freedom's Frontier on Facebook. Visit our website, www.freedomfrontier.org to find out more about meetings and events.

You can get involved with Freedom's Frontier by attending meetings and becoming a financial supporter. While your time and money are important to the Freedom's Frontier organization, we also need your ideas and talents. We need active partners to serve on committees and task forces. These special groups work to steward specific projects. A list and description of committees and task forces can be found on the following page. Volunteer for those that interest you by emailing info@freedomfrontier.org.

Help others learn about Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area! Share this informational packet with your friends and acquaintances interested in preserving and interpreting this unique and important story that exists in our landscape.

We encourage you to sign the Partner Pledge to become a partner in stewarding our heritage area.

Together we can create a heritage area that is responsive to our needs and ensure that our heritage will be shared with future generations.



Committees and Task Forces

Outreach Committee: The Outreach Committee is a standing committee that is responsible for identifying possible partners and educating individuals and organizations about Freedom's Frontier. This Committee will help to identify new ways in which Freedom's Frontier can reach new audiences. One of the most pressing duties of this committee will be to help define the FFNHA brand promise and to review all printed outreach materials.

Technology Committee: The Technology Committee is a standing committee that is responsible for keeping the Freedom's Frontier website and its social networking media efforts current. One of the most pressing duties of this Committee will be to create a plan for an updated and redesigned website. This Committee will also monitor and recommend new social networking media opportunities and will work to present a unified Web image for Freedom's Frontier.

Programming Committee: The Programming Committee is a standing committee that is responsible for helping to organize meetings and workshops, as well as helping to identify programs offered by other organizations. This Committee will work closely with the Civil War Sesquicentennial Special Task Force and will create and oversee an Annual Meeting task force to plan for the FFNHA annual meeting.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Special Task Force: The Civil War Sesquicentennial Special Task Force will help to organize events and activities that focus on the Civil War Sesquicentennial. This Committee will help to identify potential programming, partners in potential programming, and press opportunities.

Orientation Materials Special Task Force: The Orientation Materials Special Task Force will work to create a brochure/map that orients visitors and residents to Freedom's Frontier. This is a time-bound project that should be completed before 2011.

Survey Oversight Special Task Force: The Survey Oversight Special Task Force will plan and coordinate a survey of multiple types of resources within the Heritage Area. They will work with staff, the State Historic Preservation Offices, and other organizations to compile and vet information to aid surveyors and to monitor survey progress. This Task Force will recruit volunteer surveyors and will serve as a resource to answer questions and help guide surveyors work.



PARTNER PLEDGE

As a Partner in the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA), the undersigned dedicates himself/herself to join other partners in supporting the region's vision, mission and guiding principles. To uphold the integrity and purpose of the management plan process, the undersigned pledges to work on behalf of the common good of the region and make decisions that validate the intended vision, mission and principles of FFNHA.

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- 6 We will invest in community engagement, education and empowerment.
- 7 We will sustain and grow a sense of place.
- 8 We will value and protect the natural environment.
- 9 We will consider future generations in everything we do.

Signature

Date

Printed Name Email Address

Address: _____ **Street City**
State Zip

** This Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles are subject to change as the planning process moves forward. They will be finalized in the completed General Management Plan.*