

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

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Freedom's
Frontier

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



2009 Management Plan



Dear Residents of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area:

It is with great pride and excitement that the Board of Trustees of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area presents this management plan for approval by the National Park Service. The Board is proud to give the residents of this important heritage area a first glimpse at the remarkable opportunity it presents for this region. By designating Freedom's Frontier a national heritage area, the United States Congress has recognized that the 41 counties along the Kansas-Missouri border were the epicenter of events that led to the Civil War and the continuing struggle for freedom that has played out around the world since then. Here, where the two great trails converge, a nation moved west. Issues of slavery, land ownership, voting rights, and individual liberties manifested the differing understandings of the ideal of freedom that still resound today.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area will tell powerful stories of the pre-Civil War era in ways that educate our own people and the world. The heritage area will challenge us to continually examine and nurture our understanding of the role that this region played in forging the United States of America as we know it today – particularly emphasizing the complex attributes of freedom as seen from many vantage points. In this heritage area, the visitor will experience the turmoil that led to the Civil War – the clash of ideas, philosophies, ideologies, religious beliefs, and cultural background. Through these experiences, today's generation and generations to come will be challenged to participate in an ongoing discussion of what freedom means, and how that discussion plays out in a multi-cultural, multi-faceted society where individual viewpoints of the ideal of freedom often collide.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area will educate, entertain, inspire, and enrich us. For the region, it is a unique opportunity to build on our history and to strengthen our future. We hope that the people of this region, who are so much a product of that struggle for freedom, will join in our enthusiasm and help us realize the great potential this heritage area represents for our region, our nation, and the world.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanell Reece Tacha".

Deanell Reece Tacha
Chair, Board of Trustees
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

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Power of People section of the document.*

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