

Chapter 2

Goals & Objectives

Definition and Purpose

A plan for the entire state park system, Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework (Alaska Division of Parks, 1982), defines the differences between the various types of state park system units. The Statewide Framework defines state historic parks as, “an area containing an assemblage of significant historical, cultural, archaeological, or anthropological resources from representative eras of Alaska’s history or prehistory. The dominant management objective of a state historic park is to preserve and interpret historic resources for Alaskans and visitors to the state.”

The Statewide Framework provides general direction for developments and activities within state historic parks. The intent is to foster preservation, protection and interpretation of the cultural resource values. Development design and management needs to insure that use levels do not diminish the historical, cultural, archaeological or anthropological values for which the park was established. This is accomplished through minimal introduction of objects or plant species not in context with the historical period the park is established to represent and assuring that recreational activities are compatible with the purposes of park. Certain agricultural, mercantile or commercial activities may be included provided those activities are properly regulated, are part of the history of the park or support adaptive reuse efforts, enhance the historical scene and provide a needed service to the public.

State Park System Goals and Policies

The Statewide Framework established goals and policies to help guide the overall management of units of the state park system. The goals are summarized below and any stated policies related to the fulfillment of a particular goal relevant to Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park are listed under that goal.

1. Provide for the outdoor recreational needs of present and future generations of Alaskans and visitors to the state.
 - restore to public ownership, as units of the State Park System, lands critical for outdoor recreational use in order to maintain and enhance the public recreational land base and to alleviate the loss of traditional use areas
2. Preserve and protect areas of natural significance for the benefit of present and future generations.
 - manage all units of the park system so that the natural qualities of each unit are not diminished
3. Preserve and interpret Alaska’s cultural heritage.
 - investigate, stabilize, rehabilitate, restore, adaptively reuse, and/or preserve significant structures, sites or artifacts contained in units of the park system

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- provide interpretive and visitor orientation programs and facilities at state historic parks and sites and at other units, as appropriate, to provide for an understanding and appreciation of historic and cultural resources
- 4. Protect and manage areas of significant scientific or educational value.
 - incorporate scientific and educational values of park units into interpretive programs to assist the public in developing appreciation and understanding of the values for which the units were established
- 5. Provide support to the state's tourism industry.
 - support the state's tourism industry through the management of natural and cultural resource attractions, the protection of scenic areas and the provision of year-round outdoor recreational opportunities in units of the State Park System

Park Mission Statement

Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park shall be managed and developed to insure that:

- The historical, cultural, archeological or anthropological values for which the park was established are not diminished.
- The natural and scenic resources of the park are protected and maintained for long-term use and enjoyment.
- The safety and welfare of park users are maintained.
- The park promotes its resources through education and interpretation and supports local recreation and tourism.
- The park affords a variety of opportunities for visitors of varying abilities without compromising the overall purpose of the park.

Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park Goals

Following are specific goals for Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park established by this plan and in keeping with the Statewide Framework.

1. Preserve, stabilize, interpret and ultimately restore the unique historical resources of the park.
2. Provide high-quality recreational opportunities and facilities for the enjoyment of both the historical and natural resources of the park.
3. Acquire additional land to expand recreational opportunities and facilities in areas that will not adversely impact the historical resources of the park.
4. Define appropriate park uses and development, and maintain a plan for long term management of the parks resources.
5. Rehabilitate, repair or enhance park resources in a manner and order that is consistent with the park's mission, but also in an equitable fashion that will benefit diverse types of park uses.
6. Foster community health by promoting outdoor exercise through the wise development and maintenance of trails and facilities that link the community with the park.
7. Acquire funding and staffing necessary to implement the recommendations contained in this plan.