

# The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

**Greater Cincinnati Grotto**

**Blue Grass Grotto**

**Dayton Underground Grotto**

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## Strategic Plan for Great SaltPetre Preserve

### Mission

To provide, protect, and preserve a place where people can experience the value of caves and enjoy their discovery, exploration and history as well as their relationship to the environment. Great SaltPetre Preserve offers opportunities for fun, education and participation to youth and adults.

### Objectives

1. Improve relationships with our neighbors for mutual benefit and help.
2. Provide a safe, comfortable place for rustic & primitive camping with opportunities to experience the solitude of nature.
3. Continue discovery of the Great SaltPetre Cave and its scientific, exploration, and educational aspects.
4. Preserve the natural resource for future discovery and enjoyment.
5. Be known as a model preserve, an example worth emulating.

### Obstacles

1. Insufficient volunteers and motivation & rewards for service.
2. Occasional negative perception by neighbors or community.
3. Driving distance for many volunteers.

### Plans:

1. Recruit more volunteers
  - a. New Members: Take a new member caving, THEN introduce them to GSP.
  - b. Current Members: Promote new discoveries in Great SaltPetre Cave.
  - c. Canvas the members and create a database of skills, talents, and expertise.
2. Explain draft plan to all stakeholders.
  - a. Grottos: Turn the Strategic Plan into a program for the Grottos.
3. Convert Suspicion to Support (Become Better Neighbors)
  - a. Establish a Committee to further neighbor relations.
  - b. Compile an up-to-date history of the Preserve.
  - c. Write quarterly articles for Mt. Vernon Signal.
  - d. Continue Open House.
  - e. Pig Roast or something for neighbors.

4. Public Relations Program – focusing on:
  - a. neighbors
  - b. local area
  - c. all others
  - d. future partners
  - e. Prepare a new map of the cave including a wider range of information.
5. Encourage Discoveries & Scientific Studies
  - a. Allow digging in certain designated areas.
  - b. Encourage documentation.
  - c. Offer fellowships which include requirement for copies of all documentation.
6. Facilities and Infrastructure (list of projects)
  - a. Update Management Plan
  - b. Provide adequate sanitary facilities
  - c. Educational Center
  - d. New Sign at Entrance
7. Development (Fundraising) - future resources
  - a. Develop new brochure for potential funding sources.
  - b. In all grant applications or other requests express the needs in project terms.

**Advantages of adopting this Strategic Plan:**

1. Improved communication
2. Focus effort & resources on issues of priority
3. Stimulate volunteers
4. Method to verify and document consistency of stewardship
5. Establishes boundaries (limitations on activities)
6. Good for adaptation elsewhere
7. May attract funding for projects
8. Plans for growth
9. Pro-education

**Disadvantages:**

1. Increased usage & management challenges.

**Action Steps:**

1. Recruit Volunteers to Manage these (and similar) Plans.

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The Strategic Planning Committee included: Bob Dobbs, Werner Jud, Neena Jud, Mike McNabb, Howard Kalnitz, Gary Bush, Mary Gratsch, Bill Simpson, Tim Hale, Chris Hacker, Pat Hutson, and Shawn Pollock.

The Process was facilitated by Roger Brucker.

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