



OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2028

Executive Summary

After 25 years of partnership with the State of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on Ossabaw Island, **The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF)** has embarked on an expanded role with the inclusion of the Torrey West Estate in the Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve.

TOIF's vision for the future is:

- Increased island use, balanced with protection of resources
- Expansion and diversification of programming with continued focus on partner-led programs
- Expansion of university-level island use and Ossabaw-related research through the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance
- Renovations to the Torrey West Estate buildings and the Williams Tabby Cabin.



Photograph by Fran Lapolla



FIVE-YEAR OBJECTIVES

The Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF) Strategic Plan charts a course for the next five years, and establishes a two-year action plan for August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2025. The plan was developed by TOIF's Strategic Plan Task Force, with input from the Board of Trustees and staff. It was adopted by the Board on November 9, 2023.

Ossabaw Island Community

TOIF will continue to nurture a vibrant Ossabaw Island community consisting of repeat island users, new users, and partners who provide enthusiasm, advocacy, programming and financial support to TOIF.

Ossabaw Island Use

Island use will be 3,000 - 3,500 visits per year, including 300 from the University System of Georgia (USG).

Programming and Island Interpretation

On-island programming will continue to be led by partners. TOIF will create and lead an average of one program per month. Program content will be expanded to include newly restored historic structures and their histories.

Research and Education

Undergraduate/graduate research and K-12 education related to Ossabaw Island will be facilitated, encouraged and tracked through the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance.

Buildings and Equipment

All TOIF-managed buildings and equipment will be in good or excellent condition.

Finances and Operations

TOIF will continue its transparent and effective fiscal and operations management that meets present needs while preparing for the future, including increasing endowment funds.

Governance

TOIF will continue to be a welcoming organization with an engaged and informed Board of Trustees and staff who work in partnership with new and returning island users, funders, DNR, the USG, other State of Georgia agencies, and the general public.

Ossabaw Island is a 26,000-acre barrier island owned by the State of Georgia. The state's first Heritage Preserve is undeveloped and set aside by an Executive Order for natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education; and for environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the island's ecosystem.

OSSABAW ISLAND FOUNDATION

Our Vision

To reveal the voices and mystery of Ossabaw Island.

Our Mission

The non-profit Ossabaw Island Foundation (TOIF), through a partnership with the State of Georgia, inspires, promotes, and manages educational, cultural, and scientific programs and facilities designed to maximize the experience of Ossabaw Island, while minimizing the impact on the island's resources.

Our Values

- **Stewardship of Ossabaw Island** and its resources while facilitating island access where humans lightly tread, through adhering to the Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve, the terms of the sale of the island, and the Use Agreement requirements.
- **Excellence** in education and scholarship through the integration of disciplines.
- **Passion and Respect** for Ossabaw Island's unique role of restoring people's sense of place within the world.
- **Integrity** in thought, word and action demonstrated through open communications and transparent operations.

The Ossabaw Island Education Alliance

An educational partnership between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and TOIF, bringing colleges and universities to study and learn from the rich heritage found on Ossabaw Island.

VISIT OSSABAW:



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