

SUPPORT THE BARBADOS NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Friends of Graeme Hall Committee has formally announced its support for the Barbados National Strategic Plan, and recognizes that the Graeme Hall National Park initiative meets the objectives of Goal Four of the National Strategic Plan, titled “These Fields and Hills: Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment.”

The Committee also agrees with the Prime Minister and Minister Mottley that the National Strategic Plan will help shape the future for the people of Barbados, and that the Graeme Hall National Park proposal preserves land concept fully integrates and enhances the objectives within the Strategic Plan and 1998 National Physical Development Plan.

Under the guidelines of the National Strategic Plan, the proposed Graeme Hall National Park design includes the critical wetland habitat within the 33 hectare Graeme Hall RAMSAR site, plus its upland agricultural (buffer) lands.

Within the proposed multi-use Park, but outside of the RAMSAR designated area, would be low-impact activities including bicycle and walking/running trails, exercise stations, an archery range, bird observation trails and observation tower, picnic areas, and expanded environmental and agricultural education programmes.

The proposed National Park would include civil engineering solutions to address South Coast Sewage issues and help manage stormwater flooding, perhaps including a series of “detention and retention” berms and ponds that would help reduce stormwater runoff onto Worthing Beach.

The Committee commends those in government who are keenly aware of the benefits that a National Park at Graeme Hall could provide.

Already, the Ministry of Energy and Environment has compiled a sophisticated information base associated with their Environmental Stewardship Programme for the Graeme Hall Watershed. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is actively pursuing agricultural and forestry programmes that deserve further support at Graeme Hall. In addition, representatives from both the Ministries of Environment and Public Works have already investigated stormwater retention technologies used by the South Florida Water Management District to reduce offshore discharges.

Show your support by calling or writing your elected representatives!