

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Antietam National Battlefield

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: ANTI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The staff of Antietam National Battlefields vision for the National Park Centennial consists of five separate but inter-connected areas of stewardship. We will strive to maintain the highest level and standards of Resource Stewardship and Protection for the Cultural and Natural resources that make up the National Battlefield.

In conjunction with these actions we will re-energize our process to restore the historic landscape to its appearance on September 16, 1862 as described in our enabling legislation and General Management Plan.

Our goal is to preserve, protect and restore the Battlefield to serve as an open air classroom. We will provide a safe environment where visitors have the opportunity to learn, reflect and appreciate the sacrifice made here. We will strive to make available to Battlefield Visitors opportunities to fully experience the battlefield through the use of a effective and low impact trail system that makes them one with the resource and its history.

We will strive to enhance visitor understanding, appreciation and experience by providing multiple types and levels of educational and interpretive programming using the newest technologies available but never losing the human contact between Park Service staff and our visitors. One of the opportunities we would pursue is the Crossroads of War Web Site, this joint project will allow the public to view multiple stories and place the Civil War History of the Mid Atlantic into context. We will continue to move our educational programs to the highest standards, to search for audiences and to provide opportunities for every generation to connect with the resource. We will pursue and develop cooperative relationships with Federal, State and private sector groups to enhance the protection, interpretation and opportunities found in this area and geographical region. We will strive to create and maintain partnerships with Tourism Agencies at all levels who support Heritage Tourism and its economic advantages. We will provide a safe and secure environment for employees who work at this special place. We will strive to become better public servants and to insure that we use any funds provided, whether public or private, in a cost efficient and effective manner to further the stewardship of Antietam.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

J.W. Howard, Superintendent-Antietam National Battlefield

Site: ANTI

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete and maintain a 9 mile low impact, safe trail system that will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the terrain, natural surroundings and history. Ensure that interpretive facilities are designed or retrofit to provide access and inclusion to all visitors.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Through the combined efforts of Battlefield staff, Regional Specialists and Volunteer Groups continue efforts to mitigate and control exotic vegetation species on the 50 acres of Battlefield Landscape. Continue and enhance existing partnerships with Federal, State and Private sector groups to manage and mitigate exotic vegetation species in the Region.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Through use of Federal or Private funding provide rehabilitation and repair to one historic barn on the National Battlefield.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Complete the Environmental Assessment for Chronic Wasting Disease Detection and Response in White Tail Deer on Antietam National Battlefield.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Complete a historic structures report on one historic barn on the Battlefield.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish a viable resource preservation curriculum at the Middle School level and make such programming available through the Education Center for on and off site presentations.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Increase the use of Solar Energy, by adding 1 additional Solar Outdoor light in Visitor Center parking area, initiate research as to retrofitting Resource Management Offices and Shops to Solar Energy. Continue development of riparian buffer zones to protect streams and springs throughout the Battlefield, continue reforestation of 360 acres of hardwood trees in conjunction with landscape restoration.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Replace one vehicle in park fleet with hybrid technology.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Increase use of Solar Lighting for outdoor lighting opportunities. Increase the use of alternative energy technology and electric vehicles by replacing one vehicle with hybrid technology.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through existing partnerships with Federal, State Agencies and Private Sector Groups encourage the development and placement of riparian buffers on area streams and rivers.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Complete design and construction of the 1.6 mile Bloody Lane Trail.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Coordinate interpretive and recreation activities with Maryland State Park Service at Greenbrier State Park and South Mountain State Battlefield. Develop a Ranger Exchange program that would encourage National and State Park Personnel to provide interpretive and education services at state and Federal locations.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

RECREATION

- Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.
- Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Increase Volunteer Hours by 2% in one year, increasing the use of adult hostel programs involved with restoration and rehabilitation of cultural resources and historic landscapes that is already successfully underway in partnership with Shepherd Spring Elderhostel Program.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

EDUCATION

- Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Resource Education and Visitor Service staff will place Teacher Curriculum Guides on the Antietam Web Site. Staff will also support and contribute to the Crossroads of Civil War Multi-Park Web Site to provide accurate information on the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

EDUCATION

- Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.
- Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Continue updating and revision of the Antietam National Battlefield web site to reflect new materials. Fully support and contribute to the Crossroads of Civil War Joint Web Site to provide accurate information on the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Increase Junior Ranger program enrollees by 3% in one year, by working with the Western Maryland Interpretive Association, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and South Mountain State Battlefield to coordinate and better advertise the Junior Ranger Program.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Through the use of technology based learning, park staff and volunteers increase the number of Interpretive and Education programs offered. Initiate Podcasts for Cornfield Trail and one other trail.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide full support for the creation of the Crossroads of Civil War Joint Web Site.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Continue involvement of Staff in Risk Management Actions. Complete 4 new job hazard evaluations for daily operations and visitor activities.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANTI

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establish a partnership with Maryland State Park Service to provide shared interpretive services at South Mountain State Battlefield. Continue partnerships with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Save Historic Antietam Foundation, The Rural Heritage Museum and Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS