

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Cape Cod National Seashore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CACO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Cape Cod is a special place that reflects the power of nature and the resilience of the human spirit - a place to enjoy the beauties of land, sea, and sky, to marvel at the power of a storm-driven ocean, and to reenergize the human spirit. Cape Cod National Seashore was set aside in 1961 to help preserve the special qualities that give this slender peninsula in the Atlantic Ocean its unique place in the American psyche. To meet its charge to conserve this special place, the National Park Service will seek to forge a collaborative future for the stewardship of Cape Cod. Our centennial vision is to keep building on successes with several emerging partnership initiatives with scores of public and private sector partners, accomplishing three projects that contribute to: 1) cultural resource preservation of a key element of the park's coastal maritime history, 2) sustainable building and infrastructure reuse projects to promote a civic engagement at a multi-tenant non-profit center, and 3) restoration of an 1100-acre estuary - the largest estuarine restoration project ever undertaken in the Gulf of Maine.

When we have all achieved what we set out to do, sound stewardship practices will be routine, awareness of environmental sensitivities will be heightened, resources will be protected from threats, the visiting public will have the best possible experience in the national seashore, and the lives of Cape Cod residents will be enriched. The conservation of this unique place will be appropriately balanced with the activities of the people who care about it. The reward of a successful partnership will be the ability to enjoy a treasured heritage and to pass it on to future generations.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

George E. Price, Jr., Superintendent

Site: CACO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

One project funds interior and exterior rehabilitation of the 1898 Old Harbor Life-saving Station, to be followed by the installation of interior furnishings funded by the non-profit Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Once rehabilitated, the condition of this LCS structure would move from fair to good. Originally, there were 13 life-saving stations on Cape Cod. Today there are only three. Only Old Harbor remains as an intact example of a turn-of-the-century life-saving station on Cape Cod. It currently serves as a museum that introduces visitors to this dramatic period of maritime history.

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

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

The 1100 acre Herring River estuary has been seriously compromised by diking and drainage since 1909. These impacts have resulted in invasion by exotic plants, periodic fish kills, displacement of native species, and impediments to native species dispersal. Restoration of tidal hydrology and vegetation management will restore native salt marsh, remove barriers to native species dispersal, and restore habitat conditions that will favor native species.

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

Rehabilitating the interior and exterior of this historic life-saving station and install interpretive furnishings. The rehabilitation of this 1898 station will seal the building from the elements, halt deterioration, and restore the station's historic appearance inside and out, while the installation of period furnishings will enhance the interpretive effectiveness of this museum that is the only surviving intact life-saving station on Cape Cod.

The Highlands Center project includes central goals of heritage preservation and civic engagement by enabling private sector investment in the Highlands Center. CACO is working with the community and private-sector partners to reuse the former USAF buildings on a 110-acre site. Between now and 2012, the NPS, HCI and three current lessee 'program partners' plan to invest almost \$9 million in the Center for infrastructure improvements. NPS efforts will focus on rehab of infrastructure and greening the parks measures.

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Site: CACO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Extensive natural resource monitoring is integral to the Herring River Restoration Project. Ongoing monitoring is critical to numerous modeling and research projects necessary to support restoration design and alternatives analysis. Following construction, monitoring will be an essential part of the adaptive management approach to managing the incremental return of tidal hydrology. The majority of monitoring projects at the Herring River have been identified as "Essential Core" or "Full Long-Term Ecosystem Monitoring" in the CACO prototype I&M program's Project Prioritization, and have also been selected as Vital Signs by the Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network.

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STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Once the Old Harbor Life-saving Station building is rehabilitated, Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore will undertake a fundraising campaign to furnish it, thereby increasing the interpretive effectiveness of the building, and enhancing the visitor experience and contributing to visitor satisfaction and understanding. This will contribute to improved understanding of maritime history and the heroics of the lifesavers.

At the Highlands Center a key element of the reuse would be to offer new uses at a Cold War site, providing many opportunities to tell the stories of the military radar station activities in the 1950s and 1960s.

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Site: CACO

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

CACO is the home of the Atlantic Research Center (ARC) - one of the Research Learning Centers supported by the Natural Resource Challenge. Each year, numerous scientists come to CACO to conduct research through the ARC. Many of these research projects are associated with park research, monitoring, and management projects. Additionally, many visiting researchers collaborate with park scientists and use data collected in furtherance of park goals. As the largest, and perhaps most ecologically complex, estuarine restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine, the Herring River Restoration Project has attracted and involved numerous visiting researchers. We expect interest from the research community to increase as this project progresses.

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Site: CACO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

The Herring River Restoration Project is of high interest to citizens, non-governmental organizations, Towns, and State and Federal agencies. So far, over 17 private, NGO, local government, state, and federal partners have been involved in the planning, implementation, and funding of this project. The high visibility, diverse partner involvement, and extensive citizen interest and involvement will make this project a focal point for demonstrating estuarine conservation and restoration practices.

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

"Imagine a dramatic hilltop campus situated on a high bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean - a place where the environment is protected and studied, where the arts are nurtured, taught, and displayed, where people are exploring new concepts in the environment, earth science, or collaborations with artists, and where people are offered a variety of programs... This image is the vision for Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore." (HCI)

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Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

The partner efforts include capital projects for model green building rehabilitation to bring their public programs to the site; NPS contributions would fund additional infrastructure improvements and demolition of approximately twelve buildings to improve the site environment. LEED standards will be a key element of each individual project within the collective bundle of partnership infrastructure and building rehab projects.

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Site: CACO

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

This goal is embodied by all three Centennial Challenge projects. The Herring River restoration includes over seventeen state, local, citizen and NGO partners. The Highlands Center now has a Management Partner and five Program Partner organizations, and Old Harbor rehab is being accomplished with the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore.

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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.

Though still in the planning stages, the Herring River Restoration Project has already involved countless hours of volunteer time - from the citizens serving on the Herring River Technical Committee which has completed a feasibility analysis and is developing a conceptual restoration plan, to the citizens that have helped collect monitoring data, develop community outreach materials, and participate in pre-construction vegetation management projects. As on-the-ground restoration and post-construction monitoring activities increase, so will the opportunity and need for volunteer participation.

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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.

Each of the three CACO Centennial Challenge projects will report to this goal as they will stimulate understanding and appreciation for the varied resources and challenges faced in this fragile coastal environment.

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PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Multiple stakeholders are being involved in every level of planning and execution of the projects, promoting direct individual and collective connection to the significant resources of the seashore.

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Site: CACO

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Key elements of all three CACO projects are major marketing initiatives for fundraising efforts with high quality professional graphic and written expressions in multi-media. Public understanding by a much broader range of visitors and residents will be a thrust of the philanthropic marketing efforts.

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