

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Richmond National Battlefield Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: RICH

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

In 2016, Richmond National Battlefield Park is a place where all aspects of the Civil War can be studied and appreciated and where most of the high-priority properties within the park's boundary have been preserved in perpetuity. Military, civilian, industrial, social, political, free, slave, and pre- and post-war events all have tangible, resource-based stories that can be accessed through the park's state-of-the-art media and curriculum based education programs. Thematic connections with other NPS sites will be clear to the visitor. The battlefield landscapes will have been freed of post-1900 changes as much as possible and visitors will be able to reach previously inaccessible parts of the battlefields. The Totopotomoy Battlefield will be open to visitors with a trail system available and interpreted with wayside exhibits and with the Rural Plains house and curtilage in good condition. Drewry's Bluff is stabilized and will have a water connection with other James River historical attractions. People from all walks of life can come and understand and appreciate the relevance of what took place during the Civil War in the 1860s in the Richmond, Virginia, and surrounding area. The experience will be one the visitor can directly participate in via walks and programs on-site, or using the latest technology with pod casting and other computer savy tools either on-site or from a distance. We will be a partner with local and national communities where we work closely together in accomplishing goals important to the protection and preservation and understanding of cultural and natural resources.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Cynthia MacLeod

Site: RICH

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)

The park and staff will maintain or reduce the 5 year average of safety-related incidents and lost-time injury cases.
Providing access to the James River from Drewry's Bluff can add new inspirational, interpretive and recreational dimensions to the visitor's experience and can allow a river link with other historical attractions on the River.

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

Site: RICH

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.

The Rural Plains house and curtilage will be restored to good condition. Earthworks will be in good condition, with most trees larger than 5-inch diameter removed.

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.

Exotic invasive plants and trees will be eradicated from key areas of the park.

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.

The Rural Plains house and curtilage will be in good condition.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Totopotomoy Creek battlefield will have a cultural lanscape inventory and management plan.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Totopotomoy Battlefield will be open to visitors with a trail system available and interpreted with wayside exhibits and with the Rural Plains house and curtilage in good condition.

The Tredegar visitor center will be refurbished with up-to-date effective exhibits, films, and interactive stations.

Site: RICH

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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Site: RICH

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)

Land within the park's legislated boundary is acquired at Glendale Battlefield.
Land within the park's legislated boundary is acquired at New Market Heights Battlefield - the 1864 battle for which 14 members of the United States Colored Troops won the Medal of Honor.

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

Site: RICH

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)

- Monitor and ensure the effectiveness of invasive exotic plant and nuisance animal (beaver, groundhogs) removal efforts .
- Monitor and ensure the viability of the re-introduced native grasses and plants into rehabilitated areas.
- Monitor, and mitigate ill effects if necessary, changes in the park's wetlands.
- Monitor creek and river water quality in the park and find ways to mitigate ill effects.
- Through applied science and legal expertise, mitigate ill effects of hazardous leachate at Drewry's Bluff.

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

Site: RICH

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

By example, we will encourage children to be conservationists in terms of recycling programs, building design and use. and Civil War era stories about how people coped before electricity, automobiles, and shopping malls.

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

Site: RICH

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

To the extent possible, use proven new technologies and processes to reduce negative environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Site: RICH

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

Explore a geo-thermal heating and cooling system at Rural Plains.
Upgrade HVAC units to the most efficient models.
Expand the use of solar technology for audio programs at wayside exhibits.

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

Site: RICH

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.

Work with partners and NPS staff in establishing and maintaining 10 miles of trails in all park units.

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

Site: RICH

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 park volunteer hours by 10%

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

Site: RICH

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Re-institute EARTH (Environmental Activities Related to History) and ensure participation by local Boys and Girls Associations. Conduct evaluation to ensure effectiveness.

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

Site: RICH

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Work with local and state-wide tourism agencies and the American Civil War Center to increase awareness of park resources and opportunities and increase visitation by 10% at Richmond.

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

Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Increase by 10% the number of school children attending the curriculum-based 2 hour program; increase by 10% the number of visitors attending special programs

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

Site: RICH

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase the number of classroom teachers and their students participating in the 2-hour curriculum based programs.
Use appropriate evaluation tools and methods to evaluate and improve education programs.

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

Site: RICH

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.

Continuously improve and add podcast programs that can be downloaded from our partner's site and find a way to have the NPS website host the programs also.

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

Site: RICH

EDUCATION

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

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

Enroll an additional 100 children each year in the Junior Ranger program.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will be involved in at least 3 Elder Hostels each year.

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

Site: RICH

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.

95% of visitors are satisfied with their visit
85% of visitors understand the significance of the park.

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

Site: RICH

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

Recruit, develop and retain a diverse workforce that represents the demographics of Virginia.

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

Site: RICH

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

Offer proven training and solid mentorship to provide park managers and supervisors skills to apply best business practices and ethical leadership.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Use appropriate evaluation tools and methods to evaluate and improve all activities and programs.

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

Site: RICH

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.

Promote a safe working environment by conducting safety training (HAZCOMM, EAP, HEP-B, First Aid/CPR/AED) to all park employees. Conduct monthly safety meetings. Conduct yearly safety inspections. Employee lost time injuries are maintained at or below previous 5-year average.

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

Site: RICH

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Demonstrate excellence in mutually supportive partnership projects with Eastern National (bookstore operator), Henrico County (at Runnymede and New Market Heights), with Chesterfield County (on a Bermuda Hundred tour), with the VA at Glendale Cemetery, with Richmond (Civil War walking and driving tours), with school administrators, with other museum directors in Richmond, with tourism agencies, and with other parks in the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration.

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

Site: RICH

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.

Inspire public trust by managing park assets, people, and resources according to NPS and industry standards and by no ethical breaches.

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