

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WICR

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Collaborative relationships and community partnerships are critical in achieving Wilson's Creek NB mission. In particular, Wilson's Creek NB Foundation plays a vital role in the park's development. Without its support, the battlefield would not be the park it is today. In the future, other collaborative efforts will enable the park to: protect the park from urban encroachment; create educational programs for children and Civil War enthusiasts alike; ensure that crucial project funding is secured; improve visitor safety and enjoyment, especially in the newly acquired Sweeney Museum; prevent deterioration of historic structures; and restore the battlefield to resemble the cultural landscape of the 1860's.

The Centennial Challenge that is facing the National Park Service is to conserve what is timeless while keeping pace with the modern needs of Americans. The National Park Service and the staff at Wilson's Creek must be committed to work in partnership to preserve parks, while re-connecting adults and young people to the outdoors, history and culture. Furthermore, the challenges for the National Park Service and Wilson's Creek NB as a public agency is to "provide understanding" of the significance of the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the lasting impact of the Civil War era upon the development of our nation. The battlefield must put the Battle of Wilson's Creek into the context of the political, social, and economic environment of the mid-nineteenth century United States. In short, we must present the story of Wilson's Creek within the larger story of the causes and consequences of the Civil War.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

T. John Hillmer, Jr.

Site: WICR

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)

Replace the current visitor center film (dated 1982) with a new film that will be seen by over 200,000 visitors on an annual basis. The park must put the Battle of Wilson's Creek into the context of the political, social, and economic environment of the mid-nineteenth century United States. The new film will be produced on site at the battlefield using the park's structures and local individuals. Two films will be developed: a. the 25 minute introductory film for all visitors and b. the 50 minute film that will be sold to the general public. The film will replace the print and capture at the bottom with a HD film with action. The film will meet NPS standards, be historically accurate, educational, and entertaining for adults and young people.

In addition, the theatre will be rehabilitated with a new state of the art sound system, energy efficient lighting, new sound board, new seating, and circulation pattern changed to coordinate with the new addition that will be constructed in the future.

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