

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Vicksburg National Military Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: VICK

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Vicksburg National Military Park invites the world to remember, understand, and respect the events that helped shape this country's fundamental values of freedom for all people, hierarchical governance, and national unity and to honor those that fell for these noble causes. Vicksburg National Military Park preserves the crossroads of river, rail, and highway combined with imposing defenses that produced one of the most complex and protracted engagements of the Civil War involving joint operations between the army and navy, tactics of diversion, siege, and defense, and a strategic objective: control the Mississippi River. Vicksburg's society was transformed by war, enduring changes that ranged from deprivation and destruction of a prosperous community to liberation of formerly enslaved people. Vicksburg National Military Park, with its cultural and natural resources, today plays a vital role in our nation's heritage and provides a place of peace, reflection, enjoyment, and community engagement.

The Centennial Vision for the park is to draw on the entire community and beyond to help visitors understand the extent and magnitude of events that occurred here and to preserve the resources that convey that understanding. With community support, the park will be better able to fully rehabilitate and operate Pemberton's Headquarters; implement its landscape treatment plan; enlist private support for maintaining the monuments, markers, tablets and statuary; rehabilitate the Shirley House; initiate the Vicksburg Campaign Trail; and observe the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. With the community, the park will work to make available habitat and outdoor recreation beyond its boundaries in order to provide a complete experience and understanding of the area's environment that contributed to the military activity and to relieve pressure to provide these functions within its boundaries.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Monika Mayr

Site: VICK

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.

Fully rehabilitate the Shirley House and open it for visitor use:

- PMIS #37425, Rehabilitate Shirley House
- PMIS #28511, Install Fire Supression System

Fully rehabilitate and operate Pemberton's Headquarters:

- PMIS #82538, Long-term Use and Treatment Plan
- PMIS #82729, Develop Interpretive Media
- PMIS #124013, Complete Historic Furnishings Report
- PMIS #82534, Complete Cultural Landscape Report (PMIS needed), Rehabilitate Pemberton's Headquarters and Landscape
- OFS # 11279B, Operate Pemberton's Headquarters

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.

Control 24 acres of kuzdu.

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.

Replace deteriorated wayside exhibits parkwide.

PMIS # 40881

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 inventories and monitor park vital signs.

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

Site: VICK

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Foster community participation in resource stewardship and visitor understanding by developing a Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign and increasing the number and scope of volunteers and related programs. Deliver high quality and relevant education programs.

OFS #241295A, Build Educational Partnerships and Volunteer Base through Effective Community Liaison.

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

Site: VICK

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)

Initiate the Vicksburg Campaign Trail (legislation is pending).

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

Site: VICK

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Continue implementing the park's Environmental Management System

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

Site: VICK

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Foster community participation in resource stewardship through volunteer programs and Friends group activities.

OFS# 24195A, Build Educational Partnerships and Volunteer Base through Community Liaison

Inspire public trust by properly managing park assets, resources, and programs.

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

Site: VICK

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.

Continue work on the Mississippi River Trail

PMIS #137497

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Initiate the Mississippi River Field Institute

PMIS #128737

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

Site: VICK

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

OFS #241295A, Build Educational Partnerships and Volunteer Base through Effective Community Liaison.

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

Site: VICK

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Engage diverse individuals and communities through programs, publications, and educational materials.

OFS# 5327A, Sustain Interpretive Programs with Seasonal and Volunteer Positions

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

Site: VICK

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Initiate the Vicksburg Campaign Trail, the federal, state, and local managing agreement to protect and interpret sites associated with the Vicksburg Campaign. Legislation is pending.

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

Site: VICK

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.

OFS #24195A, Build educational partnerships and volunteer base through Community Liaison.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign.

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