

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Colonial National Historical Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: COLO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

It is the mission of Colonial National Historical Park to preserve the cultural, scenic and natural resources of Jamestown, Yorktown, Green Spring, Cape Henry and related areas, to interpret the colonial era from 1607 to 1781, and to maintain the Colonial Parkway and its surrounding resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. This mission statement grows from the park's legislative mandate found in Public Law 510, enacted by Congress on July 3, 1930 and supplemented by Public Law 666, enacted on June 5, 1936.

Colonial NHP is located adjacent to a rapidly developing suburban/urban area. Potential impacts from such development include visual intrusions on the historic scene, boundary encroachments from adjoining development, environmental impacts such as increased storm water runoff into the park, and increased recreational pressures, such as unauthorized mountain bike use on historic earthworks or unauthorized swimming and boat launching at beach areas along the Colonial Parkway.

It is the desire of park management to effectively balance the preservation of resources and the historical interpretation of the park while addressing the concerns of increasing visitation and recreational use. Through education and interpretation, we hope to inspire our visitors to be stewards of the historical riches this park is empowered to protect.

As we face the Centennial Challenge of 2016, we are also challenged with attrition of experienced staff and budget erosion. We will engage our volunteers and our partners, APVA Preservation Virginia and Eastern National, to work with us to renew our educational programs and connect our visitors with the site's significant history, from the experiences of the first settlers at Jamestown to the soldiers on the battlefields of Yorktown. We will strive to stay abreast of technological change to connect our youth through interactive computer media and electronic handheld devices.

We will be more aggressive in educating our visitors on how to protect the park's natural and cultural resources while experiencing the quiet serenity of the Colonial Parkway, the reverence of the historic battlefields, and activities of the bald eagles and other wildlife in the park. We will promote "Leave No Trace" programs and trash free parks, strive to provide visitors with a safe and secure visit, and encourage visiting youth to be future conservationists. It is, after all, our youth that will inherit these riches we preserve.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

P. Daniel Smith/Becky Eggleston

Site: COLO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Maintenance staff will provide needed repairs and upkeep to historic structures, increasing the number of historic structures in good condition from 52% of 149 to 55%.

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.

The Park has identified its 18 vital signs and will work with the Northeast Region Coastal and Barrier Network to implement monitoring of these vital signs.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

By September 2008, the entire list of classified structures will have complete and reliable information.

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

Site: COLO

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through Junior Ranger Programs and scouting projects, we will educate our youth on the importance of preserving our nation's heritage and protecting the natural resources of our National Parks.

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Site: COLO

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Colonial NHP staff will encourage visitors to use alternative parking locations and shuttle services to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic and emissions on Historic Jamestowne Island. Natural gas Shuttle buses provide alternative transportation for visitors to Historic Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown.

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Site: COLO

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.

Colonial NHP will have funding in 2008 to hire a Volunteers in Parks Coordinator. The coordinator will be dedicated to managing the volunteer program and recruiting new volunteers from within the community.

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

Site: COLO

EDUCATION

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

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

Together, Park and Eastern National staff will encourage children to enroll in the Junior Ranger programs available at Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield.

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

Site: COLO

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.

With the assistance of our partner, APVA Preservation Virginia, and the cumulative efforts of the entire staff, Colonial NHP will strive to maintain or increase the current rate of visitor satisfaction of 96%.

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

Site: COLO

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.

Supervisors will counsel employees before and after injuries about safe practices and provide special training when necessary. Employees will be provided with safety equipment for hazardous duty tasks, and refreshed on safe practices with tailgate safety sessions. All staff will be observant and provide needed assistance and guidance to keep our visitors informed of all safety concerns.

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