

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** PEVI

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Our Centennial Vision is to see Perry's Victory Monument repaired, restored and ready to weather the next century of Lake Erie winters. In 2015, the monument column will be 100 years old, and more than ever it remains an inspiring testimony to a very decisive battle fought on September 10, 1813. Our War of 1812 story offers glimpses to the human side of battle and celebrates the lasting peace that we share with Canada, as our enabling legislation bids us "to inculcate the lessons of international peace by arbitration and disarmament, and for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

No less an icon than any monument in our Nation's Capitol, those lessons of peace are most eloquently communicated through a well-kept memorial. The pride of a country is also reflected here, not in a ruined or scaled-back version of a once grand column, but in the sustaining strength and modest formality of Perry's Victory Monument. Since 1936, our visitors have been able to look out onto a distant navel battlefield where the ultimate price for peace was paid by some and heroism marked the day. In our vision, future visitors will continue the same National Park Service quality experience and by association may better appreciate how this story also belongs to them as Americans.

Perry's Victory has a community of supporters throughout the Ohio-Michigan area and an active partner in the Perry Friends Group. The Eastern National Association has also had a long-standing affiliation with the Memorial.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Andrew J. Ferguson

Site: PEVI

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)

Provide a safe visitor experience.  
Investigate, assess, and restore Perry's Victory Monument to its former prominence with repair measures that offer sustainable preservation.  
Modify access to the Upper Plaza with a mechanical lift to accommodate mobility impaired visitors. Also develop ADA approved access to the Administration Building.

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

Site: PEVI

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.

Continuously draw attention to and promote the complete repair of Perry's Victory Memorial as the icon that it is. Initially supported by the Congress in 1911, with a construction appropriation of \$250,000, there were 9 states that came together in the construction of the Monument. They were: Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky and Massachusetts. Each one of these states is a potential partner in future restorative work.

Also a high priority, is the restoration of deteriorating seawalls that protect the Monument and Memorial grounds. Constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers, a partnership with that agency may be part of the preservation solution.

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 investigation, assessment and restoration of Perry's Victory Monument is one of the highest priority projects in the MWR. The park is working cooperatively with MWR, DSC and WASO to assure that sufficient and appropriate information is collected to share with partners and the congressional delegation as requested. Meanwhile temporary and more permanent repairs are being affected. The goal is to have the best information available as needed for funding calls and fund raising/matching opportunities.

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Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Seek to improve the condition of the Cultural Landscape on inventory from fair to good condition. This may be accomplished with local private support and assistance.

Work cooperatively with the Lake Erie Historical Society in the development of shared curatorial storage, designed to meet NPS standards. This would have the advantages of lower care-taking costs, local access and a range of sites on South Bass Island. Until NPS curatorial storage is so upgraded, little more progress can be made in advancing beyond the current 109 (of 230) applicable preservation and protection standards being met.

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Site: PEVI

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Set the standard of excellence in urban park landscape design and maintenance.**

**Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

Following the extensive restoration of the Monument, our goal is to focus on the sustainability of the structure. Included in the current work is the provision of a long-term maintenance prescription.

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Site: PEVI

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.**

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

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality in a two-fold approach. First, the Memorial will continue to employ the most energy efficient, state-of-the-art and sustainable technologies available on-site as the budget permits. The possibility of creating alternative or "green" sources of energy on-site will be explored. Given these measures, off-site energy generation and waste disposal will be reduced. Less energy consumption and a smaller waste burden ultimately means less air pollution and a cleaner Lake Erie.

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

Site: PEVI

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.**

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

Continue to use battery-powered cars and explore acquisition of new technologies as new equipment is purchased.

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Site: PEVI

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.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial will redouble our commitment to increasing volunteer participation and work together with the Perry Friends Group to stretch our unpaid help, especially as we attempt to offer a wider range of special events and visitor experiences with the Monument's observation deck closed to the public. Cooperation with Ohio State University alumni programs will be expanded.

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Site: PEVI

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)

Perry's Victory staff are working together with the Put-in-Bay School District to incorporate park mission-oriented teaching and experiences at all grade levels. The park has a very strong Junior Ranger Program that continues to grow and has received funding from the Perry Group for badges and printing program materials. The family-orientation of the park is also supported by a good selection of children's literature in our book store. This emphasis will continue to develop as opportunities are found.

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Site: PEVI

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.

At Perry's Victory we will continue to work cooperatively with the Put-in-Bay Visitor Information Bureau (formerly the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce) and the Ottawa County Visitor's Bureau as well as affiliated interests to help the park get out our message. We are featured regularly in the local Put-in-Bay Gazette and other publications and newsletters catering to island tourism.

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

Despite having the Monument closed for 64 days in 2006 and the Monument's observation deck being closed for the majority of the 2007 season, by offering a wider range of children's programs, musket demonstrations and evening programs our visitation is remaining static. In 2006 we showed a 35% decline. As the observation deck is reopened to the public we anticipate an increase in visitation and program participation.

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

Site: PEVI

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

As a part of our commitment to the Put-in-Bay School District and to better accommodate the large numbers of off-island school groups that visit in spring and fall, the interpretive staff will be upgrading curriculum materials and making them more available to the educators.

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Site: PEVI

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.

The park's web-site is both interactive and informative. We offer a 360 degree view from our 317' observation level and virtual tour of the visitor center. Next, our goal is to offer real-time images of the views from the top of the Monument on line.

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Site: PEVI

EDUCATION

- Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.
- Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Our Junior Ranger Program has been well received. Developed and printed in-house, the park's Junior Ranger Program is offered to all our young visitors, as is the staff time to make it a success. All interpretive staff realize the commitment to providing a significant learning experience and not just handing out a book and a badge.

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Site: PEVI

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.

In 2006 despite being closed for 64-days (and during the visitor use survey period) the park achieved a 100% satisfaction rating. Our goal remains to achieve a 96% satisfaction rating by 2011 on a consistent basis. By 2011 Perry's Victory is also planning to achieve an 87% measure of understanding. Just as important is the number of returning visitors and sense of community ownership enjoyed by the Memorial. This is not so easily measured, but understood by the degree of acceptance known by the superintendent and staff as they live in and move about the community. The Monument is on a special license plate exhibited by many island vehicles and there are 50 Pepsi vending machines showing the Monument.

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Site: PEVI

**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.**

As positions become available, we will recruit in all of the available venues. We will use the power of networking to explore staffing solutions and maximize opportunities for diversity hiring with an keen interest in employee retention.

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

**Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.**

All employees will be treated with respect and given the best opportunity to succeed in their position. Where possible, new employees to the NPS will be given an orientation to the NPS geared to their needs and level of understanding. Integrity, honesty and civility will be key to all employee relations. The standard for one will become the standard for all in the same circumstances. Evaluations and promotions will be based on merit.

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Site: PEVI

**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.

By 2011 Perry's Victory's employee's lost -time injuries is maintained at or below the previous 5-year average of 1.

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Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The safety motto for the past 3 years (and into the foreseeable future) is: "If we can't do it safely, we won't do it at all." This is repeated in word and print regularly. All employees are empowered to stop a job or end an operation immediately, if they believe it to be unsafe. The primary purpose of the majority of law enforcement actions taken on Monument grounds is to promote the continued safety of our visitors and staff. Law enforcement staff will take every opportunity to correct and educate the visiting public, using appropriate enforcement tools, adjacent to an otherwise extreme party environment. Whenever possible law enforcement staff will work in cooperation with island enforcement agencies. The park offers time-off awards a 6-month intervals for safe work.

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