

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

San Juan National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: SAJU

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The fortifications of San Juan National Historic Site in San Juan, Puerto Rico, have dominated the Caribbean landscape for nearly five centuries. Castillo San Felipe del Morro, Castillo San Cristóbal, Fort Juan De La Cruz and the historic walls surrounding the city of Old San Juan stand as a formidable testimony to the people and issues of the day bearing symbolic witness to changing uses and values over time. Designated a National Historic Site in 1943 and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a World Heritage Site in 1983, today these awe-inspiring structures are protected by San Juan National Historic Site.

The park is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and interpretation of its internationally significant resources including its vast Spanish fortification and military history by providing understanding, appreciation, and inspiration to this and future generations.

Our Centennial vision includes strengthening and expanding the community, partner, and local government's understanding, role, and support of the park, continuing our nationally recognized preservation program, increasing recreational opportunities, developing a world class interpretation program, and guiding the education/out-reach program into an expanded role.

San Juan NHS will move boldly into the next 100 years as a leader and inspiration to its visitors, partners, community, the National Park System, the country and the world.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Walter J. Chavez

Site: SAJU

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)

Working with our park partners, San Juan National Historic Site will be opening two areas, Fort Juan de la Cruz and the Outworks at Castillo San Cristobal, which are currently closed to visitation. These areas play an important role in the history and understanding of the area. Repairs, restoration, modification for accessibility, etc. will be necessary to ensure the areas are safe for visitation.

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

Site: SAJU

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Providing a beacon of light to ships since the mid-1800's the lighthouse at Castillo San Felipe del Morro has significant structural damage. Constant exposure to the harsh marine climate requires constant repairs to the facility. At Castillo San Cristobal the Garita del Diablo has also suffered from constant exposure to the elements. Working with park partners we will stabilize both the lighthouse and the Garita del Diablo to ensure their continued role in the importance of the site.

The historic walls enclosed the city of Old San Juan until 1896 when a section was destroyed to make room for the expansion of the city. San Juan NHS manages most of the remaining walls. Hundreds of years of impacts, most recently the advent of the automobile (roads built on or near the walls) have caused serious deterioration in the stone, brick and mortar. The park is working with the local government to prepare a coordinated plan to begin work on the stabilization and repairs of the walls.

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

Site: SAJU

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)

The preservation crew at San Juan NHS has developed a national recognition for its work in traditional masonry processes. Expanding on the partnerships with other NPS sites, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and various educational facilities we will continue with workshops and training. The development of an orientation/training video to share our knowledge and processes is our next step.

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

Site: SAJU

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The structures at Castillo San Cristobal and Castillo San Felipe del Morro were designed to collect and save water to ensure a ready water supply. The park is researching the systems and will rehabilitate the collection and storage systems. Using the collected water we will lower our impacts on the local water supply and lower utility costs.

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

Site: SAJU

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.

The Paseo del Morro, a National Recreational Trail, will see the development of Phase II starting in FY 2008. Phase II will provide a route on to the grounds of Castillo San Felipe del Morro. Working with various park partners the long-term goal is to extend the trail past Castillo San Felipe del Morro, along the coast, passing Castillo San Cristobal and connecting with a coastal access point adjacent to the Capitol of Puerto Rico, a total distance of approximately three miles.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

A series of wayside exhibits, as part of a "partnership" with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, City of San Juan, and the Puerto Rico Tourism Company has been initiated. The "partnership" exhibits will help foster the spirit of cooperation between San Juan National Historic Site and its companion organizations in Old San Juan. The joint project will begin to introduce visitors to the park by introducing them to interpretive features that are closely related to park themes, but are found outside park boundaries.

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

Site: SAJU

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)

As part of the park's expanding education program an "Adopt-A-School" program is planned for FY08. A local elementary school has been identified to become our partner in providing increased awareness, understanding and support for both students and teachers. Teachers workshops, both on-site and off-site activities, and information sharing (pre-trip informational packages, Junior Ranger programs, traveling trunks, etc.) are planned. As the program develops additional schools will become involved.

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

Site: SAJU

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The expansion of the education program at San Juan NHS is leading the park into a time of exciting challenges. Various volunteers, park partners and educators are providing us assistance in the development of a working educational curriculum. Teacher's workshops, new on-site programs, development of an off-site educational plan, pre-visit packages, web-site educational information and programs, etc. are just some of the segments of the expanded program. Also, included in this program is a funding component provided by the Friends of San Juan NHS to assist with transportation costs to be help under-funded schools visit the park.

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

Site: SAJU

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

As part of the rehabilitation of one of our buildings San Juan National Historic Site will be developing a new Learning Center as a site for schools groups, visiting families, and children of all ages to have access to computers, the park library, various rotating displays and programs led by rangers and volunteers. The work on the infrastructure is funded by repair/rehab and the Friends of San Juan NHS will raise funds to help build the learning center.

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Site: SAJU

EDUCATION

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

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

In FY07 San Juan National Historic Site developed its first Junior Ranger program available in both English and Spanish versions. This new program will help the National Park Service meet the goal.

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

Site: SAJU

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Working with partners of San Juan National Historic Site a scholarship program will be developed that provides assistance to employee's to continue their education. A second part of this program will provide assistance to students associated with recognized institutions and in identified study fields, such as historic preservation.

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