

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Weir Farm National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WEFA

Year: 2007

**Vision Statement**

Weir Farm National Historic Site, the only NPS site dedicated to an American painter, preserves and interprets the 19th century landscapes, buildings and artwork which together form a place of central importance to the art of Julian Alden Weir and the American Impressionist movement. The park operations and mission maintain this artistic tradition and offer opportunities today and in the future to inspire artists of all ages and talents.

The park is on the brink of a number of major changes that have been in the planning stages for over 5 years that coincide perfectly with the timing of the Centennial Initiative and what the park will be in 2016. With the end of a long life tenancy in the park's major historic structures in 2005, the park is now able to take action to open many of buildings to the public for the very first time.

By 2016 the Weir House and artist studios will be fully rehabilitated to the highest preservation standards and fully furnished. The park will have a core collection of period artwork stored and exhibited in a museum quality environment. The park's first professional curator will be on staff. The new Artist in Residence studio will be constructed per the GMP and the park has an Artist in Residence program managed by its programming partner the Weir Farm Art Center.

The curator and maintenance facilities and administrative offices will have been moved to the Historic Georgetown Wire Mill 3 miles from park headquarters. The Wire Mill is a rehabilitated NR site that is designed to be a Green neighborhood and LEED certified with alternative transportation and energy.

Weir Farm NHS will be known throughout the country as the park that manages the Artist in Residence program for the entire service. NPS staff or a partner organization will be stationed at WEFA to manage the program nationwide. The national program will be working with over a 100 parks that will have Artist in Residence programs by 2016 based on surveys completed in the summer of 2007. All the Weir period landscape and historic gardens will be planned, planted, and maintained in collaboration with local gardening clubs and groups. The park will have a fully operational educational program in partnership with schools and communities to provide year round art education, classes, camps, internships and exhibitions.

Park partnerships will have expanded to include relationships with all the institutions and organizations worldwide that house and exhibit Weir period art work and a visit to the site will be equivalent in significance to a visit to Claude Monet's Giverny, outside Paris, France.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Linda Cook

Site: WEFA

**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)**

The rehabilitation of the site's buildings and landscape will be a model for innovative design, historic preservation, and the use of historic furnishings and artwork compatible with the buildings historic environments. Accessibility to the structures and landscape will be designed per the GMP and include innovative paths and access to preserve the landscape based on models in other landscape focused parks.

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

Site: WEFA

**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.**

Rehabilitate the Weir House, Weir Studio, Young Studio, Weir Ice House and Caretakers House. Construct new Artist in Residence studio through rehabilitation of part of it.

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**Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.**

Weir Landscape will be restored to the landscape including viewsheds, farm fields, tree management, gardens and plantings.

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

The Weir House and Studios will be completely rehabilitated

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Site: WEFA

**ENVIRONMENT**

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Interpret the historic environments in the Weir House and studios and the management decisions to not install HVAC systems, and how to manage collections in these climates.

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

Locate new curatorial and maintenance facilities in communities and developments that are committed to alternative energy, green practices, and achieve LEED certification.

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

Site: WEFA

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand school artist/ranger programs to give instruction on CT impressionism.

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

Site: WEFA

**EDUCATION**

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

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

The park will expand the Junior Ranger program to all the art explorer students who come to the park for art classes and participate in Junior Ranger Day. Junior Ranger program will be on line for children to start before they come to the park.

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Site: WEFA

**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 opening of the park's historic house and studios, visitors will have the opportunity to fully understand the artists who lived and worked here for the first time in the park's history.

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