

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Natural Bridges National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: NABR

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

As Utah's oldest national park area, Natural Bridges National Monument contains in close proximity three of the largest natural stone bridges in the world, outstanding examples of geological and erosional processes for public education, understanding, enjoyment, and scientific knowledge. The monument also contains a degree of biological diversity found in few other places with rare species—the kachina daisy and nesting Peregrine Falcons—and preserves rich archeological resources—all providing a scientific baseline for future learning in this remote park area. While striving to protect these significant resources for current and future generations, two significant resources, unrecognized in the unit's enabling legislation, will also be honored. The park's superlative natural setting with its rare dark night sky, unobstructed viewshed, and natural soundscape will be preserved and interpreted, and the park's exemplary sustainable environment management features—the total photovoltaic energy system and the dark-night-sky friendly lighting—will serve as a model for other national park units and regional communities.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Coralee (Corky) Hays

Site: NABR

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)

Campground Improvements: Install fire rings at all campsites enhancing and preserving the aesthetic atmosphere of the park's campground. Install waterline to provide on-site accessible potable water at the campground to meet critical visitor expectations regarding ease of access to cooking, cleaning and drinking water.

Interpretive Service: Update all wayside exhibits. Present interpretive materials in multi-languages. Create interpretive exhibits that are multi-lingual and accessible to the hearing and visually impaired.

To retain the elements identified by park visitors as critical to the quality of their park experience—the solitude and tranquility of the site, its pristine night sky and natural quiet, and its sense of timeless isolation—current and future management efforts will emphasize the preservation of park viewsheds, dark night sky, and the natural soundscape. This will be accomplished by mindful decision making within monument boundaries and through proactive coordination with neighboring land owners, nearby communities, and area state and Federal land managers to mitigate impacts from surrounding development on the park's natural, cultural and scenic resources.

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

Site: NABR

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Using park staff with volunteer support, identify, eradicate, annually monitor, and maintain control of all significant exotic plant species within the monument including tamarisk, Russian thistle, horehound mint, etc.

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.

Continue to maintain park visitor use facilities and support infrastructure in good to excellent condition. Targeted work on high priority assets includes replacement of the sewer lagoon liner (FY08) to prevent adverse environmental impacts caused by leaking membraneliner; replacement of old propane lines to ensure continued visitor and employee safety and services and avoid propane leaks into the environment; rehabilitation of park water wells (FY09) replacing defective well pumps and reconditioning sole water storage tank to provide potable water for park visitors and employees and fire protection of park resources and assets; and performing crack and chip seal (FY13) to recondition all paved road and parking surfaces (11 miles) enhancing visitor satisfaction and safety.

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.

Gain a complete, well-documented understanding of hydrological processes in and surrounding the monument. Determine potential effects on hydrological resources from influences beyond park boundaries. Work with park neighbors /managing agencies to prevent impact on area water resources' quality.

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Update archeological documentation on known sites within the canyon system in the monument. Implement architectural documentation at specific sites at Natural Bridges with standing architecture.

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

Site: NABR

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Monitor heavily visited sites for impacts and recommend treatments and implement stabilization treatments on sites in the monument that are impacted by natural and visitor forces.

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Site: NABR

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)

Increase public awareness and interpretation of park's archeological resources and contemporary American Indian presence in the adjoining area. Continue to develop opportunities for cross-training and mutual support with local tribal entities including tribal parks.

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

Site: NABR

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)

Host astronomy events and other "dark sky" related outreach and education efforts. Develop outreach to obtain volunteers for professional fields and academic settings.

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

Site: NABR

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Upgrade park photo voltaic system by replacing current obsolete 60KW photovoltaic inverter and replacing 25-year old solar array panels to allow continued daily "green park" operations and education for visitors and staff. The new inverter will prevent repeated safety failures caused by unit, allow the acquisition of replacement components and provide reliable power to park. Replacing long outdated solar array panels will maintain electricity to visitor and employee facilities and infrastructure. As it currently stands, the system requires frequent generator support with the corresponding degradation of air and audio quality and a sharp rise in operating expenses and dependence on petroleum products. As the first major photovoltaic system in the NPS, Natural Bridge was the showcase park for alternative energy—with these upgrades the park will once again be the premier leader for green energy in the next generation.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a practical, sustainable recycling program to serve park visitors and residents. Since trash pickup and disposal is a major expense to an isolated park such as Natural Bridges, encourage park visitors to "drive it in, drive it out," and dispose of personal trash in municipal waste management collection facilities, at community-based overnight accommodations, and other appropriate out-of-park locations.

Reduce ambient noise from park generators which supply a back-up power source for the park's photoelectric power supply system. By installing an effective muffler system on both generators, the natural quiet of the park would be restored.

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Site: NABR

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.

Increase efforts to interpret and provide educational programs on the integrated, self-sustaining technology used in park.

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

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

Purchase/lease energy efficient, alternative fuel and/or hybrid vehicles whenever possible for park use. Purchase and use small street-legal vehicles (4-wheeler type) and/or electric carts for transportation within the developed visitor-use zone.

Conduct uniformed bicycle patrols around the park's scenic loop drive to reduce the use of park motorized vehicles and to encourage the public to view bicycling as a means of seeing the park and to use bicycles as an alternative means of transportation at home as well as on vacations.

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

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

Increase the use of sustainable building materials in construction and other green products in the day-to-day facility maintenance.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase park's night sky programs and expand to include visitor center exhibits stressing the importance of reducing light pollution and what individuals can do to improve their home, neighborhood and local community dark night sky quality.

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

Site: NABR

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.

Rehabilitate all 11-miles of park trails, FY08 to reduce visitor impact on natural and cultural resources while enhancing visitor experience in a proposed wilderness area; removing any unnecessary metal railing and the completion of installation of low profile signage will retain a realistic wilderness experience without sacrificing safety.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Partner with BLM, Monticello Field and their Kane Gulch Ranger Station and staff to coordinate agency efforts to manage Cedar Mesa recreation and resources more effectively, efficiently and responsibly using new legislation mandates as effective tools for implementation.

Establish outreach programs to provide on-site orientation/information training opportunities for individuals working at the county's three community information centers (Monticello, Blanding and Monument Valley) and interpretive skills training for employees at Monument Valley Tribal Park (Navajo Nation). Provide "fam" tours to the park for local county commissioners and town officials.

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Site: NABR

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.

Proactive support expansion of the State, BLM and NPS "Site Stewardship Program" partnership which uses volunteers to monitor area archeological sites for more comprehensive coverage of critical key cultural resources throughout SE Utah and SW Colorado. Pursue a means of offering monetary support to this undertaking either through OFS funding or a donation from the cooperating association or another outside source.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Encourage volunteerism from the local community (approximately one hour drive) by promoting an exchange program with the town visitor information center—one-day a week in season, a local community resident work at the park visitor center and a park employee or volunteer would assist staffing the community information center. The arrangement lacks efficiency but would encourage stronger relations between the park and the local community and encourage locals to better know "their" park and identify it as a commercial asset for the community and county.

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

Site: NABR

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)

Maintain and expand the park's televised "Distant Learning" program especially targeting local area schools and those on the nearby Navajo Nation and other tribal entities.

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Site: NABR

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.

Use a variety of special events and media coverage celebrating Natural Bridges NM's 100th Anniversary in 2008 as Utah's first NPS area to raise public awareness of the park and to promote Natural Bridges as a travel destination. Continue promotion of Natural Bridges' quality dark night sky and its designation as the first International Dark Sky Park for the same purpose.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Proactively support San Juan County's efforts to develop and direct a long-term, community driven, sustainable tourism-based economy. Promote and develop partnerships supporting this goal.

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

Site: NABR

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Maintain and expand the park's televised, curriculum-based "Distant Learning" program especially targeting local area schools and those on the nearby Navajo Nation and other tribal entities.

Provide curriculum-based education programs developed through Natural Bridge's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program to schools and universities that visit the park

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

Site: NABR

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Use new technology like Pod casts and distant learning to effectively reach people of all ages and connect them to the natural and cultural resources.

Place all park publications on-line.

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

Site: NABR

EDUCATION

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

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

Strive to offer the opportunity to participate in the park's Junior Ranger program to 100% of all youth visiting Natural Bridges NM. Maintain and sustain park's Junior Ranger program so children can continue to effectively experience the park through an active program that enhances a connection to the resource, provides "take-home" ideas and activities, and promotes personal stewardship. Offer the park's Junior Ranger program on-line and expand to include a wider range of audience ages with appropriately corresponding activities. Offer other in-park interpretive activities specifically targeting children and families.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete planned development of the park's Senior Ranger program including interactive elements with grandchildren and other youth.

In partnership with Edge of the Cedar State Museum (Utah) and/or Anasazi Heritage Center (BLM, Colorado), develop an annual history symposium featuring professional and amateur speakers presenting new theories, findings and ideas which would ultimately be collected and available to the public through an annually published periodical and/or on-line and/or on-site. Create an oral history archive by seeking and recording the stories of contributors to recent and historic events which have shaped the park, its management and the history of the immediate area.

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Site: NABR

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.

Establish a San Juan County Day (corresponding to the park's fee-free day) offering special activities in the park emphasizing local history, park ties with local families, etc. and encourages visits from county residents and pride in "their" national park.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Reach new American citizens by promoting the National Park idea through the curriculum of the Immigration and Naturalization Customs process.

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

Site: NABR

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.

Continue proactive recruitment and placement of diverse candidates for park vacancies and active participation in special diversity programs such as IMR's Maintenance Leadership Development Program. Continue to use creative means at the park level for funding target positions as illustrated through past accomplishments (diversity candidates hired under the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program; under represented populations hired under the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship initiative with underwriting by the local cooperating association).

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.

Establish an employee wellness program.

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

Site: NABR

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Complete a Long Range Interpretive Plan for the park which has never had this document established. Target updating the park's General Management Plan in the upcoming decade (current GMP completed in 1997).

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Site: NABR

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.

Continue to be a leader in safety awareness and protection by conducting regularly scheduled safety meetings and ensuring the entire staff at Natural Bridges performs their duties in a safe manner. Increase proactive approach to safety by assuring that all supervisors increase walk-around safety checks, and front-line staff are included in the process by conducting documented walk-arounds in their respective work area on monthly, revolving basis. Assure that at least two managers and one front-line member of the staff are trained in Root Cause Analysis. Dedicate one day every-six months to a park-wide safety stand-down and engaging safety-based activities.

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

Site: NABR

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand the newly formed friends group for Arches/Canyonlands to include Natural Bridges NM.

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