



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park

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## New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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### Temporary Closure of Park Visitor Center

Installation of reproduction carpet and retrofitting of existing exhibit fixtures in the visitor center's main room will force the closure of the visitor center from April 18, 2007 to April 25, 2007. This project completes the most recent rehabilitation of the Old Bank Building (the park visitor center) that included interior painting, installation of a new roof, reconfiguration of the information desk, expansion of the Eastern National sales outlet, and the installation of new exhibits.

During this period, park partner institutions such as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, and the city of New Bedford waterfront visitor center are open regular hours: New Bedford Whaling Museum 7 days a week 9-5, Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum Mon.-Sat. 10-4 and Sun. 12-4, city of New Bedford waterfront visitor center Mon.-Fri. 9-4. The park will also have a temporary visitor contact station set up in the New Bedford Whaling Museum lobby staffed by park staff and volunteers. Visitors will be able to get general information about the national historical park, pick up a map, self guided walking tour brochures, and Junior Ranger activity booklets as well as have their passport books stamped.

Another way to explore the park during this period is to visit the park's recently updated website at [www.nps.gov/nebe](http://www.nps.gov/nebe). In addition to general information about the park and its many partners, virtual visitors can access and download the park's management documents, self guided tour brochures, the Junior Ranger activity booklet, and view many contemporary images of the park.

**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park** was established by Congress in 1996. One of 390 National Park Service areas, it is the only National Park Service site addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social and environmental history of the United States. The park includes New Bedford's 13-block waterfront historic district, Schooner *Ernestina*, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum and several sites along the working waterfront. The legislation establishing the park also established a connection between the NPS and the Iñupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska.

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