

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Pea Ridge National Military Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: PERI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Pea Ridge National Military Park will continue and expand our "Progress into the Past" programs so that by the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service we will have restored the Pea Ridge Battlefield to how it would have appeared to those who fought and lived here in 1862. By recreating these historic landscapes we will have created a living monument to those that are now dead. We will have created a place where 21st Century Americans can come to see, smell, touch and feel the fields and forests upon which Americans once killed Americans by the thousands.

It is our vision to recreate this place and to tell the stories of those 19th Century Americans that made the decisions and choices that resulted in an experience that taught them who they did not want to be as a people or who they did not want us to be as a country. These lessons learned will provide the basis for our 21st Century visitors to make the decisions and chooses that will lead us as a people and a country to who we do want to be in the 21st Centaury and beyond.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is one of the best preserved American Civil War Battlefields in the National Park Service System. Since its creation in 1956 park programs have focused primarily on protection of recourses with little effort to restoration of this intact battlefield.

In 2002 the park implemented a variety of new directions and programs that collectively we call "Progress into the Past." To date we have re-opened 5 of the 19 miles of historic roads, 5 historic fields, built over 5 of the 17 miles of historic worm-rail fence, removed parking areas and utility poles from the historic battlefield landscape.

The majority of this work has been completed and paid for by private sector donations and the use of many hours of volunteer help. Private sector donations have come from Unilever and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and the Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation. Our volunteers come from all walks of live and are both young and old.

"Progress into the Past" is putting the missing texture back on the battlefield. This leads to better visitor understanding and application of the historic events that occurs here. Volunteers that help restore the battlefield gain a sense of pride and ownership of the park and a commitment to help protect and preserver into the future.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

John C. Scott

Site: PERI

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 park will restore the battlefield to its 1862 look. Once done, Pea Ridge will be unique to all the NPS Civil War Battlefields in that a visitor will be able to visualize how the battlefield would have looked to the combatants. New museum exhibits and wayside exhibits will focus on making the Civil War relevant to the population of today and into the future.

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

Site: PERI

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Historic fields will be re-established in native grasses to provide quail habitat. the park will control invasive plant species

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.

Through a partnership with Unilever and Wal-Mart 17 miles of historic split rail fencing will be rebuilt

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

Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Through partnerships with Unilever and Wal-Mart all cultural landscapes in the park are being restored to good condition

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

Site: PERI

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop community participation in stewardship of cultural landscapes through VIP programs. Develop special junior and senior ranger programs in which children will be paired with seniors in working on cultural resources. Continue Americas Best Classroom program with Unilever and Benton County Boys and Girls Clubs.

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

Site: PERI

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.

Expand the parks recycling program to include a recycling element in every school program. Northwest Arkansas is just now starting to focus on recycling so the park will serve a model for the counties to look to.

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

Site: PERI

ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop a program with Wal-Mart for recycling florescent light bulbs. The park would serve as a drop off facility and would work out arrangements that when visitors drop off a florescent light bulb they would receive free admission. Admission would be paid for by a partner.

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

Site: PERI

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.

Through a partnership with the Wal-Mart Home Office the park will increase the number of volunteer hours

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Site: PERI

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)

The park will continue to partner with Unilever in the "Americas Best Class Rooms" program through which 500 members of the Benton County Boys and Girls Club come to the park to learn about National Parks and perform a "service to the park" project.

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

Site: PERI

EDUCATION

- Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

New museum exhibits will engage visitors in provocative concepts making the historic events of the park relevant to their lives today

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Site: PERI

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.

Through the "National Parks America Tour" program, sponsored by Unilever, the park will continue to engage volunteer to participate in restoration efforts of the battlefield. 17 miles of historic worm rail fencing will be built and 10 miles of historic roads will be reopened through this program. Volunteers that participate develop a sense of ownership in park and its resources and a pride in their local communities.

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

Site: PERI

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will continue to develop and maintain existing partnerships with corporations, educational institutions, state and local governments and the public in all efforts to restore and protect the battlefield.

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