



WILSONS CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD: *CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN* 2015

INTRODUCTION

As participants in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield belongs to a network of parks nationwide that are putting climate friendly behavior at the forefront of park operations and resource management. As part of this program, these parks have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, participated in a climate change and sustainability educational workshop, set climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction goals, and integrated these actions into a park-wide Environmental Management System (EMS).



The EMS takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing environmental impacts at the park. It also provides a framework for tracking environmental protection and sustainability priorities and details the implementation of these actions. By integrating CFP-related actions into the park's EMS, Wilson's Creek is taking an integrated approach to climate change response and sustainable management of park resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The mission of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is "to commemorate an important battle in the Western theater of the Civil War, and to provide visitors with an awareness of the heroic deeds of soldiers who fought on both sides in this tragic conflict. Their inspiring example reminds us of our priceless American citizenship made more meaningful by the resolution of this conflict". As the steward of the Nation's most valued public lands, the National Park Service has a special obligation to be a leader in protecting the environment and complying with our nation's environmental laws. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is committed to implementing a sound environmental management program and demonstrating environmental leadership in the preservation and conservation of the park's cultural and natural features. This commitment includes energy, water, solid waste, chemical use, and GHG emissions reductions (collectively called sustainability) as required by federal Executive Orders and Department of the Interior and NPS policy.

Our staff and volunteers will be expected to follow our environmental, pollution prevention, energy reduction, and related procedures and programs. Together we will examine and conduct operations and activities in a professionally sound manner, effectively and efficiently complying with the letter, spirit, and intent of applicable environmental regulations, standards, executive orders, and policies related to sustainability.

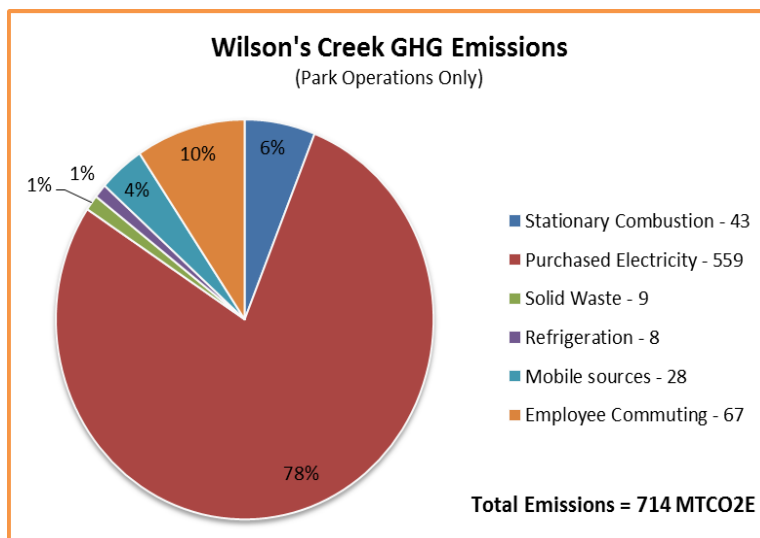
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, staff at Wilson’s Creek have already started to embark on our sustainability journey by embedding sustainability actions in our operations. As part of these efforts, the park has taken a number of actions which have reduced our environmental impact. For example, since 2008, the park has :

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
GHG Emissions	Performed energy audits for all park buildings
	Right sized the fleet by reducing the overall number of vehicles and replacing vehicles with smaller and more fuel efficient models
	Replaced exhibit lights with LEDs and added motion sensors to various areas of the visitor center
Energy	The visitor center windows were tinted with a window film to reduce solar gain which reduced energy use and costs for cooling
Education / Communication	Held a Climate Friendly Park workshop!
	Developed bathroom displays focused on water conservation
Other	The site has installed low flow faucets and toilets, a water bottle filling station and a waterless urinal as well as eliminated irrigation of grass leading to a reduction in water use.
	Imperious concrete and a bioswale were installed at the Maintenance Building to reduce stormwater runoff impacting Wilson’s Creek.

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield has developed a GHG inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. The largest single source of GHG emissions from park operations was purchased electricity (559MTCO₂E, as shown in the figure). Having this baseline helps inform the goals and targets we have set and the actions we are taking to meet those.



GOALS & ACTIONS

As part of the CFP program, the park has identified a number of goals. To help meet these goals, the park will develop annual actions and track them through the EMS. A subset of the first year’s actions are listed below.

We will continue to chart our progress against the goals annually and refine our actions as part of our annual EMS review.

GOALS & PLANNED ACTIONS			
	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
Goal	Reduce GHG emissions by 15% from baseline year of 2012 by 2020	Reduce energy use by 20% by 2020 (energy includes electricity and propane use)	Increase visitor education about climate change and sustainability practices by 2020.

2015 Action Plan

- Use Clean Cities grant to retrofit current lawn mowers to use propane fuel and add a hybrid vehicle to the fleet.
- Apply for an electric charging station through the Clean Cities program and plan an electric vehicle event with Clean Cities and City of Springfield.
- Color code the park's car keys based on fuel efficiency to help staff determine the most fuel efficient vehicle for each trip.
- Add insulation and replace all the single pane windows in the Harwood House (36 in total) to Energy Star rated windows.
- Lock thermostats to ensure temperature settings are optimized for energy savings throughout the park's buildings.
- Review potential funding opportunities for a park-wide, comprehensive energy audit and review offsite renewable energy purchase availability for the park.
- Display park specific climate change briefs and Bio-Blitz materials developed by the Inventory and Monitoring Network in the Visitor Center to share with the public.
- Integrate sustainability and climate change information into the Civil War Trust Field App and the Junior Ranger program.
- Add links to sustainability videos on the park website and look into adding climate change video from NPS Director Johnathan Jarvis to the auditorium between videos.
- Train volunteers to help educate school groups on how to properly sort and recycle various waste streams.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

The "Green Team" is an interdisciplinary group of park employees that regularly monitors and updates sustainability goals for the park. This team also works together to identify sustainability and climate change challenges, track progress toward achieving goals, and works with other staff to continually improve operations. Through their leadership, the park ensures that sustainability initiatives move forward and goals are accomplished.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within Wilson's Creek, we are developing an environment that provides guidance and clarity while instilling ownership and support in accomplishing goals and initiatives. The park is improving communication amongst employees through staff and seasonal employee training sessions and through working with partner organizations such as the Clean Cities Coalition, Civil



War Trust, Ozark Greenways and local school groups to increase awareness around climate change and sustainability. The park is also working with the NPS Inventory and Monitoring network to develop Bio-Blitzes and climate change brochures to educate visitors. There are additionally links on the Wilson Creek's external website to provide information to the public on sustainability related issues.

CONCLUSION

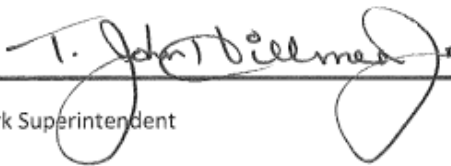
The elements of our EMS form the foundation of the environmental protection, climate change response, and sustainability work that we will accomplish at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. We hope that visitors will check back in with us and see how we progress as our program continues to evolve!

CONTACTS

Climate Friendly Parks Program
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Website: www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks

Wilsons Creek National Battlefield
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By identifying a greenhouse gas reduction goal, climate change response/sustainability actions, and outreach initiatives related to sustainability and climate change and sustainability topics, Wilsons Creek National Battlefield is an official members of the Climate Friendly Parks Program. For more information about the program, please visit the CFP website or contact the CFP team (information above).


Park Superintendent November 5, 2015
Date


CFP Regional Representative 11-05-2015
Date

SHAWN NORTON
Digitally signed by SHAWN NORTON
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