

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Canaveral National Seashore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CANA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Canaveral National Seashore (CANA) is an outstanding example of an intact Atlantic coast barrier island ecosystem. Canaveral National Seashore was established to preserve and protect, on a sustainable basis, the outstanding natural, scenic, scientific, ecologic and historic values located within its boundaries. These include the longest stretch (24 miles) of undeveloped beach on the east coast of Florida; Mosquito Lagoon, which contains nationally-recognized fisheries for finfish, clams, oysters, blue crabs and shrimp; habitat for 14 federally Threatened & Endangered animal species; a unique mixture of subtropical and temperate plants found nowhere except central Florida and significant prehistoric and historic cultural sites.

The Centennial vision for the park and its partners is to provide a unique opportunity to experience undeveloped, uncrowded seashore along the east coast of Florida. The Park's significant natural resources will be improved by the removal of exotic species, restoration of oyster reefs and utilization of prescribed fire. Recreational opportunities will be increased by creation of canoe/kayak, hiking and bike trails connecting to adjacent federal and state lands.

Education will be expanded through establishment of curriculum-based field trips with Brevard County schools, development of new exhibits and increased interpretive programs to educate and inspire park visitors about the parks numerous recreation and educational opportunities. Alternative transportation opportunities will be explored with neighboring gateway communities.

Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, National Aeronautical Space Agency, Saint Johns Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve, Volusia County Mosquito Control, and the Volusia County Water Management District will all participate in the accomplishment of the parks centennial vision. The park will also continue to seek new partners to assist in the centennial vision.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Carol Clark

Site: CANA

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Restore 15 acres of oyster reefs in Mosquito Lagoon. These reefs provide habitat for many aquatic species and support both commercial and recreational fisheries, through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Remove exotic plants (primarily Brazilian Pepper) from CANA's 13,500 acres of upland habitat. Through joint efforts with Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Volusia County, almost the entire upland portion of CANA has received initial treatment for exotic plants. Over the next 10 years, the agencies will work together to provide follow-up treatments on a rotating basis.

Utilize prescribed fire to maintain and improve 3,700 acres of scrub and pine flatwoods habitat for protected species. In cooperation with the neighboring Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, CANA will utilize prescribed fire to improve habitat for the Florida scrub jay, Eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise and bald eagle.

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

Site: CANA

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.

Showcase CANA's outstanding recycling program for aluminum cans, cardboard, white paper and recycled lumber through exhibits and other interpretive media. CANA recently purchased an 8,000 can capacity crusher which has enabled it to recycle over 15,000 pounds of aluminum, 8,700 pounds of white paper and 2,000 pounds of cardboard since 2004

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Site: CANA

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.

Expand and develop trail network to allow visitors to explore more areas of the park. Coordinate with Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve immediately to the north and south of CANA to advertise, mark and maintain canoe/kayak trail that runs the entire 27 miles of Mosquito Lagoon.

Develop hiking trails from Eldora to Castle Windy and at Bills Hill to make scenic section of Barrier Island and remote portion of mainland accessible to visitors.

Create bike path in both Playalinda and Apollo portions of park. Work with Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Brevard County to create bike path from Titusville to Playalinda Beach (six miles). Coordinate with federal, state and local agencies to create and connect bike path through New Smyrna Beach and Apollo Beach.

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Site: CANA

EDUCATION

- Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.
- Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase environmental education outreach to students and the general public. Re-establish environmental education program by contacting and accommodating several hundred schools in Brevard County alone and significantly increasing the number of schools contacts in Volusia County. Work with Brevard County school system to re-institute curriculum-based field trips to CANA. Establish teacher based workshops to perpetuate a teachers leading environmental education program for CANA. Introduce the Parks as Classroom program in CANA. Increase various volunteer opportunities and partnerships with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce to reach out to the public.

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Site: CANA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop permanent exhibits for recently-opened Seminole Rest site, interpreting its 3,000 year history. Utilize Friends of CANA and volunteer network to staff site.

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Site: CANA

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand ranger-led interpretive opportunities, such as Turtle Watch, Mosquito Lagoon pontoon boat program and kayak tours. These programs will increase appreciation for CANA's aquatic resources and promote good stewardship among park users.

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Site: CANA

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 high quality interpretation to the public, provide a better understanding and appreciate of the significance of CANA's prehistoric and historic relevance. Share the history of the Native Americans, their interaction with Spanish explorers, the exciting French Fleet ship wreck saga of 1565 and the settlement of coastal Florida. Provide visitors with an understanding of the significance of water transportation in this area in the late 1800's. Articulate the connection between the European settlers and the exploration of space as it relates to the seashore.

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Site: CANA

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand and develop new partnerships with a variety of federal, state and local agencies to achieve mutual goals. Explore use of municipal parking areas and water taxi to implement alternative transportation system at Apollo Beach. CANA has 14 community partnerships to manage park resources and recreational opportunities seamlessly.

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