

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Manhattan Sites

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: MASI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

6 National Park System properties in New York comprise the administrative unit "Manhattan Sites". The individual sites are: Castle Clinton National Monument (a fort built on the southern tip of Manhattan in the early 1800's to protect the United States against hostilities by Great Britain); Federal Hall National Memorial (located on Wall Street, commemorates the site of the inauguration of George Washington, the nation's first president, site of the first capitol of the US and meeting place of the first US Congress); two presidential sites, 3) General Grant National Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site (located respectively in Harlem and the Gramercy Park area, these sites commemorate the contributions of these two great presidents); Hamilton Grange National Memorial (located in Harlem - the home of Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the US Treasury, during the early 1800's); and Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site (located in Westchester County, NY, this 18th century church reflects important events to the development of the nation, specifically during the American Revolution).

The Centennial vision for the Manhattan Sites and its partners is to expand our capacity to preserve and protect cultural resources and curatorial collections; ensuring facilities are maintained to high standards with safe and universal accessibility. Located in the heart of diverse urban communities, we see our sites playing far more important roles in local community life while providing new public access to the NPS experience. Enhanced educational programs and curricula and new interpretive media will illuminate the history and significance of each site, reaching diverse audiences in exciting and fresh ways. Sustainable media incorporating "green" technology will model environmentally sound practices, and will appeal to young people. "Lesser known" is a fair description of these sites today and through these projects this will change as park visitors gain a better understanding and appreciation of the park sites.

Several prominent organizations have expressed interest in the Centennial Challenge initiative and projects put forth by the park. The park partners are very enthusiastic and are already hard at work and a significant level of funding has already been earmarked to move many of the park projects forward. Park management, staff and volunteers are ready for the opportunities the Centennial Challenge will offer.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Shirley McKinney, Deputy Superintendent

Site: MASI

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 General Grange NM overlook pavillion was constructed in 1910 by the City of New York to serve as a support and restroom facility for visitors to Grants Tomb where General Ulysses S. Grant is memorialized. The visitor center will be expanded and improved to enhance the visitor experience with new educational programs, interpretive exhibits and expanded ranger led experiences. Visitation will be increased as a result of their increased understanding of the significance of this lesser known site.

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

Site: MASI

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Restoration of the General Grange NM overlook pavillion (a high priority historic building, currently abandoned, heavily vandalized and in poor condition) will provide visitors with a safe and accessible visitor contact station with restroom facilities. The Visitor Center will be expanded to maximize the potential of space and offer upgraded educational and interpretive exhibits as well as an expanded ranger led experience.

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Site: MASI

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)

The critical stories of early American history will be brought to life through curriculum based approach to an urban youth audience. The historic restoration and interpretive exhibits/media projects at the Manahattan Sites destinations will increase visitor satisfaction, understanding and appreciation of our mission by better technology and safe accessible facilities.

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Site: MASI

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.

The visitor experience at the Manhattan Sites will be enhanced by new, better designed and organized exhibits illustrating historic events, significant American leaders and their ideals to visitors, giving them a sense of early American history and its significance. Interpretive media will be innovative, reach diverse audiences and take advantage of sustainable technology. Access will be enhanced through technology and persons with disabilities will have virtual access to park stories and sites that may be difficult to visit in person. This will lead to increased visitation to these lesser known park sites because visitors will have a greater understanding and appreciation of the parks and their significance.

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Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Better technology, exhibits and interpretive media will increase the ability of rangers to assist and educate more visitors. We will expand the educational platform of the Manhattan Sites by increased educational initiatives.

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Site: MASI

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Exhibits and interpretive media will be enhanced to teach and interpret the history and significance of each site, reaching diverse audiences in exciting new ways, offered in various languages and utilizing sustainable "green" technologies to the greatest extent possible. Expanded park programs and the development of internship programs will encourage children to become conservationists; inspire an environmental conscience in Americans and engage partners, communities and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

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Site: MASI

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will use of modern technology to develop fresh and relevant programs and interpretive media that will allow the Manhattan Sites to reach a widely diverse population and help the NPS achieve its mission of stewardship and resource protection and expose students to future career opportunities through our internship programs.

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Site: MASI

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The restoration and rehabilitation projects will will improve accessibility and correct safety deficiencies at the Manhattan Sites facilities. Development of comprehensive, interpretive waysides and other visual identity media will include improved safety messages. Visitor accidents and injuries will decrease and more visitors will be able to locate our parks and access our programs safely and expeditiously, thus fostering an appreciation and understanding of our significance and mission.

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