

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: CAGR

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The authorizing legislation for Casa Grande Ruins National Monument establishes the monument "in order that better provision may be made for the protection, preservation, and care of the ruins of the ancient buildings and other objects of prehistoric interest thereon." Casa Grande Ruins is the only unit in the national park system that preserves and interprets the Hohokam culture for public education and enjoyment.

By 2016, Casa Grande Ruins will remain a priceless American treasure with intact cultural and natural resources. The park will have expanded to include additional relevant archaeological sites such as Adamsville, Grewe and Horvath. The Monument will provide innovative learning experiences through dynamic visitor center exhibits, interpretive trails, and visitor use areas; and will be able to accommodate anticipated visitation increases and the tour bus industry. Interpretive programming will provide a wide range of enhanced opportunities for children through school education and Junior Ranger programs. The Monument will continue to expand its outreach efforts to encourage non-traditional and traditional opportunities, as well as to far-reaching audiences through contemporary digital media, a progressive web-site and interactive distance learning technologies. We will care for our infrastructure using sustainable and environmentally sound techniques and materials that provide opportunities for engaging the community in learning how to reduce impacts to our resources using sound conservation practices and being mindful of global climate change. Park facilities will be enjoyable, safe, well-maintained, and models for universal accessibility. Preservation of ruins and archaeological sites will be of the highest standards, utilizing advanced sciences and compatible preservation strategies. Natural Resources will be managed in consideration of ecological stabilization, cultural resources preservation and interpretive significance. Professional and accountable work practices will meet or exceed standards in park planning, project execution, administration, workforce management and visitor services. The high morale of park employees will be a result of safe, comfortable and efficient working conditions available to all employees. The park will serve as an exceptional example of America's cultural heritage preserved within the NPS and will connect its compelling stories both intellectually and emotionally with all who experience its resources.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

D. Jason Lott, Superintendent

Site: CAGR

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)

Will complete and utilize an Accessibility Study to upgrade exhibits and infrasture as appropriate. Will construct a new theater and produce a new interpretive video that will meet universal accessibility standards, provide additional language opportunities and ensure carrying capacity needs for future visitation projections.

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

Site: CAGR

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.

All historic structures will be maintained in "good" or "very good" condition.

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

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

Will implement and maintain eradication programs for invasive/exotic/non-native plants and restore areas with native sustainable vegetation.

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.

Will address proper drainage and appropriate backfilling needs and implement more compatible preservation strategies for archaeological resources within the Monument's boundaries.

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

Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Will conduct in-depth analysis and implement a realistic Vegetation Management Plan for the Monument's overall natural landscape that complements cultural resources protection and management.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will implement IPM strategies to reduce impacts to archaeological resources and historic structures from birds and burrowing animals.

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

Site: CAGR

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)

Will obtain legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to provide for acquisition of relevant, intact archaeological resources associated with the Monument. Will complete planning to ensure continued protection and interpretation of both the cultural and natural resources.

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

Site: CAGR

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will encourage all young visitors, through their parents, guardians or chaperones, to participate in Junior Ranger Programs. We will provide on-site resource and curriculum based stewardship education programs for school groups. We will develop technology and materials to promote conservation themes that will attract children's organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls and Boys, and after school enrichment program participation. Will expand current children's activities on website "Kids Corner" to include activities to cultivate interest in conservation. Will expand the "Student Exploration Booklet", a curriculum based children's workbook made available on our website for teacher led activities to emphasize importance of stewardship.

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

Site: CAGR

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Will install and utilize a photovoltaic system to reduce annual electrical needs for park. Will manage fleet operations to increase the percentage of alternative fuels, hybrid and electric vehicles.

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

Site: CAGR

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.

Will implement a recycling program for park operations and all visitor access areas. Visitors will have access to waste receptacles for various recycling needs. Will establish partnerships to promote and meet our recycling initiative. Additionally, the park will make every effort to utilize recycled paper products and recycled plastics.

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

Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Will install and utilize a photovoltaic system to reduce annual electrical needs for park. Will manage fleet operations to increase the percentage of alternative fuel, hybrid and electric vehicles.

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

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

Will showcase and provide interpretation for the use of photovoltaic systems as realistic renewable energy source. Visitors will be able to learn about environmentally-friendly production of electricity on site.

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

Site: CAGR

RECREATION

Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will continually improve the job satisfaction and quality-of-life (living areas) for Volunteers. Includes expanding number of RV camping pads in VIP Campground, upgrading ADA standards for VIP Campground, and provide more diverse opportunities for volunteer activities. Will promote recruitment from local citizens.

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

Site: CAGR

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)

Will expand ability to host and provide school education programs at the Monument, as well as to far-away locations utilizing website and interactive distance learning technologies. Will utilize local schools for YCC program to complete park projects and to educate participants on stewardship, conservation, and national parks.

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

Site: CAGR

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.

Will develop infrastructure to encourage and accommodate the tour bus industry. Will design and construct universally-accessible theater with enough seating to accommodate a tour bus, as well as for high-density visitation hours, and provide an area for indoor interpretive events.

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

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

Will design and construct universally-accessible theater that will provide a large enough area for indoor interpretive events and programming.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will enhance Monument website to include relevant interpretive materials to target multiple age groups, generations and languages. Content will be expanded to provide information on the Hohokam, modern-day affiliated tribes, ceramics, natural resources, youth interests, and other associated interpretive materials. Will utilize new technologies such as pod casts, virtual tours, interactive media, and downloadable products.

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

Site: CAGR

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will expand ability to host and provide school education programs at the Monument, as well as to far-away locations utilizing the internet and interactive distance learning technologies.

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

Site: CAGR

EDUCATION

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

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Will enhance Monument website to include relevant interpretive materials to target multiple age groups, generations and languages. Content will be expanded to provide information on the Hohokam, modern-day affiliated tribes, ceramics, natural resources, youth interests, and other associated interpretive materials. Will utilize new technologies such as pod casts, virtual tours, interactive media, and downloadable products.

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Site: CAGR

EDUCATION

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

Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Will utilize Junior Ranger Ambassador Program to enhance the Monument's Junior Ranger Program and to conduct outreach to locally affiliated tribes.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will utilize local schools for YCC program to complete park projects and to educate participants on stewardship, conservation, and national parks.

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

Site: CAGR

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

Will utilize creative recruitment strategies and multiple hiring authorities to diversify the current work force.

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

Site: CAGR

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

Supervisors will establish and maintain Individual Developmental Plans (IDPs) for all staff.

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

Site: CAGR

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Will conduct annual safety training events to ensure all staff and volunteers are adequately trained and aware of safety procedures, concerns and plans. Will utilize JHAs, quarterly safety audits, monthly safety training events, and annual safety trainings to ensure park staff and volunteers are working in a safe environment and providing a safe experience for visitors. Will promote a safety culture.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Will implement IPM strategies to reduce safety concerns caused by birds and burrowing animals.

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