

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Monocacy National Battlefield

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: MONO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Since opening to the public in 1991, the overarching goals at Monocacy National Battlefield have included increasing opportunities for visitors to experience and learn about the Battle of Monocacy and stabilizing the national battlefield's numerous historic structures. As of the summer of 2007, all major areas of the national battlefield have been made accessible to visitors and a new visitor center opened. Over two-thirds of its historic structures have been stabilized or rehabilitated.

Building on these successes, Monocacy National Battlefield will seek to expand the visitor experience by restoring the interior of the historic Worthington House to convey the civilian story at the national battlefield. An outbuilding on the Thomas Farm will be adaptively reused for exhibits that will explain the battlefield's role as a military and transportation crossroads throughout the Civil War and American history. Various types of media will be incorporated into national battlefield interpretation to convey its stories to the widest audience possible.

The historic battlefield landscape is composed primarily of agricultural lands and natural riparian zones. A major goal of Monocacy National Battlefield will be to prepare and implement an agricultural management plan that preserves the historic battlefield landscape while establishing best management practices to protect and enhance the natural environment. Consistent with preservation of the historic landscape, the national battlefield will seek to improve water quality and native species diversity through enhancement and restoration of riparian buffers. Another important goal is to complete the stabilization of all of its historic buildings and implement a cyclic maintenance program to keep them in good condition. The national battlefield also will seek to protect its significant cultural and natural resources through effective law enforcement patrols and monitoring.

Monocacy National Battlefield is located in a fast-growing metropolitan area. The national battlefield will work to forge partnerships within the local community to foster preservation values. It will work with state and local jurisdictions to promote policies that minimize impacts to national battlefield resources.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Susan Trail

Site: MONO

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)

Monocacy National Battlefield will meet this goal by continuing to care for its historic structures, historic landscapes, and archeological sites, and by continuing to open new areas of the national battlefield to the public. Associated tasks include stabilizing and maintaining historic structures, and protecting and managing archeological sites. The national battlefield will continue to work toward restoring and maintaining the historic landscape by controlling exotic vegetation and reestablishing historic field and fence boundaries. Finally, it will ensure that all visitation areas and trails are safe and publicly accessible, and continue to work toward opening new trails and visitation areas.

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

Site: MONO

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.

Monocacy National Battlefield manages several highly significant historical houses associated with the Battle of Monocacy, specifically the Worthington, Thomas and Best houses. A primary goal under the Centennial Initiative will be the restoration of the interior of the Worthington House for public access and interpretation of the civilian experience during the Battle of Monocacy. The late 18th-century Thomas House will be adaptively rehabilitated as the administrative headquarters for the national battlefield. An associated stone tenant house on the grounds of the Thomas Farmstead will be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for exhibits that will examine the broader context of the national battlefield area throughout American history. Due to major structural issues, the c. 1800 Best House interior will remain stabilized and closed to the public. The recently restored exterior will be maintained in its present good condition.

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

The control of invasive species is an ongoing concern at Monocacy National Battlefield. It will continue to work with the exotic plant management program to target and control or eliminate high priority exotic and invasive plant species. The national battlefield also will continue working with farmers operating under special use permits to eliminate noxious weeds and other pest species. It will pursue projects to replant native species within the national battlefield's forested, riparian and meadow areas. Associated projects will include expanding riparian buffers wherever practicable and establishing native warm season grass meadows for grassland bird habitat.

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Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Monocacy National Battlefield will continue to maintain its high-priority assets in an acceptable condition. It will continue to stabilize its historic buildings and monuments to prevent deterioration.

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Site: MONO

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Monocacy National Battlefield, utilizing the established Vital Signs, will focus on improving the physical, biological and chemical components of the national battlefield's water resources; decreasing the extent of exotic plant species; protecting rare, threatened and endangered species; and promoting native plant and animal species habitat.

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Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.

Monocacy National Battlefield has an up-to-date List of Classified Structures. It will amend it's Cultural Landscape Inventory to include the historic Thomas Farm. An Archeological Inventory and Evaluation Study has been completed for the Best Farm, and one is underway for the Thomas Farm. The national battlefield will work to complete these studies at other high priority areas. Accessioning and cataloging of the museum collection was recently brought up to date, and the national battlefield will continue to keep the museum collection inventory up to date.

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Site: MONO

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)

To meet this goal Monocacy National Battlefield will continue efforts to acquire the two remaining privately owned land parcels with the Congressional boundary, if owners are willing. This will include acquisition in fee of a 121-acre tract on the north end of the national battlefield that contains significant archeological remains of Civil War-era entrenchments and encampments associated with Federal efforts to protect the B&O Railroad Bridge across the Monocacy River and with the Battle of Monocacy.

A historic stone tenant on the Thomas Farm will be adaptively reused to house exhibits that will examine significant aspects of the national battlefield's history, particularly Monocacy's position as an important crossroads from prehistory to the present, and will explore themes such as slavery and transportation that would help place the Battle of Monocacy within the broader context of American history. These exhibits will expand the story at the national battlefield and help it appeal to more diverse audiences.

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Site: MONO

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Projects associated with this goal include the Monocacy National Battlefield's continuing efforts to improve water quality, manage deer and other animal populations, and apply best management practices to its agricultural leasing program. Through these efforts, the national battlefield is utilizing previous and ongoing scientific research and monitoring, and plans to increase this research to produce science-based management strategies.

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Site: MONO

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Monocacy National Battlefield will continue to develop its Junior Ranger program. The national battlefield will expand its environmental education program to provide youth with knowledge about conservation and stewardship to be used in the protection of the environment.

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Site: MONO

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

The national battlefield will prepare an agricultural management plan that will identify and implement best management practices such as riparian buffers, conservation tillage, stream fencing and nutrient management.

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Site: MONO

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

National Battlefield staff will actively engage with local, community-driven environmental stewardship organizations that promote the importance of stewardship on private property. This will augment the work that the national battlefield is accomplishing inside its boundaries, while providing the public with a positive example.

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Site: MONO

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.

Monocacy National Battlefield will work with volunteer groups to maintain seven miles of trails presently located within its boundary. It will identify additional areas that may be candidates for developing new trails in an effort to enhance recreational use.

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Site: MONO

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)

Monocacy National Battlefield will reach out to local school, scouting groups and other organizations in an effort to educate them about the national battlefield's purpose and resources. It will involve youth groups in resource monitoring projects and educate them about the significance of national battlefield resources and the need to conserve them.

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Site: MONO

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.

Monocacy National Battlefield will maintain and enhance its existing relationship with state and county tourism officials to promote the national battlefield.

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.

With the opening of its new visitor center, Monocacy National Battlefield will now be able to reach out to school groups and develop programs specifically for youth groups.

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

Site: MONO

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through the Centennial Initiative, and in anticipation of the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial, Monocacy National Battlefield and three additional NPS sites in central Maryland--Antietam National Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and C&O Canal National Historical Park--will partner with the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies at Frederick Community College, the Heart of the Civil War Maryland State Heritage Area, the Maryland Office of Tourism and others, to create a comprehensive website, a series of public programs, and educational projects to place the local story of the Civil War in a broader regional perspective. This project will link the various local NPS units to tell the complex story of the Civil War in this border region, exploring military and homefront issues, and using park-specific resources and stories to highlight the era's complex interweaving of race, politics, sectional division and conflict. The website, to be linked to all local park websites, will serve as a comprehensive gateway both for historical information about the Civil War and for tourism information about each NPS site.

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

Site: MONO

EDUCATION

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

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

The Resource Education and Visitor Services division at Monocacy National Battlefield will create a component to address formal educational needs such as the expansion of the Junior Ranger program to include summer day camps. The national battlefield will seek to develop a partnership with the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium to link with neighboring historic sites in a coordinated effort to teach children about stewardship of public lands.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The national battlefield will develop additional life-long learning programs to include adult day camps and elder hostel programs.

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Site: MONO

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.

Monocacy National Battlefield opened a new visitor center in summer 2007 that contains comprehensive exhibits on the Battle of Monocacy. The national battlefield will prepare a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan in Fiscal Year 2008 that will systematically define personal and nonpersonal services through the park, and will then move to implement it.

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Site: MONO

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.

Monocacy National Battlefield will continue its extensive and proven use of student hiring authorities to recruit motivated and diverse employees. The national battlefield will seek to increase recruitment from minority and traditionally underserved populations.

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