

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

African Burial Ground National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: AFBG

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

From the 1690s to the 1790s, the African Burial Ground served as the final resting place of approximately 15,000 enslaved and free Africans in New York City, New York. It contains the remains of those interred, as well as the archeological resources and artifacts associated with their burials. The approximately 7-acre African Burial Ground was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993. A portion of the burial ground totaling 15,000 sf is the site of the African Burial Ground NM established in 2006.

The African Burial Ground National Monument will promote understanding of related resources, encourage continuing research, and present interpretive opportunities and programs for visitors to better understand and honor the culture and vital contributions of generations of Africans and Americans of African descent to our Nation.

The Centennial vision for the African Burial Ground NM and its partner is to expand our capacity to develop and deliver programs to introduce the African Burial Ground to some and expand its understanding for others. Located in the heart of a diverse urban community, it is imperative that we connect to our community via innovative and relevant programming. Enhanced educational programs and curricula and new interpretive media will illuminate the history and significance of the site, reaching diverse audiences in exciting and fresh ways.

The newly formed African Burial Ground Foundation is a committed partner of the National Monument and seeks to provide support for the development of interpretive, educational and cultural programs which will enhance public understanding of the African Burial Ground and its local, national and international significance.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Tara Morrison, Superintendent

Site: AFBG

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 African Burial Ground can tell a story critical to our understanding of American history by highlighting Africans in early New York. This history will be brought to life through a curriculum based approach focused on an local urban youth audience.

As a new unit of the National Park system in New York City, the African Burial Ground wil continue to expand upon its visitation from the local, national and international communities. The new interpretive exhibits/media projects at the African Burial Ground visitor center will increase visitor satisfaction, understanding and appreciation of our mission.

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

Site: AFBG

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We intend to use the development of our interpretive center as an entree to engaging partners, communities and visitors in environmental stewardship. Highlighting the efforts taken to design and construct a sustainable facility will introduce youth and others and encourage a commitment to environmental stewardship. The park will partner with other local environmental stewards to engage our neighbors in environmental stewardship.

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Site: AFBG

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)

Initiatives will focus on offsite programs and provide an introduction for many to the NPS and African Burial Ground NM. Efforts will be made to partner with organizations in under-served areas and expose youth to the history and science used to uncover the story of early Africans in New York and those interred in the burial ground. This early introduction will seek to encourage youth to explore history and science as possible career options.

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Site: AFBG

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

We will collaborate with partners and others to provide educator workshops. Developing curriculum and related materials will assist educators both locally and abroad with incorporating this lesser known history into their classrooms. Special efforts will be made to collaborate with creative educators to develop interdisciplinary curricula and materials that can be utilized in traditional as well as non-traditional learning environments.

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Site: AFBG

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.

We will draw on the recent scientific research associated with the African Burial Ground and develop innovative, interactive activities that appeal to young people while introducing them to the National Park Service, African Burial Ground National Monument and the science fields used to study the African Burial Ground.

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