

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# John Muir National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** JOMU

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

The vision of the four-park team (EUON, JOMU, POCH, RORI) is to engage visitors with the stories and resources of each park by achieving the highest level of interpretation and the best possible resource condition while ensuring visitor and worker safety. We work together to maximize our knowledge and skills and value a management approach that recognizes innovation, the individuality of each employee, the unique qualities of each park, and a team that works cooperatively for the benefit of the four parks.

The National Park Service and its partners work together to preserve and interpret the home, gravesite and associated landscapes of John Muir at John Muir National Historic Site. Visitors will be inspired by the passionate leadership and inspiration writing that defined John Muir's preservation ethic and advocacy. Muir's legacy as an advocate continues as individuals throughout the world bring his zeal for the natural world into their own family, home and life.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Martha Lee

Site: JOMU

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)

Visitor and employee safety is the number one priority in all park planning, management and operations. Park safety plans will be up to date and accurate. The park will have a perfect safety record.

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

**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.**

Increase staff to manage an efficient facilities management program and implement our historic structures report and preventative maintenance to keep the resources in their current condition. Preserve and maintain historic buildings in good condition at John Muir NHS by restoring surface treatments of floor, trim and walls of the John Muir House, painting interior and exterior walls of the Muir House and Martinez Adobe. Replacing and repairing damaged porches due to normal visitor traffic and replacing screens on the Muir House.

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

Park will partner with the Exotic Plant Management Team to move multiple crews to different locations, thereby building in flexibility to secure yellow star thistle treatments at the precise time of year and continue the process of bringing the infestation to maintenance levels by 2009. Planned treatment will ensure that yellow star thistle populations are monitored and treated appropriately during 2007 and 2008. Another season of control will also be necessary in 2009 to complete the recommended five-year cycle.

The Park will develop a vegetation management plan that takes into account such wide-ranging issues as oak regeneration, riparian function, fire history, the potential for native grassland restoration and a current and specific soil survey will allow for any park manager at any time, to use the document for short- and long-term action planning that is best on a holistic assessment of the plants and the environment.

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.**

Maintain park visitor use facilities in top condition.  
Develop efficient and sustainable new visitor facilities.  
Augment the current staff of three front line maintenance workers with seasonal staff and include the experience and technical knowledge of a gardener/horticulturalist.

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

Site: JOMU

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)

There is a growing interest in both students and teachers to link to issues espoused by John Muir resource preservation, the value of wilderness and the sense that everything around us is linked through an intricate ecological web. Additionally, addressing controversial topics of global climate change and environmental ethics provide unique opportunities to connect students to activities in their own communities and the larger world around them.

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

Site: JOMU

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide an 8 week long week-learn-earn program where youth work, learn, and earn together on projects that further development and conservation. Students learn about orchard pest management, park operations and develop an understanding and appreciation about John Muir, conservation, and the surrounding natural and cultural resources at the park.

Teach our Junior Rangers about bat biology and dispel myths about bats.

Purchase four day packs for use with the program and public walks, including the Junior Ranger Program, bird and flower walks, and moon walks.

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Site: JOMU

**ENVIRONMENT**

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

The park will purchase an alternative fuel vehicle to transport visitors to and from the John Muir Family Gravesite. Use of an alternative fuel vehicle will reduce polluting exhaust emissions and help demonstrate the service's commitment to clean energy and sustainability.

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

Site: JOMU

**ENVIRONMENT**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

John Muir's home and the place where he wrote and advocated for national parks will be a place of inspiration and invigoration. Visitors will be engaged in an experience that will connect visitors to John Muir -- the inspirational icon of the national park movement.

Fully integrate the community by establishing a community engagement program.

Initiate visitor access and programming to the newly acquired John Muir gravesite

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

Site: JOMU

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.

Partner with Juan Batista de Anza National Historic Trail to offer the Vincente Martinez Adobe as a unique setting to tell the story of the Anza Expedition. The purpose of this project is to develop and construct a permanent ADA compliant exhibit on the Anza Expedition which is essential for the improvement of visitor services along the Anza Trail. This project will also repair and preserve the interior of the Martinez Adobe, a win-win outcome for both parks.

The Anza Trail is almost 2000 miles long and the Martinez Adobe will provide a major exhibit and stopping point along the trail.

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will also create a series of wayside exhibits highlighting geology, flora and fauna, and the Muir connection to Mt. Wanda.

Mt. Wanda, a component of the John Muir NHS, provides visitors with a unique natural experience. Rolling hills and trails adjacent to the park allow the visitors to get away, in a matter of minutes, from the hustle and bustle of commute traffic and urban sounds. In April 2007, the primary access trail of Mt. Wanda was dedicated as a segment of the San Francisco Ridge Trail. The 400+ mile Ridge Trail circumnavigates the San Francisco Bay area via the coastal hills and mountains that surround the region. Due to Mt. Wanda's location adjacent to a highway and in a populated area, this is a valuable addition to the Ridge Trail.

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Site: JOMU

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)

Foster volunteer community participation in a variety of resource stewardship activities.

JOMU will benefit from the work of increased multiple groups who are deeply interested in the current and future conditions of the park's component landscapes. This is especially true for the NPS portion of the Strentzel Creek watershed whose outfall is the floodplain of the Strain Ranch—another component landscape of the park. As a result of multi-year winter flooding, a storm water drainage structure was constructed in the northeast corner of the floodplain in 2004. A very active group of volunteers has been working to reintroduce native plants and control non-native vegetation in order to restore a working floodplain. To date, hundreds of hours of volunteer time have been donated under the auspices of The Friends of Alhambra Creek to transform this formerly grazed ranch landscape. We will increase these efforts.

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

Site: JOMU

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)

Deliver high quality and relevant education programs that inspire and engage.

Work with the John Muir Memorial Association to expand John Muir Mountain Day Camp at the site to connect inner city youth with the outdoors and the model of John Muir's preservation ethic.

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Site: JOMU

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.

Work with the John Muir Festival Center, the City of Martinez, and community groups to increase John Muir National Historic Site's profile in local and bay area communities. Offer a variety of experiences that meet the needs of our diverse communities, and increase the number of facilitated visitor programs.

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Site: JOMU

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop and implement off and on-site education programs. Work with local school districts to develop curriculum to connect students with park resources and introduce them to John Muir, his contributions to the American environmental movement, and the creation of our earliest national parks.

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Site: JOMU

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Deliver high quality and relevant education programs that inspire and engage. Implement the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP), to organize, direct, and implement interpretive programs. Determine key interpretive themes and identify interpretive media to best emphasize the park's story elements.

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Site: JOMU

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Work with elder hostel and other senior organizations to identify, define, develop and nurture partnerships that could provide future assistance to the park in accomplishing shared long term goals.

Engage diverse individuals and communities through programs, publications, educational materials, and partnerships.

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Site: JOMU

**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.

Recruit, develop and retain a diverse workforce that represents the demographics of the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Site: JOMU

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The four park cultural resource program manages civic engagement, outreach and partnership. There are two Congressional Districts, 4 municipal governments, 52 partnership organization and numerous special agencies, and community groups and organizations to interface with. Our goal is to increase staffing to build community support to preserve historic structures, natural and cultural landscapes and provide visitor understanding and support.

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