

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Lowell National Historical Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: LOWE

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

A '2nd Revolution' is taking place in Lowell making it a model for community regeneration through preservation, alternative transportation, educational excellence, and sustainable environmental practices. Through NPS leadership, new opportunities for reinvention and expansion of successful partnerships have been created. Visibility and access to and along Lowell's historic power canal system have been enhanced through multi-modal transportation improvements creating a seamless and inspirational visitor experience. Lowell's 19th-century historic buildings are powered by innovative 21st-century energy sources making Lowell National Historical Park a living, working example of sustainable energy practices. Lowell's '2nd Revolution' connects students with real places, compelling stories and hands-on experiences. Students and teachers are immersed within Lowell's dynamic historical setting: a 19th century working textile mill, riding the rails on an historic trolley, and floating aboard canal barges in the historic Lowell canal system. Students are scholarly detectives, analyzing historic buildings and waterways, neighborhoods, and primary sources related to immigration, environmental history and globalization. Lowell's history is relevant to the people and issues of today and provides thought and inspiration for the future.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Michael Creasey, Superintendent

Site: LOWE

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)

Visitors, residents, and workers in Lowell seamlessly access park resources, downtown businesses and cultural attractions through development of enhanced canal boat docking facility and pedestrian connections to the City's commuter rail terminal.

Infrastructure improvements will be made to museum exhibits and to hands-on discovery areas to foster exceptional learning opportunities for students.

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

Site: LOWE

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.

The historic B&M RR terminal is restored for cultural and educational programming use.

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

Site: LOWE

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through River as a Classroom educational programs, students will be encouraged to become stewards of the Merrimack River and the environment.

Young people from diverse backgrounds will be encouraged and challenged to address environmental and social issues in their community through the Spindle City Corps: Developing Youth conservation Leaders program.

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

Site: LOWE

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Boott Museum Photovoltaic project will allow the Park to achieve energy independence from the National Grid.

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

Site: LOWE

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

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

The Boott Mills Photovoltaic project will provide an opportunity to educate students on the potentials of photovoltaic cells to provide power by lighting the LNHP classroom facilities with energy generated from the photo cells. An interactive kiosk will provide visitors informat on what is going generated by the project.

A new education program for students will explore Lowell's story as an innovator in the use of alternative energy sources, historically and today.

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

Site: LOWE

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

New educational programs at the LNHP will explore the impacts of humans on the environment to encourage responsible action.

Through leadership development, career exploration, and goal setting, interns in the Spindle City Corps: Developing Youth Conservation Leaders program will acquire the skills necessary to be the the teachers and leaders of today and the future.

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

Site: LOWE

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.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LNHP will work in partnership the the City of Lowell and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments to develop a pedestrian link between the city's commuter rail terminal and the Park's trolley, walkway, and boat terminus at Swamp Locks.

Rehabilitation of the river landing facilitiy in partnership with UMass Lowell and others will encourage outdoor water recreation in the Lowell community.

Park will collaborate with the City, State, and private developers in planning and development of the City's \$250M Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project at Swamp Locks to ensure development of a seamless multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of park visitors, residents, and workers.

Improved canal boat docking facility at Swamp Locks will enhance operation of the Park's interpretative programs and improve access to Lowell's historic canal system and associated resources.

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

Site: LOWE

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)

New place-based education programs for school and after-school groups through the Tsongas Industrial History Center will bring more students to Lowell National Historical Park.

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

Site: LOWE

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.

New cultural programming and issue forums will increase park visitation among younger and more diverse audiences in the greater Lowell community.

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

Site: LOWE

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In partnership with UMass Lowell, park will provide distance learning opportunities for teachers and students who are too far away to visit Lowell National Historical Park on a more traditional class field trip.

In collaboration with UMass Lowell through the Tsongas Industrial History Center students and teachers in grades 3-12 will be provided curriculum-based, hands-on, place-based education programs.

LNHP will provide content-based opportunities for professional learning for teachers in the areas of science, history, and the arts.

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

Site: LOWE

EDUCATION

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

LNHP will provide issue forums and other cultural programming that will support life-long learning for community members in the greater Lowell area.

LNHP will develop and present leadership training for young community professionals to connect them to the national park and promote life-long learning.

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

Site: LOWE

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.

Through expanded Tsongas Center programs, LNHP will increase its involvement with programming with the diverse community and student population in Lowell and with community partners enabling the park to meet its diversity recruitment goals.

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

Site: LOWE

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through strategic planning with park partners, LNHP will share resources to create a multi-disciplinary program focused on Experiential Education, Tradition, Cultures, and Engagement, and Stewardship Building using the Lowell National Historical Park as the laboratory for learning.

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

Site: LOWE

PROFESSIONALISM

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Significant fire and safety issues at the Boott Cotton Mills will be addressed through reorganization of student activity area and office space and upgrade of fire alarm system.

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

Site: LOWE

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Lowell's major public institutions: University of Massachusetts Lowell, Middlesex Community College, the City of Lowell, and the Lowell National Historical Park will collaborate in new and expanded ways to enhance the educational programming and resources of the Tsongas Industrial History Center.

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