

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

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

War In The Pacific National Historical Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WAPA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

While small in acreage, War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA) and American Memorial Park (AMME) represent an amazing array of both natural and historical resources. The responsibility of protecting such an important part of our national heritage for future generations is a humbling responsibility – because stories and resources of such magnitude deserve only the highest standard of care and conservation.

As the National Park Service (NPS) moves into its second century, WAPA and AMME are uniquely positioned to share the NPS message of stewardship and conservation on the Pacific frontier. To effectively convey this message and to achieve the high standard of protection the parks deserve, we must offer culturally relevant programs that instill an appreciation of park resources and inspire both island residents and park visitors to actively participate in their conservation.

The parks will initiate, through project funding and local partnerships, a shift to renewable energy sources. WAPA and AMME have a goal to be “Lean and Green by 2016.” In the future, the parks hope to transition the maintenance facility at WAPA and the visitor center at AMMA to operate completely from alternative energy sources. The objective would be to operate both facilities as demonstration areas for (typhoon proof) alternative energy technology, composting, recycling and biodesiel fuels.

WAPA will continue to conduct important research on the relationship between sedimentation and coral recruitment, and will develop proposals to study the effect of climate change on reef ecosystems in the western Pacific. In addition, the parks will place an emphasis on exotic species control, particularly in protecting AMME’s mangrove wetland from the brown tree snake.

The parks will implement new and exciting education programs. The Senior Ranger program will develop a curriculum and program materials that take advantage of the interests and experiences of the “over 50” volunteer. In addition, both AMME and WAPA will spearhead the Pride for Parks initiative; a cooperative venture between the government of Guam, and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association designed to instill pride for all public lands and to inform island children of the basic principles of environmental stewardship.

AMME staff will work closely with the Commonwealth of the Marianas Island to develop recreational facilities at American Memorial Park that will enhance the community and emphasize health and fitness.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Sarah Creachbaum

Site: WAPA

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.**

IFunds are requested to develop a training curriculum, recruitment materials, and program guidelines for a pilot project designed to recruit and organize volunteers over the age of 55. The program will be designed to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity that lies on the horizon to tap the time, energy, skills, and experience of millions of baby boomers to strengthen the ranks of the National Park Service.

The program will utilize the universal appeal of the NP Ranger, to attract and retain senior volunteers. Senior Rangers will have uniforms, be trained to perform specific tasks within their personal area of interest and receive recognition within the community.

Once the curriculum and recruitment materials have been developed, the pilot program will be implemented at three NPS units; War in the Pacific NHP, American Memorial Park and the Arizona Memorial. Senior Ranger training materials for these pilot parks would focus on recruiting seniors to provide outreach and interpretive programs on the history of World War II. Based upon the success of the pilot program, the Senior Rangers program could be easily implemented system wide.

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

Site: WAPA

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ **Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.**

☒ **Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.**

The Pride for Parks initiative is a public outreach collaboration - lead by the NPS with participation from the Government of Guam, Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Historic Preservation and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. The initiative is designed to instill an appreciation for the island's parks and to teach the basics of stewardship and conservation, with a focus on litter control.

The initiative will kick off on the 30th anniversary of War in the Pacific NHP and American Memorial Park, with an essay contest for school children on Guam and Saipan. The parks will also sponsor a series of programs, supporting publications, community events and family activities. Each event will be accompanied by public service announcements via local media. The events will occur throughout the year with an annual Pride for Parks community celebration to be held on the birthday of War in the Pacific NHP and American Memorial Park.

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