

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

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** CEBE

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP is a newly established partnership unit. The park will be jointly managed by the National Park Service and six non-profit and local government partners including -- Belle Grove Plantation, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Shenandoah County, and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -- which is a national heritage area. Currently the National Park Service owns and manages a 7.5 acre site within the park, and approximately 1170 acres are owned and managed by its five partners, and another 29 acres are in conservation easements. The park's first General Management Plan is currently in development and a major goal of the plan is to develop a strategy for the six partners to collaboratively manage the park.

The national park will provide leadership and technical support to park, local government and community partners so that the park will be an exemplary example of resource stewardship, interpretation and visitor services. We will protect the park from incompatible growth and development. We will develop a superior set of interpretive programs that will ensure that all of the park's interpretive themes are presented, and that the programs of the individual partners complement one another. We will provide leadership and coordination so that the joint endeavors of the park and its partners will be consistent in quality, design and branding.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Diann Jacox

Site: CEBE

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

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

Repair and rehabilitate the Whitham Farmstead -- including the plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and roofing systems; and window frames, doors, ceilings, and chimneys. Demolish nonhistoric addition, which is in poor condition, and stabilize and restore historic barn.

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

Site: CEBE

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)

Protect 500 additional acres of cultural landscapes through fee acquisition and provide interpretive programs to tell the story of the Battle of Cedar Creek.

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

Site: CEBE

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

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

Initiate LEED certification process for the proposed new Visitor Center at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP, seeking to be a gold level LEED certified facility.

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Site: CEBE

ENVIRONMENT

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Provide technical assistance to local landowners and park partners to identify and remove invasive species, to fence off Cedar Creek from farm animals and to protect sensitive plant communities from ground disturbance.

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Site: CEBE

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)

Collaborate with federal and local government, community and park partners to develop trails within the park that connect to the existing network of U.S. Forest Service, Apple Trail, and Virginia Civil War Trail systems.

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Site: CEBE

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Plan, design and construct a fully accessible Visitor Center that will serve as gateway to the national heritage area, and the historic resources of Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP owned by the National Park Service, the five park partners -- and private landowners who desire to provide public access to their historically significant properties.

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

Site: CEBE

**EDUCATION**

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

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for newly established park unit that integrates the stories and resources owned by the national park and five nonprofit and local government partners. The new CIP will embrace the goals of the NPS Centennial by developing strategies that connect people to parks, utilize current technologies and develop an action plan to work closely with our many park partners to create a memorable visitor experience.

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

Site: CEBE

**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.

Develop, fabricate and install visitor center exhibits that focus on the history of the Shenandoah Valley and Battle of Cedar Creek. The exhibits will tie the historic resources and interpretive stories of the six park partners into an integrated message for the visiting public.

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

Site: CEBE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Collaboratively develop with the park's five legislated partners, a set of shared written preservation policies to guide natural and cultural management within the national park. .

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

Site: CEBE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Strengthen and continue to develop partnership with park, local community and local government partners for the purpose of coordinating stewardship efforts.

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