

AIHS 2025 VISION

Draft from 6/20/2017 meeting

VISION

- ORGANIZATION
The AIHS is a vibrant organization dedicated to the history of Anderson Island.
A significant percentage of the Island population belongs to the organization (and many of them are under fifty ☺).
- FACILITY
-Archival Building: The Archival Building serves as a Visitor Center for the entire AIHS/Johnson Farm and Museum. It contains an inviting, comprehensive, and well-organized set of displays that tell story of the history of Anderson Island. There are also as various rotating displays from the AIHS collection. The building also serves as a meeting hall for many of the AIHS events.
-Johnson Farm: The Visitor Center orients visitors to the well maintained Johnson farm, whose buildings are clearly signed with information and displays that tell the story of life on the farm one-hundred years ago. A crew of docents is available for guided tours, while the extensive building signage and brochures allow self-guided tours.
-The gift store offers Island memorabilia and gift items for sale.
- COMMUNITY
The AIHS actively engages and nurtures the Anderson Island Community with a dozen community events each year, including events designed for younger members of the community.
- COLLECTION
The AIHS owns, displays, collects, and has catalogued an extensive and ever-growing collection of island artifacts and chronicles of island people, activities, and institutions.

GOALS

DISPLAYS

- Develop a plan for each building's displays.
- Illustrate the tools and techniques which made it possible for European Americans to settle and survive on the island in the period 1854-1975.
- Include displays honoring the heritage of the local Native Americans who frequented the Island in the epoch preceding the immigrants.

ARCHIVES

- Document and organize the AIHS collection. Repair items where necessary.

- Sustain the memory of Islanders of the past by preserving written, audio and visual materials documenting their lives and activities.
- Maintain a chronicle of island characters, activities and institutions through keen observation, recording, and transmitting of treasured Island memories, including island event photographs, recordings, videos, etc.

EVENTS

- Create more events to draw people to the farm (downside: it takes more volunteers)
- Put more emphasis on animals at events.
- Add a 'Movie Night' with some island history (in keeping with our mission).

ARCHIVAL BUILDING

- Think of the archival building as the 'Visitor Center' for the farm.
- Integrate the gift-shop more directly into the Archival Building in keeping with the 'visitor center' theme.
- Populate the Archival Building with displays that tell the story of the history of AI and display appropriate artifacts from the AIHS collection
- Set up display trading with other local museums (South Puget Sound Heritage League).
- Create a well-stocked Library of published local and regional resources and files of newspaper clippings, diaries, and research projects of significance to island history. Focus on western Washington history.
- Create a program of rotating displays that draw from the AIHS collection.

FARM

- Define a purpose and display philosophy for each AIHS building.
- Create displays and signage that depict the life on a working farm 100 years ago. The signage and accompanying brochures should create a self-guiding tour.
- Add self-guided audio tours of the farm – downloadable for smartphones.
- Establish aspects of the farm as a working farm (examples: hay).
- Transform the barn into an event venue (challenges: structural and fire code issues limit the barn to 21 occupants).
- Bring the out buildings to a cleaner and safer state so they can be included in the tours.
- Keep the grounds clean and debris free.

- Build a vibrant group of Docents, manning every weekend plus one or two days a week all year long (unless weather conditions prohibit visitors, then spring through fall). Ideally, with 20-30 Docents, each would only work once a month. Provide learning opportunities for Docents on a specific schedule.
- Produce an edited version of the Docent handbook in the next few years, using primary sources (museum exhibits and personal, oral histories) for historical information.
- Organize a variety of "Tours." That might include, The Archival Exhibits, The Farm House, The Farm Outbuildings, The Sawmill, The Gardens, and/or Farm Equipment.
- Working with local teachers, create a curriculum that fits specific grade-level standards for students to discover and enjoy their own local history. Create interactive opportunities within this curriculum using games, toys, gardens, building materials, tools, etc. of the period,
- Work with senior centers for tours. (Make all buildings ADA compliant).

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Improve the reader board (bigger letters or more visible)
- Add signs for the Archival building.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate the preservation of other buildings on the island.