The National Parks: Shaping the System
Using This Book
This book tells the story of the evolution of the U.S. National Park System, the first of its kind in the world. In Part 1, Bureau Historian Barry Mackintosh discusses the origins of the System and describes the complexity of the System’s designations. In Part 2 he chronicles the step-by-step growth of the System from its beginnings to its 357 areas at the beginning of 1991. Part 3 contains maps showing the extent of the System, a listing of areas outside but affiliated with the System, and a list of all National Park Service directors with their tenures. An index completes the book. This revised edition of Shaping the System, which was first published in 1985, is produced on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service, 1916-1991.

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When did the National Park System begin? The usual response is 1872, when an act of Congress set aside Yellowstone National Park, the first area so titled. Like a river formed from several branches, however, the System cannot be traced to a single source. Certain later additions—the parks of the Nation's Capital, Hot Springs, parts of Yosemite—preceded Yellowstone as parklands reserved or established by the Federal Government. And there was no real "system" of national parks until a federal bureau, the National Park Service, was created in 1916 to manage those areas then assigned to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The establishment of a systematic park administration within Interior paved the way for the annexation of comparable areas from other federal agencies. In a 1933 government reorganization, the National Park Service acquired the War Department's national military parks and monuments, the Agriculture Department's national monuments, and the national capital parks. Thereafter the Service would be the primary federal agency preserving and providing for public enjoyment of America's most significant natural and cultural properties in a fully comprehensive National Park System.

Ronald F. Lee's *Family Tree of the National Park System*, published by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association in 1972, chronicled the System's evolution to that date. Its usefulness led the Service to issue a revised and expanded account titled *The National Parks: Shaping the System* in 1985. The present edition has been further revised and updated for the Service's 75th anniversary in 1991.

The nomenclature of National Park System areas is often confusing. Units now bear some 20 titles besides "national park," which commonly identifies the largest, most spectacular natural areas. Other designations such as national seashore, national lakeshore, national river, and national scenic trail serve useful descriptive purposes. In contrast, the national monument title—applied impartially to natural areas as vast as Death Valley and cultural sites as small as the Statue of Liberty—says little about a place. For no obvious reason, some historic forts are national monuments and others are national historic sites, while historic battlefields are variously titled national
military parks, national battlefields, and national battlefield parks, among other things.

All these designations are rooted in the System's legislative and administrative history. Where distinctions in title denote no real differences in character or management policy, the differing designations usually reflect changes in fashion over time. Historical areas that once would have been named national monuments, for example, more recently have been titled national historic sites, if small, or national historical parks, if larger. Regardless of their titles, all units of the System are referred to generically as parks, a practice followed in this book.

The dates used here for parks are usually those of the earliest laws, Presidential proclamations, or departmental orders authorizing or establishing them. In some cases these actions occurred before the areas were placed under National Park Service administration and thus in the National Park System. In 1970 Congress defined the System as including "any area of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes." This legal definition excludes a number of national historic sites, memorials, trails, and other areas assisted but not administered by the Service. These "affiliated areas" are listed in the Appendix.

Lee's Family Tree, with its chronological listing of park additions and concise discussion of significant examples, developments, and trends, was an indispensable orientation and reference tool to Service personnel and others tracking the System's growth to Yellowstone's centennial year. It is hoped that this revised edition of Shaping the System, still owing much to Lee's work, will serve the same purpose as the Service celebrates its diamond anniversary.
Before the National Park Service

National Parks  The national park idea—the concept of large-scale natural preservation—has been credited to the artist George Catlin, best known for his paintings of American Indians. On a trip to the Dakota region in 1832, he worried about the destructive effects of America’s westward expansion on Indian civilization, wildlife, and wilderness. They might be preserved, he wrote, “by some great protecting policy of government ... in a magnificent park. ... A nation’s park, containing man and beast, in all the wild[ness] and freshness of their nature’s beauty!”

Catlin’s vision of perpetuating indigenous cultures in this fashion was doubtless impractical, and his proposal had no immediate effect. Increasingly, however, romantic portrayals of nature by writers such as James Fenimore Cooper and Henry David Thoreau and painters like Thomas Cole and Frederick Edwin Church would compete with older views of wilderness as something to be subdued and exploited. As appreciation for unspoiled nature grew and as spectacular natural areas in the American West were discovered and publicized, notions of preserving such places began to be taken seriously.

One such place was Yosemite Valley, where the national park idea came to partial fruition in 1864. In response to the desires of “various gentlemen of California, gentlemen of fortune, of taste, and of refinement,” Senator John Connest of California sponsored legislation to transfer the valley and the nearby Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the state so that they might “be used and preserved for the benefit of mankind.” The act of Congress, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, granted California the lands on condition that they would “be held for public use, resort, and recreation ... inalienable for all time.”

The geological wonders of the Yellowstone region, in the Montana and Wyoming territories, remained little known until 1869-71, when successive expeditions led by David E. Folsom, Henry D. Washburn, and Ferdinand V. Hayden traversed the area and publicized their remarkable findings. Several members of these parties suggested the possibility of reserving Yellowstone for public use rather than allowing it to fall under private control. The park idea received influential support from agents of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, whose
projected main line through Montana stood to benefit from a major tourist destination in the vicinity.

Yosemite was cited as a precedent, but differences in the two situations required different solutions. The primary access to Yellowstone was through Montana, and Montanans were among the leading park advocates. Most of Yellowstone lay in Wyoming, however, and neither Montana nor Wyoming was yet a state. So the park legislation, introduced in December 1871 by Senate Public Lands Committee chairman Samuel C. Pomeroy of Kansas, was written to leave Yellowstone in federal custody.

The Yellowstone bill encountered some opposition from congressmen who questioned the propriety of such a large reservation. "The geysers will remain, no matter where the ownership of the land may be, and I do not know why settlers should be excluded from a tract of land forty miles square ... in the Rocky mountains or any other place," complained Sen. Cornelius Cole of California. But more were persuaded otherwise. The bill passed Congress, and on March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed it into law.

The Yellowstone act withdrew more than one million acres of the public domain from settlement, occupancy, or sale to be "dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." It placed the park "under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior" and charged him to "provide for the preservation, from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park, and their retention in their natural condition." He was also to prevent the "wanton destruction" and commercial taking of fish and game—problems addressed more firmly by the Lacey Act of 1894, which prohibited hunting outright and set penalties for offenders.

With Yellowstone's establishment, the precedent was set for other natural reserves under federal jurisdiction. An 1875 act of Congress modeled on the Yellowstone act made most of Mackinac Island in Michigan a national park. Because of the Army's presence there at Fort Mackinac, however, the Secretary of War was given responsibility for it. Mackinac National Park would survive only 20 years as such: when the fort was decommissioned in 1895, the federal lands
on the island were transferred to Michigan for a state park.

The next great scenic national parks—Sequoia, General Grant, and Yosemite, all in California—did not come about until 1890, 18 years after Yellowstone. The initial Sequoia legislation, signed by President Benjamin Harrison on September 25, again followed that for Yellowstone in establishing “a public park, or pleasure ground, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” Another act approved October 1 set aside General Grant, Yosemite, and a large addition to Sequoia as “reserved forest lands” but directed their management along park lines. Sequoia, General Grant (later incorporated in Kings Canyon National Park), and Yosemite were given their names by the Secretary of the Interior. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove remained under state administration until 1906, when they were returned to federal control and incorporated into Yosemite National Park.

In the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, Congress authorized Presidents to proclaim permanent forest reserves on the public domain. Forest reserves or national forests, as they were retitled in 1907, would be managed for their long-term economic productivity under multiple-use conservation principles. Within 16 years, Presidents Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed 159 national forests comprising more than 150 million acres. William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson added another 26 million acres by 1916.

National parks, preserved largely for their esthetic qualities, represented a greater willingness to forego economic gain. Congress thus maintained direct control over the establishment of national parks and frequently had to be assured that the lands in question were worthless for other purposes. Park bills were usually enacted only after long and vigorous campaigns by their supporters. Such campaigns were not driven solely by the idealistic impulse to preserve nature: as with Yellowstone, western railroads regularly lobbied for the early parks and built grand rustic hotels in them to boost their passenger business.

Mount Rainier National Park in Washington was the next of its kind, reserved in 1899. Nine more parks were established through 1916, including such scenic gems as Crater Lake in Oregon, Glacier in Montana, Rocky Mountain in Colorado, and Hawaii in the Hawaiian Islands. There were as yet no clear standards for national parks, and a few suffered by comparison. One such was Sullys Hill, an undistinguished tract in North Dakota that was later transferred to the Agriculture Department as a game preserve.

The Secretary of the Interior was supposed to preserve and pro-
tect the parks, but early depredations by poachers and vandals at Yellowstone revealed the difficulties he would face in managing these remote areas. In 1883 Congress authorized him to call upon the Secretary of War for assistance, and three years later he did so, obtaining a cavalry detail to enforce Yellowstone's regulations and army engineers to develop park roads and buildings. Although the military presence was extended to Sequoia, General Grant, and Yosemite in 1891, the later parks received civilian superintendents and rangers.

**National Monuments** While the early national parks were being established, a separate movement arose to protect the prehistoric cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, and early missions found by cowboys, army officers, ethnologists, and other explorers on the vast public lands of the Southwest. Efforts to secure protective legislation began among historically minded scientists and civic leaders in Boston and spread to similar circles in other cities during the 1880s and 1890s.

Congress took a first step in this direction in 1889 by authorizing the President to reserve from settlement or sale the land in Arizona containing the massive Casa Grande ruin. President Benjamin Harrison ordered the Casa Grande Ruin Reservation three years later. In 1904, at the request of the Interior Department's General Land Office, archeologist Edgar Lee Hewett made a comprehensive review of prehistoric features on federal lands in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah and recommended specific sites for protection. The following year he drafted general legislation for the purpose. Strongly supported by Rep. John F. Lacey of Iowa, chairman of the House Public Lands Committee, it passed Congress and received President Theodore Roosevelt's signature on June 8, 1906.

Comparable to the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, the Antiquities Act of 1906 was a blanket authority for Presidents to proclaim and reserve “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” on lands owned or controlled by the United States as “national monuments.” It also prohibited the excavation or appropriation of antiquities on federal lands without permission from the department having jurisdiction.

Separate legislation to protect the spectacular cliff dwellings of southwestern Colorado moved through Congress simultaneously, resulting in the creation of Mesa Verde National Park three weeks later. Thereafter, the Antiquities Act was widely used to reserve such cultural features—and natural features as well. Roosevelt proclaimed 18 national monuments before leaving office in March 1909, 12 of which fell in the latter category. The first monument was Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming, a massive 867-foot stone shaft of volcanic
origin, proclaimed September 24, 1906. The next three followed that December: El Morro, New Mexico, site of prehistoric petroglyphs and historic inscriptions left by Spanish explorers and American pioneers; Montezuma Castle, Arizona, a well-preserved cliff dwelling; and Petrified Forest, Arizona.

National monuments were proclaimed on lands administered by the Agriculture and War departments as well as Interior. Proclamations before 1933 entailed no change of administration; a monument reserved under Agriculture or War would customarily remain there unless Congress made it a national park. In 1908, broadly construing the Antiquities Act's provision for "objects of scientific interest," Roosevelt proclaimed part of Arizona's Grand Canyon a national monument. Because the monument lay within a national forest, the Agriculture Department's Forest Service retained jurisdiction until 1919, when Congress established a larger Grand Canyon National Park in its place and assigned management responsibility to Interior's National Park Service. Similarly, Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone national monuments in California, proclaimed in 1907 under Forest Service jurisdiction, were transferred to Interior in 1916 when Lassen Volcanic National Park was established and encompassed them.

Between 1906 and 1978, 12 Presidents used the Antiquities Act to proclaim 99 national monuments—38 mostly historic or prehistoric and 61 mostly natural. Fifty-two of them retained that designation at the end of 1990. Of the remainder, 28 had become or contributed to 25 national parks or national preserves, four had become national historical parks, one was a national battlefield, one was a national historic site, two had been incorporated in a national parkway, and 11 had been abolished. Nearly a quarter of the units of today's National Park System thus sprang in whole or part from the Antiquities Act.

**Mineral Springs**

Two mineral spring reservations also contributed to the emerging National Park System. The first preceded all other components of today's system outside the Nation's Capital.

"Taking the cure" at mineral spring resorts became highly fashionable in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries, when thousands visited such famous spas as Bath, Aix-les-Bains, Aachen, Baden-Baden, and Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary). As mineral springs were discovered in America, they too attracted attention. Places such as Saratoga Springs in New York and White Sulphur Springs in Virginia (now West Virginia) were developed privately, but Congress acted to maintain federal control of two springs west of the Mississippi.

Hot Springs in Arkansas Territory comprised 47 springs of salubrious repute emerging from a fault at the base of a mountain. In 1832
Congress reserved four sections of land containing Hot Springs “for the future disposal of the United States.” After the Civil War, the Interior Department permitted private entrepreneurs to build and operate bathhouses to which the spring waters were piped, and Hot Springs became a popular resort.

In 1902 the Federal Government purchased 32 mineral springs near Sulphur, Oklahoma Territory, from the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations to create the Sulphur Springs Reservation, also under Interior’s jurisdiction. The reservation was enlarged in 1904, and two years later Congress renamed it Platt National Park after the recently deceased Sen. Orville Platt of Connecticut, who had been active in Indian affairs.

Congress redesignated Hot Springs Reservation a national park in 1921. Although the park encompassed some natural terrain, it remained more an urbanized spa than a natural area. Platt, an equally anomalous national park, lost that designation in 1976 when it was incorporated in the new Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
**Legislative and Executive Actions Relating to Areas Managed by the Department of the Interior through 1916**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Hot Springs Reservation, Arkansas (redesignated Hot Springs NP 1921)</td>
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<td>1864</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Yosemite State Park, California (incorporated in Yosemite NP 1906)</td>
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<td>1872</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Yellowstone NP, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Casa Grande Ruin Reservation, Arizona (redesignated Casa Grande NM 1918)</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Sequoia NP, California</td>
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<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>General Grant NP, California (incorporated in Kings Canyon NP 1940)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Yosemite NP, California</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Mount Rainier NP, Washington</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Crater Lake NP, Oregon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Sulphur Springs Reservation, Oklahoma (redesignated Platt NP 1906; incorporated in Chickasaw NRA 1976)</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Wind Cave NP, South Dakota</td>
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<td>1904</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Sullys Hill NP, North Dakota (transferred to Agriculture Dept. as game preserve 1931)</td>
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<td>1906</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Antiquities Act</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Mesa Verde NP, Colorado</td>
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<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Devils Tower NM, Wyoming</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>El Morro NM, New Mexico</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Montezuma Castle NM, Arizona</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Petrified Forest NM, Arizona (redesignated a NP 1962)</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Chaco Canyon NM, New Mexico (incorporated in Chaco Culture NHP 1980)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Muir Woods NM, California</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Jan. 16  Pinnacles NM, California (under Agriculture Dept.; transferred to Interior Dec. 12, 1910)

April 16  Natural Bridges NM, Utah

May 11   Lewis and Clark Cavern NM, Montana (abolished 1937)

Sept. 15 Tumacacori NM, Arizona (incorporated in Tumacacori NHP 1990)

1909

March 20 Navajo NM, Arizona

July 31  Mukuntuweep NM, Utah (incorporated in Zion NP 1919)

Sept. 21 Shoshone Cavern NM, Wyoming (abolished 1954)

Nov. 1   Gran Quivira NM, New Mexico (incorporated in Salinas NM 1980)

1910

March 23 Sitka NM, Alaska (redesignated a NHP 1972)

May 11   Glacier NP, Montana

May 30   Rainbow Bridge NM, Utah

1911

May 24   Colorado NM, Colorado

1914

Jan. 31  Papago Saguaro NM, Arizona (abolished 1930)

1915

Jan. 26  Rocky Mountain NP, Colorado

Oct. 4   Dinosaur NM, Colorado and Utah

1916

July 8   Sieur de Monts NM, Maine (incorporated in Lafayette NP 1919; redesignated Acadia NP 1929)

Aug. 1   Hawaii NP, Hawaii (split into Haleakala NP and Hawaii NP 1960; latter redesignated Hawaii Volcanoes NP 1961)

Aug. 9   Capulin Mountain NM, New Mexico (redesignated Capulin Volcano NM 1987)

Aug. 9   Lassen Volcanic NP, California (incorporated 1907 Cinder Cone and Lassen Peak NMs from Agriculture Dept.)

Aug. 25 National Park Service Act

Abbreviations Used in the Table

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>NB</td>
<td>National Battlefield</td>
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<tr>
<td>NBP</td>
<td>National Battlefield Park</td>
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<td>NBS</td>
<td>National Battlefield Site</td>
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<td>NHS</td>
<td>National Historic Site</td>
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<td>NL</td>
<td>National Lakeshore</td>
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<td>NM</td>
<td>National Monument</td>
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<td>National Memorial</td>
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<td>NRA</td>
<td>National Recreation Area</td>
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<td>NS</td>
<td>National Seashore</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSR</td>
<td>National Scenic Riverway</td>
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<tr>
<td>NST</td>
<td>National Scenic Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSR</td>
<td>Wild and Scenic River</td>
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By August 1916 the Department of the Interior oversaw 14 national parks, 21 national monuments, and the Hot Springs and Casa Grande Ruin reservations. This collection of areas was not a true park system, however, for it lacked systematic management. Without an organization equipped for the purpose, Interior Secretaries had been forced to call on the Army to develop and police Yellowstone and the California parks. The troops protected these areas and served their visitors well for the most part, but their primary mission lay elsewhere, and their continued presence could not be counted on. Civilian appointees of varying capabilities managed the other national parks, while most of the national monuments received minimal custody. In the absence of an effective central administration, those in charge operated with little coordinated supervision or policy guidance.

Lacking unified leadership, the parks were also vulnerable to competing interests. Conservationists of the utilitarian school, who advocated the regulated use of natural resources to achieve “the greatest good for the greatest number,” championed the construction of dams by public authorities for water supply, electric power, and irrigation purposes. When the city of San Francisco sought permission to dam Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park for its water supply after the turn of the century, the utilitarian and preservationist wings of the conservation movement came to blows. Over the bitter opposition of John Muir and other park supporters, Congress in 1913 approved what historian John Ise later called “the worst disaster ever to come to any national park.”

The “rape of Hetch Hetchy,” as the preservationists termed it, pointed up the institutional weakness of the park movement. While utilitarian conservation had become well represented in government by the U.S. Geological Survey (established 1879), the Forest Service (1905), and the Reclamation Service (1907), no comparable entity spoke for park preservation in Washington. The need for an organization to operate the parks and advocate their interests was clearer than ever.

Among those recognizing this need was Stephen T. Mather, a wealthy Chicago businessman, vigorous outdoorsman, and born promoter. In 1914 Mather complained to Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, a former classmate at the University of California at Berkeley,
about the mismanagement of the parks. Lane invited Mather to come to Washington and do something about it. Mather accepted the challenge, arriving early in 1915 to become assistant to the secretary for park matters. Twenty-five-year-old Horace M. Albright, another Berkeley graduate who had recently joined the Interior Department, became Mather's top aide.

Previous efforts to establish a national parks bureau in Interior had been resisted by the Agriculture Department's Forest Service, which rightly foresaw the creation and removal of more parks from its national forests. Mather and Albright lobbied skillfully to overcome such opposition, gathering support from influential journalists, railroads likely to profit from increased park tourism, and members of Congress. Success finally came on August 25, 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating the National Park Service.

The act made the Service responsible for the 35 national parks and monuments then under Interior, Hot Springs Reservation, and "such other national parks and reservations of like character as may be hereafter created by Congress." In managing the parks, the Service was directed "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Lane appointed Mather the Service's first director. Albright served as assistant director until 1919, then as superintendent of Yellowstone and field assistant director before succeeding Mather in 1929. Mather was initially incapacitated by illness, leaving Albright to organize the bureau, obtain its first appropriations from Congress, and prepare its first park policies.

The policies, issued in a May 13, 1918, letter from Lane to Mather, elaborated on the Service's dual mission of conserving park resources and providing for their enjoyment by the public. "Every activity of the Service is subordinate to the duties imposed upon it to faithfully preserve the parks for posterity in essentially their natural state," the letter stated. At the same time, it reflected Mather's and Albright's conviction that more visitors must be attracted and accommodated
if the parks and the Park Service were to prosper. Automobiles, not permitted in Yellowstone until 1915, were to be allowed in all parks. "Low-priced camps ... as well as comfortable and even luxurious hotels" would be provided by concessioners. Mountain climbing, horseback riding, swimming, boating, fishing, and winter sports would be encouraged, as would natural history museums, exhibits, and other activities supporting the educational use of the parks.

The policy letter also sought to guide further expansion of the park system: "In studying new park projects, you should seek to find scenery of supreme and distinctive quality or some natural feature so extraordinary or unique as to be of national interest and importance. You should seek distinguished examples of typical forms of world architecture; such, for instance, as the Grand Canyon, as exemplifying the highest accomplishment of stream erosion, and the high, rugged portion of Mount Desert Island as exemplifying the oldest rock forms in America and the luxuriance of deciduous forests.

"The national park system as now constituted should not be lowered in standard, dignity, and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or kind of exhibit which they represent."

The first national park following establishment of the National Park Service was Mount McKinley in Alaska, reserved in 1917 to protect the mountain sheep, caribou, moose, bears, and other wildlife on and around the highest mountain in North America. The incomparable Grand Canyon National Park, incorporating the Forest Service's Grand Canyon National Monument, followed in 1919. Other national parks established through 1933 included Lafayette, Maine, in 1919 (renamed Acadia in 1929); Zion, Utah, in 1919; Bryce Canyon, Utah, in 1928; Grand Teton, Wyoming, in 1929; and Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, in 1930. Like Grand Canyon, all these except Grand Teton incorporated earlier national monuments.

Casa Grande Ruin Reservation remained under Interior's General Land Office until 1918, when it became a national monument and was reassigned to the National Park Service. Two Alaska monuments proclaimed during the period, Katmai and Glacier Bay, were each larger than any national park and until 1978 the largest areas in the system. Katmai, established in 1918, protected the scene of a major volcanic eruption six years before. Glacier Bay, established in 1925, contained numerous tidewater glaciers and their mountain setting. Congress made both of them national parks in 1980. Badlands National Monument, South Dakota, and Arches National Monument, Utah, both established in 1929, became national parks in the 1970s.

Badlands was the first national monument established by an indi-
vidual act of Congress rather than by a Presidential proclamation under
the Antiquities Act. By 1990 Congress had applied this designation
to 36 units of the System. Twenty-six of them then retained the design-
nation, seven had been renamed, and three had been abolished.

Through the 1920s the National Park System was really a western
park system. Of the Service’s holdings, only Lafayette (Acadia) National
Park in Maine lay east of the Mississippi. If the System were to bene-
fit more of America’s predominantly eastern population and maxi-
mize its support in Congress, it would have to expand eastward.
Unfortunately, natural areas meeting national park standards were
less common in the East, and most eastern land was privately owned.

In 1926 Congress authorized Shenandoah, Great Smoky Moun-
tains, and Mammoth Cave national parks in the Appalachian region
but required that their lands be donated. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,
who gave more than $3 million for lands and roads for Acadia, con-
tributed more than $5 million for Great Smoky Mountains and a
lesser amount for Shenandoah. With such private assistance, the states
involved gradually acquired and turned over the lands needed to
establish these parks in the following decade.

The Service’s greatest opportunity in the East lay in another realm—
that of history and historic sites. The War Department had been
involved in preserving a range of historic battlefields, forts, and memo-
rials there since the 1890s. Horace Albright, whose expansionist instincts
were accompanied by a personal interest in history, sought the trans-
fer of these areas to the Service soon after its creation. He argued
that the Service was better equipped to interpret them to the public,
but skeptics in the War Department and Congress questioned how
the bureau’s focus on western wilderness qualified it to run the mili-
tary parks better than the military.

After succeeding Mather as director in 1929, Albright resumed his
efforts. As a first step, he got Congress to establish three new histori-
cal parks in the East under Service administration: George Wash-
ington Birthplace National Monument, at Wakefield, Virginia; Colonial
National Monument, at Jamestown and Yorktown, Virginia; and Mor-
ristown National Historical Park, New Jersey, where Washington and
the Continental Army spent two winters during the Revolution.

Morristown, authorized March 2, 1933, was the first area desig-
nated a national historical park, a more descriptive label that Con-
gress would apply to Colonial in 1936 and other larger historical
areas thereafter. Of more immediate significance, Colonial’s Yorktown
Battlefield and Morristown moved the Service directly into military
history, advancing its case for the War Department’s areas. They
would not be long in coming.
# National Park System Additions 1917-33

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Mount McKinley NP, Alaska (incorporated in Denali NP and NPres 1980)</td>
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<td>Mammoth Cave NP, Kentucky</td>
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Bryce Canyon NP, Utah (incorporated 1923 Bryce Canyon NM from Agriculture Dept.)</td>
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1929
Feb. 26  Grand Teton NP, Wyoming
March 4  Badlands NM, South Dakota (redesignated a NP 1978)
April 12 Arches NM, Utah (redesignated a NP 1971)

1930
Jan. 23  George Washington Birthplace NM, Virginia
July 3   Colonial NM, Virginia (redesignated a NHP 1936)

1931
Feb. 14  Canyon de Chelly NM, Arizona
March 3  Isle Royale NP, Michigan

1932
Feb. 25  Bandelier NM, New Mexico (date transferred from Agriculture Dept., where proclaimed 1916)
March 17 Great Sand Dunes NM, Colorado
Dec. 22  Grand Canyon NM, Arizona (incorporated in Grand Canyon NP 1975)

1933
Jan. 18  White Sands NM, New Mexico
Feb. 11  Death Valley NM, California and Nevada
March 2  Black Canyon of the Gunnison NM, Colorado
March 2  Morristown NHP, New Jersey
Aug. 10  Reorganization

Abbreviations Used in the Table

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>NB</td>
<td>National Battlefield</td>
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<td>NBS</td>
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<td>National Historical Park</td>
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<td>National Recreation Area</td>
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<td>National Scenic Riverway</td>
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<td>NST</td>
<td>National Scenic Trail</td>
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<td>WSR</td>
<td>Wild and Scenic River</td>
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On March 3, 1933, President Herbert C. Hoover approved legislation authorizing Presidents to reorganize the executive branch of the government. He had no time to take advantage of the new authority, for he would leave office the next day. The beneficiary was his successor, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hoover had arranged to give the government his fishing retreat on the Rapidan River in Virginia for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park. On April 9 Roosevelt motored there to inspect the property for his possible use. Horace Albright accompanied the party and was invited to sit behind the President on the return drive. As they passed through Civil War country, Albright turned the conversation to history and mentioned his desire to acquire the War Department’s historical areas. Roosevelt readily agreed and directed him to initiate an executive order for the transfer.

Roosevelt’s order—actually two orders signed June 10 and July 28, effective August 10—did what Albright had asked and more. Not only did the National Park Service receive the War Department’s parks and monuments, it achieved another longtime objective by getting the national monuments then held by the Forest Service and responsibility for virtually all monuments created thereafter. It also took over the national capital parks, then managed by a separate office in Washington. When the dust settled, the Service’s previous holdings had been joined by a dozen predominantly natural areas in eight western states and the District of Columbia and 44 historical areas in the District and 18 states, 13 of them east of the Mississippi.

The reorganization of August 10, 1933, was arguably the most significant event in the evolution of the National Park System. There was now a single system of federal parklands, truly national in scope, embracing historic as well as natural places. The Service’s major involvement with historic sites held limitless potential for the System’s further growth. Unlike the War Department, the Service was not constrained to focus on military history but could seek areas representing all aspects of America’s past. Management of the parks in the Nation’s Capital would afford the Service high visibility with members of Congress and visitors from around the Nation and influence expansion of the System into other urban regions. Although
the big western wilderness parks would still dominate, the bureau and its responsibilities would henceforth be far more diverse.

National Capital Parks  The parks of the Nation's Capital are the oldest elements of today's National Park System, dating from the beginnings of the District of Columbia in 1790-91. On July 16, 1790, President George Washington approved legislation empowering him to appoint three commissioners to lay out the District, "purchase or accept such quantity of land . . . as the President shall deem proper for the use of the United States," and provide suitable buildings for Congress, the President, and government offices. The next year Washington met with the proprietors of lands to be included in the federal city and signed a purchase agreement resulting in the acquisition of 17 reservations. In accordance with Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the city, Reservation 1 became the site of the White House, Lafayette Park, and the Ellipse; Reservation 2 became the site of the Capitol and the Mall; and Reservation 3 became the site of the Washington Monument.

A century later, the national capital park system received two major additions. Rock Creek Park, Washington's largest, was authorized by Congress on September 27, 1890—two days after Sequoia and four days before Yosemite. Some of the same legislative language that the California parks inherited from Yellowstone appeared in this act as well. Rock Creek Park was "dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States," and regulations were ordered to "provide for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, animals, or curiosities within said park, and their retention in their natural condition, as nearly as possible." It remains a rare and remarkable example of a preserved natural area in an urban environment. Potomac Park, on the other hand, was artificially created on fill dredged from the Potomac River in the 1880s. In 1897 Congress reserved this large reclaimed area for park development, and in the 20th century it became the site of the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, Constitution Gardens, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, among other features.

The last major addition to the national capital park system before
the reorganization was the George Washington Memorial Parkway. A 1928 act of Congress authorized the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, linking the planned Arlington Memorial Bridge and Mount Vernon, to be completed for the bicentennial of Washington's birth in 1932. In 1930 Congress incorporated the highway in a greatly enlarged George Washington Memorial Parkway project, which entailed extensive land acquisition and scenic roadways on both sides of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon upstream to Great Falls. Although never fully completed as planned, the project proceeded far enough by the 1960s to buffer significant stretches of the river with parkland.

The national capital parks were managed by a succession of administrators, beginning with the commissioners appointed by President Washington to establish the federal city. From 1802 to 1867 the city's public buildings and grounds were under a superintendent and then a commissioner of public buildings, who reported to the Secretary of the Interior after the Interior Department was established in 1849. In 1867 the parks and buildings were turned over to the chief engineer of the Army. His Office of Public Buildings and Public Grounds ran them until 1925, when it was succeeded by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. The latter office, still headed by an army engineer officer but directly under the President, lasted until the 1933 reorganization. Its responsibility for federal buildings as well as parks passed to the National Park Service, which was renamed the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations in Roosevelt's executive orders. The organization carried this title for less than seven months, regaining its old name in a March 2, 1934, appropriations act; but it did not shed the public buildings function until 1939.

The term National Capital Parks (usually capitalized) has been variously used since the reorganization as a collective designation for the national parklands in and around Washington and as the name of the Park Service office managing them. Today, National Capital Parks officially denotes only those miscellaneous parklands in the District of Columbia and nearby Maryland not classed as discrete units of the National Park System. The designation thus excludes the National Mall, the Washington Monument and other major memorials, Rock Creek Park, and areas of similar status. In practice, however, it is often used informally to encompass them as well.

**National Memorials**

National memorials in and outside Washington, D.C., formed the most distinctly different class of areas added in the reorganization. Among them are such great national symbols as the Statue of Liberty and the Washington Monument. These and
several others are not officially titled memorials, but they count as such by virtue of being primarily commemorative, in contrast to preserved sites and features directly associated with historical subjects.

The first federal action toward a national memorial now in the National Park System came in 1783, when the Continental Congress resolved "that an equestrian statue of General Washington be erected where the residence of Congress shall be established." L'Enfant's plan for the city of Washington provided a prominent location for the statue, but it was not funded. A private organization, the Washington National Monument Society, acquired the site and began construction of an obelisk in 1848, but its resources proved inadequate for the task. In 1876, the centennial of American independence, the government assumed responsibility for completing and maintaining the Washington Monument. Army engineers finished it in accordance with a simplified design, and it was dedicated in 1885.

During the centennial France offered the Statue of Liberty as a gift to the United States. Congress authorized acceptance of the statue, provision of a suitable site in New York Harbor, and preservation of the structure "as a monument of art and the continued good will of the great nation which aided us in our struggle for freedom." In effect a memorial to the Franco-American alliance, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in 1886. It was proclaimed a national monument under the War Department, its custodian, in 1924.

In 1911 Congress authorized construction of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington's Potomac Park, aligned with the Capitol and the Washington Monument. The completed masterpiece of architect Henry Bacon and sculptor Daniel Chester French was dedicated in 1922. Another memorial to Lincoln, enshrining his supposed birthplace cabin at Hodgenville, Kentucky, had been privately erected in 1907-11 from a design by John Russell Pope, who later designed the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington. The birthplace property was given to the United States in 1916 and administered by the War Department as Abraham Lincoln National Park. Under the National Park Service after the reorganization, the area was ultimately redesignated a national historic site, but the character of its development makes it in effect a memorial.

Other memorials authorized by Congress before 1933 included one to Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in San Diego, proclaimed Cabrillo National Monument under the War Department in 1913; Perry's Victory Memorial, Ohio, in 1919; Mount Rushmore National Memorial, South Dakota, in 1925; Kill Devil Hill Monument (later Wright Brothers National Memorial), North Carolina, in 1927; the George Rogers Clark Memorial in Vincennes, Indiana, in
1928; and Theodore Roosevelt Island in Washington, D.C., in 1932. Cabrillo National Monument and Kill Devil Hill Monument were transferred from the War Department and Theodore Roosevelt Island from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital in the reorganization. The Park Service assumed fiscal responsibility for the commissions developing the Mount Rushmore and George Rogers Clark memorials at the same time. The Service received Mount Rushmore itself in 1939 and the Clark memorial through a 1966 act of Congress authorizing George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. Several historic sites proposed for the latter were never acquired, leaving the area essentially a national memorial. The Service had no responsibility for Perry’s Victory Memorial, constructed by another commission, until 1936, when Congress authorized its addition to the National Park System as Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial National Monument; the national monument suffix was dropped in 1972.

The Custis-Lee Mansion in Arlington, Virginia, transferred from the War Department in the reorganization, was retitled Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, by Congress in 1972. Notwithstanding its memorial designation, the house is a historic structure restored to reflect its historic occupancy—a de facto national historic site.

National Battlefields and Cemeteries The first official step to commemorate an American battle where it occurred was taken in 1781. Inspired by the victory at Yorktown that October, the Continental Congress authorized “to be erected at York, Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and His Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender.” Funds were not immediately available, and Congress did not follow through until the centennial of the surrender in 1881. Then the Yorktown Column was raised as prescribed by the Continental Congress. It is now a prominent feature of Colonial National Historical Park.

The battlefield monument idea received major impetus in 1823 when Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, and other prominent citizens formed the Bunker Hill Battle Monument Association to save part of Breed’s Hill and erect a great obelisk on it. Webster delivered a moving oration before a large audience at the cornerstone laying in 1825, the 50th anniversary of the battle. The Bunker Hill Monument demonstrated how commemorative sentiment might be crystallized and became the prototype for many other battlefield monuments. During the centennial years of the Revolution, Congress appropriated
funds to supplement local contributions for monuments at Bennington Battlefield, Saratoga, Newburgh, and Oriskany, New York; Kings Mountain, South Carolina; Monmouth, New Jersey; and Groton, Connecticut. Like the Yorktown Column, the Bunker Hill, Kings Mountain, and Saratoga monuments later became features of National Park System areas.

The “mystic chords of memory” elicited by such Revolutionary War monuments in both the North and the South helped draw the two sections together after the Civil War. Confederate veterans from South Carolina and Virginia participated in the Bunker Hill centennial in 1875, the first time former Union and Confederate troops publicly fraternized after the war. The practice of joint reunions later spread to Civil War battlefields, culminating in huge veterans’ encampments at Gettysburg in 1888 and Chickamauga in 1889.

Even before the Civil War ended, Pennsylvania had chartered the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association in 1864 to commemorate “the great deeds of valor . . . and the signal events which render these battle-grounds illustrious.” A preservation society also began work at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Prompted by veterans’ organizations and others influential in such activities, Congress began in the 1890s to go beyond the battlefield monument concept to full-scale battlefield preservation.

On August 19, 1890, a month before Sequoia National Park’s establishment, Congress authorized Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Three more national military parks followed by the end of the century: Shiloh in 1894, Gettysburg in 1895, and Vicksburg in 1899. The War Department purchased and managed their lands, while participating states, military units, and associations provided monuments at appropriate locations. At Antietam, on the other hand, Congress provided for acquisition of only token lands where monuments and markers might be placed. It and other places where this less expansive policy was adopted were designated national battlefield sites. In later years Antietam and most of the other sites bearing this designation would be enlarged and retitled national battlefields.

The 1907 authorization of the Chalmette Monument and Grounds, commemorating the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, departed from the recent focus on the Civil War. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, North Carolina, authorized a decade later, encompassed the first Revolutionary War battlefield so preserved. Confronted with many more proposals, Congress in 1926 asked the War Department to survey all of the Nation’s historic battlefields and provide recommendations for their preservation or commemo-
ration. The results guided Congress in adding 11 more areas to the War Department's park system before the reorganization: the site of the opening engagement of the French and Indian War at Fort Necessity in Pennsylvania; the Revolutionary War battlefields of Cowpens and Kings Mountain in South Carolina and Moores Creek in North Carolina; and the Civil War sites of Appomattox Court House, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County, and Petersburg in Virginia, Brices Cross Roads and Tupelo in Mississippi, and Fort Donelson and Stones River in Tennessee.

Roosevelt's initial executive order of June 10, 1933, had provided for all the War Department's domestic national cemeteries to be transferred to the National Park Service along with its battlefield parks. At Horace Albright's urging, this wholesale transfer was amended in the follow-up order of July 28 to include only 11 cemeteries associated with the battlefields or other Service holdings: Antietam (Sharpsburg) National Cemetery, Maryland; Battleground National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.; Chattanooga National Cemetery, Tennessee (returned to the War Department in 1944); Fort Donelson (Dover) National Cemetery, Tennessee; Fredericksburg National Cemetery, Virginia; Gettysburg National Cemetery, Pennsylvania; Poplar Grove (Petersburg) National Cemetery, Virginia; Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) National Cemetery, Tennessee; Stones River (Murfreesboro) National Cemetery, Tennessee; Vicksburg National Cemetery, Mississippi; and Yorktown National Cemetery, Virginia.

Most famous among these is Gettysburg National Cemetery. The battle of Gettysburg was scarcely over when Gov. Andrew Y. Curtin of Pennsylvania hastened to the field to help care for the casualties. More than 3,500 Union soldiers had been killed in action; many were hastily interred in improvised graves. At Curtin's request, Gettysburg attorney David Wills purchased 17 acres and engaged William Saunders, an eminent horticulturalist, to lay out the grounds for a cemetery. Fourteen northern states provided the necessary funds. At the dedication on November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address. Gettysburg National Cemetery became the property of the United States in 1872, 23 years before establishment of the national military park there.

Similar events took place on the other great battlefields of the Civil War. Congress recognized the importance of caring for the remains of the Union war dead with general legislation in 1867 enabling the extensive national cemetery system developed by the War Department. As at Gettysburg, each of the battlefield cemeteries was carefully landscaped to achieve an effect of "simple grandeur," and each preceded establishment of its related battlefield park.
The 1867 act also led to preservation of an important battleground of the Indian wars. In 1879 the Secretary of War established a national cemetery on the Little Bighorn battlefield in Montana Territory. In 1886 President Grover Cleveland reserved a square mile of the battlefield for what was then called the National Cemetery of Custer’s Battlefield Reservation. The reservation was transferred to the National Park Service in 1940 and retitled Custer Battlefield National Monument by Congress in 1946. Other national cemeteries acquired by the Service after the reorganization were Andrew Johnson National Cemetery, a component of Andrew Johnson National Monument, Tennessee, authorized in 1935; Chalmette National Cemetery, transferred by the War Department for Chalmette National Historical Park in 1939; and Andersonville National Cemetery, part of Andersonville National Historic Site, Georgia, authorized in 1970.

Until 1975 the national cemeteries acquired in the reorganization were listed as separate units of the National Park System. Since then the cemeteries, while retaining their special identities, have been carried as components of their associated parks.

Other War Department Properties  As national monuments were being reserved under Interior Department jurisdiction, others were proclaimed on War and Agriculture department lands. Ten national monuments were on military reservations before their transfer to the National Park Service in 1933.

The first War Department national monument, Big Hole Battlefield, Montana, was proclaimed in 1910 to preserve the site of an 1877 battle between U.S. troops and Nez Perce Indians. Five later ones resulted from a single proclamation by President Calvin Coolidge on October 15, 1924. Fort Marion National Monument, later retitled with its old Spanish name Castillo de San Marcos, recognized an ancient Spanish fort in St. Augustine, Florida. Fort Matanzas National Monument protected an outpost built by the Spanish in 1742 to defend the southern approaches to St. Augustine. Fort Pulaski National Monument contained a brick fort built during the 1830s outside Savannah that had yielded under bombardment by Federal rifled cannon in 1862. The Statue of Liberty, based on Fort Wood in New York Harbor, became a national monument (to which Ellis Island was added in 1965). A small national monument for Castle Pinckney in Charleston Harbor was later abolished.

Two War Department areas acquired in the reorganization were then titled national parks. Abraham Lincoln National Park has been cited above in connection with memorials. The other was Fort McHenry in Baltimore. A 1925 act of Congress directed the Secretary of War
“to begin the restoration of Fort McHenry . . . to such a condition as would make it suitable for preservation permanently as a national park and perpetual national memorial shrine as the birthplace of the immortal ‘Star-Spangled Banner.’” Abraham Lincoln and Fort McHenry national parks received more appropriate designations once under the National Park Service; the “national monument and historic shrine” label given the fort in 1939 remains unique.

Arlington, the estate across the Potomac from Washington, D.C., was inherited by Robert E. Lee's wife from her father, George Washington Parke Custis, in 1857. During the Civil War it was occupied by the Union Army, and the War Department began what became Arlington National Cemetery on the grounds. Lee's national reputation rose in later years, and in 1925 Congress authorized the War Department to begin restoration of Arlington House (variously termed the Lee Mansion or Custis-Lee Mansion) in his honor. After its transfer to the Park Service it was managed with the national capital parks.

The 1930 act authorizing the George Washington Memorial Parkway directed that Fort Washington, a 19th-century fortification guarding the Potomac approach to the capital, should be added to the parkway holdings when no longer needed for military purposes. The War Department relinquished it to the Park Service in 1940. Fort Washington Park has been listed as a separate unit of the System since 1975.

Agriculture Department National Monuments

Before the 1933 reorganization, 21 national monuments had been proclaimed on national forest lands under the Department of Agriculture. The first two were Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone in Lassen Peak National Forest, proclaimed May 6, 1907, to protect evidence of what was then the most recent volcanic activity in the United States. As previously noted, they were transferred to the Interior Department in 1916 as the nucleus of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Fourteen of Agriculture's other monuments were also established to preserve “scientific objects.” Especially noteworthy was Theodore Roosevelt's 1908 proclamation of Grand Canyon National Monument, comprising 818,560 acres within Grand Canyon National Forest, to impede commercial development there. Roosevelt's bold action was later sustained by the U.S. Supreme Court, confirming the precedent for other vast monuments such as Katmai, Glacier Bay, and Death Valley. The Grand Canyon monument was superseded by Grand Canyon National Park when the latter was established under National Park Service jurisdiction in 1919. A second Grand Canyon National
Monument, proclaimed in 1932 and assigned to the Park Service, was incorporated in the national park in 1975.

On March 2, 1909, two days before leaving office, Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed another large natural monument, Mount Olympus in Olympic National Forest, Washington. Encompassing 615,000 acres, it was intended to protect the Roosevelt elk and important stands of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, Douglas-fir, and Alaska cedar. It formed the nucleus for Olympic National Park in 1938.

The other natural monuments included four caves: Jewel Cave, South Dakota; Oregon Caves, Oregon; Lehman Caves, Nevada; and Timpanogos Cave, Utah. In the National Park System they would join Carlsbad Caverns, Mammoth Cave, and Wind Cave national parks (and two national monuments later abolished: Lewis and Clark Cavern, Montana, and Shoshone Cavern, Wyoming).

The first of only five archeological monuments in the group was Gila Cliff Dwellings, New Mexico, proclaimed November 16, 1907. It was followed by Tonto and Walnut Canyon in Arizona and then by Bandelier, New Mexico, established within the Santa Fe National Forest in 1916. President Hoover enlarged Bandelier and reassigned it to the National Park Service in February 1932, a year and a half before the reorganization. The fifth was Old Kasaan National Monument, Alaska, abolished in 1955.

A limited reversion to Agriculture Department administration of national monuments came on December 1, 1978, when President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords national monuments within Tongass National Forest, Alaska, and ordered their retention by the Forest Service. Congress confirmed their status in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. In 1982 Congress established Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument at the site of the recent eruption in Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington, and kept it under the Forest Service. It did the same with Newberry National Volcanic Monument, established in 1990 in Deschutes National Forest, Oregon. The Forest Service has also managed Gila Cliff Dwellings since 1975 under an agreement with the Park Service, which retains formal jurisdiction.
Background to the Reorganization of 1933

National Capital Parks, 1790-1933

1790
July 16 District of Columbia authorized, including National Capital Parks, National Mall, White House

1866
April 7 Ford's Theatre, District of Columbia (date acquisition authorized; designated a NHS 1970)

1890
Sept. 27 Rock Creek Park, District of Columbia

1896
June 11 House Where Lincoln Died, District of Columbia (date acquisition authorized; incorporated in Ford's Theatre NHS 1970)

1897
March 3 Potomac Park, District of Columbia (component of National Capital Parks)

1928
May 23 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Virginia (incorporated in George Washington Memorial Parkway 1930)

1930
May 29 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia and Maryland

National Memorials, 1876-1933

1876
August 2 Washington Monument, District of Columbia (date accepted by United States; dedicated 1885)

1877
March 3 Statue of Liberty, New York (date accepted by United States; dedicated 1886; also listed with Other War Department Properties)

1911
Feb. 9 Lincoln Memorial, District of Columbia (dedicated 1922)

1913
Oct. 14 Cabrillo NM, California (also listed with Other War Department Properties)
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<td>July 17 Abraham Lincoln NP, Kentucky (also listed with Other War Department Properties)</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>March 23 Mount Rushmore NMem, South Dakota</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>March 2 Kill Devil Hill Monument, North Carolina (redesignated Wright Brothers NMem 1953; also listed with Other War Department Properties)</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>May 23 George Rogers Clark Memorial, Indiana (incorporated in George Rogers Clark NHP 1966)</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>May 21 Theodore Roosevelt Island, District of Columbia</td>
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**National Battlefield Areas, 1890-1933**

**1890**
- Aug. 19 Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, Georgia and Tennessee
- Aug. 30 Antietam NBS, Maryland (redesignated a NB 1978)

**1894**
- Dec. 27 Shiloh NMP, Tennessee

**1895**
- Feb. 11 Gettysburg NMP, Pennsylvania

**1899**
- Feb. 21 Vicksburg NMP, Mississippi

**1907**
- March 4 Chalmette Monument and Grounds, Louisiana (redesignated Chalmette NHP 1939; incorporated in Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve 1978)

**1917**
- Feb. 8 Kennesaw Mountain NBS, Georgia (redesignated a NBP 1935)
- March 2 Guilford Courthouse NMP, North Carolina

**1926**
- June 2 Moores Creek NMP, North Carolina (redesignated a NB 1980)
- July 3 Petersburg NMP, Virginia (redesignated a NB 1962)
1927
Feb. 14 Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial NMP, Virginia
March 3 Stones River NMP, Tennessee (redesignated a NB 1980)

1928
March 26 Fort Donelson NMP, Tennessee (redesignated a NB 1985)

1929
Feb. 21 Brices Cross Roads NBS, Mississippi
Feb. 21 Tupelo NBS, Mississippi (redesignated a NB 1961)
March 4 Cowpens NBS, South Carolina (redesignated a NB 1972)

1930
June 18 Appomattox Court House monument, Virginia (designated Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument 1935; redesignated Appomattox Court House NHP 1954)

1931
March 4 Fort Necessity NBS, Pennsylvania (redesignated a NB 1961)
March 4 Kings Mountain NMP, South Carolina

Other War Department Properties, 1910-1933

1910
June 23 Big Hole Battlefield NM, Montana (redesignated Big Hole NB 1963)

1913
Oct. 14 Cabrillo NM, California (also listed with National Memorials)

1916
July 17 Abraham Lincoln NP, Kentucky (redesignated a NHP 1939; redesignated Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS 1959; also listed with National Memorials)

1923
March 2 Mound City Group NM, Ohio

1924
Oct. 15 Castle Pinckney NM, South Carolina (abolished 1956)
Oct. 15 Fort Marion NM, Florida (redesignated Castillo de San Marcos NM 1942)
Oct. 15 Fort Matanzas NM, Florida
Oct. 15 Fort Pulaski NM, Georgia
Oct. 15 Statue of Liberty NM, New York (also listed with National Memorials)

1925
Feb. 6 Meriwether Lewis NM, Tennessee (incorporated in Natchez Trace Parkway 1961)
March 3 Fort McHenry NP, Maryland (redesignated Fort McHenry NM and Historic Shrine 1939)
March 4 Custis-Lee Mansion, Virginia (date restoration authorized; designated Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, 1972)
Sept. 5 Father Millet Cross NM, New York (abolished 1949)

1927
March 2 Kill Devil Hill Monument, North Carolina (redesignated Wright Brothers NMem 1953; also listed with National Memorials)

1930
May 29 Fort Washington, Maryland (date transfer to George Washington Memorial Parkway authorized; transferred 1940)

Agriculture Department National Monuments, 1907-1933

1907
May 6 Cinder Cone NM, California (incorporated in Lassen Volcanic NP 1916)
May 6 Lassen Peak NM, California (incorporated in Lassen Volcanic NP 1916)
Nov. 16 Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, New Mexico
Dec. 19 Tonto NM, Arizona

1908
Jan. 11 Grand Canyon NM, Arizona (incorporated in Grand Canyon NP 1919)
Jan. 16 Pinnacles NM, California (transferred to Interior Dept. 1910)
Feb. 7 Jewel Cave NM, South Dakota
Dec. 7 Wheeler NM, Colorado (abolished 1950)

1909
March 2 Mount Olympus NM, Washington (incorporated in Olympic NP 1938)
July 12 Oregon Caves NM, Oregon
Statue of Liberty
1911
July 6 Devils Postpile NM, California
1915
Nov. 30 Walnut Canyon NM, Arizona
1916
Feb. 11 Bandelier NM, New Mexico (transferred to Interior Dept. 1932)
Oct. 25 Old Kasaan NM, Alaska (abolished 1955)
1922
Jan. 24 Lehman Caves NM, Nevada (incorporated in Great Basin NP 1986)
Oct. 14 Timpanogos Cave NM, Utah
1923
June 8 Bryce Canyon NM, Utah (incorporated in Bryce Canyon NP 1928)
1924
April 18 Chiricahua NM, Arizona
1929
May 11 Holy Cross NM, Colorado (abolished 1950)
1930
May 26 Sunset Crater NM, Arizona (redesignated Sunset Crater Volcano NM 1990)
1933
March 1 Saguaro NM, Arizona

Abbreviations Used in the Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NB</td>
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<td>WSR</td>
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Present-day NPS Areas from the 1933 Reorganization

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, Kentucky
Antietam NB, Maryland
Appomattox Court House NHP, Virginia
Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Virginia
Big Hole NB, Montana
Brices Cross Roads NBS, Mississippi
Cabrillo NM, California
Castillo de San Marcos NM, Florida
Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, Georgia and Tennessee
Chiricahua NM, Arizona
Colonial NHP, Virginia—Yorktown National Cemetery
Cowpens NB, South Carolina
Devils Postpile NM, California
Ford’s Theatre NHS, District of Columbia
Fort Donelson NB, Tennessee
Fort McHenry NM and Historic Shrine, Maryland
Fort Matanzas NM, Florida
Fort Necessity NB, Pennsylvania
Fort Pulaski NM, Georgia
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial NMP, Virginia
George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia and Maryland
Gettysburg NMP, Pennsylvania
Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, New Mexico
Great Basin NP, Nevada—Lehman Caves NM portion
Guilford Courthouse NMP, North Carolina
Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve, Louisiana—Chalmette Unit
Jewel Cave NM, South Dakota
Kennesaw Mountain NBP, Georgia
Kings Mountain NMP, South Carolina
Lincoln Memorial, District of Columbia
Moores Creek NB, North Carolina
Mound City Group NM, Ohio
Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi—Meriwether Lewis Park
National Capital Parks, District of Columbia and Maryland
National Mall, District of Columbia
Olympic NP, Washington—Mount Olympus NM portion
Oregon Caves NM, Oregon
Petersburg NB, Virginia
Rock Creek Park, District of Columbia
Saguaro NM, Arizona
Shiloh NMP, Tennessee
Statue of Liberty NM, New York and New Jersey
Stones River NB, Tennessee
Sunset Crater Volcano NM, Arizona
Theodore Roosevelt Island, District of Columbia
Timpanogos Cave NM, Utah
Tonto NM, Arizona
Tupelo NB, Mississippi
Vicksburg NMP, Mississippi
Walnut Canyon NM, Arizona
Washington Monument, District of Columbia
White House, District of Columbia
Wright Brothers NMem, North Carolina
Along with the great influx of parks from the reorganization, the National Park Service received another mission in 1933 as President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched his New Deal: helping to relieve the great economic depression then gripping the Nation. Under Park Service supervision, the new Civilian Conservation Corps would employ thousands of jobless young men in a wide range of conservation, rehabilitation, and construction projects in both the national and state parks. At the program's peak in 1935, the Service oversaw 600 CCC camps, 118 of them in national parklands and 482 in state parks, staffed by some 120,000 enrollees and 6,000 professional supervisors.

Besides its many park improvements, the CCC had lasting effects on Service organization and personnel. Regional offices established to coordinate the CCC in the state parks evolved in 1937 into a permanent regional structure for management of the National Park System. Many of the landscape architects, engineers, foresters, biologists, historians, archeologists, and architects hired under the program's auspices remained on the rolls as career Service employees.

The Service had encouraged the state park movement ever since Stephen T. Mather had helped organize the National Conference on State Parks in 1921. Most states lacked any park system plans, leading the Service to advocate comprehensive new planning legislation as it became directly involved with state parks and recreational demonstration areas under the New Deal. The resulting Park, Parkway, and Recreation Area Study Act of 1936 enabled the Service, working with others, to plan parklands and facilities at federal, state, and local levels throughout the country. Its first comprehensive report under the act, A Study of the Park and Recreation Problem in the United States, was published in 1941.

Horace Albright left the Service for private business on August 9, 1933, just before the reorganization became effective. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes named Arno B. Cammerer, who had served as associate director, to succeed him. A competent if not dynamic director, Cammerer found life difficult under Roosevelt's irascible Interior Secretary but remained in charge of the greatly expanded organization until 1940. Ickes then persuaded Newton B. Drury, a respected conservationist who had headed the Save-the-
Redwoods League in California, to lead the National Park Service.

With America's entry into World War II in December 1941, Drury had to preside over a drastic retrenchment in Service activity. The CCC program was dismantled, regular appropriations for the Park System declined from $21 million in 1940 to $5 million in 1943, the number of full-time employees was slashed from 3,500 to fewer than 2,000, and public visits to the parks fell from 21 million in 1941 to 6 million in 1942. Nonessential functions were ordered out of Washington to free space for the war effort; Park Service headquarters ended up in Chicago for the duration.

The war had other impacts on the System. Many of the national capital parklands, including the Washington Monument grounds and Potomac Park, were covered with temporary office buildings and housing for the influx of war workers. Park hotels such as the Ahwahnee at Yosemite were commandeered for servicemen undergoing rest and rehabilitation. The armed forces used Mount Rainier for mountain warfare training, Joshua Tree National Monument for desert training, and Mount McKinley for equipment testing under arctic conditions.

Some wartime pressures seriously threatened park resources. Timber interests sought to log Sitka spruce in Olympic National Park for airplane manufacture. Ranchers pushed to open many areas for grazing. Mining companies wanted to search for copper at Grand Canyon and Mount Rainier, manganese at Shenandoah, and tungsten at Yosemite. Leaders of scrap metal drives eyed historic cannon at the Service's battlefields and forts. Drury successfully defended the parks against most such demands, yielding only in exceptional circumstances.

As America's energies were redirected to domestic pursuits after the war, the accelerated development of river basins by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation posed a new round of threats to the System. The proposed Bridge Canyon Dam on the Colorado River would have impounded water through Grand Canyon National Monument into the adjacent national park; Glacier View Dam on the Flathead River in Montana threatened to flood 20,000 acres of Glacier National Park; the reservoir behind the proposed Mining City Dam on Kentucky's Green River would have periodically flooded the underground Echo River in Mammoth Cave; and
dams on the Potomac above and below Great Falls would have submerged 40 miles of the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Bureau of Reclamation plans to flood wilderness canyons in Dinosaur National Monument with dams at Echo Park and Split Mountain on the Green and Yampa rivers touched off a conservation battle recalling Hetch Hetchy. Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman's decision to support the project over Park Service opposition contributed to Drury's forced resignation in March 1951. Congress later declined to approve the Dinosaur dams, however, and most other such proposals affecting parklands were dropped as well.

Arthur E. Demaray, long a Service mainstay as associate director under Cammerer and Drury, became director for the eight months remaining before his retirement in December 1951. He was followed by Conrad L. Wirth, a landscape architect and planner who had led the Service's CCC program in the state parks. Wirth's major contribution as director, Mission 66, is touched on in the next chapter.

The Depression years saw no downturn in the growth of the National Park System. Expansion nearly ceased during the war but fully recovered thereafter. From the reorganization through 1951, 60 of today's units were added to the rolls. Forty-one of them were historical areas, increasing the numerical majority attained by this category in the reorganization. Eleven were predominantly natural in character, and eight would be classified as recreational.

**Natural Areas**  Two entirely new national parks, one national memorial park later redesignated a national park, and eight national monuments protecting natural features joined the System between August 1933 and 1951; and three essentially new national parks were formed or expanded from preexisting holdings. Five of the national monuments were later converted to or incorporated in four national parks and a national seashore.

Everglades National Park in Florida was authorized in 1934 to protect the largest tropical wilderness in the United States. It was the only national park in the far southeastern states until 1980 and remains the only one of its kind. Congress authorized Big Bend National Park a year later to encompass more than 700,000 acres of unique wilderness country in southwestern Texas, including the Chisos Mountains and three magnificent canyons in the great bend of the Rio Grande. Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, established in 1947 and redesignated a national park in 1978, includes scenic badlands along the Little Missouri River and part of Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch in North Dakota.

During his first seven years in office Franklin Roosevelt routinely
proclaimed seven natural monuments. Cedar Breaks protected a remarka
able natural amphitheater of eroded limestone and sandstone in south
western Utah; Joshua Tree preserved a characteristic part—initially
825,340 acres—of the Mojave and Colorado deserts in southern Calif
ornia; Organ Pipe Cactus incorporated 325,000 acres of the Sonoran
Desert in southern Arizona; Capitol Reef preserved a 20-mile se
gment of the great Waterpocket Fold in south-central Utah; and Chan
nel Islands protected Santa Barbara and Anacapa islands, the smallest
in a group of eight off the coast of southern California. Capitol Reef
and Channel Islands later became national parks. Zion National Mon
ument, proclaimed in 1937, was incorporated in the existing Zion
National Park in 1956. Santa Rosa Island National Monument near
Pensacola, Florida, was abolished only seven years after its procla
mation in 1939, but the island returned to the System as part of Gulf
Islands National Seashore in 1971.

Roosevelt's eighth natural monument proclamation was far from
routine. Its subject was Jackson Hole, Wyoming, discussed as a pos
sible addition to Yellowstone as early as 1892. John D. Rockefeller,
Jr., visited the area in 1926 with Horace Albright, then superinten
dent of Yellowstone, and was disturbed to see commercial develop
ment on private lands despoiling the view of the Teton Range. With
official encouragement, he began an undercover land acquisition pro
gram. In a few years his Snake River Land Company purchased more
than 33,000 acres for donation to the United States.

When the scheme became public, cattlemen, hunters, timbermen,
and other local interests bitterly opposed the land's removal from
economic productivity, hunting, and taxation. Wyoming's congres
sional delegation responded by thwarting passage of park enabling
legislation. In 1943, after Rockefeller expressed impatience with hold
ing and paying taxes on his acquisition, Roosevelt proclaimed the
Jackson Hole National Monument to accept it. The monument also
included 179,000 acres from Teton National Forest adjoining the lim
ited Grand Teton National Park established in 1929.

Roosevelt's proclamation unleashed a storm of criticism about Jack
son Hole in particular and use of the Antiquities Act to circumvent
Congress in general. Bills were introduced to abolish the monument
and repeal the act's proclamation authority. Legislation abolishing
the monument passed Congress in 1944 but was vetoed by Roose
velt; the proclamation was also contested unsuccessfully in court.
Meanwhile, the monument's foes insured that Congress appropriated
no money for its management. A legislative compromise was finally
reached in 1950, when most of Jackson Hole National Monument
and the old Grand Teton National Park were incorporated in a new
Grand Teton National Park of some 298,000 acres. The act contained special provisions for tax revenue compensation and hunting in the park; it also prohibited establishing national monuments or enlarging national parks in Wyoming thereafter except by congressional action.

After the Jackson Hole controversy, Presidential proclamation of national monuments virtually ceased outside Wyoming as well. Only five more monuments were so established between 1943 and 1978. Two were natural features: Buck Island Reef in the Virgin Islands, ordered by President John F. Kennedy in 1961; and Marble Canyon, Arizona, proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on his last day in office in 1969 (and added to Grand Canyon National Park in 1975). The others were of mostly cultural significance: Effigy Mounds, Iowa, by President Harry S Truman in 1949; the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Maryland, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower two days before he left office in 1961; and Russell Cave, Alabama, by President Kennedy in 1961. Jimmy Carter's proclamation of 11 Alaska monuments for the park system in 1978 was the final and major exception to the general eschewal of the Antiquities Act and occurred under exceptional circumstances. As a rule, the executive branch henceforth deferred to Congress when it came to expanding the System.

Olympic and Kings Canyon were the other two essentially new national parks from 1933 to 1951 that encompassed existing holdings. Olympic National Park in Washington, incorporating Mount Olympus National Monument, was established in 1938 following an ardent campaign by park preservationists against timber interests. After a 50-year struggle involving power and irrigation proponents, lumbermen, ranchers, and hunters, Kings Canyon National Park came to fruition in 1940 to protect some 460,000 acres of mountain and canyon wilderness on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. It superseded General Grant, one of California's three original national parks of 1890.

Four previously authorized national parks were formally established during the period after sufficient lands were acquired from nonfederal sources: Great Smoky Mountains in 1934, Shenandoah in 1935, Isle Royale in 1940, and Mammoth Cave in 1941. President Roosevelt also used the Antiquities Act to order significant additions to several existing national monuments before the Jackson Hole proclamation controversy forced a moratorium on such actions. Death Valley was expanded by nearly 306,000 acres in 1937; 203,885 acres containing the spectacular wild canyons of the Yampa and Green rivers were added to Dinosaur in 1938; Glacier Bay received an additional 905,000 acres for wildlife and glacier protection in 1939; and 150,000 acres were added to Badlands that year.
Historical Areas  With the 1933 reorganization, historic preservation became a primary mission of the National Park Service. The Service's role as the leading federal agency in this field was confirmed by Congress two years later in the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935—the most significant general preservation enactment since the 1906 Antiquities Act.

The Historic Sites Act stemmed from desires within the Service for a stronger legal underpinning for its greatly accelerated historical programs and from desires beyond the Service for greater federal assistance to historic properties. It began by declaring "a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States."

To carry out this policy, the act assigned broad powers and duties to the Secretary of the Interior and the Service. They were to survey historic properties "for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States." They were authorized to conduct research; to restore, preserve, and maintain historic properties directly or through cooperative agreements with other parties; and to mark properties, establish and maintain related museums, and engage in other interpretive activities for public education. There was also a general authority for acquiring historic properties—provided that no federal funds were obligated in advance of congressional appropriations.

The restrictive proviso, from a House amendment to the draft bill prepared in the Interior Department, effectively curtailed the envisioned addition of properties to the National Park System by secretarial action alone. The secretary could designate "national historic sites" outside the System and accept their donation, but unless and until Congress provided funds for acquiring sites not donated and for administering those that were, the Service could offer little more than moral support. Several additions up to 1951, including Salem Maritime, Massachusetts, Federal Hall and Vanderbilt Mansion, New York, and Hampton, Maryland, became national historic sites by secretarial designation under the Historic Sites Act before being brought into the System by congressional action.

Although the act was of limited value by itself in enlarging the System, its provision for a historic site survey—institutionalized within the Service as the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings—proved valuable in identifying potential additions. Another product of the act, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments (restitled the National Park System Advisory Board in 1978), used outside experts in the cultural and natural
resource disciplines to review selected properties and recommend those found nationally significant for secretarial designation or inclusion in the System.

The first secretarial designation under the Historic Sites Act was the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 20, 1935. The designated area, encompassing 37 city blocks on the Mississippi riverfront, was also the first extensive urban responsibility of the Service outside Washington, D.C. Ironically, the designation was made to justify federal expenditures for urban renewal and a modern memorial to western expansion rather than historic preservation. Most of the area was bulldozed, and the soaring Gateway Arch designed by Eero Saarinen was constructed as its centerpiece in the 1960s.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site was the first area so titled. Designated by Secretary Ickes on March 17, 1938, it included several important structures on Salem’s waterfront dating from the city’s maritime prominence in the 18th and 19th centuries. Hopewell Village, Pennsylvania, became the second national historic site on August 3, 1938. The CCC was put to work restoring portions of the site, a rural ironmaking plantation of the 19th century containing a blast furnace, ironmaster’s mansion, and auxiliary structures. Its redesignation as Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in 1985 reflected the historic name of the complex.

In 1948, responding to recommendations of a study commission, Congress authorized another major historical project in an urban setting—Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. One of the most important historic districts in the United States, the park includes Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Carpenters Hall, and other features associated with the winning of American independence and the establishment of government under the Constitution. In 1959 it was enlarged by incorporation of the old Philadelphia Custom House (Second Bank of the United States), which had been designated a national historic site 20 years before. Another commission was established for New York City, where Federal Hall and Castle Clinton joined the Statue of Liberty under Park Service administration.

Six Presidents of the United States were honored by National Park System additions during the period, furthering a trend that would ultimately number Presidential sites second only to battlefields in the System’s historical ranks. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington was authorized in 1934 and completed nine years later. Andrew Johnson’s home and tailor shop in Greeneville, Tennessee, were acquired in 1935. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Hyde Park estate was designated a national historic site in 1944 and donated after his death a
year later. The home of John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts, followed in 1946. Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, as noted under natural areas, was established in 1947.

The first new battlefield park to be authorized was Monocacy, scene of an 1864 Civil War engagement in Maryland; but the lands were not donated as expected, and the site remained outside the System until Congress reauthorized its acquisition with appropriated funds in 1976. Civil War battlefield parks at Richmond and Manassas, Virginia, authorized in 1936 and 1940, were more readily achieved. Saratoga National Historical Park, New York, was authorized in 1938 to commemorate the pivotal Revolutionary War battle there. As noted previously, the National Cemetery of Custer's Battlefield Reservation, Montana, was transferred from the War Department in 1940 and redesignated Custer Battlefield National Monument in 1946.

There were also more forts in the military category. Franklin Roosevelt's first historical monument proclamation was for Fort Jefferson, Florida, the largest all-masonry fortification in the Western Hemisphere, in 1935. Congress authorized Fort Stanwix National Monument, New York, the same year, but the Park Service did not acquire the site on which it later reconstructed the colonial and Revolutionary War fort until 1973. Roosevelt's second historical monument was Fort Laramie, Wyoming, in 1938—the first of several western military and fur-trading posts to join the System. Fort Vancouver, Washington, followed by act of Congress in 1948. Fort Sumter, the famous Civil War landmark at Charleston, South Carolina, was also transferred to the Service that year by the Army.

Although sites representing political and military history predominated, a few areas representing other themes were admitted during the period. Two national historic sites treating commerce and industry—Salem Maritime and Hopewell Village—have been mentioned. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, running 185 miles from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland, was acquired from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1938 as partial repayment of the railroad's government loans. This abandoned commercial waterway, little altered from the time of its construction between 1828 and 1850, was proclaimed a national monument in 1961 and included in a national historical park a decade later. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, noted for the 1859 John Brown Raid and Civil War activity, was an important manufacturing center before the war. Congress authorized a national monument there in 1944 and an expanded national historical park in 1963. The first of several areas commemorating black Americans was George Washington Carver National Monument,
authorized by Congress at the scientist-educator's Missouri birthplace just after his death in 1943.

Recreational Areas  Another new group of areas came under National Park Service administration during the 1933-51 period. Some were based on roads or reservoirs—modern artificial features rather than natural or historic resources. Others were based on natural resources that did not necessarily meet national park or monument standards and were set aside primarily to be developed for public use. Hunting and other activities traditionally barred from the national parks might be permitted in these places. The reservoir-based areas were officially titled national recreation areas; the others were variously named but also came to be known collectively as recreational areas.

Among them were parkways—elongated parklands containing carefully designed and landscaped limited-access roads intended for recreational motoring rather than high-speed point-to-point travel. Automobile parkways originated in Westchester County, New York, during the second decade of the century, when Congress also authorized the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway connecting Potomac Park with Rock Creek Park and the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. The four-mile parkway, completed in 1936, is classed as a component of National Capital Parks rather than a separate unit of the National Park System. The next federal parkway was the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway of 1928-32. As mentioned previously, it was incorporated in the larger George Washington Memorial Parkway, acquired in the reorganization. During World War II the national capital parkway network was expanded with the authorization of Suitland Parkway, a landscaped access route to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, providing access to Fort Meade, Maryland. The Service acquired responsibility for these parkways in 1949 and 1950 and later sought unsuccessfully to transfer them to Maryland. Since 1975 they have been classed as components of National Capital Parks rather than discrete park units.

Colonial Parkway, providing a 23-mile scenic drive between Jamestown and Yorktown, Virginia, was the first federal parkway outside the national capital area. It was authorized in 1930 as part of Colonial National Monument and is carried as a component of the present national historical park.

By far the greatest federal projects of this kind were the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace parkways, authorized in 1933 and 1934. Rather than serving primarily local traffic, these protected recreational roads traversed long stretches of scenic and historic rural landscape. Both
were begun as New Deal public works projects and were soon made units of the National Park System.

The Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, personally promoted by President Hoover and begun as a Depression relief project under his administration in 1932, was the prototype for the Blue Ridge Parkway. After Franklin Roosevelt’s inauguration, the National Industrial Recovery Act of June 16, 1933, authorized Secretary Ickes in his capacity as public works administrator to prepare a comprehensive public works program, including the “construction, repair, and improvement of public highways and parkways.” Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Sr., of Virginia and others seized the opportunity to propose a scenic parkway linking the Skyline Drive to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Roosevelt and Ickes embraced the proposal, Virginia and North Carolina agreed to donate the right-of-way, and that December the Service received an initial $4 million allotment for the project. Jointly planned by the Service and the Bureau of Public Roads, it was named the Blue Ridge Parkway and legally assigned to Service administration in 1936. The popular 470-mile parkway, completed over several decades, alternates sweeping views of the southern highlands with intimate glimpses of Appalachian flora and fauna and log structures typical of the region’s past.

During the early 19th century the Natchez Trace from Nashville, Tennessee, to Natchez, Mississippi, became an important route binding the Old Southwest to the rest of the country. Congress authorized a survey for a Natchez Trace Parkway along the historic route in 1934 and gave the Service responsibility for its development and administration in 1938. Four hundred of the projected 450 miles of road have now been completed, linking such features as Mount Locust, the earliest surviving inn on the trace, and Emerald Mound, one of the largest prehistoric ceremonial structures in the United States.

Proposals for other parkways proliferated during the 1930s, and many were revived after the war. Among them were an Appalachian Parkway continuing the Skyline Drive to Maine and a southern extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway to Georgia, a Mississippi River Parkway, a southern extension of the George Washington Memorial Parkway to Wakefield (Washington’s birthplace) and Williamsburg, a parkway from Washington to Gettysburg, and a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Parkway along and atop the historic waterway.

These proposals had much appeal in the era before other well-engineered limited-access highways eased long-distance travel, but they also encountered opposition. The Wilderness Society was organized in 1935 partly to protest such ridgecrest roadways as the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway, criticized as intrusions on the natural
environment. In 1954 William O. Douglas, U.S. Supreme Court justice and wilderness advocate, led a highly publicized week-long hike along the C & O Canal to fight the Service's parkway plan there, effectively killing it. Such stands by conservationists, the interstate highway program, and economic considerations virtually halted new parkway construction by the mid-1960s.

The National Industrial Recovery Act also authorized federal purchase of lands considered submarginal for farming but suitable for recreation. After acquisition by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, they were transferred to the Resettlement Administration and then to the Park Service as recreational demonstration projects. By 1936 the Service had set up 46 projects encompassing 397,000 acres in 24 states.

From the beginning it was intended that most of the recreational demonstration areas would be turned over to state and local governments, and in 1942 Congress provided the necessary authority. By 1946 the Service had largely completed the conveyances but retained portions of several areas. Most of the retained lands were added to existing units of the Park System, including Acadia and Shenandoah national parks, White Sands National Monument, and Hopewell Village National Historic Site. Two recreational demonstration areas, however, became discrete units of the System: Chopawamsic in Virginia, retitled Prince William Forest Park in 1948; and part of Catoctin in Maryland, retitled Catoctin Mountain Park in 1954. The latter surrounds the Presidential retreat inaugurated by Franklin Roosevelt as Shangri-La and renamed Camp David by Dwight Eisenhower.

Greenbelt Park, Maryland, like Catoctin Mountain and Prince William Forest parks, lacks "national" status. It was transferred to the Service from the Public Housing Authority in 1950 when the adjoining Baltimore-Washington Parkway was acquired from the Bureau of Public Roads. Originally carried as a component of National Capital Parks, it has been listed since 1975 as a separate unit. The suburban park offers camping for visitors to the Washington area and other recreational facilities for regional residents.

As noted above, fierce conservation battles were fought during the period against dams that threatened to inundate unspoiled canyons in and near certain national parks and monuments. There was some displeasure, then, when the Park Service joined forces with the dam builders to administer recreational developments and activities at major impoundments.

The first of these involvements came at Lake Mead in Nevada and Arizona, created by Hoover Dam. The Bureau of Reclamation completed the dam, then called Boulder Dam, on the Colorado River in
1935. The next year, under an agreement with Reclamation, the Service assumed responsibility for all recreational activities on its reservoir at what was first titled Boulder Dam National Recreation Area.

The responsibility became a major one, for Lake Mead at capacity is 115 miles long with 550 miles of shoreline, affording extensive opportunities for boating, swimming, and camping. By 1952 Davis Dam had been built downstream, impounding the 67-mile-long Lake Mohave, and the Service acquired similar duties there. The total Lake Mead National Recreation Area, as it was renamed in 1947, covers both lakes and surrounding lands totaling nearly 1,500,000 acres, making it the largest as well as the first area with this designation in the System.

The second such unit, Coulee Dam National Recreation Area in Washington, was established in 1946 under another agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation patterned after that for Lake Mead. The Grand Coulee Dam, completed in 1941, created Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake—151 miles long with a 660-mile shoreline. The Service developed campgrounds, marinas, bathing facilities, and other amenities at 35 locations around the reservoir.

The Service's other major recreational initiative during the period addressed seashores. In 1934 it surveyed the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and identified 12 significant areas deserving federal protection. Among them was Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, which Congress authorized as the first national seashore in 1937. Land acquisition lagged until after World War II; the Mellon family foundations then made substantial grants to help North Carolina purchase and donate the needed lands. The seashore encompasses almost 100 miles of barrier islands and beaches, providing an outstanding natural resource base for surf bathing, sport fishing, nature study, and other recreational activities.
### National Park System Additions 1933-51

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<td>June 16</td>
<td>Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina and Virginia (acquired 1936)</td>
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<td>Cedar Breaks NM, Utah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Ocmulgee NM, Georgia</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
<td>Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee (acquired 1938)</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Monocacy NMP, Maryland (reauthorized and redesignated a NB 1976)</td>
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<td>June 26</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson Memorial, District of Columbia (dedicated 1943)</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>Fort Jefferson NM, Florida</td>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>Big Bend NP, Texas</td>
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<td>Aug. 21</td>
<td>Historic Sites Act</td>
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<td>Aug. 21</td>
<td>Fort Stanwix NM, New York (acquired 1973)</td>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Andrew Johnson NM, Tennessee (redesignated a NHS 1963)</td>
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<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Missouri (Gateway Arch authorized 1954, dedicated 1968)</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Richmond NBP, Virginia</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>Homestead NM of America, Nebraska</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Fort Frederica NM, Georgia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial NM, Ohio (redesignated Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial 1972)</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
<td>Park, Parkway, and Recreation Area Study Act</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Whitman Mission NM, Washington (redesignated a NHS 1963)</td>
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<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Joshua Tree NM, California</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Boulder Dam NRA, Nevada and Arizona (redesignated Lake Mead NRA 1947)</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area, Maryland (redesignated Catoctin Mountain Park 1954)</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, Virginia (redesignated Prince William Forest Park 1948)</td>
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1937
Jan. 22 Zion NM, Utah (incorporated in Zion NP 1956)
April 13 Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Arizona
Aug. 2 Capitol Reef NM, Utah (redesignated a NP 1971)
Aug. 17 Cape Hatteras NS, North Carolina
Aug. 25 Pipestone NM, Minnesota
1938
March 17 Salem Maritime NHS, Massachusetts
April 26 Channel Islands NM, California (incorporated in Channel Islands NP 1980)
June 1 Saratoga NHP, New York
June 29 Olympic NP, Washington (incorporated Mount Olympus NM)
July 16 Fort Laramie NM, Wyoming (redesignated a NHS 1960)
Aug. 3 Hopewell Village NHS, Pennsylvania (redesignated Hopewell Furnace NHS 1985)
Sept. 23 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, District of Columbia, Maryland, and West Virginia (date acquired; designated a NM 1961; incorporated in Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP 1971)
Oct. 25 Ackia Battleground NM, Mississippi (incorporated in Natchez Trace Parkway 1961)
1939
May 17 Santa Rosa Island NM, Florida (abolished 1946; island included in Gulf Islands NS 1971)
May 26 Federal Hall Memorial NHS, New York (redesignated Federal Hall NMem 1955)
May 26 Philadelphia Custom House NHS, Pennsylvania (incorporated in Independence NHP 1959)
July 1 Mount Rushmore NMem, South Dakota (date acquired)
July 25 Tuzigoot NM, Arizona
1940
March 4 Kings Canyon NP, California (incorporated General Grant NP)
May 10 Manassas NBP, Virginia
June 11 Cumberland Gap NHP, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee
July 1 National Cemetery of Custer’s Battlefield Reservation, Montana (date acquired; redesignated Custer Battlefield NM 1946)
August 12 Fort Washington Park, Maryland
December 18 Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, New York

1941
April 5 Fort Raleigh NHS, North Carolina

1943
March 15 Jackson Hole NM, Wyoming (incorporated in Grand Teton NP 1950)
July 14 George Washington Carver NM, Missouri

1944
January 15 Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, New York
June 30 Harpers Ferry NM, West Virginia and Maryland (redesignated a NHP 1963)

1946
October 13 Atlanta Campaign NHS, Georgia (abolished 1950)

1947
August 12 Castle Clinton NM, New York
December 9 Adams Mansion NHS, Massachusetts (redesignated Adams NHS 1952)
December 18 Coulee Dam NRA, Washington

1948
April 25 Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, North Dakota (redesignated a NP 1978)

1949
March 11 DeSoto NMem, Florida
April 28 Fort Sumter NM, South Carolina
June 19 Fort Vancouver NM, Washington (redesignated a NHS 1961)
June 22 Hampton NHS, Maryland
June 28 Independence NHP, Pennsylvania

1950
February 14 San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico
June 8 Saint Croix Island NM, Maine (redesignated an International Historic Site 1984)
August 17 Suitland Parkway, Maryland and District of Columbia (date acquired; incorporated in National Capital Parks 1975)
October 25 Effigy Mounds NM, Iowa

1951
August 3 Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Maryland (date acquired; incorporated in National Capital Parks 1975)
August 3 Greenbelt Park, Maryland
Sept. 14  Grand Teton NP, Wyoming (incorporated 1929 NP and Jackson Hole NM)
Sept. 21  Fort Caroline NMem, Florida
1951
Sept. 15  Grand Portage NHS, Minnesota (redesignated a NM 1958)

Abbreviations Used in the Table

| NB  | National Battlefield |
| NBP | National Battlefield Park |
| NBS | National Battlefield Site |
| NHP | National Historical Park |
| NHS | National Historic Site |
| NL  | National Lakeshore |
| NM  | National Monument |
| NMem | National Memorial |
| NMP | National Military Park |
| NP  | National Park |
| NPRes | National Preserve |
| NR  | National River |
| NRA | National Recreation Area |
| NS  | National Seashore |
| NSR | National Scenic Riverway |
| NST | National Scenic Trail |
| WSR | Wild and Scenic River |
Mission 66 and the Environmental Era, 1952 to 1972

When Conrad L. Wirth took over as National Park Service director in December 1951, he inherited a National Park System besieged by its admiring public. Increasing personal incomes, leisure time, and automobile ownership fueled a postwar travel boom for families young and old, and the national parks, it seemed, bore the brunt of it. Visits to the parks mounted from the six million of 1942 to 33 million in 1950 en route to 72 million in 1960. With few improvements since the CCC era and park appropriations again cut during the Korean Conflict, obsolete and deteriorating park roads, campgrounds, employee housing, sanitary systems, and other facilities were overwhelmed.

Wirth’s response was Mission 66, a 10-year program to upgrade facilities, staffing, and resource management throughout the System by the 50th anniversary of the Service in 1966. President Eisenhower endorsed the program after Wirth gave a slide presentation of park conditions at a January 1956 Cabinet meeting. Congress proved equally receptive, appropriating more than a billion dollars over the 10-year period for Mission 66 improvements. Dozens of park visitor centers, hundreds of employee residences, and the Mather and Albright employee training centers at Harpers Ferry and the Grand Canyon are among the program’s enduring legacies.

Mission 66 covered an array of other activities that the Service had foregone during its lean years, including resumption of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings to aid in planning for the System’s orderly expansion. Beginning in 1960, most historic properties surveyed and found nationally significant were designated national historic landmarks by Secretaries of the Interior. A similar program for natural lands was launched in 1962, resulting in the designation of national natural landmarks. Although these programs continued to help identify areas meriting inclusion in the System, their larger function was to officially recognize outstanding places not proposed as parks and encourage their preservation by others. By 1990 nearly 2,000 historic properties and nearly 600 natural areas had received landmark designation.

George B. Hartzog, Jr., succeeded Wirth in January 1964. A hard-driving lawyer and administrator, Hartzog had made his mark as superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, where he
laid the foundation for the Gateway Arch. Stewart L. Udall, Interior Secretary under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, found Hartzog a willing ally in advancing an activist park policy for Johnson’s Great Society. During Hartzog’s nine-year tenure, 69 of today’s park units were added to the System—nearly three-quarters as many as had been permanently added in the preceding 30 years. There were new kinds of parks—rivers, trails, performance facilities, urban recreation areas—and new directions for Service managers and professionals.

Natural resource management was restructured along ecological lines following a 1963 report by a committee of distinguished scientists chaired by A. Starker Leopold. “As a primary goal, we would recommend that the biotic associations within each park be maintained, or where necessary recreated, as nearly as possible in the condition that prevailed when the area was first visited by the white man,” the Leopold Report declared. “A national park should represent a vignette of primitive America.” The natural roles of predators, once routinely killed, and wildfire, customarily suppressed, received special emphasis.

In the field of interpretation, living history programs ranging from military demonstrations to farming became popular attractions at many areas. Environmental interpretation, emphasizing ecological relationships, and special environmental education programs for school classes reflected and promoted the Nation’s growing environmental awareness.

The Service’s historic preservation activities expanded further beyond the parks. Responding to the destructive effects of urban renewal, highway construction, and other federal projects during the postwar era, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the Service to maintain a comprehensive National Register of Historic Places. National Register properties—locally significant places as well as national historic landmarks in both public and private ownership—would receive special consideration in federal project planning and various forms of preservation assistance.

On July 10, 1964, Secretary Udall signed a management policy memorandum prepared by Hartzog and his staff. “In looking back at
the legislative enactments that have shaped the National Park Sys-
tem,” it said, “it is clear that the Congress has included within the
growing System three different categories of areas—natural, histori-
cal, and recreational. . . . Each of these categories requires a sepa-
rate management concept and a separate set of management principles
coordinated to form one organic management plan for the entire
System.” Natural areas were to be managed for perpetuation and
restoration of their natural values, although significant historic fea-
tures present should be maintained “to the extent compatible with
the primary purpose for which the area was established.” In histori-
cal areas these emphases were reversed. In recreational areas, natu-
ral and historic resource preservation would be subordinate to public
use; the primary objective was to foster “active participation in out-
door recreation in a pleasing environment.”

Previously, a 1953 act of Congress had legally defined the National
Park System to exclude most areas in the recreational category. That
law had reflected concern that if reservoirs, hunting, and other such
developments and uses were allowed anywhere in the System, they
might spread to the more traditional areas as well. Udall’s memoran-
dum seemingly violated the 1953 act by granting System membership
to all recreational areas, but it allayed the concern that had prompted
it by placing them in a distinct subclass with distinct management
policies. Separate policy manuals were developed for the three area
categories and published in 1968. Two years later law caught up with
administrative initiative: the General Authorities Act of August 18,
1970, redefined the System to include all areas managed “for park,
monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes” by the
National Park Service.

Udall’s memorandum also called for continued expansion of the
System “through inclusion of additional areas of scenic, scientific,
historical and recreational value to the Nation.” This perennial objec-
tive was reiterated in another policy memorandum signed June 18,
1969, by President Richard Nixon’s first Interior Secretary, Walter J.
Hickel: “The National Park System should protect and exhibit the
best examples of our great national landscapes, riverscapes and shores
and undersea environments; the processes which formed them; the
life communities that grow and dwell therein; and the important land-
marks of our history. There are serious gaps and inadequacies which
must be remedied while opportunities still exist if the System is to
fulfill the people’s need always to see and understand their heritage
of history and the natural world.

“You should continue your studies to identify gaps in the System
and recommend to me areas that would fill them. It is my hope that
we can make a significant contribution to rounding out more of the National Park System in these next few years."

With this charge in hand, Hartzog ordered preparation of a National Park System plan, published in 1972. Its history component divided American history and prehistory into themes or topics such as were used in national historic landmark studies. Existing historical parks were assigned to their various thematic categories, revealing gaps wherever the categories were unrepresented. By maximizing the number of categories and allowing each park to represent only one of them, the plan determined that at least 196 new parks were needed to treat all major facets of American history. The plan's natural history component, taking a similar approach, identified more than 300 aspects of natural history requiring initial or greater representation.

Although recreational areas did not lend themselves to the same kind of thematic analysis and were not addressed in the plan, they now composed the fastest growing category of parks. Of the 100 permanent additions to the System from 1952 through 1972, 32 fell in the recreational category—four times the number added during the 1933-51 period. Historical additions continued to lead, totaling 56. Only 12 additions were classed as natural, nearly unchanged from the preceding period's figure. The modest increase in traditional national parks and natural monuments reflected the reduced availability of lands meeting traditional natural park standards and capable of management under traditional park policies. In fact, however, many of the recreational areas were as much natural in character as recreational in use.

Additions in all categories were aided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. As amended in 1968, the act earmarked revenues from visitor fees, surplus property sales, motorboat fuel taxes, and offshore oil and gas leasing for federal and state parkland acquisition. The fund was administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, a new Interior bureau established in 1962 on the recommendation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, chaired by Laurance S. Rockefeller. Wirth had opposed the new bureau, which took away the Park Service's responsibilities for recreation planning and assistance together with some of its staff and funds. Ultimately the Service regained these functions when BOR, reconstituted in 1978 as the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, expired in 1981.

Natural Areas Of the 12 permanent additions in the natural area category, seven were national parks and five were national monuments. A thirteenth addition, Marble Canyon National Monument,
Arizona, was later incorporated in Grand Canyon National Park.

Virgin Islands National Park, the first natural addition of the period, was authorized in 1956 to protect nearly two-thirds of the land mass and most of the colorful offshore waters of St. John Island. The park owes its existence to the contributions of Laurance Rockefeller's Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. Buck Island Reef, also in the Virgin Islands, was the first natural monument of the period in 1961.

In Hawaii, the crater of 10,023-foot Haleakala on the island of Maui was taken from Hawaii National Park in 1960 and placed in a separate Haleakala National Park. The parent park was retitled Hawaii Volcanoes in 1961. This division of a national park remains unique.

Canyonlands National Park was established in 1964 to protect a remote region of exceptional scenic quality and archeological and scientific importance at the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers in southeastern Utah. A 1971 addition brought the park's total area to more than 337,000 acres.

Congress authorized Guadalupe Mountains National Park in 1966 to preserve an area in West Texas "possessing outstanding geological values together with scenic and other natural values of great significance." Proposed for inclusion in the System as early as 1933, the park's mountain mass and adjoining lands cover more than 86,000 acres and include portions of the world's most extensive Permian limestone fossil reef.

North Cascades National Park, Washington, embraces nearly 505,000 acres of wild alpine country with jagged peaks, mountain lakes, and glaciers. The park proposal was surrounded by intense controversy involving timber and mining interests, conservationists, local governments, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as well as the Park Service. The park was finally authorized in 1968 simultaneously with Redwood National Park, California.

Redwood, which also came into being after long and bitter controversy, was intended "to preserve significant examples of the primeval coastal redwood forests and the streams and seashores with which they are associated for purposes of public inspiration, enjoyment and scientific study." Within its legislated boundaries, enlarged in 1978 to encompass 110,000 acres, are three state parks dating from the 1920s, 30 miles of Pacific coastline, and the world's tallest trees. Redwood's establishment and enlargement entailed the taking of valuable private timberlands and compensatory benefits to affected loggers. It was by far the most expensive park ever, costing some $1.5 billion for land acquisition alone.

The last new national park of the period was Voyageurs, on Minnesota's northern border, authorized in 1971 to preserve the "see-
nery, geological conditions, and waterway system which constituted a part of the historic route of the Voyageurs who contributed significantly to the opening of the Northwest United States.” It occupies 218,000 acres of remote northern lake country.

Besides the seven new national parks, Arches and Capitol Reef national monuments in Utah were promoted to national park status by legislation in 1971, and a new national monument, Biscayne in the upper Florida keys, formed the basis for Biscayne National Park in 1980. Congress authorized three other new monuments—Agate Fossil Beds, Nebraska; Florissant Fossil Beds, Colorado; and Fossil Butte, Wyoming—to preserve outstanding deposits of mammal, insect, and fish fossils.

Of great importance to natural preservation in the System during and after this period was the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, which read in part: “In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as ‘wilderness areas,’ and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. . . .”

The act defined wilderness as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” For designation as wilderness an area was to be without permanent improvements or human habitation, to retain its “primeval character and influence,” and generally to contain at least 5,000 acres. Among other provisions, the act directed the Secretary of the Interior to review within 10 years all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more in the National Park System and report to the President on their suitability for wilderness designation. The President was then to report his recommendations to Congress for action.

Although many portions of the System were clearly wilderness and had long been managed as such, the act forced a careful examination of all potentially qualifying lands and consideration as to which should be perpetuated indefinitely without roads, use of motorized equipment, structures, or other development incompatible with for-
mal wilderness designation. By 1990 many potential wilderness areas had been studied and parts of 41 parks had been confirmed as wilderness by Congress.

Historical Areas Fifty-nine historical areas joined the System from the beginning of 1952 to the end of 1972. Three of them—St. Thomas and Mar-A-Lago national historic sites and the National Visitor Center—were subsequently dropped, leaving 56 still present.

Presidential sites accounted for eleven of the additions—nearly a fifth of the permanent total. Theodore Roosevelt's New York City birthplace and Sagamore Hill, his estate at Oyster Bay, New York, were donated in 1962. In 1966 the Ansley Wilcox House at Buffalo, New York, where Roosevelt became President after William McKinley's assassination, was added to the System, becoming known as Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site. (The Roosevelt memorial on Theodore Roosevelt Island in Washington, D.C., was dedicated a year later.) Another Abraham Lincoln site, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, was accepted from the state of Indiana in 1962, and Lincoln's residence in Springfield, Illinois, became the Lincoln Home National Historic Site a decade later. This fifth and most illustrative Lincoln site brought him to a tie with Theodore Roosevelt as the most commemorated President in the System.

Grant's Tomb in New York City became General Grant National Memorial in 1958. A national historic site was established at Herbert Hoover's birthplace and grave in West Branch, Iowa, in 1965, a year after his death. In 1967 Dwight D. Eisenhower saw his last residence and farm at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, designated a national historic site, and John F. Kennedy was posthumously honored by a national historic site at his Brookline, Massachusetts, birthplace. William Howard Taft National Historic Site, containing Taft's Cincinnati birthplace and boyhood home, and Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site, ultimately comprising Johnson's birthplace, boyhood home, grandfather's ranch, and LBJ Ranch in Blanco and Gillespie counties, Texas, were authorized together in 1969.

Even more sites addressed military history. Representing the Civil War were Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri, and Andersonville National Historic Site, containing the notorious Civil War prison stockade in Georgia. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Alabama, preserved the site where Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the Creeks in 1814, and Minute Man National Historical Park included the first battlegrounds of the American Revolution in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. There were more frontier forts, including Fort Union, New Mexico;
Bent's Old Fort, Colorado; Fort Davis, Texas; Fort Smith, Arkansas; Fort Bowie, Arizona; Fort Larned, Kansas; and Fort Union Trading Post in North Dakota and Montana. Fort Point National Historic Site encompassed a major coastal fortification of the mid-19th century at San Francisco. An unassuming Philadelphia boardinghouse became Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in 1972 to honor the Polish military engineer who served in the American Revolution and briefly occupied the property later.

There was increasing representation of other themes as well. Christiansted National Historic Site preserved structures associated with Danish colonial development of the Virgin Islands. Edison National Historic Site comprised the inventor's last laboratory and residence at West Orange, New Jersey. Golden Spike National Historic Site marked the joining of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869 at Promontory Summit, Utah; Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site contained the remains of an earlier mechanical conveyance over the mountains in Pennsylvania. Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site encompassed a reconstructed 17th-century industrial complex near Boston. Another facet of economic and social history was addressed by Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Montana, containing one of the largest post-Civil War open range ranches in the country.

The homes of three figures important in American literature—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Muir, and Carl Sandburg—became national historic sites, as did the home and studio of the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. A national memorial was authorized for Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island and a pioneer in religious freedom. Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas, was established to commemorate the peaceful settlement of a border dispute with Mexico. Two more noted black Americans attained recognition with the establishment of Booker T. Washington National Monument in Virginia and the Frederick Douglass Home, later a national historic site, in Washington, D.C.

Two other historical additions in the national capital region warrant mention. Piscataway Park was authorized in 1961 to preserve the view from Mount Vernon across the Potomac River into Maryland, in large measure through the acquisition of scenic easements. It is the only unit of the System existing primarily for scenic protection of another property. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, authorized by Congress in 1971, incorporated the former national monument and significant additional land on the north bank of the Potomac between Great Falls and Cumberland, Maryland. Thus buffered, the canal combines natural, historical, and
recreational values to a degree unequaled by any other single resource in the System.

After the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, all historical parks were entered in the National Register of Historic Places. This made Service and other federal agency actions affecting them subject to review by state historic preservation officers and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a new federal agency established by the act.

Under a 1971 executive order, the Service was also required to nominate to the National Register all qualifying historic features in its natural and recreational areas. These resources, most of local or regional significance, were then entitled to the same consideration as the historical parks when faced with harmful actions. The effect was to broaden the Service's concern for all its cultural properties, including those that had previously received little attention. The increased recognition given historic resources outside parks categorized as historical tended to soften the distinctions among the area categories, contributing to a decision to terminate their official status in 1977.

Recreational Areas As noted above, 32 permanent additions to the System from 1952 through 1972 fell in the recreational category. More than half were seashores and reservoir-related areas along with another parkway. The others were new kinds of areas: lakeshores, rivers, performing arts facilities, a trail, and two major urban recreation complexes.

In 1963 the recently formed Recreation Advisory Council, composed of six Cabinet-level officials, proposed a system of national recreation areas and set criteria for them. They were to be spacious, generally including at least 20,000 acres of land and water. They were to be within 250 miles of urban centers and designed for heavy, multi-state patronage. Their natural endowments would need to be "well above the ordinary in quality and recreation appeal, being of lesser significance than the unique scenic and historic elements of the National Park System, but affording a quality of recreation experience which transcends that normally associated with areas provided by State and local governments." The scale of investment and development was to be high enough to warrant federal involvement. Cooperative management arrangements involving the Forest Service, the Corps of Engineers, and possibly other federal bureaus besides the Park Service were expected.

The recreational area category formally adopted by the Park Service in 1964 reflected the Recreation Advisory Council's criteria,
although not all units that the Service assigned to the category were of the type envisioned by the council. Several of the seashores, lakeshores, rivers, and reservoir areas most nearly complied with the criteria; other areas were categorized as recreational by default, because they were not fully in accord with the Service’s criteria and policies for natural or historical areas.

The Service resumed shoreline studies in the mid-1950s with generous support from the Mellon family foundations. Their results were published in Our Vanishing Shoreline (1955), A Report on the Seashore Recreation Survey of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (1955), Our Fourth Shore: Great Lakes Shoreline Recreation Area Survey (1959), and Pacific Coast Recreation Area Survey (1959). Detailed studies of individual projects also were prepared. The fruits of this program included eight more national seashores and four national lakeshores during the period. Most of them forestalled development of residential subdivisions, highways, and commercial facilities and preserved threatened natural and historical features.

Cape Cod National Seashore, Massachusetts, authorized in 1961, protects the dunes and marshes of Cape Cod’s outer arm along a 40-mile strip. It was the first large natural or recreational area for which Congress at the outset permitted the use of appropriated funds for land acquisition. Another novel provision of the Cape Cod legislation prevented the Secretary of the Interior from condemning private improved property once local jurisdictions had implemented zoning regulations meeting his approval. This “Cape Cod formula,” designed to forestall serious conflicts between the government and local communities and stabilize the landscape without forced resettlement of numerous families, was an important precedent for legislation authorizing other such additions to the System. A third innovation in the Cape Cod act, also adopted elsewhere, was the establishment of a park advisory commission representing the state and affected local jurisdictions.

Point Reyes and Padre Island national seashores followed two weeks apart in 1962, extending the Service’s seashore holdings to the Pacific and Gulf coasts. Point Reyes incorporates more than 40 miles of Pacific shoreline north of San Francisco, including Drakes Bay and Tomales Point. Padre Island National Seashore covers 80 miles of the long Texas barrier island on the Gulf of Mexico. Fire Island National Seashore, authorized in 1964, protects some 25 miles of barrier beach on Long Island’s south shore 50 miles from Manhattan. Congress distanced Fire Island from the recreational area concept by ordering the Secretary of the Interior to administer it “with the primary aim of conserving the natural resources located there.”
Assateague Island National Seashore, authorized in 1965, occupies a 35-mile-long barrier island on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia within reach of the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. Political compromises resulted in joint management by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Maryland's Department of Forests and Parks. The seashore legislation directed the Service to build a highway and major concession developments along the island, but growing awareness of barrier island dynamics and conservationists' opposition led to repeal of these requirements in 1976.

The 1966 act authorizing Cape Lookout National Seashore, extending southwest from Cape Hatteras National Seashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, also subordinated natural conservation to recreation. Like Assateague, however, Cape Lookout has been lightly developed for recreational use.

Gulf Islands National Seashore, authorized in 1971, came closer than its predecessors to the Recreation Advisory Council's vision of a national recreation area. The offshore islands in its Mississippi portion nevertheless contain natural and historic features whose preservation is of first importance, and a Spanish fort within its boundaries near Pensacola, Florida, is a national historic landmark.

The final national seashore of the period, Cumberland Island, Georgia, was least consistent with the recreation area concept. Its 1972 legislation included stringent development restrictions: with certain exceptions, “the seashore shall be permanently preserved in its primitive state, and no development of the project or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna ... , nor shall any road or causeway connecting Cumberland Island to the mainland be constructed.” It remains among the most “natural” of the seashores.

The four national lakeshores, authorized in 1966 and 1970, generally followed the seashore pattern. Indiana Dunes, on the southern shore of Lake Michigan between Gary and Michigan City, Indiana, had been proposed as a national park as early as 1917. Although it was the most urban of the four, serving the greater Chicago area, its legislation stressed natural conservation at least as much as recreation. Sleeping Bear Dunes, occupying 34 miles of shoreline on upper Lake Michigan, was to be managed “in a manner which provides for recreational opportunities consistent with the maximum protection of the natural environment within the area.” Pictured Rocks, Michigan, the first of the national lakeshores, and Apostle Islands, Wisconsin, both on Lake Superior, also protect resources of great natural
and scenic value. Had the laws authorizing most of the seashores and lakeshores not permitted hunting, many would have readily fitted the Service’s natural area category.

The Service became involved during the 1952-72 period at 12 existing or proposed reservoirs. Ten of these national recreation areas are still in the System, two having been transferred to Forest Service administration. As with their predecessors, Service responsibilities at most were set by cooperative agreements with other agencies, although several were authorized by specific acts of Congress. Four deserve special mention.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, inaugurated in 1958, encompasses Lake Powell, formed by Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River in Arizona and extending into southeastern Utah. The 186-mile-long impoundment was the price conservationists paid for their defeat of the Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument earlier that decade. An arm of the reservoir provides boat access to Rainbow Bridge National Monument, formerly remote and difficult to reach.

Ross Lake and Lake Chelan national recreation areas, Washington, were authorized together in 1968 with the adjacent North Cascades National Park. They were planned as areas in which to concentrate development, especially visitor accommodations, outside the national park—the first time such an arrangement was made in conjunction with initial park legislation. The Ross Lake area lies between the north and south units of the national park, which is adjoined by Lake Chelan on the southeast.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey was authorized in 1965 to include the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir and scenic lands in the Delaware Valley totaling 71,000 acres. The System’s first national recreation area east of the Mississippi, it was envisioned to serve 10 million visitors annually from the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. But the Tocks Island Dam came under heavy attack from conservationists and others, especially after the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 forced greater consideration of the environmental effects of such projects. Without repealing the authorization for the dam, Congress in 1978 ordered the transfer of lands acquired by the Corps of Engineers to the Service and made the Delaware River within the recreation area a national scenic river—a designation incompatible with its damming. No other unit of the System differs more from its original concept.

The first of the national rivers and scenic riverways was Ozark National Scenic Riverways in southeastern Missouri, authorized by
Congress in 1964 “for the purpose of conserving and interpreting unique scenic and other natural values and objects of historic interest, including preservation of portions of the Jacks Fork River in Missouri as free-flowing streams, preservation of springs and caves, management of wildlife, and provisions for use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreation resources thereof. . . .” This linear area incorporates some 140 miles of river and three state parks in its 80,788 acres.

The Ozark authorization foreshadowed the comprehensive Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968. In it Congress stated that “it is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

The act identified eight rivers and adjacent lands in nine states as initial components of a national wild and scenic rivers system, to be administered variously by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior. Only one of them, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in Minnesota and Wisconsin, became a unit of the National Park System. Ideal for canoeing, it contains some 200 miles of the St. Croix River and its Namekagon tributary noted for clear flowing water and abundant wildlife.

The act named 27 other rivers to be studied as potential additions to the wild and scenic rivers system. All or parts of four of the study areas later joined the Park System: the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was authorized in 1972, Obed Wild and Scenic River in Tennessee was authorized in 1976, and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River followed in 1978. In 1972 Congress also authorized a related addition not proposed in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act—Buffalo National River, Arkansas. Its 94,219 acres encompass 132 miles of the clear, free-flowing Buffalo River, multicolored bluffs, and numerous springs.

On the same day that President Johnson approved the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, North Cascades and Redwood national parks, and Lake Chelan and Ross Lake national recreation areas, he also signed the National Trails System Act. The act provided for national recreation trails accessible to urban areas, to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture according to specified criteria; and national scenic trails, generally longer and more remote, to be established by Congress. It designated two national scenic trails as initial components of the trails system: the Appala-
The Appalachian Trail was thus brought into the National Park System. Conceived in 1921 by Benton MacKaye, forester and philosopher, it had been largely completed by 1937. With its inclusion in the System, the Park Service became responsible for its protection, development, and maintenance within federally administered areas; states were encouraged to care for portions outside federal jurisdiction. An advisory council appointed by the Secretary of the Interior under the act includes representatives of the Appalachian Trail Conference, the 14 states through which the trail passes, other private organizations, and involved federal agencies.

The National Trails System Act ordered 14 other routes to be studied for possible national scenic trail designation. Four of them later received the designation, two becoming units of the National Park System in 1983: Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, paralleling the Natchez Trace Parkway, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, running from the mouth of the Potomac to Conemaugh Gorge in Pennsylvania and including the C & O Canal towpath. Five more became national historic trails upon enactment of legislation in 1978 and 1987; for these the Service received coordinating roles but not administrative responsibilities sufficient to qualify them as Park System units.

The last of the four parkways now classed as System units was authorized in 1972. The John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway is an 82-mile scenic corridor linking West Thumb in Yellowstone and the south entrance of Grand Teton National Park. The only national parkway west of the Mississippi, it commemorates Rockefeller's generous financial support for several parks, including Grand Teton.

The Service became involved with another new kind of park in 1966, when department store heiress Catherine Filene Shouse donated part of her Wolf Trap Farm in Fairfax County, Virginia, to the United States for a performing arts center. The Filene Center, an open-sided auditorium, was completed for its first summer season in 1971. Performances at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts are arranged by the private but well-subsidized Wolf Trap Foundation.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., became the second and last place added to the System as
a performance facility. Designed by Edward Durrell Stone and opened
in 1972, the massive structure contains a concert hall, an opera house,
the Eisenhower Theater, two smaller theaters, a library, and three
restaurants. Congress charged the Service with “maintenance, secu­
rity, information, interpretation, and all other services necessary to
the nonperforming arts functions” of the center, which doubles as
the national memorial to President Kennedy.

Performing arts assumed major roles at two other park units dur­
ing the period, Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas, and
Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site in Washington, D.C. To further
its theme of international amity, Chamizal accommodates perform­
ing groups from Mexico and the United States. The Service restored
Ford’s Theatre, which it had acquired in the 1933 reorganization and
maintained as the Lincoln Museum, as an operating theater in 1965-68.
Because both places had historical commemoration and interpreta­
tion as their primary purposes, they were classed as historical rather
than recreational areas.

On October 27, 1972, President Nixon approved the last two addi­
tions of the Hartzog years. Gateway National Recreation Area in
New York City and nearby New Jersey and Golden Gate National
Recreation Area in San Francisco and Marin County, California, may
also have been the most consequential innovations of the period.
Each contained seacoast beaches, but their locations and the inclu­
sion of other elements made them far more urban in character and
patronage than the national seashores.

Gateway encompasses four major units totaling more than 26,000
acres. In Jamaica Bay, the primary aim is conservation of bird life
and other natural resources. At Breezy Point, Staten Island, and Sandy
Hook, recreational beach use predominates, although the legislation
made special provision for preserving and using the historic struc­
tures on Sandy Hook and Staten Island. Sandy Hook’s Fort Hancock
and the Sandy Hook Proving Grounds were designated a national
historic landmark in 1982.

Golden Gate was established “to preserve for public use and enjoy­
ment certain areas ... possessing outstanding natural, historic, sce­
nic, and recreational values, and in order to provide for the maintenance
of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment
and planning.” As at Gateway, much was taken from decommissioned
military installations. Within Golden Gate’s 73,000 acres are a red­
wood forest, historic coastal defense works, and Alcatraz Island with
the remains of its infamous penitentiary. Another original compo­
nent, a maritime museum and historic ship collection, was spun off
as San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in 1988; but a
larger addition was forecast as the Army prepared to relinquish the historic Presidio of San Francisco to the national recreation area in 1995.

Before Gateway and Golden Gate, nearly all the Service's holdings in major urban areas outside the national capital region had been small historic sites, where the primary concerns were historic preservation and interpretation. These two acquisitions placed the Service squarely in the business of urban mass recreation for essentially local populations—not previously a federal responsibility. Like earlier departures into historic sites, parkways, and reservoir areas, this move generated controversy about the bureau's proper role. Attendant burdens of funding, staffing, and management refocus would prove significant challenges for years to come.
Fort Point National Historic Site and Golden Gate National Recreation Area
National Park System Additions 1952-72

1952
March 4 Virgin Islands NHS, Virgin Islands (redesignated Christiansted NHS 1961)
June 27 Shadow Mountain NRA, Colorado (transferred to Forest Service 1978)
July 9 Coronado NMem, Arizona

1954
June 28 Fort Union NM, New Mexico

1955
July 26 City of Refuge NHP, Hawaii (redesignated Pu’uhonua o Honaunau NHP 1978)
Dec. 6 Edison Home NHS, New Jersey (incorporated in Edison NHS 1962)

1956
April 2 Booker T. Washington NM, Virginia
July 14 Edison Laboratory NM, New Jersey (incorporated in Edison NHS 1962)
July 20 Pea Ridge NMP, Arkansas
July 25 Horseshoe Bend NMP, Alabama
Aug. 2 Virgin Islands NP, Virgin Islands

1958
April 18 Glen Canyon NRA, Utah and Arizona
May 29 Fort Clatsop NMem, Oregon
Aug. 14 General Grant NMem, New York

1959
April 14 Minute Man NHS, Massachusetts (redesignated a NHP Sept. 21)

1960
April 22 Wilson’s Creek NBP, Missouri (redesignated a NB 1970)
June 3 Bent’s Old Fort NHS, Colorado
July 6 Arkansas Post NMem, Arkansas
Sept. 13 Haleakala NP, Hawaii (detached from Hawaii NP)
Dec. 24 St. Thomas NHS, Virgin Islands (abolished 1975)

1961
May 11 Russell Cave NM, Alabama
Aug. 7 Cape Cod NS, Massachusetts
Sept. 8 Fort Davis NHS, Texas
Sept. 13 Fort Smith NHS, Arkansas

80
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Piscataway Park, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>Buck Island Reef NM, Virgin Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Feb. 19 Lincoln Boyhood NMem, Indiana</td>
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<td>April 27 Hamilton Grange NMem, New York</td>
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<td>May 31 Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA, California (Whiskeytown Unit)</td>
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<td>July 25 Sagamore Hill NHS, New York</td>
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<td>July 25 Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 5 Edison NHS, New Jersey (incorporated Edison Home NHS and Edison Laboratory NM)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 5 Frederick Douglass Home, District of Columbia (redesignated Frederick Douglass NHS 1988)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 13 Point Reyes NS, California</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 28 Padre Island NS, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>July 22 Flaming Gorge NRA, Utah and Wyoming (transferred to Forest Service 1968)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Aug. 27 Ozark NSR, Missouri</td>
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<td>Aug. 30 Fort Bowie NHS, Arizona</td>
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<td>Aug. 31 Fort Larned NHS, Kansas</td>
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<td>Aug. 31 John Muir NHS, California</td>
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<td>Aug. 31 Johnstown Flood NMem, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Aug. 31 Saint-Gaudens NHS, New Hampshire</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept. 3 Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 3 Wilderness Act</td>
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<td>Sept. 11 Fire Island NS, New York</td>
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<td>Sept. 12 Canyonlands NP, Utah</td>
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<td>Dec. 31 Bighorn Canyon NRA, Wyoming and Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Feb. 1 Arbuckle NRA, Oklahoma (incorporated in Chickasaw NRA 1976)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 11 Curecanti NRA, Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 15 Sanford NRA, Texas (redesignated Lake Meredith Recreation Area 1972; redesignated Lake Meredith NRA 1990)</td>
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<td>May 15 Nez Perce NHP, Idaho</td>
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June 5  Agate Fossil Beds NM, Nebraska
June 28  Pecos NM, New Mexico (incorporated in Pecos NHP 1990)
July 30  Golden Spike NHS, Utah (designated 1957)
Aug. 12  Herbert Hoover NHS, Iowa
Aug. 28  Hubbell Trading Post NHS, Arizona
Aug. 31  Alibates Flint Quarries and Texas Panhandle Pueblo Culture NM, Texas (redesignated Alibates Flint Quarries NM 1978)
Sept. 1  Delaware Water Gap NRA, Pennsylvania and New Jersey
Sept. 21  Assateague Island NS, Maryland and Virginia
Oct. 22  Roger Williams NMem, Rhode Island
Nov. 11  Amistad Recreation Area, Texas (redesignated Amistad NRA 1990)

1966
March 10  Cape Lookout NS, North Carolina
June 20  Fort Union Trading Post NHS, North Dakota and Montana
June 30  Chamizal NMem, Texas
July 23  George Rogers Clark NHP, Indiana
Sept. 9  San Juan Island NHP, Washington
Oct. 15  National Historic Preservation Act
Oct. 15  Guadalupe Mountains NP, Texas
Oct. 15  Pictured Rocks NL, Michigan
Oct. 15  Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, Virginia
Nov. 2  Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS, New York
Nov. 5  Indiana Dunes NL, Indiana

1967
May 26  John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS, Massachusetts
Nov. 27  Eisenhower NHS, Pennsylvania

1968
March 12  National Visitor Center, District of Columbia (abolished 1981)
April 5  Saugus Iron Works NHS, Massachusetts
Oct. 2  National Trails System Act
Oct. 2  Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
Oct. 2 Lake Chelan NRA, Washington
Oct. 2 North Cascades NP, Washington
Oct. 2 Redwood NP, California
Oct. 2 Ross Lake NRA, Washington
Oct. 2 St. Croix NSR, Minnesota and Wisconsin
Oct. 17 Carl Sandburg Home NHS, North Carolina
Oct. 18 Biscayne NM, Florida (incorporated in Biscayne NP 1980)

1969
Jan. 20 Marble Canyon NM, Arizona (incorporated in Grand Canyon NP 1975)
Aug. 20 Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Colorado
Dec. 2 Lyndon B. Johnson NHS, Texas (redesignated a NHP 1980)
Dec. 2 William Howard Taft NHS, Ohio

1970
Sept. 26 Apostle Islands NL, Wisconsin
Oct. 10 Fort Point NHS, California
Oct. 16 Andersonville NHS, Georgia
Oct. 21 Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, Michigan

1971
Jan. 8 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP, District of Columbia, Maryland, and West Virginia (incorporated Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NM)
Jan. 8 Gulf Islands NS, Florida and Mississippi
Jan. 8 Voyageurs NP, Minnesota
Aug. 18 Lincoln Home NHS, Illinois

1972
March 1 Buffalo NR, Arkansas
June 16 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, District of Columbia (date acquired)
Aug. 17 Puukohola Heiau NHS, Hawaii
Aug. 25 Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Montana
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<td>Aug. 25</td>
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<td>Longfellow NHS, Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Hohokam Pima NM, Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Thaddeus Kosciuszko NMem, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Cumberland Island NS, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Fossil Butte NM, Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Lower St. Croix NSR, Minnesota and Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Gateway NRA, New York and New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Golden Gate NRA, California</td>
</tr>
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**Abbreviations Used in the Table**

- NB  National Battlefield
- NBP National Battlefield Park
- NBS National Battlefield Site
- NHP National Historical Park
- NHS National Historic Site
- NL National Lakeshore
- NM National Monument
- NMem National Memorial
- NMP National Military Park
- NP National Park
- NPres National Preserve
- NR National River
- NRA National Recreation Area
- NS National Seashore
- NSR National Scenic Riverway
- NST National Scenic Trail
- WSR Wild and Scenic River
In the final years of this account, expansion of the National Park System outpaced the explosive growth of the preceding period, despite a marked slowdown during most of President Ronald Reagan's administration. Ninety-seven new or essentially new parks were created between 1973 and 1990. This number does not tell the full story, for as a result of huge additions in Alaska in 1978 and 1980, the System’s total land area more than doubled.

In January 1973 President Nixon replaced George Hartzog with Ronald H. Walker, a former White House assistant. Lacking previous park experience, Walker selected Russell E. Dickenson, a career park ranger and manager who had lately headed the national capital parks, as deputy director. Walker and Dickenson sought to consolidate past gains rather than expand the System at the previous rate, believing that Service funding and staffing would be insufficient to sustain such continued growth. Departing from recent stands, the Service and Interior Department, backed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, opposed proposals for two more big urban recreation areas: Cuyahoga Valley between the Ohio cities of Akron and Cleveland, and Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles. Gateway and Golden Gate had been intended as models for state and local recreation areas elsewhere, they contended, not as prototypes for future units of the National Park System serving local populations.

The attempt to apply the brakes had little apparent effect. Congress authorized 13 more parks during Walker’s two years as director. Six were small historic sites assembled in an omnibus bill. But they also included a major historical park in Boston, the first two national preserves, the controversial Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, and another national seashore.

Walker’s political base evaporated with Nixon’s resignation in August 1974, leading to his departure at the beginning of 1975. Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton returned to the career ranks of the Service for his successor, Gary Everhardt, who had joined the bureau as an engineer in 1957 and risen to the superintendency of Grand Teton National Park in 1972. In Everhardt’s first year as director the Service tightened its criteria for national parklands. To be favorably recommended before, an area had to be nationally significant and
lend itself to administration, preservation, and public use. Now the
bureau would also consider whether the area was assured of ade­
quate protection outside the System and whether it would be avail­
able for public appreciation and use under such protection. If so, it
would not ordinarily be endorsed for the System.

A majority in Congress, however, still favored expansion. Section
8 of the General Authorities Act of October 7, 1976, ordered spe­
cific measures to that end: “The Secretary of the Interior is directed
to investigate, study, and continually monitor the welfare of areas
whose resources exhibit qualities of national significance and which
may have potential for inclusion in the National Park System. At the
beginning of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall transmit to the Speaker
of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate,
comprehensive reports on each of those areas upon which studies
have been completed. On this same date . . . the Secretary shall
transmit a listing . . . of not less than twelve such areas which appear
to be of national significance and which may have potential for inclu­
sion in the National Park System.” A 1980 amendment to Section 8
also required submission of an updated National Park System plan
“from which candidate areas can be identified and selected to con­
stitute units of the National Park System.”

In July 1977 Cecil D. Andrus, President Jimmy Carter’s Interior
Secretary, replaced Everhardt with William J. Whalen, who had worked
in the national capital parks and been superintendent of Golden Gate
National Recreation Area. Whalen’s background and backing by Rep.
Phillip Burton of California, the powerful chairman of the House
subcommittee on parks, inclined him to favor urban parks and the
many other new area proposals advanced by Burton and his col­
leagues. Burton’s expansionism was epitomized by another omnibus
enactment, the National Parks and Recreation Act of November 10,
1978. Characterized by some as “park barrel” legislation, it author­
ized 14 additions to the System. Among them, despite another oppos­
ing resolution by the advisory board, was Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area. Three weeks later, by different means,
came the even greater influx of Alaska parklands.

Friction with park concessioners in 1980 prompted Andrus to return
Whalen to Golden Gate that May, and Russell Dickenson, who had directed the Service's Pacific Northwest Region since December 1975, came back to Washington in the top job. His less expansive posture would soon win greater favor: when President Reagan's first Interior Secretary, James G. Watt, took office in January 1981, Dickenson found him in agreement that the Service should improve its stewardship of what it had before seeking to absorb more. Consistent with their position, the 97th Congress (1981-82) eliminated appropriations for the new area studies dictated by Section 8, acquiesced in Dickenson's decision to shelve the expansionist National Park System plan, and did not authorize a single new park. Instead, it and the next Congress supported the Service's Park Restoration and Improvement Program, which devoted more than a billion dollars over five years to stabilize and upgrade existing park resources and facilities.

In 1978 the Carter administration had taken from the Service its several programs of recognizing and assisting natural and cultural properties outside the System and assigned them to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, an administrative reconstitution of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The new Interior bureau, combining such activities as the National Register of Historic Places, the natural and historic landmarks programs, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, did not function smoothly. Secretary Watt, a previous director of BOR, wasted no time in abolishing HCRS and returning all its functions to the National Park Service in 1981.

Dickenson's nearly five-year tenure restored stability to the Service after its frequent turnover in leadership during the 1970s. The moratorium on new parks also helped the bureau catch its breath. There was only one concrete addition from the beginning of 1981 to Dickenson's retirement in March 1985 and for more than a year thereafter: Harry S Truman National Historic Site. Two national scenic trails were authorized in 1983 but advanced little beyond the planning stage.

Dickenson's successor in May 1985 was William Penn Mott, Jr., a Service landscape architect and planner during the 1930s and head of the California state park system under Gov. Ronald Reagan from 1967 to 1975. Deeply interested in interpretation, Mott sought a greater Service role in educating the public about American history and environmental values. He also returned the Service to a more expansionist posture, supporting the addition of Steamtown National Historic Site and Great Basin National Park in October 1986, Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and El Malpais National Monument in December 1987, and a dozen more areas in 1988. One desired acqui-
sition, a tallgrass prairie national park near the Oklahoma-Kansas border, proved elusive.

Mott remained for nearly four years to April 1989, when the administration of President George Bush made James M. Ridenour the thirteenth director of the National Park Service. Ridenour had headed the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which oversaw Indiana's state park system. As Park Service director he took a more conservative attitude toward expansion than his predecessor: "Additional units of the National Park System should truly be places of national significance," he declared in an introductory statement. He placed special emphasis on seeking alternatives to full federal acquisition of proposed parklands, and he stressed the importance of working with other government bodies, foundations, corporations, and other private entities to protect valuable lands in and outside the System. In 1990 Ridenour collaborated with Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., on a sweeping initiative for protecting historic battlefields and witnessed the largest single park donation ever: $10.5 million from the Richard King Mellon Foundation for needed lands at Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and Petersburg battlefields and Shenandoah National Park.

The official categorization of each System unit as natural, historical, or recreational beginning in 1964 was causing problems by the mid-1970s. This practice did not adequately recognize the diversity of many parks. The labeling of areas essentially natural in character as recreational just because they permitted hunting or other limited uses disallowed by Service policies for natural areas posed the greatest difficulty. Recreational area classification implied that natural conservation would be secondary to development for heavy public use—development and use that might be ecologically harmful. Conservationists among the public and in Congress were especially disturbed about the implications of the recreational classification for such outstanding areas as Cape Cod National Seashore and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

The Service responded in 1975 by replacing its separate natural, historical, and recreational area policy manuals with a single management policy compilation addressing the range of characteristics that each park possessed. A mostly natural area, for example, might also have important cultural features and portions suitable for recreational development. It would be zoned accordingly in its general management plan, and the various zones would be managed under policies tailored to each.

With this advance in planning and management sophistication, the
assignment of each park to a single category was no longer appropriate, and in 1977 the area categories were officially abolished. For convenience, of course, most areas may still be identified informally as natural, historical, or recreational based on their primary attributes, as is done here.

Natural Areas Twenty-nine natural areas in the present System were added, in whole or large part, during the 18 years from 1973 through 1990. This was six more than the 23 existing natural areas that arrived during the 39-plus years following the 1933 reorganization through 1972. Of the 29, Alaska accounted for 17. Three new national parks outside Alaska incorporated previous national monuments: Channel Islands, California; Biscayne, Florida; and Great Basin, Nevada. Two more preexisting units, Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt in the Dakotas, achieved national park status without sufficient alteration to count as new areas. The other nine natural areas outside Alaska were entirely new.

The first two of these, both authorized on October 11, 1974, formed a new subcategory as well: Big Cypress, Florida, and Big Thicket, Texas, were made national preserves. The Service explained national preserves as "primarily for the protection of certain resources. Activities such as hunting and fishing or the extraction of minerals and fuels may be permitted if they do not jeopardize the natural values." Although such uses had rendered other areas ineligible for natural classification and had caused them to be labeled recreational, Big Cypress and Big Thicket were even less suited for the latter category. The two preserves intensified the awkwardness of the management categories and became another argument for their abandonment in 1977.

Big Cypress National Preserve, encompassing 716,000 acres adjoining Everglades National Park on the northwest, was established primarily to protect the freshwater supply essential to the Everglades ecosystem. Containing abundant tropical plant and animal life, it continues to serve the Miccosukee and Seminole Indian tribes for subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping and traditional tribal ceremonies. Big Thicket National Preserve includes a significant portion of the Big Thicket area of East Texas. Its 12 detached units, totaling 85,773 acres in seven counties, protect dense growths of diverse plant species of great botanical interest at the crossroads of several North American plant and animal habitats.

national monuments among the System's important paleontological areas. Congaree Swamp National Monument, South Carolina, authorized in 1976, contains the last significant tract of virgin bottomland hardwoods in the Southeast. El Malpais National Monument, New Mexico, established in 1987, includes volcanic spatter cones, a 17-mile-long lava tube system, and ice caves. Among other 1988 additions were the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a diverse tidelands area in northeastern Florida; the National Park of American Samoa, containing tropical rain forests, beaches, and coral reefs; and City of Rocks National Reserve, a landscape of historic as well as geological interest in southern Idaho.

The national reserve designation given City of Rocks denoted an arrangement whereby the administration of acquired lands would be transferred to the state or local governments once they had established zoning or other land protection measures in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve in Washington, authorized in 1978, was the prototype for this management arrangement; it is classed as an affiliated area (see Appendix).

**Historical Areas** Fifty-one additions from 1973 through 1990, more than half the period's total, deal primarily with American history or prehistory. A third of these are military and Presidential sites; the remainder address themes less represented in the System.

The bicentennial of the American Revolution was a major focus of Service activity in the mid-1970s, and three of the new parks contributed to that observance. Boston National Historical Park, a mosaic of properties in public and private ownership, includes the Bunker Hill Monument, Dorchester Heights, Faneuil Hall, Old North Church, Old South Meeting House, and the Charlestown Navy Yard—berth for USS Constitution. Valley Forge, long a Pennsylvania state park, became a national historical park on the bicentennial date of July 4, 1976. Ninety Six National Historic Site, South Carolina, authorized the next month, was the scene of military action in 1781.

Three other American wars achieved representation in the System. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, Texas, was authorized in 1978 to recognize the first important Mexican War battle on American soil; its acquisition, however, was deferred. War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam and the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, commemorate important events of World War II. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., bears the names of more than 58,000 dead and missing in Vietnam.

The Presidential sites include a landscaped memorial to Lyndon B. Johnson in Washington, D.C., and the residences of Martin Van
Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Buren in Kinderhook, New York; Ulysses S. Grant in St. Louis County, Missouri; James A. Garfield in Mentor, Ohio; Harry S Truman in Independence, Missouri; and Jimmy Carter in Plains, Georgia.

The barely tapped subjects of literature, drama, and the arts made further progress in the System with the addition of national historic sites for playwright Eugene O'Neill near Danville, California; author and critic Edgar Allan Poe in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; landscape architect and author Frederick Law Olmsted in Brookline, Massachusetts; and impressionist painter J. Alden Weir in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Among new parks treating social and humanitarian movements, three focus on women: Clara Barton National Historic Site, Maryland, containing the home of the founder of the American Red Cross; Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, preserving Mrs. Roosevelt's retreat at Hyde Park, New York; and Women's Rights National Historical Park, including the home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other sites related to the early women's rights movement at Seneca Falls, New York.

Black history received added attention at four new areas. Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Alabama, includes portions of the pioneering industrial education school established by Booker T. Washington in 1881. Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site contains the home of a leading figure in Richmond's black community. Boston African American National Historic Site comprises an antebellum meetinghouse and more than a dozen other historic structures. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site includes the Atlanta birthplace, church, and grave of the civil rights leader.

There were two additions in the Nation's Capital beyond those already mentioned. Constitution Gardens covers a part of West Potomac Park occupied until 1970 by "temporary" World War I military office buildings; its centerpiece is a memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site had been designated by Secretary Udall in 1965 to support the avenue's redevelopment, a tactic recalling the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial designation in St. Louis 30 years before. Fortunately, the plans for Pennsylvania Avenue were revised in the 1970s to provide for much historic preservation. The Park Service assumed increasing management and maintenance responsibilities along the avenue as it was redeveloped, justifying the site's listing as a Park System unit in 1987.

Three additions of the period deal with America's industrial and transportation history. Springfield Armory, Massachusetts, made a national historic site in 1974, was a center for the manufacture of
military small arms and the scene of many technological advances from 1794 to 1968. Lowell National Historical Park, also in Massachusetts, includes 19th-century factories, a power canal system, and other elements of the Nation’s first planned industrial community. Established in 1978, it helped revitalize Lowell’s depressed economy and inspired several other communities to seek similar assistance during the next decade. In Scranton, Pennsylvania, Congress established Steamtown National Historic Site in 1986. It was unusual and controversial in several respects: it was created through an appropriations act rather than by traditional legislative means, its primary resource was not a site but an eclectic collection of railroad locomotives and rolling stock, and the high cost of needed restoration promised to make it among the most expensive cultural units in the System.

Most of the cultural properties assigned to the Service upon its creation in 1916 dealt with aboriginal peoples, and such properties continued as a major component of the Park System throughout its evolution. Outside Alaska, there were five entirely new parks in this category from 1973 through 1990. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, North Dakota, contains important Hidatsa village remnants. Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park includes three large fishponds, house sites, and other archeological evidences of Hawaiian native culture. Poverty Point National Monument in northeastern Louisiana preserves traces of a culture that flourished during the first and second millennia B.C. Zuni-Cibola National Historical Park, New Mexico, contains sites associated with the Zuni people over 1,700 years. Petroglyph National Monument, also in New Mexico, displays rock inscriptions of both prehistoric and recent origin and has contemporary cultural significance.

Four previous national monuments treating Indians and Spanish missions in the Southwest were also incorporated in expanded parks. Chaco Culture National Historical Park superseded Chaco Canyon National Monument and added 33 outlying “Chaco Culture Archeological Protection Sites.” Congress authorized special protective measures for the outlying sites that were threatened by mineral exploration and development. Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument incorporated the old Gran Quivira National Monument and two state monuments containing Pueblo Indian and Spanish mission ruins. Tumacacori National Historical Park encompassed the mission at the former Tumacacori National Monument and two nearby mission sites. Pecos National Historical Park combined the pueblo and mission at its predecessor monument with sites of the Civil War battle of Glorieta Pass, where Union troops blocked a Confederate attempt to take the Southwest in 1862.
Recreational Areas  Seventeen areas that would formerly have been categorized as recreational joined the system after 1973. One was a national seashore, one was a reservoir-based area, three were urban recreation areas, two were national scenic trails, and the remainder were river areas of various designation.

Canaveral National Seashore, authorized in 1975, is the most recent national seashore. It occupies 25 miles of an undeveloped barrier island on Florida's Atlantic coast supporting many species of birds and other wildlife. The lands and waters administered by the Service adjoin the Kennedy Space Center and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Emphasizing natural preservation, Canaveral's legislation prohibited new development beyond that necessary for public safety and proper administration.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma, the reservoir addition, supplanted Arbuckle National Recreation Area and Platt National Park in 1976. This solved something of a problem, for Platt, a small mineral spring area, had never measured up to its prestigious designation. Its incorporation in the national recreation area was a welcome solution.

Congress established Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, to preserve "the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River and the adjacent lands of the Cuyahoga Valley and for the purpose of providing for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to the urban environment." Its 32,460 acres included part of the Ohio and Erie Canal previously designated a national historic landmark. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area outside Atlanta, although considerably smaller, was designed to serve similar purposes for that metropolitan area. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was authorized to cover 150,000 acres of rugged chaparral-covered landscape fronting on the beaches northwest of Los Angeles. Congress prescribed its management "in a manner which will preserve and enhance its scenic, natural, and historical setting and its public health value as an airshed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public."

The first national river of the period added to the Park System was Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, centered on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries in Tennessee and Kentucky. The area's scenic gorges and valleys encompass numerous natural and historic features. Next came Obed Wild and Scenic River in East Tennessee, where the Obed and its principal tributaries cut through the Cumberland Plateau. The National
Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 authorized five river additions: Delaware National Scenic River in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, containing the Delaware within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, including most of the Delaware between Pennsylvania and New York; Missouri National Recreational River, one of the last free-flowing stretches of the Missouri between Nebraska and South Dakota; New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, encompassing a rugged section of one of the oldest rivers on the continent; and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, including 191 miles of the American bank of the Rio Grande downstream from Big Bend National Park, Texas.

A decade passed before Congress authorized the three most recent river areas in 1988. Mississippi National River and Recreation Area encompasses 69 miles of the Mississippi between Dayton and Hastings, Minnesota. Bluestone National Scenic River in southwestern West Virginia offers fishing, boating, and hiking in addition to scenery; Gauley River National Recreation Area, also in West Virginia, presents one of the most exciting whitewater boating opportunities in the East.

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, paralleling the Natchez Trace Parkway, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, from the mouth of the Potomac to its Pennsylvania headwaters, were authorized together in 1983. A few segments of the former were gradually developed, primarily for equestrian use. Of the latter's projected 704 miles, 271 miles comprising the existing Mount Vernon bicycle path, C&O Canal towpath, and Laurel Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania had been designated by the end of the period.

New Alaska Parklands

One of the great conservation campaigns of the century provides a fitting climax to this account of the National Park System's evolution: the new national parklands in Alaska. Alaska's admission to the Union in 1959 led to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, which contained a provision of great consequence for land conservation. It directed the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw from selection by the state or native groups, or from disposition under the public land laws, up to 80 million acres that he deemed "suitable for addition to or creation as units of the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems." He had two years to make specific recommendations for additions to the four systems from the withdrawn lands. The recommended additions would remain withdrawn until Congress acted or for five years, whichever came first.

On the second anniversary deadline, Secretary Rogers Morton trans-
mitted his recommendations. They included 32.3 million acres for parks at a time when the entire System encompassed some 31 million acres. The recommendations were controversial, especially in Alaska, where there was great opposition to so much land being removed from uses incompatible with park status. Bills introduced by supporters and opponents made little headway until the 95th Congress in 1977-78, the last years for legislative action before the withdrawals expired. A strong conservation bill then introduced by Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona incorporated the national preserve concept to allow for sport hunting in areas bearing that designation rather than in certain national parks, as Morton had proposed.

A modified version of Udall's bill passed the House in May 1978, but Alaska's senators blocked action on a comparable measure in the Senate, and the 95th Congress adjourned that October without an Alaska lands act. The land withdrawals would expire on December 18, 1978. Faced with this prospect, President Jimmy Carter on December 1 took the extraordinary step of proclaiming 15 new national monuments and two major monument additions on the withdrawn lands. Two of the new monuments were under Forest Service jurisdiction and two under the Fish and Wildlife Service; the other 11 were additions to the Park System. (The Fish and Wildlife monuments were subsequently incorporated in national wildlife refuges; the Forest Service monuments, Misty Fjords and Admiralty Island, retain their identities under that bureau.) The monuments were stopgaps, intended to withhold the areas from other disposition until Congress could reconsider and act on protective legislation.

Bills were reintroduced in the 96th Congress, and a revised bill sponsored by Reps. Udall and John Anderson of Illinois passed the House in May 1979. Alaska's senators, backed by a range of commercial interests and sportsmen's groups, again fought to limit additions to the restrictive national park and wildlife refuge systems. A somewhat weaker conservation bill finally cleared the Senate in August 1980. After President Carter's loss to Ronald Reagan that November, supporters of the House bill decided to accept the Senate bill rather than risk an impasse before adjournment and a less acceptable bill in the next Congress. The House approved the Senate measure, and on December 2, 1980, Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

ANILCA contributed to the National Park System more than 47 million acres, exceeding the nearly 45 million acres assigned it by the provisional national monument proclamations and surpassing by nearly 50 percent the 32.3 million acres proposed seven years before. The act converted most of the national monuments to national parks
and preserves, the latter permitting sport hunting and trapping. Before December 1978 Alaska had contained one national park, two national monuments, and two national historical parks. After December 1980 there were eight national parks, two national monuments, ten national preserves, two national historical parks, and one wild river.

Mount McKinley National Park was renamed Denali National Park after the Indian name for the mountain, which remained Mount McKinley, and was joined by a Denali National Preserve. Together the park and preserve are more than four million acres larger than the old park. The old Glacier Bay and Katmai national monuments became national parks, with adjoining national preserves. The Glacier Bay park and preserve gained some 473,000 acres over the old monument, while the two Katmai areas exceed the old Katmai monument by nearly 1,300,000 acres.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park contains 8,331,604 acres. Adjacent Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve encompasses 4,856,721 acres. Together they are larger than the combined area of Vermont and New Hampshire and contain the continent’s greatest array of glaciers and peaks above 16,000 feet—among them Mount St. Elias, rising second only to Mount McKinley in the United States. With Canada’s adjacent Kluane National Park, this is one of the greatest parkland regions in the world.

Gates of the Arctic National Park, all of whose 7,523,888 acres lie north of the Arctic Circle, and the 948,629-acre national preserve of the same name include part of the Central Brooks Range, the northernmost extension of the Rockies. Gentle valleys, wild rivers, and numerous lakes complement the jagged mountain peaks. Adjoining Gates of the Arctic on the west is Noatak National Preserve. Its 6,574,481 acres, drained by the Noatak River running through the 65-mile-long Grand Canyon of the Noatak, contain a striking array of plant and animal life and hundreds of prehistoric archeological sites in what is the largest untouched river basin in the United States.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, with 2,784,960 acres on the Seward Peninsula, covers a remnant of the isthmus that connected North America and Asia more than 13,000 years ago. Modern Eskimos manage their reindeer herds in and around the preserve, which features rich paleontological and archeological resources, large migratory bird populations, ash explosion craters, and lava flows. At their June 1990 summit meeting in Washington, President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev endorsed a proposed Beringian international park encompassing the American preserve and a new park across the Bering Strait that would reflect the shared cultural heritage of the two nations.
The 2,636,839-acre Lake Clark National Park and the 1,407,293-acre Lake Clark National Preserve are set in the heart of the Chigmit Mountains on the western shore of Cook Inlet, southwest of Anchorage. The 50-mile-long Lake Clark, largest of more than 20 glacial lakes, is fed by hundreds of waterfalls tumbling from the surrounding mountains and is headwaters for an important red salmon spawning ground. Jagged peaks and granite spires have caused the region to be called the Alaskan Alps.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve protects 115 miles of the Yukon and the entire 88-mile Charley River basin within its 2,523,509 acres. Abandoned cabins and other cultural remnants recall the Yukon's role during the 1898 Alaska gold rush. The Charley, running swift and clear, is renowned for whitewater recreation. Grizzly bears, Dall sheep, and moose are among the abundant wildlife.

Kobuk Valley National Park, another Arctic area of 1,750,421 acres, adjoins the south border of Noatak National Preserve. Its diverse terrain includes the northernmost extent of the boreal forest and the 25-square-mile Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, the largest active dune field in arctic latitudes. Archaeological remains are especially rich, revealing more than 10,000 years of human activity.

Kenai Fjords National Park contains 669,541 acres. On the Gulf of Alaska near Seward, it is named for the scenic glacier-carved fjords along its coast. Above is the Harding Icefield, one of four major ice caps in the United States, from which radiate 34 major glacier arms. Sea lions and other marine mammals abound in the coastal waters.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument, north of Kotzebue on the Chukchi Sea, was the single 1978-80 Alaska addition of predominantly cultural rather than natural significance. Embracing 659,807 acres, it is by far the largest such area in the National Park System. One hundred fourteen lateral beach ridges formed by changing sea levels and wave action display chronological evidence of 5,000 years of marine mammal hunting by Eskimo peoples. Older archaeological sites are found inland.

The smallest of the new Alaska parks, preserves, and monuments is Aniakchak National Monument, whose 137,176 acres lie on the harsh Aleutian Peninsula southwest of Katmai. It is adjoined by the 465,603-acre Aniakchak National Preserve. Their central feature is the great Aniakchak Caldera, a 30-square-mile crater of a collapsed volcano. Within the caldera are a cone from later volcanic activity, lava flows, explosion pits, and Surprise Lake, which is heated by hot springs and cascades through a rift in the crater wall.

ANILCA also designated 13 wild rivers for Park Service administration. Twelve are entirely within parks, monuments, and preserves
and are not listed as discrete System units. Part of the remaining one, Alagnak Wild River, lies outside and westward of Katmai; it is therefore counted separately. It offers salmon sport fishing and whitewater floating.

Overall, the size and quantity of the new Alaska parklands are matched fully by their superlative quality. Although political and economic arguments had been raised against them, few persons, if any, questioned the inherent natural and cultural merits that made the lands so clearly eligible for the National Park System. They have enriched it immeasurably.
Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve
# National Park System Additions 1973-90

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac, District of Columbia</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Big South Fork NR and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee (assigned to NPS 1976)</td>
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<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Boston NHP, Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Big Cypress NPres, Florida</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Big Thicket NPres, Texas</td>
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<td>Clara Barton NHS, Maryland</td>
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<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon</td>
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<td>Knife River Indian Villages NHS, North Dakota</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Klondike Gold Rush NHP, Alaska and Washington</td>
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<td>Valley Forge NHP, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td>Ninety Six NHS, South Carolina</td>
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<td>Obed WSR, Tennessee</td>
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<td>Eugene O’Neill NHS, California</td>
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<td>Monocacy NB, Maryland (reauthorization and redesignation of Monocacy NMP)</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, New York</td>
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<td>1978</td>
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<td>Constitution Gardens, District of Columbia</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lowell NHP, Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Fort Scott NHS, Kansas</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Delaware NSR, Pennsylvania and New Jersey</td>
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<td>Edgar Allan Poe NHS, Pennsylvania</td>
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Nov. 10  Friendship Hill NHS, Pennsylvania
Nov. 10  Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve, Louisiana (incorporated Chalmette NHP)
Nov. 10  Kaloko-Honokohau NHP, Hawaii
Nov. 10  Maggie L. Walker NHS, Virginia
Nov. 10  Missouri National Recreational River, Nebraska and South Dakota
Nov. 10  New River Gorge NR, West Virginia
Nov. 10  Palo Alto Battlefield NHS, Texas
Nov. 10  Rio Grande WSR, Texas
Nov. 10  St. Paul's Church NHS, New York (designated 1943)
Nov. 10  San Antonio Missions NHP, Texas
Nov. 10  Santa Monica Mountains NRA, California
Nov. 10  Thomas Stone NHS, Maryland
Nov. 10  Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, Pennsylvania and New York
Dec. 1   Aniakchak NM, Alaska (incorporated in legislated Aniakchak NM and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Bering Land Bridge NM, Alaska (redesignated a NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Cape Krusenstern NM, Alaska
Dec. 1   Denali NM, Alaska (incorporated with Mount McKinley NP in Denali NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Gates of the Arctic NM, Alaska (incorporated in Gates of the Arctic NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Glacier Bay NM, Alaska (addition to existing NM; total incorporated in Glacier Bay NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Katmai NM, Alaska (addition to existing NM; total incorporated in Katmai NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Kenai Fjords NM, Alaska (redesignated a NP by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Kobuk Valley NM, Alaska (redesignated a NP by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Lake Clark NM, Alaska (incorporated in Lake Clark NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1   Noatak NM, Alaska (incorporated in Noatak NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1 Wrangell-St. Elias NM, Alaska (incorporated in
Wrangell-St. Elias NP and NPres by ANILCA 1980)
Dec. 1 Yukon-Charley NM, Alaska (redesignated Yukon-Charley
Rivers NPres by ANILCA 1980)

1979
Oct. 12 Frederick Law Olmsted NHS, Massachusetts

1980
March 5 Channel Islands NP, California (incorporated Channel
Islands NM)
June 28 Biscayne NP, Florida (incorporated Biscayne NM)
July 1 Vietnam Veterans Memorial, District of Columbia
Sept. 9 USS Arizona Memorial, Hawaii
Oct. 10 Boston African American NHS, Massachusetts
Oct. 10 Martin Luther King, Jr., NHS, Georgia
Dec. 2 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
(ANILCA)
Dec. 2 Alagnak Wild River, Alaska
Dec. 19 Chaco Culture NHP, New Mexico (incorporated Chaco
Canyon NM)
Dec. 19 Salinas NM, New Mexico (incorporated Gran Quivira
NM; redesignated Salinas Pueblo Missions NM 1988)
Dec. 22 Kalaupapa NHP, Hawaii
Dec. 28 James A. Garfield NHS, Ohio
Dec. 28 Women's Rights NHP, New York

1983
March 28 Natchez Trace NST, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee
March 28 Potomac Heritage NST, Maryland, District of Columbia,
Virginia, and Pennsylvania
May 23 Harry S Truman NHS, Missouri (designated 1982)

1986
Oct. 21 Steamtown NHS, Pennsylvania
Oct. 27 Great Basin NP, Nevada (incorporated Lehman Caves NM)

1987
June 25 Pennsylvania Avenue NHS, District of Columbia
(designated 1965)
Dec. 23 Jimmy Carter NHS, Georgia
Dec. 31 El Malpais NM, New Mexico

1988
Feb. 16 Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida
June 27  San Francisco Maritime NHP, California (formerly part of Golden Gate NRA)
Sept. 8   Charles Pinckney NHS, South Carolina
Oct. 7    Natchez NHP, Mississippi
Oct. 31   National Park of American Samoa, American Samoa
Oct. 31   Poverty Point NM, Louisiana
Oct. 31   Zuni-Cibola NHP, New Mexico
Nov. 18   City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho
Nov. 18   Hagerman Fossil Beds NM, Idaho
Nov. 18   Mississippi NR and Recreation Area, Minnesota
Dec. 26   Bluestone National Scenic River, West Virginia
Dec. 26   Gauley River NRA, West Virginia

1989
Oct. 2    Ulysses S. Grant NHS, Missouri

1990
June 27   Pecos NHP, New Mexico (incorporated Pecos NM)
June 27   Petroglyph NM, New Mexico
Aug. 6    Tumacacori NHP, Arizona (incorporated Tumacacori NM)
Oct. 31   Weir Farm NHS, Connecticut

Abbreviations Used in the Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NB</td>
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<td>National Scenic Trail</td>
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<td>WSR</td>
<td>Wild and Scenic River</td>
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All national parklands are not created equal. Besides the obvious physical distinctions among and within the basic types of areas in the National Park System—natural and cultural, urban and wilderness, battlefield and birthplace, arctic and tropical—there are qualitative differences as well. Plainly put, some of the System's areas are better than others.

From the beginning, the National Park Service has professed to acquire only the most outstanding lands and resources, with "national significance" as the primary criterion. "In studying new park projects, you should seek to find scenery of supreme and distinctive quality or some natural feature so extraordinary or unique as to be of national interest and importance," declared the policy letter Horace Albright prepared for Secretary Lane's signature in 1918. "The national park system as now constituted should not be lowered in standard, dignity, and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or kind of exhibit which they represent."

At its second meeting in May 1936, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments addressed historical parks in a similar policy statement prepared by Verne E. Chatelain, the Service's chief historian. "The general criterion in selecting areas administered by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service whether natural or historic, is that they shall be outstanding examples in their respective classes," it declared. "The number of Federal areas must be necessarily limited, and care should be exercised to prevent the accumulation of sites of lesser rank."

Guidelines for evaluating national significance have been developed and refined over the years. The current criteria appear in the Service's Management Policies. A natural park should be an outstanding or rare example of a geologic landform or biotic area, a place of exceptional ecological or geological diversity, a site with a concentrated population of rare plant or animal species or unusually abundant fossil deposits, or an outstandingly scenic area. Historical parks should be associated with persons, events, or themes of national importance; should encompass structures or features of great intrinsic or representational value; or should contain archeological resources
of major scientific consequence. Integrity is vital for natural and historical areas: they must not be so altered, deteriorated, or otherwise impaired that their significance cannot readily be appreciated by the public. The criteria for recreational areas stress spaciousness, high resource quality, proximity to major population centers, and potential for attracting national as well as local and regional visitation.

A few of the early parks and monuments did not measure up to the ideals expressed in these policies and criteria. Platt and Sullys Hill national parks, established just after the turn of the century, have been mentioned previously in this regard. Verendrye National Monument, North Dakota, proclaimed in 1917, was found to have no historical connection with the French explorer alleged to have visited the site. Fossil Cycad National Monument, South Dakota, later disclosed few of the fossils for which it had been proclaimed in 1922. In 1956 Congress approved Verendrye’s transfer to the state and Fossil Cycad’s return to the public domain. More than a dozen units of the System have lost that status over the years following reappraisal of their significance.

A few other places of questionable national significance have been admitted to the System and remain in its ranks. What accounts for these imperfections?

In truth, the professional guidelines for evaluating national significance have not always been foremost in the minds of those responsible for new parklands. The Service customarily transmits its recommendations on new area legislation through the Interior Department to Congress, but Congress makes the final decisions. As a representative body, it normally and naturally will give greater weight to vocal public sentiment behind a park proposal than to abstract standards that might support a negative vote on it. A park bill backed by an influential constituency and lacking significant outside opposition is thus apt to proceed without great regard for the opinions of historians, scientists, or other professional specialists in the bureaucracy. Once established via this process, a park is unlikely to be abolished or demoted to other custody.

Can Congress be blamed for the System’s shortcomings, then? Not entirely. The Service itself is no ivory tower institution, immune from
public and political pressures. It is a government bureau dependent on congressional appropriations and popular support for its survival and prosperity. From its earliest days, Stephen Mather, Horace Albright, and most of their successors sought to enlarge its public and political constituencies by acquiring more parks in more places—natural areas in the East, the military parks and other historic sites, parkways, reservoir areas, seashores, urban recreational areas. These aims have made most Service managers reluctant to vigorously resist popular park proposals questioned only by their professional advisers; little advantage has been seen in opposing an influential congressman's desire for a park in his or her district. Under the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that all parks do not equal the System's "crown jewels."

The System has also been faulted for its unevenness in representing America's natural and cultural heritage. The idea that there should be parks for all the major facets of natural and human history underlay the 1972 National Park System Plan. As the expansionist impulse behind that document cooled in the 1980s, its rationale came under critical scrutiny. Extant sites and related physical features capable of being preserved and appreciated by park visitors are not evenly dispersed among the many themes of human history, nor are all themes well communicated via such resources. The fact that the System deals more with military history than the history of philosophy or education, for example, may be justified by the nature and availability of sites and structures, the System's primary historical media.

Most natural geographic features or phenomena are capable of being represented by parks, but judging them all worthy of park representation oversteps the traditional concept of parks as places for public enjoyment. In America's National Parks and Their Keepers (Resources for the Future, 1984), Ronald A. Foresta faulted the natural history component of the National Park System Plan for relying on purely scientific criteria and ignoring the scenic or human appeal factor. "This comes close to abandoning the idea of a park altogether," he observed. "Perhaps some representative of exposed Silurian rock face should be preserved on a federally owned site. . . . There is no reason for such a site to be called a park, however, or for it to be part of the National Park System unless it has more to recommend it than pure representativeness."

At bottom, much of the controversy over what should be added to the System over the years has stemmed from different perceptions of what the System should be. Purists in and outside the Service deplored the acquisition of such natural parks as Shenandoah, which had been cut over and existed in a less than primeval state. They and others
who equated the System with natural preservation saw the influx of historical areas in the 1930s as diffusing its identity. Both natural and historical park partisans did not all welcome the parkways, the reservoir-based areas, and others added less for intrinsic resource quality than for recreational use. Some of these additions, typified by Gateway and Golden Gate, tended to be disproportionately demanding of funds and personnel—another reason for critics to begrudge them.

Today's System, it is fair to say, is both more and less than it might be. That it has edged into certain areas of essentially state and local concern was perhaps inevitable, evolving as it did over decades when the Federal Government enlarged its role in virtually every sphere. That its quality has sometimes been compromised was surely inevitable, given the public and political involvement in its evolution befitting a democratic society. That it incompletely and unevenly represents the Nation's cultural and natural heritage has much to do with the physical nature and recreational—in the broad sense—purpose of parks.

All things considered, the wonder is not that the System has fallen short of the ideals set for it, but that it has come so close. In it are a remarkable array of the Nation's greatest natural and historic places and recreational areas of outstanding attraction. Not every park is a Yellowstone, not every historic site boasts an Independence Hall. But nearly all have resources and values that make them something special—even nationally significant. With good reason, the National Park System is among America's proudest and best loved creations.
As of 1990 there were 32 areas with which the National Park Service had particular connections but which it did not administer. These "affiliated areas," designated by Congress or by Secretaries of the Interior under the Historic Sites Act, may receive technical or financial assistance in accordance with the legislation or cooperative agreements defining their relationships with the Service.

The areas are listed alphabetically below with the dates of their designation. Brief descriptions of each appear in The National Parks: Index.

American Memorial Park, Saipan; August 18, 1978
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, Pennsylvania; October 25, 1972
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Massachusetts and Rhode Island; November 10, 1986
Chicago Portage National Historic Site, Illinois; January 3, 1952
Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Nebraska; August 2, 1956
David Berger National Memorial, Ohio; March 5, 1980
Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor, Pennsylvania; November 18, 1988
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Washington; November 10, 1978
Father Marquette National Memorial, Michigan; December 20, 1975
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site, Pennsylvania; November 17, 1942
Green Springs Historic District, Virginia; December 12, 1977
Historic Camden, South Carolina; May 24, 1982
Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Wisconsin; October 3, 1980
Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, Wisconsin; October 13, 1964
Iditarod National Historic Trail, Alaska; November 10, 1978
Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, Illinois; August 24, 1984
International Peace Garden, North Dakota and Manitoba; October 25, 1949
Jamestown National Historic Site, Virginia; December 18, 1940
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Illinois to Oregon; November 10, 1978
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, District of Columbia; October 15, 1982
McLoughlin House National Historic Site, Oregon; June 27, 1941
Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, Illinois to Utah; November 10, 1978
North Country National Scenic Trail, New York to North Dakota; March 5, 1980
Oregon National Historic Trail, Missouri to Oregon; November 10, 1978
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, Virginia to South Carolina; September 8, 1980
Pinelands National Reserve, New Jersey; November 10, 1978
Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial, Virginia; May 13, 1986
Roosevelt Campobello International Park, New Brunswick; July 7, 1964
Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Missouri to New Mexico; May 8, 1987
Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site, District of Columbia; October 26, 1974
Touro Synagogue National Historic Site, Rhode Island; March 5, 1946
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, North Carolina to Oklahoma; December 16, 1987
Seven national park areas in Alaska have adjoining national preserves, counted as separate units of the National Park System. They are: Aniakchak, Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Glacier Bay, Katmai, Lake Clark, and Wrangell-St. Elias.

Parks Authorized Before August 25, 1916

Parks Authorized 1917 to 1933 (in color)
National Park Service Directors

Stephen T. Mather  May 16, 1917—January 8, 1929
Horace M. Albright  January 12, 1929—August 9, 1933
Arno B. Cammerer  August 10, 1933—August 9, 1940
Newton B. Drury  August 20, 1940—March 31, 1951
Arthur E. Demaray  April 1, 1951—December 8, 1951
Conrad L. Wirth  December 9, 1951—January 7, 1964
George B. Hartzog, Jr.  January 9, 1964—December 31, 1972

Gary Everhardt  January 13, 1975—May 27, 1977
James M. Ridenour  April 17, 1989—

Horace Albright (left) and Stephen Mather (right) stand beside Mather's 1924 Packard, with its distinctive license plate, in which they visited many parks.
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As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands promoting citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior