



Foundation Document Overview

Theodore Roosevelt Island

District of Columbia



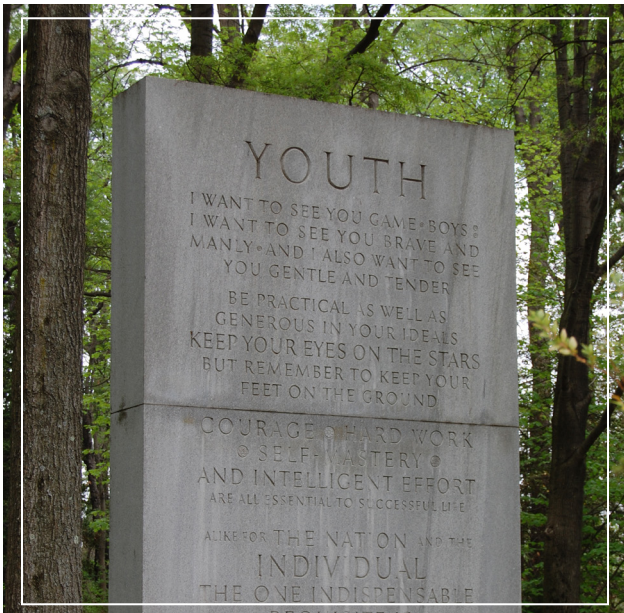
Contact Information

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Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Purpose



THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND provides a memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt in the nation's capital and serves as a natural park for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.



Significance

Significance statements express why Theodore Roosevelt Island resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Designed by renowned landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. and Henry Vincent Hubbard, Theodore Roosevelt Island's woodland landscape reflects Roosevelt's conservation ethic and love of nature.
- Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Plaza is the only monument honoring the 26th president of the United States in Washington, D.C.
- Theodore Roosevelt Island offers a rare opportunity for solitude and diverse outdoor recreation within the dense urban setting of our nation's capital.

Interpretive Themes

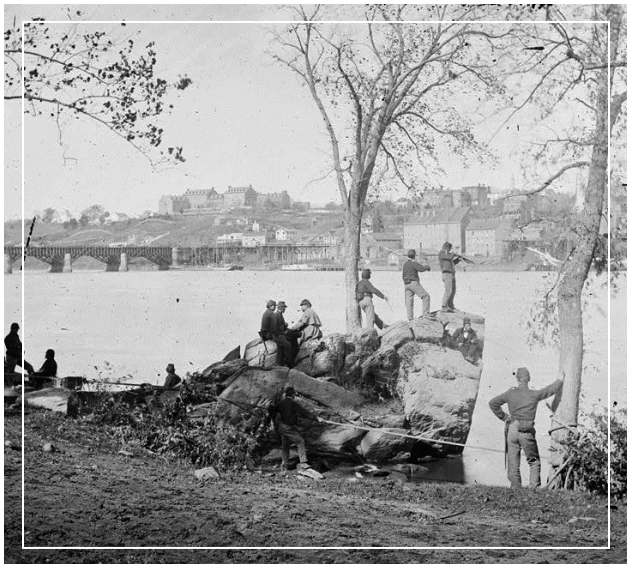
Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Presidential Memorial
- Natural Preserve
- Human History
- Watershed
- Landscape

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **The Memorial Landscape.** Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and Henry Vincent Hubbard designed Theodore Roosevelt Island, its trail network, and setting as a landscape that honors and reflects Roosevelt's conservation ethic and love of nature. The primary commemorative feature on the island is the Memorial Plaza. The plaza includes fountains, paved walkways and bridges, a large bronze statue of President Theodore Roosevelt, and 4 granite monoliths engraved with some of his more famous quotes. This landscape creates a contemplative space that allows visitors to reflect on the legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt.
- **Recreational Opportunities.** Theodore Roosevelt Island offers visitors recreational opportunities in a natural setting, all within the large metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. A network of hiking trails allows visitors to explore the natural environments including the Swamp Trail, the Woods Trail, or the Upland Trail. These trails provide an escape from the city and give visitors a chance to experience the solitude of walking through the woods or along the boardwalks in wetlands along the Potomac River. The Island is also a popular recreational area for birdwatchers and joggers.



Other Important Resources and Values

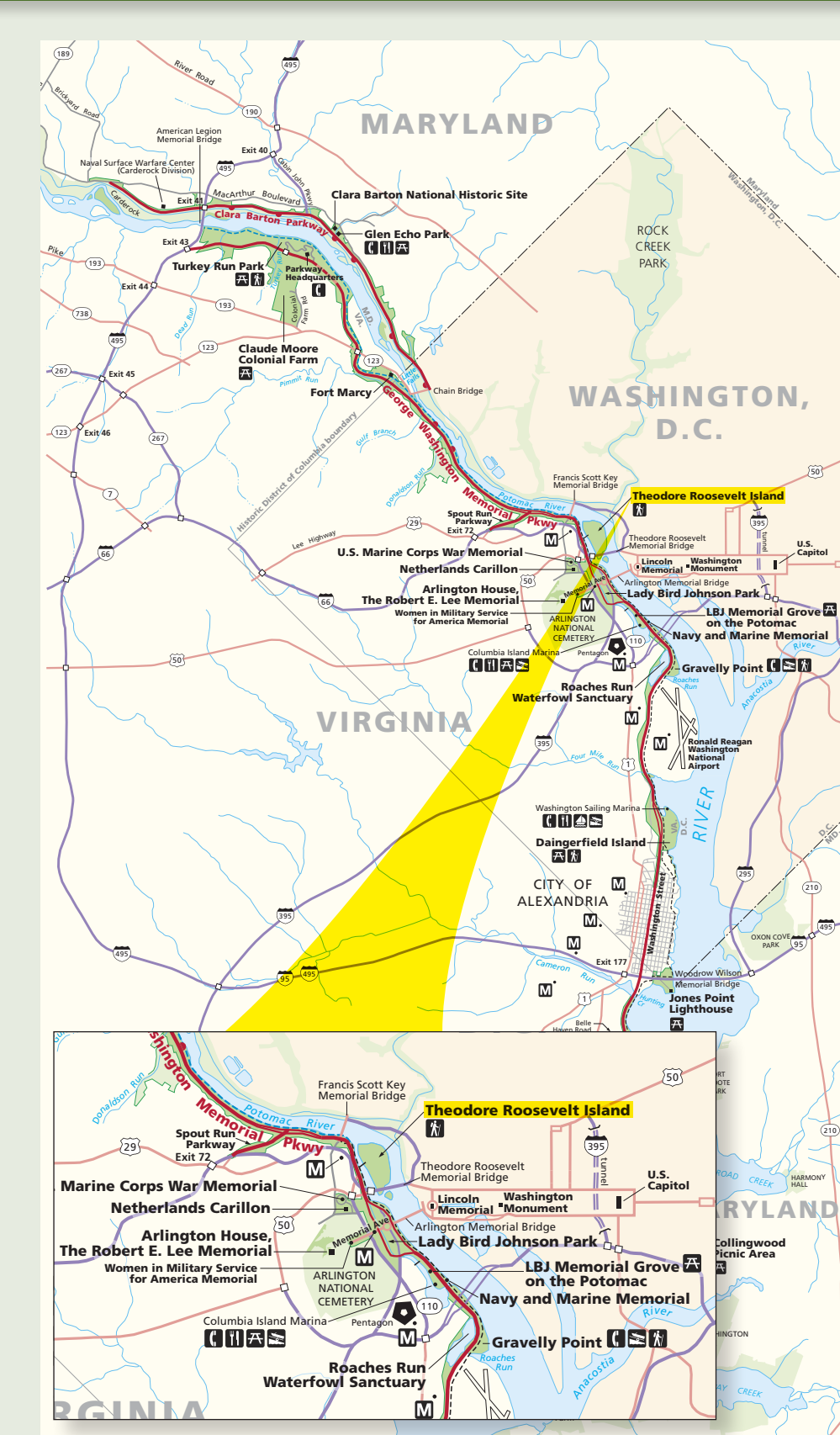
Theodore Roosevelt Island contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

Theodore Roosevelt Island has the following other important resources and values:

- **Archeological Resources.** Located in the Potomac River, Theodore Roosevelt Island has a long history of human habitation that is reflected in the archeological resources found on the island. Remnants from American Indian habitation, the remains of buildings and farmsteads from as early as the late 18th century, Civil War encampments, and the island's role as a major ferry / entry point into Washington, D.C., can all be found in the archeological record on the island.
- **Rare Flora and Fauna.** Due to a unique combination of geologic, hydrologic, and topographic factors, Theodore Roosevelt Island is home to regionally rare plant and animal species. The island offers a refuge and serves as an important habitat corridor along the Potomac River and contains the largest naturally occurring tidal wetland in Washington, D.C.



	Description
1	1. The first row contains the number 1.
2	2. The second row contains the numbers 1 and 1.
3	3. The third row contains the numbers 1, 2, and 1.
4	4. The fourth row contains the numbers 1, 3, 3, and 1.
5	5. The fifth row contains the numbers 1, 6, 6, 4, and 1.
6	6. The sixth row contains the numbers 1, 10, 10, 6, 4, and 1.
7	7. The seventh row contains the numbers 1, 15, 15, 10, 6, 4, and 1.
8	8. The eighth row contains the numbers 1, 21, 21, 15, 10, 6, 4, and 1.
9	9. The ninth row contains the numbers 1, 28, 28, 21, 15, 10, 6, 4, and 1.
10	10. The tenth row contains the numbers 1, 36, 36, 28, 21, 15, 10, 6, 4, and 1.



Theodore Roosevelt Island was established by Congress on May 21, 1932, through Public Law 72-146. This 70-acre, wooded island in the Potomac River is a tribute to the vision and passion of Theodore Roosevelt, our 26th president. He was a lifelong steward of the nation's natural resources and his passion for conservation is reflected in the natural, scenic qualities of the island itself. The site features a 17-foot bronze statue of the president, as well as a promenade, fountains, and four granite tablets inscribed with Roosevelt's tenets on citizenship.

The island has a diverse history. Evidence shows that American Indians used the island as a seasonal fishing village and it was owned by several different colonists throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. In the 1790s, John Mason, son of George Mason IV (author of the Virginia Bill of Rights), built a brick mansion and cultivated gardens on the island. During the Civil War, the site served as a training area for the Union Army, including the first United States Colored Troops.

The NPS landscape now serves not only as a natural refuge in an urban center, but as a fitting memorial to honor the legacy of a president who was a passionate outdoorsman and conservationist.