

COMMON Data Base Contains Park Basics

In the past there has been no central source of key information about park units that could provide rapid answers to questions asked by decision-makers. The COMMON database has been developed to meet that need. The Office of Information Management is working with each program area to define the set of information they need to make day-to-day as well as policy-level decisions.

The COMMON database contains basic park information such as Superintendent's name, phone number and address, percentages of park area in different land use zones, Clean Air Act status, status of park planning documents, amount of federal and non-federal acreage, park type, NPS region, and State and county location. The database is stored on the NPS Hewlett-Packard 3000 minicomputer in WASO and can be accessed from any terminal, micro, or word/processor with communications capability by using the HP database language, QUERY. Detailed information pertaining to particular program areas will still be stored in separate data bases maintained by various offices on different computers.

The COMMON database is being expanded to include more information about park units. Information about COMMON data items will form the beginning of the Servicewide data dictionary which will include information about all data used in the Service that crosses major organizational and functional lines. The dictionary will not only define the meaning of each piece of data; it will establish who is responsible for its accuracy and currency, where it is generated and stored, and what values it may have.

Some standard QUERY procedures and a Users' Manual will be developed in 1984 by the WASO Office of Information Management.

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