

Park Management Workshops Slated as Annual Events

From Washington, D.C. comes word that the recently instituted series of park management workshops will henceforth be held on an annual basis – the next session slated for early November, 1982.

According to George Gowans, NPS chief of maintenance, the primary objectives of the workshops are to acquaint park superintendents and facility managers with 1) responsibilities regarding facility management, 2) inventory and inspection information available, 3) source and kinds of professional and technical assistance available, 4) programming, scheduling, planning, and budgeting procedures, and 5) participation needed by park maintenance, ranger activities, interpretation, and resource management.

"Increased code and regulatory requirements in recent years, and increased awareness of safety and health factors," Gowans explained, "have expanded the responsibilities of park managers. It is increasingly important that park managers use the team approach to stay ahead of problems and to wisely utilize limited funds and staff. New inventory and inspection tools are available and can be used to determine needs and to support justifications."

The first park management workshop was held in September 1981 at Harpers Ferry, for superintendents and chiefs of maintenance from 30 parks. The course covered 10 working days. The second such workshop, for similar personnel from 20 parks, met for only five working days in Phoenix in November, and according to Gowans some of the benefits of the longer workshop had to be sacrificed. "At the Phoenix workshop we fine-tuned a project evaluation program," Gowans said. "This system is being incorporated into the 1984 budget call. The Fall 1982 workshop will focus on another segment of the process – the development and application of performance guidelines for maintenance management."