



History



[Links to the Past](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

The National Park Service

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

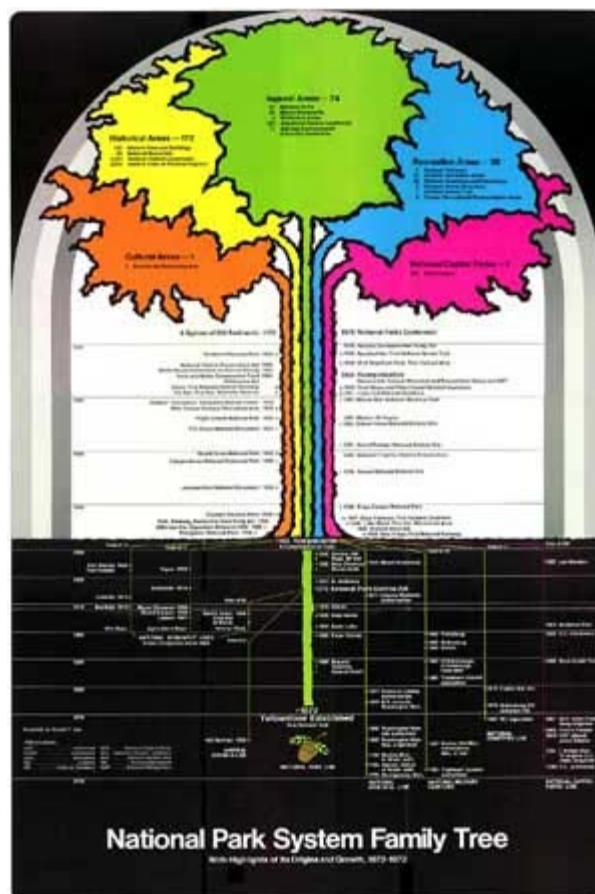
[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

A Chart with Accompanying Text Designed to Illustrate the Growth of the National Park System 1872-1972

Ronald F. Lee

1972

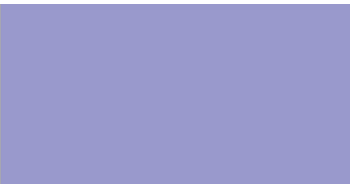


Eastern National Park & Monument Association
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[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)



Last Modified: Thurs, May 17 2001 7:08 am PDT
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on-line book family tree of the national park system NPS Family Tree MENU ► Contents Foreword Introduction Part I Part II Part III Part IV Part V Part VI Part VII Acknowledgements Abbreviations	Family Tree of the National Park System Table of Contents contents Foreword Dedication Introduction part I Beginnings The National Park Line, 1872-1916 National Monument Line I, 1906-1916, Department of the Interior Mineral Springs Line, 1832-1916 part II Establishment and Growth of the National Park System, 1916-1933 part III Reorganization of 1933 National Capital Parks Line, 1790-1933 National Memorials Line, 1776-1933 National Military Parks Line, 1781-1933 National Cemetery Line, 1867-1933 National Monument Line II, 1910-1933, War Department National Monument Line III, 1907-1933, Department of Agriculture National Park System Areas by Category Following the Reorganization of 1933 part IV Growth of the National Park System, 1933-1964 Natural Areas, 1933-1964 Historical Areas, 1933-1964 Recreation Areas, 1933-1964 part V Reorganization of 1964 part VI Growth of the National Park System, 1964-1972 Natural Areas, 1964-1972 Historical Areas, 1964-1972 Recreation Areas, 1964-1972
---	---

National Capital Parks and Urban Parks, 1964-1972
Cultural Areas, 1966-1972

[part VII](#)

The First Century

[Abbreviations](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

Index (omitted from on-line edition)

[Family Tree Chart](#) (~265 kb)

dedication

To my wife

Jean P. Lee

abbreviations

N.B.S.	National Battlefield Site
N.C.	National Cemetery
N.C.P.	National Capital Parks
N.H.L.	National Historic Landmark
N.H.P.	National Historical Park
N.H.S.	National Historic Site
N.L.	National Lakeshore
N.M.	National Monument
N.Mem.	National Memorial
N.Mem.P.	National Memorial Park
N.M.P.	National Military Park
N.P.	National Park
N. Pkwy.	National Parkway
N.R.A.	National Recreation Area
N.S.	National Seashore
N.Scién.Res.	National Scientific Reserve
N.S.R.	National Scenic Riverway
N.S.T.	National Scenic Trail

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)





History



[Links to the Past](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

The National Park Service

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

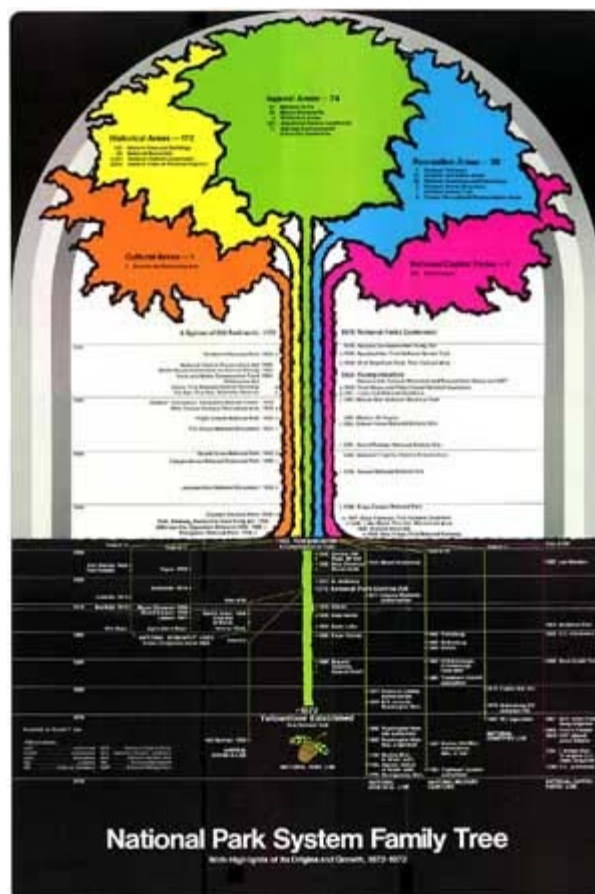
[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

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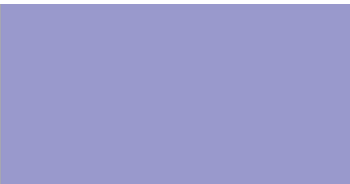


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[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)



Last Modified: Thurs, May 17 2001 7:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/index.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

► [Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

▲ [Top](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Foreword



foreword

In observing the centennial of the world's first national park, it is fitting that we examine the evolution of our National Park System. The creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 set a momentous precedent. From it sprang the trunk of our "family tree." But this trunk, so prominent in the eyes of the world, often obscures roots of considerable proportion and sometimes greater antiquity. Memorials, monuments, historic sites, cemeteries, battlefields, recreational areas, the parks of the national capital — all had separate and distinctive origins and all finally joined the trunk to form the richly diverse unity that we now call the National Park System. Knowledge of how they grew together in a unified system is vital to understanding the value and meaning of one of America's proudest possessions—its National Park System.

In this booklet Ronald F. Lee shows the origins and development of the "family tree." Mr. Lee is a National Park Service veteran of high distinction. He entered the Service in 1933 as historian at Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee, and rose rapidly to Chief Historian and Assistant Director of the Service, and finally Director of the Northeast Region, the post from which he retired in 1966. He has observed first-hand the growth of the many facets of the family tree, and he has delved into the records to verify his observations.

We of the National Park Service are grateful to Mr. Lee for this lucid and imaginative study of the process by which the National Park System attained its present content and dimensions and to the Eastern National Park and Monument Association for its generosity in publishing this booklet.

George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director, National Park Service

March 1, 1972

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/leef.htm



on-line book



NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

► [Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System



Introduction

introduction

In the century between 1872 and 1972 the National Park System grew from a single, original great public reservation called Yellowstone National Park to embrace almost 300 natural, historical, recreational, and cultural properties situated throughout the United States, its territories, and island possessions. These properties came to include increasingly diverse categories of areas — not only National Parks, but also National Monuments, National Memorials, National Military Parks, National Parkways, National Recreation Areas, National Seashores, National Scenic Riverways, National Scenic Trails, and others. How did this remarkable growth and diversification occur? Does it make sense today? The simplest way to answer these questions and comprehend the long evolution of the National Park System is through the use of a very old device, a chronological diagram, in brief a *National Park System Family Tree*, which accompanies this publication.

The *Family Tree* has several roots, a main trunk, and seven branches that illustrate the diverse origins and later growth of the principal parts of the System. The main trunk of the tree is the National Park line, which begins in 1872 with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world. The several roots converge upon and are incorporated into this main trunk at two major junctures, one in 1916 when the National Park Service was established, and the second in 1933 when all Federal park properties were consolidated by the Reorganization of 1933. Thereafter the System grew in size and scope through three decades from 1933 to 1964. In 1964 it was redefined by identifying three major categories of areas—natural, historical, and recreational—and by assigning each unit to its appropriate category. Separate but interdependent administrative policies were then developed for each category. The System continued to grow vigorously between 1964 and 1972 and a new category of cultural parks was added. The *Family Tree* ends with a diagrammatic illustration of the status of the System as of March 1, 1972, the beginning of the National Parks centennial year.

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/lee2/lee0.htm[11/7/2013 4:05:32 PM]

of each unit in the System. The date selected for each area is, with a few exceptions, the date of the *earliest* enabling legislation, executive proclamation, or departmental order authorizing or establishing the area. When a National Monument later became a National Park both dates are shown. Dates of some of the most significant general legislation affecting the National Park System and some other related events are also included. The *Family Tree* illustrates the cumulative achievements of successive Congresses over almost two centuries in preserving major elements of the Nation's historic and natural heritage and gradually uniting them into one National Park System for the benefit of all the people.

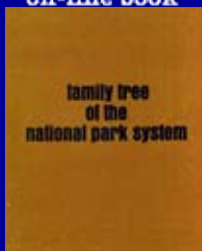
[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

▲ [Top](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee0.htm



on-line book



NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

► [Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System



Part I

part I

BEGINNINGS

NATIONAL MONUMENT LINE I, 1906-1916 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

While the early National Parks were being created, a separate movement got underway to preserve the magnificent cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, and early missions discovered by cowboys, army officers, ethnologists, and other explorers on the vast public lands of the Southwest from plunder and destruction by pot-hunters and vandals. The effort to secure protective legislation began early among historically minded scientists and civic leaders in Boston and spread to similar circles in Washington, New York, Denver, Santa Fe, and other centers during the 1880's and 1890's. Thus was born the National Monument idea. With important help from Rep. John Fletcher Lacey of Iowa and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, it was written into law in the Antiquities Act of 1906—with profound consequences for the National Park System.

The National Monument idea extended the principle of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 to antiquities and objects of scientific interest on the public domain. It authorized the President, in his discretion, "to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States to be National Monuments. The act also prohibited the excavation or appropriation of antiquities on Federal land without a permit.

Between 1906 and 1970, under this authority, eleven Presidents proclaimed 87 National Monuments—36 historic and 51 scientific. Sixty-three are thriving National Monuments in the National Park System of 1972, eleven formed the basis for creation of nine National Parks, one became a National Battlefield, one a National Historic Site, one was added to a National Parkway, and ten small ones have been abolished. The Antiquities Act is therefore the original authority for one in every four units of the National Park System. These areas, counting their original boundaries and subsequent additions, contained approximately 12 million acres in 1970. The great majority of these acres, approximately 11,845,000, are in scientific monuments. Only 155,000 acres have been set aside for historic monuments. In addition to 87 National Monuments established under the Antiquities Act, between 1929 and 1969 28 others were authorized by individual Acts

of Congress, generally on the pattern of those established by proclamation.

Between 1906 and 1933 three Federal agencies, the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and War, initiated and administered separate groups of National Monuments. In the *Family Tree*, these form three National Monument lines, one for each department. Following is the first of these three lines, representing National Monuments established between 1906 and 1916 on lands administered by the Department of the Interior.

When President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act on June 8, 1906, Interior Department officials were well aware that the public domain and Indian lands contained remarkable natural wonders, great Indian ruins, and magnificent cliff dwellings that badly needed permanent protection. As early as 1889 Congress authorized the President to reserve the land on which the well known Casa Grande Ruin was situated from settlement or sale. In 1904, at the request of the General Land Office, Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett had made a comprehensive review of all the Indian antiquities located on Federal lands in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. After consultations with many other scientists, particularly those in the Bureau of American Ethnology, he had recommended specific sites for preservation. Hewett's review did not extend to public lands outside the Southwest, however, and no systematic survey had been made by anyone on any public lands to identify natural wonders that should be made National Monuments. The Antiquities Act made no provision for surveys. The Interior Department was therefore forced to rely largely for National Monument proposals upon an improvised combination of sources—recommendations from individual scientists or government officials exploring the West; accidental discoveries by cowboys or prospectors; offers by private citizens of donations of land suitable for preservation as monuments; projects conceived by local citizens and sponsored by members of Congress, some of which had been pending before Congress years before the Antiquities Act became law. On this basis, between 1906 and 1916 the Interior Department recommended and Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson proclaimed twenty National Monuments, eighteen situated on the public domain or Indian lands and two — Muir Woods and Sieur de Monts — on donated lands. Seven were historic and thirteen scientific, as follows:

Historic National Monuments:

- 1906, Dec. 8 El Morro, N. Mex.
- 1906, Dec. 8 Montezuma Castle, Ariz.
- 1907, March 11 Chaco Canyon, N. Mex.
- 1908, Sept. 15 Tumacacori, Ariz.
- 1909, March 20 Navajo, Ariz.
- 1909, Nov. 1 Gran Quivira, N. Mex.
- 1910, March 23 Sitka, Alaska

Scientific National Monuments:

- 1906, Sept. 24 Devils Tower, Wyo.
- 1906, Dec. 8 Petrified Forest, Ariz.
- 1908, Jan. 9 Muir Woods, Calif.

Apr.	16	Natural Bridges, Utah
May	11	Lewis & Clark Cavern, Mont.
1909, July	31	Mukuntuweap, Utah
Sept.	21	Shoshone Cavern, Wyo.
1910, May	30	Rainbow Bridge, Utah
1911, May	24	Colorado, Colo.
1914, Jan.	31	Papago Saguaro, Ariz.
1915, Oct.	4	Dinosaur, Utah
1916, July	8	Sieur de Monts, Maine
Aug.	9	Capulin Mt., N. Mex.
1916, Aug.	25	Enabling Act to create National Park Service

Devils Tower was the first National Monument, proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt on September 24, 1906. It was created to protect a well known Wyoming landmark, a 600-foot-high massive stone shaft sometimes visible in that almost cloudless region for nearly 100 miles and often used by Indians, explorers, and settlers as a guidepost. In December 1906, three more National Monuments were proclaimed — El Morro, New Mexico, famous for its prehistoric petroglyphs and hundreds of later inscriptions, including those of 17th century Spanish explorers and 19th century American emigrants and settlers; Montezuma Castle, Arizona, one of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the United States; and Petrified Forest, Arizona, well known for its extensive deposits of petrified wood, Indian ruins and petroglyphs. Of the twenty National Monuments that eventually composed this group, three later formed the nuclei for National Parks —Mukuntuweap for Zion, Sieur de Monts for Acadia, and Petrified Forest for the park of the same name. Three small areas were eventually abolished — Lewis and Clark Cavern, Shoshone Cavern, and Papago Saguaro. Within the decade of 1906-16 the National Monument idea became well established as a means of creating both historic and scientific parks.

[Continue >>>](#)

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

[▲ Top](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee1a.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

► [Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Part II



part II

ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, 1916 - 1933

A new era for National Parks and Monuments opened on August 25, 1916, forty-four years after the establishment of Yellowstone, when President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating a new Federal bureau, a National Park Service. This action culminated years of effort by distinguished citizens and legislators including among others, J. Horace McFarland, President of the American Civic Association; Secretaries of the Interior Walter Fisher and Franklin K. Lane; Presidents William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson; Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.; Representatives William Kent and John E. Raker of California; Senator Reed Smoot of Utah; and, of course, Stephen T. Mather and Horace M. Albright.

The need for a separate bureau to administer and coordinate policies and plans for the National Parks and National Monuments had become widely recognized by 1916. The act created a bureau to "promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life 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." The act provided that the Service would supervise the National Parks and National Monuments then under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, together with the Hot Springs Reservation in Arkansas, and such other National Parks and reservations of like character as Congress might thereafter establish. On August 25, 1916, the Interior Department administered 14 National Parks, 21 National Monuments (including Pinnacles, California, transferred from the Department of Agriculture to Interior in 1910), the Hot Springs Reservation and Casa Grande Ruin. Thus the new Service was launched with responsibilities for 37 diverse areas.

When the Service was established, a new idea—the National Park System—was also born. Before 1916 there were individual National Parks and National Monuments but they were uncoordinated and there was no System. Between 1916 and 1933,¹ Stephen T. Mather and Horace M. Albright, the first and second Directors of the Service, with the support of successive Secretaries of the Interior, Presidents,

Members of Congress, conservationists, writers, and others laid the foundations for today's National Park System. Here lie the roots of National Park Service policies and programs still familiar to visitors and employees today — the uniformed ranger service, the information and interpretive programs, and the professional wildlife, forestry, historical, architectural, and landscape services.

During this period, in spite of the dislocations of World War I and the onset of the Great Depression, the National Park System was almost doubled in size. Public lands could still be secured for National Parks and Monuments, and large wilderness tracts were set aside while there was still time. This was the period when Americans began to take to the automobile to "See America First." Four cars were registered in 1895, eight thousand in 1900, nearly half a million in 1910, and twenty-three million in 1930. The National Park System (1) grew substantially larger; (2) was extended into the eastern United States, becoming truly national; and (3) historical holdings were quadrupled and the groundwork laid for a coordinated national historic preservation program.

Here is the record up to but not including the Reorganization of 1933:

Natural Areas:

1917, Feb.	26	Mt. McKinley N.P., Alaska
1918, Sept.	24	Katmai N.M., Alaska
1919, Feb.	26	Grand Canyon N.P., Ariz.
1919, Nov.	19	Zion N.P., Utah
1921, March	4	Hot Springs N.P., Ark.
1922, Oct.	21	Fossil Cyad N.M., S. Dak.
1923, Oct.	25	Carlsbad Cave N.M., N. Mex.
1924, May	2	Craters of the Moon N.M., Idaho
1925, Feb.	26	Glacier Bay N.M., Alaska
1925, Nov.	21	Lava Beds N.M., Calif.
1926, May	22	Great Smoky Mts. N.P., N.C.-Tenn.
May	22	Shenandoah N.P., Va.
1926, May	25	Mammoth Cave N.P., Ky.
1928, Feb.	25	Bryce Canon N.P., Utah
1929, Jan.	19	Acadia N.P., Maine
1929, Feb.	26	Grand Teton N.P., Wyo.
1929, March	4	Badlands N.M., S. Dak.
1929, April	12	Arches N.M., Utah
1930, May	14	Carlsbad Caverns N.P., N. Mex.
1931, March	3	Isle Royale N.P., Mich.
1932, March	17	Great Sand Dunes N.M., Colo.
1932, Dec.	22	Grand Canyon N.M., Ariz.
1933, Jan.	18	White Sands, N.M., N. Mex.
1933, Feb.	11	Death Valley N.M., Calif.
1933, March	2	Black Canyon of the Gunnison N.M., Colo.

Historical Areas:

1917, June	29	Verendrye N.M., N. Dak.
1918, Aug.	3	Casa Grande N.M., Ariz.
1919, Dec.	12	Scotts Bluff N.M., Nebr.
1919, Dec.	12	Yucca House N.M., Colo.
1923, Jan.	24	Aztec Ruins N.M., N. Mex.
1923, March	2	Hovenweep N.M., Utah-Colo.
1923, May	31	Pipe Spring N.M., Ariz.
1924, Dec.	9	Wupatki N.M., Ariz.
1930, Jan.	23	Geo. Washington Birthplace N.M., Va.
1930, July	3	Colonial N.M., Va.
1931, Feb.	14	Canyon de Chelly N.M., Ariz.
1933, March	2	Morristown N.H.P., N. J.

The increase in natural area holdings is spectacular. Six new National Parks were authorized or established, six more were created out of National Monuments or other reservations, eleven new scientific National Monuments were proclaimed from Interior Department lands, and one was authorized by Congress. Each had its own unique qualities and history. These twenty-four reservations, including all subsequent additions, embraced more than 11-1/2 million acres in 1970, more than two-fifths of the acreage in the whole System.

The first of these great reservations was Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, authorized in 1917 to protect the Dall or white Alaska mountain sheep, caribou, Alaska moose, grizzly bear and other wildlife from threatened depletion or extinction. It is the second largest National Park, focusing on Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America, rising 20,320 feet from low surrounding terrain, "magnificently aloof among its mountain neighbors." Two great Alaskan National Monuments—Katmai, proclaimed in 1918, and Glacier Bay, in 1925 — are each larger than any National Park, making them the largest areas in the System. Katmai contains 2,792,137 acres and was created to protect the scene of one of the greatest volcanic eruptions of recorded history, which occurred in June 1912, leaving behind the famous Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Glacier Bay, containing 2,803,586 acres, protects some twenty great tidewater glaciers and their mountain setting, together with abundant Alaskan wildlife.

For the first time, four of the new National Parks were situated in the eastern United States, a highly significant development. Three were authorized in 1926. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina Tennessee, protects the highest section of the Appalachian Mountains, where sixteen peaks top 6,000 feet. Shenandoah National Park conserves more than 100 miles of the irregular crest of the Blue Ridge in Virginia, affording superb views of the Shenandoah Valley and surrounding country. Mammoth Cave National Park was established to protect a great limestone cavern in southwestern Kentucky from commercial exploitation and make its five levels and extended portions of its 150 miles of underground passages accessible to the public. Isle Royale National Park, Michigan, was authorized in 1931 to protect a forty-five-mile-long wilderness island in Lake Superior, notable for its moose and timber wolves and prehistoric

copper mines, and surrounded by 200 smaller islands and countless minor rocks. Lastly, the Sieur de Monts National Monument in Maine was made a National Park in 1919 and renamed Acadia in 1929. Thus five National Parks situated in six widely dispersed eastern states were added to the System during this period—not carved out of the public domain as western parks had been, but acquired the hard way by purchase or donation.

All the other natural areas added to the System during this period were situated in the west. They included six more famous National Parks—Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Hot Springs, Grand Teton, and Carlsbad Caverns; and ten more scientific National Monuments, among them, Death Valley, the fifth largest area in the System, and Lava Beds, Arches, Craters of the Moon, Great Sand Dunes, White Sands and Badlands. Taken altogether the 24 natural areas added to the System in only 17 years between 1916 and 1933 represent a remarkable achievement, a star-spangled list.

The increase in historical holdings during this period was also significant, pointing the way toward the remarkable Reorganization of 1933. Seven prehistoric areas were added to the System, including spectacular Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, where Navajo Indians still live, the largest archaeological reservation in the System, larger even than Mesa Verde; and Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico, the third largest archaeological area. Among six new historical areas were the first to be added to the System in the east — significant forerunners of many more to follow. George Washington Birthplace National Monument, on the banks of the Potomac River at Wakefield, Virginia; Colonial National Monument, embracing Jamestown and Yorktown, and closely related both geographically and historically to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia; and Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey, Washington's headquarters during two severe winters of the Revolutionary War — these three areas launched the Service on a new course in historic preservation destined to influence greatly the future growth of the System.

¹ The precise period meant here is from August 25, 1916, when enabling legislation was enacted to establish the National Park Service, to June 10, 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166 substantially enlarging the National Park System.

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

▲ [Top](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee2.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

► [Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Part III



part III

REORGANIZATION OF 1933

We come now to an event of profound significance for the future of the National Park System — the Reorganization of 1933. On June 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166 which, in effect, consolidated all Federally owned National Parks and National Monuments, all National Military Parks, eleven National Cemeteries, all National Memorials, and National Capital Parks into one National Park System administered by the National Park Service. The story of how the great Reorganization of 1933 was finally brought about after 17 years of effort has been told in fascinating detail by Horace M. Albright in *Origins of National Park Service Administration of Historic Sites*, published by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 1971.

The reorganization had three highly significant consequences: (1) it made the National Park Service the *sole* Federal agency responsible for all Federally owned public parks, monuments, and memorials; (2) it enlarged the *National Park System idea* to include at least four types of areas not clearly included in the System concept before 1933 — National Memorials, like the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty; National Military Parks, like Gettysburg and Antietam with their adjoining National Cemeteries; National Capital Parks, a great urban park system as old as the nation itself; and the first recreational area — George Washington Memorial Parkway; (3) the reorganization substantially increased and diversified the holdings in the System by adding 12 natural areas located in 9 western states and Alaska and 57 historical areas located in 17 predominantly eastern states and the District of Columbia. The number of historical areas in the System was thus quadrupled. The System became far more truly national than ever before.

Each of the six groups of areas added to the System in the Reorganization of 1933 is represented by a separate line of the *Family Tree*. Each group added its own unique history and character to Service background and traditions. It is vital to understand these factors to comprehend the true nature of the National Park System. On the pages that follow these six lines are treated in this sequence:

[National Capital Parks Line, 1790-1933](#)

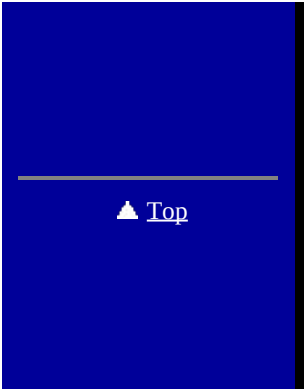
[National Memorials Line, 1776-1933](#)

[National Military Parks Line, 1781-1933](#)

[National Cemetery Line, 1867-1933](#)

[National Monument Line II, War Department, 1910-1933](#)

[National Monument Line III, Department of Agriculture, 1907-1933](#)



[Continue >>>](#)

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee3.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

► [Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Part IV



part IV

GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM 1933-1964

The long period between 1933 and 1964, which began with the need to assimilate 71 diverse areas into the System, was crowded with other events also tremendously important to the National Park Service. The early years were marked by the great social and economic changes in American life that accompanied the New Deal. Among many other measures in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted a broad program of natural resource conservation implemented in large part through the newly created Civilian Conservation Corps but also supported by other emergency funds. At the program's peak in 1935, the Service was allotted 600 CCC camps, 118 of them assigned to National Park System areas and 482 to State Parks, employing approximately 120,000 enrollees and 6,000 professionally trained supervisors, including landscape architects, engineers, foresters, biologists, historians, architects, and archaeologists.

The effects of the CCC and other emergency programs on Service management, planning, development, and staffing were profound. Within a few short years, however, came the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, and the nation turned sharply from domestic programs to total mobilization for World War II. Not only was the CCC dismantled with other emergency programs, but regular appropriations for managing the National Park System were cut from \$21 million in 1940 to \$5 million in 1943, the number of full-time employees was reduced from 3,510 to 1,974 or 55%, and visits fell from 21 million in 1941 to 6 million in 1942. There was only a brief lull after 1945 before military needs again became dominant with the outbreak of the Korean War.

During these years the integrity of the System required constant defense against wartime pressures. But peace finally came and the 1950's and early 1960's witnessed a tremendous increase in travel in our affluent postwar society with personal incomes and leisure time steadily increasing for growing numbers of people, most of whom also enjoyed much greater mobility in the automobile age. Visits to the National Park System mounted from a low of 6 million in 1942 to 33 million in 1950, and 72 million in 1960.

These and other changing conditions, including a great and growing backlog of deferred park maintenance and development projects, posed vast new problems for the Service and System. It was an era marked by the dramatic inauguration and prosecution of Mission 66,

the emergence of a national "crisis in outdoor recreation," creation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and mounting national concern for better preservation of America's vanishing wilderness.

These sweeping social, economic, and political changes are far too important, complex and recent for more extended treatment here. We will focus our attention on only one aspect of this period—enlargement of the National Park System.

Between the Reorganization of 1933 and the Reorganization of 1964,¹ 102 areas were added to the System as defined today,² increasing the total number from 137 to 239. These numerous and diverse areas were established under the able leadership of four successive Directors — Arno B. Cammerer, 1933-1940; Newton B. Drury, 1940-1951; Arthur E. Demaray, 1951 (after serving seventeen critical years as Associate Director to his two predecessors); and Conrad L. Wirth, 1951-64. These four Directors were vigorously supported by successive Secretaries of the Interior and worked closely with many members of Congress to bring about responsible growth of the System. They were aided, too, by an increasingly expert staff whose members, both in Washington and the field, contributed much to this work, including among others, Thomas C. Vint, long-time Chief, Division of Design and Construction; Ben H. Thompson, Chief, Division of Recreation Resource Planning; and Hillory A. Tolson, Assistant Director.

The distribution of the new areas among categories is significant. Of the new additions, 11 were Natural Areas, increasing their number from 58 to 69 or 19%. Seventy-five were Historical Areas, increasing their number from 77 to 152 or 96%. Fifteen were Recreation Areas, increasing their number from one to 16, or 1500%. It is clear that during this period the growth rate for Natural Areas noticeably diminished from previous levels and by comparison with the rate for other categories, even though very important additions of natural lands were still being made. On the other hand the growth rates for Historical and Recreation Areas accelerated sharply. It took the Service a generation, from 1933 to 1964, to assimilate these 102 diverse new areas and the 71 areas added by the Reorganization of 1933 and incorporate them securely into one National Park System.

During this period, with some exceptions, the Service tended to emphasize the similarities between areas while minimizing their differences. The System was administered under a single, uniform code of administrative policies derived historically from National Park experience and developed primarily for the management of Natural Areas. Special policies particularly applicable to Historical Areas, however, were gradually incorporated into the code—for example, the important restoration policy adopted in 1938. But more than any other factor, it was Mission 66, under the leadership of Director Conrad L. Wirth, that at long last provided the resources, beginning 1956, to bring all the individual areas, regardless of origin or type, up to a consistently high standard of preservation, staffing, and carefully controlled physical development, and to consolidate them fully into one National Park System. Mission 66 generated widespread interest and support for the National Park System among the American people

and brought new vigor and momentum to all phases of National Park Service work.

¹The precise period meant here is from June 10, 1933, to July 10, 1964, when a new organizational framework was adopted for the National Park System which clearly differentiated between natural, historical, and recreational areas.

²These figures include nine National Historic Sites and one International Park in non-federal ownership and five reservoir-related Recreation Areas established under cooperative agreements. Since Sept. 28, 1966, the Service has counted these areas as units in the National Park System.

[Continue](#) >>>

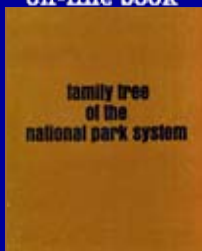
[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

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http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee4.htm



[▲ Top](#)

on-line book



NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

► [Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System



Part V

part V

REORGANIZATION OF 1964

For purposes of clarity we have presented the *Family Tree* 1933-1964, as if it consisted of three branches — natural, historical, and recreation areas. Our presentation obscures the fact that in actual practice these three branches were not established until 1964. Before that date the Service undertook to assimilate these diverse areas into one largely undifferentiated System. That System was guided by a single code of administrative policies derived largely from National Park experience but—with the addition of policies on historic preservation—made equally applicable to all areas.

On July 10, 1964, Secretary Stewart L. Udall signed a memorandum to the Director of the National Park Service instituting a new organizational framework for the National Park System. This new framework, based on recommendations made by Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., was a major step forward in the evolution of the System. The memorandum stated: "It is clear that the Congress had included within the growing System three different categories of areas — natural, historical and recreational. . . . A single broad management concept encompassing these three categories of areas within the System is inadequate either for their proper preservation or for realization of their full potential for public use as embodied in the expressions of Congressional policy. Each of these categories requires a separate management concept and a separate set of management principles coordinated to form one organic management plan for the entire System." The memorandum outlined the principles of resource management, resource use, and physical development that should characterize each category, and approved a new statement of long-range objectives. This landmark memorandum belongs in the select series of Secretarial statements, beginning with Franklin K. Lane's letter of May 13, 1918, to Stephen T. Mather, that have had great and lasting influence on the growth of the System.

Years ago there were good reasons for an undifferentiated System. After the transfer of 57 historical areas in a single action in 1933, clearly the first Service task was to assimilate them. The administrative policies which obtained when those areas were under the jurisdiction of the War Department were incompatible with longstanding National Park Service policies in such fields as public information, interpretation, forestry, plans and design, and concessions. The Service started its task of assimilation by applying its own well-established park policies to the new additions as rapidly as possible. Service officials were also concerned that if the historical areas were set off by themselves, some dedicated nature preservationists would endeavor to

separate them as a group from the System so that it might be made to consist solely of natural areas. Public efforts by some conservationists to achieve that objective may have justified their concern. In the background was the belief that retaining the historical areas as an integral part of the System would strengthen the hand of the Service in Congress because most historical areas were located in eastern Congressional districts with no other intimate ties to the Service. No doubt this was true. Unfortunately, this belief prompted some Service officials to value the historical areas as much for the support they brought to natural areas as for their intrinsic value as parts of our common national heritage. It took the Service more than thirty years after 1933 publicly to recognize the historical areas as a separate segment of the System with distinct roots and character of its own, yet interdependent with the other segments containing natural and recreational areas. This was one of the most important and timely insights of the Reorganization of 1964.

Assimilation of recreation areas into the National Park System is a separate story. For a long time after its establishment in 1916, the Service opposed taking responsibility for any area whose primary justification was provision of active outdoor recreation for large numbers of people. It was thought that state parks, county and municipal parks, and other public reservations, not National Parks, should take care of most public recreation needs. Years ago there was justified concern that if the Service opened its arms to administer recreation facilities at Federal reservoirs, mass recreation and possibly artificial lakes might soon invade the National Parks as well, and such choice places as Yosemite Valley, Yellowstone Lake, and Mount Rainier might lose their superb natural qualities and become little more than playgrounds. Furthermore, the National Park Service did not have primary jurisdiction over lands in such recreation areas as Lake Mead, which was basically under the Bureau of Reclamation. Service responsibilities derived from a cooperative agreement. The consequence was that many conservationists and some officials opposed accepting National Recreation Areas as fully qualified units of the National Park System. The Act of August 8, 1953, defined the System in such a way as to leave them out:

Sec. 2. (a) The term "National Park System" means all federally owned or controlled lands which are administered under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended, and which are grouped into the following descriptive categories: (1) National parks, (2) national monuments, (3) national historical parks, (4) national memorials, (5) national parkways, and (6) national capital parks.

(b) The term "miscellaneous areas" includes lands under the administrative jurisdiction of another Federal agency, or lands in private ownership, and over which the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to cooperative agreement, exercises supervision for recreational, historical or other related purposes, and also any lands under the care and custody of the National Park Service other than those heretofore described in this section.

The Reorganization of 1964 prepared the way for Congress to replace the 1953 definition of the National Park System with a revised

concept. For the first time it clearly and unequivocally established recreation areas as one of the three segments of the National Park System. Furthermore, it had the tremendous merit of differentiating recreation areas from natural areas. By this means, some of the earlier concern that identical policies might govern both natural and recreation areas was dissipated.

Important fruits of the Reorganization of 1964 were realized in 1968. In that year Director Hartzog issued three publications of fundamental importance to the future management of the National Park System: *Administrative Policies for Natural Areas . . .*; *Administrative Policies for Historical Areas . . .*; and *Administrative Policies for Recreation Areas . . .* It had taken almost a century for the Service to fully articulate and distinguish the fundamental concepts contained in these publications. Although they had been implicit in the evolving history of the National Park System now they were made explicit. As we shall later see, in 1970 Congress adopted a new definition of the National Park System consistent with the Reorganization of 1964, and it is in effect today.

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

▲ [Top](#)

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http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee5.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

► [Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Part VI



part VI

GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, 1964-1972

Between 1964 and 1972 the National Park System experienced unusual growth. Under the leadership of Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. and Secretaries of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Walter J. Hickel, and Rogers C. B. Morton, 62 areas were authorized, added to the System, or given new status, in eight years. Of these 13 were natural areas, including five new National Parks; 29 were historical areas, including a series of historic sites and buildings honoring seven former Presidents of the United States; 20 were recreational areas, including eight National Seashores and Lakeshores, three National Scenic Riverways, and one National Scenic Trail; and one was a Cultural Area, an entirely new category in the System. This remarkable growth benefited much from groundwork laid during preceding years but it also derived substantial impetus from the "New Conservation," a term widely used to describe the drastically enlarged scope of the conservation movement which took shape during the 1960's.

The New Conservation

Although it had other roots, for present purposes the "New Conservation" may be considered as beginning with the 1962 report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, establishment of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation the same year, and creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1964. This important Fund played a determining role in enlargement of the National Park System during this period. The movement had many other aspects too important and complex for extended discussion here. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall articulated important aspects of the "New Conservation" in his book *The Quiet Crisis* and in his annual reports. Important developments affecting the System included passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 and the beginnings of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson convoked the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, which gave new emphasis at the highest levels of government to the importance of aesthetic values, primarily natural but also cultural. In the ensuing years, under Mrs. Johnson's leadership, the natural beauty movement spread from Washington, D. C. — where important aspects were demonstrated in National Capital Parks for all the nation to see — to States and communities all over America. Historic preservation became part of the "New Conservation" with enactment of the highly important National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. Among other important steps he took to extend and deepen the "New Conservation,"

President Richard M. Nixon launched his Legacy of Parks program and proposed World Heritage Trust in 1971.

Underlying all these widening concerns of the 1960's and early 1970's was a growing national conviction that partial conservation programs, however meritorious, were inadequate to meet modern problems. The fabric of life, it was finally realized, is seamless. This conviction grew as millions of Americans saw with their own eyes the steady spread of air and water pollution in their own neighborhoods to levels hazardous to life. The intolerable consequences of dramatic off-shore oil spills, deadening smog, filthy rivers, and diminishing open space were evident on every hand. Scientists announced that the very foundations of life on earth were in jeopardy because of the profound impact of modern technology on the total ecology of the globe. But among all the factors that forced Americans to turn their full attention to the life-giving qualities of their environment, none equalled the landing on the moon. The truth came as a revelation. Viewed from outer space, the planet earth is a small green orb in an apparently lifeless immensity and man's only home.

The first comprehensive response to this revelation was Congressional passage of the National Environmental Policy Act signed by President Nixon on January 1, 1970. This legislation has been called by Senator Henry Jackson of Washington "the most important and far-reaching environmental and conservation measure ever acted upon by the Congress. . . ; The survival of man, in a world in which decency and dignity are possible, is the basic reason for bringing man's impact on his environment under informed and responsible control." The act established new national environmental goals for the United States and forged new administrative instruments for environmental conservation. Under its authority, during 1970, President Nixon created two major new agencies. One, the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President, monitors environmental conservation. The other, the Environmental Protection Agency, consolidates into one agency the major Federal programs dealing with air pollution, water pollution, solid waste disposal, pesticides, and environmental radiation. After these developments, the roles of the National Park System and Service in American life had to be viewed anew in the light of their relationship to the quality of our total environment.

One specific response was development of a National Park Service program for environmental education beginning as early as 1968. The program was called NEED, or National Environmental Education Development, aimed especially at bringing school children to a critical awareness of their environment, but also directed to all park visitors. It included designation of Environmental Study Areas on National Park System lands to be used primarily by school children to help them understand their total environment, its many interdependent relationships, and their part in it. In 1971 a further program was adopted to confer national recognition on non-federal sites possessing outstanding quality for environmental education by designating them National Environmental Education Landmarks. Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton designated the first eleven sites in 1971, situated in nine states and the District of Columbia.

In a broad sense, all the interdependent and developing programs of the National Park Service are aimed at contributing to the formation of a new environmental ethic among the American people, "a foundation on which our citizens may renew and preserve the quality of our national life." The National Park System in all its unity and diversity came to be seen as an on-going expression of America's continuing regard for its land and its history, one of the wellsprings for a new land ethic supported by a renewed sense of our national identity.

[Continue](#) >>>

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

 [Top](#)

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on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[► Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System



Part VII

part VII

THE FIRST CENTURY

We have completed our account of the first century's growth of the National Park System with all its branches and fruits. America's National Parks have hundreds of descendants in scores of other countries on all the continents. But that is another story — important, fascinating, and very well told by others. We make no attempt to relate it here.

The *Family Tree* graphically illustrates the gradual emergence and present status of the diversified National Park System in the United States. Here is a summary of the System as it stood on March 1, 1972.

<i>Natural Areas:</i>	
National Parks	37
National Monuments	35
Natl. Scien. Res.	1
Other	1
Total	74
<i>Historical Areas:</i>	
Historic Sites and Buildings	153
National Memorials	19
Total	172
<i>Recreational Areas:</i>	
National Parkways	5
Reservoir-related Recreation Areas	13
National Seashores & Lakeshores	12
National Scenic Riverways	3
National Scenic Trails	1
Former Rec. Dem. Areas	2
Total	36
<i>Cultural Areas:</i>	
Performing Arts Center	1
Total	1
<i>National Capital Parks:</i>	
Urban System	1

embracing 720 reservations	
Total	1
GRAND TOTAL	284

For comparative purposes, we also present the following tabulation to illustrate the status of the different categories of areas at various intervals during the past century. Areas merged with others or abolished during this period do not show in this tabulation.

National Park System Areas by Category

Date	Natural Areas	Historical Areas	Recreation Areas	Cultural Areas	N. Cap. Parks	Other	TOTAL
1916	26	8				1	35
1933							
Before Reorg.	46	20					66
After Reorg.	58	77	1		1		137
1964	65	144	16		1		226
1972	74	172	36	1	1		284

Closely related to the National Park System, though not a part of it, are the various categories of landmarks and registered historical and natural properties officially designated by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion on national lists. On March 1, 1972, there were 1,013 National Historic Landmarks and 2,601 other historical properties officially entered on the National Register of Historic Places, or a total of 3,614. There were also 167 Registered Natural Landmarks, and 11 National Environmental Education Landmarks.

It is also relevant to examine the number of visits to the principal categories of areas — a subject on which many conservationists are meagerly informed. These are the figures for the calendar year 1970, the latest year for which statistics are available:

Visits during 1970:	
Natural Areas	53,978,300
Historical Areas	57,803,800
Recreation Areas	51,513,000
National Capital Parks	9,011,800
	172,307,500

It is a surprise to find the number of visits to each of the three principal categories of areas roughly equal. Of course, visits to natural

areas are likely to be of longer duration than visits to historical or recreational areas. However, day-use predominates throughout the System.

Can any useful conclusions be drawn from this chronicle of its first hundred years as the National Park System enters its second century? We choose to leave that exercise for our readers to pursue. It is enough here to observe that the record of the System's first century invites reflection and pondering by everyone dedicated to conserving our national heritage.

We conclude our presentation with the definition of the National Park System written into law in 1970 by the Congress of the United States. The General Authorities Act of that year, Public Law 91-383, signed by President Nixon on August 18, 1970, reads in part as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress declares that the national park system, which began with establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, has since grown to include superlative natural, historic, and recreation areas in every major region of the United States, its territories and island possessions; that these areas, though distinct in character, are united through their inter-related purposes and resources into one national park system as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage; that, individually and collectively, these areas derive increased national dignity and recognition of their superb environmental quality through their inclusion jointly with each other in one national park system preserved and managed for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States; and that it is the purpose of this Act to include all such areas in the System and to clarify the authorities applicable to the system.

[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

▲ [Top](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/lee7.htm



on-line book

family tree
of the
national park system

NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

► [Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Acknowledgements



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This account of the growth of the National Park System benefited much from the researches and writings of others and the generous help of many colleagues and friends. It seemed unnecessary to burden the general reader with footnotes and a bibliography but a number of important references are cited directly in the text for those who may wish to delve further into Service history. I gratefully acknowledge here some of the other major references used and assistance cheerfully given me by individual persons.

The Service is greatly indebted to the late Edmund B. Rogers, long-time Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, for compiling with infinite patience and meticulous care 108 volumes of official documents which illuminate the legislative history of the National Park System. Rogers work is entitled *History of Legislation Relating to the National Park System through the 82d Congress*. One complete set of this voluminous collection of carefully arranged photostats, with helpful chronological tables and lists, is on deposit in the Departmental Library, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. Mr. Leonard Bikowski, Librarian, was most helpful in providing me with access to this invaluable collection, which I used extensively. Readers should know that some years ago the Service distributed two duplicate sets of the Rogers collection among the regional offices and the parks where relevant volumes should still be available for consultation by interested persons.

On a smaller scale, but indispensable, is a body of documents compiled by former Assistant Director Hillory A. Tolson entitled *Laws Relating to the National Park Service, the National Parks and Monuments* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1933). Two supplementary volumes cover legislation enacted in later years—*Supplement I*, July 1933 through April 1944 (Thomas Alan Sullivan, comp.) and *Supplement II*, May 1944 to January 1963 (Hillory A. Tolson, comp.). Thomas Alan Sullivan also compiled *Proclamations and Orders Relating to the National Park Service up to January 1, 1945* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1947). These helpful volumes, and in some cases later unbound supplements, are available in the Service's central and regional offices and many parks. While not so widely available the *Annual Reports* of the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior are full of valuable historical data. The Service's information publication entitled *National Parks & Landmarks: areas administered by the National Park Service and related properties as of January 1, 1972* is a mine of useful knowledge, updated every two years.

One of the most useful secondary works is John Ise, *Our National Park Policy, A Critical History* (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1961). This work is especially valuable on the earlier periods and through World War II. It contains detailed histories of each of the national parks established before 1960. Another valuable study is Paul Herman Buck, *The Evolution of the National Park System in the United States* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1946). Two indispensable books are Robert Shankland, *Steve Mather of the National Parks: Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970) and Donald C. Swain, *Wilderness Defender: Horace M. Albright and Conservation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970). A special aspect of Service history is described in Ronald F. Lee's *The Antiquities Act of 1906*, published by the Service in 1970. The author has in preparation a general history of the national military parks and national memorials which has also provided useful data for the present account.

There are many histories of individual parks—books, pamphlets, articles, manuscript histories—far too many to list here. Examples range from Louis C. Cramton's *Early History of Yellowstone Park and Its Relation to National Park Policies* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1932) and Carl P. Russell's *One Hundred Years in Yosemite* (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association, 1957) to such recent productions as Harley E. Jolley's *The Blue Ridge Parkway* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1969). There are excellent though little known histories of the Washington Monument, the Statue of Liberty, and many other historical areas. For years the Division of History has actively encouraged the writing of administrative histories of parks lacking such accounts and two or three appear each year. It is to be hoped the Service will compile and issue a bibliography of these and other contributions to Service history as an encouragement to research and understanding. It would make a good Centennial project.

Perhaps the single most informative element in this publication is the *Family Tree* chart itself. I am indebted to Vincent Gleason and his colleagues, particularly Dennis McLaughlin for developing my initial sketch into the expressive work of [graphic art](#) which accompanies this publication. I am also indebted to Mr. Gleason for suggesting the format of the book. Bruce Hopkins provided valuable editorial assistance on the galley proofs and all the later stages of production, and Linda Meyers aided on design and layout.

I benefited much from the generous and knowledgeable help of a number of colleagues and friends. I am indebted to Chief Historian Robert M. Utley for carefully reading and skillfully editing the entire manuscript. Assistant Director Theodor R. Swem also read the manuscript and offered suggestions which substantially improved the accuracy of its later portions. John R. Vosburgh, Chief, Branch of Features, reviewed the entire text and his knowledge saved me from a number of errors. Members of the Director's Centennial Advisory Committee encouraged me to complete and publish the *Family Tree*, particularly former Directors Horace M. Albright and Conrad L. Wirth, former Associate Director Eivind Scoyen and the Honorable Ben Reifel, long-time Representative in Congress from South Dakota.

Others to whom I am indebted for advice and help include Frank Barnes, Harthorn L. Bill, Chester L. Brooks, William C. Everhart, Cornelius W. Heine, Ruth Anne Heriot, T. Sutton Jett, Stanley McClure, Bruce J. Miller, Franklin R. Mullaly, Murray H. Nelligan, George A. Palmer, John D. R. Platt, Horace J. Sheely and Frank Ugolini. Mrs. Sharon Anderson, my secretary, aided me in compiling the numerous chronological tables in the text and typed the entire manuscript with great care.

Publication of the *Family Tree* at this time was made possible through the wise counsel of my long-time colleague and friend, Herbert E. Kahler, the help of his associate, Robert J. Smentek, and the generous support of the Board of Directors of the Eastern National Park and Monument Association.

Lastly, I express my special appreciation to Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. for encouraging me to undertake this publication and for providing me with the opportunity to complete it. He read the first draft of the manuscript in its entirety and offered valuable suggestions. His continuing support made the publication possible.

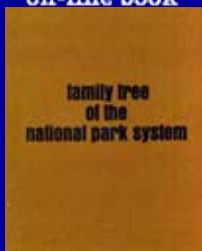
[History](#) | [Links to the Past](#) | [National Park Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

 [Top](#)

Last Modified: Sat, May 12 2001 10:08 am PDT
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/lee2/leea.htm



on-line book



NPS Family Tree

MENU

[Contents](#)

[Foreword](#)

[Introduction](#)

► [Part I](#)

[Part II](#)

[Part III](#)

[Part IV](#)

[Part V](#)

[Part VI](#)

[Part VII](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Abbreviations](#)

Family Tree of the National Park System

Part I



part I

BEGINNINGS

THE NATIONAL PARK LINE, 1872-1916

Yellowstone National Park, established March 1, 1872, marks the beginning of the National Park line and the center of gravity of the chart. A historian of National Park policies, John Ise, calls the Yellowstone Act "so dramatic a departure from the general public land policy of Congress, it seems almost a miracle." Although Yosemite State Park, created by Federal cession in 1864 to protect Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, was an important conservation milestone, Yellowstone was the first full and unfettered embodiment of the National Park idea—the world's first example of large-scale wilderness preservation for all the people. The United States has since exported the idea around the globe.

The remarkable Yellowstone Act withdrew some two million acres of public land in Wyoming and Montana Territories from settlement, occupancy, or sale and dedicated it "as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Furthermore, the law provided for preservation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, and wonders within the park "in their natural condition." The twin purposes of preservation and use, so important and so susceptible to conflict, yet so eloquently reaffirmed by Congress when the National Park Service was established in 1916, were there from the beginning.

Once invented—and Yellowstone National Park was an important social invention—the National Park idea was attacked by special interests, stoutly defended by friends in Congress, and refined and confirmed between 1872 and 1916. During this period fourteen more National Parks were created, most of them closely following the Yellowstone prototype. Their establishment extended the National Park concept throughout the West. Here are the successive areas:

1872, March	1	Yellowstone, Mont.-Wyo.-Idaho
1875, March	3	Mackinac Island, Mich. (ceded to Michigan, 1895)
1890, Sept.	25	Sequoia, Calif.
Oct.	1	Yosemite, Calif.
Oct.	1	General Grant, Calif.
1899, March	22	Mount Rainier, Wash.

1902, May	22	Crater Lake, Ore.
1903, Jan.	9	Wind Cave, S. Dak.
1904, April	27	Sullys Hill, N. Dak. (converted to Game Preserve, 1931)
1906, June	29	Platt, Okla.
1906, June	29	Mesa Verde, Colo.
1910, May	11	Glacier, Mont.
1915, Jan.	26	Rocky Mountain, Colo.
1916, Aug.	1	Hawaii, Hawaii
1916, Aug.	9	Lassen Volcanic, Calif.
1916, Aug.	25	Enabling Act to create a National Park Service

Each of these National Parks has its own unique history. Collectively, this history is dotted with names important in conservation including, among many others, Frederick Law Olmsted; Cornelius Hedges and Nathaniel P. Langford; Professor F. V. Hayden; John Muir; William Gladstone Steel; George Bird Grinnell; J. Horace McFarland; successive Secretaries of the Interior from Carl Schurz to Franklin K. Lane; many members of Congress including Rep. John Fletcher Lacey of Iowa and Senator George G. Vest of Missouri; and successive Presidents including Ulysses S. Grant and Theodore Roosevelt.

One milestone in this history is notable—the emergence of a distinction between National Parks and National Forests. Eighteen years elapsed after the Yellowstone Act before another scenic park was authorized, and then three — Sequoia, Yosemite, and General Grant — were created in the single year of 1890. Yosemite and General Grant were set aside as "reserved forest lands," but like Sequoia they were modeled after Yellowstone and named National Parks administratively by the Secretary of the Interior. The very next year, in the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, Congress separated the idea of forest conservation from the National Park idea. That act granted the President authority to create, by executive proclamation, permanent forest reserves on the public domain. Here is the fork in the road beyond which National Parks and National Forests proceeded by separate paths. Within sixteen years, Presidents Cleveland, McKinley, and particularly Theodore Roosevelt established 159 National Forests containing more than 150 million acres. By 1916 Presidents Taft and Wilson had added another 26 million acres. During this same period each new National Park had to be created by individual Act of Congress, usually after many years of work. Nevertheless, by 1916 eleven National Parks including such superlative areas as Mount Rainier, Crater Lake, Mesa Verde, Glacier, Rocky Mountain, and Hawaii, had been added to the original four and Mackinac abolished, bringing the total number to fourteen and the acreage to approximately 4,750,000.

Establishment of these first National Parks reflected in part changing American attitudes toward nature. The old colonial and pioneering emphasis on rapid exploitation of seemingly inexhaustible resources was at last giving way, among some influential Americans, to an awakened awareness of the beauty and wonder of nature. In his book *Nature and the American*, published by the University of California

Press in 1957, Dr. Hans Huth presents a fascinating account of the changing viewpoints toward nature in the United States which preceded and accompanied the rise of the conservation movement. America's leadership in National Parks is further explained by Dr. Roderick Nash in a stimulating article entitled "The American Invention of National Parks" published in the Fall 1970 issue of *American Quarterly*. In his view it resulted from four main factors—our unique experience with nature on the American continent, our democratic ideals, our vast public domain, and our affluent society.

The movement that resulted in making Yellowstone the world's first National Park had its specific origins, however, in the discoveries of the Folsom-Cook Expedition of 1869, the Washburn-Doane Expedition of 1870, and the Hayden Expedition of 1871. The spirit of the discoverers, embodied into law through the efforts of Delegate William H. Clagett of Montana, Rep. Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, Senator Samuel C. Pomeroy of Kansas, and others, is symbolized by discussions the Washburn-Doane party held around their campfire at Madison Junction on September 19, 1870, as their trip neared its end. Nathaniel P. Langford related the story in his diary published many years later, a story so often retold in later years it has become the single best known Service tradition:

Last night, and also this morning in camp, the entire party had a rather unusual discussion. The proposition was made by some member that we utilize the result of our exploration by taking up quarter sections of land at the most prominent points of interest, and a general discussion followed. One member of our party suggested that if there could be secured by pre-emption a good title to two or three quarter sections of land opposite the lower fall of the Yellowstone and extending down the river along the canyon, they would eventually become a source of great profit to the owners. Another member of the party thought that it would be more desirable to take up a quarter section of land at the Upper Geyser Basin, for the reason that that locality could be more easily reached by tourists and pleasure seekers. A third suggestion was that each member of the party pre-empt a claim, and in order that no one should have an advantage over the others, the whole should be thrown into a common pool for the benefit of the entire party.

Mr. Hedges then said that he did not approve of any of these plans—that there ought to be no private ownership of any portion of that region, but that the whole of it ought to be set apart as a great National Park, and that each one of us ought to make an effort to have this accomplished.

The appeal of this story lies in the judgment by these Montana pioneers a century ago that, in projecting the future of Yellowstone's superlative natural wonders, the public good should be placed above exploitation for private gain. Concern that private land claimants would soon seek to exploit these wonders was shared by many supporters of the Yellowstone Act including Prof. Hayden, Delegate Clagett, and Senator Lyman Trumbull of Illinois. The issue of public good versus private gain, seldom as clearly drawn as at Yellowstone, is a recurring theme throughout the history of the National Park System. The whole modern movement for environmental conservation echoes with the same conflict. Yellowstone National Park stands as an enduring symbol of enlightened response to this issue, the kind of response even more urgently needed today if we are to succeed in preserving our environmental heritage.

When establishment of the National Park Service finally came under consideration in Congress in 1916, J. Horace McFarland, President of the American Civic Association and an outstanding conservationist, expressed the views of many others in the following words, taken from his testimony before the House Committee on the Public Lands:

The parks are the Nation's pleasure grounds and the Nation's restoring places, recreation grounds. . . . The national parks, Mr. Chairman, are an American idea; it is one thing we have that has not been imported. . . . Each one of these national parks in America is the result of some great man's thought of service to his fellow citizens. These parks did not just happen; they came about because earnest men and women became violently excited at the possibility of these great assets passing from public control. . . . These great parks are, in the highest degree, as they stand today, a sheer expression of democracy, the separation of these lands from the public domain, to be held for the public, instead of being opened to private settlement.

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Natural Areas—74

- 37 National Parks
- 37 Nature Monuments
- 2 Wilderness Areas
- 167 Registered Natural Landmarks
- 11 National Environmental Education Landmarks

Historical Areas—172

- 153 Historic Sites and Buildings
- 19 National Memorials
- 1,013 National Historic Landmarks
- 3,614 Historic Sites in National Register

Recreation Areas—36

- 5 National Parkways
- 13 National Recreation Areas
- 12 National Seashores and Lakeshores
- 3 National Scenic Riverways
- 1 National Scenic Trail
- 2 Former Recreational Demonstration Areas

Cultural Areas—1

- 1 Park for the Performing Arts

National Capital Parks—1

- 720 Reservations

A System of 284 Parklands 1972

1970

Redwood National Park 1968

National Historic Preservation Act 1966

White House Conference on Natural Beauty 1965

Land and Water Conservation Fund 1964

Wilderness Act

Ozark, First National Scenic Riverway

Ice Age, First Nat. Scientific Reserve

1960

Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Comm. 1959

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area 1958

Virgin Islands National Park 1956

Fort Union National Monument 1954

1950

Grand Teton National Park 1950

Independence National Historical Park 1948

1972 National Parks Centennial

1970 National Environmental Policy Act

1968 Appalachian, First National Scenic Trail

1966 Wolf Trap Farm Park, First Cultural Area

1964 Reorganization

Division into Natural, Historical, and Recreational Areas and NCP

1962 Point Reyes and Padre Island National Seashores

1961 Cape Cod National Seashore

1959 Minute Man National Historical Park

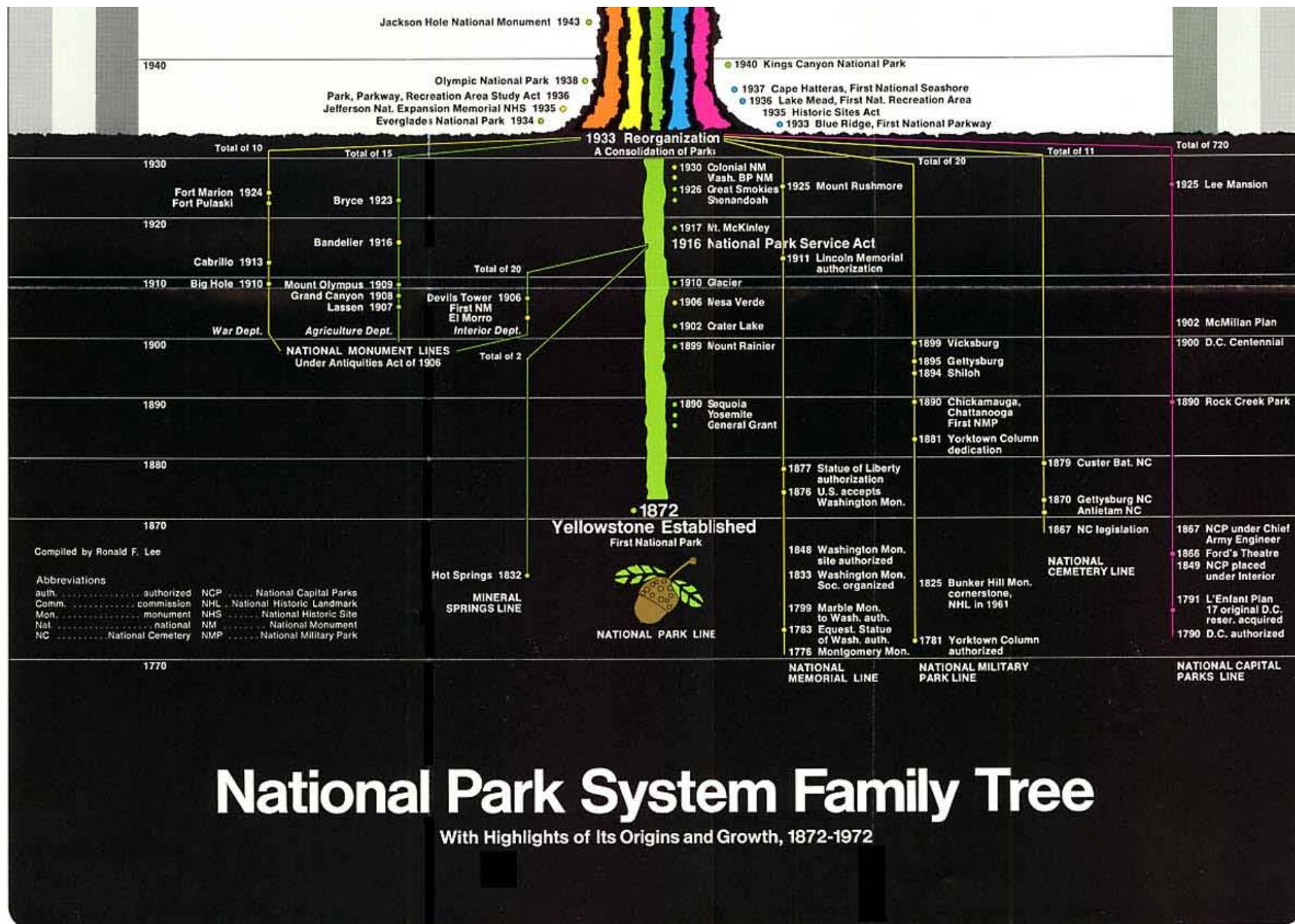
1956 Mission 66 Begins

1955 Edison Home National Historic Site

1951 Grand Portage National Historic Site

1949 National Trust for Historic Preservation

1946 Adams National Historic Site



National Park System Family Tree

With Highlights of Its Origins and Growth, 1872-1972



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- [Maritime Heritage](#)
- [Park National Register Documentation](#)
- [History of the NPS](#)
- [Electronic Resources](#)



Manzanar National Historic Site in California

The Park History Program, begun in 1931, preserves and protects our nation's cultural and natural resources by conducting research on national parks, national historic landmarks, park planning and special history studies, oral histories, and interpretive and management plans. Our staff helps evaluate proposed new parks, and we support cultural resources personnel in parks, regional offices, and Washington in all matters relating to the history and mission of the Park Service.

Located in Washington and led by the chief historian, the program offers a window into the historical richness of the National Park System and the opportunities it presents for understanding who

we are, where we have been, and how we as a society, might approach the future. For questions about any of the program areas below, please [contact us](#).

Park History Program Areas:

- For the National Park Service [oral history](#) has long been an invaluable way to document the history of individual parks and the people and events the parks commemorate. Interviews also safeguard the collective memory and expertise of the people who have shaped the Park Service over the years.
- As the Deputy Federal Preservation Office for the National Park Service, we manage [park National Register documentation](#) and assist parks and regional offices with Register and National Historic Landmark preparation.
- The [Maritime Heritage](#) program documents and protects National Park Service and nationally significant maritime resources. It also administers the National Maritime

Heritage Grant Program that provides matching funds for maritime preservation, restoration and education.

- The National Park Service recognizes the value added to its conservation mission by a comprehensive understanding of the [agency's history](#). The origins and development of our parks and programs tell their own story about how Americans have identified, managed, and interpreted special places across the country.



Historic grave markers on the Chilkoot Trail, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska.

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