



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FACT SHEET

The National Park Service cares for America's more than 400 national parks...and works in almost every one of her 3,141 counties.

National Park Service professionals take our mission on the road offering advice, technical assistance, recognition, and even cold, hard cash to help communities across the country preserve their own history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

We are honored to be invited into America's towns and cities to work with those who share our commitment to conservation, preservation, and recreation. Find out what's happening in **your community** (<https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>).

We value **dynamic conversations** (<http://www.nps.gov/civic/>) that enhance public engagement. We are proud to join forces with Indian tribes, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, private citizens, and other partners, to build trails and playgrounds, return historic buildings to productive use, revitalize neighborhoods, protect watersheds, and recognize and promote local history.

And the results are tangible.

Working with our partners the National Park Service has:

- leveraged more than \$55 billion in historic preservation investment through tax incentives (<http://www.nps.gov/tps/taxincentives.htm>) awarded more than \$5 billion in preservation (<http://www.nps.gov/history/preservation.htm>) and outdoor recreation (<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>) grants
- listed more than 85,000 properties in the National Register of Historic Places (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>)
- designated more than 1,000 National Recreation Trails (<http://www.nps.gov/nrt/>)

We can also help you ...

- Honor our nation's history at national historic landmarks (<http://www.nps.gov/nhl/>), national historic trails (<http://www.nps.gov/nts/>), and national heritage areas (<http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas/>)
- Conserve rivers (<http://www.nps.gov/pwsr/>), plan, build, and preserve open spaces (<http://www.nps.gov/rtca/>) and outdoor recreation places (<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>)
- Document (<http://www.nps.gov/hdp/>) historic buildings, structures, and landscapes

- Turn surplus federal land (<http://www.nps.gov/flp>) into local parks and acquire surplus federal buildings (<http://www.nps.gov/tps/historicsurplus.htm>) for community uses

Learn more about the National Park Service's community-based **historic preservation** (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/index.htm>), **civic engagement** (<http://www.nps.gov/civic/>), and **outdoor recreation** (<http://www.nps.gov/rtca/>) programs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What government agency oversees the National Park Service?**

The National Park Service is a bureau of the **Department of the Interior**.

### **How many employees are in the National Park Service?**

- Permanent, temporary, and seasonal: Approximately 22,000 diverse professionals
- Volunteers in Parks: 400,000 (in fiscal year 2015)

### **How old is the National Park System?**

The National Park Service was created by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. Yellowstone National Park was established by an Act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872, as the nation's first national park.

### **How many areas are in the National Park System?**

The system includes 417 areas covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House.

### **How many people visit the national parks?**

- Total recreation visitors to the national parks in 2015: 307,247,252

### **How do I obtain a park pass?**

You can obtain park passes by visiting your nearest park site. Most sites have passes available; we recommend calling a park prior to your visit.

### **How do I make reservations for camping/lodging in national parks?**

For campground reservations, [visit Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Not all parks participate in this service; many campgrounds are first come, first served. For more information on specific camping and lodging services offered at the park(s) of your interest, please check the **specific park websites** ([https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index\\_old.htm](https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index_old.htm)).