



National Park Service U.S.
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Office of Communications
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National Park Service News Release

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National Park Service seeks public input on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Special Resource Study

Comment period runs June 22 to July 20

Public invited to attend virtual meeting, submit written comments

ATLANTA — On June 22, the National Park Service (NPS) will open a 30-day public comment period on a study evaluating the potential for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama to be designated as a unit of the national park system. It is currently administered by the NPS within the scope of the [National Trails System](#).

Congress this year directed the Department of the Interior, which oversees the NPS, to conduct a one-year special resource study (SRS) of the 54-mile route to further evaluate:

1. Resources associated with the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery not currently part of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail that would be appropriate for addition to the Trail; and
2. The potential designation of the Trail as a unit of the national park system instead of, or in addition to, remaining a designated part of the National Trails System.

As part of the study process, the NPS will host a virtual public meeting and receive written comments to ensure consideration of the public's views and insights.

“Public input will be critical as the NPS works to conduct a meaningful review of the resources and values associated with the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to

Montgomery,” said Ben West, regional planning program manager, National Park Service.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY?

A special resource study examines the eligibility of an area for designation as a new unit of the national park system. A potential site is evaluated according to four congressionally established criteria: (1) national significance, (2) suitability, (3) feasibility and (4) the need for NPS management. At the conclusion of the study, the NPS will submit its findings to the Secretary of the Interior, who then makes a recommendation to Congress for consideration. New NPS units can only be established by an Act of Congress or by Presidential Proclamation. The study is expected to be completed in 2023.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The NPS will involve the public in the study by gathering information from the public about the sites and events of the 1965 Voting Rights March in Alabama, determining the level of local and general public support and identifying any issues or concerns associated with an area's potential inclusion in the national park system.

The NPS will host a virtual public meeting on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Special Resource Study on June 23 at 3:00-4:00 pm CT. Instructions for registering to attend the public meeting will be available on the project website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/SEMOSRS>. In this virtual public meeting, the NPS will share information about the study process, including the criteria used to evaluate a site for inclusion in the national park system, and answer questions.

Comments will be accepted June 22 through July 20:

- Online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/SEMOSRS>
- By mail, postmarked by July 20:
 -
 - National Park Service
 - Denver Service Center
 - 12795 West Alameda Parkway
 - P.O. Box 25287
 - Denver, CO 80225-0287
 - Attn: Julie Bell - SEMO SRS
- By phone: Contact Julie Bell (project manager) at 303-987-6726

For updates and information about the SRS, visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/SEMOSRS>.

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About the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. [The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail](#) was established by Congress in 1996 to include 54 miles of city streets and United States Highway 80 from Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma to the State Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, traveled by voting rights advocates during March 1965 to dramatize the need for voting rights legislation.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).