



## The National Park Service

How did the National Park Service form? What are its primary functions today? Explore resources and discuss the future of the National Park Service 101 years after its creation.

### Key Facts<sup>1</sup>

- The National Park Service covers more than 84 million acres and is composed of 417 sites, including historical parks or sites, national monuments, national parks, battlefields, recreation areas, seashores, parkways, lakeshores, and reserves.
- The National Park Service employs more than 22,000 permanent, temporary, and seasonal workers.
- The National Park Service operates as a bureau within the Department of the Interior, and was formally established by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916.

### Facts to Find Out

1. What lands were designated and set aside for the creation of national parks?
2. What controversies might have surrounded the designation of public lands adjacent to land currently or previously held by indigenous groups?
3. What is the mission of the National Park Service, and how do we see that play out?

### Listen

#### **“Don’t Care about National Parks? The Park Service Needs You To” from All Things Considered**

<https://goo.gl/E6QaQv>

This radio feature illustrates the challenges faced by Saguaro National Park as it works to establish its relevance and bridge the gap between visitors and the minority populations of Tucson, AZ.

---

<sup>1</sup> From National Park Service Overview (<https://goo.gl/L5RZ6S>) and Mission of the National Park Service (<https://goo.gl/3wbWFw>)





## Read

***The National Parks: Shaping the System* by Barry Mackintosh**  
333.783 N PBK

This volume provides a brief, concise overview of the National Park Service.

***The National Parks: America's Best Idea* by Dayton Duncan**  
333.783 D

The coffee-table book is a companion to Ken Burns's PBS documentary of the same name.

***Nature Writings: The Story of My Boyhood and Youth, My First Summer in the Sierra, the Mountains of California, Stickeen, Selected Essays* by John Muir**  
508.74092 M

This collection is among the best, most stirring works by America's earliest and most eloquent preservationist.

## Watch

***The National Parks: America's Best Idea* by Ken Burns**  
Adult DVDs – Nonfiction 333.783 N pt.1-6

This 12-hour PBS documentary by an acclaimed filmmaker covers the history of the National Parks.

***Yellowstone* from BBC Worldwide Americas**  
Adult DVDs – Nonfiction 978.752 Y

View the ecosystem of the world's first national park.

## Explore

***Natural Sounds from the National Park Service***  
<https://goo.gl/UjNczm>

Can't get to a national park any time soon? Awaken a sense of wonder through the world of sound, from bugling elks to the sound of a solar eclipse, through the National Park Service's ongoing work to catalog, classify, and amplify sounds heard in its many spaces.

