

# National Park Service 2008 Director's Report

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior





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**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Dirk Kempthorne**  
*Secretary of the Interior*

**Mary A. Bomar**  
*Director, National Park Service*

*Our nation's founders said it best:  
"E Pluribus Unum — Out of Many, One."*

*This outstanding year was made possible by  
an equally outstanding team: the exceptional  
members of the National Leadership Council;  
our visionary Secretary, Dirk Kempthorne;  
and every one of our dedicated employees,  
partners, and volunteers.*

*My heartfelt thanks to them all for making my  
final year as Director the best it could possibly  
be, for me, for our visitors, and for the special  
places entrusted to our care.*

Mary A. Bomar

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**National Park Service National Leadership Council**  
*November 2008*

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**National Park Service 2008 Director's Report**

Read it online at: [www.nps.gov/2008DirectorsReport](http://www.nps.gov/2008DirectorsReport)

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Design: Dennis | Konetzka | Design Group

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Front cover: A National Park Service Ranger raises the flag at New River Gorge National River in West Virginia. Photograph: Joseph Sohm/Visions of America/Alamy

# The National Park Service in Your State

## Notes

1. Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits (1995–2008). Data for previous years not available by state. Total private investment leveraged since program began in 1976 is \$48 billion.
2. Grants from the National Park Service include: Land and Water Conservation Fund grants (1965–2008), Historic Preservation Fund grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (1978–2008), Tribal projects grants (1990–2008), American Battlefield Protection Program planning grants (1992–2008), NAGPRA grants (1994–2008), National Center for Preservation Technology and Training grants (1994–2008), grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (1995–2008), Historic Preservation Fund grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (1996–2008), Save America’s Treasures grants (1999–2008), American Battlefield Protection Program land acquisition grants (1999–2008), and Preserve America grants (2006–2008). Total includes grants to Palau (\$57,400), Northern Mariana Islands (\$3,895,531) and multi-state grants (\$519,700).
3. Total includes 779 objects from the Northern Mariana Islands.
4. Federal Lands to Parks, surplus federal property transferred since 1948.
5. There are also National Register listed properties in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (4), Federated States of Micronesia (26), Minor Islands (39), Republic of Palau (2), Northern Mariana Islands (36) and Morocco (1).
6. Documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, Historic American Landscapes Survey, and Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems.
7. There are also National Historic Landmarks in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (2), Federated States of Micronesia (2), Midway Islands (1), Republic of Palau (1), Wake Island (1), Northern Mariana Islands (2) and Morocco (1). If totaled, the column would equal more than 2,461 as some NHLs are in more than one state. Sixteen designated on October 6, 2008 are included in the total.
8. Projects of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (1987–2008).
9. If totaled, the column would equal more than 391 as some parks are in more than one state.

State	Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits (1)	Grants Awarded (2)	Objects in Park Collections (3)	Federal Acres Transferred for Local Parks (4)	National Register Listings (5)	Historic Sites Documented (6)	National Historic Landmarks (7)	Community Recreation/Conservation Projects (8)	National Natural Landmarks	National Parks (9)
<b>Alabama</b>	\$341,272,142	\$100,252,889	265,878	4,068	1,212	1,225	36	23	7	7
<b>Alaska</b>	\$3,925,537	\$66,456,409	4,004,924	266	406	507	48	70	16	23
<b>American Samoa</b>	\$0	\$6,127,326	20,393	0	21	0	2	0	7	1
<b>Arizona</b>	\$58,113,492	\$86,113,957	4,376,992	832	1,291	491	40	48	9	22
<b>Arkansas</b>	\$93,897,028	\$75,176,263	1,779,644	852	2,408	140	17	11	5	6
<b>California</b>	\$1,464,421,731	\$346,666,593	19,807,830	12,602	2,395	3,130	136	129	35	24
<b>Colorado</b>	\$390,230,250	\$87,547,381	4,698,288	3,014	1,347	871	20	53	11	13
<b>Connecticut</b>	\$454,490,598	\$87,695,992	210,203	297	1,503	637	59	31	7	2
<b>Delaware</b>	\$75,176,261	\$52,756,557	0	2,444	676	390	12	15	0	0
<b>District of Columbia</b>	\$340,057,685	\$38,983,037	2,788,785	0	490	974	74	12	0	22
<b>Florida</b>	\$479,574,070	\$156,662,491	8,390,074	11,452	1,573	631	40	44	18	11
<b>Georgia</b>	\$533,023,416	\$115,072,937	3,452,054	3,802	1,980	883	48	33	10	11
<b>Guam</b>	\$0	\$8,926,407	11,561	88	115	4	0	0	4	1
<b>Hawai'i</b>	\$8,481,512	\$51,526,685	877,979	368	325	635	33	25	7	7
<b>Idaho</b>	\$12,146,885	\$55,960,292	389,617	2,915	1,000	369	10	27	11	7
<b>Illinois</b>	\$1,020,376,443	\$183,752,323	514,529	5,020	1,661	879	83	48	18	1
<b>Indiana</b>	\$568,705,915	\$102,284,718	172,171	12,565	1,636	409	37	39	29	3
<b>Iowa</b>	\$291,209,365	\$75,735,409	151,179	906	2,068	481	24	35	7	2
<b>Kansas</b>	\$124,575,022	\$64,754,468	228,074	899	1,118	200	23	9	5	5
<b>Kentucky</b>	\$297,693,910	\$94,578,238	1,311,234	7,474	3,251	393	30	18	6	4
<b>Louisiana</b>	\$991,999,180	\$118,688,642	461,007	1,125	1,326	488	54	34	0	5
<b>Maine</b>	\$57,816,819	\$57,939,967	1,307,601	273	1,504	302	41	58	14	3
<b>Maryland</b>	\$918,012,309	\$110,421,240	770,588	1,525	1,445	1,523	71	64	5	16
<b>Massachusetts</b>	\$1,437,277,087	\$140,045,266	5,425,758	6,835	4,062	1,621	184	50	11	15
<b>Michigan</b>	\$625,910,340	\$156,425,440	694,711	4,503	1,699	619	34	54	12	4
<b>Minnesota</b>	\$407,552,422	\$97,237,765	288,300	508	1,570	560	22	47	7	5
<b>Mississippi</b>	\$79,045,711	\$104,445,947	1,362,199	796	1,308	336	39	21	5	8
<b>Missouri</b>	\$2,460,440,561	\$110,286,578	2,071,797	6,336	1,958	1,323	37	37	16	6
<b>Montana</b>	\$38,632,062	\$61,336,835	761,988	120	1,033	399	25	20	10	8
<b>Nebraska</b>	\$244,580,838	\$59,900,992	256,519	1,152	980	111	20	43	5	5
<b>Nevada</b>	\$7,290,996	\$57,268,811	249,374	432	360	290	7	34	6	3
<b>New Hampshire</b>	\$27,980,987	\$52,179,322	55,419	184	716	278	22	59	11	2
<b>New Jersey</b>	\$641,965,586	\$138,459,932	6,134,657	2,143	1,572	1,569	55	37	11	8
<b>New Mexico</b>	\$13,633,974	\$69,647,389	6,056,540	1,808	1,077	246	43	42	12	13
<b>New York</b>	\$2,271,231,561	\$299,140,074	3,030,402	6,452	5,027	1,928	263	74	25	22
<b>North Carolina</b>	\$780,486,634	\$117,092,143	1,517,476	245	2,648	493	38	32	13	10
<b>North Dakota</b>	\$40,517,883	\$49,796,255	755,893	100	410	126	5	5	4	3
<b>Ohio</b>	\$1,332,801,505	\$182,451,421	726,957	2,623	3,725	846	69	41	23	7
<b>Oklahoma</b>	\$138,582,378	\$83,936,742	168,933	1,350	1,133	68	20	16	3	3
<b>Oregon</b>	\$324,141,450	\$80,978,220	425,388	3,472	1,883	464	16	73	7	5
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	\$2,098,785,909	\$212,689,245	9,371,106	9,718	3,228	3,693	160	127	26	18
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	\$0	\$53,567,384	230,529	4,650	286	165	4	0	5	1
<b>Rhode Island</b>	\$557,416,381	\$65,256,081	11,165	1,881	738	463	44	19	1	1
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$188,095,883	\$93,596,290	605,417	7,850	1,422	1,107	77	13	6	6
<b>South Dakota</b>	\$52,128,280	\$56,838,084	310,171	169	1,253	78	15	11	13	6
<b>Tennessee</b>	\$414,269,233	\$102,815,102	2,103,130	3,227	1,958	306	28	40	13	12
<b>Texas</b>	\$735,245,228	\$209,578,216	3,575,159	8,618	3,035	834	46	80	19	13
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	\$0	\$10,954,936	1,021,337	2	88	183	5	2	7	5
<b>Utah</b>	\$114,608,399	\$67,806,575	1,566,145	2,765	1,440	634	13	40	4	13
<b>Vermont</b>	\$139,660,832	\$52,426,711	21,378	190	782	144	17	53	11	2
<b>Virginia</b>	\$1,188,008,119	\$147,438,087	3,474,123	5,465	2,657	1,828	119	89	10	21
<b>Washington</b>	\$437,026,272	\$105,694,517	4,832,058	9,934	1,397	705	24	80	17	13
<b>West Virginia</b>	\$118,211,658	\$68,385,963	1,892,196	977	965	498	16	59	14	6
<b>Wisconsin</b>	\$456,229,556	\$103,738,814	296,896	531	2,141	642	39	62	18	2
<b>Wyoming</b>	\$13,822,721	\$49,284,517	6,318,688	793	495	475	24	12	6	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$25,910,780,016</b>	<b>\$5,409,252,508</b>	<b>121,603,193</b>	<b>168,618</b>	<b>83,797</b>	<b>38,594</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>391</b>

# National Park Service 2008 Director's Report

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The National Park Service in Your State

## From the Director



What a year it has been!

We had a philanthropy summit and a summit of park superintendents. We launched a New Superintendents Academy to train leaders for our future and mourned the loss of some of the most accomplished leaders of our past.



BOB DAEMERICH

We were overwhelmed by the support of First Lady Laura Bush who chose “Holiday in the National Parks” as the 2007 theme for all of the White House Christmas decorations, including more than 300 park-created ornaments hung with care on the official tree, an 18-foot Fraser fir.

We celebrated the 75th anniversary of grand New Deal programs: the Civilian Conservation Corps whose work lives on in our national parks, and our own Historic American Buildings Survey—the nation’s first federal preservation program—which continues its mission of documenting a “a complete resume of the builder’s art.”

We received the first infusion of funds from Congress for what we hope will be 10 years of support for the National Park Service Centennial Challenge, an ambitious program to match \$1 billion in federal funds with \$1 billion in private funds to prepare our parks and programs to meet our second century.

We welcomed 275 million visitors to national parks, 60 million visitors to our popular website, and took the National Park Service mission on the road working with communities across America and in 65 nations around the world.

We weathered hurricanes, floods, and the non-stop eruption of a Hawaiian volcano. We restored wetlands and species, preserved ruins and historic homes.

We found inspiration in a sneak preview of Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan’s upcoming 12-hour miniseries on the national parks, in park-hosted ceremonies to swear in new citizens, in the life of a Tuskegee airman, retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Herbert Carter, who visited with us before a White House ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the integration of the American armed forces, and in the sacrifice of 18-year-old firefighter Andy Palmer who died on the fireline.

It has been quite a year, the 92nd since the American people entrusted us with the care of their national parks. In that time, the parks have grown more numerous, our mission more complicated, and our commitment to serving the public more intense. I am so proud of the dedicated men and women of the National Park Service and so grateful to our many partners who stand with us every day.

*Mary A. Bomar, Director*

**Above:** Director Mary Bomar and Mrs. Laura Bush at the National Park Foundation’s Leadership Summit on Partnership and Philanthropy.

**Opposite:** Director Bomar surrounded by Boy Scouts at the August 3 launch of a new patch program for Scouts that will encourage them to learn more about their national parks.



*"...the parks have grown more numerous, our mission more complicated, and our commitment to serving the public more intense. I am so proud of the dedicated men and women of the National Park Service and so grateful to our many partners who stand with us every day." — Director Bomar*

## *National Park Service Centennial*

In eight years, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday.

To get ready, in 2006 President Bush proposed an ambitious National Park Centennial Initiative. At its heart: bigger budgets to support parks and a Centennial Challenge Fund of \$1 billion over 10 years to be matched by private donations. While Congress is still debating the latter idea, it did provide nearly \$25 million in FY 2008 to get started and a \$100 million increase in park operations, including the hiring of 3,000 seasonal rangers.

That money was quickly put to work. On April 24, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, **Secretary Kempthorne and Director Bomar announced 111 Centennial Challenge projects. Federal funding was matched more than dollar-for-dollar by park partners for a total investment of over \$52 million. Projects across the country benefited**, including the expansion of a popular outdoor stewardship program for teenagers in Washington, DC, improvements to interpretive trails at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and the reintroduction of trumpeter swans at Buffalo National River in Arkansas.

Three outstanding centennial challenge projects are highlighted on pages 6-7, others are found throughout this report; look for “*Centennial Challenge Project.*”

“With the support of Congress and our partners, these projects will get our centennial preparations underway,” said Bomar. “We are so grateful to our park friends groups and other partners who have stepped up to the plate and, in many cases, more than matched the federal share for these projects.”

Private support for the National Park Service mission was the topic of the first-ever Leadership Summit on Partnership and Philanthropy convened by the National Park Foundation at the University of Texas at Austin on October 16, 2007. With a keynote address by the foundation’s honorary chair, Mrs. Laura Bush, the gathering brought together top leaders and visionaries from business, philanthropy, government, education, and parks to explore how the private sector can help ensure the future of the national parks into the next century.

That future is also being considered by the Second Century Commission, a nonpartisan citizens group established in August and led by former U.S. Senators Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R-TN) and J. Bennett Johnston, Jr. (D-LA). The commission will issue its recommendations in 2009.

Learn more about the National Park Service Centennial Initiative online at [www.nps.gov/2016](http://www.nps.gov/2016).



**Top:** Director Bomar and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with students from Bonnie Brae and Sterling Elementary Schools in Northern Virginia to announce the 2008 Centennial Challenge Projects. The kids are in the high school graduating class of 2016—the year the National Park Service turns 100. **Bottom Left:** Richard J. Dolesh, National Recreation and Park Association, Superintendent Gayle Hazelwood, and Tom Kiernan, National Parks Conservation Association. **Bottom Middle:** A sea of flat hats. **Bottom Right:** Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA), Kempthorne, Bomar. TOP: NPS/RICK LEWIS. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: NPS/RICK LEWIS (2), DOI/TAMI HEILEMANN



# Centennial Challenge 2008

## Georgetown Waterfront Park Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC Centennial Challenge Project

While the park is only three acres, it is the final link in a 225-mile contiguous green space along the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, Virginia, to Cumberland, Maryland. The removal of a parking lot and railroad tracks has turned this former industrial site into an urban oasis. The Centennial Challenge Fund provided \$4.5 million that was matched by private donations and the DC government. Additional funding from the DC government, donations, and lease revenues from the former parking lot are supporting other phases of the project.



PHOTOS: NPS/TERRY ADAMS



2006

2007

2008

# 111 projects \$52 million



LEIGHTON O'CONNOR



NPS/COLLEEN BRUCE



NPS/COLLEEN BRUCE



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**Tunnel View Overlook Rehabilitation**  
**Yosemite National Park, California**  
*Centennial Challenge Project*

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With its iconic views of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, Clouds Rest, and Half Dome, the scenic overlook at the end of the Wawona Tunnel has been a required stop for Yosemite's visitors for nearly 75 years. During the height of the tourist season up to 5,000 people each day arrive by tour buses, tram tours, and cars. But over time, trees had grown and obscured the view, worries about visitor safety escalated, and the general condition of the overlook deteriorated. Thanks to the Centennial Challenge Fund that has changed. With \$1.3 million in federal funds and \$1.7 million from The Yosemite Fund, the park remedied safety issues, rehabilitated the viewing area, and restored the iconic views.



View exiting Wawona Tunnel, 1930s.



Restored view, 2008

KIRSTIE KAMOTHE YOSEMITE FUND

NPS/YOSEMITE RESEARCH LIBRARY




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**Friendship of Salem**

**Salem Maritime National Historical Park,  
 Essex National Heritage Area, Massachusetts**  
*Centennial Challenge Project*

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*Friendship of Salem*, a replica of a tall ship built in that Massachusetts seaport in 1797, is the National Park Service's sailing "Centennial Ambassador," taking the story of the Service, the park, and the heritage area to ports throughout New England. At each stop, volunteers and park rangers invite visitors to come aboard and learn about their seafaring heritage. A June visit to Boothbay Harbor, Maine, brought out over 2,500 people—more than the town's population!

NISSARAH WATERWORTH

## Key Accomplishments 2008



### National Park Centennial Initiative

- Funded 111 Centennial Challenge projects supported by \$25 million in Congressional appropriations and \$27 million in private donations
- Hired 3,000 new seasonal rangers with centennial funds

### Preserving History

- Launched national bicentennial celebration of President Abraham Lincoln and commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service's own Historic American Buildings Survey
- Completed major restorations of park historic structures including the national historic landmark Paradise Inn at Mount Rainier, Hampton Mansion in Towson, Maryland, and Hamilton Grange in New York City
- Captured nearly 19,000 digital images of items in the museum collections of 47 parks
- Discovered inscription from a 1776 European expedition on a sandstone wall near Lake Powell in Utah's Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
- Signed a new programmatic agreement that enhances protection of cultural resources under NPS stewardship

**(Left to Right)** Paper conservator carefully removes a historically incorrect backing from a Japanese wood block print (Carl Sandburg Home collection). Yosemite firefighter monitors prescribed wildland fire. Director Bomar (center), John L. Nau, III, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (left); and Jay D. Vogt, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (right) signing cultural resources protection agreement. Mount Rainier volunteer catalogs the historic photo collection. Living history at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

LEFT TO RIGHT: NPS/NANCY PURINGTON; NPS/CHRISTOPHER KUVLESKY; NPS/PHIL SHERIDAN; NPS/KEVIN BACHER; NPS VPI/JESSICA ANDREWS

### Working with Communities

- Provided research to designate 17 national historic landmarks
- Awarded \$119 million in historic preservation and recreation grants
- Leveraged \$3.4 billion in private investment in historic preservation through federal tax credits
- Completed a four-year survey to identify important sites related to the American Revolution and the War of 1812
- Added more than 1,300 listings to the National Register of Historic Places
- Documented 360 historic places through large-format photography, measured drawings, and written histories
- Helped 2,198 communities create local recreation opportunities
- Added 24 new national recreation trails
- Generated \$11 billion in spending by national park visitors

### Improving Visitor Experience

- Welcomed 275 million visitors to parks
- Served 60 million online visitors and launched *Kids Zone* to complement *WebRangers*, which registers 100 kids daily
- Partnered with the Wounded Warrior Project to help military veterans injured in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Improved visitor facilities at more than 250 parks with more than \$120 million in user fees
- Produced *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* an interagency website to encourage families to explore public lands



- Celebrated Junior Ranger Day with nearly 50,000 participants during National Park Week
- Thanked 172,000 Volunteers in Parks – VIPS – for their 5.7 million hours of work
- Conducted nearly 5,000 search and rescue missions

### Caring for the Environment

- Acquired the first-ever right under Colorado law to protect in place ground water at Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Completed a six-year study that found 70 toxic airborne contaminants in samples from 20 Western and Alaskan national parks
- Met species recovery targets for the eighth consecutive year
- Implemented vital signs monitoring in 94 percent of the parks that need to keep tabs on the health of their ecosystems
- Treated more than 65,000 acres to gain the upper hand on non-native plant infestations
- Exceeded the National Fire Plan target, treating 136,963 acres to help protect communities from wildfires and restore ecosystems
- Launched an online tool to help parks measure their greenhouse gas emissions

### Working Smarter

- Launched the New Superintendents Academy
- Consolidated human resources offices to leverage expertise and reduce costs
- Implemented the first-ever Servicewide hiring system, allowing online job applications
- Completed 230 Park Asset Management Plans that inventory real property, analyze maintenance needs, prioritize projects, and track execution
- Initiated an electronic filing system for park concessioners' annual financial reports
- Established a Public Risk Management Program to help prevent injuries to visitors

**(Left to Right)** Seattle EarthCorps volunteers take a break from cleaning fire pits at the Newhalem Creek Campground. Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's Jason Smith tosses a thermometer into the Netul River as part of a water quality monitoring program. Secretary Kempthorne and Director Bomar with the first Superintendents Academy class. North Cascades' proud new Junior Rangers Lauren and Lachlan.

LEFT TO RIGHT: NPS/DAVID SNYDER; NPS/MICHAEL LIANG; NPS PHOTO; NPS/DAVID SNYDER

## *Salute to Service*

When he took office, President John F. Kennedy challenged America to reach for the stars... and walk on the moon. Neil Armstrong fulfilled that dream because everyone at NASA—from the custodian who swept out the hangar to the engineers designing the rocket that would propel our astronauts to the farthest reaches of our imagination—rallied to that common goal. Every task was valuable. Every employee contributed to those first small steps...that giant leap for mankind.

While we're not putting people on the moon—unless you count Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho!—the people who work for and with the National Park Service do share a commitment to a common goal: caring for our nation's most special places. **Our dedication to preserving our history and protecting our environment is equaled only by our passion for sharing the experience these places offer with every American.**

The public face of this commitment is the ranger in the flat hat—our astronaut. But behind every ranger there are hundreds of dedicated people—employees, volunteers, and partners—mowing grass, managing databases, tracking bears, ordering supplies, restoring historic buildings, building websites, reviewing grant applications, and answering phones, all in the pursuit of our common goal.

People who care passionately about fulfilling our promise to the American people in 391 national parks and in every community across the nation.

People like Andy Palmer, Larry Stewart, Jennifer Dow, Lucy Lawliss, and the barge builders at Fire Island National Seashore.

*"We don't do it because we have to,  
we do it because it is an honor and we want to.  
I never imagined I would be able to serve  
my nation this way"*

*Donna Glassor, founding member, Flight 93 Volunteer Ambassadors*

## A Moral Duty

### Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Arizona



This national park preserves the remains of an ancient Hohokam farming community that thrived for more than 1,000 years. One of the largest prehistoric structures ever built in North America gave the park its name and led to the site being named the nation's first archeological reserve in 1892 and then declared a national monument in 1918.

Six hundred years after the ancients left this place, the function of the “Big House” remains a mystery, one that has prompted theories from archeologists and a steady stream of visitors. But some visitors—those in wheelchairs—have never been able to get close enough to venture a theory.

Thanks to Larry Stewart, that has changed.

For the last four years, **Larry, the park's facility manager, has embraced what he the calls a “moral duty” to bring the park's 1930s vintage narrow, asphalt paths up to modern day universal accessibility standards.** By widening, grading, sanding, and converting to concrete, nearly 10,000 square feet of walkways now have the ADA stamp of approval. Larry designs the projects—including changes to bathroom facilities, picnic grounds, and viewing areas—and gets them done with park staff, volunteers, and his own two hands. His leadership and creativity in leveraging scant financial and human resources, was recognized with the National Park Service's Accessibility Leadership Achievement Award.



#### Online Guide to Accessibility

New on [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)—one-stop information for visitors with special needs to find accessible trails, programs, activities, and other features at national parks nationwide is online at [www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/access/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/access/index.htm)

#### Accessibility Awards

Sustained Park Accessibility Achievement Award  
**Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska**

Programmatic Accessibility Achievement Award  
**Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia and Harpers Ferry Center, West Virginia**

Accessibility Leadership Achievement Award (co-winners)  
**Joseph C. Dunstan, Pacific West Regional Office Larry Stewart, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Arizona**

Volunteer Accessibility Achievement Award  
**Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia**

Design Project Achievement Award (Architectural) (co-winners)  
**Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Massachusetts**

Design Project Achievement Award (Exhibits and Waysides)  
**Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina**

Special Recognition Award for Innovative Activity  
**Ted Morlock, Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland, Virginia**

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### The Doctor Is In Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska

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*Since 2000, she has logged more than 1,600 hours of service to Denali, including multi-week mountaineering patrols at the 7,200-foot Kahiltna Basecamp, the 14,200-foot ranger camp, and the 17,200-foot high camp.*



JAN SHIVE

At over 20,000 feet, Denali is the highest peak in North America. Attaining its summit is the dream of more than 1,000 climbers every year. But the mountain is in charge. Climbers face violent weather, avalanches, altitude sickness, and the illnesses and injuries inherent in pursuing dangerous dreams in remote wilderness.

The risks are real and life-threatening. When accidents happen, an elite corps of park rangers and volunteers with specialized skills are standing by to help.

For Dr. Jennifer Dow, an emergency room physician at Alaska Regional Hospital, serving as the volunteer medi-



RALPH TINGEY

cal director for Denali, Katmai, and Wrangell-St. Elias national parks, is a natural. Dow dreamed of being a park ranger as a child, is an expert in outdoor emergency care, and is an avid skier and high altitude mountaineer.

Since 2000, she has logged more than 1,600 hours of service to Denali, including multi-week mountaineering patrols at the 7,200-foot Kahiltna Basecamp, the 14,200-foot ranger camp, and the 17,200-foot high camp. **She has saved lives, optimized medical care of park visitors, and significantly enhanced the medical skills and professional quality of the park's emergency response.**

In May, Dow traveled to Washington, DC, to accept the National Park Service's highest volunteer recognition, the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Ten days later, she was back in the park to start a 30-day mountaineering patrol.

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*On patrol at Denali, Dr. Jennifer Dow provides expert emergency medical care where it's needed: on the mountain. Says Dow: "No one stands alone up there...nothing would be possible without the cohesive team of rangers and volunteers that work together."*

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### 2008 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service

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#### Individual

**Jennifer Dow, M.D.**, emergency room physician, volunteer medical director for Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Katmai national parks, Alaska

#### Group

**Flight 93 Volunteer Ambassadors**, Flight 93 National Memorial, Pennsylvania

#### Park VIP Program

**Mount Rainier National Park**, Washington

### Bargain Barge Bridges Bay Fire Island National Seashore, New York

Fifteen years ago, the main way to get equipment and supplies out to Fire Island National Seashore was to pay for delivery by boat or barge—at up to \$600 per trip. The maintenance guys had a better idea: build the park's own barge. The superintendent was sold and work started on the barge designed in-house by marine mechanic Mark Tripi and built by Tripi and Hank Borsman over the next 11 months. *Seahorse* was launched in August 1994.

Every year since, the barge has logged more than 100 round trips carrying loads of necessities from Long Island across Great South Bay to the 32-mile-long barrier island. The price? About \$5,000 annually, a fraction of the nearly \$70,000 that would have been spent to buy these services. In December 2007, *Seahorse* was due for engine replacement and was hauled out of the water. When the engines were removed, extensive rust was discovered inside the hull; its structural integrity was compromised. What to do? Tripi, now retired, was consulted.

Staff at Fire Island National Seashore rely on the employee-built barge *Seahorse* to transport equipment and supplies across Great South Bay to the park's barrier island home.



A new barge would cost more than \$500,000. Contracting out remained expensive—and would eliminate the flexibility the park had come to depend on to move its own equipment, set buoys, and respond to emergencies, as *Seahorse* and a National Park Service crew had done when TWA Flight 800 crashed off the coast of Fire Island in 1996.

The park decided the best solution was to fix *Seahorse*. A 10-foot section was cut off, trucked away, replicated, brought back, and welded into place. The procedure was repeated until the entire 60-foot hull was brand new.

*Seahorse* was back in the water before the summer season started, just in time to support the park and local law enforcement's efforts to protect the nests of endangered piping plovers along the beach.

Savings to the park—and the taxpayer: nearly \$200,000.

The value of a no-nonsense maintenance crew: priceless.

### Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Maryland

Nearly 62 percent of National Park Service superintendents will be eligible for retirement within the next five years. **To help secure the future leadership needs of the organization, this year Director Mary Bomar launched the New Superintendents Academy.** The 18-month program for up-and-coming leaders combines residential and online training with substantial coaching and mentoring, providing multiple ways to learn the behaviors, skills, and perspectives they need to excel in their new positions. Trainees are exposed to national and globally-recognized leaders and thinkers. Special-emphasis learning tracks address current critical issues.

And Lucy Lawliss, National Park Service veteran and accomplished historical landscape architect—but first-time superintendent at George Washington Birthplace and Thomas Stone—is grateful. “For me, it would certainly have been a case of not knowing what I lacked until I faltered,” says Lawliss, “but now I have coaches and colleagues with the knowledge and skills to see me through these first critical months. The opportunity to talk to others who have been or who are going through similar experiences has kept me from being overwhelmed by the daily challenges.”

“The benefits of this training to the future of the National Park Service will be measured in the success of our parks and its leadership to welcome and touch a changing public so that they become national stewards of a fragile and changing environment,” says Lawliss, already sounding like one of the leaders Director Bomar is looking for.



George Washington had a great love for horses and was known as one of the great horsemen of his day. At George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Superintendent Lucy Lawliss carries on the tradition, greeting Nifty with a carrot.



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**Director's Roy E. Appleman–Henry A. Judd–Ralph H. Lewis Awards For Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship**

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Superintendent  
**Monika Mayr**, Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi

Maintenance  
**Edwin Colón**, Facility Manager, San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico

Management  
**Rosie Pepito**, Chief, Cultural Resources, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Arizona, Nevada



*Rosie Pepito holds the horn of a bighorn sheep from the collections of Lake Mead.*

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**Freeman Tilden Award for Interpretive Excellence**

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**David Restivo**, Visual Information Specialist, Glacier National Park, Montana

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**Environmental Achievement Awards**

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Sustainable Design/Green Building (co-winners)  
**Destination Center**, Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina, Virginia  
**Curry Village Employee Housing Project**, Yosemite National Park, California

Recycling  
**Delaware North Companies**, Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Yosemite National Park, California

Sustainable Energy Practices  
**Xanterra Parks & Resorts**, Death Valley National Park, California

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**Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award**

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**Gary Moses**, Glacier National Park, Montana

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**Cooperative Conservation Award  
 Department of the Interior**

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Mount Rainier Recovery Initiative—2006 Floods, Washington  
**The Mountaineers, Mount Rainier National Park, National Parks Conservation Association, Student Conservation Association, Washington Trails Association, Washington's National Park Fund**

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**Director's Awards for Natural Resource Stewardship**

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Superintendent of the Year  
**Vaughn Baker**, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Natural Resource Research  
**Raymond M. Sauvajot, Ph.D.**, Chief, Division of Planning, Science, and Resource Management, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California

Natural Resource Management  
**Michele Girard**, Ecologist, Southern Arizona Group

Professional Excellence in Natural Resources  
**Margaret Wild, Ph.D.**, Wildlife Management and Health Program Manager, Biological Resources Management Division, Washington, DC

Excellence in Natural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance  
**George Henderson**, Engineering Equipment Operator, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan

Trish Patterson Student Conservation Association Award for Natural Resource Management in a Small Park  
**Scott Stonum**, Chief, Resource Management, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Oregon, Washington

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**Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award**

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Individual Awards  
**Jan van Wagtenonk**, Research Scientist USGS, Yosemite National Park, California

**Judy Alderson**, Environmental Specialist Alaska Region

Group Awards  
**Denali National Park and Preserve**, Alaska

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**, California

LAS VEGAS SUN

MRS. GREG LAWLER



*Secretary Kempthorne, the 2008 Harry Yount Award recipient Gary Moses, and Director Bomar.*

## *In Memoriam*



The first director to start his National Park Service career as a park ranger died on February 19. **Russell E. Dickenson** started at Grand Canyon National Park in 1946 and served as director from 1980-1985. The only Interior Department bureau chief to be retained by the Reagan Administration in 1981, Dickenson obtained its support and that of Congress for the Park Restoration and Improvement Program, which devoted more than \$1 billion over five years to park resources and facilities.



The seventh director of the National Park Service, **George B. Hartzog, Jr.**, died June 27 at age 87. Hartzog led the agency from 1964-1973, adding 72 sites to the National Park System, the largest expansion in its history. His vision: save important areas before they were lost, make the system relevant to an urban society, and open jobs to those who had been shut out, especially minorities and women. Hartzog established the Volunteers-in-Parks program in 1970; the national VIP awards carry his name.



**Chesley Moroz**, a tireless partner of the National Park Service, died July 29. As president of the nonprofit Eastern National, Moroz worked with and supported more than 100 national parks from Maine to the Caribbean operating educational retail outlets at parks in 30 states with all profits donated back to the National Park Service—totaling more than \$95 million since 1947. Moroz had recently received the National Park Service's James Murfin Award for outstanding partnerships and the Honorary Ranger Award.



**Andy Palmer** would have turned 19 on September 10. But Palmer, a wildland firefighter for Olympic National Park, was killed July 25 while battling the Iron Complex fire in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California. “Andy’s life was only beginning,” said Director Bomar. “He was filled with the energy and passion of youth, and he sought to give back to our nation by protecting the land from the ravages of fire. He took on a difficult job, and served our nation well, in the finest tradition of the National Park Service. His courage and spirit will live on in all of us, and will inspire us to do all we can to preserve the special places in our nation.”



Former **U.S. Representative John F. Seiberling** (D-OH), who served in Congress from 1971-1987, died August 2. He was 89 years old. Seiberling chaired a House subcommittee on public lands and national parks that preserved 129 million acres, including areas in Alaska and the area in northeastern Ohio that eventually became Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

*Theresa Voellinger, paper conservator at the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center, creates a pulp fill to repair a loss on a Japanese wood block print from the collections of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.*



## Preserving History

History. It's so yesterday.

And yet so relevant to today...and tomorrow.

History helps all of us understand who we are and where we come from. It isn't just for historians. The past provides a framework for how we see our world. It can make us proud—and provide the lessons to encourage us to do better.

Where history happened, there are now national parks. **The National Park Service preserves these places and shares their stories so that each of us can learn, discover our own meaning, and make a connection to our past.** Or just find out which First Lady preferred a pink hairdryer.

Done right, history should give us more questions than answers. It should make us more curious. It should engage all of our senses. We should be able to see it in the eyes of the child transfixed by the story of flight. Hear it in the voices of the Tuskegee Airmen, aging heroes who fought for their country in war and for dignity back home. Smell it in the mills and factories where America's industrial might was created. And feel it in our very bones as we walk the battlefield at Antietam.

The National Park Service does history right, to honor it. Because in national parks, the places are authentic and the stories are real.

*there are 68,561 archeological sites in national parks  
and more than 121 million objects in  
national park museum collections*

## Sharing Stories

### Serendipity and Secrets

#### George Washington Memorial Parkway, Virginia

Just north of Mount Vernon, along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fairfax County, Virginia, Fort Hunt Park is one those places where people regularly come to picnic but rarely wonder about the name of the picnic ground. What “fort?”



But park rangers wondered about the fort's past, especially a foggy spot in its history around World War II. Something clandestine had been going on, but everywhere they turned for information, they ran into dead ends. Until one day, a park visitor provided a lead; her neighbor had worked there.

Ranger Brandon Bies found the neighbor, Fred Michel, in Louisville, Kentucky, and began unraveling the story of Fort Hunt's years as a secret U.S. military interrogation center for enemy prisoners of war. So secret the place didn't have a name, it was simply known as P.O. Box 1142.

Recently declassified military records are providing some information, but most of what the park has learned has come from the men who worked in the numerous secret programs. Rangers have interviewed more than 40 veterans, most in their 80s and 90s, who had never talked, even to their wives and families, about their time at P.O. Box 1142. The stories they have shared are providing a fuller picture of their war effort and the history of Fort Hunt Park.

In October 2007, the National Park Service invited the veterans of P.O. Box 1142 back to Fort Hunt. The two-day event included formal recognition by the Army and Navy and a flag-raising ceremony, at exactly 11:42 a.m. John

Gunther Dean was one of those who attended. He told National Public Radio what the event meant: **“For 63 years, nobody ever said thank you. And it was very nice to receive recognition that what we did was being recognized of being helpful to our country.”**

### Returning the “Old Ones” to Mother Earth

#### Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa

The loud, raucous cry of an immature bald eagle broke the stillness of the August afternoon as the tribesmen solemnly paid homage to those whose final rest had been interrupted. That day they were returned to the earth, in a place occupied by man for thousands of years and now in the care of the National Park Service.



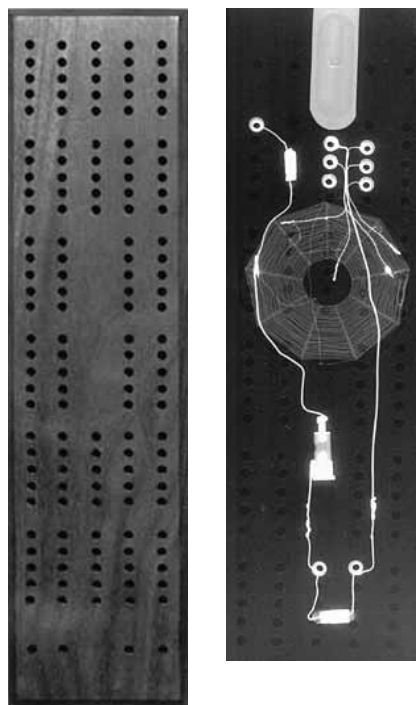
After nearly a decade of consultations among 12 tribal governments and the staff of Effigy Mounds National Monument, this was the third and final ceremony, the last of the “Old Ones” were now home. In the bureaucratic language of the federal law, the human remains were “culturally unidentifiable,” it was impossible to determine what tribe they belonged to. But the tribes agreed that what was most important was respect for the remains and reburial. “These ‘Old Ones’ are all our relation no matter what tribe they belonged,” said Patt Murphy of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. “It is our duty to take care of all the little ones and all the old ones whether on this earth or on their journey in the Spirit World.”

David Smith of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, brought his niece and grand-nephew to the ceremony because “it is important to show them it is part of their culture to take care of our ancestors.” Smith says “it is my lifelong commitment to see that all human remains are returned to the earth,” and believes this job was chosen for him, it is a special job, and not all people can do it.

**Top:** Park Ranger Erik Oberg chats with John Gunther Dean, a P.O. Box 1142 veteran at the reunion. **Middle:** The outlines of Marching Bears Mound at Effigy Mounds. **Left:** An X-ray of a cribbage board reveals a hidden radio, one of many sent from Fort Hunt to help American POWs escape during WWII.

*“We are America’s  
official keepers of  
history”*

Director Mary Bomar on the role  
of the National Park Service





NPS PHOTO

### Lincoln Bicentennial

**Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial, Indiana**  
**Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois**  
**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Kentucky**

On the occasion of his 199th birthday, the nation kicked off the bicentennial of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. Icy weather on February 12 in Hodgenville, Kentucky, cancelled some events but could not chill the start of a two-year celebration. National Park Service historians have come out with a new book on Lincoln, Lincoln-related national parks are sprucing up to welcome the expected influx of visitors, and the Museum Management Program created an online exhibit at

 [www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/liho/](http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/liho/)



NPS PHOTO

**Top:** Deteriorated chimney on Lincoln's home is repaired at Lincoln Home National Historic Site. **Bottom:** Children from the local Urban League Boys and Girls Club got a chance to use their green thumbs during "Growing Forward in 2008" at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

### Mystery of the Lost Colony

**Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, North Carolina**

Artifacts that may shed light on the disappearance of the English colony established on Roanoke Island 20 years before Jamestown were found in the park in May by a team of archeologists and geophysicists using radar tomography, technology that produces an accurate picture of what exists beneath the surface. Investigating two rectangular shapes identified by earlier ground-penetrating radar, the team found 14 copper plates and some 16th-century English artifacts, including a tobacco pipe bowl, a gray flint, a 1.25 inch diameter lead ball, Spanish olive jar sherds, one crucible sherd, three delftware glazed ceramic chips, and 1 blue and 17 white Venetian glass beads that English colonists brought to America to trade with Indians.

### Prehistoric Caribbean Civilizations

**Christiansted National Historic Site,**  
**Salt River Bay National Historic Site and**  
**Ecological Preserve, U.S. Virgin Islands**

A study by Meredith D. Hardy, Ph.D., National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center, of artifacts from two Caribbean national parks revealed new complexities about the pottery-making peoples who settled the area around 400 B.C. The study found evidence that they had been part of long-distance networks that spanned the Caribbean, into the Amazon, and beyond. Using an electron microprobe and a scanning electron microscope to study polished stone axes and small stone ornaments carved into the shapes of animals, Dr. Hardy discovered that the axes were made of jadeites only available from one place in Guatemala. **The findings demonstrate the usefulness of museum collections as objects of scientific research** and are enriching the stories the parks share with their visitors.

### Journey to the Ancestral Homeland

**Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska**

On May 9, a group of 100 Hoonah City Schools students, Huna Tlingit clan leaders, Huna Totem and Huna Heritage officials, Hoonah City School representatives, and park staff took a cultural voyage through Glacier Bay to reacquaint and reconnect young and not-so-young clan members with their ancestral homeland and ceremonial traditions. "This trip into Glacier Bay, my ancestral homeland, makes my school year all worthwhile," said Lisa Dalton. "I like listening to the elders tell the stories and history of our culture."



NPS/AUSTIN STROUD

### Summer History Camps Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Alabama *Centennial Challenge Project*

Last year, the park tested the waters for children's summer programming by offering *Creek Culture Camp*, a six-hour immersive experience on Creek Indian culture that used the scientific process to teach about the past. The program filled within 24 hours and more than 50 children had to be turned away. This year, the Creek camp was held twice and two new camps were offered: *History Camp* and *The Nature of Horseshoe Bend*. The camps were a hit with the kids, and with the parents: "Thank you so much for these camps. Ben has learned so much and met new friends outside of his school clique," wrote Mark Wilson of Auburn, Alabama. "Now, when we go places, he will suddenly chime in conversations with some fact or fancy he learned at Horseshoe Bend. Of course, I would like him to be a doctor but now he says he wants to be a ranger! **Keep up the good work. You'll see his little sister there in a few years, I'm sure. I hope you can offer these programs every summer.**"

**Upper left:** Children learn about field archeology techniques during Creek Culture Camp at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. The intensive six-hour park adventure is a unique learning experience sponsored by the Centennial Challenge.

**Opposite page:** The iconic Gateway Arch, part of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri.

### Ike & Mamie


#### Eisenhower National Historic Site, Pennsylvania

Former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower once joked that she had "kept house in everything but an igloo." During her 53-year marriage to Dwight D. Eisenhower, they lived in 37 different places. But she only called one home.

While Ike was President of Columbia University, Mamie fell in love with a 189-acre farm on the outskirts of Gettysburg and declared that she "must have this place." It served as a rural retreat during his presidency and their permanent address thereafter. Now a national park, the restored house is a 1950s slice of life, showcasing Mamie's love of design and fashion—especially the color pink—and a life's worth of memorabilia.

Highlights of that collection are featured in an online exhibit launched this year offering viewers an up-close-and-personal look of the beloved couple. From golf clubs, to campaign buttons, to personalized director's chairs, to pink phones, to photos of their prized cattle, the exhibit opens the park's extensive collections. . .and a window into Ike and Mamie's lives. You can even listen to Mamie tell her story in her own words in a 1973 interview.



 [www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/eise/index.html](http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/exhibits/eise/index.html)

### Shall We Dance? Prince William Forest Park, Virginia

The 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, was celebrated across the National Park Service this year. At Prince William Forest Park in Virginia—built by the CCC in the 1930s—alumni, family, friends, and visitors gathered for a two-day extravaganza. "CCC boy" Frank Kuhn even took park ranger Laura Cohen on a turn around the dance floor.



NPS/MIKE ARNDT

*there are more than  
27,000 historic structures  
in national parks*





## Preservation

### Relocation, Relocation, Relocation Hamilton Grange National Memorial, New York

It might take founding father Alexander Hamilton a few minutes to find his Manhattan home these days. But for the first time in more than 100 years, the place he cherished as a refuge from the buffetings of the world has finally found its own refuge, in a stately city park.

Built in 1802 on a sprawling 32-acre estate overlooking the Hudson River, Hamilton proudly dubbed his house “The Grange” in honor of his ancestral home in Scotland.

But his enjoyment of its sweet asylum lasted only two years, until he was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. His family lived in the home for 30 years. A succession of owners followed, much of the land was sold.

In 1889 the house was moved 350 feet to make way for a new city street system. Over time, the front and back porches were removed and

Hamilton’s “Sweet Project” was hemmed in by an apartment building on one side and a church on the other. But the house’s fortunes started to change in 1960 when The Grange was designated a national historic landmark and two years later donated to the National Park Service.

It has taken nearly 50 years, but in June efforts to do right by the house—and right by the memory of the man who co-authored the *Federalist Papers* and served as our nation’s first Secretary of the Treasury—produced results. The house was lifted 40 feet in the air and moved 500 feet to a new home in St. Nicholas Park.

The \$8.2 million project, a partnership with the New York City Parks Department that owns the park, is just the first step. **The National Park Service is planning a full restoration to bring the house back to its appearance during Hamilton’s life.** When it re-opens in 2009, visitors will be able to learn a little bit more about the man on the \$10 bill.

**Top:** *Hamilton Grange, the two-story Federal-style home of Alexander Hamilton, on its way to a Manhattan park.*  
**Right:** *The Wright Monument at night.*

### Monument to Flight—and Flyers Wright Brothers National Memorial, North Carolina

Orville Wright and Amelia Earhart were there when the granite monument atop Big Kill Devil Hill was dedicated in 1932. Overlooking the historic flight line where two young men realized their dream, conducting more than 1,000 successful glider flights between 1900 and 1902, the words carved into the base of the sleek 60-foot-tall monument say it all: “In commemoration of the conquest of the air by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright conceived by genius achieved by dauntless resolution and unconquerable faith.”

After 75 years atop the dune, exposure to saltwater corrosion, high humidity, and other environmental factors caused the structural and mechanical elements of the monument to deteriorate. Thanks to \$400,000 from the First Flight Foundation, the park began a full restoration, cleaning the entire interior and exterior of the granite pylon, re-pointing the exterior mortar, painting the stairs, and renovating the electrical and mechanical systems. The elegantly carved granite “wings” on the surface of the monument are beautifully illuminated by a redesigned lighting system. The dome and beacon at the top of the monument, 161 feet above sea level, were also cleaned and reworked for maximum efficiency.

**Back in first-class condition, the renovations have also allowed the park—for the first time in 25 years—to provide visitors with access to the monument’s observation platform during special events and a new interpretive program: the *Monument to the Dream Tour*.**

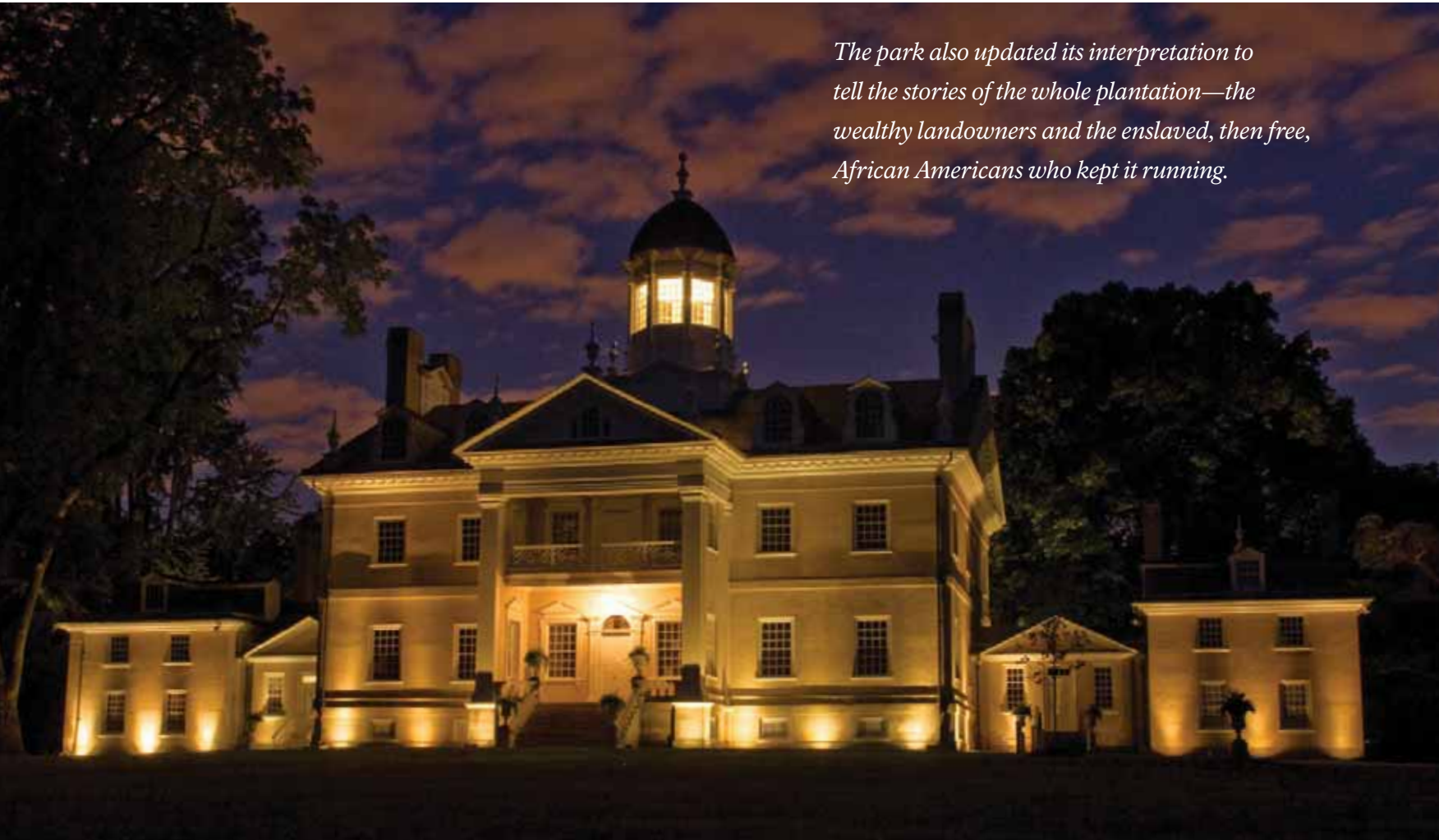


NPS PHOTO



NPS PHOTO

*The park also updated its interpretation to tell the stories of the whole plantation—the wealthy landowners and the enslaved, then free, African Americans who kept it running.*



NPS VIP/TIM ERVIN

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**Old State House**  
**Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts**  
*Centennial Challenge Project*

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Wood siding on the Old State House tower had rotted so much that water streamed in during storms. Finished in July, the \$1 million project with The Bostonian Society replaced the tower's siding, repaired and re-glazed its windows, and installed a new flat-seam copper roof.

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**Roebling Bridge**  
**Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River,**  
**Pennsylvania, New York**

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The oldest existing wire suspension bridge in the United States, the Delaware Aqueduct/Roebling Bridge was completed in 1848. Three major floods in recent years caused extensive damage and required the complete rebuilding of the dry-laid stone abutment retaining wall that supports the national historic landmark bridge.



NPS PHOTO/SANDRA SCHULTZ

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**Hampton Mansion**  
**Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland**

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A three-year, \$3 million project added a new fire suppression system and geothermal HVAC, painted the interior and exterior, restored room and exhibit details, and earned local, state, and national awards. The park also updated its interpretation to tell the stories of the whole plantation—the wealthy landowners and the enslaved, then free, African Americans who kept it running.

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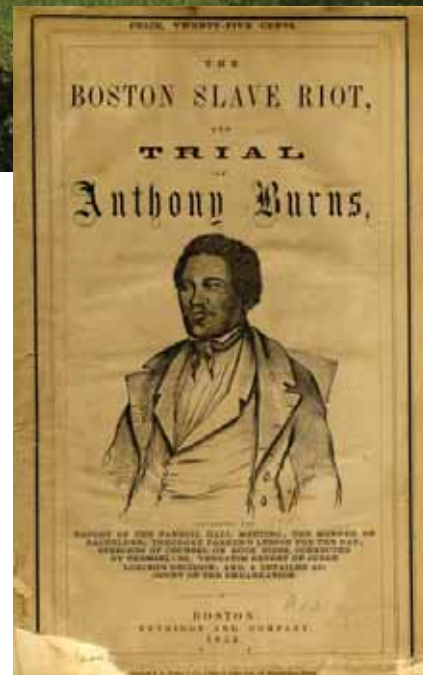
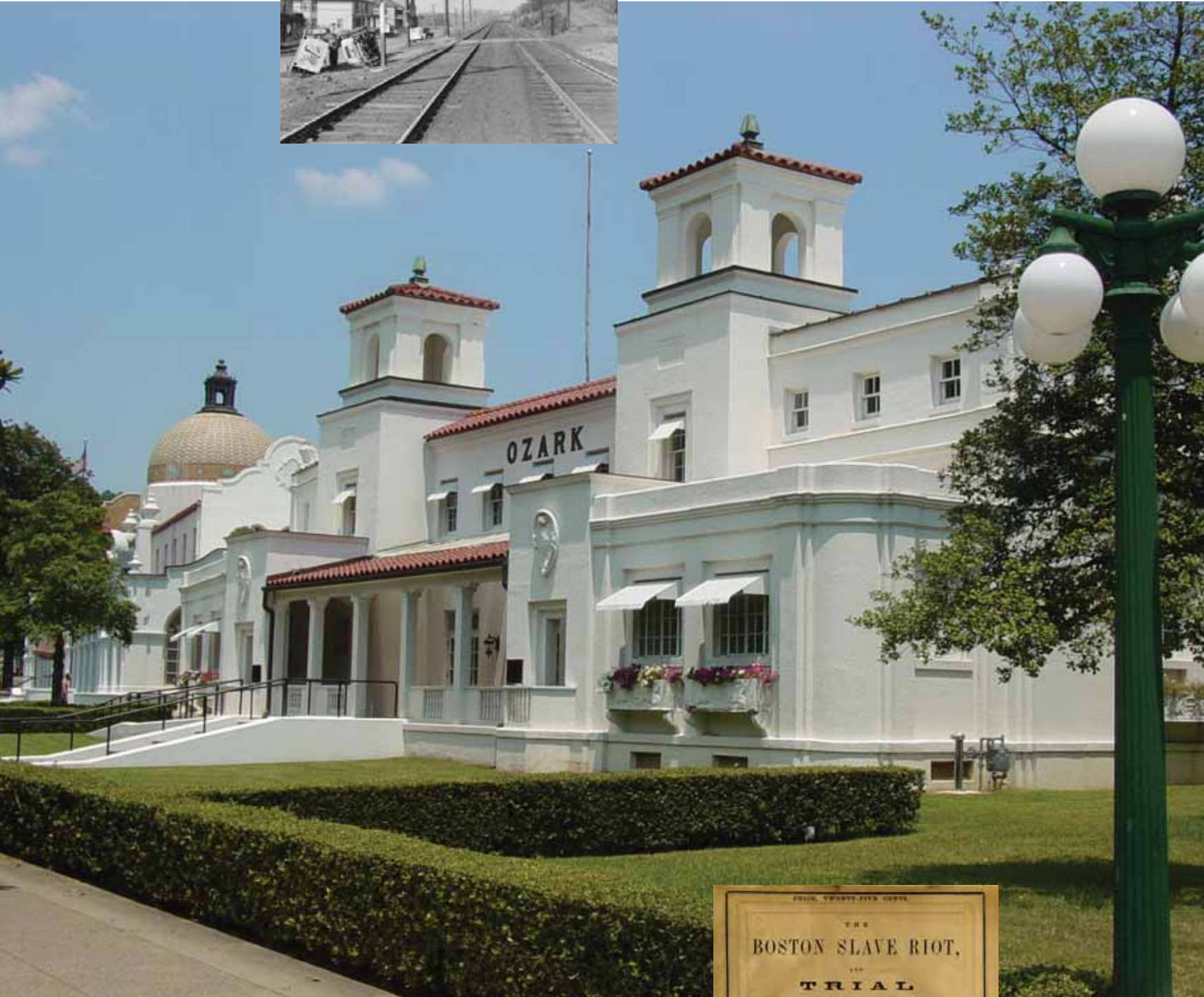
**Blast Furnace**  
**Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site,**  
**Massachusetts**

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The park re-opened in May after an 18-month, \$6 million project that included restoration of the historic water-powered blast furnace, the rebirth of the Saugus River, newly accessible trails and facilities, and improvements to exhibits and visitor programs.

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**Top:** *The c. 1790 Hampton Mansion at night.* **Bottom:** *In a team effort, Dry Stone Conservancy staff, along with National Park Service trainees, rebuilt one of the abutment retaining walls at Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct in Minisink Ford, New York.*



**Top:** A photo of a 1943 railroad accident from the archives of Steamtown National Historic Site discovered by local high school student volunteers digitizing the park's archives. **Center:** The c. 1922 Ozark Bathhouse, one of several historic bathhouses in Hot Springs National Park. **Bottom:** A pamphlet from the c. 1854 Boston Slave Riot and eight-day trial of Anthony Burns—an escaped slave from Virginia—which galvanized Boston (from the collections of Longfellow National Historic Site).



Paradise Inn at  
Mt. Rainier National Park.

### Paradise Inn Mount Rainier National Park, Washington

An extensive rehabilitation of the historic Paradise Inn was completed in spring 2008. **The project included seismic retrofits, a new foundation, stabilization of the grand chimneys and hearths in the main lobby and dining hall, and upgrading guest rooms for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.** Work on the inn, a national historic landmark built in 1916, was concurrent with construction of the new Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center built in the same rustic style.

### Cataloging Complete Longfellow National Historic Site, Massachusetts

The park completed a 16-year project to catalog more than 700,000 documents—letters, journals, manuscripts, historic photographs, and drawings—produced or collected by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his extended family from 1650 to 1972. The archives offer firsthand accounts of the Revolutionary, Barbary, and Civil Wars and insights into social movements like abolitionism, expanding education for women, historic preservation, as well as everyday life.

### High School History Volunteers Steamtown National Historic Site, Pennsylvania

The honors class at Wyoming Valley West High School requires 60 hours of community service at a cultural institution. Steamtown wanted a digital, searchable database of its vast archival collection of railroad records. A perfect match! Original documents are photocopied and the students transcribe them at home, at their convenience. The e-volunteer program has grown to 50 students this year, and the kids are getting more than cramped typing fingers, they're gaining an understanding of why we study history. "I guess **the biggest thing I learned is that history is more than recording major events from the past,**" wrote Bridget Manley. "**It includes the small everyday occurrences that help to capture what life was like at that particular time.** You just never know what may seem unimportant now may end up being preserved as part of history. I guess that would be a good reason to do your best on all your projects."

### New Life for Historic Ozark Bathhouses Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

The historic Quapaw Bathhouse re-opened for business on July 16 after a year of construction and \$2 million in private investment. Under a 55-year lease negotiated by the park last year, the new operators agreed to preserve the character of the building while providing modern features and accommodations. The Quapaw provides

access to the park's famous thermal waters, the only local spa facility with communal bathing on Bathhouse Row. The Museum of Contemporary Art of Hot Springs has leased the park's Ozark Bathhouse and is investing nearly \$500,000 to restore the historic building to house its permanent art collection.

### Roosevelt Records Digitized Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota Centennial Challenge Project

A partnership with Dickinson State University's Theodore Roosevelt Center is digitizing rare and historical documents from the park—and other TR parks—and making them available online and at special kiosks, including one in the park's visitor center.

### Preservation Research and Training National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Louisiana

From developing minimally-invasive archeological techniques to finding safe and effective ways to clean cemetery monuments to researching the use of micro-organisms to remove heavy metals from contaminated museum collections, the National Park Service's **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training is at the forefront of improving the science and technology of historic preservation.** Highlights from this year:

- NCPPT and the Library of Congress convened a *Summit of Research Scientists in Preservation* to develop a national research strategy for archives and records management.

- To deal with the shortage of qualified tradespeople to restore and maintain the nation's historic buildings, NCPTT is helping to expand preservation trades training in high schools.

- NCPTT, the Historic Preservation Training Center, and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office hosted *Preserving Coastal Forts* a three-day workshop on the preservation problems and solutions common to masonry coastal fortifications.

- Vegetation management is essential to preserve the character of historic cemeteries. A two-day workshop in Natchitoches, Louisiana's historic American Cemetery offered the basics of proper cemetery landscape maintenance.



NICHOLSON CHURCH

Hands-on training in gravemarker repair and maintenance was part of the NCPTT 2008 Cemetery Monument Conservation Workshop.

Students from Baltimore's Westport Academy unfurl the flag during a visit to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine that preserves the site of the 1814 battle that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner."



## Improving Visitor Experience

National parks tally more than 275 million visits a year. But who's counting?

Visitors come from as close as next door, and from as far away as the other side of the world. They drive through on a 30-minute windshield tour or set up camp and stay awhile. They come to relax, have fun, learn, get away from it all, spend time with friends and family, be alone, do nothing, do *something!*

Wherever they're from, for however long they are here, and for whatever reason they visit (other than some obvious exceptions!) we do our best to make every visit special and every visitor welcome.

This year, we extended special invitations to new citizens and America's military veterans. On July 4, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced that in honor of all newly naturalized citizens there would be free admission to national parks on the weekend we celebrate National Public Lands Day. A similar fee-free day on Veterans Day, November 11, 2007, welcomed those who have worn the uniform of our military. But for Director Bomar, herself part of a military family, it seemed like there was more we could do.

This year, in time for Veterans Day 2008, the National Park Service joined the Wounded Warrior Project to help those injured in Afghanistan and Iraq to truly come home. "We are humbled by the opportunity to help," said Bomar, **"So many national parks honor the**



**service of warriors from previous wars, to honor the service of today's warriors, to help them heal, is a special privilege."** Project Odyssey, the first of several initiatives, will offer national park retreats and a safe, supportive environment for warriors to help each other under the guidance of health professionals from the Veterans Administration. It is the first of several projects. To find out more about the Wounded Warrior Project and how you can help, visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

Whoever you are, wherever you're from, and for however long you have to visit, we invite you to experience your America in a national park. Keep reading to find out what's new this year.

## Places to Go

### Museum and Visitor Center Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania

*“This partnership is allowing the park to meet its mission of preserving collections, providing visitor understanding, and rehabilitating battlefield landscapes in a way that we never would have been able to do on our own.”*

Gettysburg Superintendent  
John Latschar



“The Civil War was fought over three issues: survival of the Union, the fate of slavery and... what it means to be an American. The war resolved the first two issues. The nation struggles with the third to this day.”

With these words, the new museum at Gettysburg National Military Park invites visitors to enter a series of 12 galleries that tell the story of the Gettysburg campaign—the war’s bloodiest battle with 51,000 casualties—the Civil War, and its causes and consequences. Using exhibits, interactive and hands-on experiences, **the 139,000-square-foot facility immerses visitors in the story, almost literally in the gallery devoted to the Cyclorama, a 377-foot-long painting-in-the-round of the Battle of Gettysburg fresh from a 5-year, \$15 million restoration funded by Congress.** Also in the building: a theater offering a new 22-minute film “A New Birth of Freedom,” curatorial space for the park’s extensive museum collections, a park library, office space, classrooms, a “Refreshment Saloon,” and a museum bookstore.

The \$103 million museum and visitor center was built and is operated by the park’s nonprofit partner, the Gettysburg Foundation—at no cost to the National Park Service. Outside the building, the 6,000 acres of battlefields where Union victory in the summer of 1863 ended General Robert E. Lee’s second and most ambitious invasion of the North, are undergoing a federally-funded, multi-million dollar rehabilitation to restore historic integrity and create a sustainable environment by improving wetlands, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Gettysburg Superintendent John Latschar is pleased: “This partnership is allowing the park to meet its mission of preserving collections, providing visitor understanding, and rehabilitating battlefield landscapes in a way that we never would have been able to do on our own.”

**This page:** *The new museum and visitor center at Gettysburg; restoring the Cyclorama.* **Opposite page:** *Cavallo Point at Fort Baker. The former Army post is now home to the National Park Service’s newest park lodge, which offers a stunning view of San Francisco Bay.*



BILL DOWLING/  
GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION

### Getting There

Planning a visit to America’s national parks has never been easier. The National Park Service’s website—[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)—provides information on all 391 parks, from Things to Know Before You Come, to suggestions of Things to Do, to explanations of the history and natural environment you will encounter on your visit. In addition, **a new service fully implemented this year offers camping and tour reservations for 50 national parks, complementing [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) and provides trip planning information for more than 2,000 federal recreation areas with links to state and local tourism offices.** And don’t forget your America the Beautiful annual pass, an economical option for frequent visitors to national parks and public lands!



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**Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate and The Institute at the Golden Gate  
Fort Baker, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California**

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Fort Baker has stood sentinel at the entrance to San Francisco Bay for more than a century. After its 2002 transfer from the Army to the National Park Service, a vision for a new chapter of public service guided the dramatic reconstruction and preservation of the site. Six years later, Fort Baker is the home of Cavallo Point—the Lodge at the Golden Gate, and houses The Institute at the Golden Gate.

Following utility upgrades funded by the Department of Defense, Fort Baker Retreat Group, LLC, the project's private sector partner, invested more than \$95 million—using National Park Service-certified preservation tax credits—to convert the turn-of-the-century Army site into the newest national park lodge, with 68 rooms in the historic building, 74 newly-constructed rooms, and 14,000 square feet of meeting space.

In all, 29 historic structures were rehabilitated—including the replacement of porches and the preservation of stunning tin ceilings in barracks surrounding the parade ground—and 14 new buildings constructed under strict sustainability standards. Around the buildings, the historic

landscape was restored—including the 14-acre parade ground—by the park with assistance from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. Further upgrades came from the nonprofit Bay Area Discovery Museum, which invested more than \$15 million in improvements to its popular campus leased from the National Park Service.

The Conservancy and the park are also partners in The Institute at the Golden Gate, a program to gather scientists, policy makers, youth activists, and innovators from the nonprofit and business sectors from around the globe to forge solutions for a sustainable future.

Called the “godfather” of the project by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, park Superintendent Brian O’Neill is justifiably proud of the result: **“The renewal of Fort Baker is a supreme example of what partnerships can accomplish.** Only the vision, talent and innovative thinking of local individuals and organizations, the support of the National Park Service and the Parks Conservancy, and the leadership of our Congressional delegation could have produced such a perfect result.”

KODIAK GREENWOOD





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**Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center  
Mount Rainier National Park, Washington**
*Fee Project*

The new building, eligible for LEED-certification, is designed to withstand its alpine location and complement its national historic landmark district location. It is easy to maintain, offers new exhibits, ranger-led programs, and a new film—in one-third the footprint of the old visitor center—along with breathtaking views of Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range.

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**Corson Maritime Learning Center  
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park,  
Massachusetts**


A \$6.4 million rehabilitation turned a fire-damaged historic structure into the park headquarters and space for new exhibits, a theater, education programs, and archives.

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**Kennecott General Store  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve,  
Alaska**


Near the center of America's largest national park, Kennecott—a national historic landmark—was a rich and active copper mine from 1911 to 1938. This summer, the mining town's general store started a new life as a park visitor center. Work on re-purposing other historic buildings is underway.

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**North Beach Day-Use Facilities  
Assateague Island National Seashore,  
Maryland, Virginia**
*Fee Project*

A \$1.5 million project moved infrastructure away from the waterline to avoid storm damage and replaced outdated visitor facilities with new low-maintenance bathhouses.

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**Panther Junction Visitor Center  
Big Bend National Park, Texas**
*Fee Project*

A \$650,000 facelift and expansion added accessible comfort stations, a larger bookstore, and hands-on educational exhibits that explain the park's river, desert, and mountain environments. The Friends of Big Bend National Park contributed \$250,000 and Big Bend Natural History Association contributed \$50,000 to the project.

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**Visitor Center  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico**
*Fee Project*

After saving up its share of entrance fees for 12 years, the park tackled the problems of its visitor center. Gone are leaky water and sewer lines and exorbitant heating and cooling bills. New is space to exhibit the park's extensive collection of caverns-related art dating to the 1920s, including 25 original Ansel Adams photographs never before on public display, and a live video feed from Carlsbad's Bat Cave, home to 400,000 bats.

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**Visitor Center, Charlestown Navy Yard  
Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts**

The first true visitor center at the park in 34 years tells nearly 200 years of maritime history.

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**Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center  
Fairbanks, Alaska**


Nearly a decade in the making, a 38,720-square-foot facility on the banks of the Chena River honors the legacy of the late Native leader Morris Thompson. The center houses the National Park Service-managed Alaska Public Lands Information Center and four partners.

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**Designing the Parks**


Parks don't just happen. Long before the first visitor arrives, park planners and designers huddle over every detail of how to preserve and share these very public places.

The history of that process—and the lessons learned—was the focus of the three-day *Designing the Parks* conference in Charlottesville, Virginia, this spring. More than 300 participants from North America, Europe, and Australia, grappled with topics including

*Romanticism and the American Landscape*, *Wilderness With a View*, *Battlefields and Archeology*, and *Unbuilding Parks*. In December, part two of the conference will convene in San Francisco to develop design principles that will guide National Park Service and other park managers as they embrace the challenges and opportunities of park design in the future. The principles will be tested by graduate schools of design to validate their conceptual application. *Designing the Parks* was sponsored by The Cultural Landscape Foundation, the University of Virginia, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, George Wright Society, National Parks Conservation Association, the Van Alen Institute, and the National Park Service. [www.designingtheparks.com/index.html](http://www.designingtheparks.com/index.html)

*there are 85,049 miles  
of perennial rivers and streams in national parks*



### **Making a Difference**

In 1996, Congress authorized the National Park Service to keep entrance and other fees paid by national park visitors to support park projects with a direct visitor benefit. As a result, more than \$1.4 billion in new revenue has been generated—about \$170 million annually—for critical projects in every park, including the 196 that do not charge fees. From road repairs to museum exhibits, restored landscapes to eradicated exotic species, butterfly habitat to basic infrastructure, the results are everywhere.

**In 2008, the program improved visitor facilities at over 250 parks using more than \$120 million in fees.**

Look for the **Fee Project** label in this report to see what your fees have accomplished!

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*Visitors rafting at Gauley River National Recreation Area “touch the pillow” at Pillow Rock rapid. The Gauley, one of the top 10 whitewater rivers in the world, was the site of the 2001 World Rafting Championships.*

## Things to Do

### Learn to Camp

#### Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

"We've lost a generation of campers," says Trish Kicklighter, acting superintendent at Shenandoah National Park. "A lot of today's parents didn't grow up camping, so while they want their kids to have this experience, they're a little bit intimidated."

Seeing a need, and always looking for ways to introduce more people to the park, rangers at Shenandoah decided to create "Camping 101" an overnight seminar for local families. A dozen people took them up on the invitation. Tents, cooking equipment, and food were provided by the Shenandoah National Park Association. Campers were taught how to pick a good camping site, set up a tent, and cook outdoors. . .all following the principles of Leave No Trace.



NPS/DANNY CATRON

Danny Catron, a sixth-grade science teacher at Rappahannock County Elementary School, worked on the project as part of the National Park Service's

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program where educators work in a park during the summer and then take their experience back to the classroom. "I've been camping since I was six years old," said Catron. "Being able to help 'first time' campers learn about the joys and satisfaction of camping is great."

The program brought high praise from participants: "I'll bring my wife & daughter here to camp overnight, and I think we can stay and I can cook confidently and it will be a good experience." And, "Rangers Danny Catron and John Manka did a wonderful job—we were in excellent hands. They are master educators and I believe they helped me teach my 2 sons about the joys and benefits of camping. We'll be back!"

To quote an ancient park ranger proverb: "Give a man a S'more and he will camp for a day. Teach him how to make S'mores and he will camp for a lifetime."

### Hike a Civil War Battlefield

#### Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia

Nearly five miles of new hiking trails lead visitors to the previously inaccessible School House Ridge Battlefield, site of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's main line during the Battle of Harpers Ferry, September 12-15, 1862. Thanks to the efforts of concerned partners and caring landowners, the battlefield is now part of the park, safe from development.

*"Rangers Danny Catron and John Manka did a wonderful job—we were in excellent hands. They are master educators and I believe they helped me teach my 2 sons about the joys and benefits of camping. We'll be back!"*

Camping 101 participant



NPS/JAY ROBINSON

### Look at Lava

#### Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i Fee Project

An erupting volcano is always an attraction, but seeing the glowing red lava at night draws thousands of visitors to witness the spectacle. New on-site interpretation and enhanced precautions—including monitoring and moving access paths around the active flow area—improve the experience for visitors and keep them safe.

### Get Wet

#### Gauley River National Recreation Area, West Virginia

To increase public access to the Gauley River, the park bought property at Woods Ferry and Mason Branch to add put-in and take-out sites for boaters, kayakers, canoeists, and rafters. The river offers one of the best whitewater venues in the world with 125 rapids in 26 miles.

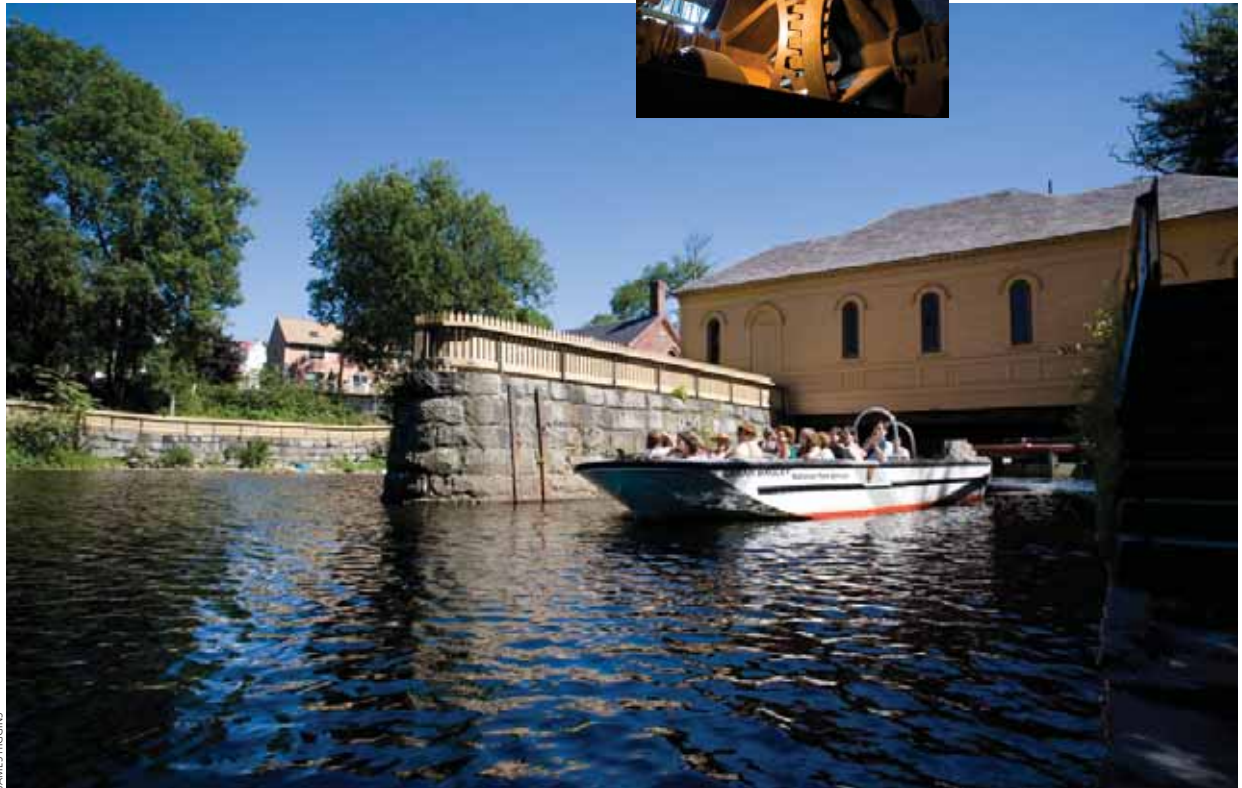
### Meander a Rural Path

#### Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, New York

Walk or bike the new 1.6 mile Roosevelt Farm Lane through forests and woodlands and get a feel for FDR's conservation legacy. The journey is made possible thanks to the purchase of a 334-acre parcel that connects FDR's home, Springwood, and Eleanor Roosevelt's beloved Val-Kill.

**Top:** Lava collides with seawater at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. **Left:** Teacher/Ranger John Manka explains camping basics.

Park Ranger Tess Shatzer shows visitors the Wannalancit Mill at Lowell National Historical Park. Lowell's Francis Gate Complex.



**Ride a Ferry**  
**Statue of Liberty National Monument,**  
**New York, New Jersey**

A new ferry service to the park provides great interpretive information on the trip across New York Harbor and better amenities for visitors, the result of a new concessioner and the park working together to create memorable experiences.

**Cruise the Canal**  
**Lowell National Historical Park, Massachusetts**

For the first time in 100 years, the entire Pawtucket Canal is now navigable. The park's preservation crew restored the six-chamber Swamp Locks to allow passage for canal barges carrying visitors from the Concord to the Merrimack River.

**Contemplate Carter**  
**Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, Georgia**

A new permanent exhibit on the post-presidency life of Jimmy Carter looks at his work on energy, hunger, health, housing issues, and world peace. The exhibit, which is now at home in the park, was displayed at the Carter Center in Atlanta on the 25th anniversary of the Carter White House years.

**Bound up Boca Chita**  
**Biscayne National Park, Florida**

Falling concrete and deteriorated stairs made climbing the spiral staircase to the top of historic Boca Chita Lighthouse dangerous. A complete rehabilitation of the stairway has once again opened public access to the spectacular view from the top.

**Stroll the Boardwalks**  
**Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, Iowa**

The Downey and Polar Street Boardwalks central to the historic village of President Herbert Hoover's boyhood were replaced to remove hazards to visitors and improve access.

**Honor the Fallen**  
**USS OKLAHOMA Memorial, Hawai'i**

Dedicated on December 7, 2007, the USS OKLAHOMA Memorial on Ford Island commemorates the lives of the 429 men who perished on the ship during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

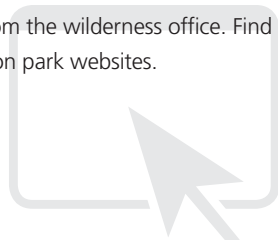


Director Mary Bomar with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter and Superintendent Gary Ingram at Jimmy Carter National Historic Site.

NPS PHOTO

**Cast for Pods**

National parks across the country are enticing visitors with podcasts—hundreds of video and audio presentations designed to give folks a taste of the park. New this year: *Yosemite Nature Notes* and a series from Grand Canyon with audio trail updates from the wilderness office. Find podcasts under "multimedia" on park websites.



## Just for Kids

*"I think that this is a wonderful site with fantastic information. We made a trip to Acadia this summer which has renewed a love for me and ignited one for my daughter with the NPS."*

Parent from East Stroudsburg, PA

### Junior Ranger Adventure Book Fort Frederica National Monument, Georgia

Kids visiting this riverfront park on St. Simons Island receive a gift made by many hands.

Looking for ways to share their passion for colonial history with kids who think it's "so 18th century," Fort Frederica's interpretive rangers decided to do something special, something that would give 8–12-year-old visitors a unique way to explore the park and its story. Something like a soldier's haversack full of gear—including a Tricorn hat or mob cap, a spyglass, a compass, a protractor, and a period newspaper—and a parchment map guiding them through the fort and town as they meet the residents. And maybe even a dispatch from General Oglethorpe in a wax-sealed envelope to deliver to Captain Demere at the Bennett Tavern—after they unscramble the password of the day to pass through the town's gates.


**The kids love it**—which makes the job of putting the kits together all worth it. To keep costs in check—printing is paid for by the Fort Frederica Association—**every haversack and Junior Ranger booklet is assembled by the park's staff and volunteers**, painstaking hours of work folding, cutting, and attaching maps and other elements that turn a simple booklet into a memorable, interactive experience.

When the kids are done, they've earned a Junior Ranger badge, each one a bright, shiny "thank you" to those who knew they could get kids interested in history—and then made it happen.



### Virtual Field Trip Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island, New York, New Jersey

*A Distant Shore* teaches students in grades 4-6 about America's immigration past during its busiest years, 1892-1924, using the nation's first federal immigration station, Ellis Island. Developed in cooperation with the Garden State Distance Learning Consortium, Verizon Access NJ and Video Portal, and Rutgers University, the program is online at:

 [www.nps.gov/elis/forteachers/distancelearningopportunities.htm](http://www.nps.gov/elis/forteachers/distancelearningopportunities.htm)

### Environmental Education Everglades National Park, Florida *Centennial Challenge Project*

As a result of a \$1 million grant through the South Florida Parks Trust, the park was able to revise and update its programs that reach 10,000 students and teachers through in-park activities, teacher workshops, and the Miccosukee Indian School Program, and more than 30,000 through electronic field trips, outreach and community events, in-school teacher workshops, loan libraries, and traveling trunks.

### Experience National Parks Acadia National Park, Maine *Centennial Challenge Project*

Launched this year, the goal of the park's *Engage Youth* project is, by 2016, to provide every student in Maine with a national park experience before graduation from high school.

### Scout Rangers National Park Service/Boy Scouts of America/ Girl Scouts of the United States of America

NPS and the Boy Scouts of America launched the Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger program for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venturers. This badge and certificate program uses the national parks to educate boys about their responsibility to conserve our natural and cultural resources, encourage volunteer service, and promote good citizenship. NPS enhanced its partnership with Girl Scouts of the United States of America by creating the *Girl Scout Ranger*, with the goal of helping young women discover careers in environmental science and conservation while developing critical leadership skills. NPS partnered with troops from both organizations on National Public Lands Day, fashioning the first National Scout Day. Scouts gave hours of service, combining their stewardship ethic with the idea of giving.



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### First Lady, First Blooms

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Mrs. Laura Bush spent part of National Park Week 2008 with children from the Boys' Club of New York and the Lower East Side Girls Club planting purple coneflower, beards tongue, and scarlet beebalm. Bush, Honorary Chairwoman of the National Park Foundation, was promoting First Bloom, a NPF initiative that teaches kids about environmental stewardship so, as she says, "**we can make sure that all young Americans learn to know and love our national parks.**" First Bloom also launched programs in Austin, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, this year.

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### BUS STOP

#### National Park Service/Alice Ferguson Foundation/ local schools

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BUS STOP (Bringing United States Students to Our Parks) brings kids to national parks who might otherwise not be able to make the visit. The program provides bus transportation for the students and supports training for park rangers and partners to help them make the field trips relevant. Started in 2008, more than 3,000 students in the Northeast and National Capital Regions have participated.

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### The Kids Zone

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More than 50 interactive activities to connect children with the people, places, and events commemorated in the country's 391 national parks are online. Launched on the National Park Service's birthday—August 25—the site offered features on working dogs in parks and kids whose parents are park rangers as well as links to the popular *WebRangers* site. Also in 2008, the National Park Service produced, on behalf of the Interior Department, *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* an interagency website to encourage kids to explore federal public lands.

 [www.nps.gov/KidsZone](http://www.nps.gov/KidsZone)

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### Kids Passport Companion

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NPS and Eastern National developed the *Kids Passport Companion*, a keepsake journal and companion to the popular Passport® to Your National Parks. Inspired by a suggestion from Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), the Kids Passport encourages children to record their park visits in a way that expands their thinking about the parks, promotes interactions with park rangers, inspires volunteerism, and helps them to create a wish list of parks they would like to visit.



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**Top:** Mrs. Laura Bush with kids in Manhattan. **Center:** Everglades Ranger Greg Litten gives fifth-graders a feel of periphyton, a clumping algae found in the park. **Bottom:** Students from Sousa Middle School in Washington, DC, collect and analyze trash at Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm, part of the BUS STOP program.

*The West Baden Springs Hotel, designated a national historic landmark in 1987, underwent an award-winning restoration with help from the National Park Service's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program.*



## Working with Communities

The National Park Service works in America's 391 national parks...and in almost every one of her 3,141 counties.

Although they aren't as easy to spot as their flat-hatted colleagues, other 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 recreational 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.** We are proud to join forces with Indian tribes, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private citizens, to build trails and playgrounds, return historic buildings to productive use, revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing, protect watersheds, recognize and promote local history, and introduce the next generation to stewardship opportunities and responsibilities.

When we combine our expertise and resources and learn from each other, we can accomplish great things. Here are just a few.

*National Park Service certified tax credits leveraged*

*\$3.4 billion in private investment  
in historic preservation in 2008*



# Documentation

## Fit For a Queen Honolulu, Hawai'i

Home to a sea captain's family, a beloved queen and, for nearly 80 years, the state's governors, Washington Place is today a public museum dedicated to the rich history and culture of Hawai'i. Built by wealthy trader John Dominis, he was lost at sea before he could see the house finished in 1847. His son, John Owen, married a young woman from a family who had ruled parts of the Islands for more than 1,000 years. In 1877, she was proclaimed heir to the throne by her brother and given the new name, Lili'uokalani. She became queen in 1891, but was ousted and imprisoned two years later. She returned to Washington Place where she lived and worked as a tireless advocate for Hawaiian rights until her death in 1917. It was her family's wish that her home become the official residence for the governor, a purpose it served until 1999. In 2007, Washington Place was designated a national historic landmark, one of 33 in Hawai'i. This year, Washington Place was documented in photographs, measured drawings, and a written history by the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey.



The home of a queen, Washington Place in Hawai'i was documented this year by the Historic American Buildings Survey. Center: HABS architects during a 1934 survey of the Kentucky School for the Blind in Louisville.



The work of HABS and its sister programs has created the nation's largest archive of historical architectural, engineering, and landscape documentation,

and is available online through a partnership with the Library of Congress. HABS was established in 1933 as a Works Progress Administration program; it celebrated its 75th birthday this year.

## Historic American Buildings Survey 2008 project highlights

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia

Maryland Historical Trust/Society of Architectural Historians, Buildings of the United States series, photographic survey of Carroll and Howard counties

## Historic American Engineering Record 2008 project highlights

Saturn V Test Stand & Neutral Buoyancy Simulator, Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama

Acushnet and Storis, U.S. Coast Guard cutters

Mad River Glen single chair ski lift, Vermont

Lobster boats, Maine

Small craft, Center for Wooden Boats, Michigan

## Historic American Landscapes Survey 2008 project highlights

143 veterans' cemeteries

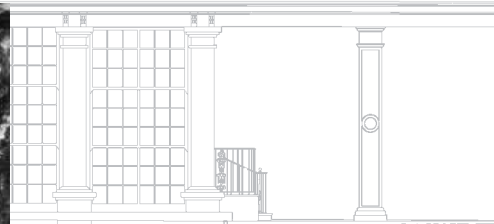
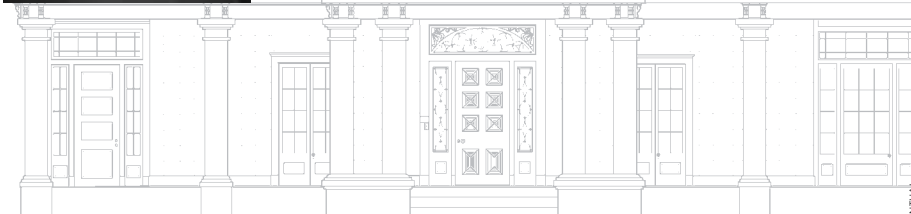
Peavey Plaza, Minnesota

Mount Zion Cemetery, Washington, DC

## Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems Program 2008 project highlights

American Civil War 150th Anniversary

Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC



TOP OF PARAPET  
ROOF PEAK

EDGE OF ROOF  
TOP OF COLUMN

EDGE OF LANAI  
BOTTOM OF COLUMN

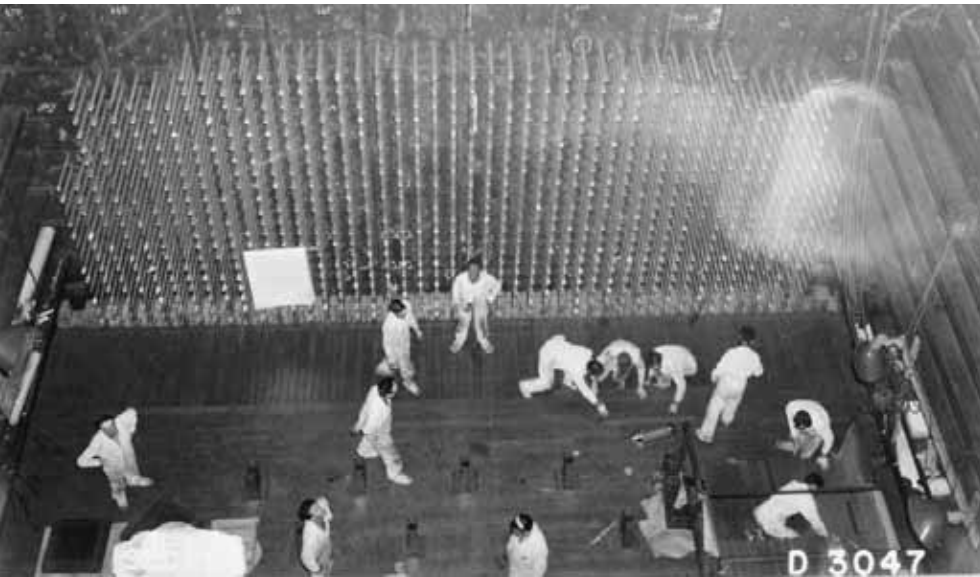
EDGE OF LANAI  
BOTTOM OF STEPS

NPS/HABS/JAMES ROSENTHAL

## National Historic Landmarks

### Manhattan Project Site Named Landmark Hanford, Washington

The world's first industrial-scale nuclear reactor has been designated as a national historic landmark. Located in southeast Washington State, the B Reactor at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site produced the plutonium used in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior, announced the designation saying, "for its role in the events that ended World War II, the B Reactor holds a powerful historic significance."



NPS/HAER

An original Manhattan Project facility, the B Reactor started up in 1944 and produced fissionable material until 1968; its water-cooled, graphite-moderated design served as the model for all U.S. nuclear reactors until 1952. "The B Reactor tells a story about the vital role the people of the Tri-Cities played during a critical chapter in our nation's history," said U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). With the designation in hand, an expanded public tour program is planned using B Reactor to teach important lessons of the Cold War and build the region's tourism economy. "Touring the B Reactor is like stepping back into the 1940s, because it has been left largely intact," said Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA). **"By preserving the B Reactor we will have an irreplaceable teaching tool for future generations."** The National Historic Landmark Program is run by the National Park Service. Fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.

**Top:** Workers lay up the graphite core of the 105-B pile at the site of the B Reactor, a Manhattan Project facility, in Hanford, Washington. **Right:** The Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, Japan, in the aftermath of the dropping of the atomic bomb in 1945.

### National historic landmarks designated in 2008

- Forty Acres, Kern County, California
- Freedom Tower, Miami, Florida
- Woodrow Wilson Boyhood Home, Augusta, Georgia
- Shreveport Municipal Memorial Auditorium, Shreveport, Louisiana
- John and Priscilla Alden Family Sites, Duxbury, Massachusetts
- Lyceum-the Circle Historic District, Oxford, Mississippi
- Rosebud Battlefield/Where the Girl Saved Her Brother, Big Horn County, Montana
- Wolf Mountains Battlefield/Where Big Crow Walked Back and Forth, Rosebud County, Montana
- Aaron Copland House, Cortlandt Manor, New York
- Camp Uncas, Hamilton County, New York
- First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Kingston, Kingston, New York
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
- The Frick Collection and Art Reference Library Building, New York, New York
- Bryn Athyn Historic District, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania
- College of Physicians of Philadelphia Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## Tax Credits

### Resurrection of a Resort West Baden, Indiana



The first guests in 1902 wagered on the curative power of Pluto water. . .and the odds of drawing to an inside straight. They craned their necks to take in what the marketers deemed the “Eighth Wonder of the World,” a six-story domed atrium that spanned 200 feet; big enough to host the circus—and it did. Al Capone was a frequent visitor. Pro baseball teams made it their spring training home. With more than 500 rooms, and amenities from golf courses to a bowling alley, the West Baden Springs Hotel was the place to be. . .until the stock market crash of 1929. The lavish hotel closed, then became a seminary, then a college, then sat vacant, mired in bankruptcy litigation through the 1980s.

Designated a national historic landmark in 1987, the honor did not stop the steady deterioration. After a huge section of the exterior wall collapsed, the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana galvanized a coalition to save the hotel. It took more than 15 years, a lot of detours, many partners, and even more money, but the once grand hotel is back. The foundation and developer consulted with the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office throughout the endeavor and earned NPS approval this year for federal historic rehabilitation tax credits for the \$97 million project.

*The free-span dome of the West Baden Springs Hotel was the world's largest until 1965. The measured drawing was part of a Historic American Engineering Record survey in 1973. **Opposite page:** The ruins of Sheldon Church in Beaufort County, South Carolina, burned down during the Revolutionary War.*



Since 1976, the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program has approved over **35,000 projects leveraging more than \$48 billion in private investment** in the preservation and reuse of historic buildings. To receive the 20 percent tax credit, projects must be income-producing properties and agree to follow federal historic preservation standards.

#### Other 2008 tax projects include

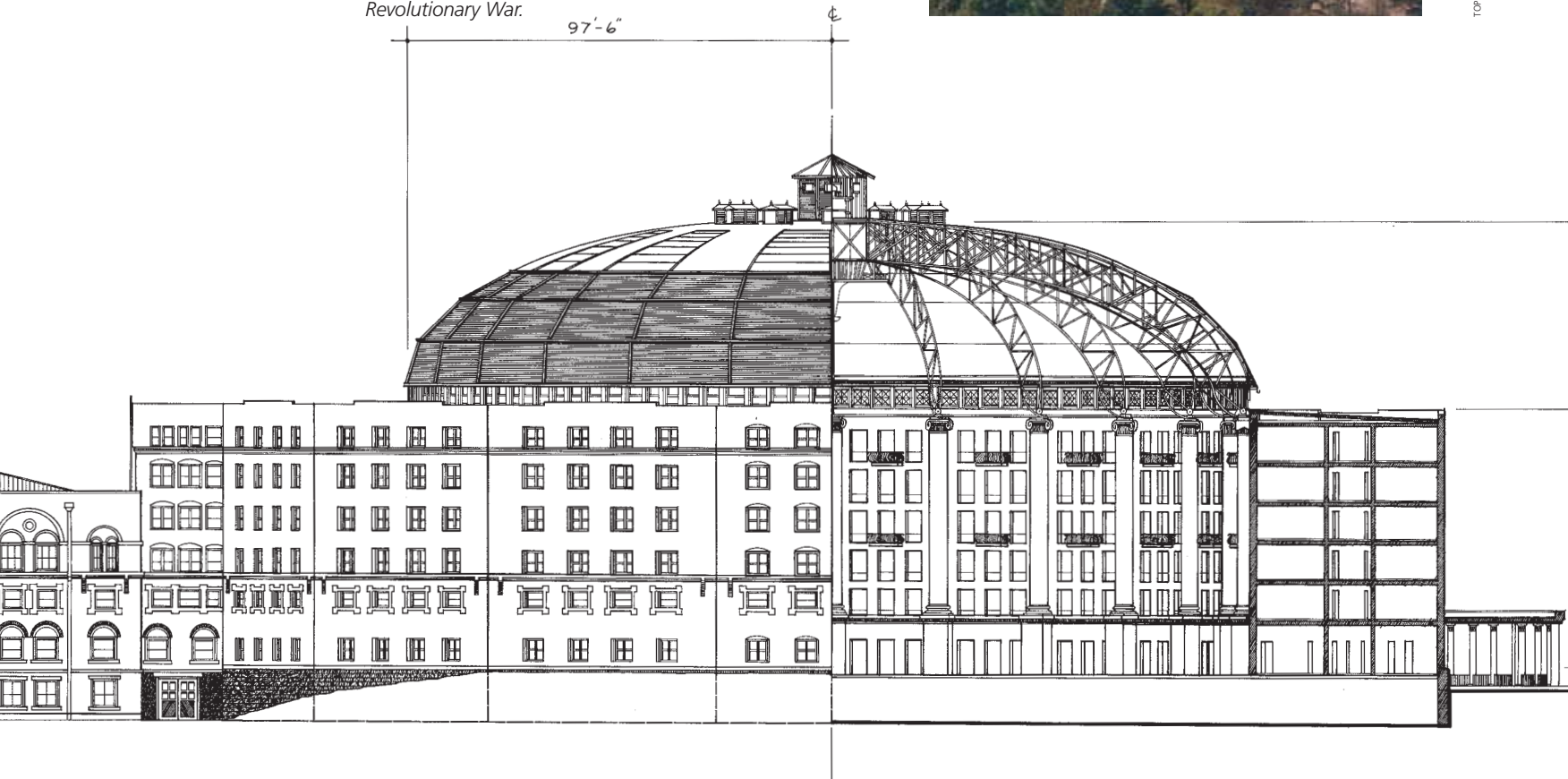
Wilmington, Delaware—\$1.8 million conversion of the Joseph Tatnall House to senior housing

Ottawa, Kansas—\$7.6 million conversion of a school to senior housing and a community theater and gym

Tulsa, Oklahoma—1917 bungalow in the Brady Heights Historic District rehabilitated with upgraded mechanical systems for continued use as apartments



TOP: CHRIS SMITH; OTHERS: NPS FILE PHOTOS



## National Register

### Stairway to Strikes St. Louis, Missouri

While the fortunes of the neighborhood along Sutton Boulevard in Maplewood, Missouri, have been up and down over the past 100 years, one thing has been constant: Saratoga Lanes. Commanding the second floor of the 1916 building commissioned by Albert Blood to house



LINDSEY DERRINGTON

his growing Maplewood Planning Mill & Stair Company, the eight-lane bowling alley's location was part of a national trend that preserved ground floor space for more lucrative pursuits. The climb upstairs didn't deter the thriving immigrant community who embraced the game and made it wildly popular in dense, industrial

cities like St. Louis. "Elevating" the game was also thought to make it more appealing to women. The Saratoga was an early pioneer of female leagues; through the efforts of bowling promoter and writer Dennis J. Sweeney, women in the St. Louis area were the first in the country to officially assert their right to bowl. Today, Saratoga Lanes is the oldest bowling alley in St. Louis—and the only surviving upstairs bowling alley. The Saratoga Lanes Building was listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 2008.

### More than 1,300 listings were added to the National Register in 2008, including:

Benton County Poor Farm Cemetery, Benton, Arkansas

Union Society of Phoenixville House, Windham, Connecticut

Pasaquan Historic District, Marion, Georgia

Aga Tongan archeological site, Guam

Beverly Drive-In, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Hersey Farms Historic District, Merrimack, New Hampshire

El Zagan, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Luke D. Berry House, Payne, Oklahoma

La Giralda, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Greyston Historic District, Providence, Rhode Island

Britton Clinic and Hospital, Marshall, South Dakota

Muir House, Cache, Utah

Evansville Sandpipe, Rock, Wisconsin

## Places of War

Concerned that places important to the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 were being lost through ignorance of their location or encroaching development, Congress directed the National Park Service to make a list. **The resulting four-year study led by staff from the American Battlefield Protection Program and Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems Program identified 677 "principal sites" in 31 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands** that are thematically tied to significant events of the two wars.

Unfortunately, about half of the sites identified were substantially changed or destroyed, many having given way to towns, subdivisions, highways, and shopping centers over the years. The report offers suggestions for preserving and interpreting what remains. Innovative partnerships among public agencies, nonprofits, and private landowners are urged to save this fast-disappearing legacy. Using existing federal and state grants and technical assistance, communities are encouraged to conduct additional in-depth research and develop and implement protection strategies tailored to each site.



STEPHEN D. SMITH

Those efforts start with a firm technical foundation provided by the National Park Service's research. This study of the nation's oldest wars took advantage of something new: surveyors used GPS receivers to document surviving features and employed GIS to determine how much degradation each site has suffered and to map intact landscapes. The approach will serve as a model for future work.

The report cautions that within the next decade, more sites will likely be lost. Stopping that loss is important, especially today: "In times when our nation faces troubling challenges in the world, Americans instinctively seek the authentic fabric of history."

The National Park Service delivered the report to Congress in March 2008; see it online at:

 [www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/Rev1812Study.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/Rev1812Study.htm)

## Heritage Areas

### Groundwork Green Team Providence, Rhode Island

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Roger Williams National Memorial, and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program worked with Groundwork Providence, a nonprofit environmental organization, to provide opportunities for kids in Providence, Rhode Island, to learn about parks and park stewardship. The summer program included canoeing, water quality testing, river cleanup, trail building, learning about the history of the industrial revolution powered by the Blackstone River, Roger Williams, and religious freedom in America. Similar Green Team programs were sponsored by the RTCA in Lawrence, Massachusetts; Yonkers, New York; Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Elizabeth, New Jersey.



NPS PHOTO

### Revitalizing the Riverfront Yuma, Arizona

Yuma grew up along the Colorado River, and then grew away. Much of the riverfront ended up empty, overgrown, or just plain dilapidated. But that's starting to change with a riverfront revitalization that will celebrate the city's history and bring residents and visitors back to the water's edge. The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area provided critical early support and planning expertise to help get the Pivot Point development underway. The name itself is a nod to the area's history. In the 1800s, the railroad bridge



FRED PHILLIPS

that crossed the Colorado would swing open—pivot—to let steamboats pass. While the bridge is gone, and the river much smaller, the pivot point lent its name to the project, and its remnants will help explain Yuma's story to what is hoped to be a growing heritage tourism market. The \$80 million project located within the Yuma Crossing National Historic Landmark is following design guidelines crafted by the heritage area and its partners.

### Joy Ride Detroit, Michigan

Since it earned the distinction in 1919 of having the first three-color traffic light in the nation, Woodward Avenue in Detroit has been serious about cars. It was where teenagers went "Woodwarding" in the family car, muscle cars flexed their good looks, and cars and car lovers went to be seen. By the 1970s, cruising had downshifted only to be brought back in style in 1994 with the Woodward Dream Cruise, which today draws 40,000 cars and more than 1.5 million people from around the world. Motor-Cities National Heritage Area, Ilitch Holdings, the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and *The Detroit News* collaborated to extend the spirit of Dream Cruise and celebrate the city's auto heritage. The result: *Cruisin' MotorCities*, an autotourism festival that was a week-long prelude to this year's Dream Cruise. Running August 9-18, the event offered car shows, rides in Model Ts, tours, boat rides, kid's games, and other activities downtown and at the new AutoFair at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. Plans are underway for an even bigger event next year.

**Left:** The once neglected Yuma, Arizona, riverfront is showing signs of life thanks to the work of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.

### National Honors for Erie Canalway

The American Planning Association honored the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's Preservation and Management Plan with the organization's top national planning award in 2008. Hailed as a model for those involved in heritage tourism and historic resources preservation, the award acknowledges the plan's innovative approach to preservation and its attention to the need to energize and enhance the strength of the communities the canal connects.

*Winning photographs from the Erie Canalway Photo Contest are testament to the rich history and beautiful scenery found along the 524-mile canal, America's most famous man-made waterway.* LEFT TO RIGHT: MIKE BIELKIEWICZ; JOE CAREY; KATHY EICHORN; L.A. MATTESON





NPS PHOTO

Kids in Providence, Rhode Island, learn how to care for parks in the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (and opposite page, top).

### Visit History

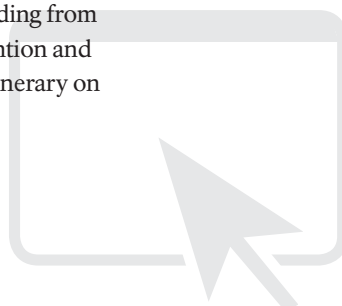
Richmond, Virginia, and Augusta, Georgia, are the two latest cities to have their history featured in the National Park Service's *Discover Our Shared Heritage* travel itinerary series. The online guides highlight spots listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are created in cooperation with local partners. For the Richmond itinerary, the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources worked with the National Park Service to include 87 sites. The Georgia guide was developed with Historic Augusta, Inc., the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources with funding from the City of Augusta and the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau. Also released in 2008: an itinerary on American Presidents.

 [www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel)

### Places Teach!

The National Park Service's *Teaching with Historic Places* program uses National Register-listed sites to create lesson plans for teachers. The award-winning results are an online series of now 135 lesson plans. In the latest, *The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House: African American Women Unite for Change*, students meet Bethune and learn how she and the organization she founded promoted political and social change for African American women.

 [www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp)



*\$119 million in historic preservation  
and recreation grants were awarded  
by the National Park Service in 2008*



## Preservation Grants

### Recovering from Hurricane Damage

#### Biloxi, Mississippi

Three years later, and the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is still far from finished for those who live and work along the Gulf Coast. Repairing damage to historic properties is but a small part of the work to do, but this year saw a large success: the re-opening of Confederate President Jefferson Davis' Biloxi retirement home. Katrina's sustained winds and storm surge destroyed Beauvoir's front and side galleries, removed most of the roof, and weakened the foundation. Wind and water also severely damaged ornate plaster and decorative details throughout the interior. Grants from the National Park

Service helped to fix the damage and reopen the museum to visitors this year. The funds came from the Save America's Treasures program and a special \$53 million Congressional appropriation for repairs to historic sites in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. **The National Park Service has partnered with the State Historic Preservation Offices in the three states to ensure that funding reaches affected property owners quickly and efficiently.** In Mississippi, funds have been allocated to 325 properties, Louisiana has awarded 545 grants, and Alabama has funded more than 30 projects.



NPS PHOTOS

### Highlights of the \$82 million in historic preservation grants awarded by the National Park Service in 2008

#### American Battlefield Protection Program— 32 grants including

Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association/Civil War, Kentucky—\$36,112 to develop a preservation plan

Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association/U.S. Dakota War of 1862, Minnesota—\$42,478 for a cultural resource inventory and a National Register of Historic Places nomination

Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society, Inc./ Revolutionary War, New Jersey—\$30,534 to create a GIS database and maps

State Historical Society/Indian Wars, North Dakota—\$26,843 for an archeological study and National Register of Historic Places nomination for Whitestone Hill battlefield

Great Lakes Historical Society/War of 1812, Ohio—\$18,000 for an underwater archeological survey of the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie

#### Save America's Treasures— 109 grants including

Pine Mountain Settlement School, Kentucky—\$138,575 for infrastructure repairs

Independence Seaport Museum, Submarine USS *BECUNA*, Pennsylvania—\$125,000 for stabilization and preservation

Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc., Texas—\$300,000 for restoration/replacement of Bishop's Palace roofs

Dockery Farms Foundation, Mississippi—\$177,244 for building restoration/preservation

#### Preserve America— 87 grants including

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission—\$142,250 to prepare a comprehensive survey and context study on African American historic and cultural resources throughout the state

Wisconsin Historical Society—\$150,000 to complete digitization of 175,000 photographs of historic buildings for an online database

Town of Wethersfield, Connecticut—\$90,000 for historic area signage

City of Lewes, Delaware—\$35,000 to develop an off-season maritime historic tourism plan

City of Salem, Oregon—\$70,000 for historic marker and marketing program

**Opposite:** Student Conservation Association intern Charlotte Prewitt and NPS intern Song Song Xi stand on a historic fire truck displayed at Alcatraz during the annual ceremony to commemorate the island penitentiary's opening in 1934.



## Recreation

### Blind Students Learn Trail Skills Kansas City, Kansas

Eleanor Craig has spent much of her adult life on trails, re-tracing the footsteps and paddle strokes of those who opened the West. About 10 years ago, Eleanor melded this passion for the outdoors with her career at Accessible Arts, a nonprofit service organization, located on the



NPS/ROSA WILSON



PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

grounds of the Kansas School for the Blind, that unlocks the arts for youngsters with special needs.

#### *Discovery Trails*

not only gets students out on historic trails, it also immerses them in the experience, helping them pull loaded sleds over Lewis and Clark's Great Falls portage and learning ancient flute tunes from the Nez Perce people.

**The National Park Service's National Trails System program has been supporting Craig's program for years and was proud when *Discovery Trails* received the Coming Up Taller Award from Mrs. Laura Bush at the White House in January.** Craig did not

come to the ceremony alone; she brought seven of her Accessible Arts students who toured the town and spent an afternoon with fourth graders at Washington, DC's School for Arts In Learning (SAIL).

**Top:** Eleanor Craig of Accessible Arts explains to SAIL students how the western trails approached the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Bruce Cole, Craig, and Heather Rasmussen with Mrs. Laura Bush at the White House ceremony.

**Right:** Mitigation funds helped with the removal of Pearl Lake Brook Dam in Lisbon, New Hampshire.

### Dam Nice Connecticut River, Vermont, New Hampshire

To build or operate a dam that generates electric power you need a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. To get a license (or renew an old one) the impacts on communities and the environment have to be identified and mitigated. If river recreation or conservation issues are a concern, the National Park Service's Hydropower Assistance Program can help.

As a prerequisite for the renewal of the 15 Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project on the Connecticut River in Vermont and New Hampshire, the National Park Service helped negotiate the creation of a fund to support local conservation projects and sits on the panel that recommends the grants. In 2008, more than \$750,000 was awarded, including \$500,000 to Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to help acquire 2,100 acres along five miles of river frontage.

The National Park Service has been involved in close to 20 percent of the nearly 500 dam license renewals FERC has overseen in the past 10 years.



NPS PHOTO

*"The grant made a huge impact on bringing our dream of a new swimming facility to reality. The addition of the new Pilger Pool has greatly enhanced Pilger's ability to supply fun and safe recreational opportunities to citizens of all ages."*

Kimberly Neiman,  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

### Kids at Play Las Vegas, Nevada

Usually, you wouldn't want the baby sitting on a snake. . . but at Springs Preserve Park in Las Vegas, that's why it's there. To sit on, scramble over, touch, and be a tool for



learning about the desert. A new 16,000-square-foot play area incorporates enormous replicas of a snake, an eagle and its hatchling, a butterfly, dinosaur bones, a train, and all kinds of fun stuff to give kids a hands-on exploration of their desert environment. Designed for children 12 and under, the wildlife sculptures double as shade structures, there's a simulated fossil dig, native plants to learn about, and an interactive sundial. A National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for \$111,519 helped the Las Vegas Valley Water District build the \$729,019 project.

**In 2008, the National Park Service awarded 271 grants—which must be matched at least 50/50—totaling more than \$37 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.** Examples of projects include

Meade State Park, Kansas—\$250,000 to construct a new interpretive and education center.

Village of Pilger, Nebraska—\$185,000 to replace a 51-year old swimming pool that had been condemned by state health officials. The 350 residents of Pilger waged a 10-year campaign to raise the local share.

PHOTO: NEVADA STATE PARKS/JENNY SCANLAND



NPS/GARY HARTLEY

Early morning kayakers on the New River Gorge National River in West Virginia.

### Happy Trails to You



NPS PHOTO

To coincide with National Trails Day on June 7, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne designated 24 trails in 16 states as national recreation trails. The National Trails Program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. The new trails join a nationwide network of more than 1,000 trails that total over 12,000 miles.



NPS PHOTO

**Top:** Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Alaska staff look for wetland trail solutions on the 100 Mile Loop Trail in Fairbanks. **Left:** The Hooper Bay (AK) Subsistence ATV Trail Project crew won a 2008 Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Award.

The new trails include:

Scenic River Trail, Alabama

Rend Lake Bike Trail, Illinois

Musketawa Trail, Michigan

Funk Peterson Wildlife Trail, Nebraska

Chupadera Wilderness Trail, New Mexico

Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, North Carolina

Scout's Trail, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, North Dakota

Congressman Ralph Regula Towpath Trail, Ohio



## Caring for the Environment

Caring for the environment. Simple phrase. Complex job.

For the National Park Service, caring for the environment means smart stewardship of steamy tropical rain forests, frigid arctic tundra, and erupting volcanoes. Caves deep below the earth's surface, high mountain meadows, and sizzling hot deserts. Meandering streams, thundering rivers, natural and man-made lakes, and estuaries and oceans along our coasts. In all, nearly 90 million acres entrusted to us by the American people.

**And it's smart stewardship of not only the places... but everything that lives there.**

Caring for the environment often means putting things back the way they were, giving Mother Nature a hand to restore natural processes that have gotten out of whack.

It means learning as much as we can so that good science drives thoughtful decisions.

It also means looking at our own imprint in the parks and finding ways to lessen our impact and that of those who come to share the experience, not contribute to its diminishment.

And it means reaching out to the next generation to engage their intellect and their creativity. To inspire their leadership in caring for their environment.

From tamarisk to turtles. From the mountaintops of Alaska to the prairies of South Dakota. From a conference in Washington, DC, to lagoons in Florida, the National Park Service is caring for America's environment. Turn the page to see how.



**Above:** Jack Wallace, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, hands a juvenile Peregrine Falcon to National Park Service biologist Matthew Varner. Twenty-one juveniles were released at New River Gorge National River in 2008.

**Opposite page:** The magnificent bird up close.

PHOTOS: NPS/GARY HARTLEY

## Restoration

### Restoring a Desert Landscape and its Native Farms Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona

#### Fee Project

*“We have started to understand and truly appreciate the Navajo community’s sense of what had gone wrong,”*

Scott Travis,  
former Canyon de Chelly  
superintendent

A well-meaning attempt in the 1930s to improve the agricultural fortunes of Navajo farmers in Canyon de Chelly National Monument ended up nearly destroying the complex and delicate ecosystem of that ancient Arizona desert valley decades later.

The culprits: two fast-growing, opportunistic exotic plant species—tamarisk and Russian olive. Planted to retard erosion and channelize the Chinle and del Muerto creeks that meander through the canyon, these non-native species crowded out native willows and cottonwoods, resulting in one of the largest modifications to the landscape in 5,000 years of human occupation. Worse, every thick-growing tamarisk plant sucked up to 500 gallons of water out of the already parched ground. . . every day.

Drought in the late 1970s and 1980s intensified the problem. Farms dried up. Drilling more wells didn’t work, nor did efforts to capture and conserve water. Long-time residents kept saying it was the trees—that before them, canyon inhabitants and their traditional,

decentralized farm plots always weathered the dry spells. The National Park Service listened and began watershed restoration. “We have started to understand and truly appreciate the Navajo community’s sense of what had gone wrong,” says Scott Travis, former Canyon de Chelly superintendent.

More than 1,000 infested acres have been cleared. The stream is regaining some of its old profile. Efforts are underway to catch and conserve water runoff in the canyon to help restore the farming culture for the canyon’s Navajo families and clans. The park is attacking a new threat of invasive weeds attracted to ground cleared of tamarisk and Russian olive by planting native grasses and shrubs.

**The land is recovering. And so are a people whose way of life and lifeways had been nearly destroyed.** “One woman said the most important thing was that she could feel the breezes again in the canyon,” said Travis, “breezes that she had felt when she was a child.”

*Clearing tamarisk at Canyon de Chelly is helping to bring this delicate desert ecosystem back into balance and improving prospects for the canyon’s Navajo farm families.*



**10,000 Turtles!****Padre Island National Seashore, Texas***Centennial Challenge Project*

Padre Island National Seashore's "Turtle Team" found a record 200 Kemp's ridley nests in the sand along the Gulf of Mexico this summer. The eggs were carefully dug up and incubated at a park lab away from human disruption and natural predators. Under the watchful eye of the park's veteran chief of sea turtle science and recovery, Donna Shaver, Ph.D., 10,000 turtle babies were hatched and released, cheered on by adoring crowds in their slow crawl to the sea. After five straight years of record nesting, Shaver says the park's plan to restore the endangered Kemp's ridley by transplanting Mexican-laid eggs to

Padre Island is working: turtles released 10-15 years ago are coming back to the park to lay their own eggs. "It has just been a thrilling year here," Shaver says. Add one more thrill: in June, a six-foot-long leatherback turtle came ashore to lay eggs, the first of its kind to nest on the Texas coast since the 1930s.

*Enthusiastic crowds gather whenever crews at Padre Island release a batch of newly hatched turtles, each about the size of a silver dollar, into the gulf. Some of them even get outfitted with transmitters to track their whereabouts.*

**Removing 12,000 Feet of Steel****Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Utah**

After nearly a century of power generation, a small hydroelectric plant in Utah's American Fork Canyon was successfully decommissioned this year. The project meant the removal of a concrete dam, the hydro turbine and generator, the former home and garage that housed plant operators, and a 12,000-foot-long, 26-inch diameter steel flow line that ran along the north slope of the canyon, through Timpanogos Cave National Monument. The pipe had to be cut into sections and removed by helicopter. The work improved the view for visitors, restored a free-flowing stream, and eliminated the danger of damage caused by breaks in the line.

**Oyster Habitat****Canaveral National Seashore, Florida**

Oysters along the East Coast are struggling as their habitat is compromised. The park wanted to reverse course. More than 5,400 volunteers turned out to remove dead oyster colonies and revive the underlying reefs by building oyster mats, places where oysters can thrive and rebuild not only their own populations but also the biodiversity of the entire estuary. Partners: The Nature Conservancy, University of Central Florida, St. Johns River Water Management District, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, and the New Smyrna Beach Marine Discovery Center.

**Lawsuit Brings Restoration Award****Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado**

In the 1890s, a 14-mile-long drainage ditch was built to divert snowmelt from Colorado's Never Summer Mountains to provide water to growing settlements along the Front Range of the Rockies. The owners promised to be responsible should anything ever go awry. Five years ago, the overloaded ditch high above the Kawuneeche Valley in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park, blew open, obliterating everything in its path including significant stands of old-growth lodgepole pine, fir and spruce, and damaging Lulu Creek, wetlands, trails, bridges, and campsites. It took a National Park Service lawsuit to bring the ditch owners to the table, but in 2008, they paid. The \$9 million settlement is the largest natural resource damage payment in the history of the agency. The funds will be used to help restore areas damaged by the breach.



## Good Science

### Filling the Gaps Southwest Alaska National Parks

National Park Service employees Chuck Lindsay and Michael Shephard install wind sensors on the new Hickerson Lake weather station in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The 10,016-foot-tall Iliamna Volcano is in the background.



Climate change is here.

In Alaska, air temperature is up and going higher at one of the fastest rates on the planet. Warmer air is shrinking the state's glaciers and has accelerated the lifecycle of the spruce bark beetle, causing one of the largest insect outbreaks in North America.

And there's more to come. Thawing permafrost will alter animal migration patterns and flood glacial rivers. Trees will grow above the tree line, shrubs will grow on the shrubless tundra shading out the tiny lichen that nourish hungry caribou in the winter. And those whose lives and culture are inextricably woven into the rhythms of nature in the land of the midnight sun will certainly pay a high price for higher temperatures.

National Park Service scientists studying climate change in Alaska are combing through data in search of trends to help us understand what is coming, but gaps in information—especially at high elevations—have been a problem.

To close those gaps, **this summer six new weather stations were set up in Katmai, Lake Clark, and Kenai Fjords national parks. They join a network of 16 other stations that help us identify long-term trends in temperature and precipitation and provide key baseline data** for climate change model-

ing and park management. A bonus: the hourly weather observations from the new stations provide previously unavailable data on current conditions to the parks, pilots, and the public. Up to 20 more stations are contemplated.

Speaking at the Central Alaska Park Science Symposium in 2006, F. Stuart Chapin, III, of the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, stated "Alaska's national parks can make a unique contribution in defining the future role of the National Park Service and the way in which the United States and other countries respond to global environmental and ecological changes." We're working hard to live up to that challenge.

### Beauty and Brains



*Alaska Park Science*, published twice a year by the National Park Service's Alaska Region and the Alaska Geographic Association, shares what we are learning through research and scholarship in Alaska's national parks. The journal won a slew of international awards in 2008, including the Grand Award for Science & Environment publications in the Annual Publication Excellence (APEX 2008) competition for its issue on climate change.

 [www.nps.gov/akso/AKParkScience/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/akso/AKParkScience/index.htm)

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### International Condor Conservation Pinnacles National Monument, California

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NPS/GAVIN EMMONS

Pinnacles National Monument knows a lot about endangered California condors; the Argentine National Park Administration has experts on the equally imperiled Andean condors. A September visit to Argentina set up a biologist exchange to share condor conservation strategies and lay the groundwork for a broader, sister park relationship. Above: California condor released in the park in 2004.



*Kids on the Global Explorers science excursion through the Grand Canyon take a break from sampling noise.*

PHOTO: GLOBAL EXPLORERS

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#### (Un)Natural Sounds

Aircraft noise in Yosemite's backcountry is audible 30 percent of the day. Average noise-free intervals averaged just over one minute in some places in the park. These findings for Yosemite, as well as results for Sequoia and Kings Canyon and Devils Postpile, were included in comments to the Federal Aviation Administration on a proposed new air service and will be used in developing future Air Tour Management Plans for the Sierra parks.

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#### Global Explorers Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

A new partnership between Global Explorers and the National Park Service's Natural Sounds Program helped the Grand Canyon address air tour noise issues and gave a group of kids some hands-on science lessons. With acoustic monitoring equipment provided by the Service, Global Explorers took six blind and six sighted kids on an expedition down the Colorado River. Working in teams, the kids measured noise levels and turned the results over to the Natural Sounds Program for analysis.

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#### Airborne Contaminants

Heavy metals, pesticides, and other airborne contaminants have been found in 20 Western national parks from the Arctic to the Mexican border. The six-year study led by the Air Resources Division, looked at how toxic, persistent contaminants are carried in air masses from as far away as Europe and Asia. . .and as close as the local county. The findings released in February show that while most concentrations are below levels of concern, others (e.g., mercury and the pesticides dieldrin and DDT) are accumulating in sensitive species like fish. The results are being widely shared with federal, state, and local governments, and other stakeholders. Study participants include the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University, and the University of Washington.

[www.nature.nps.gov/air/Studies/air\\_toxics/wacap.cfm](http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/Studies/air_toxics/wacap.cfm)





DOITAM HELEMANN

### Going with the Flow

#### Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

On March 5, Secretary Kempthorne and Director Bomar opened jet tubes at Glen Canyon Dam to release about 41,500 cubic feet per second of Colorado River water into the Grand Canyon, launching a scientific experiment aimed at learning more about how to improve the river for wildlife and visitors. The experiment was designed “to take advantage of the highest sediment deposits in a decade” said Kempthorne, and “better assess the ability of these releases to rebuild beaches that provide habitat for endangered wildlife and campsites for thousands of Grand Canyon National Park tourists.”

*Secretary Kempthorne opens up the valves to begin the 60-hour “high flow test.”*

### Fighting Fire with Fire

The Wildland Fire Fuels Program burned more than 130,000 acres this year to create buffer zones for park communities, restore ecosystems dependent upon fire, and reduce the amount of overgrowth and dead wood that can fuel wildfires. Recent prescribed burns at Everglades, Kings Mountain, and Yosemite proved their value by helping to slow and contain fires in all three national parks this year. At Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina, the prescribed fire program is showing even more benefits: the look of the 18th-century forest landscape of this Revolutionary War battlefield is returning.

### Digital Geology

Using data from 51 separate maps, the Geologic Resource Division worked with Colorado State University and the U.S. Geological Survey to create a digital map of Yellowstone National Park’s bedrock and surface geology.

### Elk Management

#### Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota

There are a lot of elk in Wind Cave National Park, more than the ecosystem can support. In the past, when numbers got high, some were moved to new homes, but the presence of chronic wasting disease in the herd has eliminated that alternative. To sort through its options, the park is gathering more information on the animals, using GPS collars to track their movements. The park has invited public comment on the draft elk management plan and is working with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to develop a plan consistent with a comprehensive state effort underway for the southern Black Hills.



NPS/TOM FARRELL

*Park biological science technician Duane Weber repackages a net used in the collaring effort.*

### Assessing Coastal Watersheds

Coastal watersheds are dynamic hydrologic systems that create and sustain coastal ecosystems. If impaired, they can also transport pollutants and invasive species, alter sediment flows, change salinity, and degrade water quality and habitats. The National Park Service is collaborating with experts from other federal, state, and local agencies, to determine the health of coastal park watersheds. Assessments have been started in 50 parks; 25 are done. Reports for Acadia National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Olympic National Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore were completed this year.



NPS PHOTO

## Reaching Out to...

### Grow New Leaders...

More than 500 student environmental leaders from around the country were part of EarthVision: Actions for a Healthy Planet, a first-of-its-kind youth conservation summit in Washington, DC. The four-day conference sponsored by the Student Conservation Association and the National Park Service, gave participants a chance to share their ideas with each other and learn from environmental experts and national leaders. And most importantly, to understand that one person can make a difference. "My favorite part of EarthVision was just learning new techniques and ways to get our community involved," said Hilary from Stamford. "I have a club at my school and I can't wait to go back and help the community and make our school better, a more eco-friendly place for all of us to live in."



Director Mary Bomar on the steps of the Interior Building with students at the EarthVision youth conservation conference.



Park Ranger Whitney Wurzel with campers at the Congaree Science Camp.

### Hook Kids on Science...

#### Centennial Challenge Project

Twenty rising fifth graders at Gadsden Elementary School in Richland County, South Carolina, spent a week to remember at Congaree National Park's first-ever Summer Science Camp July 7-11. Park rangers structured the curriculum around state education standards for science and included games, data collection, writing, art projects, hiking, and canoeing to capitalize on park resources and pique the kids' curiosity and expand their skills in observation, enjoying the outdoors, and stewardship. Park staff and volunteers, the park friends group, and the school district all worked together to make the camp a success. Even though the campers lived within a few miles of the park, many of them—and their families—had never explored the park before. One child confided in a park ranger that camp had changed her life; she used to always kick mushrooms because they are "nothing but mushrooms," but after camp, she understands their importance and will not kick them.

### Help Other Nations

In its second year as a sister park, a team from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks spent nearly a month in the tropical forest of Cambodia's Samlaut Protected Area training rangers and helping to write that nation's first park foundational document. The team also met with leaders of Thailand's national parks to propose ways to protect the migration route of the Asian tiger and elephant. The Thai officials visited U.S. national parks to continue the discussion. The Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation sponsors the Samlaut rangers and resource protection for this remarkable area as part of its Millennium Village program to eradicate poverty.



Staff from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks with their counterparts at Cambodia's Samlaut Protected Area.

## *Living Lightly on the Land*



DAVID J. SWIFT

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### **LEEDing By Example** **Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming**

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Only 51 projects in the nation have scored the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification—platinum—from the U.S. Green Building Council. One of them is the newest visitor facility at Grand Teton National Park.

The Laurence S. Rockefeller Center is the crowning touch to one of the most generous gifts—valued at \$160 million—ever received by the National Park Service. Sitting at the heart of a former dude ranch, the building and what it stands for were the dream of its namesake. Laurence Rockefeller loved the longtime family retreat he inherited from his father and gave it to the park... after he had a little work done.

Rockefeller wanted to bring back the natural landscape. He ordered the removal of the ranch's roads and more than 30 buildings—some moved to the park for re-use—then personally directed the design and construction

of this elegantly rustic interpretive center. His vision: that the preserve offer spiritual and physical renewal and the center foster individual responsibility for conservation stewardship.

The nearly self-sufficient center is a stunning achievement of ecologically friendly building practices and energy-efficiency. Composting toilets convert waste to fertilizer used throughout the park. Geothermal technology provides heat and photovoltaic panels more than half its electricity.

Outside, eight miles of trail wind around looking glass-perfect Phelps Lake, crossing through sagebrush meadows, lush woods, and one of the most wildlife-rich areas in the park.

Laurence Rockefeller did not live to see his vision realized. We are positive he would be delighted by the results.

**Other Green Projects in 2008**

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**Eielson Visitor Center,  
Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska**

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Certified LEED Platinum, the first for a building designed and constructed by the National Park Service

Low-profile, earth-bermed building blends into the landscape

Tundra mats salvaged during construction camouflage the roof deck

Remote, off power-grid location uses alternative energy supply from solar, hydroelectric, and natural light



NPS PHOTO

*Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park*

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**Forest Center, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller  
National Historical Park, Vermont**

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Constructed with Forest Stewardship Council certified wood

Certification as LEED Platinum pending

High efficiency—low emissions, wood-fired boiler uses firewood cut from the park’s sustainably-managed forest and is the primary heat source

Solar-powered, augmented by “Cow Power” from Central Vermont Public Service’s methane recapture program



WICKIE DAMERON

*Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center*

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**Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center,  
North Carolina**

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Certified LEED Gold

Active/passive heating and cooling

Radiant floor heating

Green roof

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**Twin Creeks Science and Education Center,  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee  
& North Carolina**

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Certification as LEED Silver pending

Natural storm water management

Daylight harvesting

High-efficiency lighting with occupancy and daylighting controls

Natural ventilation

High recycled content building materials

Site harvested stone masonry

Low-emitting finishes



FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES/JACK WILLIAMS

*Twin Creeks Science and Education Center,  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

## Sustainability

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### Converting from Oil

#### Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, New York

Working with Brookhaven National Laboratory, **one of the park's three oil-burning furnaces has been completely converted to bioheat fuels made from renewable natural agricultural products**, which produce fewer harmful emissions, lower the amount of carbon dioxide released, and reduce the buildup of dangerous greenhouse gases.

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### Lighting Retrofits

#### Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado

To preserve the darkness of the night sky and save money, the park replaced old fixtures with energy efficient LED lights that direct light down, **saving the darkness and more than \$3,500 in electricity and bulb replacement costs**.

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### Powered by Natural Gas

#### Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

With 20 new buses to replace what was left of an aging fleet, the park's entire visitor transportation system is now powered by compressed natural gas (CNG).

**The transition is estimated to substantially reduce tailpipe emissions in the park:** non-methane hydrocarbons levels down 18.5 tons/year, nitrous oxides down 176 tons/year, and soot down 10 tons/year. The shuttle system carries 4.5 million park visitors annually.

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### Sustainable Tourism

From Tennessee to Hawai'i, parks and their neighbors are working together to figure out how to sustain tourism and the economic growth it brings, while protecting the environment. In April, the Great Smoky Mountains Sustainable Tourism Summit brought 500 elected officials, community planners, and tourism professionals from across North Carolina and Tennessee together to discuss issues and solutions in preparation for the park's 75th birthday in 2009. To help protect Hawai'i's only World Heritage Site, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park teamed up with The World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, the Big Island Visitors Bureau, and Hawai'i Forest & Trail to host a three-city training event for key stakeholders including hotels, tour operators, transportation providers, cruise lines, and local governments. A new agreement signed by the Department of the Interior and the National Geographic Society will encourage this type of thinking across all parks.

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### Climate Friendly Parks

National parks, because of their often remote locations and unique, protected resources, are places where the effects of climate change are particularly noticeable. The Climate Friendly Parks program, a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service, is helping national parks manage for climate change. An online tool gives parks and concessioners a way to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2008, 16 parks have GHG inventories and action plans in place.

*An agreement between the Department of the Interior and the National Geographic Society will aid investigation into sustainable tourism methods across all parks.*

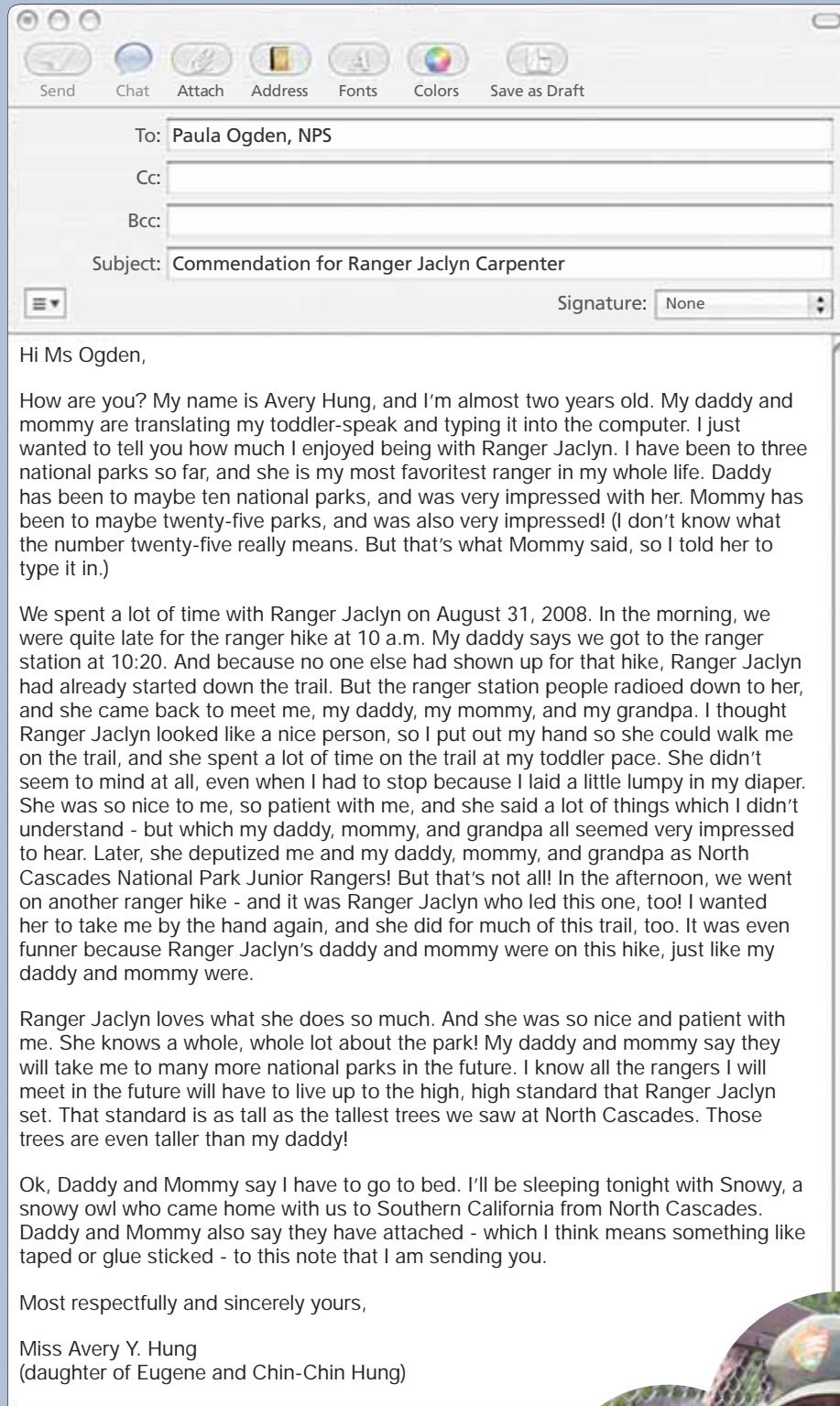
*The Climate Friendly Parks program, a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service, is helping national parks manage climate change.*



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*Covering almost five acres, these 5,740 solar photovoltaic modules supply more than 34 percent of the electricity used at Furnace Creek and Ranch in California. Installed by Death Valley National Park concessioner Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the project is expected to offset 24,000 tons of dangerous pollutants over its 25-year lifespan.*





Miss Avery

Ranger Jaclyn

National Park Service divers working underwater at the Dry Tortugas National Park Research Natural Area.







*figures cover the period from program inception through the end of FY 2008*

**\$48,000,000,000** incentivized in private historic preservation investment

**11,700,000,000** visitors

**\$5,409,252,508** in grants awarded

**\$2,750,000,000** annual budget

**121,603,193** objects in museum collections

**97,417,260** volunteer hours

**84,000,000** acres of land

**4,502,644** acres of oceans, lakes, reservoirs

**2,482,104** volunteers

**218,000** jobs supported in gateway communities

**85,049** miles of perennial rivers and streams

**68,561** archeological sites

**43,162** miles of shoreline

**27,000** historic structures

**23,188** employees

**2,461** national historic landmarks

**582** national natural landmarks

**400** endangered species

**391** national parks

**40** national heritage areas

**1 mission:** *The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.*