

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

PARK PURPOSE

The purpose of Catoctin Mountain Park is to protect its natural and cultural environment while:

- providing quality recreational facilities and activities including hiking, horse trails, scenic views, campgrounds, residential camps and cabins.
- offering resource education opportunities
- serving as a buffer to the Presidential Retreat.

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of significance clearly define the importance or distinctiveness of the park's resources. Their purpose is to help managers make decisions that preserve the resources and values present and represented in Catoctin Mountain Park.

Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it:

- is a prime example of the rebirth and diversity of the Eastern deciduous forest, and provides outstanding scenic beauty at the transition of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont geologic provinces for all to enjoy.
- provides opportunities for resource compatible outdoor recreation serving several large urban areas and the Nation.
- hosts the Presidential Retreat, Camp David. Catoctin is a place where international leaders have convened to discuss world peace and international diplomacy.
- plays an important role in the ecological health of the watershed for the Monocacy and the Potomac rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay.
- was one of 46 Recreational Demonstration Areas established in the 1930's, and represents an outstanding example of a New Deal Era program to recast the landscape for recreation and conservation purposes.
- preserves and provides for the continued use of Camp Greentop, home to the oldest operating camp for the disabled in the nation.
- includes diverse cultural resources that range from American Indian tool production, to the Nations first Job Corps Center. Camp Greentop and Camp Misty Mount are both Historic Districts on the National Register of Historic Places.
- played a supporting role in World War II, providing training areas, rest and relaxation opportunities and Office of Strategic Services training facilities.