

## Fundamental Resources and Values

The preeminent responsibility of park managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are critical (fundamental) to achieving and maintaining the purpose and significance of the park. These qualities are called fundamental resources and values (FRVs). Fundamental resources and values are closely related to legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements. Identifying and understanding the FRVs that are associated with the park's purpose and/or significance statements will help focus planning and management on what is truly important about the park. FRVs maintain the park's purpose and significance, and if these resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized. Indeed, the loss or major impact to the fundamental natural or cultural resources could constitute impairment, violating the 1916 NPS Organic Act.



FRVs are defined as: those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management. Furthermore, an FRV should be one that would not be questioned or easily questioned—it should be one to which everyone agrees.

The following FRVs have been identified for Catoctin Mountain Park and are listed with their related significance statement:

### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 1

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it was one of 46 recreational demonstration areas developed in the 1930s and represents an outstanding example of New Deal-era programs that established rural areas for conservation and recreation purposes.*

### Fundamental Resources and Values

- ethnographic resources
- cabin camps

### Overview

Establishment of the Recreational Demonstration Area by the federal government that would become Catoctin Mountain Park altered the existing landscape and left a tangible record of the New Deal-era. The CCC and WPA buildings and landscape changes exemplify the mission of the RDA program, which used the labor of these groups to conserve natural resources and create recreational areas for the enjoyment of the public. Ethnographic resources associated with these New Deal programs emanate from the oral histories of the people who participated in the programs.

### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 2

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it is an early and continuing example of conservation practices resulting in the regeneration of an eastern deciduous forest.*

## Fundamental Resources and Values

- eastern deciduous forest
- geological resources
- wildlife communities

### Overview

The second-growth eastern deciduous forest is a direct result of the legacy of New Deal legislation, which recast the Catoctin landscape from an industrial and agricultural landscape to one of a native forest. The forest is therefore fundamental to improving both the natural environment the New Deal programs intended to create, as well as the symbolic values of contemporary resource stewardship.

Similarly, the geological resources of the park are integral components of Catoctin Mountain natural systems. The unique geological features provide the foundation for a rich, renewed natural environment, while preserving recreational values and outstanding opportunities for education and scientific study.

The second-growth forest and distinctive geology of Catoctin Mountain Park comprises a wide range of habitat conditions that are fundamental to supporting diverse wildlife communities. Development pressure near the park's boundaries and its proximity to suburban and developed areas of Frederick County, Maryland, makes the park an even more important sanctuary for native wildlife communities.

### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 3

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it provides outstanding scenic values at the transition zone of the Monocacy River valley and Catoctin Mountain in the Piedmont Plateau and Blue Ridge geologic provinces.*

## Fundamental Resources and Values

- views and vistas
- geological resources
- air quality

### Overview

Catoctin Mountain Park topography (at the transition zone of the Piedmont Plateau and Blue Ridge geologic provinces), provides picturesque views from surrounding valleys and panoramic vistas from the ridgelines within park boundaries. Maryland's mountainous front range comes to life within these viewsheds. Views and vistas are fundamental to visitor experience at the park—offering snapshots of valley farmland, tree-lined ridges, night skies, and a sense of nature unique from the population centers of the mid-Atlantic region.

Top Left Page: Farmer with sickle circa 1940s. NPS photo

Right: Fishing in Big Hunting Creek. NPS photo



#### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 4

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because of its diverse outdoor recreation opportunities in a mountain setting near population centers of the mid-Atlantic region.*

#### Fundamental Resources and Values

- cabin camps (Camp Greentop and Camp Misty Mount)

#### Overview

Illustrative of the New Deal movement to introduce outdoor recreation to children living in urban areas, the park's cabin camps fundamentally represent the beginning of organized youth recreational use of the area.

Camp Greentop remains the longest operating cabin camp for persons with disabilities in the United States. Given the physical setting and recreational activities associated with the mountain, stream, and valley topography of the park, the cabin camps (Greentop and Misty Mount) are the most symbolic and enduring resources associated with the park purpose to provide quality recreational opportunities.

#### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 5

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it provides exceptional aquatic habitat.*

#### Fundamental Resources and Values

- fish communities

#### Overview

The cold water streams of the park—particularly Big Hunting Creek and Owens Creek—provide some of the best brook trout habitat in the region. These streams provide remarkable recreational opportunities for fishing enthusiasts. Big Hunting Creek was the state of Maryland's first fly fishing only designated stream in 1938 and in 1974 became Maryland's first catch-and-release trout stream.

#### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 6

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it serves as the setting where international leaders convene to discuss world peace and international diplomacy and serves as the Presidential Retreat.*

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 7

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it is the location of cabin camps that have served both as the oldest operating camps for persons with disabilities in the nation as well as one of the original locations where the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, trained in World War II.*

### Fundamental Resources and Values

- cabin camps (Camp Greentop and Camp Misty Mount)
- ethnographic resources

### Overview

Catoctin Mountain Park has two rustic revival-style cabin camps, Camp Greentop (1938) and Camp Misty Mount (1937), both of which were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as historic districts in 1989. Both camps are significant because they illustrate the mission of the RDA program to use WPA and CCC labor to conserve natural resources and create recreational areas for the enjoyment of the public. The camps are also examples of NPS designs for rustic architecture, adhering to the guidelines for camp building and arrangement found throughout the national park system.

The RDA-designed Camp Greentop, with input from the Maryland League for Crippled Children, became a more accessible cabin camp because of the relatively flat topography and the compact proximity of individual cabins. The Maryland League for Crippled Children began using the camp when it opened in 1938. The organization has continued to visit the camp ever since, making it a historic campus for accommodating people with disabilities. From 1956–1996 Camp Greentop was the site of the Frederick County Outdoor School, a residential environmental educational program. Camp Misty Mount served the same purpose for Washington County from 1960–1978.

In 1942, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), an independent agency established to coordinate overseas intelligence and espionage, began training at Camp Greentop. Catoctin's isolated rural setting and close proximity to Washington, D.C., accommodated the need for secure combat training for OSS recruits during World War II.

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT 8

*Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it preserves a cultural heritage that dates back more than 3,500 years, and ranges from stone tool making, to agriculture, to charcoal production.*

### Fundamental Resources and Values

- cultural landscapes

### Overview

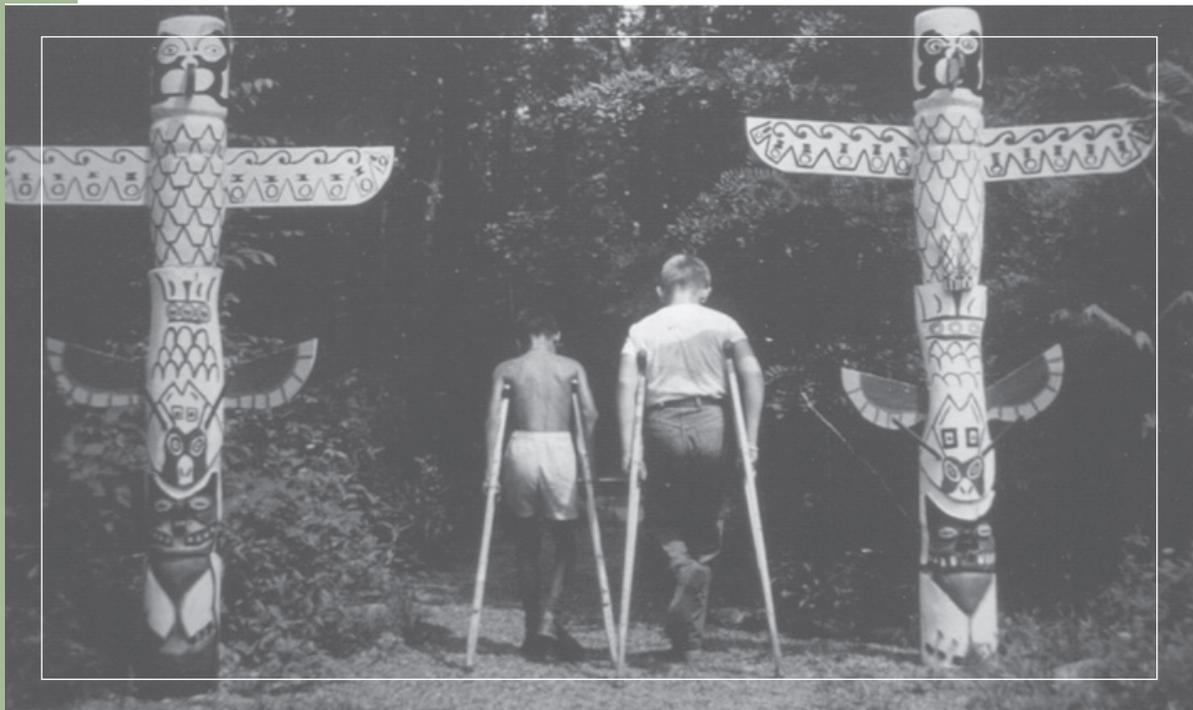
The cultural landscapes of the park encompass human history from the region's prehistoric period to the present. The park has three identified Cultural landscape inventory units.

The overarching parent landscape consists of the entire acreage of Catoctin Mountain Park, Camp Greentop, and Camp Misty Mount.

The Catoctin Mountain Park cultural landscape encompasses the entire 5,748 acres of the park. Two periods of significance have been determined for this cultural landscape. The first period (1770–1903) is significant for the early iron industry when the forests of Catoctin Mountain were harvested for timber for the production of charcoal. Iron furnaces were introduced to the region in the 1760s. The Catoctin Iron Furnace (1775) had a significant impact on the area that would become the park. Remnants of charcoal hearths that provided fuel for the iron furnaces dot the landscape as physical reminders of the Catoctin Mountain industrial heritage. Stone walls and historic building foundations remain as vestiges of the area’s agricultural history.

The second period of significance (1934–1942) encompasses the mountain’s history as a Recreational Demonstration Area and describes the reforestation activities and the WPA-built camps established during this time, including Camp Hi-Catoctin, used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II.

The component cultural landscapes of Camp Misty Mount and Camp Greentop consist of the buildings, spatial organization patterns, circulation including footpaths, and small-scale features such as campfire circles. Both component landscapes are significant for their recreational planning under the Recreational Demonstration Area, as landscapes for social programs promoting human conservation during the Great Depression, and for campsite design and organization that embodies the development of the rustic revival design in architecture and landscapes.



Totem circa 1937. NPS photo