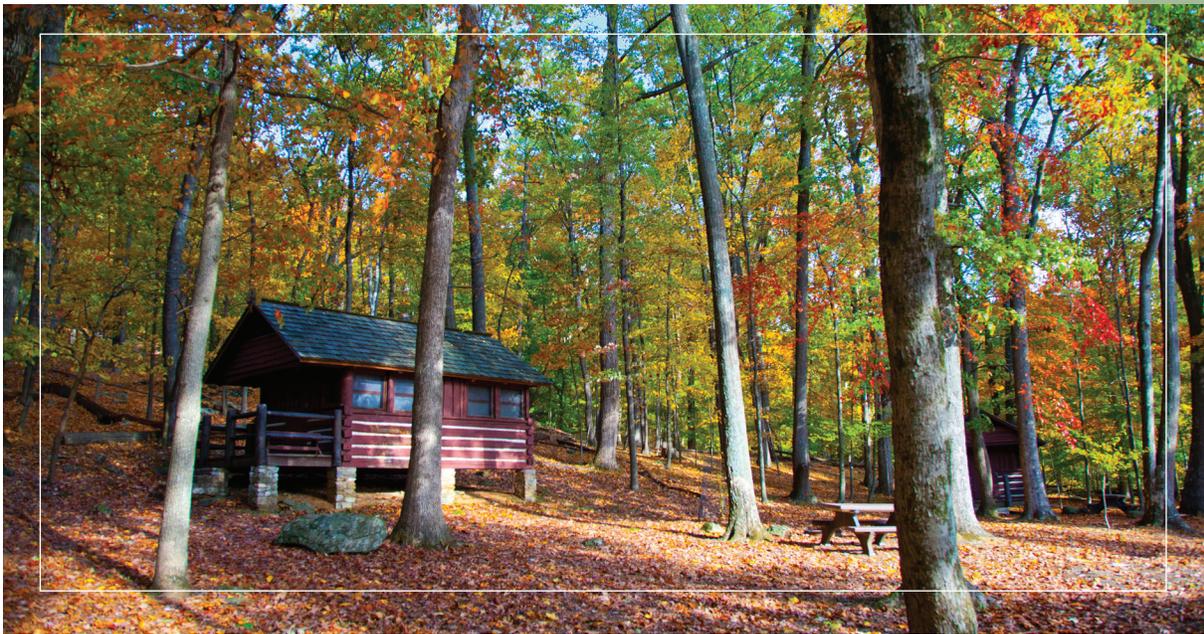


Park Purpose

The park purpose identifies the specific reason for the creation of a particular park unit. The purpose statement is crafted through a careful analysis of the legislation or legislative history that molded the establishment and development of the park. Catoctin Mountain Park was created in the 1930s as a 10,000-acre Recreational Demonstration Area within New Deal legislation and was transferred to the National Park Service in November 1936 (see appendix A for legislative history). The purpose statement reinforces the foundation for future park management, administration, and use decisions.

Based on a review of park legislation, previous park management documents, and discussions with park staff and key stakeholders, the planning team generated the following purpose statement for Catoctin Mountain Park:

The purpose of Catoctin Mountain Park is to provide quality recreational opportunities in the Catoctin Mountains and serve as a setting and buffer for the Presidential Retreat, while protecting and conserving the park's natural and cultural environments in the spirit of New Deal conservation programs.



Misty Mount cabins. NPS photo

Park Significance Statements

Significance statements express why the resources and values of a park unit are important enough to warrant national park designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park, and are substantiated by data, research, and consensus. While Catoctin Mountain Park contains many significant resources, not all of these resources contribute to the significance of the park. Rather, they describe the park's distinctive nature and help inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park.

Park significance statements usually include one or more of the elements listed below:

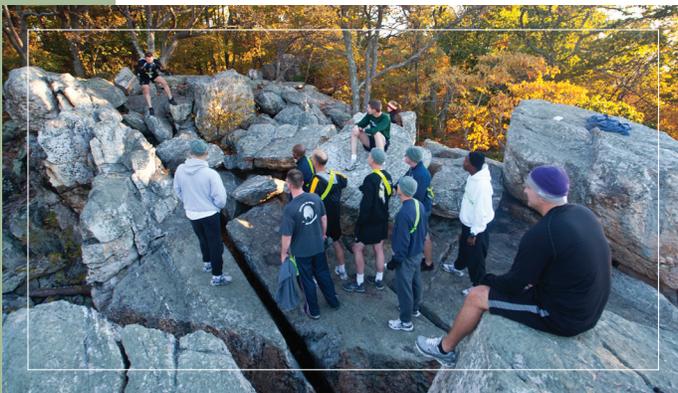
- is an outstanding example
- possesses exceptional value or quality for illustrating or interpreting the natural and cultural themes
- offers exceptional opportunities for public enjoyment or scientific study
- retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of the resource

The following significance statements have been identified for Catoctin Mountain Park:

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.

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.

Significance Statement 3: Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it provides outstanding scenic values at the transition of the Monocacy River Valley and the Catoctin Mountains in the Piedmont Plateau and Blue Ridge geologic provinces.



Top: Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). NPS photo
Above: Visitors at Wolf Rock. NPS photo

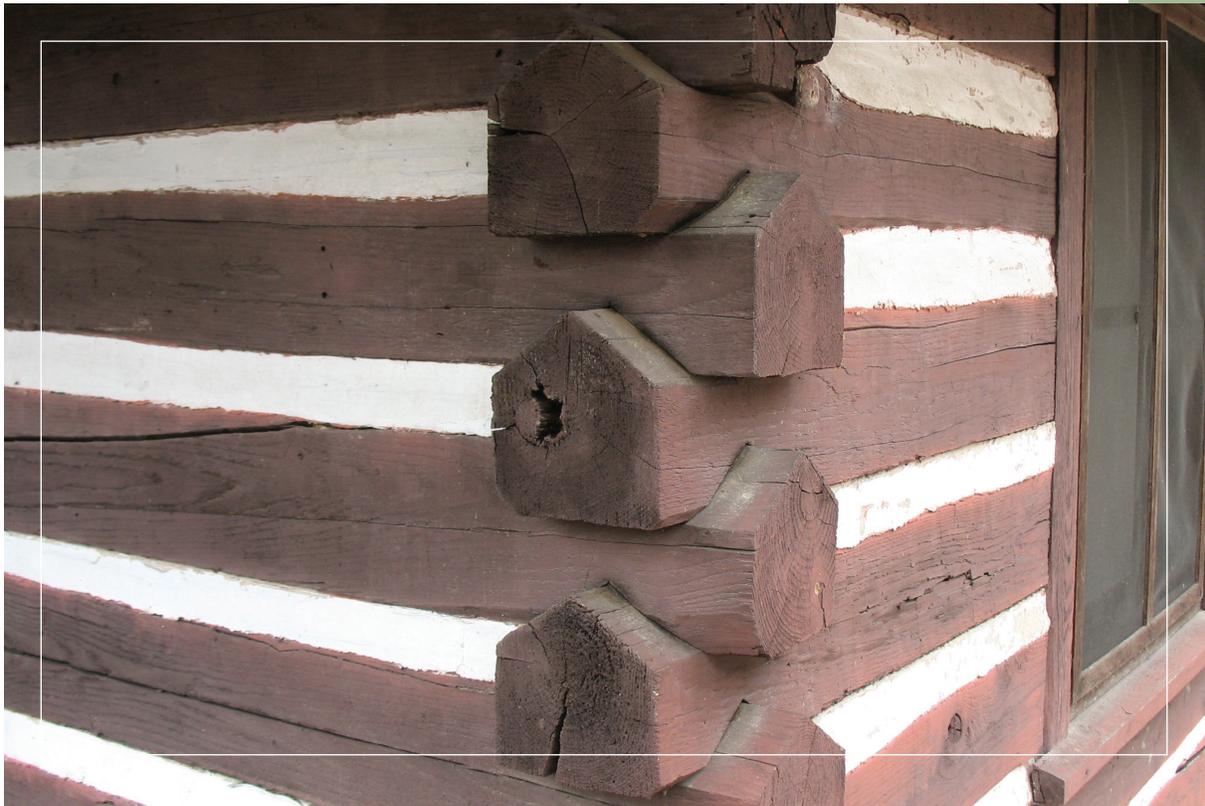
Significance Statement 4: Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it provides diverse outdoor recreation opportunities in a mountain setting near the population centers of the mid-Atlantic region.

Significance Statement 5: Catoctin Mountain Park is significant because it provides exceptional aquatic habitat.

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.

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.



Steeple notching on a historic cabin camp. NPS photo