

Rock Creek Park



Boulder Bridge in Rock Creek Park

Rock Creek Park, in the heart of Washington, D.C., was one of the nation's first federal parks, established in 1890. It was set aside to preserve its natural beauty and for visitors to enjoy the recreational opportunities it offered. A by-product of this protection was the preservation of Native American cultural sites within the park's boundaries. Two hunting camps, and a quartzite quarry for tools and weapons, have been found in the park. These and other discoveries give us a view of what life was like thousands of years before Europeans arrived on the scene.

Necostins, Piscataways, Massawomecks, and other tribes lived and thrived in this area. When the first Europeans arrived, they traded goods with the native peoples. It was not until near the end of the 17th century, almost 200 years later, that these "first Americans" were forced out by the newly arrived strangers.

When you visit Rock Creek Park, you can enjoy the peace and quiet of the natural surroundings, and at the same time discover Native lifeways from a long-ago past.

To learn more, visit:

www.nps.gov/rocr/