

CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



July 2015



Telling the American Story

July is typically the month filled with American flags and fireworks celebrating everything of who we are as Americans. This July is no different, with the National Park Service playing a role in telling this story whether it is celebrating the achievements of our Founding Fathers or remembering the mistakes we have made in the past. National parks have long been places for not only celebration but also for healing, and often times are places where people gather in times of sorrow and frustration.

For example, NPS Rangers at the [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, offered programs for local elementary through middle school students on the Dred Scott trials and one room school house programs that allowed students to discuss citizenship and freedom. [Manzanar National Historic Site](#) in California preserves the stories of the internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and serves as a reminder to this and future generations of the fragility of American civil liberties. [Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site](#) in Colorado recognizes the national significance of the Sand Creek Massacre in American history, and its ongoing significance to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people and the descendants of the massacre victims.

Many of our [NPS sites](#) and programs are dedicated to telling the stories of our on-going struggles for freedom and equality, while others serve as platforms to discuss the stories further.

American Story continued on page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2015

July is **Inviting New Audiences** month. Check your local park for events around these themes or visit FindYourPark.com and search through the nationwide schedule. The **Find Your Park** calendar is continually being updated so keep checking back as new events are added every week.

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

NATIONWIDE

LOCAL EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY BUT NONE BIGGER THAN THE FIREWORKS ON THE NATIONAL MALL. SEE THE BELOW LINK TO LEARN ABOUT THE BEHIND THE SCENES WORK BY THE NPS TO MAKE THE CELEBRATION A SUCCESS.

[NATIONAL MALL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION](#)

JULY 11

ASHLAND BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATION

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE - WI

A COLLABORATIVE EVENT BETWEEN THE NPS, THE CITY OF ASHLAND, THE ASHLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM, AND THE US COAST GUARD, ON THE HISTORIC ORE DOCK TO CELEBRATE THE ADDITION OF THE ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT TO THE LAKESHORE AND THE NPS.

JULY 18

WORLD LISTENING DAY

NATIONWIDE

CO-ORGANIZED BY THE WORLD LISTENING PROJECT AND MIDWEST SOCIETY FOR ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY. CUT OUT THE DISTRACTIONS AND LISTEN TO THE SOUNDSCAPES AROUND YOU.

[SOUNDS IN PARKS](#)



New citizens meet national park staff at a naturalization ceremony at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Looking Towards the Future

National Parks are also places where new citizens create their own American heritage through [naturalization ceremonies](#). National parks preserve significant natural resources and cultural heritage sites and are places where one can learn about and reflect on the American identity and the responsibilities of citizenship.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have an [official partnership](#) that encourages both agencies to co-host naturalization ceremonies in these special places set aside for public enjoyment and historical commemoration.

In 2014, 30 national parks held ceremonies for nearly 1,000 new Americans. Celebration sites included Federal Hall, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the St. Louis Arch, and Yellowstone National Park.

FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

Art in National Parks

Art has been part of the history of national parks since the 1870s when Hudson River School painters captured majestic Western landscapes. Through their awe-inspiring works, the public came to see these special places in America for the first time. The works captured their imaginations, spurring them to preserve these lands for future generations. Explore [Arts Afire!](#), a strategy to engage diverse audiences, especially young people, through the arts.



Thomas Moran's Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Today art continues to thrive in our national parks and to inspire artists in more than 50 residency programs across the country through the [Artist-in-Residence Program](#). Whether staying in a remote wilderness cabin at Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska or contemplating history at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Iowa, this program provides artists with unique opportunities to create works of art in varied natural and cultural settings.

Local Grants for Artists



To mark the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2015, and the National Park Service's (NPS) Centennial in 2016, both agencies are working together to encourage the creation of and greater public engagement with art relating to the work and mission of our national park system. Artistic expression of thrilling landscapes and moving American stories played an important role in the roots of the conservation movement, making collaboration between the agencies a perfect partnership.

Through the Art Works category, the NEA encourages projects that engage communities with and relate the arts to the memorable places and the landscapes preserved by the NPS. Projects might include the commissioning and presentation of new work in or near a NPS location or festivals in these settings. Additional project examples are listed in the guidelines for each artistic discipline found on the program website: www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/art-works/nea-nps-funding-collaboration.

Submission deadline is July 23, 2015.

Centennial Event of the Month

Each month this section highlights a park or program Centennial event. Centennial events can be small and intimate such as a kids program in the local community or grand such as a concert or naturalization ceremony. Either way, the options are endless with more being added to the calendar every day. Check the [Find Your Park website calendar](#) or your [local park calendar](#) for events near you.

Saguaro National Park Engages Kids through Summer Series Programs

On Wednesday, July 1, Saguaro National Park (AZ) will kick off “Reading with a Ranger”, part of a summer event series being rolled out in advance of the Centennial. As part of this series the park will team up with local libraries to teach kids in the Tucson area about wilderness and the National Park Service through reading. The first program features Mike Ward, a biological technician at Saguaro National Park, reading a passage from his book, *Ghost Riders in the Sky:*



The Life of Stan Jones, Singing Ranger. He will also teach listeners one of Stan’s most famous songs, “Ghost Riders in the Sky.”

In addition to the “Reading with a Ranger” series, park rangers will offer programs at a local Tucson business, Bookmans Sports Exchange, where kids can learn how to camp, make their own petroglyphs, and talk about desert animals. By offering programs in the local community, Saguaro National Park is highlighting one of the National Park Service’s Centennial goals of bringing parks to urban areas through the [Urban Agenda](#). For more information about these and other exciting opportunities at Saguaro National Park, visit www.nps.gov/sagu or the park’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saguaronationalpark.

National Park Assets at Risk from Sea Level Rise

A recently released [report](#) reveals that national park infrastructure and historic and cultural resources totalling more than \$40 billion are at high risk of damage from sea-level rise caused by climate change. The report was conducted by scientists from the National Park Service and Western Carolina University and is based on an examination of 40 parks – about one-third of those considered threatened by sea-level rise – and the survey is on-going.

“Climate change is visible at national parks across the country, but this report underscores the economic importance of cutting carbon pollution and making public lands more resilient to its dangerous impacts,” said Secretary Jewell. “Through sound science and collaboration, we will use this research to help protect some of America’s most iconic places – from the Statue of Liberty to Golden Gate and from the Redwoods to Cape Hatteras – that are at risk from climate change.”

Specific projections of sea level rise vary by site and time, but scientists expect a one-meter rise in sea level to occur in the next 100-150 years. In some select areas of Alaska, relative sea-level is decreasing because as land-based glaciers and ice sheets melt, land mass is actually rising faster than sea-levels. Both phenomena makes changes in sea-level a useful standard to assess vulnerability across the diversity of coastal area national parks.

“Many coastal parks already deal with threats from sea-level rise and from storms that damage roads, bridges, docks, water systems and parking lots,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

“This infrastructure is essential to day-to-day park operations, but the historical and cultural resources such as lighthouses, fortifications and archaeological sites that visitors come to see are also at risk of damage or loss.”

Authors of *Adapting to Climate Change in Coastal Parks: Estimating the Exposure of Park Assets to 1 m of Sea-Level Rise*, examined 40 of the [118 national parks considered vulnerable to sea-level rise](#) by NPS using data from many sources including [the USGS Coastal Vulnerability Index](#). The areas studied by NPS so far have included urban areas such as Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City and Golden



Bayside Picnic Area at Assateague Island National Seashore after Hurricane Sandy. NPS Photo.

Sea Level Rise continued on page 6

Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, two of the most visited parks in the system. Results from analysis of an additional 30 coastal parks will be released later this summer. Called “assets,” the infrastructure and historic sites, museum collections, and other cultural resources of the 40 parks were categorized as high- or limited- exposure based on exposure to risk of damage from one meter of sea level rise.

More than 39 percent of assets in this subset of parks, valued at more than \$40 billion, are in the high-exposure category. Low-lying barrier island parks in the NPS Southeast Region constitute the majority of the high exposure category. At Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, the current replacement value of rebuilding lighthouses, visitor center exhibits, historic structures and other areas – all of which are rated as high-exposure assets—would be almost \$1.2 billion. (That value does not include billions for loss of lands and tourist income.)

More than one-third of assets in the Northeast Region are in the high-exposure category. From the Statue of Liberty in New York to the landmark structures at Boston National Historical Park and Fort McHenry in Baltimore, many of these areas have great historical and cultural significance.

As the summer vacation season begins, the ten NPS national seashores listed as at-risk on this list are popular natural beach retreats for Americans—Assateague (Md./Va.), Cape Cod (Mass.), Fire Island (N.Y.), Cape Hatteras (N.C.), Cape Lookout (N.C.), Canaveral (Fla.), Cumberland Island (Ga.), Gulf Islands (Fla./Miss.), Point Reyes (Calif.), and Padre Island (Tex.).

Although one meter of sea level rise may not seem like a lot, Jarvis explained that it would be part of a cascade of effects. “Coupled with sea level rise, big storms have that extra volume of water that can damage or destroy roads, bridges and buildings, and we saw what that looks like – again – with Hurricane Sandy in 2012,” the NPS director noted.

Many national park areas in the Northeast were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The storm shuttered the Statue of Liberty for eight months and forced National Park Service staff to remove much of the Ellis Island museum collection when the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was flooded with sea water. Those exhibits have yet to be returned while repairs continue.

The study is accessible through <http://go.nps.gov/coastalassets>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Who else is a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial? You can find a full list of Friends on the [National Park Service Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs](#) website. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

Susan Farinelli
NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs
susan_farinelli@nps.gov
202-208-7676

Follow Us!

