

CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL



June 2015

America's Great Outdoors

June is Great Outdoors Month and the National Park Service is in full summer swing with parks open, Rangers at the ready, and programs working to welcome visitors to our public lands.

What better time than now to plan for the upcoming August recess and head out on an exploration? National Parks are everywhere, with 407 units spread across our nation. National Parks include urban, cultural, and historical sites in addition to incredible natural landscapes, so you may be able to **Find Your Park** closer than you think, maybe even right in your neighborhood.

Road Trip!

We got you covered there! The National Park Foundation has put together **4 ULTIMATE NATIONAL PARK ROAD TRIPS**. Click on the graphic below to explore the routes.

Road Trip! continued on page 2



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2015

June is **America's Great Outdoors** as well as **PRIDE** month. Check your local park for events around these themes. www.nps.gov/findapark/event-search.htm

JUNE 6

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

NATIONWIDE

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY. THIS IS A DAY GREAT FOR VOLUNTEERING.

WWW.NATIONALTRAILSDAY.ORG

JUNE 8

WORLD OCEANS DAY

WORLDWIDE

RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS A DAY TO CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S OCEANS AND TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN OUR LIVES.

WWW.UN.ORG/EN/EVENTS/OCEANSDAY/INDEX.SHTML

JUNE 13

NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY

NATIONWIDE

PRIME GOALS OF THE DAY ARE REACHING FIRST-TIME VISITORS TO PUBLIC LANDS AND RECONNECTING OUR YOUTH TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

WWW.NATIONALGETOUTDOORSDAY.ORG

JUNE 19

JUNETEENTH

NATIONWIDE

THE OLDEST KNOWN CELEBRATION COMMEMORATING THE ENDING OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

WWW.NPS.GOV/AFBG/LEARN/HISTORYCULTURE/JUNETEENTH.HTM

Road Trip! continued from page 1

Want to create a trip of your own?

No problem. FindYourPark.com has an interactive map with tools for finding parks around the country and can help you craft a perfect summer vacation.

Are you interested in archaeology or are you looking for a great place to mountain bike? FindYourPark.com also provides an opportunity to create a Park Experience. Take the short quiz to tailor a park experience to meet your specific interests.

Give us a call!

The recess is also a great time to visit the national parks in your state or district. We are happy to help facilitate these visits and put you in touch with park staff for tours and further information.

To set things up, call Elaine Hackett, the NPS Congressional Liaison, at 202-208-7331 or Elaine_Hackett@nps.gov. Elaine can help with arrangements for members and staff any time of the year.

Share Your Story

Take a photo or video of yourself at a national park and post it with **#findyourpark** on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter and it will automatically be included on the [Find Your Park](http://FindYourPark) website.

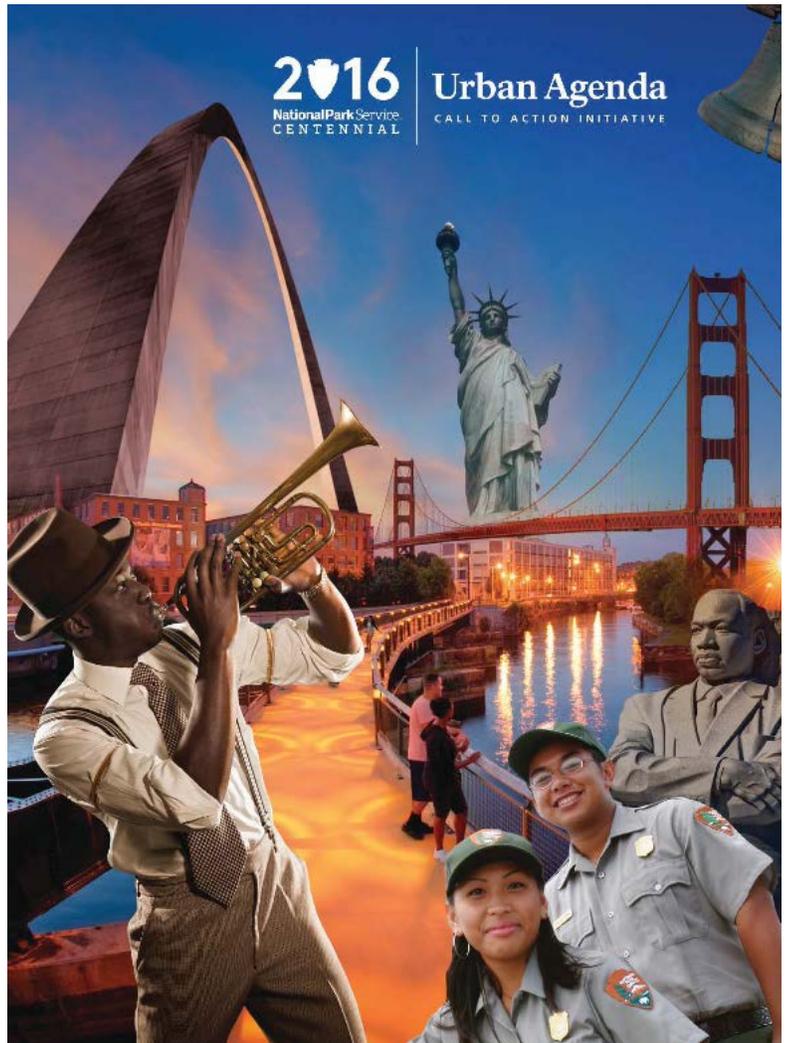
FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

Launching the Urban Agenda

Recently, National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis launched the [NPS Urban Agenda](#) with a report that includes a number of specific strategies to accomplish the goal of building relationships between urban parks and programs, but most importantly it outlines working relationships that are more intentional, more collaborative and more sustainable. While the Urban Agenda is focused on the work of the NPS in metropolitan areas, ultimately the relevancy and sustainability of every national park and program can be strengthened by this work.

As the Service aspires to meet its Centennial goals, it is now time that the NPS strategically organizes its many parks and programs to build relevancy for all Americans. As the Urban Agenda was developed, many National Park Service employees and partners shared their pioneering stories that embrace the urban



mission as a critical component of our second century of National Park Service stewardship.

The Agenda calls all urban park practitioners to embrace three bold principles:

- **Be Relevant to All Americans**- by reaching new audiences and stories that represent our nation’s diverse history, by diversifying our workforce to become a true reflection of the American population, and by looking at “parks” in new ways as innovative urban landscapes for new uses;
- **Activate “ONE NPS”**- by aligning NPS parks, programs, and partnerships – the full portfolio; and
- **Nurture a Culture of Collaboration**- by working in collaboration both internally and externally to better serve communities.

As part of the Urban Agenda, ten urban areas have been selected to provide illustrative examples and demonstrations for how NPS can apply its full portfolio of resources in strategic ways. Diverse urban areas, large and small, were chosen to reflect: (1) parks embedded in urban areas, (2) parks adjacent to urban areas, and (3) the presence of NPS programs but no physical presence of a park unit.

These model areas will test new ways of working collaboratively and allow these communities to learn

Urban Agenda continued on page 6

YMCA, National Park Service Brings Kids Outdoors

Youth across America will have many opportunities to “Find Your Park” this summer thanks to a joint program offered by the National Park Service and YMCA.

Through the Play, Learn, Serve, Work Summer Camp Program, youth in nine cities – Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. - can enjoy recreational and educational programs connecting them to the outdoors in their own communities. Camp experiences will highlight local history and landmarks and emphasize the importance of environmental stewardship.

“This collaboration unites the resources and expertise of two organizations that are committed to youth engagement and development. This type of personal contact with nature provides benefits physically, mentally, socially and spiritually,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. The partnership between the National Park Service and YMCA is part of the Department of the Interior’s ongoing effort to engage and employ the next generation to Play, Learn, Serve and Work in America’s great outdoors. For more information, visit www.doi.gov/youth.

Girl Scouts Ranger Program

In early May, thousands of Girl Scouts converged on Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, California to celebrate the launch of a revamped Girl Scout Ranger program.

Through this joint program, girls can earn Girl Scout patches, participate in service projects, and design projects that align with their interests. Girls and troops who are interested in participating can visit

the [Girl Scout Ranger Program](#) webpage to learn about the program, locate a nearby park, learn about its resources and history, and plan activities such as hikes, tours, and bike rides.

“The National Park Service and Girl Scouts have the same goal – providing meaningful and memorable outdoor experiences for girls,” said National Park Service Deputy Director Peggy O’Dell. “This partnership will introduce scouts to the many ways they can play, learn, serve, and work in our national parks. We want each girl to ‘Find Your Park’ and enjoy these treasures.”



PRIDE!

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month. LGBT Pride Month is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan. Through the [National Register of Historic Places](#) the NPS promotes awareness of and appreciation for the historical accomplishments of the LGBT community. They showcase historic properties listed in the National Register and National Park units commemorating the events and people that help illustrate LGBT contributions to American history.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Highlighted Properties

[Cherry Grove Community House & Theater in Cherry Grove, New York](#)

The Community House and Theatre is exceptionally significant in social history for the enormous role it played in shaping what gradually evolved into "America's First Gay and Lesbian Town". This integration of homosexual residents into daily life and events at its community house afforded Cherry Grove a singular status; it became one of the first and, for many years, the only gay and lesbian influenced community in the United States.



Cherry Grove Community House & Theater, Cherry Grove, New York. Photograph courtesy of the New York State Historic Preservation Office.



Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Photograph courtesy of the DC Historic Preservation Office

[Dr. Franklin E. Kameny Residence in Washington, DC](#)

Dr. Kameny led a newly militant activism in the fledgling gay civil rights movement of the 1960s. He was a landmark figure in articulating and achieving gay civil rights in federal employment and security clearance cases, and in reversing the medical community's view on homosexuality as a mental disorder.

from each other through an urban model network that will also connect with the broader NPS. Urban Fellows placed in these model areas will play a key role in facilitating collaboration among the National Park Service, other federal and state agencies, city governments, and other partners.

The 10 model cities are:

- Boston, Massachusetts
- Detroit, Michigan
- Jacksonville, Florida
- New York City, New York
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Richmond, California
- Richmond, Virginia
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Tucson, Arizona
- Washington, DC



The NPS Urban Agenda aligns closely with Secretary Jewell’s ambitious youth initiative, which will engage the next generation of public lands leaders and stewards through recreation, education, volunteerism, and employment. Specifically, by 2017, the Department will convene coalitions in 50 cities across the country to create more opportunities for young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors. The 10 NPS model cities in the Urban Agenda are part of this movement, and will play an important role in achieving the Department and NPS goals to engage new audiences.

In addition to the model cities, the Urban Matters national network will be re-launched to engage urban park practitioners and partners from across the Service in the implementation of the Urban Agenda. To join the community, read the *NPS Urban Agenda*, share your stories and support the principles of the Agenda visit www.nps.gov/urban.

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](http://www.nps.gov/urban) website. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

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