**Foreword**

00foreword\_slide01

The national parks are the American experience expressed in place: Acadia National Park (Maine).

00foreword\_ slide02

In contrast to the Smithsonian, where artifacts of that experience are gathered to a central location, the national parks preserve our story against the landscape of its origins. Above: Where the Civil War ended: Reconstruction of the McLean House, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (Virginia).

00foreword\_ slide03

In the more than a century since the national parks’ beginnings, their meaning continues to expand.Petrified Forest National Park (Arizona).

**Chapter 1: From National Parks to a National Park System**

01chap\_ slide01

President Lincoln’s grant of the Yosemite Valley to the state of California in 1864 was the beginning of America’s national park system. Yosemite National Park (California).

01chap\_ slide02

NPS responsibilities for preserving cultural heritage were significantly expanded by President Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s: Washington Light Infantry Monument, Cowpens National Battlefield (South Carolina).

01chap\_ slide03

Parks are now designated for their ecological as well as scenic and recreational values: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (Colorado).

01chap\_ slide04

Devils Tower National Monument (Wyoming) was the first monument proclaimed under the Antiquities Act.

01chap\_ slide05

National parks abound in opportunities to ponder the significance of everyday American lives: (left) Historic Hensley Settlement cemetery at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (Kentucky/Tennessee/Virginia); (right) Luminaria in memory of flood victim, Johnstown Flood National Memorial (Pennsylvania).

01chap\_ slide 06

Shoreline parks are now an important part of the national park system: Female Kemp’s ridley sea turtle returns to Gulf of Mexico after nesting, Padre Island National Seashore (Texas).

01chap\_ slide07

Recreation has always been an important part of the national park experience: (left) Sunbathers at Crater Lake National Park (Oregon); (right) Ranger-guided hike at the Fiery Furnace, Arches National Park (Utah).

01chap\_ slide08

As part of the New Deal, the National Park Service conducted comprehensive nationwide surveys of scenic road corridors and coastlines, recommending greater public access to these landscapes. New categories of parks were added to the national park system, including national seashores, beginning with Cape Hatteras (North Carolina), and national parkways, beginning with Blue Ridge Parkway (North Carolina / Virginia).

01chap\_ slide09

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Washington Monument, both part of the National Mall and Memorial Parks (Washington, D.C.), are among the many urban parklands, historic sites, monuments, and greenways the National Park Service is responsible for in and around the nation’s capital.

01chap\_ slide10

The history of military technology is interpreted at Fort Pulaski National Monument (Georgia).

01chap\_ slide11

Superb examples of craftsmanship can be found in many national parks: Lincoln Bridge, Chickasaw National Recreation Area (Oklahoma).

01chap\_ slide12

Volunteers such as these historical reenactors are an indispensable part of the national park system: (left to right) Buffalo Soldier, Nicodemus National Historic Site (Kansas); Washerwoman, Ninety Six National Historic Site (South Carolina); firing muskets at Saratoga National Historical Park (New York).

01chap\_ slide13

The size of the national park system was more than doubled in 1978 when President Jimmy Carter, in a sweeping declaration, used the Antiquities Act to proclaim a large number of national parks in Alaska. Double Glacier, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (Alaska).

01chap\_ slide14

Many national parks were established explicitly to protect important ecological regions and biodiversity. Badlands National Park (South Dakota).

01chap\_ slide15

Glimpses of the ancient: (left) Bristlecone pines, such as this one in Great Basin National Park (Nevada), are among the oldest living things on Earth; (right) Vistas at Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona) are a chance to peer into deep geologic time.

01chap\_ slide16

There are many ways you can experience our national park system—on vacations, on weekend excursions, or even on a daily basis for many of you who live near a national park. You might connect with the national park system through school and community programs, websites, social media, and park volunteer programs. Mojave National Preserve (California).

**Chapter 2: Sense of Place**

02chap\_ slide01

“Sense of place”—the feeling we get connecting to someplace that is distinctive—is an important part of the national park experience. Kelderhouse Farm, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (Michigan).

02chap\_slide02

Every place has a *genius loci*: a combination of physical attributes, cultural connotations, and, often, personal associations that make it distinctive. Zion National Park (Utah).

02chap\_slide03

Sense of place doesn’t have to involve dramatic, historic events; it can be found in places where ordinary Americans worked and led their lives. (Left) Earthlodge, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site (North Dakota). (Right) Ruins of Kennecott copper mine, Wrangell–St. Elias National Park & Preserve (Alaska).

02chap\_slide04

Even so, being somewhere associated with an interesting historic figure can evoke a strong sense of place. (Left) Exterior of Connemara, the main house on the farm of the poet Carl Sandburg. (Right) The poet’s study. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (North Carolina).

02chap\_slide05

National Park Service rangers often perform at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park (Louisiana). The only national park devoted to a music genre, New Orleans Jazz also captures some of the flavor of the unique city known for jazz.

02chap\_slide06

Some national parks include powerful works of art that have had a transformative impact on people: the Shaw Memorial, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (New Hampshire).

02chap\_slide07

To help you understand what it means to feel a sense of place, the writer Robert Macfarlane suggests you ask yourself this question when you go somewhere for the first time: What do I know when I am in this place that I can know nowhere else? Mission Orchard, Tumacácori National Historical Park (Arizona).

**Chapter 3: Campaign for Conservation**

03chap\_slide01

In the 19th century, landscape art introduced Americans to the scenic wonders of the country, places that inspired great curiosity and national pride. “Cathedral Rock, Yosemite,” by Alfred Bierstadt (1870).

03chap\_slide02

National parks preserve the history of conservation in America. (Left) A long legacy of forest stewardship continues at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (Vermont); (right) Murie Cabin, part of Murie Ranch, a national historic landmark within Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming).

03chap\_slide03

The two Roosevelts stand out among American presidents for their wide-ranging involvement in conservation of natural and cultural heritage. Springwood, part of Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site (New York).

03chap\_slide04

John Muir joined thousands of Americans who fought hard to keep Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park (California) from being dammed and flooded. Though the O’Shaughnessy dam was ultimately approved in 1913, organized dam opponents quickly rebounded and championed the legislation creating the National Park Service three years later in 1916.

03chap\_slide05

In contrast to Hetch Hetchy, the battle over whether to build a dam at Echo Park in the Colorado portion of Dinosaur National Monument was one of the environmental movement’s first major victories. In the middle foreground, Steamboat Rock and Echo Park at the confluence of the Green and Yampa rivers, Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado, Utah).

03chap\_slide06

The National Historic Landmarks Program, overseen by the National Park Service, includes many buildings that are owned and managed by other agencies, organizations, and individuals. The U.S. Forest Service administers Grey Towers National Historic Landmark (Pennsylvania), the home of its first chief, Gifford Pinchot.

03chap\_slide07

The 1916 law creating the National Park Service, known as the “Organic Act,” stated that the national parks were to be “for the benefit and enjoyment of the people” — words engraved on the Roosevelt Arch (named for Theodore) at the northwestern entrance of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

03chap\_slide08

America’s great landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted helped usher in modern American conservation with his landmark 1865 Yosemite Report that called for “establishment by government of great public grounds for the free enjoyment

of the people”—a prescription for a future system of national parks. This vault exhibit (left) and drafting tables (right) at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Massachusetts) are part of his working office, where he designed numerous city parks, such as Central Park in New York City.

03chap\_slide09

Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park (California), 1903.

03chap\_slide10

The Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park (Virginia) has an exhibit called “Within a Day’s Drive of Millions,” among the best in the national park system. Here you can learn about the difficult process of park-making. The exhibit includes poignant accounts of the displacement of local families in the wake of Shenandoah’s establishment, the impact and enduring footprint of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the racial segregation and gradual desegregation of national park facilities.

**Chapter 4: “Places to Play In”**

04chap\_slide01

Recreation has been a central activity in national parks from the very beginning. Lassen Volcanic National Park (California).

04chap\_slide02

The National Park Service’s founding Organic Act stipulates that the agency must preserve nature and the cultural features of parks, but at the same time “provide for the enjoyment” of the people — a dual mandate that has sometimes been troublesome to fulfill. Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Arizona / Nevada).

04chap\_slide03

Some parks created primarily to preserve historic sites and areas have proven to be very popular sites for recreation, both by tourists and local people. The historic towpath at Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (Maryland / Washington DC / West Virginia) is extensively used by walkers and bikers.

04chap\_slide04

The parks have been oriented toward automobile-based tourism for over a century. A classic example of National Park Service road design: Colonial Parkway connects the Jamestown and Yorktown units of Colonial National Historical Park (Virginia) with Colonial Williamsburg.

04chap\_slide05

A guided snowmobile tour, Yellowstone National Park (Idaho / Wyoming / Montana). Legal debates over what constitutes allowable “winter use” at Yellowstone went on for years, and the matter is still controversial today.

04chap\_slide06

Wild and Scenic Rivers, an important part of the national park system, are also managed by other federal agencies and states. (clockwise) Bluestone National Scenic River (West Virginia); Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River in Big Bend National Park (Texas); Niobrara National Scenic River (Nebraska); Cache La Poudre Wild and Scenic River (Colorado).

04chap\_slide07

Anyone and everyone can enjoy recreation in the national parks. Your activity can be remote and rugged, such as camping in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (Alaska), or contemplative and close to home, such as enjoying a trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Ohio), an urban park near Cleveland.

04chap\_slide08

Some of the nation’s most unforgettable and iconic natural wonders can be reached by a national park trail. Delicate Arch in Arches National Park (Utah).

04chap\_slide09

Some national parks, mostly but not all in the West, have historic hotels, many of which are architectural landmarks. Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite National Park (California).

04chap\_slide10

Whether a day hike or a week-long backpacking trip, some of the country’s best opportunities for walking in nature are found in national parks. Mount Rainier National Park (Washington).

04chap\_slide11

Each year, millions of visitors use park campgrounds as their base to explore the parks. Capitol Reef National Park (Utah): campground (left) and Cathedral Valley (right).

04chap\_slide12

For many, challenging one’s self with an outdoor adventure is an integral part of the national park experience. Floating the Snake River, Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming).

**Chapter 5: Lifelong Learning**

05chap\_slide01

Sometimes called “America’s greatest classroom,” national parks can help people of all ages learn not just about the natural and cultural heritage of the parks themselves, but also how what they have learned in parks can inform and relate to a larger environmental and historical context. Park educational experiences can provide people with new information, skills, and perspectives that they can apply in their own communities and in their everyday lives. Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Indiana).

05chap\_slide02

The Liberty Bell at Independence National Historical Park (Pennsylvania) is a tangible object that connects people with intangible concepts: freedom, justice, and love of country.

05chap\_slide03

Learning in the parks happens in many different ways, but all of it shares one characteristic: it is place-based. (clockwise) Nez Perce high school students, Big Hole National Battlefield (Montana); Volunteers helping with school program, Chiricahua National Monument (Arizona); Ranger in period clothing teaching visitor how to split rails, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (Indiana); Visitors learning about totem pole, Sitka National Historical Park (Alaska); Linking Hispanic Heritage Through Archaeology program, Tuzigoot National Monument (Arizona); Ranger leading guided bicycle tour, Stones River National Battlefield (Tennessee); Science camp for high schoolers, Kobuk Valley National Park (Alaska).

05chap\_slide04

Technology helps visitors experience places that they may not be able to visit. (above) The Live Dive program at Channel Islands National Park (California) interprets the undersea kelp forest to land-based visitors through an interactive underwater broadcast. (below) Distance learning center, Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona).

05chap\_slide05

Even in parks where people can easily access the main features, digital technology is changing the way people “travel” through them, permitting ”virtual” visits to hitherto inaccessible features. Carlsbad Caverns National Park (New Mexico).

05chap\_slide06

Park educators also use the power of place to connect the past — here, the reconstructed sailing vessel, *Friendship,* part of the seafaring history of Salem Maritime National Historical Park (Massachusetts) — with current events and contemporary interests.

05chap\_slide07

Schoolteachers have for decades worked as park interpreters during the summer school vacation. The National Park Service’s Teacher–Ranger–Teacher program is an extended professional development opportunity for educators from K-12 schools to learn about the resources and educational materials available through the National Park Service. Here, A Teacher-Ranger-Teacher works with children in a school near Arches and Canyonlands national parks (Utah).

05chap\_slide08

For retaining information about a new topic, nothing beats seeing an interesting object in its original context. At Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado, Utah) visitors can encounter fossils in place because the exhibit hall is built right over the hillside where they were discovered.

05chap\_slide09

Education in the national park system is changing to meet the needs of a diverse audience. Crissy Field Center, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California).

05chap\_slide10

Kids from across the country and around the world have had unforgettable positive learning experiences through the Park Service’s popular Junior Ranger program. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (California), Shenandoah National Park (Virginia), Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (Washington, Oregon), Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado).

**Chapter 6: Conserving Biodiversity**

06chap\_slide01

National parks now take conservation of biological diversity as one of their highest missions. One of the most recognizable species of wildlife in North America, grizzly bears are protected in national parks —some of their last strongholds. Sow and cubs, Denali National Park and Preserve (Alaska).

06chap\_slide02

Most of Earth’s biodiversity is represented by species that are far less conspicuous than grizzly bears: (top left) Carolina satyr butterfly, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area(Georgia); (top right) Banana slug consuming bear scat, North Cascades National Park (Washington); (bottom) The spiderlike Model Cave harvestman, currently known only from Great Basin National Park (Nevada).

06chap\_slide03

Even the most seemingly barren environments, such as the lava flows at Lava Beds National Monument (California), are habitat for wild plants (here, an Indian paintbrush) and animals.

06chap\_slide04

National park protection doesn’t mean that species are insulated from change. When Virgin Islands National Park (USVI) was struck by two hurricanes in short succession in 2017, coral reefs, like this elkhorn coral along Hawksnest Point, were damaged by soil and sand run-off from the land.

06chap\_slide05

Native biodiversity in national parks is threatened by invasive alien species. This Burmese python in Everglades National Park (Florida) may have imported as exotic pets but released into the wild by their owners. Populations of pythons in Everglades have exploded since the 1990s, doing great damage to the ecosystem.

06chap\_slide06

An example of native biodiversity in the parks is this Island fox, one of a number of subspecies found only in California’s Channel Islands, including several in Channel Islands National Park.

06chap\_slide07

Diversity is not just measured at the species level. Two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, meet in Joshua Tree National Park (California).

06chap\_slide08

Olympic National Park (Washington) is noted for its temperate rainforest ecosystems and its seacoast (pictured here). Inland, the Park Service, in partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, has removed dams on the Elwha River flowing through the park in a bid to restore salmon runs and restore the park’s native biodiversity.

06chap\_slide09

In another high-profile program to re-establish a species that had disappeared from a park, the Park Service reintroduced elk (here fitted with a tracking collar) to the Cattaloochee Valley in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee / North Carolina).

**Chapter 7: Dynamic Nature**

07chap\_slide01

National parks wrestle with the basic question of how to preserve nature when nature is inherently dynamic. In the 1980s, the National Park Service began a controversial program of controlled burns in groves of giant sequoia trees in Sequoia–Kings Canyon National Park (California). The program was based on scientific evidence that periodic, non-lethal fires are necessary for the trees to reproduce and be healthy.

07chap\_slide02

Controlled burning in national parks may involve allowing naturally caused wildfires (such as those started by lightning) to burn, so long as certain conditions are met. Another method is setting fires intentionally (often called “prescribed burning”) is now a common resource management technique in the national park system: (above) Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (Texas); (right) Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (Iowa).

07chap\_slide03

Because of this “natural fire” policy, large areas of Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming / Idaho / Montana) were allowed to burn in 1988 — generating enormous controversy, but no permanent damage. Today, lodgepole pine forests in the park are growing again.

07chap\_slide04

The best-known geological formation at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Michigan), called Miners Castle, changed forever in April 2006 when the northeastern “turret” collapsed into Lake Superior as the result of centuries of wind and wave action.

07chap\_slide05

The 1915 eruption of Lassen Peak in California led to the area around it being proclaimed Lassen Volcanic National Park by Congress a year later.

07chap\_slide06

An even bigger eruption had occurred in 1912, but it was in remote southwestern Alaska, so less attention was paid to it. But when National Geographic Society scientists visited in 1916, they were so impressed that they got President Wilson to proclaim it Katmai National Monument (now called Katmai National Park and Preserve). This recent photo of Mount Martin shows that the park is still an active volcanic area.

07chap\_slide07

Eruptions are routine even today at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (Hawai‘i), creating lava flows that challenge hikers.

07chap\_slide08

The Park Service now adheres to management policies that try to minimize human interventions with wildlife. It wasn’t always so. During the 1930s, one of Sequoia National Park’s most popular visitor attractions was the daily feeding of bears at a dump in Giant Forest.

07chap\_slide09

The pace of ecological change in national parks is sometimes readable in the landscape. At Cape Krusenstern National Monument (Alaska), 114 parallel beach ridges can be readily seen from the air, each marking the location of a shoreline that has repeatedly receded over thousands of years.

07chap\_slide10

Today, climate change is the biggest threat to the integrity of the national parks. Muir Glacier in Glacier Bay National Park (Alaska) has shrunk by more than 30 miles since 1892.

**Chapter 8: Reservoirs of Knowledge**

08chap\_slide01

National parks are now seen as prime research sites by scientists. Not only places of recreation, parks are important reservoirs of scientific knowledge. Volunteer citizen-scientists monitor the vital signs of tide pools, Cabrillo National Monument (California).

08chap\_slide02

BioBlitzes — concentrated volunteer efforts over a short period that try to document as many species as possible within a park — have emerged in recent years as a popular way to get valuable scientific information. Young scientists gathering biodiversity data as part of a BioBlitz, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (Louisiana).

08chap\_slide03

The discovery in 1969 of heat-loving microbes near Great Fountain Geyser in Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) led to a wealth of unexpected scientific knowledge and benefits.

08chap\_slide04

In recent years, social science research in national parks has taken off; here, a graduate student conducts a survey of visitors at Acadia National Park (Maine).

08chap\_slide05

Spectacular scenery was the calling card of the first national parks, but as environmental understanding expanded in the 20th century, less-obvious but ecologically important landscapes, such as those of (l–r) Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve (both Florida) and Congaree National Park (South Carolina), were added to the national park system.

08chap\_slide06

Scientists measuring the movement and retreat of Sperry Glacier, Glacier National Park (Montana). The Park Service is worried that the park’s glaciers, all of which are shrinking, could disappear entirely.

08chap\_slide07

In recent years, one of the most-anticipated scientific projects in the parks was the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming / Montana / Idaho) in 1995. These top predators are now firmly re-established in the park.

08chap\_slide08

Another high-profile reintroduction has been the condor at Pinnacles National Park (California).

08chap\_slide09

Attempts to create no-take zones (where fishing is banned) within Biscayne National Park (Florida) have been fought by sport fishing groups and their allies.

**Chapter 9: Wilderness Preserves**

09chap\_slide01

The Wilderness Act of 1964 marks a seminal shift in the history of American attitudes toward nature. It created the national wilderness preservation system, which has grown to more than 110 million acres in 700 congressionally designated wilderness areas. More than 40 million of those acres are in the national parks, including this beach in Cumberland Island National Seashore (Georgia).

09chap\_slide02

You can experience national park wilderness areas at the edge of a metropolis (Fire Island National Seashore, near New York City) and at the edge of the continent (Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska).

09chap\_slide03

The language of the Wilderness Act says: “In contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, [wilderness] is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Minaret Falls in Devils Postpile National Monument (California), part of the Ansel Adams Wilderness Area.

09chap\_slide04

Even supporters of the Wilderness Act, however, worry that the dichotomy between humans and nature suggested by this language may be overstated. Thinking about wilderness as “unpeopled” overlooks the indigenous populations who called these lands home, in effect erasing Native Americans from environmental history. The Wilderness Act, they say, sidesteps a more complicated and nuanced environmental and cultural narrative. Compton Falls, Upper Buffalo Wilderness, Buffalo National River (Arkansas).

09chap\_slide05

Even the remote archipelago of Isle Royale National Park (Michigan), which is almost entirely designated wilderness, has a long and complex cultural history, as does the desert wilderness area in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Arizona).

09chap\_slide06

In recent years, a massive energy boom in western North Dakota has impacted Theodore Roosevelt National Park and its designated wilderness area.

09chap\_slide07

Like all wilderness areas, the designated wilderness portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (Alaska) has no roads, though for the first time one is being proposed to run through the park near the wilderness area.

09chap\_slide08

Still, wilderness in national parks offer unparalleled opportunities to experience nature relatively free from the influences of people. Some say that an important value of wilderness is simply knowing that it exists, whether we ever visit it or not. Stephen Mather Wilderness in North Cascades National Park (Washington).

**Chapter 10: Indigenous Voices**

10chap\_slide01

The national parks are often called “America’s best idea,” but it must be remembered that the America into which the first parks were born was a country that was bent on destroying its original peoples. To its credit, the National Park Service now acknowledges our national history of dispossessing indigenous people and their communities in its brochures, displays, and other interpretive materials. Here, Dianna Sue Uqualla and James Uqualla of the Havasupai Tribe perform a traditional blessing at a ceremony dedicating new facilities, Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona).

10chap\_slide02

For many indigenous people, there is an inseparable link between nature and culture. Canyon de Chelly National Monument (Arizona) is co-managed with the Navajo Nation.

10chap\_slide03

The National Park Service is in a position to help non-Native people realize that their understanding of America can never be complete until Native viewpoints are included. Ceremony at Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site (Hawai‘i); Mamalahoa Trail, part of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (Hawai‘i).

10chap\_slide04

At Grand Portage National Monument (Minnesota), which is run in cooperation with the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe, murals depicting traditional activities were commissioned for the visitor center, and you can watch the park’s orientation film in Ojibwemowin, the Ojibwe language.

10chap\_slide05

At Pipestone National Monument (Minnesota), Native Americans quarry and carve catlinite (red pipestone) as a central part of the park’s mission.

10chap\_slide06

In National Park of American Samoa, The National Park Service does not own any of the terrestrial or marine resources that make up the three units of the national park. Instead, lands are leased from villages on three islands and are cooperatively managed.

10chap\_slide07

Petroglyphs under the night sky at Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument (Arizona). Here, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians is leading the way in protecting the park’s pristine night skies from pollution by artificial lighting. For the Paiutes, the night sky is the “canvas” for countless traditional stories and keeping this nightscape pristine will help maintain a precious cultural heritage.

10chap\_slide08

At Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (Alaska), the legislation establishing the park provides for indigenous people and others to hunt, trap, and continue traditional subsistence use of resources within park boundaries, ensuring connections between people and the landscape in perpetuity.

**Chapter 11: Civic Engagement**

11chap\_slide01

Civic engagement is an institutional commitment by NPS to partner with communities in planning, educational programming, and preservation, with the intent of interpreting the

fullness of the American experience. Through civic engagement, we tell the stories of the places where we’ve honored our ideals and the places where we’ve fallen short. At Rosie the Riveter / World War II Homefront National Historical Park (California), the role of women in the war effort—and the unequal treatment of African American workers—are part of the park’s interpretation.

11chap\_slide02

The struggle for women’s equality is told at Women’s Rights National Historical Park (New York), the site of the landmark 1848 Women’s Rights Convention. The park’s visitor center is anchored around a life-size replicas of the convention’s organizers and supporters.

11chap\_slide03

Every war has stories of both heroism and inhumanity. Here, Girl Scouts place flags at the headstones of thousands of U.S. soldiers who died in the Andersonville Civil War prison camp as part of a commemoration at Andersonville National Historic Site (Georgia).

11chap\_slide04

The astounding bravery of the passengers who — at the cost of their lives — prevented 9/11 terrorists from crashing a fourth airliner into its intended target, the U.S. Capitol, is commemorated by the Wall of Names at Flight 93 National Memorial (Pennsylvania).

11chap\_slide05

Difficult questions surrounding the morality of nuclear war are powerfully present at Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (South Dakota), which preserves an actual (disarmed) missile in a launch silo as well as the underground launch command center, complete with the switch that would have been used to launch a missile (left) and a giant blast-resistant entry door painted with a parody of a pizza delivery guarantee (right).

11chap\_slide06

You can also learn about another aspect of Cold War history by taking a special tour through part of 70-bed bomb shelter complex built by the Rockefeller family in the 1960s at what is now Marsh–Billings–Rockefeller National Historical Park (Vermont).

11chap\_slide07

For many years, the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn was known as Custer Battlefield National Monument, and the story of the fight told entirely from General Custer’s viewpoint. After years of Native protest and activism, park was renamed Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument with an interpretive program based on the perspectives of all combatants. Now, in addition to the original monuments to Army soldiers, there is a memorial to fallen Native warriors too, pictured here.

11chap\_slide08

Another dark chapter of the 19th-century Indian wars was the multiple massacres of Native people, including women and children, by the Army and militia. Among these events memorialized in the national park system are (left) Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (Colorado), and (right) Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (Oklahoma).

11chap\_slide09

National Park Service civic engagement also encompasses the interpretation of American religious traditions — obviously a subject that has to be handled carefully and respectfully. At San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (Texas), you can learn about the complex relationships between Spanish military and religious figures and Native American communities.

**Chapter 12: From Civil War to Civil Rights**

12chap\_slide01

The National Park Service is entrusted with telling one of the most compelling stories in all American history: the saga of the Civil War and its still-unfolding aftermath — the ongoing struggle for civil rights. The 1965 Selma to Montgomery March for voting rights (left) is now commemorated at Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (Alabama); there, on the fiftieth anniversary of the march in 2015 (right), tens of thousands retraced the footsteps of the original marchers.

12chap\_slide02

Some of the nation’s most revered and solemn places are Civil War battlefields preserved in the national park system. Antietam National Battlefield (Maryland).

12chap\_slide03

For many years, the National Park Service shied away from talking about slavery at its Civil War sites, instead focusing on battle tactics. In a monumental shift, starting in the late 1990s the agency made the decision to interpret the primary cause of the war: slavery. Some of the first interpretive displays that addressed the impact of slavery were installed in Liberty Square, Fort Sumter National Monument (South Carolina).

12chap\_slide04

The wording of Mississippi’s Declaration of Secession, displayed at Shiloh National Military Park (Tennessee, Mississippi), leaves no doubt that the perpetuation of American slavery was the real cause of the Civil War.

12chap\_slide05

Until the proclamation of Reconstruction Era National Monument (South Carolina) in 2017 (after the course textbook was published), the fraught history of Reconstruction — arguably one of the least-understood periods in American history — was only partially addressed at several national parks. “Education of the Freedmen” exhibit, Shiloh National Military Park (Tennessee, Mississippi); Andrew Johnson National Historic Site (Tennessee).

12chap\_slide06

Key figures in African American history are front and center in a number of parks. (Above left and below) Entrance to Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (Washington, D.C.); Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt (second and third from left), 1943. (Right) Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Washington, DC).

12chap\_slide07

Nicodemus National Historic Site (Kansas) preserves several historic buildings (here, a schoolhouse) in one of a few remaining Western towns founded by and for African Americans after the Civil War.

12chap\_slide08

When visitors arrive at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (West Virginia), they usually know about John Brown’s efforts to free slaves. Few know that nearby buildings housed Storer College, a school created to educate freed slaves following emancipation; (left) Storer College students and teachers ca. 1910; (right) the view from atop Jefferson Rock is a panorama of the park at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers.

12chap\_slide09

A portion of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas — still in use today — is set aside as Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (Arkansas) to mark the site of federally enforced desegregation of the school. (Above) Contemporary view of the high school; (inset) Federal soldiers escorting students from class in the first days of desegregation, 1957.

**Chapter 13: Machines and Ingenuity**

13chap\_slide01

The story of American industry and technological innovation is told at many national parks. The textile mills of Lowell National Historical Park (Massachusetts) were a cradle of the Industrial Revolution.

13chap\_slide02

Mining history, corporate paternalism, and the influx of immigrants from different ethnic groups are some of the focal points at Keweenaw National Historical Park (Michigan). Pictured is the Quincy Mining Company headquarters.

13chap\_slide03

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (California) interprets America’s seafaring heritage.

13chap\_slide04

The name of Thomas Edison is synonymous with American inventiveness. His laboratories are preserved as Thomas Edison National Historical Park (New Jersey).

13chap\_slide05

The Erie Canal was a 19th-century marvel of transportation and commerce. Much of its route across upstate New York is part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

13chap\_slide06

Steamtown National Historic Site (Pennsylvania) occupies the former roundhouse and railroad yard of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad in Scranton. Steamtown has a collection of historic locomotives, freight cars, and passenger cars — many still operating for visitors. National park system sites that operate historic vessels, machines, and equipment such as the rolling stock and locomotives at Steamtown face another challenge. Operating historic artifacts requires staff and volunteers with very specialized maintenance and repair skills. Pictured: an air pump on a steam engine.

13chap\_slide07

World-changing experimental flights were made by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, which is now preserved as Wright Brothers National Memorial.

13chap\_slide08

A replica of Union Pacific Railroad engine 119 always draws attention at Golden Spike National Historic Site (Utah), the place where the first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 by driving the last spike to complete the line.

13chap\_slide09

Military technology is on display at numerous parks. (left) Some of the military aircraft preserved at Floyd Bennett Field, Gateway National Recreational Area (New York / New Jersey). (right) Disarmed Minuteman missile in launch silo, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (South Dakota).

13chap\_slide10

The social impacts of military production and technology are part of the parks too. Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (Alabama) commemorates the U.S. Army Air Corps’ program to train African American pilots during World War II — a program known as the “Tuskegee Experiment” because (in the parlance of the time) many whites doubted Negroes could fly airplanes. At the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of three units of Manhattan Project National Historical Park (New Mexico / Tennessee / Washington), the mobilization of civilians for the nuclear bomb effort is interpreted.

**Chapter 14: Storied Landscapes**

14chap\_slide01

Dramatic large western landscapes in the national park system usually get the most attention, but the parks also protect a large variety of *cultural landscapes,* places that have been shaped over time by people adapting to their natural environment. A cultural landscape is the result of this relationship between people and place, reflecting memories, beliefs, and the traditional use of resources. For example, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Ohio) includes a valley that has been farmed since the 19th century, and the perpetuation of agriculture on this cultural landscape is absolutely necessary to preserve its historic character.

14chap\_slide02

The Countryside Initiative at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Ohio) aims to encourage small-scale farming on the cultural landscape in a way that benefits local communities and visitors with activities such as (left) farmers’ markets and (right) youth engagement programs.

14chap\_slide03

Even in predominantly natural areas, there are locations that are shaped by human occupancy and use, such as the orchard in the Buckner Historic District, Stehekin Valley, North Cascades National Park (Washington). (left) Some of the more than 50 acres of fruit trees; (right) Historic artifacts left behind in the orchard.

14chap\_slide04

Another national park known for its scenic beauty, Acadia National Park (Maine), also has significant cultural landscapes. Over 45 miles of car-free carriage roads created in the first half of the 20th century by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., wind through the mountains and valleys of the park.

14chap\_slide05

To encompass the wide diversity of cultural landscapes, three broad types have been described: landscapes that are designed for aesthetic qualities (designed landscapes), those that result from people working the land (working landscapes), and others that have deep associations with historic events or with cultural knowledge, traditions, or beliefs (associative landscapes). Gateway Arch at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial\* (Missouri) is a world-renowned example of a designed landscape. (\*In March 2018 redesignated as Gateway Arch National Park.)

14chap\_slide06

The grounds of Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site (New York) are another impressive example of a designed landscape (top left and right), as are those of Marsh–Billings–Rockefeller National Historical Park (Vermont) (bottom).

14chap\_slide07

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (left; Montana) is a working landscape that represents and interprets a long and evolving tradition of cattle ranching, as is the home of President Lyndon B. Johnson in Texas (now Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park; right).

14chap\_slide08

Landscapes inhabited and shaped by Native Americans, whether in the prehistoric period (as at Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico) or contemporaneously (as at Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona), are associative landscapes — they hold cultural meanings for Native Americans whose origins, history and relationship with the natural world.

**Chapter 15: Treasures of the Nation**

15slide\_01

The National Park Service is responsible for over 150 million objects, documents, and artifacts in its museum collections scattered across more than 400 national parks. There are extraordinary objects and documents as well as many humble, ordinary artifacts that equally valuable because of their survival and association with nationally significant resources, people, and events. Some examples illustrating the variety of national park collections: (clockwise from upper left) Token from Magnolia Plantation Store, Cane River Creole National Historical Park (Louisiana); Oglala Lakota child’s shirt with beadwork, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (Nebraska); Derringer used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln, Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site (Washington, D.C.); Specimen of ornate shrew, Point Reyes National Seashore (California); Fossil of extinct baenid turtle, Fossil Butte National Monument (Wyoming).

15slide\_02

Some of items are especially poignant. Theodore Roosevelt’s son, Quentin, carried this prayer book and photo of his fiancée with him when he went off to fight in World War I. But he never came home; he was killed in aerial combat. They are part of the museum collections of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (New York).

15slide\_03

At Morristown National Historical Park (New Jersey), which has one of the most important collections of objects related to George Washington and the American Revolution, you can see historic buildings such as Wick House — and the suit Washington wore the day he took the oath of office in 1789 as the first president of the United States.

15slide\_04

Irreplaceable artwork is under Park Service care. Here is a detail from the Gettysburg Cyclorama by Paul Dominique Philippoteaux, Gettysburg National Military Park

(Pennsylvania).

15slide\_05

Historic documents are an important part of national park collections: (left) Pages from U.S. Marshal Thomas Boles’ Record Book, ca. 1880s, Fort Smith National Historic Site (Arkansas, Oklahoma); (right) Original 1885 drawing of plan for Boston’s Franklin Park, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, (Massachusetts).

15slide\_06

Twelve million immigrants passed through Ellis Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument (New York / New Jersey), between 1892 and 1954. Exhibits of photographs and objects tell the story of those immigrants—their hopes for the future as well as the culture and traditions they brought to American shores. Pictured here: the Great Hall at Ellis Island.

15slide\_07

Nez Perce National Historical Park (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) preserves the tribal culture of this Native nation. (left) A horse model in the Spalding Visitor Center displays examples of Nez Perce artistry; (right) A park employee pins together a historic buffalo-hide tipi.

15slide\_08

Large numbers of Park Service museum objects are on display in visitor centers, many of which have a museum/exhibit space such as this one at Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts).

15slide\_09

Historic houses in the national parks sometimes are museums in themselves, filled with curated historic objects. A good example is Longfellow House–Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site (Massachusetts).

15slide\_10

Some parks are charged with maintaining a huge variety of objects and sites. The Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center at the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park (Colorado) houses over three million artifacts of the Ancestral Puebloan people who lived in the region from approximately A.D. 600 to 1300. Of course, the park also preserves world-famous cliff dwellings. (left, upper and lower) Examples of ceramics; (right) Spruce Tree House.

**Chapter 16: Urban National Parks**

16chap\_slide01

Beginning in the late 1960s and 1970s, the National Park Service realized that, in the words of its director at the time, George Hartzog, Jr., it “had to be relevant to an urban environment . . . if we were to survive as an institution and as a resource for America.” Scenes from Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California).

16chap\_slide02

National parks help capture the individual flavor of many cities. Street musicians are part of the unique urban scene celebrated —and perpetuated — at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park (Louisiana).

16chap\_slide03

Buildings preserved at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (Massachusetts) now anchor vibrant downtown streetscapes and contribute to the cultural and economic life of this historic city.

16chap\_slide04

Working the locks on the Pawtucket Canal, Lowell National Historical Park (Massachusetts). At Lowell, it is said that “the city is the park and the park is the city,” so closely are the two intertwined.

16chap\_slide05

The Presidio of San Francisco is one of the most innovative places in the national park system, preserving an expansive former army base and offering a remarkable mixture of environments and experiences. Less than a mile from the wind-blown activity around the Golden Gate Bridge is a quiet, sheltered overlook perched above San Francisco National Cemetery.

16chap\_slide06

Across the continent at the foot of Wall Street in New York City, Federal Hall National Memorial, a classical Greek temple-like structure, is one of a half-dozen historic national parks on or near Manhattan Island. On this site in 1789, George Washington took the oath of office as our first president, and here the first Congress convened before the capital moved to Washington, D.C. A constant sea of people passes under Washington’s watchful gaze every day, and the site is also a popular location for political rallies, protests, and demonstrations. Ironically, most people are unaware that America’s great experiment in self-government began here with the adoption of the Bill of Rights.

16chap\_slide07

African Burial Ground National Monument is just a 15-minute walk from Federal Hall. The visitor center is in a federal building constructed on the site of a nearly forgotten burial ground for (mostly enslaved) African Americans that dates to the 18th century, a time when New York City had one of the largest urban populations of slaves in the American colonies.

16chap\_slide08

Gateway National Recreation Area (New York, New Jersey) provides residents and visitors access to nature at the doorstep of New York City. (left) Seining at Dead Horse Bay; (right) Jamaica Bay and Manhattan skyline from Breezy Point.

16chap\_slide09

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is a 72-mile river park that passes through the green center of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. There are wetlands, islands, birds, kayaks, historic districts, locks and dams, tugboats and barges, small towns and big cities, and plenty of quiet natural areas—all found along this one stretch of river and its adjoining ribbon of parklands.

**Chapter 17: Community Conservation**

17chap\_slide01

The National Park Service does much more than operate the 400+ national parks — as complicated as that is. The agency also oversees over 30 “external” programs outside the parks, providing assistance in conserving nature and history in communities big and small across the country. Clock Tower Lofts (Denver, Colorado), a former paint factory converted to affordable housing, was funded in part by the availability of historic preservation tax credits, a congressionally authorized program administered by the National Park Service.

17chap\_slide02

The Orpheum Theatre (Broadway Theater and Commercial Historic District, Los Angeles, California) was also restored using monies from the Historic Preservation Tax Act.

17chap\_slide03

Groundwork Anacostia, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service’s RTCA (Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance) program, works on environmental restoration in the Anacostia community of Washington, D.C.: (above) Team members; (below) A Groundwork crew cleaning up the Anacostia River.

17chap\_slide04

Historic buildings, structures, places, and landscapes are systematically photographed for posterity by the National Park Service’s Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record: Totem Bight Community House, Mud Bight Village, Ketchikan, Alaska.

17chap\_slide05

Val-Kill, part of Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (New York), is connected with two other nearby national parks by trails developed as part of the RTCA program.

17chap\_slide06

New York City’s popular High Line Park was planned with the involvement of the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. RTCA has been a part of community recreational planning in places all over the country.

17chap\_slide07

The Dubuque Heritage Trail (Iowa) is a good example of a rails-to-trails project facilitated in part by the National Park Service.

17chap\_slide08

One of the country’s largest private-sector preservation efforts is Atlanta’s Ponce City Market, a tax-credit-funded rehabilitation and redesign of the nine-story, two-million-square-foot former Sears retail and distribution center. The market now houses retail shops, restaurants, offices, and residential units. The building is situated at the crossroads of four neighborhoods and also on the 22-mile rails-to-trails BeltLine, an RTCA-assisted project.

17chap\_slide09

Gas Works Park in Seattle is an abandoned waterfront industrial complex that was revitalized as a major park with a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is overseen by the National Park Service.

**Chapter 18: Parks in Partnership**

18chap\_slide01

A diverse array of partners works side-by-side with the National Park Service on conservation. Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts), established in 1961, was an early experiment in how to create a national park in the midst of long-settled coastal communities. This arrangement requires a high degree of cooperation and coordination as many privately owned homes in six Cape Cod towns remain within the 43,500 acres of the park’s authorized boundary.

18chap\_slide02

In the 1970s, the National Park Service launched a pioneering proposal to create a system of national reserves to conserve special regions or places. Local and state governments would play an important governance role for joint planning in collaboration with the National Park Service providing support. Residents would continue to own their property and carry out compatible economic development within the reserves. Two such reserves were established: (left) Pinelands National Reserve (1978) of over one million acres, managed by a New Jersey commission, and (right) Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve (1978) on Whidbey Island, Washington, managed by a trust board.

18chap\_slide03

Shared ownership, and management through partnerships, are now common practices in national parks across the country, such as Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument (Maryland/New York), designated in 2014 to recognize Tubman’s role as a leader of the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railway.

18chap\_slide04

The National Park Service’s most dramatic shift towards a management approach based on collaborative partnerships occurred with the introduction of National Heritage Areas in the 1980s. These 49 areas are large, lived-in landscapes that cross political boundaries to tell distinctive regional stories. While each area is designated by Congress and guidance and support is provided by the National Park Service, governance is in the hands of the people who live there. Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, part of John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Massachusetts, Rhode Island).

18chap\_slide05

Many different American lifeways are represented in national heritage areas: (left, above) Home of plantation worker and folk artist Clementine Hunter and (below) one of her paintings, Cane River Creole National Heritage Area (Louisiana); (center) The Iowa Dairy Center, part of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Iowa), fosters dairy farming as a way of life; (right) Sewing sweetgrass baskets—an essential part of Gullah culture—at Charles Pinckney National Historic Site (South Carolina), part of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina).

18chap\_slide06

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Iowa) tells the story of one of the country’s most attractive and productive agricultural landscapes.

18chap\_slide07

National heritage areas can be linear corridors following historic routes or watersheds. For example, the 165-mile-long Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (Pennsylvania), follows the route anthracite coal took from mine to market in the 19th century.

18chap\_slide08

International partnerships have enabled Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta, Canada) and Glacier National Park (Montana, USA) to jointly manage Waterton–Glacier International Peace Park.

18chap\_slide09

National Park Service staff work with multiple partners to manage and interpret the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (comprised of portions of five states and Washington, D.C.). Here you can experience the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its many rivers. Pictured: Jug Bay Natural Area (Maryland), part of Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

18chap\_slide10

For many people in the East, their nearest national park is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Georgia to Maine), usually known as the Appalachian Trail or simply the “A.T.,” a park that depends almost entirely on partnerships and volunteers. (above) View of New Jersey section; (below) Crew from one of the park’s partners, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

**Chapter 19: Parks Beyond Borders**

19chap\_slide01

The American national park model that began in the 19th century has spread around the world, with other countries adapting the idea of national parks to their particular circumstances. In turn, the U.S. National Park Service has also learned from other countries’ innovations and experience. One way to encourage this mutually beneficial learning is through “sister park” agreements, where a U.S. national park exchanges ideas and information on a regular basis with a similar park elsewhere in the world. For example, Loreto Bay National Marine Park in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur (left) and Channel Islands National Park in California are sister marine parks.

19chap\_slide02

Sister-park relationships occur between historic sites too, such as John Muir Birthplace museum, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland (above), and John Muir National Historic Site, California (below).

19chap\_slide03

The U.S. has also adapted protected area models that were developed in other countries. An example are *protected landscapes*, which are defined by the interaction of people and nature over time and are rich in interrelated natural and cultural values—what is known as *biocultural diversity*. Feral horses are a high-profile component of the biocultural diversity preserved at Assateague Island National Seashore (Maryland / Virginia), which is categorized as a protected landscape under the international system of protected area classification.

19chap\_slide04

Some U.S. national parks located along the Canada or Mexico border are adjacent to protected areas on the other side of the line. In these cases, the adjacent parks have some level of formal or informal cooperation with each other. Pictured: Pictured: Santa Elena Canyon on the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo in Big Bend National Park (Texas). The “Bend” refers to a turn in the Rio Grande (known in Mexico as the Rio Bravo), which serves as the Mexico–United States border for 110 miles through the park. On the Mexican side lie two protected areas, Maderas del Carmen to the east and Cañon de Santa Elena to the west, and Big Bend has cooperative relationships with both.

19chap\_slide05

Since 1992, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska and Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site in British Columbia, Canada, have been managed cooperatively as Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park, working together to preserve and interpret a major route used by prospectors during the Alaska/Yukon Gold Rush of the late 1800s.

19chap\_slide06

Unique in the U.S. national park system, Roosevelt Campobello International Park is located in Canada on a small island near the Maine border. The park, jointly managed by the United States and Canada, preserves the site where Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his family spent summer vacations.

19chap\_slide07

Another example of Canadian-American cooperation is the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, a national heritage area in New York and Vermont on the Canadian border. While Champlain Valley is not officially a transboundary protected area, as there is no comparable designation on the Canadian side of the border, the states and the adjacent province of Quebec cooperate by organizing cross-border trails and touring itineraries.

19chap\_slide08

The reservation of the Death Valley Timbisha Shoshone Band of California lies within Death Valley National Park (California, Nevada), and the tribe, a sovereign nation within U.S. borders, has a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. federal government through the National Park Service.

19chap\_slide09

Joint management by the National Park Service and the Navajo Nation of Canyon de Chelly National Monument (Arizona) dates back to 1931 and today, Navajo tribal members continue to live and farm in the valley as they have since the 17th century.

19chap\_slide10

A different sort of international engagement occurs when U.S. national parks apply for and achieve the coveted status of World Heritage Site under the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty signed by nearly every country and overseen by the United Nations. World Heritage designation doesn’t change the day-to-day management of these parks by the National Park Service, but it does add an important layer of responsibility to care for them. U.S. National parks that are also World Heritage Sites: (top to bottom) Carlsbad Caverns National Park (New Mexico); San Juan National Historic Site (Puerto Rico); Redwood National and State Parks (California).

**Chapter 20: New Park Resources**

20chap\_slide01

In the past 20 years or so, the National Park Service has begun to pay attention to “new” park resources that had never been considered before: things like the value of being able to view dark night skies without the glow of artificial light, or being in a landscape where you can hear natural sounds or experience quiet. (Above) Star trails and (below) aurora borealis (northern lights) in Denali National Park and Preserve (Alaska).

20chap\_slide02

These resources aren’t really new, of course. It’s just that they are now under threat from new development near the national parks. In many parks, the night sky is disappearing—or more accurately, disappearing from view—due primarily to light pollution, which reduces the brightness of the stars and other celestial entities and prevents our eyes from fully adapting to natural darkness. Constellations over Owachomo Bridge, Natural Bridges National Monument (Utah).

20chap\_slide03

To increase the appreciation of dark night skies and stargazing, the Park Service now organizes “star parties” in many parks. Here are telescopes being readied for a star party at Sunset Crater National Monument (Arizona).

20chap\_slide04

Dark night skies are an important part of understanding the worlds inhabited by ancient peoples in North America. Preservation of one of the greatest prehistoric complexes in the country, at Chaco Culture National Historical Park (New Mexico), would be woefully incomplete if the dark skies the Chacoans knew were to be polluted by modern artificial light. Pictured: A shooting star over Fajada Butte at the park.

20chap\_slide05

Scientists and park managers now regularly monitor levels of noise in national parks. The overall range of sounds, whether natural or human-caused, is called the park’s “soundscape.” Olympic National Park (Washington) is one of the few large national parks not bisected by a road or underneath a busy flight corridor. That helps makes the park’s Hoh Rainforest one of the quietest places in the United States.

20chap\_slide06

On the other hand, in some national parks it is critical to be able to hear certain human-made sounds without interference from modern background noise. An integral part of the historic soundscape at Gettysburg National Military Park (Pennsylvania) is the sound of cannons being fired off by re-enactors.

20chap\_slide07

Another newly recognized resource in national parks are the “ecosystem services” provided by nature. These are the benefits natural systems provide to humans. For example, national parks protect water quality: (left) Salt marshes, such as this one at Davis Bayou, Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida, Mississippi), filter pollutants out of the water; (right) Intact forests in Mount Rainier National Park (Washington) help safeguard clean streams.

20chap\_slide08

Forests in national parks perform a valuable service by absorbing and storing carbon: City of Rocks National Reserve (Idaho).

20chap\_slide09

The forests around the Clingmans Dome observation tower in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee/North Carolina), also store atmospheric carbon, thus helping to stabilize the climate. Unfortunately, the warming climate is accelerating an insect infestation that is killing the park’s hemlock trees.

20chap\_slide10

A different kind of nature-based service is the overall health effects that parks can provide people. It has been documented that being in nature benefits people’s physical and mental health. Many national parks explicitly recognize this connection, and some actively promote it by holding health-related active events, such as this fun run in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

**Chapter 21: Practicing Sustainability**

21chap\_slide01

The ecological footprint of the national park system is enormous. The amount of energy and resources expended by visitors coming to the parks, and by the Park Service in running them, is immense. It’s therefore incumbent upon the agency to try to reduce its own footprint and encourage visitors to reduce theirs. In this respect, by adopting sustainable practices the parks become portals of sustainability, offering ideas parks visitors can take home with them. Newly constructed visitor centers are a special focus of green building in the national parks. Here are four examples (clockwise from upper left): Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (California); Denali National Park and Preserve (Alaska); Mesa Verde National Park (Colorado); Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument (Colorado).

21chap\_slide02

All new construction and major building renovations are designed and built with the goal of achieving energy efficiency, reducing consumption of natural resources, providing healthier buildings and workplaces, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. More than 80 park buildings have achieved various levels of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the United States Green Building Council, demonstrating a commitment to these goals. The Forest Center, Marsh-Billings- Rockefeller National Historical Park (Vermont), is PLATINUM LEED-certified.

21chap\_slide03

Some of the more successful sustainable buildings in the national parks clearly fit in with their natural surroundings: (above) Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center, Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming); (left) At Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (Kansas), the visitor center (right in photo) blends into the landscape—and with a historic barn nearby.

21chap\_slide04

The National Park Service subscribes to the philosophy that “the greenest building is the one that’s already built,” a statement that succinctly expresses the relationship between historic preservation and sustainability. Repair and retrofitting of existing historic buildings is the ultimate recycling project. The historic Chimborazo Hospital, now serves as a medical museum and park headquarters for Richmond National Battlefield Park (Virginia).

21chap\_slide05

Sustainability extends to the sources and production of the food we eat, including food served in the national parks. Healthy menus are starting to appear in many of them: Café Crissy, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California).

21chap\_slide06

Reducing the transportation impacts associated with the parks is a major emphasis. (above) Bicycle sharing, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (Texas); (left) Shuttle bus, Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona).

21chap\_slide07

One of the national park system’s most important roles will be stimulating meaningful conversations about sustainability around the country—and around the dinner table when kids and family gather. Fourth-grade students from local schools participating in the National Park Service’s Climate Friendly Kids program during a field trip to Walnut Canyon National Monument (Arizona).

**Chapter 22: Deep Engagement**

22chap\_slide01

For decades, research has found that some racial and ethnic groups are less likely to visit national parks. Why is this? The answer is complicated. Barriers include cultural differences and a history of national parks marginalizing or ignoring communities of color; overt discrimination (including, in some parks, there being segregated facilities until World War II); and race-related income disparity. Each of these reasons either was, or remains, a very real barrier for people of color. Pictured: Students participate in a citizen science data-collecting project at Mammoth Cave National Park (Kentucky).

22chap\_slide02

The Park Service is trying new ways of talking about park values that will appeal to young people. Members of YAP (Youth Ambassadors Program) communicate park themes through hip-hop culture at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (Massachusetts).

22chap\_slide03

In California, people who were once identified as members of “minority groups” now make up a majority of the state’s population. Youth engagement program, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (California).

22chap\_slide04

Young people of color are finding that the parks are for them, too: (above) A Pura Vida en Grand Teton student handles the bow in a paddle with two National Park Service Academy interns, Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming); (below) Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area (Massachusetts) gives youths of diverse backgrounds in-depth, hands-on learning experiences.

22chap\_slide05

Opportunities to be creative in national parks are one way to reach young people at an early age. A young artists’ program at Weir Farm National Historic Site (Connecticut), is designed so that local school groups can customize it to their needs.

22chap\_slide06

It is a moral imperative to welcome all people to America’s national parks and for the national park system to become more representative of the country as whole. In 2016, New York City’s Stonewall Inn, birthplace of the modern Gay Rights Movement in the U.S., was made a part of the national park system by being proclaimed as Stonewall National Monument. It is one of the historic places identified in the National Park Service’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Heritage Initiative.

22chap\_slide07

The creation of César E. Chávez National Monument (California) recognized the accomplishments of one of the nation’s most prominent Hispanic Americans. Here, President Obama speaks at the park’s dedication.

22chap\_slide08

Manzanar National Historic Site (California) tells the story of Japanese American confinement during World War II. Every year, local residents, former internees and others make a pilgrimage to Manzanar to remember those who lived and died in the camp and to keep their stories alive. Since the events of 9/11, Muslim Americans have joined the pilgrimage to call attention to the discrimination they face today. (top) Internees during World War II; (bottom) Participants in annual pilgrimage to the park.

22chap\_slide09

A program at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, a part of Anacostia Park and other area parks in Washington, D.C., run by the National Park Service, is reaching out to diverse student populations in local schools. Anacostia Park is part of the “The City as a Classroom” initiative, a partnership with approximately 30 District of Columbia public schools that provides a classroom curriculum designed by teachers, parents, and school officials to connect students with the city’s history and natural resources.

**Chapter 23: A National Park System for the 21st Century**

23chap\_slide01

It has been said that “The national parks are the American experience expressed in place.” Their impact on our lives can be powerful and transformative. They remind us of our human connections to the past, as in these marks of human passage at three places in New Mexico: (top left) Chaco Culture National Historical Park, (top right) El Morro National Monument, (bottom) Petroglyph National Monument.

23chap\_slide02

They can speak of remarkable individual lives that helped shape the country: Reading room, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site (Virginia).

23chap\_slide03

They provide unparalleled opportunities for challenging ourselves: (above) Death Valley National Park (California, Nevada); (below) Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Idaho).

23chap\_slide04

They teach us about the deeper values of the natural world, for as the national park idea has matured, appreciation of the ecological value of these places has as well: snorkeler with brain coral, Virgin Islands National Park (U.S. Virgin Islands).

23chap\_slide05

They bring us together to share unforgettable experiences: (top) Pausing to reflect at the end of a day in the backcountry: Island in the Sky, Canyonlands National Park (Utah). (bottom) For many, a treasured memory of the national parks includes camping by a mountain lake: Ross Lake National Recreation Area (Washington).

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They remind us of both good and bad events that have shaped the country’s history: Monuments to heroes of battle: (left) George Rogers Clark National Historical Park (Indiana); (right) Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial (Ohio).

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They serve as shrines to the ideals of valor and patriotism: (above) USS Arizona Memorial, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (Hawai‘i, Alaska, California); (below) Mount Rushmore National Memorial (South Dakota).

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They preserve ecosystems as different as the mountains and deserts of the Southwest and the great northern lakes and forests: (left) Guadalupe Mountains National Park (Texas); (right) Voyageurs National Park (Minnesota).

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They tell us of people’s impact on the land, no matter how remote: Isle Royale (Menagerie Island) Lighthouse, Isle Royale National Park (Michigan).

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They remind us that all people, regardless of their abilities, deserve to be able to experience the national heritage preserved in the national parks. Many recreational sites in the parks are accessible to people with mobility or other impairments: Canaveral National Seashore (Florida).

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As we look to the future, without question the greatest challenge to the national parks is climate change. Nowhere is the effect of climate change on the parks more vividly at hand than in Glacier National Park (Montana), where scientists measure receding ice fields; here, by doing repeat photography at Iceberg Lake.

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The National Park Service is already grappling with complex questions about how to preserve wildlife in an unprecedented time of change: (above) Bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado); (below) Collared pika, Denali National Park and Preserve (Alaska).

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It’s not only about nature. Climate change will force the National Park Service to make hard choices about historic structures in coastal areas: (above) Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (North Carolina) was moved 2,900 feet inland from its original location (foreground) to avoid sea level rise, but that option is not available for other buildings, such as (below) historic Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas National Park (Florida).

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Despite these challenges, there is reason for optimism when we consider the next generations of Americans. Embracing new technology helps connect the parks with youth who will, it is hoped, grow up to be supporters of the national park system. Valley Forge National Historical Park (Pennsylvania).

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The future of America’s national park system lies in the hands of young people who represent a more diverse citizenry: participants in a National Park Service Academy course, Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming).

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Some have suggested that we need to stop creating new national parks. In fact, the national park system will never be “complete” and should continue to grow if the system is to reflect the evolving American experience: Two of the newest additions to the system, (left) Valles Caldera National Preserve (New Mexico); (right) Pullman National Monument (Illinois).

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The parks have many meanings, not just one, and each of us ultimately chooses exactly which lessons, what kind of inspiration, we take from the national parks. But there is one message that applies to us all: No matter how daunting the challenges facing the parks may appear, you can make a positive difference in their future. In fact, ordinary people are making a difference in the parks every day: (clockwise from left) Ice Age National Scenic Trail (Wisconsin); Congaree National Park (South Carolina); San Juan Island National Historical Park (Washington); Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California).

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The astonishing diversity of the national park system is its greatest strength, as Congress recognized when describing the parks as the “cumulative expressions of a single national heritage”: (top, left to right) Ocmulgee National Monument (Georgia); Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (Colorado); Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (Montana, North Dakota); Noatak National Preserve (Alaska); (middle): Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site (New York); (bottom, left to right): Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Maryland); Saguaro National Park (Arizona).

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Perhaps more than anything else, America’s national park system offers endless opportunities for discovery: Statue of Liberty National Monument (New York, New Jersey).