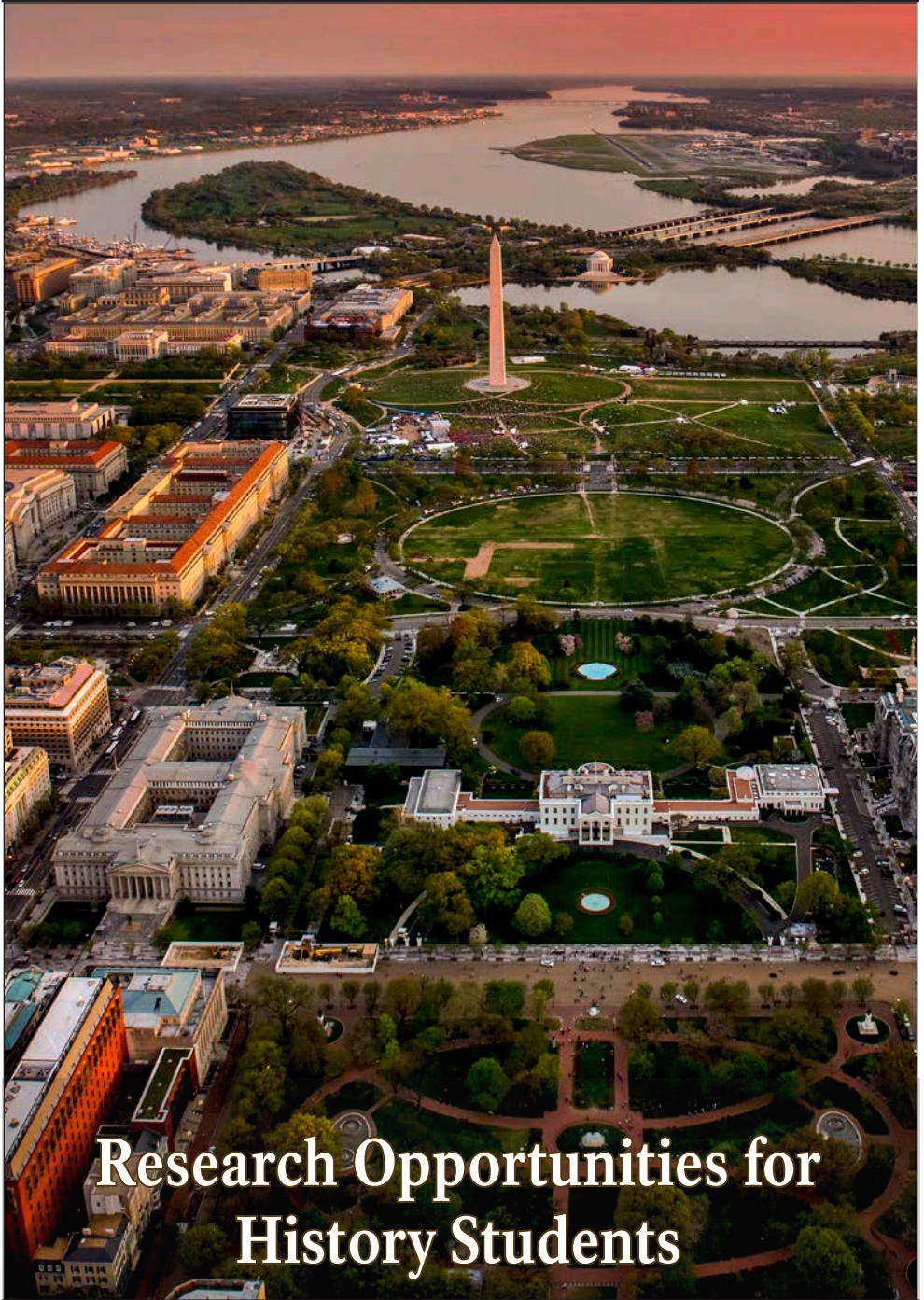


National Capital Region

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Research Opportunities for  
History Students



The National Park Service celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, August 25, 2016

## History in the National Capital Region Parks

National Park sites in the National Capital Region open up a vast range of ways to access American heritage, from neighborhood green spaces in Washington, D.C., to memorials on and around the National Mall, Civil War battlefields and historic homes, and nature preserves.

Together, they tell stories of the growth of cities and transportation networks, and their dependence on the natural world; the growing tensions around slavery and secession that ripped the country apart in the Civil War; and the ways different racial and ethnic groups, women, and LGBTQ people have reshaped the meaning of citizenship in the modern United States.

Unlike physical memorials, this heritage is not fixed in stone. Parks depend on up-to-date historical research to offer true and relevant narratives to visitors, to incorporate new perspectives and knowledge, and to make decisions about preservation. We invite you to contribute to this research in individual parks and the regional cultural resource programs that support them.

Cover: Aerial view of the White House, Washington Monument, and Potomac River at sunset (looking south).

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## Internship and Research Opportunities

The National Capital Region's parks, archives, and collections are full of research opportunities for volunteer internships or academic projects. This booklet highlights current needs for applied research to enhance the preservation and interpretation of park resources.

The Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program, Historic Preservation Training Internship, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities Internship Program may be especially relevant to history students.

## Contact Information

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ACLS/Mellon Fellow  
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(202) 619-7273

## Links

- National NPS paid internship and youth hiring programs:  
[www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/youngadults.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/youngadults.htm)
- National Council for Preservation Education internships (jointly with the NPS Historic Preservation Internship Training Program):  
[www.nps.gov/tps/education/internships.htm](http://www.nps.gov/tps/education/internships.htm)



Memorial Illumination, Antietam National Battlefield

## **Antietam National Battlefield**

**302 E. Main Street**

**Sharpsburg, MD 21782**

**[nps.gov/anti](https://nps.gov/anti)**

### **Overview**

This Civil War site saw 23,000 casualties after twelve hours of battle in September of 1862, in what the NPS remembers as “the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.” The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederacy’s first attempt to invade the north, driving General Robert E. Lee south into Virginia. After the battle, President Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, threatening to free the enslaved people in the rebellious states on January 1, 1863, if they did not rejoin the union.

Visitors to Antietam today see the battlefield and its layers of meaning for those who came after. There are over 300 tablets from the 1890s describing the battle, 96 veterans’ monuments, cannons in historic locations, and many other memorials.



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## Research needs

- *Medicine in a disaster zone*: Records of hospitals and medical stations established in the region following the Battle of Antietam.
- *The war's impact on local communities*: Civil War claims for damages by residents of the Sharpsburg region.
- *National memory and reconciliation*: How War Department stewardship of Antietam Battlefield in the 1890s transformed the site, adding roads, tablets, a tower, and more.
- *The National Cemetery then and now*: The history of the cemetery and the people buried there, in preparation for its upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Internships

Antietam's Division of Museum and Library Services offers an internship to work with the curator on museum, archive, and library projects, participating in the majority of day-to-day operations and gaining hands-on experience in the curatorial field. Interns would work Monday-Friday for the fall and/or spring term. This position is unpaid, but housing is available.



Fall at Catoclin Mountain Park

## **Catoclin Mountain Park**

**6602 Foxville Road**

**Thurmont, MD 21788**

**[nps.gov/cato](https://nps.gov/cato)**

### **Overview**

Nature, human industry, and youth conservation programs are deeply intertwined at Catoclin. Native Americans created the first quarries for rhyolite for stone tools. Settlers built farms and sawmills and produced charcoal for a local iron furnace. During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps conducted resource conservation and built cabin camps for recreation that still stand today. In the 1960s, the nation's first Job Corps members went to work expanding the park as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty. While natural resources shaped these opportunities for human industry, the long history of human transformation of the landscape continues as the park faces the impact of climate change today.

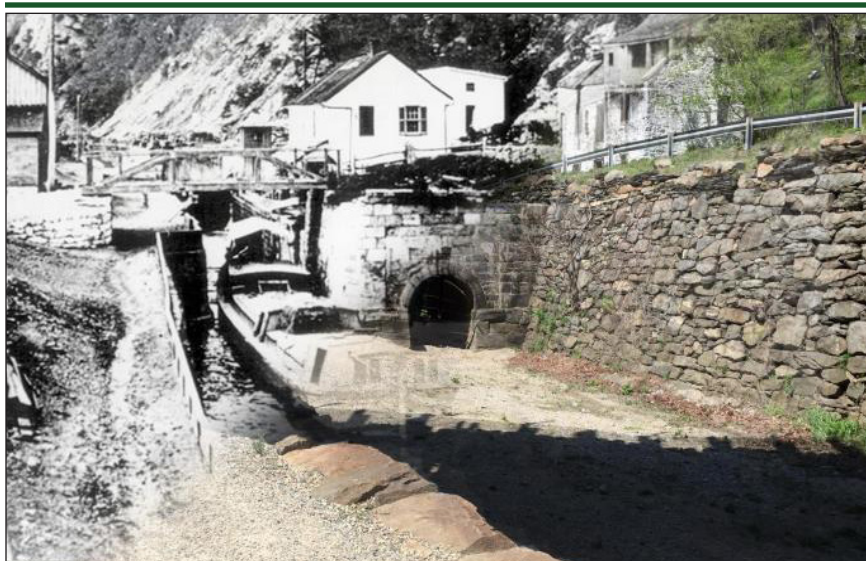
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## Research needs

- *Mountains as sanctuary*: The Underground Railroad in the Catoclin Mountain range.
- *Civil Rights in the park*: Civil Rights era programs including Job Corps and other programs in the park, and possible connections to NPS responses to urban unrest in the 1960s.
- *From field to forest*: How the farming community in what became Catoclin Mountain Park was affected by the beginnings of the park as a Recreational Demonstration Area during the Great Depression.
- *Creating parks, creating jobs*: The experiences and local impact of the youth who created park infrastructure as members of job and conservation programs in the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Civilian Conservation Corps workers at Catoclin





Lock 33, 1900 and 2015, C&O Canal National Historical Park

**Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park**  
**1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100**  
**Hagerstown, MD 21740**  
**[nps.gov/choh](https://nps.gov/choh)**

## **Overview**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the C&O Canal provided jobs and opportunities for people throughout the Potomac River Valley, from the tidal basin in Washington, D.C., to the mountains of Western Maryland. In a little less than one hundred years, the C&O Canal witnessed a race west by transportation giants, the growth and decline of communities and businesses along the banks of the Potomac River, fierce battles raging between a divided nation, and improvements in technology that made the work of the canal obsolete.



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## Research needs

- ***Digital history:*** The William Bauman transcriptions on canal shipping, 1850-1920, contain a tremendous amount of hidden information that can be made accessible through digitization, data mining, spreadsheets, and other tools and analyses.
- ***Leadership and social change:*** The C&O Canal Company's annual reports are a starting point for identifying the company's board members and officers and mapping their influence in politics, finance, and society.
- ***Documenting canal heritage:*** Creating a database of canal families, drawing on historical property, deeds, wills, newspaper clippings, and other documents, would provide a centralized resource for park visitors, area residents, and descendants.
- ***Personalizing history:*** Research the life and work of Michael Byrne, the Irish contractor whose firm built many of the structures on the canal, including Conococheague Aqueduct, which is being restored to working condition again.
- ***Making sense out of a messy end:*** The complex legal files from the era when the C&O Canal Company went into bankruptcy and receivership in 1889 need to be transcribed and annotated.

Aqueduct rededication, 2011





George Washington Memorial Parkway

## **George Washington Memorial Parkway**

**700 George Washington Memorial Parkway**

**McLean, VA 22101**

**[nps.gov/gwmp](https://nps.gov/gwmp)**

### **Overview**

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is a national park and historic roadway designed to provide a scenic approach to Washington, D.C., and Mount Vernon that also reflects how 20<sup>th</sup> century urban residents experienced the outdoors: by car. From the north it curves alongside the Potomac Gorge, highlighting its steep cliffs and rich woods. From the D.C. vicinity southward it is a broad avenue punctuated with monuments to America's history, ending at Mount Vernon. Visitors can explore scenic trails, marshes, islands, and historic sites from all periods of American history, and students can build on existing research to enrich the Parkway's stories.

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## Research needs

- ***Shipwreck history:*** The park features a number of underwater archeological sites, including shipwrecks and other maritime landscape features. Interdisciplinary historical and archeological research would tell these sites' stories in the context of transformations in shipping and commerce along the Potomac River.
- ***Fort Hunt's clandestine WWII history:*** The fort's role as a top secret military intelligence center known as P.O. Box 1142 remained hidden for around half a century. Today the park is looking for new stories to add to its veteran oral histories and National Archives research.
- ***Diverse life stories at Great Falls:*** Research the people who lived and worked at Great Falls, such as George Pointer, who worked on the Patowmack Canal; Lucy Lee, an African American 19<sup>th</sup>-century resident; and the Scottish masons who reportedly left mason's marks on the canal stones and worked on the White House.
- ***History at a crossing point:*** The Pimmit Run/Chain Bridge area of the Potomac is rich in environmental, political, and social history: it was a main entry point to Georgetown and D.C., a center of warehouses, mills, quarries, and other industries, and during the War of 1812, Treasury clerk Stephen Pleasanton hid records including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in a mill along Pimmit Run.

Roaches Run Boat Wreck, GWMP NPS files (Louis Berger Group)





Harpers Ferry viewed from Maryland Heights

## **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

**PO Box 65**

**485 Fillmore Street**

**Harpers Ferry, WV 25425**

**[nps.gov/hafe](https://nps.gov/hafe)**

### **Overview**

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. As a crossing point at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, and the state lines of Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, this site's multi-layered history features diverse people and events that influenced the course of our nation. Harpers Ferry witnessed a groundbreaking development in factory production, the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, the education of former slaves at Storer College, and W.E.B. Du Bois's leadership of the 1906 Niagara Movement that paved the way for the modern NAACP.



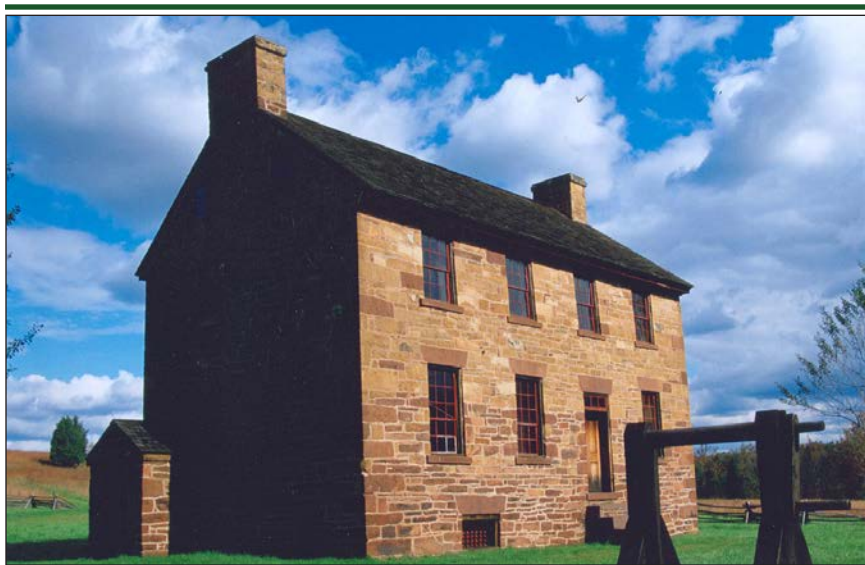
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## Research needs

- *Niagara Movement in the news:* Research, copy, and digitize articles from original period newspapers that report on the 1906 Niagara Movement convention at Harpers Ferry, using contemporary black-owned newspapers and local area newspapers in the tri-state region.
- *People of the Niagara Movement:* Investigate original archival collections of 1906 Niagara Movement participants, copying and digitizing items relevant to the Harpers Ferry meeting.
- *Immigration and industry:* Research the history of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Millville quarry and quarry town, where many Italian immigrant families lived.
- *New avenues in military history:* The District of Columbia National Guard's use of Harpers Ferry for training exercises in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is largely unexplored.
- *The YMCA and African American heritage:* Records indicate that every summer, thousands of people came on trains to attend annual YMCA picnics on Island Park, and some of the park's Storer College photos show YMCA programs. Research on YMCA connections with Storer College would help the park understand and interpret this emerging history.

Summer youth celebration, 2008





The Stone House

## **Manassas National Battlefield Park**

**12521 Lee Highway**

**Manassas, VA 20109**

**[nps.gov/mana](https://nps.gov/mana)**

### **Overview**

The Union and Confederate armies met in battle at Manassas twice, in 1861 and 1862. The first battle dashed the Union's early hopes of a quick victory, and the second let the Confederacy push forward toward an attempted invasion of the north. These early and brutal battles twice took over a landscape of plantations, small farms, roads, and creeks into one of cannons, conflict, and casualties.

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## Research needs

- *The families who lived on today's Manassas Battlefield:* Exploring the lives of African American and white civilians during both battles of Manassas, their efforts to rebuild after the war, and the local impact of the Freedmen's Bureau and Reconstruction policies.
- *Landscape and environmental history:* Documenting the site history and current characteristics of civilian landscapes and Civil War engagement sites at the park as context for management and preservation decisions.

## Internships

The park currently has successful internship programs with Gettysburg College and West Virginia University, in which the park provides training and housing, and the institution provides a stipend. The park is eager to develop additional internship partnerships. Current opportunities:

- *Interpretation for history and public history students:* Conducting guided walking tours, providing informal interpretation at the historic Stone House, helping visitors at the Visitor Center, and assisting with historical research.
- *Place-based and immersive education:* Coordinating with teachers to schedule visits, presenting on-site and in-school programs, developing curriculum-based education materials, and assisting with planning annual events.
- *Web and social media:* Assisting the park in developing new web content and keeping social media sites updated.

Fife and drum performance at Manassas





Best Farm Secondary Dwelling

## Monocacy National Battlefield

5201 Urbana Pike

Frederick, MD 21704

[nps.gov/mono](https://nps.gov/mono)

### Overview

During the summer of 1864, the Confederacy carried out a bold plan to turn the tide of the Civil War in its favor. They planned to capture Washington, D.C., and influence the elections of 1864. On July 9, 1864, however, Federal soldiers, outnumbered three to one, fought gallantly along the banks of the Monocacy River in an effort to buy time for Union reinforcements to arrive in Washington, D.C. The lives of soldiers, enslaved people, and farm and business owners intersected in and around the “battle that saved Washington.”



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## Research needs

- *Enslaved people in the Civil War:* Enslaved people labored on most or all of the five farms that make up Monocacy National Battlefield, but we know very little about who they were. Research into these individuals and families in 1860, at the time of the battle in July 1864, and after their emancipation in November 1864 is vital to the park's interpretive themes and programming around civilian life during the Civil War.
- *The men who left things behind:* Research into the military careers and personal lives of soldiers who owned artifacts in Monocacy's museum collection would help to personalize and enhance visitors' tangible experience of the park's history.
- *Mysterious fire in historic home:* The park recently discovered that the Worthington House burned to the brick in 1860, as did a failing distillery owned by the same couple and their neighbors. Was it coincidence that the house and distillery burned down within the same year? This research could influence future interpretation and stewardship of the house.

Archeology staff, students, and volunteers at Monocacy review results of a surface-penetrating radar survey at the Best Farm Slave Village site.





Collections stored at the Museum Resource Center

## **Museum Resource Center**

**3300 Hubbard Road  
Landover, MD 20785  
[nps.gov/mrc](https://nps.gov/mrc)**

### **Overview**

The Museum Resource Center (MRCE) is the central curatorial facility for the National Park Service, National Capital Region. The Center cares for objects not currently on exhibit at NPS historic homes and properties throughout the region, including collections from the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, Fords Theatre, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. MRCE also houses around 1.7 million archeological objects from 34 parks, including Manassas, Monocacy, and Rock Creek, and a variety of archival materials and natural history specimens.

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## Research needs

- *Climate change risks and impacts:* Sea level rise and more frequent and more damaging storms along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers threaten museum collections and park cultural resources. GIS modeling can help parks plan for climate change.
- *New perspectives through archeology:* Analysis of MRCE's archeological collections can unearth new stories about the past, from Native American life at Piscataway, to African American foodways at the Best Farm Slave Village at Monocacy, to Civil War experiences at Manassas and Antietam.
- *Making objects speak:* Some very significant objects lack the necessary scholarly research to determine their provenance. For example – MRCE has the pillow that is purported to be the pillow that Lincoln was using when he died. A host of objects like this could tell more compelling stories if we had sufficient documentation to support these stories.
- *Memorabilia from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:* This continually growing collection includes around 400,000 objects left at the memorial wall, from dog tags to birthday cards, from protest items to a famous motorcycle. The collections are a perfect place to examine personal and public memory at the memorial, adding to a rich scholarly conversation.



Cedar Hill, home of Frederick Douglass

## **National Capital Parks – East**

**1900 Anacostia Drive SE**

**Washington, DC 20020**

**[nps.gov/nace](https://nps.gov/nace)**

### **Overview**

National Capital Parks – East is a group of parks in the District of Columbia and Maryland that include neighborhood parks, Civil War forts, the historic homes of Frederick Douglass, Carter G. Woodson, and Mary McLeod Bethune, and the riverfront Anacostia Park and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Together, they embody the capital's significant African American history and the role of public space in defining local character.



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## Research needs

- ***Modern social history in Greenbelt Park:*** Members of the American Indian Movement camped within the park from the initial The Longest Walk in 1978 to the Longest Walk 5 in 2016. Mohammad Ali trained there. According to local lore, the campground was popular for fans of the Grateful Dead. Research on social and cultural movements at the park could energize its public interpretation.
- ***The Capper-Cramton Act of 1930:*** This act provided for the development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway along the Potomac River, but its Maryland section was never constructed due to controversy. Learning the unknown history and context of the Act, who lobbied for and around it, and what the desired impacts were would help with park management today.
- ***The 1932 Bonus Army Encampment:*** When World War I veterans and their families of all races, ages, and religions met from across the country to protest the delay of their service bonuses, Anacostia Park was the site of their largest encampment, titled “Camp Marks.” The U.S. Army was sent to clear the campsites of veterans, women, and children using tear gas and fire. The park needs research to make this history more visible.

Urban Archeology Corps at National Capital Parks - East (Courtesy of Groundwork Anacostia River, D.C.)





View east from Lincoln Memorial

## **National Mall and Memorial Parks**

**900 Ohio Drive SW**

**Washington, DC 20024**

**[nps.gov/nama](https://nps.gov/nama)**

### **Overview**

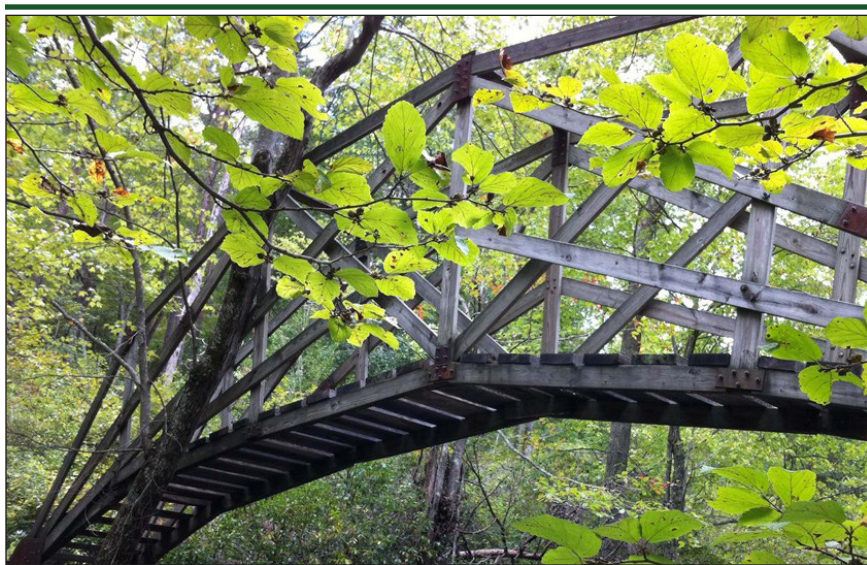
For more than 200 years, the National Mall has symbolized our nation and its democratic values, which have inspired the world. The National Mall—the great swath of green in the middle of our capital city and stretching from the foot of the United States Capitol to the Potomac River—is the premier civic and symbolic space in our nation.

National Mall and Memorial Parks protects the Mall, its iconic monuments and memorials, and over 1,000 acres of green space in Washington, D.C.

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## Research needs

- *Modernism and urban renewal*: Late twentieth century development is becoming part of urban history in places like Washington, D.C.'s Southwest Waterfront. Research into Modernism in architecture, landscape architecture, design and art in Washington, D.C., from the 1950s through 1980s, will help the NPS understand how history shapes preservation needs in urban parks.
- *Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument* is the park's newest addition, designated in 2016. Historical research on Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party would contribute to long-term management plans and provide new material to engage visitors.
- *Small parks*: The L'Enfant Plan for Washington, D.C., resulted in the system of parks and reservations (from large open areas to small geometric spaces) along thoroughfares that exist today. Yet the physical evolution and design of the individual spaces are largely unknown. Researching the history and features that define their character is the first step toward protecting them from modern threats and encroachment.
- *The history of the National Mall and Memorial Parks* is complex, given that it encompasses many parks, memorials, and periods of historic activity. Research on the park's administrative history can help park leaders and the public understand past controversies, prepare for future ones, and make thoughtful, informed decisions about recurring issues.



Prince William Forest Park

**Prince William Forest Park**  
**18100 Park Headquarters Road**  
**Triangle, VA 22172**  
**[nps.gov/prwi](https://nps.gov/prwi)**

## **Overview**

Prince William Forest Park represents an intriguing interface of human history, harsh socioeconomic conditions, and watershed-scale natural resources. The nearly 14,000-acre park was born during the economic hopelessness and social upheaval of the Great Depression, intended as a model for the New Deal's Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) programs. It was to be a place where low-income and inner-city children of all races could escape Depression realities, experience nature and the great outdoors, and learn new life skills. The five main “cabin camps” were built on displaced homesteads, farms, mine sites, and impoverished communities.

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Further changes occurred when the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), occupied and modified the area after the CCC era. Today, the park contains the largest collection of CCC buildings in the nation, manages the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park Service, and protects a significant percentage of the Quantico Creek watershed. The holistic protection of natural processes within an urbanized landscape is also part of the park's cultural and environmental history.

## Research needs

- *A rich prehistory:* While much of northern Virginia's archeology has been disturbed by suburban and metropolitan developments, the park's many preserved sites and artifacts can illuminate its earliest people and communities.
- *The people before the park:* A comprehensive study of the families who lost their homes and communities due to the founding of the park under New Deal programs would be invaluable.
- *Stories of the New Deal:* The individuals who experienced early social programs such as the RDA, Works Progress Administration (WPA), and CCC in Prince William Forest Park are aging, making it urgent to complete oral histories.
- *Race and public space:* A comparative project could study how different organizations that managed RDAs approached diversity within a segregated society.
- *Learning from the past:* The RDA's founding purpose was to connect low-income and inner-city youth with nature. Are there lessons learned from this historic experiment relevant to today's needs?





Rock Creek Park in autumn

**Rock Creek Park**  
**3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20008**  
**[nps.gov/rocr](https://nps.gov/rocr)**

## **Overview**

Rock Creek Park extends over about 3,000 acres in Northwest Washington, D.C., and the history it preserves in the midst of woods, streams, and urban reservations spans thousands of years. NPS-funded studies have researched Native American quarries and camp sites from around 2500 BC, colonial sites from the 1700s, and forts and earthworks from the Civil War. Research and management of these resources connects D.C. archeology, history and culture, and anthropology of traditional and contemporary communities.

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## Research needs

- *Old Stone House material culture:* Located at 3051 M Street in Georgetown, the Old Stone House was built in 1765, making it the oldest standing building in Washington, D.C., and a good example of pre-Revolutionary American vernacular architecture. The park has a collection of household objects and archeological materials from the house that need to be studied and analyzed.
- *Civil War research:* With part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington within the park's boundaries, there are opportunities to study Civil War-era museum collections, historical documentation of forts in combination with archeological survey, and historical memory and meaning in today's cultural landscapes.
- *Urban park history:* Rock Creek seeks research on its socially constructed landscapes as nodes in a network of city parks, and their development, use, and future in the social history of Washington, D.C. For an archival project, the park has historic drawings and photos related to NPS management that need to be processed.
- *Prehistoric archeology, National Register updates, cultural landscapes, and public engagement projects:* Contact NPS for information about cultural resource management needs beyond the discipline of history.

Fort Stevens, Washington, D.C.





Aerial view of the Filene Center

**Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts**  
**1551 Trap Road**  
**Vienna, VA 22812**  
**[nps.gov/wotr](https://nps.gov/wotr)**

## Overview

Wolf Trap National Park was established in 1966, and fifty years later it is still unique as the only national park for the performing arts. Its centerpiece, the Filene Center, is a 7,000-seat outdoor performance venue set among woods and meadows. Picnicking and concerts under the stars are a summer tradition at the Filene Center, where shows range from symphonies, to dance to jazz to rock and the latest pop stars. The park also offers a summer Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods performance series and year-round outdoor activities like tours, hiking, picnicking, and sledding.

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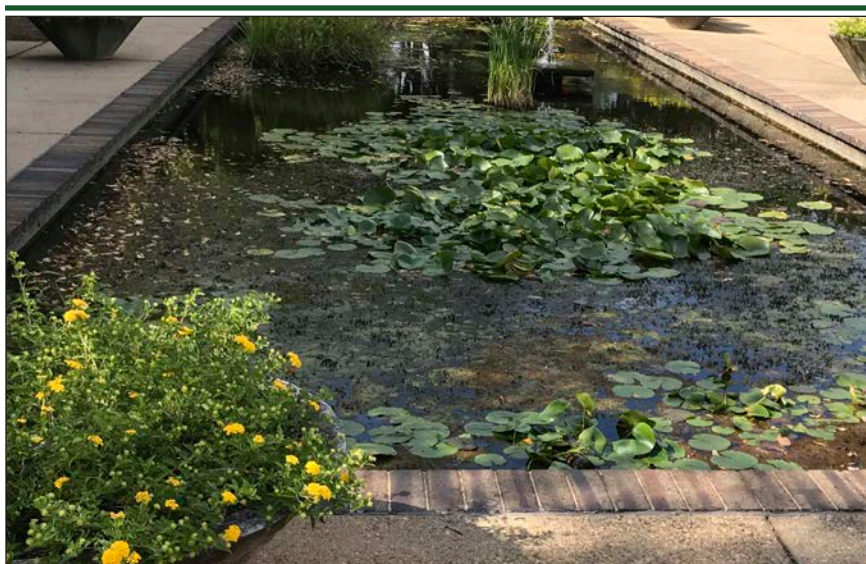
## Research needs

*An Extraordinary Woman:* The park's founder, Mrs. Catherine Filene Shouse, has a remarkable life story that links her donation of land and funds for Wolf Trap with women's rights and progress, world travel, and civic engagement. Coming of age in the 1920s, she promoted women's advancement in the workplace, in women's prisons, and in the Democratic Party. She also supported causes ranging from relief in Europe after World War II, to dog breeding, to the performing arts. Already politically well-connected, the opening of the Filene Center in 1971 in suburban Virginia put Mrs. Shouse at the center of artistic life in the Washington, D.C., area for a quarter of a century. There is a rich opportunity for original research on women's history in Mrs. Shouse's papers at Harvard's Schlesinger Library, some of which are digitized.

Hālau O Kekuhi dance company (Image Scott Suchman)







## **NPS National Capital Region Office (NCRO)**

**1100 Ohio Drive, SW**

**Washington, DC 20242**

**[nps.gov/ncro](https://nps.gov/ncro)**

### **Overview**

The National Capital Regional Office provides research and technical assistance for regional parks to support the preservation, stewardship, and interpretation of cultural resources. The NCR's history program documents the histories of individual parks and how they relate to each other and to major themes in American history. Recent topics of interest include the Civil War and Reconstruction, Civil Rights, and the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Latinos, women, and the LGBTQ community. The NPS and NCR are also working on studies of environmental history and climate change response strategies to document and protect historic sites, structures, and landscapes.



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## Research needs

- *African American history*: Expanding research on life during and after Reconstruction, the history of the Civil Rights Movement, and other themes is an ongoing priority.
- *Women's history*: Linking together threads in regional women's history, including women in the abolitionist movement and Civil War, the suffrage movement and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, African American women's activism, and 20<sup>th</sup> century women's rights in Washington, D.C.
- *Park history*: Documenting the development of Washington, D.C.'s urban parks, recreation and segregation in NCR parks, and environmental histories of parks and the region.
- *Climate change and cultural resources*: Assessing the vulnerability of historic structures, archeology, cultural landscapes, and sites of traditional cultural importance in NCR parks, and researching and sharing best practices for preservation.
- *Recognizing significant sites*: research related to National Register nominations and National Historic Landmark designations.

