

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PICNICKING POLICY

Picnic facilities will be provided in Parks other than historic Parks and Monuments when there is sufficient day use to justify their installation and where there exists adequate ground to accommodate them without serious encroachment upon or damage or threat to the preservation of the inherent values of the Park. As a rule, picnic facilities may be provided in Parks located within day use reach of centers of population or heavily settled rural areas. The minor picnic use of remote Parks can be provided for by use of campground facilities.

Picnicking in historic Parks and Monuments shall not be encouraged and facilities therefor shall be allowed as the exception rather than the rule. Where there is a clearly demonstrated need for outdoor luncheon facilities, a suitable area with appropriate installations should be set aside for this purpose.

PICNICKING POLICY GUIDELINES

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

1. The National Park Service does not have authority nor an obligation to provide for picnicking when this is the primary use, except in certain units of the National Capital Parks or in National Recreational Areas.
2. In usual circumstances picnic sites will be made available on a "first come - first served" basis. Reservations should be required for group picnics.
3. Wood fuel will be provided only when reasonable to do so and when consistent with the Service's wood-utilization policy. Beyond these limitations the National Park Service is not obligated to provide fuel for picnicking.
4. Picnicking will be permitted only in designated locations unless otherwise authorized by the Superintendent.
5. Picnic grounds will be closed at dusk.
6. In order to protect trees, shrubs, and other vegetation, and in order to provide an enjoyable picnic experience, overcrowding of picnic grounds should be avoided.
7. When a picnic ground is filled to capacity it is unwise to permit overflow picnickers to use undeveloped areas immediately surrounding the picnic ground unless it is planned to use this area for the development of additional picnic sites. When an adjoining area is

used additional temporary sanitary facilities should be provided, in order not to overload existing toilet facilities and utilities.

It is preferable to select another site, preferably one that is scheduled for future development as a picnic ground. These overflow picnic areas should be provided with only minimum facilities for sanitation, vegetation and site protection, and water.

Picnic grounds may be used for temporary overflow campsites for late arrivals with the understanding that the site is to be vacated by 10 a.m. the following morning. (See Camping Policy Guidelines.)

8. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to control and regulate the use of all picnic grounds. The frequency of inspection and the application of regulatory controls should be sufficient to provide for the health and safety of picnickers for the protection of Park features and aesthetic values, and to assure that the welfare of the picnicker and his enjoyment of the Park have been safeguarded.

9. Recreational facilities such as swings, seesaws, and game areas are not to be provided though open areas may be maintained in which games may be played.

10. Pets are to be on leash or caged at all times.

11. Cooperation of all levels of government should be sought, and private enterprise encouraged, to construct picnic grounds near National Parks.

1928 Law prohibited use of NPS approp. funds
when there is a charge for camping. ∴ ~~charge~~
the result: no charge in NPS campgrounds.