



Experience the Nation's Capital

Few destinations possess the power of place conveyed by the National Mall and Memorial Parks. From the steps of the U.S. Capitol to the Reflecting Pool of West Potomac Park, visitors sense the enduring legacy of presidents and celebrate the nation's assurance of freedom and equality. Cared for by the National Park Service, the remarkable memorials and sweeping landscapes of the nation's capital reflect the soul of our national identity and serve as the symbolic heart of the nation.



Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes administers the oath of office to Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the east portico of the U.S. Capitol, January 20, 1941.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



For the trust reposed in me I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt
First Inaugural Address,
March 4, 1933
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Background: Aerial view of U.S. Capitol and National Mall.

Monumental Leadership



I was summoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love.

—George Washington
First Inaugural Address
April 30, 1789
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The Washington Monument was built in honor of George Washington, who led the country to independence and took his oath of office as first U.S. president on April 30, 1789. The Monument was completed on December 6, 1884.



Legacy of Liberty

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

—Abraham Lincoln
Gettysburg Address
November 19, 1863
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The Lincoln Memorial stands as an enduring symbol of freedom and a tribute to the 16th president of the United States—the Great Emancipator and preserver of the nation during the Civil War. For decades the Lincoln Memorial has been an inspirational place for important speeches, concerts, and national celebrations such as the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 2009. This commemorative ribbon was made for Abraham Lincoln's Centennial birthday celebration on February 12, 1909.



A Home with History

The White House has served as home for the nation's first families and as the office and residence of U.S. presidents since it was first occupied by John and Abigail Adams in 1800. Over time the White House has been the site of many family gatherings, including birthday parties, holiday dinners, and Easter Egg Rolls. The president's family shared the second floor of the White House with the president's

staff until President Theodore Roosevelt ordered the construction of a temporary building. The new structure allowed more space for the president and his aides as well as the six growing and lively Roosevelt children. Today that building is called the West Wing. In 1901 Theodore Roosevelt officially named the historic home the White House, now a symbol of democracy recognized worldwide.



The First Family
In 1969 Lady Bird Johnson created a children's garden at the White House. With Barack Obama's presidency in 2009, children's voices are heard once again in the historic home and gardens of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.



... I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof.

—John Adams
President's House
November 2, 1800
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Abigail Adams
As wife of the first vice president, Abigail Adams helped with official entertaining. When John Adams became the second U.S. president, she continued to hold formal dinners and receptions even though the President's House was still under construction in November of 1800.



It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it.

—Theodore Roosevelt
Dakota Territory
July 4, 1886
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Theodore Roosevelt Island

The only memorial to the 26th president of the United States in the nation's capital is a small island in the Potomac River. An architectural memorial and the restored natural landscape surrounding it together form a living tribute to the man known as the "Great Conservationist." Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to make conservation of America's natural resources a centerpiece of his domestic policy.

Explore the Heart of Our Heritage

Administered by the National Park Service, the National Capital Region Parks include much more than monuments and memorials that celebrate, honor, and demonstrate the nation's commitment to democracy. Extending beyond the National Mall are additional tributes to our heritage that range from historic homes and peaceful parkways to national scenic trails and national battlefields.



Exceptional People and Places

Clara Barton National Historic Site Built in 1891, this structure first stored American Red Cross supplies. By 1897 it became the organization's headquarters and the home of its founder, Clara Barton. Although women could not vote at that time, Barton's influence extended to the White House. Her invitation to attend Lincoln's 1865 inaugural ball is displayed at the site. PORTRAITS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Frederick Douglass National Historic Site This late 19th-century home preserves the legacy of the nation's leading African American spokesperson. Known as the father of the civil rights movement, Frederick Douglass helped shape the nation as an abolitionist, publisher, and social reformer. Douglass also served as an advisor to presidents, including Abraham Lincoln. PORTRAITS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

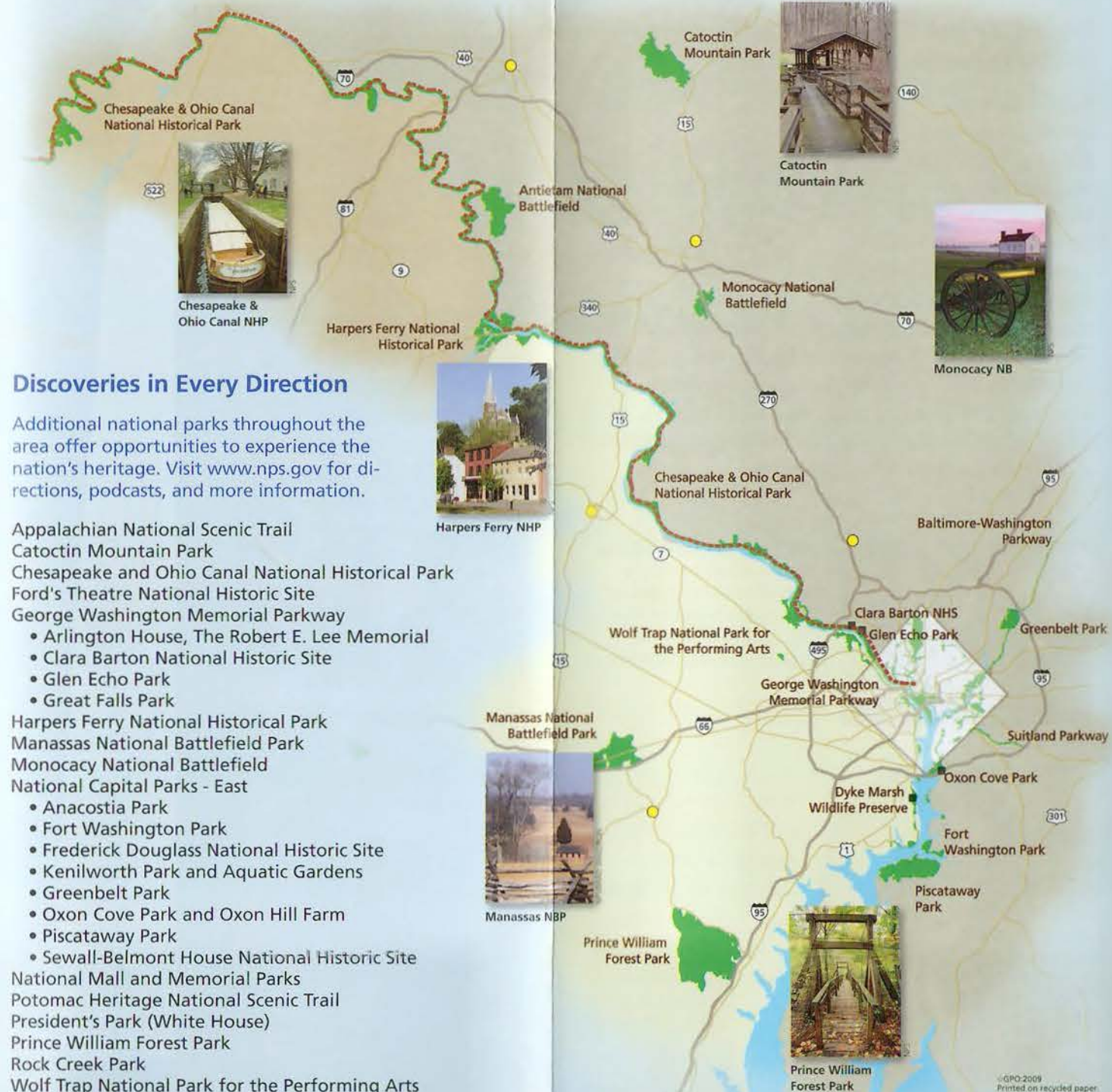


Mary McLeod Bethune Council House This 1870s home was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, founded by Bethune. From here, Bethune and the Council developed strategies and programs that advanced African American women and the Black community. Bethune influenced Roosevelt's New Deal Government from 1936 to 1945. PORTRAITS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



West to Arlington

Many also enjoy a visit to Arlington National Cemetery and the grave of John F. Kennedy, 35th president of the United States. Administered by the Department of the Army, Arlington Cemetery rests on a verdant terrace below Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, part of the National Park System. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, who brought a special interest in the arts to her role as First Lady, is buried at his side.



Discoveries in Every Direction

Additional national parks throughout the area offer opportunities to experience the nation's heritage. Visit www.nps.gov for directions, podcasts, and more information.

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Catocin Mountain Park
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
- Ford's Theatre National Historic Site
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
 - Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
 - Clara Barton National Historic Site
 - Glen Echo Park
 - Great Falls Park
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Manassas National Battlefield Park
- Monocacy National Battlefield
- National Capital Parks - East
 - Anacostia Park
 - Fort Washington Park
 - Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
 - Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens
 - Greenbelt Park
 - Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm
 - Piscataway Park
 - Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site
- National Mall and Memorial Parks
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- President's Park (White House)
- Prince William Forest Park
- Rock Creek Park
- Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

Your Passport to the National Parks



Record your national park visits here with passport cancellation stamps that name each site and the date of your visit. Recording your visits to different NPS sites will help you recall the many memories you have made and the destinations you discovered. The National Park Service Passport is produced by Eastern National.

Visit these websites for further information:

- Help protect our national treasures by volunteering at a national park. Visit www.nps.gov and www.volunteer.gov/gov, or contact any national park to get started.
- National parks work in partnerships with their local community neighbors. Learn how you can participate at www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved or contact any national park.

- The National Park Foundation strengthens the connections between the American people and their national parks by raising private funds, making strategic grants, creating innovative partnerships and increasing public awareness. For more information visit www.nationalparks.org.
- Educational materials are available through the National Park Service and its partners. Find out more at www.nps.gov/learn.