

Bureau Highlights



National Park Service Highlights

Introduction

With its variety of sights and sounds available to the inquisitive visitor, the National Park Service (Park Service or NPS) takes great pride in preserving the Nation's collective shared natural, cultural, and historical heritage. In its 82nd year of existence, the National Park System remains the premier park system of the world. Its parks are visited by approximately 275 million visitors a year and are served by nearly 25,000 dedicated employees of the National Park Service and over 100,000 volunteers.



Avenue of the Flags at Mount Rushmore National Museum displays flags of all States, territories, and possessions of the United States (photo by Kathy Poole).

Dedicated to Mission

Park Service Mission

"To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

In response to eight decades of expanding and changing responsibilities, the Park Service's National Leadership Council reaffirmed the NPS commitment to preserve the Nation's heritage through the wise stewardship of the national parks and monuments and by providing partnerships and assistance programs to others by adopting a comprehensive mission statement in the NPS Strategic Plan.

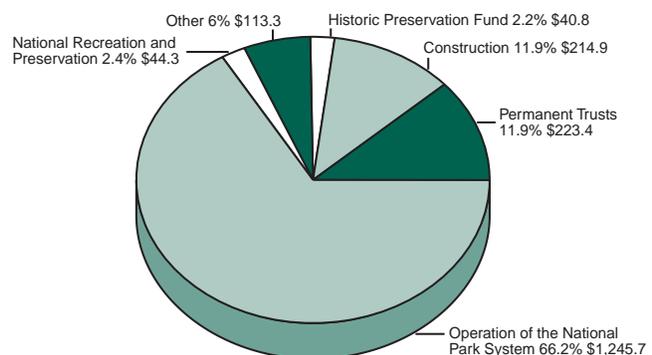
As articulated in the Strategic Plan, the mission goals of the Park Service fall into four primary categories: (1) preserve park resources; (2) provide for the public enjoyment and visitor experience of parks; (3) strengthen and preserve natural and cultural resources and enhance recreational opportunities managed by partners; and (4) ensure organizational effectiveness. The broad spectrum of responsibilities associated with the Park Service's mission goals reflects the diversity of NPS programs and activities. By involving all levels of employees as well as customers and stakeholders in the strategic plan process, the National Park Service has produced a vision appropriate for the next millenium.

NPS Funding

The NPS receives most of its funding from congressional appropriations. In addition, there are a number of permanent, indefinite appropriations and trust funds that automatically become available to the NPS without the need of action by Congress through the appropriations process.

1998 NPS Budget Authority

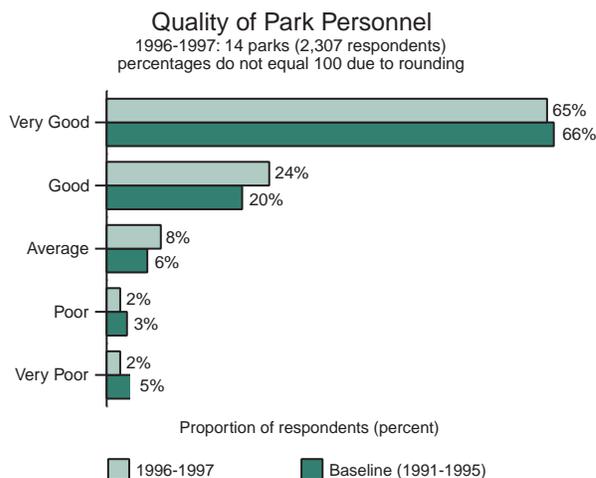
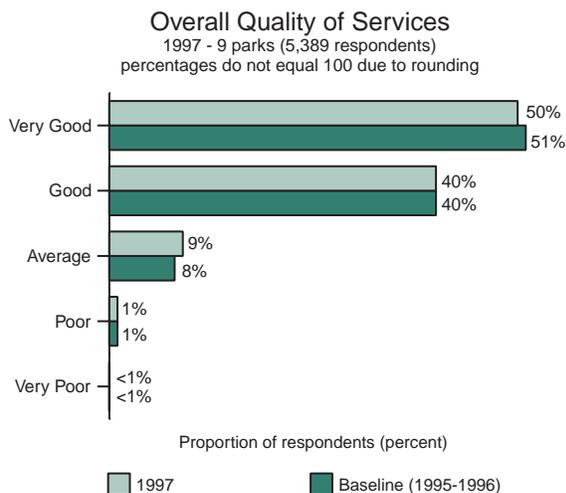
(in millions)



Total Budget Authority - \$1,882.4

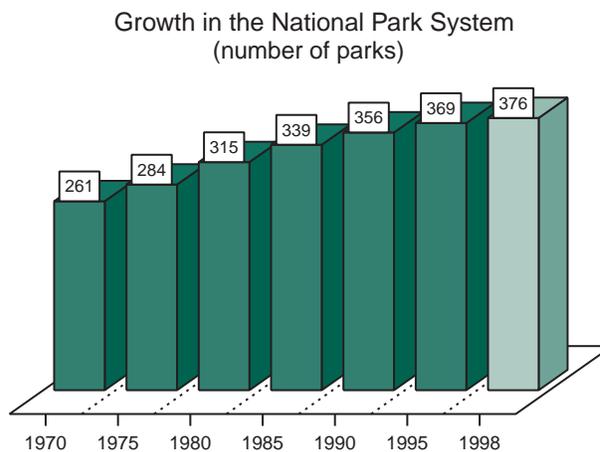
NPS Staffing

In 1998, the Park Service used 19,421 full-time equivalents (FTEs), a 3.2 percent increase in use over the previous fiscal year. The growth in personnel, which is entirely at the park level, was a result of increased park funding provided in 1998 coupled with the huge increase in funding available through the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. The FTE count equates to an on-board strength of nearly 25,000 employees during the summer months when visitation is at its peak.



1998 Highlights

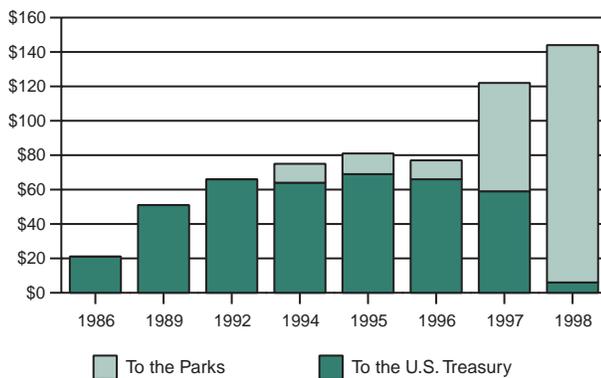
The National Park Service furthered its commitment to the people and the parks in 1998. Revenue from the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program continued to provide money to the parks for backlogged health and safety projects and other critical resource requirements. Exciting partnerships between NPS and interested parties provided additional revenues for park improvements. An initiative addressing vanishing archaeological and historical treasures in southwestern parks was launched. Progress continued to be made in identifying, evaluating, and determining the significance of cultural resources in all units of the National Park System, and the Park Service continued to develop appropriate technologies to share its information with the public.



Recreation Fee Demonstration Program

The collection of admission and recreational use fees in the National Park System has a long history. In 1908, Mount Rainier National Park was the first park to admit automobiles and collect an auto permit fee at an annual cost of \$5. By 1915, Crater Lake, Glacier, Yosemite, Sequoia, Mesa Verde, and Yellowstone National Parks had initiated fees. In 1916, the year the National Park Service was established, per visit fees ranged from \$2 at Glacier to \$10 at Yellowstone. This long tradition of entrance and use fees has been accepted by the park visitor. NPS makes use of the point of contact of fee collection, usually at the park entrance, to provide crucial park information and orientation. At present, 204 of the 376 park units collect entrance fees and/or user fees.

National Park Service Recreation Fee Collections: Where the Fees Go (\$ in millions)



cretionary distribution to parks across the National Park System. In 1998, recreation fee revenues to the National Park Service totalled over \$137 million.

Preservation through Partnerships

General Electric (GE) announced a \$5 million donation to the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey, on July 14, 1998. At a national television broadcast from the park that day, GE Chairman Jack Welch spoke of the debt GE and other corporations owe to the great inventor. The partnership with GE will allow the NPS to fully restore Building #5 at the site, enabling visitors to reach the second and third floors of that building for the first time. Previously closed to the public, those floors contain the spaces in which early motion pictures and sound recordings were made. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the site that day as part of the first tour in her Millennium Project. The Millennium Project is Mrs. Clinton's effort to preserve America's historic treasures before the turn of the next century.



First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton, GE Chairman Jack Welch, and Park Service Director Bob Stanton with Superintendent of Edison National Historic Site Maryanne Gerbaukas on the third floor of Mr. Edison's Main Lab Building (photo by Edison NHS).

Vanishing Treasures

The Vanishing Treasures Initiative is designed to address the severe deterioration of ancient and historic ruins in the Southwest. With \$1 million provided in 1998, six emergency projects were funded, along with eleven permanent positions at eight parks. Projects were undertaken at Aztec Ruins National Monument, Chaco Culture National Monument, parks in the Flagstaff unit (Wupatki, Walnut Canyon, and Sunset Crater National Monuments), Tonto National Monument, Tumacacori National Monument, and Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument.

Museum Collections

The NPS mission goal to preserve park resources includes several specific activities to preserve natural, cultural, and historic objects. One program relates to the NPS museum collections that reflect the Nation's heritage. The collections of the National Park Service comprise over 35 million archaeological, ethnological, historical, biological, paleontological, and geological objects and nearly 38 million manuscript and archival documents. The number of items maintained by the NPS has grown in the past year by over 2 million. To date, 54 percent of the objects and 32 percent of the manuscript and archival documents are cataloged and available for use. Collections from over 300 units of the National Park System are maintained in parks, at six NPS cultural resource centers, and at 136 non-Federal repositories.



Park Service stabilization workers repaired an interior room of Arizona's Wupatki National Monument as part of the Park Service Vanishing Treasures Initiative (photo by Monty Roessel).