



Lincoln Home National Historic Site © NPS

FACT SHEET

National Parks in Illinois

Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor •
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail • Lincoln Home
National Historic Site • Mormon Pioneer National Historic
Trail • Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Visiting Illinois's national parks is like stepping back in time. The home of Abraham Lincoln, as well as several of its neighbors, has been restored and invites the public to an in-depth look at the president's life. The Illinois & Michigan Canal, which helped transform Chicago into the bustling city it is today, still links a number of towns that fall along its route.

Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor - Completed in 1848, connected the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River watershed along a longstanding Indian portage route. The 97-mile canal extended from the Chicago River near Lake Michigan to the Illinois River at Peru, Illinois. It rapidly transformed Chicago from a small settlement to a critical transportation hub between the East and the developing Midwest. The towpath trail along the canal is a state park that

runs through a rural and wooded landscape linking a number of towns laid out by the original canal commission.

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail - In 1804, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark began a voyage of discovery. They departed from Camp Wood located in what was to become Illinois. The President Jefferson had privately requested Congress to fund the expedition shortly before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. They traveled over a three-year period through lands that later became 11 states. Most of the 3,700 mile-long trail follows the Missouri & Columbia Rivers.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site - Authorized in 1971. At the park's center stands the two-story home of Abraham Lincoln, the only home he ever owned. The house was constructed in 1839 as a 1.5 story cottage. Abraham and Mary Lincoln lived here from 1844 until Mr. Lincoln's election to the presidency in 1861. It stands in the midst of a four-block historic neighborhood, which the National Park Service is restoring so that the neighborhood, like the house, will appear much as it was when Lincoln lived here.



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Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail - Led by Brigham Young, roughly 70,000 Mormons traveled along the Mormon Pioneer Trail from 1846 to 1869 in order to escape religious persecution. The general route is from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah, covering about 1,300 miles.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail - In 1838, the United States government forcibly removed more than 16,000 Cherokee Indian people from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, and sent them to Indian Territory (today known as Oklahoma). This tragic chapter in American and Cherokee history became known as the Trail of Tears, and culminated the implementation of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which mandated the removal of all American Indian tribes east of the Mississippi River to lands in the West. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the removal of the Cherokee and the paths that 17 Cherokee detachments followed westward. Today the trail encompasses about 2,200 miles of land and water routes, and traverses portions of nine states.

Key Issues Facing National Parks in Illinois

shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have

spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering more than 1.8 million acres. In many instances, failure to acquire these lands makes operating the parks more complex and costly. Unfortunately, funding for national park federal land acquisition has declined dramatically in recent years, from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

Park Visitation in Illinois

Budget Information

Contact Information

NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09



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1300 19th Street NW • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20036
 202.223.NPCA(6722) • Fax 202.659.0650 • npca@npca.org • www.npca.org