



Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve © NPS

## FACT SHEET

### *National Parks in Louisiana*

Cane River National Heritage Area • Cane River Creole National Historical Park • Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve • New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park • Poverty Point National Monument

Louisiana's unique culture welcomes those who visit the state's national parks. From the plantations along the Cane River to New Orleans' French Quarter, history is not hard to find for visitors who take advantage of these windows into the past.

**Cane River National Heritage Area** - The central corridor of the heritage area begins just south of Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, and extends along both sides of Cane River Lake for approximately 35 miles. The heritage area includes Cane River Creole National Historical Park, seven National Historic Landmarks, three State Historic Sites, and many other historic plantations, homes, and churches. While much of the roughly 116,000-acre heritage area is privately owned, many sites are open to the public.

**Cane River Creole National Historical Park** - Authorized in 1944. Located within the Cane River National Heritage Area, this park includes 42 acres of Oakland Plantation and 18 acres

of Magnolia Plantation outbuildings.

**Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve** - Established in 1907. Consists of six physically separate sites and a park headquarters located in southeastern Louisiana. The sites in Lafayette, Thibodaux, and Eunice interpret the Acadian culture of the area. The Barataria Preserve (in Marrero) interprets the natural and cultural history of the uplands, swamps, and marshlands of the region. Six miles southeast of New Orleans is the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans and the final resting place for soldiers from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and Vietnam. At 419 Decatur Street in the historic French Quarter is the park's visitor center for New Orleans. This center interprets the history of New Orleans and the diverse cultures of Louisiana's Mississippi Delta region.

**New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park** - Authorized in 1994. Provides an ideal setting to share the cultural history of the people and places that helped shape the development and progression of jazz in New Orleans. Through interpretive techniques designed to educate and entertain, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park seeks to preserve information and resources associated with the origins and early develop-



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ment of jazz in the city widely recognized as its birthplace.

**Poverty Point National Monument** - Authorized in 1988. Commemorates a culture that thrived during the first and second millennia B.C. This site contains some of the largest prehistoric earth works in North America.

***Key Issues Facing National Parks in Louisiana***

Taking care of America’s national parks should be a national priority. With the 100th birthday of the National Park System approaching in 2016, it is more important than ever to address the ongoing problems that our parks are facing. The National Park Service is suffering from an operations funding 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 Louisiana***

In 2006, the national parks of Louisiana welcomed 333,508 visitors.

***Budget Information***

In fiscal year 2008, the operations funding for the national parks in Louisiana is \$6.8 million. For fiscal year 2009, the Administration is proposing a 13 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$7.7 million.

***Contact Information***

For more information on the national parks in Louisiana, please contact NPCA Senior Regional Director Don Barger at 865-329-2424 or NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.

NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09
Cane River Creole NHP	\$695	\$695	\$786	\$805	\$863	\$921	\$1,151	7	25
Jean Lafitte NHP & Preserve	\$4,672	\$4,819	\$4,637	\$4,717	\$4,806	\$5,025	\$5,416	5	8
New Orleans Jazz NHP	\$534	\$552	\$566	\$572	\$731	\$883	\$1,117	21	27
<b>All Louisiana parks</b>					<b>\$6,400</b>	<b>\$6,829</b>	<b>\$7,684</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>

All dollar amounts in thousands

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