



Jefferson National Expansion Memorial © NPS

## FACT SHEET

### National Parks in Missouri

California National Historic Trail • George Washington Carver National Monument • Harry S Truman National Historic Site • Jefferson National Expansion Memorial • Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail • Oregon National Historic Trail • Ozark National Scenic Riverways • Pony Express National Historic Trail • Santa Fe National Historic Trail • Trail Of Tears National Historic Trail • Ulysses S Grant National Historic Site • Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Missouri was the backdrop for many significant parts of American history. The initial court trials that led to the Dred Scott decision were held in St. Louis. Both the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express began in Missouri. George Washington Carver and Harry Truman both called Missouri home.

**California National Historic Trail** - Multi-state trail carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California during the 1840s and 1850s.

**George Washington Carver National Monument** - George Washington Carver's boyhood home consists of rolling hills, woodlands, and prairies. The 210 acre park has a 1.5-mile nature trail, museum, and an interactive exhibit area for stu-

dents. The cultural setting includes the 1881 Historic Moses Carver and the Carver cemetery.

**Harry S. Truman National Historic Site** - Includes the Truman Home in Independence, Missouri, and the Truman Farm Home in Grandview, Missouri. Truman Home: Harry S. Truman lived here from 1919 until his death. The white Victorian style house was built by the maternal grandfather of Bess Wallace Truman (1885-1982), and was known as the "Summer White House" during the Truman administration (1945-1953). The site also includes the two adjacent homes of Mrs. Truman's brothers, and, across Delaware Street, the home of the president's favorite aunt and cousins. Truman Farm Home: Built in 1894 by Harry Truman's maternal grandmother, the Farm Home is the centerpiece of a 5.25 acre remnant of the family's former 600-acre farm. Mr. Truman worked the farm as a young man, from 1906-1917. It was here, said his mother, that Harry got his "common sense." Several outbuildings are also on the site.

**Jefferson National Expansion Memorial** - Consists of the Gateway Arch, the Museum of Westward Expansion, and St. Louis' Old Courthouse. The Museum of Westward Expansion, located below the arch, contains an extensive collection



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of artifacts, mounted animal specimens, an authentic American Indian tipi, and an overview of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Old Courthouse is one of the oldest standing buildings in St. Louis, begun in 1839. It was here that the first two trials of the Dred Scott case were held in 1847 and 1850. Today, the building houses a museum charting the history of the city of St. Louis and restored courtrooms.

**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.

**Oregon National Historic Trail** - As the harbinger of America's westward expansion, the Oregon Trail was the pathway to the Pacific for fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries and others. Beginning in 1841 and continuing for more than 20 years, an estimated 300,000 emigrants followed this route from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon, on a trip that took five months to complete.

**Ozark National Scenic Riverways** - Created by an Act of Congress on August 24, 1964, to protect 134 miles of the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers in the Ozark Highlands of southeastern Missouri. The clean, clear waters of these two beautiful rivers provide excellent opportunities for john boating, canoeing, swimming, fishing and tubing. Hunting is also an authorized use within the Riverways' boundaries. The southeast Missouri Ozark Mountains are typified by narrow steep-sided hollows, numerous streams, and bluffs. There are over 300 recorded caves within the boundaries. Big Spring, one of the largest springs in the United States, has an average flow of 276 million gallons of water per day.

**Pony Express National Historic Trail** - Between April 1860 and October 1861, this trail was used by young men on fast paced horses to carry the nation's mail across the country, from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California.

**Santa Fe National Historic Trail** - Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was primarily a commercial highway connecting Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The trail was also used by stagecoach lines, thousands of gold seekers heading to the California and Colorado gold fields, adventurers, fur trappers, and emigrants. In 1880, the railroad reached

Santa Fe and the trail faded into history.

**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.

**Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site** - Established as a unit of the National Park System in 1990, the park commemorates the life, military career, and Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, as well as his wife Julia Dent Grant. The site, also known as White Haven, consists of 9.65 acres holding five historic structures (main house, stone building, barn, chicken house, and ice house).

**Wilson's Creek National Battlefield** - The battle fought here on August 10, 1861, was the first major Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River, involving about 5,400 Union troops and 12,000 Confederates. The battle led to greater federal military activity in Missouri, and set the stage for the Battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862. Wilson's Creek was also the scene of the death of Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general to be killed in combat. With the exception of the vegetation, the 1,750-acre battlefield has changed little from its historic setting, enabling the visitor to experience the battlefield in near pristine condition.

### *Key Issues Facing National Parks in Missouri*

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 exceeding \$800 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



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parks. The Administration has responded with a budget request for 2008 that would increase the National Park Service operating budget by \$258 million -- a strong step in restoring our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. This budget also launches the National Park Centennial Challenge, which if properly framed and enacted could 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 \$23 million in the fiscal year 2008 request.

- There is an opportunity to expand the park boundaries at the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site. Five acres of property are up for sale adjacent to the current site, all once part of the 600-acre Truman Farm. Unfortunately, the park doesn't have the funding necessary to acquire the site.
- A new Discovery Center is currently being built at the George Washington Carver National Monument. However, this building might not be used to its full potential due to lack of funding. Plans for outreach and educational programs might be put on hold if funding is insufficient.

- There is currently no trail-wide inventory of the archaeological resources found along the Lewis & Clark Trail. As a result, it is impossible for trail staff to accurately assess the threats faces and to adequately protect them from destruction, desecration, looting, and vandalism.
- Flying W is a high-use recreational area located within Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Currently, this area is largely unmanaged by the Park Service. Increasing public use and off-road travel have led to soil erosion and numerous trails that are negatively impacting natural and cultural resources.

### *Park Visitation in Missouri*

In fiscal year 2005, the national parks in Missouri welcomed 4,721,820 visitors.

### *Budget Information*

In fiscal year 2006, the operations funding for the 12 national parks in Missouri was \$20 million. For fiscal year 2008, the Administration is proposing a 12.4 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$22.6 million.

### *Contact Information*

For more information on the national parks in Missouri, NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.



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