Affiliated Areas

Congress and the Secretary of the Interior have designated 25 National Park Service (NPS) affiliated areas to recognize significant properties and sites that enhance the portfolio of the National Park System. Typically owned and managed by nonfederal entities, many of these unique places interpret our nation’s history via strategic partnerships forged with the NPS.

Background

Affiliated areas are linked in importance and purpose to the larger National Park System of 419 units. While many of these sites receive technical or financial assistance from the NPS, they are typically administered by state, local, or private entities, which retain their ownership of the site.

Currently there are 25 affiliated areas that were established legislatively and in some cases through administrative action by the Secretary of the Interior under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Affiliated areas typically have a management plan or cooperative agreement with the NPS that defines the scope of collaboration.

The diverse portfolio of NPS affiliated areas ranges from a singular statue of Ben Franklin in Philadelphia to over a million acres at the Pinelands National Reserve in New Jersey. In many cases, the affiliated areas are titled national historic sites or national memorials and interpret the rich history of our nation. For example, the Jamestown National Historic Site, designated in 1940, was the first affiliated area. A partnership between the NPS and Preservation Virginia interprets the history of the first permanent English settlement in North America.

FY 2021 Appropriations Request

Please support $6.1 million for National Park System Affiliated Areas in the FY 2021 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: Operation of the National Park System
ACTIVITY: Affiliated Areas

Recent Funding History:
FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $5.551 million
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $5.535 million
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $5.590 million
FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $5.225 million
FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $6.1 million

JUSTIFICATION: In order to qualify for federal funding, Congress must specifically appropriate funding for an individual site and there are currently only 8 affiliated areas that receive an appropriation. NPS affiliated areas provide significant sites with an opportunity to benefit from a relationship with the NPS, which includes greater publicity that in turn can translate into economic benefits for a community. Affiliated areas do not contribute to the NPS deferred maintenance backlog and provide visitors with unique experiences and educational opportunities.
Lower East Side Tenement Museum

An affiliated area of the National Park System and a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum preserves and interprets the history and legacy of immigration in America. At the heart of the museum is a historic tenement, home to an estimated 7,000 people from over 20 nations between 1863 and 1935. The museum engages visitors through the personal experiences of immigrants for whom Manhattan’s Lower East Side became home and enhances appreciation for the profound role immigration has played and continues to play in shaping America’s evolving national identity.

LEFT: Paul Krugman of the New York Times wrote, “When you tour the [Tenement Museum], you come away with a powerful sense of immigration as a human experience…” PHOTO BY TRAVIS ROOZEE

RIGHT: The front facade of 97 Orchard Street, the Museum’s national landmark 1863 tenement. PHOTO BY KEIKO NIWA

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