

## 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 non-federal 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 423 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. 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 that interpret the rich history of our nation. For example, the Jamestown National Historic Site in Virginia, designated in 1940, was the first affiliated area.



An affiliated area of the National Park System and an affiliate site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City was founded in 1988 to preserve and interpret 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.

PHOTO BY TRAVIS ROOZEE

### FY 2023 Appropriations Request

**Please support \$6.2 million for National Park System Affiliated Areas in the FY 2023 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 2020 Enacted Funding:** \$5.590 million

**FY 2021 Enacted Funding:** \$5.590 million

**FY 2022 Enacted Funding:** \$5.622 million

**FY 2023 President's Budget Request:** \$5.790 million

**FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:** \$6.200 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.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### Touro Synagogue, Newport, RI

The Touro Synagogue dedicated in 1763, is the oldest synagogue in the United States. It is the only remaining synagogue from the colonial era and still serves an active congregation. Each year it greets over 30,000 visitors who come to see the magnificent interior and hear its remarkable story. The site is a NPS Affiliate Site, a National Historic Landmark, and a National Trust Historic Site.

The congregation that built Touro Synagogue was founded in 1658 by Jewish families fleeing the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions, drawn to the Rhode Island colony by its religious tolerance. By 1763, they had built a graceful and dignified synagogue. Designed by Peter Harrison, the foremost architect of his day, the building is a masterpiece of American colonial design. The Touro Synagogue was designated a National Historic Site, an affiliate of the National Park Service, in 1946.

PHOTO COURTESY JIMMY EMERSON/FICKR



➤ For additional information, contact Pam Bowman, Senior Director of Public Lands Policy, [PBowman@savingplaces.org](mailto:PBowman@savingplaces.org), (202) 588-6347.