



A NATIONAL PARK FOR CHICAGO **THE PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Establish a national park in Chicago

National parks are the soul of America, telling our diverse stories and teaching valuable lessons about our shared heritage, from the Underground Railroad and Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite to Ellis Island and the San Antonio Missions. A 2013 National Park Service (NPS) report stated: “The Pullman Historic District is conclusively nationally significant.”

Pullman – a place of national significance

Few sites preserve the history of American industry, labor and urban planning as well as Pullman.

- **George Mortimer Pullman** was an American industrialist who founded the Pullman Palace Car Company in 1867 to design and build rail cars with sleeping berths for all passengers.
- Developed in 1880, “**Pullman Town**” was America’s first planned model industrial town. Pullman provided housing, a church, markets, and entertainment for employees.
- In 1894, during an economic depression, when George Pullman cut wages without reducing rent, his employees launched the now-famous “**Pullman Strike**” that spread nationwide across the railroad industry, interrupting national rail and mail service.
- Led by A. Philip Randolph, in 1925, the Pullman Porters organized and founded the **Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP)**, the first African-American labor union. The A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, the nation’s only black labor history museum, is in Pullman.

- The African-American railroad employee is credited with contributing to **the rise of the African-American middle class**. As a rule their families were college educated and owned property.

National parks help the economy

Every dollar invested in national park operations generates \$10 locally, every two Park Service jobs yields one outside the park.

Last year, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than a quarter million jobs.

The road to becoming a national park

There are currently 401 national parks. It takes an act of Congress to create a unit of the National Park System. A national monument, also in the National Park System, can be created by the president by using the Antiquities Act.

A strategic location

Pullman is strategically located 15 miles south of Millennium Park in downtown Chicago.

Situated in a major transportation core, Pullman is easily accessible by public transportation and Interstate.

Growing support

- More than 100 businesses organizations as well as nearly 2,000 individuals have pledged their support.
- “Elevating Pullman to national park status will provide preservation and conservation opportunities for the site, increase tourism and facilitate job creation on Chicago’s South Side.”
—U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)
- “I am pleased to support the development of this landmark site so that all Americans can learn from its unique place in history.”
—U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)
- “Pullman represents a special chapter in the American experience... I’m thrilled that the National Park Service thinks Pullman has historical significance and conveys a story worth preserving.”
—U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL)
- “Designating Pullman a national park would make the Pullman campus a tourist and train enthusiasts’ destination and spur entrepreneurs to open businesses in the surrounding area.”
—*Chicago Tribune*, 9/16/2013



Contacts:

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