



Best of: Northeast African-American History Sites

February is Black History Month and some of the best places to celebrate are right here in the Northeast. You can explore how African-Americans played crucial roles in the development of New York City, learn about black leaders in the Anti-Slavery Movement and the Underground Railroad, and visit the home of a jazz legend. These are a few of our favorite places that honor African-American history.



Faneuil Hall and the Boston Black Heritage Trail • Boston, MA

Visit Faneuil Hall to stand where Frederick Douglass and other legends of the Abolitionist Movement once stood. Today the site is a great starting

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#KeepParksOpen National Parks Take Center Stage During Government Shutdown

When all 401 units of the National Park System shut down overnight last October as a result of the budget impasse in Washington, park lovers across the country immediately sprang into action. Photos of barricaded monuments, closed park roads, and fenced off hiking trails blanketed the media, becoming emblems of the government shutdown and the passion Americans feel for our national parks.

While the impact of the shutdown was clearly devastating on national parks and local economies, NPCA used the crisis as an opportunity to place parks at the forefront of media coverage during the shutdown. Over those three weeks, NPCA secured almost **600 stories** in news outlets across the country, reaching **seven million people** via print circulation and more than **700 million** unique monthly visitors online. On Twitter, over 17 days, NPCA secured over **50 million potential impressions**. Our #KeepParksOpen hashtag also resulted in thousands of tweets across Twitter while people expressed their disappointment with Congress and park closures. Our messaging appeared in most major news outlets across the country, and we effectively utilized the American public's disappointment to build real support for opening and funding our national parks for the long-term.

Although the federal government has reopened, and the House was set to vote on a budget at press time, there is no guarantee that the congressional appropriations committees will provide the resources the parks require to put needed rangers back in our parks and begin to address the maintenance backlog. For more information about park funding needs, visit: www.npsa.org/funding.

Continuous cuts have forced national park superintendents to delay the opening of parks or park roads; close visitor centers, picnic areas and campgrounds.

Over the last decade, the National Park Service construction budget has declined by nearly 70 percent in today's dollars. Continuous cuts have forced national park superintendents to delay the opening of parks or park roads; close visitor centers,

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Top: Faneuil Hall at night ©Yang and Yun/Flickr
Left: Governor Patrick hosts an event honoring Black History Month at the African Meeting House in Boston ©Eric Haynes/Governor's Press Office

FIELD REPORT

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Revitalizing Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock National Park Service Requests Proposals



Gateway National Recreation Area's Sandy Hook unit is home to more than just scenic beaches, the nation's oldest working lighthouse, and a thriving bird observatory. It is also the home of a historic coastal artillery base that defended the New York Harbor for over a century. And now, with your help, this American treasure has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to meet its true potential.



A National Landmark Site, Fort Hancock Historic District served as a military location through two World Wars and into the nuclear age. This site includes 110 military buildings with stunning views of the Sandy Hook Bay; 35 of which now have the opportunity to be

redeveloped and restored in partnership with the Parks Service. On October 22, 2013 the National Park Service, with guidance from the Fort Hancock 21st Century Federal Advisory Committee, released a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI), inviting submissions of concepts for transforming these historic, waterfront buildings. NPCA applauds this bold action by the Parks Service, and we have long advocated for the Park Service to develop a plan that will allow Fort Hancock to truly reach its cultural and economic potential. NPCA has witnessed other aging, military sites thrive through investment from outside partners, such as Cavallo Point, a former military base in San Francisco, which was transformed into a popular, and historically preserved, lodge-style resort.

But the Park Service needs your help to make Fort Hancock the Cavallo Point of the East Coast. If you or someone you know has an idea or proposal for how to redevelop the historic buildings at Fort Hancock, or for more information, please visit the official Fort Hancock RFEI website at www.forthancock21stcentury.org/rfei.

Above: Fort Hancock Officers Quarters at Sandy Hook ©Wikimedia Commons
Left: Sandy Hook Shore ©Marty Desilets/Flickr

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point for any history buff's tour of Boston. Faneuil Hall offers a wealth of information about Boston's history through ranger tours and brochures for the myriad of historical sites scattered around the city. Many people have walked the Freedom Trail, but few have explored the Black Heritage Trail, where you can learn about the thriving free

Black community of Boston that led the city in the national fight against slavery at sites like the African Meeting House, the oldest surviving black church building in the United States and currently part of the Museum of African American History. You can follow the trail map on your own or join the Park Ranger tour starting in front of the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial. Visit www.nps.gov/boaf for more information.

African Burial Ground National Monument • New York, NY

The most recently designated National Monument in New York City, the African Burial Ground tells the compelling and at times dark story of what some say is the most important archeological discovery of the 20th century. Outside stands a memorial to the thousands of free and enslaved Africans who were buried in a 6.6 acre



NPCA ParkScapes Travel

Did you know that NPCA has a travel program?

Our ParkScapes travel program offers small group tours that feature unique itineraries and excellent national park “insider” experiences. ParkScapes trips this year include “Yellowstone Wildlife Safari,” “Legendary Canyon Country,” and an opportunity to share the wonder of Yosemite in the winter during “New Year’s in Yosemite.”

Most trips are limited to sixteen guests, with an 8-to-1 “traveler to guide” ratio creating an engaging and educational travel experience. In addition, NPCA’s travel partners have committed to helping advance our mission of protecting national parks for future generations by making a donation to NPCA for each guest who travels with us.

From the moment you book your ParkScapes travel experience, you will notice the great value and ease of traveling with NPCA. For more information and the entire 2014 trip schedule, please visit www.npca.org/parkscapes or call 1-800.628.7275.



Upcoming Events

See America Project Art Opening January 10 • Hyde Park, NY

NPCA, in partnership with Creative Action Network, hosts a gallery opening of 50 works by artists reimagining the classic “See America” WPA posters that promoted the landscapes and wildlife of America’s national parks. The gallery opening kicks off at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum and the exhibition will be on display through the end of June, 2014. For more about the See America project, visit seeamericaproject.com. For more information about the gallery opening in Hyde Park or to RSVP, email Reina Gonzales: rgonzales@npca.org or call 212.617.8298. Space is limited.

Springtime in Yosemite May 11-16 or May 18-23

Yosemite has captured the hearts of millions, but only a privileged few witness this legendary landscape bursting into life each spring. More information on this springtime journey is available at www.npca.org/springtime

Yellowstone Wildlife Safari June 1-6

Each day of this trip offers an adventure for travelers, whether they are fascinated by hot springs and geysers or hope to spot the region’s remarkable wildlife. More information is available at www.npca.org/safari

Above: Artwork by Nikkolos Smith.

cemetery in lower Manhattan. The site of landfill and high-rise development, these grounds were largely forgotten until 1991, when a federal office building was slated for construction. Developers unearthed the remains of over 400 bodies in what had been a sacred burial site for approximately 15,000 African and African-American men, women, and children between 1690 and 1794. An interactive visitor center offers a window into the lives of the city's free and enslaved Africans, who in the 18th century made up almost a quarter of the New York

The African Burial Ground tells the compelling and at times dark story of what some say is the most important archeological discovery of the 20th century.

workforce. Exhibits are devoted to the history of the cemetery, including the public fight to preserve it, and the daily lives of slaves in early New York. Be sure to catch the ranger-led tour to fully experience this moving place where history, archeology, culture, and spirituality meet. Check out www.nps.gov/afbg for information and follow @AFBurialGrndNPS on Twitter for fascinating facts about black history and what's going on at the African Burial Ground.



Louis Armstrong House Museum Corona, NY

Hop on New York City's No. 7 subway train to see the unassuming home of "Satchmo," one of America's most beloved jazz icons. In 1943, Armstrong and his wife, Lucille, moved to this humble house in the working-class neighborhood of Corona, Queens where they lived for the rest of their lives. The house remains perfectly preserved and an intimate 40-minute historic tour highlights Armstrong's work as a musician, composer, and civil rights

activist. Visitors experience the home through sound recordings of Armstrong playing the trumpet, singing in his den, and talking to his wife. The home features a collection of classic photographs, letters, instruments, and artifacts; in fact, it is the world's largest archive devoted to a single jazz musician. For more information on tours and programs, visit www.louisarmstronghouse.org.

Left: African Burial Ground ©David Creswell/Flickr
Above: Louis Armstrong and his trumpet ©Library of Congress

Making a Difference for Our Parks, After Your Lifetime

Many NPCA members have been loyal and generous supporters of our work to protect the national parks over 5, 10 or more than 20 years. After demonstrating this kind of consistent commitment to these extraordinary natural and cultural places, some supporters ask how they can help to ensure that NPCA's important park protection and advocacy programs will continue beyond their lifetimes. Some choose to include a provision in their will or estate plan. Other members have found that there may be an easier way to make a meaningful investment in the future of our national parks by simply

HOW YOU CAN HELP

submitting the appropriate beneficiary form for a checking, savings or brokerage account. This is also an option with current life insurance policies or savings bonds.

If you have an independent retirement account such as a 401k or 403b account, you can avoid subjecting your heirs to an additional tax burden by designating a portion or all the assets in the account as a gift to NPCA. By simply completing the appropriate beneficiary form, you can ensure that your personal legacy will include preserving the best of America's natural

and historic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations.

For additional information on how you can achieve your philanthropic goals, please call Morgan Dodd, Director of Gift Planning, at toll-free 1-877.468.5775 or visit our website at www.npcaplanyourlegacy.org/. After informing NPCA of your confidential long-term plans, you will be recognized as a member of our Mather Legacy Society, a special group of people who share your vision for our beloved national parks.

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2013 New York Gala



This year's Green Carpet Gala celebrated America's national parks in New York City's iconic Central Park with over 400 guests including elected officials, business leaders, and national park supporters from across the country. NPCA honored Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar with the William Penn Mott, Jr. Park Leadership Award for their commitment to protecting and revitalizing Gateway National Recreation Area. Award-winning actress and singer Bette Midler presented the Mott Award to Mayor Bloomberg, while former Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland presented to the Honorable Ken Salazar. Despite the federal government shutdown and closure of national parks, this year's Green Carpet Gala was a great success; the event raised \$1.4 million to support NPCA's park protection efforts.

Above: Bette Midler at NPCA's Green Carpet Gala ©Ann Billingsley Photography **Below:** Mayor Bloomberg accepts the William Penn Mott, Jr. Award ©Ann Billingsley Photography



#KeepParksOpen

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picnic areas and campgrounds; and decrease the number of rangers who protect and maintain parks. And with the recent closure of national parks during the government shutdown, local communities lost more than a half a billion dollars in revenue—affecting national parks and the people who depend on them in lasting and detrimental ways. NPCA released a **new infographic** that shows how national parks and communities nationwide have suffered from ongoing funding cuts and the recent closure of parks during the government shutdown.



IN MAINE, OUR GEM OF A
NATIONAL PARK,
ACADIA
IS SHUTTERED DURING THE PEAK OF
THE FOLIAGE SEASON. THIS NOT
ONLY DISAPPOINTS TOURISTS,
IT HURTS THE INNKEEPERS, BED
AND BREAKFAST OWNERS, SERVERS
AT RESTAURANTS, AND THE SMALL
GIFT SHOP ENTREPRENEURS
WHO DEPEND ON THESE TOURISTS
DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR.
SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME)

FUN FACT

“The average American household pays \$2.56 in taxes each year for our national parks, a little more than a cup of coffee at Starbucks”

Bar Harbor, Maine, Acadia's gateway community, experienced a 30 percent loss in local business revenue last spring as a result of the March sequester cuts. The government shutdown only made matters worse. Acadia typically experiences a rush of tourists during the long Columbus Day weekend. This year, however, they were forced to turn visitors away. One hotel in Bar Harbor reported a loss of \$33,000 during the two-week government shutdown, while another hotel reported 182 room cancellations.

NPCA applauds the proposed budget deal that helps reduce the damage that the broken budgeting process has been inflicting on our national parks and hopes President Obama and Congress will commit to a long-term investment in national parks, restoring funding and protecting historic treasures like Acadia and the Statue of Liberty for generations to come.

Below: Acadia's Cadillac Mountain © iStock photo





NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

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Why I Give: Norman Selby

I'm not a spectator," says Norman Selby, and those who know him would agree. Norman is a member of NPCA's national Board of Trustees and also serves as co-chair of the Northeast Regional Council. Among his fellow board members, as well as staff, he is known as a person who is willing to get involved, pick up the phone, write a note, or host a gathering—all in service of supporting NPCA's mission.

In 1973, Norman took a cross-country road trip with Melissa Vail, his then-Yale classmate and now wife, visiting Mesa Verde, Yosemite, and other parks. Having grown up in New York City, this exposure to America's most beautiful places sparked Norman's passion for America's parks. Early in his career, while at McKinsey & Co, he learned that charitable involvement could be an integral part of business life and networking in New York City, and in his early thirties he joined the board of the Central Park Conservancy, which has played a central role in fixing up and maintaining that jewel of an urban park. (He is also on the Board of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in NYC.) More recently, he got

involved with the NPCA based on the recommendation of good friends on the board, not only because of his love of national parks, but also because he thought it would be interesting to be involved in a national organization and to learn more about the world of advocacy.

Norman is proud of the fact that NPCA now has 800,000 members and that during the shutdown, NPCA was able to quickly activate many of them to rally behind the parks through social media and letters to Congress. "It was amazing how national parks became a symbol of the shutdown," said Norman. "Ironically, NPCA became the voice of the people just as we were meant to be when our organization was founded to help prevent any political shenanigans that might derail our work. The aspirations of NPCA are very high-minded and that makes me want to help. I love the challenge of diving into those aspirations and making a difference."

Norman gives far more than time and talent: His financial gifts have been generous and sustaining. When asked what philanthropists he admires, he named two of his friends



who give more than financial support—they have laser focus on a couple of organizations to which they contribute not only substantial funds but their time and business acumen as well.

"Advocacy is tough, frustrating. It can take a long time to measure progress or show results," says Norman. He's learned that sometimes it takes ten or more years to see a result. "The NPCA never gives up; that is inspiring."

Above: Norman and his wife, Melissa, at Arches National Park

