

Historical Development of Resource Conservation in USA

CSS 287
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1

Historical Basis for Parks & Protected Areas Runs Deep

- Parklands--one of the oldest forms of multiple use.
- The concept of parkland protection pre-dates Yellowstone in western culture.
- Ancient Babylon, Cyprus, Greece, Rome, Persia, etc..
 - the earliest around 2500 B.C.



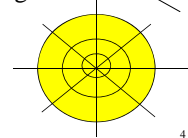
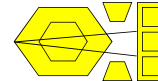
Historical Basis runs deep

- Medieval times--preserves set aside for royalty & the rich
- often for hunting reserves
- jousting grounds & festivals for nobility
- controlled by the Crown
- peasants not allowed except for festival days
- the first rangers--patrolled by wardens & game keepers.



Renaissance period in Europe

- Lavish formal gardens for the rich.
- Featured radial patterns, walkways, fountains, statues, labyrinth or maze, passive areas.
- Private formal gardens in vogue.
- Strictly for the upper class.



4

Renaissance period in Europe

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American Colonial Period

- 1634 Boston Commons
- 1641 Great Ponds Act
 - Mass Bay Colony: all ponds >10 acres.
 - Open to everyone to hunt & fish.
 - 2,000+ ponds covering 90,000 acres.
 - Established idea that land should be set aside by the state & held for the good of the general public.
- 1682 William Penn gave tracts of land throughout Philadelphia & other cities.



6

Colonial Period

- Savannah, GA--James Oglethorpe provided parkland in 1733.
 - Still preserved in 21 city squares
- Washington, DC--Pierre Charles L'Enfant laid out city on radial pattern with parks spread throughout in 1791.



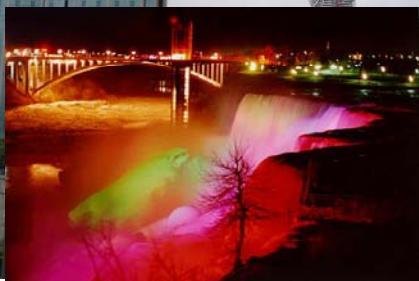
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Growth of the parkland idea in the 1800's

- Changing attitude about nature:
 - from primeval gloom to extolling nature's beauty--American pride.
- Elitist movement--artists, poets, writers upset about exploitation
- 1832 Hot Springs Reservation in Ouachita Mtns of Arkansas protected from commercial development (1st Federal protection)



Niagara Falls hosts 14,000,000/yr.



An American Idea

- Reaction to squalid urban industrial conditions.
- Recognition of the destruction of our Native American culture.
- 1833 George Catlin, artist, proposed "a nation's park."

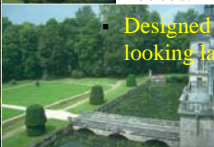


10



The European Solution

- Squalid urban industrial conditions.
- Rich Europeans escaped to rolling country manor houses.
- Designed natural looking landscapes.



11

The American Solution

- Rich Europeans escaped to rolling country manor houses.
- 1853 Central Park and Frederick Law Olmstead, father of landscape architecture:
- If natural landscape was good for nobility, why not the common man?
- Solution -- Bring the countryside to the people!



NYC Central Park

- Manufactured landscape scenery.
- Lakes, trails, meadows, trees.



"The birth of landscape architecture"

13

The American Solution

- Landscape architecture & park movement
- Boston, Philly, Chicago, Buffalo, DC, Cleveland, Cincinnati
- Blend roads, buildings, walkways, pavilions, & ponds into existing landscape.
- Link parks into working complex -- Park Systems w/ parkways & connecting paths
- Zoning users & activities, hidden roads & power lines, carefully managed to look natural.
- Boston Sand Gardens & Recreation movement.

14

The Yosemite Grant of 1864

- 20 sq. mi. (12,800A) given to CA for "public use, resort and recreation."
- Feared natural wonders would be lost... (bark of 116 ft. Sequoia sent to London.)
- Threats to beauty were not enough--had to persuade Congress nothing of value would be lost.
 - (taken back by Feds in 1906)



The American Condition

- Logging, fire & watersheds...
- George Perkins Marsh...
 - "sponge theory"
- Peshtigo fire in WI 1873 burned 1.2 million acres in 8 hrs. killing 1,500 people!
- Canals versus Railroads
- 1885 Adirondack Forest Preserve "forever wild"
 - (6m A park w/2.6m A State land)



16

Origins of National Park Service

- Why wasn't Yellowstone discovered sooner?
- 1872 Yellowstone 1st National Park
 - "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit of the people"
 - Railroad companies supported it
 - Of no value for agriculture or commercial development
- No \$\$ for management -- (Nathaniel Langford wasn't paid)
 - U.S. Cavalry managed park for decades
 - Tacky tourism development was allowed.



Origins of National Park Service the battle for Hetch Hetchy

- John Muir fought the dam & the development of Yosemite valley.
- 1890 Yosemite Nat'l Park Forest Reservation surrounded the valley.
- The Sierra Club was formed.
- Reservoir site for San Francisco.
- Public utility electricity vs PG&E.
- Became a rallying point for preservationists.
 - "Lost the battle, but not the war..."



18

Origins of National Park Service

- Stephen Mather -- 1st NPS Director
- National Park Service Act of 1916
- "Natural Museums" concept
- NPS paradox:
 - "to conserve the scenery & the natural & historic objects & the wildlife therein & to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner & by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



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20

1906 Antiquities Act

- Originally to protect SW prehistoric Indian sites.
- Authorized the President to set aside "National Monuments" to protect "cultural artifacts and objects of scientific importance."
- By 1910, 23 national monuments established, many were later converted to National Parks.
- Act has been used as a "holding action" to bring immediate protection to millions of acres.

21

Criteria to become a National Park

Proposed areas must contain resources of *national significance* and meet all 4 standards:

1. An outstanding example of a particular type of resource;
2. Exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nations heritage;
3. Offers superlative opportunities for recreation, public use & enjoyment, or for scientific study;
4. Retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, & relatively unspoiled example of the resource.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

22

Concepts affecting National Parks

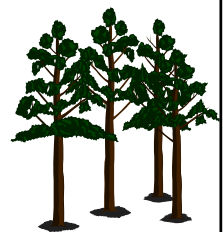
- Key concepts;
- Each park requires an act of Congress.
- No commodity extraction--some resources really were locked up.
- No \$\$ in lieu of taxes to local governments.
- Depended upon tourist dollars & support...



23

Forest Reservation Act & Forest Management Act

- 1891 **Forest Reservation Act**
- President could reserve public land from private entry.
 - By 1905 Harrison, Cleveland & Roosevelt had reserved +100 million acres.
- No provision made for management or funding!



24

Forest Reservation Act & Forest Management Act

- **1897 Forest Management Act**
 - U.S. Forest Service organic act
- Purpose of the Forest Reserves:
 - to protect the forests in order to secure favorable water flows and provide a continuous supply of timber. (in General Land Office)
- Limited timber harvest to “dead, matured or large growth of trees” which had to be “marked & designated” for cutting.

25

Transfer Act of 1905

- Transferred the control of the Forest Reserves to the Dept. of Agriculture & Gifford Pinchot.
- Dedicated to most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people.
- Conserved & wisely used for the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.
- Recreational use wasn't even considered.
- Pinchot was fired by 1910 (Taft & Ballinger's Alaska coal reserves.)

26

Recreation policy in the National Forests

- Recreational use had always been important.
- “Sage-brushers” and Summer Cabin Lease sites.
- By 1920 F.S. Chief said recreation ranked 3rd behind timber & stream flow regulation.
- First \$s for recreation:
 - \$10,000 for campgrounds in 1922.



27

Recreation policy in the National Forests Today

- Integrate recreation with Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960
- Maintain attractive natural forest environment for recreation.
- Emphasize service for general public rather than special groups.
- Participant rather than spectator activities favored. Minimum restrictions favored.
- Encourage cooperation with other agencies.

28