

Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872, but the National Park Service was not established until 1916. For four decades the nation's parks, reserves, and monuments were supervised at different times by the departments of War, Agriculture, and the Interior. Although the idea of national parks enjoyed broad popular and congressional support by the early twentieth century, there was some resistance to converting reserves and monuments into new national parks. This was partially the result of a lack of coordinated policy and leadership in financing and administering the parks that already existed. Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane's appointment of Stephen Tyng Mather as the first Superintendent of Parks (1915-29) did much to alter the situation. Mather was a leader in the transformation of the poorly managed and underfinanced national parks and monuments into the centrally administered National Park Service. Under his dynamic leadership, Grand Canyon, Acadia, Bryce, Zion, Lassen, Hawaii, and Mount McKinley National Parks were established. He successfully lobbied for enabling legislation that ensured the future creation of other parks, including those that involved purchase from private owners in the eastern United States, such as Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, and Mammoth Cave.

The national parks of today are public resources for recreation, education, scholarship, and the preservation of endangered landscapes, natural communities, and species. They exist in twenty-five states as well as the Virgin Islands, and include areas as diverse as the "river of grass" that makes up the Everglades, the mountains and valleys of Yosemite, the volcanoes of Hawaii, and the Denali Wilderness of Alaska. Some of them were purchased by private individuals who then generously gave them to the nation; others were taken from the public domain in order to protect them from agricultural or commercial development and exploitation.

## **US National Parks:**

Acadia	Isle Royale	Pinnacles
American Samoa	-	
Arches	Joshua Tree	Redwood
		Rocky Mountain
Badlands	Katmai	2
Big Bend	Kenai Fjords	Saguaro
Biscayne	Kings Canyon	Sequoia
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Kobuk Valley	Shenandoah
Bryce Canyon	5	
	Lake Clark	Theodore Roosevelt
Cabrillo	Lassen Volcanic	
Canyonlands		Valley Forge
Capitol Reef	Mammoth Cave	Virgin Islands
Carlsbad Caverns	Mesa Verde	Voyageurs
Channel Islands	Mount Rainier	
Congaree		Wind Cave
Crater Lake	North Cascades	Wrangell–St. Elias
Cuyahoga Valley		5
	Organ Pipe Cactus	Yellowstone
Death Valley	Olympic	Yosemite
Denali	2 1	
Dry Tortugas	Petrified Forest	Zion

Everglades

Gates of the Arctic Gettysburg National Military Park Glacier Glacier Bay Grand Canyon Grand Teton Great Basin Great Sand Dunes Great Smoky Mountains Guadalupe Mountains

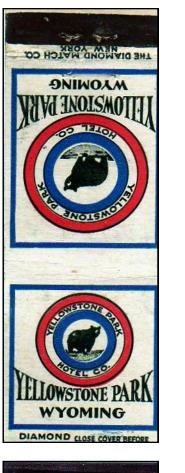
Haleakala Hawai'i Volcanoes Harpers Ferry Hot Springs



Well, I was going to say that National Parks is a small, but rewarding category, but I notice that Ed Brassard had 5,624 back in 2010, so I guess it's not that small!

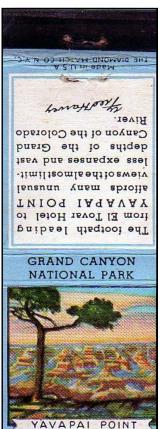
As can be seen here, there are some nice oldies in this category, and some nice sets, as well. But, nostalgia, perhaps, might be the biggest draw in this category. Almost everyone has been to at least one national park, and the memories certainly last a lifetime.

And, don't forget that there are covers and boxes from national parks around the world. Canada, right next door, for example, certainly has its contributions to make here. Plus, I know for certain there's a nice cover from the Manu National Park in Peru; boxes from Fuji-Hakone National Park in Japan; Shikotsu-Toya National Park, also in Japan; Mount Cook National Park, in New Zealand; the Virgin Islands National Park, and so on.









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