

Park in New York City or Hyde Park in London to forests and preserves such as Prince Albert National Park in Canada and Nairobi National Park in Kenya. Although they may be different in appearance and purpose, they are dedicated to protecting the natural beauty of landscapes, plants, and animals for future generations as well as providing visitors with open spaces for rest, relaxation, and recreation. Achieving this balance requires meeting the needs of visitors while maintaining the resources contained within the lands that have been set aside for public use. To serve all these needs, the potential impacts of all activities must be monitored and managed. For example, day-use areas and campsites that are accessible by motorized vehicles and have full sanitary facilities require more upkeep and labor than wilderness areas that are accessible by foot or on horseback only.

The importance of parks as major tourist attractions was ushered in with the dedication of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. The U.S. National Park Service has now expanded to include a variety of sites dedicated to the preservation of nature and heritage. The 411 units within the park system are grouped into 20 designations (see Table 9.2) including **national park**, **national monument**, **national scenic trail**, and **national preserve**. The idea of national parks soon spread north to Canada, where in 1887, the first national park was established with the opening of Banff National Park. National parks can now be found throughout the world as countries strive to preserve and protect their more pristine natural treasures. The grandeur and importance of some of these national parks, such as Jasper National Park in Canada and Grand Canyon National Park in the United States, have become legendary and draw millions of visitors each year to enjoy their breathtaking beauty.

Table 9.2 Units in the U.S. National Park Service

International Historic Site	1
National Battlefields	11
National Battlefield Parks	4
National Battlefield Site	1
National Historic Parks	50
National Historic Sites	78
National Lakeshores	4
National Memorials	30
National Military Parks	9
National Monuments	82
National Parks	59
National Parkways	4
National Preserves	19
National Reserves	2
National Recreation Areas	18
National Rivers	5
National Scenic Trails	3
National Seashores	10
National Wild and Scenic Rivers	11
Parks (other)	11
Total	412

Source: National Park Service. (2016). *The National Park Service 2016 Centennial*. Retrieved from <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/Site-Designations-04-13-16.pdf>.