

U.S. National Park Service Design Tradition

“MISSION 66” (1956-1966): Successes and Failures

Ethan Carr
University of Massachusetts



“Roadside wilderness” in Yellowstone,
Wyoming (1958),
and Denali, Alaska (2006)





Scene near Madison Junction, purported birthplace of the “National Park Idea,” Yellowstone National Park

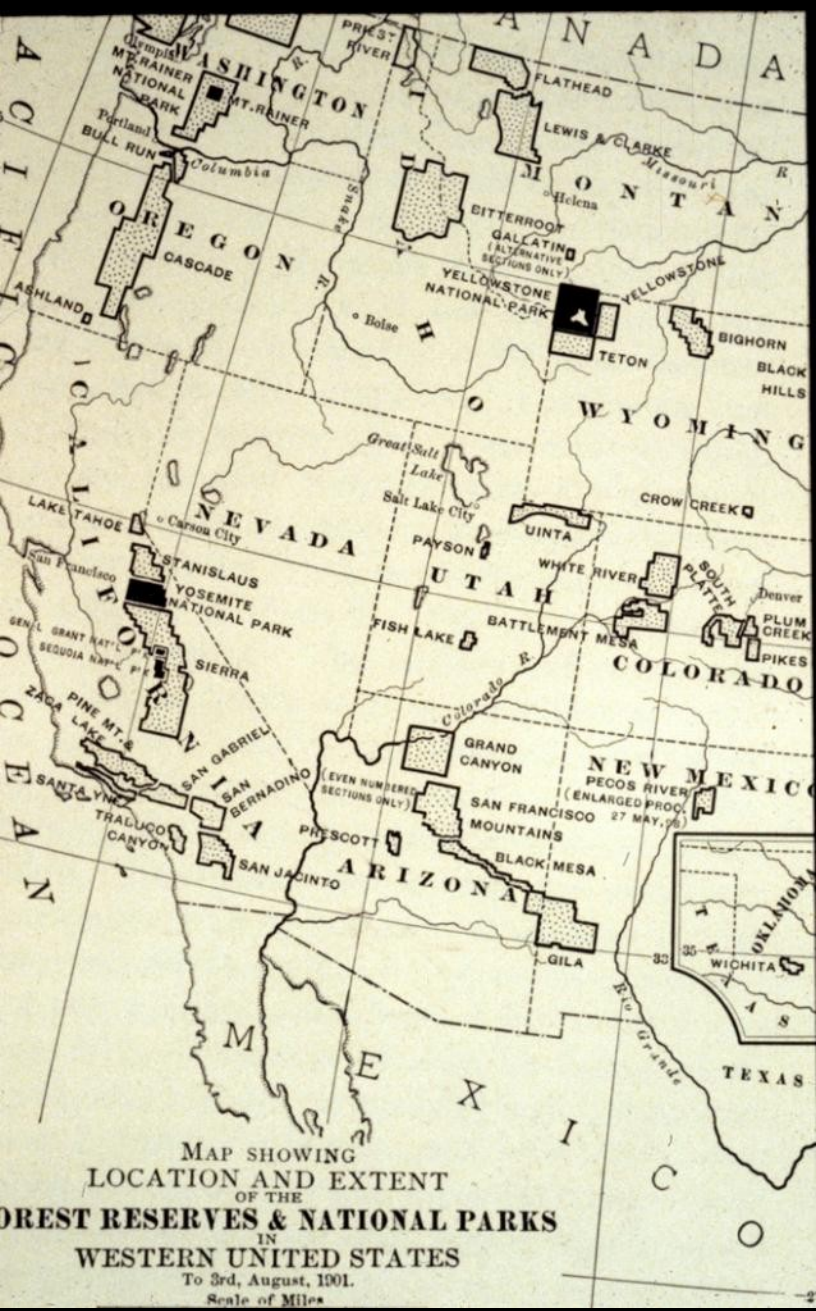


Old Faithful geyser and Old Faithful Inn, Robert Reamer, 1903, Yellowstone National Park



Old Faithful Inn, Robert Reamer, 1903, Yellowstone National Park

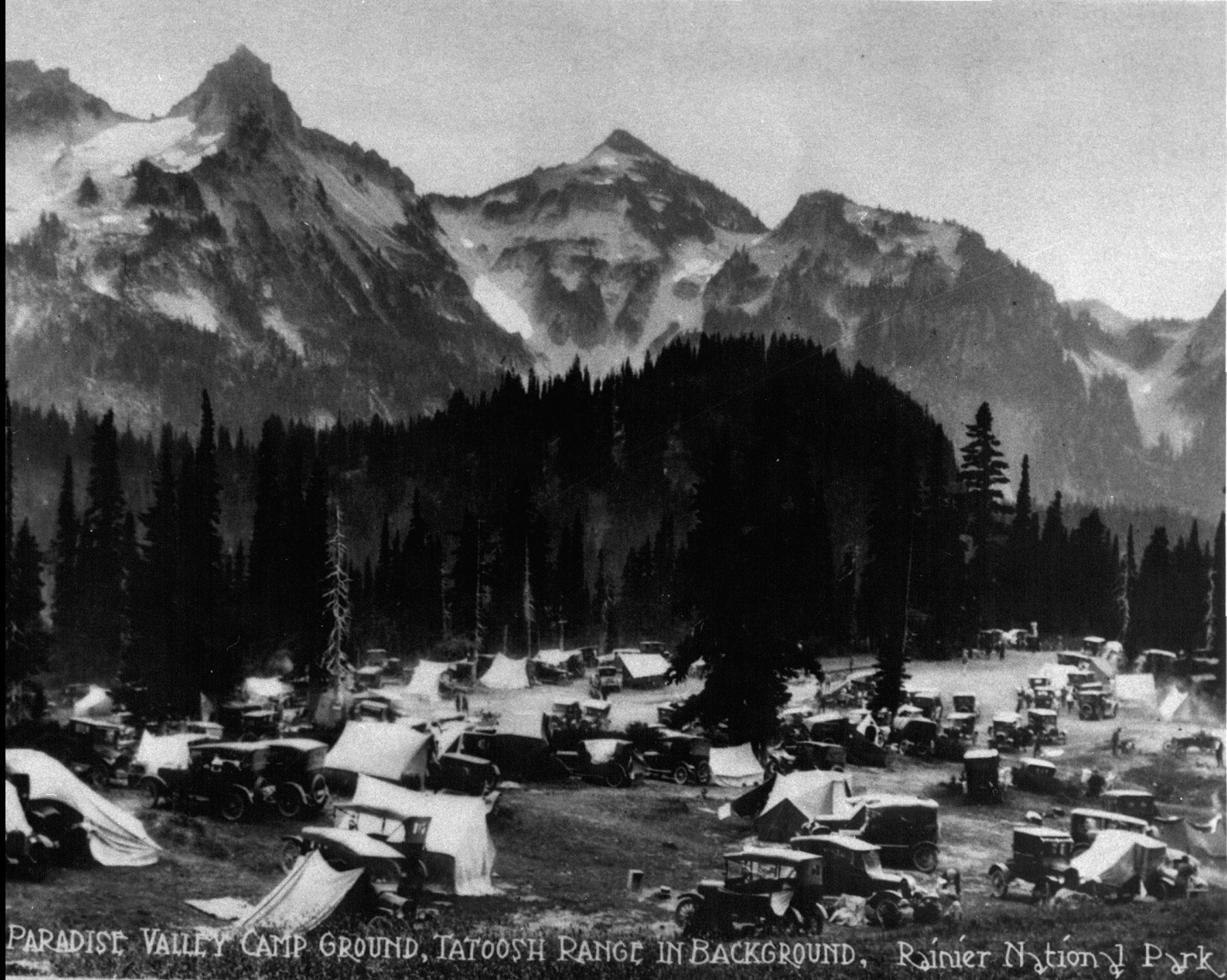




John Muir, "Our National Parks," 1901



Stephen Mather, "Park-to-Park Highway," 1915



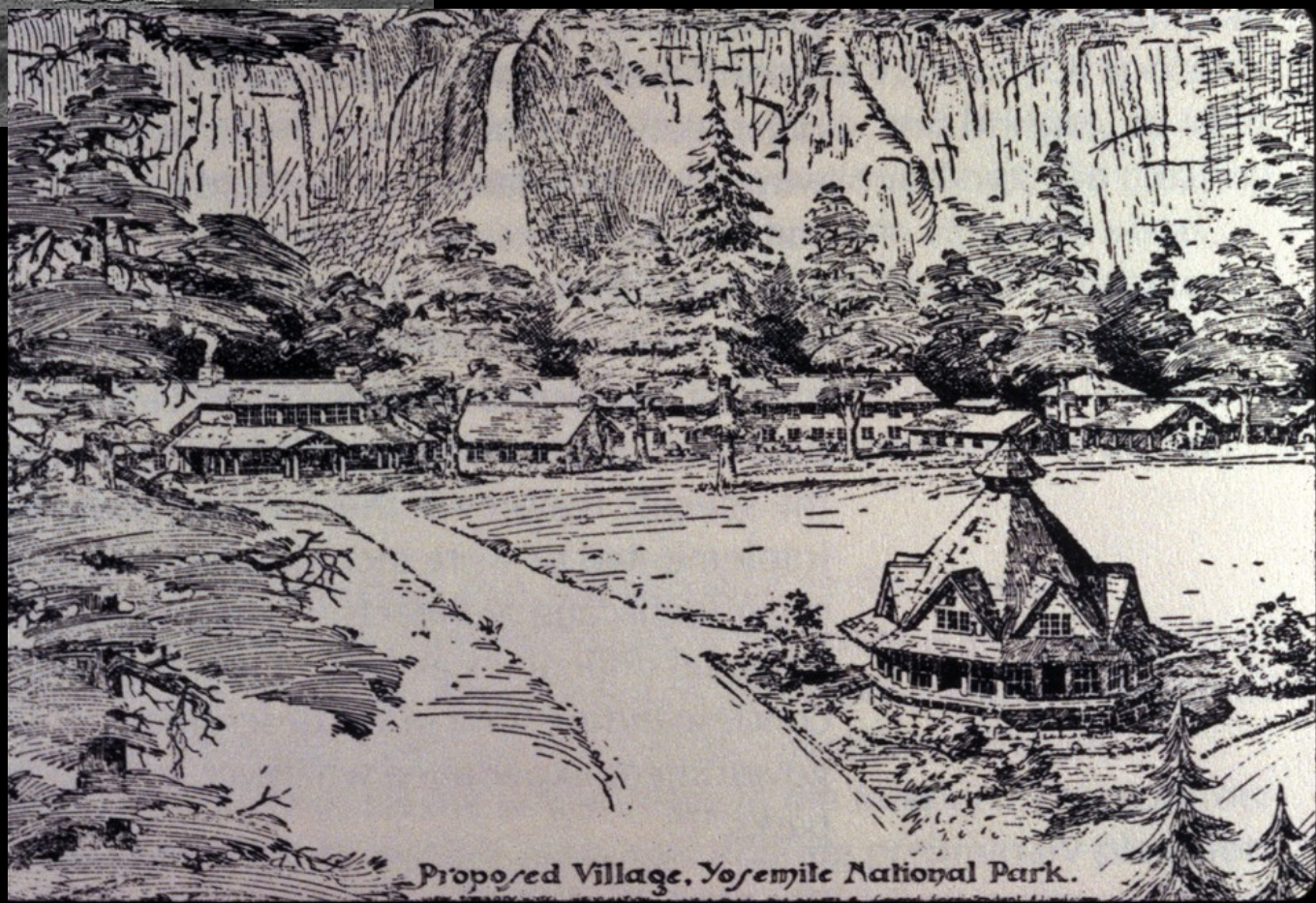
PARADISE VALLEY CAMP GROUND, TATOOSH RANGE IN BACKGROUND, Rainier National Park



Camping in Yosemite Valley, 1920s



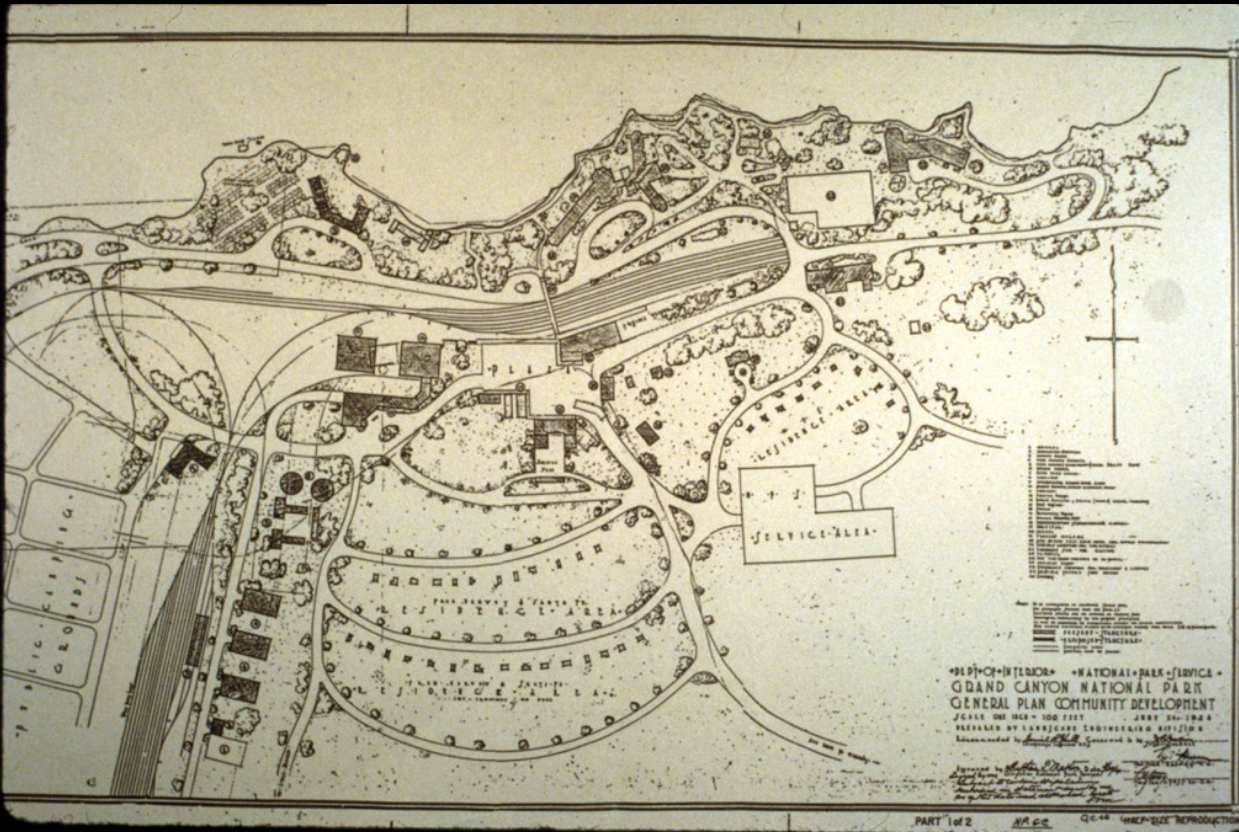
"Old Village," Yosemite Valley,
Yosemite National Park,
California, in the 1920s



Proposed new village,
designed by Mark Daniels,
1914 (unbuilt)

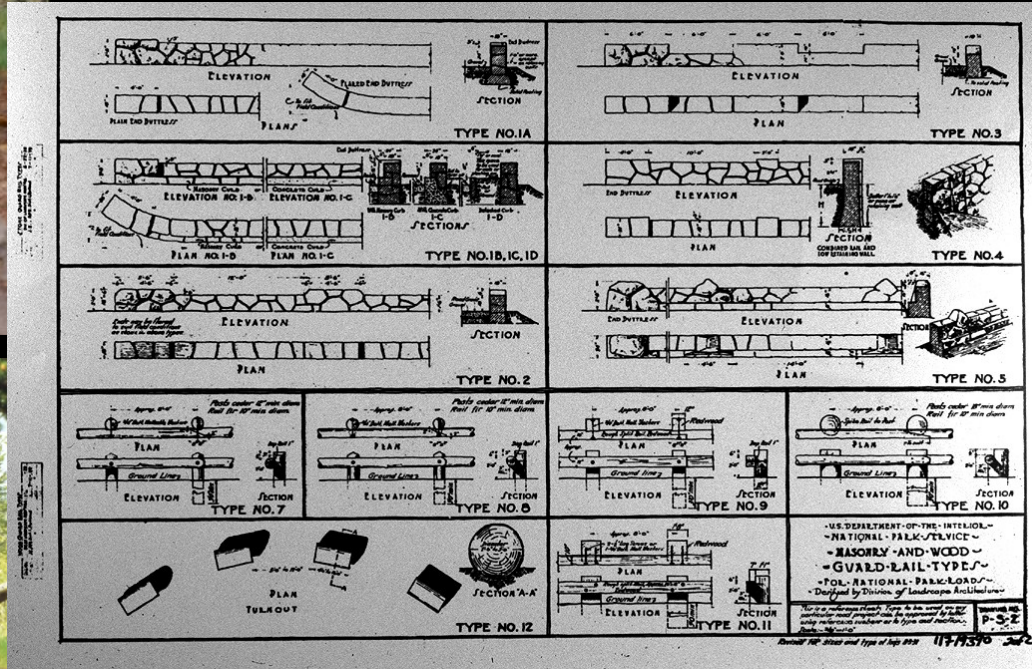


Mary E. J. Colter, Lookout Studio, 1914, Grand Canyon National Park

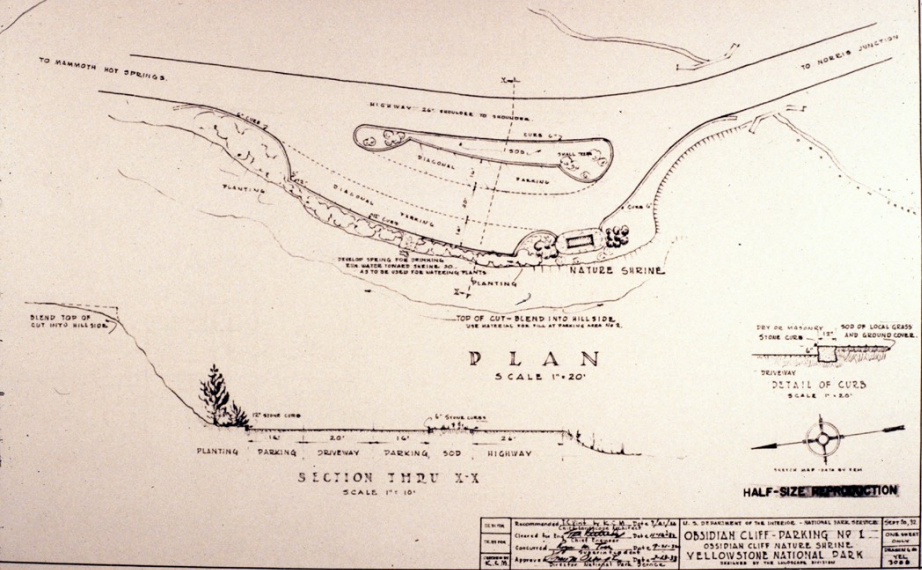


South Rim Village plan, ca.1920, Daniel Hull, landscape architect.
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Top to bottom on right: South Rim trail (1930s); Second Administration Building, 1929, Thomas Vint; First Administration Building, 1921, Daniel Hull, Grand Canyon National Park

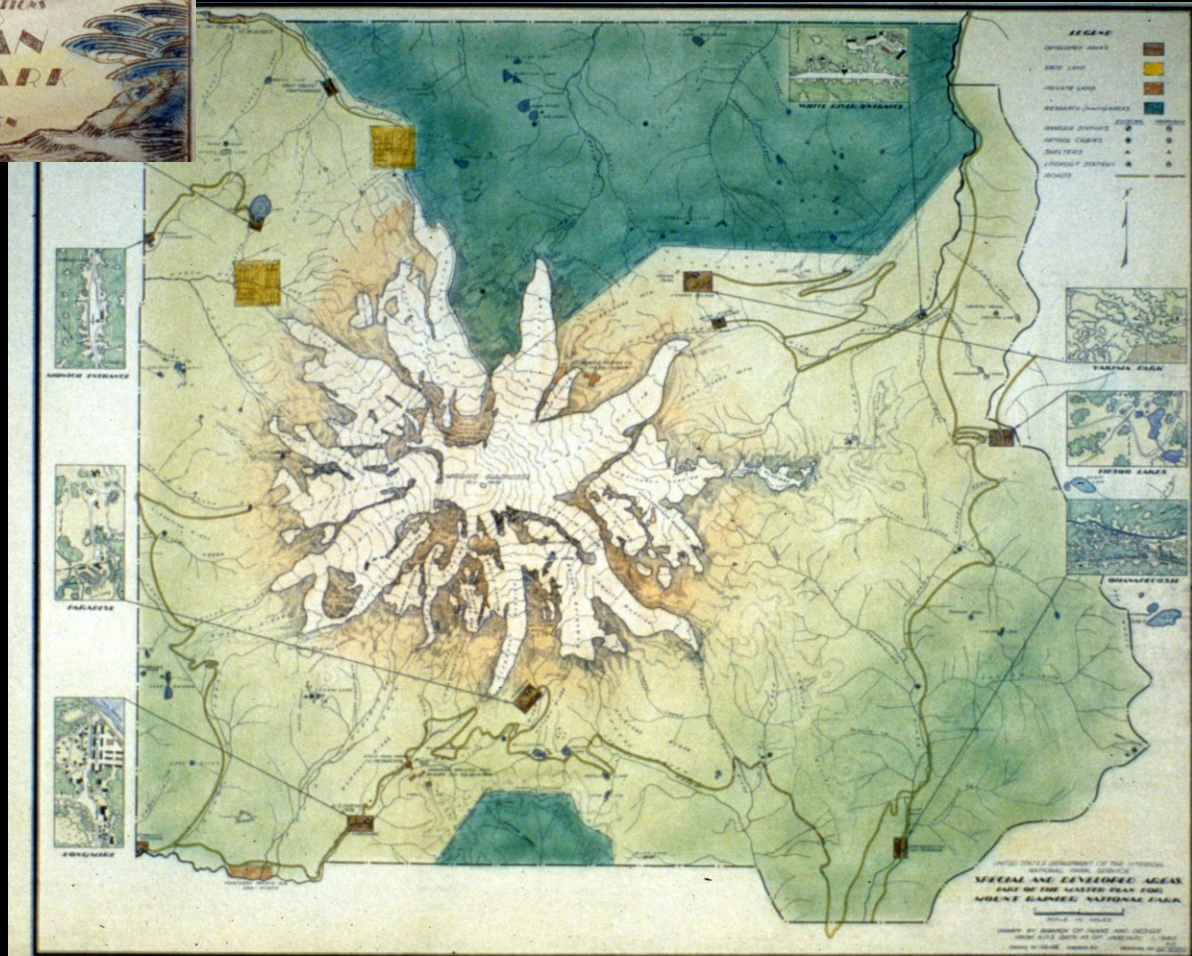


Typical construction details (for Yellowstone), NPS, 1920s-30s



Obsidian Cliff "Nature Shrine," (Yellowstone)
Roadside geology interpretation designed by NPS
landscape architects in the 1920s





“Master Plan” sheets for Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, 1930s

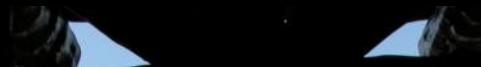
Dormant volcano with largest system of glaciers in the U.S. (except Alaska)



Approach to Logan Pass, Glacier National Park, Montana ;
Going-to-the-Sun Highway, 1927 planning diagram and view of site today



Logan Pass and Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park, Montana, 1927-1939



Norris Geyser Basin Trailside Museum,
Yellowstone National Park, Herbert Maier, 1929





**Wilderness
by Design:**

Landscape
Architecture &
the National
Park Service

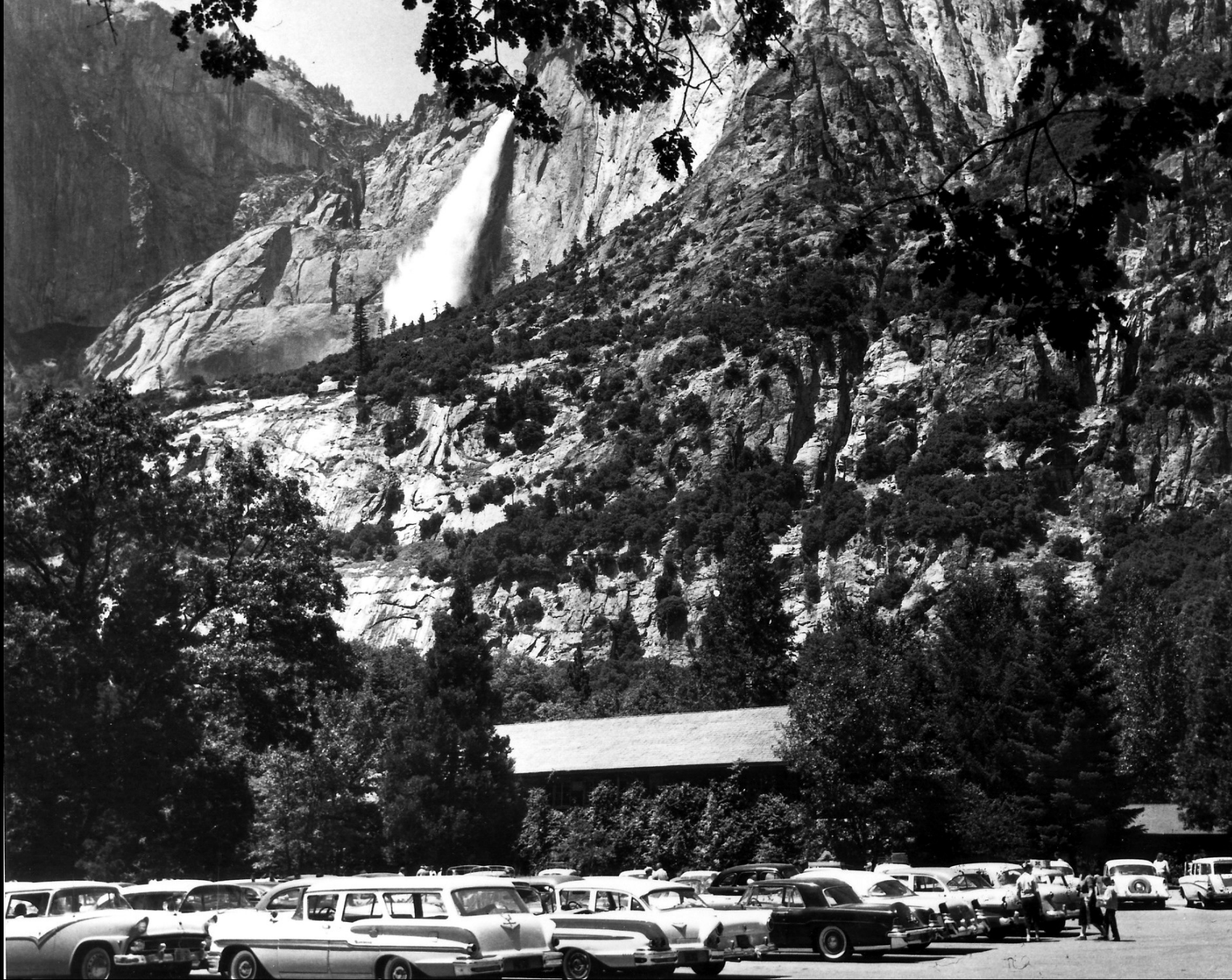
Ethan Carr

Some (State/National) Park Design Principles, ca. 1916-1942 at the U.S. NPS

- Facilitation of automotive tourism (“enjoyment”), while still “conserving” scenic and historic landscapes “unimpaired”;
- Standardization throughout the “system” of building types, signs, uniforms, visitor amenities, interpretive approach;
- Rustic construction defined in terms of “native” materials, “pioneer” and other historical/ethnographic references;
- Typology of conservation, recreational, historical areas;
- Zoning at level of town (park “villages”) and region (park “master plan”).



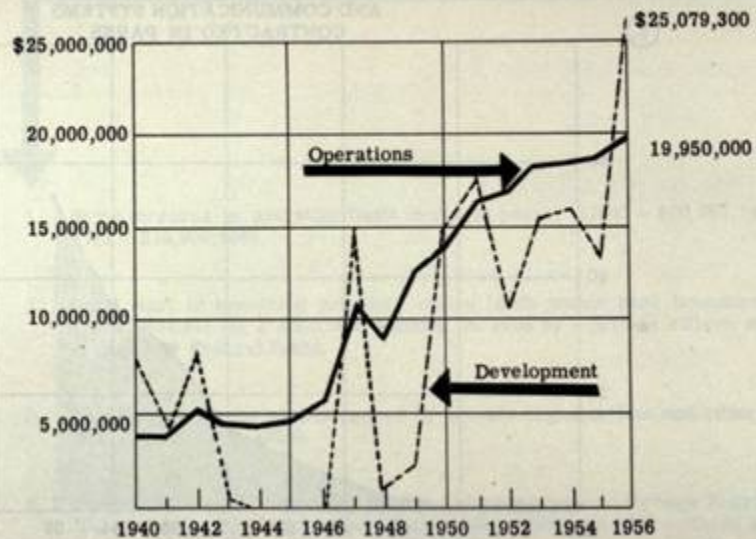
Cars in new Yosemite Village, as built in 1920s, Yosemite National Park, California



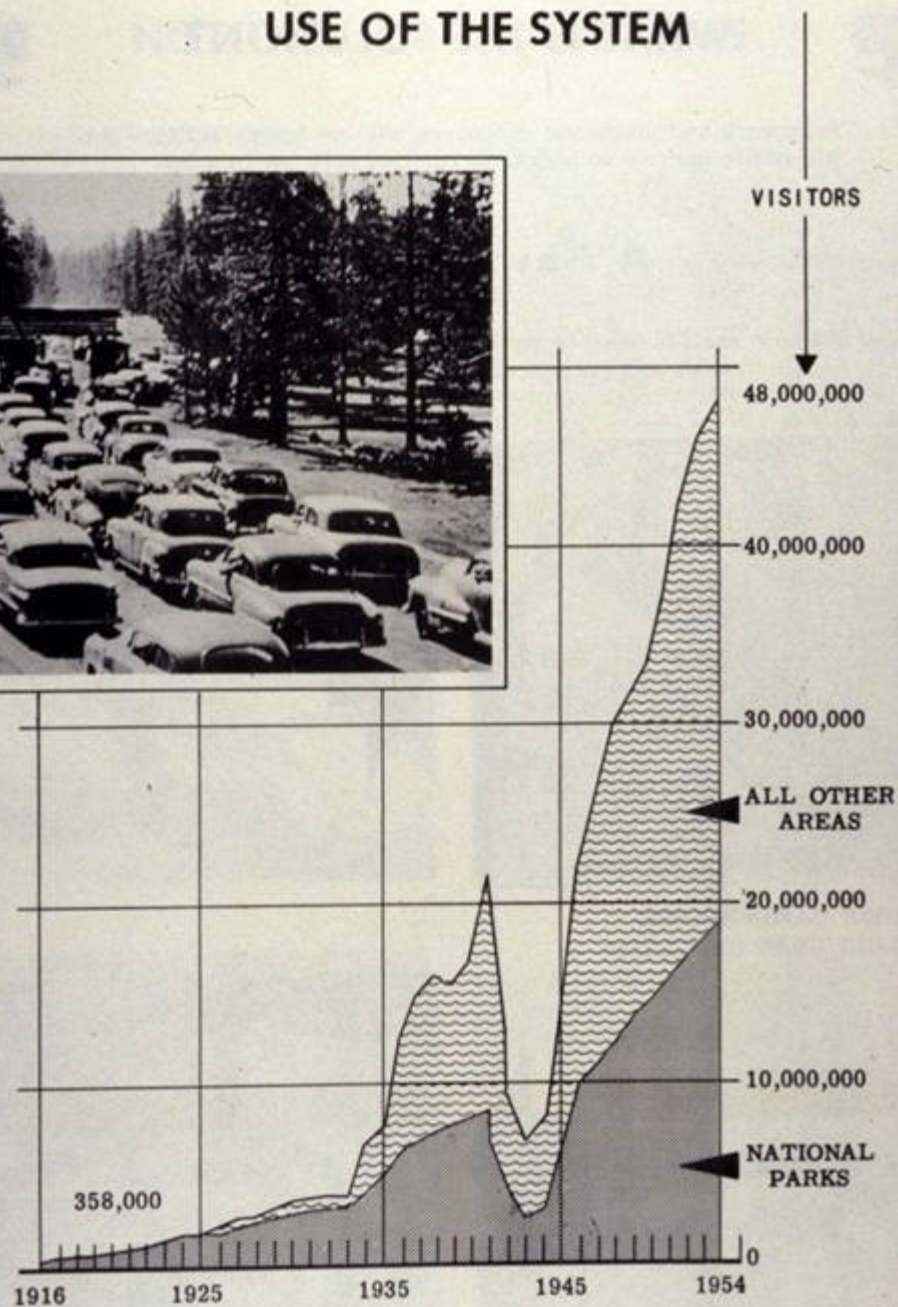
Cars in Yosemite Village, 1960s

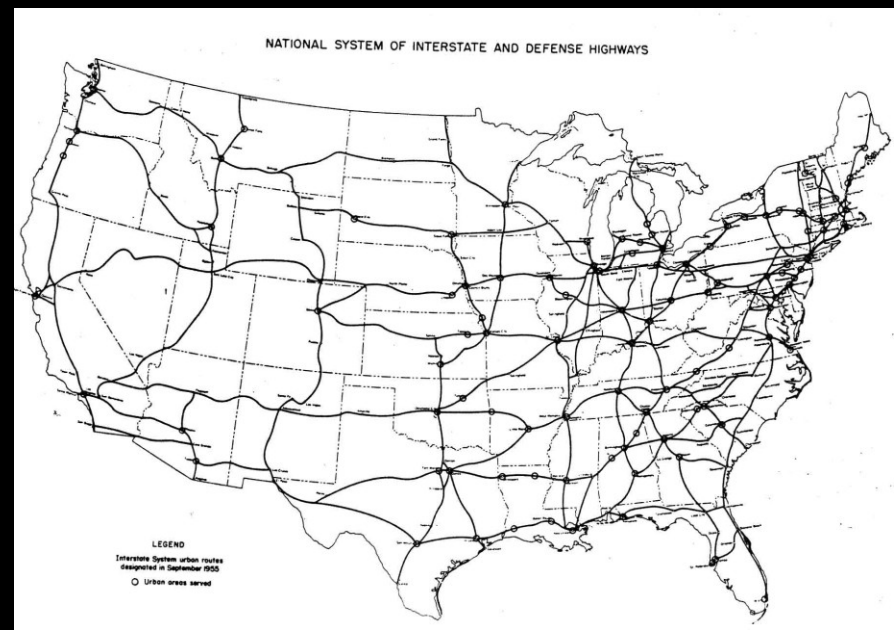
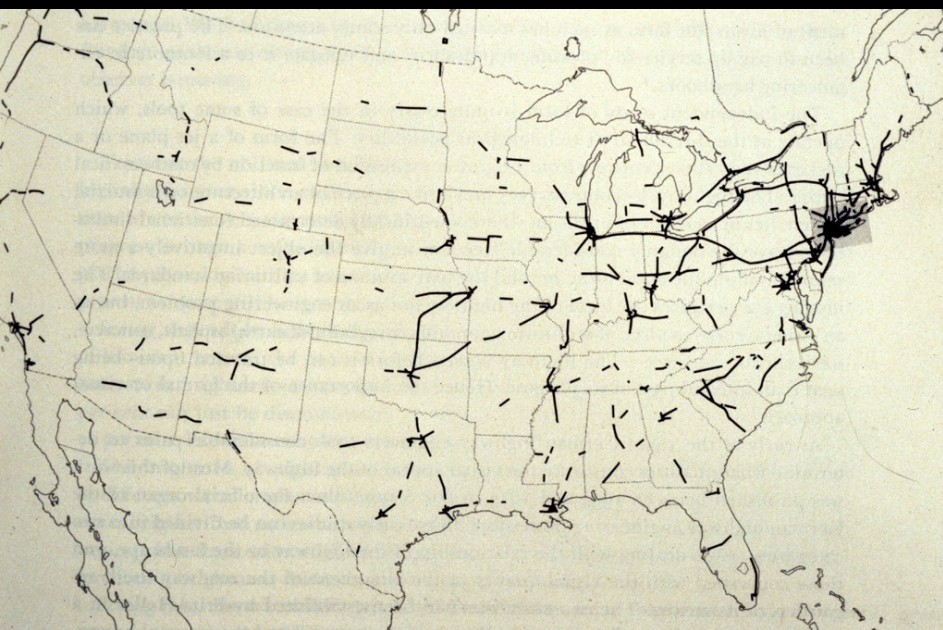
“The dilemma of our parks...”
 Newton Drury, NPS Director, 1949

FUNDS APPROPRIATED



USE OF THE SYSTEM





Progress of U.S. Interstate Highway System construction, 1940s-1960s



Traffic in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, ca.1955

“MISSION 66”

- One billion dollars spent between 1956 and 1966 to modernize and expand the U.S. national park system;
- Overall Purpose: to allow great increase in visitors (in cars) while (hopefully) protecting park landscapes—“Enjoyment without Impairment”;
- Capacity increased through construction: widening roads, enlarging parking lots and campgrounds, building visitor centers, etc.;
- Intended (in many cases) to remove overnight lodges and create “day use” destinations in parks (visitor centers, picnic areas, overlooks, etc.) relocated to less “sensitive” areas;
- Success or failure? Still debated! But some good, some bad...



NOT THIS

BUT THIS



MORE AND MODERN COMFORT FACILITIES



IMPROVED PARK ROADS



MORE AND MODERN VISITOR ACCOMMODATIONS



NOT THIS

BUT THIS



IMPROVED VISITOR SERVICES BY MORE PERSONNEL



ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES



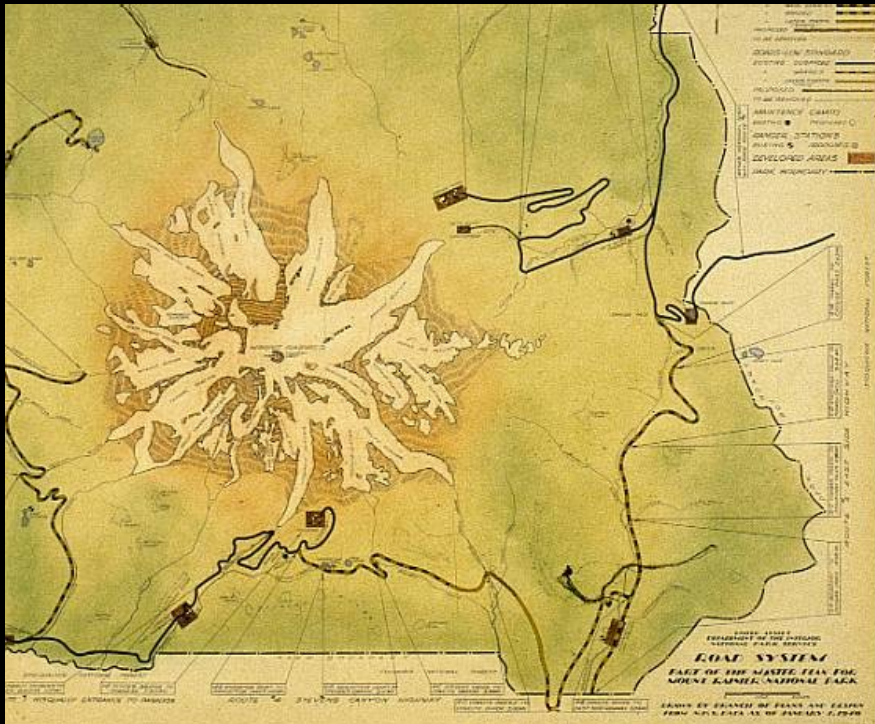
MORE EMPLOYEE HOUSING

MISSION 66:

Parks as “day use” or overnight destinations? Or often BOTH—

Paradise Inn (1917) not demolished as planned...

Paradise Visitor Center, completed 1967



MISSION

66

in action





Carlsbad Caverns National Park Visitor Center, 1953-1955, Cecil Doty, and NPS architects,



Oak Creek Visitor Center, Zion NP, 1957



Panther Junction Visitor Center, Big Bend NP,



Craters of the Moon Visitor Center (Idaho)



Quarry Visitor Center, Dinosaur National Monument, Anshen and Allen, 1957



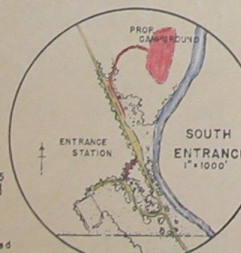
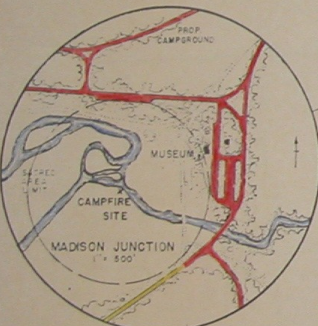
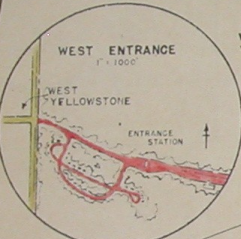
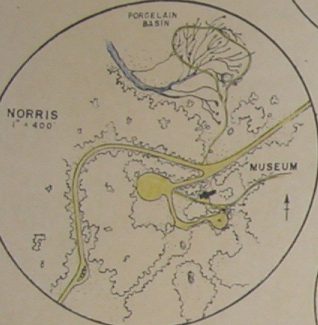
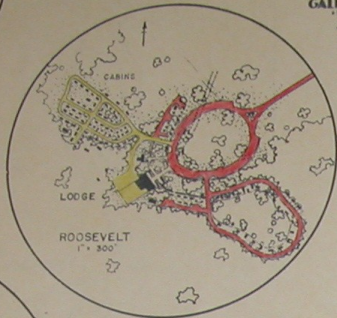
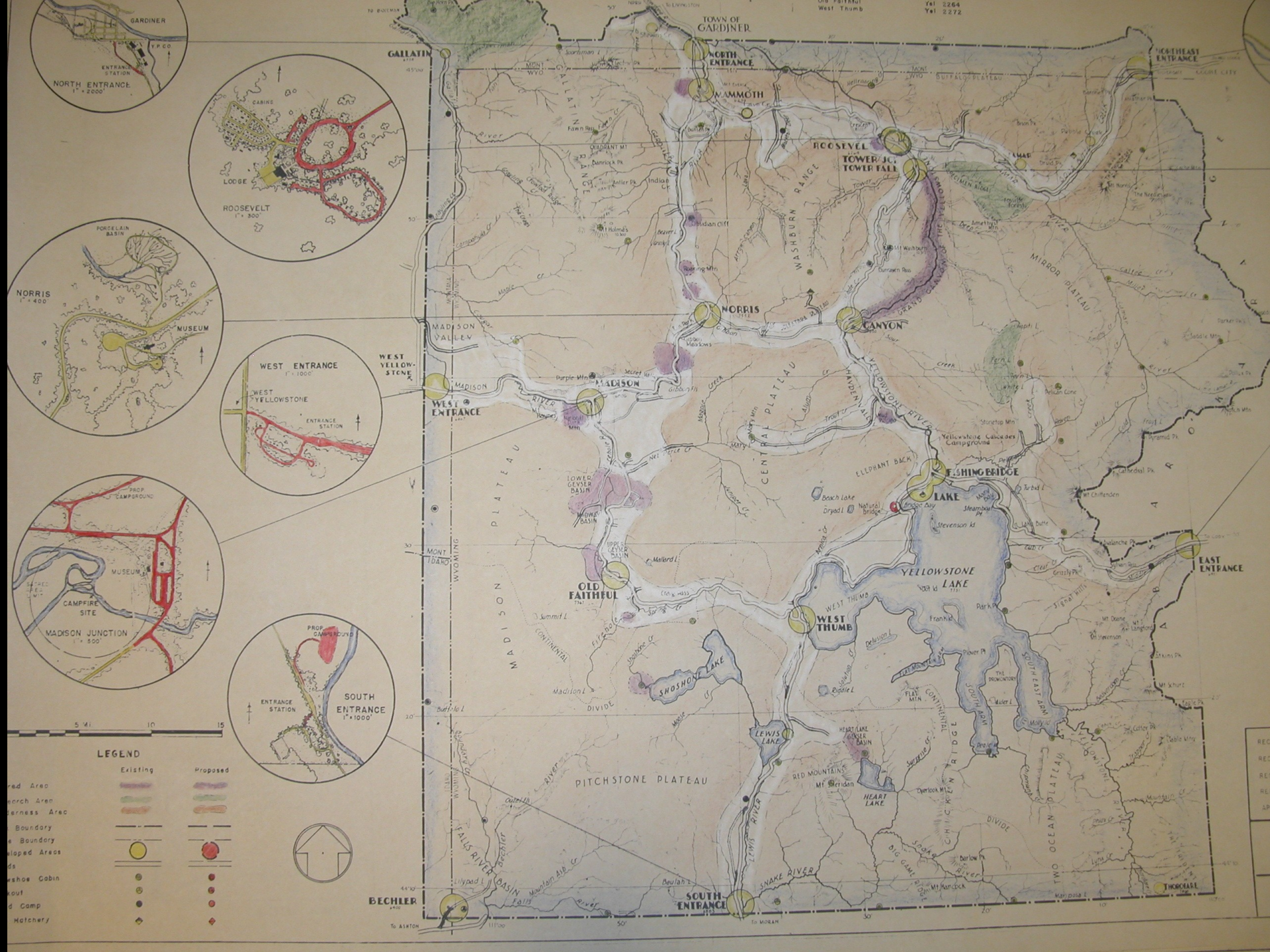
Wright Brothers National Historic Site Visitor Center, Mitchell ,Giurgola



Gettysburg Visitor Center and Cyclorama, Richard Neutra, 1962



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, Taliesen Associates



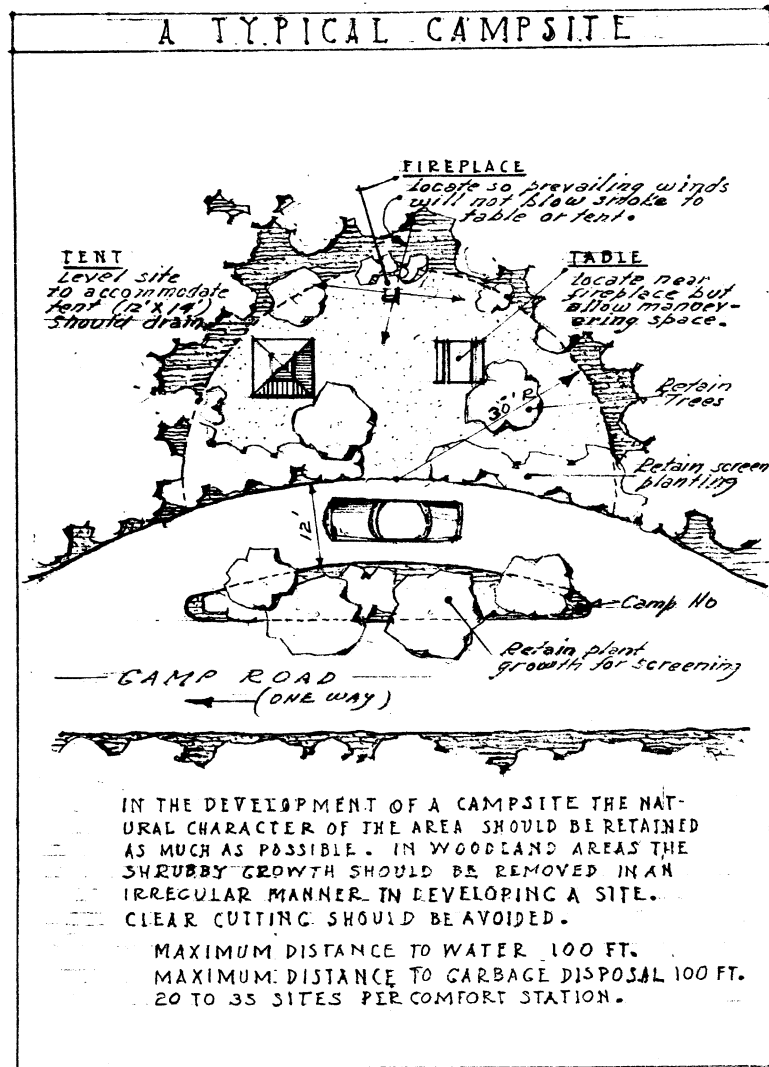
LEGEND

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Existing | Proposed |
| Red Area | Red Area |
| Arch Area | Arch Area |
| erness Area | erness Area |
| Boundary | Boundary |
| Boundary | Boundary |
| Shaped Areas | Shaped Areas |
| Shoe Cabin | Shoe Cabin |
| out | out |
| camp | camp |
| Matchery | Matchery |



BECHLER

REC
RE
RE
AP



Yellowstone National Park Campground, ca. 1956

MYRIAD SPRINGS

154 Sewage Pump

OLD FAITHFUL

LODGE AND CABINS

HOTEL AREA

ADMINISTRATION MUSEUM

AUTO PARKING

AUTO PARKING

AUTO PARKING

PARKING

TOURIST CABIN AREA

Maximum Guest 1235
Approx. 13.7 Acres.

PUBLIC CAMPGROUND

GARAGE

GAS

AUTO

GAS

AUTO PARKING

Emp. Dom.

Out-look Firetruck Jail

Garage

CONC. BLDG.

N.E.S. POWER 159

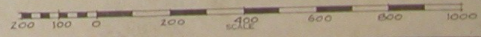


LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| EXISTING | PROPOSED |
| ROADS-DRIVES | ROADS-DRIVES |
| WALKS-PATHS | WALKS-PATHS |
| BUILDINGS | BUILDINGS |
| Improvements proposed for removal | Improvements proposed for removal |

See EXISTING DEVELOPMENT for Topographic features YEL 2264

TRANSITIONAL STAGE



RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
Regional Director

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
Chief of Development

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PLANS AND DESIGN DIVISION
REGIONAL OFFICE

OLD FAITHFUL DEVELOPMENT
PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

REGION	II
MARCH 19	
DRAWING NO.	ND
YEL 2264	
SHEET	



CASTLE GEYSER

FIREHOLE RIVER

1/8 mile zone

OLD FAITHFUL

154 Sewage Pump

2342

155

2338

2339

2337

2305

PARKING

2312

2313

2314

2306

ADMINISTRATION MUSEUM

176

PARKING

MYRIAD SPRINGS

Swimming Pool

2326

PARKING

STORE

GAS Garage

PARKING

Employee Dormitories

Business Site

Business Site

PARKING

Business Site

Empl Dorms

Caretaker Firetruck Jail

PUBLIC CAMPGRO

TOURIST CABIN AREA
Maxim Guests 1235 - Appr 13.7 Acres

GARAGE

GAS

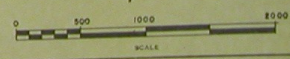
Amphitheater
Concession
conven.
Hall







RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
 SUPERINTENDENT
 RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
 ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
 REGIONAL DIRECTOR
 RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
 CHIEF OF PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION
 APPROVED *Conrad L. Firth* DATE *8-26-51*
 DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DIVISION
 PREPARED BY
 REGION TWO - FIELD
CANYON REGIONAL PLAN
 PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

PROPOSED



TO CLEAR LAKE & RIBBON LAKE

TO POINT SUBLIME & RIBBON LAKE

HOWARD EATON TRAIL TO TOWER FALLS

CASCADE CREEK

TO CASCADE LAKE

TO NORRIS JUNCTION

PROPOSED PROJECTION NORRIS ROAD

GOVERNMENT SERVICE AREA

TRAILER CAMP

RESIDENCES

CANYON VILLAGE

GAS & OIL

PARKING

LODGE CABINS

BUS COMPOUND

TOURIST CABINS

CAMPGROUND

HOTEL

5701
5702
5703

5740 PRESENT STORE

5742

5743

PRESENT CAMPGROUND

PRESENT HOUSEKEEPING CABINS

5741

5902 CAFETERIA

5903

CRYSTAL FALLS

SUNSET TRAIL

UPPER FALLS

LODGE

LODGE CABINS

HORSE CORRAL

LOWER FALLS

UNCLE TOM'S TRAIL

SOUTH RIM TRAIL

RED ROCKS POINT

LOOKOUT POINT

GRANDVIEW POINT

WRANGLER'S TRAIL

ARTIST POINT

NORTH RIM TRAIL

INSPIRATION POINT





RECOMMENDED	
APPROVED	

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 PARK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
 PREPARED BY
 YELLOWSTONE
CANYON VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT
 PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



Canyon Village Lodge, Welton Becket, Yellowstone National Park, 1956




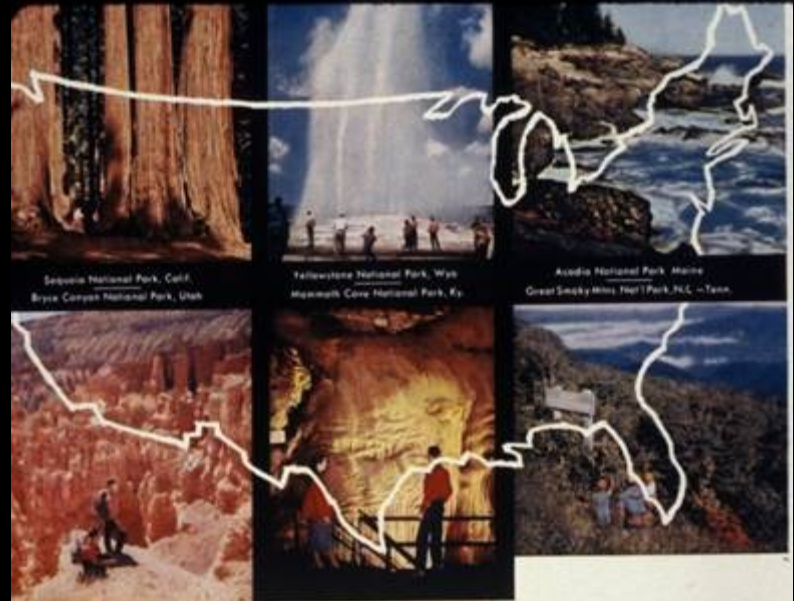


YOUR MISSION 66 AND THE NATIONAL PARKS

A PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE



Presented by:  **PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY**



Sequoia National Park, Calif.
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.
Hovenweep Cave National Park, Ky.

Acadia National Park, Maine
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, N.C. - Tenn.

From coast to coast *Mission 66* means better vacations for you ...

...filling mountains ... breath-taking gorges ... vistas to keen the pulse ... historic sites to stir the heart - all are part of the National Park System, and all these ... *now have more to offer to more Americans* - thanks Mission 66.

Initiated by Conrad L. Wirth, National Parks Director, and endorsed by the 84th Congress, Mission 66 is a 10-year program to conserve, develop and staff the National Parks, so that by 1966, they may accommodate an estimated 50 million vacationers a year. Technically the program includes expansion of overnight facilities, better roads and sanitation and enlarged interpretive activities. Really it is an investment in America's heritage.

Our far-flung system of National Parks, the greatest in

the world, had its beginning in 1870. A small group of public-spirited men, after exploring the Yellowstone, huddled around a campfire in the Wyoming wilds and decided that these natural wonders should be preserved as a public park for the benefit of future generations.

It is good to know that, thanks to Mission 66, the campfire is still burning bright ...

FREE Tour Information

If you would like to visit the National Parks on your next vacation, or drive anywhere in the U.S.A., let us help plan your motor trip. Write: Tour Bureau, Sinclair Oil Corporation, 600 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y. - ask for our colorful National Parks Map.

SINCLAIR HAILS MISSION 66 and the public officials, the Congress, conservation agencies and private citizens who have made this important project an actuality.



Such Sinclair public service messages like this one are appearing in:
TIME • U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE • NATIONAL GRANGE MONTHLY • NATURAL HISTORY MAGAZINE • SATURDAY REVIEW • BROADCASTING-TELECASTING



Tioga Road, Yosemite National Park, and contemporary editorial cartoon

MISSION 66

MODERNISM AND THE NATIONAL PARK DILEMMA

ETHAN CARR



Some (National) Park Design Principles, ca. 1942-1966

- Increased facilitation of automotive tourism through extensive development for higher levels of (more often) day-use visitation;
- Centralization of services (one-stop shopping) in “visitor centers,” with related road, parking, campground enlargement;
- Expansion of park system (recreation areas, seashores, historic sites), as well as of visitor capacities of individual parks;
- Harmonization (visual) in building achieved through horizontal massing, minimal ornament, efficient planning—not “rustic”;
- Professionalization of staff, permanently increased levels of funding per unit of system.

“Mission 66”: SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

Expanded the national park system (new parks, new types of parks)

Overemphasis on “recreation” not preservation and appreciation

Increased funding and professional capacity of NPS

Did not integrate science and scientists adequately

Prevented more widespread destruction, considering numbers of tourists involved

Created undesirable new development (road widenings, motel complexes)

Kept the park system “public” in meaningful ways

Limited public experience to “windshield tourism” for TOO MANY PEOPLE AND CARS

designing the parks



Phase 3: Refining the Design Principles

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Principles for Public Park Planning and Design

» Principle Concepts

» About

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Preliminary Design Principles

Six design principles emerged from the rich and varied discussion that took place last year during Designing The Parks Part II at Cavallo Point. They are:

Park planning and design must demonstrate:

- Reverence for place;
- Engagement of all people;
- Expansion beyond traditional boundaries;
- Sustainability;
- Informed decision-making;
- An integrated research, planning, design, and review process.

Then (1966)

Less diverse nation, less diverse public

Growing size of visiting public

Threats inside park borders: public “loving parks to death”

Automotive public tourism accommodated

Passive public experience (through a windshield?)

Now (2016)

More diverse population (but often not in national parks!)

Flat or declining visitation (?)

Threats outside borders: climate change, habitat loss, sprawl

Alternative transportation and experience sought

Reclaimed, more direct relationship between public and park landscapes sought

Then (1966)

No public participation, no environmental “compliance”

Almost 100% public funding

No public process; centralized control of planning, design

Perceived monolithic public and “public interest”

Single interpretive narrative to serve “the” public

Now (2016)

Lots of public participation—resources better protected

Partnership funding/user fees, in addition to public funding

Local initiative, meetings, partnerships, consultants

Multiple publics, interests, sources of funding

Multiple and layered meanings for diverse publics

BEYOND the “Visitor Center”?

- An idea (and a name) created by U.S. National Park Service planners in 1955—linked to automotive tourism.
- VCs today include more office space, retail space, etc.—
- Is all the added program needed?
- Do some VCs dominate the park experience rather than enhance it (IMAX theaters, etc.)?
- Are large buildings affordable, sustainable, or desirable in park landscapes?
- Are there “DE-centralized” options that encourage less passive forms of landscape engagement?
- Are there other options to the VC/automotive tourism concept?



designing the parks

Phase 3: Refining the Design Principles

Search this site:



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What's New

For the most recent updates, check our 'Latest News' tab!!

Visit our Forum, on the home page and comment on our new principles!!

Just uploaded a new Case Study under 'Resources.' Check it out!!

Home » Principles » Communicate Clearly »

NEW PRINCIPLES!!! Tell us what you think

With the wonderful completion of our newest award program, Parks for the People: A Student Competition to Reimagine America's National Parks, we have released our newly refined design principles! These new principles have been created by reexamining the draft principles from 2008, and really analyzing what we have learned from our awards programs. The Designing the Parks Awards Winners and Parks for the People student proposals were incredibly inspiring and ultimately forced us to take another look at condensing and improving our previous principles. Here is what we have:

Park Planning and Design Principles:

Respect Place

Engage All

Model Sustainability

Design Beyond Boundaries

Communicate Clearly

We would love to get some feedback, so please feel free to comment with suggestions!

Login or register to post comments

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Submitted by ThomasWALTON1976 on Thu, 2013-05-02 00:50.

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<http://ciprorxpharma.com/#yqaqdsko> cheap cipro

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» Contact Us

Refined Design Principles

Our newly refined Park Planning and Design Principles!!!

- Respect Place
- Engage All
- Model Sustainability
- Design Beyond Boundaries
- Communicate Clearly

Please visit our Forum on the home page to leave any comments on these new principles!

Draft Park Design Principles, Fort Baker, San Francisco, December 2008

Park planning and design must demonstrate:

- Reverence to place
- Engagement of all people
- Expansion beyond traditional boundaries
- Advancement of sustainability
- Knowledge-informed decision making
- An integrated research, planning, design, and review process



A Student Competition
to Reimagine America's
National Parks



ABOUT
THE SITES
COMPETITION PROGRESS
STUDIO TO PRACTICE

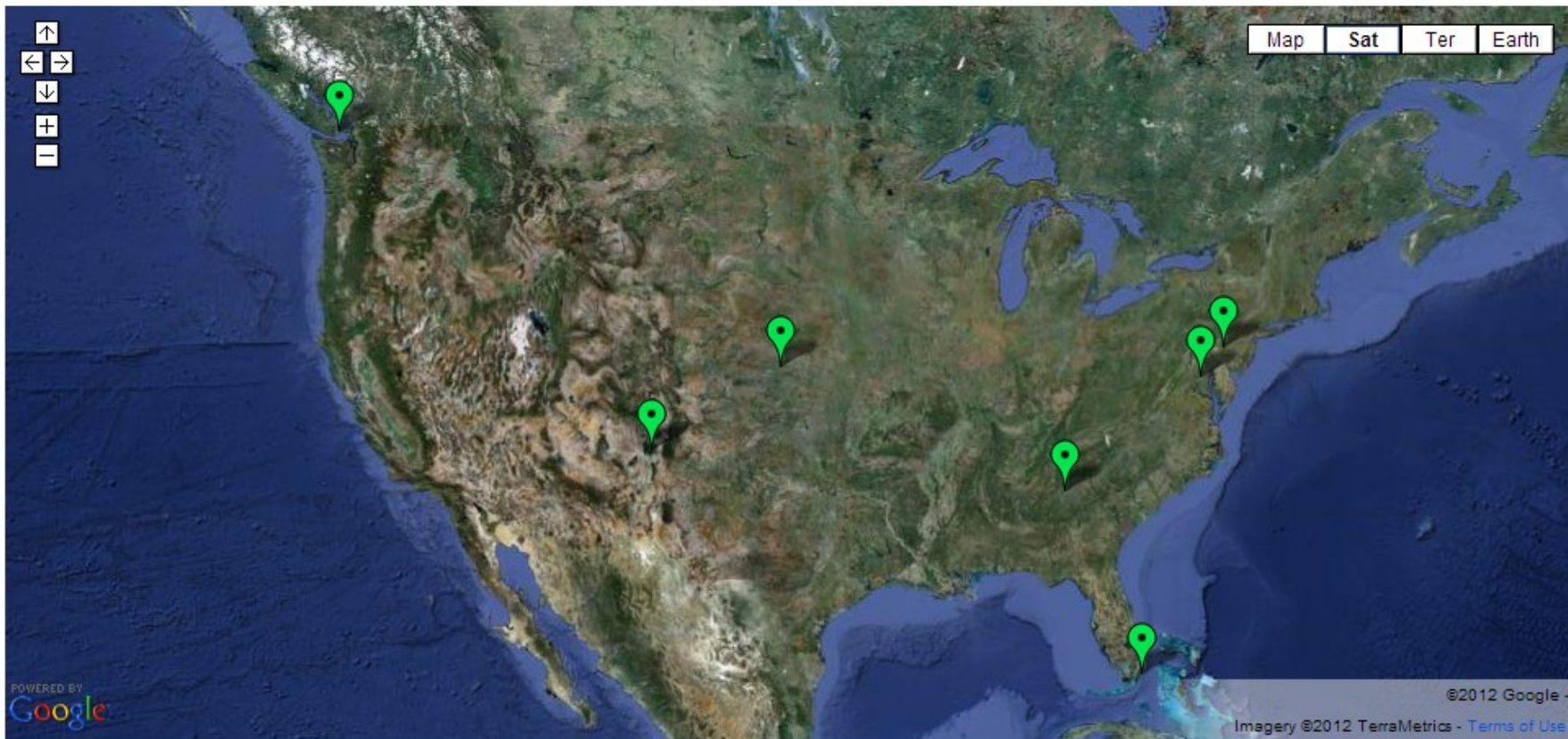
THE SITES

In the fall of 2011, faculty in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning, ecology, preservation, communications, and related fields organized research teams to investigate one of seven national park sites as the focus of their studio proposal. Below is a Google map showing the location of each site. Beneath the map are links to information about each site provided by the National Park Service. You can also view the map at [Parks for the People Competition Sites](#).

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Northeast Region
Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

National Capital Region
[Civil War Defenses of Washington](#)





A Student Competition to Reimagine America's National Parks



ABOUT THE SITES
COMPETITION PROGRESS
STUDIO TO PRACTICE

COMPETITION WINNERS > CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

Logic Trees
The logic tree structure is a graphic device for communicating systemic relationships. It is a method for assessment of the hierarchies of relationships between institutions, individuals and communities, taking many diverse entities and organizing them in terms of scales of impact or degrees of significance to the whole system.

2. Nicodemus NHS presents the future mode of park establishment it must be managed within a living community in territory federally owned. Tied to this requirement is a shift in the site's interpretive mandate. In an era where Black American ownership is declining, Nicodemus Descendants' tenacity to their land is a triumph of resilience. At Nicodemus NHS preservation is not a constraint it is the message.

The CCNY site plan proposal demarcates the original Town Plat, and most and interpretive features are located within the public domain of the plat rights-of-way. In addition, the CCNY studio proposes a strategy for establishing agreements as a method of engaging the local residents and land-owning a process to stabilize the damaged and declining structures on the site, as a domestic landscape to reflect a living community.

	public land		Exit
	chic spaces (camping, gathering/event areas/facilities)		NHS
	useful agreements for domestic land management		Rest
	production zone (nursery, organic specialty produce)		Food
	Dugout Archeology Zone		Bike
	Prairie to Farms Landscape Management Phase 1 Phase 2		VP



A Student Competition to Reimagine America's National Parks



ABOUT THE SITES COMPETITION PROGRESS STUDIO TO PRACTICE

COMPETITION WINNERS > RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

SIX PRINCIPLES & FOURTEEN INTERVENTIONS

THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PROPOSAL FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS REIMAGINE AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS STUDIO TO PRACTICE

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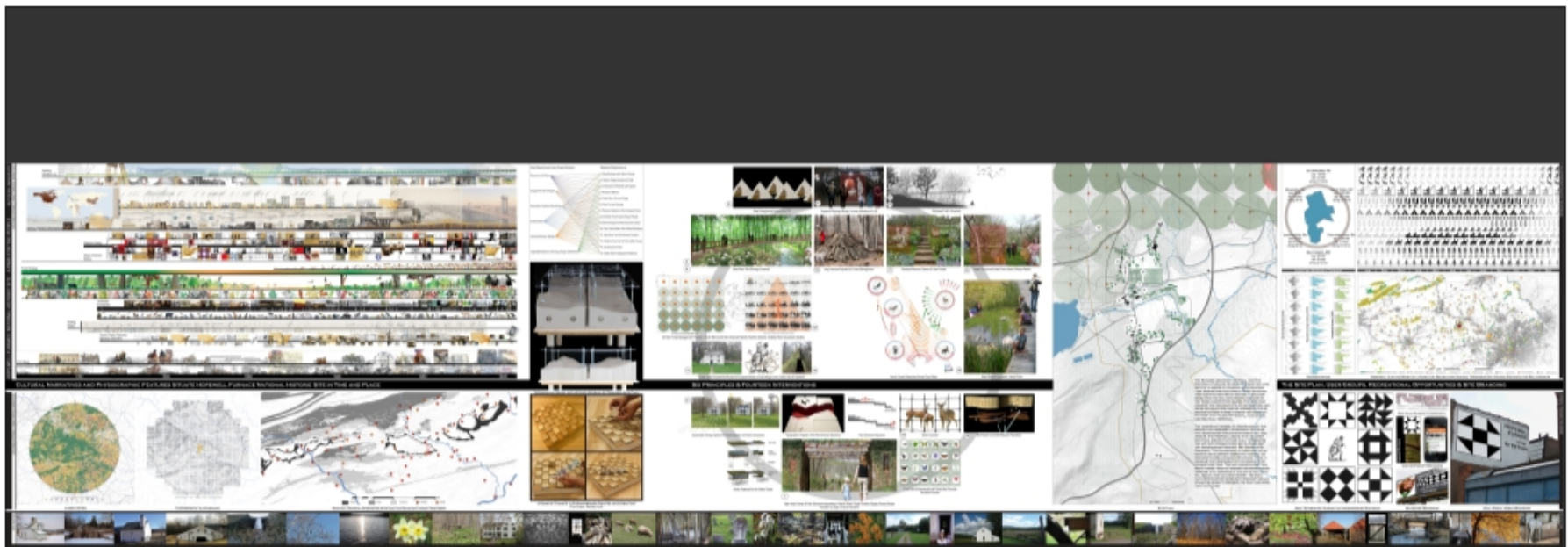


A Student Competition to Reimagine America's National Parks



ABOUT THE SITES COMPETITION PROGRESS STUDIO TO PRACTICE

COMPETITION WINNERS > RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



Further Development of Fort Baker Statement

Desirable principles (easy ones):

- A **more diverse public** must be reflected in park design and interpretation for parks to remain valued;
- Environmental disruption and **climate change** and must be anticipated in order for parks to remain functional;
- Guidelines for **sustainability** (LEED standards, 2009 ASLA Sustainable Sites Initiative, 1994 NPS sustainability guidelines) should be incorporated into park design principles;
- Decision making must be based in **science**;
- Architectural **historicism**—including rustic, neo-traditional, and modernist varieties—does not constitute a park design strategy.

Further Development of Fort Baker Statement

Desirable principles (up for discussion):

- Visitors should have varied and **direct experiences** of nature and natural processes in park “developed areas”;
- New technologies and intents in park interpretation should mean significant change in the pattern, pace, and content of park visits, and in the design of new **interpretive landscapes**;
- Alternative circulation (transportation) must be considered in terms of new **modes of experience**, not just infrastructure;
- The principle of “**harmonization**” of conflicting uses, groups, or purposes remains valuable;
- The function of the park “**visitor center**” must be reconsidered— which services are essential and consistent with social and environmental goals? How are they best delivered?
- Contemporary **municipal park design** should continue to be a source of inspiration in the design of “developed areas.”