



Federal Lands to Parks Program



A unique program in the federal government for parks & recreation

Tool and advocate for States and local government agencies to acquire surplus federal land and facilities to meet park, recreation, and open space needs.



Thunderbolt Park, Orange Park, Florida



Sand Point Park, Seattle, WA

* The program is authorized through the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, Section 203(k), as amended, 40 U.S.C. 550 (e)

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Results



- Nationwide, 1,500 properties, more than 160,000 acres, have been conveyed for local recreation needs in states and communities.



Isla de Cabras, San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Military Base Closures

- Nearly all 96 bases closed 1988-1995 had park and recreation interests.
- National Park Service had 135 base closure requests for state and community for assistance.
- Currently 77 are deeded (11,163 acres).
- Approx. 50% of annual transfers have been BRAC property (50% non-BRAC).

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Program Goals



- “Help preserve our fast disappearing open spaces”
- “ Assist local governments in providing more and better facilities to meet the recreational needs of our growing communities.”

House of Representatives
Report, 1970



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Program Goals



Provide opportunities for the public to participate in a variety of recreational activities at the local level



Blackwater Heritage Trail, Milton, FL

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Program Goals



To protect and provide public access to natural and historic areas.

(open space, lakes, forests, lighthouses, wetlands, coastal fortifications, and historic buildings).



Commander's House Senior Center,
San Antonio, Texas

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Program Byproduct



To help reduce the Federal Government's costs to maintain lands and operate buildings that are no longer needed.



Greenwood Museum ,
Greenwood, South Carolina



Frederick Landing, Wilder, Ohio

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What does the program do?



- Identifies land and facilities eligible for acquisition
- Assists communities in getting the land (finding out, applying, navigating the process, establishing priority; and getting ownership)
- Advocates on behalf of the community for the transfer
- Ensures permanent public recreational use and preservation of natural, historic, and cultural resources (deeds the property).

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Benefits



- Meet community need/shortages for parks and recreation services
- Defray high acquisition costs - land and facilities
- Focus resources on park development or operation
- Consideration of public services and conservation in the reuse planning process (potential competition for scarce resources)
- Boost quality of life, attract businesses and new residents

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What is surplus real property?



- Land (military bases, Coast Guard lighthouses, Army Corps of Engineers river projects, abandoned rail lines, coastal beaches).
- Facilities (former federal), buildings, gymnasiums, swimming pools, historic forts.
- May be located in cities, suburbs, or rural areas.



Charlestown State Park,
Charlestown, Indiana



Spanish Landing Park, California

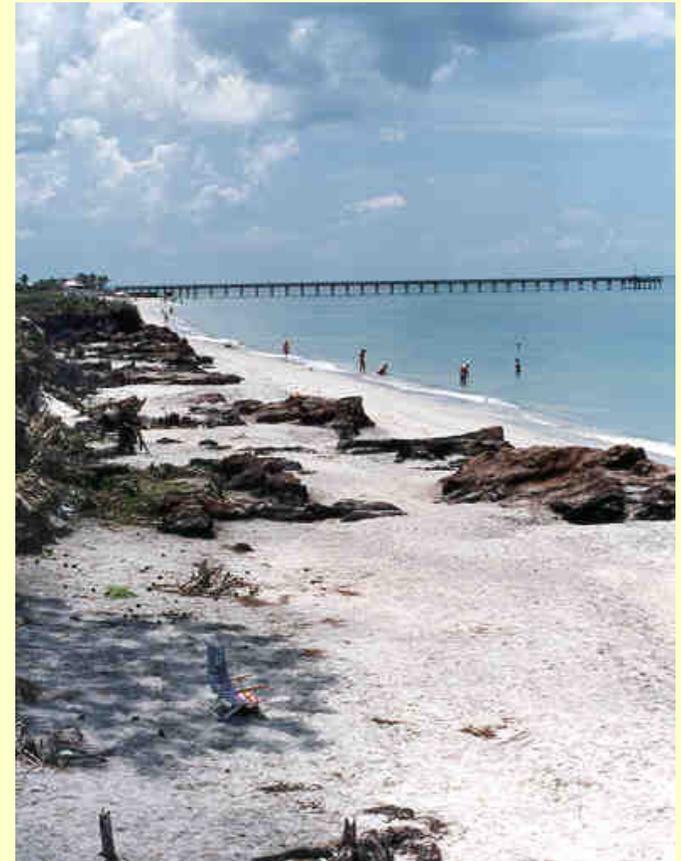
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Who can acquire surplus land?



- States and local government entities and instrumentalities (counties, towns, municipalities).
- Nationwide, Puerto Rico, Guam, Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands



Service Club Park, Venice, Florida

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Eligible Uses?



- For public park and recreational use in perpetuity:
 - developed as an active recreation area,
 - left undeveloped for passive recreation open space,
 - maintained as a historic park
 - support operation of park system



Pope's Head Park, Fairfax, Virginia



Fort Frederick, Beaufort, South Carolina

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Costs?



- Land and buildings are conveyed at no cost in return for its use for public park and recreation in perpetuity.
- State and local recipients develop, operate, and maintain the park property.
- Opportunity cost (compliance, reversion clause, exchanges)



USO Park, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, BEFORE



USO Park, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, AFTER

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Transfer Examples



Ben Brenman Park (Cameron Station), Credit:
City of Alexandria, VA



View of Water Battery with Throgs Neck Bridge

Fort Totten, New York City, NY

Fort Chaffee, AR, Nature Center

Lowry AFB, CO, Arts Center

Cecil Field, FL > 2000 acres, open
space

Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN,
state park

<http://www.nps.gov/flp>

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Steps to Acquiring Park Land



■ Step 1: Notification

NPS helps notify park and recreation agencies.

A state or local government notifies the National Park Service in writing of its interest in acquiring the property and requests an application.



Boca Grande Lighthouse, Gasparilla Island, Florida



Family Fitness Center, Blytheville, Arkansas

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Steps to Acquiring Park Land



■ Step 2: Application

Need for property for park and recreation use

Capability to operate and maintain the property for public park and recreation use

Suitability of the property for the proposed public park and recreation use

Description of proposed use and site plan.



Centennial Park, Midland, Texas



Centennial Park, Midland, Texas

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Steps to Acquiring Park Land



■ Step 3: Conveyance

National Park Service

Requests assignment from the Federal agency disposing of the property. (Use must be compatible with reuse plan.)

Conveys the deed to the applicant for parks and recreation.

Monitors the property's use and development to ensure compliance with the deed and to ensure continued public access.



Transfer Ceremony, Homestead Air Force Base park, Homestead, Florida



Pope's Head Park, Fairfax, Virginia

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National Park Service Technical Assistance



- The National Park Service helps communities by:
 - Identifying land and facilities eligible for acquisition.
 - Assisting communities in completing their application.
 - Advocating on behalf of the community for acquisition
 - Preparing + quality control on real estate documents
 - Helping to ensure permanent public recreational use and preservation of natural, historic, and cultural resources.

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Program Results



By participating in the Federal Lands to Parks Program, communities have

- **Expanded park and recreational amenities** to play sports, improve quality of life, help revitalization efforts and attract businesses
- **Protected open spaces**, extended hiking trails, and opened boating and fishing access
- **Preserved historical and natural resources** such as forts and lighthouses, shorelines and wildlife habitat
- **Converted abandoned military bases** into widely used productive recreational assets
- **Renewed a sense of community** among neighbors through community gardens, senior and cultural centers, local parks, and other gathering places

<http://www.nps.gov/flp>

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