OTHER PROGRAMS

The Reconstruction Era National Historic Network

The Reconstruction Era National Historic Network (Reconstruction Era Network) helps to preserve and interpret sites and stories important to understanding the successes and struggles of African Americans in the decades following the Civil War. All National Park Service (NPS) units and programs connected to the Reconstruction Era will be included in the Network in addition to sites managed by state, local, and private entities that preserve places and stories affiliated with the story of the African American transition from slavery to freedom.

Background

In March 2019, legislation created the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network and redesignated the Reconstruction Era National Monument as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. Based on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and the African American Civil Rights Network, the Reconstruction Era Network is administered by the NPS. The Network now includes 68 sites, such as the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in Alabama; the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland; the Boston African American National Historic Site in Massachusetts; Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania; and Fort Monroe National Monument in Virginia.

FY 2022 Appropriations Request

Please support $1 million to administer and enhance the Reconstruction Era Network Program in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: ONPS Resource Stewardship
ACTIVITY: Park Cultural Resource Support
FUNCTION: National Networks

Recent Funding History:
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $250,000
FY 2021 Enacted Funding: $1.5 million
(The final bill provides $1.5 million total for four networks in Resource Stewardship)
FY 2022 President’s Budget Request: TBD
FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation: $1.0 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding would provide additional support for the National Park Service to enhance the administration and expansion of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network.
ABOVE: The Reconstruction Era National Monument, originally designed in January 2017, was re-established in 2019 as the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. Located in Beaufort County, South Carolina, the park interprets the complex and challenging history of the Reconstruction Era from 1861 to 1900. The park educates visitors on how the United States struggled to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, and labor systems in a divided nation. Ultimately, the failures of Reconstruction led to the Civil Rights Movement roughly 100 years later.

LEFT: Located in Massachusetts, the Boston African American National Historic Site interprets the Abolition Movement, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and Boston’s African American community during the Reconstruction Era. Within the park, The African Meeting House, built in 1806, is the oldest existing black church building in the country built primarily by black artisans. The meeting house hosted numerous prominent abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. The African Meeting House is owned and operated by the Museum of African American History and is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.