

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 820

To establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “New Philadelphia Na-
5 tional Historical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Frank McWorter, an enslaved man, bought
9 his freedom and the freedom of 15 family members
10 by mining for crude niter in Kentucky caves and

1 processing the mined material into saltpeter, by hir-
2 ing his time to other settlers, and by selling lots in
3 New Philadelphia, the town he founded;

4 (2) New Philadelphia, founded in 1836 by
5 Frank McWorter, was the first town planned and le-
6 gally registered by a free African American before
7 the Civil War;

8 (3) the first railroad constructed in the area of
9 New Philadelphia bypassed New Philadelphia, which
10 led to the decline of New Philadelphia; and

11 (4) the New Philadelphia site is a registered
12 National Historic Landmark.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) PARK.—The term “Park” means the New
16 Philadelphia Historical Park established by this Act.

17 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
20 of Illinois.

21 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PHILADELPHIA.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
23 State a unit of the National Park System to be known
24 as the “New Philadelphia Historical Park” to coordi-
25 nate—

1 (1) preservation, protection, and interpretation
 2 efforts of the Park by the Federal Government, the
 3 State, units of local government, and private and
 4 nonprofit organizations; and

5 (2) appropriate management options necessary
 6 to ensure the protection, preservation, and interpre-
 7 tation of the many significant aspects of the Park.

8 (b) BOUNDARY.—The Park shall consist of the ap-
 9 proximately _____ acres generally depicted as
 10 “_____” on the map titled “_____”
 11 and dated _____.

12 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
 14 land within the boundary of the Park in accordance
 15 with—

16 (1) this Act; and

17 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
 18 National Park System, including—

19 (A) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and
 20 sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and
 21 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

22 (B) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
 23 Code.

24 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
 25 may enter into cooperative agreements with the State or

1 other public and nonpublic entities, under which the Sec-
2 retary may identify, interpret, and provide assistance for
3 the preservation of non-Federal land within the bound-
4 aries of the Park and at sites in close proximity to the
5 Park, but located outside the boundaries of the Park, in-
6 cluding providing for placement of directional and inter-
7 pretive signage, exhibits, and technology-based interpre-
8 tive devices.

9 (c) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—The Secretary may ac-
10 quire for inclusion in the Park any land (including inter-
11 ests in land), buildings, or structures owned by the State
12 or any other political, private, or nonprofit entity by dona-
13 tion, transfer, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller.

14 (d) TECHNICAL AND PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—
15 The Secretary may provide public interpretation and tech-
16 nical assistance for the preservation of historic structures
17 of, the maintenance of the cultural landscape of, and local
18 preservation planning for, related historic and cultural re-
19 sources within the boundaries of the Park.

20 (e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fiscal
21 years after the date on which funds are first made avail-
22 able to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation
23 with the State, shall complete a general management plan
24 for the Park in accordance with—

1 (1) section 100502 of title 54, United States
2 Code; and

3 (2) any other applicable laws.

4 (f) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—Nothing in this
5 Act, the acquisition of the land or an interest in land au-
6 thorized by this Act, or the management plan for the Park
7 shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the
8 Park. That activities or uses can be seen, heard, or de-
9 tected from the acquired land shall not preclude, limit,
10 control, regulate, or determine the conduct or manage-
11 ment of activities or uses outside of the Park.

12 (g) EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNATION.—In car-
13 rying out this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may not
14 use eminent domain or condemnation.

15 (h) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act modifies any au-
16 thority of the Federal Government to carry out Federal
17 laws on Federal land located in the Park.

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