

John Muir and National Park System

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Who is John Muir

- Naturalist, author, environmental philosopher (1838-1914)
- “John of the Mountains”

Muir and national park

- “Father of the National Parks”

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but nature’s sources never fail.

– [Our National Parks](#) , 1901, page 56.

Stakeholders

- The president (Theodore Roosevelt)
- Public support via books, popular magazine article, and the Sierra Club

Outcomes

- US Congress, 1890, establishing the Yosemite National Park
- The start of National Park System

Thoughts for evaluation

- Beyond prices: public space, history, recreation, education, and American treasure
- Evaluation indicators: visitors, local economy, what else?

Further readings

- Walls, Margaret. 2022. “Economics of the US National Park System: Values, Funding, and Resource Management Challenges.” *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 14 (Volume 14, 2022): 579–96. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-resource-111920-021401>.