

GOVERNMENTAL RECREATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS DETERMINED BY A NATIONAL PLAN

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Delivered at the Second National Conference on Outdoor Recreation held at Washington, D.C.,
January 20 and 21, 1926.

These conferences have given Outdoor Recreation a dominant place in federal and state responsibilities through such factors as follow:

As an economic factor for keeping all our people at all life periods fit for best service.

As an educational factor for developing initiative, observation, and practical knowledge.

As a factor in all forms of earth and air intercommunication.

As a factor in wild life preservation, observation and use.

As a factor in protecting the people's interest in the use of waters and shores.

No one state, province, local or other political unit in North America can act on any of these problems without considering adjacent units.

It was a man surveyor, not Mother Nature, who laid down straight lines between political units.

A National Plan study must conform to Mother Nature's lines and lay of the land, and define the different regions that are formed by the fall, flow, and collecting of waters; by high and low temperatures; by the ways of the winds; by the passages where the masses of people and products can flow most easily by land and water. The plan must indicate the best self-supporting uses, the ultimate yields, and movements in these regions.

Such study and action is best advanced by the private initiative of such individuals and groups as form this coördinating body who are all helping to guide the will of the people. The Will of the People is the source of all law.

One big problem of this assembly is to secure, comprehend, analyze, and convey quickly and forcibly to others the facts and tendencies in the amazing revolution in all agencies and activities that is going on about us so rapidly.

We whose life spans only two generations began with "Hop Scotch," "Hoops," "Marbles," "Jack Stones," "Duck on the Rock," "Three Old Cat," "Puss in the Corner," "Copenhagen," "Post Office," "Husking Bees" (with their red ears), "Spelling Bees," and the "Virginia Reel."

In such play the average number was less than fifty and in the big recreational groups there were seldom over 5,000.

Now 80,000 people can watch one game at one time from seats.

Then the average walking distance was two miles and the driving distance 10 miles.

Now a hundred million people have facilities for covering a recreation radius of 100 miles.

Then the fellow whose yell could be heard a mile was a wonder.

Now a voice can be heard on any evening from 2,000 to 3,000 miles by over 25,000,000 people.

Then "Keep off the Grass" signs made parks places for show rather than service.

Now one public forest, about an hour's ride from New York, provides for over 50,000 campers and from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 hikers and other visitors each year. Here the fur and feather people are protected in their native homes and the only zoo is one for the study of the many-legged bugs that bite plants and people.

The multiple responsibilities facing everyone who plans, directs, or participates in outdoor recreation are nation wide in their scope and concern every citizen of every age as almost no other human activity does.

TO ILLUSTRATE

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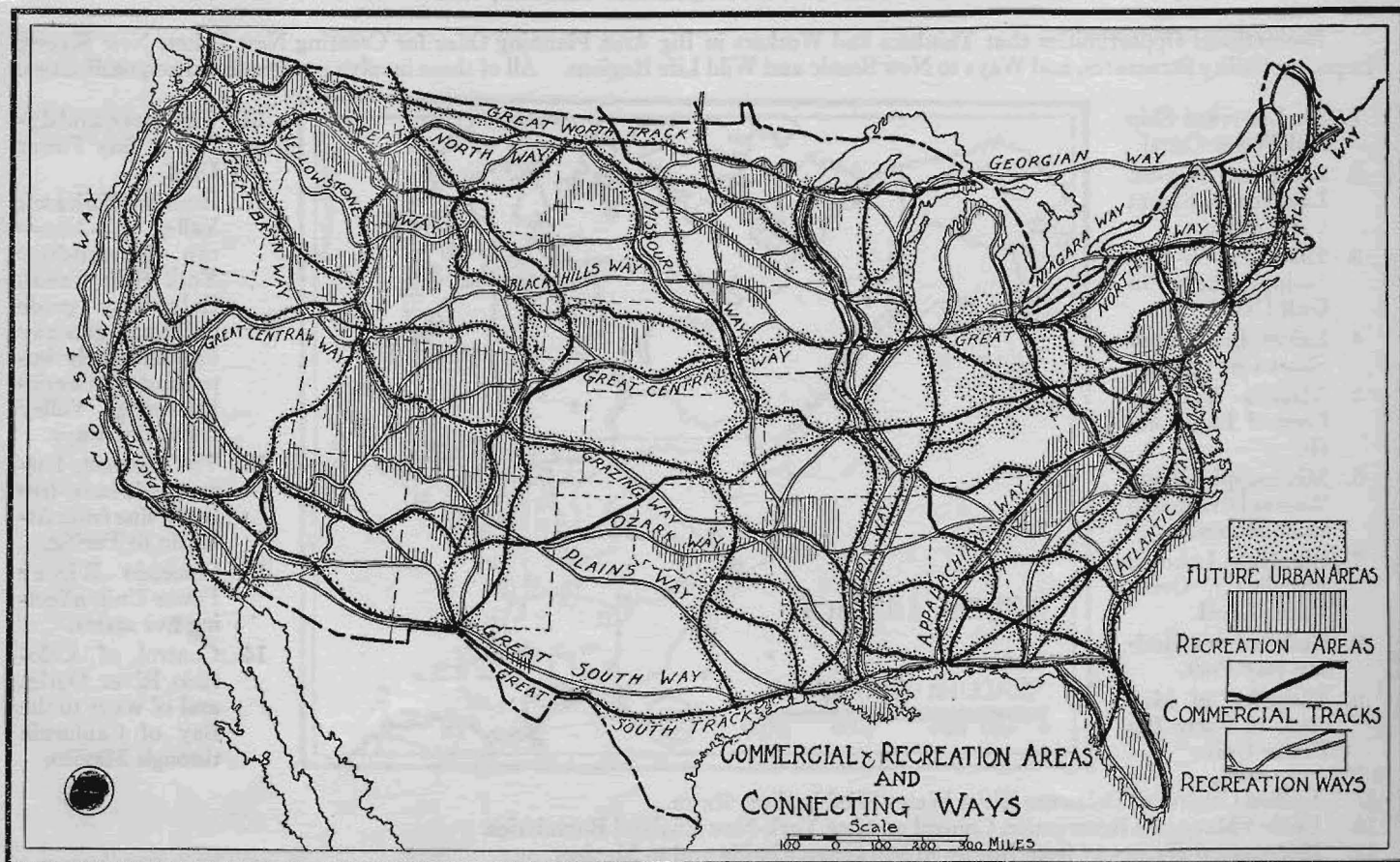
an address prepared by
WARREN H. MANNING

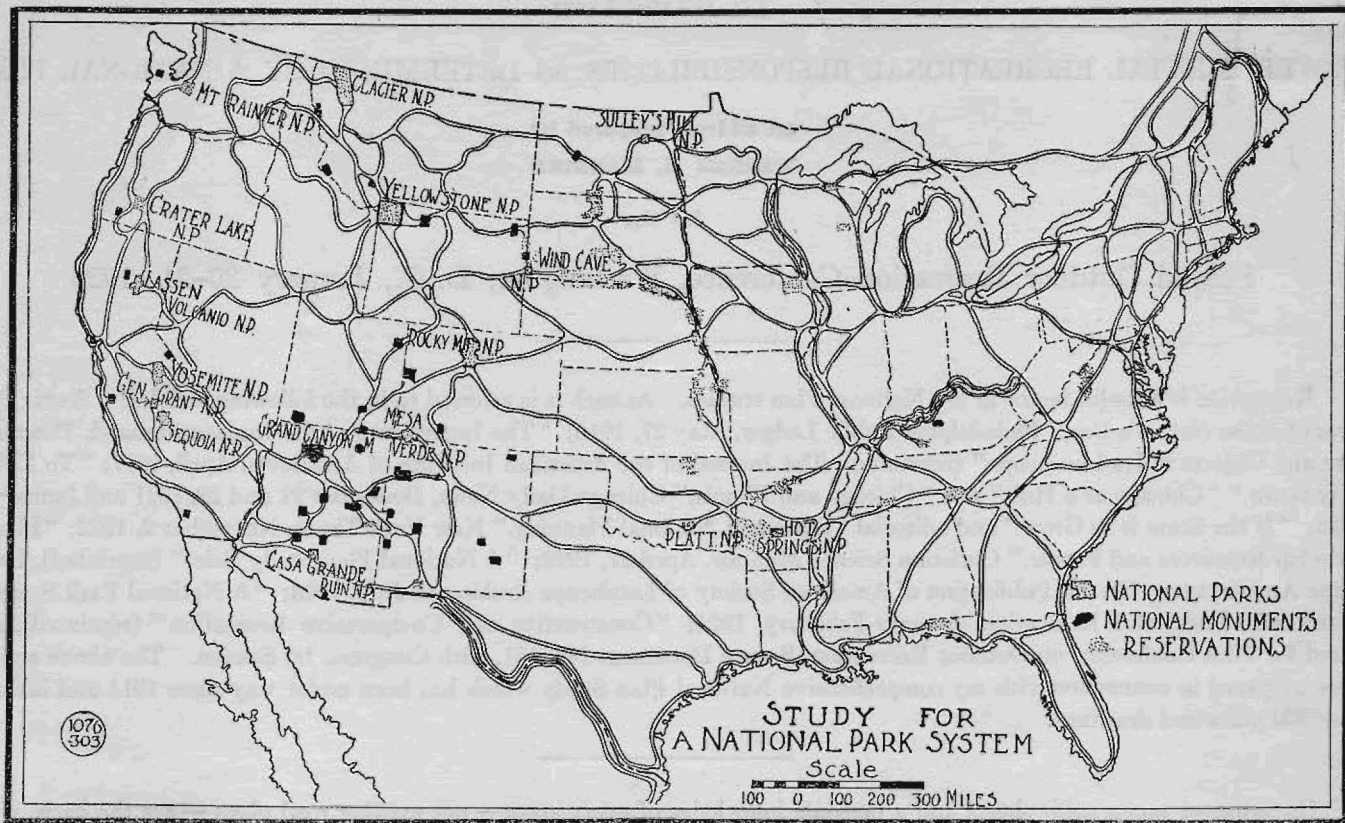
for the

Second Outdoor Recreation Conference, Washington, D. C., January 20-21, 1926

Recreation is a major factor in my National Plan studies. As such it is referred to in the following articles: "Scenic Park Areas for the Nation's Use," Philadelphia Public Ledger, May 27, 1916; "The Importance of the Hudson-Mohawk Thoroughfare and Objects in Its Landscape" (reprinted), The Journal of the American Institute of Architects, April, 1917; "To Help a City Grow," "Chicago as a Hub" and "Chicago and Illinois," Chicago Daily News, December 21 and 28, 1921 and January 4, 1922; "If the State is to Grow" and editorial "State and National Planning," New York Times, November 2, 1922; "Plan to Develop Resources and People," Christian Science Monitor, April 27, 1922; "A National Plan Study Brief" (reprinted), Landscape Architecture; Official Publication of American Society of Landscape Architects, July, 1923; "A National Park System" (reprinted), Parks and Recreation, January-February, 1924; "Constructive and Co-operative Recreation" (reprinted), prepared for First Conference on Outdoor Recreation, Senate Document No. 151, 68th Congress, 1st Session. The above articles were prepared in connection with my comprehensive National Plan Study which has been under way since 1914 and includes over 300 plans and drawings.

Government topographic sheets and a personal knowledge of every state — not existing road plans — are the basis of the following studies.





FROM *Parks and Recreation*, JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1924

Recreational Opportunities that Thinkers and Workers in Big Area Planning Offer for Creating New Lakes, New Shores, Imposing Utility Structures, and Ways to New Scenic and Wild Life Regions. All of these involve governmental responsibilities.

1. St. Lawrence Ship and Power Canal.
2. Georgian Bay-St. Lawrence Short Cut Canal.
3. Lake Huron-Mississippi River to Gulf Canal.
4. Lakes Erie-Huron Short Cut Canal.
5. Niagara Dam to Control Lake Levels.
6. Mississippi Flood Waters Diverted to Lake Huron.
7. Big New Lake to Equalize Great Lakes Level.
8. Railroad to a Hudson Bay Port.
9. Diversion of Missouri to Form Big Power Unit.



10. Passamaquoddy-Fundy Bay Power Unit.
11. Hudson-Mohawk Valley. All-American Oswego-New York Ship Canal. Only easy grade northern gateway for immensely important Atlantic-Mississippi Valley trunk line ways.
12. The shortest, lowest grade snow-free trunk line from Atlantic to Pacific.
13. Colorado River Power Unit affecting five states.
14. Control of Colorado River Outlet and of ways to the Bay of California through Mexico.

15. Unified Control of Delaware River Water Shed in three states.
16. Unified Mountain Reservation Control on New York-New England Boundaries.
17. Intercoastal Waterway from Boston to and across Florida and to Mexico.
18. An International Coastal Way from Bering to Magellan Straits offers a longer and more direct route with more scenic values than elsewhere in the world. Just as the All-American route from Eastport, Maine to Key West, Florida offers more protected Water Ways, Harbors, and Economic Values than any like direct coastal route in the world.