CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CENTENNIAL

2016
The year was 1932 and the world was wrapped in the stifling blanket of depression, famine, and anguish left by the Great War. Despite these difficult times, a group of optimistic citizens along the international boundary between Alberta and Montana found a way to shine a beacon of light into all this darkness. Members of Rotary Clubs, both north and south of the 49th parallel, found an inspiring way to celebrate the friendship and cooperation between Canada and the United States.

At the first annual goodwill meeting between the Rotarians of Alberta and Montana at the Prince of Wales Hotel, on Saturday, July 4, 1931, a resolution to establish an International Peace Park was unanimously approved.

Negotiations with local government representatives in both countries led to the joining of the two national parks in 1932 when the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament created legislation establishing the “Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.”

Over the years, the first Peace Park matured into an example of successful cooperative management of a large ecosystem shared by two countries. Today each park strives to work together to celebrate and protect the significant variety of natural features found in this part of the Rocky Mountains. True to its roots as a beacon of hope, the Peace Park continues to inspire contemplation of the importance of respect and cooperation between nations.

“Dedication of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is a further gesture of the goodwill that has so long blessed our relations with our Canadian neighbors and I am gratified by the hope and faith that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship.”

President Herbert Hoover
United States of America

“The relations between Canada and the United States have been characterized not only by that peace which is the foundation of our two democracies but by mutual respect and friendships. It is my earnest hope that this great International Peace Park may forever remain a permanent memorial of all that neighboring relations should be between adjoining nations.”

Prime Minister R.B. Bennett
Canada
Hands Across Borders

September 13-18, 2016
Glacier Park Lodge at Glacier National Park
Montana, USA

A special event to:

- Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service
- Celebrate Rotary's contribution to environmental peacemaking
- Advance transboundary conservation worldwide

Hands Across Borders is a week-long event to celebrate and advance transboundary conservation and international peace parks.

The event includes an intensive workshop for transboundary conservation practitioners, field trips in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and the 84th Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly.

The week-long event culminates in the annual Hands Across the Border ceremony in the shadow of iconic Chief Mountain.
People, Parks, and the Planet
Glacier NP reputation as an internationally recognized iconic PA

Glacier NP recognized as the world’s first international peace park – 1932.
Inspiration for Action

Global Transboundary Conservation Network

IUCN

WCPA World Commission on Protected Areas

NPS Centennial

Rotary – Hands Across the Border
One Person...One World...One Peace

Nobel Laureates and their peacemaking efforts

Wangari Muta Maathai, Kenya, 2004

Wangari Muta Maathai stands at the front of the fight to promote environmental content, social, economic and cultural development in Kenya and in Africa. She has taken a holistic approach to conflict resolution that embraces democracy, human rights, and women’s rights in particular. She thinks globally, and acts locally. Maathai combines science, social commitment, and active politics. She founded the Green Belt Movement, which, for nearly thirty years, has mobilized poor women to plant one million trees. Featuring green energy initiatives that empower women and that also seek to strengthen the living environment of our continent.

Jimmy Carter, USA, 2002

Jimmy Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of unifying effort to find peaceful resolutions to international conflicts, to develop universal standards for human rights and justice, and to present a vision for global peace. He established the Carter Center in 1982, which has contributed to the Nobel Peace Prize in its efforts to promote justice and democracy worldwide. Carter was elected President of the United States in 1977 and served two terms in office. He has also written several books on politics, the environment, and social development.

Kofi Annan, Ghana, 2001

Kofi Annan received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 for his efforts to resolve international conflicts and to develop universal standards for human rights and justice. He has been a leading advocate for democracy and peace in the world. Annan has been a key figure in the United Nations' efforts to promote development, security, and human rights.

Elie Wiesel, 1986

Elie Wiesel has ventured across the most important spiritual, cultural, and political landscapes of the world, from the ghettos of Eastern Europe to the internment camps of Nazi Germany. His work was based on his own personal experiences of total humiliation and the many forms of evil committed in the name of inhumanity. Elie Wiesel’s message is based on the recognition of the inacceivable suffering of the victims of the Holocaust. His work is a testimony to the importance of compassion, and a call to Action.

Martin Luther King, Jr., United States, 1964

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a key figure in the United States civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. He played a leading role in the American civil rights movement and was a prominent figure in the international civil rights movement. He was the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to the advancement of equality and the elimination of racial discrimination. King preached nonviolence as a means of achieving social change and was a central figure in the American civil rights movement.

Deng Xiaoping, People’s Republic of China, 1982

Deng Xiaoping was a key figure in the development of China’s economic reform and opening-up. Under his leadership, China began to open up to the world and implement economic reforms. As a result, China’s economy has grown rapidly, and the country has achieved significant progress in economic development.