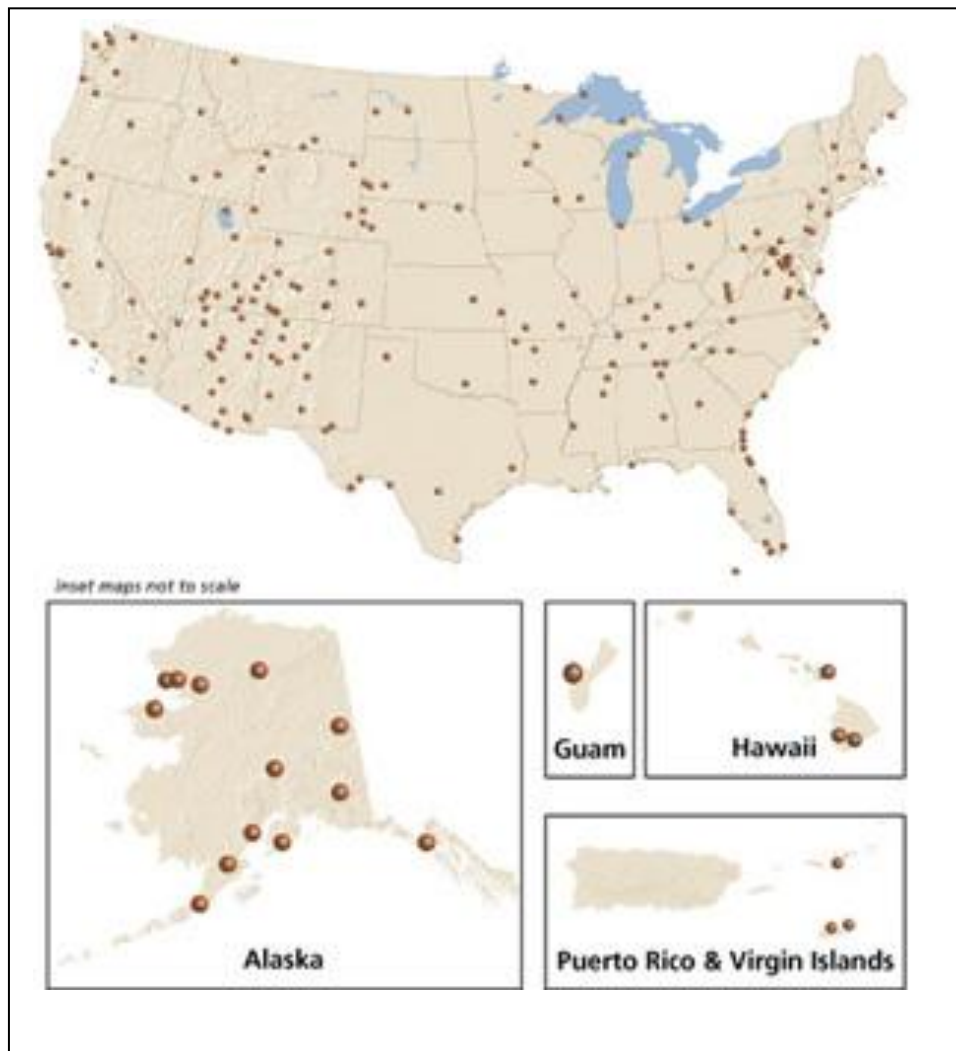


## Fossil Parks

More than 254 National Park Service areas preserve fossils ([see map](#)). At a national park, you can stand in the exact spot where a fossil tree was rooted or where a fossil animal walked millions of years ago. Some parks also preserve fossils in building stones or in association with American Indian artifacts.



Since 1916, The Organic Act has directed parks to "conserve the scenery" and natural objects, including fossils. In 2009, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act was signed into law, requiring parks to manage and protect fossils for scientific and educational values.

Fossils are irreplaceable! Fossils are non-renewable—nature is not making any more *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossils. Park staff and paleontologists work together to maintain fossils for scientific study and public education. It is exciting to find a fossil, but important to protect it. If you find a fossil in a park, leave the fossil where it is, take a photo, and share your discovery with a park ranger. Removing fossils from the sites where they were found will result in most of the interesting and valuable information about that fossil being lost forever.

National Park System units with documented paleontological resources include sites where fossils occur in-place in the rock (in situ), in museum collections, and/or within a cultural context.

## Alabama

Little River Canyon National Preserve  
Natchez Trace Parkway\* (AL, MS, TN)  
Russell Cave National Monument  
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site

## Georgia

Appalachian National Scenic Trail\* (CT, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, TN, VA, VT, WV)  
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park  
Cumberland Island National Seashore  
Fort Frederica National Monument  
Fort Pulaski National Monument  
Ocmulgee National Monument

## Florida

Big Cypress National Preserve  
Biscayne National Park  
Canaveral National Seashore  
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument  
De Soto National Memorial  
Dry Tortugas National Monument  
Everglades National Park  
Fort Matanzas National Monument  
Gulf Islands National Seashore\* (FL, MS)  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

## Mississippi

Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site  
Gulf Islands National Seashore\* (FL, MS)  
Natchez Trace Parkway\* (AL, MS, TN)  
Vicksburg National Military Park

## Tennessee

Appalachian National Scenic Trail\* (CT, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, TN, VA, VT, WV)  
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area\* (KY, TN)  
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park\* (KY, TN, VA)  
Fort Donelson National Battlefield  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park\* (NC, TN)  
Natchez Trace Parkway\* (AL, MS, TN)  
Obed Wild and Scenic River  
Shiloh National Military Park  
Stone's River National Battlefield

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### Related Links

- [Paleontological Resources Preservation Act](#)
- [Links to Paleontology Museums and Partners](#)
- [Geologic Heritage Preservation in the NPS](#)
- [Geology Parks Tour](#)
- [Official State Fossils](#)
- [Historic Documents Collection—NPS Geology](#)
- [Other Useful Resources and Links](#)

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Source: [http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/fossil\\_parks.cfm](http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/fossil_parks.cfm)