

Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."

JULIUS ROSENWALD



YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BY JULY 31

As we noted in our Special Edition Campaign Newsletter on June 30, the National Park Service (NPS) has requested public input on the special resource study (SRS) of sites associated with the life and legacy of American businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald.

Since then the NPS has posted the link to the webpage on which to submit comments on the SRS. Here it is:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=121834>

It asks commenters to respond to four questions. And submit other relevant comments. Question 2 seeks input about sites of national significance other than the four in Illinois and the ten Rosenwald Schools cited in the legislation that mandated the SRS.

This is a vital opportunity for all supporters of creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park to submit comments and answer the questions that are relevant to them.

Anyone wishing to provide information on additional sites should respond to Question 2.

The comment period ends on **July 31, 2022.**

The following are some talking points you may wish to consider in formulating your responses:

The life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools are of national historical significance, and the planned National Park will be an important enhancement to the National Park System.

The planned National Park will be first to commemorate the life and legacy of a Jewish American, the first to tell the story of the Rosenwald Schools and their dramatic impact on African American education in the Jim Crow South, the first to highlight Black-Jewish partnerships in the early twentieth century, and the first to address the practice of philanthropy in the United States. It will fill existing gaps in the National Park System.

The proposed Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park should be established with a visitor center in Chicago where Rosenwald lived, worked and oversaw his philanthropy and a small number of Rosenwald Schools in several southern states to reach a broad audience of Americans with whom the story of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools will resonate.

There is extensive support across the country for creating the Park. As of July 1, 2022, 148 non-profit organizations have expressed official support. They represent a robust and diverse range of constituencies. Importantly, friends' groups for a number of Rosenwald Schools have expressed support for creating the Park.

The son of German Jewish immigrants, Julius Rosenwald helped make Sears, Roebuck the retailing powerhouse of the first half of the twentieth century and used his immense fortune to benefit others, in particular over half a million African American children who in the age of Jim Crow attended the schools he helped fund.

The role of the Rosenwald Schools in educating one-third of African Americans in the segregated South demonstrates the key importance of education to our society in providing people equal opportunity to a better life.

Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington forged a strong partnership and abiding friendship that led to the construction of nearly 5,000 Rosenwald Schools in 15 southern states. Their collaboration led to the subsequent meaningful partnerships with the African American communities that also contributed to building the nearly 5,000 schools.

One of the hallmarks of Rosenwald's philanthropy was the use of challenge grants, including those used to help fund 24 YMCAs for African Americans in 24 cities, as well as the nearly 5,000 Rosenwald Schools. In all such cases, his contribution was contingent upon the recipient communities raising a certain amount of the cost of the project.

While the main focus of Julius Rosenwald's philanthropy was helping African Americans to lead a better life, he also gave generously to Jewish causes, supported Jane Addams Hull House and was the founding donor of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. He was a visionary philanthropist.

This compelling story of generosity and interracial cooperation is particularly meaningful now. The evidence is clear that the proposed National Historical Park should be established. It is requested that it be created as quickly as possible.

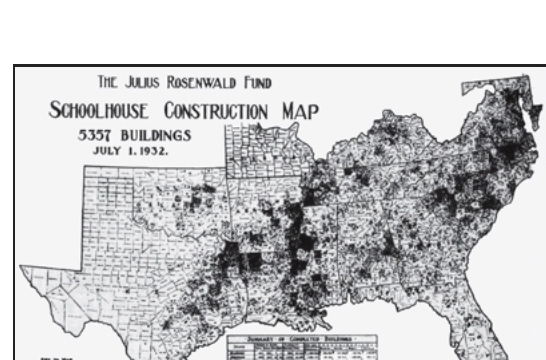
The Rosenwald Park Campaign will be submitting responses to all four questions, as well as overall comments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org.

NOW IS THE TIME TO USE YOUR VOICE TO HELP CREATE A NEW NATIONAL PARK.

Thank you for your continuing support.



DONATE

We need your support to create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

For questions and suggestions, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.