

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5719

To establish the Black Panther Party National Historical Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Ms. LEE of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Black Panther Party National Historical Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Black Panther Party
5 National Historical Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The Black Panther Party was an integral
9 part of the civil rights movement and its history and
10 influence is nationally significant.

1 (2) The United States government has not pro-
2 vided a publicly accessible space to learn about the
3 history of the Black Panther Party and their con-
4 tributions to social progress nationwide.

5 (3) National Park Service has the opportunity
6 to engage with a large new audience and tell a more
7 holistic history of the United States by interpreting
8 the histories of people of color.

9 (4) The Black Panther Party, originally called
10 the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, was es-
11 tablished in Oakland, California in 1966 by Huey P.
12 Newton (Minister of Defense from 1966–1981) and
13 Bobby Seale (Chairman of the Black Panther Party
14 from 1966–1974), who met at Merritt College in
15 Oakland. Oakland, California, was the home of the
16 Black Panther Party, which came to include more
17 than forty chapters around the United States and
18 numerous others elsewhere in the world.

19 (5) The Black Panther Party was founded in
20 Oakland, California, to address systemic poverty and
21 protect the Black community from police brutality.
22 Although they intended on being a local organiza-
23 tion, communities across the country were empow-
24 ered by their message and services, leading to the

1 establishment of over 40 chapters across the United
2 States and many multi-racial and class coalitions.

3 (6) DeFremery Park is perhaps Oakland’s best
4 known site for many of the Black Panther Party’s
5 free community programs, political demonstrations,
6 rallies, and fundraisers. Panthers and community
7 members continue to hold a myriad of programs and
8 direct services at DeFremery Park to commemorate
9 this legacy.

10 (7) In 1973, the Black Panther Party estab-
11 lished the Oakland Community School, an elemen-
12 tary school that took a holistic approach to edu-
13 cation, centered around Black history, encouraged
14 civic participation, fed students, and performed
15 health screenings. California is now in the process of
16 establishing “community schools” statewide.

17 (8) Starting in 1968, the Black Panther Party
18 established dozens of free medical clinics across the
19 United States. Then through those clinics, in 1970
20 the Black Panther Party launched the first nation-
21 wide sickle cell anemia testing program, which di-
22 rectly influenced Congress’ decision to pass the Na-
23 tional Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act of 1972.

24 (9) In January 1969, the Black Panther Party
25 created the first “Free Breakfast for School Chil-

1 dren Program” in the Nation, eventually feeding
2 hundreds of thousands of children across the United
3 States and becoming a model for today’s Federal
4 school breakfast program.

5 (10) David Hilliard and Fredrika Newton es-
6 tablished the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation to
7 educate both the local community and visitors from
8 around the world on the history and principles of the
9 Black Panther Party and its co-founder Dr. Huey P.
10 Newton.

11 (11) The cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and Rich-
12 mond unanimously adopted resolutions urging the
13 National Park Service to conduct a reconnaissance
14 survey to determine the appropriateness of a Na-
15 tional Park Service unit to recognize the historical
16 significance and contributions of the Black Panther
17 Party. The resolutions also urge President Biden to
18 use the results of the survey to establish a National
19 Park unit including a Visitors Center and Museum
20 through the Antiquities Act. These are the first 3
21 cities in the United States to adopt such resolutions.

22 (12) On February 17, 2021, Ninth Street at
23 the intersection of Mandela Parkway in Oakland,
24 California, was renamed after the Black Panther
25 Party co-founder: Dr. Huey P. Newton Way.

1 (13) On March 4, 2021, Congresswoman Bar-
2 bara Lee requested the National Park Service
3 launch a reconnaissance survey in regard to the
4 Black Panther Party, especially with regard to the
5 sites in and around Oakland, California, that would
6 be suitable for National Historical Park designation.

7 (14) On January 10, 2022, the bust of Dr.
8 Huey P. Newton was unveiled at Dr. Huey P. New-
9 ton Way and Mandela Parkway, near the spot where
10 Newton was murdered in 1989.

11 (15) On July 19, 2022, Oakland City Council
12 unanimously approved the Dr. Huey P. Newton
13 Foundation to enter into a lease agreement with the
14 City Administrator to establish the Black Panther
15 Party Museum.

16 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

17 The purposes of the National Historical Park are—

18 (1) to preserve and protect for the benefit of
19 present and future generations the nationally signifi-
20 cant historic resources associated with the Black
21 Panther Party;

22 (2) to improve public understanding of the leg-
23 acy of the Black Panther Party through interpreta-
24 tion of the historic resources associated with the
25 Black Panther Party; and

1 (3) to enhance public access to preserve and
2 protect the historically significant resources associ-
3 ated with the Black Panther Party.

4 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—The term
7 “National Historical Park” means the Black Pan-
8 ther Party National Historical Park established by
9 section 5(a)(1).

10 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
11 titled _____, numbered _____, and dated
12 _____.

13 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
15 rector of the National Park Service.

16 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY**
17 **NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
20 there is established the Black Panther Party Na-
21 tional Historical Park in the State of California, as
22 a unit of the National Park System, to preserve and
23 educate the history and impact of the Black Panther
24 Party and the nationally significant role it played in
25 the history of the United States.

1 (2) CONDITIONS.—The National Historical
2 Park shall not be established until the date on which
3 the Secretary acquires sufficient land within the
4 boundaries of the National Historical Park to con-
5 stitute a manageable unit.

6 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the National
7 Historical Park shall be the boundaries generally depicted
8 on the Map.

9 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file
10 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
11 fices of the National Park Service.

12 (d) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary may include
13 in the National Historical Park boundary any resources
14 that are the subject of an agreement under subsection (g).

15 (e) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—On the acquisition of
16 additional land or interests in land or on entering an
17 agreement under subsection (g), the boundary of the Na-
18 tional Historical Park shall be adjusted to reflect the ac-
19 quisition or agreement by publishing a National Historical
20 Park boundary map in the Federal Register. The map
21 shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate
22 offices of the National Park Service.

23 (f) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire
24 any land or interest in land located within the boundary
25 of the National Historical Park, by—

1 (1) donation;

2 (2) purchase with donated or appropriated
3 funds; or

4 (3) exchange.

5 (g) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
7 into a cooperative agreement with the city of Oak-
8 land, the State of California, political subdivisions of
9 the State of California, institutions of higher edu-
10 cation, nonprofit organizations (such as the Huey P.
11 Newton Foundation), and individuals for the pur-
12 poses of carrying out this Act.

13 (2) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

14 (A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
15 of the total cost of any activity carried out
16 under a cooperative agreement entered into
17 under paragraph (1) shall be not more than 50
18 percent.

19 (B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The
20 non-Federal share may be in the form of in-
21 kind contributions or goods or services fairly
22 valued.

23 (h) RELATED SITES.—The Secretary may provide
24 technical assistance, visitor services, interpretive tours,
25 and educational programs to sites and resources associ-

1 ated with the purposes for which the National Historical
2 Park is established.

3 (i) ADMINISTRATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
5 ister the National Historical Park in accordance
6 with—

7 (A) this Act; and

8 (B) the laws generally applicable to units
9 of the National Park System.

10 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

11 (A) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—Not
12 later than 3 years after the date on which funds
13 are made available to carry out this subsection,
14 the Secretary shall prepare a general manage-
15 ment plan for the National Historical Park—

16 (i) in consultation with the States and
17 other interested parties; and

18 (ii) in accordance with section 100502
19 of title 54, United States Code.

20 (B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—On com-
21 pletion of the general management plan under
22 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit
23 that general management plan to the Com-
24 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of

- 1 Representatives and the Committee on Energy
- 2 and Natural Resources of the Senate.

