

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Railroad Museum to Debut Compelling New Exhibit Titled “California State Parks, 150 Years” on December 21**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to debut an all-new exhibit titled “California State Parks, 150 Years: A Gift from the People, to the People” on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Timed to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of California State Parks in 2014, the exhibit will feature compelling and diverse historic images of parks along with a variety of cultural and natural history objects of importance to State Parks.

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit will be located in the front lobby of the Railroad Museum – North America’s most popular railroad museum – and will offer an opportunity for visitors to gain a greater appreciation for historic milestones and the important role State Parks plays in California’s history and identity. In fact, on June 30, 1864, and in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, protecting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove and ceding them to the State of California as the nation’s first State Park. While Yosemite is now a National Park, it did mark the beginning of the State Parks movement. The landmark act -- the first instance of park land being set aside specifically for preservation and public use by action of the federal government -- created a legacy for California and the nation, and the entire world.

Through numerous name changes the Department of Parks and Recreation has continued to grow. It now oversees 280 units including parks, historic parks, beaches, recreation areas, vehicular recreation areas and natural reserves. The parks serve more than 70 million visitors annually from throughout California, the U.S. and around the globe, making California State Parks the biggest and most visited state park system in the world.

The “California State Parks, 150 Years” exhibit will remain on display at the Railroad Museum through 2014. For more information about the California State Railroad Museum, please visit [www.csrmmf.org](http://www.csrmmf.org) or call 916-445-6645.

### **About the California State Railroad Museum**

*Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Widely regarded as North America’s finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit [www.csrmmf.org](http://www.csrmmf.org) or call (916) 445-6645.*