



Biography
Margaret O'Dell
Deputy Director of Operations
National Park Service

In January 2011, Director Jon Jarvis selected Margaret “Peggy” O’Dell to serve as the Deputy Director of Operations for the National Park Service. Prior to assuming her current position, O’Dell served as the Regional Director of the National Capitol Region

O’Dell began her career with the National Park Service as a seasonal interpreter at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) while attending college at the University of Missouri – St. Louis where she earned a B.A. in History. In 1982, she resigned from the NPS to follow her husband, Ben, to Olympic National Park and to raise their children. They transferred to Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1985 and O’Dell returned to the National Park Service to manage the park’s interpretation and education programs.

While completing a Mid-Level Management Development program, she accepted the Management Assistant position at Ozark with major responsibilities in concessions and project management. Following this assignment, she transferred to Custer, South Dakota and spent two years as Superintendent of Jewel Cave National Monument.

Following her superintendency at Jewel Cave, Ms. O’Dell served as the Deputy Manager at Harpers Ferry Center, the media design center for the NPS in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. She returned to Jefferson National Expansion Memorial as Superintendent from 2004 to 2007, where her efforts focused on strengthening the working relationship with community organizations.

O’Dell graduated from the Department of the Interior’s Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program in May of 2006. As part of her training, she served a six month detail to the Washington D.C.-based Council on Environmental Quality to coordinate the first-ever White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. In 2007 she was selected to serve as the Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.

O’Dell and her husband Ben have three children: Katherine, Anne, and Timothy.