

On Politics And Parks: People, Places, Politics, Parks - George Lambert Bristol

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When George Bristol first saw the mountains surrounding East Glacier, Montana, in the early summer of 1961, he was, in his own words, awed to his depths. Thus began a love affair with nature and public parks that has endured for more than fifty years. This same love affair would lead Bristol to become a crusader for Americas national parks and, later, to be largely credited for the rescue of the ailing public park system in his home state. In *On Politics and Parks*, Bristol tells his own story in lively prose that includes many intriguing peeks at behind-the-scenes events in Washington, Austin, and elsewhere. Beginning with his upbringing by a widowed young mother with a passion for music and literature, he narrates the converging of influences that led him to an influential political career, including active involvement in national campaigns for Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Lloyd Bentsen, and Jimmy Carter. After working for the Democratic National Committee and Bill Clintons 1992 presidential campaign, Bristol was asked to join President Clintons administration. However, what he really wanted was a place on the board of the National Park Foundation (NPF). With decades-old images of Glacier still burning brightly in his memory, he helped spearhead efforts to elevate the image of the National Park Service and helped establish a highly successful fundraising strategy for the NPF, giving both organizations greater national awareness and stature. Having acquired a well-earned reputation for fundraising and effective advocacy, Bristol soon began to do for his home state what he had done for the NPF: solidify support and funding for the Texas park system. Over ten years and five legislative sessions, Bristol, through the Texas Coalition for Conservation, the nonprofit organization he founded, fought for the full claim of Texas state parks to the sporting goods tax. Utilizing his many contacts, his well-honed political sense, and his dogged patience, he forged an alliance that would win the day for everyone who loves the states public lands. In 2007, in the last bill passed on the last day of the session, the Texas legislature nearly doubled the operating budget for parks. *On Politics and Parks* is at once a lesson in conservation history and a captivating personal memoir that will inform, entertain, and inspire all those who share Bristols love for the unspoiled beauty of the outdoors and his commitment to preserve that

beauty for future generations. Author: Bristol, George Lambert Publisher: Texas A&M University Press
Illustration: Y Language: ENG Title: On Politics and Parks: People, Places, Politics, Parks Pages: 00400
(Encrypted EPUB) / 00400 (Encrypted PDF) On Sale: 2012-09-03 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781603447621 Lib
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