



National Office of Outdoor Recreation

Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

About the Office

The National Park Service (NPS) Office of Outdoor Recreation is a resource, a central point of contact, a partner, and a leader in setting the standard for sustainable, accessible, equitable, and welcoming outdoor recreation management across the NPS.

What We Do

We bring together the resources that are needed to provide consistent management for sustainable, accessible, equitable, responsible, welcoming, and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities, experiences, and visitor services across the NPS and with partners.

How

The national office is a collaborative leader delivering a coordinated suite of services to further the outdoor recreation mission of the NPS through:

- Designating regional Recreation & Tourism Liaisons representing each NPS region;
- Leveraging a network of skilled outdoor recreation professionals;
- Coordinating outdoor recreation policies and management with federal, state, and local agencies, state offices of outdoor recreation and tourism, stakeholders, and entities;
- Disseminating information and increasing awareness of emerging technology, trends, research, economic impact, policy, and legislative updates;
- Synthesizing efforts with programs and teams across the NPS and federal government (e.g., planning, work groups, tourism, concessions, etc.);
- Aligning outdoor recreation funding opportunities;
- Pursuing more inclusive and diverse recreation partnerships and collaborations;
- Engaging with and supporting gateway and surrounding communities;
- Improving capacity by providing support to visitors, parks, and professionals;
- Working across boundaries to promote large landscape conservation; and
- Providing programmatic support and leadership.



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Why

Through its lands, waters, designated areas, and the surrounding system of connected landscapes, the NPS is recognized as one of the **premiere providers of outdoor recreation in the world**.

There is a **growing need for sustainable, accessible, equitable, and welcoming nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities** for the public which is being felt and seen in our parks and communities across the country.

Outdoor recreation is one of the **largest economic generators to the U.S. economy** and often for surrounding gateway and rural communities. These natural, cultural, and historic resources are vitally important to the surrounding places, environment, economy, and the health and quality of life for people.

Vision

The NPS envisions the conservation of our nation's natural and cultural resources balanced with the provision of a wide range of sustainable, accessible, equitable, and welcoming outdoor recreation experiences for enjoyment by all.

Goals

- Establish a regional and national network around outdoor recreation and tourism in the NPS to facilitate organizational awareness and understanding of sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism management and partnership principles.
- Engage with and build collaborative relationships with federal agencies, state, regional, and local outdoor recreation and tourism government offices, organizations, and partners.
- Develop and provide the field with tools, research, best practices, and other resources to support sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism planning and management, and partnerships.
- Support NPS engagement in collaborative efforts that enhance equitable public access, improve the visitor experience, and protect cultural, historical, and environmental resources.
- Support the NPS in fostering and building strong relationships with their gateway communities to enhance local coordination, support local economies, and enhance regional connectivity for conservation, outdoor recreation, and tourism.

Engage with Us!

Contact us at Recreation@nps.gov

