



Trustees
FOR THE PARKS

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PERSEVERANCE
PAYS OFF FOR BISCAYNE

A SUCCESS OF
MAMMOTH PROPORTIONS

RIVER WARRIORS
CONNECT WITH PARKS





CENTENNIAL COUNTDOWN

There's nothing wrong with starting a party early — especially when it's a celebration of something as wonderful and uniquely American as our national parks. So I am thrilled that commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service are underway.

August 25th of next year will be the official centennial date. But the 12 months leading up to that milestone are going to be filled with special commemorations. It will be a time for *looking back* at our national parks' rich history, *looking around* to appreciate and enjoy those remarkable places, and *looking ahead* to a spectacular second century of inspiration, courtesy of America's best idea.

You can do all three in the pages of this Trustees for the Parks newsletter. I encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting on the big win for Biscayne National Park ... learning about unique initiatives to help wounded veterans experience national parks ... and looking forward to the day when every park achieves zero landfill status through improved waste management practices.

It's all work made possible by the leadership support you provide to NPCA.

Thank you!

Clark Bunting
President and CEO



The zero landfill team tours the recycling operations at Signal Mountain Lodge, Grand Teton National Park.

Courtesy of DRIVE Magazine

ZEROING IN ON WASTE

Everyone involved in NPCA's work puts a great deal of effort into protecting America's national parks. Our latest ambitious new initiative, however, focuses on reducing what is left behind in these special places — specifically, trash.

Last year, the National Park Service dealt with more than 100 million pounds of waste generated by visitors and normal operations of the parks. That's equivalent to the weight of approximately 8,333 small RVs. That doesn't include the waste produced by park concessionaires who provide food, lodging, transportation and other services to park visitors.

Nearly half of all that trash goes to landfills, making national parks significant contributors to a growing environmental problem. NPCA is partnering with Subaru of America, the National Park Service and its concessionaires to make national parks part of the solution by implementing zero landfill goals in three iconic parks: Yosemite, Grand Teton and Denali.

Waste Management Dream Team

Subaru, known for both its quality vehicles and long-standing environmental ethic, brings unmatched zero landfill experience to this public-private partnership. It is the first company to create an automobile assembly plant that sends absolutely no waste to landfills. They have shared their zero landfill expertise with other corporations, including Boeing and Coca-Cola, and are now doing the same to help lessen national parks' environmental footprint.

NPCA brings decades of experience speaking for these special places. Through the creation of its innovative Center for Park Management best practices for park management have been developed and implemented across the vast network of national parks. Alan Bethke, Vice President, Marketing, Subaru of America, recalls that when the company first contemplated this project, "we realized we would need a partner with experience and presence in the parks. Without NPCA's participation, the chances of this effort succeeding would be very limited."

Of course, there would be no chance of getting parks to zero landfill status without the involvement of the National Park Service. So the enthusiastic participation of park superintendents, rangers, maintenance personnel and other staff has been crucial to the successful launch of this initiative.

Garbage In, Garbage Out

Before developing recommendations on the best ways to reduce waste coming into national parks on any given day, NPCA and its partners had to determine how much and what sort of potential waste was being collected in Yosemite, Grand Teton and Denali national parks. Accordingly, a hands-on, messy and frankly odiferous waste stream analysis has now been completed in each park.

Commonly discarded items include plastic water bottles, food wrappers, paper plates and towels, coolers, well-worn maps, worn-out hiking boots, and gas stove canisters.

Larger, and fortunately less frequently left behind trash — including king size mattresses, truck tires and cars — underscored the enormity of the challenge of getting to zero landfill status.

Hayley Mortimer, Vice President of NPCA's Center for Park Management led the waste stream analysis for each pilot park and came away with two realizations. "First, people really need to pay attention to the advice 'leave no trace.' One person tossing an empty water bottle might not seem like much. But seven million people visit Yosemite, Grand Teton and Denali every year so their trash really adds up fast. Second, there can't be a one-size-fits-all approach in these pilot parks or any other. The types of trash, distances from recycling facilities and other factors mean we have to tailor zero landfill strategies to get the job done."

Getting to Zero

Although Mortimer's conclusions are correct and shared by the entire zero landfill team, several common denominator solutions have emerged.

- Greatly expanding public education campaigns to make park visitors aware of their impact on parks' waste streams, including an emphasis on bringing refillable water bottles and utilizing convenient filling stations.

- Installing more and better labeled recycling receptacles next to park garbage cans as well as at other locations frequented by large numbers of visitors.
- Encouraging concessioners and other suppliers to be more proactive in reducing the amount of packaging they use to send products to the parks.
- Increasing the recycling and composting capacities of local landfills utilized by park staff.
- Introducing wildlife-resistant composting technology to better accommodate park visitors' staggering amount of food waste.

How rapidly such solutions can be implemented depends on adequate funding for parks, which is never fully ensured and always a struggle to secure. But with the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park System nearing, there literally is no time to waste.

NPCA is continuing to make that point to members of Congress, while Subaru of America is generously stepping up with "Innovation Grants" to help pilot parks follow through on waste reduction recommendations — furthering public-private teamwork that will one day add up to zero.

Morgan Heim

Even with recycling receptacles, trash still has to be sorted by hand due to visitor misunderstanding. Fairbanks recycling center serving Denali National Park & Preserve.



Grand Tetons National Park
Courtesy of DRIVE Magazine

“
WITHOUT
NPCA'S
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— ALAN BETHKE,
VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING,
SUBARU OF AMERICA

STRENGTHEN NPCA AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL PARKS

Building the future of our national park system requires dedication to the issues facing the national parks. As the sole organization focused on protecting and strengthening the national parks, NPCA has depended on the commitment and strength of its loyal members for its achievements over the last 96 years.

MAKE A GIFT

Give today and support NPCA's most critical programs. Please contact Eric Olson at 202.454.3331, eolson@npca.org, or visit www.npca.org/trustees.

CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT

With numerous ways to make and fund a planned gift, you can increase your current income, diversify your holdings, reduce your taxes, and avoid probate costs. Please contact Morgan Dodd, toll-free at 877.468.5775 or mdodd@npca.org.

TRAVEL WITH US

Check off a few more national parks from your list! Join one of NPCA's small group tours in partnership with Off the Beaten Path. Most tours are limited to 16 participants, with two guides. Please contact Ben Sander at 202.454.3305, bsander@npca.org, or visit www.npca.org/travel.

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Cover Photo: Local landfills outside of parks have to manage visitor waste. Denali National Park & Preserve in background.

photo credit: Morgan Heim



© Caroline McLaughlin/NPCA

Porcupine Fish in Biscayne National Park

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF FOR BISCAYNE

Through 15 years of planning, scientific analysis and advocacy, NPCA never stopped fighting to protect Biscayne National Park's water and wildlife. Our determined efforts paid off in June when the National Park Service announced the creation of a marine reserve within the park.

Biscayne National Park is part of the third largest barrier reef tract in the world and is the largest marine park in the National Park System. It shelters some of the only living reef left in the continental United States, but has not been adequately protected itself.

The new marine reserve will cover 16 square miles — only about six percent of the park's waters — but is large enough to give ailing reefs and dwindling fish populations a fighting chance to recover from reckless exploitation.

Biscayne has been overfished for decades,

with the park's renowned coral reefs and marine species in a steady state of decline. The park once flourished with gray snapper and black grouper, but both species have dropped to historic lows and are now rarely seen. In addition to preserving natural beauty and abundance just off south Florida's Atlantic coast, Biscayne pumps \$45 million into the state's economy by supporting recreational activities such as fishing, boating and snorkeling.

Environmental, economic and aesthetic arguments were all part of NPCA's case for creating a marine reserve in the park. NPCA members drove the message home with more than 20,000 messages delivered and actions taken in support of stronger protections for Biscayne.

NPCA Biscayne program analyst Caroline McLaughlin hailed this hard-won victory as soon as the National Park Service announced

the creation of the marine reserve. "This decision has been a long time coming and we are thrilled that a hopeful day for our coral reefs has finally arrived."

Everyone at NPCA is thrilled to have prevailed at long last, and grateful for the staying power of Trustees for the Parks.

Find out more at npca.org/biscayne.



Snorkelers on Elkhorn Coral

NPS/John Brooks

A SUCCESS OF MAMMOTH PROPORTIONS

Here is a riddle from NPCA Senior Director, Regional Operations Suzanne Dixon: What stands taller than a one-story building, eats more in one day than a person eats in four months and is 68,000 years old? The answer is a Columbian mammoth — one of at least 24 Ice Age giants now starring at the newest national park site.

Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas protects the site of the largest known concentration of Columbian mammoths, dying from the same event, in North America. Thanks to the coordinated, cooperative efforts of Waco community members and conservationists, it is also the latest addition to the National Park System.

North America's first and still only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths — mothers, young calves and juveniles — began in 1978 with two men searching for arrowheads near the Bosque River. It is a unique find of international importance as Waco Mammoth is one of the richest Ice Age fossil beds anywhere in the world.

Suzanne Dixon points out the new national monument, "will benefit the city's economy as well as schoolchildren,

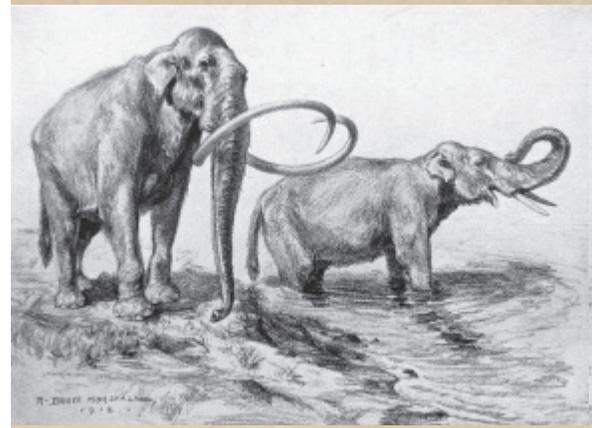
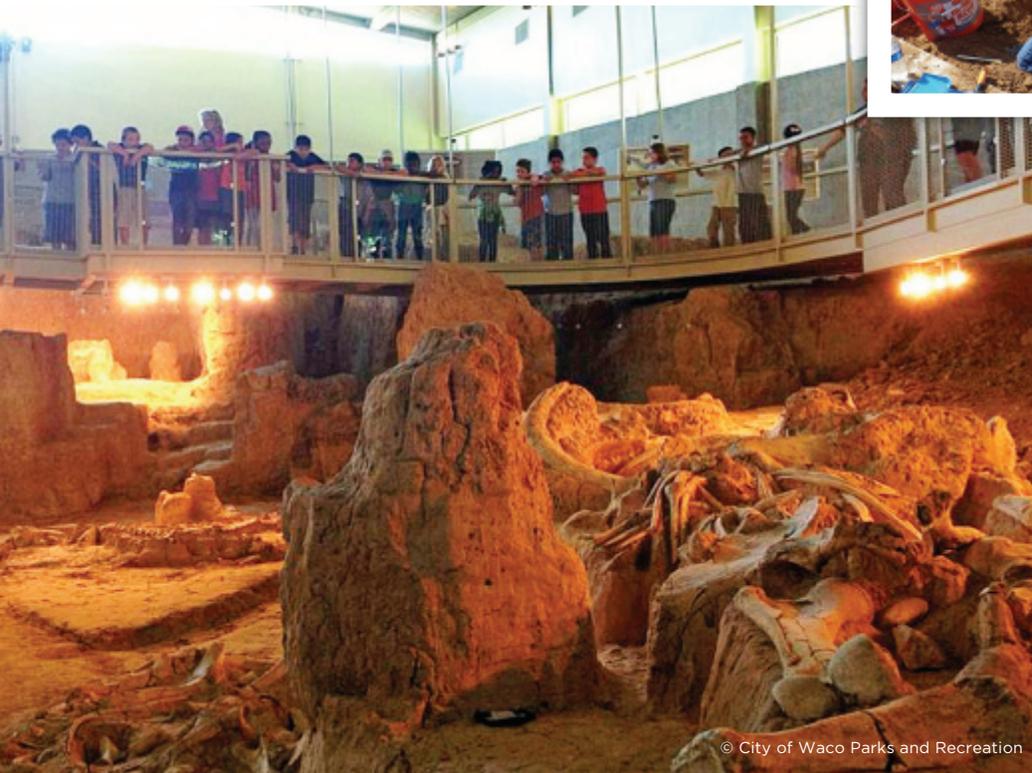
scientists and other visitors. Waco Mammoth is a window to a world lost long ago and a classic site for inclusion in our National Park System."

National monument designation for the site is the result of creative and committed citizens joining together to preserve natural and historical landmarks. Years of hard work by NPCA staff, Baylor University, the City of Waco and the Waco Mammoth Foundation have resulted in permanent protection of an American archeological treasure.

In addition to the 24 Columbian mammoth fossil remains already identified, crews have discovered the remains of a camel, bison and the tooth of a juvenile saber-toothed cat.

Those fossilized links to North America's wild past led one student on a recent field trip to declare Waco Mammoth, "the coolest place ever!" Now thousands of other visitors, of all ages, will have an opportunity to discover the "coolest" aspects of history, science and America's national parks.

A school group observes fossils at the new Waco Mammoth National Monument



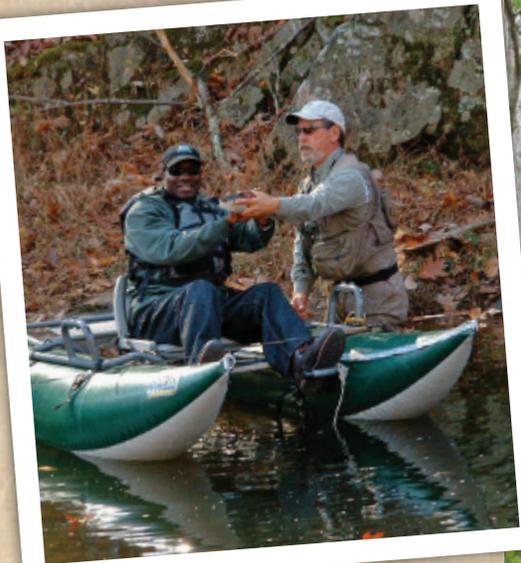
Restoration of a pair of Columbian mammoths by a lake

Robert Bruce Horsfall, 1912



Students learn how to dig for fossils at the Waco Mammoth Excavation Station

City of Waco



People who use wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices now have improved access to the trails and waters of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

RIVER WARRIORS CONNECT WITH PARKS

“My definition of access is a little different from others’,” explains Mark Andrews, founder and executive director of Therapeutic Adventures, while scrambling down a bed of rocks along the Moormans River near Charlottesville, Virginia. “We could get wheelchairs down this bank, maybe even people with prosthetics — folks with advanced prosthetics move around better than you and I can.”

Mark is standing on a muddy streambed in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, right outside Shenandoah National Park. In this remote fishing spot, the only sounds are the gentle ebbing of the river against the rocks or the splash of a jumping speckled brook trout.

This isn’t just a fishing spot, however. This path, known as the John Kostanecki Memorial Trail, is a project that provides adaptive access for nature lovers with mobility issues who otherwise would not be able to enjoy Shenandoah’s pristine waters.

The initiative, “Paths to Happiness,” is a project of Therapeutic Adventures and the Thomas Jefferson chapter of Trout Unlimited. Volunteers

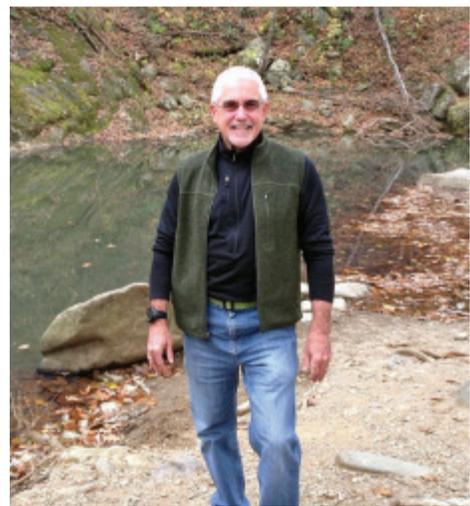
have devoted more than 200 hours to grading, widening, and mulching the trail to make it easier for people with wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices to use it. By improving access to a stretch of the river, the group has created new park experiences for people with special needs — and reconnected wounded veterans with activities such as fly fishing and paddling.

Mark is a seasoned recreational therapist. Both he and “Chubby” Damron, president of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Trout Unlimited, provide programs connecting wounded veterans and individuals with disabilities with national parks. This partnership offers adaptive outdoor programs in parks for thousands of disabled veterans. Activities include everything from canoeing and climbing to skiing and snowboarding.

“We believe it’s imperative to support our soldiers and their families. National parks are not only beautiful places to explore nature and recreate — they are places of healing,” says Andrews.

NPCA is also committed to improving access to national parks for people of different abilities. Last November, NPCA supported the “Fly Fishing Festy,” an event which provided lessons on adaptive fly fishing as well as therapeutic programs. In May, NPCA volunteers joined an effort to build accessible trails along the Moormans River in Shenandoah National Park.

— Adapted from parkadvocate.org



Mark Andrews, founder and executive director of Therapeutic Adventures



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Vince Hoenigman

WHAT'S IN A NAME? LOVE?

Vince Hoenigman has acted on his love for national parks in a variety of ways: as a leading NPCA Trustee for the Parks, by serving on our National Board and as a founding member of our Pacific Regional Council. But naming his daughter after one of his favorite parks really shows how serious Vince is about making national parks a family affair.

Nine-year-old Bryce Hoenigman recently experienced her namesake, Bryce Canyon National Park, along with the rest of her family. Like all other visitors, she came away impressed and eager to return for more adventures.

Vince's affinity for national parks and the great outdoors in general began as a child. During his youth in southern California, he took full advantage of recreational opportunities in nearby parks while developing respect for nature's wonders and a sense of stewardship, both of which endure to this day. "My love for parks really

started when my family took a trip to Yosemite when I was about 12. It's one of the most memorable experiences from my childhood. After moving to San Francisco I made it a point to visit Yosemite at least once a year — and bring all my friends so they could experience and love it like I do."

Now a resident of San Francisco and co-founder of a real estate company that helps people live in harmony with their environment, Vince likens America's national parks to the famed cathedrals and castles of Europe. "Our national parks protect our greatest national treasures and hold some of our greatest personal memories, which is why it's our responsibility to protect them for future generations."

Vince does his part for the parks through his involvement in NPCA's work. He says he is proud to be associated with NPCA because, "it's science-based, bipartisan and fully engaged at every level — in the parks and surrounding communities, regionally and in Washington, DC where crucial funding decisions are made."

We are grateful for Vince's full engagement in our park protection efforts and proud that he is an active member of the NPCA family.



Outside El Tovar Hotel, Grand Canyon National Park

“

OUR NATIONAL PARKS ARE UNIQUELY AMERICAN. THAT MAKES THEM OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

— VINCE HOENIGMAN





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SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

FOR TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS AND FRIENDS

SAVE THE DATES

New York Gala: *From Sequoia to Stonewall: Telling America's Story*

New York City
November 5, 2015
npca.org/nygala

Hundreds of park supporters from around the country will show their support for America's national parks and present the National Park Achievement Award to Tim Gill and Bill Walter.



 **SAVE
THE DATE**
Park Champions Luncheon

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Park Champions Luncheon

Minneapolis
November 10, 2015
npca.org/champions

The 2015 Park Champions Luncheon features Jack Steward and Colton Smith of the TV show Rock the Park, and will honor members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation.



 **SAVE
THE DATE**
New York Gala