

# NPCA

## MILESTONES

JULY 2013-JUNE 2014



National Mall & Memorial Parks © creed/ISTOCKPHOTO

## *Keeping You in Touch with the Power of Your Philanthropy*

**A**s we close the 2013–2014 business year, we thank you and reflect on the many milestones and victories made possible by the support of park philanthropists like you. This report highlights but a small selection of our accomplishments over the past 12 months—our attempt to illustrate the impact of your investment in National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) as the leading voice for America’s national parks.

Your gifts are building a legacy that will benefit NPCA and the nation for generations to come. As you read this report, we hope you take pleasure and find satisfaction in the role you have played in transforming the national parks and enriching lives.

**“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.”**

— Theodore Roosevelt  
26th U.S. President



The Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure on the Anacostia River © Ed Stierli/NPCA

## Restoring Clean Air and Water

**C**lean air and water give life to our national parks. These resources are necessary to all life forms, and the threats they face are not contained within the boundaries of national parks. NPCA recognizes that the health of national parks, as well as the people, wildlife, and plant life living within and around them, is directly linked to the health of the air and water in surrounding areas.

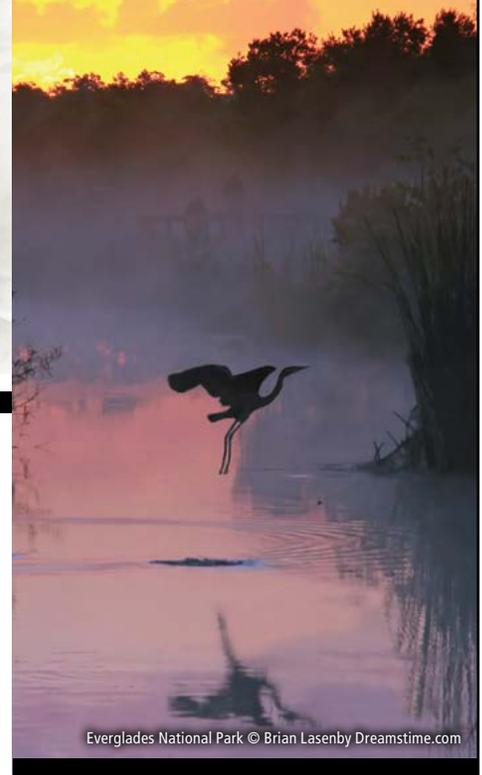
NPCA continues to address these issues on all fronts, and from the Great Basin to the Great Smoky Mountains, the health of water and air in and around our national parks is improving due to NPCA's dedication.

NPCA latest achievements include:

- Pressed Congress to renew Great Lakes restoration funding through our leadership in the Healing Our Waters Coalition. Funding will protect the Great Lakes from invasive species, pollution and toxic chemicals, and restore wetlands in and around the region's nine national parks.
- Fueled by our advocacy, the state of Florida and National Park Service committed funds for the next span of bridging the Tamiami Trail. This project is critical to restoring Everglades freshwater flow for marine wildlife and nesting colonies of birds.
- Persuaded EPA to analyze the impacts of industrial mining near Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The EPA's findings triggered protective action and temporarily halted permitting of a massive copper and gold mine that threatens Alaska's legendary Bristol Bay salmon run.
- Applauded the National Park Service's final winter-use rule for Yellowstone National Park that limits snowmobile and snow coach use, something NPCA has actively supported for more than a decade. This victory will significantly reduce air and noise pollution in America's first national park.
- Celebrated the decision by the Tennessee Valley Authority to close eight coal-fired power plants, yet another result of an historic 2011 agreement with one of the nation's biggest users of coal for electricity generation. NPCA, along with its partners, have toiled for years for cleaner air and a healthier environment in southeastern states. As a result, air quality has visibly improved in the Great Smoky Mountains.
- Witnessed the largest run of Chinook salmon in decades following removal of the Elwha Dam on the Elwha River. Salmon—and other fish that mature in the ocean and return to rivers to spawn—once again have access to spawning and rearing habitat, much of it within Olympic National Park.
- Stopped a proposed pipeline that would have drawn billions of gallons of water in and around Great Basin National Park and piped it nearly 300 miles south to Las Vegas.
- Successfully advocated for BP oil spill restoration dollars to benefit Florida's Gulf Island National Seashore.
- Bolstered by NPCA's long-time advocacy, 16 southwestern national parks and wilderness areas will benefit from improved air quality thanks to the closure of three units of the Four Corners Power Plant, the single largest source of nitrogen oxide pollution in the country.

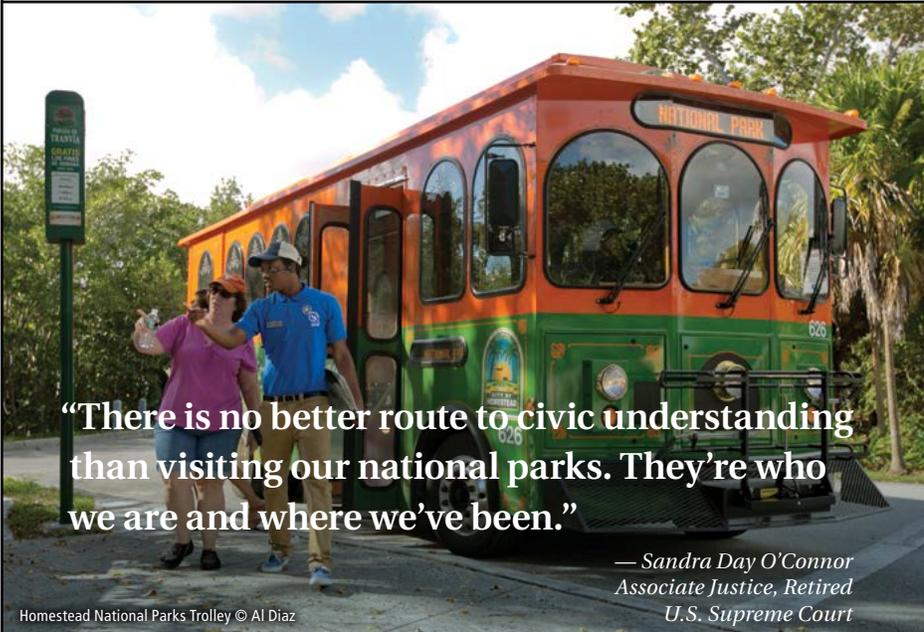
**“In wilderness is the preservation of the world.”**

— Henry David Thoreau  
Author, poet and philosopher



Everglades National Park © Brian Lasenby Dreamstime.com

## Strengthening the National Parks



“There is no better route to civic understanding than visiting our national parks. They’re who we are and where we’ve been.”

— Sandra Day O’Connor  
Associate Justice, Retired  
U.S. Supreme Court

Homestead National Parks Trolley © Al Diaz

**J**ust as national parks face environmental challenges unimagined a century ago, so too have their funding and civic obligations grown more complex. As the national parks enter their second century, it is critical that they become more relevant to new and diverse audiences and reflect the whole of our nation’s history. NPCA values the importance of diversity of background, story, and place.

Strengthening park funding, providing meaningful opportunities for youth, supporting a healthier and more interconnected citizenry, and preserving places that reflect our diverse national experience will expand what our parks offer as well as the very idea of what a national park can be.

NPCA’s latest projects include:

- Raised awareness about impacts on national parks and the economy when the federal government shut its doors after Congress failed to pass a budget last October. As the parks became front-page national news, NPCA led the way by

communicating a clear, consistent, and informed voice of support for our national parks, the rangers who protect them, and the communities that rely on them. Our award-winning “Keep Parks Open” campaign effectively used the crisis to build support for opening and funding our national parks for the long term.

- Conducted youth advocacy workshops in Florida, California, and Maryland to advance civic engagement among young leaders.

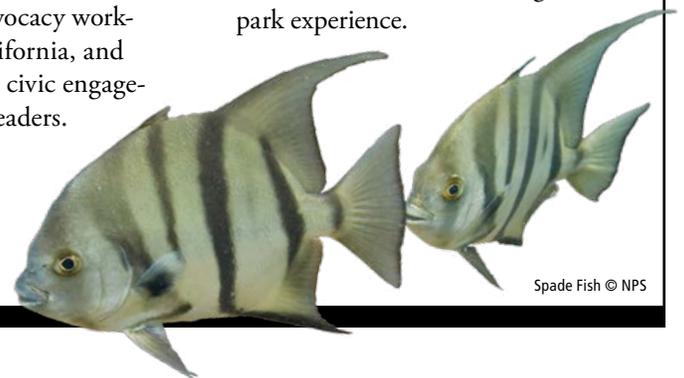
- Spearheaded a pioneer transportation program to help increase access for Homestead’s diverse communities to Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. The free trolley service offers public transportation to these iconic parks that had been out of reach for many visitors and area residents.

- Formed a national council of young leaders to serve as advisors and ambassadors to NPCA on behalf of young adults, aged 18-34.

- Worked with state and national lawmakers to successfully introduce legislation in both houses of Congress to create a new urban national park in Chicago. As Chicago’s first national park, the Pullman National Historical Park would protect and represent the important story surrounding America’s first planned model industrial town and the site of the famous Pullman Strike and progress toward modern labor rights for the African-American community.

- Led a national campaign that restored more than \$150 million to the National Park Service, which will help reduce the damage that the broken budgeting process has inflicted on our national parks.

- Produced a “Design-Thinking Toolkit” to help the National Park Service and its partners share creative and innovative ideas and solutions to complex park challenges and help visitors find broader meaning in the park experience.



Spade Fish © NPS

## Protecting Park Lands and Wildlife

Harper's Ferry National Historical Park © Mark Vandyke Dreamstime.com

**O**ur national parks and surrounding areas provide some of the best, and sadly some of the last, remaining habitats for countless species. These lands, and the wildlife that rely on them, are constantly in jeopardy due to nearby development, pollution, recreational uses, and other human activities. NPCA remains dedicated to protecting the landscapes and wildlife from these threats.

NPCA's latest successes in this area include:

- Gained significant wilderness protection for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. The designation—the highest protection afforded a public land and the first in five years—is the result of more than 20 years of work. It preserves visitor access and hunting and fishing opportunities, while protecting the fragile dunes, bluffs, and forests.
- Led the effort to successfully finalize the Whitefish Range Partnership, setting the stage for an important protected wildlife corridor linking wild lands from Glacier National Park northward to Banff.
- Worked with the Wyoming legislature to allow Grand Teton National Park to acquire two 640-acre inholdings owned by the state school trust. The bill allows the trust to trade the park land for parcels of equal worth elsewhere in the state.
- Joined forces with the Civil War Trust to protect several acres at the western gateway to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park through a successful public-private partnership. The purchase was financed by federal funds, a gift from an anonymous donor, and a number of smaller private donations. The acquired land played a significant role in the September 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry.

- Supported a court ruling that affirmed the marine wilderness designation for Drakes Estero, the ecological heart of the Point Reyes National Seashore and only marine wilderness area on the West Coast. The order denied a preliminary injunction challenging the Secretary of the Interior's decision, defended by NPCA, to let Drakes Bay Oyster Company's permit for commercial oyster farming at Point Reyes expire on its own terms.
- Improved and restored habitat for Yellowstone's northern pronghorn herd by removing fences that inhibit their migration between Yellowstone and their wintering grounds in Montana's Paradise Valley.



Bull Moose © Paul Tessier/ISTOCKPHOTO



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore © 2007 Michael Westhoff/ISTOCKPHOTO

## A Shared Sense of Purpose

Your investment in NPCA helps restore, protect and strengthen America's greatest treasures. Please continue your generous support of our work.

**Thank You!**

[www.npca.org/tfp](http://www.npca.org/tfp)