

KEEPING IT GREEN

The National Park Service is teaming up with hotels and restaurants within dozens of park units to find more sustainable ways to serve the millions of visitors who come through their front doors. Here are just a few.

BY SCOTT KIRKWOOD

UTAH

Zion banned the sale of plastic water bottles and now sells reusable water bottles to visitors and provides free Zion spring water at filling stations throughout the park, eliminating the sale and disposal of 60,000 plastic water bottles every year.



SOUTH DAKOTA

At **Mount Rushmore**, Xanterra's Carvers Cafe sources food from its own gardens and greenhouses to provide fresh herbs and vegetables, cutting down on fossil fuels needed to ship food from remote locations.



CALIFORNIA

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks partnered with the city of Visalia to provide hybrid electric shuttle-bus service to visitors, part of an effort that has decreased greenhouse gases by 65% and removed approximately 770,000 vehicles from the park's roads since 2007.



NORTH CAROLINA

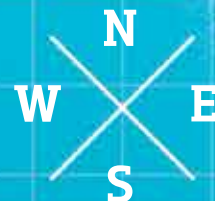
The new Oconaluftee Visitor Center at **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** received gold-level LEED certification thanks to a design that maximizes natural light, funnels rainwater to restrooms, and contains chestnut flooring from old barns in the region.

TEXAS

Through reconfiguring lighting and introducing LEDs in **Big Bend**, the Park Service and Forever Resorts reduced lighting costs by 95% and minimized light pollution to garner the official "Dark Sky" designation from the International Dark-Sky Association.

ARIZONA

The **Grand Canyon** Railway takes used vegetable oil from Xanterra restaurants to power a retrofitted steam locomotive that runs between Williams, Arizona, and the South Rim of the canyon; rainwater and snowmelt are also collected for use in steam operations.



PUERTO RICO

San Juan National Historic Site recently restored 300-year-old water cisterns, which can store up to 250,000 gallons of rainwater for use in restrooms and other facilities.

