

2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Minute Man National Historical Park, MA - 22.8 acres preserved in 1993

OUR MISSION:

WE PRESERVE PARKS
TODAY AND CREATE PARK
STEWARDS FOR TOMORROW

OUR VISION:

EVERYONE EXPERIENCES
THE ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES OF OUR
NATION'S PARKS



BOARD MEMBER PERSPECTIVE

I grew up in Spokane Falls, WA, on the western foothills of the Rocky Mountains; the city's name means "Children of the Sun" in the Spokane Salishan language, so it seemed destined that I would love being outdoors. It didn't start out that way.

My father was a Seattle city boy whose passion was golf and had never taken a hike in his life. Fate intervened; my former high school girlfriend's family owned an island on Spirit Lake, and I joined the school's "Outdoor Club." By the time I left for college, I had traveled to places ranging from Yellowstone to the Cascades, making lifelong friends. In college in California, new natural wonders abounded: Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, Big Sur, and the Redwoods, followed by the Everglades, and a 1,100-mile canoe trip through Canada to the Arctic Ocean, passing through ancient Inuit villages. My connection to the environment was now hardwired, and I wanted to share its beauty and joy.

In medical school, I met my wife, Marcia Ko, a former ski instructor and lifeguard, but naïve at "free roaming." In our VW bus, we explored the Southwest, from Native American reservations to numerous national parks. To my delight, she learned to love the geology, ecology, birds, constellations, and Native American culture as much as I did – a partner who helped convey this love to our children during annual van trips through national parks.

In 2022, newly retired, Marcia and I were looking to get involved in causes we feel deeply about, and so we were delighted when Scott Stone, the board chair,

invited us to celebrate an acquisition the Park Trust helped complete at Valles Caldera National Preserve, a supervolcano near Santa Fe. The Preserve is magnificent; the acquisition of thermal features critical to the park, and the Park Trust staff and volunteer board as interesting, passionate, and like-minded as I imagined. I am also impressed that my donations are spent by a well-organized and hard-working staff.

With my new connections, I began to understand the unique nature of the Park Trust as a premier partner with the National Park Service in navigating the complex real estate and legal issues needed to acquire any of the 4,000 square miles of private parcels inside park boundaries, or opportunities along their borders for park expansion. As a physician, I recognize that the Park Trust's programs that bring under-resourced children and military families to national parks support the unequivocal medical evidence that time in nature is strongly associated with benefits of reduced anxiety, depression, improved self-esteem and purpose.

I now have the honor of being on the board of the Park Trust. The mission of completing and improving our national outdoor treasures, while introducing under-resourced groups to them, is compelling. I am eager to do my part in getting the word out to increase the capacity of these programs, which are among America's best and healthiest ideas.


Christopher Appleton



Chris, pictured here with his wife, Marcia, at Grand Canyon National Park, AZ, joined the board in 2025 and serves on the Land and Park Preservation Committee, the Youth and Family Programs Committee, and as co-chair of the Development Committee.

He is a cardiologist at Mayo Clinic Arizona.

"As a physician, I recognize that the Park Trust's programs that bring under-resourced children and military families to national parks support the unequivocal medical evidence that time in nature is strongly associated with benefits of reduced anxiety, depression, improved self-esteem and purpose."

ABOUT NATIONAL PARK TRUST



PROTECTING AND EXPANDING OUR NATIONAL PARKS IN PERPETUITY

As we prepare to celebrate **our country's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026**, we are reminded that these irreplaceable places preserve our country's history and culture as well as our breathtaking landscapes, natural resources, and ecosystems.

However, many of these precious resources remain unprotected in privately owned land located within

and adjacent to park boundaries. They are **the missing pieces of our National Park System**. For more than 42 years, thanks to our donors, we have responded to requests from national park officials to address their critical land acquisition needs.

Since 1983, park officials have sought our real estate expertise and financial support to acquire high-priority

lands and water. To date, our efforts have resulted in the expansion of 57 national park units across the country.

During these challenging times for our national parks, your generous support **today** allows us to protect and preserve them in perpetuity.



CONNECTING NEW FACES TO AMAZING PLACES

Millions of people enjoy our national parks each year, but many others cannot access them. Throughout the year, our robust Youth and Family Programs address this challenge, impacting students from kindergarten through college, as well as military families nationwide. The health and future of our parks will depend on generations of stewards who not only enjoy them but also care for them.

This year, much of our federal funding was not renewed, significantly reducing the number of kids and families we support annually. As we seek to expand our network of private donors to replace the loss of federal resources, **we thank you for your continued generosity, which has enabled us to connect 29,000 students and families to the great outdoors to experience its mental, physical, and educational benefits.**

We believe that our public parks, lands, and waters should be cared for, enjoyed by, and preserved by all for current and future generations.

OUR IMPACT

Thanks to our donors and partners, we have expanded our national parks by providing real estate expertise and financial resources to preserve iconic landscapes, pristine waters, and important historical sites. As a result, since 1983, 57 national park units have increased in size in 32 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PARK PRESERVATION SINCE 1983:

74

Projects Completed
Expanding 57 National
Park Units

50


Iconic Landscapes
& Wildlands Protected

46

Parks Expanded With
Greater Public Access

31

Historical &
Cultural Sites Protected



Beginning in 2009, our environmental education programs have grown from serving a small number of elementary schools to serving 318 schools from pre-kindergarten through college, representing 46 states, Washington, D.C., and American Samoa.

Fourth-grade student from Pennycook Elementary at Muir Woods National Monument, CA

OUR 2025 YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS IMPACT:

Total Number of Participants
29,000

Total Number of Schools
318

School Recipients of Our Kids to Parks Day Grants
169

Total Park Trips Funded
627

Military Family Participants
1,200

Schools in Our College Ambassador Program
24

LAND AND PARK PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER, SD

In 2023, the park superintendent of **Missouri National Recreational River in South Dakota** requested our assistance in acquiring an expansive tract of land located on James River Island within the park's boundaries. Previous appraisals completed by others had failed to meet either the rigorous standards of the Department of the Interior or the landowner's expectations. We managed the complex appraisal process, using a grant from the National Park Foundation, which led to the **successful acquisition in September 2025 of a 676-acre parcel on the 730-acre island, one of the most significant additions to the park.**

The island contains old-growth cottonwood forests and native prairies that provide nesting habitat for endangered bird species, including the least tern and piping plover. The area also holds historical significance: Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery noted the confluence of the James River and channel islands in their journals when the expedition passed through the area on August 27, 1804, and again on September 2, 1806. The acquisition of 90% of the island will expand public access for outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, camping, and paddling.



Scan this code
to learn more.



OUR NATION'S STORY, PRESERVED BY OUR PARK PROJECTS

July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, a milestone that commemorates the people, places, and stories that have shaped our country. **Since 1983, we have protected 31 historical and cultural sites that represent defining moments in our country.**

From parks that honor Indigenous heritage and early settlements to sites that pay tribute to the American Revolution and the fight for our civil

liberties, our completed projects illustrate how national parks serve as enduring spaces that connect our past to the present.

Thanks to our generous donors, these 31 projects, including those highlighted below, reflect our more than four decades of commitment to protecting the places that tell America's story.



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, TX

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site that captures the stories of people who came to live in the 1700s Spanish missions
- 44.6 acres preserved in 2021 and 2025



Minute Man National Historical Park, MA

- Commemorates the first battle of the Revolutionary War and the "shot heard round the world"
- 22.8 acres preserved in 1993



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, KY

- Preserves the boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, and "Great Emancipator"
- 228 acres preserved in 1999



Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, TX

- Encapsulates the life of the 36th president and civil rights champion, including his "Texas White House" and childhood home
- 0.47 acres preserved in 2023

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

BUDDY BISON SCHOOL PROGRAM

Of the 318 schools we supported, 99 are a part of our Buddy Bison School Program. These students participate in a comprehensive environmental education initiative that pairs classroom learning with multiple transformative outdoor activities. In 2025, donor support made possible 272 trips for these under-resourced schools spanning 25 states and Washington, D.C., and inspiring 15,000 students to become the next generation of park stewards.

One of our highlights is our fishing program. What began as a one-time event for a single school in New York City in 2019 has expanded to include six schools in California, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and New York. To date, more than 1,200

students have been taught how to fish while learning about conservation and responsible recreation.

“The Buddy Bison School Fishing Program has allowed my students to have an experience that they may not often or ever get to do as a child. They get to see science in action while problem-solving to foster critical thinking. Each child gets to go home with a fishing pole and tackle box to continue to grow their love for fishing.”

– Lindsey Salrin, Fourth-Grade Teacher, Oaklawn Elementary, KS

Fourth-grade student from Sunset Elementary at Chase State Fishing Lake, KS



Vargas Elementary at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, CA



CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

15-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH CAESARS FOUNDATION BENEFITS THOUSANDS OF KIDS NATIONWIDE



We are proud to celebrate the 15th anniversary of our partnership with the **Caesars Foundation**. This collaboration has connected tens of thousands of students with parks and public lands through our Buddy Bison School Program, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. Since 2010, Caesars has provided financial and volunteer support to the Park Trust to help children become healthier, tap into their intellectual curiosity as they explore outdoors, foster conservation values, and promote sustainability through various initiatives, including the Buddy Bison Carbon Reduction Contest.

Over 15 years, the partnership has expanded from initially supporting five schools annually to **14 elementary schools** across various urban, suburban, and rural communities. The program expands access for kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity to explore public lands, ranging from trips to Valley of Fire State Park (NV), to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (PA), to Rocky Mountain National Park (CO), and to Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (AZ).

By engaging young people with hands-on learning outdoors and pairing those experiences with Caesars' commitment to sustainability, the partnership also reinforces the importance of protecting our parks and the environment for future generations. Caesars' HEROs volunteers further this mission by joining students in the parks, building personal connections with each school, and highlighting Caesars' commitment to supporting their local communities.

The partnership has also engaged students from three schools yearly with the Buddy Bison Carbon Reduction Contest, part of Caesars' CodeGreen initiative. The contest, established in 2014, with support from the foundation, teaches elementary school children how to identify, measure, and reduce their environmental impact every day.



Saddleback Elementary exploring Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, AZ

"When we established this partnership 15 years ago, we couldn't have predicted the long-standing impact it has made for students in our communities. We're tremendously proud of the work that has been done over the past 15 years and excited about the opportunity to further this legacy with our partners at National Park Trust."

– Kiersten Flint, SVP of Corporate Social Responsibility and Internal Communications, Caesars Entertainment



Caesars HERO volunteers at Majestic View Nature Center, CO



College of the Canyons students visiting Tübatulabal Tribal Land in Weldon, CA

COLLEGE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Our **College Ambassador Program** empowers student leaders across the country to introduce undergraduates to the benefits of the great outdoors. In our fifth year of this program, we expanded to **48 ambassadors representing 24 colleges and universities**. In 2025, more than 920 students participated in 69 outings as they paddled, hiked, fished, camped, biked, rock climbed, and led stewardship projects.

College Ambassadors Amber Palomino and Heidi Cravens (pictured lower left) from College of the Canyons (CA) worked with members of the Tübatulabal Tribe to lead a group of their classmates in a park stewardship project to establish a public hiking trail on ancestral lands in Weldon, California. Through this hands-on project, students were introduced to the intersection of conservation and Indigenous land management.



College Ambassadors Amber Palomino and Heidi Cravens



Students helped to establish a public hiking trail on Tübatulabal Tribal Land



Scan this code to learn more about our college ambassadors.



Marines spent a weekend exploring Joshua Tree National Park, CA



MILITARY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We continue our commitment to creating robust outdoor recreation experiences for military communities – including **active-duty personnel, Gold Star Families, veterans, and caregivers** – to support their physical and mental well-being.

Thanks to generous support from the National Park Service, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, USAA, and others, our program engaged 1,200 individuals through 47 outdoor trips in 2025.

In our newest partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps' Single Marine Program, soldiers from

three local bases, Miramar, 29 Palms, and Yuma, went to Joshua Tree National Park (CA) for a weekend adventure of caving, hiking, camping, and rock scrambling (pictured above). These shared challenges fostered teamwork and bonding while immersing them in the unique desert landscape.

Beyond outdoor exploration, the Marines found restoration and strengthened camaraderie during a fireside gathering with an on-base mental health professional, where they discussed positive habits for military life and the role of nature in supporting their physical and mental wellness.

“This experience was truly transformational for our Marines. The personal growth we witnessed was remarkable. This program made a measurable difference in our Marines’ confidence, leadership, and resilience.”

– Madison Stoddard, Single Marines Program Coordinator, MCAS Miramar



Scan this code to watch how we support Marines at Joshua Tree National Park.

RECOGNIZING PARK CHAMPIONS



Board Chair Scott Stone with Senator Shelley Moore Capito

25TH BRUCE F. VENTO PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

In June, we honored **Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia**, with the Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award for her life's work protecting our national parks and public lands. Highlights from her decades of conservation leadership include championing the redesignation of New River Gorge as the nation's 63rd national park, securing protection for more than 70,000 acres in West Virginia's first national park. As Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she has also advanced policies and federal investments in conservation, and outdoor recreation, including the passage of the America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act.

The award honors the memory and legacy of Congressman Bruce F. Vento (MN, 4th District), a champion of our national parks and chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands from 1985 to 1994.

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Mrs. Laura Bush with Executive Director Grace Lee

AMERICAN PARK EXPERIENCE AWARD

In March, we honored **former First Lady Laura Bush** with our **American Park Experience Award at the George W. Bush Presidential Center (TX)** to celebrate her extraordinary efforts in enhancing the awareness and appreciation of our parks, public lands, and waters.

As First Lady, Mrs. Bush launched the Preserve America initiative, which supported hundreds of projects nationwide that protect historic sites and landscapes. She also played a key role in the National Parks Centennial Initiative, working with the National Park Service to secure critical investments in infrastructure, visitor services, and conservation programs.

In addition, she founded Texan by Nature, a non-profit organization which brings together conservation and business leaders to advance innovative solutions to preserve Texas' natural resources, and established the Native Texas Park at the Bush Presidential Center that serves as an outdoor classroom for students and visitors to explore native ecosystems.

Executive Director Grace Lee with Kevin Marshall



NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Each year, we recognize an educator who has significantly impacted their students' understanding of the natural world and the importance of protecting these resources. In June, **Kevin Marshall, a former educator and alumnus of St. Ignatius Loyola Academy (MD)**, was honored for his six years of dedication as a lead Buddy Bison teacher.

St. Ignatius has participated in the Buddy Bison Program since its inception in 2009, and Kevin has spearheaded student trips to Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park (MD), Marshy Point State Park (MD), National Mall and Memorial Parks (DC), and even to Capitol Reef National Park (UT)! Each month, his students also completed community service projects to beautify parks in their local area. Kevin also served for two years as a special advisor to the Park Trust Board as one of two Youth Programs Fellows.

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in the Woods

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WHY YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW

We greatly appreciate your commitment to our mission at a time when significant federal funding cuts impact our park preservation, youth education, and military family engagement efforts.

Your support can bridge this gap and diversify our funding revenue, allowing us to meet the growing nationwide demand for our programs.

"There is no greater gift that we can save for our children."

– Bison Legacy Society Member

IMPACT IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

79% of our resources were used for our Park Preservation and Youth and Family Programs.

With your generosity, we will build on last year's momentum, restore critical support, and move toward ending our reliance on federal funding.

MANY WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In addition to one-time or monthly gifts, there are many ways to give, including several that offer tax or estate planning benefits.

- **Check out your company's matching gift program.** Many employers match gifts by current or retired employees, which can double (or triple) your impact.
- **Include National Park Trust in your estate plans.** Join our Bison Legacy Society by including us in your will or trust, or by designating us as a beneficiary of your 401(k) plan, Donor-Advised Fund, or life insurance policy. Learn more about planned giving at parktrust.org/bison-legacy-society.
- **Consider tax-smart giving options.** Donor-Advised Funds, Qualified Charitable Distributions, or direct gifts of appreciated stocks or securities offer other options to support our mission and programs. Learn more at parktrust.org/tax-smart-giving.



Yosemite National Park, CA - 1,000 acres preserved in 2010
Photo credit: Frank Lee Ruggles



Stephen F. Austin State University at Big Bend National Park, TX



Eli Whitney Elementary at Dinosaur State Park, CT



Scan the QR code for more information about how you can make a difference.

National Park Trust is a nonprofit charitable organization 501(c)(3).

Tax ID #52-1691924

To direct your gift towards a specific Park Trust initiative or for more information, please contact us at development@parktrust.org.

BISON LEGACY SOCIETY

Many thanks to our members for including us in their estate plans; founding members of our Bison Legacy Society are in bold.

Katie Adamski
Zachary Agnew
Jeffrey and Tricia Allen
Cindy Allen Lapp
Adam Anderson
Devin and Marissa Anderson
Evan M. Anderson
Sue Anderson
William and Sigrid Anderson
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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Covins at Maple Pass Loop, near North Cascades National Park, WA

Estate of Kathryn Schmedding*

Steve Schuler
Rhi Scoll
Donald Scott
Avery Shaffer

Collin Shepherd

Estate of Fumiko Shido*

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Lori Thompson

Estate of Jitka Thompson*

Todd Thorson
Dayong Tian and Amanda Liefeld

Rosemary and John Tiernan

Alexandra Tobolsky
Abe Tolkoff
Sam Tollett
Will Torres
Alvin and Taylor Tour
Matthew and Alina Travaille
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Toni Lynn Treese
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Alistair Williams
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Jon and Jessica Windham
Tyler Winkey
Leah Wolfeld
Andrea Wood
Bill Wood
Jennifer Worthington
Madison Wright

Roger and Marie Wright
You Wu
May Yamamoto*
Shanna Yungerberg
Bei Zhang

** Deceased*



Scan to learn more about how you can make park preservation part of your legacy.



FROM PARK LOVERS TO PARK STEWARDS

For veterinarian Marshal Covin and his wife, Brianna, a fourth-year general surgery resident, national parks are places that combine adventure and renewal, offering a welcome respite amid their busy lives. Their shared love for parks began on their honeymoon with an ambitious hike up Germany's tallest mountain. "We just got the bug from there," Marshal recalled. Since then, nearly every vacation has centered around our national parks, taking them across the country to Utah's "Mighty Five," Glacier, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Teton.

For Marshal and Brianna, philanthropy is an evolving journey, guided by their faith and purpose. Together, they decided to make "giving back" a cornerstone of their lives. Their particular fondness for alpine landscapes inspired them to research non-profit organizations supporting national parks. They decided our efforts to both preserve national parks and introduce the wonders of these amazing places to the next generation of park stewards was a perfect fit for them. In addition to their generous annual support, the Covins recently joined our Trailblazers Club, embracing monthly giving as an additional convenient and meaningful way to sustain their impact on national parks and kids throughout the year.

We are grateful for their wonderful commitment and look forward to learning more about the parks they and their dog, Ellie, discover!



Scan to learn more about Monthly Giving

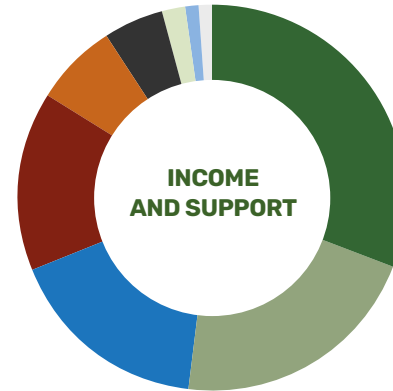
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In fiscal year 2025, our income and support allowed us to meet \$4,142,688 in total expenses, of which 79% were used for our Land and Park Preservation and Youth and Family Programs. We earned a top ranking of “A” with Charity Watch, have met all 20 standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, and have earned four stars from Charity Navigator. We are also a Platinum-Level participant with Candid with a demonstrated commitment to transparency. **We are good stewards of our parks and your gifts!**

INCOME AND SUPPORT		Fiscal Year 2025
Grants and Contributions		\$ 4,412,259
Program Service Fee Revenue		129,804
In-Kind Contributions		353,078
Consignment and Other Sales Income, net		17,155
Other Income		9,268
Investment Income		281,103
TOTAL INCOME		5,202,667
Grants and Contributions and Investment Income Restricted for Future Years		(1,595,595)
Prior Years Grants and Contributions Released from Restriction		617,670
TOTAL INCOME FOR 2024-25 OPERATIONS		\$ 4,224,742

EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES:		
Youth and Family Programs		\$ 2,793,467
Land and Park Programs		447,317
Grants Management		26,282
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES		3,267,066
SUPPORTING SERVICES:		
General and Administrative		379,070
Fundraising		496,552
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES		875,622
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 4,142,688

NET ASSETS		June 30, 2025
NET ASSETS:		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated		\$ 2,214,118
Board-Designated Property Held for Exempt Purposes		1,935,854
Board-Designated Park Preservation Fund		916,624
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		5,066,596
With Donor Restrictions		3,026,754
TOTAL NET ASSETS		\$ 8,093,350



- 31% Individuals
- 21% Foundations
- 17% Government
- 15% Corporations
- 7% In-Kind Contributions
- 2% Program Services Revenue
- 5% Investment Income
- <1% Consignment and Other Sales Income
- <1% Other Income



- 79% Program Services Expenses
- 12% Fundraising Expenses
- 9% General and Administrative Expenses



We meet all 20 standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

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Current and former board members and staff visited Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, MI, in September 2025

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parktrust.org/ways-to-support
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get involved with our work.



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