



National Park Service Centennial Challenge 2008

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the first Centennial Challenge projects and programs, made possible by a \$24.6 million appropriation from Congress and matching funds committed by partners across the country. Legislation is required to create an annual, mandatory \$100 million matching fund to leverage private donations to continue these efforts to improve parks and serve all Americans, especially our nation's youth. Together we can ensure a bright future for our people and their national parks.



2008 at a Glance

- \$51,534,426 investment
- 39 states and the District of Columbia
- 71 parks
- 126 partners
- 52% of total cost is partner funded

Education

The National Park Service fosters exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.

Partnerships with educators will expand curriculum-based programs and opportunities for hands-on learning in national parks. Parks will expand Junior Ranger programs and increase outreach to underserved students. For example:

- Junior Ranger programs will be expanded to better engage and educate our youth.
- South Florida National Parks will expand programs to 50,000 underserved children.

43 projects/ programs
24 states
46 partners
Benefiting 37 parks
\$11,568,600 invest-

The National Park Service Centennial Initiative is a 10-year effort to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment, by the agency's 100th anniversary in 2016.

Professional Excellence

The National Park Service demonstrates management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.

To reflect and serve the changing face of America, the NPS will demonstrate management and professional excellence by recruiting and training diverse employees, and developing skills throughout the workforce on par with the resources we manage. For example:

- Create an Institute at the Golden Gate (CA) to advance preservation and global sustainability.
- Roundtable Development Programs will train and prepare new park superintendents.

4 projects/programs
3 states
4 partners
Benefiting 3 parks
\$497,000 investment

Stewardship



The National Park Service leads America and the world in preserving and restoring treasured resources.

To meet the challenge of safekeeping the national parks, the NPS will fund wide-spread research and conservation efforts. For example:

- Volunteers will patrol, locate, and protect Kemp's Ridley nesting sea turtles and their nests at Padre Island National Seashore (TX).
- Bio-Blitzes in nine national parks will identify and catalog the wildlife and plant species that live there.

47 projects/programs
31 states
59 partners
Benefiting 39 parks
\$25,373,076 invest-

The enduring legacy of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative will be to engage new generations of Americans in the values of their national parks and ensure their care for a second century.

Environmental Leadership

The National Park Service demonstrates environmental leadership to the nation.

National parks must take responsibility to reduce environmental impacts of park operations to inspire an environmental conscience in Americans. Parks will use funding to make progress on this responsibility. For example:

- Install hybrid generators that increase efficiency and decrease maintenance at Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (AK).
- Construct a solar array on the roof of the Ohanapecosh Maintenance/Ranger Building at Mount Rainier National Park (WA).

4 projects/programs
4 states
6 partners
Benefiting 4 parks
\$505,000 investment

Recreational Experience

National parks are superior recreational destinations where visitors have fun, explore nature and history, find inspiration, and improve health and wellness.

Parks will enhance trails and promote recreational opportunities. For example:

- A bicycle/pedestrian trail will foster exploration and recreation for thousands of park visitors at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (GA).
- Completion of the Georgetown Waterfront area of Rock Creek Park will create the largest new park in the District of Columbia since 1976.

14 projects/programs
13 states
15 partners
Benefiting 14 parks
\$13,590,750 investment



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