

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# How the National Park Service Can Serve Urban America

*“The National Park Service’s first century was about bringing people to the parks. Its second century will be about **bringing parks to the people.**”* Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director

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# “Bringing Parks to the People”



## Urban Revitalization



Lowell National Historical Park

### City is the Park and Park is the City – LOWELL

95% of the once vacant historic mills in Lowell have been revitalized. Preservation planning and Historic Preservation tax credits = \$1 BILLION in private investment and 500 historic buildings restored.

### Urban Design ST. LOUIS

CityArchRiver 2015 is a collaborative redesign of the national park, St. Louis' urban core, connections to the Mississippi River and improved transportation systems.





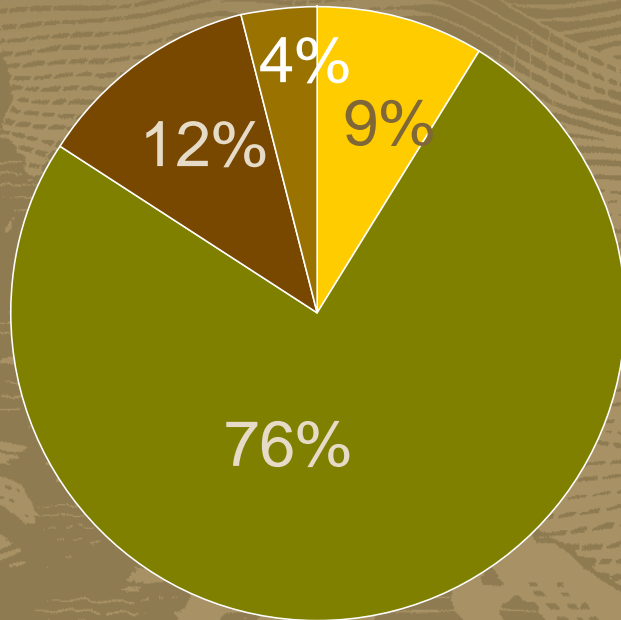
# It's All About Relevancy



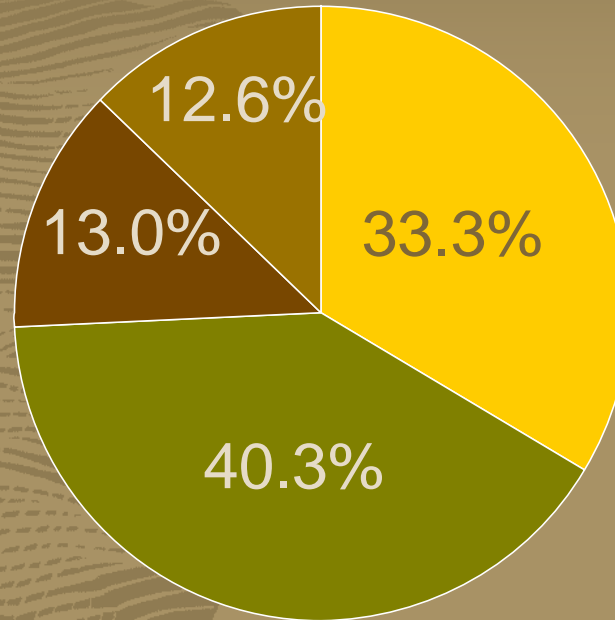
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# Changing Population

2000



2100



■ Hispanic  
■ White, NH  
■ Black, NH  
■ Asian, NH

- More than 80% of Americans live in urban areas
- Demographic shift to minority majority population

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# Aligning Resources

- Federal Coordination – DOI, EPA, HUD, HHS, CDC, Agriculture, Transportation and efforts like SC2, Sustainable Communities, Urban Waters partnerships
- State and local governments – LWCF, Council of Mayors, League of Cities
- Private and community organizations – TPL, TNC, CF, CPA, MGA, etc.



# Three National Park Service Urban Engagement Models for Collaboration

- Parks within urban areas
- Parks adjacent to urban areas
- Urban areas without a physical National Park Service presence





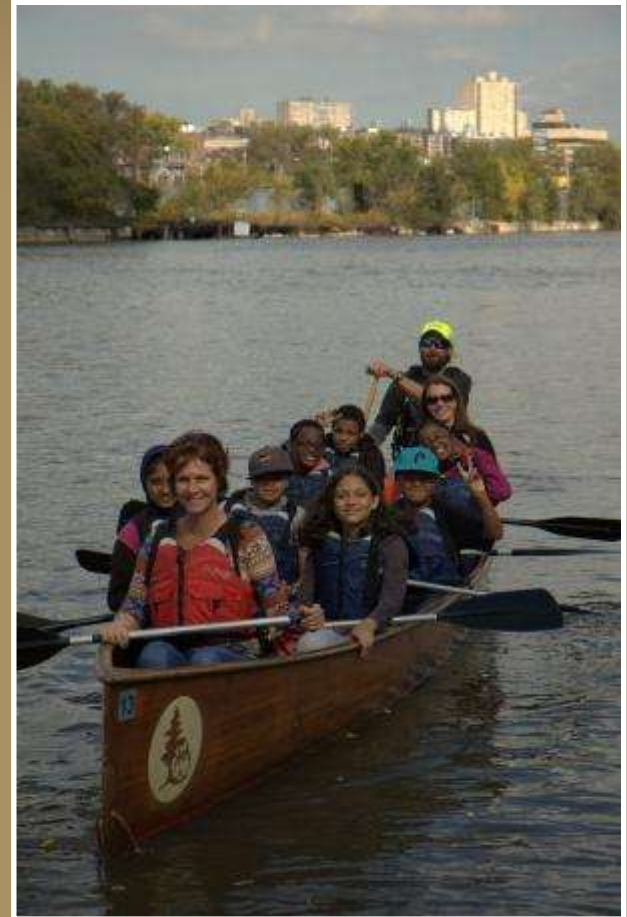
# NPS Can Build on Existing Efforts and Support Regional Interests

- National Park Service parks and programs can complement existing efforts like the Metropolitan Greenspaces Alliance



# The National Park Service is Already in Urban Communities

- 1/3 of 401 national parks are in major urban areas
- 40 of the 50 largest urban areas have a national park
- National Park Service programs support conservation, recreation, and preservation projects in nearly every city and county in the US





# Working With Communities

National Park Service community assistance programs:

- Align local, state and federal resources and talents
- Collaborate with communities
- Ensure close-to-home access to trails, waterways and open space
- Improve public health, increase economic viability, strengthen quality of life, and nurture future conservation stewards

# The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



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# Working With Communities

- From remote communities in Alaska to the Bronx River in New York





# Nature in the City

- Protecting and enhancing natural resources in urban areas that buffer impacts of urban pollution, flooding, and fires



# Youth Engagement

- Play, Learn, Serve, Work



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# Environmental Justice

- Informed and targeted assistance where most needed
- TPL, CPA, Groundwork USA, Historic Preservation Tax Incentives





# Healthy and Active Recreation

- Healthy Parks Healthy People



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# Leveraging Support

## Aligning resources

- Federal
- State & local
- Private, nonprofit, NGOs



# Working with Urban Innovators

- Networking and promoting communities of practice
- Urban Matters
- Human Dimension
- Economic, social, and environmental analytical tools





# Working Across Boundaries

- The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program catalyzes collaborative planning and action for both public and privately owned natural areas in urban communities



# Capitalizing on Heritage

- Technical support to community efforts to conserve and revitalize historic and natural heritage resources





# Community Resiliency & Vibrancy

- Natural spaces and cultural resources in urban areas are of high value for education, recreation, economic and ecological benefits



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