“As many as two-thirds of the residents of America’s largest cities do not have access to a nearby park, playground, or open space.”
—The Trust for Public Land

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”
—Navajo Tribe proverb
WHY ARE PARKS IMPORTANT TO ALL AMERICANS

Parks are essential to community, national identity and quality of life. Regardless of national background, economic status, or political opinion, all Americans benefit from preserving open space, the natural environment, and important places in America’s history. Parks have meaning to us as individuals, too. We fondly remember playing baseball at the local park; hiking or boating in a state park; visiting a historic house or fort; or camping in one of our nation’s beloved National Parks.

America’s parks are needed as we face an increasingly complex future. We must save these places for our children and the generations to come.

WHAT IS THE PARK INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The Park Institute of America is an independent, nonprofit organization established in collaboration with the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks. The Institute evolved from the interest and commitment of the nearly 2,000 former and current employees of the U.S. National Park Service who deeply understand the value of parks.

WHAT DOES THE INSTITUTE DO

Central to the Institute’s success is to collaborate with a wide array of public, private, non-profit, and individual partners. Partners will help the Institute establish a collective strategy, and awarding grants will allow the Institute to fund initiatives that reinforce this shared agenda.

The Park Institute will engage in diverse methods to communicate the value of parks and protected areas across generations. The Institute will host workshops and forums, and sponsor sessions at professional meetings and conferences on a wide range of policy topics. Storytelling will be extensively used. The Institute will provide transformational training for national and international park practitioners. It will share new technologies and ideas to promote innovative practices for conservation, visitor use and sustainable access. The Institute will sponsor high quality, objective, independent, non-partisan research and policy analysis to assist in the management and conservation of protected areas.

OUR MISSION

To champion parks and protected areas by increasing understanding through education, enhancing the exchange of ideas, and building momentum through partnerships.

WHAT MAKES THE PARK INSTITUTE OF AMERICA UNIQUE

By having the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks as a full, participating partner, the Institute harnesses years of “hands-on” National Park Service professional experience. Former National Park Service employees serve as mentors, teachers, researchers and writers in support of the Institute. They provide learning through case studies and assist with program evaluations, pilot projects, and “lessons learned.”

No other institute in the country can make this claim.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We invite you to get involved by learning more about our current programs and goals, and joining us in support of our mission. Contact:

Park Institute of America
P.O. Box 338
Catharpin, VA 20143

parkinstituteofamerica.org
administrator@parkinstituteofamerica.org

“A sense of place gives equilibrium; extended it is a sense of direction.”
— Eudora Welty, Author

“Hold the things that tell your history and protect them.”
— Maya Angelou

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