



**An important new voice at a critical time  
for California's Parks.**

## **PARKS NOW 2018 PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**California needs policies and cross-agency partnerships to ensure parks, provide outdoor recreation for urban communities that lack green space, promote access, and greater accountability for public funds.**

**All Californians deserve access to nature, parks and safe places to play, exercise and gather.**

### **Parks Now Believes Californians Deserve:**

- Parks that meet the needs of an increasingly urban, diverse and young California
- Parks that are safe, well-kept, and readily accessible to our communities
- A parks workforce and leadership that reflects California's diverse communities and listens to the needs of the public

**Statewide Parks Select Committee** | Create a Legislative Select Committee comprised of legislators with diverse interests in parks, to provide a space for ongoing dialogue and policy development regarding park needs throughout the state.

**Statewide Needs Assessment** | Utilizing the 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as a guide, develop and implement a needs assessment of parks in California, specifically identifying needs in park poor areas, and specifying that the assessment will be used to set priorities for state funding of parks.

**Action Plan** | Develop an action plan to guide how the state park system will increase its presence in urban communities, including through park expansion, cross-agency collaboration (i.e., transportation, public health, social services), programming, and increased access to existing resources.

**Jobs** | Promote workforce training and recruitment for state, regional, and local park systems for low-income and under-served communities.

## **PARKS NOW LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

### **AB 2534 (Limón) – Outdoor Equity Grants**

Establishes the Outdoor Equity Grant Funding Program at the Department of Parks and Recreation in order to increase the ability of under-served and at-risk populations and youth to participate in outdoor environmental education programs throughout the State.

Providing funding for transportation, logistics and program operations and capacity costs associated with reaching historically under-served communities will improve access to parks, outdoor experiences, and recreational opportunities, particularly for youth and young adults in disadvantaged communities.

### **AB 2614 (Carrillo) – Parks: Transportation Access for Youth**

Requires the Natural Resources Agency to track the availability of outdoor experiences for disadvantaged youth in a school district by compiling a list of school districts that allow/contract out school buses to be used for non-profits and other agencies to provide outdoor experiences.

The bill also creates a grant program to support organizations in providing such experiences in nature, with the goal of improving the overall health and well-being of these youth, many of which have little to no connectivity or access to travel to outdoor areas around California.

## **PARKS NOW BUDGET PRIORITIES**

### **Fix Our Parks Facilities, Infrastructure, Access, Recruitment**

\$61.5 million, State Parks & Recreation Fund dollars (SB 1)

- Operations & Maintenance: Includes important funding for state park facilities operations and maintenance, seeking to begin to address \$1 billion in back log for things such as clean restrooms, clean water supplies, quality trails, safe roads, preserving historical structures and ensuring adequate service hours.
- Diversity Recruitment \$1 million - \$1 million to go towards the continued establishment of a recruitment and training program that supports the creation of a career pipeline of employees that reflect the diverse demographic of California.
- Access Pilot \$500,000 to build on \$1.5 available in 2017-18 budget – For engagement/collaboration with stakeholders to provide transportation to state parks from urban areas and schools.
- Staffing \$31.3 million – For hiring 364 new positions for interpretation and education, rangers, Park & Rec specialists, concessions, and community engagement.

### **AB 250 (Gonzalez Fletcher 2017) Low-Cost Coastal Accommodations**

- Implementation - \$327,000 from Environmental License Plate Fund to hire staff to conduct coastal assessment required in AB 250, including descriptions of potential coastal sites to develop low-cost accommodations, analyzing local rental rates, supply and demand and projection of costs.

### **SB 5 (de León 2017) Park Bond Implementation - \$463 million**

- \$462 million for grants
- \$1.95 million for hiring of 13 staff positions
- \$3.1 million for Department implementation

