



September 2023 CCRP Update

National Park Service sent this bulletin at 08/31/2023 01:09 PM EDT

The Climate Re:spose

Climate Change Response Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



September 2023, Issue 108



How Will Climate Change Impact Heat Illness Events at Parks?

Heat illness is responsible for more fatalities than any other extreme weather event, a risk park managers need to be aware of as temperatures in national parks soar due to climate change. [A new study](#) investigated this at Grand Canyon National Park, revealing that high temperatures and unseasonal heat have a strong link with heat illness. Their estimation suggests that cases of heat-related illnesses will potentially surge by 29% to 137% compared to the levels observed between 2004 and 2009, extending up to the year 2100. This projection assumes that visitation patterns to the park remain constant.

Climate Projects Get National Attention



[A National Geographic article](#) put a spotlight on the NPS [Green Parks Plan](#) which outlines steps towards net-zero parks. The article muses, "Who or what accounts for the parks' sizable carbon footprint? Time and again, the answer? Visitors." After exploring the impact of visitors on national parks, the article highlights carbon mitigation projects across the country and the ways parks are mobilizing to confront climate change.

Does your park have a carbon mitigation effort? Share your story with us! The more we spotlight our collective efforts, the more we can bring visitors along in our mission.

Upcoming Trainings

Want Courses on Climate Basics?

The South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Oklahoma will offer two free, self-paced courses exploring the impacts of climate change and climate modeling. 'A Brief Introduction to Climate Change' will run from September 11th to October 6th. 'A Deeper Dive into Climate Monitoring and Modeling' will run from October 16th to November 10th. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)



Want a Broad Understanding of How Parks Can Adapt to Climate Change?

While many parks are taking steps to decrease their operational emissions, greenhouse gases have long-lasting effects. In addition to carbon mitigation projects, parks will also need to anticipate ongoing climate impacts and adapt to evolving conditions caused by climate change. [A self-paced module on DOI Talent](#) can help you delve into the concept of climate change adaptation through a series of short videos and quizzes.



Climate Change Resources

Submit Your Climate Jr. Ranger Activities

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, something youth are acutely aware of. Parks can play a role in helping youth understand the crisis and take action. Junior Ranger programs can be a great place to start!

Does your park have any climate change activities in your Junior Ranger booklets? Let us know! We'll compile the ones you send us, and can offer assistance if you're looking for a starting point.



Climate Change Brochures Now Available

The [Climate Change in National Parks unigrid brochure](#) returns! Over 200 parks have shared this brochure with visitors over the last decade, and this new edition has been fully revised for 2023. Interested NPS sites can contact climate_change@nps.gov to receive one box of 600 brochures.



Due to recent increases in printing costs, just one box can be mailed initially to each site. All brochures are printed on 30% post-consumer waste paper with vegetable-based inks.

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