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NEW CLIMATE CHANGE QUICK GUIDE AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STAFF

In recent decades, professionals across multiple disciplines have shown renewed interest in the use of checklists. In particular, [numerous studies](#) have documented beneficial outcomes from using checklists in the aviation and medical fields. These cognitive aids are often critical for safe and efficient operations in the face of complexity.

As impacts from our warming atmosphere manifest across the National Park System, they challenge our ability to operate efficiently, make wise investments, and secure the safety of our visitors and employees. When facing such complex tasks, simple cognitive aids can help.

The new [Climate Change Quick Guide](#) (DOI network only) is a simple reference that can guide response actions and track outcomes. The two-page menu of activities helps park teams coordinate across divisions and functions, respond effectively to resources at risk, reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions, and improve efficiency.

The *Climate Change Quick Guide* is an optional checklist to help guide annual work planning. It is scalable, taking into account the wide range of staff sizes and resources available to NPS units. The corresponding EZ Tracker is a way to document your park's progress and next steps.

The National Park Service (NPS) [Climate Change Response Strategy](#) provides a servicewide blueprint to address the challenge of climate change. This monthly newsletter captures notable developments, publications, and successes to inform and inspire similar action across the National Park System and beyond.



This newsletter is published by the NPS Climate Change Response Program. If you experience any difficulty accessing the information in this newsletter, please contact us at:

climate_change@nps.gov

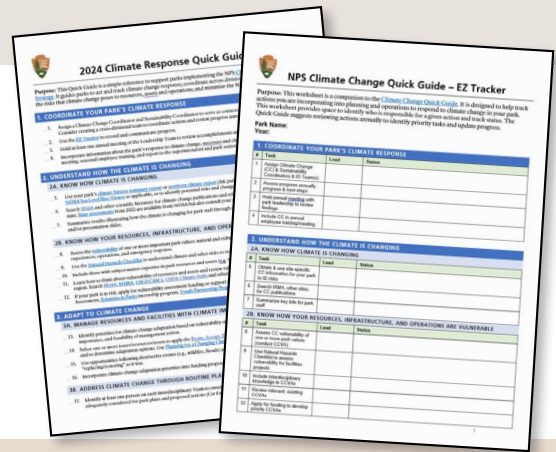
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Above: An earthmover repairs damage to roads in Death Valley National Park following extensive flash flooding in 2023. The Quick Guide helps staff think proactively about the vulnerability of resources and infrastructure using a variety of existing tools. NPS Image.

QUICK GUIDE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Do you want to join a Community of Practice that is testing the [Climate Change Quick Guide](#), learning from each other, and providing feedback? You're invited! Contact climate_change@nps.gov to join this group and receive occasional email updates and quarterly meeting invites.

Feedback from this group will help guide evolution of the Quick Guide to make it as useful to park staff as possible.



NEW PARK CLIMATE CHANGE PAGE GOES LIVE



More than one-third of NPS units currently use their websites to interpret the site-specific relevance of climate change. This month, we're shining a spotlight on a brand new park page!

Rock Creek Park recently [published a page](#) exploring how such urban parks stand to be affected by climate change, and how they can serve as an oasis to nearby residents as temperatures climb. The park joins [a steadily growing list of NPS units](#) with dedicated climate change web pages.

Left: The forests of Rock Creek Park help temper heat. On hot days, temperatures in the park can be much milder than temperatures in the rest of the city—at times, 17°F cooler!

CLIMATE-RELATED NEWS OF INTEREST

Satellite imagery and remote sensing techniques provide [a bird's eye view of how vegetation communities are changing](#) at **Bryce Canyon National Park** in response to climate change.

At **Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area**, [understanding the past](#) is the key to climate-informed adaptation and restoration efforts for the future.

What does the climate-driven aridification of lands across the National Park System mean for North American amphibians? [A new article by LaFrance et al.](#) helps explain.

Right: Grape Island—an important wildlife haven at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area—is heavily influenced by tides.



GOT CLIMATE-RELATED NEWS?

Do you have a climate-related project, publication, or update you'd like to share? Email your suggestions to climate_change@nps.gov.

Submissions received by the 15th of each month may be published the following month, or held for future newsletters as necessary to meet our editorial calendar. Submissions may be edited to meet length requirements or adhere to editorial style.

This newsletter is distributed primarily—but not exclusively—to employees, volunteers, and partners of the National Park Service.

