

PARK PARTNER ENHANCEMENT ACT

Fact Sheet

What Will the Bill Do?

The Park Partner Enhancement Act will facilitate greater philanthropic contributions and volunteer support through a growing network of nonprofit organizations and educational partners. The act incentivizes private support that significantly leverages federal appropriated dollars provided to parks.

The Act affirms and expands the NPS' ability to partner with nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to improve the visitor experience by maintaining trails, restoring landscapes, providing educational programs, developing interpretive products and engaging new generations of Americans.

Why Is It Needed?

Although the NPS is blessed with strong Congressional funding and support – and beloved by the American public – all acknowledge that federal funds alone will not meet all the needs of our national park system. Last year, nonprofit partners contribute over \$150 million in funds and in-kind services and 6.4 million hours of volunteer time (valued at \$142 million), and many philanthropic campaigns and projects have leveraged federal investment at a 1:2 to 1:10 ratio.

Yet much greater support and public benefit would be realized if the NPS had a clearer framework of legislative authorities to maximize the full potential of philanthropy and volunteerism. This bill reduces disincentives to park giving and removes inefficiencies in how the NPS and Park Partners work together.

What Specifically Will Be Accomplished?

This bill will facilitate and expand the contributions of Park Partners by:

- Recognizing the purposes of Park Partners and their eligibility for long term partnerships and agreements, which are key for effective donor stewardship and significant giving;
- Providing efficient ways for the resources, expertise and funds of the federal government and Park Partners to leverage each other for greater success;
- Identifying the value of volunteer service as a powerful contribution to our parks; and
- Allowing for funds to be consolidated over multiple years to respond to philanthropic campaign cycles and achieve major restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Who Supports the Bill?

For over 35 years, the **Association of Partners for Public Lands** (APPL) has been dedicated to fostering stewardship of America's public lands through effective partnerships. APPL represents nonprofit partner organizations that enable land agencies to accomplish what they cannot do alone – by advancing philanthropy, involving volunteers in conservation and educational outreach, and engaging youth and families in nature. APPL member organizations annually contribute over \$150 million in grants, programs and services to America's public lands. For more information, visit www.appl.org.

The **Friends Alliance** is a union of Friends Groups executives and park officials that evolved from a meeting convened by the National Park Foundation in 1994. The Alliance shares information among its members, learns and helps to clarify National Park Service policies, advances partnership and philanthropic ideas and discusses models for problem solving between Friends Groups and the National Park Service. The Friends Alliance network has provided over \$500 million in support to National Park sites, programs and projects over time.