



CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
AGENCY

## Equitable Outdoor Access Act 2024 Report to the Legislature



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## Introduction

California's public outdoor spaces provide Californians of all walks of life the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of spending time outdoors for their hearts, minds, and bodies. Playing in playgrounds and soccer fields, boating, hiking, swimming, camping, off-roading, and bird watching are some ways Californians enjoy the outdoors.

Unfortunately, access to our shared parks and public lands is not equitable. One out of every four Californians—9.5 million residents—do not have a public park or open space within a half-mile walking distance of their home, and even when nearby nature is available, transportation to these places is a barrier.

Equitable outdoor access is a public health imperative. Studies routinely show that people who visit green spaces for 30 minutes or more during the week have lower rates of depression and high blood pressure, and those who visit more frequently have greater social cohesion.

In October 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Equitable Outdoor Access Act (AB30, Kalra), demonstrating the state's commitment to ensuring that all Californians can enjoy and access the state's cultural and natural resources in a meaningful way. This commitment, supported by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom's [Outdoor Access for All](#) initiative and California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) [Outdoors for All strategy](#), is creating healthier Californians and communities.

This Equitable Outdoor Access Act Legislative report highlights commitments and accomplishments made in 2023 to advance equitable access from Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the Legislature, partners, and CNRA and its departments and conservancies.



Here are some key takeaways from the legislative report:

- **\$50.1 million in grants** to establish more spaces for people and nature to thrive.
- **\$11.1 million in grants** to foster belonging in the outdoors.
- **A partnership with the California African American Museum** to research, interpret, and communicate the stories of Black Californians.
- **\$78.5 million in programmatic grants** to support equitable access and help overcome the financial barrier that some Californians face when thinking about heading into the outdoors.
- Increased the state's commitment to **equity and environmental justice** and **tribal consultation and partnerships**.
- **Cross collaborated with other departments** and conservancies on grant practices.
- **Inspired the next generation of environmental stewards** by opening a career center at CNRA and developing an intra-agency working group that supports employee recruitment and retention and commemorates cultural diversity and heritage months.

The state recognizes that advancing equitable access will take an “all-hands-on-deck” approach that will involve collaborating across all sectors—regional and federal government, tribal governments, communities, philanthropic, outdoor industry partners, and more—to galvanize this movement to build more healthy, accessible, and quality outdoor spaces and experiences across the state.

CNRA and its departments and conservancies look forward to a continued partnership.



## Equitable Outdoors Act

In October 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Equitable Outdoor Access Act (AB30, Kalra), demonstrating California's commitment to ensuring that all Californians can enjoy and access the state's cultural and natural resources in a meaningful way.

This act establishes state policy to:

- with a strong emphasis on increasing public access to public lands, especially for communities facing significant access barriers.
- Prevent and minimize limitations on sustainable public access to public lands.
- Direct relevant state agencies and departments to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or creating policies, regulations, or grant criteria, as well as when making expenditures, and to implement the policy in a manner that ensures fair treatment and meaningful involvement of individuals from all backgrounds.
- Be responsive to the voices, needs, and priorities of communities of color, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged communities.



## The Case for Access

Equitable outdoor access is a public health imperative. Mounting research confirms health and lifetime expectancy disparities between lower income communities and communities of color that lack access to the outdoors, on the one hand, and on the other, more affluent communities that enjoy more readily available access to nature. Communities lacking park access have higher rates of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, and are less likely to carry health insurance due to systemic poverty.

People in poorer, denser urban areas exercise less and miss out on important mental health and wellness opportunities that nature provides. Moreover, historical patterns of discrimination and disinvestment driven by redlining practices have directly contributed to why poorer neighborhoods experience more extreme heat.

Studies show that contact with nature is correlated with lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels, quicker recovery from surgery, increased survival from heart attacks, improved pregnancy outcomes, and reduced rates of obesity and diabetes. Urban forests and green spaces demonstrably improve mental health, with lower rates of depression and lower self-reported stress.<sup>i</sup> Studies also routinely show that people who visit green spaces for 30 minutes or more during a week have lower rates of depression and high blood pressure, and those who visit more frequently have greater social cohesion.<sup>ii</sup>

Unfortunately, access to parks and public lands is not equitable. One out of every four Californians—9.5 million residents—does not have a public park or open space within a half-mile walking distance of their home, and even when nearby nature is available, the size and quality of that open space is often deficient, further exacerbating the disparity.

Six out of every ten Californians—24.7 million of us—live in park-poor neighborhoods with fewer than three acres of park and open space per 1,000 residents.<sup>iii</sup> These communities are disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color. According to “The Nature Gap,” a 2020 report by the Center for American Progress, this inequitable distribution of nature’s benefits across the country is not a result of a consenting choice of communities of color or low-income communities to live near less nature but rather a direct consequence of a long history of systemic racism.<sup>iv</sup>

# OUTDOORS FOR ALL

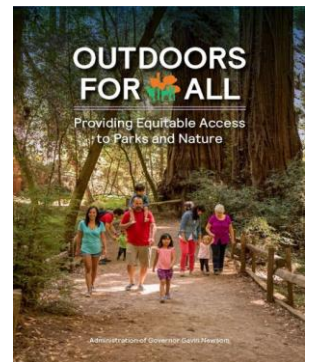
## Providing Equitable Access to Parks and Nature

### Outdoors for All

Under the leadership of Governor Newsom and supported by CNRA's departments and conservancies, access for all was identified as one of the agency's key priorities. In November 2023, the agency released the Outdoors for All strategy, a blueprint for how the state will partner with local, regional, and federal partners, tribes, communities, and other stakeholders to further the movement for equitable access and build upon work already underway. This encompasses the development and maintenance of parks, trails, and other natural spaces in a manner that ensures all communities, especially those historically underserved, can enjoy these areas.

The strategy lifts six key priorities to achieving equitable access to the outdoors:

1. **Establish spaces for people and nature to thrive** by creating and maintaining more high-quality outdoor spaces of all shapes and sizes, especially in park-limited places.
2. **Foster belonging** in the outdoors through policies and programs that build a welcoming and inclusive culture.
3. **Connect people and the outdoors** by improving information and transportation.
4. **Co-create with communities** through frequent and meaningful tribal consultation and community engagement, with attention to underserved communities.
5. **Build equitable career pathways and a representative workforce** by improving opportunities for all Californians to enter and sustain outdoor recreation, natural resources, and restoration professions.
6. **Align funding to achieve Outdoors for All** in partnership with federal, state, and non-governmental entities.



[Read the complete strategy online.](#)

The Equitable Outdoor Act's call to maximize public access to public lands and connect people to these lands in meaningful ways is captured in CNRA's Outdoors for All Strategy. The following pages highlight progress made since the establishment of the Equitable Outdoors Act.



## **Priority 1: Establish Places for People and Nature to Thrive, and physical health benefits of access to nearby nature.**

One of California's programs that creates new parks or renovates existing ones is the California Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program (SPP). Since 2008, this local assistance program has awarded four rounds of funding, totaling nearly \$1.2 billion in grants and 307 grant projects. These grants funded the creation of 182 new parks and the expansion and renovation of 125 existing parks. This grant program is highly popular, with the number of project applications far outpacing the funding available. Round Four received the highest amount requested in DPR's nearly 50-year history of grant administration. Funding for SPP was first made available through Proposition 84 (2006 Bond Act) Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction. Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act) and additional general fund money continue this program's legacy.

While the SPP may be the largest of the state's programs dedicated to increasing nearby nature, other grant programs from the DPR, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and each of the state's nine regional conservancies have created priorities for park-poor communities and disability accessibility within existing funding sources for open space acquisition, development, enhancement, and/or maintenance. Some of these spaces may be within an easy walk of park-poor communities, while others are providing badly needed outdoor access to Californians within distance of an average recreational trip.





Examples of projects that established more spaces for people and nature to thrive over the last year include:

- DPR provided \$41.9 million to eight unfunded projects from the record-breaking 2021 Round 4 of the SPP. In Los Angeles County, this most recent aid will construct a new expansion of the Senior Center at Paramount Park Community Center, while in San Joaquin County, Stockton's Van Buskirk Park will receive a renovation, constructing a new skate park, two full-size basketball courts, and BMX/Bike Trails. New park access will also be created in additional locations such as Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Yolo counties.
- The Wildlife Conservation Board and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided \$3 million in funding to the 40 Acre Conservation League, California's only Black-led conservation group, for the Tahoe Forest Gateway Leidesdorff Property in Placer County. These 650 acres of land near the Lake Tahoe area were acquired for the purposes of wildlife-oriented education and research, wildlife habitat preservation, restoration, and management.
- The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy granted \$750,000 to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust to help complete construction of the Wishing Tree Community Park in West Carson. The Wishing Tree Community Park is a new park project on a previous superfund site that has been remediated in the unincorporated community of West Carson. The project will bring 8.5 acres of new green space to a severely park-poor community. When completed, the park will have a wide range of recreational amenities, as well as a memorial plaza for the residents who were displaced by the toxicity of the site.
- The State Coastal Conservancy awarded \$4.5 million to the Hoopa Valley Tribe to acquire approximately 10,300 acres in the Klamath River watershed to protect and restore water quality, anadromous fish habitat, wildlife habitat, wildlife connectivity, and forest health, and for tribal and public access.



## Priority 2: Foster Belonging

Providing physical access to quality outdoor spaces across the state is only one part of achieving Outdoors for All. One of the most common sentiments expressed during the community workshops which informed the Outdoors for All Strategy was that creating more parks and open spaces would not mean that people would go; they would need to feel safe and welcome in these spaces.

CNRA and its departments and conservancies can do this by telling stories that honor all California's peoples, correcting historical inaccuracies in storytelling, expanding language access, building trust between visitors and residents, and enhancing a sense of emotional and physical safety. The state can continue to cultivate belonging through inclusive outdoor education and stewardship opportunities that help everyone build a strong connection to nature. Public outreach and information can be used to celebrate the many ways people of all abilities choose to be outdoors. Strengthening these connections with the outdoors benefits both people and nature.

### Reexamining Our Past

Through the Reexamining Our Past initiative, DPR continues to review and reexamine the past, looking specifically at contested place names, monuments, and interpretation in the California State Park System.

Working with community partners and universities, helps ensure that interpretation and exhibits are grounded in contemporary research and methodology.

A list of accomplishments is available at [parks.ca.gov/ReExaminingOurPast](https://parks.ca.gov/ReExaminingOurPast).



A few examples of state programs which fostered belonging in the outdoors over the last year include:

- The State Coastal Conservancy's Coastal Stories grant program awarded \$1.1 million to eight nonprofit organizations that will create storytelling installations, murals, or interpretive materials that represent diverse communities' perspectives that historically have been excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands.
- DPR is currently in the process of developing tribal land acknowledgements for all 280 state parks through new signage and improved interpretation that will better connect the public with tribal history and contemporary experiences. The 2022-23 state budget included nearly \$10 million to develop a plan for this work and to update and better contextualize the history of California Native Americans in existing visitor center and museum exhibits at approximately 20 state parks. These improvements will bring forward California Native American voices, recognizing and respecting their governments as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories.
- A new partnership between the California African American Museum and DPR is helping research, interpret, and communicate the stories of Black Californians. In 2024 researchers will complete their work on the history of Black Californians at Angel Island State Park, Candlestick State Recreation Area, Columbia State Historic Park, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, Ford Ord Dunes State Park, and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The research will inform new, more inclusive interpretation at these sites.



### Priority 3: Connect People and the Outdoors

The commitment to equitable outdoor access is not just about creating more parks or outdoor spaces; it is about rethinking how these spaces serve all segments of California's population. Programmatic support complements and uplifts the work to create new parks or opens spaces by helping to close the nature gap and provide paths for Californians to know about these spaces, visit them, and feel comfortable and welcome there.

The Outdoors for All Strategy identifies programmatic support as a key strategy to uplift inclusive programming, transportation access, enhance experiences, and more in California's parks and open spaces.

Examples of programmatic grants that supported equitable access over the past year include:

- CNRA provided nearly \$18 million in Youth Community Access grants, enabling 71 organizations to bring youth in underserved communities to parks, nature, and places of cultural and historic significance.
- The State Coastal Conservancy awarded \$968,000 to 16 nonprofit organizations and public agencies through their Explore the Coast program for programs providing coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast.
- The California Tahoe Conservancy awarded \$409,000 to four nonprofit organizations to improve equitable access to Lake Tahoe's beaches, trails, and mountains.
- DPR accepted applications for its Outdoor Equity Program which will award \$50 million in 2024 to support programs that provide access to the outdoors through educational and recreational activities, service learning, career pathways, and leadership opportunities that strengthen participants connections to the natural world.

**HEY, FOURTH GRADERS! GET YOUR FREE PASS.**



**ENDLESS ADVENTURES NOW EXPANDED TO 54 STATE PARKS!**

The Outdoors for All Strategy also puts forward ways to ease the processes for gaining entry fees, reservations, permits, equipment, and classes needed for some outdoor activities to increase access, especially for underserved communities and people with disabilities.

DPR's Outdoors for All Passes are one example of a program designed to overcome the financial barrier park entrance fees can pose for low-income Californians.

The 2021-22 budget included an initial \$9.1 million investment to launch a pilot program to expand the distribution of free parks passes, especially for youth and disadvantaged communities. Now in its third year, the passes have been widely embraced. The numbers below reflect distribution of the passes through 2023.

- **Golden Bear Pass:** More than 66,000 passes have been made available through the Golden Bear Pass program. The revamped program makes it easier for families who receive CalWORKs, individuals who receive supplemental security income, income-eligible Californians over the age of 62, and participants of California's Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program to receive a free annual, vehicle day-use pass valid at more than 200 select state parks.
- **State Library Parks Pass:** More than 32,500 State Library Park passes have been distributed to all California public libraries, including Tribal libraries, augmented by an additional \$13.5 million in the 2022-23 budget. The library park pass can be checked out with a library card and allows free vehicle day-use entry at more than 200 select state parks.
- **California State Park Adventure Pass:** Nearly 53,000 passes have been downloaded. The program gives fourth graders and their families who live in the state a free pass to access select state parks for a full year. In November 2023, the program added an additional 35 parks to the list, bringing the total to 54 state parks participating in the program.



## Building Capacity for Implementing the Equitable Outdoors Act

The Equitable Outdoors Act calls for relevant state agencies to take the policy into consideration when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, or grant criteria, or making expenditures. The act also calls for the state to implement this policy in a way that provides fair treatment and meaningful involvement for all people and responds to the voices, needs, and priorities of communities of color, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged communities.

The Outdoors for All Strategy is the overall policy document which now guides CNRA and its entities in building equitable access to the outdoors. Two of the strategy's priorities in particular address internal policies and practices that pertain to the above provisions of the Equitable Outdoors Act:

- **Co-create with communities** through frequent and meaningful tribal consultation and community engagement, with attention to underserved communities.
- **Build equitable career pathways and a representative workforce** by improving opportunities for all Californians to enter and sustain outdoor recreation, natural resources, and restoration professions.

Each of these priorities contains multiple strategies. The following pages offer a brief description of these priorities and a few examples of the work underway.



## Priority 4: Co-Create with Communities

The state's ability to partner and co-create effectively with communities and tribes requires examining internal practices and policies. The state's commitment to equity and environmental justice and to increased tribal consultation and partnership are intertwined with California's goals to create and maintain a relevant and welcoming outdoor culture. CNRA leadership in these areas collaborate closely together.

Many of the strategies under Outdoors for All's Co-Create with Communities priority center around prioritizing early and often tribal consultation and community engagement. The strategy realizes that CNRA entities must continue to build their skills and capacity to partner most effectively with communities and tribes. Within the last year, progress has included the advancement of both community engagement and tribal affairs training within CNRA.

- **Community engagement training** – The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has developed a race and equity-focused public engagement model and is training other staff from across CNRA. More than 100 staff have trained in DOC's Public Engagement Model, a living framework meant to help anyone working within a California state agency gain the knowledge and tools needed to develop and implement a comprehensive community engagement plan through an equity lens.
- **Tribal affairs training** – CNRA has developed tribal affairs-focused training and is training tribal affairs and non-tribal affairs staff from the agency. In 2023, CNRA hosted all tribal liaisons and tribal affairs staff across its 27 departments, commissions, and conservancies for a two-day training regarding meaningful tribal consultations and the Administration's key tribal affairs policies. As part of CNRA's Native American Heritage Month events, agency hosted a two-hour Tribal Affairs 101 Training. More than 300 state employees were in attendance.



Partnership with California Native American tribes is a key guiding principle of Outdoors for All, and tribal access and co-management agreements are among the Outdoors for All strategies to support co-creation with tribes. In 2023, DPR and CDFW entered or renewed eight tribal access and co-management agreements with California Native American tribes. These agreements remove barriers tribal members have faced in accessing culturally significant places and resources on California public lands.

Reducing barriers to state funding has been a key request of communities. The Outdoors for All Strategy addresses ways in which CNRA entities can update grant applications to increase support and reduce barriers for underserved communities. Several CNRA departments have already engaged in this work. The Coastal Commission, California Conservation Corps (CCC), California Energy Commission and State Coastal Conservancy have all offered to provide guidance to sister departments who have yet to begin work examining their grant practices or are experiencing challenges in doing so.

### Equitable Grant Models

Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants: Since 1998, this program has supported experiential education and stewardship of the California coast and its watersheds, with an emphasis on equity, accessibility, and inclusion, engaging communities that have historically had few such opportunities due to systemic and geographic barriers.

In 2021-2022, the commission worked with the nonprofit organization Justice Outside to improve how this focus is implemented throughout the lifespan of the grants cycle, from funding announcements to the selection and implementation of proposals. These changes have supported implementation of more equitable coastal access and educational programs and increased the program's reach and impact throughout California.



## Priority 5: Build Equitable Career Pathways and a Representative Workforce

A workforce that reflects the diversity of the people of California is an essential component of Outdoors for All. It allows all Californians to see themselves reflected in those who steward outdoor spaces, fostering a sense of safety and belonging, and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. CNRA and its departments have been working to create systems that recruit and retain talented staff who are experts in both relevant subject matter and the communities they serve.

Key points of progress over the last year include:

- The CCC created and hired a Career Pathways Deputy position who is responsible for developing policies and procedures specific to development of employment opportunities for the CCC Corpsmembers within CNRA departments and conservancies. The deputy is responsible for leading the effort to develop a CCC-CNRA policy related to the development and use of an entry-level civil service position(s) that Corpsmembers qualify for across all CNRA departments and conservancies and collaborates with them to create policy that removes barriers for Corpsmembers in obtaining civil service employment.
- CNRA opened its career center on the ground floor of the Natural Resources building. Open every Tuesday and Thursday, it is staffed by the various agency departments who assist both current staff and the public in exploring careers with the Natural Resources Agency. The career center staff also help demystify the state hiring process which has been identified as a barrier to careers with the state.
- CNRA has developed strong intra-agency working groups to develop career pathways strategies that support employee recruitment and retention, including in association with the celebration of cultural diversity and heritage months through internal- and external-facing events. A total of 15 public webinars were held in 2023, each attracting audiences of 200-400 people.



## Priority 6: Align Funding to Achieve Outdoors for All

Outdoors for All's sixth priority is to Align Funding to Achieve Outdoors for All in partnership with federal, state, and non-governmental entities. To date, the Newsom Administration has invested over \$1 billion to advance equitable outdoor access. The state recognizes that advancing this effort will take an approach that will involve collaborating across all sectors—regional and federal government, philanthropic, private, and more—to galvanize this movement to build more healthy, accessible, and quality outdoor spaces and experiences across the state.

The ability to track the state's investments in providing equitable access is key to understanding need and impact. Two CNRA efforts underway are advancing the state's capacity in this area.

- Launched with CNRA's Pathways to 30x30 in 2022, **CA Nature** is a suite of interactive mapping and visualization tools compiling statewide biodiversity, access, climate, and conservation information to advance the state's efforts to protect 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030. In 2024-25 the access portion of CA Nature will be augmented, providing a tool for decision-makers and advocates alike.
- CNRA is developing a centralized data management and reporting system called **RAPTR** to track the implementation and outcomes of projects related to the stewardship of California's natural, cultural, and historical resources. The system will be a resource for all state employees managing projects funded or administered by CNRA as well as for the grantees and contractors completing the work. RAPTR will allow CNRA to aggregate data from a wide variety of programs to better analyze the efficacy and cost-effectiveness with which it is achieving goals such as providing equitable access to nature for all of California's residents, conserving California's habitat and biodiversity, and adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. Building out RAPTR will take some time as CNRA's administrative umbrella contains hundreds of programs spread across its 27+ departments, conservancies, commissions, councils, and boards.



The Outdoors for All Strategy is the first of its kind in the nation. However, building a more equitable outdoors will require the state working in partnership with federal, regional, local, and tribal governments, and with community, philanthropic and outdoor industry partners.

Examples of these partnerships in 2023 included:

- DPR continues to partner with the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) federal program to bring federal dollars to California to support the expansion of parks and outdoor spaces in communities that need them most. In late 2023, DPR announced it was accepting applications for the next round of this competitive federal grant program. A total of approximately \$224.1 million in federal funding is available nationwide, with up to \$15 million available per award. ORLP is a National Parks Service grant program funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The program funds the acquisition and development of new parks, or substantial renovation of parks in disadvantaged communities. In the last round of ORLP funding awarded in 2022, California received \$18.9 million or 28% of the \$61.1 million available nationwide.
- Nearly half of California's lands are federally owned and managed, making federal partnership an essential strategy for increasing access in the state. In 2023, tribal nations, community organizations, and local leaders united to propose numerous new or expanded national monuments across California for potential presidential action in 2024. If the president acts on these proposals, as the state urges, it could significantly improve equitable access in various parts of the state. For instance, expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to encompass an additional 109,000 acres of land within the Angeles National Forest would improve access to nature in one of the nation's most densely populated and underserved areas in the greater Los Angeles area.
- Looking to leverage DPR's Golden Bear Pass which provides free entrance to state parks to low-income Californians, the Solano County Board of Supervisors voted to accept the Golden Bear Pass for free entry to two of its regional county parks.



## What's Next? Near Term Actions

The Outdoors for All Strategy contains six priorities for achieving equitable access to the outdoors. Below are the near-term actions CNRA will take:

- **Complete inventory of equitable access investments and impacts and identify gaps and solutions.**

Complete inventory of state investments in equitable access. Assess gaps and remaining barriers in the inventory of equitable access and identify solutions.

- **Identify, track, and standardize best practices that will lead to more inclusive outdoor spaces.**

Identify ways to measure progress using shared metrics and data, in partnership with philanthropy, the private sector, and community-based organizations, including those with a health or education focus. Through early, often, and meaningful consultation, engage tribes and tribal communities in this process.

- **Prioritize resource efficiency and reduce redundancies by aligning access investments across CNRA.**

Improve coordination across CNRA departments and partner agencies by identifying unnecessary duplication and redundancies and collaborating to increase efficiency and impact. This includes regulatory efficiencies and opportunities to support "Cutting the Green Tape." Regularly track and report expenditures towards equitable outdoor access; and prioritize a portion of existing funding, including discretionary and grantmaking funds, toward projects that advance equitable outdoor access. This should include aligning with 30x30 and nature-based solutions programs.

- **Track and communicate progress.**

Develop actions for regularly checking in on and publicly communicating progress toward the actions in this strategy. CNRA departments will collaborate to establish specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and time-bound metrics for progress.

## Endnotes

- i See for example: J. Wolch et al. "Childhood Obesity and Proximity to Urban Parks and Recreational Resources: A Longitudinal Cohort Study." *Health & Place*, vol. 17, no. 1, Jan. 2011, pp. 207–14. Feng, Xiaoqi, and Thomas Astell-Burt. "Residential Green Space Quantity and Quality and Child Well-Being: A Longitudinal Study." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, vol. 53, no. 5, Nov. 2017, pp. 616–24.  
  
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- ii Shanahan, D., Bush, R., Gaston, K. et al. "Health Benefits from Nature Experiences Depend on Dose." *Sci Rep* 6, 2855
- iii "Parks for All Californians," California State Parks: <https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/parkaccess/>
- iv J. Rowland Shea et al. "The Nature Gap: Confronting Racial and Economic Disparities in the Destruction and Protection of Nature in America," Center for American Progress, July 2020: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2020/07/21/487787/the-nature-gap/>

# OUTDOORS FOR ALL

## 2023 Accomplishments

### **\$50.1 million in grants**

to establish more spaces for people and nature to thrive.

### **\$11.1 million in grants**

to foster belonging in the outdoors.

### **Partnered with the California African American Museum**

to research, interpret, and communicate the stories of Black Californians.

### **\$78.5 million in programmatic grants**

that support equitable access and help overcome the financial barrier that some Californians face when thinking about heading into the outdoors.

### **Increased the state's commitment to equity and environmental justice and tribal consultation and partnerships.**

Five public webinars were held in 2023, each attracting audiences of 200-400 people celebrating commemorative months such as Black History, Latino Heritage, Native American Heritage, Pride, Women's History, and Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage.

### **Cross collaborated with other departments**

and conservancies on grant practices.

### **Inspired the next generation of environmental stewards**

by opening a career center at CNRA and developing an intra-agency working group that supports employee recruitment and retention and commemorates cultural diversity and heritage months.

