2016 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Buddy Bison students paddling on the Anacostia River (MD).
Conservation today means far more than just preserving our natural resources. It means their wise use and protection so that more and more people may enjoy and benefit from them. Only in so doing may our individual human resources be enriched.

— LAURANCE S. ROCKEFELLER, 1955
OUR MISSION:
PRESERVING PARKS TODAY;
CREATING PARK STEWARDS
FOR TOMORROW

OUR VISION:
EVERYONE WILL HAVE
AN AMERICAN PARK
EXPERIENCE
Dear Friends:

The historic year of the Centennial of the National Park Service (NPS) was epic not only for NPS but also for National Park Trust (NPT) due to the extraordinary support from our wonderful donors, sponsors, and program partners. Thank you!

Working together we achieved numerous important milestones, many of which are highlighted in this year’s Annual Impact Report including:

• The completion of several land acquisition projects that benefit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Yosemite National Park, plus at the very end of 2016 we provided key funding to purchase an important 12.5-acre parcel within Rocky Mountain National Park, which when transferred to NPS will become federal wilderness. See page 6.

• The expansion of our Buddy Bison School Program to include 60 Title I elementary and middle schools thanks to NPS Challenge Funds that were matched dollar for dollar by your important gifts. See page 8.

• The opportunity to get even more 4th graders connected to national parks and other public lands and waters in their communities thanks to additional support for President Barack Obama’s Every Kid in a Park initiative. See page 9.

• The tremendous growth of Kids to Parks Day which was celebrated on May 21, 2016 with more than 731,000 participants at over 1,130 park events across the country. Plus 100 grants were awarded by NPT to 74 Title I schools as winners of our Kids to Parks Day National School Contest. See page 10.

Finally, we were delighted to be able to recognize two outstanding park stewards: Secretary Sally Jewell with our American Park Experience Award and Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN, 4th District) with the 16th Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award. See page 5.

As you can see, thanks to your outstanding support, it was a whirlwind year for National Park Trust. We look forward to our continued partnership in 2017 to benefit our national parks and kids across the country!

With deep gratitude,

Bill Brownell, Chair
Ann Gualtieri, Vice-Chair
Grace Lee, Executive Director
1. **TEAMWORK YIELDS ONE OF THE LARGEST EXPANSIONS TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

Working with The Trust for Public Land and other partners, NPT assisted in the acquisition of the 400-acre Ackerson Meadow — Yosemite’s largest expansion in 70 years and home to the endangered great grey owl. See page 7.

2. **MAKING ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK A LITTLE MORE WILD**

NPT provided the last piece of critical funding needed to acquire a high-priority inholding in Rocky Mountain National Park (CO) that will add 12.5 acres to the Wild Basin area. See page 6.

3. **CELEBRATING THE NPS CENTENNIAL**

In 2016 we joined the nation in celebrating the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial. Since our Buddy Bison School Program and Kids to Parks Day National School Contest were selected as NPS Centennial Challenge Projects, NPS matched every dollar that we raised up to $450,000. As a result, $900,000 were used for the tremendous expansion of our youth programs. See page 8.

4. **KIDS TO PARKS DAY PARTICIPATION SOARS**

Kids to Parks Day 2016 soared to more than 731,000 participants. Celebrated annually on the third Saturday in May (May 21, 2016), NPT worked with 18 national collaborators to get kids across the country to discover their parks locally and nationally. Save the date: Kids to Parks Day 2017 is May 20th! See page 10.
5 GETTING EVERY KID IN A PARK
2016 brought the second year of President Obama’s Every Kid in a Park initiative. NPT partnered with numerous organizations to provide 4th graders with their free passes and park trips across the country. See page 9.

6 NPT RECOGNIZED FOR OUR WORK TO GET KIDS TO PARKS
During the NPS Centennial year, NPT was honored to be recognized in many ways: 1) Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK) presented NPT with an inaugural OAK Leaf Award which recognized our “leadership and collaboration in connecting kids with nature.” 2) Executive Director Grace Lee was a panelist at the OAK meeting at the White House which focused on youth outdoor programs during the Obama Administration. 3) Correspondent Kavitha Cardoza featured our efforts to get kids to parks on PBS NewsHour highlighting Buddy Bison School Pennycook Elementary’s visit to Muir Woods. 4) Finally, Buddy Bison and Buddy Bison’s Yellowstone Adventure, written by Dr. Ilona Holland and published by National Geographic Kids, were featured on the Today Show as two of Hoda Kotb’s favorite things.

Recipients of inaugural OAK Leaf Awards include: (left to right) REI, Children & Nature Network, National League of Cities, NPT, and The North Face.

(Left to right) Michael Degnan (WH CEQ), George McDonald (NPS), Meryl Harrell (USDA), Grace Lee (NPT), and Eric Somerville (YMCA) participate in a panel discussion at the White House.

Buddy Bison students from California featured by Correspondent Kavitha Cardoza on PBS NewsHour as they explored Muir Woods National Monument.

On the Today Show, Hoda Kotb features Buddy Bison and Buddy Bison’s Yellowstone Adventure as two of her favorite things.
SIXTEEN IS THE MAGIC NUMBER FOR CONGRESSWOMAN BETTY MCCOLLUM

On June 16, 2016, NPT honored Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN, 4th District) with the 16th annual Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award for her 16 years of outstanding public service to preserve land, water and historic resources for the legacy of America. Throughout her career, her top priorities have been the protection of our environment – including clean air and water and the preservation of our national natural treasures. She has consistently voted for and supported parks, public lands, full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and ocean conservation. Congressman Bruce Vento was McCollum’s predecessor in Congress. Previous recipients of the award include Senators Rob Portman (OH), Ron Wyden (OR), Susan Collins (ME), and Representative Mike Simpson (ID), and former Senators Jeff Bingaman (NM) and Mark Udall (CO).

NPT WELCOMES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP

Four new board members join the NPT family.

Chad Dayton, Outdoor Solutions LLC, serves on NPT’s Youth Programs Committee.

Dick Ring, National Park Service (retired) and NPT (retired), chairs NPT’s Lands & Park Preservation Committee.

Elizabeth Ulmer, Elizabeth Ulmer Consulting, serves on NPT’s Youth Programs Committee.

Roger Wright, Total Wine & More (retired), serves on NPT’s Lands & Park Preservation Committee.

RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING BUDDY BISON TEACHER

We all know about the Oscars and the Emmys. The Buddy is our National Teacher Award for Outstanding Environmental Stewardship. In fall 2016, the award was presented in a surprise all-school assembly to Krista Gordon at Alderwood Elementary (Bellingham, WA). In 2014, she helped her Alderwood Elementary students enter the Kids to Parks (KTP) Day National School Contest so they could discover and explore Lime Kiln Point State Park. But that was only the beginning. The entire experience, from the preparation of their contest entry to the trip to the park was so rewarding, that Krista was inspired to raise additional funds locally in 2015 for other schools in her district. As a result, 10 of the 14 schools in her district were able to visit Lime Kiln Point State Park, meet with scientists and orca watch! Her students also earned a return trip to the park in spring 2016 through the KTP Day School Contest.
THE GIFT OF WILDERNESS TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

National Park Trust joined forces with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and The Wilderness Land Trust to help make Rocky Mountain National Park just a little more wild. As a result, a 12.5-acre private holding located in the Wild Basin area has been added to the park and protected in perpetuity.

The property recently was listed for sale for only the second time in seventy-five years. A 2,000 square foot, two-story house on the parcel has spectacular views of the Continental Divide where Campers Creek and numerous springs create watering areas for wildlife between the large boulders. With its easy access by road, this private enclave could have been very attractive on the open market.

The last critical piece of funding of $150,000 was provided to NPT by The Barrett Family Foundation who have a special connection to the park. “Living in Boulder we are fortunate to have Rocky Mountain National Park at our doorstep,” stated Richard Barrett of The Barrett Family Foundation. “Our youngest daughter had her wedding at the gateway to the park where wild turkeys and deer were part of the ambiance. Wild Basin with the North St. Vrain River flowing through it is one of those unspoiled, enchanting wilderness areas of the park that was best left unspoiled by the presence of a mountain house.”

Removal of the existing house and access road (which will become a hiking trail) will add 33 acres of land to the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Area. “Expanding the wilderness fulfills the purpose of the Wild Basin area,” says Reid Haughey, president of The Wilderness Land Trust.”

Reflecting on the partnership between the three organizations, Charles Money, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy stated, “It took all of our organizations to pull this off, but we are glad this property can now finally be transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park where it belongs.”

Darla Sidles, superintendent of the park said, “We are extremely grateful to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, The Wilderness Land Trust and National Park Trust in acquiring this private piece of land inside the park. This is a gift that will live on forever as protected wilderness.”
WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR LAND PROJECTS:

• Support our land preservation work at your favorite national park. Contact Phil Selleck to learn about the “wish list” of the National Park Service at phil@parktrust.org or call 301.279.7275 ext. 14.
• Become a founding member of the Bison Legacy Society to make a gift with lasting impact on our national parks. See page 15.
• Consider monthly gifts or appreciated stock to support our important work.
• Honor a loved one with a special gift of land to benefit a national park.

THE LARGEST EXPANSION TO YOSEMITE IN 70 YEARS

Thanks to a partnership between NPT, The Trust for Public Land, Yosemite Conservancy, and American Rivers, the 400-acre Ackerson Meadow, an environmentally important property has been protected in perpetuity as a part of Yosemite National Park. The acreage is home to the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, a genetically distinct clan of great gray owls, and more than 100 species of plant, including many impressive meadow wildflowers. Meadows are a critically important habitat and make up just 3 percent of Yosemite; most of San Francisco’s water is filtered by Yosemite’s meadows including these 400 acres.

Markley Bavinger, project manager with TPL, stated, “We are grateful for the National Park Trust’s early support of our work to protect Ackerson Meadow. NPT’s efforts to garner political support and develop a strategy for success were key elements to completing this priority project. The partnership between The Trust for Public Land and National Park Trust has been repeated throughout the country with wonderful results.”

In addition to working with TPL on a strategy for the project’s success, NPT also provided the due diligence costs for this land acquisition transaction. The land was conveyed to the National Park Service in September 2016. Dick Ring, NPT board member stated, “In 1890 this land was once within the original boundary plans for Yosemite National Park, so it is very rewarding to know that it is now permanently protected by the National Park Service.”
Launched in 2009, NPT’s Buddy Bison School Program experienced extraordinary growth during the Centennial of the National Park Service.

Thanks to support from the National Park Service Centennial Challenge Funds which were matched dollar for dollar by our donors, the Buddy Bison School Program grew from 30 to 60 Title I schools in 15 states and Washington, D.C. benefiting underserved students in preK through 8th grade.

By the Numbers:

50,000 Students provided with park trips since 2009

82 Percent of students qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches

60 Elementary and middle schools

15 States and Washington, D.C.

GOALS OF THE BUDDY BISON SCHOOL PROGRAM:

• Enhance school curriculum using parks as outdoor classrooms.
• Introduce outdoor recreation opportunities to promote health and wellness.
• Cultivate future park stewards.

SUPPORT OUR WORK:

• “Adopt” a school in the Buddy Bison program for one year to provide multiple park trips and classroom resources. Or provide school bus funding for one park trip. One bus transports 50 students plus their teachers.
• Provide a Buddy Bison classroom toolkit for an under-served school. Each toolkit is full of resources that teachers can use to incorporate parks into their classroom curricula.
• Make a greater impact to support our school program through monthly gifts or with appreciated stock.
• Honor a loved one on a special occasion by supporting a school.
• Get a Buddy Bison at parktrust.org or at a national park store. You’ll have a great traveling companion, while helping us to send an under-served student to a park. Proceeds from Buddy Bison sales benefit our youth programs.
EVERY KID IN A PARK

In 2016, the Obama Administration kicked off the second year of the Every Kid in a Park initiative with the goal of getting every 4th grader to a park or public land. Thanks to generous support from NPT’s numerous partners including National Park Service, REI, The North Face, Outdoor Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, National Park Foundation, and Outdoors Alliance for Kids, along with many individual donors, free federal park passes and trips for 4th graders across the country were provided.

NPT board member Elizabeth Ulmer, Ranger Lauren Boross, and Big Buddy Bison award Every Kid in a Park passes to 4th graders at Channel Islands’ Lagomarsino Visitor Center. Bus funding for the trip was provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Thanks to our partnership with The North Face and OAK, kids from a D.C. school explored Rock Creek Park and received their Every Kid in a Park passes.

NPT WELCOMES OUR SECOND BUDDY BISON STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Sarah Hullihen, a 6th grader from Veteran’s Memorial Middle School in Vineland, NJ was welcomed as our second Buddy Bison Student Ambassador. She joins our inaugural ambassador Tigran Nahabedian who attends Ojai Valley School in Ojai, CA. Our ambassadors have an important role to spread the good news to students in their community and across our country about the importance of discovering, exploring, and protecting our nation’s parks. Sarah loves history and her favorite parks are the ones that tell our country’s story. “Parks and historical sites are so important to me because I love to see and learn about nature and history, and I want other people to know that they are oh so very important too,” said Sarah.

Follow Sarah (@jrrangersarah) and Tigran (@jrrangertigran) on Twitter or by reading their blogs in Buddy Bison’s Buzz, our student e-newsletter (visit parktrust.org to sign up for your monthly issue).
## YOUTH PROGRAMS: KIDS TO PARKS DAY

In 2016, Kids to Parks Day soared with record participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>731,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Events</td>
<td>1,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayors and elected officials</td>
<td>420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools received grants</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor proclamations</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National collaborators</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Resolution passed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Schools received park grants through our Kids to Parks Day National School Contest (Grades preK through 12).

Governor proclamations issued by:
- Senator Ron Wyden (OR)
- Senator Orrin Hatch (UT)
- Senator Cory Booker (NJ)
- Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)
- Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA)
- Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)
- Senator Mazie Hirono (HI)

In 2016, Kids to Parks Day soared with record participation:

- 5th graders from Hoover Elementary in Oakland, CA visited Yosemite using the park grant that they won through the Kids to Parks Day National School Contest.

First launched in 2011, Kids to Parks Day inspires kids across the country to visit their local, state, and national parks and public lands and waters where they can discover the unique science and history of their parks, experience numerous healthy outdoor recreation opportunities, and learn about ways they can protect and preserve our parks.
COLLABORATORS
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Hiking Society
- American Recreation Coalition
- America’s State Parks
- Boy Scouts of America
- Children & Nature Network
- City Parks Alliance
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- National League of Cities
- National Geographic Kids
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Recreation and Park Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Outdoor Families Magazine
- Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK)
- Sierra Club
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- US Play Coalition

DR. SYLVIA EARLE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE MAKES A SPECIAL LIVE DIVE

Exploring underwater parks with world renowned oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle was the highlight for local Ventura County 4th graders on Kids to Parks Day which also coincided with the National Park Service Centennial BioBlitz. Dr. Earle was joined by 45 students at Anacapa Island in Channel Islands National Park (CA) and an additional 650,000 families watched and interacted with her live dive.

Buddy Bison Student Ambassador and Jr. Ranger Tigran Nahabedian spoke with Dr. Earle after her live dive assisted by — Buddy Bison! Here is an excerpt from the fun interview that was transcribed by Chinna Nahabedian, Tigran’s mother:

Tigran: “How did you get involved with the National Park Trust?”

Dr. Earle: “Well, they asked me. They told me about Buddy Bison as an ambassador from nature to you, to kids, and I thought that was a great idea. And so today, I took Buddy Bison diving. Well, he did not have a facemask. He somehow was able to magically survive under water without a scuba tank. He didn’t have flippers but I held him close and you should see his eyes under water.

He was looking all around, looking at the fish, looking at the kelp, when suddenly a big fish, ha, I mean a fish about twenty times the size of little Buddy Bison came over and I thought he was going to kiss Buddy Bison but he didn’t kiss Buddy, he bit him! He took his whole head in his mouth and went chomp and then he realized that bison don’t really taste good and so he spit him out, ha, ha! And he left a little hole on the top of Buddy Bison’s furry head and a little tiny hole on the bottom, right under his chin.

And I think Buddy Bison’s eyes got really wide because he saw what it was like inside the mouth of this big fish. It’s called a wrasse, a gorgeous beautiful animal that was probably just as surprised as Buddy Bison when he tried to take a bite and realized, ‘This isn’t on my menu! This is a furry thing. I don’t eat furry things!’ And he really did look kind of astonished when he swam away.

He looked back at me and back at Buddy and back at the underwater photographer and the people we were diving with and I’m sure he was wondering, ‘What was that?’ Ha, ha! Buddy Bison was probably wondering, ‘What was that?’ Ha, ha, ha! And it all came out just fine.

I love the National Park Trust. You can trust the National Park Trust to protect the land, to protect the ocean, to protect our national heritage. Good for us, good for the future, good for life and earth.”

SUPPORT KIDS TO PARKS DAY:
Make a donation to our Kids to Parks Day National School Contest. Each school will be awarded up to $1,000 to fund their park trip. Support one school or more! For more information, contact Maryann Kearns at maryann@parktrust.org or call 301.279.7275 ext. 15.

Save the date: Kids to Parks Day 2017 is May 20th!
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Audited)

**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</th>
<th>Total 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
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<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
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<td>Product Sales and Other Income</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Release from Restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
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<td>Youth Programs</td>
<td>1,420,609</td>
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<td>Land and Parks Program</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
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<td>SUPPORTING SERVICES</td>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets before Non-operating Items</strong></td>
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<td>Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments</td>
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<td><strong>CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release from Restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>CHANGE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>5,641,960</td>
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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Audited)

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<tr>
<th>June 30, 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges Receivable, Long-term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment (Net of Depreciation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Estate and Related Holdings</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term Liabilities</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our complete audit and IRS 990 is available on our website: Visit parktrust.org, and click “About Us”.

In fiscal year 2016, 82.51% of our resources were invested in our park preservation and youth education programs. NPT has earned a top ranking of A with Charity Watch, has met all 20 criteria of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, and is included in the Catalogue for Philanthropy as “one of the best”. NPT is a Gold-Level participant with GuideStar with a demonstrated commitment to transparency. We are good stewards of our parks and your resources!
**2016 Support and Revenue: $2,761,513**

- **INVESTMENT INCOME**: 0.42%
- **PRODUCT SALES AND OTHER INCOME**: 1.98%
- **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS**: 7.4%
- **TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**: 30.92%
- **UNRESTRICTED GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**: 59.28%

**2016 Expenses: $1,964,968**

- **FUNDRAISING**: 7.15%
- **PROGRAM SERVICES**: 82.51%
- **GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE**: 10.3%

**JOIN THE NPT FAMILY OF SUPPORTERS**: Donations to NPT support our nation-wide efforts to protect our parks and create park stewards for tomorrow.

- **Consider a recurring monthly gift.** Contact Rebecca Hansell at rebecca@parktrust.org or call 301.279.7275 ext. 12.
- **Workplace Giving**: Federal employees can donate to NPT through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Our CFC number is 12213.
- **Corporate Matching Gifts**: Contact your employer’s personnel office to find out how you can double your gift to NPT.
- **In honor/memory**: Celebrate family or friends by making a gift in honor or memory of them. You can opt to have us send a letter to notify them of your gift.
- **Gifts of Stock and Securities**: Appreciated stock and securities allow you to make a gift to NPT and receive increased tax benefits (Charles Schwab, DTC: 0164, Code 40, Account #3801-6879). Visit our website parktrust.org to learn more or contact Maryann Kearns at maryann@parktrust.org or call 301.279.7275 ext. 15.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**: 1) Adopt a school by providing bus funding and/or educational resources for their park trips. 2) Consider underwriting a land acquisition project at your favorite national park. 3) Or sponsor our **Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award** event. See page 14.

**JOIN OUR BISON LEGACY SOCIETY**: Your legacy will change the face of parks and the lives of people who enjoy them. Become a founding member by including NPT in your estate planning with gifts or proceeds from life insurance, retirement plans, or bank and investment accounts. Contact Maryann Kearns for more details at maryann@parktrust.org or call 301.279.7275 ext. 15. See page 15.

**CONNECT**: Stay up to date on our work. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletters **NPT News** and/or **Buddy Bison’s Buzz** (for kids) at parktrust.org or call Rebecca Hansell at 301.279.7275 ext. 12. Share with friends using **#buddybison** or by following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

NPT is a nonprofit charitable organization 501(c)(3), exempt from taxation (Tax ID # 52-1691924). All contributions to NPT are 100% tax deductible.
In 2000, NPT created the Bruce F. Vento Public Service Award to honor outstanding elected officials for their work to protect and preserve our parks, public lands and waters—America’s heritage. This bi-partisan award also pays tribute to the legacy of Bruce Vento, a former science teacher, 12-term congressman from Minnesota, and a champion for our nation’s parks. Congressman Vento was the chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands, and as the committee chair passed more park legislation than any other previous chair.

Over the past 16 years, this annual award event has evolved into a special opportunity for NPT not only honor an extraordinary public official, but also to celebrate our numerous accomplishments and acknowledge our many partners and supporters for their important role in our mission and work.

For 7 of those years we have been very grateful for the leadership sponsorship from Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC, a national law firm based in Alton, Illinois. The firm’s key support, totaling $150,000 to date, allows us to recognize outstanding park stewards and advance our programs. All proceeds from the Vento Award event fund our park projects and youth programs.

“We are proud to support the National Park Trust in memory of Congressman Vento as a way to honor his legacy and help others enjoy his passion for the outdoors,” said Simmons Hanly Conroy Shareholder Perry Browder.

“Thank you so much to Simmons Hanly Conroy! You not only honor Bruce’s legacy and the recipient of the award each year, but your gifts are making a tremendous difference to so many students,” said Sue Vento, a member of NPT’s leadership council. “While it’s possible to quantify gifts in dollars and cents, calculating Simmons Hanly Conroy’s generosity is best done listening to the stories and seeing the faces of kids who are the beneficiaries of incredible outdoor learning experiences.”
NPT is honored to recognize the following supporters who helped us impact our national parks and the lives of countless children. Donors listed here have gifted $100 or more in fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016). We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you find an error, please contact Rebecca Hansell at 301.279.7275 ext. 12.
Buddy Bison students at the FDR Memorial, National Mall (D.C.).
Mojave National Preserve (CA).