



Community HealthCorps





Community
HealthCorps

Founded in 1995 by the National Association of Community Health Centers, Community HealthCorps is the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program that promotes healthcare for America's underserved, while developing tomorrow's healthcare workforce.



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National Service - National Parks Partnership Strengthens Community Health

2013 Active Living Research Conference, San Diego, CA

Gerrard Jolly, National Deputy Director

Community HealthCorps – An AmeriCorps Program of the
National Association of Community Health Centers

February 27, 2013



National Service – National Parks Partnership

Healthy Communities Project



National Service – National Parks Partnership

The Healthy Communities Project

A collaboration that encourages health and wellness for vulnerable populations by promoting the meaningful use of parks to improve public health.

Piloted in the Washington, DC, New York, NY (South Bronx), & East Boston, MA metro areas.



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Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation Assistance
Program



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Community Health Centers



Community HealthCorps seeks to improve access to preventive healthcare and enhance workforce development through CHCs & national service programs.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provides technical assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.



National Service – National Parks Partnership

Enhancing the Use of Parks

AmeriCorps Members Serving Vulnerable Pops



National Park Outdoor Recreation Specialists

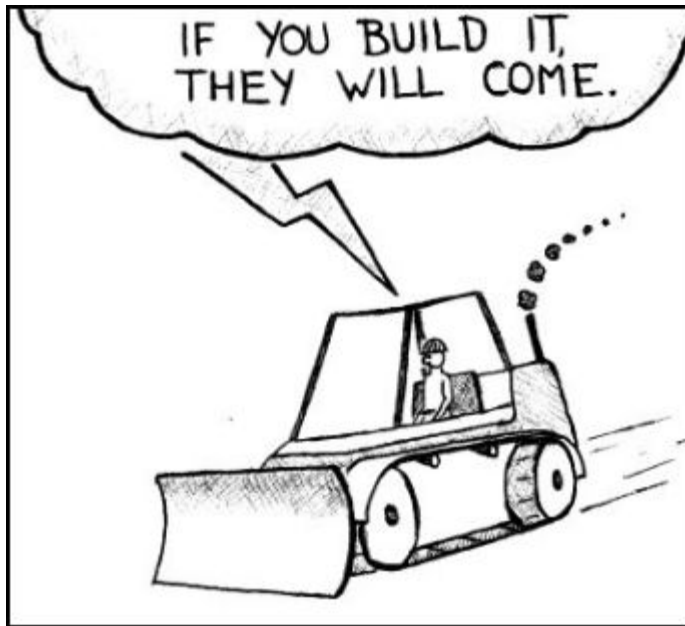


Vulnerable Populations Engaged in Physical Activity in Local, State & National Parks



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The Challenge?





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The Solution Concept



If you build it they will come. If you build it and lead people to it, more will come.



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- U.S. residents who could name a Natl Park System unit they ‘d visited in the 2 yrs before the survey were disproportionately white & non-Hispanic.
- Among respondents who had not visited in past 2 years, the reason most widely endorsed was that they “just don’t know that much about National Park System units.” Hispanic, Asian, and African Americans were more likely to agree with this statement than were non-Hispanic whites, both among recent visitors and non-visitors.
- African American visitors were most likely to view outdoor exhibits and participate in cultural demonstrations and ranger-led tours.

Taylor, Patricia A., Burke D. Grandjean, and James H. Gramann. 2011. National Park Service comprehensive survey of the American public, 2008–2009: Racial and ethnic diversity of National Park System visitors and non-visitors. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/SSD/NRR—2011432. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.



Survey Observations

- Low response rate of 150 of 1100 individuals
 - Half of participants ≤ 10 years of age
- Useful for purposes of gaining insight/ less useful for generalization.
- Surveys addressed barriers to visitation, mode of transport to parks, and intentions to recommend future visits to others.



Preliminary Findings

- Most respondents had visited local parks or other green spaces 3 or more times in the previous year.
- Most respondents walked (45%) or biked (17%) to parks.
- The most significant barriers to visitation were cleanliness, fear of crime or danger, and weather. Weather was #1 with 1 previous visit.



Preliminary Findings

- Likelihood to recommend visits to parks was greatest when travel time was 60 minutes or more (10 on scale of 1 to 10).
 - 30 to 60 minutes (8 of 10).
 - 15 to 30 minutes (5 of 10).
 - 1 to 15 minutes (8 of 10).



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Next Steps

- Education on park safety and accompanied visits to national parks of distances of 1 hour or more are scheduled in the spring.
- Park health assessments are being conducted to determine cleanliness and other risk factors.
- Alternative activities are scheduled in cases of inclement weather.



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For further information about Community HealthCorps,
visit www.communityhealthcorps.org

