



Serving 21st Century Learners: The Roles of National Trails

13th National and Scenic Trails Conference
May 17, 2011



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
English novelist (1812 - 1870)



- **What's New at NPS?**
 - Leadership Support
 - New People
 - Renewed Commitment to Partnerships





- **New Priorities**
 - Education
 - Relevancy
 - Workforce
 - Stewardship





- **21st Century Learners Need:**
 - Information processing and communication skills
 - Problem solving, analyzing, systems thinking
 - Technology skills, media literacy
 - Collaboration, teamwork, cooperative learning
 - Self direction and motivation



- Personalized Learning
- Learning Anywhere Anytime
- Mashing and Remixing
- Communities of Learning
- Authentic Experiences





- Informal education venues like the National Scenic and Historic Trails and their non-profit partners are playing an increasingly important role in education reform and life long learning.





Interpretation has to change to be relevant in the 21st century

- Expand our methods and delivery mechanisms
 - Create programs *with* audiences
 - Use new technologies and media
 - Find new ways of building community
 - Facilitate learning on and off the trail
 - Model and teach civic engagement skills such as community service





We Can't Do It Alone!

- Engage Co-Equally with Others
 - Traditional Partners
 - Non-Traditional Partners
 - Formal Educators
 - Academia
 - Informal Educators
 - Community-based Organizations
 - Young People
 - International Partners
 - Tribes
 - Many Cultures
 - Many Learning Styles
 - Many Abilities

Biophony





- **Innovation is Happening!**



A Trail to Every Classroom

“The Trail to Every Classroom program engages young people in nature. It brings together Trail managers, teachers, and children, allowing a safe place to engage in physical exercise, explore nature, learn about the Trail as a natural and cultural resource, and collectively get their hands dirty.”

--Richard Louv



- **Innovation is Happening!**



Teacher Ranger Teacher

This week is CAS testing for DCPS. I have enjoyed being in my uniform, especially to spice up testing...the uniform reminds me of all the great things education CAN do...and what I fundamentally believe in....

Ranger Amy's Blog

<http://rangeramy.blogspot.com/2010/04/mary-mcleod-bethune-dorothy-height-and.html>



- **Innovation is Happening!**



African Burial Ground National Monument



- **Innovation is Happening!**



Geocast--The augmented reality app integrates new visual layers into the user experience of the Devils Tower National Monument including, geo-sourced information, text, images, and data. Users will discover "hidden" or "lost" history and sacred sites long destroyed.

"Finding Sacred Ground" is being developed with [Devils Tower National Monument](#).



- **Innovation is Happening!**

Journey Through Hallowed Ground
“Of the Student By the Student For the Student”

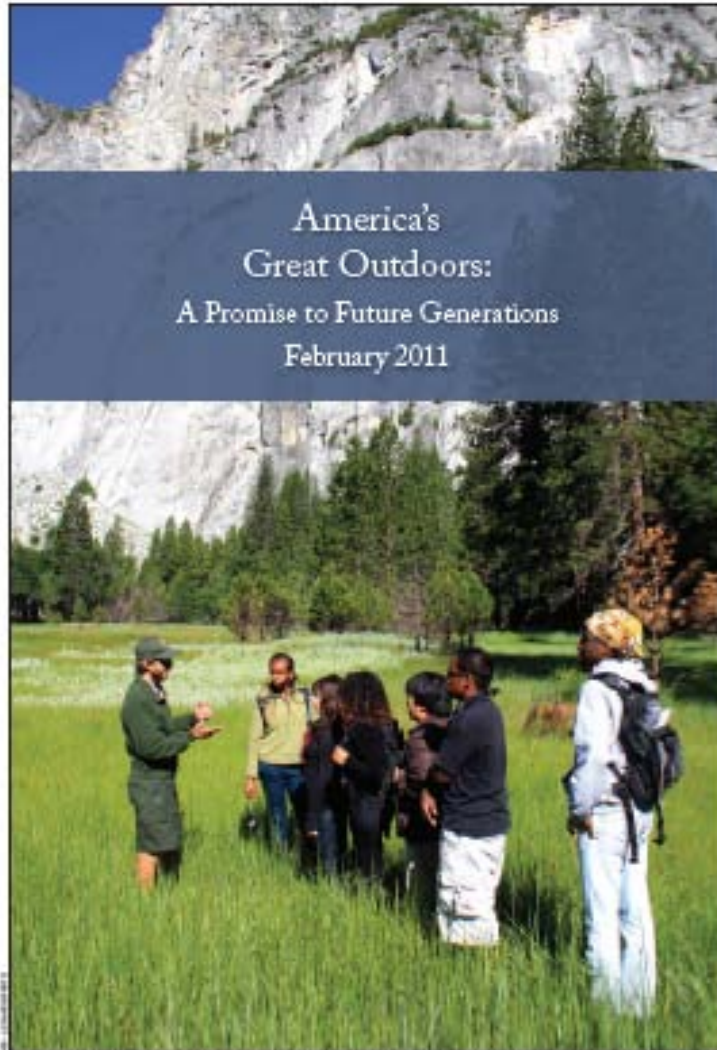
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQgPe-nQGv0>



- **Emerging Priorities**

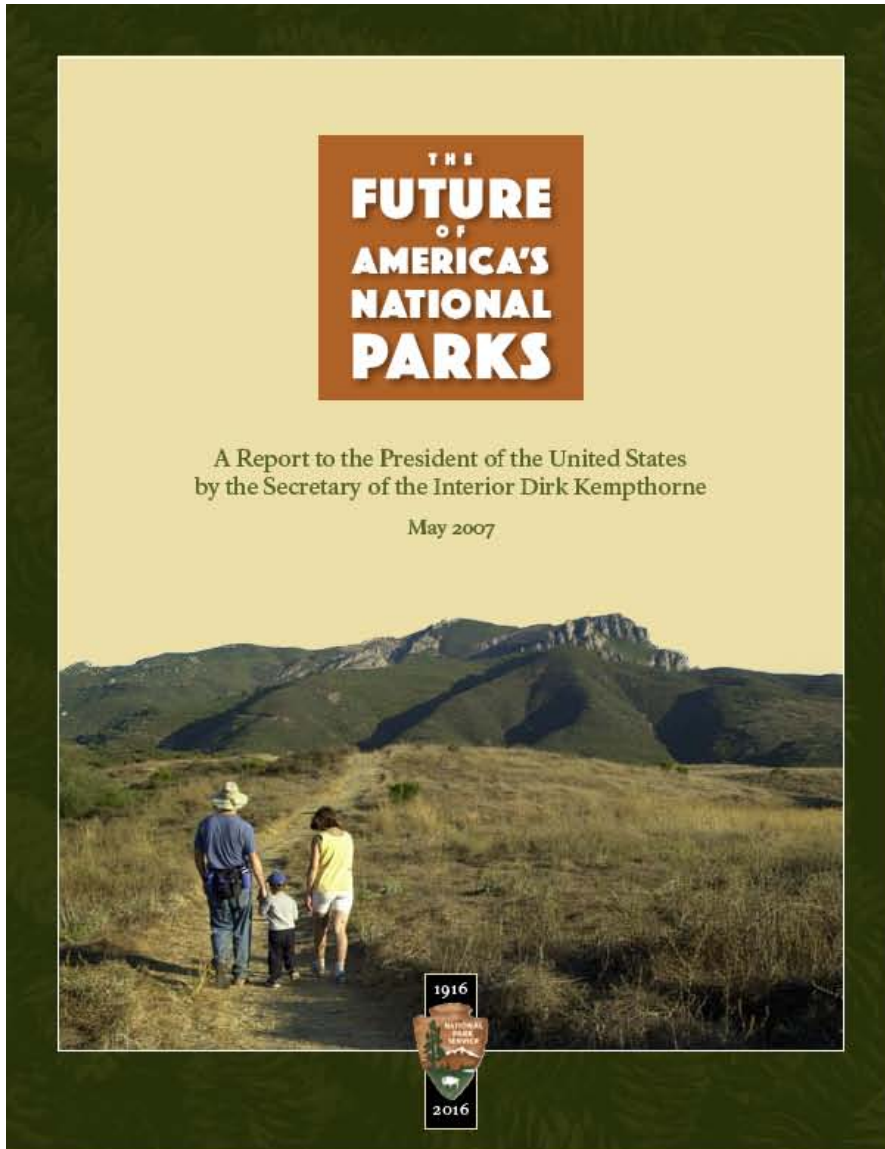
- Customer Service Excellence
- Professional Development
- Programmatic Accessibility
- Cultural Competence, Relevance, and Inclusion
- Facilitation, Collaboration, and Coalition Building
- Web Content, New Media, and Social Networking
- Strong national, state, and local partnerships





AGO

- 51 Listening Sessions
- 105,000 Comments
 - Pathways for Youth
 - Enhanced Recreational Access
 - Education
 - Great Urban Parks
 - Strengthen Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Conserve and Restore Public Lands and Waters
 - Conserve Rural Working Farms
 - US Gov -- More Effective Partner



- **NPS Centennial?**
 - Repackaged
 - AGO Task Directive
 - Rollout August 25th



• Civil War Sesquicentennial (CW-150)

- Lincoln Inaugural Train Reenactment
- Official Website—April
- Lot's of Opportunities
- Increased Tourism
- NPS Efforts Lead By
 - RD- Southeast
 - AD- Cultural Resources





- **Let's Move Outside**

- Junior Rangers
- Other Activities





- **Healthy Parks Healthy People**

- Modeled After Parks Victoria (Australia)
- Jarvis Harvard School of Public Health Speech—
Feb. 18
- April Conference
- Broad Public Engagement
- NPS Public Health Officer—Chuck Higgins





It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
English novelist (1812 - 1870)



Share Power





When you know even for a moment that it's your turn, then you walk with the power of a thousand generations.

--Bruce Cockburn



Julia Washburn

202-208-4829

julia_washburn@nps.gov

Twitter: @ADInterpEd

Inside NPS Blog