



People Powered Parks

PROMOTING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN NATIONAL PARKS: THE CENTENNIAL AND BEYOND

The National Park Service (NPS) Park Facility Management Division (PFMD) Transportation Branch is sponsoring an effort to support bicycling and walking as active transportation to and within national parks.

This effort will be conducted in two phases:

1. Phase 1: Researching and supporting “Car-Free” or “Open Streets” events in national parks; and
2. Phase 2: Developing an Active Transportation Guidebook for national parks and their partners.

More specifically, the effort entails:

- Fostering a multi-partnership endeavor;
- Promoting non-motorized access and enjoyment of NPS sites;
- Celebrating NPS Centennial events;
- Supporting park related events through stakeholder sponsorships;
- Establishing technical support teams;
- Documenting processes, considerations, & lessons learned;
- Developing a best practice “how-to” guide; and
- Conducting webinars to present final report findings.

Active transportation and recreation efforts with national park sites across the country are providing a multitude of benefits to parks and surrounding communities. They accommodate an increase in park visitors to and within NPS sites, alleviating vehicle congestion, promoting protection of park resources, encouraging climate-friendly travel options, promoting healthy outdoor recreation and enhancing the visitor experience.

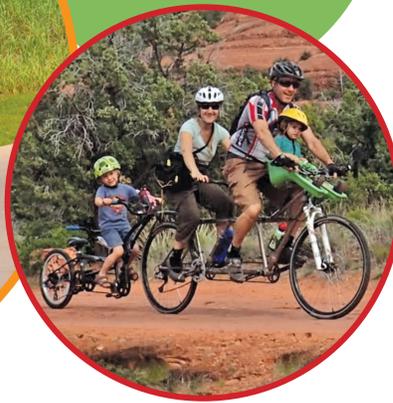
Examples include implementation of bike sharing systems to and within NPS sites, coordinating with local communities to develop multi-use trails and bicycle/pedestrian roadway infrastructure, implementing car-free events on NPS roadways, hosting bicycle safety trainings, and more. Many of these efforts are being accomplished through NPS staff and program support, as well as through support provided from local/state/national organizations and partnerships.

The Guidebook will include best practice examples, lessons-learned, and key considerations of these types of efforts. It will also incorporate technical guidance from subject matter experts to assist NPS sites and partners interested in pursuing initiatives in the future. See the back page for more details on the Guidebook contents.

Project Partners:

- NPS PFMD Transportation Branch
- NPS Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program
- NPS Centennial Office
- NPS Denver Service Center
- Federal Highway Administration Office of Federal Lands Highway
- Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
- Adventure Cycling Association
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Open Streets Project
- Friend’s Groups or Sponsors

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Active Transportation Guidebook

PROMOTING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN NATIONAL PARKS: THE CENTENNIAL AND BEYOND

The NPS is developing an **Active Transportation Guidebook** for parks and gateway communities interested in encouraging and promoting walking and bicycling both to and within national parks. This document is intended to inspire NPS staff—including planners, project managers, facilities and maintenance staff, and management—as well as community and local government partners to consider potential areas of improvement for active transportation.

Opportunities for improving walking and bicycling are as diverse as the park units and their surrounding communities. Information in the Guidebook will be applicable to a wide range of contexts and settings, from small, urban historic sites to large, remote parks with extensive road networks. The Guidebook will focus on several topic areas, infrastructure and connectivity, safety, open street events, and more. It includes information, resources, and strategies for pursuing active transportation opportunities, and for addressing challenges that may arise. The Guidebook will provide examples throughout for inspiration, and present best practices upon which parks and local partners can build.

The Guidebook will include the following chapters:

- 1. Getting Started with Planning and Policy:** Provides foundational information on how to follow applicable law, policy, and guidelines; how to meet NPS and park goals; and how to inventory active transportation infrastructure, programs, opportunities, and needs.
- 2. Infrastructure and Multimodal Connectivity:** Introduces types of infrastructure (e.g., pedestrian pathways, multi-use trails, bike lanes, etc.) and strategies for improving connectivity between modes.
- 3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety:** Provides information and resources to evaluate and improve safety for active transportation modes. Strategies include infrastructure improvements, safety education, and enforcement.
- 4. Connecting Parks to Communities:** Explains the benefits of and purposes for partnerships and building physical connections with surrounding communities, funding opportunities, and case studies.
- 5. Bicycle Sharing and Rental Systems:** Discusses types of bicycle sharing and rental systems, opportunities and constraints, and case studies.
- 6. Employee and Operational Opportunities:** Explores opportunities to support and promote employee, concessionaire, and partner active transportation such as employee incentive programs and bicycle fleets used for operations activities.
- 7. Visitor Programs:** Discusses visitor programming related to guided tours, special events, “open streets,” bicycle travel policies and touring routes, as well as policy considerations.
- 8. Innovative Technologies and Emerging Trends:** Discusses other emerging topics, such as bicycle and pedestrian count data, e-bicycles, fat tire bicycles, and automated vehicles.

