TRAPS Legislative Task Force – Call to Action
Support the Federal Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act

On Thursday, June 24, 2021, Senators Hickenlooper and Padilla introduced the Parks, Jobs and Equity Act in the US Senate.
We're part of a coalition working to pass the Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act, which would provide $500 million in much-needed funds for local parks and meaningfully reduce long-standing park inequities that plague our communities.

As you know, we need the support of the United States House and the Senate for this historic legislation to become law – and with your advocacy efforts, we're making it happen. Today, the companion bill to the Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act was introduced in the Senate.

This is HUGE! Urge your Senators to cosponsor this bill now so we can make the outdoors more accessible to everyone.

The last few years have taken a terrible toll on our parks and public lands. We must undo years of mismanagement and funding deficits that have impeded efforts to ensure that all people have access to quality open spaces and safe communities.

If this bill becomes law, it has the transformative potential to stimulate the creation of thousands of jobs, generate an estimated $1.37 billion in economic activity, and create or improve over 1,000 parks in neighborhoods that would benefit most.

It's critical that your Senators hear from you today. Take action now and urge your Senators to cosponsor the bill to make a $500 million one-time, historic investment in park equity.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Contact the appropriate federal legislators (U.S. House and Senate) and share the noted talking points with them or their staff representative. Should you have any questions, please contact the Legislative Chair: Jeff Achee, jachee@harkerheights.gov 254-953-5657
- Post on social media (please be aware of your City's policies regarding advocacy by municipal staff)
  - The hashtag for the Parks, Jobs and Equity Act is **#OutsideforAll**. Please use this on posts across all platforms so we can amplify.
- Thank you for your prompt attention and action.

WHAT TO SAY

Hello, my name is ______________________ from _________________________. I am contacting you as a member of the Texas Recreation and Park Society and the City of _______________________ to express my strong support for the Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act.

Just as America's great outdoors have never been more in demand than they are during the pandemic, the consequences of park inequities - for our health, resilience, and prosperity - have never been more acute. COVID-19 is a wake-up call: the time to address the long-standing gaps in outdoor access and quality has come.

Today, over 100 million people in the U.S., including 28 million children, do not have a quality park or green space close to home. A recent analysis found parks serving predominantly nonwhite populations are half the size of parks that serve predominantly white populations and serve five times more people per acre. A $500 million investment would meaningfully reduce these longstanding park inequities and be put to immediate use supporting jobs at 1,000 targeted, locally prioritized park sites across the country. It also has the transformative potential to preserve or create thousands of jobs in frontline communities while generating an estimated $1.37 billion in economic activity.

This investment will also allow critical upgrades to our green space infrastructure and help mitigate climate change. Parks improve community health and climate resilience by reducing flooding, absorbing air pollution, and filtering storm water to keep rivers and lakes cleaner. Green, shady parks also protect people from rising temperatures, and can reduce the deadly "urban heat island effect" by as much as seven degrees. Further, investing in local parks has lasting benefits for public health. Scientific research finds that parks, green space, and outdoor activity reduce anxiety, stress, and depression, and improve physical health.

Access to the outdoors is a right that belongs to all. Please cosponsor the Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act today, which will provide a $500 million investment to help the economy, create jobs, invest in critical infrastructure, and address historic inequities.