



## OUTDOORS FOR ALL ACT (S. 2887, H.R. 5413)

### Talking Points

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- Parks and outdoor recreation spaces are essential and adaptable infrastructure that provide communities a myriad of environmental, public health, economic, social, and other benefits.
- Parks and outdoor recreation spaces make communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change. Trees and vegetation in parks help reduce air pollution directly by removing pollutants and reducing air temperature.
- Parks and outdoor green spaces help manage stormwater and drinking water supplies and also increase biodiversity—all of which are in jeopardy due to our changing climate.
- Exposure to parks and other green space corresponds with improved physical health, including decreases in many chronic diseases. Children with access to parks have shown decrease in obesity and sleep and cognitive disorders.
- Local parks are economic drivers, generating \$218 billion in economic activity and 1.3 million jobs in the United States in 2019. Further, the parks and recreation industry is a leading source of first jobs for youth and young adults.
- Unfortunately, underserved communities do not have adequate parks and outdoor recreation space, which has harmful effects on households, communities, and the climate. Providing parks and other outdoor spaces in marginalized communities is a critical tool to helping address climate and other environmental injustices.
- The Outdoors for All Act seeks to address the lack of adequate recreation space in underserved communities by codifying and establishing a dedicated source of funding for the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service.
- Project funding may be used for new parks, the renovation of existing recreation facilities, and the development of infrastructure that supports outdoor education and public land volunteerism.
- Priority will be given to projects that take place within underserved communities, empower the youth in these communities, and significantly enhance access to parks and recreational opportunities.
- Landscape architects are the leading professionals responsible for planning and designing community parks in a manner that meets the climate, health, economic, and recreational needs of all communities. Once the Outdoors for All Act is signed into law, the profession stands ready to access funding to create community park projects that help bridge the gap in underserved communities nationwide.
- **The ASK — House of Representatives:** Cosponsor H.R. 5413, the Outdoors for All Act, so that landscape architects may provide outdoor recreation space to communities across the nation.
- **The ASK — Senate:** Cosponsor S. 2887, the Outdoors for All Act, so that landscape architects may provide outdoor recreation space to communities across the nation.