



Public Use Statistics - Monthly Report January to April 2004

Recreation Visits

Units of the National Park System received 61.8 million recreation visits in the first four months of 2004.¹ The 5.3% increase in recreation visits was 3.1 million more visits than in the same period of 2003.

Washington, DC is the primary focal point of the increase. Fifteen of the 17 National Park System units in Washington, DC have reported an increase in recreation visits through the first four months of 2004, totaling 2.1 million more visits than in the same months of 2003. Six of the eight fastest growing units in the National Park System are in Washington, DC.

The largest year-to-date increases (in thousands) in visitation were reported at:

Blue Ridge PKWY	+581	Korean War Veterans Memorial	+366
Lincoln Memorial	+370	Vietnam Veterans Memorial	+346
President's Park	+368	Independence NHP	+271

The largest year-to-date decreases (in thousands) in visitation were reported at:

Guilford Courthouse NMP	-123	San Antonio Missions NHP	-96
Catoctin Mountain Park	-122	Natchez Trace PKWY	-68
Canyon de Chelly NM	-97	Olympic NP	-62

The following April 2004 changes in visitation over the same month in 2003 are notable:

Blue Ridge PKWY	+200,000 (%)	The Parkway has now reported an increase of over 500,000 recreation visits in the last three months.
Independence NHP	+188,000	The publicity around the opening of the National Constitution Center & moving the Liberty Bell to the Liberty Bell Center last year has resulted in an increase of 188,000 visits.
President's Park	+344,000	The March for Women's Lives

¹ NPS Public Use Statistics Office, Preliminary Data, 2004. Data are adjusted for delinquent reports and comparisons are made against the same time period in 2003.

passed through President's Park on April 25.

Washington DC Parks:

	+771,000
	(48%)
Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial	
Korean War Veterans Memorial	+ 112 ,000
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	(34%)
Lincoln Memorial	+185,000
Thomas Jefferson Memorial	(60%)
	+193,000
	(55%)
	+188,000
	(53%)
	+ 93,000
	(34`%)

Pleasant weather in 2004 is allowing the public a chance to visit the nation's capital. Daily increases range from 3-6,000 more people per day per unit. There is an observed rebound in Washington DC area tourism.

Non-Recreation Visits (Commuters)

Units of the National Park System received 48.5 million non-recreation visits in the first four months of 2004. The 6.4% increase in non-recreation visits was 2.9 million more commuters than in the same period of 2003.

The three major Washington, DC commuter routes within the National Park System contributed 1.2 million non-recreation visits in the first four months of 2004 (National Capital Parks East reported an increase of 0.5 million, George Washington Memorial PKWY increased by 0.4 million, and Rock Creek Park reported an additional 0.2 million).

Cumberland Gap began reporting non-recreation traffic on Highway 58 for the first time in 2004 with an increase of 0.8 million non-recreation visits in the first four months of 2004 compared with the same period in 2003.

Overnight Stays

Different parks have reported variation in the different elements of overnight stays. Grand Canyon NP reported an increase of almost 28,000 overnight stays in its concessioner lodging in April 2004 over the same period in April of 2003. Grand Canyon NP has now reported a total increase of over 60,000 overnight stays for all the overnight stay elements in 2004. Joshua Tree NP has reported a combined 24,300 fewer tent and recreational vehicles overnight stays because of the beautiful wildflowers last year and a lack of them this year. Lake Mead NRA has reported 18,000 fewer miscellaneous overnight stays because of fewer people on houseboats due to the shrinking lake levels. Virgin Islands NP has reported 30,000 fewer miscellaneous overnight stays attributed to fewer boats staying next to their shores.

Change in Overnight Stays in NPS Units 2003-2004

(through April 2004, numbers in thousands)

Overnight Stay Category	Year-To-D ate 2003	Year-To-D ate 2004	Difference	% Change
--------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

Concessioner	540	564	+24	+4
Lodging				
Concessioner	106	111	+5	+5
Camping				
Tents	397	354	-43	-11
Recreational	473	441	-32	-7
Vehicles				
Backcountry	269	290	+21	+8
Groups & Boats	323	289	-34	-11
Non-recreation	111	98	-13	-12

For further information please contact:

Tom Wade by phone at 303-987-6951 or email at tom_wade@nps.gov,
Jim Gramann by phone at 202-513-7189 or email at
james_gramann@partner.nps.gov, or
Brian Forist by phone at 202-513-7190 or email at
brian_forist@partner.nps.gov.

Public Use Statistics Office Web site: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats>
Social Science Program Web site: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/socialscience>