

National Park Service
2002 Environmental Achievement Awards
Winner

Delaware North Parks Services, Inc., Concessionaire
Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and Grand Canyon
National Parks

Delaware North Parks Services (DNPS) has been an outstanding leader in improving environmental performance through an environmental management system (EMS). “GreenPath,” the company’s extensive EMS, has been integrated into business practices and is based upon the following policy objectives:

- Incorporate environmental considerations into business decisions.
- Set measurable objectives to improve environmental performance.
- Reduce where practicable the generation, discharge, and emission of wastes into all environmental media – air, land, surface water, and groundwater.
- Anticipate emerging environmental issues and develop programs to respond to future requirements.
- Allocate and maintain resources for the effective implementation of environmental management and compliance programs.
- Encourage communication among employees, visitors, neighbors and surrounding communities, suppliers, customers, regulatory agencies and the general public regarding DNPS’ environmental issues.
- Strive to make a positive environmental contribution to local communities.

As a result of this program, DNPS became the first NPS concessionaire to obtain ISO 14001 certification, a third-party designation that requires extensive commitment to continually improving environmental performance. Accomplishments at the three highlighted Parks are summarized below.



Electric car used by DNPS Staff

Yosemite National Park

- Replaced nearly all hazardous cleaning products used in housekeeping, retail outlets, housing operations, High Sierra Camps, and other locations with non-toxic biodegradable products.
- Uses re-refined oil in its fleet of over 250 vehicles and arranges for waste oil generated from vehicle maintenance to be processed for re-refinement, allowing Yosemite to “close the loop” on this previously hazardous waste.
- Earned the “Top 10 Waste Reduction Program of the Year” Award from the California Environmental Protection Agency by recycling 33 different materials,

- achieving a sustained diversion rate of 43 percent, displaying interpretive and educational signage, and providing over 100 drop-off locations Parkwide.
- Specifies sustainable practices when renovating lobbies and corridors, such as using compact fluorescent lamps, recycled carpet materials and floor coverings, and donating mattresses and tabletops to nonprofit agencies.
 - Distributed GreenPath buttons, mugs, wallet cards, and “Turn It Off” signs for light switches.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park

- Established a recycle program with the Tulare County Conservation Corps (CCC), a non-profit organization that provides programs to benefit the youth in surrounding communities that come from disadvantaged or low-income backgrounds. CCC supplies recycle bins and collects glass, plastic, aluminum and newspapers; proceeds go to the CCC youth programs.
- Purchased durable recycled plastic lumber decking and picnic tables.
- Installed water-saving timers in public showers.
- Replaced dishwashers with more energy efficient models.

Grand Canyon National Park

- Implemented an environmentally safe cleaning and sanitizing system in its three stores.
- Increased recycling at its stores to include: glass, plastic, aluminum, tin, newspaper, magazines, office paper, and cardboard.
- Sells canvas reusable bags for nominal fee (\$2.99) to encourage sustainable packaging and offers a 10 percent discount to bag owners.
- Participated with community Earth Day projects and contests.
- Created a database to track all housing and store utilities, and distributed graphs on a monthly basis to staff to encourage energy conservation.
- Created nametags for all staff with GreenPath logo.