

National Park System Advisory Board



Citizen advisors chartered by Congress to help the National Park Service care for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Molly Ward
Hampton, VA
CHAIR

December 23, 2024

Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Shane Douglas
Washington, DC
VICE CHAIR

Dear Secretary Haaland:

Bowen Blair
Sun Valley, ID

On behalf of the National Park System Advisory Board (Board), I am pleased to forward to you for your consideration, two sets of recommendations that were developed by the Board and approved at our 166th meeting that was held on December 9-10, 2024.

Daniella Cava
Miami-Dade, FL

The first set of recommendations, *Strategies for Advancing Stewardship: Aligning Tourism, Conservation, and Partnerships in the National Park Service*, were developed as a result of the charge to the Board during the August 15-16, 2023 meeting. At that time, the National Park Service (NPS) Director requested that the Board develop recommendations to help inform the NPS's work as it revised its 1999 tourism policy. Over the next year, the Tourism Committee worked hard on developing actionable recommendations to support this task. We are pleased to share the final recommendations that the Board approved at our December meeting.

Theresa Coble
St. Louis, MO

Aja DeCoteau
Portland, OR

Victor Galan
Nacogdoches, TX

The second set of recommendations are a result of Executive Order 14121 (EO) that was issued by President Biden on March 27, 2024. The purpose of the EO is to advance recommendations to improve the recognition of the contributions of women and girls throughout the Nation's history. At its May 1-2, 2024 meeting, the Board established the Committee on Recognizing Women's History to begin this important work. We are delighted to share interim recommendations that were approved at the December Board meeting, and look forward to having final recommendations by next March 2025.

Gwen Iacona
Palm Bay, FL

Bob Keiter
Salt Lake City, UT

Tom Kiernan
Arlington, VA

We would note that although the Board approved the two sets of recommendations brought forward by the two committees, this work represents a much broader group of non-Board subject matter experts that engaged with each committee. Over many months, outside experts, government officials, and members of the public volunteered their time to brief committee members or share their thoughts via public comment. We are grateful for their participation and input.

Breece Robertson
Antonito, CO

Lindsay Robertson
Norman, OK

We hope you find these recommendations to be helpful in supporting the critical work of the NPS as our Nation's storyteller and protector of nationally important natural and cultural resources.

Lisa Sumption
Salem, OR

Sincerely,

Jessica Thompson
Marquette, MI

Molly Ward
Chair, National Park System Advisory Board

D. Reid Wilson
Raleigh, NC

Attachments