



congratulating you for stating the obvious. Our parks are suffering badly because of wrongheaded financial priorities and ideas about best use.

GAY KRAMER-DODD
Eugene, Oregon

This is a wonderful article highlighting the precious gift we Americans have in our national parks. There is a funding crisis that I contribute to by being a senior. At age 62, one can receive a Golden Age Passport that costs only ten dollars for life! I have used mine frequently. With approximately 2.9 million Americans turning 60 this year, I feel strongly that seniors can contribute more to the parks that we cherish.

JOACHIM F. WIRTH
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

"Now we must learn how to speak with the people who haven't been coming," Howard Levitt of Golden Gate National Recreation Area said in your article. The people who haven't been coming to national parks,

or who come but look bored, are young kids. Several years ago I discovered the Junior Ranger program, in which you complete a booklet as you go around the park and get a badge as a souvenir. I enjoyed it so much that I set up a website to display my badges and inform other kids about the program (*juniorranger.info*). It allows kids to learn things about nature, history, and culture in a fun way. I've got over 250 badges and patches, and even though I'm 13 now, I hope to visit more parks.

SAM MASLOW
Brooklyn, New York

I feel that today's environmental challenge is coordinating urbanization with nature. Thank you for reminding your readers that we thrive in nature. Hopefully city planners will begin to integrate nature and cities as a catalyst for the health of residents.

MARISSA MARKOWITZ
Fairfield, Iowa

