

PROTECT AND
PRESERVE FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS



JTNPA

2024 Funding Needs



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	03
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JTNPA - A BRIEF HISTORY	04
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EDUCATION

MARIAN HUFF TREMBLAY SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	05
---	----

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM	06
-----------------------	----

DESERT LIFE

DESERT TORTOISE TRACKING PROGRAM	07
-------------------------------------	----



TABLE OF CONTENTS



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP MONITORING PROGRAM	08
JOSHUA TREE SEED COLLECTION	09-10
<i>HUMAN IMPACT</i>	
MID-CENTURY RANGER STATION RESTORATION: COTTONWOOD DISTRICT	11
BIG FOOT ORIENTATION PLAZA	12
BLACK ROCK EQUESTRIAN CENTER VAULT TOILETS	13-14
<i>MORE INFORMATION</i>	
MEET OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT	15
HARD AT WORK	16
MAKE A DIFFERENCE	17
BUSINESSES AND THEIR IMPACT	18



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ah, Joshua Tree....Let's face it, we're smitten. We've been in love with Joshua Tree since 1962, when a small but mighty little non-profit called the Joshua Tree Natural History Association was born, and we're still in love today. Things have changed over the years, through earthquakes and powerful desert storms; through drought and flooding; through countless administrations, management plans, and government shutdowns; in good times and bad, in sickness and in health. Our relationship has seen name changes and boundary shifts (does this acquisition make me look fat?), challenges and opportunities, and a massive growth spurt in recent years – but we are still here and growing ourselves! Joshua Tree National Park Association has changed dramatically in the past few years, and the best change of all has been adding a new way to show our beloved park how much we truly care. In the past, we have funded several programs and projects through our retail contribution and gifts from members and donors (thank you!) but beginning last year we became what is known as a Friend's Group. That means we can now actively fundraise for the park, to address shortfalls in federal funding and monies gathered from entrance fees. You see, the desert is a harsh mistress – and something of a homewrecker! The extreme climate can accelerate decay and decline, and the park's popularity in recent years has added to the wear and tear. And let's not forget the ugly reality of climate change. The Joshua trees that make the park such a magical place are under direct threat from even the slightest upticks in temperature each year. So, what do we do when something we love is threatened? Everything in our power to stop the threat!

But how do we do it?

We are making a tangible difference in the fight against climate change-related issues in the park by providing funding to several branches of the Joshua Tree Climate Change Response Program. From donating money for Joshua tree seed collection, which allows rangers and volunteers to collect and store seeds for their preservation and the restoration of disturbed lands, to funding the Joshua Tree Science Research Grant program, which supports graduate student researchers in field studies that in turn benefit the park and its protection and preservation, we are supporting crucial work that may help us to understand how to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures on not only the Joshua trees but also park wildlife.

With your help, we have funded bighorn and desert tortoise research for years and will continue to do so – and likewise will continue to fund the park's Junior Ranger program to engage and raise up the next generation of public lands stewards. We are also helping with ways to welcome and engage the growing number of visitors that come each year, ensuring that they recreate safely and responsibly, while mitigating damage to the resource that is more than just land to us – it is a living, breathing entity that captivates those who visit with its unique magnificence. If we are still talking like honeymooners, it's because Joshua Tree just keeps getting better and better – and we are thrilled to have the privilege of being a part of its grand legacy. We are making a difference every day.

Park Lovers, are you out there?

We know that you feel the same way – and that Park Lovers come from everywhere, in all shapes, sizes, and ages. We're excited to invite you to become an official Park Lover so we can share what we love most about JTNP with you. The following pages outline the projects we are working on this year, but it is not an exhaustive list by any means. As in any relationship, new things pop up all the time – new opportunities, new challenges, new growth. We are so excited to be in the position we are in, standing in the breach alongside our park partners to preserve, protect, and improve this little piece of the world that is ours – and we are proud to represent each of you in that fight as well. Please visit our website to learn more, donate, or become a member – and if a particular project or program catches your fancy, be sure to reach out and let us know. Funds donated can absolutely be earmarked for a specific use. And if you ever have any questions, or if you'd like to discuss something in more detail, please drop us a line. We are all in this together.

With love and appreciation from Joshua Tree!



JACQUELINE GUEVARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Your support is critical to maintaining the beauty and integrity of Joshua Tree National Park's unique ecosystems. The Joshua Tree National Park Association has been the park's non-profit cooperating partner since 1962, with a mission to help in its achievement of programming goals in education, interpretation, scientific and historic research and activities. Programs and projects that would not be achieved using only federal funds and personnel are made possible through the Joshua Tree National Park Association.

The Joshua Tree National Park Association is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) association. All donations made are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. An official record and receipt acknowledging a donation will be mailed to the donor for their records. The Joshua Tree National Park Association's Tax ID is EIN# 95-2312513.

MARIAN HUFF TREMBLAY SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FUNDING NEED: \$27,500



JTNPA supports early career scientists pursuing answers to desert conservation and preservation questions. The Marian Huff Tremblay Science Scholarship Program is solely funded by JTNPA and includes the newly minted *JT Science* publication. The scholarships support graduate student researchers conducting independent field studies that help park staff make informed management decisions and discover wonders of our unique desert environs.

By offering up to \$5,000 to each student, the Marian Huff Tremblay Science Scholarship Program provides opportunities for the student to gain experience with grant and report writing skills, budget management, and, most importantly, to demonstrate how their research can apply to land management issues. Led by Park Botanist and *JT Science* editor Dr. Tasha LaDoux, student applications are subject to a rigorous review process. A panel of park service and subject matter experts considers applications that demonstrate a benefit to scientific understanding using sound methodology.

Awardees are required to provide lectures and workshops for the Desert Institute, manuscripts for *JT Science*, public outreach materials, as well as final reports summarizing their findings, all of which will inform park managers on the many biological, socio-cultural, and physical science resources being protected in the park.

JTNPA has supported over 30 students to date. We have gained insight on visitor awareness of tortoises, conservation implications for fringe-toed lizards and Joshua trees, impacts to soil crust, and inventories for bees and wasps. These scholars' efforts have even assisted in identifying new species of poppies and green algae.

Marian Huff Tremblay was a tireless advocate for students in science. This scholarship celebrates her passion and dedication, and all of her contributions as a long time leader and member of the JTNPA.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

FUNDING NEED: \$30,000

Explore. Learn. Protect.

The Junior Ranger motto is recited by children around the country; each taking an oath of their own to protect parks, continue to learn about parks, and share their own ranger story with friends and family.

The NPS Junior Ranger program at Joshua Tree National Park, fully funded by JTNPA, is an activity-based program. Many national parks offer young visitors the opportunity to join the National Park Service "family" as Junior Rangers.

Interested youth complete a series of activities during a park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger patch and Junior Ranger certificate. Junior Rangers are typically between the ages of 5 and 13, though people of all ages can participate.

The largest expense to maintaining this program at Joshua Tree National Park is the printing and production of the Junior Ranger booklet. Approximately 70,000 booklets are printed annually to support this important and impactful program which cultivates knowledge and passion about land stewardship.

Sharing this message and creating a sense of ownership at a young age ensures that our national parks and other public lands are protected and preserved for future generations. Help us by investing in the future.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS / ALESSANDRA PUIG-SANTANA



DESERT TORTOISE TRACKING PROGRAM FUNDING NEED: \$10,000

Joshua Tree National Park's Tortoise Tracking Program is another exciting project made possible through financial contributions from JTNPA. This program allows NPS employees to track tortoise movement and collect data on the tortoise population within Joshua Tree National Park.

Arguably the most-studied animal in the park, the desert tortoise was placed on both the California and Federal Endangered Species Lists in 1989 and 1990, respectively. Its status is "threatened" – just one notch below "endangered". This is why NPS Wildlife Biologists prioritize understanding this threatened desert reptile before it's too late. As more people move into the western deserts, the ensuing population density causes a loss of habitat, significantly impacting the number of tortoises. With more people also come more ravens. These large black birds are known to eat hatchling tortoises. The number of ravens has exploded in recent years, due in large part to their ability to thrive in developed areas. The factors contributing to their dramatic increase include more roads, thus more roadkill; landfills; powerline poles, an ideal lookout post for hungry ravens; and littering.

For NPS employees to continue monitoring this incredible species within park boundaries, they need adequate equipment. The tracking devices needed include radio transmitters, GPS loggers, traffic counters, and telemetry receivers. These devices will support this important program and help researchers understand where desert tortoises are thriving, how quickly they're reproducing, and how California's drought impacts their odds of survival. In addition to purchasing tracking devices, the funding provided also covers the costs of a lead Ranger and volunteer hours to support the bulk of the labor associated with this ongoing effort.

While in the park, you may see desert tortoises out and about looking for water. Let's all be #TortoiseAware while driving, hiking, and recreating! Please follow all posted speed signs throughout the park, check under your car when driving off, and please give them their space if you spot one.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS/DANIEL ELSBROCK,
NPS/SHAY SPATZ, NPS/BRAD SUTTON



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP MONITORING PROGRAM FUNDING NEED: \$50,000

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS/PRESTON JORDAN JR.



Joshua Tree National Park is in need of funding for a research project studying the movement patterns of desert bighorn sheep. The research project evaluates how desert bighorn sheep interact with human-made barriers, identifies ways to improve movement across those barriers, and assesses sites for evidence of bighorn sheep recolonization around Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and Death Valley National Park.

The money raised for this program will allow JTNP researchers to coordinate surveys on bighorn sheep and purchase the equipment needed to survey their populations. From helicopter time to ground researching, these funds will help in ensuring critical habitats in the park are protected from disturbance. The results may provide telling information about how we can help support and protect bighorn populations across the Mojave Desert.



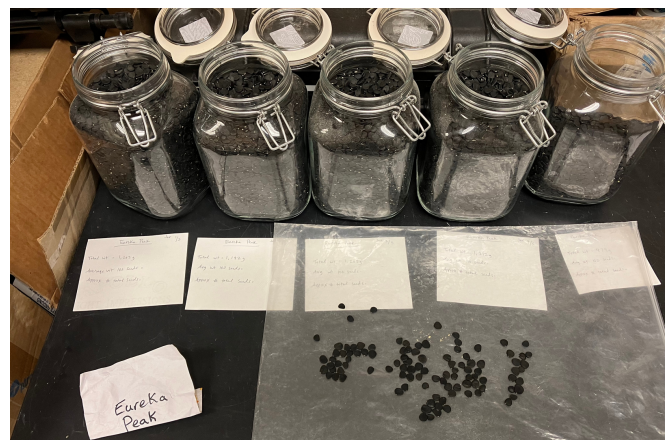
JOSHUA TREE SEED COLLECTION FUNDING NEED: \$17,500

PHOTOGRAPHY BY YOSELYN AYALA
VEGETATION BRANCH STAFF HARVESTING YUBR FRUIT



Collecting and storing seeds from Joshua trees is a crucial step in preserving this desert icon. With climate change impacts predicted to reduce Joshua tree habitat by 80% to 99% in the next 100 years, Joshua tree abundance and distribution in the park is going to change significantly. Storing Joshua tree seeds now provides options in our warmer and drier future. Seeds capture the genetic variation within Joshua trees and provide an opportunity to restore drought-adapted Joshua trees to burned areas in Joshua tree refugia. JTNPA supports park staff and volunteers by funding the equipment and youth employment needed for successful seed collection and storage.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NOLA PIERCE
STORAGE JARS OF HARVESTED SEEDS



**JOSHUA TREE
SEED COLLECTION
FUNDING NEED: \$17,500**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS





MID-CENTURY RANGER STATION RESTORATION: COTTONWOOD DISTRICT FUNDING NEED: \$500,000

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS

Mission 66 was the largest construction program in the history of the National Park Service and was intended to conclude with the celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1966. This mid-century era represented the park service's new way for the American public to experience national parks across the nation.

Mission 66 included much needed upgrades to roads, utilities, restrooms, campgrounds, employee housing, and other essential infrastructure.

Because Joshua Tree National Park was developed primarily during this era, it received significant funding to erect modern visitor and staff facilities throughout the park; however, most of the Mission 66 resources in the park have been altered beyond recognition and no longer reflect their association with the program or the Modern Movement style – except the Cottonwood District!

The Cottonwood District Ranger Station Restoration project will allow the ranger station to be restored to its original Mission 66 state by reversing modifications made to the original building and aligning its appearance with the brand-new visitor center being built on its campus.

Restoring this ranger station will allow for Joshua Tree National Park visitors to experience this important piece of NPS history while providing a modern perspective on how NPS operates and takes care of millions of visitors per year from these essential buildings in the park.



BIG FOOT ORIENTATION PLAZA

FUNDING NEED: \$150,000



This project will expand paved parking to 66 spaces (3 accessible) and 4 RV/trailer spaces to the existing Bigfoot Trailhead 12 space parking lot with drop-off area and future bus/shuttle stop.

Additionally, it will include a rail fence around the perimeter of the parking lot, accessible sidewalk around the outside perimeter of the parking area that will lead to a Visitor Orientation Plaza, sunset view benches, a trailhead kiosk, a new double vault toilet, a future trailhead connector to Maze Loop Trail, and a turn lane from the main road. The shaded Visitor Orientation Plaza will have information on how to recreate responsibly, wayfinding, and site interpretation.

Some of the benefits to funding this project are:

- Disperse visitors by providing a new destination area that provides entry to an extensive and underutilized trail network.
- Improve visitor experience by providing additional visitor amenities such as vault toilets, a Visitor Orientation Plaza, and the expansion of equestrian facilities for access to Maze Loop Trails.
- Reduce congestion by providing a bus/shuttle stop.
- Reduce resource impacts by discouraging road shoulder parking and associated social trails.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS / CARMEN AURRECOECHEA



BLACK ROCK EQUESTRIAN CENTER VAULT TOILETS FUNDING NEED: \$70,000

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS



The Black Rock Equestrian Center, located at Black Rock Campground, lies among one of the thickest Joshua tree forests in Joshua Tree National Park. Its location on the park's northern perimeter makes it a popular rest stop for hikers, birders, horseback riders, and RV campers.

Funding this project will allow for the purchase and installation of ADA accessible double vault toilets and the concrete structure to house them. It also includes a compliant concrete handicap accessible ramp, hand sanitizer, wastebasket, a stainless steel urinal, and solar light kit.

With the increased visitation at JTNP now exceeding 3 million people per year, ensuring the essentials of development are met at the Black Rock Equestrian Center is a critical part of building a strong infrastructure while also providing visitors with accessible and safe restroom access.



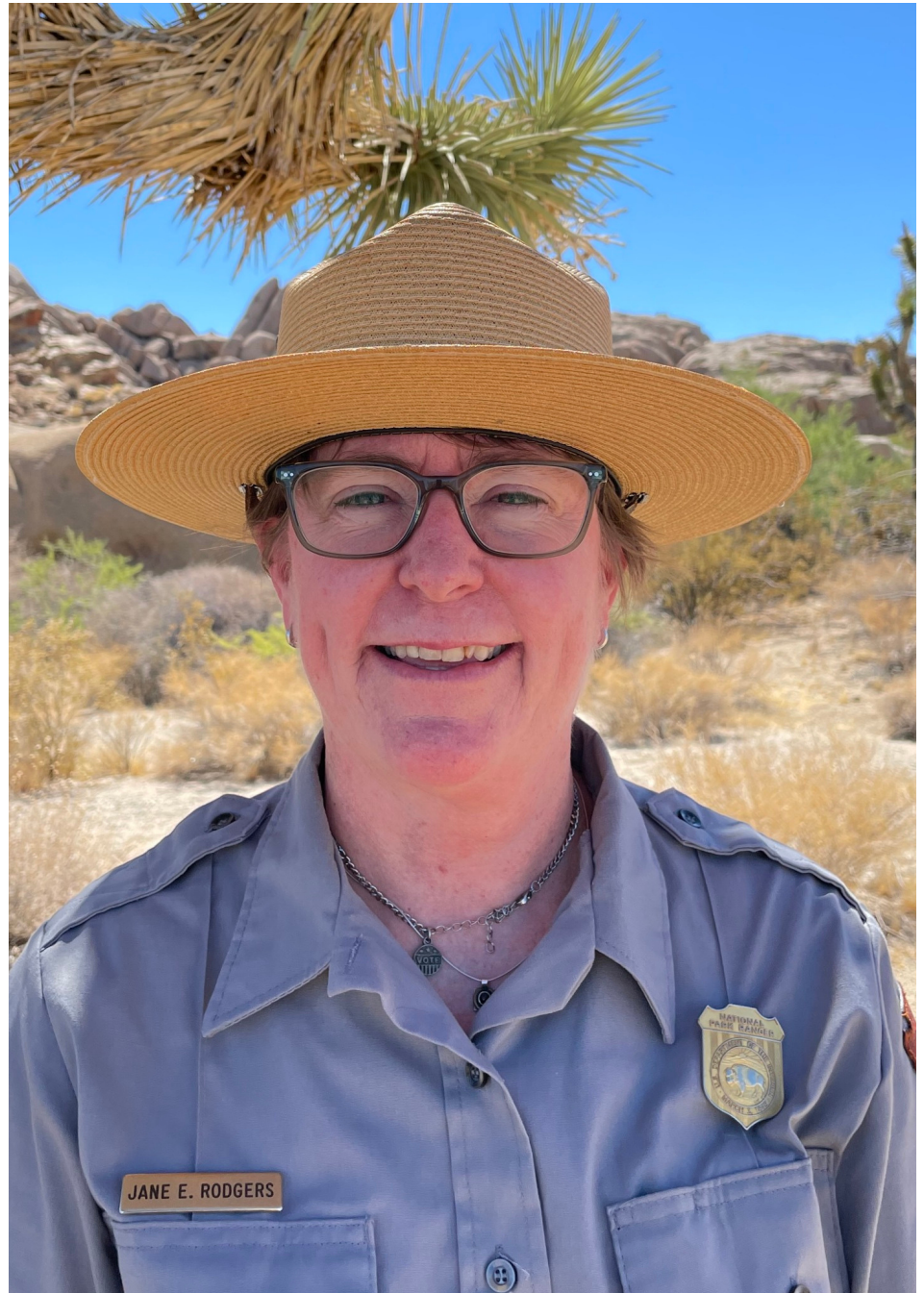


PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS/HANNAH SCHWALBE AND NPS/BRAD SUTTON
AT BLACK ROCK



MEET OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS



Jane Rodgers began her journey in public lands stewardship at UC Berkeley with a degree in Forest Management followed by two years of service in the Republic of Niger as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer. In 1994, Jane was offered her first job with the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park.

She spent nine years managing large-scale habitat restoration projects, protecting rare plants, and investigating the role of fire on the desert landscape. In 2003, she moved to Point Reyes National Seashore as the park's vegetation ecologist conserving federally endangered species in coastal dune habitat, and leading fire planning and rangeland programs... and in her off time enjoyed DJ'ing a local radio show.

In 2008, Jane moved to Grand Canyon National Park to serve as a Deputy Chief of Division of Science and Resources Management. During her Canyon tenure, she also served temporary assignments as the Park Chief of Staff and Acting Superintendent to the Southeast Arizona NPS units. Jane was thrilled to move back to Joshua Tree in 2016, amazed to learn that visitation had nearly tripled since her last hitch.

Over the last six years, she has prioritized park efforts towards visitor use management, climate change response, and mitigating external threats to park resources. Jane enjoys the desert and its vibrant community with her wife Kate and their two rascally terriers, Birdie and Grit.



HARD AT WORK



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JTNPA, PARKS PROJECT, AND
WILD TRIBUTE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DONATE

Donate today by visiting joshuatree.org/donate. You can designate your gift to specific programs or projects that are significant to you or donate to our general fund to help the overall preservation and conservation of Joshua Tree National Park.

PARK LOVER

Preserve and protect Joshua Tree National Park by joining or renewing your Park Lover membership with JTNPA. Your support provides much needed funding for achievement of programming goals in education, interpretation, scientific and historic research and activities.

PARK PARTNER

Park Partners are a special group of business members who purchase an annual membership ranging from \$500-\$5,000. Their contributions make a true impact and remarkable difference for the future of Joshua Tree National Park.

PARK CHAMPION

Stock donations and planned giving can be an easy, highly effective way to support Joshua Tree National Park. Often all it takes is a simple form or phone call to set up a donation that will help provide for the park's future.



WWW.JOSHUATREE.ORG

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO
DISCUSS PLANNING A GIFT TO
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
ASSOCIATION, PLEASE
CONTACT:

Christine Grimes, Director of Development
760-820-1123 - chris@joshuatree.org





BUSINESSES AND THEIR IMPACT

Our business partners are some of our biggest advocates. They create a community of support for Joshua Tree National Park. Each partner, large and small, brings a diverse set of strengths and resources to preserve the park experience for future generations. Our loyal partners make ongoing contributions to JTNPA. These funds play a pivotal role in the park's critical projects, education programs, and conservation efforts. Our success is made possible by these businesses, our donors, and our supporters. Only together can we make a difference.

Thank you!

Deneen Pottery - deneenpottery.com
Digitalandstone - digitalandstone.com
Fog & Fern Coffees - fogandferncoffee.com
Golden State Cider - drinkgoldenstate.com
Joshua Tree Distilling Co. - joshuatreedistillingco.com
Mojave Desert Skin Shield - mojavedesertskinshield.com
Mojave Mallows - mojavemallows.com
Parks Project - parksproject.us
Shwood - shwoodshop.com
Westward Whiskey - westwardwhiskey.com
Wild Tribute - wildtribute.com



PHOTOGRAPHY BY NPS / CARMEN AURRECOECHEA



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION
74485 NATIONAL PARK DRIVE
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277

