

National Park Service: Park Tiles

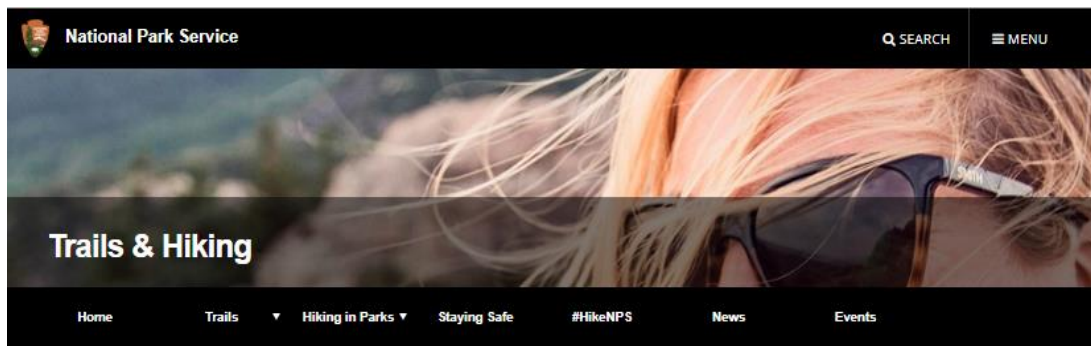
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Park Tiles is a suite of online basemaps designed to fit the National Park Service's graphic identity. Built with simplicity and flexibility in mind, Park Tiles basemaps can be used as stand-alone reference maps, or customized web maps with additional data overlays.

Park Tiles is primarily used on nps.gov, and can be viewed in action on the following NPS webpages: [Where Can I Hike?](#), [The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone](#), [general reference map for Olympic NP](#).

A mobile-optimized version of Park Tiles is also used in the latest generation of NPS mobile applications; examples include apps for Yellowstone NP, Shenandoah NP, the National Parks of New York Harbor, and several others.

Screen capture of Park Tiles used as a basemap with custom overlays on nps.gov



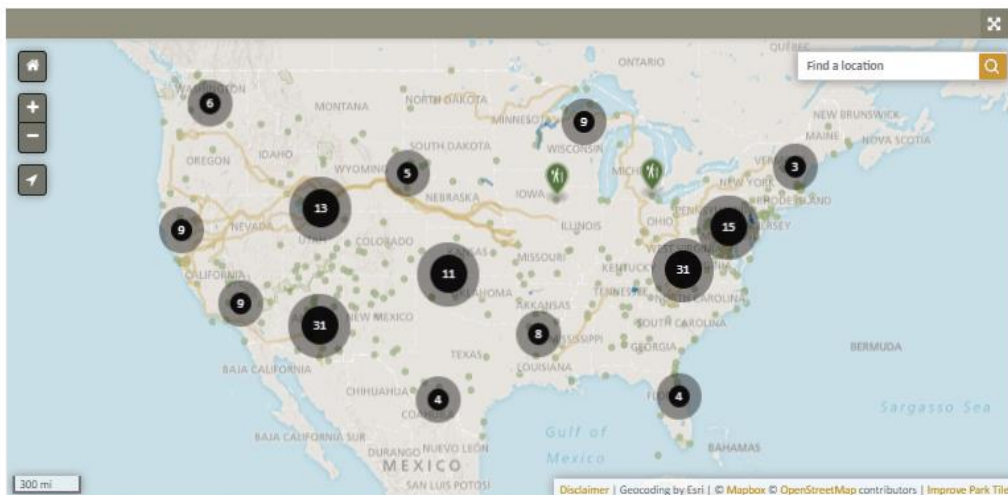
Screen capture of NPS Shenandoah mobile app, which uses a Park Tiles Mobile basemap



NPS.gov / Home / Hiking in Parks / Where Can I Hike?

Where Can I Hike?

There are over 21,000 combined miles of trails for you to explore in the National Park Service. Whether you're looking for rugged slopes or a flat, smooth boardwalk, our guide will help you find a national park trail for you.



Looking for recommendations? Here are a few hikes that you won't want to miss.

FEATURED HIKES AND PARKS

CSU initiative

CSU Research Associates (RAs) working under the CESU task agreement have served critical roles in every stage of the development of Park Tiles. Indeed, a CSU RA launched the project, arrived at the name “Park Tiles” while attending a cartography conference, and built the earliest prototype basemap using TileMill with OpenStreetMap data. Since the project’s inception, RAs have served cartographic roles to determine the map’s look and feel and symbolization, and data engineering roles to integrate NPS-sourced data into the map. During that time, web mapping technology and the tools used to create basemaps have changed drastically. As a result, a significant part of an RA’s work involves keeping current with those changes and determining best practices with the latest available tools.

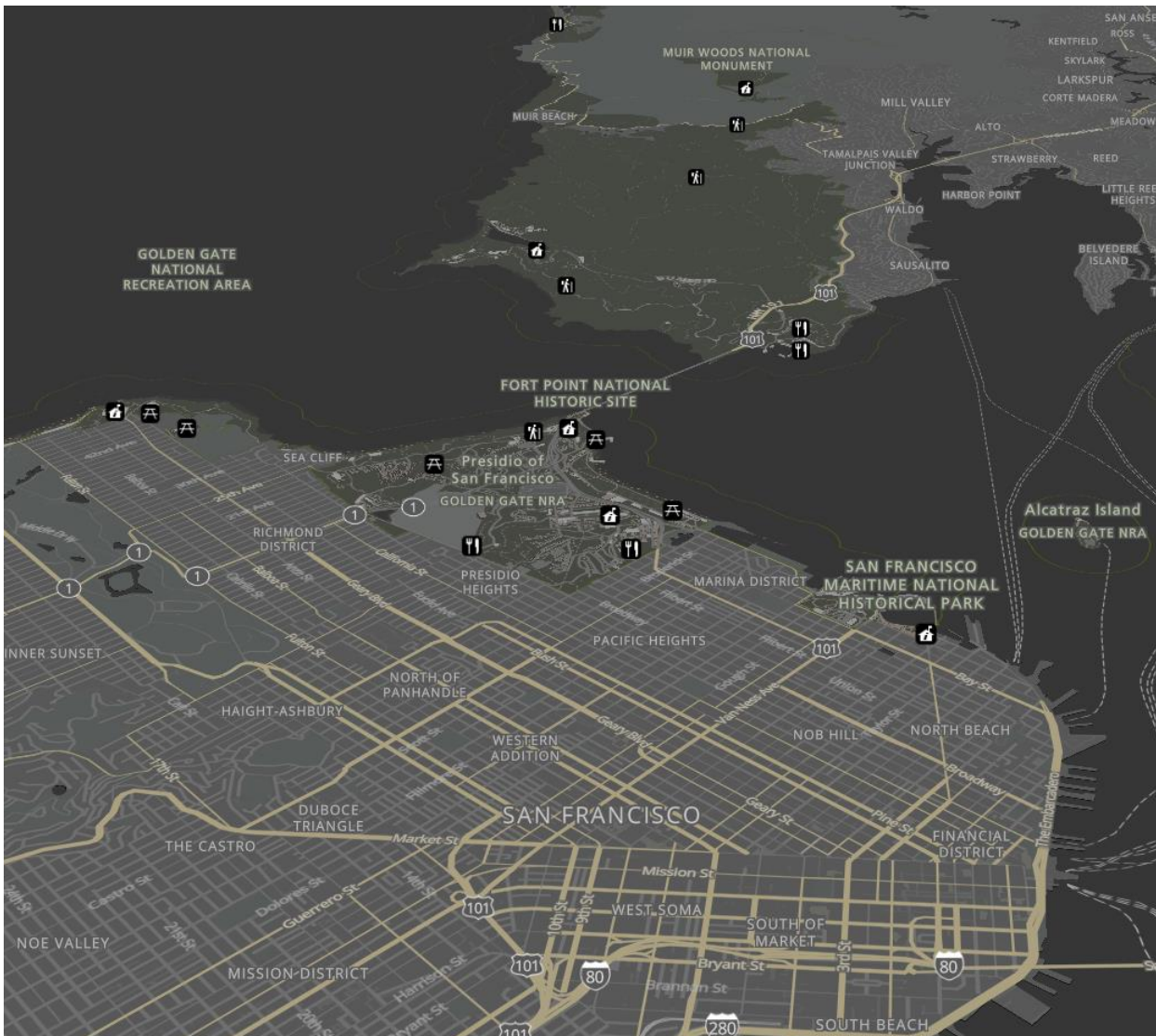
Close collaboration with agency partners

RAs involved in the development of Park Tiles are in daily communication with their federal colleagues to establish agency needs and coordinate staff time and resources. Put another way, federal NPS staff set the mandate and the overarching direction for the project, and the RAs determine the best course of action and implement it. The collaboration between RAs and federal NPS staff takes many forms. For example, cartographer RAs periodically consult with the print cartography team responsible for designing the iconic NPS print brochure maps. The dialog between print and web cartographers assures that the agency produces maps across all media with a consistent look—a key principle in maintaining a consistent graphic identity. In another example, data engineering RAs work with their federal counterparts to build databases and vector tile sources adapted to the data housed in agency enterprise datasets.

Next page: The update to version 4.

The update to version 4

Park Tiles is in the midst of an extensive overhaul. In order to take advantage of web GL-enabled vector technology, Park Tiles 4's styling has been rebuilt from the ground up. In addition, the data stack has been greatly improved to pull select themes directly from NPS enterprise datasets, with augmented support for specially designed cartographic datasets necessary to publish complete basemaps to the web. RAs will finalize version 4 for initial release in March 2019, and soon after begin integration into nps.gov and mapping platforms like NPMMap Builder and ArcGIS Online.



Excerpt from Park Tiles 4 Slate