



February 24, 2014

Dear Local Park Partner,

On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act to protect Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove and cede them to the State of California as the nation's first State Park. This landmark act represents the first instance of the federal government setting aside park land specifically for preservation and public use. This act created a legacy for California and our nation.

Over the last 150 years, local agencies such as yours, along with California State Parks and the National Park Service, have carried out this legacy by setting aside park land for the public good. Local agencies have the unique opportunity to meet community park and recreation needs through open space, community centers, sports fields, tot lots, picnic areas, paved and non-paved recreational trails, and more.

Local, state, and national park agencies also have an opportunity to work together as partners through grant program funding, sharing expertise, and utilizing volunteer resources. Working together, we can ensure a seamlessness between local, state, and national park systems that includes on-going engagement with a diverse public in a diverse state with diverse resources. Meeting the needs of today's Californians and preparing for future generations not only continues this legacy, but affirms the importance of drawing people outdoors to enjoy and benefit from park and recreation experiences.

During the 150th Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act this year, the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) encourages you to share your story about how your agency is fulfilling this legacy. Consider conducting a special event, using items from the 150th Anniversary Commemoration tool kit, and exploring new partnership opportunities.

For more information about 150th Anniversary events throughout the state, visit <http://www.150.parks.ca.gov/> today!

To learn more about OGALS, visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov/grants or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CAPARKGRANTS>.

Sincerely,

Jean Lacher, Chief
Office of Grants and Local Services
California State Parks