



## June is [PTSD Awareness Month](#)

For a quick refresher, reference our previous [look](#) at the theories supporting nature-based PTSD therapies and their benefits to mental and bodily health.



Photos and facts of your favorite parks, one issue at a time

## FEATURED PARK

### Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge South Carolina

**FACT 1:** Originally known by the Sewee people as Oneiscau, the refuge's Bulls Island became the *first [island breeding site](#)* for Red wolves in the country. 26 pups were born on the island between 1987 and 2005, most of which were relocated to North Carolina's Albemarle Peninsula.



PHOTO CREDIT: USGS

**FACT 2:** Cape Romain is the *only* estuarian refuge on the entire eastern seaboard directly adjacent to a large, federally protected mainland. The water filtration and development protection provided by the Francis Marion National Forest has historically made the [refuge's estuaries](#) some of the ***cleanest and most ecologically productive*** in the country.

Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

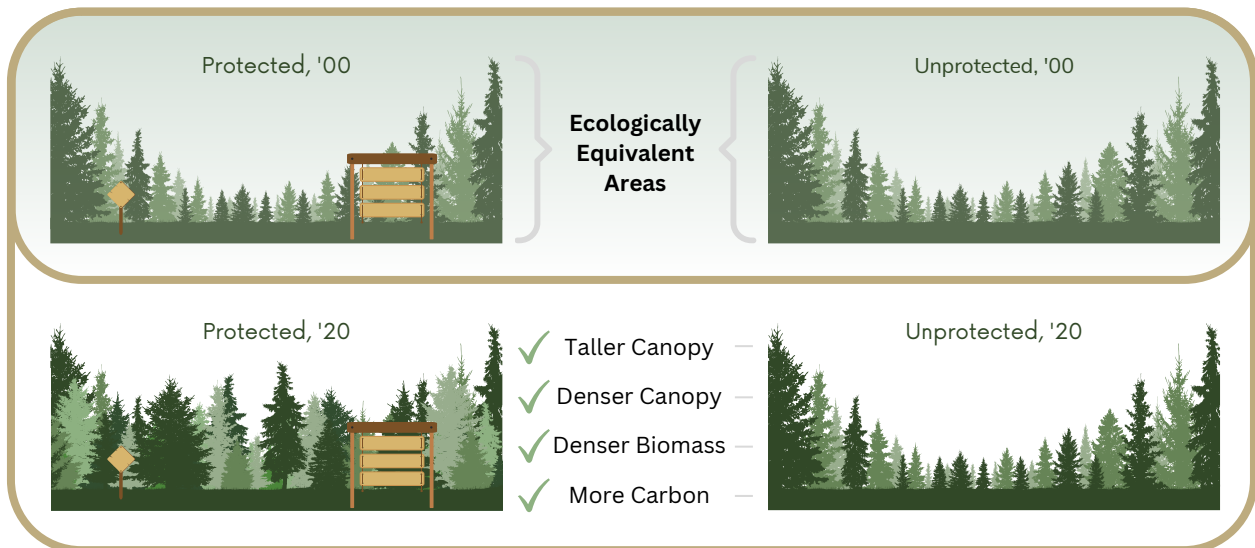
# PARK PERKS



Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

Land conservation boosts biodiversity, but its direct contribution to fighting climate change is often understated. To spotlight this important role, we look to an [article](#) published just this week in the journal *Nature Communications*. Using archived land mapping data, a team of government and university scientists identified pairs of sites that were ecologically equivalent in 2000 and differed only by their conservation status - protected vs. unprotected. The authors then used NASA's new [Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation \(GEDI\)](#) lidar system to sample the forest structure and above-ground carbon content of these sample locations. By comparing the differences in 2020 conditions between paired sites that had the same forest and biomass characteristics 20 years prior, the team found that protected areas had *increased forest growth and less carbon loss* from forest degradation.

## Carbon Benefits of Protected Area Status



While it may not be surprising that protected areas are more effective carbon sinks than similar unprotected sites, the authors found the scale of difference is sizable. "Areas with PA status have, on average, **28% more** [above-ground carbon] than their matched unprotected sites." Compared to their matched sites, protected areas also had higher tree canopies, more canopy coverage, and higher biomass density, all of which individually are known to increase biodiversity and soil health.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Will Baughman** - Nicholas School Master of Environmental Management student - for receiving a Stanback Fellowship to help the Institute perform an industry needs analysis to develop an interactive conservation career mapping tool.

What do you call a manatee wearing eyeglasses?

**PLAYGROUND**

a see cow