

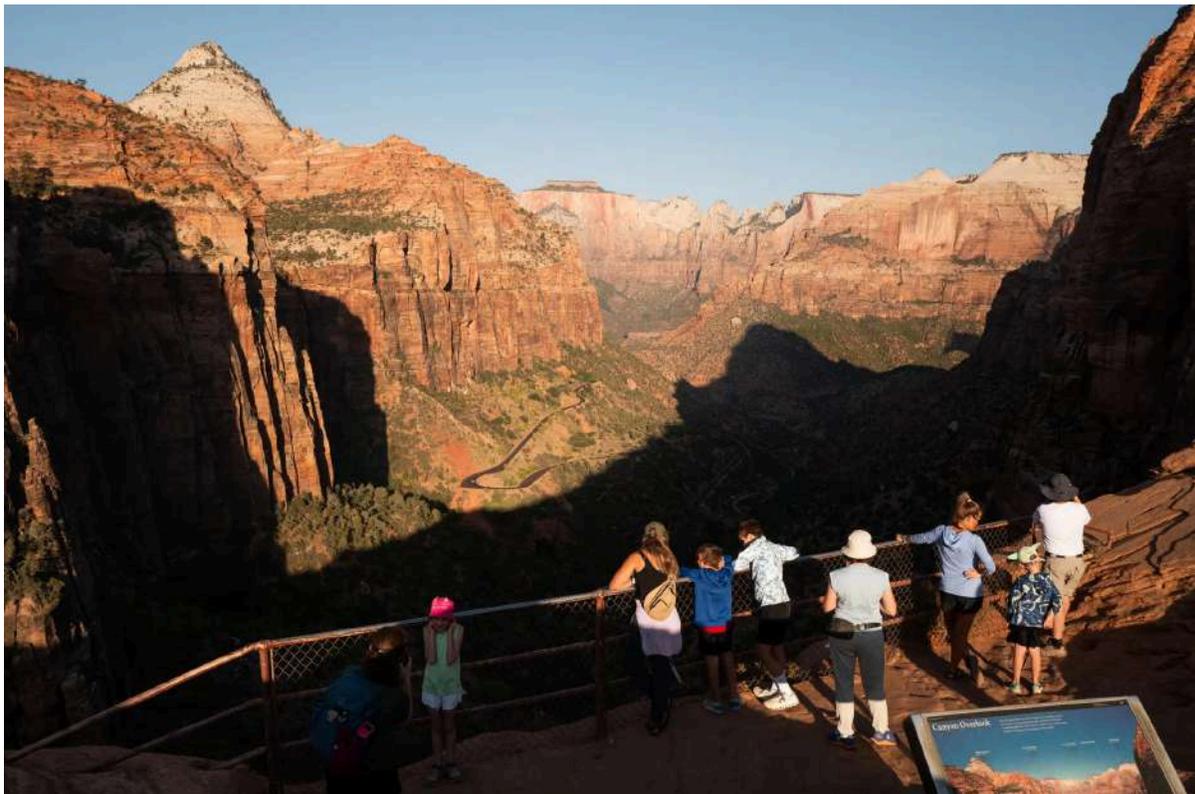
LETTERS

# Trump's Painful Cuts to National Parks

Sept. 12, 2025

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Erin Schaff/The New York Times

pathways to experiencing our natural heritage.

Cutting funding for national parks harms more than just conservation efforts; it denies Americans the opportunity to commune with nature, putting even the natural world into the realm of the elite.

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Kyle Frost

Salt Lake City

**To the Editor:**

This article underscores what we as park leaders of the Olmsted Network are seeing across the country: Parks are being forced to do more with less. Shrinking staffs and budgets mean fewer programs that communities have come to rely on. They mean deteriorating facilities and concerns about visitor safety, as well as loss of revenue for the sites already struggling with the lack of funding.

Frederick Law Olmsted, who codesigned Central Park in Manhattan and Prospect Park in Brooklyn and created more than 100 other parks, landscapes and communities across the United States, believed that parks should be spaces where all people could find health, beauty and respite. That mission is now at risk.

The Olmsted Network, representing more than 150 landscapes, has seen how underinvestment erodes these spaces as well as public access to them. Parks are not luxuries. They are essential infrastructure. If we want them to remain places of safety, recreation and community, we must fully fund and cultivate them for the future.

Sue Breitkopf

Washington

*The writer is the president of the Olmsted Network.*