

NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH



Contact: Craig Lewis
2861 Duke Street, Suite 36
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.370.9510 / Fax: 703.370.9514
media@npg.org / www.NPG.org

Press Release

For immediate release

New NPG Forum Paper Spotlights the Decreasing Availability and Accessibility of Open Spaces

When Population Growth and New Trends Jeopardize American Resources

Alexandria, VA, (August 6, 2025): Negative Population Growth (NPG) is proud to announce the release of its latest Forum paper, [*Uncrowded, Inc.*](#), authored by acclaimed writer Mark Cromer. This insightful publication examines the increasing commodification of open spaces in the United States, driven by population growth and the pervasive influence of social media.

This paper highlights key issues surrounding the growing inaccessibility of natural spaces for lower-income populations. It reveals how rising population densities and economic inequality have rendered open spaces a luxury amenity reserved for the affluent, making them increasingly out of reach for others. Cromer elaborates by stating, “As population densities continue to grow throughout the country, open space and the sense of inner-peace that uncrowded environs provide is at risk of becoming another luxury amenity extended to those who can afford it and out of reach to those who can’t.”

Cromer also explores social media’s role in exacerbating overcrowding. Influencers and online trends, such as “glamping,” continue to drive unprecedented flows of visitors to previously serene destinations. For example, the National Park Service reported 332 million visitors in 2024, placing immense strain on park resources and impacting both accessibility and preservation.

Another focal point is the impact of development and gentrification. Cromer notes how population growth has transformed small communities and historic spaces. Since 2004, California’s population has increased by five million, leading to ongoing development pressures in areas like Buellton and Solvang. Iconic locales are being displaced by luxury commercial spaces, further limiting affordable public access to these regions.

[*Uncrowded, Inc.*](#), also discusses challenges to America’s national parks and public lands. With budget cuts threatening the National Park Service, the risk of reduced access and potential privatization looms large. The idea of selling public lands to private developers jeopardizes critical conservation efforts nationwide.

Finally, the paper evaluates how luxury travel trends feed into this broader issue. The rise in demand for “intentionally uncrowded” luxury experiences further cements natural spaces as commodities available primarily to wealthier individuals, leaving average Americans behind in the quest to experience tranquil environments.

NPG urges policymakers, public officials, and concerned citizens to reflect on these findings and their implications for equitable access to America's natural resources. The full paper, [*Uncrowded, Inc.*](#), is available on NPG's website at www.NPG.org. Visit today to learn more and join the conversation about preserving access and equity in our nation's shared spaces.

Since 1972, NPG has worked to educate both the public and policy leaders about the impacts of overpopulation. With a steadfast commitment to reducing population growth to achieve a sustainable balance with our environmental resources, NPG continues to be a leading voice of reason in a world often driven by the pursuit of perpetual growth. NPG advocates for the adoption of its [Proposed National Population Policy](#), with the goal of eventually stabilizing U.S. population at a sustainable level – far lower than today's. We do not simply identify the problems – we propose solutions. For more information, visit our website at NPG.org, follow us on Facebook [@NegativePopulationGrowth](#) or follow us on X [@npg_org](#).