According to the most recent National Parks Service survey, about 78 percent of those who visit federal parks are white. Meanwhile, African Americans, Latinos, women, and members of the LGBTQ community often report feeling unwelcome or unsafe in outdoor spaces. Moreover, the outdoors industry workforce—which includes everyone from park rangers to retail sales associates—has minimal representation from these groups.

This article outlines 5 ideas generated by prominent outdoor leaders, to work through these problems and identify potential solutions.

1. Teach the Full History of the American Outdoors
2. Make All Visitors Feel Welcome and Secure
3. Create Underlying Policies on Diversity and Fairness
4. Increase Economic Accessibility to Create More Access Points for All
5. Make Open Spaces More Representative, Culturally Relevant & Cool

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ON DIVERSITY
TERESA BAKER - WWW.OUTDOORRETAILER.COM
THE UNBEARABLE WHITENESS OF HIKING AND HOW TO SOLVE IT
DECEMBER 7, 2016 - LORNETT VESTAL
WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To understand environmental justice, it’s worth looking back at the events that helped launch the movement in the first place. Many point to 1982, when North Carolina had announced a plan to move soil contaminated with PCBs from alongside 210 miles of the state’s roadsides to a landfill located in Warren County, one of only a few counties in the state with a majority black population. The decision triggered waves of protests, one of which resulted in the arrest of a U.S. congressman and dozens of other activists who tried to block the PCB-laden trucks at the entrance to the landfill.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE