

BY DON WOODCOCK

PARKS ARE FOR PEOPLE

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Most would agree - the parks are for the people and the people respond by the thousands. Like many of you I also fought the good, not completely successful fight for some quiet outdoor relaxation on the recent long weekend.

We should, perhaps, rephrase the heading to read "Parks are for people, But" - On fine summer weekends many campgrounds look, and sound, like a city on wheels - just big noisy parking lots. Parks cater to this mass of machinery with miles of pavement designed to speed the flow of traffic into and about the park. Compare the miles of car roads with the miles of hiking trail at most parks.

Cars are, of course, essential in providing access to outdoor recreation areas. But as the numbers of people using the parks increase (up by more than 50% in recent years) the ability of these parks to provide a pleasant outdoor experience decreases. The whole exercise is self defeating. More cars, more roads, more cars. Radical new approaches to the