

SWISS PARKS

The park environment in Switzerland is taking shape. Following the dynamic changes of the past five years, the latest map (updated June 2014) includes 20 parks and park projects, representing approx. 15% of the area of Switzerland in 15 different cantons.

The Swiss National Park in the Engadine is the most well-known park in the country. It was established exactly 100 years ago as the first national park in the Alpine region and it has its own legal basis. As of recently, two other Swiss parks have been seeking the national label: Parc Adula and Parco Nazionale del Locarnese.

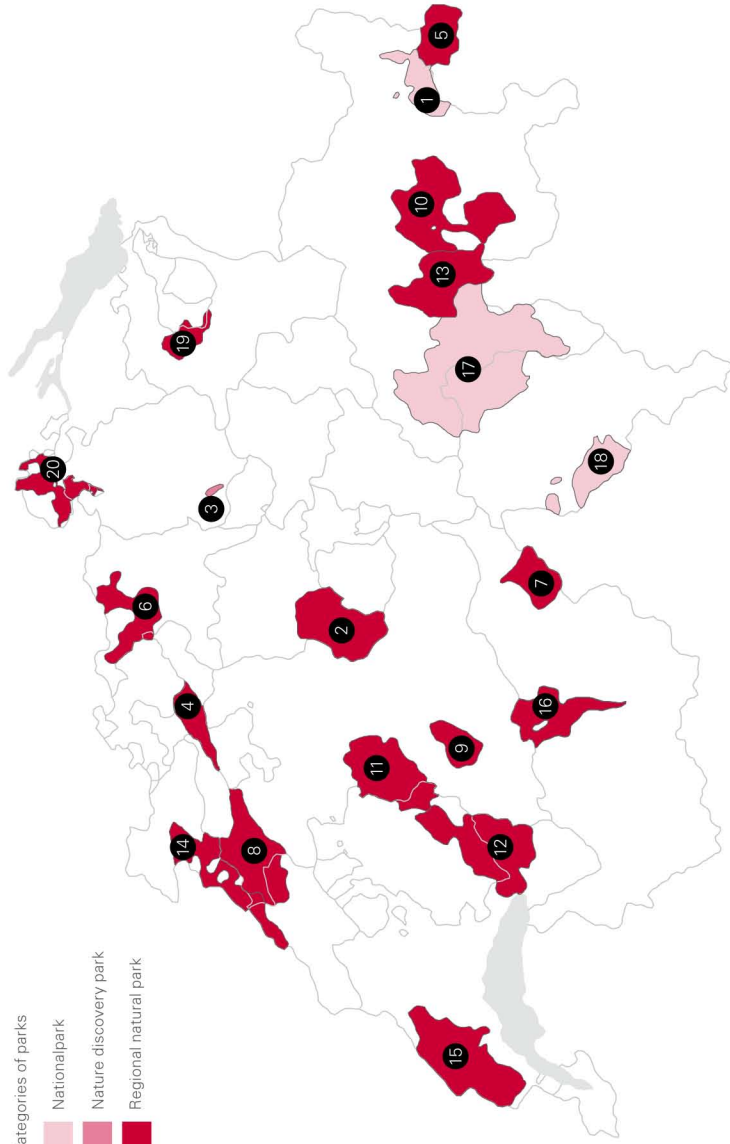
In addition to the national parks, Switzerland has sixteen regional nature parks and a nature discovery park, all based on the Parks Ordinance (ParkO) of the amended Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) of 2007. Two other nature parks are in the planning phase (candidates): the regional nature parks Neckertal SG/AR and Schaffhausen SH. The perimeters of the «candidates» have not yet been finally established. The population will decide in the next few years whether their municipality will definitively contribute to the cost of the park.

Swiss park policy has been a success story: Regional nature parks have sprung up in all areas of the country. They turned into pillars of long-term regional growth, verifiably creating added value for the natural and cultural landscape, for society and the regional economy, the latter primarily in the areas of tourism and regional products. The national and nature discovery parks are focusing on the conservation of nature and landscape. The natural landscape forms the basis for nature adventures and is thus also an attraction for regional tourism.

Studies on the value added by tourism in the UNESCO Biosphere Entlebuch (Knaus F, 2012) and the Biosphere Reserve Val Müstair Parc Naziunal (Backhaus N., 2013) have shown that 16% of the visitors go there because of the Biosphere Entlebuch and as much as 36% because of the Swiss National Park (so-called park visitors). They generate a total value added of CHF 6 million for the Entlebuch region and CHF 20 million for the Swiss National Park, which corresponds to six times the amount of the invested public funds (federal, cantonal and municipal).

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Categories of parks



- 1 Schweizerischer Nationalpark | 2 UNESCO Biosphäre Entlebuch | 3 Wildnispark Zürich Sihlwald | 4 Naturpark Thal | 5 Biosfera Val Müstair | 6 Jurapark Aargau | 7 Landschaftspark Binnental | 8 Parc régional Chasseral | 9 Naturpark Diemtigtal | 10 Parc Ela | 11 Naturpark Gamtrisch | 12 Parc naturel régional Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut | 13 Naturpark Beverin | 14 Parc du Doubs | 15 Parc Jura vaudois | 16 Naturpark Plyn-Finges | 17 Parc Adula* | 18 Progetto Parco Nazionale del Locarnese* | 19 Naturpark Neckertal* | 20 Naturpark Schaffhausen*

* Park candidate