I found a few interesting layers on ArcGIS online. Since I’m going with recreation, I decided maps that detail land features would be the most useful. However, I couldn’t really find too many that were recreation related. Nonetheless I found layers that will come in handy.

The first layer of interest is called Zion National Park Trails. This is a layer that shows the hiking trails in Zion National Park. It is placed over a topographic map. I find this particularly useful because one, it will allow to show the outline of any specific trail in my storymap, and two, the topographic map provides elevation data that I assume is useful to potential hikers that may not be used to the elevation and allow them to prepare accordingly.

The next layer I liked is called Terrain with Labels. This layer is a highly detailed topographic map. You can zoom in to about 1/3 mile and the map maintains a high resolution. Couple with that, it has very detailed labels. I was actually surprised by this. I zoomed into my hometown of Lordsburg, and having lived there for almost 20 years, I still didn’t know the names of a lot of the surrounding hills and mountains. This layer showed those names and elevations, and I think all that data would be useful for describing scenic views. This would allow me to list more names and information in the storymap.

The third layer I found to be useful is called USA Protected Areas. This layer outlines the land that is managed for biodiversity conservation at the two highest levels. While this isn’t particularly related to recreation, I feel that it may be of use in a storymap when giving general information about the park. I think it’s important that if there is a protected area within a park, that the visitors are aware of it and realize the importance of preserving the parks. This would probably be used on one of the last slides where rules and guidelines are outlined.

Another layer I found interesting is called USA Detailed Water Bodies. This is a topographic map with a layer that shows highly detailed outlines of bodies of water in the USA. I zoomed into Las Cruces and it even had outlines of the duck and turtle ponds here at NMSU, so I know that this map has great detail. This is useful for a recreation storymap because it allows me to outline any bodies of water that exist at the park. Also, with the amount of detail, I could even describe smaller or lesser known bodies of water that visitors could explore if they wanted to get away from the crowds. It’s also useful for anyone that’s interested in water activities like boating and kayaking.

The last two layers I found interesting are not entirely related to recreation, but they might be useful for general information. The first one of these unrelated layers is called World Traffic Service. This shows traffic information at a very detailed level. It shows the speed at which traffic is moving. I thought it might be useful for planning the trip to the park. The next one I found interesting is called COVID-19 Cases US. With the current pandemic, it might be good to include this layer as it shows cases and deaths by location. Depending how long this lasts, high risk people might need to know what areas to avoid even if the parks reopen.