Deferred Maintenance in our National Parks

Restore Our Parks Campaign

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
Welcome – Jim Igoe, Executive Director, Preservation Massachusetts, Inc.

Today’s Meeting:

• Updates from the Field
• Deferred Maintenance of Historic Buildings/Cultural Sites in National Parks
• Update: Historic Preservation Fund Campaign
• Update: Historic Tax Credit Campaign
• Questions/Comments
Updates from the Field

Michael Sothan
Executive Director
Beatrice Main Street, Nebraska
Launched!
New Deferred Maintenance Campaign

Pam Bowman, Director, Public Lands, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Deferred Maintenance in Our National Parks

- The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday last month celebrating a national system of more than 400 sites and over 75,000 assets.

- After decades of inconsistent funding, the infrastructure repair backlog in the national park system is estimated at nearly $12 billion (FY 2015).

- Deferred maintenance puts historic buildings, cultural artifacts, and natural wonders at risk of permanent damage or loss.
History in Our Parks

- Of the nearly $12 billion in repair backlog costs, over $3 billion is attributed to historic, non-transportation related structures and sites.

- Some of the NPS’ most precious historic sites are at risk of falling into disrepair.

- Addressing the repair backlog with a reliable federal funding source ensures that that public can continue to learn from and experience the stories that tell our nation’s history.
The Trust is partnering with The Pew Charitable Trusts, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), and other partners on a national campaign to address the repair backlog.

Our work will focus on historic structures and cultural artifacts in the national park system.

We will focus our case studies on 7 states:

- Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia
Yaron Miller,
Senior Associate, National Parks Campaign
Our National Park System

- **75,000** diverse assets
- **413** NPS units
- **84** million acres
- **307.2 Million** visits in 2015
- **$16.9 Billion** spent in gateway communities
- **$32 Billion** national economic output
- **295,000 jobs** nationwide

- **10,000** miles of roads
- **Nearly 18,000** miles of trails
- **Nearly 27,000** historic/prehistoric structures
- **Nearly 1,500** bridges

pewtrusts.org
Why Should We Care About DM?

- Preservation
- Access
- Revenue
- Kids
- Safety
Preservation
Access
Kids
Safety

Point Reyes National Seashore, California
Solutions & Asks

• Dedicated annual federal funding for park maintenance needs

• Direct more Highway Trust Fund revenue to park infrastructure

• Infrastructure package in Congress

• Facilitate more opportunities for public-private partnerships

• Implement policy reforms to keep DM from escalating
Advocacy Efforts
Pew National Parks Campaign

- Field States
National sign-on letter
– 800+ gateway signers
– 200+ local electeds

Municipal resolutions
– 20 gateway communities

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2842

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE, PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, America’s National Park System is a living testament to our citizens’ valor, our nation’s hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called “America’s Best Idea;” and

WHEREAS, the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all Americans, and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service is celebrating its centennial and currently manages 412 nationally significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service’s mission is to “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;” and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the National Park System had more than 305 million visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than $15 billion at the sites and in the states and local communities adjacent to national parks; and
Gateway roundtables

- Los Alamos
- Estes Park

-TBD: CA, WA, AK, VA, MT
Earned media

City of Sevierville calls on Congress to fund critical repairs in Smokies
$232 million in deferred maintenance; most involves roads, bridges

Mountain Views

Ask the Doc
Roger Williams’ music mesmerizes audience

Earned media

Council urges Congress to fund deferred maintenance at parks

9/5/2016

The Los Alamos County Council voted 5-0 on Tuesday to approve a resolution encouraging congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America’s national park system.

Chair Rick Reiss and Councilor David Izaevitz were not in attendance. County Administrator Harry Burgess explained the reason for bringing the resolution before council.

“A couple of weeks ago, there was a contingent from the Pew Charitable Trust in town, doing a tour around the nation, informing communities and asking communities about the needs of the National Park Service,” Burgess said. “Part of their discussion was that at present the National Park Service has a list of maintenance deferrals that total almost $12 billion dollars. And the push of their efforts was try to obtain support from communities to write to Congress, let them know of the desire to fund those various maintenance deferred projects, because they do affect the number of visitors that come to town and also the economic impact that the parks have on communities within which they reside.”

The National Park Service (NPS) currently manages 410 nationally significant sites and a collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas. In 2015, 307 million visitors enjoyed those assets, with 1.7 million of those visiting New Mexico parks.

In 2016, the NPS estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of nearly $12 billion dollars. Maintenance needs include repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels and other vital infrastructure. More than $112 million of those projects are in New Mexico.
Cultivating new allies
Education
So How Can I Get Involved?

Renee Kuhlman
Director of Policy Outreach
National Trust for Historic Preservation
And the study says…

In an April 2016 survey about the National Park System conducted by Public Opinion Strategies/The Pew Charitable Trusts, **44 percent of respondents ranked preservation of historic and cultural sites and monuments as their top priority for repair** in the national parks, higher than any other category of infrastructure repair need.
Resources Are Available!

National Trust website

http://forum.savingplaces.org/deferred-maintenance
Add your organization’s name to our national sign on letter urging Congress to support guaranteed funding for repair!

http://forum.savingplaces.org/act/advocacy-resource-center/deferred-maintenance
Grassroots in Action…

Statewide Letters – Washington Main Streets
Fly-in – Mississippi Heritage Trust, Sept. 27
Heritage Tourism Report – Preservation Virginia
Conferences – Preservation Pennsylvania
Endangered List – ??

To get involved contact:
Renee Kuhlman, National Trust, rkuhlman@savingplaces.org, 202-588-6234
Excerpt from Los Angeles Times, Letter to the Editor (8/19/16)

Unfortunately, this is a two-front battle. The reality is that many parks are also crumbling — facing dilapidated roads, rotting historic buildings, eroding trails and outdated public buildings.

Rather than auctioning off the land around our national parks to the highest bidders, and ignoring the real and growing maintenance needs in our parks, let’s urge Congress to be better public stewards of this system of parks that has served our nation so well for the last century.

Stephanie Meeks, Washington
The writer is the president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Contact Virgil McDill, National Trust, vmcdill@savingplaces.org, 202-294-9187
Current Conditions

Information

Birth Home Temporarily Closed For Repairs
The birth home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is temporarily closed for repairs. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. All other sites at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site remain open during regular park operating hours.
## Update: Historic Preservation Fund

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Update: Historic Tax Credit Campaign

Shaw Sprague, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Save the Date! Policy Webinar

Looking Forward to New Congress!

Wed, November 30 **

2:00 p.m. Eastern
1:00 p.m. Central
12:00 p.m. Mountains/Plains
11:00 a.m. Pacific

** Moved due to conflict with PastForward conference