

Deferred Maintenance

The National Park Service (NPS) manages a network of 423 parks and sites that protect spectacular historic, cultural, and natural resources and tell the stories of remarkable people and events in our nation’s history. The size and complexity of NPS infrastructure and its mission to preserve our parks’ resources represent a significant challenge. After more than 100 years of operation and inconsistent public funding, the National Park System faces a backlog of repairs, or deferred maintenance, of over \$13 billion. In FY 2018, approximately 47% of the backlog was attributed to historic assets.

In August 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, dedicating up to \$6.5 billion over 5 years to help tackle the NPS backlog. While this substantial one-time investment will reduce the backlog by half, increased annual appropriations remain necessary to tackle the remainder of the backlog and prevent it from growing to such levels again.

Background

Each year, Congress appropriates funds for three principal accounts that help address the maintenance backlog of the NPS. Line-Item Construction funds major rehabilitation and replacement projects that cost \$1 million or more. Repair and Rehabilitation projects are large-scale, non-recurring needs that cost less than \$1 million and where scheduled maintenance is no longer sufficient. Cyclic Maintenance includes periodically scheduled upkeep and repairs.



In FY18 Acadia National Park reported \$65 million of deferred maintenance needs. The park contains over 200 buildings, such as the Sieur de Mont Nature Center Building, a 1949 National Register of Historic Places-listed structure. Buildings in the park had estimated maintenance needs of \$41 million.

PHOTO COURTESY ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$134.7 million for NPS Line-Item Construction, \$135.98 million for Repair and Rehabilitation, and \$188.184 million for Cyclic Maintenance in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Construction (Line Item)

ONPS, Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance

NPS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	FY 2020 ENACTED	FY 2021 ENACTED	FY 2022 ENACTED	FY 2023 PRESIDENT'S REQUEST	FY 2023 NTHP RECOMMENDATION
Line-Item Construction	\$282.956	\$131.788	\$361.260	\$134.700	\$134.700
Repair and Rehabilitation	\$135.950	\$135.980	\$135.980	\$135.989	\$135.989
Cyclic Maintenance	\$153.575	\$188.184	\$188.184	\$188.184	\$188.184

IN MILLIONS

JUSTIFICATION: An increase to annual appropriations is necessary to address the deferred maintenance backlog and prevent historic and cultural resources from permanent damage or loss.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

After decades of inconsistent public funding, the deferred maintenance backlog has ballooned to over \$13 billion, putting irreplaceable historic and cultural artifacts at risk of permanent damage or loss. Without robust funding, the condition of these assets will continue to deteriorate and become more expensive to repair and preserve in the future. Reliable, dedicated funding will preserve the ability for Americans and international visitors to enjoy and experience iconic historic resources and natural wonders on federal lands.



The National Mall Tidal Basin is threatened by as much as \$500 million in deferred maintenance needs. Daily flooding, crumbling infrastructure, and damaged cherry tree roots threaten the integrity of one of America's most iconic places. In April 2019, the National Trust for Historic Preservation launched the National Mall Tidal Basin National Treasure in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall. The National Treasure designation led to the creation of the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab, the first step in a multi-phase process intended to raise awareness, elevate an important discourse, and educate and engage the public about the future stewardship of the Tidal Basin. The Ideas Lab engaged five leading American landscape architecture firms to present potential visions for the Tidal Basin that could help inform the National Park Service when they initiate a Master Plan for the iconic landscape.

PHOTOS BY SAM KITTNER

➤ For additional information, contact Pam Bowman, Senior Director of Public Lands Policy, PBowman@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6347.