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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE</th>
<th>FY 2020 ENACTED</th>
<th>FY 2021 ENACTED</th>
<th>FY 2022 ENACTED</th>
<th>FY 2023 PRESIDENT’S REQUEST</th>
<th>FY 2023 NTTHP RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line-Item Construction</td>
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<td>Repair and Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Cyclic Maintenance</td>
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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.
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.