



National Park Service

Mission

As stated in the Organic Act of 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) purpose “is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife 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.”

Budget Overview

The 2026 Budget request for NPS is \$2.1 billion. These levels reflect the funding priority given to NPS core operations and identify savings from support, including grants, for programs and areas outside the National Park System. The Budget also includes a legislative proposal for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that will shift funding from unnecessary land acquisition and allocate that funding to address the National Park System’s deferred maintenance needs. The Federal estate has become bloated, and the Federal government should not be acquiring more lands while DOI’s current portfolio has more than \$33 billion in deferred maintenance needs.

Program Overview

The National Park System covers 85 million acres and comprises 433 sites, including 139 historical parks or sites, 87 national monuments, 63 national parks, 31 national memorials, 25 battlefields or military parks, and 88 otherwise designated national park units. NPS also helps administer the



Hallett's Peak reflected in Lake Haiyaha in Rocky Mountain National Park.

NPS Photo.

National Register of Historic Places, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, and National Trails. In addition, NPS staff work with communities across the Nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

Park Operations

The 2026 NPS Budget request for operations is \$2.0 billion. The Budget prioritizes funding for park unit operations, proposing savings from project-specific funding and narrowly focused activities and changes in externally driven costs.

The Budget for Resource Stewardship supports the NPS mission by protecting and restoring natural and cultural resources, as well as providing the knowledge and information necessary to ensure effective and efficient management. Public lands are home to some of America’s most iconic species and landscapes. The Budget supports the protection and management of America’s resources for current and future generations to enjoy. Active stewardship enables healthy ecosystems and delivers the best visitor experiences.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Facts

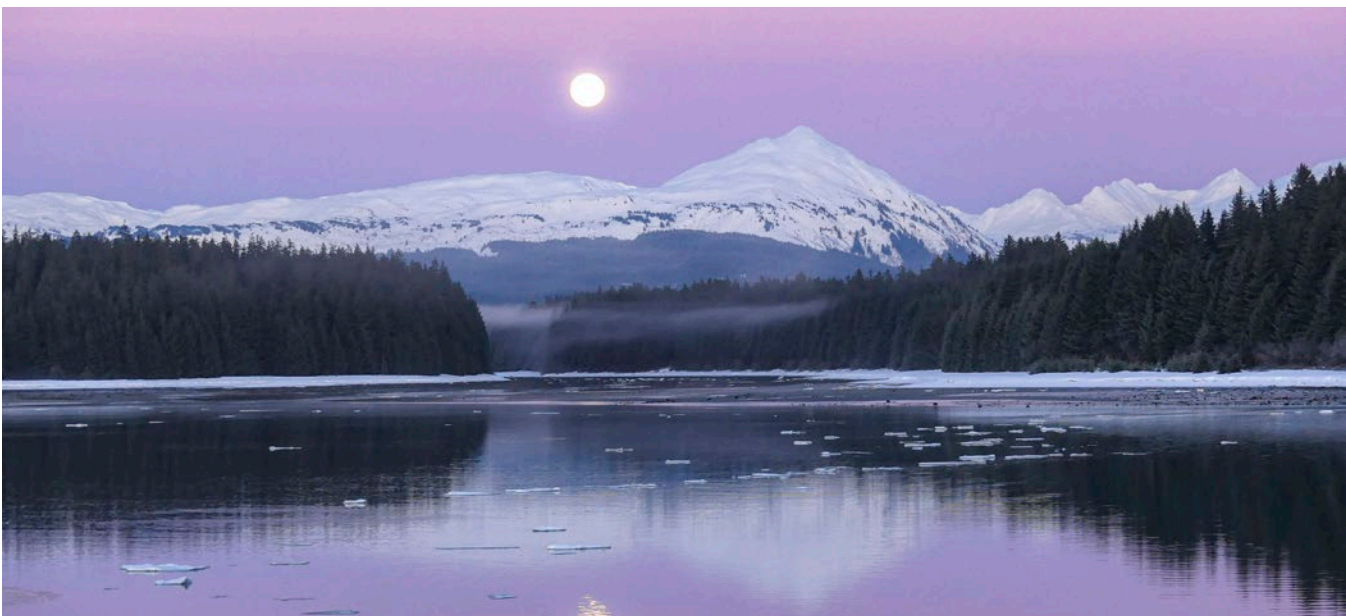


- The National Park System includes 433 park units, encompassing 85 million acres in all 50 States and 4 territories.
- In 2024, more than 330 million people visited national parks.
- Nearly 135,000 volunteers worked 3.7 million hours in 2024 to preserve, protect, and share the history of this land and its people.
- The free NPS App is the official app for NPS, with tools to explore more than 400 national parks. Find interactive maps, tours of park places, on-the-ground accessibility information, and much more to plan your national park adventures before and during your trip.

The Budget request for Visitor Services and Park Protection activities focuses on enjoyment of the National Park System. To that end, the Budget includes resources for interpretation, educational, and park management programs. This endeavor includes a range of private-public partnerships, such as concession contracts and commercial use authorizations, that provide a wide range of services, such as accommodations, restaurant operations, retail stores, marina operations, guided services, and more. The Budget supports outdoor recreation opportunities so that all Americans can more fully enjoy the National Park System through hiking, fishing, and other pursuits. With increasing visitation to national parks, the Budget request promotes visitor safety and the protection of our most cherished resources. NPS law enforcement rangers provide critical services to ensure visitor and employee safety and security, protection of park

resources, prevention of drug operations and other illegal activities in park areas, and apprehension of criminal violators. The United States Park Police supports these efforts and also provides law enforcement services to designated NPS sites in some metropolitan areas.

Facility Operations and Maintenance plays a key role in fulfilling the NPS mission, ensuring continued protection, serviceability, and use of a diverse range of park facilities and infrastructure. These sites span time—from prehistoric ruins to 21st-century marvels—and feature unique maintenance requirements. The Budget includes the resources for facility operations and maintenance across the National Park System, including resources to fulfill President Trump's Executive Order 14252, *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*.



Winter in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

NPS Photo.



Roosevelt Arch at the North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

NPS Photo.

Construction

The 2026 request includes \$99.5 million to fund construction projects, management, planning, operations, and special projects. This funding level will help address needed capital improvements and deferred maintenance and allow for targeted and measurable upgrades to a number of NPS's highest priority assets.

National Recreation and Preservation

The 2026 Budget request includes \$12.0 million for National Recreation and Preservation and includes focused funding for activities such as historic preservation, grants administration, and environmental compliance.

Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) contributes to the NPS's goal of protecting significant and diverse historic resources but largely supports responsibilities that can be managed at the State and local level. Grants from the HPF serve as catalysts for protecting our Nation's heritage. The 2026 Budget request for the HPF is \$11.0 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and

Universities to document and preserve historic structures to allow for focused investment, while refocusing the Budget on primary Federal responsibilities.

Recreation Fee Program

This permanent funding program operates under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. The Act authorizes NPS to collect recreation fees at select parks and requires fee revenues be used to improve visitor services and enhance the visitor experience at those parks and throughout the National Park System. In 2026, NPS will establish a surcharge for foreign visitors that is estimated to generate more than \$90 million to keep national parks beautiful.

Workforce Restructure

The 2026 Budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government and will continue efforts to unify and optimize administrative services across the Department to increase effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of American taxpayers.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2026 Request with 2025 CR

	2025 CR ^{1/}	2026 Request
Current		
Operation of the National Park System	2,894,424	1,993,974
Centennial Challenge	12,000	0
National Recreation and Preservation	89,593	11,987
Historic Preservation Fund	168,900	11,000
Construction (and Major Maintenance)	172,255	99,509
Total, Current	3,337,172	2,116,470
Permanent, 2026		
Land Acquisition, State Assistance, and Deferred Maintenance		577,363
43 U.S.C. Section 1331, (NPS State Assistance Grants)		117,875
Recreation Fee Permanent Appropriations		474,391
Total, Permanent, 2026		1,169,629

^{1/} Excludes transfers. Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Operation of the National Park System

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Park Management			
Resource Stewardship	386,722	375,838	185,502
Visitor Services	279,840	276,976	225,034
Park Protection	425,312	429,312	424,684
Facility Operations Maintenance	908,216	908,533	564,861
Park Support	668,122	683,553	419,712
Subtotal, Park Management	2,668,212	2,674,212	1,819,793
External Administrative Costs	220,212	220,212	174,181
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	2,888,424	2,894,424	1,993,974

^{1/} Excludes transfers. Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Centennial Challenge

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	12,000	12,000	0

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: National Recreation and Preservation

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Natural Programs	18,579	18,579	0
Cultural Programs	39,327	39,327	10,759
Environmental Compliance and Review	465	465	233
International Park Affairs	1,990	1,990	995
Heritage Partnership Programs.....	29,232	29,232	0
Statutory and Contractual Aid	1,640	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	91,233	89,593	11,987

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APPROPRIATION: Historic Preservation Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Grants-in-Aid			
Grants-in-Aid to Historically Black Colleges & Universities	[11,000]	[11,000]	11,000
African American Civil Rights	[24,000]	[24,000]	0
History of Equal Rights	[5,000]	[5,000]	0
Underrepresented Communities	[1,250]	[1,250]	0
Subtotal, Grants-in-Aid	143,400	143,400	11,000
Grants-in-Aid—Save America's Treasures	25,500	25,500	0
Historic Preservation Fund Projects	19,766	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	188,666	168,900	11,000

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Construction (and Major Maintenance)

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Line Item Construction Projects	80,600	80,600	55,520
Special Programs	31,855	31,855	7,627
Construction Planning	12,000	12,000	7,800
Construction Program Management and Operations	34,891	34,891	22,823
Management Planning	12,909	12,909	5,739
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	172,255	172,255	99,509

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