



# National Park Service

## Mission

As stated in the Organic Act of 1916, the purpose of the National Park Service (NPS) 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.”

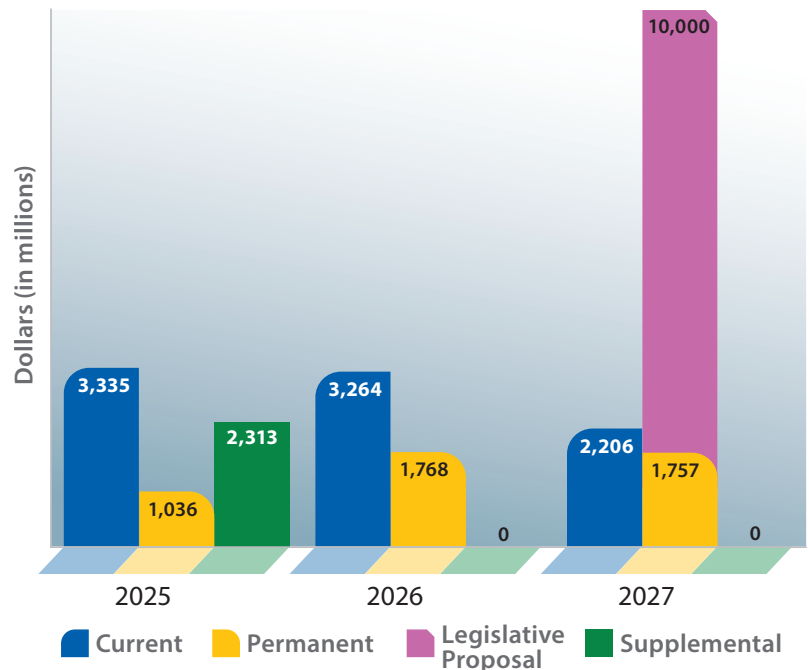
## Budget Overview

The 2027 budget request for NPS is \$2.2 billion. NPS estimates total staffing will equal 13,119 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2027. These levels reflect the funding priority given to NPS core operations and identify savings from programs and areas outside the National Park System core mission. The budget focuses resources on ensuring parks are open, accessible, and safe for all Americans while also updating entry fees to ensure foreign visitors appropriately contribute to the maintenance and preservation of the history and beauty of our national parks.

## 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 Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, National Trails, and the National Register of Historic Places.

## NPS Funding



Aside from vast areas of wildlands across the Federal estate, national parks feature spectacular sites that are for use by all Americans as places to recreate, enjoy, and appreciate the American outdoors. In addition, NPS staff work with communities across the country to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

## Park Operations

The 2027 NPS budget request for operations is \$2.1 billion. The budget prioritizes funding for park unit operations and the U.S. Park Police and proposes savings from changes in project-specific funding, narrowly focused activities, and externally driven costs.

To ensure public safety and the protection of resources in the parks, the budget includes \$561.6 million for law enforcement and health and safety programs. NPS law enforcement programs—including the U.S. Park Police at the Washington, DC; New York City; and San Francisco-area

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Facts



- In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service, also known as “America’s Best Idea,” which now includes 433 park units, encompassing 85 million acres in all 50 States and four territories.
- To fulfill President Trump’s Executive Order 14252, *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*, NPS is rehabilitating parks, fountains, and monuments across the city—some of which have not functioned in decades.
- Visitors to the NPS App can explore more than 400 national parks, find interactive maps, take virtual tours of park places, obtain on-the-ground accessibility information, and much more to plan their national park adventures.
- As the proud steward of America’s most sacred historical places, NPS joins the country in celebrating the 250th anniversary of American independence in 2026. From Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty to Revolutionary War battlefields, memorials to our country’s founders, and more than 400 special places associated with American history, national parks across the country provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations of Americans.

NPS sites—enforce Federal laws and regulations within all park units, emphasizing protection of park resources and prevention of illegal activities and illicit drug operations. Park protection activities are important to stewardship of the parks, helping to keep natural and cultural resources unimpaired for future generations and providing the public the opportunity to enjoy the national park units in safety while ensuring the security of NPS property and personnel.

Gateway communities are essential partners in the success and sustainability of the National Park System. These communities provide critical infrastructure, such as lodging, emergency services, transportation, and hospitality support that millions of park visitors rely on each year. In many cases, gateway communities also serve as stewards of the lands and cultural and historical resources surrounding a System unit and contribute to the visitor experience through education, interpretation, and local initiatives. Under Secretary’s Order 3434, *Strengthening Coordination with Gateway Communities*, NPS is deepening collaborative planning, meaningful engagement, and shared stewardship with gateway communities.

NPS proposes \$226.2 million to support the visitor experience at national park areas. Visitor services foster an understanding and appreciation of the natural beauty and cultural and historical significance of each park. These interpretation,

education, and management programs ensure America’s natural, cultural, and recreational treasures are understood by and available to all Americans. To help showcase and care for these treasures, NPS values the help of a strong volunteer force, organized through partnerships, to support visitor services. This budget request also supports



Mount Storm King viewpoint of Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park, WA.

NPS Photo.



Long Point near Wolf Creek Falls in New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, WV.

NPS Photo.

NPS management of the thousands of concession contracts, commercial use authorizations, and operating leases that enhance the visitor experience and protect resources.

The budget for Resource Stewardship supports the NPS mission by ensuring Americans can experience the iconic natural landscapes and historical landmarks that make up the National Park System. Public lands are home to some of America’s most recognizable animals and landscapes. Resource management actions and investments across the National Park System address site-specific challenges that occur at the park level. NPS personnel work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders, using gold standard science, to steward parks’ natural resources into the next generation. The budget includes \$185.4 million to support the protection and management of America’s resources for current and future generations to enjoy and continues to prioritize funding to ensure effective and efficient management.

### **Construction**

The 2027 request includes \$48.7 million to fund construction management, planning, operations, and special programs. This funding level will help address needed capital improvements and deferred maintenance and allow for targeted and measurable upgrades to NPS’s highest priority assets.

### **National Recreation and Preservation**

The 2027 budget request includes \$6.0 million for National Recreation and Preservation and focused funding for activities such as national register programs, grants administration, and environmental compliance.

### **Historic Preservation**

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) contributes to NPS’s goal of protecting significant and diverse historic resources but largely supports non-Federal responsibilities. Grants from the HPF serve as catalysts for protecting our country’s heritage. The 2027 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 funding on primary Federal responsibilities.

### **Recreation Fee Program**

This permanent funding program operates under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Public Law 108–447). The Act authorizes NPS to collect recreation fees at select parks and requires no less than 80 percent of fee revenues to be used to improve visitor services and enhance the visitor experience at those parks. As much as 20 percent of fee revenues can be used to improve units throughout the National Park System. As part of the Administration’s commitment to enhancing access for American residents as prescribed by Executive Order 14314, *Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National*

*Parks*, the Department is also implementing America-first entry fee policies. In November 2025, Interior announced the most significant modernization of national park access in decades, delivering new digital America the Beautiful passes, updated annual pass artwork, expanded motorcycle access, and a new resident-focused fee structure that puts American families first. U.S. residents will continue to enjoy affordable pricing, and nonresidents will pay a higher rate to help support the care and maintenance of America’s parks.

### **Presidential Capital Stewardship Program**

As the capital of the greatest country in the history of the world, Washington, DC should showcase beautiful, clean, and safe public spaces. However, many historic park features and public-facing infrastructure throughout the city show signs of decay after years of heavy public use and



Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

NPS Photo.

inadequate maintenance. Under President Trump’s leadership, the Administration is committed to making Washington, DC—a once-great city—safe, clean, and beautiful again. The budget includes \$10.0 billion in mandatory funding to establish the Presidential Capital Stewardship Program within NPS to coordinate, plan, and execute targeted, priority construction and beautification projects in and around Washington, DC. Once complete, these projects will improve safety and accessibility,

rehabilitate historic buildings and landscapes, and enhance architectural grandeur so that Americans can once again be proud of their capital. In addition, this generational investment in the restoration of Washington, DC will drive economic development in the city, increase visitation from across the world, and lower future infrastructure lifecycle costs.

**Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs are fully funded.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS <sup>1/</sup>**

(dollar amounts in thousands)

***Comparison of 2027 Request with 2026 Enacted***

	2026 Enacted		2027 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Operation of the National Park System .....	11,488	2,897,895	8,984	2,140,752	-2,504	-757,143
Centennial Challenge .....	9	5,000	0	0	-9	-5,000
National Recreation and Preservation .....	148	91,596	20	6,043	-128	-85,553
Historic Preservation Fund .....	7	181,059	1	11,000	-6	-170,059
Construction (and Major Maintenance) .....	261	88,461	201	48,675	-60	-39,786
Subtotal, Current .....	11,913	3,264,011	9,206	2,206,470	-2,707	-1,057,541
<b>Permanent</b>						
Presidential Capital Stewardship Program <sup>2/</sup> .....	0	0	100	10,000,000	+100	+10,000,000
Land Acquisition and State Assistance .....	170	582,437	170	596,606	0	+14,169
Recreation Fee Permanent Appropriations .....	1,770	596,372	1,770	666,372	0	+70,000
Other Permanent Appropriations .....	442	296,283	442	302,202	0	+5,919
Miscellaneous Trust Funds .....	305	293,003	305	192,003	0	-101,000
Subtotal, Permanent .....	2,687	1,768,095	2,787	11,757,183	+100	+9,989,088
<b>Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other</b>						
Allocation .....	695	0	382	0	-313	0
Reimbursable .....	744	0	744	0	0	0
Subtotal, Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other .....	1,439	0	1,126	0	-313	0
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE .....</b>	<b>16,039</b>	<b>5,032,106</b>	<b>13,119</b>	<b>13,963,653</b>	<b>-2,920</b>	<b>+8,931,547</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

<sup>2/</sup> The 2027 budget includes a legislative proposal of \$10.0 billion for Washington, DC beautification.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity  
(dollar amounts in thousands)

### APPROPRIATION: Operation of the National Park System

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Park Management				
Resource Stewardship .....	360,035	398,820	185,357	-213,463
Visitor Services .....	267,848	277,635	226,196	-51,439
Park Protection .....	460,926	426,076	561,629	+135,553
Facility Operations Maintenance .....	914,048	945,235	578,801	-366,434
Park Support .....	671,355	652,217	419,514	-232,703
Subtotal, Park Management .....	2,674,212	2,699,983	1,971,497	-728,486
External Administrative Costs .....	220,212	201,212	169,255	-31,957
<b>SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>2,894,424</b>	<b>2,901,195</b>	<b>2,140,752</b>	<b>-760,443</b>
External Mandated Transfer .....	-3,300	-3,300	0	+3,300
Transfer from Medical Services Fund .....	1,351	0	0	0
Transfer in for drug trafficking deterrent actions ..	132	0	0	0
Transfer to Denali Commission .....	-48	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b> .....	<b>2,892,559</b>	<b>2,897,895</b>	<b>2,140,752</b>	<b>-757,143</b>

### APPROPRIATION: Centennial Challenge

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b> .....	<b>12,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5,000</b>

### APPROPRIATION: National Recreation and Preservation

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Natural Programs .....	18,579	18,579	0	-18,579
Cultural Programs .....	39,327	39,327	5,311	-34,016
Environmental Compliance and Review .....	465	465	232	-233
International Park Affairs .....	1,990	1,990	500	-1,490
Heritage Partnership Programs .....	29,232	30,985	0	-30,985
Statutory and Contractual Aid .....	0	250	0	-250
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b> .....	<b>89,593</b>	<b>91,596</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>-85,553</b>

**APPROPRIATION: Historic Preservation Fund**

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Grants-In-Aid				
Grants-In-Aid to States and Territories .....	62,150	62,150	0	-62,150
Grants-In-Aid to Indian Tribes .....	23,000	23,750	0	-23,750
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants .....	10,000	7,906	0	-7,906
Grants-in-Aid to Historically Black Colleges & Universities .....	11,000	11,000	11,000	0
Competitive Grants-in-Aid .....	30,250	30,250	0	-30,250
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants .....	7,000	4,907	0	-4,907
Subtotal, Grants-In-Aid .....	143,400	139,963	11,000	-128,963
Grants-in-Aid—Save America's Treasures .....	25,500	25,500	0	-25,500
Historic Preservation Fund Projects .....	0	15,596	0	-15,596
SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	168,900	181,059	11,000	-170,059
American Relief Act (P.L. 118–158) .....	50,000	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	218,900	181,059	11,000	-170,059

**APPROPRIATION: Construction (and Major Maintenance)**

	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Request	Change
Line Item Construction Projects .....	80,600	3,190	0	-3,190
Special Programs				
Emergencies and Unscheduled Projects .....	3,848	3,848	5,001	+1,153
Housing Program .....	7,886	7,886	15,126	+7,240
Dam Safety and Security Program .....	1,247	1,247	0	-1,247
Equipment Replacement Program .....	18,874	18,874	0	-18,874
Subtotal, Special Programs .....	31,855	31,855	20,127	-11,728
Line Item Construction Planning .....	12,000	7,800	0	-7,800
Construction Program Management and Operations .....	34,891	34,891	22,811	-12,080
Management Planning .....	12,909	10,725	5,737	-4,988
SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	172,255	88,461	48,675	-39,786
American Relief Act (P.L. 118–158) .....	2,262,871	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	2,435,126	88,461	48,675	-39,786

