



Photo Credit: USFWS

# Rhode Island

## Great American Outdoors Act

## National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund

**The Great American Outdoors Act National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (GAOA LRF) is a commitment to protecting and sustaining our public lands.**

Established on August 4, 2020, GAOA LRF allocated over \$1.6 billion annually from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through 2025 to the Department of the Interior (Interior) to address priority deferred maintenance and repair needs on public lands and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools. With GAOA LRF funding, Interior bureaus are:

- Funding 396 projects across 50 states, the District of Columbia, and multiple territories
- Addressing nearly \$6 billion in deferred maintenance and repair
- Improving the condition of over 3,800 Interior assets

### GAOA LRF Impacts Across America\*



Repairing over **1,000** recreational and visitor experience assets



Improving ADA accessibility in nearly **50%** of GAOA LRF projects



Each year of GAOA LRF funding is estimated to support an average of **17,000** jobs and contribute **\$1.9 billion** to the U.S. economy



Improving facilities used by nearly **2,300** students and faculty at BIE-funded schools each year

### Deferred Maintenance and Repair in Rhode Island

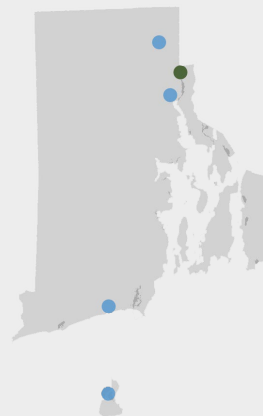
In Rhode Island, the total deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R) backlog for the four Interior GAOA LRF bureaus is over \$6,060,000\*\*.

Bureau	DM&R**
Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)	\$0
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	\$0
National Park Service (NPS)	\$3,000,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	\$3,060,000

### GAOA LRF in Rhode Island

With the full five years of funding, GAOA LRF will invest approximately **\$9 million** towards improving **4** assets across **1** project in Rhode Island.

As of December 2025, Maintenance Action Teams have completed work at **2** FWS locations and **2** NPS locations in Rhode Island.



● GAOA LRF Projects    ● Completed Maintenance Action Team Activities

### Assets improved in Rhode Island:



Recreational and Visitor Experience Assets



Water Infrastructure and Other Utilities

\* These numbers are estimates and include FY21 - FY25 GAOA LRF-funded projects.

\*\* DM&R estimates represent a point in time, reported as of 9/30/2025, rounded to the nearest thousand. DM&R is calculated based on asset repair needs in FRPP, which does not include assets with a status indicator of Report of Excess Submitted, Report of Excess Accepted, Determination to Dispose, Disposed, Cannot Currently be Disposed, or Surplus.

# GAOA LRF Projects, Locations, and Funding in Rhode Island



Bureau	Unit Name	Project Title	Funding <sup>†</sup> as of Dec. 2025
NPS	Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park	Preserve Slater and Wilkinson Mills	\$9,000,000

<sup>†</sup> Rounded to thousands.

## Preserve Slater and Wilkinson Mills

*Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park*



Wilkinson Mill. Photo Credit: NPS

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park protects the Blackstone River in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, which is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. The Old Slater Mill was the first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in the United States, and the Wilkinson Mill was the first mill in Rhode Island that had a backup steam power source. This project will preserve both historic mills by repairing the foundations, exterior envelopes, the sites raceways and river retaining walls, the Wilkinson waterpower system and wheel exhibit, and provide code-compliant accessibility upgrades to the site. This project preserves an important part of history and allows the park to provide interpretation and education for the mills.

## Maintenance Action Teams



Demolition work at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Photo Credit: USFWS

GAOA LRF is funding Maintenance Action Teams (MATs) in the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. MATs are teams of federal employees, and in some cases NPS interns and members of youth and service corps, who can quickly mobilize across their region to complete smaller scope repair, rehabilitation, or historic preservation activities.

At Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge, MATs removed a deteriorating pole barn.



Trail resurfacing at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Photo Credit: USFWS

MAT workers at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge also resurfaced an existing trail by adjusting elevations and adding materials to help ensure Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance.