

# Why We Need to Fix Our Parks

National Park Service sites have almost \$12 billion in deferred maintenance

## The Backlog Challenge

The National Park Service (NPS) is over 100 years old, and the infrastructure and facilities at the more than 400 sites it manages nationwide are aging. Add wear and tear from visitors and inconsistent annual funding, and the Park Service can't keep pace with needed repairs. NPS's maintenance backlog has grown to an estimated \$12 billion, and nearly half of that is for highest-priority assets.

**NPS sites have almost \$12 billion in deferred maintenance.**

**\$2.2B**

Buildings



**\$210M**

Military fortifications

**\$79M**

Campgrounds



**\$6.3B**

Roads, parking lots, bridges, and tunnels

**\$717M**

Water and wastewater systems



**\$2.4B**

Other

## Why We Need to Act Now to Fix Our Parks

Our national parks document American history, provide opportunities for recreation, and sustain local and regional economies.

---

## NPS Sites Also Support Local Communities

NPS estimates that in 2018, its 400-plus sites:



Generated **\$20.2 billion** in visitor spending in local communities



Attracted **318 million** visits



Generated **\$40.1 billion** in national economic output



Supported **329,000 jobs**

Source: 2018 NPS Visitor Spending Effects report, accessed Oct. 8, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

---

## For further information, please visit:

[pewtrusts.org/nationalparks](https://pewtrusts.org/nationalparks)

---

**Contact:** Monique O'Grady, communications manager  
**Email:** [mogrady@pewtrusts.org](mailto:mogrady@pewtrusts.org)

**Contact:** Marcia Argust, project director  
**Email:** [margust@pewtrusts.org](mailto:margust@pewtrusts.org)

---

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.