Why We Need to Fix Our Parks

National Park Service sites in Alaska have close to $122.1 million 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’ maintenance backlog has grown to an estimated $13.1 billion, and more than half of that is for highest-priority assets.

NPS sites in Alaska have almost $122.1 million in deferred maintenance.

- **$39.3M** Buildings
- **$398K** Campgrounds
- **$547K** Marina and waterfront systems
- **$59M** Roads, parking lots, bridges, and tunnels
- **$4.4M** Water and wastewater systems
- **$18.4M** Other

Note: The figures have been rounded.

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 2019, its sites in Alaska:

- Generated $1.5 billion in visitor spending in local communities.
- Attracted 3 million visits.
- Generated $2.2 billion in national economic output.
- Supported 19,645 jobs.


If all the deferred maintenance at NPS sites in Alaska was addressed, an estimated 970 jobs could be created or supported.

Source: Cadmus, “Restoring Parks, Creating Jobs: How Infrastructure Restoration in the National Park System Can Create or Support Jobs,” June 2019

This infographic was updated on Dec. 11, 2020, to reflect new data from the 2019 NPS Visitor Spending Effects report.

For further information, please visit:
pewtrusts.org/nationalparks