

# Why We Need to Fix Our Parks

National Park Service sites in Virginia have more than \$1.1 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' maintenance backlog has grown to an estimated \$13.1 billion, and more than half of that is for highest-priority assets.

## NPS sites in Virginia have more than \$1.1 billion in deferred maintenance.

**\$75.5M**

Buildings



**\$36.6M**

Marina and waterfront systems

**\$3.1M**

Campgrounds



**\$961.5M**

Roads, parking lots, bridges, and tunnels

**\$20.5M**

Water and wastewater systems



**\$84.8M**

Other

Note: The figures have been rounded.

Sources: National Park Service, FY 2018 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report; National Park Service, FY 2018 API Component Information, both as of Sept. 30, 2018

## 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 Virginia:



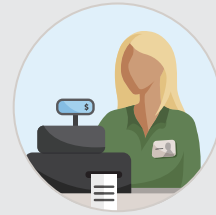
Generated **\$1.2 billion** in visitor spending in local communities.



Attracted **23 million** visits.



Generated **\$1.7 billion** in national economic output.



Supported **17,262 jobs**.

Source: 2019 NPS Visitor Spending Effects report, accessed June 16, 2020, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

If all the deferred maintenance at NPS sites in Virginia was addressed, an estimated **10,340 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](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.