

National Park Deferred Maintenance Needs

Methodological appendix

The National Park Service (NPS) deferred maintenance data in this web tool is based on fiscal years 2015-19 year-end reports provided by the NPS Park Facility Management Division. Summary reports were released in May 2016, May 2017, February 2018, and March 2019 on the NPS website. Summary reports from fiscal 2019 were not released on the NPS website. The Pew Charitable Trusts requested the complete data set from NPS through the Freedom of Information Act and received the information in June 2016, June 2017, March 2018, April 2019, and June 2020. It was then shared with the Cadmus Group LLC, which cleaned the data and converted the information into a searchable database.

The fiscal 2015 data was current as of Sept. 30, 2015; the fiscal 2016 data was current as of Sept. 30, 2016; the fiscal 2017 data was current as of Sept. 30, 2017; the fiscal 2018 data was current as of Sept. 30, 2018; and the fiscal 2019 data was current as of Sept. 30, 2019. Cadmus used "FY 2015 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2015.09.30," "FY 2016 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2016.09.30," "FY 2017 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2017.09.30," "FY 2018 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2018.09.30," and "FY 2019 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2019.09.30" as the basis for the data tool. It used "FY 2015 API Component Information 2015.09.30," "FY 2016 API Component Information 2016.09.30," "FY 2017 API Component Information 2017.09.30," "FY 2018 API Component Information 2018.09.30," and "FY 2019 API Component Information 2019.09.30" for Asset Priority Index score data.¹ Records were matched based on location ID numbers.

Pew received reports exported from the Park Facility Management Division's Facility Management Software System (FMSS), the NPS Enterprise Asset Management System that is used to manage the agency's constructed asset portfolio, including inventory and maintenance needs. Data is provided at the asset level in the FMSS reports, but this tool provides data only at the asset category level.

Raw data in the FMSS reports was cleaned to correct for misattributions in the state/territory field and to make other small corrections related to historic status and to remove test/dummy rows. State misattributions occurred with some multistate parks or for some units that are managed collectively. Some misattributions could be resolved while others could not. For example, even though the Appalachian National Scenic Trail spans multiple states, all deferred maintenance entries were attributed to West Virginia. Limited location information in the NPS reports prevents these entries from being attributed to the correct state.

2020 updates and changes:

These units were redesignated in fiscal 2019 and have been renamed accordingly:

- White Sands National Monument was changed to White Sands National Park.
- Tule Lake Unit was changed to Tule Lake National Monument.

2019 updates and changes:

Deferred maintenance totals for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail were added to West Virginia's state totals for all years. Previous iterations of this tool omitted the trail from the state's totals.

In fiscal 2018, NPS combined the asset categories “Paved Roads” and “Unpaved Roads” into a single “Roads” category. Deferred maintenance data from this merged category has been re-separated into the two original categories for this tool.

The following units were added to the National Park System and/or were added to the FMSS tracking system in fiscal 2018. There is no data for these units before that year.

- Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument.
- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Massachusetts portion).
- Camp Nelson National Monument.
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.
- North Country National Scenic Trail (Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania portions).

The following park units were redesignated in fiscal 2018 and have been renamed accordingly:

- Honouliuli National Monument was changed to Honouliuli National Historic Site.
- Golden Spike National Historic Site was changed to Golden Spike National Historical Park.
- Reconstruction Era National Monument was changed to Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.
- Fort Sumter National Monument was changed to Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park.
- Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site was changed to Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park.
- Ocmulgee National Monument was changed to Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park.
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was changed to Indiana Dunes National Park.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was changed to Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial was renamed Gateway Arch National Park.
- World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument was disbanded and split into three units: Pearl Harbor National Memorial (Hawaii portion), Tule Lake National Monument (California portion), and Aleutian Islands World War II National Historic Area (Alaska portion).

The following park units are no longer listed in FMSS:

- Roosevelt Campobello International Park.
- Southeast Regional Office.
- Southern Arizona Office.

Endnotes

- 1 The Asset Priority Index is a metric used by the NPS to indicate the importance of a constructed asset to fulfilling the park mission. API scoring criteria include resource preservation, visitor use, operations, and substitutability.

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