



National Park Service

Mission

The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service (NPS) “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

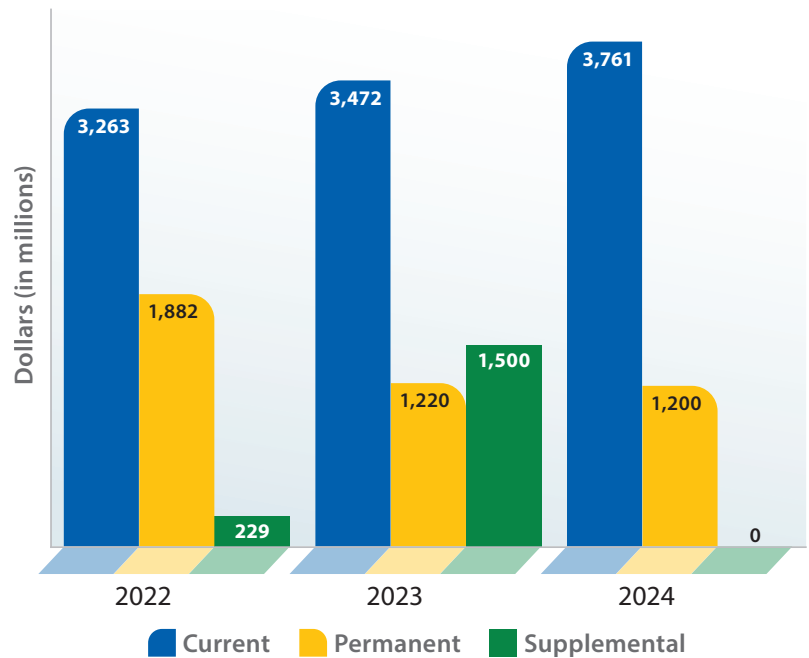
Bureau Overview

The national park system covers 85 million acres at 424 park units, including 138 historical parks or sites, 83 national monuments, 63 national parks, 31 national memorials, 25 battlefields or military parks, and 84 otherwise designated national park units. NPS also helps administer dozens of affiliated sites, the National Register of Historic Places, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, National Trails, and Heritage Partnership Programs, including National Heritage Areas. In addition, NPS staff work with communities across the Nation to help preserve local history and create recreational opportunities. Visitation in 2022 rose to nearly 312 million people.

Budget Overview

The 2024 budget request for NPS is \$3.8 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$289.2 million over 2023 enacted. NPS estimates the budget will support total staffing of 20,797 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2024, an increase of 1,369 over 2023 enacted. The budget promotes programs that improve the visitor experience, protect park visitors

NPS Funding



and employees, tackle climate change, advance racial equity, upgrade infrastructure, and promote conservation. Changes in the 2024 budget aid efforts to protect and preserve America’s national treasures and enhance visitor services, adaptively managing resources to increase resilience to the changing climate, using science to inform decisions, expanding inclusion of historically underrepresented communities, and facilitating agreements with Tribes to collaborate in the co-stewardship of NPS lands and waters.

Operation of the National Park System

The 2024 budget requests \$3.2 billion for operation of the national park system, an increase of \$266.3 million over 2023 enacted. The budget includes \$509.6 million for Resource Stewardship, \$300.3 million for Visitor Services, \$457.7 million for Park Protection, \$983.0 million for Facilities Operations and Maintenance, \$697.3 million for Park Support, and \$241.8 million for External Administrative Costs.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Facts



- In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service (NPS).
- The preservation of our most magnificent and meaningful places for the purpose of public appreciation and recreation is a uniquely American idea
- The national park system includes 424 park units, encompassing 85 million acres in all 50 States and four territories.
- The NPS mission requires a diverse workforce, including archeologists, biologists, curators, engineers, historians, hydrologists, landscape architects, law enforcement officers, and many other disciplines.
- In 2022, NPS employed roughly 21,100 individual full- and part-time employees.
- NPS served nearly 312 million visitors in 2022.
- In 2022, more than 123,000 volunteers worked 3.6 million hours to preserve, protect, and share the history of this land and its people.
- NPS collaborates with Tribes, States, local governments, nonprofits, and owners of historic property, who share in preserving the Nation's heritage.

To support operational capacity at park areas, the budget includes increases totaling \$25.4 million. These increases will bolster park budgets, allowing for greater capacity at park units across America to meet the core mission objectives of preserving national treasures and making them available for today's and future generations of visitors. The increase supports new and critical responsibilities, such as initiating operations at newly designated parks, increasing security, expanding recreational access, accelerating permitting and compliance activities at parks, and other emerging needs.

The NPS operations account includes increases totaling \$14.7 million to facilitate the visitor experience, support NPS workforce, and improve outreach. The proposal includes funding to plan for visitor services related to the commemoration of the semiquincentennial year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 2024, NPS will use these funds to develop diverse programming that promotes shared stories and experiences and strengthens common bonds through educational outreach and signature events leading up to July 4, 2026. The budget includes funding to contract psychological screening of law enforcement personnel to be compliant with Departmental policy and Executive Order 14074—Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and

Public Safety. Testing is required for all newly hired law enforcement officers and is a best practice for hiring in public safety positions. Funding also supports the development of new and improved digital tools for the public. The effort will interlink visitor experiences, NPS business services, and NPS data, such as geographic information, maps, and park statistics. New tools would facilitate trip planning, convey up-to-date information about park conditions, organize digital copies of park passes, and provide engaging, short-form content and interpretation. The request provides additional resources to cover the increased cost of printing park brochures, which are a key means of providing park data to visitors, partners, local communities, and classrooms and have remained in high demand even in the digital age. The budget includes funding for a workflow management system, which will be used to identify and address barriers that limit the ability of vendors from underserved communities to fully participate in procurement and financial assistance programs. The budget supports development of an online outreach portal where small businesses can directly access contracting and financial assistance opportunities and directly contact NPS small business specialists and financial assistance liaisons for support. To facilitate visitor services and outreach on the digital platform, the budget includes funding to address the rising costs of information technologies.

The 2024 budget is an important component of the Biden-Harris Administration conservation initiative to address critical challenges stemming from climate change by increasing scientific capacity and improving strategic thinking and resource planning to leave lands and waters preserved for future generations to use and enjoy. The NPS operations account includes funding increases totaling \$86.8 million to improve the capacity of parks and other field offices to engage in a full range of resource management activities in support of Executive Order 14008—Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Fundamental to this effort is a \$28.5 million increase to operational budgets to improve the capacity of parks and programs to engage in the full range of natural resource management activities. The budget also includes significant investments proposed for youth corps programs, the Inventorying and Monitoring program, Research Learning Centers, Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units, and natural resource management teams.

The NPS operations account includes funding increases totaling \$18.8 million to support Executive Order 13985—Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, and Executive Order 14091—Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. NPS is committed to presenting an inclusive and complete story of America in which everyone can see themselves reflected in national parks. Targeted investments will help preserve the stories of the cultures and history across America, engage new audiences, and expand access to America’s national parks and programs. Additional resources include funding for the Increasing Representation in our Public Lands initiative, Park Accessibility for Visitors and Employees program, and Japanese American WWII History National Network. Funding will support Tribal participation in the management of Federal lands and waters with cultural and natural resources of significance and value to Indian Tribes and their citizens, new subsistence managers, and implementation of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Ecosystem Restoration Funding at Work in Acadia National Park

Acadia National Park in Maine and its partners are working together to restore the Great Meadow’s Wetland. The wetland is a popular destination for park visitors and is critically important for plants and wildlife. The project uses science-based management approaches and integrates indigenous knowledge to restore this ecologically important and valued wetland. For more information, please visit

[Restoring the Great Meadow Wetland](https://www.nps.gov/restoring-the-great-meadow-wetland) (U.S. National Park Service) ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)).



An NPS ecologist and a Schoodic Institute technician survey wetland vegetation in Great Meadow.

Photo by Catherine Schmitt, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park.

To improve park operations management, the Department proposes to extend the period of availability of funding in the Operation of the National Park System account to 2 years. Two-year funding availability will allow NPS to manage available resources more efficiently and effectively and adjust for disruptions in the fiscal year. This period of availability is consistent with that of the operating funds at other Interior bureaus.

National Recreation and Preservation

The 2024 request includes \$95.2 million, an increase of \$2.7 million over 2023 enacted, for programs that provide technical and financial assistance to local community efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. The budget proposes \$3.0 million for the recently established African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program and includes \$1.0 million in additional resources for NPS administration of grant programs commensurate with recent increases in funding for National Recreation and Preservation grant programs, such as Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation, Japanese American Confinement Sites, American Indian and Native Hawaiian Art and Culture, the 9/11 Memorial Act, and multiple Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) programs that provide competitive grants to preserve the stories of civil and equal rights and underrepresented communities.

Historic Preservation Fund

The 2024 budget includes \$177.9 million for HPF programs, a decrease of \$26.6 million from 2023 enacted. HPF programs support the preservation of non-Federal historically and culturally significant sites and entities. For the first time, the budget proposes \$2.5 million in standalone funding for the Tribal Heritage Grants program, which awards competitive grants to support Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the preservation and protection of their cultural heritage. Funding also supports formula-funded State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and competitive grants to rehabilitate Historically Black Colleges and Universities, historic properties that help foster the economic development of rural communities,



As part of research to determine migration pathways of monarch butterflies, an intern in the NPS Latino Heritage Internship Program participates in an interagency whitewater rafting trip to look for monarch butterflies on river corridors in Colorado River Basin. Habitat along the rivers' edge—the riparian zone—has milkweed and other nectar-rich plants which the monarchs breed and feed on and provide important habitat for the butterflies. The long-term goal is to fortify monarch habitats along identified routes in the parks.

NPS Photo.

and historic sites that tell the stories of the struggle for African-American civil rights and equal rights in America. The funding also facilitates surveys and nominations of properties associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks. The account also includes Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants and Save America's Treasures Grants.

Construction

The budget requests \$286.6 million, an increase of \$46.8 million over 2023 enacted, in discretionary funding for the NPS Construction program, including \$120.7 million for line-item construction projects to address high-priority needs on mission-critical assets. The request includes increases of \$7.0 million for new construction or rehabilitation of existing employee housing where local market data show limited availability of affordable housing for purchase or rent and \$6.3 million for the Department of the Interior Field Communications Modernization (DIFCOM). The construction account supports important funding for NPS natural resource conservation, including \$4.1 million for climate vulnerability assessments to improve park resiliency, \$2.0 million for hazard mitigation at abandoned mineral land sites, and an

increase of \$10.7 million for the deployment of zero-emission vehicles and associated infrastructure. The request also includes \$7.0 million to address transportation barriers from underserved communities to national parks as part of efforts to expand national parks visitation to all communities.

Centennial Challenge

The 2024 budget proposes \$15.0 million, level with 2023 enacted, to support partnership projects that leverage private funding with a minimum 1:1 match from a non-Federal source. In addition, the NPS Centennial Act established the permanent National Park Centennial Challenge Fund for high-priority projects or programs that enhance the visitor experience. Amounts exceeding \$10.0 million from the sale of age-discounted Federal Recreational Lands Passes, known as Senior Passes, are deposited into the fund to be used for projects subject to the same matching requirement. It is estimated Senior Pass revenues will generate \$7.5 million for the fund in 2024.

Recreation Fees

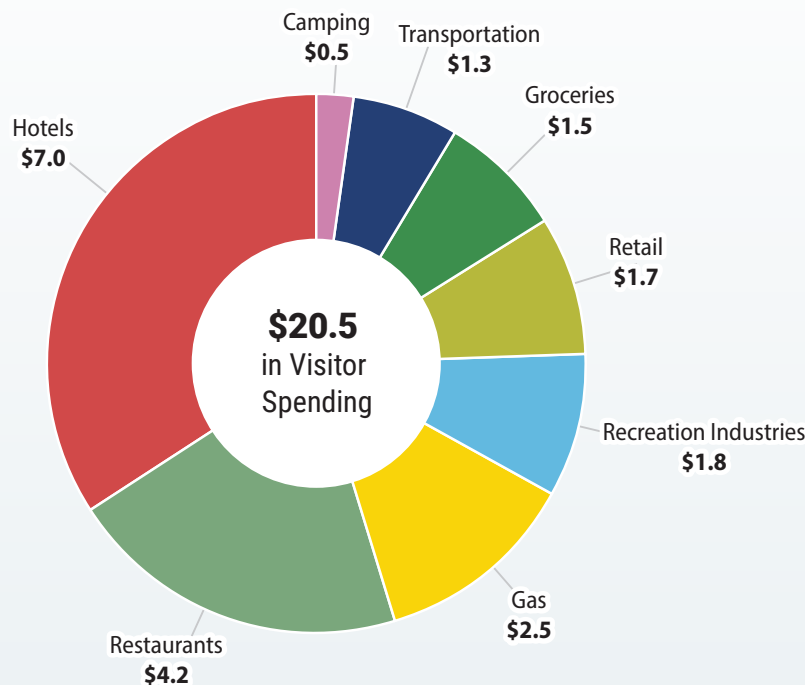
The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) (Public Law 108–447) authorizes recreation fees to be collected, retained, and expended by NPS and other land management agencies to provide benefits and services to the visitor. NPS uses revenue generated by recreation fees to repair, maintain, and enhance facilities; provide interpretation, information, and other visitor services; restore habitat directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation; and provide law enforcement related to public use and recreation at the park where the fee is collected and throughout the national park system. FLREA fee receipts depend on visitation, which varies on the basis of many factors. In 2024, FLREA revenue at NPS units is estimated at \$355.5 million. The 2024 budget proposes appropriations language to extend the authorization of FLREA through 2025.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$124.9 million are fully funded.

2021 National Park Service Economic Contributions to the National Economy (dollars in billions)

In 2021, 297 million park visitors spent an estimated \$20.5 billion in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands across the country. These expenditures supported a total of 323 thousand jobs, \$14.6 billion in labor income, \$24.3 billion in value added, and \$42.5 billion in economic output in the national economy.



SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of the National Park System	14,460	2,920,124	15,093	3,186,457	+633	+266,333
Centennial Challenge	12	15,000	12	15,000	0	0
National Recreation and Preservation	205	92,512	209	95,217	+4	+2,705
Historic Preservation Fund	7	204,515	7	177,900	0	-26,615
Construction (and Major Maintenance)	303	1,739,803	318	286,625	+15	-1,453,178
Subtotal, Current	14,987	4,971,954	15,639	3,761,199	+652	-1,210,755
Permanent						
Operation of the National Park System	227	0	891	0	+664	0
Construction (and Major Maintenance)	3	0	3	0	0	0
Land Acquisition and State Assistance	116	578,852	116	547,744	0	-31,108
Visitor Experience Improvements Fund	0	12,259	0	6,323	0	-5,936
Recreation Fee Permanent Appropriations	1,803	358,728	1,803	365,728	0	+7,000
Other Permanent Appropriations	397	218,616	397	228,495	0	+9,879
Miscellaneous Trust Funds	243	52,003	243	52,003	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	2,789	1,220,458	3,453	1,200,293	+664	-20,165
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Allocation	916	0	969	0	+53	0
Reimbursable	736	0	736	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	1,652	0	1,705	0	+53	0
TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	19,428	6,192,412	20,797	4,961,492	+1,369	-1,230,920

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Operation of the National Park System

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Park Management				
Resource Stewardship	364,330	419,717	509,637	+89,920
Visitor Services	260,210	308,487	300,264	-8,223
Park Protection	407,757	429,396	457,737	+28,341
Facility Operations Maintenance	914,790	938,677	983,017	+44,340
Park Support	612,654	609,514	697,313	+87,799
Subtotal, Park Management	2,559,741	2,705,791	2,947,968	+242,177
External Administrative Costs	207,287	217,633	241,789	+24,156
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o transfers)	2,767,028	2,923,424	3,189,757	+266,333
External Mandated Transfer	-3,300	-3,300	-3,300	0
Other Transfers	+1,165	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ transfers)	2,764,893	2,920,124	3,186,457	+266,333

APPROPRIATION: Centennial Challenge

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	15,000	15,000	15,000	0

APPROPRIATION: National Recreation and Preservation

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Natural Programs	16,452	18,579	19,208	+629
Cultural Programs	34,408	39,327	44,187	+4,860
Environmental Compliance and Review	456	465	484	+19
International Park Affairs	1,950	1,990	2,057	+67
Heritage Partnership Programs	27,144	29,232	29,281	+49
Statutory and Contractual Aid	3,500	2,919	0	-2,919
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	83,910	92,512	95,217	+2,705

APPROPRIATION: Historic Preservation Fund

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Grants-in-Aid				
Grants-In-Aid to States and Territories	57,675	62,150	62,150	0
Grants-In-Aid to Indian Tribes	16,000	23,000	23,000	0
Tribal Heritage Grants ^{1/}	[640]	[920]	2,500	+2,500
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants	10,000	12,500	12,500	0
Grants-in-Aid to Historically Black Colleges & Universities	10,000	11,000	11,000	0
Competitive Grants-in-Aid				
African American Civil Rights	21,750	24,000	24,000	0
History of Equal Rights	4,625	5,000	5,000	0
Underrepresented Communities	1,250	1,250	1,250	0
Subtotal, Competitive Grants-in-Aid	27,625	30,250	30,250	0
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Subtotal, Grants-in-Aid	131,300	148,900	151,400	+2,500
Grants-in-Aid—Save America's Treasures	26,500	26,500	26,500	0
Historic Preservation Fund Projects	15,272	29,115	0	-29,115
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	173,072	204,515	177,900	-26,615

^{1/} Previously, the Tribal Heritage Grants program was funded through Grants-in-Aid to Indian Tribes. The 2024 budget proposes to provide this competitive grant program its own dedicated funding source, separate from formula-funded grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

APPROPRIATION: Construction (and Major Maintenance)

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Line-Item Construction Projects	136,700	126,700	128,700	+2,000
Special Programs	21,502	45,949	76,918	+30,969
Construction Planning	15,183	15,183	15,183	0
Construction Program				
Management and Operations	39,921	34,891	37,159	+2,268
Management Planning	12,678	17,080	28,665	+11,585
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplementals)	225,984	239,803	286,625	+46,822
Disaster Relief Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-43)	+229,472	0	0	0
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)	0	+1,500,000	0	-1,500,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplementals)	455,456	1,739,803	286,625	-1,453,178