

Restoring America's National Parks

FLORIDA

Florida enjoys the economic, recreational, and cultural benefits of the National Park System, which includes nine park units in the state.

National park sites in Florida are part of a system that encompasses 84 million acres across the country. Established by Congress in 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) manages and maintains more than 400 nationally significant sites in all 50 states and several territories. National parks are a mosaic of wild landscapes, historic and cultural sites, scenic byways, trails, military parks, and monuments that celebrate and commemorate remarkable people and America's heritage.

Unfortunately, 100 years after its creation, NPS is struggling to maintain many of its facilities. The agency currently faces a deferred maintenance backlog that is estimated to be \$11.3 billion based on FY2016 data.

Why is there Deferred Maintenance?

- Aging infrastructure: many park facilities and systems are 50-70 years old and need updating
- Record visitation—approximately 331 million visitors in 2016—causes wear and tear on resources
- Unreliable funding for deferred maintenance.

What is Deferred Maintenance?

Deferred maintenance is work that is not completed at required intervals to ensure acceptable facility conditions. If work is delayed for more than a year it is typically considered deferred. Examples of repairs include:

- Crumbling roads and bridges
- Unsound buildings, including historic structures
- Outdated wastewater and electrical systems
- Neglected military sites
- Deteriorating monuments and memorials

National Parks in Florida

In 2016, over 10 million visitors enjoyed national parks in Florida. From the Gulf Islands to Dry Tortugas, Florida saw \$653.6 million spent in gateway communities. That spending supported 9,972 jobs and added a cumulative benefit of \$949.1 million to the state economy – money that helps businesses, schools, and families.

Despite the importance of national parks to Florida's economy, they need more than \$253 million in infrastructure repairs. To keep national parks in Florida strong and vibrant, and to capture the benefits they provide to the state, restoration must be a priority.



NPS Deferred Maintenance in Florida - FY2016

Big Cypress National Preserve	\$ 12,462,057
Biscayne National Park	\$ 12,069,391
Canaveral National Seashore	\$ 21,969,164
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument	\$ 7,431,376
De Soto National Memorial	\$ 432,710
Dry Tortugas National Park	\$ 58,828,779
Everglades National Park	\$ 78,190,174
Gulf Islands National Seashore	\$ 58,065,972
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve	\$ 4,251,367
Total	\$253,700,990

Questions? Contact Us.

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Photo (above): NPS photo. Tent camping at Dry Tortugas National Park.

Why Address Deferred Maintenance?

- **Preservation:** We need to ensure care of our nation's historic and cultural resources.
- **Access:** Without working roads and trails, visitors can't enjoy all our park resources.
- **Revenue:** Local communities are dependent on park-generated tourism dollars.
- **Kids:** Maintaining our national parks is a responsibility Congress owes to future generations.
- **Safety:** Aging infrastructure and building code issues need to be addressed so visitors are provided a safe experience.
- **Cost Savings:** Repairing and updating park facilities can provide significant cost savings to tax payers.

Proven Economic Boosters

- Parks are a top travel destination in the U.S.
- There were an estimated 331 million visits to the national parks in 2016.
- In 2016, park visitors spent an estimated \$18.4 billion in nearby communities and a collective \$34.9 billion boost to the national economy. That spending supported 318,000 jobs (2016 data).



Photo (above): Trails in Everglades have more than \$2.7 million in deferred maintenance. (NPS Photo).

From sites that are culturally important to Native American tribes or that honor those who served in our military, to parks that commemorate painful aspects of the Civil War, Japanese internment, or the Civil Rights movement, our National Park System documents our nation's diverse and evolving history.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure the NPS has the resources needed to maintain park infrastructure, so future generations can enjoy and learn from our national treasures.

Solutions

To address deferred maintenance at NPS sites across the country, Congress should:

- Ensure that infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.
- Provide dedicated annual federal funding for national park repairs.
- Enact innovative policy reforms to ensure that deferred maintenance does not escalate.
- Provide more highway funding for NPS maintenance needs.
- Create more opportunities for public-private collaboration and donations to help restore park infrastructure.

You Can Help

Ask your federal representatives to support dedicated federal funding and an infrastructure proposal that addresses the deferred maintenance needs within the National Park System.

Contact your senators, Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson, at senate.gov. To contact your congressman, visit house.gov and enter your zip code.