



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.”

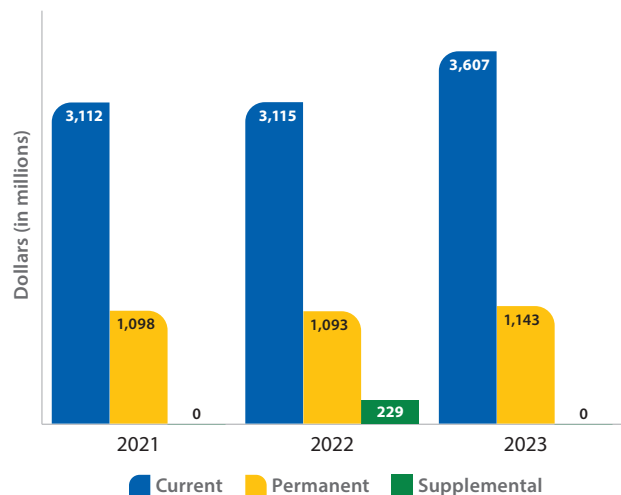
Bureau Overview

The national park system covers 85 million acres at 423 park units, including 136 historical parks or sites, 84 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 Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, and National Trails. In addition, NPS staff work with communities across the Nation to help preserve local history and create recreational opportunities. Visitation in 2021 rose to 297 million people.

Budget Overview

The 2023 budget request for NPS is \$3.6 billion in discretionary funding. NPS estimates the budget will support total staffing of 20,495 full-time equivalents in 2023. The 2023 budget invests in America’s future. The budget promotes programs that tackle climate change, advance racial equity, upgrade infrastructure, and promote conservation. The budget focuses on adaptively managing resources to increase resilience to the changing climate, using science to inform decisions, expanding inclusion of historically underrepresented communities, and delivering NPS core mission and

NPS Funding



services to protect and preserve America’s national treasures.

The NPS budget includes many programs that advance President Biden’s climate and conservation goals and restore technical capacity in land management, including investments in climate-related science and zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). This budget builds on Executive Order (EO) 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, which challenges Federal agencies and the country to increase conservation of U.S. lands and waters to reverse or stabilize the impacts of a changing climate. The budget is an important step in meeting President Biden’s conservation challenge, with the goal to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by 2030.

NPS is an integral participant in Departmentwide efforts to implement an ambitious agenda to center



- In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service (NPS), also known as “America’s Best Idea.”
- The national park system includes 423 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 2021, NPS employed roughly 21,200 individual full- and part-time employees.
- NPS served 297 million visitors in 2021; before the COVID-19 pandemic, park visitation routinely exceeded 300 million.
- In 2021, more than 107,000 volunteers worked to preserve, protect, and share the history of this land and its people; before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of volunteers exceeded 300,000 per year.
- NPS collaborates with Tribes, States, local governments, nonprofits, and owners of historic property who share in preserving the Nation’s heritage.

justice, equity, and inclusion in all our work. The Biden Administration, through EO 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, directs Federal agencies to operate in an environment that advances equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Park sites that commemorate the people and places of the African-American and other civil rights movements are central to the NPS mission to protect places of national cultural and historical significance. Further, NPS supports myriad outreach programs to ensure that historically underrepresented communities benefit from efforts to make the Nation’s public lands and waters accessible and welcoming to everyone. NPS administers historic preservation grants to States, Tribes, and local groups to preserve deteriorating and vanishing sites and resources that document the cultural heritage and struggle for equal opportunity for African Americans, Tribes, and other underserved communities. In addition, NPS administers competitive Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program grants funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, helping build parks in underserved communities in urban settings.

Operation of the National Park System

The 2023 budget requests \$3.1 billion for operations of the national park system. The budget includes \$553.0 million for Resource Stewardship, \$279.8 million for Visitor Services, \$444.2 million for Park Protection, \$959.0 million for Facilities Operations and Maintenance, \$636.1 million for Park Support, and \$217.6 million for External Administrative Costs.

The budget request funds park and program operations that protect and inform visitors and employees and keep NPS resources unimpaired for future generations. Changes in the 2023 budget aid efforts to understand and address the impacts of climate change on NPS resources and expand the inclusion of people of color and other underserved groups.



A fourth-grader receives his Junior Ranger badge from a park ranger at Anacostia Park, National Capital Parks-East.

NPS Photo by Marcey Frutchey.

The NPS budget includes an additional \$31.0 million for the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC). The CCC is an important jobs initiative that draws on America's strength to work together and build back better to revitalize public lands, infrastructure, and communities while creating jobs and providing pathways to employment that are inclusive of those from underserved and marginalized communities, returning veterans, and people of all ages. This initiative draws inspiration from the Civilian Conservation Corps, which put hundreds of thousands of young people to work on public and private lands, providing them with jobs and training to tackle the crises of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. This initiative will complement the full range of youth-oriented developmental programs and projects being conducted in national park units.

NPS sustains the condition of thousands of assets in a manner befitting their status as America's treasures while making them available for public enjoyment. The Facility Operations and Maintenance program protects, restores, rehabilitates, and maintains natural and cultural resources, visitor and employee facilities, and other infrastructure. The budget includes \$136.0 million for repair and rehabilitation projects and \$188.2 million for cyclic maintenance projects.

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 (NR&P)

The 2023 request includes \$74.6 million for programs that provide technical and financial assistance to local community efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. The account supports National Register of Historic Places programs; Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance; and important grant programs for Chesapeake

Gateways and Trails, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation, Japanese American Confinement Sites, American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance, American Indian and Native Hawaiian Art and Culture, the 9/11 Memorial Act, and National Heritage Areas.

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)

The 2023 budget includes \$151.8 million for HPF programs, which support the preservation of non-Federal historically and culturally significant sites and entities. Many of the programs funded through HPF contribute to the Administration's Advancing Racial Justice and Equity for Underserved Communities initiative, including grants for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Competitive HPF grants are available for historic sites that tell the stories of the struggle for African-American civil rights in America, and historic revitalization grants are competitively awarded to provide resources to rehabilitate historic properties that help foster the economic development of rural communities. Other programs administer grants to States and territories to support historic preservation offices, which help local communities protect and preserve historic resources in accordance with local needs and priorities.

Construction

The budget requests \$279.3 million for the NPS Construction program. The budget includes \$120.7 million for line-item construction projects to address high-priority needs on mission-critical



Glacier National Park in Montana.

NPS Photo.

assets, including \$12.1 million for the Department of the Interior Field Communications Modernization (DIFCOM) initiative to deploy remote broadband connectivity and provide employees in the field with voice, video, and data capabilities for all missions. The budget requests \$10.0 million for hazard mitigation at abandoned mineral land sites. The construction account supports important funding for NPS natural resource conservation, including Climate Vulnerability Assessments to improve park resiliency, environmental impact planning and compliance, and \$16.7 million for the purchase of ZEVs. The NPS budget proposes \$7.9 million for new construction or rehabilitation of existing employee housing where local market data show limited availability of affordable housing for purchase or rent. The request also includes \$2.0 million in the NPS operations account to support leasing of seasonal housing in local communities.

Centennial Challenge

The 2023 budget proposes \$15.0 million 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. The amounts exceeding \$10.0 million from the sale of

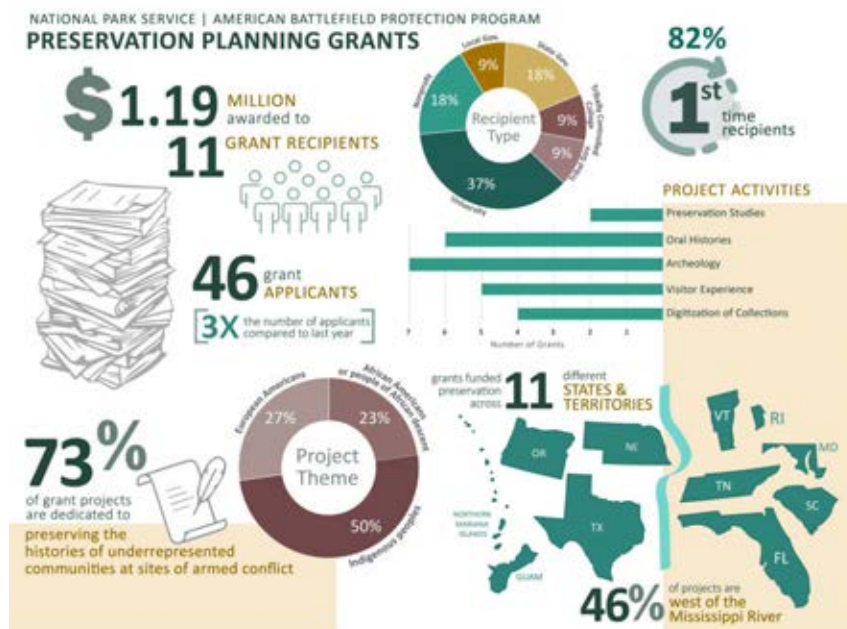
age-discounted Federal Recreational Lands Passes, known as Senior Passes, are deposited into the fund to be used for projects subject to the same matching requirement. The budget estimates the fund will receive \$5.0 million in 2023.

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 both 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 2023, FLREA revenue at NPS units is estimated at \$329.4 million. The 2023 budget proposes appropriations language to extend the authorization of FLREA through 2024.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$72.0 million are fully funded.



SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2023 Request with 2022 CR

	2022 CR		2023 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Operation of the National Park System	14,490	2,678,987	15,860	3,086,556	+1,370	+407,569
Centennial Challenge	17	15,000	17	15,000	0	0
National Recreation and Preservation	200	74,157	201	74,581	+1	+424
Historic Preservation Fund	4	144,300	4	151,800	0	+7,500
Construction (and Major Maintenance)	328	453,379	330	279,340	+2	-174,039
Land Acquisition and State Assistance	0	-21,228	0	0	0	+21,228
Subtotal, Current	15,039	3,344,595	16,412	3,607,277	+1,373	+262,682
Permanent						
Land Acquisition and State Assistance	142	530,899	183	566,443	+41	+35,544
Visitor Experience Improvements Fund	0	8,958	0	0	0	-8,958
Recreation Fee Permanent Appropriations	1,618	321,359	1,618	329,393	0	+8,034
Other Permanent Appropriations	353	179,466	353	195,091	0	+15,625
Miscellaneous Trust Funds	208	52,003	208	52,003	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	2,321	1,092,685	2,362	1,142,930	+41	+50,245
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Allocation	855	0	1,000	0	+145	0
Reimbursable	721	0	721	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	1,576	0	1,721	0	+145	0
TOTAL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	18,936	4,437,280	20,495	4,750,207	+1,559	+312,927

^{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

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Park Management				
Resource Stewardship	350,306	350,306	552,997	+202,691
Visitor Services	253,851	253,851	279,847	+25,996
Park Protection	387,239	387,239	444,215	+56,976
Facility Operations Maintenance	910,719	910,719	959,022	+48,303
Park Support	590,209	590,209	636,142	+45,933
Subtotal, Park Management	2,492,324	2,492,324	2,872,223	+379,899
External Administrative Costs	195,963	195,963	217,633	+21,670
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o transfers)	2,688,287	2,688,287	3,089,856	+401,569
External Mandated Transfers	-11,300	-11,300	-3,300	+8,000
Other Transfers	+897	+2,000	0	-2,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ transfers)	2,677,884	2,678,987	3,086,556	+407,569

APPROPRIATION: Centennial Challenge

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	15,000	15,000	15,000	0

APPROPRIATION: National Recreation and Preservation

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Natural Programs	15,963	15,963	16,868	+905
Cultural Programs	31,938	31,938	32,977	+1,039
Environmental Compliance and Review	443	443	465	+22
International Park Affairs	1,924	1,924	1,990	+66
Heritage Partnership Programs				
Commissions and Grants	22,883	22,883	21,216	-1,667
Administrative Support	1,006	1,006	1,065	+59
Subtotal, Heritage Partnership Programs	23,889	23,889	22,281	-1,608
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	74,157	74,157	74,581	+424

APPROPRIATION: Historic Preservation Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Grants-in-Aid				
Grants-in-Aid to States and Territories	55,675	55,675	57,675	+2,000
Grants-in-Aid to Indian Tribes	15,000	15,000	23,000	+8,000
Historic Revitalization Grants	7,500	7,500	10,000	+2,500
Grants-in-Aid to Historically Black Colleges and Universities	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Competitive Grants-in-Aid	21,125	21,125	26,125	+5,000
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants	10,000	10,000	0	-10,000
Subtotal, Grants-in-Aid	119,300	119,300	126,800	+7,500
Grants-in-Aid—Save America's Treasures	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	144,300	144,300	151,800	+7,500

APPROPRIATION: Construction (and Major Maintenance)

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Line-Item Construction Projects	131,788	361,260	134,700	-226,560
Special Programs	21,491	21,491	64,486	+42,995
Construction Planning	15,183	15,183	15,183	0
Construction Program Management and Operations	45,180	45,180	34,891	-10,289
Management Planning	10,265	10,265	30,080	+19,815
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental)	223,907	223,907	279,340	+55,433
Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 117-43)	0	+229,472	0	-229,472
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental)	223,907	453,379	279,340	-174,039

APPROPRIATION: Land Acquisition and State Assistance

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o rescission)	0	0	0	0
Rescission of Prior-Year BA	-23,000	-21,228	0	+21,228
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ rescission)	-23,000	-21,228	0	+21,228

