

PARK FUNDING



Acadia National Park was devastated by back-to-back storms in January 2024. © Friends of Acadia

\$2.3B

Damage to
National Park
Service sites

24+

National Parks
damaged since
the last disaster
supplemental



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Support Disaster Relief Funding for the National Park Service

National parks across the country, like their surrounding communities, have been significantly damaged since Congress last passed a disaster relief supplemental in 2023. More than two dozen parks have been damaged or destroyed and are in need of funding, and impacts from recent hurricanes have significantly increased the cost estimate.

Please support the administration's \$2.3 billion request for National Park Service recovery funding in the disaster relief bill.

NPS sites are economic drivers in need of investment.

National Park Service (NPS) sites are integral to the economic well-being and quality of life for surrounding communities including those devastated by recent disasters. Their repair is critical to support the recreational economy and the well-being of countless communities,

and to restore precious ecosystems and America's natural and cultural heritage.

National parks generate more than \$55 billion for the US economy and support 415,000 private-sector jobs annually.

Last year, the Blue Ridge Parkway saw nearly 17 million visitors who spent \$1.4 billion in gateway towns, generating more than 19,000 jobs. Hurricane Helene's catastrophic impact led to the closure of the entire parkway. The North Carolina section remains largely closed, with more than 200 miles of road and numerous facilities closed to the public. The countless businesses who depend on the parkway's tourism are devastated.

2023 and 2024 Disaster Damage at National Parks

The last year and a half saw incredible damage to NPS sites. From fires to floods, hurricanes, mudslides, tornadoes and more, parks received enormous infrastructure damage.

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Power was lost, trails were washed out and covered with tens of thousands of fallen trees, roads flooded and washed out, buildings burned and collapsed from the weight of heavy snow—and more.

Many areas have also witnessed serious harm to natural habitats, threatening water quality, wildlife habitat, and other ecosystem services.

Human-made and natural infrastructure damage in total rivals NPS' \$2.9 billion annual operating budget. The scale of damage cannot be overstated.



Tornado damage at Chickasaw National Recreation Area © NPS

Damage since the 2023 disaster relief supplemental includes:

- In **Washington**, a popular day lodge in Olympic National Park burned to the ground.
- In **California**, landslides, mudslides and heavy snowfall in Yosemite, Sequoia Kings Canyon, Channel Islands and other California NPS units.
- Historic properties in **Hawaii** damaged by the Maui wildfire and in need of NPS Historic Preservation Fund dollars.

- In **Maine**, back-to-back storms in January destroyed park infrastructure at Acadia National Park.
- In **Texas**, spring storms caused flooding and mudslides in Big Thicket National Preserve.
- In **Texas**, the Windy Deuce Fire caused extensive, costly burn damage to Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument and Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.
- In **Texas**, July's Hurricane Beryl caused flood damage to Big Thicket National Preserve.
- In **Oklahoma**, a May tornado damaged Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
- In **New Mexico**, September flash flooding impacted Bandelier National Monument.
- In **South Carolina**, Congaree National Park, Cowpens National Battlefield, Kings Mountain National Military Park and Ninety Six National Historic Site were harmed.
- In **North Carolina and Virginia**, \$1.7 billion in extensive damage to roads, tunnels and other infrastructure and tens of thousands of downed trees at Blue Ridge Parkway, the most visited NPS unit and a huge economic driver.
- Extensive damage from thousands of downed trees to trails and other natural and man-made infrastructure at the

Appalachian National Scenic Trail in several states and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in **North Carolina and Tennessee**.



Collapsed roadbed at Gooch Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway © NPS

- In **North Carolina**, damage to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.
- In **Tennessee**, the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site was damaged.
- In **Tennessee/Kentucky/Virginia**, impacts to parts of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.
- In **Florida**, damage to infrastructure at Fort Matanzas National Monument; closures at Desoto National Memorial and Gulf Islands National Seashore, and impacts to Canaveral National Seashore.
- In **Georgia**, damage and closures at Fort Pulaski National Monument and Fort Frederica National Monument.

With the Great American Outdoors Act, Congress demonstrated bipartisan support for repairing park infrastructure. Now is the time to extend that support to our parks and their communities to recover from two years of disasters.

For more information, please contact John Garder, Senior Director of Budget and Appropriations, at jgarder@npca.org or 202.604.7386.

* The views expressed in this fact sheet are those of the National Parks Conservation Association and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Park Service.