

NATIONAL PARKS



The National Park Service preserves America's natural and cultural treasures, attracting visitors from across the country and around the world. The National Park System encompasses 417 parks in the United States, every state and extending into U.S. territories. In 2017, visitor spending at these parks and in local gateway regions **generated \$11.9 billion in labor income, \$20.3 billion in value added and \$35.8 billion in economic output** in the national economy.

While America's National Parks are welcoming record numbers of visitors year after year, **a history of underfunding and an aging infrastructure have caused a backlog of maintenance repairs estimated at \$11.6 billion**. Providing consistent, reliable funding to address overdue maintenance would help ensure that local communities, as well as the nation, continue to benefit from park visitation.

NATIONAL PARKS BENEFIT OUR ECONOMY ///



In 2017, visitors spent **\$18.2 billion** in local gateway communities.



From 2015 to 2017, there was a **7.7% increase** in National Park visitation.



306 thousand jobs are supported by National Park visitor spending.

A Pew analysis estimates that tackling the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in the parks could **create more than 110,000 jobs**.

TRAVEL TALKS: PARKS EDITION ///

- With 84 million acres of the U.S. covered by the NPS, the importance of federal lands to tourism and the economy is undeniable. Travel Talks: Parks Edition will allow legislators and tourism representatives to discuss travel's importance in gateway communities.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LEGACY ACT ///

- The National Park Service Legacy Act would provide federal funding to address the accumulation of deferred maintenance needs in National Parks. Support of this bill will ensure the preservation of park infrastructure.

ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY IN OUR PARKS ///

- Congress should support legislation that streamlines broadband internet deployment and encourages public-private partnerships that will bring our nation's parks into the 21st century. This will not only **encourage more visitation**—specifically future generations—but increase park safety and emergency response times.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LEGACY ACT