



Working Assets:

Reinvesting in National Parks to Create Jobs and Protect America's Heritage



From top to bottom: Valley Forge National Historical Park, photo courtesy of NPS; Theodore Roosevelt National Park, photo courtesy of NPS; and Dry Tortugas National Park, photo by John Adornato III/NPCA.



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

Working Assets: Reinvesting in National Parks to Create Jobs and Protect America's Heritage

In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt put thousands of Americans to work reforesting the nation and creating roads, fire lookouts, campgrounds, and trails in national parks from Acadia to Yellowstone. FDR also sought to modernize our national transportation system; new roads, including the Going-to-the-Sun road in Glacier National Park and Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park welcomed visitors.

That investment transformed our National Park System and revitalized it for decades to come—better equipping the parks to inspire and accommodate visitors, while creating a foundation for many local jobs.

Fast-forward 70 years and national parks *again* need attention, and they can again be part of the solution.

Today, with President-elect Barack Obama's support for national service *and* quick passage of economic recovery legislation, it is time again to consider the tremendous potential and role of national parks.

Significant Places of America's Heritage

Yosemite, Yellowstone, Gettysburg, Grand Canyon, Independence Hall... our 391 national parks represent some of our most extraordinary landscapes and landmarks. We know them by name and we know them by heart.

In their simplest terms, our national parks constitute the most significant natural, cultural, and historic places in America. They preserve some of our most stunning landscapes—Grand Teton, Everglades, Olympic, and Glacier Bay National Parks. They represent some of our most

ingenious ideas—the world-changing inventions of Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers—as well as our ideals—Statue of Liberty, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosie the Riveter. The national parks represent what is best about our country, and also some of our most sorrowful moments at Manzanar, Trail of Tears, and Andersonville.

These places tell the American story—and our personal stories. These are the places where we forge family memories and in doing so, bond with our nation as a community.

Most importantly, national parks are our legacy to our children and grandchildren; protecting the national parks means that we are protecting our legacy for the future.

National Parks Have Critical Needs

The National Park System is a poster child for years of insufficient investment in our nation's most significant assets.

Investing \$2.5 billion in the National Park Service could create upwards of 57,000 jobs.

For years, America's national parks have sustained chronic shortfalls in critical federal funding needed to adequately staff and maintain visitor centers, campgrounds, and

museums, and keep parks safe and accessible for all visitors. National parks on average receive only 2/3 of the needed federal funding annually—a system-wide shortfall of \$750 million every year.

As a result, trails and historic buildings are crumbling, interpretive materials are out-of-date, museum collections are unprotected and unknown to researchers and the public, archaeological treasures are vulnerable to theft, and the national parks' backlog of road repair and maintenance and preservation needs exceeds \$8.5 billion.

At Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania, for instance, chronic funding and staffing shortfalls have limited the ability of the National Park Service to restore two historic structures now deteriorating on the grounds where Gen. George Washington's Continental Army

trained during the harsh winter of 1777-78. One of these, Stirling's Quarters, is the building that served as the headquarters of Maj. Gen. Lord Stirling and his aide de camp, Maj. James Monroe, perhaps better known as the fifth president of the United States.

\$2.5 Billion in Ready-to-Go Projects in National Park Service Budget

The National Park Service could benefit from an investment exceeding \$2.5 billion over an 18-month to 2-year timeframe.

For the coming year, the National Park Service has identified well over \$1 billion worth of potential investments in ready-to-go projects in national parks in rural and urban communities across the country.

These critical projects include:

- reconstruction of park bridges and roads;
- control of invasive, exotic species;
- historic building preservation;
- clean energy programs;
- "greening" park architecture, including visitor centers,
- and trail rehabilitation.

For instance, the highly-trafficked Bonnie Claire Road in Death Valley National Park is among the half of all park roads that are in poor condition. This \$11.2-million project has been on the Park Service's work list for years, awaiting funds.

An investment of approximately \$1 million would fix a failing sewer system in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, which is now risking the park's waterways, wildlife, and public health.

Reinvestment Creates Jobs, Protects Our Heritage

Our national parks have demonstrated themselves as areas that have important beneficial impacts in local economies.

A recent study commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association found that every federal dollar invested in national parks generates *at least* \$4 in economic value to the public.

Investments in the parks' ready-to-go projects will help to improve safety and public access, restore our national heritage, and bring immediate economic benefits—including upwards of 57,000 new jobs—above and beyond the federal workforce already managing our

Top 5 Reasons to Reinvest *Now* in America's National Parks:

- National parks are significant national assets
- Chronic funding shortfalls have created system-wide needs
- National parks have \$2.5 billion in ready-to-go job-creating projects
- National parks offer a tremendous 4-1 return on investment
- The nation invested successfully in national parks in the 1930s; the Park Service's 2016 centennial offers a historic opportunity for our generation

national parks.

The National Parks Conservation Association is also proposing an added investment of \$200 million in a new National Parks Service Corps, which can be easily and quickly accomplished through a simple expansion of AmeriCorps. The National Parks Service Corps would employ 10,000 young people and retirees in jobs renewing our national parks, providing diverse inner city and rural youth especially with jobs, high-quality skills training, learning opportunities, and life-changing experiences in our national parks.

The 2016 centennial of the National Park System reminds us that these investments need to be made eventually. But reinvesting *now* in the infrastructure of our national parks creates jobs and economic activity where and when we need it, and restores our national parks for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Historic Precedent

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, created by President Franklin Roosevelt as one anchor set to stabilize the American economy during the Great Depression. The Roosevelt Administration invested \$3 billion (\$47.5 billion in current dollars) over the lifetime of the program to put three million people to work on projects in the national parks and elsewhere—planting trees and building bridges, roads, trails, and structures that have defined the look and feel of our national parks for the last 70 years. President Roosevelt’s investment in the national parks put Americans to work and laid the foundation for the modern National Park System.

Today, the Obama Administration can set a new anchor for the recovery of the national economy through targeted investment in the national parks. Such an investment will generate thousands of jobs, shore up gateway communities and regional economies that benefit from the national parks and, as economists have demonstrated, generate \$4 of economic benefit for every federal dollar invested, creating an even stronger ripple outward from the dollars invested in the health and vitality—and the legacy—of our national parks for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

This is the best opportunity in roughly half a century to restore our national treasures, and Congress and the Obama Administration should seize it.



Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps construct a fireplace in a picnic area in Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey. Photo circa 1935; courtesy of National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection.

More Information

For more information about the opportunity to reinvest in our national parks to create jobs and restore America’s heritage, please contact National Parks Conservation Association Senior Vice President for Government Affairs Craig Obey at 202.223.6722, ext. 234.

Examples of Ready-to-Go Projects

The following fact sheets offer examples of the ready-to-go projects in national parks in the coming year.

Acadia National Park

*Invest \$9,000,000 to
create jobs and
rehabilitate roadways
and parking areas*



Road rehabilitation in Acadia National Park.
© NPS

Acadia National Park's roads are in critical need of repair and rehabilitation. This project will treat park roads according to the recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration's Pavement Management System. Acadia road treatments range from thin maintenance overlays to complete rehabilitation of base and pavement. Key drainage improvements will be made where necessary. This project would include up to 14 miles of roadway and an equivalent 16 miles of parking lots and related areas.

Transportation projects such as road repair in Acadia will create high-paying construction jobs that support local families.

For more information, please contact NPCA Program Manager Oliver Spellman at 212.617.2769 or ospellman@npca.org.



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Cuyahoga Valley National Park

*Invest approx.
\$1,000,000 to create
jobs and repair
failing sewage system*

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is an important refuge for wildlife and approximately 2.3 million visitors annually. Unfortunately, the park is currently bearing the burden of a failing sewage system—potentially risking the park’s waterways, wildlife, and public health—and requires immediate funds to repair this critical infrastructure.

Urgent repairs will improve the Boston Mills Historic District Sanitary System to the highest environmental standard available at this time. This approximately \$1-million project has been in the planning and review stages for five years, and is “shovel-ready” for the upcoming year.



Towpath trail cyclists.
© Tom Jones

Since the park is located a short distance from Ohio’s Cleveland and Akron urban centers, this project will create essential local jobs while restoring and protecting our national park heritage.

For more information, please contact NPCA Midwest Regional Director Lynn McClure at 312.263.0111 or lmclure@npca.org.



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Death Valley National Park

Invest \$11,200,000 to create jobs and rehabilitate the Bonnie Claire Road

The Bonnie Claire Road (Route 11) in Death Valley National Park is in need of rehabilitation between milepost 20 and milepost 7. The paved roadway is insufficient for the volume and type of travel using this road. The narrow roadway forces large buses and motor homes to drive on the unpaved shoulder edge—an unsafe situation that further contributes to road damage. Narrow curves and shoulder drop-offs have contributed to many car roll-overs.

Bonnie Claire is a critical access road for the region—affecting jobs, commerce, and park visitation. It is a main route through Death Valley National Park, providing access to popular visitor attractions inside the park including Scotty's Castle and Ubehebe Crater.



Bonnie Claire Road, Death Valley National Park
© Wayne Badder/NPS

The road also provides access to the nearby Grapevine private residential area, facilitates the flow of commerce from Nevada State Highway 95, and enables connection and access to many areas in the north district of the park, as well as serving as a crucial link to Big Pine, California.

This project has been on the Park Service's work list for years, awaiting funds. Funding this "shovel-ready" \$11.2-million project will create jobs and restore this critical roadway for the safety and economic benefit of local residents, and the safety and recreational access of visitors to Death Valley National Park.

For more information, please contact NPCA California Desert Program Manager Mike Cipra at 760.336.7785 or mcipra@npca.org.



Dry Tortugas National Park

*Invest \$10,000,000 to
create jobs and repair
masonry walls at
historic Ft. Jefferson*

In Dry Tortugas National Park, Fort Jefferson stands as one of the largest masonry forts in the country. Construction of the fort began in 1846, but was never completed. After the Civil War, it served as a federal prison; among its most famous residents was Dr. Samuel Mudd, the physician who set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth—President Abraham Lincoln’s assassin.

Unfortunately, the ravages of hurricanes and scouring seawater have corroded the Florida fort’s original ironwork and loosened the bricks—risking the integrity of this historic site.

This \$10-million construction project is focused on two sides of the hexagon-shaped fort, following on the heels of the first side being complete; two other sides are currently under reconstruction.



Crumbling masonry at Fort Jefferson.
© John Adornato III/NPCA

The reconstruction work involves removing the old iron from the exterior, replacing bricks, and re-pointing the intact brick.

This project is at a crucial point and needs funding immediately, especially as reconstruction costs have increased annually. A \$10-million investment will restore and protect the next two sides of the fort, and allow for the installation of replica ironwork shutters. The last phase of the project would finish the sixth side of the fort and replace the deteriorating moat walls that protect the main structure from the direct, damaging effects of ocean waves.

For more information, please contact NPCA Sun Coast Regional Director John Adornato at 954.961.1280 or jadornato@npca.org.



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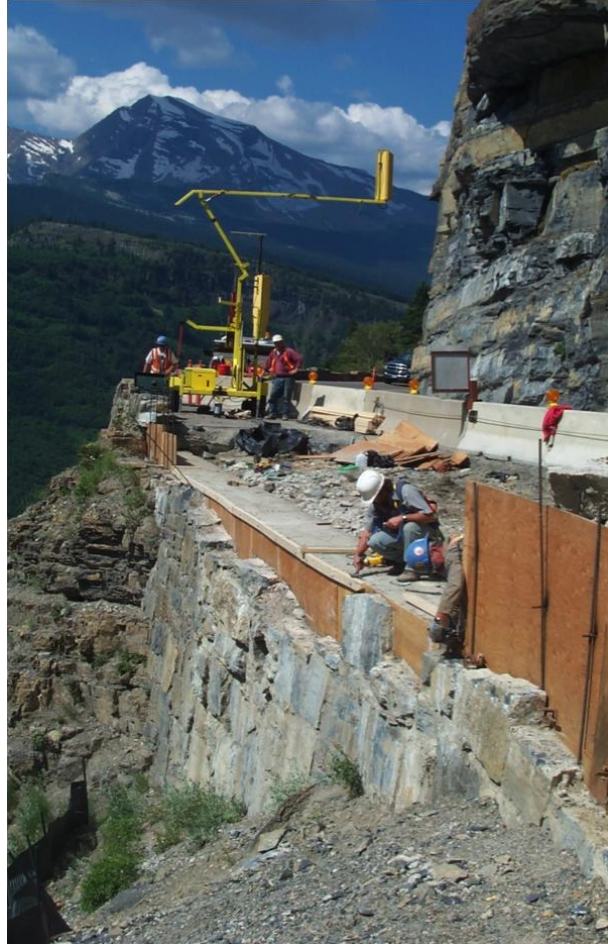
Glacier National Park

Invest \$21,350,000 to boost local economy and restore historic Going-to-the-Sun Road

Dedicated in 1933, Glacier National Park's Going-to-the-Sun Road is often called an engineering marvel for its breathtaking, winding route along the side of the mountain for which it is named.

A combination of harsh winter weather, avalanches, and a lack of basic maintenance has lead highway engineers to warn of potential catastrophic failure of this iconic and popular highway—rated among the top 10 scenic highways in America.

To complete reconstruction within the projected 10-year-long time frame, an additional \$90-140 million in federal funds will be needed. An investment in 2009 of \$21 million would accelerate the ongoing work to complete the high alpine portion of the road, which is in dire condition.



Repairs to Glacier's Going-to-the-Sun Road.
© NPS

Significantly, this scenic road serves as a major local tourist attraction; Glacier National Park is the primary driver for the multi-state, visitor-driven regional economy. Providing economic recovery funds will ensure the Going-to-the-Sun Road is reconstructed quickly, and continues to hire predominantly local contractors, sustaining this vital part of the Montana economy.

For more information, please contact NPCA Glacier Program Manager Will Hammerquist at 406.862.6722 or whammerquist@npca.org.



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Grand Canyon National Park

Invest \$15,000,000 to create jobs and construct needed employee housing



Existing employee housing at the Grand Canyon.
© NPS

Grand Canyon National Park is a national treasure that welcomes nearly 4.5 million visitors annually—requiring a sizable employee corps to offer interpretive and emergency services, and protect the park’s natural and cultural treasures.

Due to the park’s long distance from nearby communities, many park staff must live on-site, with some park staff living in cramped, dilapidated trailers. The Park Service needs critical funding for the construction of eight, eight-plex multi-family housing units in Grand Canyon Village in an area now occupied by 10 trailers.

The park’s 2006 Asset Management Plan shows a staggering \$260 million in deferred maintenance projects, with over \$9 million attributed to employee housing needs alone. Park fees generate approximately \$11 million annually for maintenance needs, but a chronic lack of funding, combined with the continuing deterioration of aging infrastructure, have caused the park’s extensive backlog of deferred maintenance.

To date, the park’s existing, inadequate housing limits the National Park Service’s ability to meet core mission needs because of low morale, and according to the Park Service, “severely impacts recruitment and retention of quality employees.”

This \$15-million project will provide a flexible housing solution for permanent and seasonal park staff. While addressing one of the critical needs that the Park Service identified in its 2008 Grand Canyon National Park core operational report, as well as earlier assessments, including its 1995 General Management Plan, this project could also employ independent workers and subcontractors from around the Colorado Plateau.

For more information, please contact NPCA Southwest Regional Director David Nimkin at 801.521.0785 or dnimkin@npca.org.



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Great Smoky Mountains National Park

*Invest \$4,200,000 to
create jobs and
improve accessibility*

Great Smoky Mountains is America's most visited national park, welcoming nearly 10 million visitors annually.

At present, only 17 of 94 comfort stations or restrooms in Great Smoky Mountains National Park meet ADA design requirements for handicapped use. It is essential that these facilities be upgraded to provide access and convenience for all national park visitors.

This investment of \$4.2 million will significantly enhance accessibility of the park while creating much-needed local jobs.



Visitors touring historic structure.
© NPS

For more information, please contact NPCA Blue Ridge Field Office Senior Program Manager Greg Kidd at 828.254.5161 or gkidd@npca.org.



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Valley Forge National Historical Park

*Invest \$927,615 to
create jobs and
restore historic
structures*



Stirling's courtyard, Valley Forge NHP
© NPS

Several structures in Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania are in dire need of repair and rehabilitation. For example, \$927,615 is needed to repair and rehabilitate Stirling's Quarters, headquarters of Maj. Gen. Lord Stirling and Major James Monroe during the Continental Army's encampment, and the 1816 Maurice Stephens House. The Stephens House is located in the area of the park historically known as the Grand Parade Grounds, where more than 12,000 Continental Army soldiers lived and trained during the harsh winter of 1777-78.

Both historic structures require extensive work, including restoration of rotted wood, damaged windows, missing stucco, damaged stone joints, roofs and gutters, and painting.

By funding national park historic restoration projects such as these at Valley Forge, the Park Service can hire historic preservationists and other specialists, providing jobs for a wide array of Americans in need of economic relief while also restoring sites important to our national heritage.

For more information, please contact NPCA's Pennsylvania Program Manager Cinda Waldbuesser at 215.327.2529 or cwaldbuesser@npca.org.



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