

A LEGACY THREATENED

How the 2017 Hurricanes damaged America's National Parks



**NATIONAL
PARKS**
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

MORE THAN

50

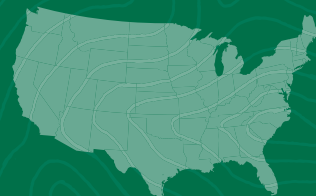
PARK SITES



AND

9

STATES & TERRITORIES



have been impacted by hurricanes this year

THIS DAMAGE THREATENS



VISITOR
FACILITIES



WATER
QUALITY



ABILITY TO
PROTECT

COMMUNITIES FROM FUTURE STORM SURGES

AND COULD HARM

\$30 Billion

generated for
the U.S. economy



300,000

private sector
jobs annually

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria damaged or destroyed historic structures, housing, visitor centers, ferry boats, levees, boardwalks, docks, trails, roads, dams, bridges and lodging at many national parks. Storms harmed natural habitat, threatening water quality, affecting wildlife and making communities more vulnerable to future storm surges. **National parks bring people together. These beloved destinations inspire millions of visitors, and create dependable regional tourism economies. We must rebuild the places that were devastated by these storms.**

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

PARKS AFFECTED

U.S. Virgin Islands: Buck Island Reef National Monument

Christiansted National Historical Site • Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve • Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument
Virgin Islands National Park

Puerto Rico: San Juan National Historic Site



Virgin Islands National Park ©NPS

The six national park sites in the Caribbean experienced significant damage from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Each site closed for extended periods without electricity or water, displacing park staff due to destroyed housing. **The recovery of these national parks is directly linked to the economic recovery of these islands.**



Virgin Islands National Park ©NPS



Virgin Islands National Park ©NPS

At Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, park staff housing, park facilities and some of the oldest historic structures were destroyed. The damage is so extensive that the park could be closed for an entire year.





An aerial photograph showing a flooded area with trees and buildings. The water is a light blue color, and the surrounding land is a mix of green and brown. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene suggests a natural disaster or environmental impact.

FLORIDA

PARKS AFFECTED

Big Cypress National Preserve • Biscayne National Park
Canaveral National Seashore • Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
De Soto National Memorial • Dry Tortugas National Park
Everglades National Park • Fort Matanzas National Monument
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve



Nine national parks in Florida sustained damaged from Hurricane Irma. Historic structures, staff housing, visitor centers, ferry boats, levees, boardwalks, docks, trails and roads were damaged or destroyed. **Hazardous conditions caused by flooding and downed powerlines and trees closed most parks for nearly a month.**



Everglades National Park ©John Adornato



Flamingo Visitor Center, Everglades National Park ©NPS

Among the most severely damaged: a 55-foot section of the moat wall at Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas National Park; visitor centers on the Gulf Coast and at Flamingo at Everglades National Park; and park buildings, boardwalks and docks at Biscayne National Park.





GEORGIA

PARKS AFFECTED

Andersonville National Historic Site • Chattahoochee River National
Recreation Area • Cumberland Island National Seashore
Fort Frederica National Monument • Fort Pulaski National Monument
Jimmy Carter National Historic Site • Ocmulgee National Monument



Cumberland Island National Seashore ©Dan Mayer

Hurricane Irma caused a **considerable amount of structural damage, flooding, downed trees and extended closures** at national parks in Georgia, specifically at the parks along the Atlantic coast.



At Cumberland Island, the docks in St. Marys for the park ferries were destroyed and one of the ferries sank. The park closed for an extended period and canceled camping reservations for months.

At Fort Pulaski, the cumulative impacts from Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Irma in 2017 have damaged every building throughout the park, including extensive damage to the fort roof, drawbridges and water tank.





SOUTH CAROLINA

PARKS AFFECTED

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site • Congaree National Park
Cowpens National Battlefield • Fort Sumter National Monument
Kings Mountain National Military Park • Ninety Six National Historic Site
Reconstruction Era National Monument



Fort Sumter National Monument ©NPS

National parks across South Carolina closed for days or weeks with most experiencing some flooding and downed trees from Hurricane Irma. **Fort Sumter held four feet of standing water as a result of near-record flooding.**



Fort Sumter National Monument ©NPS



Fort Sumter National Monument ©NPS



Fort Sumter closed for nearly two weeks with damage to the dock, dock railings and septic system.



TEXAS

PARKS AFFECTED

Big Thicket National Preserve • Padre Island National Seashore



Hurricane Harvey made landfall along the Middle Texas Coast and stalled in the region for days bringing **record rainfalls, damaging winds and deadly floods.**



Big Thicket National Preserve ©NPS




Padre Island National Seashore ©NPS

Big Thicket National Preserve suffered unprecedented flooding, damaging miles of trails, roadways and bridges.

Padre Island National Seashore experienced severe coastal flooding and erosion, resulting in damages to boat ramps and campgrounds.





NATIONAL
PARK
SERVICE

TURKEY CREEK TRAIL

Day-Use Area
CLOSED
From Sunset
to Sunrise.



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