



Peregrine Falcons at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

During the mid-20th century, America's peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) population faced extinction due to the effects of DDT and other harmful insecticide ingredients in use at the time. Today, the falcon population has largely recovered thanks to the tireless work of numerous environmental groups and the passage of landmark legislation such as the Endangered Species Act. Though this species' survival is lauded as a conservation success story, the population still requires careful monitoring.

Biologists at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area—a popular park straddling the borders of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania—have monitored the falcon population

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Above: Lupine meadow at Acadia National Park. Hilda DeSanctis | Alamy **Right Top:** Presidents' Day reenactors helped tell the story of protecting our parks. ©NPCA | Cherylynn Tsushima **Right Bottom:** The Patriot Brass Ensemble played patriotic tunes to gather the NYC crowd. ©NPCA | Cherylynn Tsushima

FIX OUR PARKS

NPCA joined New York City elected officials and concerned citizens this past Presidents' Day Weekend to draw attention to the enormous repair backlog facing our national parks. We stood together on Wall Street, on the steps of Federal Hall National Memorial, to discuss the maintenance issues facing our parks, including Federal Hall's own water damage and structural issues.

The event helped amplify the national call to address our country's \$11.3 billion national park maintenance backlog. (For details on this maintenance backlog, see the accompanying infographic.)

Historical reenactors brought former presidents George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt to life, a brass band played, NPCA volunteers passed out flyers and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer spoke about the importance of funding our parks. She appealed to the press and the gathered public by stating, "Our national parks, monuments and historic sites are a sacred trust for our kids and for future generations. The funds and labor that goes into preserving and helping Americans and visitors from around the world enjoy these treasured sites aren't spent; they're invested."

The event generated great press, including an article in the New York Daily News and



several other media outlets. NPCA reached an additional nearly 900,000 people through social media coverage of the events.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Every signature makes a difference. If you haven't already, please voice your support for better funding by visiting www.NPCA.org/FixOurParks

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FIELD REPORT

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National Parks for All People



In early March, NPCA's Northeast Regional Office hosted a two-day workshop titled "National Parks for All People" to examine the causes of under-engagement and disengagement with national parks by underrepresented groups.

North Carolina-based facilitator Sayra Owens Pinto led the workshop which was attended by nearly 50 people, including staff from NPCA, the National Park Service, friends groups, park groups and outdoor organizations. Participants, asked to rethink barriers to national parks, analyzed access in all forms—from availability of public transportation to the cost of entrance fees and use of bilingual signage- and discussed possible solutions to address these barriers. The workshop challenged participants' thinking on public lands access and required each organization or agency in attendance to consider its role in making the national park experience more relevant, more easily accessible and more enjoyable for all.

Attendee Leah Worrell, the leadership and group development manager for Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, expressed her thoughts on the workshop and the topic at hand: "While this first workshop was powerful, it was only the beginning of the conversation. [It allowed us to] slow down and reflect on structures and patterns in ourselves, our organizations, and society as a whole that have created disengagement in parks."

NPCA will continue the discussion by facilitating future meetings and webinars with staff and partners to ensure our programs reflect our mission to protect and enhance national parks for all people. If you'd like to get involved or know of a partner organization we should bring to the table, let us know at northeast@npcaprogram.org.

Above: Preparing to paddle at Gateway's Jamaica Bay ©Michael Falco **Below:** Acadia's rocky shoreline ©Greg A. Hartford | AcadiaMagic.com

JOIN NPCA!

Join NPCA today to help
protect our national parks for
future generations!



Contact our membership department at npcaprogram@npcaprogram.org or join online at npcaprogram.org/give/join. To join NPCA by phone, call us at 1.800.NAT.PARK (1.800.628.7275) between the hours of 9AM and 5PM (ET), Monday through Friday.

Peregrine Falcons at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

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in the area since 2003 to ensure the birds' safety and optimal breeding conditions. Each year they take special steps to protect Delaware Water Gap's still-fragile falcon population by closing off nesting areas to public access.

Falcons are particularly vulnerable to human activities that disturb or threaten the adults causing them to be less attentive and caring of the eggs or chicks.

This year, park rangers have monitored two falcon pairs that have nested, or seemed likely to nest, on the cliffs at Mount Minsi and along the Cliff and Cliff Park Trails near Milford, Pennsylvania. The Park Service's press release states that

WILDLIFE CORNER



“falcons are particularly vulnerable to human activities that disturb or threaten the adults causing them to be less attentive and caring of the eggs or chicks.”

Areas around these two locations will be closed to visitors during the nesting season (from February through late July or early August) or until staff have determined that human activity will no longer disturb the young birds. Trailheads are clearly marked with signs indicating the closures.

For more information and updates, visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/dewa

Sources:
<https://bit.ly/2IPMGk1>
<https://bit.ly/2Jlq8vw>

Left: Peregrine falcons are considered one of the fastest animals on earth, reaching average flying speeds of 40 mph and top speeds as high as 65 mph. ©Gregory Gard | Alamy **Below:** Mount Minsi, Delaware Water Gap ©aoldman | Istock Photo



OUR PARKS BADLY NEED REPAIRS

Our national parks, from the Grand Canyon to Gettysburg, need billions of dollars in repairs. Congress and the president must work together to fix our parks and help the local and national economies they support.



WHAT'S IN THE BACKLOG?

The National Park Service's repair backlog includes crumbling roads and bridges, run-down trails, rotting historic buildings and outdated utility systems.

\$11.3 BILLION

IN OVERDUE REPAIRS

DEATH VALLEY

The park needs more than \$110 million in road repairs, including Artists Drive, Daylight Pass and Emigrant Canyon Road.

Backlog in 2016: \$140 million

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

The bridge crosses the Potomac River between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, symbolically linking the North and the South, is in a severely degraded state and needs to be completely upgraded.

Backlog in 2016: \$250 million

GRAND CANYON

The park's Trans-Canyon Pipeline, a 50-year-old pipe that carries water miles across the canyon to supply the South Rim and most of its visitors, suffers from multiple breaks and leaks every year and needs replacing.

Backlog in 2016: \$353 million

GETTYSBURG

The battlefield has millions of dollars in overdue repairs for buildings, most of them historic, and monuments and memorials. These needs threaten the long-term protection of this hallowed ground and its landmarks that tell our American story.

Backlog in 2016: \$51 million

ECONOMIC BENEFIT VS. UNDERINVESTMENT BY CONGRESS

\$18.4 BILLION

PARK VISITOR SPENDING IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES IN 2016

318,000
JOBS SUPPORTED BY PARKS NATIONALLY

33%

DECLINE IN APPROPRIATED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE FROM 2006-2015

NPS REPAIR AND REHABILITATION, CYCLIC MAINTENANCE, AND LINE-ITEM CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTS. CONGRESS INCREASED THIS FUNDING IN FY16 AND FY17 BUT IT REMAINS INSUFFICIENT.

“An investment in national park infrastructure is an investment in jobs and communities.”

RICK HOWE
Vice President, Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, Wyoming

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP PARKS

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LEGACY ACT

(S. 751/ H.R. 2584)

This bipartisan bill would dedicate funding to pay down the maintenance backlog, protecting our heritage and the experiences of park visitors. Ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor this important bill.

www.npca.org/fixourparks

#FixOurParks



FACTS ABOUT FEDERAL HALL

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- 1 George Washington took the oath of office at Federal Hall on Inauguration Day, April 30, 1789, moving us from an Old-World monarchy to the New World's first democracy.
- 2 It was here that the words that every succeeding president would recite were first uttered, "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."



- 3 Federal Hall was the first capitol building of the United States. It housed the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Office of the President, and witnessed the first meetings of Congress from 1789-1790.
- 4 The first session of the first United States Congress began on March 4, 1789 at Federal Hall.
- 5 Congress proposed and wrote the Bill of Rights in September of 1789, guaranteeing the freedom of speech, equality and justice for all.

Above (Top and Bottom): Supporters rally at Federal Hall in support of national park funding. ©NPCA | Cherylynn Tsumisha **(Middle):** Federal Hall National Memorial ©Sean Pavone | Alamy

4th Annual Northeast National Park Friends Group Convention and Workshop

Each year NPCA hosts the Northeast National Parks Friends Convention and Workshop which brings together staff from over 40 national parks as well as hundreds of people who work for the partner organizations that support national parks.

Examples of friends and partnership organizations include those groups that maintain gardens at national parks, advocate for new projects, support or run education programs, raise funds, or provide volunteer services. The convention and workshop is the only gathering of its kind for the smaller national parks mostly operated by volunteer-run partnerships.

This year, Springfield Armory National Historic Site will host the 4th annual Friends Convention and Workshop this fall. If you're a national park employee or volunteer—or if you're involved with an organization that supports national parks—we encourage you to attend a festive weekend filled with good fellowship, cutting edge practices and learning opportunities.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

4TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST NATIONAL PARK FRIENDS GROUP CONVENTION AND WORKSHOP
Springfield Armory National Historic Site
Springfield, MA • November 2-4, 2018
For more info visit: <https://bit.ly/2JDEsFs>



Above: Entry signage at Springfield Armory. ©Maurice Savage | Alamy

Getting to Gateway Just Got Easier

New maps on Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) city buses now help NYC residents and tourists get to Brooklyn and Queens' only national park—Jamaica Bay, a unit of Gateway National Recreation Area that covers an area close to the size of nearby Manhattan.



Thanks to NPCA and a committed group of Jamaica Bay Advocates, MTA Bus Time Table maps were recently updated on the Q35 and Q52/53 city bus routes to show Gateway National Recreation Area's points of interest and nearby attractions within the park's Jamaica Bay unit.

City bus riders can now find their way to the national park's public beaches, campgrounds and wildlife refuge hiking trails. The updated maps also show Jamaica Bay ferry tours, the historic aviation museum, a multi-use sports complex and many other park highlights.

Next time you are in NYC and looking to get out in nature, consider taking a bus ride for

\$2.75 to one of the greatest waterfront parks in the harbor.

And this summer—don't forget your bathing suit!

Left: NYC bus leaving Gateway's Riis Park. ©NPCA | Julia Carey **Below:** The Manhattan skyline seen from the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, New York. ©2012 Cornelis Verwaal





VOLUNTEER WITH NPCA

Join us at these upcoming events:

MAY 24 **Maine Members' Event**
Portland, ME

JUNE 2 **National Trails Day**
Appalachian Trail
Pawling, NY

JULY 21 **Epic Ride**
Gateway National
Recreation Area
Queens, NY

JUNE 24 **NYC Pride March**
New York, NY

JULY & AUGUST **Summer at Stonewall
National Monument**
New York, NY

JULY 27-29 **Newport Folk Festival**
Newport, RI

AUGUST 3-5 **Newport Jazz Festival**
Newport, RI

*For more information or to sign up,
email northeast@npca.org.*



Top: Volunteers tend to the gardens at Stonewall National Monument. ©NPCA | Timothy Leonard **Middle Left:** Volunteers gather signatures at Stonewall. ©NPCA | Ian Douglas Photography **Middle Right:** Volunteering at the Epic Ride ©NPCA | Ian Douglas Photography **Bottom:** Newport Folk Festival ©NPCA | Timothy Leonard



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