



## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAINTENANCE BACKLOG**

### **Background**

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Since the National Park Service (NPS) was founded in 1916, there have been over 14 billion recreation visits to NPS properties. The popularity of our national parks has increased astronomically over the years, but unfortunately, the funding to maintain them has not. Most park infrastructure, which was built in the 1930s and 1960s, is near or far past the end of its life, and NPS does not have the money to update these critical components within our cherished parks and public lands.

In recent years NPS has barely been granted enough appropriations from Congress to perform its most basic functions, let alone work on its growing list of infrastructure projects. Thus increased visitation, heavier use of aging infrastructure, and a lack of funding have led to the deferral of more projects, ultimately creating an ever-expanding maintenance backlog of nearly \$12 billion.

### **Solution**

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To help address this growing maintenance backlog, legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on February 14, 2019. Senators Rob Portman (OH), Lamar Alexander (TN), Angus King (ME), and Mark Warner (VA) introduced S. 500, the Restore Our Parks Act. Representatives Derek Kilmer (WA) and Rob Bishop (UT) introduced H.R. 1225, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.

This legislation would create a Legacy Restoration Fund that dedicates up to \$6.5 billion over five years to invest in infrastructure on our public lands. This fund would be allocated 50 percent of oil and gas royalties not already obligated to other funds or projects, and it would not divert any dollars away from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The funding, capped at \$1.3 billion per year, would be available yearly without further appropriation from Congress and cost nothing to taxpayers.

### **Request**

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The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) believes that Congress must properly fund NPS deferred maintenance backlog in order to guarantee access to and ensure the safe enjoyment of America's public lands. We ask that you support S. 500, the Restore Our Parks Act or H.R. 1225, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act and cosponsor this legislation if you have not already.