

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF ASHE  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE, PREDICTABLE  
STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN  
AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

**WHEREAS,** America’s National Park System is a living testament to our citizens valor, our nation’s hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called "America’s Best Idea;" and

**WHEREAS,** the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all Americans, and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial, and currently manages more than 400 nationally significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina is home to ten national park units, including Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Moores Creek National Battlefield, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**WHEREAS,** Ashe County is a gateway to the Blue Ridge Parkway, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the park and the improved quality of place for residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Park Service’s mission is to “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;” and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the National Park System had more than 331 million visits, including 15.2 million along the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$980 million in the communities along the Blue Ridge Parkway, supporting an estimated 15,600 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation's history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America's natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, including \$261 million along the North Carolina section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which consists of repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure.

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF ASHE** that the County of Ashe urges Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System, and to ensure that federal infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

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**Chairman, Board of Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC**  
**Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

## Ann Clark

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**From:** Cathy Barr  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** Ann Clark  
**Cc:** Sam Yearick  
**Subject:** Parkway Resolution for Commissioners to Approve  
**Attachments:** Draft resolution--Ashe County, NC.docx

Hi Ann,

Sam and I met with Yaron Miller yesterday regarding the Blue Ridge Parkway. During the meeting, Sam agreed to put the attached resolution on the agenda and have the Commissioners to approve it.

Thanks,  
Cathy

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**From:** Yaron Miller [mailto:ymiller@pewtrusts.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1:29 AM  
**To:** Sam Yearick; Cathy Barr; director@ashechamber.com  
**Subject:** Thank you, and following up

Dear Sam, Kitty, and Cathy,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today about our campaign to "Restore America's Parks." It was a pleasure to meet the three of you, and I really appreciate you sharing your thoughts and insights about the relationship between your community and the Parkway. The examples you provided are quite compelling and will be so helpful in making the case to Rep. Foxx and Senator Burr to support dedicated funding for parks' deferred maintenance repairs.

Sam--thank you for bringing the resolution to the attention of the Commission. In addition to the resolution, I've attached several of the supporting documents, including:

- a list of other communities in NC that have adopted similar resolutions (I expect 12-15 more from western NC in the coming weeks);
- the deferred maintenance needs for the NC portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway (\$260 million in NC);
- the economic benefits of visitors to the park for gateway communities in the region (\$980 million in visitor spending, supporting 15,600 jobs); and
- the jobs analysis report that outlines the number of jobs in the infrastructure sector that could be created by funding the maintenance backlog (4,187 in NC/110,169 nationwide).

Kitty—I've also included a copy of the letter of support signed by 2100+ gateway community businesses and organizations, including 18 Chambers and TDA's in NC. We'd love to have the Ashe Co. Chamber's support on it as well!

Thank you again for all of your time and support, and I look forward to working with you on this effort.

Kind regards,

Yaron

**Yaron Miller**

Senior Associate, National Parks Campaign

901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004

p: 202-540-6043 | e: [ymiller@pewtrusts.org](mailto:ymiller@pewtrusts.org) | [www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 132, Public Records, this electronic mail message and any attachments hereto, as well as any electronic mail message(s) that might be sent in response to it may be considered public record and as such are subject to request and review by, and disclosure to, third parties.

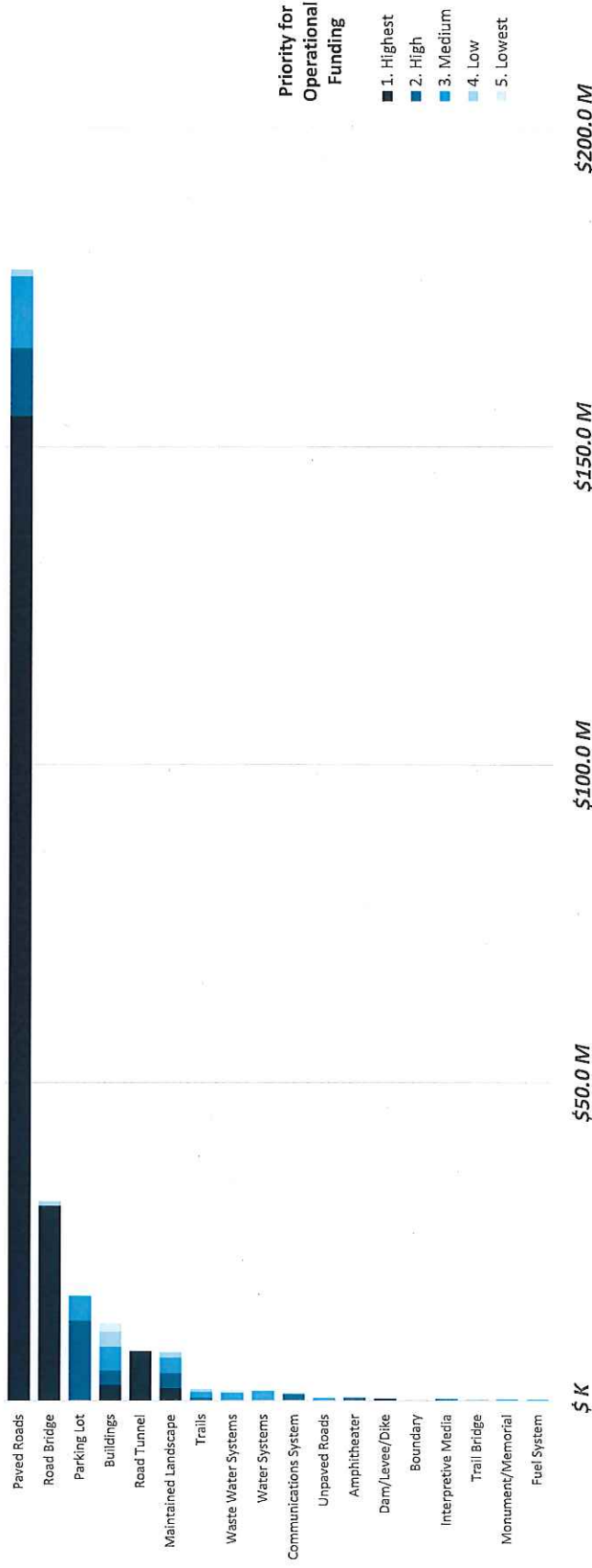
The below cities and counties in North Carolina have adopted resolutions urging Congress to create a reliable, dedicated stream of resources to address maintenance needs in the National Park System:

1. City of Kings Mountain
2. Gaston County
3. Town of Grover
4. City of Asheville
5. City of Gastonia
6. Village of Flat Rock
7. City of Webster
8. City of Marion
9. City of Hendersonville
10. Town of Summerfield
11. Town of Franklin
12. Town of Dillsboro

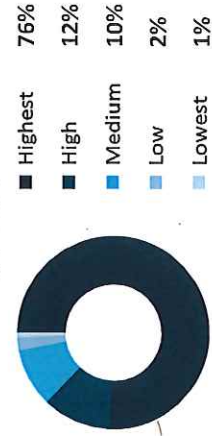


## Total Deferred Maintenance \$261,650,062

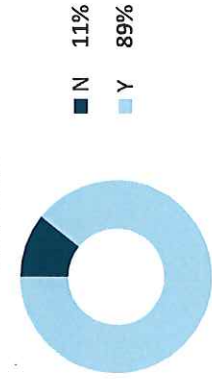
Deferred Maintenance by Asset Category



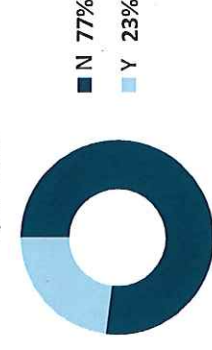
Priority for Operational Funding  
by \$ Value



Transportation Asset Breakdown  
by \$ Value



Historic Asset Breakdown  
by \$ Value





## Summary of Deferred Maintenance

Compared to Replacement Value

	Deferred Maintenance	Current Replacement Value
<b>NC</b>	<b>\$261.7M</b>	<b>\$2578.6M</b>
Blue Ridge Parkway	<b>\$261.7M</b>	<b>\$2578.6M</b>
Amphitheater	\$462K	\$4.9M
Boundary	\$267K	\$7.5M
Buildings	\$12.2M	\$86.3M
Communications System	\$1.1M	\$8.5M
Dam/Levee/Dike	\$360K	\$102.6M
Fortification	\$0	\$6K
Fuel System	\$163K	\$320K
Interpretive Media	\$209K	\$831K
Maintained Landscape	\$7.6M	\$811.1M
Marina/Waterfront System	\$0	\$4K
Monument/Memorial	\$186K	\$729K
Parking Lot	\$16.6M	\$59.8M
Paved Roads	\$177.9M	\$931.5M
Road Bridge	\$31.3M	\$241.0M
Road Tunnel	\$7.8M	\$220.7M
Trail Bridge	\$196K	\$4.3M
Trails	\$1.8M	\$31.6M
Unpaved Roads	\$469K	\$1.3M
Waste Water Systems	\$1.6M	\$39.8M
Water Systems	\$1.5M	\$25.5M
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$261.7M</b>	<b>\$2578.6M</b>

(\*) - Costs lumped into another unit.  
(\*\*) - Costs not documented.  
(\*\*\*) - Costs for park included in another state.



# Restore America's Parks

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Interior Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
House Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Minority Member  
Interior Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murkowski, Chair Calvert, Ranking Member Udall, and Ranking Member McCollum:

2016 marked the 100th birthday of the National Park Service (NPS), which oversees more than 400 natural and cultural areas in all 50 states and most U.S. territories. NPS faces a growing challenge in adequately maintaining its sites to ensure that visitors can experience the parks' natural beauty and learn about our nation's history. After decades of underfunding, NPS has an infrastructure repair backlog estimated at \$11.9 billion (FY 2015). This includes crucial repairs to aging historical structures and thousands of miles of roads and trails, bridges, tunnels, sewers, drainage, and other vital infrastructure.

Writer and historian Wallace Stegner said that national parks are "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." As companies, organizations, and associations, we support addressing the infrastructure repair backlog throughout these parks.

To address the backlog and put our national parks on sound financial footing for the future, we must do the following

- Create a guaranteed federal fund that will chip away at the estimated \$11.9 billion backlog over time.
- Implement policy reforms, such as entry and vendor fees, that will help to prevent repair backlog from accruing to begin with.
- Direct more Highway Trust Fund dollars to NPS, as half of the estimated \$11.9 billion backlog is attributed to the 10,000 miles of roads and hundreds of bridges and tunnels that NPS must maintain and repair.
- Provide additional opportunities for public-private opportunities to address infrastructure repair.



From the Grand Canyon and the Great Smoky Mountains, to the Statue of Liberty to battlefields like Gettysburg, the National Park System serves as a living testament to our citizens' valor, our hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans. We need to ensure that our children and grandchildren are able to see and appreciate our rich history in these places, and to learn more about the people and lands that have shaped us as a nation.

We urge you to work with us to protect our national parks well into the future and, in particular, to support guaranteed funding for infrastructure repair needs.

Sincerely,

### **National Supporters**

American Alpine Club  
American Alpine Institute  
American Cultural Resources Association  
American Institute of Architects  
Archaeological Institute of America  
American Hiking Society  
Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in  
Historic Preservation  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Family Motor Coach Association  
GreenLatinos  
Hispanics Enjoying Camping Hiking & the  
Outdoors (HECHO)  
International Dark-Sky Association  
International Inbound Travel Association

International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Institute for Bird Populations  
Kappa Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association  
Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
Student Conservation Association  
The Corps Network  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Tourism Cares  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Vet Voice Foundation

### **North Carolina**

#### ***Statewide Supporters***

North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association  
Southeast Tourism Society

#### ***Chambers of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs)***

Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce  
Andrews Chamber of Commerce  
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Avery County Chamber of Commerce  
Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce  
Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority  
Boone Area Chamber of Commerce  
Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce  
Crystal Coast Tourism Authority

Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Henderson County Chamber of Commerce  
Henderson County Tourism Development  
Authority  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce  
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau  
Watauga/Boone Tourist Development Authority  
Wilmington and Beaches Convention and  
Visitors Bureau  
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

EMBARGOED - FINAL DRAFT

CADMUS

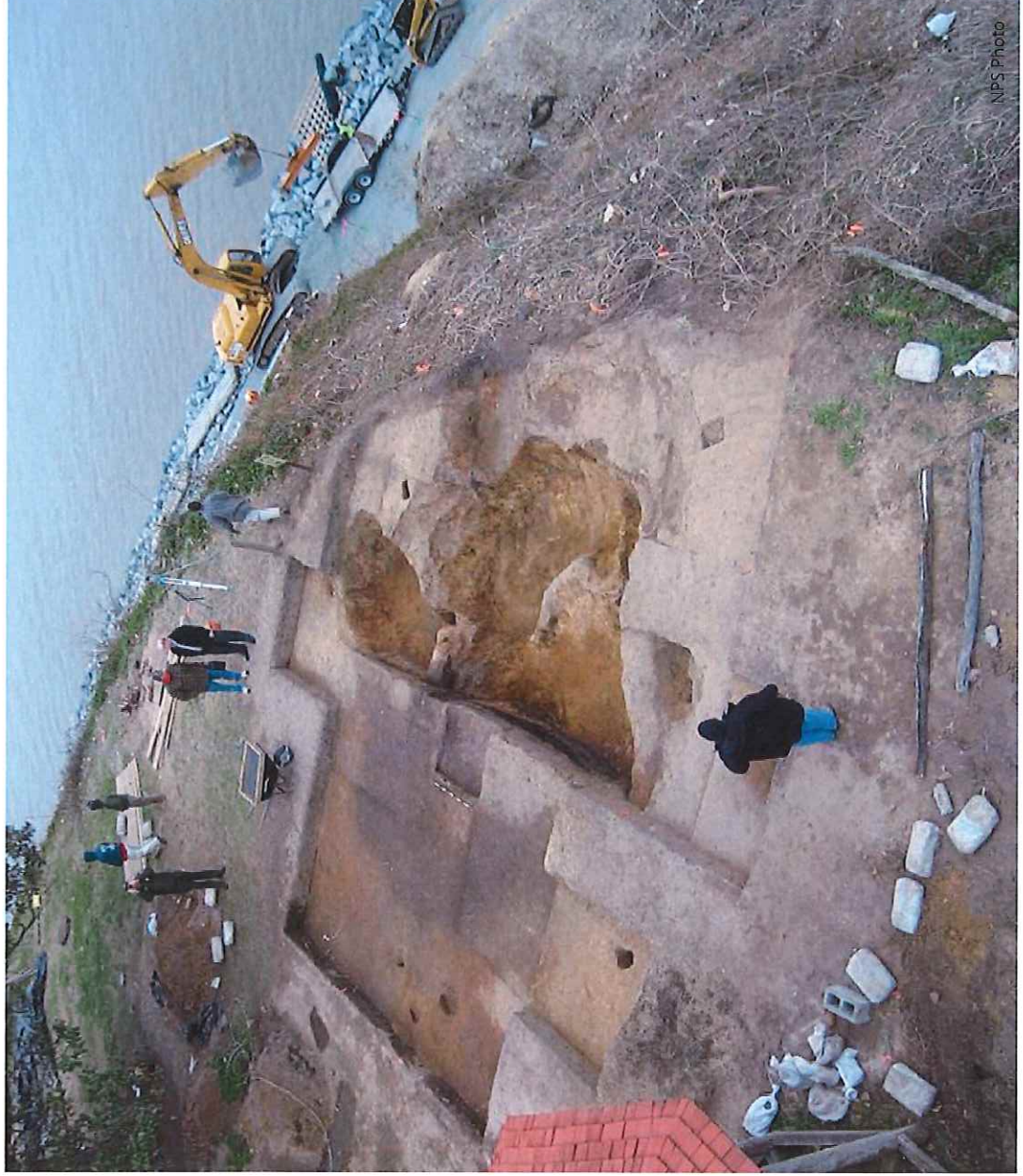
## RESTORING PARKS, CREATING JOBS

How Infrastructure  
Restoration in the National  
Park System Can Create  
or Support Jobs

*FY2016 Data Analysis*

COMMISSIONED BY:  
THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

October 2017



NPS Photo



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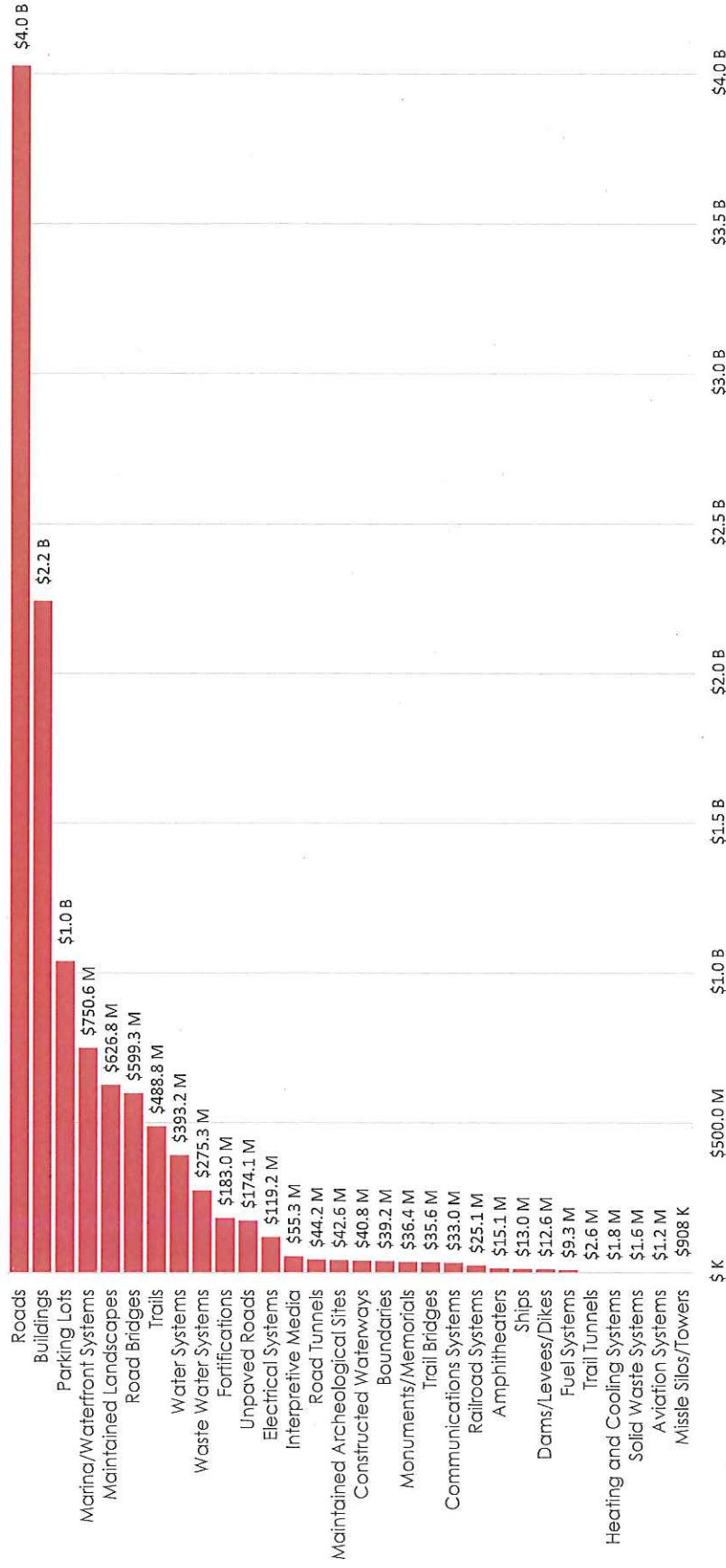
## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OVERVIEW

- The National Park Service (NPS) manages and protects over 400 units nationwide including: wild landscapes, cultural and historical sites, urban areas, waterfronts, battlefields, cemeteries, trail systems, and parkways that preserve and interpret significant pieces of America's history.
- NPS maintains over 75,000 built assets.
- NPS assets include:
  - 10,000 miles of roads
  - 18,000 miles of trails
  - 28,000 buildings
  - 1,800 sewage systems
- NPS is 101 years old.



# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE: THE NUMBERS

National Park Service Deferred Maintenance Categories  
(FY2016 data)



According to NPS, “Deferred Maintenance is maintenance and repairs of assets that was not performed when it should have been and is delayed for a future period.”



## INFRASTRUCTURE RESTORATION CREATES AND SUPPORTS JOBS

**42,000**

NPS ASSETS  
WITH DEFERRED  
MAINTENANCE  
NEEDS

**\$11.3B**

FEDERAL  
INVESTMENT  
NEEDED FOR NPS  
REPAIRS

**110,169**

JOB'S CREATED  
OR SUPPORTED BY  
\$11.3B FEDERAL  
INVESTMENT IN NPS  
INFRASTRUCTURE

- Of the 75,000 NPS assets, 42,000 require repairs.
- The NPS Deferred Maintenance backlog for FY 2016 is estimated at \$11.3 billion.
- 110,169 jobs could be created or supported by investing in infrastructure and preservation projects that are on NPS' complete deferred maintenance list.

*This report measures jobs in terms of job-years. A job-year is the equivalent of one full-time job that lasts for one full year. For example, one person working full-time for two years is equivalent to two job-years. Two people working half-time for one year is equivalent to one job-year.*



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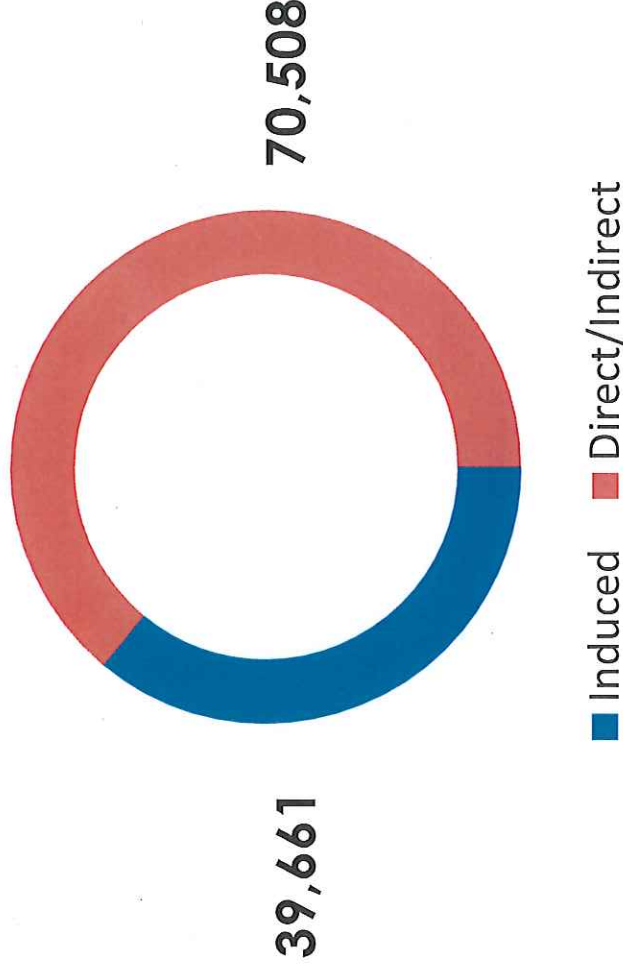
## JOB NUMBERS

Total potential jobs are split across direct, indirect, and induced jobs.

Of the 110,169 potential infrastructure-related NPS jobs, 64 percent would be direct and indirect jobs. Direct jobs are actual restoration and construction-related jobs while indirect jobs refer to supplying materials to the construction site and other off-site support activities.

The remaining 36 percent of potential jobs are induced due to money circulating within the local economy as a result of income generated from NPS infrastructure-related projects.

### Potential Jobs

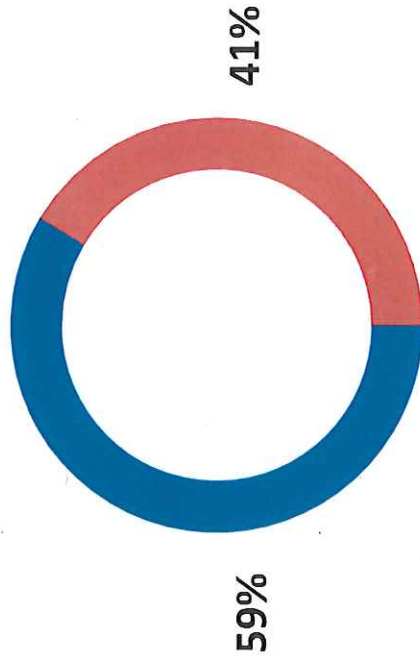


# STATES WITH HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES MAY BENEFIT MOST

Of the NPS infrastructure-related jobs that would be created or supported by addressing the maintenance backlog, 59 percent would be in states with unemployment rates that exceed the National Average Unemployment Rate.\*

*\*Based on June 2017 BLS data; 4.4% National Average Unemployment*

Potential Jobs in States with High Unemployment Rates



■ Jobs in Parks > State Unemployment Average  
■ Jobs in Parks < State Unemployment Average

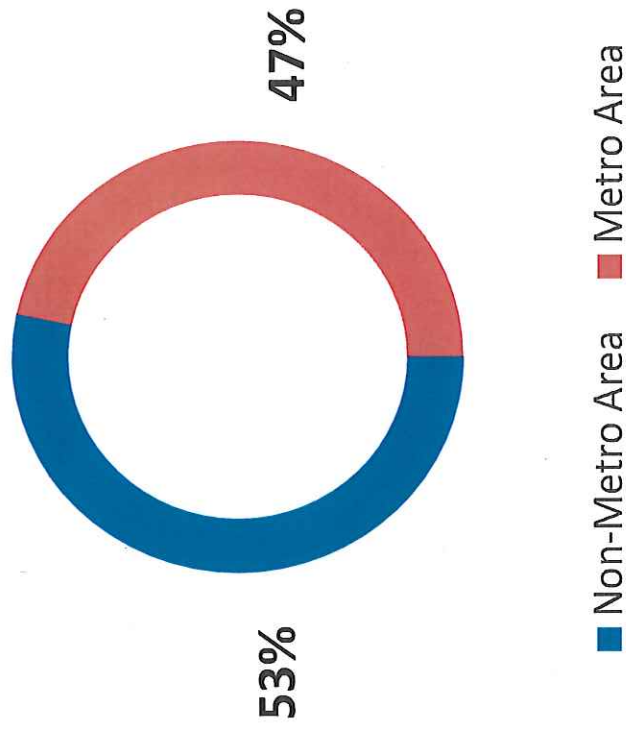
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## POTENTIAL JOBS WOULD BE LOCATED IN METRO & NON-METRO AREAS

Of the potential NPS infrastructure related jobs, 53 percent would be in non-metro areas (areas with less than 100,000 residents).\*

*\*Based on U.S. Census Bureau Data.*

### Potential NPS Jobs Metro and Non-Metro Areas



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## TOP 20 STATES WITH THE MOST JOB POTENTIAL

1	California	11	Utah
2	District of Columbia	12	Maryland
3	New York	13	Tennessee
4	Wyoming	14	Florida
5	Virginia	15	Montana
6	Arizona	16	Massachusetts
7	North Carolina	17	Colorado
8	Washington	18	New Jersey
9	Mississippi	19	Texas
10	Pennsylvania	20	Nevada



## POTENTIAL JOBS BY STATE

State	Jobs	Job Rank	State	Jobs	Job Rank	State	Jobs	Job Rank
AK	1,060	24	KY	1,154	22	OH	774	28
AL	252	37	LA	110	44	OK	194	40
AR	400	34	MA	2,261	16	OR	1,026	26
AS	8	55	MD	2,649	12	PA	2,808	10
AZ	6,246	6	ME	700	29	PR	180	41
CA	16,543	1	MI	452	32	RI	14	54
CO	2,209	17	MN	205	39	SC	279	36
CT	30	53	MO	799	27	SD	618	30
DC	11,652	2	MP	87	47	TN	2,572	13
DE	0	56	MS	3,028	9	TX	1,526	19
FL	2,467	14	MT	2,451	15	UT	2,758	11
GA	1,052	25	NC	4,187	7	VA	7,298	5
GU	62	49	ND	527	31	VI	239	38
HI	1,348	21	NE	72	48	VT	31	52
IA	62	50	NH	51	51	WA	3,826	8
ID	142	43	NJ	2,075	18	WI	91	46
IL	170	42	NM	1,132	23	WV	426	33
IN	317	35	NW	1,370	20	WY	8,054	4
KS	95	45	NY	9,847	3	Other*	186	-

\*Other represents potential jobs created or supported from repairing the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which crosses several state boundaries.

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# METHODOLOGY

## REPORT PREPARED BY THE CADMUS GROUP

This analysis used Fiscal Year 2016 NPS deferred maintenance data from the National Park Service's Facility Management Software System (FMSS). The NPS FMSS system tracks all of the known deferred maintenance by project and includes several project fields, such as asset type, condition, and estimated repair cost. To transform the cost data into jobs, this report used the Council of Economic Advisors' (CEA) job creation formula (2009). This formula estimates that each \$92,000 of infrastructure investment creates one job-year (1 full-time employee for 1 year). The total government spending required to generate one job-year was adjusted from \$2009 to \$2016 using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI inflation data to \$103,000 per job-year. While the CPI index tracks increases in the costs of goods as well as labor, inflation remained low over the period 2009-2016 and adjusted job estimates are substantially similar to those created by adjusting using the Employment Cost Index 2009-2016.

The total job creation is split across direct/indirect and induced job creation. The formula predicts that 64 percent of jobs would be direct and indirect jobs; these are jobs that are either involved at the construction site or in supplying materials and labor to the construction site. The remaining 36 percent of jobs are induced jobs; these jobs are created by spending effects from money circulating within the local economy. While more detailed job estimation models are available, they work best at a local level when supplied with community-specific materials and labor market variables. While the CEA formula is not as accurate on a local level, it should provide a reasonably accurate job-creation estimate at a state and national level across the NPS system.

In addition to data provided by the NPS in their "FY 2016 NPS Asset Inventory Summary Location Report 2016.09.30" this report also uses publicly available information from the U.S. Census Bureau on metropolitan area boundaries and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on unemployment (as of August 2017). Data analysis is based on the "State" field supplied by the NPS; the state information for some entries was modified to better reflect the on-the-ground physical location of some assets in multi-state parks.

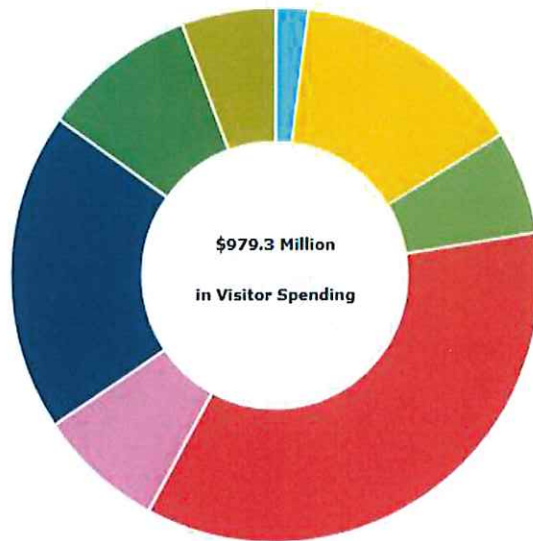


# Blue Ridge Parkway

In 2016, 15.2 Million park visitors spent an estimated \$979.3 Million in local gateway regions while visiting Blue Ridge Parkway. These expenditures supported a total of 15.6 Thousand jobs, \$462.9 Million in labor income, \$767.9 Million in value added, and \$1.3 Billion in economic output in local gateway economies surrounding Blue Ridge Parkway

☒ Visitor Spending
 ☐ Jobs
 ☐ Labor Income
 ☐ Value Added
 ☐ Economic Output

Click on a Park for more information or select a Park Blue Ridge Parkway ▼



## Directly Affected Sectors

- Camping
- Gas
- Groceries
- Hotels
- Recreation Industries
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Transportation

## Total Visitor Spending (Blue Ridge Parkway)



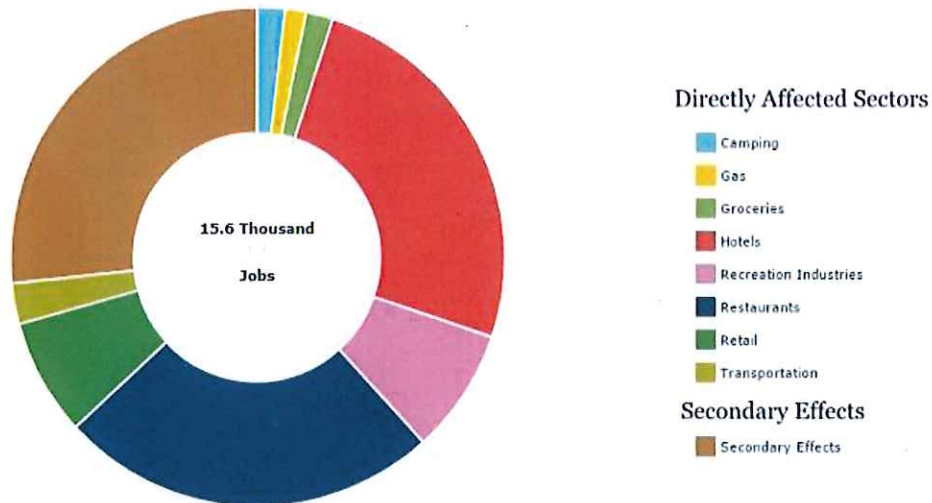
<b>Visitor Spending</b>	<b>\$979 million</b>
Camping	\$19.4 million
Gas	\$139 million
Groceries	\$61.4 million
Hotels	\$346.5 million
Recreation Industries	\$75.7 million
Restaurants	\$189.3 million
Retail	\$92.3 million
Transportation	\$56 million

## Blue Ridge Parkway

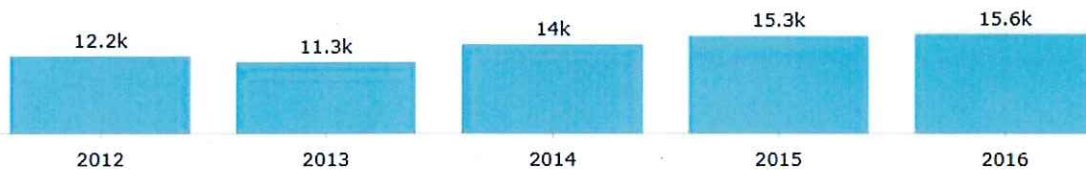
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☐ Visitor Spending
 ☒ Jobs
 ☐ Labor Income
 ☐ Value Added
 ☐ Economic Output

Click on a Park for more information or select a Park



Total Jobs Contributed to Blue Ridge Parkway Gateway Economies



<b>Jobs supported</b>	<b>15,600</b>
Camping	286
Gas	212
Groceries	280
Hotels	3,900
Recreation Industries	1,300
Restaurants	3,900
Retail	1,200
Transportation	411
Secondary Effects	4,200

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>