



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE [House](#) & [Senate](#) Appropriation Bills at a Glance

| | FINAL | House 2026 | Senate 2026 | Difference Between the 2 Bills | 2024 Budget |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Operating Budget* | \$2,877,195,000 | \$2,718,124,000 | \$2,869,424,000 | +\$151,300,000 | \$2,884,000,000 |
| National Recreation & Preservation | \$91,596,000 | \$89,593,000 | \$91,596,000 | +\$2,003,000 | \$91,200,000 |
| Historic Preservation Fund | \$205,059,000 | \$168,900,000 | \$168,246,000 | -\$654,000 | \$188,700,000 |
| Centennial Challenge | \$5,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | NA | \$12,000,000 |
| Construction | \$88,461,000 | \$135,616,000 | \$140,791,000 | -\$5,175,000 | \$172,300,000 |
| Total Budget | \$3,257,311,000 | \$3,124,233,000 | \$3,282,051,000 | -\$157,782,000 | \$3,348,200,000 |
| Land & Water Conservation Fund | Does not affect LWCF – keeps \$900 million annual mandatory funding | Allows transfer of LCWF funds \$900 million annually | Does not affect LWCF – keeps \$900 million annual mandatory funding | -\$900,000,000 | Did not affect LWCF |

Notes: The 2026 budget is -80,889,000 less than President Biden's 2024 – resulting in -2% change.

\$3.1 billion is the average NPS budget in from 2014-2024; when adjusted for inflation equals \$3.3 or 3.4 billion. The Senate bill meets but does not exceed that standard and reduces NPS funding by 2 percent compared to 2024, while the House bill reduces funding by 7 percent (6.7 %) and allows transfer of \$900,000,000 LCWF funds to other departments – that's almost a billion. The LCWF funding became mandatory for the NPS via the Trump administration. The Great Outdoors Act (August 4 2020 Trump) established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) with an authorized annual funding level of up to **\$1.9 billion for five years** from 2021 to 2025 for **deferred maintenance** at national parks and on public lands, and made it mandatory that **\$900 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually would go to the NPS**.

Biden's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (August 16 2022) allocated \$700 million (\$500 million for park staffing and \$200 million for deferred maintenance). The Big Beautiful Bill took away \$500 million for National Park Staffing – kept the \$200 million

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for construction. **Important note:** 2014-2023, park visitation increased by 10% staffing decreased by 3%. 2024 had the highest visitation in the history of the agency.

National Park Service Operating Budget Ten Year Review

| YEAR | BUDGET IN BILLIONS | HOUSE | SENATE | PRESIDENT | INFLATION ADJUSTED |
|------|--------------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------------------|
| 2014 | \$2.562 | R | D | Obama | NA* |
| 2015 | \$2.615 | R | D | Obama | 2.585 |
| 2016 | \$2.851 | R | R | Obama | 2.796 |
| 2017 | \$2.932 | R | R | Trump | 2.825 |
| 2018 | \$3.202 | R | R | Trump | 3.014 |
| 2019 | \$3.223 | D | R | Trump | 2.975 |
| 2020 | \$3.377 | D | R | Trump | 3.077 |
| 2021 | \$3.123 | D | D | Biden | 2.752 |
| 2022 | \$3.265 | D | D | Biden | 2.691 |
| 2023 | \$3.473 | R | D | Biden | 2.732 |
| 2024 | \$3.472 | R | D | Biden | NA* |

When adjusted for inflation, the NPS operating budget averaged by the first **Trump administration was \$2.97 billion** versus the **\$2.73 billion averaged by the Biden administration**. So, the prior Trump administration fully supported funding parks and to a greater extent than Biden.

*Inflation data was not available in [original CRS report](#), so it was not included in the average.

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