



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE House & Senate Appropriation Bills at a Glance

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



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.