



The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) established the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) to address deferred maintenance across the Department of the Interior’s asset portfolio. The NPS receives up to \$1.33 billion per year for five years (through FY 2025), totaling \$6.65 billion. LRF funding provides an opportunity to address the maintenance backlog in national parks, estimated at \$23.3 billion in October 2023.

GAOA LRF at a Glance: North Carolina

Number of Park Units	Deferred Maintenance and Repairs Estimate ¹	Number of LRF Projects (FY21 – FY25) ²	Total Estimated GAOA LRF Funding ³	Estimated Economic Impact ⁴
10	\$602 M	11	\$205.0 M	\$555.6 M

Deferred Maintenance & Repairs by Park and Asset Category

The tables below show NPS Deferred Maintenance and Repairs by park and asset category, respectively.

Park ⁵	DM&R
Blue Ridge Parkway (BLRI)	\$294 M
Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA)	\$190 M
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	\$102 M
Cape Lookout National Seashore (CALO)	\$10 M
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GUCO)	\$5 M
Moore's Creek National Battlefield (MOCR)	\$1 M
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (CARL)	\$863 K
Total	\$602 M

Asset Category	DM&R
Buildings	\$125 M
Housing ⁶	\$10 M
Campgrounds	\$4 M
Trails	\$25 M
Waste Water Systems	\$5 M
Water Systems	\$35 M
Unpaved Roads ⁷	\$17 M
Paved Roads ⁸	\$342 M
All Other ⁹	\$41 M
Total	\$602 M

Note: DM&R values in the tables above may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund Project Spotlights

The projects presented below are approved FY21-FY25 LRF projects for the state of North Carolina.

North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District

Project Title	Replace Fort Raleigh and Frisco Water Systems
Park	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
LRF Funding	\$7,000,000 (FY 2025)
Project Description	

This project will replace the park-operated Fort Raleigh and Frisco water systems by connecting them to municipal services.

This project will connect park well water systems and existing infrastructure to the Dare County Municipal Water System, remove unnecessary facilities, and restore the park landscapes. New water meters and vaults will be installed, and a new water line will be extended from the closest Dare County water line location into Fort Raleigh, on Roanoke Island. At the Frisco area, on Hatteras Island, work will install a new water line and its associated appurtenances including new fire hydrants, mainline connections, gate valves, and water meters. This project will also demolish and remove all associated water treatment facilities including numerous water wells associated with the park-operated Fort Raleigh and Frisco water treatment plants.



When these park units were first developed, municipal water service was not available, but service has since become available in areas proximate to these park-owned systems. The park has experienced several instances when meeting water testing requirements was an issue. Two additional water treatment operators are currently needed to fully meet the EPA and State of North Carolina testing requirements. Completing this project would provide reliable, safe drinking water to park visitors and staff, eliminate the need for the park to maintain and operate the two water treatment plants, meet EPA and state water quality testing requirements, and eliminate water system replacement costs and the need to hire additional staff to operate the system.

North Carolina's 5th Congressional District

Project Title	Replace Laurel Fork Bridge
Park	Blue Ridge Parkway
LRF Funding	\$35,314,000 (FY 2021)
Project Description	



The Laurel Fork Bridge replacement project is set to address the critical condition of the current 1939-built bridge on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The existing bridge, with a limited four years of service life remaining, poses safety concerns due to wind factors. The project aims to restore public access facilities, expand recreational opportunities, remediate poor facilities, reduce deferred maintenance, enhance safety, and modernize infrastructure in line with strategic goals.

The investment strategy involves a Design-Bid-Build approach managed by the FHWA, with coordination with the Blue Ridge Parkway Reconstruction project N012. Replacing the old steel bridge with a new concrete box girder not only ensures safety but also reduces the need for regular maintenance like bridge painting. Failure to act could result in an inoperable road with a daily traffic count of 2,300 vehicles and potential severe injuries or fatalities if the bridge fails while in use. This project is vital for maintaining the safety and accessibility of this critical transportation link.

Project Title	BLRI Reconstruction (NC)¹⁰
Park	Blue Ridge Parkway
LRF Funding	\$123,500,000 (FY 2021)

Project Description

The project involves the reconstruction and rehabilitation of a significant section of the mainline Parkway in North Carolina, encompassing sections 2B-2H and associated overlooks and parking areas. These areas play a crucial role in preserving the park's purpose, significance, and natural values. Safety concerns highlighted in road safety audits conducted in 2012, 2017, and 2018, particularly edge rutting, necessitate this project. Reconstruction efforts include resurfacing, edge erosion rehabilitation, pavement marking enhancements, innovative geogrid paver usage to combat rutting, shoulder stabilization, stone curb realignment, overlook parking area sidewalk reconstruction, guardrail and stone guard wall repairs, and drainage system evaluation and maintenance.



The project aligns with various scope of benefits, such as restoring and protecting high-visitation areas, expanding recreation opportunities, addressing safety issues, and modernizing infrastructure. The investment strategy aims to reduce ongoing maintenance needs, including localized repairs and edge rutting, resulting in cost savings. Failure to act would degrade visitor experiences, increase repair costs, and continue risks to natural and cultural resources. Completion of the project is essential to maintain infrastructure, safety, and the park's purpose and value.

North Carolina's 11th Congressional District

Project Title	Rehabilitate sections of Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina¹¹
Park	Blue Ridge Parkway
LRF Funding	\$26,789,000 (FY 2022)


Project Description



The proposed project seeks to address cost overruns in the rehabilitation and resurfacing of sections 2M and 2N of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. Due to volatile construction materials and labor markets, available funding has been exceeded. Rather than leaving repairs unfinished or requesting additional funding, the National Park Service (NPS) plans to allocate funds from other sources or future years. Contracts will be designed with bid options for flexibility.

The project's main goal is to improve the condition and longevity of the Parkway's mainline, including slope stabilization. It includes resurfacing, edge erosion rehabilitation, pavement marking enhancements, safety improvements, shoulder stabilization, guardrail repairs, and culvert evaluation. This project will ensure the safety of the park's 15 million annual visitors, addressing about \$27 million in critical maintenance.

Failure to act would lead to further deterioration, jeopardizing safety, property, and natural resources. Completion is crucial for maintaining the Parkway's condition and safety for the next several decades.

Project Title	Rehabilitate Park Roads and Road Structures¹²	
Park	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	
LRF Funding	\$35,204,244 (FY 2022)	
Project Description		
<p>This project will implement pavement preservation treatments and install pavement markings on Heintooga Ridge Road and Balsam Mountain Campground Road. Lakeview Drive East will also be repaved.</p> <p>The Noland Creek Bridge will have its deck replaced and its bearings cleaned and painted. Work will also repair erosion at abutments, replace expansion joints, and repoint stone masonry wingwalls.</p> <p>A portion of Newfound Gap Road will also be rehabilitated. The work includes repairing and rehabilitating guard walls, removing and resetting stone curb, replacing, and repairing drainage structures. Drainage will be improved by stabilizing and reestablishing roadside turf ditches, and by overlaying and reconstructing asphalt and stone paved ditches. Additional work includes stabilizing and reseeding road shoulders, installing pavement markings, and replacing road signs.</p>		

Maintenance Action Team Program ¹³

Park	# of Projects	Estimated LRF MAT Funding
Cape Lookout National Seashore	1	\$203,519 (FY 2023)
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site	2	\$320,848 (FY 2023/FY 2024)
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park	1	\$68,926 (FY 2023)
Moores Creek National Battlefield	2	199,974 (FY 2023)
Total	6	\$793,267

Notes

¹ *Deferred maintenance and repairs (DM&R) includes only correction of existing deficiencies. It does not include, for example, alterations for improved accessibility, upgrades to meet current building codes, installation of new fire suppression systems, expansion of capacity, or annual recurring maintenance needs. The inventory associated with the fact sheet above includes only real property locations that are reported to the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP).*

² *The number of LRF Projects (FY21-FY25) reflects (5) LRF project for FY 2021-FY 2025 and (6) MAT projects for FY 2021-FY2024. MAT projects for FY 2025 are currently being identified.*

³ *Total Estimated GAOA LRF Funding reflects current approved funding which includes project funding increases through the use of construction contingency funding. Data as of April 4, 2024.*

⁴ *Total Economic Impact is the measure measures the total estimated value of production of goods and services supported in the US economy by NPS LRF related expenditures. Economic output is the sum of all intermediate sales (business to business) and final demand (sales to consumers and exports). This figure does not reflect economic output generated through MAT projects nor does it reflect economic output generated through construction contingency funding increases.*

⁵ *Oconaluftee Job Corps Civ. Cons. Center (APC) (OCJO) is in North Carolina but is not an official park unit. However, it has inventory reported to FRPP, so it is included.*

⁵ *Fort Raleigh National Historic Site (FORA) and Wright Brothers National Memorial (WRBR) are in North Carolina, but their inventory and associated DM&R needs are captured under Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA). FORA and WRBR are therefore not listed separately.*

⁵ *Blue Ridge Parkway (BLRI) and Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) span multiple states. Only the inventory and associated DM&R needs located in the state of North Carolina are included.*

⁵ *Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) spans multiple states. However, all inventory and associated DM&R needs are aligned to West Virginia in Facility Management Software System (FMSS). APPA is therefore not included.*

⁶ *Housing is defined as residential structures associated with the NPS Employee Housing Program whereby rent is collected and associated support buildings (e.g., detached garages). Excluded from this category are multiuse buildings (e.g., visitor centers) that include quarters unit(s).*

⁷ *Unpaved Roads includes unpaved parking areas and unpaved roadways.*

⁸ *Paved Roads includes bridges, tunnels, paved parking areas, and paved roadways.*

⁹ *All Other assets may include trail bridges, trail tunnels, maintained landscapes, boundaries, utility systems, dams, constructed waterways, marinas, aviation systems, railroad systems, ships, monuments, maintained archeological sites, fortifications, interpretive media, and amphitheaters.*

¹⁰ *This project spans multiple congressional districts: North Carolina's 5th, 10th, and 11th congressional district.*

¹¹ *This project spans multiple congressional districts: North Carolina's 10th and 11th congressional district.*

¹² *This project spans multiple states: Tennessee and North Carolina. The project cost shown is the total project cost across all states. Work allocation is 67% Tennessee and 33% North Carolina.*

¹³ *Maintenance Action Team projects reflect FY21, FY23, and FY24 projects. Additional MAT projects will be identified for the FY25 MAT program. MAT projects in North Carolina include four substantially complete projects two in Moores Creek National Battlefield- Raise and Reset Leaning Bridge Monument and Repair Grady Patriot Monument, one in Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site-Repair Main House Front Portico Column MAT and one in Cape Lookout National Seashore-Repair and Rehab Guthrie Ogilvie House- MAT.*