

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Jeremy Zajac  
INITIATED BY

Public Works Committee  
SUBMITTED BY



Supervisor Jeremy Zajac  
& Lori Williams  
DRAFTED BY

March 19, 2018  
DATE DRAFTED

**SUPPORT OF ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO  
ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS**

1 **WHEREAS**, America’s National Park System is a living testament to our citizens’ valor, our nation’s  
2 hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called "America’s Best Idea;" and  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is one of three National Park sites in Wisconsin; and  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, which works with the National Park Service by supporting,  
7 protecting and building the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, creates an exemplary model of a  
8 public/private partnership that preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of our great state; and  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the Ice Age Trail currently spans more than 650 miles of trail open for public enjoyment,  
11 spanning 31 counties of Wisconsin including Rock County; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, Rock County and neighboring communities are blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the  
14 Ice Age Trail, offering a unique blend of cultural, historical and natural resources which allow visitors to  
15 hike, run, snowshoe, and enjoy all the area has to offer; and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the National Park Service currently manages more than 400 nationally significant sites and  
18 an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across  
19 all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS**, over 500,000 people visit Wisconsin’s national parks sites annually - which include the Ice  
22 Age National Scenic Trail, the St. Croix National Scenic River way and the Apostle Islands National  
23 Lakeshore; and  
24  
25 **WHEREAS**, visitors to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail spend over \$113 million in communities  
26 nearby, including Rock County; and  
27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation’s history; promote  
29 access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities;  
30 educate the public about America’s natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities  
31 and environs to enjoy these resources; and  
32  
33 **WHEREAS**, despite a mission to make parks accessible and open, because of Congressional  
34 underfunding the National Park Service has a backlog in Wisconsin of \$9.4 million – money needed for  
35 infrastructure repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, roads, and other vital  
36 infrastructure; and  
37  
38 **WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America’s national parks to ensure our  
39 natural places and our history are preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent  
40 communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park  
41 sites.  
42  
43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
44 assembled this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018 encourages Congress to create reliable,  
45 predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America’s National Parks  
46 System.

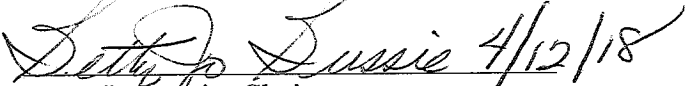
18-4A-515

Support of Allocation of Resources to Address Deferred Maintenance Needs in America's National Parks  
Page 2


47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors this resolution and  
48 attached information be passed on to both state and federal representatives


Respectfully Submitted,

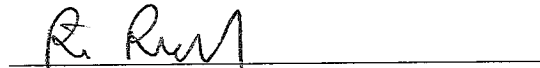
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

  
Betty Jo Bussie, Chair

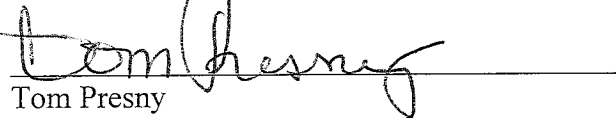
Absent  
Brent Fox, Vice Chair

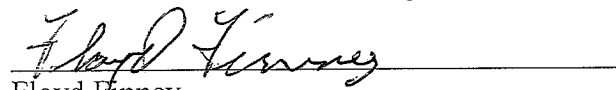
  
~~Eva Arnold~~ RUSSEPODZILMI

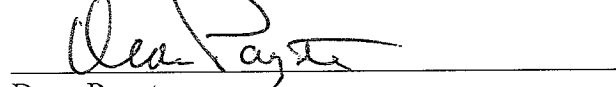
  
Brenton Driscoll:

  
Rick Richard

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE


  
Tom Presny

  
Floyd Finney

  
Dean Paynter

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

FISCAL NOTE:

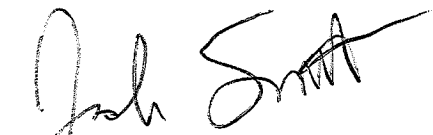
No fiscal impact to Rock County.



Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.



Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**SUPPORT OF ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO  
ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS**

**Executive Summary**

**City and County Resolution List  
National Park Deferred Maintenance**

*The following communities have passed resolutions urging Congress to provide more resources to address deferred maintenance in our national parks.*

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Boulder City, Nevada             | 35. City of Lowell, Massachusetts        |
| 2. City of Atlanta, Georgia         | 36. City of Monroe, Louisiana            |
| 3. City of Cortez, Colorado         | 37. Town of Dandridge, Tennessee         |
| 4. City of Cottonwood, Arizona      | 38. City of Corinth, Mississippi         |
| 5. City of Covington, Washington    | 39. Town of Greeneville, Tennessee       |
| 6. City of Ely, Nevada              | 40. Edmonson County, Kentucky            |
| 7. City of Gatlinburg, Tennessee    | 41. Park City, Kentucky                  |
| 8. City of Henderson, Nevada        | 42. Barren County, Kentucky              |
| 9. City of Leesville, Louisiana     | 43. Cave City, Kentucky                  |
| 10. City of Los Alamos, New Mexico  | 44. Warren County, Kentucky              |
| 11. City of Maryville, Tennessee    | 45. City of Novato, California           |
| 12. City of Natchez, Mississippi    | 46. City of Brownsville, Kentucky        |
| 13. City of Natchitoches, Louisiana | 47. City of Munfordville, Kentucky       |
| 14. City of New Orleans, Louisiana  | 48. City of Horse Cave, Kentucky         |
| 15. City of Petaluma, California    | 49. City of Homer, Alaska                |
| 16. City of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee | 50. City of Seward, Alaska               |
| 17. City of Ridgeland, Mississippi  | 51. Kenai Borough Assembly, Alaska       |
| 18. City of Santa Fe, New Mexico    | 52. City of Charles Town, West Virginia  |
| 19. City of Sevierville, Tennessee  | 53. Coconino County, Arizona             |
| 20. City of Tucson, Arizona         | 54. City of Elizabethtown, Kentucky      |
| 21. City of Tupelo, Mississippi     | 55. City of Tulelake, California         |
| 22. City of Vicksburg, Mississippi  | 56. Jefferson County, West Virginia      |
| 23. Grand County, Colorado          | 57. Hardin County, Kentucky              |
| 24. Pima County, Arizona            | 58. City of Soldotna, Alaska             |
| 25. Town of Eastham, Massachusetts  | 59. City of London, Kentucky             |
| 26. Town of Grand Lake, Colorado    | 60. City of Burnside, Kentucky           |
| 27. City of Savannah, Tennessee     | 61. Town of Meadow Bridge, West Virginia |
| 28. City of Reno, Nevada            | 62. City of Ranson, West Virginia        |
| 29. Town of Fairfax, California     | 63. Seattle, Washington                  |
| 30. St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana   | 64. City of Palmer, Alaska               |
| 31. Town of Estes Park, Colorado    | 65. City of Clinton, Mississippi         |
| 32. City of Shoreline, Washington   | 66. Jefferson Parish, Louisiana          |
| 33. City of Montrose, Colorado      | 67. City of Beckley, West Virginia       |
| 34. Town of Ross, California        |  |

68. Summers County, West Virginia  
 69. Town of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia  
 70. City of Summersville, West Virginia  
 71. Town of Thurmond, West Virginia  
 72. Town of Oak Hill, West Virginia  
 73. City of Hodgenville, Kentucky  
 74. City of Pineville, Kentucky  
 75. City of Williamsburg, Kentucky  
 76. LaRue County, Kentucky  
 77. Town of Tusayan, Arizona  
 78. City of Corbin, Kentucky  
 79. Nicholas County, West Virginia  
 80. City of Hinton, West Virginia  
 81. Fayette County, West Virginia  
 82. Raleigh County, West Virginia  
 83. Whitley County, Kentucky  
 84. City of Oroville, California  
 85. McCreary County, Kentucky  
 86. Bell County, Kentucky  
 87. Town of Grover, North Carolina  
 88. Town of Fayetteville, West Virginia  
 89. Cherokee County, South Carolina  
 90. Town of Clover, South Carolina  
 91. City of Boulder, Colorado  
 92. City of Chesnee, South Carolina  
 93. City of York, South Carolina  
 94. City of Stillwater, Minnesota  
 95. City of Gaffney, South Carolina  
 96. City of Columbia, South Carolina  
 97. City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina  
 98. Gaston County, North Carolina  
 99. Village of Flat Rock, North Carolina  
 100. City of Fairbanks, Alaska  
 101. City of Webster, North Carolina  
 102. City of Gastonia, North Carolina  
 103. City of Marion, North Carolina  
 104. Mat-Su Borough, Alaska  
 105. City of Bayfield, Wisconsin  
 106. City of Canyon Lake, California  
 107. Town of Cowpens, South Carolina  
 108. City of Ashville, North Carolina  
 109. Sumter County, South Carolina  
 110. City of Saint Paul, Minnesota  
 111. City of Whitefish, Montana  
 112. Denali Borough, Alaska  
 113. City of Hendersonville, North Carolina  
 114. City of Wasilla, Alaska  
 115. Town of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina  
 116. Town of Summerfield, North Carolina  
 117. City of Dinuba, California  
 118. City of Milton, Wisconsin  
 119. City of Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 120. City of Ashland, Wisconsin  
 121.
1. **National, regional, state, and association resolutions** Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- related to deferred maintenance:**
2. Louisiana State Legislature, National Parks Week
  3. Western Governors' Association
  4. U.S. Conference of Mayors
  5. California State Legislature, Joint Resolution (AJR23)
- Resolutions passed in relation to the NPS 2016 Centennial:**
1. Gov. Jay Inslee, WA
  2. King County Executive, WA
  3. Reno, NV

# Restoring America's National Parks

## WISCONSIN

Wisconsin enjoys the economic, recreational, and cultural benefits of the National Park System, which includes three park units in the state.

National park sites in Wisconsin are part of a system that encompasses 84 million acres across the country. Established by Congress in 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) manages and maintains more than 400 nationally significant sites in all 50 states and several territories. National parks are a mosaic of wild landscapes, historic and cultural sites, scenic byways, trails, military parks, and monuments that celebrate and commemorate remarkable people and America's heritage.

Unfortunately, 100 years after its creation, NPS is struggling to maintain many of its facilities. The agency currently faces a deferred maintenance backlog that is estimated to be \$11.3 billion based on FY2016 data.

### Why is there Deferred Maintenance?

- Aging infrastructure: many park facilities and systems are 50-70 years old and need updating
- Record visitation—approximately 331 million visitors in 2016—causes wear and tear on resources
- Unreliable funding for deferred maintenance.

### What is Deferred Maintenance?

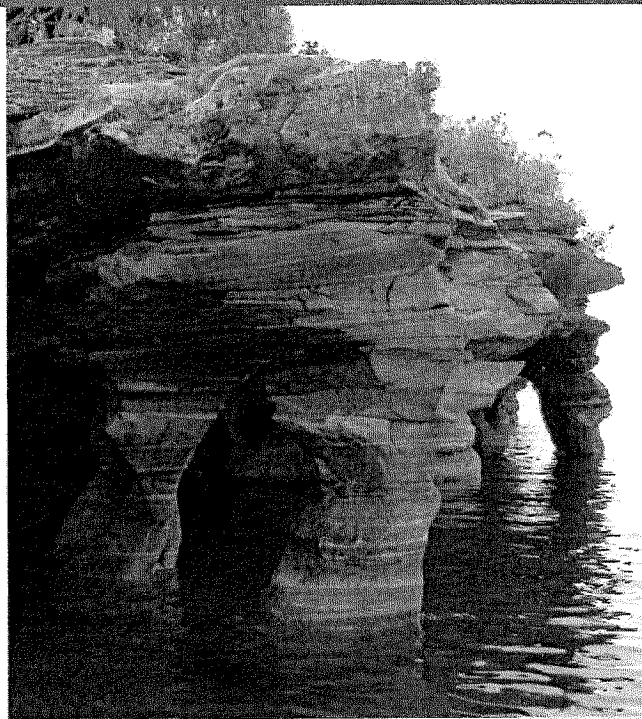
Deferred maintenance is work that is not completed at required intervals to ensure acceptable facility conditions. If work is delayed for more than a year it is typically considered deferred. Examples of repairs include:

- Crumbling roads and bridges
- Unsound buildings, including historic structures
- Outdated wastewater and electrical systems
- Neglected military sites
- Deteriorating monuments and memorials

### National Parks in Wisconsin

In 2016, over 500,000 visitors enjoyed national parks in Wisconsin. From the Saint Croix River to the Apostle Islands, Wisconsin saw 44.4 million spent in gateway communities. That spending supported 744 jobs and added a cumulative benefit of \$60.4 million to the state economy – money that helps businesses, schools, and families.

Despite the importance of national parks to Wisconsin's economy, they need more than \$9 million in infrastructure repairs. To keep national parks in Wisconsin strong and vibrant, and to capture the benefits they provide to the state, restoration must be a priority.



### NPS Deferred Maintenance in Wisconsin - FY2016

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore	\$ 8,069,48
Ice Age National Scenic Trail	\$ 103,54
Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway	\$ 1,223,95
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$9,396,988</b>

### Questions? Contact Us.

Andrew Werthmann  
andwerth@gmail.com

Rebecca Knuffke  
rknuffke@pewtrusts.org

Geoffrey Brown  
gbrown@pewtrusts.org

Photo (above): NPS photo. Devils Island Sea Caves, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

### Why Address Deferred Maintenance?

- **Preservation:** We need to ensure care of our nation's historic and cultural resources.
- **Access:** Without working roads and trails, visitors can't enjoy all our park resources.
- **Revenue:** Local communities are dependent on park-generated tourism dollars.
- **Kids:** Maintaining our national parks is a responsibility Congress owes to future generations.
- **Safety:** Aging infrastructure and building code issues need to be addressed so visitors are provided a safe experience.
- **Cost Savings:** Repairing and updating park facilities can provide significant cost savings to tax payers.

### Proven Economic Boosters

- Parks are a top travel destination in the U.S.
- There were an estimated 331 million visits to the national parks in 2016.
- In 2016, park visitors spent an estimated \$18.4 billion in nearby communities and a collective \$34.9 billion boost to the national economy. That spending supported 318,000 jobs (2016 data).

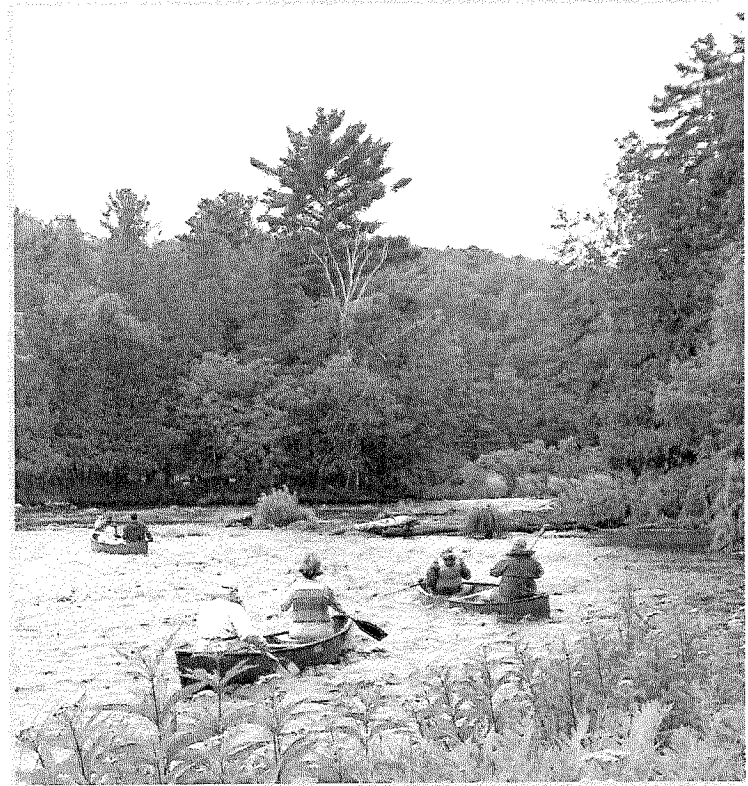


Photo (above): NPS needs \$1.2 million to address deferred maintenance needs at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. (NPS Photo).

From sites that are culturally important to Native American tribes or that honor those who served in our military, to parks that commemorate painful aspects of the Civil War, Japanese internment, or the Civil Rights movement, our National Park System documents our nation's diverse and evolving history.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure the NPS has the resources needed to maintain park infrastructure, so future generations can enjoy and learn from our national treasures.

### Solutions

To address deferred maintenance at NPS sites across the country, Congress should:

- Ensure that infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.
- Provide dedicated annual federal funding for national park repairs.
- Enact innovative policy reforms to ensure that deferred maintenance does not escalate.
- Provide more highway funding for NPS maintenance needs.
- Create more opportunities for public-private collaboration and donations to help restore park infrastructure.

### You Can Help

Ask your federal representatives to support dedicated federal funding and an infrastructure proposal that addresses the deferred maintenance needs within the National Park System.

Contact your senators, Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, at [senate.gov](http://senate.gov). To contact your congressman, visit [house.gov](http://house.gov) and enter your zip code.