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

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 Ice Age National Scenic Trail is one of three National Park sites in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, which works with the National Park Service by supporting, protecting and building the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, creates an exemplary model of a public/private partnership that preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of our great state; and

WHEREAS, the Ice Age Trail currently spans more than 650 miles of trail open for public enjoyment, spanning 31 counties of Wisconsin including Rock County; and

WHEREAS, Rock County and neighboring communities are blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the Ice Age Trail, offering a unique blend of cultural, historical and natural resources which allow visitors to hike, run, snowshoe, and enjoy all the area has to offer; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service 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, over 500,000 people visit Wisconsin’s national parks sites annually - which include the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, the St. Croix National Scenic River way and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; and

WHEREAS, visitors to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail spend over $113 million in communities nearby, including Rock County; 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, despite a mission to make parks accessible and open, because of Congressional underfunding the National Park Service has a backlog in Wisconsin of $9.4 million – money needed for infrastructure repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, roads, and other vital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America’s national parks to ensure our natural places and our history are 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 that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 12th day of April, 2018 encourages Congress to create reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America’s National Parks System.
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors this resolution and attached information be passed on to both state and federal representatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Betty Jo Bussie, Chair
Absant
Brent Fox, Vice Chair

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park/Trail</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apostle Islands National Lakeshore</td>
<td>$ 8,069.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Age National Scenic Trail</td>
<td>$ 103,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway</td>
<td>$ 1,223.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$9,396,988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions? Contact Us.

Andrew Werthmann
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Rebecca Knuffke
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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 taxpayers.

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).
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. To contact your congressman, visit house.gov and enter your zip code.