



2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Parks



SUMMARY



Parks, forests, and other public spaces in America boost mental and physical health, create jobs, and support community well-being. They raise nearby property values, improve drinking water sources, reduce heat islands, and aid stormwater management. Despite recent federal investments, deferred maintenance continues to grow, and parks face workforce shortages amid record visitation.

Federal initiatives through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) are expanding access, modernizing infrastructure, and growing park inventories. Technology is also enhancing asset management and helping park authorities better estimate life-cycle costs.

FAST FACTS

- National Parks received 325 million visitors in 2023.
- America's National Parks have more than \$23 billion in deferred maintenance needs.
- On average, park and recreation agencies across the country provide one park for every 2,386 residents, with 10.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- Parks are used to manage stormwater overflow during extreme weather events and are protecting communities from dangerous flooding.

SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

- ✓ Raise awareness of lesser-visited national parks to ease pressure on popular sites and promote visits to state and local parks.
- ✓ Maintain recent federal funding to enhance federal programs in the National Park Service to better address needs.
- ✓ Improve park access for all, abilities, and incomes, with a focus on walkability and transit.
- ✓ Increase government funding for park projects that boost resilience, reduce pollution, and protect water sources.
- ✓ Promote GIS and other tech to improve asset management and user experience in parks.

To explore more solutions to raise the grades check out infrastructurereportcard.org