



The Great American Outdoors Act is providing crucial funding – up to \$6.65 billion over five years – to fix our national parks’ crumbling roads, decaying buildings, outdated water systems and many more repair needs. This bill, along with other funding sources, is ensuring our parks can continue to welcome millions of visitors each year and protect the natural and cultural resources that tell our nation’s history.

Rocky Mountain NATIONAL PARK



Straddling the Continental Divide in Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park encompasses a spectacular range of mountain environments. Visitors discover meadows, glistening subalpine lakes, and mountain peaks ranging from 7,800 feet to more than 14,000 feet at the top of the alpine tundra.

The park is one of the country’s top wildlife-viewing destinations and home to elk, bighorn sheep, bobcats, coyotes, and over 280 recorded bird species. The park offers over 350 miles of hiking trails, hundreds of wilderness campsites and five front-country campgrounds that host overnight visitors. The largest of these campgrounds is Moraine Park, which is open year-round and typically serves more than 30,000 campers annually. Known for its towering Ponderosa pines and spectacular views of Longs Peak and the Continental Divide, the campground has 244 sites that can accommodate RVs, vans and tents. During the fall, campers hear the haunting bugles of bull elk echoing in Moraine Park Meadow.

THE CHALLENGE: aging utility infrastructure and poor water quality at the park’s largest campground

A majority of the existing utility infrastructure providing water, sewer and electricity to Moraine Park Campground and Rocky Mountain National Park’s headquarters area has not been updated since it was first built in the 1960s, well past a typical 30-year service life. The waterlines and components of the Moraine Park water system are in poor condition, primarily due to age and deferred maintenance. Several portions of the system are not buried to the appropriate depth and are subject to freezing. Currently, the water system is

BY THE NUMBERS:



\$31.9 million
estimated investment from the GAOA for repair projects



30,000
visitors annually at Moraine Park campground



25% of camp sites
will get electricity and have plumbing improved



280+
recorded bird species



350 miles+
of hiking trails

PHOTOS: Cover: ©Andrew S | Shutterstock
Back: ©NPS— Example of a campsite at Moraine Park Campground that is in need of repairs due to seasonal flooding from snowmelt and rain.

drained in the fall and recharged in the late spring. When preparing for the summer season, leaks and breaks are common, and it can take days to isolate, find and repair the leaks. Poor drainage along roadways and within the campground leads to flooding and erosion in some campsites. After major rain events and during the spring runoff, park staff have needed to reroute the water or move campers to different sites. Additionally, electric service is not currently available at any campsites inside Moraine Park Campground. If these issues are not addressed, the public's experience, enjoyment and safety at the campground would be impacted, and revenue from park campground fees would be lost.

THE PROJECT

Through a \$31.9 million investment, the Great American Outdoors Act will rehabilitate the Headquarters East water system, which includes the Moraine Park Campground water and wastewater systems and electrical utilities that serve thousands of visitors each year. The project will address sewer pipes, manholes, the well, water treatment system and water tanks. It will also relocate electric powerlines underground to help reduce system damage caused by snow, falling tree branches, electrical hazards, and wildfire. The work will replace water distribution lines below the frost line; relocate campsites away

from wetland areas; improve accessibility issues; improve paths to comfort stations and vault toilets; rehabilitate a ranger station and entrance kiosk; add food storage lockers and concrete pads to campsites; add electric hookups to approximately 25 percent of the sites; add a third host site; replace drinking water spigots; and improve roads and parking. Construction activities will begin in late May 2023 and continue through June 2024.

THE IMPACT

This project will improve the visitor experience at Moraine Park Campground by rehabilitating infrastructure at campsites, the ranger station and park headquarters. The project will update approximately 15 campsites to improve accessibility. It will address flooding and drainage issues by moving campsites that frequently flood out of wetland areas. The work will improve circulation at the campground entrance, as well as improve pedestrian traffic flow near the ranger station. Another camp host site will be added to the

campground. Electrical service will be added to approximately 60 RV campsites and overhead electric powerlines will be moved underground. Rehabilitating this infrastructure will reduce the park's maintenance backlog as well as the need for monitoring the water system and emergency repairs and clean-up related to broken water mains and electrical problems; the work will also make the water system compliant with the National Fire Protection Association standard. By burying lines at a deeper level, there will be less risk of damage from snow, wind, freezing and falling tree branches. This project will enhance the overall visitor experience at Moraine Park Campground for visitors today and in the future.



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The Great American Outdoors Act is successfully repairing infrastructure at hundreds of parks across the country. However, with a \$22 billion backlog, much more is needed. We urge Congress to extend the Legacy Restoration Fund for an additional five years.

Preserving Our Past.



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Protecting Our Future.