

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funding – up to \$6.65 billion over five years – to fix our national parks’ crumbling roads, decaying buildings, outdated water systems and many more repair needs.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.

Glacier Bay

NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE



One of the world’s largest international protected areas, located about 100 miles northwest of Juneau, Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park is known for its unparalleled solitude, scenery and wilderness. The park is a highlight of Alaska’s Inside Passage, a biosphere reserve and part of a 25-million acre World Heritage Site.

BY THE NUMBERS:



\$21 million estimated investment from the GAOA for repair projects



57 year-old lodge building



18 years past originally-scheduled lodge demolition



30,000 annual visitors to the lodge



3.3 million acres of park land

PHOTOS: Cover: ©Grey82 | Dreamstime.com
Back: ©NPS—The project will demolish three existing dorms and replace them with one building.

Boasting 3.3 million acres, Glacier Bay is a wonderland of rugged, snow-capped mountains, dynamic glaciers, emerald green forests, wild coastlines and deep sheltered fjords. A half-million visitors make their way to this remote park each year to hike, camp and enjoy the water—boating into inlets, coves and hideaway harbors.

The Glacier Bay Lodge Historic District is centered around the lodge, which was constructed in 1966. Roughly nine miles from the rural town of Gustavus, this front-country development is a hub that provides a wide range of public services for visitors, including backcountry campers, marine vessel operators and day tour passengers embarking

at Bartlett Cove. The lodge offers the only in-park overnight accommodations as well as food service and amenities for visitors. The facility hosts 30,000 annual visitors through the main lodge and guest services.

THE CHALLENGE: a shortage of concession employee housing, leading to staff use of otherwise rentable cabins at the historic lodge

The existing concession housing facilities—three outdated dorms containing a total of 32 rooms—are undersized for a staff of roughly 60. Due to the shortage, some concession employees have been housed in nearby cabins



at the lodge, which are intended for use by park visitors, reducing opportunity for concession revenue. The dorm buildings were slated for demolition and replacement in 2005. Instead, a number of superficial repairs have been made to keep the buildings operational, but they have continued to accrue deferred maintenance. The existing apartments do not meet safety, fire and accessibility codes—they have no accessible rooms, sprinklers or networked smoke detectors. An existing, non-historic, multi-use concessioner building situated across the street in the Glacier Bay Lodge Historic District has documented safety and health violations including wiring concerns, no accessible route to the second floor and lack of proper egress routes. All the existing buildings are poorly insulated and inefficiently heated.

THE PROJECT

A \$21 million investment through the Great American Outdoors Act will replace concession housing at Bartlett Cove and build a new multi-purpose building. The project will demolish three existing dorms and replace them with one building that will lower operation and maintenance costs and provide a safe, accessible and energy-efficient living space for the concession staff. It will also demolish the non-historic, multi-use concessioner building in the

historic district and will replace it at the site of the demolished concessioner apartment buildings. That building will be used for concession administrative and maintenance operations. The project will also replace buried fuel and propane lines that are at risk of leakage. No service interruptions or facility closures are expected during this project because the new facility will be constructed adjacent to the existing structures before they are demolished.

THE IMPACT

The new dorm and administrative/maintenance buildings will have a larger capacity and will meet current safety, fire and accessibility standards. This construction project will eliminate more than \$4.7 million in deferred maintenance and repairs associated with these facilities. Once complete, the dorm building will have reduced operation and maintenance costs and will provide a safe, accessible and energy-efficient living space for the concession staff who provide essential services for park visitors. The cabins where the staff is now living will be available to rent to park guests, increasing lodging income and improving visitor experience. Moving the multi-purpose building across the street and consolidating concessioner administrative, house and maintenance operations are significant steps toward restoring

“This construction project will eliminate more than \$4.7 million in deferred maintenance and repairs associated with these facilities.”

the character of the Glacier Bay Lodge Historic District, separating the historic from the non-historic structures and allowing for more visitor-centered activities in the lodge complex.



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.



NPCA.ORG

Protecting Our Future.