



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Preparing New York Parks for the Future

Photo: Fire Island National Seashore

National parks are experiencing more record-setting floods, fires, droughts and disease each year. Irreplaceable objects of cultural significance are at risk of disappearing, and the natural world, which draws millions of visitors who contribute significantly to local economies, is changing.

Work has begun to help parks prepare for the impacts from climate change they cannot avoid. The Inflation Reduction Act is one important source of funding that helps parks plan for hotter temperatures and extreme storms. Currently 100% of the park service's IRA funds have been planned, scheduled and announced across 78 projects. However, nearly twice as many projects were proposed than could be funded with the park service's IRA funding.

These investments support parks and secure the natural heritage of these treasured landscapes for future park visitors. They leverage collaborative approaches through partnerships with youth, conservation organizations and Indigenous communities and work to foster community engagement while ensuring these resources exist for future generations.

Conserve and Restore Coastal Marsh Systems in Northeast Parks Accounting for Future Sea Level Rise

NY NPS Sites: *Fire Island National Seashore, Gateway National Recreation Area*

Project Type: *Resilience-Enhance Resiliency of NPS Ecosystems*

Investment: *\$3.4M*

Anthropogenic impacts have resulted in the loss of over half of the original salt marshes in the US, and the mid-Atlantic states predict 83% of the remaining coastal marshes will be lost by 2100. Salt marshes provide essential ecological and socio-economic services, protecting communities from flooding, erosion, and storm surges while preserving their livelihoods and economies. Meanwhile, salt marshes are also an ecosystem necessity as they sequester carbon at over 40 times the rate of forested ecosystems and provide critical habitat for 75% of coastal fishery species. This project assesses existing and projected marsh conditions and implements restoration efforts to mitigate marsh depletion. By building marsh ecosystem resiliency, this project will reduce climate change vulnerabilities, protect coastal fishery species, and combat storm surges to provide a healthier and more resilient ecosystem for locals, visitors, and wildlife.

Rising Waters – Managing Floodplains in the Northeast in an Uncertain Future

NY NPS Sites: *Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*

Project Type: *Resilience-Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments*

Investment: \$500,000

The National Park Service, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey, will identify and coordinate foundational data and tools to assess current and future floodplain boundaries and flooding risks, fostering a regional approach to floodplain management on NPS lands. Parks in the Northeast are increasingly challenged by climate change, which brings more frequent heavy precipitation events and periods of drought, complicating infrastructure planning along streams and rivers. This project will enhance the availability of comprehensive, landscape-scale tools to support park planning and decision-making, while also addressing gaps in data coverage and tool applicability. Pilot applications will be conducted in multiple parks to demonstrate how these resources can inform decisions on trail placement, protection of cultural resources, and vulnerability assessments for culverts and bridges. By improving floodplain management, NPS aims to increase the resilience of park infrastructure and natural resources, ensuring the sustainability of these landscapes for future generations.

Control Invasive Species to Prevent Catastrophic Forest Loss in Northeastern Parks

NY NPS Sites: *Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Saratoga National Historic Park*

Project Type: *Restoration-Invasive Species*

Investment: \$4.2M

The federally endangered long-eared bat species relies on Northeastern forests to provide critical food and habitat. However, Northeastern forests not only serve as home to endangered bats but as essential ecosystems that store carbon, prevent flooding, and improve the well-being of local communities. Inflation Reduction Act funding supports improving ecological health on 7,000 acres to promote forest ecosystem resilience. Extreme storm events, invasive shrubs, pests, and the impacts of climate change threaten these vital ecosystems. By removing invasive species and planting native seedlings that are adaptive to changing conditions, this project supports revitalizing resilient and healthy forests, creating landscapes that can better withstand the impacts of climate change, and creating healthy outdoor landscapes for plants, animals, and people to enjoy for generations.



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