

Politics in park funding

Examples of how parks created for political gain may drain money from the best national parks



ANNUAL BUDGETS

Gateway National Recreation Area
\$18.6 million

Grand Canyon National Park
\$18.566 million

→ **Gateway National Recreation Area** of heavily visited urban beaches in and around New York City was created, in part, because local governments had trouble funding them. Its budget is \$18.6 million - fourth highest of any national park. In comparison, even **Grand Canyon National Park** receives less (\$18.566 million).

ANNUAL BUDGETS

Cuyahoga National Park
\$9.5 million

Lake Powell
\$9.275 million

Grand Teton National Park
\$9.351 million

→ **Cuyahoga National Park** in a river valley near Cleveland was created by a powerful House member who lived there, and attracts mostly local visitors. Its budget is \$9.5 million, higher than Utah's **Lake Powell** (budget \$9.275 million) and **Grand Teton National Park** (budget \$9.351 million).

ANNUAL BUDGETS

Wolf Trap National Park
\$3.2 million

Bryce Canyon National Park
\$2.7 million

→ **Wolf Trap National Park** for the Performing Arts, an outdoor arena for theater and concerts in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., has a budget of \$3.2 million in government funding. That is more than **Bryce Canyon National Park** (budget: \$2.7 million).

ANNUAL BUDGETS

Allegheny Portage Railroad
National Historic Site
\$2 million

Golden Spike National Historic Site
\$698,000

→ **Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site**, a Pennsylvania railroad tunnel and other sites marking the railroad crossing of mountains there, has a budget of \$2 million. That is three times more than Utah's **Golden Spike National Historic Site** (budget \$698,000) that celebrates the railroad crossing the entire continent, not just Pennsylvania mountains.

ANNUAL BUDGETS

Brown v. Board of Education
National Historic Site
\$1.16 million

Arches National Park
\$1.14 million

→ **Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site** (budget: \$1.16 million), which preserves a Topeka, Kan., elementary school once segregated by race, and created under political pressure to honor the Supreme Court decision ordering desegregation, receives more than **Arches National Park** (budget: \$1.14 million).