

Maintenance Action Team (MAT) Overview

Background

The National Park Service (NPS) Maintenance Action Team (MAT) program was established in FY21 to address facility projects at small and medium-sized parks which had not yet benefitted from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF).

FY21 MATs focused on historic and cultural assets. FY23 MATs expanded their focus to non-historic assets, National Cemeteries, and increased involvement with Youth Corps. FY24 MATs further expanded their focus to include National Trails.

What is a MAT?

A Maintenance Action Team is a project execution mechanism to quickly address high priority facility maintenance and repair needs at under-resourced parks. The teams are regionally located near multiple national park units, allowing project-specific scalability, travel cost savings, workforce stability, and various project execution options.

MATs are comprised of skilled tradespeople from two NPS historic preservation centers, park staff, interns, and members of Youth and Service Corps. They not only serve a park's facility maintenance and repair needs but also provide invaluable training and skill development opportunities to youth and current NPS staff.

Why MAT?

Small and medium sized parks are highly susceptible to staffing challenges. One critical vacancy can impact their capacity to execute facility projects for years. The NPS faces a shortage of skilled trades workers and parks often resort to contract out specialized work, leading to inconsistent results.

The MAT program helps small and medium parks scope, plan, and execute day labor projects on their critical assets. MATs avoid contracting overhead and management burdens while training NPS employees in the skills needed to be long-term stewards of these assets. MATs emphasize youth participation in various projects, exposing a young workforce to potential careers in the NPS and providing skills development to get them started. This is a long-term strategy to develop the next generation of NPS leaders.



How It Works

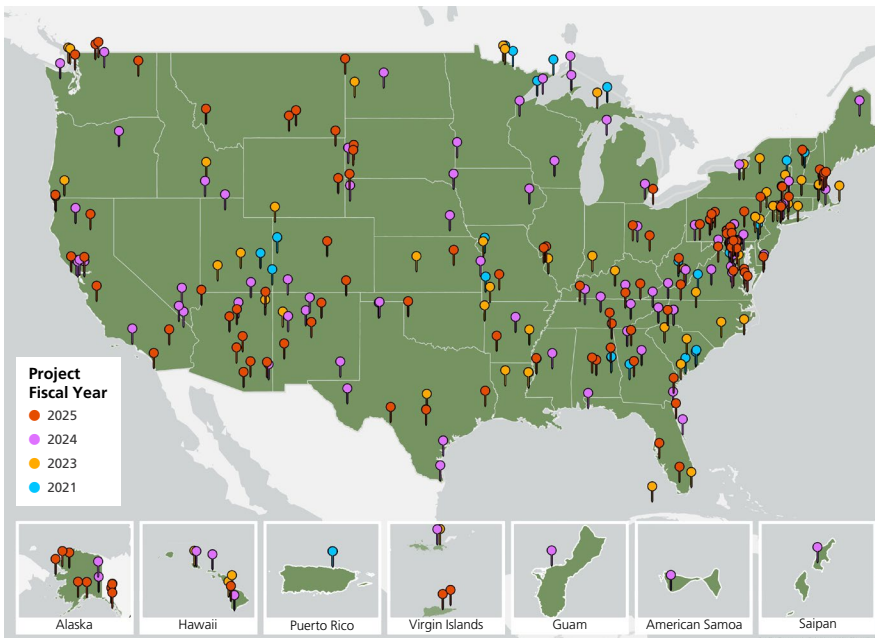
Regional MAT Coordinators help parks identify potential MAT projects and coordinate scoping trips with skilled partners to ensure these projects are accurately described and cost estimated. Regional Coordinators then help secure the best execution team for the job and support the park coordination through closeout.

Benefits of MAT Projects

- Protect and preserve critical assets, while recruiting and training the next generation of trades, preservation, and facility specialists.
- Create operational savings and enhance the NPS' preventative and recurring maintenance capability.
- Provide cost-effective small-scale project development and execution by skilled NPS staff.
- Stabilize funding programs through accurate scoping and cost estimating.
- Extend the benefits of GAOA LRF to nearly every NPS unit by FY26.

MAT projects require minimal NEPA/NHPA compliance, must be ready to execute with day labor in one season, and have a recent scope and cost estimate. Most projects cost less than \$250k.

MAT projects identified through FY25 are mostly funded with LRF; however, they can also be executed in other funded programs like Cyclic, Re/Re, FLREA, or Housing.



Impacts to Date

FY21: \$14.12M, 78 projects, 58 park units

FY23: \$20M, 105 projects, 85 park units

FY24: \$25M, 121 projects, 107 park units

FY25: \$25M, 125 projects, 109 park units

- Projects in **49 States** and **5 territories**
- **Over 500 youth** impacted
- **23 National Trails** improved
- **13 National Cemeteries** maintained

