

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).

MATs are located in specific regional areas with proximity to multiple park units, improving our ability to implement small-scale critical maintenance projects. 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.



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 geographically dispersed, but have a home-base, which allows for project-specific scalability, travel cost savings, workforce stability, and a variety of project execution options.

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

WHAT IS A MAT?

WHY MAT?

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

The MAT program helps small and medium parks to scope, plan, and execute day labor projects on their most critical assets. MATs avoid contracting overhead and management burdens, while training NPS employees in the skills needed to be long-term stewards of our critical assets. MATs emphasize youth participation in a wide variety of 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.



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.

BENEFITS

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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.

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: \$14.5M, 73 Projects, 58 Park Units
- FY23: \$20M, 107 Projects, 85 Park Units
- FY24: \$25M, 118 Projects, 107 Park Units
- * Projects in 49 States and 5 territories
- * Over 500 youth impacted
- * 17 National Trails improved (ALKA, APPA, AZT, CALI, CDT, CHIL, FNST, IATR, JUBA, NATT, NOCO, MOPI, OREG, PNT, POEX, POHE, TRTE)
- * 11 National Cemeteries maintained (ANDE, ANTI, COLO, FODO, FRSP, GETT, JELA, LIBI, PETE, ROCR, SHIL, STRI, VICK)

