



<b>Categories</b>	<a href="#">Home</a> : general
<a href="#">All</a>	<b>By STEVE JONES Staff writer</b>
<a href="#">AP-Weather</a>	
<a href="#">Arts &amp; Learning</a>	About 175,000 people visit Delta Lake State Park every year, and they bring in an average of \$240,000-\$250,000 in revenue to the park every year. They also spend money at local restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations and elsewhere.
<a href="#">Births &amp; Deaths</a>	
<a href="#">Business</a>	
<a href="#">College &amp; Military</a>	
<a href="#">County News</a>	
<a href="#">Editorials</a>	A new economic analysis released by advocacy group Parks & Trails New York shows that Delta Lake and other state parks are a valuable economic asset, supporting up to \$1.94 billion in output and sales for private businesses, plus 20,000 jobs.
<a href="#">Education</a>	
<a href="#">Entertainment</a>	
<a href="#">Events</a>	
<a href="#">Health &amp; Fitness</a>	
<a href="#">Home &amp; Garden</a>	According to Delta Lake Park manager Laura Tully, the park has four full-time employees, as well as an average of about 34 seasonal employees each year. The annual payroll for seasonal staff is about \$150,000-\$170,000, Tully said.
<a href="#">Letters to the Editor</a>	
<a href="#">Licenses &amp; Inspections</a>	
<a href="#">Meetings</a>	
<a href="#">NY Lottery</a>	
<a href="#">Obituaries</a>	
<a href="#">Other Lifestyles</a>	The study shows that 2.3 million people visited parks in the Central Region during the 2007-2008 season. There were 1,620 jobs at those parks, with sales and output totaling \$134 million. The employment was fifth among the 11 regions. Economic impact was also fifth best. Statewide, the system had 55.7 million visitors.
<a href="#">Other News</a>	
<a href="#">Other Sports</a>	
<a href="#">Points of Pride</a>	At Delta Lake State Park, Tully said, "The majority of our patrons are from the local area, but those that aren't, they come from all over. We see world travelers even. And of course, once they're here, they stop by and ask what is in the area — what restaurants, what entertainment. That's especially true when Mother Nature is not cooperating and allowing them to enjoy the beach. We tell them about the Erie Canal Village and Fort Stanwix National Monument. We even tell them where to go grocery shopping."
<a href="#">Public Safety</a>	
<a href="#">Religion</a>	
<a href="#">Rome News</a>	
<a href="#">School Sports</a>	
<a href="#">Seniors</a>	
<a href="#">Special</a>	
<a href="#">Sports</a>	
<a href="#">Sports Scores</a>	
<a href="#">Tabloid Tales</a>	There are plenty of repeat customers from out of the area as well, Tully said. "It seems like a large number of people are from the regional area — Albany and Rochester." A season's pass for the parks system is a good reason to explore parks
<a href="#">Weather</a>	

<a href="#">Weddings &amp; Engagements</a>
<a href="#">Classified Ads</a>
<a href="#">Alumni Reunions</a>

other than the ones in users' backyards, she added.

Delta Lake and other state parks make the department a revenue generator, rather than just a department that receives state money and does not contribute money back to state coffers. The analysis shows the economic benefits exceed the direct costs of operating and maintaining the system many times over. The benefit-to-cost ratio is more than five to one — more than \$5 in benefits for every \$1 in costs.

"New York's State Park System produces substantial revenue for New York's businesses and jobs for New Yorkers. The Governor and Legislature should reinvest in our state parks to put money in New Yorkers' pockets today and for the state's economic future," says Robin Dropkin, executive director of Parks & Trails New York.

According to the study, the State Park System produces about \$1.9 billion in annual sales for private businesses in the areas around the parks. About \$744 million of visitor expenditure — around 40 percent of total visitor spending of \$1.9 billion — comes from visitors living outside the communities in which the parks are located. "This non-local spending is key for generating net benefits," the group stated.

The State Park System also generates about 20,000 mostly private-sector jobs, with state spending producing about 6,600 jobs and visitor spending producing about 13,500 jobs.

The State Park System in fiscal year 2008-2009 is supported by \$341 million in state government expenditures, including \$253 million in operating budget and \$88 million in capital investments.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation operates and maintains 178 state parks and 35 state historic sites, covering a total of 325,000 acres. The system includes 1,350 miles of hiking trails, over 8,000 campsites, numerous swimming pools, beaches, boat launches, nature centers, and golf courses.

For the full report, visit the Parks & Trails New York web site at [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org).