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## **Annual economic impact of state park system is close to \$2 billion, 20,000 jobs, study finds**

ALBANY - A new economic analysis released by Parks & Trails New York shows that the New York State Park System is a valuable economic asset to the Empire State. It supports up to \$1.94 billion in output and sales for private businesses, plus 20,000 jobs.

The analysis also demonstrates that the economic benefits exceed the direct costs of operating and maintaining the State Park 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.

The study reveals how these benefits are distributed among the 11 regions that constitute the State Park System according to the number, size, and nature of the parks and historic sites in the various regions.

“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,” said Robin Dropkin, executive director of Parks & Trails New York.

The study focuses on two key channels through which the State Park System impacts New York’s economy: public spending on parks for operations and capital improvements and spending by visitors in parks and surrounding areas. Last year, the State Park System had 55.7 million visitors.

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.