



NEWS RELEASE

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University Research Institute Finds New York State Park System Supports \$5 Billion in Sales, 54,000 jobs

Economic impact study underscores importance of park system to tourism economy

ALBANY, NY – A new economic impact study found that the New York State Park System and its visitors generated spending of about \$5 billion, which supported nearly 54,000 jobs within the state of New York and over \$2.8 billion in state GDP. The study, by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, was commissioned by the park advocacy group Parks & Trails New York.

The study, [*Economic Benefits of the New York State Park System*](#), found that from April 2015 to March 2016, the 67 million visits to the New York State park system resulted in about \$4 billion in spending by local and non-local visitors. This includes day trips and overnight trips, with visitors spending money on park entrance and use fees, sporting equipment, food and drink, transportation, lodging, and other expenses. Visitor spending has a multiplier effect, as jobs and revenues are created in supporting industries throughout the local economy. The total economic significance of the \$4 billion in visitor spending is about 45,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion additional state GDP.

In addition, state government funding and spending by partner organizations for park system operations and capital improvements totaled \$543 million. This funding also has a multiplier effect and supported about 9,000 jobs and led to \$485 million in additional state GDP.

Combining the effects of both visitor spending and state funding, the park system supported about 54,000 jobs and \$5 billion in revenues. In short, each dollar of state funding supported 9 dollars of sales throughout New York State.

Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin said, “How much poorer New York would be without its park system – not just in mind and spirit, but in pocketbook. This report underscores how much of an economic impact parks have, with each dollar the state spends on parks leading to about 9 dollars in overall sales. Any way you look at it, parks are a great investment!”

Study author Heidi Garrett-Peltier, PhD said, “The beauty and recreational opportunities parks offer are well known, but this study calls attention to the vital role parks play in the economy. The New York State Park System is a real economic engine, supporting \$5 billion in sales and 54,000 jobs annually in the Empire State.”

The report also noted that the parks system offers numerous other benefits not directly reflected in its economic impact, including potentially increasing property values for properties near parkland; increasing tax receipts;

reducing pollution; mitigating the impacts of climate change; promoting health and wellness; and fostering a sense of community.

Visitation to New York State parks and historic sites has increased 21 percent since 2011, when Governor Cuomo initiated [NY Parks 2020](#), a multiyear plan to leverage \$900 million in private and public funding for State Park capital improvement.

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) is the State's leading advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving New Yorkers' health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. For more information, visit www.ptny.org or PTNY's social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit www.nysparks.gov, connect on [Facebook](#), or follow on [Twitter](#).

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