

THE ECONOMICS OF THE OUTDOORS

IN PENNSYLVANIA

YOUR MONEY'S HEALTHY OUT THERE



PLENTIFUL ASSETS

5,800 local parks * 11,500 miles of trails
* 27 water trails * 12 heritage areas
* 7 conservation landscapes * 121 state
parks * 2.2 million acres of state forest.

LOCAL PROSPERITY

In 2013, local and regional parks created nearly \$1.6 billion in economic activity and supported 12,480 jobs nationally. The total contribution of State Park visitor spending to the state economy was \$1.145 billion in sales and 12,630 jobs. For every dollar invested in state parks, \$12.41 of value added income is returned to Pennsylvania.



NATURAL BENEFITS

In the Lehigh Valley, open space provides \$355 million in water supply, flood control, pollinations and habitat services.

SAVINGS

10,344 acres of parkland in Philadelphia saves more than \$5.9 million in storm water management costs due to runoff reduction.



HERITAGE HELPS

In 2014, Pennsylvania's 12 heritage areas supported 7.5 million visitor days/nights that purchased \$2 billion worth of goods and supported 25,708 jobs.

PA WILDS

Since 2008, embracing the natural and cultural aspects of the region to attract tourism created 372 jobs and has led to annual visitor spending of \$1.7 billion.



HEALTHY PEOPLE

In the five-county Philadelphia area of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia, protected open space resulted in annual avoided medical costs of \$795 million.



BETTER BIG BUSINESS



Nationally, active recreation employs FIVE times more Americans than Walmart, the world's largest private employer. The yearly sale of gear and trips for outdoor recreation is greater than the annual returns on other industries as well.

TRAILS HAVE IMPACT

The 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage in southwestern Pennsylvania generates more than \$40 million in revenue each year, while the 24-mile Three Rivers Heritage Trail in Pittsburgh attracts more than 822,000 users, contributing \$8.4 million annually to local economies.



OPEN SPACE



Open space increases property values, makes communities more livable (and thus more attractive to businesses and industry), and provides programmable space.

SOURCES

The Economic Impact of Local Parks. National Recreation and Parks Association. (http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Economic-Impact-Study-Summary.pdf)

The Economic Significance and Impact of Pennsylvania State Parks: An Updated Assessment of 2010 Park Visitor Spending on the State and Local Economy, The Pennsylvania State University. (http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_007019.pdf)

The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. (<http://www.dvrpc.org/reports/11033A.pdf>)

Outdoor Recreation: An Economic Engine. River Town Program. (http://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic_Impacts_of_Outdoor_Recreation.pdf)

Return on Environment. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. (http://lvpc.org/pdf/2014/ReturnOnEnvironment_Dec_18_2014.pdf)

The Value of Open Space. Populous. (<https://populous.com/posts/the-value-of-open-space/>)

