



# Fact Sheet

November 2006



## New Jersey State Parks and Forests Economic Benefits and Vital Statistics

The State's 39 Parks and 11 Forests constitute a vital natural resource for the residents of New Jersey. These areas provide not only environmental but also substantial economic benefits amounting to about \$1.2 billion annually (in 2004 dollars) or \$38.5 billion in present value terms (based on an annual discount rate of 3% in perpetuity). In their current protected state, the State Parks and Forests generate the following benefits:

- 💰 Direct benefits from *recreation/tourism*: about \$304 million annually;
- 💰 Benefits from the *indirect economic activity* supported by *private sector* recreation and tourism expenditures: about \$289 million of total sales per year;
- 💰 Benefits from the *indirect economic activity* supported by *public sector* capital and operating expenditures: about \$58 million of total sales per year;
- 💰 Benefits from *ecosystem services* (e.g., watershed protection/hydrological services, wildlife/biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and storage, soil erosion control, and groundwater protection): about \$498 million per year; and
- 💰 Potential benefits of consumption goods (such as timber: about \$6 million annually).

The benefits also include creation of more than 7,000 jobs. Other benefits that were identified as being of significant value although not quantified are positive impacts on property values; education and other public services; partial regulation of development; and public willingness to pay to preserve the existence of State parks and forests.

Some vital indicators and statistics show how the New Jersey State's Parks and Forests compare with other state parks in the rest of the country:

### •1. State Park & Forest Area

	No.	Area (acres)	% of Area of State
NJ (2004)	50	400,000	8.4%
Average for All States (2002)	80	245,000	1.0%

### •2. Use Density (Visits Per Unit Area)

	Visits	Area (acres)	Visits per acre
NJ (2004)	15,600,000	400,000	39.0
Average for All States (2002)	11,100,000	245,000	45.3

**•3. Per Capita Park Visits**

	Visitation	Population	Visits per person
NJ (2004)	15,600,000	8,700,000	1.8
All States Total (2002)	758,200,000	288,400,000	2.6

**•4. Fiscal Trends—Operating Expenditures<sup>[1]</sup> by Source (million \$, 2002)**

	Total	Park Revenues <sup>[2]</sup>	General Fund	Dedicated Funds	Federal Funds <sup>[3]</sup>	Others
NJ	36.8	3.1	33.7	-	-	-
Ave. All States	37.8	13.3	18.3	4.1	0.5	1.4

<sup>[1]</sup> "Operating expenditures" in Table 4 includes only expenditures for operation & maintenance of the State park system *per se*; expenditures for such things as grants-in-aid to other entities, debt service on bonds, etc. have been excluded.

<sup>[2]</sup> "Park Revenues" in Table 4 are income received by park system including, but not limited to, entrance fees & charges, camping, group facilities, cabin/cottages, or lodge fees. It should be noted that some of the revenue generated by a state's park system does not go back into the state park system's budget.

<sup>[3]</sup> "Federal Funds" in Table 4 are funds sourced from Federal Programs (e.g., Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, and National Scenic Byways Program). New Jersey and 20 other states reported no federal funding for state parks in 2002.

**•5. Fiscal Trends—Capital Expenditures<sup>[1]</sup> by Source (million \$, 2002)**

	Total	Park Revenues	General Fund	Dedicated Funds	Bonds	Federal Funds	Others
NJ	10.7	-	8.6	-	2.1	-	-
Ave. All States	15.6	1.3	1.7	4.6	7.0	0.8	0.3

<sup>[1]</sup> "Capital expenditures" in Table 5 are fixed capital outlay expenditures restricted to those expenditures for land acquisition, park construction, etc.

**•6. Fiscal Trends—Parks' Share of State Expenditures (\$, 2002)**

	Total State Expenditures (billion)	State Park Operating Budget (million)	Share of State Budget (%)
NJ	23.3	36.8	0.16
Avg. for All States	17.5	37.8	0.24

**•7. Financing---Revenue Sources (million \$, 2002)**

	Entrance Fees	Camping	Cabins/ Cottages/Group Facilities	Lodges	Restaurants/ Concessions	Beaches/ Pools/ Golf	Other
NJ	1.8	0.7	0.4	-	0.4	1.4	3.5
All States Avg.	3.4	4.1	1.7	3.2	3.5	3.2	2.3

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