



Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

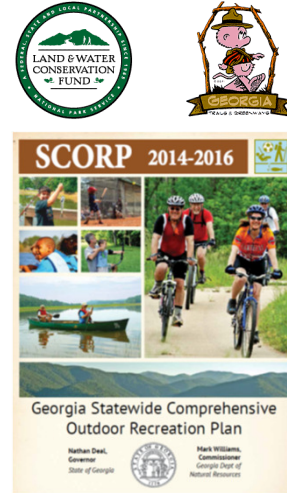
- Manages the 63 properties that preserve Georgia's environment and history
 - Mountains and Canyons
 - Forests, Fields, and Marshes
 - Waterfalls, Lakes, Swamps, and Rivers
 - Battlefields, Historic homes, and Native American Sites

The Policy Side of Parks

The Division:

- Administers two federal grant programs:
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Recreation Trails Program

- Prepares and recommends updates to the Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation (formerly known as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)



The Power of Parks....

- ◇ Happy, healthy communities: parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities are core elements of vibrant and sustainable communities.
 - ◇ One of top 3 reasons businesses cite in making relocation decisions
 - ◇ Access to parks strongly linked to reduced crime and juvenile delinquency
 - ◇ Home-buyers willing to pay more to live close to parks
 - ◇ Trees in cities save \$400 billion in storm water retention facility costs
 - ◇ People who live near parks exercise more and report better mental health, even if they don't actually exercise there

The Power of Parks...

- Parks and protected public lands:
 - Improve water quality, protect ground water, and prevent flooding
 - Improve the quality of air we breathe
 - Provide vegetative buffers to development and produce essential habitat for wildlife
 - Provide places for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together
 - Strengthen community ties and bring diverse populations together

Outdoor Recreation is BIG Business in Georgia

- \$23.3 BILLION per year in tourism economic impact
- 231,000 jobs connected to outdoor recreation
- \$7 Billion in wages and salaries
- \$1.4 Billion in state and local taxes

The Economic Impacts of Recreation are HUGE

- Golf = \$15 billion/year
- Canoeing, Kayaking & Rafting = \$11.3 billion/year
- Boating = \$2.7 billion/year
- Camping/RV = \$3.2 billion/year
- Hunting & Fishing = \$2.3 billion/year
- Silver Comet Trail = \$120 million/year
- Wineries/Vineyards = \$39 million/year

The Impact of State Parks

- 7.9 million visitors in FY 2015
- Supported 6,044 jobs
- Economic impact of \$610 Million
- Most direct benefits realized at the host community/local level

The Impact of Local and Regional Parks

- Local and regional parks create \$140 billion in economic impact activity per year and support almost 1 million jobs nationwide.
- Local park events and tournaments generate both direct revenue and indirect economic activity

On Every Scale, Parks are a Good Investment

- Georgia has received \$85 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants and leveraged these funds to accomplish over \$170 million in city, county and state park improvements
- 95% of Georgia's cities and counties have improved their quality of life and economic vitality via LWCF projects
- The current unmet demand for park and recreation improvements in Georgia exceeds \$123 million

The Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation

- A statewide blueprint for maintaining and sustaining public outdoor recreation resources to meet the demands of Georgia's diverse and growing population
- The plan, which is updated every five years, keeps Georgia eligible for federal grant support through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)



The Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation

Direction and plan of action for the future of outdoor recreation statewide with priorities for future LWCF grant cycle will be developed based on :

- Public opinion survey, input meetings and focus groups to determine attitudes, needs and priorities for outdoor recreation
- Inventory of Georgia's local, state & federal outdoor recreation resources
- National and statewide trends analysis



I like to play outside.

1. True
2. False

How often do you engage in some type of outdoor recreation?

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Several times a Year
5. Never

What is your most preferred outdoor activity?

1. Walking/Jogging/Running
2. Biking
3. Hiking
4. Horseback Riding
5. Swimming or boating
6. Hunting/Fishing
7. Team Sports
8. Extreme Sports (rock climbing, zip-lining, etc)
9. Other

Where are you most likely to engage in this activity?

1. State-owned facility or property
2. City or County facility or property
3. Private facility or property
4. Other

Why are you most likely to visit a state park?

1. Picnic
2. Family Reunion
3. Camping
4. Active Recreation (swim, golf, hike)
5. Other

Why are you most likely to visit a city or county park?

1. Picnic
2. Family Reunion
3. Team Sports
4. Walk/jog/run
5. Other

What prevents you from engaging in outdoor recreation more often?

1. Health
2. Time
3. Access to parks or trails
4. Cost
5. Safety concerns
6. Other

Outdoor Recreation in Georgia

- Why is outdoor recreation important to you and your family?
- What should be done to improve outdoor recreation?
- What obstacles will keep these improvements from being made?
- What other message or comments about outdoor recreation in Georgia do you have?



Many thanks for your participation!

If you have additional comments, please email Leigh
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