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 lead 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 Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. (http://www.dvrc.org/reports/1033A.pdf)


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