



# Benefit-Cost of Illinois State Parks and Historic Sites

July 24, 2024

1:30 - 3:30 pm

Budgeting for Results  
Commission

2024 Annual Public Hearing



**WebEx Link:**

<https://bit.ly/3xTcTFY>

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REjADBUm383

**Join by video system or application:**

26339891872@illinois.webex.com

**Join by phone:**

+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

**Meeting Number/Access code:**

2633 989 1872

Join the Illinois Budgeting for Results Commission for an in-depth discussion of methods for measuring the intangible benefits of our state parks and historic sites. Our panel of experts will highlight specific factors to consider when measuring and evaluating these types of state programs. We hope you will join us.



**Jennifer Clinton**

Jennifer is the Senior Parks and Conservation Economist with Trust for Public Land. She leads TPL's Conservation Economics portfolio, recently completing analyses in Kansas, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. In her role, Jennifer researches the economic benefits of parks, trails, and green space with a focus on TPL's four commitments: climate, equity, community, and public health. Jennifer lives on Cape Cod. She holds an M.S. in Agricultural & Resource Economics from the University of Connecticut and a B.A. in Politics from Fairfield University.



**Dr. Scott Gilbert**

Dr. Gilbert received his bachelor's degree from the University of California Berkeley. He has worked as a research associate for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. He completed his Ph.D. in economics at the University of California San Diego. He worked as an assistant professor in economics at the University of Mississippi, then joined SIU Carbondale in 1999. Gilbert teaches a variety of courses including econometrics and financial economics. He received the 2006 Economics faculty teaching award and is the faculty mentor for SIU's Economics Club and Blockchain Economics Club.



**Dr. Christelle Khalaf**

Dr. Khalaf is associate director of the Government Finance Research Center and faculty with the Dept. of Public Policy, Management, and Analytics at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Her research focus is regional economic development, government finance, and workforce transitions. Khalaf was the assoc. director of the Center for Business and Economic Analysis and faculty in the Dept. of Economics at the University of Wyoming as well as an economist at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University.



**Calvin Beckmann**

Calvin serves as the DNR chief of parks and recreation with an emphasis on public safety, preventive maintenance, and employee development. He has had a near 25-year career in the parks and recreation field including time spent as a forestry tech, municipal arborist, park operations specialist, and as the Giant City State Park site superintendent. Calvin has volunteered to learn new skills and tackle new goals whenever the mission required it, with an emphasis on professional standards, training, and continuing education.



**José Burgos**

José serves as the DNR chief external affairs officer and leads the Office of Community Outreach. In this role, he bridges the gap between the department and external stakeholders, fostering strategic partnerships that amplify the department's mission to conserve, manage, and protect Illinois' natural, recreational, and cultural resources. José holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Illinois-Springfield and a Translation Studies Graduate Certificate from the University of Chicago.



**Paula Martel**

Paula has a 30-year career with DNR and was recently promoted to director of the Office of Land Management in January 2023. She started her career in 1992 as a seasonal interpreter/student intern and advanced through various positions including a specialist in the Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program and as a procurement manager. Paula obtained a Master of Science in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Dominican University.