



ILLINOIS STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

Establishing and Maintaining State Parks and Historic Sites in Illinois

PRESENTED BY:

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PRESENTED TO:

Illinois Budgeting for Results Commission

AGENDA



- **IDNR Overview; Parks & Sites - Calvin**
- **Laws Governing State Sites – Calvin**
- **Adding Sites to State’s Inventory – Calvin**
- **Staffing Levels Analysis – Calvin**
- **Top 10 Challenges – Calvin**
- **Economic Impact of IDNR Sites – Paula**
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The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is dedicated to managing, conserving, and protecting Illinois' natural, recreational, and cultural resources. Our mission encompasses enhancing public understanding and appreciation of these resources while promoting education, science, and public safety for current and future generations.

IDNR

PARKS & SITES

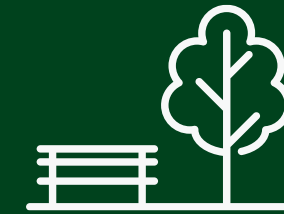


IDNR-owned and -managed sites include parks, museums, historic sites, the World Shooting and Recreational Complex, state fish and wildlife areas, state natural areas, state recreation areas, state habitat areas, boating access areas, game propagation centers, fish hatcheries, tree nurseries, dams, locks, and IDNR's administrative buildings and offices.



400+

**TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES OWNED,
LEASED OR MANAGED BY IDNR**



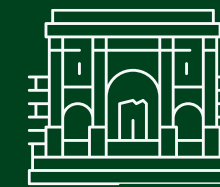
70

**NUMBER OF STATE PARKS AND
RECREATION AREAS COMBINED**



285

**NUMBER OF STATE PARKS - PARKS,
RECREATION AREAS, STATE FISH AND
WILDLIFE AREAS, STATE NATURAL
AREAS AND STATE HABITAT AREAS**



60

**NUMBER OF HISTORIC SITES;
INCLUDING MEMORIALS, AND
MISCELLANEOUS HISTORIC
PROPERTIES**

LAWS

GOVERNING STATE SITES

STATE PARKS ACT

- Provides authority to the IDNR for the care, control, supervision, and management of all State Parks acquired by the State.
- Provides the purpose and direction for the State Park System.
- Provides IDNR the authority to acquire property through donation or through purchase.

STATE PARKS DESIGNATION ACT

Provides the designation/classification of the IDNR site based upon the purpose which it was acquired.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Establishes the State Historic Preservation Board and provides IDNR jurisdiction over State Historic Sites, under the Historic Sites and Preservation Division.



ADDING SITES TO STATE'S INVENTORY

LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS: 25-35 land acquisition requests annually

- **Land ownership in Illinois:** 96% private land; 4% public lands.
- Most inquiries come from real estate agents, attorneys, auctioneers, and landowners with occasional donations from estates.
- Each parcel is vetted for wildlife & habitat value, recreational value, cultural resources, threatened & endangered species, management objectives, and environmental hazards.
- Many offers are turned down, as they do not meet the IDNR mission statement and requirements.
- Acquisition price is the same as appraisal value.



STAFFING LEVELS ANALYSIS



HISTORICAL STAFFING LEVELS:

From 1993 to 1995, IDNR Parks & Historic Sites averaged 758 total staff. Staffing levels peaked in 2000-2002 at 886, however, the 2002 budget crisis and 2008 recession led to a significant reduction.

Current staffing levels stand at 436.

CURRENT STAFFING NEEDS:

To effectively manage and operate state parks and historic sites, IDNR recommends staffing levels return to the 1995 figures of 758. Currently, 550 positions exist, but 120 positions are vacant.

208 positions would have to be re-established to meet the goal.

CHALLENGES:

It is a struggle to meet operational demands, resulting in increased deferred maintenance and failure to meet recreational and conservation goals.

FY25 STAFF INCREASE

- **100 Positions**
- **85 Park Positions**
- **15 Law Enforcement**
- **\$5.3 Million GRF**

TOP 10 CHALLENGES



1. **Road & culvert repair delays** (Oil & Chip cycle delayed, asphalt cracks not sealed, potholes, etc.) resulting in premature replacements with added costs.
2. **Roof repair delays** resulting in interior damage. (Lodges, Historical Structures, etc.).
3. **Campground utility upgrades delayed**, outdated electrical & sewer systems. (Loss of visitation).
4. **Water & Wastewater systems far behind** on the maintenance cycle (Starved Rock, Giant City, Pere Marquette water systems).
5. **Twenty-two (22) sewage lift stations failed within the past year**, requiring immediate repair.
6. **Trail maintenance deferred** resulting in poor conditions and closures, when necessary.
7. **Marina siltation blocking boater access** (Golconda, Pere Marquette, Illinois Beach, etc.).
8. **Playgrounds out of date** and beyond recommended life cycle (most are >25 years old).
9. **Fish & wildlife habitat projects impacted** due to levee and pump failures.
10. **HVAC system failures** due to age and lack of maintenance resulting in emergency replacement (Ft. Massac & Cahokia Mounds Visitors Centers).





ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IDNR SITES



The economic impact of IDNR-managed sites extends beyond direct financial contributions, fostering community development, enhancing quality of life, and promoting sustainable economic growth through nature-based tourism and recreation.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE STATE:

- Outdoor Recreation \$3.2 billion annual economic impact on the state economy
- Support for 90,000 jobs and \$32 billion of economic impact

SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE OFFICE OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

- 8,500 jobs supported
- \$1 billion in economic impact
- World Shooting Complex at Sparta generating \$15 million locally

83% surveyed state outdoor recreation plays an important role in their lives

❖ IDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2021-2025

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/publications/documents/00000823.pdf>

REVENUE AND OPERATING EXPENSES



Funding and revenue are critical for sustaining IDNR's operations and initiatives. Effective utilization of these funds ensures the continued availability of high-quality recreational opportunities and the preservation of Illinois' natural and cultural resources.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 REVENUE:

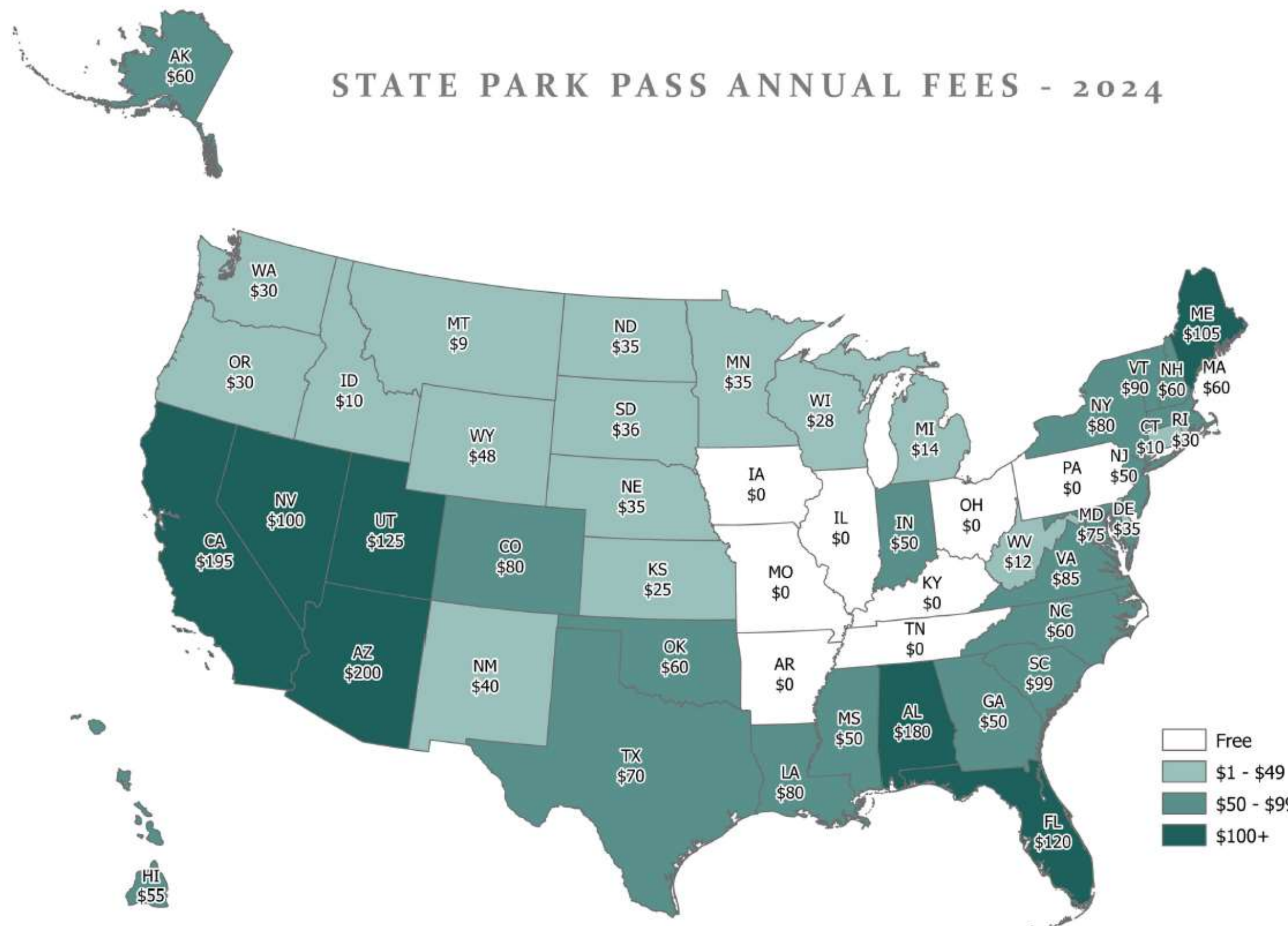
IDNR funding primarily comes from state funding, supplemented by federal grants, licenses, permits, agricultural leases, concessions, and camping fees.

- **State Funding:** \$1,576,483,027.07 (90.2%)
- **Federal Grants:** \$85,740,755.41 (4.9%)
- **License/Permits:** \$55,023,028.50 (3.1%)
- **Agricultural Leases:** \$6,657,390.29 (0.4%)
- **Concessions:** \$1,856,151.68 (0.1%)
- **Camping Fees:** \$8,566,020.70 (0.5%)
- **Miscellaneous:** \$13,716,955.35 (0.8%)

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

- **Payrolls:** \$59,272,950.02
- **Contractual (M&R; Postage; Travel):** \$11,583,846.03
- **Commodities & Printing:** \$12,544,090.05
- **Equipment:** \$2,284,305.05
- **Electronic Data Processing:** \$9,411.00
- **Telecommunications:** \$1,737,145.74
- **Automotive Equipment Operation:** \$1,877,00.22
- **Lump Sum:** \$174,436,018.70
- **Awards & Grants:** \$85,732,107.41
- **Permanent Improvements:** \$23,789,950.06
- **Highway & Waterway Construction:** \$4,556,315.12
- **Refunds:** \$364,340.00

AGENCY TOTAL: \$368,187,509.40



- 42 States charge an annual fee.
- 8 States do not charge entrance fees. However, a few states have various fees, such as boat launch, equestrian, etc. that Illinois does not have.
- Average annual resident pass fee is \$61.00.
- Three states automatically charge an annual park fee on each passenger vehicle registration (Connecticut, Idaho & Montana).

GOMB ILLINOIS PERFORMANCE REPORTING SYSTEM (IPRS)
AND ILLINOIS OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING (PAR)



VISITORS STATISTICS AND FACILITIES

IDNR-managed sites are popular destinations, with an **average of 35 million visitors annually**, peaking at 40 million during the pandemic.

Program	Indicator/Measure	FY22 Target/Projection	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Target/Projection	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Target/Projection
Resource Compatible Recreation	Site Attendance	39,700,000.00	38,588,761.00	39,700,000.00	32,014,241.00	35,500,000.00
Resource Compatible Recreation	Percentage of highly satisfied park visitors	0.90	0.65	0.90	0.53	0.75
Resource Compatible Recreation	Cost per visitor	1.95	1.59	1.95	1.71	3.23
Resource Compatible Recreation	Cost per acre managed	155.00	124.00	144.00	115.00	121.00

INTANGIBLE BENEFITS TO RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

Access to natural spaces and recreational activities enhances the quality of life for Illinois residents. These sites provide a refuge from urban life, offering peaceful environments for relaxation and rejuvenation.

MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and promote physical health. Activities like hiking, biking, and swimming help maintain a healthy lifestyle.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

IDNR sites offer educational programs and community outreach initiatives that promote environmental awareness and conservation. These programs engage the public, fostering a sense of stewardship and connection to natural resources.



EVERYONE **BELONGS** IN NATURE



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

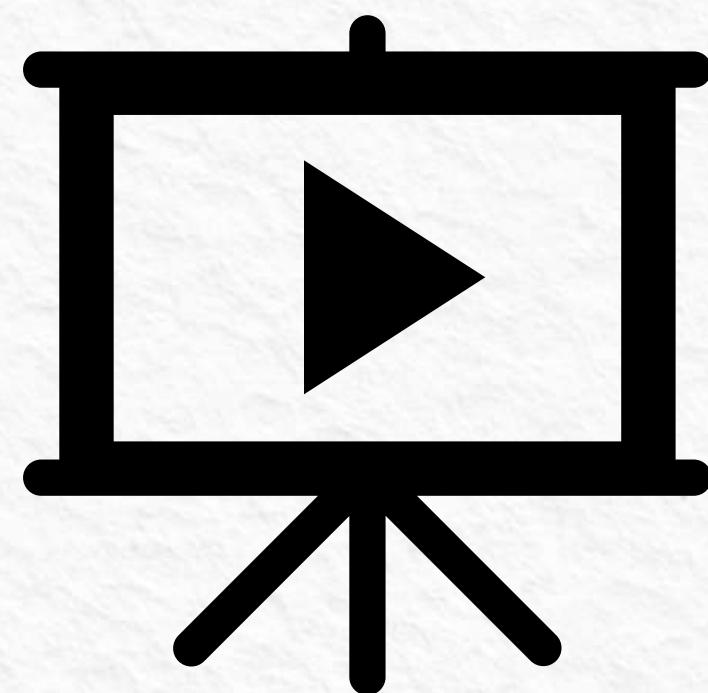


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



INCLUSIVE EVENTS

The benefits of IDNR-managed sites extend beyond economic impacts. They play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life, promoting health and wellness, and fostering community engagement. **The "Everyone Belongs in Nature" campaign is a vital part of IDNR's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive environment in Illinois' state parks and historic sites.**





THANK YOU