

# TESTIMONY ATTACHMENTS

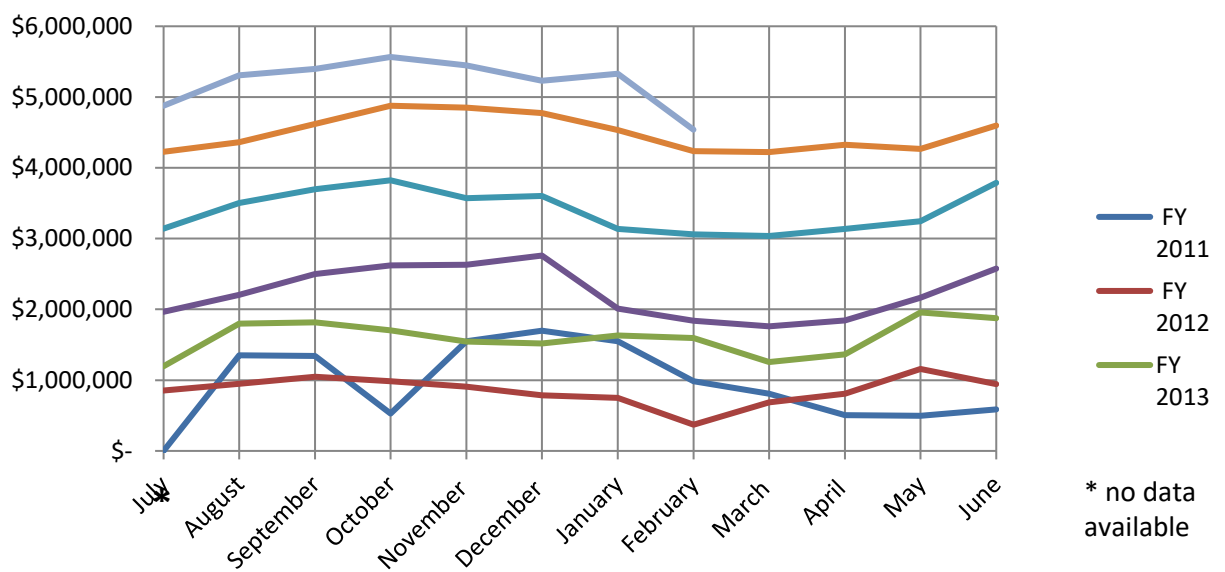
April 5, 2017

**Linda S. Lanterman**  
**Director of Kansas State Parks**

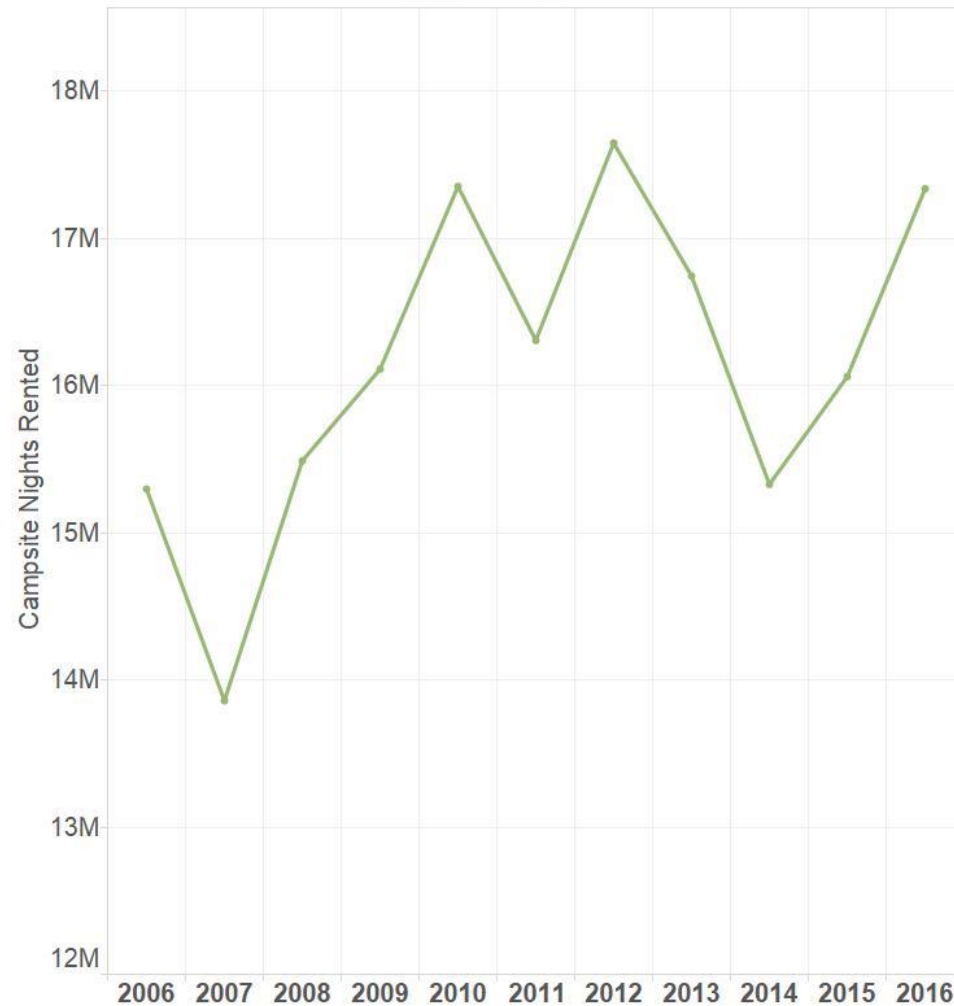
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Pratt, KS 67124



# PARK FEE FUND BALANCE

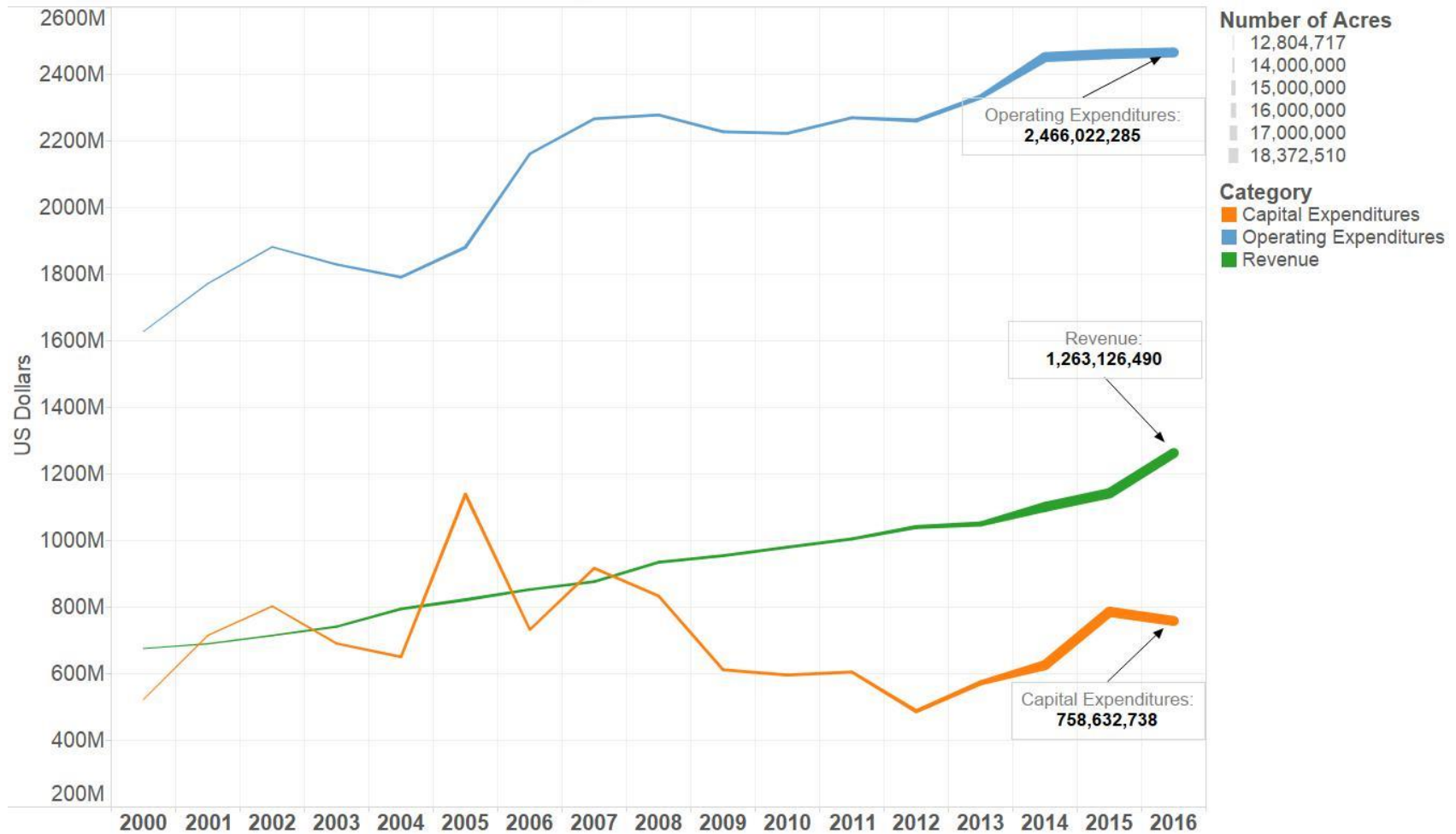


### Campsite Nights Rented 2006 - 2016



Total number of campsite nights rented from 2006 to 2016. Campsite nights include both year round and seasonal sites. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.

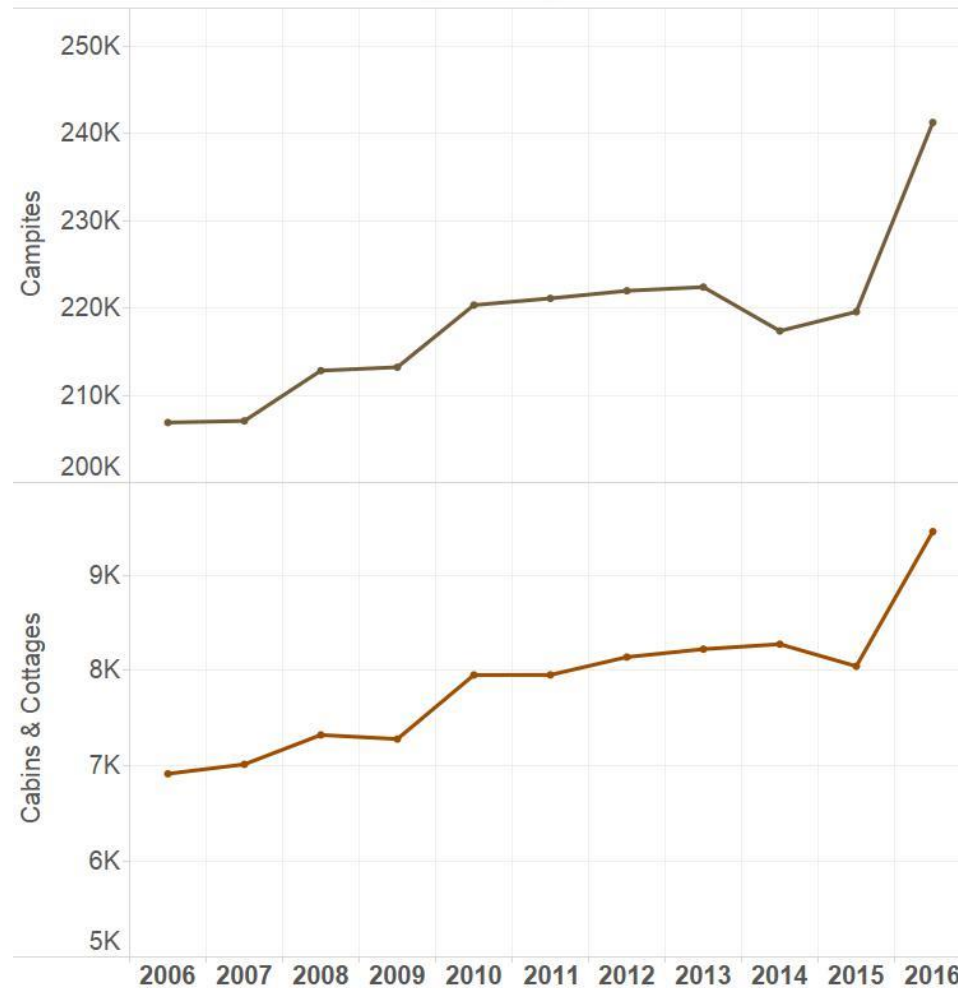
## Revenue & Expenditures 2000 - 2016



Operating expenses, capital expenditures, and revenue from 2000 and 2016. Width of the line graph indicates the total acres of State Parks, with wider lines indicating greater number of acres. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.

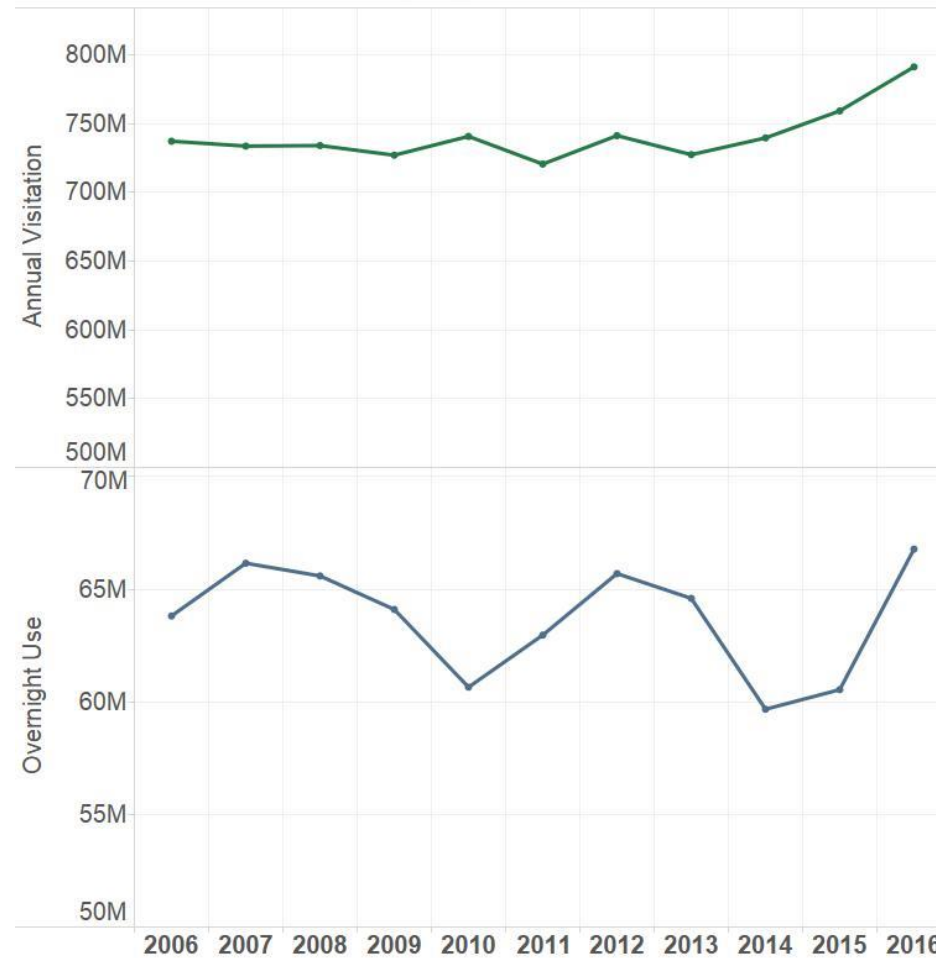


## Number of Campsites, Cabins, & Cottages 2006 - 2016



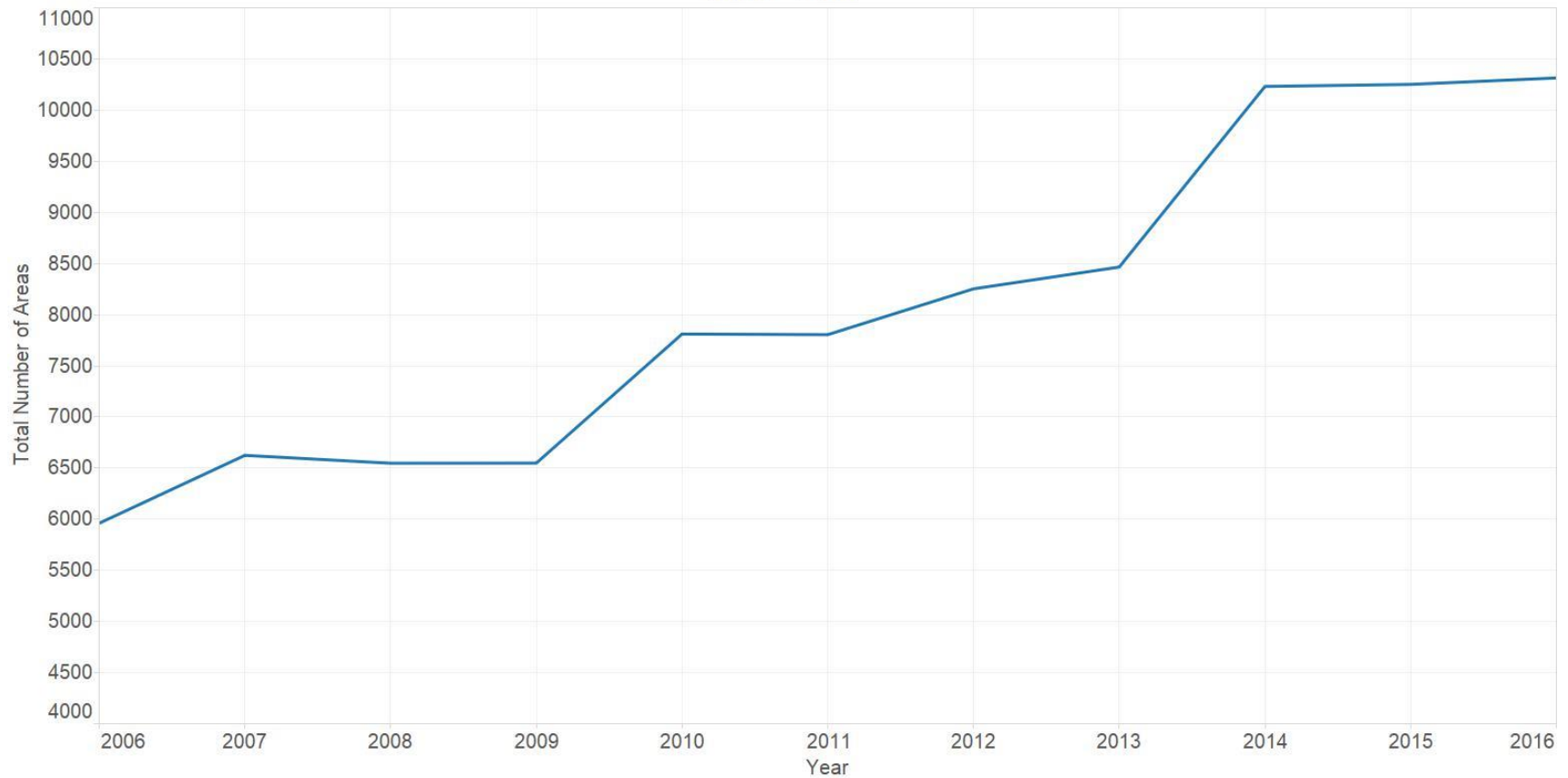
Total number of campsites, cabins, and cottages in the State Parks from 2006 to 2016. Campsites range from primitive to those with multiple hookups. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.

### State Park System Attendance Total and Overnight Use 2006 - 2016



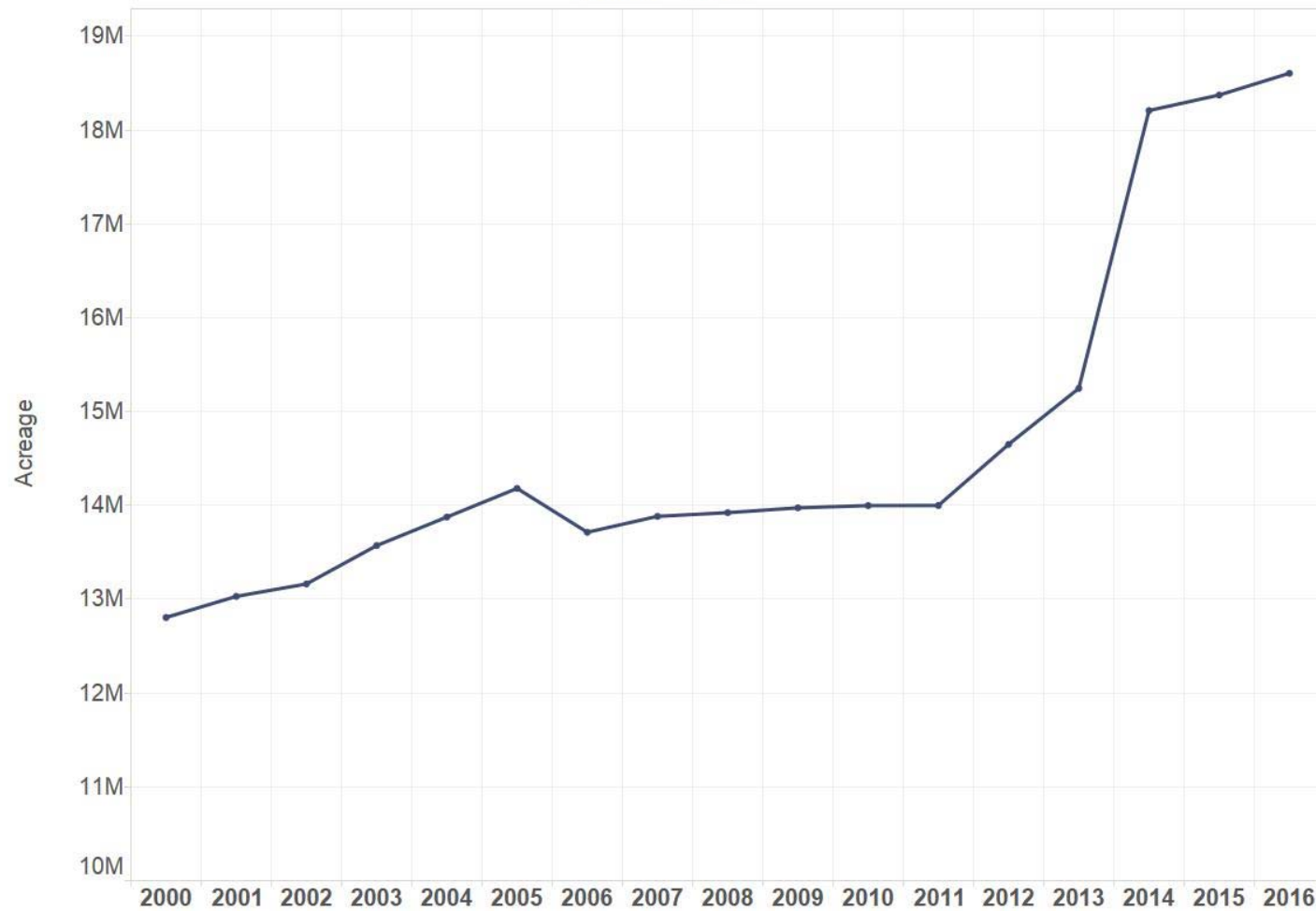
Total and overnight use of State Parks system. Attendance includes visitors to fee and non-fee areas. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.

Number of Areas in the State Parks System  
2006 - 2016



Total number of areas within the State Parks system. Areas include units managed as 'parks', 'recreation areas', 'natural areas', 'historical areas', 'environmental education areas', 'scientific areas', 'forests', 'fish and wildlife areas' and 'other miscellaneous. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.

### State Parks System Acreage 2000 - 2016



Total number of acres of State Parks from 2000 to 2016. Acreage includes the total area within the states' park systems managed as 'parks', 'recreation areas', 'natural areas', 'historical areas', 'environmental education areas', 'scientific areas', 'forests', 'fish and wildlife areas' and 'other miscellaneous'. Data are from the Annual Information Exchange, a survey of state park agencies conducted by the National Association of State Park Directors and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University.



## 2017 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD



### OVERVIEW

A vast network of infrastructure goes into supporting more than seven billion outdoor recreational outings. Americans enjoy park and recreation facilities maintained by entities at all levels of government. At the federal level, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are the main providers of park facilities. States and localities provide the bulk of park and recreational facilities that seven in 10 Americans use on a regular basis. National forests and grasslands capture and filter drinking water for 180 million people. America's parks and public lands also support industries such as lodging, restaurants and bars, grocery and convenience stores, and gas stations.

### CONDITION & CAPACITY

A vast network of infrastructure goes into supporting more than seven billion outdoor recreational outings. Roads, bridges, trails, campsites, boat ramps, and other facilities help facilitate interaction with our public lands and access to the outdoors. The National Park Service (NPS) alone manages more than 75,000 constructed assets. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) ranks among the top federal providers of outdoor recreation, hosting approximately 370 million visitors annually at 403 lake and river projects in 43 states. NPS welcomed 307.2 million visitors in 2015 and national forests and grasslands hosted 161 million visits in 2012. Our national wildlife refuges accommodated nearly 47 million visitors in 2014. All of these parks require roads, trails, parking areas, and other facilities to make them accessible. Maintenance and investment keep the infrastructure safe and capable of meeting the demand of a growing population.

America's parks and public lands also support numerous industries within our economy – lodging, restaurants and bars, grocery and convenience stores, gas stations, and other retailers. In 2015 NPS visitors spent \$16.9 billion in communities within 60 miles of a park. Their spending supported 295,000 jobs that produced a payroll of \$11.1 billion. U.S. Forest Service lands support more than 205,000 jobs



## 2017 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

associated with recreation and wildlife visitor use. Their visitors contribute \$11 billion to the economies of mostly rural, gateway communities each year.

Capital spending by local and regional public park agencies in the U.S. generated nearly \$59.7 billion in economic activity and supported 340,000 jobs in 2013. The more than 6,600 state park sites constitute less than a quarter of national acreage, but see two and a half times as many visitors on an annual basis—nearly 759 million visits in 2015. The average local park and recreation agency provides 9.5 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. 29% of American households reported using their local park frequently in 2015 and 47% reported frequenting occasionally.

These lands, historical parks and cultural sites, monuments, battlefields, and recreational areas play other critical roles in American life. National forests and grasslands capture and filter drinking water for 180 million people in over 68,000 communities. It's estimated that the value of water flowing from U.S. Forest Service lands is \$7.2 billion annually. Major U.S. cities like Los Angeles, Portland, Denver, and Atlanta receive a significant portion of their water supply from national forests.

### INVESTMENT AND FUNDING

The 2016 centennial of the National Park Service helped shine a light on the infrastructure needs and crowded facilities in our national parks. In 2015 NPS reached a record-high of \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance, which NPS defines as “maintenance that was not performed at the required intervals to ensure an acceptable facility condition to support the expected life cycle of an asset.” \$5.97 billion of the deferred maintenance is for paved roads and structures including bridges, tunnels, and paved parking areas. The remaining \$5.95 billion in deferred maintenance includes unpaved parking areas, unpaved roadways, utility systems, dams, constructed waterways, marinas, aviation systems, railroads, ships, monuments, fortifications, towers, interpretive media, and amphitheaters.

NPS classifies \$2.38 billion of these other facilities as highest priority non-transportation facilities. This is a total increase of \$434.2 million in total deferred maintenance over the year before and an increase of over a billion dollars in deferred maintenance in paved roads and structures since 2013.

At other federally owned and operated parks, the situation is similar. The USACE manages 12 million acres of lands and waters that are available for a wide variety of recreational activities. Visitation has steadily increased in recent years, and this upward trend is likely to continue; 90% of USACE lakes and rivers with recreation areas are located within 50 miles of a metropolitan area. Visitors to USACE facilities spend \$13 billion annually and support 187,000 jobs. The majority of USACE recreation facilities are over 50 years old and require upkeep to meet visitor health and safety standards. The USACE continually evaluates recreation area operations to maintain or improve cost efficiency in operations.

At the Forest Service, budgets are being squeezed by the need to focus more financial resources on wildfire suppression. At the close of FY2015, the Forest Service reported a \$5.1 billion maintenance backlog, including deferred maintenance for roads, trails, buildings, water systems, and fences, among other categories. Since then, deferred maintenance totals have likely grown, because for the first time in the agency's history, more than half of its budget is being consumed by spending related to wildfires.





## 2017 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

Investment in outdoor recreation facilities will continue to be impacted as more and more development encroaches into areas at risk from wildfire.

It's not just national parks that face significant budget shortfalls; Since the 1990s, general fund support for state parks has steadily declined. States have undertaken various strategies to fill the gap, including increasing user fees for park entrance, camping and lodging, and recreational activities, as well as privatizing certain park operations. However, these financing strategies are insufficient to address the significant backlog of critical infrastructure projects. Conservative estimations indicate deferred maintenance in state parks totals more than \$95.3 billion.

There has been some progress in addressing the chronic underfunding of our park and recreation infrastructure over the past few years. Congressional appropriations to NPS increased 7.5% over the last 10 years, after adjusting for inflation. For state parks, total operational capital expenditures grew 25.3%, or \$159 million, in 2016. These gains were often a result of increased general fund allocations or dedicated bonds, both made possible by a recovering economy.

The federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP 21) established the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) to supplement the deferred maintenance budget typically provided through discretionary appropriations. It provided \$240 million to NPS and \$30 million to be allocated competitively to the Forest Service, Corps, and Bureau of Land Management. FLTP was reauthorized under the most recent federal transportation bill, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, in December of 2015. The NPS receives an annual sum each year through the FAST Act and is expected to receive a total of \$1.4 billion between FY16-FY2020. The U.S. Forest Service will also receive an annual sum for a total investment of \$85 million. The Corps will compete with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and other independent federal agencies with natural resource and land management responsibilities for an additional \$120 million available through FLTP.

In December of 2016, Congress passed the National Park Service Centennial Act (H.R. 4680). This legislation establishes the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund (NPCCF) that requires a one-to-one match of federal and private funds, directs the National Parks Foundation to create A Second Century endowment, and focuses NPCCF investment on an identified list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding, while prioritizing deferred maintenance, physical improvements to visitor services facilities, and trail maintenance.

There are also lessons to be learned from our state parks. Utah and South Carolina are adding new recreational infrastructure to spur increased revenue. Michigan and Idaho have increased revenues by offering year-round passes at their Department of Motor Vehicles. By increasing their access to potential customers, Michigan has seen a 30% increase in year-round pass revenue despite decreasing the cost of the pass from \$24 to \$10 for a license plate access sticker.

### SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADES

- Charge appropriate user fees at the local, state, and federal levels and allowing those agencies to use all collected user fees to support maintenance, operations and enhancements to their park systems.



## 2017 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

- Encourage communities who benefit economically from parks and public lands investment to also invest in their maintenance.
- Reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support acquisition of land and easements on land at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Increase appropriations for the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service, and other federal providers of recreational facilities to address maintenance backlogs.
- Leverage partnerships between the National Park Service and other recreation facilities operators and private groups to better utilize facilities and compensate for usage.
- Enact legislation to permit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to retain all collected recreation fees for use at its facilities.
- Renegotiate franchise fees with concessionaires of park and recreation facilities to increase return to support operation and maintenance of facilities.
- Conservation and recreation advocates should collaborate and cooperate to benefit public interest in both conservation and recreation.

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STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Kansas citizens have a proud tradition of both safeguarding the environment and enjoying the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, a clean and sustainable environment contributes to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation promotes health, fitness, and environmental awareness; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, it is up to all of us to maintain and enhance our legacy of environmental stewardship and enjoyment of the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month connects all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children, through diverse events including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Campout, Kids to Parks Day, Great Outdoors Month National Day of Service and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in Kansas, where it is estimated at \$9.3 billion and supports some 116,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to leave a well-tended legacy to those who will follow us:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim June of 2016 as

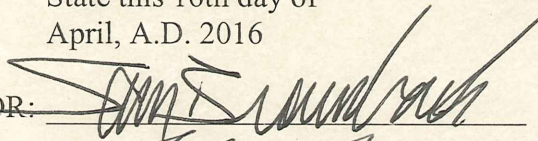
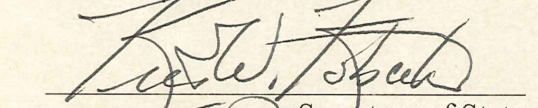
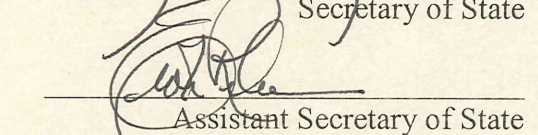
*Great Outdoors Month*

in Kansas and urge everyone to join in this observance by visiting our state's wonderful state and local parks and national sites, enjoying them with family and friends, and making outdoor activities a regular part of life in the Sunflower State.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of the  
State this 16th day of  
April, A.D. 2016

BY THE GOVERNOR:



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary of State





# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, Alabama is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and*

*WHEREAS, from the beaches of the Gulf Coast to the Appalachian foothills, Alabama's 22 State Parks reflect every facet of the state's rich natural landscape; and*

*WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and*

*WHEREAS, enjoyment of the Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and*

*WHEREAS, recreationists are the most active volunteers in Alabama, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and*

*WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month connects all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children, through diverse events including National Trail Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and*

*WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and*

*WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June, 2016, as*

# *Great Outdoors Month*

*in the State of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2016.*

*Robert Bentley*  
Robert Bentley, Governor



GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

# STATE OF ARIZONA ★ PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and

**WHEREAS**, our kids today spend an average of 10 hours a day in front of a screen and outdoor activity is touted by many leading health organizations as a remedy to the adverse effects caused by our increasing inactivity; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse Great Outdoors Month events including National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great Outdoors Month, National Day of Service, the Great American Campout, Kids to Parks Day and more help connect citizens of all ages to healthy fun outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, other events during Great Outdoors Month such as National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day and Get Into Your Sanctuary Days provide all of us, especially our children, with exciting opportunities for recreation on the great waters of our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures, and in our state, where it is estimated at \$17.1 billion and supports some 166,000 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona's 30 state parks, 22 national park units, six national forests and more reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

**WHEREAS**, enjoyment of our Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which make outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as**

## GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

and I further urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other countries to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve Arizona's Great Outdoors.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

*Douglas A. Ducey*  
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twelfth day of May in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fortieth.

ATTEST:

*Michelle Reagan*

SECRETARY OF STATE





**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

***GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH IN FLORIDA***

**WHEREAS, Florida is blessed with outstanding opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and Florida's natural beauty and pristine beaches continue to draw millions of visitors to our state and provide valuable jobs for our families; and**

**WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month promotes outdoor recreational activities, such as biking, swimming, hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and much more; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's 174 state parks, trails and historic sites offer numerous recreational opportunities, encompassing nearly 800,000 acres, 100 miles of beach and more than 1,500 miles of multi-use trails; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's state parks and state trails will join with the Florida Trail Association to host hikes and paddling events around the state for National Trails Day on June 4, 2016; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission observes National Fishing and Boating Week, from June 4 – 12, 2016, by offering citizens license-free days; and**

**WHEREAS, marina operators and boaters will observe National Marina Day on June 11, 2016; and**

**WHEREAS, citizens will be encouraged to observe National Get Outdoors Day on June 11, 2016, to pursue outdoor activities of their choice with family and friends; and**

**WHEREAS, parents and children will observe the Great American Camp Out on June 25, 2016, by camping in their backyards; and**

**WHEREAS, under Governor Scott's leadership, Florida has seen a commitment to protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources through record funding and the creation of a dedicated source of funding for the Everglades and springs; and**

**WHEREAS, in addition to a record \$50 million for springs restoration, the Florida First budget invests \$24 million specifically in repairs and renovations to state parks, \$32 million for beach and dune restoration, \$110 million increased land management and new land acquisitions, and more than \$188 million for Everglades restoration;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing June 2016 as *Great Outdoors Month in Florida*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this third day of March, in the year two thousand sixteen.**

  
Governor

# Proclamation

by

Matthew G. Bevin  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, Kentucky is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors by enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends; and
- WHEREAS, Today's children spend an average of 10 hours per day in front of a screen and outdoor activity is touted by many leading health organizations as a remedy to the adverse effects caused by increasing inactivity among children and adults; and
- WHEREAS, Events during Great Outdoors Month, such as National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, and Get Into Your Sanctuary Days, provide exciting opportunities for recreation on the waters of Kentucky; and
- WHEREAS, The economic impact of outdoor recreation is large and growing in our state, where it is estimated at \$12.02 billion and supports some 148,000 jobs; and
- WHEREAS, Kentucky's 49 state parks, six national parks, and two national forests attract millions of visitors each year and reflect every facet of our state's rich natural and cultural history; and
- WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the commitment of the Commonwealth to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife, and lands, as well as contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes, and fees; and
- WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries, and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, as well as new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Kentucky's own Trail Town Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW G. BEVIN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim June 2016, as

## GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Kentucky, and urge all citizens to get outdoors and experience the beauty of our Commonwealth.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen and in the 224<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

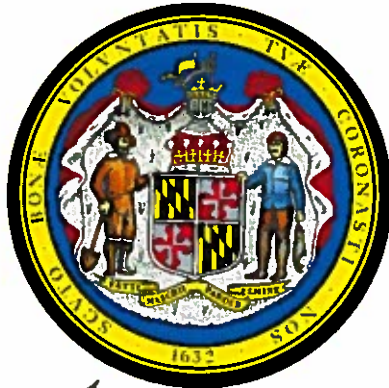


  
MATTHEW G. BEVIN  
GOVERNOR

  
ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES  
SECRETARY OF STATE



# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

**GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH  
JUNE 2016**

- WHEREAS,** *Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to celebrate and experience Maryland's natural treasures and renew our commitment to safeguarding our air, land and water; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Dedicated men and women work to preserve, protect, enhance and restore our natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Opportunities abound to hike, fish, camp and enjoy countless other outdoor activities throughout the Free State where families and friends of all ages can create memorable experiences and develop a connection to nature; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Children who spend frequent time outdoors may enjoy better health, fitness and vitality, less physical and emotional illness, and improved academic performance; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Each citizen plays an important role in continuing our legacy of stewardship and enjoyment of the great outdoors.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim JUNE 2016 as GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH in Maryland, and call upon the people of our state to join in supporting this observance.**



Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 1st day of June  
Two Thousand and sixteen

*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Governor

*Robert K. Lathrop*  
Lt. Governor

*John C. W. W. W.*  
Secretary of State



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

From the canyons of the Panhandle to the wide-sweeping plains, the Gulf Coast to the rugged Hill Country, and the fertile Rio Grande Valley to the lush forests of East Texas, the Lone Star State has been blessed with glorious natural beauty.

Outdoor enthusiasts from across the country and around the world travel to Texas to enjoy our natural treasures and to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities — boating, hunting, cycling, fishing, camping, hiking, rock climbing and wildlife watching, to name just a few. These activities encourage active lifestyles and environmental conservation.

With 54 state parks, 13 national park units, four national forests and other outdoor spaces, opportunities to get outside abound in the Lone Star State. Outdoor recreation also has a great economic impact in our state, with \$48 billion in annual expenditures and 440,000 jobs supported.

Each year, the month of June is dedicated to promoting awareness of the great outdoors. We must take time to recognize and appreciate the majestic landscapes of the Lone Star State and teach young Texans all the benefits of spending time in nature.

At this time, I encourage everyone to explore Texas' great outdoors and to help preserve it for future generations.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim June 2016 to be

## **Great Outdoors Month**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

  
Governor of Texas





## THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001

### GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

\*\*\*\*\*

### BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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### A PROCLAMATION

President Barack Obama has proclaimed June 2013 as *Great Outdoors Month* to honor and celebrate the Nation's natural diversity and to promote outdoor recreation, protect landscapes and connect people with nature. In furtherance of *Great Outdoors Month*, First Lady Michelle Obama, through her *Let's Move Outside!* initiative, encourages children and families to explore the outdoors and engage in outdoor recreation.

*Great Outdoors Month*, established in the United States Virgin Islands by Resolution No. 1793, symbolizes that the Territory is known worldwide by its abundance of picturesque landscapes, earning the title - *American's Paradise*. The four islands - *St. Croix*, *St. Thomas*, *St. John* and *Water Island* - offer internationally acclaimed white sand beaches and crystal blue waters, revered historic sites, natural habitats and rich lands, which all host the scene for numerous adventures and recreational opportunities, such as swimming, diving, sailing, biking, fishing, nature walking, horseback riding, touring and hiking, providing a unique experience for generations of residents and visitors to learn about the history and mystical wonders of the Territory's landscapes.

An active outdoor lifestyle has tremendous physical, education and social benefits for everyone. Specifically, an affordable outdoor activity have been shown to be essential components in the development and maintenance of healthy, competitive and well-rounded children, and also teaches them skills that will last a lifetime.

*Great Outdoors Month* is also a month to pay tribute to the individuals, non-profit organizations, and Government departments and agencies who hard work and are dedicated to keeping the Territory's thousands of acres of public land clean, safe and accessible to our residents and visitors alike and providing them the opportunity to experience the Territory's natural splendor. A celebration of the great outdoors also requires residents and visitors to be environmental stewards and protectors of our natural environment so that we can first, protect the outdoors which is the Territory's major tourism asset and secondly, leave future generations with a healthy and flourishing land.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, John P. deJongh, Jr., Governor of the State of Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and in furtherance of Resolution No. 1793, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2013 as *Great Outdoors Month* in the United States Virgin Islands. I encourage all residents throughout the Territory to participate in outdoor activities, reacquaint yourself with your beautiful island and its waters, and enjoy all that our Virgin Islands' have to offer.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013, A.D.



  
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**John P. de Jongh, Jr.**  
Governor

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gregory R. Francis**  
Lieutenant Governor











