

Iowa State Parks – An Overview (cont.)

Operation Funds -- \$15.4 million annually (currently \$13.4 million)

- General Fund -- \$8.3 million (currently \$6.3 million)
- Campground, cabin, lodge, and shelter receipts -- \$3.7 million
- Miscellaneous receipts -- \$600,000
- Infrastructure funds (gaming receipts) -- \$2.47 million
- Cedar Rock Trust -- \$270,000

General Operations Expenditure Categories

- Permanent staff salaries -- \$8.8 million
- Seasonal staff -- \$1.9 million
- Utilities -- \$775,000
- State vehicle operation -- \$470,000
- State vehicle depreciation -- \$352,000
- Communications -- \$172,000
- Facility maintenance supplies -- \$436,000
- Equipment maintenance -- \$278,000
- Outside services (garbage pick-up, porta-potty rentals) -- \$320,000
- Major equipment replacement -- \$309,000
- Smaller equipment, including computers -- \$60,000

NOTE: In recent past years, state parks operation budget has remained at status quo funding, except for limited increases for staff salaries and earmarked programs. As the cost of utilities, state vehicle operations, and communications increased, less money is available for seasonal staff, equipment replacement and maintenance, and building and grounds maintenance.

Current Vacancies

- 7 rangers – Gull Point, Lake Manawa, Red Haw, Geode, Pine Lake, Lewis & Clark, and Lake Anita
- 2 managers – Rock Creek and Green Valley
- 1 natural resource technician – Beeds Lake
- 1 Administrative Assistant (reservation system coordinator) – central office
- 75% of seasonal workers (66 FTEs)

Means for Accomplishing Budget Reductions to Date

- hiring freeze of permanent positions
- reduce the number of seasonal workers
- small reductions in line items throughout the budget
- no equipment replacement
- only make emergency repairs on equipment and facilities
- take advantage of park receipts being greater than projected

State Park 2020 Initiative

- Conception of initiative – every state park in premier condition by 2020 which will be the 100th anniversary of state parks in Iowa
- Contact Gerry Schnepf, Keep Iowa Beautiful
- Creation of a workgroup
- Recruitment of two co-chairs (former Governor Terry Branstad and former Congressman Neal Smith)
- Creation of Iowa Parks Foundation
- Contract for an Executive Director (Kent Sovern, The Iowa Group)

Iowa Park Foundation

- Mission – Strengthen the connection between Iowans and their parks by:
 - o Creating innovative partnerships
 - o Making strategic grants that transform Iowa's parks
 - o Improve Iowan's health and quality of life
- Vision – Establish a sustainable philanthropic organization designed to assemble public and private assets which will be used to transform Iowa park lands by the year 2020
- Mantra – Connect ----- Transform ----- Celebrate

Iowa State Parks – An Overview
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43 State Parks – open 4:00 AM to 10:30 PM, no hunting except for special deer population hunts, full-time staff permanently assigned to area

- 19 geological, natural, scenic, science-based, historical
- 23 primarily created for lake recreation purposes via an artificial lake or oxbow
- 1 architectural/historic (Cedar Rock House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)

11 State Park Satellite Areas – miscellaneous state parks that are not permanently staffed

5 State Recreation Areas – opened 24 hours, hunting allowed, full-time staff permanently assigned

7 State Recreation Satellite Areas -- miscellaneous state recreation areas that are not permanently staffed

1 Resort State Park – primarily operated via contract with private company

4 State Forest Campgrounds – campgrounds in state forests managed by park staff

21 County/City/Township Managed State Parks – per long-term agreement

1 Milt Hunt Central Shop – located near Solon, fabricates state park signs and furniture

1 Springbrook Education Center – maintenance and guest services provided by state park staff, education programs provided by Communications Bureau

Basic Inventory of Facilities

- 5,000 campsites
- 86 rental cabins
- 27 day-use lodges
- 147 picnic shelters
- 4 picnic shelters w/ attached kitchen and restrooms
- 5 interpretive centers/museums
- 19 beach concession buildings
- 39 beaches
- 67 shower buildings
- 75 modern restrooms
- 230 pit toilets
- 40 sewage lagoons and associated sewer lines
- 150 septic tanks/systems
- 56 drinking water systems
- 51 park offices
- 640 miles of trail
- 470 miles of road
- 316 paved parking lots
- 125 boat ramps
- 58 park residences

108 Full-Time staff – 7 in Des Moines office, 2 in Milt Hunt Central Shop, 6 district supervisors, 3 district office secretaries, 39 park rangers (peace officers), 39 park managers, 7 natural resource technicians, 1 museum technician, 2 custodians, 1 maintenance worker, 1 construction worker

250+ seasonal staff -- recreation aides, limited to 780 hours per year (includes general maintenance, interpreters, ecosystem management, and trails crew). Included among this seasonal staff are 25 AmeriCorps workers)

101 Campground Hosts in 35 state parks and recreation areas – volunteers, no charge for camping, provide information to campers, clean shower buildings

31 State Park Friends Groups – volunteers

6,500 volunteers logging 45,000 hours