

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS



CLEVELAND METROPARKS

Started in 1917, Cleveland Metroparks is the oldest park district in Ohio. Cleveland Metroparks trails and parks provide a host of environmental and economic benefits that are truly unique given the level of development in Cuyahoga County. Cleveland Metroparks owns and manages 18 parks and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, which contain over 22,800 acres, hundreds of trail miles, and other high-quality park infrastructure.

The land and trails owned by Cleveland Metroparks are attractive to residents and visitors of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township because they provide scenic beauty, natural areas to view wildlife, trails, and safe, clean facilities.¹

A recent study by The Trust for Public Land found that Cleveland Metroparks generates over \$855 million annually to the local economy and provides additional economic benefits.²

Cleveland Metroparks enhances property values

- Cleveland Metroparks trails and parks increase the value of nearby residential properties because people like living close to parks and trails and are willing to pay for the privilege. Parks add a 5 percent premium to the market value of neighboring properties, while trails add 2 percent.³ These areas raise the value of nearby residential properties by \$123 million.⁴

Cleveland Metroparks offers recreational opportunities and attracts talented workers

- Residents also enjoy Cleveland Metroparks trails and parks. Each year residents of Cuyahoga County receive a benefit of \$40.4 million for the direct recreational use of these park facilities.⁵

- Cleveland Metroparks trails and parks make the area an attractive place to live and work. Skilled workers are attracted to places like Cuyahoga County where there is open space, clean air and water, and ample opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Cleveland Metroparks boosts the local tourism economy

- Tourism is one of Cuyahoga County's largest industries, producing \$6.66 billion in sales annually. Outdoor recreation on parks and trails, like those provided by Cleveland Metroparks, is a large contributor to the tourism industry.⁶

- Approximately 11 percent of visitors to Cuyahoga County come for the purpose of visiting the outdoors, such as parks, trails, and beaches. These visitors spend \$733 million annually in the local economy and generate \$50.5 million in state and local sales taxes.⁷



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End notes

1. Triad Research Group, *Cleveland Metroparks 2010-2011 In-Park Users Survey* (2011).
2. The Trust for Public Land, *The Economic Benefits of Cleveland Metroparks* (2013).
3. Ibid.
4. These areas also provide additional property tax revenues of \$3.09 million a year; *The Trust for Public Land, The Economic Benefits of Cleveland Metroparks* (2013).
5. The Trust for Public Land, *The Economic Benefits of Cleveland Metroparks* (2013).
6. Ohio Office of Tourism and Tourism Economics, *Cuyahoga County Detail* (presentation provided by Eric Herzog, Ohio Office of Tourism, August 13, 2013); Ohio Office of Tourism and Tourism Economics, *Untitled Presentation* (presentation provided by Eric Herzog, Ohio Office of Tourism, July 29, 2013).
7. Ibid.
8. K.E. Powell, L.M. Martin, and P.P. Chowdhury, "Places to Walk: Convenience and Regular Physical Activity" (*American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 93, no. 9, 2003, pp. 1519-1521); M. Pratt, C.A. Macera, and G. Wang, "Higher medical costs associated with physical inactivity" (*Physician and Sportsmedicine*, vol. 28, 2000, pp. 63-70).
9. The Trust for Public Land, *The Economic Benefits of Cleveland Metroparks* (2013).
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.

Cleveland Metroparks creates health care cost savings

- Independent research shows that park use translates into increased physical activity, resulting in medical cost savings.⁸ Approximately 144,000 adult residents of Cuyahoga County engage in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measurable health benefits, yielding annual health care cost savings of \$59.5 million.⁹

Cleveland Metroparks reduces other government costs

- Cleveland Metroparks reduce stormwater management costs by capturing precipitation and slowing its runoff. These park areas lower stormwater management costs by \$5.12 million annually.¹⁰
- Trees and shrubs in Cleveland Metroparks remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures. Such spaces reduce pollution control costs in Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township by \$14.4 million per year.¹¹



CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO



Full report available at tpl.org/ohio

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