



## **The High Cost of a Park Giveaway: What It Means for Iowa**

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President Trump's plan to transfer national park sites like the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site or the Effigy Mounds National Monument to state control would devastate Iowa's economy, overwhelm its budget, and dismantle the systems that keep public lands running.

Here's what Iowa stands to lose:

### **\$15.8 Million in Economic Output**

In 2023, 172,000 visitors to Iowa's national parks spent an estimated \$11.9 million, supporting:

- 172 jobs
- \$5.1 million in labor income
- \$15.8 million in economic output

Reduced visitation from degraded services, lost NPS branding, and higher state fees would hit small businesses and rural economies hard.

### **\$21 Million in Deferred Maintenance**

Iowa's national parks face a \$21 million maintenance backlog across just two designated units. Under state control, Iowa would inherit this cost without access to federal repair funding like the \$1.3 billion per year from the Great American Outdoors Act.

### **Millions in Annual Operating Costs**

Iowa funds state parks with a combination of state and federal sources like the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Under state control, Iowa would have to add entrance fees, take the money out of state budgets, or close parks.

### **22 New State Employees Needed**

Iowa would need to hire approximately 22 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.