



The High Cost of a Park Giveaway: What It Means for Ohio

July 16, 2025

President Trump's plan to transfer national parks to state control would devastate Ohio's economy, overwhelm its budget, and dismantle the systems that keep public lands running.

Here's what Ohio stands to lose:

\$268 Million in Economic Output

In 2023, 3.2 million visitors to Ohio's national parks spent an estimated \$164 million, supporting:

- 2,530 jobs
- \$98.8 million in labor income
- \$268 million in economic output

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

\$218 Million in Deferred Maintenance

Ohio's national parks face a \$218 million maintenance backlog, including over \$100 million for park units outside Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Under state control, Ohio 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

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

450 New State Employees Needed

Ohio would need to hire approximately 450 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.