



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

July 16, 2025

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

Here's what Pennsylvania stands to lose:

\$663 million in Economic Output

In 2023, 8.3 million visitors to Pennsylvania's national parks spent an estimated \$426 million, supporting:

- 6,160 jobs
- \$252 million in labor income
- \$663 million in economic output

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

\$589 Million in Deferred Maintenance

Pennsylvania's national parks face a \$589 million maintenance backlog, including \$430 million for park units outside Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, or the Flight 93 National Memorial. Under state control, Pennsylvania 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

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

Over 460 New State Employees Needed

Pennsylvania would need to hire approximately 462 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.