

Benefits



The Benefits of State Preservation Programs

Statewide funding for farmland, open space and historic preservation is an investment in the economic, physical and environmental health of New Jersey residents.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Land, Property and Value

The average home price increases 16% when it is located near permanently preserved open space

The value of a vacant lot increases 35% when it is located next to permanently preserved open space

Parks contribute up to 20% of the value of homes in urban areas

1,931 farms generated \$30 million in income from sales of edible farm products in 2007

Properties listed on a historic register benefit from at least a 5% increase in market value

A study of five NJ towns found that:

For every \$1 collected in residential property taxes, over \$1.00 is spent in municipal services, in a range from \$1.10 to \$1.51

For every tax dollar collected from privately owned natural lands, less than a dollar is spent on municipal services, in a range from 33 to 66 cents

Jobs

29 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 spent rehabbing historic residential buildings

38 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 spent rehabbing historic nonresidential buildings

Each \$1 million spent on non-residential historic rehabilitation creates 2 jobs more than the same money spent on new construction

7,000 jobs are supported by our public recreation lands

The development of two small parks in Brick Township for \$1.5 million employed 38 people

Recreation and Tourism

Tourists spent \$38 billion in New Jersey in 2007, generating \$7.3 billion in total tax revenues
\$1.7 billion is spent on wildlife recreation, 23% of the total spent by tourists in New Jersey

For every dollar tourists spend in New Jersey, \$0.71 stays in the state

2.1 million people recreated in nature-based activities in New Jersey in 2006

\$2.8 million was generated in economic activity from visitors to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey in 2006

92 different agritourism activities are offered by New Jersey farmers, producing \$30 million in reported income in 2007

Heritage tourists stayed nearly 5 days longer and spent 78% more in restaurants than other travelers

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

For every 10% increase in forest cover, water treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%

One tree provides \$62,000 in air pollution control

New Jersey's estuaries and bays provide \$5.3 billion in ecosystem services

Open spaces in New Jersey support 2,134 known native plant species

Open spaces in New Jersey support close to 900 wildlife species

HEALTH BENEFITS

Access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more times per week

People living in a greener environment report fewer health complaints

Recovery rates of surgical patients accelerate when patients are provided access to natural scenes and vistas

The information contained in this publication has been taken from one of three White Papers describing the Benefits, Accomplishments and Future Needs of State Preservation Programs produced by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in cooperation with the Keep it Green Coalition. The complete White Papers are available at www.njconservation.org.

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