

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Facility Attendance for Calendar Years 2003-2013

General description

The New York State Park system includes 179 state parks and 35 state historic sites, in addition to associated recreational facilities. Annual attendance at these facilities is currently approximately 60 million visitors. This dataset includes calendar year attendance by facility for each of the last ten years.

New York State Parks & Historic Sites Overview

The State Park System is one of New York's greatest treasures. Today, the system totals 214 State Parks and Historic Sites, 96 of which include playgrounds, encompassing nearly 335,000 acres. New York's Parks and Historic Sites provide affordable outdoor recreation and education opportunities to more than 60 million visitors each year. These facilities contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life of local communities and directly support New York's tourism industry. Parks also provide a place for families and children to recreate and exercise, promoting healthy lifestyles and helping combat childhood obesity.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state parks system, as well as advancing a statewide parks, historic preservation, and open space mission. OPRHP is responsible for operating an extensive network of public recreational facilities that includes 5,000 buildings, 29 golf courses, 36 swimming pools, 67 beaches, 27 marinas, 40 boat launching sites, 18 nature centers, 817 cabins, 8,355 campsites, more than 2,000 miles of trails, extensive utility systems, 104 dams, hundreds of miles of roads, and 604 bridges.

New York's State Park system has long been recognized as one of the best and most diverse in the nation. Among the fifty states, we rank first in the number of operating facilities and first in the total number of campsites with DEC. We are fifth in total acreage and second in total annual visitation. Niagara Falls is the oldest state park in the nation and Washington's Headquarters was the first property acquired with public funds for the express purpose of historic preservation and patriotic visitation.

For more information about New York State parks, visit <http://nysparks.com>

Data Collection Methodology

Data are provided by the Agency Attendance reporting system, into which each State Park facility reports estimated attendance information. At facilities operated by concessionaires or partner entities, attendance is reported to the Agency by the partner annually.

Benefit of Using Data

This data is beneficial to the general public, planners, policymakers, business owners and others seeking information about state park visitation.

Limitations of the Data

Attendance is highly variable year to year, and is influenced by weather and other external factors. Reporting may also vary by season and operational considerations.