

## **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation State Park Annual Attendance Figures by Facility: Beginning 2003**

### **General description**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) oversees more than 214 state parks and historic sites, encompassing nearly 335,000 acres, that are visited by 62 million people annually. 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 be active and exercise, promoting healthy lifestyles. The agency is responsible for the operation and stewardship of the state park system as well as advancing a statewide parks, historic preservation, and open space mission.

Annual attendance at these facilities is currently approximately 62 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 215 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 62 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>

Total New York State Park and Historic Site annual attendance beginning in 2003 can be accessed at <https://data.ny.gov/d/8cax-jyqc>.

### **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.