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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Public parks and recreation important to economy: \$802 million annual impact in North Dakota**

Bismarck, N.D. – North Dakota’s public parks and recreation agencies play an important role in regional and state economies with a combined impact of \$802 million each year, according to a new study from the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics.

North Dakota’s state parks and 12 largest city park districts provide direct impacts of \$322 million annually from participant, spectator and visitor spending and agency operational expenditures. Secondary impacts of \$480 million each year are based on the North Dakota Input-Output Model, which calculates the total business activity resulting from the direct impacts in a basic sector.

“North Dakota’s system of public parks and recreation programs are an essential community service, encouraging healthy, active lifestyles for our citizens by providing affordable and accessible parks and programs,” says RaNae Jochim, NDRPA president. “At the same time, it’s also important to recognize the significant economic impact of parks and recreation agencies, particularly in advancing tourism across our state.”

While their primary commitment is enhancing quality of life through recreation and leisure opportunities, North Dakota’s public parks and recreation agencies are also vital to the state’s economy. Annually, twelve local park districts and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD):

- Provide recreational opportunities for more than 2.5 million users of state parks and park district facilities and programs.<sup>1</sup>
- Support almost 4,700 jobs and sustain an additional 1,400 jobs through secondary business activity.
- Secure 71,000 hours of volunteer service, resulting in \$1.4 million in contributed services.

Study participants included NDPRD and park districts in the following communities: Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Valley City, Wahpeton, West Fargo and Williston.

The study, “Economic Contribution of Public Park and Recreation Activities in North Dakota: A Summary of Economic Effects,” and its companion report, “Economic Contribution of Park and Recreation Activities in North Dakota: Localized Effects,” were commissioned by the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) and conducted by NDSU researchers Dean Bangsund and Dr. Nancy Hodur.

To download both reports, visit [www.ndrpa.com](http://www.ndrpa.com). NDRPA advances parks and recreation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to study resources, the study did not include participation and associated spending for the following: high school and collegiate events held at park district facilities, vendor spending at events, some facilities (e.g., swimming pools, recreation centers), and open-access facilities (e.g., trails, boat ramps, picnic areas).