Economic Impact Analysis of Anderson Park District

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Final Report

Anderson Park District
Cincinnati, Ohio

ECONOMICS CENTER
RESEARCH AND CONSULTING

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Executive Summary

Anderson Township's park system plays an important role in supporting local quality of life, economic vitality, and community well-being. Managed by the Anderson Park District, this network of parks offers open space, trails, and recreational amenities that benefit residents and support the local economy. The Economics Center conducted a detailed analysis to quantify the value these parks generate for the Township. This report estimates their economic, health, and environmental benefits using national research, local data, and established evaluation methods.

Economic Impact of Operations and Capital Investments

This report illustrates the impact that the Anderson Park District provides to the local community by analyzing the economic and fiscal impact of its operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending in fiscal year 2024. Economic impacts represent the economic output, jobs, and wages supported in Anderson Township, while the fiscal impacts represent the tax revenue generated for state and local jurisdictions. All dollar values are reported in 2024 dollars unless otherwise stated.

The Anderson Park District directly generated $6.5 million in economic output in Anderson Township in fiscal year 2024, which led to further indirect economic output of $1.5 million due to inter-industry linkages. The Anderson Park District directly supported the employment of 129 full- and part-time jobs with wages of $3.2 million. Indirectly, an additional 59 full- and part-time jobs with wages of $1.3 million were supported in Anderson Township in fiscal year 2024. In total, the operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending of the Anderson Park District generated approximately $8.0 million in economic output and supported a total of 188 full- and part-time jobs with wages of $4.5 million in Anderson Township in fiscal year 2024.

In addition to the economic impacts, the operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending associated with the Anderson Park District generated fiscal impacts for state and local jurisdiction. The Anderson Park District generated a total of $303,905 in tax revenue in fiscal year 2024. This is comprised of $39,298 in earnings tax revenue for the State of Ohio, and $264,607 in sales tax revenue for Hamilton County and the State of Ohio.

Outdoor Recreation Population

The Economics Center estimates that 16,333 Anderson Township residents living within the park service area are likely to participate in outdoor recreation, representing approximately 57.0 percent of the service area population. The Township's growing senior population, high proportion of families, and strong socioeconomic profile indicate that recreation participation is likely to continue increasing.

Health-Related Cost Savings

Regular use of parks helps prevent chronic illnesses and improves mental well-being. Based on national research and adjusted for the Township's adult outdoor recreation population, this report estimates that Anderson Township parks generate approximately $839,376 in annual physical health savings and $776,520 in mental health savings. Together, these benefits total an estimated $1,615,896 in annual health care cost savings for the community.

Environmental Benefits

Park land in Anderson Township provides important environmental benefits by improving air quality and reducing stormwater runoff. Trees in Township parks remove over 1.6 million pounds of air pollutants each year, valued at $164,750. With more than 91.0 percent of park land as pervious surface, parks also absorb over 54.8 million cubic feet of stormwater annually, valued at $4.9 million. Together, these services provide an estimated $5.1 million in annual value, reducing public costs and supporting a cleaner, more resilient community.

Property Value and Tax Revenue Increases

Proximity to Township parks increases nearby residential property values by an estimated $168.6 million, generating about $3.6 million in additional property tax revenue each year. These gains demonstrate the long-term financial returns that investments in natural areas provide for the Township and the local school district.

The findings in this report demonstrate that Anderson Township's parks are more than recreational amenities—they are vital public assets that contribute to economic resilience, environmental protection, community health, and long-term fiscal stability. The measurable benefits outlined across multiple domains support continued investment in park maintenance and strategic expansion. By recognizing the full value of its park system, the Township can strengthen its position as a vibrant, healthy, and desirable place to live.

Introduction

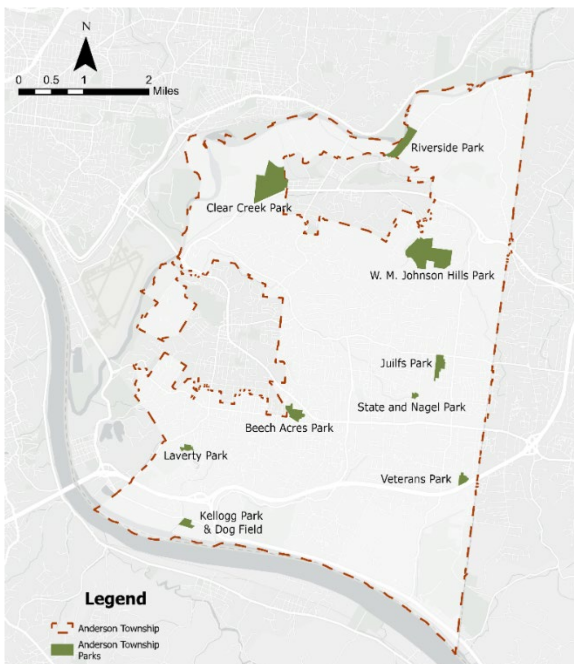
Public parks play a vital role in shaping the economy, health, and environment of a community. In Anderson Township, the park system is more than a set of recreational amenities. Managed by the Anderson Park District, the system provides natural areas, athletic fields, trails, and other amenities that serve residents and attract visitors. These parks preserve natural resources, support community identity, and strengthen the Township's appeal as a place to live, work, and visit.

This report presents a comprehensive assessment of the public value generated by Anderson Township parks. It quantifies how the park system contributes to local economic activity, reduces public costs, and improves quality of life. The analysis evaluates measurable impacts in areas such as visitor-supported spending, healthcare savings, environmental services, and residential property values. The findings presented in this analysis will help local leaders, residents, and partners better understand the full impact of the Township's investment in park infrastructure.

Study Area

This study focuses on the nine public parks managed by the Anderson Park District, as shown in Map 1. Together, these parks cover approximately 446 acres and are free and open to all residents.[1] The Park District maintains these spaces to serve the Township's diverse population, offering nature trails, athletic fields, gymnasium facilities, playgrounds, and open natural areas. Strategic plans and community engagement efforts consistently highlight the value of these parks in supporting a livable, healthy, and resilient community. While the focus of this economic analysis is on parks operated by the Anderson Park District, Anderson Township is also home to three county parks which are operated by Great Parks of Hamilton County.[2]

Map 1: Anderson Township Park Locations



Sources: CAGIS land use data; map prepared by the Economics Center.

[1] The Anderson Park District owns or manages approximately 521 acres, which includes the maintenance complex on Broadwell Road, and manages approximately 74 acres of Broadwell Woods on behalf of Hamilton County Parks.
[2] Parks operated by Great Parks of Hamilton County are not included in this analysis.

Methodology

This report applies a data-driven approach to assess the economic, health-related, environmental, and property-related impacts of the Anderson Park District. The analysis integrates multiple data sources and modeling tools to ensure reliability, transparency, and alignment with current research and planning practices. Each major section of the report includes a dedicated methodology subsection. This general section provides an overview of the data sources and analytical framework used throughout the study.

The study draws on a wide range of data sources, including operations and capital expenditure records, and workforce information provided by the Anderson Park District, and visitor data provided by Cobalt Community Research. Additional sources include public datasets from the U.S. Census Bureau, the American Community Survey, the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS), and the Hamilton County Auditor. The analysis also incorporates industry multipliers from Lightcast; recent national surveys on outdoor recreation participation; nationally recognized health care cost benchmarks; and environmental valuation data from sources such as the U.S. Forest Service's i-Tree Canopy database.

Economic Impact of Operations and Capital Expenditures was assessed using input-output modeling supported by industry-specific multipliers. Outdoor Recreation Population estimates were developed through spatial analysis of park access areas combined with demographic profiles. Health Care Cost Savings were calculated by applying national participation rates and per-person cost savings factors. Environmental Benefits, including air pollutant removal and stormwater absorption, were estimated using land cover classifications and hydrologic soil group data. Property Market Effects were evaluated through parcel-level spatial analysis paired with assessed value data from the Hamilton County Auditor.

Report Structure

This report includes seven main sections that assess the public value generated by the Anderson Park District. The literature review summarizes national, state, and local studies on the economic, health, and environmental benefits of parks to provide context for the Township-level analysis. The next section evaluates how the Park District's operations, capital investments, and out-of-town visitor spending support jobs, earnings, and fiscal revenue in Anderson Township. This is followed by an estimate of the Township's outdoor recreation population, based on walkable access to parks and national participation trends.

The following three sections assess specific categories of economic benefit: health care cost savings from increased physical activity and improved mental wellness, environmental services including stormwater absorption and air pollution removal, and property value enhancements associated with proximity to parks. Each section presents background information, methodology, and local estimates. The final section summarizes key findings and highlights the long-term value of continued investment in the park system.

Literature Review

Public parks offer accessible outdoor recreation opportunities that generate economic, health, and environmental benefits for both residents and visitors. In recent years, these benefits have become a key focus of public policy, land use planning, and community development across the United States. This section presents findings from recent studies at the national, state, regional, and local levels. Organized by benefit category, the review shows how investments in outdoor recreation infrastructure, including parks, trails, forests, and waterways, deliver measurable returns and qualitative value to individuals, communities, and the broader economy.

Operations and Capital Impacts

Operations and capital investments in park systems generate important economic activity at the local, regional, and national levels. The Economics Center reviewed the economic benefits associated with the Anderson Township Park system, including employment, visitor spending, and business activity. These impacts are typically measured using economic modeling tools such as Input-Output models.

Employment

Outdoor recreation supports employment across multiple sectors of the economy. Jobs in this area include direct positions such as park staff, guides, and outfitters; indirect positions such as suppliers and vendors; and induced jobs supported by the household spending of those directly and indirectly employed. While outdoor recreation is not a primary source of employment, it contributes meaningfully to local job creation and workforce stability.

At the national level, outdoor recreation supported between 5.0 million and 7.6 million jobs, reflecting this full range of employment effects.[3] In Ohio, the sector accounted for 147,986 jobs in 2023, representing 2.6 percent of the state's total employment.[4]

To capture the full employment impact, studies often use employment multipliers, which measure how many additional jobs are created in the broader economy for each direct job in outdoor recreation. For example, the National Park Service reports a national multiplier of 1.68, meaning each direct park job supports an additional 0.68 jobs elsewhere, while other contexts show values ranging from 1.22 in Mississippi parks to as high as 1.91 for trail-based sports nationally.[5] These findings show that investments in outdoor recreation not only create direct employment, but also support broader job growth throughout local and regional economies.

Visitor Spending

Visitor spending is a driver of economic impact associated with outdoor recreation. Spending is typically divided between local and non-local visitors, with non-local visitors bringing new money into the local economy.

In national parks, average per-party spending ranged from $45 for local day-trippers to more than $500 for guests staying at in-park lodges.[6] A similar pattern appears at the state level. In 2023, Virginia State Parks generated $188.9 million in visitor spending, with overnight guests spending substantially more per day than local visitors.[7]

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[3] (State Outdoor Business Alliance Network 2024)
[4] (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2024)
[5] (University of Northern Iowa 2011; Choi and Jeon 2021; Outdoor Industry Association 2012; Cullinane Thomas, Koontz, and Cornachione 2024).
[6] (Cullinane Thomas, Koontz, and Cornachione 2024)
[7] (Virginia Tech 2023)

While the economic impacts of national and state parks can be substantial, visitor spending at local and community parks is typically lower on a per-visitor basis. Surveys show that community park visitors are often local residents making short trips, with spending largely limited to incidental expenses such as snacks, beverages, or occasional participation fees. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the average community park visit generates approximately $10 in direct local spending per visitor, below the daily spending by travelers at larger park destinations.[8] A study by the Trust for Public Land found that most local park spending comes from small purchases at nearby stores or participation in low-cost recreation programs, with average expenditures per user ranging from $2 to $7 per visit.[9] As a result, while local parks provide substantial quality-of-life and health benefits, their direct economic impact through visitor spending remains modest when compared to state and national park systems.

Effects on Property Values and Local Tax Base

Investments in outdoor recreation and related infrastructure increase nearby residential property values and contribute to the long-term fiscal health of local governments. A large body of research confirms the existence of a "park premium," where homes located near parks and trails sell for higher prices. These higher values also expand the local property tax base and generate recurring public revenue.

The value premium is most pronounced for homes within walking distance of natural areas. Karadeniz (2008) found that each additional foot of distance from the Little Miami Scenic Trail reduced a home's sale price by $7.05. This suggests that homes within 1,000 feet of the trail sold for approximately $9,000 more than similar properties farther away. Crompton and Nicholls (2019) reviewed 20 hedonic pricing studies and concluded that trails generally increase adjacent home values by 3.0 to 5.0 percent.

Many studies adopt conservative assumptions when modeling these effects. The Trust for Public Land (2019) consistently uses a 5.0 percent premium in its valuations, which is supported by peer-reviewed research. Crompton and Nicholls (2020), in a synthesis of 33 studies, found that homes near larger or passive parks can receive an 8.0 to 10.0 percent premium. In contrast, homes near smaller or active parks may see a smaller increase or, in some cases, negative effects due to congestion or maintenance concerns. As a result, the authors recommend using lower-bound estimates when evaluating fiscal impacts, especially in suburban or exurban areas.

Some research also indicates that the influence of larger parks extends beyond the immediate area.[10] Studies by Bolitzer and Netusil (2000), Adelaja et al. (2008), and Crompton and Nicholls (2019) found that the value premium from major or regional parks can reach distances of up to 1.0 mile, although the effect diminishes to approximately 2.0 percent at that range. These findings support modeling a larger service area for destination parks to more accurately capture their fiscal value.

Higher home values increase property tax revenues for local governments. In Plano, Texas, a Trust for Public Land (2017) study found that park-related property value increases generated $6.08 million in additional annual tax revenue. These benefits were shared by the city, county, school districts, and a local college. In Lucas County, Ohio, Metroparks Toledo increased vales of residential property by $40.8 million and generated $1.13 million in additional annual property tax revenue.[11]

[8] (NRPA 2023)
[9] (Trust for Public Land 2022)
[10] In this study, "larger parks" refers to community, regional, or major parks over 40 acres, consistent with common U.S. park classification standards. Such parks serve a wider area, offer destination-level amenities, and attract users from across a city or county.
[11] (Trust for Public Land 2019)

Health Care Benefits for Residents

In addition to the economic benefits, parks and outdoor spaces support both physical and mental health, contributing to long-term community well-being. From an economic perspective, the Economics Center reviewed studies on the health impacts of increased outdoor activity, with a focus on potential healthcare cost savings for participants.

Physical Health Impacts and Cost Savings

Outdoor recreation supports physical activity, which helps prevent chronic conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and hypertension. These outcomes highlight the role of parks in promoting preventive health. Several local governments have formally recognized this connection by incorporating park systems into public health strategies. For example, Virginia State Parks promote physical activity through trail access and youth wellness programs.[12] In Mesa County, Colorado, outdoor recreation serves as a key component of public health planning.[13] Dodge County, Wisconsin also promotes park use as a way to encourage healthy behaviors.[14]

Wilson and Xiao (2023) applied a novel ecohealth framework to estimate that a 1.2-acre park generated CAD$109,877 in annual healthcare savings from physical activity. Their study linked small-scale urban greening to reduced incidence of chronic diseases.

The Trust for Public Land calculates savings by applying a national average savings rate (1.0%–3.0%) to average healthcare costs, a method grounded in peer-reviewed research.[15] A foundational study by Pratt, Macera, and Wang (2000) found that physically active adults incur $330 less in annual healthcare costs than inactive adults. More recent studies provide updated and region-specific insights. For example, Van Den Eeden et al. (2022) found that people in greener neighborhoods had $374 lower annual healthcare costs, largely due to reduced hospitalizations and emergency visits. Ding et al. (2016) estimated that inactivity accounts for 1.0 percent to 3.0 percent of total healthcare costs in high-income countries.

Current benchmarks from Milliman (2024) indicate that annual healthcare spending averages $7,151 for adults ages 18 to 64 and $12,000 to $13,000 for those 65 and older. Applying a 1.0 percent – 3.0 percent savings rate yields annual savings of $72 to $215 per adult ages 18 to 64 and $120 to $390 per adult ages 65 and older. These estimates account for physical health conditions linked to inactivity, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and certain cancers.

Mental Health Impacts and Cost Savings

Increased outdoor activity also supports improved mental health. At the national level, approximately 23.0 percent of adults experience mental health issues annually, with treatment costs averaging $1,080 per person per year in the United States.[16] In Ohio, 24.5 percent of adults report mental health challenges each year.[17]

The Outdoor Industry Association describes outdoor activities as essential for emotional resilience and coping with social isolation.[18] Access to natural environments provides emotional and psychological benefits that support overall mental well-being. The National Recreation and Park Association reports

[12] (Virginia Tech 2023)
[13] (Colorado Mesa University 2022)
[14] (Dodge County 2024)
[15] (Trust for Public Land 2019)
[16] (Tebra 2024)
[17] (Mental Health America 2024)
[18] (Outdoor Industry Association 2017)

that parks help reduce anxiety and depression, particularly among older adults and individuals experiencing chronic stress.[19]

Recent studies have quantified the mental health benefits of outdoor recreation. Shanahan et al. (2016) found that spending at least 30 minutes per week in parks could reduce the prevalence of depression by 7.0 percent. This finding supports estimates of healthcare savings linked to expanded park access and use.

Wilson and Xiao (2023) estimated CAD$23,084 in annual healthcare savings from mental health improvements associated with a small urban park. Their findings align with evidence from Van Den Eeden et al. (2022), who reported that green cover reduces healthcare spending. These effects persisted even after accounting for socioeconomic and health-related variables.

Environmental Benefits

Outdoor recreation spaces also provide environmental benefits by preserving ecosystems, improving air and water quality, and enhancing community resilience to climate change. Trails, parks, and green infrastructure often intersect with sensitive habitats and support long-term environmental stewardship. The following sections summarize research findings related to conservation, pollution reduction, and climate adaptation.

Air Quality

Green infrastructure and trail networks help improve air quality by reducing vehicle use and increasing vegetation that filters pollutants. In Wisconsin, researchers estimated that replacing 20.0 percent of short car trips in Milwaukee and Madison with bicycle trips would reduce annual concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 0.3 micrograms per cubic meter. This shift would generate more than $85.8 million in public health benefits, including reductions in mortality, asthma, and other health conditions. Ozone reductions would yield an additional $3.4 million in avoided health impacts.[20]

In New York City, park vegetation improves air quality by removing 278 tons of ground-level ozone and 15.2 tons of PM2.5 each year. These reductions translate into annual healthcare savings of $6.2 million for ozone and $20.3 million for PM2.5.[21] In Lucas County, Ohio, Metroparks Toledo removes approximately 411,000 pounds of air pollutants annually, resulting in an estimated $1.46 million in combined healthcare and pollution control savings.[22]

Stormwater Runoff Reduction

Outdoor recreation spaces support stormwater management by reducing impervious surface coverage and promoting natural infiltration. Trees, native vegetation, and permeable surfaces in parks help capture and filter rainwater, decreasing both runoff volume and pollutant load.

Studies by the Trust for Public Land have provided quantitative evidence of these benefits. In Toledo, the Metroparks system reduces stormwater runoff by 116 million cubic feet each year, which is valued at $5.5 million in avoided stormwater infrastructure costs.[23] In New York City, parks reduce runoff by 4.49 billion gallons annually, avoiding $8.98 million in wastewater treatment costs and up to $2.43 billion in avoided green infrastructure construction.[24]

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[19] (NRPA 2023)
[20] (University of Wisconsin–Madison 2010)
[21] (Trust for Public Land 2022)
[22] (Trust for Public Land 2019)
[23] (Trust for Public Land 2019)
[24] (Trust for Public Land 2022)

Conservation and Biodiversity

Outdoor recreation areas often function as protected environments for wildlife and ecological systems. In Mississippi, Pat Harrison Waterway District parks safeguard rivers, wetlands, and riparian zones while also supporting public recreation.[25] At the federal level, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has supported conservation efforts in all 50 states, helping ensure that outdoor recreation investments align with broader environmental protection goals.[26]

In Wisconsin, Marathon County's Nine Mile County Forest is managed through a long-term plan that promotes sustainable forestry and habitat protection while maintaining trail access and outdoor programming.[27] In Toledo, Ohio, Metroparks oversee more than 12,300 acres, including wetlands and restored marshes that support biodiversity and help buffer water bodies from pollution and flooding.[28] In New York City, parks support native vegetation, promote rainwater infiltration, and enhance climate resilience. These systems provide habitat and essential ecosystem services for urban biodiversity.[29]

As communities continue to invest in parks and open space, these examples show how outdoor infrastructure can serve both public and ecological interests.

Socioeconomic Benefits

Outdoor spaces offer a wide range of benefits that strengthen the social and cultural fabric of communities. While this report does not attempt to quantify the monetary value of these impacts, their importance is well-documented in academic literature and local case studies. Parks support inclusive programming, civic events, and cultural expression that foster social connection and community identity.

Education and Youth Development

Outdoor recreation offers unique settings for youth education, personal growth, and workforce development. Parks and nature-based programs provide platforms for hands-on learning and skill-building experiences. State and national studies highlight these benefits through program evaluations and statewide policy initiatives.

The 2023 Youth Outdoor Policy Trends Report provides a broad overview of state-level efforts to improve outdoor access, education, and equity for youth. In New Mexico, the Outdoor Equity Fund reached 12,391 young people through 48 community organizations, demonstrating the scale of public investment in youth access. Nevada allocated $500,000 to youth outdoor education grants, and Michigan implemented grant programs and internships focused on careers in outdoor innovation.[30]

In Virginia, state parks offer interpretive programs, ranger-led activities, and outdoor education experiences for youth.[31] Similarly, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) reports that local parks frequently provide summer programs, nature education, and after-school learning opportunities, though it does not specify how many youth are served.[32]

More detailed evidence appears in *The Nature of the Outdoors,* a 2025 national report by YMCA of the USA. The study analyzed nearly 10,000 youth in outdoor and non-outdoor after-school programs. Youth in outdoor programs demonstrated greater growth in social skills, academic self-efficacy, and self-

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[25] (Choi and Jeon 2021)
[26] (State Outdoor Business Alliance Network 2024; Outdoor Industry Association 2017).
[27] (Marathon County 2024)
[28] (Trust for Public Land 2019)
[29] (Trust for Public Land 2022)
[30] (Youth Outdoor Policy Partnership 2023)
[31] (Virginia Tech 2023)
[32] (NRPA 2023)

management—traits associated with long-term academic and career success. These effects were strongest in programs that paired exploration with adult-supported reflection, increasing skill development from 56.0 percent to more than 80.0 percent in some areas.[33]

These findings suggest that outdoor recreation not only supports unstructured play and nature engagement, but also serves as a structured educational tool that promotes social-emotional development, academic confidence, and workforce readiness.

Summary of Literature Review Findings

The research reviewed in this report shows that outdoor recreation and green infrastructure provide measurable and wide-ranging benefits across economic, health, environmental, and social areas. These benefits appear at multiple geographic scales, ranging from neighborhood parks and trails to national recreation areas, and apply across diverse demographic groups. Empirical studies confirm that such investments support employment, stimulate local economies, and increase property values. They also contribute to physical and mental health, enhance educational outcomes for youth, and build community resilience in response to social and environmental challenges.

The evidence suggests that the impacts of outdoor recreation and green infrastructure are not simply additive, but build upon and strengthen each other. Healthier residents are more likely to participate, stronger communities are better equipped to sustain long-term stewardship, and greener infrastructure leads to both environmental and economic gains. As this evidence base continues to grow, decision-makers and local governments can use it to guide investments, planning efforts, and policy development.

[33] (YMCA of the USA 2025)

Economic Impact of Operations and Capital Expenditures

The Anderson Park District contributes to the local economy through spending, employment, wages, and tax revenue. This section evaluates the economic impact of the Park District's annual operations and capital investment activities, as well as the spending of out-of-township visitors drawn to the area by its parks. By quantifying both the direct impacts and broader ripple effects, the analysis presents a comprehensive view of how the Park District supports economic growth in Anderson Township.

Methodology

Economic Impact

An economic impact analysis measures the effect of an organization's expenditures on its surrounding community. The total economic impact is the sum of the direct and indirect impacts. For this analysis, the direct impact refers to the expenditures, jobs, and wages supported by the Anderson Park District in the local economy. The indirect impact is the additional economic impact resulting from the increased demand, income, and jobs within other industries, or the inter-industry linkages. The direct impact has ripple effects due to increased household income and spending, which are referred to as induced impacts. Induced impacts are reported within indirect impacts for the entirety of this report.

The Anderson Park District provided operations and capital expenditure data, employee counts, and employee wages for fiscal year 2024. Additionally, the Economics Center estimated out-of-township visitor attendance using the total attendance in 2024 by zip code of residence provided by Cobalt Community Research. Visitor spending profiles by type of visitor and spending category were obtained from an economic impact analysis of Texas state parks.[34] These visitor spending profiles were regionally adjusted to Ohio and inflation adjusted to 2024 dollars. Furthermore, the visitor spending estimates from the Texas state parks analysis were reduced to remove spending occurring within the Anderson Township's park system. Further, spending categories not associated with community parks were also omitted.

The direct impacts were used in an input-output model that uses multipliers to represent the inter-industry linkages and household economic relationships. Multipliers are used to determine the total economic impact when applied to the direct impact. This means that multipliers reflect how many additional dollars will be spent in a local economy by other businesses and households for every dollar spent by an organization or industry. These multipliers are location and industry specific and were obtained from Lightcast.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact analysis estimates the subsequent impact of the Anderson Park District on state and local tax revenue. Earnings tax revenue was calculated for the wages supported and sales tax revenue was calculated for the taxable spending of out-of-county visits.

State earnings tax revenue accrues to the state of residence of the worker, whereas local earnings tax revenue accrues to the jurisdiction of the workplace. The Anderson Park District provided zip code of residence for its workforce, which the Economics Center used to calculate earnings tax revenue for the direct jobs supported by the Anderson Park District. The Economics Center estimated the earnings tax revenue resulting from the direct and indirect jobs supported by capital expenditures and out-of-county visitor spending as well as the indirect jobs supported by operations expenditures.

[34] (Walker, Lee and Crompton 2005)

The Economics Center retrieved commuting patterns for the three primary zip codes associated with Anderson Township, 45230, 45244, and 45255 from Lightcast, which indicated that approximately 93.0 percent of workers in those three zip codes resided in Ohio. This percentage was applied to the jobs supported to estimate state earnings tax revenue. The State of Ohio earnings tax rate was then applied to the average wages per job supported.

Sales tax revenue accrues to Hamilton County and the State of Ohio. The taxable spending of out-of-county visits was factored for economic leakage and then the sales tax rates were applied.

Operations Expenditures

Operations expenditures represent the day-to-day expenses of the Anderson Park District. As detailed in Table 1, the Anderson Park District made approximately $4.0 million in operations expenditures in 2024. Salaries represented the largest component of operations expenditures, totaling more than $1.9 million. This means that salaries accounted for approximately half (47.6%) of the total operations expenditures in 2024.

Table 1: Anderson Park District's Operations Expenditures, FY2024 (2024$)

Expense	Amount
Salaries	$1,900,953
Benefits[35]	$524,541
Non-Wage Operating Expenditures	$1,567,046
Total	**$3,992,540**

Sources: The Anderson Park District.

After accounting for economic leakage, more than $2.3 million in economic output was directly generated in Anderson Township by the operations expenditures of the Anderson Park District. This led to further indirect economic output of $506,473 due to the inter-industry linkages. The Anderson Park District directly employed 87 full- and part-time employees who earned wages of $1.9 million. Indirectly, an additional 55 full- and part-time jobs with wages of more than $1.0 million were supported in Anderson Township. In total, the operations expenditures of the Anderson Park District had a total economic impact of $2.8 million, a total employment impact of 142, and a total wage impact of $2.9 million in Anderson Township stemming from the Anderson Park District's operations expenditures in fiscal year 2024, as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Economic Impact of the Anderson Park District's Operations Expenditures on Hamilton County, FY2024 (2024$)

Impact Type	Output	Employment	Wages
Direct	$2,341,814	87	$1,900,953
Indirect	$506,473	55	$1,041,341
Total	**$2,848,287**	**142**	**$2,942,294**

Sources: Economics Center analysis using data provided by the Anderson Park District and multipliers retrieved from Lightcast.

[35] Benefits were not included in the economic impact analysis.

As detailed in Table 3, the direct and indirect wages supported by the operations expenditures of the Anderson Park District created an estimated $28,378 in earnings tax revenue for the State of Ohio in fiscal year 2024.[36]

Table 3: Fiscal Impact of the Anderson Park District's Operations Expenditures, 2024 (2024$)

Jurisdiction	Earnings Tax Revenue
State of Ohio	$28,378
Total	**$28,378**

Sources: Economics Center analysis using data provided by the Anderson Park District.

Capital Expenditures

In addition to its operations expenditures, the Anderson Park District also made capital expenditures totaling nearly $4.9 million to invest in its park system in fiscal year 2024*.* After controlling for economic leakage, an estimated $733,816 in capital expenditures made by the Anderson Park District were made with vendors in Anderson Township. This means that the capital expenditures of the Anderson Park District directly generated $733,816 in economic output in Anderson Township, which directly supported 4 jobs with $292,013 in wages. The inter-industry linkages led to further indirect economic output of $107,692, which supported a partial job with $23,487 in wages. As detailed in Table 4, the capital expenditures of the Anderson Park District resulted in a total of $841,508 in economic output and supported a total of nearly five jobs with $315,500 in wages in Anderson Township during fiscal year 2024.

Table 4: Economic Impact of Anderson Park District's Capital Expenditures on Anderson Township, FY2024 (2024$)

Impact Type	Output	Employment	Wages
Direct	$733,816	4	$292,013
Indirect	$107,692	<1	$23,487
Total	**$841,508**	**>4**	**$315,500**

Sources: Economics Center analysis using data provided by the Anderson Park District and multipliers retrieved from Lightcast.

As detailed in Table 5, the direct and indirect wages supported by the capital expenditures of the Anderson Park District created an estimated $6,618 in earnings tax revenue for the State of Ohio in fiscal year 2024.

Table 5: Fiscal Impact of the Anderson Park District's Capital Expenditures, 2024 (2024$)

Jurisdiction	Earnings Tax Revenue
State of Ohio	$6,618
Total	**$6,618**

Sources: Economics Center analysis using data provided by the Anderson Park District.

[36] Anderson Township does not levy a local earnings tax.

Out-of-Township Visitor Spending

Anderson Park District welcomes residents from Anderson Township as well as residents from Hamilton County, the Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area, and residents from outside of the region. The spending of out-of-township visitors represents new money that enters Anderson Township's economy due to the presence of Anderson Park District. The impact of out-of-township visitors includes both their spending within the park system as well as their spending on additional goods and services within Anderson Township, such as hotels and food.

Table 6 details total visits of Anderson Park District by park in 2024. Overall, Anderson Park District had approximately 2.3 million visits. Beech Acres Park represented approximately 58.2 percent of the total visits in 2024. Juilfs Park (13.6%), Clear Creek Park (8.2%), Riverside Park (7.4%), and W. M. Johnson Hills Park (7.0%) represented a combined 36.2 percent of the total visits in 2024.

Table 6: The Anderson Park District Visits by Park, FY2024

Park	Visits
Beech Acres Park	1,347,852
Clear Creek Park	189,178
Juilfs Park	314,855
Kellogg Park	38,149
Laverty Park	26,772
Riverside Park	171,987
State & Nagel Park	14,690
Veterans Park	50,587
W. M. Johnson Hills Park	160,974
Total	**2,315,044**

Sources: Economics Center analysis of data provided by Cobalt Community Research.

The Economics Center quantified the economic impact of out-of-township visits using zip code of home residence data provided by Cobalt Community Research. Table 7 summarizes the distribution of visits of Anderson Park District by location of residence. Anderson Township residents represented approximately 62.6 percent of visits in 2024. Residents from elsewhere in Hamilton County represented 8.6 percent of visits, while residents from elsewhere in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) represented 18.1 percent of visits.[37] Additionally, residents from outside of the Cincinnati MSA represented 10.7 percent visits in 2024.

[37] A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is an area comprised of different communities with close economic ties to one another. The Cincinnati MSA encompasses five counties in Ohio: Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren; seven counties in Kentucky: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton; and three counties in Indiana: Dearborn, Franklin, and Ohio.

Table 7: **Anderson Park District Attendance by Location of Residence, FY2024**

Location	Total Visits	Percent of Visits
Anderson Township	1,448,906	62.6%
Hamilton County	199,360	8.6%
Other Cincinnati MSA	419,922	18.1%
Other	245,445	10.7%
Total[38]	**2,315,044**	**100.0%**

Sources: Economics Center analysis of data provided by Cobalt Community Research.

An economic impact analysis of Texas state parks included per person visitor spending estimates by state park and spending category. The Economics Center calculated the average visitor spending per person by weighting the estimates by the respective state park's attendance. These spending profiles do not include spending within the state parks. As detailed in Table 8, visitor spending per person associated with the spending categories was estimated to total $8.09.

Table 8: Texas State Parks Visitor Spending Estimates by Spending Category (2004$)

Spending Category	Per Person
Food & beverage	$2.86
Recreational equipment	$2.13
Retail shopping	$2.46
Other	$0.64
Total	**$8.09**

Sources: The Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks (2005).

The visitor spending estimates from the Texas state parks analysis were regionally adjusted to Ohio and inflation adjusted to 2024 dollars, resulting in per person visitor spending estimates totaling $12.94. Combining the visitor estimates by location of residency with the inflation- and regionally-adjusted visitor spending estimates, the economic impact of out-of-township visitors represents new money entering the Anderson Township economy as a result of spending associated with visiting Anderson Park District.

After accounting for economic leakage, out-of-township visitors directly generated $3.4 million in economic output in Anderson Township in 2024 in conjunction with visiting one of the Township's parks, which supported 38 jobs with wages of $982,674. Indirectly, the spending of out-of-township visitors further supported $860,771 in economic output, which supported four jobs with $221,581 in wages. As detailed in Table 9, the spending of out-of-township visitors to Anderson Park District generated a total of $4.3 million in economic output and supported a total of 42 jobs with $1.2 million in wages in Anderson Township in 2024.

[38] Totals may not equal the sum of individual categories due to rounding.

Table 9: Economic Impact of the Anderson Park District's Out-of-Township Visitors on Anderson Township, FY2024 (2024$)

Impact Type	Output	Employment	Wages
Direct	$3,433,908	38	$982,674
Indirect	$860,771	4	$221,581
Total	**$4,294,679**	**42**	**$1,204,255**

Sources: Economics Center analysis of data provided by Cobalt Community Research, multipliers retrieved from Lightcast, and visitor spending estimates from The Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks (2005).

Table 10 details the fiscal impact of out-of-township visitor spending to Anderson Park District in 2024. The jobs supported by out-of-township visitor spending resulted in a total of $4,302 in earnings tax revenue for the State of Ohio. The spending of out-of-township visitors on food and beverages, recreational equipment, and retail shopping resulted in a total of $264,607 in sales tax revenue for Hamilton County and the State of Ohio. In total, the spending of out-of-township visitors to Anderson Park District generated $268,909 in earnings and sales tax revenue in 2024.

Table 10: Fiscal Impact of the Anderson Township's Out-of-Township Visitors, FY2024 (2024$)

Jurisdiction	Earnings Tax Revenue	Sales Tax Revenue	Total Tax Revenue
Hamilton County	N/A	$69,544	**$69,544**
State of Ohio	$4,302	$195,063	**$199,365**
Total	**$4,302**	**$264,607**	**$268,909**

Sources: Economics Center analysis of data provided by Cobalt Community Research and visitor spending estimates from The Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks (2005).

Total Impact

The total impact of the Anderson Park District includes the impacts from the retained operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending, as detailed in Table 11. The Anderson Park District directly generated $6.5 million in economic output in Anderson Township in 2024, which led to further indirect economic output of nearly $1.5 million due to the inter-industry linkages. The Anderson Park District directly supported the employment of 129 full- and part-time jobs with wages of $3.2 million. Indirectly, an additional 59 full- and part-time jobs with wages of $1.3 million were supported in Anderson Township in 2024. In total, the operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending of the Anderson Park District had a total economic impact of approximately $8.0 million, a total employment impact of 188 jobs, and a total wage impact of $4.5 million in Anderson Township in 2024.

Table 11: Total Economic Impact of the Anderson Park District on Anderson Township, FY2024 (2024$)

Impact Type	Output	Employment	Wages
Direct	$6,509,538	129	$3,175,639
Indirect	$1,474,936	59	$1,286,409
Total	**$7,984,474**	**188**	**$4,462,048**

Sources: Economics Center analysis of data provided by the Anderson Park District, multipliers retrieved from Lightcast and estimates from the Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks (2005).

Table 12 details the total fiscal impact in fiscal year 2024 of the operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending associated with the Anderson Park District. The jobs supported by the Anderson Park District resulted in a total of $39,298 in earnings tax revenue for the State of Ohio. The spending of out-of-county visitors resulted in a total of $69,544 in sales tax revenue for Hamilton County and $195,063 for the State of Ohio. In total, the Anderson Park District generated $303,905 in earnings and sales tax revenue in fiscal year 2024.

Table 12: Total Fiscal Impact of the Anderson Park District, FY2024 (2024$)

Jurisdiction	Earnings Tax Revenue	Sales Tax Revenue	Total Tax Revenue
Hamilton County	N/A	$69,544	**$69,544**
State of Ohio	$39,298	$195,063	**$234,361**
Total	**$39,298**	**$264,607**	**$303,905**

Sources: Economics Center of data provided by the Anderson Park District and visitor spending estimates from the Economic Contributions of Texas State Parks (2005).

Outdoor Recreation Population Estimation

This section estimates outdoor recreation participation in Anderson Township by identifying how many unique residents are likely to regularly use the park system. The analysis focuses on residents with walkable access and applies national participation trends to estimate the user population. This estimate forms the foundation for quantifying several individual-level benefits presented later in the report, including health care savings and the economic value of recreational use. [39]

Methodology

Defining Park Service Area

The Economics Center applied a widely accepted standard in park and transportation planning to define service areas for Anderson Township parks. The primary park service area was defined as all properties located within 0.5 miles of a public park or trail. This distance reflects the average ten-minute walk for most individuals and is widely recognized as the benchmark for neighborhood park access.

The 0–0.5 mile standard is supported by federal and transportation planning literature, which shows that trail and park usage rates are highest among residents living within a short walking distance of recreation assets[40]. According to the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe program, a 0.5-mile buffer is the standard measurement for analyzing local park access in communities across the United States.[41] The National Recreation and Park Association also identifies a 0.5-mile service area as the planning benchmark for neighborhood parks.[42]

For four of the Township's major parks, the service area was extended to include properties located between 0.5 and 1.0 mile from park boundaries. These parks, including Beech Acres Park, W.M. Johnson Hills Park, Riverside Park, and Clear Creek Park, each exceed 40 acres in size and offer extensive amenities, natural areas, and recreation opportunities that draw users from beyond typical neighborhood walking distances. Research indicates that larger parks and regional recreation facilities can influence use patterns and property values at greater distances, sometimes up to 1.0 mile, particularly in communities with strong housing markets and high-quality park systems.[43]

As shown in Map 2, a spatial analysis was conducted using shapefiles for the nine public parks in the Township. A 0.5-mile straight-line buffer was drawn around each park's boundaries to define the walkable service area. For the four larger parks, an additional buffer of 0.5 to 1.0 mile was created to represent their extended service areas. These buffers were then spatially joined with block-level U.S. Census data. Census blocks were used because they are the smallest geographic unit with complete population data, and their size closely aligns with the extent of the buffer areas.

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[39] The Economics Center received aggregate park visitor count data from Anderson Park District, collected by Cobalt Community Research, but the benefits detailed in this section accrue at the individual level and therefore the Economics Center quantified the number unique Township Residents estimated to frequent Anderson Township's park system.

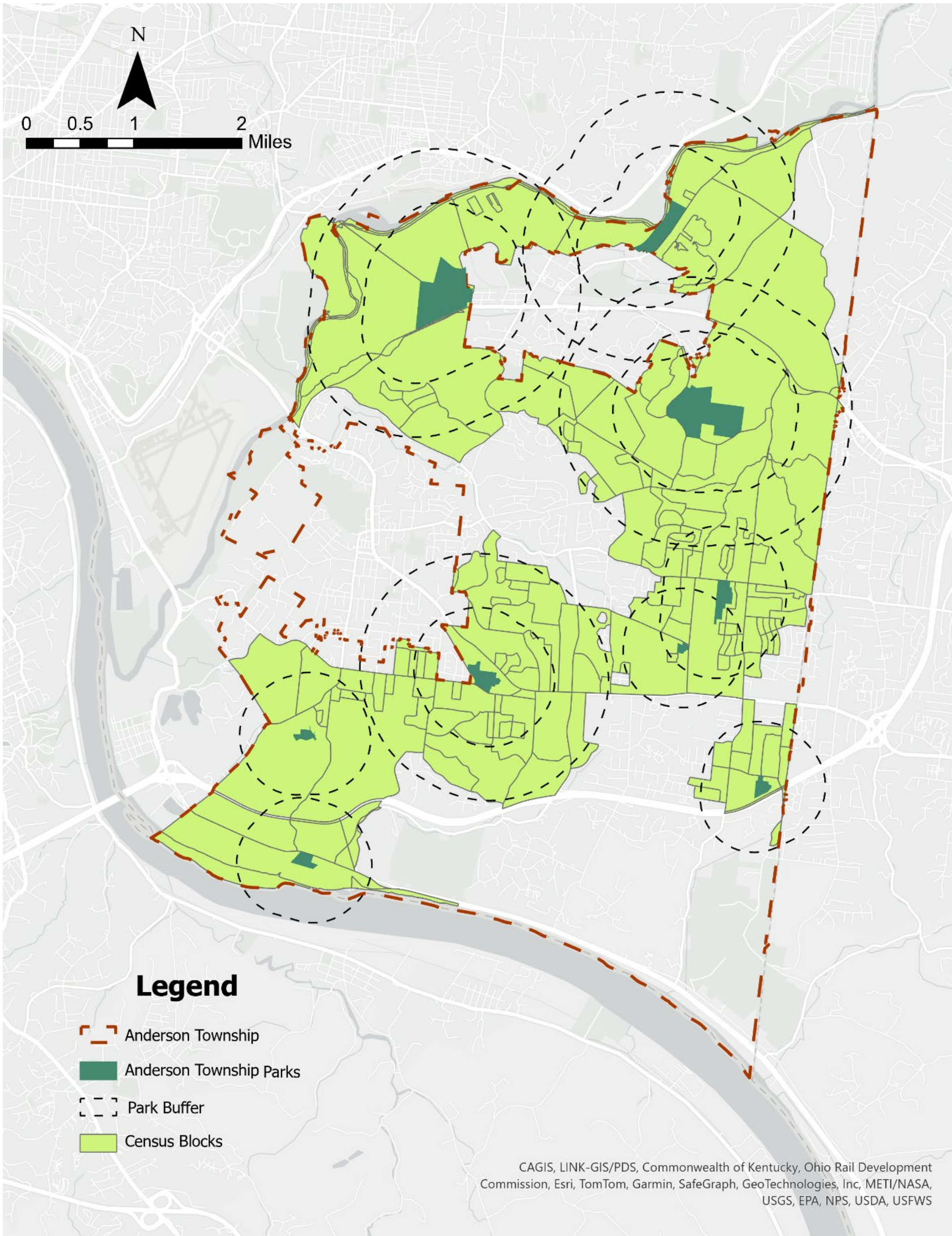
[40] (Outdoor Industry Association 2023; NRPA 2023)

[41] (Trust for Public Land 2025, 2)

[42] (National Recreation and Park Association 2024, 5)

[43] (Bolitzer and Netusil 2000; Adelaja et al. 2008; Crompton and Nicholls 2019)

Map 2: Park Access and Service Area in Anderson Township



Sources: CAGIS land use data; map prepared by the Economics Center.

Data Sources

The analysis used GIS shapefiles for nine public parks in the Township, obtained from the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information Systems (CAGIS) Open Data Hub and updated in April 2025.

Population data from the 2020 Census at the block level were joined with the park service area buffers to estimate the number of residents with walkable access to outdoor recreation. To project this population to 2023, the Township-level population estimate was drawn from the American Community Survey five-year estimates released in December 2024.[44]

Participation rates were obtained from three major sources: the 2024 Participation Trends Report by the Outdoor Foundation, the 2023 Participation Report by the Outdoor Industry Association, and the 2023 Participation and Expenditure Estimates for Ohio by Southwick Associates. These sources provided state- and national-level participation rates by total population, gender, and race, which supported multiple estimation approaches.

Estimation Procedure

To estimate the 2023 population within the buffer zone, the 2020 Census block-level population count was adjusted using a population growth factor. This factor was calculated by dividing the Township's 2023 population by its 2020 population. The resulting ratio was then applied to the 2020 buffer-zone population. This method assumes that population growth occurred evenly across the Township, which is a standard practice when block-level growth data are not available.

To estimate the share of the buffer-zone population likely to participate in outdoor recreation, the analysis used three approaches based on the Outdoor Industry Association's 2023–2024 surveys. First, total participation rates were applied to the buffer-zone population. Second, gender-based participation rates were applied using the known male and female population shares in the Township. Third, participation rates by race and ethnicity were applied using the Township's racial composition. The average of these three estimates was presented as the final estimate in this study, providing a balanced perspective based on demographic trends and data sources.

Limitations and Assumptions

This study assumes that population growth and demographic distribution between 2020 and 2023 were consistent across the Township. It assumes that the demographic characteristics of residents within park service areas are comparable to those of the Township as a whole.

While proximity to outdoor amenities is a strong indicator of participation, it is not a perfect predictor. Previous research shows that actual use is influenced by additional factors, including safety, signage, surface conditions, and overall trail quality.[45] In this analysis, the Economics Center estimated the general likelihood of participation but did not distinguish between core participants and occasional users.

Despite these limitations, the methodology used in this study offers a reliable estimate of the population with walkable access to parks in the Township. The approach reflects established national planning practices and data standards commonly used in outdoor recreation research.

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[44] (U.S. Census Bureau 2024)
[45] (NRPA, 2023)

Outdoor Recreation Participation Estimates

In this study, the outdoor recreation population refers to residents aged five and older who are likely to participate in outdoor recreation. This definition generally aligns with the Outdoor Industry Association's approach in its national participation surveys, which focus on individuals aged six and older.[46] Because the Census groups data by ages five and older, all population estimates in this section refer to that age group, unless otherwise noted.

Based on 2020 U.S. Census block-level data joined with the defined park service area, 184 Census blocks were identified as being located within that area. The total population in these blocks was approximately 30,592 in 2020. After adjusting for the minor population decline in the Township between 2020 and 2023, estimated at approximately 0.5 percent based on American Community Survey data, the updated 2023 population within the park service area is approximately 30,424. When limited to residents aged five and older, the estimated study population is 28,598.

This population represents approximately 65.3 percent of the Township's total population in 2023. Similarly, approximately 67.9 percent of all Township households, or 11,243 households, are located within the defined park service area.

Approach 1: Participation Estimate Based on Total Rate

According to the 2024 national-level outdoor activities survey, the Outdoor Industry Association estimated that 175.8 million Americans aged six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2023. This figure represents 57.3 percent of the population eligible for outdoor activity participation in the United States.[47] Applying this national participation rate to the Township's service population of 28,598 residents results in an estimated 16,387 likely participants in outdoor recreation.

Approach 2: Participation Estimate Based on Gender

According to the same national-level survey by the Outdoor Industry Association, participation rates vary by gender. In 2023, 62.9 percent of males and 51.9 percent of females participated in outdoor recreation.[48] When these gender-specific rates are applied to the Township's park service population—comprising 13,752 males and 14,847 females—the estimated number of participants is 16,356, which represents 57.2 percent of the park-access population. These findings are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Estimated Outdoor Participation by Gender

Gender	Park Service Population	Participants	Participation Rate
Male	13,752	8,650	62.9%
Female	14,847	7,706	51.9%
Total	**28,599**	**16,356**	**57.2%**

Sources: Outdoor Industry Association (2023); U.S. Census Bureau; Economics Center analysis.

Approach 3: Participation Estimate Based on Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2023 national-level outdoor activities survey, the Outdoor Industry Association reports participation rates by race. White residents had a participation rate of 57.3 percent, Black residents, 40.7 percent, Hispanic and Pacific Islander residents, 55.8 percent, and Asian residents approximately 57.0 percent.[49] These rates were weighted based on the racial composition of the Township's park

[46] (Outdoor Industry Association 2023)
[47] (Outdoor Industry Association 2023)
[48] (Outdoor Foundation 2024)
[49] (Outdoor Industry Association 2023)

service population, using American Community Survey data. The result, presented in Table 14, is an estimated 16,356 participants, or 56.8 percent of the study population.

Table 14: Estimated Outdoor Participation by Race

Race	Park Service Population	Participants	Participation Rate
White Alone	25,338	14,519	57.3%
Black or African American Alone	772	314	40.7%
Asian Alone	629	359	57.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	57	32	55.8%
Other Race	1,802	1,033	57.3%
Total	**28,598**	**16,257**	**56.8%**

Sources: Outdoor Industry Association (2023); U.S. Census Bureau; Economics Center analysis.

Comparison and Final Estimate

Using three different estimation methods based on national participation trends, the projected number of outdoor recreation participants living within the Township's park service area ranges from 16,257 to 16,387. These estimates correspond to participation rates between 56.8 percent and 57.3 percent. The average across the three methods is 16,333 participants, or 57.1 percent of the study population. These findings are summarized in Table 15.

Table 15: Outdoor Recreation Population Estimates by Approach

Estimation Approach	Estimated Participants	Participation Rate
By Total Participation Rate	16,387	57.3%
By Gender Participation Rate	16,356	57.2%
By Race Participation Rate	16,257	56.8%
Final Estimate	**16,333**	**57.1%**

Sources: Outdoor Industry Association (2024, 2023); U.S. Census Bureau; Economics Center analysis.

Factors Shaping Recreation Participation

Beyond using demographic percentages to estimate the outdoor recreation population, several underlying demographic characteristics may strongly influence participation trends in the coming years. Recognizing these trends can help the Anderson Park District make informed decisions when planning to improve or expand park services. The Economics Center draws from recent Census data, national participation reports, and relevant research to highlight trends in age, family structure, education, income, and work behavior that shape how local residents engage with parks and trails.

Age Profile and the Need for Age-Friendly Park Facilities

According to the 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, participation rates vary significantly by age. As shown in Table 16, youth under the age of 18 show the highest engagement, with a national participation rate of 78.8 percent. Adults aged 18 to

34 participate at a rate of 56.0 percent, and those aged 35 to 64 participate at a rate of 51.0 percent. Participation declines among older adults, with rates of 49.7 percent for individuals aged 55 to 64, and only 39.5 percent for individuals aged 65 and older. These findings suggest that improving park accessibility for older residents could lead to increased participation among this age group.

In the Township, 18.4 percent of the population is aged 65 and older. This share has grown by 27.7 percent over the past decade, increasing from 6,317 residents in 2013 to 8,066 in 2023, with 5,262 living within proximity to a Township park. The rising number of older adults highlights the need for more age-friendly park features, such as accessible trails, shaded seating areas, and programs designed for seniors. The Economics Center recommends that expanding these features would help increase park use among the Township's growing senior population.

Table 16: Estimated Participants by Age Group

Age Group	Population	Share	Participants	Participation Rate
Under 18 Years	7,693	26.8%	6,039	78.8%
18 to 34 Years	4,004	14.0%	2,242	56.0%
35 to 64 Years	11,668	40.8%	5,951	51.0%
65 and Over	5,262	18.4%	2,079	39.5%
Total[50]	**28,598**	**100.0%**	**16,333**	**57.1%**

Sources: Outdoor Foundation (2023); U.S. Census Bureau; Economics Center analysis.

Family Composition and Demand for Child-Oriented Amenities

The Township's high-quality residential environment and school system attract many families with children. According to the 2023 American Community Survey, 74.7 percent of all households in the Township are family households. Of these, 50.3 percent include children under the age of 18. Children under age 10 represent 12.3 percent of the total population.

Families with young children are especially likely to use park facilities. Research shows that young children benefit from unstructured play and outdoor space that supports physical development, and that families are often willing to travel farther for high-quality outdoor amenities. Parks that include sports fields, playgrounds, open lawns, and shaded seating areas are especially valuable to these households.[51] The Economics Center suggests that continued investment in child-friendly park features can help meet the needs of these households, support family health and well-being, and enhance the Township's appeal as a place to live and raise children.

Education and Income as Indicators of Recreation Potential

Education and income are strong predictors of outdoor recreation participation. National research by Bowker and Askew (2012) found that individuals with higher educational attainment are more likely to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities, particularly birding, hiking, and winter sports. The study also identified a positive correlation between income and participation across nearly all outdoor recreation types, although the strength of that relationship varies by activity.[52]

Anderson Township is well-positioned in this regard. Among residents aged 25 and older, 97.9 percent have attained education beyond high school. The median household income in 2023 was $118,602.

[50] Totals may not equal the sum of individual categories due to rounding.
[51] (Outdoor Foundation 2024)
[52] (Bowker and Askew 2012)

These demographic characteristics suggest strong potential for outdoor recreation participation and continued interest in expanded park services.

Remote Work Trends and Implications for Park Usage

Changing work patterns also influence park usage. Remote work allows residents greater flexibility to visit parks during non-traditional hours, including mornings and mid-afternoons. This trend may be especially relevant for individuals with caregiving responsibilities or those seeking physical activity during workday breaks.

In the Township, the share of residents working remotely has nearly doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic, rising from 9.2 percent in 2020 to 17.9 percent in 2023. This increase in remote work is likely to expand demand for neighborhood park access, weekday programming, and facilities that support brief, spontaneous visits throughout the day.

Summary of Outdoor Recreation Population Estimates

The Economics Center estimates the outdoor recreation population in Anderson Township by focusing on residents with walkable access to local parks and trails. The 0–0.5 mile and 0.5–1.0 mile buffers were used to define service areas, identifying 28,598 residents living within a ten-minute walk of a public recreation amenity.

Based on national participation rates, between 16,256 to 16,387 residents within the service area are likely to engage in outdoor recreation, representing approximately 56.8 to 57.3 percent of the buffer-zone population. The final estimate is 16,333 likely participants.

Anderson Township's population characteristics, including a growing senior population, a large share of families, high levels of educational attainment, and elevated household income, support the likelihood of continued growth in outdoor recreation participation in the near future.

Health Care Cost Savings for Residents

This section examines how increased access to parks and open space can reduce health care costs for Anderson Township residents. Parks support both physical activity and mental wellness, helping to prevent illness and lower spending on health care.

Physical Healthcare Cost Savings

Parks provide convenient, no-cost opportunities for walking, jogging, biking, and other physical activities. These activities play a key role in preventing chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. As a result, increased physical activity from regular park use can reduce medical costs for the community.

Methodology

To estimate the health care savings supported by physical activity in parks, the Economics Center applied a nationally accepted method developed by the Trust for Public Land. This approach is based on research by Pratt, Macera, and Wang (2000), which shows that physically active adults have lower annual health care costs than inactive adults.

The Economics Center updated this method using recent studies by Van Den Eeden et al. (2022) and Ding et al. (2016), which estimate that physical inactivity accounts for 1.0 percent to 3.0 percent of total U.S. health care spending. National cost data from Milliman was also used: $7,151 per year for adults aged 18 to 64, and approximately $12,000 to $13,000 per year for adults aged 65 and older[53]. Based on these inputs, the savings per person are shown in Table 17.

Table 17: Estimated Annual Healthcare Cost Savings per Person from Park Use

Age Group	Average Annual Cost	1% Savings	3% Savings
18–64	$7,151	$72	$215
65 and older	$12,000–$13,000	$120	$390

Sources: Pratt, Macera, and Wang (2000); Van Den Eeden et al. (2022); Ding et al. (2016); Milliman (2024); Economics Center analysis.

Estimated Values

The total number of adult park participants identified in the Township is 10,272. Of these, 8,193 are aged 18 to 64, and 2,079 are aged 65 and older. Applying the savings estimates to these groups, the annual savings range from $589,896 to $1,761,495 for the younger group, and from $249,480 to $810,810 for older adults. Combined, this results in potential savings between $839,376 and $2,572,305 per year, as shown in Table 18.

Although both low and high estimates are shown, the Economics Center used the 1.0 percent savings rate for final reporting. This conservative assumption aligns with best practices and avoids overstating benefits.

[53] (Milliman 2024)

Table 18: Estimated Annual Healthcare Cost Savings from Park Use by Age Group (2024$)

Age Group	Number of Participants	Per-Person Savings (1%)	Total Savings (1%)	Per-Person Savings(3%)	Total Savings (3%)
18–64	8,193	$72	$589,896	$215	$1,761,495
65 and older	2,079	$120	$249,480	$390	$810,810
Total	**10,272**	—	**$839,376**	—	**$2,572,305**

Sources: Milliman (2024), Pratt et al. (2000), Van Den Eeden et al. (2022), and Ding et al. (2016); Economics Center analysis.

Mental Healthcare Cost Savings

Time spent in nature is linked to improved mental health, including reduced symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression. This subsection estimates potential mental health care savings resulting from regular park use among Township residents.

Methodology

The analysis combines mental health prevalence rates with expected reductions associated with time spent outdoors and the average cost of treatment. It draws on prevalence data from Mental Health America, improvement rates from Shanahan et al. (2016), and cost data from Medical News Today.[54]

Among the 10,272 adult park participants in the Township, 24.5 percent, approximately 2,517 individuals, are expected to experience mental health conditions in a given year.[55] If all regularly use parks, the prevalence could decline by 7.0 percent, reducing the estimated number of affected individuals to 1,798. This results in approximately 719 avoided cases.

Estimated Values

The average cost of therapy is estimated at $1,080 per person per year.[56] Multiplying the 719 fewer cases by the annual cost per case results in an estimated savings of $776,520 per year, as shown in Table 19. This estimate illustrates how local parks help reduce mental health burdens and lower healthcare costs for the community.

Table 19: Estimated Annual Mental Healthcare Cost Savings from Park Use

Metric	Value
Total adult population	10,272
Prevalence without park use	24.5%
Estimated cases without parks	2,517
Prevalence with park use	17.5%
Estimated cases with park use	1,798
Reduction in cases	719
Average annual cost per case	$1,080
Total annual savings	**$776,520**

Sources: Mental Health America (2024); Shanahan et al. (2016); Tebra (2024); Economics Center analysis.

[54] (Tebra 2024)
[55] (Mental Health America 2024)
[56] (Tebra 2024)

Summary of Health Care Cost Savings

Parks in Anderson Township generate measurable health care cost savings by supporting both physical activity and mental well-being. Regular use of local parks helps prevent chronic illness and reduces symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression. These health outcomes translate into real economic value for the community.

Using national cost data and peer-reviewed research, the Economics Center estimated annual health care savings based on local outdoor recreation participation. As shown in Table 20, for physical health, applying a conservative 1.0 percent savings rate to the active adult population results in estimated annual savings of $839,376. This reflects reduced risks of heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions. For mental health, outdoor activity is associated with a 7.0 percent reduction in the prevalence of mental health issues, leading to estimated annual savings of $776,520. Combined, these findings suggest that Anderson Township parks generate a total annual health care savings of $1,615,896.

Table 20: Summary of Annual Healthcare Cost Savings from Park Use

Benefit Type	Estimated Annual Savings
Physical Health (1% savings)	$839,376
Mental Health	$776,520
Total	**$1,615,896**

Sources: Milliman (2024); Mental Health America (2024); Tebra (2024); Shanahan et al. (2016); Economics Center analysis.

Environmental Benefits

Parks and natural areas in Anderson Township contribute to the natural environment by improving air quality and reducing stormwater runoff. These environmental services are essential to long-term sustainability and community well-being. Using methods supported by national research and localized data, this section estimates the dollar value of two measurable benefits provided by the Township's park system: air pollution removal by park trees and avoided stormwater infrastructure costs through natural water absorption.

Improved Air Quality by Park Trees

Air pollution is a pressing concern in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area. According to the State of the Air 2024 report by the American Lung Association, the region ranks among the worst in the United States for both particle and ozone pollution. Hamilton County averaged 4.5 unhealthy ozone days per year between 2020 and 2022, received an "F" grade, and ranked 42nd worst nationally for ozone exposure. The region also ranked 85th worst for short-term particle pollution, with one unhealthy day per year and a "C" grade. Both pollutants are linked to serious health conditions, including asthma, cardiovascular disease, premature death, and impaired cognitive function.[57]

Trees in Anderson Township parks reduce these risks by removing harmful air pollutants from the atmosphere. Through natural processes, trees filter pollutants such as ozone (O_3), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and carbon monoxide (CO). They also absorb and store carbon dioxide (CO_2), a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. These ecological services improve local air quality, reduce healthcare costs, and support environmental sustainability. In a region where pollution levels often exceed federal standards, these benefits offer measurable value.

Methodology

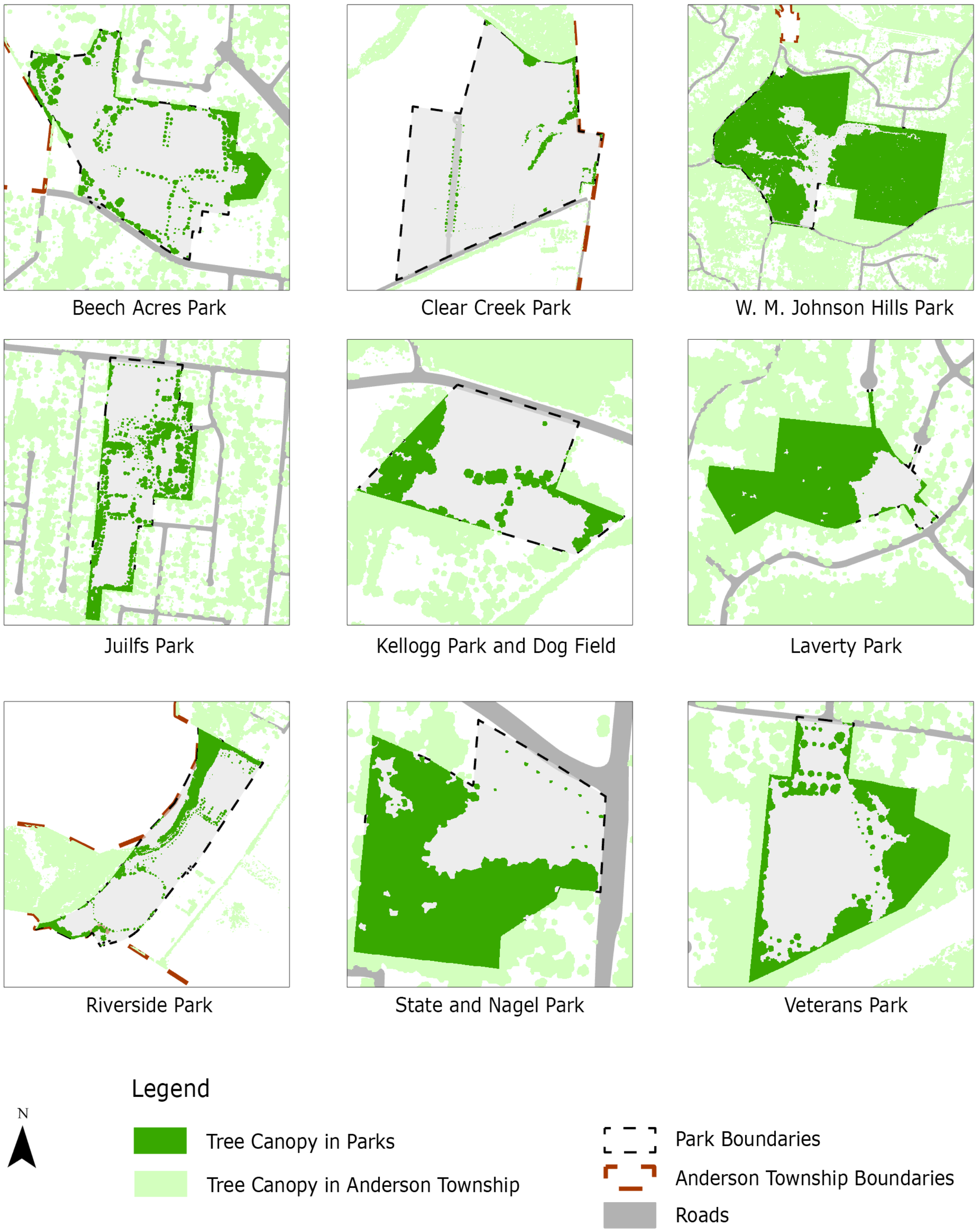
To quantify the air quality benefits of local park trees, the Economics Center used high-resolution land cover data from the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS), which offers 1-foot spatial detail for Hamilton County.

Map 3 displays tree canopy coverage for each of the nine Township parks. These maps, derived from the same CAGIS dataset, highlight areas with dense canopy and show how each park contributes to local air quality.

The Economics Center used the U.S. Forest Service's i-Tree Canopy model to estimate air pollutant removal and its economic value. The i-Tree model combines aerial imagery with environmental data to calculate tree canopy coverage and estimate the annual removal of air pollutants. Valuations are based on standard methods developed by the U.S. Forest Service and reflect avoided health care costs, pollution control expenses, and related economic benefits.

[57] (American Lung Association 2024)

Map 3: Tree Canopy Coverage in Anderson Township Parks



Sources: CAGIS land use data; map prepared by the Economics Center.

Estimated Values

As shown in Table 21, trees in Anderson Township parks remove an estimated 1,658,320 pounds of air pollutants and carbon dioxide each year. This includes 157 pounds of carbon monoxide (CO), 620 pounds of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), 7,470 pounds of ozone (O_3), 2,996 pounds of particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM_{10}), 390 pounds of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$), 1,337 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and 1,645,350 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO_2). The total annual value of air pollution removal, excluding CO_2, is $44,360. The estimated value of CO_2 sequestration is $120,390, bringing the combined annual benefit to $164,750.[58]

Table 21: Estimated Annual Air Pollution Removal by Trees in Township Parks (2024$)

Category	Pounds Removed	Removal Value
CO	157	$1,946
NO_2	620	$215
O_3	7,470	$797
PM10	2,996	$9,240
PM2.5	390	$32,147
SO_2	1,337	$15
CO_2	1,645,350	$120,390
Total	**1,658,320**	**$164,750**

Sources: i-Tree Canopy; Economics Center analysis.

These findings demonstrate the importance of preserving and managing urban forests. Trees in Anderson Township parks provide measurable improvements in air quality and climate resilience. These benefits support public health and enhance the Township's capacity to respond to environmental challenges.

Stormwater Runoff Reduction

Stormwater runoff remains a persistent challenge in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area. Intense rainfall events often exceed the capacity of aging infrastructure, leading to localized flooding, sewer overflows, and environmental degradation. In 2024, the region recorded 7.8 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow, which discharged untreated water into local streams and rivers, increasing public health and ecological risks.[59]

Anderson Township's parks play an important role in reducing stormwater runoff by capturing rainfall and allowing it to infiltrate into the soil, rather than flowing into storm drains. These areas reduce the burden on public infrastructure and help protect water quality. This analysis uses high-resolution land cover data from CAGIS, combined with Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) data, to estimate the stormwater management value of park land. The method follows the modeling framework used in the Metroparks Toledo economic benefits report, adapted for local conditions and available datasets.[60]

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[58] Monetary values have been adjusted for inflation to reflect 2024 dollars. The original i-Tree benefit rates were benchmarked to 2015–2017 dollars.
[59] (WVXU 2025)
[60] (Trust for Public Land 2019)

Methodology

The Economics Center analyzed the distribution of impervious surfaces within the 407 acres of park land managed by the Anderson Park District. [61] Based on land cover data from the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS), only 33.2 acres are classified as impervious surfaces, including paved paths, buildings, and parking areas. This indicates that 91.8 percent of park land remains pervious, composed of forests, open grasslands, and low-density vegetation.

Table 22 presents land cover by type and area, and Table 23, summarizes the percentage distribution of pervious and impervious surfaces across all parks.

Table 22: Land Cover Area by Type

Land Cover	Type	Area (Acres)
Woodland	permeable	164.4
Open Land	permeable	200.8
Urban Low Densities	permeable	4.4
Cleared Land	permeable	2.9
Agriculture/Crops	permeable	0.6
Urban High Density	impermeable (85%)	4.8 (4.1)
Pavement	impermeable	29.1

Sources: CAGIS data; Economics Center analysis.

Table 23: Soil Area Percent Distribution

Land Cover Type	Acres	Percent of Area
Pervious Soil	373.8	91.8%
Impervious Soil	33.2	8.2%
Total	**407.0**	**100.0%**

Sources: CAGIS data; Economics Center analysis.

To estimate the reduction in stormwater runoff, each land cover type was matched to its corresponding soil hydrologic group using GIS spatial analysis. Curve Numbers (CN) were then assigned to each combination based on the Anderson Township Stormwater Management Plan.[62] Curve Number values represent the surface's ability to absorb rainfall and are essential for estimating runoff potential.

The analysis used an annual rainfall depth of 42.24 inches, the standard value for stormwater modeling in Hamilton County. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Curve Number method was applied to calculate runoff depth and volume for each land cover–soil group combination. Finally, avoided runoff was valued using an updated benefit rate of $0.09 per cubic foot, adjusted from the i-Tree model's standard value to reflect 2024 dollars.[63] This rate represents the estimated cost savings from not having to treat and manage stormwater through traditional infrastructure.

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[61] The total acreage for the nine parks is approximately 446 acres; however, due to the boundaries available in the GIS dataset, the analysis area is limited to 407 acres.

[62](University of Cincinnati 2019)

[63] The $0.09 per cubic foot rate reflects an inflation-adjusted estimate based on the i-Tree model's standard benefit value of $0.07, originally benchmarked to 2015–2017 dollars.

Estimated Values

The results indicate that Anderson Township parks absorb more than 54.8 million cubic feet of stormwater annually, which is equivalent to approximately 1,258 acre-feet. As shown in Table 24, this natural infiltration results in an estimated $4,932,535 in avoided stormwater management costs each year (2024 dollars). These cost savings reflect the value of not having to handle this runoff through traditional infrastructure systems.

Table 24: Annual Stormwater Reduction and Value by Land Type (2024$)

Land Cover Type	Soil Hydrologic Group	Area (Square Feet)	HSG CN Value	Runoff Depth (Inch)	Runoff Volume (Cubic Feet)	Monetary Value
Woodland	B	607,324	55	33.8	1,710,325	$153,929
Woodland	C	6,539,902	70	37.5	20,436,829	$1,839,315
Open Land	A	51,783	39	27.9	120,563	$10,851
Open Land	B	5,921,543	61	35.4	17,483,878	$1,573,549
Open Land	C	2,749,631	74	38.3	8,775,402	$789,786
Urban Low Densities/ Rural	A	25,304	57	34.4	72,467	$6,522
Urban Low Densities/ Rural	B	65,822	72	37.9	207,925	$18,713
Urban Low Densities/ Rural	C	102,544	81	39.5	337,967	$30,417
Cleared Land	B	1,267	82	39.7	4,193	$377
Cleared Land	C	124,834	87	40.5	421,297	$37,917
Agriculture/ Crops	B	7,148	81	39.5	23,559	$2,120
Agriculture/ Crops	C	17,934	88	40.6	60,746	$5,467
Urban High Density (85% Impervious)	B	136,875	92	41.2	470,099	$42,309
Urban High Density (85% Impervious)	C	74,327	94	41.5	256,946	$23,125
Pavement	A	4,397	98	42.0	15,388	$1,385
Pavement	B	566,961	98	42.0	1,984,178	$178,576
Pavement	C	692,691	98	42.0	2,424,192	$218,177
Total		**17,690,287**			**54,805,954**	**$4,932,535**

Sources: CAGIS data; Anderson Township Stormwater Plan; Economics Center analysis.

Summary of Environmental Benefits

Trees and natural landscapes in Anderson Township parks provide measurable environmental benefits that protect public health, reduce infrastructure costs, and strengthen community resilience. Each year, trees in the parks remove more than 1.6 million pounds of harmful air pollutants, including carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. These removals contribute an estimated $164,750 in annual air quality and climate-related value, expressed in 2024 dollars.

The park system also plays a vital role in managing stormwater. With 91.8 percent of park land composed of pervious surfaces, Township parks absorb over 54.8 million cubic feet of stormwater annually. This reduces pressure on aging infrastructure, lowers flood risk, and prevents pollutants from entering local waterways. The economic value of this stormwater runoff reduction is estimated at $4,932,535 per year (2024 dollars).

Together, as shown in Table 25, these benefits illustrate the environmental return on investment in Anderson Township's park system. The effects extend beyond recreation, contributing to a cleaner environment and cost savings for public services.

Table 25: Summary of Environmental Benefits from Anderson Township Parks

Benefit Type	Annual Quantity	Estimated Annual Value
Air Pollutants Removed	1,658,321 pounds	$164,750
Stormwater Absorbed	54,805,955 cubic feet	$4,932,535
Total Environmental Value	—	**$5,097,285**

Sources: CAGIS data; i-Tree model; Anderson Township Stormwater Plan; Economics Center analysis.

Property Market Benefits of Park Proximity

Parks enhance neighborhood quality of life and contribute measurable value to nearby homes. Properties located close to parks often have higher market values than similar homes farther away. This added value comes from the scenic quality, recreational opportunities, and environmental benefits of nearby natural areas. Higher property values also increase property tax revenues, which help fund local services and infrastructure.

Methodology

To estimate how Anderson Township parks affect nearby housing values, the Economics Center analyzed residential properties located within a 0-0.5 mile service area (approximately a ten-minute walk) of all nine Township parks. For the four major parks, the analysis was extended to include an additional band of properties located 0.5 to 1.0 mile from park boundaries.[64] Research shows that the effect of park proximity declines with distance, so results for the extended area reflect a smaller estimated increase in property value.

Parcel data from the Hamilton County Auditor and CAGIS identified 5,758 residential units within the 0-0.5 mile service areas, along with 4,370 residential units and 513 vacant residential parcels in the 0.5–1.0 mile extended areas. Commercial properties were excluded from the analysis. Table 26 and Table 27 summarize property counts, total assessed values, and 2024 property taxes for these zones.

Table 26: Residential Properties within 0-0.5 mile Service Area, Assessed Value and 2024 Property Tax (2024$)

Category	Property Count	Share	Property Value	Tax Revenue
Single-Family	5,724	99.4%	$1,713,334,440	$36,268,829
Manufactured Home	22	0.4%	$98,240	$2,560
Two-Family Dwelling	7	0.1%	$1,363,520	$30,050
Three-Family Dwelling	5	0.1%	$584,170	$12,980
Total	**5,758**	**100.0%**	**$1,715,380,370**	**$36,314,419**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, CAGIS property data, Economics Center Analysis.

Table 27: Residential Properties within 0.5-1.0 Mile Service Area, Assessed Value and 2024 Property Tax (2024$)

Category	Property Count	Share	Property Value	Tax Revenue
Vacant Land	513	10.5%	$7,982,390	$170,192
Single Family	4,035	82.6%	$1,506,022,530	$31,917,320
Two Family Dwellings	6	0.1%	$1,581,470	$35,432
Three Family Dwellings	4	0.1%	$1,230,300	$27,333
Condominiums	322	6.6%	$50,595,460	$1,049,383
Manufactured Home	3	0.1%	$63,430	$1,443
Total	**4,883**	**100.0%**	**$1,567,475,580**	**$33,201,103**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, CAGIS property data, Economics Center Analysis.

[64] The four major parks, each more than 40 acres in size, are Beech Acres Park, W.M. Johnson Hills Park, Riverside Park, and Clear Creek Park.

The estimated property market benefits are based on the "park premium," which is well documented in the literature. Crompton and Nicholls (2020) found that an 8.0 to 10.0 percent premium is reasonable for properties directly adjacent to high-quality, especially passive, parks in strong urban markets. Given the quality of Anderson Township's parks and its strong housing market, the Economics Center applied an 8.0 percent increase to residential property values within the 0–0.5 mile service area. The four major parks can also influence property values beyond 0.5 miles, with effects extending up to 1.0 mile, though the premium typically declines to approximately 2.0 percent.[65]

Zone-Specific Results

Within the 0–0.5 mile service area, 99.4 percent of properties are single-family homes, 0.4 percent are manufactured homes, and the remainder are two- or three-family dwellings. Applying an 8.0 percent premium to property values, Anderson Township parks are estimated to increase residential property values by $137.2 million, as shown in Table 28, and generate approximately $2.9 million in additional property tax revenue each year, as shown in Table 29.

Table 28: Estimated Property Value Increase within the 0-0.5 Mile Service Area (2024$)

Category	Property Value	Enhanced Value
Single-Family	$1,713,334,440	$137,066,755
Two-Family Dwelling	$1,363,520	$109,082
Three-Family Dwelling	$584,170	$46,734
Manufactured Home	$98,240	$7,859
Total	**$1,715,380,370**	**$137,230,430**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, Economics Center Analysis.

Table 29: Estimated Property Tax Increase within the 0-0.5 Mile Service Area (2024$)

Category	Property Tax	Enhanced Tax Revenue
Single-Family	$36,268,829	$2,901,506
Two-Family Dwelling	$30,050	$2,404
Three-Family Dwelling	$12,980	$1,038
Manufactured Home	$2,560	$205
Total	**$36,314,419**	**$2,905,153**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, Economics Center Analysis.

65 Studies by Bolitzer and Netusil (2000), Adelaja et al. (2008), and Crompton and Nicholls (2019) document these extended effects for major or regional parks.

In the extended 0.5–1.0 mile area, 82.6 percent of parcels are single-family homes, 10.5 percent are vacant lots, 6.6 percent are condominiums, and the remainder are two-, three-family, or manufactured homes. Applying a smaller premium to reflect the reduced effect of distance, these properties are estimated to gain $31.3 million in value, as presented in Table 30, with an associated $664,023 in additional property tax revenue each year, as presented in Table 31.

Table 30: Estimated Property Value Increase within the 0.5-1.0 Mile Service Area (2024$)

Category	Property Value	Enhanced Value
Vacant Land	$7,982,390	$159,648
Single-Family	$1,506,022,530	$30,120,451
Two-Family Dwellings	$1,581,470	$31,629
Three-Family Dwellings	$1,230,300	$24,606
Condominiums	$50,595,460	$1,011,909
Manufactured Home	$63,430	$1,269
Total	**$1,567,475,580**	**$31,349,512**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, Economics Center Analysis.

Table 31: Estimated Property Tax Increase within the 0.5-1.0 Mile Service Area (2024$)

Category	Property Tax	Enhanced Tax Revenue
Vacant Land	$170,192	$3,404
Single Family	$31,917,320	$638,346
Two Family Dwellings	$35,432	$709
Three Family Dwellings	$27,333	$547
Condominiums	$1,049,383	$20,988
Manufactured Home	$1,443	$29
Total	**$33,201,103**	**$664,023**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, Economics Center Analysis.

Total Property Market Effects

Across both zones, homes and residential parcels near Township parks are estimated to gain $168.6 million in added market value, generating approximately $3.6 million in additional property tax revenue annually, as shown in Table 32. These impacts demonstrate the economic importance of maintaining and investing in high-quality natural areas. Properties within the 0–0.5 mile service area experience an estimated average gain of 8.0 percent, while those within 0.5–1.0 mile of the four major parks see an average gain of 2.0 percent. Beyond these service areas, the effect on property value declines rapidly to negligible levels.

Table 32: Combined Enhanced Property Values and Tax Revenues from Proximity to Township Parks (2024$)

Category	Enhanced Property Values	Enhanced Tax Revenue
Vacant Land	$159,648	$3,404
Single-Family	$167,187,206	$3,539,853
Two-Family Dwellings	$140,711	$3,113
Three-Family Dwellings	$71,340	$1,585
Condominiums	$1,011,909	$20,988
Manufactured Home	$9,128	$234
Total	**$168,579,942**	**$3,569,177**

Sources: Hamilton County Auditor, Economics Center Analysis.

Conclusions

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of the many ways Anderson Township parks contribute to the local economy, resident well-being, and environmental health. The findings are grounded in national and regional research, supported by reliable data sources, and guided by well-established analytical methods.

The Anderson Park District creates economic and fiscal benefits for the local economy through employment, wages, business activity, and tax revenue. The operations expenditures, capital expenditures, and out-of-county visitor spending of the Anderson Park District generated a total of $8.0 in economic output and supported a total of 188 full- and part-time jobs with wages of approximately $4.5 million in Anderson Township in fiscal year 2024. In addition to the economic impact, the Anderson Park District generated fiscal benefits totaling $303,905 in fiscal year 2024. This is comprised of $39,298 in earnings tax revenue, and $264,607 in sales tax revenue.

The study also estimates outdoor recreation participation based on proximity to Township parks. Using census block-level data and national participation trends, the analysis identifies approximately 28,598 residents living within walking distance of a park, with an estimated 16,333 likely participants. This park-going population serves as the basis for evaluating economic benefits.

The analysis quantifies the economic value of Township parks in three main areas: healthcare savings, environmental services, and property value enhancement. In healthcare, access to parks is associated with an estimated $1,615,896 in annual savings due to improved physical activity and mental health. In environmental terms, park lands absorb more than 54.8 million cubic feet of stormwater and remove over 1.6 million pounds of air pollutants each year, generating approximately $5.1 million in value. In the property market, proximity to parks is linked to an estimated $168.6 million increase in residential property values and $3.6 million in additional annual property tax revenue. Together, these findings confirm that Anderson Township's parks are critical infrastructure, not only as places for recreation, but as long-term investments in public health, environmental quality, and fiscal stability.

These findings confirm that Anderson Township's parks are critical infrastructure, serving not only as places for recreation but also as long-term investments in public health, environmental quality, and fiscal stability. This report focuses on the nine parks managed by the Anderson Park District; however, residents also benefit from county parks provided by Great Parks of Hamilton County, which offer additional opportunities for recreation, nature access, and community engagement. The Anderson Park District and the Economics Center recognize the important role of Great Parks of Hamilton County within Anderson Township, and together they ensure that the community enjoys a rich network of high-quality natural and recreational amenities.

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