

Arizona State Parks Board

	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ESTIMATE	FY 2026 APPROVED
OPERATING BUDGET			
<i>Full Time Equivalent Positions</i>	167.0	167.0	169.0
Personal Services	7,221,400	7,239,600	7,278,600
Employee Related Expenditures	2,997,100	3,038,900	3,328,300
Professional and Outside Services	74,100	28,300	28,300
Travel - In State	12,700	14,500	14,500
Travel - Out of State	300	0	0
Other Operating Expenditures	7,730,700	6,169,000	6,992,100
Equipment	298,900	35,000	35,000
OPERATING SUBTOTAL	18,335,200	16,525,300	17,676,800 ^{1/}
SPECIAL LINE ITEMS			
Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit	6,000,000	0	1,000,000 ^{2/}
Arizona Trail Fund Deposit	500,000	100,000	0
Broadband Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance	0	0	242,100
Kartchner Caverns State Park	2,442,200	2,509,900	2,587,700
State Lake Improvement Fund Deposit	5,200,000	0	1,500,000
State Parks Store	1,008,200	1,513,100	1,530,200
Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study	0	500,000	0
Veterans Memorial Park Purchase	0	0	0 ^{3/}
Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance	0	0	541,000
AGENCY TOTAL	33,485,600	21,148,300	25,077,800 ^{4/5/6/}
FUND SOURCES			
General Fund	11,700,000	100,000	2,500,000
<u>Other Appropriated Funds</u>			
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund	16,700	16,700	16,700
State Park Store Fund	1,008,200	1,513,100	1,530,200
State Parks Revenue Fund	20,760,700	19,518,500	21,030,900
SUBTOTAL - Other Appropriated Funds	21,785,600	21,048,300	22,577,800
SUBTOTAL - Appropriated Funds	33,485,600	21,148,300	25,077,800
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	8,766,300	14,787,800	14,787,800
Federal Funds	974,200	8,823,600	8,823,600
TOTAL - ALL SOURCES	43,226,100	44,759,700	48,689,200

AGENCY DESCRIPTION — The Arizona State Parks Board (ASPB) is responsible for managing the state parks system, which includes recreational parks, historical parks, and natural areas. The Parks Board consists of 7 members appointed by the Governor. Major functions of the Parks Board, through its staff, include the maintenance and development of existing parks, new parks acquisitions, statewide recreational planning, and historic preservation.

FOOTNOTES

- ^{1/} In addition to the operating lump sum appropriation, an amount equal to the revenue share agreement with the United States forest service for Fool Hollow Lake recreation area and Catalina state park is appropriated to the Arizona state parks board from the state parks revenue fund established by section 41-511.21, Arizona Revised Statutes. (General Appropriations Act footnote)
- ^{2/} The Arizona state parks board may not spend any monies appropriated in the heritage fund deposit line item to purchase property. (General Appropriations Act footnote)
- ^{3/} The \$10,000,000 appropriated to the Arizona state parks board by Laws 2023, chapter 199, section 6 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to purchase, design and construct the Arizona veterans memorial state park is exempt from the provisions of

section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations, until June 30, 2027. (General Appropriations Act footnote)

- 4/ If the Arizona state parks board receives land and water conservation grant funding for capital projects included in fiscal year 2025-2026 budget legislation, the board shall report its revised expenditure plans to the joint committee on capital review and the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting. (General Appropriations Act footnote)
- 5/ If federal historic preservation fund grant monies are unavailable to the state historic preservation office in federal fiscal year 2025-2026, the Arizona state parks board may spend up to \$865,000 of the monies in the state parks revenue fund established by section 41-511.21, Arizona Revised Statutes, to pay for the state historic preservation office's operating expenses. Before spending any monies from the state parks revenue fund on state historic preservation office operating expenses, the Arizona state parks board shall report its expenditure plan to the joint legislative budget committee. (General Appropriations Act footnote)
- 6/ General Appropriations Act funds are appropriated as an Operating Lump Sum with Special Line Items by Agency.

Operating Budget

The budget includes \$17,676,800 and 133.2 FTE Positions in FY 2026 for the operating budget. These amounts consist of:

	FY 2026
State Parks Revenue Fund (SPRF)	\$17,660,100
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund	16,700

Adjustments are as follows:

Expand Family Campout Program

The budget includes an increase of \$448,200 and 2 FTE Positions from SPRF in FY 2026 to expand the existing Family Campout Program, which teaches basic camping skills to families with little to no camping experience. Of this amount, \$231,000 is one-time funding to purchase camping supplies and vehicles.

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$703,300 from SPRF in FY 2026 for statewide adjustments. Of this amount, \$39,000 is for a 5% salary increase for AZPOST-certified staff. *(Please see the Agency Detail and Allocations section.)*

Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit

The budget includes \$1,000,000 from the General Fund in FY 2026 for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

One-Time Deposit

The budget includes a one-time increase of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund in FY 2026 for a deposit into the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. Pursuant to a General Appropriation Act footnote, monies in this line item may not be used to purchase property.

Arizona Trail Fund Deposit

The budget includes no funding in FY 2026 for the Arizona Trail Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time FY 2025 Deposit

The budget includes a one-time decrease of \$(100,000) from the General Fund in FY 2026 for removal of one-time funding for maintenance of the Arizona Trail.

Monies in the Arizona Trail Fund are for the sole purpose of maintaining and preserving the Arizona trail. The Arizona Trail is an 800 mile-long, non-motorized trail beginning at the U.S.-Mexican border and running north-south through the state into Utah.

This project was funded on a one-time basis in FY 2022 through FY 2025 at varying levels.

Broadband Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance

The budget includes \$242,100 from SPRF in FY 2026 for Broadband Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance. Adjustments are as follows:

Ongoing Operations Funding

The budget includes an increase of \$242,100 from SPRF in FY 2026 to establish funding for ongoing costs associated with recent broadband internet projects at several state parks. The projects were originally funded by federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies.

Kartchner Caverns State Park

The budget includes \$2,587,700 and 35.8 FTE Positions from SPRF in FY 2026 for Kartchner Caverns State Park. Adjustments are as follows:

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$77,800 from SPRF in FY 2026 for statewide adjustments.

Kartchner Caverns is located in Benson, Arizona and was discovered in 1974. The State Parks Board acquired the property in 1988 and opened the caverns to the public in 1999.

State Lake Improvement Fund Deposit

The budget includes \$1,500,000 from the General Fund in FY 2026 for the State Lake Improvement Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

One-Time Deposit

The budget includes a one-time increase of \$1,500,000 from the General Fund in FY 2026 for a deposit into the State Lake Improvement Fund.

Monies in the State Lake Improvement Fund are used to fund projects at boating sites, including launching ramps, parking areas, lake improvement and construction, campgrounds, and acquisition of property to provide access to boating sites.

State Parks Store

The budget includes \$1,530,200 from the State Park Store Fund in FY 2026 for the State Parks Store line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$17,100 from the State Parks Store Fund in FY 2026 for statewide adjustments.

Monies in the State Parks Store line item are used to operate and maintain state-owned giftshops.

Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study

The budget includes no funding in FY 2026 for a Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study. Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time Funding

The budget includes a decrease of \$(500,000) from SPRF in FY 2026 to remove funding for a feasibility study on establishing a Veterans Memorial Park.

The FY 2024 budget included \$10,000,000 from SPRF to purchase land for a new Arizona Veterans Memorial Park. Monies in this line item fund a study to evaluate the

feasibility of constructing various proposed facilities on the land purchased with the FY 2024 appropriation.

Veterans Memorial Park Purchase

The budget includes no funding in FY 2026 for a Veterans Memorial Park Purchase. This amount is unchanged from FY 2025.

Laws 2023, Chapter 199 appropriated \$10,000,000 from SPRF in FY 2024 to establish a new state park near the Arizona Veterans National Cemetery in Cave Creek. Chapter 199 also allows the board to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County for the maintenance and preservation of the park and requires ASPB to receive approval from the Joint Committee on Capital Review for the design and construction of the park.

The FY 2026 budget extended the lapsing date of the \$10,000,000 appropriation to June 30, 2027.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance

The budget includes \$541,000 from SPRF in FY 2026 for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance. Adjustments are as follows:

Ongoing Operations Funding

The budget includes an increase of \$541,000 from SPRF in FY 2026 to establish funding for ongoing costs associated with recent wastewater projects at various parks around the state. The projects were originally funded by federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies.

Other Issues

State Parks Operations

As of July 2025, 30 state parks and natural areas are open to the public. Twenty-six parks are funded and operated by the state with existing state funds. Four open parks are operated through agreements between the State Parks Board and local governments. *(Please see the State Parks Visitation and Revenue Program Summary available on the JLBC website for additional information on the parks, visitation, and operations.)*