

Arizona State Parks Board

	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 ESTIMATE	FY 2027 APPROVED
OPERATING BUDGET			
<i>Full Time Equivalent Positions</i>	167.0	169.0	180.0
Personal Services	7,203,400	7,176,700	7,754,900
Employee Related Expenditures	3,126,000	3,135,000	3,900,300
Professional and Outside Services	95,100	25,000	25,000
Travel - In State	835,300	14,000	14,000
Travel - Out of State	800	0	0
Other Operating Expenditures	5,070,300	7,301,800	6,849,700
Equipment	346,500	25,000	25,000
OPERATING SUBTOTAL	16,677,400	17,677,500	18,568,900 ^{1/}
SPECIAL LINE ITEMS			
Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit	0	1,000,000	0
Arizona Trail Fund Deposit	100,000	0	0
Broadband Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance	0	242,100	242,100
Kartchner Caverns State Park	2,484,300	2,587,700	2,659,300
State Lake Improvement Fund Deposit	0	1,500,000	0
State Parks Store	1,497,700	1,530,200	1,540,300
Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study	51,000	0	0
Veterans Memorial Park Purchase	0	0	0 ^{2/}
Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance	0	541,000	541,000
AGENCY TOTAL	20,810,400	25,078,500	23,551,600 ^{3/4/5/}
FUND SOURCES			
General Fund	100,000	2,500,000	0
<u>Other Appropriated Funds</u>			
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund	16,700	16,700	16,700
State Park Store Fund	1,497,700	1,530,200	1,540,300
State Parks Revenue Fund	19,196,000	21,031,600	21,994,600
SUBTOTAL - Other Appropriated Funds	20,710,400	22,578,500	23,551,600
SUBTOTAL - Appropriated Funds	20,810,400	25,078,500	23,551,600
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	8,146,400	20,481,200	20,481,200
Federal Funds	1,227,500	14,418,300	14,418,300
TOTAL - ALL SOURCES	30,184,300	59,978,000	58,451,100

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 \$10,000,000 appropriated to the Arizona state parks board by Laws 2023, chapter 199, section 6 in fiscal year 2023-2024 for a veterans memorial state park is exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations, until June 30, 2028. (General Appropriations Act footnote)

- 3/ If monies are available for land and water conservation grant funding to the Arizona state parks board for capital projects in fiscal year 2026-2027, 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)
- 4/ If federal historic preservation fund grant monies are unavailable to the state historic preservation office in federal fiscal year 2026-2027, the Arizona state parks board may spend up to \$1,400,000 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 for 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)
- 5/ General Appropriations Act funds are appropriated as an Operating Lump Sum with Special Line Items by Agency.

Operating Budget

The budget includes \$18,568,900 and 144.2 FTE Positions in FY 2027 for the operating budget. These amounts consist of:

	FY 2027
State Parks Revenue Fund (SPRF)	\$18,552,200
Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund	16,700

Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time Family Campout Costs

The budget includes a decrease of \$(231,000) from SPRF in FY 2027 for removal of one-time equipment costs associated with expanding the Family Campout Program, which teaches basic camping skills to families with little to no camping experience.

Hire New Parks Staff

The budget includes an increase of \$996,600 and 11 FTE Positions from SPRF in FY 2027 to fill 6 park ranger FTE positions and 5 water operator FTE positions.

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$125,800 from SPRF in FY 2027 for statewide adjustments. *(Please see the Agency Detail and Allocations section.)*

Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit

The budget includes no funding in FY 2027 for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time Deposit

The budget includes a decrease of \$(1,000,000) from the General Fund in FY 2027 for removal of a one-time deposit into the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund.

Pursuant to a General Appropriations Act footnote, FY 2026 monies in this line item may not be used to purchase property.

Arizona Trail Fund Deposit

The budget includes no funding in FY 2027 for the Arizona Trail Fund Deposit line item. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

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 2027 for the Broadband Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance line item. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

Monies in this line item are used to pay ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with 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 \$2,659,300 and 35.8 FTE Positions from SPRF in FY 2027 for Kartchner Caverns State Park. Adjustments are as follows:

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$71,600 from SPRF in FY 2027 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 no funding in FY 2027 for the State Lake Improvement Fund Deposit line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Remove One-Time Deposit

The budget includes a decrease of \$(1,500,000) from the General Fund in FY 2027 for removal of a one-time 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 \$1,540,300 from the State Park Store Fund in FY 2027 for the State Parks Store line item. Adjustments are as follows:

Statewide Adjustments

The budget includes an increase of \$10,100 from the State Park Store Fund in FY 2027 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 2027 for a Veterans Memorial Park Feasibility Study. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

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 2027 for a Veterans Memorial Park Purchase. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

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.

An FY 2027 budget footnote extends the lapse date of the \$10,000,000 appropriation to June 30, 2028.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance

The budget includes \$541,000 from SPRF in FY 2027 for the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance line item. This amount is unchanged from FY 2026.

Monies in this line item fund ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with wastewater projects at several state parks. The projects were originally funded by federal ARPA monies.

Other Issues

State Parks Operations

As of July 2026, 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.)*

Other Issues

Fund Transfers

The budget includes the following transfers from this agency's funds to the General Fund:

	FY 2026
State Parks Revenue Fund	\$8,600,000

SPRF Support for the Arizona Historical Society

The FY 2027 budget for the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) includes a footnote allowing up to \$549,600 from SPRF for AHS's operating expenses if the AHS Donations Fund-Unrestricted balance is less than \$300,000 in FY 2027. *(For additional information and provisions, please see the narrative for the Arizona Historical Society.)*