

Economic Impact from Outdoor Recreational Activities in the Catskills

*Using this information to determine what the
Catskill will look like in 50 years*

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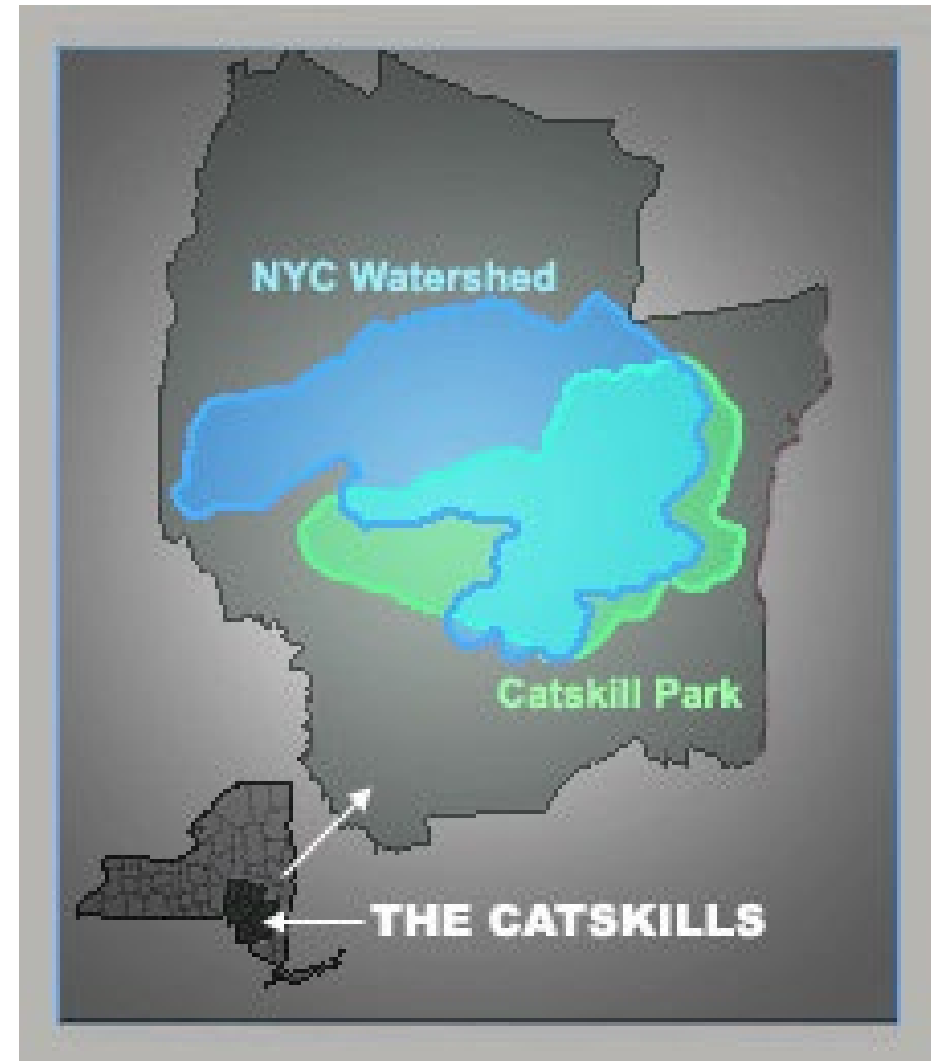
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Background

- **Economic Valuation Study for Public Lands in the Central Catskills**
 - **2012 study was the first to determine the number of annual outdoor recreational visitors to the Catskills**
 - **Study was updated in 2019**
- **Sponsors: Catskill Center, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Catskill Heritage Alliance, Catskill 3500 Club, Catskill Mountain Club, NY-NJ Trail Conference and Woodstock Land Conservancy**

- **Catskill Park and Catskill-Delaware Watershed**
- **Combined area: 1,254,981 acres (est.)**
- **Ulster, Greene, Delaware, Sullivan Counties (plus a little of Schoharie)**



Economic Impact

- **\$ impact and jobs supported**
- **Typically used to evaluate private sector projects**
- **Also applicable to not-for-profit activities**
- **Important method for justifying investments (both private sector and public sector)**

How Economic Impact is Estimated

- **Estimate economic benefits of spending by visitors to the region**
 - **Economic Impact Model (RIMS)**
 - **Direct Effects**
 - **Secondary or “Multiplier” Effects**
 - **“Value added”**
 - **Jobs supported**
- **Inputs required (without doing primary research)**
 - **Number of visitors**
 - **Visitor lodging (day trip, hotel, camping, etc.)**
 - **Visitor spending profiles**

Results: Public/Protected Land

	2010	2018
Total Visitors	1,717,927	1,765,969
Total Visitor Spending	\$62,426,000	\$75,473,830
Average Spending/Visitor	\$36.34	\$42.74
Economic Impact (Value Added)	\$46,207,000	\$55,082,946
Jobs Supported	980*	846

**Note: number of jobs supported is estimated at 700 using RIMS multipliers.*

Results: All Outdoor Recreational Visitors

	2010	2018
Total Visitors	2,496,753	2,711,937
Total Visitor Spending	\$148,534,000	\$170,031,580
Average Spending/Visitor	\$59.49	\$62.70
Economic Impact (Value Added)	\$114,768,000	\$123,889,686
Jobs Supported	2413*	1882

**Note: number of jobs supported is estimated at 1643 using RIMS multipliers.*

What Changed?

- Modest increase in total number of visitors
- Increase in visitors to DEC trails and to ski areas
- Decrease in hunters, anglers and campers
- Increase in average spending/visitor
- These results were all pre-Pandemic

Why should we care?

- Tracking usage trends can help prepare for future usage
- Identify necessary investments to prepare for future
- Provides information needed to justify investments, including grants and fundraising
- Managing environmental resources (not unlike private sector)

What could the Catskills look like in 50 years?

- **Challenges include**
 - **Climate change**
 - **Impact of Pandemic**
 - **Maximizing benefits for local economy**
- **Better decisions can be made if they are based on facts and data**

QUESTIONS???

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