

Economic contribution of parks

The Wellington Regional Strategy identifies the importance that open space plays in supporting sustainable economic growth in the Wellington Region. Quality of life is an important factor that compliments economic growth.

While there has been no recent studies commissioned by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to measure the economic benefits of its parks and forests, national and international research indicates that open space can contribute towards a number of economic benefits, including:

- Increased tourism opportunities
- Enhanced property values
- Attracting and retaining businesses to the region
- Attracting and retaining a talented workforce
- Creating jobs
- Supporting local recreational industry

Other indirect economic benefits of open spaces include health, environmental and social benefits.

GWRC's parks and forests contribute economic benefits for the Wellington Region. Direct economic benefits are currently realised through concessions for short term and long-term activities, including commercial and non-commercial recreation and tourism ventures, and plantation forestry operations.

For further reading see:

Karin Marie Edwards, May 2007

Do Parks Make Cents? An Analysis of the Economic Value of Parks in San Francisco

John L Compton, October 2005

Managing Leisure 10, pp. 203-208. *The Impact of parks of property values: empirical evidence from the past two decade in the United States*

Anne Schwartz, 24 Jun 2009

Good parks are good for the economy.

<http://www.gothemgazette.com/article/parks/20090624/14/2949>