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The Economic Impact of The Hamilton County Park District on Hamilton County

prepared for

The Hamilton County Park District

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UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati

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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT ON HAMILTON COUNTY

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary iii

Section I - Introduction 1
Purpose of the Study 1
Definitions 1

Section II – Overview of the Hamilton County Park District Impact on the Local Economy 2

Section III - Economic Impact of the Hamilton County Park District 3
Hamilton County Park District Operations 3
Construction and Capital Equipment 3
Attendance 4
Visitor Spending 4
Total Economic Impact 5
Retained Local Spending 6
Spending Stimulated by the Park District 6
Household Income and Employment 7

Section IV - Local Fiscal Impacts 8

Section V - Impact of "New" Dollars 9

Section VI - Methodology 10

Executive Summary

The Hamilton County Park District is the most popular family attraction in the Cincinnati Tri-state area. It works to preserve and protect local natural resources, while providing outdoor recreation and environmental education for Hamilton County citizens and other visitors. As a result, it is a major contributor to the region's quality of life, making Hamilton County an attractive place to live and work. In addition, it creates economic benefits for numerous households and businesses in Hamilton County through its employment and business activity.

This report estimates the economic impact of the Park District on Hamilton County's employment, household earnings, and business sales for 2003. The impact of the Hamilton County Park District on Hamilton County is multi-faceted. Through its spending on operations and continuing development, its contracted services, and spending by visitors from outside the area, it benefits the Hamilton County economy. Although other benefits generated by the Park District—environmental improvement, flood protection, increased property values and improved quality of life—also have an economic dimension, their economic impact is not included in this analysis.

Total Economic Impact

- The total economic impact of the Hamilton County Park District is $80.06 million. This includes a household earnings impact of $20.60 million. The total impact on employment in Hamilton County is 1,293 jobs.

- Together, these economic activities generated nearly three quarters of a million dollars annually in local sales, earnings, and property tax revenue. This includes more than $430,000 for Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati in sales and earnings taxes, and another $300,000 in property taxes for Hamilton County jurisdictions.

- When the total economic impact of $80.06 million is compared with The Hamilton County Park District's tax levy funding of $18.15 million for operations and construction, it results in an overall economic multiplier of 4.41, which means that every $100 in taxpayer support helps generate $441 of economic impact.

Sources of Economic Impact

- The economic impact of the Hamilton County Park District operations accounts for $50.96 million of the total economic impact, which generates $14.28 million in household income and supports 967 full- and part-time jobs.

- The economic impact of the Hamilton County Park District capital expenditures for construction accounts for $14.48 million of the total economic impact, which generates $3.09 million in household income and supports 149 full- and part-time jobs.

- Related spending by out-of-county visitors on dining, lodging, and other purchases, accounts for another $14.62 million of the total economic impact, which generates $3.23 million in household income, and supports 177 full- and part-time jobs.

Attendance

- The total attendance of the Hamilton County Park District in 2003 was 8.08 million, which makes it by far the most popular outdoor and family attraction in the Cincinnati region.

New Money

- Through attraction of visitors from outside the county, the Hamilton County Park District brings $12.50 million in new money into the county, replenishing and expanding the Hamilton County economy.

- In 2003, the Park District also brought $840,000 into Hamilton County in revenues from grants and other non-local funding sources.

Additional Economic Activity

- Hamilton County Park District also contributes to the local economy by retaining $30.48 million in county-resident spending and related economic activity that would otherwise occur in association with visits to similar recreational facilities outside of Hamilton County.

- Hamilton County residents and visitors together spend $37.36 million in connection with their park visits. As a result, every $100 invested by taxpayers in the Hamilton County Park District not only helps to preserve natural resources and provide outdoor recreation, it also results in $206 in related spending within Hamilton County.

For additional information contact the Economics Center for Education & Research, email Econeduc@uc.edu.
Please reference report: 2004-EI-1008 ES Hamilton Co Parks Report