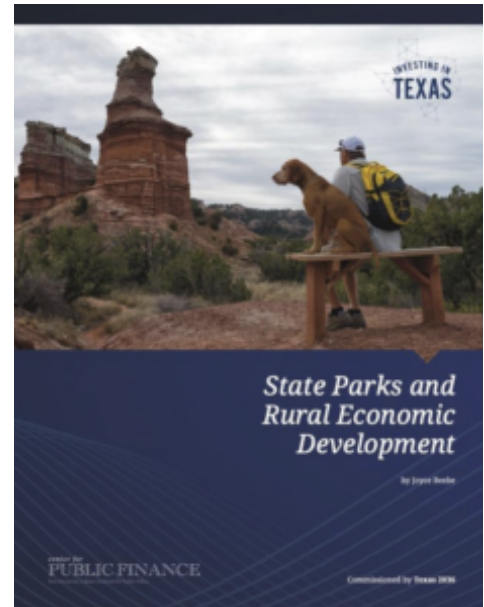


## Key Takeaways:

1. In a report Texas 2036 published alongside the Center for Public Finance at Rice University's Baker Institute of Public Policy, every \$1 in public money spent on parks can **generate between \$4 and \$12 in economic return**.
2. In 2020 (the most recent year for which data is available), outdoor recreational activities pumped an estimated **\$32 billion into the Texas economy**. These activities also supported 300,000 jobs in 2020, or about **2.4% of total state employment**.
3. In the 2019–2020 fiscal year, Texas parks saw 7.3 million visits. The next year, use skyrocketed to a total of **10 million visits** — a 37% increase.
4. Between 2009 and 2019, rural counties with state parks saw **GDP growth of 51%** whereas rural counties without state parks had 45% growth. In percentage terms, this represents a **13% higher GDP growth** compared to rural counties without parks. This translates into jobs: rural counties with state parks added more jobs than rural counties without state parks during the same period. While more than half of rural counties without parks saw net population declines, most rural counties with parks saw net population growth, averaging at 5%.



## Bills To Monitor:

- ⇒ **HB 3165** and **HJR 138 (Holland)** and **SB 2485 (Kolkhorst)** – Creates the land and water conservation fund for the conservation of land and water resources and the development of state and local parks.
- ⇒ **HB 3801/SB 1648** and **HJR 154/SJR 74 (K. King/Parker)** – Creates the centennial parks conservation fund for establishing new state parks and assisting local governments with the development of park resources.
- ⇒ **HB 4177 (Walle)** – park land acquisition.