

NEBRASKA
- GAME  PARKS -

2020
INFORMATION GUIDE



TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT

Our Mission



Since the first iteration of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was created in 1879, we have remained stewards of the state's fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreation resources in the best long-term interests of the people and those resources. While our methods have greatly evolved over the years, our dedication to conserving our

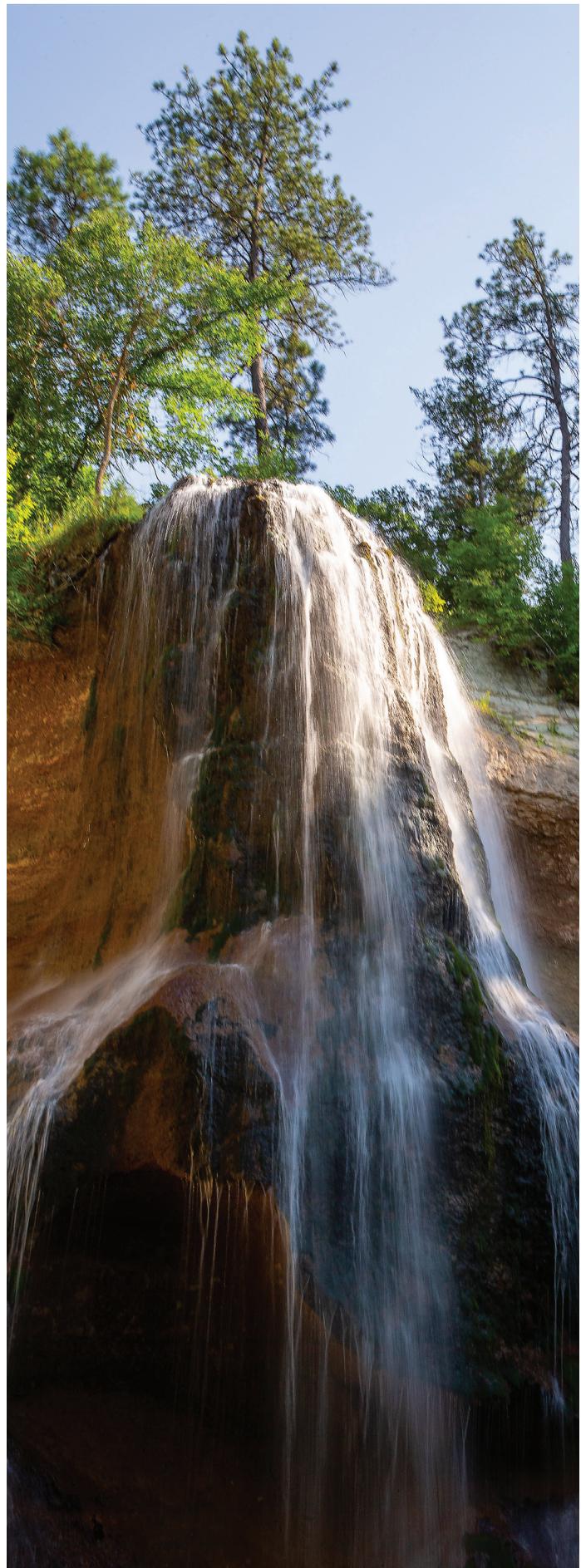
wildlife and wild places and to outdoor recreation has remained unwavering.

The Nebraska Legislature has entrusted our agency with caring for the state's resources. Statute identifies and authorizes a variety of responsibilities and activities to our agency. They include regulatory protection, management of fish and wildlife species and their habitats, management and development of public recreational opportunities, advocacy of ecosystem integrity and resource conservation. These responsibilities provide for long-term sustainability of aquatic and terrestrial species and the communities they inhabit, such as lands and waters owned, leased or operated by the agency, as well as private lands.

We also are growing our outreach and communication programs to build a conservation-minded and engaged citizenry that will help ensure our wildlife and wild places are valued. These efforts require programs, such as our new strategic plan, that are developed to guide our management of natural resources to maintain a thriving and diverse environment, provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities and help Nebraskans appreciate their role in this effort.

We are optimistic that our future is one in which Nebraska is forever home to diverse wildlife, healthy habitats, natural beauty and endless opportunities for those who spend their time outdoors.

Sincerely,
James N. Douglas
Director





ECONOMIC IMPACT

Outdoor recreation contributes greatly to our quality of life. In Nebraska, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and state park visitation supports more than 24,000 jobs and has an economic impact of more than \$2.64 billion annually.

CORE VALUES

Core values frame the guiding principles that direct how we meet our mission. Our core values include:

- Integrity — We believe in operating openly and holding ourselves to the highest ethical standards.
- Honesty — We believe that work done honestly and transparently reflects our mission's intent.
- Accountability — We believe that we must be responsible to the citizens of Nebraska and the natural resources we protect and conserve.
- Empathy — We believe in approaching our work with compassion for the resources and the public we serve.
- Balance — We believe in maintaining a balance between the needs of the natural resources and the needs of the people we serve.

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska's state park system is made up of 78 areas encompassing 105,344 acres. The state park system includes:

- 8 state parks, comprising 31,836 acres
- 58 state recreation areas, comprising 66,867 acres
- 10 state historical parks, comprising 2,497 acres
- 2 state recreation trails, comprising 4,144 acres and 324 miles.

Additionally, wildlife management areas, as well as private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters program, offer walk-in access for hunting, fishing and trapping.

- Lands enrolled in Open Fields and Waters: 346,973 land acres, 561 water/wetland acres, and 44.5 river miles
- Wildlife management areas: 289 areas encompassing 190,884 acres

Economic Resources

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is predominantly funded by user pay, which includes revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing permits and stamps, sale of state park entry permits, and fees for camping, lodging and activities in Nebraska's state parks and recreation areas. In 2019, approximately 87 percent of the agency revenues were generated through user pay and federal reimbursement, and approximately 13 percent came from the State General Fund.

Aside from the General Fund, 16 specific funds have been established for agency use. All funds are subject to budgetary authority provided by the Legislature and the governor. These funds include: Game Cash Fund, Park Cash Fund, Habitat Cash Fund, Federal Funds, Fort Atkinson National Park Service Federal Fund, Nebraska Outdoor Recreational Development Act (NORDA) Fund, Recreational Trails Federal Fund, Aquatic Habitat Fund, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Game Law Investigation Fund, Cowboy Trail Fund, Wildlife Education Fund, Hunters Helping the Hungry Fund, Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Fund, State Park Improvement and Maintenance Fund, and Game and Parks Capital Maintenance Fund. Many of these funds are restricted, meaning that their revenues may only be spent for uses designated under state law and may not be transferred to the general fund.

The agency's major funds, their revenue sources and what they are used for are described in greater detail below:

General Fund is supported by money collected by the State Department of Revenue, deposited with the State Treasurer and appropriated by the Legislature. General Fund money is appropriated to the Commission for those operating activities that are not self-supporting (primarily operations of the state park system and nongame and endangered species activities); administrative activities that are general in nature, applicable to the entire agency and difficult to prorate among the various other funding sources; and activities that extend beyond the statutory use of the various cash funds.

Game Cash Fund derives its revenues from user fees for various resident and nonresident permits related to game, including big game (antelope, big horn sheep, deer, elk, turkey) permits, small game hunting permits, fishing permits, and lifetime permits. This fund is the agency's second largest source of funding in 2019 and is the primary funding source for fish and wildlife activities. This fund is restricted to funding only those activities which are related to the support of fish and game, the provision of boating facilities, administration and enforcement of the State Boat Act, production of publications, administration,

2019 Calendar Year Revenue Sources

(total = \$98.9 million) **takes into account \$8.5 million transfer of Capital Maintenance funds to the General Fund and other miscellaneous income sources.*



2019 Calendar Year Expenditures

(total = \$91.0 million)



construction, operation and maintenance of fish hatcheries and for the distribution of fish. Transfers from this fund to the General Fund are not authorized under existing law.

Park Cash Fund is the agency's 2019 largest source of funding. Revenues in this fund are derived from user fees for park entry permits, lodging, camping, activities, equipment rentals and facility use rentals. The Park Cash Fund is dedicated to the administration, improvement, maintenance and operation of the state park system comprised of state parks, recreation areas, trails and historical parks. Transfers from this fund to the General Fund are not authorized under existing law.

Habitat Cash Funds are generated through user fees from habitat and migratory waterfowl stamps. They are supported primarily from the sale of the stamps tied to hunting and fishing activities, respectively.

Wildlife Conservation Fund receives money via the state income tax checkoff program and from gifts and donations. The Wildlife Conservation Fund can only be used to pay for collection costs and to carry out the provisions of the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. Transfers from this fund to the General Fund are not authorized under existing law.

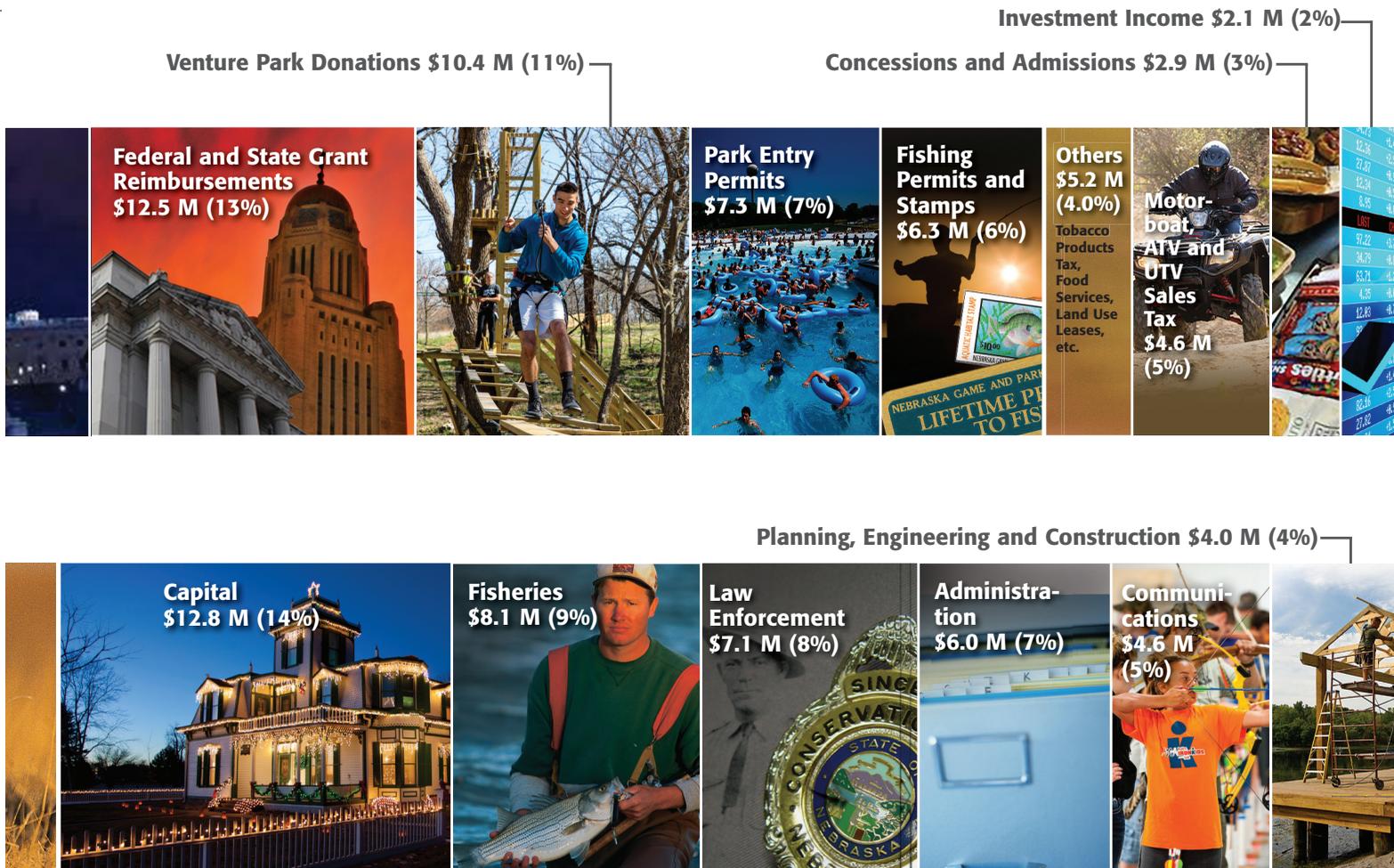
Wildlife Education Fund receives a portion of the money from issuance and renewal of the Mountain Lion Conservation Plates. This fund supports youth education programs relating to wildlife conservation practices.

Transfers from this fund to the General Fund are not authorized under existing law.

Federal Grants are the agency's 2019 third largest "cash" funding sources. They include reimbursable and direct grants. Federal grant awards are received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and other Federal agencies. The awards define what the funding is to be used for and are typically reimbursable awards. Grant monies may reimburse a cash fund or be spent as direct federal funding.

Nebraska Outdoor Recreational Development Act (NORDA) Fund is restricted to the development, operation and maintenance of areas of the state park system. The primary source of revenue is the Nebraska Tobacco Products Tax. The portion of the tax earmarked for NORDA is the equivalent of one cent on a conventional package of cigarettes. This fund is critical to the development and maintenance of the state park buildings and amenities infrastructure.

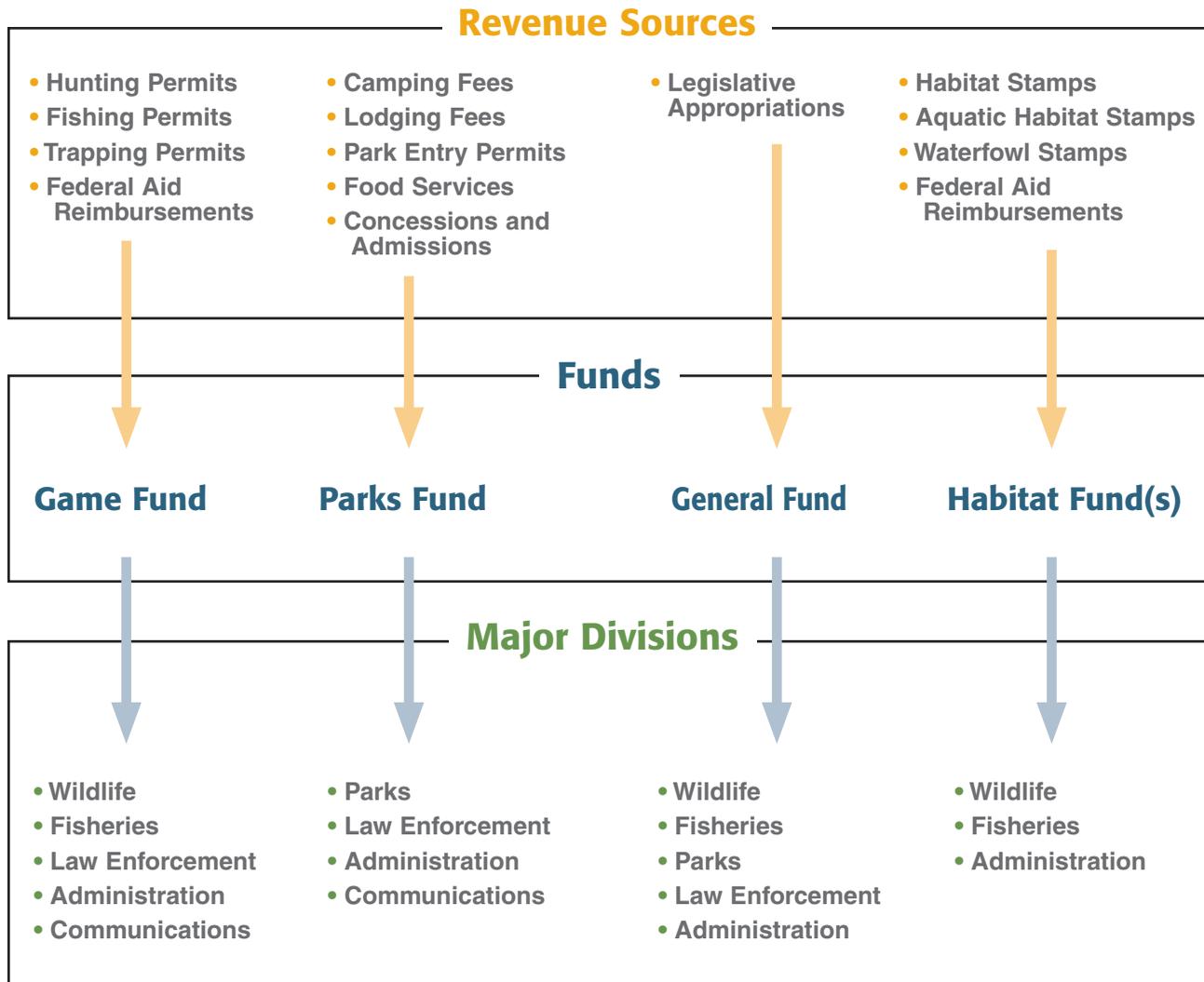
Game and Parks Capital Maintenance Fund is to be used to build, repair, rehabilitate, modify, or improve any infrastructure within the statutory authority and administration of the Commission. Revenues in this fund are derived from sales taxes on non-farm ATVs and motorboats. A fund transfer in the amount of \$8.5 million from the Capital Maintenance Fund occurred in 2019 as outlined in LB945.



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is predominately funded by user pay, which includes revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing stamps and permits, sale of state park entry permits, and fees for camping, lodging and activities in Nebraska's state parks and recreation areas. In 2019, approximately 87 percent of agency revenues were generated through user pay and

federal reimbursement, and approximately 13 percent came from the State General Fund. Revenues from permit sales, federal grants and other sources are placed into several funds, including Game Cash Fund, Park Cash Fund, General Fund and Habitat Fund. Money in these funds is then used to pay for specific programs, as illustrated in the diagram below:





COMMISSIONERS

District 1	Dan Kreitman, Wahoo
District 2	Vacant
District 3	Jim Ernst, Columbus
District 4	John Hoggatt, Kearney
District 5	Robert Allen, Eustis
District 6	Pat Berggren, Broken Bow
District 7	Doug Zingula, Sidney
District 8	Rick Brandt, Roca
At Large	Scott Cassels, Omaha

Director	Jim Douglas	402-471-5539
Deputy Director	Tim McCoy	402-471-5539
Assistant Director	Roger Kuhn	402-471-5512

CONTACTS

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Budget and Fiscal	Pat Cole	402-471-5523
Communications	Christy Firestone	402-471-5593
Fisheries	Dean Rosenthal	402-471-5495
Fish & Wildlife Education	Lindsay Rogers	402-471-5581
Hunter Education	Jackson Ellis	402-471-6134
Law Enforcement	Craig Stover	402-471-5531
Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers		800-742-7627
Parks	Jim Swenson	402-471-5499
Park Reservations		402-471-1414
Permits		402-471-5520
Planning and Programing	Michelle Stryker	402-471-5425
Wildlife	Alicia Hardin	402-471-5448

OFFICES

Headquarters	Lincoln	402-471-0641
Southeast District	Lincoln	402-471-0641
Southwest District	North Platte	308-535-8025
Northwest District	Alliance	308-763-2940
Northeast District	Norfolk	402-370-3374
Service Center	Kearney	308-865-5310
Service Center	Bassett	402-684-2921
Metro Office	Omaha	402-595-2144

ONLINE

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