

MINUTES

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 851 608 439#

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan
Bob Hoffmeyer; North Ft. Meyers, Lee County, Florida
Chuck Hoover; Saginaw Township, Saginaw County, Michigan
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Jim Bradley; Ontonagon, Ontonagon County, Michigan
Julie Clark; Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County, Michigan
Mike Foote; Ada Township, Kent County, Michigan
Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

ABSENT

Mike MacDonald

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacklin Blodgett, PRD
Michael Desnoyer, PRD
Jason Fleming, PRD
Vicki McGhee, PRD
Nikki Van Bloem, PRD
Matt Lincoln, PRD
Deb Jensen, PRD
Scott Pratt, PRD
Barbara Graves, PRD

OPENING COMMENTS

Chief Ron Olson announced that committee member **Ann Conklin** will be chairing the meeting today. The intent of this committee will be the same but detached from the NRC.

Committee member Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **Julie Clark**, supported by **Mike Foote**, and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy Jean-Buhrer spoke on her group's effort in trying to raise the Michigan war veterans' memorial at Milliken State Park. **Vicki McGhee** said there was a delay due to COVID-19 but they are getting back on track to finalize the master plan. Staff agreed to follow up with Ms. Buhrer on the timeframe.

INFORMATION ONLY

Nikki Van Bloem, Southeast Trails Specialist, PRD

Nikki provided an overview to the committee of the State Trail Plan, a collaboration with the public, stakeholders, advisory groups, and staff, to provides goals and objectives for the use and development of the state trail network. The goals are outlined in four major categories: snowmobile, ORV, equestrian, and nonmotorized.

Julie Clark asked if there has been any discussion on nonmotorized funding and the status of the Recreation Passport opt-out. Nikki said MTAC organized a workgroup to put together a proposal for a voluntary user fee and will present the proposal soon. **Ann Conklin** said the Finance Subcommittee will meet on March 24 to discuss funding, including the Recreation Passport opt-out.

Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist and Grants Coordinator, PRD

Matt gave an overview of the State Land Parcel Review, a review of all the parcels in the state under 200 acres in size. The link to few the Public Land Strategy review can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79262_80433---,00.html and public comment is open until February 12.

GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson, Chief, PRD

The Incident Management Team (IMT) continues to meet regularly and provide operation updates to staff. A few situations arose with positive COVID cases; fortunately, protocols were in place and operations continued due to the great preparation of the IMT. Year-end metrics show a trajectory increase. Recreation Passport revenue is up 13% and visitation is now over 30 million. Lodging and camping numbers are up 28% already since opening reservations in November. Belle Isle has 350,000 more visitors this year than the previous, up to 5 million now. The U.P. experienced record numbers and waiting lines. It was a good year, but stressful and challenging due to a slow start and short staffing. Staff have done a great job keeping operations running. This spring is anticipated to go more smoothly.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Land and Water grant applications will be reviewed in early March.

Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Chief, PRD

Griselda Trevino, the new PRD diversity, equity, and inclusion coordinator, will be part of the department planning process and is working to pull together a division-wide team. She has been meeting with staff to see what she can do to help them in their roles, working with HR on finding new places to recruit, and working to play an important role in the Employee Engagement Team who will be reviewing the 2020 staff survey data and then creating goals and objectives based off that data.

Operations highlights:

- Approval to start operations this spring while complying with the current DHHS orders
 - This includes work with volunteers, concessions, clubs and sponsors, and park, waterways and trail operations
- Currently 80 vacancies – PRD HR and staff are working on the vacancy list
 - PRD has approval to hire many vacancies including park supervisors/managers, acct assistants/techs, analysts
- Approval to hire 1300 State Worker 4 and MCCC positions
- Division is adhering to Executive Directive 20-3 which outlines a spending freeze
 - Less than \$50,000 approved by Ron Olson
 - \$50,000 or greater approved through the Executive Office
 - Capital outlay projects approved through Executive Office
 - All requests require a project request form filled out identifying funding sources and exception of why the funds need to be spent
- Many staff are teleworking for tasks that can be done remotely
- Weekly operational guidance is sent out every Thursday
 - The guidance continues to be updated for any changes in DHHS orders
- While we have restrictions in our operations, staff are still getting their work done, preparing for the start of the season, hiring staff, ordering materials and equipment, collaborating with our partners and providing recreational opportunities for our visitors
 - Winter recreation is in full swing right now.

Michael Desnoyer, Chief, Administrative Services, PRD

Michael presented PRD’s financial overview including FY2021 appropriates, fund balances, and revenues. Presentation attached.

Jason Fleming, Chief, Resource Protection and Promotion, PRD

Jason talked about the camping data from this past season in comparison to the previous season, the increasing trend of state forest camping, and the Lean Process Improvement (LPI) review of the reservation system that was done recently.

Vicki McGhee, Chief, Planning and Infrastructure, PRD

Vicki presented capital outlay projects highlights that included Port Crescent’s alternative lodging, F.J. McLain State Park infrastructure relocation due to erosion, the Wet Mesick

Flatwoods restoration on Belle Isle, the Wilderness State Park lakeshore campground redevelopment, the Maybury State Park headquarters and maintenance building relocation, the Grand Haven beach house renovations, and the Orchard Beach State Park pavilion relocation.

Committee member Conklin reminded everyone that the next regular MSPAC meeting will be April 14, and the Finance Subcommittee will meet on March 24.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.



Financial Overview

MSPAC

Michael Desnoyer, Parks and Recreation

February 10, 2021

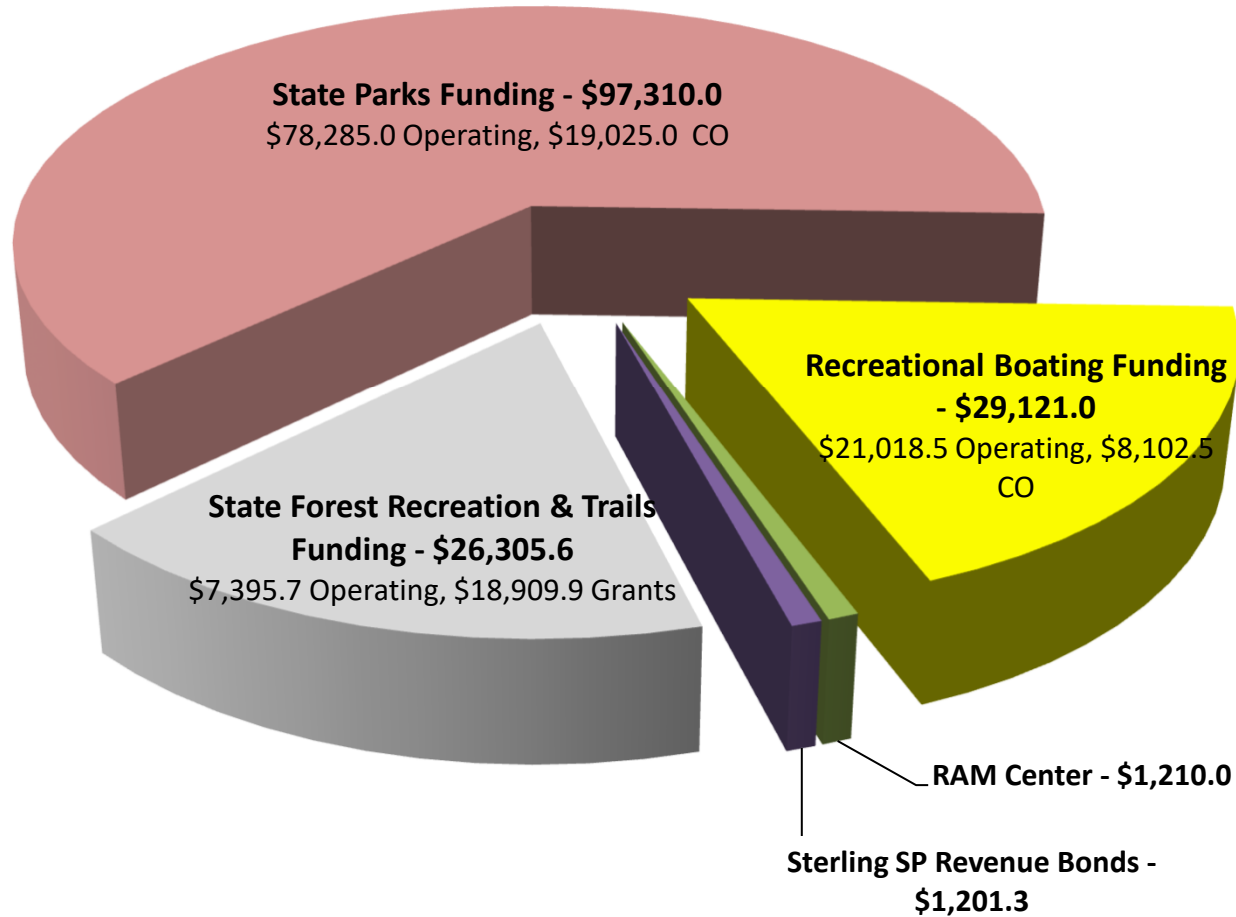




State Parks, Recreational Boating, & Trails FY 2021 Appropriations

Includes Operating, Capital Outlay, Grants, and One-Time Funding

Total = \$155,147.9 Million
\$ in Thousands





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State Parks

Park Improvement Fund – 65%

- Camping - \$15 - \$45
- Recreational Passport - \$12 at SOS, \$17 elsewhere
- Use Permits
- Others

Park Endowment Fund – 19%

- Gas/Oil/Mineral Royalties

Recreation Passport Fees – 11%

General Fund – 4%

- Belle Isle
- Western Upper Peninsula

Others – 1%

Recreational Boating

Waterways – 91%

- Watercraft Registration - \$5 - \$448 (3-year renewal)
- Gas Tax – 80% of DNR 2%
- User Fees (harbor reservations, boating access sites)

Federal – 9%

State Forest Recreation & Trails Funding

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement – 23%

- Licenses - \$26.25
- Trail Permits - \$10

Forest Recreation – 12%

- Camping Fees \$15 - \$19
- Rec Passport - \$12 at SOS, \$17 elsewhere

Snowmobile Trail Improvement – 37%

- Trail Permits - \$48
- Gas Tax – 14% of DNR 2%

General Fund (used for non-motorized) – 4%

National Recreational Trails – 15%

- Grants

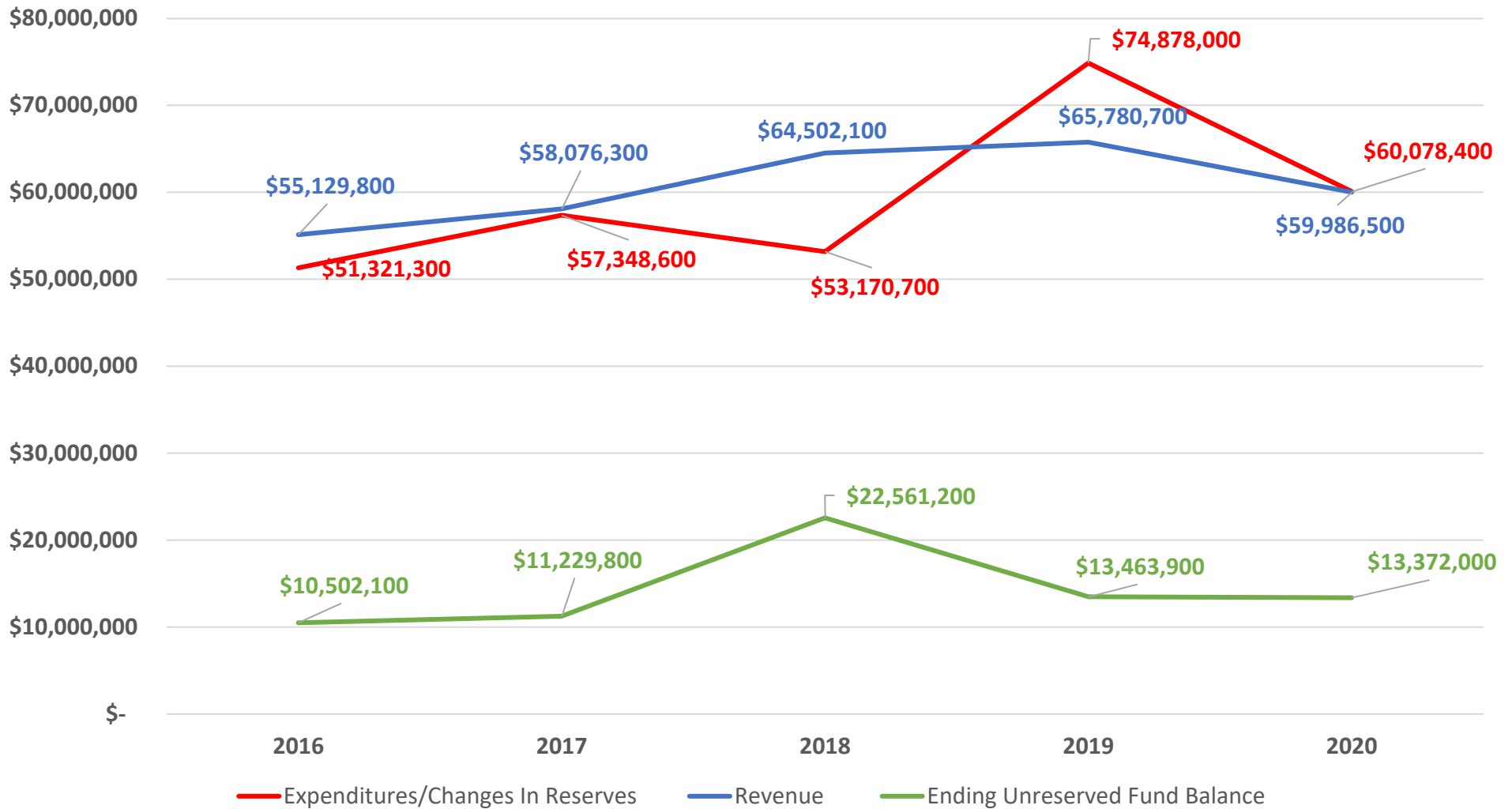
Recreation Improvement – 5%

- Gas Tax – 6% of DNR 2%

Others – 4%

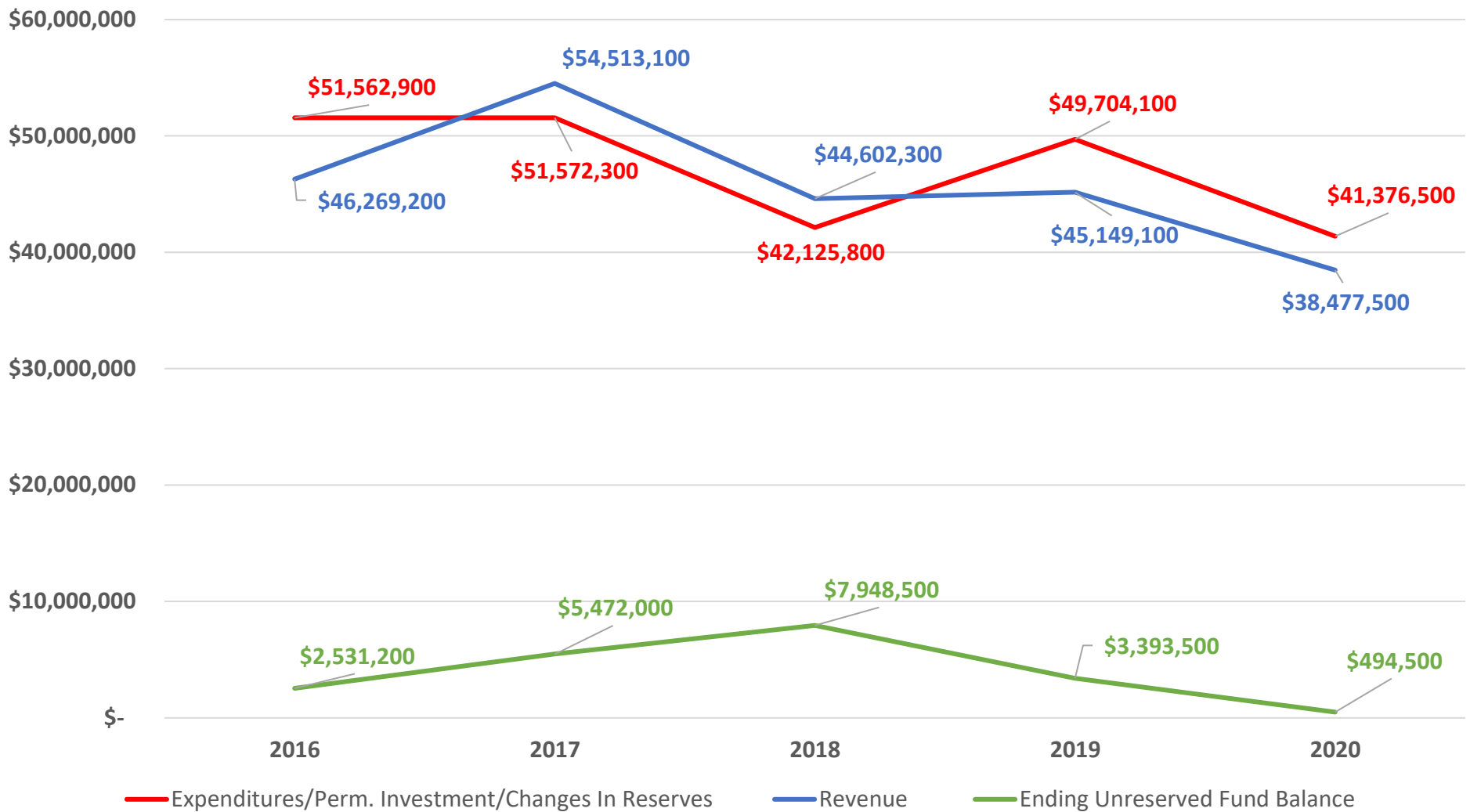


State Park Improvement Fund Fiscal Years 2016 - 2020



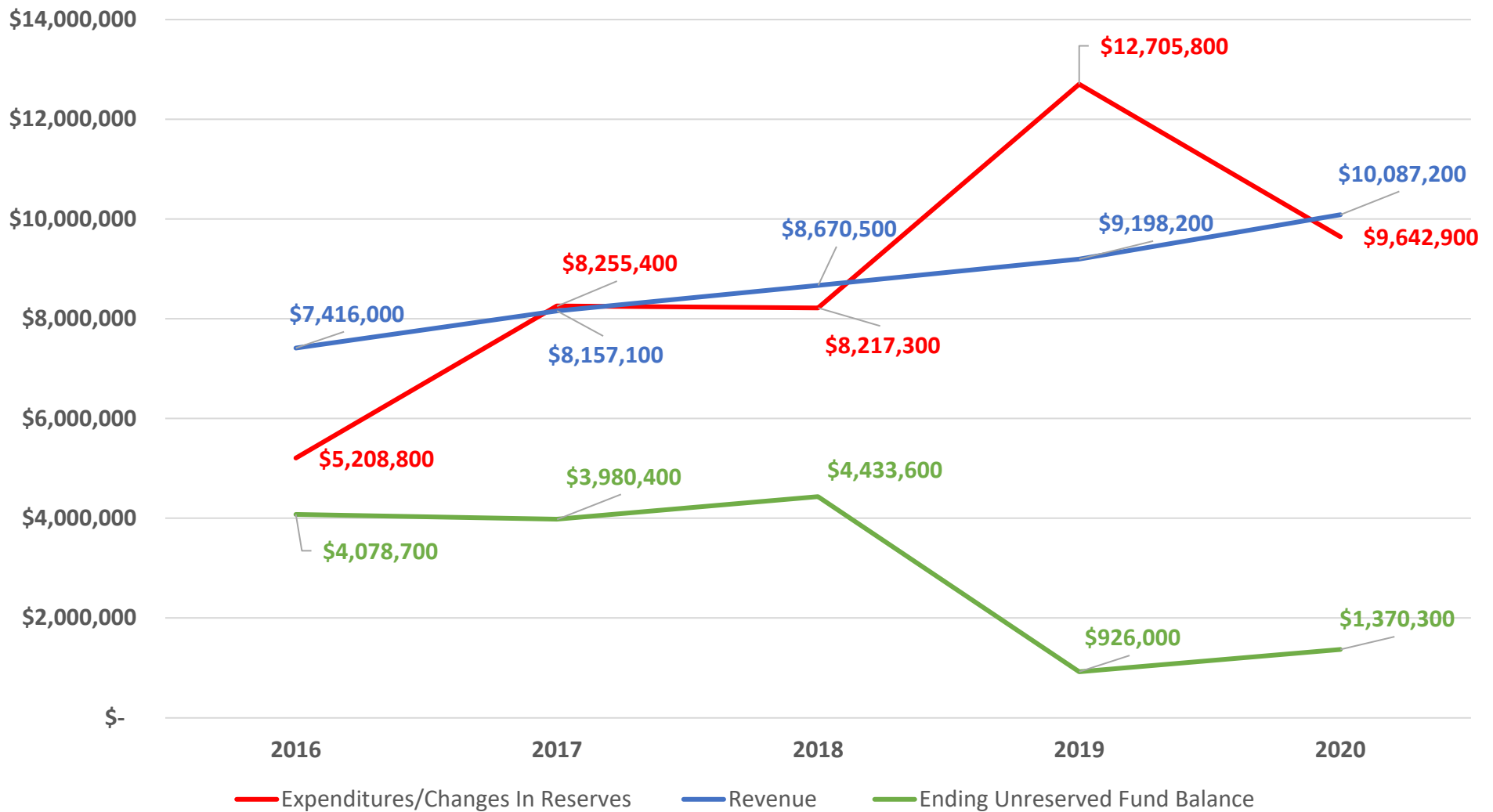


State Park Endowment Fund Fiscal Years 2016 - 2020



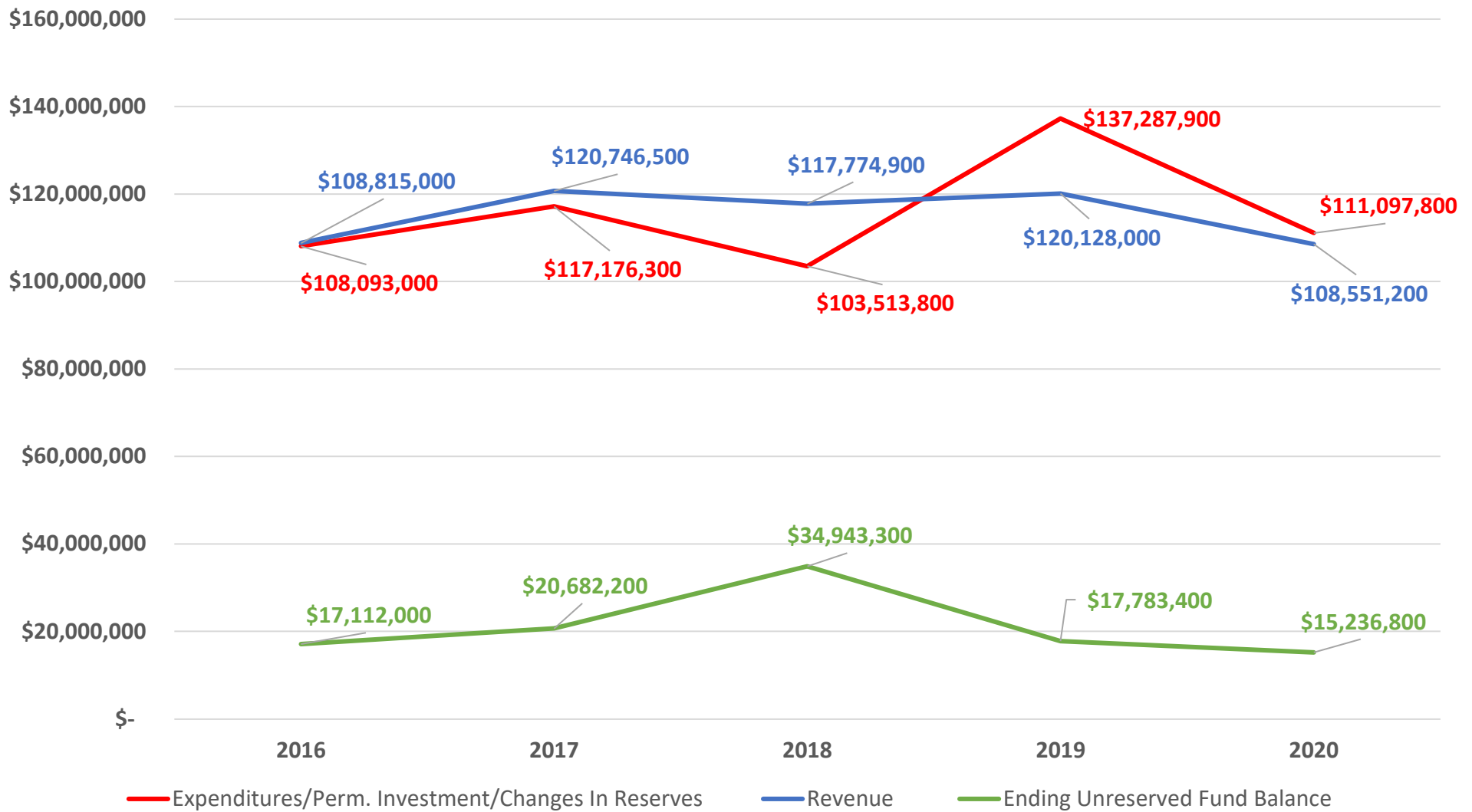


Recreation Passport Fees Fund Fiscal Years 2016 - 2020





Combined Park Funds Fiscal Years 2016 - 2020





Revenues by Category Fiscal Years 2016 - 2020

