

Chief Vann House Historic Site

**\$1,218,974 in tourism revenue
for local community**



During the 1790s, James Vann became a Cherokee Indian leader and wealthy businessman. He established the largest and most prosperous plantation in the Cherokee Nation, covering 1,000 acres of what is now Murray County. In 1804 he completed construction of a beautiful 2-story brick home that was the most elegant in the Cherokee Nation. After Vann was murdered in 1809, his son Joseph inherited the mansion and plantation. Joseph was also a Cherokee leader and became even more wealthy than his father. In the 1830s almost the entire Cherokee Nation was forced west by state and federal troops on the infamous Trail of Tears. The Vann family lost their elegant home, rebuilding in the Cherokee Territory of Oklahoma. Today the Vann House survives as Georgia's best-preserved historic Cherokee Indian home. A guided tour allows visitors to see the house which features beautiful hand carvings, a remarkable "floating" staircase, a 12-foot mantle and fine antiques.

Facilities

99 acres | Guided house tour | Visitor Center with film, exhibits and artifacts | Gift shop Nature trail
Picnic tables

*Figures based on tourism spending estimates from the U.S. Travel Association combined with actual number of visitors to Chief Vann House Historic Site.

FY09 Park Facts

Visitation: 15,333

Tourism Spending:
\$1,218,974

Local jobs
supported: 14

Site visitors
contributed
\$1,218,974 to the
local economy.*

Tourism to Chief
Vann House Historic
Site supports an
estimated
14 jobs locally.*

FY09 Return on Investment

\$116,681 in state
funding was used
to operate the site.

**For every dollar in
state funds, visitors
spent \$10.45 in the
local community.**

Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites: Economic Engines for Georgia

Why invest in state parks and historic sites?

Georgia's collection of state parks and historic sites are not just natural, cultural and historic treasures that need to be protected and maintained. They are also economic engines. The money they generate for the communities surrounding them is vital to Georgia's economy and critical to recovery from the current financial crisis.

Why are parks important to Georgia's economic health?

Tourism is Georgia's second largest industry after agriculture. State parks and historic sites make up a vital component of that industry attracting over 10 million visitors annually. State park and historic site visitors spend an estimated \$650 million in Georgia and support an estimated 7,600 jobs in restaurants, convenience stores and other small businesses. In addition, the majority of state parks and historic sites are located in Tier 1 and 2 counties, often providing one of the most important economic resources for the most impoverished areas of the state.

What is the current budget situation within parks?

In 2009, funding to state parks & historic sites was cut by 39% (\$10.6 million). The result was layoffs, reductions in operating hours and service limitations at some sites. Employees and volunteers rose to the challenge and continue to seek new ways to attract tourists, generate revenue, maintain security and protect Georgia's most precious natural, cultural and historic resources. However, further erosion of funding for the park system can only continue to have negative short- and long-term consequences throughout the state.



Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to partner with, promote and preserve Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites. The organization is made up of almost 15,000 members. Through its 50 Friends Chapters, the organization contributed more than \$1 million in volunteer services in 2009.

For more information, or
to become a member, visit online at
www.friendsofgastateparks.org