

State of New Hampshire
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Email: NHParks@dncr.nh.gov

Website: NHStateParks.org

FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Philip A. Bryce, Director
Division of Parks and Recreation



NH Division of Parks and Recreation



RSA 216-A:1

- To protect and preserve scenic, recreational and other areas
- To continually provide additional park areas and facilities
- To make these areas accessible to the public
- To encourage and support tourism and related economic activity within the state



STRUCTURE

Five Bureaus

- Park Operations
- Bureau of Trails
- Cannon Mountain
- Historic Sites
- Community Recreation (LWCF & Volunteer Program)



Funding

RSA 216-A:3 (Self-Funding)

- Fees to recover portion of budget expenses consistent with NH Parks Intent
- Fees according to market conditions and private industry trends

\$30 million operating budget

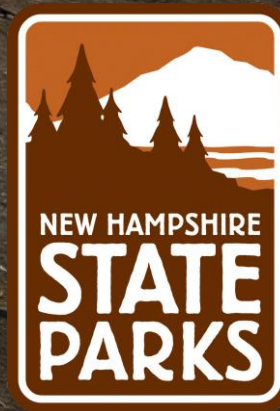
- Forty-one (41) of 93 parks generate revenue
 - Twenty-six (26) generate positive revenue
 - More than one million visitors at fee sites
- 1,100 Employees
 - 116 full-time



Core Assets

Ninety-three (93) State Parks

- 1382 Campsites
- Day use areas = 39
- Campgrounds = 23
- Beaches = 22
- Waysides = 7
- Historic sites = 16
- Natural areas = 6
- Ski areas = 2
- Buildings = 654
- Bridges & Dams = 47
- Roads & Parking Lots = 329 miles
- Septic & Water Systems = 250
- Snowmobile trails = 7,000 miles
- ATV trails = 1,400 miles
- 275 boats



Achievements

- At the end of FY19 the parks fund balance was over \$3.6 million
- The parks account ended FY 2006 with a negative balance of \$2.6 million. By 2015 the parks account had reached \$4.6 million
- Steady growth in camping; 34% increase in revenue over the last five years . FY19 camping revenue was \$3.49 million.
- State Parks Plates started in 2011 and now exceeds 10,988 Park plates!
- Retail sales increased 17.9% from FY '19 to FY '20. Mt Washington State park saw a 40% increase in retail sales.
- New enterprise system (gift cards, lottery, reservations)

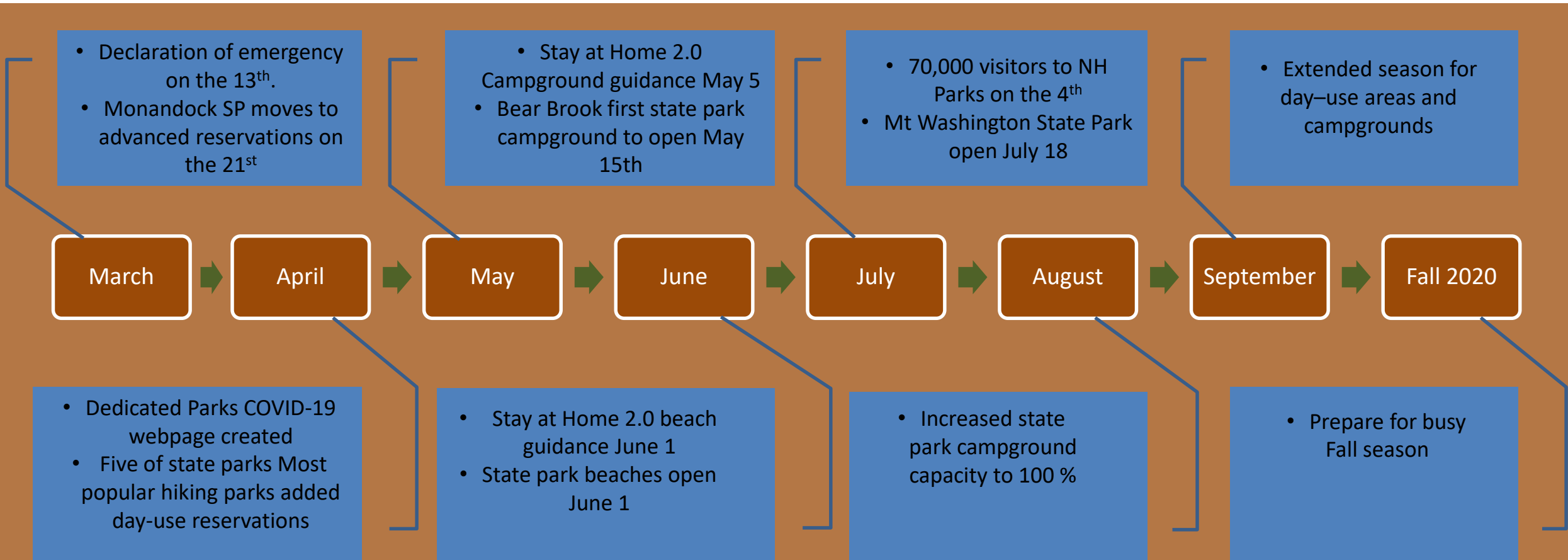


Improvements

- Jenness State Beach, Umbagog Lake state Park and Monadnock State Park Bathhouses opened summer 2019.
- North Hampton Bathhouse
- Franconia Notch Flume Visitor Center renovations completed
- Bear Brook 4H camp opened to the public
- Restoration and opening of the Lodges at Coleman State Park
- Purchase of 400 acre Lafayette Brook Tract
- \$14.5 million investment at Hampton Beach in 2012
- Completion of \$4.8 million seawall repairs at Hampton Beach
- Ellis Camps at Umbagog



NH Parks COVID-19 2020 Timeline



COVID-19 IMPACTS ON NH PARKS OPERATIONS

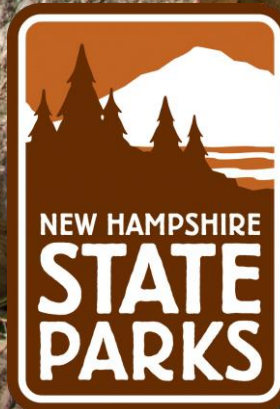
NH State Parks provided draft reopening guidelines early on to the Economic Re-Opening Task Force and has continued to be engaged and proactive in protecting public health.

- The Pandemic has been challenging due to the increased demand for our parks.
- Implementing enhanced cleaning procedures, health screening, use of PPE's by staff, and communicating with guests were some of the many operational changes guest would encounter NH.
- State Parks Enterprise System has had a challenging but successful season responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Enterprise system has been essential to the success of our response.
- Southern area parks opened in March, two months earlier than normal, as visitors seeking relief from Stay-at-Home orders overwhelmed hiking trails.
- To keep staff and visitors safe, regionals and park managers developed park-specific operations plans even before the Re-Opening Task Force guidance was established.
- A massive effort was started to print signage, redesign the website and push social media to provide visitors with detailed COVID protocols and park-related communications, and to obtain PPEs and sanitizing supplies during the shortage from inventive suppliers, such as hand sanitizer from a whiskey distillery and cloth face coverings from Ragged Mountain Equipment of North Conway.



Summer Marketing Performance

- Messaging that includes “camping” always resonates well with our audience, remaining a top driver of engagement.
- Radio partners, like NHPR, successfully delivered across key performance indicators and provided added value digital impressions.
- Video-based content continues to drive brand awareness, as well as high amounts of traffic, which is a key part of our media mix.



MARKETING CAMPAIGN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Keep NH State
Parks top of
mind for
outdoor
recreation

Promote NH
as a place to
experience
activities
while taking
in the natural
beauty of the
state

Promote State
Parks license
plate sales and
increase ROI*



Top performing target audiences

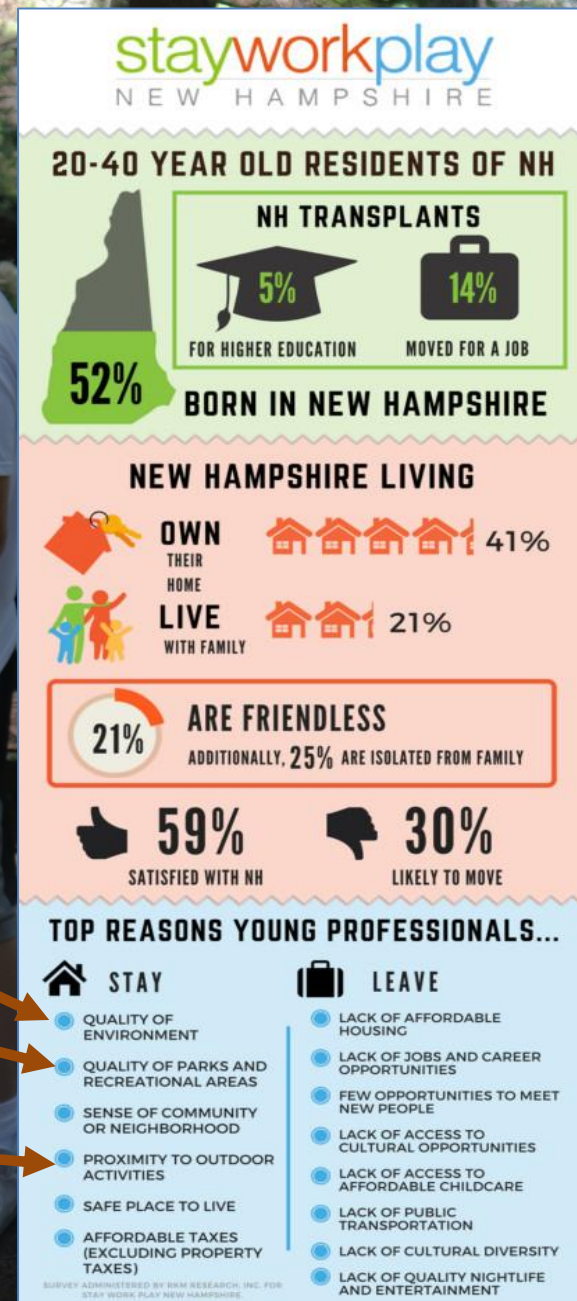
- Millennials and Gen Xers who enjoy camping and hiking

- They come to NH because...

Quality of environment

Quality of Parks and Recreational areas

Proximity to outdoor activities



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the States intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

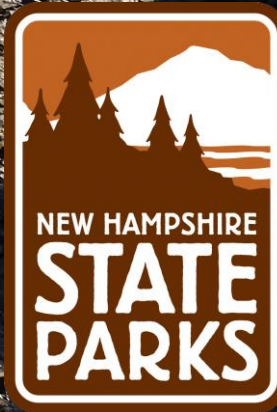


Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

\$42,000,000.00 in LWCF apportionments have supported 630 outdoor recreation area projects in New Hampshire since 1965. (at a minimum 50/50 match)

\$1,722,409 awarded in LWCF project funds to 14 communities in 2019

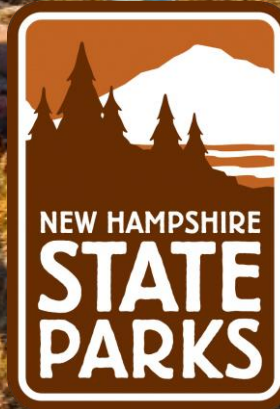
Projects split 60/40 between communities and state



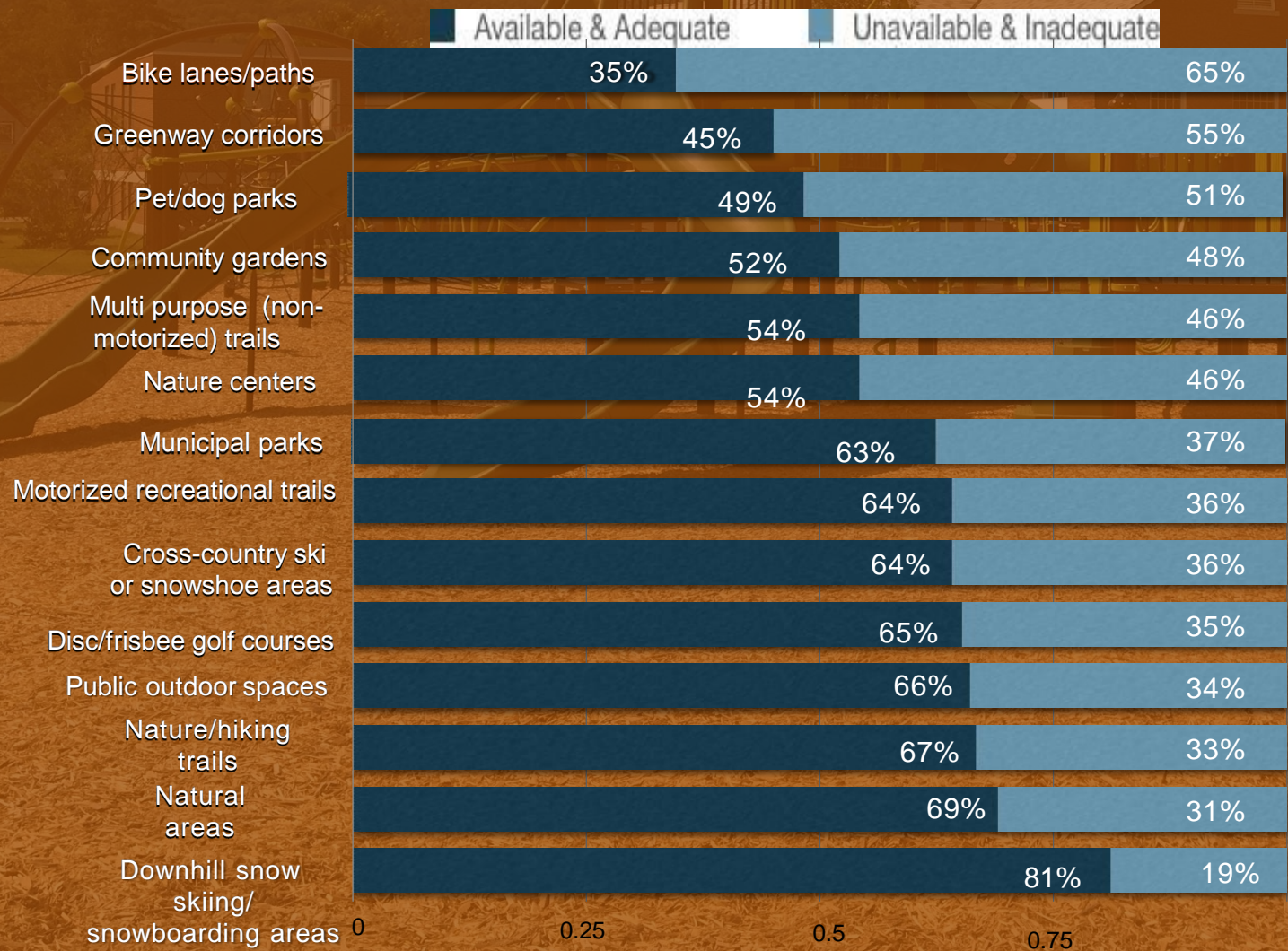
What we learned from the 2019-2023 SCORP

Recreation produced nearly 8.7 in consumer
spending annually generates 79,000 jobs
69% Percent of residents participate in
outdoor recreation each year
Large economic drivers

- State Parks
- Fishing and Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- Ski Industry
- OHRV/ATV
- Snowmobile



Recreation Close to home

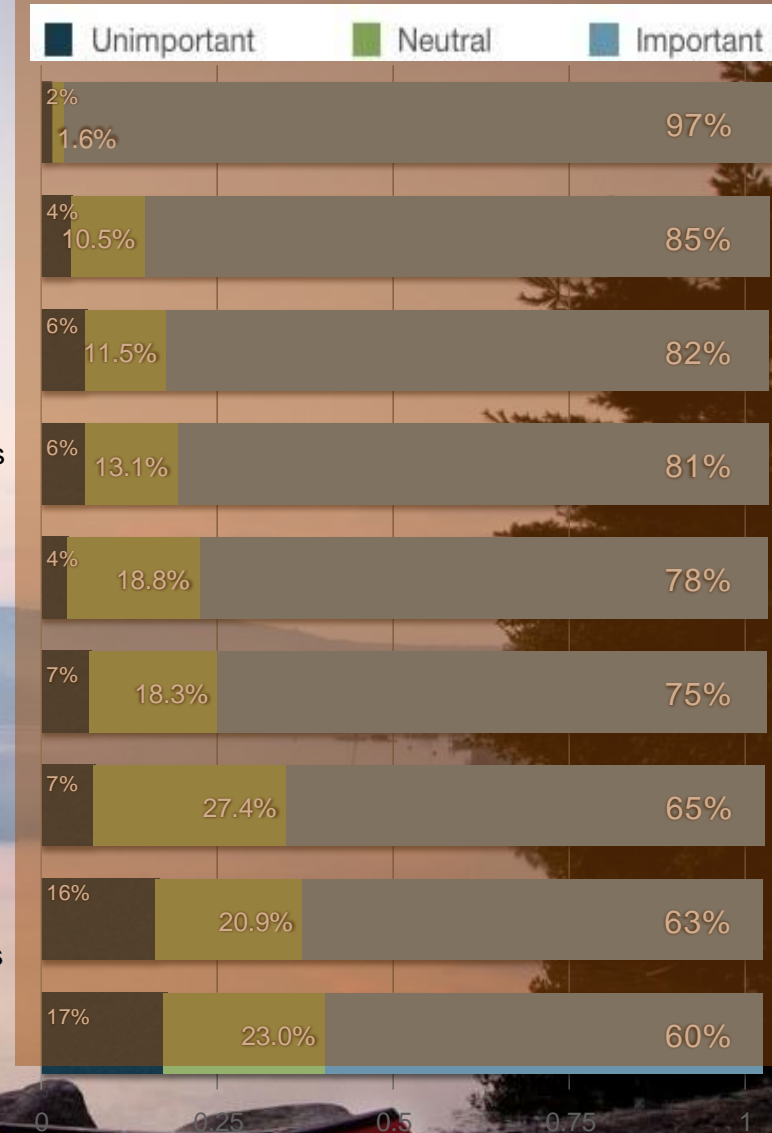


Focus on Local Recreation Variety within proximity



Importance of Local Recreation Priorities

- Maintain existing park and outdoor recreation areas
- Protect wildlife and fish habitat
- Acquire & protect open space (undeveloped, conserved land)
- Provide recreation programs at parks and outdoor recreation areas
- Build more greenways/trails
- Provide environmental and conservation programs
- Restore damaged rivers and stream
- Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools, and shopping areas
- Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation



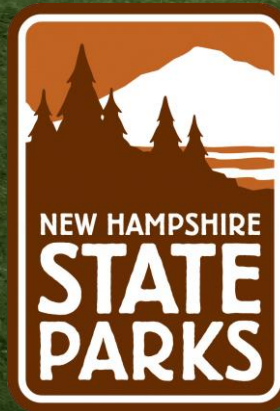
NH SCORP Priorities

Priority 1: Connecting People to the outdoors

Priority 2: Consistent Stewardship and Conservation

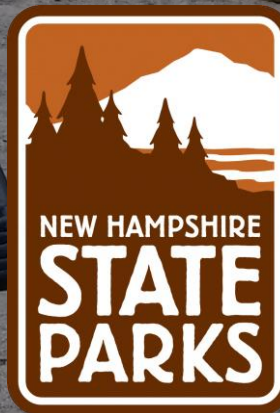
Priority 3: Economy Vitality

Priority 4: Education, Ethic and Benefits



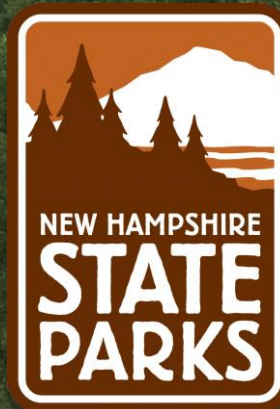
Challenges

- Weather
- Deferred maintenance – repair and improve facility conditions
- Capacity issues (e.g. I93/Franconia Notch State Park)
- Seasonal employee recruitment, training (housing)
- Develop strategy to address recreational user conflicts (mtn bike – horse – ATV)
- Trail stewardship
- Relationship between self-funded model and public expectations



The Future

- Continue to address deferred maintenance (roads)
- Increase amenities and availability of parks (playgrounds, campsites, ADA, hours, season)
- Nurture volunteer / friends group
- Develop revenue sources (retail, iron rangers, additional camping sites)
- Utilize enterprise system to enhance consumer interface (online retail)
- Increase license plate sales
- Develop Franconia Notch State Park Master Plan
- Update Monadnock Master Plan
- Invest in critical infrastructure on Mount Washington
- Determine market value of third-party interests at Parks sites
- Protection of visitor safety and experience



PRIORITIES

- Safety
- Fiduciary
- Compliance
- Stewardship
- Customer Service
- Relationships
- Organizational Health



NEW HAMPSHIRE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

- 798,000 direct jobs
- \$2.6 billion in wages and salaries
- \$8.7 billion in consumer spending
- \$528 million in state and local tax revenue



REAL IMPACT:

PRICELESS



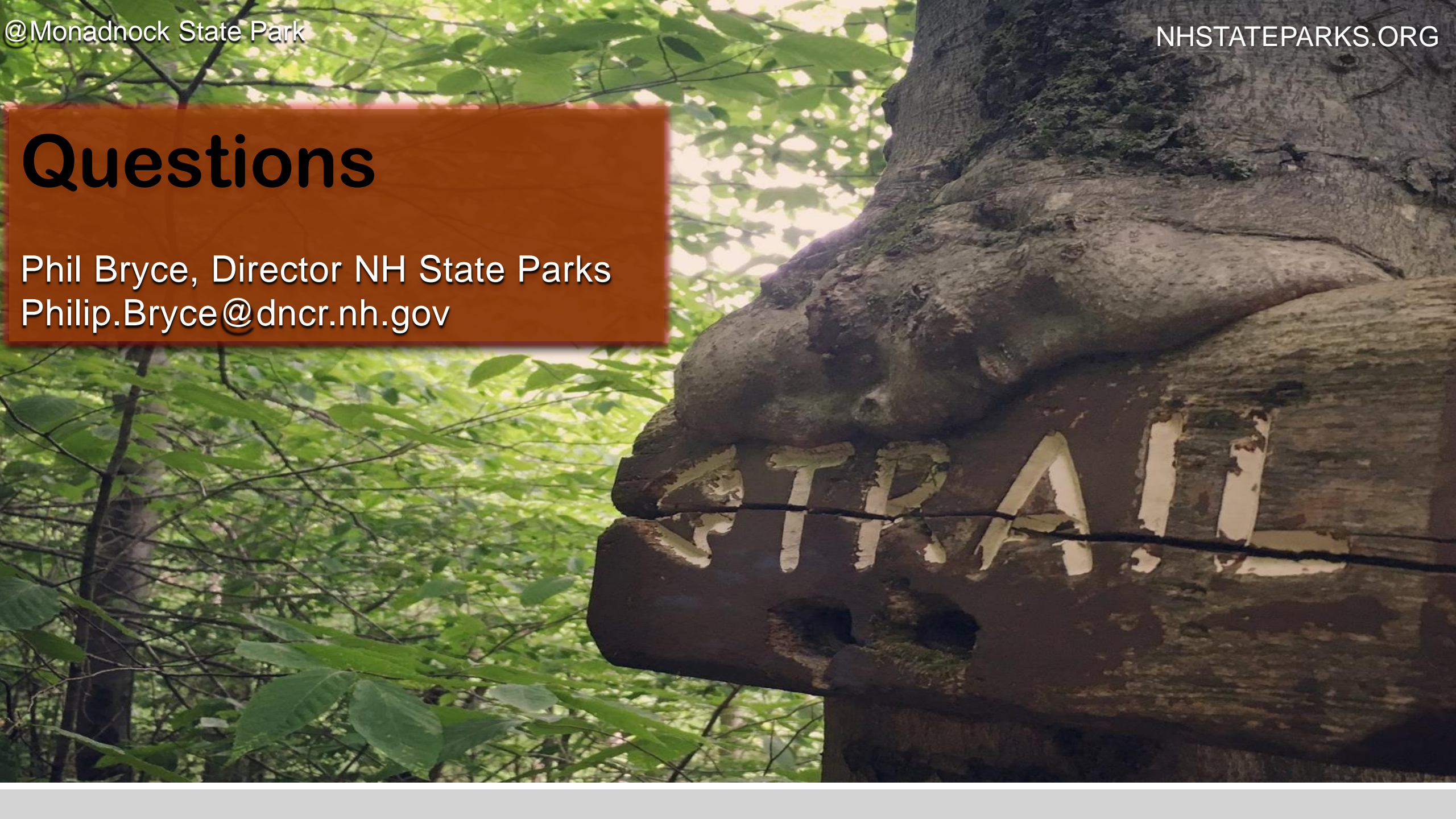


“It is the preservation of the scenery of the forests and the wilderness game for the people as a whole instead of leaving the enjoyment thereof to be confined to the very rich. It is noteworthy in its essential democracy.”

President Theodore Roosevelt

Questions

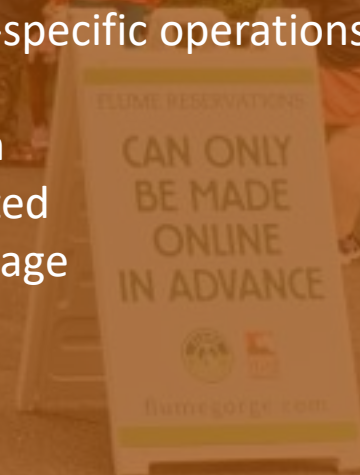
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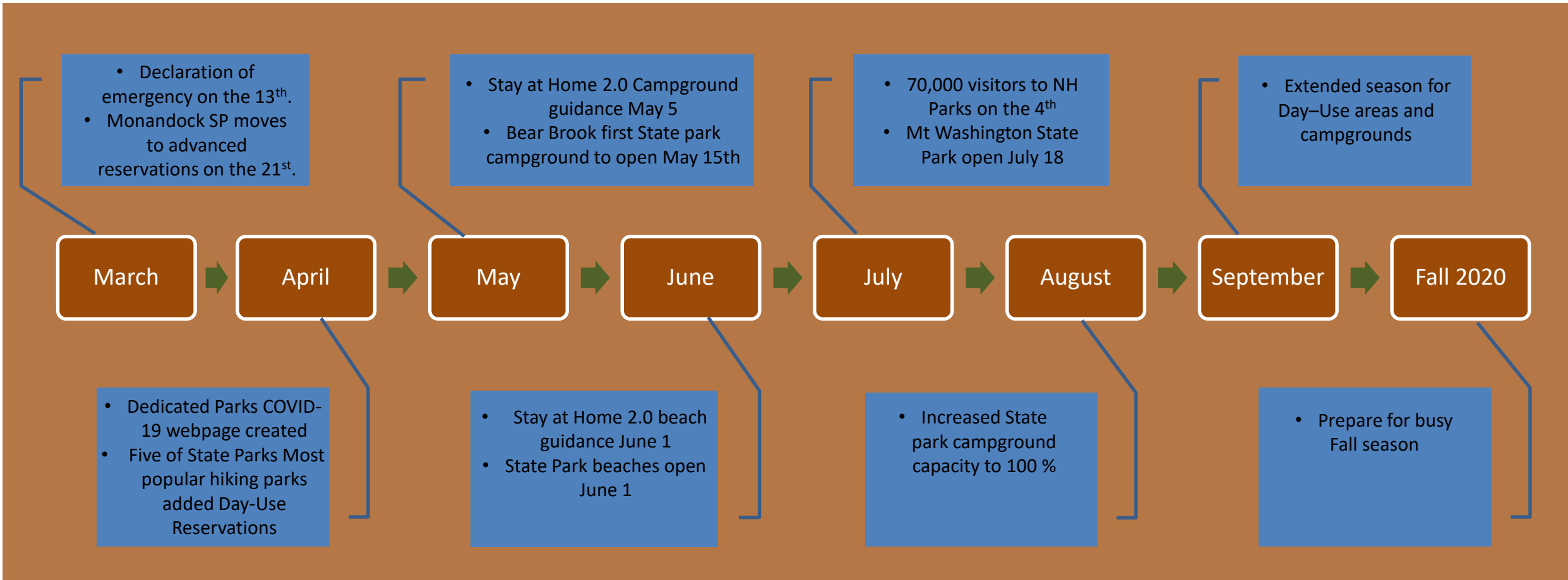
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NH Parks COVID-19 2020 Timeline



Director's Report
STATE PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Division of Parks and Recreation
January 10, 2020
(Last report date was Oct 4, 2019)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- **FY2020 Parks & Retail Comparative Statement** (attached) covering period July 1st to Dec 19, 2019, has day use revenue at \$7.073M, up 5.6% from the previous year. Cannon Mtn/FNSP is at \$2.093M, up 14.6% and Hampton Meters ended at \$1.551M, up 3.7% from the previous year. Parks retail is at \$2.162M, up 6.5% from last year. Cannon/FNSP retail is at \$647.8K, up 6.4% and Mt Washington ended strong at \$1.297M, up 39.8% from the previous year.
- **NH State Park Plate** As of 01/06/20, there are 11,169 plates registered. FY2019 revenues earned are \$854,185 and FYTD2020 revenues earned are at \$447,670. For calendar year 2019, a total of 48,363 park visitors (adults and youths) have entered state parks using the State Park Plate.
- **Day-Use Visitation** for the 2019 season is up by 3% over last year with 1,065,888 visitors. 849,319 visitors paid admission at the gate; 105,229 pre-paid (e.g., season passes, park plate, gift cards); and 111,340 visitors were granted free admission (up 11% from 2018).
- **Free & Discounted entry to day-use areas, camping, Franconia Notch attractions and Cannon Mtn** that is granted by statute, deed, the CBA, the Fee Package, and by donation was provided to 115,466 guests, valued at \$1.1M (see Report).
- **Camping** The Division closed out 2019 with a record breaking revenue total for the calendar year of \$3,588,783.20 with over 47,000 reservations made. The Division also had our highest revenue total for the month of December recording \$103,509.60. The Division is up 5.28% in revenue YTD over FY19.
- **Donations** received through November 2019, total \$19.3K from over 3,000 donors. This amount is expected to surpass the \$19.3K received in 2018.
- **E-Commerce & Gift Cards** The Division had another strong month in e-commerce and gift cards. There were 130 gift cards sold totaling \$8,634.50 and 351 e-commerce items sold totaling \$8,610.03. We closed out 2019 (calendar year) with \$29,113.00 in gift card sales and \$20,799.08 in e-commerce. Both programs continue to grow. Ongoing marketing of these programs via social media and other outlets, along with continuing to improve our product mix will be the key to our success. State Parks gift cards are now sold at select NH Liquor stores!
- The **Department of Administrative Service (DAS)** charged the Division of Parks and Recreation \$304,400 in Fiscal Year 2019 for the administrative services they provide the Division (AG's office, human resources, accounting, etc.). This assessment has not been paid by the Division since it became operationally self-funded in 1992. The charge is to all other sources of funds and affects all bureaus. The funds are used to offset general funds used to run DAS. Parks prepared a waiver request that will be provided under separate cover. The waiver is in the process of being reviewed by DAS and if denied, the agency will seek a change to the statutes to exempt all or a portion of the Division's activities from this charge. (RSA 21-I:74 Allocation of Statewide Central Services Costs; Allocation of Statewide Indirect Costs.)

CANNON MOUNTAIN

- In Week 7 (Dec 30-Jan 5) of the **ski season**, season-to-date visitation of 54,378 is only 4% behind last season and 18% ahead of the 9-yr average. Season-to-date revenue of \$1.9M is 5% ahead of last year and 6% ahead of the 9-yr average. Cannon made a nice recovery from the previous week. (Note: visitation stats are based on car counts, then averaged with the ticket counts at the end of the season to approximate skier visit totals.)
- The contractor hired to install a new sprinkler system at **Summit Station** has begun the onsite evaluation.

BUREAU OF TRAILS (BOT)

- **OHRV registrations** It is anticipated that we will register approximately 35,000 OHRVs this year, this is similar to last year. The season ended in October for most of Coos County. There is still some riding available over the winter, however it is limited. Trails will reopen for the 2020 riding season on May 23rd.
- The **2019-2020 Snowmobile Season** is underway. Southern NH received significant snow in early December and some limited riding opened up two weeks before the typical opening date of Dec 15th. Trails in Northern NH are partially open as of Dec 23; however December riding is typically limited in the state. February is traditionally the busiest month for registrations and riding.
- The Bureau is working on improvements to the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Nature Center at **Bear Brook**. This building will be used to expand the NH Snowmobile Museum, which has a larger collection of sleds than the current building can hold. This building will also house the NH Snowmobile Hall of Fame, which will be dedicated in June.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES (BHS)

- Andrew Cushing was hired as the **new Administrator** for the Bureau of Historic Sites, beginning January 17th. Andrew is a native of Grafton, NH. He earned his undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and History from Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine) in 2012, and his graduate degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA) in 2016. Andrew has most recently worked as a field representative with the NH Preservation Alliance in Concord, NH; as an architectural historian with Preservation Company in Kensington, NH; and as a conservation tech intern with the Fairmount Park Conservancy in Philadelphia, PA. He is president and founder of Mascoma Valley Preservation and also serves as secretary of the Grafton, NH Historical Society. In 2018, Andrew received a “40 Under Forty” award from the Manchester Union Leader in recognition of his many contributions to the State of New Hampshire.
- The Division is drafting an agreement with the Nansen Ski Club to enable the Club to implement a \$250,000 NBRC (Northern Border Regional Commission) grant that they received for the continued restoration and upgrade of the **Nansen Ski Jump** for the purposes of historic interpretation and future FIS (Federation for International Skiing) sanctioned jumping competitions.

BUREAU OF PARK OPERATIONS

CENTRAL REGION

- We finished the year with some really strong growth in revenue from the previous year in all of our **central region parks**, with the exception of Sunapee which had some beach advisories that set back

visits during key times. FY '20 revenue, as of 12/19, is up 4.7%, at \$1.1M. Revenue has steadily increased over the past 5 years.

- We continued with tree removal at **Sunapee** and **White Lake**. Coincidentally, we were lucky that Urban Tree's scheduled visit to Sunapee happened after a freak storm that left several hazard trees that were removed without additional cost.
- The SCA (Student Conservation Association) finished a very challenging staircase on the Bryce Path at **Echo Lake State Park**.
- **Crawford Notch** had a very busy fall and retail revenues were way up at 20.4% over the previous FYTD. Creative renovations for displaying products helped with those numbers!
- The Sea Wall (technically, a lake wall) was finally completed at **Ellacoya**.
- The **Wellington** pavilion that was moved to a new location and upgraded with accessible ramps was a big success providing more beach space and more usable area for pavilion groups.
- The big news for Central is the retirement of two key people who will be sorely missed in their roles.
 - **Crawford Notch Manager**, John Dickerman who has been with parks for 30 years retired this fall. He was extremely devoted to Crawford and its employees. His charm, devotion, and dependability will be missed as a manager. The good news is he plans on still helping part time this upcoming season.
 - **Central Region Supervisor**, Art Charbonneau will retire at the end of January. Art was the White Lake manager for 12 years and the regional for the last 3 years. Under Art's leadership and direction, the region has upheld our director's priorities and focus areas and tackled many big projects, executing most of the them in an amazingly a short amount of time. He has also built a strong team of new managers that continue to be passionate towards their parks and their visitors. On top of all that, he is a very talented trades person that can fix and build just about anything. If we are lucky, we may see him return this summer part time to help keep our parks moving forward.

SEACOAST REGION

- On October 4, 2019, **Patrick Murphy and Hans Morris** were awarded the New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Associate Service Award for their responsiveness and quick-thinking of the rescue and safety of several individuals in August 2018. Their actions were recognized by the New Hampshire law enforcement community, which nominated and selected them for the award.
- **Hampton South Beach** received 25,000 cubic yards of sand to refurbish the area near the jetty. Sand was pumped directly from the Harbor in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers Hampton Harbor dredging project.
- **Seafood festival** implemented new events and longer event hours, increasing the amount of people the event drew.
- **Hampton main beach** has had berms built on the southern end of the Seashell to protect the boardwalk from storm damage. The berms act as "artificial dunes" and help catch sand that is being blown up the beach.
- **Bathhouses** remain open for the winter at the main beach and North Beach for public use.
- Equestrian use has increased significantly at the **main beach**, and we are finding more and more groups looking to charge people to ride on the beach. We are currently working on permits to ensure that the equestrian rules are followed by the groups.

- **Boardwalks and parking areas** are plowed and maintained.
- **North Hampton, Jenness and Rye Harbor** facilities are closed for the season, but are continuing to see visitors enjoying the parks.
- **Odiorne** staff continue to struggle with enforcement of dog rules. **Hampton beach** also struggles with enforcement of leash law.
- **Seacoast Science Center** staff are putting final touches on two new exhibits that will open in January.

MOUNT WASHINGTON

- Very busy season with visitorship. **Attendance** is 370,000 for the 2019 season, May 11-October 20.
- **Retail and Food Concessions** had a record breaking sales season with a total of over \$1.5 million. The Park set a single day all time dollar sales record 3 different times this season (\$24,000+). Food concessions also added new equipment for the beginning of the 2019 season, including a new steam table, new beverage cooler, new baking oven, and new coffee and cocoa machines.
- New **SnowCat** delivered at the end of October and made its first summit trip on November 22. (2019 Pisten Bully 400).
- The **Cog Railway** submitted a proposal to the Coos County Planning Board to extend its tracks and construct a platform within the Cog's right of way. The planning board requires DNCR approval of the project before it will act on the request. The new footprint of rails and platform would increase from 1680 square feet existing prior to 2014 to 3303 square feet and would be approximately 11.5 feet high at the deck and 15 feet at the railing. The Mount Washington Commission has reviewed the plans and DNCR is working with the Cog to address concerns.

SOUTH REGION

- **Kingston:** Repairs will be made to the office/garage building
- **Pawtuckaway:** Bathroom renovation to Bathroom #4 on Horse Island started in the fall and will be complete by June 2020, with updates and new showers; conducted major tree removal effort throughout the campground
- **Bear Brook:** Bear Hill will be open for the 2020 season; successful first day hikes were held; management plan is ongoing
- **Clough:** Pavilion rental will be online for the 2020 season
- **Greenfield:** Roadways were brushed back and trees cut; floor repairs were made to the bathrooms
- **Monadnock:** Parking reservation system was successful and we're considering permanent implementation; successful first day hikes were held; professional trail work is tentatively scheduled for July
- **Pisgah:** Park Manager retired after 7 years; recruitment for a new manager will start in March
- **South Region:** kiosks are being built by park staff for installation in multiple parks

RETAIL OPERATIONS

- NH State Parks transferred \$512,000 of profit to the **parks fund** for fiscal year 2019. Retail has contributed \$3 million in bottom line profit over the last 6 fiscal years.
- Additional investments, outside of the retail profit transfer, and within the retail budget included:
 - Expanded retail with a new store at **Echo Lake Beach Conway** scheduled to open in the Spring of 2020- Cost- \$100,000.

- Finalized the **Trademarks** on all NH State Park sub branded logos and Cannon Mountain logos. \$3,500.
- Added a new **Store Manager Retail POS system** to 30+ locations. Hardware, IT support and reporting costs \$50,000.
- Implemented a new **E-Commerce platform** that has generated \$15,000 YTD in retail gross sales. (excludes passes, gift cards, and coupon books) .
- Renovated **Crawford Notch Willey House** with new fixtures, slat wall, and lighting. Cost- \$10,000. Sales grew by 20%. From \$160,000 to \$200,000.
- Upgraded the **Mt. Washington kitchen** with a new oven, hot food serving station, and storage. Cost- \$10,000.
- Purchases 20 Grumman canoes, pushing the state parks **boat rental fleet** to 285 watercraft. Cost- \$25k.
- Generated \$308,000 in **retail boat rental revenue**. 11,178 rentals were processed across the state. This configures to the average renter spending \$27.53 per rental. This represents a 3% increase over 2018 (299k). Echo Lake Conway will be an added boat for 2020.
- Produced \$314k in gross **firewood revenue** as 52,336 bundles were delivered and sold across the state park system. This accounts for over 400 cords of wood that is cut, split, processed, and delivered over a span of 5 months. The DOC (Corrections Farm) account for approximately 80% of that production.
- **Mt. Washington**, a separate account, generated \$1.5 million in retail revenue for the first time in its history. The operation is currently up 40% in gross sales over last season. Changes in product mix, improvements in processing stock, a new pricing strategy, a more efficient kitchen, and a committed staff all contributed to the success and milestone season. Projected 2019 annual profit from Mt. Washington retail is expected to be \$600k-700k. A finalized annual report will be completed mid to late January.
- **Fiscal year revenue** beginning July 1st is up 6.5% for parks, 10% for Cannon Mountain, and 40% for Mt. Washington over the previous year.

Ten year Revenue snapshot of the 3 retail accounts.

Year	NH State Parks	Cannon MT	Mt. Washingto	Fiscal Revenue
2010	1,364,000	1,356,000	752,000	3,472,000
2011	1,400,000	1,608,000	842,000	3,850,000
2012	1,604,000	1,309,000	860,000	3,773,000
2013	1,603,000	1,653,000	876,000	4,132,000
2014	1,750,000	1,612,000	1,009,000	4,371,000
2015	1,811,000	1,640,000	1,121,000	4,572,000
2016	2,280,000	1,224,000	1,159,000	4,663,000
2017	2,258,000	1,553,000	1,274,000	5,085,000
2018	2,494,247	1,598,352	1,232,654	5,325,253
2019	2,643,127	1,789,200	1,216,110	5,648,437

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

FIRST DAY HIKES

This is the tenth year New Hampshire has participated in the **First Day Hikes program**. The program is part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage people to get outdoors. The 2020 New Hampshire's First Day Hikes were held at Milan Hill, Monadnock, Odiorne Point, Flume Gorge, and Bear Brook. Final numbers on participation will be provided at the SPAC meeting.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- For the 2019 calendar year **18,082 volunteer hours** were donated on DNCR land, this equates to an estimated value of \$465,806.
- The Department is currently working with **23 different non-profit Friends groups**, organizations, and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations to perform approved volunteer activities throughout the State.
- 1,031 pounds of trash removed from NH Seacoast State Parks by the **Surfrider Foundation**.
- 2 new bridges constructed at Pisgah State Park, combined they span 36 feet, by the **Friends of Pisgah**
- 27 rock steps installed at Franconia Notch State Park by Trailwrights.
- 200+ drains and ditches cleaned over 16 miles of trails and 35 rock steps installed at Mount Cardigan State Forest by the **Cardigan Highlanders** Volunteer Trail Crew.
- 2 volunteer work days with **Eversource**: one at Monadnock State Park reestablishing the Nature trail, and one at Rye Harbor removing invasive bittersweet.
- Other volunteer work day partners included: **SNHU, ARS Restoration, Vapotherm, SPNHF and the Derry Village Rotary Club**.
- **Insurance** provided by and paid for by the Department to 14 different small non-profit organizations while volunteering on Department lands.

CHILDREN IN NATURE COALITION

- The Children in Nature Coalition is a collaborative network of organizations and individuals interested in getting kids and families outdoors. NH Fish and Game is seeking grant funding for the **Nature Backpack Loan Program** that came from the idea that new visitors of the outdoors often don't know what they can do when visiting a park, especially in an unstructured setting, nor do they have the basic equipment for a robust nature experience. This pilot program will partner with the City of Manchester library and Parks and Rec Dept. to loan out backpacks filled with maps, books, binoculars, nets, etc. to families and encourage them to visit their local park and state parks, such as Bear Brook.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- **GRANT ROUND 30**: The application period for eligible local project proposals closed on December 6, 2019. Five applications were received, totaling \$442,548.00 in requests for assistance. All of these proposals are for development projects. Review of these proposals will now be coordinated with the Open Project Selection Process Advisory Panel. The Panel will then make recommendations to the State Liaison Officer (Commissioner Stewart) regarding submissions to the National Park Service for final federal approvals. The next federal submission period, set by the National Park Service, is anticipated to be between March and April of 2020, for grant agreement start date of May 1, 2020.

- PROGRAM APPORTIONMENTS/AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Apportionment	Obligation Deadline	Apportioned Amount	Available Balance
GOMESA* FY 09-17	None	\$122,193.00	\$25,919.00
LWCF FY 18	9/30/2020	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00
GOMESA* FY 18	9/30/2020	\$618,445.00	\$234,656.96
LWCF FY 19	9/30/2021	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00
GOMESA* FY 19	9/30/2021	\$709,512.00	\$709,512.00
Total:		\$3,458,470.00	\$2,978,407.96
*Section 105 of the <u>Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act</u> designates 12.5 percent of the proceeds from leases in Areas 181, 181 South and the 2002-2007 planning areas to be dispensed to the States in accordance with Section 6 of the LWCF Act.			

- Open LWCF projects:

PROJECT #	NAME	SPONSOR	TYPE	PROJECT SCOPE	GRANT \$
33-00699	Cocheco River Park	City of Dover	Development	Construction of a paddle sports access and boat dock	\$159,675.00
33-00700	Merrimack River Greenway Trail	City of Concord	Development	Construction of a trail bridge at Terrill Park	\$106,450.00
33-00701	Pulpit Rock Conservation Area	Town of Bedford	Development	Trail accessibility enhancements and construction of trail bridges	\$45,241.00
33-00702 33-00702.1	Osgood Pond Restoration Phase I-II	Town of Milford	Development	Pond dredging and improvements to water access facilities at Adams Field	\$159,675.00 \$175,175.00
33-00705	Hartford Brook Ballfields	Town of Deerfield	Development	Improvements to playfield, parking, and support facilities	\$25,000.00
33-00706	Nissitissit River Park	Town of Brookline	Combination	Development of accessible trail, and acquisition abutting rail trail	\$50,050.00
33-00707	Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvements	City of Nashua	Development	Boat ramp and parking improvements on the Merrimack River	\$200,200.00
33-00708	Bristol Falls Park	Town of Bristol	Development	Restoration of access to a high-bank viewing area of the Pemi and Newfound	\$153,155.00
33-00709	B. Rowell Community Center Playground	City of Franklin	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$45,045.00
33-00710	Monadnock Park Playground	City of Claremont	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$53,753.00
33-00711	Monroe Consolidated School Playground	Monroe Consolidated SD	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$96,396.00
33-00713	Kearsarge Mtn State Forest-Tusoni Lot	State of NH DNCR	Acquisition	Purchase of 33.4 acres 1.5 miles up from the Rollins State Park tollbooth	\$21,354.00
33-00714	Franconia Notch SP - Lafayette Playground	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00715	Ellacoya State Park Playground	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00716	Mill City Park at Franklin Falls	City of Franklin	Combination	Purchase of 2.2 acres, development of trails, restrooms, parking, picnic area, and pavilion	\$200,200.00
33-00717	Landroche Field Splash Pad and	Town of Newmarket	Development	Construction of a splash-pad, restrooms, and accessible pathway, and kiosk	\$199,606.41
33-00718	Riverfront Park	Town of Lincoln	Development	Construction of a skate park, parking, bike-ped trails, river access, and utilities	\$200,200.00
33-00719	New Boston Rail Trail Rehabilitation	Town of New Boston	Development	Installation of surface material, new/fixed drainage, grading, benches, kiosk	\$100,100.00
33-00721	Littleton Health Park	Town of Littleton	Combination	5 acre acquisition, construction of parking area, pavilion, community gardens, fitness area, trail	\$200,200.00

33-00722	Maplewood Field Bleachers/Playground	Town of Salisbury	Development	<i>Installation of new bleachers, swing set, play equipment, and pathway</i>	\$25,000.00
33-00723	Moeckel Pond Dam Reconstruction	Town of Windham	Development	<i>Reconstruction of historic mill site dam, car-top boat, and parking</i>	\$150,150.00
33-00724	Jules Bisson Park Rejuvenation	City of Somersworth	Development	<i>Construction of a playground, picnic shelter, and accessibility enhancements</i>	\$45,000.00
33-00726	Kraime Meadow Park Improvements	Town of Moultonborough	Development	<i>Construction of a picnic shelter with concession area and composting toilets</i>	\$62,562.50
TOTAL OPEN GRANTS:					\$2,627,672.91

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

PARTNERSHIPS. The **SCA NH Corps** completed their program year in October. The conservation crews completed 17 hitches at various NH State Parks. In total the crews worked in 16 parks, some parks more than once, accomplishing a variety of tasks including spring clean-up in campgrounds, shelter & kiosk building, trail maintenance, rock staircases, invasive species removal, and painting.

The **Discover the Power of Parks** program had 22,347 program attendees and 42,639 park visitor contacts. Once again the DPP Rangers hosted about 1,000 4th and 5th graders for a field trip to Bear Brook State Park in the spring and also presented fall outreach programs to 48 community groups.

CONSULTANT SERVICES.

- Tahawus Trails LLC (a professional trail construction firm) has submitted a proposed scope of work for trail work at **Monadnock State Park**. The division has prioritized the projects and work on “Troop Rock” on the White Cross trail is expected to start next summer.
- **Fort Stark State Historic Site** Historic District Area Form and Phase 1 Archaeological study has been completed by the Public Archaeology Library (PAL). The fort has been eligible for the national register because for its military associations with the development of the US coastal defense system and retains engineering significance as an intact example of a military installation. The archaeological investigations showed that the property has been too compromised to convey meaningful information about its evolving pre-contact or post-war use.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

RIGHT TO KNOW / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – The Division has received 15 **RTK / RFI requests** to date in FY20. 32 hours have been logged to date with four requests still active. One person has filed 10 requests since April 2019.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Director Bryce attended a meeting of the **Study Committee on outdated non-regulatory boards, commissions, councils, and advisory boards**. He provided the study committee with general information pertaining to the committees administratively assigned to the Division. He asked the study committee to provide agencies with guidelines for committee reporting requirements so that such reports are useful to the General Court.

AGREEMENTS – The Division is working on the following:

- **Mount Washington Observatory** lease
- **Mount Washington Cog Railway** track expansion at the summit of Mt Washington
- **Nansen Ski Club** agreement for the Nansen Ski Jump site
- **Seacoast Science Center** contract amendment
- **Student Conservation Association** contract

- Lease to operate a portion of **SPNHF** lands as part of Monadnock State Park.
- **White Mountain Attractions** lease
- **3rd Party** buildings & improvements
- **Communications sites**

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROGRAM (SUP)

- The **Special Use Permit Program** is growing steadily every year. We have many different activities that take place within the State Park System such as triathlons, bike races, guided hikes, and fundraising by specific organizations or for a cause – to name a few. Additionally, we issue filming permits to organizations who wish to shoot still photos or by using hand-held cameras and drones.
 - Fees associated with these permits include an administrative fee, event fee, facility use fee (for pavilions and other reserved areas), impact fees (such as electricity and additional staff hours), and day-use fees. The total permit fees collected through park headquarters for 2019 is \$111,380.37. In 2018, the total fees collected was \$93,118.45. This number has increased by 20%.
 - The total gross revenue collected by permittees is \$2.6M, with a net revenue of \$979.8K. Permittees fund-raised and donated \$105K.
 - Below is a breakdown of the type of permits issued with 2019 year to date versus 2018 calendar year:

• SUP by Permit Type:

Permit Type	2018	2019	% Change
Cancelled	0	7	100.0
Filming Permits	10	17	70.0
Guiding Permits	2	1	(50.0)
Special Use Permits	154	156	1.3
Grand Total	166	181	9.0

SUP by Management Region:

Mgmt. Region	2018	2019	% Change
Central Region	16	21	31.3
Franconia Notch	7	8	14.3
Great North Woods	13	10	(23.1)
Historic Sites	1	1	0.0
Mt. Washington	8	10	25.0
Multiple locations	8	8	0.0
Seacoast Region	56	52	(7.1)
South Region	26	32	23.1
Trails Bureau	31	39	25.8
Grand Total	166	181	9.0

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND MARKETING REPORT

- On Dec. 16, NH State Parks met with our marketing firm, GYK Antler to review the **2019 marketing plan** and plan for **2020 marketing campaigns**. Efforts last fall concentrated on targeting the fall leaf peepers and ramping up gift card and online store sales. These marketing campaigns revolved around a Search Engine Marketing ads and social media ads, both paid and organic. Timing was a priority to maximize holiday sales.
- Following the **retail sales campaign**, we shifted to promoting **First Day Hikes** by utilizing paid social media ads, organic social media posts and promoting media attention with two press releases and providing images and quotes. This campaign is a prime example of how important it is to keep State Parks in the thoughts of our customers year round.
- Parks also discussed with GYK the necessity of starting our **summer season campaigns** even earlier than we did in 2019. Last year's summer campaign paid advertising began in April however, with our

participation in spring outdoor shows, we plan to begin marketing for summer in late February and early March.

- The majority of these early season ads included TV spots, public displays, and social media ads. In 2020 we will experiment with spots on **targeted smart TV channels**. Network TV in NH and the Boston area is very expensive and hard to track ROI. Testing out connected TV in the future would be more efficient and provide us with more targeting and tracking capabilities.
- **Social media** numbers (as of December 31, 2019):
 - Facebook: 270,262 followers
 - Instagram: 47K
 - Twitter: 21.9K
 - YouTube: 1.41K
- **Facebook highlights** (September 30 – December 30, 2019):
 - Daily Engaged Users: 111,100
(Daily: The number of people who engaged with your Page. Engagement includes any click or story created. (Unique Users))
 - Daily Total Impressions: 3,380,086
(Daily: The number of times any content from your Page or about your Page entered a person's screen. This includes posts, stories, check-ins, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page and more. (Total Count))
 - Daily Total Reach: 2,934,332
(Daily: The number of people who had any content from your Page or about your Page enter their screen. This includes posts, check-ins, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page and more. (Unique Users))
 - Video Views: 55,866
 - New Followers: 871
- **NHStateParks.org** (September 30-December 31, 2019)
 - Total page views: 539,064
 - Top pages:
 - Flume Gorge - 34,337
 - Hiking/Trail Maps - 23,395
 - Monadnock - 17,040
 - Snowmobile Conditions - 16,061
 - Franconia Notch - 10,440
 - Geography:
 - Massachusetts: 67,538
 - New Hampshire: 61,348
 - New York: 15,599
 - Demographics:
 - Female: 51%
 - Male: 49%
 - Age 25-34: 25%
 - Age 45-54: 19%
 - Age 35-44: 19%

- **Press Releases:**

12/27/2019 - Celebrate New Year's Day with NH State Park First Day Hikes

Come join New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation and our partners on a rejuvenating family-friendly hike this New Year's Day. Five state parks across New Hampshire will host free hikes to providing the opportunity for individuals and families to welcome in 2020 in the outdoors, exercising and connecting with nature.

12/27/2019 - Cancelled due to the Winter Storm - New Year's Eve Open House and Fireworks at Hampton Beach State Park

The NH Division of Parks and Recreation will host an open house on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion at Hampton Beach State Park.

12/22/2019 - Celebrate the New Year in a New Hampshire State Park

New Hampshire State Parks invites the public to kick off the New Year and New Year's Day with a hike. Five state parks across New Hampshire will host free hikes to providing the opportunity for individuals and families to welcome in 2020 in the outdoors, exercising and connecting with nature.

11/08/2019 - Hampton Beach State Park Community Meeting Nov. 19

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation will host a community meeting on Tuesday, November 19 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion, 2nd Floor at 180 Ocean Blvd, Hampton, NH 03842.

10/21/2019 - NH Bureau of Trails hosts a public information session on extension of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Trail Oct 30

The N.H. Division of Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Trails, will host a public information session Oct. 30, 2019 regarding the northern extension of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Trail. The session will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Littleton Senior Center. The Senior Center is located at 77 Riverglen Lane in Littleton, NH.

10/11/2019 - Public information session to address utility safety upgrade project at Miller State Park

N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources will host a public information session regarding a utility safety upgrade project at Miller State Park on Oct. 16. The session will take place from 6-8 p.m. at Shieling State Forest in Peterborough.

9/27/2019 - Monadnock State Park welcomes new facility expansion project

NH State Parks will host a ribbon cutting celebration for the expansion and renovation of the toilet building at the Monadnock State Park headquarters at 116 Poole Road Jaffrey, NH at 1 p.m. on Oct. 4. The public is invited. Heading into the busy summer hiking season, state officials issue reminders of efforts underway to ensure safety for people visiting Franconia Notch State Park (FNSP).

REPORTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY:

- a. Parks Financial Report FY 2019, Summaries only (*DRAFT*)
- b. Parks Forecast Report FY 2020
- c. Parks Comparative Statements FY2020, as of 12-19-19
- d. Visitation & State Park Plate Usage Reports for 2019 season
- e. Complimentary & Discounted Access to State Parks Report FY 2019
- f. Capital, Deferred Maintenance & Park Improvement Projects
- g. SWCAP exemption request on State Park Funds, Oct 3, 2019
- h. Legislation 2020 session

Director's Report
STATE PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Division of Parks and Recreation
September 1, 2020
(Last report date was Jan 10, 2020)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- **FY2020 Parks & Retail Comparative Statement** (attached) covering period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, has day use revenue at \$9.265M, down \$897K or 8.8% from the previous fiscal year. Cannon Mountain closed at \$4.484M, down 12.3% and Hampton Meters ended at \$1.827M, down 19% from the previous fiscal year. Parks retail closed at \$2.338M, down 11.5% from FY2019. Cannon retail closed at \$1.807M, up 1.0% and Mt Washington closed at \$1.297M, up 6.7% from the previous fiscal year.
- **FY2021 Parks & Retail Comparative Statement** (attached) covering Week 6 of FY2021, total revenue including Cannon/Franconia Notch and Hampton Meters is at \$3.614M, down 28% from the previous period. Retail revenue is at \$845K, down 59% from the previous period.
- **NH State Park Plate** As of 03/07/20, there were 11,876 plates registered. FY2020 revenues earned are \$976,400, up slightly compared to FY2019 revenues earned at \$854,185.
- **July 4th weekend** 25,982 campers; 29,546 day use visitors by advance reservation; 6,472 seacoast parking meter transactions representing 16,000 visitors for a total of over 70,000 visitors! Does not include untracked visitors at Hampton Beach, Franconia Notch or Mount Washington.
- **Enterprise functions**, including day-use reservations, camping reservations, and donations are reported below.

COVID-19 IMPACTS TO DIVISION OPERATIONS

We have had a very challenging but successful season so far under the circumstance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. State Parks provided draft reopening guidelines early on to the Economic Re-Opening Task Force (of which we are a member) and have continued to be engaged in protecting public health while we open up for business as much as possible. The pandemic has been even more challenging due to the increased demand for our parks. We have responded by managing capacity through a park system wide reservation system, implementing enhanced cleaning procedures, screening, use of PPE's by staff, and communicating with guests the many operational changes they may encounter when visiting State Parks.

Southern area parks opened in March, two months earlier than normal, as visitors seeking relief from Stay-at-Home orders overwhelmed hiking trails. State Parks were stressed further when many other recreational areas and trails were closed to public use. Restroom facilities became a major issue because of the closure of most all other businesses and facilities. To keep staff and visitors safe, regionals and park managers developed park-specific operations plans even before the Re-opening Task Force guidances were established. With the hiring freeze, staff from the Concord Office were re-deployed to assist in the field on weekends. It was a massive effort to print signage, redesign the website and push social media to provide visitors with detailed COVID protocols and park-related communications, and to obtain PPEs and sanitizing supplies during the shortage from inventive suppliers, such as hand sanitizer from a whiskey distillery and cloth face coverings from Ragged Mountain Equipment of North Conway.

Hiring staff has been difficult with higher competing wages, later recruitment due to the hiring freeze, the short training duration, and the loss of up to 25 J1 students at the seacoast.

Visitor relations this year were harder than ever. Staff were constantly confronted by angry visitors about the restrictions put in place: mostly about not having a place to park, being ticketed for parking illegally, and for the parks being full. Young staff experienced higher than normal confrontations with guests, including a crowd of intoxicated adults. There were dramatic increases in trash being left behind.

No shows under the reservation system is an issue across the park system. These reduce the number of people who actually get to use the park and also can make it difficult to explain why a parking lot so empty. A policy had been instituted to allow non-reserved visitors to enter the park in the mid-late afternoon based on outstanding reservations and the number of visitors who have left for the day.

PARK OPERATIONS

SOUTH REGION

- On May 15th, the **Bear Brook** campground was the first to open, following the Governor's Economic Re-opening Task Force guidance for campgrounds.
- All **south region campgrounds** are open at 100%. We are experiencing higher occupancy rates than in previous years as we moved from the initial 50% capacity limitations.
- We **anticipate one of the busiest fall seasons ever** for both day use and camping. We are keeping south region parks open longer to offer more recreational opportunities to the public.

CENTRAL REGION

- One of the biggest challenges this summer with increased outdoor activities has been managing parks that are not typically staffed and do not have the amenities and services that a typical fee-based park would have, such as bathrooms, parking, and regular trash clean up. Parks like **Ahern, Sculptured Rocks, Aresthusa Falls** and **Wadleigh** have always had their challenges, but the displacement of visitors from other areas with restricted use was unprecedented and has caused over-use of parklands. This has been a common theme for town beaches, the WMNF and other local recreation hot spots.
- Central region successfully **partnered with local towns**, from the police, town selectmen, and road crews, to address some park needs this season, but resources are needed for long-term solutions.
- **White Lake State Park** was awarded "Best base for family fun" by Boston Globe.

SEACOAST REGION

- The playground at **Odiorne Point** remains closed, Seacoast Science Center is open on weekends for visitors and midweek for day camps. Visitors are starting to get accustomed to the reservation, Odiorne is up to 75% capacity and visitors distance themselves throughout the park.
- The new **Wallis Sands** Park Manager Ryan Klink joined the seacoast team. Ryan has big ideas for Wallis Sands and hit the ground running when hired in June.
- Parking meters at **Rye Harbor** were installed to eliminate the need for a toll booth attendant, and to collect fees from a location that has historically had little revenue. NH senior citizens complained about this change as they no longer have free access, but the park is busier this year than ever. With Rte. 1A closed, people are parking here to access Foss Beach, owned by the town. Staff has increased presence there to help deal with traffic issues and illegal parking.

- We have had a parking attendant at **Jenness Beach** daily from 10am-6pm to help with traffic on the road. This has helped with traffic flow, however the staff get a lot of criticism from people when the park is full. New bathhouse continues to get used heavily and is a great replacement from the old one.
- The rocky beach at **North Hampton** now offers an ADA accessible beach chair while lifeguards are on duty to help those with mobility restrictions access the beach.
- Rip currents at **North Beach** have kept the lifeguards busy. We have seen a lot of changes in the profile of the beach since Storm Riley in 2018, which may contribute to the increase in rip currents.
- **Hampton Beach meter patrol** staff schedules were reassessed and changed this summer to provide greater park patrol presence to enforce the capacity restrictions. In July, 500 more tickets were issued than July 2019. Park patrol coverage now includes Wallis Sands, Rye Harbor and Odiorne to ticket vehicles remaining in the parking lots after closing hours. Ticketing vehicles after park closing has helped bring the number of cars left in the lots from 30 to 10.
- Rip currents at **Hampton Beach** have intensified this year, drastically increasing rescue calls. Water Safety Day and the New England Life Saving completion were cancelled due to COVID-19. Piping plovers nesting on the main beach caused some challenges in beach maintenance and raking, but there was one successful nest hatch. As of August 11, 2020 the statistics are:

Hampton Ocean Rescue Statistics		
	<i>2019 (Memorial day-labor day)</i>	<i>2020 (June 1- Aug 11)</i>
Ocean rescues	128	472
Alcohol violations	2,714	5,201
Dogs removed	709	925

- **Beach Patrol** has trained with Marine Patrol and local towns on jetskis and other water rescues so that, should an issue arise, they are able to work together using the same rescue techniques.
- **Maintenance:** We are staffed up to 15 people out of the normal 48. The Town of Hampton public works staff are assisting us with trash pick-up on Friday, Saturday and Sunday making a significant difference in our ability to keep the trash under control. Local community members and members of the Chamber of Commerce (led by John Nyhan) have also been helping to pick up trash in the morning, and encourage locals to help out during their morning walks. The Community has really been rallying together this year to work toward the same goal of keeping Hampton Beach clean!
- 50% capacity remains at **South Beach** with reservation system in place. Several Piping Plover chicks fledged and survived the busy beach. No events took place here this year due to COVID. The campground has been booked all summer, and overflow “dry camping” remains closed.
- All parks have experienced difficulty in **finding staff** to work for \$11.19/hour. We saw an increase in applications when the \$3/hr. pay increase was granted by Executive Order for Hampton maintenance staff, but we never reached full staffing as the job duties consisted primarily of trash pick-up and bathroom cleaning. In a non-pandemic year, we look to have up to 25 J1 students on staff.
- **Compliance with COVID restrictions/guidance** were challenging: In Hampton, visitors moved parking barriers, drove over or cut ropes, and parked in spaces clearly closed. Roughly 5% or less of visitors wear masks in bathrooms or when closer than 6’ to others along the boardwalk. The “no drop off” rule/signage was generally ignored at Odiorne, Wallis Sands and South Beach.

MOUNT WASHINGTON

- We have had a successful opening (beginning July 18) and operating season so far, under the new reservation system and under the COVID Guidelines, including the limited capacity of the Sherman Adams Building to 75 verses 300.
- With the limits on visitors allowed in the building, one of the most challenging issue is shelter for summit visitors in bad weather, particularly Cog riders who are left at the summit until the next train takes them down.
- Maintenance staff have completed and continuing to work on many important projects at the summit, despite the limitations in spending. A new front door will be constructed and installed on the Tip Top House before winter.

FRANCONIA NOTCH / CANNON MOUNTAIN

- **Flume Gorge** is running smoothly at 200 people per hour via online reservations only. We turn away 100+ people/hr. who don't have reservations. The Welcome Center is closed to the public. Retail revenue is within 15% of normal numbers. Food and beverage service is off by 50%. We are following all State Parks, Reopening Task Force guidance, and CDC guidelines for COVID.
- **Echo Lake Beach** is also running smoothly at 250 people/day via online reservations only. We turn away 250+ people/day who don't have reservations. Boat rentals and concessions revenue are off by 50%. All State Parks, Task Force guidance, and CDC guidelines for COVID are followed.
- **Lafayette Place Campground** is operating at 91 sites out of 98 and booking very solidly at all times.
- **Hiker usage of the park and non-venue usage** of the park (picnics, walking, boating, etc.) have truly exploded this summer; all non-venue areas and hiking routes are extremely busy Fri-Sun and quite steady Mon-Thu every week.
- We opened the **Tramway parking lot** and installed portable toilets for use by hikers. The lot is full on weekends. Staff are stationed at the lot to provide hikers with alternate hikes.
- **CLOSED:** Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway / hiker shuttles / weddings and functions. The Tramway lot is being used for hikers and is at or near capacity on weekends.
- Preparation for **winter operations** continues daily with the many changes that lie ahead. We are examining every single facet of our operation from every angle to handle COVID-19 guidance. We are examining a 20-25% overall expense/labor budget cut while planning for increased sanitation and working on crowd handling strategies and infrastructure capacity / limitations. We'll put out a "**Winter Plan**" release in early September, and then update it in October and again in November.
- **Lafayette Place Campground** was recently named "Editor's Choice" as NH's Best Family Campground in NH Magazine.
- **FNSP** has frequently (and last year) been ranked in the Top 5 in the US for state parks.
- **Bob Daniels** (Lift Maintenance Supervisor) received a 2020 NH Union Leader Hero Award for saving a life last February (2019).
- **Charlie Roy** (Snowsports School staff trainer) was named one of Ski Area Management Magazine's "11 Under 30" for his leadership qualities (2020).
- **Cannon** won the National Ski Areas Association marketing award for best video advertising campaign (2020).
- **Franconia Ski Club** was named Best Development Club in the country by US Ski & Snowboard Association.

- **Cannon** won two “Telly” Awards for its New England TV advertising campaign (2020).

BUREAU OF TRAILS (BOT)

- **Snowmobile season** ended on March 26, 2020 with an announcement from the Bureau that all trails were closing due to community, club and landowner concerns over COVID-19 spread. This is the earliest formal closure of trails known to have occurred in NH.
- **OHRV season** started on May 23rd, with limited areas open for riding. The Governor’s Economic Reopening Task Force approved a phased OHRV trail opening plan, which was followed throughout the summer. OHRV registrations this summer are up 23% over this same time last year. Nationally, ATV sales are up 43%. OHRV rentals are up 200% over last summer and this has led to an increase in complaints of riders being in areas they are not allowed and rentals account for more than 1/3 of OHRV accidents (and same for snowmobiles). Accidents and violation tickets are consistent with numbers from last year.
- In July we received a significant rain event that impacted more than 50% of the trails in **Jericho Mountain State Park**. Staff and contractors spent 4 weeks repairing damages and all trails have been reopened. This rain event cost the Bureau \$30,000 in unanticipated repair costs during the summer. This storm also damaged a bridge and portions of the Presidential Rail Trail, in Randolph. This damage is on the non-motorized portion of the trail and plans are to try to repair this damage in the fall. The Bureau has its new rock crusher, a unit attached to a new tractor, in operation and it is a good, new piece of maintenance equipment. This unit rebuilds the trail/road base by crushing large rocks into crushed gravel. This should save the Bureau future funds by creating gravel on-site instead of having to buy it from outside vendors. The plan is to use this new equipment on State properties first, then on lands under administrative lease to the Bureau. Clubs would like to borrow it for trails but this unit can only be operated by State employees.
- The **alternative OHRV route in Gorham** is scheduled to open on September 2nd. The goal was to have this route open earlier this summer however there were delays in getting the contractor on-site. This new OHRV route will allow the majority of traffic in Gorham to bypass the existing OHRV route, which travels through a residential area. A parking lot in Gorham, on Rte. 16, opened for use on August 26th.
- Trails Bureau staff worked on a **cooperative project** with the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. The State owns the trail through the refuge and was awarded Federal Highway Funds to enable us to improve it for access into and through the refuge, (it will also greatly improve the snowmobile use in the winter). The \$110K grant was accepted through Fiscal and G&C in May and work started in June.
- The Bureau and the NH Snowmobile Association (NHSA) made a presentation to the **Governor’s Office For Economic Recovery and Relief (GOFERR)** on August 26th. The presentation was to highlight the loss of fundraising revenues to snowmobile clubs and the impact that has on their ability to pay bills to maintain snowmobile trails. The Bureau is working to determine if a short-term amendment to its Grant In Aid (GIA) Rules are needed to provide additional funds for clubs this winter.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES (BHS)

- Nansen Ski Club and the Bureau are moving forward with plans to rehabilitate the **Nansen Ski Jump** for the purposes of historic interpretation and future FIS (Federation for International Skiing) sanctioned jumping competitions. Engineering is now complete and bidding documents are being prepared for construction this fall/winter.

- The tern project on **White Island** had its most successful year, with a record number of nesting birds. The pandemic temporarily put an end to the steward program on site, but volunteer maintenance and work is expected to continue in a limited capacity at the end of August.
- A community-led effort is looking at how best to interpret and contextualize the story of **Hannah Duston**. A diverse and forming advisory committee will explore ways to increase traffic to the island and tell a fuller story of the 1694 raid in which Hannah was captured. Actions may include extending the Northern Rail Trail to the island, creating a response piece to share the Native American narrative, and/or adding interpretive signage that shares the island's geographic, geologic, colonial, and industrial histories.
- Interpretive signage will begin to get installed at **Livermore Falls** this fall. These signs were paid for with mitigation money from the Groton Wind Farm and delve into the site's layered history.

ENTERPRISE SYSTEM NH State Parks has had a challenging but successful season responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Enterprise system has been essential to the success of our response.

- **Day Use Reservations:** We piloted our advanced day use reservation system last fall at Monadnock State Park as a way to ensure limited number of guests would not be turned away when the park reached capacity. This program was successful and during the COVID-19 pandemic we have utilized this system at all our day use parks as a way to control capacity. During the 2020 summer season we have processed 194,869 day use reservations representing 564,430 visitors as of August 20, 2020. This has been a tremendously successful program not only to control our capacity numbers and allow for social distancing at Parks but has been a great convenience to guests by guaranteeing entrance into the park of their choice. Guests have been enthusiastic and many have requested that we continue the program in the future whether COVID-19 restrictions remain or not.
- **Camping Reservations:** We had a late start to the camping season at all of our campgrounds many of which did not open until mid to late June, missing our premier holiday of Memorial Day weekend, and then opened at 50% capacity to comply with COVID guidance. During the 2020 camping season, we have processed 27,793 camping reservation representing 54,629 visitors as of August 20, 2020. While the season has been much shorter than normal so far, we have seen a great enthusiasm for camping and getting outdoors in general by our guests. Our mid-week occupancy has seen a jump over previous years and all seem very grateful that our parks are open and accessible. Many of our campgrounds are open at 100% but some campsites still remain closed to allow for social distancing.
- **Donations:** Online donations have seen a major increase over the past couple months, receiving 1,292 donations representing \$8,139 in June and 2,282 donations representing \$15,321.50 in July. The Division received \$19,218 in all of FY19. It's a testament to how important outdoor recreation and specifically, New Hampshire State Parks, are during these trying and uncertain times.

RETAIL OPERATIONS

- Going into the season, retail was trending to have its highest season of revenue ever, up 6.5% over its previous best year of FY2019. **COVID-19** was very impactful and resulted in an 11.5% drop in fiscal revenue compared to the year before.
- The good news is that a freeze on non-essential purchases, moving inventory around, focusing resources on the most profitable locations, resulted in the largest transfer in the history of NH State Parks retail. Concessions transferred \$672,419.22 of bottom line profit to the **State Park Fund** for FY20. This doesn't include Cannon or Mt. Washington retail.

- The retail program generated \$300K in **boat rental revenue** and processed over 10,000 boat rentals at 13 locations across the state for FY2020. Pawtuckaway generated the most boat rental revenue at \$94K.
- In FY2020, 52,666 bundles of **firewood** were distributed across the state, sold at 21 locations, while generating \$316K in revenue. Pawtuckaway led the way in firewood with \$54K in sales.
- Retail ran a 51% profit margin on purchases for resale and captured a 29% net profit margin on all expenses incurred in FY2020. Overall a great fiscal year, considering all of the uncertainty and changes concessions had to endure.
- **Snap shot of this fiscal year to date** – as of Aug 12th for the fiscal year, concessions has generated \$575,000 in revenue and has accrued \$194,000 in expenses. This represents a 66% gross profit margin. I don't see us maintaining that level of success for the season but it's a great start to the fiscal year. The fall transition and expense is going to need a lot of attention to maintain profit.
- We are playing small ball across the state, while moving a lot of product around, and really focusing on the products that sell while piecing out orders and focusing on **real time inventory**.

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- **1,823 volunteer hours** have submitted for the 2020 calendar year on DNCR land, this equates to an estimated value of \$47,817.00.
- All volunteer activities and events were put on hold from 3/31/2020 – 6/16/2020 due to COVID-19.
- **DNCR created guidelines and screening protocols** for volunteers and staff to use during the Pandemic to keep our volunteer, staff, and the public safe during this time.
- DNCR increased the number of **Volunteer Groups under agreement** from 23 to 31.
- The Volunteer Program Manager is close to completing a **DNCR Volunteer Program Manual** that will serve as a training tool and reference guide for both staff and volunteers.
- The Volunteer Program Manager has attended 22 **meetings with DNCR's various Volunteer Groups**, many of which were held remotely over Zoom and other platforms.
- **Insurance** is provided by and paid for by the Department for 8 different small non-profit Volunteer Groups while they volunteer on Department lands. Two of the Volunteer Groups previously on DNCR's insurance were able to take on their own insurance policy for their Group.
- **Surfrider Foundation** in coordination with NH State Parks and the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce held a beach clean-up on July 26th at Hampton Beach, volunteers were able to clean-up: 43 pounds of trash, 2004 cigarette butts, 73 plastic straws, 54 plastic beverage bottles, 39 aluminum beverage cans, 10 masks, 15 latex gloves.
- The **Cardigan Highlanders** Volunteer Trail Crew tends 17 miles of trails and donated a total of 460 hours in 2020 so far, work has included cleaning 170 waterbars, clearing blowdowns from the trails, and barricading portions of the trail that have been widened due to an increase in use.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- **The Great American Outdoors Act** was recently signed into law by President Trump which permanently funds the LWCF program at the full \$900million as originally intended back in 1965.
- **Grant Round 31** was released on May 20, 2020 and is now closed to new applicants. Project selections are anticipated in early 2021. We received 22 intent applications and after pre-on-site inspections, 16 were offered to apply, totaling \$3,874,750.00. Full applications will be due on October 30, 2020 with review and scoring happening in December. Review of these proposals will now be coordinated with the Open Project Selection Process Advisory Panel. The Panel will then make recommendations to the

State Liaison Officer (Commissioner Stewart) regarding submissions to the National Park Service for final federal approvals

• **PROGRAM APPORTIONMENTS/AVAILABLE FUNDS:**

Apportionment Amount	Available	Expiration	Notes
GOMESA* FY:09-17	\$122,193.00	\$25,919.00	None
LWCF FY:18	\$1,004,160.00	\$42,276.62	9/30/2020
LWCF FY:19	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00	9/30/2021
GOMESA 19	\$709,512.00	\$709,512.00	9/30/2021
SRA 1'***	\$11,484.64	\$11,484.64	9/30/2020
LWCF FY:20	\$1,028,240.00	\$1,028,240.00	09/30/2022
GOMESA FY:20	\$1,094,842.00	\$1,094,842.00	09/30/2022
Total:	\$4,974,591.64	\$3,916,434.26	
*Section 105 of the <u>Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act</u> designates 12.5 percent of the proceeds from leases in Areas 181, 181			
** <u>Special Reapportionment Account</u> , unspent funds from previously closed or terminated projects. Not available until regular			

• **Open LWCF projects:**

PROJECT #	NAME	SPONSOR	TYPE	PROJECT SCOPE	GRANT \$
33-00699	Cocheco River Park	City of Dover	Development	Construction of a paddle sports access and boat dock	\$159,675.00
33-00700	Merrimack River Greenway Trail	City of Concord	Development	Construction of a trail bridge at Terrill Park	\$106,450.00
33-00701	Pulpit Rock Conservation Area Trails	Town of Bedford	Development	Trail accessibility enhancements and	\$45,241.00
33-00702	Osgood Pond Restoration Phase I-II	Town of Milford	Development	Pond dredging and improvements to water	\$159,675.00
33-00702.1					\$175,175.00
33-00705	Hartford Brook Ballfields	Town of Deerfield	Development	Improvements to playfield, parking, and support	\$25,000.00
33-00706	Nissitissit River Park	Town of Brookline	Combination	Development of accessible trail, and acquisition	\$50,050.00
33-00707	Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvements	City of Nashua	Development	Boat ramp and parking improvements on the	\$200,200.00
33-00708	Bristol Falls Park	Town of Bristol	Development	Restoration of access to a high-bank viewing area of	\$153,155.00
33-00709	B. Rowell Community Center Playground	City of Franklin	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$45,045.00
33-00710	Monadnock Park Playground	City of Claremont	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$53,753.00
33-00711	Monroe Consolidated School Playground	Monroe Consolidated SD	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$96,396.00
33-00713	Kearsarge Mtn State Forest-Tusoni Lot	State of NH DNCR	Acquisition	Purchase of 33.4 acres 1.5 miles up from the Rollins	\$21,354.00
33-00714	Franconia Notch SP -	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00715	Ellacoya State Park Playground	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00716	Mill City Park at Franklin Falls	City of Franklin	Combination	Purchase of 2.2 acres, development of trails, restrooms, parking, picnic	\$200,200.00
33-00717	Landroche Field Splash Pad and Bathhouse	Town of Newmarket	Development	Construction of a splash-pad, restrooms, and	\$199,606.41
33-00718	Riverfront Park	Town of Lincoln	Development	Construction of a skate park, parking, bike-ped	\$200,200.00
33-00719	New Boston Rail Trail Rehabilitation	Town of	Development	Installation of surface material, new/fixed	\$100,100.00

33-00721	Littleton Health Park	Town of Littleton	Combination	<i>Purchase of 5 acres, construction of parking, pavilion, community gardens, fitness equip, trail</i>	\$200,200.00
33-00722	Maplewood Field Bleachers/Playground	Town of Salisbury	Development	<i>Installation of new bleachers, swing set, play</i>	\$25,000.00
33-00723	Moeckel Pond Dam Reconstruction	Town of Windham	Development	<i>Reconstruction of historic mill site dam, car-top boat,</i>	\$150,150.00
33-00724	Jules Bisson Park Rejuvenation	City of Somersworth	Development	<i>Construction of a playground, picnic shelter,</i>	\$45,000.00
33-00726	Kraime Meadow Park Improvements	Town of Moultonborough	Development	<i>Construction of a picnic shelter with concession</i>	\$62,562.50
TOTAL OPEN GRANTS:					\$3,070,976.91

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

PARTNERSHIPS. The **SCA NH Corps** suspended the program in March and all program members were sent home. Discussing how to restart the program in January 2021. The Discover of Power of Parks interpretive program may be suspended, but we hope to keep conservation crews on as they provide services to other landowners.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. In March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all projects were suspended unless already under construction. A few projects have since been given approval to move ahead and we are preparing many other projects to be ready to bid.

- Summit Station sprinkler system at **Cannon Mountain** (in progress)
- The Profile Walkway at **Franconia Notch** is near completion.
- Fire Tower replacement at **Milan Hill State Park** (in progress)
- Roofing projects at **Monadnock State Park** Manager's House (in progress) and the 45+ buildings located at Spruce Pond Camp and Bear Hill Camp at **Bear Brook State Park** (complete)

CONSULTANT SERVICES.

- Underwood Engineering continues work on the sewerage treatment system assessment for **Mount Washington State Park** and McFarland-Johnson is assessing the ventilation system in the Sherman Adams Building.
- **Fort Stark State Historic Site** Historic District Area Form and Phase 1 Archaeological study has been completed by the Public Archaeology Library (PAL). The fort has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Place because for its military associations with the development of the US coastal defense system and retains engineering significance as an intact example of a military installation. The archaeological investigations showed that the property has been too compromised to convey meaningful information about its evolving pre-contact or post-war use.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

LEGISLATIVE / STATUTORY / GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVES

- Many of the **2020 legislative bills** that the Division was actively tracking were either "referred to interim study" or, "tabled" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Director Bryce and John Nyhan serve on the [Governor's Economic Re-opening Task Force](#) that developed plans and oversees the state and private-sector actions needed to reopen NH's economy while minimizing the adverse impact of COVID-19 on public health. Beginning April 22nd, the Task Force meet every day initially and is now meeting once a week to receive public comment and discuss

issues. The [Universal Guidance](#) and additional sector-specific requirements have been developed to support a safe reopening of the NH economy.

RIGHT TO KNOW / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- FY20: 34 requests; 86.5 hours
- FY21: 9 requests; 13.5 hours to date

AGREEMENTS – The Division is working on the following:

- **Mount Washington Observatory** contract for museum and observatory at Mt Washington.
- **Mount Washington Cog Railway** track expansion at the summit of Mt Washington.
- **Seacoast Science Center** contract amendment at Odiorne Point State Park.
- **Student Conservation Association** lease of Spruce Pond Camp at Bear Brook State Park.
- Lease to operate a portion of **SPNHF** lands as part of Monadnock State Park.
- **White Mountain Attractions** lease of Visitor Center in Lincoln.
- **AT&T** wi-fi service at Cannon Mountain.
- **Bretton Woods Communications** fiber optic service at Mount Washington State Park.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROGRAM (SUP)

- The **Special Use Permit Program** was greatly affected by the COVID pandemic this year as the issuance of permits was put on hold. We normally issue a total of 156 permits for events held annually, excluding filming and guiding permits.
 - Of the 156 permits typically issued each year, 109 events have been cancelled to date.
 - The estimated revenue loss to date for cancelled events is \$106,000.

SEACOAST PARKING ENFORCEMENT

- Due to COVID-19, **parking at the seacoast** was closed until 6/1, when the lots were restricted to manage capacity and enable social distancing.
 - Citations are typically issued from 4/1 through 10/31. In 2020, issuing citations started on 6/9
 - In 2019, there were 4,426 citations issued between 6/9 and 8/19
 - In 2020, there have been 5,162 citations issued between 6/9 and 9/19

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND MARKETING REPORT

NH Parks Media attention this season has been consistent and very busy. Media products have given parks many opportunities to **reinforce COVID-19 and Advance Day Use Reservation messaging**. The parks website continues to grow as the primary conduit for NH Parks and Recreation information. Goals for 2020 season have been to increase accessibility via mobile devices to compliment the Reserve America reservation system and promote the Day-Use Reservation page.

- **Marketing** Although there was no marketing budget for the 2020 summer season, we continued with a campaign to promote the State Park Plate (\$7,000 GYK campaign started in January 2020) through the end of previous fiscal year. All promotional efforts were conducted using our organic social media channels. The majority of this campaign was to promote the advance day use system.
- **Social media** numbers (as of August 18th):
 - Facebook followers: 270,990
 - Instagram followers: 38.5K
 - Twitter followers: 22,193
- **NHStateParks.org website performance** (May 15 to Aug 15, 2020)

- Total page views: 4,556,092; avg. 1.50 min/session
- Top page performance (pages that are visited the most compared to other pages on our website)
 - COVID-19 page: 394,947 views; 2.26 min/view
 - Day Use reservation page: 273,231 views: 3.24 min/view
 - Flume Gorge page: 226,242 views; 3.28 min/view
- **Summary Report** for NHStateParks.org website (generated from NIBLER)
 - User Overall Satisfaction: 8.6 out of 10
 - User Accessibility: 9.2 (How accessible the website is to mobile and disabled users.)
 - User Experience: 8.4 (How satisfying the website is likely to be for users.)
 - Marketing: 9.3 (How well marketed and popular the website is.)

● **Media Attention:**

NHPR online - **N.H. State Parks, Tourist Industry Outline Plans To Safely Reopen For Summer**
<https://www.nhpr.org/post/nh-state-parks-tourist-industry-outline-plans-safely-reopen-summer#stream/0>. April 27, 2020.

Union leader - **More parks, beaches could open to 'radically different' experience in NH.**
www.unionleader.com/news/health/coronavirus/more-parks-beaches-could-open-to-radically-different-experience-in-nh/article_8bcb32fd-6948-52d4-82f1-4e7e40ee45c7.html. April 29, 2020.

WMUR 9 – **NH State Parks, campgrounds expect busy holiday weekend.** www.wmur.com/article/nh-state-parks-campgrounds-expect-busy-holiday-weekend/32647816. May 22, 2020.

NHPR The exchange - **How Will N.H. State Parks look different this Summer?**
www.nhpr.org/post/how-will-nh-state-parks-look-different-summer#stream/0. June 17, 2020.

NH Magazine - **Best of NH 2020 Fun & Adventure – Editor’s Picks, Family Campgrounds, Lafayette Place Campground.** <https://www.nhmagazine.com/best-of-nh-2020-fun-adventure/>. June 18, 2020.

The Laker – **A Visit to Ellacoya State Park is Still Fun...Just a Little More Interesting.**
<https://thelaker.com/2020/a-visit-to-ellacoya-state-park-is-still-funjust-a-little-more-interesting>

Union Leader – **Mt. Washington visitor center is open - by reservation only.**
www.unionleader.com/news/mt-washington-visitors-center-is-open---by-reservation-only/article_c3aff9e3-19ff-5fd5-a66c-991202dee1e7.html

Concord Monitor - **What you need to know before you head out to a N.H. state park.**
www.concordmonitor.com/how-to-visit-reopening-state-parks-35028822. July 1, 2020.

Eagle Tribune - **Area beaches provide joy and happiness.**
www.eagletribune.com/news/merrimack_valley/area-beaches-provide-joy-and-challenges/article_2a8ce13d-ffa7-5c4e-ab89-bb3c67c46c51.html. July, 19, 2020.

PBS – **The High Pointers - New Hampshire.** Robert Frost Farm and Mt. Washington highlighted.
www.pbs.org/video/new-hampshire-q6tqlv/. Aired July 30, 2020.

REPORTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY:

- a. Parks Comparative Statements FY2020 & FY2021, as of August 13, 2020
- b. Parks FY2020 Financial Report & Parks FY2019 Financial Report (for comparison)
- c. Parks Forecasting Report

The Spending Freeze and the Capital Budget

September 1, 2020

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST: Due on April 3, 2020

Due date extended approximately one month due to Covid shut down.

GOVERNOR'S LETTER ON BUDGET RESTRICTIONS: July 9, 2020

- Freeze on construction for any capital projects funded with capital or general funds
- 20% reduction in general fund appropriations for all agencies
- Waiver requests must be made in writing and confirmed in writing

KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR DNCR: submitted on July 28, 2020

List of 18 projects:

- 3 projects with signed contracts ready for G&C
- 10 projects deemed essential health and safety projects
- 5 projects with non-general fund or capital budget funding

RESPONSE FROM MAC ZELLEM, GOVERNOR'S BUDGET DIRECTOR: August 12, 2020

- Only submit projects for safety purposes
- Or projects with a specific construction schedule that would be jeopardized if the project does not move forward soon.
- Reprioritize the list of key projects.

KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR DNCR REPRIORITIZED: submitted August 14, 2020

- List reduced to 7 projects
- Three projects from previous list approved separately
 - Monadnock Manager's residence roof replacement
 - Weeks Lodge exterior painting
 - Mt. Washington ventilation improvements

CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS IN 2020-2021

September 1, 2020

TOILET BUILDING UPGRADES

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Pawtuckaway No. 4 | Bid documents 90% |
| • Ellacoya RV Park bathhouse | Bid documents 100% |
| • Bear Hill toilet building with shower addition | Preliminary design |
| • Winslow toilet building | Deferred pending drilling of new well |

MT. WASHINGTON SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT REPLACEMENT

- Testing and monitoring phase completed in November of 2019
- Decision to replace the existing plant rather than modify or supplement
- Commercially available systems analyzed and basis of design system selected
- Underwood Engineers ready to produce bid documents pending waiver from governor's office

SUNAPEE STATE BEACH BOAT LAUNCH PARKING

Deferred due to spending freeze

HISTORIC RESTORATION

- Weeks Lodge exterior painting: received permission to take contract to G&C
- Rhododendron: Patch House: Foundation repairs deferred due to spending freeze
- Fort Constitution masonry repairs: deferred due to spending freeze
- Wentworth Coolidge Mansion sea wall reconstruction: pending waiver

FIRE TOWER REPAIRS

- Oak Hill and Kearsarge towers previously completed
- Milan Hill fire tower: 95% complete

ELLACOYA RETAINING WALL

- Completed in October of 2019
- Winter damage from wind driven lake ice. Repair pending waiver

ROOFING AND REPAIRS

- Bear Brook roofing at Bear Hill and Spruce Pond previously completed
- Monadnock Manager's Residence: waiver approved to go to G&C September 11, 2020
- Fire Safety upgrades per SFMO at multiple sites

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2022 – 2023
September 1, 2020

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 9 LINE ITEMS	\$21,292,000
ROOFING AND REPAIRS	1,200,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire safety upgrades• Greenfield water system• Nansen Wayside guard rail replacement• Flume decks and railings replacement• Monadnock entrance road modifications and new toll booth• Deer Mountain solar powered well pump system• Jericho Mountain: Pavilion roof reconstruction• Ragged Neck cottage renovations• Monadnock Trail maintenance• Sunapee Beach shore line retaining wall• Crawford Notch Saco River dam walkway reconstruction• Umbagog campground site improvements	
TOILET BUILDING UPGRADES	2,290,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hampton Beach South Bathhouse renovation• Pawtuckaway toilet building No. 2• White Lake Toilet building No. 2• Lafayette campground replace toilet building No. 3	
HISTORIC RESTORATION	580,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fort Stark museum: accessible entrance• White Island light house tower masonry repair and parging• White Island solar powered electrical system• Wentworth Coolidge sea wall repair• Fort Constitution masonry repair	
FIRE TOWER REPAIRS	650,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pitcher Mountain• Federal Hill• Belknap	
MT. WASHINGTON WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE	975,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year-round water system• New tanks buried behind the Sherman Adams building	
CANNON TRAMWAY REHABILITATION	10,952,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tramway mechanism renewal• Painting of tram bay steel work• Tramway Towers structural analysis and reinforcement• Tram Base Station renovations• Tram Summit Station renovations	

ROADS AND PARKING LOTS 1,875,000

- White lake park roads repaving
- Greenfield park roads repaving
- Echo Lake Conway entrance drive repaving
- Wallis Sands beach parking lot repaving

ODIORNE POINT FACILITIES UPGRADE 2,225,000

- Replace bathhouse with new park services facility including toilets, park office, park store, and storage for maintenance equipment
- New pavilion in the group use area
- Extend existing parking lot to increase parking from 66 to 120 spaces
- New bus parking area

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract Report of Monitoring, Stewardship, and Road Maintenance
Endowments RSA 216:8, 9, 10 and 11
FY 2020

In accordance with RSA 216:8,9 and 11, the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) herewith submits its report to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the Governor, the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk, and the State Library for fiscal year 2019.

Connecticut Lake Headwaters Tract Monitoring Endowment. Pursuant to RSA 216:8, the report shall include a: 1) Listing of lands and interests in lands subject to the monitoring provisions of RSA 216:7; 2) Complete a financial accounting of the funds in the monitoring endowment; and 3) Summarize monitoring activities for each property.

Listing of lands and interests in lands. The monitoring endowment was established “for the purpose of ensuring a perpetual source of funds to monitor compliance with the terms and condition of the conservation easement interest acquired by the state in the Connecticut Lakes headwater tract.” In accordance with Chapter 148, Laws of 2002, 146,400 acres shall be privately owned subject to a perpetual conservation easement held by the state of New Hampshire under the jurisdiction of the department of resources and economic development. One hundred acres shall be managed by the department of resources and economic development as an addition to the Deer Mountain campground.

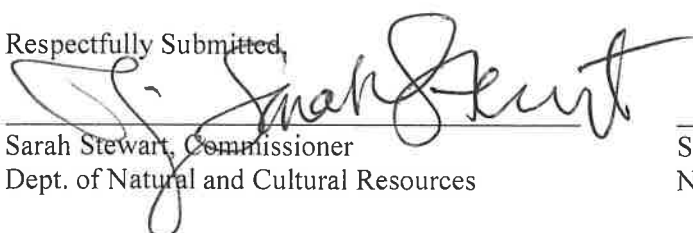
Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract Stewardship Endowment. Pursuant to RSA 216:0, this report shall include a: 1) Listing of all natural area lands within the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract under joint stewardship; 2) Complete financial accounting of the funds in the stewardship endowment; and 3) Summarize maintenance activities for the road system.

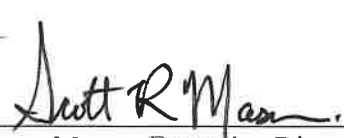
Listing of natural areas lands under joint stewardship. The stewardship endowment was established “only for the purposes of habitat and public use management of 25,000 acres of natural areas owned by the state of New Hampshire, and for the purposes of recreation use and the conservation easement management of the 146,400 acres on which the state holds a conservation easement within the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract.

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract Road Maintenance Endowment. Pursuant to RSA 216:11 this report shall include a: 1) Listing of all roads subject to the maintenance provisions of RSA 216:10; 2) Complete financial accounting of the funds in the maintenance endowment; and 3) Summarize maintenance activities for the road system.

Listing of roads. The road maintenance endowment was established “for the purpose of ensuring a perpetual source of funds to maintain the system of roads that exists within the conservation easement and property interests acquired by the state in the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract.” There are approximately 3,264 ± acres more particularly described as those corridors of land that are generally depicted as the “Designated Roads” that was conveyed to the state under the jurisdiction of DRED by Deed of Designated Roads and Reservation of Appurtenant Easement executed on October 10, 2003. In addition, the Natural Areas under the jurisdiction of NHFG has 34 miles of main haul and gravel roads and another 31 miles of seasonal roads.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sarah Stewart, Commissioner
Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources


Scott Mason, Executive Director
NH Fish and Game Department

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT ENDOWMENT FUND USE

Endowment funds are added to Fish and Game's Habitat Program Budget consistent with Legislative intent and commensurate with estimated project costs relating to Connecticut Lakes Headwaters property including the NHFG owned Connecticut Lakes Natural Area (CLNA). Revenue included in the Habitat Program budget principally includes dedicated habitat stamp revenue derived from hunting license purchases, and federal grant revenue from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration federal aid program. The Habitat Program budget covers expenditures related to Connecticut Lakes Headwaters properties as well as statewide habitat program costs. The Department utilizes the endowment funding as match, or to supplement funding needs for specific projects, as done for the resurfacing of the East Inlet Road in FY18. In FY20 the Department added \$20,018.00 of endowment funds into the Habitat Program budget to help cover project expenses.

MONITORING ENDOWMENT RSA 216:7-II

Funds added to the monitoring endowment shall be used to support monitoring by state agencies, local municipalities, and qualifying nonprofit corporations of conservation easement interests acquired in the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters tract. Such monitoring shall be to ensure that the tract will be managed according to the legal agreements embodied within the conservation easement, which is recorded in its entirety in the Coos county registry of deeds.

DNCR – Division of Forests and Lands

During 2020, the north region Forests and Lands staff spent 52 hours of on the ground easement monitoring, which includes looking at active harvests and as well as overall property supervision. Additionally, the north region staff spent over 15 hours participating in call, meetings and writing reports and also check on the property while in the area looking at state land or other easements

Forests and Lands also provided technical assistance to the NH Fish and Game department on the Connecticut Lakes Natural Area; assisting them in planning, layout, administration of a harvest, including overseeing the contract. An additional 90 hours was spent with Fish and Game.

During the course of the year, there are also additional hours spent on easement questions that arise which need interpretation. All leased camp proposals and modifications are reviewed and approved by the Regional Forester as well. Staff also reviewed the management plan as well as the annual operation plan. The Concord staff is also involved with decision making as questions arise with the interpretation of the easement, and each year they spend time helping to administer the easement as well.

Fish and Game Department

During FY20, NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) regional and administrative staff continued to participate on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee, attend annual meetings and provide input on a range of issues. Each year the Annual Operation Plan for Connecticut Lakes Timber Company (CLTC) is reviewed by regional biological staff.

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract Report of Monitoring, Stewardship, and Road Maintenance
Endowments RSA 216:8, 9, 10 and 11
FY 2020

In cooperation with the NH Division of Forests and Lands, the holder of the conservation easement, Fish and Game Biologists continue to monitor timber harvests and other projects on Connecticut Lakes Timber Company (CLTC) portion of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract (CLHT). During FY20, staff reviewed 33 sales involving approximately 3,312 acres. In addition to initial timber harvest reviews, biologists also participated in two annual monitoring tours of active summer and winter timber harvests with DNCR staff.

Within the CLTC, biologists provide expertise and guidance to forest managers conducting timber harvests in wildlife Special Management Areas (SMA's). These SMA's were designated through the Forest Legacy Easement and include deer wintering areas, mast stands, high elevation forests, wildlife corridors, wetlands and riparian areas. Forest managers must confer with biologists regarding management actions that occur in these areas. In FY20 biologists reviewed 7 proposed harvests in Special Management Areas. These included 2 harvests in mast SMA's (beech dominated stands), 5 harvests in wildlife corridor SMA's, and a single harvest within a softwood stand designated as a deer wintering area SMA.

Each year regional biologists attend the annual meeting held with the landowner and state DNCR personnel to discuss the easement and other land management issues.

Eight days were expended conducting annual wildlife surveys on the CLHT. Four ruffed grouse surveys, a woodcock survey, 2 waterfowl surveys and 2 days assessing beech and soft mast all of which are part of the Department's regular statewide monitoring activities.

ROAD MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT RSA 216:10-II

Funds added to the road maintenance endowment pursuant to paragraph I shall be used to support road maintenance under the authority of state agencies within the conservation easement and property interests acquired in the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract. The expenses below were paid for by a combination of endowment monies and landowner contribution.

Fish and Game Department

NHFG monitors and manages road conditions in the CLNA on an on-going basis. All roads are inspected annually to assess condition and identify trouble spots needing repair.

In FY20 road maintenance included refreshing waterbars on 2 road systems (i.e. Rump Mountain and Perry Ponds) to protect road stability and water quality. The Rump Mountain road had degraded significantly and portions of the road were reshaped to accommodate the refreshed waterbars. In addition, a bridge crossing was stabilized and redecked on the Perry Ponds Road. This crossing is on a winter road, not open to public vehicular traffic, but used by the lease camp owner to access their camp on Perry Ponds and it is a critical habitat management access road. NHFG also worked with The Pittsburg Ridge Runners to replace crossings and improve drainage on the winter road that extends from the end of the gravel road on the backside of Third Connecticut Lake to the International border. This trail is the primary snow machine trail to the crossing station, and gets significant use throughout the winter. This work was completed in the fall of 2019. Finally, 3 culverts were reset and shaping was done on the South Bay Road system to accommodate the habitat improvement project that was completed during the winter of

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Tract Report of Monitoring, Stewardship, and Road Maintenance
Endowments RSA 216:8, 9, 10 and 11
FY 2020

2019/2020. Annual roadside mowing was completed on the Rump Mountain Spur and mile 4-8.5 along the East Inlet road system.

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The landowner notified DNCR that due to the lower wood prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the significant damages at the Jay Mill (Maine) they expect to timber harvest from the property to be 1/3 to 1/2 lower than we typically expect. The timber harvest volume from the property is the direct revenue source of the Road Maintenance Account (not the Road Maintenance Endowment) which puts more pressure on the Road Maintenance Endowment for road work on the property.

Grading and Raking:

52 miles of road were graded and raked which required 7-8 passes per mile. No roads were compacted. Fewer miles of grading took place due to heavy grass cover, brush in the ditch line and poor quality of road (very little gravel left) gravel surface.

Culverts:

A total of 65+ culverts were installed on the property for rehabilitation and on-going maintenance. The culverts were purchased through State Contract. The region has 25 culverts on hand that will be used for spring opening and general maintenance as needed.

New Construction:

N/A.

Road Rehabilitation, Ditch maintenance and Repair:

Contractors and regional staff maintained 18 miles ditch lines. Rehabilitation continued on Deadwater Loop Road, with culvert replacement and some gravel was used. Cedar Stream, Magalloway, Halls Stream, Buckhorn, and camp 31 roads were reshaped including ditch maintenance.

Mowing:

Six miles of road side mowing took place in Carr Ridge, Merrill Brook, Magalloway Road and Stub Hill with the new boom mower that arrived late in the season.

Bridge Repair:

N/A

Signage:

Continued maintenance and replacement of damaged signs and posts will continue on an as needed basis. Replacements of road safety mileage signs will be installed during the 2021 summer season.

Future Projects:

1. Gravel Roads: Additional funding needs to be budgeted for crushed gravel and will be on hold other than for new culvert replacement.
2. Roadwork to be performed: Rub rails on the Last Deer Camp Road Bridge will be replaced. Round Top Bridge will also get new rub rails and runners in the summer 2021. Bridge replacement permits and construction of bridge at Deadwater Stream on Deadwater Loop Road are scheduled for early spring of 2021. Planning and permitting was started the summer of 2020 to replace The West Branch of Indian Stream (Terrill Pond) and the Last Deer Camp. Both of these locations will need to remove old boiler type pipes and replace with bridges.
3. Ditch Work - Rehab: Most of this work revolves around the Summer/Winter Forest and Recreation needs for upcoming season. Continuation of Magalloway, Cedar and Perry Stream.
4. Grading & Rake: Scheduled maintenance is falling behind due to budget, heavy grass, poor gravel surfaces, culvert replacement and over grown ditch lines.
5. Mowing: Scheduled maintenance per the 2017 CLHWF Recreation Plan and Road Management agreements, the tractor is on site and will be used on a daily basis.
6. Gravel: Spot gravel where needed. Discussion on priority of crushed gravel is needed. The road surface gravel is worn out.
7. Culverts: Purchase culverts for replacement on all designated roads. A limited number of pipes on hand for general maintenance.
8. Mile marker signs/post: More signs and post will be purchased & installed for new logging operations information and safety per Recreation Management and Road Maintenance Plans.
9. Support Facility: A DNCR maintenance facility and storage area is still under construction at Lake Francis State Park. This facility stores equipment and materials used on the CLHWF.
10. The financial structure needs to be reviewed and other sources of funding is needed if Forestry and Public Access is going to continue for current needs. The Citizen committee has established a study group to look at the current situation.

STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT RSA 216:9-II

The stewardship endowment shall be maintained in perpetuity and shall be utilized jointly by the executive director of the fish and game department and the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources only for the purposes of habitat and public use management of 25,000 acres of natural areas owned by the state of New Hampshire, and for the purposes of recreation, use, and the conservation easement management of the 146,400 acres on which the state shall hold a conservation easement within the Connecticut Lakes headwaters tract.

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Stewardship endowment funding is appropriated to the annual payment for the lease/purchase of the tractor and boom mower per the 2017 Recreation Management Plan. The Division of Parks and Recreation, a self-funded agency, has stewardship costs for supervision of road maintenance staff, the planning specialist (update of plan due in 2021) and general public use management that is unfunded.

Fish and Game Department

During FY20 NHFG staff collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (CLNA easement holder) to review the content of the CLNA Stewardship Plan which was adopted in 2006 in preparation for an update of vegetative inventory data and a formal plan revision.

Commercial Habitat Management

During FY20, NHFG staff, with the assistance of DNCR foresters, finished layout, tally, marketing and contract implementation of a habitat improvement project in the South Bay Bog OU of the CLNA. The final project prescription treated 180 acres with gaps, light tending and crop tree release. An additional 15 acres were divided among 10 patches to promote early successional forest species such as aspen and birch. Seven of the 10 patch cuts were identified to compliment patches created in 2009. These new patches were strategically placed to create 40-year early successional forest rotation blocks. The blocks were identified using recommendations to maximize ruffed grouse home range requirements. The sale was purchased by LandVest and resulted in \$28,365.96 of income. Final volumes cut were 116 Mbf of sawlogs and pallet and 2874 tons of pulp.

Noncommercial Habitat Projects

Department staff continue to monitor the effectiveness of red spruce planting and scarification in a poorly regenerated portion of the CLNA. Photo monitoring was conducted during this period. Scarified areas have revegetated heavily to herbaceous vegetation including sedges and hay scented fern. Yellow birch seedlings are pushing through the vegetation and planted red spruce seedlings are still present, but difficult to find.

Invasive Plant Species

NHFG continues to be involved in the identification and treatment of invasive plants throughout the entire CLHT (CLTC as well as CLNA). This work is done through a group focused on the entire upper portion of the Connecticut River watershed referred to as The Upper Connecticut Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (UC Cisma). During this period, the UC Cisma coordinated the chemical treatment of knotweed and phragmites populations on both properties. In addition, multiple sites surrounding the CLHT were treated to prevent spread onto CLTC and the CLNA.

Great North Woods Management Area
2020 Road Summary
03/29/2021

This is a brief summary of the Road Maintenance activities and expenditures for the 2020 and spring of 2021 operations of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest.

Grading and Raking:

42 miles of road was graded, including raking, taking 7-8 passes per mile. See attached Map

Culverts:

A total of 45+ culverts were installed on the property for rehabilitation and on-going maintenance. The culverts were purchased through State Contract. On hand inventory of 30 pipes that will be used for spring opening and general maintenance as needed.

New Construction:

Bridge Material on site for Deadwater Loop Road bridge at 2 mile marker. Waiting on DES permit approval to start work.

Road Rehabilitation, Ditch maintenance and Repair:

Through outside contractors and our staff, 7 miles ditch lines was maintained. Rehab continued on Cedar Stream and Magalloway Road, with ditching, culvert replacement and some gravel was used. Spurs off Halls Stream, Carr Ridge and Frizzy's Pass, and were reshaped with ditch maintenance and culvert work. See attached Map.

Mowing: 362 hours. 52 miles of road side mowing took place during the season. Areas of West of Indian, Indian Stream, Lamb Valley, Perry Stream, Magalloway Road, Tower Road, Spur 10-27, Crystal Pond Cedar Stream, Rowell Brook, Stub Hill, Haystack, Waterfall Brook, Diamond Ridge, Deadwater Loop Road, Spur 570-8, Camp 31, Beamon Hill, Hedge Hog Nubble, Gordon's Trail, BCP and Big Brook. See attached Map

Bridge Repair:

Magalloway Bridge at one Mile marker got curb rub rails.

Signage:

Continued maintenance and replacement of damage signs and post will continue on an as needed basis. Continued monitoring of Road SAFETY mileage signs will be evaluated in 2021. Replacements will be installed during the 2022 summer season.

Friends Groups: OHRV Grant & Aid provided crushing of road surface and gravel, ditching and grading of 7 miles of the Deadwater Loop Road system. DES provide gravel to resurface 1 mile of Deadwater Loop and spot gravel in other locations. See attached Map

Comments & projected projects:

1. **The crushed gravel roads:** Until more funding is available crushed gravel will be on hold other than for new culvert replacement.
2. **Road work to be performed.** Rub rails on the Last Deer Camp Road Bridge will be changed this summer. Round Top Bridge will also get new rub rails and runners in the summer 2021. Bridge replacement permits and construction of bridge at Deadwater Stream on Deadwater Loop Road are scheduled for summer of 2021. Planning and permitting will start in the summer of 2021 to replace The West Branch of Indian Stream (Terrill Pond). Both of these locations will need to remove old boiler type pipes and replace with bridges.
3. **Ditch Work - Rehab:** Most of this work revolves around the Summer/Winter Forest and Recreation needs for upcoming season. Continuation of Magalloway Road, Cedar Stream Road and Perry Stream.
4. **Grading & Rake:** Ref: Schedule Recreation Plan which we are falling behind due to budget, heavy grass, poor gravel surfaces, culvert replacement. Planned grading Of Halls Stream above the 4 mile to Malvina Jct, Indian Stream, Magalloway Road, Deadwater Loop Road in areas of Pilot gravel crushing project.

5. **Mowing:** Ref: Schedule Recreation Plan. Per the 2017 CLHWF Recreation Plan and Road Management agreements, the tractor is on site and will be used on a daily basis. Planned mowing of Halls Stream cross over, West Side Indian, Perry Stream, Buck Horn, Haystack Road, Boardpile Brook, Hawk Road, Meadow Brook, Big Brook and Sophia. See attached AOP Map
6. **Gravel:** Spot gravel where needed and each culvert replacement. Discussion on priority of crushed gravel is needed. The road surface gravel is worn out.
7. **Culverts:** Purchase culverts for replacement on all designated roads. A limited number of pipes on hand for general maintenance. See attached AOP Map
8. **Bridge Work:** Once DES approval of permit. Deadwater Loop Road culvert will be removed and bridge replacement will take place.
9. **Mile marker signs/post:** More signs and post will be purchased & installed for new logging operations information and safety per REC Plan and Road Maintenance Plan.
10. **Building:** A DNCR maintenance facility and storage area is still under construction at Lake Francis State Park. A culvert access drive and storage area was roughed in the summer of 2018 and will be surfaced with gravel over the summer of 2020-21.
11. **Equipment & Equipment Rentals:** A pickup will be ordered upon budget approval to be used on roads and support vehicle for mower operations. Rentals are planned for grading, road rehab, culvert replacement and bridge work.
12. **Emergency Repairs:** N/A
13. **Friends Groups:**
14. **Proposed AOP 2021 Maintenance & Operations Map (Will be worked on after annual Road meeting.)**
15. The financial structure needs to be reviewed and other sources of funding is needed if Forestry and Public Access is going to continue for current needs. The Citizen committee has established a study group to look at the current situation.

COMMENTS:

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report



Compiled by Jesse Creedy Powers, DNCR Volunteer Program Manager

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

Overview

2020 was an interesting year for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Volunteer Program. The program as a whole was put on hold from March to June due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the many challenges brought on by COVID-19, the state's volunteers were still able to make considerable contributions throughout the year and across the state.

Jesse Creedy Powers started as the new Volunteer Program Manager in July of 2019. Before the pandemic, Jesse was on track to pick up where the previous Volunteer Program Manager left off. Jesse spent the summer and fall of 2019 familiarizing herself with the program and introducing herself to DNCR volunteers across the state. During this time a chainsaw policy for volunteers was finalized along with trail blazing standards.

Friends groups and non-motorized trail organizations in long-term agreements with DNCR were getting back into the swing of reporting their work using the Department's Annual Work Plan. The Annual Work Plan was created in 2017 to give groups the chance to put together work and event plans for the year and to capture any nuances and activities not covered in a standard volunteer agreement. Work Plans also familiarize the Division Directors and staff with the undertakings of each of our partners and allows our Directors to give the necessary approvals for work and events to take place.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 31st, 2020 all volunteer activities were suspended. With stay-at-home orders in place and not much known about the virus, it was a hard but necessary decision made to keep volunteers, visitors, and staff safe. As spring turned into summer, the state parks, forests, and historic sites saw an unprecedented number of visitors. The absence of our volunteers during this time didn't go unnoticed. Trail crews normally out doing their spring clean-ups were unable to get the trails ready for the upcoming season, visitor education was put on hold, and all of our single day events that usually help staff to prepare for the start of the season were cancelled.

Throughout the spring and into the early summer, Director Bryce of the Division of Parks & Recreation met with the Governor's re-opening task force to determine how to stay open and safely operate in a pandemic. Out of this process came COVID-19 guidelines for DNCR volunteers to follow while performing trail work and general maintenance. With protocols and safety guidelines in place, limited volunteer activities were allowed to start back up on June 16th, 2020.

DNCR volunteers have shown a great deal of resilience throughout this whole process. With the program suspended for several months and many volunteers not volunteering this year, the lack of volunteer presence on state lands was missed by many. As COVID-19 has shown us, outdoor recreation is more important than ever. This goes hand-in-hand with the importance of our volunteers who provide a variety of invaluable services for our state lands, visitors, and staff.

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

2020 Highlights

Volunteer Agreement Type	Total for Calendar Year
Long Term Groups	34
Single Day Groups	2
Individuals	83

Long Term Groups = Friends groups and non-motorized organizations in a long term volunteer agreement with DNCR (up to 3 years).

Single Day Groups = Groups that enter into a short term agreement with DNCR to perform a single project or event.

Individuals = Individual volunteers who do not work on behalf of a Friends group or other organization.

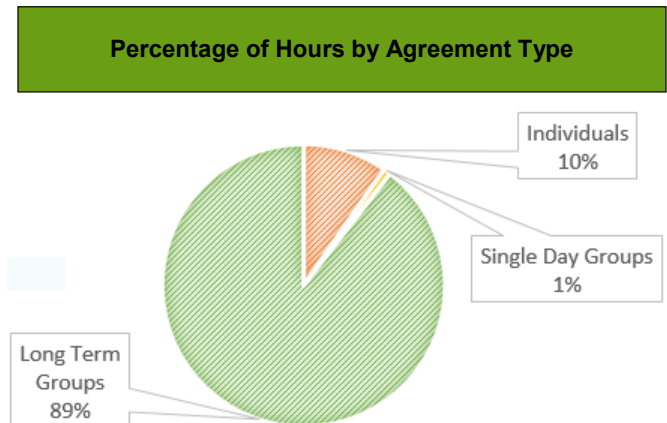
- **8,555 volunteer hours** were submitted for the 2020 calendar year, this equates to an estimated value of **\$244,398** in donated volunteer labor and time on DNCR land.
- An estimated **872 people** volunteered on DNCR land in 2020.
- **5 Friends groups and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations** entered into volunteer agreements with DNCR **for the first time**. These groups include: Friends of Fort Constitution, Friends of Fort Stark, Friends of the Ledges, Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund, and the Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trailway Coalition.
- **11 long-term Friends groups** and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations **renewed their volunteer agreements**. These groups include: Access Fund, Appalachian Mountain Club, Belknap Range Trail Tenders, Cohos Trail Association, Coos Cycling Club, Friends of Northwood Meadows State Park, Monadnock Climbers Association, Monadnock Happy Trails Association, Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition, Trailwrights, and the White Mountain National Forest.
- **The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources provided liability insurance** that covered approved volunteer activities for 9 different non-profit Friends groups and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations whose work spanned 21 different state reservations.
- The Volunteer Program Manager **attended 32 meetings** with various Friends groups and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations.
- The Volunteer Program Manager **received the Rookie Award** from the New Hampshire Association of Volunteer Administrators for, “outstanding accomplishments of a volunteer administrator who is relatively new to the profession (experience of 3 years or less).”
- Volunteers provide a variety of services throughout the state including grounds maintenance, trail work, GPS surveying, data collection, invasive species removal, search and rescue, and so much more.

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

Volunteer Hours for 2020

Volunteer Agreement Type	Hours for 2020 Calendar Year
Individuals	826.5
Single Day Groups	70.5
Long Term Groups	7,658
TOTAL HOURS	8,555



Volunteer Hours Over Time

Calendar Year	Reported Vol. Hours	Approximate \$ Value*
2012	751	\$16,575
2013	3,208	\$73,335
2014	10,456	\$240,279
2015	19,1872	\$472,755
2016	16,971	\$418,096
2017	18,565	\$473,779
2018	21,403	\$551,341
2019	24,660	\$646,832
2020	8,555	\$244,398

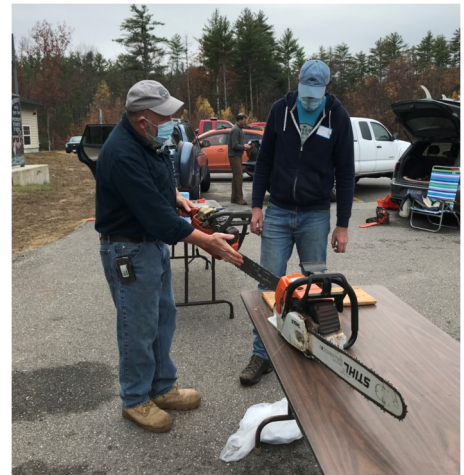
* Approximate value is calculated using the Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

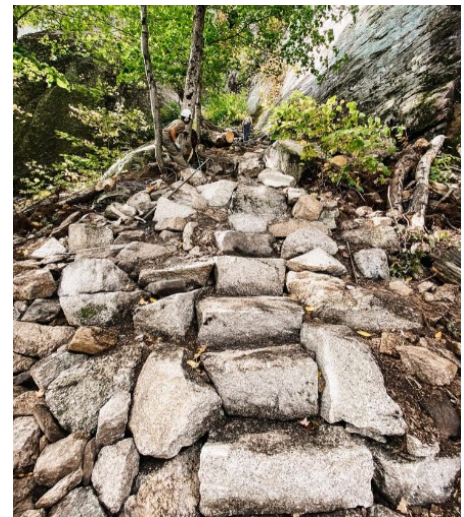
2020 Annual Report

2020 Highlights

- **Chainsaw approval process for volunteers** was finalized and enacted; this process allows DNCR Volunteers to request annual approval to use a chainsaw on Department land in order to cut downed debris to clear the trails.
- The Department held **2 free volunteer chainsaw safety certification classes** for DNCR Volunteers, one at Bear Brook State Park and one at Weeks State Park.
- **Nansen Ski Club** entered into a long-term agreement with the Division of Parks & Recreation in order to restore the **Nansen Ski Jump at the State Historic Site** in order to hold sanctioned ski jump competitions.
- **White Mountain Trail Collective** completed 10 weeks of work at the Thin Air Face climbing area at **Cathedral Ledge State Park**. Work included the creation of 100 rock steps, 250 feet of scree, 8-12 foot long retaining walls, and hundreds of square feet of rubble. Work crews on this project included **Access Fund** and **AMC**.
- **Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund** celebrated their accomplishments at the Profiler Plaza in **Franconia Notch State Park** with a Trails Dedication Ceremony in September of 2020.
- **Friends of the Pemi: Livermore Falls Chapter** and Department staff installed 7 interpretive signage at the Livermore Falls Recreation area, 3 more signs are reserved to put up at the Historic Site across the river.
- **Blue Ocean Society** held **24 beach clean-ups** and removed a total of **437 pounds of trash** from state beaches.
- **Surfrider Foundation: NH Chapter** removed a total of **257 pounds of trash** from state beaches including an estimated 2,200 cigarette butts.



DNCR instructor AJ Dupere working with a volunteer at a chainsaw safety class



Rock steps built by White Mountain Trail Collective and partner crews at Cathedral Ledge State Park throughout the summer of 2020



Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund, Governor Sununu, state representatives, and DNCR staff at the ribbon cutting ceremony at Profile Lake

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

2020 Highlights



Sprague Energy Group
volunteering with Blue Ocean
Society at Wallis Sands State Park



Bog bridges build by the Cohos
Trail Association



Bridge built by Southern NEMBA
on the chipmunk trail at Bear
Brook State Park



Rebuild of the CCC Perimeter Loop
trail at Moose Brook State Park by
the Coos Cycling Club

- Recreation Trail Program (RTP) grant administered through the NH Trails Bureau was awarded to the **Coos Cycling Club** to complete a trail rebuild of the severely eroded **CCC Perimeter Loop trail at Moose Brook State Park**.
- RTP grant was awarded to the **AMC** for trail work on the **Lonesome Lake trail at Franconia Notch State Park**.
- A trail and two bridges were built and installed by **Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition** around Morey Pond at **Kearsarge State Forest**.
- **Friends of Pisgah** held 10 volunteer work days at **Pisgah State Park**.
- **White Mountain National Forest** Trailhead Steward program did not operate at the Old Bridal Path/ Falling Waters trailhead at Franconia Notch State Park in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Before and after of bittersweet invasive removal at South Beach State Park by volunteer Karla Sorenson



Cutting back and maintenance of the Hogback trail
at Greenfield State Park by volunteer Bob Beck

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

2020 Highlights

Reported Volunteer Hours on DNCR Land Honorable Mentions

- * Appalachian Mountain Club: 1787 hours
- * Blue Ocean Society: 561 hours
- * Cardigan Highlanders Volunteer Trail Crew: 595 hours
- * Cohos Trail Association: 904 hours
- * Coos Cycling Club: 225 hours
- * Friends of the Ledges: 320 hours
- * Friends of Northwood Meadows State Park: 204 hours
- * Friends of the Pemi Livermore Falls Chapter: 300 hours
- * Friends of Pisgah: 280 hours
- * Friends of the Wapack: 39 hours
- * Nansen Ski Club + Friends of the Big Nansen Ski Jump: 1288 hours
- * NEMBA Central Chapter: 140 hours
- * NEMBA Southern Chapter: 117 hours
- * Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund: 45 hours
- * Seacoast Science Center Volunteers: 258 hours
- * Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition: 120 hours
- * Surfrider Foundation: 152 hours
- * Trailwrights: 18 hours
- * Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trailway Coalition: 265 hours

New Hampshire State Parks Volunteer Program

2020 Annual Report

Looking Ahead

2021 Volunteer Program Initiatives

- **Group Recognition Signs** - Signs recognizing motorized and non-motorized volunteer groups will be installed at kiosks and trailheads throughout the state. These signs will serve to recognize and promote volunteer groups in an agreement with DNCR that support the long-term maintenance and operations of state parks, forests, trails, and historic sites.
- **Online Work Reports** - The Volunteer Program is working to create an online form that will allow volunteers to submit their work reports electronically. The goal of an electronic form is to make submitting work reports easier for volunteers. Paper and PDF work reports will still be available to those who prefer email or mail.
- **Expand Data Collection** - Receiving more work reports and expanding on the data collected from volunteers will help to guide decisions imperative to supporting the Volunteer Program as a whole. Volunteer data is shared with staff, lawmakers, and the general public to highlight the contributions DNCR volunteers make across the state. For the first time ever the Volunteer Program was able to report on the total number of people who volunteered on DNCR lands in a calendar year (an estimated 872 people volunteered in 2020).
- **Volunteer Program Handbook** - The Volunteer Program Manager is continuing to develop a handbook of volunteer policies, protocols, and FAQs as a resource for volunteers and staff.
- **Chainsaw Classes** - The Volunteer Program will continue to expand the number of DNCR chainsaw safety classes offered for free to DNCR volunteers. These classes are taught by a Division of Forests and Lands instructor and offered in various locations across the state. Three classes are planned for 2021 (so far) with class sizes capped at 10 to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Volunteer Recruitment** - The Volunteer Program is looking to further assist our volunteer groups with recruitment through promoting groups on NH State Parks social media accounts and advertising upcoming group work days. *(Please note: Volunteer work days are limited to 2 separate groups of 10 volunteers per property as of February 2021 due to COVID-19.)*
- **Cooperative Trail Group Meetings** - Biannual meetings are scheduled to be held with state staff and user groups at Bear Brook State Park and Pisgah State Park in order to collectively maintain and improve the trail system at each park.
- **Communication and Paperwork** - Solidifying the relationship between volunteers and Site Supervisors to effectively address work on the property. Encouraging the continued submission of volunteer paperwork to the Volunteer Program Manager.