



Pawtuckaway State Park



## **Chapter 4:** **Goals and Actions**



Pawtuckaway State Park

The 2013-2018 New Hampshire SCORP provides the outdoor community with a proactive framework based on a strategic vision, current data, and public input and offers recommended Priorities, Goals, and Actions. This framework is offered as a guide and resource to be used frequently by diverse recreation agencies, businesses, non-profits, and communities statewide to develop collaborative projects that will provide easily accessed and safe physical connections for outdoor recreation opportunities in every corner of the state.

From within the 2013-2018 SCORP framework emerge suggested Goals and Actions to address the identified Priorities. These Goals and Actions will assist New Hampshire's outdoor recreation community adapt to the changing needs of our citizens and visitors while serving as a guide for outdoor recreation providers over the next five years. This will be accomplished by:

- Promotion of the significant connections between outdoor recreation, quality of life, public health, the environment and economic stability to encourage the development of walkable communities and active lifestyles.
- Awareness of the importance of preserving our ecosystems through knowledge and stewardship of our parks, open spaces, greenways, blueways, and pathways.

These Priorities, Goals, and Actions are intended to provide guidance for a collective path to be built within the next five years that will move New Hampshire towards a variety of active outdoor recreational opportunities and enjoyment.

Working together, outdoor recreation stakeholders in New Hampshire, including municipal, state, and federal land managers and public and private recreation providers can make New Hampshire a model for New England and the nation in outdoor recreation, service partnerships, and wildlife and natural resource protection. Goals and Actions within each of the four priority areas can be applied to Land and Water Conservation Fund criteria and tracked for performance measurement purposes.

**New Hampshire's Newest State Park** - ATV, trail bike, and snowmobile riders are discovering that some of the state's best off-road riding is at Jericho Mountain State Park, New Hampshire's newest state park located off Route 110 West in Berlin. With approximately 60 miles of scenic trails in the 7,500 acre State Park, the system provides endless loops through forest, over streams, and past Jericho Lake, with many scenic outlooks and mountaintop picnic pavilions. Park guests can also enjoy swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, or picnicking at Jericho Lake.

Open to the public, but still in development, this integrated recreation complex is designed to become the off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) hub in the North Country. Over the next several years, more miles will be added to the trail network—towards a planned total of 136 miles—and more facilities will be added as well. Future development plans for the park include a ride-in/ride-out campground, several remote tent sites, group picnic pavilions, administrative offices with visitor welcome center and education/training facilities, and improved beach facilities.



Jericho Mountain State Park

**PRIORITY 1: CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS**

**Connecting People to the Outdoors** poses several challenges and opportunities to address the distinct differences and needs identified by population, age group, health, access, and economic opportunity throughout our state and its regions.

**Goal 1.1: Understand** the potential impact on outdoor recreation needs that might occur with changes in our state's population, age, health, ethnicity, and culture.

**Action 1.1.a** Create a partnership initiative with public agencies and private organizations to perform ongoing research to track statewide and regionally identified trends in population, age, health, ethnicity, and culture; develop educated opinions on what impacts these trends may have on outdoor recreation; and provide recommendations on what and how advantages can be obtained through these trends in the context of outdoor recreation.

**Goal 1.2: Identify** what populations are underserved, how they are underserved, and where they are located.

**Action 1.2.a** Create a partnership initiative statewide and regionally that will research, define, and identify underserved populations within our state, identify their needs and opportunities for outdoor recreation, and make recommendations on how to better serve these populations.

**Goal 1.3: Create** ease of access to an electronic, one-stop information resource of comprehensive statewide recreation opportunities.

**Action 1.3.a** Fund, develop, and create a well-promoted, comprehensive, and user-friendly statewide public internet data base and mapping system that identifies multifaceted public and private outdoor recreation resources, facilities, opportunities, and access points that are statewide but also close to home. Promote and raise awareness of the associated health benefits and outcomes obtained by using the outdoor resources identified through this system.

**Goal 1.4:** Connect people to their outdoor resources through community parks, trails, greenways, and blueways.

**Action 1.4.a** Encourage public and private funding, creation and delivery of activities, programs, and services that appeal to diverse communities of age, ability, ethnicity, culture, and the underserved through easy and safe access to community programs, parks, trails, greenways, and blueways. Develop support for activities and programs by promoted awareness of the associated benefits and advantages obtained by communities and the state through a healthy population.



Clough State Park

**PRIORITY 2: CONSISTENT STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION**

In the public outreach sessions NH Listens, conducted by the Carsey Institute, participants strongly voiced their concern that New Hampshire residents and visitors “have a strong connection to the outdoors through their recreational activities.” They put a “high value” on having access to outdoor recreation, open space, and nature. They simply value “being outside.” New Hampshire’s bountiful natural resources are extraordinary and preserving their beauty and state of health were identified as being a Priority through consistent stewardship and conservation that will provide future generations with equal opportunity to know and experience the diversity of outdoor recreation that are present today within our communities.

**Goal 2.1: Develop** the next generations of stewardship through partnerships, environmental education, and programs particularly targeted at youth.

**Action 2.1.a** Create partnerships with existing organizations and efforts to develop or enhance programs that particularly target youth into becoming active participants of environmental stewardship through social media and programs that promote an active outdoor lifestyle and outdoor recreation.

**Goal 2.2: Manage** and preserve New Hampshire’s special places through well-constructed and collaborative statutory framework and legislation that will provide guidance and flexibility to manage the multiple-use demands of outdoor recreation.

**Action 2.2.a** Work with statewide planning agencies to develop guidelines, statutory framework, and legislative recommendations for the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure, trails, greenways, and blueways that support active outdoor recreation lifestyles.

**Goal 2.3: Conserve** New Hampshire’s natural resources through joint efforts between public and private organizations with a focus on increased partnerships that promote and care for existing and future properties and landscapes.

**Action 2.3.a** Encourage Planning Boards to gather information and opinion on connectivity of trails statewide and regionally with possible development of an interactive GIS map that allows users to provide input on connectivity and access information that would be used by organizations and public and private agencies to prioritize land and water acquisitions, projects and trail improvements.

**Goal 2.4: Build** coordinated efforts with New Hampshire conservation funders and agencies to conserve and restore high quality wetland resources.

**Action 2.4.a** Assist with the conservation of wetland, wildlife, and exemplary natural communities through coordinated funding efforts with the LWCF, NH Department of Environmental Services, and NH Fish & Game Department to conserve and restore high quality wetland resources in New Hampshire.



Pillsbury State Park

### PRIORITY 3: ECONOMIC VITALITY

The health of our state and national economy has a strong influence on current and future funding for outdoor recreation grants and programs. During public outreach efforts, a broad range of participants from varied life and professional experience voiced significant concern in regard to sufficient funding for the future and how fiscal constraints will impact outdoor recreation and their outdoor experiences.

The New Hampshire Recreation and Conservation Leaders Survey, conducted by the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension, revealed two key findings related to the economy: "outdoor recreation is seen as adding to the quality of life in New Hampshire and is a contributing factor in the economic health of the state; and funding outdoor recreation is the top challenge for recreation and conservation leaders." It is an important Priority to develop awareness among the New Hampshire public on the many ways outdoor recreation contributes to the economic vitality of our state.

**Goal 3.1 Cultivate** targeted and adequate funding sources for existing and future resources that are stable and reoccurring with synergies and cooperative efforts through community organizations, the business community, and government.

**Action 3.1.a** Continue to effectively manage and support relationships with federal programs related to outdoor recreation. Create a working group to identify and analyze unmet financial need for current and future outdoor recreation facilities and areas statewide, and develop recommendations on how to meet the unmet need; identify stable and reliable funding streams; and include recommendations for cooperative efforts from public, private, and business communities.

**Goal 3.2 Achieve** coordinated support for the outdoor recreation economy through public and private partnerships that promote innovative programming and outdoor recreation opportunities that are marketed to residents and visitors alike.

**Action 3.2.a** Facilitate development and support for programs and initiatives that provide electronic, one-stop information sites to residents and visitors for identification, access, and promotion of all outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities statewide, and support efforts to fully document the economic benefits of outdoor recreation regionally and statewide.

**Goal 3.3 Collaborate** with youth program organizations and communities to foster and create employment opportunities associated with stewardship and conservation of the outdoor environment.

**Action 3.3.a** Listen to and learn from the many youth program organizations and communities about the challenges and opportunities associated with connecting youth to outdoor recreation and what conversations and actions can be taken to develop and support youth employment programs.

**Goal 3.4 Engage** partnerships and dialogue with healthcare organizations and communities to explore the economic health benefits of an active outdoor lifestyle.

**Action 3.4.a** Encourage and develop partnerships with the healthcare community to promote healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation. Using outdoor recreation as a healthcare and healing tool, these partnerships can initiate, develop, and target programs to specific populations, regions, residents, visitors, and the workforce. These efforts can influence a synergistic effect on local and state economies.

#### PRIORITY 4: EDUCATION ETHICS AND BENEFITS

The need for conversation and education on the many topics associated with recreating in the great outdoors was seen a Priority and an important component to outdoor recreation use and conservation as voiced within the statewide community and leaders conversations process. The public outreach process identified youth and parents, all recreation users, potential users, private landowners, and all levels of government as areas that should be addressed through public and private partnerships, and volunteer efforts. The opportunities associated with the education process would advance understanding of the impacts outdoor users have on the limited resources, how the different user groups can share them and the health benefits of engaging in outdoor activities. Alignment with federal agency programs such as “Let’s Move” will advance this priority.

**Goal 4.1 Strengthen** partnerships and volunteerism to combine resources, talents, and knowledge to expand education programs and services associated with the use, benefits, needs, and preservation of outdoor recreation resources and experiences.

**Action 4.1.a** Reach out to new and current audiences to convey the immediate need for the development of partnerships with existing public and private organizations, businesses, agencies, institutions, and volunteer groups to facilitate, deliver, and advance outdoor recreation and associated health benefit topics, needs, opportunities, and experiences.

**Goal 4.2 Advance** education of outdoor recreation topics and its benefits through contacts, information, and experiences directed at children and youth, user groups, providers, private property owners, and all levels of government.

**Action 4.2.a** Develop a statewide ethic through educational outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences and by constructing, providing, and supporting the content and delivery of a wide range of educational topics to outdoor recreation users, potential users, providers, private landowners, and all levels of government on the opportunities, rights, and responsibilities associated with outdoor recreation lands and facilities.

**Goal 4.3 Provide** recommendations for the use of technologies and social media to effectively communicate with and capture the interest of individuals and organizations.

**Action 4.3.a** Create a working group to identify and analyze leading-edge technologies and social media avenues that can be used and accessed regionally and statewide. The group would also provide recommended strategies on how to effectively communicate with and capture the interest of individuals and organizations affected by the benefits and challenges of providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Goal 4.4 Collaborate** with education professionals and institutions on the development of outdoor education programs and environmental learning opportunities for schools and communities.

**Action 4.4.a** Strengthen support and resources for organizations, plans, and programs that engage education professionals and institutions on the opportunities for use of outdoor recreation areas, facilities, parks and open landscapes, as places of learning through developed outdoor recreation and environmental literacy programs and activities within our schools.



Bear Brook State Park