

Director's Report
STATE PARKS SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Division of Parks and Recreation
January 19, 2018

Cannon Mountain

- Opening weekend was a great success with approximately 3,725 visitors enjoying the most trails that Cannon's opened with in its history. In fact, Cannon had top to bottom skiing for opening day and already had 24 trails opens by December 1st. However due to the exceedingly of the cold weather and then rain over the holiday weekend, YTD visits of 53,298 are down 18% from the same period last year but off only 4% from our 7 year YTD average. This is consistent with other ski areas in the state.
- The \$5.1 million project with energy service firm Ameresco to reduce energy consumption at the ski area has met if not exceeded expectations. The energy savings has exceeded the payments while significantly increasing snowmaking capabilities and providing critical upgrades to important infrastructure.

Bureau of Park Operations

- The Parks team in the northern and central region had their hands full responding to the damage caused by a severe wind and rain storm event that arrived in New Hampshire at the end of October. Moose Brook and Crawford Notch State Park campgrounds were especially hard hit. Livermore Falls was "as wild as I've ever seen it" according to Art Charbonneau, Central Region supervisor. White Lake State Park lost lots of trees as well, with some landing on the roof of the beach house building.
- On the seacoast there was also a lot of storm clean-up, especially at Odiorne Point and Hampton Beach. Sand berms have been installed along the south end of the Seashell Pavilion to try and decrease the amount of sand blowing up onto the sidewalk during the coming winter storms. The annual post-season Hampton Community meeting produced good feedback and ideas from residents and beach-goers.
- Jericho Mountain State Park and regional staff completed a bridge from the beach parking area to the recently constructed bath house in the day-use area to improve ADA accessibility. At Frost Farm, the fully accessible rest rooms renovation project was completed.
- Mount Washington State Park manager, Kevin Devine reports transition to winter season went well, after roughly 375,000 people passed through the front doors of the

Sherman Adams Building this past summer season. The buildings are secured for winter and regular maintenance, including painting projects and deep cleaning, are underway. Two park staff enrolled in classes at the DES training facility in Franklin for their waste water operator's licenses and the Assistant Park Manager passed his Level 2 Waste Water Operators License exam.

- With a healthy push from a targeted social media campaign, holiday sales of NH State Parks gift certificates and season passes exceeded previous years' totals. By close-of-business December 26, over 147 gift certificates and passes had been sold with a total value of \$10,560.
- Following on the success of applying the LEAN process to the Division's extensive seasonal hiring process, the Division is completing the LEAN process for its Special Use Permit program to gain efficiencies and increase customer responsiveness.
- YTD revenue from operations through 12/18/17 is up 1.7% over last year and from retail is up 6.3%. Hampton Beach revenue is down 2.1% ytd. Parks plate revenue is up 30.7% and is now being accounted for on the Comparative Statements.

Bureau of Trails

- The Trails Bureau had a busy beginning to the season with cleaning up damage from the end-of-October severe storm and has received four DES emergency permits for bridge and trail repairs.
- Winter trail conditions for snowmobile riding started strong, but the recent erratic weather has resulted in variable trail conditions. To date, 32,462 snowmobile registrations have been sold. This is on par with a good winter.
- The Trails Bureau started grooming operations in Franconia Notch on December 22, and the other Bureau groomers headed out after Christmas. Snowmobiling has an annual economic impact in NH of roughly \$600 million - pretty impressive for an industry dependent on volunteers and a small State agency working with private landowners.
- The Jericho Mountain State Park warming hut visitor data for 2017 has been collected. The visitor log in the hut was signed by 5,544 visitors from 39 countries. From opening day in May 2017 through December 15, it is estimated that approximately 22,000 total visitors enjoyed the park with its beautiful trails and nationally-recognized ATV events. A separate log is put out for winter visitors to sign.

Bureau of Historic Sites

- The Bureau continues to make strides towards reducing its deferred maintenance backlog. Recent projects include the removal of forty years' worth of trash and materials from White Island, Isles of Shoals, the conservation of seventy plus original windows at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion and the installation of new public restrooms at the Robert Frost Farm.
- Projects currently winding their way through the contracting process for 2018 include a new roof for the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, new security fencing at Fort Stark, which will protect both visitors and structures, and the restoration of the exterior stucco at the Weeks Estate.
- The Bureau also added in 2017, NH related retail programs to four of the of the six house museums in an effort to make the Bureau more sustainable.

Community Recreation

- *See "2018 First Day Hike Report."* 400+ individuals braved the extreme cold (5 to -15) to take part in State Parks annual First Day Hikes. For the 8th consecutive year State Parks hosted First Day Hikes, a traditional way to explore State Parks and enjoy nature on the first of the year. Snowshoes and xc skiers were greeted at Pisgah State Park, Silver Lake State Park, Wellington State Park, Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion Historic Site and Milan Hill State Park by park staff and our event day partners. Participants of First Day Hikes were able explore historic sites, state parks and even enjoy pet friendly hikes with their four footed friends either on their own or discover and experience nature with a guided hike lead by park staff and out partner volunteers. Thanks to Nansen Ski Club, The Forest Society, Newfound Lake Region Association, Beaver Brook Association, Friends of Pisgah, Nor'easter Snowmobile Club and Alpina for helping sponsor to annual event.

Director's Office

The Director was appointed by the Governor to the Lake Sunapee Boat Access Development Commission. The Commission is charged with researching and evaluating both potential alternative opportunities for development of the Wild Goose Property (held by NH Fish and Game) and potential opportunities for expansion of public boat access at the lake. The Sunapee State Park Beach is being considered as one alternative. Four Department Commissioners have opposed using the state park beach and the Division continues to be opposed to using the beach as an alternative to Wild Goose.

Planning & Development Office

FY2018-2019 Capital Budget

- A. Statewide Communication Console Replacement \$420,000
 - Contract awarded to Motorola, console being built. Due in March

- B. Roofing & Repairs of DNCR Buildings Statewide \$1,400,000
 - 5% of total appropriation spent
 - Other projects include pit toilets (February G&C) and Yankee Building roof (bid)

- C. Dams & Retaining Walls \$985,000
 - Ellacoya and Jericho in planning

- D. Restorations at Historic Sites \$335,000
 - Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion roof replacement, work to begin early spring and completed in early June.

- E. Fire Tower Repairs \$580,000
 - Kearsarge bid documents complete, out to bid spring 2018

- F. Mount Washington Communication Building Study \$200,000
 - Turner Group selected as consultant, report due fall 2018

- G. Jenness Beach Redevelopment \$656,840¹
 - Design and Engineering consultants working on preparing final design and bid documents.
 - Bid package expected to be released in May 2018.
 - Construction to begin fall 2018 and completed in June 2019.

FY 2016-2017 Priority Projects

- A. Umbagog State Park Redevelopment
 - Architectural design and drafting 65% completed, done in-house
 - Assembling mechanical and engineering consultants
 - Out to bid May 2018
 - Construction to start September 2018

- B. Monadnock State Park Toilet Building
 - Architectural design and drafting will be done in-house
 - Contracting for engineering consultants
 - Schedule depends on final consultant selection
 - Out to bid late summer 2018, construction late winter 2018

¹ \$456,840 of general funds plus \$200,000 of agency funds

FY2020-2021 Capital Budget (PROPOSED)

Park	Roofing and Repair	Toilet Building Renovation	Roads & Parking Lots	Planning/D&E	Pavilion	Playgrounds	Communication Facility Upgrades	Total by Park	Notes
Statewide	750,000							750,000	Roofing is on scheduled maintenance
Pawtuckaway		780,000	950,000					1,730,000	PAW 12&13
Lafayette		850,000						850,000	FRN15
White Lake		545,000						545,000	WHT10
Greenfield			1,230,000					1,230,000	
Monadnock			235,000					235,000	
F&L Roads			350,000					350,000	Nash Stream & Hubbard Hill
Mollidgewock				75,000				75,000	
Crawford Notch				200,000				200,000	Wiley House/Dry River Expansion/Rec Trail
Mt Washington							2,500,000	2,500,000	
FNSP Echo Lake					450,000			450,000	
Hampton South Beach						200,000		200,000	
Wellington						150,000		150,000	
Total by Category	750,000	2,175,000	2,765,000	275,000	450,000	350,000	2,500,000	9,265,000	