

Director's Report
STATE PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Division of Parks and Recreation
September 16, 2021
(Last report date was June 11, 2021)

PARK SYSTEM FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- **FY2022 Park System Comparative Statement** (sent separately) covering Week 6 from July 1, 2021 to Aug. 12, 2021, has revenue, including day-use and camping, at \$2.9M, up by 0.6% from the previous period in FY21, but down from \$3.5M for Week 6 in FY20. Cannon Mountain is currently at \$852K, up 726% from this time period in 2021 (due to the Tram not operating), and up from \$702K for Week 6 in FY20. Hampton Meters is at \$752K, up 25% from this time period in the previous fiscal year, but down from \$921K in Week 6 of FY20.
- **FY2022 Parks Retail Comparative Statement** (sent separately) covering Week 6 of FY22, Parks retail is at \$1.1M, up 83% from this period in the last fiscal year and slightly down from \$1.2M in Week 6 of FY20. Mount Washington retail is at \$624K, up by 159% from the previous fiscal year and slightly down from \$644K in Week 6 for FY20.
- The latest estimates on the status of the **Parks Fund** at the end of the last Fiscal Year (2021): The Parks Account increased \$4.2 M due to revenue increases and cost reductions bringing the current balance to \$7.5 M. The **ski account** balance in the Parks Fund also increased to \$1M.
- **NH State Park Plate** As of 09/04/21, there were 16,044 plates registered. Fiscal Year 2022 to date revenue is \$243K, up from \$204K during the same period in FY21. The total revenue earned in FY21 from State Park Plates topped \$1 million.
- **Donations** We have received 6,317 online donations totaling \$42,751 since January 1st. Of that, almost \$24,000 has been donated since the beginning of June.
- **E-Commerce & Season Passes** NH State Parks has made \$206,247 in E-commerce sales, with 2,528 items sold. Season passes are included in the e-commerce category. NH State Parks has seen an increased demand for our season pass program over the past year. The Division has sold 2,037 season passes YTD for CY21. Comparatively, the Division sold 1,904 season passes in CY19 and CY20 combined. The new serialized passes continue to be successful, offering better data tracking than the paper passes, and allowing for customers to use the reservation system with ease.
- **Gift Cards** The Division has sold 962 gift cards, more than \$46,600 in value, since January 1st. We have seen a broader customer base this year than in previous years. Many companies have purchased bulk orders for their employees, schools are purchasing gift cards for fundraising raffles, and we even have a realtor that gives her clients NH State Parks gift cards when they buy or sell a house.

PARK OPERATIONS

STATE PARK SYSTEM

- Parks partnered with DHHS & Convenient MD to welcome the State Vaccination Van at 10 state park locations, with multiple visits at several state parks. Parks is offering complimentary day passes to those who get vaccinated at a state park.

MOUNT WASHINGTON

- **Mount Washington State Park** has proven to remain a popular tourist destination. From the opening of the

facilities on May 21st, through August 31st, we have welcomed nearly 240,000 guests. Attendance is slightly down compared to 2019, but exceptionally poor weather throughout this July and the lack of Canadian and many other international travelers are likely part of the reason.

- The Governor was present for the 2021 Climb To The Clouds event, but he may be interested to know that we had one of our Mount Washington State Park staff members participating in his 4th Hillclimb. **Slim Bryant** drove his 1989 Porsche to the summit on Sunday's event in 08:47:192 displaying the Mount Washington State Park logo on his hood. Of course, Travis Pastrana broke the record (again) for the all-time fastest climb up the 7+ miles to the summit and Mount Washington State Park, clocking in at 05:28:60, beating his previous 2017 record by nearly 16 seconds while achieving speeds nearing 140mph.
- The 2nd fatality of 2021 on Mount Washington occurred on August 24th, when Timothy McClelland, age 66, of Naugatuck, CT, died due to a heart attack on the Jewell Trail, while attempting to hike to the summit of Mount Washington.
- Interior renovations continue to be carried out in **The Tip Top House** by Mount Washington State Park maintenance staff. The oldest surviving structure at the summit of Mount Washington, dating back to 1853, this is the most improvement work undertaken in the building in over 30 years. Interior walls have been stripped of degrading wallpaper, the entire ceiling is being completely replaced, the floors and all surfaces are getting thoroughly cleaned, and there will be interior lighting, display, and other improvements continuing into the Fall.
- Mount Washington State Park has twice broken its daily **retail sales** record this year, with the most recent occurring on July 24 with sales that day of over \$27,000.
- **Taylor Rubino** was hired to the position of Assistant Retail and Food Service Manager. She previously worked at Monadnock State Park as the Retail Manager of their Park Store, as well as Mountain Patrol staff. Taylor has been a great addition to our Mount Washington team.

CENTRAL REGION

- Front line staff shortage with manager turnover has been a challenge. We successfully had several first time managers learning the ropes on the fly and some starting mid season!
- **Crawford Notch** retail is a highlight for the region! Revenue at an all time high. This illustrates what happens when you get the right people in the right place. Good things happen!

SEACOAST REGION

- Staff shortages made operations very difficult this summer across the board, however we were able to get our store at South Beach and Wallis Sands open in limited capacity. Guests were very appreciative of this.
- Park Patrol staff member **Mike Hayden** was presented with a Citizens Award for assisting an officer on July 16th that was being overpowered by an individual at the Seashell. After tackling the man, the officer found himself in a compromising position. When Mr. Hayden saw what was unfolding, he jumped on the individual to assist the officer in making an arrest. Mike's fast reaction, and prior training as a corrections officer allowed him to help officers subdue the subject, even after being assaulted himself by the man. Thank you Mike, for your fast action, and dedication to keeping Hampton safe!
- **NH State Beach Patrol** staff were awarded 1st place overall at two United States Life Saving Association competitions, one in Ogunquit, ME, and the other hosted on our home turf at Hampton Beach.
- NH State Beach Patrol hosted **Water Safety day**, where they run programs for children and families based off of common rescue techniques, as well as teach kids the importance of water and beach safety. Members of NH State Marine Patrol, Hampton PD and Fire, Marine Mammal Rescue, Blue Ocean Society, Cinnamon Rainbow Surf Shop, Portsmouth Hospital provided information and guidance on staying safe in the water.
- **Hampton maintenance department** had a fantastic year with the help of our contracted bathroom cleaning

company. They were able to focus all efforts on trash removal with the bathroom cleaning covered. They received a lot of positive feedback from the community on the cleanliness of the park this year!!

- **Beach raking** was a challenge with limitations set by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as NH Fish and Game due to nesting Piping plovers from South beach up to the North of the main beach. Between the maintenance crew, lifeguards and numerous beach cleanups organized through Blue Ocean Society the beach stayed as clean as possible despite the limited raking.
- **Events** at the South Beach Pavilion, main beach and North Beach were welcomed back with groups such as Surfing with Smiles, Wounded Warriors, Beach and Brew Fest, the upcoming Seafood Festival, and more!
- Large amounts of rain caused many beach bacteria advisories on the coast, likely due to run off from the saltmarshes. Areas effected throughout the summer were North Hampton, Jenness and Wallis Sands, with North Hampton being the most common due to the marsh outlet abutting the beach.
- Discussions have started on ways to improve **Rye Harbor's** bathroom building.
- **Odiorne Point** is anticipating a new playground installation to replace the current structure that has been determined to be past its prime.
- **SCA** completed work at Odiorne Point removing invasive Bittersweet, and planting native saplings to reestablish the native habitat.
- We did not receive any responses or comments to our Request for Information to operate a food truck at **Odiorne Point** State Park. Parks may consider posting a Request for Bid to operate a food truck at the park for the next summer season to enhance the visitor experience by offering onsite food and beverage options.

SOUTH REGION

- The Trails Bureau finished building two parking lots on the backside of **Pawtuckaway** to provide more parking to visitors.
- **Clough** was closed multiple times this summer to do flooding, the Army Corp of Engineers had to hold water back and that caused water levels to rise on the park side. Park did not sustain any damage.
- A professional trails crew will be doing trail reconstruction work this fall at **Monadnock**.
- The Eversource project at **Miller** was a success park was reopened on schedule project is still ongoing with little to no impact to visitors.
- We had to close **Pisgah** in July due to water damage from significant rainfall events. Repairs were made and the park was reopened.
- Labor Day weekend was a great way to the end the summer as south region parks were busy for days use and camping.
- There were two **Monadnock** rescues of note. . The first was on Marlboro Trail, a minor injury we were able to walk out, but it was reported to us by F&G so I wanted to let you know FYI. 3 MSP staff were involved: 1 Mtn Patroller, 1 staff hiked up to help and bring water, and 1 running base communications. 3 other people were with the hiker helping. They self-transported, no other agencies involved. Things were a bit complicated by radios not working on that side of the mountain, but between radio and texting they were able to make it work. Reported at 1:15 PM, out at 6:02 PM.

The second was more serious – a head injury from a slip and fall, they called us directly themselves. Started off with one staff heading up to assess (about 3/4-way up on the White Cross) with Dave Targan (our AEMT Mtn patrol staff) advising remotely by phone. Patient was conscious and mobile, started making progress down, but Dave made the call to switch to a litter carry as the patient was tiring and moving very slowly. Things were greatly complicated by a passing severe T-storm (they were below tree-line). F&G were notified and 4 COs came to help. 6 Park staff were involved (5 on the Mtn and 1 running base), one MSP volunteer, and 5 came from UVWRT. Patient switched back to (assisted) walking part-way down as she was feeling better and the litter carry in the rain

was dangerous for all. It was a rescue with high variability in both weather and the condition of the patient. In the end she refused an ambulance treatment and her husband drove her (presumably to a hospital). Reported at 10:30 AM, finished at 5:00 PM.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES (BHS)

- **Moose Plate** sales are up (10% in overall sales). Plates now number over 73,000. These funds provide critical revenue for the Bureau and other historic assets throughout the Park system.
- The main lodge at **Weeks State Park** is finishing some restoration work, with plaster repairs, historic paint scheme, and an era-appropriate pool table that resembles that of John Wingate Weeks' personal billiards table.
- Four 1930s exterior lighting fixtures from **Bear Brook's Catamount Pond Pavilion** are nearing their extensive restoration. Grand Light in Connecticut is in charge of this project, with the lights expected to be installed this fall.
- **Nansen Ski Jump** is undergoing regrading of its two landing hills. The \$300,000+ project is in partnership with the Nansen Ski Club, who is spearheading the jump site's revival into an operating and FIS-certified jump.
- An historic paint analysis done on the **Gerrish Depot** was recently completed, giving insight into the evolution of the oldest extant railroad station on the Northern Railroad. This data will inform restoration efforts planned for next year.
- The tern research project, which takes place on **White Island**, had another successful year. The researchers there saw record success with the endangered birds' hatchling rate.

BUREAU OF TRAILS (BOT)

- All districts have projects being done on the rail trails in 2021, some of which include:
 - The Bureau solicited for bids in July to remove two more miles of rails and ties on the east segment of the **Ammonoosuc Recreational Trail**. A total of eight bids were received and a contractor was selected. Removal will start September 7th and will be completed by December 1st, 2021. The Cross NH Adventure Trail (xNHAT) will donate funds for the match to the Recreational Trails Program grant.
 - The washout on the **Sugar River Recreational Trail** was exacerbated by the summer rains, which allowed the Bureau to receive an emergency DES permit for repairs. Trails Bureau staff, including the new Bureau Chief, worked quickly to create a permanent solution using natural materials to the washout that has been ongoing for years.
- **Snowmobile registrations and report:**
 - 2022 season numbers not reported yet
- **OHRV registrations and report:**
 - The 2021 OHRV season has been very busy, but trail infrastructure holding up well. That said, several large rain storms in July did cause damage and washouts in the Southwest part of the state, which the BOT has been actively working to repair damage. The registrations for 2020-2021 were 45,424 as of May 2021.
- **Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Program:**
 - The Program granted 16 OHRV clubs awards for the 2021 OHRV season. Construction \$1,094,647, equipment \$16,200, grading \$19,582, and calcium chloride \$22,421.
 - The Program granted 55 snowmobile club awards for the 2021 snowmobile summer grant season. Construction \$425,334 and equipment \$1,049,915.
- **Recreational Trail Program Update**
 - The RTP full funding act had the gas fuel study completed in September of 2020 but it wasn't released to public until July 2021. The report does say RTP should receive the 280 million vs the 84 million it

currently receives (for the entire US). For the current infrastructure bill – the TAP funds are slated to be increased to 9% but RTP was left out because of how late the fuel study came out. We may not be able to increase RTP to its full potential until next 5 year bill comes around in 2026.

- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 is nearing completion, but some project costs are still being incurred. Projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of this calendar year.
- FFY 2021 had Governor and Executive Council approval on June 16th. Projects have started over the summer. The community projects are scheduled to be complete by December 31st, 2021.
- FFY 2022 applications were received and scored. Granted projects were reviewed by DOT's Bureau of Rail and Transit for impacts to rail trails. Granted projects will undergo Historical Review with the Division of historic Resources late September for impacts to historical resources.

ENTERPRISE SYSTEM The Enterprise system is continuing to prove critical and successful, post-pandemic. We continue to seek improvements to better carve out an appropriate balance between past and future operations, but have had a great season of growth and learning. As our current season winds down, our focus is set for improvements to the 2022 season.

- **Day Use Reservations.** From January 1st to August 31st there have been 146,100 day use reservations made, which accounts for 326,511 visitors in our parks. This figure does not include walk-in admissions to the parks, which has been significantly expanded from the 2020 season. This year, we have battled poor weather consistently for much of the summer, as well as every holiday weekend. Several of our parks have had to close intermittently due to flooding, impacting visitation numbers.
- **Camping Reservations.** Camping has seen high visitation in spite of the frequent rain. We have seen 50,070 campsite reservations made from January 1st to August 31st, accounting for 108,416 campers in the parks (not including walk-in campers). Weekend camping has been in high demand, with many of our facilities seeing full occupancy each week. Camping continues to prove that it is a pillar of the Division's revenue stream.
- **Donations, E-Commerce, Season Pass Sales and Gift Cards.** See Financial Snapshot report, above.

DESIGN, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) PROJECTS

- Campground Projects: Six sites (Jericho Mountain, Mollidgewock, Dry River Campground, Pawtuckaway and Bear Brook (Bear Hill/Catamount Pond)): Consultant selection in progress; interviews with 3 firms scheduled for September 14th.
- Hampton RV Park: Electric service upgrade to be constructed with own forces. Construction to start in November. Cost estimate, \$360,000
- Mt Washington Utilities Upgrade: Water system and sewer treatment plant. Contractor pre-bid site visit scheduled for September 17th. Bidding in January 2022. 90% of the sewage treatment plant plans were submitted to our Department for review in July and we expect to go out to bid this Fall, with construction beginning in the late Spring/early Summer of 2022.
 - Projects ready to kick-off pending DPW approvals: Park utility upgrades, fire tower repairs, Coleman Lodge mansion building renovation, Fort Stark improvements, Franconia Notch signage, Ragged Neck upgrades, and Cannon sewer pipeline.

CAPTIAL PROJECTS.

- Ellacoya RV Park bathhouse renovation: Construction to start October 18th. Brookstone builders has contract for \$445,778. Complete in time for 2022 season.
- Milan Hill park office foundation replacement: Contracted to AM Graton for \$434,000. On site work to start

in spring of 2022.

- Pawtuckaway toilet building #4 addition/renovation: Contract with Project Resources Group, \$540,578, goes to G&C on October 13th. Completion in time for 2022 season.
- Shieling Forest, McGreal House renovations: Contract with Project Resources Group, \$586,944, goes to G&C on September 29th, construction to start October 2021, completion date June 1, 2022.
- Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, seawall repair: Proposal from Riverbend Masonry, \$166,300, to go to G&C on September 29th, construction to start pending DES permit approval. Completion date is April 15, 2022.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

- We are collaborating with DES to install three Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at Franconia Notch State Park. Each charging station will have two chargers for a total of six chargers available to the public.

CONSULTANT SERVICE

Pawtuckaway State Park (Moose Plate): Public Archaeology Laboratory working on the Historic District Survey for the park. They have conducted a file search at DHR & DPR and did a site visit last month. They will be making another site visit this fall and the report should be complete by the end of the year.

[Fire Tower Historic District Survey and Management Plan](#) (ARPA): The RFP was issued on 9/1, responses due at the end of the month.

[Campground Feasibility Study/Design/Engineering](#) (ARPA): 5 responses received, 3 selected for interviews on September 14th.

SCA (Student Conservation Assn) NH CORPS

The crews have completed 13 of the 15 hitches scheduled for this summer including 3 hitches statewide for spring cleanup, 4 hitches at Monadnock State Park, and hitches at Greenfield, Odiorne, Mount Washington, Crawford Notch and Umbagog Lake State Parks. Their last hitch will be at White Lake State Park 9/28-10/8

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- **Group volunteer recognition signs** are being put up at parks, forests, and historic sites throughout the state – all of the signs will be put up by the end of the summer and more can be ordered as more volunteer groups enter into volunteer agreements with the state
- Department is renewing their long-term agreement with **Nansen Ski Club** at Milan Hill State Park which will go through 2026
- Department is entering into a new long-term agreement with the **White Mountain Trail Collective** to support trail work and trail facilities throughout state park properties, this agreement will go through 2026
- Entering into a volunteer agreement with the **Granite State Park'd** volunteer group to create a disc golf course at Pawtuckaway State Park
- **Friends of the Pemi Livermore Falls Chapter** hosted a greeting table at Livermore Falls Recreation Area most weekends this summer, the table included archaeological artifacts found on site and on loan from the Division of Historic Resources
- Monadnock Trails Week was successfully held at Monadnock State Park July 30th – August 3rd, hosted by the **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** this event highlights the partnership between SPNHF, NH State Parks, volunteers, and the public – trail work this year focused on the White Arrow trail and the Marlboro trail

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- **DNCR Project Proposals** recently submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for review and approval of LWCF assistance include:
 - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2024-2028, \$69,144.08 grant request.
 - Mount Washington State Park Sewerage, \$1,290,289.00 grant request.
 - Odiorne Point State Park Playground, \$95,045.45 grant request.
- **Local Grant Round 31** is currently within the federal application review stage. Of the nine proposals selected in February, 2021:
 - Seven, totaling \$1,656,655.00 in grant requests, have been submitted to the NPS for review and approval;
 - One is on hold pending further project planning;
 - One has been withdrawn by the applicant.

As of the drafting of this report (August 31, 2021), the NPS has not yet granted approval for any of the above-mentioned Local Grant Round 31, or DNCR Project proposals.

- **Local Grant Round 32** of the LWCF Local Assistance Program was released on March 29, 2021. Prospective applicants had from the release date to May 28, 2021 to submit an “intent-to-apply” form for consideration. Of those received by the deadline:
 - Seventeen intents received: 13 municipalities (one city submitted 2); 3 school districts;
 - The total estimated potential grant requests = \$2,017,904.00;
 - Sixteen of the projects are for development assistance, while one is for land acquisition and development assistance.

Each intent received must be reviewed for basic program eligibility including an on-site inspection. Eligibility determination is anticipated to be completed by the middle to end of September 2021. Sponsors and their projects determined to be eligible will receive a formal “invitation-to-apply” shortly thereafter. Full applications for Grant Round 32 will be due sometime between November-December 2021.

- **Online Grant Solutions:** Amplifund Grant Maker, The Office is pursuing the purchase of an online grant solutions to manage both the application and stewardship monitor of all LWCF grants. This will streamline the program and may be expanded to include the Trails Bureau grants to clubs.
- As Vice President of the **National Association of Outdoor Recreation Liaisons Officers (NASORLO)**, Eric Feldbaum has been working with the association and the National Parks Service to help modernize the LWCF grant programs. Focus area include, administrative funding support, streamlining conversion and grant approvals, and developing a working group between the two organizations to meet on a regular basis to review the operations of the overall program.

Current Program Apportionments Amounts and Available Balances (by Federal FY):

Apportionment	Amount	Available	Expiration
GOMESA* FY:2009-2017	\$122,193.00	\$25,919.00	None
LWCF FY:2019	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00	9/30/2021
GOMESA FY:2019	\$709,512.00	\$577,803.81	9/30/2021
LWCF FY:2020	\$1,028,240.00	\$1,028,240.00	9/30/2022
GOMESA FY:2020	\$1,094,842.00	\$1,094,842.00	9/30/2022
SRA FY:2020	\$27,047.94	\$27,047.94	9/30/2021
LWCF FY:2021	\$2,056,481.00	\$2,056,481.00	9/30/2023
GOMESA FY:2021	\$769,818.00	\$769,818.00	9/30/2023

SRA FY:2021 (<i>pending FY'21 close</i>)	\$0.00	\$0.00	9/30/2022
Total:	\$6,812,293.94	\$6,584,311.75	-----
*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.			
** <u>Special Reapportionment Account</u> , unspent funds from previously closed or terminated projects. Not available until regular (LWCF) apportionment of the same federal fiscal year is fully obligated.			

Current Open LWCF Projects (18 local, 6 state):

PROJECT #	NAME	SPONSOR	SCOPE	FED GRANT
33-00705	Hartford Brook Ballfields	Town of Deerfield	Improvements to playfield, parking, and support facilities	\$25,000.00
33-00706	Nissitissit River Park	Town of Brookline	Development of accessible trail, and acquisition abutting rail trail	\$50,050.00
33-00707	Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvements	City of Nashua	Boat ramp and parking improvements on the Merrimack River	\$200,200.00
33-00710	Monadnock Park Playground	City of Claremont	Construction of a New Playground	\$53,753.00
33-00715	Ellacoya State Park-II	State of NH DNCR	Construction of a new playground, and renovation of campground bathrooms	\$265,330.90
33-00716	Mill City Park at Franklin Falls	City of Franklin	Purchase of 2.2 acres, development of trails, restrooms, parking, picnic area, and pavilion	\$200,200.00
33-00717	Landroche Field Splash Pad and Bathhouse	Town of Newmarket	Construction of a splash-pad, restrooms, and accessible pathway, and kiosk	\$199,606.41
33-00718	Riverfront Park	Town of Lincoln	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	Installation of surface material, new/fixed drainage, grading, benches, kiosk	\$100,100.00
33-00720	PARC Trail Network	Town of Plaistow	Development of a trail network on Town lands	\$51,551.50
33-00721	Littleton Riverfront Commons	Town of Littleton	Purchase of 7.5 acres, construction of parking, events area, pathway, landscaping	\$200,200.00
33-00722	Maplewood Field Bleachers/Playground	Town of Salisbury	Installation of new bleachers, swing set, play equipment, and pathway	\$25,000.00
33-00723	Moeckel Pond Dam Reconstruction	Town of Windham	Reconstruction of historic mill site dam, car-top boat, and parking	\$150,150.00
33-00724	Jules Bisson Park Rejuvenation	City of Somersworth	Construction of a playground, picnic shelter, and accessibility enhancements	\$45,000.00
33-00725	Winslow SP Toilet Building	State of NH DNCR	Renovation of exiting toilet building with accessibility enhancements, new well drilled, and new septic and leach field	\$231,481.25
33-00726	Kraime Meadow Park Improvements	Town of Moultonborough	Construction of a picnic shelter with concession area and composting toilets	\$62,562.50
33-00727	Pawtuckaway SP Toilet Building	State of NH DNCR	Renovation and expansion of an existing campground toilet building	\$218,318.10
33-00728	Bear Brook SP-Bear Hill Toilet Building	State of NH DNCR	Renovation of an existing toilet building at the historic Bear Hill Camps	\$222,096.87
33-00729	Remich Park Improvements	Town of Littleton	Demolition and reconstruction of service building (concession, bathrooms, storage), field drainage improvements, resurfacing of perimeter pathway, installation of new playground	\$200,200.00
33-00730	Northwood Playground	Town of Northwood	Construction of a new playground, athletic fields site work, fencing	\$88,898.81

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

RIGHT TO KNOW / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, as of Sept. 10, 2021.

FY	# REQUESTS	# ACTIVE	HOURS*
FY20	34	0	90
FY21	35	1	103
FY22	5	5	12

* RTK Coordinator hours only, excludes staff hours.

LEGAL MATTERS. With the assistance of the Town of Jaffrey police department, Parks received restitution in the SONH v. C Montoya (#20-CR-719) graffiti case that occurred at Monadnock State Park on June 13, 2020. The amount reimbursed the park for graffiti cleanup.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROGRAM (SUP) Calendar YTD, as of Sept. 10, 2021.

Region	Filming	Group Reservation	Guiding	MOA	SUP	Grand Total	Total Participants
Central	1				19	20	2,624
FNSP					5	5	134
GNW	1		2		3	6	4,434
Historic Sites	1				1	2	98
Mt. Washington	4		1		8	13	2,253
Multiple Regions	3			1	6	10	5,642
Seacoast	1	1			34	36	20,389
South	2				17	19	2,095
Trails Bureau					6	6	3
Grand Total	13	1	3	1	99	117	37672

Notable recent Events include:

- 8/16 – 8/20, The Children’s Festival at Hampton Beach State Park, put on by the Hampton Chamber of Commerce, has drawn good crowds with a variety of events including shows on the Seashell stage, Safety talks with the Lifeguards and “touch a truck” events and is expected to continue through Friday.
- 8/26, New England Disabled Sports at Franconia Notch State Park will hold a paddling program for 9 adolescents with visual impairments.
- 8/27, Wounded Warriors Hit The Beach at Hampton Beach State Park – North Beach. They will host the 14th annual event to help teach physically challenged veterans how to surf.

SEACOAST PARKING ENFORCEMENT Calendar YTD 2021, as of Sept. 9, 2021.

	CYTD 2018	CYTD 2019	CYTD 2020	CYTD 2021
# of Tickets Issued	7,578	6,728	7,081	15,894
# of Tickets Voided	507	812	463	988
# of Tickets Appealed	658	638	798	1,688
# of Ticket Appeals Accepted	439	370	430	963
# of Ticket Appeals Denied	219	268	368	669
# of Tickets still on appeal				56
Net tickets	6,632	5,546	6,188	13,887

Tickets paid*	5,583	5,895	4,602	13,425
Total Revenue Collected	\$ 141,174.01	\$ 147,685.75	\$ 119,512.00	\$ 340,702.95

* Tickets paid represents all payments received CYTD and may include payments for previous years.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND MARKETING REPORT

In the last Director’s report we included the initial plans to overhaul the parks website, www.nhstateparks.org/. Plans are moving ahead with a target timeline for the unveiling of March 15, 2022. This timing coincides with the time of the year when outdoors shows are starting, when families are planning summer vacations and our marketing launch for the summer.

The overhaul will update our current operating program, which has not been update since 2014. It will also allow better integration of our social media channels, enterprise system, retail sales and our blog posts.

Website Statistics June-August 2021:

Total Pageviews: 4,977,116

- 7% increase from June-August 2020
- 81% increase from June-August 2019

Top 10 pages:

1. Homepage 351,382
2. Flume Gorge 255,297
3. Day-Use Reservations 178,930
4. State Parks 154,327
5. Camping 140,286
6. Franconia Notch 130,076
7. Hampton Beach 120,644
8. Monadnock 120,484
9. Echo Lake 101,255
10. Hiking Trail Maps 94,419

Demographics:

Age Users

1. 25-34 25%
2. 55-64 18%
3. 35-44 18%

Gender Users

1. Female 54%
2. Male 46%

Device used

1. Mobile 66%
2. Desktop 31%
3. Tablet 3%

NH Parks Blog:

This summer we were fortunate to have Sofia Hartley approach us about becoming our summer PIO intern. Sofia is a senior at the University of Chicago, currently working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Phycology, while minoring in Environmental Studies and Creative Writing. Originally from Thetford, Vermont, Sophie developed a strong connection to New Hampshire while camping and hiking here with her family throughout childhood.

Sofia produced 12 blogs and I would say she probably hit all the parks in the NH Parks system. She did a terrific job of capturing the faces of our visitors and parks staff. I highly recommend reading her blogs at <https://blog.nhstateparks.org/>. My favorite was one of her last blogs, “*A Summer in the Parks: The Art of Exploration*”

Thank you Sofia and best of luck in your senior year!

Press Releases:

7/29/2021 - NH State Park’s 2021 Water Safety Day

NH Division of Parks and Recreation’s State Beach Patrol and Hampton Beach State Park Lifeguards will host their 2021 Water Safety Day on August 5, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampton Beach Seashell Complex, 180 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, NH.

6/25/2021 - Hampton Beach Campsite Lottery Now Open

There will be a camping lottery for selected camping sites at Hampton Beach State Park. The State Parks Camping Lottery is a program for the 2022 camping season to ensure greater opportunity for campers to experience our most popular camping areas.

PIO's picks for favorite Media coverage:

This moment atop Mt. Washington to honor our fallen service members will give you chills, Q96.1 06/01/2021
<https://q961.com/this-moment-atop-mt-washington-to-honor-our-fallen-service-members-will-give-you-chills/>

Lifeguards make multiple rescues at Hampton Beach on Sunday: Seven rescued, all returned to their beach day, WMUR.
www.wmur.com/article/lifeguards-make-multiple-rescues-at-hampton-beach-on-sunday/36711319

Federal funds to help pay for 3 Mt. Washington summit project, Jun 29, 2021, The Conway Daily Sun.
www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/federal-funds-to-help-pay-for-3-mt-washington-summit-projects/article_d0c6a8d6-d90e-11eb-8ef6-2714e36e9845.html

\$3 Million Mittersill Performance Center On Track To Be Completed In September, Caledonia Record, July 21, 2021.
www.caledonianrecord.com/news/local/3-million-mittersill-performance-center-on-track-to-be-completed-in-september/article_92bb816e-6708-5af3-8c69-f7fa332fbfad.html

Fritz Wetherbee: John Wingate Weeks, WMUR, Aug. 3, 2021 www.wmur.com/article/fritz-wetherbee-john-wingate-weeks-1627992404/37208481

Making a Splash in Newmarket, Carriage Towne News, July 30, 2021. www.carriagetownenews.com/news/making-a-splash-in-newmarket/article_b755c2ba-f150-11eb-9b06-4f90815e3505.html

Mobile vaccine van to make stops at New Hampshire state parks, WMUR, Aug. 16, 2021
www.wmur.com/article/mobile-vaccine-van-to-make-stops-at-new-hampshire-state-parks/37322174

Simply the best: Hampton Beach lifeguards crowned life-saving champs, Seacoastonline, Aug. 12, 2021.
www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/08/12/hampton-beach-nh-lifeguards-champs-new-england-life-saving-competition/5561170001/

Abenaki leaders, Duston descendants gather on N.H.'s Hannah Duston island for first in-person state advisory committee meeting, NHPR, Aug. 12. 2021.
www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2021-08-12/abenaki-leaders-duston-descendants-gather-on-nh-s-hannah-duston-island

Hampton Beach Water Safety Day 2021, Seacoast Online, Aug. 12, 2021.
www.seacoastonline.com/picture-gallery/news/2021/08/12/hampton-beach-water-safety-day-2021/8099487002/

Public events:

Discover New Hampshire State Parks, Nesmith Public Library, Windham NH, June 22 at 6 p.m.
www.nesmithlibrary.org/library-events/2021/05/27/virtual-discover-new-hampshire-state-parks

NH Division of Park & Rec: Friday, 6/25 @ 10:30am

Gilford Library in conjunction with Gilford Neighbors, welcomes Brent Wucher, from the NH Division of Parks and Recreation. Learn about the diversity of our state parks, accessibility and cost savings for seniors.

Weeks State Park Summer Programs

- July 29 at 7pm: White Mtns. Waterfalls - Bruce Bolnick
- July 30 at 9am: Waterfalls Field Trip – Bruce Bolnick
- Aug 5 at 7pm: (via Zoom) - Owls of New Hampshire - Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
- Aug 12 at 7pm: Garland Mill - Water-powered for 164 years – Dana Southworth
 - (sponsored by the Beliveau Family)
- Aug 13 at 4pm: Field Trip to Garland Mill
 - (sponsored by the Beliveau Family)
- Aug 19 at 7pm: Concert by Islay Mist Céilidh after the WSPA annual meeting
- Sep 12 from 1 - 4pm: Autumn Flower Walk – Matt Peters

IN APPRECIATION ~~~

*“I want to thank you so much for installing granite slabs to access and leave **No. Beach** in Hampton. Those stairs mean so much to all of us, but perhaps people are not thanking you. I have broken my ribs trying to get down off the northernmost access to the beach and now I can go up and down all the entrances from Boar’s head no. to the northernmost access to the beach. I am 81 years old and very agile, but those huge rocks at some of the entrances and exits are no match for me anymore. I don’t want to sit on the handicapped platform. I want to walk on the beach and now I am able to do that with my service dog. It was dangerous even trying to get off and on the platform from the beach before anyway.*

“Your lift operator was so friendly and happy to be doing that job too.

“Again, thank you so much and God Bless all involved. A lot of us older folks are not physically handicapped yet, but we do have our limits!!!!”

Marie Dargon and Teddy my hearing and alert dog of 13 yrs. Together

*“Good morning. Please forward this email to the appropriate people. My name is Gary Pinard and I live next to The **Hampton Beach State Park**, at [REDACTED]. I wanted to let everyone know that the maintenance of the park this year is the best we have seen in the 20 years we have lived here. AWESOME job!! This group of people are taking pride in their work and whoever is managing the park, is doing an incredible job. We can see that there are schedules and expectations established.*

“I just wanted to send this email, because I am sure you get emails when things are bad. I wanted everyone to know that The Hampton Beach State Park is in good hands and the group is doing an outstanding job.

Well done!!!!”

Gary Pinard

“Craig, thank you and your department for being so easy to work with in our common interest of maintaining and improving this fabulous recreational rail trail. You guys are the best!”

Yours, Lindy

“I wanted to send you a little collection of complimentary comments that I have received about the restoration work recently completed on the Presidential Rail Trail.

“Below are a few emails and Facebook posts from trail users who have made comments about the work, and comments about meeting Chris [Holt] on the trail. I thought Chris might enjoy these!

“I have also chatted with trail users, and a few Gorham and Randolph residents that I have met out on the trail. All have been impressed with the work. One was concerned about the wildflowers getting removed, but David Govatski told him about how the clearing of the grass and debris from the ditches will open up a new habitat for the native species to recolonize. This is what is happening in Pondicherry after last years’ rail trail restoration project.

“I was curious about how the newly restored trail would appear right after a rainstorm. A local friend and his buddy visiting from Florida biked the entire xNHAT on Monday. They reported no issues biking down the Presidential Rail Trail on the newly restored surface after the 3 days of rainy weather. Yay!

“Could you please share this email with Chris? He might enjoy the compliments!

"I hope to continue to collaborate, as best I can, on more of these types of projects. I am hopeful that our projects on the Presidential and Ammonoosuc RTs, past, present and future, will improve the trails for all users.

"Thank you for providing the way for this work to get funded and accomplished! A Thank you to Chris for his expertise in trail sculpting and restoration!"

Marianne

"Hi Meredith, Thank you very much for taking the time to display the new access beach mats. They are a wonderful addition, and truly embrace accessibility.

"Phil, kudos to you and your staff. NH State Parks are always willing and effective collaborators.

"Take care and be well!"

*Charles J. Saia, Esq.
Executive Director
Governor's Commission on Disability*

"Hi, Sarah. I just wanted to tell you how amazing I think our northern State Parks are. I camped at Jericho Mountain in June and stayed in a yurt at Milan Hill State Park this past weekend. The facilities are so clean and well taken care of, the staff is personable and proactive--just wanted to tell you how much I've enjoyed my experiences there. Thank you for making enjoying the outdoors such a positive experience! Angela Brown, one of your Arts Councilors."

*Angela F. Brown, Certified Music Practitioner
President, MHTP Board of Directors
Councilor, NH State Council on the Arts*

REPORTS TO BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY:

- Parks Comparative Statements FY2022, as of August 12, 2021
- SCA (Student Conservation Assn) NH Corps Education Season 2021 Report