

Director's Report
STATE PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Division of Parks and Recreation
March 7, 2023
(Last report date was June 13, 2022)

STATE PARK SYSTEM FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- **FY2023 Park System Comparative Statement** (sent separately) covering Week 35 from July 1, 2022 to March 2, 2023, has revenue at \$9,063,094, up slightly by 7.9% from the previous period in FY22. Day-use, camping, Franconia Notch and State Park Plates are included in this revenue report. Cannon Mtn unaudited ski ops and retail revenue is \$5.4M, down 23% from the previous period FY22 of \$6.9M. Hampton Parking Meters is \$1.6M, down slightly 3% from the previous period in FY22 of \$1.7M.
- **FY2023 Retail Comparative Statement** (sent separately) covering Week 35 has revenue, excluding Mt Washington, at \$2.8M, up 19% from the previous period in FY22. Mt Washington revenue reached \$1.3M, down slightly 4.6% from the previous period in FY22. We are now reporting E-Commerce sales at \$16.6K in Week 35.
- **Parks Forecast Report** (provided separately)
- **NH State Park Plate** As of Mar 4th, there were 17,022 State Park plates and 2,795 Moose plates registered. FY23 to date revenue is \$1,046,633. The total revenue earned in FY22 from State Park Plates closed at \$1,500,880.
- **Donations** NH State Parks received \$98,340 from 14,183 online donations in CY22. We have received \$68,177 from 9,652 online donations for FY23 to date (2/28/23).
- **E-Commerce & Season Passes** NHSP finished 2022 having sold 2,922 items through our online store, resulting in \$186,230.65 in revenue. Of that, \$170,434.50 is revenue from season passes (1,716 sold). The best-selling retail item in the online store was the Collectible White Lake State Park Sign.
- **Gift Cards** 574 Gift Cards were sold in CY22, with a total value of \$47,535.10. In FY23-to-date (2/28/23), Parks has sold 494 gift cards (a \$42,793 value). The 3 new gift card designs have been a big hit in the store, and customers enjoy getting to select a graphic tailored to their activity of choice.

CANNON MOUNTAIN

- There are several big high school ski races scheduled at **Cannon Mountain** in March. The Cannon snowmaking and grooming team has been doing their best to maintain a strategic balance to ensure there is enough, quality ski terrain for the public while keeping the Mittersill side of the mountain available to ski races and training. This winter's wacky weather has not made this easy. Hats (helmets?) off to the entire ski industry out there night and day, working additional shifts, to provide the best experience possible for all skiers.
- Congresswoman Annie Kuster requested a tour of the new **Mittersill Performance Center** at Cannon Mountain on August 17, 2022.

PARK OPERATIONS

- NH State Parks was well represented at this year's **State Park Leadership School** in West Virginia. Logan Thorner, Alec Wooley, and Clare Joyce all attended as first year students. This program, sponsored by the National Association of State Park Directors, brings park staff from across North America together for a week of leadership training, swapping park stories, and creating innovative solutions to the unique challenges we face in state park management.

GREAT NORTH WOODS MANAGEMENT AREA

- It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of **Sandy Young's** passing. Sandy's career with NH State Parks exceeded any SJD, any projects, goals and tasks assigned. He embodied the epitome of what a true public servant could be. He was a friend to so many within this agency and with state employees in many other departments. His legacy in the North Country, and throughout the DNCR, will be long lasting.
- Brian Parise is the new **Great North Woods Regional Supervisor**. Brian brings close to 15 years of park experience to the GNWs working in numerous locations along the seacoast in a variety of roles. Brian will take on this role beginning on 2/24/23 with his office eventually being in our new Gorham building. The building is currently under renovation so he will temporarily be out of Jericho Mountain State Park.
- Starlink internet added to **Coleman Lodge** building. Replaced slow cradle point. Great promise to improve internet across GNW.
- Bathhouse improvements at **Moose Brook**.
- **Jericho** and **Umbagog** saw good work from SCA, working on the Jericho Falls trail and building 2 lean-tos at Umbagog

SOUTH REGION

- A New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker, commemorating the **Miller State Park** as the first state park in New Hampshire, has been installed atop Pack Monadnock in Peterborough. The marker reads:

MILLER STATE PARK
NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FIRST STATE PARK

A gift of three acres atop Pack Monadnock in 1891 for use as a 'park or pleasure-ground,' Miller State Park has grown to more than 530 acres. 'Pack,' an ancient Abenaki word meaning 'small,' contrasts its summit with nearby Mount Monadnock. The site has included a 'mountain highway,' two different hotels that each succumbed to fire, and a fire look-out tower built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The park is named for Peterborough native Gen. James Miller."

The marker, which is located within the park, was unveiled on September 23 at a ribbon cutting for the Miller State Park revitalization project. It is the 270th marker in New Hampshire's Historical Highway Marker program

- Commissioner Stewart was joined by DNCR staff at **Greenfield State Park** to cut the ribbon on one of the five dishwashing stations that the 185th NH National Guard Engineering Detachment built. The **NH National Guard & DNCR** partnered through the Innovative Readiness Training program that delivers training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. This project allowed the guard to train and apply plumbing, electrical and carpentry skills. DNCR staff designed the project, provided logistical support and a master plumber and electrician to assist and supervise the guard members.
- On July 19-22, 2022, the NH Timber Owners Association Educators Day- **Bear Brook State Park**, Bear Hill Cabins and Dining Hall.
- **Pawtuckaway** Bathroom 4 renovation is complete.
- **Bear Brook**: Completed Bear Brook Management Plan, Bear Hill and Catamount Equestrian camping expansion plans are in development, subject to sufficient funding. Host site for the Division of Historical Resources' SCRAP (State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program), two 2-week sessions in June and July when archaeologists and volunteers will conduct fieldwork to find artifacts in accordance with standards set by the National Park Service.
- **Clough**: Expanded store and increased retail sales.

- **Miller:** Eversource Project complete, The Eversource project to replace the power line and make other improvements at Miller is in the home stretch.
- **Monadnock:** A new 5-year lease was signed with the Forest Society with new emphasis on Monadnock trail maintenance. The lease also allows for revenue collection at other parking lots.

CENTRAL REGION

- **Wellington** once again has a new manager, Dawn Fafard. We promoted internally and have high hopes for a smooth operation at Wellington this year.
- **Crawford Retail** exceeded revenue expectations last year and the Willy House store still has much room for growth and increased revenue for the 2023 season.
- Our return rate for **seasonal staff** is very high despite the local business wage competitiveness. We have built a great team of managers and staff.
- We helped procure 7 **UTVs** to help compliment on campus travel. UTV's cost half the price of trucks, make travel easier in parks, and because of their size are easier and safer to navigate. Note: These UTV's will be distributed throughout the park system.

SEACOAST REGION

- Established a new full-time position of **Waterfront Safety Supervisor**. This position is responsible for oversight of our ocean lifeguards, as well as helping inland beaches develop standard training techniques used by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA).
- **Hampton Beach State Park** was featured in NESN's "Explore New England" through partnership with the Hampton Beach Area Chamber of Commerce <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ2gevVt5Pg&feature=youtu.be>
- **Wallis Sands** store interior was renovated with a fresh look.
- New contract established with IPS Group for parking management at **metered parking spots**. New features in this contract will include the option to pay by mobile phone.
- Invasive species management continued at **Odiorne Point** to remove Bittersweet and other non-native species. Planting of native species to continue this summer. This is an ongoing project with our partners at Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD).

MOUNT WASHINGTON

- A big milestone was set this month with Governor Sununu's acceptance of the [Mount Washington Master Plan](#). This 10-year plan was long overdue and took a lot of effort from Agency staff, the team at Mount Washington State Park, and the Mount Washington Commission members. Now that the plan is in place, the real work begins on using this roadmap to work towards many deliverables.
- Mount Washington State Park went viral during the first weekend in February with record setting weather conditions once again. Setting an official **new North America record of lowest wind chill temperature of -108**, and matching a previous record of -47 air temp. We proudly claimed coldest recorded location on the planet at that time, and news coverage is comparing conditions to Mars. It was just another day on the rock pile for staff, who kept their cool as doors were literally blowing off the Sherman Adams Building.
- Closed for the season on October 17th : **360,000 visitors** for the 2022 operating season, retail sales down from 2021 but up over 2019.
- **New tables for public seating** in the cafeteria will be in place for 2023 season.

- **New tracks for snowcat** purchased and installed for the 22/23 winter travel season.
- **A new van and new park truck** should also be here to start the 2023 season; replacing 10 year old vehicles that have a tough task of daily commute up and down the mountain.
- DNCR acquired the former NH DES building in Gorham; will be a **new office space** for Mount Washington State Park and Great North Woods with future expansion desired for Mount Washington's daily off mountain needs.
- A new **information wall is in development for the Visitor Center** in collaboration with the Mount Washington Observatory.
- New and improved **hiking trail signs for the summit** should be ready and installed for the 2023 season.
- Working on **developing new interpretive signs** for the summit area and indoor area of the Sherman Adams Building.
- Renovation work on the **Tip Top House** expected to begin again in early Spring. Electrical wiring needs to be overhauled and updated.
- New **Wastewater Treatment Plant and new water system** Capitol project will continue throughout the 2023 season and expected to begin again in late May.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES (BHS)

- We welcome **Matthew Flanders** as the Director of the Bureau of Historic Sites. Matt brings a great deal of experience and knowledge that will be helpful in working with our partners, including the legislature and volunteers, and within a large organization like the state system to move Historic Sites and the Division forward. Matt joins the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources after years of working in government including periods with Governor Jon Huntsman and U.S. Senator's John McCain and Kelly Ayotte. Most recently, Matt supported large scale construction projects focusing primarily on stakeholder and municipality relations.
- We also welcome **Elizabeth Jurgilewicz**, Program Specialist for the Bureau. She graduated from Franklin Pierce University with a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology. While at FPU, Elizabeth competed on the atlatl team, completed an archaeological field school, and became a board member at the Rindge Historical Society. She spent the summer of 2022 at the Franklin Pierce Homestead as a park attendant and enjoyed giving tours, working with the collection, and researching the Pierce family.
- Hillsborough 250th Celebration hosted at the **Franklin Pierce Homestead** on 11/12/22.
- NHIAA Ski Jumping Championships hosted at the **Nansen Ski Jump** on 2/16/23. NH is the only state in the country with competitive high school ski jumping.
- Matthew Flanders serves on the Moose Plate Marketing Committee. The committee is currently in the planning phase of a celebration for the **25th anniversary of the Moose Plate legislation**.
- Governor Sununu's first executive order of 2023 was to retire the Robert Frost Farm governor appointed advisory group that was founded in 1974 to restore the property for the 100th anniversary of Robert Frost's birth. The Frost Farm will move forward with only a self-appointed foundation, known as the **Frost Farm Trustees**.
- We have many **ARPA funded projects** being currently planned for the coming year and look forward to showing off our work in next report.

BUREAU OF TRAILS (BOT)

- In August 2022, BOT hired a new **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Coordinator**, Jay Scarborough, which was previously held by Alexis Rudko. Jay has quickly learned the complicated federal RTP program and has been effectively leading and managing this program.
- BOT also recently hired a **Non-motorized Coordinator**, Andrew Pacuk, which is a newly created position to assist the Bureau in working with our non-motorized volunteers and trail partners. Andrew starts on March 10, 2023, and comes to us from the NHDOT Bureau of Right-of-Way.
- BOT received an **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award** for \$4 million dollars to assist with replacing our aging snowmobile grooming fleet and to help create a statewide trail mapping GIS tool to assist with management of the statewide trail system.
- **Snowmobile registrations and report:**
 - As of March 2, 2023, 35,422 snowmobiles were registered in NH, of which 21,900 are resident registrations, and 13,522 were non-resident registrations.
 - Much of this year's snowfall has occurred in late February and March, which may reduce the total registration numbers for the season.
- **OHRV registrations and report:**
 - As of March 2, 2023, 40,822 OHRVs were registered in NH, of which 24,497 are resident registrations, and 16,325 were non-resident registrations.
 - OHRV season is currently closed in most areas and is scheduled to open May 23, 2023.
- **Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Program:**
 - In the fall of 2022 the BOT GIA program, with recommendations from the GIA Advisory Committee, awarded \$2,463,358.62 for winter grooming to the snowmobile clubs, which included a 10% increase in the hourly grooming reimbursement rate to help offset high fuel costs.
 - In the spring of 2022, the GIA program also awarded the snowmobile clubs \$1,819,310.19 and the OHRV clubs \$1,136,509.09 for summer trail construction/improvement projects throughout the state.
- **Recreational Trail Program (RTP):**
 - Remaining Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 projects are in the process of being closed out in advance of the approval of FFY 2023's projects.
 - With the exception of one project granted an extension due to unforeseen circumstances, all FFY 2022 Community projects have completed work and were very successful. In total \$735,730.36 was awarded to 22 Community Projects in FFY 2023.
 - FFY 2022 Department projects are still underway, with some nearing or achieving completion. A total of \$475,476.64 was awarded to 11 Department projects in FFY2022.
 - FFT 2023 Projects are currently in the NEPA review process and are anticipated to be ready for presentation to Governor and Council for approval by May/June 2023 after which the projects can commence
- **Summary of completed projects that occurred in all BOT districts:**
 - District 1 (North)
 - BOT repaired a 95 linear foot washout along the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail in Lisbon which was completed under an emergency DES permit in April 2022 using a bioengineered stabilization techniques that utilizes root wads and trees as a form of soft armoring and additional bank plantings to stabilize the bank.

- BOT Partnered with the Cross NH Adventure Trail bicycle group and the Ammonoosuc Valley ATV Club to complete various resurfacing of the Presidential and Ammonoosuc Rail Trails. BOT staff graded and compacted about 5 miles of the rail bed in Littleton and Bethlehem and installed gravel on about 1 mile of rail bed in Lisbon to help improve the trail surface for bicyclist.
 - BOT also partnered with the Cross NH Adventure Trail group to complete an additional 2+ miles of rail removal on the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail.
 - District 1 staff completed mowing along the Presidential Rail Trail, which is 18 mile long, mowing along 10 miles of snowmobile/ATV trails in Success and mowing 8 miles of rail grade from Bethlehem to Whitefield.
 - At Jericho Mountain State Park, District 1 staff completed trail excavation work along with road grading using a rock crusher on the road and installing additional gravel on trails.
 - On the Success Pond ATV Trail, District 1 staff rehabilitated sections of the trail and replaced a 30-foot bridge with the help of the Milan Trail Huggers ATV Club.
 - On the Connecticut Headwaters Property, BOT staff continued roadside mowing, grading, ditching, culvert replacement and graveling sections of the extensive 260-mile road network. BOT also replaced a culvert with a large bridge on the Deadwater Road.
 - As a result of a recent land sale and loss of an existing parking lot, BOT staff completed building a new Snowmobile/OHRV parking lot in Millsfield.
- District 2 (East)
- BOT District 2 staff completed the construction of a new parking lot for visitors at Pawtuckaway State Park.
 - Trail repair and improvements were made to approximately 1 mile of trail at Bear Brook State Park.
 - District 2 staff completed Phase 1 of an LWCF grant to replace 25 gates and improve road crossing approaches on the Rockingham Recreation Trail. In addition, improvements were done to the Warner Hill ATV parking lot.
 - District 2 staff coordinated the roof replacement of the Fremont Railroad Depot building and the Fernald Railroad Depot building.
 - District 2 staff resurfaced the parking lot Fernald Railroad Station.
 - District 2 staff completed roof and siding repairs of the Bartlett Storage Facility.
 - Corridor 15 bridge re-decking was completed by District 2 staff on the 100' long Gilman Valley Bridge in Tamworth.
 - District 2 staff also completed the re-decking of 2 bridges on Rockingham Recreation Trail in Candia and Raymond.
 - BOT staff spread and graded 800 + tons of gravel on sections of Rockingham Recreation Trail between Manchester and Epping to improve surface conditions.
 - District 2 staff completed improvements to Cotton Valley Rail Trail in Wolfeboro that included adding gravel, mowing, and installing guard rails.
 - Staff spent many hours cleaning up storm damage from various storms that affected the year-round use of rail trails.
 - District 2 staff worked to resolve several beaver dam flooding issues along existing trails.

- District 3 (West)
 - District 3 staff completed annual grading of several of the Rail Trails in April, that included 9.5 miles of the Sugar River Rail Trail, 7.5 miles of the Hillsborough Branch, and 7 miles of the Hopkinton/Everett ATV riding park located on Army Corp of Engineers property.
 - District 3 staff also performed maintenance on other rail trails in the district including the Cheshire Trail (Fitzwilliam to Keene to Walpole) 42 miles, the Ashuelot Trail (Keene to Hinsdale) 21 miles, the Fort Hill Trail (Hinsdale) 8.9 miles, the Monadnock Trail (Rindge to Jaffrey) 7.2 miles and the Greenville Trail 2.2 miles. These are all multi use trails and are used year-round.
 - In May of 2022, District 3 staff completed trail rehabilitation at the Hopkinton/Everett ATV Riding Park to keep conditions safe for riders. Work included grading, filling in holes, ditching, bridge cleaning and repair.
 - In June of 2022, District 3 staff completed several bridge repairs on the Sugar River Rail Trail in Claremont. 5,000 board feet of wear plates were replaced as part of ongoing bridge maintenance.
 - District 3 staff re-decked 5 bridges the Northern Rail Trail (Boscawen to Lebanon) 59.3 miles. All old decking boards were removed and replaced. Two of the bridges were large at 200 feet long. A total of 600 linear feet of decking was completed in 2022.
 - District 3 staff worked to complete the paving of 3 tunnels on the Northern Rail Trail in the Canaan area. These tunnels were very hard to navigate for all multi-use trail user groups. BOT received assistance from the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail group.
 - District 3 staff spent an enormous amount of time responding to storm damage throughout the Southwest region and coordinated directly with FEMA to assess on-site damage to public trails.

STATE PARKS RETAIL PROGRAMS Refer to the Retail Comparative Statement data, reported above.

ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

DAY-USE & CAMPING RESERVATION SYSTEM

- **Day Use Reservations.** Day use reservations continued to be an asset to visitors looking to plan ahead, however, this season we saw the visitation rates settle into a more “normal” post pandemic pattern. There were 122,463 day-use reservations were made in CY22, resulting in \$4,255,547.55. The State park system welcomed a total of 1,046,267 day-use visitors in 2022.
- **Camping Reservations.** CY22 ended with \$4.3 million in camping reservation revenue, from 58,085 reservation transactions. We closed the year with 141,130 camping visitors (record high # of campers), not including primitive camping transactions conducted through the iron ranger. We have been working to expand our primitive seasons, offering camping in the beginning of April and through the end of October across the South Region and in select Central Region facilities.

SEACOAST PARKING ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

On 11/2/22 the Governor and Executive Council approved the contract for the Division to work with IPS Group, Inc., for our Parking Enterprise System. This contract will allow the Division to streamline all aspects of its current metered parking programs being used along the NH Seacoast into one Parking Enterprise System to greatly improve the overall management of the program.

One of the primary goals of this new System is to maximize our potential in revenue collection and reporting. By utilizing the software provided by IPS Group, Inc., the Division will be able to manage parking payments, vehicle registration information, citation payments, fees, citation voids and appeals, sending notices to outstanding accounts, and sending delinquent accounts to our collection agency. Advanced technology will also allow the Division to keep up with the demand for convenience of services and acceptance of payments by our guests, including the new option of paying using their mobile phone.

DESIGN, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) PROJECTS (Updates available from the [Parks website.](#))

- Three appropriations:
 - DNCR (Div Forests & Lands / Div Parks & Recreation) \$22,570,000
 - Historic Sites \$4,045,000
 - Bureau of Trails \$4,000,000
- Campground Expansion Project: Feasibility study cost estimates exceeded available funding. Three sites were moved into Phase II for design & engineering; Jericho Mountain, Pawtuckaway and Mollidgewock.
- Cannon Sewer: 90% design drawings received. Out to bid in March.
- Fire Tower Repair: Fire Tower Inventory Forms and Management Plan complete. Bids submitted, waiting for DFL to ok the contract.
- State Forest Nursery Irrigation System: RFP for design & construction released 2/24.
- Weeks SP: SOW still being worked out and once that is outlined need to submit a DPW project request form for Architect Consulting assistance.
- Wentworth Coolidge Mansion SHS: RFQ for consultant services to do a Conditions Assessment and Climate Adaptation Recommendations released 2/15, due 3/8.
- Fort Constitution SHS: RFQ released for consultant services to do a Conditions Assessment and provide Treatment Recommendations. Selected AEON Consulting.
- Fort Stark SHS: Pre-Bid meeting scheduled for 3/2. Matt and Johanna are meeting with the New Castle selectmen on 3/6 to brief them on the projects at the Forts.
- Franconia Notch SP: Bid awarded to Lincoln Sign to replace gallows and stone base signs in the notch. \$96,000.
- Hampton Beach RV Campground: Complete.
- Rye Harbor SP: Bathroom renovation complete

SCA (Student Conservation Assn) NH CORPS

- Three-year contract for Program Years 2023, 2024 & 2025, approved by G&C in October 2022.
- Restart of the Discover the Power of Parks nature programming after pandemic suspension. Over 50,000 program contacts under this popular program.
- Conservation Crew worked on a variety of projects including rerouting a trail impacted by the Bemis Fire in Crawford Notch and constructing 2 camping shelters at Umbagog Lake SP.
- Over 2,000 hours of in-kind service at Spruce Pond Camp and at parks.

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY RECREATION

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM Since the program inception in 2010, the volunteer program has seen steady growth to encompass over 35 long term volunteer groups . After a little dip in recorded hours during covid we are beginning to see the numbers return to pre pandemic. 2022 volunteer hours are still being collected through the submissions of groups Annual work plans.

- **Nansen Ski Club:**
 - First jump at Nansen Wayside Historic site at their winter carnival
 - Received National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) award
- **Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund:**
 - Installation of second batch of memorial pavers as a fundraiser

- **Trail Cooperative Meetings**

- BBSP Trail Cooperative Meeting: Monday, March 14th, 5:30-7:00pm
- Pisgah SP Trail Cooperative Meeting: Monday, April 11th, 6:00-7:30pm

- **Department led trail clean-up days**

- Blue Job SF/Trail wrights trail clean-up day: Saturday, April 30th, 8:30am-2:00pm
- BBSP DNCR led trail clean-up day: Sunday, April 10th
- Pisgah SP DNCR led trail clean-up day: Saturday, April 16th

- Held two **chainsaw classes** for volunteers

- **David Baum community group** at Miller SP

- Beautification of summit after Eversource project
- Ribbon Cutting with the Governor and new historical market at the summit

- Due to a vacancy in the **Volunteer Coordinator** position, the position went through a reclassification and has since been reposted. We are looking to hire the position before the end of March.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND Through the Division of Parks and Recreation-Bureau of Community Recreation seven local communities were awarded subgrants in October 2022 under Grant Round #32 the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) totaling **\$1,065,996.42**. These matching and reimbursement-based grants will be used towards the development or renovation of public outdoor recreation lands and facilities.

Project #	Sponsor	Project Name	Federal Award
33-00746	Town of Antrim	Gregg Lake Beach Park III	\$165,165.00
33-00747	Town of Gorham	Gorham Common II	\$83,963.88
33-00748	City of Lebanon	Storrs Hill Ski Area II	\$400,400.00
33-00749	Town of Goshen	Discovery Park	\$74,688.61
33-00750	Town of Farmington	Fernald Park	\$62,562.50
33-00751	Timberlane RSD	Timberlane Public Track	\$211,148.43
33-00752	Piermont SD	Piermont Community Playground	\$68,068.00
TOTAL:			\$1,065,996.42

- Seven applications were received under Grant Round #33 totaling **\$2,569,680.00** in requests. Selected applications will be submitted to the National Park Service for approval, and to Governor and Council for further approval by the end of the 2023 calendar year. Grant Round #33 marks the second year that the Division’s new

LWCF online grants application and management platform, AmpliFund, has performed successfully for the local application process. We look forward to the continued use and function of the AmpliFund platform.

PROMOTIONS EVENTS

- 2023 First Day Hike
 - **Over 950 individuals participated** in the years hike which were hosted at seven State Park locations. Host location included; Frost Farm, Greenfield, Monadnock, Odiorne, Milan Hill, White Lake and Pisgah.
 - <https://www.nhstateparks.org/news-events/first-day-hike>

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

AGREEMENTS.

- **Blue Ocean Society** contract for the use of a portion of the Hampton Beach Seashell Complex for the operation of a marine education center to provide visitors educational and interpretive services. *IN PROCESS.*
- **Mt Washington Auto Road** agreement for the use of summit parking lots at Mount Washington State Park, expires June 30, 2023.
- **Centerplate Sodexo** concessionaire contract for food and beverage services at FNSP/Cannon Mountain, expires on May 16, 2024.
- **AMC** lease for use and operation of Lonesome Lake Hut, expires on June 30, 2024.
- **Mount Washington Observatory** lease for use of museum and weather observatory space at the summit of Mt Washington, expires September 30, 2024.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROGRAM (SUP)

In 2022, we issued approximately 200 special use permits including filming, guiding and special use permits. These permits are issued to cover events such as sporting competitions, road or trail races, bicycle demonstrations, fundraisers, and fishing tournaments, to name a few. To date we have received nearly 50 permit applications for the 2023 calendar year and, if the requests continue at this rate, we could easily surpass the 200 issued in 2022.

Notable recent Events include:

- **33rd Annual Seafood Festival** that takes place the weekend following Labor Day at Hampton Beach State Park.
- **6th Annual Swim with a Mission (SWAM)** hosted at Wellington State Park in July. SWAM is a fundraising event that includes an open water swim race. The proceeds benefit the US Navy SEALs Museum in Florida as well as charities in NH including the Veterans Count and Bridges House Homeless Shelter & Veterans Advocacy.
- **6th Annual Overland Summer Camps** program that takes place in multiple parks over the summer. Overland is a for-profit organization that offers overnight summer camps to children with the focus on outdoor recreation.

LIBRARY PASS PROGRAM

To date, NH State Parks Library Pass program has received requests from 20 municipalities across the state and we have issued 20 passes to 18 of those municipalities through 2/28/23. These numbers are consistent with the number of passes issued in 2022 and we are working with the State Library to help spread the word to all municipal libraries across the state.

MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

The Division is pursuing a **large-scale recruitment campaign** with our marketing agency Drive Brand Studio. Drive will deploy traditional and digital tactics to reach potential candidates wherever they are, whether online, social media and/ or radio. These potential employees may be college students, retirees, teachers, high school students and outdoor enthusiasts. Tactics will include a programmatic digital advertising, social media paid advertising, print placement, and radio spots. This is the most robust recruitment campaign that the Division has put forth thus far and it is our hope that the added strategies will produce results in numbers at your parks

PRESS RELEASES:

2/16/2023 - NH State Parks opens grant round for public outdoor recreation projects The N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation has announced that it has begun accepting proposals for 2023 Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, a program that assists with public outdoor recreational projects. LWCF grants for local assistance are funded by the National Parks Service and administered in New Hampshire by N.H. State Parks' Bureau of Community Recreation. Funded projects may focus on developing new or renovating existing outdoor recreation support facilities, acquiring property for public outdoor recreation use or a combination of both development and acquisition.

12/16/2022 - More than \$1 million in Land and Water Conservation Funds awarded to NH communities for outdoor recreation projects The N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation has announced that seven communities across the state will receive a total of \$1,064,931.50 in federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to assist with public outdoor recreational projects.

10/19/2022 - Brian Wilson confirmed as new director of NH State Parks At today's Governor and Council meeting, Executive Council members unanimously confirmed Brian Wilson as the new director of the N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation.

6/24/2022 - JOIN THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS AND NH STATE PARKS FOR THE 16th ANNUAL MONADNOCK TRAILS WEEK To help keep Mt. Monadnock safe and welcoming for hikers, the Forest Society and N.H. State Parks will be hosting the 16th Annual Monadnock Trails Week, July 22-July 26, 2022. Trail improvement projects are planned all over the mountain in this weeklong event, as well as events and gatherings.

IN APPRECIATION ~~

"I just hiked the incredible Mt Washington!! I was prepared for most anything, but 20' to the top I started feeling weird. We were waiting to take the cog down and I got sick a lot in the cafeteria. I didn't see or feel it coming and don't know why. My hiking partner got first aid to come. An older gentleman [Guy Jubinville] and a young woman whose name I think was Cam [Camryn Casey]. They couldn't have been nicer, I was mortified and they would have none of that. Have led me to the first aid office and I hung out there for a little bit. They checked on us, and gave me a change of pants because mine were soaking. I can't say enough nice things about that kindness, they went above and beyond to be helpful and I can never thank them enough. I am so sorry for what I did to your cafeteria. I'm sure you know how wonderful your employees are, but I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated them."

Claudia, June 21, 2022

"This past weekend, the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club held its annual open house. It was a wonderful success celebrating Railroad History: 1 50 years for the Boston & Maine RR and the 30th anniversary of the CVRTC. And, over 330 people had a chance to ride the rails in the Club's motor cars. Railroad memories and smiles galore made it a great day. But, what I want to recognize at this time is Michael Weeks. Mike is always finding ways to help us help the Bureau. This spring he was able to supply the necessary road gravel for the Town of Wolfeboro to restore the parking lot at Fernald Station. That parking lot was actually useable this past weekend and most of all safe for public use!... We truly appreciate Mike, his team - Frank & Josh, and all entire staff of the NH Bureau of Trails. Thank You so much!!!"

Noreen McDonald, Co-Chair, Cotton Valley Trail Committee, Aug 23, 2022

REPORTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY:

- Parks & Retail Comparative Statements, Week 35
- Parks Forecast Report
- Parks Legislative Report, 2023 Session

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