



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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April 19, 2013

The Honorable Shannon Chandley, Chairman  
House Resources Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 190 and Making Parks Available to All NH Citizens

Dear Chairman Chandley and Members of the Committee,

This is to confirm the commitment of the Division of Parks and Recreation to establish a program to help ensure that access to the parks system is available to all state citizens, including seniors, regardless of their ability to pay.

State Parks will initiate a pilot during the upcoming summer season with one city library and one town library to provide at least one free family day use pass and two individual day use passes to see how this program might work. This would be done with the guidance of the State Parks System Advisory Council and in conjunction with local outreach to ensure that residents are aware of the program. Assuming the program works and there is support from the libraries we would look to extend it across the state. There have been three libraries in recent years that have purchased day use parks season's passes to provide to residents.

If for some reason the library program does not work, we would look to partner with other organizations or agencies that would achieve the same goal.

As was mentioned at the hearing on SB190 the issue of financial impact on parks visitors came up as we discussed the impact that the bill might have on seniors who cannot afford the \$20 Granite Pass. We would suggest any program not just address seniors, but all citizens and families in the state who would find it difficult to afford the daily park user fees.

We will keep you informed of our progress and would welcome suggestions going forward as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce".

Philip A. Bryce  
Director

PAB/mc

C: Jeffrey J. Rose, Commissioner  
Honorable Representative Suzanne Smith