State of New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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FY2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Philip A. Bryce, Director
Division of Parks and Recreation





New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Division of Parks and Recreation

STATUTORY MISSION

RSA 216-A:1 Intent.

- I. To protect and preserve unusual scenic, scientific, historical, recreational, and natural areas within the state.
- II. To continually provide such additional park areas and facilities as may be necessary to meet the recreational needs of the citizens of all regions of the state.
- III. To make these areas accessible to the public for recreational, education, scientific, and other uses consistent with their protection and preservation.
 - IV. To encourage and support tourism and related economic activity within the state.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide New Hampshire's citizens and guests with outstanding recreational, educational, and inspirational experiences through the responsible management and cooperative stewardship of the state's natural, recreational and cultural resources.

Strategic Plan Topic Areas:

- Stewardship
- Funding
- Statutory framework
- Management and operations
- Marketing/programming and products

Parks Operations Priorities	Parks Improvement Focus Areas
Safety	✓ Picnic Tables
Fiduciary	✓ Bathrooms
Compliance	✓ Lawns
Stewardship	✓ Trash
Customer Service	✓ Signs current
Relationships	✓ Paint, paint, paint
Organizational Health	✓ Straight and Level

There are 93 properties in the state park system. The first was Miller State Park acquired in 1881 and the newest park property is the 400 acre Lafayette Brook Tract acquired in 2016. The beginning of the Parks and Recreation Division occurred in 1935 with the creation of the Forestry and Recreation Commission although the Forestry Commission had been created much earlier. The Division shares management responsibility for over 489,000 acres of state reservations with the Division of Forest and Lands

The parks system includes 38 day use areas, 23 campgrounds, 22 beaches, 7 waysides, 16 historic sites, 6 natural areas, 2 ski areas, 606 buildings, 7200 miles of snowmobile trails and 1,100 miles of ATV trails. Work is carried out with approximately 1100 employees, (most part time seasonal), 130 volunteer motorized trail clubs, 36 volunteer organizations and 9 statutory and advisory committees.

The total operating budget for the parks system is approximately 30 million dollars. Roughly ½ the budget is day use areas, campgrounds, beaches etc. ¼ of the pie is Cannon Mountain ski area and ¼ of the pie is the bureau of trails (primarily motorized).

The Division of Parks is operationally self-funded, with the exception of historic sites, raising all of its operational revenue from visitor and user fees, snowmobile and ATV registrations, and federal grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Recreational Trail Program. The fees collected at 49 of the 93 properties support the operation of the entire park system with 26 of those parks having a positive cash flow. The bureau of historic sites is operated through parks but is generally funded under the commissioner's office. Parks receives critical general fund support through the capital budget – roughly \$3.9 million over the biennium.

Estimates are that 6 million people visit our state parks each year. Visitation to NH parks contributes over \$500 million to the state's economy and directly supports 8,000 jobs. Snowmobiling, supported by our Trails Bureau and local clubs, delivers an additional economic impact of \$586 million to the state annually and we estimate that ATV use generates over another \$500 million. In addition, third parties generate use state parks to generate \$6 million in revenue through special use permits.

A million people visit parks where fees are charged. Fees are approved by the legislature and by statute are set to give parks "the ability to maximize revenues and to adjust fees according to market conditions and trends as is the common practice in private industry." Statutes further direct the operation of all enterprise functions within the park system, including ski lifts, food service, retail facilities, campgrounds, and other concession activities, to "be as profitable as possible, within the purposes of the park system." The legislature also does not intend that all park facilities be self-supporting. Parks the generate revenue are essential to keeping open those that cannot cover their cost. The language that guides our fees is critical to our ability to be able to be operationally self-funded.

We are fortunate in New Hampshire for the system of parks we have:

- Wellington State Park Voted one of the Top 8 Parks in the country for boating and fishing
- Franconia Notch State Park Ranks # 2 to Chugah State Park in Alaska, the third largest state park in the U.S. in Adventure Poll for its (in their words) diverse awesomeness
- Franconia Notch also was proclaimed as one of the top 20 state parks in the country out of 6,624 state parks in the USA
- Franconia Notch State Park rated one of top 10 perfect parks in the U.S by Fodor's.
- The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) continues to rate Hampton Beach State Park a five star beach and called New Hampshire coastal beaches 2nd cleanest in the nation
- Hampton Beach ranked one of the best boardwalks in the nation

• Cannon Mountain Ski Area continually receives top rankings in the region and in NH including WMUR Viewer's Choice Award for NH's #1 ski area.

Challenges Facing the Parks System

- Weather. Storm damage is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars a year particularly at the seacoast and on trails. In addition, analysis has indicated that rain will reduce revenue from 25 percent to 45+ percent at beaches and campgrounds and a 20 percent increase in rainy days could impact day use income by \$1.8 million annually. A lack of snow can impact ski area revenue and snowmobile registrations by as much as 50%.
- Long term financial stability. Park funds accounts are in the black now but the parks fund was carrying a \$2.6 million deficit in 2006. This deficit was eliminated in FY 2012.
- Deferred maintenance. The 2010 ten year strategic plan identified \$28.5 million in need in the next 5 years and \$71 million to replace and redevelop needed facilities in the next 10 years. The annual investment required to maintain the condition of the park system is between \$2.7 and %10.7 million based upon a 1% to 10% rule of thumb on \$267 million of park assets.
- Antiquated customer service processes, products and services (credit card processing and on line purchases).
- Adequate useful and timely information to make decisions including financial and customer data.
- Addressing the pressures on facilities, operations, abutters and communities from the increased volume of visitors.
- Adequate resources for trail stewardship and maintenance (especially hiking trails).
- Conflicts between trail users types and concerns over conflicts between trail users, communities and the environment.
- Part time work force and inadequate housing for seasonal help most of our park managers and employees, while very dedicated, are part time employees.
- Balancing peoples', organizations,' and businesses' expectations for use of a publicly held resource (including free use and fund-raising) with agency mission, revenue generation and public trust obligations.
- The safety of our visitors and their experience in our parks (particularly at campgrounds). Hazard trees are an issue for park systems across the country and parks is current dependent primarily on local law enforcement to enforce state laws and parks rules.

INITIATIVES

Customer Service

- Increase investments in hazard tree removal
- Evaluate carrying capacity of parks (contracted services) and make corresponding appropriate investments to increase and manage capacity (e.g. Monadnock and Franconia Notch)
- Utilize the park funds balance and surplus revenue to invest in deferred maintenance and improvements (Up to \$2.0 million of operating funds spent in FY2018 including storm damage response)
 - Use parks operating revenue to bond campground expansion projects to meet visitor demand and make bond payments (similar to Cannon Mountain Capital Improvement Fund)
 - Continue to use parks operations funds to increase recreational opportunities (e.g. Ellis Camps, Lafayette Brook lot playgrounds)

- o Maintain a balance in the Parks fund to cover revenue risk
- Ensure compliance with rules and protect visitor safety and experience, especially in campgrounds by continuing to pursue Fully implementing the deputy forest ranger and hiring and training staff dedicated to enforcement.
- Continue to extend season and hours of availability of parks (April 1 Thanksgiving vs. Memorial to Labor Day)
- Bring staff on early enough in the season to provide adequate customer service, operations and compliance training
- Continue to modernize fee collection (e.g. adequate connectivity at toll booths) and provide products and services on line (gift cards)
- Following up on the Coos Trails Study, continue to work with user groups, communities, organizations and public entities to provide the best experiences for all types of trail users
- Ensure that everyone knows what we have to offer and provide programming that connects people to parks and the outdoors (First Day Hikes and Discover the Power of Parks interpreters)
- Ensure all citizens and visitors have access to state parks and fees are equitable and do not serve as a deterrent

Stewardship

- Continue to use parks operating funds to supplement capital appropriation to address deferred maintenance in park facilities
- Concurrently update facilities to reduce ongoing maintenance costs
- Increase resources to address deferred maintenance of hiking trails and Connecticut Lakes Headwaters road system
- Invest in equipment to improve efficiency and reduce labor and hiring expenses and improve and ensure adequate maintenance of sites (e.g. trash collection Hampton)
- Implement improvement projects in FNSP through the Centerplate concession contract

Revenue

- More aggressive license plate marketing and availability
- Increase campground weekday occupancy
- On line sales of parks goods and services
- Add retail operations to high use park sites
- Charge fees at appropriate sites and increase the use of iron rangers
- Increase winter operations (Flume) and provide more year round employment opportunities
- Ensure the public is receiving an adequate return for the use of public resources including third party tenants and special use permittees.
- Complete restoration of Coleman Estates and Bear Hill in Bear Brook
- Maintain an adequate balance in the parks accounts to cover poor years and natural disaster response
- Leverage federal funds (LWCF and RTP) to support state and local investment in outdoor recreation.

Note: The Divisions' operating budget is a request for authorization to expend based upon revenue growth, good weather conditions, and grant obligations. Actual expenditures are adjusted (by a regular forecast) based upon revenue, the number of OHRV registrations, and when multiyear grant projects are completed (LWCF).

From the Image Perception Research Summary of Findings from November 2016 prepared for the Division of Travel and Tourism by Insights:

"... it is clear that New Hampshire is strongly perceived as a beautiful outdoor destination. While this helps to distinguish it from the likes of New York and Massachusetts, the key issue from a competitive standpoint may be how to distinguish the state from its most similar rivals."

A park system that is modern, well maintained and addresses visitors expectations combined with parks staff that are focused on creating the best experience and memories for visitors will easily set us apart from our rivals in other states and make New Hampshire the best state in which to invest, live, work and play.

Dec 2018 PAB 12/5/2019

				F	Replace	ement Cost	
Notes	Parks Fixed Asset	Number	Square Footage Miles	i	in Millions		
	1 Buildings (detail below)	669	421972		\$	91.90	
	Bridges	21			\$	6.51	
	Dams	26			\$	37.46	
	Septic Systems	149			\$	5.25	
	Water Systems	91			\$	1.89	
	Seawall Replacement			1.5	\$	32.53	
	2 Gravel Roads and Parking Lots			293	\$	57.61	
	Asphalt Roads and Parking Lots			36	\$	24.45	
	3 Hiking Trails DNCR Lands			230	\$	5.98	
				TOTAL		263.6	

Building Types	# of Buildings	Building Square Footage	Complete Building Replacement Cost (4)
Visitor Services	34	43175	\$ 11,326,775
(Offices, Administration)			
Bathroom Facilities	85	67547	\$ 34,218,601
(Restrooms/Changing Rooms & Showers)			
Historic Sites	41	82967	\$ 21,766,034
(museums)			
Educational/Training Centers	5	19553	\$ 2,811,045
(Science Center, Exhibits, Classrooms)			
Housing	17	21859	\$ 5,734,614
(Managers Residence, Staff Quarters)			
Retail & Visitor Services	11	18208	\$ 4,776,790
(Park Stores)			
Camps & Cabins & Yurts	96	28081	\$ 3,571,487
Camper & Hiking Shelters	46	10983	\$ 758,139
Pavilions	13	15435	\$ 1,108,538
Pit Toilets	99	3778	\$ 1,159,914
Maintenance Facilities	22	31211	\$ 3,438,990
(Garages, Workshops)			
Ancillary Structures	194	78248	\$ 3,695,044
(storage, pump houses, toll booths, warehouses))		
Communication Facilities	6	927	\$ 632,306
Totals	s 669	421972	\$ 94,998,277

Notes:

- 1 Replacement Cost in 2019 Dollars
- 2 Includes 230 Miles in Ct. Lakes Headwaters
- **3** Based upon low end of per mile assesment at Monadnock State Park for trail restoration
- 4 Complete building Replacement Cost adjusted to 2019 dollars

Projects FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 –June 30, 2019)

Capital Roofing & Repairs Completed

Moose Brook Toilet Building roof replacement \$9,250

Visitors Center at Wadleigh State Park \$16,000

Parking Lot Striping Winslow State Park \$9,105

Wentworth Coolidge Visitors Center Flooring Replacements \$9,713

State Forest Nursery Office New Septic System \$29,791

North Country Resources Center Floor Tile Replacement \$9,232

Capital New Construction Completed

Toilet Building Addition Monadnock State Park \$814,165

Umbagog State Park Bathhouse \$1,335,000

Jenness Beach State Park Bathhouse \$648,400

Ellacoya State Park Playground \$127,417 50% Capital Match LWCF Funds

Ellacoya State Park Retaining Wall \$381, 830

Lafayette Place Campground Playground \$172,832 Capital Match LWCF Funds

Monadnock State Park Bathhouse \$814,165

Statewide PIT Toilets

Fire Towers: Oak Hill \$138,000 & Mount Kearsarge \$240,000

Capital Projects FY2019 Currently Under Project Administration/Construction

Bear Hill Area Bear Brook State Park Roofing Replacements \$119,333

Spruce Pond Camp Bear Brook State Park Roofing Replacements \$88,600

Aluminum Railing Replacements Hampton Beach State Park \$239,560

NCRC Fuel Tank Replacement

White Island Generator Building Roof \$105,000

Cannon Mountain Summit Station Sprinkler System \$1,372,250

Operational Funds

Painting Sunfish Sails Hampton Beach State Park \$45,400 Project is 85% Completed

<u>Division of Historical Resources Conservation License Plate Program</u>

Contoocook Covered Bridge exterior painting \$30,436

Contoocook Covered Bridge Lighting Replacement \$3,590

Director's Report

STATE PARKS SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL Division of Parks and Recreation February 18, 2019

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- See FY 2018 Parks Summary, Profit & Loss Summary by Park, and Profit & Loss Summary by Region.
 - Parks Fund balance reduced from \$5.6 million to \$4.3 million due to expenditures on parks improvement projects as provided for in the budget.
 - Total retail concessions generated \$5.46 million in revenue for FY2018, accounting for 22% of total state park revenue and representing a 33% revenue growth over the last six fiscal years. Net proceeds of \$635K were transferred to the Park Fund.
- See **2019 YTD Parks & Retail Comparative Statement** covering period July 1, 2018 to Jan 31, 2019. FY YTD day use revenue of \$7.062 million is off 1% from \$7.127 million the previous year. Hampton meters are also off 4.5%. Retail is up 12% across state parks, up 11.5 % at Cannon but off 13.6% t Mt. Washington compared with last year.
- Cannon Mountain Ski Area. YTD Season visits of 112,205 are 18% ahead of the same timeframe last year and 12% ahead of the 8-year avg. for the same timeframe. Ski season revenue of \$3.042M is 6% ahead of the same timeframe last year and 3% ahead of the 8-year avg. for the same timeframe.
- **State Park Plate** As of 02/02/2019, there are 9,372 State Parks Plates registered; FY2018 revenues earned are \$705,240; FY2019 YTD revenues earned are \$439,250.
- **Donations** FY2018: 2,600 online donations, \$17,196. YTD FY2019: 1,552 online donations, \$10,197.
- **Gift Card Sales** Since the start of the program in November, 2018, FY YTD revenue is \$7,861 with 114 gift cards sold.

FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK/CANNON MOUNTAIN

- Cannon skier visits and revenue are ahead of last year and the 8-year averages so far, despite the El Nino weather pattern. Cannon awards include SKI Magazine Editor's Choice as "Hidden Gem of New England," NSAA Natl Marketing Awards finalist, and two Telly Awards for TV ads and social media.
- Improvements at Flume Gorge were well received and will open in early May (retail up 31%). Lafayette Place Campground opens mid-May and Echo Lake Beach and Aerial Tramway opens Memorial Day weekend.
- Construction of the **Profile Lake** walkway is scheduled for May 2019. Cost is being split with Parks operating funds and a donation from the Old Man Legacy fund.

- Hiker Shuttle Service for the period of Aug 3 to Sept 24, 2018, had 1,378 riders at a net loss of \$22,730. For more info: https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/franconia-notch-hiker-parking.aspx
- **Fiber optics.** After many years of effort, the ski area buildings are all now connected to fiber providing more reliable and faster processing of visitor payments.

BUREAU OF PARK OPERATIONS

Great North Woods Management Area (GNWMA)

- Moose Brook and Great North Woods regional staff constructed an innovative camping shelter, completed this past October. The campsite is adjacent to a high-traffic day use area and is popular due to the scenic quality of overlooking a brook. The design is modeled after camping "chickees" that a staff member was familiar with from Everglades National Park; it provides a level of privacy balanced with an open air feeling. (Pictures available at meeting)
- The Nansen Ski Club is having an excellent winter season at **Milan Hill** State Park.
 - As of Jan 7, they reported over 200 club memberships that directly support their operations at the park. Four years ago, the club's membership had declined to well below 100.
 - The 9th annual *Nansen Milan Winter Festival* will be held on the weekend starting Jan 22^{nd} with activities ranging from a Nordic ski race at the park, dog sled races and rides at a nearby private facility, and an 'Art Sled' Rally at the site of the Nansen Ski Jump.
 - The club set a mission to especially encourage local children and school groups to get out and enjoy Milan Hill State Park and the Nansen Ski Trails. They built an impressive collection of skis, boots and poles to have on-hand to serve the needs of these children.
 - The Accolades Book contains letters of thanks to the club from a Berlin area non-profit school that provides programs for children at risk
- Coleman Estates has been rebranded with its new name, "The Lodges at Coleman State
 Park", and work continues this winter to rehabilitate structures as lodging options and to
 improve the overall facility amenities, including the completion of Diamond Hall as a
 function space facility with a full kitchen and room for up to 92 persons for events. Colocated on the scenic grounds of the Lodges at Coleman, guests have easy, walking access
 to the lodging options, creating an ideal event space destination that will grow over time.
- At Coleman State Park, the regional staff is converting old mini-cabins that were part of the Eckerd complex into rustic rental cabins and relocating them to the Coleman Campground.
 Four additional cabins are set to be rehabilitated and made available to the public over the next year.
- On March 1st and 2nd the entire Coleman State Park complex will host a significant portion of the "Go North Sno Fest" being held by the North Country Chamber of Commerce. This event is a transformation of the Snodeo event that took place for over two and a half decades at Coleman State Park. In addition to the snowmobile activity focus of the past

event, the organizers want to broaden the audience for winter recreation by having snowshoeing, ice skating, fat biking, and other non-motorized winter activities.

Central Region

- **Central Region** has seen a 5.8% increase in revenue for Day Use and Camping, and a 2.9% increase in Retail Sales for FY 2019 to date.
- We are upgrading the Willey House retail store at **Crawford Notch** with new wall displays and fixtures. Retail is reviewing the product mix to increase sales at that location.
- **Echo Lake** in Conway had a 38.8% increase in Day Use revenue. We are considering adding a retail store and boat rentals at this park to add to the guest experience.
- The new playground at **Ellacoya** is complete and looks great. Upgrades to the exterior of the Beach Store and Restroom building are next. A ribbon cutting is being considered for the Spring.
- With internet service now at **Pillsbury**, we can track camping more accurately. SCA will upgrade the building with a fresh coat of paint and do trail work this summer.
- At **Sunapee**, we are upgrading the building at the campground to improve the guest experience at check in and add some retail space. This follows the makeover of the entire campground last year.
- The YMCA will offer swim lessons at **Wadleigh** for the first time in a long time. Wadleigh is underutilized, but offers a great location for more activity.
- The new addition to the maintenance garage at **White Lake** is done and we added a new retail storage area to better manage retail inventory. The Boat Rental program is ready with new docks and six new paddle boats. We look forward to a great summer season.

Seacoast Region

- An RFI was just released in an effort to get local food service businesses contracted at the
 Hampton Beach Seashell Complex to mutually benefit the state and the local business.
 Interested businesses would provide catering services to folks who are renting state
 facilities for weddings and events.
- Plowing operations remain in effect with the goal of keeping all parking lots and sidewalks clear of snow after storms on the **main beach at Hampton**. We are continuing efforts to clear the walk way at **North Beach** as well, as it is a high demand of the public.
- Bathrooms at the Hampton Beach and North Beach remain open every day of the year for beach visitors.
- Brian Parise was hired for the **Plant Maintenance Engineer I** position, filling all of our full time seacoast maintenance positions.
- Lifeguard positions. We are evaluating our **Ocean Lifeguard** positions with the Director in an attempt to make the job more desirable.

South Region

- Will Kirkpatrick is Monadnock's new park manager. He worked at Monadnock from 1995-2002 and spent the last 16 years as the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Program Manager for youth & young adult programs across the east coast.
- The SCA crew painted the newly renovated bathhouse at **Kingston**, built a new shelter and group use tent platform at **Greenfield**, and built a trail bridge and trail re-route at **Pisgah**.
- Visitors were drawn in by **Pawtuckaway**'s new entrance at the administration/store building and new dock at the beach. The boat rental program surpassed the \$300K mark.
- Working with the equestrian community, we are planning to provide horse camping opportunities at **Bear Brook** by late summer 2019.
- Reservations for the three cabins at Bear Brook, Bear Hill Camp have been popular. The
 bathhouse renovation will be done by our own forces during the fall and spring of 2018-19,
 after which the remaining five cabins will be offered for rental.

Mount Washington

• **Mount Washington** ended its 2018 operating season welcoming about 300,000 visitors to the summit. The retail and food concession revenues finished at \$1.23 million.

BUREAU OF TRAILS

- The Bureau of Trails is legislatively charged with coordinating OHRV and snowmobile matters with other State agencies, administering any funds provided to DNCR for OHRV and snowmobile programs, act as a liaison between private landowners and OHRV and snowmobile users, work with organized clubs in the support of motorized trail activities, oversee the development of publications related to motorized trail activities and coordinate with other trail users and agencies in matters related to recreational trail management.
- The Bureau of Trails is **self-funded** by registration fees from OHRVs and snowmobiles, as well as a portion of un-refunded gas tax from these same vehicles. During the FY 2018 year a total of 82,337 vehicles (OHRV and snowmobile) were registered in New Hampshire. The Bureau of Trails bases its annual budget on registering 85,000 vehicles.
- As of January 31, 2019, OHRV revenues are down about \$215K from January last year. As of Jan 21, there were 29,321 snowmobile registrations. Roughly 90% of registrants are NH club members. OHRV registrations through the end of November were 32,176, compared to last year at just over 36,000.
- Summer Snowmobile Club GIA Grants were effective from 7/11/18 to 12/31/18 and utilized FY19 funds
 - \$315,343.23 awarded to 52 clubs to construct/maintain trails
 - \$634,413.04 awarded to 15 clubs to purchase/refurbish grooming equipment
- Summer OHRV Club GIA Grants are effective from 6/1/18 to 5/31/19 and use FY19 funds
 - \$335,903.71 awarded to 17 clubs to construct/grade/maintain trails

- Winter Snowmobile Club GIA Grants are effective from 12/15/18 to 5/31/19
 - \$1,673,747.52 awarded to 103 clubs for snowmobile trail grooming
- It has been a low snow year so far, lots of rain and ice, snowmobile registration sales are very low compared to last year, central & southern clubs have not done much grooming so GIA reimbursements have been low so far except for the northern most clubs.
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The Bureau administers the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, funded by un-refunded federal gasoline taxes on off-highway vehicles nationwide. On average, 60 grants are awarded to local municipalities and non-profit trail organizations around NH, to perform trail construction and maintenance projects. This is the only government grant program in NH that non-motorized trail organizations can receive funds for projects from. Projects are awarded annually to OHRV, snowmobile, hiking, bicycle, equestrian and sled dog trails. The conversion of former railroad corridors into trails is a common use of these funds. The funding is tied to the Federal Highway Bill and the program is a sub-program of transportation funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Federal Highway Bill guarantees these annual funds to NH, though 2020, with the funding level set at \$1.25 million.
- Non-motorized trails continue to take more time to address concerns about eroding
 infrastructure of trails and no funding to develop or maintain trails. The funding of nonmotorized trails will continue to be a major issue in NH, until a funding source can be
 permanently identified.
- Trails Bureau employees shift to Bureau of Park Ops to work on State Park improvement projects for short periods of time in the spring. Park Operations pay salary and benefit costs for Trails Bureau staff, and the cooperative work allows the Bureau to retain all of its full time employees statewide and provides for a variety of state park improvement projects to be completed. These projects would not otherwise have staff assigned to them and it was unlikely they would have been complete in a timely manner. This successful partnership between the Trails Bureau and Park Operations Bureau continues annually, though the amount of time and number of projects varies annually based on OHRV and snowmobile registrations.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES

- The Bureau of Historic Sites completed two large scale restoration projects that have been
 waiting several years for funding. We completed in October the installation of a new roof of
 the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion and repaired the exterior lime based stucco on two
 thirds of the Weeks Estate's main house. Both projects required specialty contractors to
 complete this sensitive work.
- The Bureau also contracted consultants this past fall to complete two valuable projects meant to enhance the visitor experience and shed light on historic significance. The first

- project was for the development of a National Register nomination for the **Nansen Ski Jump** located in Milan, a site that may eventually be declared a National Historic Landmark.
- The second project created Parks branded interpretive panels that will be installed in the landscape on both the East and West sides of **Livermore Falls**. These two projects speak to the historic significance of both sites and will help to continue further community outreach and advocacy for their respective cultural landscapes

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

- Volunteer Programs 19,191 volunteer hours with an estimated value of \$489,754
 - Compared to 2012 = 751 hours; 2015 = 19,872 hours; 2017 = 18,565 hours
 - New mountain bike trails constructed at Bear Brook State Park (Southern New Hampshire NEMBA)
 - Nansen Ski Club now directly supporting initiatives and volunteer efforts at Nansen
 Ski Jump
 - 230 volunteer hours spent removing invasive plant species at Mount Washington State Park
 - Insurance provided by and paid for by the Department to 13 different small nonprofit organizations while volunteering on Department lands
 - Volunteer Supervisor position is currently vacant. Position was reclassified and is awaiting Dept of Personnel approval before posting.

• First Day Hike January 1, 2019

Location	Adults	Children	TOTAL	Miles Hiked
Milan Hill State Park	8	2	10	20
Pisgah State Park	115	21	136	280
Silver Lake State Park	362	125	487	487
Wentworth-Coolidge	239	50	289	434
Bear Brook State Park	296	143	439	549
TOTAL	1020	341	1,361	1,770

Thank you to our Volunteer Partners: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) (Wentworth-Coolidge); Nor'easters Snowmobile Club (Silver Lake); Beaver Brook Association (Silver Lake); Derry Trails Riders & Stone Boat Farm (Bear Brook); Lakes Region Conservation Trust (Wellington); Nansen Ski Club (Milan Hill); Alpina Sports (Milan Hill); Friends of Pisgah (Pisgah)

• 2018-2019 Events:

- Montreal Travel Show, Oct 19-21, 2018
- NH City and Town Clerks Annual Conference, No Conway NH, October 24-25, 2018
- NH Farm and Forest Expo-Manchester NH: February 1-2, 2019
- Montreal Outdoor Adventure Show, Montreal Canada, March 16-17, 2019
- New Hampshire Camping and RV Show-Bedford, NH: March 29-31, 2019
- NH Fish and Game Diver Wild NH Day-Concord, NH: April 20, 2019

• Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the States intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Per Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act of 1965, no property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance may be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. Currently, the program has expired and recent legislation S47 was passed by the U.S. Senate which calls for permanent reauthorization with at least 40% of appropriated funds for state-side grants. The bill is now in the U.S. House for a vote.

Funds are received and administered by the States, with state governments and political subdivisions being eligible for assistance. \$42,000,000.00 in LWCF apportionments has supported outdoor recreation area projects in New Hampshire since 1965. Approximate totals as follows:

- \$21,000,000.00 towards more than 530 locally sponsored projects throughout more than 180 towns, cities, school districts, and counties.
- \$14,000,000.00 towards more than 100 state sponsored projects throughout the State Park and Forest systems.
 - \$10,000,000.00 towards more than 180 acquisition projects
 - \$18,500,000.00 towards more than 350 development projects
 - \$5,500,000.00 towards more than 40 combination projects (acquisition + development)
 - \$2,000,00.00 towards more than 40 renovation projects
 - \$1,000,000.00 towards 16 planning projects (SCORPs)

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

- **Jenness** State Beach: construction of the new bathhouse started in October. Deep concrete foundations were placed before cold weather arrived. The bathhouse has been framed, roofed and closed in. Exterior siding and finishes are currently being installed and the building is on track to be completed before Memorial Day. Site work including reconfiguration and paving of the parking lot will start in April and should be complete by the end of May. Pictures and project updates HERE.
- Monadnock State Park: In spite of a late November start, the addition to the Main Toilet Building in the Headquarters Area has been progressing well. The foundations are in place, the building is currently being framed up, and a new, deeply buried, frost proof water line from the well to the building has been installed. The addition will be completed during the summer and we expect that next winter there will be heated toilet rooms open to serve the increasing number of winter hikers. Pictures and project updates HERE.
- **Umbagog** State Park Campground: Foundations and structural steel for the new bathhouse were in place before winter conditions stopped the project for the season. Framing will

- start as soon as the weather relents. The project team is working to meet a completion date in June. Pictures and project updates HERE.
- Bear Brook Management Plan: DPR and DFL in consultation with NHFG & DHR have begun
 to update the 1994 management plan. The technical team met this month to discuss format
 and chapter assignments. A steering committee is being set up. The project is anticipated to
 take a year to complete.
- The international recycling markets may impact on the division's **waste management program** and increasing costs. Staff is working closely with the State's Recycling Coordinator to improve recycling efforts to "Recycle Right".
- The Construction Maintenance Bureau has undertaken a number of winter projects including replacing the railings and exterior deck at the rear of the Flume visitors' center, renovating the shower rooms at Toilet Building No. 5 in Pawtuckaway's Horse Island campground, and re-configuring partitions and work stations at the Department's Concord office.
- **Bear Brook** State Park Horse Camping: Planning is underway for an 8 site horse camping area located in the former family picnic area. The Trails Bureau will construct the campsites this spring, hoping for a mid-summer opening.
- **Ellacoya RV Campground**: the toppled retaining wall along the shore of Lake Winnipesauke will be replaced starting in April. A contractor will remove 400 linear feet of cast-in-place concrete retaining wall and replace it with a new wall made up of pre-cast concrete masonry units. The work is scheduled to be complete in June.
- **Mt. Washington** communications facilities are being assessed and evaluated by consultants who will make recommendations for best use of space, maximum effectiveness, security and fire safety improvements. Their report is due in July.
- Lafayette Place Campground: Installation of a new playground started in October and was approximately 80% complete when work was halted by winter weather. Final installation of climbing structures is scheduled for May.
- **Bear Brook**'s Bear Hill Area: Restoration of the swimming beach at Bear Hill Pond started in October with work done by DD&M's Construction Maintenance Bureau. Encroaching shrubs and brush were cut back, the main drainage swale is being re-established, and the beach will be re-graded. Improvements will continue in the spring as conditions allow.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- Retail operations going into spring is up 12% (\$230K) in revenue, on pace for the 11th consecutive year of revenue growth. The retail program is projected to contribute \$600,000-\$700,000 in bottom line profit for the Parks Fund compared to \$535,000 last fiscal year. The program is investing \$65,000 into a new enterprise system that will vastly improve efficiencies and inventory control while providing essential data for operational strategy.
- Brent Wucher joined the Division as the Public Information Officer and Marketing
 Administrator responsible for overseeing and coordinating public information contacts and
 distribution. Brent has years of experience in the field of public relations including print and
 electronic media content, event planning, strategic communications and marketing, as well
 as social media planning and design. He has held positions in public affairs with the U.S Navy

- and with the U.S. Army and has been posted both nationally and internationally in these roles. He can be reached through his office phone at: 603-271-4142; or via email at: Brent.Wucher@dncr.nh.gov.
- Advertising. The Division has some Search Engine Marketing in place for winter in Parks, as well as, a specific campaign highlighting The Lodges at Coleman State Park. The goal of that campaign is to drive winter enthusiasts, especially snowmobilers, searching for lodging in the Great North Woods to nhstateparks.org and eventually booking one of the Lodges. 2019 summer campaign planning will begin shortly, with a launch of mid-April. The target will be Millennial and Gen Xers with and without kids, are active and have outdoor interests ages 25-54 in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, other New England states and Northeast Canada. The agency will also be looking at ways to help raise the awareness of NH State Park license plate.
- **Social Media**. As of 2/15/19: Facebook Likes: 243K; Twitter followers: 21.2k; Instagram followers: 36.6K.
- Website. From 9/23/18-2/14/19: 445K total sessions; avg. 1:34 min/session; 45% MA, 43% NH, 11% NY, 8% CT, 4% ME; 26% age 24-34, 19 % age 35-44, 19% age 55-64.
- Special Note: During NHPR's annual drive, on \$10 Tuesday, they will be giving a \$10 NHSP gift card to anyone who pledges \$10/month for a year. They will be purchasing the gift cards and promoting NH State Parks prior to and on that Tuesday.

PAB/ttl-021519

Director's Report

STATE PARKS SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL Division of Parks and Recreation June 10. 2019

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- See **2019 YTD Parks & Retail Comparative Statement** covering period July 1, 2018 to May 30, 2019. FY YTD day use revenue of \$8.750 million is down 0.1% from \$8.761 million the previous year. Hampton meters are off 5%. Retail is up 6.7% across state parks, up 12% at FNSP/Cannon but off 12.7% at Mt. Washington compared with last year.
- Cannon Mountain Ski Area. 2018-19 ski season visits of 208,420 were 12% ahead of last year and 17% ahead of the 8-year avg. for the same timeframe. Ski season revenue of \$5.476M was 3% ahead of last year and 11% ahead of the 8-year avg. for the same timeframe.
- **Campground occupancy** FY2019 YTD is up 5.8% in camping revenue. With \$3.1 million in revenue going into June, we expect to beat the previous revenue record of \$3.3 million.
- **State Park Plate** As of 06/05/19, there are 10,023 State Parks Plates registered; FY2018 revenues earned are \$705,240; FY2019 YTD revenues earned are \$753,405.
- Cale Metered Parking April 2 to June 2, 2019 revenue is \$293.9K with 76,318 purchases. Revenue for the same timeframe in 2018 was \$316.5K with 83,790 purchases.
- **Donations** FY2019 YTD: 2,461 online donations, \$16,165, and expected to exceed FY2018: 2,600 online donations, \$17,196, made through the camping reservations program. Campers who cancel their reservations will have the option to donate their refund to NH State Parks. A separate, stand-alone donation webpage will be rolled out in the coming weeks.
- **Gift Card Sales** Since the start of the program in November 2018, revenue is \$12,127 with 259 gift cards sold.
- **E-Commerce Sales** Since the May 2019 start, the online shop has YTD revenue of \$5,254. Additional items, including apparel, will be added in the coming months.

FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK/CANNON MOUNTAIN

- **Hiker Shuttle Service** is offered May 18 through Oct 20th on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, running continuously from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., rain or shine. Cost is \$5 per person, cash only. For more info: visit www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/franconia-notch-state-park
- G&C authorization to implement the Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway & Ski Area capital improvement projects, to be funded in the amount of \$1,976,000 by the Cannon Mountain Capital Improvement Fund.
- Lafayette Place Campground: Installation of a new playground that started in October 2018, was approximately 80% complete when work was halted by winter weather. Final installation of the climbing structures is now complete.
- Lafayette Campground Ed Pinsky was hired as the new campground manager.

BUREAU OF PARK OPERATIONS

South Region

- **Monadnock** is preparing to open its new 4-season bathhouse to provide guests a year round facility and expand services to the many hikers that visit the park year round.
- Bear Brook State Park is in the process of developing a Horse Camping area.
- **Pawtuckaway** added a new dock for boat rentals allowing staff to easily and efficiently load and unload guests from boats. It expands the number of boats that can be rented at any given time and provides a more secure area for the boats to be stored.
- Pavilion rentals were added to the online reservation system, Reserve America, for **Pawtuckaway, Bear Brook and Monadnock**.
- **Silver Lake** State Park and **Kingston** State Park welcomes new park managers this season, Cody Doan and Ryan Bell, respectively.
- Alec Woolley was promoted to be the new Park Manager at **Greenfield** State Park. He started with Parks in 2011, he had been with the Forest Society before joining us full time at Pawtuckaway State Park in 2014.
- Logan Thorner was added to the **Monadnock** team as the new Assistant Park manager. She had previously been the Park Manager at Kingston State Park for 3 years, and started her internship at Pawtuckaway State Park in 2015.
- Clare Joyce is the new Assistant Supervisor for the **South Region**. She had been working at Pawtuckaway State Park since 2011, and worked in the Concord office with Shawn Hamilton working on and launching the Enterprise System for the past two winters.

Seacoast Region

- Winter plowing operations kept parking lots and sidewalks clear of snow after storms on the main beach at **Hampton** and the walkway at **North Beach**.
- Ocean Lifeguard positions were given a \$3 increase to make the job more desirable. Water Safety day scheduled for July 25th.
- Sunfish painting and work to be conducted this fall at **Hampton Beach** was put out to bid.
- Maura Marchese was hired on as our new fulltime Facilities Manager at **Hampton**.
- Robert Fuller was hired on as Manager for **Odiorne Point, Rye Harbor** and **Jenness** state parks
- A Public Community Meeting held at Hampton Beach to inform interested parties of the improvements, challenges and operations plans for **Hampton Beach**.
- Line striping and numbering parking spaces from Hampton Beach to North Beach was done.
- Electricity is being installed at **South Beach** to install the Point-of-Sale system and credit card processing at tollbooth. Installation of second tollbooth will improve traffic flow.
- New fire rings were installed at all campsites at **Hampton Beach RV Park**. Two accessible fire rings and picnic tables were installed to have two handicapped accessible campsites.
- With no place to accept recycling, the collection of recyclables at **Hampton Beach** has been discontinued.
- Sixteen J1 students have been hired for trash and **beach operations**, up from 0 last year.

- New handheld ticket writing units for **Meter Patrol** and new systems will allow instant upload of tickets so tickets can be paid immediately, eliminating the 24-hour waiting period for tickets to synchronize with the online system.
- The Seacoast staff joined the Seacoast Science Center, Timberland and Rockingham County
 Conservation District for a day of Volunteer Action at Odiorne Point State Park.
 Accomplishments include trash pickup, installing grills, mulching, raking, trimming, clearing
 pathways, building owl houses, plantings, painting, bunker cleanup, fence repairs, and
 staining the Gazebo, picnic tables and bike rack.

Mount Washington

- **Memorial Day** weekend brought 9,532 visitors to the summit and \$33,344 in retail sales.
- G&C approval to purchase a new **SnowCat** to replace the 2002 Bombardier.
- New kitchen equipment for food concessions, including new convection oven new singledoor beverage cooler, and new steam table for serving soup and chili.
- New historical replica sign for **Tip Top House** entrance with delivery in coming weeks.
- Broke November's all time monthly low temperature record; November 22 recorded a low temperature of -26 degrees Fahrenheit (wind chill was near -70).
- Broke February's all time monthly high wind, recording a gust of 171 mph on February 17,
 2019. Recorded a wind chill of -83 on January 21.
- Winter started early with a mid-October storm that dropped 2 feet of snow at the summit, shutting down the Mount Washington Auto Road earlier than scheduled. Winter has continued lingering through opening of this season as 4" of snow fell at the summit as recently as May 28th. A wind of 135mph was recorded on May 21st.
- Cog Railway reached the summit on May 11th for seasonal operations. MW Auto Road fully on May 25th. The **Sherman Adams Building** had a soft opening for the season beginning on May 11th with a full opening on May 25th for visitor services and retail and concessions.

Central Region

- The **Central Region** has been extremely busy recovering from a record snowfall and making improvements to better serve park guests and sustainability.
- All the campgrounds did very well with near 100% occupancy for Memorial Day weekend.
 Day use also did quite well for the weather. It was partly sunny and in the 60s to low 70sF and we did have some rain.
- Urban Tree Service has been removing trees at White Lake, Ellacoya, Echo Lake, and soon at Wadleigh. They did years' worth of work in just days. Big improvements!
- New Park managers were hired at Wentworth, Wellington, and Livermore Falls.
- **Crawford Notch**. The new store improvements with display racks, lights, and other improvements look fantastic and should increase sales.

- **Echo Lake**. The park just keeps getting busier with day use numbers expected to increase this year. Work is getting ready for the new store. Looking forward to see how boat rentals do for their inception.
- White Lake. Major removal of trees by park staff and professional crews. They had a great Memorial Day weekend in camping and day use.
- **Ellacoya**. The new playground looks awesome and saw plenty of use already. The sea wall on the RV side is moving slowly but they are making progress. The campers seem to be taking the disruption in stride.
- **Wellington**. The Eagle's Nest Pavilion was moved to a much better location. The move freed up valuable beach space and increased the space for larger groups to use the pavilion without interfering with other guests. A new ramp and deck was also added to allow ADA accessibility.

Great North Woods Management Area (GNWMA)

- Lingering snow with rainy conditions with statured campsites, roadways and soils caused a few of the far northern parks to close planned early walk-in open periods in May. Much work was done to repair winter/spring damage right as visitors were arriving to the parks on Memorial Day weekend to get campsites open.
- **Deer Mountain Campground** remained closed through Memorial Day weekend with an expected late opening on June 7th.
- The new full time manager for **Umbagog Lake** has been named and is hard at work at the park. Ann Marie Chaisson of Milan has been promoted to this role after 19 years of service with NH State Parks at Mollidgewock State Park where she was the park manager.
- **Umbagog** Work on the new bathhouse is ongoing, with the contractor targeting a late June completion date.
- **Moose Brook** State Park toilet building roofing project contract has been awarded. The project is expected to commence June 3rd.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES

- The Governor and Executive Council approved the nomination of **Ben Wilson as Director of the Division of Historical Resources**. His start date is August 1, 2109.
- The Bureau of Historic Sites was given a New Hampshire Preservation Alliance award at their annual conference on May 31, for the ongoing restoration of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion located in Portsmouth. The award highlighted the collaborative effort to restore the site by the Bureau and the Wentworth-Coolidge Commission. Established in 1982 by then Governor Hugh Gallen, the Wentworth-Coolidge Commission is a Governor's appointed commission, dedicated to the support and advocacy for this National Historic Landmark. The Bureau is grateful for the support of the Commission and the Division of Parks for their support of the historic resources under its management.
- Mid-Century Modern 1945-1975. Approximately 75% of our buildings are 50 years old or older; all these resources are potentially eligible for the National Register. Working with DHR

we agreed it would be better to get an overview of the state park system, its historic landscapes and buildings rather than going property by property. Many of our most popular parks (Pawtuckaway, Greenfield, and White Lake) were developed in this time period and are ripe for redevelopment. The study has one of the best summaries of the development of the state parks from our founding to modern day. Many thanks to Amy Dixon at DHR for being the project coordinator and to the author Lisa Mausolf who did amazing research all over the state to tell our story.

BUREAU OF TRAILS

- The Bureau of Trails is self-funded by registration fees from OHRVs and snowmobiles, as well as a portion of un-refunded gas tax from these same vehicles. During the FY 2019, 80,803 vehicles (OHRV and snowmobile) were registered in NH. The Bureau bases its annual budget on registering 85,000 vehicles. These figures are based on reported registrations from the Fish & Game Department as of March 31, 2019.
- This fiscal year, there were 43,940 **snowmobile registrations**. Roughly 80% of registrants are NH club members. **OHRV registrations** through the end of May were approximately 36,000. This is on par with FY 18. Roughly 50% of OHRV registrants are members of NH clubs.
- Winter Snowmobile Club GIA Grants are effective from 12/15/18 to 5/31/19
 - \$1,673,747.52 awarded to 103 clubs for snowmobile trail grooming. The Bureau reimbursed clubs approximately \$1.35 million for trail grooming this winter.
- The **winter** had a lower than average snowfall for south and southeastern NH, however the rest of the State had above average snowfall and snow was on the ground for several weeks longer than in the past few years and riding was above average for most of the winter. Riding in Pittsburg formally ended on May 12th.
- The **2019 OHRV Riding Season** is underway, however there have been delays in opening most of the trail networks in northern NH. The late winter and usually wet spring have left trails and roads in extremely wet condition, and in some cases, the frost is still in the ground. The interconnected trail network is slowly opening each week and it is anticipated that the entire network will be open by the end of June.
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The Bureau administers the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, funded by un-refunded federal gasoline taxes on off-highway vehicles nationwide. 25 grants were awarded in 2019, totaling \$801,000, to local municipalities and non-profit trail organizations around NH, to perform trail construction and maintenance projects. This is the only government grant program in NH that non-motorized trail organizations can receive funds for projects. The funding is tied to the Federal Highway Bill and the program is a sub-program of transportation funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Federal Highway Bill guarantees these annual funds to NH, though 2020, with the funding level set at \$1.25 million.

• Spring of 2019, Bureau of Trails staff assisted Park Operations with the first phase of construction for a new campground in **Bear Brook** State Park, which will be intended for equine camping, and with a new bridge at The Basin, in **Franconia Notch** State Park.

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

- **Volunteer Programs** For calendar year 2018, 19,191 volunteer hours with an estimated value of \$489,754 was reported.
- Currently we are in the process of hiring a Volunteer Supervisor with the absence left by Patrick Hummel's move to Mt Washington. We have re-posted the position externally, completed a second round of interviews and we are looking to pick a candidate to fill the position in the coming weeks.
- The past few months have been focused on getting our current groups under agreement updated with their **annual work plans** and **hosting multiple workdays** with SNHU, Eversource and other organization helping our parks get ready to open.
- We have a new summer intern from UNH Department of Recreation, Management and Policy
 assisting with the Community Recreation Office this summer. Her focus will be on helping to
 modernize our LWCF program files and getting the opportunity to spend some time with each
 Bureau within the Division in our HQ as well as in the field.
- Attended the National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Rapid City South Dakota.
- **NASORLO DC Delegation trip** Went to DC to promote the Land and Water Conservation Fund recent reauthorization and focus on the appropriations of funds for FY 2020.
- Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the States intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. Per Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act of 1965, no property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance may be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The program was recently and permanently reauthorized under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, with no less than 40% of program funds dedicated to state and local assistance. However, annual funding is still subject to the congressional appropriations process.
- Funds are received and administered by the States, with state governments and political subdivisions being eligible for assistance. \$42,000,000.00 in LWCF apportionments has supported outdoor recreation area projects in New Hampshire since 1965.
- LWCF Apportionments:

Apportionment: Fiscal Year/Amount		Available	Expiration	Notes	
LWCF	2018	\$1,004,160.00	\$734,509.00	9/30/2020	
GOMESA*	2018	\$618,445.00	\$618,445.00	9/30/2020	
SRA**	2018	\$1,649.32	\$1,649.32	9/30/2019	
LWCF	2019	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	9/30/2021	Anticipated amount. Final amount pending USDOI Secretary signature/funding notice (unknown)

Apportionment: Fiscal Year/Amount		Available	Expiration	Notes	
GOMESA*	2019	\$600,000.00	\$0.00	9/30/2021	Anticipated amount. Final amount
					pending USDOI Secretary
					signature/funding notice (unknown)
SRA**	2019	\$11,484.64	\$11,484.64	9/30/2020	Current amount to date. Final amount pending projects closed by end of Fed FY 2019 (9/30/2019)
Total: \$3,235,738.96		\$1,366,087.96			

^{*}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.

• Open projects:

Project #	Sponsor	Project Name	Scope	Grant \$
33-00695	State of NH DNCR	Monadnock Visitor Services Bldg	Development	\$443,165.00
33-00699	City of Dover	Cocheco River Park	Development	\$150,000.00
33-00700	City of Concord	Merrimack River Greenway	Development	\$100,000.00
33-00701	Town of Bedford	Pulpit Rock Area Trails	Development	\$42,500.00
33-00702	Town of Milford	Osgood Pond Restoration	Development	\$325,000.00
33-00705	Town of Deerfield	Hartford Brook Ballfields	Development	\$25,000.00
33-00706	Town of Brookline	Nissitissit River Park	Combination	\$50,000.00
33-00707	City of Nashua	Greeley Park Boat Ramp	Development	\$200,000.00
33-00708	Town of Bristol	Bristol Falls Park	Development	\$153,002.00
33-00710	City of Claremont	Monadnock Park Playground	Development	\$53,700.00
33-00711	Monroe Consolid. SD	Monroe School Playground	Development	\$96,300.00
33-00713	State of NH DNCR	Kearsarge Mtn-Tusoni Lot	Acquisition	\$20,000.00
33-00714	State of NH DNCR	FNSP-Lafayette Playground	Development	\$75,000.00
33-00715	State of NH DNCR	Ellacoya SP Playground	Development	\$75,000.00
33-00716	City of Franklin	Mill City Park	Combination	\$200,000.00
33-00717	Town of Newmarket	Landroche Field Splash Pad/Bathrooms	Development	\$199,407.00
33-00718	Town of Lincoln	Riverfront Park	Development	\$200,000.00
33-00719	Town of New Boston	New Boston Rail Trail Rehabilitation	Development	\$100,000.00
33-00720	Town of Plaistow	PARC Trail Network	Development	\$51,500.00
33-00721	Town of Littleton	Littleton Health Park	Combination	\$200,000.00
33-00722	Town of Salisbury	Maplewood Field-Bleachers and Playground	Development	\$25,000.00
33-00723	Town of Windham	Moeckel Pond Dam Restoration	Development	\$150,000.00
33-00724	City of Somersworth	Jules Bisson Park Rejuvenation	Development	\$45,000.00
33-00726	Town of Moultonborough	Kraine Meadow Park Improvements	Development	\$62,500.00
				\$3,042,074.00

^{**}Special Reapportionment Account: Unspent funds from previously closed or terminated NH State or Local projects. Not available until regular (LWCF) apportionment of the same federal fiscal year is fully obligated.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

- On May 10, 2019, the Division received the 2019 Excellence in Energy Efficiency Award for the Implementation of a Successful Waste Management Project.
- **Jenness Beach**: The building is complete and is open and operational. There is a ribbon cutting scheduled for June 14.
- **Monadnock**: Work is progressing well despite spring road closures. The interior concrete slab has been poured, exterior siding is ongoing and interior finishes are in progress. The contract is on pace for a summer completion date.
- **Umbagog**: Work on the new bathhouse is ongoing, with the contractor targeting a late June completion date. Roofing, insulation and siding are progressing and work on the plumbing and mechanical systems are ongoing. The team is targeting getting the toilet rooms and showers up and running for use by campers no later than June 28, with final sitework following soon after.
- Mt. Washington: The Yankee Building hosts all communication site tenants. The communications study to determine the future of the building and the best way to accommodate the communications equipment is nearing completion. Task 8 of 9 has been completed, and a presentation to the client team is scheduled for early June. The final Task 9 report is due mid-July.
- **Ellacoya:** The project is progressing with the first section of retaining wall being completed at the end of May. Due to unforeseen difficulties and to avoid disruption to campers, the contractor is demobilizing from the site until after Labor Day, after which they will return to complete the second section of the retaining wall.
- Cannon Mountain: Two separate requests for proposals have been issued to address sprinkler and fire alarm work at four buildings at Cannon Mountain. The proposals are currently in review and discussions with the Bureau of Public Works.
- **Echo Lake**: Site clearing and foundations for a new 12 foot by 24 foot park store are scheduled for completion in early June. Delivery of a prefabricated shed from Reeds Ferry is currently scheduled for June 16.
- **White Island**: Construction work for the new generator building roof at White Island is scheduled to begin August 12. Additional work required by the Fire Marshal's Office will be done around the same time.
- **FEMA Funds**: \$310,113.56 received by DNCR (F&L, Trails and Parks). An additional \$89,444.55 will be released by HSEM as projects are completed. \$150,000 more obligated to Parks within the next couple of months. DISASTER 4355 Account Total: \$460,149.39.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Brent Wucher joined the Division as the Public Information Officer and Marketing
 Administrator responsible for overseeing and coordinating public information contacts and distribution. He can be reached through his office phone at: 603-271-4142 or via email at: Brent.Wucher@dncr.nh.gov.

- Collaborating with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, the Division will post their Trail Finder
 information portal as an additional resource to provide trails information.
- Social Media accounts as of 5/31/19:

Facebook Likes: 246K;
 Twitter followers: 21.4k;
 Instagram followers: 38.5K.

- Season opening Facebook statistics May 6 June 2
 - Posts Engagements: 22,009 increase 38%
 - Posts People Reached: 456,399 increase 325%
 - Video Views: 3,094 increase 329%
 - Page New Followers: 6544 increase 1836%
 - Note: Top Parks posts were Related to Hiring and positions in NH State Parks.
- **Website** from 2/15/19 5/30/2019:
 - 399K total sessions; avg. 1:58 min/session; 30% MA, 28% NH, 6% NY, 5% CT, 3% RI

Press Releases:

- 4/15/2019 Recreational Trails Program Grant Applications for 2020 Available
- 4/18/2019 Join NH Parks at Discover Wild NH Day
- 5/20/2019 Federal Grant Money Available for Recreational Projects
- 5/20/2019 <u>Late Winter Snows and Heavy Spring Rains Causing Delay to Start of OHRV</u>
 Season in Northern NH
- 5/22/2019 NH State Parks provides Hiker Shuttle at Franconia Notch State Park

Media Opportunities:

- WABC 7 NYC spotlighted the Wolfeboro area and local State Parks within 7 hour for weekend travel show.
- New Hampshire Magazine Mount Washington pullout feature Mount Washington
 https://issuu.com/mcleancommunications/docs/nhmagazine_mount_washington_feature
- New Hampshire Magazine Remote Camping at Umbagog Lake
 https://www.nhmagazine.com/remote-camping-at-umbagog-lake/
- PBS Late June filming on Mount Washington.
- NHPR "Where the lilacs Grow" spotlighted Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, <u>https://www.nhpr.org/post/where-lilacs-grow</u>
- Advertising Summer 2019 campaign planning began with a launch in mid-April. The target audience is Millennial and Gen Xers with and without kids, are active and have outdoor interests ages 25-54 in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, other New England states and Northeast Canada. Parks will also be looking at ways to help raise the awareness of NH State Park license plate.
- Marketing efforts this summer will concentrate on targeting and timing. Given the inherent popularity of certain Parks destinations within the state during the summer, we need to think of alternative ways to drive visitation outside of the peak season and beyond the

state's most popular parks that are constantly busy. We will continue to focus our efforts on top revenue generating activities like camping, beaches and other water-related activities.

• NH State Parks best of:

- New England Today Travel, Best of the New Hampshire White Mountains, Franconia Notch State Park, https://newengland.com/today/travel/new-hampshire/white-mountains/
- All American Adventure Guide, U.S. Bucket List: 200+ Places to Visit in the USA, http://allamericanadventureguide.com/best-places-visit-usa/

• Reports provided separately:

- a. FY2019 Financial Forecast
- b. HB 25 Capital Budget Comparison
- c. Parks Comparative Statement
- d. Visitation Report & Comparison
- e. Campground / Reserve America Comparison
- f. Legislative 2019 Report

PAB/ttl-060719

Director's Report

STATE PARK SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL Division of Parks and Recreation October 4, 2019

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- FY2020 Parks & Retail Comparative Statement (attached) covering period July 1, 2019 to Sept 12, 2019, has day use revenue at \$5.064M, up 3.1% from the previous year. Cannon Mtn/FNSP is at \$861K, up 12.8% and Hampton Meters is also starting strong at \$1.277K, up 11.7% from the previous year. Parks retail is at \$1.742K, up 5.1% from last year. Cannon/FNSP retail is strong at \$224K, up 17.8% and Mt Washington has a strong start at \$951K, up 35.4% from the previous year.
- FY2019 Parks & Retail Comparative Statement covering period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, with day use revenue closing at \$10.148M up 0.7% from \$10.075M the previous year. Cannon Mtn and Hampton Meters are both down by 3.1% and 3.5%, respectively. Parks retail closed on June 30, 2019, at \$2.643M up 6% from the previous year. Cannon retail closed strong at \$1.789M, up 11.9% from \$1.598M in FY18. Mt Washington retail closed at \$1.216M down 1.3% from the previous year.
- **NH State Park Plate** As of 08/31/19, there are 10,836 plates registered. FY2019 revenues earned are \$854,185, with the greatest number of new plates (1,344) purchased within the fiscal year since the program's start in 2012. From Jan 1 to Sept 22, 2019, a total of 44,526 park visitors (adults and youths) have entered state parks using the State Park Plate.
- **Cale Metered Parking** April 1-Sept 22, 2019, revenue is \$2.108M with 421,187 purchases, an increase from the same time period last year at \$2.045M in revenue for 418,906 purchases.
- Campground occupancy FY2020 YTD is up 1.8% in camping revenue. FY2019 finished with \$3,490M in revenue, up from last FY2018 record of \$3.3M. Campground occupancy over Labor Day weekend was at 98%, with 100% occupancy at Bear Brook, Cannon RV, Lodges at Coleman, Dry River, Ellacoya, Hampton Beach, Jericho Mountain, Lake Francis, Milan Hill, Moose Brook, Pillsbury, Sunapee and Umbagog Lake.
- **Donations** The Division received 2,960 online donations totaling \$19,218 in FY19, exceeding the donation totals for FY18. FY20 YTD has 982 online donations totaling \$6,148.
- **Gift Cars Sales** Since the program launch in November 2018, revenue is \$16,430 with 369 gift cards sold as of 9/16/19.
- **E-Commerce Sales** Since the program launch in November 2018, revenue is \$8,860 as of 9/16/19. Additional items, including apparel and holiday gifts, will be added in the coming months.
- The **Department of Administrative Service (DAS)** charged the Division of Parks and Recreation \$304,400 in Fiscal Year 2019 for the administrative services they provide the Division (AG's office, human resources, accounting, etc.). This assessment has not been paid by the Division since it became operationally self-funded in 1992. The charge is to all other sources of funds and affects all bureaus. The funds are used to offset general funds used to run DAS. Parks is in the process of preparing a waiver request, and if denied, will seek a change to the statutes to exempt all or a portion of the Division's activities from this charge. (RSA 21-I:74 Allocation of Statewide Central Services Costs; Allocation of Statewide Indirect Costs.)

BUREAU OF PARK OPERATIONS

GREAT NORTH WOODS

- Despite the late campground openings due to lingering winter conditions this spring at our Northernmost campgrounds, Deer Mountain, Lake Francis and Coleman State Parks; once our campers returned all three experienced visitation and revenue targets this season that are on par with the previous season.
- The new bathhouse project at **Umbagog Lake State Park** was completed very close to the planned completion date despite severe delays due to stubborn lingering winter and early spring conditions. We welcomed Remote Campsites and Cabin campers into the park by Memorial Day Weekend while working around the construction, and opened the Base Campsites and Cabins as we headed into the weekend before the 4th of July. Temporary Toilets and Showers were brought in to serve the public at the Base for the first week as the building contractor follow up on some inspection details, but the full new facility was opened the week after the holiday making the project only one week late. The visiting public and our staff are very satisfied with the results of this fine new building, and look forward to the second phase that will relocate the Park Office and Retail Space into an area reserved in the new building.
- A new roof was installed on the 2nd Toilet Building in Moose Brook's Main Camping Area this June. A
 local father & son team had been awarded the project contract and worked extremely efficient in
 getting the project completed and the building back in service in well under a week.
- **Jericho Mountain State Park** held the 10th annual ATV Festival at the park on the 1st week of August. Festival organizers reported the strongest attendance ever at over 8,000 participants, despite mixed weather with a short period of showers that did more to dampen the dust more than any spirits.
- Efforts to partner with local volunteers and friends to our state parks took a step forward at **Forest Lake State Park** in Dalton this summer, members of the Forest Lake Association donated funds and their time to build a fine new information kiosk that was installed at the park this past July (see picture).

MOUNT WASHINGTON

- Very busy summer season with visitation. Attendance since May is roughly 275,000 as of September 12th.
- Retail and Food Concessions are on pace for a record breaking sales season. Through the end of August, we are ahead of last year's sales totals by \$25,000. The Park set a single day all time dollar sales record three different times this season.
- New SnowCat to be delivered by the end of September and will be ready to operate for the upcoming winter season (2019 Pisten Bully 400).
- New entrance sign for **Tip Top House** was delivered in June and mounted by Mount Washington State Park staff.
- One fatality this summer season; a 63 year old woman from New Jersey died of complications due to
 exposure and hypothermia in winter-like conditions on June 13th. Mount Washington State Park staff
 and NH Fish and Game were involved in the response on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail, not far below
 the summit. She passed away at the hospital after the being transferred to ambulance at the base of
 the Mount Washington Auto Road. 3 fatalities have been recorded in 2019, including a climber in
 Huntington Ravine in February (resulting from a fall) and a skier on Raymond Cataract in April
 (avalanche).

- Many carpentry, light plumbing, and other improvement projects completed so far this season by Park Staff, including, but not limited to, a brand new back door and door frame improvements for Tip Top House, interior lighting upgrades for the Tip Top House, new outdoor lighting for the Sherman Adams Building, new soap dispensers and new electric hand dryers in the rest rooms, complete renovation of one of the State Park staff bunkrooms, re-organization and cleaning of staff maintenance workshop, including replacement of old equipment and tools.
- Made repairs, upgrades and scheduled preventative maintenance to the Wastewater Treatment
 Plant, many of which were carried out by Park Staff.
- Currently in the process of purchasing 3 new park vehicles before next season, including replacement of 2 current vehicles aging out of their Mount Washington lifespan (2013 van and 2012 SUV) and an addition of a third pick up truck to the State Park's fleet.
- Handicap parking moved away from the front entrance of the Sherman Adams Building to near the front of the Tip Top House to start the season. The change was made due to concern for pedestrian safety coming in and out of the building with vehicles backing up. The new location has worked well this season and has increased visitor safety.
- Mount Washington State Park provided logistical support and accommodations to assist the White Mountain Trail Collective, the AMC, and the USFS on the season long maintenance and improvement of the Crawford Path (200 years old in 2019!)
- The **Cog Railway** submitted a proposal to the Coos County Planning Board to extend its tracks and construct a platform within the Cog's right of way. The planning board requires DNCR approval of the project before it will act on the request. The new footprint of rails and platform would increase from 1680 square feet existing prior to 2014 to 3303 square feet and would be approximately 11.5 feet high at the deck and 15 feet at the railing. The Mount Washington Commission has reviewed the plans and DNCR is determining the impact on its rights as the underlying fee owner.

SOUTH REGION

- **Monadnock**: this weekend, we are piloting a new parking reservation system that allows visitors to pre-pay for a parking spot and to guarantee themselves a parking spot at Monadnock during fall foliage. The goal is to have most of our visitors use this system to better manage park capacity.
- New Adirondack shelters on group site B were installed at **Greenfield**.
- Monadnock is happy to open their new four-season bathhouse at their Headquarter location. After much careful planning and construction, this new bathhouse will offer hikers year-round restroom facilities at Monadnock.
- Monadnock staff have conducted 35 rescues to date during the 2019 Season.
- **Bear Brook** State Park is in the process of developing a Horse Camping area. Bear Hill Camp is closed temporarily while the septic system is being repaired.
- Day-Use attendance was up since Silver Lake experienced a very good year and very little cyanoblooms. The lack of cyanobacteria in the lake encouraged a higher amount of guests to visit throughout the summer months.
- The 1994 **Bear Brook State Park** Management Plan is being updated. The <u>steering committee</u> has met three times and will be meeting monthly until March. The technical team presented the first four chapters to the committee on September 12th.
- This year Monadnock has engaged the SCA New Hampshire Corps for five 10-day trail crews to work
 on our main trails, the White Dot and White Cross. They have focused on specific safety areas, key
 erosion control points, and rehabilitating trail-widening areas. Accomplishments include (as of 8/30):

- 46 Water Bars Maintained, 1 Culvert Maintained, 78 Step Stones Set, 3 Stone Staircases Installed, 50' of Scree Wall Constructed, 4,242 sq. ft. of Impacted Site Restoration & Revegetation, for a Total # of Crew Members: 14 and Total # of Service Hours: 831
- We have also engaged Tahawus Trails, a professional trail company out of New York, to do some
 much-needed heavier trail work on some of the most dangerous, most endangered (from erosion)
 slopes on the main trails. Preliminary site-visits have been completed this year, with work aiming to
 begin next year

SEACOAST REGION

- Lottery system for campground reservations at **Hampton RV Park** is going live! This will allow access to five campsites with hookups to folks who have had trouble booking sites in the past. A link to the article: https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20190703/hampton-beach-part-of-nhs-campsite-lottery Given its success, the plan is to put half of the sites on the lottery for next year.
- Ocean Rescue: Fully staffed for the first time in a very long time! Hampton Beach hosted the USLA Life Saving Competitions at the main beach. Hampton Lifeguards took First place in the competition, and had excellent competitors from Salisbury Beach and Wears Beach. The weather and strong surf on the day of caused many teams to drop out if the competition. Water Safety day was again a success, and drew children and adults all day to learn about rip currents, water rescue and more! Fish and Game, Marine Patrol, US Coast Guard, Hampton PD and Fire were all in attendance (see photo).
- Park Manager Ken Loughlin retired after 38 seasons of service to the state as the Park Manager of
 Wallis Sands. His retirement party and an end-of-season staff party was held at Odiorne Point. Staff
 were graciously allowed in to the Seacoast Science Center to explore. Our J1 Visa students from China
 were particularly thrilled with this experience (see photo).
- **Rye Harbor:** Volunteer groups continue to work on removing Bittersweet and other invasive species from the entrance and perimeter of the park. Governor Sununu signed Senate Bill 76 banning offshore oil and gas drilling into law at Rye Harbor (see photo).
- Parks began staffing and charging the entrance fee at the boat launch section of Odiorne Point State
 Park. This has resulted in increased revenue for the park, and has helped with enforcement of park rules.
- All parks continue to see an increase of use by folks wanting to bring their pets. Staff continues to
 enforce areas where dogs are not allowed, however public push back and opposition to the pet
 prohibition continues to increase.
- **Jenness State Beach** ribbon cutting held on June 14th and was well attended by the community. Park visitors have remarked what a positive change the new building is. DPR is working with the NH Council for the Arts to commission artwork for the site via the Percent for Arts program. Final selection is expected this fall and installation is planned for spring.
- The Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) hosted the State Lands Management Team in June to discuss strategies used to restore native plant habitat at **Odiorne Point State Park**. The SCA NH Corps conservation crew worked with RCCD to chainsaw through a tangle of glossy buckthorn and removed phragmites so herbicide can be applied.

CENTRAL REGION

• Improvements: Continued hazard tree removal at White Lake, Echo Lake, Sunapee Beach roadway entrance, and Livermore Falls. Renovations at Sunapee campground office to increase retail sales and

- improve guest check in experience. New maintenance garage at **Pillsbury**. Six new kiosks built by SCA and installed at five parks.
- The SCA was once again a huge help with opening our parks, painting at **Ellacoya**, **Pillsbury** and **White Lake** buildings and pit toilets. SCA will be starting trail work at **Echo Lake**.
- Our retail stores continue to grow in revenue especially at White Lake, Wellington and Crawford
 Notch. We are looking forward to the future Echo Lake store (opening date for 2020) come to fruition
 next year and take advantage of a great opportunity for Retail and Boat Rentals.
- Our new park managers at **Wentworth, Wellington**, and **Livermore** had a great first season. Our managers did a great job handling an overwhelmingly busy 4th of July weekend that tested all of our parks capacity to handle visitors, parking, trash, and in some cases septic systems. These challenges remained almost every weekend for the rest of the summer.
- The interpretive signs for **Livermore Falls State Forest**, Pemi River Access are out to bid. The signs will be installed in the spring.
- We understand the **Ruggles Mine** is in the process of or has been purchased by a private buyer.

FRANCONIA NOTCH STATE PARK

- Franconia Notch State Park is running smoothly at this point: Flume Gorge and Aerial Tramway are slightly ahead from last year; and Lafayette Campground and Echo Lake Beach are functioning very well under new leadership. All venues and services within the park are expected to be very busy over the next three (3) weekends.
- Winter prep and planning continues on a year-round basis.
- Capital planning and projects are well underway @ \$1.976M approval / \$2.626M overall for FY20. Projects include a new sprinkler system for the summit building.
- Franconia Notch was the host site for **Smokey Bear's 75**th **birthday party** on Aug 15th, with the collaboration of all five DNCR divisions. Smokey Bear began as a print campaign designed by the War Ad Council during World War II, when experienced firefighters were overseas and the public was called upon to help reduce wildfire risks. Expanded over the decades to include outreach through radio, television, internet and more, it remains the longest-running public service advertising campaign in U.S. history. Smokey's fan base is multi-generational and the event allowed DNCR to interact with NH's seniors and toddlers and everyone in-between.
- Our season at the Flume has been great. We have had visitors from nearly all the States including
 Puerto Rico and from all over the WORLD! Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, Nepal, India, Indonesia,
 Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Italy, France, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Poland,
 Czech Republic, Moldova, Russia, Finland, United Kingdom (Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain), South
 Africa, Brazil, Belize, Mexico and Canada. That's just a list from the guests who took time to sign our
 guest registry, I'm sure there have been other countries represented here at the Gilman Visitor
 Center!
- Flume ticket sales 2018 YTD were \$1,758,530/ 2019 YTD are \$1,738,692 a difference of \$19,838 putting us up 2% YTD and Flume visitor visits in 2018 YTD were 116,879 and 2019YTD are 116,328 which is up by 551 putting up by 1% YTD. We expect those numbers to increase through the foliage season.
- We have been working with Fish and Game to educate visitors and hikers in Franconia Notch about bear encounters as we have been frequently visited by a young bear in the area. Encounters between

- this bear and people has been without incident except for the bear stealing food bags and backpacks from hikers on the **Liberty Springs trail**.
- The **hiker shuttle** in Franconia Notch State Park has generally determined to be a success with few complaints from 6762 riders. However even with the \$5 person charge to riders, Parks has lost \$26,588 so far this year. A plan to charge for parking in specific lots at specific times is under review.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES

- Administrator of Historic Sites position was posted internally with a closing date of 09/30/19, and will
 be posted externally next week. Following the recruitment process, we anticipate a start date by early
 2020.
- The Nansen Ski Jump in Milan was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, for both architecture and its important role in the history of U.S. ski jumping. Built in 1938, Nansen Ski Jump retains most of its original design as a competitive ski jumping complex and is likely the most intact nationally prominent historic ski jumping facility in the United States.
- The Nansen Ski Jump project was awarded a \$250,000.00 NBRC (Northern Border Regional Commission) grant for the continued restoration and upgrade of the site for the purposes of historic interpretation and future FIS (Federation for International Skiing) sanctioned jumping competitions.
- Beatrix Potter Day was held at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion on July 27 to celebrate the legendary author and illustrator's birthday. Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) created many beloved children's characters, including Peter Rabbit. She was a family friend of the Coolidges, dedicating her last novel to Henry P. Coolidge.
- For FY2019, 427 tickets were purchased online for historic site tours. FY2020 tickets sales is 217, as of 09/10/19.

BUREAU OF TRAILS (BOT)

- **OHRV registrations** this season are down slightly and more of the registrants are listed themselves as non-club members this year. It is anticipated that we will register approximately 34,000 OHRVs this year, which is down 2,000 from the past 2 years.
- The **Continuing Resolution (CR)** has impacted snowmobile and OHRV construction projects this summer. The CR was based on financial figures and approved budgets for 2019, however GIA awards were based on funds available in FY 20, which was more than the Bureau had available in FY 19. The Bureau did get approval from the Fiscal Committee and Governor & Executive Council to increase its GIA budget figures, however those increases did not cover all of the GIA contracts that were approved by Governor & Council in July.
- The **2019 OHRV Riding Season** is underway, and seasonal trail closures will be starting soon. The trail network in Pittsburg shuts down on October 1, with other areas closing down after Columbus Day and the state highway connectors closing for the season on November 1st.
- BOT hosted the **House RR&D Committee on a Field Trip** on 06/18/19, to provide a better understanding of the OHRV network located in the North Country. About 12 members of the committee rode with us. We spent an hour at **Jericho Mountain** Visitor Center talking about the history of the park and legislation that was passed by the RR&D committee to make it happen. We rode for about 2 hours, taking them to the wind towers to see the views of the park and Berlin and then rode to Gorham to show them the parking area that has all the controversy.
- BOT crew completed construction of the new Basin Bridge at the Flume Gorge (see photos).

COMMUNITY RECREATION OFFICE

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- For calendar year 2018, 21,403 volunteer hours with an estimated value of \$551,341 was reported. (up from 18,565/ \$462,269 in 2017)
- We hired a Volunteer Supervisor who started in July. Her name is Jesse Creedy Powers and she comes
 from Newton, Massachusetts. Jesse graduated from American University with a Bachelor Degree in
 Environmental Studies. Previously, she was the Director of Operations for an Environmental Education
 company that focused on outdoor education for children ages 2-8.
- Jesse is focusing on reestablishing relationships with our **long term partners and Friend Groups**, renewing group agreements with long term groups (currently 22 groups are under agreement with the State), updating volunteer applications and agreements, and volunteer recognition.
- Multiple workdays were held in conjunction with SNHU, Eversource, SPNHF, Vapotherm, Derry Village Rotary Club, and ARS Restoration Specialists.
- Volunteer efforts on State Land in 2019 include: several bridges built in Pisgah State Park by the Friends
 of Pisgah, bog bridges built in Temple Mountain State Reservation by the Friends of the Wapack,
 restoration of the Nature Trail at Monadnock State Park by Eversource and the SCA, and the creation of
 picnic benches and painting of rooms at the Robert Frost Farm by the Derry Village Rotary Club.
- As of 2019, the Department provides **liability insurance** to 14 different volunteering non-profit Friends groups and non-motorized trail maintenance organizations.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- GRANT ROUND 30: Grant Round 30 was released in May 2019. Prospective sponsors and the basic
 premises of their proposed projects have been reviewed for eligibility. Invitations to apply have been
 provided for those that are eligible. Applications are due in January 2020, with an anticipated grant
 start date of June 1, 2020 for selected and approved projects. Pending future funding status, Grant
 Round 31 is tentatively schedule to be released in May 2021.
- PROGRAM APPORTIONMENTS/AVAILABLE FUNDS: Recently received our Fy19 apportionment

Apportionment	Obligation Deadline	Apportioned Amount	Available Balance
GOMESA* FY 09-17	None	\$122,193.00	\$25,919.00
LWCF FY 18	9/30/2020	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00
GOMESA* FY 18	9/30/2020	\$618,445.00	\$234,656.96
LWCF FY 19	9/30/2021	\$1,004,160.00	\$1,004,160.00
GOMESA* FY 19	9/30/2021	\$709,512.00	\$709,512.00
	Total:	\$3,458,470.00	\$2,978,407.96

^{*}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.

Open LWCF projects:

PROJECT #	NAME	SPONSOR	TYPE	PROJECT SCOPE	GRANT \$
33-00695	Monadnock SP Visitor Services Building	State of NH DNCR	Development	Addition of a winterized bathroom to the existing bathhouse	\$443,304.00
33-00699	Cocheco River Park	City of Dover	Development	Construction of a paddle sports access and boat dock	\$159,675.00
33-00700	Merrimack River Greenway Trail	City of Concord	Development	Construction of a trail bridge at Terrill Park	\$106,450.00
33-00701	Pulpit Rock Conservation Area Trls	Town of Bedford	Development	Trail accessibility enhancements and construction of trail bridges	\$45,241.00
33-00702		Town of Milford	Development		\$159,675.00

33-00702.1	Osgood Pond Restoration Phase I-II			Pond dredging and improvements to water access facilities at Adams Field	\$175,175.00
33-00705	Hartford Brook Ballfields	Town of Deerfield	Development	Improvements to playfield, parking, and support facilities	\$25,000.00
33-00706	Nissitissit River Park	Town of Brookline	Combination	Development of accessible trail, and acquisition abutting rail trail	\$50,050.00
33-00707	Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvements	City of Nashua	Development	Boat ramp and parking improvements on the Merrimack River	\$200,200.00
33-00708	Bristol Falls Park	Town of Bristol	Development	Restoration of access to a high-bank viewing area of the Pemi and Newfound	\$153,155.00
33-00709	B. Rowell Community Center Playground	City of Franklin	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$45,045.00
33-00710	Monadnock Park Playground	City of Claremont	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$53,753.00
33-00711	Monroe Consolidated School Playground	Monroe Consolidated SD	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$96,396.00
33-00713	Kearsarge Mtn State Forest-Tusoni Lot	State of NH DNCR	Acquisition	Purchase of 33.4 acres 1.5 miles up from the Rollins State Park tollbooth	\$21,354.00
33-00714	Franconia Notch SP - Lafayette Playground	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00715	Ellacoya State Park Playground	State of NH DNCR	Development	Construction of a New Playground	\$76,742.50
33-00716	Mill City Park at Franklin Falls	City of Franklin	Combination	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	Development	Construction of a splash-pad, restrooms, and accessible pathway, and kiosk	\$199,606.41
33-00718	Riverfront Park	Town of Lincoln	Development	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	Development	Installation of surface material, new/fixed drainage, grading, benches, kiosk	\$100,100.00
33-00721	Littleton Health Park	Town of Littleton	Combination	5 acre acquisition, construction of parking area, pavilion, community gardens, fitness area, trail	\$200,200.00
33-00722	Maplewood Field Bleachers/Playground	Town of Salisbury	Development	Installation of new bleachers, swing set, play equipment, and pathway	\$25,000.00
33-00723	Moeckel Pond Dam Reconstruction	Town of Windham	Development	Reconstruction of historic mill site dam, car-top boat, and parking	\$150,150.00
33-00724	Jules Bisson Park Rejuvenation	City of Somersworth	Development	Construction of a playground, picnic shelter, and accessibility enhancements	\$45,000.00
33-00726	Kraine Meadow Park Improvements	Town of Moultonborough	Development	Construction of a picnic shelter with concession area and composting toilets	\$62,562.50
				TOTAL OPEN GRANTS:	\$3,070,976.91

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

• The State Fire Marshall's Office is conducting inspections and review of all state buildings. So far they have inspected 65 DNCR facilities. There is an average of 6 deficiencies per site ranging from minor such as fire extinguishers and exit lights to major life safety projects such as fire enclosed stairwells. DNCR Planning and Development office staff are meeting monthly with the Fire Marshall's Office.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Monadnock: Project is complete, ribbon cutting scheduled for October 4, 2019.
- **Umbagog**: Project is complete. Campers have remarked that the new bathhouse is a great improvement to the park!
- **Ellacoya:** Phase II is in progress, completion expected mid-November.

- **Cannon Mountain**: Bids are due September 25th for the sprinkler system and fire alarm. Project is expected to begin in October 2019 and completed by March 2020.
- Mount Washington: The final report of the communication study to determine the future of the
 Yankee building has been presented and is being reviewed. The consultant for the sewage treatment
 plant has completed a year of testing and sampling and will submit their recommendations for
 improved system and increased capacity.
- **Echo Lake**: Building was delivered and work is ongoing to bring it into compliance with building codes. An accessible ramp has been designed by staff architects and the construction of the ramp and electrical work will be bid out this fall.
- White Island: Contractor began work in September on the roof and it will be completed this fall. Window replacement will be done in the spring.
- **Milan Hill**: Foundation of the office building has failed. Bid documents in preparation for spring construction. A temporary trailer is on-site for park operations.
- **Hampton Beach**: The maintenance and painting of the Sunfish is starting 9/23. The work is expected to be complete by spring 2020.
- **Bear Brook**: Bid documents are in progress for roofing buildings at Bear Hill Pond Camp and Spruce Pond Camp.
- **Fire Towers**: Repairs are complete at Oak Hill and 95% complete at Kearsarge. Milan Hill fire tower is expected to begin in spring 2020.

<u>PARTNERSHIPS.</u> The Division of Historical Resources conducted **SCRAP programs** at two DNCR sites this year. The team returned to Livermore Falls State Forest to continue the exploration of "The Hollow" and a new site at Pillsbury State Park was investigated. Both sites have expanded our knowledge of the human history of New Hampshire.

CONSULTANT SERVICES.

- The Division has hired Tahawus Trails LLC to design trail stone staircase for approximately 80 linear of trail across a ledge at **Monadnock State Park**. The work is expected to start next spring.
- Fort Stark State Historic Site is currently being studied by the Public Archaeology Laboratory and they
 will prepare a Historic District Area Form and Phase 1 Archaeological study. This project includes a
 geophysical survey to search for, and if detected, determine the horizontal positions and integrity of
 former foundations and other buried features.

STUDENT CONSERVATION CORP (SCA) NH CORPS

- There have been a total of 28,080 park contacts across all parks and 16,402 program attendees for the <u>Discover the Power of Parks</u> program through Labor Day. After Labor Day the Rangers at **White Lake** and Bear Brook State Parks offer free <u>programs</u> to community groups in the Merrimack Valley and Ossipee Lake Regions at their location or in a park, both program reservations are almost full. The SCA Rangers at Franconia Notch and Monadnock State Parks are preparing for a busy foliage season. They will be providing guest services, nature interpretation and hike safe programming.
- The Conservation Crews have been busy statewide. The Recreational Trails Program is funding 5 hitches at Monadnock State Park and the cons crew have been working on the White Dot Trail installing staircases and step stones and are hardening surfaces (see attached report). In addition, crews have done a wide variety of park improvement projects including kiosk and shelter construction, painting, installing crib steps (see attached report) and at the end of the season they will be working on the Bryce Path at Cathedral Ledge and constructing and installing pit toilets at the Umbagog Lake Campground remote sites.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

<u>Cellular carriers and other communication providers</u> are pressing to add more communications equipment onto recreational structures such as the Tram and the Sherman Adams building. They are challenging our refusal to support these requests. Locating communications equipment on recreational structures not only creates a visual impact but also creates operational and maintenance restrictions and conflicts with LWCF requirements. Long-term plans are to remove all of the equipment on and in the recreational buildings.

AGREEMENTS

- Negotiations with the Mount Washington Observatory are underway to amend specific terms in their
 agreement. With the withdrawal of financial support from the Cog Railway, the Observatory is
 working with the State to explore other ways to structure the relationship and funding to support the
 Park. The contract was extended another year until September of 2020 to complete the negotiations.
- We completed a new agreement with the Appalachian Mountain Club for the lease of the Lonesome
 Lake site in Franconia Notch State Park. The compensation provided to the state increased from
 \$6,529/yr. to \$15,000/yr. (over a three-year escalation), with an additional payment not to exceed
 \$20K in in-kind services related to hiking trail maintenance performed exclusively on state
 reservations.

NH STATE PARKS LIBRARY PASS PROGRAM. The NH State Park Library Pass program received a face-lift in 2019. After listening to concerns and suggestions from the libraries, we moved to an online option where the libraries could print the pass date specific, one-time use pass for their patrons. This change allowed the patrons to pick the pass up at the library but they did not have to return it for the next patron to use. Although we did experience some technical difficulties, we were able to iron them out and guide the librarians to the most efficient way to access the passes for their patrons. The breakdown and comparison of passes is listed below:

Year	# of libraries purchasing	# of passes sold	Total revenue
2018	58	61	\$6315
2019	69	74	\$7,805

Each pass is valid for two adults and up to four dependents to enter into our day-use parks at no additional charge. With the purchase of one pass, the library is able to "loan" the pass to one patron. The value of revenue State Parks would collect at a high use park for two adults and four dependents would be \$2,754 per pass. (This is based on use from May 1 – Sept 30 daily use for a total of 153 x \$18 at a high-use park).

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROGRAM (SUP)

- The **Special Use Permit Program** is growing steadily every year. We have many different activities that take place within the State Park System from triathlons to bike races to guided hikes to fundraising for specific organizations or causes to name a few. We also issue guide permits. Additionally, we issue filming permits to organizations who wish to film either still photos, film using hand-held camera or larger, and drones which require additionally permitting.
- The total permit fees collected through park headquarters from the 2019 special use permits is \$93,118.45. The day-use fees are typically collected at the parks and reported at that level.
- Below is a breakdown of the type of permits issued with 2019 year to date versus 2018 calendar year:

Special Use Permits by type:

special esert times of typ		
	2018	2019*
Filming	10	12
Guide	2	1
SUP - Parks	135	142
SUP - Trails	19	14
TOTAL	166	169

SUPs by Management Region:

	2018	2019
Central	17	19
FNSP	7	8
Great North Woods	13	9
Historic Sites	1	1
Mt. Washington	8	11
Multiple Locations	8	7
Seacoast	56	56
South	26	29
Trails	30	29

<u>BEACH ADVISORY PROGRAM</u> The Division works with the Department of Environmental Services to have the swimming water tested at the state owned beaches on a regular basis. The Division had a total of 27 beach advisories during the 2019 sampling season with Greenfield and Sunapee being the hardest hit. Below is the list of advisories for Greenfield and Sunapee:

Beach Name	Date Posted	Date Removed	Advisory Type	Total # of Days
Greenfield	6/25/2019	7/17/2019	Fecal Bacteria	23
Greenfield	8/2/2019	8/7/2019	Fecal Bacteria	6
Greenfield	8/13/2019	8/15/2019	Fecal Bacteria	3
Greenfield Campers Beach	7/17/2019	8/2/2019	Fecal Bacteria	17
Greenfield Campers Beach	8/13/2019	8/15/2019	Fecal Bacteria	3
Greenfield Middle Beach	7/17/2019	8/2/2019	Fecal Bacteria	17
Sunapee	6/11/2019	6/13/2019	Fecal Bacteria	3
Sunapee	7/10/2019	7/12/2019	Fecal Bacteria	3
Sunapee	7/19/2019	7/27/2019	Fecal Bacteria	9
Sunapee	8/15/2019	8/16/2019	Fecal Bacteria	2
Sunapee	8/21/2019	8/23/2019	Fecal Bacteria	3

<u>SEACOAST PARKING CITATIONS</u> The Seacoast Metered parking program runs from April 1 through October 31. The hours of operation in the months of April and October are 8am – 5pm seven days a week including holidays and the rate to park is \$1 per hour. The hours of operation from May 1 through September 30 are from 8am – midnight seven days a week including holidays and the rate to park is \$2 per hour. This is enforced through the Park Patrol Office seven days a week.

Below is a comparison of the revenue collected YTD through 9/24 of each year. It is important to note that these numbers reflect payments **received** during the associated year, however the citation being paid may have been from a previous year.

Year	Citations Paid	Total Revenue
2015	7,698	\$274,441.40
2016	4,601	\$156,615.49
2017	5,155	\$177,179.00
2018	4,954	\$167,951.01
2019	4,472	\$162,735.75

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AND MARKETING REPORT

- Collaborating continues with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and their TrailFinder App. Latest addition
 to TrailFinder included two separate pages for Milan Hill. One page hiking trails and one for the Ski Clubs
 cross-country and snowshoeing trails. We also published the mountain biking trails at Moose Brook with
 the help of the Coos Cycling club.
- Social Media accounts as of 9/25/2019:

Facebook Likes: 246K;Twitter followers: 21.4k;Instagram followers: 38.5K.

- Season opening Facebook statistics May 6 June 2
 - Posts Engagements: 22,009 increase 38%
 - Posts People Reached: 456,399 increase 325%
 - Video Views: 3,094 increase 329%
 - Page New Followers: 6544 increase 1836%
 - Note: Top Parks posts were related to Hiring and positions in NH State Parks.
- Website from 2/15/19 5/30/2019:
 - 399K total sessions; avg. 1:58 min/session; 30% MA, 28% NH, 6% NY, 5% CT, 3% RI
- Press Releases:

7/22/2019 - NH State Parks 2019 Water Safety Day

NH State Parks NH Beach Patrol will host their 2019 Water Safety Day on July 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampton Beach Seashell Complex, 180 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, NH.

7/22/2019 - Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion Beatrix Potter Day

It's Beatrix Potter Day! Hop down to the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion State Park Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 375 Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth, NH.

7/15/2019 - Cardigan Mountain State Park - Road Closures and Access

Orange Road in Orange near Cardigan Mountain State Park is closed except to local traffic due to heavy damage sustained during Thursday evening's storm. Cardigan Mountain State Park remains open, but please be advised that anyone seeking public access to the mountain or the hiking trails should seek alternate access via Burnt Hill Road. DOT officials will work as quickly as possible to restore Orange Road to through traffic.

7/10/2019 - NH celebrates Smokey Bear's 75th birthday throughout the summer

Smokey Bear is celebrating his 75th birthday this year and he will be making several appearances throughout New Hampshire as part of his mission to raise awareness about wildfire prevention.

6/27/2019 - NH Parks pilot campsite lottery at select parks open July 1

The NH State Parks announces a lottery for selected camping sites at Hampton Beach State Park and Ellacoya State Park. The State Parks Camping Lottery is a pilot program for the 2020 camping season to ensure greater opportunity for campers to experience our most popular camping areas.

6/25/2019 - State officials share update on multi-agency effort to address safety and parking on I-93 in Franconia Notch State Park

Heading into the busy summer hiking season, state officials issue reminders of efforts underway to ensure safety for people visiting Franconia Notch State Park (FNSP).

6/21/2019 - Trails Bureau Presents Landowner of the Year Award

The Bureau of Trails selects one landowner each year to recognize, as part of the NH Snowmobile Trail Program, as the Landowner of the Year.

6/19/2019 - Bear Brook State Park Steering Committee is holding a public listening session June 27 The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Bear Brook State Park Management Plan Steering Committee is holding a public listening session at NH Fish and Game, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH on June 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

6/12/2019 - Jenness State Beach Bathhouse Ribbon Cutting Celebration

NH Parks and Recreation will host a ribbon cutting celebration for the new bathhouse at Jenness State Beach at 2280 Ocean Blvd, Rye, NH at 1:30 p.m. on June 14.

Media Opportunities:

- Samantha Brown's "Places to Love" PBS show. The Production Crew filmed on June 20 at MWSP.
 Their primary focus is Mount Washington State Park and the Cog.
 - Facts about the show:
 - Each episode is :30 minutes
 - Places to Love airs in over 97% of US Households
 - Distributed in USA by American Public Television
 - 2018 averaged 2MM actual views per episode
 - In addition to the exposure from the show itself, which generally airs multiple times, there is also excellent exposure on Samantha's digital media:
 - Website visitors generate avg. of \$750K monthly hotel revenue
 - Facebook 157k followers /RealSamanthaBrown
 - Twitter 109k followers @SamanthaBrown
 - Instagram 63k followers @SamanthaBrownTravels
 - Pinterest 13k followers /SamanthaBrown
 - Newsletter 24k subscribers Samantha-Brown.com
 - A Conversation with N.H. Parks and Recreation Director Philip Bryce, NHPR THE EXCHANGE AUG
 6, 2019. https://www.nhpr.org/post/conversation-nh-parks-and-recreation-director-philip-bryce#stream/1
 - N.H. State Parks Director Open to Considering Raising Fees for Non-Resident Visitors, NHPR THE EXCHANGE AUG 9, 2019. https://www.nhpr.org/post/nh-state-parks-director-open-considering-raising-fees-non-resident-visitors#stream/1
 - Outdoor Adventures: Sunrise above the clouds on Milan Hill, Valley News SEPT 6, 2019.
 https://www.vnews.com/Marty-Basch-Outdoor-Adventures-column-28256373
 - The Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway ferries passengers up and down breathtaking Cannon Mt. year round. Its history is as fascinating as the tram is useful. New England Travel today June 17, 2019. https://newengland.com/today/travel/new-hampshire/white-mountains/cannon-mountain-aerial-tramway/
 - NH Parks and Recreation has been features in numerous online travel magazines over the summer. These earned media features are often spotlighted on online travel sites and review sites such as Yelp and TripAdvisor.

Marketing and Advertising

- On Aug. 28, NH State Parks met with our marketing firm, GYK Antler to plan fall marketing campaigns. Efforts this fall will concentrate on targeting the fall leaf peepers. Travel and Tourism predicts \$1.5 Billion tourism dollars from fall visitors to the state. Given the success of retails operations, we decided to begin a State Parks gift card campaign in mid-October. This campaign will highlight what you are gifting when you give a gift card for the holidays. This will highlight our retail items and our parks destinations. The appeal will be the gift of the NH outdoors, family camping adventures and day use destinations.
- One of our most successful programs has been the **State Parks license plate**. Parks participated as a vendor at the 94th annual City and Town association Conference in North Conway in Sept. The members are our primary marketing tool to promote the license plate and that was emphasized to the members. We will build our relationships with its members and ensure they have all the promotional items to continue the success of the program.
- Over the summer, we have updated and added many of our state parks to online review sites like
 Yelp and TripAdvisor. Most sites already have a page on Google +. This has been a great opportunity to engage on a personal level with our visitors, address their concerns and thank them for their support.

CUSTOMER SERVICE PERFORMANCE (just a sampling)

"My wife and I last climbed Mt **Monadnock** when we were in our thirty's. We are now in our sixties and thought we would give it a try and see how far we could get up the mountain... Near the top of the mountain we encountered Taylor, the Ranger on the mountain. I am a retired Law Enforcement Officer and have met hundreds of public employees and I would consider her one of the most helpful, pleasant, and passionate employees I have ever met. Her encouragement, kindness, and sharing her water and snacks got us both to the top of the mountain. She should be recognized as an outstanding representative of the New Hampshire Park Service. We will be back but we hope you will have "I Love Taylor" tee shirts for sale in the park store." — Brian and Carol Malone, Marstons Mills, MA

"The organization thanks the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation for allowing the use of the [**Pisgah** state] park for the picnic." – Friends of Pisgah

"I wanted to thank you for the passes to **Wellington** State Park. They were greatly appreciated. Peers from the mental health community truly enjoyed themselves and it was a very good time." – Concord Peer Support Center and Cornerbridge Peer Support Center providing services to people with mental illness

"Clean, quiet and close to town. First time at this campground and I was very impressed. Our site was clean, well maintained and easy to get into. The visitor center was easy to find and after checking in, we bought a few bundles of firewood. Not a lot of noise for the sites being close to one another, even with lots of families and kids around. I'd definitely recommend this place!" Recent post on TripAdvisor by Christine z, Sept 25, 2019

"Christine, Thank you for your very positive review of **Moose Brook State Park**. The campground there is one of my favorites and it is close to Mount Washington State Park and other White Mountain attractions. Thank you again for the recommendation and we hope you are able to include one of our great state parks in your future vacation plans." Response from nhstateparks, Guest Relations Manager at Moose Brook State Park

REPORTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY:

- a. Parks Comparative Statements FY2019 & FY2020, as of 09-12-19
- b. Visitation Report
- c. Legislative Service Requests (LSR) 2020 listing

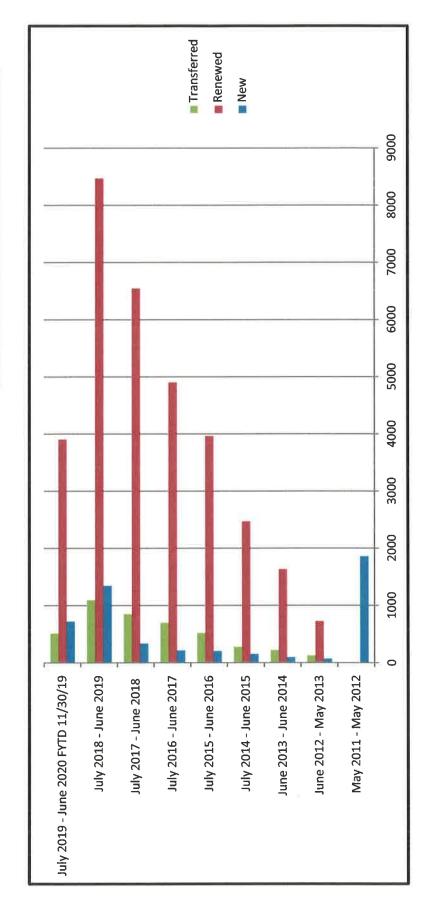
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STATE PARK LICENSE PLATE MAY 2011 - NOVEMBER 2019

Plates in motion	Totals		
	New	Renewed	Transferred
May 2011 - May 2012	1858	0	0
June 2012 - May 2013	89	722	125
June 2013 - June 2014	96	1629	220
July 2014 - June 2015	150	2467	277
July 2015 - June 2016	205	3959	517
July 2016 - June 2017	214	4898	269
July 2017 - June 2018	336	6543	848
July 2018 - June 2019	1344	8470	1092
July 2019 - June 2020 FYTD 11/30/19	719	3901	513
TOTALS	4,270	28,688	3,776

Currently Registered Valid State Park Plates State Park Passenger State Park Moose Plate Vanity State Park Moose Plate Vanity State Park Moose Plate TOTAL TOTAL Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185	As of 12/07/2019:	
State Park Passenger 8,827 State Park Moose Plate 1,128 Vanity State Park Plate 218 Vanity State Park Moose Plate 11,118 TOTAL 11,118 Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185	Currently Registered Valid Sta	e Park Plates
State Park Moose Plate 1,128 Vanity State Park Plate 945 Vanity State Park Moose Plate 218 Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185	State Park Passenger	8,827
Vanity State Park Plate 945 Vanity State Park Moose Plate TOTAL 11,118 Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	State Park Moose Plate	1,128
Vanity State Park Moose Plate 218 TOTAL 11,118 Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Vanity State Park Plate	945
	Vanity State Park Moose Plate	218
Total Revenues Earned FY 2015: \$299,680 Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	TOTAL	11,118
Total Revenues Earned FY 2016: \$409,470 Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Total Revenues Earned FY 201	5: \$299,680
Total Revenues Earned FY 2017: \$545,190 Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Total Revenues Earned FY 201	6: \$409,470
Total Revenues Earned FY 2018: \$705,240 Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Total Revenues Earned FY 201	7: \$545,190
Total Revenues Earned FY 2019: \$854,185 Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Total Revenues Earned FY 201	8: \$705,240
Total Revenues Earned FY 2020 FYTD: \$377,040	Total Revenues Earned FY 20	9: \$854,185
	Total Revenues Earned FY 202	0 FYTD: \$377,040





New Hampshire State Parks Enterprise Report FY19

Camping: The Division of Parks and Recreation (the Division) booked 45,893 camping reservations in FY19 generating nearly \$3.5 million in revenue. This is the highest revenue total for camping in NH State Parks history and is a 39.65% increase over FY13.

Point-of-Sale System: The Division's point of sale system continued to expand in FY19 adding 21 additional locations using the full retail inventory software. The point of sale system processed over \$4.8 million in revenue with over 854,000 individual transactions across all of our State Parks.

Gift Card Program: FY19 marked the launch of NH State Parks gift card program. The program launched in November of 2018 and offered gift cards for sale online, through our call center, and at park locations. The Division sold 328 gift cards totaling \$14,399 in FY 19. The top 3 park locations for gift card sales were Jericho Mountain State Park, Lafayette Place Campground (FNSP), and Monadnock State Park. The Division plans to continue to expand this program through increased marketing and partnerships.

Online Donations: NH State Parks continued to expand our online donation program by launching a stand-alone donation page. This comes in addition to guests being able to add a donation while making a camping/pavilion reservation, booking a historic site tour, or registering for an event. The Division collected 2,960 individual donations totaling \$19,218.50. We are looking at ways to continue to expand this program, as the desire for park guests to support our mission is strong.

E-commerce: NH State Parks online store launched in FY19 alongside our gift card program and continues to grow as the Division improves the product mix and invests in additional marketing; 195 orders were placed in FY19 totaling \$5,952.50.

Event Registration & Historic Site tours: The Division continued to use our Enterprise system to offer online event registration and online booking for historic site tours. Guests purchased 427 tickets online in FY19 for historic site tours and over 700 participants registered online for our First Day Hike.



Library Pass: The Division used our Enterprise system to include Library Passes to be sold online. This program allows libraries to purchase season passes for their patrons to use throughout the season. In total, 74 libraries purchased the online pass with 3,967 days booked by libraries. This is a potential revenue loss of \$63,635 (this is based on days booked 3967 x \$18 2 adults, 4 children at a high use park =\$71,406 - pass cost \$7770). Despite this potential revenue loss, the Division is committed to this program so that all NH families can experience our State Parks.

Camping Lottery: NH State Parks launched a campground lottery for two of our high use RV parks, Hampton Beach State Park and Ellacoya State Park. The demand for campsites at these parks made it difficult for guests to be able to reserve during peak season. Each park chose 5 campsites to be a part of the lottery. Over 200 applications were submitted and we have received positive feedback from guests. The Division plans to continue to expand this program to allow greater access to the public.







SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Field Season Report The Student Conservation Association in Partnership with NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources—NH Parks

Introduction:

During the 2019 season the SCA NH AmeriCorps Conservation Crews completed 17 hitches at various NH State Parks. In total the crews worked in 16 parks, some parks more than once, accomplishing a variety of tasks including spring clean-up in campgrounds, shelter & kiosk building, trail maintenance, rock staircases, invasive species removal, and painting.



Group Site Camp Shelters, Greenfield SP



Crib Stairs, Pawtuckaway SP



Invasive Species Removal, Odiorne Point SP

Accomplishments:

2019 was a successful season with engaging projects and excellent crews. Together we improved 16.8 miles of trails, 79.04 acres of land, and constructed 20 structures in NH Parks. Here is a summary of the various projects we completed throughout the NH State Parks system. Included is work done in Parks during trainings, fee-for-service hitch work, and Bear Brook/Spruce Pond Camp improvements.



Group posing on one of two Adirondack-style camp shelter frames during carpentry training at Greenfield SP. The shelters were completed during a subsequent hitch.

<u>Trainings</u>

Pillsbury SP-Camp Skills

• 3.5 Miles of Trail Corridor Opened on 3 Trails

Greenfield SP- Carpentry

 2 Camp Shelter Foundations and Frames Constructed

Bear Brook SP- Conservation Work Skills

- 2.5 Miles of Trail Improved on 6 Trails:
 - o 250' New Trail Construction
 - 7 Native Timber Check Steps Built
 - o 6 Native Timber Crib Steps Built
 - o 16' Native Timber Turnpike Built
 - 3 Rock Steps & 6 Gargoyles Installed
 - 8 Water Bars, 10 Drain Dips Maintained



Freshly Painted Store at Ellacoya SP



Timber-Rock Hybrid Stairs Constructed on the Bryce Path at Echo Lake SP



Rock staircase constructed on the White Cross Trail during one of five hitches at Monadnock SP.

Hitch Work

Property & Grounds Maintenance & Improvement

- 69.78 Acres of Natural Debris Removal from camp sites, view sheds, shorelines
- 335,412 sq. ft. Invasive Species Removed
- 37,342 sq. ft. of Parks Buildings & Structures Painted

Carpentry

- 2 Camping Shelters Built
- 6 Kiosks Constructed
- 2 Tent Platforms Repaired
- 1 Store Ramp Re-decked
- 11 Composting Toilet Foundations Built

Trail Maintenance

- 950' of Trail Built or Reopened
- 57 Rock Stairs Set
- 79 Rock Stepping Stones Set
- 60 Rock Gargoyles Installed
- 98 Water Bars Maintained
- 19 Crib Steps Installed
- 2 Timber Check Steps Installed
- 4 Native Timber Steps Built
- 101' of Scree Wall Built

Bear Brook State Park Improvements

- 5.1 Miles of Trail & Road Corridor Cleared, and the Spruce Pond Camp Portions Chipped
- 19,000 Sq. Ft. of Building Roof Maintenance/Sweeping at Spruce Pond Camp
- 2 Cabins Painted
- 103 Hours Snow Removal from Roofs
- 800' of Shingle Pond Road Corridor Widened During Chainsaw Training
- 6 Large Trees Bucked and Hauled out of Bear Hill Camp

9,358 Total Hours Worked in NH State Parks!

- 8.751 Crew Member Service Hours
- 331 David Graham, SCA Crew Supervisor In-Field Technical Support
- 157 Zach Colatch, SCA Conservation Coordinator In-Field Technical Support
- 52 Marcella Olds, SCA Program Assistant In-Field Technical Support
- **67** SCA Volunteer Service Hours (On hitch)

2019 SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Conservation Crew Members

Steve Vang Chico, CA Alyssa Elgart Gaylord, MI **Jasmine Scott** Atlanta, GA **Deron Clark** Cleveland, OH Sam Bybee DeKalb, IL **Eric Kim** Los Angles, CA **Kate Primmer** Madison, WI **Sydney Memminger** Charleston, SC

Kelly Brigham Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Tyler Sessions Camden, AL
Rocio Ronquillo El Paso, TX
Evan Brock Montrose, AL
Angela Spain Hickory Creek, TX
Leslie Lopez Mohegan Lake, NY

Courtney DillonRindge, NHNathan HandleyDothan, ALCharlie FerensSaginaw, MIGriffin GansworthNiagara Falls, NY

Crew Supervisor, **David Graham** Ashville, NC Coordinator, **Zach Colatch** Concord, NH





The SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Program is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, The New Hampshire Department Natural & Cultural Resources, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Since 1994, SCA NH AmeriCorps has provided nearly one million hours of service to the lands and people of New Hampshire. Each year, 30 full time volunteers contribute more than 50,000 service hours, providing environmental education programming to the state's residents and visitors, and completing conservation service projects that improve and protect the state's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.



2019 Discover the Power of Parks

Annual Report



From left to right, Interpretive Rangers Molly Ryan, Alexandria Clifton, Kyle Krupa, Nell Davis, Thomas Cummings, Simone Maule, Eilís Donohue, Sarah Sherwood, and Matthew Pyster.

Discover the Power of Parks invites visitors to New Hampshire State Parks to enhance their park visit by engaging with interpretive programs at parks statewide. This program is a collaboration between the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), the Student Conservation Association (SCA), and Eversource Energy with program support from the Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps).

Program Overview

SCA NH Corps recruited and trained nine educators early in their careers to act as Interpretive Rangers and provide educational activities, guided hikes, and informal lessons for park visitors of all ages. The

goal of all of these programs was to connect participants with nature and build their appreciation for New Hampshire's natural and cultural heritage. Programs also encouraged effective stewardship of park resources by educating on Leave No Trace principles, hiking safety, and recycling, among other topics. In addition, this program provides a valuable professional development opportunity for the participants.

The state parks that hosted Interpretive Rangers this year were: Bear Brook, Crawford Notch, Ellacoya, Franconia Notch, Greenfield, Jericho Mountain, Miller, Monadnock, Moose Brook, Odiorne Point, Pawtuckaway, Umbagog, Wallis Sands, and White Lake.

Measuring Success

Bear Brook Field Trips

The Discover the Power of Parks Interpretive Rangers begin their summer by hosting 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students from Manchester, Hooksett, Deerfield, Pembroke and Allenstown for field trips at Bear Brook State Park. The Interpretive Rangers lead a total of sixteen field trips and two field days during this period for students who had been part of the SCA NH Corps winter environmental education program (new this year was one weekend field trip for an afterschool program partner). A list of participating schools can be found in Appendix A. Many of the more than 1,000 students who visited Bear Brook during this time had not been to the park before, and these field trips provided an opportunity to introduce them to the park's forests, marshes, ponds and vernal pools, and encourage future exploration of New Hampshire State Parks.

Discover the Power of Parks Programs

With support from SCA NH Corps Education Coordinator Kari Amick and State Park staff, Interpretive Rangers developed engaging programs to deepen the connection visitors have with State Parks and encourage safety and stewardship within the parks. Programs built upon past Discover the Power of Parks successes and specific park features and needs, enriched by the creativity of the Interpretive Rangers.

Some unique programs from this year's Interpretive Rangers include:

- Kyle Krupa and Matthew Pyster, rangers for Pawtuckaway and White Lake respectively, developed a pirate-themed recycling game to encourage park visitors to recycle right.
- Molly Ryan, at Bear Brook State Park, took the initiative to restore some of the materials from the Bear Brook nature museum and bring them into a

vacant portion of the CCC Museum.

- Alexandria Clifton, at Greenfield State Park, taught an assortment of educational programs where visitors were encouraged to create watercolors of local flora and fauna while learning more about them.
- Nell Davis, at Monadnock State Park, provided hiking safety information to park visitors and assisted on no less than thirteen rescues on the mountain.
- Thomas Cummings, at Umbagog State Park, also partnered with Jericho Mountain and Moose Brook to provide



Nell Davis hikes Monadnock with a stop sign to encourage visitor questions.

- programs throughout the Great North Woods. As part of this effort, he tabled at the Jericho ATV Festival.
- Simone Maule and Matthew Pyster, working jointly at Ellacoya State Park, used sandcastles to teach visitors about limnology.
- Eilís Donohue and Sarah Sherwood, working jointly at Franconia Notch, captured visitor attention with engaging 'test your knowledge' tabling displays on a range of topics.
- During the fall season, several interpretive rangers roved the trails of their parks to provide information to hikers. These included Thomas Cummings and Alexandria Clifton at Miller, Kyle Krupa at Pawtuckaway, and Simone Maule and Matthew Pyster at Crawford Notch.



Kyle Krupa leads an outreach program with students from the Deerfield After School program.

Outreach Season

This year seven of the nine Interpretive Rangers lead fall outreach programs. During this period, Interpretive Rangers based at Bear Brook State Park, Monadnock State Park, and White Lake State Park went out into the communities surrounding their parks to teach programs at libraries, schools, and other non-profits that had not been reached during the earlier education season. Additionally, the Umbagog Interpretive Ranger conducted some outreach in the Great North Woods during the summer. A full list of outreach partners can be found in Appendix A.

During both outreach season and the Discover the Power of Parks programs, the Interpretive Rangers interacted with thousands of park visitors, campers, hikers, and community members. They recorded the number of visitors they reached and reported the following:

Park	Interpreter	Total # of Program Attendees	Total Park Visitor Contacts (excluding program attendees)
Greenfield State Park	Alexandria Clifton	1309	1192
Monadnock State Park	Nell Davis	2582	10607
Bear Brook State Park	Molly Ryan	1330	881
Pawtuckaway State Park	Kyle Krupa	2061	1036
Franconia Notch State Park	Eilís Donohue & Sarah Sherwood	5720	10506
	Simone Maule & Matthew		
Ellacoya State Park	Pyster	912	1341
White Lake State Park	Matthew Pyster	1389	3147

Seacoast Parks	Kyle Krupa & Molly Ryan	636	n/a
Crawford Notch	Simone Maule	2845	9445
Umbagog State Park	Thomas Cummings	567	1231
	Alexandria Clifton & Thomas		
Miller State Park (Sept/Oct only)	Cummings	1359	1938
	Alexandria Clifton, Thomas		
Monadnock Outreach	Cummings & Nell Davis	186	178
Bear Brook Outreach	Kyle Krupa & Molly Ryan	488	102
	Simone Maule & Matthew		
Ossipee Outreach	Pyster	491	85
Great North Woods Outreach	Thomas Cummings	472	385
Totals		22,347	42,639

This means the total visitor contacts, including both program attendees and park contacts, was 64,986 this year; of these, 2,387 occurred during outreach activities.

Social Media Outreach

The Interpretive Rangers contributed to the NH State Parks blog, collectively writing 42 blog posts that span from the beginning of their service term to the end. Posts were also shared on the NH State Parks Facebook page, allowing the rangers to reach both park visitors and potential park visitors. On average, each post received over 700 views. The Interpretive Rangers wrote about a range of topics that both encouraged visitors to come explore State Parks and provided the information necessary for them to be safe and conscientious park visitors. Some of the most popular posts by views for this season were 'Odiorne Point's Hidden History,' by Molly Ryan (3121 views), 'Pawtuckaway's Mountain Trail,' by Kyle Krupa (2055 views), and 'Animal of Interest: Eastern Red-Spotted Newt,' by Eilís Donohue (1848 views).

Program Marketing

Discover the Power of Parks participants that take part in five programs are awarded a Discover the Power of Parks patch. This year three of those patches were awarded; two were completed at Umbagog and one was completed at White Lake.

Building on Success

The Division has committed to contract ten Interpretive Rangers for the 2020 calendar year (two Interpretive Rangers will be in-kind). It is expected that programs will be offered at all of this year's program sites next year, and the tenth Interpretive Ranger will most likely cover Pillsbury and Sunapee State Parks.

Some program goals we will be working on for 2020 include:

1. Administration

- a. Ensure we provide Interpretive Rangers with adequate housing and office resources throughout the program season from June through October.
- b. The SCA NH Corps Education Coordinator will seek out trainings to provide more comprehensive support to Interpretive Rangers during the field season in the form of strengthened feedback and guidance for interpretive programming.
- c. Develop a consistent method for State Park supervisors to provide feedback on the program and Interpretive Rangers at the end of each season.

2. Advertising and Marketing

- a. Continue to write and publish blogs throughout the SCA NH Corps program year (January through October).
- b. Data from this year's blog posts will be used to help guide interpretive rangers toward engaging blog post topics and titles.
- c. We plan to pilot an 'Umbagog News' program at Umbagog State Park, where the Umbagog Interpretive Ranger will produce a weekly news flyer with park rules, local events, and information about interpretive programs.

3. Programming

- a. Programs should grow and change as the season progresses to ensure visitor engagement is maintained; Interpretive Rangers will also work to develop innovative ways to engage visitors who return year after year and may be familiar with programs from past years.
- b. Continue to build on the success of recycling programs at parks.
- c. Continue engaging with day camp groups as the schedule permits, particularly at beach parks.
- d. Interpretive Rangers will reach out to partners to collaborate on programming. This year rangers worked in collaboration with the Allenstown Historical Society to open the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum and Old Allenstown Meeting House at Bear Brook, and with the Seacoast Science Center for programs at Odiorne Point.
- e. Outreach programs will be increased on quiet weekdays where possible; for example, during the lull between the end of the summer season and the beginning of leaf peeping season, weekday outreach may be possible around Franconia. The Ossipee interpreters also had a high level of interest in their outreach programs and may be able to extend them to Fridays throughout the fall.

Next Steps

Interpreters for 2020 will be beginning their education service in January, and transitioning to their park placements in June. During December of 2019 there will be meetings between DNCR staff and the SCA NH Corps staff to follow up on some of the points above and ensure that the program builds on its success in 2020. We look forward to another successful program year!

Appendix A

Field Trip Participants

School	Town	Grade Level
Allenstown Elementary School	Allenstown	3 rd Grade
Beech Street School	Manchester	3 rd Grade
Deerfield Community School	Deerfield	3 rd Grade
Green Acres School	Manchester	3 rd Grade
Hallsville Elementary School	Manchester	4 th & 5 th Grade
Henry Wilson Elementary	Manchester	4 th Grade
School		
Highland Goffe's Falls School	Manchester	4 th & 5 th Grade
Hooksett Memorial School	Hooksett	3 rd Grade
Inti Academy	Manchester	Afterschool Program
Jewett Street School	Manchester	4 th Grade
McDonough Elementary School	Manchester	4 th Grade
Pembroke Hill School	Pembroke	4 th Grade
Smyth Road Elementary School	Manchester	4 th Grade
Webster School	Manchester	4 th Grade
Weston Elementary School	Manchester	4 th Grade

Outreach Partners

	Organization	Town
Merrimack Valley	Armand DuPont Middle School	Allenstown
	Barrington Public Library	Barrington
	Beech Hill School	Hopkinton
	Deerfield After School Program	Deerfield
	Gilford Public Library	Gilford
	Girls Inc.	Manchester
	Girl Scouts, Brownie & Cadette	Hampton
	Troops	
	Goodwin Library	Farmington
	Henniker Community School	Henniker
	Jennie D. Blake Elementary	Hill
	Lego League	Stratham
	Manchester Public Library	Manchester
	Plaistow Public Library	Plaistow
	Portsmouth College Women's Club	Portsmouth
	Raymond Middle School	Raymond
	Second Start	Concord
	Seacoast Homeschool Group	Kingston
	Smyth Public Library	Candia
	Sutton Boys & Girls Club	Sutton
Monadnock Region	Cheshire Children's Museum	Keene
	Cushing Academy	Ashburnham, MA

	Dublin Christian Academy	Dublin
	Gay-Kimball Library	Troy
	Hampshire Country School	Rindge
	Harrisville Library	Harrisville
	Horatio Colony Museum	Keene
	Ingalls Memorial Library	Rindge
	Jaffrey Parks & Recreation	Jaffrey
	Jaffrey Public Library	Jaffrey
	Monadnock at Home	Jaffrey
	Monadnock Homeschool Group	Rindge
	Monadnock Waldorf School	Keene
	Olivia Rodham Memorial Library	Nelson
	Peterborough Town Library	Peterborough
	The River Center	Peterborough
	Robin's Nest Nature Preschool	Peterborough
	Victory High School	Jaffrey
Ossipee Region	Belknap County Nursing Home	Laconia
	Bristol Homeschool Group	Bristol
	Conway Public Library	Conway
	Freedom Elementary School	Freedom
	Lake Crescent School	Wolfeboro
	Ossipee Central School	Ossipee
	Ossipee Region Homeschool Group	Rumney
	Robert Frost Public Charter School	Conway
Great North Woods	Berlin Public Library	Berlin
	Jericho ATV Festival	Berlin
	North Country Community Rec	Colebrook
	Center	