

## Economic Recovery

### Investing in Vermont's Outdoor Recreation Assets Maintain and Enhance Safe and Attractive Facilities at Vermont State Parks and Forests



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- **WHAT:** With a 40 percent increase in visitation in the last ten years, Vermont State Parks and Forests welcome over one million visitors annually, contributing more than \$90,000,000 to local economies through related spending. Underpinning the vibrancy and popularity of Vermont's 55 developed State Parks is an infrastructure complex including 590,000 square feet of built space spread over 1100 structures statewide, with 200 water and wastewater systems consisting of some 44 miles of underground piping, and several hundred miles of roads. On-going investment in this infrastructure is typically organized into four categories of visitor-facing projects including:
    - Smaller scale projects - replacement of building components (e.g. roofs, electrical systems, finishes, and fixtures)
    - Wastewater repair – emergency repairs and preemptive rehabilitation
    - Small-scale access road projects – for visitor safety and environmental protection
    - Larger scale State Park infrastructure projects – to improve visitation, experience, and revenue (e.g., day-use beaches, toilet buildings, playgrounds, contact stations, and pavilions)
  - **WHY:** The Vermont State Parks system was largely developed during the CCC era of the 1930s and in the 1960s. Careful investment and strategic deployment of capital funding is critically important to maintaining, rehabilitating and modernizing an aging system, both by averting risk and by adding benefit to enhance visitor experience. High-quality construction and modern, efficient design shield the system from increased operational costs.
  - **WHO:** Vermont's State Parks provide an important, affordable opportunity for Vermonters and out-of-state visitors to vacation at our 55 staffed Parks. Beyond supporting a world-class park system and meeting expanding and diversifying visitor demand, these investments also important to increasing visitation, supporting healthy and vibrant local communities, and employing many dozens of contractors and businesses in every region of the state.
  - **HOW:** Capital appropriations will provide the funding to execute a variety of maintenance projects throughout the State Parks system. In addition, funding is provided to complete permitting and final construction drawings for two new multi-use facilities – at Gifford Woods and Groton – that support maintenance and operations at multiple surrounding Parks. A portion of the funds will also be used to design and implement structural corrections and new roofing to the 85-Year-old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Barn in Groton, which is currently a structure at risk.

- **FUNDING:** Capital construction appropriations totaling \$10,590,000 to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

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