



2023 IMPACT REPORT

VERMONT PARKS FOREVER

ABOUT VERMONT PARKS FOREVER

Vermont Parks Forever (VPF) is the nonprofit foundation that enhances and protects Vermont's 55 state parks by inspiring stewardship of natural places, providing innovative educational experiences, and improving access for those who would otherwise be unable to experience all the parks have to offer.

CONTENTS:

Page 3: Letter From VPF's Executive Director

Page 4: Park Access Fund

Page 5: Mt. Philo Forever Fund

Page 6-7: Natural Connections

Page 8-9: Business Partners





VPF Board and Staff at the Groton Nature Center (Sevenpair Studios)



Photo by Sevenpair Studios

Dear Park Supporter,

With a great 2023 park season having just ended, we are thankful for the generosity of VPF's donors, the passion of Vermont State Parks' staff, and the dedication of the board and staff of Vermont Parks Forever.

Together, we all made a difference in the state parks experience. Whether it was providing nature education supplies to be used throughout the park system, revitalizing a key nature center for the Groton area parks, funding student interns, or granting out thousands of passes to help everyone take advantage of all the parks have to offer - we have made the parks even better for all of us.

Please take a read through this impact report. We hope you'll be inspired to get out in the parks, get involved with Vermont Parks Forever, and share your stories with the parks community, near and far.

In 2024 we'll be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Vermont State Parks and know that everyone's support will ensure the next 100 years of adventures in the parks.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Vermont Parks Forever, we thank you,

Sarah Alberghini Winters
Vermont Parks Forever Executive Director

PARK ACCESS FUND

Since 2016, Vermont Parks Forever has provided free park passes each year to thousands of Vermonters, including foster families, youth programs, those with developmental disabilities, BIPOC communities, new Americans, mental health clients and those with limited mobility, who otherwise would not have the chance to experience all Vermont's state parks have to offer.

Vermont's state parks are for everyone and together we can promote a more equitable outdoor experience. [Learn more on our website.](#)

"Once we reached the top of [Mount Ascutney], we climbed the watchtower! It is a reminder of how blessed we are to live in such a beautiful state where nature is always at our fingertips to keep us grounded."

- Park Access Recipient

Springfield Area Parent Child Center 2023



Photo by Park Access partner Springfield Area Parent Child Center

41

GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

VPF granted passes to 41 organizations across the state with recipients in every Vermont county.

10,000+

DAYS IN THE PARKS

VPF granted day-use passes to community partners for a total of over 10,000 individual day visits.

1,000%

FUNDING INCREASE

Thanks to our generous donors, VPF increased park access funding by 1,000% since 2016.

MT. PHILO FOREVER FUND

A Summer Internship Program in Memory of William Cameron Hagedorn

For the ninth year running, donors gave to support the Mt. Philo Forever Fund, which places a local student intern at Mt. Philo State Park to connect with nature, practice environmental stewardship, develop collaboration skills, and gain experience working with the public. This year's intern, Basil [pictured right], is an artist who has a deep love of Mt. Philo.



In 2023, three former interns worked at Mt. Philo State Park, and a fourth worked at Kingsland Bay State Park.



"I've always loved this park and this mountain"

-Basil, 2023 Intern

"The internship program instills pride and hard work in our interns that translates to long term success as park attendants year after year."

*- Colleen Metzler,
Former Mt. Philo
State Park Manager*

NATURAL CONNECTIONS

The Groton Nature Center - Free Museum-Quality Nature Education

In June 2023, we gathered with hundreds of nature enthusiasts to cut the ribbon and celebrate the grand opening of the Groton Nature Center. Together with ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain and Vermont State Parks, we completed our first Natural Connections project. The Groton Nature Center is free to the public and invites park visitors of all ages to enjoy museum-quality exhibits in the heart of the 27,000-acre Groton State Forest. Surrounded by seven state parks, the Groton Nature Center has been completely modernized and reimagined. Visit our website to learn more about [Natural Connections](#) and plan your visit.



Photo by Sevenpair Studios



Photo by Sevenpair Studios



Photo by Sevenpair Studios

The re-opening of the Groton Nature Center was made possible thanks to these generous donors:

The Canaday Family Charitable Trust

The Jan Blomstrann Fund of the
Vermont Community Foundation

The WaterWheel Foundation

Lintilhac Foundation

Lisa Steele

Winthrop H. Smith, Jr.
Charitable Foundation

Darn Tough Vermont

The Larsen Fund/Susan Z. Ritz

Windham Foundation

The MacLeay Foundation

Cabot Creamery

Pomerleau Real Estate

Jan S. Eastman and John H. Marshall

Tim Briglin and Laurel Mackin

Jerry Greenfield and
Elizabeth Skarie Foundation

The Mimi Fishman Foundation

The Lake Groton Association

Northfield Savings Bank

John Sharpless and Janet Rutkowski

Washington Electric Cooperative
Community Fund

Many individual or anonymous donors

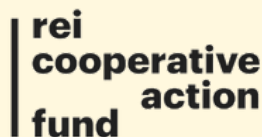


Photo by Sevenpair Studios

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Thank you to the generous businesses around the state and across the country working with us to make Vermont's state parks even better for everyone!

\$1000+ IN 2023



Ursa Major



VERMONT MUTUAL
INSURANCE GROUP



BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$500 - \$999 IN 2023

ABLE Waste Management Inc.
Airstream of Vermont
BlueCross and BlueShield of Vermont
Chroma Technology Corp
Community National Bank
Forest City Designs
Gravel & Shea PC
Green Mountain Power
Kestrel Coffee Roasters
New England Federal Credit Union
Stonewall Kitchen Family of Brands
The Mountain Goat
Timber & Stone LLC
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom



Photo by Park Access partner Recovery Vermont

\$250 - \$499 IN 2023

AARP Vermont
American Flatbread Burlington Hearth
Community Bank N.A.
Kennedy Excavation, LLC
Minuteman Press
Picasso Pizzeria Lounge
Rhino Foods Inc



Photo by Skida

In 2023, Vermont Parks Forever received generous gifts from the following foundations:

Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother
Fund of the Vermont Community
Foundation

Hart Foundation

The Millstone Foundation

Northeast Kingdom Fund of the
Vermont Community Foundation

REI Cooperative Action Fund

SCHIP, Inc

The Charles P. Ferro Foundation

Washington Electric Cooperative
Community Fund

The WaterWheel Foundation

Windham Foundation

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue this important work together, fostering lifelong connections to nature for Vermonters and visitors alike.

**THANK
YOU,
DONORS!**

We love hearing about your adventures in the parks!

 [/VermontParksForever](#)

 [/vermontparksforever](#)

 [Share your story.](#)

[Make a gift today.](#)

VERMONT PARKS FOREVER

P.O. Box 815, Montpelier, VT 05601 • info@vermontparksforever.org • (802) 917-1719