



PARK ACCESS REPORT 2022

Since 2016, Vermont Parks Forever has provided free park passes each year to thousands of Vermonters, including foster families, youth programs, front-line workers, 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 PARKS FOREVER

Proudly Serving Every County

Vermont Parks Forever (VPF) has granted passes to organizations working in every county in the state. With your support, VPF can continue to expand the impact of our Park Access Program.

[Visit our website](#) to learn more.

400%

FUNDING INCREASE

Thanks to our generous donors, VPF increased park access funding by 400% since 2016 to help even more Vermonters.

5,725+

DAYS IN THE PARK IN 2022

VPF granted day-use passes to community partners for a total of over 5,725 individual day visits.

2022 Park Access Grantees

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes
Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County
Champlain Community Services
Clara Martin Center
Clarina Howard Nichols Center
DREAM
Experience Literacy
G.R.I.T.S.
Howard Center
King Street Center
Laraway Backpack Program
Laraway Youth and Family Services
Lund Family Center
Milton Community Youth Coalition

Northeast Disabled Athletic Association
Northwest Counseling and Support Services, Inc
Outdoor Gear Exchange Clinics
Powered Magazine
Sarah Holbrook Community Center
Spectrum Youth and Family Services
Turning Point Recovery Center
Unlikely Riders
United Way Working Bridges Program
Vermont Department for Children and Families
Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports
Vermont Kin as Parents
Vermont Professionals of Color Network

While the positive stories are many, we've highlighted a few on the following pages.

NORTHEAST DISABLED ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

NDAA is a Vermont-based, non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide recreational and competitive athletic opportunities for people with physical disabilities, and to support disabled athletes in their pursuit of excellence. NDAA reported a total of 291 individual kayak launches this season due to VPF support and worked with new community partners to extend their programming to new populations.



"Holy cow, kayaking was beyond joy! After not being able to do something I love for the past 15 years, and thinking I would never again do it, it was wonderful. When [the NDAA team was] getting me out onto the water, I just wanted to cry. Such an empowering experience!"

-NDAA Program Participant

DREAM

Established in 1998, DREAM's goal is to bring high quality mentoring and activities to at-risk youth through summer enrichment, academic support, village mentoring, and unlimited adventures. Support from VPF enabled 200 youth enrolled in Summer Enrichment programming to embark on outdoor trips in almost every state park in Chittenden County. DREAM youth hiked, learned about ecology, did community green-ups, socialized, learned to swim, went camping, and learned about sustainable gardening.



"Several of our youth recently relocated to America and, upon seeing the lake and the mountains for the first time, immediately burst into happy tears. They lost their minds when we invited them to actually play and swim IN the water."

-DREAM Mentor Coordinator

CHAMPLAIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Champlain Community Services (CCS) provides essential one-to-one supports to Vermonters with intellectual disabilities and autism, at work, at school, at home, and in the community. Many CCS clients list getting outdoors, exploring nature, and/or getting exercise as goals of service at CCS. Passes from Vermont Parks Forever enabled CCS clients to access state parks for picnics, outdoor board games, hiking, swimming, and social celebrations.



“These passes make it possible for the Vermonters with intellectual disabilities we serve at CCS to visit and enjoy our state parks. That offers them and their families experiences they might not otherwise be able to afford. It also enriches the opportunities for clients and their supporting staff to spend meaningful time in nature and beauty.”

-MR, Champlain Community Services

UNLIKELY RIDERS

Unlikely Riders was founded in 2020 to bring the outdoors to People of Color and is mobilizing to find healing in the mountains while claiming space in the snow sports industry and culture. Vermont Parks Forever provided passes to help Unlikely Riders incorporate summer programming. Participants reported feeling more welcome in the parks due to the easily recognizable park passes, and participants benefited from sharing park recommendations and tips among folks who are historically and systemically excluded from accessing outdoor spaces.



“Thanks to Vermont Parks Forever, 123 BIPOC Vermonters spent a collective 374 days at Vermont State Parks this summer! Folks went hiking, paddling, swimming, they saw loons, ospreys, eagles, mergansers, and had a great time with friends and family.”

-Program Coordinator

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS

Vermont Parks Forever worked with Boys and Girls Clubs in both Rutland County and Greater Vergennes. The Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County hosted summer camps for 100 children. Participants hiked, swam, fished, kayaked, and learned outdoor survival skills in several parks. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes enjoyed the beauty of Vermont's first state park during a hiking excursion to the top of Mt. Philo and enjoyed a swimming trip at Button Bay State Park. Both clubs stated that passes from Vermont Parks Forever inspired future outdoor programming.



Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County

"My favorite state park is Emerald Lake because it is nice to kayak in - also it has a great swimming area!"

"Can we come here every day?"

- Boys and Girls Club of Rutland
County Participants



Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

**Vermont Parks Forever increased access to the park system in 2022
for our Vermont neighbors thanks to these generous donors:**

BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont

SCHIP

Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother
Fund of Vermont of Vermont
Community Foundation

The Alchemist

The Charles P. Ferro Foundation

Common Deer

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Vermont Parks Forever Board and
Staff Members

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everyone and together we can
promote a more equitable
outdoor experience.

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