

State of Vermont
Commissioner's Office
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
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Agency of Natural Resources
Michael C. Snyder, Commissioner

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January 18, 2021

Representative Alice M. Emmons, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
 Senator Joe Benning, Chair, Senate Committee on Institutions
 Vermont State House
 115 State Street
 Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Representative Emmons:
 Senator Benning:

In accordance with 32 VSA §701a (d) the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) presents a summary of unspent capital funds from the 2019 session and prior. FPR is committed to spending capital funds efficiently and quickly, and to do so with a variety of small to large projects which continue to employ many contractors around the state as we improve and rehabilitate our recreational resources and supporting infrastructure and facilities. It remains our goal to commit funding to contractors or complete spending within two fiscal years of the appropriation.

A summary table is provided below. With exception of the rustic cabin construction appropriation all funds presented in the table are committed to projects and are expected to be expended by the end of State fiscal year (FY) 2021. A detailed status on the rustic cabin construction appropriation is provided on page two.

Capital Spending Summary

Appropriation Description	Legislative Year Appropriated	Appropriation Department ID	FY21 Opening Amount	Amount Encumbered under State Contract/ Purchase Order	Amount Expended in FY21	Current Available Amount
Infrastructure Rehabilitation	2017	6130991701	\$15,167	\$15,167	\$0	\$0
Infrastructure Rehabilitation	2018	6130991801	\$54,878	\$3,006	\$51,872	\$0
Total for Funds Older than Two Years			\$70,045	\$18,173	\$51,872	\$0
Infrastructure Rehabilitation	2019	6130991901	\$162,070	\$33,885	\$128,186	\$0
Rustic Cabin Construction	2019	6130991902	\$787,732	\$0	\$1,206	\$786,526
Forestry Skidder Bridges	2019	6130991903	\$49,382	\$49,382	\$0	\$0

Green Mountain Club	2019	6130991904	\$128,394	\$0	\$128,394	\$0
Total for Funds Received Within Two Years			\$1,127,578	\$83,267	\$257,786	\$786,526

Rustic Cabin Construction Program Status Report

The capital appropriation for state park rustic cabin construction utilizing high school technical education centers has resulted in interactions with several centers. Currently with the COVID pandemic and the cessation or severe altering of in-person learning has led to significant pause in progress on that front.

Prior to that pause the State Parks southwest region engaged and began work with the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. Students in the technical center forestry program milled State supplied logs to be transferred to the Technical Center's building trades program for cabin construction. While field construction has currently paused the students milled enough wall framing material for one to two cabins. The Technical Center is now exploring the possibility of assembling the cabins onsite at the technical center and transporting the assembled cabins to Lake St. Catherine State park.

We continue to work with other technical centers and we are also working on design and permit site improvements for cabins that could be constructed at Lake St. Catherine, Quechee, and Lake Carmi State Parks. Each park requires different site modifications (Quechee requires the most including a sign off from the US Army Corps of Engineers), which has been obtained along with environmental permits. We have discovered that some technical centers prefer a cabin construction plan that is more standardized (2x4 16 inches on center), than our current cabin design. We will use this pause to have the cabins re-drawn to standardized construction specs that will include cavity insulation and horizontal paneling to maintain the rustic aesthetic. This design change will respond to the feedback received from the technical centers, will maintain the State Park aesthetic, and will result in a slightly more weatherized structure that could stand ready to expand fee-paid park use into the shoulder seasons. We are also exploring a timber frame design with Structural Insulated Panels (SIP) to achieve the same goal and be suitable for a timber frame learning module.

We have found that providing a ready building plan for technical centers is critical. We will utilize established state contracts to make the needed changes to the cabin plans. We will also continue site planning work and contracted site preparation to ready the parks for the cabins and we will re-engage with schools as we all plan for a post-COVID return to normal.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Snyder
Commissioner,
Forests, Parks & Recreation