

# **VERMONT STATE PARKS**

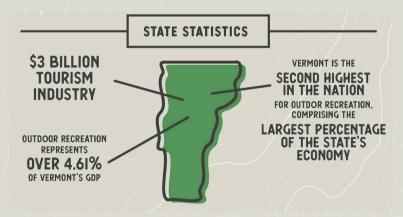
Celebrating Legacy and Modernizing for Tomorrow

#### WHO WE ARE

The Vermont State Parks system celebrated its centennial in 2024. With a state park within 30 minutes of every town, we provide affordable, accessible, and equitable recreation for Vermonters, fostering a healthy lifestyle and a deep connection with nature. Our parks are educational hubs, where park interpreters engage visitors with place-based, hands-on programs that connect them to the land and promote conservation awareness.

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

State Parks are vital to the \$3 billion tourism economy statewide by attracting tourist dollars, creating local jobs, and drawing employees to Vermont. State parks bring new visitors and potential residents to our communities. Over half of all park managers and camping visitors are from out of state.



## PARKS AT A GLANCE

- 55 parks, equivalent to Vermont's fifth largest municipality
- There is a state park within 30 minutes of every town in Vermont
- 80% of day visitors are Vermonters
- > 50,000 visitors participate in educational interpretive programs
- 450 seasonal staff
- In 2024, we hosted over 1M visitors, one of the top 5 years for the park system despite flooding
- Visitation increased by 40% over the past six years

#### PARTNERSHIPS

Vermont State Parks partners with many non-profits and community organizations including Green Mountain Club, Hireability Vermont, Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Humanities, Vermont Parks Forever, and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

## **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Parks Modernization Study identifies four main challenges for Vermont State Parks: accessibility and inclusivity, climate resilience, staffing, and funding. The department is be exploring strategies for implementing the study's recommendations to enhance visitor experiences and ensure the park system's sustainability.



