

# 2025 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.

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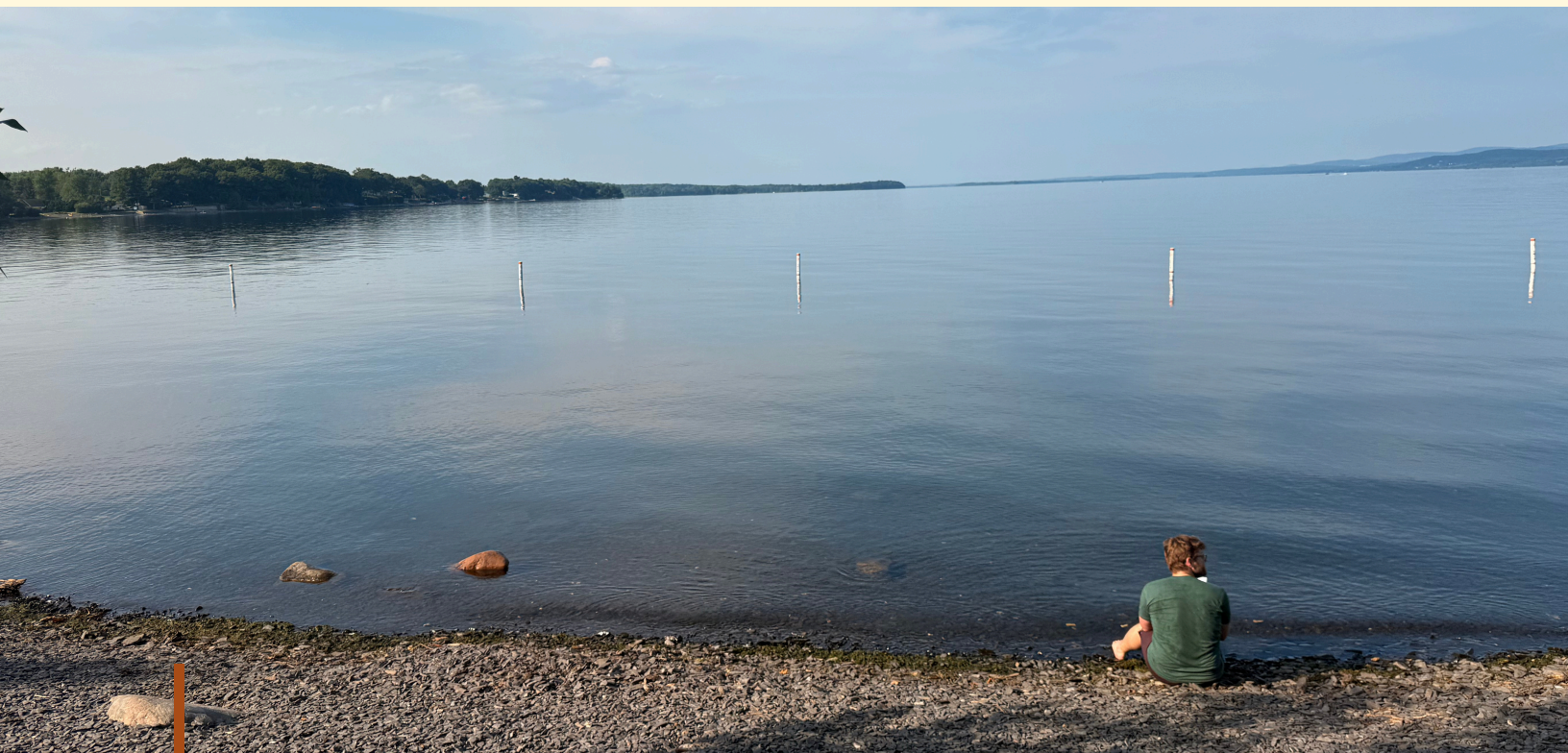
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*Cover Photo by VPF Board Member Yasamin Gordon, Seyon Lodge State Park*





Dear Park Supporter,

Thanks to your help, we can sum up Vermont Parks Forever's most recent year with one word: expansion.

**The state parks are for everyone.** Our Park Access Fund Pilot Program, a first-in-the-nation endeavor, granted over 30,000 free days in the state parks to income-eligible Vermonters. The Park Access Fund celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year, worked with 60 nonprofit community partners, and added adaptive beach wheelchairs alongside mobility mats to parks throughout the state.

**Hands-on education and paid work experience matter.** The Mt. Philo Forever Fund internship doubled the number of interns in Vermont's oldest state park, we welcomed the first Branbury State Park intern, and VPF staff worked alongside an intern from the University of Vermont.

**We're celebrating an award-winning nature center.** In its second year, the Groton Nature Center was named a Facility of Merit by the Vermont Parks and Recreation Association while welcoming visitors to experience the museum-quality displays for free.

We're excited to continue this important work in 2026 thanks to the support of generous individuals, businesses, and foundations throughout the country.

Thank you for a wonderful year in the parks,

A blue ink signature of Sarah Alberghini Winters.

Sarah Alberghini Winters  
Vermont Parks Forever Executive Director



## PARK ACCESS FUND: A DECADE OF FREE VISITS

Vermont's state parks are for everyone and together we can promote a more equitable outdoor experience!

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.

[Learn more on our website.](#)



"I've lived here for years and never walked those trails before. It felt amazing to finally go"

- Park Access Recipient  
Families First, 2025

Photo by Park Access partner Families First

60

### GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

VPF granted passes through 60 organizations across the state - a new record!

14,000+

### DAYS IN THE PARKS

VPF granted day-use passes to partners for a total of over 14,000 individual day visits.

14

### COUNTIES SERVED

VPF grants day-use passes to community partners working in every county in Vermont.



# PARK ACCESS FUND PILOT PROGRAM

**A First-In-The-Nation Program for Income-Eligible  
Vermonters Offering Free State Park Day-Use**

Vermont Parks Forever offered free state park day-use to over 100,000 Vermonters receiving services through the Economic Services Division of the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Health's WIC Program during the 2025 park season. This privately-funded pilot program was an expansion of the existing Park Access Fund and is the first of its kind in the nation. It's a Vermont-grown, Vermont-focused, and Vermont-led idea! With the support of donors, VPF is excited to continue the initiative in 2026. [Learn more on our website.](#)

"My family would not have been able to visit any state parks without this program. This has allowed myself and my children to get out, see and learn about nature, and walk around when we otherwise would have been stuck at home."

- Pilot Program Participant

30,000+

## DAYS GRANTED

VPF granted over 30,000 free days in the parks to income-eligible Vermonters throughout the state.

39

## PARKS VISITED

Of the 40 state parks offering day-use, 39 state parks recorded visitation by Pilot Program participants from May - October.



## YOUTH INTERNSHIPS

### The Mt. Philo Forever Fund Internship in Memory of William Cameron Hagedorn

For the eleventh year running, donors gave to support the Mt. Philo Forever Fund, which places a local paid student intern at Mt. Philo State Park to connect with nature, practice environmental stewardship, develop collaboration skills, and gain experience working with the public.

In 2025, VPF expanded the internship to welcome two interns, Connor (picture below) and Jillian (pictured right), to the mountain.



Jillian said, “[The internship] was such a good experience! I would 100% recommend it! My favorite part was removing invasive species”

Connor’s favorite part of the internship was the contact station because he got to “meet new people and [had] an amazing view.”



## YOUTH INTERNSHIPS

### Internship at Branbury State Park

Thanks to the support of a former park manager, VPF funded a new, paid internship at Branbury State Park in 2025. This year's intern, Leif, spent the first half of his internship working at the nature center and helped design a hike to Ethan Allen's cave. The second half of his internship was spent in the role of park attendant. Leif, an avid outdoorsman, enjoyed sharing his knowledge of Branbury State Park with others.



### Vermont Parks Forever's Spring 2025 Intern

VPF welcomed Katie to Vermont Parks Forever as part of a paid internship program with the University of Vermont. She helped VPF with the Park Access Fund, social media initiatives, and more - including a visit to the state house! Of the internship, Katie said, "...this role has deepened my appreciation for the power of public lands—and the people who work hard to protect and support them."



# NATURAL CONNECTIONS

## Funding Interpretive Programs and Celebrating Two Years at the Award-Winning Groton Nature Center

In 2025, the Groton Nature Center was named a Facility of Merit by the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. Over 2,500 visitors took part in interpretive programming at the free, museum-quality center throughout the season.

Funds from VPF also helped to support interpretive programming throughout the park system by granting funding for materials to support Dark Skies education. Park interpreters were given night sky quality meters and bat education kits.



Photo by Sevenpair Studios



Photo by Sevenpair Studios



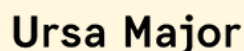
Rebecca Roy, Parks Interpretive Program Manager and Craig Whipple, VPF Board President



## 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!  
Join us as a Business Partner today.

\$1000+ IN 2025





# BUSINESS PARTNERS

## \$500 - \$999 IN 2025

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Green Mountain Power

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Lake Champlain Chocolates

Lenny's Shoe & Apparel

Paul Frank + Collins, PC

SWAE Skin

Vermont Electric Cooperative

Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

## \$250 - \$499 IN 2025

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American Flatbread Burlington Hearth

Backroads Granola

Fuse Marketing

Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce

Minuteman Press

Onion River Outdoors





## In 2025, Vermont Parks Forever received generous gifts from the following foundations:

Anonymous Donor of the  
Vermont Community Foundation

Cashdan/Stein Great Grandmother  
Fund of the Vermont Community  
Foundation

Couch Family Foundation

Farafield Farm Fund of the  
Vermont Community Foundation

Hills & Hollows Fund of the Vermont  
Community Foundation

Hypertherm HOPE Foundation

Jim and Judy Brown Family Donor  
Advised Growth Fund of the Greater  
Toledo Community Foundation

Millstone Foundation

REI Cooperative Action Fund

SCHIP, Inc

The Charles P. Ferro Foundation

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne  
Foundation

The WaterWheel Foundation

Trout Lily Foundation

Vermont-NEA

Windham Foundation


**Thanks to your generosity, we can continue fostering lifelong connections to nature for Vermonters and visitors alike.**

# THANK YOU, DONORS!

**We love hearing about your  
adventures in the parks!**

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## VERMONT PARKS FOREVER

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