

DNCR FY 22-23 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sarah Stewart, Commissioner

Monday, November 20, 2020

Good afternoon. It is an honor to be before you today to present the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources budget request for the 2022-2023 biennium.

This is just the second time DNCR has presented a budget - as it only became a Department in July of 2017 when Governor Sununu took advantage of an opportunity to leverage connections by merging Parks and Recreation and Forests and Lands with the State Library, Historical Resources and the NH State Council on the Arts.

These five divisions share a mission to protect, preserve, promote and manage the State's natural and cultural resources, supporting New Hampshire's high quality of life and strengthening the experiences of our residents and guests. The current COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced the public's engagement with the great outdoors, longing for community connections and overall appreciation for cultural experiences. One illustration of this boom of support is our online donation button on the State Parks website. During the 2019 calendar year Parks received \$20,554 from online donations. So far in the 2020 calendar year Parks has received over \$82,000 in online donations!

DNCR is a big department.

In your packet you can review a snapshot of how large we are. We care for approximately 884 buildings of various types with a total value reaching \$65.06 million. We also care for 22 bridges, 26 dams, 147 septic systems, 91 water systems, over 300 miles of roads and parking lots and close to 1,000 pieces of art. We are heading into another busy winter season where we oversee the management of 7,200 miles of snowmobile trails - an important part of this state's booming outdoor recreation economy.

This Department is responsible for managing 514,739 acres of reservation and easement stewardship. We are responsible for the care of the forested landscape that defines our state and is so important to our economy. We provide the public with a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities on state-owned land and trails, support the NH forest-based economy through timber sales and state forest nursery seedling sales, conduct management to promote wildlife habitat and protect important plant species and communities, conduct education and research programs; and ensure that state-held conservation easement properties are well managed and contributing to the state's economic and environmental health.

The significant scope of DNCR is also demonstrated by the ways in which it touches many aspects of the daily lives of our citizens in every community throughout the state.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Arts Council has stepped up its interaction with constituents, meeting regularly via zoom with grantees, arts organizations, and artists to understand the impact of the pandemic and provide support and guidance. A *Community Conversations* series of five online discussions, open to the public, featured representatives of nonprofit and for-profit arts businesses sharing their experiences and hopes for the future, and an artist-specific series is in the works. Council staff have also been directly involved in convening art sector representatives to assist in writing guidance for reopening the sector, with the state's Economic Reopening Task Force.

As we look to the future by planning our FY 2022-2023 budget we are sensitive to the greater impact this pandemic has on the overall budget of the state. We must fulfill our statutory obligations while delivering excellent customer service- consistently a top priority here. Our staff interacts with municipalities, nonprofits, volunteer fire departments, town recreation departments, volunteer groups and individual citizens daily as we work to assist them achieve *their* missions. To that end, we recognize the need to invest wisely within our agency in order to successfully achieve these goals *while* honoring the fact that we are spending hard earned taxpayer dollars and achieving the necessary cuts to support the overall New Hampshire balanced budget.

Our budget request of \$57.1 million dollars reflects the responsibilities we have and the opportunities we seek everyday to serve the citizens of our state.

Comprised mainly of Federal and other agency income funds, we are seeking a General Fund budget of \$7.6 million in FY2022 and \$7.9 million in FY2023. The increase between years is mainly attributed to salary and benefit costs for a 27th pay period in FY 2023. Overall, our General Fund budget comprises only 1/8th or 13% of our overall budget.

This General Fund request of \$7.6 million reflects a cut of \$1.263 million or 15% from the FY21 efficiency budget and includes \$416k of prioritized needs for 2022 and 2023 as well as a combination of alternative funding from within the department from other fund sources as well as sources outside the department for a portion needed to maintain some operations, which I will address shortly.

DNCR maintains a federally funded portion of the overall budget request for FY 2022 and FY 2023 of \$9.8 and \$9.9 million respectively, representing about 1/6th of the departments total funding. The state benefits significantly from these federally funded programs – many of which require a state match. If the state does not provide this match, the federal funds targeted for New Hampshire are reallocated to other states.

The remaining \$39.6 Million of our budget request consists of other funds as agency income and is generated primarily through our operationally self-funded state park system.

The budget request for the Division of Parks and Recreation reflects an increase of \$1.4 million or a 4% increase over 2021 adjusted authorized budget. The major areas of increase are personnel costs, elimination of general funds support for historic sites, increases in federal funds and payments made to the general fund for cost recovery. This request is supported by revenue generated by parks operations, OHRV registrations, and federal grants.

Through fiscal year 2019 our campgrounds, beaches, day use parks and concessions revenue has seen an increase of over 5 million dollars (7.3% a year) since 2011 when the parks fund was carrying a negative balance of \$800,000.

This request for the Division of Parks and Recreation supports unprecedented demand for our state parks and trail systems, demand we've had to control during the pandemic through our reservation system. While the pandemic had a significant impact at the end of FY 2020 due to the closures of campgrounds and seacoast beaches, revenue in FY 2021 is only 2% less than FY2019 revenue, even with limited capacities. This is offset by the half million in additional expenses to respond to the pandemic. However, we anticipate continued revenue growth going forward even as we operate under additional conditions to keep visitors and staff safe and request support for a budget that allows us to do that.

Attached is an overview of the Division to provide additional background that frames our work, us, and accomplishments.

The revenue from our state forests and parks not only supports their stewardship, but is also a significant economic driver, providing jobs, supporting the forest products industry and making NH a great place to work and play.

Remaining sources are comprised of committed trust funds and other legislatively mandated dedicated funds with a small portion of transferred funds from interagency partnerships.

Next, within the \$57.1 million dollar budget, we intend to *maintain* our record of making smart investments at the local level throughout our state. We plan to return approximately \$8 million in program revenue ranging from: grants in aid, to community trails and recreation maintenance, to outdoor recreation municipality grants, to arts development and historical artifact and site preservation programs.

With this overall budget in mind, I would like to now make the case for our prioritized needs.

As I mentioned earlier, we are looking for \$416k in general funds for both FY 2022 and FY 2023 in order to achieve the minimum needed to fulfill our statutory obligations.

The NH arts and cultural sector has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and recovery will not be instantaneous after a vaccine is available. Fully-funded grants from the Arts Council for operating and programmatic support in FY 2022 and 2023 will be essential to rebuild this sector of our economy.

The State Library will need to maintain its automated information systems database with these prioritized funds and we need some assistance for DOIT support throughout the department.

Our remaining needs can be addressed with some internal and external fund transfers. For example the Bureau of Historic Sites will now be 100% funded by the Parks division and we will apply some support from the Bureau of Trails to our Forest Protection staff as they have seen an increase in OHRV enforcement. These are ways we are problem solving internally- to temporarily maintain the levels of safety citizens expect when on the trails or visiting the special places we manage.

The Division of Historic Resources presents a more nuanced challenge. In order to maintain the work they are obligated to perform we need to look outside of the department for assistance. One concept is to allow some temporary funding from the Conservation Plate fund allocated from LCHIP administrative support in the amount of \$385k. This would require a change to the language in RSA 261:97. Should this not be an option, we would request consideration to revise our prioritized needs amount.

HB 2

As I conclude this presentation, I would like to thank the Governor for his support this year. We have navigated uncharted territory. In the arts and culture sector the Governor's direction of federal CARES Act funds to nonprofit organizations and live venues and the inclusion of self-employed artists and creative workers in the state's unemployment program have been a huge help.

I would also like to thank the DNCR staff for their flexibility and commitment to excellence during these strange times. The NH State Library staff have been back working from the state library building since the end of June and the library itself has been open to the public by appointment only since July 6th. The statewide interlibrary loan van service, which moves materials between all 234 NH public libraries as well as some school and academic libraries, resumed full service in mid-September. Our State Library staff is focused on innovative, forward thinking technology that will make us even stronger as a service provider in the future.

Constituent comments showcase the high quality of customer service the DNCR team delivers- pandemic or not.

A patron of the State Library wrote:

"I would like to express my extreme gratitude in the work you do. [My father's] lifetime passion reading. The loss of his vision was profound. The digital books were his lifeline. I am convinced that they extended his life by years."

Compliments to the Division of Historical Resources staff:

"Again, our thanks to you for all of your endeavors to get the Meetinghouse this gorgeous sign. The fact that most of your work was in the time of COVID makes everything that much more impressive. Stay well and thank you."

Pawtuckaway State Park Visitor: "The reception center was welcoming and informative and helpful. Same for the store. And the boat rental too! Everyone was friendly and helpful"

And from an arts organization who received grant support recently:

I cannot tell you enough times how appreciative we are of this award. Although our 2020 season was interrupted, we are working hard to plan for 2021. This award will help us to continue through the pandemic and plan for what we hope will be an exciting 2021 season.

The work accomplished within the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources clearly plays a vital role in maintaining the quality of life that we are so proud of.

The work we do can also align strategically with the goals set forth by our Governor.

We are positioned to bolster our economic future through a robust and responsible outdoor recreation economy and a creative economy that is being recognized as a priority in communities large and small.

Thank you for your time today we are ready to answer any questions you have.



**New Hampshire Department of Natural
and Cultural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation**

STATUTORY MISSION

RSA 216-A:1 Intent.

- I. To protect and preserve unusual scenic, scientific, historical, recreational, and natural areas within the state.
- II. To continually provide such additional park areas and facilities as may be necessary to meet the recreational needs of the citizens of all regions of the state.
- III. To make these areas accessible to the public for recreational, education, scientific, and other uses consistent with their protection and preservation.
- IV. To encourage and support tourism and related economic activity within the state.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide New Hampshire's citizens and guests with outstanding recreational, educational, and inspirational experiences through the responsible management and cooperative stewardship of the state's natural, recreational and cultural resources.

Strategic Plan Topic Areas:

- Stewardship
- Funding
- Statutory framework
- Management and operations
- Marketing/programming and products

Parks Operations Priorities	Parks Improvement Focus Areas
➤ Safety ➤ Fiduciary ➤ Compliance ➤ Stewardship ➤ Customer Service ➤ Relationships ➤ Organizational Health	✓ Picnic Tables ✓ Bathrooms ✓ Lawns ✓ Trash ✓ Signs current ✓ Paint, paint, paint ✓ Straight and Level

There are 93 properties in the state park system. The first was Miller State Park acquired in 1881 and the newest park property is the 400 acre Lafayette Brook Tract acquired in 2016. The beginning of the Parks and Recreation Division occurred in 1935 with the creation of the Forestry and Recreation Commission although the Forestry Commission had been created much earlier. The Division shares management responsibility for 511,573 acres of state reservations with the Division of Forest and Lands

The parks system includes 39 day use areas, 23 campgrounds, 22 beaches, 7 waysides, 22 historic sites, 6 natural areas, 4 ski areas, 664 buildings, 7200 miles of snowmobile trails and 1,200 miles of ATV trails. Work is carried out with approximately 1100 employees, (most part time seasonal), 104 volunteer motorized trail clubs, 36 volunteer organizations and 9 statutory and advisory committees.

The total operating budget for the parks system is over 34 million dollars. Roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ the budget is day use areas, campgrounds, beaches etc. $\frac{1}{4}$ is Cannon Mountain ski area and $\frac{1}{4}$ is the bureau of trails (primarily motorized).

The Division of Parks is operationally self-funded, raising all of its operational revenue from visitor and user fees, snowmobile and ATV registrations, and federal grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program. The fees collected at 41 of the 93 properties support the operation of the entire park system with 25 of those parks having a positive cash flow. The bureau of historic sites is operated through parks but has been generally funded under the commissioner's office. Parks receives an average of \$5.7million of critical general fund support through the capital budget and general fund support through administrative services.

Estimates are that 6 million people visit our state parks each year. Visitation to NH parks contributes over \$500 million to the state's economy and directly supports 8,000 jobs. Snowmobiling, supported by our Trails Bureau and local clubs, delivers an additional economic impact of \$586 million to the state annually and we estimate that ATV use generates over another \$500 million. In addition, third parties generate \$6 million in revenue for their organizations through events held in State Parks.

A million people visit parks where fees are charged. Fees are approved by the legislature and by statute are set to give parks *"the ability to maximize revenues and to adjust fees according to market conditions and trends as is the common practice in private industry."* Statutes further direct the operation of all enterprise functions within the park system, including ski lifts, food service, retail facilities, campgrounds, and other concession activities, to *"be as profitable as possible, within the purposes of the park system."* The legislature also does not intend that all park facilities be self-supporting. Parks that generate revenue are essential to keeping open those that cannot cover their cost. The language that guides our fees is critical to our ability to be able to be operationally self-funded.

We are fortunate in New Hampshire for the world-class system of parks and staff we have:

- **White Lake State Park** was awarded "Best base for family fun" by Boston Globe (2020).
- **Lafayette Place Campground** named 2020 "Editor's Choice" as NH's Best Family Campground in NH Magazine.
- **Franconia Notch State Park** has frequently (and last year) been ranked in the Top 5 in the US for state parks.
- **Bob Daniels** (Lift Maintenance Supervisor) received a 2020 NH Union Leader Hero Award for saving a life last February (2019).
- **Charlie Roy** (Snowsports School staff trainer) was named one of Ski Area Management Magazine's "11 Under 30" for his leadership qualities (2020).

- **Cannon** won the National Ski Areas Association marketing award for best video advertising campaign (2020).
- **Cannon** won two "Telly" Awards for its New England TV advertising campaign (2020).
- **Franconia Ski Club** was named Best Development Club in the country by US Ski & Snowboard Association.
- **Two New Hampshire trail projects were chosen by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT)** as recipients of the 2020 Tom Petri Recreational Trails Program Achievement Awards.
- **Hampton Beach** is nationally ranked for its cleanliness and was ranked one of the best boardwalks in the nation.

CHALLENGES

- **Weather.** Storm damage is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars a year particularly at the seacoast and on trails. In addition, analysis has indicated that rain will reduce revenue from 25 percent to 45+ percent at beaches and campgrounds and a 20 percent increase in rainy days could impact day use income by \$1.8 million annually. A lack of snow can impact ski area revenue and snowmobile registrations by as much as 50%.
- **Long-term financial stability.** Park funds accounts have been in the black but the parks fund was carrying a \$2.6 million deficit in 2006. This deficit was eliminated in FY 2012.
- **Deferred maintenance.** The 2010 ten-year strategic plan identified \$28.5 million in need in the next 5 years and \$71 million to replace and redevelop needed facilities in the next 10 years. The annual investment required to maintain the condition of the park system is between \$2.7 and \$10.7 million based upon a 1% to 10% rule of thumb on \$267 million of park assets.
- **Expansion of park facilities.** While progress has been made in addressing deferred maintenance, there has been very little overall expansion of the park system facilities as called for in statute (e.g. campgrounds)
- **Updating antiquated customer service processes, products and services** (credit card processing and on line purchases).
- **Adequate useful and timely information to make decisions** – including financial and customer data, and financial impact information.
- **Addressing the pressures on facilities, operations, abutters and communities from the increased volume of visitors.**
- **Adequate resources for trail stewardship and maintenance** (especially hiking trails).
- **Conflicts between trail users types and concerns over conflicts between trail users, communities and the environment.**
- **Part time work force and inadequate housing for seasonal help** – most of our park managers and employees, while very dedicated, are part time employees.
- **Balancing peoples', organizations', and businesses' expectations for use of a publicly held resource** (including free use and fund-raising) with agency mission, revenue generation and benefit to all NH citizens.
- **Protecting visitor's safety including hazard trees, deteriorating infrastructure, and in 2020, in response to the pandemic.**
- **Lack of enforcement capacity.** There are no park rangers. The Division must rely on local law enforcement to enforce state laws and parks rules (with dogs an increasing problem not being addressed).

INITIATIVES

Customer Service

- Increase investments in hazard tree removal
- Continue use and implementation of the reservation system for all park facilities to manage capacity at appropriate levels
- Utilize the park funds balance and surplus revenue to invest in deferred maintenance and improvements
 - Continue to use parks operations funds to increase recreational opportunities (e.g. Ellis Camps, Lafayette Brook lot playgrounds)
 - Maintain a balance in the Parks fund to cover revenue risk
- Ensure compliance with rules and protect visitor safety and experience, especially in campgrounds by establishing in house law enforcement capacity.
- Continue to extend season and hours of availability of parks (April 1 – Veteran's Day vs. Memorial to Labor Day)
- Fully utilize and expand enterprise system capabilities to improve visitor experience.
- Continue to modernize fee collection (e.g. adequate connectivity at toll booths) and provide products and services on line (gift cards)
- Bring staff on early enough in the season to provide adequate training in customer service, operations and compliance
- Following up on the Coos Trails Study, continue to work with user groups, communities, organizations and public entities to provide the best experiences for all types of trail users
- Ensure that everyone knows what we have to offer and provide programming that connects people to parks and the outdoors (First Day Hikes and Discover the Power of Parks interpreters)
- Ensure all citizens and visitors have access to state parks. Fees provide for park system needs but are equitable and do not serve as a deterrent to access.

Stewardship

- Continue to use parks operating funds to supplement capital appropriation to address deferred maintenance in park facilities
- Concurrently update facilities to reduce ongoing maintenance costs
- Increase resources available to address deferred maintenance of hiking trails and Connecticut Lakes Headwaters road system
- Invest in equipment to improve efficiency and reduce labor and hiring expenses and improve and ensure adequate maintenance of sites (e.g. trash truck Hampton)

Revenue

- More aggressive license plate marketing and availability (13,044 at present)
- Increase campground weekday occupancy
- On line sales of parks goods and services
- Add retail operations and food concessions to high use park sites
- Charge fees at sites where costs are incurred and services provided and increase the use of iron rangers
- Increase winter operations (Flume) and provide more year round employment opportunities
- Ensure the public is receiving an adequate return for the use of public resources including third party tenants and special use permittees
- Complete restoration of Coleman Estates and Bear Hill in Bear Brook

- Maintain an adequate balance in the parks accounts to cover poor years and natural disaster response and continue regular year end forecasting of revenue and expense.
- Leverage federal funds (LWCF and RTP) to support state and local investment in outdoor recreation.

The COVID 19 Pandemic reminded us of the importance of the outdoors and the services that support that use. Excerpt from an email from the Director to Division Employees on April 3, 2020 as staff was being deployed to the field to open up parks:

We are caring for the public in a time of need. While medical professional have been charged with maintaining physical health during this crisis, we have been charged with maintaining our citizens' mental health.

Included in the email was a message sent out from Pennsylvania State Parks that best summarized the times:

In these times of mental, physical and economic distresses, our direct access to nature and its proven restorative properties is more important to us, and more worthy of safeguarding than ever. During this pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that our mental health is a special concern. And with a large swath of the population increasingly stressed and isolated, more of us are heading out to the local, community and state parks and trails. Our bodies seem to know what research demonstrates: time spent in parks, forests, and the outdoors delivers a variety of mental, physical, and psychological benefits for our families.

Dec 2020
PAB

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DNCR FACT SHEET

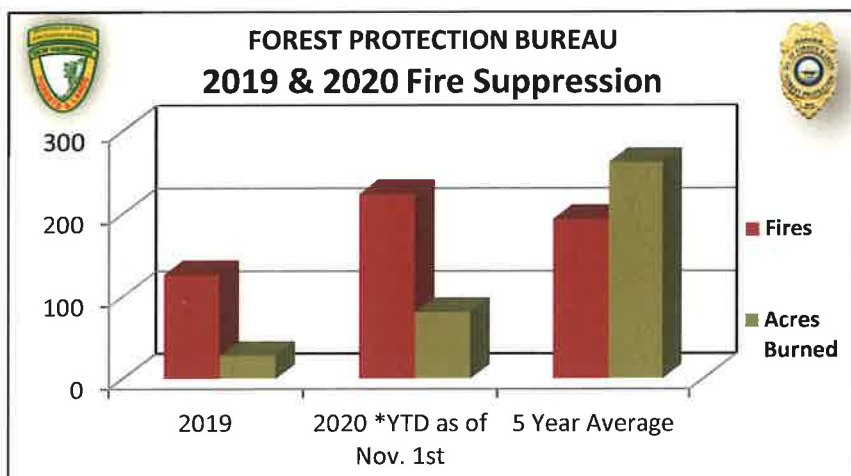
Budget Summary (In Mil)	DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET				CAPITAL BUDGET	
	ACTUALS	ADJ AUTH	PROPOSED	PROPOSED	AS PASSED	
	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 20-21	
General Funds	\$ 8.1	\$ 8.4	\$ 7.6	\$ 7.9	State Parks/Reservations	\$ 5.2
Federal Funds	\$ 4.3	\$ 9.2	\$ 9.9	\$ 10.0	Historic Sites	\$ 0.7
Other Funds	\$ 32.0	\$ 36.9	\$ 39.6	\$ 40.5	Cultural Resources	\$ 0.5
Total	\$ 44.4	\$ 54.5	\$ 57.1	\$ 58.4	Total	\$ 6.4
POSITION COUNTS (FY 21)				DNCR FLEET		# vehicles
Division	Classified	Unclassified	Total	Passenger Autos		3
Commissioner's Office	30	1	31	Trucks		155
Forest and Lands	50	1	51	Vans / Buses		7
State Parks	69	2	71	Mobile Equipment		50
State Library	31	1	32	Snowmobiles / OHRV		76
Arts Council	6	1	7	Total		291
Historical Resources	11	1	12			
Total Full Time Permanent	197	7	204	HISTORICAL RESOURCES		
**Seasonal:	Winter - 400+ / Summer - 550+			Historic tax credit proj under review		20
Part-Time	250+			Tax credit projects, investment value		\$157,810,495
Full-Time Temp:	24			State & Natl Register listed properties		1,305
				Inventoried property records		11,000+
STATE RESERVATIONS DATA - FORESTS & PARKS				Archaeological sites		3,700
Total Reservation and Easement Acreage Stewardship			514,739	Historic Highway Markers		268
DNCR Reservations (acres)			169,249	Preservation easement properties		41
Fish & Game Wildlife Management Areas (acres)			60,020	Fed & State project reviews		1,500+
Federal Flood Control Areas under Management License (acres)			13,446	Fed & State Agcy regulatory partners		70
Reservation Acreage			242,715	Certified Local Govts, local commissions		107
Conservation Easements Acreage			272,024			
Miles of Boundary Line Maintained			1,100	STATE LIBRARY		
Average Acres Treated Annually			1,573	State Library Collection		650,000 vols
Board Feet Timber Harvested Annually (10yr avg)			5.6 million	Blind and Physically Handicapped -		
Tons of Pulp Harvested Annually			22,000 tons	Clients served		2,592
Tons of Biomass Chips Harvested Annually			35,000 tons	Inter-library loan prog items delivered		750,000 items
Campgrounds / Sites			23 / 1,427	Delivery milage		250,000
Day Use Parks			38	Technology instruction sessions		75
Historic Sites			16	Database usage		650,000 sessions
Natural Areas / Waysides			8 / 7	NH State Government Digital		
State Beaches (Lake & Ocean)			22	Document Depository		70,000 Docs
Ski Areas (Downhill & X-country)			4			
Miles of Snowmobiles / OHRV trails			7,200 / 1,200			
Seacoast Metered Parking Spaces			1,644			
Retail Outlets in Parks			37			
DNCR BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE						
Total Buildings - Various Types			884	STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS		
Total Sq Ft Buildings			870,387 ft	FY20 Grants to Communities Total		\$834,688
Building Value \$ (Millions)			\$65.06	FY20 Number of Grants		142
Roof Area Sq Ft			973,090 ft	FY19 Direct Spending Leveraged		\$47.7m
Other Structures:				FY19 Artists employed via grant prgm		4,599
Pit Toilets			110	State Art Collection # of objects		650+
Dams			26	Percent for Art Program # of artworks		350+
Bridges			22			
Buildings			91			
Septic Systems			147			
Toilet/Bathhouse Buildings			86			
** FY21 Significant summer staff reduction due to COVID-19						

State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTS & LANDS
FY 2019 & 2020 Activity Snapshot

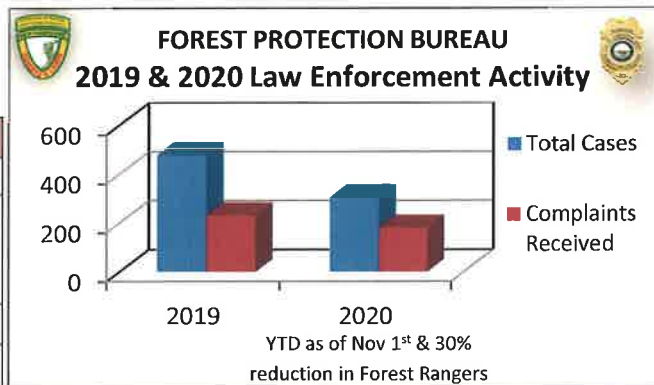
Mission: To protect and promote the values provided by New Hampshire's trees, forests, and natural communities.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY	
Communities Assisted	303
Number of TreeCity USA Communities	16
Number of Tree Campuses	1
Education Programs Conducted at the Urban Forestry Center, Shieling Forest & Off-Site	72
November 2019 the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth hosted the 23rd Festival of Trees. Over 8,000 visitors toured the buildings and grounds enjoying the displays and decoration. This event is co-sponsored by the Division of Forests and Lands and the Portsmouth Garden Club NH Forest Legacy Program – Acquisition of conservation easements on the 6,000- acre Pease River project tracts is nearing completion.	

FOREST MANAGEMENT		
Timber Harvesting	2019	2020
Contracted Acres	1,743	2,025
Board Feet Harvested	5,946,779	6,578,169
Tons Pulp and Chips	52,294	49,590
Revenue	\$1,255,307	\$1,342,817



NATURAL HERITAGE	
2019-2020	
Database Record Additions/Updates (This includes records of plants, animals, and natural communities)	1,652
Environmental Reviews	7,528
Botany-related Inquiries (from the general public, state and federal agencies, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and educators)	1,200



LAND MANAGEMENT			
2018-2019			
Revenue from Leases		Boundary Lines	
Communication	\$900,494	Boundary Lines Maintained	104 Miles on 46 Forests
Camps	\$207,600	Topographical Surveys	39 park/forest projects within the last year
Agriculture	\$11,460		
Dimensional stone quarry permits annual monitoring and inspection			4

FOREST HEALTH	
2019-2020	
Aerial Survey	2.5 million acres
Major Threats Identified	7
Trapping Program	60 towns targeted for 3 pests
Visual survey	55 towns targeted for 3 pests
Technical Assistance	180 landowners
Pesticide Treatment	180 landowners for 2 pests
Training/Workshops	1,100 attendees

PRESERVATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Today, historic preservation is about much more than little old ladies in tennis shoes saving a local landmark. Preservation plays a positive role in the state's economy, in revitalizing downtowns and villages, and in nurturing New Hampshire's special sense of place and quality of life. Additionally, preserving what makes New Hampshire unique and authentic attracts millions of tourists to the state each year.

In a recent survey by the University of New Hampshire, 97% of respondents felt that preserving historic and cultural places was important. New Hampshire has a rich inventory of historical resources that illustrate 12,000 years of history. What do we have?

State and National Register listed resources:	7,424
Surveyed historic properties:	2,535
Local and surveyed historic districts:	230
Archaeological sites:	3,677

Throughout the country, the economic impact of preserving special historic places is measured by looking at jobs created, property values, heritage tourism, environmental measures and downtown revitalization. About 25 states have evaluated the [economic impact of historic preservation](#) on a state-wide basis. Here are some of the numbers we know for New Hampshire.

INVESTMENT IN TOWNS AND CITIES

Every year in NH, property owners and developers invest millions of dollars in rehabilitating and creating new uses for historic buildings. In addition to revitalizing downtowns and villages, these projects create jobs that are more labor intensive and higher skilled than other types of construction jobs. Local, state and federal preservation tax incentives can encourage this type of investment. Interest in using the **federal Preservation Tax Incentive Program** has climbed sharply in NH over the last ten years (see sidebar). In NH, towns and cities can also adopt the **Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program** (RSA 79-E) to encourage reinvestment in older under-utilized properties. The program offers temporary tax relief as an incentive for redevelopment, but the program itself remains under-utilized. As of [2014](#), only 26 municipalities had adopted the measure, and only eight projects had benefited from its use.

Preservation grant programs play a similar role in encouraging investment and revitalizing communities. The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program has helped to preserve 218 historic buildings since 2000. Over the last ten years, every \$1 invested by LCHIP leveraged more than \$5 in other types of investment in communities across the state.

Historic Preservation By-the-Numbers

\$127,660,289

Capital invested over the last 10 years in NH rehabilitating historic buildings with the federal Preservation Tax Incentive.

\$160,851,964

Federal tax revenue generated by those same PTI projects – a program that pays for itself.

\$5,210,069

NH LCHIP grant dollars invested over the last ten years to preserve historic landmarks.

\$25,331,757

Total investment leveraged by those LCHIP funds – more than \$5 for every \$1 granted.

159,280,400 MBTUs

The amount of [energy](#) wasted when a historic mill is torn down rather than rehabilitated.

1,385,047 gallons

That same figure, converted to gallons of gasoline.



The award-winning rehabilitation of the North Cotton Storehouse, Nashua.

PRESERVATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE CATALYTIC IMPACT OF HISTORIC TAX INCENTIVES



When the private sector rehabilitates a building utilizing preservation tax incentives, positive benefits ripple throughout the community.

*Downtown Newmarket took notice when a developer used federal preservation tax incentives to invest more than \$23 million and turn the largely vacant **Newmarket Mills** into housing and retail space. A second tax incentive project in the mill yard turned a unique historic blacksmith shop into offices and condos, and a third project is under development. Stores and restaurants along Main Street are now thriving and expanding with increased street traffic and new patrons.*



Lang Blacksmith Shop, Newmarket



Main Street, Newmarket

HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TOURISM

In 2010, **33.6 million** people visited New Hampshire, spending **\$3.94 million**. Tourism is also the second most important export industry in terms of employment size, supporting **60,126** full and part time jobs. Visitors often incorporate a number of different types of activities during their visits. Throughout New England, 53.8% sightsee, 47% take a scenic drive, and 12.6% visit a historic site, museum or gallery. We know from studies elsewhere, heritage travelers typically **stay longer and spend more dollars**. Although some New Hampshire museums and historic sites are participating in visitor count surveys, the numbers are not comprehensive. Seven historic sites and museums – a fraction of the state's 300+ – reported 230,506 visitors in 2014.

PROPERTY VALUES, SUSTAINABILITY AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Contrary to popular belief, designating an area as a historic district does not stifle economic development. Throughout the country, properties within designated historic districts have **higher values**, are better maintained and have lower foreclosure rates. Historic districts also typically see more construction projects, both for new and older properties. And a recent study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation found that neighborhoods containing a mix of older, smaller buildings support greater levels of **positive economic and social activity** than areas dominated by newer, larger buildings. Historic districts also contribute **cost-savings** to broader economic and environmental goals, such as infrastructure cost savings, preserved embodied energy, and more walkable communities. Reusing a historic building is often called the ultimate in [recycling](#). While these characteristics are encouraging – particularly given the state's many historic neighborhoods and districts – no data in NH has been gathered or analyzed to date.

FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK ...

- ★ Federal tax incentive projects represent **only a portion** of preservation projects completed in NH. Further study would determine the total dollars invested statewide, as well as the amount of state and local revenue generated by these projects.
- ★ Further study could specifically quantify the economic value of **heritage tourism** in NH, including the number of heritage travelers, their direct spending, and the number of jobs supported by heritage tourism.
- ★ Although NH's many historic downtowns, neighborhoods and village centers have great potential to demonstrate the economic benefits of preservation, no studies to date have quantified or analyzed their economic values.

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



GDP & JOBS

NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR'S PERCENTAGE OF U.S. ECONOMY (Artists, University Arts, Commercial & Nonprofit Arts Organizations Combined)

ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 4.5% OF NATION'S GDP & 5.1 MILLION JOBS

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that nationally the arts and culture sector is a **\$878 billion industry**, representing 4.5% of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than construction or education services.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.



BONUS: U.S. exports generate a \$29.7 billion arts trade SURPLUS.

BUSINESSES

Nationally **673,656 businesses** employ **3.48 million people** who are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts. Based on Dun & Bradstreet data, this means that 3.9% of all businesses and 1.9% of all employees are connected to the creative industries.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creative Industries*, 2017.



ECONOMICS

Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates **\$166.3 billion in economic activity** annually that supports **4.6 million jobs** and generates **\$27.5 billion** in federal, state, and local government revenue.

- Spending by arts audiences generated **\$102.5 billion** to local businesses.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, 2017.



FUNDING

Q So how much is the federal government investing in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)?

A Congress has proposed allocating **\$162.25 million** to the NEA in FY 2020, which has been relatively level for the last several years. This amounts to just **49¢** per capita, yet the nonprofit arts industry generates over \$13 billion in federal tax revenue back to the treasury. Imagine what nonprofit arts groups could generate with \$1 per capita!

Source: Americans for the Arts Action Fund, 2020.
Read: "Funding The Arts Is Good For the Nation," *The Hill*, 2015.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS FACTS

NH ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR REPRESENTS 3.3% OF STATE'S GDP & 22,597 JOBS

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributes **\$2.6 billion** to New Hampshire's economy, representing 3.3% of the state's GDP—a larger share than some other industries in the state.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017.



BONUS: In 2017, NH arts and culture compensation grew by 1.77%.

In New Hampshire, **3,170 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **16,587 people**.

- In Hillsborough County, **951 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **9,288 people**.
- In Rockingham County, **901 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **3,039 people**.
- In Merrimack County, **370 Arts-Related Businesses** employ **1,280 people**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creative Industries*; *New Hampshire* report, 2017.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

In 2015, New Hampshire's arts and culture sector employed thousands of FTE jobs and generated millions of dollars in economic activity. Nonprofit arts groups helped cultivate that activity.

- In Greater Portsmouth, for example, nonprofit arts groups generated **\$21.5 million** in economic activity. Audiences of 1.2 million people added another **\$36.6 million** in related spending for a total of **\$58.0 million** for the city in 2015, and this generated **\$6.8 million** in local and state government revenues and **1,825 FTE jobs**.

Source: Americans for the Arts, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*, *Greater Portsmouth Area* report, 2017.



PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

Q What about New Hampshire—how much does state government budget to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts each year?

A In FY 2020, the state allocated **\$805,229** to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The Council also received **\$723,700** in federal NEA funds, which the Council re-granted to dozens of cultural organizations throughout the state. An additional 9 nonprofit arts organizations received direct grants from the NEA totaling \$213,000.

Source: NEA and NASAA, 2020.
Read: "Arts Matter," Lois R. Shea, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, 2018.

"The beauty of New Hampshire's natural resources and the ingenuity of the people who have settled here over time have combined to inspire a wide range of artistic endeavors and arts engagement."

—NH State Council on the Arts



NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS FACTS

IN THE GRANITE STATE, THE ARTS UNITE US

The League of NH Craftsmen boasts a membership of over 750 Juried Craftspeople making fine craft, by hand, right here in our state!

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS—established in 1965 as the official state arts agency — and is a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The State Arts Council promotes and supports the efforts of New Hampshire artists, arts organizations, communities and schools through grants, professional development opportunities, juried artists rosters, Traditional Arts, electronic publications, statewide research, and more.

> Learn more [here](#).



MEET SOME NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS ADVOCATES

- Former Nashua Mayor **Donna Lee Lozeau** is the 2015 National Public Leadership in the Arts Award recipient for Local Arts Leadership. > [More](#)
- Concord Chamber of Commerce President **Tim Sink** is a gubernatorially appointed member of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the 2015 Arts4NH (NH Citizens for the Arts) Advocate of the Year. > [More](#)
- State Senator **Martha Fuller Clark** and Representative **David Danielson** were named 2017 Arts4NH (NH Citizens for the Arts) Advocates of the Year. > [More](#)
- **Ginnie Lupi** is the Director of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. > [More](#)

ARTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- NH Magazine lists the Best of NH 2018 Arts, Culture and People [here](#).
- See a comprehensive list of NH Arts and Artists [here](#).
- The state's newspaper of record, the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, has a terrific arts calendar, [here](#).

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts:

www.nh.gov/nharts

Arts4NH:

www.arts4nh.org

New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts:

www.nhbca.com

THE ARTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

- The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, the nation's first fine crafts organization, is preparing to host its 86th fine crafts fair this summer in **Newbury**. The 2018 fair welcomed nearly 25,000 visitors from across the U.S. and internationally.
- Park on the Common in **Lebanon** and walk to several venues; you can visit AVA Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon Opera House and Upper Valley Music. Then get on your bicycle and check out the public art on the Mascoma River Greenway!
- **Keene** also has a walkable downtown with an opportunity to see dance at MoCo Arts' new facility, visual arts at the Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery and performances at both the Redfern Arts Center and the Colonial Theater.
- Head north to get your inner poet inspiration at the Frost Place in **Franconia** and take a short trip to see a performance at the other Colonial Theater and contemporary art exhibits at 42 Maple, in Bethlehem.
- Check out the new Main Street and public art in the capital city of **Concord** and the renovations of Capitol Center for the Arts' new venue.
- **Dover** also has several new public artworks, and if you're looking for something to do with the kids, visit the Children's Museum of New Hampshire.
- Sculpture is big in New Hampshire! Tour **Nashua's** public sculpture collection, commissioned by the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium. Nearby is the Andres Institute of Art, where sculptures are installed on wilderness hiking trails. Then, drive up to **Lake Winnepesaukee** and tour the Meredith Sculpture Walk!

To View the Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, Click Here.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS NEED YOU!

JOIN THE ARTS ACTION FUND FOR FREE TODAY!

E-MAIL US: ArtsActionFund@artsusa.org

VISIT US: ArtsActionFund.org/join

CALL US: 202.371.2830 x2067

FOLLOW US: [f](#) Arts Action Fund | [t](#) @ArtsActionFund | #ArtsVote



To download this fact sheet, "Why the Arts Matter in New Hampshire," with corresponding resource links visit www.ArtsActionFund.org/StateFactsheets.

DRAFT as of 3/27/2020

New Hampshire Public Libraries by the Numbers

234

Number of public libraries in New Hampshire, one in every community

\$65,520,893

Total operating expenditures for New Hampshire Public Libraries

9,920,552

Circulation of print and digital resources by New Hampshire libraries

\$158,728,832

Value of materials borrowed if instead purchased by patrons.
Average cost per item \$16.00



Peterborough Town Library,
America's First Public Library

Photo credit: Peterborough Town Library

New Hampshire Public Libraries

Libraries have been part of New Hampshire's cultural infrastructure for more than two hundred years. Due to the political importance of the town since provincial days and the relative unimportance of county government, New Hampshire today has 234 autonomous public libraries – one in every community. This autonomy and independence has created a strong library community, as evidenced by such things as the first state library association (1889). The first public library in the United States is the Peterborough Town Library, established in 1837. New Hampshire also has the distinction of having the oldest state library, which was founded in 1717.

All of these things provide a structure and a form that enables the public libraries in New Hampshire to better serve their citizens. The 234 libraries in our communities serve as anchor institutions – and some would say beacons – where knowledge, aspirations and contemplation are housed. In the digital age many think that these things are available on the internet. Certainly instant communication and terabytes of information are necessary in the highly competitive world we live in; however, what's missing in this digital “end all and be all” of information is the human component. That is what is present in the library. The human, and more precisely the humane, interaction with individuals, those who assist, encourage, instruct and nurture the use of the library and its vast resources. New Hampshire libraries take these powerful tools and make them useful by bringing them into scale.

“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.” – Neil Gaiman



Photo credit: Cook Memorial Library

Library Use Calculator

What is your library worth to you?

Usage	Materials	Total Savings
4,883,104	Adult Books Borrowed	\$83,012,768
3,617,788	Children's Books Borrowed	\$61,502,396
730,535	Digital Audiobooks Borrowed	\$10,958,025
266,365	Interlibrary Loans Requested	\$6,659,125
604,706	eBooks Borrowed	\$9,070,590
39,017	Magazines Borrowed	\$195,085
21,776	Adult Program Attended	\$326,640
3,985	Young Adult Program Attended	\$47,820
30,019	Children's Program Attended	\$210,133
		\$171,982,582

Public libraries have a direct impact on the economy of most communities in New Hampshire. Libraries are an economic driver; they account for \$37 million in salaries that get spent in the local economy across the state. The purchase of goods and services by New Hampshire public libraries totals \$27 million. Libraries purchase a wide range of goods and services and they contract with local individuals and corporations for many things.

An important gauge of economic vitality in a community is its RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI). New Hampshire libraries have been measuring this vitality for a number of years. Many have an ROI calculator on their websites. These allow citizens to see clearly that the money they invest in the library through taxes is greatly offset by the return to them in services from the library. A smart consumer of library services benefits greatly from this centralized provider of information services. Books, videos, eBooks, museum passes, and maker-spaces are just a sample of what is available at the 234 public libraries in New Hampshire.

Like all things regarding economics, the key metric is return on investment. The citizens of New Hampshire are a parsimonious lot. They generally are very skeptical about spending money on something that will not have a positive and usually direct impact on them and their families. The public library in New Hampshire is one of the best examples of dramatic ROI. Many, if not most, of the services offered by the public library are available from other providers; however, a comparison of the costs will clearly show the library does it at much smaller cost.



New Hampshire Downloadable Books is a service of the State Library and 200 NH public libraries, potentially serving 1.3 million NH residences with digital audiobooks, eBooks, and magazines. NH residents checked out 1.3 million digital books.



Photo credit: NH State Library

New Hampshire Public Libraries
