



**DNCR FY 24-25 BUDGET PRESENTATION
SARAH STEWART, COMMISSIONER
NOVEMBER 29, 2022**

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing us to present the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources budget request for the 2024-2025 biennium.

The DNCR is home to five divisions: The Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Forests and Lands, the Division of Historical Resources, the NH State Library, and the NH State Council on the Arts.

Our collective mission is 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 DNCR employs nearly 1,000 people each year. We manage over 220,000 acres of public land and maintain approximately 870 buildings of various types with a total value reaching nearly \$50 million. We also maintain 22 bridges, 15 fire towers, 26 dams, 149 septic systems, 91 waterways, and over 300 miles of roads and parking lots. We are heading into another busy winter season where we will oversee the management of over 7,000 miles of snowmobile trails- an important part of this state's booming outdoor recreation economy. I am also excited to report that our Cannon Mountain Ski Resort ranked #8 in the east in Ski Magazine's 2022 Reader Resort Survey, which is the highest-ranking NH resort.

Our agency's broad scope of services is also illustrated in how we touch the daily lives of our citizens in every community of the state. Our programs, grants and services have only expanded as a result of the COVID pandemic. For example, the Division of Historical Resources' required Project Review and Compliance program experienced a 30% increase.

Growth is the key word in this budget request. Our State Parks have seen significant growth in attendance, online reservations, camping, and retail sales. To respond to this growth, our State Parks Season has grown to 36 weeks- opening earlier in the spring and staying open beyond Columbus Day. Similarly, the Division of Forests and Lands is also experiencing growth. We've helped to conserve several thousand more acres available for public access and our Forest Rangers are seeing a lot more activity, consistent with the growth in outdoor recreation.

For the fifth season running, seedling sales at the N.H. State Forest Nursery in Boscawen continue to outpace the previous year's marks.

Sales income increased 52 percent from 2021's record-breaking season and reflected a 146.7 percent increase since 2018. The total number of orders was up 37.6 percent from last year, which is just about double – 96.5 percent – compared to five years ago.

The number of seedlings lifted, sorted for quality, packaged and sold increased 50.8 percent from 2021, a 135.2 percent jump from 2018.

In order to respond to this overall growth, we have evaluated our staffing needs and are requesting permission to convert eight 9T positions into permanent full-time positions within Parks, and one 9T to permanent full time within the Division of Historical Resources. We would also like to add an additional Forest Ranger and an additional Forester to assist us in monitoring over 270,000 acres of private land under conservation easements

I am also seeking your support for three positions in the Office of the Commissioner. This agency relies on the legal advice of the Attorney General's office. Over the past several years, it has become increasingly clear that, with the number of contracts, lease agreements, rulemaking, and day-to-day interactions with the public, there is enough work to support a fulltime agency attorney. I have discussed this need with the DOJ attorneys assigned to us, and they wholeheartedly agree.

Another fulltime position I wish to fill with your support is a DNCR Financial Analyst specializing in federal grant administration. From the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Forest Service, our five divisions administer millions of federal grant funds annually.

Rather than continue to oversee a very siloed attempt to pull this off each grant round, our staff would benefit from the support of a centralized service position. I suspect the team at DAS would also appreciate the efficiency of working with a central point person rather than many individual grant administrators sprinkled throughout our agency.

Finally, a position I have advocated for in the past, and truly believe will be a game-changer for us is having a DNCR Curator. As part of our mission, we are to provide access to the many treasures we manage. This includes artwork, historic items, archeological finds, collections that have been donated to us, and more. My vision is to hire someone who can help us organize our treasures and then, help to develop public facing exhibits and programs at our State Library, at our Parks and Historic Sites, and even traveling exhibits to schools, local public libraries and other community centers. We are currently seeking a consultant through the RFQ process to assess the State Library's current space and provide us with a plan to store much of the stacks in a climate-controlled storage facility-freeing up valuable space for exciting and endless opportunities to engage the public.

Other considerations in this budget request include accounting for dramatic increases in our utility expenses and interagency transfers. Something I would like to point out for discussion is the fact that since 2007 when the Bureau of Historic Sites was created, it was general funded. This was done on purpose in order to dedicate funds to the stewardship and management of our designated historic sites, separating them from parks funding, which has ebbed and flowed over the years. Historic sites also have a separate mission from Parks, which is telling the stories of who we are through buildings, landscapes, collections and exhibits. Two years ago, when we were asked to cut our overall general fund budget, we did so without compromising our commitment to the Bureau of Historic Sites. Instead, we shifted park revenue over which you will see is what we did again in this budget. Shifting back to general funds is something we would like to discuss further.

Looking at our prioritized needs, we are making these requests consistent with our theme of growth and demand. New Hampshire's artists, cultural organizations and for-profit venues were hit very hard during the pandemic and are not fully recovered. A recent survey of 53 nonprofit grantees, most of which

receive Arts Council operating support, showed 2022 earned revenue to date at 78% of pre-pandemic levels. This is consistent with national trends and is troubling. Additional state assistance will be needed in the FY24-25 biennium as they reorient their business models to what may be the new normal.

We are also seeing an opportunity to push beyond critical needs to support the state's cultural assets in a way that fulfills the increased demand from the public throughout this sector. Specifically:

- Requests for operating support have increased significantly as organizations mature and become eligible for grants. Applications to this two-year program increased 30% in FY22-23 over FY20-21.
- Requests to the Arts in Health grant program have also increased – a 33% increase in FY23 over FY22. We project continued growth in this program as pandemic recovery continues, particularly in the areas of behavioral health and substance misuse services. Due to this growth we are requesting a new Grants Coordinator position to lead the program.
- The Artist Entrepreneurial Grant program continues to grow as artists build and diversify their careers and small businesses.
- There is a marked need for capacity building support for emerging arts organizations, particularly in the areas of financial management and fund development.

Much as the state allocated funds to boost outdoor recreation to meet the needs of the public, we see similar demand and opportunity with the arts.

You will also see a request to support New Hampshire Public Television. Historically, NHPBS was supported by the state through UNH (\$2.7 million annually), but funding was eliminated in 2011. NHPBS will utilize the requested funds to provide the state and the country with engaging local content that showcases the state's rich natural, cultural, historical, and environmental resources. Some of the programming NHPBS will produce include: our music and arts heritage and how it impacts the NH economy; documentaries about New Hampshire's hidden history, our diverse new populations, the vibrant farm to table movement, and much more. The amount requested will simply pass through our agency to NHPBS, but by allocating it to the Council on the Arts, we can count

this money toward our federal match. This is a strategic way to make every dollar work hard for New Hampshire.

In conclusion, the DNCR has sustained substantial growth over the past few years and in order to move ahead on this trajectory, we have identified specific opportunities to put the pedal to the metal while staying within the 3% general fund growth limitation and by offsetting the new positions we need with several vacant positions that we can abolish.

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DNCR FACT SHEET**

Budget Summary (In Mil)	DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET						
	ACTUALS	ADJ AUTH	PROPOSED EFFICIENCY	PRIORITIZED NEEDS	PROPOSED EFFICIENCY	PRIORITIZED NEEDS	FY 24 v FY23
	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24		FY 25		
General Funds	\$ 7.9	\$ 8.7	\$ 9.1	\$ 1.2	\$ 9.3	\$ 1.2	\$ 0.4
Federal Funds	\$ 7.0	\$ 8.7	\$ 8.5	\$ 0.2	\$ 8.6	\$ 0.1	\$ (0.2)
Other Funds	\$ 37.4	\$ 40.6	\$ 47.4	\$ 0.3	\$ 48.0	\$ 0.3	\$ 6.8
Total	\$ 52.3	\$ 58.0	\$ 65.0	\$ 1.7	\$ 65.9	\$ 1.6	\$ 7.0

DEPARTMENT POSITION COUNTS FY 24-25						CAPITAL BUDGET - PROPOSED w/ REQUESTED FED FUND (ARPA) SUPPORT	
PROPOSED EFFICIENCY				PROPOSED PRIORITIZED NEEDS		FY 24-25	
Division	Classified	Unclassified	Sub-Total	Classified	Total		
Commissioner's Office	32	1	33		33	State Parks	\$ 53.6
Forest and Lands	52	1	53		53	Cannon Tramway	\$ 15.7
State Parks	75	2	77		77	Land Reservations	\$ 2.0
State Library	26	1	27		27	Historic Sites	\$ 2.2
Arts Council	6	1	7	1	8	Trails Bureau/CLH	\$ 7.7
Historical Resources	11	1	12		12		
Total Full Time Permanent	202	7	209	1	210		\$ 81.2

Seasonal Pos Count Est: Winter - 400+ / Summer - 350+ / Part Time Est: 250+

Full-Time Temp (9T) Position Count FY 22-23: 29

****SELECTED STATISTICAL AND DATA PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

STATE RESERVATIONS DATA - FORESTS & PARKS		DNCR FLEET		# vehicles
Total Reservation and Easement Acreage Stewardship	514,739	Passenger Autos		3
DNCR Reservations (acres)	169,249	Trucks		157
Fish & Game Wildlife Management Areas (acres)	60,020	Vans / Buses		7
Federal Flood Control Areas under Management License (acres)	13,446	Mobile Equipment		48
Reservation Acreage	242,715	Snowmobiles / OHRV		83
Conservation Easements Acreage	272,024	Total		298

		HISTORICAL RESOURCES	
Miles of Boundary Line Maintained	1,100	Historic tax credit proj under review	20
Average Acres Treated Annually	1,573	Tax credit projects, investment value	\$157,810,495
Board Feet Timber Harvested Annually (10yr avg)	5.6 million	State & Natl Register listed properties	1,305
Tons of Pulp Harvested Annually	22,000 tons	Inventoried property records	11,000+
Tons of Biomass Chips Harvested Annually	35,000 tons	Archaeological sites	3,700
Campgrounds / Sites	23 / 1,427	Historic Highway Markers	268
Day Use Parks	38	Preservation easement properties	41
Historic Sites	16	Fed & State project reviews	1,500+
Natural Areas / Waysides	8 / 7	Fed & State Agy regulatory partners	70
State Beaches (Lake & Ocean)	22	Certified Local Govts, local commissions	107
Ski Areas (Downhill & X-country)	4		

		STATE LIBRARY	
Miles of Snowmobiles / OHRV trails	7,200 / 1,200	State Library Collection	650,000 vols
Seacoast Metered Parking Spaces	1,644	Blind and Physically Handicapped - Clients served	2,592
Retail Outlets in Parks	37	Inter-library loan prog items delivered	750,000 items

DNCR BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE			
Total Buildings - Various Types	884	Delivery milage	250,000
Total Sq Ft Buildings	870,387 ft	Technology instruction sessions	75
Building Value \$ (Millions)	\$65.06	Database usage	650,000 sessions
Roof Area Sq Ft	973,090 ft	NH State Government Digital Document Depository	70,000 Docs

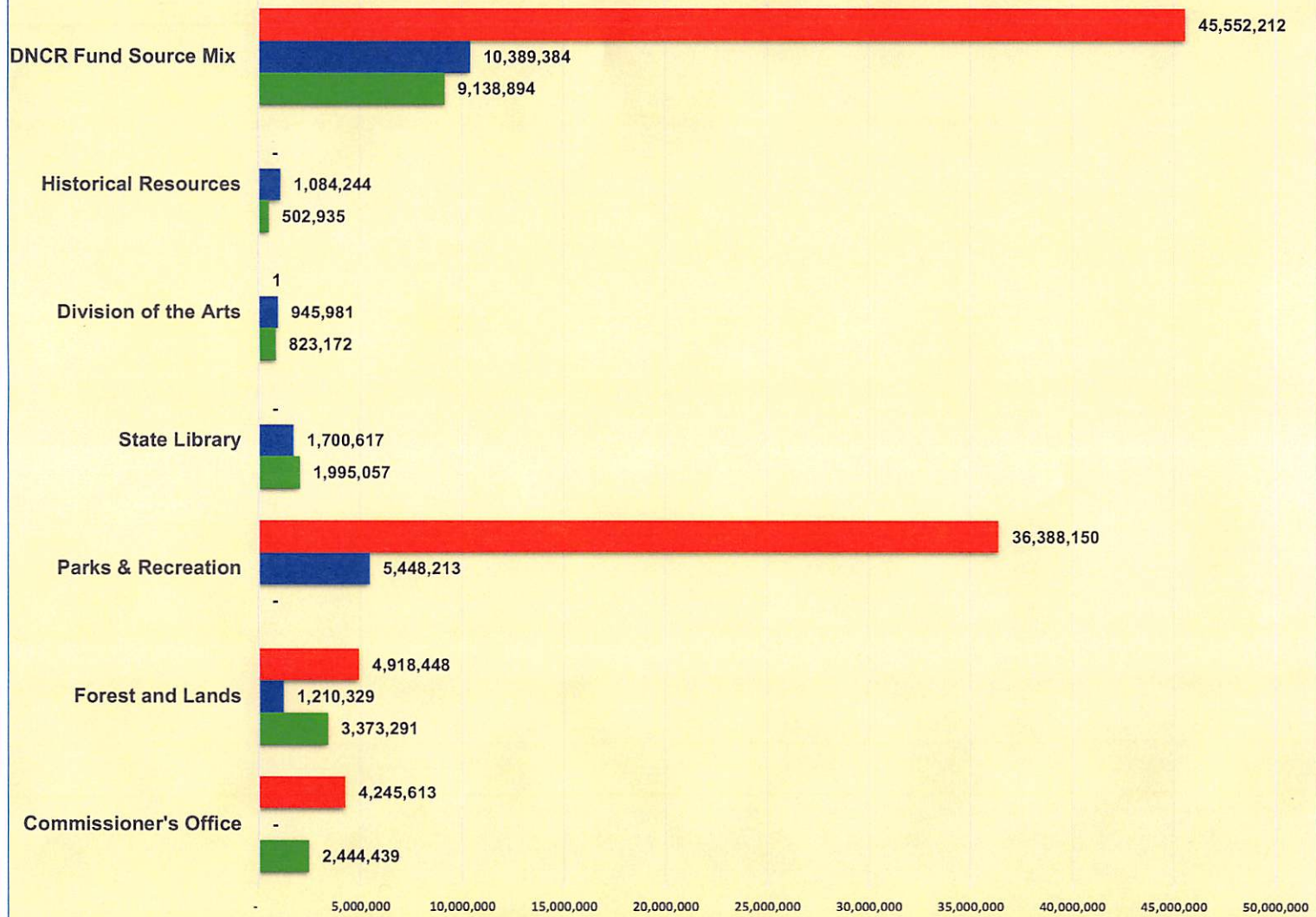
		STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS	
Other Structures:		FY20 Grants to Communities Total	\$834,688
Pit Toilets	110	FY20 Number of Grants	142
Dams	26	FY19 Direct Spending Leveraged	\$47.7m
Bridges	22	FY19 Artists employed via grant prgm	4,599
Wells	91	State Art Collection # of objects	650+
Septic Systems	147	Percent for Art Program # of artworks	350+
Toilet/Bathhouse Buildings	86		

Notes: Figures are approximated and/or updated as of Fiscal Year Ending 2022. Arts Data represents Pre-COVID Statistics.

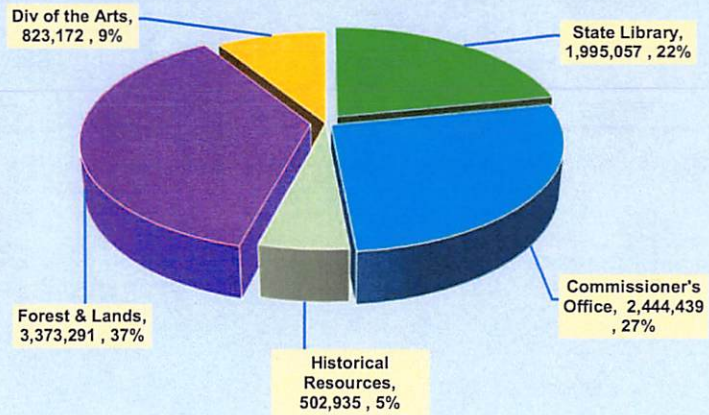
Department	DNCR GENERAL FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION	GENERAL FUNDS	DNCR FEDERAL FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION	FEDERAL FUNDS	DNCR OTHER FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
Commissioner's Office	2,444,439	2,514,345	-	-	4,245,613	4,307,473	6,690,052	6,821,818
Forest and Lands	3,373,291	3,404,652	1,210,329	1,246,957	4,918,448	4,916,853	9,502,068	9,568,462
Parks & Recreation	-	-	5,448,213	5,448,900	36,388,150	36,821,666	41,836,363	42,270,566
State Library	1,995,057	2,060,282	1,700,617	1,723,041	-	-	3,695,674	3,783,323
Division of the Arts	823,172	832,285	945,981	1,027,730	1	1	1,769,154	1,860,016
Historical Resources	502,935	517,294	1,084,244	1,115,048	-	-	1,587,179	1,632,342
Other Base Adjustments							-	-
DNCR Fund Source Mix - Proposed Efficiency Budget FY 24 - FY 25	9,138,894	9,328,858	10,389,384	10,561,676	45,552,212	46,045,993	65,080,490	65,936,527
Increase (Decrease)	371,201	189,964	322,576	172,292	6,311,431	493,781	7,005,208	856,037
Percent Change	4.2%	2.1%	3.2%	1.7%	16.1%	1.1%	12.1%	1.3%

	DNCR GENERAL FUNDS	DNCR FEDERAL FUNDS	DNCR OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	FY24 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY24 Budget
Commissioner's Office	2,444,439	-	4,245,613	6,690,052
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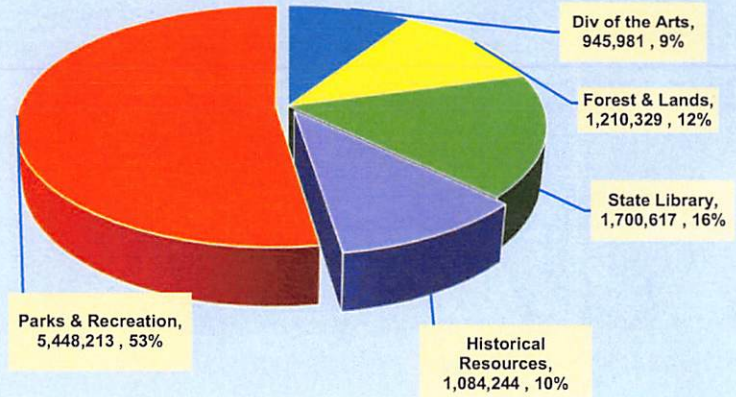
■ DNCR OTHER FUNDS FY24 Budget
■ DNCR FEDERAL FUNDS FY24 Budget
■ DNCR GENERAL FUNDS FY24 Budget



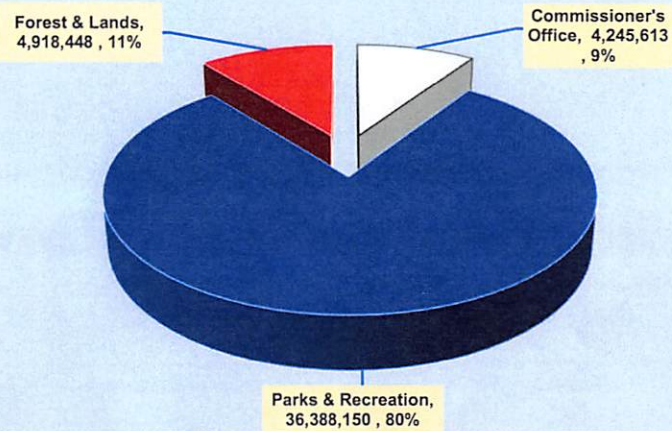
DNCR GENERAL FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION



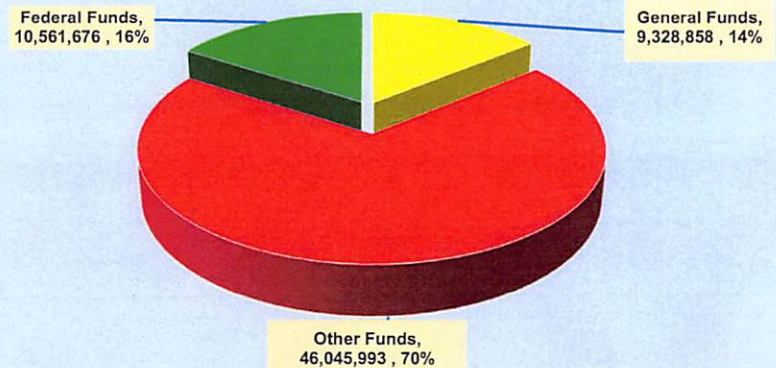
DNCR FEDERAL FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION



DNCR OTHER FUNDS SOURCE MIX - DIVISION



DNCR FUND SOURCE MIX-PROPOSED EFFICIENCY BUDGET FY24-FY25



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

STRATEGIC PLAN • 2019-2021

EXCELLENCE

ACCESS

GOAL 1: Strengthen the Arts and Increase Awareness

1. Invest in New Hampshire's arts infrastructure through equitable distribution of funds to nonprofit organizations and artists.
2. Engage cross-sector participation to facilitate creative initiatives that stimulate the economy, strengthen communities, and enhance quality of life in New Hampshire.
3. Communicate the public value of the arts and artists and encourage arts advocacy by supporting research, informing policy discussions, and publicly recognizing artistic excellence.
4. Partner with New Hampshire's tourism industry to develop greater awareness of the state's cultural assets.
5. Model and promote best practices and provide funding for the acquisition and stewardship of public art.

GOAL 2: Cultivate Equitable Access to Arts Education

1. Invest in arts education programs and initiatives and evaluate according to quality, access, impact, and diversity.
2. Partner with stakeholders, including the New Hampshire Department of Education to promote state education policies and local practices that provide access to deep learning in the arts.
3. Provide statewide leadership in the advancement of arts integration including STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), utilizing the arts for inclusive and equitable learning in special education, and developing 21st Century citizens through youth-led community initiatives.
4. Design and support professional development in arts education for educators and administrators of all content areas, teaching artists, and community educational sites.

CREATIVITY

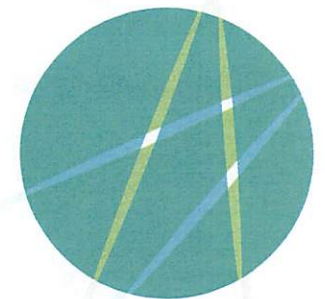
COMMUNITY

GOAL 3: Identify, Preserve and Promote NH's Heritage, Cultural Diversity, and Traditional Arts

1. Invest in the perpetuation of traditional arts and folklife.
2. Identify, research, document, and assist in the preservation of New Hampshire's heritage-based traditional art forms and folklife.
3. Promote deeper public understanding of and appreciation for culturally diverse traditional art forms.
4. Strengthen the capacity of traditional artists and of organizations that provide public venues for heritage-based traditional arts.

GOAL 4: Maximize Capacity to Effectively and Equitably Serve All NH Citizens

1. Invest in technology and other tools to strengthen the agency's grantmaking, service delivery, and administrative functions.
2. Elevate staff capacity through internal and external collaboration and professional development.
3. Provide leadership to inform public policy in the arts.



New Hampshire
State Council on the **Arts**

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

STRATEGIC PLAN • 2019-2021

Note: Our next Strategic Plan will be released in the Spring of 2023.

OUR MISSION. The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts strives to ensure that every citizen and community in New Hampshire enjoys the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits of the arts.

GOAL 1

Strengthen the Arts and Increase Awareness

Art has the power to stimulate New Hampshire's economy, cultivate community vitality, and enhance quality of life. It is therefore essential to invest in a strong creative ecosystem and raise public awareness of its impact on our collective wellbeing.

GOAL 2

Cultivate Equitable Access to Arts Education

Education in music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, and media empower us to be well-rounded citizens and expand our ability to effectively communicate. From early child and throughout our lives the arts play an essential role in engaging our multiple learning styles and abilities. A vehicle for empathy and understanding new perspectives, life-long learning in the arts enhances our creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

GOAL 3

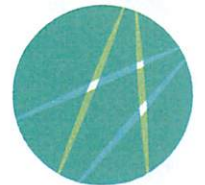
Identify, Preserve and Promote NH's Heritage, Cultural Diversity, and Traditional Arts

Traditional arts enrich our lives by connecting us to our past, encouraging respect and appreciation for diverse cultures and traditions, building community, and cultivating cultural assets. As symbols of identity and pride, traditional arts sustain and empower tradition bearers and communities through the preservation and passing on of values, knowledge, and craftsmanship and are vital to preserve for future generations as society and communities continue to change.

GOAL 4

Maximize Capacity to Effectively and Equitably Serve All NH Citizens

We are committed to increasing NHSCA's capacity to impact a diverse and growing audience through exceptional programs and services. Guided by our mission, we are dedicated to ensuring that every citizen and community in New Hampshire enjoys the cultural, civic, economic, and educational benefits of the arts.



New Hampshire
State Council on the **Arts**

New Hampshire Public Libraries by the Numbers

234

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

\$65,520,893

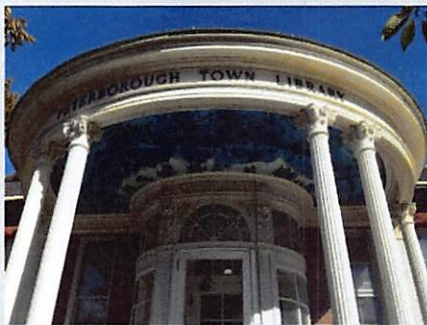
Total operating expenditures for New Hampshire Public Libraries

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



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 1.5 million digital books.

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 economies 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.



Photo credit: NH State Library

New Hampshire Public Libraries



**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.

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.

There are **93 properties** in the state park system. The Division shares management responsibility for **489,000 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, Cannon Mountain Ski Area, Sunapee Ski Area (under lease), 669 buildings, 7000 miles of snowmobile trails and 1,100 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 ½ the budget is day use areas, campgrounds, beaches etc. ¼ is Cannon Mountain ski area and ¼ 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.

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%.
- **Deferred maintenance. Over the last 5 biennium, the Division has requested over \$58m and received \$27m in capital funds. Over the next 3 biennium the Division has identified and requested over \$115m in capital funding need.**
- 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, federal encumbrances, 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).



Learn more about what we do at www.nhstateparks.org
Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, & Youtube



New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
Division of Forests and Lands
Snapshot



Mission

The Division of Forests and Lands protects and promotes the values provided by trees, forests and natural communities. This mission is accomplished through responsible management of the state's forested resources by providing forest resource information and education to the public; and through the protection of these resources for the continuing benefit of the state's citizens, visitors, and forest industry.

RSA 227-G:3 sets forth the Division's statutory authority and guidance where the agency "shall execute all matters pertaining to forestry, forest management, and forestlands within the jurisdiction of the state..."

The Division of Forests and Lands consists of seven units: Forest Management Bureau, Land Management Bureau, Forest Protection Bureau, Planning and Community Forestry Bureau, Natural Heritage Bureau, Forest Health Section, and the Cooperative Forestry Programs through an agreement with UNH Cooperative Extension.

The Forest Management Bureau manages all state forestlands encompassing over 170,000 acres of DNCR reservations including state forests and parks; over 13,000 acres of Federal Flood Control Areas under a management license with the *US Army Corps of Engineers*; and more than 53,000 acres of *Fish and Game Department* lands by memorandum of agreement. Since 1910, the bureau has managed the State Forest Nursery where it cultivates and sells seedlings for forestry, wildlife and conservation.

The Land Management Bureau is responsible for acquisition of land for expansion of the state reservations (forest and park systems), disposal of land surplus to the department needs, leasing and management of 18 mountain top communication sites, issuing tapping, agricultural, and special use permits, maintaining land records, and surveying and maintaining boundaries of all department properties.

The Planning and Community Forestry Bureau consists of three program areas: *Planning & Analysis*, *Urban & Community Forestry* and *Forest Stewardship*. The bureau delivers accurate resource information, expands knowledge, and motivates the general public, professional resource managers, and other resource organizations and agencies to take action to maximize the contribution of New Hampshire's forests to their quality of life.

The Forest Health Program works to reduce the negative effects of biotic and abiotic forest damage causing agents through suppression, quarantine, forest management, pest monitoring, pest evaluation, survey, and outreach to forest landowners in a timely fashion to implement mitigation strategies.

The Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) serves as an information resource to assist and advise landowners and state and local agencies regarding native plants and exemplary natural communities. NHB develops and recommends conservation measures and management of NH's native plants and natural communities.

Since 1925, the *University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension* and the Division of Forests and Lands have worked together under a Memorandum of Understanding to address issues in natural resources through a joint educational program to educate New Hampshire's citizens about rural and urban forest environments.



Division of Forests and Lands By-the-Numbers

FUNDING

FY'23 Budget	\$8.7 million
General Funds:	\$2.9 million (33%)
Other:	\$4.7 million (55%)
Federal:	\$1.1 million (13%)

Other income sources include: timber sales, communications leases, agricultural leases, seedling sales, garden plots, maple tapping leases, environmental reviews, civil and criminal fines, trust funds, Coos County timber tax.

STAFF

Fifty-five (55) full-time employees
Twenty-five (25) part-time/seasonal employees
One hundred twenty (120) emergency firefighters
2,500 appointed forest fire wardens & deputies

ACRES MANAGED — 220,000
TIMBER HARVESTED — \$1,300,000
SEEDLINGS SOLD — 275,000
CONSERVED ACRES MONITORED — 270,000
FIRE PERMITS SOLD — > 45,000
ACRES AERIAL SURVEYED — 3,000,000
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS—6,500



FY'24/25—Additional Staffing Requests

Conservation Easement Forester:

DNCR Division of Forests and Lands is responsible for annual monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of more than 60 conservation easements on over 270,000 acres. These are large, privately-owned working forests, with permanent restrictions protecting ecological and timber resources, open space, and public access. As DNCR holds more easements there is greater need to respond to increasingly complex questions and challenges from landowners and others. For many years, DNCR has managed its easement-related responsibilities partly through a contract with another state agency and by adding extra responsibilities to our already over-taxed North Regional Forester's duties. The department's portfolio of easements has now grown in both size and complexity, to a point where a dedicated, full-time forester is necessary to properly fulfill its legal easement obligations.

Forest Ranger:

Since 2007, the Forest Ranger ranks have been reduced from 13 to the current level of 9 Rangers statewide. This reduction has led to increased territory and greater demands on staff. The Forest Protection Bureau is unable to fully staff 7 days/week through the fire season. In addition, wildland fire training opportunities to municipalities have been reduced; delayed response to timber and wildfire complaints; and limited OHRV enforcement on state lands. In order to adequately and proactively enforce timber harvesting laws and overall prevention and control of woodland fires, another Forest Ranger is warranted.

