



2022 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.

CONTENTS:

Page 3: Park Access Program

Page 4: Park Access Survey

Page 5: Mt. Philo Forever Fund

Page 6: Natural Connections

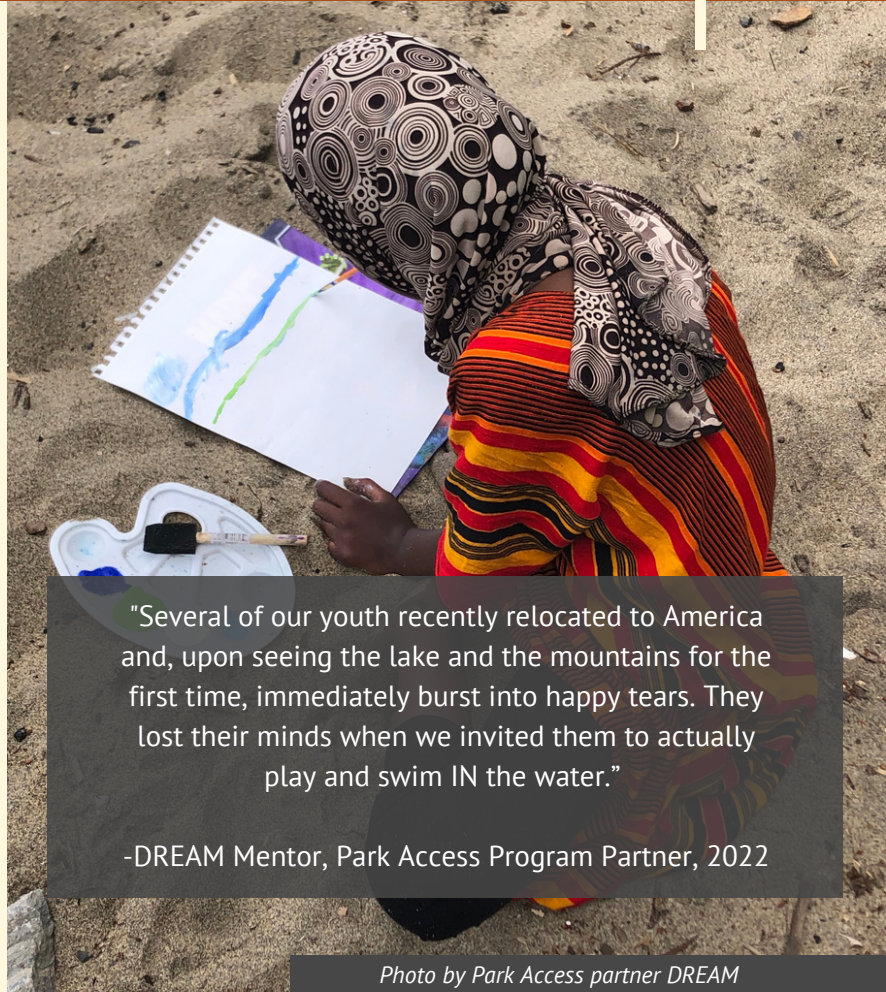
Page 7-8: Business Partners



PARK ACCESS PROGRAM

Since 2016, Vermont Parks Forever has provided free park passes each year to thousands of Vermonters, including foster families, youth programs, front-line workers, 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.

Vermont's state parks are for everyone and together we can promote a more equitable outdoor experience. [Learn more on our website.](#)



"Several of our youth recently relocated to America and, upon seeing the lake and the mountains for the first time, immediately burst into happy tears. They lost their minds when we invited them to actually play and swim IN the water."

-DREAM Mentor, Park Access Program Partner, 2022

Photo by Park Access partner DREAM

27

GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

VPF granted passes to organizations across the state with recipients in every Vermont county.

5,725+

DAYS IN THE PARKS

VPF granted day-use passes to community partners for a total of over 5,725 individual day visits.

400%

FUNDING INCREASE

Thanks to our generous donors, VPF increased park access funding by 400% since 2016.

PARK ACCESS SURVEY

Existing research points to public lands being disproportionately visited by white, wealthy, and able-bodied people. The Park Access Survey, developed in collaboration with VPF intern Nina Rizzi and students enrolled in the University of Vermont's Environmental Problem-Solving course, is seeking survey respondents from communities that have been marginalized in outdoor spaces, including but not limited to BIPOC Americans, New Americans/Immigrants, and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Vermont Parks Forever hopes to use the data garnered from this survey to understand specific barriers to accessing Vermont's state parks.

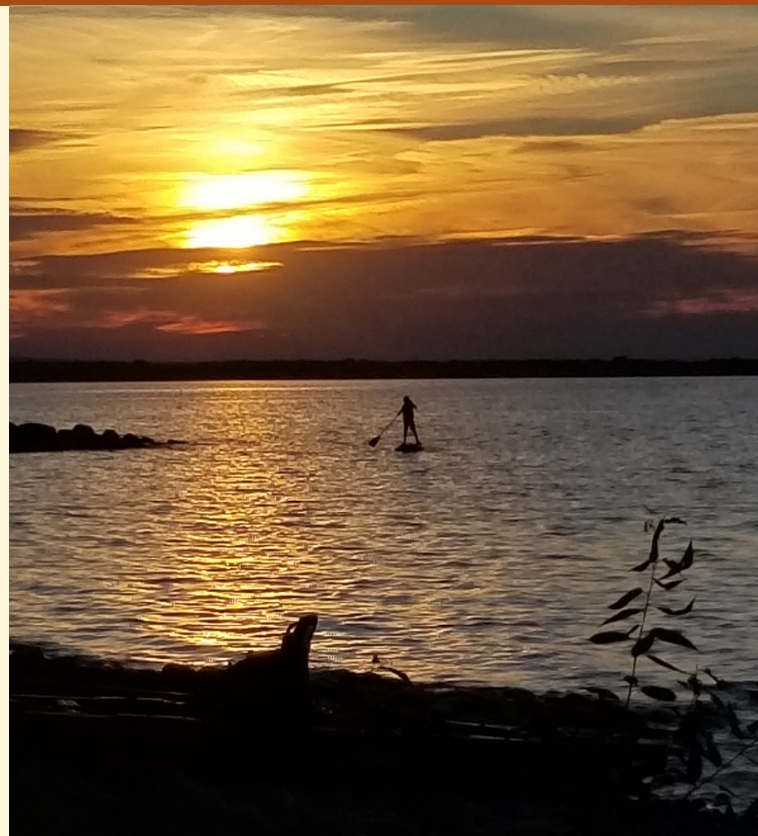
"My work with Vermont Parks Forever began with the question, 'Who isn't going to Vermont State Parks, and why?'

Because we are operating with the acknowledgement that BIPOC Americans, New Americans/Immigrants, and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities have been marginalized in recreational outdoor spaces and communities nationwide, we are focusing our survey outreach on organizations within Vermont that work directly with and for those same communities."

-Nina Rizzi
Park Access Intern, 2021-22

The Park Access Survey was distributed to over 40 community partners and is available in 8 languages. VPF is currently seeking responses from those who face barriers to enjoying Vermont State Parks.

To view or share the survey, [please visit our website](#).



MT. PHILO FOREVER FUND

*A Summer Internship Program in Memory of
William Cameron Hagedorn*

Each year, donors give to support the Mt. Philo Forever Fund, which places a local student intern at Mt. Philo State Park to connect with nature, practice environmental stewardship, develop collaboration skills, and gain experience working with the public. This year's intern, Jonan [pictured right], enjoyed working at a park he hiked in frequently while growing up.



"Thank you. I enjoy being outside and it's nice to work a job that I want to get to."

- Jonan

2022 Intern

"Jonan has been a huge asset. This internship is imperative to our work here at Mt. Philo State Park."

- Nathanael Hancock

Mt. Philo State Park Manager

NATURAL CONNECTIONS

Statewide Nature Education in the Parks

VPF invests in innovative nature education throughout the park system by granting funds for supplies, technology, and hands-on nature education programming. In 2022, funds were used to focus on indigenous storytelling and master storyteller Michael Caduto worked with state park employees on respectful ways to share stories of native cultures.

Other nature education enhancements funded by VPF were a new program at Silver Lake State Park about active beavers in that park, multiple park licensure for Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Raven software - a sound visualization software to share information about bird songs, and the creation of 10 story walks that will be available in 2023.

Learn more about this partnership by [visiting our website](#).



Groton Nature Center Interior In-Progress

Nature Center Renovations

In this innovative, public/private partnership, Vermont Parks Forever, Vermont State Parks, and ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain are redesigning park nature centers around the state.

The Groton Nature Center was rebuilt in 2022 and will feature museum-quality interactive learning highlighting Groton's geology and its natural and cultural history. No admission fee is required and the center will serve the seven area state parks. The new nature center opens in summer 2023.

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!

\$1000+ IN 2022



Ursa Major



VERMONT
REAL ESTATE
COMPANY



BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$500 - \$999 IN 2022

Chroma Technology	Power Play Sports
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Gravel & Shea PC	The Mountain Goat
Green Mountain Power	Timber & Stone, LLC
Kestrel Coffee Roasters	Vermont Glove
New England Federal Credit Union	Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom
Morris Recruiting & Consulting	Windjammer Restaurant

\$250 - \$499 IN 2022

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Minuteman Press	Turtle Fur
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Thanks to your generosity, we can continue this important work together, fostering lifelong connections to nature for Vermonters and visitors alike.

THANK
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DONORS!

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adventures in the parks!**

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