

## THE PROBLEM

Connecticut's parks support thousands of jobs and support a thriving outdoor recreation industry that generates billions in revenue. To support this crucial part of Connecticut's economy and way of life, the General Assembly passed the Passport to Parks in 2017, funded by a \$10 fee paid every other year on motorized vehicle registrations.

Because of Passport to Parks, our campgrounds and trails were open, well-maintained, and free of charge to Connecticut residents.

Despite the popularity of the new Passport and increased attendance at State Parks, \$5 million in Passport to Parks funds were diverted to the General Fund in FY 2019. This represents roughly a third of the Passport revenue,

Furthermore, cuts to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) led to the closure of four campgrounds, as well as a reduction in services and limited hours at most facilities from 2016-2017.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The General Assembly should ensure that Passport to Parks funds remain dedicated to maintaining Parks rather than being diverted. Additionally, legislators should oppose any proposals to exempt certain user groups from the Passport to Parks fee.

## MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Passport to Parks, contact:

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Connecticut's State Parks generate over **\$1 billion** in revenue for our state each year.



More than **9,000 private sector jobs** in in Connecticut are supported by our State Parks.



According to a UConn economic study, state parks and forests attract between **8 to 9 million** visitors every year.

