

## THE PROBLEM

Recreational trails are critical natural assets that make Connecticut a beautiful place to live, work, and play. Maintaining their integrity requires investment, but Connecticut withdrew from the Federal Recreational Trails Program in 2016 due to administrative difficulties with managing a relatively small amount of funds (\$850,000/year). At the same time, the State provided bonding of \$7 million for 2016-17, and \$3 million in 2018. All of these funds have now been spent.

In the most recent grant round, Connecticut received over \$12 million in requests for its trails, but there is only \$3 million in available bonding.

If Connecticut's commitment to its recreational trails infrastructure is to continue, bonding for the Recreational Trails & Greenways grants must be re-authorized this year.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

The General Assembly should re-authorize bonding for the Recreational Trails & Greenways grants at the level of \$3 – 5 million/year.

Legislators should also support legislation that would dedicate revenues from the sale of Greenways License Plates to support the Recreational Trails & Greenways program rather than be diverted to the General Fund.

## MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Recreational Trails & Greenways grants, contact Eric Hammerling:

**Eric Hammerling, Executive Director**  
CT Forest & Park Association (CFPA)  
16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall/Middlefield, CT 06481  
(860)346-TREE  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)



Outdoor recreation generates more than **\$9 billion** in annual revenue for Connecticut.



More than **69,000 jobs** in outdoor recreation exist in Connecticut, and rely on this funding to endure.



More than \$10 million in funding requests could not be granted in the last grants round, including more than \$1.7 million in shovel-ready, highly-ranked project proposals.

