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2024 Conservation Agenda

Connecticut's forests, parks and trails are critical underpinnings of the quality of life for all state residents, contributing meaningfully to water quality, recreational opportunity, public health and our shared economic potential. Investment in conservation is an essential strategy to continue this legacy and realize a vision of the state as an outstanding place for all to enjoy.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association has partnered with the state for 128 years to care for these resources and create these benefits. Our 2024 Conservation Agenda builds on this strong tradition and also looks forward by addressing equity and climate issues on our treasured natural lands.

State Priorities

- Keep **Passport to the Parks** funding intact.
- Continue **state bonding investments** for trails, open space, and agricultural land protection.
- **Raise staffing at DEEP** to adequate levels to accommodate dramatic increases in public use of recreational assets, facilities, and natural resources.
- Increase the **Community Investment Act** recording fee, which provides a valuable source of dedicated funding to protect our open space and trails.

Federal Priorities

- Celebrate the designation of the **New England Trail** as a National Scenic Trail unit of the National Park Service, and ensure future federal resources for implementation.
- Promote regular communication between the National Park Service, New England Trail partners, and surrounding communities.
- Pass **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)**, **Complete America's Great Trails Act**, **Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act**, and support the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**.

For more information, contact:

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