

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the mission of Vermont State Parks is to conserve and interpret on behalf of the people of Vermont their natural, cultural, historic, and scenic heritage, and while doing so, to provide recreational opportunities and economic benefit while balancing the conservation of natural and cultural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** Mt. Philo State Park became the first Vermont State Park in 1924 through land deeded to the State by Frances Humphreys for recreational area; and
- WHEREAS,** in the late 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps made improvements and built dozens of State Parks with improvements and facilities that are still in use today; and
- WHEREAS,** beginning in 1956, the State embarked on an expansion of the Civilian Conservation Corps parks and the creation of many more parks with the goal of bringing easy access to outdoor recreation to every Vermonter; and
- WHEREAS,** there are 55 state parks with at least two state parks in each county, including 2,225 campsites, 605 lean-tos, 51 cabins, 29 beaches, 1 swimming pool, 38 picnic areas, and the historic Seyon Lodge; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont State Parks is a highly complex business enterprise with revenues over \$15 million, \$250 million in infrastructure assets and the responsibility for planning, staffing, operation, construction, marketing, and conservation of natural and cultural values; and
- WHEREAS,** there are over 1 million annual visitors to Vermont State Parks during the operating season and many more throughout the year, that is composed of 65% in-state visitors and 35% out-of-state visitors; and
- WHEREAS,** the outdoor recreation economy is a significant part of Vermont's overall economy accounting for 4.6% of the gross domestic product, totaling \$1.9 billion, with Vermont State Parks being part of the outdoor recreation economy's fabric, providing visitors with low-cost, high-quality places to stay as they recreate; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont State Parks provide safe and healthy recreation opportunities and serve as a valuable haven for relaxation and connecting to Vermont's natural world through visits to woodlands, trails, vistas, waterfronts, campsites, cabins, picnic pavilions, event halls, and nature interpretive programs.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the 15th day of February, 2024, as

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMONT STATE PARKS
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 7th day of February, A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brittney D. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney D. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs