

## 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 2016-2017, and \$3 million in 2018. All of these funds have now been spent.

In January 2019 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) granted the final \$3 million in bond funds, and was unable to fund more than \$10 million in requests for projects that ranked highly.

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

Lawmakers 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.

## FAST FACTS

- 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, which shows the need for this grants program to continue.



## CONTACT

For more information, contact:

**Eric Hammerling, CT Forest & Park Association**  
Executive Director  
860-346-TREE | [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)