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## CFPA Conservation Agenda for 2021

Since 1897, CFPA has put together a conservation agenda every year focused on state conservation priorities. A worldwide pandemic has made it clear how important it is to ensure access to outdoor recreation experiences for mental and physical health benefits as well as supporting local recreation-based businesses and economies.

Understanding that the 2021 legislative session will likely be remote, may be truncated, and will be difficult to get support for [all of CFPA's conservation priorities](#), we offer only three conservation priorities in this year's Conservation Agenda.

Our focus in 2021 is based upon the increased usage and public demand for outdoor recreation experiences – notably on recreational trails and in State Parks and Forests – and the relative lack of dedicated support for outdoor recreation in Connecticut's budget:

- **Enable Property Tax Incentive for Private Landowners to Protect Trails.** Trail systems often cross multiple land ownerships – state, municipal, and private. Private lands are the most vulnerable to being lost when land is sold to a new owner or subdivided, and an incentive to encourage private landowners to protect trail corridors is critical.
- **Keep the Passport to the Parks Intact.** Since its roll-out in 2018, the Passport to the Parks has provided almost \$20 million in annual support to better maintain State Parks and also enables all CT residents to enter State Parks with no charge at the gate. It is critical to ensure that this funding, largely funded by a \$5/year/vehicle fee paid on motor vehicle registration, remains dedicated to its purpose of keeping State Parks clean and safe for the public.
- **Support bonding for recreational trails & greenways, open space, and agricultural land protection matching grant programs.** Authorizing and allocating appropriate bonding for these sectors is necessary to protect and maintain Connecticut's precious natural resources for future generations to enjoy.