

SLEEPING GIANT STATE PARK INVITATION TO COMMENT ON FEMA PROJECT

If you have any questions or would like to comment on the project, please contact:

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On May 15, 2018, a powerful storm (microburst) and a tornado caused significant damage throughout Sleeping Giant State Park, in Hamden, CT. Hundreds of trees were toppled, collapsing across roads and trails during the storm event. Twelve (12) acres of trees near the park's entrance/picnic area were severely impacted. Several buildings were damaged by toppled trees, including the stone wall and pathway at the Picnic Pavilion.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding was made available to State Agencies and Municipalities following the May 2018 storm. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), that operates the park for the people of Connecticut, applied to FEMA for grant funding to help fund repairs to the park.

Repairs included:

- The removal of damaged trees from the picnic area, including the grinding of stumps, while the remaining debris was raked and removed from the site.
- The entire picnic area was lightly graded and seeded to prevent erosion. Downed trees were cut to clear the Tower Trail.
- The Tower Trail was widened at four locations to allow access for tree clearing and emergency vehicles by removing portions of stone outcrops. The broken stone was then used to reinforce the trail on the opposite side from where it was removed.
- Repair work was completed on the Picnic Pavilion with new stone and Portland cement.

Damage Photographs After 2018 Storm Event





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To receive Federal (FEMA) funding, projects must be reviewed under various Federal Environmental laws and Historic Preservation laws including the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of FEMA’s responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, FEMA continues to consult with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Federally Recognized Tribes with cultural heritage in southern Connecticut. As a result of those consultations, FEMA determined that Sleeping Giant State Park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) of importance to Tribes, and as a historic landscape of local importance associated with the development of the Connecticut Park system.

The repair work, specifically the alteration of stone outcroppings on Sleeping Giant, changed portions of the park in ways that affect aspects of the park that make it historic. As a result, through consultations with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer and Federally Recognized Tribes, FEMA has been working to offset the changes caused by the repair work by developing treatment measures.

As part of FEMA’s responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, FEMA is required to conduct public outreach for all grant projects. This is your invitation to provide comments or submit questions regarding the work that was completed at Sleeping Giant State Park.



Picnic Area after Downed Trees were Cleared and Area was Seeded



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