

Partnerships in Parks Initiative Request for Information Public Comments

In January 2024, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)'s [Partnerships in Parks](#) initiative issued a Request for Information to gather input from a wide range of businesses, non-profits, and other interested stakeholders about potential partnerships that could help elevate outdoor recreation and visitor experiences, expand tourism destinations, and/or provide equitable and sustainable access to outdoor recreation in Connecticut State Parks.

DEEP values the importance of transparent, public communication around any initiative that involves Connecticut State Parks. Through a [Public Notice](#), the public was invited to submit written feedback about the types of amenities and services that would be desirable (or undesirable) in State Parks and any other ideas, questions, or concerns about this initiative. DEEP received the comments on the following pages.

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

February 16, 2024

Sent via email: deep.partnershipsinparks@ct.gov

Re: Parks RFI Comment

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC), I am pleased to submit comments in response to the Notice of Request for Information, Opportunity for Public Comment, and Public Meeting dated January 11 regarding the Partnerships in Parks Initiative.

CLCC is the statewide umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including ~120 land trusts. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut, envisioning a future where every community is supported and sustained by a diverse mix of conserved land, with land conservation embraced as an essential community value.

In line with our organizational mission and vision, we offer the following comments regarding the Partnerships in Parks Initiative (“the Initiative”):

CLCC recognizes the importance of ensuring equitable access to nature for all Connecticut residents and sees potential benefits in public-private partnerships to achieve that goal. To that end, we are intrigued by the Initiative and interested in exploring partnership ideas for passive recreation with land trusts, other non-profit organizations, and DEEP.

By its mission, CLCC is a staunch advocate for conserving Connecticut's natural environment, including its State Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas (“Public Lands”). The State acquired many of these Public Lands subject to specific restrictions required by the grantor and/or public funds designated for their conservation, such as through the State Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program.

In all cases, the citizens of Connecticut are considered the owners of Public Lands, and the government’s responsibility is to protect and maintain these resources for the benefit of the public. This “Public Trust Doctrine” was the underpinning of the Constitutional amendment overwhelmingly voted by the public in November 2021 to ensure that the Public Lands conveyance process is as open and transparent as possible.

We emphasize the importance of a thorough and transparent review process for any changes or expansions of use proposed for Public Lands through the Initiative to ensure that activities align



with the intended use of these Public Lands and are compatible with the natural environment. Public scrutiny is especially significant for activities proposed on Public Lands designed to generate private revenue. This process should include ample notice and opportunities for public comment to ensure community voices are heard and valued, like the CEPA review process for large projects (including notice in the Monitor, scoping process, and EIE).

CLCC looks forward to collaborating with DEEP to ensure the public is fully informed and engaged throughout the Partnerships in Parks Initiative and that this new public-private partnership achieves its admirable goals while safeguarding the natural heritage of our state for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Blaymore Paterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being the most prominent.

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director

From: Gene Chmiel <geno@blackhalloutfitters.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 5:15 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: "Parks RFI Comment"

To whom it may concern,

My name is gene chmiel, owner- operator of black hall outfitters with 2 locations here in CT on the shoreline- Old Lyme, and Westbrook -with close proximity to both Rocky Neck state park and Hammonasett.

We are the premiere paddle sport destination here in CT with direct water access to The Great Island National wildlife preserve in Old Lyme as well as the Stuart McKinney wildlife preserve here in westbrook. Both are consider top paddlesport destinations in the northeast. We rent various types of paddle-crafts and offer excursions, tours, and host paddle adventure camps for kids all summer long. We've teamed up in the past with CTvisit and have been featured on the cover of their travel guide as well as represented in their ad campaigns and website features.

We're considered a great tourism destination featuring active adventure for people of all ages and physicality, kids, families, active adventure seekers, and seniors. attached is a pdf featuring our offerings, and a few links. I'm not sure if you are looking exclusively for partners to be onsite at the state parks, but we would certainly love to partner in some way driving people to our locations as part of the active, outdoor experiences that CT is able to provide to it's local community and guests/ tourists.

we'd love to see how/ if BHO could be a part of the initiative.
below a few links to some ads we've done as well as an attachment presentation with a general overview as well.

thank you,
gene chmiel- owner

The four ad videos are:

- <https://youtu.be/topX0bvDx2E>
- <https://youtu.be/xWWQyEmCgd8>
- <https://youtu.be/Mcu0Ksw1y1Y>
- <https://youtu.be/ZwIVLCIZEHI>

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Gene Chmiel
Owner | Black Hall Outfitters
Shop: +18604349680 ext 2
Cell: +12032096076



From: Anthony Parent <aparent@irsmedic.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 1:27 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Making State Parks Awesome

I am very excited to read the creation of the Partnerships in Parks program. I love that state parks are getting focus. We have some of the most under utilized resources around yet plenty of volunteers looking to contribute.

Just one thing - the focus of this program is focus on state parks. However, a lot of public recreation land was purchased with LWCF recreation grants with Dept of the Interior funds. There are something like 397 recreation area in the state funded this way. Some of the them are state parks. However the grants require the state to review the grants for compliance. As I have been working through DEEP, and with local land managers, I have concluded there is no LWCF compliance program run by DEEP. And from my experience and stories I hear form other uses, many LWCF lands are wildly out of compliance.

I do have an idea to remedy this in a cost-effective way with a public-private alliance to (1) protect the state's ability to receive future grants and (2) to help support the mission as stated in the SCORP.

Please let me know if you'd like to hear more about my idea - it would likely be a grant I would propose. Or if I should wait until after the Feb 6th webinar (which I just registered for)

Thanks,

Anthony E. Parent, Esq.
Parent & Parent LLP

From: paula burton <pburton@nemba.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:52 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: RFI for parks

Hello,

I am making comments as part of the public. First, I want to make sure any revenues generated by rental of properties and facilities by DEEP to entities go to DEEP and not the Connecticut general fund. I also do want to see this as an excuse to lesson revenues generated by PassPort to the Parks I also would like to see some of the under utilized parks have recreational opportunities. For instance, there is an old campground on the south side of Putnam Park that gets very little use- a few walkers. What a great place for "glamping" or a yoga retreat or something similar. Also one thing I would very much like to see is a park with machine made trails for mountain biking with rentals and a cafe. I went to one in Ireland and it was great.

Thank you,

Paula Burton
31 Longview Terrace
Sandy Hook Ct 06482

From: Lynn Swanson <lswanson01@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:14 AM
To: DEEP State Parks <DEEP.Stateparks@ct.gov>
Subject: Increased Park Use

Good morning,

I recently read an article in the Southington Citizen about Governor Lamont's announcement of increasing the use of our state parks. It noted that "the DEEP wants ideas from virtually anyone on ways to increase park use while offering new niche programs..."

My suggestions are to offer xc ski and snowshoe rentals as many of the parks which are typically hiking destinations.

Thank you,
Lynn Swanson

From: GAYLE SMITH <gsmith29@snet.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:15 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Parks RFI Comment

Dear DEEP,

Thank you for taking comments pertaining to the future use of Connecticut State Parks. Public input is important to our future use and satisfaction with our public access to outdoor recreational opportunities.

1. More and larger state parks need to be created throughout Connecticut to support, state marketed and encouraged, increased interest in outdoor activities by state residents.
2. Stronger state laws protecting the state of Connecticut its employees and private residents from liability as the result of injury or death occurring within state park boundaries or accessed via state or town property.
(Promote personal responsibility instead of the liability of others.)
3. With number 2 above. Open more areas to the following activities: Swimming, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, bouldering, rock climbing and rappelling, mountain biking and hiking hang gliding and paragliding.
4. Create state built fitness/workout stations (similar to the ones which exist along park hiking trails in California) along trails located within our state parks. Create bike flow-parks, rollerblading/roller-skating skateboard parks within existing state parks. Increase mountain bike recreation areas within state parks.
(much of this work could/would be done by existing non-profit organizations)
5. Don't limit citizen activities with our state parks because of liability for accidents and injuries. See #2, again. Don't continue to be the state without adventurous outdoor opportunities.

Thank You

Gayle Smith
Waterford, CT

From: Steven Mazeau <steven.mazeau@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 12:10 AM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Parks RFI Comment

Office of Outdoor Industry and Experiences,

For the past two summers, May to November, 2022 and June to December, 2023, I've been a seasonal worker at the Connecticut DECD - Office of Tourism's Westbrook Welcome Center on Interstate 95 northbound, between exits 65 and 66 in Westbrook, Connecticut. This location is in close proximity to locations like Gillette Castle State Park, Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park and Hammonasset State Park, as well as several other Connecticut DEEP facilities in Southeastern Connecticut. The Office of Tourism had me keeping records of visitors as they entered the facility. While I no longer have access to the Excel spreadsheets, both years they had over 25,000 local residents and out of state travelers for the time periods that I've mentioned.



I organized brochures at the Center's large, semi-circular desk by topic rather than by their location within the State. Outdoor activities, such as State parks, outdoor museums, hiking trails, fishing and camping were to the right of center. Indoor activities, such as air conditioned museums, theater, activities for small children and those with mobility issues were on the left. It ended up becoming a little bit like a public library, except no library card was required and nothing needed to come back.

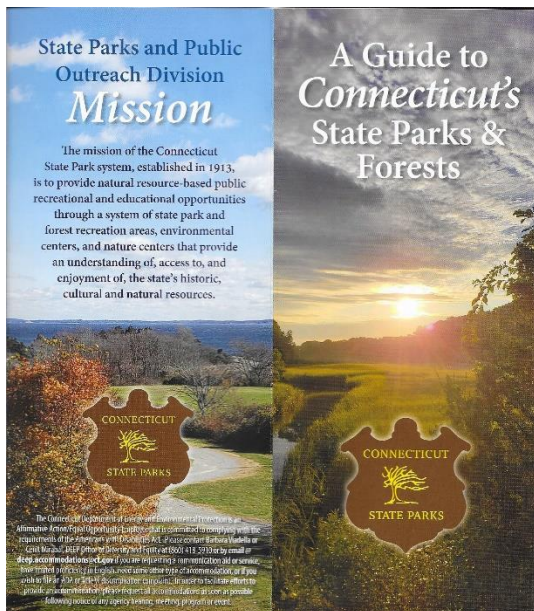


I had a color copier in the Welcome Center and kept a collection of DEEP trail maps paper clipped at the top of my plexiglass COVID shield (below). If a visitor expressed an interest in a particular park, I could readily run a copy of the trail map off and put it in their hand. Visitors

appreciate that sort of individualized "customer service".



A big part of what we do is to hand out not only informational material, but also promotional items. Many visitors requested souvenir magnets with "Connecticut" on them. I think other states hand them out and people like to collect them. I didn't have anything like that on hand, but I was able to get a number of the "Bear-wise" stickers and cardboard drink coasters. The drink coasters were more popular and one of our locals told me now he could "put his beer on a bear". Also very popular was the "Guide to Connecticut's State Parks and Forests". It contains a lot of the information that was formerly on the official Connecticut Tourism Map, discontinued after 2017. People are craving paper road maps and sometimes, but not always, that "Guide" would give them some sense of satisfaction.



There were frequent questions regarding "pump-out" facilities, and I usually directed them to Rocky Neck or Hammonasset State Parks. I was also able to get some other "leftovers" from Sessions Woods WMA, including an activity book from 2016 or 2017 that had outline pictures of birds and animals small children could color in as well as colorful photographs. Many times, parents would come into the Welcome Center with fidgety children on a long car ride and they really appreciated having a resource like that to keep the kids occupied. DEEP might consider expanding this "activity book" program. Since the Westbrook Welcome Center is close to Long Island Sound, we had quite a few people pick up the information and regulations for freshwater and saltwater fishing. Mike Beauchene, from the Fisheries Division, was very helpful by dropping information off at the Welcome Center. Eric Gileau, the Park Supervisor at Forts Trumbull and Griswold, was also very good about supplying me with information for both Trumbull and Griswold. I found visitors quite unaware of the Benedict Arnold - New London connection.

In August, 2022, Nancy Balcom and Jessica LeClair from the UConn Sea Grant program at Avery Point came out to the Westbrook Welcome Center and greeted visitors with a touch tank program, featuring local saltwater species. Many out of state visitors, particularly from the Midwest, want their children to have a "saltwater experience".



In my mind, the Office of Tourism, in its own way, is already "Promoting Connecticut both as an outdoor recreation tourism destination and as a place to live, work and play outside." Unfortunately, I feel communication between DECD and DEEP needs to be improved. Getting the information to hand out was a bit of a chore. I had a hard time finding the right person to contact. Luckily, there were some dedicated people within DEEP who helped me out. The Office of Tourism also seems to have difficulty hiring qualified people who want to do the seasonal work. As a seasonal job, the pay and benefits are minimal. I took the job because I have a great deal of pride in my community and my neighbors have been struggling to keep the Westbrook Welcome Center open year after year. It's been like that since colonial times. Did you know David Bushnell, who invented the world's submarine, came from Westbrook? His former home is on South Main Street and a replica of the "Turtle" is in Westbrook Town Hall. A little bit of passion goes a long way.



In summary, my suggestions would be to:

- expand promotional handouts including activity books, drink coasters, magnets, etc.
- establish a "partnership" with DECD - Office of Tourism to bolster community outreach at all Connecticut Welcome Centers;
- use Welcome Center sites to promote DEEP destinations by using outreach programs and traveling exhibits;
- develop a centralized outreach library or clearinghouse within DEEP to collect and distribute appropriate literature to community sites.

Thank you,

Steve Mazeau
Westbrook, Connecticut

From: Bernie Gillis <berniegillis@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 6:31 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Parks RFI Comments

The state should consider leasing an area of Machimoodus State Park to an established RV park operator for a limited number of RV and tent camping sites.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Howard Petote <h.petote@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 12:36 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: new office; comments from a camping citizen of Ct

Dear Park Personnel:

It's great that you have formed this new office/initiative for our beautiful state of Ct, and that you have requested comments. I have a few.

In regards to equitable access, that is very wise, so I would encourage you to keep the camping and or usage fees low. It seems lately these fees have exploded here and in other states. Camping has traditionally been a low cost travel alternative for poorer families and young people. Also if you want to encourage people from other states to visit here, do not gouge them extra money for park usage.

Please allow dogs in campgrounds. We have camped all over the country, and these are allowed almost everywhere. We cannot camp here in Ct for that reason.

Please keep the number of reservable camping sites to a minimum, if not already so, so as to allow spontaneity and flexibility when traveling. We cannot always plan out every single day where we might be or end up, and have arrived in nearly empty campsites in other parts of the country and noticed most of the sites are reserved and unavailable. It is very discouraging.

Please set aside more money to enforce park rules, and above all, put in place methods to discourage the scourge of the outdoors and nature—the ATVs. These people are bold and aggressive, and run roughshod over hiking trails we have been on here in Ct and elsewhere. I think registering their vehicles with the state would be a good first step. Also beware of a growing problem: mountain bikers blowing in their own trails on town or state property.

Thanks for listening to somebody who has camped and hiked and has tried to enjoy the peace and respite of nature for many decades.

Sincerely,
Howard Petote

From: Chris Fitzpatrick <chris@garbograbber.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:48 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Parks RFI Comment

Dear DEEP and CT State Parks,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Chris Fitzpatrick and I am reaching out on behalf of Garbo Grabber regarding a potential initiative to enhance the maintenance and cleanliness of Connecticut State Parks. We are interested in exploring the possibility of implementing anti-litter kiosks as a means to empower park visitors in curbing littering and preserving the natural beauty of these cherished spaces.

As stewards of Connecticut's natural resources, we understand the importance of maintaining clean and inviting park environments for the enjoyment of all visitors. Our proposed anti-litter kiosks aim to provide parkgoers with convenient tools to dispose of waste responsibly, thereby fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and community engagement within the park system.

The key objectives of our initiative include:

1. **Litter Reduction:** Implementing effective strategies to minimize littering and promote responsible waste disposal practices among park visitors.
2. **Community Involvement:** Empowering parkgoers to actively participate in the preservation and upkeep of Connecticut State Parks through accessible and user-friendly waste management solutions.
3. **Educational Outreach:** Providing educational materials and resources at kiosk locations to raise awareness about the environmental impact of littering and the importance of conservation efforts.

We kindly request your assistance in providing information and guidance regarding the feasibility, regulatory considerations, and potential partnerships associated with the installation and operation of anti-litter kiosks within Connecticut State Parks. Specifically, we are interested in:

Existing Policies and Regulations: Any relevant guidelines, regulations, or permitting requirements related to the installation and operation of waste management facilities within state park facilities.

Technical Specifications: Recommendations or requirements regarding the design, placement, and maintenance of anti-litter kiosks to ensure optimal functionality and durability in outdoor environments.

Stakeholder Engagement: Opportunities for collaboration and coordination with the State Parks Department, local municipalities, environmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to support the implementation and sustainability of this initiative.

Cost Estimates: Estimates of initial investment, ongoing maintenance, and potential funding sources or grant opportunities available to support the deployment of anti-litter kiosks across Connecticut State Parks.

We are committed to working closely with the State Parks Department and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy for the successful implementation of anti-litter kiosks in

support of our shared goal of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of Connecticut's parks.

Thank you for considering our request for information. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this initiative further and explore potential avenues for collaboration. Please feel free to contact me directly at 203-673-4206 to schedule a meeting or to provide any additional information that may be required.

Warm regards,

Chris

Chris Fitzpatrick

Garbo Grabber, LLC

o: 203.870.8265

c: 203.673.4206

www.garbograbber.com



Everything in life evolves, why shouldn't the way you pick up litter?

From: carol porrata elstein <cporrataelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2024 6:39 PM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: CT Insider: Concepts for paramedics in parks

Hello:

deep.partnershipsinparks@ct.gov

After reading the CT Insider article for Governor Lamont and the DEEP promotion of our state parks, I have some ideas.

By fostering a collaborative approach and keeping fun, education, and inclusivity in mind, Connecticut state parks can become more enticing and equitable for everyone. offering diverse activities can cater to a wide array of interests and attracting visitors from various backgrounds and making it unique and exciting for many.

Ensure there are some trails and picnic areas are inclusive for people with disabilities.

Establish partnerships with educational institutions or organizations to provide informative and engaging programs, nature walks, or workshops, promoting both learning and enjoyment.

1. **Non-profits and Authors**

Can collaborate and/or offer educational programs and walking tours:

Non-profits and local universities could collaborate with state parks to offer one or more special educational programs (students creating and offering these services could get credits) on wildlife conservation, sustainable practices, and outdoor skills, enhancing visitors' experiences while promoting environmental awareness.

Maybe YALE could open up the islands in the thimble islands that they do research on.

1.a **Authors** (wildlife, conservation, birding, fishing, plant and mushroom identification , etc) can collaborate with you and offer special tours and sell their books.

1.b **Also do**

Storytelling and Story Trails for different ages Collaborate with storytellers, authors, or local historians to create storytelling events or story trails within the parks, combining entertainment with an appreciation for local history and culture.

2. **Technology** -self-guided tours like museums offer. Download walking apps similar to those in museums.

2.a **Hold contests for content** for 20 min. (family friendly) and 40 minute recorded tours.

1. **3. Workshops and retreats**

2. **3.a Photography Workshops:** Partner with professional photographers to conduct workshops, allowing visitors to improve their photography skills while capturing the beauty of the parks.

3. **Perk: take family and individual photos at a slight discount.**

4. **3.b. Wellness retreats:**

Businesses specializing in wellness could partner with state parks to organize retreats, offering activities like yoga, meditation, and mindfulness in a natural setting, providing visitors with holistic outdoor experiences.

4. Corporate sponsorship for trail maintenance: Businesses can sponsor trail maintenance projects, ensuring well-kept trails for park visitors. This collaboration benefits both parties, with the company gaining positive exposure while contributing to the park's upkeep.

5. Outdoor gear rental partnership:

Businesses specializing in outdoor gear could establish periodic or rental stations within state parks, providing visitors with access to quality equipment for activities like hiking (natural walking sticks), camping, or birdwatching, fostering a convenient and enjoyable experience.

6. Sustainable food vendors:

Partnering with eco-friendly food vendors and local businesses can offer park visitors sustainable and locally-sourced dining options, promoting both responsible business practices and enhancing the overall park experience.

7. Corporate team-building events to raise money for the parks :

Companies could organize team-building events in state parks, combining recreational activities with environmental stewardship initiatives, fostering a sense of community responsibility and appreciation for nature.

8. Renewable energy initiatives:

Businesses could collaborate on renewable energy projects within the park, such as installing solar-powered charging stations which would really only be needed if you had picnic or camping areas contributing to sustainability while providing practical amenities for park visitors.

9. Volunteer programs:

How can this all be practically done without the help of Non-profits and businesses can initiate volunteer programs, encouraging their employees or members to participate in park clean-ups, habitat restoration, or educational workshops, contributing to the parkwell-being and fostering a sense of community involvement.

Good luck!
Thank you,
Carol

Carol Porrata Elstein

From: Denise <denisebuonocore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:45 AM
To: DEEP Partnerships In Parks <DEEP.PartnershipsInParks@ct.gov>
Subject: Feedback on state park campgrounds

Long time lover of camping in our great parks. One thing that limits this enjoyment is not being able to bring a dog. Only one state forest campground allows dogs, it would be great if this could extend to state park campgrounds. Our surrounding states allow dogs in their campgrounds.

Thank you
Denise

Sent from my iPhone



Black Hall Outfitters. Tourism Targeted Marketing. 2/05/2023

HELLO

my name is

Black Hall Outfitters

27 Reasons This Part of the East Coast Is Being Dubbed "The New Hamptons"

All of the beauty and old-world charm of the classic getaway without any of the crowds.



by **SAM DANGREMOND** and EMMA RATHKEY

25.9k



PHOTO BY TOM WALSH, COURTESY OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER MUSEUM

In response to the *New York Post's* [article](#) declaring the Connecticut shore "the next 'new' Hamptons," we wanted to share a few reasons of our own as to why this the so-called Golden Triangle of Connecticut—Old Saybrook, Essex, and Old Lyme (our hometown)—is a hidden gem.



THE LIEUTENANT RIVER IN OLD LYME

GETTY IMAGES

25. Eagles and ospreys have returned to the region in record numbers, a testament to the success of the cleanup efforts along the entire length of the Connecticut River.



A BALD EAGLE KEEPS WATCH ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.

Flickr/4473110807



Black Hall Outfitters is a Major
tourism driver to the
Old Lyme, Southeastern CT community

Black Hall Outfitters featured:
CT Tourism Bureau
visitor's tour guide cover



One of the digital Out of Home boards in the Summer 2019 campaign. The digital boards, in market from May – June along I-84 and I-95, are weather responsive. When it's raining, executions showing indoor activities are displayed, when it's not raining, executions showing outdoor activities are displayed. These billboards serve to inspire Connecticut residents to get out and explore all there is to do in their home state.

Explore New EnglandTV:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwWUT_6Rwz0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r4WLh-1IYQ>

Local news:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfByUhL_c9U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL5c7PfX9R4&t=1s>

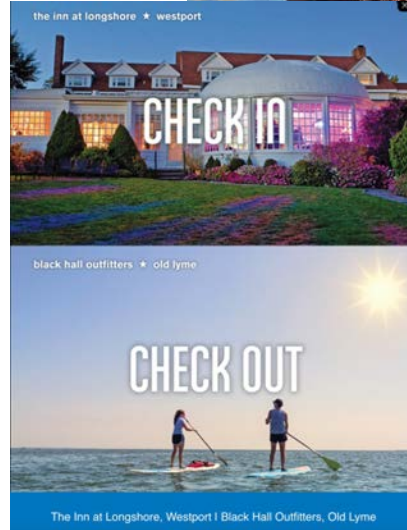
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3v-LKyHbJw>

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/local/daytrippers-a-stand-up-escape-in-old-lyme/520-f5e220f1-d265-4c6e-92f9-07917010c702>

Black hall outfitters content features ctvisit:

<https://partner.ctvisit.com/partner-search?searchtag=partner%7CBlack%2520Hall%2520Outfitters%2520-%2520Old%2520Lyme>

<https://partner.ctvisit.com/index.php/partner-search?searchtag=partner%7CBlack%2520Hall%2520Outfitters%2520-%2520Westbrook>



Economic Impact:

Rentals Revenue and number of guests:

2019:

Taxable revenue \$156,278 = avg. 3472 visitors

2020:

Taxable revenue \$362,901 = avg. 8064 visitors
(covid spike)

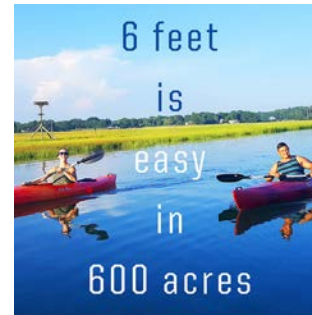
2021:

Taxable revenue \$233,101 = avg. 5180 visitors

Continued growth YOY, with significant spike during peak pandemic.- dedicated covid creative Campaign drove major traffic and awareness

Take away:

2023 -We see a big opportunity to drive tourism traffic with a dedicated, targeted campaign



Black Hall Outfitters

- Family owned since 1999 - bridging 3 generations
- CT's Premiere Paddle-Sport Destination
- 2 locations- OLD LYME and WESTBROOK



Old Lyme



Old Lyme


- The Great Island Salt Marsh Preserve
- Ct River Canoe and Kayak Trail
- Paul Spitzer Osprey Nation Project
- Roger Torey Petersen /Audubon society
- Florence Griswold, Lyme Art Academy, and the arts



Old Lyme-highlights

- Worked with Old Lyme Chamber business development
- Florence Griswold partnerships
- Local inns and B&B's
- Old Lyme arts partnerships
- Old Lyme youth services
- Roger Tory Peterson and local Audubon



An aerial photograph of a large wetland area. A prominent, winding blue river flows through the center of the landscape, which is a mix of brown and tan marshland. The river has several meanders and smaller tributaries. In the background, there is a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. Some buildings and a tall white tower are visible in the distance. In the foreground, there are more trees and some residential-style buildings. The overall scene is a natural landscape with a significant water feature.

Westbrook

Westbrook

- Stewart McKinney Wildlife Preserve- paddle/hike
- Nationally recognized area of Importance
- Heart of the Marine District
- Menunketesuck and Westbrook Barrier Islands



Good times at BHO - Old Lyme is our Paddle Sport Home





[Click Here For Video](#)

Our Core Offerings

- DIY Daily paddle sport rentals
- Group Kayak and SUP Outings
- Sunset Paddle Tours
- Estuary Eco-Paddle Tours
- Kids' Paddle camp
- Fall Foliage/ swallow murmuration



Daily DIY paddling rentals



DIY/Daily paddle rentals

- Calm, protected waters, simple and enjoyable for paddlers of any level
- Turn-Key, affordable outing that offers access to New England's top paddling terrain
- Families, adventurer seekers, active seniors, tourists /travelers
- Tour guides available for navigation and estuary narrative
- Active, Outdoor, open space activity supports post-covid mindset
- Everything provided. We do it all!

We put thousands of people on the water every Summer, introducing them to Old Lyme's Pristine waterways and nature preserves. We want to **OWN THE SUMMER.**



Kayak & SUP rentals, lessons and outings
Enjoy a spectacular day on the water with friends, family, or your group.

We are located in pristine Old Lyme, directly on the Great Island Estuary, on the L.I. Sound, and our second location on the Stewart McKinney Wildlife Refuge in Westbrook. We have direct access to the most beautiful coastline in New England, perfect to paddle and explore. Our fleet of SUP's, Kayaks, friendly / trained staff, and fully equipped shop will create an unforgettable, affordable day for your group. Come see for yourself!

BLACK HALL OUTFITTERS

Now With 2 Locations
Old Lyme - Westbrook

Black Hall Outfitters
132 shore rd. Old Lyme, ct.
362 Boston Post Rd
Westbrook, ct
860-439-9690 www.blackhalloffitters.com

Like us, and follow us @blackhalloffitters #bestdayofsummerBHO

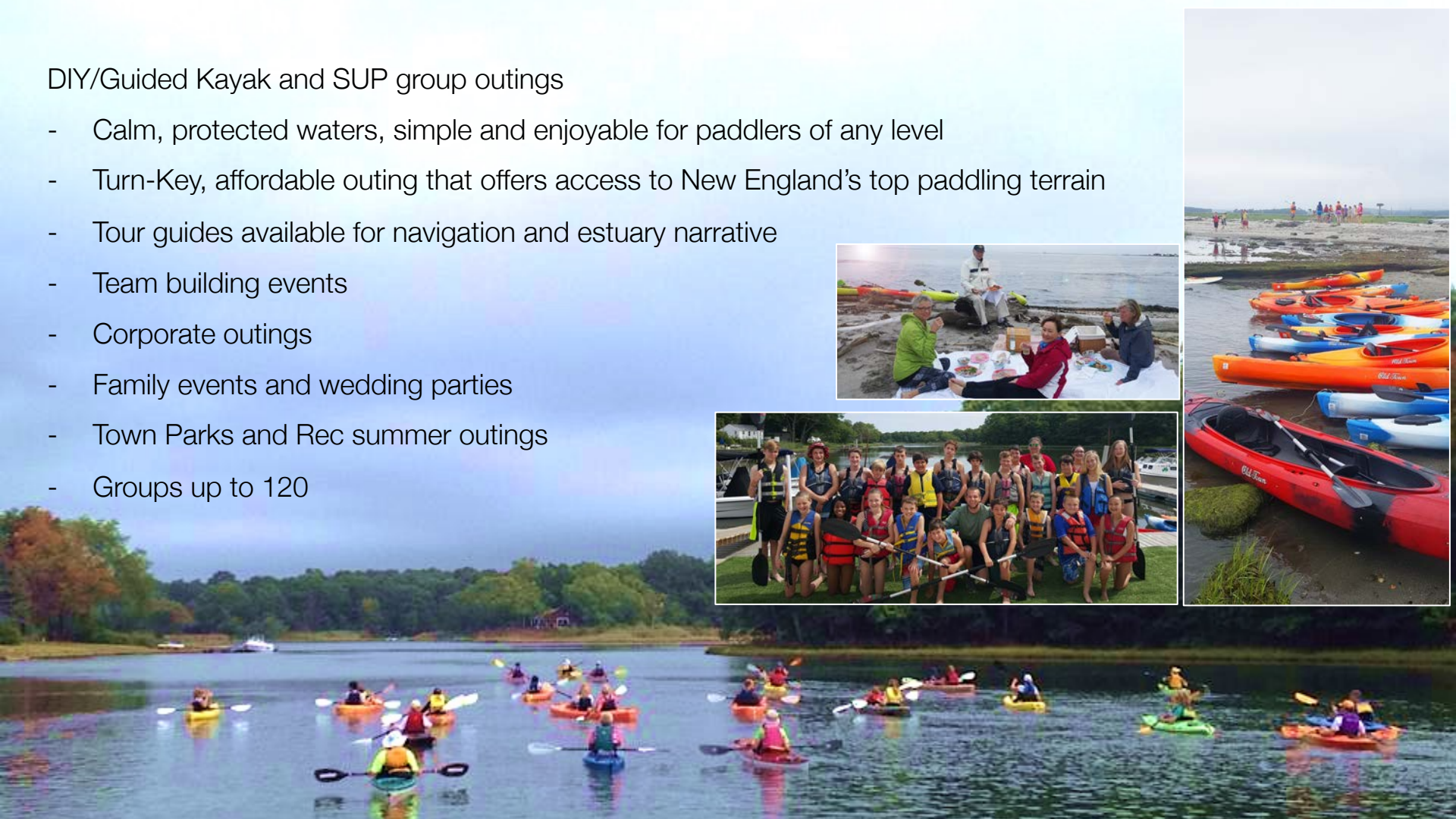


Group Paddle outings



DIY/Guided Kayak and SUP group outings

- Calm, protected waters, simple and enjoyable for paddlers of any level
- Turn-Key, affordable outing that offers access to New England's top paddling terrain
- Tour guides available for navigation and estuary narrative
- Team building events
- Corporate outings
- Family events and wedding parties
- Town Parks and Rec summer outings
- Groups up to 120



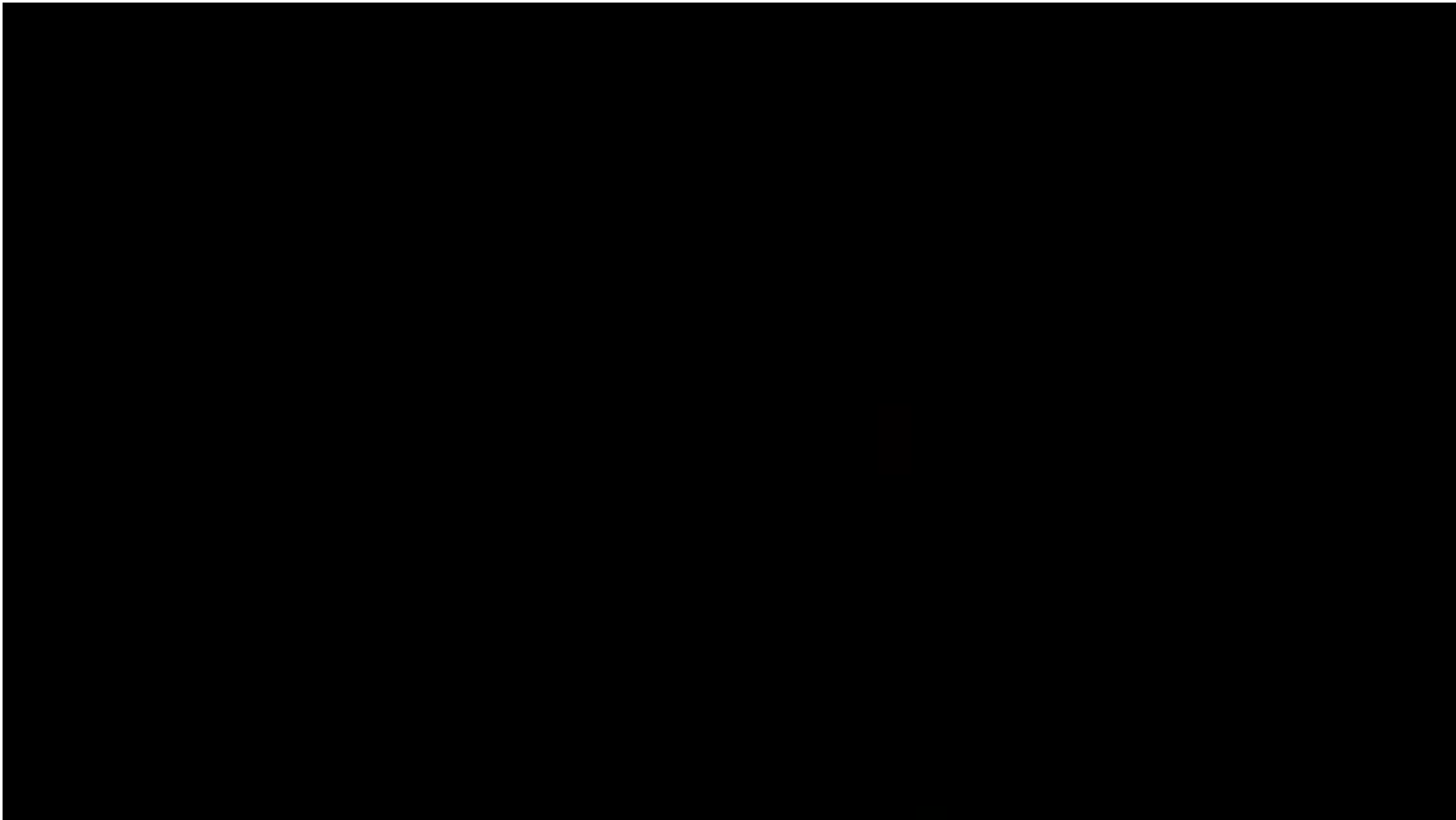
Sunset Paddles



Sunset Paddle Tours

- Evening escapes to witness the best sunsets on the shoreline
- Guided by BHO paddle-sport director, and photographer
- BYO cooler service to toast the epic falling sun
- Calm, protected waters, easy for all
- Land at our private island and relax/ explore
- Groups sizes 2- 20
- Wedding parties
- Full Moon and Firework paddles



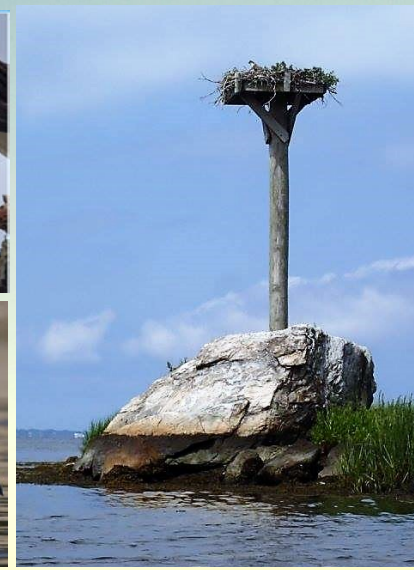


Estuary Eco-Tours



Estuary Eco-Tours

- Guided tours throughout the maze of estuary waterways
- Certified / trained local paddling instructors
- Eco-Narrative on biology, ecology, wildlife, and fauna
- Historic narrative on significant areas, heritage and geography dating back to native americans and original settlers
- Up close and personal paddling adventure in many areas of the estuary preserve that few get to experience
- Smaller, more engaged groups
- Recharge Sabbaticals
- Active seniors



Kid's Paddle Camp



Kids paddle adventure camp

- 9 weeks long- 2 sessions per day
- 20 per session- 40 total per day
- Certified / trained staff. CPR. Lifeguard. Paramedic
- Calm, shallow waters, perfect for safe, secure experience
- Ages 9-11 am session, 12-14 pm session
- Old Lyme families and guests
- Families from 20 mile radius introduced to Old Lyme



Fall Paddling

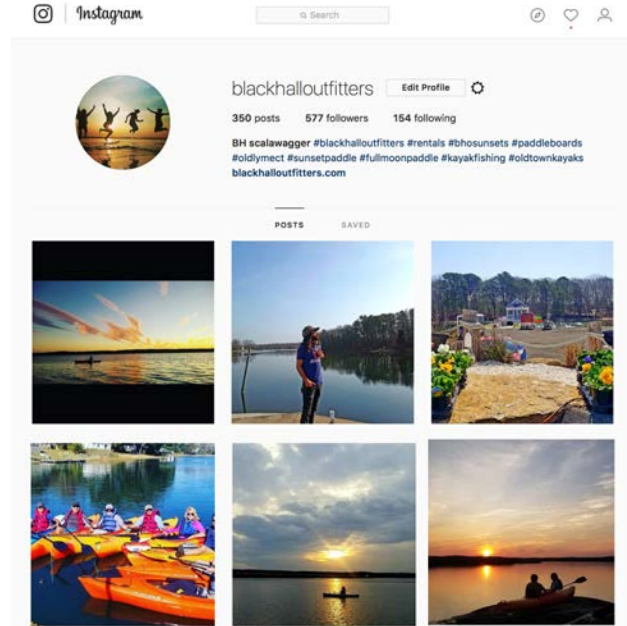
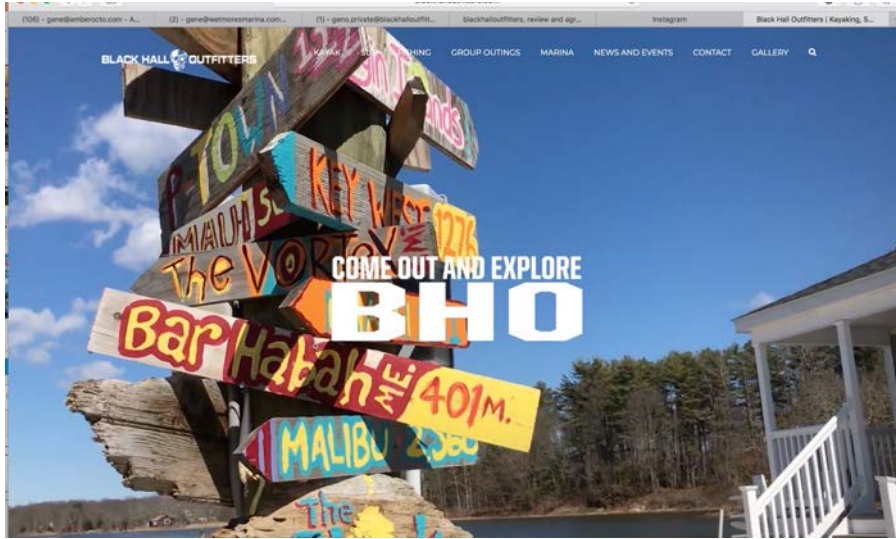


Fall Paddling

- Warm water, crisp days, no crowds
- Wildlife at it's peak activity
- Breathtaking views and vistas
- Swallow Murmurations major attraction
- DIY/ Groups 4-80
- Smaller guided groups



We are VERY SOCIAL!



blackhalloutfitters.com.

@blackhalloutfitters.

@bhofishing

#mybhosummer #saltytothecore





thank you

