

# Vermont Town Forest

## Recreation Planning

### Benches and Pause Places

Key Attribute #:

7 9

Need #:

7

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

The Conservation Commission should develop pause places in the forest for visitors learn about the history and natural features of the forest and rest, relax, and enjoy the forest scenery.

At present, the forest has many benches scattered throughout the forest. Some are at beautiful vistas along trails, but others are scattered throughout the woods and hidden off trail. The Conservation Commission should work to increase utilization of the benches, either by marking their locations, relocating them, or creating short access paths to them.

These benches should also be paired with interpretive signage. The signage should share the history of the forest, of Benoni Wright and the Appleton Farm and the creation of the Town Forest. Other signage should explain the ecology of the forest. Signage should be placed at the vernal pools and interesting geologic features (Devil's Den) about those sites. At existing benches and beautiful vistas, signs can cover forest-wide ecology, such as forest succession and wildlife habitat. The cabin area, as the forest's main destination, should be the interpretation center of the forest with signs about both the cabin and the forest.

The Conservation Commission should partner with their educational and programming partners such as Oxbow High School, Bradford Elementary School, and Four Winds Institute to interpret the forest and develop the signage.

#### Responsibility:

Conservation Commission

#### Partners Involved:

Program and educational partners

#### Planning Required:

History and natural resource research, pause place design

#### Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RTC, RTP, RFG, AIG



#### Toolkit Resources

Pause Places Toolkit

Interpretation Guidance Toolkit

Bench Volunteer Designs

