

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Improve Access to Buffalo Mountain

Key Attribute #:

11

Need #:

2

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

Buffalo Mountain has long been town-owned land. Yet the parcel has been very underutilized due to the difficulty of access. In the winter access is via the VAST trails that intersect on the town forest. In the warmer months, there is no maintained road access and visitors must walk, bike, or take an ATV into the forest on a relatively undeveloped route.

The Town of Hardwick could improve and maintain Buffalo Mountain Road from the west into the town forest. Until about a mile the forest, the road is a year-round drivable road maintained by the Town of Woodbury. For that last mile, Hardwick would need to improve the existing Class 4 highway to make it easily drivable in the summer but would not need to maintain it in the winter. Winter access would continue to be via snowmobile, ski, or snowshoe.

Forest visitors would drive that road into the forest and park at the proposed parking area at the existing VAST trail junction. A trailhead kiosk and warming hut (see below) would be located at the parking area to inform visitors about the forest.

Responsibility:

Town/ Town Forest Committee

Partners Involved:

Trails Committee, VAST-Ridge runners, other users

Planning Required:

Road, Parking lot and trailhead design

Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RD, RFG



Toolkit Resources

Sustainable Trail Standards

Land Conservation and Recreational Access Toolkit

Parking Considerations Toolkit

