

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## New Trails at Hardwick Trails

Key Attribute #:



Need #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

New mountain bike and cross-country connections at Hardwick Trails would enhance the trail network and help create links to nearby trail networks.

The area of the forest north of Billings Road presents an excellent opportunity. Currently, only the VAST trail runs through that section of the forest. Given the popularity of the existing trail system, Hardwick Trails will soon be ready for an expansion. A stacked loop system, open to both mountain biking and cross-country skiing is proposed for this area. There would include the connector and side trails to create shorter loops and a link to the VAST trail.

Creating connections to trails beyond the forest should also be a key component of expanding the trail system. From the proposed loop trail north of Billings Road, a new trail should be explored to connect to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center trail network, enabling people to ski or bike between the two. Given the popularity of Craftsbury, a connecting trail would bring many visitors to explore Hardwick Trails.

Another connection opportunity is to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail on the southern end of the forest. The rail trail passes only a few hundred feet from the existing fitness loop trail. Rail trails attract many visitors and the connection trail will enable them to experience Hardwick Trails. The rail trail connection would also enable local residents to reach the forest sans driving.

### Responsibility:

Trails Committee

### Partners Involved:

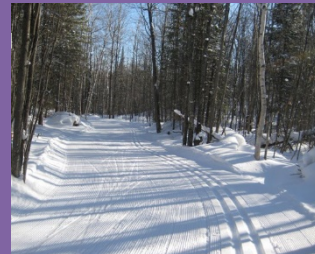
Craftsbury, VAST-Ridge runners, LVRT

### Planning Required:

Trail design

### Funding Opportunities:

RTP, RD, VCDP, RFG, VCF, LF, PBCG, RWJF, TCPN



### Toolkit Resources

Sustainable Trail Standards

Land Conservation and Recreational Access Toolkit

