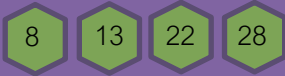


# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Acquire a New Town Forest

Key Attribute #:



Need #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

At present, there is no year-round access to the Huntington Town Forest. The forest is only accessible via a long cross-country ski in the winter, precluding most Huntington residents from enjoying their town forest. During the visioning process, Huntington residents were asked whether they thought the town should acquire a new town forest. All public visioning workshop attendees were in support and the survey respondents were largely supportive as well. Given this level of interest, the town should explore acquiring a new town forest.

However, acquiring a new town forest cannot and should not happen overnight. As a forest parcel becomes available, the town should ensure that there is proper road access with available parking. Ideally, the new town forest would be easily accessible from all areas of town. Given the community's interest in expanding outdoor recreational opportunities, the new forest should be suitable for a multi-use trail network and should provide connectivity opportunities. Recreation and education programming and events should also be feasible in the new forest.

Grant funds should be pursued to fund the new forest purchase. In neighboring Richmond, grants and private donations covered about 80% of the cost to purchase the new town forest, leaving the town's conservation fund with a reasonable sum to complete the purchase.

The town should retain the current town forest for habitat and conservation. The new town forest's management balance should focus more on recreation and education.

### Responsibility:

Town, Conservation Commission, and/or a committee of local volunteers

### Partners Involved:

Land Conservation Partners (Vermont Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, etc.)

### Planning Required:

Due diligence and land planning

### Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RD, VHCP

### Toolkit Resources

Land Conservation and Recreational Access Toolkit

Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide

