

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Enhance Homestead Area

Key Attribute #:



Need #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

The Stranahan Memorial Forest is rich with historic structures – cellar holes and stone walls are scattered throughout the property. At the Thompson Homestead Farm, there is an impressive barn foundation in a clearing and the site is close to forest trailheads. Therefore, the Thompson Homestead should be a destination in the forest, a place to gather the community that is accessible to young and old.

The stewardship committee should make the site welcoming to visitors by cleaning around the foundation, seeding the bare areas, and constructing picnic tables and benches. These enhancements should happen concurrently with improvements to Thompson Road. Long-term, the stewardship committee should consider making the segment from the trailhead to the Thompson Homestead Farm an ADA accessible path.

The Thompson Homestead Farm should also be the center for historical interpretation in the forest, with signage about the historic barn and the Thompson family who lived on the site.

The Thompson Homestead Farm would be used for events and educational offerings. Classes visiting the forest could use the picnic tables to gather or for instruction. The stewardship committee is interested in holding community events at the homestead as well. For example, large bonfires in the winter and an annual “Celebrate Marshfield” or “Heritage Days” event that brings the community to the forest.

Responsibility

Stewardship Committee

Partners Involved

Program and educational partners

Planning Required

Historical and natural resource research, pause place design

Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RTC, RTP, RFG, AIG

Toolkit Resources

Pause Places Toolkit

Bench Volunteer Designs

Interpretation Guidance Toolkit

Sustainable Facility Standards

