Local Partnerships and Engagement

Key Attribute #:
3 6 10
16 18 20

Need #:
3 12

Estimated Cost:
$

Timing:
Ongoing

From its founding, the Virginia Stranahan Memorial Town Forest, has been a community resource. Many community members donated to help the town purchase the forest. The community must remain at the core of this forest: making decisions about its future, maintaining its trails, and enjoying and providing programming. In order to do so, the stewardship committee must engage the community and partner with local organizations.

The stewardship committee should create a Stranahan User Collaborative, bringing together mountain bikers, hikers, hunters, snowmobilers, sugarers and other forest users. The stewardship committee should consult this collaborative for decisions around recreational use of the forest, balancing their opinions with the stewardship focus of the committee. The collaborative can also serve as a trail maintenance task force. By giving the collaborative members a sense of ownership of the forest's trails, they will work to maintain its trails and call on other members of their user groups to help maintain the trails.

The stewardship committee should continue to engage the full community on the forest, collecting input and encouraging them to visit and maintain the forest. Many in the community also have a knowledge or skillset that would be useful for the forest. For example, community members who are extremely knowledgeable about botany could lead wildflower and tree identification walks in the forest and those experienced in construction should lead trail building efforts.

There are many other organizations in the area who are potential partners for programming: Conservation Commission, Twinfield School, Goddard College, Earthwalk, Riders in Plainfield and Marshfield, VAST, and Friends of the Winooski River.

Responsibility
Stewardship Committee

Partners Involved
All

Planning Required
Meeting Facilitation

Funding Opportunities
RTB, NPCB

Toolkit Resources

Programming Partnerships Toolkit

Volunteer Development and Recruitment Toolkit