

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Access Paths and Connections

Goal #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:
Medium-Term/
Long-Term

All three Middlebury Town Forests in this plan are within a mile of the town center. However, there is no good route between the town center and the college to these forests.

The town should create a series of access paths and bike/ped connections (which some have coined the “Trail In Middlebury (TIM)”) that links the forests, local destinations, and the town center for pedestrians and cyclists. The system should be a combination of sidewalks, designated bike routes and multi-use paths. Designated bike routes will be the initial step, with signage and road markings on Route 7 and Seminary Road. There should be frequent and unified signage that direct pedestrians and cyclists to the forests and signage for drivers, proclaiming the roadway a designated bike route and that cars must give space when passing. The town may want to consider creating designated bike routes on neighborhood streets, rather than Route 7.

For pedestrians, sidewalks do exist for most of the route to the forests. However, along Seminary Road and Route 7 south of the town center, the sidewalks end before the town forests. The town should extend the sidewalk network to the forests to enable safer pedestrian access.

To encourage use of the new system and visits to the forest, a trailhead kiosk should be placed in the town center with maps and other information. Long-term, the town should explore opportunities to create multi-use paths as a safe, separate route to the forests.

The recommendations listed above will require significantly more planning in order to implement. The town should pursue the grants listed to the right for the planning and construction of the active transportation system.

Responsibility:

Town

Partners Involved:

MALT, Trustees,
Middlebury College

Planning Required:

Active
Transportation
Master Plan

Funding

Opportunities:
BCP, BPP

Toolkit Resources

Trail Markers and
Wayfinding Toolkit

Land Conservation and
Recreational Access

