

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Formalize Organizational and Decision-Making Structure

Goal #:



Estimated Cost:

\$

Timing:

Short-Term

At present, there is a complicated system of management/ownership of the town forests with the Town, Conservation Commission, Battell Trustees, Means Woods Trustees, MALT, Middlebury College, ABC and others all playing a role. When individuals or groups have ideas about the forests or have expressed interest in new trails or facilities, it has been unclear who they should contact and how decisions are made. By formalizing the organizational and decision-making structure for the forests, the partners can ensure that management of the forest proceeds in such a way that protects and balances the function of the forest and human uses.

A formalized proposal process will create a clear, straightforward mechanism with a transparent decision-making structure. The formal proposal process also provides objectivity in the management of the forest and ensures careful public decision based on the community's shared values for the land. The process can also give user groups a strong sense of whether a project is likely to get approved, and if not the necessary modifications in order to receive approval.

A model project proposal form and a committee review questionnaire are included in the Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning Toolkit.

Responsibility:
Town & Trustees

Partners Involved:
MALT, Middlebury College, ABC, Conservation Commission, etc.

Planning Required:
Review, adjustment and adoption of model process

Funding Opportunities:
RTP, RTC, VHCP, ERG

Toolkit Resources

Model Proposal Process

Natural Resources Guidance Toolkit

