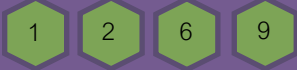


Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Existing Trail Assessment and Maintenance

Goal #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Short-Term

The town forests have many miles of trails, both formal and informal. All forest trails should be assessed for sustainability and maintenance needs.

The informal trails are not formally maintained, and may require work in that department. These trails are also relatively underutilized as they are not signed or mapped. Some informal trails could be formalized to be regularly maintained and included on forest trail maps, expanding and enhancing the trail network for forest users. Given the interest in expanding the types of recreational experiences provided, some of these informal trails could also be reconstructed and “bike-optimized” with banked turns and technical features.

Some formal trails may also require rerouting/redesign to meet sustainable trail standards and most require some level of maintenance. In Means Woods, there are many bridges in need of repair. And throughout, more bridges should be constructed to protect frequently wet areas. Another maintenance issue is the many fallen trees in Battell Woods. Trees on trails should be removed for accessibility. Those that have fallen in the middle of the forest should be left for ecological and hydrological benefit.

Responsibility:

Town & Trustees

Partners Involved:

MALT, Middlebury College, Addison County Bike Club, local builder/users

Planning Required:

Trail reroute & redesign

Funding Opportunities:

RTP, RTC, VHCP, ERG

Toolkit Resources

Trail Assessment Forms

Natural Resource Guidance Toolkit

Sustainable Trail Standards

