

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Management Plans

Goal #:



Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

At present, none of the Middlebury Town Forests have management plans. Management decisions are handled on an ad-hoc basis, with no long-range view of the forest and its future. Previous town planning efforts also identified this need.

A thoroughly prepared and implemented management plan results in a healthier forest that is accessible and enjoyed by the local community. The management planning process will also be of deep value to the community and can help to establish the organizational structure for each forest between the Town, the Trustees, and their partners.

The forest management plan can be built off this plan, taking advantage of the community visioning work that has been done. The town should work with the county forester and the trustees of the forests to inventory each parcel and set management objectives and actions. Further biological assessments and mapping should also be conducted for this plan, possibly with Middlebury College students. Water quality goals can also be explored.

The management plan should include management zones, separating the different areas of the forest by use. For example, one section of the forest may be designated wildlife habitat while another may be more suitable for recreation uses, with a denser network of trails.

### Responsibility:

Town & Trustees

### Partners Involved:

Conservation  
Commission,  
Middlebury College,  
MALT

### Planning Required:

Natural resource  
inventory and  
mapping, meeting  
facilitation

### Funding

### Opportunities:

CCG, MPG, ERG,  
VCF, VHCP, BJJ

### Toolkit Resources

Management Zones Toolkit

Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide

Natural Resource Guidance Toolkit

