

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Educational Programs and Partnerships

Key Attribute #:

12

13

19

Need #:

2

10

Estimated Cost:

\$

Timing:

Medium-Term

As trails are added for access and within the town forest, the town forest will become a place for both recreation and education. Youth and adult education programs should occur in the forest, teaching young and old about the ecology, geology, and history of the forest. In order to bring these programs to the forest, the town should partner with nearby schools and organizations and provide the necessary infrastructure to support the programs.

The Weathersfield School is located about a mile from the proposed parking area and the students could use the forest for a variety of programming. The parking area amphitheater should be used as an outdoor classroom and the cabin could serve as a gathering space for classes within the forest as well. Classes could create signage throughout the forest, such as tree identification or interpretive signage. Other schools in the area should also be invited to the forest for field trips as well.

The Weathersfield Proctor Library is an exciting programming partner for the forest. The library is interested in creating a story walk in the forest. Story walks are an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors simultaneously. Laminated pages are attached to wooden stakes, along the trail, and as one strolls down the trail, they're directed to the next page in the story.

Other partnerships should be explored to bring adult programming to the forest. Options include the Conservation Commission, the Upper Valley Land Trust, and Ascutney Outdoors.

### Responsibility:

Town Forest Steering Committee/Conservation Commission

### Partners Involved:

STAB, Ascutney Outdoors, Paradise Sports, Vermont Youth Cycling, Windsor Bike Club, School, Library, UVLT, Others

### Planning Required:

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### Funding Opportunities:

VCF, VHCB, LF, BJF

### Toolkit Resources

Programming Partnerships

Story Walk Toolkit

Interpretation Guidance Toolkit

