

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Engaging Volunteers

Key Attribute #:



Need #:



Estimated Cost:



Timing:
Short-Term

Once access is secured, the Weathersfield Town Forest will require many volunteers. Initially, volunteers will be needed to design, lay out, and construct trails. Once the trails have been constructed, a volunteer maintenance crew will also be vital.

A proven successful way to engage volunteers is through a Trails Collaborative. A Trails Collaborative is a group of passionate trail users in the community. By organizing them into a formal group, these trail users will feel excited and responsible to volunteer on the trails. The members of the Trails Collaborative should represent all forest user groups – hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, hunters, and horseback riders. It is recommended that Collaborative members be involved in other local groups, to harness the members of those group to volunteer in the forest as well. A Trails Collaborative also ensures that all groups play an active role in the planning and management of the forest.

For Weathersfield, the Collaborative should include members of the following groups: the Ascutney Trails Association, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Sports Trails of Ascutney Basin, Weathersfield Pathfinders, and Green Mountain Horse Association.

As the forest is utilized, regular trail maintenance will become increasingly necessary. The Town should look to engage additional groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts, school groups, and students from the vocational/tech schools in Claremont, NH and Hartford, VT. The Town should also work with the Upper Valley Land Trust on their corporate volunteer program.

Responsibility:

Town Forest Steering
Committee/Conservation
Commission

Partners Involved:

ATA, UVTA, UVLT, GMHA,
STAB, WP, etc.

Planning Required:

Meeting facilitation

Funding Opportunities:

RTP, NPCB



Toolkit Resources

Volunteer Development and
Recruitment Toolkit

Programming Partnerships
Toolkit

