

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Parking Lot and Access Trail

Key Attribute #:

5 8 20

Need #:

3 6

Estimated Cost:

\$\$\$

Timing:

Ongoing

Creating free and easy public access to the Town Forest will allow the community to fully enjoy and appreciate this amazing asset. The Town is very aware of this need and has made great progress – securing access to a parcel on the south side of Thrasher Road for a parking area and working towards easements with a private landowner and the state for trail access from the parking lot to the forest. The town should finalize that agreement and must also work with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) on a short section of the proposed access trail that would fall in the I-91 ROW. To construct a trail through the ROW, the town must submit an AOT land proposal, which has been provided as part of this plan.

The new town forest parking lot should be both the gateway to the forest and a destination in itself as its own small park. The parking area could have informal field space (that could double as event parking), a band stand/amphitheater, and other typical trailhead amenities such as a trailhead kiosk and picnic tables. The parking lot should be designed to accommodate horse trailers. The town forest access trail that leaves from the parking lot will cross through the private landowner's property on one of two routes – Alternative A is further from the farm house, but would require a short boardwalk section to build, while Alternative B is closer to the residence, but can likely avoid wetlands entirely.

The town should continue to work on additional access points to the forest: a potential northern access from an FPR logging road and from the state park trails.

Responsibility:

Town Forest Steering
Committee/ Conservation
Commission

Partners Involved:

Landowners, FPR, AOT

Planning Required:

Trail easements, AOT and FHWA Trail
Proposal approval, NEPA Categorical
Exclusion (CE; using the "Trail Construction
and Reconstruction" exclusion)

Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RTC, RTP, PBCG,
RWJF, TCPN

Toolkit Resources

Parking Considerations
Toolkit

Land Conservation and
Recreational Access Toolkit

Sustainable Trail Standards

Sustainable Facility
Standards

Trailhead Kiosk Volunteer
Designs

