

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Volunteer Recruitment

Key Attribute #:

12 15

Need #:

3

Estimated Cost:

\$

Timing:

Short-Term

Bradford is incredibly fortunate to have a small group of extremely dedicated volunteers. However, the Conservation Commission should expand the volunteer base to engage the larger community with the forest and lighten the load on the existing volunteer corps.

In order to do so, the Commission should convene a Bradford Trails Collaborative. The Trails Collaborative will be responsible for trail maintenance and trails and forest user planning. The group should include members of all the different user groups of the forest (hikers, mountain bikers, snowshoers, etc.) and members of trail groups in the area (Upper Valley Mountain Biking Association, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, etc.). This collaborative will ensure that all users have a voice in the management of the forest and feel a sense of ownership. This will inspire collaborative members to volunteer on the trail system. As members of trail groups in the area, the Collaborative members can call on these larger groups to help provide maintenance as well.

The Conservation Commission should also post calls for volunteers on the trailhead kiosks. A flyer should include photos of trail maintenance activities, statistics about the amount of required maintenance, and volunteering information and contacts. That way, as people begin or end their forest visit, they are thinking about the maintenance required to keep the trails pristine and hopefully considering volunteering themselves.

The Conservation Commission should also reach out to the Upper Valley Land Trust about holding corporate work days in the forest. In general, Upper Valley Land Trust has a strong network of volunteers and the Conservation Commission should look to them for volunteers and recruitment strategies.

### Responsibility:

Conservation  
Commission

### Partners Involved:

UVLT, UVMBA,  
UVTA, trail users

### Planning Required:

Meeting facilitation

### Funding

### Opportunities:

NPCB

### Toolkit Resources

Programming  
Partnerships Toolkit

Volunteer  
Development and  
Recruitment Toolkit

