



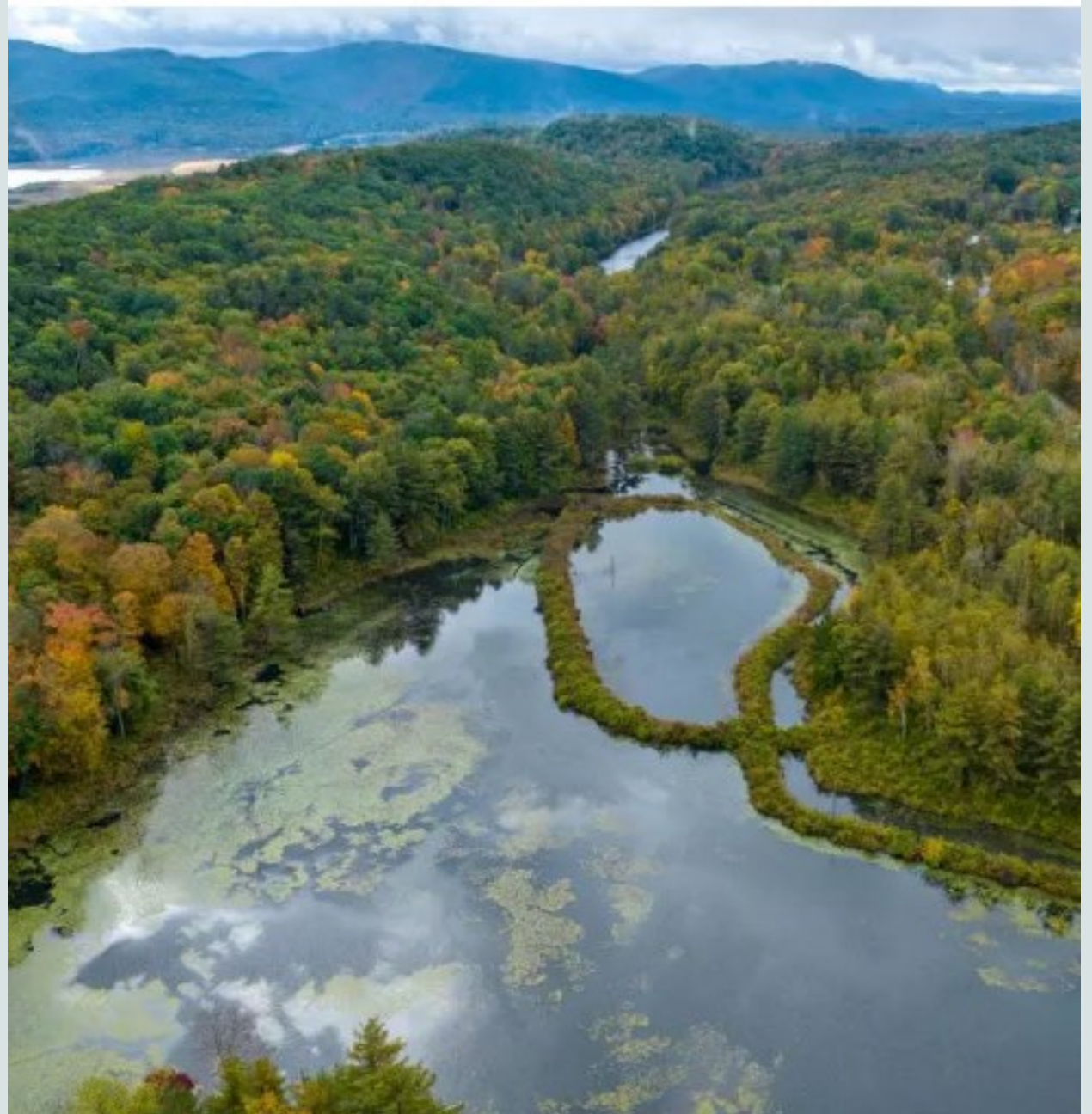
Town Forest Roundtable

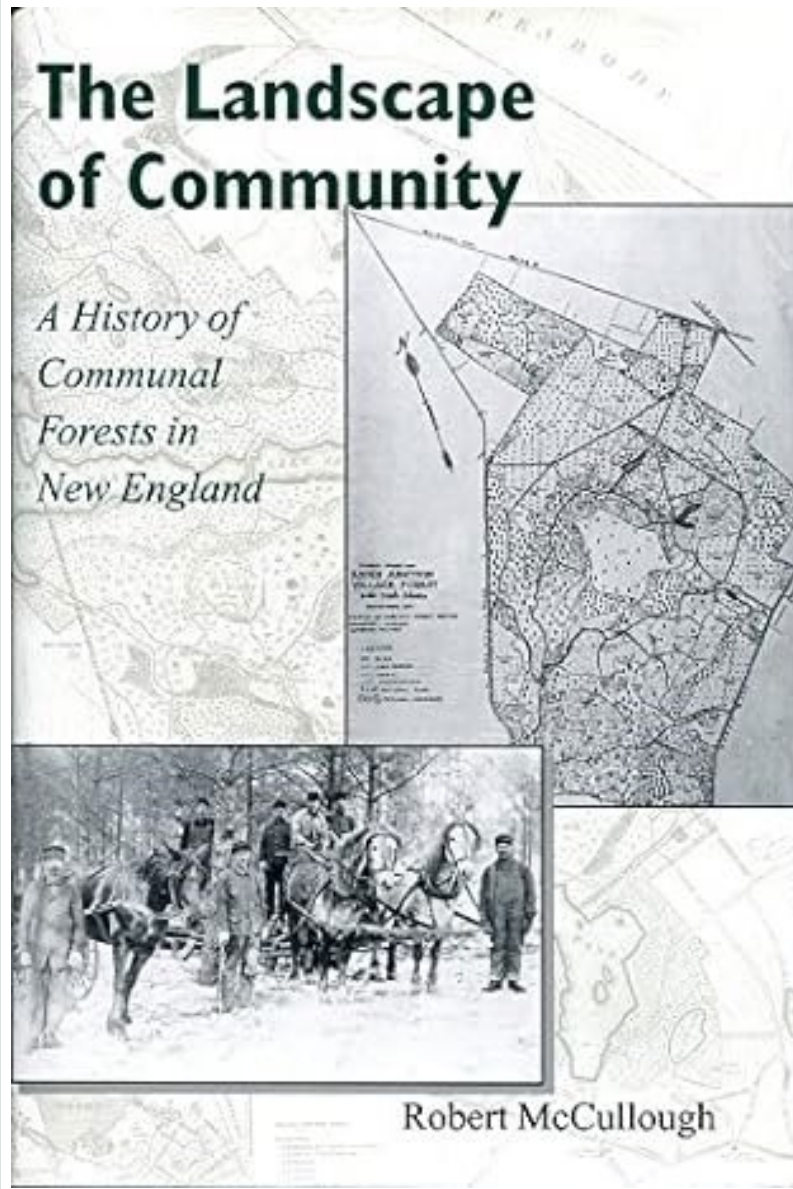
Vermont Urban & Community
Forestry Conference
May 23, 2024

Joanne Garton, UCF Technical Assistance
Coordinator
Julie Frost, University of Vermont graduate student

Agenda

1. Town forest resources
2. Current census effort
3. Survey of needs
4. Provide feedback





A brief history

In 1915, Vermont passed legislation enabling municipalities to acquire property for the purpose of forest management.

The statute describes municipal forests as being:

“a tract of land primarily devoted to producing wood products, maintaining wildlife habitat, protecting water supplies, providing forest recreation and conservation education.”

See also, “A Forest in Every Town: Vermont’s History of Communal Woodlands” by Robert McCullough.



Resource Hub at VT UCF

[vtcommunityforestry.org/projects/
town-forests](https://vtcommunityforestry.org/projects/town-forests)



TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP TOOLKIT



Forests for the People ▶

Town forests have a rich history in Vermont. Find a forest near you.



Protect Land ▶

Learn how towns and cities acquire or conserve land for their town or community forest.



Community Governance ▶

Each municipality steers the future of its own town forest. Pull your community leaders together!



Public Engagement ▶

Discover the best ways to ensure that your town forest balances community interests.



Making a Plan ▶

Discover your town forest's unique traits and roles in your community, then dig into a forest management plan.



Staying Active ▶

County foresters share resources for active management in your town forest.

Resource Hub

EXPLORE THE HUB IN TWO WAYS:

1. 10 STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS
2. TOPICAL "PODS"

Town Forest Recreation Planning Toolkit

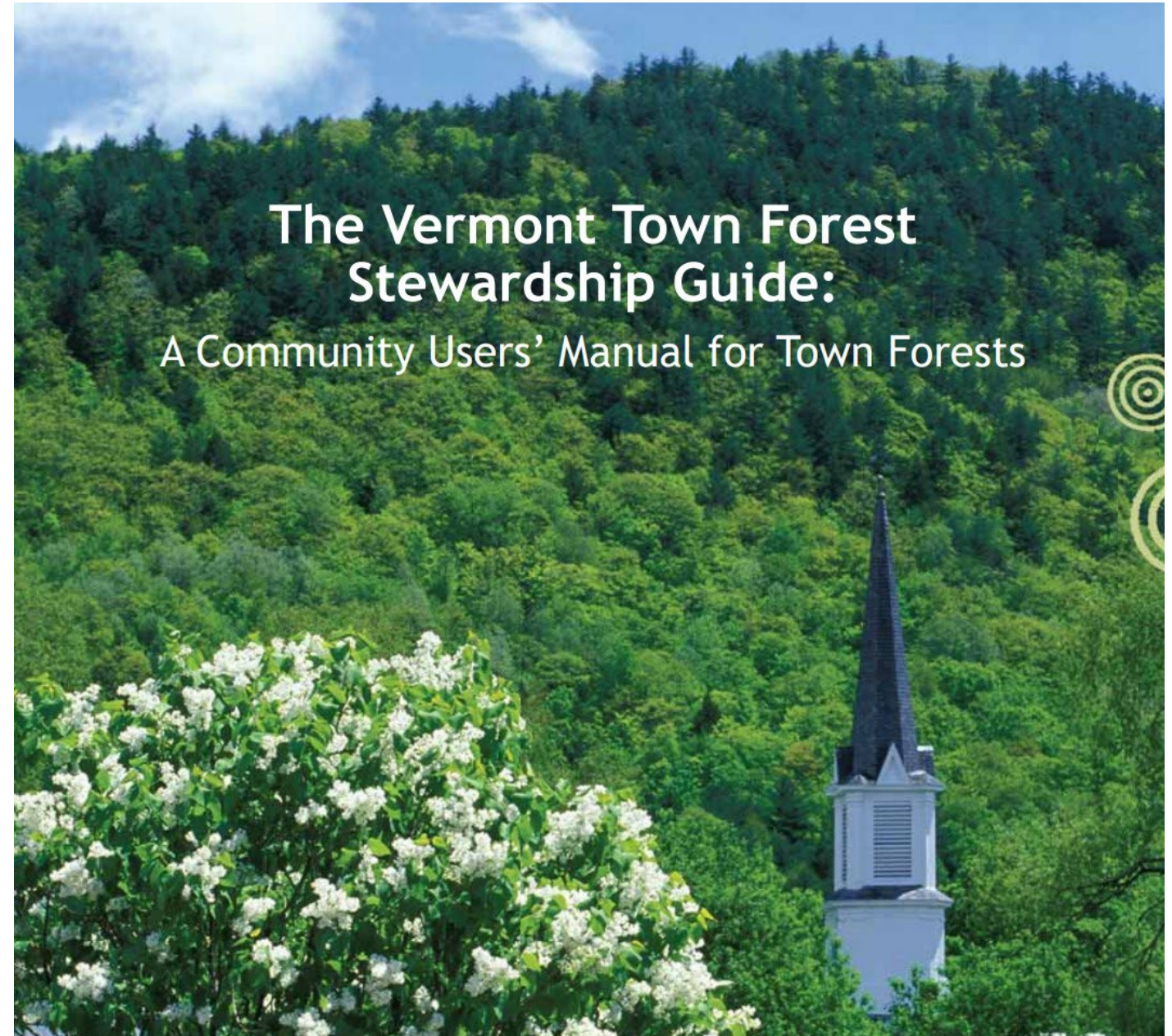
Created in 2019, this expansive guide walks you through the best practices to create thoughtful recreation resources in your town forest. Includes replicable presentation templates, checklists, and case studies.

[VIEW TOOLKIT](#)



1. Forests for the People

- Links to a five-part webinar series recorded in 2021.
- References to the Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide and the Town Forest Census.



2. Protecting Land

- Links to relevant contacts at land trusts, sample town forest conservation easements, and funding sources.
- References to BioFinder and town forests as wildlife corridors.



**Town Hall in the Woods:
Community Forest Program**

Forestland Conservation

PROTECTING COMMUNITY AND WORKING FORESTS



VHCB's mission includes the conservation of Vermont's forests, which have contributed economic benefits to many generations of Vermonters who work in the woods or who are engaged in forest products industries. Forests also provide wildlife habitat, water quality protection, flood resilience, carbon sequestration, and recreational amenities.



EXPLORE ▾ HOW WE HELP ▾ EVENTS FIELD NOTES SUPPORT US ▾

HOW WE HELP COMMUNITIES & INDIVIDUALS
Protect land
important to your
community



3. Community Governance

- Links to interview and survey results from forestry professionals summarized in 2021.
- Links to in-person trainings about environmental leadership and making decisions about natural resources.



Westford Town Forest 2016, Photo Courtesy of Bob Heiser, VLT

Governance of Town Forests

REPORT TO THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS, & RECREATION

SUBMITTED BY THE NORTHERN FOREST CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

LIVE THE NEW FOREST FUTURE
Northern Forest Center
NORTHERNFOREST.ORG

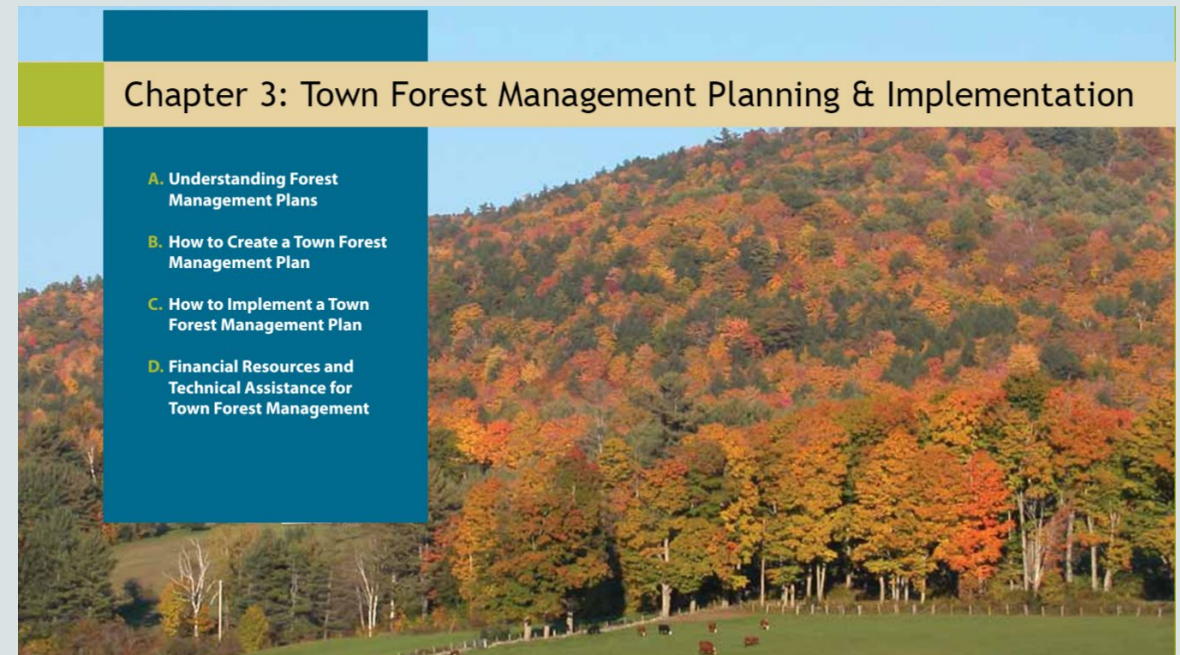
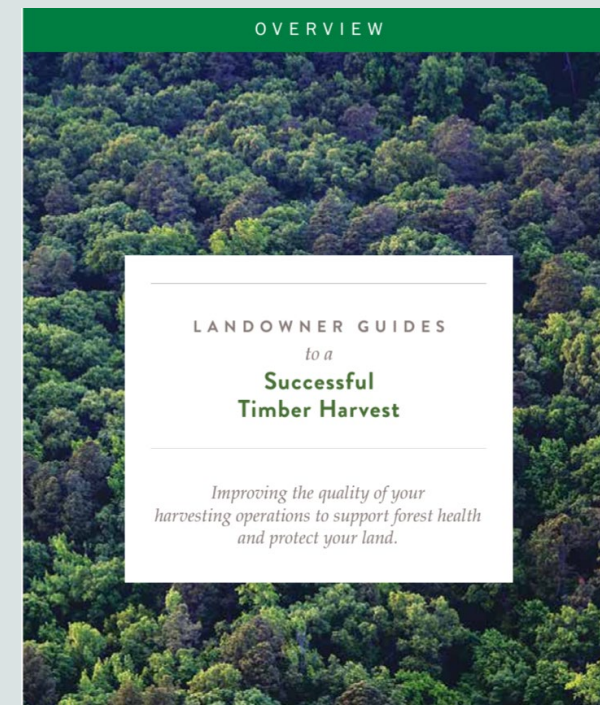
4. Public Engagement

- Links to community planning toolboxes
- Information about environmental leadership and leading community efforts
- Recorded resource from the Vermont Council on Rural Development



5. Making a Plan

- Ten town forest management case studies and six sample forest management plans
- Relevant links to the Recreation Trail Program
- Resources about timber harvests, active town forest management, and the Vermont Coverts stewardship training



6. Staying Active

- Sample contracts with county foresters, loggers, and other contractors.
- Recorded presentation on successful implementation of town forest stewardship goals.





Contact details

Joanne Garton

802-249-4217

joanne.garton@vermont.gov

[vtcommunityforestry.org/projects
/town-forests](https://vtcommunityforestry.org/projects/town-forests)