

# Vermont TRAILS & GREENWAYS



Volume 4 Number 1

Fall 2000



*Governor Dean "digs" the Toonerville Trail.  
Photo by Jennifer Waite.*

## *Governor Dean inaugurates Springfield's Toonerville Trail*

After years of planning, fundraising and community effort, the Toonerville Trail has finally broken ground. In 1993, the Toonerville Trail was one of the first projects to be awarded funding under the newly-created Bicycle & Pedestrian Program. The three-mile path follows the route of the old Springfield Electric Railway; its trolleys were affectionately called the Toonerville Trolleys, after a cartoon strip that was popular in the early 20th century. Springfield Trails and Greenways is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for late September.

## Making strides on the Cross Vermont Trail

Much has happened on the Cross Vermont Trail (CVT) this year. In January 2000, the CVT Association became a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and was awarded an Enhancements grant of \$182,000 towards the planning and construction of a highway underpass trail section in Newbury. Since then, CVT received matching grants from the Vermont Recreation Trails Fund (\$40K), and REI Conservation Fund (\$1.5K)!

The National Trails Day celebration at Blue Mountain Union School drew a record 50 participants. The VT Youth Conservation Corps and Northeast Kingdom Conservation Corps did some excellent trail conservation projects on the CVT and Boltonville Nature Trail in Newbury. The Towns of Richmond and Williston are busy identifying possible routes for the trail, and Bolton has officially designated a 3.8-mile section of the River Road as CVT! Group bicycling events are planned on September 30 and October 1, and a fall volunteer work day may be scheduled as well. CVT's newsletter now has 620 readers. For a free subscription, call the CVT Coordinator at (802) 828-5696, or send email to [eric.scharnberg@state.vt.us](mailto:eric.scharnberg@state.vt.us).



*Kids out enjoying the CVT trail this spring. Photo by Eric Scharnberg.*



## The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Newsletter

Produced by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council with support from the Vermont Recreation Trails Fund and assistance from the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program.  
Layout by Kate Carter.  
Newsletter contributions are welcome from both members and nonmembers.

### Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Officers

#### Ben Rose, Chair

Executive Director, Green Mountain Club  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.  
Waterbury Center, VT 05677  
802-244-7037, ben@greenmountainclub.org

#### Amy Bell, Vice-Chair

VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator  
Local Transportation Facilities  
National Life Building, Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05663  
802-828-5799, Amy.Bell@state.vt.us

#### Bonnie Waninger, Treasurer

Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
7 Lake Street, Suite 201  
St. Albans, VT 05478  
802-524-5958, bwaninger@nrpcvt.com

#### Paul Moffat, Secretary

Westmore Trails Association  
8 Meadow Run Rd.  
Williston, VT 05495  
802-878-3452, Paul.Moffat@aol.com

Many thanks to Laurie Adams for staff assistance to the Council!

Recreation and Trails Administrative Assistance  
VT Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation  
802-241-3690, ladams@fpr.anr.state.vt.us

#### Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

103 South Main St, Building 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0604  
802-241-3690

#### Statewide & Regional Council Members:

Appalachian Mountain Club, Catamount Trail Association, Cross Vermont Trail Association, Essex Town Community Development Office, Green Mountain Club, Green Mountain Horse Association, Mad River Path Association, Morristown Recreation Committee, National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, Northern VT RC&D Council, Northwestern Rail Trail Council, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, St. Michael's College, Local Roads Program, US Dept of Agriculture, NCRS Soils, VT Agency of Transportation, VT Association of Snow Travelers, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, VT Farm Bureau, VT Outdoor Guide Association, VT Youth Conservation Corps, VT Mountain Bike Advocates, Westmore Association Trails, Winooski Parks & Recreation Department.

# Grant News

## Recreation trails grants awarded

By Laurie Adams

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation announced that 34 organizations will receive \$536,638 in federal and state recreation trails grants this year, including six organizations that will receive a total of \$2,890 in Mini Grants. Trail projects that will receive funding this year include:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Berlin</b> —Irish Hill Ridgeline Acquisition  | \$25,000  |
| <b>Catamount Trail Association</b>   |           |
| Bayley-Hazen Road Bridge, Phase 2  | \$17,000  |
| Inn-To-Inn Brochures in Northeast Kingdom  | \$1,500   |
| Jay Relocation   | \$10,000  |
| Trail Website Development  | \$3,440   |
| <b>Cross-Vermont Trail</b> —I-91 Underpass & Wells River Segment                       | \$40,000  |
| <b>Green Mountain Audubon Society</b> —Huntington River Watershed Trail                | \$3,150   |
| <b>Green Mountain Club</b>   |           |
| Butler Lodge Reconstruction & Lodge Trail Relocation                                   | \$11,000  |
| Group Outreach Info-Education  | \$6,450   |
| Long Trail Reconstruction at Whiteface Shelter North                                   | \$10,100  |
| <b>Green Mountain Horse Association</b>  |           |
| Biscuit Hill Trail Planning  | \$1,242   |
| Cream Pot Bypass Reconstruction  | \$1,431   |
| Trails Outreach Info—Education   | \$1,109   |
| <b>Hartford</b> —Hurricane Town Forest Watershed Trail                                 | \$10,102  |
| <b>Mad River Path Association</b> —Mill Brook Trailhead & Parking                      | \$5,020   |
| <b>Middlebury Area Land Trust</b>  |           |
| Trail-Around-Middlebury Bridges, Ph. 2   | \$ 20,457 |
| Trail-Around-Middlebury Map Upgrade  | \$2,760   |
| <b>Montpelier</b> —Parks Bridge Links  | \$12,400  |
| <b>N.W. Regional Planning Commission</b> —Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Improvements    | \$8,170   |
| <b>Orwell</b> —Community Trail Planning  | \$4,108   |
| <b>Poultney</b> —People's Trail Development  | \$7,350   |
| <b>Shelburne</b> —Ti Haul Road Recreation Path Development                             | \$40,000  |
| <b>S.W. Regional Planning Commission</b> —Calvin Coolidge Bike & Rec. Greenway         | \$20,000  |
| <b>Upper Valley Land Trust</b> —Connecticut River Campsites, Phase 2                   | \$13,480  |
| <b>Vermont Association of Snow Travelers</b> —2000-01 Winter Trail Grooming            | \$157,752 |
| <b>Vermont Leadership Center</b> —Gore Mountain Trail Development                      | \$17,119  |
| <b>Vershire</b> —Village Trails, Phase 2   | \$6,000   |
| <b>Winooski Valley Park District</b> —Woodside Park & Overlook Park Trail Improvements | \$4,100   |

Rec. Grants continued on next page

# Grant News

## Rec. grants

*continued from previous page*

The Recreation Trails Grant program provides matching grants for (1) maintenance of existing recreation trails; (2) restoration of areas damaged by use of recreation trails; (3) development of trail side and trailhead facilities; (4) provision of features which facilitate access to and use of trails by persons with disabilities; (5) construction of new trails on state, municipal or private lands where a recreational need for such construction is shown; (6) preparation and printing of trail-related plans, studies, maps and other educational information and materials; (7) trail protection including fee simple or easement acquisition; and (8) purchase of hand tools for granted trail work. The Mini Grant option (up to \$500) is a new two-year pilot project under the grant program. Organizations receiving Mini Grants:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Missisquoi River Canoe Access Signs                               | \$500 |
| Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail<br>Challenge Program                 | \$500 |
| Vershire Patterson Mountain Trail Guide                           | \$500 |
| Salisbury Community School Nature Trail                           | \$400 |
| Shaftsbury School Nature Adventures                               | \$490 |
| Worcester Community Cross-Country<br>Skiing Trail Groomer & Signs | \$500 |

The Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Program is administered by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The mission of the Recreation Trails Program is: "To provide trail opportunities to all citizens of Vermont within 15 minutes of their home."

For more information on this program, contact Laurie Adams at the Recreation & Trails Office, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, 103 South Main Street, Building 10 South, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0604, or call 802-241-3690. ladams@fpr.anr.state.vt.us.



## 2000 Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Awards

By Amy Bell, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, 802-828-5799  
[www.aot.state.vt.us.projdev/Sections/LTF/LTF.htm](http://www.aot.state.vt.us.projdev/Sections/LTF/LTF.htm)

Transportation Secretary Brian R. Searles announced the award of \$2 million for construction and planning of bicycle and pedestrian projects at 21 locations across the state. Fifteen bicycle and pedestrian planning projects totaling \$200,000 were selected. To facilitate the preliminary planning phase of bike and pedestrian projects, funding of up to \$15,000 per project was awarded. This funding will be used to develop a conceptual design for a project, assess environmental and right of way issues and develop a preliminary project cost estimate. The 15 planning projects include: Belvidere, Brattleboro, Burlington, Montpelier, Berlin/Barre, Grand Isle, Hancock, Weathersfield, Springfield, Manchester, Shaftsbury, Williston, Sharon, Hartland and Hartford.

Six construction projects totaling \$1.8 million were selected from among 12 applications with funding requests totaling more than \$4.4 million. The construction funding will be used to plan, design and construct bicycle paths, bicycle routes and sidewalks in the six communities stateside. The construction projects will be developed over the next two to five years.

The source of funding is 80 percent Federal (TEA-21), 10 percent State Transportation Fund and a 10 percent local match. The six construction projects include:

### \* West Rutland—\$527,233

To construct a 3.8-mile bicycle and pedestrian facility network including multi-use path construction, rehabilitation of existing pedestrian facilities, and establishment of bicycle lanes and a fully-signed bicycle route. Contact Jason Simcock, Town Manager, 438-2263.

### \* Newfane—\$180,000

Reconstruction of an historic sidewalk, including installation of proper vertical and horizontal separation and ADA ramps on Church and West Streets in the Village of Newfane. Contact Beatrice McFarland, Village Trustee, 365-7675.

### \* Ludlow—\$311,319

To complete construction of a 1.8-mile phase of the Calvin Coolidge Greenway, which roughly parallels VT Rte. 103. This funding request will supplement a shortfall in funding received as part of a 1998 Enhancement Grant. Contact Sharon Bixby, Chair, Calvin Coolidge Greenway, 228-8823.

### \* Reading—\$177,500

To construct 1,290 feet of new five-foot-wide sidewalk along the west side of VT Rte. 106 from Tyson Road south to Reading Elementary School. Contact Robert Allen, Chair, Selectboard, 886-8333 ext. 269.

### \* Morristown—\$345,800

To construct 2,090 feet of five-foot-wide granite curbed sidewalk on VT Rte. 100 between Bridge St. and Harrel St. in Morrisville. Contact Brian Greenia, Selectboard, 888-2257.

### \* Williston—\$272,470

To construct a 1,900 ft, 10ft wide asphalt multi-use path adjacent to Rte. 2A from Sharon Drive to River Cove Rd. Contact Neil Boyden, Public Works Director, 878-1239.

# Member News

## Green Mountain Club turns 90!

by Ben Rose, Executive Director, 802-244-7037 ext. 12  
[www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org)

The Green Mountain Club and the Long Trail are celebrating their 90th birthday this year! Founded in 1910, the Long Trail was the first long-distance hiking trail in the nation and an inspiration for the Appalachian Trail.

During the summer of 2000, volunteers and staff of the Green Mountain Club have worked on trail repairs and maintenance up and down the 265 miles of the Long Trail and 180 miles of side trails which comprise the Long Trail System. This year's highlights have included reconstruction of Peru Peak shelter and historically-significant Butler Lodge on the southern flank of Mt. Mansfield (slated for re-opening in October 2000). Permit issues delayed the commencement of work to relocate the Long Trail off of Route 108 in Smugglers Notch.

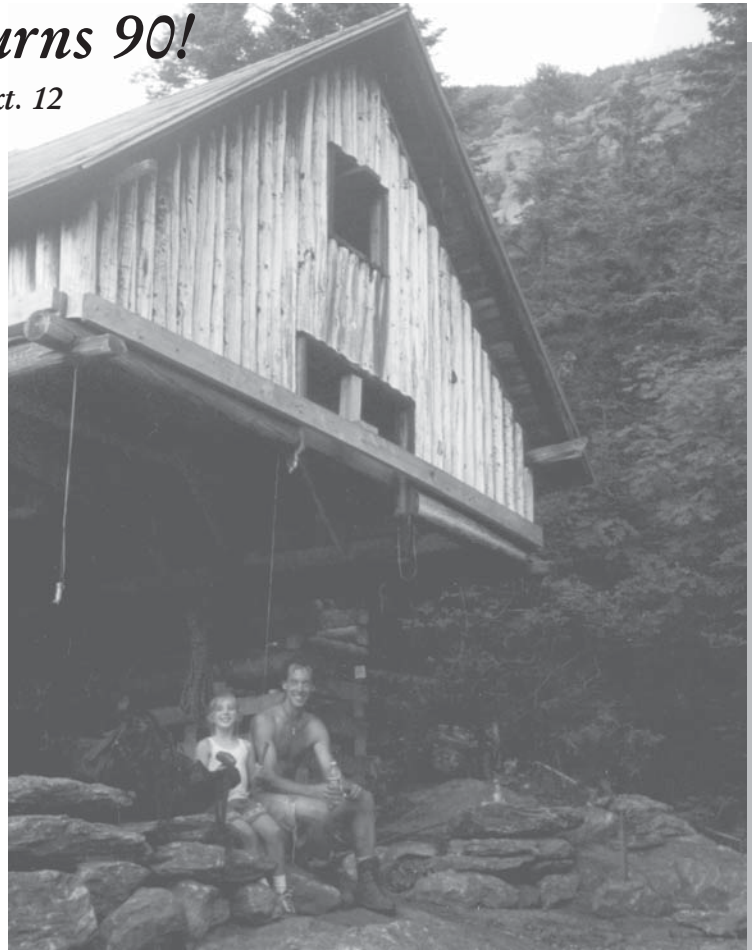
Two additional properties along the Long Trail corridor were acquired, continuing an effort which has been ongoing since 1986 to protect the entire trail system. Over 60 miles of trail have been protected, and there are less than 16 miles to go!

Visitation to Mt. Mansfield's ridgeline through the end of July 2000 declined 22 percent compared to 1999. We attribute this primarily to cool, wet weather. The year 2000's single busiest day thus far was July 2nd, when approximately 614 people visited the Chin, compared to 362 on July 3, 1999, the busiest early-season day last year.

GMC's education program expanded in 2000 with the addition of the "Vermont Family Outings" hikes, which enticed lots of small Vermonters and their parents into the woods. Two new GMC Sections have been established: "Northern Frontier" based in Montgomery Center; and "Northeast Kingdom," which will focus on hiking opportunities within the former Champion Lands.

GMC, in partnership with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and the Westmore Association, has also played an active role in supporting public acquisition of the summit of beautiful Bald Mountain near Lake Willoughby.

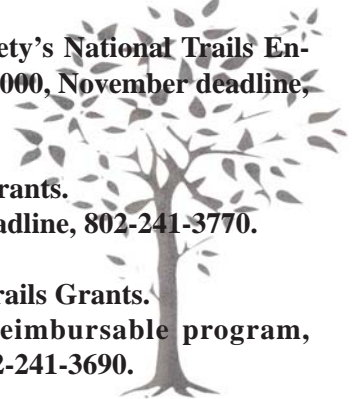
Of course, everybody who has ever enjoyed a hike on the Long Trail should become a GMC member! For information, check out [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org), or call us at (802) 244-7037.



July 28, 2000—Anya Rose, 7, and GMC construction foreman Mike Dwyer, during construction of Butler Lodge's new rock foundation. The lodge is suspended above their heads, supported by temporary cribbing. Photo by Ben Rose.

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines!

- American Hiking Society's National Trails Endowment. \$2,000 - \$10,000, November deadline, 888-766-4453.
- Vermont Watershed Grants. \$1,000+, November deadline, 802-241-3770.
- Vermont Recreation Trails Grants. \$500 - \$40,000+, a reimbursable program, February deadline, 802-241-3690.



# Member News

## *Vermont Mountain Bike Advocates keeps on rollin'*

By Kate Carter, Chair, 802-244-5796

[www.vmba.org](http://www.vmba.org)

Now in its third year, Vermont Mountain Bike Advocates (VMBA) is concentrating on several trail projects that will increase the possibilities for safe, fun, and interesting places to ride throughout the state.

Phase One of the statewide class four road mapping project (the VMBA Central Vermont Mountain Bike Map, which was funded in 1999 by a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council) was a huge success and most of the 4,000 maps have been given away. Although VMBA did not receive a similar grant for Phase Two (towns in Orange County), they did receive grants totaling \$5,000 from the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers and PowerBar, and were able to proceed on schedule. Volunteers from the Norwich/Thetford area have spent the summer of 2000 assessing class four roads in their area and the second map of class four roads and assessments will be produced in the winter of 2000-2001.

VMBA is working with the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation in identifying forest highways that are suitable for mountain biking. VMBA hopes to "adopt" as many of these roads as possible and keep them open and maintained for riding.

Trail impact statistics will soon be available for the experimental Contest Trail in the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), Rochester. The Contest Trail was opened to mountain biking four years ago, with the intent of including it as a mountain bike trail in the revised GMNF use plan. Since no one had any idea how much the trail was being used, VMBA purchased a trail counter, which is mounted in a hidden location on the trail. The counter records each person who passes by, the time and the date. This information will help the GMNF assess user impact. VMBA intends to use that information in future trail proposals.

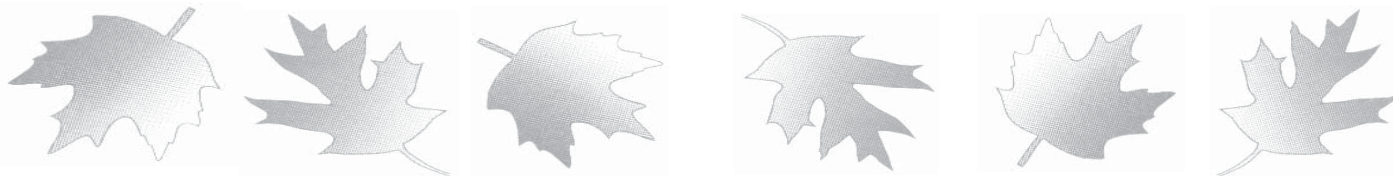
Plans for the Green Mountain Bike Route, an end-to-end mountain bike route from Massachusetts to Canada, are well under way. Volunteers have divided the state into sections and are presently identifying the best roads and/or trails



*National Trails Day—VMBA volunteers spent a total of 30 working hours building "corduroy" on the Cotton Brook Trail. VMBA has a Cooperative Agreement with the Dept. of Forest, Parks & Rec. to maintain the Cotton Brook Trail in Mount Mansfield State Forest.*

that connect the sections. Once the route is identified, VMBA will publish a map with written directions, which will bring riders into towns whenever possible.

In an effort to be a more informative resource on mountain biking in Vermont, VMBA is redesigning their Web site ([www.vmba.org](http://www.vmba.org)) to offer more and better information on where to ride. The site will have the state divided into three regions—north, central, south—and provide information for each region, including Web links, mountain bike clubs, mountain bike centers, bike shops, maps, books, etc.



# Member News

## *VOGA expands with research and women's program*

By Graydon Stevens, Director, 802-425-8747, [info@voga.org](mailto:info@voga.org).

[www.voga.org](http://www.voga.org)

Vermont Outdoor Guide Association is conducting a natural and human recreational resources inventory in the Northeast Kingdom. This pilot project is funded by the Vermont Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Vermont Tourism and Marketing, with the objective of developing a blueprint that we can later be used statewide.

The project includes an inventory of trails and waterways and other natural resources conducive to a variety of recreational activities. National standards of use will be recommended for these resources and will include information on carrying capacity, ethics, multiple-use issues and local special areas. Human resources will include guide services, outing clubs, educational programs and recreation-related organizations. Vacation packages for the region will be inventoried and developed using the information gathered. We intend to work with land management, State and Federal departments, businesses, individuals and organizations to

gather information. Much of it will be posted on VOGA's web site at [www.voga.org](http://www.voga.org).

Helen Hossley has been hired to manage Adventure Guides of Vermont (AGVT). VOGA has separated its customer service division and contracted AGVT to provide that service. General recreation information will still be provided to the public by VOGA, and AGVT will handle vacation planning, outdoor related vacation packages and sales.

Vermont Outdoors Woman is a new division of VOGA and Alison Welch is the director. The purpose of the project is to make the outdoor adventure industry more accessible to women. Alison is an avid outdoors enthusiast, has worked as an instructor with *Becoming an Outdoor Woman*, is a hunter education instructor with the State of Vermont and most recently co-coordinated a *Woman in the Outdoors* program. She has worked with women's organizations internationally for over five years. Look for information on this project soon on our Web site.

## Join the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council!

Now is the time to renew your membership. Or, if you have never been a member, now is the time to join. The Council needs your support! Help us shape the future of Vermont recreation. (Application form available on back page.)

We look forward to seeing you at our next meetings:

- ★ **January 11, 2001, 9 a.m. to noon—Ethan Allen Room, Vermont State House, Montpelier.**
- ★ **March 22, 2001, 9 a.m. to noon—location TBA.**
- ★ **May 10, 2001—ANNUAL MEETING—9 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Seyon Ranch, Groton.**

# National News

## Vermont tops in Enhancements!

Since 1991, over \$3.8 billion in federal transportation monies has been made available for trails and other scenic and historic enhancement projects through the ISTEA and TEA-21 programs. But only 65.5 percent of available funds have so far been obligated (that is, legally reserved for use on projects) and billions of dollars could be left on the table when the spending authorization expires.

The good news is that Vermont is one of the top 10 states in the country for effectively utilizing their enhancements dollars, with more than 80 percent of available funds obligated. For more information contact the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, [www.enhancements.org](http://www.enhancements.org) (click "Resources"), or call 1-888-388-6832.



*Taking a break along the Burlington Bikeway. Photo by Jennifer Waite.*

## NOTES & RESOURCES:

**Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups, 2000-2001**, 100 pgs. \$35 from River Network (or free with a \$60 membership). Call 503-241-3506, email [VT@rivernet.org](mailto:VT@rivernet.org), or write River Network, 153 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602-3318.

**Planning a Trailhead Bulletin Board**, Appalachian Trail Conference. Great advice on purpose, placement, design; includes two different designs—one "economical" and one "long-lasting." Write to ATC, PO Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, 304-535-6331.

**TrailLink.com** was launched this spring by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. It's an online trails directory that provides up-to-date information on access, parking, trail surface, and activities for the country's 1,000 rail trails.

**KidsWalk-to-School** is a project of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Their 62-page guide encourages individuals and organizations to work together to identify and create safe walking and biking routes to schools. Included are How to Organize a KidsWalk-to-School program in your community, programs and physical improvements to make the program work, ideas to generate kids' enthusiasm, working with the media and elected officials, and resources. Download the guide at [www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/kidswalk.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/kidswalk.htm) or call 1-888-CDC-4NRG.

**Trail Tracks**, a quarterly newsletter of American Trails, the non-profit organization dedicated to the creation of trail systems for all Americans. \$35/yr. or free with membership. Trail Tracks has great information on trail issues nationwide. Also check out their Web site ([AmericanTrails.org](http://AmericanTrails.org)) for everything from "trails and ADA" to legislative updates. 520-632-1140, or [AmTrails@lankaster.com](mailto:AmTrails@lankaster.com).

## Land & Water Conservation Fund/CARA

Laurie Adams, 802-241-3690, [ladams@fpr.anr.state.vt.us](mailto:ladams@fpr.anr.state.vt.us)

The Dept of Forests, Parks & Recreation received five eligible Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant applications on July 28 under the FY 2001 round of funding, with requests totaling \$103,498. The application review committee will meet in mid-September to review and score the applications and make funding recommendations to the Department. Award announcements will be made in early October and work may begin in spring 2001.

We are carefully watching the workings of the legislature on the comprehensive Conservation & Reinvestment

Act (CARA) legislation which includes this funding program. The word on the street is that Vermont could receive as much as \$5 million each year for the next 15 years for this vital program. For more information on CARA, including how it has, and will, continue to benefit our citizens and visitors, please see [www.ahrinfo.org](http://www.ahrinfo.org). The Department's recreation program's new URL is [www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation/index.htm](http://www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation/index.htm). To be placed on a Department mailing list to receive press releases from Vermont on LWCF and CARA, contact Laurie Adams, Recreation & Trails Grants Program.



103 South Main St.  
Building 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0604



**Vermont Trails and  
Greenways Council**

**2000-2001 VERMONT TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Memberships extend from June 1 - May 31 annually

**NEW**  **OR** **RENEWAL**

**Date Received/Amount** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **WEB SITE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE GIVE US A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ON YOUR ORGANIZATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION PERFORM ON-THE-GROUND TRAIL WORK?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual membership dues:**

- Commercial . . . . . \$50
- State-wide or regional . . \$30
- Local/Community . . . . . \$20
- Individual/Friend . . . . . \$10

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Vermont Trails and Greenways Council**  
103 South Main St., Building 10 South,  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0604.  
Questions? Call Laurie Adams, 802-241-3690.  
Thank You!