

Vermont TRAILS & GREENWAYS



Volume 4, Number 4

Spring 2002

Come to the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Annual Meeting!

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Hosted by the Green Mountain Horse Association in beautiful South Woodstock, Vermont



Photo by www.aerographics.com.

Agenda

- 10 a.m. Convene, member updates (coffee and morning snacks provided by VTGC)
- 11 a.m. Facilitated discussion about VTGC's business plan and desires for the future directions of the Council's work.
- noon Break for lunch (bring your own or pick one up at the country store in South Woodstock).
- 1 p.m. Continue discussion
- 2 p.m. Adjourn

Directions to Green Mountain Horse Association:

I-89, Exit 1 (Quechee/Woodstock) to Route 4 west to Woodstock village. From the Village Green in Woodstock, take Route 106 south (go around the Green and take your first right onto Route 106 South, between the white Woodstock Inn and a brick building). Go approximately 6 miles to South Woodstock. The road turns sharply left, then right; GMHA is on the left (Vermont Horse Country) with a large white barn (GMHA's Upwey Barn). There will be brown shed row barns and the GMHA office. The entrance is by the GMHA sign. Welcome!



The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council Newsletter

Produced by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council with support from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation 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

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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, Cornwall Bicycle Club, Cross Vermont Trail Association, Essex Town Community Development Office, Friends of the West River Trail, Green Mountain Club, Mad River Path Association, Morristown Recreation Committee, National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Northern VT RC&D Council, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Norwich Conservation Commission, Poulney Conservation Commission, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, VT Agency of Transportation, VT Association of Snow Travelers, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, VT Horse Council, VT Mountain Bike Advocates, VT Outdoor Guide Association, VT Youth Conservation Corps, Westmore Association Trails, Winooski Parks & Recreation Department, Winooski Valley Park District.

From the Chair

Cars need roads, Vermonters need trails

Why are walking and bicycling not seen as 'real' transportation?

March 18 was a gray morning. I was sitting in the witness chair, wearing a jacket and tie, testifying to the Transportation Committee of the Vermont House of Representatives on behalf of the Cross Vermont Trail. In each of the past three years, the position

of Cross Vermont Trail coordinator has been supported by an appropriation of \$25,000 within the state's \$320 million transportation budget. Without legislative action, the position will disappear on December 31, so there I was, urging the committee to extend support to keep the position alive and the project moving forward.

"The Cross Vermont Trail," I explained enthusiastically, "is one of the truly visionary bike/ped transportation projects underway in Vermont. The route links community paths from Lake Champlain all the way to the Connecticut River. There has been excellent progress, and roughly half of the 75-mile route has already been formally designated."

"Opportunities to bicycle and walk safely," I said, "are critically important to the quality of Vermonters' lives; we need to invest in them as part of our transportation system..."

Glancing around the table at the members of the committee, I noticed the body language: eyes down, shoulders slumped. Had I said something wrong?

"As chairman of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, I urge you to recognize that this half-time coordinator for a wonderful trail system is a fantastic 'bang for the buck'..." Looking around the table again, I began to panic. "The Council," I continued doggedly, "serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation..." Nothing. Not a flicker.

Okay, I thought, so the Council doesn't



Governor Dean dedicates the first section of the Cross Vermont Trail, June 1994.

have name recognition, much less political clout. Try the personal touch: "This trail," I pleaded, "will link the village where I live to the city where my parents live, to the town where I work, to the State Capital!" Nope, now they were just humoring me.

Somebody knew about the Recreational Trails Grant program: "Isn't there already a grant program for that sort of thing?" I explained that in 2001 there were over 40 applications and only the top 12 could be funded. "Many small communities submitted good projects and were turned down; we are not meeting their needs."

A few of the committee members made eye contact; some were sympathetic. But out of these 11 tired-looking committee members, I wondered whether there would be six votes for a "trails and greenways" project. I could practically see a big cartoon thought bubble over one fellow's head: "Nudge me when we get back to talking about real transportation stuff..."

And so I learned just how much work lies ahead for the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. It is not going to be easy, because it will require nothing less than a shift in our policy approach, from viewing trails as a recreational frill (which belongs "over with the natural resources folks") to viewing them as an essential part of our transportation system. If we fail in this work, Vermont is going to continue getting better and better at accommodating cars and trucks, and worse and worse for Vermonters who want to get from one place to another under the power of their own muscles and lungs.

Who is your elected representative? Have you spoken to them about trails and greenways? What do they think?

—Ben Rose

Grant News

2002 Recreation Trails Grants announced

\$454,835 awarded to 33 trail projects

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation announced that 26 organizations will receive \$451,835 in recreation trails grants this year, and another 7 organizations will receive a total of \$3,000 in mini grants.

The Vermont Recreation Trails Program received 35 competitive grant applications for recreation trails funding under the Vermont Recreation Trails Fund (VRTF) and the National Recreation Trails Fund (NRTF) in February. The applications were reviewed and ranked by a five-member committee utilizing established review criteria. The committee in turn made funding recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. **Following is a list of trail projects which being recommended for funding and the grant amount being allocated:**

Vermont Association of Snow Travelers	\$164,170.00
Catamount Trail Association	\$ 9,103.00
Lake Champlain Committee	\$16,465.00
Lake Champlain Bikeways, Inc.	\$20,950.80
Town of Westmore	\$ 8,500.00
City of Rutland—Department Parks & Recreation	\$ 9,665.86
Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA)	\$10,875.00
Middlebury Area Land Trust	\$ 8,817.75
Green Mountain Horse Association, Inc.	\$ 1,821.62
Vermont Leadership Center	\$ 7,680.00
Rivendell Interstate School District	\$16,130.00
City of Vergennes	\$22,866.00
Mad River Path Association	\$11,515.00
Town of Hartford—Dept of Parks & Recreation	\$12,670.80
Jericho Underhill Park District	\$17,280.00
Vermont Leadership Center	\$ 7,680.00
Winooski Valley Park District	\$ 9,500.00
Town of Waitsfield	\$23,200.00
Green Mountain Club	\$ 5,000.00
Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union	\$20,850.00
Westford Recreation Department	\$ 5,000.00
Catamount Trail Association	\$ 2,880.00
Kingdom Trails Association	\$ 7,680.00
Moosalamoo Association	\$12,770.00
VINS North Branch Nature Center	\$ 4,765.00
Town of North Hero	\$14,000.00



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 is a new two-year pilot project under the grant program. Up to \$3,000 of funds may be set aside for mini-grants of up to \$500 each, to be available to local governments, community volunteer groups, educational institutions, civic groups, or approved non-profit organizations with recreation trails in their goals. Projects may provide training, develop a trail, or to purchase educational tools or materials. Mini-grants are payable up-front at 100 percent of the cost; no sponsor match is required. Fifteen eligible mini-grant applications were received requesting more than \$13,6000 in grant funds. **Organizations receiving mini-grants:**

City of South Burlington	\$500.00
Lake Parker Association, Inc.	\$500.00
Catamount Trails Association	\$480.00
Middlebury Rec. Department	\$335.14
Kingdom Trail Association	\$500.00
Lake Champlain Committee	\$378.00
The Nature Museum, Grafton	\$500.00

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 Sherry Smecker at the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, 103 South Main Street, Building 10 South, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0604, or call (802) 241-3690. E-mail ssmecker@fpr.anr.state.vt.us



Member News



Grand Opening of Wilder Bike Path. Photo courtesy VTrans.

VT Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning & Design Manual

The VT Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is seeking public comment on the draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Manual. The Manual contains planning and design guidance on such topics as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, shared bikeways, shared use paths (formerly bike paths), rail trails, rails-with-trails, and techniques for accommodating equestrian, snowmobile and other non-traditional path users.

Upon adoption by VTrans, the design manual will become a comprehensive hands-on guide for development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Vermont. The manual was developed with the assistance of a consultant and a multi-disciplinary steering committee over the past two years. The manual will be available April 15th in both hard copy and digital format.

VTrans will be hosting a series of public outreach meetings (listed below) to seek public comments on the document. **Public comments will be accepted until July 15, 2002.** If you would like a copy of the manual or would like directions to an outreach meeting site, please contact Amy Bell, at (802) 828-5799, amy.bell@state.vt.us or Jon Kaplan (802) 828-0059, jon.kaplan@state.vt.us or in writing at VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, National Life Bldg., Drawer 33 Montpelier, VT 05633-5001. The manual will be available on the web at www.aot.state.vt.us/projdev/Sections/LTF/LTF.htm.

Public outreach meetings

- Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m.—St. Albans
- Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.—Hartland
- Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.—Montpelier
- Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.—South Royalton
- Tuesday, May 7, 9 a.m.—South Burlington
- Wednesday, May 15, 12 p.m.—Morrisville
- Monday, June 17, 4:30 p.m.—Brattleboro
- Thursday, June 20, 4:00 p.m.—Arlington

Middlebury College “Cat Mappers” GPS the Catamount Trail

Lenore Budd, CTA Trail Manager

During the month of January, 10 Middlebury College students enthusiastically tackled the job of mapping the northern sections of the Catamount Trail using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. Required to take on a January term project, these geography students, several of whom are on the Middlebury College Ski Team, were happy to spend several weeks skiing in the service of the Catamount Trail Association. The collaborative effort was organized by Lenore Budd, CTA’s Trail Manager, and Bill Hegman, a geography instructor at Middlebury College. Bill recalls, “The project started with two enthusiastic students interested in something different for January term. When the word got out around the geography department that they would be skiing from Canada to Middlebury, I had lots of other students lining up at my door.”

The project involved a lot more than skiing, however. The students had to work out all the logistics including transportation, housing, and equipment, in addition to becoming proficient with the GPS units and the mapping software. Not only did the students capture the coordinates of the trail with 2-5 meter accuracy, they also captured locations of bridges, parking areas, trail register boxes, and intersections with other trails and roads. CTA will use the GPS data in conjunction with other digital data to produce its next edition of the trail guidebook, to plan trail re-routes and trail protection efforts, and to improve its landowner records.

Next year, another group of “Cat Mappers” will GPS the rest of the Catamount Trail from Middlebury south to the Massachusetts border. Meanwhile, a few students are continuing to assist the CTA by printing a variety of maps that show the Catamount Trail relative to conserved lands in the state and to property boundaries for towns where that information is available digitally. CTA appreciates the effort and talent of Bill and his “Cat Mappers” as well as the use of Middlebury College’s state-of-the-art equipment.



Adam George and Raena Schraer on Bolton to Trapps section of the Catamount Trail. Photo courtesy CTA.

Member News

New sections of Catamount Trail for fall 2002

Lenore Budd, CTA Trail Manager
www.catamounttrail.org

By the time the snow flies next winter, the Catamount Trail Association will have added 11 miles of new trail to the Catamount Trail. In August, a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew will work with Green Mountain National Forest staff and CTA staff and volunteers to cut approximately seven miles of trail in the Green Mountain National Forest in Winhall and Peru between Routes 30 and 11. The Vermont Recreation Trails Fund is providing funding for six small bridges along this section.

In October, CTA staff and volunteers, working with GMNF staff, will open up approximately four miles of new trail between Lincoln Gap and the Sugarbush Golf Course in Warren. In the planning stages for many years, this route will largely take advantage of existing trails and old logging roads as it traverses a combination of federally and privately owned land.



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 annual meeting:

Thursday, May 16, 2002
Green Mountain Horse Association
South Woodstock, VT

For more information call
Ben Rose, 802-244-7037

Green Mountain Club Update, Spring 2002

Ben Rose, GMC Executive Director
www.greenmountainclub.org



Here comes another hiking season! In the last issue of this newsletter, I reported on GMC's major projects during the summer and fall of 2001. Here are some of the projects we hope to work on during the fast-approaching 2002 hiking season:

Trail projects:

- Rebuild portions of Mount Mansfield's Sunset Ridge and Haselton Trails, Lake Mansfield Trail, and the Monroe Trail on Camel's Hump
- Build a new footbridge on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail over Black Brook near the Kelley Stand Road
- Replace the stairs of Bald Mountain's firetower in Westmore, with work provided by the volunteers of GMC's Northeast Kingdom Section
- Repair and improve drainage on the Elephant's Head Trail, which will become the new white-blazed route of the Long Trail, north of Mt. Mansfield, thus replacing a long and dangerous road-walk on Route 108 in Smuggler's Notch.

Shelter projects:

- Replace Lost Pond Shelter in Mt. Tabor. Lost Pond Shelter burned in fall 2001, with arson possibly the cause
- Attempt to save Emily Proctor Shelter in the Breadloaf Wilderness by repairing its badly rotten sill logs
- Build a new shelter to replace Gorham Lodge (which became structurally unsound during the heavy snows of 2001 and was burned last fall) on the north slope of Camel's Hump (currently under permit review)
- Build a much-needed lean-to south of Route 4 in Killington (currently under permit review).

New Day Hikers' Guide to Vermont coming soon!

Some time this May or June, go to your favorite bookstore (or check out www.greenmountainclub.org, or call GMC) to pick up a copy of the long-awaited new edition of the Day Hikers' Guide to Vermont, companion guidebook to The Long Trail Guide. The new edition, featuring 50 colorful maps and over 200 hikes throughout the state and "beyond the Long Trail," will be on bookstore shelves before the last of the north-facing snow melts away!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and adventurous summer!

Trail News

The Vermont Trails System

What is it and who can be a part of it?



The Mad River Greenway, part of the Vermont Trails System. Photo by Jennifer Waite.

In 1994, the Vermont Legislature formally recognized the value of trails for recreation and transportation by passing the Vermont Trails System Act. In addition to making funds available for development and maintenance of trails, the legislation also established the Vermont Trails System.

“In order to provide access to the use and enjoyment of outdoor areas of Vermont, to conserve and use the natural resources of this state for healthful and recreational purposes, and to provide transportation from one place to another, it is declared to be the policy of this state to provide the means for maintaining and improving a network of trails to be known as the Vermont Trails System...The Vermont Trail System shall consist of those individual trails rec-

ognized by the Agency of Natural Resources with the advice of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council.”

There are two major benefits to being a part of the Vermont Trails System:

- 1) Your trail becomes part of a larger system that, in its entirety, is important to the recreation, transportation, quality of life, and economy of our state. Each designated trail receives a Vermont Trails System certificate.
- 2) Trails that are part of the Vermont Trails System enjoy an added level of liability protection under 10 V.S.A. Section 448: “No public or private owner of land which is part of the Vermont Trails System shall be liable for any property damage or personal injuring sustained by any person using these trails unless the public or private owner intention-

ally inflicts damage or injury.”

To be a part of the system, your trail must:

- be an existing trail;
- be on public land, land owned by a non-profit, or on private land with an easement, written permission or verified verbal permission;
- have a management/maintenance sponsor;
- be open to public access (subject to designated uses and relevant laws and regulations).

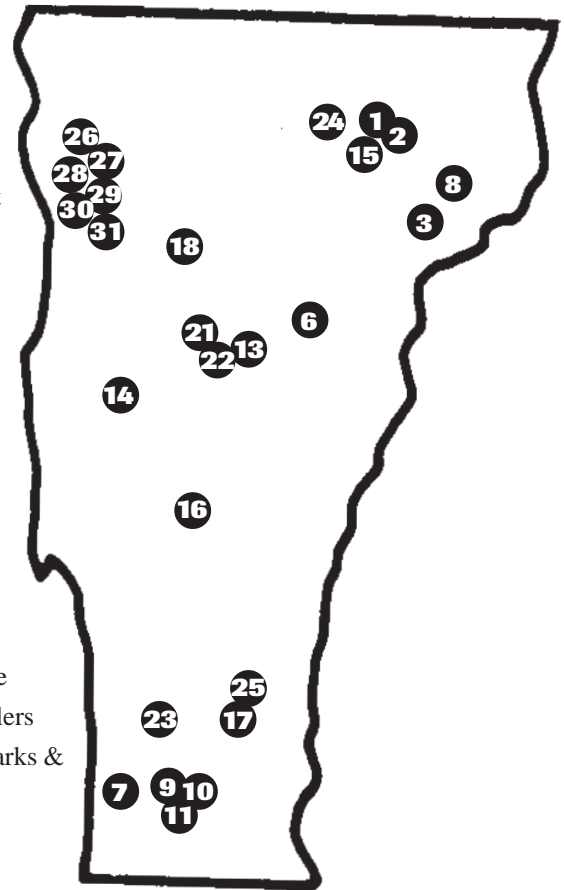
A simple one-page application form is available from Jean Neill, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, at 241-3670, jneill@fpr.anr.state.vt.us. Applications are then reviewed and voted on by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council.

continued on next page

Trail News

Current members of the Vermont Trails System

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Trail Manager</u>
1 Bald Mountain Long Pond Trail	Westmore Association
2 Bald Mountain North Trail	Westmore Association
3 Bluff Mountain Community Trail	Vermont Leadership Center, NEKCSC
4 Catamount Trail System	Catamount Trail Association
5 Cross-Vermont Trail	Cross Vt Trail Association
6 East Montpelier Sparrow Farm Trail	East Montpelier Trails
7 Equinox Trails	Mt. Equinox Preservation Trust
8 Gore Mountain Trail	NEKCSC or Kingdom Corps
9 Haystack Mountain Long Pond Trail	Westmore Association
10 Haystack Mountain South Trail	Westmore Association
11 Haystack Mountain to Long Pond Trail	Westmore Association
12 Long Trail System	Green Mountain Club
13 Mad River Greenway	Mad River Path Association
14 Trail Around Middlebury	Middlebury Area Land Trust
15 Mount Pisgah East Trail—Long Pond	Westmore Association
16 Pittsford Trail Network	Pittsford Trail Committee
17 Putney Mountain Trails	Putney Mountain Association
18 Richmond Rivershore Trail	Richmond Land Trust and Richmond Rec. Path Committee
19 VAST Trail System	VT Association of Snow Travelers
20 Vermont State Lands Trails	Vermont Department Forests Parks & Recreation
21 Waitsfield Millbrook Trail	Mad River Path Association
22 Waitsfield Village Path	Mad River Path Association
23 West River Trail	Friends of the West River Trail
24 Westmore Town Forest Trails	Town of Westmore Conservation & Westmore Association
25 Windmill Hill—Jamie Latham Trail	Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association
26 WVPD Delta Park Trail	Winooski Valley Park District
27 WVPD Ethan Allen Homestead	Winooski Valley Park District
28 WVPD Muddy Brook Park Trails	Winooski Valley Park District
29 WVPD Old Mill Park Trails	Winooski Valley Park District
30 WVPD Winooski Nature Trail & Salmon Hole Park	Winooski Valley Park District
31 WVPD Woodside Nature Area Trails	Winooski Valley Park District



Statewide Trails Systems not shown on map.

- 4 Catamount Trail System
- 5 Cross-Vermont Trail
- 12 Long Trail System
- 19 VAST Trail System
- 20 Vermont State Lands Trails

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



**Vermont Trails and
Greenways Council**

2002-2003 VERMONT TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership extends annually from June 1 - May 31

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
- Statewide** \$30
- Regional** \$25
- 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 the Recreation & Trails Administrative Assistant, 802-241-3690. Thank You!