

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Town Forest Committee

Key Attribute #:

8 9 12

Need #:

1 4 5

Estimated Cost:

\$

Timing:

Short-Term

Hardwick's town forests are well-loved community assets (and rightfully so!) with many passionate users, volunteers, and partner organizations and institutions, each with a vested interest in the management of the lands.

At present, the forests are managed collaboratively across owners and partners, but there is little formal structure to guide this collaboration. The Hardwick Trails Committee has often taken the lead, but with increasing demands for trail management and other management matters (timber management and other forest products, conservation, education, the balance of uses, etc.) an overarching town forest committee is becoming necessary. This need is further heightened by the planned improvements at Buffalo Mountain.

The committee should incorporate a variety of perspectives from across the community. It should include representatives from Hardwick Trails, Hazen Union School, Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, the Hardwick selectboard, and other townspeople as interested or deemed necessary by the town. Since Hardwick does not have a town conservation commission, a committee with a focus on conservation would be beneficial for Hardwick's town forests.

The town forest committee could also develop management plans for the two forests. Management zones, to balance the many uses of the forest, would be an important part of these management plans.

### Responsibility:

Town

### Partners Involved:

Trails Committee

### Planning Required:

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### Funding Opportunities:

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### Toolkit Resources

Vermont Town Forest  
Stewardship Guide

Natural Resource  
Guidance Toolkit

Management Zones  
Toolkit

