

Trail Network Connectivity

Key Attribute #:

11

Need #:

2

6

7

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

With two town forests and many other trails in the vicinity, Hardwick has an opportunity to create numerous trail connections and become a major trail hub.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail passes a few hundred feet from the trail network at Hardwick Trails. Creating a connection between the two will bring rail trail users to the forest and create easy access from all parts of Hardwick and surrounding communities.

The Hardwick Woodbury Rail Trail runs from the Woodbury Town Forest to the base of Buffalo Mountain. By formalizing this route, adding signage, and including it on maps, more people could walk, bike, or ski between the two town forests and towns.

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center trails system is a world-class cross-country ski and mountain bike system located a few miles from Hardwick Trails. Even closer, Craftsbury maintains trails around Highland Lodge. Creating a connection from Hardwick Trails to those systems would offer an expansive, exciting skiing and biking experience right from Hardwick's village center.

Given Hardwick Trails' proximity to downtown, an access portal, or de facto trailhead, should be added there. There should be a safe access route leading to Hardwick Trails and a trail kiosk with maps and information about the trail systems. This would encourage forest users to support downtown businesses and vice versa.

These proposed connections range in difficulty, length, and cost to complete.

Responsibility:

Trails Committee

Partners Involved:

LVRT, Woodbury, Craftsbury, Town/Town Forest Committee, etc.

Planning Required:

Trails Master Plan, individual designs

Funding Opportunities:

RTP, RD, TAP, BPP, VCDP, RFG, VCF, LF, PBCG, RWJF, TCPN

Toolkit Resources

Land Conservation and Recreational Access Toolkit

Parking Considerations Toolkit

Sustainable Trail Standards

Trailhead Kiosk Volunteer Designs

