

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Pause Places

Key Attribute #:

10

12

15

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Need #:

9

10

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

Destinations are crucial to attract visitors and residents (and return trips) of all ages to the forest. Forest visitors like to have a goal to guide their forest walks. Fortunately, the Weathersfield Town Forest has a perfect destination already – the cabin.

The cabin should be restored to become a central gathering place in the forest. The cabin should be restored to support day use, educational use, and possible overnight use. The forest should explore a partnership with the Vermont Huts Association for management of such use. The cabin area should also have picnic tables, interpretive signage around the history of the forest and cabin, and an outdoor fire pit (away from the cabin!) to accommodate groups and individuals visiting the cabin.

Throughout the forest, the town should install “pause places.” Pause places are rest and/or informational stops for forest users to take a break, appreciate the scenery, and learn about the forest. Like the cabin, these pause places act as mini-destinations, making forest visits more exciting, rejuvenating, and interesting. These pause places should be placed in locations with opportunities for views, birding/wildlife viewing, and natural and historical interpretation. All pause places should include a bench or appropriate rocks/boulders for seating.

In locations particularly well-suited for birding/wildlife viewing, a platform should be constructed. The platform should be large enough for educational groups and should have signage displaying the local species that are frequently seen from the platform.

Responsibility:

Town Forest Steering Committee/Conservation Commission

Partners Involved:

Vermont Huts Association, Trails Collaborative, Program and educational partners

Planning Required:

Historical and natural resource research, pause place design

Funding Opportunities:

LWCF, RTC, RTP, RFG, AIG

Toolkit Resources

Pause Places Toolkit

Bench Volunteer Designs

Sustainable Facility Standards

Interpretation Guidance Toolkit

