

# Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

## Trail Network Connectivity

Key Attribute #:

2 5 7 16

Need #:

8

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium-Term

The Mt. Ascutney area has many trail networks that the Weathersfield Town Forest network should connect to.

Mt. Ascutney State Park adjoins the town forest and its extensive trail network should link to Weathersfield's. The physical connection between the two will attract more visitors to Weathersfield, especially since many state park visitors are staying overnight and looking for additional trail options. The town should continue an open dialogue with the state park around access and connectivity

The Swoops and Loops mountain bike trail network is located right near the state park entrance. A connection between that network, the state park, and the town forest would create a phenomenal mountain biking experience.

A "Trail around Mt. Ascutney" that connects all the forests and trail systems in the region has been gathering momentum. Beyond the state park mentioned above, the West Windsor Town Forest and Little Ascutney WMA have excellent trail systems and are part of the larger connected forest block. West Windsor, Windsor, and Weathersfield are also participating in a tri-town outdoor recreation plan, as the area's outdoor recreation offerings are becoming increasingly impressive and attractive to visitors. Weathersfield should actively engage in these discussions and seize opportunities to connect to these larger trail networks.

Further, Weathersfield should explore ways to connect the forest outdoor recreation to its villages. The forest is an easy walk from Ascutney village along Thrasher Road. A designated route with signage would encourage residents to visit the forest. That path would also create a safe route to the forest for Weathersfield School students.

### Responsibility:

Town Forest Steering Committee/  
Conservation Commission

### Partners Involved:

Trails Collaborative, UVTA, ATA, STAB, GMHA, local builder/users

### Planning Required:

Trails Master Plan (not required, but helps)

### Funding Opportunities:

BCP, BPP, RTP, RTC, RD, TAP, BPP, VCDP, RFG, VCF, BCP, MPG, LF, PBCG, AIG, RWJF,

### Toolkit Resources

Land Conservation and Recreational Access Toolkit

Sustainable Trail Standards

