

Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning

Access Paths and Connections

Key Attribute #:

7 17 22

Need #:

2 6

Estimated Cost:

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Timing:

Medium/Long-Term

The proximity of the town forest to the village center offers incredible potential for economic and educational benefits. The proposed forest trailhead kiosk is about a quarter mile from the village center and only slightly further from the Elementary School. Visitors to the forest could easily walk into the village and vice versa and students could easily walk to the forest for field trips as well. However, currently one would need to cross state Highway 14 against traffic and walk along the highway's narrow shoulder to reach the forest. Especially with large groups of students potentially walking back and forth, a formal access path should be created.

For the access path, the town and Conservation Commission should work with VTrans to develop a wide, protected walking path. The path could either be attached to the road with a small buffer or separate but within the ROW. The town should also work with VTrans on enhancing the crossing at Cabot Road and 14. Signage should be posted at the crossing and all along the route, with signs that warn drivers of pedestrians and encourage them to slow down and signs directing Woodbury visitors or passthroughs to the forest.

Another connection opportunity for the Woodbury Town Forest is to Hardwick. The Hardwick-Woodbury Rail Trail runs from Hardwick directly to the Woodbury Town Forest. At present, the trail is relatively unknown and has no online presence. Woodbury should work with Hardwick on promoting the trail and the recreational opportunities on either end.

Responsibility:

Conservation
Commission/Town

Partners Involved:

Town of Hardwick, VTrans

Planning Required:

Funding Opportunities:

Toolkit Resources

Vtrans Signage Program

Land Conservation and
Recreational Access
Toolkit

Sustainable Trail
Standards

