

The following spreadsheet contains all the strategies recommended to the 10 pilot towns during the initial, consultant-facilitated Town Forest planning process. The spreadsheet has tabs for each town with its list of strategies. The strategies are categorized as parking & access; trails; other facilities & structures; education & programs; events; mapping, outreach, & promotion; and administrative actions. Many strategies are repeated across the different towns, although the description, responsibility, partners, and timing are unique to each town and would likely need to be adapted for your town forest. This spreadsheet is not exhaustive – your town likely has unique needs or key attributes that will require their own strategies to achieve.

The headers for the strategies spreadsheet are explained below:

Responsibility – Who is responsible for ensuring that this strategy is implemented? For most projects, it will be the managers of the town forest (i.e., the Conservation Commission or Town Forest Stewardship Committee) although the town or school may be responsible for some actions.

Timing – When should the strategy be implemented? This is dependent on the level of community priority and the funds and planning required. Ongoing strategies are efforts the forest committee has begun working on. There is not a set time table for short, medium, and long-term but generally, short term should be accomplished in 0-3 years, medium in 3-5, and long term in 5+.

Partners Involved – Who does the responsible party need to work with to implement this strategy? The role of these partners varies from building trails, to allowing easements, to providing programming. This can be town departments, nearby landowners, land trusts, trail user groups, and program and educational partners. Program and educational partners includes local schools, outdoor education non-profits such as Four Winds Institute or Audubon, and similar groups that provide education or programming either in the forest or nearby.

Planning Required – What planning is required to implement this strategy? The necessary planning ranges from trails master planning processes to designs for a trailhead kiosk (a basic design is included in the implementation pod of this toolkit). The funding opportunities listed with this strategy can help fund the planning process.

Relative Cost – How much will this strategy cost to implement? Relative costs are provided where one dollar sign is a little to no cost project that likely can be accomplished with volunteers, a two dollar sign project is of moderate cost, three dollar signs is more expensive, and four dollar signs is very expensive. Most of these costs can be reduced with volunteer labor and grants.

Funding Opportunities – What grants are available to help fund the implementation of these strategies? All potential grants are listed in the Funding Resources Toolkit in the Implementation Pod. Acronyms are spelled out in the funding key tab of the spreadsheet.

Toolkit Resources and Pod – What toolkit resources can help the community implement this strategy?