



MINUTES

November 18, 2021 - 5:30 PM

Meeting held via ZOOM

Present: Stephanie Lane, Linda Gallagher, Nancy Faesy, Charlie Rockwell, Dixie Zens, Megan Herrington, Janet Hurley, Dana Rozycki, John LaVecchia, Jay Reichman, Sheila Kearns, Donald Campbell, Wayn Goodman, Bruce Lierman; Jim Hand, Gaye Squire, Rachel Batz (Dorset Outdoor Rec Director), Martina Barnes (GMNF District Ranger), Jared Newell (Bennington Area Trails)

Staff: Callie Fishburn, Jim Sullivan, Jonathan Cooper, Jake Gesling, Jim Henderson, Mark Anders, Bill Colvin, Allison Strohl

I. Welcome

Jim Sullivan opened the meeting at 5:32 PM and welcomed commissioners and guests in attendance. Still hoping to return to in-person meetings – some day!

II. Minutes of September 16, 2021 Meeting

Motion to approve by Campbell. Second by Lierman. Passed unanimously, with one abstention.

III. Southern Vermont CEDS Projects

Jonathan Cooper, BCRC Community and Economic Development Specialist, provided an overview of the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) objectives and project identification process (see attached presentation). Among the key objectives of the Southern Vermont CEDS: increase population, expand business infrastructure, improve physical infrastructure, enhance social infrastructure, and structure economic development capacity. Cooper noted that 224 projects have been submitted from around the region since 2019. He provided a description of funding and business opportunities associated with new pandemic response programs, and emphasized the value of submitting a project for consideration.

IV. Outdoor Recreation in the Bennington Region

Jim Sullivan provided a brief overview of outdoor recreation – what it is and how it contributes to the quality of life for residents, public health, and economic vitality. He then introduced each of the three presenters.

Rachel Batz is the Town of Dorset's Outdoor Recreation Director. She has worked with the town for two years and has developed an outdoor recreation master plan and numerous improvements to recreational resources throughout Dorset. Her presentation (attached) focused on the lands and trails that are available for recreational use in Dorset, issues and opportunities associated with each area, and efforts to ensure that everyone has access to those resources. She provided information about the nature of Dorset's recreation department and municipal and grant funding.

Martina Barnes is the District Ranger in the Manchester Office of the Green Mountain National Forest, a position she has held for the past year. The district covers 30 towns in southern Vermont. Her presentation (attached) covered the many recreational resources spread across the expansive forest lands within the National Forest: trails, campgrounds and shelters, ski areas (operated through special permits), lakes, ponds, and streams, and the many recreational opportunities available there and in undeveloped backcountry and wilderness areas. There has been a significant increase in the use of GMNF trails over the past couple of years – hiking, mountain biking, and backcountry skiing all have grown in popularity. The GMNF also is working to effectively manage ATV use on its lands. Martina described some of the infrastructure development and maintenance challenges, answered questions about some particular trail segments, and invited people to visit the Forest and contact the District office for more information.

Jared Newell is a founder of the Bennington Area Trails System (BATS) organization, a volunteer-based group that has developed an extensive network of trails on and around Mount Anthony in Bennington. His presentation (attached) reviewed the history of the BATS organization, the incremental development of the trail network, and the many partnerships that have benefited the group and the recreational resources that it has developed and manages. He discussed the uncertainty that resulted from the closing of Southern Vermont College (which owned land crossed by many of the BATS trails), the subsequent purchase of that property by Southwestern Vermont Health Care, and plans for the future. He noted constraints to future growth presented by limited funding, while also pointing to some great successes in building youth involvement and participation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Southern Vermont CEDS 2022 Project Submission Phase

Jonathan Cooper

Bennington County Regional Commission

Sarah Lang

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

October 26, 2021

BCRC 

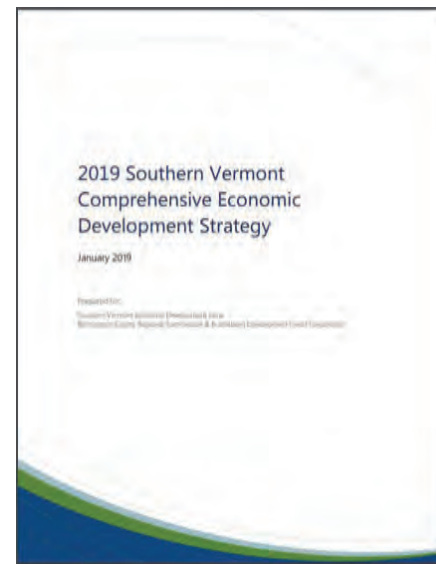


RED Group
Southwestern Vermont

SeVEDS
Advancing Southern Vermont

What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

- Comprehensive Regional Plan addresses the following areas:
 - Economy
 - Population
 - Geography
 - Workforce Development
 - Transportation Access
 - Resources
 - Environment
- View the CEDS and review the process at:
<https://brattleborodevelopment.com/2019-southern-vermont-zone-ceds/>



CEDS Objectives

Objective 1: Increase our Population

- Attract more people to live in Southern Vermont to participate in the community, the workforce, and support the business and civic environment.

Objective 2: Expand our Business Infrastructure

- Create an environment that will encourage more jobs and opportunities in Southern Vermont

CEDS Objectives

Objective 3: Improve our Physical Infrastructure

- Make the critical infrastructure improvements so that Southern Vermont is resident and business ready

Objective 4: Enhance our Social Infrastructure

- Improve quality of life and stability for residents

Objective 5: Strengthen our Economic Development Capacity

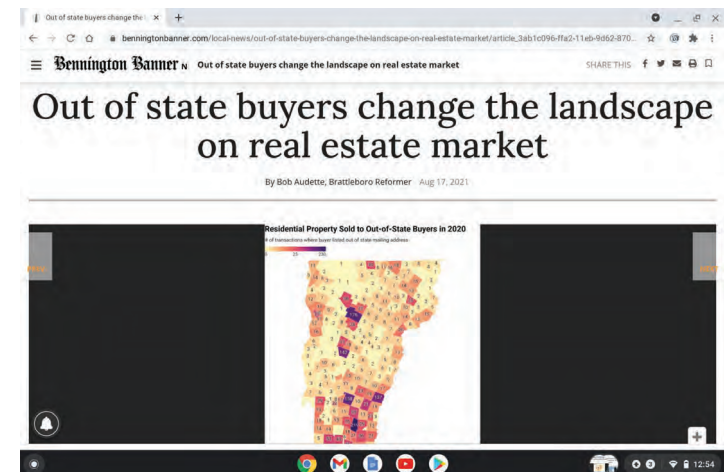
- Enhance the ability for economic development professionals and partners to play a role in implementation

Fast Facts

- Year 4 of Southern Vermont CEDS Projects submissions
- Who it involves
 - **Regional Economic Development Group** (Bennington County)
 - **Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies** (Windham County)
- SoVermont Project Ranking Committee being assembled
- Vital Projects will be announced Spring 2022
- Submissions: 224 projects submitted since 2019

Pandemic Project Response

- ARPA for towns: \$22 million
- PPP for businesses: \$200 million
- ACCD Economic Recovery: \$40.4 million
- And more to come!
 - More interest
 - More funding
 - More people
 - More stories
 - More initiatives
 - More coverage



2021 Vital Projects

- **Bennington Recreation Center Head Start/Early Head Start Addition** - Town of Bennington
- **Developing new markets and infrastructure to support Vermont farms and food producers** - Food Connects
- **Community Facilities Technical Assistance** - Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
- **Dorset Theatre Festival Outdoor Season at Southern Vermont Arts Center** - Dorset Theatre Festival
- **DVFiber** - Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD)
- **Intersecting Recreation, Environmental Education, and Food Security at Lake Paran** - Paran Recreations
- **Pipelines & Pathways Program** - Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
- **Southern Vermont Communication Union District** - SoVT Executive Committee
- **The North Barn** - Retreat Farm
- **Whitingham Sewer Infrastructure** - Town of Whitingham

What is the value of submitting my project?

- Indicates to federal agencies that your project is aligned with the region's plan to grow the economy. Some federal grantors require a CEDS to be in place
- Informs state and regional partners about your project which may help increase access to technical assistance and awareness of financial resources assistance.
- CEDS Projects: Then and Now
<https://brattleborodevelopment.com/ceds-projects-then-now/>

Why the timeline has changed?

- Calendar-year timing has new importance
 - Northern Border Regional Commission
 - ARPA Municipal Projects
 - USDA Project Pipeline
 - ACCD Project Reporting
- Better alignment for resource referrals

How to Submit a Project

Projects will be prioritized and ranked based on how each project advances the CEDS objectives, as well as:

- readiness to begin,
- partners,
- and investments made.

*Southern Vermont CEDS webpage
and Project Submission Forms:*

www.SoVermontZone.com/CEDS

CEDS Project Timeline

- Projects Submission Period: October 1-November 30, 2021
- Proposals are due no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 5:00 pm
- Project Review/Ranking Period: Winter 2021/2022
- Project Ranking Released: Spring 2022

Questions to Look Out For

- ARPA Funding:

If this is a municipally funded project which will be implemented by the Town, please indicate if the intention is to use ARPA funds.

This is a municipally funded project which will be implemented by the town with the intention of using ARPA funds

- Shovel Ready?:

Is your project ready to begin or already underway? *

Yes

No

New Project vs Project Update

New Project Submission Form:

You will use this form if you submitted your project to the 2014 Windham Region CEDS and/or never submitted a project to any CEDS

Please check here if your project was previously submitted and included in the 2014 Windham Region CEDS (2014-2018 project submissions).

My project was previously included in the 2014 Windham Region CEDS

If your project was submitted and included in the 2019 Southern Vermont CEDS (2019-2021 project submissions) then you should be using the Project Update form, which you can find here:
<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/2q6b654bb7N3c>

Project Update Form:

You will use this form if you submitted your project in 2019, 2020, and/or 2021 to the Southern Vermont CEDS

Please check here if your project was previously submitted and included in the 2019 Southern Vermont CEDS (2019-2021 project submissions). *

My project was previously included in the 2019 Southern Vermont CEDS

If you submitted a project to the 2014 Windham Region CEDS (2014-2018 project submissions) then you need to be using a New Project Submission Form, which you can find here:
<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/bKLap30SYwj519>

How do I remember if I've submitted before?

A list of all 2019, 2020, and 2021 projects can be found at the bottom of the follow webpage:

<https://www.vermontzone.com/ceds-projects>

I can't find a copy of my last submission. Where can I get a copy?

Email slang@brattleborodevelopment.com and she'll email you a document that has all project submissions



Questions and Comments

Contact for Questions

For information on CEDS Projects visit,
www.SoVermontZone.com/CEDS

For inquiries, questions and clarifications, contact:

Sarah Lang, SVEP Manager

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation,

slang@brattleborodevelopment.com

(802) 257-7731 x222

Jonathan Cooper, Community & Economic Development Specialist

Bennington County Regional Commission

jcooper@bcrcvt.org

(802) 442-0713 x 311

Intro to Outdoor Recreation

The Town of Dorset owns and manages the following properties:

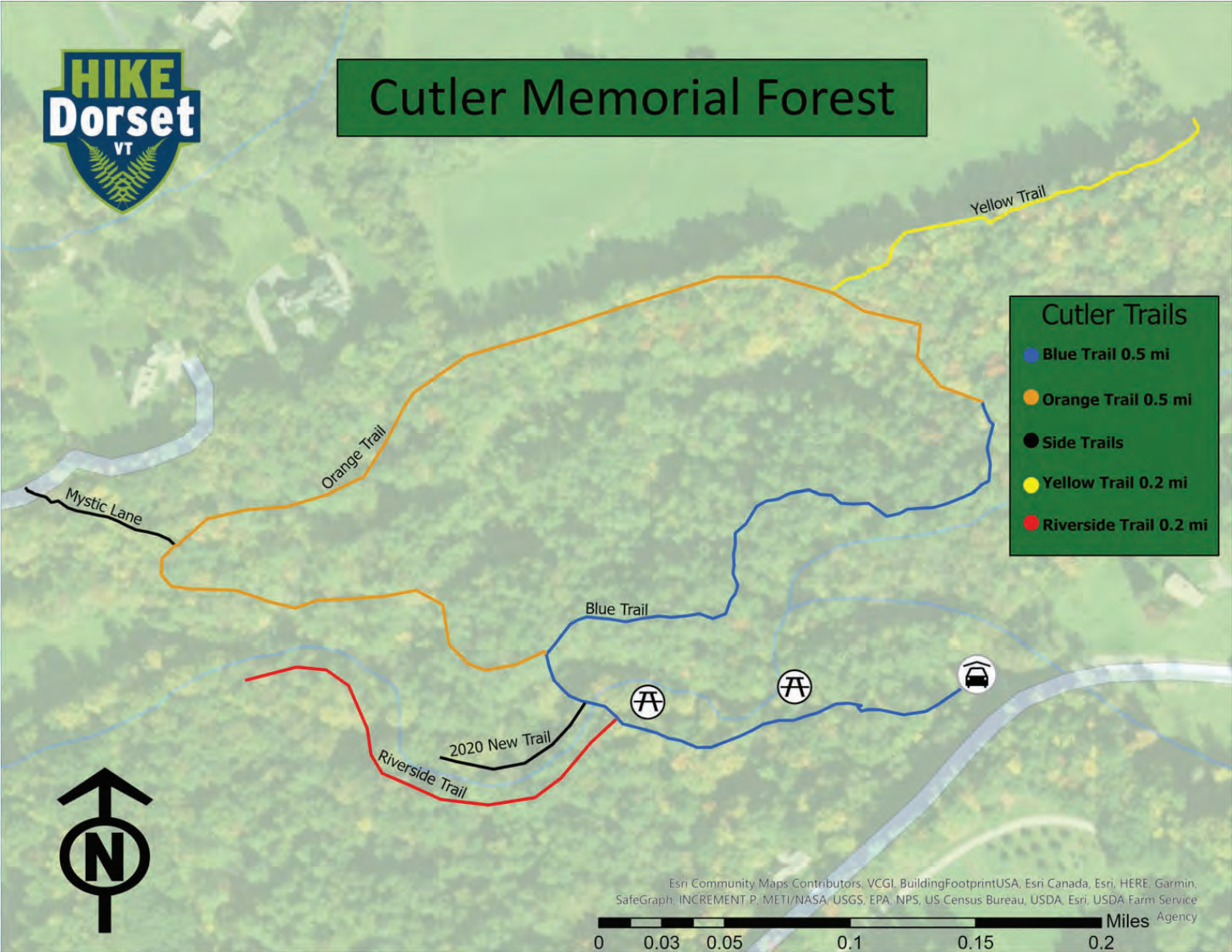
- Cutler Memorial Forest
 - Pinnacle Forest
- Owls Head Town Forest
- Raptor Lane Property
- Town Office Park [East Dorset]

Cutler Memorial Forest

- Located off Peace St, 2 miles north of the Dorset Green
- Gentle trails with newly repaired and constructed bridges, drainage, stairs, and picnic tables
- Popular location for swimming, fishing, dog walking, day trips, picnics, and family-friendly hikes
- Concerns: dogs off leash, dog waste removal, litter, man-made dams disrupting the waterway, and heavy use in the summer months
- What can YOU do to help: Join the Trails Association, keep your dogs on leash, clean up after your dogs, come back another time if the park is crowded, educate other users around you



Cutler Memorial Forest



Cutler Trails

- Blue Trail 0.5 mi
- Orange Trail 0.5 mi
- Side Trails
- Yellow Trail 0.2 mi
- Riverside Trail 0.2 mi

Esri Community Maps Contributors, VCGI, BuildingFootprintUSA, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Esri, USDA Farm Service Agency

0 0.03 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 Miles

Pinnacle Forest

- Main Access is on Pinnacle Lane, 1 mile north of the Dorset Green. BUT there is a new access point we are currently creating an agreement for that will open an access path that leads from Dorset Village Lane (Parking at the Green)
- 1-mile loop that goes along the skirt of the hill. The trails are historical and were originally built by Cecelia deNottbeck. There are also several different ways to reach the tower—quick or more steady
- Popular location for family hikes, history buffs, dog walkers, runners, and a GREAT spot for a picnic or outing.
- Concerns: dogs off leash, dog waste removal, fires/burning at the tower, access/limited parking, tower upkeep, and mowing around the tower
- What can YOU do to help: Join the Trails Association, keep your dogs on leash, clean up after your dogs, come back another time if the park is crowded, educate other users around you



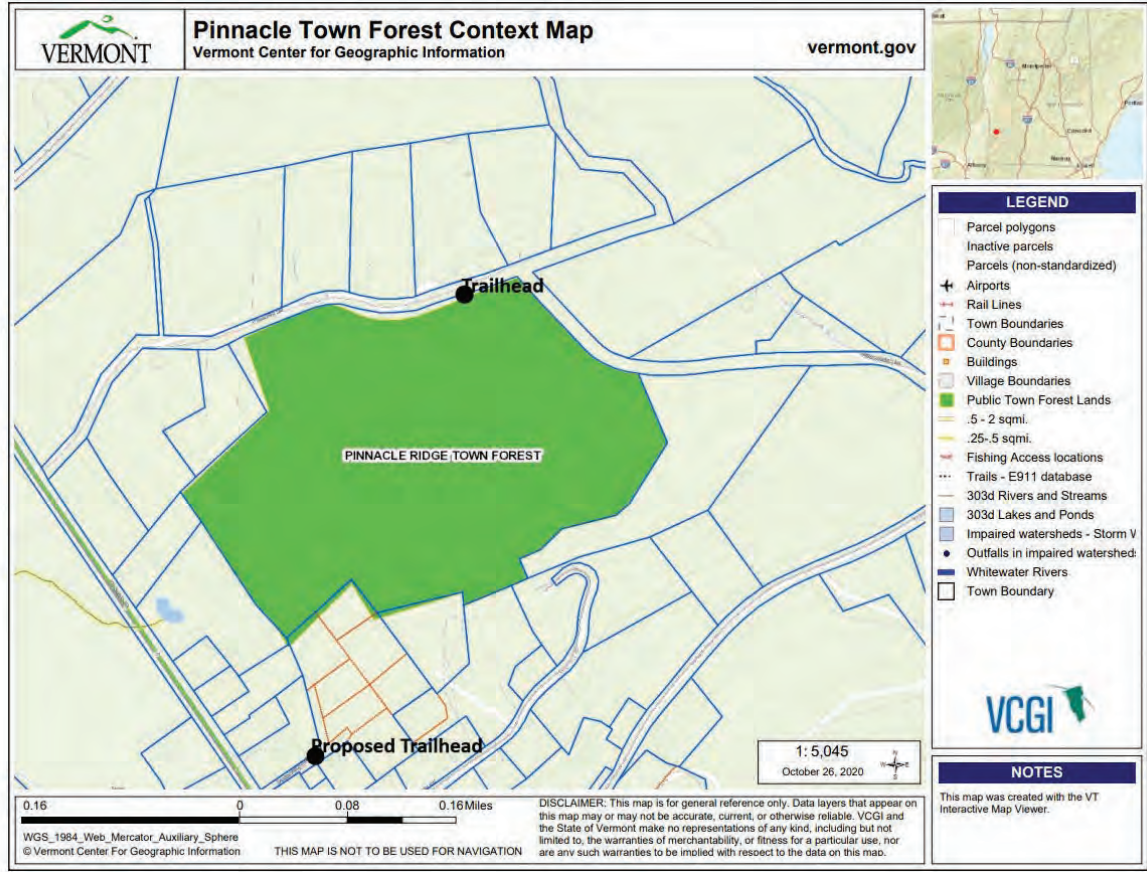
Pinnacle Forest



Pinnacle Town Forest Context Map

Vermont Center for Geographic Information

vermont.gov



The Pinnacle Tower

This hill overlooking Dorset Village has long been known as the Pinnacle, and this edifice as the Pinnacle Tower. Now, however, the Tower is generally referred to as "The Pinnacle."

Cecilia de Nottbeck settled in Dorset partly because of the beautiful landscape, which reminded her of the English landscape. Only one thing was lacking: castle ruins. So, in 1910, Cecilia remedied the situation by building this tower.

Originally, there was a roof on the Tower, but never any stairs. The Tower was built for no practical purpose, and is what architects call a "folly."

The Town of Dorset maintains the tower in order to help preserve it for future generations. The Tower is a moment of history that stands majestically stoic as the landscape and environment around it changes and grows. It also stands as a memorial to the unique woman who helped shape the community of Dorset, Vermont.



The Tower under construction in 1910.



The Tower from a distance. Cecilia's barn and The Manor can also be seen.



There are 6 stations throughout the park that visitors can learn from!

Cecilia de Nottbeck

Between 1892 and 1912, Cecilia De Nottbeck (1854—1933) purchased seven farms to create a large estate. She built a large mansion and an enormous barn on the site, and created a trail system intended for walking, horseback riding and driving her electric car.

Most of the land was bounded by Route 30 to the west, the Hollow Road to the south, the Mettawee River to the east, and Peace Street to the north. She also own what she called "The Farm," several hundred acres along Kirby Hollow Road, near the Long Trail School.

Cecilia de Nottbeck lived in New York City for most of the year, and traveled to Vermont with her long-time friends, the Althouse sisters. Cecilia was a great-granddaughter of John Jacob Astor, and had inherited some of his wealth. Her companion was Harriet Louise Edwards, the great-granddaughter of famed minister Jonathan Edwards. They also lived with the Althouse sisters here and in Manhattan.

She was drawn to Dorset partly by the landscape, and partly because of the leaders of the Dorset Church. A devout Christian, she felt in spiritual alignment with the Dorset congregants. She wrote two religious books in 1907.

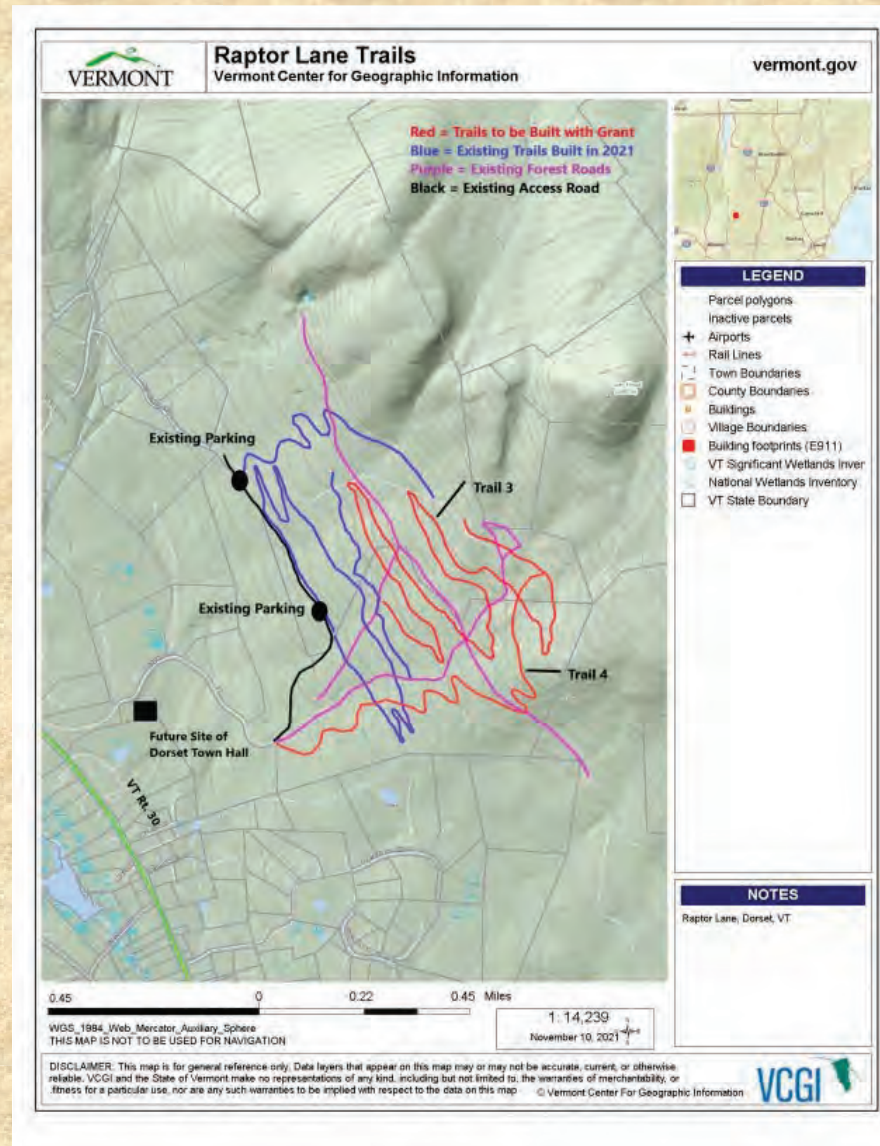


Interpretive History Signage was added in 2021 at Pinnacle Forest Park!

Owls Head Town Forest

- Owls Head Town Forest is accessible via Raptor Lane Property or JK Adams Kitchen Store Parking Lot
- Owls Head Town Forest is a 282-acre forest that is home to historic marble quarries, 2 lookouts, 6.5 miles of trail, and unique forest ecosystems
- Popular spot for hiking, cross country skiing, trail running, photography, hunting, snowshoeing, and more!
- Concerns: Heavier use, trail to Gilbert's Lookout needs to be re-routed due to erosion and poor trail condition, parking has changed, and invasive impacts to wildlife and the forest ecosystems
- What YOU can do to help: Join the Trails Association, volunteer, clean up after dogs, DO NOT hike trails when they are closed for rainy season,

NATS
(Northshire
Area Trails
Association)
and the
Town of
Dorset have
partnered up
to build new
mountain
biking/multi-
use trails in



In 2021, with
the help of
volunteers
and paid
workers, 4
miles of bike
trails were
built in Owl
Head Town
Forest.
We are



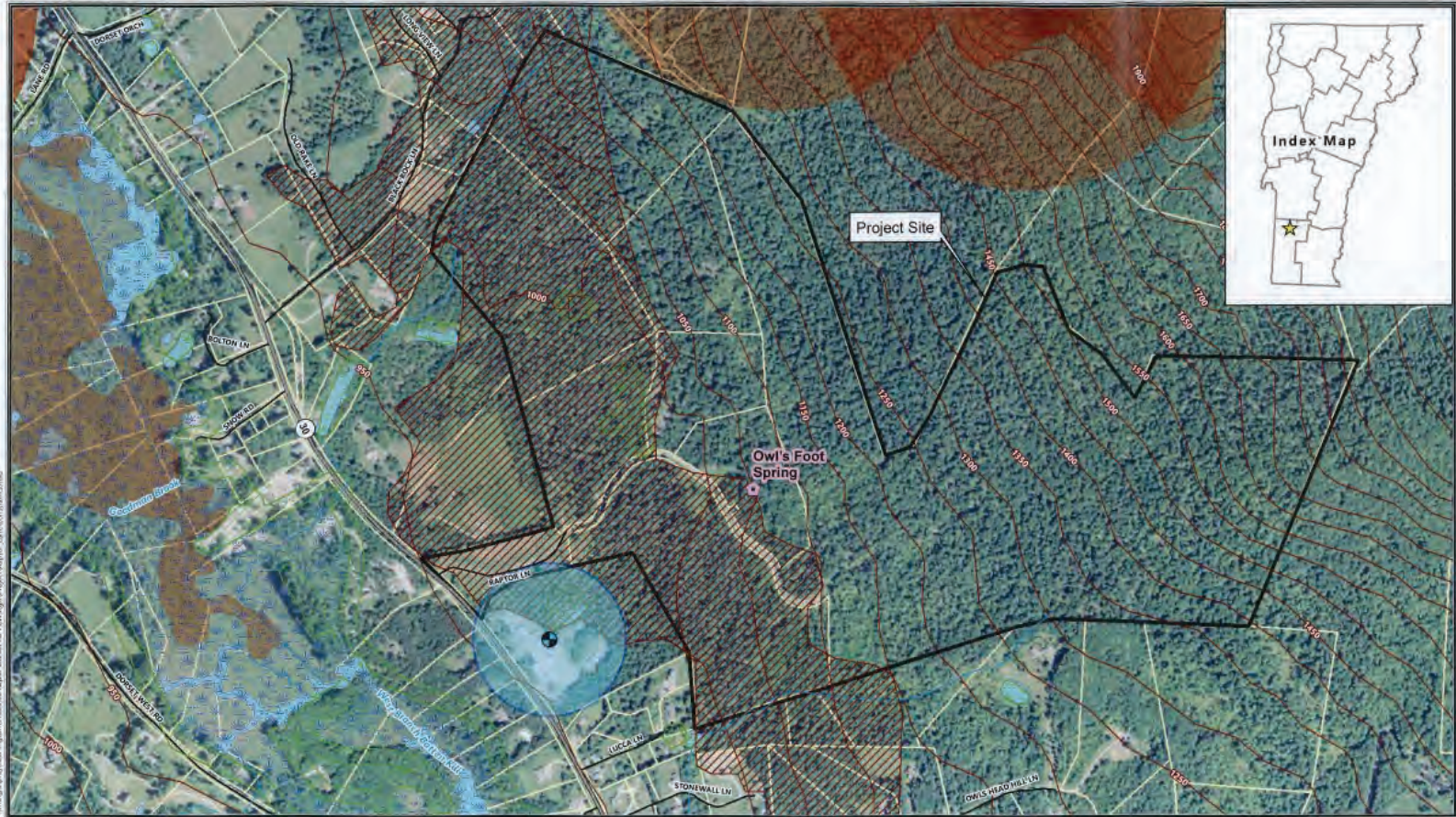
Raptor Lane Town Property

Newest land acquired by the town in 2018! 328-acres property that attaches to the Owls Head Town Forest

Raptor Lane is the access point for Owls Head Town Forest trails: the end of the lane and the Hawks Pass Trailhead

Great spot to walk the road, access the new multi-use trail, or begin a longer hike

The property has so much potential and future uses!

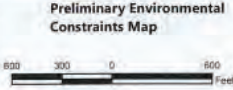


- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Deer Wintering Area | spring | VSWI Wetland | Waterbody (VHD) |
| RTE Communities | Public Water Source (VCGI) | Class 1 | Stream (VHD) |
| Local Road (VTRANS) | WHPA (VCGI) | Class 2 | Order 1-4 |
| Parcel Boundary (VCGI) | | Class 3 | Order 5-6 |
| | | Buffer | Order 7-9 |

Kepler / Raptor Lane

Dorset, VT

Source Info:
 VT DEC - Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
 VCGI - Vermont Center for Geographic Information
 VTRANS - GISNet or digitized by VTRANS
 VHD - Vermont Hydrography Dataset




Preliminary Environmental Constraints Map

V:\InformationSystems\GIS\Projects\2019\05\Kepler_Raptor_Lane\MapDocs\MapDocs.mxd

Freedleyville Quarry [Trail]

- The road to Freedleyville Quarry is a class 4 road/trail that the Town of Dorset has right-of-way.
- The actual Freedleyville Quarry is accessible but can be dangerous and all recreators should be careful!
- Concerns: 4WD vehicles damaging the trails, heavy spray paint vandalism, litter vandalism, broken bottles/cans, and fires, cars driving fast on Dorset Hill Road
- How can YOU help? Trails Association, Clean-up days, Volunteer, if you see this kind of activity: report it to the police or email hikedorset@gmail.com

tread lightly!
VT




PRIVATE ROAD
NO OUTLET
NO TURNAROUND

FIND MORE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS AT TREADLIGHTLY.ORG

treadlightly!

tread lightly!
VT




UNMAINTAINED ROAD AHEAD
HIGH CLEARANCE
4WD
RECOMMENDED

FIND MORE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS AT TREADLIGHTLY.ORG

treadlightly!


tread lightly!
VT




TRAIL TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES
MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PROCESS

FIND MORE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS AT TREADLIGHTLY.ORG

treadlightly!



PLEASE tread lightly!
IN DORSET VT



Travel responsibly.
Ride on designated roads, trails and areas and only in areas open to your mode of transportation. Go over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trail. Limit group to 10 vehicles or less.

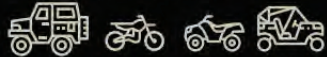
Respect the rights of others.
Leave gates as you found them and always ask for permission to ride on private property.

Educate yourself.
Make sure your vehicle is mechanically up to the task and you're prepared for emergencies.

Avoid sensitive areas.
Such as meadows, lakeshores, animal habitats, archaeological, historical, cultural and paleontological sites.

Do your part.
Pack out all trash and leave the area better than you found it.

RIDE ON DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS
TREAD LIGHTLY! ON YOUR PUBLIC LAND



FIND MORE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS AT TREADLIGHTLY.ORG

treadlightly!

Other Places to Recreate

- Green Mountain National Forest Land
- The Nature Conservancy Land *
- Church Street Mountain Biking Trails
- VAST Trails
- Manchester Rail Trail
- DH Rail Trail
- Emerald Lake State Park
- Merck Forest and Farmland Center

Green Mountain National Forest

- There are 3,218-acres of remote backcountry GMNF land in Dorset
- Trails in Dorset are mostly old logging roads, mountain biking trails, and multi-use trails (like VAST)
- Dorset Peak trail can be accessed in the Dorset Hollow at the end of Tower Road (off the Hollow Roads)
- Grouse Lane Mountain Biking trails can be accessed off Grouse Lane, with parking at the end of Tower Road
- Great variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in GMNF
- With limited funding in the Recreation Department of the National Forest does limit the scope of work done for maintenance, additional trails, and infrastructure



Green Mountain National Forest

Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project

Activities Map
 Alternatives B
 Figure A - I



Legend

- DPVistas
- Summits
- 100ft Contours
- ATLT
- Forest Trails
- Existing non-FS System Trail

Forest Roads

- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dirt or Unimproved Road

Public Roads

- State Road
- County Road
- Local Road

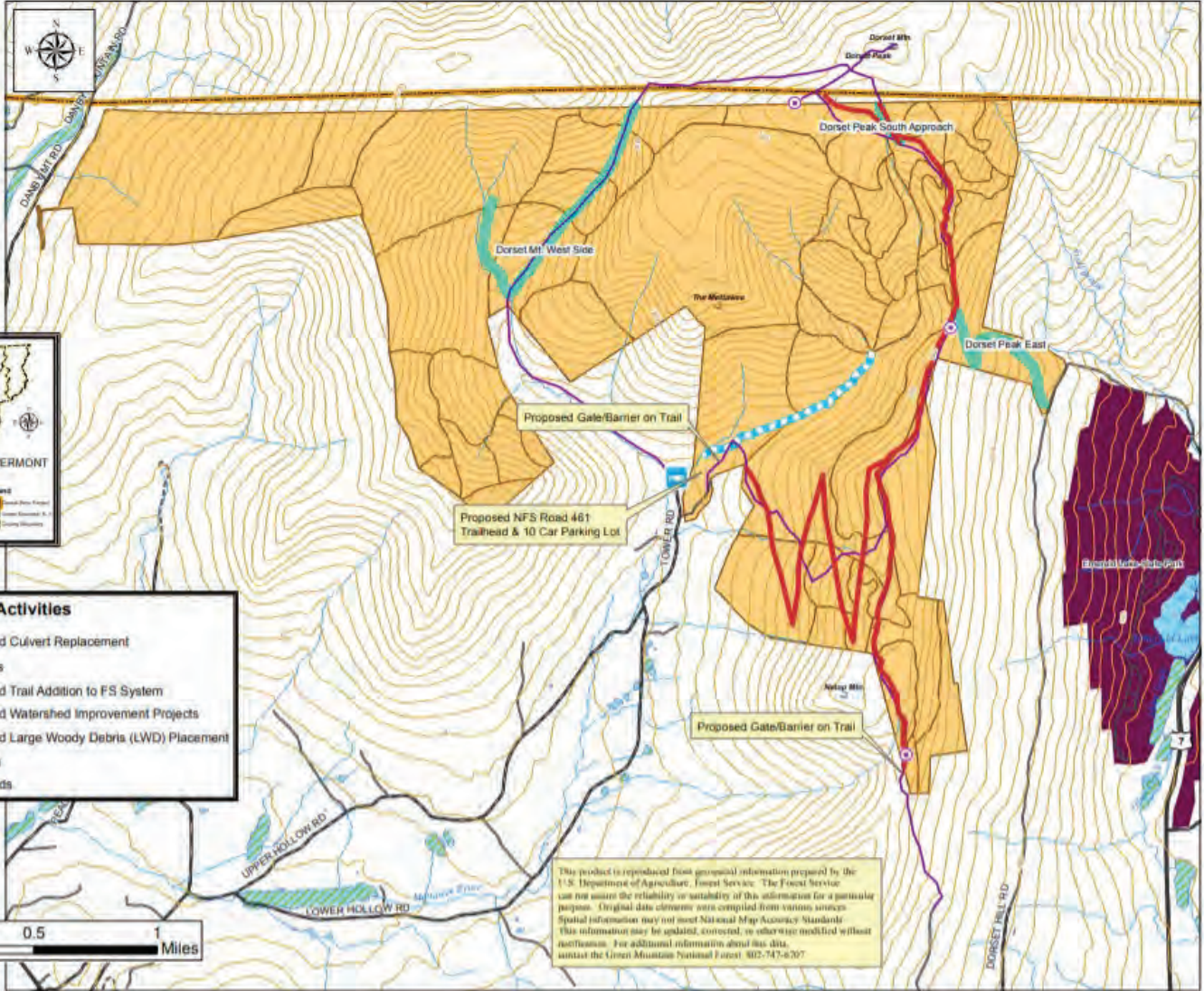
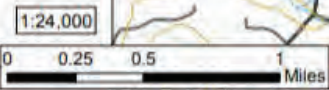
Vermont Significant Wetland NEW CLASS

- Class 1 wetland
- Class 2 wetland
- Class 3 wetland
- Uplands (non-wetland)
- Water
- Marsh
- Lake/Pond
- Double-line Rivers
- Flowing Water
- Remote Backcountry Forest
- Green Mountain National Forest
- State Park
- State Forest



Proposed Activities

- Proposed Culvert Replacement
- DPVistas
- Proposed Trail Addition to FS System
- Proposed Watershed Improvement Projects
- Proposed Large Woody Debris (LWD) Placement
- Summits
- DP Stands



This product is reproduced from geospatial information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The Forest Service can not ensure the reliability or suitability of this information for a particular purpose. Original data derives from various sources. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated, corrected, or otherwise modified without notification. For additional information about this data, contact the Green Mountain National Forest, 802-747-6707.

North American Datum (NAD) 1983 Zone 18N

The Nature Conservancy

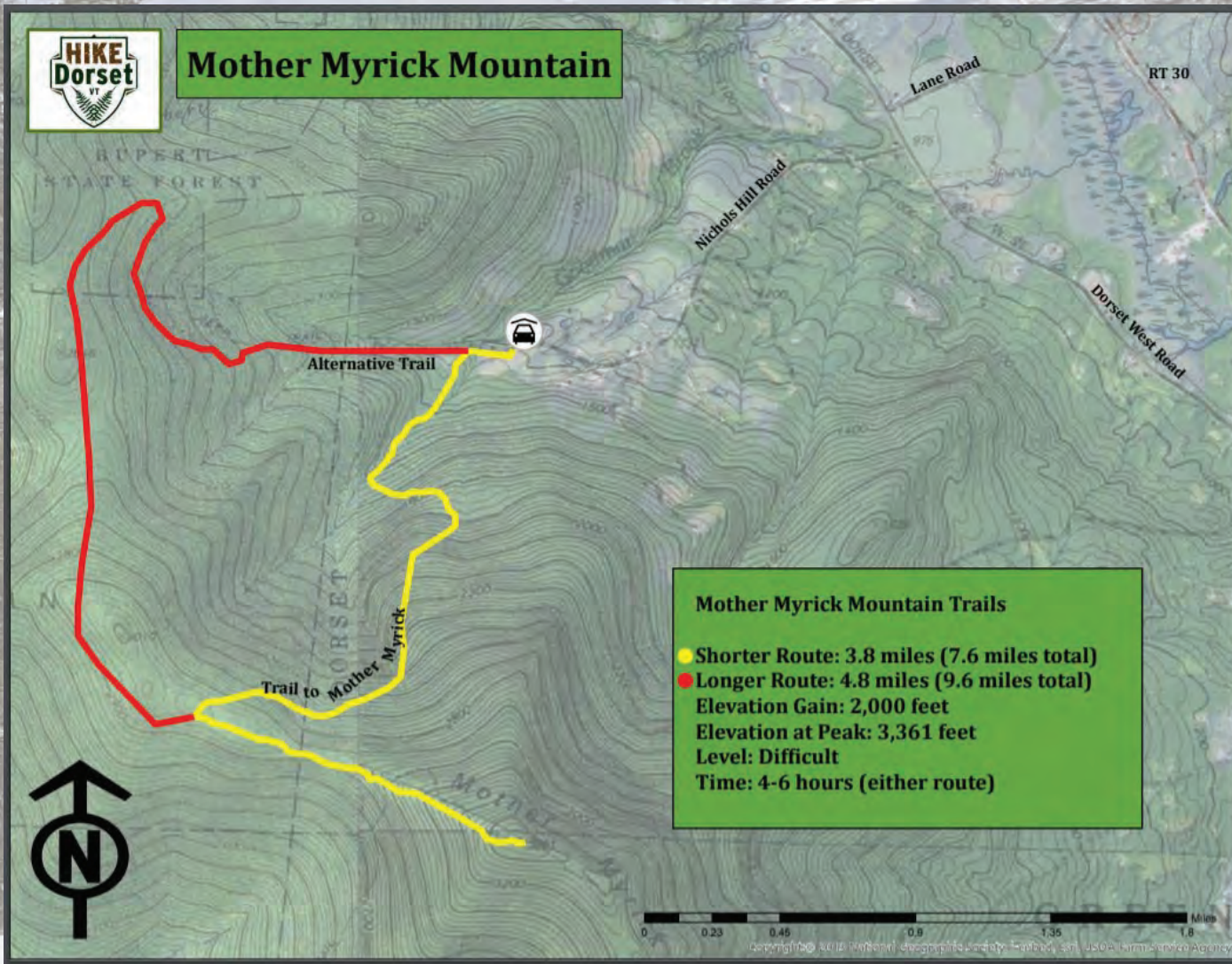
- Several large Nature Conservancy-owned properties in/near Dorset
- Haystack Mountain in Pawlet, VT
- Folsom/Aeolous Property off Dorset Hill Road
- Mother Myrick Mountain area off Nichols Hill Road
- Equinox Highlands Natural Area Pew Trail (off 3 Maple Dr)
- Important Notes: Nature Conservancy lands do not allow dogs and the Bat Cave area that is above Folsom Quarry is protected and use like AWD vehicles are damaging. Please refer to Nature Conservancy regulations.

Mother Myrick





Mother Myrick Mountain



Mother Myrick Mountain Trails

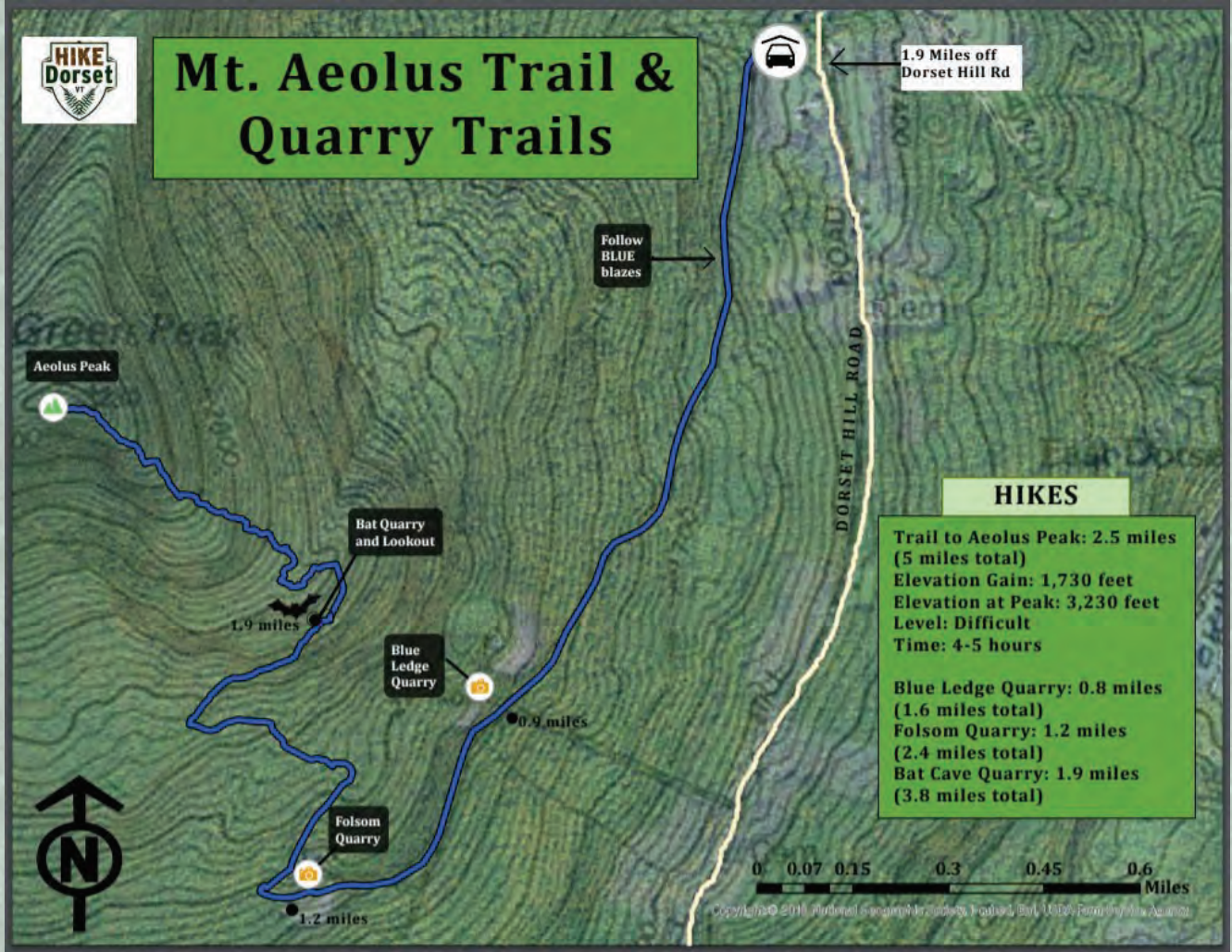
- Shorter Route: 3.8 miles (7.6 miles total)
- Longer Route: 4.8 miles (9.6 miles total)
- Elevation Gain: 2,000 feet
- Elevation at Peak: 3,361 feet
- Level: Difficult
- Time: 4-6 hours (either route)

0 0.23 0.46 0.9 1.35 1.8 Miles

Copyright © 2010, National Geographic Society, The Geo. S. Haynes Co., USDA, Farm Service Agency



Mt. Aeolus Trail & Quarry Trails

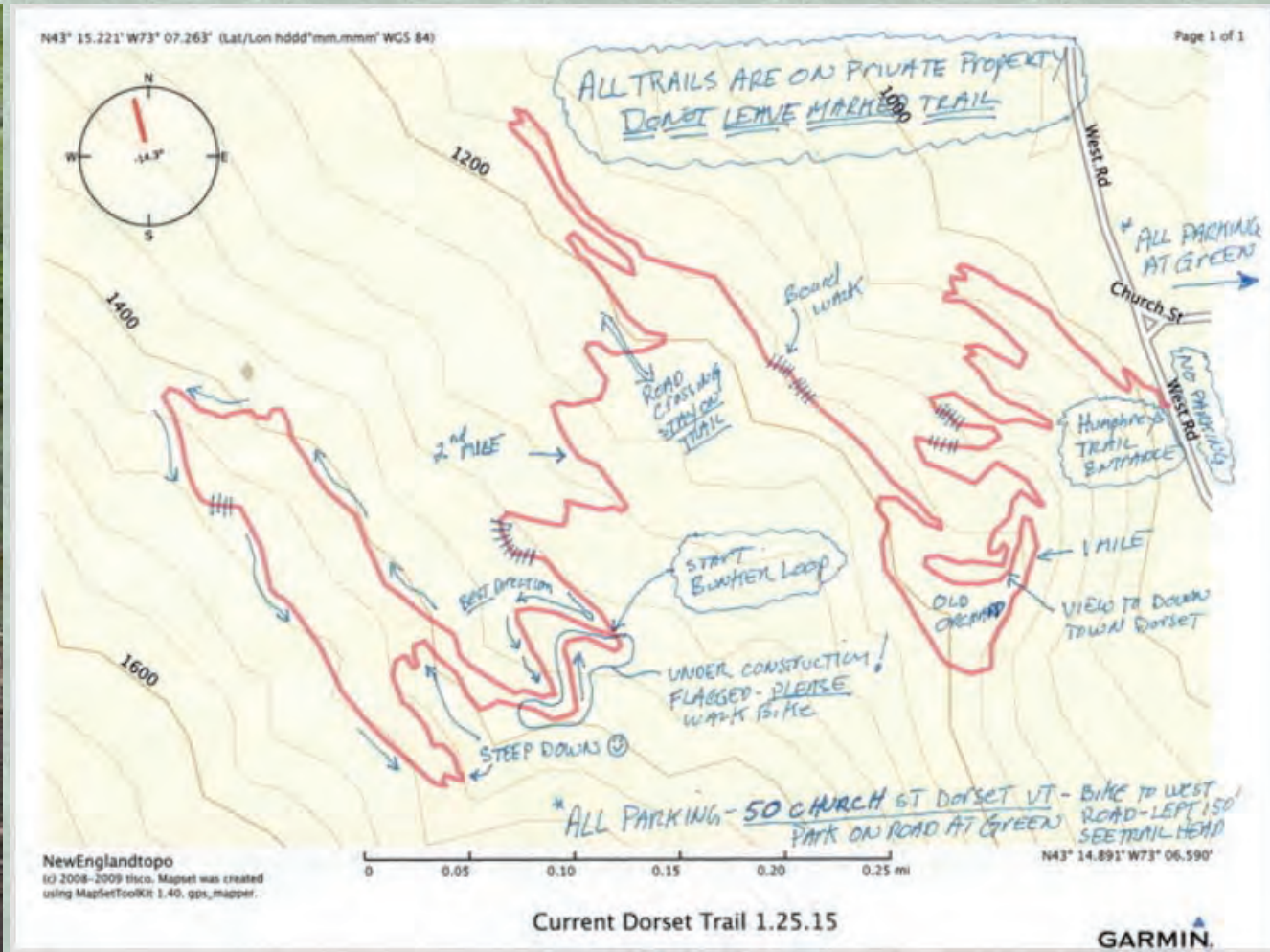


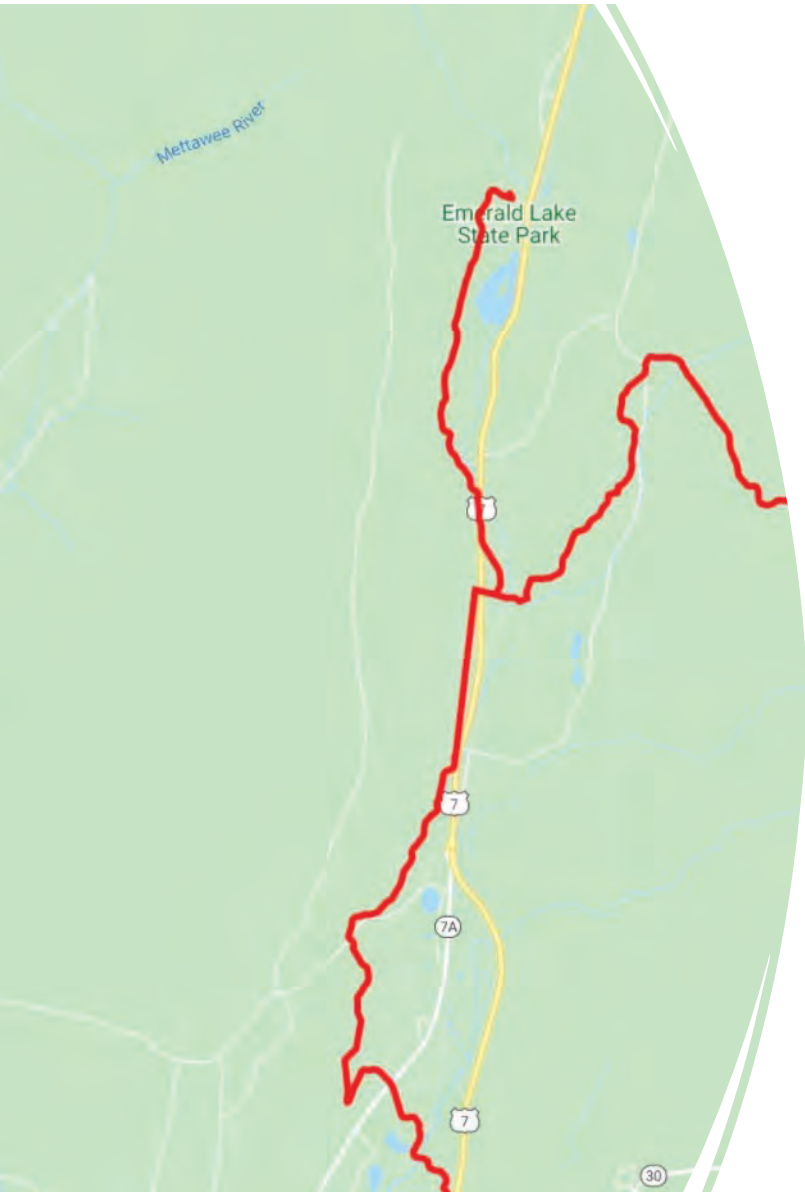
IMPORTANT NOTE: THE BAT CAVE IS PROTECTED! PLEASE FOLLOW TNC RULES

Church St. Mountain Biking Trails

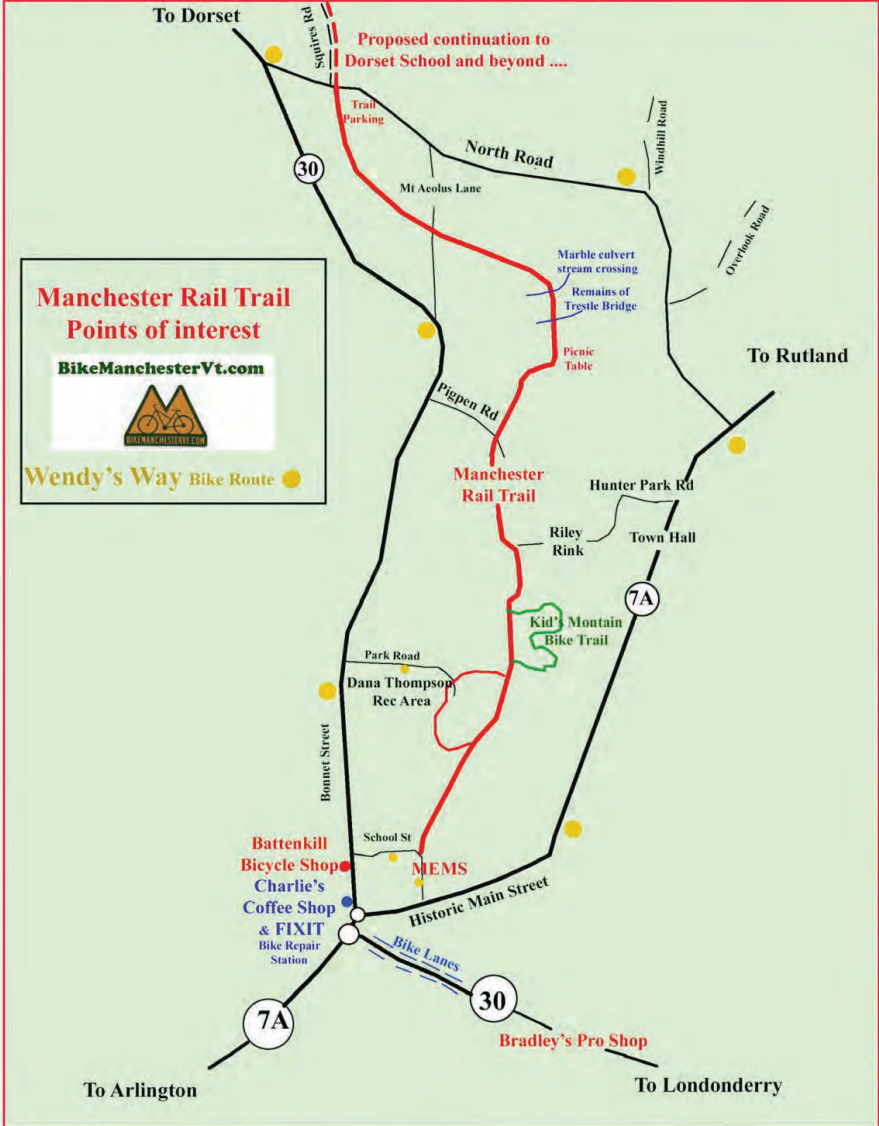
- Park on the Dorset Green
- More difficult routes
- Potentially* (PENDING GRANT APPROVAL) new mountain bike trails coming to Owls Head Town Forest in the next 2 years!







VAST Trails



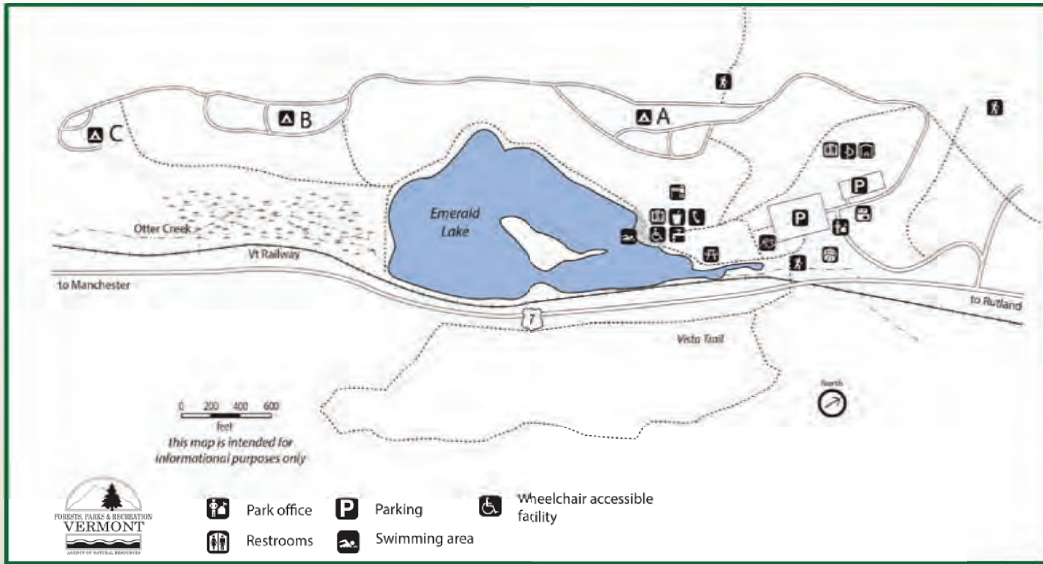
DH Rail Trail

- Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail
- Access Points in Rupert (just past the fire station) and West Pawlet
- 19.8-mile section of former railroad bed turned multi-use trail
- Scenic, used for hiking, running, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, and snowmobiles

Emerald Lake State Park

- In East Dorset just off Rt 7 [Residents receive a yearly pass]
- 430-acre property that includes a lake, camping, day-use infrastructure, hiking trails, and a playground
- There is seasonal boat rentals and a snack bar

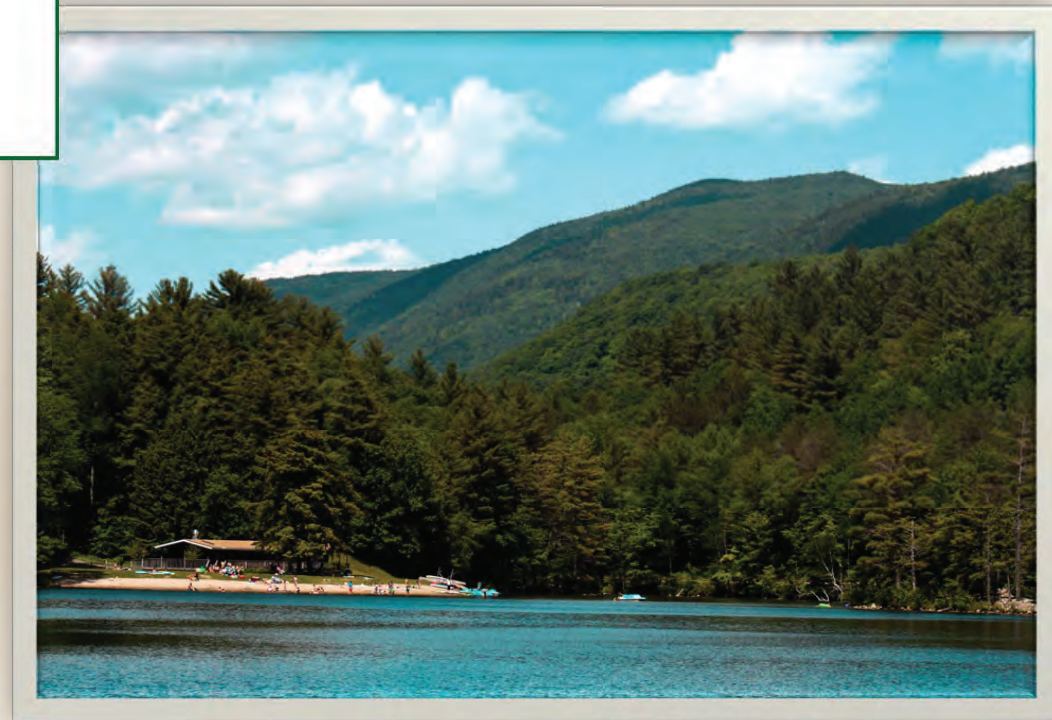
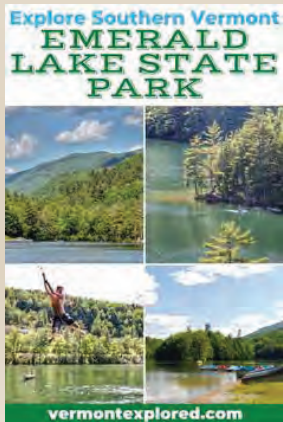




5 miles of hiking trails

66-campsites and 37 lean-tos

Brand new playground near the beach





Merck Forest and Farmland Center

- Merck is an amazing resource only 5 miles from the Dorset Green
- 3,200-acre property created by George Merck in the 1940s "To provide a variety of educational experiences, especially for young people, that all may learn to appreciate the natural world, some may come to feel at home in it, and a few may develop skills for careers in farming, forestry, and land management."
- Hiking, horseback riding, camping (dispersed), remote cabin rentals, farm education, hosted programs, day camps, conservation and land use demonstration, and a place to purchase ethically raised meats, maple syrup and berries!



Hike Dorset Trails Association

- How can I join?
- What does becoming a member entail?
- Can I volunteer without being a member?
- Upcoming volunteer events



Final Questions?

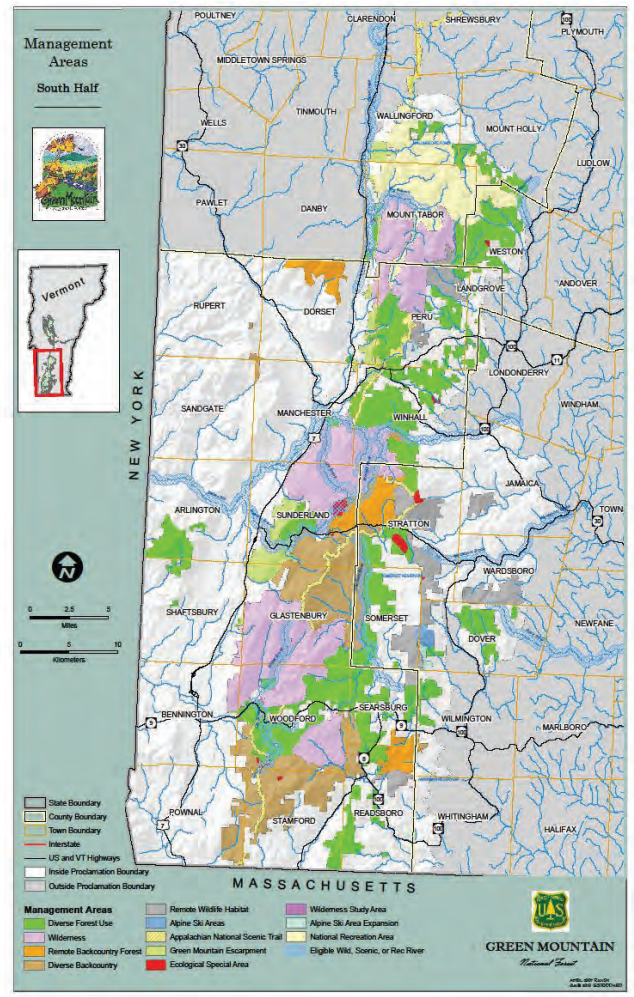
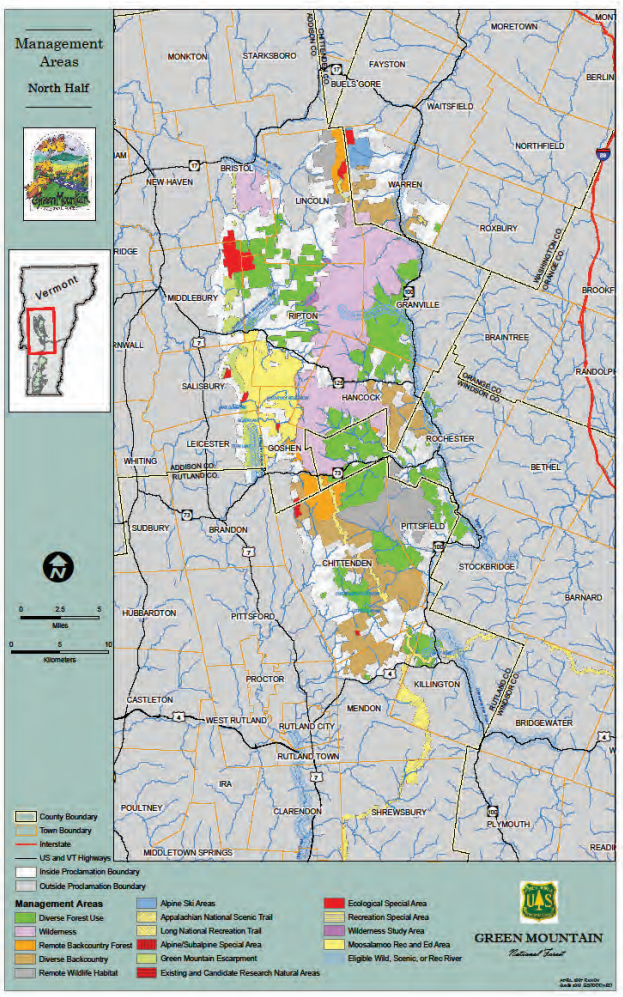
- <https://dorsetvt.org/recreation.html>
- Hike Dorset!
- How to Volunteer!
- Volunteer Day May 8th, 2021: 8am-12pm with picnic lunch afterwards! Meeting up at the Hawks Pass Trailhead on the Raptor Lane Property! <https://forms.gle/sf5EVBm3tbgUdwxk9>

Bennington County Regional Commission November 18, 2021 meeting

USDA Forest Service
Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National
Forest
Manchester Ranger District
Outdoor Recreation in the Bennington Region

By Martina Barnes, District Ranger





Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Program



Stratton Mountain Observation Tower

- 8 Developed campgrounds with various amenities
- 32 Shelters along the Long and Appalachian trails and side trails
- 19 Day Use areas managed for uses including fishing, interpretation, observation, picnic, swimming and wildlife viewing
- 52 Trailheads for winter and summer trail uses
- 2 Observation towers





East Dorset Trail

Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Program

Over 900 total miles of trails

Several trails managed for multiple uses & winter/summer use

394 miles of trails managed for hiking

161 miles of trails managed for biking

96 miles of trails managed for equestrian use

206 miles of trails managed for x-skiing

371 miles of trails managed for snowmobiling





Mt. Snow, Dover

Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Program

Winter Sports

- 3 Alpine Ski Areas (Manchester RD – Mount Snow, Bromley)
- 6 Nordic Ski Areas (Manchester RD – Wild Wings, Prospect Mountain)

Special Uses and Permits

Outfitter/Guide permits issued for various uses including rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking, snowmobiling, bicycling, etc.

Permitted events including endurance races but also orienteering & snowmobiling





**Dutch Hill ski area,
Readsboro**



**Prospect Mountain,
Woodford**



Bourn Pond – Lye Brook Wilderness

Green Mountain National Forest Wilderness

101,000 acres of the Forest

8 separate wilderness areas designated in 1975, 1984, 2006

Manchester RD – Glastenbury, George Aiken, Lye Brook, Big Branch, Peru Peak wilderness areas

"...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation..."

"...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."

Section 2(c)



Did you know?

- We sell Christmas tree tags (\$5/tag, 2 tags/family)
- We issue fuelwood/firewood permits (\$10/cord, 2 cord min/10 cord max)
- We sell “America the Beautiful” National Park passes
- Hapgood Pond Recreation Area issues Day Use permits
- In FY21, we collected \$31,900 in sales
 - maps, permits, passes, recreation fee collections



Recreation Accomplishments FY2021

- Big Branch Overlook: replaced picnic tables and ~150' of split-rail fencing
- Grout Pond: Installed new welcome pull-out with info signage and fee tube
- Routine maintenance of developed rec sites (Hapgood, Grout, Greendale)
 - Site maintenance, drinking and swimming water testing, fee collection, reservation management, and host supervision
- White Rocks NRA: replaced picnic tables
- Performed hazard tree surveys at 19 different rec sites
 - Backcountry shelters, campgrounds, and parking lots
 - Removed at least 37 hazard trees



Recreation Accomplishments in FY21

- Forest Protection Officers work and management of dispersed rec sites
 - Removed hundreds (est.) of pounds of abandoned gear and garbage

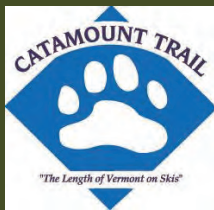


Recreation Accomplishments in FY21

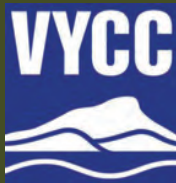
- Community outreach and established/maintained volunteer agreements with >dozen partner organizations
- 38 trail bridge inspections
- Planning and coordinating funding with Green Mountain Club to accomplish the following:
 - Replacing privies at Seth Warner (new shelter), Melville Nauheim, Kid Gore, Stratton Pond
 - Shelter repair work at Melville Nauheim
 - Began construction of new Stratton View Shelter
 - Tread work near Bromley Mtn and in the Stratton Pond area



Forest Service Partners on the Manchester Ranger District



- Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
- Vermont Mountain Bike Association
- Vermont Assoc. of Snow Travelers
- Catamount Trail Association
- Green Mountain Club
- National Park Service





Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Trends

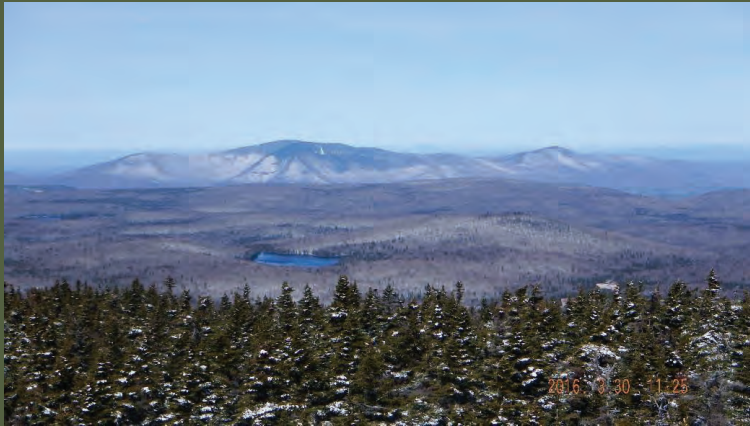
What are people asking for?

Trails, trails, trails!

- Increased interest and organization around mountain biking
- Utilizing Fat tire bikes and e-bikes
- Back country and glade skiing
- Continued interest in motorized summer trails, seeing evidence of continued illegal use
- Sites with water as a central feature are the busiest (and most impacted) sites in the summer months for both front country and back country recreation sites



Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Trends



Equinox and Stratton Pond from Stratton Mountain

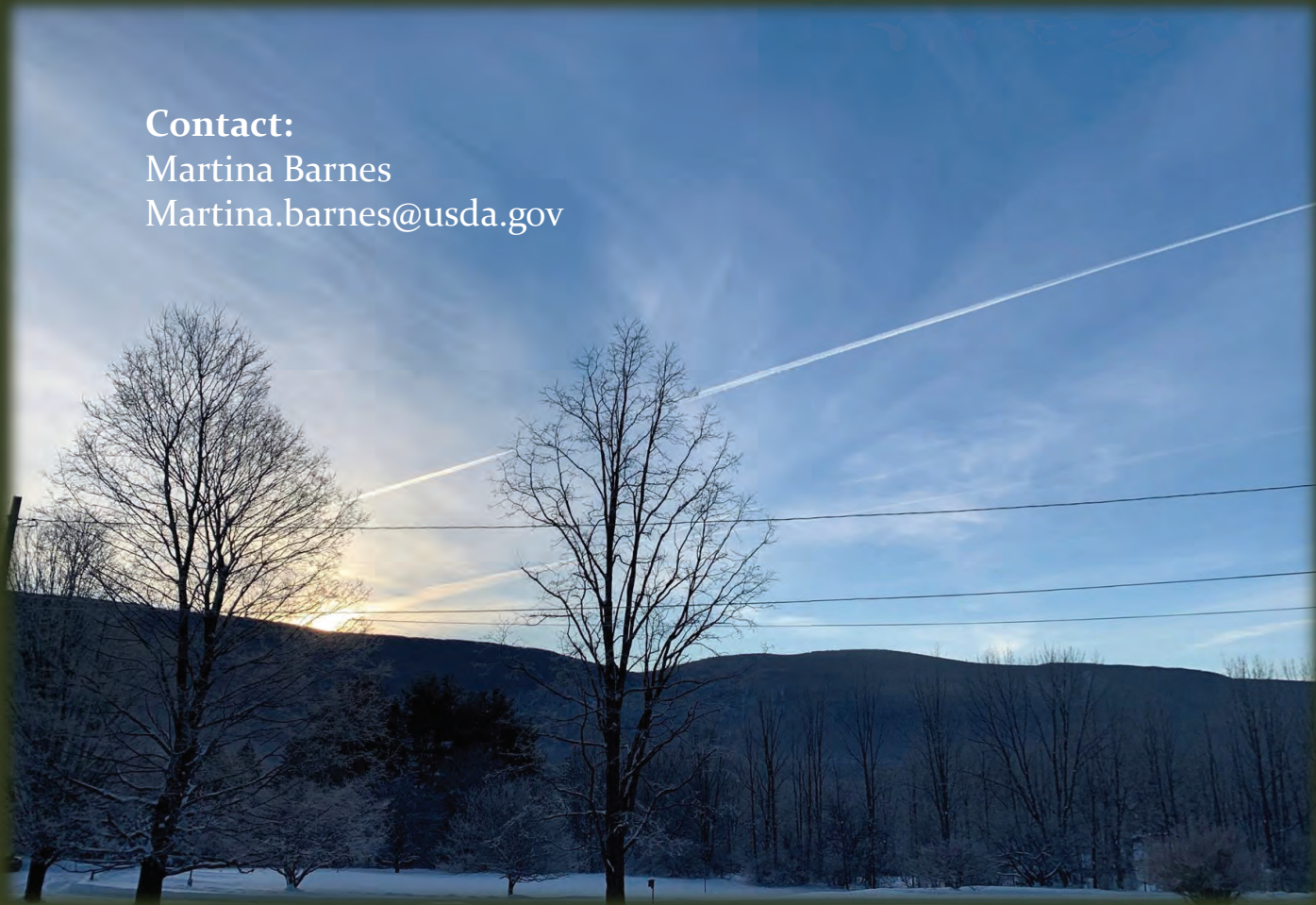
Challenges

- Aging infrastructure, backlog of maintenance needs – Great American Outdoors Act, 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Unmanaged recreation continues to degrade recreation settings and cause unacceptable resource impacts

There is a recognition of how important outdoor recreation is in our culture, yet how do we provide sustainable recreation opportunities that will provide the same benefits to our successors?



Contact:
Martina Barnes
Martina.barnes@usda.gov



Bennington Area Trail System (BATS)

Jared Newell



BATS early years:

Organized in Spring 2015

Officially Incorporated August 2015 as a 501c3 (VMBA)
Bylaws, BoD, Treasurer

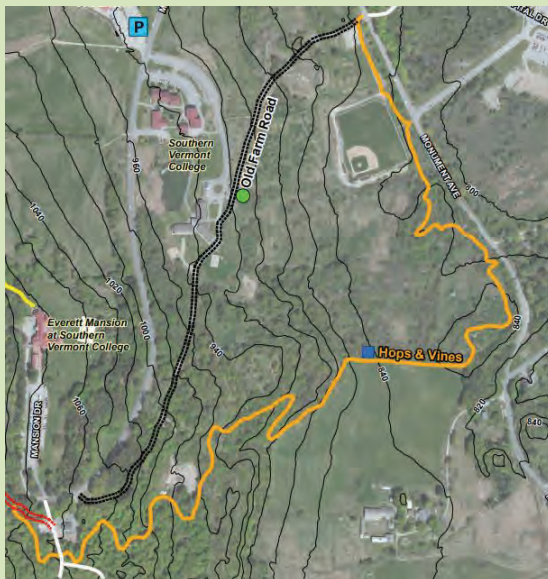
Trail work 2015 at SVMC

First access agreement with SVC and adjacent landowner
Fall 2015. Hops and Vines trail is built.

Partnered with SVC to host "Trail Mix" May 2016



The Bennington Area Trail System's mission is to build and steward trail systems that support human powered outdoor recreation opportunities, while cultivating a culture that values outdoor recreation, community health, and a recreation economy in SW VT.



2016 Season:

Access agreements signed with MAPS and private landowner on NE flank of Mt. Anthony.



“Halloween Tree” trail (~2mi) is built and Cave Trail is improved.



VMBA trailbuilding clinic, tool grant



Outreach events (SYP, work days)



Wicked Creepy Cyclocross Race



2017-18 Season:

New Trails on North Flank of Mt Anthony. Snail Trail and Lower Beacon (2.5mi)

Rockstar volunteer base

Ton of events



CLIF, OPS, ORVIS, YETI, Backcountry

backcountry film festival
celebrating the human powered experience

saturday, march 10th
7:30 - 9:00 PM
doors at Tishman Auditorium
Bennington College
1 College Drive
Bennington, VT

\$10 general admission
\$5 for ages 12 & under
seniors (60+) veteran

Ticket Presale online
Remaining tickets at the

batsvt.org/events/bcfilmfest

Group Ride Wednesday
Leaving at 545pm from

HIGHLANDER BICYCLE

BATS BENNINGTON AREA TRAIL SYSTEM

2nd Annual BATS Trail Mix
Hosted by SVC

Saturday May 6th, 2017
12pm-6pm

Featuring:
The Alchemist
Spirits of Old Bennington
Madison Brewing Company
Youth Activities
Guest Speaker...Olympian Andy Newell
Bike and Equipment Demos
Live Music
Food and Refreshments — proceeds support BATS

* Admission is FREE to the public!

Southern Vermont COLLEGE SVC

ALCHEMIST

ANYTIME FITNESS

HIGHLANDER BICYCLE

MAD RIVER DISTILLERS

THE TAP HOUSE AT CATAMOUNT GLASS

Berkshire OUTFITTERS

RSVP on the BATS Facebook page!

3rd Annual Trail Mix
Saturday May 5, 2018
12:00-6:00pm
Southern Vermont College

ORVIS ADVENTURES
Southwestern Vermont COLLEGE HEALTH CARE

SVC

STRATTON

VMBA VERMONT MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOC. SINCE 1977

Battenkill Valley Rummers

SVMC 5K Trail Run 12:00-1:30pm
Scott Demo Bikes 1:30-5:30pm
Guided Rides & Runs 1:30-5:30pm
Orvis Scavenger Hunt 2:20-3:30pm

Free General Admission
Food & Beverage Sales Benefit BATS
batsvt.org/events/3rd-annual-trail-mix

2018 Bike Giveaway & Membership Drive

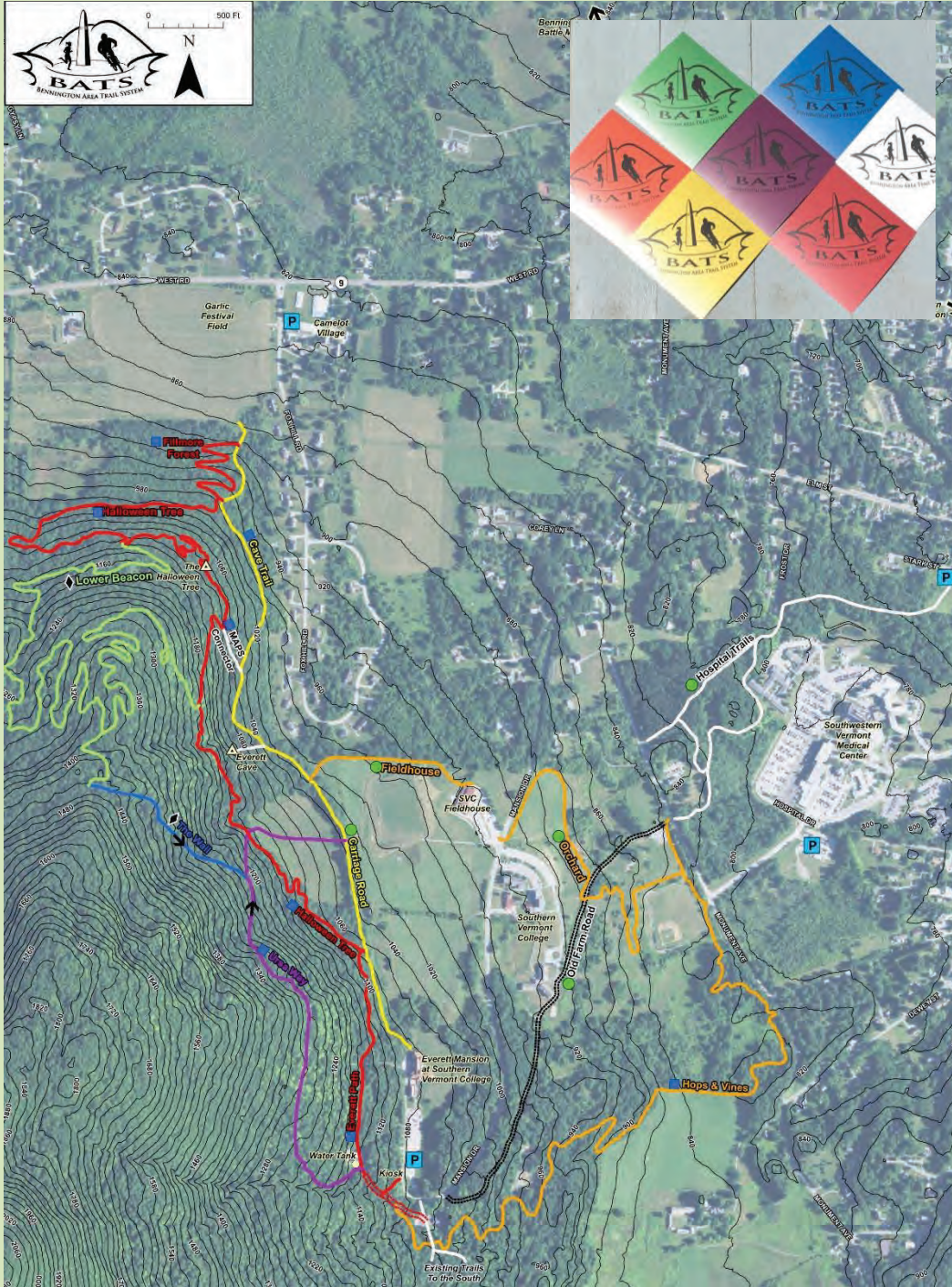
CATAMOUNT TRAIL ASSOCIATION

BATS

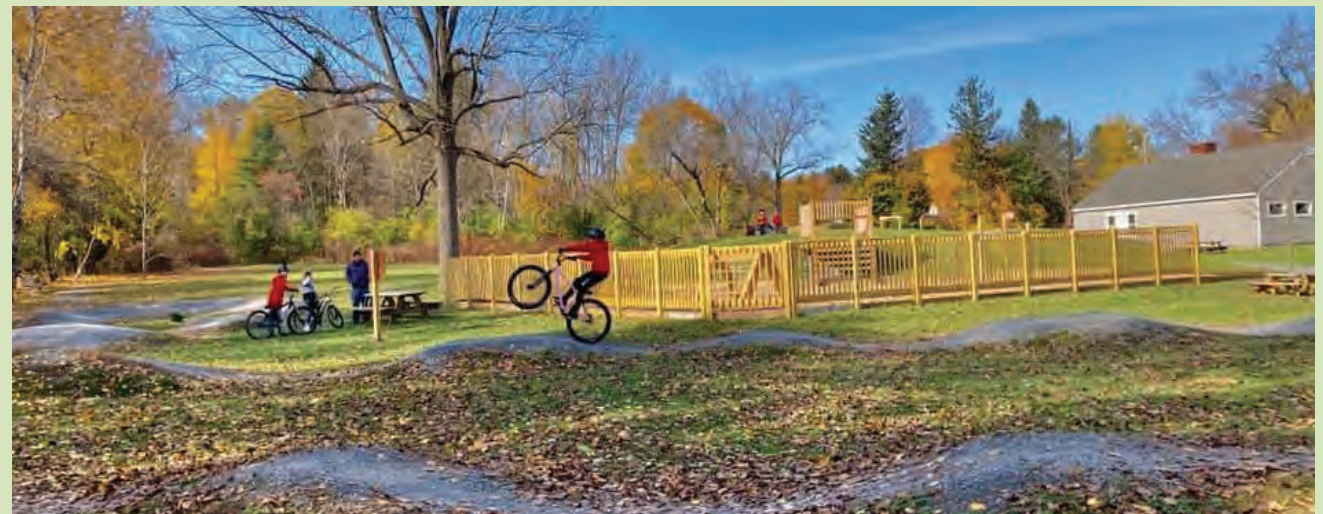
DHASH

LONG TRAIL

Hosted to coincide with the
2018 US Snowshoe National Championships
at Prospect Mountain in Woodford, VT - March 9th-11th



For the kids



2020 😊

SVHC is high bidder for college campus

By Jim Therrien, Bennington Banner Dec 11, 2020



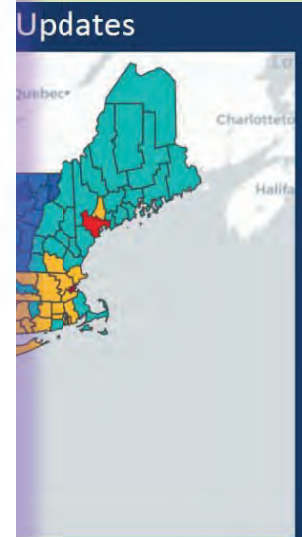
The Byrnie Mansion at the former Southern Vermont College in Bennington is included in the sale. [View photo gallery.](#)

"You probably have some idea of how grateful a large portion of our community already is for SVHC, but you cannot know how incredibly thankful the town of Bennington government feels today."

👍 🐦 📧 📺 📱

Don't miss the news. Like us on Facebook. [Like SVHC](#)

BENNINGTON – Southwestern Vermont Health Care outbid youth camp operator Moshe Perlstein and businessman Paul Belogour on Friday to purchase the former Southern Vermont College campus for \$4,650,000.



2021 and on

