



***Vermont's unified voice for
recreation trails.***

www.vermonttrailsandgreenways.org

Walter Opuszynski, Chair

Jessica Ricketson, Vice Chair

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May 16, 2011

Dear Recreation Trails Enthusiast,

The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VTGC) is devoted to supporting all recreation trails in the State of Vermont. This is an exciting challenge given the wide diversity of trail types and the state's geography. As we are working to weave a fabric of corridors and bring trail opportunities closer to people's doors, it is obvious that success can only happen as a team. The only way we are capable of being effective is by having volunteers and professionals in the recreation trails world come together. The tie that binds all trail user-groups is the reliance we all have on maintained corridors to support our different types of recreation.

When all trail users come together under the flag of "recreation trails" we are able to make progress on universal issues that impact everyone. Through efforts of solidarity, we are able to identify projects that will have a positive impact for all recreation types in the areas of trail standards, funding, permitting, and advocacy. The VTGC has determined that we can have the biggest impact through focusing our efforts on education. By educating all trail users and trail groups on pertinent issues, it is our hope that we will be able to formulate positive change. The information that we will be able to share will come from those representing different user groups, as well as state and federal organizations. We will be sharing information with our:

- Re-furbished **VTGC website** to be launched this National Trails Day, June 4th:
www.vermonttrailsandgreenways.org
- The **Vermont Trails Symposium**, to be held October 15th at Vermont Technical College in Randolph
- **Bi-annual Newsletters**, released in April and November

In the upcoming year we will be working on a process to collect feedback and recommendations from trail users across the state. The plan is to compile and process this information to be used as a tool to educating those that can enact state-wide progress for recreation trails. In doing so, it is our greatest hope that all voices will be heard.

I encourage you to help guide the future of Vermont's trails. We have a lot to look forward to and I invite you to join. The VTGC is a membership organization open to all. The cost of membership is very reasonable and goes directly toward projects that benefit trails across the state. Please join us at our next meeting, 9:00 am August 31st, 2011 at Seyon Ranch State Park in Groton State Forest. More information will be posted on our website after National Trails Day. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Walter Opuszynski
VTGC Chair