

| Objective | Strategy   | Action/Initiative  |
|-----------|--|--|
| Catch All | What can a Shires Regional Recreation Team accomplish? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate the public</li> <li>2. Improve access?</li> <li>3. Collaborate on projects</li> <li>4. Promote continuity and connections between existing trails, campgrounds, etc.</li> <li>5. Promotion of our National Forest</li> <li>6. Increase access to trails with public mapping resources</li> <li>7. Focus effort and funding on underserved and low-income communities: greater equity of access</li> <li>8. Promote safe use of recreation opportunities</li> <li>9. Advocate for outdoor recreation in the face of policies that prohibit it or make it difficult</li> </ol> |
|           | Who is missing?  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mountain Valley Trails Association (Peru? Trails)</li> <li>2. VT Chapter of the Nature Conservancy</li> <li>3. The ski areas: what they have for non-ski season</li> <li>4. Equinox Preservation Trust</li> <li>5. Orvis</li> <li>6. Empower Pownal</li> <li>7. Burr and Burton Academy</li> <li>8. The Towns!</li> <li>9. She Jumps</li> <li>10. Vtrans</li> </ol>  |
|           |  |  |

| Objective  | Strategy   | Action/Initiatives  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Promote entrepreneurial and business opportunities in both outdoor recreation and other businesses, including for-profit and nonprofit pursuits. Develop infrastructure to support these endeavors.</p> | <p>Create statewide/local programs to support entrepreneurs and current businesses in the outdoor recreation industry.</p>                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bennington could be an incubator for new ideas/businesses (*Vacant downtown)</li> <li>2. How can WE as Bennington area residents make sure that our recreational resume (shops, access points, attractiveness) is not left behind by Chittenden country's progress?</li> <li>3. Statewide toolkit for outdoor recreation business start-ups with demographic information and state incentives</li> <li>4. Encourage guide services by enacting laws that protect guide service providers or provide group access to affordable insurance for guides.</li> <li>5. Provide technical assistance to and grants for cooperatively owned start up guide companies</li> <li>6. <a href="http://www.outdoorsportinstitute.org/">http://www.outdoorsportinstitute.org/</a></li> </ol> |
|  | <p>Collect data to create a baseline understanding of the outdoor recreation industry at present.</p>  |   |
|  | <p>Promote outdoor recreation as a career opportunity in Vermont and create pathways for future and new employees and entrepreneurs to get involved.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include outdoor recreation entrepreneurial (or other such) training in high school career development centers</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>  |



| Objective   | Strategy  | Action/Initiative   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>(2) Increase opportunities for diverse individuals and groups to participate in, lead, and “own” Vermont’s recreation industry and culture</p> | <p>Improve our understanding of the value of volunteers in supporting, promoting, and participating in outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for volunteer participation as a “gateway” to long-term involvement in the outdoor rec industry and/or relocation (or retention) of individuals and families to Vermont.</p> |   |
|   | <p>Create easy “portals” for individuals and groups to find and participate in outdoor recreation programs.</p> <p>Improve physical and online information and access to recreational assets</p>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County-wide trail hosting days: each group/trail community would host an exploration of their trails with the other groups. A rotation of trail tours throughout the county.</li> <li>2. Maintain focus on “low-barrier” pursuits: entrepreneurship in birding, walking and other activities favored by VT’s sizable 55+ demographic and tourist base</li> <li>3. Find ways to decrease barriers to recreation: often physical (accessibility) but also informational (maps). Keeping maps, websites, information for trails up-to-date</li> <li>4. Create a statewide platform for mapping and marking trails managed by authorized trail organizations</li> <li>5. Concierge service: leading guided trail runs and snowshoe tours</li> </ol> |
|   | <p>Improve coordination of recreation groups, programs and users.</p>   |   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | Create use-specific improvements which will benefit overall participation.                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having access, parking and snowplowing the parking area at Woodford State Park would encourage many more people to use the park in winter including people coming from NY state and MA: economic benefit to Vermont</li> </ol>   |
|  | Integrate outdoor recreation into educational experiences for children and youth of all ages | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need to get outdoor activities in the curriculum and follow through on a weekly basis</li> <li>2. Engage local youth in outdoor movement- develop curriculum for movement based education</li> <li>3. Curriculum: outdoor activities in all seasons</li> <li>4. An asset inventory for SU curriculum coordinators to ensure they're aware of resources available in the community</li> <li>5. Have local recreation departments start outdoor activities: hiking, mountain biking, nature hikes, Get kids involved</li> <li>6. Developing outdoor programs after school: running, hiking, snowshoeing etc.</li> <li>7. Develop helping with trail work, of all kinds, into a community service project. With trail volunteers for expertise but school sponsored for insurance purposes</li> <li>8. Is there a way to accredit forest pre-k programs with specific requirements that are not tied to the requirements developed for brick and mortar pre-k? Allowing the state \$ to then be allocated</li> <li>9. Love the idea of including outdoor education as part of curriculum</li> <li>10. Combine early ed and senior communities to create outdoor/unstructured play programs. Intergenerational contact and learning a la Foxfire approach<br/><a href="https://www.foxfire.org/">https://www.foxfire.org/</a></li> </ol> |
|  | Increase diversity in outdoor recreation participation.                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focus on poorer/less healthy communities. Create more "easy" trails for walking, health, etc. Funding to lower income areas first, but serve all areas.</li> </ol>   |
|  | Improve our ability to "tell the story" of outdoor   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number 2 should be number on this list!</li> <li>2. Statewide Instagram campaign: invite people to participate, #yourVT</li> </ol>   |

|  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | recreation participation in Vermont. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Make a State Slogan contest!</li><li>4. Include people with disabilities in events in advertising</li><li>5. Host as many outdoor sports national championships in SW Vermont as possible</li><li>6. State focus on drawing national/international "outdoor" fitness events</li><li>7. Marketing/PR funds to draw active visitors: beyond just visiting and spending they share experiences</li></ol> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|

| Objective  | Strategy   | Action/Initiative   |
|--|--|---|
| (3) Strengthen the quality and extent of recreational resources in Vermont (venues, products, services); | Asset mapping: what are our current resources? Where are there opportunities or need for growth? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outstanding vistas/visual resources for in and out of state motorists: where to stop and learn more about surrounding area (local tie-in)</li> <li>2. Passive outdoor and viewing opportunities and trails/lands: access for ADA/limited mobility individuals: growing demographic, active tourist spending</li> <li>3. Focusing efforts on building and improving <u>sustainable</u> recreation infrastructure is key. A lot of thought and planning needs to go into the design phase. Considering which rec trails, sites etc. are appropriate to decommission is also an important (Often unpopular) aspect</li> <li>4. Need for a central point to coordinate the many efforts to create new trail system for mountain biking, ATVs, hiking etc. It seems like a lot of duplicated efforts.</li> <li>5. Inventory and re-map/re-blaze old Taconic Mountain Trails and make/create new trailhead markers.</li> <li>6. Support for municipal investment in local parks and recreation equipment</li> </ol> |
|  | Focus on increasing and supporting public/private partnerships to identify resources.            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very difficult for Southern Vermont to break into the non-profit "scene" that is essentially run by Northern Vermonters. Need a liaison!</li> <li>2. Make sure TrailFinder covers ALL of Bennington County. Woefully under-represented</li> <li>3. "Adopt a Trail": business would support and maintain</li> </ol>  |
|  | Volunteers as a public asset (see #2 above)  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> </ol>  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | Facilitate access to all land for outdoor recreation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tax incentives for landowners who allow access to or through their land to recreational resources</li><li>2. Protection from spurious lawsuits vs. landowners</li><li>3. Boiler plate for private landowners agreement. FAQ: how to make first approach a landowner (private), especially for writing grants with appropriate language for feds and state grants. Grants would be VYCC type groups</li><li>4. We need to address private property concerns over liability issues. I'm aware of property transactions where traditional trail access (Trail heads) or connections have been abandoned due to new ownerships not welcoming the users</li><li>5. Create and enforce ATV license program. Too many people abuse private trails and make it harder to create new trails (landowner resistance).</li><li>6. Relax restrictions on trail construction in "river corridors." Allow unpaved but bikepath quality paths along rivers and streams. Recognize economic and public health benefits of paths in these highly desirable locations.</li><li>7. Unnecessary hurdles (regulatory) for trail work in riparian corridors or in stream for habitat improvement that are out of scale with the use</li></ol> |
|--|--|---|

| Objective   | Strategy   | Action/Initiative  |
|---|--|--|
| (4) Strengthen the stewardship of Vermont's recreational resources, both public and private, such that recreational use of them is sustainable and environmentally responsible. | Increase # of individuals and groups who are involved in volunteer activities supporting outdoor recreation stewardship.   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Volunteer enthusiasm is important but it is also important to facilitate dedicated paid positions for coordinators who shoulder significant hours and work to get projects done</li> <li>2. "Corporate stewardship as a business asset": draw on Orvis, Keurig, Vermont Country store etc. to promote necessity of environmental stewardship to form consumer concept of brand authenticity</li> <li>3. Build upon existing and create new stewardship groups to maintain trails.</li> <li>4. Long term care of existing trails is critical! Need to foment local groups but also make some funds available</li> <li>5.</li> </ol> |
|   | Increase awareness among all students in Vermont (K-12 and HE) of the importance of protecting public outdoor assets   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outreach to schools and colleges for community service doing trail work as part of stewardship</li> <li>2. Incorporating outdoor recreation in the school systems</li> <li>3. Early childhood provider funding requires indoor activity only</li> <li>4. Stewardship begins at the grade school level. Need more kids on trails and outdoors, especially low income kids. Bennington is a couple of miles from the wilderness but I bet most kids have never been in the national forest.</li> </ol>   |
|   | Focus outreach and marketing on the "Vermont Ethos" that combines a love for outdoor recreation with respect for the land, water, etc. in which you are recreating | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Love the idea of creating a "Vermont ethos" that is useful for marketing as well as preserving our resources</li> </ol>  |
|   | Trail Building Standards   |  |
|   | Concerns about too much impact   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be honest about assessing which trails have completed their "lifecycle" and are appropriate to decommission</li> </ol>   |
|   | Access to public lands   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Machine built trails south of Route 4- none! Woodford State Forest?</li> </ol>   |

|  |                                |  |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
|  |                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Access to Little Pond has been greatly reduced (national forest) because an affluent purchaser of land adjacent to road has put up unfriendly signs with severe warnings “not suitable for cars.” This landowners has graveled and plows the road in winter making it un-skiable. Anything VOREC can do to encourage federal authorities and Woodford town to put up welcoming and informative signage, plow the parking lot in winter and extend the trail that bypasses the gravel road- would encourage recreational tourism in Southern Vermont.</li> <li>3. Signage including description at beginning of White Rocks Trail in Bennington...and at other end of this trails, over Bald Mountain in Woodford</li> <li>4. Woodford Access parking and plowing in winter: I am president of the Bennington Section of the GMC. Current parking in snowmobile lot across highway is dangerous for families to walk along narrow shoulder with traffic at highway speed</li> </ol> |
|  | Funding/resources              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outdoor recreation employee in municipal government</li> <li>2. Regional outdoor liaison who can assist with grants, trail management etc. (especially in Southern VT)</li> <li>3. We would like to have a broker to stand as a middle man between local recreational chapters and the state and federal land. How can we use Rochester as a model for something to exist down here?</li> <li>4. Compiling maps and descriptions of trails in one location on-line or in several regional websites eg. As Tim Scoggins, chair of Shaftsbury Selectboard, is working to do for south-west Vermont</li> <li>5. Small grants program for signage and parking</li> </ol>   |
|  | Current Use / Act 250 / Policy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add a tier system to current use. Greater public access, greater benefit. 50% higher if not posted and trail on land, for example</li> </ol>   |
|  |                                |  |
|  |                                |  |
|  |                                |  |
|  |                                |  |
|  |                                |  |

