
From: Sharon Plumb <sharon+vermonttgc.org@ccsend.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:01 AM
Subject: UPDATED Trail Damage Assessment & Repair





**YOUR VOICE FOR RECREATION, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS**

Become A Member

UPDATED: The enews sent yesterday noted that non-profits were eligible for FEMA funding. They are NOT eligible. Apologies for the confusion! More updates soon.

Dear Friends,

“What’s the extent of trail damage in Vermont? Will there be help to repair trails?” These are potentially multi-million dollar questions that need to be answered soon and VTGC is here to help. In the coming months, we will:

- **Keep you informed** with up-to-date flood-recovery resources and information. We attend leadership meetings with State agencies and other involved partners and will distill what we have learned through these updates.
- **Gather information** on what it will cost to repair trails our organizations steward, with an emphasis on those on private land. Federal and State officials will use this information to **access much needed funding**.

VTGC will discuss flood recovery at upcoming board meetings for the foreseeable future. All members are welcome to participate. The next board meeting is August 13, 2023 from 10am - noon and [information for virtual attendance is here](#). This month, we'll also discuss upcoming communication projects, hear FPR updates, and get an update on legislative efforts regarding trails. Contact sharon@vermonttgc.org for more information.

The VTGC Board



TRAIL DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

Start to document damage now. This will be critical in accessing funding down the line. While ANR is focused on state lands, municipalities and trails organizations need to conduct their own assessments.

- **To what extent were your organization's trails damaged?** VTGC is collaborating with FPR to create an assessment tool that boils down key questions on damage to trails infrastructure. VTGC will consolidate this information into a report to FPR. *It is important to start gathering information and be ready to support this effort so VTGC can help establish funding for repairs. Once we know what essential information is needed, will get this assessment tool out to trails organizations.*
- Assessment work to understand damages is underway on State land. ANR is using this [using this Forestry Field Assessment form](#) and members are welcome to use it for their purposes. Please note: it is specific to FEMA and it is not yet known to what extent, if at all, FEMA will cover damages on private lands.
- VAST has put out the word to volunteers to document damage. They would like clubs to report trail damage using [this form](#).
- The Solocator app ([solocator.com](#)) is a useful tool for documenting storm damage. It allows you to take photos of damaged trail sections with your phone and then attach them to assessment forms. The app automatically assigns a GPS point to each photo for reference.
- Trail managers on public lands have found pages 58 & 59 of this [FEMA guidebook](#) helpful when developing spreadsheets and other forms for documentation. You should also be working closely with the land manager, who will be the assistance applicant.

FUNDING & ACCESSING VOLUNTEERS

While it is not known yet what trails-specific funding on private lands will be available, with accurate information on damage, there may be in the future.

- FPR is waiting for more information on the specifics of tapping into FEMA support. Presently, recreation nonprofits are NOT eligible for FEMA funds. Municipalities may apply for recreational infrastructure impacts, including trails.
 - FEMA currently has 330 people on the ground in Vermont and they have been setting up [Multi-Agency Centers \(MARC\)s](#) around the state. These centers are a single location where public and private organizations come together to provide assistance to those affected by disaster. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has also set up Recovery Centers in Washington County at the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and in Windsor County at the Engel & Völkers Okemo Building. You can find more information on ACCD's Flood Recovery Resource Center.
 - The [US Small Business Administration](#) is offering low-interest loans in affected areas.
 - [Vermont Community Foundation](#) has raised \$2.5 million for flood relief.
 - VBSR and VOBA are hosting a virtual webinar "[Navigating Flood Recovery Financial Assistance for Vermont Businesses](#)" July 24, 6:30-7:30.
 - The [Main Street Recovery Fund](#) provides \$2,500-\$10,000 grants for businesses to obtain immediate bridge assistance.
 - [Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative \(VOREC\) Flood Recovery Resources](#) website has a consolidated list of useful links
 - [Common Good Vermont](#) has an excellent [Nonprofit Flood Response & Recovery Information](#) page with resources and information
 - [Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance \(VOBA\)](#) has a resource page specific to flood resources aimed at supporting affected businesses and communities.
 - *Local businesses rely on outdoor recreation. Consider reaching out to local outdoor-minded companies to find volunteers ready to help.*
-

TRAIL UPDATES

- [Trail Finder: hiking and multi-use trails](#)
- [VMBA's Trail Conditions: most mountain bike trails](#)
- [GMC Trail Conditions: Long Trail system alerts](#)
- [Vermont State Parks: State Park alerts listed on specific park page](#)
- [AOT Rail Trails: The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail, and Beebe Spur Rail Trail are now OPEN. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail remains closed.](#)
- The Cross Vermont Trail (Montpelier & Wells River Rail Trail) in Marshfield and Groton is closed. There are numerous washouts and impacts to bridges, which are still being assessed. [Find updates here.](#)
- The Colchester Causeway and [Island Rail Trail](#) ARE OPEN, though the [bike ferry](#) is closed due to mechanical issues.

TRAIL USERS: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Please share on your websites and social media this [ANR press release](#) on recreating safely outdoors, and please continue to reinforce safe and respectful recreation. The messaging we have aligned on across organizations includes:
 - **Avoid flood waters!** Please stay away from waterways. It is not safe to wade, swim, fish, or boat until flows return to normal, even in areas that are not posted with notices to avoid contact.
 - **Access is the first step.** Roads remain closed in many parts of the state. Before you head out, check 511 for state highway closures. Never travel over flooded roadways.
 - **Know before you go.** Check trail conditions and other online resources of trusted sources such as municipal and state entities, organizations, or businesses to understand conditions on the ground.
 - **Use caution.** Trail managers are out assessing trails and posting closures and warnings if they encounter unsafe conditions or damaged infrastructure, though not all dangers will be signed.
 - **Stay safe.** Recreate within your abilities and make good decisions when you are outside. Plan your trip in a responsible way that minimizes risk and lowers the chance you might need rescue.

We'll help YOU Spread YOUR news

Have trails-related news, events, or job postings? Let us help you get the word out. Send a blurb with details and links to sharon@vermonttgc.org by the **15th of every month.**

Photos: Greg Western, Johnnie Brook Trail after flood.

[Members](#)

[About Us](#)

[Join Now](#)

[Resources](#)

[Unsubscribe jackie.dagger@vermont.gov](#)
[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)
Sent by sharon@vermonttgc.org powered by

