

# MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER VERMONT

## Summit Results: Priority Voting

May 2024

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During the Move Forward Together Vermont (MFTV) Summit, participants were asked to discuss and work with 25 shared priorities that were identified by the MFTV Planning Team. Priorities were created from the results of 28 focus group conversations and data from the Recreation User Survey, and the Recreation Provider Survey.

After suggesting edits to the 25 priorities, identifying important missing priorities for the parking lot and identifying which priorities were the strongest on Climate and Equity, tables were given six stickers each and asked to vote on their top priorities. Tables could put as many stickers as they wanted next to priorities.

The results below reflect the results of this exercise.

### ***Top 6 priorities identified***

- Invest in stewarding and upgrading existing recreational infrastructure to better accommodate modern use and impacts from climate change. (6 votes)
- Cultivate a stewardship ethic amongst Vermonters and visitors. (4 votes)
- Identify and invest in regional outdoor recreation planning by strengthening partnerships between organizations, groups, and businesses working at the local level with regional organizations. (4 votes)
- Create suite of technical assistance resources, including in-person support, for developing and managing recreation, including for climate resilience, that works for municipalities and non-profits. (3 votes)
- Fill gaps in experiences and distribution across the state by creating new recreation infrastructure including winter access, water access, more and longer accessible and adaptive experiences, and accessible skiing. (3 votes)
- Centralize and improve informational resources about outdoor recreation events, and opportunities. (3 votes)

### ***Remaining priorities***

- Invest in organizations and businesses serving non-white Vermonters, LGBTQ+, Veterans, Seniors, Vermonters who are low-income, and Vermonters with adaptive needs to strengthen outdoor recreation opportunities and participation. (3 votes)
- Develop more consistent and sustainable funding sources. (3 votes)

- Invest in capacity of communities to support outdoor recreation opportunities. Build relationships between recreational user groups, organizations, businesses and State agencies to create more opportunities for collaborative projects and experiences. (2 votes)
- Be proactive instead of reactive in planning for and managing outdoor recreation communities, spaces, and resources. (2 votes)
- Improve trailheads and water access including wayfinding, parking, maps, bathrooms, signage (informational and welcoming) and accessibility. (2 votes)
- Create or enhance recreation opportunities close to where people live, learn, and work. (2 vote)
- Nurture innovation, resilience, and sustainability in Vermont's outdoor recreation resources, organizations, and businesses. (1 vote)
- Re-envision and expand what a recreationist looks like in Vermont through imagery and Communication tools. (1 vote)
- Build relationships between recreational user groups, organizations, businesses and State agencies to create more opportunities for collaborative projects and experiences. (1 vote)
- Develop outdoor recreation programming, opportunities and spaces across the outdoor recreation sector that are inclusive and welcoming to all Vermonters and visitors. (1 vote)
- Lower cost barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. (1 vote)
- Support and sustain recreation on private lands through policy change, education and support for private landowners.
- Create stronger connections between outdoor recreation and Health and Wellness.
- Create peer-to-peer networking and skill building opportunities.
- Support community driven conservation projects.
- Invest in and expand outdoor recreation opportunities that introduce and encourage Vermont youth to spend time outside.
- Support partnerships, marketing and communication that help Vermont communities and businesses draw increased economic benefits from outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Enhance the accessibility of existing recreational resources.
- Support transportation resources for Vermonters with low or no access to personal transportation (seniors, veterans, people with cognitive disabilities).

### ***Parking lot priorities***

- Add business and ecology to climate and equity for over arching lenses.
- Conduct research on potential conflicts between recreational activities and natural resources and develop main points of consideration for recreation development.
- Cultivate new world class recreational assets that meet emerging uses, needs and a changing climate.
- Conduct a survey of MFTV priorities for businesses – both outdoor ones and outdoor adjacent.
- Develop and provide guidance to partners on how & where to design & implement recreational assets that align with regional and statewide water quality & wildlife conservation goals.