

Recreation – Proposed version B – as in April 28th 2025 packet “d1 MP2 Draft For 28-Apr-2025 2 MB”
https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Andrews_Community_Forest/Meetings/2025/04/d1_MP2_Draft_For_28-Apr-2025.pdf
 and
 d2 “Recreation Appendix 477 K”
https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Andrews_Community_Forest/Meetings/2025/04/d2_Recreation_Appendix.pdf

A2.5. Recreation

Previously, the Forest was not posted and hunting, walking, snowshoeing, and skiing were allowed. It was also managed for timber, leaving logging roads scattered throughout the property. Some of these roads are unsuitable for increased recreational use due to their steep grades, poor drainage, and potential for erosion. Others could be lightly maintained for continuing use as footpaths, supplementing multi- and single-use trails in appropriate areas. Other roads (the VELCO road, the Maple Wind Farm road on the eastern boundary, and parts of the former VAST trail) act as important recreational and management corridors throughout the property and remain in use. New trails and a parking area have made the Forest easier to access.

The VYCC campus, which adjoins the property to the east, has a network of trails. There is currently a former VAST trail connecting the two properties and their trail networks.

Adjoining the ACF to the north is a 173-acre property currently owned by David Sunshine and Carol Jordan, which contains a multi-use trail network connecting to trails on adjoining properties and beyond, including into Jericho. Trail maps of the area are available online at RichmondMountainTrails.org and TrailForks.com (the RTC proposed favored App). The Sunshine-Jordan property is conserved through VT Forests, Parks and Recreation. Motorized travel is not permitted there and there is no parking at the trailhead.

B6. Recreation Management

[To be updated with Brad’s suggestion and with input from Jim]

B6.1 Permitted and non-permitted uses

Maps, and general rules about permitted and non-permitted uses, hours of opening, trail use, dogs, hunting, etc. shall be posted at the Kiosk and other trail entry points to the ACF, and online at the Town website

B6.1.1. Dogs

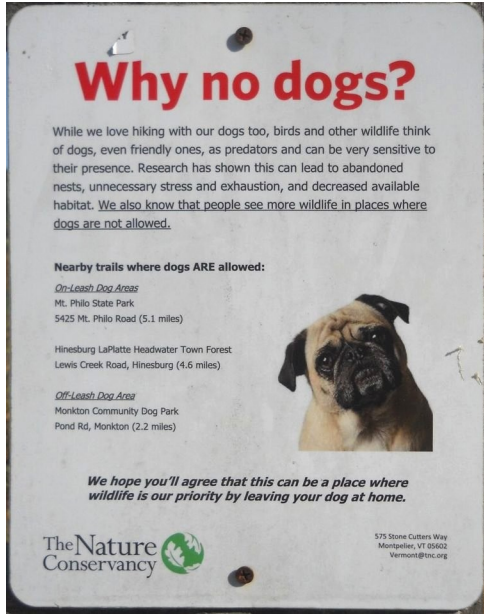


Figure: Notice about dogs at the Raven Ridge Natural Area.

Dogs are permitted below the power lines, and not above them. [SP Comment: I generally agree this is the responsible thing to do, but offer a slight adjustment— changing it from power line to VAST trail. It only slightly changed the allowed trails for dogs, and also allows for better connectivity to surrounding properties for dog owners without having a major impact on wildlife.] Dogs are to be kept on leash at all times, following the model of the Audubon Society (Huntington), in order to protect the forest wildlife. This is more stringent than the town dog ordinance, and is intended to protect wildlife and vegetation as well as other forest users. Hence no hunting with dogs. Voice control may not always be effective, and may disturb wildlife anyway because of the (loud) vocalization required. All pet waste must be carried out.

B6.1.2 Snowmobiling

Previously the ACF contained a snowmobile trail that was part of the VAST trail network. Snowmobiling will be permitted in the ACF if and when VAST seeks to establish such trails and subject to a use contract ensuring compatibility with the Management Plan's goals and objectives.

B6.1.3 Hunting

Many people want to hunt in the ACF. Hunting is allowed on the property in accordance with all State and federal laws and allowable uses. As of 2021, citizens of recognized Abenaki tribes may obtain free hunting licenses from the state of Vermont. The ACFC will emphasize education about hunting season safety for both hunters and non-hunters. Trapping will not be permitted on the Town Forest because of the safety hazard it presents to visitors and their pets who may be traveling both on and off trail.

B6.2 Recreation Objectives and Actions

[BE: I offer this as a consolidated alternative to the two Recreation sections of earlier MP drafts. It's shorter and (hopefully) more easily understood and applied than what we've been struggling with. Its primary aim is to give the ACFC a rational and practical way to reconcile the potential conflicts in the Easement between protecting the ACF's ecological integrity while still providing meaningful recreational opportunities, new and old, throughout the forest.

As with the changes I proposed to the Ecological Resources section, it quickly gets to management objectives and action items. Anyone needing more information on its background and logics can easily find it in the Appendix D.]

Outdoor recreation has long been available and remains a highly valued tradition throughout the Andrews Community Forest. The Town Plan and ACF Conservation Easement support a wide range of recreational uses of the ACF managed to avoid undue, adverse impacts to the forest’s notable ecological integrity and functions. By blending thoughtfully located and designed trails with strong ecological stewardship, the ACF can enable hikers, hunters, bikers, skiers and many others in our community to continue enjoying the in the ACF with little or no detriment to forest health.

Objective: Continue offering a wide range of recreational opportunities for hikers, bikers, hunters, walkers, runners, nature observers, skiers, snowshoers and others.

Actions:

- Design and maintain trails to provide a variety of experiences for users of diverse interests and abilities.
- Base trail proposals on a determination of how the community’s needs and wishes for them compare with their economic, ecological and social benefits and costs.
- Collaborate with the Richmond Trails Committee, Richmond Conservation Commission, the County Forester and other experts in the development and management of sustainable trails based on up-to-date literature regarding trail design.
- Protect the integrity of the ACF’s most ecologically rich and productive areas while expanding recreational opportunities in the less-sensitive areas closest to the parking lot and town population centers.
- For trails connecting to other properties, use the Trail Maintenance Commitment Agreement (see Appendix D) to obtain landowner approval for the linkage and its continuity.
- [BE: This was sourced through the ChatGPT AI tool and is something that after discussion we may want to pass to the Town Attorney. I like the way it gets around requiring access to be guaranteed for a set number of years.]
- Follow the process described in the Appendix to this plan to obtain Selectboard and easement holder approvals for trail proposals.
- Minimize cost, ecological and other impacts by utilizing the existing forest road and skid trail network for appropriate recreational activities.
- Maintain a trailhead kiosk with up-to-date maps; usage rules and guidelines; and information about wildlife, cultural heritage, hunting safety and etiquette. Post up-to-date maps; usage rules and guidelines at trail entry points from adjacent properties, and make this information accessible through the ACFC web page.
- Use Indigenous names for trails, as vetted by Abenaki tribal citizens and language experts, and update signage accordingly. Display a short Land Acknowledgment at all entrances and on maps: *“The Andrews Community Forest is located within Ndakinna, the unceded homeland of the*

Western Abenaki People, who have a unique connection to this land and have been its traditional stewards.”(See 2018 MP Appendix B, Part 1)

- Implement seasonal and weather-related closures in designated areas to protect deer yards, nesting/breeding sites, mast stands, wildlife connectivity routes and fragile soils.
- Seek long-term connectivity options to neighboring properties **with public access** through trail agreements, conservation easements or land acquisitions.

Objective: Expand mountain bike access to the ACF.

Actions:

- Collaborate with the Richmond Trails Committee and volunteer groups and individuals to **identify trails suitable for mountain bike use and** build, improve, monitor and/or maintain mountain biking trails in appropriate areas.
- Include routes for beginning and more experienced bikers.
- Emphasize construction of singletrack mountain bike trails to enhance visitor safety and enjoyment.
- Design trails to offer riders a variety of experiences, from flowy singletracks for beginners to technical features **[liability risk?]** for experienced riders.

Objective: Ensure the sustainability of ACF recreational trails – ecologically, economically and culturally.

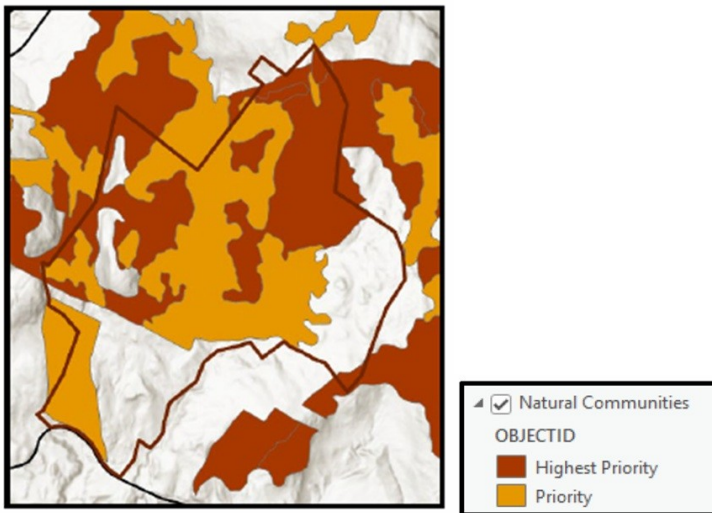


Figure __: On a state-wide scale, Vermont’s Agency of Natural Resources ranks ACF’s natural communities as “high” and “highest” priority for conservation. Note that most are clustered north of the former VAST trail. Source: VT ANR BioFinder.

Actions:

- Follow the principles of the [*The Vermont Town Forest Trail Design Guide*](#) stated as:
 - Avoid sensitive ecological areas and critical habitats.
 - Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity.
 - Provide buffers to protect sensitive ecological and hydrologic systems.
 - Use natural infiltration and best practices for stormwater management.
 - Ensure ongoing stewardship of trails and surrounding natural systems.
 - Design, build, and maintain trails sustainably.
 - Decommission and restore unsustainable trail corridors.
- Expedite new trail development by designating select, existing forest roads and trails as lightly maintained footpaths not requiring additional construction work and resultant State and local permitting
- Use current and/or additional assessments of wildlife biologists and professional trail designers to flag new routes that align with this Management Plan’s requirements.
- Improve public access while minimizing ecological impacts by:
 - Expanding opportunities for mountain biking and casual hiking by developing new trails south of and including the former VAST trail
 - Continuing to welcome hikers, runners, hunters, skiers, snowshoers and other pedestrian visitors in the sensitive, remote area north of the former VAST trail on lightly maintained footpaths along existing forest roads and skid roads.
- Avoid parallel trail routes.
- Include overlays on all trail proposal maps to identify locations of sensitive natural features and 100-meter zones of influence (ZOIs)¹ on each side of proposed routes.
- Allow trail ZOIs to encroach on sensitive features only when the community value of the trails can be shown to exceed their costs and risks, including those to wildlife and the ACF’s ecological functionality. Mitigate those impacts by designating as trail-free equivalent areas around other sensitive features.
- Incorporate engineering features in trail plans to promote sustainability, such as bridges, boardwalks, natural drainage systems and erosion-resistant designs.
- Comply with State and Town rules and regulations regarding development on slopes, wetlands, riparian areas and other sensitive areas.

¹ Zones of influence (ZOIs) are areas within which wildlife can detect and flee or otherwise respond to human activity, such as traffic on a trail. ZOIs can range up to and beyond 300 meters, though studies show 100 meters to be an acceptable and practical minimum standard for wildlife in Northeastern forests such as the ACF.

- Reduce erosion, washout and water quality risks by **excluding** trail development on **terrain** slopes over 35%. For **proposed** trails on slopes between 20% and 35%, and/or encroaching upon wetlands, contract with a licensed, professional engineer and/or wetlands specialist to develop detailed site plans and erosion controls, and seek any necessary state or local approvals.
- Follow the ACF trail and wildlife stewardship plans to maintain high levels of both user enjoyment and ecological sustainability.

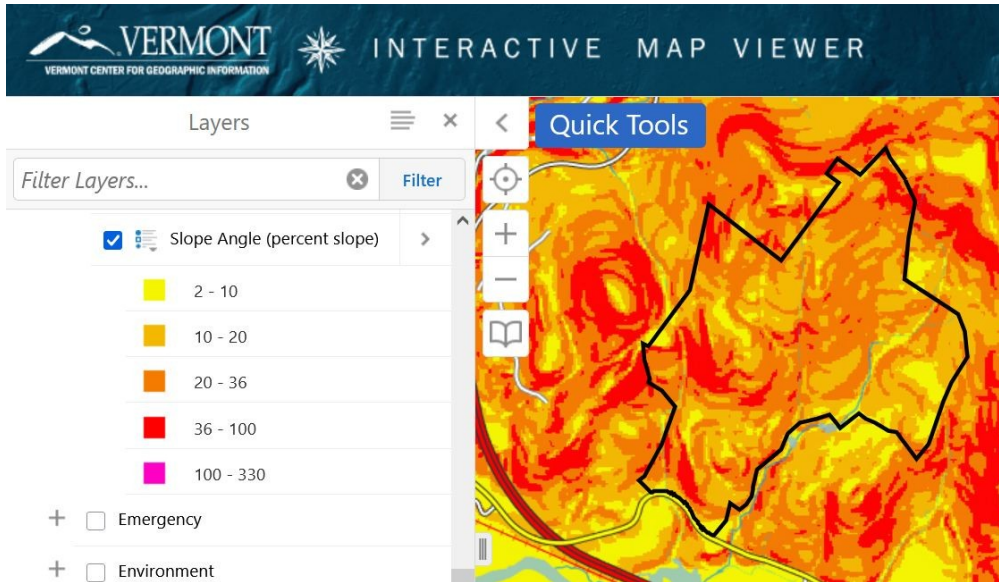


Figure: Slopes of terrain in the ACF. Zoning regulations identify special provisions for development on slopes between 20% and 35%, and greater than 35%

Objective: Engage the public in the enjoyment and stewardship of ACF trails.

Actions:

- Organize educational events and volunteer trail workdays independently or with the Conservation Commission and/or Trails Committee.
- **Establish and publicize** an ACF email address for users to report maintenance needs or conflicts.
- Monitor and communicate trail conditions to the public through online tools.
- Explore options for a walking/biking connection to Richmond Village.
- Evaluate applications for trail-based events to ensure ecological compatibility and minimize Town liabilities.

B6.3 Process for Considering Future Trails

Proposals for new trails must comply with the latest approved update to the Management Plan. Otherwise, the Management Plan must first be fully revised, publicly reviewed and approved by the Selectboard and Easement holders.

In considering the appropriateness of proposing any new future trails, the Committee will (1) seek appropriate professional guidance to assist it in evaluating trail sustainability and the impact of trails on the ACF's wildlife and forested ecosystems;

[BE: ACFC members, the SB and public will need to know more. Suggest leading this list with
 (1) Document the need for and benefits of new trails
 (2) comply with Richmond’s Zoning Regulations and Town Plan
 (3) Obtain estimates for building it and its infrastructure.]
 (4) engage with the community via an open public process addressing the Town Plan and Management
 Plan’s objectives to offer recreational opportunities while protecting the ACF’s natural resources. Zoning
 permits for new trail construction may require a professionally prepared site plan and an engineering
 design plan. *[BE: I believe Tyler referred to an “Erosion and Sedimentation control plan.”]*

Any new trail will avoid impacting ecologically sensitive areas (via buffers and Zones of Influence);
 avoid duplication of trail routes and high density of trails; avoid trail routes liable to erosion.
 Evaluation of suitability of new trail proposals should take into account the results of monitoring of
 impacts of existing and prior trails. A new trail proposal should identify whether it is intended for
 mechanized (bike) use, and explain why, taking into account the criteria and regulations for allowing
 mechanized use in the Easement Page 6 (Page 6 Section IIIA “Permitted Uses of the protected Property”).

B6.4 Trail Monitoring, Maintenance, etc.

*[BE: This would benefit from an opening statement describing the purpose, such as: “The Adaptive
 Management (Section ?) and the Town’s overall stewardship of the forest and its recreational facilities,
 depend on regular, consistent tracking of trail usage, trail and infrastructure conditions, impacts on
 ecological processes, and the need and costs of maintenance projects. Benchmarks and trigger points
 should be established to guide usage of the data as it is gathered. The Trail Stewardship Plan details
 steps needed to achieve this.”]*

Trail users will be encouraged to notify the ACFC of any observed problems requiring attention (downed
 trees, erosion, invasive plants, etc.) via the email address listed at the Town website. The ACFC member
 who is the Richmond Trails Committee representative will be a designated as responsible for monitoring
 trail conditions, coordinating maintenance and repairs, and publicizing trails’ status.

Monitoring of trail traffic

[SP Comment: Should we consider adding a visitor sign in log?]

[JP: Absolutely, doing so is consistent with all of our goals (conservation, recreation, education, etc)]

*[BE: We definitely need to provide for some kind of monitoring but not as a substitute for avoiding
 sensitive areas in the first place.]*

Monitoring should include counting or estimating the number of visits, making periodic surveys of plants
 (including invasives) and animal populations, and inspecting for trail erosion. The plan should establish
 baselines and then monitor changes over time.

*[BE: How to establish baselines? Set some parameters in the Trail Stewardship Plan and in the Wildlife
 Stewardship Plan]*

Results of monitoring shall be reported annually at a meeting of the ACFC. Management actions shall be
 adjusted according to the results of the monitoring plan per the adaptive management model in **Figure 3.**

Monitoring should start with sensitive areas identified by the [Arrowwood report](#) recommendations, and
 the 2019 [Field Naturalist Report](#) and employ game cameras, *[BE: audio traps,]* observations by
[volunteers](#), and forest monitoring coordination.

Invasive species management

Seasonal visual inspection for invasive species will be conducted by ACFC and removal / mitigation will
 be planned accordingly. Guidance shall be sought from the Conservation Commission, local experts such
 as Jon Kart (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Department) and others on
 monitoring methods and control measures for identified invasive species. *[BE: Suggests asking the*

County Forester to take a lead role in this. It should be given critical importance in the Forestry Management Plan.]

Monitoring impact of human presence in forest

[BE: This title is overly broad, and seems to focus only on soil impacts. Benchmarks and standards relating to trail carrying capacity for ecological protections, user safety, user enjoyment, etc., should be established for any trail.]

Quantitative and qualitative data collected will be reviewed regularly and guide the Committee in prioritizing trail maintenance and upgrades. Trail user counters will be installed at base of each trail, and counts retrieved periodically. A non-arbitrary decision-tree will be established to guide actions when certain numbers of users are on trails. Methodology:

1. National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (2016): A simple method for extrapolating from sample monitoring to estimate longer term traffic volume. <https://bikepeddocumentation.org>

2. SE Group (2017) Monitoring Traffic on Hinesburg Town Forest (2017)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uUC0Vwym_BjyvSnyVy58z4Qp40p6ElBT/view

3. Monitoring traffic on Johnnie Brook Trail <https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2023/04/jbt-kh.pdf>

Seasonal visual inspection of trails for erosion and maintenance requirements will be conducted by the ACFC. Trail maintenance will be planned seasonally and as needed and will be coordinated with the Trails Committee to supervise work and to recruit volunteers. The ACFC member who is the Richmond Trails Committee (RTC) member will liaise between ACFC and the RTC and other groups.

B6.5 Potential Recreation Partnerships

- Richmond Trails Committee
- Western Abenaki Tribes and Richmond Racial Equity
- Maple Wind Farm
- VYCC
- Richmond Land Trust
- Richmond Mountain Trails/Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA)
- Scouts
- Community Senior Center
- Richmond Conservation Commission
- County Forester
- Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
- UVM Community Forest Program

Appendix D Recreation

Community Interests and Benefits

The Andrews Community Forest has long offered many recreational opportunities to town residents and visitors. That tradition continues, along with the many benefits to health and well-being that outdoor recreation and nature experiences provide.

When the Town acquired the forest, it surveyed town residents to determine their preferences for allowed activities in the ACF. The ten most favored, in order of preference, were hiking, running, hunting, snowshoeing, skiing, bird- and wildlife-watching, picnicking, biking and dog-walking. Subsequent input from Town residents identified expanded mountain biking opportunities, including connections to abutting trail systems, as important. Others were concerned how new types and intensities of trail traffic would affect existing users, human and animal alike.

Legal and Policy Guidance

Reflecting science, Town legal and policy documents strongly support sustainable recreation. The ACF Conservation Easement establishes recreation as one of its central Purposes, requiring the Town to “provide for non-motorized, non-commercial recreational, educational and other appropriate community uses.”

The Easement also requires the Town to “conserve productive forestland, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, natural communities, riparian buffers, wetlands, soil productivity, water quality and native flora and fauna...and the ecological processes that sustain these natural resource values...” This echoes the Richmond Town Plan, which calls for protecting “priority natural areas” and ensuring “best stewardship” of Town-owned land such as the ACF. As noted elsewhere in this plan, the ecological importance and sensitivity of the ACF’s natural features and contributions are well-documented in assessments by the Vermont Land Trust, Audubon Vermont, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, UVM Field Naturalist Program, UVM Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative, Arrowwood Environmental, and others.

Examining Options

As part of its due diligence, the ACF Committee reviewed proposals for building several miles of new trails and associated bridges and boardwalks, some to connect the forest to trail systems on adjoining private land and to networks beyond. The Committee considered factors that had changed or come to light since the original, 2018 Management Plan was written, among them:

- *The ACF’s ecological role and importance.* Assessments by UVM, Arrowwood and others since the original plan was written confirm the ACF’s value for black bear, bobcat, whitetail deer, fisher and other wildlife, especially in the northern, least developed and visited areas of the forest.
- *Advances in recreation.* New equipment and technologies are increasing recreational demands, allowing more people to penetrate farther, faster and deeper into forests more often and with less effort. Social media and trail recreation maps direct people places only few knew about a decade

ago, including rich, remote natural areas and habitats.

- *Continuing research showing wildlife’s sensitivity to trail traffic.* Recently published scientific studies and literature reviews further explain how trail traffic can fragment, degrade and destroy productive wildlife habitats within “zones of influence” extending hundreds of meters from the trails themselves.
- *Limited space for sustainable trail development.* Even buffers of a modest 100 meters around sensitive areas would preclude trail development nearly all of the ACF. The steepness and wetness of the surrounding terrain is another concern, and could subject development projects to state and local permitting requirements.
- *The Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.* The Town of Richmond has pledged to foster a healthy forest community by incorporating into our management practices the Traditional Ecological Knowledge that sustained our area’s forests for thousands of years.
- *Assessments of needs.* Though it’s difficult to get an exact count, more than 100 miles of trails available to the public can now be identified within Richmond and its neighboring towns, most on private lands. Some are primarily for hikers or bikers; others serve a mix.

Achieving Balance

[CR: I do not agree with this.....needs discussion and vote..this is Chase]

The Management Plan’s approach to meaningfully protecting the forest and accommodating diverse recreational and other community wishes centers on balancing ecological and recreational needs. The plan creates two recreational management zones based on the particular topography, sensitivity and accessibility of each. It puts equal emphasis on conserving the integrity of ACF’s interior forest, and facilitating public access to the entire property :

- North of the former VAST trail, the forest remains open to hiking, hunting and other activities on footpaths, with access improved through light maintenance of select forest roads and skid trails. The remote, rugged terrain helps prevent overuse of this recognized sensitive area..
- South of and including the former VAST trail, the Management Plan encourages development of new trails for casual hiking, mountain biking and other activities. Route 2, the ACF parking lot and existing trail and utility road connections provide convenient access to this area (and also simplify trail construction and maintenance for the Town).

Trails in the south include shorter loops from the parking area to ensure the property is accessible and inviting to people of all ages and abilities, including families with young children and older people. They can also accommodate visits by school groups.

This dual-zone strategy helps the Town meet its legal and policy obligations. It also provides the community with an expanded range of recreational opportunities balanced with minimal impacts on its most secluded, sensitive and ecologically sensitive areas.

Special considerations

- *Hunting.* Hunters from throughout the area use the ACF, and the ACFC allows and encourages the practice. Its benefits include control of the ACF’s deer population, important to restoring

healthier diversities of age and species to the forest’s trees and understory. Hunters and non-hunters can share the landscape at any time of year. The ACFC urges each to take safety precautions such as wearing highly visible clothing and keeping dogs leashed. See the posted guidelines for the latest requirements and advice. *[BE: In our guidelines, we might want to go a step beyond State reg by prohibiting hounding and coyote hunting.]*

- *Trapping.* Because of safety hazards to visitors, pets and bycaught animals, trapping is not permitted in the ACF.
- *Snowmobiling.* Snowmobiling may be permitted to resume on the former VAST trail subject to a use contract ensuring compatibility with the ACF Conservation Easement and Management Plan. Motorized recreation is otherwise prohibited in the ACF.

Process for Considering Future Trails

Proposals to the Selectboard and easement holder for new trails must conform with this or subsequent ACF Management Plans and:

- Document the needs and benefits of the new trail for specified users (hikers, runners, mountain bikers, skiers, etc.)
- Map the proposed trail route in relation to nearby sensitive features, 100-meter envelopes around them and slope and soil suitability for the types of anticipated usage.
- Obtain cost estimates for trail and infrastructure assessments, design, permitting and management, including compliance with the ACF Trail Stewardship Plan.
- Engage with the Conservation Commission, Trails Committee and the public to address the proposals compatibility with the Conservation Easement, Town Plan and Management Plan.
- Conform with the Trail Stewardship Plan.
- Obtain Selectboard and easement holder approvals along with any required State or Town permits.

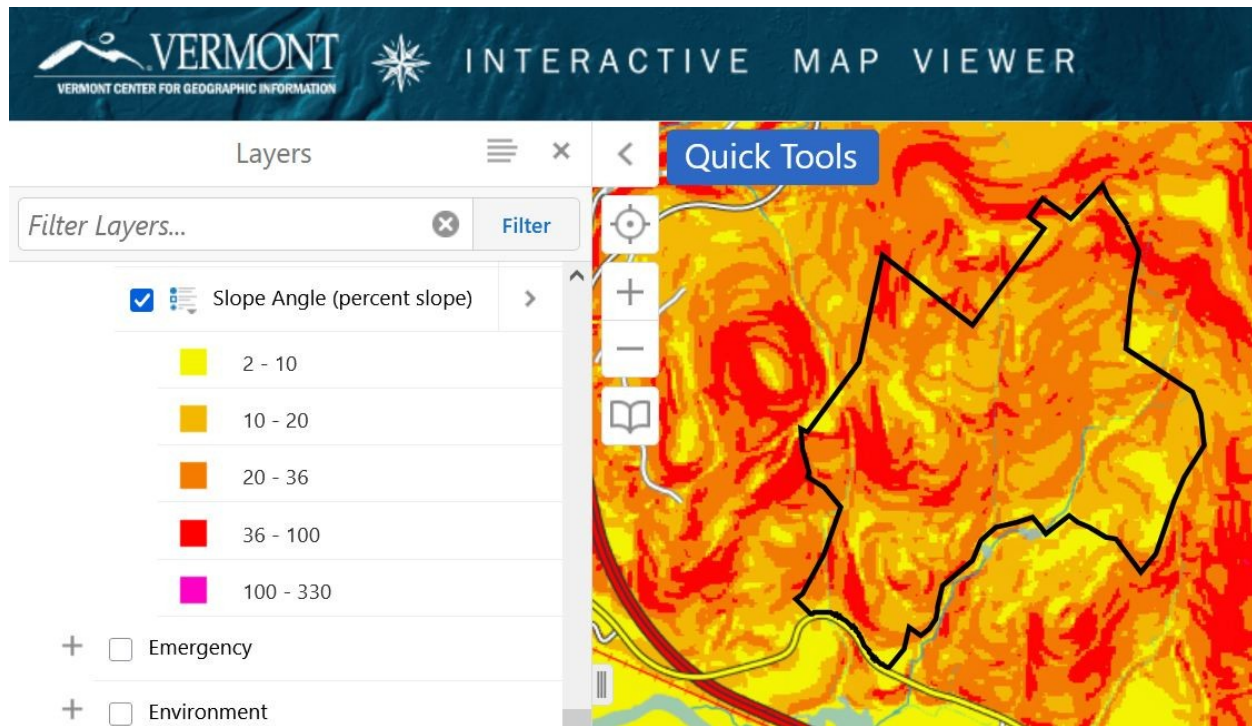


Figure __: Slopes of terrain in the ACF. Richmond's Zoning Regulations identify special provisions for development on slopes greater than 20%, and greater than 35%.

Source: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

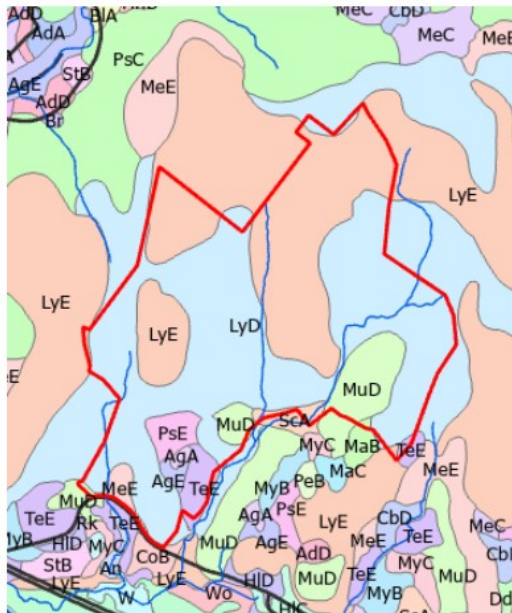


Figure __: Soil distribution in the ACF

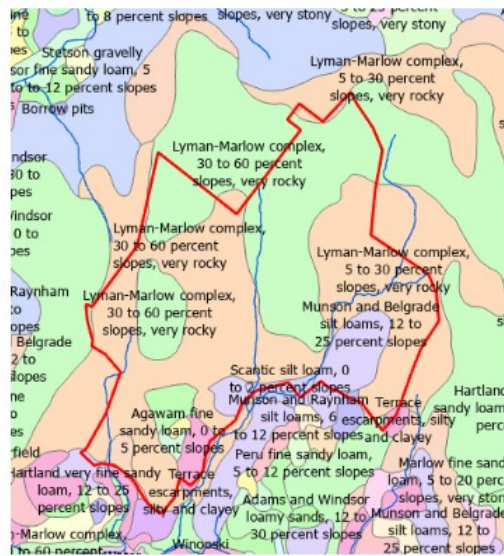


Figure __: Soil types in the ACF

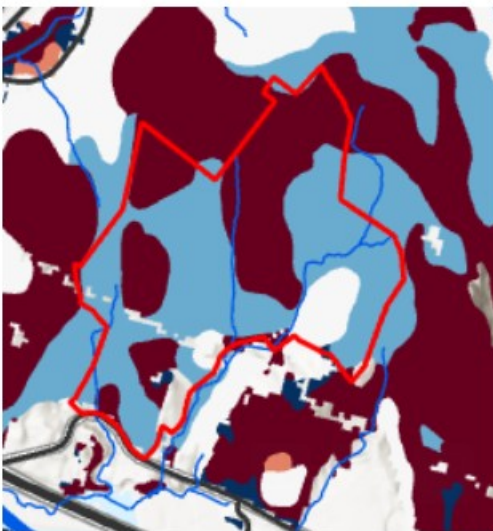


Figure __: Soil suitability for trail construction in the ACF. (Sources for Fig. 6-8: UVM Forest Ecological Management Cooperative)

1

2 **Process for Constructing Approved Trails**

3 **[BE: Might we cover this in the TSP?]**

- 4 ● A hired professional trail designer will flag a route that, to the best of their ability, follows the
- 5 route appearing in the approved Trail Design Map.
- 6 ● A professional ecologist, will walk the flagged route and a 50-foot buffer on either side to
- 7 determine whether there are any fine-scale features (rare, threatened, or endangered species) that

would be adversely impacted by the proposed trail development. If there are, the trail designer will consult with the ecologist to identify a suitable re-route.

- The Committee may make minor adjustments to the Trail Design Map to ensure protections of known sensitive areas, as identified and mapped in existing ecological assessments.
- Following Easement holder and Selectboard approval, the Committee will work with the Richmond Trails Committee, volunteer groups or individuals and/or a hired trail-builder to install trails which meet standards and designs agreed upon by the Committee and approved by the Selectboard and DRB.
- The ACFC will seek grant funding as necessary to support the design, construction, and maintenance of trails approved and included on the Trail Design Map.

Potential Recreation Partnerships

- Richmond Trails Committee
- Richmond Conservation Commission
- Chittenden County Forester
- UVM Community Forest Program
- Western Abenaki Tribes and Richmond Racial Equity
- Maple Wind Farm
- VYCC
- Richmond Land Trust
- Richmond Mountain Trails/Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA)
- Scouts
- Community Senior Center

[BE: The following (drafted by ChatGPT) might be better placed in the TSP, where it could be more easily modified as changing situations warrant)]

Trail Maintenance Commitment Agreement

This Trail Maintenance Commitment Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of the ____ day of _____, 20, by and between:

Town or Richmond, the owner of the Andrews Community Forest located at [Address or Legal Description] (Granting Landowner); and

Landowner 2: [Name] ("Receiving Landowner"), the owner of the property located at [Address or Legal Description].

WHEREAS, the Granting Landowner maintains a trail on their property and wishes to connect it to a trail on the Receiving Landowner's property;

WHEREAS, the Receiving Landowner agrees to maintain the trail on their property to ensure its continued usability and connectivity with the Granting Landowner's trail; NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

Trail Maintenance Commitment

- a. The Receiving Landowner commits to maintaining the portion of the trail located on their property in a reasonable condition suitable for continued use by pedestrians, cyclists, and other agreed-upon users.
- b. Maintenance shall include, but is not limited to, clearing debris, repairing erosion, and ensuring safe passage along the trail.

Access and Use

- a. The trail shall remain open for public or private use as determined by the Receiving Landowner.
- b. The Granting Landowner shall not be responsible for any maintenance, liability, or costs associated with the Receiving Landowner's trail portion.

Duration and Modification

- a. This Agreement shall remain in effect unless terminated by mutual written consent of both parties.
- b. Any modifications must be in writing and signed by both parties.

Indemnification and Liability

- a. Each party agrees to hold the other harmless from claims arising from their respective trail maintenance obligations.
- b. The Receiving Landowner assumes responsibility for injuries or damages occurring on their portion of the trail.

Governing Law This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted under the laws of the State of Vermont.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

Granting Landowner:

[Name]

[Date]

Receiving Landowner:

[Name]

[Date]

Trail Development and Stewardship

[Insert link to Trail Stewardship Plan]