

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps  
Campus Plans - Draft  
9.19.22

In any given year, VYCC enrolls 200 – 300 young adults to work and learn on small crews as they complete a wide range of conservation and agriculture projects throughout Vermont. VYCC's 400-acre campus in Richmond, Vermont serves as headquarters to support both on-campus program activities, as well as crew logistics further afield. A diversified vegetable and poultry farm, successive waves of leader training, housing (permanent and seasonal), office space, tool and equipment storage, as well as parking for vehicles are all pressing needs.

To support program growth and development, VYCC has reimagined how we might adapt historic structures to more fully meet the needs of today – and, tomorrow. We hope to:

- Convert the West Monitor Barn from office space to program hub that houses a commercial kitchen, a ten-room dorm, showers and locker rooms, and a wash/pack station. The second floor currently houses VYCC staff offices, and this will be where the dorm rooms will go. The exterior of the structure will remain unchanged, and the ground and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors will remain largely the same. **SEE PAGE 1**
- Restore and repurpose the East Monitor Barn to house offices for ~35 staff, provide ample tool and equipment storage, and a seasonal workshop for a growing Build (carpentry) program. **SEE PAGES 2-4**
- Restore and repurpose the Carriage Barn to house a facilities workshop on the ground floor and a four-season classroom/training center. **SEE PAGES 2-4**
- Construct a new Food Center directly west of the East Monitor Barn. This will house a commercial kitchen, a dining area, and 3-season pavilion. **SEE PAGES 2-4**
- Construct a “breezeway” that connects the Food Center and East Monitor Barn. The Food Center and breezeway will house as much of the utilitarian needs as possible – bathrooms, kitchen, etc., thus reducing the impact on the historic structures. **SEE PAGES 2-4**

- Build a new Farm Barn for vehicles and equipment and locate this near the farm fields to the northwest of the West Monitor Barn. **SEE PAGES 5-7**
- Enhance the current lean-to area (northwest of the fields, in the forest) to offer more, and more comfortable rustic accommodations for Corps Members from spring thru fall. **SEE PAGE 8**
- Renovate the Farmhouse to increase and improve housing for fulltime staff. This is not a historic structure.
- Move the current wash/pack station from the east campus to the west campus to provide shade and some storage for the Farm at VYCC.
- Tear down the existing Farm Barn (a non-historic metal building) and Quonset Hut.

In addition to these DRAFT drawings, it might be helpful to see a map that shows the entire property and associated easements. **SEE PAGE 9**

We are working with a number of people and business as we craft these plans. Eliot Lothrop of Building Heritage has been invaluable as we prepare to restore the East Monitor and Carriage Barns. We have also worked with Hillview Design and Build to draft conceptual drawings of these projects. Meg Campbell of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, as well as Elizabeth Peebles from the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation are supportive of VYCC's plans, though there are many more details to sort out. To help with these details, and to ensure historical integrity, we are also working with John Crock of UVM, an architectural historian and archeologist.

We have also been in conversation with Ravi Ventkataraman and Tyler Machia who have been quite helpful with guidance and advice on how to best adhere to Richmond's zoning and permitting rules.

We look forward to discussing these ideas in person and hope that sending this material in advance sets the stage for a productive conversation.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Breck Knauff". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Breck Knauff  
Executive Director, VYCC