

The Wilmington Trail Committee is responsible for 11 trails in our area: Valley Trail, Hoot, Toot & Whistle Trail, Downtown Loop, Beaver Brook Trail, Lisle Hill Trail, Primitive Trail, Lake Raponda Trail, Raponda Ridge Trail, Ware Homestead & Hogback Connector, Shearer Hill Trail, and Monument Trail. These trails require regular maintenance such as mowing, trimming back brush, removing downed trees, and ensuring these trails are well-marked with kiosks and blue blaze trail signs.

We received a Recreational Trails Program Grant (\$50,000) in 2025, which was combined with the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant of \$227,000 received in 2024. This allowed us to complete a significant portion of the Hoot, Toot and Whistle (HTW) Redevelopment Project. This project included making the trail wider, smoother and more accessible, improving the future sustainability of the trail, adding a new staircase, and building bridges, boardwalks and culverts in low-lying wet trail areas. Our fundraising efforts continue so that we can complete the last section of the HTW trail, the new mid-way trailhead parking area at Fairview Avenue, and additional needed work. As of the end of 2025, our efforts resulted in over \$7,000 donated from the local community; we thank all those who contributed to our fundraising efforts. We still need an estimated \$175k to complete the remaining section of the HTW Trail.

On our other trails, we held several “Work Bees” for light brushwork and clearing; added new culverts, grass seed, and rerouted portions of trails; posted newly designed trailhead signs with simplified “trail rules” messaging; and worked with Wilmington Police Chief Murano and the Selectboard to address landowner concerns and complaints regarding dogs off-leash on trails by amending the existing Animal Control Ordinance.

We also collaborated and/or connected with several groups with similar interests:

- Vermont Trails & Greenways Council and VT Forest, Parks & Recreation
- Wilmington Recreation Commission
- Wilmington Works
- Southern VT Deerfield Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers

WTC had member representation and participation at Wilmington’s Green Up Day, the VT Conference on Parks, Trails, and Recreation (FPR and VT CG joint meeting) at Killington, and the Vermont Wildlife Festival (invited by the Vermont Museum of Natural History).

We are grateful to the Friends of Trails for helping us maintain the trails, Marshall Dix’s help in repairing the trail kiosks, Gretchen Havreluk’s support managing the Hoot, Toot & Whistle Redevelopment Project and applying for grants, and Julie and Jeremy White for mowing and assistance with trail maintenance. A special thanks to Great River Hydro and the private landowners who grant permission for the trails to exist on their property and extend the privilege of public recreational enjoyment on their land.

We have open seats on our committee and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining our dynamic, dedicated team of Trail Committee members. Looking forward to a great 2026 and to seeing you all out on the trails!

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bois, Chair  
Joanne Yankura, Vice Chair  
Elynn Lebron, Clerk  
Bob Fisher  
Jeff Menges  
Alan Baker