

# Readfield Trails Committee Strategic Plan

Date: 5/21/2017

**The Mission of the Readfield Trails Committee:** The Readfield Trails Committee will plan and coordinate the development of environmentally acceptable trails within the town of Readfield. The committee will promote safe, functional, connections between the various activity centers of the town and provide linkage, where possible, between recreational trails within the town and with adjacent towns. (Adopted 10/2/2007, Revised 04/26/2011)

**Purpose:** The Readfield Trails Committee was established by the Readfield Select Board to assist in accomplishing the goals set forth in the Readfield Open Space Plan (2006) and the Readfield Comprehensive Plan (updated 2009).

- To provide a wider range of recreational opportunities in Readfield.
- In conjunction with the Conservation Commission, where appropriate, to create new, and maintain existing, systems of trails to accommodate diverse uses.
- To expand and interconnect existing town trails.
- To take advantage of discontinued and abandoned roads, and other town owned properties to utilize as potential trail corridors.

## **Tangible Benefits of Trails for Readfield:**

- Trails create assets for the town that are inexpensive to build and inexpensive to maintain.
- Trails link neighborhoods with the town center, schools, historic sites, and recreational facilities.
- Trails provide year round recreational opportunities.
- Trails foster a positive image of Readfield, as a town, that complements important community and family values.
- Trails encourage healthy, family, activities such as hiking, biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

## **Scope of the Strategic Plan:**

- Integrate the goals of the Trails Committee with the goals of the “Readfield Open Space Plan”
- Work with the Conservation Commission, the Rec Board, schools, and other town organizations to develop integrated plans and ideas
- Develop achievable short, intermediate and long term projects and goals
- Existing trails must be maintained and extended where possible.
- Trails should be developed to accommodate different users and levels of activity.
- The ‘in town’ trails should be universally accessible
- Partnerships with other groups, such as the Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club and other neighboring community clubs and organizations should be encouraged. Enhanced recreation opportunities would be realized through combining resources.

## **Strategic Plan Goals for RTC:**

1. Build the image -
  - Advertise the Trails link more clearly on the Readfield website.
  - A member of the Trails Committee should serve as the committee’s public relations person.
  - Promote the Readfield trails system in the media – Facebook, Advertiser, KJ, Maine Trail guides, etc.
  - Establish a liaison person with the school. Further, we should encourage the school to form their own team with a Trails Committee member as an advisor on how to go about it.



- Encourage the school or the board to write their own grants and take more ownership of trails on their property.
  - Maintain a monthly calendar of events and work days; post it on the trails kiosks and at the town hall
  - Promote and encourage volunteer opportunities.
  - Work closely with potential and current abutters and nearby land owners when developing plans and working on projects.
  - Link up with the White Barn and other health facilities to promote healthy community programs
2. Build on existing trails
    - Insure that some trails are handicap accessible. Flag those trails accordingly. The 'in town' trails should be universally accessible.
    - Have meditation, or quiet areas, including benches, picnic tables, and green space by the trails
    - Label interesting plants and formations on the trails – talk with Historical Society and biology teachers about what to label
    - Conduct occasional history, biology, or geology walks (even if only one person shows up!)
    - Talk with Maranacook science teachers and biology teachers specifically, to do walks on the trails with their students.
  3. Build for the future
    - Expand budget discussions during RTC meeting. Clearly plan out the next year's work and be sure to include discussions, documentation, motions for expenditure of funds, tracking in minutes, accountability, etc.
    - Continue to work with the Conservation Commission and the Rec Board for ideas
    - Research and apply for outside grant monies when large, town sanctioned, projects are being considered and planned.
    - Work with the Kennebec Land Trust, Snowmobile Club and other organizations in order to build trail usage across the board.
  4. Build on the Town of Readfield's assets – see the next pages.



# Readfield Trails Committee Plans

Date: 5/16/2017

## Now - 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2017

- Flag the proposed Esker Trail and sections of the Maranacook Trails to define routes.
- Encourage the media (Advertiser, KJ, etc) to run stories and pictures of events on our trails by designating a Trails Committee member as a media liaison.
- For National Trails Day (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) publicize the day and have a Trails member at the Fairgrounds to hand out water and a map.
- During Heritage Days, have a relay race or other similar type event on our trails to raise awareness.
- Develop a trailhead to access to the Esker/Landfill Trail and define the parking area adjacent to the School Bus Garage
- Continue work on the Factory Square/Mill Stream Dam area.
- Post monthly calendars of events and workdays on Facebook, Trailhead Kiosks, and Town Hall Lobby. Designate someone to perform this task monthly.
- Update the Readfield Trail Map to show all trails, trailheads, and parking.
- Continue to boost the involvement/use of the trails with the various Readfield schools.
- Ensure that Readfield Trails are on the agenda for school “community service days”.
- Install another picnic table or benches on the Fairgrounds trail.

## Short Term – 1 Year

- Enhance some of the underused sections of the Maranacook School Trails
- With the Conservation Commission, begin plans on Phase 2 of the Factory Square/Mill Stream Dam area.
- Rejuvenate the trail behind the Readfield Elementary School.
- Procure and install RTC style trail & informational signs for the newly acquired KLT properties – they should match our signage for at other Readfield community trail/pathway signs.
- Establish a Readfield Trails Maintenance Day, in addition to the KHS & Maranacook HS work days.
- Plan something every year for National Trails Day.
- Install more benches on the trails – including the Fogg Rd and Torsey Pond trails. Talk with the Conservation Committee – they may be willing to fund the benches. (note – simple stained wooden benches would be cheap easy to install.

## Long Term – 5 Years

- Support and encourage a new sidewalk from the blinking light to the Fairgrounds parking area and perhaps as far as the cemetery.
- Continue working toward a partnership with Augusta Water District for trail development around Carlton Pond
- Provide links to Readfield Elementary School and Kents Hill School.
- Look at Morrell Road Trail again in order to open a link from Nickerson Hill Road via Morrill Road Trail and on to Factory Square.



## Old Plans from last year (can be used as a measuring stick)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2016

- Flag the proposed Esker Trail and sections of the Maranacook Trails and begin to define routes. **Done, during the summer of 2016.**
- Begin the project to reduce the steep pitch of the Lower Fairgrounds Trail. **Done, completed in to fall of 2016.**
- Develop plans for the Mill Stream Park with the Conservation Committee. **Done, during the summer of 2016.**
- Talk with town web master to get the Trails link more clearly on the Readfield town website. **The town's web site has gone through some changes and the Trails web page is easier to access and move around on.**
- Encourage the media (Advertiser, KJ, etc) to run stories and pictures of events on our trails by designating a Trails Committee member as a media liason. **Holly has volunteered to take on the role of PR person for the Trails Committee in April 2017. A great beginning!**
- Post monthly calendars of events and workdays on Facebook, Trailhead Kiosks, and Town Hall Lobby. Designate someone to perform this task monthly. **Some posting of workdays on Facebook, need to expand into other areas and post more regularly.**
- Update the Readfield Trail Map to show all trails, trailheads, and parking. **Still need to do.**
- Continue to boost the involvement/use of the trails with the various Readfield schools. **Still need to do.**
- Ensure that Readfield Trails are on the agenda for school "community service days". **Still need to do.**
- Work with Ellen Blanchard, Dale Potter Clark and school biology teachers to develop the marking of points of educational interest along the trails. **Still need to do.**
- Plan for and install picnic tables and benches on the Fairgrounds trail. **Done, during the summer of 2016. More are being planned!**
- Coordinate with Recreation and Conservation committees regarding Porta Pottie rental. **Done, during the summer of 2016.**
- Plan for the placement of an identification sign at the granite bench on the Fairgrounds Trail to show appreciation for the donor. **It was determined that the donor wanted their contribution to be anonymous, so this has been cancelled.**

### Short Term – 1 Year

- Enhance some of the underused sections of the Maranacook School Trails **Still need to do.**
- With the Conservation Commission, develop the Factory Square/Mill Stream Dam area as a "destination park" and trail area. **This is in process. Jerry Bly has been leading the effort and work on the dam should begin in the summer of 2017.**
- Purchase and install 'standard Trail' signage for existing trails – Fogg Road, Library, etc. **Done, completed in to fall of 2016.**
- Develop a trailhead to access to the Esker/Landfill Trail and define the parking area adjacent to the School Bus Garage **Still need to do.**
- Build up a section of the Lower Fairgrounds Trail in order to make it more ADA friendly **Done, completed in to fall of 2016. But work such as this will always be on-going.**
- Maintain blue stone surfaced trails where necessary with new material. **Done, completed in to fall of 2016. But work such as this will always be on-going.**
- Rejuvenate the trail behind the Readfield Elementary School. **Still need to do.**
- Look into alternate funding sources for linking trails, trail maintenance and new trail construction with the Recreation Trails Program and private donors. **It was determined by**



the RTC committee that the Trails Committee should not, at this time, try to set itself up to be funded by outside sources. RTC can accept private donations and those donations will go into a town managed fund that would be dedicated to RTC usage.

