

Readfield Trails Committee Strategic Plan

Date: 6/24/2016

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.
- New trails should be developed to accommodate different users and levels of activity.
- 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.
 - Ask a member of the Trails Committee to serve as the committee’s public relations person.
 - Promote the Readfield trails system in the media – Facebook, Advertiser, KJ, Maine Trail guides, etc.
 - 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.
 - Actively work with the various schools in and around Readfield to boost their involvement and usage of the trails.
 - 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 and flag those trails accordingly.
 - 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
 - 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 page.



Readfield Trails Committee Plans

Date: 5/26/2016

Now - 1st Half of 2016

- Flag the proposed Esker Trail and sections of the Maranacook Trails and begin to define routes.
- Begin the project to reduce the steep pitch of the Lower Fairgrounds Trail.
- Develop plans for the Mill Stream Park with the Conservation Committee
- Talk with town web master to get the Trails link more clearly on the Readfield town website.
- 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.
- 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”.
- Work with Ellen Blanchard, Dale Potter Clark and school biology teachers to develop the marking of points of educational interest along the trails.
- Plan for and install picnic tables and benches on the Fairgrounds trail.
- Coordinate with Recreation and Conservation committees regarding Porta Pottie rental
- Plan for the placement of an identification sign at the granite bench on the Fairgrounds Trail to show appreciation for the donor.

Short Term – 1 Year

- Enhance some of the underused sections of the Maranacook School Trails
- With the Conservation Commission, develop the Factory Square/Mill Stream Dam area as a “destination park” and trail area.
- Purchase and install ‘standard Trail’ signage for existing trails – Fogg Road, Library, etc.
- Develop a trailhead to access to the Esker/Landfill Trail and define the parking area adjacent to the School Bus Garage
- Build up a section of the Lower Fairgrounds Trail in order to make it more ADA friendly
- Maintain blue stone surfaced trails where necessary with new material.
- Rejuvenate the trail behind the Readfield Elementary School.
- Look into alternate funding sources for linking trails, trail maintenance and new trail construction with the Recreation Trails Program and private donors.

Long Term – 5 Years

- Extend the off-road access between the Ballfield and the Community Pathway (Library to Union Meeting House/Church Rd.)
- Continue working toward a partnership with Augusta Water District for trail development around Carlton Pond
- Possibly team up with the Town of Winthrop around Carlton Pond
- Provide links to Readfield Elementary School and Kents Hill School.
- Link Nickerson Hill Road via Morrill Road and its discontinued section to Factory Square.

