

Fairgrounds Forum
Trails Committee Comments
November 1, 2021

Thank-you to everyone for your efforts to allow all our residents to benefit from Readfield's ownership of the Fairgrounds property. I would also like to thank our Trails Committee members for their authorship and input in developing these remarks.

Given the Fairgrounds historic use, which we are all now familiar with due to the efforts of our town historical society, and given the current development of the property to provide recreational facilities for a wide range of interests, ages and abilities, the Fairgrounds is clearly going to function more like a town park than a pure conservation area.

That said, even if more development occurs, conservation values should continue to be maximized to the extent possible to benefit our town's environment, quality of life, and rural character.

The Readfield Trails Committee is one of several local boards and organizations with responsibilities or uses for this property. The Trails committee looks forward to working with all these groups now and going forward.

Our Fairgrounds trails are now used extensively by seasonal and permanent residents of Readfield and surrounding communities. With the length of the trails and the constructed bluestone surface through woods and fields, and connections to adjacent properties including the schools and town beach, our trails are enjoyed by a wide range of people including some with physical limitations. There are not many other trail systems like the Fairgrounds in our area.

In summary the Trails Committee's goals for the Fairgrounds and our trails are:

1. To keep and maintain the existing trails and trail loops;
2. When and where appropriate, continue to establish additional trail connections to adjacent properties;
3. For other town boards and committees, or other organizations, to keep the Trails Committee, thru the Trails Committee Chair, in the loop for review of proposals and designs for any additional developments on the Fairgrounds property; and,
4. When additional developments are proposed or constructed on the Fairgrounds property, they should include the design, funding, and construction of alterations or re-locations of our trails to preserve the existing trail system.

Thank-you.

Rob Peale, Chair, Readfield Trails Committee