

## Readfield Trails Committee Strategic Plan

Updated: March 2022

**The Mission of the Readfield Trails Committee:** The Readfield Trails Committee (RTC) plans and coordinates the development of environmentally acceptable trails within the Town of Readfield. The committee promotes safe, functional connections between the various activity centers of the Town and provides linkages, where possible, between recreational trails within the Town and with adjacent towns. (Adopted 10/2/2007, Revised 04/26/2011)

**Purpose:** The Readfield Select Board established the Readfield Trails Committee to assist in accomplishing the goals set forth in the Readfield Open Space Plan (2006) and the Readfield Comprehensive Plan (updated 2009 and 2022).

- 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 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 Recreation Board, schools, and other Town organizations to develop integrated plans and ideas.
- Develop achievable short, intermediate, and long-term projects and goals.
- Existing trails should be maintained and extended where possible.
- 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 may be realized through combining resources.

### **Specific Goals for RTC:**

#### **1. Build the RTC Brand:**

- Ensure RTC Trails information remains current 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 local schools. Further, the Committee should encourage local schools to form their own teams with a Trails Committee member to advise on how to maintain and establish trails on school grounds.



- Encourage local schools and the RSU 38 School Board to be more proactive in developing and promoting trails on school property.
- Maintain a monthly calendar of events and work days and post it on the trails kiosks and at the Town hall.
- Promote and encourage volunteer opportunities. Maintain a log book of projects, names of volunteers, and hours worked in service to RTC.
- Work closely with potential and current abutters and nearby land owners when developing plans and working on projects.
- Work collaboratively with interested parties, as they might come to the attention of RTC, to develop signage on RTC Trails.

## 2. Build on Existing Trails:

- Explore opportunities to connect sections of existing RTC trails as well as trails on adjacent privately owned land.
- Fairgrounds Trails should continue to be maintained so as to be available to a wide range of abilities. 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 folks, natural resource professionals, and biology teachers about what to label.
- Conduct occasional history, biology, or geology walks.
- Encourage Maranacook and Kents Hill School science teachers – and biology teachers specifically – to conduct walks on the trails with their students.

## 3. Build for the Future:

- Expand budget discussions during RTC meetings. 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 Recreation Board to solicit more creative ideas regarding trails in Readfield.
- Research and apply for outside grant monies when large, Town-approved projects are being considered and planned.
- Work with the Kennebec Land Trust, Snowmobile Club, Greater Augusta Utility District, and other organizations in order to build trail usage across a wide spectrum of prospective trail locations.
- When possible, use existing assets of the Town to:
  - Leverage existing easements within the Town of Readfield designated for recreational use, e.g.:
    - an easement across Balsam Estates;
    - easement along Rodrique Lane;
    - easement across Nurse Development on Scribner Hill Road;
    - easement along Fogg Road (east side of road);
    - easement along Kents Hill stone wall/farm field and storage units - from north side of Rt 17 to the upper corner of Echo Lake properties;
    - and along several Range Roads within the Town of Readfield.
    - other locations as may become identified.

