



Friends of the West River Trail

www.westrivertrail.org

Fall 2014 Lower Section Newsletter Greetings and Happy Fall!



The trail is looking good and is beautiful this time of year. If you haven't taken a walk, run or bike ride out there recently, please treat yourself!

The lower section of the West River Trail IS OPEN!

We hope everyone is aware that a detour has been created around the I-91 bridge work. There is good signage from the Marina Trailhead that tells you where to go. Just be

careful in a couple places where the re-routed trail intersects with the worksite route. The "detour" takes you up a fairly steep hill to a plateau that is exceptionally nice, with a well-packed and wide surface for walking, running and mountain bike riding. This upper loop affords an excellent view of the bridge construction as well as lovely western views at sunset. From there the path descends and connects with the existing West River Trail upstream of the bridge. For updates on the bridge project, PCL Construction and FIGG Design host a "trail talk" on the second Saturday of every month with the project managers. Meet them at the Marina Trailhead at 8 AM and walk together to the bridge site.

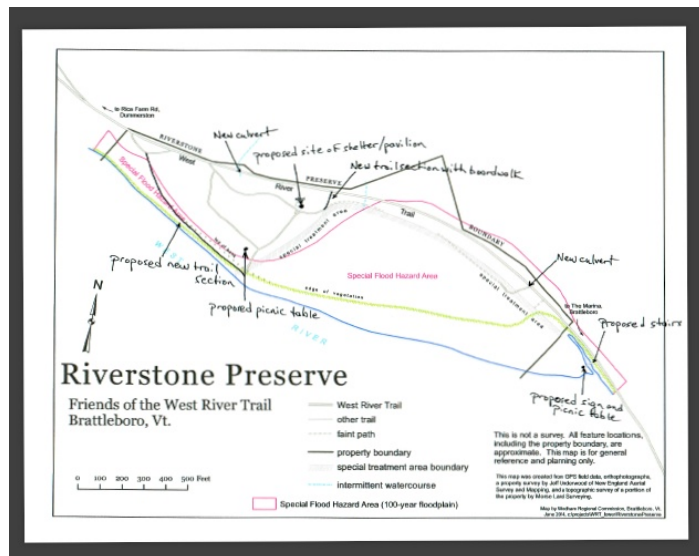


The Riverstone Preserve:

FoWRT formed a committee to plan for the design and use of this recently acquired 21 acre parcel, that would be in compliance with the management plan developed by the Vermont Land Trust specifically for this area. Their goals are to create recreation space and interpretive trails, and protect ecologically sensitive areas from intrusion.

The committee was coordinated by Paul Cameron from the FoWRT Steering Committee and members included Joan Weir, Monroe Whitaker, Malcolm Moore,

Alex Wilson, Tom Wagener, and Kim Smith. Six meetings (including four site visits) resulted in a map of the preserve, siting a new connector trail, and Development Review Board approval for a new section of trail along the shore and a set of stairs at the southern end. Under consideration is an education pavilion of some sort on or near the site of the old shed, along with picnic tables and interpretive signs. Thank you to the Riverstone Preserve Design Committee for the work they accomplished.



Trail improvements:

FoWRT received a grant last spring from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to once again have the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for two weeks during the summer. We had an enthusiastic crew of five, plus two leaders, who accomplished a great deal. On the Riverstone Preserve, they constructed a new connector trail, including a short section of boardwalk over a wet area, installed two drainage pipes to help

mitigate erosion, demolished the old shed that was in hazardous disrepair (Mike Kipp and his son later removed all rusted metals and debris from the shed), and removed the invasive Japanese knotweed from the shore. The crew also worked on the new section of trail near the quarry. We are enormously appreciative of their good work and plan to apply for a grant to have a VYCC crew again next summer.



Plaque of Appreciation:

To thank our major donors, we now have a fine beautiful wooden plaque that will be displayed at the Marina Trailhead kiosk (once the bridge construction is completed and the kiosk is back in its permanent place). For now, the plaque can be seen hanging in a prominent location inside, near the entrance to the Marina Restaurant. Martin Langeveld did a wonderful job coordinating the creation of the plaque. The base was contributed by Chad Woodruff of Woodruff Furniture, Vernon; heading lettering was designed by John McCarthy of McCarthy signs, Hinsdale and carved by Peter Poanessa of Keene Signworx; donor lettering was designed by Erika Elder and laser-engraved by Maple Landmark of Middlebury VT. Martin Langeveld applied several coats of tung oil finish and Zephyr Designs donated the picture-hanging hardware. Look for it at the Marina Restaurant!

New property acquired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is located across the road from the Rice Farm Road Trailhead. This 275 acres brings exciting opportunities for the WRT to connect to TNC trails. A joint parking area may be in the plans.

AND PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE:

Fall Work Day on the West River Trail!

Saturday, Nov 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet at the Marina Trailhead

Bring Boots, Gloves and Water and a Friend!

We have plenty of tools, but if you prefer, bring your own shovel, iron rake, hand saw, clippers or leaf rake. It should be light work-- mostly drainage clean out and pruning as needed. Hopefully it will be a great fall day on the trail!

Questions? Email Jason Cooper at jason.cooper10@gmail.com



As always, thank you for your interest and see you on the West River Trail!