

## Upper Valley Trails Alliance Accomplishments - 2013

The Trails Alliance is in the midst of our busiest year ever, with more exciting trail projects, programs, partnerships, and events. Just a few are mentioned below:

- Progress is being made on the Mascoma River Greenway, a proposed 4-mile extension of the Northern Rail Trail from Lebanon to West Lebanon. UVTA, along with a number of other partner orgs, have created a capital campaign committee with the goal of raising \$2.5 million by 2016 to build the trail.
- True to our Alliance founding principles, we are working with a large number of Upper Valley Communities and partners providing expertise and technical assistance for trail projects including:
  - Work with the Town of Hanover Trails Committee and the Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association on general trail maintenance as well as a cooperative effort to establish a Mountain Bike Trails System on the Goodwin Town Forest.
  - Partner with the Norwich Trails Committee to rehab portions of the Gile Mountain Trail and reroute the Hazen Trail.
  - Trail and bridge improvements at the Balch Hill Natural Area and the Mink Brook Nature Preserve as well as a new trail at the Greensboro Ridge Natural Area in partnership with the Hanover Conservancy.
  - Worked with the Claremont Parks and Recreation Department to develop a steering committee and long term management and maintenance plan for the Arrowhead Recreational Facility. In addition, worked with Claremont to develop a new map and sign plan for Moody Park
  - Designed and built a 1,500 foot long ADA trail at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee.
  - Work with the Town of Norwich to relocate the Hazen Trail.
  - Providing trail design services for the Mount Sunapee Resort in support of their efforts to develop a 4-season outdoor facility.
  - Other trail projects in Sharon, Orford, Grantham, Lebanon, Hanover, and Fairlee.
- The Passport to Winter Fun, UVTA's nationally recognized program that promotes physical activity in the winter months. Since 2007, over 20,000 students have participated in the program. The program served 4,000 students in 30 elementary schools this year.
- UVTA, in partnership with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and the City of Lebanon launched a "Safe Routes to Play" program to promote safe walking and biking to the city's play infrastructure, build new trails, and map the routes.
- Provide leadership and programming for the UV Healthy Eating, Active Living partnership including a new StoryWalk program, local Trail Leader Training Workshops, and trail development expertise in target communities.
- UVTA offers a series of unique events in the Upper Valley like the Lake Morey Skate-a-thon, Tour de Taste, Upper Valley Trails Day, and Bike/Walk to Work Day!
- Hosted two Trail Sign Forums in the Upper Valley to help develop a plan for universal trail signage in the region.
- UVTA launched the new Upper Valley High School Trail Corps program in summer 2013. 10 girls from local high schools participated in the program and worked on over a dozen trails in the region.
- UVTA has made significant investments in our trail toolshed. Through a variety of grant sources including the crowd source funding website Clean Water Future and the Vermont Recreation Trails Program, we have added a small scale tracked hauler with a 1,000 pound capacity and a griphoist/highline system.
- UVTA continues its investment in Trail Finder, a comprehensive on-line trails database that offers detailed maps, trail descriptions, directions to trailheads, photos, length, permitted uses, and contact information for the trail owner and manager and features hundreds of trails in Vermont and the Upper Valley of NH. Over 100 trails are featured on the site and it is now getting over 8,000 hits per month!

Visit [www.uvtrails.org](http://www.uvtrails.org) for more info on these and other great programs, projects, and events!