

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Public Visioning Survey for Weathersfield

Weathersfield, Vermont – **Fill in date you send the press release out**

The Town of Weathersfield is seeking public input in the form of a Public Visioning Survey to plan for the future of the Weathersfield Town Forest. Weathersfield was selected as one of 10 communities in Vermont to receive a grant from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program. This grant program assists Vermont communities interested in addressing issues and opportunities in the use and stewardship of their town forest, and generates town forest recreation plans. The town invites the public to share their thoughts in the survey, accessible at www.vttownforest.org in order to explore the range of recreational uses you'd like to see in our town forest and to develop an action-based town forest recreational plan in line with our community values. The input provided in the survey drives this planning process and we greatly appreciate your time and consideration! Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts!

What: Town Forest Public Visioning Survey

Where: www.VtTownForest.org

When: Survey is open now through the end of February.

About the Program:

The Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program is a joint initiative of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FRP) and UVM Extension (Extension). Working group members include FRP's Recreation Program, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and Extension's Tourism and Marketing Program. Partners includes over 40 organizations and stakeholders who attended a summit in January 2017 to help shape the process and deliverables. Over the next year the program and its partners will be working with SE Group, a consultant specializing in community planning, to engage the ten selected communities in a robust planning process to develop action-based town forest recreation plans. The innovative and robust planning model includes public visioning sessions, needs assessments, and a plan that provides actionable strategies to assist communities in taking the next steps. In 2018 comprehensive action-oriented town forest stewardship and recreation plans will be developed for these ten Vermont communities. Based on the outcomes of these diverse forests and communities, a town forest recreation planning toolkit will be released to support sustainable, forest-based recreation in town forests statewide.



Vermont Town Forest

Recreation Planning

About Weathersfield's Forest:

Weathersfield's 310-acre town forest is an integral part of its economic development plan that calls for an integrated trail system connecting villages, hamlets, and recreational areas throughout town. Weatherfield is interested in developing a trail plan that provides a solid foundation of the multi-use recreational trail system, conservation of wildlife habitat, and a stronger community connection that creates a true Town Forest.

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