

VERMONT TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COUNCIL



Ensuring people have access to the trails and landscape in Vermont.

VERMONTTGC.ORG

WHO WE ARE

A collective voice for Vermont trails. The **Vermont Trails & Greenways Council (VTGC)** gathers together an active membership of nonprofit trail organizations representing all types of trails statewide. Membership also includes community groups, local businesses, cities and towns and public land management agencies.

The members of the Council:

- Represent **50,000+** individual members
- Log **100,000+** hours of volunteer time annually
- Manage and maintain **7,750+** miles of public access trails
- Support **50,000+** jobs statewide through the broader impact of our work
- Steward trails on private land, which hosts over **70%** of public access trails in Vermont
- Partner closely with state and federal agencies to manage trails on public land



WHAT WE DO

The Council serves as the consolidated, expert voice for recreational trails in Vermont and provides guidance to policymakers in the following ways:

INFORM

The Council directly represents thousands of members, volunteers, and private landowners and can provide their perspectives along with those of our member organizations to help inform decision-making, including as testimony.

GUIDE

The organizational members of the Council have considerable on the ground experience stewarding recreational trails, including well-cataloged best management practices, positioning the Council as an important partner in the development of trail-related policy and programs.

ADVISE

The Council has a **statutory role** advising The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources on trail matters, including Recreation Trail Program grant allocations, supporting outdoor recreation education programs, and overseeing the Vermont Trail System (VTS), a role we execute through a close collaborative relationship with Vermont Forest, Parks, & Recreation.



The Council is eager to engage with policymakers at any time to discuss how we can assist on trail-related topics.

WHY NOW

Demand for outdoor recreation access has risen dramatically over the last decade, growth that was only accelerated through the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, 7.1 million more Americans participated in outdoor recreation than in 2019 (OIA, '21). This explosion in trail popularity has been especially acute in Vermont, a five-hour drive from over 80 million people and a regional epicenter for outdoor recreation.

Vermont was no exception:

- Daily usage at the Blueberry Lake trail system in the Mad River Valley grew over **150%** from 2016 to 2021 (Mad River Riders, '22).
- Catamount Trail Associations annual trail user counts at Brandon Gap and Nebraska Valley **doubled** between 2017 and 2020.
- Sales of VASA Trail Access Decals, required to access ATV trails on private land without individual landowner permission, have increased over **150%** from 2016 to 2021

Year Over Year Trail Counts (Winter Use)

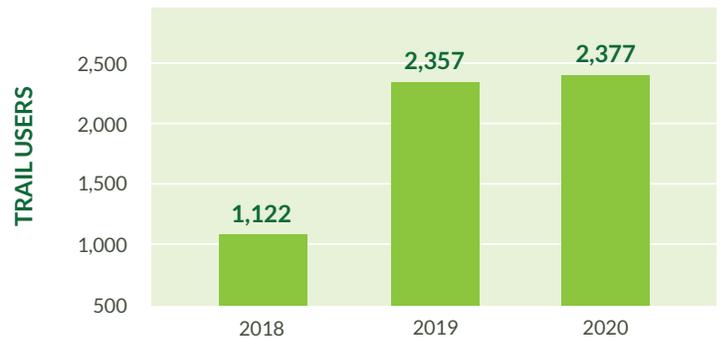
Brandon Gap - No Name Backcountry Area

Year Over Year Trend



Nebraska Valley - Catamount Trail Section 22

Year Over Year Trend



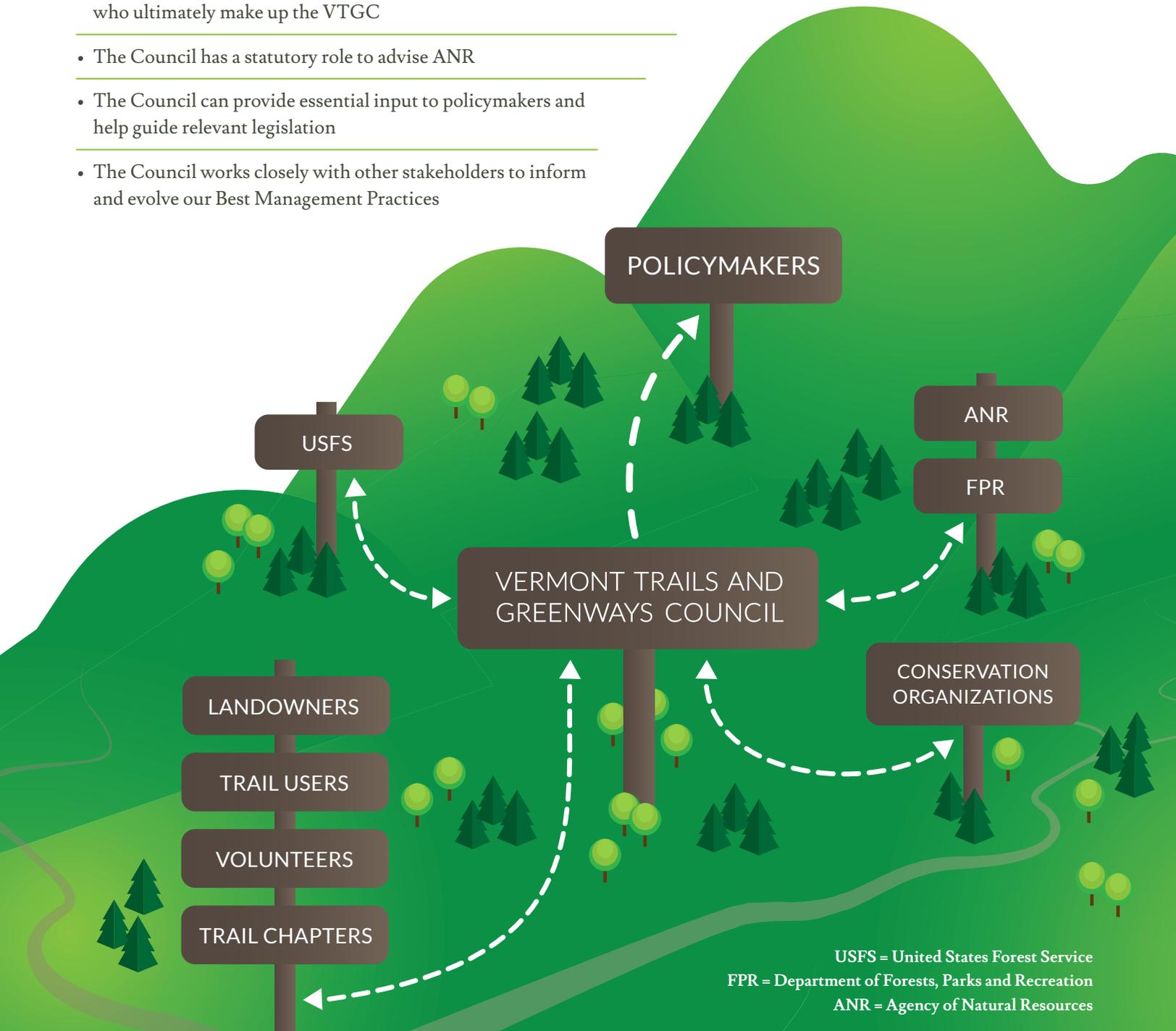
Now, more than ever, the Council seeks the support from and active dialogue with Vermont's policymakers to ensure we chart a supportable, sustainable path forward. VERMONTTGC.ORG

OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY

As stewards of the 70+% of public access trails on private land and in concert with public land managers, the VTGC is on the front line balancing equitable access with responsible use of our amazing landscape. Our members best management practices, which address trail design, construction, use, and maintenance, demonstrate our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Key points of how we work

- Our Council members represent landowners, volunteers, and members, who ultimately make up the VTGC
- The Council has a statutory role to advise ANR
- The Council can provide essential input to policymakers and help guide relevant legislation
- The Council works closely with other stakeholders to inform and evolve our Best Management Practices



OUR MEMBERS

Board of Directors:

Danny Hale, Co-Chair – VASA

Nick Bennette, Co-Chair – VMBA

RJ Thompson, Co-Vice Chair
Vermont Huts

Mariah Keagy, Co-Vice Chair
Sinuosity

Greg Western, Secretary
Cross Vermont Trail

Cindy Locke, Treasurer – VAST

Matt Williams, Board Member
Catamount Trail Association

Eric Remick, Board Member
Hardwick Trails Committee

Abby Long, Board Member
Kingdom Trails

Caitrin Maloney, Board Member
Velomont Trail Collective

Rosy Metcalfe, Board Member
Community Representative

Rachel Fussell, Board Member
Community Representative

Organization Members

Caledonia Trail Collaborative

Catamount Trail Association

Craftsbury Outdoor Center

Cross Vermont Trail Association

Green Mountain Club

Hinesburg Trails Committee

Kingdom Trails

Mad River Path

Nature Conservancy

North Country Trail Association

Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Northwoods Stewardship Center

Stowe Trails Partnership

The Nature Conservancy

Town of Hardwick

Town of Lyndon

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
(VAST)

Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association
(VASA)

Vermont Horse Council

Vermont Huts Association

Vermont Mountain Bike Association

Vermont Off Highway Vehicle
Recreation Association (VORA)

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

State and Federal Agency Members

Green Mountain National Forest

National Park Service

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

VT Agency of Transportation

VT Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

VT Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation

Commercial Members

Sinuosity, LLC



Please contact these VTGC Council members for more information: Mariah Keagy – mariah@sinuosity.net
Nick Bennette – nick@vmba.org, Danny Hale – director@vtvasa.org, RJ Thompson – rj@vermonthuts.org



Photo by John Atkinson



Photo by Marius Becker



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