

Trail Tracks



Spring, 2013

Fit Family Day Save the date Sat., July 13

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council is excited to again partner with the Northwestern Medical Center to host a Fit Family Day on the MVRT in Enosburg Falls. Families with young children are invited to the Trail at Pleasant St., behind Bates Farm & Home store for games, healthy snacks, and prizes. Sat., July 13, 9-11 am

New Benches

The Council will be purchasing new replacement benches this year. The present benches made of recycled plastic have given us 10 good years of service and have held up remarkably well considering they are outdoors and exposed to the elements year-round. Keep your eyes opened for our new benches when you're out on the MVRT this summer. They will be in the same locations as the present benches. It's your membership fees that enable us to undertake purchases like this – so thank you!!

Improved Signage

VTrans has been working on a sign improvement project for the MVRT. Included are signs to be placed on the MVRT as well as



Participants at last summer's Fit Family Day proudly show off their medals

signs to be located on state-owned highways near MVRT intersections. There will be standardized signs for motorists identifying Trail crossings and parking areas. For Trail users there will be destination and distance signs, more durable mile markers and Town boundary markers. The project is expected to go to bid this fall, with implementation

taking place either late this year or early in 2014.



If you haven't already found us on Facebook, take a look! Many thanks to Council member Alan Lampson for maintaining our Facebook presence.

Updates

MVRT Parking Areas

After many years (so many that it's difficult to remember exactly how many!) of trying to get parking areas built at several sites along the Trail, there is good news to report! VTrans District 8 (St. Albans) has taken over the project and will be putting in a parking area at Green's Corner (just past mile 3 on the MVRT). There is presently a pull-out which trail users have used for years; this site will be improved to include an entrance, an exit, and curbing. Thank you District 8 for your help in making this parking area a reality!

Seymour Road Crossing

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission is working with VTrans to address the Council's concerns for trail users' safety when Seymour Rd. becomes more heavily used. Once the planned traffic light at Route 7 and Seymour Rd. is installed, the NRPC will undertake vehicular and pedestrian traffic counts in an effort to justify the Council's request to VTrans for a crosswalk or other traffic calming device to be installed on Seymour between the MVRT parking area and the start of the Trail.

Friends of the MVRT

Thank You to all of our returning friends for your continued support of the Trail and the Council:

John Chicoine

John Bolog

John King

Martha Smith

Fran Casey

Tom Smith & Anne McMenamin

Shirley Wolfe & Roy Neuer

Abe & Jean Brown

Peter Perrino

Bryant Andrews

Mike LaFontaine

David Plumb

George Hall

Jane Williams

Dolly MacNeil

Peter Backman & Annie Christopher

Lawrence Logan

Gail Benjamin

Albert Perry

Sue & John Martin

Carmen Lanoue

Dana Wolcott

2012 REPORT

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council was established in 1991 to advise the State of Vermont on management and use issues for the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. In addition to advising the State on trail issues, the Council also assists trail users, helps make trail improvements, and raises funds for small maintenance projects and amenities, like benches and picnic tables. The Council,

which is a non-profit organization, is made up of nine appointed representatives from the communities along the trail, ten elected members-at-large who represent trail users, one representative from the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), and three ex-officio members who act as advisors. Appointed Council members and members-at-large have equal voting representation. (*con't pg.4*)

Photo Contest

Due to insufficient entries received for our 2012-13 Winter Photo Contest, there will be no winner announcement.

Buy a T-shirt, and Wear your Support of the MVRT!

The Council is selling T-shirts in breathable, wicking sports fabric. Show your support of the MVRT by buying and wearing an MVRT t-shirt! Or buy more than one; at \$14, the price is certainly right! Available in neon green or gray, men's or women's cut.

All orders must be prepaid **by May 31, 2013.**



MVRT T-Shirt Order Form

All orders and full payment must be received at the address below by May 31, 2013

Style: Women's Men's **Color:** Neon Green Gray

Size: S M L XL

Delivery: Customer pick up at 155 Lake St., St. Albans, M-F, 9am-4 pm USPS
(we will notify you when your order is ready for pick-up)

Cost: T-shirt only \$14 T-shirt plus USPS shipping \$18

Payment: Amount paid \$ _____
 Check enclosed (payable to Northwest VT Rail Trail Council)
 PayPal (available on our website www.mvrailtrail.com)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council or use PayPal on our website www.mvrailtrail.com.

Please send this order form & your check to: Northwest VT Rail Trail Council, c/o 155 Lake St., St. Albans, VT 05478

Info: (802) 933-8851

In 2012, the Council undertook the following projects:

- Organized a Fit Family Day in St. Albans and Enosburg Falls
- Held workdays to weed whack, repair benches, picnic tables and a kiosk roof along the trail
- Improved trail signage in Sheldon Junction
- Launched its 7th annual Photo Contest (winter focus, entry deadline April 2013)
- Distributed Rail Trail Guides to local businesses, trail users, and at 6 Vermont State Welcome Centers
- Developed a new logo for the Council

Other activities undertaken by the Council:

- Consulting with VTrans on new signage and mile markers for the Trail
- Discussion with VTrans on developing the Greens Corner parking area
- Request to VTrans to improve MVRT crossing at Seymour Rd. due to traffic light at Rt 7/Seymour and anticipated higher traffic on Seymour
- Published two trail newsletters

- Advertised in Franklin County Area Guide
- Provided a port-o-let at Franklin Park West parking area

In addition to continuing many of the above activities in 2013, the Council is working on the following:

- Replacing benches along Trail with new benches with concrete base
- Selling t-shirts with MVRT logo and map imprinted
- Providing input on a video to be made of the MVRT

Funding for the Council's activities is provided through the Council's Friend of the Trail program, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and project-specific grants. The Council invites local input on ways in which the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail can better serve the community. For more information on the Council or its activities, please contact your municipal representative, or the Council's coordinator, Cynthia Scott, at (802) 933-8851 or cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net. You can also visit our webpage www.mvrailtrail.com and see us on Facebook!

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council
c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission
155 Lake Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Farms, Forests, Fields, and Communities: Come Harvest Our Agricultural Heritage!