

# **Town of Charlotte**

## **Trail System Stewardship Plan**

This Stewardship Plan applies generally to the Town's Trail System. Some trails may have additional use restrictions or stewardship provisions.

### **Trail Usage Guidelines**

- Permitted hours of use are from sunrise to sunset. Use of the Trail System outside of these hours is prohibited.
- The Trail System is open to walking, running, snow-shoeing, skiing, bicycling, horseback riding, and wheelchairs only.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited with the exception of:
  - (1) those used for maintaining the trail
  - (2) those used for farming, logging or maintenance activities when crossing the trail to adjacent land
  - (3) those used for medical emergencies, and
  - (4) motorized wheelchairs.
- Dogs must be on leash if they are not under voice control of their owner. Consideration shall be given to other trail users and adjacent property owners who may not be comfortable with encountering pets. Animal owners shall remove their animal's waste from trails.
- Any trail closure shall be respected. Trail users shall stay on the trail at all times, and shall not take shortcuts or make new trails.
- No restrooms are provided. Trail users should plan their outing accordingly.
- The Trail System may contain unknown hazards, including loose rocks, roots, steep slopes, and similar features found in a natural environment, and users of the Trail System shall exercise reasonable care to protect themselves from such hazards.
- No littering or depositing refuse of any kind on the Trail System. Trail users should pack it in & pack it out.
- Open fires and camping are prohibited.
- Private landowners shall have the benefit of 12 V.S.A. Chapter 203 on the portion of the Trail System located on their lands.

### **Trail Maintenance**

- The Charlotte Trails Committee will manage trail maintenance. The Charlotte Selectboard may contract to have the trails mowed.
- Trail maintenance will be completed on a seasonal or as-needed basis.
- Trail maintenance will be conducted to minimize erosion and loss of soil and with minimal disturbance to flora and fauna.
- Any trail maintenance needs discovered by trail users should be reported to the Charlotte Town Office, which will then be forwarded to the Charlotte Trails Committee.
- The Charlotte Trails Committee will monitor the condition of trails and, with approval of the Charlotte Selectboard, close any trail or portion thereof for appropriate amounts of time due to weather or seasonal conditions in order to protect user safety, maintain trail integrity, and prevent soil erosion and siltation in area waterways. Signage will clearly indicate these closures along with contact information for any questions.
- Property owners may request to temporarily close a portion of the trail on their property for erosion or safety reasons. Landowners may consult with the Trails Committee and/or the Selectboard if a situation may warrant closing the trail or portion thereof. Property owners, the Trails Committee and/or the Selectboard will work to resolve problems in order to allow the trail to be re-opened as soon as possible once the landowner's concerns have been reasonably addressed.

### **Trail Signage**

Signage will be posted on the trail system that indicates:

- Trail Usage Guidelines
- Contact information for reporting emergencies and/or suspected illegal activity
- Contact information for reporting trail maintenance concerns
- A map of the trail system

The Charlotte Trails Committee will be responsible for creating and maintaining informational signage and directional signage (e.g. blazes, arrows) as needed.

**Adopted by the Selectboard on October 22, 2012**