



Recreation and Trails Spark Revitalization in Concord, Vermont

Outdoor recreation on trails benefit residents and visitors alike, generating well over \$30 million in economic growth in rural Vermont. With significant new attractions like the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail coming online, Vermont's reputation as a destination for year-round trail activity will only grow. Municipal Planning Grants are helping rural towns harness these outdoor recreation amenities and building healthier communities, economies, and people.

Concord is a small town of 1,200 residents in the Northeast Kingdom. It has an active planning commission committed to improving economic prospects for the community. With help from Vermont's Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program, the community identified outdoor recreation as a key strategy to build long-term economic development and community identity. MPGs helped the town identify key action steps to improve access to trails and recreation opportunities. Concord and its neighboring towns are now focused on implementation, collaborating to market and expand trail connections between the outdoors and village centers, attracting more visitors to town, and boosting sales at local restaurants and stores.

“The municipal planning grants have supported Concord’s revitalization efforts in so many ways -- from updating the municipal plan, to identifying and designating the village center, to creating a strategic plan to promote recreation tourism. Each step built upon the other and gave us a solid foundation to improve the well-being of our residents and economy.”

Cynthia Stuart, Chair, Concord Planning and Zoning Board

For more information, please contact:

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or visit: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development>



1

2015 Town Plan Update

- Received an MPG to hire professional assistance from the regional planning commission
- Town plan identifies opportunities to increase trail access as a strategy to sustain and retain individuals, families, and businesses
- Town plan recommends village center designation for Concord village to stimulate private investment in buildings and businesses

2

2016 Village Center Designation

- Obtained village center designation that brings tax credits to renovate historic buildings and gives the town priority consideration for state grant programs

3

2017 Strategic Plan for Recreational Tourism Development

- Received second MPG to study and identify a strategy and key steps to improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities

4

2018 Long Trail Bike Network Project

- Received a \$25,700 MPG to identify, map, and market a multi-town biking network on existing roads and trails
- The project will provide the over 100,000 annual users of Burke's Kingdom Trails easy access to villages and attractions in the four nearby towns
- Businesses begin to see an uptick in visitors and sales

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