



Annual Report



"I am proud of the work that Vermont Huts & Trails is doing to help more people, of all abilities, to spend more time on Vermont trails all year round."

- FORMER SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY



NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT US?

While this report represents our accomplishments over the past year, there is one recent development that bears mentioning—a new organizational name and logo. **Introducing...Vermont Huts & Trails.**

Why the change? Simply put, this new identity more accurately represents the work we're doing now and in the future. Over the past several years, as our hut network grew, so did the interest in a trail system that connected them. And so, the Velomont was born—a shared vision with VMBA for a hut-supported, multi-use mountain biking trail running the length of Vermont. And in 2024, we opened the first multi-day loop of the trail; a 38-mile section of trail and a huge step forward for this project.

Another important factor in our rebrand is our continued mission to increase access to outdoor recreation. As we continue to build more ADA-accessible huts, the need has also grown for adaptive-friendly trails to access those huts. In fact, many of our recent projects have involved building or upgrading trails so they can accommodate adaptive bike equipment—making the outdoors more accessible for ALL.

Vermont Huts & Trails may seem like a subtle name change, but for us, it marks the next chapter of our organization's development. In 2025, our goals and efforts are equally concentrated on new huts, more trail mileage, and making it easier for everyone to get outside and enjoy them. Thank you to all of our partners, sponsors, members, and guests who are along for the adventure with us. We couldn't do it without you.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Shapiro", is written below the text "With deep gratitude,".



MISSION

To foster a deeper appreciation for our natural environment and strengthen Vermont's communities by providing enriching and immersive outdoor experiences for all.

VISION

Offering a cohesive, year-round statewide trail and hut/hostel network for public benefit across various user groups.

VALUES



Creating new stewards of the land through guests, members, programming, and best practices



Intentionally breaking down barriers to outdoor recreation for underrepresented communities and individuals



Providing a sustainable boost to rural communities' economies



Positioning Vermont as a leader in outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and inclusivity

2024 AT A GLANCE



14,158

Guests at the 15 huts
in our network



232

Members supporting
our mission



25

Donated hut nights

(14 forest program, 11 to other nonprofits)



38

Miles of Velomont Trail
opened to the public



600+

Acres of private land,
opening for public
recreational access

(in partnership with WATA)



7

FOREST Retreats



17

local, state, and
federal grants won



1

Short film produced



2

New huts



6

New board members



27

full and part-time jobs
working on huts and
trails around Vermont



2024 INDIVIDUAL IMPACT REPORTS

Chittenden Brook Hut

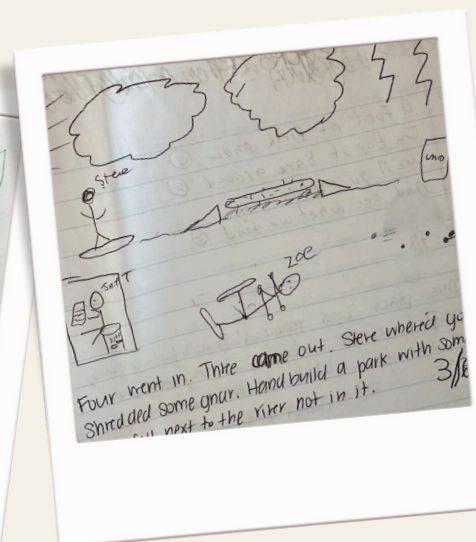
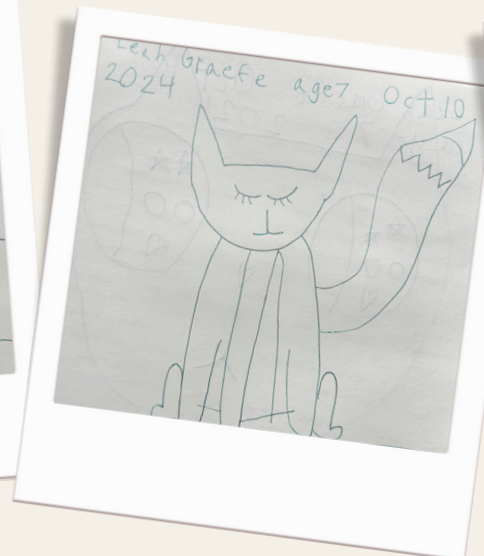
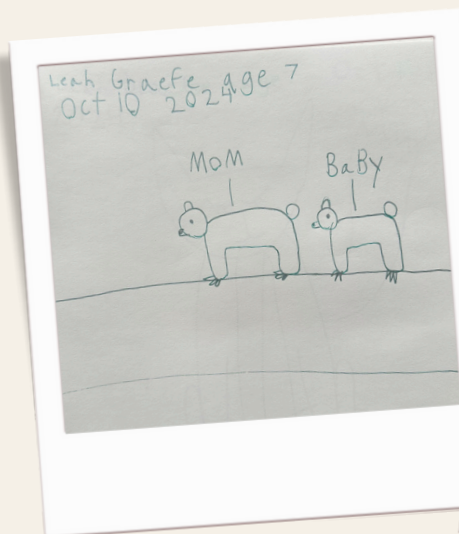


1,296
guests

Grout Pond Hut



987
guests



F.O.R.E.S.T. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our F.O.R.E.S.T. Program (Fostering Outdoor Recreation, Education, Sustainability, & Teamwork) partners with nonprofits, schools, and communities to invite underserved youth and historically marginalized communities onto the trails and into our huts entirely free of charge—creating an enriching and immersive outdoor experience for everyone.

In 2024, we hosted multiple trips that provided endless smiles and memorable experiences. In particular, we are thrilled with our continued and growing relationship with **Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports**. We are so grateful for their passion and partnership as we work together to expand access to outdoor recreation.

Partnership in action!

[Click to see the video we produced this year!](#)



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

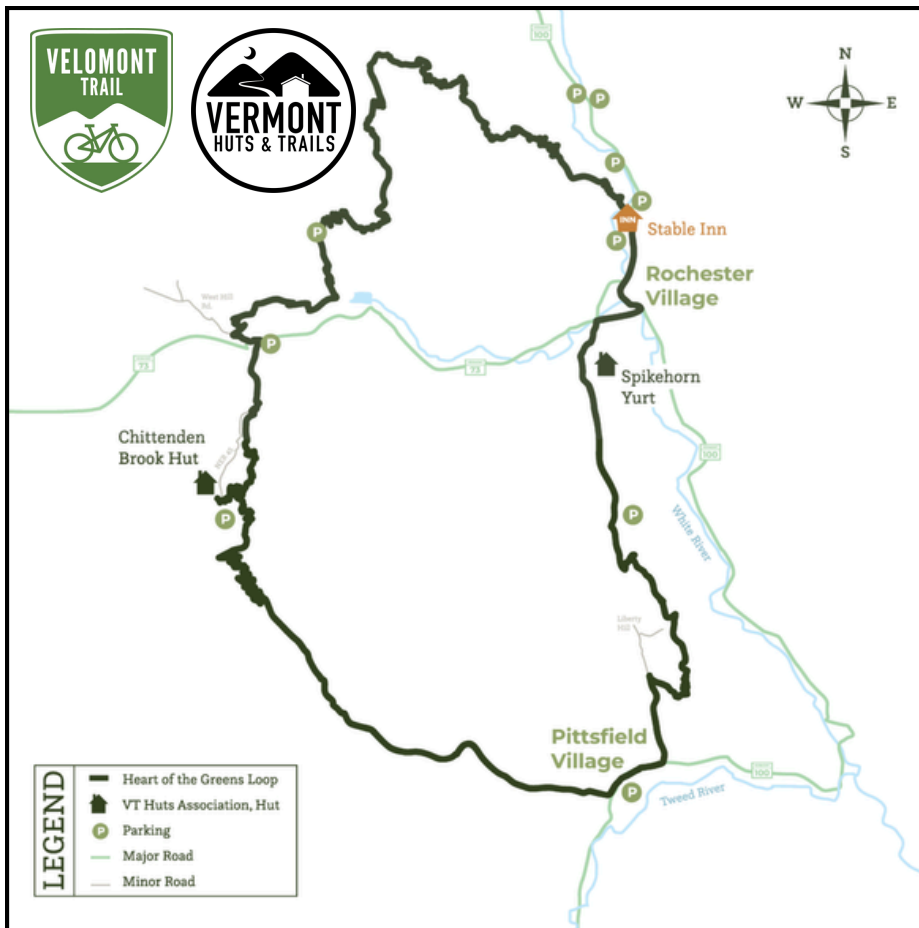
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- George W. Mergens Foundation
- Reeno Foundation
- The Windham Foundation
- Cabela's
- Gordini
- Turtle Fur
- Community National Bank



VELOMONT HIGHLIGHTS

2024 saw massive progress in the development of the Velomont—our shared vision with VMBA for a statewide, hut-supported, multi-use/bike trail.

Notably, the development of our **Velomont Vision Plan** provided an invaluable tool for planning and communicating the project scope with communities and stakeholders. Additionally, we were thrilled to open the first multi-day segment to the public—**The Heart of the Greens** loop.



HEART OF THE GREENS

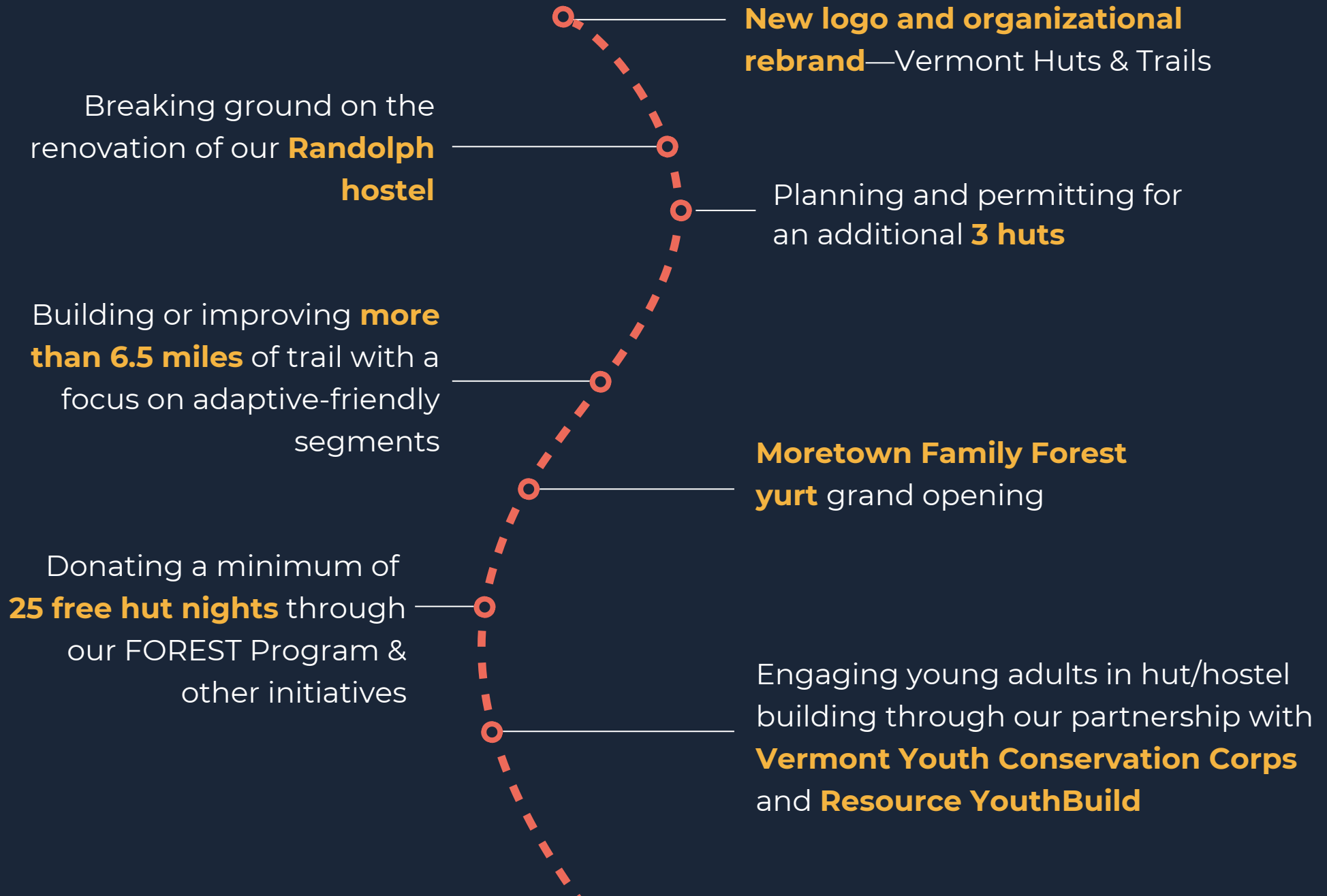
This loop captures the Velomont's vision and turns it into reality—a purpose-built, singletrack trail that connects rural communities and trail networks, with backcountry huts along the way.

- Miles of modern backcountry, **adaptive-friendly, mountain bike flow trail**
- Classic **Vermont back roads connect single track** with minimal time on pavement
- Long-range **views of the Green Mountains and White River Valley**

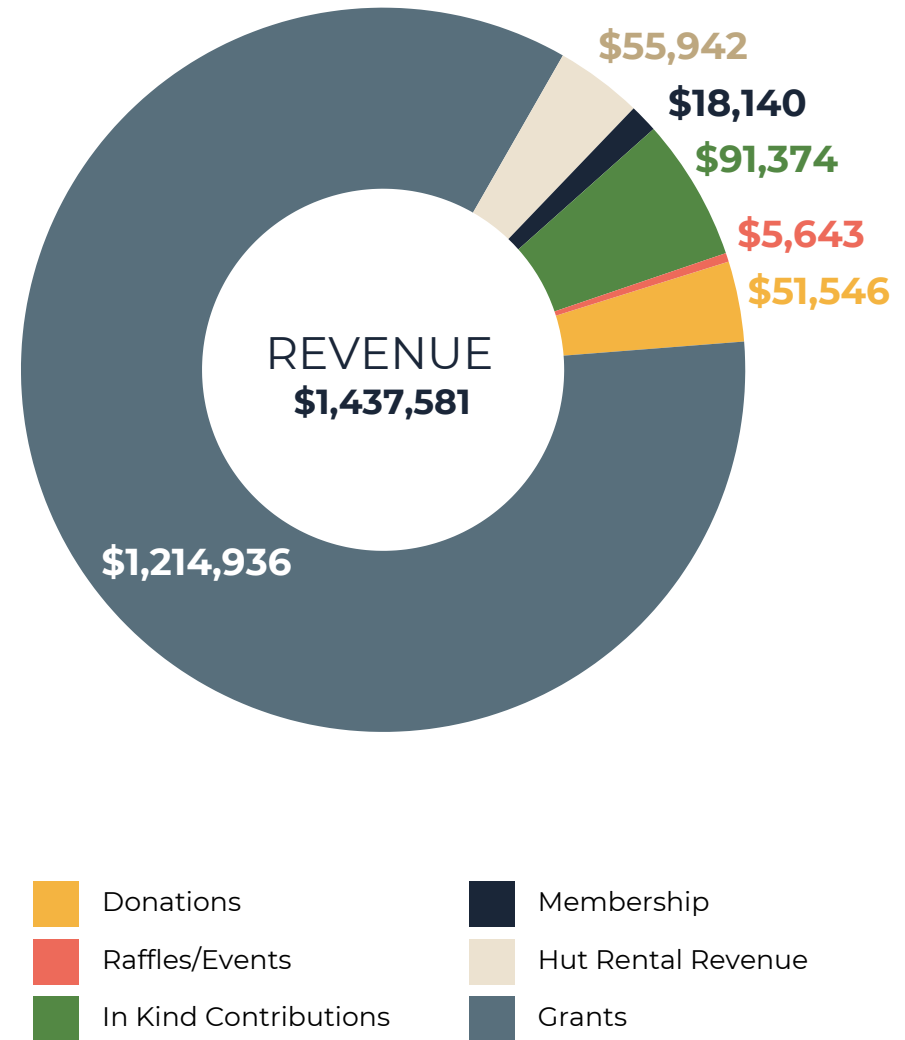
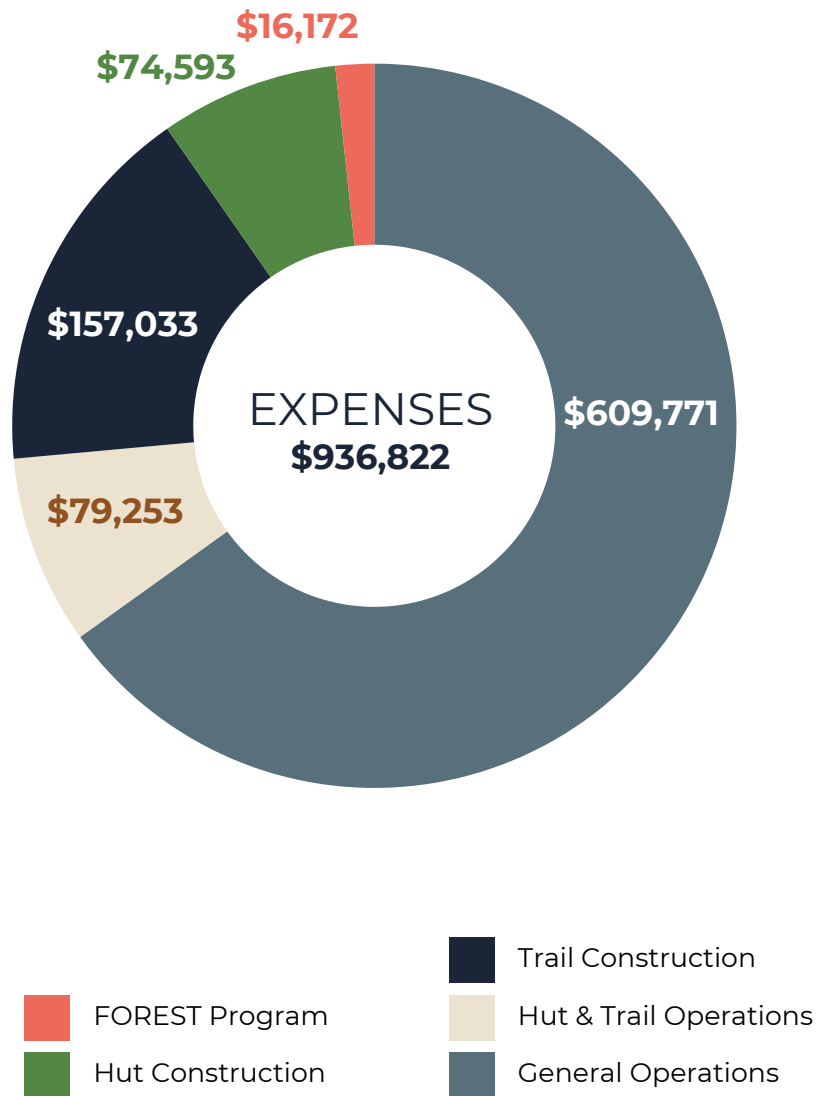


WHAT'S TO COME IN 2025

We're proud of all the work we've done alongside our partners in 2024 and equally as excited about what's to come in 2025. Here's a sneak peek at what to expect next year:



FINANCIALS



OUR TEAM

Vermont Huts Staff

RJ Thompson, Executive Director

Angus McCusker, Velomont Trail Director

Dani Kehlmann, Development Director

Matt Ogelby, Marketing Manager

Merrick Gillies, Project Manager

Dan Halberg, Project Manager



In 2024 we welcomed our new Marketing Manager, Matt Ogelby—bringing our small-but-mighty team up to six full-time employees!

We would like to thank our outstanding Board of Directors for another year of service.

If you're interested in volunteering with VHT, email info@vermonthuts.org

2024 Board of Directors

(Chair) Mike Donohue - Richmond, VT

(Treasurer) Liz Gleason - Waterbury Center, VT

(Secretary) Julia Bunting - Burlington, VT

Berne Broudy - Richmond, VT

Jamey Fidel - Montpelier, VT

David Goodman - Waterbury, VT

Cate Starmer - Waterbury Center, VT

Matthew Mole - N Ferrisburgh, VT

Julia Austin - Huntington, VT

Jason Mintz - South Burlington, VT

Adam Rubin - Burlington, VT

Carolyn Lawrence - Burlington, VT

Chris Quinn - Burlington, VT



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK.



Press Forward



CONSERVATION

As part of the larger effort to conserve up to 214,000 acres throughout the state of Vermont, we anticipate dedicating increased staff time in 2025 towards conservation. We look forward to advancing two ongoing projects including pending activation of land that was conserved in 2023 on the Rolston Rest parcel in Southern Vermont. Additionally, we are currently working with the United States Forest Service, Town of Dorset, and Trust for Public Land to conserve lands that will help protect a critical wildlife corridor and recreation access.

