

Cross Vermont Trail INFORMATION

<https://crossvermont.org>

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We're extending the Montpelier Bike Path to connect with U-32, then across East Montpelier along the Winooski River and up to where the existing rail trail begins now at Rte 14. The project is being built and opened in phases. **This is a true grassroots effort. You can help!** This work is funded with donations from trail users and is being led by a local non-profit organization - the Cross Vermont Trail Association.



NOW: The railbed from Gallison Hill Rd to the Winooski Bridge is open to the public, together with the new trail along the river (and beside Route 2) upstream of the bridge, ending at trailhead parking on Route 2 near the waterfall at "Hidden Dam". River access footpaths are also open along banks of Winooski.

NEXT: During 2024 (after a flood delay in 2023) we are completing the trails in the U-32 School Forest.

FINALLY: Starting in 2024 and running through 2025 we will build the remainder of the new link in the Cross Vt Trail, connecting from the Hidden Dam across East Montpelier to Route 14.

FUTURE VISION: We are working to increase the off road miles of the Cross Vt Trail route statewide, including a focused effort to establish an off road trail from Montpelier to Groton State Forest. Contact us to learn more!

Cross Vermont Trail 2020-2025 construction project. (updated April, 2024)

- 1 Cross Vt Trail now follows old railbed (Powerplant Rd), new trailhead parking has been made here. Public use (non motorized) is allowed on the railbed all the way to the Winooski Bridge.
- 2 Additional segment of Cross Vt Trail will wind through the U-32 Forest, with a side trail (universally accessible) connecting to the school (opening 2024).
- 3 Winooski Bridge is open to public now. Also open now is a trail that continues east running between the river and Route 2 - partly in the woods, and partly along the road behind a new guardrail - to the "Hidden Dam".
- 4 At the "Hidden Dam" along Route 2 a new trailhead parking is open now. Also open is access to the rivershore, including waterfall viewing area and portages.
- 5 2024 we will begin work to continue Cross Vt Trail east, in the woods between the river and the road.
- 6 2024 and 2025 we will build the Cross Vt Trail across Rte 2 (just before the RV dealership) finally coming out at Route 14 in two locations to connect with the rail trail that continues east from 14 towards Plainfield. Also making a loop for fun.
- 7 The "Penstock & Portage Trails" are open and provide new public footpaths along the banks of the river, which will also serve as portages for river paddlers.
- 8 Finally, we will build the new "Ridge Trail" which will add a dramatic single track mountain bike loop as a new feature to the school trail network (opening 2024).

To the north, project connects directly to the **East Montpelier Trail**, new sections of which are in active development. Including connection between Schoolhouse Rd and existing trail on conserved nature preserve, and beyond eventually to other towns in U-32 school district.

U-32 is a regional 7-12 grade school serving towns of Berlin, Calais, Middlesex, East Montpelier and Worcester (and some students from Orange and Washington.) The school forest paths network are widely used by both students and the general community. Cross Vermont Trail project will directly connect with and expand these trails, tying them into the growing area wide trail network.

Cross Vt Trail continues to the east on the **Montpelier & Wells River Railtrail**.

At Route 14, Cross Vt Trail will pass through edge of Village of East Montpelier, with access (directly and via short spur) to a diversity of residential neighborhoods.

