

Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) Annual Report

For CVTA and during 2021, it was an historic year for trail construction. After 15 years of planning and preparation, CVTA completed a new 200 foot bike/pedestrian bridge over the Winooski River just upstream of Montpelier in the fall of 2021. See dramatic drone footage of the bridge being lifted over the water, posted online: <https://crossvermont.org/>

CVTA contractors also installed a new safety median rail for 650 feet beside Route 2, and then a gravel path outside of the rail between the road and the river; as well as a new trailhead parking lot also on Route 2. CVTA is working now to join these contractor built segments and connect up the first phase of useable new trail which will continue the Montpelier Bike Path from Gallison Hill Road out across the new bridge and on upstream to the new trailhead parking - with a ribbon cutting planned for late May 2022. This remaining work is smaller scale (though longer distance) and CVTA is getting it done with a combination of staff labor, smaller contractors, conservation corps members - and there is plenty of opportunity for volunteers to make a difference. The Winooski Bridge is the start line, not the finish line. After the bridge is open to the public in late May, the next phase, to open later in the year, will be a new access trail from the bike path up to the Union 32 School, as well as several additional recreation trails in the school forest and along the river. Finally, CVTA will begin the third and final phase of this large project which will keep the bike path going across East Montpelier up to Route 14 where the existing rail trail begins and runs in various forms to Plainfield, Groton State Forest and beyond. Thanks to contributions from the City of Montpelier, other towns and hundreds of local individuals, the Winooski Bridge and other large contractor built projects were fully funded and built this past year. Fundraising is still ongoing to complete the path all the way to Route 14 and individual donations to CVTA will be put to work building more trail.

CVTA's mission is to create and maintain a multi-use trail across Vermont through the Winooski and Wells River Valleys between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.

CVTA's vision is: public recreation that is inviting and accessible to all; safe off-road travel to desired destinations; convenient locations for healthy outdoor activity; permanent greenway for easy local access to the natural world; and collaboration of landowners, community groups and local governments to foster regional trail networks with the Cross Vermont Trail as the connection among them. The Cross Vermont Trail Association, formed in 1999, is an incorporated, private non-profit organization that is member-based and volunteer-driven. CVTA is funded by winning competitive grants and through individual donations from trail users. Residents of all towns through which the trail route passes are invited to get involved. Get better trails near where you live. Maps, guidebook, and more information on the trail routes are available at: <https://crossvermont.org/> or call at 802-498-0079.

Greg Western, Executive Director

P.S. Join us at this summer's Central Vermont Cycling Tour, a group bike ride on scenic back roads. The CVCT is also the annual meeting for CVTA, all are welcome to the cook out and gathering. Always the last Sunday in June - 6/26/2022.