

## Recreational Trails Program Tip Sheet

The purpose of this document is to highlight critical elements of RTP proposals. A comprehensive description of proposal guidelines can be found at: <http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm>  
Chapters will find success with RTP proposals and build more trails if they:

1. Attend the VMBA trail building clinic – it's free!
2. Read the comprehensive RTP manual on the FPR web site (link above)
3. Attend RTP training clinics (announced each spring on FPR web site)
4. Consider how the project synchronizes with the VT Trails plan

There are a few important questions chapters should think about as proposals are developed:

### Why is this project a priority?

- "Internal" vs. "External" state projects – how these are defined matters
- Projects must address desired conditions of the Vermont Trails & Greenways Plan (see link below)
  - [http://www.vmba.org/Resources/Documents/VT%20Trails%20\\_%20Greenways%20Plan%20\(RTP\)%20.pdf](http://www.vmba.org/Resources/Documents/VT%20Trails%20_%20Greenways%20Plan%20(RTP)%20.pdf)
- To develop critical linkages between sections of trail – what will this accomplish?

### Be sure to highlight the benefits to your community and visitors!

- Developing community, connection to place, and commitment to stewardship
- It's healthy, family friendly, and an opportunity to make genuine connections with the town through youth programs, chapter outreach and so on

### Management considerations for the long-term

- Importance of trail building clinics and the use of best practices (IMBA standards are a central trail element in the MOU between VMBA and the State)
- What resources are available at the local level for trail stewardship? Access equates to a lot of commitment and work – does the proposal articulate how the chapter will steward more mileage?

### Mapping

- Maps that clearly indicate topography, trail locations, water locations, known animal routes, other trails, and management/ownership boundaries are critical

### Timelines & Budgets

- A timeline incorporating clear and realistic building ambitions is helpful. Utilize the mapping to help clarify building/maintenance priorities.
- Budgets should reflect a holistic view of the expenses associated with trail work including, but not limited to: professional trail design, rentals, materials, etc.