

## 2018 VMBA Chapter Trail Grant

The purpose of the VMBA Trail Grant is to strengthen the ability of every chapter to partner with their communities, landowners and public land managers to build sustainable and open access trails for the public's enjoyment.

As an association we have accomplished some milestones this year. We're over 5330 members, have inspired 1255 add-ons and last year's trail grant supported 13 new trail projects in 2018.

VMBA remains a central voice in critical legislative actions that will have dramatic impacts on your access to public and private land and opportunities. This work is an essential part of the future of riding in Vermont. Our shared success is the result of pairing VMBA's administrative support with chapters' unbelievable effort.

In support of that effort, VMBA worked to develop the "VMBA Partner Trail Grant" program, which is a reflection of VMBA advocating for our partners to also support chapter projects. This year our community and chapter model dedicated over \$300K to trails.

- Chapter payouts \$161,936 (through the end of August)
- VMBA Trail grant \$60,000
- Add-on revenue \$31,000
- VMBA Partner Grants \$46,000 (\$20k of this has already been dedicated to Stowe and MRR per the donor's wishes - \$10k each)
- In addition, \$12,900 was also provided to Stowe as part of the Cady Hill recovery efforts

**Cabot has stepped up big-time and is eager to celebrate their centennial with VMBA chapters. Every chapter will be awarded \$1000 from them this year!** Two easy steps – please send Tom the following:

- The use of the grant (tools, bridging, or as part of a larger project being funded, etc.)
- Project the grant will support

The cash available for annual VMBA trail grant awards is awards is \$60,000 in addition to \$46,000 per Cabot's generous contribution (go buy some Cabot cheese...).

### Eligible expenses include:

- ∞ Trail design/consultation
- ∞ Trail maintenance and new construction

- ∞ Building materials – gravel, surfacing, etc.
- ∞ Tools, kiosks and signage
- ∞ Tablet to sign up/renew riders during trailhead sits
- ∞ Staffing dedicated to strengthening chapters' advocacy efforts

The VMBA grant may not be used to cover: administrative functions (fees associated with digital platforms, postage, computers, etc.), commercial builder mileage, promotion, or transportation for chapter personnel.

The deadline for proposals is **Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5PM** – there will be no exceptions to the deadline.

Grants will be awarded at the annual meeting on **November 29<sup>th</sup>**.

All funds must be spent in full, and illustrated in physical receipts, by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Any balance, not reflected in physical receipts, will be due back to VMBA by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Chapters are strongly encouraged to utilize the [Rewards Volunteer Program](#) provided by Cabot. Volunteers and the chapters are eligible for prizes and cash rewards. Beyond the obvious, it's a fantastic way to track your volunteer hours and it takes only two minutes to do onsite with a phone.

### Eligible proposals will include:

A plan to driving chapter membership (May/June)

- ∞ Chapter must submit contact information of membership coordinator as part of developing a membership campaign for the following year before grant funds are allocated
- ∞ Three trailhead sits – **OR** - membership based events: shop sit, well advertised sign up/renewal BBQ, membership table at a partner's event, etc. Please include your three scheduled events & rain dates in the proposal. Chapter riding events will be counted only if there is a clearly identified membership table/location at event (it can be a part of the onsite registration process only if there is an additional, clearly identified location to renew/sign up on site)

### Project description

- ∞ Briefly describe how the project is important to your network and your membership
- ∞ Does the project represent new access? Does it join two landowners or to public land? If private land, has the landowner(s) signed a [10-yr. access agreement](#)?
- ∞ Is a portion of the project accessible to diverse users?

## Management & Construction

- ∞ State directly whether or not the project is shovel ready
- ∞ Who is designing and building the project?
- ∞ Are there any outstanding administrative/permitting issues attached to the project? Funds will be contingent on the timely resolution of any issues. Chapter agrees to return funds if any building restrictions arise, access permissions are lost – it is anticipated that grants are submitted for shovel ready projects
- ∞ Which state officials have been contacted to learn if permitting is required? Who was your contact?
- ∞ Please include any letters of support from public land managers and private landowners
- ∞ Is it anticipated that the project will significantly increase the use of local trails? If so, is there ample parking, signage, a kiosk, etc. to communicate with the riding public the desires of your chapter, neighbors, Township, etc.?
- ∞ Please include a map identifying the entire surrounding network and which specifically identifies the project
- ∞ Describe how the trail will be constructed to minimize impact on water resources, shore lands, riparian zones, water quality and flood resiliency
- ∞ How does this project account for forest planning, local/sensitive resources, unique ecological features, wetlands and any endangered species? Please be specific about any permitting that was acquired in support of the project
- ∞ The chapter agrees to utilize the VMBA Trail Grant for projects that are open to the public

## Budget

- ∞ Please submit an itemized budget & timeline for the project
- ∞ Chapters will be required to submit receipts for all expenses for the project totaling the grant award by October 31, 2018. Chapters that do not submit this paperwork will not be eligible for the following year's grant
- ∞ List any in kind donations anticipated
- ∞ Identify volunteer hours anticipated
- ∞ List any additional fundraising planned for the project

**Project reporting** - Chapters that accept grant funds will submit before, during and after images as part of the grant requirements.

Please submit completed application to [tom@vmba.org](mailto:tom@vmba.org)

**Applications are due on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.**

Thank you all for your incredible effort and dedication to riding in Vermont.