

# RTP Program Summary

## Recreation Trail Program Funding (RTP)

RTP funds have been utilized to fuel VMBA chapter trail projects for years. Chapters often do an amazing job developing proposals and remaining competitive for these funds. As of this year, things are changing with RTP funds.

All chapters applying for RTP funds for projects on private land will be required to obtain 10-year easements from each landowner hosting land for the trail. This does not pertain to “maintenance” projects. Maintenance projects include:

- Resurfacing
- Rerouting to protect sensitive habitat
- Rerouting to decrease ongoing erosion problems
- Bridge repair (not construction)

The rationale for the updated requirement is to ensure the public doesn't commit money to a landowner that quickly decides to no longer allow public access. You can imagine the problems with constructing a \$4000 bridge only to have the landowner deny public access a year later.

To support these new developments, VMBA and the state have authored documents to assist chapters in communicating with landowners. The purpose of the “Trail Projects and Act 250” document is to thoroughly explain the specifics surrounding the nuances of Act 250 for both landowners and Chapters. Chapters may also refer to the “RTP Flowchart” as a quick reference to understand the requirements pertaining to public funds. These documents are available in the Chapter resource library at [vmba.org](http://vmba.org).

In total, there are four relevant documents in the Chapter resource library:

- “RTP Summary” – this document summarizing RTP funding
- “Landowner Letter” – a template letter VMBA would like chapters to share with their landowners if the Chapter plans to use RTP funds for trail projects on a private landowner's land.
- “Trail Projects and Act 250” – a document sharing the specifics of Act 250.
- “RTP Tip Sheet” – a document highlighting the critical elements to include in an RTP proposal