

## Board Chair Letter

There is no better way to experience the magic of Kingdom Trails than getting out on the trails with friends and family.

Each Wednesday for the past 25 years, a group of locals has assembled to enjoy a pedal and evening meal. 15 years ago, I was fortunate enough to learn about KT and this group. Even though I showed up out of shape, with little skill, and on a bike John Worth said would “make a better anchor,” I was welcomed, as are all. This weekly ride has confirmed for me that at its core, KT is about healthy people, healthy community and a healthy economy. The magic is that the trails get us out moving, give us occasions to meet neighbors, and provide our corner of VT economic opportunities by inviting others to experience the good thing we have going here.



This year we celebrate 25 years, an occasion that allows us to step back and reflect on the path that has led us to who we are and what we do today. At the center of our story are the founders, landowners, volunteers, board members, staff, businesses, donors and members whose commitment and generosity have made an impact. We’ve all heard the familiar quote “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” This is the legacy of those past and present who rolled up their sleeves and showed what can be done when citizens come together and selflessly contribute time, talents and treasured access to land.

Thank you, friends, for your lasting support and to our staff and Board of Directors whose dedication to KT is so very evident on a daily basis. Wishing you happy trails.

*M. Langlais*

Matt Langlais, Board Chair

## Executive Director Letter

I wish I could have been a fly on the wall during the first gathering of folks who founded Kingdom Trails.

John Worth, Marilyn Pastore, Jim O’Reilly, Jake Wheeler, and Doug Kitchel were among the visionaries who came together in 1994. Their goal was to stimulate the area’s economy through outdoor recreation that would be ecologically sensitive and promote the beauty of the region. 25 years later, we know they have done just that.

I love when John Worth shares stories of Doug Kitchel going from door to door, asking neighbors for permission to cross their beautiful property. In the wake of Doug’s initial efforts, Kingdom Trails now embraces 94 private landowners. I am always in awe that our own community members allow us to

manage, maintain, and build trails on their private land. In doing so, they are contributing to the vitality of our region.

Our 25th Anniversary marks a celebration, shown here through this report, of the incredible impact that our trails and those involved have on our community. We congratulate everyone and thank all for their commitment to a successful future.

*Abby Long*  
Abby Long, Executive Director



Photo: Mark Clement

Kingdom Trail Association  
P.O. Box 204  
East Burke, VT 05832

## DONATIONS

Your contribution allows us to continue striving toward our mission.

Please consider a donation by visiting our website, [www.kingdomtrails.org](http://www.kingdomtrails.org) or you are welcome to send a check to us at the address below.

Thank you!

Loop you-cake  
Fence line  
Cup-cake  
the Inn  
mountain  
farm  
1444'

Pastore  
Bog  
Vernon  
Hill Rd

25  
EST. 1994

KINGDOM  
TRAILS

P.O. Box 204 | 468 VT 114  
East Burke, VT 05832  
802 626-0737  
info@kingdomtrails.org  
KingdomTrails.org

f

Instagram

Printed 9/19 | 2.5M | Design: Flek, Inc.

## OUR PEOPLE

### Kingdom Trails Staff

Abigail Long, Executive Director  
CJ Scott, Trail Manager  
Lilias Ide, Marketing & Events Manager  
Ern Donnelly, Operations Manager  
Kingdom Trails hosts 28 seasonal Trail Crew, Welcome Center Staff, and Ambassadors.

### Kingdom Trails Board of Directors

Matt Langlais, Chair  
Katie Story, Vice Chair  
Tabitha Bowling, Treasurer  
Jodi Flanagan, Secretary  
Rob Elmes  
Mike Michaud  
Harry Morrison  
Ann Nygard  
Jake Wheeler



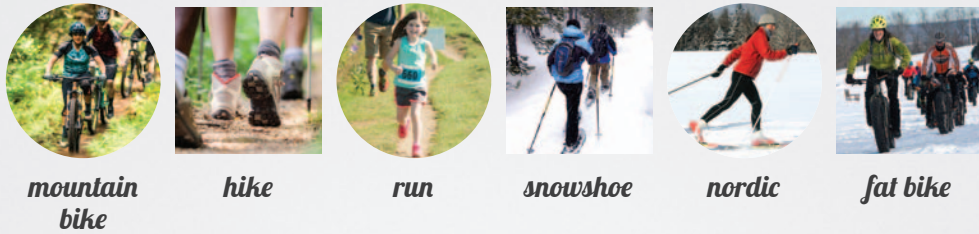
# KINGDOM TRAILS

# 2019 COMMUNITY REPORT



KingdomTrails.org





mountain bike

hike

run

snowshoe

nordic

fat bike

Our Mission and Profile

# Kingdom Trails

The Kingdom Trail Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to provide recreation and education opportunities by managing, maintaining, and building trails to foster the health of our community, surrounding environment, and regional economy.

- 100+ Miles of Multi-Use, Non-Motorized Trails
- 4 Season Recreation
- 94 Private Landowners



Thank you to our

## Landowners

Photo: Herb Swanson

What makes our community and trail network one of the greatest destinations in North America are the generous landowners who allow our trails to cross their beautiful properties. Nowhere else are there 94 continuous private landowners who play a key role in vitalizing our region, provide a quality experience, and healthy outlet for local residents and visitors.



## LEAP AMERICORPS

Keara Kresser (bottom left in the above photo) is Kingdom Trails' first ever LEAP AmeriCorps Education Outreach Coordinator. Keara furthers KTA's impact as she teaches outdoor STEM education programming for youth in our local community. She provided 1,700 hours of direct service, reaching about 700 local youth, working in area schools and organizations:

- Burke Town School
- Newark Elementary
- Riverside School
- Lyndon Institute
- St. Johnsbury Academy
- Northwoods Stewardship Center
- Fairbanks Museum
- Thaddeus Stevens School
- Concord School
- Lunenburg School
- Gilman School
- East Burke School
- OneBurke



## RIPARIAN PLANTING

600 TREES PLANTED  
150 VOLUNTEERS

We planted native riparian plants to restore floodplain forest along the East Branch of the Passumpsic to prevent erosion, rehabilitate habitat and improve water quality. KTA partnered with: Mad-Dog Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Connecticut River Conservancy, Burke Conservation Committee, and Back-country Hunters & Anglers.



## USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT



\$75,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant to support a KTA Network Feasibility Study. The anticipated outcome is a planning and implementation document that will guide sustainable future development focusing on needed parking, safe traffic flow, pedestrian crossings, and connections to local businesses. We understand that a continued positive impact necessitates responsible growth.

## NEW KTA MINI GRANT

Kingdom Trails introduces the NEW KTA Mini Grant program, dedicating \$25,000 to the communities that so graciously host us and our trail users. These grants will provide funding for projects that will advance our mission and increase the capabilities and capacity of other local organizations and groups, focused on developing a sustainable economy and aiming to improve the quality of life for people in our community.

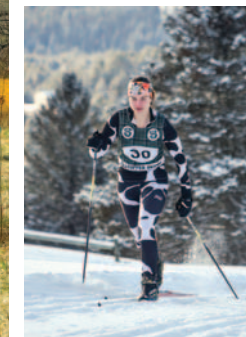
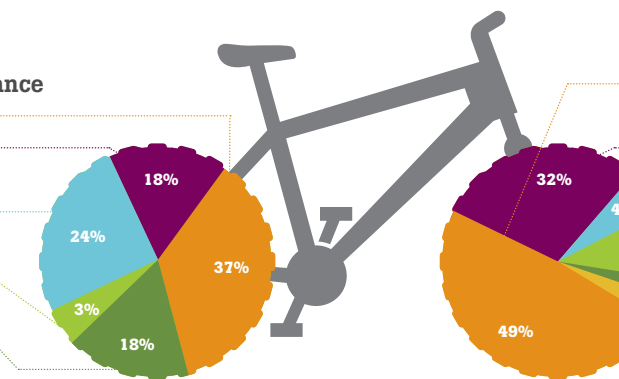


Photo: Steve Legge

## FINANCIALS For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2018

### Expenses

\$ 336,000	Trail Management, Maintenance & Building
158,000	Community Outreach, Programming & Events
214,000	Administration
30,000	Publications & Memberships
172,000	Facilities & Operations
<b>\$ 900,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>



### Revenue and Support

Day Memberships	\$ 612,000
Annual Memberships	398,000
Retail Sales	58,000
Events	123,000
Advertising	24,000
Donations & Grants	30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,245,000</b>

## economic impact

**\$10 MILLION** estimated economic impact/direct spending

**\$115 SPENT EACH DAY**, on average, by out of state visitors

**2.75 DAYS.** Average length of stay in the area by out of state visitors.



**4 TOWNS**  
The Kingdom Trails system spans these towns



KTA, Burke Chamber & Burke Mtn. collaborated to create CABS, the Community Area Bike Shuttle.

## membership

**137,536**  
Annual Visits during 2018

**1,819** Family Annual Memberships

**2,269** Individual Annual Memberships

**5,045** Kids 15 & Under

**582** Volunteers



**84%** of visitors are from out of state



**38%** of visitors are from Canada



**33% OFF!** Local discount for NEK residents

**4,300** people attended NEMBA Fest.

Join us June 26-28, 2020, to celebrate summer and all things mountain biking.

## trails

**3,174** trail maintenance hours

**1,988** new trail construction hours

**1,100** hours of winter trail grooming

