

VOREC Community Grant Program

Website

<https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/recreation-grants/vorec-community-grant-program>

Marketing and events funded by FY19 VOREC dollars in Town of Randolph



Photo credit: Vermont Sports

Building local economies with outdoor recreation at the center.

The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant Program has awarded \$300,000 to nine communities across the state since the program began in 2018. In FY22 the Governor proposed, and the legislature approved, dramatically expanding the program by allocating \$5 million in grants. In early 2022 up to 25 additional grants will be awarded to municipalities and their community partners using this funding.

In his FY23 recommended budget, the Governor proposes to invest another \$5 million into the VOREC program administered by the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation thanks in large part to the overwhelming interest the grant program saw from communities in FY22. Grant staff received 103 letters of interest and \$21.5 million in funding requests covering all counties of the state. 41 applicants were invited to submit 37 full applications. Of the 62 applicants who were not invited forward, 34 submitted project ideas that grant staff found compelling. Proposed work totaled \$7.1 million. Thirteen (13) of those projects were ranked by a Letter of Interest Review Committee and would have been invited to submit full applications for FY22 had funding and staff capacity allowed. Eight (8) projects and \$1,624,150 was not eligible for funding.

Grants fund municipalities and non-profit community partners.

The program was designed to serve all different elements of a community – including businesses, senior centers, and other community organizations - with municipalities as the fiscal sponsors for projects. The decision was made with the expansion of the FY22 program to expand applicant eligibility to non-profit organizations who are resources to municipalities. Of the 41 applicants invited to submit full applications in FY 22, fourteen (14) were non-profit organizations.

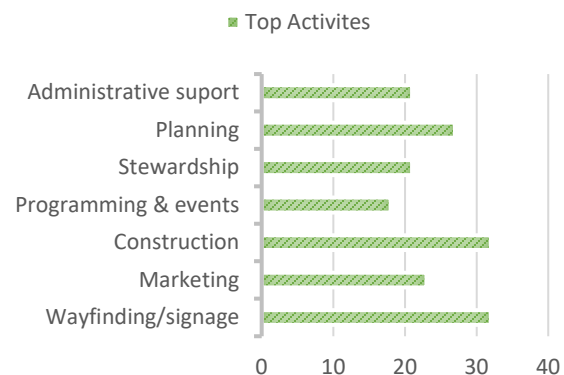


Pump track funded by FY20 VOREC dollars in the Town of Rockingham

Photo credit: Town of Rockingham

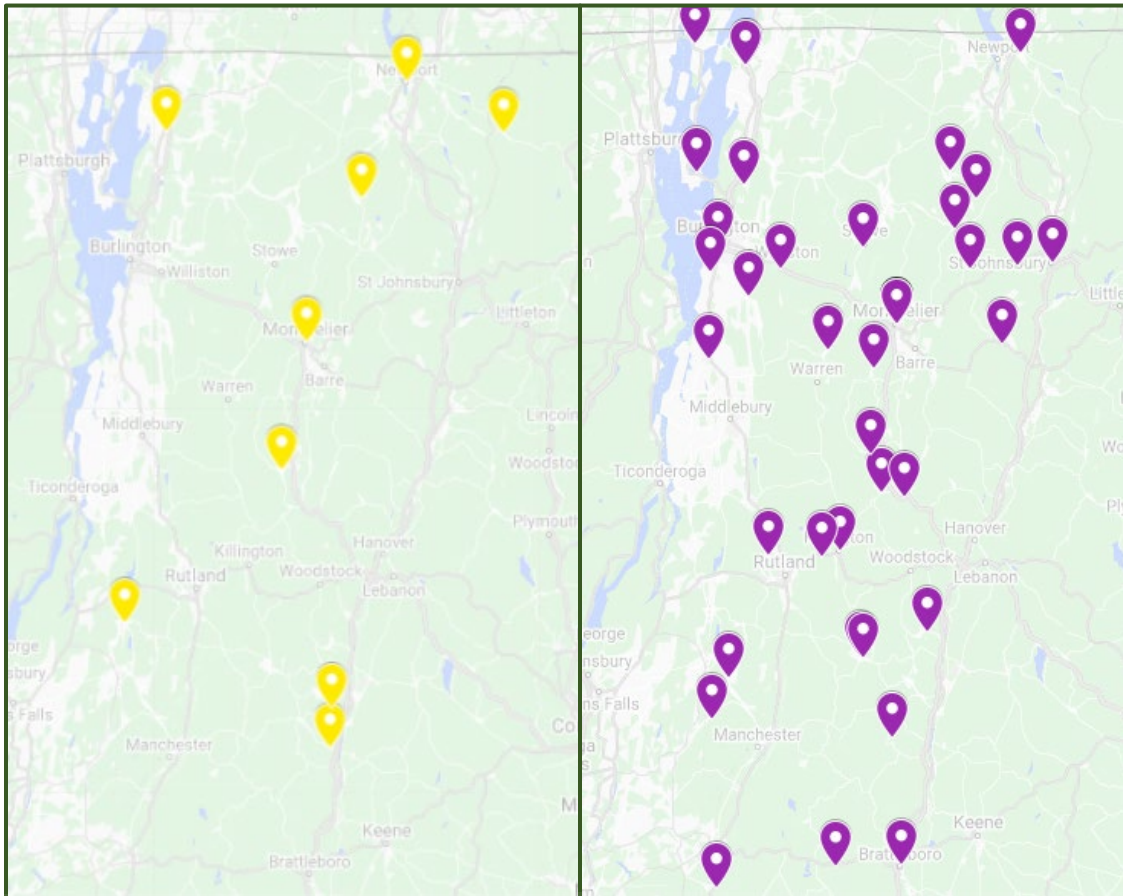
Grants are used for a variety of purposes that go beyond trail work.

FY22 TOP FULL APPLICATION ACTIVITIES



Projects are funded across the State of Vermont

Grant staff and review committees use evaluation criteria that ensures communities across the state receive funding.



VOREC Community Grant recipients to date

FY22 applicants invited to submit full applications



Critical trail connection between Prouty Beach and Bluffside Farm funded by FY19 VOREC dollars in the Town of Newport

Photo credit: Vermont Land Trust