

Appendix C: The Vermont Trail System:

The Vermont Trail System (VTS) was established [in statute](#) to recognize the important role that trails play in Vermont. By law, these trails are recognized by the Agency of Natural Resources Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation with advice from the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. The statute makes clear that “(t)he development, operation, and maintenance of the Vermont trails system is declared to be a public purpose...” Currently, the VTS is comprised of approximately [50 member organizations](#) ranging from small local trail groups to large statewide organizations including ANR State Lands trails. All trails managed by listed VTS members are part of the Vermont Trail System.

Current VTS Eligibility/Criteria:

In order to become part of the Vermont Trails System, trail organizations which own or manage the subject trails must submit an application which states who is responsible for managing and maintaining the existing and future trails, must certify that they have written landowner permission, that their trails are consistent with the Vermont Trails and Greenways Plan (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan), that they adhere to one or more trail BMPs (either from the list in the application or their own which they need to provide) and that the trails have local, regional or statewide significance. In addition, the applicant must provide evidence of public support for the organization’s ability to manage trails to the Vermont Trail System standards with at least two letters of support. The applicant must describe how their trail(s) and all future trails will further the education, safety awareness and/or environmental stewardship of public users of the trail. A detailed map and GIS shapefiles of all trails currently managed by the organization must accompany the application to the Vermont Trails System.

If an organization which has been recognized as part of the Vermont Trail System adds a new trail(s) to its trail network, it shall provide a detailed map and GIS shapefiles of the new trail(s) to the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council and confirm that the new trail(s) meets the eligibility criteria above.

The current eligibility requirements and application can be found here:

https://ANR.vermont.gov/sites/ANR/files/Recreation/Learn_More/Library/VTS%20Application%20and%20Criteria%20Current.docx