



Trust for Public Land

Shelby Semmes
VP New England, Vermont State Director

VOREC Steering Committee Member since 2020

We are

CONNECTING EVERYONE TO THE OUTDOORS.

Our mission

is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Access to the outdoors is a fundamental human need and essential to our health and well-being.

Communities that place a high value on outdoor access for all are healthier, more resilient and more equitable.



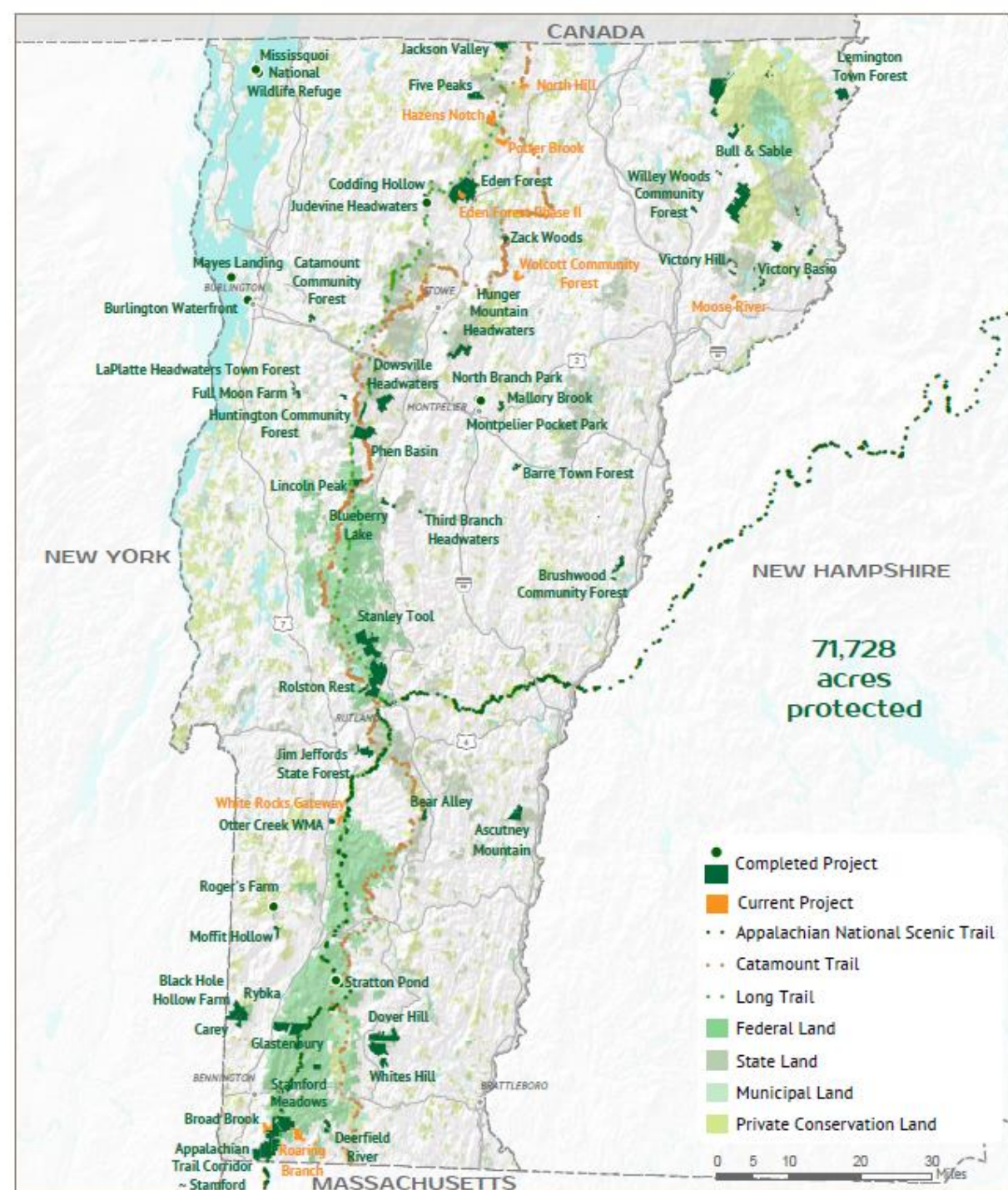
In Vermont, we have

Protected or made possible 220 miles of trails and 71,000 acres of publicly accessible lands

- ✓ 10 miles - Long Trail
- ✓ 9 miles – Catamount Trail
- ✓ 78 miles – VAST trails
- ✓ 137 miles – Community trails
- ✓ 3 miles of Velomont Trail and forthcoming South Pond Backcountry Hut

Force behind iconic landscapes:

- ✓ Burlington Waterfront,
- ✓ Barre Town Forest @ Millstone Trails,
- ✓ Blueberry Lake GMNF
- ✓ Ascutney Mountain,
- ✓ Catamount Community Forest,
- ✓ Rolston Rest GMNF

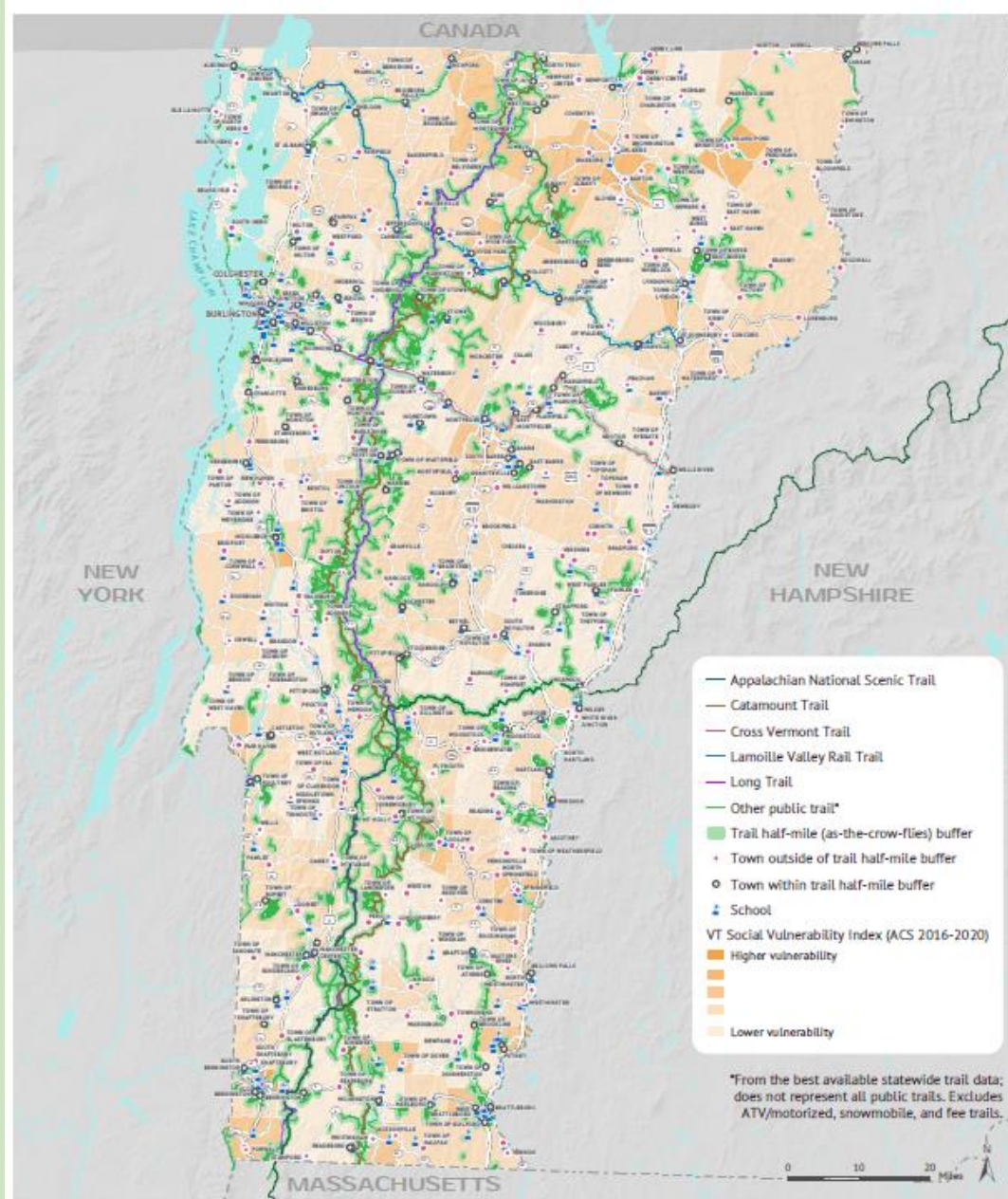




In Vermont:

- Vermont **loses 10-12,000 acres** of intact forestland a year – the canvas of outdoor recreation.
- **63%** of Vermont’s conserved land provides public access, compared with 87% in NH and Maine.
- **More than 1 out of every 5 Vermonters, including 31,000 kids, lack close to home access to the outdoors***
- **43% of Vermont’s K-12 schools lack walkable off campus park or open space**
 - *But if you are low income or live in a community that suffers from poor mental health, you are **roughly 1.5x less likely** to have walkable park and open space access near local schools*

* further than a 10-minute drive to permanently protected park or open space of 1 acre or more



Vermont Trails and Social Vulnerability

VISUALIZING VERMONT TOWNS SERVED AND NOT-SERVED BY FOUR-SEASON MULTI-MODAL PUBLIC TRAILS

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Takeaways....

- Conservation and outdoor recreation are deeply intertwined
- Outdoor rec assets – trails, hunting and wildlife areas, waterfronts - frequently drive conservation priorities
- Our landscape is rapidly transforming, with impacts to the availability and dependability of outdoor rec opportunities
- Landowner recognition/certainty, Act 59 (30x30), VHCB investments are critical to upholding and improving outdoor rec sector's vibrancy in Vermont