

2023 Vermont Public Places
Honor Award Recipient



Slate Quarry Park, 76 Main St., Poultney

Routes to Town

Furnace St to New England Slate

Slate Valley Trails has reached agreements with multiple landowners to propose off-road trail linkages to the D&H Rail Trail from the Fairgrounds network. SVT has signed landowner agreements for 1-year (executed 8/2023) from the D&H to Route 30 and 10-years from Route 30 to Thrall Rd.

However, this short 1,500 foot corridor of Route 30 roadway from Furnace St to New England Slate falls short of being a safe and comfortable corridor to connect people walking and bicycling to Downtown Poultney. Route 30 is a two lane highway within State jurisdiction, with typical paved widths of no more than 24 feet. These 11 foot lanes and 1-2 foot shoulders are not sufficient for safe walking and bicycling on this road.

Short term projects can include:

1. sharrow markings or bike lanes
2. shift lanes on the bridge to shared lanes
3. reduce radii at large driveways.

Long term or future road projects on Route 30 should include or consider:

1. Expand shoulders to a 5 foot minimum wherever possible or a separated path.
2. This will require some areas of fill and potentially retaining walls where the ground slopes down and away from the road.
3. Utility poles may need to be relocated depending on the road section; if there is a buffer between the road and path, relocate poles to within the buffer.



Proposed Trail and Rt 30 improvements



Proposed Trail from the D&H to NE Slate



Proposed Trail from NE Slate to Thrall Rd.



BRIGHT SPOTS

Poultney downtown's authentic small town feel is one of the top things that people love about the community. Downtown is already a hub, and most people love what they find here now: beautiful and well-maintained streetscapes and sidewalks; great places to walk, shop, eat, and spend time; and easy access to everything. Asking what people love is not just a feel-good question—the key themes we heard (below) help identify top things that Poultney can market and promote to draw more investment, visitors and residents. They also help identify critical assets and values that can be lost without care and attention; Poultney should work to strengthen, expand on and protect these beloved assets.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT OUTDOOR REC IN POULTNEY?

• **Amazing parks, trails and networks.** High quality, well-maintained assets for all.

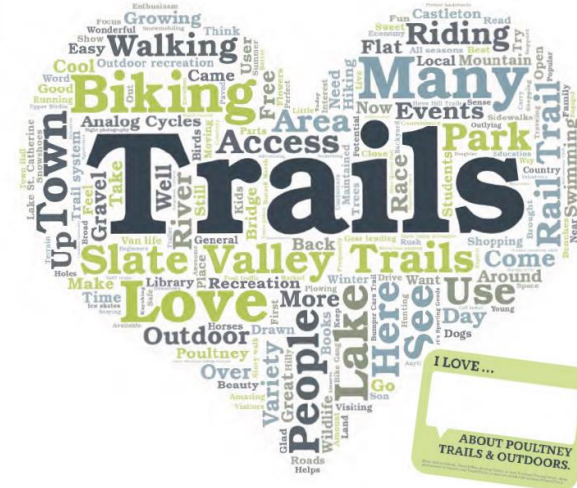
- Trails: D&H Rail Trail; SVT trails, VAST trails, E. Poultney trails, school trails
- Water: Lake St. Catherine, Poultney River/bridges, Buczek Marsh
- Parks: Slate Quarry Park, Lake St. Catherine State Park, former GMC campus, E. Poultney Green, village office lawn

• **Variety of experiences.** Summer and winter activities (hiking, biking, walking, snowmobiling, skiing, kayaking, swimming, gravel rides). Events, races and trails for all levels.

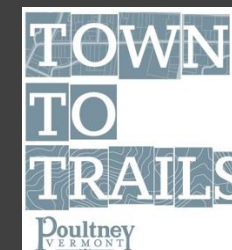
• **Quality of trail systems.** Well-built, well-marked and well-maintained trails. Good signage. Beautiful landscapes and wildlife.

• **Downtown rec access.** Shopping and eating right off the Rail Trail. Trails right off Main Street. Loaner bikes and snowshoes at Library. Parks and sidewalks to enjoy.

• **Outdoor culture and community.** Friendly, energetic trail community and volunteers. Historic "open access" culture. Support and resources from Slate Valley Trails.



Poultney Better Connections 'Town to Trails'





Concept Design for Highway Garage Site Redevelopment

Existing Poultney Highway Garage site. This location is at the southern gateway and is adjacent to Poultney High School, the Young at Heart Senior Center, neighboring residential areas and the Poultney River.

Outdoor Recreation Hub Project (2024-)

