

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CROSS VERMONT TRAIL ASSOCIATION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



CROSS VERMONT TRAIL

Connecting communities, schools, and trail systems

The Long Trail allows hikers to cover the length of the state by foot, from Massachusetts to Canada. Parallel to the Long Trail but at lower elevation is the Caramount Trail, designed for skiers. A much shorter and more varied path is the Cross Vermont Trail, a 91-mile mix of paved and dirt roads, bike paths, and railroad beds that travel in an east/west direction across Vermont from Wells River to Burlington.

The Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) was started in 1993 by members of trail committees and conservation commissions who were interested in having some connectivity between existing trails. In 1999 the CVTA incorporated as a nonprofit with one part-time staff person and a board of directors. Although 91 miles are currently mapped, only a third of that is actually passable, but the hope is that eventually the



Clockwise from left: The Cross Vermont Trail is a recognized National Recreation Trail. A granite cattle pass in East Montpelier. Day campers take a tour of the trail.

entire width of the state will be connected by one continuous trail network. The association has a series of 12 maps and navigational cue sheets for those interested in doing all or part of the mapped sections.

Although the Vermont Department of Transportation has designated the road portions of the Cross Vermont Trail to be scenic roads, CVTA Executive Director Greg Western says the association is hoping to eliminate those sections. "We dream of the day when it's entirely a trail and off the road," he says, noting he felt a little silly when he was drawing up the maps because he'd write, "Get to the end of the trail and keep going."



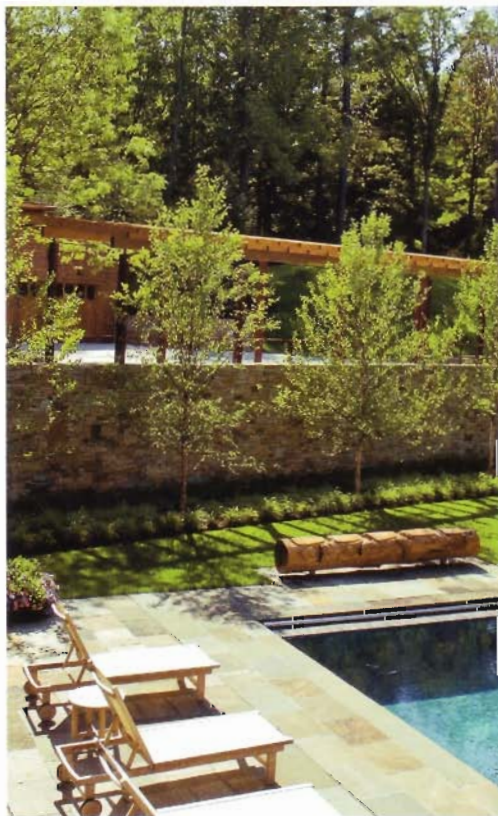
A view of Marshfield Dam from the trail. Photo by Robert Levasseur. Opposite: A section of the trail goes under an overpass.

A WORK IN PROGRESS

Most of the 30 miles of trail are on public land, including bike paths in Chittenden County and sections in Newbury and Ryegate. Other sections are on Class 4 roads. The CVTA has formal agreements with about a dozen landowners and less-formal arrangements with others, who are willing to allow use of their land but aren't willing to enter into a written commitment. The organization secures easements and even owns a small piece of land in Plainfield. Greg jokingly describes the association as "the world's smallest land trust." The CVTA's goal is to nail down all the easements and less-formal permissions. "It's a slow process," Greg concedes. "We're looking



WAGNERHODGSON
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



DESIGNING SIMPLE, ELEGANT LANDSCAPES THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND

WWW.WAGNERHODGSON.COM



CROSS VERMONT TRAIL GUIDEBOOK



CVTA has published a digital guidebook about the nature, geography, and history to be found along the Cross Vermont Trail. It was written in part by middle and high school students, and it provides an over-

view of what you will see now along the trail, and what happened in those same places hundreds of years ago. It's a comprehensive and professionally produced publication with room to grow. The CVTA invites schools and teachers to contact them to contribute a section about their own local area. Please contact the CVTA for more information. You can download a copy (PDF format) at www.crossvermont.org.

for people who are willing to provide public access and make for a good route."

Greg sees the CVTA as more "booster and coordinator" than administrator of the trail. The organization works with local groups including East Montpelier Trails Incorporated (EMTI), Montpelier Parks and Recreation, and the Plainfield Conservation Commission. Al-

though the trail is an east/west line, they coordinate with these groups so travelers can leave the main path and enter the local networks. Mary Stone, president of EMTI, praised the CVTA for working with her organization to help them develop their trail network. "It's an amazing project," she says, "because the CVTA has the mission of connecting the



LOCALVORE IS BETTER AT SUGARBUSH

A variety of dining experiences featuring locally-produced meats, vegetables, and cheeses, as well as fresh seafood. Choose between the elegance of Timbers Restaurant, mountain casual at Castlerock Pub, or breathtaking views at Hogan's Pub on Sugarbush Resort Golf Course.

800.53.SUGAR | www.sugarbush.com

☼ Resort Quality Spa Services Right in Your Backyard ☼

Massage
Advanced Facial
Treatments
Body
Treatments

GIFT CARDS
Great for Birthdays
and
Special Occasions!

Sundara Day Spa

Where the Sun
Melts Your Stress Away



4 Years Running

Manicures
& Pedicures

Waxing

6 Licensed
Estheticians



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED - LESILEE KIRBY

672 Route 302, Berlin, VT • 802.476.4476 • www.SundaraDaySpa.com

COPY WORLD

802-476-3615 • 59 N. Main Street • Barre, VT 05641 • info@copyworldvt.com

BUSINESS CARDS • BROCHURES • NEWSLETTERS • BINDING



**PRINT
DESIGN
OFFICE SUPPLIES**

ARCHITECTURAL PRINTS & COPIES • POSTERS • BANNERS

Open 7 Days a Week!

www.copyworldvt.com



Best of Central Vermont ONLINE

VISIT US at bestofcentralvt.com

YOU'LL FIND:

- Weekly Blog Articles
- Local Spotlight on Community Businesses
- Events Calendar
- Online Exclusives
- Online Business Directory of Local Services and Products
- How to Subscribe
- And More!



LIKE US - [bestofcentralvt/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bestofcentralvt/)



borders, and there are many trail systems that have been built and maintained by volunteers that will connect into that."

Robert Levasseur of Jericho was intrigued by the trail and decided to give it a try on his cyclocross bike, which is equipped with wider tires to handle a variety of terrain. He completed all but the last seven eastern-most miles. Levasseur says he would have had difficulty following the trail if he hadn't downloaded maps from the website. "They tried to put signs at critical turns, but it's easy to go past them," he says. "About half the trail has signs."

Robert found the Chittenden County sections slow going because of lights and crosswalks on the bike paths. Two other impediments were in the form of rough sections off Johnnie Brook Road in Richmond and near the former state complex in Waterbury. The only other difficult section was a washed-out portion of the railroad bed in Plainfield, which required him to carry his bike through a canyon-like stretch. He rode



with camping equipment, dropping his tent and supplies at Ricker Pond in Groton State Forest before doing the eastern portion of the trail unencumbered.

"It was a good adventure," says Robert. "Why not go across the state on a path? It's better than just taking roads." Although he says he would recommend the trip, he recognizes that more work needs to be done on the trail. "It's definitely a work in progress," he says.

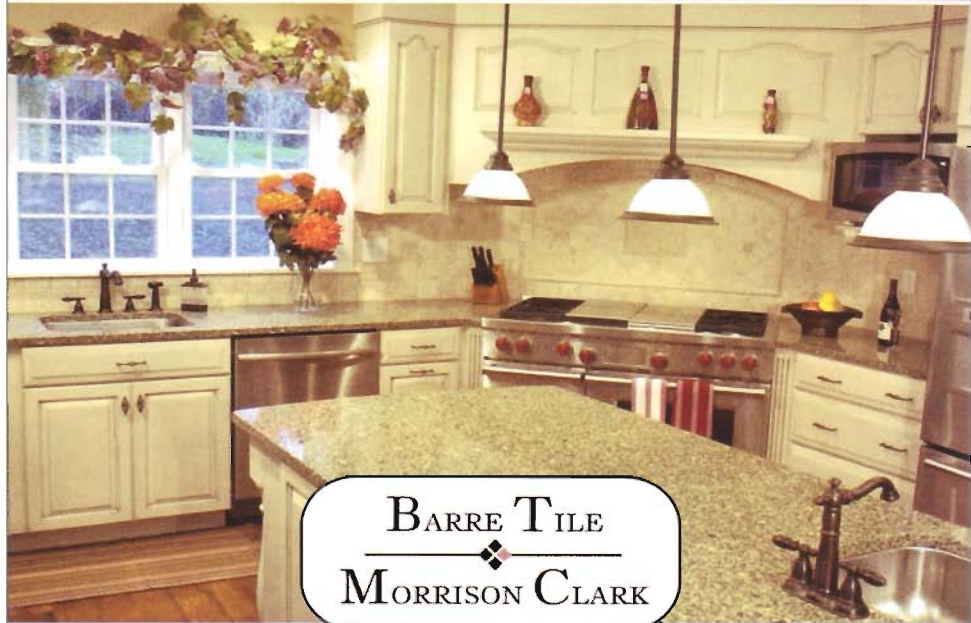
"We're small, but it's not the purpose of the CVTA to be a large organization," Greg Western notes. "We want to be the go-between for others who are doing such good work on trail committees, conservation commissions, and in state and town forests. We're a big idea but a small organization." 🦋

Cross Vermont Trail Association

29 Main Street, Suite 4
Montpelier, VT
(802) 498-0079
www.crossvermont.org

**CERAMIC • GLASS • NATURAL STONE • CARPET
HARDWOOD • AREA RUGS • GRANITE COUNTERTOPS**

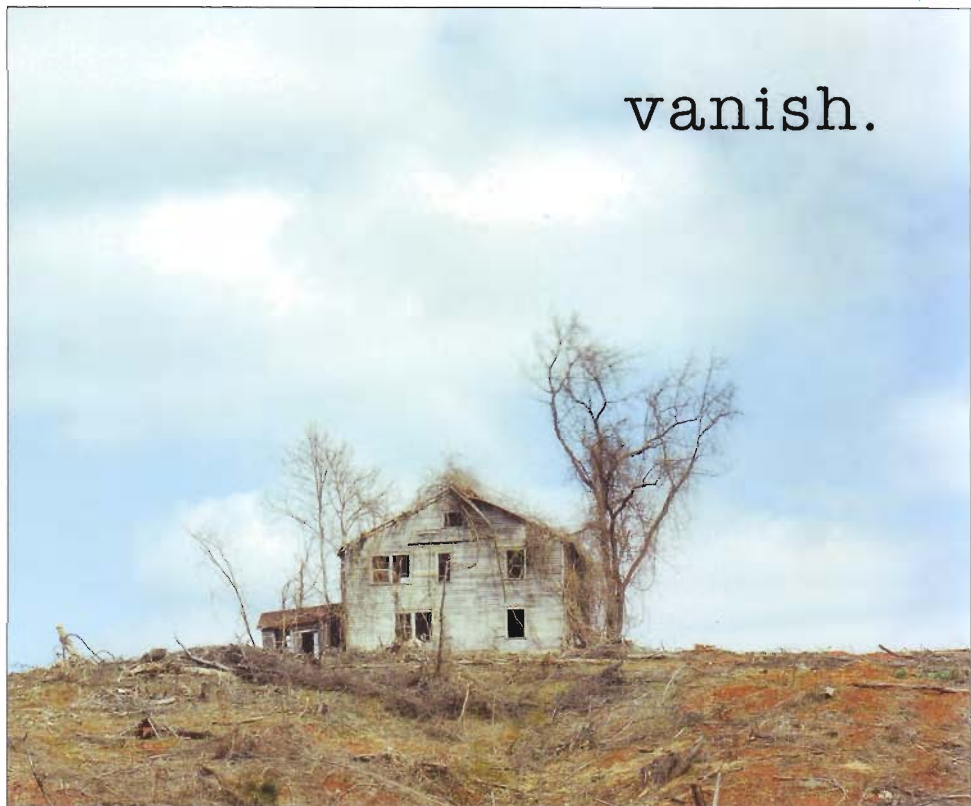
*Countertops are Manufactured in Our
State of the Art Facility here in South Barre, Vermont*



BARRE TILE
MORRISON CLARK

889 South Barre Road - Rt. 14 • South Barre, VT • 802.476.0912
187 Mechanic Street • Lebanon, NH • 603.448.4940

barretile.com



vanish.

jimwestphalen.com

best of Central Vermont

SUMMER 2014 VOLUME 2, NO. 3

COMMUNITIES AND LIFESTYLE IN THE HEART OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS



BLANCHARD BLOCK
REVIVAL

WEST BRANCH
GALLERY

GREEN MOUNTAIN
PERFORMING ARTS