



Weekly News Roundup June 8, 2020 - June 12, 2020

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

Town Forest Recreation Planning Webinar Series

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program is offering a webinar series on town forest recreation planning. This series was originally planned for in-person events as part of the **Town Forest Recreation Planning Initiative**, moved to online opportunities. **Learn more about the whole series here** or register at the links below:

- June 16, 10 a.m. **Connecting Downtowns with Trails for Economic Vibrancy**
- June 23, 10 a.m. **Trail Building and Maintenance**
- June 30, 10 a.m. **Mountain Biking 101**



Community News

New Dam Safety Rule in Progress

The Agency of Natural Resources Dam Safety rule making process continues to move along. Formal responses to public questions and comments from the public hearings have been developed and minor Rule edits have been completed; both are posted on their [website](#). The final step before Rule adoption is a hearing with the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM via Live Streaming. Those wishing to attend via live streaming, but not actively participate, may do so via YouTube live stream. Those wishing to actively participate must submit written or oral testimony per LCAR's requirements. [Links available here](#). Contact Ben Green with questions at 802-622-4093 or Benjamin.green@vermont.gov.



Bicycle & Pedestrian News

As a result of the uncertainty raised by COVID 19, the 2020 VT Walk/Bike Summit has been postponed to October 16, 2020. The event [website](#) will be updated when more details are available. In addition, the VTrans 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program is delaying grant solicitation for new projects until more is known. [Read More >>](#)

EAB Trailhead Project

Almost 400 Trailhead Signs have been distributed to Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation; the Green Mountain Club; the Green Mountain National Forest; and the Vermont Mountain Biking Association to post on their trails. The goal of this project is to educate hikers and other recreationists on how to identify ash trees and the signs and symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer and

to report suspect trees to [VTinvasives](#). Laminated signs are available for towns. Contact Ginger Nickerson at ginger.nickerson@uvm.edu to get one for your town's trailhead!

Tree Steward Awards

Congratulations to Russ Barrett of Northfield and the East Montpelier Resilient Roads Committee! They received tree stewards awards from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program! [READ MORE>>](#)

Green Mountain Transit - New Bus Map & Guide

Due to the fluctuating changes related to COVID-19, GMT has delayed the printing of a new Bus Map and Guide. However, several schedule changes have been made that will go into effect on Monday, June 15, 2020. [Please click here to view the electronic version of the guide: GMT Bus Map & Guide](#)

COVID 19 Updates

Farmers Market Mini-Grant for COVID-19 Protocols

Rural Vermont has launched a rapid response [mini-grant](#) to support farmers markets in need of financial assistance to transition to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Funds will support the purchase of supplies such as hand washing stations, masks, gloves, sanitizer, signs, caution tape, stakes, additional staff, and other needs to support safe shopping. Grants are capped at \$500 per market and are available on a first come, first served basis.

News from CVRPC

[CVRPC Municipal Updates](#) are available on our website with COVID-19 resources. Check back often as they are updated weekly.

If your community has a need, we can assist you with, please contact us at CVRPC@cvregion.com - Stay Safe!

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines



AARP Vermont - Community Action Grant Applications

As a way to encourage and support grassroots action to make Vermont communities more livable, AARP VT has expanded its Community Action Grants to communities across the state providing modest funding and technical support to community groups, municipalities and non-profits. AARP's Livable Community Initiative is aimed at preparing Vermont communities for the rapidly aging demographic shift – particularly in the areas of housing, mobility and community engagement. The pandemic

has heightened the importance of social networks and community support and services as key ingredients for community resilience. Proposals must include projects that incorporate one or more of the following:

- Respond to food insecurity
- Respond to the impacts of social isolation with socialization and the fostering of inter-generational community connections
- Respond to increased need for technology and virtual meet-ups
- Respond to affordable and accessible housing options
- Respond to increased need for improved mobility, such as pedestrian, bike and bus infrastructure
- Increase access for civic engagement
- Increase community accessibility for disabled residents
- Support the delivery of services to help older residents to age in the setting of their choice

Community Action Grants range from \$500-\$2,000. The deadline for applications is June 26, 2020. Grants will be one-time funding for a 6-month period starting when the grant is awarded. The project will need to be completed within the same 6-month period. Applications and an RFP can be found online [here](#) or below.

2019 SWCRPC Design/Implementation Block Grant R3 Announcement

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) is pleased to announce the third round of funding under the RPC Design/Implementation Block Grant program. These funds are to be used to support the preliminary design, final design and construction of clean water projects throughout the state.

Eligible projects must have a primary benefit of sediment/nutrient pollution abatement, and must be listed in the VT DEC Watershed Projects Database (WPD). Application requests for all size projects will be accepted under this third round.

For a comprehensive list of eligible projects, and to access the application form and related application materials, please visit the [Design/Implementation Block Grant webpage](#). You will also find updated support materials, forms and templates for our current sub-grantees.

Applications are due to cwbg@swcrpc.org by no later than 4:30PM EST on July 10, 2020. Please send any questions regarding this program to cwbg@swcrpc.org.

2020 Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

Vermont's downtown and village center tax credit program has helped rehabilitate hundreds of existing buildings to support new and expanded businesses, create housing and jobs and spark community vitality. Historic properties located within the villages of Waitsfield & Warren are eligible for the \$2.6 million available to support general rehabilitation, building code compliance, and façade improvements. Applications are online at <https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits>, and are due July 1, 2020. For questions, contact Caitlin Corkins at caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov.

Cultural Facilities Grants

The FY21 Cultural Facilities Grant program has been announced. Administered by the Vermont Arts Council in conjunction with the Vermont Historical Society, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the program awards grants on a competitive basis to assist nonprofit organizations and municipalities to improve community facilities used to provide cultural activities to the public. The purpose of the program is to enhance or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural programming. Examples of projects eligible for funding include: improvements such as wiring, heating, accessibility features, lighting, and stage improvements; building improvements, permanent display panels or exhibit cases, permanent infrastructure or fixed equipment; and hazard mitigation efforts such as flood gates, rain gutters, sprinkler systems. Grants range from \$1,000.00 - \$30,000.00 and require a 1:1 match. Deadline for applications is July 27. For more information [-https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/organizations/cultural-facilities](https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/organizations/cultural-facilities)

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings

JUNE

June 15 3 pm Executive Committee Special Meeting, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
June 18 7 pm Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, via technology
June 23 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee - TBD
June 25 4 pm Project Review Committee - TBD

JULY

July 3 Holiday - Office Closed

July 6 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
July 9 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
July 14 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (see agenda for details)
July 16 7 pm Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee
July 28 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, TBD
July 30 4 pm Project Review Committee, TBD

