

## TRAIL DEVELOPMENT: MULTIPRONGED APPROACH

Given the time, administrative, and financial commitment required to develop such a large-scale trail effort, it is suggested that the project be done incrementally. The following section outlines a multipronged approach that will allow the community to initiate various aspects of the project at once without being overwhelmed. However, given the scope of this effort, the community will need to be opportunistic, jumping into various aspects of the project as prospects arise (e.g. offer of an easement, funding awards, etc.).

It is worth noting that this approach will allow different aspects of the project to progress simultaneously. Various land ownerships and classifications means that the period between planning and actual project implementation varies greatly. Projects on municipally controlled lands, like Ski Bowl Park, can move rapidly ahead while those on private lands or NYS Forest Preserve Lands will take longer due to the necessity of acquiring long-term recreation easements or approvals. For example, GMIU area lands have Unit Management Plan (UMP) requirements favorable to recreational trail development that can be addressed quickly. Vanderhacker Wild Forest (VWF) and Siamese Ponds Wilderness (SPW) UMP amendments will generally take the longest due to more restrictive use. One large private land owner has property with potential projects that span many phases of the Expansion Plan. A single agreement with this land owner would allow multiple projects to move forward as funding becomes available. As such, it is recommended that this effort be undertaken immediately.

Compiling projects of similar land ownership or administration into groups to address approval needs is advantageous and is preferred over individually submitted projects. From a user perspective, a trail is a singular feature, but trails may traverse various administrative boundaries, and those tasked with implementing this plan should pay close attention to the various approvals needed for each improvement and approach them holistically, particularly with NYSDEC.

Administrative planning and approval for multiple projects in each land designation should proceed at the same time to bring the recreational and economic benefit to the communities in a reasonable time frame. Each planning phase can build off and benefit from the infrastructure in the prior phases. Individual projects can be stand alone and benefit the existing trail system if opportunities become available to move them ahead.

Input from stakeholders at the NYSDEC supports this approach since it recognizes their internal land planning and management scheme, which favors periodic updates to individual unit management plans. The following section outlines a five-phase approach to improving and expanding the existing trail system. This includes:

**Component 1:** Retain Critical Infrastructure

**Component 2:** Improve Ski Bowl Park Area

**Component 3:** Raymond Brook Valley

**Component 4:** Community Connections

**Component 5:** “Basecamp” Development

## COMPONENT 1: RETAIN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Planning for the expansion of trail-based infrastructure in the North Creek Ski Bowl Park area should initially focus on retaining existing critical infrastructure through long-term agreements. Expansion of the trail system is predicated on cooperation between the Town of Johnsbury, adjacent private land owners, and state entities. These various groups should maintain a dialogue beyond this planning effort to ensure a cohesive recreational experience. The Town should work with the private landowners and NYS to secure permanent recreational easements.

Ive’s Dam Trail and the Ski Bowl Connector Trail are critical trails that provide excellent user experiences, as well as access to various other trails.



### COMPONENT 1: ACTION ITEMS

Trail Segment	Relevant Jurisdiction	Next Steps
Ive’s Dam Trail	Private	Explore Easement Opportunities
Ski Bowl Connector Trail	Private and Town	Secure Access or Realign Segment

## COMPONENT 2: IMPROVE SKI BOWL PARK AREA

This component should focus on trails closely connected to Ski Bowl Park that expand and improve existing recreational opportunities, add new recreational experiences, and connect adjacent parts of the local community. The Ski Bowl Park to Peaceful Valley Road connector trail will serve as an important connection between the businesses and residential areas on Peaceful Valley Road and Ski Bowl Park. The Rabbit Pond Trail needs trail tread improvements for bike use. Since the NYSDEC already recognizes this trail as a bike trail, there will be minimal administrative hurdles before work can begin on this project. In addition to these select trail connections, the Town has previously identified a number Ski Bowl Park-related improvements, including enhancements to the beach area, as well as improved access along NYS Route 28. The latter includes the development of a new intersection that is critical to improving both vehicle and pedestrian access to Ski Bowl Park from downtown. It is also a placemaking opportunity that will allow motorists to identify a key point of access along a locally significant highway.



### COMPONENT 2: ACTION ITEMS

Trail Name	Jurisdiction	Next Steps
Ski Bowl to Peaceful Valley Road Connection	Town and Private Lands	Secure easement
Lower Schaefer Trail: Gorge Circumvent	Gore Mountain Intensive Use	Work with Town and volunteers
Little Gore Summit Trail: Hiking & Snowshoeing	Gore Mountain Intensive Use	Work with Gore Mountain
Rabbit Pond Trail: Bike Tread Improvement	Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Work with Town and volunteers
Rabbit-Shed Trail	Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Work with NYSDEC and APA
Rabbit Pond Lean-to	Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Work with NYSDEC and APA

### COMPONENT 3: RAYMOND BROOK VALLEY

This component should focus on the creation of a new multi-season backcountry destination. This includes backcountry skiing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and hiking in the Raymond Brook Valley. The most important aspect is the development of the North Creek to Garnet Hill connection. This will require collaboration with NYSDEC and various private land owners. The creation of more ski trails, a warming hut, and mountain biking in this area that feeds into Ski Bowl Park, is on the route to adjacent communities, and has shuttle assisted Ride-Up-Slide-Down experience available, will add a new facet to the local recreation economy. These trails will be attractive to recreationists looking for full day adventures off the beaten path.



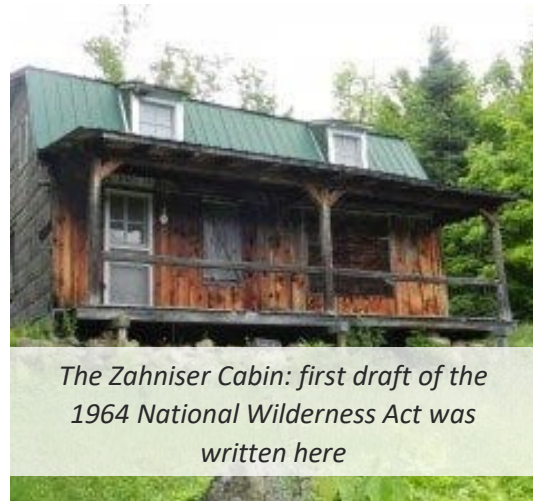
### COMPONENT 3: ACTION ITEMS

Name	Jurisdiction	Next Steps
Little Pete Mountain Trail	Private & Gore Mountain Intensive Use	Secure land access and work with NYSDEC and APA
Raymond Brook Trail	Private & Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Secure land access and work with NYSDEC and APA
Raymond Brook Warming Hut or Lean-to	Private or Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Secure land access and work with NYSDEC and APA
North Creek to Garnet Cross-country Skiing and Bike Trail	Private & Vanderwhacker Wild Forest	Secure land access and work with NYSDEC and APA
Pete Gay Traverse	Private, Vanderwhacker Wild Forest, and Gore Mountain Intensive Use	Secure land access and work with NYSDEC and APA

## COMPONENT 4: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This component focuses on creating Hamlet and community connections, loop trails, and new linkages and experiences. This component is somewhat regional, with aspects of it taking place further from the Ski Bowl Park area. This phase creates larger loops and cross-country experiences for big days or multi-day experiences.

New community connections with the Hamlets of North River (and Garnet Hill) and Bakers Mills would be created with the proposed trail expansions. For example, the previously noted North Creek to Garnet Hill trail connection would link the existing Ski Bowl Park system to the Garnet Hill Lodge system, greatly increasing the attractiveness of the Town of Johnsbury’s mountain biking offerings.



In addition, a large skiing and hiking loop, circumventing Gore Mountain, would be created. This would create a new long-distance, recreational cross-country skiing and trekking experience that could be accessible to a wide range of abilities. The “Wilderness Trail” would create a loop and connection to the Zahniser historical site where the 1964 Wilderness Act was drafted. While trail development within the Forest Preserve will require coordinate with and support from NYSDEC and the APA, trail development within Wilderness Areas will require even more consideration to ensure the integrity of the landscape.

Expansion of the Riverfront Trail north from the rail station towards the terminus of the Raymond Brook Ski Trail, could also be explored or developed. This would serve as a user-friendly trail for residents and visitors to the Hamlet of North Creek, as well as an off-road connection from the Raymond Brook Trail to the Hamlet.

### COMPONENT 4: ACTION ITEMS

Name	Jurisdiction	Next Steps
Second-Bother Trail	Siamese Ponds Wilderness	Work with NYSDEC & APA
Balm of Gilead Mountain Loop	Siamese Ponds Wilderness	Work with NYSDEC & APA
Ward Hill Trail	Siamese Ponds Wilderness & Gore Mountain Intensive Use	Work with NYSDEC & APA
Chatamac Trail	Siamese Ponds Wilderness	Work with NYSDEC & APA
Riverfront Trail	Private	Additional Planning and Explore Easement Opportunities

## COMPONENT 5: “BASECAMPS” DEVELOPMENT

This component focuses on creating social gathering and shelter locations that have ready access to nearby recreation activities and trailheads. These locations should have such user amenities as parking,

water, bathrooms, and shelters. Camping opportunities could also be considered. For example, the popularity of van conversion campers among the outdoor recreation community could be accommodated by providing specifically designed overnight parking accommodations. The basecamp areas may also include space for nearby businesses to lease and provide food, retail, or other related services (e.g., gear, repair, etc.). The design of structures could be flexible. For example, yurts could be used as temporary buildings. Ultimately, the intent is to create a meeting point and a place to clean up before going into town to enjoy local businesses. The “Basecamp” concept on the following page serves to illustrate the types of low impact amenities that could be provided to bolster the recreational appeal of Ski Bowl Park and to offer high-quality amenities to recreationists. This location was selected as an example because of its proximity to existing facilities and infrastructure and may serve the winter use community. This would prevent any potential conflicts with beachgoers during warmer months. When planning and developing the proposed basecamps, the following concepts should be considered:



*Key Elements of the Concept:*

- Programmable space for businesses or community initiatives;
- Low cost of implementation;
- Amenities targeted at active outdoor recreationists;
- Facilities and location that complement and support local businesses; and,
- Complement existing efforts to improve Ski Bowl Park.

In addition to the Ski Bowl Park basecamp concept, there are opportunities to enhance the existing Carol Thomas Trailhead behind the Town Hall. This trailhead is closer to downtown North Creek and already serves as a gathering point for mountain bikers who utilize the trail as a stepping off point for the Ski Bowl Park trail system. A screened structure with a central fireplace would be most suitable for this location as it is primarily for summer use.

**COMPONENT 5: ACTION ITEMS**

Name	Jurisdiction	Next Steps
Ski Bowl Park Pond Basecamp (Winter Use Focus)	Town	Additional Planning, Design, and Development
Carol Thomas Trailhead Basecamp (Mountain Biking Focus)	Town	Additional Planning, Design, and Development





# NORTH CREEK SKI BOWL PARK

# Concept Sketch 2.1

CHAZEN PROJECT NO: 91819.00

05.15.2019

Hamlet of North Creek, Warren County, New York



## PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Many of the trails included in this plan travel through various administrative and ownership boundaries. The trails proposed by this plan are intended to be feasible from a permitting and constructability standpoint. However, there are various levels of review that must take place for many of the proposed trails to be built. The APA and NYSDEC will need to approve any amendments to the various UMPs. In some areas, the trail routing will require cooperation from willing landowners, which may change with the passage of time or change in ownership.

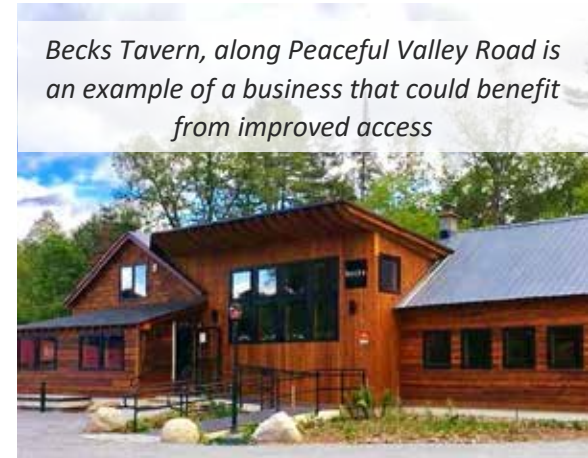
Alternative strategies are needed due to the reliance on private land recreational easements to achieve the Town's recreational objectives. If agreements cannot be achieved, then alternatives that most closely resemble the original objectives can be pursued. These strategies will shift development projects onto public lands. The suggested alternatives will be less desirable than the proposed improvements, but they will serve as acceptable alternatives for the purposes of this plan.

Potential development strategies that may require alternatives include the following:

### **Peaceful Valley Road Access Trail (Component 2)**

The proposed trail between Ski Bowl Park and Peaceful Valley Road would be located on private land. If an agreement cannot be achieved, a trail located on GMIU state land between the Ski Bowl Park and the ski center entrance road would be the alternative. This trail is also proposed in the recreation plan as the

Ward Hill Trail and Gore Mountain Circumvent Loop. The trail would require a large bridge to cross Roaring Brook.



### **North Creek to Garnet Hill Trail (Component 3)**

The proposed trail between the Sled Shed and the top of the South Mountain Pass would be located on private land. If an agreement cannot be achieved, a switchback type of trail on Vanderwacker Wild Forest state land, between the Sled Shed and South Mountain Pass, would be the alternative.

### **Raymond Brook and Garnet Hill Connector Warming Hut (Component 3)**

A warming hut for winter activities could be considered on private lands near the original Raymond Brook Trail. This would require willing landowners. If an agreement cannot be achieved, a lean-to on Vanderwacker Wild Forest state land, uphill of the Sled Shed, could be the alternative. This would require coordination and approval with NYSDEC and the APA



## WAYFINDING

Wayfinding is a coordinated system of signage and mapping that allows users to understand and comfortably explore an area. Good wayfinding highlights local assets, encourages more in-depth visitation, and enhances appreciation and understanding of an area.

The Town of Johnsburg has established various multi-use trails in the Hamlet of North Creek. The Carol Thomas Trail and the Riverfront Trail both connect directly to downtown and are accessible to users of all abilities but are not easily found by visitors to the area.

The Town of Johnsburg should develop a wayfinding strategy to complement their trail development efforts. This could include vehicular and pedestrian signs, trail interpretive signs, entrance signs, trail wayfinding, and trail kiosks. A good wayfinding system weaves together history, recreation, and other attractions into one coherent experience. In the past, municipalities have had various signage programs - one for the Chamber of Commerce, another for trails, and another for historical attractions, which can confuse a visitor who is most likely interested in all three topics. An example of a wayfinding signage strategy that the Town of Bolton is currently considering is provided on the next page.

Trail wayfinding is largely managed by NYSDEC. However, local connections and trails on municipal land should be well marked and easy to navigate. For example, a visitor to the Depot Museum should be aware of their proximity to Ski Bowl Park and the Riverfront Trail. This will encourage visitors to stay in the Town of Johnsburg longer and increase visitor spending and enjoyment. Future roadway improvements along NYS Route 28 (intersection improvements)

should incorporate enhanced wayfinding so that visitors to Gore Mountain and Ski Bowl Park are aware of complementary attractions in the Hamlet of North Creek.



# EXAMPLE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE SYSTEM



Vehicular/Pedestrian  
Roadway Signs

Trail  
Interpretative Sign

Entrance Sign

Trail Wayfinding

Trail Kiosk



Downtown Wayfinding

Downtown Interpretative Sign

Downtown Kiosk

## IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

The successful implementation of this plan will require multiple permissions from the Town of Johnsburg, NYSDEC, APA, Gore Mountain Ski Center, Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), and various businesses and private land owners. Cooperation and communication between these various groups will need to be ongoing and deliberate to achieve true success. While the multipronged approach outlined above is a helpful framework, perhaps the most important initiative is communication with these various stakeholders. As such, early outreach with property owners and state agencies is key. Fortunately, many private property owners have been engaged throughout the planning process, and the Town of Johnsburg is committed to working with the NYSDEC and APA to ensure not only proper approval of the trails, but their long-term sustainability.





To assist with this effort, the Implementation Considerations Reference Table below is intended to help the various stakeholders understand what is needed to advance the various components. The table is organized by land owner or classification. Below is glossary of commonly used acronyms.



**Unit Management Plan (UMP):** A guidance document for a specific portion of state land that outlines the types of trails, locations of trails, and other recreational amenities and maintenance schedules. The NYSDEC and APA review any changes to UMPs. The Siamese Ponds Wilderness, GMIU area, and the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest are all managed under different UMPs.

**Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP):** Plan designed to guide the preservation, management, and use of state lands by all interested state agencies. Originally approved in 1973 and most recently updated in 2016, amendments to UMPs must be in accord with the SLMP.

**IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS REFERENCE TABLE**

Land Owner or Classification	Implementation Notes
<p><b>JOHNSBURG TOWN PARK LANDS (SKI BOWL PARK)</b></p>  <p>Note: Least restrictive development and most allowed uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowable and proposed uses include: mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing</li> <li>• As municipally designated park lands, improvements here are required to be recreationally based</li> <li>• Action on Town land requires Town Board approval and may be reviewed by Park Committee</li> <li>• Due to connection and proximity, improvement here must work in collaboration with Gore Mountain Ski Center winter &amp; summer activities</li> <li>• Recreational development at Ski Bowl Park needs to take both community users and the local recreation economy into consideration</li> </ul>

Land Owner or Classification	Implementation Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections to adjacent properties and businesses need to be addressed</li> <li>• Trail connections to lands outside of town jurisdiction will need to address state land classification issues (types of allowed activities), as well as how users will traverse Gore Mountain Ski Center facilities that require admission fees.</li> <li>• Municipally controlled land is the easiest land classification to make improvements and changes on. This would allow for quick trail construction, maintenance, and changes with little restriction</li> <li>• There is more flexibility on municipally controlled lands to create high-quality recreational trails experiences without consideration of the constraints placed on lands controlled by the NYSDEC</li> </ul>
<p><b>PRIVATE LAND: BARTON MINES, FRONT STREET DEVELOPMENT, HENDERSON, AND GARNET HILL LODGE</b></p>  <p>Note: Least restrictive development and most allowed uses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational trail development will a require recreation agreement between the Town and property owner</li> <li>• Town Board approval will be required</li> <li>• Easiest land classification (Private Lands) to make improvements and changes on.</li> <li>• Would allow quick trail construction, maintenance and changes with little restriction.</li> <li>• Would be able to create high quality recreational trails &amp; experiences without the compromises required on state lands</li> <li>• For the Barton Mines properties, recreation agreement may allow for the development of a temporary yurt type structure for a warming hut and trail destination</li> <li>• For Front Street properties, Multiple land donations and recreation agreements have already been completed. Possibility of utilizing park land donations for multiple uses</li> <li>• For Henderson and Garnet Hill, existing trail system would be utilized. Would require proper signage to keep the public on the limited trail access and off trails requiring paid admission</li> </ul>
<p><b>GORE MOUNTAIN INTENSIVE USE AREA (NYS FOREST PRESERVE)</b></p>  <p>Note: Moderate permitting and development difficulty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowable and proposed uses include: hiking, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing</li> <li>• Recreational improvements must adhere to allowable uses of state land, as defined in the State Land Master Plan</li> <li>• The “Intensive Use” state land classification allows the greatest latitude in recreation development</li> <li>• All new trail developments will need to be added to the UMP for the Intensive Use Area. The Gore Mountain UMP, unlike many other UMPs is updated and amended frequently</li> <li>• Recreational trail development must work with Gore Mountain’s development Plans</li> </ul>

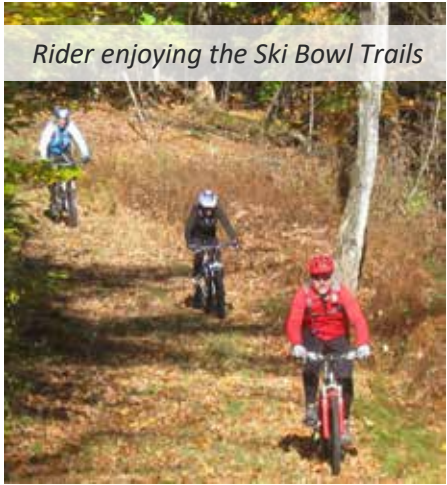
Land Owner or Classification	Implementation Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail development needs to work in correlation with adjacent land classifications as all trails will be connected to other properties</li> <li>• “Intensive Use” classification allows the greatest latitude and quickest time periods for trail development on state land</li> </ul>
<p><b>VANDERWHACKER WILD FOREST (NYS FOREST PRESERVE)</b></p>  <p>Note: Moderate permitting and development difficulty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowable and proposed uses include: hiking, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing</li> <li>• Recreational improvements must adhere to the allowable uses of state land, as defined in the State Land Master Plan (SLMP)</li> <li>• New trail developments in the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest would need to be addressed through the UMP process. These improvements should be introduced as amendments</li> <li>• Forest Preserve- Wild Forest designations are preferred for the type of trail development proposed in this plan for mountain biking, cross-country skiing and backcountry skiing</li> <li>• State Agency guidance proposes intensive trail development in front country areas near population centers</li> <li>• This state land area and classification allows the construction and maintenance of high-quality trails</li> <li>• Chainsaws can be used for maintenance all year</li> <li>• Precedent allows a limited amount of maintenance to be done utilizing motor vehicles/snowmobiles</li> <li>• Trail construction by small machines can be approved.</li> <li>• Biking and skiing trails on the Forest Preserve are very under-represented in comparison to hiking and snowmobiling</li> <li>• The mountain bike trail system proposed in this plan is based on the trail systems described for Wild Forest in the APA bike trail guidance document “Siting, Construction and Maintenance of Singletrack Bike Trails on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park</li> <li>• The Backcountry Ski decent trails in this plan are in areas that are most appropriate for the development of modern recreationally sound ski recreation, site aspect, elevation and a location that is preferable for this type of recreation</li> </ul>
<p><b>SIAMESE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA (NYS FOREST PRESERVE)</b></p>  <p>Note: Highest level of permitting and development difficulty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowable uses include: hiking, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing</li> <li>• Recreational improvements must adhere to allowable uses of state land, as defined in the State Land Master Plan (SLMP)</li> <li>• New trail developments would need to be addressed through the UMP process. These improvements should be introduced as amendments</li> <li>• New trail development proposed in this plan has been limited to only critical linkages and to the periphery of the Wilderness including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails connecting the communities of North River/Garnet Hill to Bakers Mills and North Creek. (Second Pd.-Botheration)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Land Owner or Classification	Implementation Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails creating a loop hiking &amp; backcountry skiing opportunity. (Wilderness Tr.)</li> <li>• Proposed new trail development has taken advantage of existing trails/paths to limit the amount of new trail construction</li> <li>• Only primitive trail standards are required for proposed new trail development in this area. Narrow trail widths, limited bridges and minimal maintenance</li> </ul>

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

Developing the envisioned network of trails will require communication and collaboration between multiple partners. The Town of Johnsbury, the North Creek Business Alliance, the NYSDEC, the APA, the ORDA, the Warren County Planning Department, and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Trail Improvement Society will all need to stay engaged and informed of efforts to develop the Town of Johnsbury’s recreational trail system. Detailed trail design and construction should be performed by, or under the supervision of, experienced and professional trail builders (see Appendix B and preliminary cost estimates and funding considerations section below).

The Siamese Ponds Wilderness Trail Improvement Society (Society) has been the driving force behind ensuring that the Town of Johnsbury’s trails are well maintained. The group consists of many long-term residents who have a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge of the area, as well as trail maintenance techniques. As an all-volunteer group, the Society relies upon engaged and passionate citizens. The Town of Johnsbury and the business community should continue to partner with the Society to identify new volunteers and to support their fundraising efforts.



*Rider enjoying the Ski Bowl Trails*

Johnsburg Recreational Trail plan (please note this list does not include a number of non-profit funding opportunities, including the Land Trust Alliance that has provided money for similar projects in the area):

### **Priority Project Funding**

As part of the CFA process, REDCs identify priority projects that align with their respective economic development plan. If the REDC identifies a project as a priority for the region, there is a greater likelihood of receiving funding. There is a separate priority project application that is included in the CFA process.

### **NYS Department of State (NYSDOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program**

As a designated inland waterway community (based on the Hudson River), the Town of Johnsburg is eligible to apply for funding through the NYSDOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The Town of Johnsburg is part of the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor, a program funded via LWRP, and may want to consider pursuing additional LWRP funds for implementation.

### **Adirondack Smart Growth**

A collaboration between the NYSDEC and NYSDOS prioritizes and funds projects that exhibit smart growth planning and activities throughout communities in the Adirondack Park. The grant program supports planning projects that foster sustainable development practices, environmental protection, and livability in Park communities. Projects can be for visioning or strategic planning processes.

### **A/GFTC Make the Connection Program**

This program is intended to assist with small-scale projects that “will improve the region’s bicycle and pedestrian travel network.” Announced on an annual basis, the Make the Connection Program requires a 20 percent local

match and can be used for a variety of small projects. Funding for this program is limited, and project administration can be technically difficult in relation to award amount due to administrative requirements. Nevertheless, the program may help implement select portions of the plan, particularly alternative transportation connections along roadways.

### **NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Municipal Grants**

OPRHP offers funding for the acquisition, development, and planning of parks, trails, and recreational facilities; to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore lands, waters, or structures for park, recreation, or conservation purposes; and for structural assessments or planning. However, it is important to note that OPRHP appears to provide limited funding to Adirondack Park communities. It has been suggested that this is due to the presence of the NSYDEC and APA. The Town of Johnsburg should stay abreast of OPRHP programs and the availability of funding within the Adirondack Park.

### **NYSDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)**

TAP funding can cover alternative transportation projects including “on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation.” Because the proposed improvements are primarily focused on transportation alternatives, several aspects of the plan may be eligible for funding through the TAP program, particularly the improvements for roadside trails, riverfront trail, shared roadway, and intersection improvement. However, the more active recreation-based trail system would likely not be eligible.

### **Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program**

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) provides grants on a competitive basis to projects that improve water quality and demonstrate green stormwater infrastructure. Funding can be used for standalone water quality projects or in conjunction with development projects that incorporate green infrastructure practices. This may include porous pavements or landscaping design features (e.g., bio-retention basins, swales, rain gardens, etc.).

### **Market New York**

This program was established to strengthen tourism and draw visitors by promoting destinations, attractions, and special events.

Eligible projects include marketing initiatives, physical construction projects, and the recruitment and/or execution of meetings, conferences, festivals, competitions, and trade shows.

### **Arts and Culture Initiatives/Heritage Projects**

The NYS Council on the Arts invites applications for the planning or implementation of arts, culture, and heritage initiatives or workforce investment. These categories include projects in mapping, master planning, branding, and marketing; women's suffrage commemoration; and administrative, artistic, fellowship, or resident artist positions in workforce development.



## PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES & FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Based on the proposed concept plans, several aspects of the plan will require detailed plans. It is suggested that the Town and its project partners employ professional trail designers and builders to the maximum extent practical. Such experts are not only aware of the design standards for the various proposed user groups, but they also have an eye for identifying high quality user experiences and avoiding potential environmental impacts. Additional portions of the plans will require more detailed engineering, particularly select elements of the proposed basecamps, trail crossing, wayfinding signage, and other significant Ski Bowl Park enhancements. Finally, select portions of the plans will require various permits or approvals; however, the full scope and level of effort to obtain these permits will be determined during the design process

With respect to project costs, preliminary cost estimates for improvements to existing trails and the construction of new ones are included at the end of this section. The estimates include design, administrative, permitting, materials, and labor (at prevailing and local wages). As such, the use of donated materials and labor will reduce the overall cost. Whenever possible, estimates for miscellaneous items, including signage and trailhead features, are provided as well. Because these estimates are conceptual in nature, a large contingency is included. However, it is important to note that certain funding sources may increase the cost of these projects due to administration and programmatic requirements. For example, federal transportation funding (often administered or distributed by NYS Department of Transportation or NYS Office of Park, Recreation, and Historic Preservation's recreation trails program) often requires significant reporting and adherence to select design specifications, which can drive up the

overall cost of a project. As such, when certain grant funding is being considered, these additional costs should be taken into account and budgeted for accordingly. Finally, these estimates will likely increase year-to-year due to inflation. The preliminary estimates for the approximately 23 miles of new trails is approximately \$1.2 million using local forces and \$1.7 million using prevailing wages. The estimate to improve the 47 miles of existing trails is \$470,000 using local forces and \$640,000 using prevailing wages. However, it is important to note that a significant amount of these trails is on state lands. As such, this work is often done by state workers or with volunteer stewardship groups.

There are various grant funding programs available for trail development and the provision of recreational amenities. No one source or agency will fund all the projects, and many grants and programs require local matching funds or another funding source. All potential opportunities should be explored to secure the most financial support possible to bring the project to fruition. Funding sources and strategies are ever-changing, so it is important to continually re-examine priorities and to evaluate possible alternatives and implementation strategies of this plan.

The most effective strategy toward securing funding from New York State is through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process. The annual CFA process is highly competitive. The future project area is part of the Capital District Region Economic Development Council (CDREDC). Therefore, applications submitted during the CFA are reviewed and considered by CDREDC and the respective funding agency. The following select funding opportunities should be considered for implementing the Town of