Developing a Sustainable Trail Network

11/14/2018
Mission

Maine Huts & Trails is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create and operate a world-class system of backcountry trails and eco-lodges for people-powered recreation to enhance the economy, communities and environment of Maine’s Western Mountain region, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Goals

- Create an outdoor recreation resource of national significance
- Stimulate environmentally sensitive economic development in Western Maine
- Provide perpetual year-round public access to visitors of all ages and abilities
- Offer opportunities for environmental and experiential education; and
- Promote an environmental stewardship and conservation ethic.
To watch this video, please copy and paste the following url:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbiCmCZZBzo
Year-Round Access; All Ages & Abilities

80+ miles of non-motorized, multi-use trails
- Open to the public year-round
- Free of charge
- Groomed trails in winter for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking
- Double and single-track trails for hiking and mountain biking in the summer and fall, waterways for paddling

4 remote eco-lodges
- Full-service during peak summer, fall and winter seasons
- Self-service during off-peak spring and fall seasons

Over 50,000 bed nights since opening Poplar Hut (2008)
- More than 11,000 bed nights in fiscal year 16/17

Visitors from 44 states, 9 Canadian provinces and 7 overseas countries
Economic Development

Impact on the local economy

• Building collaborations and partnerships with local businesses and organizations
• Sourcing food and goods from local farms and purveyors
• Contracting with local businesses
• Hiring locally to encourage year-round residency

Strengthening the Maine Huts & Trails economic model to ensure long-term stability by:

• Building financial strength and enhancing product development to withstand periodic downturns due to weather or economic cycles
• Growing off-season visitation
• Increasing economic activity in the local community through visitor attraction
Building Networks; Creating Opportunities

Collaborations with trail clubs and organizations
  • Sharing resources, ideas, and expertise

Relationships with landowners and businesses
  • Establishing trust and sharing our mission with landowners

Funders and follow-through
  • Maintaining integrity and showing results with creative, layered projects

Community engagement
  • Volunteerism and community presence
Investing in Trail Infrastructure

- Culture of appreciation for Maine’s forest through safe public access
- Valuation of property for landowners and nearby real estate
- Educational opportunities for the region’s youth and all ages
- Fun
- Impact on the environment
Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee

Maine Huts & Trails
  • Non-profit, landowner, leaseholder, trail management, funding

Carrabassett Region NEMBA
  • Non-profit, trail management, funding

Town of Carrabassett Valley, municipal
  • Municipal, landowner, leaseholder, funding

Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, for-profit
  • For-profit, landowner, funding

CVTC recognizes the value of mountain bike trails to local economy

Goal to develop a world-class mountain bike trail network: navigating permissions, acquisitions, design, funding, promotion, maintenance, and community involvement through volunteer opportunities and discussion

Minimize duplication of efforts
MH&T is working to improve the region’s trail network as a whole

- Advocate for all user groups, not just mountain biking
- Recognize the value of all motorized and non-motorized recreation to local economy, bringing all user groups to the table

Sharing resources, ideas, and expertise

- Recent Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF) award:
  - Construct interpretive kiosks at shared trail intersections and trailheads, consolidate signage, build necessary trailhead amenities
  - Springboard for larger signage plan involving CVTC

Unite the Snowmobile Club, ATV Club, CRNEMBA, Sugarloaf, and Maine Huts & Trails to create a consistent, safe experience for all trail users
Other Collaborations

- Maine Youth Trail Stewardship Coalition (MYTaSC)
- Old Canada Road Scenic Byways
- Colby College - education and research
- Chewonki - staff sharing
- Carrabassett Valley Academy
- Maine Woods Discovery
- High Peaks Initiative
- Maine Woods Consortium
- Maine Mountain Collaborative
Where to Find Us

HOW TO GET HERE

DRIVING TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Drive Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Drive Time</th>
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How to Connect:

» Visit the Huts
» Join as a member
» Volunteer to help
» Make a donation
» Follow us on social
» Share your stories

www.mainehuts.org