

Parks Commission
Tuesday December 17, 2019 / 6PM
Meeting Location: Montpelier Police Station Conference Room

Meeting Agenda

6:00 December 17 minutes and November 19 minutes

6:05 Public Comment

6:10 Cummings Street Pump Track proposal (Jill Olsen, MAMBA)

Background: The Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) is proposing to construct a bicycle pump track on a city-owned lot on Cummings Street across from the Cummings Street apartments. (See attached proposal for more information)

- MAMBA presentation
- Public comment
- Parks Commission discussion and possible vote

6:30 Expanded winter fat tire biking in Hubbard Park (Alec)

Background: At the Parks Commission's November meeting, MAMBA's proposal for winter fat tire biking in North Branch Park was approved. In addition, MAMBA proposed allowing cyclists to connect from Hubbard Park roads, which already allow bikes, to North Branch via the trail from the top of Seven Fireplaces and the Parks Connector. Suggested dates: December 1 - March 15 (weather permitting) and extendable to March 30th weather permitting. Before approving winter fat tire biking on these new Hubbard Park trails, the Parks Commission directed parks Staff and MAMBA to put together a communications plan and return to the December 17th meeting for approval of winter biking. (See two attachments for more information: proposal and map)

- Staff presentation of sign and communications plan (attached)
- Public comment
- Parks Commission discussion and likely vote

6:50 Summer 2020 trail construction in partnership with MAMBA

- MOU - still being drafted by parks staff and MAMBA, to be presented at January meeting
- Kids Trail - *At Parks' November meeting, staff and MAMBA proposed moving the "kids trail" from above Cummings Street Apartments to the nature/weed interpretation trail between the apartments and the North Branch of the Winooski. This would ensure "easy" access (flat), would be adjacent to other mountain bike trails (North Branch and possible pump track), and would invest construction dollars in an existing trail (rather than creating a new trail). This change would require new permitting, so would have to be approved this winter in order to facilitate 2020 construction. Some concerns were expressed for adjacent wetlands and*
 - Staff presentation

- Public comment
- Parks Commission discussion and possible vote

- 7:10 Winter grooming beyond Montpelier city boundaries (Geoff)
- Staff presentation
 - Public comment
 - Parks Commission discussion
- 7:35 Staff Update - Discussion/Questions on written update provided by staff (attached)
- 7:25 Budget - Updates on and discussion of budget congress and next steps
- 7:40 Filling Fabienne's position
- 7:45 Emerging trail project
- 8:00 Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

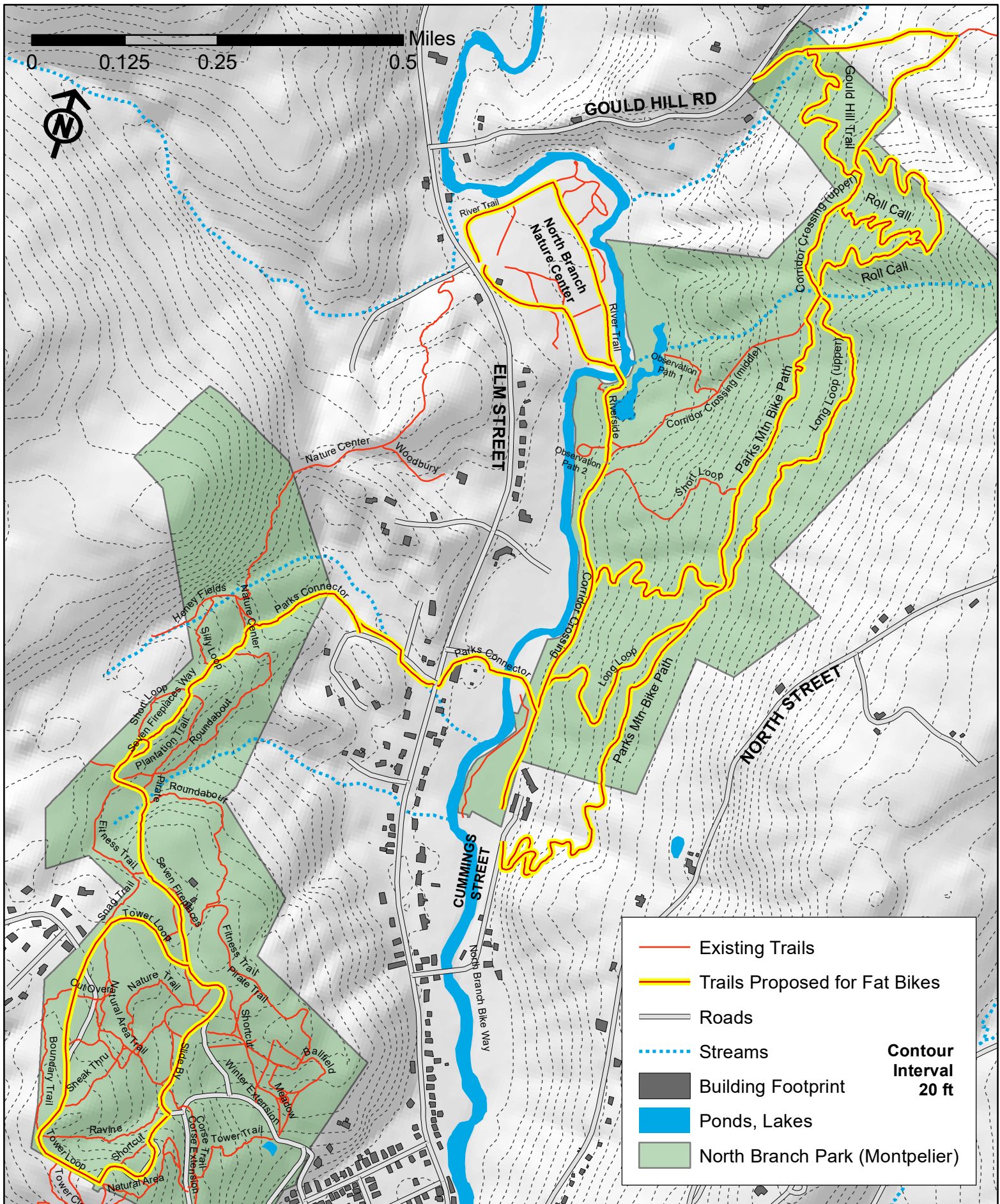
- **January 7:** Parks' Greenprint Discussion, 6-8pm, Senior Center
- **January 21:** Monthly Parks Commission Meeting, 6-8pm, Police Station

Unfinished Business

- Hubbard Park vegetation management
- Hubbard road mitigation
- North Branch pump track
- ADA improvements to Hubbard Park
- Budget
- Spring Hollow easement opportunity
- Kids mountain bike trail location
- Hubbard fat tire biking

Policies in Progress

- Finalize memorial policy
- MOU for groups doing work in city parks (standards/policies)



Proposed trails for Winter Fat Biking in Montpelier Parks

Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association - Updated October 2019



MULTI-USE WINTER TRAIL



**YIELD
TO**

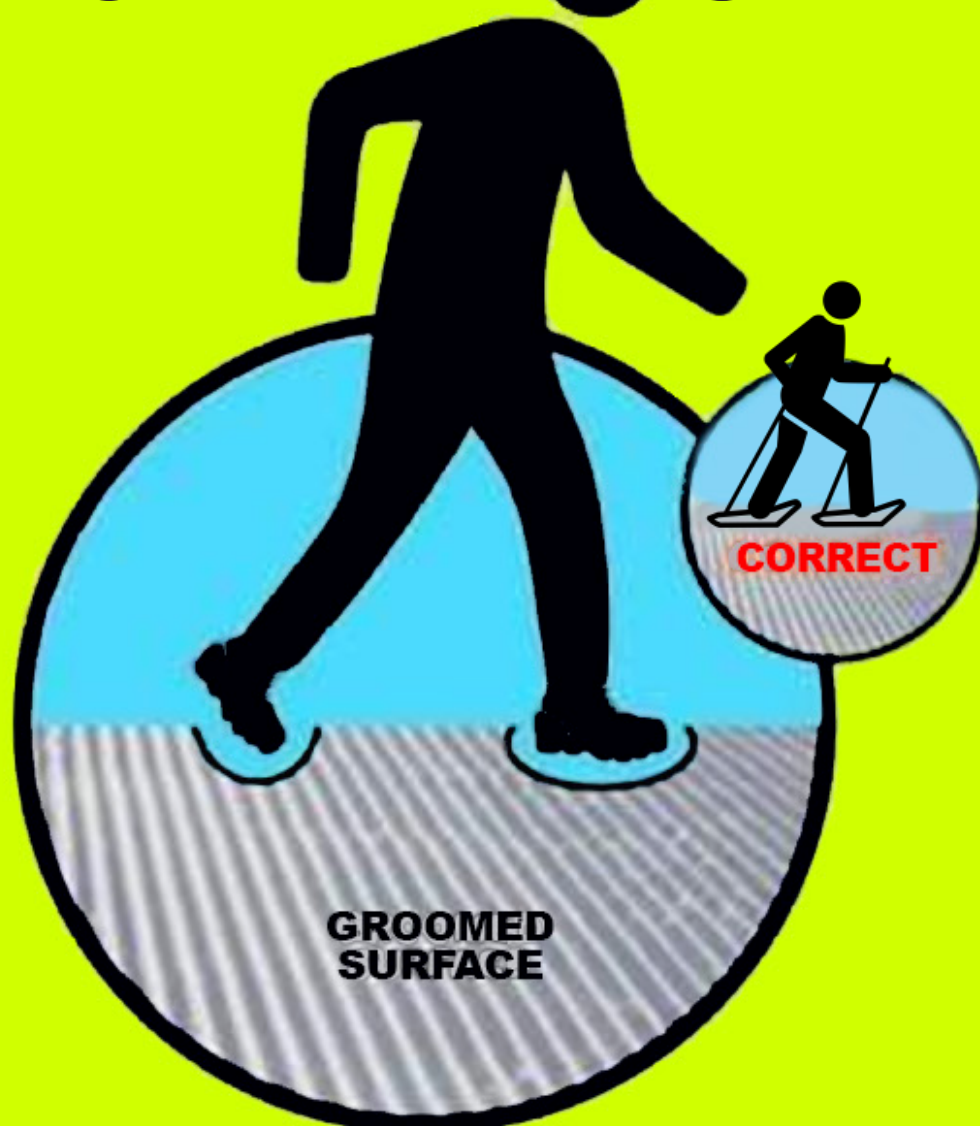
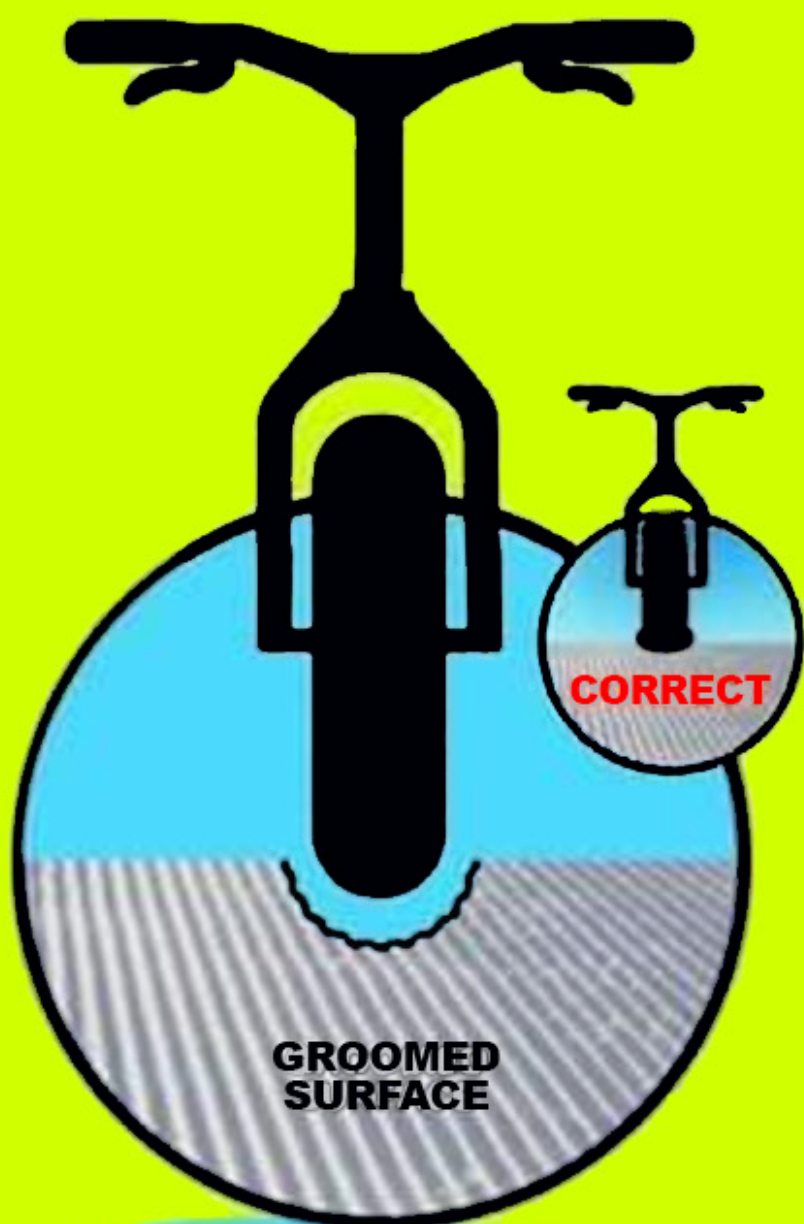


**Approved by the Montpelier
Parks Commission**

**Signs courtesy of the Montpelier
Area Mountain Bike Association**

GROOMED TRAIL USE ETIQUETTE

THINK BEFORE YOU SINK



STOP!

IS YOUR TIRE OR FOOT SINKING
MORE THAN 1 INCH DEEP?
PLEASE CONSIDER LOWERING YOUR
TIRE PRESSURE OR USING SNOWSHOES.

RESPECT

THOSE BEHIND YOU



SHARE

THE TRAILS

**Help us keep our trails
working for everyone!**

City of
Montpelier
VERMONT



GROOMED TRAIL USE ETIQUETTE

THINK BEFORE YOU SINK

IS YOUR FOOT
SINKING MORE
THAN 1" DEEP?

PLEASE CONSIDER
WEARING
SNOWSHOES!

FREE LOANER SNOWSHOES ARE
AVAILABLE AT THE PARK OFFICE AND
ONION RIVER OUTDOORS



STOP!

RESPECT

THOSE BEHIND YOU



SHARE

THE TRAILS



**Help us keep our trails
working for everyone!**

City of
Montpelier
VERMONT



HUBBARD PARK

Montpelier, VT

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

City of Montpelier GIS - Updated August 2011



HUBBARD PARK

- 3** 3 Pack of signs:
- Think B4 You Sink
 - Fat Bike Etiquette
 - Trail Courtesy

Think B4 You Sink Walkers Edition

Trail Courtesy

No Fat Bikes

All signs will be double laminated, and screwed to 1" posts. Posts will be hammered into ground or held up by cones.



State Capitol Building



Hubbard Park Tower



Parking



Outhouse



Picnic Shelter



Picnic Table



Park Ranger



Staff Update December 2019

Volunteer Groups:

- Norwich 11/26: Hosted a group of 11 Norwich Cadets who helped us prep winter trails
- Bill Koch League 12/6: Led a group of parents and a few kids from the Bill Koch Ski league in a work day to clear and prep winter trails.
- True North: 12/10: Led a group to continue what we started with the Bill Koch League.

2019 Volunteer Hours to Date: 3,787

Budget Congress:

On 12/4 the department heads gathered to put together a budget for City Council. We will be presenting 3 different budget tiers representing a 5.5% increase, a 4% increase, and a 2% increase. They will likely make some changes of their own as well before coming to a final decision. They plan to address the budget in their upcoming two meetings on 12/11 and 12/18. The Parks & Trees budget was mostly affected on the tree side, as each tier reduces our available funds for EAB response.

Winter Trails:

We've been putting in a lot of work to prep our winter trails for grooming. This involves clearing blowdowns, building temporary bridges, cutting brush, and occasionally clearing an alternate path to a few of our summer trails. We now have a connection ready to groom from Hubbard Park all the way to Morse Farm. We groomed the main trails in Hubbard & North Branch Parks for the first time over the weekend of 12/6, and I saw a lot of happy skiers enjoying (myself included!).

Maps & Signage:

We've been working on gathering the necessary data for the comprehensive outdoor recreation (COR) map so we can take it to the next stage with a contractor.

We are working with MAMBA to develop a winter trails map.

We've been working with MAMBA to develop winter trail signs. See sign agenda item for more information and examples of the signs.

Greenprint & Economic Development:

Jac and I met with the Trust for Public Land to discuss their projects in town, and to update them on the Greenprint and our long term vision. This was a fruitful meeting and we discovered a lot of potential areas for collaboration.

I met with Lisa Maxell, the new Executive Director of the Montpelier Development Corporation. She has a lot experience with outdoor recreation and economic development, and is looking like she'll be a great ally for our long term strategic goals.

There are some updates about an emerging trail project that I can share in executive session.

Other News:

- This will be Geoff's last Parks Commission meeting as Director!

- All Parks staff attended a leadership training sponsored by the city on 12/3
- We held an all-staff Community Services meeting on 11/11
- Parks Staff helped MSAC clean up their perennial garden in front of the building.
- Parks Staff helped the Rec Dept. set up the ice rink on the State House lawn.
- We worked together with MPD and the Cemetery to develop a protocol for cleanup around homeless encampments in the parks.
- We've welcomed Chet to our team. He is the new Americorps VISTA who is shared with the whole Community Services Department. He will be helping us with event publicity, volunteer recruitment, and some fundraising.
- We had our first Ice on Fire meeting, and have begun preliminary preparations for that event.
- We've done a lot of tree work in the last month.
- The city has hired a new city manager's assistant to take Jamie's place, and a new Finance Director. Both will be starting ASAP.