



**From:** Fairlee Town Administrator [TownAdministrator@fairleevt.org](mailto:TownAdministrator@fairleevt.org)  
**Subject:** VT State Report - Recommendations for the Fairlee Town Forest  
**Date:** July 26, 2021 at 9:38 PM

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Hello All,  
 Tonight, after the Selectboard meeting, I found the attached and correspondence below in my in box.  
 I will ask Peter B. for the topic to review report at the next meeting.

Besr,

Tad Nunez, Town Administrator  
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**From:** Dyer, Rick < [Rick.Dyer@vermont.gov](mailto:Rick.Dyer@vermont.gov) >  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 7:12 PM  
**To:** Fairlee Town Administrator < [townadministrator@fairleevt.org](mailto:townadministrator@fairleevt.org) >  
**Cc:** Wilcox, David < [David.Wilcox@vermont.gov](mailto:David.Wilcox@vermont.gov) >  
**Subject:** Recommendations for the Fairlee Town Forest

Hi Tad,

Thank you for hosting my colleagues and myself on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss on-going soil and water quality issues that are negatively impacting the Town Forest while simultaneously looking at those very issues on the ground. I hope that it was an informative visit for all that attended. Our goal is to provide the Town of Fairlee with the resources, knowledge, and confidence to move ahead with challenging issues in a positive and productive manner.

Below you will find the list of recommendations from FPR. Attached are recommendations from Danielle Owczarski, DEC Watershed Planner. For quick reference, I have also attached the Vermont AMP Manual.

- All discharges related to trails and access roads need to be properly corrected according**

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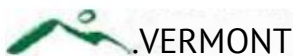
arrives. This may involve short-term tactics (e.g. install temporary water bars by hand at point of discharge) to be followed up with long-term solutions (e.g. install permanent water bars with an excavator along the entire trail).

2. **Hire a consultant to do a trail assessment.** Identify trails for appropriate uses and ease of maintenance while also identifying destructive uses of the trails. Additional soil and water quality issues will likely be identified through this process leading to a corrective plan of action to be implemented as budgets and time allow.
3. **Control access and limit trail use when soils are most susceptible to damage.** This is especially the case during certain times of the year (spring and fall) when soils are soft and wet which directly leads to rutting, erosion, and discharges of sediment into waters of the State. Unrestricted use by motorized recreational vehicles is the biggest cause of soil and water quality issues in the Town Forest. This unrestricted use is and will be the biggest cost to the Town when maintaining trails.
4. **All future logging operations should be prepared and supervised by a licensed forester ensuring that the AMPs are implemented.** This has happened in the past with Redstart Forestry and the Orange County Forester and should continue to be the case going forward. However, I did observe past harvest operations where they were not involved and where the AMPs were not implemented, and now trails are eroding and discharging sediment into waters of the State.
5. **Use of motorized recreational vehicles in wetlands is not an "allowed use" and therefore requires a Wetlands Permit.** For anything wetlands related, contact Julie Follensbee, DEC Wetlands Ecologist, at (802) 490-6175 or at [julie.follensbee@vermont.gov](mailto:julie.follensbee@vermont.gov).
6. **All work needs to be done to the Vermont AMP standards.**

While this may seem like a short list, it does require action on the Town's part and does entail taking immediate steps to stop the degradation of State waters. Please keep in mind that accomplishing everything on the list will take time and thoughtful planning. There is simply too much to do overnight so expectations should be adjusted accordingly. Following through with the above recommendations will allow the Town to develop a comprehensive plan to correct long-standing water quality issues, now and in the future, in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thanks.

Rick



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Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is taking additional community protection measures. Many staff are now working remotely and may not be available in person. We encourage you to communicate electronically or via phone. Learn more about [COVID-19](#) and stay connected with us at [Vtforest.com](http://Vtforest.com).



2012-06-07 Vermont AMP  
Water...ce.pdf Manual.pdf