

VIRGINIA STRANAHAN  
MEMORIAL TOWN FOREST  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADOPTED BY THE  
SELECTBOARD OF MARSHFIELD, VERMONT

February 16, 2010

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction.....	1
A.	Overview.....	1
B.	Purposes of Management Plan .....	1
C.	General Description of the Town Forest.....	2
II.	Water as a Natural Resource.....	2
A.	Surface Water Buffer Zones .....	2
1.	Headwaters, Streams and Riparian Areas.....	3
2.	Wetlands and Vernal Pools.....	4
3.	Special Treatment Areas .....	4
B.	Special Protected Areas .....	6
1.	Waterfall/Mill Site and Overlook Scenic Area .....	6
2.	King Brook Natural Area .....	6
III.	Land as a Natural Resource .....	7
A.	Forest Land .....	7
B.	Maple Sugaring.....	8
C.	Agricultural Land.....	8
D.	Wildlife Habitat .....	9
IV.	Historic Resources .....	10
V.	Recreational Trails.....	10
VI.	Access to the Town Forest and Parking Areas .....	11
VII.	Organization and Management.....	11
VIII.	Management Plan Revisions.....	12

### Appendices

- A. Site Map
- B. Natural Resources Inventory Map
- C. Special Treatment Areas Map
- D. Vermont Land Trust Letter Regarding Special Treatment Areas
- E. Waterfall Scenic Area and King Brook Natural Area Map
- F. Preliminary Trail Map
- G. Natural Communities Map
- H. Prime and Statewide Agricultural Soils Map
- I. Guidelines and Licensing Requirements for Tapping and Collecting Sap from Maple Trees on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Lands
- J. Historic Resources Guide
- K. Vermont Land Trust Conservation Easement (October 11, 2007)
- L. Forest Management Plan

# VIRGINIA STRANAHAN MEMORIAL TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Overview

The Stranahan Property was conveyed to the town of Marshfield on October 12, 2007 and is now known as the Virginia Stranahan Memorial Town Forest (Town Forest). This plan is intended to be the guiding document for management of the Town Forest which is owned by the Town of Marshfield and managed as a single unit by the Selectboard with the assistance of the Stranahan Stewardship Committee.

Encompassing 620.3 acres, the Town Forest has been privately owned as farm and forest land since Marshfield was settled. The most recent owner was the Stranahan Trust. The residents of Marshfield and surrounding towns have used the Town Forest for winter and summer recreation with the tacit permission of the owners or their agents. The Town Forest was offered to the Vermont Land Trust for purchase with subsequent conveyance to the Town of Marshfield. Knowing that the land would be held in public ownership by the Town, the Stranahan Trust generously offered to sell the Town Forest at a greatly reduced price. Both public monies and private donations were provided to help fund the acquisition, including a large grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Appendix A (Site Map)

Current and future uses include: sustainable agriculture and forestry uses, animal habitat, hunting, and recreational opportunities such as snowmobiling on VAST trails, cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. The tract may also serve as an outdoor classroom for the Twinfield Union School. The passing of the Town Forest from private ownership into the public domain will assure that the Town Forest will be available to all members of the community in perpetuity. The Management Plan was drafted by the Marshfield Conservation Commission, an appointed group of Stakeholders from the town of Marshfield and the Washington County foresters. The DRAFT plan was given to the Selectboard, who reviewed, edited and submitted the final DRAFT plan to the residents of Marshfield for their comments. The Selectboard approved the plan on February 16, 2010.

### B. Purposes of the Management Plan

1. To conserve forestry values, agricultural values, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, natural communities, riparian buffers, aquatic habitats, wetlands, soil productivity and native flora and fauna.
2. To preserve ecological processes that sustain these natural resource values as these values exist as of 2007 and as they may evolve in the future.
3. To provide non-motorized (except for snowmobile use on the VAST trails), non-commercial recreational opportunities, open space values and retain scenic resources associated with the property for present and future generations.
4. To inventory, document, preserve, and interpret historic and cultural resources.

### **C. General Description of the Town Forest**

1. Includes 500 acres of forest available for long-term sustainable management for the production of forest products.
2. Contains 4 acres of prime agricultural soil and 92 acres of statewide important agricultural soil, of which 37 acres are tillable land and 25 acres are pasture land.
3. Contains several miles of undeveloped frontage on King Brook, Guernsey Brook and unnamed streams.
4. Abuts 260 acres of land previously conserved by Grantee (Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board) and is within one mile of over 1,000 acres of land previously conserved by Grantee.
5. Contains 2,950 feet of frontage on Jake Martin Road (TH 47), 875 feet of frontage on Eaton Cemetery Road (TH55), 1,020 feet of frontage on Hollister Hill Road (TH42), 2,200 feet of frontage on Thompson Road (TH 43), and transversed by 2,850 feet of frontage on the portion of the old Thompson Road (TH43) that is now town trail, all public highways that provide beautiful scenic vistas of the Protected Property.
6. Contains over 7,000 ft. of VAST 14S trail to the 214 trail, parts of Vermont's statewide snowmobile trail network.
7. Contains a diverse array of natural communities that provide habitat for a broad spectrum of flora and fauna, including a number of vernal pools that are especially important for spring breeding habitat for reptiles and amphibians; other wetlands, and upland natural communities, some of which provide important winter deer habitat;
8. Is considered by Marshfield town residents to be one of the most important properties for dispersed recreational use in town, because it provides exceptional opportunities for a wide variety of non-motorized recreational uses like skiing, hiking, hunting, and birdwatching, as well as snowmobiling on VAST trails.
9. Has the ability to provide environmental, recreational, and historical education opportunities for local schools; and
10. Contains numerous old stone foundations, cellar holes, and stone walls from rural Marshfield history.

## **II. WATER AS A NATURAL RESOURCE**

The Town Forest encompasses important natural water resources including a wide diversity of natural communities, headwaters, streams, wetlands, and vernal pools. The following section gives a general description of these water resources and the management plan for each. An inventory and assessment of important natural resources in the Town Forest has been conducted during the development of this plan. Appendix B (Natural Resources Inventory Map)

### **A. Surface Water Buffer Zones (SWBZ)**

Those areas in the Town Forest lying within 50 feet of each bank or shore of the perennial streams, ponds, vernal pools and other wetlands or within the wetlands

themselves are designated as SWBZs. The principal goal for management within the SWBZ is the establishment and maintenance of a high quality forested buffer that provides an array of ecological benefits including but not limited to:

1. Buffering aquatic and wetland plants and animals from disturbance;
2. Preventing wetland and water quality degradation;
3. Providing important plant and animal habitat; and
4. Providing organic matter, nutrients, and structure to aquatic systems.

***Plan*** for all SWBZ

1. There will be a 50 ft. buffer area where there is restricted activity.
2. There shall be no machinery operated within this buffer area, except on existing or subsequently approved roads and landings, where relocation is not feasible or where negative impacts would be increased by relocating the roads/landings.
3. Harvesting of single trees is allowed provided the residual stocking level within 100 linear feet parallel to the shoreline or stream bank, in and along the buffer area, equals or exceeds the A-line as determined by applying the protocol set forth in the current U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Silvicultural Guidelines for the Northeast or by applying a similar, successor standard approved by the Grantee. There shall be no harvesting or other forest management activities conducted within the 50 ft. area from each bank or shore of the perennial streams, rivers, and vernal pools or within the wetlands themselves.
4. Stream crossings, for the purpose of constructing roads for transporting machinery and harvested timber, as well as agricultural equipment, are exempt from this restriction, but the number and width of such crossings shall be kept to a minimum and said crossings shall include the installation of all erosion control devices and employ all recommended practices described in the AMPs.

**1. Headwaters, Streams and Riparian Areas**

The Town Forest encompasses headwater areas for two major streams and their tributaries: the Guernsey and King Brooks. These streams are moderately alkaline and likely have high water quality. Both streams also likely support native brook trout populations and a diverse community of aquatic macro invertebrate species. The riparian areas along these streams are important for water quality and ground water recharge and should be protected consistent with Vermont Water Quality Standards.

***Plan***

1. A minimum undisturbed and vegetated buffer of 50 ft. from top of bank on both sides of streams and other surface waters shall be maintained.
2. Larger buffers may be designated in certain sensitive areas.
3. Any activity which encroaches on a stream or a riparian area must be designed to minimize the impact and maintain the natural condition and channel of the stream.
4. Any forestry contract shall follow the Forest Management Plan and shall follow “Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality

on Logging Jobs in Vermont”, a Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation publication dates August 15, 1987, or successor (AMP)

5. Any forestry contract shall strive to minimize the number of any required stream crossings in order to protect identified natural resources as required in the Forestry Management Plan and the Conservation Easement. Appendices L and K

## **2. Wetlands and Vernal Pools**

There are a number of wetlands in the Town Forest, some of which appear on the Vermont Wetlands Inventory Map and are therefore considered Class II Significant Wetlands, protected by State law and the Vermont Wetlands Rules. Wetlands located in the Town Forest consist of at least six vernal pools (five in Special Treatment Areas, STA's), numerous forest seeps, several beaver marshes, some alder swamps and an extensive seepage forest wetland. All of the vernal pools were inventoried in 2006-2008. Spotted salamander and wood frog egg masses were found in all the pools and fingernail clams were found in some of the pools. Wetland specialists indicate that the presence of all these vernal pools provide critical wildlife habitat.

### ***Plan***

1. There will be a 50 ft. buffer area where restricted activity may occur.
2. There shall be no machinery operated within this buffer area, except on existing or subsequently approved roads and landings, where relocation is not feasible or where negative impacts would be increased by relocating the roads/landings.
3. Harvesting of single trees is allowed provided the residual stocking level within 100 linear feet parallel to the shoreline or stream bank, in and along the buffer area, equals or exceeds the A-line as determined by applying the protocol set forth in the current U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Silvicultural Guidelines for the Northeast or by applying a similar, successor standard approved by the Grantee. There shall be no harvesting or other forest management activities conducted within the 50 ft. area from each bank or shore of the perennial streams, rivers, and vernal pools or within the wetlands themselves.
4. Stream crossings, for the purpose of constructing roads for transporting machinery and harvested timber, as well as agricultural equipment, are exempt from this restriction, but the number and width of such crossings shall be kept to a minimum and said crossings shall include the installation of all erosion control devices and employ all recommended practices described in the AMPs.

## **3. Special Treatment Areas**

In addition, the following plans shall apply to the five vernal pools in the forest that may be significant as a breeding ground for sensitive amphibians. The vernal pools are found in three areas of approximately 94.5 acres and are depicted as “Special Treatment Areas” (STA's). Appendix C (Special Treatment Areas Map)

### ***Plan***

1. An area of 600 foot radius surrounding each pool measured from the edges of the vernal pool will be given special consideration as Special Treatment Areas. (STA's)
2. Protection of the ecological values and functionality of the vernal pools shall have the highest priority in planning and conducting all activities within the STA's. Forest Management Plans within the STA's shall be planned and implemented with the goal of perpetuating the vernal pool and the surrounding forest with interior forest conditions, and supporting pool's function as an amphibian breeding habitat.
3. All forest management activities planned and conducted within the STA, including the silvicultural system, harvest timing, equipment employed, and harvest intensity, shall be focused on the goals of retaining soil integrity, natural hydrology, water quality values, adequate shade, high levels of large diameter downed coarse woody debris, and the natural structure and species composition of the vernal pool and the surrounding forest encompassed by the STA.
4. The accumulation of large diameter downed material (course woody debris or **CWD**) is critical to the maintenance and enhancement of soil productivity as well as providing critical salamander habitat and an array of habitat values. Portions of the STA may not currently have a sufficient amount of CWD and it may take time to recruit acceptable levels of CWD. Target densities per acre of CWD within the entire STA shall be at least 5 logs of at least 20 inches in diameter and 16 feet long and ten additional logs at least 14 inches in diameter and 16 feet long distributed throughout the STA.
5. Throughout the STA limbs and tree tops shall be left on site, and none should be felled into the pool itself.
6. All timber harvesting within this STA shall take place under frozen snow-covered ground conditions during the period from December 1 to March 31. Grantees, in their sole discretion, may permit a silvicultural treatment of the STA outside the silvicultural parameters described in this section II, provided Grantor demonstrates to Grantees' satisfaction that the alternative treatment is consistent with the Purposes of the Grant and this Section II, and that the treatment will achieve the objectives set forth in numbers 2, 3 and 4 above.
7. No agricultural activity shall be conducted within the STA, except as noted in #8 and #9 below.
8. The vernal pool itself and immediate edge shall be left undisturbed, except that agricultural activities will be permitted in that portion of the vernal pool buffer shown in red on the map that is Appendix C. It is the Town's intention to keep the agricultural field open and not allow it to grow up into forest. The open field portion of the vernal pool buffer will not be considered part of the Vernal Pool Special Treatment Area.
9. Sugaring activities are permitted within the vernal pool buffer area so long as there is no negative impact to the ecological values and functionality of the vernal pools. Layout of pipelines should be designed to minimize

disturbance to the vernal pools themselves and the 100' buffer area around each pool. Appendix D (Vermont Land Trust Letter Regarding Special Treatment Areas)<sup>10</sup>. Harvesting and all other forest management activities shall be prohibited within a 100-foot radius surrounding each pool as measured from the edges of the vernal pool, with the exception of existing or subsequently approved roads and landings, where relocation is not feasible or where negative impacts would be increased by relocating, then machinery operation should be minimized.

11. Adjacent to the 100-foot buffer described in No. 10 above, an additional buffer of 500 feet is established to the perimeter of the STA where the stocking level of at least 85% of the 500 foot buffer is B-line or greater as determined by applying the protocol set forth in the current U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Silvicultural Guidelines for the Northeast or by applying a similar, successor standard approved by the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Canopy openings shall be no more than 0.2 acre in size nor affect more than 1 % of this buffer per year for each year between harvests. The goal of this buffer is to develop and maintain a forest structure and downed CWD similar to mature conditions by using silvicultural techniques to replicate disturbances that create the small gaps typical of this forest community. Appendix K (Conservation Easement)

## **B. Special Protected Areas (SPA)**

Two SPAs are designated for additional protection due to their important scenic, ecological, and historic values. Appendix E (Waterfall/Mill Site Scenic Area and King Brook Natural Area Map)

### **1. Waterfall/Mill Site and Overlook Scenic Area**

This is a 4.5 acre area in Guernsey Brook headwaters featuring the Town Forest's only waterfall. The scenic area includes a beautiful mature hemlock and spruce forest with a mossy forest floor and an overlook of one of the large beaver marshes downstream along Guernsey Brook.

### **2. King Brook Natural Area**

This area features a diverse rich northern hardwood forest, two vernal pools, two large seeps, a stretch of King Brook, beaver wetlands, and some mature hemlock and hardwood forest. Roughly 55 acres in extent, this natural area encompasses most of the two vernal pools. (Designated as Special Treatment Areas, **STA's**, by VLT. ) There is an existing road, formerly part of the VAST trail spur to the Marshfield Inn. This trail may well be re-activated at some point in the future. The forest east of King Brook could still be accessed via an old woods road that runs along the north boundary of the proposed natural area. Appendix F (Preliminary Trail Map)

*Plan*

1. Both areas shall be excluded from timber harvest management and sugaring.
2. Both areas shall retain minimal trails for pedestrian access and enjoyment.
3. These areas shall not be actively managed so they can develop into old forests with unique natural characteristics.

### **III. LAND AS A NATURAL RESOURCE**

The Town Forest encompasses important land natural resources including a wide diversity of natural communities, wildlife habitat, agricultural fields and forests. The following section gives a general description of these land resources and the management plans for each. An inventory and assessment of important natural resources in the Town Forest has been conducted during the development of this plan.

The Preliminary Natural Community map, attached as Appendix G, delineates many wetlands and upland community types in the Town Forest. A natural community is a particular set of interacting species (plants and animals), the physical environment where they are typically found, and the natural processes that affect them (such as periodic flooding) in the absence of human activity. Examples of natural communities range from something as small as a vernal pool (less than one-tenth acre) to a Northern Hardwood Forest, which may cover hundreds of acres. A natural community map is an important reference tool to help inform land management practices. It is also an excellent educational resource.

For the purposes of this plan, the natural community map is limited in scope and application to existing forested areas, wetlands, and the Special Treatment Areas shown in Appendix C, Special Treatment Areas Map.

*Plan*

The Preliminary Natural Community Map may be used as a reference in helping make management decisions.

#### **A. Forest Land**

The Town Forest has an array of upland forests, including northern hardwood forest, rich northern hardwood forest, hemlock-hardwood forest, spruce-fir forest and white pine forest. All of the forests are secondary forests, which means they have been cut and or cleared in the past for pasture or for cultivation. A forest inventory was conducted by Russ Barrett and Matt Leonard, foresters for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Ed Jalbert, private forester and resident of Marshfield.

The Forest Management Plan has identified 24 forest stands based on tree maturity, stocking levels, and species composition. There is a mix of softwoods and hardwoods in the Town Forest. In addition, there are five areas (24 through 29) that are open lands or wetlands. As of the date of adoption, there are approximately 3.4 million board feet of timber in the Town forest. Generally 1,500 board feet per acre are necessary for a given area to be considered for a commercial timber harvest.

There are also approximately 4,727 cords of pulp/fire wood. The estimated timber volume includes trees in buffers of vernal pools and wetlands that would not be harvested in accordance with the VLT and VHCB Conservation Easement (Appendix K.)

Most forest management treatments are scheduled after 2010 except for a couple of salvage jobs, such as white pine in Stands 9, 11, and 15 which could be thinned and converted to uneven age. Both of these treatments could happen immediately. Clearing or thinning in forest stands 5 and 21 should occur prior to any placement of sugar taps and tubing. Most timber harvesting would need to be done in the winter because of the prevalence of forest seepage areas.

***Plan***

1. A Forest Management Plan has been prepared by Washington County Foresters. This plan is based on a full inventory of the Town Forest with the purpose of providing guidance to the Town of Marshfield for present and future management within the Town Forest. Appendix L
2. The Selectboard will use this plan for guidance as they contract with foresters and loggers interested in harvesting the timber. Decisions about “whole tree harvesting” or “leaving the slash” resulting from the harvesting so the nutrients are returned to the soil and could be used for wildlife habitat, will be decided by the Selectboard at the specific time of the contract. The goal is to minimize whole tree harvesting to the extent that is practical.

**B. Maple Sugaring**

There are two major stands in the Town Forest consisting of approximately 3,000 potential taps which would need to be served by approximately 5,000 feet of tubing. (See descriptions of stands 5 and 21 in the Forest Management Plan, Appendix L.). The Conservation Easement includes maple sugar use as an inherent right subject to reasonable regulation by the Selectboard to insure compatibility with other permitted uses. All sugaring contracts should be managed to meet “Guidelines and Licensing Requirements for Tapping and Collecting Sap from Maple Trees on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Lands”, State of Vermont. Appendix H

***Plan***

1. Consider removal of old sugaring equipment left in the sugaring areas by new sugar maker.
2. Consider the use of “quick connect fittings” for tubing where tubing crosses trails.
3. Coordinate a meeting between the sugar maker(s) and stewardship committee to decide where the trails will be so that both uses can occur.
4. Consider protection of vernal pools and any other sensitive areas as a priority.

**C. Agricultural Land**

There are open fields within the Town Forests that have been traditionally used for hay and pasture. A bidding process had been implemented by the Selectboard in

the past. Specific fields have been hayed at the end of the Jake Martin Road. In the Vermont Land Trust Conservation Easement there is a provision for access via excluded 4.2 acre parcel. Appendix H (Prime and Statewide Agricultural Soils Map) Appendix K (Conservation Easement)

***Plan***

1. The Selectboard will continue to bid out the haying operation on the two fields at the end of Jake Martin Road.
2. Decisions about brush hogging any of the fields will be left to the Selectboard.
3. Consider multi-year leases with soil nutrient management for the haying contracts.
4. Brush hog the field adjacent to the parking lot on Hollister Hill.
5. Repair damage to the fields where four wheelers were using the trail.
6. Consider multi-year leases for use of the pasture land.
7. Consider management of the inner fields such as brush hogging, haying or pasturing.

**D. Wildlife Habitat**

Much of the Town Forest is mapped as deer yard. The wetlands, open fields and forests are habitat for many other kinds of wildlife. The Conservation Easement provides that the Town of Marshfield “shall have the right and obligation” to ensure that a number of uses are made available to the public including hunting, “consistent with the purposes of the Grant.”

***Plan***

1. Fishing and hunting of deer, moose, bear, and game birds will be permitted to licensed persons.
2. As owner of the Town Forest, the Selectboard retains its authority to manage/control hunting and trapping as circumstances warrant.
3. Permanent tree stands and ground blinds are prohibited in the Town Forest. Temporary tree stands and ground blinds are allowed from the third Saturday in August through the third Saturday in December. Tree stands or blinds need to be registered with the Town.

Tree stands or temporary blinds must be constructed according to the following requirements:

No damage may be done to any living tree in erecting, maintaining, using or accessing the stand or blind except that:

- Dead limbs, trees or shrubs may be removed as needed to erect and use the stand or blind
- No live limbs, trees or shrubs may be cut for any purpose except those one inch or less in diameter at either ground level or from the main stem or branch of the tree where the stand or blind is located as appropriate (for guidance, a United States quarter is 0.9 inch in diameter)

- No nails, bolts, screws (including access steps), wire, chain or other material that penetrates through a living tree's bark into the wood below shall be used in erecting, attaching, maintaining or using any stand or blind
- All tree stands or ground blinds used on the Town Forest must be clearly, permanently and legibly marked with the owner's name and address. Mark legibly and place it in a manner that enables it to be read conveniently and easily.

Tree stands and ground blinds that do not conform to this regulation are prohibited and may be confiscated and/or destroyed by the Town. Building, erecting, maintaining, using or occupying a non-conforming tree stand or ground blind is prohibited.

#### **IV. HISTORIC RESOURCES**

There are remains of several old farm houses and out buildings and one possible grist mill site. The cellar holes and foundations and other possible undiscovered artifacts are of great interest to the Marshfield Historical Society. Any archaeological digs and recovery of artifacts must be approved by the Selectboard and performed under the direction of the Marshfield Historical Society unless other arrangements are approved by the Selectboard. Appendix J (Historic Resources Guide)

Historical and cultural resources in this rural landscape may include:

- Prehistoric native camp or village
- Family geneology and story
- Farmstead
- Foundation for camp, cabin, cellar hole, house, barn, outbuilding, mill
- Fence, stone wall, stone post, animal pound, boundary marking
- Foot path, cow path, trail, farm lane, skid road, foot bridge
- Land use: farm, garden, root cellar, domesticated plant, crop, field, pasture, orchard, sugar bush, hedge row, tree line, witness tree, cordwood or timber woodlot
- Other features: mound, gravestone, cemetery, stone cairn, quarry, kiln, dump, well, water log or pipe, irrigation ditch, dam, mill pond, raceway, culvert, utility pole, wire

#### ***Plan***

The Marshfield Historical Society, an agency of the town with public archives, will:

1. Inventory historic and cultural resources in the Town Forest, a rural historic landscape;
2. Document information with maps, photographs, drawings, written and oral histories;
3. Preserve with the treatments of preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction;
4. Interpret with field guides, tours, signs, historic markers, brochures and events.

#### **V. RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

One of the primary uses of the Town Forest is for recreation. There are many existing old farm and woods roads which will be maintained for trails. Additionally, new trails may

be created and maintained in the future. Trail maintenance and creation will be overseen by the Stranahan Stewardship Committee in accordance with the Management Plan and under the oversight of the Selectboard. For a trails map see Appendix F.

### ***Plan***

1. A kiosk will be constructed and maintained in parking areas with a large map, pockets for information flyers and maps, instructions for use...”no fires, no camping, no motorized vehicles, carry out trash and hunting season safety, etc...”
2. Maps will be available at the parking areas and published yearly in Field Notes and available at Town Meeting.
3. A minimum \$500 fine will be charged to any illegal vehicle on the property. The fine will be commensurate with the damage done.
4. If possible, boulders will be placed or existing trees will be left at the beginning of trails to discourage misuse by motorized vehicles.

### Trails Legend

Yellow	Class 1 - Old town, farm and woods roads – allowable uses are hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking and horseback riding.
Plum	Class 2 – Single track trails – allowable uses are hiking, snowshoeing, skiing – no mountain biking or horses
Dashed	VAST snow machine trail
Blue	Streams

## **VI. ACCESS TO THE TOWN FOREST AND PARKING AREAS**

Access to the Town Forest will be by the Jake Martin Road and the northern and southern ends of the Thompson Road. The northern end is accessed by the Pitkin Road and the southern end is accessed from Hollister Hill Road. As described by the Vermont Land Trust Conservation Easement, two permeable surface parking areas each with a capacity for six cars, are permitted at the Jake Martin and Hollister Hill access areas.

### ***Plan***

1. Parking areas will be constructed in the designated areas.
2. Some additional improvements will be undertaken in order to provide for an adequate roadbed and drainage along several southern sections of the Thompson Road, which will provide a major means of access to the Town Forest.
3. Access to manage the hay fields near the Jake Martin Road is a specific provision in the Conservation Easement that allows access via excluded 4.2 acre parcel.
4. One additional access point may be established within the Town right-of-way along the northern end of the Thompson Road to provide a pull-out area for several cars.
5. Should the need arise in the future, the Selectboard may consider renting portalets.
6. Mowing of the parking areas will be done through the Town's mowing contract process.
7. Planned signage will be at the two parking areas and will be in a kiosk-like structure. Informational material, trail maps, etc. will be in the kiosks. Appendix A (Site Map)

## **VII. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Ownership of the Town Forest resides with the Town of Marshfield. The Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, co-hold the conservation easements for the Town Forest. All management and operational details will be handled by the Selectboard with the assistance of the Stranahan Stewardship Committee, who will make recommendations for management details to the Selectboard, who will then make the final decisions.

### ***Plan***

1. The Selectboard will appoint the Stranahan Stewardship Committee, which will consist of no more than 5 residents representing various interest groups. Terms of office will be for 3 years, with terms of membership that last from one to three years for the first round of appointments. A list of responsibilities will be drawn up by the Selectboard and the Committee.
2. Proceeds from all activities in the Town forest will be accounted for in a separate account. Use of those funds will be for the General Fund and specific management and maintenance activities within the Town Forest.

## **VIII. MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS**

### ***Plan***

1. The Selectboard will adopt the Management Plan after a public hearing.
2. The Management Plan will be reviewed and up-dated on a five year schedule, after any major change to the Town Forest, or at any other time as needed by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will consider making the Management Plan a part of the Town Plan
3. The 5 year periodic review will be undertaken by the Selectboard and the Stranahan Stewardship Committee. Public hearings will be set to hear suggestions for changes and for proposed changes. Final approval of any changes is by the Selectboard.
4. All changes/revisions to the Management Plan will be sent to the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Authority.
5. When planned activities that are in conflict with the Conservation Easement, the Town of Marshfield will seek approval for the activity from VLT and VHCA before taking any actions. Appendix K