



TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

WINTER TRAIL USE

Westford Trails are public and open to all. Please respect these guidelines when using trails in the winter.

Several trails at the Westford Elementary School are groomed for cross-country use, both for the students and the public. If you are walking or snowshoeing, please remain off the groomed portion as much as possible or walk on the side of the groomed surface. If a track has been set please do not walk in it. Some of the trails behind the school are not groomed, so there are still plenty of opportunities to utilize the full width of a trail.

The groomers try to pack trails as wide as possible with the roller, then make a pass or two with the deck to set a track for classic skiers. Once the rolled surface has set up it is usually not a problem for walking or snowshoeing.

SPRING TRAIL USE

During mud season (snowmelt – Memorial Day), erosion and permanent damage can occur from using the trails. Conditions will vary, so the first rule is to always use your best judgment and do not walk on a trail if it is overly saturated from rain and snowmelt. A good rule of thumb is that if you have to walk on the side of a trail, you shouldn't be walking on the trail at all. Admittedly, some of our trails have wet areas that are almost never dry, but sign up to help us on Trail Maintenance Days, and maybe we can solve that problem! 😊

The WCC will post mud season temporary closures in the Westford newsletter and on Front Porch Forum.

HUNTING SEASON

Hunting is a permitted activity in Maple Shade Forest which is located across from the Westford Elementary School on Brookside Road. At Maple Shade Forest, hunting of any species is allowed to occur during any deer or turkey season, so check the hunting schedules at www.vtfishandwildlife.com and be aware.

LEASH DOGS, WEAR ORANGE, AND MAKE NOISE.

Hunting and trapping may take place on private lands surrounding any trails in Westford, during any permitted hunting/trapping season, so use the same precautions: **Be aware, LEASH DOGS, WEAR ORANGE, AND MAKE NOISE.**

Please contact us at westfordcc@googlegroups.com if you have any questions or comments about the trails. We'd like to know of blowdowns, washouts, or any other trail maintenance issues. Thank you.